

JOHN DEE HOLEMAN

A SINGER-GUITARIST, STORY-TELLER, JUBA PATER AND DANCER, JOHN DEE HOLEMAN WAS BORN IN 1929 IN RURAL ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. HE WAS A FARMER 'TIL 1954 WHEN HE MOVED TO DURHAM, N.C. (THE BULL CITY) AND RAN HEAVY EQUIPMENT, LIKE BULLDOZERS AND CRANES FOR 35 YEARS WHILE PLAYING IN WHISKEY, BEER AND JUKE JOINTS.

... A GOOD SONG CAN COME FROM ANYWHERE. YOU GOT ONE FOR ME?



STORY & ART BY Gary Dumm

HE LEARNED TO PLAY GUITAR AFTER SOME GOOD ADVICE FROM AN UNCLE WHO TOLD HIM TO LEARN HOW TO TUNE IT; HEARD RECORDS BY LIGHTNIN' HOPKINS AND BLIND BOY FULLER; AND ON THE RADIO HEARD SOME COUNTRY & WESTERN BY BILL AND CHARLIE MONROE, BLUES BY MUDDY WATERS AND OTHERS.



AFTER AWHILE PEOPLE STARTED ASKING HIM TO PLAY AT HOUSE PARTIES, WOOD CUTTINGS & CORN SHUCKINGS.

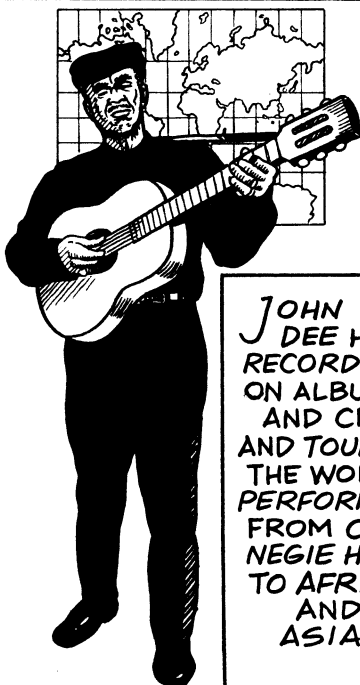


"...THEY'D GO THROUGH A BIG PILE OF CORN - BIGGER THAN A ROOM - BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING IT SHUCKED, BECAUSE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CORN'D BE THREE OR FOUR JARS OF WHISKEY."

HIS SELF-CONFESSED GUITAR STYLE IS FINGER-PICKING ONLY, NO SLIDE, AS PRACTICED BY BLUES MUSICIANS IN THE DAYS OF YORE.



"I MOSTLY PLAY ELECTRIC GUITAR, BUT I BOUGHT THIS NATIONAL STEEL JUST FOR A SHOW THING, YOU KNOW, THE ELECTRIC ONES ARE MUCH EASIER TO PLAY...AND LOUDER FOR THE AUDIENCE."



JOHN DEE HAS RECORDED ON ALBUMS AND CDS AND TOURED THE WORLD PERFORMING, FROM CARNEGIE HALL TO AFRICA AND ASIA.

HIS SOUTHEASTERN GUITAR SOUND, IN THE PIEDMONT BLUES TRADITION, MELTS A LILTING MELODIC PHRASING WITH THE HARDER DRIVING DELTA STYLE TO GREAT EFFECT, WHICH IS COMPLIMENTED BY HIS EXPRESSIVE BARITONE VOCALS.

...IF THEY COME OUT WITH SOMETHING NEW, I PRACTICE IT.

JOHN IS A FINE PERFORMER AND AN ARTIST INTERESTED IN SONGS BOTH FOR THEIR OWN SAKE AND JUST FOR THE PLEASURE HE TAKES IN PLAYING THEM.



12/04