

No 367 MARCH 2022

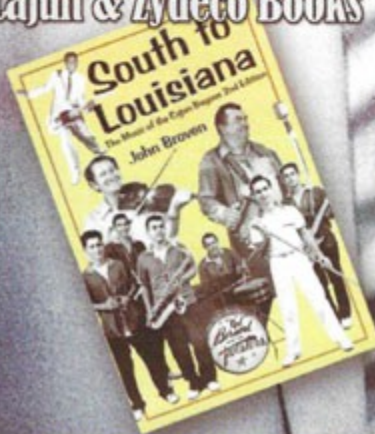
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BLUES & RHYTHM



Rediscovering New York's blues artists

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NEW ORLEANS' ROBERT E. LEE BOULEVARD NAME

CHANGED: The New Orleans City Council have voted to change the name of Robert E. Lee Boulevard to Allen Toussaint Boulevard. The ordinance was changed to rename the boulevard after Toussaint instead of the Confederate general, saying in a news release "it's well beyond time to make this change. The City of New Orleans should prioritise celebrating our culture bearers, our diversity, and everything that makes our City special, not those who worked to tear us apart and represent a horrible history of racism that we are still dealing with today," said Council Member Jared C. Brossett in a statement. "Allen Toussaint is a New Orleans native and world-renowned musician. He represents the very best of our city, and I am proud to take this step toward honouring his legacy," Brossett added. The move follows similar efforts across the country in recent years, that have seen symbols of the Confederacy – including names, busts and statues – removed and replaced amid a nationwide reckoning with racism prompted by the killing of George Floyd. Among the changes last year were a Florida school board voting to rename six schools named after Confederate leaders and Virginia removing a statue of Robert E. Lee, which was the last Confederate statue that remained along Richmond's historic Monument Avenue.

ALLIGATOR JOINS FORCES WITH EXCELERATION MUSIC:

Alligator Records currently celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, has announced it is joining forces with Exceleation Music, a newly established company founded by Glen Barros (former CEO of Concord Music Group) along with four other music industry veterans, dedicated to enhancing the future of independent labels and artists. Alligator founder Bruce Iglauer says the partnership with Exceleation will strengthen the label by creating opportunities for expanded promotion and marketing along with providing resources enabling Alligator to sign more established blues and roots artists.

Barros remains at Alligator's helm and he and his Chicago-based team will continue to handle artist signings, A&R, new release production, project marketing, publicity, and promotion for an aggressive line-up of new recordings by the

★ LETTERS ★

CREDITS AND ARTISTS SWITCHED

B&R readers may find this of interest following on from the Don Gardner feature in B&R 365. I found this scan on the web. The artists and the writer credits are switched – Billy Hill wrote the song in the 1930s. This may be a very rare 45rpm!

Dan Kochakian
Via email



RAZORBLADE SHORTY?

In September 1972 I was in Baton Rouge together with Tommy Löfgren and Hasse Andréasson. We were lucky to meet Jimmy Dale Strickland at the 5th Avenue Record Shoppe. Jimmy knew all about the Baton Rouge blues scene and we had a great time together. He played us a tape that he had made with a rough harmonica player by the name of Razorblade Shorty. As I recall he sounded a lot like Papa Lightfoot. We never found him while in Baton Rouge. Does anybody know anything about him? Did he really exist or did Jimmy fool us European blues fans?

Hans Schweitz
via email

FREEMAN DEMOS AND AUSSIE EPS

Following Dave Penny's review of Ernie Freeman's Jasmine CD in B&R 365 (Christmas 2021) I thought B&R readers might be interested in the attached Imperial demo/audition disc by Ernie.

Lew Chudd's Imperial masters were bought by Liberty records in 1963 and they issued more Ernie Freeman releases in line with dance crazes at the time including twist and limbo etc. releases. Liberty was swallowed up by United Artists in 1970. Also, here are the



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and Keller brothers band, watch out for a new 45 from Bloodest Saxophone on Dialtone too.

ROBERT JOHNSON BLUES PARK; The Robert Johnson Foundation is planning to build a Robert Johnson Blues Park as a tribute to the bluesman. Being designed by Canadian artist Earl Klatzel there are seven initial designs for the project which it is proposed will include an amphitheatre and stage; concert seating; vintage highway shields along a blues highway that list every Johnson song; The restored Johnson 'birth home' situated within the park and 1930's replica perimeter fencing. No location has been announced. More details can be found earlyblues.org/the-robert-johnson-blues-park/. Thanks to Alan White.

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ROSCO'S SCANDAL?

I was watching episode two of the recent BBC TV drama 'A Very British Scandal' about the bitter divorce between the Duke and Duchess of Argyll in the 1960s when my ears pricked up. The Duchess and a paramour were at a 1960s socialite party where the music playing included a snippet of Rosco Gordon's rasping 'Gotta Keep Rolling' (Old Town 1187).

I didn't recognise the number straightaway but luckily someone had posted the soundtrack online. For me it tied in nicely with the new 'New York City Blues' book (see Chris Bentley's review in B&R 364) as Rosco and Hy Weiss (Old Town) both feature in the book. Full marks to the producer for an 'out-of-left-field' choice.

Richard Tapp
Burgess Hill

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