

Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center

Hours of operation: 10am-3pm Mon-Thu **Phone:** 304-367-4403 **Email:** wvfolklife@FairmontState.edu

Address: Squibb Wilson Blvd. Fairmont, WV 26554

Note: Collection is largely unprocessed

Patty Looman Collection

CREATOR

Lynette Swiger & Pat Harper; Lois Jean (Jeanie) Howard

EXTENT

Linear Feet: unknown

Number of Containers: Approximately 12 linear feet of sheet music and music-related books, 1000 cassettes, 4+linear feet of personal documents, musical instruments

Number of Items or Digital Files: some cassette recordings (inquire with staff for information)

COLLECTION SUMMARY

This is a collection of items that belonged to Patty Looman, a beloved music instructor and performer based in North Central West Virginia. The collection includes correspondence, contracts, photos, newspaper clippings, recordings, books, and sheet music.

LANGUAGES

English

Collection Details

Biographical / Historical Note

Patty Looman (February 7, 1925 to June 5, 2012), based in Fairmont and Mannington, West Virginia in her childhood and retirement years, is best known for playing hammered dulcimer in a distinctive regional style. Other regional performers who preceded Looman include Worley Gardner and Russell Fluharty. During retirement, Looman performed extensively in the region and taught private and group lessons. Looman refused payment from her private students, instead preferring that they pass on the knowledge and keep the tradition going. To celebrate Looman and provide more learning opportunities for the community, a festival called Pattyfest was created in 2002 and is going strong today (2025).

Collection Description

- Approximately 12 boxes of sheet music and music-related books compiled by Looman
- Approximately 1000 cassettes (commercial recordings; lessons, performances, and events taped by Looman)
- Approximately 5 A4 size document boxes with Looman's personal papers, most of which are organized into 4 categories: Personal (letters, photos); Performer (flyers, engagements); Pattyfest (related to the Pattyfest festival in Fairmont, WV); Instructor (contracts, correspondence)
- Looman's lap dulcimer, Vandalia Award, and assorted recordings (donated by Jeanie Howard, Looman's niece, in 2024)

Arrangement Description

Collection is not fully processed.

Separated Materials

Collection is not fully processed.

Related Materials

Instrument collection

Location of Originals

N/A

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The bulk of this collection was brought to the Folklife Center (date unknown) by Lynette Swiger and Pat Harper. The paperwork for donation has not been executed yet but is planned for 2025. The items donated by Jeanie Howard were presented to the Folklife Center at the 2024 Pattyfest, but Howard did not return the donation paperwork before she passed away.

Subject Headings

Collection is not fully processed.

Processing Note

Collection is not fully processed.

Using the Collection**ACCESS STATEMENT**

The collection is restricted to appointment-only use. Cassettes may be available for playback and digitization upon request.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

For many of these items (newspaper clippings, sheet music, recordings) copyright has not been assigned to the institution. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

ITEM DESCRIPTION, Patty Looman Collection and DATE

Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center, Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV