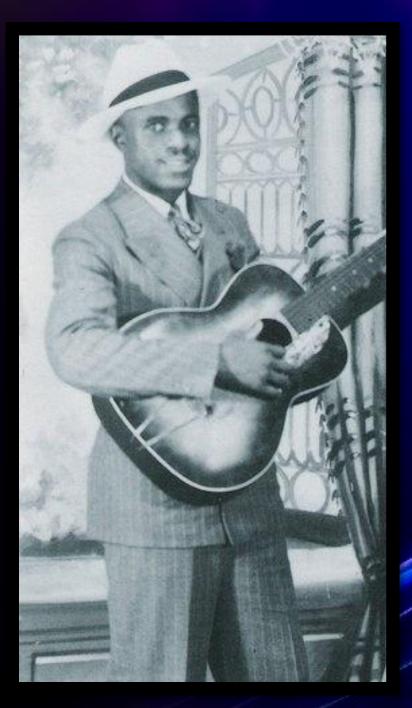


1994

- Backstage Café, Cherokee Blues Club and Air Devils Inn start booking national blues acts
- Keith Clements is elected KBS president
- Funds raised for a base for Bill Gaither's headstone
- Mike Pollard and Fred Wooten open Stevie Ray's Blues Bar
- Perry Aberli wins Sylvester Weaver Award





KBS funds a base for the headstone of Kentucky
Blues Legend
Bill Gaither



THE BACKSTAGE BLUES CAFE
133 W. LIBERTY
AND THE KYANA BLUES SOCIETY
DRESENT
FLYING FISH RECORDING ARTIST
GARY DRIMICH



THURSDAY -- ADRIL 28TH AT 8:00 D.M.

ALSO APPEARING
THE MUDCAT BLUES BAND

\$7.00 AT THE DOOR \$6.00 FOR KBS MEMBERS Gary
Primich at
Backstage
Blues Café
w/ The
Mudcats

April 28, 1994





Foree Wells

Garvin Gate Blues Festival

October 1994



Junior Kimbrough Garvin Gate Blues Festival 1994



Stevie Ray's Blues Bar opens on Main Street October 1994



Business First photo by Ron Bath.

Fred Wooten, co-owner of the new Stevie Ray's Blues Bar on East Main Street, hangs a poster as interior decorator Bob Smith looks on.

Singing the blues

Stevie Ray's Blues Bar to open downtown

By JOHN BOWMAN

A new blues club is opening at 230 E. Main St. in downtown Louisville.

Stevie Ray's Blues Bar is scheduled to open Oct. 21 in a 2,800-square-foot building purchased earlier this year by partners Michael Pollard and Fred Wooten of Louisville.

With live acts booked for both earlyevening and late-night sessions, the club will be unabashedly tailored to a middleaged audience, said Pollard, 45.

He said many couples in that age range find they have no place to go after enjoying a dinner out on a Friday or Saturday night.

"We've been neglected to a degree," he said. "Why should we have to stop enjoying ourselves and start getting ready for work on Monday morning" so early in the evening?

Pollard noted that the handful of existing blues clubs here generally offer only late night hours. For instance, the nearby Backstage Cafe, part of the O'Malley's corner complex of nightelubs, doesn't offer live entertainment until 11 p.m.

Not that Pollard and Wooten are knocking the O'Malley's complex. On the contrary, they cited its presence within a few blocks as an advantage for Stevie Ray's location.

The East Main Street site also is within a few yards of the planned new Louisville Ballet headquarters; the former Louisville Public Warehouse Co. building, with its distinctive clock tower, now being renovated by Humana; and a large parking garage, also being built by Humana, to serve the waterfront redevelopment project.

"We count our blessings" every time a new waterfront project is announced or started in the area, Pollard said. Such investments made it much easier for Pollard and Wooten to buy the one-story brick building, from former owner Tom Mattingly, for \$65,000, Pollard said.

Including the purchase and a complete renovation, the partners will spend more than \$200,000 opening the new business. The venture was financed with a loan from PNC Bank, Kentucky Inc.

The building was constructed in 1906, but the interior has undergone so much work to make way for the blues club that "the only thing that's not new is the brick," Pollard said.

At the same time, the availability of the brick structure was one thing that attracted the partners to a downtown location. Wooten said the idea was to recreate the feel of an old-time blues club, and "that's where all the old buildings are."

Wooten said the club's name is meant to convey the idea of blues music to the targeted audience by evoking the image of Stevie Ray Vaughan, the late blues performer.

The club has booked Lamont Gillespie and the Homewreckers for Oct. 21 and 22. Future acts are now being booked, Wooten said.

The club will offer live blues Tuesday through Saturday nights.

A \$3 cover charge will be used to pay for live entertainment, though special charges will be needed when well-known regional performers appear, Pollard said.

The two partners both have backgrounds in the office equipment business.

Pollard is a partner in Copiers Plus, a Louisville dealer of copy machines and fax machines.

Wooten, 58, owns Mailtronix, an area supplier of postage-meter mailing machines and small-package shipping systems.





Stevie Ray's Blues Bar





1994 KBS IBC Contest winners Rude Mood