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OSM BLUESLETTER

JANUARY 2021

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A VISIT WITH
MITCH BRASHERS
STORY BY GEORGE HUNT

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New Year*
2021



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THE JANUARY BSO BLUESLETTER

FROM THE BSO PRESIDENT



Dear valued members of the Blues Society of the Ozarks, Hello everyone!

What an unconventional year to say the least we have all faced. I hope this letter finds you healthy and doing well.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your support of the Blues Society of the Ozarks during these trying times. Support comes in many forms, large and small, and we sincerely appreciate all of your help.

I would like to officially introduce myself to you as the new President of the Blues Society of the Ozarks. Thank you very much for the consideration and I would like to acknowledge what a wonderful job Mary Certain has done as the President for these past two years. And also, let's not forget Mr. Joel Chamberlain for his service as our President before Mary.

Thankfully, both Mary and Joel will still be active with the BSO and a valued resource of information and guidance as I steer the ship during my term. Thank you!

BSO MISSION STATEMENT

Since 1991 our goals have been to encourage appreciation of the Blues, an original American music; to provide a forum in the Ozarks for performance of the Blues at live events and on radio and television; to educate and entertain the people of the Ozarks; to provide an organization through which people can share their common love of the Blues; and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the forgoing goals.

BLUES SOCIETY OF THE OZARKS
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IN THIS ISSUE

2 FROM THE PRESIDENT
Letter from the BSO President Neil Baker

4 A VISIT WITH MITCH BRASHERS
Cover Story by George Hunt.

7 YOUTH IN THE BLUES - FISHING FOR SATURDAY
Learn about Youth in the Blues, Fishing For Saturday.

15 BSO MERCHANDISE
Blues Society of the Ozarks apparel and accessories.

16 SOUND FROM THE STREET
O'Neill Blues brings you highlights from Noah Davis and Peter Rowlands.

18 BLUES IN REVIEW: 100 YEARS OF BLUES
Elvin Bishop and Charlie Musselwhite - Review and story by George Hunt.

20 BLUES HISTORY SPOTLIGHT - MAMIE SMITH
Story by Mary Certain.

22 NEWS FROM THE BSO BOARD
News from the BSO Board of Director.

24 SPECIAL BSO EVENT
BSO Special events/announcements.

25 A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR
Notes on this edition of the BSO Bluesletter

ON THE COVER: Mitch Brashers - Image provided by Jamie Ross Photography





A VISIT WITH MITCH BRASHERS

STORY BY GEORGE HUNT

MITCH BRASHERS' PARENTS were from Charleston, Missouri. From the fifth grade to eighth grade, the family lived in Farmington, Missouri. After eighth grade, the family moved to Flat River, Missouri where Mitch graduated from High School in 1994. He came to Springfield to attend Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU), where he graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor's of Science in Communication with a focus on Television and Radio.

HE STARTED WORKING at Springfield Music while still in college. Growing up in the same hometown, Mitch and his wife Kari were High School sweethearts. A couple of

years after high school, Kari also attended SMSU. In 2003, Mitch and Kari joined the Peace Corp. and were assigned to Mauritania; a country in northwest Africa. Mitch taught sixth and seventh graders Beginning English. Kari's expertise was



in business. The male dominated society did not want a woman telling them how to run their business. Kari educated girls at a girl's center program. This helped keep the girls in school. She got a grant to teach AIDS awareness education for the young women. "I cannot imagine the long-lasting impact she had on a future generation." Mitch and Kari returned to Springfield in 2005. In college and after returning home, Kari worked for American National Insurance Company. She started as an intern and is now Director of Research.

MITCH PLAYED DRUMS in Junior High and High School. In high school he got a guitar and thought this is what I was waiting for. Then in his Junior year of college, two friends needed a Bass player. That really flipped the trigger. Bass is his primary instrument. There is not a particular Bass player Mitch idolized. His first band in Springfield, was *Uncommon Sense*. "In the 90's heyday downtown,

Culley's you could get \$50 and free beer. I played with a variety of bands through the years. They come and they go." Mitch played a couple of years with the *Phin-Addicts*. A Jimmy Buffet cover band played down the coast to Florida and up to South Dakota. Presently he is playing with Brock Wade and Steve Moller in the country band, *Psycho Billy Cadillac*. Mitch has played Bass for the *Unity Church Band* for seven years.

MITCH SHARED HIS story about working at the store. "When I started with Springfield Music



with then owner Lee Coats, Lee had bought the business from Bill Spence in 1986. One little store. The Springfield Music team went on to buy three more stores in Missouri. Ernie Williams Music in Joplin. Ernie Williams Music in Shawnee Mission, Kansas and Fazio's in Ellisville, Missouri." "We went from a company that was successful to one of the top 100 companies in the US. It has been great to be a part of that and have a hand in that."



MITCH WENT FROM Salesperson, to Sales Manager, to Store Manager. In the past eight weeks Mitch has been promoted to Sales and Marketing Director for all four stores. Mitch and Kari have been married for 22 years. They have a 14 year-old daughter.



ITOLD MITCH THEY have had a cool life. "Don't bury me yet George" was the response. Oh, yea there is a wicked sense of humor and wit in this guy. Watch out. Some of his favorite artist are Paul Simon and Jimmy Buffet. It is weird how your musical taste changes. Before college he worked in Branson pouring concrete.

MITCH SAID, "I HAD never listened to country music and thought I should. Then I thought, this is terrible. (Ha Ha.) Now here we are today. I have been listening to Bluegrass in my car for the past 6 months. I play in this country band. So, tastes change. I am also listening to New Age, Classical and Jazz. The whole family likes Jazz." Mitch likes Clutch and has seen them more than any band.

IWOULD LIKE TO personally thank Mitch and Springfield Music for all of their support over the years. The Guitar donation has helped keep "Blues in The Schools" program going. They are able to order and discount a fishbowl of harmonicas for our BITS students.



Showcase on Youth in the Blues FISHING FOR SATURDAY

STORY BY JACKSON & PRESTON MARTIN

JACKSON AND PRESTON Martin, along with their bandmates from **Fishing for Saturday** have become a well known and nationally recognized band playing shows all over southwest Missouri for the last 5 years. The band's draw and ever growing fan base has been wowed by the band and their driving dual guitar attack, and the strong vocals and solid stage performance.



INITIALY, LIKE ALL players we worked on all the basics of guitar, but neither of us really considered it work. It helped that our instructors that we studied with made the learning process fun. Jackson studied with Jim Bultas, and Preston with Bill Bruce, who is touring all over the world playing with the biggest country bands. We laugh looking back at us playing our first

guitars. Preston was only 7, and his guitar was a Fender Mini and Jackson had an acoustic Alvarez, which at least fit him.

BEING BROTHERS, AND only 17 months apart, you can imagine that we spent a lot of time together growing up. We went everywhere together and in May of 2010 our parents signed us up for a free music lesson at Pellegrino's School of Music and Art in Springfield, to see if we might like to play guitar. Our dad plays guitar, and our mom sang in touring choirs when she was young. Music has always been a very big part of our family and so off to the lesson we went. The rest, as they say, is history, although we certainly are not finished, nowhere close.

IT WASN'T LONG before our ability improved and we were both upgraded in our gear to a Epiphone Classic Les Paul (Jackson) and because he was a big Eddie Van Halen fan, Preston got an Ibanez DT400 Destroyer. This thing was a monster! Not only was it a huge guitar, it had a huge sound, and dwarfed Preston.



IN EARLY 2014, guess who joined the band? Yep, Preston. Seems none of his friends could play like he could. His audition song was “Crazy Train”, and the band figured he would do just fine. So, the band was set, and things were about to take off.

THE FIRST REAL show we had was actually at Arts Fest in Springfield in May of 2015. We were given a 45 minute set, and got to play in front of a really good crowd in front of Ebbet’s Field. We remember that after we played, Rhett and Brendan Robberson from The Brothers Robberson came up and spent time talking with us. They had just won The Next Nashville Star show, and just finished touring with the legendary county band Alabama. We couldn’t believe that they would spend time talking with us! Our dad always tells us to play our best because you never know who is in the crowd, and that lesson was learned that day.

THAT SET PRETTY much set what was our number one priority (after school, of course). Plus, each of us in the band got ten dollars to play. Getting paid to play music was a great bonus for something we already loved.

WE ALL KEPT practicing, a lot, building songs into our set list. We were a cover band, but we were interested in maybe booking shows if anywhere would take us. We were only 11 and 12 at the time.

IT WAS ABOUT at this point, in early 2013 that our instructors suggested that we audition for a band they were forming at Pellegrino’s to give students the opportunity to have that rock band experience. Preston was convinced he could pull some of his friends from school to start a band on his own, but Jackson was all in from the beginning. After the auditions, Jackson was among those selected, and after some awkward rehearsals and lots of practice, **Fishing for Saturday** was formed with Mady McCrea on vocals and acoustic guitar, Josh Henry on drums, and Alex Herrell and Jackson on guitar.

THEN IN THE summer of 2015 we were asked to provide support for the hard rock band from Springfield, The Reality of Yourself (T.R.O.Y). They had just won a National Battle of the Bands competition sponsored by Ernie Ball and Music Man guitars, and for us kids, this was really making the big time! We even had a photo shoot leading up to the show. They gave us an entire hour, for the show at Cartoons in Springfield. We got introduced to the business side of shows, thanks to our dad, Tyson, who has managed us, and put up with all of us. That night was AMAZING. The place was completely packed! They had to open the doors up to the outdoor area there were so many people. Of course, we were terribly nervous, but we did it, and impressed everyone enough that we became regulars at Cartoons, and later, KRAVE.

IT WAS AT that show that our dad said he could see the moment he knew Jackson would become a professional musician. Specifically, it was during the guitar solo to “Comfortably Numb” by Pink Floyd and the other bands were all around our dad. The others were just standing,

watching, and then said to the guitar player of the other band, “Yeah, you’re fired”.

THE SHOWS BEGAN rolling in, and it started presenting challenges to us. We were all involved in sports; football, soccer, swimming, the whole band was walking this tightrope of school, sports, and music, but we just kept at it. Our families all became really good friends, and didn’t complain about lugging all our gear around, since we couldn’t drive. They never complained setting up the merch table, staying through sound checks, and are still our biggest fans.



IT’S FUNNY HOW easy it is to make friends with other musicians when you share the stage with them. We have made a ton of friends in this crazy ride. Because we had a really good draw wherever we

played, we have had some really cool opportunities to open for nationally touring acts. One show at Cartoons, we were asked to open for Katy Guillan and the Girls. Katy had just come off of placing very high at the IBC, but we really didn’t know much about them, although our dad introduced us, and we were pretty hooked from the beginning. So, we were sound checking when

they loaded in and they all just looked at us like, *“What in the world? Kids?”* As we continued our check we noticed that Stephanie Williams, the drummer (who is an amazing drummer) was just watching us. Later while we were eating our pre-show meal, she sat down with Katy, and from a couple tables over we heard her say, *“Those kids are really good”*. Recognition is always something that makes us feel good, but recognition from another musician is the best. Needless to say, we have remained friends with them, and love the music Katy and Stephanie are making.

JEREMIAH JOHNSON WAS another super cool guy who we got to share the stage with a couple time and he and his band can really play. Our shows with him were at The Riff, and getting to play for an artist who has a top ten record on the charts is both humbling, and really, really cool. Not many people can say that, and we were able to while we were still in high school.

FOR ME, JACKSON, I started pretty early on wanting to be onstage, and every chance I get, I will be there. I tend to follow the idea of if you ask, the worse thing someone can say is “no”, and this set the stage



for one of my coolest memories for me thus far. We were in Memphis to watch a show for a band my dad was working for that was touring for the platinum band Skillet. We went to BB Kings before the show to eat some barbeque and listen to the band that was playing. It was suggested that Preston and I ask the band if we could sit in. Preston didn't want to, but I walked over with all the confidence I could muster at 14, and introduced myself. I asked if I could maybe sit in with them for a song. It was a pretty quick and unanimous, “No” that I received. I went back to the table with my family to eat and wasn't

too worried about it. But then the front man of the band, Doc Fingaz and the Remedy motioned for me to come talk to him as we were getting ready to leave, and next thing I knew, there I was on the stage

at BB Kings, in Memphis, Tennessee. I couldn't believe it! I had no idea what they were going to play, but they asked if I liked Stevie Ray Vaughn. I was thinking, *“Are you kidding me? Of all the people to pick to play, they were asking if I wanted to play one of my guitar heroes songs?”* So off we went with some SRV and these people kept coming up and taking video of me on BB's stage. It was a pretty awesome moment and really made me push even harder to pursue music.

OUR SHOWS KEPT on coming, and at bigger and bigger venues like the Shrine Mosque and the Gilloiz. We were really getting into playing live, and now had more confidence in everything we did. It is a pretty special gift that playing live, and performing gives you. If you can play guitar well in front of 500 people, your confidence level in all aspects of your life improves, and that is something that a lot of people our age lack.

IN 2018, JACKSON started writing some songs, and the band started rehearsing one of them. It was different, but we liked it. We played a show in January of 2019 at KRAVE, and our dad booked a band from Kansas City, Sons of Stereo, to open for us. We were going to play an original for the first time in front of a big crowd, and to make things more interesting, the producer for Sons of Stereo was at the show, as was a reporter from the Springfield News-Leader.

THE NIGHT WAS a whirlwind. We woke up the following Monday to our band being the front page article in the paper with a huge feature article! Our dad couldn't take all the calls he was getting, but he did take one from the producer who saw the show, telling our dad he wanted us in studio to record as soon as possible.



We were as excited as we could be, and in March we headed to Reach Audio Studios to work with Kevin W. Gates on our upcoming single.

FOR US, WE loved it. Learning the recording process and the “tricks of the trade” when it comes to recording was pretty impactful for both of us, and we have continued to work, not only with Kevin, but on our own to better understand that side of the industry.

OUR SINGLE, *“WORN Out Tapes”* dropped worldwide in June of 2019, and we remember being amazed that people in Australia, and Canada and all over the US were listening to a song that I (Jackson) wrote, and that we, as a band, recorded.

LATER IN 2019 we auditioned for a national competition called Celebration of Music. It is a national competition hosted on PBS. Think American Idol, without any judges telling you that you stink. We sent in our audition, and were asked to compete in the regional competition in August. The regional winners would go to Los Angeles in the summer of 2020 to play on national TV and get the full rock star treatment, including introductions to

record labels and producers. Pretty big stakes for us, and we worked really hard to get ready for the competition. We decided to play “Whipping Post” by the Allman Brothers for the competition, as it is one of our favorites. At the end of the regional competition we were excited because we knew we had played pretty well, but we were even more excited when they told us we had won!

2019 WAS REALLY great year for the band. We were excited to go to LA, looking forward to those opportunities, and playing on national TV. And then, COVID. The quarantine has been really, really hard on us, like all musicians and venue owners. We had to cancel 8 shows earlier

this year between March and May, and didn't get to go to Los Angeles. We were all disappointed. To make things more interesting, Jackson, Mady, and Josh all graduated from High School, and began our college education. Jackson and Mady at the University of Arkansas and Josh at Drury University. Preston and Alex are high school seniors and looking at colleges and future plans.



FOR US MARTIN boys, the quarantine has been actually really productive, despite not getting to play live. Both of us have spent a great deal of time writing, and Jackson has been recording what will be his first album, again with Kevin W.

Gates at Reach Audio. Stepping into the lead singer role has been an interesting challenge, but Jackson has become more comfortable with it, and is very pleased with the songs thus far. The sound of the album is more of a rock album with some pop thrown in. One of the benefits for Jackson has been having Preston being able to play drums on most of the tracks for the album. Preston plays drums at a very high level, and has

proven to be a great session drummer. Plus, the brotherly dynamic that we have really helps in the development of a song, even if we fight about things from time to time.

ONE DAY THIS spring when Jackson was in studio, Heather Wagner, a country artist from Chicago had the session following Jackson. She heard some of his playing and immediately asked the producer

to have him come back to write and record guitar for her single, “Gone” that she was tracking. Jackson was more than happy to add his playing to Heathers bluesy country rocker. So, despite the lack of shows, both of us have been busy working on new material, but still missing live shows. Every musician knows, playing live is the most fun part of the job!

PEOPLE ASK US all the time, “Who is the better guitar player?”. We are both pretty quick to say, *Me!*”. A little rivalry is normal, at least that is what our

parents say. But, neither of us want to have anyone else playing guitar in our projects. When it comes to styles, and influences, while we overlap some, we have each developed a different sound as a result of our influences. For Preston, right out of the gate, he was, and still is, a big Eddie Van Halen and Joe Satriani admirer. I (Preston) have always been a fan of their style. The finger tapping, speed and precision they play with always really impressed me, and the fact that they did it melodically is what was influential to me. Lots of people can play fast, but to play something that sounds good with that exactness, is what I really like. I initially studied with Bill Bruce, and he continues to influence me. It does not matter what genre he is playing



he pushes boundaries with his attack, and really got me to love playing the guitar. Another early influence for me has been Eric Clapton. Of course,

that may not be any real surprise, but what I really like about him is his deep rooting in the blues and applying it to shape rock music. Plus, his willingness to play blues standards acoustically, in his own style to make them his own impresses me, and is something we try to do with Fishing for Saturday. Yes, we play covers, but we do them our way which makes it more fun.

FOR JACKSON, THE biggest influences are again, guitar royalty. I (Jackson) started playing the acoustic guitar, and when I started on the electric when I was 10 I was quickly drawn to two guitarists; Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughn. I suppose that is not a big surprise as most players have these two giants on their lists, but I loved the fact that you had two totally different styles of guitar, all rooted in the blues. Hendrix with his distortion and SRV with his gritty, but exacting playing style. I studied both of them, their gear, their writing, even down to the strings they played trying to get those tones. I am still working on that. Another huge influence for me, and one that people often say they hear in my original songs is David

Gilmore from Pink Floyd. What drew me to him was the soaring solos that he continually writes. They are not the fastest, or even the most difficult solos, but the tone and feel of his playing is something that is recognizable almost immediately. Moreover, the sound that he helped create is one that will last forever. I hope I can do something like that. At least that is the goal. I am studying Music, with an emphasis in Music Business to accomplish that.



IF YOU ASK us where do their influences overlap, one name immediately is mentioned, "Brad Paisley". The country music superstar guitar virtuoso ranks high for both of us. We love his style, the alternating finger picking, the jazz and blues base and his unreal speed is something we both were mesmerized by as we were young, and still are. He is one of the best players out there, across all genres. We got to meet him a few years ago, and told him about our band. We were maybe 13 and 12 and he asked one question, "Are you any good?". We told him to come to our show that particular Saturday night and find out. Sadly, he didn't, but we still love listening to him play.

A FEW YEARS AGO both of us started refinishing, and then building guitars. We both have

great time doing it, coming up with a paint scheme and deciding what pick ups we want to use. It has also helped both of us learn the instrument, not just how to play it. It goes along with learning the recording process. It gives us a more rounded perspective on our instruments, how they work, and how they fit in to each song. We have even had some people ask us to build some guitars for them. It's exciting to make something and have people you really don't know trust you enough to build a guitar for them.

WE BOTH WANT to continue in our musical journey. Both of us continue to hone our playing, and writing, and are learning as much as we can about production to assist us moving forward. We have had some pretty great success as a young band locally and had a wonderful experience.

We just want to see that continue. You can follow Jackson and Preston on Facebook and Instagram, as well as Fishing for Saturday.

FISHING FOR SATURDAY
 WILL BE PLAYING AT SHUFFLE
 IN SPRINGFIELD ON SATURDAY
 JANUARY 2, 2021.
 DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.

Show your support for the Blues in southwest Missouri with official BSO merchandise!

Get your BSO Swag!



BSO Earrings \$6



Flashing Guitar Pin \$3



Keychain \$6

Get your BSO Swag!



Mens & Women's \$15 All sizes



Beautiful Scarves \$12 Gold, Purple, Black White and Silver

Get your BSO Swag!



Harmonica Necklace \$5

Guitar Pick Necklace \$8



Contact a BSO Board Member for purchase details! Show your support in style!

The Blues Society of the Ozarks has a variety of fashion apparel for purchase.



Hey everyone, it's *O'Neill Blues' Sound From The Street*, a new Podcast airing weekly on [Anchor.fm](https://anchor.fm/oneill-blues). Thank you so much for tuning in. Here is the latest word from the street.



Noah Davis

For some exciting blend of blues, rock, gospel and soul, look no further my friends than up north to that BBQ utopia, Kansas City.

Noah Davis and his exciting band *Heavy*

Electric are slinging and bringing it night after night and creating a buzz nationally and internationally with their incredible songs and dynamic stage show.

And while the world is embracing Noah Davis, fear not! Kansas City will always be a part of Noah's heart. Noah and *Heavy Electric* have had one of their songs, "Little Angel" included on the compilation CD of some of Kansas City's hottest bands, *Kosmic City Friends Volume 2*. Also, Noah's song, "Kansas City Girl" became an official rallying cry for our beloved Kansas City Chiefs' historic Super Bowl win last year.

Noah, who was raised in the church, takes the stage with the energy and zeal of a blues preacher testifying about the music he loves and the life he lives.

It is impossible to sit still at a Noah Davis show. His powerful voice will shake you to attention and the driving rhythm of the *Heavy Electric Band* will get you out on the dance floor shaking and screaming for more.

For our readers who are venue owners, I am happy to report that not only is Noah a world-class performer but also a prompt and professional act that you will thoroughly enjoy working with. All booking inquiries should go to ndmbooking@gmail.com or by phone at (913) 961-4154.

To hear Noah Davis' music check out these links my brothers and sisters and rejoice in Noah's God given talent!

Band Camp <https://noahdavismusic.bandcamp.com/album/a-simple-gospel>

Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/artist/1T1kVK0wphUchA8MFrwBvF?nd=1>

iTunes <https://www.google.com/search?q=Noah%20Davis%20and%20Heavy%20electric%20on%20iTunes>

iTunes 100% Album <https://www.google.com/search?q=Noah%20Davis%20100>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkKI6b5nJfu86pFqCzxKAcw>

Meanwhile off of Boonville Ave....:



If you happened to miss our spooky ghost stories for Halloween, slide on by the podcast and get that tingle rolling up your spine.

We had professional storyteller, Peter Rowlands from Wales submit some of his thriller chiller tales for the audience. And let's not forget, our favorite Pine Barrens Bluesman, Paul Evans Pedersen Jr. came by to spin those original tales from those mysterious woods of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Check out Paul's book, "*The Legendary Pine Barrens: New Tales from Old Haunts*" at Amazon or wherever fine books are sold.

And finally, I released the Eastman Tapes, recorded live in our very own haunted studio. At first when we saw the lights dim and things being moved around I thought it was one of the staff playing a joke on yours truly. It was only when we set up mics around the station and hit that red recording button did the mysteries begin. Check out these eerie tapes today. BOO!

Well that's all for now. So stay tuned because we will have a lot more for you in the months to come...This is O'Neill Blues', Sound From The Street



"100 YEARS OF BLUES" - ELVIN BISHOP AND CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE

CD REVIEW BY GEORGE HUNT

BIRDS OF A FEATHER is the opening number on this CD. This is a song that might be done at the first of a show. A medium shuffle that calls for all Blues lovers. Charlie has some nice chromatic harmonica overdubbed in this song's final verse.

THE SECOND CUT is called *West Helena Blues*. This song was written by Roosevelt Sykes. Roosevelt

(1906-1983) was a piano player in the barrelhouse style. He grew up near Helena Arkansas. Bob Welsh plays guitar and piano on several cuts. He currently plays guitar with Elvin. He throws in some nice piano on this track. There is talk of a woman he loves in West Helena. What a "Murderous home" Helena Arkansas is. A great number of Blues greats lived or at least passed through Helena back in the day. They also do today.



WHAT THE HELL? is track three. Elvin takes the lead vocal here. This song talks of the political and social trends in our country at the moment. Elvin does not hold back. *Good Times* starts with some nice Muddy Waters type slide guitar. Kid Anderson plays Bass on this CD. This song shows his walking style. Charlie is asking "where did all of good times go?"

OLD SCHOOL IS the next track. This song takes the phrase and explains. "Don't fool with no Facebook, no twitters and tweets. Call me on the phone if you want to talk to me." Some of us remember those days!

IF I SHOULD Have Bad Luck is a Charlie Musselwhite song. This is a song Charlie has done for a while. Bob Welsh has a nice lead with feel. Charlie

blows some of his trademark high notes. More harmonica, I don't mind.



CHARLIE MOVED FROM Memphis to Chicago when in his twenties. Charlie is but a few on the remaining Blues men who met, befriended, jammed with the legends of Chicago Blues.



MIDNIGHT HOUR BLUES written by LeRoy Carr, is a slow moody piece. Elvin sings lead on this. He winds his voice around the beat like a pro that he is. Oh yea, Charlie plays some nice chromatic harmonica. Elvin laments "that little girl that I love, I don't see her anymore." *Blues, Why You Worry Me* is another Charlie song. He starts

with harmonica. The piano is back in this song. It adds a great honky-tonk feel. Elvin takes a lead in this song. He knows the Blues alright. Charlie's voice is a testament to a blues life he has led. Elvin's *South Side Slide* starts with slide guitar and harmonica being as close as a "bride and groom". A nice dirty sounding instrumental. This could go on longer for me.

BLUES FOR YESTERDAY is the tenth track on this CD. "Times were tough but we had fun" Blues is always a mirror of life. Everyone can relate to this thought. Some great harmonica vibrato is heard on this song.



HELP ME IS a standard by Sonny Boy Williamson II. Willie Dixon and Ralph Bass are credited with writing this song. Based on the 1962 hit *Green Onions*. Help Me became a hit in 1963. This is a song a lot of people have played. 100 Years of Blues is the last track on this CD. Elvin and Charlie wrote this song. "You know between the two of us, you're looking at 100 years of Blues. Elvin and Charlie sing of true life. All the legends they met and loved. These guys have pedigree. Hope they are around for a long time.



BLUES HISTORY SPOTLIGHT BY MARY CERTAIN

MAMIE SMITH MADE history when in 1920 she became the first African American singer to make a record of a Blues song, “Crazy Blues.” The record became a massive hit, changing the record industry and launching a new era of “race records” aimed at black listeners.



BORN IN 1883, Smith entered show business at the tender age of ten. She spent the next decade working in vaudeville as dancer and singer. At age 20 she married and settled down in New York City’s Harlem neighborhood, where she became a regular performer in night clubs.



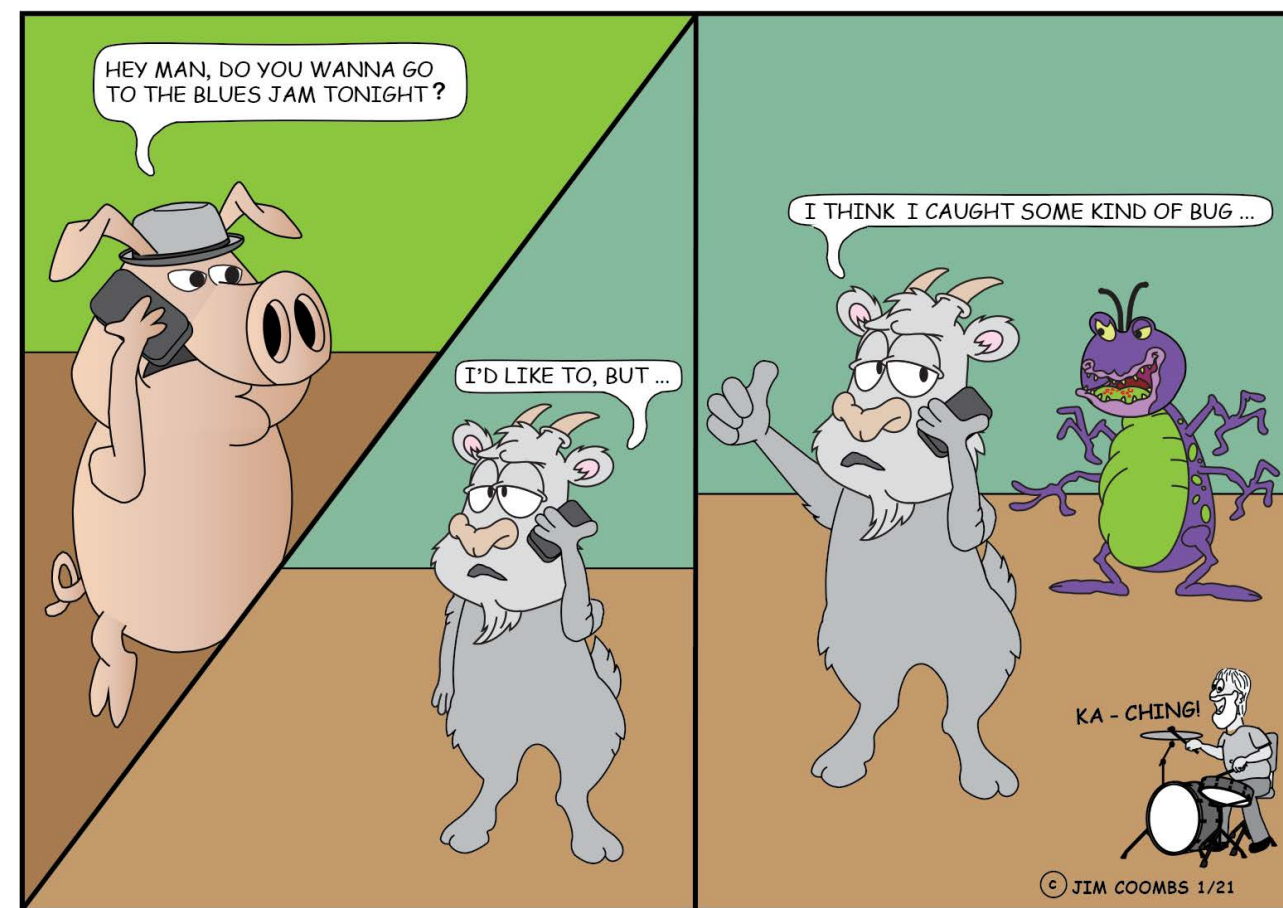
ON AUGUST 10, 1920, Smith filled in for an ailing Sophie Tucker, a white singer, at a recording session for Okeh Records. One of the songs she cut that day, “Crazy Blues,” is widely viewed as the first Blues recording by an African-American artist. It became a million-selling sensation, thanks in part to the large numbers of copies sold in the African American community. This success surprised record companies, who had underestimated the potential of the African-American market. Quickly, record labels began making and marketing music specifically for African American audiences, opening the door to many classic and influential Blues and Jazz performances. Smith also opened the door to other prominent “Blues Women” of the 1920s, including Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith.

SMITH MADE THE most of her “Crazy Blues” success, touring frequently in the United States and Europe. She retired from performing in 1931, though beginning at the end of that decade she returned to appear in a string of films. She died in New York City in 1946

I Got The Blues was a ragtime blues, written by Anthony Maggio and published in 1908. The second blues song published was the “Dallas Blues” written by Hart Wand and published in March 1912.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta3zrj1BXxY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x7MbQhLaMw>



BSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AND OTHER NEWS

FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT:

To sum up in one word, what I look to bring to the BSO as President is a focus on NETWORKING. Many of you have done business with me in some capacity in the past and I sincerely hope I have established with you a feeling that I'm always interested in fostering a beneficial relationship for all parties whom I work with.

I would like to post some fantastic opportunities we have before us as members of the Blues Society of the Ozarks. I encourage you to look over this list and if you see something that strikes your fancy by all means, message us to inquire further. Of course, if you simply want to enjoy any of these events from a casual point of view, that is perfectly fine too. Each point on this list provides top-notch entertainment and we are honored that these creative folks are sharing their time and talents with us all. Thank you!

- **The BSO Newsletter:**

If you are looking to network and get your name out there you have come to the right place. Mike Fisher, our Editor, is spearheading a top rate bi-monthly newsletter and let me tell

you, it is already getting attention from fans, fellow musicians, and other Blues Societies around the country. Contact Mike today and ask how you can get involved. Believe me it will be time well spent.

- **The monthly BSO Blues Jams:**

If you are looking to get your groove on and try out new material as a performing musician or would like to meet people and network, then mark your calendars for the next Jam! George Hunt hosts two Jams for the BSO on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at both the Shuffle and Carrie's respectively. Message George for all of the details on how to be a part of the action. I personally guarantee you will be treated in the most caring and professional manner when talking with George.

- **Brother Ray and Friends:**

Our valued treasurer, Mr. Brother Ray, performs a fantastic show at the Barnhouse here in town every other Friday. I encourage you all to come out for fantastic music, food and beverages. Introduce yourself to this gentleman of the blues and I can assure you Brother Ray will treat you right.

- **O'Neill Blues' Sound from The Street:**

If you are a musician who has recorded your own original material, let me invite you to be a part of my weekly Podcast. I feature artists from around the world and have my show has a loyal following. Submit your material to me with a bio and I would be happy to feature you on a future episode.

This is just some of the opportunities we provide for our friends in the Blues Society of the Ozarks. Feel free to message myself or any of our fantastic board members to learn more and to say Hello. Have a wonderful day and I will see you all out and about as we go Blues' in, in 2021.

FEBRUARY IS BSO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

The Blues Society is offering a **\$5.00 discount for all memberships**, new or renewed, during the month of February 2021. Now is an excellent time to take advantage of New Year savings and join an organization committed to appreciating and promoting the Blues in southwest Missouri. The Blues Society of the Ozarks' goal continues to educate and entertain people that share their common love of the Blues, plus provide the ongoing benefits of membership with the organization. Contact any BSO Board member for more details.

Blues Jam at Carries Bar! This is our additional Blues Jam venue. The upcoming Fourth Sunday Jam will be January 24th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Located at 1906 E. Meadowmere Street (just East of Glenstone). We'll give away a CD and having a 50/50 raffle. NO COVER CHARGE.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Springfield Music, The Shuffle Pub, To Blonde "Family" Salon, and the RC Flea Market.



TO BLONDE "FAMILY" SALON

417-430-6837 and 417-430-6838

1031 W Kearney

Springfield, Missouri 65803

Rcsalesandservice@outlook.com





SPECIAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

The BSO will host a special fundraising event at the Shuffle Pub on January 10, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This event will replace the Sunday Blues Jam and will feature a live music line up of Uncle Buster, George and Seth Hunt, the Wynn Brothers, and Paul Tomlinson.

All fundraiser proceeds, the 50/50, and donations will go to Al and Debbie Rule to defer medical expenses. Debbie Rule was in the hospital for six months, then to rehab, but after insurance denied their appeal to continue to pay for extended care, Al was forced to take her home due to the daily expenses. Funds raised will go to Al to provide in-home care, medical supplies, etc. Al has a farm, (Al's Happy Hens), where he raises chickens and some livestock, then delivers to his small base of customers.

Al has to manage all this while taking care of Debbie.



The Shuffle Pub

2550 S Campbell Ave
Suite 800,
Springfield, MO

January 10, 2021
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Since 1991, the goal of the Blues Society of the Ozarks has been to encourage the appreciation of the Blues, an original American music. The BSO provides a forum in the Ozarks for the performance of the Blues at live events, radio, and multimedia platforms, and in doing so, with a commitment to educate and entertain all people of the Ozarks. The BSO provides an organizational infrastructure through which people can share their common love of the Blues and to join with similar organizations to accomplish the common goals. To learn more about the BSO, and new opportunities for an active role in the Blues community, please contact any BSO Board member or visit the BSO [FaceBook](#) page, or visit the BSO web site at <https://ozarksblues.com/>



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In this January issue of the BSO Bluesletter, we begin a new year and try to put 2020 behind us. The last year will be remembered as a difficult and demanding experience for everyone, including musicians, their families, for live music venue providers; and everyone that supports the entertainment arts. We will continue to face the ongoing challenges, hardships, and loss. We look forward to positive change in 2021.

We are blessed with a wealth of talented musicians and music supporters in our area that need our encouragement in the coming New Year. Please reach out and let them know the Blues Society of the Ozarks wants to hear from them. Keep the music going and growing.

Now is the time for you to take that step and start writing your contribution to the next BSO Bluesletter. Feel free to contact me, Mike Fisher, at mikefisher@missouristate.edu.

Blues Society Inc.
Blues Society of the
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BSO MEMBERSHIP FORM

Signup at ozarksblues.com or complete this form and send with check or money order to:
Blues Society of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 8133, Springfield, MO 65801

Name _____ Name _____

(Two adults at same address, please list both names)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Fax _____

- \$15/year - Student, Senior, Military membership
- \$20/year - Individual membership
- \$100/year - Corporate membership



As an active member in the **BSO**, I would be willing to help in the following areas:

- Events
- Fundraisers
- Bluesletter
- Blues Festival
- Public Relations/Marketing
- Other