

The 5 Royales Part 1

This piece was written by Blanche Valentine, at my request....Unfortunately it remains unfinished. She brought John Tanner on board to Soul-Patrol and he loved what we were trying to do so much that he gave Blanche as much information as he could about the music scene of the 1950's so that she could post it here...

--Bob Davis

This is dedicated to a group I love!



The 5 Royales on stage at the Apollo w/Dakota Staton

I have been asked a dozen times over "why do I feel so strongly that the 5 Royales belong in the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame?" And the answer is always the same. The 5 Royales were rockin' in '49 and on through the 50's. I feel their edgy soulful sound scared people. I mean no one knew what their sound was. Who was singing soul music before them?

NO ONE!

The 5 Royales would be out there for 2 full years before even Ray Charles broke his sound. The 5 Royales had a hard rockin' guitar player, Mr. El Paulings. And no one knew what to make of this black man who played his guitar at knee level long before Chuck Berry and who would inspire Steve Cropper in a few short years.

The birth of the 5 Royales was simply the natural evolution of the sound and direction of music in the black community. The group originally started as a gospel quintet. During the late 30's and 40's the sound for black groups was, blues, gospel or the smooth group harmony sound of the Mill's Brothers. The Royal Son's Quintet took the gospel route.

This was a family group and as members left, their sons replaced them. By 1949 the core group consisted of cousins Lowman "El" Pauling, Jr., John L. Tanner, Sr., James E. Moore, Otto Jefferies and William Samuels (Royal Abbitt on piano & Lowman on guitar).

This was the line up signed by Apollo Records who came down to Winston-Salem, NC to record their first single "Beside of A Neighbor" in August of 1951. They would record 8 singles that did very well on the gospel circuit but John Tanner's vocal delivery though deeply rooted in gospel was evolving into a new rich sound they were giving birth to soul music.

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It was August of 1952 when the group fully committed to R&B and in the fall of 1953 John Tanner's 17 year old brother Eugene "June" Tanner joined the line up. The 5 Royales were know for their high energy dance routines and at 39 Otto Jefferies thought this was way too much for him, so June was given his big break.

From 1951 until June of 1954 the 5 Royales sky rocket on the Chitlin Circuit. But a major mistake by the group short circuits the climb to national fame. They leave Apollo Records to go with King. Now at Apollo they were promoted and truly loved by the label. At King they were simply another group on the rooster. The friction between the group and the label was unbelievable. Lead singer, John Tanner said he was living the words of his Apollo Records hit "You Don't Miss Your Water Til Your Well Runs Dry." The 5 Royals would never regain the status they held at Apollo along with the type of bookings they got. This is when they felt the downward slide of their careers.

Apollo Records

August, 1951

- Royal Son's Quintet Bedside of A Neighbor & Journey's End (William Samuels leaves for Korea and is replaced by Obadiah Cater)

October, 1951

- The Royals Too Much Of A Little Bit & Give Me One More Chance So God Can Use Me & I Wanna Rest (line-up: Lowman Pauling, John Tanner, James E. Moore, Obadiah Cater and Otto Jefferies)

August 5, 1952

- Royal Son's Quintet Come Over Here & Let Nothing Separate Me (John Holmes replaced Otto Jefferies on this gospel single)

August 5, 1952 The 5 Royales

- R&B artist Lowman Pauling, John Tanner, James E. Moore, Obadiah Carter and Otto Jefferies) You know I Know & Courage To Love (featuring Jimmy Moore's falsetto is featured)

October 10, 1952

• The 5 Royales Laundromat Blues & Let Me Come Back Home Take All Of Me & Baby, Don't Do It
March 11, 1953

- The 5 Royales Too Much Lovin' & Help Me Somebody & Crazy, Crazy, Crazy

March 12, 1953

- Charlie "Little Jazz" Ferguson Band featuring The 5 Royales Hard Times & Bean Head

July 24, 1953

- The 5 Royales I Wanna Thank You & All Righty What's That & I Am Thinking

December 16, 1953

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- (line up: Lowman Pauling, John Tanner, James E. Moore, Obidah Carter and Eugene Tanner) Good Times & I Do Cry Some More & I Like It Like That

April 1, 1954

- The 5 Royales Six O'clock In The Morning & With All Your Heart Put Something In It & See, Hear And Know Nothing

April 4, 1954

- The 5 Royales (last Apollo recording) I Got It Bad (this track was bad, the group hummed & scatted)

At this point the 5 Royales leave Harlem for Cincinnati to record for King Records.

June 10, 1954

- Behave Yourself & Monkey Hips and Rice Devil With The Rest & I'm Gonna Run It Down

November 18, 1954

- You Didn't Learn & One Mistake Every Dog Has His Day & School Days

January 19, 1955

- I Can't Stand Loosing You & How I Wonder Mohawk Squaw & Good Looking Woman

May 6, 1955

- I Need Your Lovin Baby & Woman About To Make Me Go Crazy
- When I Get Like This & Do Unto You

August 24, 1955

- Someone Made You For Me & I Ain't Gettin' Caught



Do you think it's possible that a young Jimi Hendrix may have ever watched how El Pauling played? (Based on this picture I would say that it's likely)

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December 1, 1955

- Right Around The Corner & When You Walk Through The Door
- My Wants For Love (Eugene Tanner's 1st lead) & I Could Love You

June 26, 1956

- Come On And Save Me & Get Something Out Of It
- Just As I am & Mine Forever More

February 28, 1957

- Thirty Second Lover & Tears Of Joy
- THINK (Pauling tore this recording up with his guitar solo) & I'd Better Make A Move

August 13, 1957

- Dedicated To The One I Love & Don't Be Ashamed
- Say It (Pauling's guitar featured) & Messing Up

April 3, 1957

- Do The Cha Cha Cherry & Double Or Nothing
- The Feeling Is Real & Tell The Truth

September 17, 1958

- Don't Let It Be In Vain & The Real Thing
- Your Only Love & The Slummbur, The Slum

March 10, 1959

- Miracle Of Love & I Know It's Hard But Fair

July 14, 1959

- My Sugar, Sugar & It Hurts Inside
- Tell Me You Care & Wonder Where Your Love Has Gone

February 3, 1960

- Why & I'm With You
- Don't Give More Than You Can Take & Within My Heart

Memphis - no dates available,

- These sessions happened between 1960 & 1962 these Home of Blues sides were released on VeeJay. Also on the final sessions a young organist named Isaac Hayes was included to pump up the sound.
- Please, Please, Please (this was the last 5 Royales single to make the billboard charts) & I Got To Know
- If You Don't Need Me & I'm Gonna Tell Them
- Not Going To Cry & Take Me With You Baby
- They Don't Know & Much In Need
- Goof Ball & Catch That Teardrop
- What's In The Heart & I Want It Like That
- Talk About My Woman pt1/2 & Help Me Somebody (Pauling's guitar & Hayes organ dominant this side which should have charted)
- Show Me & She Did Me Wrong

During the fall of 1962 the 5 Royales make a move to fledgling label Todd Records in Nashville.

- There's Somebody Over There & I'm Standing In The Shadows Doin' Everything & Baby Don't Do It

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**"The Pauling Brothers," Late 1960's
Lowman and Curtis**

During that move Lowman Pauling jumped ship to joined Todd Records superstar Joe Henderson of "Sanp Your Fingers" fame. With Pauling gone Otto Jefferies sent for Greensboro, NC teen, Robert Burris who has pattern himself after Pauling. After the Henderson Tour ended Pauling rejoined the band. Struggling to get back on track Pauling jumps ship again to join Sam & Dave. He stayed with Sam & Dave for about 2 years before returning. This time he was unwelcome and forced to play along side Burris.

In late 1963 when John Tanner leaves the group James Brown asks him and Pauling to join him. It was during this time the 5 Royales were often backed by James Brown's band. Brown who had been a groupie of the 5 Royales was now sharing the bill with them. But by this time Tanner has had his fill with life on the road and retires but Pauling joins the Flames. During this time Jimmy Moore leaves and a year later Eugene Tanner and Obadiah Carter leave too. At this point Pauling steps back in and creates a whole new lineup in 1965....

--Blanche Valentine

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