

[Russell:] It's goin', let's see, Willie Joseph, then was your brother, was he a younger brother?

[Joseph:] No, I have a younger brother that played music too, in the country. Henry Joseph, he used to play with Claiborne Williams. You heard

[Allen:] Oh, yes.

[Joseph:] about Claiborne Williams?

[Allen:] I know Freddy Landry.

[Joseph:] I played with Freddy. Well, Freddy Landry used to play with Claiborne, too. And after--afterwards he got his own band.

[Russell:] [Mumbles]

[Allen:] And then your brother who died, what was his name?

[Joseph:] Willie Joseph . . .

[Allen:] The other one

[Joseph:] Everybody called him "Kaiser."

[Allen:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] Uh-huh.

[Russell:] Why was he called "Kaiser," I never did know. Was--

[Joseph:] "Kaiser" the one here got the barber shop was ah Nelson Joseph.

[Allen:] Uh-huh. And what did he play?

[Joseph:] Clarinet.

[Allen:] Oh, I see.

[Joseph:] Clarinet and saxophone. [Noises. Mike being moved?] . . . the first band I played with.

[Allen:] Oh, yeah.

[Joseph:] The first band I played with was a little band with Wellman Braud.



[Allen:] Oh, is that right.

[Joseph:] Yeah, in the country.

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] He had a band here, fellow by the name of Pinchback Touro, you heard about him.

[Russell:] Oh, yes.

[Joseph:] You know about him?

[Russell:] Yes.

[Joseph:] The first band I played with in New Orleans when I first came here.

[Russell:] I never knew him, but ah--

[Joseph:] And Louis Dumaine, you heard of him.

[Russell:] I knew him, I knew him, I've been to his home.

[Joseph:] Yes.

[Russell:] I've heard him play.

[Joseph:] Lawrence Duhé.

[Russell:] Yes, I know him, out in LaFayette. *le*

[Allen:] Well, you and Braud went out to see him, didn't you?

[Russell:] Yes. We went out there, ah almost a year and a half ago. An, where were you born?

[Joseph:] I was born in St. James [Parish], about eleven miles on this side of Donaldsonville.

[Allen:] And ah, was that in a town or was it--

[Joseph:] Kinda little village, little settlement.

[Allen:] What's the name of it?

[Joseph:] Jamestown.

[Allen:] Jamestown.

[Joseph:] Yeah.

[Russell:] Jamestown.

[Joseph:] Jamestown, Louisiana. About eleven miles from Donaldsonville.

I've been here since 19--, 1906, 19--

[Allen:] Since 1906, you've been here.

[Joseph:] Uh-huh.

[Russell:] What was the date you were born? Your birthday.

[Joseph:] Well, I'll make 80 the 27th of November. I disremember that date . . .

[Note: Joseph gives varying ages.]

[Allen:] 27th.

[Joseph:] of November.

[Allen:] of November, you'll make eighty.

[Russell:] You mean tomorrow.

[Joseph:] That's it.

[Russell:] Tomorrow is your birthday.

[Joseph:] Tomorrow's my birthday, that's right.

[Allen:] Well, I'll be.

[Joseph:] Make eighty tomorrow.

[Allen:] Did your father play music or something?

[Joseph:] Yeah. Father and my uncle. Father--

[Russell:] Oh, by the way, if you'd like to sit down anytime why we can move another chair around.

[Joseph:] That'll be okay. Yeah . . .

[Russell:] Would you rather sit down someplace?

[Joseph:] Yeah, I'll sit over there.

[Allen:] Be more comfortable.

[Russell:] I think so, too, might as well rest. We'll move this over here.



[Allen:] I think these chairs - - - I'll get a stronger chair for him.

[Russell:] Yeah, okay. That's good enough, that'll pick up ah pretty easily there, now you don't have to talk loud or anything, just talk in your natural tone of voice. And it will pick up everything in the whole room I think all right. You say you came to New Orleans in ah 1908?

[Joseph:] 19 and 08

[Russell:] 1906 was it?

[Joseph:] 1906, I came.

[Russell:] 1906. Ah, when did you start to play music, up in the country, what. . . . on.

[Joseph:] In the country, I was about eleven years old. Had a little band with my uncle and them in the country.

[Russell:] What instrument did you play first?

[Joseph:] I, my first instrument was bass.

[Russell:] Uh-huh, you started on the bass, when you were a boy.

[Joseph:] I started on the bass when I was a kid, the bass violin, mandolin, uke, oh, I played different kind of instruments.

[Russell:] Did you make your own bass, or was it a big bass?

[Joseph:] No, it was a bass, I bought, three string bass.

[Russell:] Three string.

[Joseph:] That's years ago.

[Allen:] What was your uncle's name, by the way?

[Joseph:] . . . Philogene Joseph.

[Allen:] Philogene !!

[Joseph:] Yes. That's French, and ah my daddy was Valsan Joseph, all French name, and Gustave Joseph, my youngest uncle.

[Allen:] Did he play?



[Joseph:] Comminee [spelling?] Joseph, they all play little somethin'. All of 'em could play something. Five brothers of us, all of us play music. And ah "Kaiser" he played many different bands here and myself.

[Russell:] Were you the oldest of the brothers?

[Joseph:] I'm the oldest of the brothers.

[Russell:] The oldest.

[Joseph:] Yes.

[Allen:] What was "Kaiser's" age, was he younger, how much younger?

[Joseph:] No, he his age when he died, I believe, was about 70. Seventy. About 70 years old.

[Allen:] Seventy.

[Russell:] Was he the one that had the accident, was run over, was hit by a car?

[Joseph:] Right [at] Philip and Howard [now LaSalle]. He was comin' here to the shop here and he had been away about, lemme see, about eight years, and he hadn't been here a month before he--

[Russell:] Somebody told me he had been in California, is that right?

[Joseph:] That's right. He was.

[Russell:] Over there they take care, they don't ah when they see somebody walking, they have to stop, you see, but here they don't do it.

[Joseph:] He was just goin' on the sidewalk, with the first foot on the sidewalk, the guy picked him up. Hit and run.

[Russell:] Yeah, hit and run, never knew.

[Joseph:] Yeah, that's right. A car that you wouldn't give three dollars for it.

[Russell:] --old--



[Joseph:] Raggedy car.

[Russell:] Well, when did he start on clarinet? Was he playing up in the country, too, I guess.

[Joseph:] He started on a C clarinet, I was down here and I bought a C clarinet, send it to him, and playin' by 'air' [ear].

[Russell:] He learned down here in New Orleans?

[Joseph:] He learned----no, no, he learn in the country.

[Russell:] Up in the country, huh?

[Joseph:] Up in the country, yeah.

[Russell:] But you got the clarinet down here.

[Joseph:] Yeah. And sent it to him. And he lead on and played saxophone and that's where he started readin'. And ah, he was pretty good, he played with every band here in the city, pretty much, you know.

[Russell:] I know he made those records with Louie Dumaine.

[Joseph:] Louie Dumaine, that's right. I used to play with him myself.

[Russell:] Played with Louie Dumaine.

[Joseph:] Louie Dumaine, three of 'em, me, my brother here, Nelson Joseph "Kaiser" . . . and a first cousin by the name of Louie Joseph. All was in Louie Dumaine's Band.

[Russell:] Well, was "Kaiser"--was that his second name, or how--?

[Joseph:] No, his first name is Willie, his right name is Willie Joseph. Willie Joseph.

[Allen:] Yeah.

[Russell:] Where did he get that name "Kaiser?" How did they?

[Joseph:] Well, I don't know, during the war--World War I--



[Russell:] It was a nickname, was it?

[Joseph:] --World War I, they called him "Kaiser," you know . . . .

[Russell:] Well, some people just called him Willie Kaiser, they don't even call him Willie Joseph.

[Joseph:] No, that's right, Willie Kaiser.

[Russell:] I thought maybe that was his last name one time.

[Joseph:] Yes. Oh, you wanta know something about Holmes?

[Russell:] Oh, yes.

[Joseph:] Get the picture.

[Allen:] All right.

[Russell:] Get that picture there. That's the picture of the--

[Joseph:] Prof. Holmes.

[Russell:] It's a really it's a regular brass band, I guess.

[Joseph:] Regular, regular brass band.

[Allen:] Says the Holmes Band of Lutch, Louisiana.

[Joseph:] Holmes band of Lutch, Louisiana. This is Anthony Holmes, that's his name.

[Allen:] The cornet player on the right.

[Joseph:] Cornet on the right. Dennis Harris, maybe you might heard of him.

[Allen:] No!!!

[Russell:] Is he the trombonist?

[Joseph:] No, clarinet.

[Russell:] Oh, I couldn't see.

[Joseph:] Clarinet. John Porter, baritone.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] Now this guy here, we used to call him "Nub," he's got one hand, that's all I ever knowed.



[Allen:] He was the bass drum player?

[Joseph:] Bass drum player. John Porter's brother, he's Joe Porter.

[Russell:] Cornet.

[Joseph:] Second, second cornet. Floyd Jackson [in Bridge City] bass player, David Jones, I know you've heard of him.

[Russell:] Oh, yes. He's out in California.

[Joseph:] He's playin' snare drum, he never did like that. He--

[Allen:] I didn't know he was a snare drum player.

[Russell:] Yes.

[Allen:] That's new to me.

[Russell:] They say he played all instruments.

[Joseph:] All instruments. That's what he do now. Play all instruments.

[Allen:] Now the trombone player. You said he played slide.

[Joseph:] Slide, that's one of the first slide I ever seen, and I been here years. He brought a slide here [Jo Jo tapping glass on picture] when they didn't have any here in New Orleans. And ah Henry Sawyer [get address].

[Allen:] Henry Sawyer?

[Joseph:] That's right.

[Russell:] Let's see, how many players are there, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight pieces.

[Joseph:] They came down here in those time and out play all of the band down here. Brass band, ya know.



[Russell:] Did they use any alto horns ever in that group? I think they had two cornets, trumpets,

[Joseph:] No, we don't have no alto.

[Russell:] baritone, one trombone.

[Joseph:] Uh-huh. He took alto.

[Russell:] Uh-huh. David Jones, played alto too, sometimes.

[Joseph:] David Jones, he played alto, melophone, ya know.

[Russell:] Uh-huh. Yeah.

[Joseph:] Later on he picked up saxophone. Now I had the first saxophone in New Orleans.

[Allen:] You had the first saxophone.

[Joseph:] First saxophone, had put down the bass, the saxophone, I had a saxophone in 1914.

[Allen:] Uh-huh, yeah.

[Russell:] Did this band travel around, or did they stay around Lutchter?

[Joseph:] We used to travel, travel with shows, travel with different shows.

[Russell:] Like a carnival or circuses, or what?

[Joseph:] Circus. Yeah.

[Russell:] Circus.

[Joseph:] Uh-huh.

[Allen:] What year would that be that that picture was taken about, would you know, would you have any idea?

[Joseph:] Let's see.



[Allen:] Before World War I, or after.

[Joseph:] Oh, yeah, long time before World War I. That's was before I knew them people.

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] Oh, about five, six years before World War I.

[Allen:] About five or six years before World War I. Let's see, that's before the storm?

[Joseph:] Yeah. He was the youngest one in the band, Floyd Jackson.

[Russell:] The tuba player.

[Joseph:] The tuba player, he played piano.

[Allen:] Wasn't that . . . .

[Joseph:] He played trumpet, played piano.

[Allen:] Was he related to any of the other Jacksons?

[Joseph:] Ah, no.

[Allen:] I just wondered about Eddie Jackson.

[Joseph:] No.

[Allen:] If he would be kin to him.

[Joseph:] He was born in Lutchter, at Bridge City now, that's where he's at now. He don't play no more.

[Allen:] Is he still up there in Bridge City? Then we'll have to talk to him some day.

[Joseph:] Still there. Yeah, that's about the only two men livin', it's two, let's see. Well it's three mens livin' from that picture now.



[Allen:] Which ones are that~

[Russell:] Davey Jones.

[Joseph:] Davey Jones, Floyd Jackson, Henry Sawyer.

[Russell:] The trombonist, he's still--where is he?

[Joseph:] No, he's not playin', he's near-sighted, he can't hardly see. You'd like to talk to him?

[Allen:] Yes.

[Russell:] Well, yes, we would, he's over in Algiers.

[Joseph:] No, he's here, he's livin' here.

[Russell:] Oh, is he.

[Joseph:] The trombone player, I could find out from his nephew, you know, his nephew.

[Allen:] We sure would appreciate it.

[Joseph:] I could find out and I'll let you know . . .

[Russell:] We would like to talk to him.

[Joseph:] where he live at. I see his nephew quite often.

[Russell:] And you think he was the first one that brought the slide . . . ?

[Joseph:] I believe he was the first man that I know, that had a slide. Brought a slide here from Lutchter to New Orleans, that's right.

[Allen:] Well, where did you get your saxophone, you mentioned ~~xx~~ that . . . .

[Joseph:] My saxophone, well, I was playin' bass with this same



band, Professor Holmes, and he say John, you have, a man like you shouldn't be on the bass. I got a cello, see, and I got on the cello, play the cello awhile. He say, why don't you get a saxophone? Say, I'll get you a saxophone pretty cheap, so a friend of mines was there at the time, and he said, I know a fella in New Orleans just came from New York with a sec--with a saxophone. Had just bought it, so I gave him and he say he wanted \$50 for it, and I gave him \$50 and train fare. Had E flat, E flat alto saxophone, and then, then he's--that's the one he wanted me to play, E flat alto.

[Allen:] And you played it with the Holmes band?

[Joseph:] I played with Holmes band. Uh-huh. Well, I could play little clarinet, I could play clarinet. And in'bout a month I was going out with the band with the saxophone.

[Allen:] So, you took up clarinet first?

[Joseph:] First, yeah. E flat clarinet, I used to play in brass bands. I used to play with them.

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] For awhile.

[Allen:] Ah, we never did get your first job straight, that was your uncle.

[Joseph:] Who's that?

[Allen:] And on your very first job. You waidd that was in the country with your uncle and Braud.

[Joseph:] My two uncles, my two uncles and Braud, and my brother.



The one, Nelson Joseph, you know, the one that had the shop here.

[Allen:] Yes, and what instruments were they playing, then?

[Joseph:] Well, a cornet--

[Allen:] That was who?

[Joseph:] Violin, I was playin' bass and one of my brother playin' guitar, Nelson Joseph.

[Allen:] And what was Braud playin'~

[Joseph:] Braud was playin' mandolin. Yeah.

[Allen:] And your two uncles played a cornet and violin?

[Joseph:] One played, one played, ah, one of my uncles playin' a violin, two violin.

[Allen:] Oh, two violin.

[Joseph:] And one played, ah, a guitar. My brother, my brother played a guitar.

[Allen:] And which uncles were those? I, ah, I didn't get their names and instruments.

[Joseph:] Well, ah--

[Allen:] So many of them.

[Joseph:] One of my uncles was playin' violin, that's called Eusand Joseph.

[Allen:] Eusand.

[Joseph:] Uh-huh, and my other uncle, he played guitar [or violin] too, Philogene Joseph.

[Allen:] Uh-huh, I see.



[Joseph:] Yeah, and I have another uncle by the name of Comminee  
[spelling?] Joseph he also played violin.

[Allen:] What kind of tunes would you play?

[Joseph:] Oh, ah, none of us could read nothin'.

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] We used to go to a piano player, you know, and get  
piano copy, you know. And ah one of my cousin, by the name of  
Jack LeBoeuf, he was a violin player.

[Russell:] What was his last name?

[Joseph:] Jack LeBoeuf.

[Russell:] Beth?

[Joseph:] Jack LeBoeuf.

[Allen:] Just like the street [in Algiers].

[Russell:] Oh, yeah, B-O-E-U-F. Something like that. Just like  
the street.

[Joseph:] Yeah, but Pinchback Touro, that's a later band.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] And had Pinchback Touro in the country, he was--he had  
a band. Jack LeBoeuf was playing violin, two violin, Pinchback  
Touro playing violin, he taught all instruments, Pinchback Touro.

[Russell:] Yes, I know, he had the WPA band.

[Joseph:] Yeah, that;s right, that's right. WPA band.

[Allen:] I'll put that down for you, if you want me to.

[Joseph:] Okay.



[Allen:] I can put it on the chair.

[Joseph:] Yeah.

[Russell:] You were talkin' about, about Claiborne Williams, ah--

[Joseph:] Claiborne Williams, well yes, I have played with him.

[Russell:] Was that up in the country, too?

[Joseph:] Years ago, that's in Donaldsonville. You know where Donaldsonville is?

[Russell:] Yes.

[Joseph:] Donaldsonville. Some time he have two jobs and, ah, I was livin' about eleven miles from Donaldsonville, and he come picked me up and when he had two jobs and [I] played with the second band, ya know. Yeah.

[Russell:] How many men did he use, usually, in the band?

[Joseph:] Oh, the most was seven. Seven men. And, ah, the time I'm speaking about with Wellman Braud, they didn't have any drums, drums, wasn't no drums out then. You know! And didn't have no trap drums. No drum at all.

[Russell:] But they use bass--

[Joseph:] Use bass and guitar, bass and guitar. And no piano, there was no piano, no.

[Russell:] What other instruments did Claiborne Williams usually have?

[Joseph:] Oh, well, ah. let's see, he had clarinet, trumpet, bass violin, had no piano, guitar, clarinet and ah valve trombone player.

[Russell:] Valve trombone.



[Joseph:] Valve trombone, he had no slide, that's the first man I'd ever seen with a slide, was Henry Sawyer.

[Russell:] Sawyer.

[Joseph:] Yeah..

[Russell:] Did he always have a violin in the band in those days?

[Joseph:] Violin, oh, violin in the band, had them in the first and only instrument in them days, you know, before clarinet came out, was violin. That was the leading instrument, violin.

[Russell:] Always took the lead.

[Joseph:] Yeah, they always took the lead, that was before they were using cornet, yeah.

[Russell:] When you played those, were those, with Claiborne Williams, were those dance jobs or . . . .

[Joseph:] Oh, dance jobs, yeah, dance jobs, in different house, you know, and halls.

[Russell:] What type of dancing did they do in those days?

[Joseph:] Well, schottische, and waltz, one-step, variety.

[Russell:] Was that, what was the variety?

[Joseph:] [laughs]

[Russell:] Was that like a quadrille, or--

[Joseph:] Just a set! 'Twas a set, just like the quadrille. They use waltz, schottische, mazooka [mazurka], and, ah, one-step, that was a set [of a variety?].

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] And ah,



[Russell:] Did those bands up in the country ever play any blues at all, very much?

[Joseph:] Well, I didn't know much about blues.

[Russell:] When did you . . . .

[Joseph:] The first man that ever played blues here was, ah, that guy, ah, you asked me about his name the other day, what was his name?

[Allen:] What instrument did he play?

[Joseph:] Trumpet. Used to live right here in that block. I told ya.

[Allen:] Buddy Bolden.

[Joseph:] Buddy Bolden is the first man that ever played a blues for dancin'. And later on--Edward Clem, ya heard of him?

[Russell:] Oh, yes. I was gonna ask you about him, yeah.

[Joseph:] Edward Clem, yeah.

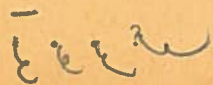
[Russell:] I don't know much about him, but I've heard of him.

[Joseph:] Edward Clem, he, uh, he was a pretty good trumpet player, him and Buddy Bolden was the two first men that ever played blues for dancing. That's right. Yeah.

[Russell:] Ah, did you know another trumpet player, they calle ~~him~~ him, ah, "Ned." I don't know his real name, "Ned."

[Joseph:] He live here?

[Russell:] Yeah. Yeah, around Bolden's time.

[Allen:] Well, where did you hear Bolden? Did you hear him here in the city, or 



[Joseph:] Heard him right here; I was living here then.

[Russell:] Where did he live?

[Joseph:] He's live right in that block there.

[Russell:] ~~On~~ On, on that side.

[Joseph:] Right on this side. That's where he used to live at.

[Russell:] On First Street.

[Joseph:] On First between, ah, this, ah LaSalle and Liberty.

[Russell:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph] Yeah.

[Russell:] What sort of a fellow was he; how did he play? Can you tell us anything about him?

[Joseph:] He wasn't much of a musician [reader], but he was a good player.

[Russell:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] That same man--Professor Holmes hired him to play a parade in Lutch. That man say he couldn't understand how a man <sup>could</sup> ~~couple~~ play that much trumpet and couldn't read, ya know, that's right, he was a real good trumpet player. You've heard of Buddy Petit?

[Russell:] Yes.

[Joseph:] I played his last job with him before he died. Used to drink so much, ya know. And the last job I played with him, he died about a week after. Drink a lot of that old moonshine, you know.



[Russell:] Oh, did you ever play with Bunk, Bunk Johnson? You remember Bunk.

[Joseph:] Yes, indeed, Bunk. Bunk was playin' in, in, ah, New Iberia with the Banner Band. You heard talk of the, uh, Black Eagle Band.

[Russell:] Yes.

[Joseph:] I played with them. That's the time Bunk was playin' with the Banner Band. And we had many a contest together, yeah.

[Allen:] Who was leading the Black Eagle Band?

[Joseph:] Ah, Evan Thomas. Evan Thomas. Talkin' about a trumpet player, he's one. Louis ain't had nothin' with him.

[Russell:] Really good, huh.

[Joseph:] Because he just didn't go nowhere. He just stayed right there in Crowley, that's his home, Crowley. Our headquarters [was] in Lafayette [Banner Band?]. That's right.

[Russell:] Oh, another trumpet player I was thinkin' of, ah, Joe Johnson, did you know Joe Johnson?

[Joseph:] Joe Johnson, I know Joe Hohnson. He lived downtown.

[Russell:] He was downtown?

[Joseph:] He used to live down there, Joe Johnson.

[Russell:] He lived downtown.

[Joseph:] Ya know "Shot[s]" [Louis Madison]?

[Russell:] Yeah, I knew "Shots" very well.

[Joseph:] A good trumpet player, I played with all them fellows.



[Allen:] What did Joe Johnson play like, was he a straight man, or a hot man?

[Joseph:] He was kinda straight, he wasn't hot.

[Allen:] He wasn't hot, huh?

[Joseph:] No.

[Allen:] Was <sup>he</sup> ~~je~~ a good reader or a faker, or--

[Joseph:] Well, ~~he~~ was a faker; not many of them trumpet players could read in them days. You know ["Kid"] Rena?

[Russell:] Oh, yes. I didn't know him very well; I only heard him play one time. And just said a few words to him.

[Joseph:] He was the first band I played with with a saxophone when I came back here, when I left Lutchter. When I left here, I left here in 1913, and came back here in 1918. That's the first band, I could play with any band I wanted, with that saxophone, when I first came here. I played with Rena['s] band. So some of the boys in there wanted to know do I drink. I say, "Yeah." They say, ya know in this band--if you play in this band, you have to buy likker. That's how I quit the band. I had to buy likker to play in the band.

[Russell:] Oh.

[Joseph:] That's right [laughs].

[Russell:] I can imagine that. That was pretty good.

[Joseph:] That's right.

[Allen:] Did, ah, did they furnish ya whiskey on the jobs?

[Joseph:] No, they buy it themselves.



[Allen:] Oh, ih-huh.

[Joseph:] That's what I'm sayin', they cow and then buy it,

[Allen:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] the whiskey, ya know. Look like if a guy couldn't play music--couldn't--didn't drink, he wasn't recognized much, ya know, that's right, them days.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] Yeah.

[Allen:] Did Buddy Bolden drink ever?

[Joseph:] Not much, never did drink much. No. No. You know

[John] Robichaux, old man Robichaux.

[Russell:] I never knew him.

[Joseph:] You've heard of him?

[Russell:] I know John Robichaux, violin, left-handed, wasn't he~

[Joseph:] He's got a nephew now plays piano.

[Russell:] Joe, I know him all right.

[Joseph:] Joe Robichaux, that's his nephew. Well, Buddy Bolden outplayed Robichaux's band in a way, 'cause they used to play them blues, you understand.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] Robichaux had a real reading band. And everybody in there was readin', and that's a long time ago. But Buddy Bolden, nobody read in his band, and he used to kill Robichaux anywhere he went. for colored. That's right.



[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] Them blues.

[Russell:] Ah, where did Bolden play? Where--

[Joseph:] Oh, at different halls. Colored halls. Pretty much all his jobs was colored. Pretty much.

[Russell:] Do you know if they ever used the Longshoremen's Hall over here for the dances? Did they used that--

[Joseph:] Why sure they used it, yes they used it, I have played in there myself. Yeah.

[Allen:] Did you play with Bolden, ever?

[Joseph:] I never played with him, I never did have the chance, never did have a chance to play with Bolden.

[Russell:] But you did hear him then, though. Neighbors--

[Joseph:] Oh, I guess so, yes indeed.

[Allen:] Did he ever come out in the country when you were young?

[Joseph:] Yeah--when I was young?

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] Oh, I'se--he was somewhere around my age, he's somewhere around, if he was livin' he'd be around my age.

[Allen:] Yeah, that's right.

[Joseph:] Somewhere around my age, ya know.

[Allen:] That's hard to realize.

[Joseph:] Uh-huh.

[Russell:] Yeah, cause we



[Joseph:] Do you know Joe Howard?

[Russell:] I never got to know him.

[Joseph:] He used to play on the boat.

[Russell:] Played tuba, played cornet too, didn't he.

[Joseph:] Pretty good trumpet player, and tuba too.

[Allen:] Ah, that's right, he played with Dumaine on those records.

Joe Howard plays tuba with Louis Dumaine on those records.

[Joseph:] Yes indeed, yes, with my brother's ~~band~~ and them, yeah, that's right. "Kaiser."

[Allen:] And Louis James played saxophone.

[Joseph:] Louis James played saxophone. You sure know. Louis James. Yeah.

[Allen:] I haven't seen him in a long time. Did you know him out in the country~

[Joseph:] Uh-huh. Oh, no, he's from Thibodaux.

[Allen:] Yes.

[Joseph:] But I know him here.

[Allen:] I thought maybe--

[Joseph:] You saw how I first met him in ah, in Thibodaux and we had, and I had a band I was playing with by the name of "Mac" Dorsey. You heard of him? Banjo player.

[Russell:] No, I don't believe I so.

[Allen:] No.

[Joseph:] No, ah that's where I met Louis James. After he came down here I played with him a while.



[Russell:] I was going to ask you some more about in the country when you started, on this bass, this three-string bass.

[Joseph:] Three-string bass. That's right . . . .

[Russell:] Did you used to bow mostly, or did you ~~pick~~ pick it?

[Joseph:] Well, no pickin', once in a while you'd pick, all the playin' was bow. That's why Wellman Braud who have lived right here with my brother. And ah, he left here with Freddy Keppard--you heard talk of him.

[Russell:] Oh, yes.

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Russell:] I never knew him, but I've heard he made some records.

[Joseph:] Well, Freddy Keppard left and sent for him.

[Russell:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] Playing bass, with Keppard awhile and ah after that he played with different fellas, he--Wellman Braud, he even once played trombone.

[Russell:] I knew that he once--

[Joseph:] You knew he played trombone.

[Russell:] Yeah, I knew he took up trombone.

[Joseph:] Took up trombone. And he was in a jam session somewhere in New York. And Duke [Ellington] heard him. That's where Duke picked him up. He played with Duke twelve years. That's right. I learn him how to play bass.

[Russell:] Oh, he--

[Joseph:] Yeah, that's right, //



[Russell:] Ah who was the first man you ever heard that would pick the bass and slap it and all?

[Joseph:] Pick a the bass?

[Russell:] Who do you think started that?

[Joseph:] One of my first cousin[s], first cousin. There's two guys, one used to live on Convent, you know where Convent at? Fella by the name of Jesse Clem.

[Russell:] Oh.

[Joseph:] And Eddie LeBoeuf, that's my first cousin.

[Allen:] Those two.

[Joseph:] Yeah. And he ah was the first ah, the two first men who ever ah play to ah pick a bass. They were older man than I was; two years older than me. After that . . . .

[Allen:] That's Convent on this side of the river?

[Joseph:] On this side of the river. Convent.

[Allen:] On the river road, I think.

[Joseph:] Yeah, on the river road, that's right. Yeah, uh-huh.

[Allen:] I been through there.

[Joseph:] Yeah, yeah. Uh-huh..

[Allen:] Beautiful places up there.

[Joseph:] He had a brother by the name of Johnny Clem, Edward, Edward Clem they had a band, pretty good band, ear band.

[Allen:] Strickly ear band.

[Joseph:] Strickly ear band. That's right.



[Russell:] There's some other real ole time musicians I've heard of like Galloway, was he called "Happy" Galloway or something.

[Joseph:] Yeah, "Happy" Galloway. They were white, eh?

[Russell:] No, I don't think so. Do you know, Dick?

[Joseph:] "Happy" Galloway.

[Allen:] No, I think he was colored.

[Russell:] He was colored.

[Joseph:] "Happy" Galloway, huh?

[Allen:] He played around the '25's, didn't he, Bill?

[Russell:] He might have, Peyton played around there, do you know Peyton?

[Joseph:] Oh yes, Peyton, yes indeed, Peyton used to play [ac]ordion.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] 'Cordion.

[Russell:] I never knew him, but I've read about him and heard people talk about him. Did you know him--

[Joseph:] I knew him well. Peyton, yeah, Peyton 'bout the only 'cordion played here, I believe, that I heard. First one I ever heard.

[Russell:] What kind was that, did they have the keys on it like a piano?

[Joseph:] Oh, no, they called it the the the ah the wind-jammer, ya know, ya know.

[Russell:] Did it have little buttons, and the . . . .

[Joseph:] Little buttons, little buttons.



[Russell:] Little buttons.

[Joseph:] In the bass on the left side.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] Yeah.

[Allen:] Is that similar to what they call a German accordion?

[Joseph:] No, that's old time accordion.

[Allen:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] Yeah, that's an ole time, the first I ever seen.

[Russell:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] Yeah, yeah, he really could play it all right.

[Russell:] Well--

[Joseph:] Yeah, he could.

[Russell:] What part did he play in the band? Like the ah lead or melody or

[Joseph:] Well, he'd play melody lead, and lead melody, and play a real dance with an accordion. With a guitar and bass.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Joseph:] That's right. Three pieces sometime. Had no drum.

[Russell:] That's right.

[Allen:] And would he have any wind instruments with him?

[Joseph:] That's the only wind instrument he had, was that accordion.

[Allen:] Was a wind-jammer, huh?

[Joseph:] Yeah, wind-jammer, that's right. Yeah. You know Joe Oliver?

[Russell:] I never knew him, but I knew ah ah I had all of the records



he made and a lot of pictures I've seen, I feel like I know him, but I never did know him. No.

[Joseph:] Tall, dark fellow, one eye.

[Russell:] Yes.

[Joseph:] One eye. He used to play for me, my brother and I had a--<sup>1</sup> that was open right over there. We had what they called a penny party every Sunday.

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] Right over there, and Joe Oliver had played for me, "Dude" Ory [is "Kid" Ory] every band in the city had played for me for us. Yeah.

[Allen:] "Dude"

[Russell:] They calle him "Dude" Ory.

[Allen:] "Dude"

[Russell:] "Dude" Ory.

[Joseph:] "Dude" Ory, yeah. That's what we called him, yeah, that's his name.

[Russell:] Yeah, I've heard other people call him . . . .

[Joseph:] They came from LaPlace, ya heard talk of LaPlace.

[Allen:] Uh-huh.

[Joseph:] Well they, they came here from LaPlace, LaPlace, a whole band from the country. They could play, too. Them guy could play, and one man could read, the violin player, Ory couldn't read. [He can] read notes now.

[Allen:] Where was his spot right over there where the Seven-Up sign is?



[Joseph:] Right over there. That's was open in there. We had a platform.

[Allen:] The First Food Store.

[Joseph:] Yeah, yeah, right over there.

[Allen:] The First Street Food Store.

[Joseph:] Yeah, yæh.

[Russell:] What was that again?

[Allen:] It's the First Street Food Store.

[Russell:] What was it, though? That was a dance hall.

[Joseph:] I say there--we have a--'twas an opening in there, you know, a lot there, ya know it, so we put down some platform there, and ah

End of Reel I  
JOHN JOSEPH  
November 26, 1958