

# Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia  
Blues Society

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

**"Mountains of Blues"**

**Thursday, October 23, 2008**

**Vol. 1, Issue 11**

The [WVBluesSociety](http://www.wvbluesociety.com) 'lectric bluzletter aka "Mountains of Blues in the Mountain State" is a weekly newsletter of blues information in the Mountain State and beyond. Brought to you by the West Virginia Blues Society the "bluzletter" goes out as a service to our "bluz friends" wherever you might be. The bluzletter is an attempt to CONNECT & INFORM of the happenings in and at times outside our area. We never use your e-mail address for anything without your consent, and no one has access to our e-mail list. If you know of someone who would like to receive our 'lectric bluzletter in the future a membership service form is provided on the webiste. If you do NOT want to receive any future updates please reply with, Please No More.

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## **BIRTHDAY:**

Oct 20 1959 Vasti Jackson McComb, MS  
Oct 21 1925 Charles Isaiah aka Doc Ross Tunica, MS  
Oct 23 1933 Carol Fran Lafayette, LA  
Oct 24 1911 Sonny Terry Greensboro, NC  
Oct 24 1936 Jimmy Dawkins Tchula, MS  
Oct 25 1971 Rosie Ledet Eunice, LA  
Oct 26 1949 Shirley King West Memphis, AR  
Oct 27 1909 Henry Townsend Shelby, MS

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## **WHATS HAPPENIN' IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":**

### **PASSING-**

LEVI STUBBS, lead singer of THE FOUR TOPS passed away Fri Oct 17th at 72. He had been ill and died in his sleep at the Detroit house he shared with his wife. He was born June 6th, 1936 in Detroit. Attended Pershing High School, where he met the other members of the group. After singing at a birthday party they decided to call themselves the Four Aims but later changed the name to The Four Tops. They had 19 Top-40 singles from 1964 thru the early 1980's.

(Tuscaloosa News, 10/18/08)- Levi Stubbs didn't need to be Levi Stubbs and The Tops. He was content, with his three friends, to be that guy in The Four Tops... His was the lead, that husky baritenor promising that if you reached out, he'd be there; warning Renee to just walk away because the empty sidewalks on his block were not the same; but that he really couldn't help himself, you were his sugar pie honey bunch... I'll miss that voice, so raw, so emotive, so distinctive, so rare in this world of corporate-machine voices programmed and studio-fied to be mock-pained, to be cutesy, to be clean and radio-friendly... Levi was one of the Tops, and one of a kind.

(Washington Post, 10/18/08)- One of the most formidable groups after the Temptations... the Four Tops were responsible for setting "a high standard for contemporary soul in the mid-Sixties," according to their 1990 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. The citation singled out Mr. Stubbs for his "bold, dramatic readings" of some of the finest compositions by the Motown songwriting-production team of Holland, Dozier and Holland... their talent and appeal were undiminished over the years. They made hundreds of concert dates annually... A New Yorker reporter attending a Four Tops performance in 1993 wrote that it was "less of an oldies show than a master class in the golden age of Motor City soul."

### **PAT RAMSEY BENEFIT UPDATE-**

The benefit for [PAT RAMSEY](#) will be this Friday Oct 24th at American Legion, Lake Ella, Tallahassee, FL.

Any further donations can be sent to:

J.P. Ramsey

PO Box 21147

Tallahassee, FL 32316

Word on Monday Oct 20th from Steve Howell: "Pat is very excited and will be at this show. He'll try to play harp but that will be too hard for him as he gets winded very quick. I asked him to maybe concentrate on singing a song. I believe that will be all he could handle is one song. I know he wants to thank everyone for all they have done. He has been very overwhelmed (as have I ) by all of the support and can't believe what is about to happen on Friday to help him with his medical expenses. Especially with the times our economy is in. The response to this has been more than great..."

## **"GATOR BITES"-**

[Alligator Records](#) of Chicago announces that [JANIVA MAGNESS](#) will be a featured artist on the nationally syndicated NPR radio program, "Mountain Stage" in Charleston. The performance and interview will air across the nation on the show's various affiliates starting Oct 24th. Tune in to catch Janiva and her band perform songs from her critically acclaimed album, "What Love Will Do". Click on

<http://www.mountainstage.org/mtnstageaffiliates.aspx> for local times and listings.

"What Love Will Do" held the #1 spot on the Living Blues Radio Chart for the months of July and Aug. The CD was donated to WVBluesSociety by [Blues Revue](#) and included in the WVBluesSociety "Blues Basket" drawing two weeks ago. Won by Bill of New Martinsville during Appalachian Blues Competition in Fairmont. It can also be purchased at the sale price of \$13.98 including free shipping via [Alligator Records](#).

## **ATTENTION CHICAGO FANS-**

[Illinois Blues Blast Magazine](#) has secured a group rate for rooms for the Blues Blast Music Awards at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago on Sun Nov 2nd at the Travelodge Hotel Downtown just one block from Buddy Guy's.

This event features some of the best Blues performers on the planet. Confirmed performers include Magic Slim & the Teardrops, Lurrie Bell, Nick Moss, Gerry Hundt, John Nemeth, The Kilborn Alley Blues Band, Dave Riley, Bob Corritore, Eden Brent, Sugar Ray Norcia, Teeny Tucker, Too Slim & the Taildragers, and Gina Sicilia.

Tickets are just \$25. GET YOUR TICKETS BEFORE THEY SELL OUT!

Rooms are available from Fri Oct 31st to Sun Nov 2nd at these discount rates so you can plan a weekend in the Blues Capital of the world in Chicago! Rooms are available for the following rates:

2 Full Size Beds \$139.00 + tax

1 Full Size Bed \$125.00 + tax

1 King Size Bed \$139.00 + tax

To secure these rates you must contact Darren Anderson, Group Coordinator of the Travelodge at 312-376-1481 and mention the IllinoisBlues.com rate. These rates are only available by contacting Darren. His hours are Mon-Fri 8:30AM-4:30PM

Remember to get your tickets for the show at <http://www.illinoisblues.com> too. This show will sell out. (Bob Kieser/Illinois Blues Blast)

## **WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL DEAL-**

Been listening to many different music styles/genres lately. Don't ya just love satellite radio! Everything from jazz to country to soul and yes, to BLUES. Also been handed a number of blues CD's recently from mostly new, not well known artists, for review or just to listen. Ain't got no problem with hearing some new blues talent (that is what keeps it alive right?)... and I certainly ain't one of 'em that thinks only blues worth listening to has to be something from post-war electric Chicago era. However, I do know the difference between blues and rock & roll and/or jazz and I know what I like and

don't like... and what I wanta hear and when I wanta hear it. Like ["Sunshine" Sonny Payne of KFFA radio](#), Helena, Arkansas says, "We don't hear blues anymore." Hey, if anybody should know, Sonny should... So when I put on some *REAL DEAL BLUES* here are 'some of' the selections I normally reach for 1st.. not really a top-20 list and not in any particular order:

1. WILLIE KING- "Jukin' at Bettie's" (and anything else he does)
2. ROBERT BELFOUR- "Pushin' My Luck"
3. JAMES HARMAN BAND- "Strictly Live In '85 ...PLUS!"
4. SON HOUSE- "Complete 1965 Recordings"
5. JUNIOR WELLS- "Hoodoo Man Blues"
6. JIMMY "DUCK" HOLMES- "Back to Bentonia"
7. BUDDY GUY- "Slippin' In"
8. "The Best of LEROY CARR" (1928-1935)
9. TOMMY JOHNSON- "Complete recorded works..."
10. "The Essential SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON" (1955-1964)
11. PINK ANDERSON- "Carolina Blues Man" Vol I
12. MUDDY WATERS- "Muddy 'Mississippi' Waters/Live" (and 'almost' everything else hes done)
13. PAUL OSCHER- "Alone With The Blues"
14. LUTHER ALLISON- "Soul Fixin' Man"
15. ALBERT KING & OTIS RUSH- "Door to Door"
16. BLIND WILLIE McTELL- "Broke Down Engine Blues"
17. B.B. KING- "Live at the Regal"
18. R.L. BURNSIDE- "Too Bad Jim"
19. WILLIAM CLARKE- "Blowin' Like Hell"
20. ALBERT COLLINS- "Live at Montreux"

...just part of a much longer list... if you have some favorites of your own let us know...

### **SURROUNDED BY BLUES/NEWS FROM THE BORDER STATES-**

[Baltimore Blues Society](#) - JOE SANTRIANI & MOUNTAIN w/LESLIE WEST @ Rams Head Live, Baltimore Wed 10/22

[Blue Ridge Blues Society](#) - [DEREK TRUCKS BAND](#) @ The Jefferson Center, Roanoke, VA Fri 10/24... [BRYAN LEE](#) @ Blue5 Restaurant, Roanoke, VA Thur 10/30... [ROOMFUL OF BLUES](#) @ State Theater, Falls Church, VA Fri 10/31

[Blues, Jazz & Folk Music Society](#) - Chicago Blues Party w/CHICO BANKS & TORONZO CANNON Fri 11/21 @ Lafayette Hotel, Marietta

[Blues Society of Western PA](#) - Membership Meeting Sat 10/25, 7PM @ Molly Brannigan's, Pittsburgh

[Columbus Blues Alliance](#) Columbus' TEENY TUCKER at the [Illinois Blues Blast Awards @ Buddy Guy's Legends](#), Chicago Sun 11/2... 12th Annual Blues for Tots Benefit & Charity Auction, Sun 11/30 @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus. Donations for Charity Auction – contact Jim at [JBiersdorf@gmail.com](mailto:JBiersdorf@gmail.com)

[DC Blues Society](#) "Blues Jam" every Sunday @ [Bangkok Blues](#), Falls Church, VA

[Kentucky Blues Society](#) congratulates BRIAN WITTY, winner of solo/duo Kentucky Blues Challenge... Round II (band finals) is Sun 10/26 @ WhaBah, Bowling Green, KY

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## ***THIS WEEKEND IN THE "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":***

### **Friday Oct 24th:**

No Bad JuJu- Headliners, Bridgeport, WV  
Dennis McClung Blues Band- The Purple Fiddle, Thomas, WV  
The Zen Blues Band- Larry B's, Westerville, OH  
Patty Spadaro- Roadworthy Restaurant & Lounge, West Liberty, WV  
The Catch Blues Band @ Big C's Lounge, Middlebourne, WV  
Front Porch Showcase- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Hurricane, WV  
Alvin Jett & Phatt Noiz- Court Street Grill, Pomeroy, OH  
Appalachian Jazz- El Gran Sabor, Elkins, WV  
Sweety- Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg, WV

### **Saturday Oct 25th:**

The Biscuit Rollers- Uncle Charlie's, Crozet, VA  
Soup Camel- Blue Moose Cafe, Morgantown, WV  
Holy Cow!- Bluegrass Kitchen, Charleston  
The Blues Cannibals- Joyce & Ted's, Walker, WV  
The Catch Blues Band- Elm Grove Eagles, Wheeling  
Vinnie & the Lubricators- The Brewery, Marietta, OH  
Jimmy Adler Blues Band- (WVU Halloween Party) Mountaineer Ballroom, Morgantown  
2-Blue- Clay County Park (1:00PM), Clay, WV  
2-Blue- Chimney Corner Cafe (6:00PM), Ansted, WV  
David Bromberg & Jorma Kaukonen- Fur Peace Ranch, Pomeroy, OH (sold out)  
John Lilly- Leland Guitars, Fayetteville, WV  
Dennis McClung Blues Band- Rhythm & Brews, Morgantown  
SoulVillage- Club T&C's (Undo's in the Grove), Wheeling

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## ***"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:***

## Wednesday 10/22:

"the book" on MOANIN' MICHELLE MALONE @ The Court Street Grill Wed 10/22-

"Adventurous, slithery and ebullient slide - sings and plays with cool confidence throughout like Bonnie Raitt." - Blues Revue

"Michelle Malone is as raw, magnificent, dirty and low down as anything you'd ever want to hear in Blues music!" - Dan 'Elwood' Akroyd, House of Blues... AND the venue owner tells me *"Will lead you down to the Crossroads and leave you dazed, disheveled, and half-naked!"* whooooo! that's enough for me, ain't missin' this...

DO NOT GO to The Front Row in Parkersburg this Saturday 10/25 expecting to see JIMMY THACKERY... [JamBase](#) says he will be there but The Front Row no longer books live music...

unknown to me... which ain't nothin' new, but... [SWEETY](#), performing @ [Carnegie Hall](#) in Lewisburg this Friday Oct 24th, sounds very interesting. Website says, "Sweety has been performing in the Greenbrier Valley since 2002. This ensemble of talent has developed a following in the area showcasing their originals and cover tunes from various artists as Deanna Boggart, Bonnie Raitt, Rod Piazza, Norah Jones, Sippie Wallace, Michelle Shocked, Shemekia Copeland, Duke Ellington, and Chuck Berry with a Sweety twist." hmmm.... somebody please check this out lil' closer and then fill me in..... Sweety can also be seen @ Robert's Antiques on "First Fridays After Five" in Lewisburg.

check out Gary Miller's photos of Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival as well as Pinetop Perkins Homecoming @ Hopson Plantation at <http://www.bluessource.com>.

also photos of MAHAJIBEE BLUES @ Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival at <http://www.mahajibeeblues.com/home.html>... although Mahajibee did not win the Appy Blues Comp, they certainly did impress everyone there that day... their song "[Little Man](#)" has been #1 on Cashbox Indie Picks selected by Cashbox Magazine for 7 weeks... they will be at Roadworthy Restaurant in West Liberty, WV Sat Nov 29th.

if yer in The Delta during the Thanksgiving holidays... [Ground Zero Blues Club, Clarksdale](#) will host a fundraiser for the 2009 Sunflower River Blues & Jazz Festival Wed Nov 26th...

Tue Oct 28th BOOKER T. & THE MG's, THE MEMPHIS HORNS, and the MUSCLE SHOALS RHYTHM SECTION will become the newest members of the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville, TN (blueswax)

[International Songwriting Competition](#) has extended its submission deadline until Dec 1st. ISC will continue to take online, mail-in, and MySpace entries until this date... must be postmarked or uploaded online on or before Dec 1st... if you have not already entered and wish to do so, you still have time. (thanks Barrelhouse Bonnie)

[BILLY PRICE](#) w/[THE NIGHTHAWKS](#) gots ta be awesome... and it's all gonna happen in December... Fri Dec 19th they will be @ Moondog's in da Burgh (Blawnox)... and on Sat Dec 20th they will travel to our friends in [Billtown Blues Association](#) of NorthCentral PA to the Genetti Hotel, Williamsport, PA...

**next week-**

Mon 10/27: DIABLO BLUES BAND @ The Empty Glass, Charleston

Fri 10/31:

JIMMY THACKERY @ Moondog's, Blawnox, PA

THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ Down On Main St, Wheeling

CRACKER STACKWELL @ Black Bear Burritos, Morgantown

Sat 11/1:

LUKE JIVETALKER @ The Iron Gate, Pt Pleasant, WV

THE CATCH BLUES BAND @ The Office Lounge/McClure Hotel, Wheeling

DIABLO BLUES BAND w/*ROBERT ALTMANN* @ The Empty Glass, Charleston

CRACKER STACKWELL @ Mountain State Brewing Co, Thomas, WV

THE BLUES CANNIBALS @ The Polo Club, Parkersburg

Sat/Sun 11/1-11/2: "Weekend of Soul & Blues" @ Thunderbird Cafe, Lawrenceville, PA

Sun 11/2:

[THE JIMI VINCENT BAND](#) host the [Columbus Blues Alliance](#) Blues Jam @ The Thirsty Ear, Columbus, OH

in a little bit,  
crawlinkingsnake