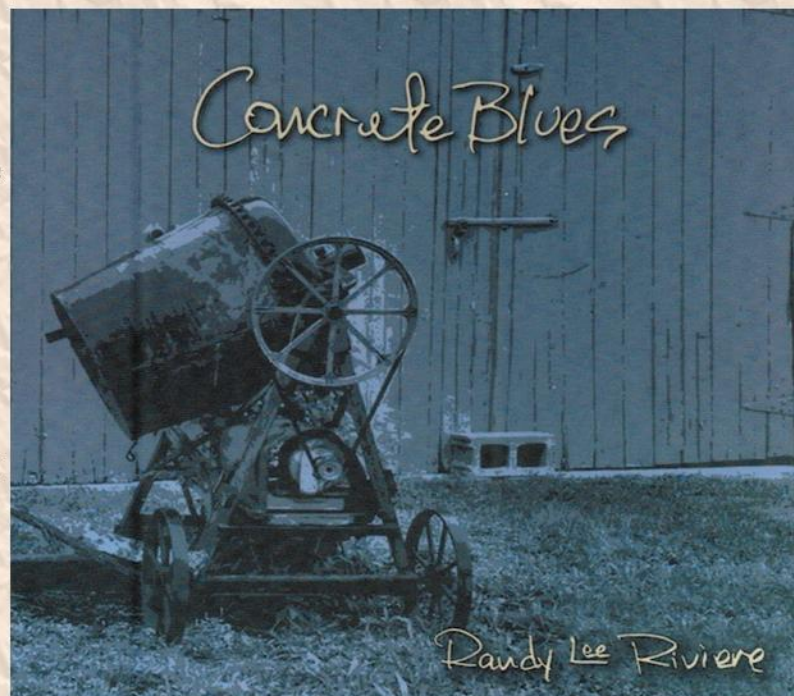


THE LOW DOWN... -by Kyle

"Concrete Blues" Randy Lee Riviere

A few weeks ago, singer/songwriter/guitarist Randy Lee Riviere released his new CD, "Concrete Blues" on New Wilderness Records. This is a wonderful showcase of his thought-provoking songs, supported by a veteran cast of musicians, with Tom Hambridge producing, who also adds all the drums and backing vocals. Tom is on a roll over the last few years, leaving behind a trail of nothing but gold, and this one is no exception. 12 songs, all written by Randy except one co-written with Tom, and up first is "Mania" which kicks ass right off the bat. Immediate catchy, crunchy guitars.....six strings, wood, plastic, steel, aluminum.....this album shows you why electric guitars were invented, and rocks the house right out of the gate. Slowing it down, just a little, is "The Wayside," which is a workin' man's blues rock tune in the heaviest sense. All of you that grind it out 40 hours a week or more and let loose on the weekends, (or maybe every night?) this is for you.



"Just Tryin' To Get Back Home" is more of the same. Cool, bluesy licks with some Indian dance type pounding from Tom, and you WILL get the lyrics. *"Running heavy one more time again, the dispatcher, well, he ain't my friend. The scale master won't bend, the banker won't give me no more loans. These logbooks will be my my end, and I'm just trying to get back home."* Adding guitars along with Randy are Nashville veteran cats Kenny Greenburg and Bob Britt. I love this one and dedicate it to my friend Roger, who covers our country from one coast to the other on 18 wheels.

The title "Moccasin Lake" just breathes fear, and that's exactly what happens. This is a lowdown ballad with some dirty guitars. The lake ain't named after leather woven footwear! This is one guy's revenge on a meth dealer who killed his lady, and now it's time for justice. *"Old book talk, eye for an eye, old book talk, tooth for a tooth. You gonna look in a thousand eyes for my baby that you took."* You will feel good about the music and the story. Charles Bronson/Death Wish payback at it's finest. On the press release, Randy mentions that although he's a country boy, he took to rock-oriented music at an early age, and "Tres Hombres" by ZZ Top in 1973 *"got burned into my psyche when I was in high school.....and apparently, it's still there!"* Well, our title cut, "Concrete Blues" is more Joe X. Worker kind of stuff, Texas blues at it's best, and is the lone co-write with Tom. Stephen Mackey and Robert Kearns split bass duties on this disc, with Mike Rojas adding keyboards, especially on this one with his piano on top of some screeching wah-wah guitar. Let me tell you that if the Reverend Billy gets to hear this one, he will write a sermon about it. To finish out the disc is "Drive", which is a real-good-feel good song, with Mike adding the organ. This one is cool, so let's ALL pay attention. Most of us have survived the 60's-70's-80's-90's and even beyond, and we came out OK. (Your parents did have you tested, right?). Blue skies and green hillsides are alive, so let's take a ride and drive to see all this beautiful stuff. One of the coolest songs evah! And it includes some more upbeat guitar and a bass line to match. It's very lifting, and hopefully some of us will get to experience this one done live!

"Concrete Blues" is a very solid release that you will love. It's got everything, catchy original blues tunes, musician-ship at it's best, and may I warn you that the guitars on here are not "clean,".....which is what makes it so great! Tom just continues to prove why he has a full schedule as a producer for so many blues artists. Randy Lee Riviere is the kind of musician that is your good friend who also lives close to you. The kind of guy you want to hang with, because everyone else will be jealous. This CD is music that you need to complete your life.