

My memory of first meeting Ray Topping was in the back seat of a London taxi, on our way to some function, trying to be as accurate as possible in answering the gazillions of questions concerning south Louisiana music he kept hurling my way. I couldn't believe how much he knew about us. We became friends and met several times over the years, both in Louisiana and the U.K. Ray was a walking storehouse of musical information and I thank him for imparting his knowledge of our beloved Louisiana music to the world. R.I.P. Ray; your much appreciated hard work will live on.

Johnnie Allan