

Inventory Number: tta0182aa			Center for Popular Music – Audio Log
Media: Uncompressed Digital Audio – DVD			
Title: Wardlow Interview with Roberta Hagan and Wesley Hall			NOTES: Original recording on 5" reel of 1/4" tape left channel only by Gayle Dean Wardlow. Audio had severe dropouts all throughout.
Date: May 26, 1968			
Time:			Transferred to 10" reel of 1/4" tape – 2 track mono @ 7 1/2 ips by Bruce Nemerov. Audio digitization by Martin Fisher. Historical Consulting and description – Tyler DeWayne Moore.
Place: Sibley, LA			
Hagan was married to King Solomon Hill (Joe Holmes)			
Time In	Track	Title/Description	Artist or Interviewee
File Name		cpm_94048_tta182aa_010101_pres_19680526RobertaHagan	
00.00.00	1	Wardlow asks about Art Liably and where Joe Holmes was found; Hagan says that Holmes was located in Memphis and brought Liably to his home; Liably went to Texas, after he came home with Holmes; Then he took Holmes to record in Birmingham; Hagan said this was around the spring of 1932;	Roberta Hagan
00.03.28	2	Wardlow asks about Holmes coming out under the name King Solomon Hill; Hagan said that Holmes was not mad about the pseudonym; Holmes and Hagan moved to West Monroe, AR after his first recordings; Hagan and Holmes moved to Roytown after Monroe; their only child was named Essie - who moved to Chicago during the war in 1942 before Holmes dies; she has no idea with whom Holmes played music at Joe Greene's jook in Roytown;	Roberta Hagan
00.08.24	3	Wardlow asks about Holmes alcoholism; he would drink "canned heat" and anything he could get; Holmes may have weighed about one hundred and thirty-five pounds; Hagan worked jobs but never took care of Holmes - "that wasn't me"; Holmes never went to church; Holmes had an older brother, Charlie Holmes, who died before Joe;	Roberta Hagan
00.10.27	4	Wardlow asks about photos of Holmes and a house where a record player burned; Hagan has no photos of Holmes, despite having some took at one time; Hagan references Joe Coleman, a sawmill worker in [Heflin], as having a photo; Hagan was in Monroe when Holmes died and can not remember the funeral home that buried him;	Roberta Hagan

00.14.39	5	Hagan claims that Holmes musical ability was hard to beat - as good as Blind Lemon and Ramblin' Thomas, who tried to keep up with Holmes; Hagan remembers Holmes' song lyrics and musical repertoire; Wardlow plays records for Hagan; Hagan claims that the records are not Joe Holmes, based on the vocal style; Wardlow plays Sam Collins records also - interview jumps around very much; they talk about John Fox around Terry;	Roberta Hagan
00.18.56	6	Hagan recognizes more of Holmes' records; Wardlow talks about others' accounts of seeing Holmes in Roytown; Hagan says that Holmes was playing before she met him; Wardlow asks about certain lyrics - "I learned from my daddy"; Audio chops up again; Wardlow further explores Holmes lyrics; Hagan recognizes the lyrics from Gone Dead Train, and corrects Wardlows interpretation of the words;	Roberta Hagan
00.23.32	7	Joe Holmes was from Sibley, LA, according to Hagan; Wardlow and Hagan further analyze the lyrics of Holmes' music; Holmes spoke phrases in between the verses of his music - a signature element of his music;	Roberta Hagan
00.25.51	8	5/25/1968 - LYRICS - <i>Tennessee the Place for Me</i> - "I travel Georgia and part of Tennessee; take your time, friend of mine; I travel Georgia and part of Tennessee; take your time friend of mine"; Wardlow asks about other songs by Holmes, but Hall does not remember many of the tunes and lyrics that Wardlow cites; Wardlow asks about Holmes' guitar style; Hall saw Holmes at Charlie Holmes' jook in [Heflin]; Holmes sometimes played bottleneck, but often used a guitar pick; John Willis used to play with Holmes;	Wesley Hall
00.29.04	9	Wardlow explains his tapes as a "follow-up" to his May 1966 trip to Menden and Fryburg, MS to research King Solomon Hill; Wardlow discusses his publications in 78 Quarterly; he also talks about conflicting oral accounts;	Gayle Wardlow

00.30.54	10	Wardlow plays Holmes records for Hagan - Tell me baby; Hagan discusses Holmes high-pitch vocal style; Hagan claims that Holmes was from MS around Summit in 1897-98; Hagan met Holmes in Sibley around 1918 and they were married the same year; Holmes was a musician by the time they married; They further discuss Holmes musical style and sand "all kinds of blues"; The two moved to McComb around 1919 until 1922-23; Hagan left Holmes in Summit and moved back to Monroe;	Roberta Hagan - formerly Roberta Allen Holmes (wife of Joe Holmes)
00.36.32	11	Wardlow asks about the Harlem Nightengale club in McComb, MS; Hagan claims that Holmes played at many parties around Summit, MS; Holmes would go out of town for days at a time playing gigs; Hagan claims that Sam Collins was from Terry, MS; Hagan first met Collins in Crystal Springs	Roberta Hagan
00.39.40	12	Wardlow asks about Holmes songs - Riverside Blues, Devil in the Lion's Den, and Gone Dead Train; Hagan remembers the lyrics of Train; Hagan's daughter, Essie, moved to Chicago - Wardlow gets her address;	Roberta Hagan
00.41.35	13	Hagan met Blind Lemon in Menden, LA in the late 1920s; Holmes and Lemon played in Shreveport and Ringold; Holmes met Ramblin' Thomas in Sibley, then they went to Monroe and Calhoun; Thomas played frequently in Shreveport, but lived in Sibley and Monroe for a while; Hagan was in Monroe for about three years;	Roberta Hagan
00.43.47	14	Holmes and Blind Lemon with Wichita Falls, TX; Blind Lemon used to visit Hagan's home in the late 1920s; Holmes and Blind Lemon used to sit up all night and play music; Wardlow lists songs by Blind Lemon; Holmes went to Roytown and played; The two men collaborated often in the late 1920s; Wardlow asks about Big Chief, a friend of Holmes; Holmes preferred the accompaniment of Ramblin' Thomas; Holmes went to [Macidosha, TX] perhaps to play; Holmes returned to LA by himself - Blind Lemon left Holmes around 1928;	Roberta Hagan

00.48.01	15	Wardlow asks about the influence of Blind Lemonm on Holmes - sharing songs; Wardlow asks about how Holmes began to record; A man from Menden who knew Lightnin' Slim and Ben Curry found Holmes, but Wardlow attempts to spur Hagan's memory here - possibly leading Hagan's accounts. Holmes recorded in Chicago, but Hagan does not know where he recorded exactly;	Roberta Hagan
00.51.04	16	Hagan says that Holmes knew Ben Curry in Birmingham and Monroe, LA; the two used to play in Calhoun; Curry may have been from Arcadia originally, but Hagan never met Curry; After Curry met Holmes, the two went up north to record; he brought six records back with him to play on Hagan's victrola; these records may been burned in a house fire or left at other's houses; Wardlow wants to find Holmes' obscure records - he is excited to learn that a Mr and Mrs. King may still have some of his records in Menden;	Roberta Hagan
00.54.58	17	Wardlow asks about Marshall Owens, a musician who sang with Holmes; Hagan describes the test records that Holmes brought home from his session; Holmes only recorded one time, according to Hagan; she talks about "old man" King in Menden, who owned a few of Holmes' records; Wardlow asks about a Holmes song about the death of Blind Lemon; Wardlow lists more of Holmes songs - Down on Bended Knee and Tell me Baby (What Fault You Find in Me); Holmes died in the spring around 1949, from refusing to go to the doctor and hemorrhaging;	Roberta Hagan