

TUNES-DISPATCK

Michael Mulvaney

"Road"

VA97280

"Well, well recorded, with an excellent supporting cast...." – Wm. Burke, **Richmond Music Journal**.

"Sounds clean, punchy, raunchy, and good...a real breakthrough in semi-urban blues and R&B..." Wm. Burke, **Richmond Music Journal**.

"The performances are mack...the arrangements first-rate...the atmosphere at times second to nonnie, er...none..." – "Clabber Boy" Burke, **Richmond Mystic Journal**

Listening to songs like "Song for Fog" and "Continental Divide" near the beginning of this record, I was struck by the feeling I got in the late '60's and early '70's, when jazz and R&B were undergoing a peculiar kind of fusion and revision. Make no mistake. I know whereof I speak, of wonderful records produced by Bob Thiele of Flying Dutchman fame and the likes, records like Clifford Coulter's "East Side San Jose" and even Archie Shepp's much neglected "Attica Blues."

Call it the times, call it the war, the rage, the police riots, Nixon Rising, the weed: *"Call it what you want, poverty, ghetto, but ya get out while ya can."*— Clifford Coulter, "Sal Si Puedes."

I know this beat. My partner, Mumps,

and I were working vice out of Manhattan Beach, summer of '70, burning up the confiscated Gold (talking 'Pulco, Shake) and digging on some Shepp and 'Trane from the thrift up the strip in our corduroys from the Salvation Army, watching the dance of the dust motes in four dimensional space, staring at the cords on our pants, and in walked this chick wearing nothing but beads and a smile, and the winter looked the same, as if it never had gone.

But don't get me wrong. I carried a badge and lots of confiscated hash. I like this record. I recall Mulvaney from his days fronting Faded Rose in Charlottesville and Richmond. Richmond trumpet giant John D'Earth, who toured with Miles Davis, makes several guest appearances here.

At times the record just seems to lapse into an unfocused state; that's all I can say.

-- Blind Lemon Zester

