

The Sound of Blue



Blues: CD's, Books, Records, Tapes, Whatever -

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WELCOME TO APRIL 1998

APRIL BIRTHS: Unknown dates - Charlie Patton 1891; Nathaniel "Stick Horse" Hammond, 1933; Evans Bradshaw Jr, 1933; 3rd Dooley Wilson (The piano player in the movie "Casablanca") 1894; shown as the 4th or the 14th by different sources, Mc Kinley Morganfield (that's Muddy Waters to you "classical music" fans) 1915; 12th Theodore Roosevelt "Hounddog" Taylor 1917; and shown on the 26th or the 29th of 1926 or 1929, Joseph Benjamin "J.B." Hutto.

APRIL LOSSES: 2nd Bennie Moten bled to death 1935; 3rd Sarah Vaughan 1990; 13th Louis "Kid Thomas" Watts 1970 shot to death outside a police station (If you like harmonica you should really take time to listen to his work); 18th William Henry Joseph Bonaparte Bertholof, better known as Willie "the Lion" Smith 1973 and on the 29th J. B. Lenoir of a heart attack as a consequence of a car accident in 1967.

If anyone has birth/death dates for those we are missing, please let us know so that we may update our records. In one of our future letters we'll include a list of ones we're still "in the dark" about.

BLUES QUESTION ANSWER: The only person to correctly answer the March blues question was Ray Lomas from Creston, Ohio. Don Mc Intyre of Florida faxed us to venture a guess. The person identified by Don and also originally thought of by Ray was Blind Lemon Jefferson who indeed, did fit part of the information. The person we were looking for was Joshua Daniel "Josh" ("Pinewood Tom") White, born February 11th, 1915 in Greenville, S.C., who started out being a guide to blind musicians Blind John Henry Arnold, Blind Joe Taggart, Blind Blake, Willie Walker, Joe Walker, Willie Johnson, Archie Jackson, Columbus Williams, and Blind Lemon Jefferson, at age 7. His son, Joshua Donald White, born in 1940, and his daughter, Beverly White, born in 1939 are singers. He died at North Shore hospital during open heart surgery in Manhasset, N.Y., on September 5th, 1969. One of our usual winners, Shirley Wren of Cleveland, called to let us know that her daughter Carmella has had some health problems. We missed Shirley not having this month's answer, but obviously her attentions were required elsewhere. We wish Carmella the best in her recovery and I'm sure we'll hear from Shirley on

this months question. Don't forget the answer is worth an additional 5% till the next newsletter.

MONTH'S BLUES QUESTION: In the late 1970's a blues and jazz singer of French and Indian heritage died as a consequence of obesity. She was born in and performed all over the state of Michigan. She also performed in San Jacinto, California; performed with Al Hirt in his club in New Orleans; performed in the St Louis Ragtime Festival in St Louis, Mo. around 1972. She did some recordings with various area bands in Michigan. To the best of our knowledge, these recordings are not currently available. She also did some TV commercials for local products around Detroit. Her biggest influences were Lizzie Miles and Bessie Smith, both of whom influenced a considerable number of singers. Anybody know who she was?

BLUES TRIVIA: James D. "Cadillac Jake" or "Shakey Jake" Harris was a harp player born in Erle, Arkansas on April 12th, 1921. Not real well known, he deserves more credit than he has gotten to this point. The "Cadillac Jake" came from the fact that he was a mechanic. The "Shakey Jake" came from "shake'em" since he was a professional gambler. He helped to shape the "west side sound" of Chicago because of his advice to and playing with his nephew, "Magic Sam", with whom he also did some recording. He also frequently sat in with some other Chicago acts, two of whom were the Muddy Waters Band and Little Walter & The Jukes. He recorded on the "World Pacific" label an album entitled "Further on up the Road" with a very young at that time guitarist, Luther Allison, in 1968. In 1971 he recorded on Polydor an album called "The Devil's Harmonica" accompanied on that one by John Mayall and Freddie Robinson, among others. Some of his best known songs are "Mouth Harp Blues", "I Will Always Love You", and "Still Your Fool". He died March 2, 1990 in Forrest City, Arkansas of pneumonia.

MAY RELEASES: 5TH Shemekia Copeland: "Turn the Heat Up!" (debut of the late Johnny Clyde Copeland's daughter, featuring Joe Louis Walker, Michael Hill & "Monster Mike" Welch); James Solberg Band: "L.A. Blues"; V.A.: "The Best of Austin City Limits-Big Blues Extravaganza" (features B.B. King, Albert Collins, Buddy Guy, Jimmie & Stevie Ray Vaughan, Gatemouth Brown, Neville Bros., Rory Block and Keb Mo); Tutu Jones: "Staying Power"; 12th; Charles Brown: "So Goes Love"; and "Down Home Slide" (featuring unreleased performances by Eddie Taylor, Robert Nighthawk, Big Joe Williams, Fred Mc Dowell, Johnny Shines, Honeyboy Edwards and Johnny Littlejohn) CeDell Davis: "The Horror of It All"; Juanita Dailey: "Free"; V.A.: "Generations of the Blues Vol I-Legendary Guitarists"; 19th.

ATTENTION: Blues fans who receive this letter and those who came into The Sound of Blue. On the 26th of this month we are celebrating our first anniversary of the grand opening in 1997, sure has gone by in a hurry! Anyhow, we'd like to have your input. Did you keep you March newsletter? The last page had a list of W.C. Handy award categories and nominees. We would like to request that you take a few minutes and fill

out the included form and send it back to us by April 20th, with your choices of the local bands/musicians in the listed categories. As you think about who you would like to see receive an award certificate think about the way an old blues man used to open his sets: "My name is Mississippi Fred Mc Dowell and I don't play no rock 'n roll." Nominate blues bands only--please no reggae, hip-hop, country/western, pop/rock, rock & roll, rockabilly, etc. The people who work hard playing the blues deserve your consideration and recognition as such. We will then by reader poll results, award certificates to the most-often nominated name in each of those categories. We want the local artists to know that we appreciate their work and that we are happy to have been of help or service to all of you--our friends, customers, and above all--blues fans! a list of the winners will be published in our May newsletter. Thank you all again for a great year and stop in for a visit! We want to make sure you are still enjoying the blues--live or recorded, and are kept up-to-date on whatever is going on in the blues. We always try to offer the best we can in every area we can, and would like to let you blues fans know that we have found a new source for the P-Vine, Charly, and Wolf record labels. Incidentally, the P-Vine discs we have in stock now are at clearance prices (most below our cost) to make way for the same and more albums (c.d.'s) at better prices.

OOPS! From us--and shame on you! March's newsletter was in the process of assembly for mailing when we discovered an error in it. We decided to leave it in to see if anyone would spot it and let us know. It was for the date of the death of S. P. Leary. We had shown it as February 6th when it was actually January 26th, 1998. No one spotted it, or if they did they didn't let us know.

EXTRA: If you get verifiable information on the passing of an artist, please let us know, as we try to keep our readers informed and up-to-date on the Blues World, as well as the people in it with some degree of accuracy. If you spot an error, let us know that, too! Attention Musicians: If you have instruments/equipment to sell, we'll include and ad for it in the newsletter for \$2.00 and issue. Please be accurate in any description you furnish for any items so that an interested party knows exactly what you have. If you have a club that features blues and wish to advertise it, call Lee for those rates.

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