

BLUES

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September/October 2016

Don White: PATCHWORK

(Lonesome Dove Records, Inc.)



When Tulsa musical treasure **Don White** was interviewed at the Stone River Music Festival in September 2014 for a two-part series on his career, he was obviously proud of a project he was working on with another Tulsa icon, **David Teegarden Sr.**

Patchwork is the result and it was certainly worth the wait. Don has always believed if you are playing Tulsa you need a good shuffle and groove. Opening the album is *Tulsa Shuffle #1* where he pays tribute to everything from Chicago Blues to **Muddy, Howlin' Wolf**, Nashville Country, **Leon**, and **Bob Wills**. "But when you're back in Tulsa you got to lay that shuffle down."

Don covers a lot of usical ground ranging from *Loving You is Right* about the hardships of being on the road and missing the one you love to *Song Dogs (A Cowboy Song)*.

Perhaps the most moving and personal song is *Bless My Soul*, which so beautifully describes his faith in the Lord and the blessings he's received.

Another very touching song is *How Lucky*. "I don't always give as much as I receive, but when the chips are down you stand up with me....How lucky can one man be." (Continued on page 4)

Dustin Pittsley Band Wins Its 5th Challenge!

STEAMSHOVEL Places 2nd;

Dylan Whitney Band is 3rd

Competing amongst eight other very talented acts, the Dustin Pittsley Band barely edged out **STEAMSHOVEL**, earning its fifth trip to compete in the International Blues Challenge Jan 31 – February 4 in Memphis, TN. The **Dylan Whitney Band**, led by its 19-year-old namesake, placed an impressive 3rd place.

This was perhaps the thinnest margin of victory in the 13-year history of the challenge – a mere two points between the top two bands.

DPB obviously has learned from the past. The act has entered eight Tulsa Blues Challenges and won five of those, with the first win coming in 2005. **Bassist Donnie Wood** was in the band with Dustin that year (along with drummer **Doug Wehmeyer** and guitarist **Jesse Aycock**, now with the **Hard Working Americans**). DPB has won the last four blues challenges it has entered since 2009. In 2010 the band was crowned *Kings of Beale Street* in a competition held by Beale Street club owners in Memphis for bands that did not make the IBC finals. DPB also is the only band sponsored by BST to advance to the semi-finals at the IBC (in 2012).

Beside Dustin and Donnie, the band is comprised of **Chris Kyle**, keyboards and **David Teegarden Jr.** both who came aboard in 2012. (Continued on Page 4)



Dustin Pittsley Band torching Cains Ballroom at the 13th Annual Blues Challenge: Dustin Pittsley, top left; Donnie Wood, top right; Chris Kyle bottom left and David Teegarden Jr., bottom right. (Photography by Phil Clarkin)

INSIDE:

Best Self Produced-CD Competition, Billy's Blues on Steve Pryor, Scott Ellison, Mighty Orq, Mike Eldred Trio, Moreland & Arbuckle, Alligator Records 45th Anniversary, Waiting for Buddy Guy, Stewart Jeffers RIP and more!

Welcome Our New Members!

Zak Pagano, Natalie Pagano, Gregg Pagano and Graham Pagano, Sharon Doss, Mari Mickesen and Russell M. Rychtanek, all of Tulsa; Mike Pemberton, Henryetta; Michael Crookshank, Broken Arrow; and Hal and LeAnne Traybsza, Orlando, OK.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What a wonderful issue the July/August 2016 Blues News was- I really enjoyed reading it, especially the write up on Steve Pryor. Many thanks to you and your team on a job well done! Keep up the great work.

Abby Kurin

Director of the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture
A division of VisitTulsa

LOCAL BIRTHDAYS

September 2 – Jacque Garoutte; 5 – Jamie Oldaker, ; 11 – Peter Delesdernier, Leo Kottke; 14 – Steve White, Steve Gaines (1977); 21 – Jesse Ed Davis (1988); 25 – Mike Peace; 26 – Larry Bell,; **October** 8 – John Heatley; 12 Jim Strader (2009); 17 – Barney Kessel (2004); 18 – Roger Tillison (2013); 19 Les Moorman (2014); 20 - Danny Baker; Alan Ransom; 21 – Elvin Bishop; 22 – Zac Hanson; 25 – Roger Roden, Scott Russell; 24 – Pat Murray (2012); 26 – Matthew Teegarden.

BST MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The September 14th meeting and the October 12th meeting are at the Cimarron Bar, 26th Street and South Memorial. Non-members are always welcome!

BILLY'S BLUES

After high school I really didn't spend a lot time around Tulsa. Between college, the U.S. Navy, and living in Kanas City with my job, that accounted for about 13 years. But when Vivian and I would come home from KC to visit, a priority was always to catch a **Steve Pryor** gig. Although Steve began playing as a little kid, it was in high school around 1973 where he started stepping out. His talent was instantly recognized.

My first Pryor gig was around 1975 or '76. It didn't take long to observe the highs and lows in his personal life. But you still loved him for the music. Oh the days of youth, catching his shows at places such as *Checkers*, *Uncle Bentley's* and *The Break*. At the latter, there were treasured gigs with **Rockin' John Henry** of KMOD broadcasting live on Sunday nights with his *Smokehouse Blues*.

There was the time in the late '70s when my two best friends and I got together. **Bobby** lived in North Carolina and came home to visit **Mr. Brillo** and myself. One night we couldn't find anything musically going on. Then we were driving north on Harvard and our prayers were answered. Suddenly on the illuminated sign it read: Tonight, **Steve Pryor**. It was at this hole-in-the-wall venue called *Shy Clown Lounge* and it might hold a dozen or so people. Steve was ripping it up with this black Fender Stratocaster he'd purchased in 1977 in California.

Then there was the amazing side project Steve had in the mid-1990s – **Neighbors**. Mr. Brillo and I often saw this group perform at *Club One* on Riverside Drive. It had the amazing bassist **Reed Mathis** and drummer **Sean Layton** of *Jacob Fred Jazz Odyssey* and guitarist **Dylan Layton** of *Whirligig*. They'd play **Miles Davis**, **Jimmy Cliff** and **Bob Marley** stuff. Reed would also fill in as a member of *Mighty Kingsnakes* for bassist **Matt "King" Kohl**. (Continued on Page 5)



Steve Pryor and Jim Ziegler at The Break in Tulsa, 11/27/98.



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Best Self-Produced CD Deadline is September 23

The Blues Foundation has held an annual *Best Self-Produced CD* competition since 2005 honoring artists that have achieved excellence in the studio. Acts can be bands, solo or duo acts, trios, full choirs or any other combination. The purpose of this award is to assist blues musicians in the pursuit of their professional goals. Your entry must have been released between **November 1, 2015** and **October 31, 2016**. Judging is based on:

- (1) Blues Content (is this a blues recording)
- (2) Musical Performance (Musicianship)
- (3) Audio Quality of the Presentation (Production Values, Levels)
- (4) Cover Art and Design (Professional Packaging. Ready for the rack at your favorite music outlet.)
- (5) Credit and Liner information (Informative, Professional)

The Blues Society of Tulsa entry **deadline is September 23rd**. It must either be postmarked by this date, or hand delivered to a BST officer or awards committee member by 6 p.m. on 9/23. Five copies of your entry are required. Please mail entries to: Blues Society of Tulsa, P.O. Box 2836, Tulsa, OK 74101.



STEAMSHOVEL took 2nd Place in the 2016 Blues Challenge. Here is Garrett Heck, Timbo Kelly and Joshua Yarbrough. (Photo by Bill Martin)

Dustin Pittsley...

(Continued from page 1)

One judge commented on DPB, "Incredible, fanstastic, spot on. Everyone is in the groove for a complete sound. Dustin's voice is pitch perfect." Another judge wrote, "true, classic Dustin. Timeless. Another judge observed, "Reminds me of real Tulsa bands I used to see. Outstanding blues presentation; firey guitar."

STEAMSHOVEL, includes vocalist/guitarist **Joshua Yarbrough**; bassist **Timbo Kelly** and drummer **Garrett Heck**. Their set led one judge to comment, The fun you're having on stage is contagious." Another judge wrote, "very bluesy; (the drummer's vocals on song #2 (*Bring Me My Shotgun*) was very good; powerful for three **ZZTops**."

The Blues Society for the first time this year removed age requirements for the challenge. This resulted in Dylan Whitney, as well as **The Blues Clues Band** (with the oldest of the four piece band being 16 years old), entering the competition.

One judge described Dylan's guitar playing as "great", while another said it was "incredible." Another judge described the vocals of Christi King as "very good."

Other competing bands not previously mentioned were: **Tan Trum, Calvin Youngblood and Cold Front, The Last Call Band, The Vox Squadron, and The Boogie**.

Blues Challenge judges were: Tulsa Mayor **Dewey Bartlett Jr.**, drummer **Jamie Oldaker** (**Eric Clapton, Peter Frampton, The Tractors**), *Hunt Club Pub & Grub* owner **Mary Ellen Slape**, drummer **Harry Williams** (**Ike and Tina Turner, Bo Diddley, Flash Terry**) and *Tulsa World Scene* Writer **Jerry Wofford**.



The Dylan Whitney Band places 3rd in the Blues Challenge. Here is drummer Johnathan Clawson, bassist Don Whitney, guitar/vocalist Dylan Whitney, vocalist Christi King and rhythm guitarist Michael McClure. (Photo by Bill Martin)

Don White... (Continued from page 1)

Don also includes a couple of gems with humor. *I Didn't Want to Boogie* features **Buddy Holly's** band **The Crickets**, with Don writing something dirty on the bathroom wall because he doesn't want the bar to close. Then there's *Look at Granny Run, Run*, because grandpa has that gleam in his eyes.

Some of the finest songwriting is with *Good Old Times* about a chance meeting of an old flame at a truck stop. But times and people change and sometimes life isn't fair. Don's country voice and blues guitar, backed by stellar musicians such as **Jack Pearson** (**Allman Brothers**), **Robby Turner** (**Chris Stapleton**), **Casey Van Beek** (**The Tractors**) and **David Teegarden Sr.** (**Bob Seger**). It all results in 11 songs that all are 5-star winners. – **Bill Martin**





CD REVIEWS



Scott Ellison: ELEVATOR MAN

(Red Parlor Records)

Tulsa's Own **Scott Ellison** has been making music around this town since the 70's. He moved to L.A. to play music in the 80's and during the 90's opened for **Joe Cocker**, **Buddy Guy**, **The Fab. T-Birds** and a host of others. He's been back home in Tulsa ever since, and performs regularly every weekend, both solo and band. Among the TV and movie soundtracks he's written and performed, he's also created some excellent blues rock albums like his current *Elevator Man*, which includes a wide variety of different guitar styles and rockin' blues music. Stand-outs include the title track, *Jesus Loves Me (Baby Why Don't You)*, and *She's On My Trail*.

With excellent back-up singers, an amazing session band, and some blazing guitar work, Scott has created yet another winner! Bravo Scott!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Mighty Orq: LOVE IN A HURRICANE

(Connor Ray Music)

The **Mighty Orq** have been around for awhile. They made the finals in last year's International Blues Challenge. This is their seventh album of excellent blues rock originals and covers including **Freddie King's** *Pack It Up* and a track that sounds almost exactly like the band **Squeeze**, *Falling Down*. *You're In Love (That's Alright)* is a good cajun beat toe-tapper and *Let Me Have My Fun* is a sweet boogie woogie SRV sounding blues shuffle. Except for only a couple of real slow tracks this is an excellent album of great songs, vocals, and guitar work. - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**



Mike Eldred Trio: BAPTIST TOWN

(Great Western Recording Co.)

This album of roots, rock, and rockabilly style blues is titled after the Greenwood, MS neighborhood where legendary blues musician **Robert Johnson** was murdered in 1938, and offers a listening experience that might make you feel as though you've found yourself in a Mississippi juke joint.

Recorded in Memphis at Sun Studios; it also includes a few special guests: **David Hidalgo**, **Robert Cray**, and **John Mayer**. Key tracks include *Hunder Dollar Bill*, *Kill My Woman*, and the title track. Well done!! - **Curt Fillmore (CurtsList.Com)**

Billy's Blues (Continued from Page 2)

Steve was "officially" anointed a guitar god by the *Tulsa World* when he won five Spot Awards from the publication in six years.

While known for his playing prowess, his sense of humor was undeniable.

After winning his third Spot Award, Steve said, "I only know three things. I'm 46 years old, I love my mother and I voted for **Junior Markham**."

Steve could also be humble, especially after falling asleep at the wheel in Arkansas and amazingly surviving the crash. He'd been through life flights, ambulances, emergency rooms and even the **Eric Clapton** physical therapy rehab program.

He told me, "It's just nice to be recognized as a blues person. Ever since I was a kid, that's all I wanted to do."

One of the most amazing shows I ever saw was Steve at *Arnie's Bar* on July 8, 2005. It was actually the **Red Dirt Rangers** with special guest **Randy Crouch**. I had never seen Randy before and he was playing a wretched looking guitar looking like warmed over death. But the icing on the cake was an impromptu appearance by Steve, who played Randy's old dumpster guitar. It had been 18 months since Steve's car wreck and he was still recovering, but you wouldn't know it that night. -- **Billy Austin (AKA Bill Martin)**

(Steve Pryor died May 6th in a Tulsa motorcycle crash).

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CD REVIEWS



ALLIGATOR RECORDS 45TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION

(Alligator Records - 2 disc set)

So many of us have grown up with **Bruce Iglauer**, or at least with his record company.

Every five years we are treated to a reminder of all the great artists, and recordings he's provided since that first recording in 1971 with **Hound Taylor & The House Rockers**, who is included in this 2-disc set covering 37 tracks. The release has Tulsa's own **Elvin Bishop** as well as Alligator's newest recording act, **Moreland & Arbuckle** from neighboring Wichita, KS. More emphasis is placed on newer artists this time around than with previous anniversary releases. The CD comes in a wonderful package with bios on the participating artists and Bruce sharing his anguish over all the incredible Alligator artists over the years not included. From what started in a small Chicago apartment to become the Cadillac of blues record companies, congratulates to Bruce and his staff! – **Bill Martin**



Moreland & Arbuckle: PROMISED LAND OR BUST

(Alligator Records)

We have watched **Moreland & Arbuckle** for over a decade grow and flourish as a blues-

infused roots rock band, and now this duo from Wichita, KS has hit the big time, signing with Alligator Records, and releasing their seventh album, *Promised Land or Bust*. I've heard most of their previous recordings and it comes as no surprise this is the best to date.

Aaron Moreland (guitar and cigar box guitar) and **Dustin Arbuckle** (harmonica vocals), started as a duo. By adding drummer **Kendall Newby**, their music has become primal and infectious. Songs of note are *Mean and Evil*, *Woman Down in Arkansas*, and *Waco Avenue*. If you like your music with a deep blues feel an a rock attitude, with fire and brimstone vocals, you can get your fix here on *Promised Land or Bust*. – **Freddie Morrow**



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It was with great sadness we lost Stewart Edward Jeffers in a motorcycle accident July 10th on Highway 20 a few miles south of Langley. Stewart was an avid music fan and excellent harmonica player. He lived in Pensacola, OK and had left the American Legion Post 192 in Spavinaw where he was celebrating the birthday of Blues Society member Freddie Morrow. Our deepest sympathies to his family and many friends. 7/17/54 – 7/10/16 (Photo by Bill Martin)

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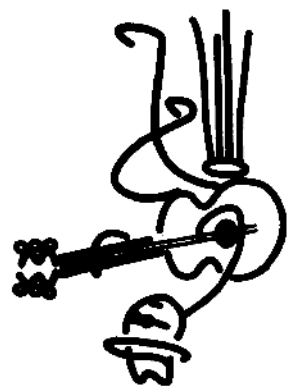
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