

2011 BLUES FESTIVAL

Blues Legends' Historical Tribute

SEPTEMBER 2010

- Foster Wiley, Mr. Tater born in Clarksdale, MS, died September 10, 2010

OCTOBER 2010

- Solomon Burke, born in West Philadelphia, PA, died October 10, 2010, at the age of 70.

FEBRUARY 2011

- The original candy licker Mr. Marvin Sease, out of Charleston, SC, died on February 8, 2011 at the age of 64
- Gary Moore, the British musician from Belfast, Died, February 6, 2011 (aged 58)
- Jamaican born Eddie Kirkland, blues guitarist, singer and harmonica player who toured many years with John Lee Hooker, died Feb. 27, 2011 at the age of 88

MARCH 2011

- Joseph William Perkins, AKA Pinetop Perkins, was born in Belzoni MS died March 21, 2011 at the age of 97
- Big Jack Johnson, from Lambert, MS died March 14, 2011, at age 70

APRIL 2011

- Phoebe Snow from Portland OR, died April 26, 2011, at the age of 60

MAY 2011

- Bluesologist Gill Scott-Heron, from Chicago, IL, Died, May 27, 2011, at the age 62

JULY 2011

- Northern Irish blues singer [Ottillie Patterson](#), died July 8, 2011 at the age of 79
- Blues singer Joe Lee Wilson, from Bristow, Oklahoma, died July 17, 2011.

AUGUST 2011

- Nickolas Ashford, born in Fairfield, South Carolina, died August 22, 2011, at the age of 70
- David Honeyboy Edwards. Mr. Edwards at 96, was believed to have been the oldest surviving member of the first generation of Delta blues singers, died August 29, 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011

- Oregon Blues singer JC Rico died September 9, 2011
- Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, from Helena, Arkansas, died yesterday Sept 16th, 2011, at the age of 75.

TRIVIA

- **Who is Cora Walton?**

She was born in Memphis in 1928 . She grew up on a sharecropper's farm outside Memphis. Young Cora and her three brothers and two sisters slept on pallets in a shotgun shack with no running water or electricity. By the time she was 11, both her parents had died. She picked cotton to survive, and moved to Chicago in the early '50s to be with her future husband, Robert "Pops" Taylor

- Answer KoKo Taylor, died June 4, 2009 at the age of 80

“Introductory” remarks on the 2008 Robert Johnson Blues Foundation Hall of Fame Award recipient, Mr. David “Honeyboy” Edwards

By Dr. Marvin Haire

I first met Mr. Edwards at Hoover’s Grocery Store last summer in Baptist Town, a place that he and Robert Johnson claimed as their old stomping ground. Born June 28th, 1915 in Shaw, MS, in the heart of the Delta, Honeyboy is a recipient of numerous awards that acknowledge his gifts and contributions as a living Delta Blues legend.

These include:

- 2008 Grammy: Best Traditional Blues Album - *Last of the Great Mississippi Delta Bluesmen: Live in Dallas*; &
- 2005 W.C. Handy Award: Acoustic Blues Artist of the Year.
- 1996: Inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame
- 2008 Living Legend Award, from the MACE Presented at the 30th Annual Delta Blues and Heritage Festival

In light of this national acclaim, it’s only fitting that we take a brief moment and applaud the recognition he has finally received. Please join me in doing so [*Applause...*]. Our task this evening, however, is to talk just a little bit about some of the things you may not know about the man from Shaw. In 1997, for example, Honeyboy authored a book on his life, *The World Don’t Owe Me Nothin’*, and in 2007 he appeared as himself in the film, *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*.

Honeyboy was also at 3 Forks juke joint with Sonny Boy Williamson, II on the outskirts of Greenwood, MS the night Robert Johnson was poisoned. He may be able to tell us *who really put that poison in Johnson’s drink – was it the bartender, or was it the bartender’s wife?* He may also be able to tell us about Johnson’s pain and suffering during

those last days in Baptist Town, a place where the two of them lived and practiced their craft for members of the local Black community before that fateful drink.

What has impressed me most, nonetheless, is the legacy Honeyboy has established as a song-writer and the full spectrum of original Blues lyrics in his repertoire. These songs reflect the mind of a Black educator determined to ensure that his students understand the multi-faceted, rich and dynamic range of Blues culture of the Mississippi Delta, but also the wider social concerns that impact the Black community. His lyrics give us a hint of the scope of Honeyboy's social conscious. Time permitting check out such songs he has authored such as: *The Army Blues, The War is Over, and B&O Blues*. Also listen to Honeyboy as a classic storyteller and historian on the songs he has written like: *Robert Johnson Story, Robert Nighthawk Story, Coming the Chicago Story, or the Carey Bell Story*.

But if you want to know why we really call him "*Honeyboy*", you might want to ask what inspired him to write the original lyrics for such songs as: *I Feel So Good Today, The Woman I'm Loving, Take Me in Your Arms, Drop Down Mama, Spread My Raincoat Down, Love Honeyboy Slow, and Big Fat Mama?*