

LOUIS ARMSTRONG  
Reel 1  
May 4, 1960

Interviewer: John McClellan  
television announcer, Boston  
Also present: Herman Chittison  
Digest: J. Infiorati  
First Check: Shelly Goodpastor  
Second Check: Richard B. Allen

John McClellan introduces Louis Armstrong as the man JM considers "the single most important person in the history of jazz." JM says his voice is shaking and LA laughs. JM also introduces Herman Chittison, pianist, who recorded with LA more than twenty-five years ago when LA made a trip to Europe. LA talks about the album they made during that tour. He recalls Vernell <sup>Pratt</sup> [as Alfred Pratt, in Brian Rust, Jazz Records 1897-1942] who missed the first eight bars of his solo on "St. Louis Blues", but he played well when he started. The album is called "Louis Armstrong, Paris 1934." LA says that "everybody should have that in their files."

In an aside LA talks about taking pictures in Belgium. He also mentions the different languages spoken, but adds, "we played in all languages." cap

<sup>The album</sup> It includes "St. Louis Blues," [On the] "Sunny Side of the Street" and "Tiger Rag". LA scats "Will you, Won't You Be My Baby" <sup>[comp. by]</sup> by John Nesbitt on this album also. They had a German girl singer who sang like American singers. LA and HC play [On the] "Sunny Side of the Street" [Not on this tape] Cap

JM asks if "Sunny Side" was one of LA's favorites; LA says it is still his favorite. JM says he has heard LA talk about "Laughin' Louie" being one of his favorites. JM mentions that he still has a 78 of <sup>3</sup> [On the] "Sunny Side?". LA remarks <sup>in 11</sup>

LOUIS ARMSTRONG  
Reel 1  
May 4, 1960

Interviewer: John McClellan  
television announcer, Boston  
Also present: Herman Chittison  
Digest: J. Infiorati  
First Check: Shelly Goodpastor  
Second Check: Richard B. Allen

that he gave Danny Kaye a copy of an album with "[On the] Sunny Side [of the Street]" as a present and Kaye played it.

Everyone on the set was quiet. LA says, "That was when we was making A Song Is Born." He and Lionel Hampton wrote a number for a "torrid" scene. LA remarks that he got no royalties.

LA and Joe Glaser saw previews for Cabin In the Sky. He was "all through the picture" [i.e., in the scenes] in the original, but only one of his scenes stayed in the final version.

LA asks HC what he has been doing. HC replies that he was on the Casey [Crime Reporter?] television show for eight years.

LA says that he has been playing concerts and adds, "It's like a vacation, playing at Seitsford's [sp.?]... which is nice; you get a chance to see the cats."

In New Orleans, LA was scheduled for an interview [on WWL radio and television possibly] at the Roosevelt Hotel, before the sit-down strikes [i.e., no doubt the Civil Rights activities which desegregated hotels. RBA, June 7, 1976.] LA recalls, they came from the job at the Suburban Gardens in Harahan. [Cf. other sources on the date of this job and Middleton's time with the band.]

"We didn't know no other way to get in there but just walk right through the front...." VM and Louis Armstrong walked <sup>through</sup> the front lobby. [the people probably <sup>?</sup> thought they were seeing things.] The announcer did not know what to talk about at first but later asked LA not to leave when the interview ran overtime.

ARMSTRONG, LOUIS  
Reel I  
May 4, 1960

Interviewer: John McClellan  
(a television announcer in Boston)  
Others Present: Herman Chittis  
Digest: J. Infiorati

(7 3/4 min) In Zurich, at HC thinks, the Capitol Theater, the audience called LA back on stage three or four times during "Some of these Days". HC says he was waiting for LA to fade but LA kept playing higher tones. LA says he had a wonderful band then. They had a Cuban on bass. HC suggests that it was "a sort of League of Nations [band]."

During their <sup>first</sup> [or one of their first?] rehearsal[s?] in London, LA called out "Swing you cats!" and all the non-Americans got up and ran off the stand. In Paris, the bassist Rocco [i.e., D. Arago?] or pianist [Panetti?] had trouble talking to a driver.

LA and HC play "Mack the Knife".

(9 min.) LA talks about his recording contracts.

When asked why he went to Europe, LA says he wanted to "get over there and blow for them cats." His first stop was London, where Nat Gonella, "the trumpet man of England in those days", had to have LA's suit pressed so that LA could attend a musician's conference. LA recalls that he got the nickname "Satchmo" during that time. Percy Brooks of the Melody Maker called him "Satchmo" instead of "Satchel Mouth".

LA mentions his second trumpet player, Charlie who died recently [i.e., Charlie Johnson?]

JM mentions Senator Green in Newport [R.I.], who called LA "Satches". "Sackaface" was another mistake made by "a colored boy" in California.

(12 min.) LA and HC play "I'm Confessin". [Not on Tape] (1c)

LA says that Milton Gabler, who used to run the Commodore Music Shop, is still with Decca. MG recorded LA's [musical] auto-

ARMSTRONG, LOUIS  
Reel I  
May 4, 1960

Interviewer: John McClellan  
(a television announcer in Boston)  
Others present: Herman Chittison  
Digest: J. Infiorati

biography; LA asks that a copy of this interview be sent to MG.

HC went to Europe in 1933 with Willie Lewis. LA went to London twice in 1933. He mentions St. Moritz. Some of the band members planned on going skiing, or "skeeting" as they called it. lc

LA recalls going to a Parisian bistro with pianist Grover Compton. LA wanted chicken and asked GC to translate for him. GC called the waiter and ordered "poulet de chicken". LA laughs, exclaiming that he could have said that himself.

Although LA had fun in Europe, he says, "you got to come back <sup>Cap</sup> home." He talks about patriotism, and also remarks that he plays the national anthem of any country he is in. JM mentions that LA is an unofficial ambassador and LA reminds him that his area is music. LA says, "I don't know nothin' about politics."

[End of Interview]