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at Gene Fontana's Saint Georges Country Store



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# BIG CITY BLUES VIEWS

## Fallen Angel Flyin' Too Close To The Ground

Photo/Shirley Mae Owens

*"If you had not fallen, then I would not have found you. Angel flying too close to the ground..."*

— Willie Nelson's "Angel Flying Too Close To The Ground," (Live at Budokan, Tokyo 2/23/94).

Last August and September I spent days helping to bring some love and good music to my mother's bedside at her care center by the Delaware River. After a long day of nursing care I returned to her home up on Minisink Hills to relax but was still very worried about some lost Big City Blues FedEx mail. Suddenly I decided I would just go and find it. Along a busy stretch of office buildings, I first stopped at an office with a big sign - "Shirley's Insurance" which seemed like a good omen but it was the wrong door frame from the FedEx photo. Across the busy road, I found it at the **Visiting Angels** who are now caring for mother. As I happily drove back up Minisink, I listened to Willie's "Angel Flyin' Too Close To The Ground" and called **Gene Fontana** to find



Cabot #43 LRBC, 10/27/25

out what was happening at his **St. George's Country Store**, a place I always wanted to visit. He said, "The 'Fallen Angel Tour with **Early Times & The High Rollers** will be there on Friday, 9/5/25". Thus my cover juke joint shoot adven-

ture began as I drove down to Delaware. Thank you Gene!

### Jukin' & Jivin'!

Before I moved to Detroit, I spent a great deal of time at my favorite Kansas City juke joint - **The Grand Emporium** where after my KKFI Friday's "Blues You Can Use" radio show, I would drop in for Little Hatch's House Party and then a touring Blues band would perform. Now it seems like The Grand Emporium has been resurrected albeit as a first-class juke joint on the high seas as **Roger Naber**, the former Grand Emporium owner, is now **Admiral Bluesy** as he continues to bring together top Blues bands twice a year. Thank you Roger!

By the way, the recent

"Here Come The Girls!"-Ernie K. Doe (l-r) Ana Popovic, Kev Naber & Sugar Mae #43 LRBC, 10/29/25

Photo/Shirley Mae Owens



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**On the cover:**

Photo by Shirley Mae Owens

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Photo/Shirley Mae Owens

**"Ain't Nothin' But A Blues Party!"—Johnny Copeland (l-r) C-Note, Marquise Knox & Sugar Mae, #43 LRBC, 10/27/25**

**#43 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise** was fantastic! Perfect weather as the ship glided down from San Diego along the Baja Peninsula to Mexico and the Sea of Cortez. I think most cruisers followed the LRBC rule that you can sleep when you get home! Many thanks to

the **#43 LRBC Krewe!**  
**Happy Bluesin' New Year!**  
There's so much going on! First kicking off the new year January 13-17 is **2026 IBC's - International Blues Challenge** in Memphis. Thank you **Kimberly, Horton and the Blues Foundation staff!**

**New Orleans' Tipitina's** began as a neighborhood juke in 1977 named after Professor Longhair's song "Tipitina."

Photo/Robert Jr. Whitall, 2010

## Top 11 Songs on Junior's Jukebox

1. Mud Morganfield - Deep Mud
2. Maria Mulduar - One Hour Mama - The Blues of Victoria Spivey
3. Big Chief Monk Boudreaux & Spy Boy Jwan Boudreaux - Slip Don't Fall
4. The Blues Project - Live 2025
5. Early Times & the High Rollers - Fallen Angels
6. Marc Stone - Love Is Everything
7. Cannonball Red - Put My Blues On You
8. Pops Fletcher & The Hucksters - Almost Live
9. Paul Filipowicz - Breakwater
10. Mike Davis - Whiskey Trails & Blues Tales
11. Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's CD Sampler #37- 30th Anniversary Sampler

[www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org). Good luck to all!

A week after the IBC's is the **#44 LRBC** and then **Mardi Gras** which is early—February 17th!

As we close out Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's 30th Anniversary celebration, I would like to thank **Charlie Auringer** who began the magazine with my late husband **Robert Jr. Whitall** and does such a beautiful job of designing it. Thank you "Got Yer Back" **Guy Powell** aka "Guy Drums" - our fastidious copy editor and writer who likes to cut off our conversation suddenly with "gotta jump Shirl" before I can even jump first. Thank-you **Bob Monteleone** who just produced **Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine's #37 30th Anniversary CD Sampler** as well as writing, shipping and distributing the magazine. And big thanks to all our writers, subscribers and advertisers. Looking forward to continuing to work with you in the new year!

Take the high road, when you get to a crossroads, take it, may the river be with you, may the wind be at your back, surf's up, mahola, aloha and don't forget to boogie!

Happy New Year! See you next year!

Hope, peace, love & happiness,  
Best,  
**Shirley Mae aka "Sugar" Owens**

## BIG CITY Rhythm & Blues

Founding Editor

**Robert Jr Whitall**

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Publisher & Editor

Marketing Captain & Photographer

**Shirley Mae Owens**

Graphic Design & Production

**Charlie Auringer**

Copy Editor

**Guy Powell**

Assistant to the Publisher

And distribution specialist

**Bob Monteleone**

Contributing Writers

**Bob Baugh, Peggy Brown, Laura Carbone, Ro Daley, Steve Daniels, David Glynn, Mike Griffin, Robin Hathaway, Eric Harabadian, Deak Harp, Kevin Johnson, Bob Krause, Jen Littleton, Carol Marble, Karen McFarland, Bob Monteleone, Shirley Mae Owens, Guy Powell, Julia Magness, Richard Radbil, Michael Richardson, Dick Shurman, John Sinclair, Carlin C-Note Smith, Albert Varosi, Erin Vickers, Bob-O Walesa, Carolyn Walkup, Kim Welsh, Dirk Wissbaum**

Contributing Artists

**Scott Dedenbach, Bette Evans, Jan Kaulins, Plastic Crimewave, Rick Ruby, Robert Jr Whitall,**

Contributing Photographers

**Charles Auringer, Laura Carbone, Peter Hurley, Bob Krause, Aigars Lapsa, Jim Mills, Shirley Mae Owens, John Rockwood, Lindsay Shannon, Roman Sobus, Dick Waterman, Kim Welsh, Robert Jr Whitall, Dirk Wissbaum,**

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ROYAL OAK, MI 48068-1805

[blues@bigcitybluesmag.com](mailto:blues@bigcitybluesmag.com)

[www.bigcitybluesmag.com](http://www.bigcitybluesmag.com)

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