

## Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Volume 12

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01. *Crying* 02. *Sad story* 03. *Elgin movements* 04. *Date bait* Blue Smitty (Claude Smoth)  
– vocals, guitar Malron Jeff – piano Bob Stewart – bass Ike Smith – drums Chicago, 11 July  
1952 05. *Ain't got a lousy  
dime* 06. *Lousy dime* 07. *The sun is rising!* 08. *I won't be happy* 09. *I wanna school you pretty  
baby* Poor Bob  
Woodfork – vocals, guitar Henry Gray – piano Buddy Guy – guitar Mighty Joe Young – guitar  
Willie Dixon – bass Clifton James – drums Chicago, 25 June 1965  
10. *How sweet it is* 11. *To be in love with someone* 12. *Ain't nothing but a titty* 13. *Good food,  
I am for you* 14. *I found someone to love me*  
Menard Rogers – vocals, tenor saxophone, piano Douglas Fagan – tenor saxophone Allan  
Batts – organ Jesse Williams – guitar poss. Johnny Littlejohn – guitar Aron Burton – bass  
Herbert White – drums Chicago, 1968-72

Blue Smitty opens this 12th volume of our ever popular "Chicago/The blues Yesterday" series. Smitty born Claude Smith on November, 10th 1924 in Marianna (Arkansas) learned to play blues guitar with the records of Arthur Crudup and Tampa Red but began to switch towards jazz when drafted during the war years. He befriended with several jazz guitarists who showed him how to play like Charlie Christian or Floyd Smith. When he settled in Chicago around 1947, Smitty began to play in blues and jazz clubs altogether. When he auditioned for Chess in 1952, he recorded four blues with a much jazzier and modern touch than the usual Chicago's blues sessions of this time. He recorded unfortunately only four excellent titles. After he went to live in Joliet, Smitty played during the 1950's and 60's in many Illinois towns. He was rediscovered and interviewed in length by the indefatigable Jim O'Neal and George Paulus but he wasn't interested to restart a musical career. Smitty died in Herrin (Illinois) on May, 5th 2009.

Poor Bob Woodfork hailed also from Lake Village, Arkansas where he was born on March 13th, 1925. He recorded and played with many major Chicago blues acts like Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Rogers, George Smith or Otis Rush but he recorded only one session as a leader. A great

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moment anyway produced by Willie Dixon and featuring his soulful vocals backed by the stinging guitars of Buddy Guy and Mighty Joe Young. Despite great hopes to record again and tour Europe, Woodfork did not and died in Chicago on June 10th, 1988.

The blues buffs know saxophonist, pianist and bandleader Menard Rogers (born in Duncan, Ms on February 4th, 1929 - † on December 16th, 2006 in Chicago, Ill) for backing Johnny Littlejohn on his 1968 Arhoolie LP masterpiece. But Menard and his band (probably featuring Littlejohn) also recorded a handful of good 45s under his name largely unreissued. We are featuring here some of his most blues oriented tracks. Menard also recorded a full LP (and hard to find) in 1981 but that our friend Xyros is so generously sharing. --- Gérard Herzhaft, [jukegh.blogspot.com](http://jukegh.blogspot.com)

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