

Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Volume 10

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01. *Special Agent 34-24-38* 02. *I wanna be your radio* Mamie Galore (Mamie Davis) – vocals Monk Higgins – keyboards Freddie Robinson – guitar + band Chicago, 1965
03. *It ain't necessary* 04. *Don't think I could stand it* 05. *Mistaken wedding* 06. *You got the power*
Mamie Galore – vocals Monk Higgins – keyboards Freddie Robinson – guitar + band Chicago, 1966
07. *Ooh Wee what's wrong with me?* 08. *I'm a young rooster* 09. *Why do I love you so?* 10. *Come back to me*
Leon Tarver- vocals, piano Red Holloway – tenor saxophone, guitar Willie Dixon – bass, drums The Chordettes – vocals Chicago, 16 January 1954
11. *Soup line* 12. *It's my fault*
Leon Tarver- vocals, piano The Chordettes – vocals + band Chicago, 20 April 1954
13. *Somebody help me* 14. *Oh baby I'm blue*
Leon Tarver- vocals, piano Sax Mallard – alto saxophone Lewis Ogletree – trumpet Cliff Davis – tenor saxophone Jimmy Richards - bass Red Saunders – drums Chicago, December 1955
15. *I say no no more* 16. *I won't hurt you no more* 17. *Guess what it was* 18. *I'll make a new world*
Frances Burr – vocals K.J. Trio + band Chicago, 1963

The tenth volume (!) of this popular series starts with Mamie Galore, a noted Soul singer who has anyway first recorded very bluesy 45t (particularly the superb *Special Agent 34-24-38* b/w *I wanna be your radio*), produced by Monk Higgins with Freddie Robinson playing the guitar. Born Mamie Davis at Erwin (Mississippi) 24th September 1940, she started to sing at a very young age in church, then becoming the lead singer of the Greenville R&B band Herman Scott & The Swinging Kings. She was once a member of the Ike & Tina Turner Review, toured alongside Little Milton Band and started a solo career when settling in Chicago in 1965. She recorded quite steadily during a couple of years but with only moderate commercial success. She followed Higgins in California for awhile but came back to Mississippi in 1972, singing then mostly Gospel. She died in Jackson, Ms on October, 7th 2011.

Singer and pianist Leon Tarver started a musical career with the doo wop group The Cardinals before trying as a solo act in Chicago in 1954-55. He recorded eight titles (all are here), even a Chess session of two 45s produced by Willie Dixon that are much sought after items. After that he disappeared completely from the musical scene.

Then we have the enigmatic singer Frances Burr whose terrific I say no no more is highly regarded in some circles as one of the all time R&B masterpieces. She has recorded only two singles in 1963 and all the attempts to find her whereabouts have proved unsuccessful. But the indefatigable Mr Mightygroove (see his blog <http://soul-in-groove.eklablog.com/>) has unearthed a photo of the young lady, proving that, despite everything that has been written on her, is a white girl, that is anyway quite evident considering her way of singing for the time.--- Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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