

Abilene Christian University

Digital Commons @ ACU

Center for Restoration Studies Archives,
Manuscripts and Personal Papers Finding Aids

Finding Aids

11-22-2021

Tom Tune Papers, 1960s-1970s

Tom Tune

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/findingaids>

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [file or folder name], Tom Tune Papers, 1960s-1970s. Center for Restoration Studies MS #542. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Finding Aids at Digital Commons @ ACU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Restoration Studies Archives, Manuscripts and Personal Papers Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ ACU.

Tom Tune Papers, (1960s-1970s)

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts #542

Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives
Brown Library
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, TX 79699-9208

22 November 2021

About this collection

Title: Tom Tune Papers

Creator: Tom Tune

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #542

Physical Description: 2 folders

Dates (Inclusive): 1960s-1970s

Dates (Bulk): 1960s-1970s

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English and Chinese

Scope and Content Note: One reel-to-reel tape and one folder from the life and work of Tom Tune relating to Elizabeth Barnard.

Biographical Note: Biographical note excerpted from *Christian Chronicle* obituary:
“Tom Tune — a missionary sailor, ship builder, tailor, carpenter and performer of countless other tasks — died Feb. 5 in a veterans hospital in Little Rock, Ark. He was 83.....”

Tune was a longtime missionary to Asia and the South Pacific. He and his family served in Hong Kong for five years. In 1972, he and a group of church members bought *The Christian Chronicle* and moved it to Nashville, Tenn. Tune served as this publication’s business manager for two years.

In a 2008 [feature](#), we detailed Tune’s work:

Longing to return to mission work, Tune bought the Dorcas Sue, which he named after his daughter, in 1979. He traveled to South America and the Mediterranean, delivering medicine, fitting the poor for eyeglasses and teaching about Jesus. In 1991 he sailed for Hong Kong. He stopped at the Cook Islands, where he found opportunities to serve the people of the South Pacific.

...

Tune’s nautical skills brought him to Vietnam about five years ago, after Arkansas-based Partners in Progress asked him to oversee construction of a medical mission boat. Launched last March, the Ship of Life makes trips along the Mekong River in Cambodia.

During the boat’s construction, Tune started meeting with a handful of Vietnamese Christians.

Baptisms followed, and the group has since grown to more than 100.

“I was told not to teach or preach or I would get kicked out. The Lord only knows how I have managed to stay,” Tune said, adding that God “has blessed us so very much — as only he could.”

In addition to nurturing the young church, Tune has launched “Tom’s Kids,” a program for impoverished children in Ho Chi Minh City. Many of the children are descendants of Vietnamese who supported the Americans during the Vietnam War. They have little money or social status.

Most recently, Tune worked in Can Tho, Vietnam. A longtime friend and ministry partner, Steve Hawley, visited him there in 2012.

“The work in Can Tho won’t perish,” Hawley wrote of his friend. “Tom took care of the vision part. But we’re sure going to miss him on the journey he laid out for those he loved. When I left Can Tho on July 31, I told him I’d see him next summer. There are no more summers for Tom, but he got the best end of the deal.”

Tune’s son, Mike Tune, is minister for the [Church of Christ in Falls Church](#), Va. In 2009, he said this of his father:

“He has served the Lord in Central America, South America, the Mediterranean and ... has begun a church in a country where it is forbidden,” Mike Tune said. “He just keeps going.

“We’ve talked about what happens when he gets to the end of the road. He told me, ‘Plant me where I drop. I’ll rise with the people I love.’”¹

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Mike Tune

Date of Acquisition: 30 September 2019

Accession Number: R2021.064

Date of Accession: 22 November 2021

Accessioned by: Amanda Dietz

Processor and Date of Processing: Amanda Dietz, 22 November 2021

Finding Aid Creator and Date: Amanda Dietz, 22 November 2021

¹ Erik Tryggestad, “Tom Tune, longtime missionary to Asia and South Pacific, dies at 83,” *Christian Chronicle*.

<https://christianchronicle.org/tom-tune-longtime-missionary-to-asia-and-south-pacific-dies-at-83-updated/>

Using this collection

Processing Status: Processed

Conditions Governing Access: Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

Conditions Governing Use: Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

Preferred citation: [identification of item], [file or folder name], Tom Tune Papers, 1960s-1970s. Center for Restoration Studies MS #542. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

Copyright notice: Unless transferred in writing to Abilene Christian University, copyright is retained by the authors of these materials, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States Copyright Law (Title 17 US Code). Researchers are responsible for using these materials in conformance with copyright law.

Arrangement of Materials: Materials were kept in the order received.

Inventory

Box 1

[First Folder- Finding Aid]

Barnard - Elizabeth

Reel-to-reel tape marked: "Otis Gatewood and Marshall Keeble, North Central Christian College, a number of choruses sing, and Otis Gatewood speaks"