King Biscuit Boy With Crowbar - Official Music (1970)

01 - Highway 61 02:56
02 - Don't Go No Further 03:48
03 - Unseen Eye 03:02
04 - I'm Just A Lonely Guy 02:36
05 - Key To The Highway 03:20
06 - Corrina 04:39 *play*
07 - Biscuit's Boogie 09:39
08 - Hoy Hoy Hoy 05:18
09 - Badly Bent 02:14
10 - Cookin' Little Baby 02:42 *play*
11 - Shout Bama Lama 02:33
King Biscuit Boy – vocals, harmonica, acoustic guitar, slide guitar John "Greyhound" Gibbard – slide guitar, lead guitar Rheal "Ray" Lanthier – lead guitar Kelly J. – piano, percussion Roly Greenway – bass Larry Atamanuik – drums John R. – percussion

Born in Hamilton Ontario, Richard Newell's musical career began in the early 60's as a teenager playing the harmonica in teen bands, the Barons in 1961 (later renamed Son Richard and the Chessmen) and then with the blues styled Mid- Knights in the mid 60's. He became noticed while playing with Ronnie Hawkins as one of the Hawks, who nicknamed him King Biscuit Boy. After playing with Hawkins for two years, he left to go it alone but joined Crowbar band made up of ex Hawks) and recorded his debut album entitled Official Music (as King Biscuit Boy & Crowbar) in 1970.

Official Music was released on the Daffodil Records label in Canada and Paramount in the U.S.A. to critical acclaim. Of the eleven songs on the album, eight are standard blues covers of songs by such greats as Willie Dixon, Bill Broonzy, Otis Redding, Sonny Boy Williamson, given a unique treatment by Newells' harmonica playing. There are also original compositions written

by Newell and performed in a classic blues style. Official Music charted in both the US and Canada and a single taken from the album, "Corinna Corrina" was a minor hit in Canada for King Biscuit Boy and Crowbar in 1970. After the release of Official Music, King Biscuit Boy and Crowbar parted ways. ---Keith Pettipas

Crowbar was a Canadian rock band based in Hamilton, Ontario, probably best known for their 1971 hit "Oh, What a Feeling". From 1969 to 1970, most of the members of the group had been a backup band for Ronnie Hawkins under the name "And Many Others". However, in early 1970, he fired them, saying "You guys are so crazy that you could fuck up a crowbar in three seconds!" They recorded their first album in 1970 (Official Music) as King Biscuit Boy and Crowbar. King Biscuit Boy left the band later in 1970, but continued to appear off-and-on as a guest performer.

Crowbar's rock, blues and boogie mix made it one of Canada's most popular touring bands of the early 1970s. The band toured in the United Kingdom but, otherwise, made little impact outside of Canada. Crowbar disbanded in 1975, but was revived in 1977; (minus Jozef Chirowski, who had joined Alice Cooper's band) for a tour of eastern Canada with Kelly Jay and others intermittently during the 1980s with club work in southern Ontario.

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