



# BLUES PAPER

Issue 159

The Publication of the Linn County Blues Society- lcbs.org

October 2007

## 1st Annual New Bohemia Music Festival A Huge Success!



## 7 Stages! 50 Bands! Over 2400 People!

### In this jammed issue—

- 1st Annual New Bohemia Music Festival - A Huge Success!
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*They're not gonna catch us. We're on a mission from God — Elwood Blues*

# Iowa Blues Hall of Fame

## Erickson, Hayes, Ramsey & Others Honored

by Don "T Bone" Erickson

The Iowa Blues Hall of Fame was the brainchild of musician and historian, Tom Gary. Tom was the catalyst for the formation of the Central Iowa Blues Society back in 1992 and he came up with the excellent idea in 1999 to honor some of the musicians that were a big part of the Blues scene in Iowa.

Tom has written a thesis on the Center Street scene in its heyday as a vibrant and exciting entertainment district for several decades in Des Moines, until urban renewal changed all of that at the end of the '60s.

Utilizing his knowledge and research, Tom Gary decided to create the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame, with assistance from CIBS, and hold an Induction Ceremony at Blues On Grand in Des Moines. The members that were chosen as the Class of 1999 certainly represented those memorable Center Street days. There were a total of five inductees that had been members of The Soul Brothers, one of the most popular Des Moines bands in the '60s and into the '70s: Gene Jackson, Harlan "Soulman" Thomas, "Chicago" Rick Lussie, George Davis, and Willis Dobbins. Grant Townsell was also inducted, as was the "King of Des Moines Blues," Jimmy "Midnite Cowboy" Pryor.



Harlan "Soulman" Thomas

The first Induction Ceremony was the start of a string of incredible nights of music, memories, food, and fellowship. After the initial year, The Central Iowa Blues Society agreed to make the IBHOF a program of CIBS, and yours truly began to work much closer with Gary in developing the IBHOF and spreading the word about this important program.

The Class of 2006 was honored earlier

this year on the Sunday evening after the Des Moines Arts Fest wrapped things up on another great year. In yet another fabulous night, Blues lovers came to Blues On Grand to honor Rick "Rico" Cicalo, Steve "Chief" Hayes, Bo Ramsey, and Craig Erickson.



Rick "Rico" Cicalo

As is usual, the house band that warmed up the crowd included several IBHOF inductees from previous years. George Davis led the band on guitar and vocals, with Dartanyan Brown on bass and vocals, Sam Salomone manning the organ, and Del "Saxman" Jones blowing sax. The phenomenal Nathan Peoples on sax and first-call Des Moines drummer, Mark Monroe, augmented the IBHOF members on this night.

While the band served up a hot and tasty hour-long opening set, the crowd was also served up a hot and tasty meal catered by Tia Juana's.



Sam Salomone

Tom Gary said some choice words about why

*continued on page 7*

The Linn County Blues Society is a way cool, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Blues music in Eastern Iowa as well as to provide charitable contributions to other community organizations. LCBS is an Affiliated Organization in the Blues Foundation's international network. The BLUESPAPER is a monthly publication of the LCBS.

Website: [lcbs.org](http://lcbs.org)  
Bluesline: 319.399.5105



### LCBS Officers

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Photographers - See bylines each issue  
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### Membership

To learn more about the Linn County Blues Society or to join, see the membership form in this Bluespaper or the LCBS website.

Your membership includes;

- Discount admissions to many local Blues activities.
- Monthly LCBS Bluespaper.
- Voting rights in the LCBS elections.
- Simply being way cool.

### Bluespaper Contact information

Send news, band or club live entertainment listing or advertising to: Evan Vulich, 1116 Daniels St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 or preferably e-mail at: [evulich@mcchsi.com](mailto:evulich@mcchsi.com).

### Bluespaper Ad Rates

\$15.00 - Business card size - 2" x 3.5"  
\$25.00 - Quarter page ad - 3.5" x 4.75"  
\$50.00 - Half page ad - 4.75" x 7.25"  
\$100.00 - Full page - 7.5" x 10"

**Submission Requirements-** All ads, photos or scanned images, either color or black/white, need to be 300ppi. Native Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, JPG, TIFF, EPS, PDF, BMP accepted. **Deadline for submissions is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month.**

**Moving?** Send your new address to; LCBS, PO Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672 so you won't miss a single issue of your Bluespaper.



# Bluesmen Saints or Sinners?

Mark Jeghers t4p.com/blues

**W**eren't those blues musicians morally bankrupt? Some were, some were not. Some lived a rough and tumble life because of the culture they grew up in. While their lifestyle choices can be debatable, it is not clear that they were any worse than their white counterparts, who often covered it up better. In fairness, the life of the travelling blues performer was neither safe nor easy. Many in the South carried guns for protection, and their songs often reflected their willingness to use them, not unlike hip-hop and rap today. The National Resophonic "O"-style guitar, with its brass body, was said to be able to stop a bullet, making it a favorite among night-club performers.

It is undeniable that some bluesmen had dubious lifestyles and moments not to be proud of...

- Robert Johnson repeatedly got in trouble for womanizing, and finally died from poisoning by a jealous husband.
- Lightnin' Hopkins did prison time working on a chain gang, and was once stabbed during a gambling dispute.
- Jimmy Reed was an alcoholic most of his life, compounded by undiagnosed epilepsy. He developed a reputation, even among his own black peers, of being a drunkard of poor conduct.
- Louis Jordan was stabbed in bed by his wife; they eventually divorced afterwards.
- Dinah Washington went through seven failed marriages and eventually died from an overdose of diet pills mixed with alcohol.
- Ray Charles spent many years addicted to heroin and having an on-the-road affair with one of his backup singers. However, it is not clear at all that white celebrities, either then or

now, have lived more honorable lifestyles. Prejudice may have been behind much of the sentiment that black blues artists were somehow worse.

*I wish to thank Mark Jeghers for allowing me to use his article; 'Weren't those Blues musicians morally bankrupt?' from his web site's Q & A forum. I stumbled across it one day when I was looking for some interesting Blues news on the web that I thought might be of interest to our local readers. Please be sure to visit Mark's site at t4p.com and see if it isn't one of the most informative Blues sites out there. Thanks again, Mark!*

—Editor

## Free Workshop Musicians/Educators

Hawkeye Herman Conducts

**W**orld-renowned musician and blues educator Hawkeye Herman will conduct a free workshop for musicians and educators interested in Blues In the Schools on Oct. 6 at the River Music Experience in Davenport.

The purpose of the workshop is to show musicians and educators how to get involved in Blues in the Schools programs and how to create their own curriculum using their skills and background. Sponsored by the MVBS, the workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour break for lunch.

Hawkeye Herman is currently the only blues musician in the nation who is offering such a workshop. "There's a need for more blues educators," he says, "as more blues organizations offer Blues In the Schools programs that need to be staffed by the small number of available musicians who are also educators."

Hawkeye initiated his own Blues in the Schools curriculum in 1980, and he's taught guitar for over 25 years. In 1998, Hawkeye was awarded the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive award for Achievement in Education. "This is a rare opportunity for musicians to learn from a true master," says Ann Ring, chair of the MVBS Education Committee.

Musicians and educators interested in becoming more involved in Blues In the Schools are encouraged to register for the workshop by Oct. 1 by e-mailing at mvbs@mvbs.org or calling the MVBS office at 563-32-BLUES.



## Pick of the Month

Davis Wells - Blue Groove  
upscaleblues.com  
Blindfold Pick from the KCCK  
Newbies and No-Name Pile

We get tons of stuff sent to the station and it was time to put on the blinders and pull one out to review. David Wells used this CD to learn what he needed to know about songwriting, singing, production and guitar playing and that's great. He even got Russ Ferante (Yellowjackets) to play keys and Tom Brechtlein to drum. Wells used to play lead guitar in a rock band in L.A. (imagine that) and has a jazz guitar background but is attempting to make some kind of musical expression merging all that with blues. To put it bluntly, the guy can't sing, plays up past the seventh fret too much and the songs don't have enough universality. It's supposed to be a blues album, but it's just kind of flat. If you find it, don't buy it. I'll give you the station copy. And we get some that are good.

—John Heim (A.K.A. "Big Mo")

The LCBS meets the 1st Monday  
of each month. See you at  
**The Longbranch**, October 10, 6:30PM  
for the LCBS board & member meeting.  
**Guests are welcome!**  
90 Twixt Town Rd., Marion

# 1st Annual New Bohemia Music Fest!

## Fabulous Music! Huge Crowd! Beautiful Day!

Story by Bill Graham

This past spring, returning to Cedar Rapids from the world-famous SXSW music festival in Austin, Texas, I thought to myself, “We could do that in Cedar Rapids. We have the quality of talent to pull this off.” Over the years I had seen many great bands from the eastern Iowa area. So—I thought—line up a few bands, set up a few stages, serves some food, sell some tickets; and it’s a party waiting to happen! Truth be told, it turned out to be a bit more complicated than that.

First, we needed to decide on the perfect location. When I shared the idea with my friend, Jim Jacobmeyer, he mentioned the New Bohemia area along 3rd Street S.E. There are three venues located there with a rich musical tradition—the Chrome Horse, 3rd ST Live and Tornados; plus a street area already designated by the state as an arts district. It proved to be the perfect place to stage a festival. The New Bohemia area welcomes the opportunity to hold art and music events. Many events have taken place in the last few years along 3rd ST.

Next we needed to put together a planning team with the vision, the enthusiasm and great ideas to make this happen. We were fortunate to find that kind of dedicated people—some of whom live in the New Bo area all of us on the committee truly have ownership in an arts district in Cedar Rapids. These fantastic folks were more than willing to invest their time and energy in the project. Some had expertise in key areas and all were willing to learn about the many different elements necessary to stage such an event. Jim and I heartily thank each member of the planning team. This event would not have taken place without this pool of talent.



Carlis Faurot plays his electric fiddle on the H.D. Youth Center Stage

With Jim as our leader and doing most of the heavy lifting, both figuratively as well as literally, since he was instrumental in the set up; lifting stages, tents and tables, we moved ahead.

A group of stage managers selected and contracted with the bands. These innovative team members did an amazing job. They found talented musicians with diverse styles who were willing to play for large groups of people for relatively small amounts of money. We are grateful for the musician’s willingness to take a risk and jump in on this exciting and challenging experiment. So, to the performers we give our kudos. We have heard some great comments about the music and the performances and would love to all of you back next year.

A music festival can be a wonderful opportunity to experience bands you have heard about, but have not had the opportunity to see in a live performance. There are so many opportunities every week in the Cedar Rapids metro area to hear bands. Unless you devote your life to following local musicians, it would be President Bush says “hard...really hard work” to keep up. The New Bohemia Music Festival provided our community the golden opportunity for a cultural catch-up day. There was something for every taste and age. Inspirational groups like the Unity Cen-

ter Choir to hardcore bands like On the Eve of War, from the Diplomats of Solid Sound to Dave Zollo playing with Craig Erickson’s band, EMC. Both of these popular bands helped end the night on different stages.

It was a smorgasbord of music and entertainment. There were fifty bands on eight stages, food vendors, ten hours of live music, entertainment in the street, activity tents for children and the opportunity to meet a few thousand new friends. There just isn’t a better way to spend a warm Midwest Saturday afternoon and evening at summer’s end. The New Bo Fest ran four blocks of Third Street, so locating stages was easy and the exercise effort was minimal. The bands were carefully scheduled so that the entertainment was continual on each stage. I discovered you just could not go wrong making a selection on which band to listen to. Every stage had something of interest.



The Revival Band jamming it up on the New Bo Stage

Be sure to check out the web site [www.newbohemiamusicfestival.com](http://www.newbohemiamusicfestival.com) for lists of performers and photos of performers and spectators. You’ll want to set your sights on our festival for next year—the SECOND annual (bigger and better) New Bohemia Music festival! See you there!



# Daniel Arthur's October Blues

danielarthurs.net

Tues Oct 2 Adam Beck 8-10  
 Wed Oct 3 Bryce Janey 8-10  
 Thur Oct 4 Kevin Burt 8-11  
 Fri Oct 5 Kevin Burt 8-11  
 Sat Oct 6 Mark Moss 8-11  
 Mon Oct 8 Adam Beck 8-11  
 Tues Oct 9 Jason Brown 8-10  
 Wed Oct 10 Adam Beck 8-10  
 Thur Oct 11 Kevin Burt 8-11  
 Fri Oct 12 Bryce Janey 8-11  
 Sat Oct 13 Terry McCauley 8-11  
 Mon Oct 15 Adam Beck 8-11  
 Tue Oct 16 Nassor Cooper 8-10  
 Wed Oct 17 Bryce Janey 8-10  
 Thur Oct 18 Kevin Burt 8-11  
 Fri Oct 19 Jason Brown 8-11  
 Sat Oct 20 TBA 8-11  
 Mon Oct 22 Adam Beck 8-11  
 Tues Oct 23 Adam Beck 8-11  
 Wed Oct 24 Bryce Janey 8-10  
 Thur Oct 25 Kevin Burt 8-11  
 Fri Oct 26 Kevin Burt 8-11  
 Sat Oct 27 Terry McCauley 8-11  
 Mon Oct 29 Adam Beck 8-11  
 Tue Oct 30 Nassor Cooper 8-10  
 Wed Oct 31 Bryce Janey 8-10

## Gary Primich Dies

Gary Primich, considered by many to be one of the greatest harmonica players in the world, passed away suddenly on September 23rd. Not only is this the loss of a world-class talent, but also of a true world-class person. Offstage, Gary was a caring and gentle soul and real Regular Joe of the best kind. Onstage he played with a ferocity and indescribable sound that was often mind-blowing. He'd say 'Thank You' to his fans then quickly change the subject because he didn't want it to be all about him. He loved animals, he loved people, he loved music and he loved life. Gary's career sent him around the world, traveling thousands and thousands of miles for his love of music but he'll always be right here, in our hearts.

Details regarding a memorial service for Gary will be posted as soon as more information is available.

## Nominations Open for LCBS Board of Directors Positions

The LCBS Nominations Committee is currently seeking candidates for Linn County Board of Directors positions to be filled in the October Board election. The following LCBS Board positions will be up for election for the term of November 2007 through October 2009: Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Chair, Education Chair, Entertainment Chair, and one Director-at-Large position.

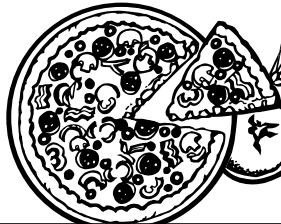
Nominations for office will be accepted from any LCBS members in good standing for one year. Nominations are being taken now and will continue to be accepted up to the election. If you are interested in running for an LCBS office, please contact Bill Meeks, Nomination Committee Chair, at 319/364-8035 to express your interest and to request information on what is involved. LCBS is always open to new ideas and we encourage your active participation in your Blues Society! Volunteers are always needed and welcome!

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## Mojo Street Teams Needed!

Do you enjoy listening to Blues CD's and telling others about how great they were? Do you go to live Blues shows and want to share the great music you hear? Want to help "Keep The Blues Alive" in YOUR backyard?

IllinoisBlues.com is looking to find a few good Blues folk for our new Mojo Street Teams. We are seeking Blues news, reviews, photos, interviews, videos and commentary to share on our site with other Blues fans everywhere. Our street teams will help promote Blues in YOUR backyard by letting the world know about events in YOUR area.

If you are a Blues fan, photo journalist, writer, musician or just a plain ole Joe, please email us today at:

**info@illinoisblues.com**



# October Blues Calendar

Thur. 4	J.M. O'Malley's Chrome Horse	4BoxORocks 9-1 Jeff Bruner & The Sundogs 8PM
Fri. 5	Front Street Tap Oktober Fest EMC- Brew Nost Checkers Tavern Ernie's Chrome Horse	Mike Williams 9-1 Brooklin Mike & Rob Show - Czech Village, CR Czeck Museum- outdoors 6-9 O'Connell Brothers Band - 9PM McMurrin & Johnson 6-9PM Large Midgets
Sat. 6	Chappy's Safari Yacht Club, Iowa City Chrome Horse	Meekrats 9-1 DJ w/ McMurrin & Demolition Band 9-1 O'Connell Brothers Band
Sun. 7	Mahoney's	Euforquestra 6-10PM
Wed. 10	Pat Metheny Trio ★	Hancher Auditorium 7:30PM
Thur. 11	J.M. O'Malley's Chrome Horse	Electric Mule 9-1 Jeff Bruner & The Sundogs 8PM
Fri. 12	Cedar Lodge (Manchester) Rumors Checkers Tavern Hampton, IA Chrome Horse	Mike & Rob Show 8:30-12:30  Tornados 9-1 Triple Shot 9-1 Billy Janey Trio w/ Dan Johnson 9-1 Jeff Bruner
Sat. 13	Chappy's Safari Chrome Horse	24/7 9-1 Snozzberries
Sun. 14	Open Throttle Checkers Tavern Mahoney's	Mike & Rob Show, Shellsburg 5-9PM Magic Red & The Voodoo Tribe from NY Bumpus 6-10PM
Thur. 18	Checkers Tavern J.M. O'Malley's Chrome Horse	Duke Tomatoe & the Power Trio DDog & the BBits 9-1 Jeff Bruner & The Sundogs 8PM
Fri. 19	C+D, Mt. Vernon Tuscan Moon Ernie's Next Door Chrome Horse	Mike & Rob Show 9-1 Blue Midnight Trio 7:30-10:30PM McMurrin & Johnson 6-8:45PM Billy Janey Trio w/ Dan Johnson 9-1 Full Circle
Sat. 20	Little Chicago Chappy's Safari Chrome Horse Shakespeare's Bar & Grill	Electric Mule 9-1 Coralville, IA 4BoxORocks 9-1 Swingin' Richard Grooveship- 9:30PM - Iowa City
Sun. 21	Checkers Tavern Mahoney's	Kris Lager Band 6PM Public Property 6-10PM
Thur. 25	Chrome Horse	Jeff Bruner & The Sundogs 8PM
Fri. 26	Odies in Ely UI Swinger's Ball Checkers Tavern City Beat Chrome Horse	Mike & Rob Show, 10-1:30 Tornados 8-11:30 Old Brick Touchplay 9-1 McMurrin & Johnson 7-10PM Sonic Holiday
Sat. 27	Sundown Chappy's Safari Chrome Horse	Electric Mule 9-1 Williamsburg Scarlet Runner 9-1 All That
Sun. 28	Mahoney's	Daddy O's Funky Posse 6-10PM
Mon. 29	George's, Iowa City	CannonSaul, Kilowatt and the Count
Tues. 30	Rumors	DNA Reunion Band 8-11PM

Path Metheny Trio w/ Christian McBride and Antonio Sanchez  
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This publication of the LCBS is dedicated to the support of LIVE music and is guaranteed to be heart-healthy, low in fat, low in sodium and completely **Karaoke FREE!**

**EVERY**

Sun.- Checkers Tavern-Blue Sunday-6PM  
Sun.- Mahoney's - Various artists-Never a Cover, 6pm  
Sun.- Charlie's, Coralville-Blues Jam  
Tues. - Rumors - Jam hosted by Dan DJ Johnson 8-11P  
Wed.- Checkers Tavern-Kevin BF Burt solo 6-9  
Wed.- Mahoney's-D-Licious Vinyl w/ Bobby D 8-12  
Thurs.-J.M.O'Malley's-T-Bone Giblin Jam Fest

The LCBS meets the 1st Monday of each month. We moved the meeting to the 2nd Monday due to Labor Day. See you at the Longbranch on October 1, 6:30PM for the LCBS Board & Member meeting. Guests are welcome!  
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A very special **THANK YOU** to these businesses who have signed up to help us **Keep the Blues Alive!**

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- Ron Schantz Const.
- The Fifth Gear
- 16th Avenue Prod.
- KCCCK 88.3
- Checkers Tavern
- Home Town Restyling
- Next Door

IBHOF continued from page 3

the IBHOF is so important (with some passionate exhortations from Gene Jackson) and then I took over the microphone and it was time to honor the latest IBHOF inductees with the reading of their bios



Steve "Chief" Hayes

and presentation of the IBHOF plaques.

Rico Cicalo is a bassist that has performed with an incredible list of notable artists through the last three decades or so.



Saxman Jones George Davis  
RonMcClain

His longtime rhythm section partner, Steve "Chief" Hayes, currently the drummer for Bob Dorr & the Blue Band, has joined Cicalo on most of these gigs and recording dates. So it was very appropriate for Rico and Steve to be honored and then perform a song together.



Craig Erickson and Al Robinson

Speaking of appropriate, this stellar bass/drum duo has also backed the inimitable Bo Ramsey on many occasions, beginning with the legendary Mother Blues

Band back in the day. (That band also included Patrick Hazell and Joe Price, also members of the IBHOF.)

Ramsey was honored next and took the stage and held the crowd spellbound with a profound and well-thought-out acceptance speech. Of course, Rico and Chief stuck around to back Bo for a quartet of tunes, featuring some tasty stuff from Bo's most



Bo Ramsey

recent tribute to his Blues roots, Stranger Blues.

R a m s e y decided to bring Sam Salomone up for the last couple tunes to help flesh out the sound and add some

depth with the Hammond organ. A smiling Sam told me that this was the most fun that he has had at these events, which is really saying something! His organ playing just meshed so well with the trio of new inductees.

Now it was time for the soft-spoken but powerful guitarist, Craig Erickson. The Linn County Blues Society nominated Erickson for the IBHOF, along with Hayes. Chief came back up to play drums behind Craig and Erickson's longtime bass player, Al Robinson. The three absolutely tore it



Nathan Peoples, George Davis and  
Dartanyan Brown

up with some heavy and funky Blues, featuring some killer guitar licks from Craig.

As is custom, the night is topped off with an all-star jam, featuring several IBHOF members. There was in impromptu reunion of the Soul Brothers as George Davis was joined on stage by Harlan Thomas on or-

gan, Gene Jackson on drums, and Ron McClain on bass.

More musicians made their way to the stage to help make for a fantastic night of music. It was a great way to finish up another Iowa Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. If you have never experienced one of these events, you really should try to make it the next one. You'll go home that night knowing that memories were made that will last a lifetime.

Don "T-Bone" Erickson  
Newsletter Editor – Central Iowa Blues Society Co-Chairman – Iowa Blues Hall of Fame Committee



"The Queen of the Blues"  
Koko Taylor

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Friday-

- 6-10 PM - Da Friday Blues with John Heim
- 10-11 PM - Backstage Blues
- 11 PM to midnight - Beale Street Caravan
- Midnight Blues CD

Saturday -

- 6-10 PM - Da Blues with Bobby D
- 10-11 PM - The Crawfish Circuit
- 11 PM -midnight - The Melting Pot
- Midnight Blues CD