

William de Marigny Hyland Interview:

William: when this boat appeared in Shell beach bayou, and there was a fellow on the boat and he was very light complected, and had a beard growing, blondeish hair, and so they kept watching this man on this boat. Noone knew who he was or where he had come from, why he was there. And then some of the local residents who couldn't read and write, most of them couldn't, went to Mr.Veto and said "Ya see, that man, they call him El Alleman, the German," because to them with this light complexion, he had to be a German. El Alleman. And so he had that thing, a pencil and his paper all the time, and every time we passed, he's with a paper and pencil. So after two months of this, Veto said, "You know I had enough of this," so he went to the boat and he got on the boat and he said, "I'm Veto Molero, who are you and what are you doing here?" And so El Alleman looked at him and said "that's none of your business and I'm not going to tell you anything." and so Mr.Veto said, "What do you mean it's none of my business, I live here and again I ask you, who are you and what are you doing here and why are you here?" And so then he (El Alleman) says "I'm not going to tell you anything, I don't have to tell you anything," And Mr.Veto said "no you don't have to tell me anything, but there's one thing you do have to do, you do have to die, and you're going to die right now and he strangeled him. (laughter)... ?Screamed Shell Beach fire?. Then and he said burn the boat and that was it.

New person: Done. Done. Yes. Well we were told that a small canal was cut by the locals to..

W: Sconner canal?

NP: Yes. To move contraband. Cus it was big business. And you know, in umm one of Ken Burn's documentary, particularly one on prohibition. One of the questions that was asked to many people was, "In what city could you get illegal alcohol the quickest?" In New Orleans, it took 20 seconds.

W: I'll tell you another story. One of my ?legal day? cousins was Mildred Mascone. And she married Jacob Cost?. And Mildred died many years ago. She was very sweet. And she used to, She finished at ?Callnolmount?? in Nachitoches. And then she wanted to teach and of course a Leroyday?, they had always been in Plaquemine and St.Bernard. and so she had connections here. She wanted to come and teach here, she thought it was very romantic. So she was assigned to the Violet Elemntary school. And it's still standing, it's the last standing wooden schoolhouse. It's now on St.Bernard highway. It was built in 1916, beautiful building. So she would teach there, and she just loved being at St. Bernard. And she would work on her apers and work on the children's work, and then of course, the same train that went to Shell Beach passed in front of the school, and she would take the train home. Well it was early in the school year and she had forgotten the time and was working on papers and so much at home. And low and behold, she looked and she realized that she missed the train. She was completely oblivious. So she didn't know what she was going to do. She didn't.. "oh how am I going to get home?" Well one of her students was a Mellory. So Tino and Adam Mellory were going to go into the city, and so Richito told Ms. Masscone he said Mellory said "Don't worry, daddy and Tino are going to the city in about 20 minutes, so you can ride with them." So she she got in the car, it was a big black cadillac car. And she thought it was so unusual that these people living the way they did that they'd have this very elaborate car. It

might not have been a Cadillac, but it was a big black car. So she got in the car and she was speaking to them in French because they spoke French and Spanish, and they were talking about things, and finally they got to the vicinity of the River road and Paris road, and they said "Professora, this car behind us, and so when we tell you hit the floor, go to floor immediately." So as they are crossing Paris road, Mr. Adam leaned out the window and shot at the car behind them because they were revenue agents. He said to hit the floor, so she got on the floor. Of course it was this horrible gun fight between the Mellors and the revenue agents. Finally, they shot up the revenue agents car and it went into the ditch. They rode all the way to New Orleans. They dropped Mildred off at her grand father's house on Royal street. And guess what her reward was? they said "oh we're so sorry for you Professora, we certainly never intended that you'd have that kind of experience." and by this time, the grand father was frantic. He came out of the house, and they gave him a case of whiskey that was in the trunk.

N.P.: Well this has been wonderful, we appreciate your time, but trust that the stories that you tell may not seem important, every story is important to us. We have another lady, I believe...

Other person: Well it's a gentleman.

N.P.: Gentleman that's coming in next.

W: I'm going to have to run to my other appointment but then I'll be back. Let me tell you a little bit about Mr. Duggie. His father was Mr. John. And Mr. John was friendly with all of us. He helped Frank Fernandez to found the ?Island? society and to found this whole complex. He was the first one to really, I think and correct me if I'm wrong, look at oystering as a big business. So that was Duggie's daddy, then Mr. Duggie took it to the next levels, where he was actually shipping oysters all over creation, before Katrina. And so, he is bilingual. He speaks Spanish as well as English. His sons all speak reasonably well Spanish. But anyway, Duggie is going to be a very important person for you to meet. His ancestor was Jill Robin, who was born in Brittany, came to the West Indies, and Trinidad, and from there came to St. Bernard. We know he was in St. Bernard in the 1790's. He was a French speaker. His sons, grandsons, great grandsons, all married ?Canadians?? So in Duggie, you see a phenomenon that's nowhere else to be found in Louisiana. And that is, instead of people being galasized, people become hystonized. Duggie's surname is Robin. Their from Saservant in Britain, but today, he's going to tell you that he's Canadio. And he's going to speak to you in Spanish.