

I [only]

October 19, 1960 Also present: William Russell, Harold Dejan,
Ralph Collins, "Chinee" (Mrs. Metoyer's
daughter)

Participants in interview examine photographs. Arnold Metoyer at age 19 is identified. Sidney Desvigne is identified. HD says Roach [a nickname for AM or SD?] is in a photograph. WR reads the inscription on one photograph, as follows: "Montreal, Canada, Premier Theater, November 26, 1907." Mrs. M. reads, "Mitchell Grove [a location?], Sunday, August 4, 1907," from another photograph. Mrs. M. identifies another photograph showing Arnold Metoyer as having been taken at Soldiers' Field, Chicago. A photograph showing Mrs. M.'s grandfather is examined; he played cornet; he spent most of his time in Milwaukee [Wisconsin] and in Mexico, where he was born. George Moret, trumpet, is pictured in one photograph. [Paul] Chaligny is mentioned. Lorenzo Tio, Louis Dumaine and Vic Gaspard are mentioned. Mrs. M. talks about how her husband refurbished an old cornet someone gave him. "Chinee" says her mother says AM didn't play "Night and Day" at Globe Hall; he played "The Palms," by Fauré at the age of seventeen; "Night and Day" hadn't been written at the time. Arnold Metoyer was accompanied [on the piano?] by Jenny Jasmine; the program was sponsored by Walter [DeSilva?], who promoted similar events frequently.

Mrs. M. talks about her husband's filing his mouthpieces. She talks about the last job he played on St. Peter [Street] and Claiborne [Avenue]; the place was a bar room; A. Metoyer played very well; he died a week later. During the flu [epidemic of 1918?], he was very sick; he was ordered by a doctor to stop smoking, drinking and playing his instrument; he agreed to give up smoking and drinking, but refused to quit playing. Harold Dejan compares Metoyer's playing until shortly before his death with Willie Pajaud's playing for a funeral the day before he died.

Mrs. M. and "Chinee" talk about A. Metoyer's serenading; he played very softly, sometimes using a derby as a mute; he played pretty songs; nobody ever complained about his serenading. He sometimes used a tin can as a wah-wah mute. "Chinee" says A. Metoyer played at the ABsinthe H^Ouse, at the Music Box, the La Veeda, and the Fern, the last three being jitney, or taxi dance halls. He also played at Antoine's and La Louisiane, restaurants.

Talk of A. Metoyer's great love of music. He played many jobs day and night at Carnival time. He did not like blasting music. Metoyer worked with Jake Steve's Maccabees Band; Steve is dead now. Metoyer and Alphonse Picou played parades together. Jake Steve, a white man, had all the Carnival [i. e., Mardi Gras] contracts [for marching bands?]. [Metoyer passed for white according to John Lala. RBA. See JL, reel ?]

Metoyer took up playing the cornet with a relative [i. e., at the same time as?] named Oscar Giovanni [sp?]; Metoyer never had a regular teacher. Metoyer did have a few lessons from Chaligny. Metoyer learned musical harmony, theory, etc, while away from New Orleans. He traveled with Barnum and Bailey [circus] for five years. Metoyer also played with the band at the racetrack [Fairground?], and played the bugle call for each race.

Metoyer would have been 78 years old October 26, 1960 [There-
fore born October 26, 1882]; he died November 22, 1933.

Talk of Metoyer's working at Tom Anderson's, of receiving \$25 tip for playing a melody on only his mouthpiece. WR says [Manuel] Manetta has told him about Metoyer's playing at the Tuxedo Dance Hall with Louis Tio, uncle of [Lorenzo Tio, Jr.] HD's teacher.

Metoyer played for Salem and Tut Whitney's road show each time it came to New Orleans; it played at the Lyric Theater, where Metoyer had also played with [John] Robichaux. The Whitneys were brothers;

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they brought their show to New Orleans once a year. Mrs. M. says Metoyer also played many other places, including the Owl on Bienville Street. HD says the Owl Club was on Causeway Boulevard, where the gambling [houses were?].

HD thinks [Albert] Burbank, clarinetist, may be shown in a picture HD examines.

Mrs. M., born Virginia Fernandez, will be 77 years old February twenty-sixth. None of her family were musical, but they all liked music. She attended the French Opera. All of "Chinee's" family are musical, especially a teen-aged son.

End of Reel I