BUDDY MOSS
by Derrick Stewart-Baxter

I would like to quote a brief extract from a reader’s letter as it is typical of a number I have received lately. Furthermore, it will serve as an introduction to a new series of brief pen sketches which I intend to feature in these columns during the next few months. "I wonder if it would be possible for you to include in each issue" (runs the letter) "a brief survey of some of the best blues singers, both known and unknown. I am sure this would be a great help to the average reader. So many record shops carry large stocks of Race items (to say nothing of the various trade lists we all receive) that it is practically impossible to pick out the "wheat from the chaff." Anything you may be able to write on the subject of blues singers, ancient and modern, would I am certain, act as a guide to many of us."

Now this seems to be a very good idea and one I hope to develop in the months to come. Naturally, it would be impossible to cover each and every singer that has recorded, the list would run in to thousands. I can only write from my own adequate notes, and use my own collection of singers as a framework. In time, perhaps, with the help of readers I may be able to make the listing fairly comprehensive. Each month then, there will be a note on a blues artist under the heading of "Watch for These.”

"WATCH FOR THESE" (No. 1)
It is one of the minor tragedies of our music that so many great singers remain in obscurity (the blues songs, although gaining in popularity, thanks to the great work of such men as Alan Lomax and our own Bob Grettin, are still of minority appeal). For every artist who becomes famous there must be a hundred who never receive the recognition that is their due. Such a man is Buddy Moss, who recorded a considerable number of blues for Okeh, and the Melotone, and Perfect labels. Moss is known to only a few collectors, and yet I have come across his records in the most unlikely places; old junk shops, dusty sale rooms, and once during the war when on inspection of property requisitioned by the army, in a little bungalow near the Sussex coast which had been occupied by the Canadians. I have often wondered what jazz loving soldier left his treasure behind.

Buddy Moss belongs to the grand tradition of folk singers. I would guess he learned his blues in the Deep South before making the long trip to one of the Northern cities, such as Chicago. His style, although a little less robust, is not unlike Blind Blake (with a trace of Big Bill Broonzy). He is direct and powerful and his material covers a wide field which is full of significance to the collector. In addition to his fine singing, he plays a superb guitar, while the Blake influence is most noticeable. On this instrument alone, he deserves recognition. Blackstone’s "INDEX TO JAZZ" mentions only a few titles—there are many more. At this point I would like to print a listing of the sides he made on Perfect, many of which were later issued on Okeh. Thanks are due to Bert Wyatt for his great assistance, for he was able to supply me with missing data where my own files were incomplete.

A LISTING OF BUDDY MOSS RECORDS ON PERFECT (acc. by own guitar)

0229 Cold Country Blues (12926), Backing by another artist.
0231 When I'm Dead and Gone (12938), Prowling Woman.
0237 TW’s Killing Me (12937), Hard Time Blues (12944).
0249 Bye Bye Mama (12907), Jealous Hearted Man (12947).
0259 B. & No. 2 (14064), Best of (14052).
0266 Broke Down Engine (14053), Bachelor’s Blues (14052).
0271 Can’t Use You No More (14032), Me 51264 (with partner).
0275 Midnight Ramblin’ (14055) (with partner).
0275 Married Man’s Blues (14017) (with partner).
0280 Somebody Keeps Calling Me (14030) (with partner).
0286 Restless Night Blues (14016) (with partner). Travellin’ Blues (14033) (with partner).
0288 Hard Road Blues (12940) Ok 0439, Daddy Don’t Care (12908) Ok 04393.
0296 Incme Blues (15547), When The Hearse Rolls From My Door (15380).
0302 Oh Lordy Mama (15550) Ok 04390, Misery Man Blues (15564) Ok 05589.
0307 Stinging Bull Nestle (15549), Love Me Baby, Love Me (15592).
0310 Some Lonesome Day (15522), Evil Hearted Woman (15570).
0325 Jinx Man Blues (15569) Ok 05626, Dough Rollin’ Papa (15551).
0333 Shake It All Night Long (15595) Me 1344, Someday Baby (15588) Ok 05589.

So much then for the Perfect listing. I have also on my files some items which are supposed to be Moss, but I lack definite proof. Perhaps some reader can help. Here are the titles: Ok 06473 Joy Rag/Unfinished Business, Ok 03432 Prowlin’ Gambler Blues/Red River Blues, Me 13443 Shake It All Night Long (backing unknown), Me 51159 You Got To Give Me Some Of It (backing unknown), Me 51264 Can’t Use You No More (Pe 0271)/Your Hard Head Will Bring You Sorrow Some Day, Me 60263 Mistreated Boy/Worriesome Woman, Me 61156 Grayve Carver/Tricks Ain’t Walking No More, Me 61158 Going To Your Funeral In A Ford V8 (backing unknown), Me 70170 My Baby Won’t Pay Me No Mind/Stop Hanging Around, Me 350927 Sleepless Night (backing unknown), Me 351015 New Loving Blues (backing unknown).

As I have said, Moss is amongst the very best of singers, and I have yet to hear a poor record. One of the best is “Jinx Man Blues/Dough Rollin’ Papa” on Pe 0325. “Jinx Man,” as it’s title implies is a bad luck blues song which Buddy sings with great feeling.

“I’m just a mistreated man ’an the jinxes don’t fool me,
I’m just a mistreated man ’an the jinxes don’t fool me,
Since my baby left me, seems like the whole world is down on me.
Hey Mama, when you comin’ home? Said, Hey Mama, when you comin’ home?
I’m just a mistreated man, ain’t done nothin’ wrong.”

TRUTH WILL OUT (3)
by D.C.

Contrary to popular practice, the names of Isham Jones, Otto Hardwick and Kai Winding are pronounced I-sham, O-to, and Ky Vinding.

Yours truly has been called a few things in his time also but is pleased to relate that most people pronounce the Swing Shop Seven Star Super Service as supreme. Funny way to pronounce it but there you are.

If you don’t know what the heck the S.S.S.S.S.S. is, watch out for this, or some similar, space next month. If you feel you can’t wait, just drop us a line straight away but, to make it harder for you, our address (as if you didn’t know it) was given last month.

(J.R.R.A. member, of course!)