

The Piano Blues Vol. 7 - 'Don't Cry When I'm Gone' - Leroy Carr 1930-1935 (1978)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 23 August 2015 16:14 -

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1. Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell - Barrel House Woman No. 2 2. Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell - Good Woman Blues 3. Leroy Carr - Ain't It A Shame 4. Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell- George Street Blues 5. Leroy Carr - Just A Rag 6. Leroy Carr - Alabama Women Blues 7. Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell- I Believe I'll Make A Change 8. Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell - Don't Start No Stuff 9. Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell - Take A Walk Around the Corner 10. Leroy Carr - New How Long Blues Pt 2 11. Leroy Carr - Four Day Rider 12. Leroy Carr - Rocks In My Bed 13. Leroy Carr - Sloppy Drunk Blues 14. Leroy Carr - Going Back Home 15. Leroy Carr - Big Four Blues 16. Leroy Carr & Scrapper Blackwell - It's Too Short
Leroy Carr – vocals, piano Scrapper Blackwell - guitar

Leroy Carr was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1905 where his father worked at the Vanderbilt University. When Leroy was quite young his parents separated and his mother moved the family to Indianapolis. He taught himself how to play the piano at an early age and when he left school he joined the army. After his stint in the service, he got married, and began work as a bootlegger when Prohibition was at its height. By the mid 1920's, he was able to quit the bootleg industry and earn his living playing piano. Unfortunately by then he had developed a tremendous liking for whiskey and was probably an alcoholic by the late 1920's.

"Scrapper" Blackwell was born in Syracuse, South Carolina in 1903 and he claimed to be of Cherokee descent, a claim that his appearance tended to support. When he was very young, his family moved to Indianapolis, where he spent most of his life. Little is known of Blackwell's early life, partly because he retired in the mid-30s before blues became a subject of serious writing, and partly because he possessed a very quiet, reserved personality. He was largely self-taught as a guitarist and besides becoming a successful illicit liquor producer in the 1920's,

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he played guitar at dances and rent parties around Indianapolis to supplement his income. Inevitably his path soon crossed with that of Leroy Carr, given their common interests of music and moonshine. However Blackwell didn't consider himself a professional musician until Carr persuaded him to record with him in a 1928 session for Vocalion. During that first session, the duo recorded "How Long How Long Blues". The song was a huge nationwide hit and established Carr and Blackwell as the biggest male blues recording stars from 1928 until Carr's death in 1935.

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