

**WATERMELON SLIM
AND THE WORKERS
THE WHEEL MAN
NORTHERN BLUES MUSIC NBM0038**

THE WHEEL MAN--I'VE GOT NEWS--BLACK WATER--JIMMY BELL--NEWSPAPER
REPORTER--DRINKING & DRIVING--FAST EDDIE--SAWMILL HOLLER--TRUCK
DRIVING MAMA--I KNOW ONE--GOT LOVE IF YOU WANT
IT--RATTLESNAKE--PEACHES--JUDGE HARSH BLUES

Bill Homans, better known as Watermelon Slim, has just released his Northern Blues debut, "The Wheel Man." Bill has been a truck driver, watermelon farmer, and sawmiller, among other things, but his prowess as a bluesman has garnered him the most accolades. A bit of a character in the mold of Tom Waits, Slim is also a member of the Mensa Society, reserved for those with genius IQ's.

On "The Wheel Man," Slim gives us a duke's mixture of up-tempo shuffles, straight-from-the-delta acoustic numbers, and even a field holler! On the title cut, Slim is joined by Magic Slim, and this tune plays out as Slim's autobiography, as he enjoyed his days as a trucker the best, until he became an award-winning bluesman! David Maxwell adds piano to complement Slim's harp on a kiss-off song to an old flame, entitled "I've Got News." The slow-burning "Newspaper Reporter," furthering Slim's jack-of-all-trades persona, shows he's "still got what it takes!" He even gives a warning to his lover to stop "drinking and driving me away!"

We had two favorites, though. We suspect Slim has had his share of "Truck Driving Mamas," while "Judge Harsh Blues" is just Slim's vocal backed by his searing slide. It's a haunting tale that takes on everything from the IRS to the current administration.

Watermelon Slim is a one-of-a-kind bluesman who can't be pigeonholed. Check out "The Wheel Man" for a taste of the real deal!!

Until next time....Sheryl and Don Crow.