

Rockin' Dopsie - Zy-de-blue Play The Blues (1977)

Written by bluesever

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1. *See See Rider* 2. *My Little Girl* 3. *Lucille* 4. *When I Lost My Little Girl* 5. *Cold Cold Nights* 6. *The Things I Used To Do* 7. *It's All Right* 8. *Worried Life Blues* 9. *This Loneliness* 10. *Every Day Goes By* Rockin' Dopsie – accordion & vocals Fred Charles – sax, vocals on (7) Albert Francis – bass, vocals on (9) Manuel Harris – guitar, vocals on (5) Chester Zeno – washboard Joseph Andrews - drums

If Clifton Chenier was the king of zydeco music, Rockin' Dopsie (pronounced doopsie), with his unequaled proficiency on the button accordion, was its crown prince. Like Chenier, Dopsie was devoted to preserving the old French songs that form the basis of zydeco. He was born Alton Rubin in Carencro, LA, a small town near Lafayette. He spent much of his childhood picking cotton and working in the cane fields. His father played accordion and performed at local weekend house parties. He frequently brought young Rubin along. His father gave him his first small accordion when Rubin was 14. He then told his son that he must teach himself. A lefty, Rubin played the accordion upside down, learning tunes off the radio. It didn't take long before he began playing parties and gaining a reputation as an even better musician than his father. Rubin eventually moved to Lafayette and began performing in blues clubs in the '50s with his cousin Chester Zeno on washboard. During the day, Rubin worked as a hod carrier. He took his stage name from a Chicago dancer who had come to perform in Lafayette. Like his namesake Doopsie, Rubin also had a reputation as an excellent hoofer. Later, the accordion player was given the name Rockin' to describe his lively playing. Over the years, Rockin' Dopsie performed zydeco in clubs, and despite Chenier's advice, continued working day jobs, eventually becoming an electrical contractor. Throughout the '50s and '60s, Dopsie occasionally recorded with independent labels. He recorded his debut album with Sam Charters for Sweden's Sonet label. Over the next decade, Dopsie recorded five more albums for the label. Released in Europe, Dopsie soon became an extremely popular performer. He began touring Europe twice annually in 1979. It wasn't until well into the '80s that Dopsie's music began garnering attention back home. His U.S. career got a big boost in 1985 when he recorded "That Was Your Mother" with Paul Simon on the latter's landmark Graceland album. Later, Dopsie would also record with other pop singers including Cyndi Lauper and Bob Dylan. He has also done television commercials and appeared in a few films, including Delta Heat. He continued performing and

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recording through his death in 1993. His son, David Rubin, has become a noted metal washboard player and his other son, Alton Rubin, Jr., is a drummer. Both performed in their father's band. ---Sandra Brennan, Rovi

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