ACMCD4352

Photo 3 **Peppy Prince Band, 1957**

Photo 1 **Christine Chatman at the piano**

Photo 2 **Joe Liggins & The Honeydrippers**

DANCE TIME
with PEPPY PRINCE

The First CD Anthology
Classic recordings 1945-57

1. THE HONEYDRIPPER (LIVE) Joe Liggins & His Honeydrippers
   (Joseph Liggins) Universal/MCA Music Ltd
2. DOODLE-DO-DA-DEET Joe Liggins & His Honeydrippers
   (Joseph Liggins) Shapiro Bernstein & Co. Ltd.
3. I AIN'T GOT NOBODY Peppy Prince w/ "Little" Willie Jackson
   (Spencer Williams, Roger Graham) Campbell Connelly & Co. Ltd.
4. YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME Peppy Prince w/ "Little" Willie Jackson
   (Charles Carpenter, Louis Dunlap, Earl Hines) peermusic (UK) Ltd.
5. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A DREAM Peppy Prince's Modern Squires
   (Hite, Lawrence) Copyright Control
6. MR. JACKSON VS. MR. FLOYD Peppy Prince's Modern Squires
   (Peppy Prince, Martin Gower) Copyright Control
7. NOW YOU'RE DOWN IN THE ALLEY Blue Lu Barker w/ Danny Barker Sextet
   (Unknown)
8. I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TOMORROW Blue Lu Barker w/ Danny Barker Sextet
   (Unknown)
9. SUGAR MAN, PART 1 Peppy Prince & His Sugar Men w/ The Flames
   (Joe Liggins, Peppy Prince) Copyright Control
10. SUGAR MAN, PART 2 Peppy Prince & His Sugar Men w/ The Flames
    (Joe Liggins, Peppy Prince) Copyright Control
11. WHAT SHE'S GOT IS MINE Peppy Prince with Instrumental Accomp.
    (Brooks, Grace) Copyright Control
12. EMALINE Peppy Prince with Instrumental Accomp.
    (Frank Perkins, Mitchell Parish) Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd., Redwood Music Ltd.
13. ROMPIN' AND STOMPIN' Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Unknown)
14. MY GAL Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Unknown)
15. WINO'S LAMENT Christine Chatman w/ Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Lee Colby) Copyright Control
16. RUN GAL RUN Christine Chatman w/ Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Christine Chatman, Peppy Prince) BMI
17. AIN'T NOTHING SHAKING Christine Chatman w/ Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Amos Milburn) EMI Music Publishing Ltd.
18. HEY MISS HARRIETTE Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Unknown)
19. ALL BY MYSELF Christine Chatman w/ Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Christine Chatman) Copyright Control
20. WHO PUT OUT THE LIGHTS Little Willie Jackson w/ Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Buck Ram, Ande Rand) Copyright Control
21. THEY WERE DOING THE MAMBO Joe Liggins & His Orch.
    (Sonny Burke, Don Raye) Chappell-Morris Ltd.
22. CRAWFISHIN' Clarence "Bon Ton" Garlow & His Orch.
    (Leon Rene) Rockin' Music
23. WORK MAN WORK Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Unknown)
24. THE HONKY TONKY Christine Chatman w/ Peppy Prince & His Orch. (Unknown)
25. MEAN-PO-GAL Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Fletcher Smith) Dootsie Williams Inc.
26. JACK POT Peppy Prince & His Orch.
    (Fletcher Smith) Dootsie Williams Inc.

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In February 1945, Joe Liggins recorded his seminal first two-part reading of "The Honeydripper" at Leroy Hurte's tiny, ill-equipped Bronze studio at 623 East Vernon in Los Angeles. Part 1 was simply a solo recording with Joe singing and playing piano. Because Joe owned the copyright to the song he was able to record it a couple of weeks later for Leon René's Exclusive label, this time with a small combo. Both versions were released at the same time, in May 1945. The extra rhythm and bite of the Exclusive issue helped make it become a monstrous hit. Crossing over into the national hit parade charts, "The Honeydripper" climbed to the thirteenth spot. Controversy exists as to the drumming on the Exclusive "Honeydripper" version. Charlie Lange, in his discography to the Jukebox Lil 622 album collection (1988), states that William "Keg" Purnell sat at the drums. The Fancourt/McGrath Discography (Eyeball Productions, 2007) indicates that Peppy Prince was there on the stool. This writer is inclined to believe Charlie Lange. Liggins had too little time to form a cohesive unit for the Exclusive recording session and borrowed Purnell from the Eddie Heywood band to fill the date. But we will never know for sure.

We do know that drummer, singer, arranger, bandleader Preston T. "Peppy" Prince was born in Los Angeles on February 26, 1909. Peppy, a likeable fella, was suave and handsome and possessed a warm personality. Peppy's orchestra was a "party band." In other words, he set himself up as a band that could play any type of music. He did this by keeping up a friendly relationship with all his musician friends in the Los Angeles area. If Peppy snagged a seasonal residence at a swank hotel, he would build an orchestra to accommodate the entertainment requirements. If he found short-term downtown club gigs the next moment, he would break his band down to three or four pieces as he did in 1957 when, utilizing the services of Bill "Buttercup" Ellis on tenor sax and Jessie Simpkins on bass, he supported pop vocalist Georgia Carr.

Although Peppy's skill with the sticks was considered a little more than average, his voice was good enough to render a ballad exceptionally well. Peppy had two cousins, Wesley (who played bass for Nat King Cole's Trio) and Henry (who played piano with Les Hite.) In his teens, Peppy played for the Echols Dixie Rhythm Kings, then, in 1934, he replaced Lionel Hampton in the Les Hite Orchestra at the Sebastian Cotton Club in Culver City where he jammed alongside his cousin Henry, Marshall Royal and Buck Clayton. He quit the Les Hite Band and joined Joe Liggins & the Honeydrippers in place of William "Keg" Purnell in April 1945.

By then Liggins had cut his original version of "The Honeydripper" for Bronze before signing with Leon René's Exclusive label in March, 1945. Members at

Photo 4 Peppy Prince Orchestra

INSTRUMENTATION . . . Trumpets: George Orendorff, Dud Stone, Joe Kelly; trombones: Parker Berry, (arranger), Horace Tapscott, Alfred Caspar; saxophones: Bill Ellis, 1st tenor; Jimmie Evans, 2nd tenor; Chuck Waller, lead alto; Milton Hall, 2nd alto; Rhythm Section: Russ Weathers, bass; Doug Finis, piano; Stan Jamerson, bongos; Peppy Prince, drums and vocals.

that time included Liggins, vocal and piano, reeds-ace Little Willie Jackson, alto and baritone, James Jackson, tenor sax, Frank Pasley, guitar, Red Callender, bass, and William "Keg" Purnell on drums. After sessions with Exclusive in April 1945, Peppy cut a live version of "The Honeydripper" with Liggins for the American Forces Recording Service in May 1945. The pre-AFRS Exclusive session had included the catchy "Doodle-do-de-deet" on which Peppy enthuses on the chorus.

In 1947, Peppy and the Honeydrippers using Little Willie Jackson as leader recorded five sessions for Modern Records (Liggins was still under contact with Leon René.) The only change in the crew was that Eddie Davis had replaced Callender on bass. Callender was almost always a sessions man. That same year Peppy recorded for Roy Milton's Miltone label with a group he had formed called the Modern Squires.

In March 1949, Peppy label-hopped to Capitol to drum for Blue Lu Barker on one session. Liggins had joined Exclusive in March 1945, and left in 1949 after nine sessions and joined Specialty in January 1950. Peppy left Liggins in 1950 after four Specialty sessions. Peppy then formed a group named the Sugar Men and in April 1950 recorded his arrangement of "The Honeydripper" called "Sugar Man, Parts 1 & 2," supported by the fledgling vocal quartet, the Flames, who evolved into the Hollywood Flames, etc.. "Sugar Man" was on John Blackburn's Selective label.

Liggins' March 1945 Exclusive version of "The Honeydripper" had topped Billboard's Blues & Rhythm chart by August 1945 and had remained on the best sellers list for twenty-seven weeks. "The Honeydripper" became the biggest-selling blues & rhythm song of the post-war era.

By the close of 1950 Peppy had signed an "exclusive" contract with Mercury. There he cut one date, in all probability arranged by Maxwell Davis and his sessions outfit. Only two records were issued. During this period he sat in on one Mercury session with Chuck Norris and two with Little Willie Littlefield and Little Lora Wiggins for Modern. Maxwell Davis arranged and produced the gigs.

In February 1951, Peppy recorded with the Red Caps for one RCA session produced by Leon René in Hollywood. Right on the heels of this, he sessioned for one Red Mack date back at Mercury. Peppy formed another band and (as well as sessions work) recorded one gig for Johnny Getz's Million Records with Christine Chatman. In all likelihood, altoist Charles Thomas sat in on this date. Two singles emerged. A novel release turned up on the A-Personality Pre Release label with Peppy featuring a side each by Christine Chatman and "Little" Willie Jackson. The "Little" Willie Jackson side, "Who put out the lights," became a cult classic among R & B enthusiasts. More moonlighting on Jackson's part. Peppy was back with Mercury for one return engagement with Joe Liggins in August 1954. He then showed up on Clarence "Bon Ton" Garlow's stompin' "Crawfishin'" on Modern's Flair subsidiary - another Maxwell Davis connection, no doubt through Christine Chatman.

Peppy recorded with Chatman for one release on John Dolphin's Hollywood label. Still under contract with Mercury, Peppy cut one date with Rollie McGill in June 1955. More other artists' sessions followed. In late 1957 Peppy signed with Dootsie Williams who put him on their Dooto imprint. His swinging "Dance Party" album emerged in 1958. Joe Liggins' June 1950 Specialty remake of "The Honeydripper" is featured on the original soundtrack to Martin Scorsese's 2003 documentary, "Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues – A Musical Journey." Peppy Prince passed in Altadena, Ca. on December 6, 1985.

Opal Louis Nations January 2010

For more information on Christine Chatman, see Dan Kochakian's article in Blues & Rhythm #224

Preston "Peppy" Prince Discography (Peppy as leader)

Peppy Prince w/ "Little" Willie Jackson: Sept. 1947
"Little" Willie Jackson – alto & baritone sax, James Jackson – tenor sax, Joe Liggins – piano, Frank Pasley – guitar, Eddie Davis – bass, Peppy Prince – vocal & drums

MM 640-1	I ain't got nobody	Modern 20-571
MM 642-3	You can depend on me	Modern 20-587

Peppy Prince's Modern Squires: Los Angeles, 1947
Peppy Prince – vocal & drums, Martin Gower – alto sax, Lorenzo Buddy Floyd, James Jackson – tenor sax, Harrold Morrow – piano, Joe Lewis – guitar, Eddie Davis – bass

TV 227 A	It must have been a dream	Miltone 227
WP 227 B	Mr. Jackson Vs. Mr. Floyd	Miltone 227

Peppy Prince & His Sugar Men w/ the Flames: April 1950
Peppy Prince – vocal & drums, Henry Bridges – tenor sax, Jackie Glenn – piano, Frank Pasley – guitar, unidentified bass
Flames: David Ford – first tenor, Willie Ray Rockwell – second tenor, Curley Dinkins – baritone, Robert Byrd – lead/bass

SE 79	Sugar man Pt. 1	Selective 118
SE 80	Sugar man Pt. 2	Selective 118

Peppy Prince & His Orch.: Los Angeles, 1950
Unidentified personnel, probably Maxwell Davis Orch. With Peppy Prince on drums & vocals

3828	What she's got is mine	Mercury 8216
3829	Emaline	Mercury 8216
3830	Rompin' and stompin'	Mercury 8220
3831	My gal	Mercury 8220

Peppy Prince Orch. Feat. Christine Chatman: Los Angeles, 1953
Christine Chatman – vocal & piano, [prob. Charles Thomas – tenor sax], Warren McQueen – bass, Peppy Prince – drums & vocal

AA	Wino's lament	Million 2002
A	Run gal run	Million 2002
AA	Ain't nothing shaking	Million 2003
A	Hey Miss Harriette	Million 2003

Christine Chatman w/ The Peppy Prince Orch.: Los Angeles, 1953
Christine Chatman – vocal & piano, "Little" Willie Jackson – vocal, alto & baritone sax, others unknown

B	All by myself (C. Chatman)	A-Personality Pre-Release 107
A	Who put out the lights ("Little" Willie Jackson)	A-Personality Pre-Release 107

Peppy Prince & His Orch. Feat. Christine Chatman: Los Angeles, 1954
Christine Chatman – vocal & piano, Charles Thomas – tenor sax, Warren McQueen – bass, Peppy Prince – drums, ensemble chorus, others unknown

H551	Work man work	Hollywood 1013
H552	The honky tonky	Hollywood 1013

Peppy Prince & His Orch.: Los Angeles, 1957
George Orendorff – trumpet, Dud Stone – trumpet, Joe Kelly – trumpet, Parker Berry – arranger, Horace Tapscott – trombone, Alfred Caspar – trombone, Bill Ellis – first tenor, Jimmie Evans, 2nd tenor, Chuck Waller – lead alto, Milton Hall – 2nd alto, Russ Weathers – bass, Doug Finis – piano, Stan Jamerson – bongos, Peppy Prince – vocal & drums

	Dance party	Dooto 430 & Dooto LP 240

Photo 5

It must have been a dream	Dooto 430 & Dooto LP 240
Peppy's idea	Dooto LP 240
Medley: Solitude/I cried for you/	
Penthouse serenade	Dooto LP 240
Sir Galahad	Dooto LP 240
Mean-po-gal	Dooto LP 240
Ghost of a chance	Dooto LP 240
Diane	Dooto LP 240
Jack pot	Dooto LP 240

NOTE: Preston "Peppy" Prince recorded after this date

Photographs:

1. Christine Chatman at the piano – Courtesy Classics Records
2. Joe Liggins & The Honeydrippers – Courtesy Fantasy Records
3. Peppy Prince Band, 1957 – Courtesy Tom Reed
4. Peppy Prince Orchestra – Courtesy Dootone Records
5. Peppy Prince Dance Party – Dooto LP cover
6. Peppy Prince – Mercury publicity photo – Courtesy Gilles Petard
7. Les Hite Band – Pittsburgh Courier, July 28, 1934 – Courtesy Dan Kochakian

Label Shots:

Peppy Prince – Million 2002A – Courtesy Opal Louis Nations
Peppy Prince – Mercury 8216 (A) – Courtesy Mike Kredinac
Peppy Prince – Miltone 227-A – Courtesy Mike Kredinac
Peppy Prince – Miltone 227-B – Courtesy Mike Kredinac
Peppy Prince – Miltone 227-A – Courtesy Opal Louis Nations
Little Willie Jackson – Personality MA 107A – Courtesy Dan Kochakian
Christine Chatman – Personality MA 107B – Courtesy Dan Kochakian

NOTABLES TO FEATURE ANGEL CITY BENEFIT

Photo 7 **Les Hite Band**

Photo 6 **Peppy Prince**