

BLUES

UNLIMITED

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MONTHLY 2/-
(USA 30 Cents)

ARBEE
STIDHAM



ALBERT
COLLINS



BIG
WALTER PRICE



ROBERT
MCCOY

Before I left for North Carolina I was fortunate in being able to attend a fund-raising drive for Miles College, a local Negro college and among the finest in the nation. Robert McCoy, Vulkan and Soul-O recording artist and local blues singer, pianist and entertainer, Frank Adams, bandleader and my right-hand man on all sessions and myself donated the services of the Robert McCoy show.

I arrived at the club early enough to help set up the mikes and we were fortunate enough to get a good enough sound to record the show. We were so pleased with the tapes that we plan to issue them very shortly.

The people began to gather at the tables, and "Mr Red", the m/c, went about the business at hand and introduced the show and the Band, which played a few numbers, including my own "Goodbye", which I had issued on Soul-O 114 about a month before. I must say a few words about the band. They play excellently and blend well with each other. Frank Adams is without a doubt the finest sax-man & bandleader I know or have heard. Jesse Ellston plays some great blues piano and organ, and the drummer, "Cat-Eye" James Summerfield, is also one of the best in the business.

Next in the show was Frank's wife, Dot Adams, a fine singer and entertainer. She sang several currently popular songs including "Slip In Mules", a fine version of "That Ain't Right" and "St Louis blues". Her dancing and stage techniques are beautifully performed.

"Mr Red" then introduced one of my "pride & joys", Marcus Ingram, the blind professor at Miles College. Man, can he sing? Hell, yes! He was backed up by the Band plus Dot Adams and her trio as a background vocal group. He did the vocal version of "Goodbye", which is currently quite popular in Birmingham, and the house went wild. He slowed the pace down for "I can't be therewith you", another of my own songs. His next number, written by Little Richard, "Long Tall Sally" also drove the crowd wild. He called for a little blues next and did B.B.King's - Tampa Red's ever popular "Sweet Little Angel". His finale, "What'd I Say", the Ray Charles number, was one of the highpoints of the show.

After the intermission, "Mr Red" came onto the stage dressed in another outfit - he changed after every act - and asked the classic question at such affairs, "Are you ready for Startime?". After an overwhelming positive response, he introduced "The man who taught Piano Red where middle 'c' was, the prince, king and duke of the Blues, big, bad, Bob.....Bob McCoy". The crowd went wild - Robert has played the "27-28" fairly often. Apparently Robert wasn't quite ready, because when the band started his theme song "Bye Bye Baby", it seemed like at least a minute before he appeared onstage. Anyway, when he appeared, he took his place at the piano and adjusted the mikes. Borrowing a few James Brown techniques, he asked the audience "Do you feel alright?" and "Are you ready for some blues?". After a few minutes of this, he started in on the first few chords of his next release "Work It On Out", a sort of upbeat boogie-blues. It got a good reception, but he sensed that the crowd wanted some blues. He also sensed that his hat was on his head, so he nonchalantly hung it on a mike, somewhat destroying the 'stereo' effect I had planned! However, the show must go on and no-one said anything, so he went right on with the big blues hit "Rock me baby", giving an excellent performance using some fantastic piano. Frank had a couple of solos and took advantage of the opportunity to give some soulful sounds to the audience. The guys did a version of B.B.King's newest, "Let me love you" next. Following that were a couple of Cather originals, "Let me be your man" and "Love me baby". Being a great showman, Bob sensed that it was time for another upbeat number so did his theme song "Bye Bye Baby". Bob doesn't use a vocal group often but it's pretty effective when he does. His last number was, of course, his "Louise". That's what the crowd was waiting on. They went crazy, and the song lasted fifteen minutes, with plenty of great instrumental work by Robert, Frank and members of the band. After about one minute of applause, Dot and her girls, and Mr Red all came out on the stage for the rousing finale of the show, the song "Tossin' & Turnin'".

(Memo: 2 singles by Robert McCoy & Mark Ingram are available on Soul-O; "Bye Bye Baby"/"Louise" (McCoy) - Soul-O 112) and "Goodbye Baby" (McCoy)/"Goodbye"(Ingram) - S-O 114. All selections were recorded live at the "Famous Club" in Birmingham, and are obtainable from Soul-O at 314, Windsor Drive, Birmingham, Alabama. - Ed)

BLIND LEMON JEFFERSON - "Lectric Chair blues" - (Para 12608 ; Bwy 5059)

Does anyone have an accurate transcript of this record? or a copy of the record in good enough condition to make a transcript or tape dub possible?

Mack McCormick is working on an article giving the background of this song, but although he has heard it sung by many singers, he hasn't heard Lemon's version. Mack is well-known for his great research work, especially on Texas artists, and B.U. would be most pleased if any reader can help Mack with this problem. Write Mack direct at:-

Mack McCormick, 3223 Raleigh, HOUSTON 21, Texas, U.S.A..

CAN YOU HELP?