Tommy McClennan - I'm a Guitar King 1939-42 (1990)

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1. Brown Skin Girl - 2:48 2. Baby Don't You Want To Go - 2:59 3. I'm Goin' Don't You Know - 2:50 4. She's Just Good Hin'-Size - 3:00 5. My Little Girl - 2:53 6. My Baby's Doggin' Me -2:42 7. She's A Good Looking Mama - 2:55 8. New Sugar Mama - 3:00 9. Down To Skin And Bones - 2:45 10. Katie Mae Blues - 2:46 11. Love With A Feeling - 3:01 12. Drop Down Mama - 2:54 13. Black Minnie - 2:57 14. Elsie Blues - 3:02 15. Cross Cut Saw Blues - 2:51 16. You Can't Read My Mind - 3:05 17. Deep Blue Sea Blues - 3:05 18. I'm A Guitar King - 2:52 19. It's A Cryin' Pity - 2:55 20. Mozelle Blues - 3:00 21. Bluebird Blues - 2:55 Personnel: Tommy McClennan - Guitar, Vocals Robert Petway - Guitar, Vocals

A gravel-throated back-country blues growler from the Mississippi Delta, Tommy McClennan was part of the last wave of down-home blues guitarists to record for the major labels in Chicago. His rawboned 1939-1942 Bluebird recordings were no-frills excursions into the blues bottoms. He left a powerful legacy that included "Bottle It Up and Go," "Cross Cut Saw Blues," "Deep Blue Sea Blues" (aka "Catfish Blues"), and others whose lasting power has been evidenced through the repertoires and re-recordings of other artists. Admirers of McClennan's blues would do well to check out the 1941-1942 Bluebird sessions of Robert Petway, a McClennan associate who performed in a similar but somewhat more lyrical vein. McClennan never recorded again and reportedly died a destitute alcoholic in Chicago; blues researchers have been unable to confirm the date or circumstances of his death. --- Jim O'Neal, Rovi

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