



Leo Soileau

Leo Soileau was born January 19, 1904, in Ville Platte, Louisiana and started to play house dances at age of 12. At the age of 24 he recorded some tunes with his friend Moise Robin - "*Demain c'est pas Demanche*" and "*La Valse Penitentiare*."

He recorded "Mama, Where You at," better know as, "Hey Mom," in 1928 with the now legendary Mayeus LaFleur. In 1929, Leo and Moise Robin recorded several songs for Paramount, Victor, Vocalion labels, such as "Easy Rider Blues," "*La Valse Penitentiare*" and "*Je Veux me Marier*," early classic Cajun songs.

In 1934, Leo Soileau's band, "Three Aces," was formed with Leo playing fiddle, Floyd Shreve and Dewey Landry on rhythm guitar, and Tony Gonzales on bass and snare drums. The music began to include Cajun versions of "Red River Valley," "Birmingham Jail" and Mexican songs.

The group changed names several times and became "Soileau's Four Aces" and then "Soileau's Rhythm Boys."

During World War II, his band played weekly at the Silver Star Club in Lake Charles, Louisiana. After the War Leo stopped making recordings and performed at the “Showboat Club” in Orange Texas. In the late 40's Leo quit playing music, moved to Ville Platte La. and worked as a general contractor.

Mr. Leo died August 2, 1980.