

# BOBBY WHITLOCK, MUSICIAN

In her latest collection of newspaper clippings, Sara Smith included an item of Bobby Whitlock that tied together several other clipping and gave us the clue to who Bobby Whitlock is.

I have four clippings relating to this musician. The oldest is from the *New Musical Express* from August 22, 1970 and recounts the formation of Eric Clapton's new band, Derek and the Dominos with Jim Gordon, Carl Radle and Bobby Whitlock. The latter three had been the back up men for the California group Delaney and Bonnie. They made their debut at the London Lyceum but the band faded fast and each member went on to join other groups.

The next reference to Bobby Whitlock is in *USA Today* June 25, 1986. The item refers to a benefit for the families of Rick Nelson's Stone Canyon Band and crew who died in a New Year's Eve air crash. The benefit at the Beverly Theatre in Beverly Hills included Rick Nelson's twin sons, Gunnar and Mathew, Dave Mason, Billy Swan and Mick Fleetwood and the Zoo with others Bobby Whitlock, Tommy Tutone, Randy Misner and Stone Canyon Band alumni.

The last two references are from Oxford, Mississippi. The broken pelvis festival, Wayne the dog memorial for accident victim Chico Harris October 23-25, 1997. The latest is the February 24, 1998 benefit for Bobby Whitlock's niece Cassie Todd.

Bobby Whitlock lives in Waterford, Mississippi and he and his family own and operate Deal Horse Studios. His sons Bo and Christian serve as chief engineers. Bobby also has a daughter, Ashley. Bobby's new album *Its About Time* takes him back to the heart of soul music. At 15 he was in Memphis working in the rock clubs. This was the era of Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Sam and Dave. During this time Bobby became the first white performer to sign with the Stax label. Bobby met and became friends with Steve Cropper who wrote "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" with Otis Redding. The 1960's found Bobby in California with the band Delaney and Bonnie and friends. Steve Cropper became his mentor and was responsible for Bobby heading for England to work with Eric Clapton who was forming a new band.

Bobby's music reflects the fact he survived a time and self-destructive life style that took a lot of his friends. There are lots of references to family and friends which some might call overly sentimental - it works.

Our thanks to Sara Smith for passing on these clippings that reveal a very interesting life. Hopefully we will eventually uncover how Bobby Whitlock fits into our collection of Whitlock families.

Sources:NP9; NP63; NP461; NP483