

| Inventory Number: tta0182cc | | | Center for Popular Music – Audio Log |
|---|-------|--|---|
| Media: Uncompressed Digital Audio – DVD | | | |
| Title: Ishmon Bracey / Mississippi Joe Calicott Interview | | | NOTES: Original recording on 5" reel of 1/4" tape left channel only by Gayle Dean Wardlow. Audio had severe dropouts all throughout. |
| Date: December 30–31, 1967 | | | |
| Time: | | | |
| Place: Hernando, Mississippi | | | 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. |
| Joe Calicott played with Garfield Akers and recorded for Vocalion Records | | | |
| Time In | Track | Title/Description | Artist or Interviewee |
| File Name | | cpm_94048_tta182cc_010101_pres_ | |
| 00.00.00 | 1 | Bracey working construction, concrete, and painting jobs after 1936; Rosie and Charlie McCoy used to play together at house parties and lived with each other; Rosie was from Brookhaven or McComb; Bracey talks about playing in Rolling Fork with an electric guitar; Bracey discusses fighting in jook; Vicksburg Blues was requested by a "nice looking little woman" and her man got mad - tried to hit Bracey with a switch; the man tried to poison Bracey; | Ishmon Bracey |
| 00.06.28 | 2 | Wardlow asks about a guy named Kerry Lee Simmons who claimed he went with TJ and Bracey to Memphis; Wardlow brings up Bullet and Braefoot Bill; Bracey says that Tommy Johnson was the best blues musician, but he eventually became a drunk and "wasn't able to do nothing." | Ishmon Bracey |
| 00.08.43 | 3 | On December 30, 1967 on Pleasant Hill Road - Calicott talks about a picture of him playing while Garfield Akers is dancing; Calicott knew Jim Jackson from a little boy, and when he grew up Jackson, Calicott, and Akers went to Memphis to record; Wardlow discusses Speir selling Jim Jackson's contract; | Joe Calicott |
| 00.11.00 | 4 | Wardlow asks about Akers going into the Delta; Wardlow plays recording of Akers/Calicott and gets comments on the song style origins; Calicott differentiates between the guitar styles in the song; Both guitars used were Stellas; The musicians took about 15 minutes between each song; Wardlow asks about drinking in the studio, and claims that Memphis Minnie was drunk; | Joe Calicott |

| | | | |
|----------|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 00.16.05 | 5 | Calicott talks about Akers playing behind him on recordings and vice versa; | Joe Calicott - severe dropout |
| 00.18.12 | 6 | Bad sound, but Calicott talks about meeting Akers and playing at jook; Calicott mentions Charlie Patton, emphatically, and says that there was not enough money around there for him; Patton came through there right before Calicott recorded in Memphis; Wardlow asks about Edward Thompson who sang Up the Hill Blues; Calicott used to live on the farm of Bill Gray; Akers was not scared of hard work, Calicott said "he worked pretty good." | Joe Calicott - severe dropout |
| 00.23.28 | 7 | Akers never really played in Spanish; Calicott said, "when we was playing then, we was playing in natural"; Calicott never got to see Lemon Jefferson; Wardlow asks about Blind Joe Graves; Calicott talks about playing with Akers face-to-face; | Joe Calicott |
| 00.25.50 | 8 | Calicott knew Frank Stokes in Memphis; Stokes died after WWII; Calicott says that Dan Sane was living in Memphis; Wardlow asks about Timmy Oliver and Reverend Robert Wilkins; Calicott mentions Washboard Sam; Wardlow mentions Pete Whelan, who started a "new magazine." Sometimes songs took two or three takes to finish; Most recording was done at night; They discuss Memphis Minnie; | Joe Calicott |
| 00.31.26 | 9 | The first Akers recording was in late 1929, and the second was in the beginning of 1930; Wardlow plays Kid Bailey's Rowdy Blues; He plays Willie Brown's Future Blues; Calicott recognizes that Brown is playing in Spanish tuning; Calicott says that he didn't start any trouble, didn't fight, but someone tried to poison him; | Joe Calicott |
| 00.38.05 | 10 | Wardlow plays Calicott's records and notes that his voice was stronger than Akers'; Songwriting came to him in his sleep; "He was guitar crazy." Neither Akers or Calicott used a slide; Calicott got married around 1944; Akers was only married to woman named Missy; | Joe Calicott |

| | | | |
|----------|----|--|----------------------------------|
| 00.41.49 | 11 | Calicott and Akers just arbitrarily named Cottonfield Blues; Akers was a pretty good drinker, but they never got too drunk so that they didn't know what they were doing; People out in the country would kill you, one of Calicott's friends got cut up and killed; | Joe Calicott |
| 00.44.47 | 12 | Wardlow asks about RJ getting killed at Eudora; Calicott told many people about him making records in Memphis; Calicott was born on October 11, 1900 - he was sixty-seven at the time of this interview; Wardlow asks about <i>The Boll Weevil</i> ; | Joe Calicott |
| 00.48.55 | 13 | Calicott says that Frank Stokes could make a song up about anything "even your feet"; Calicott called Blind Phoenix the best guitarist he ever saw; Akers was in his teens when he started playing guitar; Aaron Hall taught Calicott how to play guitar; Akers was from Senatobia or Brights, MS; | Joe Calicott |
| 00.51.56 | 14 | Mrs. Calicott bought a record player and many records; Akers did not chase women too much , but he liked to have fun, "you know." | Darla Montgomery - Mrs. Calicott |
| 00.54.42 | 15 | In Clarksdale, MS - Rundown of trips - Left Jackson at 4:30 and went to Yazoo City to buy records but could not; Next was Pugh City, where he bought some records for a dollar and spoke with some women about Leroy Carr and Tommy Johnson; Next he went to see Rev. Frank Howard in Tribett, MS and give him some money; Went to Indianola and bought some fried chicken; Stayed in Clarksdale, at the Royal Motel, for \$3.65; Bought some hamburgers in Belzoni for \$.75; | Gayle Wardlow |
| 00.56.20 | 16 | Went to Lula and bought records for \$2.50; Went to Powell, where Patton used to roam, and took pictures; then went across the bridge into Helena - \$1 across \$1 back; On his way to Hernando, stopped in Tunica and ate \$2.25; \$5 in gas and \$1.04 to fix a tire going to Hernando; After interviewing Calicott, Wardlow went back to Clarksdale and stayed at the Majestic hotel on December 31; Making this recording at around 2 o'clock in the mmorning, he plans to head into Clarksdale and interview someone who knew Henry Sims; | Gayle Wardlow |