

Piano Blues Vol. 11 – Texas Santa Fe 1934-1937 (1979)

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1. *Son Becky - Midnight Trouble Blues* 2. *Black Boy Shine - Dog House Blues* 3. *Black Ivory King - Working For The PWA* 4. *Pinetop Burks - Fannie Mae Blues* 5. *Alfoncy Harris - Absent Freight Train Blues* 6. *Pinetop Burks - Aggravatin' Mama Blues* 7. *Sony Becky - Sweet Woman Blues* 8. *Bernice Edwards, Black Boy Shine & Howling Smith - Hot Mattress Stomp* 9. *Pinetop Burks - Mountain Jack Blues* 10. *Black Boy Shine - Brown House Blues* 11. *Bernice Edwards - Butcher Shop Blue* 12. *Pinetop Burks - Jack Of All Trades Blues* 13. *Black Ivory King - Gingham Dress* 14. *Son Becky - Cryin' Shame Blues* 15. *Black Boy Shine - Sail On Little Girl No. 3* 16. *Pinetop Burks - Sun Down Blues* Son Becky – vocals, piano (1,7,14) Unknown guitarist (1,5, 7) Black Boy Shine – vocals, piano (2, 10,15) Black Ivory King – vocals, piano (3, 13) Pinetop Burks – vocals, piano (4, 6, 9, 12, 16) Alfoncy Harris – vocals (5) Unknown pianist (5) Bernice Edwards – vocals, piano (8, 11) Black Boy Shine – piano (8) Howling Smith – guitar (8)

The Texas piano tradition flowered in the 1920's and was at its peak during the 1930's when a number of the tradition's best players were recorded. Paul Oliver observed that "Texas was as rich in piano blues as Mississippi was in guitar blues" and "a cursory glance through the discographies will emphasize the fact that a remarkable number of blues pianists came from Texas." The pianists can be roughly grouped into schools; there was the remarkable Thomas family who made the bulk of their recordings between 1923 and 1928, one based around Dallas which included Whistlin Alex Moore, a regional style that developed around Shreveport and the so-called 'Santa Fe group' who were based in the southwestern part of the state where the cities of Galveston, Houston and Richmond lie. In our second installment we spotlight members of the powerful Santa Fe group as well as a number of pianists who recorded in the post-war era. --- sundayblues.org

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