

F.O.R. BLUES ACTION SHEET

Ongoing Project Descriptions

Friends of Rentiesville Blues Inc.

In this space we are currently:

- 1.) Teaching bass, guitar and piano weekly: private lessons at the very reasonable rate of \$15/hour and also the free ongoing JamBand which meets for two hours on Tuesdays from 7 – 9. This is a group of students, no audience. Some have been coming regularly for years. This is all ages We call It 'Plug In – Tune Up – Play' or 'Fun with Music'...Selby is a gifted teacher.
- 2.) We have an extensive archive of music and photos. We also have an Exhibit “D.C. Minner, The Story Of How One Man Went From The 'House Of Shame' To Six Halls Of Fame With His Songs and His Guitar”. We have brought the exhibit, which has shown in two Halls Of Fame (OMHOF and OJHOF), a Museum- the OBMAPAC, and 3 Libraries home. We are now open by appointment and on Sunday afternoons as a MUSEUM for the last year. No fee.
- 3.) We have ongoing jam sessions – with an audience – when we are open on Sundays nine months a year. This is a continuation of 7 years of weekly Sunday Jam Sessions. – no cover charge, we pass the hat. These jam sessions are a great learning experience for up and comers, and exposure and networking for professionals.
- 4.) Children do not come into the building during the Rentiesville Blues Festival held here over Labor Day Weekend (as they do for the lessons), but we do have them as our guests outdoors at the Festival for free, and also spend \$3,000.00 keeping them occupied as the music rolls off the two outdoor stages. They have a dedicated area in the back yard, KID'S VILLAGE. Face Painting, Costumes, Conga Drum Circles, Arts and Crafts keep little hands busy as the music soaks in.
- 5.) The Checotah High School Jazz Band performs each year on the main stage at the Rentiesville Blues Festival.
- 6.) The Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame is housed in this building as well. Founded in 2004 by OK Blues Legend D.C. Minner (himself inducted into 6 Halls Of Fame), we have inducted over 100 deserving Oklahoma related musicians. This means a lot to them. They are on the wall and receive a very nice trophy. This brings nation wide attention to Oklahoma music!

This organization was founded by D.C. Minner who was born on this spot in 1935. His Grandmother Lura raised him here, and opened a grocery/dance hall/ juke joint (think Juke Box) in 1936. Called the Cozy Corner, they would bus soldiers in from Camp Gruber during WW II for socials. The current building was built (after a fire) in 1963 by D.C.'s Grandmother Lura Pearson Drennan, and D.C. himself enlarged it two times to it's current size of over 2,000 square feet. D.C. traveled as a bassist (backing up Chuck Berry, Freddie King, OV Wright and Bo Diddley , among others) and later formed his own band singing and playing lead guitar for a total of 30 years, returning with wife/bassist Selby Minner (they married in 1979) in 1988 to reopen the place as a Blues Club. The couple brought a wealth of music with them. They founded the Festival in 1991 and the Hall of Fame in 2004. This was his life work and his dream. He passed away in 2008, and Mrs. Minner is keeping the work going with the help of volunteers and friends, sponsors and 25% Festival Funding from the Oklahoma Arts Council, Major Grant Support.

Dcminnerblues.com, selbyminner@gmail.com, (918) 855-0978: 103020, D.C. Minner St Checotah, OK 74426