

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lessly "Count" Fisher

PERSON

Fisher, Lessly , 1923-

Alternative Names: Fisher, Lessly; Count Fisher

Life Dates: August 19, 1923-

Place of Birth: Canton, Mississippi

Residence: Grand Rapids, MI (from ? to ?)

Occupations: Bandleader; Nightclub Owner; Police Chief

Biographical Note

Band leader, nightclub owner, and police chief Lessly "Count" Fisher was born on August 19, 1923 in Canton, Mississippi to Ruby Mosby Fisher and future steelworker Seaser Fisher. Fisher was given the nickname of "Count" by Count Basie. He grew up in the New Edition section of East Chicago, Indiana and attended Calumet Elementary School, Garfield Elementary School, and Columbus School, Fisher graduated from Washington High School in 1941. An accident in the steel mill inspired him to join his cousin, Wallace Hayes playing drums for the Nightsteppers. Fisher, along with childhood friend Jack McDuff, learned to read music from Jesse Evans while working as driver and bodyguard for entertainment businessman, Jake Brennan.

Touring the Midwest, Fisher's band also included Schoolboy Porter, Johnny Mott, Bill Lane and Aretta Lamar. In 1951, he met and toured several cities with singer Eve Rene. Later reunited with Rene, they played Indianapolis' Joy Lounge and the Hubbub. Fisher married Eve Rene and established the Carousel Club in the late 1950s. Over the years, they featured The Hampton Family, Rodney Dangerfield, June Christie, Leroy Vinegar, Freddie Hubbard, George Kirby, Redd Foxx, Moms Mabley, Jimmy McGriff, Jack McDuff, John Coltrane and James Brown. The Fishers also participated in muscular dystrophy telethons with Lorne Greene. From 1963 to 1965, the couple operated the Chateau de Count et Eve near the Indiana State Capitol. There, they showcased Roy Hamilton, Lula Reed and Motown acts along with many other names.

In 1966, Fisher and Eve Rene moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan and

performed at the London House as the house band. Eventually, Fisher moved away from show business and took a job as Sheriff's Deputy for Kent County, Michigan. He was also Idlewild, Michigan's first chief of police. Fisher and wife, Eve, now a retired civil servant, live in Grand Rapids. Their son, Rodney, is a musician who once portrayed Sir Nose D'Voidoffunk with George Clinton's Parliament-Funkadelic.

Lessly "Count" Fisher and his wife Eve live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Lessly "Count" Fisher was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on March 10, 2007.

Related Entries

Fisher, Ruby Mosby [CHILD_OF]
Mother

Fisher, Seaser [CHILD_OF]
Father

Fisher, Lois Eve [SPOUSE_OF]
Wife

Fisher, Rodney [PARENT_OF]
Son

Washington High School [STUDENT_OF]
[from ? to 1949]

Calumet Elementary School [STUDENT_OF]
[from ? to 1949]

Garfield Elementary School [STUDENT_OF]
[from ? to ?]

Columbus School [STUDENT_OF]
[from ? to ?]

The Carousel Club [EMPLOYEE_OF]
[from ? to ?]

Owner

Chateau de Conte et Eve [EMPLOYEE_OF]
[from ? to ?]

Owner

Kent County (Mich.) [EMPLOYEE_OF]
[from ? to ?]

Sheriff's Deputy