

Alphonse Picou
Reel I
November 3, 1960

Also Present: William Russell
"Black" Walter Nelson

Rough Notes

On A.P.'s scrapbook. AP worked on [St.Louis] Cathedral inside and out. On spires. A.P. did some slating on spires. AP had a shop [tinsmith?]. Worked on Jesuit church on copper dome [leading?]. A.P. didn't mind height. Worked on walls and ceilings. A tinsmith does all kinds of metal work.

On his bar. Was tiny. AP built addition. He often played in his bar. "Big Joe" moved piano up on stand. Yesterday was B.J.'s birthday, 45, and A.P. had a \$30 celebration. 5 years have had piano. Built cabinets under bandstand. According to WR, in Economy & Hopes & Artesian Halls had [?]

On scrapbook: has photos Roger Wolfe's Dixieland Jambake with Sharkey's & Papa Celestin's bands. W.R. gives personnel. [WDSU-TV?] article on Mrs [Steve] Valenté. Letter from Howard [Gloyd?].

Article by Thos. Sancton, formerly with [N.O.] Item, when A.P. at 1109 Manis, Alb. Glenney, 1315 St. Anthony. At time of Marshall Stern's interview. M.S. had Guggenheim. A.P. with John Robichaux at 17yrs. Misspells Imperial with Manuel Perry [leader]. Photo of D.C. & A.P.

Tuesday, May 9, 1949 Papa Celestin's opening night at Paddock article. Bill Matthews [tb]; Ricard [Alexis], b; [quote on "High Society" piccolo part on I. Manuel, Perez got music of "High Society", old march. Frances Amis [sp?] Hall ?] On "High Society" not same as piccolo part. S.P., Perez & Albert Glenney played jazz before Buddy Bolden. B.B. loud. A.P. studied with Prof. Morin of French Opera. Jazzed up quadrilles, marches, mazurkas. Interviewed by M.S., Myra [Mrs John] Menville, [& Thos. Sancton]

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M.S. returning. W.R. remembers A.P. on Marais in 1943 and 1944. A.P. owned place on Marais. There in 1949. (To another article) Libby Clark in L.A. wrote article on Dizzy Gillespie analysis [by A.P.?].

National Jazz Foundation article on Stan Kenton Concert awards given to P.C. & A.P.

Song quote on Bebop analyzed by A.P. A.P. sat in with Dizzy Gillespie.

On changing musical styles. Ragtime, jazz, swing, etc.

On "Walking the Dog", other dances.

Dixieland jazz.

Then, A.P. leader of own band.

Composed "Onzaga Blues", High Society", Snake Rag" [or "Snake Blues"[:]], "Loympia Rag". Played with Louis Armstrong, M.P., King Oliver. 3 months stay in [L.A., Calif.?] (End of article)

Prob Ebony article A.P. said to be 70 then, P.C., 64.

Had on Onward cap [original from '30's? '20's?]

Article on P.C.'s band at Paddock. Says oldest clarinetist in city. From "slick cover" magazine. On Oct. 19, 1960, was 82. Last played about 3 months ago. Arm broken. Made T.V. show about 2 years ago. Still owed \$55. Union may have money. "No fool, no fun."

Now uses Albert system. Better tone and easier [Cf previous interview, Apr 4, 1958].

On playing with Buddy Bolden. Not outstanding.

All his good friends have left him. A.G. said, "Who fall down, stay down." Was good b, good musician, and good painter. At old age A.G. climbed 60 ft ladder.

Ricard Alexis & Picou like 2 brothers. R.A. one of the best on trumpet in town.

Other members of B. Bolden band - Albert Glenny, b; 'Ti' Boy Remy, g; Big Bill Harrison, tb, from uptown, [Black] Happy Goldston, d, who A.P. calls Happy Golden. [Cf. H.G. interviews] 15 keys on A.P.'s clarinet. Doesn't use all keys. A.P. plays "High Society" without keys. When reed too hard, uses knife to scrape. [Cf. interview Apr 4, 1958].

Led own band. In A.P.'s whole life, he has used only one mouthpiece. Puts top teeth on it. [Cf. previous interview, Apr 4, 1958]. Wooden mouthpiece. The owner of Werlein's gave A.P. his clarinet. Came from France. A.P. offered \$1500 for it. No other like it here. Same barrel. Not repadded.

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Reel II
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Also Present William Russell
Ralph Collins

In all brass bands on Eb clarinet. Cut thru. You can hear for a mile. No curved up bell on Eb cl. Eb has smaller mouth-piece. Still has Eb cl.

W.R. heard A.P. in parades about 15 years ago across the river. [Isidore] Barbarin in band on alto [horn]. A.P. was a g king. Still has g. Doesn't play with funny guitarists "around here". [Obscenity here]

Brother Ulysse was great tenor. About 4 years younger than A.P. Great composer. Sung in French and Creole.

Says "Qui vous" [trans] "Who told you I was going" [U.P. song]. U.P. had another about a girl cooking a chicken [Cf. "Eh, LaBas" words sung by Danny Barker]

Dead about 4 years. Comical. Made [up?] "Eh, La Bas". Means "And Over There". U.P. played guitar. Played in bands. A.P. taught U.P. [leading?]. Misses brother.

A.P. led band at Paddock. [P.C.'s] photograph undated. Has another [scrap?] book. A.P. went to plantations. Played many places, with many bands.

End of Interview

Made at daughter's barroom.