

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY—SAN MARCOS
ALBERT B. ALKEK LIBRARY - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION

JESSE SUBLETT PAPERS

1978 - (ongoing)
bulk: 1983-1995

1.5 linear feet
3 boxes
Oversize/Regalia: 1 box

Acquisition: Gifts donated by Jesse Sublett, 1993-1995.

Access: Direct inquiries to the Archivist, Albert B. Alkek Library, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666-4604. (512) 245-2313.

Processed by: David Bruner, September 1996. Inventory revised by Amy Ruthrauff, October 2005.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Jesse Sublett was born May 15, 1954, in Johnson City, Texas. He was valedictorian of Johnson City's LBJ High School Class of 1972, and attended Southwest Texas State University from 1972-1974 as an English major.

From 1974 until 1986 Sublett lived in Austin, where he played a dominant role in defining the live music scene as bass player and/or lead singer for a number of bands, most notably The Skunks, who recorded three records between 1978 and 1983.

During this time, Sublett began writing short pieces for the *Austin Chronicle*, including record and restaurant reviews, and in 1984 he was assigned to write a short piece on the club circuit which bands like The Skunks played. Instead, he submitted a semi-parodic music mystery entitled "Traveling the Hardboiled Highway," which imitated the style of a hardboiled detective novel. This marked the birth of Martin Fender, the central character in Sublett's first three novels. He submitted a second Fender piece, "The Nature of the Crime," which the *Chronicle's* editorial staff declined to publish but which they encouraged him to re-work as a novel. After finishing the re-titled *Capitol Crimes*, he wrote *Rock Critic Murders* with the intention of selling the two novels as a series. While waiting for the attention of publishers on the first two books, he began work on a third novel, *Blunt Instrument*.

In 1987 he moved to Los Angeles in order to be closer to the spirit of his hero Raymond Chandler. He continued to play music on the West Coast while awaiting responses from publishers and re-writing *Blunt Instrument*. Shortly thereafter, Lisa Kaufman at Viking took an interest in his work and agreed to publish *Rock Critic Murders*.

Sublett has written several screenplays, and served as story editor for the Disney series *Adventures of the Old West*. During 1994-1995 he ventured into nonfiction, writing a history of the Texas Turnpike Authority.

Sublett now lives in Austin with his wife Lois Richwine, their son Dashiell, and two cats.

Works Published

Novels:

Rock Critic Murders. New York: Viking, 1989.

Tough Baby. New York: Viking, 1990.

Boiled in Concrete. New York: Viking, 1992.

Novella:

The Teflon Babe. Brooklyn: Gryphon Publications, 1992.

Stories:

"Gore Galore", published in *Detective Story Magazine*, issue no. 6,
November 1989

"I am the City" in *Hardboiled*, issue no. 10, Spring 1989.

"Easiest Money I Ever Made" in *Hardboiled*, issue no. 15, February
1993.

"I've Got a Gun and It's Name is I.O.U." in *Hardboiled Detective*, issue
no. 11, April 1991.

Screenplays:

Hey Joe, 1988

Rock Critic Murders, 1989

Pay the Devil, 1990

Hale Storm, 1991

Shadows in the Sun, 1993

In the West, 1995

Non-Fiction:

The Texas Turnpike Authority, 1995

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Book manuscripts, screenplays, drafts, cartoons, clippings, correspondence, photographs, ephemera, sound recordings, and regalia documenting Sublett's careers as a rock musician and writer. Many of the drafts of Sublett's writings include handwritten annotations by the author. Copies of certain letters to Richard Holland, Curator of the Southwestern Writers Collection, have been retained when they shed light on some phase of Sublett's creative life.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I: Early Works, 1985-1998

Box 1

This series, kept as a discrete group of materials by Sublett in his home, contains drafts of some of his short pieces for the *Austin Chronicle*, including *The Nature of the Crime* (1984), a piece never published but which prompted the *Chronicle's* editorial staff to urge Sublett to write a novel. The rest of the items relate to *Rock Critic Murders*: consent & release forms, an early title page design containing a saguaro cactus, and blurbs solicited from James Ellroy, Gerald Petievich, and Kinky Friedman.

Series II: *Austin Chronicle*, 1983-1985

Box 1

Articles and stories appearing in the *Austin Chronicle*: "The Big Tape", "X-15: The 4-Track Walkman", and "Crying on the Shoulder of the Road" (Nov. 24, 1983); "Traveling the Hardboiled Highway", record review: Madonna *Madonna* (Mar. 23, 1984); "How to Make a Record" (Nov. 30, 1984); "Martin Fender & the Flat-Top Kid", short piece on Raymond Chandler for a feature on mystery writers (Dec. 13, 1985).

Series III: Novels, 1984-1987

Box 2

Contains a letter to Richard Holland explaining the sequence of Sublett's works; a 2nd draft of *Rock Critic Murders*, a first draft of the book which ultimately became *Tough Baby* entitled *Blunt Instrument*, and a completely-rewritten second draft of *Tough Baby* entitled *The Big Hurt*.

Series IV: Screenplays, 1988-1993

Box 2

Contains a short note to Richard Holland describing *Hale Storm* as a first draft, and versions of *Hey Joe*, *Rock Critic Murders*, *Pay the Devil*, *Hale Storm*, *Shadows in the Sun*, (with Stephen Purvis), and two versions of *In the West* (with Stephen Purvis and Tom Huckabee).

Series V: Non-Fiction, 1995

Box 3

Notes and drafts for *History of the Texas Turnpike Authority*.

Series VI: Reviews & Publicity, 1982-1992

Box 3

Interviews, reviews, and notices documenting both Sublett's music career and his writing career.

Series VII: Photographs, [1978?]-1990

Box 3

Candid shots and publicity photos of Sublett and the Skunks.

Series VIII: Ephemera, 1982-1992

Posters and postcards advertising the Skunks, *Boiled in Concrete*, a novel by Andrew Vachss, and a magazine cover for which Sublett modeled.

Series IX: Sound Recordings, 1979-1982

1 45-rpm record; 1 2-record set (with lyrics); 1 cassette representing the recorded output of the Skunks.

Series X: Regalia, 1978-1982

Box 3

Artifacts from Sublett's musical career.

Series XI: Original Documents

Box 3

This series is comprised of original copies of all clippings found in this collection.

Container List

Box Folder

Series I: Early Works

- 1 1 Various annotated drafts including, "The Nature of the Crime," consent and release forms, title pages, and blurbs, for *Rock Critic Murders*.

Series II: *Austin Chronicle*

- 2 Photocopies of stories appearing in *The Ausitn Chronicle*.

Series III: Novels

- 3 Letter to Richard Holland explaining Sublett's creative process. February 11, 1993
4-5 Annotated typescript of *Rock Critic Murders*.
6-8 Annotated typescript of *Tough Baby*, version titled *Blunt Instrument*.
9 Annotated typescript of *Tough Baby*, version titled *The Big Hurt*.

Series IV: Screenplays

- 2 1 Letter to Richard Holland regarding scripts. April 12, 1993
2 Master copy of script titled *Hey Joe*
3 Master copy of script titled *Rock Critic Murders*
4 Master copy of script titled *Play the Devil*
5 First draft of script titled *Hale Storm*, June 14, 1991
6 First draft of script titled *Shadows in the Sun*, February 11, 1993
7 Script titled *In the West*
8 Final Shooting Script for *In the West*, revised March 27, 1995, April 4, 1995, April 9, 1995, and April 17, 1995

Series V: Non-fiction

- 3 1-2 Annotated typescript of *The History of the Texas Turnpike Authority*.

Box Folder

Series VI: Reviews and Publicity

- 3 3 Photocopies of newspaper clippings relating to Sublett's writing and activities with the band The Skunks.

Series VII: Photographs

- 3 4 Several black and white photographs of The Skunks, Sublett, and one unidentified young boy in a cowboy hat and bandanna.

Series VIII: Ephemera

- 5 Postcard advertising for *Boiled in Concrete* by Sublett, and *Another Chance to Get it Right* by Andrew Vachs, Christmas card from The Skunks, ad for *Online Data Access* magazine, The Skunks debut album poster, "Jesse Sublett's Secret Six" poster, clubfoot debut poster for "Jesse Sublett's Secret Six," Skunks last show poster, *Boiled in Concrete* poster.

Series IX: Sound Recordings

- 6 Album cover for The Skunks special edition six song release, album titled, "What do you want... The Racket," album containing songs, "Gimme Some," and, "Promises," album containing songs, "Something about you scares me," and, "Cheap Girl," lyrics sheet dated 1979 with lyrics to various songs.

Series X: Regalia

- 7 Two metal buttons, one pink and one black, on which "The Skunks" has been printed, two t-shirts, one black bearing the label "The Skunks" one red bearing label "KLBJ FM PRESENTS THE SKUNKS...", black and white leather shoes worn by Sublett.

Box Folder

Sereis XI: Original Documents

3	8	Original copies of all newsclippings found in the collection.
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List of famous writers from Sweden, listed alphabetically with photos when available. Sweden is home to many prolific writers, including those who write ...^Â Sweden is home to many prolific writers, including those who write fiction, non-fiction, poetry, biographies and more. These are some of the best Swedish writers that have ever lived, so if you're a native of Sweden and an aspiring writer then use this list as inspiration to achieve your own writing goals.