



Musician

Rick Seale is a graduate of Northwestern State University with a BA in Anthropology and a MA degree in History with an emphasis in Cultural Resource Management.

Seale worked in the Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University, which led to his hand in putting together the Cloutierville Heritage Festival. During the work on this festival, he did research and wrote a paper entitled “Traditional Music in Cloutierville, Louisiana”. He was also the music and logistic coordinator for the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.

Not only has Seale set up musicians at the Folk Festival, but he has also been a musician himself. He learned to play the guitar when he was about fifteen years old after a cousin left his guitar at Rick’s house while visiting. Seale taught himself to play this guitar by watching and listening to others. In the 1960s and 1970s, Seale played in many garage bands in Bossier City, as he joined the R&B band D.T. and the Mystics and the rock band Rain. Later, Seale met B.B. Majors, who became a big influence on his musical career, as he joined weekly jam sessions with Majors. In 1996, Seale began to play with Overton “Dr. Drip Drop” Owens, Pop Hymes, and Hardrick Rivers in the Roque’s Blues Band at Roque’s Grocery, Pool Hall, and House of Blues in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The band fluctuated between five or six members, but sadly Overton Owens, the heart of the band, died in 1998. Seale is also famous for a R&B band known as Bluesiana, a duo he started with the harmonica player Randy Raschal. A few years later, he joined Rick Woodward and formed the Hoodoo Papas, a band that is well known throughout Arkansas, North Louisiana and eastern Texas with their “Acoustic Gumbo” sound.

Writing was also a big part of Seale’s career. He was an Editorial Assistant for Southern Studies Journal and designed the cover for the 30th anniversary issue. He worked on the *Louisiana Folklife* Journal, as he did a major portion of the research and writing of Volume 14. He also has done many publications and presentations on Louisiana’s music history. These publications include “The Performance and Preservation of Traditional Music in North Louisiana” and “‘Pick Buzzard’: Irish Tunes and Country Dances in Southern Natchitoches Parish.” Because of his many contributions to the Louisiana Folklife Center and his true musical talent, Seale was inducted into the Hall of Master Folk Artists in 2003.

Researched and rewritten by Samantha Sullivan.

