

News Release

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The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Beebe, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center



OLD STATE HOUSE
MUSEUM

Old State House Museum
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ROCK MANAGER MAKES IMPACT ON ARKANSAS HISTORY

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LITTLE ROCK, AR – Recently the Old State House Museum in Little Rock acquired a collection of memorabilia from the legendary rock music manager, concert promoter, and Arkansas native, Butch Stone. The collection is comprised of 92 items and includes correspondence between Stone and Arkansas politicians regarding legislation that affected the music industry, articles detailing his activity in the music industry, along with photographs, awards, and Gold and Platinum Albums.

Butch Stone was born in Blytheville, and spent the later part of his youth in West Memphis, Arkansas. He became professionally active in the music business when he became the manager of Knowbody Else. The group's first performance, promoted by Stone, drew an audience of over 3,000. The band recorded its first, self-titled, album with Stax Records. In 1971, the group changed its name to Black Oak Arkansas and Stone secured a deal with Ahmet Ertegun, the founder of Atlantic Records. The band released its self-titled album and began a vigorous tour schedule, performing over 500 concerts over the next two years. Black Oak Arkansas became the first rock group from the state to make the national charts. Stone managed Black Oak Arkansas for 10 years. He went on to manage the careers of the Swiss heavy metal group, Krokus, Jimi Jamison of the 80s group Survivor; and Tommy Aldridge of Ozzie Osbourne and Whitesnake. Stone earned 34 Gold and Platinum Album Awards internationally. He produced over 400 artists at the Riverfest Amphitheatre and now promotes the Maumelle Family Fest. His Eagles concert on May 5, 1995, at War Memorial Stadium, is the highest grossing and attended concert in the history of Arkansas. More recently, he established the Arkansas Entertainers Walk of Fame, which will induct its first celebrities in 2011? He will also launch Music on Line Entertainment, MOLE-FM, a digital record label featuring Arkansas talent next year.

The Old State House Museum first worked with Stone while creating the exhibit, *Send You Back to Arkansas: Our Own Sweet Sounds* (1995), and its sequel of the same name (2005). In the years since, the museum has devoted itself to the serious collecting of Arkansas music memorabilia and now maintains a collection of over



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1,300 artifacts representing Arkansas contributions to folk, gospel, jazz, blues, country and rock. The items received from Stone will be added to this collection.

Though the Old State House Museum’s Arkansas music exhibit is not currently on view, the public can still gain a better understanding of the state’s musical history through the museum’s online multimedia sites. The *Sweet Sounds* exhibit is archived on the museum’s website at www.OldStateHouse.com. The Old State House Museum will record Stone’s oral history and produce a related podcast. For more information on the Old State House Museum’s artifacts and podcasts related to the collection, see www.OSHMCollections.com.

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