

*Interview with Sheila Hamill Kerrigan, May 4, 1958*

SHK: My name is Sheila Hamill Kerrigan, and I was born in 1940 and I live in Pass Christian, Mississippi. The first time I remember jazz really, was I guess when I was about 9 or 10 down at the yacht club dances. They used to have Papa Celestin come over from New Orleans all during the summer to play at the yacht club dances.

HH: Mostly New Orleans people that were there at the yacht club?

SHK: Mostly New Orleans people, of course. I know all my friends like it. I think it's still popular in New Orleans; they say that rhythm and blues is really popular, but I like jazz much better. Down in the French Quarter now they have several great bands that play down there. I know Al Hirt is one of them, he plays more or less progressive jazz, but he has some good old standards that really are good. And then there's Sharkey.

HH: Wild Bill Mathews?

SHK: Wild Bill, yeah. But, Celestin of course is dead, but his band is still carrying it on, and it's doing pretty well. It's still playing for parties, and they have these dolled-up teenage dances now, and they'll have Celestin. I think he plays at some debutant parties now too, doesn't he?

HH: Celestin's band?

SHK: I've heard of them playing at several debutant parties. That's about all.

HH: Okay, that's fine. Thank you.