

Tuesday Night Blues 2016

Owen Park, Eau Claire

All shows begin at 6:30

In case of inclement weather, Tuesday Night Blues is held at the House of Rock, 422 Water Street.

*August 2 will be held at Phoenix Park.

- May 31 Nick Foytik Band**
NickFoytik.com
- June 7 Tommy Bentz Band**
TommyBentz.com
- June 14 The Lucky Losers**
TheLuckyLosers.com
- June 21 Code Blue w/ Catya & Sue**
Catya.net
- June 28 Joyann Parker and Sweet Tea**
JoyannParker.com
- July 5 Mojo**
Mojolemon.com
- July 12 Left Wing Bourbon**
LeftWingBourbon.com
- July 19 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**
HowardLuedtke.com
- July 26 Charlie Parr**
CharlieParr.com
- August 2 Crooked Dice**
CrookedDice.org
- August 9 Rockin' Johnny Burgin**
RockinJohnnyBand.com
- August 16 The Blues of the Grateful Dead**
facebook.com/RhythmPosse
- August 23 Armadillo Jump**
ArmadilloJump.com
- August 30 Sue Orfield Band**
SueOrfieldBand.com

than on his Paramount records. In 1927, Jefferson recorded another of his now classic songs, "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean" (using the pseudonym Deacon L. J. Bates). It became such a big hit that it was re-recorded and re-released in 1928.

Jefferson died in Chicago at 10 am on 19 December 1929. His death certificate states "probably acute myocarditis". Rumors circulated that a jealous lover had poisoned his coffee. Another is he died of a heart attack after becoming disoriented during a snowstorm. More recently, the book, "Tolbert's Texas," claimed he was killed while being robbed by a guide escorting him to Union Station to catch a train home to Texas. Paramount Records paid for the return of his body to Texas by train. Jefferson was buried at Wortham Negro Cemetery. Far from his grave being kept clean, it was unmarked until 1967, when a Texas Historical Marker was erected in the general area of his plot, the precise location being unknown. A new granite headstone was erected in 1997. In 2007, the cemetery's name was changed to Blind Lemon Memorial Cemetery and his gravesite is kept clean by a cemetery committee in Wortham, Texas.

Taken from Biographies at The Blues Hall of Fame

Tuesday Night Bluesletter

July 26, 2016 at Owen Park

Charlie Parr



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CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY

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A Little About the Blues

Blind" Lemon Jefferson was a blues singer and guitarist from Texas. He has been titled "Father of the Texas Blues". Jefferson's singing and self-accompaniment were distinctive as a result of his high-pitched voice and originality on the guitar. Later blues and rock and roll musicians attempted to imitate both his songs and his musical style. His recordings influenced such legends as B.B. King, T-Bone Walker, Lightnin' Hopkins, Canned Heat, Son House and Robert Johnson.

Lemon Jefferson was born blind near present-day Wortham, Texas. Jefferson was one of eight children born to sharecroppers. His exact birth date is disputed, but his birth date is indicated as September 1893 in the 1900 census.

Jefferson began playing the guitar in his early teens. He became a street musician, playing in East Texas towns in front of barbershops and on corners. Men were hustling women and selling bootleg and Lemon was singing for them all night... mostly it would be just him sitting there and playing and singing all night.

By the early 1910s, Jefferson began traveling to Dallas, where he met and played with Leadbelly. In Dallas, Jefferson was one of the most prominent figures in the blues movement developing in the Deep Ellum area of Dallas, where he met Aaron Thibeaux Walker, also known as T-Bone Walker. Jefferson taught Walker the basics of blues guitar, in exchange for Walker's occasional services as a guide.

Until Jefferson, very few artists had recorded solo voice and blues guitar. Jefferson's music is uninhibited and represented the classic sounds of everyday life from a honky-tonk to a country picnic to street corner blues to work in the burgeoning oil fields. Jefferson did what very few had ever done; became a successful solo guitarist and male vocalist in the commercial recording world. In December 1925 or January 1926, he was taken to Chicago, Illinois, to record his first tracks. Jefferson's first recordings from this session were gospel songs released under the name Deacon L. J. Bates. This led to a second recording session. His first releases under his own name, "Booster Blues" and "Dry Southern Blues," were hits that led to release of the other two songs from that session, "Got the Blues" and "Long Lonesome Blues," which became a runaway success. He recorded about 100 tracks between 1926 and 1929; 43 records were issued.

It was the popularity of artists like Jefferson and contemporaries Blind Blake and Ma Rainey that Paramount became the leading recording company for the blues in the 1920s. It was Jefferson's "old-fashioned sound and confident musicianship that made him easy to market. His skillful guitar playing and impressive vocal ranges opened the door for a new generation of male solo blues performers such as Furry Lewis, Charley Patton, and Barbecue Bob. He sticks to no musical conventions, varying his riffs and rhythm and singing complex and expressive lyrics.

Jefferson, unhappy with his royalties, moved to Okeh Records in 1927. Okeh quickly recorded and released Jefferson's "Matchbox Blues" backed with "Black Snake Moan," his only Okeh recording. Jefferson's two songs released on Okeh have considerably better sound quality (continued on back)

Many people play roots music, but few modern musicians live those roots like Minnesota's Charlie Parr. Parr's heartfelt and plaintive original folk blues and traditional spirituals don't strive for authenticity: They are authentic. It's the music of a self-taught guitarist and banjo player who grew up without a TV but with his dad's recordings of America's musical founding fathers, including Charley Patton and Lightnin' Hopkins, Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly. With his long scraggly hair, father-time beard, thrift-store workingman's flannel and jeans, and emphatic, throaty voice, Parr looks and sounds like he would have fit right into Harry Smith's "Anthology of American Folk Music."

Parr uses three instruments, not including his own stomping foot. He got an 1890 banjo the first time he heard Dock Boggs. "I don't do claw hammer, I don't do Scruggs-style, it's just a version of me trying to play like Dock Boggs, I guess," Parr says. He has two Nationals, a 12-string and a Resonator, which became an obsession when Parr saw a picture of Son House playing it. "The first time I got my paws on one, I went into debt to buy it," he says. "Nationals are fun because they are as much mechanical as instrumental, you can take them apart and put them back together again." On an overseas tour, the neck of the Resonator broke in baggage: he played the guitar by shimming the neck inside the body with popsicle sticks. "It solidifies your relationship with the instrument so much: It's as much part of you as anything else."

Parr grew up in the Hormel company city of Austin, Minnesota (population 25,000) where most of the world's favorite tinned meat, Spam, is still manufactured. And he hasn't moved far, drawing sustenance from the surprisingly large, thriving and mutually supportive music scene of Duluth: Parr's 2011 album of traditional songs, Keep Your Hands on the Plow features locals including Charlie's wife, Emily Parr; old-timey banjo/fiddle band Four Mile Portage; and Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker of the renowned alternative rock band Low.

The combination of industrial meat factory where both of his parents worked proud union jobs, set in a largely rural environment, had an impact on Parr. "Every morning you'd hear the [factory] whistles blow, when I was a kid they had the stockyards and animals there, so you were surrounded by this atmosphere." "My mom and dad would come home from work, their smocks would be covered by paprika and gore." But out the back door were soybean fields, as far as they eye could see. "As a kid I thought it was kind of boring, but now I go and visit my mom and I think it's the most beautiful landscape there is."

Taken from a bio written by Wayne Robins, April 2012. Read more about Charlie at his website or tuesdaynightblues.com

Charlie Parr Upcoming Schedule

- July 27 Concerts on the Pier, Duluth, MN
- July 29 Falconer Vineyards, Red Wing, MN
- July 30 Galactic Get-Down, Lanesboro, MN
- August 5 Viking Bar, Minneapolis, MN
- August 6 Pizza Luce Block Party, Minneapolis, MN
- August 8 The Exchange, Bristol, UK

Next Week (August 2) Crooked Dice

Take the guitar styles of Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan and mix it with the hypnotic grooves of John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters and you get "Crooked Dice". Next week's show will be held at Phoenix Park so make sure you join us and bring your young'uns early for a harmonica lesson!



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Hello fellow Blues Aficionado! Welcome to the 8th season of Tuesday Night Blues at beautiful Owen Park! It's going to be a great season! Thank you all for coming out to support The Blues in the Chippewa Valley.

The CVBS depends on active members to make this a great organization! There are lots of ways that you can help promote the Blues in the Chippewa Valley!

- Receive notification and invitation to upcoming CVBS meetings. Come and make your voice heard! As a current member you will be able to vote for electing the executive officers at the annual meeting. The CVBS annual meeting will be coming up soon! Look for more info to come!

- Volunteer opportunities abound! Help out with membership drives and VIP membership program, participate in committees, volunteer to help at Tuesday Night Blues, hang posters and place literature at local businesses, recruit sponsors, be a sponsor!!

Visit us at the Chippewa Valley Blues Society tent on Tuesday night to become a member or renew your membership. It's only \$10 a year for membership... \$15 for a family. Memberships expire a year from renewal. Come be an active part of a great group of Chippewa Valley residents that love the Blues!



Teddy

Your Blues Society depends on YOU! We hope to see you very soon.

August 5-7

BLUES ON THE CHIPPEWA

Featuring: Josh Hoyer & Soul Colossal, Mark Cameron Band, Dee Miller Band with Jimi 'Primetime' Smith, Left Wing Bourbon, Alex Rossi Band, Katy Guillen & the Girls, Ray Fuller & the Blues Rockers, Bobby Messano, The Inside Straight Band, Biscuit Miller & the Mix, Skyla Burrell Band, Chris O'Leary Band, The Jimmys

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bluesonthechippewa.com

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