

## Dead Wagon Blues

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 08 July 2012 21:16 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 March 2015 15:03

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## Dead Wagon Blues

**John Lee Hooker**, master bluesman and undisputed father of boogie, recorded for more than 30 labels over a span of nearly 50 years. Raised in the birthplace of the blues, he developed an interest in music at an early age and even built a one-stringed instrument as a boy. His mother's second husband, Will Moore, was a popular local musician, and Hooker learned how to play guitar from his stepfather.

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Hooker, barely in his teens, left home in the early 1930s. *"Where I came from in Mississippi was hell,"* he told the New York Times.

Memphis was the first stop on his trip north, and Hooker found his way to

*Beale Street,*

the nucleus of the blues universe.

Hooker arrived in Detroit in the 1940s. By day he worked as a janitor and by night he played the blues. In the late '60s, Hooker's audience began to include white fans. Hooker achieved legendary status, and went on to make a series of albums.



## John Lee Hooker

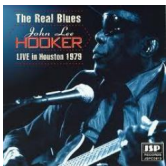
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The late '70s were not a particularly creative period for him. The 1979 live Hooker album - **The Real Blues: Live in Houston** - is short at under 40 minutes, but what a great performance!



### The Real Blues: Live in Houston

It's really only an album that Hooker fanatics will find essential, even though it emerges as one of the best records of this period of his career. Long, mesmerizing versions of "**Dead Wagon Blues**" is worth any price you pay for this album. This one tune is John Lee Hooker exposing his soul.

Yes, yes, yes. **Dead Wagon Blues** is a real blues, real sad blues.

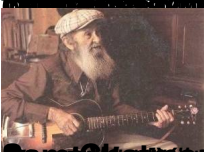
*Dead Wagon Blues* is not original idea by Hooker. The blues was recorded during 1935 session by Mississippi Sheiks.

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The Mississippi Sheiks exist only those two versions of this blues. Which is very surprising.