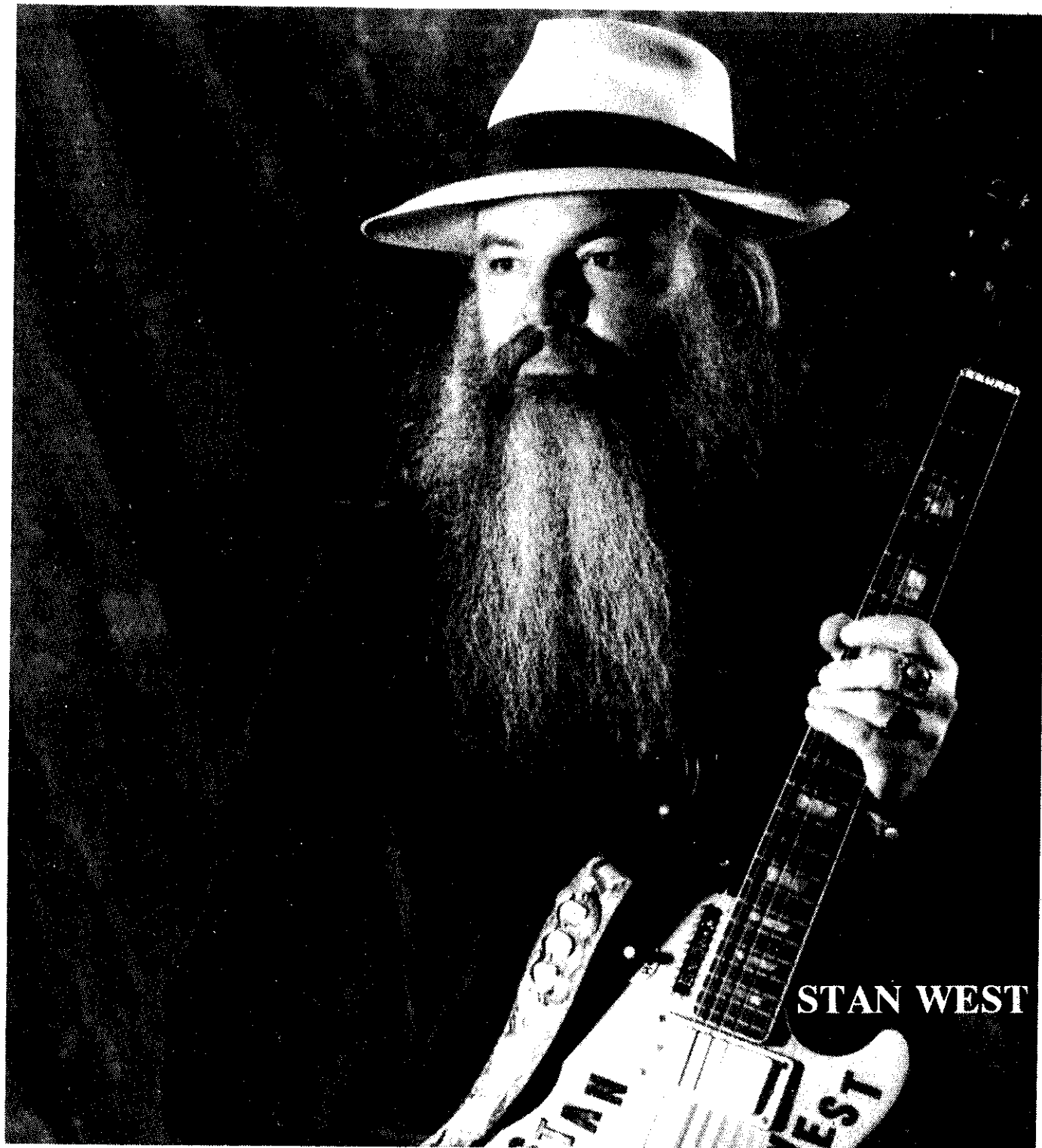


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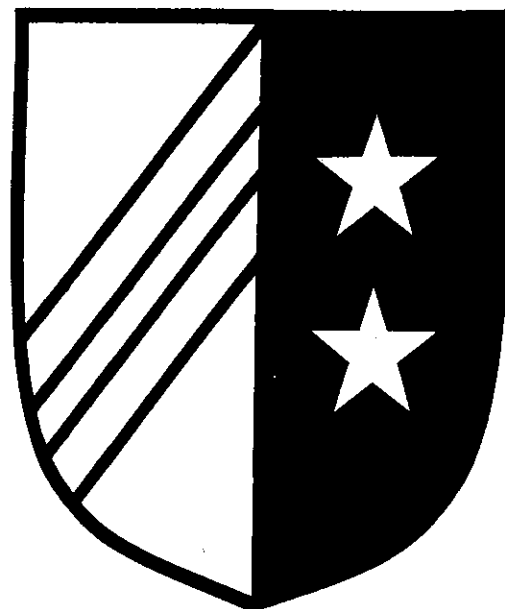
**VOLUME ONE, ISSUE SIX  
NOVEMBER 1995**

# **the BLUES NEWS**



**STAN WEST**

**THE INLAND EMPIRE'S BLUES AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE**



*Jim 'n' I's*

Tavern 'n' Fine Foods

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**LUNCH SPECIALS | DINNER SPECIALS**

## the BLUES NEWS

NOV 1995

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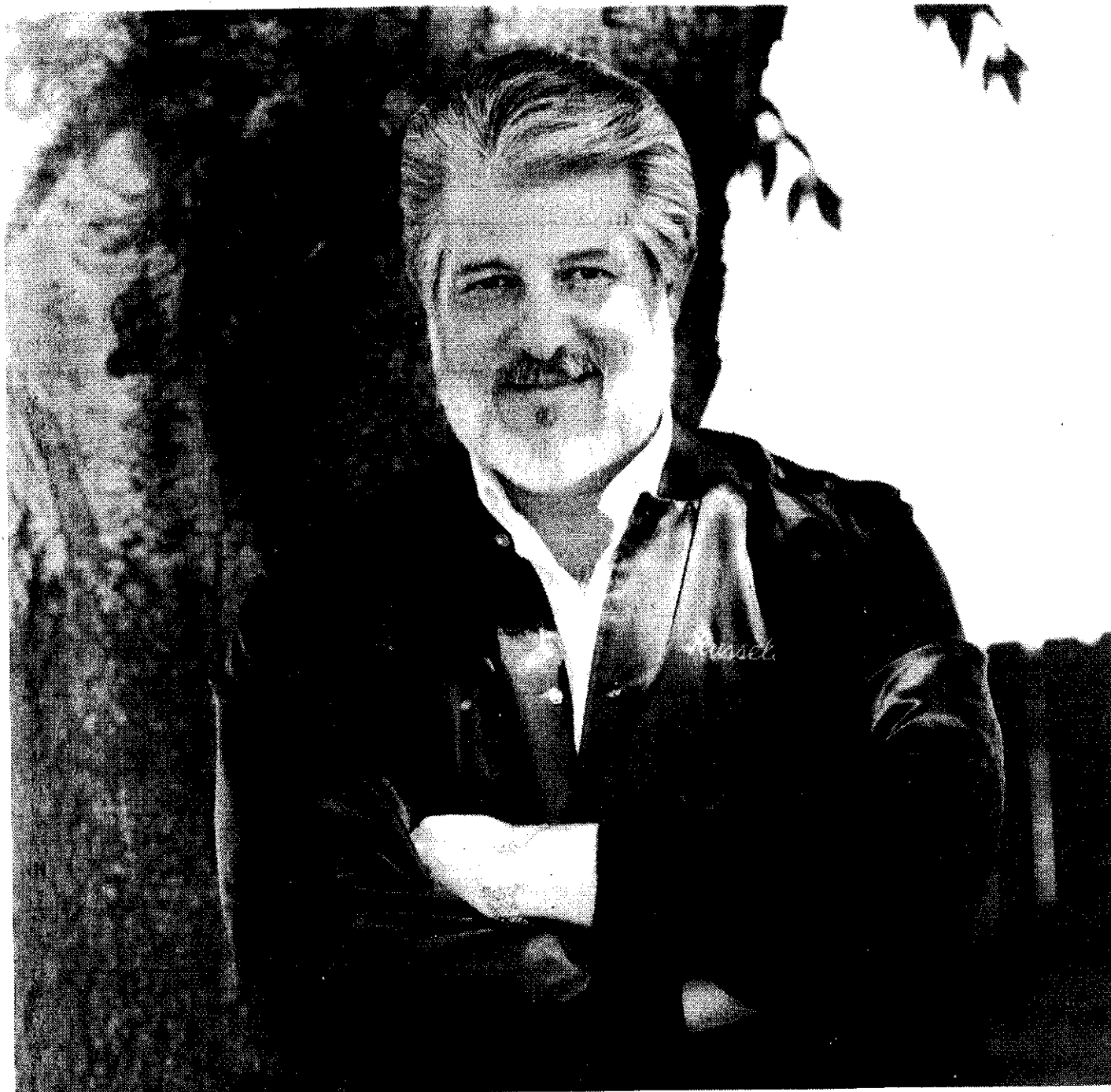
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COVER PHOTO: STAN WEST



**“Hear The Blues With Russell”**

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## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Happy Holiday season from myself and the staff here at the **BLUES NEWS**. There has been some quality bands passing through our parts. Eddie Gent of Lake Alice Trading Co. in Riverside has been playing a big part in this. His club keeps bringing us the best shows of the county.

Local blues deejay Robert Kreutzer has a blues show on 88.3 KUCR Riverside, Tuesday nights from 9 - 11 p.m. Recently, Blue By Nature paid him a visit and they previewed their new CD, "Blue to the Bone". (Good stuff.)

Well, expansion is the keynote for Fall for the **BLUES NEWS**. We are in search of Blues junkies to help in producing our mag. Experience is not a key issue with us here, just a pure love for the music, that's all we ask. So, got some spare time on your hands? Want to contribute to the expansion of blues? Well contact us here at (909) 369- 7458.

Notice to all blues music industry individuals: the **BLUES NEWS** is your source for reaching that core blues crowd. Isn't that right, Guys?

Don't Forget Subscriptions are only \$15 a year. The perfect Christmas gift for the blues fan on your list.

# THE BUDDAH HEADS !

On Fri. Oct. 27th, the Buddah Heads came back to Riverside by popular demand. Where you ask? Lake Alice Trading Co. And, like the first time they were there, they delighted the crowd with the hard fashion blues that they do so well.

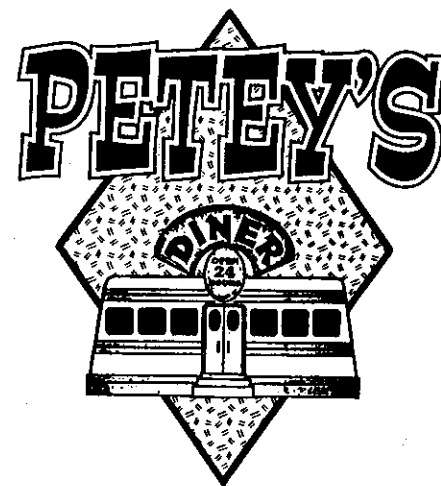
Alan Mirikitani, the lead guitarist for the band, set a humble and sincere stage presence for the Lake Alice crowd, who in return, throughout the night, responded with screams, whistles and standing applause. Alan's guitar playing was precise and fresh and the acoustics at the Lake enhanced his vocals, as well as the rest of the music behind him.

The Buddah Heads have two new members to their group, bass player Lee Spath, who plays the bass with an expertise that is going to take the Heads to blues heaven. Alan gave him a solo and Lee popped, snapped, picked chords in harmony that were an "ear"-pealing delight for me to hear and see. Also new

addition to the Heads is drummer Johnny Griparic, who sat high on the stage at the Lake and played the drums decisive and tonally appropriate.

Overall, the Heads are one band that, if you missed them when they were here, don't miss them when their back.

William Silguero



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## COVER STORY

### Stan West

by John Pepper

Stan West is unique in many ways: as a store owner, as a musician and as a human being. His store in Glendora, Stan's Guitar Shop, is a shrine to the glory days of the blues, with posters, music, magazines, but most of all guitars, which West repairs and sells. It is not a place where store in Glendora, Stan's Guitar Shop, is a shrine to the glory days of the blues, with posters, music, magazines, but most of all guitars, which West repairs and sells. It is not just a place to buy a guitar or get your guitar fixed, but a place where you can talk with the owner about the blues or browse through back issues of Living Blues or Blues Revue Quarterly to see if there are any there you missed.

West's uniqueness as a musician refers to his playing. He plays the slide guitar with a sound that few others can muster. It is grounded in the blues, but has traces of rock, country and jazz all mixed through it. With one album already out and another on the way, West has achieved his goal of only playing music he loves.

That West plays at all is something of a miracle. In 1977 he suffered a major stroke and was paralyzed on his left side. After many painful months of therapy, West was able to play again. At the time, he was playing with a country band called, Bootleg Country and West says he owes them a lot of thanks. "They threw me a big benefit while I was in the hospital. Then when I started to play again, they let me play with them, even though I was not very good."

After this life-changing experience, West decided that he would stick to his first love in music, the blues. While this is not always profitable, West always had his day gig, the store, to fall back on. This allows him to pick up and choose his musical direction carefully. Also, the store provides the opportunity to practice everyday. "This is therapy, for one and it keeps me in shape.", said West

West also feels that you can't just sit around and moan when something bad happens. "When bad things befall you, you learn something down the line from it, most of the time.", said West. With this kind of outlook, it is possible to see how West has overcome some of the obstacles he has faced.

This spirit is also reflected in his playing. West said, "It doesn't matter whether you are playing for one person, no people or 5,000. You have to put out everything you can." This atmosphere is very evident, both at his performances and in the musicians that Stan had in his band.

Another area where this is apparent is in his recorded music. "My Blues" which West released on his own Resonator Records now has national distribution, as well as in England, Germany and Denmark. He also is projecting that he will go in the studio sometime in November and have the new CD by February or March. When asked about the new material, West said, "It is more bluesier than the first album. There will be more midtempo to slow numbers. We will be using my whole band and Jeff Ross will probably come in and help us again."

Recently West has played a couple of acoustic dates, both solo and with Jeff Ross. He said, "The difference on these gigs is that the audience seems to be there more to listen to the music." In this line, there is the possibility that West will open one of the rooms in the store for occasional acoustic concerts, sometime in the future. "It's a small room, maybe 25 people, like sitting around in someone's living room. I also would like to do some benefits there for the Mt. Zion Robert Johnson Memorial Fund, which was responsible for putting headstones on the graves of Fred McDowell and Big Joe Williams, among others.", said West.

West's style of playing reflects his background, which is quite diverse. He has played with a rock group on the Sunset strip during the heyday of the 60's, played with country bands and with different blues bands. He also has taken several courses on jazz composition. This is reflected not only in his playing but in dedicating his first album to John Coltrane, along with God and Willie Dixon.

West's diverse background and unique situation in life have forged a great conviction and in what he is doing. That is playing the blues and spreading the message that the blues is all right.

# THE ADVENTURES OF WILLIE COALTRAIN

## Lovin' Holidays

Hello and Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving. It's been a fast year and this is the season to give to those less fortunate and I would like to give a little word to these people. Keep your head up and I hope you find a place to sleep, some food to eat, some good friends to share with and a happy thought to keep a smile on your face this holiday season.

Last month I got word from some friends that a Mr. Doc Ryan of the Blue Falcons was lookin' for good ol' Willie Coaltrain about some money for some Beer. Well, Doc was messin' with my love wagon, (the '73' love cady) so I think I will pay him back the money and my regrets in my own special way. By the way, Marty, HUGS & KISSES baby. Love, Willie C.

I was sitting around the house tossing my harp licks in and out of an old tune by Willie Dixon, "Back Doorman", when I got a knock at the door. It's my buddy Bubba, the love sponge. He say's to me, "I know of a great band to see at Sharkey's in Encinitas."

I said, "Midas muffler." So we hopped in his '69' Chevy Camero convertible with a 454 big block engine. When you lift the hood there's more chrome in there than my brother Harles' mouth. He's now a permanent resident of the Blue Bar motel in Mississippi.

Well he starts this beauty and we roar off in a gust of wind and get there in no time.

We walk in to this joint, big Bubba leads the way clearing the riff raff from the floor. I said to Bubba, "This reminds me of back when we hobbo'd our way through the countryside playin' and drinkin' the Delta away." We found ourselves a nice little spot at the bar in front of the stage. The band was setting up and so was I (with a bourbon, and a Beer and the same for Bubba). We toasted to old times, drank the shot and looked across the room for something ugly to play with. No sooner, I turned my head and B.T.L.S. was workin' this thing. She looked like something you could only read about in a Steven King book, but that's okay 'cause B.T.L.S. aint no more pleasant to the eyes than she was.

The band was all set up by the time all this took place and they humped a couple tunes out of their blues hats, when I heard this pick, bend, release, on the guitar and I knew what was next, "All your love I missa lovin'..." A song very well done by this band. At this point, I didn't care where anyone was. Border Crossing made me want to get up and sing.

On "Willie's Beer Ranking Band Scale" Border Crossing is like a twelve pack of Beer. Their original tunes were very intoxicating.

P.S. Please give what you can to those who need your help and your kindness will come back to you ten fold.

WILLIE COALTRAIN

GOOD CLUB  
PRESENTS

NOVEMBER

Every wed. Sweet pete & the La Rux  
blues jam. Thurs. Art of Sax

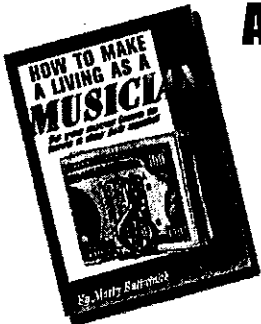
Nov. 3rd, 4th, & 5th. NAGHTY FACE

Nov. 10th, 11th. THE FABLES

Nov. 17th & 18th. THE WORKS

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# MO' BETTER BLUES

OCT 1, 1995 @ CROSSROADS, YUCIAPA

This five piece band consisting of drums, bass, guitar, keyboards and vocals really showed me a good time this Sunday night. This is a very soulful blues of the "gospel" type. At least it seems so when vocalist Mickey is singing. The Guitar player contributes vocally. In fact at the beginning of one set Micky sat out while th guitarist took over Doing a really good song.

Heavy bass dominates the music of Mo' Better Blues. During the walking bass line known to all in most prominent blues numbers the bass player rocks it up with tunes like "Caladonia", "Let it Roll",

When Mickey was called back up on stage, he was egged on to sing "Happy Birthday" to himself.

Juke Blues with a mowtown swing. Just wonderful blues. Chicago, man! "Knock on Wood", "In the Midnight Hour", "Shout"...

What makes bikers and blues go together? It's the feel good vibrations enjoyed in roadhouses all over the country. The hard times, the good times, the sexy feel of the blues.

At the Crossroads on the outdoor stage artistically decorated with road signs, in front of the "sandbox" lit up with tiki torches, where locals kick it in beach chairs being served by the best looking watresses, Mo' BETter Blues served up some soulful seductive blues to some "feeling good" people. I would love to give you more information about the band but they never sent me any, like they said they would.

BY ERIC HARNDEN



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Nov 6th, BB Kings, Universal City Walk

W/ King Ernest & The Wild Knights

Nov 11th, Lake Alice, Riverside

W/ King Ernest & The Wild Knights

Nov 21st & 22nd, BB Kings, Universal City Walk

W/ King Ernest & The Wild Knights

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the BLUES NEWS

## Joe Louis Walker

Blues of The Month Club  
(Verve)

On August 23rd of this year, the Coach House in San Juan Capistrano hosted Buddy Guy along with Joe & his Bosstalkers. Me & a few of my pals attended the show because we like Buddy. Luckily, we obtained seats in the middle-front of the venue, making it easy to take in everything. I can appreciate a tight band with strong musical abilities. My Brothers & Sisters, this band is made up of musical *Monsters!* Joe Louis Walker left at least 90% of the attendees with their jaws hanging like a side of beef on a meat hook; Including mine! What a performance. Bassist "Tony Saunders" brought the house down with his solo. "Blues of The Month Club" although not as imperious, is a testament of that performance. The "soulful" Mr. Walker has a reputation as one of "thee" most gifted contemporary bluesmen of our generation. His stinging guitar and (Johnny Copland like) vocals are the leading force. The CD contains 8 Walker originals and 3 covers. The 4th track, "Blusifyin'", takes you down-home and the title track is a smooth groove down blues lane. "Blues of The Month Club" gets my vote. Check it out!

## CD REVIEWS:

### The Art Of Sax

Soul Searching  
(Soul Town)

The Inland Empire is the home of some of the most talented musical groups in the Southland; Blues, Jazz or otherwise. Bands such as "The Art Of Sax" have made my job of reviewing CD's extremely enjoyable. They use Soul, Spirituality, Love, Peace & Talent for mortar. Will Donato/Saxophone, Kenny Styles/Guitar, Ed Reddick/Bass, Carlos Murguia/Keyboards & Steve Monreal/Drums saturate "Soul Searching" with musical talent. Who sings? They all do! And very well-I must add. "Ed Reddick" lays down a funk filled foundation and is powerful on the Bass; especially on "Things Gotta Get Better", "Paradise", "Every Generation" and "What You Do To Me". "Donato" gives a stellar performance on the sax; hitting the inner-most depths of the heart and producing sonorous as well as stylish playing. These fine musicians have created a sound that is universal to which all human beings can relate to; regardless of musical persuasion. I could write on & on about all the warmth I feel when I listen to this CD but, in short, "Soul Searching" is a masterfully engineered work of art. Art Of Sax...that is!

### Tony Z

Get Down With The Blues  
(Tone-Cool Records)

Tony Z is a new name to this blues fan, but he has produced some of the finest Hammond B-3 organ-driven blues since the debut of Ron Levy. With this ten tracks Tony Z has set himself up as a force to be reckoned with.

This is an album of completely new and fresh material, all written by Tony Z. Not only can Tony Z sing and play the organ, but he also has an eye for talent, surrounding himself with some of the best players around. The guitar work of Duke Robillard is always spectacular and Houston Person wails on his sax. The rhythm section of Johnny B. Gayden on bass and Bernard Purdie on drums, may be more familiar to jazz fans, but these guys prove that they can swing with the blues beat.

This album has cuts that range from slow, down and dirty blues, to blues that swings as if a big band was coming in to record it. With this kind of variety on one collection, it is impressive that a group which does not normally play together could sound as tight as these players do.

Tony Z has made all the right choices for his debut album, from song selection down to the choice of personnel. This is a great disc that swings, shouts and caresses its way into your heart. Watch out for this one, it is red-hot.

Reviewed by  
Jon Pepper

CD REVIEWS BY GREG SERRATO

the BLUES NEWS

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# Kenny Neal: Heart and Soul of the Blues

By Jay Egenes

I'm a big fan of early post-war Chicago blues. Most of my blues heroes recorded for Chess during the 1950's and 60's. So I timed my Sunday afternoon nap (I had a gig in the morning and us musicians gotta sleep sometime) to catch Jimmy Rogers (who rose to fame as Muddy Waters' guitarist) at W.O.W. Riverside!

Turns out I had the schedule wrong, 'cause I got downtown and there was no Jimmy Rogers around. But this tall, thin, young guy was on stage singin' like he meant it and gettin' some down and dirty sounds out of a Fender Telecaster.

This guy was singin' pure, simple blues, the way it oughtta be, with emotion and heart. So I decided to stick around. After awhile somebody told me ('cause I bothered to ask) that it was Kenny Neal.

Neal played that Telecaster like it was part of his arm, like the strings were his vocal chords, like the notes were his own voice. He had the crowd singing along, in a call and answer style, as his marvelous band (including two of his brothers) rocked along behind him. Then, in the middle of a slow blues number he pulled out a blues harp and started blowin' some great stuff. The band, with just bass, drums and keyboards (no guitar) kept the sound full while Kenny blew his lungs out and blew me away.

Neal ended the show playing lap steel (when was the last time you saw somebody play a lap steel?) on Elmore James' "It Hurts Me Too", taking the song at a more up tempo, rocking feel than it's usually given. The guy was truly a quadruple threat, playing great guitar, harp, and lap steel, while his voice took over every number and made it his own.

Although electric blues rose to popularity primarily through those Chess artists playing out of Chicago, the inspiration for the style, and many of the musicians, came from the South.

Neal, from Louisiana, plays a modern blues that incorporates much of the Chicago style. His songs are strewn with references, musical and lyrical, to Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf and Little Walter. But his sound also clearly came from the Louisiana bayou, and much of his playing had a swampy feel uncommon in northern urban blues.

Kenny Neal delivers each song, each note, not with flash or dazzle, but with pure simple heart. Based on what I saw that Sunday afternoon, Kenny Neal will soon belong (if he doesn't already) in the ranks of the greats, and he is forging a new modern style, born in the bayous of Louisiana but incorporating the best of northern urban blues.

"16 More True Stories and A Few More Lies"

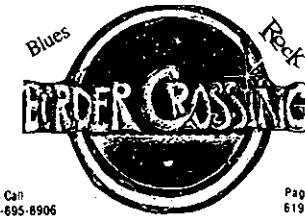
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18th SURF N' SADDLE

21st PATRICK'S II



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Mentone Beach Yacht Club  
9 to 1

Sunday, November 5  
Shelly's, Ontario  
7 to 11

Saturday, November 11  
Mentone Beach Yacht Club  
9 to 1

Sunday, November 12  
Crossroads, Yucaipa  
5 to 10

Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18  
Camelot, San Bernardino  
9 to 1

Friday, November 24  
Lake Alice Trading Company, Riverside  
9 to 1

## BLUE HIGHWAY

FRIDAY NOV. 10

SAT., NOV 11

9PM

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SAT., DEC 2

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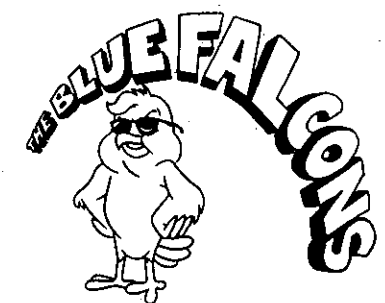
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- Sneaker's 196 N. Central Ave., Upland (909) 946-5888
- 6060 Club 6060 Magnolia Ave., Riverside (909) 682-9226
- Tanner's Outpost 18815 Grand Ave., Lake Elsinore (909) 678-0390

## THE INSIDE NEWS

**FOURTH STREET BLUES BAND IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THEIR NEW CD. IN FACT, THEY'RE PROBABLY RECORDING AS YOU READ THIS.**

**RUSSELL, of "Hear the Blues with Russell", has lost his radio show. This is very tragic news indeed. Recent reports have indicated that he will soon emerge on another radio station soon. GOOD LUCK, RUSSELL!!!**

**What's the latest trendy occupation? Blues promoter. Seems everyone and his sister wants to jump on the old blues bandwagon. Which isn't the problem. After all there's plenty of room and we need all the support we can muster. Although, some greedy types are really screwing things up for the sincere and truley intended. Therein lies the rub. As in the fact that we here at the blues news, don't want to get beat up or shot we won't specifically name the dirty ones(in print) but buyer beware.**

**Bad seeds exist in all aspects of life as we well know. So if you have been wronged tell other bands, show up the next night and raise hell. These type thrive on your not having the nerve to speak up. I'm perfectly willing to give lots of info to people who really need it. So don't hesitate to contact me if your interested. Don't get me wrong there are good guys out there too. I'll tell you those ones too.**

**The Beach Club in Temecula is no longer playing blues, in fact they are being sued for breach of contract. Bands, be careful.**

# **NOVEMBER 1995**

## **RUDE DOG BAND SCHEDULE**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed                               | Thu | Fri                                            | Sat                     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|     |     |     | 1<br>JAM NIGHT                    | 2   | 3<br>NELSON<br>ADELAN &<br>THE BLUES<br>DELIXE | 4<br>ROCAHOLICS         |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8<br>JAM NIGHT                    | 9   | 10<br>THE BLITT-<br>UGLY<br>BLUES<br>BAND      | 11<br>CHEAP SAX         |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15<br>JAM NIGHT                   | 16  | 17<br>TEXAS<br>FLOOD                           | 18<br>GROOVY<br>FLOWERS |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22<br>SPECIAL<br>SHOW:<br>DISANTI | 23  | 24<br>LONGSHOT                                 | 25<br>FILM AT<br>ELEVEN |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29<br>JAM NIGHT                   | 30  |                                                |                         |

**RUDE DOG BAR & GRILL 114 N CITRUS COVINA CA (818) 332-8922**