

Yank Rachell's Tennessee Jug – Mandolin Blues (1998)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 24 October 2010 12:15 - Last Updated Wednesday, 24 July 2013 16:29

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1. *Texas Tony* 3:45
2. *Girl of My Dreams* 5:08 [play](#)
3. *Do the Boogie Mama (Take 3)* 2:47
4. *Starvation in My Kitchen* 4:32
5. *I'm Gonna Get Up in the Morning* 3:57
6. *Lonesome Blues* 2:22
7. *Shout Baby Shout* 3:07
8. *Rocky Mountain Blues* 4:15
9. *Do the Boogie Mama (Take 2)* 2:39
10. *Stop Knocking on My Door* 2:57
11. *Doorbell Blues* 4:26 [play](#)
12. *Move Your Hand* 3:49
13. *Get Your Morning Exercise* 2:31
14. *When My Baby Comes Back Home* 3:45
15. *Up and Down the Line* 4:16
16. *Bye Bye Baby* 3:48

Personnel: Yank Rachell (vocals, guitar, mandolin); Sleepy John Estes, Big Joe Williams (vocals, guitar); Hammie Nixon (vocals, harmonica); Michael Bloomfield (guitar).

Recording: Dan Queen's Residence, Chicago, IL (03/06/1963-03/3)

Yank Rachell was born March 16, 1910, near Brownsville, Tennessee, and he died April 9, 1997, in Indianapolis, Indiana. But for James "Yank" Rachell (which he pronounced "ray-shell"), the mandolin, common in early string bands, nearly died out as a blues instrument. While a few others were recorded playing blues mandolin, Rachell not only recorded prolifically but brought the instrument into new contexts. He also played rhythmically interesting guitar. In later years he electrified his instruments at times, but his mandolin sound, characterized by biting fills and swirling lines, ever remained haunting. Over his nearly 70-year recording career, he left a deep musical mark on sides under his own name and in accompanying Sleepy John Estes, John Lee "Sonny Boy" Williamson, Washboard Sam, Henry Townsend, Big Joe Williams, and others.

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In one of his most famous stories, Rachell remembers back when he was a "mannish boy" walking down the road, and he heard a neighbor playing a "tater-bug" (round-back) mandolin. Yank had never seen one and had to ask what it was, but he wanted it so badly he traded a pig for it. His mother was not pleased, and told him when he got hungry he could eat the mandolin.

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