

Audio Log: [mj\\_interview\\_jones\\_betty\\_lou\\_audiolog](#)

Interviewee: Betty Lou Jones

Audio Log created by: William Harris

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- Introduction, Jones is President of the Jimmie Rodgers Foundation in Meridian Mississippi.
- Believes that Jimmie Rodgers is an important figure in that he provided a voice to Mississippi music of the time.
- She gives a short biography of his life and how he was influenced musically, from church gospel to the music of African Americans he worked in labor groups. She believes that his yodel was inspired from the field hollers of Black laborers.
- She thinks that racial thinking divided the interpretations of Country and Blues music. She feels that music was one of the few things that helped integrate White and Black audiences during Rodgers time.
- She believes that Country music has not carried over to modern African American audiences because they feel that they cannot relate to it.

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- She feels that possible resentment towards Country music by African American Audiences is due to its association with White Audiences.
- She states that Rodgers's popularity in the United States has waned due to the fact that his death was so long ago. Though she does explain that his popularity around the world is very large.
- She feels that yodeling fell out of fashion due to it simply becoming unpopular in place of other styles.
- Jones believes that there is something about Country music that is appealing to many people, explaining its continued popularity. She feels that his popularity among some African American musicians is because he had an understanding of their way of life and because it was so close to their style of music.