



Rufus Thibodeaux

Rufus was born January 5, 1934, in Ridge, Louisiana and moved to Hayes, Louisiana at the age of three. He started playing guitar at the age of six and started playing fiddle at the age of twelve. At the age of thirteen he was playing dance jobs on a regular basis. He started playing for Papa Cario in 1949; for Jimmy C. Newman in 1950 at which time “Diggy Liggy Lo” was the first single he recorded in Nashville.

Rufus worked at Jay Miller's Crowley studio in the 50s, playing various stringed instruments. But he is best known for a long association as side man to Jimmy C. Newman. His fiddling added Cajun spice to Newman's band. In 1970 Rufus recorded with Newman the first song in Cajun French to become a gold record. “*Lache Pas la Patate*”. He is also featured on an album, “Folk Songs of the Bayou Country.” He has accompanied Newman in places like Wembley Festival in London and the Smithsonian Festival in Washington, D.C.

Some of the musicians that Rufus Thibodeaux performed and recorded with are: Al Terry, Lefty Frizzell, Neil Young, Jimmy C. Newman, Hank Williams, Jr., Jim Reeves, Carol Channing, George Jones, Lynn Anderson, Rod Bernard, Johnnie Allan, Zachary Richard, Slim Harpo, and Bob Wills.

Rufus played at the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans and was also featured on the 1984 Festival Acadien poster.

“I consider myself all around,” He said of his musical abilities. “But being Cajun, that is number one.” Reconnecting with his boots is what brought him home after 40 years spent mostly in Nashville, Tennessee. Upon returning he joined Rodney Miller & Cajun Born Band and played weekly dance jobs, free lanced some and did recording sessions Back to his roots – All Cajun.