

Inventory Number: tta0182kk			Center for Popular Music – Audio Log
Media: Uncompressed Digital Audio – DVD			
Title: Interview with King Abram and Elson Davis – These men knew Ben Curry			Source: Originally recorded to Side 1 7" reel of 1/4" X 1800' tape at 3 3/4 i.p.s. – left channel only by Gayle Dean Wardlow.
Date: Seoptember 12, [1968]			
Place: Arcadie, LA			
Machine – Studer A-807; 5" reel 1/4" x 600'; 1.5 millimeter mylar; Nassau brand; 2 track mono			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.
Time In	Track	Title/Description	Artist or Interviewee
File Size		cpm_94048_tta182kk_010101_pres_	
00.00.00	1	Abram knew Ben Curry, but never knew if he played music or not; Abram gives directions to Mr. Jason Larry's property, where Curry supposedly died in the late 1940s;	King Abram
00.02.36	2	Davis saw Curry play on the streets on Saturday evening with Jessmon Nelson and Will Walker; They played guitar, fiddle, and mandolin; Davis last saw them back in 1928-29-30; When Curry left, he was headed to Alabama or Georgia, but he came back to Arcadie to die; Wardlow asks about the dozens and they laughed; Wardlow asks about Joe Holmes;	Elson Davis
00.06.05	3	Davis mentions family members of Curry; Davis lives at P.O. Box 171 Arcadia, LA;	Elson Davis
00.06.49	4	Wardlow plays songs by King Solomon Hill for Willis; <i>Tell Me Baby - Gone Dead Train - Down on my Bended Knee;</i>	John Willis
00.13.19	5	Willis says that the man playing on the records was his friend, Joe Holmes; they discuss the origins of the King Solomon community and church; Willis does not know the meaning of <i>Gone Dead Train</i> ; Wardlow mentions another Holmes song - <i>Whoopee Blues</i> ; Holmes told Willis he made a record in the 1930s; Charlie Holmes, brother, played the record for Willis;	John Willis - Wardlow's voice low - This interview concerns questions from the previous tape, but there are some discrepencies, as Willis pushes back the first meeting with Holmes and his own birthdate;
00.18.17	6	Willis was born in 1900; Willis met Holmes after WWI; Holmes played many Blind Lemon songs; Willis says that "Joe died first," then his brother Charlie; Holmes tried to sound like Blind Lemon; Holmes never told Willis who taught him to play; Willis mentions Bentonia, Magnolia, Summit, and McComb; Holmes may be from Magnolia, MS;	John Willis

00.21.30	7	Willis met Holmes in [Heflin] and played second guitar behind Holmes; Holmes played in spanish tuning with a bottleneck on his middle finger; Willis remembers Holmes playing The Midnight Special; Holmes liked to sit down, play across his lap, and drink his bottle; Willis played in cross G tuning all the time;	John Willis
00.26.00	8	Holmes played with a person named George, who played the rub board; George got burned alive - a man killed him, cut him up, and poured gas over him, lighting him on fire; Holmes never told Willis when exactly he met Blind Lemon; Holmes took off about two weeks at a time; Holmes may have stayed with Salty Dog Sam for about six months;	John Willis
00.29.29	9	Wardlow asks about Holmes' vocal line "I'm going to Minden." Willis contends that Holmes sang about Clay, LA; Wardlow can play a guitar in Spanish and wants to come back and play with Willis; Wardlow asks how Holmes learned to play bottleneck - Willis contends that Holmes started playing with a knife; he also played the mandolin; Wardlow asks about Ben Curry who was a mandolin player;	John Willis
00.34.11	10	They discuss the rhythm "boodle dee dee bum bum"; Wardlow talks about other songs; It seems like every song Wardlow lists, Willis recognizes and heard Holmes play it many times - "I heard him play that a many times"; Willis never heard Holmes play <i>Seven Street Alley Strut</i> ;	John Willis
00.36.31	11	Holmes never played the harmonica (harp), but he did play a banjo/mandolin; Holmes quit playing a year before he died and never did "confess his sins" or get saved; Holmes did attend church sometimes, but did not like to talk about religion much;	John Willis
00.39.12	12	Holmes used to play parties in the 1920s near the community of King Solomon Hill, which is near near Arcadie, LA; Wardlow talks about people's skepticism that Joe Holmes was actually King Solomon Hill; Holmes never discussed his profit from the records, but he said that they would be released one day; Willis heard Holmes' records at the home of Charlie Holmes;	John Willis

00.42.19	13	Wardlow talks about how Holmes listened to records and transposed them to fit his style; Willis mentions that there was a big storm in Minden, LA around 1933; After the storm, they rebuilt the town of Minden; Holmes was a travelling man and stayed with different women over the years; Wardlow continues to ask about Holmes' family members that might have records and further information;	John Willis
00.45.37	14	Wardlow asks about aliases the that Holmes used - "Kid"; Holmes was a small man; he weighed about 135 pounds; Wardlow plays <i>Whoopee Blues</i> by King Solomon Hill and it is recognized by interviewee as being Holmes;	John Willis - Speed of tape fluctuates after 00.50.00
00.52.38	15	Wardlow asks about Joe Holmes' song about Blind Lemon; Wardlow plays more King Solomon Hill records and the interviewee recognizes the voice and style as Holmes; The interviewee mentions <i>On My Bended Knee</i> ; Wardlow asks about Ramblin' Thomas and Ben Curry; The interviewee remembers Holmes playing a song about "You rascal you." They discuss how Holmes could change his vocal style;	John Willis