



Alphée Bergeron

Alphée Bergeron was born August 8, 1912, in the *Pointe Noir* community near Church Point, Louisiana. At the age of eight he started playing the accordion and at the age of twelve he was playing house dances. He played his first house dance with Joe Cormier in the Tasso community, near Bayou Mallet. The oldest dance hall he played in was a Ducre Lebleu dance hall in *Marais Bouleur*. Alphée was a close neighbor to Angelais Lejeune, and Iry Lejeune in the *Pointe Noir* Community. His band started as “Bill and the Veteran Playboys.” At one time Alphée was playing every night of the week except Mondays.

In the early fifties Alphée and the “Veteran Playboys” played on radio station KSIG in Crowley, Louisiana, for four years, KSLO in Opelousas, Louisiana, for four years, KEUN in Eunice, Louisiana, for two years, and KVPI in Ville Platte, Louisiana, for almost a year.

He had well-known musicians that played with him such as Happy Fats, Doc Guidry, Uncle Ambrose and countless others.

Alphée recorded for many years with his first recording on a Brunswick label in the Thirties. Later all his recordings were with Lee Lavergne on LANOR label. His son, Shirley, did the vocals on all his recordings. Alphée played on a Monarch accordion purchased at Mervin Kahn in Rayne, Louisiana for \$18.50 which he kept for more than forty years.

Alphée is remembered as a very talented accordion player of our times. He has left an impression on many younger accordion players.