

Photo by Gary Sampson

On Thursday, June 2, Gary Sampson and Check's Cafe unveiled a mural of Lamont Gillispie on the side of the restaurant and at the site of the annual Germantown Schnitzelburg Blues Festival. Lamont dreamt of one day hosting a festival in his long-time neighborhood and he and Gary co-founded the event in 2010. Pictured above are members of Lamont's family. They are, from left to right, his wife Katie and his children, Josh, Jimmy and Kristi. The mural was created by local artists Carol McLeod and Andy Cook and paid for by an online Fundrazr.com campaign. Check's Cafe is located at 1101 E. Burnett Ave.

IN THIS ISSUE					
Letter From The Prez	3	2016 Madison Ribberfest 7			
New Music Reviews	4	2016 Stevie Ray's Hall of Fame Benefit 8-9			
2016 Louisville Blues and BBQ Festival	5	Kentuckiana Blues Calendar 10			
Back To The Blues	6	Please Patronize Our Sponsors 11			



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KBS President Mark Sneed

Greetings Blues Fans,

I'm writing this letter before I head out to the W.C. Handy Blues Festival in Henderson, KY. I hope that a lot of you are making the trip. I usually go on Saturday but this time I'm going for Friday and Saturday. The weather is supposed to be nice this weekend. We got rained on at the Germantown Schnitzelburg Blues Festival but it looked like we had a good turnout for the event and everyone was enjoying the music.

I really like the outdoor festivals and if I was retired and had the time and money, I'd be making a lot of the events I see in the Blues Festival Guide. By the way, we do pass out the festival guide at our booth and it's free. If you want to make some festivals besides the ones we have locally than that is the magazine for you. You could travel all over the country to festivals if that was your desire. The guide shows the festival dates along with the bands for each event. I've know we're not the only blues society out there but there is a page in the magazine that lists all the blues societies that have paid for the listing and it also has contact information for them.

There are some local events scheduled for July. On July 8th in New Albany, IN at the Bicentennial Park, we have the Kentuckiana Blues Roadshow with Jimmy G & the Sidewinders, Laurie Jane and the 45's and The Stella Vees. On July 23rd at the Belterra Casino, we have George Thorogood and the Destroyers. On July 22-24, we have the Louisville Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival. By the way, be sure to check the membership renewal date on this newsletter or your membership card because KBS members get in free each day at the Louisville Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival. Then on July 31st we have the KBS Band Contest for the International Blues Challenge. The deadline for bands to apply is July 10th. The event is held at Stevie Ray's Blues Bar. All the information for the bands and anyone just wanting to go and watch the contest is on our webpage at www.kbsblues.org/contest.

Letter From The Drez

Hope to see you at the upcoming events.

Mark







Guy Davis Kokomo Kidd M.C. Records

This album is Mr. Davis' follow-up to his Blues Music Award-nominated "Juba Dance" from 2013. The CD contains thirteen tracks, eight of which are written by Mr. Davis. The first track, "Kokomo Kidd", is an interesting song, which tells the story of a bootlegger who winds up being a Republican advisor. Several of the other songs have interesting stories to tell. Even though the lyrics are interesting, for the most part I would classify this album as more Americana than blues. Several songs include non-traditional blues instruments. There is quite a bit

of banjo and even some mandolin and cello. A couple the songs are straight ahead blues, such as "Little Red Rooster", which features Charlie Musselwhite. Other songs covered on the CD are Bob Dylan's "Lay Lady Lay", and Donovan's "Wear Your Love Like Heaven." Both those songs are more folksy than blues in my opinion. Even though I would not classify this as a true blues album, I did enjoy the music and lyrics as well as the arrangements of the cover songs. The CD is worth a listen to see of it might be something you enjoy.

Ray Current



Sonny Landreth Bound By The Blues

Provogue Records co-produced by Sonny Landreth and Tony Daigle

Since the recording under review here features the greatest slide guitar player ever (in this reviewer's opinion), this commentary will not consist of one or two sentences. However, it could suffice to simply make the following statements: If you love slide guitar, you will love this CD. If you don't love slide guitar, or even like it all that much, don't bother.

Sonny Landreth, long argued to be one of the all-time greats (if not the greatest) at playing slide guitar has released a CD that is certainly identifiable as a blues CD, but is anything but bound by it. The binding stated here is in the lyrics, where it speaks more of a deep connec-

tion between persons who play blues music or those whose lives are marked by tragedy than it suggests anything about being chained to a certain style of music in order to be defined as "blues."

It is interesting to note here that Landreth's many previous recordings are only blues influenced, and some have little or no resemblance to blues at all. This one has all the elements of what blues fans would instantly identify with the genre – with that unique, seldom (if ever) duplicated tone. He stays true to the form and spirit of blues music while making each song his own.

Landreth pays tribute to Delta and Chicago blues, electric and acoustic, and to the likes of Elmore James, Robert Johnson, Skip James and Bill Broonzy with his own renditions of well-known songs like Dust My Broom, It Hurts Me Too, and Walkin' Blues, and throws in a few of his own compositions. The sound is pristine and even when Landreth is at his dazzling best, nothing is overpowering or overdone. Daigle's production and engineering skills are second to none, and Landreth's band - bassist Dave Ranson and drummer Brian Brignac - back him up so well he is freed up to do just about anything he wants to do with his guitar. Even Landreth's vocals, while never his strong suit, are none the worse for wear at age 65.

It's difficult to actually describe the sounds Landreth creates. Most would agree his tone is warm and some would even use the word "fat", perhaps. His skill on the guitar neck has been described as "fretboard pyrotechnics". One could go on for a long time trying to adequately present an "image" of what this guy can do with an electric (or an acoustic, for that matter) guitar. It almost seems pointless to continue these fruitless attempts. Landreth's legendary technique of fretting behind the slide has been mentioned time and time again. It can all be summed up by saying that listening to Sonny Landreth makes one realize he or she is in the presence of greatness.

Speaking of summing up, perhaps the 10th, and final, track on the CD, "Simcoe Street", is the epitome of the "Sonny Landreth sound." This cut alone is worth the price of admission. Just listen to it. Get lost in it. Hit repeat.

Just buy the CD already. You know you want it.

Les Reynolds



Friday, July 22		Saturday, July 23		Sunday, July 24	
The King Bees	5:00 - 6:40	Da Mudcats	4:00 - 5:00	Carla Z and	1:00 - 2:30
Tullie Brae	7:00 – 9:00	Little T&A	5:15 - 6:30	Holy Smoke	
Studebaker John	9:30 - 11:30	Nora Jean Bruso	7:00 – 9:00	Blues & Greys	3:00 - 4:30
& The Hawks		John Primer	9:30 - 11:30	Boscoe France	5:00 - 7:00
* Band schedule s	ubject to change				

Important notice to Kentuckiana Blues Society members

All memberships must be activated or renewed by July 10 in order to be used for free admission at this year's festival. Only current KBS membership cards with an expiration date of July 2016 or later will be accepted for admission to the festival. No KBS personnel will be working in the ticket booth at the Water Tower. We need enough time to get your membership card mailed to you before the festival because no other blues society membership confirmation (online printout, canceled check, etc) will be accepted other than a KBS membership card.







Perry Aberli

One of the drawbacks of Midwest Blues was that it was an entirely voluntary operation. This meant that the volunteers worked when they could – or, more often, when they felt like it. Of course, they never wanted to "work" the nights of the festival, they just wanted their passes and access to any beer that might be backstage. The one thing that made it all worthwhile was the fact that I could choose who I wanted to see and hear with complete control over the talent roster.

In the subsequent years of the festival we were able to showcase Son Seals, Koko Taylor, Mighty Joe Young, Albert King, John Lee Hooker, Professor Longhair, Roosevelt Sykes, Blind John Davis, Joe Willie Wilkins, George "Harmonica" Smith, Albert Collins, Lazy Bill Lucas, Martin, Bogan and the Armstrongs, Shirley Griffith (again)

with Yank Rachel and JT Adams, Fenton Robinson, Edith Wilson, Big Joe Williams, Johnny Shines, Good Rockin' Charles, Dr. Ross, Sonny Rhodes, Big Joe Duskin, a return by Hound Dog Taylor, and many others. And, there were ones we missed on: Fred McDowell passed before we could bring him back; and Clifton Chenier cancelled at the last minute due to kidney problems (we had even arranged for dialysis for him at the

local hospital; and Snooks Eaglin decided to just not come with Fess).

All of those years now tend to blur together and it is hard to list – festival by festival – who appeared. But some things still stand out in memory: Sitting on the edge of the stage on the afternoon before the first MBF sharing a bottle of Apricot brandy with Fred McDowell, Sunnyland Slim and Howlin' Wolf with Sunnyland telling dirty jokes and doing his Woody Woodpecker imitation, the Blues jam at my house after the festival one year with Hound Dog jamming with Houston Stackhouse (Dog was on piano!); Albert King calling my daughter up on stage and introducing her to the crowd as his new girlfriend (a photo of this scene appears on the inside gatefold of the "Albert Live" album on Tomato and is shown at right); Martin, Bogan, and the Armstrongs playing at my house until 3:00 in the morning – serenading my daughter with "You Are My Sunshine", Albert King and Son Seals jamming on Johnnie B. Goode, Little Brother Montgomery pulling a knife on Paul Oscher, listening to Johnny Shines tell his story, Muddy holding court backstage ... there are just too many tales to tell.

It was also at the Midwest Blues Festivals that another important figure enters this story: Billie Thomas, owner of Tant Enterprises, an independent label distributor. Billie (named by his father after Billie Holiday) approached me about selling albums at MBF as he had done at the Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festivals. I agreed and my real education in prewar Blues, Old Timey music, and Jazz began with Bob Koester and Billie playing the Sorceror's role to this humble and naïve apprentice. More about my adventures with Billie next time around.



My Daughter, Julia, with Albert King



Perry (with beard) with Johnny Shines

Perry W. Aberli

Blues Headliners LOS LOBOS JONNY LANG

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I've Got a Mind To Ramble 2016 Stevie Ray's Hall of Fame Benefit for The Animal Care Society

Stevie Ray's Hall of Fame Inductees Rob Pickett & Mark Bright March 20, 2016 By Susan O'Neil, for Louisville Music News Reprinted with author's permission



This year marks the 9th year for the Animal Care Society Benefit and the Stevie Ray's Hall of Fame induction. The event was the brainchild of Todd Webster, former general manager at Stevie Ray's, and has proven to be a successful fundraiser and coveted event for musicians who frequently play the nightclub. The Animal Care Society is a private, NO -KILL shelter/adoption agency for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. The policy on their website is as follows: Individuals and families wishing to adopt an animal must visit the shelter and complete an application. If the adoption pertains to a dog, any current dogs residing in the prospective home must also visit the shelter to ensure compatibility. Applications are reviewed and references are checked to ensure that the best possible and most suitable placement is made for each animal. Visit their website at http:// www.animalcaresociety.org to get more information about this wonderful and respected organization.

Photo of Jim Masterson's painting on the Stevie Ray's Wall of Fame by Cheryl Jaggers

As an added incentive for animal and music lovers to attend this annual fund raiser, Stevie Ray's boosts the interest by asking patrons and perform-

ers at the nightclub to vote for the musician they would like to see inducted into the Hall of Fame. A couple of months prior to the event, a ballot box is set up at the bar and ballots are placed on the tables and at the bar for people to vote in their favorite musician. A likeness of the inductee is presented to Jim Masterson who paints their portrait to be hung on the wall with inductees from the previous years. Each year the bands that are selected to play this benefit perform for free in support of the Animal Care Society. This year's lineup included Carla Zee and the Holy Smokes, da Mudcats, 100 Proof Blues Band, and Soul Circus.

The 2016 inductees into the Stevie Ray's Blues Bar Hall of Fame are Rob Pickett, lead guitar player and vocalist for da Mudcats and Mark Bright vocalist/saxophone player for 100 Proof Blues Band. Both musicians have played at Stevie Ray's and nightclubs in the region for years, both are respected by their peers, and both are absolutely deserving of the honor that goes with being placed on the wall.

Although Rob Pickett has been playing guitar for da Mudcat Blues Band for 30 years, he has played guitar in a myriad of bands starting around 1973 with Mantis, a funk group that covered tunes from Tower of Power, The Commodores, The Barkays and many of the Chitlin Circuit bands. Mantis relocated from Louisville to Atlanta and quickly became an Atlanta favorite, receiving a nod from Casablanca Records. Mantis toured the Country from Florida to Canada. Rob returned to Louisville around 1977 and joined the group Sophistifunk, playing local and regional venues. He joined the Louisville-based Matlow Band, which was a bluesy, hard rock, big production band covering Alan Parsons and J Giles. The group's original material earned them some notoriety and Atlantic Records took notice and negotiated a development deal with them. The Matlow Band enjoyed a loyal local following as they played all of the Louisville areas best live music venues. Other local groups that Rob was associated with were The F*&%#*g Hoods, Lectrix and The Front.

In 1985 Rob opened his store, Modern Music Outlet, on Spring Street in Jeffersonville, Indiana. It was in this time frame that a friend recommended him to Jim Rosen of da Mudcats and thus began his tenure with da Mudcats as lead guitar player and he continues in that capacity to this day, delighting fans with his flair for the Blues. Following the loss of Jim Rosen, lead singer/harmonica player for da Mudcats in 1998 to cancer, Rob took over the lion's share of the vocals as da Mudcats continued to perform in the region. He has worked long and hard on his signature sound in order to sustain da Mudcats' status as a premier Louisville Blues band. His expertise and artistry is displayed prominently on all five of daMudcats CD's; *Da Mudcats 1991, Back to the Basics, I Want to Play in Your Big Back Yard, Live at Mom's*, and *Blue Kentucky Moon*. All of these CD's are out of print but one can enjoy his work on recordings released recently on *The Blues Had a Baby* compilation album and *The Coldest Night of the Year* CD.

The Blues Had a Baby CD is a compilation produced in both CD and vinyl format and features local rock and Blues bands honoring the works of Muddy Waters. Rob's guitar work is featured on da Mudcats' rendition of Muddy's "She's Into Something." Also released by Down in the Alley Records is *The Coldest Night of the Year*, featuring Rob's and the late Jim Rosen's acoustic duo performance at Twice Told Coffee House shortly before Jim's passing. These recordings were released in 2015 and can be purchased by going to http://www.downinthealleyrecords.com/ and clicking on "Shop."

Currently Rob is working on a new CD of original material penned by him and his bandmates as well as playing gigs around town and festivals throughout the State. One can keep up with Rob's playing schedule and band news by going online to http:// www.damudcats.com. When asked how it felt to be inducted into the Hall Of Fame, Rob said that he was surprised and happy. It was humbling for him because it is not about being better or as good as anyone in the room but to be better each time he plays. So, to be considered deserving of the honor is a reflection of everyone he has played music with and enjoyed listening to and influencing him in the Louisville music community. Rob cites some advice he received from an elder musician friend of his dad's who told him don't take yourself to seriously when you play music but be serious about how you play. Rob took that advice to heart and lives by the adage 'Learn something from everyone you hear and don't take the fun out of playing music.'

Singer saxophone player Mark Bright was also inducted into the Hall of Fame and placed on the wall alongside Rob. When I talked to him about his induction, he said that he could not have been more surprised when he got the call informing him of his induction. This was no surprise to me because Mark, like his cohort on the wall, is a very humble unassuming guy. That said, it was never a surprise to walk into any nightclub in town to see your favorite band and find Mark Bright on the bandstand sitting in on a few tunes. Mark was always welcome to show up at one of my gigs and hop up on stage for some musical magic. He really knows how to fit into whatever groove you are putting out there and send out some sweet saxophone rides when called upon to do so.

Mark said he began playing in the mid 60's in some garage bands, none of which amounted to much more than that. He stopped playing in 1979 while he and Linda raised their family and did not start going to jams until the late 90's. The nightlife of Louisville is where he found a jam most any night of the week to play and learn from some of Louisville's finest artists such as Tim Krekel and Lamont Gillispie. Mark stated that both Tim and Lamont taught him so much and he considered himself very lucky to have played music with them.

Aside from jams Mark played with Rick Lucas in String Relief and appears on Rick's CD *First String*. He also played with Mike Lefler in Crawdad Pie, and Louisville Blues with Wayne Harbin, Mike Lynch and company. He played on a couple of CD's that were recorded in 2000, *Live at the Grand Theater* in Frankfort, Kentucky. You can also find him on the *Blues Had a Baby* CD with 100 Proof Blues. In 2005 or so Mark said he started playing with Tim Krekel on Sunday nights in Middletown sitting in and eventually earned quite of few playing gigs with them, as well as a spot on Tim's *Soul Season* CD.

In around 2006 he began playing with Lamont Gillispie's 100 Proof Blues Band and that is where he remains today. His role has changed considerably since stepping on stage with Lamont and the guys due to the devastating loss of bandmates Lamont Gillispie and Byron Davies. Since joining 100 Proof, Mark had taken a support role at shows and on recordings laying down his signature saxophone sound adding to the seamless groove of one of Louisville's favorite Blues bands. Still shaken from the loss of Lamont and Byron, Mark and remaining band mates are keeping up the Blues tradition in their honor and Mark has stepped up to the daunting task of front man. These are big shoes to fill following the expert entertainer that Lamont Gillispie was. He has done an honorable job in that capacity and 100 Proof still has the crowds up dancing and enjoying their music. To keep up with Mark Bright and 100 Proof Blues Band, you can find them on Facebook. Go 'like' their page and follow them. Mark said that he is so grateful and thankful that people voted for him and that people think that he is actually worthy of being on the wall at Stevie Ray's, he is humbled and very honored.

I have had the honor of playing music and writing with Rob Pickett in the early Mudcat days and currently in da Mudcats. I consider him a close friend and a premier artist. Creating and entertaining with him has been delightful at every turn. He has worked long and hard at his craft and I would hold him up to any guitar player out there when it comes to creativity and raw talent.

Mark Bright has always been welcome on the stage with me and of course, still is. He is a good friend and an excellent saxophone player who knows how to sell a tune. I can always count on hearing good music and being entertained when I know he and the 100 Proof band are playing.

Both Mark and Rob are most deserving of the honor of being on the wall, they have earned it and I don't think either one of them are showing any signs of slowing down. The best is yet to come so pay attention Blues lovers and congratulations!



Photos of Rob Pickett (top) and Mark Bright by Cheryl Jaggers



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			Kentuckia	Kentuckiana Blues Calendar		

Kentuckiana Blues Calendar July 2016



	JIAM-3	# əuoıdələT			
	CITY/ST/ZIP	I would be willing to help out at KBS events	-		
		COMPANY MEMBERSHIP (\$150 ENCLOSED)	-		
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YES! I WANT TO JOIN THE KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY TODAY!					

GET THE BLUES AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT!

Join the Kentuckiana Blues Society today! Single membership is only \$20 per year. As a member, you will receive the Blues News by mail and discounts at our sponsors and at selected KBS events. Dual membership (two people at the same address, two membership cards and one newsletter) is \$25 per year, and we offer a special band rate of \$30 per year, which includes one newsletter plus a membership card for each band member. We have also added a company membership for \$150, with up to 5 membership cards and one newsletter plus a membership card for each band member. We have also added a company membership for \$150, with up to 5 membership cards and one newsletter plus your company logo featured in the Blues News and on our website, www.kbsblues.org. All KBS members who provide an email address will also receive the KBS Blues News weekly update email so you'll always know the latest developments. Support the BLUES by joining the KBS today! Join online at www.kbsblues.org, or fill out the coumail so you'll always know the latest developments. Support the BLUES by joining the KBS today! Join online at www.kbsblues.org, or fill out the coupon above and send with your payment to:

KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY Attn: Membership Director P.O. Box 755 Louisville, KY 40201-0755



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