

RICHARD "BIG BOY" HENRY

BORN IN 1921 IN BEAUFORT, N.C., A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE, "BIG BOY" HAS WORKED ON AND NEAR THE WATER MOST OF HIS LIFE.



10/64

AT ONLY 12, WHILE DOING GROCERY DELIVERIES ON HIS BIKE, HE'D GO PAST "THE HONEY HOLE," A LOCAL BLUES WATERING HOLE. THE MUSIC HE HEARD HANGING AROUND THERE PUT WIND IN HIS SAILS...



AFTER HE MET TALENTED GUITARIST FRED MILLER WHO PLAYED JAZZ, BLUES, SWING... HE JUST DIDN'T SING WELL. BUT "LITTLE BOY," AS HE WAS KNOWN THEN, SURE DID, AND HE SOON LEARNED TO PLAY GUITAR, TOO.

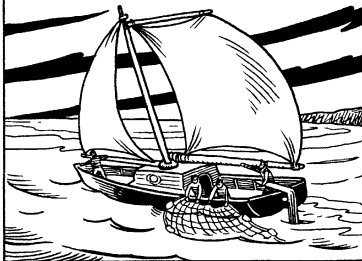
Story
and Art
By
Garry Dumm

I'D DO ALL HIS SINGING FOR HIM* AND WE'D GO AROUND ON THE STREETS AND THE CORNERS AND DIFFERENT HOUSES, AND WE'D PICK UP MAYBE 25, 30, 50 CENTS HERE AND 25, 30, 50 CENTS THERE.

*FRED MILLER



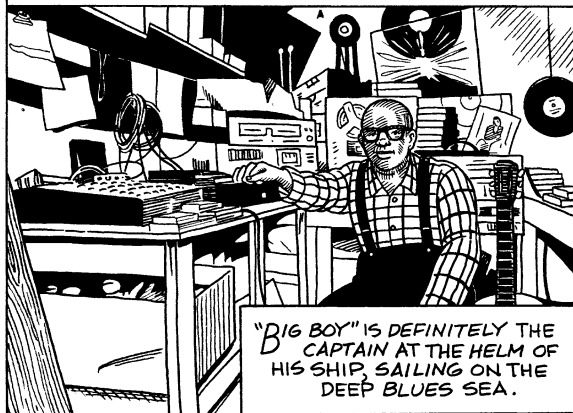
HENRY HAS WORKED ON FISHING BOATS, DONE MIGRANT FARM WORK AND EVEN RAN A CAR SHUTTLE SERVICE, BUT ALL ALONG FOLLOWED HIS MUSICAL COURSE AS A BLUES SHOUTER.



THE 1980S BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE BLUES, PLAYING CONCERTS AND DOING RECORDINGS LIKE "MR. PRESIDENT" (A PLEA TO RONALD REAGAN TO RECONSIDER THE HARSH EFFECTS OF HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES). UNFORTUNATELY SOME OTHER RECORDINGS DID NOT DO SO WELL.

IN THE LATE 1940S AT OVER 200 POUNDS, THE NOW "BIG BOY" PLAYED ON A RADIO SHOW CALLED "LIVE TIME," RECORDING SOME OF HIS OWN PERFORMANCES FOR LATER BROADCAST. BUT THE WINDS OF CHANGE CAUSED HIM TO HANG UP HIS GUITAR FOR AWHILE AND QUIT SINGING EXCEPT IN CHURCH.

SINCE 1986 "BIG BOY" HAS RELEASED NINE BLUES CASSETTES ON HIS "HOMETOWN" LABEL. HE WEARS MANY HATS, BEING MUSICIAN, ENGINEER, PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR OF MARKETING. HE RECORDS HIS OWN MASTERS WITH PROFESSIONAL SOUND EQUIPMENT, DESIGNS THE LABEL AND COVER ART AND HAS A SHRINK-WRAP MACHINE HE USES TO PACKAGE HIS MUSICAL PRODUCT.



"BIG BOY" IS DEFINITELY THE CAPTAIN AT THE HELM OF HIS SHIP, SAILING ON THE DEEP BLUES SEA.