

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY

"....to preserve, promote and perpetuate the blues tradition."

Louisville, Kentucky

Incorporated 1989

March 2017





Rocky Adcock photo by Cheryl Jaggers. Dana Roy photo by David True.

The Kentuckiana blues community suffered a great loss in January with the passing of two prominent individuals. Robert "Rocky" Adcock (photo left), passed away on January 24 at the age of 70. In addition to being a local musician, who went by the name Rocky Amaretto, he was a founding member and first president of the Kentuckiana Blues Society. He also helped establish the Garvin Gate Blues Festival and was a past president of the Louisville Federation of Musicians. A memorial service will be held for Rocky at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 8 at the First Unitarian Church in downtown Louisville. On January 30, Dana Michael Roy (photo right), passed away at the age of 64. Dana had many passions. He was a deep sea fisherman, a marine ship captain, master electrician and musician. It was his DMR Music and Recording Studio that helped produce The Louisville Blues Compilation Vol II CD in 2013 for the KBS. A memorial service was held for Dana at Grayson Funeral Home in Charlestown, IN on Saturday, February 25. The blues society sends our deepest condolences to their families and friends.

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Blues News

The monthly newsletter of the Kentuckiana Blues Society

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March 2017 Volume 30 Number 3

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KBS MONTHLY MEETING

If you are interested in reviewing new blues music, come on out to the KBS monthly board meeting (held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Check's Café in Germantown) and take your pick! We receive promo releases from the major blues labels as well as regional and local bands. If you review a CD. it's yours to keep!

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The Louisville Blues Compilation Volume II is available exclusively at



Letter From The Prez



KBS President Mark Sneed

Greetings Blues Fans:

I didn't go to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. I thought about it and just wasn't feeling up to making the trip. I talked to board members this week and they said it was great and I should make the effort to attend next year's event. The IBC is the only place I know that puts some of the best blues bands and artists from all the Blues Societies together. Everyone has an opportunity to bond with other musicians and bands, and to talk to the members from other blues societies. I have not heard back from Laurie Jane and the 45's or Big Poppa Stampley, but I imagine they had a great experience.

As you know from our cover, Rocky Adcock passed away in January. He was the Kentuckiana Blues Society's first President and one of the found-

ing members. I did not know him like many others, but had the opportunity to speak with him a couple of times. He was a great supporter of the Kentuckiana Blues Society. The last time I got to talk to him was at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. What I realized when I went to the celebration for him at Stevie Ray's Blues Bar was how much he did for the blues society and people in general. A few people came up to the stage with Rocky stories. I left that night with a deeper sense of loss and sadness. I know I've lost a lot of friends and family, my hair is all gray and I have more years behind me

than in front of me. When I lose someone like Phillip Phillips or Rocky Adcock, it causes me to look at the past and makes me appreciate what I love and who is in my life. It helps me not to worry about the petty stuff we all have to deal with and embrace the good friends and support around me. We have a strong blues community in Louisville. I see that at our festivals and every time I come to Stevie Ray's for our functions or any fundraisers by MERF. I appreciate all the people involved in doing what we do, Keeping the Blues Alive.

We are forming our committees for the 2017 year and our hope is to make 2017 a memorable and fun year. We are also looking at our nominations for this year's Sylvester Weaver Award. Nominations were submitted at the last board meeting and we will be turning in our votes in the very near future. Come up and say Hi If you see me out and about. I'm still learning how to fill Gary's shoes and his are big to fill. I've put myself out there at work with what I do and in addition, I belong to another organization. Being the current President has taken some time for me to adjust. I hope to see you around town and at some blues shows.

Mark



ve Got a Mind To Ramble

By Keith S. Clements, reprinted from Louisville Music News © 2001 with permission



Henry Woodruff, left, received the first KBS Sylvester Weaver **Garvin Gate Blues Festival.**

Rocky Adcock, a.k.a. "Rocky Amaretto," 70, died on January 24, 2017. He was a bass player who played with a number of bands around town, most notably with the various bands lad by Winston Hardy. He was also the President of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 6-37, for a period. He was also a co-founder and first President of the Kentuckiana Blues Society.

The following article was compiled from the January and February 2001 issues of LMN and Keith Clements' "I've Got A Mind To Ramble" column for those months. We reproduce them here in tribute to Rocky.

Rocky Adcock's Story

The Kentuckiana Blues Society has presented the Sylvester Weaver Award to twelve distinguished people since 1989. This year, the honor went to Rocky Adcock at our annual KBS Birthday Bash at Stevie Ray's on Novem-

Rocky had always wanted to play in a rock and roll band ever since he was a kid. His first paying gig, for all of \$5, was in 1961 when he was fifteen. It was a garage band that prided itself in doing "different" music. Rocky was playing rhythm guitar at that time but switched to bass in 1963 when he joined the Aztecs through another musician, Tom Johnson.

From 1964 to 1967, Rocky followed Johnson through three other bands: the Epics. The Mystics and the Bob Thorpe Quartet. They played bars, taverns and sock hops as a racially mixed band to racially mixed audiences. While with the Aztecs, Rocky opened for Ike & Tina Turner and played black venues like the Club Cherry in Lebanon.

The decade of the Seventies was a period of woodshedding for Rocky, with Photo by Keith Clements only sporadic activity in music. He occasionally played bass with Jim Smoak, doing country and bluegrass, plus he listened to alternative music. Award from Rocky Adock, the 1st KBS president, at the 1989 He was also raising two children and working at U of L in their Department of Surgery from 1975 to 1985.

Rocky's long association with Winston Hardy began in 1984 after Winston had returned from his sojourn to San Francisco, even though they had first met during their days at Fern Creek Junior High. Adcock followed Winston's first band, The Pharaohs, mainly to see the lead guitarist, Huey Twyman, whom they called "Lightning." Hardy, who had called himself Johnny Rio before then, left a lasting impression on Rocky with his ego-maniacal showmanship.

When Rocky joined the band, it had just changed from the 26thStreet Tavern Original Blues Band to the Winston Hardy Original Blues Band. Hardy had wanted a bona fide blues band that included veteran black musicians like Marshall Anderson and Foree Wells to perform before the local white blues fans. The band opened for Robert Jr. Lockwood at the Center for the Performing Arts as well as opening for Red Rodney at the Water Tower Jazz Festival.

There was a falling out with some of the members of the 26thStreet group just before Rocky came on board. At that time, there was a resurgence in the blues with the "Bluesday Tuesdays" jams at the Rudyard Kipling. Other clubs like Tewligans, the Cherokee Blues Bar (Blue Bird), Seville, Dutch's, Maier's, Yogi's, Pap's Place (Marmaduke's), Butchertown Pub, Uncle Pleasants and Fat Cats were booking blues bands. Rocky referred to Fat Cats as the "Cosmic Corner" at Speed and Bardstown Road, for that was where musicians met and things happened from 1983 to 1986.

Curtis Marlatt got Fat Cats co-owner Paula White to book him and later his band. Soon other bands followed. Rocky was looking after Henry Woodruff and the Noisemakers then and got Henry his first gig away from the Pleasure Inn at Fat Cats. Many types of alternative jazz and blues were performed at the "Hall of Foam" during that golden era.

n1987, there was an ego tug between Winston and Rocky over philosophical differences as to where each was going individually. So the Rocky Amaretto Blues Band, a power trio with Andy Brauner on guitar and Chris Cahall on drums, was born. They stayed together for two years, recording "Bad Milk Blues" on the Louisville Blues Compilation album. The term "Bad Milk" came from a remark by Ray Charles during a TV commercial, where he reached into a refrigerator for a bottle of milk and said, "Phew, that milk is bad." Rocky mentioned it to his friend Tom Flood, who came up with the title for the song. Tom Cosdon (Cosmo) also recorded the song.

The "Amaretto" came from Rocky's girlfriend at the time, Rosie Brown, who noticed Rocky drinking Amaretto on the rocks. The band broke up when Chris wanted to get married and so Rocky - and Andy, for a while - returned to Winston's band. Rocky performed with Winston until his death in 1999.

Rocky has a lot of stories he could - and will - tell about Winston. He noted that Winston was not a drinker but would consume pitchers of beer while on stage, in keeping with his persona. Hardy was a pot smoker and once, when they were driving together through Appalachia to Delaware, Rocky began hallucinating that he was going down a long tunnel with a light at the end. It was from inhaling secondary smoke from Winston's joints.

This is the end of Part 1 from January, 2001. We'll conclude the article with the reprint of Part 2 from February, 2001 in the April Blues News.

Back To The Blues



The Blues.

"The Blues is like a low down achin' chill, if you ain't had 'em, I hope you never will."

"The Blues is like consumption, killing me by degrees."

"The Blues is a worried old heart disease."

"I got the Blues so bad, it hurts my tongue to speak."

"Blues fallin' down like hail."

"My heart's in trouble, my mind's in misery, got the Blues so bad I really can't hardly see."

Perry Aberli

For as much as many like to think of the Blues as "good time booze and boogie" music, it is really far more about the pain of heartache, and of loss.

Listen to Little Walter: "Last night I lost the best friend I ever had."

These lyrics and songs have been on my mind since the sudden passing of Rocky Adcock. This is a time that the Blues knows all too well about: a time of heartache and loss.

I can't claim Rocky Adcock as my best friend; nor, I am sure, would my name have been one of those he would have immediately said. However, I do know that Rocky, along with Foree Wells, were among the best friends the KYANA Blues Society had.

I came home to Louisville at a crucial junction in my life: I was in the midst of a very unpleasant divorce; I had to leave my children, my friends, and my radio program behind in a very abrupt way. Fortunately, I had three caring brothers to sustain me. And, I had the Blues to do that, too.

Then, I met Rocky, and Foree, and Roger, and Keith. They reenergized me with their plans for a Blues Society and welcomed me into what, with a few others, would become a founding circle. Somehow it all came together and grew to what it is today.

Rocky was there all along. We used his office for meetings, and, a drawer of his file cabinet for our stuff. It was obvious that he needed to be our founding President and he took on that task willingly. Rocky was always a musician, but he did not use the Society to self-promote or aggrandize; he always acted in the best interests of KBS. He was a pragmatist; yet, he did not dampen our dreams – he encouraged and participated in them while keeping our feet on the ground. The KYANA Blues Society (as we originally dubbed ourselves) was more lucky than we knew to have Rocky in our midst.

Rocky was a fixture on the local Blues scene – like Keith, prowling around for that one perfect picture, still is. I think many of us will continue to see Rock out of the corner of our eye, at the clubs and festivals, nattily attired down to his two-tone shoes.

I miss him.

Perry W. Aberli

Kentuckiana Blues Calendar

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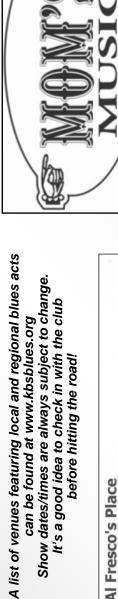


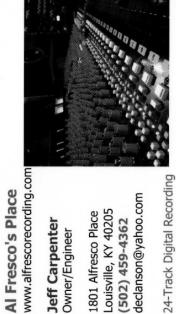
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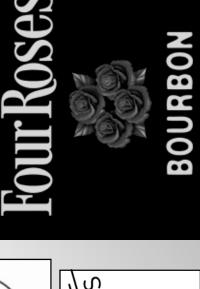




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Show dates/times are always subject to change. It's a good idea to check in with the club can be found at www.kbsblues.org before hitting the road! www.alfrescorecording.com Al Fresco's Place declanson@yahoo.com Louisville, KY 40205 1801 Alfresco Place (502) 459-4362Jeff Carpenter Owner/Engineer





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