

From West Helena To Chicago (1998)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 31 July 2010 17:29 - Last Updated Sunday, 15 November 2020 20:32

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- 01 - *West Helena Blues* - Honeyboy Edwards
- 02 - *Drop Down Mama* - Honeyboy Edwards
- 03 - *Build Myself A Cave* - Honeyboy Edwards
- 04 - *Little Boy Blue* - Honeyboy Edwards
- 05 - *Sweet Home Chicago* - Honeyboy Edwards
- 06 - *Bring Your Fine-Self Home* - Magic Slim
- 07 - *Mojo Hand* - John Primer
- 08 - *My Sister Taught Me* - Eddie C. Campbell
- 09 - *Rock Me* - Eddie C. Campbell
- 10 - *Just Walking* - Eddie C. Campbell
- 11 - *Last Affair* - Eddie C. Campbell
- 12 - *Jump, Jump, Jump* - Eddie C. Campbell
- 13 - *Straighten Up Woman* - Johnny B. Moore
- 14 - *Memphis Bound* - Johnny B. Moore

It has been said that Helena was a little Chicago back in the 1940s and 1950s because, much like Chicago, blacks from rural Arkansas and the Mississippi Delta were arriving. They were drawn to Helena because they could make money there. By then Helena was 70% black and wild music joints employed blues pianist such as Sunnyland Slim, Memphis Slim and Roosevelt Sykes.

In November 1941, a white businessman put together the staff for the town's first radio station KFFA. A group of blues musicians were given a one-hour radio spot on the condition that they sign a sponsor, which King Biscuit Flour agreed to do. Thus was born King Biscuit Entertainers and the beginning of King Biscuit Time, eventually leading later to the popular King Biscuit Blues Festival, renamed Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival in 2005, one of the largest blues

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festivals in the world. The celebration is held in downtown Helena on Cherry Street.

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