

ARCHIVE OF NEW ORLEANS JAZZ

FERRAND CLEMENTIN

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Reel I--Digest

August 2, 1973

Also present: Mathilda (Mrs. Ferrand Clementin) Clementine [sic],
Yoshio Toyama, Keiko Toyama, Richard B. Allen,
the Clementins' grandson [John ?]

*[Note: That Yoshio Toyama is son of Richard B. Allen; *]*

Digest by: Donna Lodwick

Notes by: Richard Allen

Checked by: Richard Allen

Retype by: Donna Lodwick

Mr. C. was born on December 25, 1894. He was a bricklayer. He has lived in his present residence at 3300 Fern St. for about fifty-five years. He lived at a near-by house also. Prior to this he lived at 3129 Short Street. The neighborhood was wooded and had a few houses. There were [crawfish in the near-by swamps ?] and palmetto fields. Across the street at Carrollton there was a blackberry field. There were rabbits and briars. On the other side of Carrollton Avenue there were nothing but dairy and cows. [Most] houses weren't built there until about 1915. There were only occasional houses before.

Lincoln Park was located in the whole block where the welfare [building] is now. The square was bounded by Carrollton Avenue, Oleander, Short, and Forshey. Mr. Coleman [or Kohlman ?] owned the square. Mr. Coleman had a vegetable garden in the square before the park was built. The park was built in about 1905 when Mr. C. was about nine or ten years old. When the park was built, a board fence was put all around it. There was a big dance hall for shows every Sunday night. After the show there was a dance. The dance hall was the only big one of it's kind in New Orleans at

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that time. There were also numerous small halls in New Orleans. People went there for an outing, [?], and flying horses [merry-go-round]. The ferris wheel was at Heinemann Park where the Fountainbleau is now. They started sending balloons up about a year or so after the park was open. There was boxing at the park in the dance hall. The hall was one story, but it was a "great big place."

Mr. C. was asked if he remembered vaudeville acts or minstrel shows. Mr. C. says there weren't [travelling ?] minstrel shows in the city then. He used to go to the dance hall to clean up after a dance and drink the left-over beer. There were kegs of beer lined up on the counter. Mr. C. was nine or ten years old then.

Mrs. C. was born in [St. John the Baptist Parish ?] near Lucy. [?] ran the amusement park there. People from New Orleans would go out to[Bienville Park ?] on excursions. Mrs. C. talks of how Mr. C. had to travel by train and skiff to court her.

RBA asks if either Mr. or Mrs. C. heard of Marshall Lawrence who had a band in Reserve and who used to tell him stories about it. A famous trumpet player, Dejan Alexander, drowned up there. Mrs. C. says she heard Dejan play in a hall in the country. He also played in St. Michael's hall. The [John] Robichaux band used to come out there.

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Mrs. C. says Dejan's band was the same as the Robichaux band. They played ragtime. A number he played was "The Missouri Waltz". After Mr. and Mrs. C. were married they went to Lincoln park and danced to "The Missouri Waltz". The dance was like the mazurka. Mrs. C. remembers the round dance, the schottische, and the skating and hesitation schottische. The skating schottische came out after the park was finished. When the park declined, they went to the Prythian Temple's Roof Garden on Rampart and Tulane. This was by the Tulane and St. Charles [streetcar] belts. Mrs. C. also danced the promenade schottische. Mr. C. can't dance now because of his arthritis. [She does now ?] RBA saw schottisches and quadrilles performed at a Creole Fiesta Association. Mrs. C. says it depends on how many couples are dancing as to --[interruption]. Mr. C. says the same bands are used except they play specific music for certain dances.

Neither Mr. or Mrs. C. remember the melody for a quadrille, although Mrs. C. used to sing them all the time. Some had words. Mr. C. remembers [the caller] saying "Swing Your Partner". Quadrilles had a caller. Mrs. C. discusses the quadrille. It was something like the Irish people dance. It was fast like a jig. Mrs. C. says there is a dance almost like it called the Charleston. [She is discussing one part of the quadrille.] The

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men tried to outdance one another. Everyone danced the quadrille.

[cf. Mrs. A. C. Synigal interview.]

Mrs. C. never went to Lincoln Park before she was married.

Other places to dance were the Roof Garden and St. Katherine's Hall of St. Katherine's church, then opposite Charity Hospital.

Robichaux played there. So did the Imperial band and the Piquit

[Pickwick ?] band from the country. This was Dejan's band.

There was also Johnson and Dixie Park according to RBA. Mr. C.

says that Johnson Park was in one square and Lincoln Park was

in another square. Johnson Park was between Forshey, Oleander,

Fern and Short. At the time of Lincoln Park, Mr. C. was living
 on Short and at his present home. ^{When Johnson park was built, he lived on Sho,} Johnson Park is [a little ?]

older than Lincoln Park.

Mrs. C. discusses the development of the area and Colapissa Street.

Mr. C. remembers that Johnson Park was made as a baseball park and later became a dance hall [was added ?]. Buddy Bolden

played in Johnson Park. He didn't play much in Lincoln Park.

Buddy Bolden and [John] Robichaux bucked each other. If a dance

were held in both parks on the same night, one would try to out-

blow the other. Buddy Bolden would stick his head out the

window and blow his horn and could be heard a mile. Mr. C.

was asked how this sounded on Short Street. Mr. C. replied that it sounded like music. There were few houses around then. His

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horn could be heard over a mile. According to Mr. C. Buddy Bolden "blowed his brains out". He played blues and tunes (supplied by Yoshio Toyama) like "Funky Butt" and "[My] Bucket's Got a Hole in It", FC remembers "Careless Love". It came out after 1910 and Mr. C. was in long pants. Mrs. C. says that "Casey Jones" came out about then. Mrs. C. adds that "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" was a nice waltz as was "After the Ball."

Mrs. C. says that a waltz and a valse (i.e., French for waltz) are the same thing. Other dances were the one step and the two step. There was a slow drag dance and the ping pong. It was a "killer". The dancers swang from side to side. Mrs. C. says that dances then are not like dances now. ~~Mrs. C. says that dances then are not like dances now.~~ Mrs. C. danced the turkey trot, bunny hug, and grizzley bear.

The lot on which Lincoln Park was built had a vegetable garden. There was no music there, no picnics or anything. The building where Buddy Bolden played at Johnson Park was a big barn according to Mrs. C. Mr. C. says it was a big hall. Mrs. C. says whether it was high class or rough depended on who was giving the dance. The people who owned the park lived upstairs and the hall was underneath. Mr. Snow was the manager of Lincoln Park. ^{One would hardly see him.} Buddy Bartley [sp ?] "and them" ran the place.

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Buddy Bolden was a big name. Mr. C. doesn't personally remember him going crazy although it happened in Mr. C.'s time. Mr. C. says that "BB blowed himself till he lost his mind". Mr. C. doesn't know how it happened because he didn't see it. BB also played in halls and little clubs all over town.

Mr. C. says the difference in music between BB's band and Robichaux's band is that Robichaux's music was more classic and BB's music was rough.

RBA asked if the same club or society would hire two different bands together. Mr. and Mrs. C. reply that bands were not hired at the same time. They speak of a contest in which a band from Reserve with Dejan [Alexander] played against Robichaux's band.

A musician by the name of "One-eyed Babe" [Phillips] played bass and Sweet Emma [Barrett] played in the band, too. One-eyed Babe's band won in a contest against another band. Sweet Emma is older than Mrs. C. (YT laughs)

Mrs. C. discusses a church bazaar in which Sweet Emma Barrett played. She had just gotten over a sickness of double pneumonia but wanted to play and help raise money for her old church. The church in question was St. Joan of Arc. RBA adds that Louis James used to play there, too. He was a bass player from Hickory St. They made \$20,000 at a bazaar. Father Frank started their bazaar. Mrs. C. has been working for her church since 1915.

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Mrs. C. discusses her marriage ceremony and reception. Blacks and whites "mixed it up" in those days. Mrs. C. discusses race relations. Her father fought in the Civil War. He had as much "say-so" as any white man in the country. She discusses her family. She was born in 1893. She doesn't remember Joe ["King"] Oliver. Her maiden name was August. Her father was Joseph August.

(A new person enters--Mr. and Mrs. C's grandson.)

Mr. C. says Lincoln Park was torn down around 1925-1930 to put a Hill's Store there [i.e., a grocery store?]. Mrs. C. says they put an automobile place there. There were many businesses there.

A balloon ascension is described. Mr. C. says that a big chimney with a tunnel was used. A can of oil was thrown on the fire so the balloon would fill up with smoke. The rope was cut and the balloon would go so far. When a signal shot was fired, a rope was cut loose, and the balloon would turn over and the ascensionist would come down.

"Sunshine Money" [Cashmere L. Deslonde?] was a preacher who went up in an airplane. He said he wanted to ride to heaven. The airplane went "loop de loop", "Sunshine Money" went "poop de poop".

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RBA says there is a picture of BaBa Ridgley's band in an airplane in Audubon Park [see Ridgley file folder.]. Ridgley was from uptown and so was Emma Barrett, says RBA.

[End of Reel]

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Also present: Mathilda (Mrs. Ferrand Clementin) Clementine [sic],
Yoshio Toyama, Keiko Toyama, Richard B. Allen, the
Clementins' grandson [John ?]

Digest by: Donna Lodwick Notes by: Richard B. Allen
Checked by: Richard B. Allen Retype by: Donna Lodwick

In discussing dances, Mr. and Mrs. C. say they danced polkas and mazurkas. Mr. C. didn't dance as much as Mrs. C. She danced with friends. Mr. C. liked beer.

Mr. C. went to Besant Park which was over the protection levee in Jefferson Parish. Baseball was played there. There were no bands, although there were clubs which were gambling places. It was not Southport or O'Dwyers, but the Club Forrest.

The Love and Charity Hall were uptown around the Garden District. Mr. C. went there a long time ago.

There was a barroom across the street from Lincoln Park at Carrollton Avenue and Oleander [Street]. No music was played there. [It was called ?] the Blue Goose Saloon. There wasn't even piano music or organ grinders there.

Mr. C. says he played baseball as a child, but he didn't have much time for games. He played baseball on the green because he wasn't big enough to play in the park. The park was for older women and men.

Mrs. C. asks YT how long he has been living here and he says three years altogether. (Mrs. C. talks in background with KT)
Mr. C. says there was a baseball park opposite Lincoln Park on Oleander, Forshey, Carrollton Avenue, and Dublin Street where that big house on Carrollton Avenue is now. Mr. C. can't remember the

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name of the park [see below]. There was another park further up on Dublin and Apple. Mr. C. says there were plenty of parks at that time. There was Ferron's [sp ?] Park on Green Street. The only parks where music was played were Lincoln Park and Johnson Parks.

Brass bands had a "great bunch of men" according to Mr. C. There were perhaps twelve. Mr. C. can't recall the names of the brass bands. Mrs. C. says brass bands had to play jazz or no one would go to the dance. Mr. C. says that when he was small, brass bands played mostly marches, parades and funerals [sic].

The Merry-go-round Club on Eagle and Hickory Street went down [i.e., ended]. The Young and True Friends Club "wore out". The Clarion-Herald [newspaper] of July 12, ¹⁹⁵³~~1973~~, had a write-up on Fats Houston.

RBA says Billy Kersands [a comedian] had a big mouth. Mrs. C. says her father always came in from the country to see him play. Mr. C. never saw him play, but he knows that he was downtown [i.e., performing]. This was out of Mr. C.'s way. Mrs. C. tells the story of a woman whose son died, and she promised she would never laugh again. BK played at a theater on Elysian Fields Avenue. (Mr. C. adds that BK also played at the Globe Hall.) BK was the only person who could make the woman laugh. She laughed when he opened his mouth. Mrs. C.'s father said that BK had a mouth like a mule.

Mr. C. went to the Globe Hall where the quadrille was often danced. Mr. C. doesn't remember if it was a high class or a low class place. Mrs. C. says there were Frenchmen around there. [People

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mixed racially in the French Quarter ?] No matter what color you were you [had to be in society ?]. Mrs. C. discusses the decline of her neighborhood. She can't understand why people of both races are getting so bad. Mrs. C. says that in the country there is no racial prejudice. Mrs. C. discusses the church in the country her father helped build and its intergrated congregation. She discusses paying for a pew. Mrs. C. is a Catholic.

Mr. C. discusses Dixie Hall on Bienville Street. RBA thinks he means Dixie Park. (See posters in the Archive of New Orleans Jazz.) Mr. C. doesn't remember bands who played there. He doesn't remember Babb Frank, a piccolo player or his brother Alcide. [Babb Frank] had the Peerless Band with Charlie McCurtis [sp ?].

At the Globe Hall and Lincoln Park there were no white except white policemen at Lincoln Park.

Mr. and Mrs. C. remember the 1915 storm. They were married in June, 1915, and the storm was in September, 1915. They were living at 3314 Fern Street. [They had ?] four double houses on the street. Mrs. C. explained that the roof fell on top of her while she was playing cards and knocked her out. The house had a [drop ?] kitchen and a thin roof. The wind of the storm blew the fence down, and, as Mrs. C. was exclaiming over this, the chimney collapsed and knocked Mrs. C. out. The rest of the house was dry. Her mother-in-law and many other people came in to keep dry. It was the worst storm until hurricane Betsy. Mr. C. says the 1915 storm was a bad as Betsy, but there were fewer people and houses to do damage to. There was more water damage with hurricane Betsy.

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Mrs. C. tells the story of a niece living in Mandeville whose expensive rug (\$75.00) was ruined by the water damage from the storm.

Mr. C. says there were no contests between pianists.

Mr. C. went to Butcher Hill's Place at Oak and the [Mississippi River] Protection levee. It was a dance hall in the back of a barroom. Butcher Hill's was in late years. [Cf. Johnny St. Cyr interview.]

Mr. C. says that Buddy Bolden's band and [John] Robichaux never bucked against each other. They would blow against one another to see who could draw the biggest crowd. Lincoln Park always had a bigger crowd because it was twice as large as Johnson Park.

Mr. C. says there was a skating rink at Lincoln Park, but no band played there. The rink was built about five years after the park.

Mr. C. explains to Mrs. C. that John, their [adopted grandson ?] left.

Mr. C. says they danced the slow drag and the ping pong. The Clementins watched the ping pong.

Mr. C. says "that's where Buddy Bolden and them shined at, the Johnson Park". At Lincoln Park "they" played nice music. "Buddy Bolden and them" played honky tonk music. Mrs. C. comments that Dejan [Alexander ?]'s music wasn't honky tonk, but perhaps he did play honky tonk music in different halls.

Mrs. C. says that Frances Amis is an old hall.

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Mrs. C. says that Dejan's band and Robichaux's band didn't play against one another. Dejan's band was a brass band and Robichaux's band was a string band [i.e., a dance band]. They had two bands playing the same night. There was a big platform outside the hall.

Mrs. C. tells the story of how Dejan [Alexander ?] tried to get the people away from Robichaux's band. DA was playing across the river from where Robichaux was playing at [Mitchell ?] Hall. When the bands started playing DA stood on the levee and blew his trumpet. When the people started moving toward him, Robichaux sat on the window and played his violin and called the people back. The people laughed and couldn't decide which way to go. They said they might as well go home.

John Robichaux didn't play honky tonk [style music]. He played music for accompanying shows. He had sheet music for all the instruments except the drums. RBA says there wasn't any music to tell [Red] Happy [Bolton] what to do. Mr. C. agrees and says RHB was a comic.

Mrs. C. says the shows JR accompanied were like minstrel shows. There was singing including blues, dancing and, if [someone ?] had a nice voice, there was [a song ?] like opera. This type of entertainment is gone now. The motion pictures replaced it. There isn't anything like it on television.

RBA says he saw Pigment Markham at the Lyric after they changed its name to the Palace. He used to do some of those things. RBA is confused. Mr. C. says there were two theaters, the Palace and

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the Lyric on the corner. RBA says he saw [the] Silas Green [show in Athens, Ga. c. 1947. RBA, Oct. 29, 1973.]. Mrs. C. says she went to the Lyric, but some people said [they wouldn't go there ?]. She discusses a comedy done by a man and a woman. RBA says he knows what she's talking about. Acts like Butterbeans and Susie, and Grant and Wilson. Usually these were a husband and wife team, RBA says. YT adds Williams and Walker who were, according to RBA Bert Williams and George Walker. Mrs. C. never saw these shows.

YT asks about the blues singers like Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, and Clara Smith. Mr. C. says that at one time all you could hear was the blues. In little barrooms there was a room in the back with a piano, and this was where the blues were [played ?] all night long. This was before Mr. C. was married. Before World War I all that was sung was the blues.

Blues were popular before Mr. C. was born. Mrs. C. says that was the colored people. The whites were trying to sing the blues "but they couldn't catch it". Mrs. C. says where she grew up "they" did not know anything about the blues. They sang nice songs. Mrs. C.'s [uncle/mother ?] was against her singing blues songs. Mrs. C. says her brother sang the blues.

Mr. C. doesn't remember any names of well known, popular blues songs, but they were numerous. He never heard of Adam Olivier. According to YT, AO was at Lincoln Park, but he wasn't successful according to RBA who says that Buddy Bolden shut him down. Mr. C.

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doesn't remember Bunk Johnson or Manuel Perez. YT says Mr. C. remembers the Imperial Band. He says that he [sic] played downtown in big dance halls. He adds that he [sic] once played across the river. Mrs. C. asks if it was at St. Mitchell's Hall.

Mrs. C. suddenly remembers that Dejan Alexander played at Benefiesance [sp ?] Hall.

Mr. C. says that the Imperial was a good band, too. [Could Mr. C. have misheard YT on the Imperial? RBA, Nov. 3, 1973] RBA says it's a shame we'll never get to hear those bands like the Imperial and Robichaux's since they did not record. He mentions that two or three bands now try to play like Robichaux's [the violinist]. John Robichaux's nephew; also named John Robichaux, tries to play like him. He's a drummer.

In discussing Carnival, Mrs. C. says the only parade [which passes them ?] is the Freret parade. It goes down Carrollton on [Mr. C. corrects her, saying the Freret [parade] goes down Oak Street. [Cf. other sources]]. Mr. C. says the only maskers are the Indians. After 8:00 or 9:00 [A.M.] all the maskers have gone downtown. Mr. C. mentions that the [Mardi Gras] Indians make up here. They come from "Niggertown". Mrs. C. says it's an all colored neighborhood. It's on the other side of St. Charles on Pine Street above Audubon Park. RBA asks if it's between Audubon Park and Broadway. Mr. C. replies it's around in there.

RBA says he sometimes sees the Jefferson City Buzzards but on the other side of the park. They're sometimes called the "Muddy Graw".

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The Clementins sometimes went to Spanish Fort and Milneburg. Mr. C. says Milneburg "was headquarters for us". There were [tents ?] and piers. People went swimming there. [?] every Sunday. Smokey Joe [Smokey Mary], a train went out there, and there was everything to eat or drink.

Prohibition is discussed. Mrs. Clementine says they hid the beer in a hole in the floor under their bed at Milneburg. Mrs. C. tells the story about a barrel of beer they had at Milneburg during Prohibition. About 2:00 P.M. the people were warned that a prohibition agent was coming. They knew him because he wore a glove over his artificial hand. [They put a rope around the barrel. Then they slid a big bolt on the side and put the barrel in the hole ?] The agent came to inspect the place. [After he'd stayed awhile, he said he didn't want anything. He just came because someone had told him about the drinking at Milneburg. ?] Mrs. C. says it just shows you what someone will do for a few dollars. This incident broke up the party. People had to hurry up in order to drink beer after the agent left for fear he would return. They put the [stuff ?] in a big trunk and took it away. They left at about 3 [P.M.] rather than 5. Prohibition started after World War I about 1917 or 1918 according to the Clementins.

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In celebrating Armistice Day Mr. C. say they "burned it up". Mrs. C. says people dress "all kinda way". Mr. C. worked in Harahan on the railroad and took a train to work in the morning. He had to turn around and come right back. No one worked that day. Mrs. C. tells the story of a lady whom she knows who got a letter from her son on Armistice Day. The letter said that he was all right and was coming home. The next day she got a telegram saying he was dead.

Mr. C. worked at night on cold storage cars in Harahan loading it with bananas and things. He put wooden bottoms in the cars. Mrs. C. discusses Mr. C.'s trades. Mr. C. doesn't remember the Spanish American War.

Bands at Lincoln Park and Johnson Park didn't play hymns. The C's and YT discuss "[When the] Saints Go Marching In". Mrs. C. says it is not all that old. Mrs. C. says when he was a kid it was played at funerals. It was played slow. After they left the funeral, [sic] it was turned into jazz. Mr. C. says he wasn't allowed to second line. Mrs. C. discusses Bama, the grand marshall. He marched in every funeral and wore a decorated sash. Mrs. C. describes funerals and her reaction to the "ragtime" [i.e., jazz] music and the cutting up.

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Mr. C. belonged to the Deweys Club which was located in back pf St. Joseph's Church near the Tulane Club. It was probably on Bolivar Street. [Cf. city directories] Mr. C. never saw the High Arts Club. The Deweys was a Social Aid and Pleasure Club. There were no death benefits or sickness benefits. Mr. C. says that clubs had men and women in separate branches. They didn't mix.

Mrs. C. played card games like poker, blackjack, whist, pitty pat, and tunk. Mr. C. never cared much for cards although he played whist and Five up. Mrs. C. tells the story of a boat trip across the lake from West End to Mandeville. As soon as they got on board the boat, they began playing bridge. When they arrived at Mandeville, Mrs. C. didn't want to leave the boat. [She was having so much fun at cards]. She also tells how she beat her brother-in-law at cards. When she started poker, she quit bridge. Mr. and Mrs. C. remember ^{the tune known as "I thought I heard Buddy Bolden say} Funky Butt" ...they agree that people used to sing and play it a lot. Buddy Bolden played it according to Mr. C. Mr. C. can sing it although he doesn't want to. No one in Buddy Bolden's band sang it. ^[much leading] Children used to sing it.

The bands played everything, including dirty songs. Some "low down" people wanted "honkey tonk" music. They dressed up and shook. Mrs. C. says we looked at them. They paraded on Mardi Gras. [?]. All the bands played "honky tonk" music.

[End of Reel]

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 Reel III
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Also Present: Mathilda (Mrs. Ferrand Clementin)
 Clementine [sic], Yoshio Toyama, Keiko Toyama,
 Richard B. Allen, the Clementins' grandson
 [John?]

Notes by Richard B. Allen
 Checked by Richard B. Allen

Digest by Donna Lodwick
 Retype by Evelyn W. Seidule

Mr. C heard of Billy Peyton. Mrs. C remembers a Galloway vaguely. Mrs. C remembers Kid Ory. He is from St John [the Baptist Parish] on this side of the river. She knew him when he was a young boy. Kid Ory started playing with Dejan [Alexander]. Kid Ory just died. Mr C says Kid Ory also played with Louis Armstrong. Mrs. C knew Kid Ory's sister and his nephew. Mr. C knew Louis Armstrong from when he was in the Waif's Home. Mr. C wasn't in the home with him. Mr C's father and Captain Jones, who ran the Waif's Home, were friends.

RBA says Mrs. Manuella Jones is still alive. Mrs. C mentions that she saw Mrs. Jones and "she looks good". According to Mrs. C Mrs. Jones is a member of the Knights of Peter Claver. RBA discusses how the Jones did a lot for the city in helping the "bad boys".

Mr. C says that Captain Jones was a nice man [Mrs. C says that Mrs J is older than herself, but Mrs. J looks better.] Captain Jones was in the Spanish American War. According to Mr. C Louis Armstrong was about the same age as himself. [Cf. other sources.] Mr. C says that Louis Armstrong learned music in the Waif's Home and played when he came out. Mrs. C discusses LA's nickname "Satchelmouth" [Cf. Louis Armstrong tapes on this]. According to Mrs. C LA was playing overseas and a man took his cornet out of his hands, broke it and gave him a better one. The man named him "Mushmouth". [Cf. other sources on these stories.]

Mrs. C says LA never came to Lincoln Park. Kid Ory played

before the C's were married. Mr. C disagrees, saying KO played around Bourbon Street. This was when the [Red Light] District was in bloom. Mrs. C says that KO played at Beneficence Hall. KO played all around the French Quarter. After that KO went to Chicago to bring jazz there.

Buddy Bolden was tall and about Mr. C's color [i.e., almost light enough to pass for white, RBA, Nov 9, 1973] [Cf. other sources] Mr. and Mrs. C look at the picture of BB's band. [YT brought S. B. Chartres, Jazz: New Orleans...? or Jazzmen?] (Mrs. C discusses eye operations.) In looking at the pictures, Mr. C says they look familiar, but he can't place them except for Bolden. ([John?] adds that they are one of the oldest families back there) Women went wild when BB played, according to Mrs. C. When [they played?] the ping pong dance, they [the dancers?] would tear the hall down.

Mr. C went to National Park at Third and Willow. (Mrs. C and YT discuss book in background). National Park was a baseball park and was about the oldest baseball park in New Orleans then.

RBA says he saw a blues player outside of a hardware store [Oak Street Hardware?] on Oak, near Dublin, Dante or Joliet. His name was Butch and he was a guitarist. Mr. C knows him but hasn't seen him. He doesn't go that way often. Mr. C shopped downtown nearly always.

Mrs. C heard the steam calliopes on [showboats]. She never

heard these anywhere but on the river. There was a theater on the boat. Large crowds came. Sometimes there were so many people, one couldn't get on because there was no room. There were minstrel shows on the boat and bands on the boat. Mrs. C confuses the saxophone with the slide trombone. She discusses the slide trombone which they loved. The band that played on the boat came "from away". After stopping where Mrs. C lived the boat went to the other side of the river to Reserve. It stopped at Bonnet Carre. They could hear the music from there. Mrs. C discusses the three plantations near her home. Three boats came around [sugar cane] grinding time because people made money then. Sugar houses were there. Mrs. C discusses grinding and cutting sugar cane.

The people where Mrs. C is from spoke Creole and French. Mrs. C says her mother and father spoke French well, but the children spoke Creole. Mrs. C couldn't say bread hardly [in English] [sic] when she met Mr. C, but she could write well. She had to write to her husband so he could understand her. Mr. C's mother spoke French, but he never learned. Their parents would speak French among themselves, but never corrected the children so they would learn Creole or nothing at all.

Mrs. C's forgotten most of the Creole songs she knew. Various songs are named by YT and RBA. Mrs. C recites a Creole song. She says she used to sing this to her mother-in-law who "use to roll laugh". Mrs. C translates the song she just sang. "I love that woman, I bought her rice, I bought her meat, I bought her clothes

(or "I bought nice clothes for her"*) but still she won't treat me right, (or "but still she will not love me"*) oh, but that hurt, oh, Madame, (or "oh yeah, mama) that hurt." Mrs. C can't remember the tune of the song. Mrs. C repeats the song in Creole.

In the country where Mrs. C grew up, the people used to sit on the porch in the evening and sing old French songs in the dark. There was a big house and a porch. After supper the family went on the porch about eight o'clock where it was cool and sang songs. Then they went in to bed. She asks if the climate is getting hotter in the T's and RBA's opinion. Mrs. C remembers there was a pecan tree in the front of the house. Her nephew built two big houses and several small houses there. Last year it wouldn't bear because of the pollution.

Mr. C didn't want to learn French. He didn't like it.

Mrs. C's father and a rich white man helped build a school. Everyone donated what they could, but, because the white man was rich, he could donate more.

Mr. and Mrs. C discuss rags. Mrs. C sings a song, "Any rags, any bones, any bottles today". RBA says Johnny St. Cyr used to sing that. Mrs. C said Johnny St. Cyr rented from them. RBA says JSC passed [on] in California. He rented the house two doors away. RBA says JSC used to work for Butchy Hill and told about how Butchy Hill closed down when it rained. JSC played the guitar there.

JSC lived on Edinburgh Street near [BeBe] Ridgley. RBA mentions McNeil Breaux. [See Ralston Crawford photographs of them.]

RBA comments on the nice marriage license of Mr and Mrs. C (YT takes a picture of it.) Mrs. C says she ruined her picture because she washed her gold-plated frames. RBA quotes from the marriage license: "Ferrand Clementine".... "Mathilda August of St. John on the twenty-eighth day of June, 1915....Father A. Charles." The C's have been married 58 years. People didn't know what divorce was when they married. Mr. C's kindergarten picture is shown. He was four years old.

Mr. C knew Joe ["King"] Oliver, but not personally. Mr. C hasn't heard of the Red Cross Club, the No. 12 Hall, or the Good Samaritan Hall. The last was at 716 Adams. Mr. C went to school at Adams and Pearl at McDonogh [School Number] 24.

RBA discusses the Eagle Club from Adams and Dominican. [Cf. Eureka and Young Tuxedo photos by Ralston Crawford.] Mr. C says there is a big church there now.

Mr. C remembers the Oleander Baseball Park which was on the other side of Carrollton Avenue from Lincoln Park and Johnson Park.

Mr. C doesn't remember the Mississippi Valley Hall. He says the new Longshoreman Hall is on Claiborne [Avenue]. The old hall used to be on Jackson Avenue near Simon [Bolivar Avenue] and is being torn down.

RBA discusses an old Robichaux poster, but Mr. C doesn't remember Professor Markham who is named on the poster. Mr. C doesn't remember the Equality Band with Edward Clem and Willie Warner. He [remembers?] the Superior Orchestra. Mr. C has heard of Frankie

Duson, but he never heard of the Carrollton Gardens.

Mr. C went into the dance hall at Johnson Park to see Buddy Bolden. There was a big crowd. Mr. C says a ratty bunch liked Buddy Bolden's band. On Sundays and sometimes during the week music was played at Lincoln Park. The music started at night and there were dances from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 or 2:00 [a.m.]. It was the same at Johnson Park.

Mrs. C has heard of a cup song. She says a march was played after a waltz. She "scats" the march. The people marched to a table where there was food, like bananas, sausage, cakes, candy. Each person took a piece of food. At a certain time the band played a schottische. [After the schottische was over, no more food was sold for a nickle. Then the people had a choice of gumbo, stewed chicken, or roast pig. They paid fifty cents for the dishes, except for the gumbo or a ham sandwich which were twenty-five cents each. Mrs. C again "scats" the march which was in 6/8 [time] according to YT.

Whistling dances are discussed. Mrs. C says that during these people whistled if they could. John leaves. RBA invites him and the C's to visit the Archive of New Orleans Jazz and gives directions on getting there. John says good-by.

Mrs. C doesn't understand the word "gavotte". [Probably she confuses the gavotte and the waltz. RBA, Dec. 7, 1973.] She says they danced the waltz and mazurka.

RBA asks about Orchard Beach. Mrs. C says it used to be [at the same location as?] Lincoln Beach. In discussing newspapers, the C's know of the Times-Picayune, the [New Orleans] Item and the [New Orleans] States rather than any Carrollton newspaper.

RBA mentions baseball teams: The Black Pelicans, the Crescent Stars, the Algiers Giants, the Famous Brooks, and the Champion Cohens. Mrs. C discusses baseball teams in the country and says that country teams played teams from New Orleans on Sundays. Mr. C mentions the Eastern Stars from here.

YT asks the C's if they remember hearing any people who played blues on guitar. Mrs. C says her brother did. He played "Salty Dog". When Mrs. C's father wasn't around, he played and Mrs. C learned to play the guitar. This was Mrs. C's older brother. He was the youngest boy and was seven years older than Mrs. C. Her older sister is ten years older than her. Three of Mrs. C's brothers had a band. The oldest one played the bass drum, snare drum, and cornet in parades. They were part of a full band. Felicien August was the oldest brother; Alcese [sp?] played the cornet; Joseph played the guitar. She does not remember the name of the band in which they played. Felicien played the bass drum; August August played the tuba. A cousin Mitchell played bass, and another cousin played the clarinet. Another cousin [Sesan?] Jacob played the violin. Mrs. C says all are dead.

[End of Reel]

Ferrand Clementin
 Reel IV
 August 2, 1973
 Notes by Richard B. Allen
 Checked by Richard B. Allen

Also Present: Mathilda (Mrs. Ferrand
 Clementin) Clementine [sic], Yoshio
 Toyama, Keiko Toyama, Richard B. Allen
 Digest by Donna Lodwick
 Retype by Evelyn W. Seidule

RBA says he knew a bass player named Thomas "Bébé" Mitchell.
 Mrs. C. says his [her cousin's name?] was Albert Mitchell. Mrs. C.
 also knows a Peter Mitchell. He taught them [i.e., her brothers?]
 PM had two sons who played [music.]

YT asks if the C's saw many people around who played the blues
 on guitar. Mr. C says that people would come around to go to saloons
 and/or to play guitars. Mrs. C says her father owned a saloon on
 Earhart and Short. Mr. C mentions there were "a bunch" of blues
 pianists during that time, but he can't remember their names. RBA
 mentions Red Cayou, Son Swan, Big Eye Louis Robertson, Friday Ford,
 and "Drive 'Em Down".

YT asks if Buddy Bartley ^[spelling?] was the only one who went up in a
 balloon. Mr. C says four women went up, but no dogs.

Cock fights, dog fights, a dog climbing up a post and cockfights
 are discussed.

Mrs. C says bands came to St. Mitchell Hall. Robichaux's band
 came there.

Mr. C says there were dog fights and cockfights on Oak Street
 near Butcher Hill's at Old Southport. The dog fights were held out-
 side. Mrs. C quotes her mother as saying "I ain't got a good dress
 to go to a good dog fight."

Excursions on trains were discussed. When Mrs. C's brother-
 in-law died, she went to Memphis on a train. There was a band on

FERRAND CLEMENTIN
Reel IV
August 2, 1973
Digest

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the train, but Mrs. C didn't go where the bands were, [but] she says there was singing and dancing.

Mr. C says almost every Sunday they went to Baton Rouge, Gramercy, and St. Rose. These cost \$1.00 round trip. (Mrs. C mentions going to a child's birthday party Saturday in Boutte. [This is John's child if I remember correctly. RBA, January 8, 1974]). They went across the lake, too. One couldn't dance on the excursions to Baton Rouge. There was no band.

Mrs. C returns to her trip to Memphis. There were many coaches on the train. The fare was \$4.00 round trip.

Mrs. C discusses her family.

[End of reel]

[End of interview]