



1990

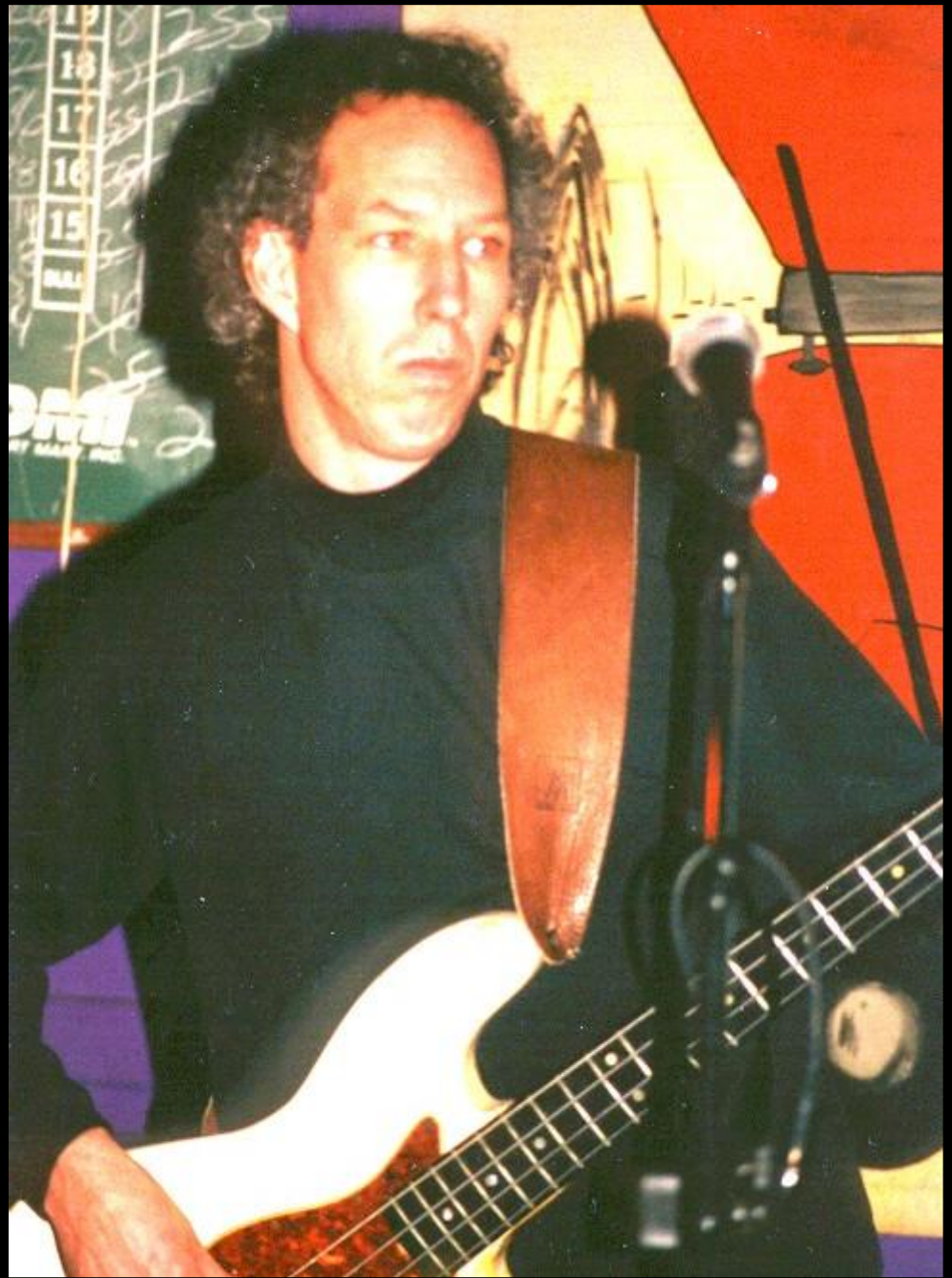
1990

- ***1st Anniversary celebration at Bellarmine College with Kentucky Homefront***
- ***KBS becomes an affiliate member of the Blues Foundation***
- ***Louisville Blues Compilation Album released***
- ***Jim Rosen receives the Sylvester Weaver Award***



1990

Jimmy Brown
c. 1990





1990

The Kentuckiana Blues Society

Some thoughts from Scott Mullins, radio host of
"The Blues Party" WFL, FM 89.3, Louisville

The Kentuckiana Blues Society began as a loose-joint group of die-hard blues lovers here in Louisville. As early as 1976, I began compiling a mailing list and periodically sending out newsletters (actually, it was a one page sheet) from my home. The first mailing was all of about 30 pieces! Currently we are mailing out over 500 monthly newsletters to people all over the country, from New York to California.

In the late summer of 1988, after tossing the idea around for several months prior, we began to get serious about forming a blues society. By midwinter '88-'89 we officially formed, incorporated, elected board members, and voted on a name: The Kentuckiana Blues Society. Our goals? To preserve, preserve, & perpetuate the blues tradition.

We have accomplished many of our goals over the past year or so. We have produced and coordinated Louisville's first and only blues festival at Garvin Gate, and initiated the annual Sylvester Weaver Award to recognize our local blues talent. Perry Abernethy, Rocky Adams, and I have lectured at the University of Louisville, on the history and development of blues and its impact on contemporary culture. And we have not on any concert (tonight's included) by performers who have never played Louisville before. I feel that we have also elevated the public's awareness of the scene here in Louisville.

What can you expect during 1989? For starters, we already have a Spring Blues Festival scheduled for Sat., April 21, at E. of E.'s Red Barn. We couldn't wait until October for Garvin Gate, we are working on a curriculum for a course on the history of the blues to be presented thru E. of E.'s continuing studies program. Look for Society sponsored film showings, and discussions of several blues documentaries. And of course, Society sponsored concerts by numerous blues artists. Already scheduled: Eddie Earl & the Broadcasters; The Legendary Homeick James; Lazy Lester; Charlie Musselwhite; West Side Band, & more. Thank you for coming out to celebrate with us tonight and for supporting us over the past year. You can ensure another successful year by becoming a member or renewing your membership when the time comes. Also, come out for Society sponsored events.

Sincerely,

Scott Mullins
First President and Co-Founder
Kentuckiana Blues Society

Homefront

HOMEFRONT is an all-volunteer, non-profit, grass-roots organization dedicated to presenting high quality musical performances of many diverse styles, in an intimate quality setting, to the Louisville public.

Homefront presents concerts which feature accomplished musicians from all over the country-- playing in a variety of musical genres which has included everything from folk & traditional music, to jazz, to country, to Celtic music, blues, swing, and beyond. We, at Homefront, aim to provide a local showcase for this excellent live music, while presenting our shows in a relaxed concert (non-nightclub) setting, where it's possible to actually hear the music and clearly see the stars. We also have as priorities, keeping ticket prices low, to make the music available to everyone; allowing children at our concerts; and consistently including fine local or regional musicians (along with our sometimes out-of-state guests) on every show, in order to provide a showcase for their considerable talents.

This spring, HOMEFRONT will celebrate its sixth birthday. We invite you to join us at our regularly scheduled concerts, the 2nd Saturday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Stuart Robinson Auditorium (the Old Louisville Presbyterian Center) at 6th and Magnolia Streets, in Old Louisville. And we welcome you to join Homefront as a member and/or sign up for our mailing list, so you can stay tuned in on the concerts to come. Homefront Performances are taped for delayed broadcast on public radio-- locally on WFL Louisville (FM 89.3), and on other public radio stations across the country.

THANKS TO BELLARMINA COLLEGE

Homefront and the Kentuckiana Blues Society wish to thank the administration, faculty & staff of Bellarmine College for their enthusiastic support & cooperation in facilitating the use of wonderful Wyatt Hall for this special concert. We also appreciate and salute Bellarmine's longstanding and continuing commitment to programs of community outreach, together with their other programs of academic excellence.



and the
KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY
proudly present

BYTHER SMITH & the Nightriders

H-BOMB FERGUSON & the Bluesmen

THE MUDCATS



A Special BLUES EXTRAVAGANZA Concert
in celebration of the KENTUCKIANA
BLUES SOCIETY'S 1st Anniversary

2/10/90 Wyatt Hall, Bellarmine College

KBS 1st Birthday Blues Extravaganza
Program Page 1, c. 1990

Kentuckiana



1990

from Chicago, Illinois

BYTHER SMITH and the Nightriders

Blues guitarist/singer Byther Smith has been a veteran of the West side Chicago blues scene since the 50's. Byther was born on April 17, 1933 in Monticello, Mississippi. And as with many blues artists, his first musical experience was singing in his local Baptist Church Choir. As a teenager, Smith moved to Prescott, Arizona, where he lived with an aunt; while there, he played on weekends in a country-western band. He subsequently returned to Mississippi in 1956 to marry. But it was not long thereafter that Byther, on the advice of his cousin-- Chess recording star J.B. Lenoir-- decided to make the move to Chicago.

It was in Chicago during the sixties that Smith played regularly with some of the world's greatest blues performers: Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Reed, Sunnyland Slim, Walter Horton, Carey Bell, and Otis Rush. And for five years in the early 70's, Smith was lead guitarist for Junior Wells' band, then the house band at Theresa's Lounge. The musical performer who has had the greatest influence on Byther Smith is, without any doubt, the legendary Otis Rush. "I love Otis Rush and the way he plays guitar," said Smith, recently interviewed by the Cascade Blues Assoc. in Portland, Oregon. "...he attacks his music, he wasn't playing to himself, he was playing to the whole world... that's what I really love about him."

Byther Smith's music features an impassioned vocal style and stinging guitar, backed by the relentless pounding of a hard-driving Chicago blues band. For all of his accomplishments, Byther has somehow over the years, still remained a near-secret to all but the most ardent blues fans. But with his recent signing to Rounder Records, that is about to change.

from Cincinnati, Ohio

H-BOMB FERGUSON and the Bluesmen

H-Bomb Ferguson, a veritable piano-pounding, blues shouting, wig-wearing maverick, has become a Louisville favorite over the past two years. And it's with

good reason-- H. and his band really know how to ignite a crowd. They'll have you dancing in the aisles. (Feel free!)

H-Bomb, a Charleston, S.C. native, moved to New York to record for the Savoy Jazz label in the late '40s. His Savoy sides were in the R&B/ blues shouter tradition of Big Joe Turner and Wynonie Harris, one of his biggest influences. Other major influences include Little Richard, B.B. King, with whom he toured in the '50s, and Chuck Berry. B.B. King, still a good friend, still demands that H. opens for him, when he plays in Cincinnati. And Chuck Berry personally invited H-Bomb to perform at his (Berry's) 60th birthday party at The Fox Theater in St. Louis. The concert was filmed and released as the movie, Hall! Hall! Rock and Roll.

H. probably sums himself best when he proclaims: "I'm H-Bomb Ferguson. The mother's son. The only one, and when I'm gone there ain't gonna be none!"

and from Louisville, KY

THE MUDCATS

What do you get when Louisville's gutsiest female vocalist, steadiest drummer, and one of the best blues-harp players in the country, decide to form a blues band-- rounding out their line-up with a rock-solid bassist, and one of the brightest young up-and-coming blues guitarists in town? Easy. You get the MUDCATS, a potent blend of incredible talent, one of the most powerful blues bands in the region.

Susan O'Neil's vocals can run the gamut from bone crunching power to spine tingling soulfulness. The musical skills of drummer Gene Wickliffe and bassist Larry Holt blend deftly to provide a seamless foundation on which the rest of the band builds. Guitarist Bob Pickett is quickly developing his own style and sound, combining the influences of blues greats such as Albert King and Buddy Guy with rock virtuosos such as Joe Satriani and Steve Vai. And soulful, wailing blues-harp player Jim Rosen, is truly in a class by himself-- simply, one of the best there is.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE BLUES SOCIETY!

HOMEFRONT and the Kentuckiana BLUES SOCIETY are proud and excited to work together in co-sponsoring this great concert to celebrate the Blues Society's First Anniversary.

COMING SOON to HOMEFRONT

--MARCH CONCERT-- March 10, 1990

Stealin' Horses. A dynamic folk/ rock style band with drums, two guitars, bass, and great harmony vocals. Stealin' Horses play mostly original material, ranging in style from rock & roll all the way to ballads.

Alan Rhody. Musician Alan Rhody, a Singer/ guitarist/ songwriter, is an old friend to the Homefront stage. He plays country/folk/rock style. And as testimony to his extraordinary song-writing talents-- his original songs have been recorded by Lee Greenwood, Tanya Tucker, The Atlanta Rhythm Section, the Oak Ridge Boys, George Jones, and Ricky van Shelton.

Concert at 7:30 p.m., in the Stuart Robinson Auditorium @ 6th & Magnolia (the Old Louisville Presbyterian Center).

--COMING SOON to HOMEFRONT

Homefront concerts this spring will welcome hammered dulcimer player, singer, songwriter, storyteller, and multi-instrumentalist JOHN MCCUTCHEEN.

Friday, May 11, 1990...

KBS 1st Birthday Blues Extravaganza
Program Page 2, c. 1990



1990



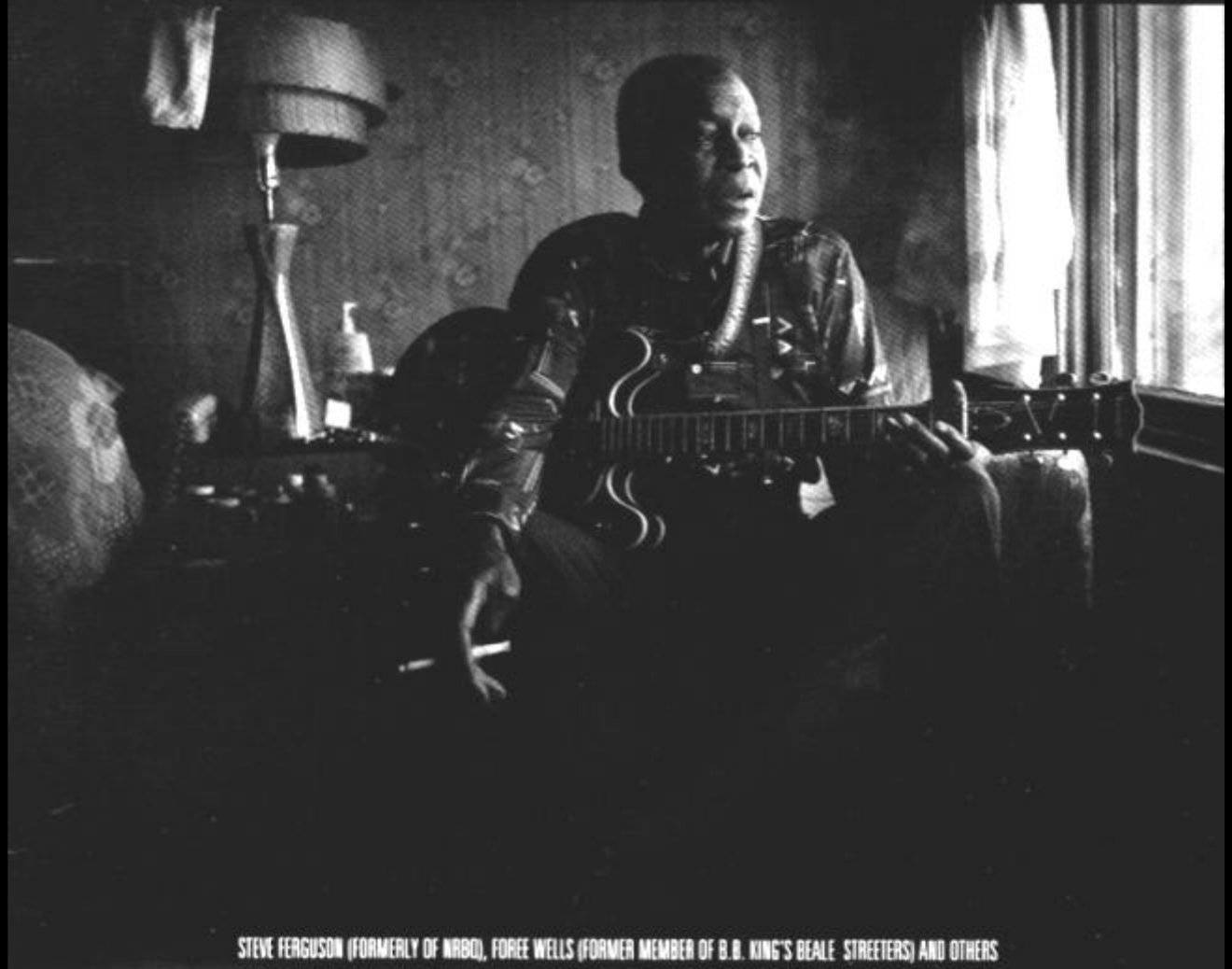
*1990
Sylvester
Weaver
Award
Winner
Jim Rosen*



1990

*Louisville
Blues
Compilation
1990*

THE LOUISVILLE BLUES COMPILATION



STEVE FERGUSON (FORMERLY OF NRBQ), FORRE WELLS (FORMER MEMBER OF B.B. KING'S BEALE STREETERS) AND OTHERS

Kentuckiana



1990

Louisville Blues Compilation 1990 (back cover)

Side 1

1. Curtis & The Kicks	Reach For What You Can	3:40
2. Da Mudcats	Two Man Blues	3:28
3. Henry & The Noisemakers	Greyhound Bus Station	2:45
4. Force Wells & The Walnut St. Blues Band	Woman's Like a Dice Game	5:10
5. Mark Stein & The Steamrollers	Talkin' 'Bout My Baby	2:24

Side 2

1. Steve Ferguson & The Humanitarians	I Stand Accused	5:10
2. Derby City Blues Review	I've Been Abused	3:45
3. Rocky Amaretto Blues Band	Bad Milk	4:27
4. The Bluebirds	Found a New Love	3:15
5. Steve Ferguson	S & M (Blues Party Theme)	1:20

Louisville, Kentucky? Uhmm, lets see...Kentucky Derby, Louisville Sloggers, bourbon, basketball, cigarettes...uh...I guess that's it. What's that? Say what? Blues?

That's right, Blues. This album is intended to let the rest of the world in on a well kept secret. Louisville, Kentucky is home to some incredible blues talent. A large array of musicians performing the music they love and reacting to it with just enough of their own personal style to make it distinctive.

From the raw style of Henry & The Noisemakers and the Memphis-influenced sound of Force Wells and the Bourbon-strewn style of Curtis & The Kicks and the unique synthesized Rock Blues of The Derby City Blues Review, this album gives a fairly broad overview of the Louisville scene.

The bands manage to make ends meet by holding day jobs and by rotating through the handful of small clubs that book blues bands. The Reverend King, Zena's Cafe, Cherokee Blues Club, Henry's, The Mr. DeWitt's Inn, and Uncle Pleasants.

Several new bands have appeared since these recording sessions took place. Most notably Lambert Gillette & The Homebrewers. They will be featured on volume II. Some have since disbanded, perhaps temporarily, as is often the case, including The Bluebirds and The Rocky Amaretto Blues.

But the others are still out there scripping by plugging away night after night. Perhaps even as you read this many of them are in some way, out of the way, smoke-filled joint doing exactly what they love the most: playing the blues as hard as they can.

Amaretto recently re-jined with old pal Handy to form The Rocky Amaretto Winston Hardy Blues Review.

Force Wells & The Walnut St. Blues Band

Mark Stein and The Steamrollers

Mark Stein doesn't merely play his guitar; he attacks it. While many guitarists seem to have an attitude, being relationship with their instrument, gently caressing the notes from them, Stein grasps his guitar in a choke-hold and violently wrings screaming, razor-sharp notes from it. While on stage, he appears to have the attitude that if he doesn't get the required sounds from a particular guitar, he will smash it to pieces without hesitation, pick up another one, and continue on as if nothing happened. Needless to say, the one word that comes to mind after a Steamrollers performance is "powerful."

Who's been talking 'Bout My Baby was written on a paper sack at the music store where Stein was working. There are no instrumental overdubs on the song that is Stein playing one guitar, providing both rhythm and lead throughout the cut.

He named his current band in honor of Walnut Street (now Muhammad Ali Blvd.), which was the hub of black social and nightlife until 1960's urban renewal.

Produced by: Scott Mullins
Engineered by: Bob Hunter, Mike Franklin
Mixed by: Bob Hunter, Scott Mullins, Mike Franklin

Recorded at Artur's Recording Service, 980 Burtz Ave., Louisville, KY 40204.

Special Thanks to the following, without whom this album would not be possible: Keith Clements, Force Wells, Steve Imhoff, Paul Ray, Kentuckiana Blues Society

Special Thanks to the following for their invaluable assistance: Lisa Spears, Wick O'Bannon, Walter McCord

Front Cover concept: Scott Mullins
Front Cover Photo: Photosource/John Bramel

On the cover: 1989 Spheros Weaver Award winner Henry Woodruff, of Henry & The Noisemakers, relaxing in his home in Louisville's west end.

The Rocky Amaretto Blues Band

Blues/vocalist Amaretto has performed in various blues and rock incarnations over the years, but perhaps most prominently with the Winston Hardy Original Blues Band, a group that also featured Force Wells on keyboards. T. W. in D.B.S. played a key role in the early to mid-eighties blues revival scene in Louisville, performing regularly at such now-defunct clubs as Daddy's and The Fat Cat's Dab and Pubs.

After several productive years with Handy, Amaretto recruited master keyboardman Bill Dean, formerly of The Saints and a previously unknown young guitarist named Andy Brauner to spice up his own band. Both are featured prominently here on Bad Milk.

Brauner, in his late teens when this song was recorded, left shortly thereafter to join da Mudcats for a brief period, but is currently not active in the local music scene.

Amaretto recently re-jined with old pal Handy to form The Rocky Amaretto Winston Hardy Blues Review.

Force Wells & The Walnut St. Blues Band

Force Wells was a member of the legendary Steamrollers at Memphis during the 1950's. He has recorded and/or performed with some of the big band names in blues including B.B. King, Dottie Blue Diamond, Earl Fennear, Tuff Green, Clarence Gatemouth Brown, Philip Walker, and many others.

He was brought out of semi-retirement in the early 80's by the intrepid Winston Hardy to play organ and guitar for a reformed version of The Winston Hardy Original Blues Band. Taddy Wells credits the younger Hardy with re-igniting his interest in the blues. "Those boys got the best playing blues again. I hadn't played in a few years," said Wells. And in that fact was another well-known guitarist, a relative of Wells', Ernestine Ford.

He named his current band in honor of Walnut Street (now Muhammad Ali Blvd.), which was the hub of black social and nightlife until 1960's urban renewal.

Steve Ferguson & The Humanitarians

Much has been written about the founding guitarist/vocalist/writer of KROQ, his name gets up occasionally in guitar magazines as being an influence or favorite of some rockstar star. His son of lions have included Jim Hendrix, Jimmy Page, Carl Perkins, The Grateful Dead, Al Anderson, Willie Miller, The Long Ryders, and others.

He has been called everything from a true genius to a true nut. I personally believe the former to be more accurate. His songwriting is brilliant, his vocals are impassioned, a unique mix of rock with just a touch of the high lonesome sound of Appalachia, and his guitar playing can leave you dumfounded.

Fergie is not a bluesman, although he has certainly lived the life of one. He plays a big part in his sound, and that's known, he can knock off an original blues at the drop of his olive pipe but that would put many better known blues artists to shame. But it's unfair to pigeonhole him as a "blues guitarist."

His music is difficult to label, but when concerned I've always used the term "rhythm-blues." Recently he has been referring to his unique sound as "mid-western music," a fitting description.

I Stand Accused is an original slow blues recorded late at Uncle Pleasants's S & M (Blues Party Theme) was recorded at the very end of a long, late night. About 30 musicians turned out for a jamming session at A.R.G. Live-ups changed constantly throughout the night, but at the end it was Fergie leading a pick-up group of blues all stars. After stopping midway through a take of his classic Hi-Dee-Ho, I realized that the rest of it tape was nearly to the end. "We're almost out of tape. Play something quick," I said. "I would be obligated to hesitate. Fergie charged into an instrumental which featured some of his hottest picking of the night. Just listen to some of those licks! The tape ran out after less than two minutes, and I've often wondered where the tune might have gone had that not happened.

The following week the tune became the theme for my radio program and it has remained so for over a year.

The Derby City Blues Review

The Derby City Blues Review, Herman Anderson and Kush Griffin, are quite a change from the normal four-five piece electric blues group. Anderson sings and plays guitar and harmonica, while Griffin sings and plays trumpet. The rest of the music you hear is provided by a computerized rhythm machine.

Griffin is a former James Brown band leader and member of George Clinton's Parliament Funkia Mule band. He is featured on the latest solo LP's by both Clinton and Bootsy Collins.

The Derby City Blues Review performs regularly at Zena's Cafe in downtown Louisville and various other spots including a floating theatrical restaurant, the Bonnie Belle Landing, on the Ohio.

Da Mudcats

Make no mistake about it, da Mudcats have developed into one of the hardest hitting blues bands in the country today. Not just Louisville mind you, but the entire U.S. of A. Since recording "Two Man Blues" in '88, the band has refined their consistency by finding a permanent bass player in Larry Hall and a new guitarist in Rob Pickett.

After a February, 1989 performance which was taped for broadcast on the nationally syndicated radio program, Homefront Performance, Countryside music critic, Ronny Lundy wrote that "...score playing, gritty vocalist Susan O'Neil gave the legend of Koko Taylor a run for her money..." Indeed, O'Neil is a powerhouse. This lady has the firepower of a power house.

Jim Rosen is nearly without peer among contemporary harmonica players. James Colton, Charlie Muscatella, Sugar Blue, and William Clarke come to mind, and perhaps a select handful of others. A live Mudcats performance is the only way to hear the complete tonal range of his playing. Rosen is simply superb.

Drummer Gene Wickliffe is as solid as anyone this side of Willie Smith. So solid in fact, that his name should be changed to Steadfast Wickliffe.

Henry & The Noisemakers

Henry Woodruff has been playing the blues since moving to Louisville in 1939 from Tallapoosa, Alabama. He lost enthusiasm when his 7th his mother played on the violin. Blind Lemon Jefferson, Lightnin' Hopkins, Lonnie Johnson and others.

During the '50s and '60s, Woodruff and his band, The Sunset Royals, traveled throughout the state of Kentucky playing small towns, picnics, fairs, etc. The group was also the house band at the Sunset Bar in Louisville.

Henry has played in many different bands over the years, and all have been blues bands. But, like many bluesmen of his generation, in order to survive he did not limit his repertoire to strictly blues. Even today he is as likely to crank out Tequila or the theme from Soul Train as he is Country Girl, Hoochie Coochie Man or any other straight blues.

In the early '70s, Henry & The Noisemakers took over as house band at A.J.'s Pleasurs Inn, a small black club near 7th and Ohio. With bassist James Walker and drummer Robert Owens set up in a corner in front of the bar stove, and Henry with his guitar and ever-present wash pedal, sitting across the room at a table with his girlfriend Juana and a few other female admirers, the small combo would tear the house down each weekend.

In October, 1988, Henry was presented with the Kentuckiana Blues Society's Sylvester Weaver Award for his living dedication to the performance of the blues.

These days, between gigs, Henry spends most of his time tending his well-vegetated garden and trying to keep his car running.

Since recording this track in 1988, drummer Robert Owens passed away and Nathan Burton has stepped into the breach.

Curtis and The Kicks

Curtis Marshall is a smooth, contemporary guitarist rooted in a style similar to that of Robert Cray and Jim Lewis Walker. He has been refining his technique for more than twenty years since entertaining troops in Vietnam during his eighteen-month tour of duty there. "My role on one occasion, my guitar on the other," he recalls. "That was the most enlightening, yet exciting period of my life."

Many of Marshall's original compositions reflect not only his interests in delta and Chicago blues, but also Brazilian music, making a very strong link to Reach For What You Can shows a very strong influence from one of Marshall's idols, the great Albert King.

The Bluebirds

Over the past several years, numerous local musicians have passed through the ranks of The Bluebirds, with some of them going on to bigger projects.

One-time vocalist Susan Buggs is now performing regularly with The Duke Hotshot Band. She was replaced for awhile by Barbara Carter, who is now the vocalist for Elekts recording artists, Steady Family.

Greg Martin, who has since achieved great success as guitarist with one of the hottest country music acts in the world, The Kentucky Headhunters, performed sporadically with The Bluebirds and provides rhythm guitar on the track.

Unofficial with the rockabilly direction the band seemed to be taking, harp player Jim Rosen left to form his own band, da Mudcats.

One-time guitarist Rick Mason left and joined forces with long-time friend Lambert Gillette to form Lambert Gillette & The Homebrewers. They have since become one of the hottest acts in town.

Found a New Love is more rock'n'roll than blues. But it is the kind of rock'n'roll most blues fans enjoy and it is an excellent song. Rest Jim, providing an exciting solo that superbly complements John Bugner's blues-rock guitar ride.

The Bluebirds disbanded when founder and leader Woodruff, in becoming desirous with a soul rock band called The Mighty Water Kings. John now fronts his own jazz trio.

This album is dedicated to all of Louisville's blues performers, past and present. Here's to you.

Scott Mullins

Scott Mullins is the Producer/Host of the Blues Party on WFLI radio in Louisville. He is also vice president and co-founder of the Kentuckiana Blues Society, and Music Director for the Garvin Gate Blues Festival. Currently Mullins is working on several blues-related projects including producing a video documentary on blues pioneer and Louisville native, Sylvester Weaver.

If you would like information about any of the performers featured on this album, please write:

Roller & Tumbler Records
2062 Eastern Plaza, Near
Louisville, KY 40204



The Blues Garden

10th & Dumesnil Streets

c. 1990

The Blues Garden
 10th & Dumesnil Streets
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1990

The Blues Garden 10th & Dumesnil Streets c. 1990

