

Inventory Number: tta0182ll			Center for Popular Music – Audio Log
Media: Uncompressed Digital Audio – DVD			
Title: Interview with Booker Miller – Miller knew Charlie Patton and other seminal Delta blues artists.			Source: Originally recorded to Side 1 7" reel of 1/4" X 1800' tape at 7 1/2 i.p.s. – two track mono.
Date: 1968			
Place: Greenwood, Mississippi			Transferred to 10" reel of 1/4" tape – 2 track mono @ 7 1/2 ips by Bruce Nemerov. Audio digitization by Martin Fisher. Historical consulting and description – Tyler DeWayne Moore.
Machine – Studer A-807; 5" reel 1/4" x 600'; 1.5 millimeter mylar; Nassau brand; 2 track mono			
Time In	Track	Title/Description	Artist or Interviewee
File Size		cpm_94048_tta182ll_010101_pres_	
00.00.00	1	Miller heard Blind Blake play in Chicago; Blake played <i>Kansas City Blues</i> ; Miller never heard Patton play <i>John Henry</i> , <i>Tight Like That</i> , <i>Sitting on Top of the World</i> ; Patton helped Miller sing Crow Jane; Patton played Slidin Delta, Four o'clock Blues; Wardlow asks about other songs that Patton would sing;	Booker Miller
00.08.16	2	Wardlow asks about the phrase "stone pony"; Miller says that it means a man is hard, determined to do things in big way; Miller saw Patton two weeks before he died; Miller talks about a man getting cut up with a double bladed axe on the Strickland Plantation; Miller and Patton were playing a party and a woman split a man in two with an axe; The men left before the law came and Miller never knew what happened at the trial;	Booker Miller
00.12.03	3	Wardlow asks about the Crier Plantation; Miller describes an altercation between Patton and a bootlegger named Hollins; some said that Patton never paid for his liquor; Patton talked about how he could have won the fight, but Miller talked him out of fighting; Miller carried a 38 pistol everywhere he went;	Booker Miller
00.14.30	4	Wardlow asks about Blind Lemon; Miller talks about how musicians used to get together; Miller was living around Itta Bena. MS and Ralph Lembo sent for him to come and record; Lembo owned a furniture and music store; Lembo wanted to sign Miller to a contract for \$75; Miller moved back to Swiftown and never got another offer;	Booker Miller
00.17.28	5	Miller did not think that Lembo was very honest; Miller discusses the lawsuit between Lembo and Reverend Thornton; Lembo's reputation was hurt by a lawsuit; Wardlow mentions the Mississippi Sheiks playing around Greenwood; Wardlow asks about Napoleon Harris and Sugar;	Booker Miller

00.20.56	6	Wardlow asks about Robert Petway; Miller knew Robert Petway that lived on the McCarty plantation; Miller saw Rice Miller (aka Sonny Boy Williamson II) with Sugar; Sugar may have been Tommy McClennan; Miller talks about a musician named Willie Farris;	Booker Miller
00.23.03	7	Miller talks about Sugar putting out a record named <i>Bottle it Up and Go</i> , which was a famous McClennan song; Miller discusses playing for whites and blacks and how whites usually paid more money than blacks; the blues had to be at a tempo suitable for dancing; Charlie Patton used to beat the guitar to a certain rhythm and people went crazy;	Booker Miller
00.26.02	8	Miller talks about "Bunks Alley" and a gambler named Tom, who Patton used to play for frequently; Stella guitars had to be ordered from Sears-Roebuck, at that time;	Booker Miller
00.27.00	9	Miller travelled to Tunica with Patton; Stella guitars cost about ten or eleven dollars back then; Wardlow asks about Charley Bradley, who used to "run the north dog." Bradley was an engineer of the 1066, and he would push the engine to the maximum; The Pea Vine train ran through Greenwood and Grenada.	Booker Miller
00.30.59	10	Miller never really discussed life with Patton; Patton used to tell Miller that he was a preacher, but Miller said that "God would not have them under no terms." Patton only played the guitar; Wardlow mentions Henry "Son" Sims and John Nance and Mattie Newton;	Booker Miller
00.33.54	11	Wardlow asks about whisky that was "bottled in bond." Miller talks about other premium distilled liquor before MS prohibition; Wardlow talks about slang terms like "salt water" and "doney." The term "nappy" means fast or disagreeable; Patton had a "drag" in his voice; Miller mentions Pony Blues; Banty Rooster was the most difficult song that Patton played;	Booker Miller
00.37.50	12	Patton played natural and spanish tunings mostly, but there were songs that required other tunings; Patton's guitar had a strap, and he never used a pick so that he would not break strings; Still, they carried two or three sets of strings; Wardlow asks about photographs of Patton - "David Abraham had one"; The pictures were cut off Patton's album covers; Aretha Johnson or Athie Johnson may have taken photos of Patton;	Booker Miller

00.40.56	13	Wardlow asks about Smokestack Lightning; Miller heard TJ play that song; They mention Charley Booker and Robert Johnson; Wardlow asks about the informant of RJ's death certificate and the location of Zion Church;	Booker Miller
00.43.25	14	Wardlow plays Patton records with fiddler Henry Sims and Miller comments throughout; When Patton played somewhere, a crowd would gather, according to Miller;	Booker Miller
00.47.37	15	Wardlow plays <i>Shake it and Break it</i> ; Miller continues to praise <i>Pony Blues</i> ; Miller identifies some as being played in the Delta style; They discuss vocal techniques used by blues singers; Wardlow asks about "Son" Stuckey; Wardlow plays female singers blues records from Mattie Delaney; Miller makes many comments on geography, regional styles, and historic origins. Wardlow plays "Mississippi" John Hurt records; Miller identifies Bertha Lee singing on a record; Tape ends with Wardlow saying, "the devil sent the sunshine, the lord sent the rain."	Booker Miller