



Douglas "Doug" Kershaw

"Doug" Kershaw was born January 24, 1936, in Tiel Ridge, a tiny island off the Gulf Coast, and moved to Lake Arthur, Louisiana.

In Lake Arthur Doug learned English at school and accumulated pocket money by shining shoes and playing fiddle on street corners. At age eight he accompanied his guitar playing mother at a local club, Bucket of Blood. In 1947 Doug moved to Jennings, Louisiana, and five years later he formed his first band, The Continental Playboys, with his brothers, Pee Wee and Rusty. When Doug was about fifteen he and his brothers had a Cajun French band with an accordion, guitar and fiddle while they were going to school. In 1953 they broadcasted over radio KPLC Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The next step was to cut a record in English. Doug wrote the song, "When Will I Learn," and at J.D. Miller's recording studio in Crowley, Louisiana, recorded the song as Douglas Kershaw with the Bewley Gang and it was released over the counter. Later Doug, with Rusty harmonizing, wrote, "No, No It's Not So," and it was recorded at Mr. Miller's recording studio. This led them to Acuff-Rose and Hickory Records in Nashville, Tennessee. Doug being 18 and Rusty 16 were called Rusty and Doug. Their first record, "So Lovely Baby," also written by Doug, started Doug's writing and singing career. Being self-taught, Doug mastered over 20 instruments and composed hundreds of songs having recorded nearly 500.

In 1955 the duo was on the Louisiana Hayride and in 1957 they had an invitation to join the Grand Ole Opry. They were drafted in 1958 and on their return from military service, 1960, they recorded on Hickory label three Cajun songs, "Louisiana Man." a No. 10 hit, "Jolie Blonde," and "Diggy Liggy Lo," a No. 14 success. After recording "Cajun Stripper" for RCA Victor in 1963 the brothers called it a day as a duo.

In 1999 Doug released a Cajun CD, “Doug Kershaw Two Step Fever,” (*Fievre De Deux Etapes*) with musicians Lee Benoit, Michael Doucet, Mark Miller, Eddie Bodin, Freddie Pate, Gordon Broussard and Kevin Stelly.