

"King of the Delta Blues" coming



Okay, blues fans. Another golden opportunity has been tossed your way by Earth Breeze, a corporate mutation of High Wind.

Yes, John Lee Hooker is coming back, this time with Harvey Mandel and Don "Sugarcane" Harris and their Pure Food and Drug Act.

But then, you already know that if you are indeed a hard core blues freak. In fact, if

you're a hard core blues freak you probably already know everything that I am going to print in this article so you might as well read something else (there's a nifty interview with Chilliwack on pages 7 and 8 you might like).

Now then, for the rest of you (you're still reading aren't you?), I shall continue.

John Lee Hooker is the King of the Delta Blues. Now just

what does this mean. Well, for the straight poop, why don't we do like I do and consult the fact sheet that the promoter brought up to the office last week. (By the way, the promoter is a really nice guy by the name of Hank Zevallos. Actually, most of the people working for Earth Breeze cum High Wind are nice guys. You'd probably enjoy meeting them sometime. But I digress.)

It says on the fact sheet that he (John Lee Hooker) has recorded over 400 blues numbers, most of which he's written himself. Say he averages 10 to an album, that's forty albums. Not bad.

Of course all this is helped by the fact that he's been recording for quite some time, having started his professional music career in 1947.

So okay. But why King of the Delta Blues?

Because he was born in the heart of the Delta country, on a small farm near a small town called Clarksdale, Mississippi. Now then, if you are a blues fanatic (which you obviously aren't because they've all stopped reading this, remember?) the name of Clarksdale, Mississippi will bring a smile to your lips and maybe a tear to your eyes. For Clarksdale and its environs, gentle reader, has produced a phenomenal number of blues singers and artists probably because music was something the whole black community shared in common in that area. So you see, Mr. Hooker kind of osmotically absorbed Delta blues from the time he was just a little nipper.

Anyway, Hooker moved here and there around the south singing in gospel groups and generally cultivating his rough, jagged, honest style of blues. He worked in factories a lot to support himself but didn't seem to like it too much.

Then in 1947 he moved to Detroit, teamed up with some local musicians (who were only too happy to have a guitarist around as a change from all those pianists) and finally went into music fulltime.

And since that time he has

influenced, directly or indirectly, just about every pop, rock, blues, tec. group in the world. Notable example include recordings of *Sugar Mama* by Led Zeppelin and Rod Stewart; *Boom* and *I'm Mad* by Eric Burdon and the Animals; and King Biscuit Boys rip-off version of *I Wanna Boogaloo* (which he coyly titled *Biscuit Boogie*) on the Official Music album. There was also, of course, Canned Heat's tribute to Hooker in which they backed him a whole album, Hooker and Heat.

So that's John Lee Hooker. But wait a minute—there's more.

Yes, friends, the Pure Food and Drug Act featuring Harvey Mandel and Sugarcane Harris.

Both of these men are of the new generation of blues-oriented musicians. And both have recorded and toured under their own names as well as touring extensively with other internationally recognized greats.

As well as being well-known for his own recordings, Harvey Mandel has been featured as lead guitar with Charlie Musselwhite, Canned Heat and John Mayall.

And then there's Don "Sugarcane" Harris. Aaaaaahhhhhhhhh. Anyone who has heard his frenetic, savage, wailing violin breaks on *Willie the Pimp* or *Gumbo Variations* or *Directly From My Heart to You* (all courtesy of Frank Zappa: Yah Frank!) or his own album will know that this is one violinist who simply has to be heard. The rest of you will have to take my word for it.

But that's not all; there's still more.

You see, Hooker and Harris just finished recording an album together at the end of 1971 (by the way, can you believe it's 1972? I mean really? Hell, 1972 was a reference point in all our grade 7 science texts. Remember the line, "There will be scheduled passenger rockets to the moon and colonies on Mars by 1972"? You don't? Oh well. Anyway, 1972 is still absurdly unbelievable. Oops: I'm digressing again).

When Mr. Hooker was told that Mr. Harris would be included on his western Canada tour, he is reported to have said, "Oh, Sugarcane, he's nice. He recorded with me on my new album that come out soon."

Now then, what this means is that, after the regular show, there probably be an on-stage jam with Hooker, Harris, and Mandel. Now THAT will be something to hear.

Okay, so you're all hyped up and want to know how you can get in on this audial extravaganza. Simple. Just show up Saturday night (January 29) at the Jubilee Auditorium at 8:30 with a ticket that you can get from Mikes for \$3.00, \$3.50, or \$4.00.

By Ross Harvey

Concert, movie postponed

The Edmonton Chamber Music Society concert that was scheduled for this Wednesday, January 26, has been postponed because of the air controllers' strike.

The concert will be re-scheduled and the dates will be posted as soon as arrangements can be made.

The effects of the air controllers' strike were also felt by W. C. Fields fans over the weekend.

The newly-opened Klondike Cinema was unable to show Field's *The Bank Dick* on Sunday because it was caught up in the strike in transit, so they re-screened the film shown two Sundays ago, *Never Give A Sucker An Even Break*.

The Bank Dick will be shown at the end of the series presently being shown and next Sunday's film will be as scheduled.

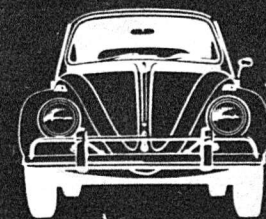
Abortions, cont'd from p. 5

care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.

It is my argument that the child growing with the mother's body has the same rights as the child growing without, because the former is just as much a human being as the later, by any reasonable definition.

Yours,
John Bryson
Civil Engineering

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