



Elton Bee Cormier

Elton Bee Cormier was born February 18, 1934 in the Parish of St. Landry near the small community of Sunset, Louisiana. At a young age, Bee developed an interest in Cajun music and was influenced by two neighborhood musicians, a fiddle player named Gilbert Patin and a black accordion player named Noah Lewis. When Bee turned five years old he purchased harmonicas which sold for two for 25c. Later he moved to Acadia Parish in the small community of Peach Bloom near Church Point, Louisiana. As he grew up he learned to play the fiddle, guitar, and finally the steel guitar. In 1949 he formed a band, THE CHURCH POINT PLAYBOYS, and began playing house dances, parties and dance clubs. The first accordion player he had was Alfred Carriere. Some other members of the band were Melvin Cormier, brother, Johnnie Richard, uncle, and Ernest Venable, cousin. Other accordion players he played with were Eugene Jagneaux, Coon Duplechain, and Steven Lejeune. It was about this time that Bee had an idea to expose more young people to Cajun music. He started taking young musicians into his band and began exposing them to the public, encouraging them to learn more about their Cajun Culture. He then decided to record his band. At that time there were no recording studios who wanted to record Cajun music. It was their feeling that Cajun music was dead; a thing of the past and would not be a profitable venture. Bee felt that Cajun music was not dead but was indeed a large part of the Cajun Culture and had to be brought back to life. In an effort to promote Cajun music, he purchased a tape recorder and started to record young musicians himself. His record label is BEE RECORD PRODUCTION.

In 1973, Bee along with Father Albert G. Nunez and with the encouragement of Msgr. Vidrine, recorded two Cajun hymns. With some of his band members and a few nonprofessional singers they formed the first Church Point French Choir. The group was gathered together with the help of Teasie Cary.

In 1976 Bee recorded a Cajun album of hymns fittingly called Cajun Heritage. Bee is still encouraging young musicians to play Cajun music. He never had intentions of making a profit, but only of promoting Cajun music by encouraging young people.

Bee and his wife Drucella have four children, Bonnie, Barry, Susie and Germaine. They all play and sing Cajun music.

Bee has been employed as office manager for a local Church Point Firm. He is also a Notary Public and Justice of the Peace.

Many times people have approached Bee and wanted to know why so many musicians came from the Church Point Community. Bee always responded that Church Point was an old and Closely knit community, where Cajun music was loved and always supported by family and friends. He always was thankful that he was able to support and promote Cajun music and culture. Proud that he helped to make Cajun music cherished as it is today.