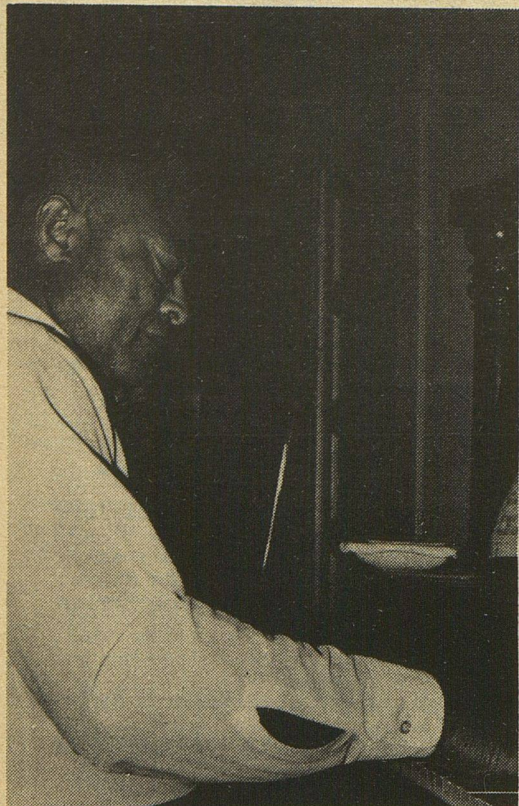


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The Blues Suffers

But Lives !!!



Robert Shaw-King of the Barrelhouse Blues
photo by Joe Lomax

I have some news for you Austin people. Like hot news. Right here in your fair city, just off Manor Road, lives a unique man by the name of Robert Shaw. He has been living in and around Austin for He plays a meeeeeean piano. In the old, almost disappeared barrelhouse style. For those of you culturally deprived readers, a barrelhouse is the word for a black speak easy where the Prohibition Era folks went to drink, gamble, dance, and diddle the floozies. Robert Shaw played the piano night after night, all night long, during the Thirties. Before that he played piano in movieshouses in Houston back in the Twenties before movie technology invented such improvement as sound. So, there he was, rinky tinkling good and proper at each entrance of the hero or the damsel in distress. And there he is yet, rinkytinking along in his white framed house here in Austin. He has been to the Smithsonian Festival in Washington, DC. And to the Kerville folk festival. Once in a blue moon, he plays a gig at some club in Austin. Speaking of the local club owners, he says, "When I wants 'em to find me, they do. But when I don't, they don't." Mostly, though, he is taking it easy in his house behind the former barbecue stand adjoining his house. After a few Jax beers the other night, he wound up and played a bit. Tunes that were born and buried before latecomers like you and I were born. He plays jazz, blues, boogie woogie, and who knows what else. And how does he play? You would have to hear him. He is a honky tonk jive cat from way back. So just imagine a seventies year old man playing the piano in a T shirt, chewing a toothpick, and occasionally toking on a Muriel cigar. Notes slip over and around each other, in and out between the bars, sliding around the scale as he nuances out each last vibration from the ivory.

He could hardly stop recollecting about the old days as I quizzed him about the way it used to be. Luckily for those of us interested in hindsight, his memory is not cloudy or foggy.

"I left out of Brenham, Texas on a hot-shot freight. It was a Monday night, and raining ooooh weel you talking 'bout some rain now. And that train didn't stop 'til it was just outside Chickoshea, Oklahoma."

And he goes on to tell of some incident that happened thirty years ago or more. And while he tells it, it seems as if those days are living again in his mind. He stories are as strong and vital as the past events that made them real.

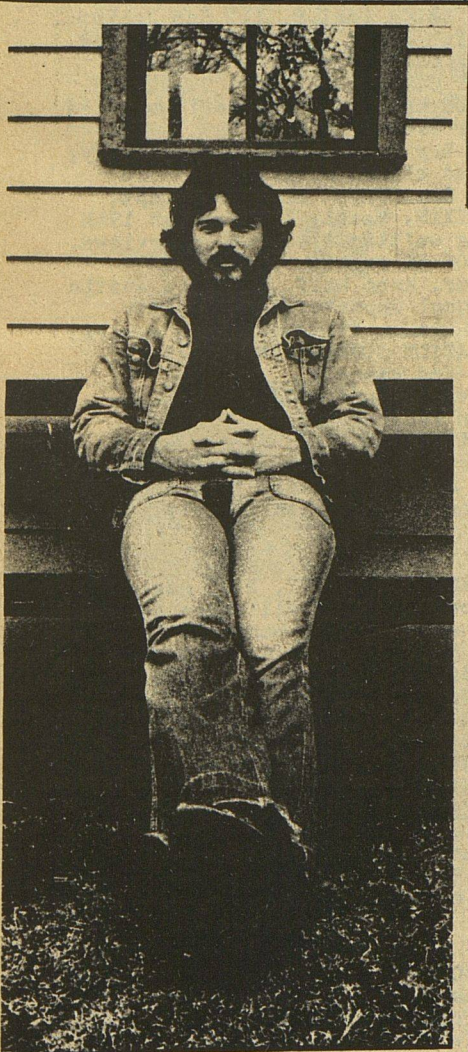
People like Robert Shaw are vital to our understanding of what's coming down now. You see, he has seen it all. The events of today are reruns for him. So has a certain de-ja-vu kind of insight that comes from having already experienced. He's here now to call the shots.

He remembers playing for a dollar or two a night in the barrelhouses. If people tipped him in addition to his salary, he sometimes chalked up more than ten dollars for a one night gig. Handsome pay for a hard-working man.

A lot of the older folks become bitter, cynical, or simply neglected in this 1974 youth culture. People like Shaw need to be listened to. Just you ask him about the days of old and his still clear voice will begin a yarn about a far away incident that remains clear cut in his mind.

Better yet, get his soon to be released album on the Arhoolie label. Then listen to the story that comes from those sliding notes, over and under each other. They speak even louder than his words.

J. F. Lomax (veep)



Milton Carroll from the RCA album ESP-4667

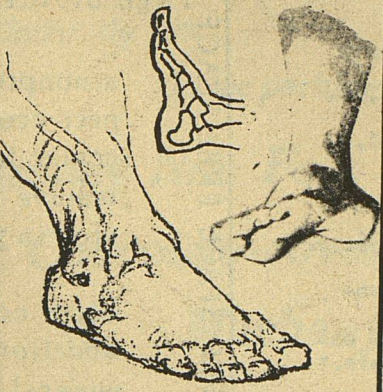
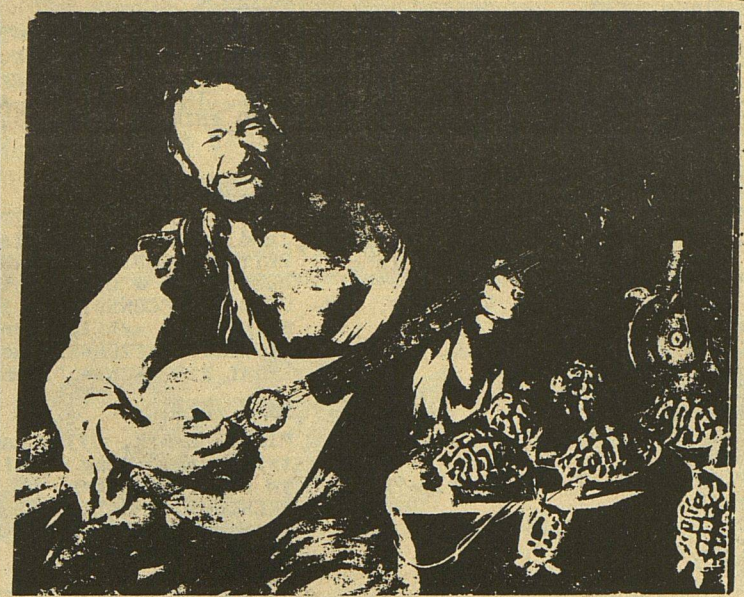
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A DELICIOUS REMEDY FOR ALL FORMS OF INDIGESTION

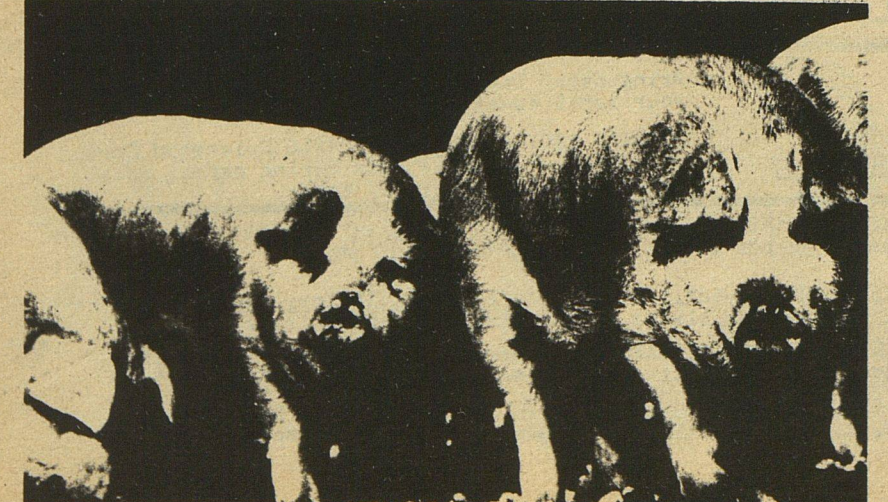
CAUTION - Each tablet contains one grain pure pepsin sufficient to digest 1,000 grains of food. If it cannot be obtained from dealers, send five cents in stamps for sample package to MAN CHEMICAL CO. ORIGINATORS OF PEPSI SCOUT'S FRAGMENTS

welcome back to town Milton Carroll from Nashville hope you cut some good yodeling with your Ed Claxton guitar while in Music City... Jackie Jack-Jerry Jeff Walker & Lost Gonzo with much fear & loathing helped to reopen Castle Creek last Wed. amidst the crowd filtering from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band concert was B. W. Stevenson & Townsend Miller (recently of BILLBOARD fame, Sept. 7th issue)... Willis Ramsey is going on tour with Rick Casual, Waller Collie, Mark Little, Kenny Crow & Cass Hook all the way to jolly London... San Antonio will be the first stop... Joe Lomax was in town to help me out and to gather information for his column in Texas Monthly... looks like Foo Smooth will be getting their record contract very soon... and Son Star has a record and seldom play in public... oh, I'm the last to know... Sam "Lightnin" Hopkins weekend at Castle Creek just showed everyone that you got to suffer to sing daa blooze... Auntie Meyer & the Western Head M Music Co. got down with some really fine dixieland-mextex rock at the Alliance Wagonyard last week, they'll be at Soap Creek the 27&28th.



some recent LP releases

- HONKEY TonkXXX**
- armadillo World Hdqtrs. 525g Barton Springs Rd. Sept. 18&19 Roy Buchanan
 - Soap Creek Saloon- 707 E. Bee Caves Rd. Sept. 17th-Buckdancers' Choice 18th-Greezy Wheels 19-21-David Allen Coe (virgo)
 - One Knite-801 Red River
 - Mon-Storm
 - Tues-Nightcrawlers
 - Wed-Paul Ray & The Cobras
 - Thurs-Otis Lewis & The Cotton KINGS
 - Fri-Slide
 - Sat-ME
 - Alliance Wagonyard-505 Neches
 - Mon-Sat Silver City Saddle Tramps



Little Feat- Feats Don't Fail Me Now (Warner Bros Records BS-2784) Master of the double entendre, Lowell George boogies his way better than Canned Heat and the Feats last LP Dixie Chicken... Don't Fail Me "on the road" theme with songs like "The Fan," "Oh, Atlanta," & "Down the Road" attest to being in line with the cataclysmic antithesis of rock... fresh tripe... Jack the Lad-It's Jack the Lad (Elektra Records 7E-1014) reformed British group from Downtown Faction & Lindisfarne... frosted variable from country to beach boyish rock, songs like "Plain Dealing" "Boilermaker Blues," "Why Can't I Be Satisfied" makethis one easy to appreciate..

- Mother Earth-10th at Lamar 16-18 Steve Long Group 19-21 Tweed
- Shakey's #1-3010 Gwadalupe 17-19 Wilcox West 20-21 Plum Nelly
- bucket - 735 W. 23rd. 16-21 Ladder Lee
- Texas Opry House-200 Academy Fri- Floyd Tillman & Alvin Crow
- Annex all week- Wild Bill & The Buffalo Yanks Gig-523 E. 6th. S.
- Mon& Tues- Possum Delight Wed-47 X It's Own Weight
- Thur-Sat-Pedal Train
- Solit Rail- 217 S. Lamar
- Fri-Sat Sundown Fox
- Castle Creek-141 Lavaca
- Tues-Sat Townes Van &ndt!