

## Aristocrat/Chess Records

by Frank Daniels

When Aristocrat Records began in early April, 1947, the firm had several partners. The label was going to feature all sorts of musicians – not just pop, or country, or jazz. By September they hired Leonard Chess to help sell their singles, and by the end of the year several of the partners had gone away. The musicians' union strike in 1948 probably drove some of the others away, so that by 1949 Evelyn Aron and Leonard Chess were basically running the show by themselves. Aron joined Art Spiegel that year in forming American Distributing, and Phil Chess wound up joining Leonard. By spring, 1950, they were preparing for a name change to Chess Records.

As if they were foretelling the future, some of the greatest artists on the label were in their blues stable – including the always-noteworthy Muddy Waters, the father of (modern) Chicago blues. Muddy had recorded unreleased material for Columbia and had just released one record for Ballen's 20<sup>th</sup> Century label, the B-side of a single. That had been a primitive version of his song, "Mean Red Spider," a record that would be rerecorded for Aristocrat. As soon as his first Aristocrat single hit (in February, 1948), Muddy was a blues legend. When Aristocrat morphed into Chess, right away he released the song that gave the Rolling Stones their name (7/15/50).

**Aristocrat Records** had plenty of talent on the label, but their blues artists piqued the most interest, and these were the artists that Chess was most interested in promoting.

Until 1949, the Aristocrat record numbers appeared in series devoted to its individual artists – so that the 1300s were for Muddy Waters, for instance. After Leonard Chess took over the label, he piled all of the artists into the existing 401 series – beginning with 403. Almost all of these came out at the very end of 1949 and in early 1950. After a recording gap while the new label was prepared, Chess debuted.

These listings go through "Rocket '88," which some people consider to be the first rock and roll song.

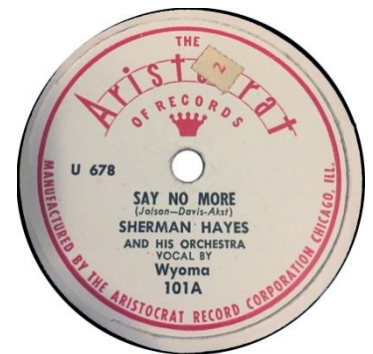
### New Record Firm Cuts First Platters

CHICAGO — A new record firm introduced itself to the trade this past week, Aristocrat Record Corp. President is Charles Aron, well known to the juke box and retail music trade.

Aron was present at the past coin machine convention in February and gathered a great deal of material from music machine operators from all over the nation which is now being used by the firm in their first

new pressings.

The label will be known as the "Aristocrat Record". First pressings will be by Sherman Hayes and his Orchestra. The first six sides include some unique novelties as well as the old standards and those who have heard them give them every opportunity of great success on the present market.



Paul Bannister, GAC one-night booker, squiring Jo Hiatt (Miss Chicago) frequently. . . . Aristocrat platters has added Leonard Chess in the sales staff, and Jo-Jo Adams, Annie Laurie and the Tri-Tones to its recording stable. . . .

### Chicago:

Aristocrat, local blues and rhythm label, operated by **Leon and Phil Chess**, is starting a new label, Chess, which will feature the same talent roster. The fraters Chess intend to continue to press Aristocrat's catalog. **Len Davis**, ex-sales manager with Swingmaster, has joined Chess.

## Aristocrat Blues Series



**FIVE BLAZES (Aristocrat 201)**  
*Chicago Boogie*—FT; VC.  
*Dedicated to You*—FT; VC.  
 This Negro quintet is technically poorly presented in its wax debut, with the instrumental offering sounding like it had been cut in a big barn with the instruments miles from the pick-up mike. Group shows plenty of fire in their *Boogie*, which boasts good lyrics and some standout piano work. Flipover is the pretty oldie, which merits re-discovery. Both sides show versatile voice of Ernie Palmer, who turns it torrid for the *Boogie*, while his tonsils go soft and mellow for the reverse.  
 The *Chicago Boogie* will grab Jazz fans' ears, while *Dedicated* is good for all locations.

5 Blazes

Recording Dates:

Release Date:

"Chicago Boogie"/ "Dedicated to You"

April, 1947

June/July, 1947 (BB June 28, 1947 advance; July 26, 1947 review)

201



5 Blazes

Recording Dates:

Release Date:

"All My Geets Are Gone"/ "Every Little Dream"

April, 1947

July, 1947 (BB June 28, 1947 advance)

202

August 16, 1947

... Aristocrat Records  
 expanding in the race field, adding  
 two blues singers and Jump Jackson's  
 Negro combo. . . .



Jump Jackson

Recording Dates:

Release Date:

"Sweet Thing"/ "Not Now, Baby"

c. July, 1947

September, 1947 (BB September 13, 1947 advance)

401



Jump Jackson  
Recording Dates: c. July, 1947  
Release Date: September, 1947 (CB September 13, 1947 advance)

"Hey, Pretty Mama"/ "The Greatest Mistake" **402**

**TRAIN BLUES** ..... Jump Jackson Ork (Benny Kelly) (I'M CUTTING) ..... Aristocrat AR 403

Jump Jackson  
Recording Dates: c. July, 1947  
Release Date: Withdrawn (BB September 13, 1947 advance)

"Train Blues"/ "I'm Cutting Out on You" **403**

Apparently believing that two simultaneous singles from Jackson were enough, Aristocrat withdrew this release. The A-side wound up being released in March, 1949, as "Choo Choo Blues" (see below), while the B-side went unreleased.

... Aristocrat platters have inked race singers Clarence Samuels, Prince Cooper and Sunnyland Slim.



CLARENCE SAMUELS (Dave Young's Ork) (Aristocrat 1001) <i>Boogie Woogie Blues</i> Up tempoed blues chant which should be good for the boxes.	73	65	70	83
<i>Lolly Pop Mama</i> All the race infections— for the boxes mainly.	62	35	69	81

Clarence Samuels  
Recording Dates: c. September, 1947  
Release Date: BB December 27, 1947

"Boogie Woogie Blues"/ "Lolly Pop Mama" **1001**





<b>ANDREW TIBBS</b> (Dave Young's Ork) (Aristocrat 1101) <i>Union Man Blues</i> Blues shouter Tibbs gar- bles most of the race lyric. Fair ork backing. <i>Bilbo Is Dead</i> Sarcastic blues chant about "friend" Bilbo at an insinuating tempo.			
49	48	43	55
68	69	64	71



Andrew Tibbs  
 Recording Dates: c. September, 1947  
 Release Date: CB December 20, 1947; BB December 27, 1947  
 Although the label lists "Bilbo is Dead" as the A-side, Aristocrat promoted "Union Man Blues."  
 This record was popular enough that there were at least 3 label printings.

1101



<b>SUNNY LAND SLIM</b> (Muddy Water) <i>Fly Right, Little Girl</i> (Aristocrat 1301) Low down blues shout- ing. Raucous. Good pi- ano work. <i>Johnson Machine Gun</i> Not for juvenile delin- quents. Slim threatens dire doings with his "typewriter" via shouted blues.			
69	67	67	74
72	70	69	78

Sunny Land Slim With Muddy Waters "Johnson Machine Gun"/ "Fly Right, Little Girl"  
 Recording Dates: c. September, 1947  
 Release Date: BB February 28, 1948  
 There were at least 2 label printings of this single.

1301



"Toothless Woman Blues"  
 "Drinking Ink Splink"  
 Andrew Tibbs  
 (Aristocrat 1102)  
 Rapidly rising as featur-  
 ed name on phones in race  
 spots throughout the land  
 Andrew Tibbs sets a pair  
 here that should come in  
 for some heavy coin play.  
 Top deck is some heavily  
 laden blues weaving thru-  
 out the wax in slow time,  
 with the vocal spot round  
 all the way. Tibbs gives  
 with loads of tricks that  
 echoes beautifully. Flip  
 shows with the metro at a  
 faster pace, with the ork  
 chiming in for a vibrant  
 spot. Both sides should  
 draw loads of coin altho  
 the top deck shines very  
 brightly.

Andrew Tibbs  
 Recording Dates: c. September, 1947  
 Release Date: CB April 3, 1948  
 Although the label lists "Bilbo is Dead" as the A-side, Aristocrat promoted "Union Man Blues."

1102



ANDREW TIBBS (Tom Archia All Stars) (Aristocrat 1103)				
<i>Married Man's Blues</i> Orking smartly clefted and played, but bad balance smothers the blues vocal.	63	61	63	65
<i>I Feel Like Crying</i> Compelling blues warbling with unusual ululating, drawn-out phrasing.	75	74	76	76

A Merry Xmas  
and  
A Happy New Year  
to all  
Juke Box Operators  
and our sincerest thanks to  
our distributors for these  
Great Hits of 1948  
★  
"I Feel Like Going Home"  
Muddy Waters  
(Aristocrat 1305)  
★  
"I Feel Like Crying"  
Andrew Tibbs  
(Aristocrat 1103)

Andrew Tibbs With Tom Archia "Married Man Blues"/ "I Feel Like Crying"  
Recording Dates: c. October, 1947  
Release Date: BB June 26, 1948 Advance; BB July 10, 1948

1103



MUDDY WATERS (Aristocrat 1305)				
<i>I Feel Like Going Home</i> Poor recording distorts vocal and steel guitar backing.	52	50	53	53
<i>I Can't Be Satisfied</i> Same complaint as flip; side a shade more distinct.	54	52	55	57

Muddy Waters "I Can't Be Satisfied"/ "I Feel Like Going Home"  
Recording Dates: c. December, 1947  
Release Date: BB June 26, 1948 Advance; BB July 10, 1948

1305

There were at least 2 label printings of this single, plus a reissue on the 1949-50 label style.



Muddy Waters With Sunny Land Slim "Gypsy Woman"/ "Little Anna Mae"  
Recording Dates: c. September, 1947  
Release Date: BB September 11, 1948 Advance

1302

Despite the late date of the advance notices, the labels (and possibly the single) were prepared prior to the change in typeface in June/July.

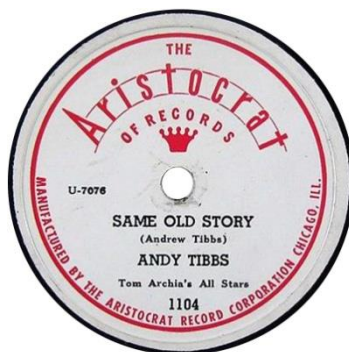




Clarence Samuels  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Coming Home, Baby" / "Baseball Blues"  
December, 1947  
c. fall, 1948

**1003**



Andy Tibbs With Tom Archia  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Going Down Fast" / "Same Old Story"  
c. October, 1947  
BB October 16, 1948 Advance

**1104**

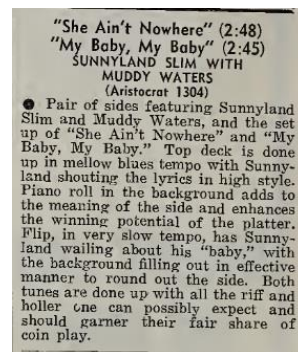
"Same Old Story" is a candidate for first rock-and-roll song (as opposed to R&B).



Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Train Fare Home" / "Sittin' Here and Drinkin'"  
late 1948  
BB October 16, 1948 Advance

**1306**



Sunnyland Slim With Muddy Waters “She Ain’t Nowhere” / “My Baby, My Baby”

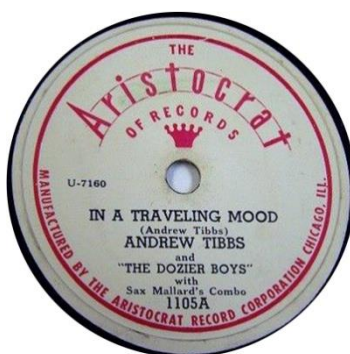
1304

Recording Dates:

c. December, 1947

Release Date:

CB January 22, 1949



Andrew Tibbs and the Dozier Boys “In a Traveling Mood” / “The Holidays are Over”

1105

Recording Dates:

c. October, 1947

Release Date:

BB/CB February 12, 1949 Advance



Muddy Waters

“You’re Gonna Miss Me” / “Mean Red Spider” 1307

Recording Dates:

December, 1948

Release Date:

BB/CB February 19, 1949 Advance





**JIMMY BOWMAN**  
(Sax Mallard's Ork)  
(Aristocrat 2003)  
**Evelyn** 40--40--40--40  
Dreary warbling and  
orking of an indifferent  
girl's name tune.  
**ERNIE HARPER**  
(The Five Blazes)  
**Dedicated to You** 67--67--67--67  
Relaxed, easy-ride sing-  
ing and small combo  
backing on the pretty  
Saul Chaplin standard.

Jimmy Bowman/5 Blazes

Recording Dates:

Release Date:

"Evelyn" / "Dedicated to You"

12/47; 4/47

CB March 26, 1949

**2003**

The B-side reissues Aristocrat 201B, credited this time to the lead singer with the band.



**THE DOZIER BOYS**  
(Sax Mallard Combo)  
(Aristocrat 3001)  
**She Only Fools With Me** 76--77--75--75  
Rich story-tune is win-  
ningly rendered by the  
fine soloist and group.  
**St. Louis Blues** 72--75--70--72  
The lads make quite a  
production on the off-  
recorded standard. It's a  
two-tempo switch deal  
with baritone and bass  
crooners both showing  
strong, and less-com-  
mendable group harmony  
in back.

The Dozier Boys

Recording Dates:

Release Date:

"She Only Fools With Me" / "St. Louis Blues"

12/48

CB April 16, 1949

**3001**



Benny Kelly & Jump Jackson/Clarence Samuels

Recording Dates:

Release Date:

"Choo Choo Blues" / "I Don't Love You, Mamie"

c. July, 1947/December, 1947

April, 1949

**403**





Leroy Foster & Muddy Waters "Locked Out Boogie" / "Shady Grove Blues" **1234**  
 Recording Dates: December, 1948  
 Release Date: April, 1949



Laura Rucker "I Need You When" / "Shady Grove Blues" **10001**  
 Recording Dates: April, 1949  
 Release Date: May, 1949



Saint Louis Jimmy "Florida Hurricane" / "So Nice and Kind" **7001**  
 Recording Dates: 1948? Apparently recorded during the strike.  
 Release Date: BB May 14, 1949  
 Muddy Waters Blues Combo

**ST. LOUIS JIMMY**  
 (Muddy Waters & His  
 Blues Combo-  
 Sunnyland Slim)  
 (Aristocrat 7001)  
**Florida Hurricane** 68--68--66--70  
 Southern blues shouter  
 warbles an appealing  
 topical blues, well backed  
 by small combo.  
**So Nice and Kind** 65--63--65--67  
 Blues here doesn't have  
 freshness and natural  
 appeal of flip, tho it's  
 well performed.



<b>EUGENE WRIGHT</b> (Aristocrat 11001)	
<b>Pork'n Beans</b> Screamer opens with honking one-note bary bust, then a bop trumpet and tram take solos. No unity or build here.	<b>60--55--60--65</b>
<b>Dawn Mist</b> Ellington - styled mood blues showcases solos of varying quality—the best a trumpet. Section sound not good.	<b>60--60--58--62</b>

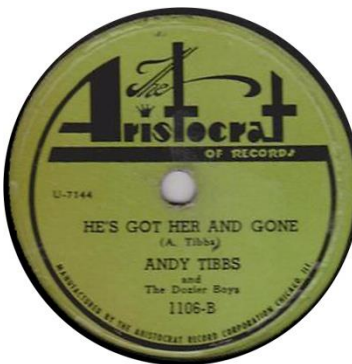
Eugene Wright  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Pork'n Beans"/ "Dawn Mist" **11001**  
December, 1948  
BB June 18, 1949



Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Streamlined Woman"/ "Muddy Jumps One" **1310**  
December, 1948 (?)  
BB July 30, 1949



Andy Tibbs & Dozier Boys  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"In Every Man's Life"/ "He's Got Her and Gone" **1106**  
December, 1948 (?)  
BB July 30, 1949





**THE DOZIER BOYS**  
Aristocrat 3002

**Big Time Baby**  
Jump blues, with vocal group and combo swinging hard and mellow. Warbling is arresting and distinctive.  
**Music Goes 'Round and 'Round**  
A jump version of the Riley-Parkley jasper. It's old enough—and the times are musically out of joint enough—to come back. Who knows?

77--77--76--78

73--73--73--73

Dozier Boys & Eugene Wright  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Big Time Baby"/ "Music Goes 'Round and 'Round"  
December, 1948 (?)  
BB September 24, 1949

**3002**



"I Know" (2:48)  
"How Long" (2:50)

ANDY TIBBS  
(Aristocrat 1107)

● Andy Tibbs pitches his pipes on this coupling to turn up with a pair of hot items for music ops. Top deck, titled "I Know" is a tune that has been around a bit. It's slow blues, handled to perfection by Andy. The flip keeps the same pace and has the balladeer coming thru for music ops once again. Tune is extremely infectious and should have music fans humming and singing the melody in no time at all. Flatter rates a top spot in music ops' machines.

Dozier Boys & Eugene Wright  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"How Long"/ "I Know"  
July, 1949  
CB October 29, 1949

**1107**



**THE NIGHTHAWKS**  
Aristocrat 2301

**RHYTHM & BLUES**

**Annie Lee Blues**  
Moody blues could pick up business in the Southern market. It's well done.  
**Black Angel Blues**  
Neatly executed blues piece which fails to build after getting under way with much promise.

74--75--70--78

71--73--68--73

The Nighthawks  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Annie Lee Blues"/ "Black Angel Blues"  
July, 1949  
BB November 12, 1949

**2301**



Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Little Geneva"/ "Canary Bird"  
July, 1949  
BB November 19, 1949 Advance

**1311**

**At this point in time**, the Chess Brothers found themselves in control of Aristocrat Records, as Evelyn Aron formed American Record Distributors together with Art Sheridan – whom she married on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The following year they would found Chance Records.

The artist series at Aristocrat were becoming difficult to maintain, so the brothers combined all of the existing records into a single series – beginning with 404. Apparently the records that were due out in December were all renumbered to conform to the new series, and several singles came out simultaneously in January.



As the new year began, Leonard and Phil Chess put effort into renaming the company Chess Records. Meanwhile, they continued to press singles on the Aristocrat label.





Sammy Louis "Something Within"/ "God Shall Wipe All Tears"  
 Recording Dates: August, 1949  
 Release Date: BB January 21, 1950 Advance  
 These are gospel songs.

404



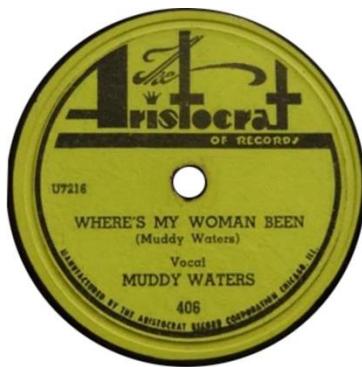
Blues Rockers "Times are Getting Hard"/ "Trouble in My Home"  
 Recording Dates: September, 1949  
 Release Date: BB January 28, 1950

407



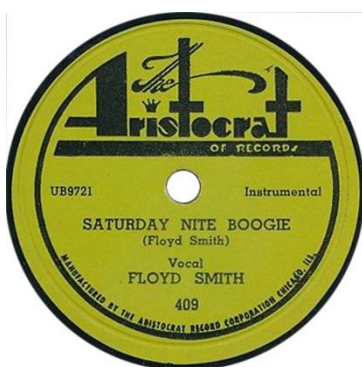
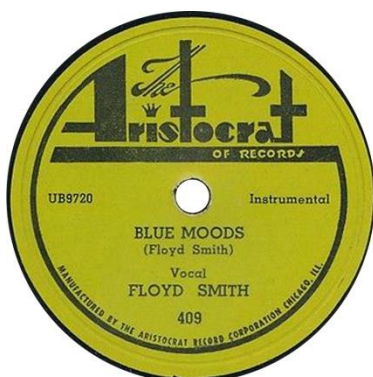
Little Johnny & Muddy Waters "Big Town Play Boy"/ "Shelby County"  
 Recording Dates: September, 1949  
 Release Date: BB February 11, 1950 Advance

405



Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Screaming and Crying" / "Where's My Woman Been" 406  
September, 1949  
BB February 11, 1950 Advance



Floyd Smith  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Blue Moods" / "Saturday Nite Boogie" 409 [408]  
June 8, 1949  
February, 1950



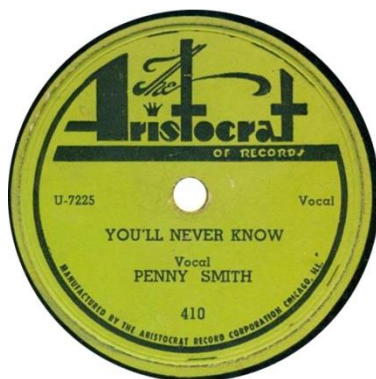
Dozier Boys  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"All I Need is You" / "She's Gone"  
December, 1949  
BB February 11, 1950 Advance



409





Penny Smith  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"You'll Never Know"/ "Somewhere in a Dream"  
January, 1950  
March, 1950

410 [first]



Penny Smith  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Here I Am"/ "Lover Come Back to Me"  
January/February, 1950  
CB March 25, 1950



410 [new]



Gene Ammons  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"The Last Mile"/ "Pennies from Heaven"  
1/8/50  
CB March 4, 1950

411

The single debuted locally in the April 8<sup>th</sup> issue of *Cash Box*.





Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Rollin' and Tumblin' Part 1"/ "Rollin' and Tumblin' Part 2"  
February, 1950  
CB March 11, 1950

412



Nighthawks  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Rollin' and Tumblin' Part 1"/ "Rollin' and Tumblin' Part 2"  
January 5, 1950  
c. April, 1950

413



Blues Rockers  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:  
This copy is from Tom Ball's collection.

"When Times Are Getting Better"/ "Blues Rockers' Bop" 413 [414]  
March 5, 1950  
c. May, 1950





Blues Rockers  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"When Times Get Better"/ "Blues Rockers' Bop" **415**  
March 5, 1950  
c. May, 1950



Gene Ammons  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Chabootie"/ "Full Moon"  
1/8/50  
c. May, 1950

**416**



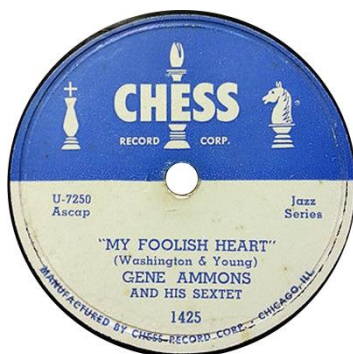
Charles Bradix  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Numbered Days"/ "Wee, Wee Hours"  
October 17, 1948  
c. May, 1950

**418**

Originally recorded for Blue Bonnet Records, Big Charlie Bradix's label in 1948. Apparently, Blue Bonnet did not release these songs. As May, 1950, ended, Aristocrat became Chess.

## Early Chess 78 RPM Singles



**1** IT ISN'T FAIR  
Dinah Washington  
(Mercury 8169)

**2** MY FOOLISH HEART  
Billy Eckstine  
Gene Ammons  
(MGM 10623)

Gene Ammons (Sextet)

"My Foolish Heart" / "Bless You"

**1425**

Recording Dates:

5/2/50; 2/29/49

Release Date:

CB June 17, 1950

The single debuted locally in *Cash Box* on June 17 without any references to Chess. By the second week in July, Chess was being mentioned, and the record was selling in several local markets.



THE NEW LABEL THAT'S CLICKING WITH ALL MUSIC OPERATORS EVERYWHERE  
"MY FOOLISH HEART" BACKED WITH "BLESS YOU" By GENE AMMONS on CHES No. 1425  
"ROLLIN' STONE" BACKED WITH "WALKIN' BLUES" By MUDDY WATERS on CHES No. 1426  
Distributors: Some Territories Still Available! Write: CHES RECORD CO., 3349 COTTAGE GROVE AVE., CHICAGO, ILL. (All Phones: MEdison 6-1222)

Muddy Waters

"Rollin' Stone" / "Walking Blues"

**1426**

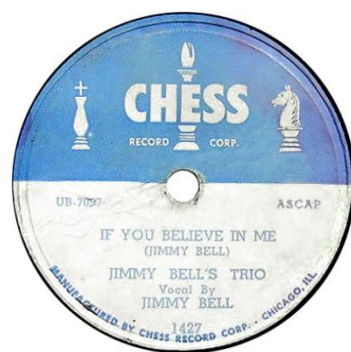
Recording Dates:

2/50

Release Date:

CB July 15, 1950

The ad mentioning "Rollin' Stone" was oriented sideways on page 33 of *Cash Box*; it was also the first ad from Chess.



Jimmy Bell's Trio

"Me and My Baby" / "If You Believe in Me"

**1427**

Recording Dates:

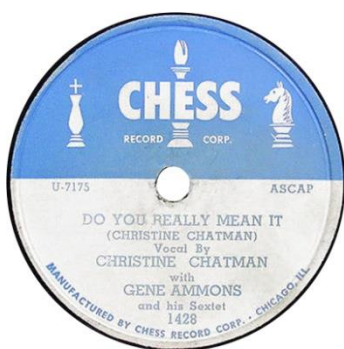
12/47 (same session as Aristocrat 1901)

Release Date:

c. July, 1950

Rare





... Give a listen to the new Gene Ammons platter, "Goodbye," on Chess. Ops on Chi's southside going for this one. . . .

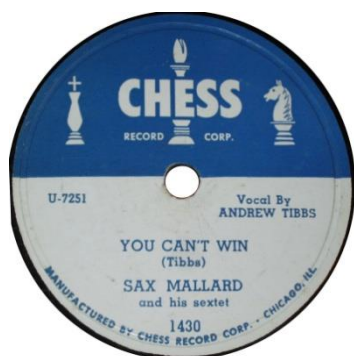
Gene Ammons  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Good Bye"/ "Do You Really Mean It" (With Christine Chatman) **1428**  
2/28/49; 5/2/50  
c. July, 1950



Gene Ammons  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:  
**Rare** or unknown

"Chabootie"/ "Full Moon" **1429**  
1/8/50  
c. July, 1950 – a reissue of Aristocrat 416



Sax Mallard  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"You Can't Win"/ "Aching Heart"  
7/50  
c. early August, 1950

**1430**



Gene Ammons  
Recording Dates:

"Pennies from Heaven" / "The Last Mile"  
1/8/50

**1431**

Release Date:

c. early August, 1950 – a reissue of Aristocrat 411 (February, 1950)

The single debuted locally in the April 8<sup>th</sup> issue of *Cash Box*.

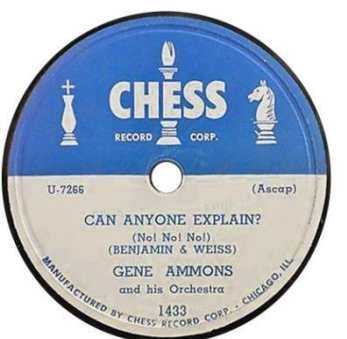


"MONA LISA" (2:35)  
"BENNY'S BOUNCE" (2:40)  
CLAUDE McLINN & SEXTET  
(Chess 1432)  
● "Mona Lisa" discloses a very slow start with a wierd use of the strings and a heavy horn finally bringing in the theme with a blare. Strings continue around the edges of the melody and ops might find that this different arrangement picks up a little play. Bottom is solid jazz with a nice movement.

Claude McLin  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Mona Lisa" / "Benny's Bounce"  
7/21/50  
CB August 12, 1950

**1432**

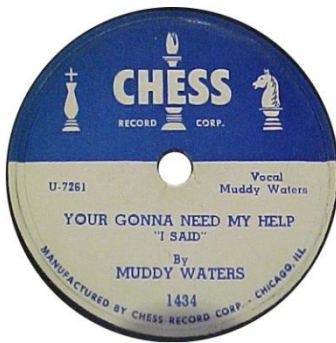


Gene Ammons  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Jug Head Ramble" / "Can Anyone Explain?"  
8/50  
c. August/September, 1950

**1433**



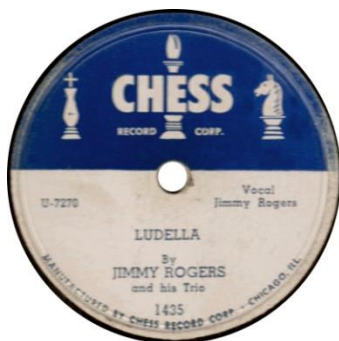
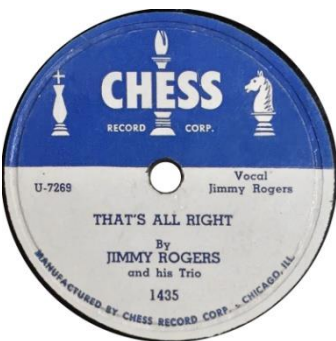


Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:

"Your Gonna Need My Help" / "Sad Letter Blues"  
8/15/50

1434

Release Date: September, 1950  
The A-side title ("You're") is misspelled on the label.

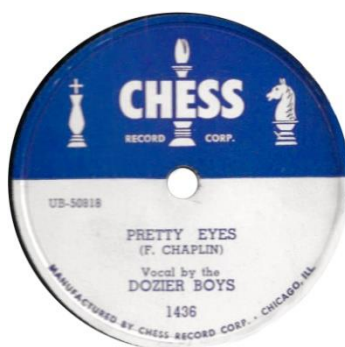
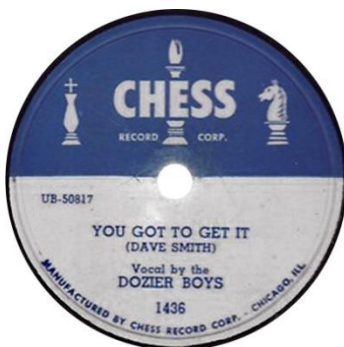


Jimmy Rogers  
Recording Dates:

"That's All Right" / "Ludella"  
8/50

1435

Release Date: October, 1950  
This record charted locally in Alabama in the May 5, 1951 issue of *Cash Box*.

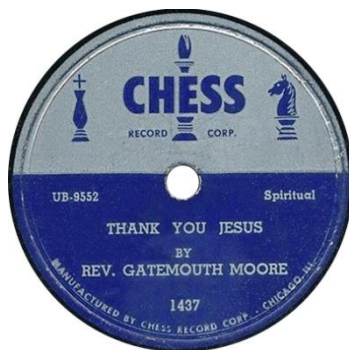
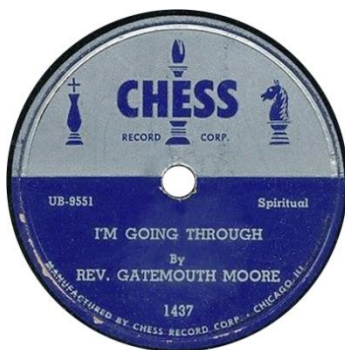


The Dozier Boys  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"You Got to Get It" / "Pretty Eyes"  
8/50  
October, 1950

**MEET MR. GORDON** .....75  
Bob Gordon Quintet (1-10")  
Pacific Jazz PJLP-12  
Those who follow the works and ways of the younger West Coast musicians are in for a musical experience of the first order in this collection of Jack Montrose compositions and arrangements, as played by the Bob Gordon Quintet. The playful, neatly turned counterpoint of Gordon's bold, clean style is heard on originals such as "Meet Mr. Gordon" and "For Sue." As well as other jazz albums have been going recently, this, too, should strike pay dirt with many modern collectors.

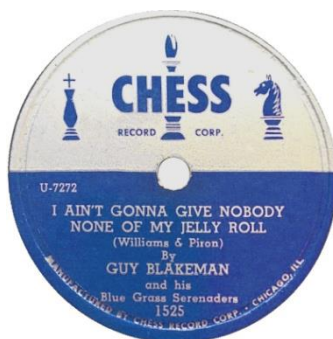
1436



Rev. Gatemouth Moore  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"I'm Going Through"/ "Thank You Jesus"  
spring, 1949  
October, 1950 – possibly a reissue of Aristocrat 904 (June, 1949)  
No copies appear to be known

**1437**



Guy Blakeman

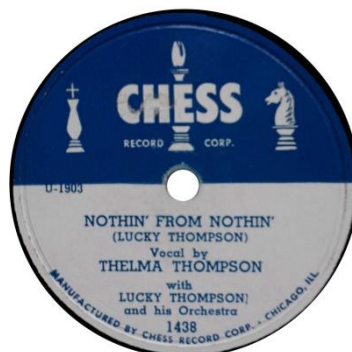
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Oh Yes I am Lonely"/  
"I Ain't Gonna Give Nobody None of My Jelly Roll"  
8/50  
CB October 28, 1950

**1525**

These two records with "reversed" colors (silver and blue instead of blue and white) came out at the same time in October, 1950. The first was a gospel single, and this one was the label's first country single. Chess allocated it the number 1525 as the start of a new (country) series, but they abandoned the new numbering right away – eventually releasing another Chess 1525 in the main (1425) series.

"OH YES, I'M LONELY" (2:56)  
"I AIN'T GONNA GIVE YOU NONE OF MY JELLY ROLL" (2:48)  
GUY BLAKEMAN  
(Chess 1525)  
● Here's one that can't miss! Guy Blakeman has a hot winner in the upper lid, a mellow romantic lament that should wear white in the boxes. Disk has a wonderful beat, coupled with some grade A lyrics to match Guy's socko vocal style. Flip picks up in tempo some, and has Guy coming thru with another potential winner. Top deck is the one to ride with—but pronto.



Lucky Thompson  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

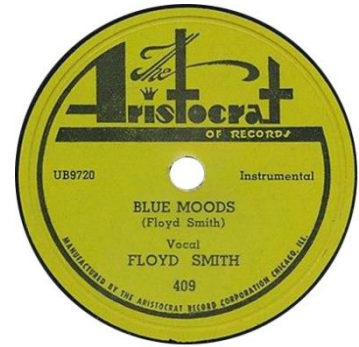
"Slow Drag"/ "Nothin' from Nothin'"  
late October, 1950  
November, 1950

**1438**

The B-side song title seems to have been the inspiration for the Billy Preston song from 1974.

... Phil Chess returned to Chicago this week after a trip to NY where he cut "Slow Drag," an instrumental recorded by Lucky Thompson and his orchestra. Backing was "Nothin' From Nothin' Leaves Nothin'," a vocal by Lucky's wife, Thelma Thompson.





Floyd Smith  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:  
**Rare** or unknown

"Blue Moods" / "Saturday Night Boogie"  
June 8, 1949  
November, 1950 – a reissue of Aristocrat 409 (February, 1950)

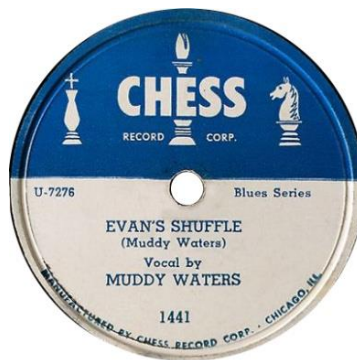
**1439**



Doc Pomus  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"No Home Blues" / "Send for the Doctor"  
c. October, 1950  
November, 1950

**1440**



Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Louisiana Blues" / "Evan's Shuffle"  
October 23, 1950  
December, 1950 (CB December 30, 1950)

**1441**



Jimmy Rogers  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Going Away Baby" / "Today, Today, Blues"  
October 23, 1950  
December, 1950

**1442**

Shoe Shine Johnny  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Joliet Blues" / "So Glad I Found You"  
October 23, 1950  
Unreleased/Unknown

**1443**

According to Johnny Shines (Shoe Shine), Chess held back the single in 1950 because its sales might hurt the sales of other Chess singles. "When it gets so you all can't sell then I'll put it out. 'Cause this is gonna sell whenever it is released. And it's gonna hurt you now." (from *Feel Like Going Home*, 1971) Shines related that they wanted to release it two years later, but he refused: "This is when Chess was prepared to finally issue Joliet Blues, two years after they were recorded. Needless to say, Shines told Chess to forget it. Then came a disagreement with record boss and D. J. Al Benson, who Shines feels blocked his recording career. Johnny Shines was simply too intelligent and proud to allow himself to be exploited by the record companies." (*Coda*, Vol. 11, 1974)

"Even though a "Shoe Sine Johnny" single was announced and even assigned a Chess release number — 1443, "Joliet Blues" / "So Glad I Found You" — not a single copy of the record ever has been unearthed by collectors." (*Living Blues*, March, 1975)

The A-side was not copyrighted until May 8, 1970 — bearing out Shines' account.



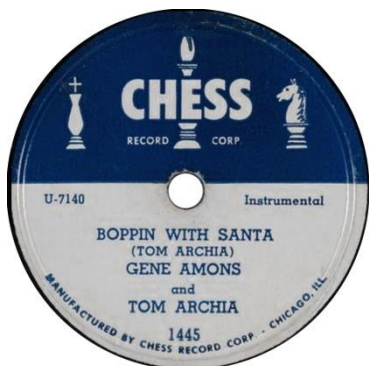
Calvin Bostic Trio  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:  
Bostick's last name is misspelled.

"All of My Life" / "People Will Talk About You"  
October 23, 1950  
December, 1950 (CB December 30, 1950)

**1444**

**JOHNNY HOLIDAY SINGS .....60**  
(1-10")  
Pacifica PL-801  
Could be that with this kind of exposure, and with a loyal and vocal cult kind of followers, Mr. Holiday could break thru. It's happened before. Certainly he's a musicianly singer and he has a sound. Arrangements by Russ Garcia and a band loaded with guys like Shelly Manne, Bud Shank and Barney Kessel should bring its own following. Holiday is a fine singer with a feeling for lyrics and melody line. His primary appeal now would seem to be among the jazz fans and musicians. He bears watching—and, of course, listening.

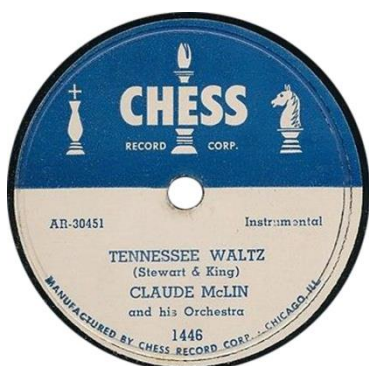




Gene Ammons and Tom Archia "Boppin' With Santa"/ "Talk of the Town" **1445**

Recording Dates: 10/48

Release Date: December, 1950 (CB December 30, 1950) – a reissue of Aristocrat 606  
Ammons' name is misspelled on the A-side label. The original A-side title was "Swinging for Christmas."



Claude McLin

"Tennessee Waltz"/ "Pop Goes the Weasel" **1446**

Recording Dates: 11/50

Release Date: December, 1950

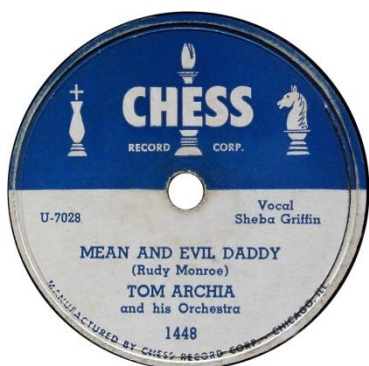


Baby Face Leroy

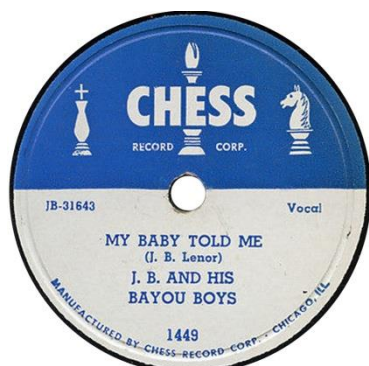
"My Head Can't Rest Anymore"/ "Take a Little Walk With Me" **1447**

Recording Dates: 1950

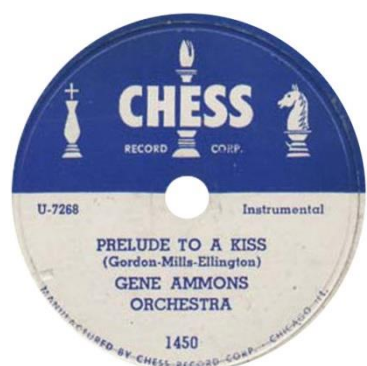
Release Date: January, 1951



Tom Archia  
 Recording Dates: 7/47; 10/47  
 Release Date: January, 1951 – a reissue of Aristocrat 601 (November, 1947)  
 The original A-side title was “Mean and Evil Baby;” the original B-side title was “Slumber.” The vocalist, Sheba Griffin, is listed only on the original Aristocrat release.



J.B. and His Bayou Boys  
 Recording Dates: 12/50  
 Release Date: January, 1951



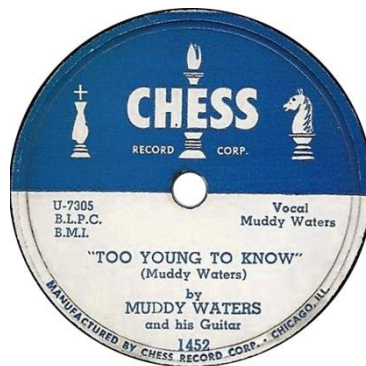
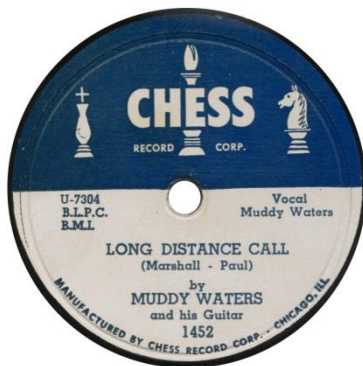
Gene Ammons Orchestra  
 Recording Dates: c. August, 1950  
 Release Date: February, 1951



Calvin Bostick  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:  
Rare

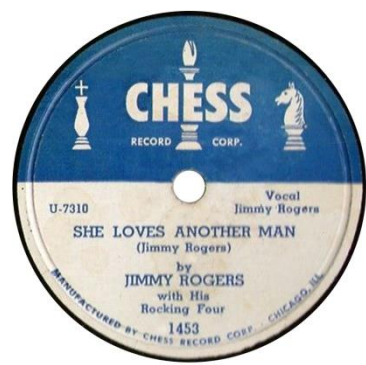
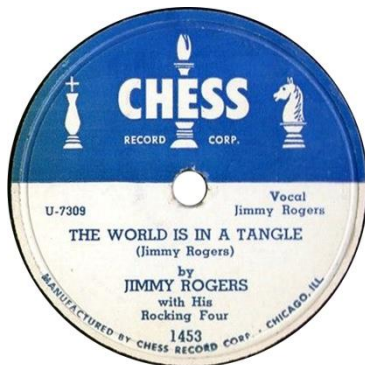
"I'm in Love With You"/ "Fleetwood Blues" **1451**  
1/51  
March, 1951

1 — 8. LONG DISTANCE CALL ..... M. Waters .....  
Too Young To Know ..... Chess 1452



Muddy Waters  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Long Distance Call"/ "Too Young to Know" **1452**  
1/23/51  
March, 1951 (BB April 14, 1951)



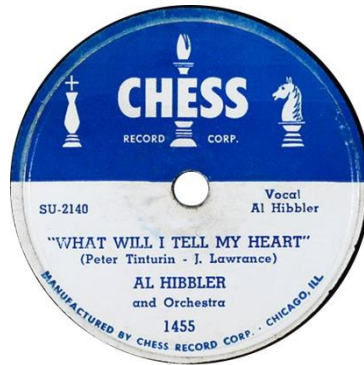
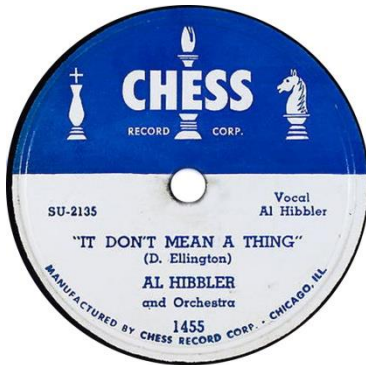
Jimmy Rogers  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"The World is in a Tangle"/ "She Loves Another Man" **1453**  
1/23/51  
March, 1951

John Lee Hooker  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Dreamin' Blues"/??  
Unreleased

1454



Al Hibbler  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"It Don't Mean a Thing"/ "What Will I Tell My Heart"  
1948  
March, 1951

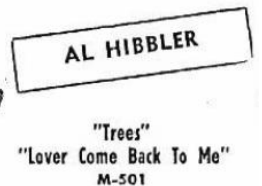
1455



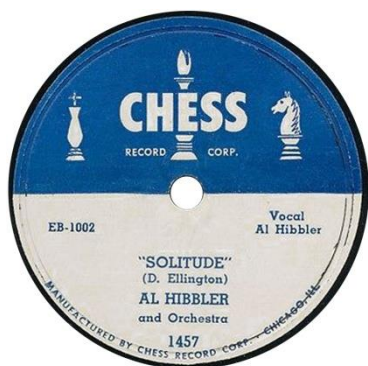
Al Hibbler  
Recording Dates:  
Release Date:

"Trees"/ "Lover Come Back to Me"  
11/47  
April, 1951 – a reissue of Miracle 501 (July, 1947)

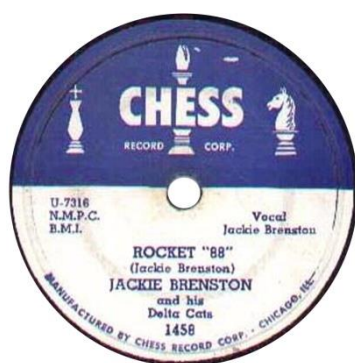
1456







Al Hibbler  
 Recording Dates: 1948  
 Release Date: March, 1951 – a reissue of Sunrise 2002 (April, 1947)  
 The B-side is by Billy Strayhorn, as indicated on the Sunrise release.



Jackie Brenston  
 Recording Dates: 3/5/51  
 Release Date: BB May 5, 1951

<b>JACKIE BRENSTON (Delta Cats)</b>	
<b>Rocket "88"</b>	<b>83--83--83--83</b>
CHESS 1458—Brenston chants a jumping boogie woogie paean to his convertible, with band swing excitingly in back.	
<b>Come Back Where You Belong</b>	<b>76--76--76--76</b>
Leader chants a sob-voiced blues, to a teasing, slow-drag backing. Loss of feeling in chanting and playing.	