

**Jamesie Project / Andrea E. Leland producer**  
**TAPE G ( St Croix FRedriksted waterfront / Spring 2003)**  
*Interview between Jamesie and Wayne James*  
*Eric Miles camera*

**Tape G: 2<sup>nd</sup> tape, of Wayne and Jamesie interview in Fredriksted**

Starts out with discussion of who were the guys in the old days that played music.

**3:50**

Wayne, talks about how instruments equally important. When you don't have a squash, it don't sound right. Seems instruments key are indispensable.

**5:00** *(talks about instruments in the band)*

J. As long as the music is known with that instrument, none can be missing. Ok. The steel is a very important thing in culture music.

W. Like cooking without salt.

J: in the culture music, you can't cut people out at the last minute.

**6"05** *(Jamesie talks about making banjo at his home and kids watching, passing down tradition)*

W. talks about Jamesie making banjo, and teaching to other kids.

J. When I do my work, I don't be closed in, like I am living here, that is the walkway there. I do my work outside and the kids will come there, but they will look at me and say, how do you do this, look at me good and I was showing them. They have kids looking at me doing these things.

When I finish, I test it and then I start to play and they looking at me and ask could I do it. And they start to do it. The mother say, get out from there. Come here....

**8:09** *(how music is discouraged as a profession)*

W: happens all over the world, encourage children not to marry a musician, marry and doctor etc. But, when you look at life, ...music is central to that thing, so sad that people discourage music as a ....

**9:27**

Wayne asks where did all the musicians come from?

J. My father from Barbados. ....(Jamesie talks about how they came from all over)

W. this music was coming from Caribbean. Do you hear this all over the islands? How did they play this music, how did they learn?

J. (Jamesie answers, play differently over there than from here.)

**11:30** *(excellent history of banjo, dad, Jamesie, his dad and his grandmother)*

Jamesie talks about making banjo out of sardine can in the old days...with a hot spiked nail in the fire, until it come red, and the white pine board, he put that nail and take a pliers and lay down and push it through and heat it again and push it through.

Them sardine can, they shaped like that, I shape it,

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I cut out the hole and I shove it in, and then I.....

In them time you couldn't touch the fishing line your father had you know....

So my grandmother, had white flour bag, the cornmeal bag, she used to take a needle and take out, and the whole thing runs, I used to take them strings, them strong and I used to take them and string up the .....

Take some twine from my dad, and .....(???)

Mr. Macho, see me, and say "this boy going to be something in this world you know"

**15:00**

I used to sing Latin you know, and I walk, and get established,

By the time I walk around people hear me, and my grandmother buy me a guitar,

Wayne: How old were you?

Jamesie: 13 years old.

**16: 20:**

W : who was in your first band

J. talks about musicians

W. how did you get paid?

J. I don't get paid

**17:59: cutaways of Wayne and Jamesie**

J Talks about working for Tom Benedict's bottling factory, washing bottles, 5cents a case to wash 25 bottles. Jamesie used to wash 5 cases a night, but never let us walk home, gave us ride? I couldn't touch my money, my father woman get the money.

W You were 13 – 14 then, that was your job and you used to play music on the side?

**20:20**

W Your stepmother take the money and give you nothing?

J Yea

**21:04,**

J. my mother used to work in sugar cane field, and that was no money, \$8 a week. I grew up by my father, and after this start, my grandmother get vexed and she go up to him....

**21:47** cutaways on bench, no talking

**24:00** walking on the street and talking

**25:00**

J. I am not going to promote no island and leave my own, cuz here I born.

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**26:15** Wayne and Jamesie crossing street, going up to hotel, talking about what used to be there in the old days.

J; I is the one that dig the swimming pool. Me did all the excavation. (Jamesie used to operate heavy machinery in the old days)

**28:00**

Walking down the street in Fredriksted. Talking about where Jamesie used to live.

**29:00**

Wayne and Jamesie gets into car.

**30:00** Jamesie in the car, talking to Wayne about what was in the old days...and how everything is run down, falling apart in Fredriksted.

**33:24**

Wayne and Jamesie approach old water well out of the car. Sit and talk about old days, when Jamesie's grandmother used to live up there.

**34:11** Jamesie tells story of cat in the well, and how he wrote a song about it, he was 15 years old.

**37:30** Side view of Jamesie and Wayne on well, Jamesie continues with story of song of how he made "Pussy cat in the well"

Wayne asks about how he made the song, how old was he, took a memory from childhood and made it into a song.

39:48: Wayne says something about the song, and Jamesie talks about people throwing animals in the well. Go on to talk about sewer lines in the 60's, other wise need to get water from the well.

40:40; Ms. Ellis house

40:52 another house on the corner, other cutaways.

**41:25** Wayne and Jamesie go up to the well and tell the story of the song "Pussy in the well " all over again, different view point.

**43:33** more shots of house and streets around the well, street scenes, folks on their porches, Wayne and Jamesie hanging out at well.

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**47:30** Pig roast at Mt. Bijou

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**48:36** long shot of Mt. Bijou great house.

**49:10** band setting up at Mt. Bijou.