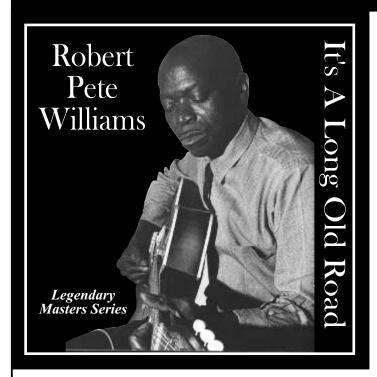


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Robert Pete Williams was one of the great country blues discoveries of the late 50's, when he was first recorded in Angola State Prison, Louisiana by folklorist Dr Harry Oster.

Williams was doing time for murder, said to be an act of self defense when he shot and killed a man in a bar in which he was performing in rural Louisiana. He was born in Zachary, Louisiana, near Baton Rouge, on March 14, 1914, and died at Rosedale, Louisiana on New Years Eve 1980. Robert Pete Williams family made a living at sharecropping, and when he was about the age of 20 he took up the guitar, making one out of a sugar box and began playing the blues. He performed for 20 years around Louisiana in juke joints, at house parties and fish fries, never making enough money to be professional.

Williams went to prison in 1956, was paroled in 1960, and when finally allowed out of Louisiana in 1964, performed at the Newport Folk Feestival, as well as touring Europe on two occasions.

His music is described as "highly original" and "emotionally striking", "intense and uncompromising", "remarkably original and intensely personal". Although perhaps not as popular as other discoveries at the time such as Bukka White, Mississippi John Hurt, Big Joe Williams and Mississippi Fred McDowell, he attracted considerable attention in Blues circles for his style, which was unlike anyone else. These recordings were originally available on the Takoma label.

Robert Pete Williams

IT'S A LONG OLD ROAD

AIM 0014 CD

- 1. Somebody Help Poor Me
- 2. Freight Train Blues
- 3. It's Hard To Tell
- 4. I'm Going Down Slow
- 5. Motherless Children Have A Hard Time
- 6. Ugly
- 7. So Long Boogie
- 8. This Is A Mean
 Old World To Me
- 9. High As I Want To Be
- 10. It's A Long Old Road

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