

Stable Views--Voices and Stories from the Thoroughbred Racetrack
Archie Green Fellows Project, 2012-2013
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**Joseph Rideau interview, 2012-10-24 : interview conducted by Ellen E.
McHale**

INTERVIEW LOG

Interview Log Joseph Rideau Interviewer: Ellen McHale 10/24/2012

Tape Log:

0-30 Introduction to Joseph Rideau, who goes by the nickname "June."

052 Has been working with horses for 35 years. He was young when he started. Started galloping when young, cleaning stalls, grooming and wrapping legs. He has also trained.

1:47 Started with Mr. Stemmons. He used to train at the Evangeline Race track, both quarter horses and thoroughbreds. He used to ride, but now considers himself too old. He was taking care of 20 head, in training. He cares for 6, right now. He has a helper. When there were twenty horses, he had 6 helpers and he rubbed 3 horses.

3:23 Mr. Stemmons came and got him and he's been there ever since and has worked nowhere else. He gets to the farm at five in the morning and quits when he gets done. Everybody starts at 4:00 a.m. so they can get them out before it gets hot. He cleans stalls three times a day and makes sure that there is water and hay at all times. He works seven days a week.

5:12 He was born in Carencro. He has two sons, who work with the horses.

5:50 He showed his sons how to gallop. They are galloping and grooming. They exercise horses.

6:33 Joseph stopped riding (exercising) about 3 years ago. He used to break babies. He quit because he was getting too old to fall. When you fall, it hurts now.

7:57 They used to have twenty to train. That was the only job he's ever had.

9:20 Horses are fed at 5:00 a.m. After they eat, they have a bath and then they walk until they're dry. They sit in the stall and groom them up and wrap their legs. They have a track and starting gates. When they go to a race they haul them right from the Stemmons' farm. They are walked for twenty minutes. After that they rest. He stays with them all day. Their day is concluded at 5:00 p.m. They take them to the track and after the race, they cool off. They load them in the trailer and bring them back here. He races at Delta which has night races.