

Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Volume 15

Written by bluesever

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01. *Low down dog no more* 02. *You're so fine* Eddie Burks – vocals, harmonica Jay Shutman – guitar, vocals Joe Barr – keyboards, vocals Purvis Scott – bass George Moss – drums Larry Houghlund – congas Evanston, Ill. 1977
03. *Operator* 04. *Evalina* 05. *Minnie Sue* 06. *Partnership woman* 07. *Cadillac driven woman* 08. *Racetrack blues*
Eddie Burks – vocals, harmonica L.C. Roby – guitar Dave Weld – guitar Shorty Gilbert – bass Chico Chism – drums Evanston, Ill. 22 november 1978
09. *Black but beautiful* 10. *Fast life* 11. *My man's coming home tonight* 12. *My Rock'n'roll man*
Bonnie Lee (Jessie Lee Freals) – vocals Jimmy Reece – organ + band Chicago, Ill. 1962
13. *Sad and evil woman* 14. *Standing on the corner*
Bonnie Lee – vocals Sunnyland Slim – piano Mark Brumbach – harmonica Byther Smith – guitar Eddie Taylor – guitar Tom Patterson – bass Sam Lay – drums Chicago, Ill. 2 march 1974
15. *Teardrops from my eyes* 16. *I need your love so badly*
Bonnie Lee – vocals King Edward – guitar Clark Du Fay – organ Bob Freenly – bass Bill Collins – drums Chicago, Ill. november 1975
17. *One of these days* 18. *Murmur low*
Arthur 'Big Boy' Spires – vocals, guitar Earl Dranes – guitar Eddie El – guitar Willie Smith – percussion Chicago, Ill. 13 march 1952
19. *About to lose my mind* 20. *Which one do I love (Sometimes I wonder)* 21. *Someday little darling* 22. *My baby left me* 23. *Rhythm Rockin' boogie* 24. *Tired of being mistreated*
Arthur Spires – vocals, guitar P.T. Hayes – harmonica Johnny Williams – guitar Ted Porter - drums Chicago, Ill. 17 january 1953
25. *Dark and stormy night* 26. *Grooving this morning*
Arthur Spires – vocals, guitar Willie Smith – harmonica Willie 'Long Time' Smith – piano Eddie El – guitar, bass, drums Chicago, Ill. 1954
27. *21 below zero*
Arthur Spires – vocals, guitar Johnny Young – guitar Chicago, Ill. 9 october 1965

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This new volume of our "Chicago/ The blues Yesterday" series starts with singer and harp player Eddie Burks. Born on the Rising Sun, Ms plantation on 17th September 1931, Eddie has learned the blues under the tutelage of his stepfather who played guitar in local juke joints and the harmonica after he saw Sonny Boy Williamson (Rice Miller). After he went to Chicago in 1946, Eddie made a living mainly outside the music but nevertheless played his blues on clubs and particularly on Maxwell Street flea market (hence his nickname "Jewtown" Burks). He really began to be well known during the 1990's when he recorded several very good CDs like Vampire woman, even having a local hit with his excellent own-penned Sugar Hill blues. Eddie died in Chicago, 27 January 2005. We have gathered here the handful of titles he has recorded during the 1970's, several being very hard to find.

Bonnie Lee (Jessie Lee Freals) (born 11 January 1931 at Bunkie, La) is a well known blueswoman who recorded many excellent LP's and CD's for Airway, Black Beauty, Paris Album, Delmark or Wolf. After touring Texas singing and dancing with some itinerant shows, Bonnie settled in Chicago in the 1950's and appeared frequently as a singer and dancer (under the evocative nickname Bombshell Bonnie!). Sunnyland Slim took her under his wing and allowed her to really start a blues career. She died in Chicago on 7th September 2006. Here are all her first 45s.

At last - and to respond to several requests - we have included here the complete recordings of Arthur "Big Boy" Spires. Born in 1906 or 1912 in Yazoo City, Ms, Spires has played the guitar and sung his brand of blues, strongly influenced by Tommy Johnson, in local juke joints before going to Chicago in 1943. He was then one of the young bluesmen from the Delta who helped to define the new, tough, electric post war Chicago blues. In 1952, Spires recorded for Chess his masterpiece One of these days/ Murmur low. Unfortunately, the commercial success eluded him and after two more sessions the following years he more or less disappeared from the musical scene, playing only sporadically in the Maxwell Street flea market. This is where Pete Welding re-discovered him. Spires then recorded for Welding enough material for a whole LP but unfortunately only one track has been issued insofar. Arthur died in Chicago 22 October 1990. --- Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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