



Vin Bruce

Vin Bruce was born in Cut Off, Louisiana, on April 25, 1932. His father, Levy Bruce, played fiddle at local Cajun dances, usually held in someone's front room. Being from a musical family, Vin's love for Cajun music grew and at the early age of 10, Vin learned how to play the guitar on his own. Although a shy country boy, Vin also began to sing.

In 1946, Vin joined Dudley Bernard and “Southern Serenader's Band” and later went with Eugene Rodrigue and “The Louisiana Troubadours Band.”

In 1950, Vin Bruce decided to go on his own. By then he was writing most of his own music. He was under the management of Mr. Johnny Schouest of Cut Off, Louisiana. Mr. Schouest knew that Vin had the voice and the potential to become a recording artist. He sent copies of Vin's music to Columbia Record Co. in Nashville, Tennessee, which caught the attention of Columbia representative, Don Law, and soon afterwards a Cajun legend was born.

On October 22, 1951, Vin Bruce signed a recording contract with Columbia Record Co. in Nashville, Tennessee, and recorded all time popular Cajun songs such as “*Dans La Louisiane*,” “*Fille de la Ville*”, “*Clair de la Lune*”, and many others. This made Vin the first Cajun recording artist to record Cajun music with Nashville professional musicians such as Chet Atkins, Grady Martin, Tommy Jackson, Owen Bradley and Shook Jackson. Vin's fame in Nashville gave him the opportunity to be one of the first Cajuns to perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. Vin is also noteworthy for having been one of the artist who performed at Hank Williams's wedding to Billie Jean Eshliman in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1956, Vin's contract ended with Columbia and was not renewed because of the Rock-

N-Roll era that was taking over. But by then, Vin's popularity and his music had spread throughout the United States, Europe and Canada. Vin continued to play with his band, "The Acadians", through the 60s, 70s and 80s and recorded many singles and albums for Louisiana labels such as JIN, Swallow and *La Louisianne*. He recorded and release a CD and cassette in November 1993 on the Lanor record label out of Church Point, Louisiana.

Vin Bruce has been given many credits and awards for his contribution and performance in Cajun music including being inducted into the Nashville Music Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Cajun Music Hall of Fame in Eunice, Louisiana, and being chosen the Lafourche Parish Citizen of the Year.

"VIN BRUCE IS TRULY A LEGEND IN HIS OWN TIME"