

Texas - The Post War Blues Vol. 4 (1968)

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A1 –Jesse Thomas Texas Blues A2 –Jesse Thomas Gonna Write You A Letter A3 –Alex Moore Neglected Woman A4 –Alex Moore If I Lose You Woman A5 –Manny Nichols Walkin' Talkin' Blues A6 –Manny Nichols Tall Skinny Mama Blues A7 –Soldier Boy Houston Western Rider Blues A8 –Soldier Boy Houston Hug Me Baby B1 –Buddy Chiles Mistreated Blues B2 –Buddy Chiles Jet Black Woman B3 –Andy Thomas Baby Quit Me Blues B4 –Andy Thomas Angel Child B5 –Country Jim Old River Blues B6 –Country Jim I'll Take You Back B7 –Nat Terry Take It Easy B8 –Nat Terry I Don't Know Why

Jesse "Babyface" Thomas (February 3, 1911 – August 15, 1995) was an American Texas blues guitarist and singer. Known at different times as "Baby Face" or "Mule", and occasionally billed as "The Blues Troubadour", his career performing blues music extended eight decades. Born in Logansport, Louisiana, United States, Thomas is best known for the song "Blue Goose Blues", which he recorded for Victor in 1929. He recorded and performed throughout the 1940s and 1950s, based in the Los Angeles area. He recorded for Specialty Records in 1953. His career spanned over 60 years – in 1994 he appeared at the Long Beach Blues Festival. The Texas bluesman, Ramblin' Thomas, was his brother, and fellow Louisiana blues guitar player, Lafayette Thomas, was his nephew.

Whistlin' Alex Moore (1899 - 1989), blues pianist. Moore had one of the longest recording careers in blues history with his unique sound made by combining barrelhouse piano boogie with various other styles, such as blues, and ragtime. In the 1920s he acquired the nickname "Whistlin' Alex" for a piercing whistle he made with his lips curled back while playing the piano. He recorded six tracks for the Columbia Company in 1929. Although he made other recordings

over the next three decades he had little interest in the commercial aspect, thus continuing his day job. He was almost forgotten but was rediscovered during the 1960s throughout the United States and Western Europe. He toured with the American Folk Blues Festival in England, performing with Earl Hooker and Magic Sam. He was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, becoming the first African-American Texan to receive this honor. In 1988, Moore released his last recording "Wiggle Tail," a song that was recorded live. He was born Alexander Herman Moore.

Manny Nichols was a Texas country blues artist who like many of his peers, didn't leave behind a plentiful recording legacy. He started off cutting four sides for the tiny FBC label in Houston. Two of those sides were unissued but later appeared on a U.K. LP compilation. He later moved to the Imperial label recording four more songs. Issued on two 78 RPM records, all of those have appeared on reissue compilations by Imperial and Arhoolie. Some discographers claim that he later recorded under the name "West Texas Slim" while others have argued that the moniker belonged to Ernest "Buddy" Lewis. We'll probably never know for sure.

Lawyer Daniel Houston ('Soldier Boy') was born in Marshall, Texas in 1917. He was inducted into the army in 1941 and served until 1946. He re-enlisted two months later and served until 1961. His songs "In The Army Since 1941" and "Lawton, Oklahoma Blues" are loosely autobiographical accounts of his time in the Philippines and Fort Sill near Lawton. As writer Neal Slavin notes: "Apart from their unusually informative lyrics, Houston's songs are notable for the springy rhythms with which he accompanies himself. In essence, his style is close to that of Lil' Son Jackson...". Two further songs, 'Out In California Blues' and 'Going To The West Coast', were prophetic; in the former, Houston announces his intention of going to Los Angeles' Central Avenue to stay at the Hotel Dunbar, after which 'I'm going out to Hollywood and become a movie star'. The move took place but the Army intervened. They needed him in Korea, where war broke out on June 25, 1950. At his second and last recording session, "Far East Blues" and "Leavin' Korea" indicate a familiarity with Korea and Japan which in this artist's case is virtual proof of his presence there." Circa 1953/1954 Houston cut eight sides for the Hollywood label in Los Angeles with the sessions purchased by King Records. He died of pulmonary disease on December 3, 1999.

Country Jim, b. Jim Bledsoe, c.1925, near Shreveport, Louisiana, USA. A somewhat obscure character, Bledsoe made several records in Shreveport, in 1949-50. As the pseudonym suggests, his music was down-home country blues, accompanied only by his guitar, a string bass, and occasional drums. His first record was issued on the local Pacemaker label, under the name Hot Rod Happy, but the later ones appeared on Imperial and had wider distribution. A year or so later, he completed a couple of long sessions for the Specialty company, but nothing was issued at the time, although a few sides appeared on albums in the 70s.

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