

Hillyer: Give me your name please.

BR: Bill Renaudin

H: Age?

BR: 21

H: Date of birth?

BR: 1936. (?) of June.

H: Where were you born?

BR: New Orleans, Louisiana.

H: Have you lived in New Orleans all your life?

BR: I have.

H: When did you first become aware that there was such a form of music as New Orleans jazz?

BR: First of all, to my information, jazz has always held an (...) place in my life, ever since I was old enough to understand the music. I was about 12 years old when I heard my first jazz recording, and I was very impressed with it.

H: What did your parents and their friends think about it then?

BR: Well, my father, he played the trombone, he was certainly a fan of jazz, and through him I became interested in jazz a great deal. They're very fond of jazz, both my mother and my father and their friends. In fact they, they attend many jazz concerts and go to the New Orleans Jazz Club as often as possible.

H: What about you and your friends?

BR: My friends, all of them together, are very fond of jazz. We, in fact, we had a band a few years ago, which we thought a great deal of. We played for different parties, different yacht club dances and affairs like that. In fact, we made a few recordings. It was mostly Dixieland jazz that we did our music to. It was not modern jazz in any way.

H: Well that's the subject, Dixieland jazz, of course. Have you noticed using jazz bands at parties? Do most of the parties you tend to go to hire jazz bands?

BR: You're trying to establish a trend of how Dixieland jazz was expressed? Or what the reactions, the general opinion of Dixieland jazz is?

H: Well, I'm trying to get the general reaction by finding out when people listened to it, where they heard it, whether they preferred to hire jazz bands for parties or what?

BR: Well the parties that I did attend, in fact, usually had a Dixieland jazz band to supply the music. These bands seemed to be respected; in fact, the type of music was respected a

great deal by the people that were at the parties. They would dance to it a great deal, gather around the band and sing to a certain extent.

H: And besides the debutante parties, at other dances and such?

BR: Besides the debutante parties, yacht club affairs, in fact when I was in high school, a Dixieland jazz band was at the senior prom and things like that. Everyone I attended had a Dixieland band. It seems to be moving far ahead of old time dance bands.

H: Pardon?

BR: It seems to be moving ahead of the old time dance bands that used to dominate the parties and proms..

H: You mean white, commercial, sweet bands?

BR: Right, right. Mostly Negro bands...

H: You mean jazz bands were taking the play away from the white, commercial bands, huh?

BR: I think so.

H: What about now, at parties, such as fraternity parties? Do you tend to hire jazz bands or what?

BR: Well the fraternity I'm in, we usually hire colored jazz bands; white jazz bands weren't as popular, I think.

H: Jazz Bands, but not rock and roll bands, huh?

BR: No, mostly Dixieland jazz bands, Papa Celetin...

H: I think that's about all. Can you think of anything else you can add on social acceptance of New Orleans jazz?

BR: Nothing offhand, except that I think it will keep going in the future.

H: Have you noticed in recent years a tendency for people your age tend to prefer rhythm and blues to jazz?

BR: Definitely. There's a trend where rock and roll has come in and has replaced Dixieland to a certain extent. However, I don't think it has replaced it as much in New Orleans as in other places in the United States. New Orleans has always been a jazz city more or less, and I don't think that rock and roll will offset the expression of jazz in New Orleans itself or offset it in any way, knock it out, or anything like that.

H: In uh, the people you know listening to and liking jazz; do they tend to like it more as a form of entertainment and dance music or do they tend to think of it as an art form?

BR: My personal opinion of this, I seem to think they like it more as dance music. It is an art, I'd say, due to the fact that it is appealing, just as any art is.

H: Well, uh, do your friends and your parents tend mostly think of it as just as a form of entertainment or do you know a sizable number who appreciate it for its artistic content?

BR: My parents, I'd say, appreciate it as a form of entertainment.

H: But not as an art?

BR: I wouldn't think so. They might think it is an art in itself, but it would be more appealing as a form of entertainment.

H: What about your friends?

BR: I think they would agree with my parents in that respect.

H: I think that's about all. Can you add anything else?

BR: No, I don't believe I have any more to add on the subject.

H: Thank you very much...

H: This was recorded over the telephone on the night of Wednesday the fourteenth of May 1958. The fact that it was recorded over the telephone will account for its poor quality.