

# Tuesday Night Blues 2013

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 7 will be held at Phoenix Park.

**May 28 Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max**

HowardLuedtke.com

**June 4 Revolver**

RevolverBand.net

**June 11 Bryan Lee**

BrailleBluesDaddy.com

**June 18 Tommy Bentz Band**

TommyBentz.com

**June 25 Code Blue with Catya & Sue**

Catya.net

**July 2 Left Wing Bourbon**

LeftWingBourbon.com

**July 9 Charlie Parr**

CharlieParr.com

**July 16 Deep Water Reunion**

MySpace.com/DWRReunion

**July 23 Steve Meyer with the True Heat Band**

(featuring Ben Harder)

**July 30 Ross William Perry**

RossWilliamPerry.com

**Aug 6 The Sue Orfield Band featuring Ellen Whyte**

SueOrfield.com or WhyteOrfieldBand.com

**Aug 13 Dave Lambert & the Motivators**

BluesMotivators.com

**Aug 20 Rhythm Posse**

facebook.com/RhythmPosse

**Aug 27 Mojo Lemon**

MojoLemon.com

father of the Memphis blues guitar style.

By the turn of the century, at the age of 12, Stokes worked as a blacksmith, traveling the 25 miles to Memphis on the weekends to sing and play guitar with Don Sane, with whom he developed a long-term musical partnership. Together, they busked on the streets and in Church's Park (now W. C. Handy Park) on Memphis' Beale Street. Sane rejoined Stokes for the second day of an August 1928 session for Victor Records, and they produced a two-part version of "Tain't Nobody's Business If I Do", a song well known in later versions by Bessie Smith and Jimmy Witherspoon, but whose origin lies somewhere in the pre-blues era.

In 1929, Stokes and Sane recorded again for Paramount, resuming their 'Beale Street Sheiks' billing for a few cuts. In September, Stokes was back on Victor to make what were to be his last recordings, this time without Sane, but with Will Batts on fiddle. Stokes and Batts were a team as evidenced by these records, which are both traditional and wildly original, but their style had fallen out of favor with the blues record buying public. Stokes was still a popular live performer, however, appearing in medicine shows, the Ringling Brothers Circus, and other tent shows and similar venues during the 1930s and 1940s. During the 1940s, Stokes moved to Clarksdale, and occasionally worked with Bukka White in local juke joints. Stokes died of a stroke in Memphis on September 12, 1955. He is buried there in Hollywood Cemetery.

# Tuesday Night Bluesletter

August 20, 2013 at Owen Park

## Rhythm Posse



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## A Little About the Blues

In 1974 I bought a record by a Memphis musician named Don Nix who currently, at that time, had some air play on the progressive and underground stations with a tune he wrote called "Goin' Down". I was disappointed that wasn't on "Living By The Days", but liked the album. In the liner notes Nix gave influential credit to another Memphis musician named Furry Lewis. This caught my attention, and suddenly it seemed his name was popping up everywhere. This is what Wiki-pedia has to say about this prolific musician.

Walter E. "Furry" Lewis was born in Greenwood, Mississippi, United States, but his family moved to Memphis when he was seven. Lewis was nicknamed "Furry" from childhood playmates. By 1908, he was playing solo for parties, in taverns, and on the street. He was also invited to play several dates with W. C. Handy's Orchestra.

His travels exposed him to a wide variety of performers including Bessie Smith, Blind Lemon Jefferson, and Alger "Texas" Alexander. Like his contemporary Frank Stokes, he tired of the road and took a permanent job in 1922. His position as a street sweeper for the City of Memphis, a job he would hold until his retirement in 1966, allowed him to remain active in the Memphis music scene.

In 1927, Lewis cut his first records in Chicago for the Vocalion label. A year later he recorded for the Victor label at the Memphis Auditorium in a session with the Memphis Jug Band, Jim Jackson, Frank Stokes, and others. He again recorded for Vocalion in Memphis in 1929. The tracks were mostly blues but included two-part versions of "Casey Jones" and "John Henry". He sometimes fingerpicked, sometimes played with a slide. He recorded many successful records in the late 1920s including "Kassie Jones", "Billy Lyons & Stack-O-Lee" and "Judge Harsh Blues" (later called "Good Morning Judge").

In 1969, Lewis was recorded by producer Terry Manning at home in Lewis' Fourth Street apartment near Beale Street. These recordings were released in Europe at the time by Barclay Records, and then again in the early 1990s by Lucky Seven Records in the United States, and again in 2006 by Universal. Joni Mitchell's song, "Furry Sings the Blues", (on her Hejira album) is about her visit to Furry Lewis' apartment and a mostly ruined Beale Street on February 5th, 1976. Lewis despised the Mitchell song and demanded she pay him royalties.

In 1972 he was the featured performer in the Memphis Blues Caravan, which included Bukka White, Sleepy John Estes, Clarence Nelson, Hammy Nixon, Memphis Piano Red, Sam Chatmon, and Mose Vinson. Before he died, Lewis opened twice for The Rolling Stones, played on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson, had a part in a Burt Reynolds movie, W.W. and the Dixie Dancekings (1975), and had a profile in Playboy magazine.

Lewis began to lose his eyesight because of cataracts in his final years. He contracted pneumonia in 1981, which led to his death from heart failure in Memphis on September 14 of that year, at the age of 88. He is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery in South Memphis, where his grave bears two headstones, the second purchased by fans.

Frank Stokes (1/1/88 – 9/12/55) was an American blues musician, songster, and blackface minstrel, who is considered by many musicologists to be the

(continued on back)



# Associated Bank

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**The Rhythm Posse** has it's origins deeply embedded within Eau Claire's own Stage Fright shows, where the movie 'The Last Waltz' is recreated every Thanksgiving Night with a large group of local musicians. Levi Felling, Jeremy Holt, Luke Fischer, and Billy Angell are all part of the stage band for this show, and one night we realized that we belong together as a 'real' band as well.

*Billy Angell* started playing the Hammond Organ at 5 years old, when his grandfather put an old M-3 up for adoption and his family decided he needed a playmate. He parlayed that into some excellent skills and now holds down the keyboard corner along with vocals. Billy has been in the Chippewa Valley since 2000 and has made his presence felt with a number of bands, Little Willie, The Excellent Adventure, The Eau Claire Blues All Stars and The Jim Pullman Band. to name a few, as well as a previous appearance at TNB w/ The Pumps in 2010. *Jeremy Holt* plays bass & vocals for the Posse and provides some excellent bottom that is always there and grooving in their bluesy funk rock stylings. The energy he brings is infectious. An excellent guitar player in his own right, Jeremy has previously been involved with some pretty well known local groups like Sniffer and The Front Porch.

*Lucas K. Fischer* is on Lead Guitar and Vocals for the Rhythm Posse. His influences range from Nine Inch Nails to Blind Willie McTell. In the various projects of which he takes part, he fills multiple roles from drums to bass to rhythm and lead guitar. He's played with Pine Hollow Audio's Motown Tribute and 60's Tribute, a duo with Catya, Boxcar Sojourn with John Nietz and Lucas K. and The Cool Hand Saints. Currently he plays in Looking Glass Down, AcoustiHOO, and Code Blue. *Levi Vaughn Felling* played piano as a young kid, then switched to drums in high school and ended up in the rhythm section of the Matt Berry Blues Band, with who, as a teenager, played local bars, clubs, festivals and at the height of it opened for "Asleep at the Wheel" at the State Theater. With the good fortune to have been acquainted with the likes of the Butanes, and many other fine players at a young age, Levi has appeared with Nine Below Zero, Florez-Stanton-Vaughn, Sniffer, and The Resonators and opened for the likes of The Hoopsnakes, Smashmouth, Luther Allison, Buddy Guy, Asleep at the Wheel, and Forester Sisters

Styling themselves like the Stax studio band (AKA Booker T & The MGs, The Blues Brothers Band, the Otis Redding Band, etc.) they proclaim the following mission. "Drawing inspiration from our Stage Fright shows, our goal is to play the finest music we can as a whole, occasionally bringing guest artists with us to showcase what they do." Like their Facebook page to track where you can catch them next.

### Next Week (August 27) Mojo Lemon

Come spend the closing evening of Tuesday Night Blues' 2013 season with the Mojo Lemon Blues Band, a staple in the Western Wisconsin music scene for a decade. Mojo's trademark "in your face" blues rock shows have become legendary in the Chippewa Valley. Got Mojo?"

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