

## Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Vol.17

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 30 March 2016 16:09 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 March 2016 18:54

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01. *Morning love blues* 02. *You know you don't love me* 03. *Too hot to hold* George Conner (as George Corner) - vocals, guitar + band Chicago, Ill. 1962
04. *Poor boy* 05. *Back in town*  
George Conner (as Birmingham George) - vocals, guitar Billy Emerson – organ Otis Rush – guitar Lonnie Brooks – guitar, bass, drums Chicago, Ill. 1965
06. *I love my baby* 07. *Try and understand*  
Big Daddy Simpson (Marcellus Simpson) - vocals, guitar + band Chicago, Ill. 1960
08. *What can I do* 09. *You don't believe a word I say*  
Big Daddy Simpson - vocals, guitar Middle Walter (James Jones) – harmonica + band Chicago, Ill. 14 January 1963
10. *Give me back my ring* 11. *Let your hair down baby* 12. *Lonely man*  
Big Daddy Simpson - vocals, guitar + band Chicago, Ill. October 1963
13. *Someday baby* 14. *So hard I & II* 15. *Don't leave me* 16. *I'm in love with you*  
Melvin Simpson - vocals, guitar Middle Walter – harmonica + band Chicago, Ill. 1964
17. *Look out Mabel I & II* 18. *Did you ever love somebody I & II*  
G.L. Crockett – vocals Louis Myers – guitar Henry Gray – piano, bass, drums Chicago, Ill. June 1958
19. *It's a man down there* 20. *Every hour every day* 21. *Every goodbye ain't gone* 22. *Watch my 32*  
G.L. Crockett – vocals Louis Myers – guitar Henry Gray – piano Lorenzo Smith – tenor saxophone Reggie Boyd – bass, drums Chicago, Ill. 17 June 1965
23. *Think twice before I go* 24. *Gonna make you mine*  
G.L. Crockett – vocals Louis Myers – guitar Henry Gray – piano Lorenzo Smith – tenor saxophone Reggie Boyd – bass, drums Chicago, Ill. January 1966

With this 17th (!!!) volume of our "Chicago/ The blues Yesterday" series, let's bring the spotlight once again upon three very lesser known Chicago bluesmen who, anyway, also making their own contribution to this great style.

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Singer and guitarist "Birmingham" George Conner (born 25 May 1934 at Reform, Alabama) is still performing on festivals! Before being rediscovered in the 2000's and recording again thanks to the Music Maker Relief Foundation (and with his friend Willie King), Conner lived in Chicago for three decades, holding a blues club "The Place" and recording two much sought after singles under the names George Corner (sic) and Birmingham George, this last one backed by Otis Rush and Lonnie Brooks! George has gone back to Alabama during the 1980's, opening again a club.

Although he has substantially recorded, singer and guitarist Big Daddy Simpson (probably Marcellus Simpson and not Melvin as it is generally told) is still shrouded in some mystery. Simpson has lived and played in Gary, Indiana with John and Grace Brim (who might be on some of his recordings), coming to Chicago for some gigs and recording sessions. It seems that for at least the last session inhere it is his son Melvin Simpson who replaces his father who went ill just before the studio. The harmonica on many of those recordings is blown by another mysterious name, Middle Walter (sic), in fact James Jones. Melvin will also play and record behind Big Daddy Kinsey.

G. L. Crockett (George Crockett) is better known for his two "hits". Born in Carrollton, Ms on 18th September 1928, Crockett came to Chicago at the end of Second World War and began to sing with several West Side blues bands for whom he also composed songs. This is his friend Louis Myers (who also plays the guitar) who brought him in the studios in 1958 for the recording of the fabulous Rockabilly blues tune, Look out Mabel. In 1965, G.L. Crockett would again hit the Chicago charts with It's a man down there, a great blues that will also be recorded by Jimmy Reed and Sonny Boy (Rice Miller). Unfortunately, George Crockett died shortly afterwards in Chicago on 15th February 1967. --- Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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