

John Earl Bio

John was born in Lubbock, Texas and brought up in what is now known as the Dalls/Ft.Worth Metro-plex. He was raised on the Rock-n-Roll of Buddy Holly, Western Swing of Bob Wills, Ft.Worth 'Honkey Tonk' and Dallas R&B of the Deep Elm District. As one journalist put it "John Earl could sing the Yellow Pages and make you believe every word!

John toured across the USA from 1965 - 1974 working the KOMA Radio Circuit out of Oklahoma City for almost 10 years on the highway coast to coast before moving to Western Europe where we worked with the USO playing and booking other acts for the USA bases. He played rock & blues clubs from Amsterdam to Stockholm and from Paris to Zurich Switzerland and all points in between!Feeling the urge to come home and see the folks and old friends he returned to Texas for a year and then settled in Las Vegas where there was plenty of work. After 2 years of working construction he decided it was high time to play again and he founded the Boogieman Band after searching out the players with a good work ethic and most importantly a burning and creative soul for the music John was the co-producer, Host and founder of Las Vegas first AM, or FM commercial Blues Radio show in Nevada it was called "Crusin' for a Blue-sin" on 96.3 KKLZ, which ran from 1991-98 and he and his lovely wife Shirley were co-founders and management of 'The Sand Dollar Blues Lounge', Las Vegas' first established Blues Venue 1990 -'99. John also founded, co-produced and performed at the 'Lee Canyon Blues Festivals' for over two dozen concerts.

John has opened for and shared the Lee Canyon stage with Coco Montoya, Guitar Shorty, Curtis Salgado, Elvin Bishop, Chris Hiatt, The Bad New Blues Band and many more!

1. Las Vegas Review Journal

Whether or not the Blues -Society- ever re-emerges, John Earl will be doing his part for the blues -scene-. The former host of "Cruisin' for a Bluesin'" radio program on KKLZ for 7 years and leader of the Boogie Man Band is celebrating the 9th year as the Sand Dollar Lounge house band. A soulful front-man with a gravel and molasses voice, John Earl's down-home harp style and stellar band deliver a very potent dose of blues. John Earl is also the driving force behind the Lee Canyon Summer Concert Series." "The blues scene is at a high point," says John Earl. "And it just keeps getting better. There is an -underground- society if that's possible. There's not really a figurehead like there was as far as the Blues Society goes, there's no board of directors or any of that, But the musicians all keep it alive. And of course, most importantly, so do all the fans."

2. tv.accessvegas.com

John Earl and the Boogie Man band have been entertaining Las Vegas audiences for years. They are one of the top blues *bands* in the Southwest United States. ...

3. Las Vegas Weekly

John Earl formed 'The Boogiemans Band' in 1988 and has since shared the stage with well-known musicians such as The Blues Brothers, Santana and Foreigner. They were the first Las Vegas Blues band to play "The Joint" inside the Hard Rock Casino and the first to perform at Mandalay Bay's 'House of Blues'. Their original musical score is soundtrack to the animated film seen nightly at "The Fremont Street Experience," and they've performed in the top hotels and casinos all over the 'Entertainment Capital of the World'.

4. Las Vegas Review Journal 2002

Las Vegas has a new home for the blues. In February of 2002, John Earl and the Boogie Man Band took its act to the Memphis Championship Barbecue restaurant in the Santa Fe Station for weekend shows. Since then the event has expanded to include popular regional performers as guests and signified one of the few live music venues in the northwest area of the valley.

The popular local blues group, which has been in existence since 1988, plays the Blues Room at the restaurant Thursdays through Saturdays starting at 9 pm., and on Fridays and Saturdays the performances feature guest artists. The September schedule includes guests Monk, Lady J, Brad Cordel and the Billy Ray Charles Band.

Memphis Barbecue general manager Bob Streigel said the restaurant always wanted to incorporate live blues shows into its atmosphere. After scouring the city, the restaurant and Station Casinos officials decided John Earl and his band were the best around. "We did some research and found that his band was the number one in this market," Streigel said. "Since (February) we've just been trying to spread the word. Word of mouth is the best kind of advertising, and John has been bringing in good crowds and great performers to complement the act." Taking up residency at the Santa Fe Station location presented a new challenge for Earl. "We've made a lot of new friends in the northwest side of town and brought along a lot of old ones from the Sand Dollar," he said. "Last time I checked this is still the fastest growing town around, and with such an influx of Midwest people from Chicago and Detroit, there are a lot more blues fans and a lot more blues players."

The growing audiences that are turning up at the 110-seat venue and restaurant could serve as a sign of further development.

"I think we could build it to the point of doing more nights a week now," Streigel said. "In this part of town, there aren't a lot of choices for live music."

5. Las Vegas Blues News

In 1976 John Earl founded Amsterdam's first 'Live Music Hostel' 'The Last Waterhole', which was located in the Red-Light District near Amsterdam's Central Station.

John and his P.O.T. (Pride of Texas) band played as the house band and were soon joined by great bands from all over Europe, most notably 'The Old Tennis Shoes', a rock solid, Original Blues/Rock quartet from England. We had all types of great music drop by to play and visit from 'Asleep at the Wheel' to 'Doctor Hook's Medicine Show' The place was an instant and enormous success and although John sold it in 1984 it is still going strong today and is now located on the Leidseplein by the World Famous Concert Halls the 'Melk Weg' & the 'Paradiso'!

6. Valley View

John Earl came to Las Vegas with his wife, Shirley, in the mid-eighties after living and performing in Europe for 11 years. Besides starting what has become the Boogiemans Band, he and Shirley converted a defunct sports lounge into the infamous and World renowned 'Sand Dollar Blues Lounge'. John and The Boogiemans Band resided there as the house band from Super Bowl Sunday 1990 until September of '99.

"It was a floundering sports bar when we came in, and the blues scene was young in town," Earl said. "We put the band in and built it to the point where there was live blues seven nights a week with great local acts such as the 'Rufnecks', 'Al Ek's Shuffle-aires', 'The Last Band', 'Eddie Joe Gongre's Smokin' Crawdads', 'Junior Brantley and Friends', 'Chris Tofield Band', 'Moanin' Blacksnakes' and many more. The Sand Dollar was the first venue in Las Vegas to feature touring National and International Blues Artists including Charlie Musslewhite, Marcia Ball, Tinsley Ellis, Kenny Neal, Rod Piazza's Mighty Flyers, Bugs Henderson, The Nighthawks, Little Charlie & The Nightcats, Jimmy Witherspoon, Michael Burks and many others!. Sometimes the more you do the less it is appreciated and unfortunately the owners stopped investing in advertising, upkeep and new events. In this business eventually everything loses its attraction for you. After almost a decade we felt we could go no further, so we gave notice and moved on. Earl and the band continued to play all over Las Vegas as well as recording. The group is set to release its ninth CD soon.

7. *Accesslasvegas.com*

A Legend In Las Vegas And Around The Globe, *John Earl & The Boogie Man Band* Are Readily Acknowledged As The Premiere Blues *Band* In The Silver State. ...

8. Las Vegas CITY LIFE

Music on the Mountain: Go tell it on the mountain

John Earl revives music series blending blues and cool breezes

By Newt Briggs

A chorus of bullfrogs. A cement mixer. A broken tuba. It's not easy to describe the sound of John Earl's voice, but its gravelly tone gives the distinct impression that the longtime Las Vegas blueshound has spent more than his fair share of time in smoke-filled juke joints. Not that this would surprise anyone familiar with Earl, who--along with his wife, Shirley--introduced the blues to the Sand Dollar Lounge on Spring Mountain Road more than a decade ago. Back then, the Sand Dollar was just a run-of-the-mill sports bar, and as Earl notes, it was "pretty well empty."

"The only business they had was a little bit of lunchtime traffic and people cashing checks on Friday afternoons," he says. "So we went in there, moved the pool tables and played one New Year's Eve. A few of people showed up, and somebody said, 'Hey, this would make a great blues bar.' So we figured, 'Hey, we'll try it.'"

John Earl and the Boogiemans went on to a nine-year run as the house band at the Sand Dollar. By the end of Earl's tenure, the bar had become the city's premier nightly blues venue--a favored haunt of everyone from bikers to bankers. It was a presto-change-o worthy of Blackstone, but it wasn't the only trick up Earl's sleeve. After leaving the cozy confines of the Sand Dollar, he got to thinking about an outdoor venue--somewhere far from the velvet monotony of casino lounges. An hour away, he discovered an unlikely host, the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort.

"It was the same old story," says Earl. "We were looking for a place to play, and they were looking for a way to get people up to the resort. Believe me, it was the best kind of marriage--one of convenience."

Thus began Music on the Mountain--a summer music series that combines blue skies, cool mountain breezes and the blues. It was an ideal arrangement, Earl says, until the owners of the resort started vacationing abroad. Their absence put the kibosh on the festival for nearly six years, until new owners took over in 2003. They contacted Earl, and he set the wheels in motion, planning four shows for this summer alone. Open to all ages and with a full bar and grill, the July 10 show will feature a variety of local and regional bands, which run the gamut from Beatles tribute (the Fab) to electric blues (the Ruffnecks).

The show will also highlight a pair of traveling acts, both of whom Earl describes with the zeal of a fan. On J.D. Simo: "He's quite a gunslinger. He ain't more than a teenager, but he's like a young Johnny Winters." On Louisiana Sue: "Sue's about five feet tall and about five feet wide. She wears one of those big floppy Mardi Gras hats and throws beads into the crowd. She gets people out of their seats, I'll tell you that."

According to Earl, the common thread among all the bands is the blues. "The Beatles were heavily blues-influenced," he says. "And zydeco definitely has a blues influence and vice versa. Rockabilly, swing, even country--they all tie back into the blues."

As to his own preferences, Earl is diplomatic--even coy. Perhaps a consequence of his many years booking shows, he sticks to general assessments when he describes his musical taste. "You can't get me to cop to that," he says. "I like folk stuff, I like Piedmont, I like Delta, I like West Coast jump. I like everything from Blind Lemon Jefferson to Muddy Waters to Mike Bloomfield and up. Hell, I damn near like it all."

9. Las Vegas Sun June 1997

The cream of the Las Vegas blues crop is represented at 96.3 KKLZ's 'JUNE-FEST 5' with performances by local blues icons '**John Earl & the Boogiemans**' in their 5th appearance as the host act and only local band featured with **Eddie Money, War, Bruce Hornsby & Santana!**