

SEVENTH WARD SPEAKS

Joyce Montana

COSTUME DESIGNER
AND MAKER

BEAUTICIAN

COOK

TOOTIE AND I WERE TOGETHER FOR 54 YEARS. HE MASKED Mardi Gras Indian for 54 years too. It was in his family as far back as anybody can remember. His great uncle was chief of the Yellow Pocahontas and he inherited the tribe.

We both had full-time jobs. I was a beautician and Tootie was a lather. We had to rush home from work to sew. Me, I would be cooking and sewing at the same time. He bragged that I was the fastest in the world sewing beads and sequins by hand.

The month before carnival, people would start coming to the house from all over. And every time he masked, I was right there with him. I walked all through the years with him. We missed a lot but then we caught up for it in the later years. A few months before he died, he said, "You know something Joyce? The way people love you and me makes me know that what I did all these years wasn't in vain."



THIS POSTER PROJECT IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN
THE PORCH AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD STORY PROJECT.
INTERVIEW CONDUCTED AT MS. JOYCE'S HOUSE ON N. VILLERE
STREET BY BIG CHIEF RONALD "BUCK" BAHAM IN SPRING OF 2007.

For more information about the Porch call, 504-312-2701 or 713-504-6267.