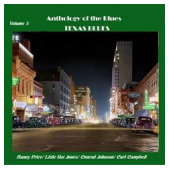
Texas Blues - Volume 5



01. Rushing 02. There goes the girl 03. Monkey see, monkey do Banny Price - vocals, guitar Elgie Brown - tenor saxophone + band. Shreveport, La. July 1964
04. You love me pretty baby n°1 05. You love me pretty baby n°2 06. You know I love you
Banny Price - vocals, guitar + band Tyler, Tx. 1965
07. All around the water tank 08. Little Hat rag 09. New Dallas blues 10. Saint Louis blues 11. You don't mean me no good
Little Hat Jones - vocals, guitar Naples, Tx. 1964
12. Ugly Mae 13. Shout it out
Conrad Johnson - vocals, alto saxophone Jimmy Vincent - trumpet Sam Williams - tenor saxophone Ed Harris - baritone saxophone, vocals + band. Houston, Tx. 1948
14. Fisherman blues 15. Howling on Dowling
Conrad Johnson - vocals, alto saxophone Jimmy Vincent - trumpet Sam Williams - tenor saxophone Ed Harris - baritone saxophone, vocals + band Houston, Tx. 1972
16. Between midnight and dawn 17. Ooh Wee baby
Carl Campbell - vocals + band Houston, Tx. March 1949
18. Gettin' high 19. Going down to Nashville
Carl Campbell - vocals Goree Carter - guitar Joe Houston - tenor saxophone + band Houston, Tx. May 1949
20. You've been fiddling around
Carl Campbell (as King Tut) - vocals Henry Hayes - alto saxophone Ed Wiley - tenor saxophone Willie Johnson - piano Don Cooks - bass Ben Turner - drums Houston, Tx. 12 January 1950
21. Cotton picker's blues 22. My heart is going down slow
Carl Campbell - vocals Henry Hayes - alto saxophone Ed Wiley - tenor saxophone Willie Johnson - piano Goree Carter - guitar Don Cooks - bass Ben Turner - drums Houston, Tx. March 1950
23. Traveling on 24. Early morning blues
Carl Campbell - vocals Henry Hayes - alto saxophone Elmore Nixon - piano + band Houston, Tx. September 1950

Singer and guitar player Banny Price is quite ill documented. He was playing for sure during the 1960's around Shreveport and East Texas. He recorded two excellent sessions, once for Ram Records at Shreveport and another at Tyler's Texas Robin Hood Brian Studios, produced by Ken Demary with the masterpiece OtisRushesque You love me pretty baby. Unfortunately, we don't know what happened after that to this very interesting bluesman.

Little Hat Jones, on the contrary, is a legendary bluesman, having recorded classic tracks for Okeh in 1929-30 and also backing Texas Alexander. Born Dennis (or George) Jones on 5 October 1899 at Bowie Cy (Tx), he seemed to have disappeared after 1930. But blues researcher Robert Tilling's tenacity finally unearthed (during the late 1990's) an article, an interview (with live recordings!) and photos from Little Hat Jones that were done in 1962-64 by a local journalist Morris Craig for The Monitor, a newspaper from Naples (Tx). This is the last testimony of one of the true Texas blues pioneer. At that time, Jones was a retired man from the Red River Army Depot at Texarkana. Little Hat Jones died at Linden on 7th March 1981.

Singer and sax-player Conrad Johnson (1915-2008) has had a long career as a musician and bandleader who recorded a handful of tracks under his name but many more behind other Texas artists. Johnson was also (and maybe foremost) a well known music teacher at Houston.

Singer and pianist Carl Campbell (1933-93) started a musical career in Houston at an early age (1948!), recording several sessions for Freedom, Sittin' In With, Peacock... He was also running for a long time his own Carl's Club in Houston in which he was regularly playing.

Thanks to Robert Tilling for his article on Little Hat Jones in Blues & Rhythm 135/171 and Sir Shambling for infos about Banny Price. ---Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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