

THE RECORDINGS OF ALBERTA JONES

An Annotated Tentative Personelo - Discography

JONES, Alberta: No biographical dates known

ALBERTA JONES

001	ALBERTA JONES	New York,	Dec. 18, 1923
	Alberta Jones – voc;		
	Edwin C. Stephens – pno		
81421	Trampin' Blues	Col unissued	not on LP/CD
81422	War Horse Mama (Pig Meat Sweetie)	Col unissued	not on LP/CD

Lacking any possibly accessible tests nothing might be said about these sides.

Notes:

- *McCarthy/Carey, Jazz Directory Vol Five: Edwin C. Stevens (p).*

- *BGR*2, *3, *4: Edwin C. Stevens, pno.*

- *Rust*3, *4, *6: Edwin C. Stevens, p.*

002	ALBERTA JONES	New York,	c. Sep. 05, 1925
	Alberta Jones – voc;		
	Roy Banks – pno		
9710	Home Alone Blues	Gnt 3144,	Document DOCD-1004
9711	Sud Bustin' Blues	Gnt 3144,	Document DOCD-1004

There is competent accompaniment in a not so jazzy style by Roy Banks, his name obviously documented from reliable sources.

Notes:

- *McCarthy/Carey, Jazz Directory Vol Five: Roy Banks (p).*

- *BGR*2, *3, *4: Roy Banks, pno.*

- *Rust*3, *4, *6: Roy Banks, p.*

003	ALBERTA JONES TRIO	New York,	Apr. 12, 1926
	Alberta Jones, Alta Brown, Bertha Powell – voc trio;		
	Thomas Fats Waller – pno		
X-70	All God's Chillun Got Wings	Gnt unissued	not on LP/CD

As no tests seem to have been found and issued nothing can be said about this single side.

Notes:

- *BGR*2: poss Alberta Jones, Alta Brown and Bertha Powell, vcl trio acc by poss Fats Waller, pno.*

- *BGR*3: Alberta Jones, poss Alta Brown, poss Bertha Powell, vcl trio, acc by poss Fats Waller, p.*

- *BGR*4: Alberta Jones, poss Alta Brown, poss Bertha Powell, vcl trio, acc by unknown, p.*

- *Rust*6: Alberta Jones -?Alta Brown -?Bertha Powell -v trio, acc by ?Fats Waller -p..*

004	ALBERTA JONES AND HER RED PEPPERS	New York,	Apr. 19, 1926
	Alberta Jones – voc; unknown male – voice;		
	unknown, unknown – kazoo; Carroll Boyd – pno		
X-87-A	Take Yo' Fingers Off It	Gnt 3306,	Document DOCD-1004

Two-handed bluesy accompaniment by the otherwise unknown Carrol Boyd, his name obviously documented from reliable sources and therefore cited by all discographies.

Notes:

- *BGR*2: acc by two unknown kazoos, Carrol Boyd, pno, with comments by an unknown male voice.*

- *BGR*3, *4: acc by two unknown kazoos, Carrol Boyd, p, unknown male, sp.*

- *Rust*3, *4, *6: acc by two unknown kazoos, Carrol Boyd, pno, with comments by an unknown male voice.*

005 ALBERTA JONES New York, Apr. 23, 1926
 Alberta Jones – voc;
 Carroll Boyd – pno
 X-101-A It Must Be Hard Gnt 3306, Document DOCD-1004

This is the same pianist as above, Carrol Boyd. There seem to be no more recordings with his participation. On my CD track there seems to be someone playing some kind of a drum behind Ms. Jones, but as no persussionist is named in any discography before, this might also be some kind of evil distortion from the process of copying from a bad 78.

Notes:

- McCarthy/Carey, *Jazz Directory Vol Five: Boyd (p)*.
- BGR*2,*3,*4: Carrol Boyd, pno.
- Rust*3,*4,*6: Carrol Boyd -p.

006 ALBERTA JONES the Ellington Twins New York, Oct. 14, 1926
 Alberta Jones – voc;
 Otto Hardwick – alt; Duke Ellington – pno
 GEX-323 Lucky Number Blues Gnt 3403, Document DOCD-1004
 GEX-324-A I'm Gonna Put You Right In Jail Gnt 3403, Document DOCD-1004

Beautiful playing – and very individualistic in their kind – by both accompanists. Hear this alto player again on session 011!

Notes:

- BGR*2,*3,*4: acc by the Ellington Twins: Otto Hardwick, alt; Duke Ellington, pno.
- Rust*3,*4,*6: acc by the Ellington Twins: Otto Hardwick -as; Duke Ellington -p.

007 ALBERTA JONES Corky Williams and his Blackbirds New York, Mar. 08, 1928
 Alberta Jones – voc;
 unknown – alt;
 Corky Williams – pno; unknown - gtr
 GEX-1132-A Dying Blues Gnt 6424, Document DOCD-1004
 GEX-1133-A Shake A Little Bit Gnt 6439, Document DOCD-1004

Against the discographical statements as below pianist and guitarist can be heard together on both titles. I have no idea as to the identities of them.

Notes:

- McCarthy/Carey, *Jazz Directory Vol Five: Corky Williams (p)*.
- BGR*2: acc by Corky Williams and his Black Birds: unknown alt; Corky Williams, pno.
- BGR*3,*4: acc by Corky Williams and his Black Birds: unknown as; Corky Williams, p; unknown, g.
- Rust*3,*4: acc by Corky Williams and his Black Birds: unknown as; Corky Williams, p.
- Rust*6: acc by Corky Williams and his Black Birds: unknown as; Corky Williams, p; unknown g (1).

008 ALBERTA JONES New York, Jun. 11, 1928
 Alberta Jones – voc;
 possible personnel:
 Joe King Oliver – cnt; Jimmy Archey – tbn;
 Ernest Elliott – alt, clt; Arville Harris – ten, clt;
 Clarence Williams – pno; Leroy Harris – bjo; unknown – bbs
 E-27688 Pennsylvania Blues Voc unissued not on LP/CD
 E-27689 Tramping Blues Voc unissued not on LP/CD

As there seem to be no tests of these items found, nothing about them can be stated with certainty. The matrix numbers of these two titles follow consecutively after the originally assigned Brunswick matrix numbers E-27684-A, E-27685-A, E-27686-A-B, and E-27687-A-B of the King Oliver session before. The assumption of the listed personnel seems feasible therefore.

Notes:

- Storyville 22: not listed.
- Lord, Clarence Williams p234: not listed.
- BGR*2,*3,*4: not listed
- Rust*3,*4,*6: not listed.
- L. Wright, *King Oliver p93*: “Adjacent matrices: E-27688/9 are by Alberta Jones recorded A.M. on the same day. ‘Pennsylvania Blues’ (E-27688-A,-B) and ‘Tramping Blues’ (E-27689-A,-B) are both shown as Alberta Jones compositions and are shown as performed by ‘Alberta Jones, soprano with orchestra’ and as ‘Test Masters’.”
- VJM 169-18: “Bernhard Behncke (Germany) noted an intriguing remark on p. 93 of Laurie Wright’s King Oliver book. It mentions unissued recordings by Alberta Jones, soprano with orchestra of ‘Pennsylvania Blues’ and ‘Tramping Blues’ (matrix E-27688/9). These were recorded on the same date and place as the King Oliver session with a Clarence Williams group that produced ‘Tin Roof Blues’ etc., thus the ‘Orchestra’ could be Oliver’s recording band. Do tests survive?”

009 ALBERTA JONES New York, c. Jul. 07, 1928
 Alberta Jones – voc;
 unknown – tpt; unknown – clt, alt;
 unknown – pno
 GEX-2004-A My Slow And Easy Man Gnt 6535, Document DOCD-1004
 GEX-2005-A Where Have All The Black Men Gone? Gnt 6535, Document DOCD-1004

The trumpet player obviously is a legitimate musician and might come from a jazz background (big band?), but he certainly is not a jazzy soloist – no hot and off-beat phrases and not using blues-tonality. Instead he mainly plays on the beat and uses scale notes – and these often at the wrong places. The reed player with his deficiencies reminds me of Ernest Elliott, although in a possible later state of development than that known from the mid-1920s. But what I hear is not enough to tentatively name Elliott. Yet, he owns a good and sharp tone.

These musicians' names may be found in all the discographical indexes, but their identities will remain unrecognized because of their obvious unjazzy attitudes. The pianist, on the other hand, is a skilled musician using boogie/blues devices together with typical Harlem stride rhythm. He/she might possibly be Mabel Horsey as at the following sessions.

Notes:

- BGR*2: acc by unknown instrumental group: poss tpt, clt, pno.

- BGR*4: unknown, t; unknown, cl, as; unknown, p.

- Rust*3,*4,*6: unknown t; unknown cl; unknown p.

010	ALBERTA JONES		New York,	c. Sep. 28, 1928
	Alberta Jones – voc;			
	Walter Bennett – tpt; J. C. Higginbotham – tbn (2);			
	Mabel Horsey – pno			
GEX-2085	Wild Geese Blues	Gnt 6642,		Document DOCD-1004
GEX-2086	Red Beans And Rice	Gnt 6642,		Document DOCD-1004

This certainly - by stylistical reasons - is Walter Bennett on trumpet as shown in my Walter Bennett personello-discography ! And this obviously is J.C. Higginbotham's first recording. Ullo Bela, trombonist and noted specialist on Higginbotham, confirmed Higginbotham's presence after analysing his playing on the second title. And: Mabel Horsey is a surprisingly good and impressive pianist of whom we know very little.

Notes:

- BGR*2,*3,*4: unknown orchestra (prob Horsey's Hot Five): unknown, cnt; unknown, tbn; unknown, clt; unknown, vln; prob Mabel Horsey,pno.

- Rust*3: ?Horsey's Hot Five: unknown c; unknown tb; unknown cl; unknown vn; ?Mabel Horsey -p.

- Rust*4,*6: Horsey's Hot Five: ?Walter Bennett, c; ?J.C. Higginbotham, tb; ?Mabel Horsey, p; unknown, bj.

Tune structures:

GEX-2085	Wild Geese Blues	key of Bb	Gennett
<i>(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 12 bars blues voc + ens)(Chorus 2 voc + ens)(Chorus 3 voc + ens)(Chorus 4 voc + ens)(Chorus 5 voc + ens)</i>			
GEX-2086	Red Beans And Rice	key of Bb	Gennett
<i>(Intro 4 bars tpt/tbn/pno)(Chorus 1 12 bars blues voc + tpt)(Chorus 2 voc + tpt)(Chorus 3 tbn)(Chorus 4 voc + tpt)(Chorus 5 voc + tpt / tbn joining at end)</i>			

011	ALBERTA JONES	Mabel Horsey and her Red Peppers	New York,	c. Jul. 10, 1930
	Alberta Jones – voc;			
	Otto Hardwick – alt;			
	Mabel Horsey – pno; (Elmer Snowden) – bjo			
GEX-2731	On Revival Day	Gnt 7552		not on LP/CD
GEX-2732	I Lost My Man	Gnt 7274,		Document DOCD-1004
GEX-2733-A	River Bottom	Gnt 7252,		Document DOCD-1004
GEX-2734-A	Bring It Back Daddy	Gnt 7274,		Document DOCD-1004

This session features some surprisingly good and interesting musicians in bandleader Mabel Horsey, whose style connects Western jazz elements with distinct Harlem style parts. On alto sax we hear a proficient musician who displays a style and sound known from the Ellington men, with beauty and "schmaltz". I am tempted to think into Otto Hardwick's direction. And if you now listen to session 006 this assumption becomes even more reasonable! The banjo player shows traits of Elmer Snowden's style, but there is too little to hear from him to judge with certainty. In all: this is a very interesting and beautiful session of vaudeville blues with good and distinct accompaniment.

Notes:

- McCarthy/Carey, Jazz Directory Vol Five: unknown acc.

- BGR*2: acc by Mabel Horsey and her Red Hot Peppers: unknown alt; unknown bjo; presumably Mabel Horsey, pno.

- BGR*2: acc by Mabel Horsey and her Red Hot Peppers: unknown as; presumably Mabel Horsey, p; unknown bj.

- Rust*3,*4,*6: unknown as; ?Mabel Horsey -p; unknown bj.