

SAY



WHAT!

HOWDY FROM TEXAS!!

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Stevie Ray Vaughan Fan Club Newsletter. First, let me thank all of you for your comments and suggestions for giving the newsletter a name. I hope you like the choice. "Soul to Soul" was a good alternative, but there is already a book by that name. "Tick Tock" was a very close second, followed by "Testify."

The previous issue featured an interview with the sculptor of the Stevie Ray Vaughan Memorial. The statue was dedicated November 21, and a photo is on the back page. This quarter's newsletter features a tribute to Stevie which may very well bring a tear to your eye. There have been many tributes to Stevie Ray, but I have come across none more touching than that written by his uncle, Joe Cook.

Near the end of the first biography of Stevie Ray, *Caught in the Crossfire*, there is an excerpt from Mr. Cook's poem. I am greatly pleased to be able to bring you the complete poem.

"A TEXAS RAY OF SUNSHINE"

BY JOE COOK

I hear a blues riff in the still of the night
Is that you little boy blues?
Your cross was found on some faraway hill
They say where wild flowers grow
Are you up there somewhere playing your blues?
Oh Lord, I think I know

Guitar slingers/ the best of blues singers
Came to Alpine Valley to play
Some brought their new songs/ some played the old songs
All jammed at the end of the day

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Now Queen Ann's Lace/ Bittersweets grace
That faraway field where they lay
Going back to Chicago/ the 'copter flew too low
And some didn't make it all the way
Gone is another guitar hero
And I'm missing you "Little Boy Blues"

I'm laying in my bed/ these things going through my head
Trying to make some sense of it all
For when you're down/ you're trying to rebound
Searching for something you can use
Call down a Texas Ray of sunshine
And play some of the little boy's blues

Though a friend is gone/ his music is living on
For we've all been touched by him in some way
Like waves on the ocean/ his music brings emotion
As he carries us along on his cruise
Now God is the power/ we need in our darkest hour
Just call on him and leave it in his hands
He gave us music to enjoy/ and a special Oak Cliff boy
To help bring the world his good news

I pray this ache in my heart/ will some day part
When we understand what it's all about
Remember the dreams we've had/ and the things his songs have said
To keep on keeping on just might be our cues

Thanks for caring/ thank you for sharing
Your gift of music and your warm smile
Peace and comfort remain/ your blues sweep away the pain
For your songs were from your heart and soul
Thank you so very much/ you had that magic touch
Your blues guitar was the very best
An old Strat Fender/ a serious string bender
You brought new life to the blues

Call down a Texas Ray of sunshine
And play some of this little boy's blues.

end

SANTANA HONORS SRV

Carlos Santana, who performed with Stevie on occasion, has released a CD of live tracks by such greats as Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix, John Coltrane, Marvin Gaye and Bob Marley. The tribute album is called *Sacred Sources: Live Forever* and is on Santana's own Guts & Grace label. There is one track by SRV from a 1990 concert.

MORE TRIBUTES TO STEVIE RAY

A record label with an affinity for recording guitarists of note and spotlighting the new breed of blues players, Blues Bureau International now pays homage to blues guitar great Stevie Ray Vaughan. Cited by many as perhaps the greatest blues guitarist of his generation, Stevie left us with five albums (plus numerous guest appearances) of blistering, heartfelt soulful blues executed with his own flamboyant flair.

"Hats Off to Stevie Ray" includes legendary rock guitarists in their own right, such as Pat Travers, Rick Derringer, Leslie West, Steve Hunter, Frank Marino, Ricky Medlocke, Jon Butcher, as well as newcomers Kevin Russell, Craig Erickson and Tony Spinner. The album is the third outing in the ongoing "L.A. Blues Authority" series and presents smoking renditions of songs popularized by the late guitarist. It includes a tribute song called "Blues for Stevie" which brings together many of the guitarists for an all-star jam. Superstar drummer Aynsley Dunbar plays on the all-star jam and four other tracks.

The results of each individual performance on "Hats Off to Stevie Ray" is a testament to the late guitarist's influence on blues and rock players. Some, after listening to the album might rightly state that the collection highlights the fact that Stevie Ray's music was more than just playing the notes, as not even this collection of admirable guitarists can match the emotion of SRV;

but, tribute albums serve to present another viewpoint on the music. Don't forget that a significant portion of Stevie's sets consisted of his interpretation of the masters' tunes, from Howling Wolf to Hendrix. I commend "Hats Off to Stevie Ray" to your listening pleasure, but don't expect to hear the songs interpreted exactly as Stevie Ray did.

Thanks to Teresa Conboy for the review copy of the tape. Look for the "Fit for A. King" tribute to Albert King, also.

NEW SRV PRODUCT

Sony has released a new version of "Couldn't Stand the Weather," this time on their Master Sound series in 24K gold. The disc is a very attractive picture disc CD in a white jewel case. The CD comes in a deluxe long box with nice graphics. The retail price is about \$27, but it is supposed to be the best quality sound you can get.

"THE FIRST THUNDER"

Several of you have written asking about an album nominated as record of the year, or something to that effect, in one of the guitar magazines. The album was listed as "The First Thunder." In the next issue of that magazine I expect you will find that they meant to list "In the Beginning" instead. "The First Thunder" is an import-only CD of various tracks from three 1979 concerts, some of which include Lou Ann Barton on vocals. She was a member of both Triple Threat Review and the first incarnation of Double Trouble. Double Trouble referred to Stevie and Lou Ann. Why an American guitar magazine would nominate an import-only CD I don't know; so my guess is it's a mistake.

*Season's
Greetings*

STEVIE DOES THE BEATLES!?!

One of the most frequent questions I get is how to get a copy of Stevie Ray performing the great Beatles tune "Taxman." Rumors about this recording are abundant, and no one seems to be able to pin down the truth, but I'll pass along the information I have.

In an interview in a guitar magazine (forgive me for not going through the huge stack of them to get the date) the interviewer asked Stevie Ray what he had been up to lately, and he mentioned various projects including recording "Taxman." He did not go into any detail about the project, and it has never surfaced on a commercial release to my knowledge (let's hope it is included on the Stevie Ray box set which everyone eagerly awaits). The most often repeated story is that Stevie recorded "Taxman" for a Michael Jackson movie project which was later scrapped. Another story is that it was recorded for a various artists compilation album called "Strawberry Fields." I have not found any such release, but then the release of Beatles material is often surrounded by controversy and legal actions.

Others have said that the song appears on the B-side of a British 12-inch single, or a CD called "Rare Tracks." I have not been able to confirm either of those reports.

I have heard that a bootleg recording exists of Stevie Ray and DT performing the song at a 1988 Maine concert. If any of you can confirm this, please let me know.

THE ULTIMATE STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN BOX SET

NO, I do not know when it will be out or what will be on it, but I'll do my very best to get you the information as soon as possible. Even when the set is ready, the record company controls the release date, and it is common for that

date to be changed several times. Maybe by Christmas 1994 we will have the ultimate stocking stuffer!

Feel free to send me your suggestions for what you would most like to see included in the box set, not that I have any say in the deal. I will pass it along to Jimmie, though there is no doubt he is fully capable of determining what is of historical value and releasable quality, and whatever comes out will be an excellent addition to our collections.

FROM THE DICK DALE PIPELINE

As you all know, Stevie Ray recorded the surf rock classic, "Pipeline," with Dick Dale for the movie "Back to the Beach." Dick recently toured outside California for the first time (!) in his thirty years as King of the Surf Guitar. I hope you caught his show, as you will never hear surf rock played better. (Fender has issued a very limited edition Strat modeled after Dick's metallic green monster.)

I spoke with Dick in between shows in Dallas on August 30, 1993, about his experience recording with Stevie Ray. He said that when Stevie first saw him he thought Dick was a ghost! Some of the first records Stevie listened to were Dick Dale records, and, probably because Dick did not tour outside of California, Stevie thought that he was "dead and buried somewhere." But Stevie recovered his senses quickly and said, "Wow! Dick Dale! Let's jam!"

Dick enjoyed playing with Stevie, but was confounded by his expertise on the guitar. Dick remarked, "Aw man, it took me twenty years to make it look easy!" Stevie played like he had been playing surf guitar all his life.

If you ever get the chance, see Dick Dale in concert. In any event, check out his new album, "Tribal Thunder."

By the way, there are a number of collectible items from "Back to the Beach." Watch the bulletin board for posters, etc.

EDITORIAL

BIOGRAPHIES: "AUTHORIZED" VS. "UNAUTHORIZED"

"When is the authorized version of the Stevie Ray Vaughan biography going to be out?" I wish I had quarter for every time I've been asked that! As many of you know, the two biographies on Stevie Ray which are out now are so-called "unauthorized" versions, and Dan Forte, who writes for Guitar Player magazine, has been chosen by the family to write the "authorized" version.

I spoke briefly with Mr. Forte in Austin recently. He said that there is no release date in the near future, and the project can only be described as a "work in progress." Though he did not comment on the reasons for the delay, some have speculated that he has had some difficulty finding a publisher for his book because they fear it may be a "sanitized" account of the life of the great blues guitarist. It is understandable and reasonable for Stevie Ray's family to be concerned about how he will be characterized. However, it appears that many publishers are afraid that the control the family will exert on Mr. Forte's book will leave them with merely a "fluff" piece which will not sell. Unfortunately, a lot of good writing doesn't get published because of the attitude that only the more seemly side of life sells. I am sure the book will be warmly received by fans, and, if the rumors are true, I hope the publishers come around soon.

There seem to be two camps regarding the "unauthorized" biographies, from the letter I have received. Several of you say you are waiting for Forte's book, and many have said they enjoyed the others, but were somewhat disenchanted by the focus on drugs and alcohol in the Patoski/Crawford book. My opinion is that there is room for several biographies, because every writer brings a new perspective from which we can learn. I have spoken with Joe Nick Patoski and Bill Crawford at great length, and I can tell you that they have absolutely no mean spirit towards Stevie Ray, and did not write their book with the intent to sensationalize Stevie's story. It is unfortunate to hear them criticized for reporting the bad along with the good, because it is only by knowing how bad Stevie made life for himself in the late 70's and early 80's that we can take such great inspiration from his triumphant recovery. That, along with his music, is the story which needs telling and retelling. Many people have told me that Stevie's life and message have helped them pull themselves out of a darkness similar to that experienced by Stevie. It is one thing to say, "He had problems, but cleaned up," and another to explain just how bad it was and that if Stevie Ray can pull up, so can others. I think that, and the fact that they did a tremendous amount of research, is the strength of Joe Nick and Bill's book.

Although I have not gotten to know Keri Leigh as well, I found her book to have notable strengths, too. One obvious plus is the heavy concentration of photos. Several people have remarked that she tended to focus on the more positive aspects of Stevie Ray's life, and the book does seem to be "lighter," which many of you may prefer.

I have enjoyed both books, and eagerly await Mr. Forte's book. If you can afford it, I recommend that you buy all you can about Stevie Ray, for there is much enjoyment and inspiration to be found in his life, and it will enhance the listening pleasure of his music to know some of the background behind the songs which can be obtained from the biographies.

This editorial represents my view only. Obviously, Stevie's family have not endorsed the first two biographies.



BLUES MUSIC FESTIVAL 1993

August 27, 1993: Three years to the day that Stevie Ray passed away, the Blues Music Festival rolled into his hometown, Dallas, Texas, to play at the very user *unfriendly* Starplex Amphitheatre. This was the site of Stevie's last Dallas concert. No one had to be reminded of the sad anniversary, and the tributes were plentiful. From the simple gestures of the many fans who attended wearing SRV t-shirts, to B.B. King's dedication of "Please Accept My Love" to Stevie Ray. He did not even need to say Stevie's name for the crowd to know who he was referring to: "the man I shared this stage with a few years ago, who we all miss and love." The crowd responded with a standing ovation in Stevie's memory.

Backstage, Buddy Guy and Eric Johnson each gave interviews to Q102 disc jockey, Redbeard, and spoke of their respect for Stevie Ray and the continuing feeling of loss. Buddy was clearly troubled by the memory of August 27, 1990, as he answered Redbeard's questions. "How could I forget that night?" Eric Johnson played his new tune "SRV" which will appear on his upcoming album.

I hoped to bring you interviews with Buddy, B.B. and Eric for this issue, but I was shut out by their managers. Please write to them in care of the fan club and let them know you would have liked to read about their remembrances of Stevie, and maybe I will get a chance to talk to them the next time they come through Dallas. Just write your comments down and send them to me and I will forward them to the managers.

SRV CHARITIES

Your gifts to help with drug rehab for teens and to help those with Parkinson's Disease may be made to the Communities Foundation of Texas- S.R. Vaughan Fund, 4605 Live Oak, Dallas, Tx 75204. 214-826-5231.

LIVE AND LEARN DEPARTMENT

I tried a new mailing technique for the last issue in September. Instead of stuffing envelopes and sealing them I just folded and stapled them shut. The post office advised me that everything would be fine that way, but shortly after the issue went out I started getting letters from members who had only received the last page; the rest of the pages had been torn loose and were M.I.A. Out of about 350 that went out, I think I had to resend 10 or 12, but I wonder how many of you never received the issue at all. Hopefully not many because I am running on break-even financing to keep the membership fee down as low as possible. I'm out of the third issue, but if you never got it let me know and I'll print up some more. I think it was a nice issue, and you should have it.

By the way, I have an excellent record of not getting anything returned in the mail. I've only forgotten to put postage on two out of probably two thousand pieces of mail. If you ever get anything from me that came postage due, it was not intentional. Just let me know and I'll make it up to you. Overall the members are doing an excellent job of getting things to me with the right postage. Thanks!

One other thing while I'm thinking about mail. It is fine to send me things by certified, registered or insured mail, BUT please realize that I will not get it as quickly. That goes for some of the express mail services, too. This is because I have to sign for that stuff at the post office several miles away rather than the local post office where the POBox is actually located, and I usually cannot get to the other post office except on Saturdays. So, if that type of mail arrives on a Monday, I may not get it until almost a week later.



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLUB

If mail from the Club seems slow, remember this is a 1-man, part-time operation right now.

Newsletters go out in March, June, September and December. Make sure and notify me of your change of address, if any. The "**pen pal / collectors**" list goes out in March and September. If you want to be on the list and have not previously let me know, do so at any time. If you want your name removed from the list, let me know. You can assume everybody on the list is a collector and would like to hear from you. Beyond that, there is not much I can do with the limited time I have to devote to this. Start writing each other! Updated **discographies and bibliographies** will go out to those who renew their membership. Updates to those lists will be done each June.

VERY IMPORTANT: ANY TIME YOU WISH TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE CLUB OTHER THAN THE REGULAR NEWSLETTERS THAT WILL COME AS PART OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE SEND ME A STAMPED BUSINESS SIZE (4 X 9) ENVELOPE. THIS WILL HELP KEEP EXPENSES AND FEES DOWN. THANKS!

Also important: do not send me anything but U.S. stamps or an International Reply Coupon which you can get at the post office in your country. Foreign stamps will not work here!

By far the thing most people have expressed interest in is trading **concert tapes**. There are literally hundreds of audio tapes and countless hours of video of Stevie Ray's shows. The club cannot sanction selling these tapes because it is illegal. The members have told me that they object to the sale of such tapes, but enjoy trading because nobody profits except in the enjoyment of concerts we won't be able to attend anymore. Several of you have mentioned that you never had the opportunity to see him perform in person, and the tapes are the only way to experience it now. Very little of what I have heard would substitute for an official release because of the lesser quality of these tapes, and the fact that most who collect unofficial tapes would buy the official release to keep their collection complete anyway. So, the record company is not losing anything. Reselling most memorabilia like posters etc. is legal because the original sale of the item was legal, but bootleg tapes should not be sold. The Club cannot protect you, and if you buy, sell or trade tapes, you are acting at your own risk.

The club cannot return phone calls unless you authorize a collect call. I would like to put in a phone line for the club, but I would have to raise the membership fee. Once I see how membership renewals go, I will decide whether to get a phone. If everyone drops out after the first year, I do not want to end up in a financial hole. If you have enjoyed the news and bulletin boards, please renew! (Each membership fee covers four issues.)

BULLETIN BOARD NUMBER 4

I have a bunch of records, posters etc. for sale (no bootlegs), but in lieu of a lengthy bulletin board this issue, I have arranged for you to receive the first catalog of SRV merchandise from my friends at Pepperland. Look for it to arrive soon. You can send a SASE anytime for the latest list of memorabilia which I have available.

Please be aware that George Hostilo, 303 Braden St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240 is looking for collectors of backstage passes.

The club is looking for concert posters and handbills, promotional items and other rare memorabilia. Please let me know what you have which you will trade or sell. As always, even if you won't part with your items, I would like a photo of them for archival purposes.

Concert photos of Stevie at his last hometown concert, June 17, 1990.

- a. "The Grimace" great shot of SRV, eyes tightly closed and head back. Classic.
- b. Stevie playing guitar behind his back.
- c. Stevie singing while B.B. King plays along with him.

Photos of other artists available, send me your want list. (Arc Angels, Buddy Guy, Clapton, Eric Johnson, Ringo, McCartney, Cocker, John Lee Hooker, B.B. King, J. Winter, etc.)

Photos of SRV statue also available. (Video of ceremony with Jimmie, Tommy, Chris \$20)

Each photo made from the original color negative 5x7 = \$8.00; 8x10 = \$14

Original movie posters from Stevie's only movie appearance. Colorful movie poster with picture of Stevie from the film, Back to the Beach. Also has pictures of other stars of the film. Becoming a real collector's item. I have a few at \$25.

Embroidered crew patch from the Alpine Valley show. Black, red and silver patch says "Eric Clapton and his Band, with Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble, The Robert Cray Band, August 25-26, 1990, Alpine Valley." Very nice piece. Said to be less than 80 made. \$175.

SPECIAL OFFER: 1970'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF SRV

The 21 photos on the following page were taken in the very early days of Stevie Ray's career. In fact, they are the earliest photos of Stevie which are available, to my knowledge. (Dig those bell-bottom pants in some shots!) There are a lot of photos of Stevie Ray out there, but these are really cool.

The photos are black and white, 8" x 10," printed from the original negatives. They are \$40 for a set of any three photos (please indicate which of the photos you want by their numbers). Add \$12 for each additional photo over the minimum order of three (\$52 for four; \$64 for five, etc.). Please make checks payable to Lee Hopkins.

Kathy's photos are numbered from 1 to 21, and are as follows:

1 and 2: Little Stevie Vaughan in The Nightcrawlers, appearing at the legendary Armadillo World Headquarters in Austin, Texas, 1973.

3, 4 and 5: Stevie Vaughan in The Cobras at the Armadillo in Austin, Texas, 1976.

6, 7 and 8: Stevie Vaughan in The Cobras at Soap Creek Saloon in Austin, Texas 1976.

9 and 10: Stevie Vaughan in The Cobras at the famous Antone's nightclub, the Home of the Blues in Austin, Texas, 1976.

11 and 12: Ronnie Earl, Stevie Vaughan and W.C. Clark at the Rome Inn, Austin, Texas 1977.

13 and 14: Stevie Ray Vaughan in the early days of Double Trouble, at the Rome Inn, Austin, Texas 1978.

15, 16 and 17: Stevie Ray Vaughan and Double Trouble at the After Hours club, 1979. Note Lou Ann Barton in number 17, and Stevie's fedora - looks like a gangster with that hat. Glad he switched to the black bolero.

18 and 19: The Fabulous Thunderbirds at the Rome Inn, 1977. Yes, that is really Jimmie Vaughan on the far left!

20 and 21: The Cobras and The Fabulous Thunderbirds jam at the Armadillo, 1977. Joe Sublett on sax, Kim Wilson on harp and vocals, Jimmie Vaughan on guitar, Alex Napier on bass, Paul Ray on vocals, and Stevie Vaughan on guitar. What a jam!

STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN EARLY YEARS IN AUSTIN

Page 9

1



2



3



4



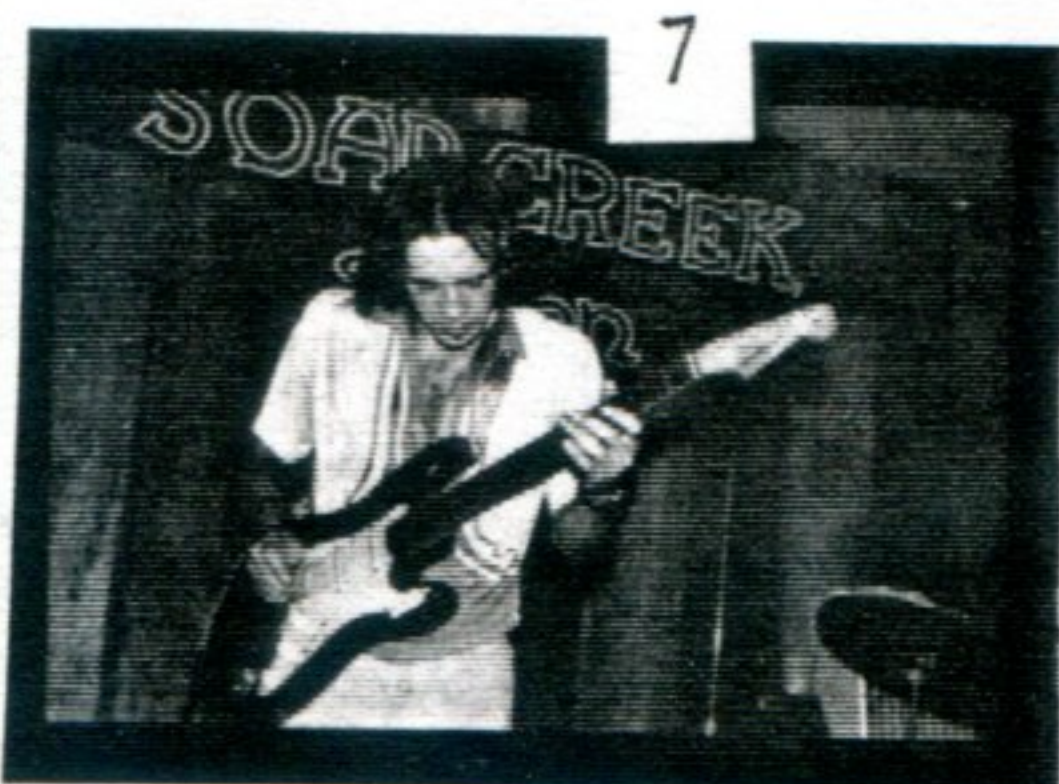
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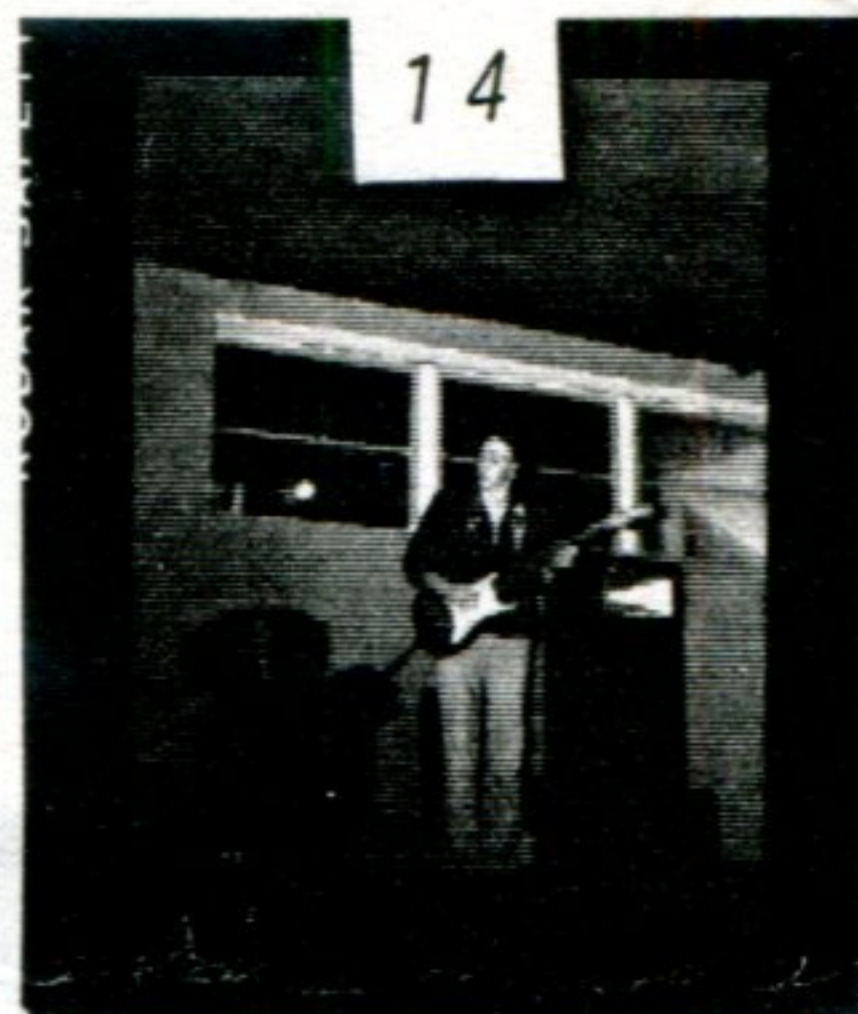
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PHOTOS COPYRIGHT BY KATHY MURRAY

Note: Photographic prints are far superior to this Xerox copy

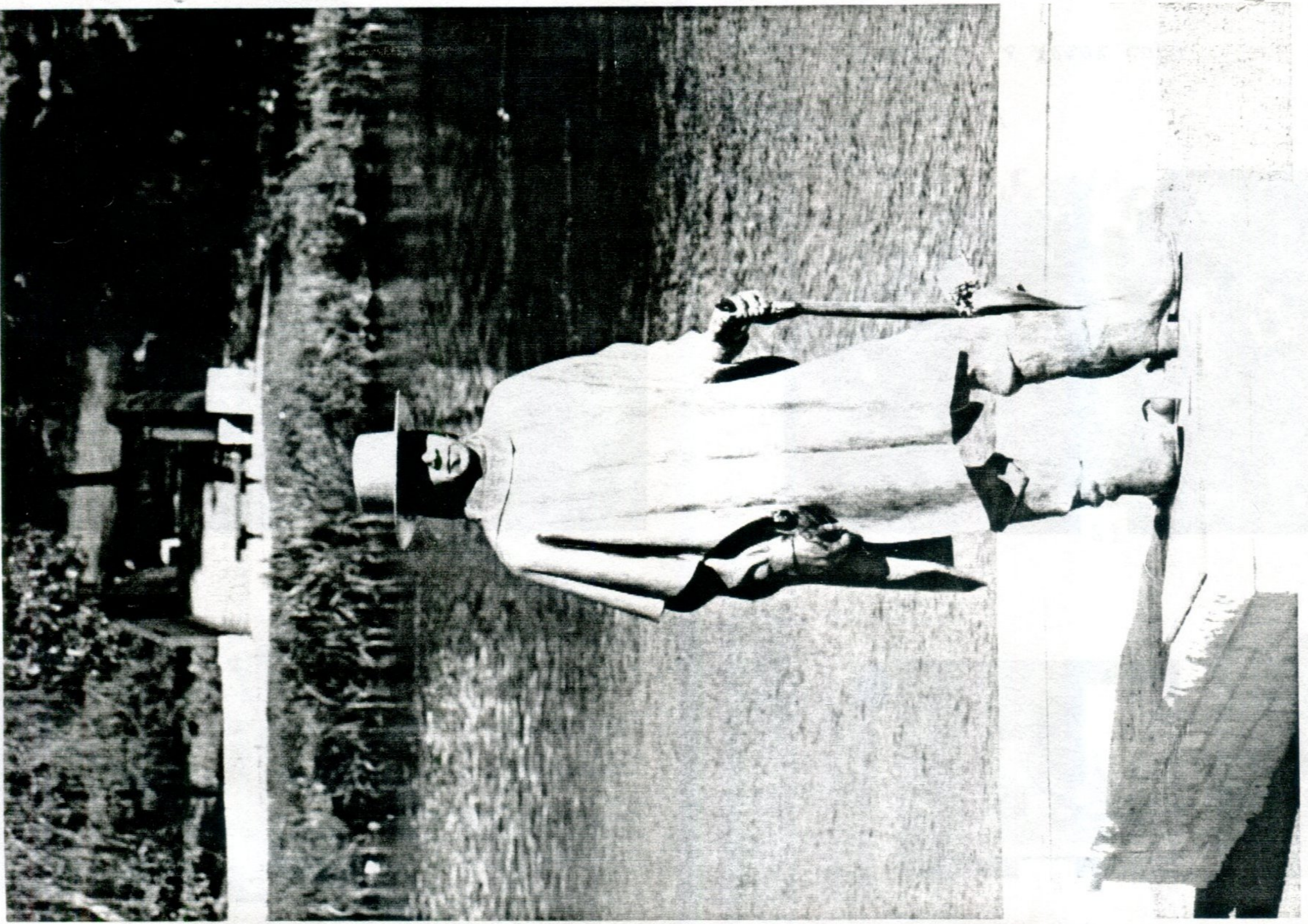


Photo By C. Lee Hopkins

SAY



WHAT!

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AIR MAIL