

FURRY LEWIS
 Reel I
 May 3, 1967

[?]

FL sang funny songs. He traveled with a doctor show selling medicine throughout Mississippi and Arkansas. FL sang songs which were the same as on record. There was a Charlie Jackson in Amite, Louisiana, who played the [?] according to EDE. [?] in Greenwood, but FL didn't know him. There were plenty of guitarists then.

FL described a country supper. Food and corn whiskey were sold. There were no tickets sold. Furniture was cleared from the room and people danced. FL never cared much for whiskey, but liked beer. A discussion of corn whiskey followed. Willie Pope, Jim Jackson, and Lil Bob played at dances.

The doctor show consisted of two doctors, Dr. Richard Lewis and Dr. Fuller who traveled in a van and sold Jacktone medicine or corn medicine. They advertised saying one should buy one bottle and get another free. FL never took the medicine because he was never sick. He drank too much whiskey on Willie Shade's death. WS was sick for five or six years and everyone took him food. He lived about a year longer than his wife. WS [?], he got a check.

FL never got royalties from records. He had contracts with guarantees. He got four hundred dollars only in [?] in 1959. Memphis Minnie may still be alive. Sleepy John and FL were in New York together. Bukka White lives on Mosley St. in North Memphis off Dunlap. Mosley St. is between Dunlap and

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Ashland. BW lives in an apartment house. [?].
Cham Fields and B.B. Anderson and Winnfield had several jug
bands. FL, Gus [CANNON ?], and Willie Bee were in New York
together in 1965. Ham [?] also had a jug band. FL
hasn't seen these fellows in years. Most of the jug band men
are dead.

Richard Allen reads [personnel of Memphis Jug band]. He
knew Charlie Burse and heard of Vol Stevens and others. Gus
Cannon often visits FL, and FL promised to get him to come for
tomorrows visit. [?] left Memphis so there are few
[?] in Memphis now. Theaters rarely had live musicians,
mostly traveling shows. FL didn't know Johnny Dunn, although
he thinks he heard of Charlie Williamson. there is no work
here. Benny Frenchy, who used to play at Pee Wee's disappeared.
Road houses had pianos. The Monarch [saloon] was large and
up to date. There were fast women and gambling upstairs and
downstairs. FL didn't know Windin' Boy [Jelly Roll Morton].

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Also present: Versie (Mrs. Furry) Lewis,
 Eleanor Ellis, Walter "Furry" Lewis,
 Augustus Gary, and Warren Gardner

Richard Allen asked about musicians on street corners.

[?] No lard can bass then. Sometimes [?] soloists. FL copyrighted through Jack Kapp. Will Shade also copyrighted tunes. There were no children. Hammie Nickerson played the harmonica and was fat. Dewie Corley and Hammie Nickerson played together the lard can bass and harmonica. DC also plays a little Piano and kazoo. The Beale St. Jug band consisted of Will Shade and others. WS played [?], harmonica and guitar. Charlie Burse died. FL knew Memphis Slim, MS left Memphis. Peter [?] was originally from Arkansas. FL asys they played for store openings and cornerstone layings. FL tried to play the harmonica. DC played the trumpet with a brass band. He worked in nightclubs and as a car salesman. DC was born in [?] Arkansas but was brought to Memphis as a baby. He was born June 18, 1898.

James DeBerry is from Carruthsville, Missouri, but he lived in Memphis. He played in jug bands with Will Shade. He played blues and ragtime. At conerstones the band played "Glory, Glory..." At the funerals they would play hymns. Afterwards they would have a ball.

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Reel II
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Present: Versie Lewis, Warren Gardner,
Dewey Corley, EDE, Richard Allen, Lee
Baker and James DeBerry

Dewey Corley played with Howard Yancy's [?] when they passed his house at 1297 Fourth St. HY had the musicians office on Beale St. He blew the trombone. Hall played the saxophone. He's dead now. Dooley, "Good Kid" , played the [?] in the jug band.

Richard Allen asked about other musicians. DC mentioned Charles Pierce [?] who played with W.C. Hardy's band.