New York City - The Blues Yesterday Vol.7

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01. Break of day 02. Drive it home Hal Paige - vocals, piano Mikey Baker - guitar + band New York City, 9 March 1953 03. Big foot May 04. Please say you do Hal Paige - vocals, piano + band New York City, 20 December 1953 05. My angel child 06. Rock this joint this morning 07. Guitar shuffle 08. Guitar blues Hal Paige - vocals, piano Jimmy Spruill - guitar + band New York City, 1955 09. Pour the corn 10. Don't have to cry no more Hal Paige - vocals, piano Herbert Wright - guitar, saxophones Bob Harris - bass Kenneth McDonald - drums New York City, January 1957 11. Sugar babe 12. Thunderbird Hal Paige - vocals, piano Jimmy Spruill - guitar + band New York City, September 1957 13. Going back to my home town 14. After hours blues Hal Paige - vocals, piano Jimmy Spruill - guitar + band New York City, 1959 15. Chicken in the basket 16. The fat man 17. Oh you for me 18. Chicken hop 19. Flo, open the door Billy Bland - vocals Buddy Lucas - tenor saxophone Bob Gaddy - piano Sonny Terry harmonica Brownie Mc Ghee - guitar, bass, drums New York City, September 1955 20. If I can be your man 21. I had a dream Billy Bland - vocals + band New York City, 1957 22. Do the bug with me 23. Uncle Bud Billy Bland - vocals Mickey Baker - guitar + band New York City, 1961 24. Grandma gave a party 25. Mama stole the chicken 26. What's that? 27. Doing the mule Billy Bland - vocals + band New York City, 1963 28. The last meal 29. Pennsylvania blues Hurricane Harry - vocals + band New York City, December 1956

Let's open this 7th opus of our New York City Blues Yesterday series with pianist, singer and bandleader Hal Paige. Despite a somewhat large discography (here entirely gathered), almost nothing is known about him and he didn't appear, to my knowledge, on any specialist blues magazine! He led during the 1950's his band The Wailers (sometimes The Whalers!) before

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vanishing at the end of the decade!

On the other hand, Billy Bland (born 5 April 1932 at Wilmington, NC) has enjoyed a great Hit with the pop dance number Let the little girl dance. A Newyorker since an early age, Bland has started a singing career as a member of the doo woop ensemble The Bees (with whom he recorded for Imperial) before launching his own personal act, recording quite a lot of singles for several New York based labels, alternating pop numbers with Rock'n'roll and blues. Unfortunately he never got another Hit and let down the music for good during the late 60's, managing his own chain restaurants in Harlem. Billy Bland died in New York City 22 March 2017. We have here gathered his most blues and bluesy tracks, particularly those recorded with Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee.

At last, the mysterious (and very good) 45s by a certain Hurricane Harry is no one else than novelist, Hollywood scriptwriter, songwriter and occasionally recording singer Earl Solomon Burroughs (1925-2016) more widely known under his pen name Jack Hammer. He composed some of the greatest Rock'n'roll Hits of the 50's and 60's, namely Fujiyama mama and Great balls of fire (a smash hit for Jerry Lee Lewis) ---Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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