

TBT - July/1989 - "Blues Payday" w/late great Miss. blues musician & sculpture artist James "Son" Thomas - Miss. Valley Blues Fest, Davenport, IA. - Born in Eden, Miss., (b. 10/14/26 – d. 6/26/93), Thomas was known as a Delta blues musician and folk artist. His sculptures were made from un-fired clay which he dug out of the banks of the Yazoo River. His most famous sculpted images were skulls (often featuring actual human teeth) which mirrored his job as a gravedigger and his often stated philosophy that "we all end up in the clay". In 1985, Thomas had his work featured in the prestigious Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. where he was introduced to Mrs. Nancy Reagan then First Lady. Thomas' skulls can also be found on display in several blues museums throughout Mississippi including the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale and the Highway 61 Blues Museum in Leland. Thomas played at numerous blues festivals and private parties throughout the area including the Mississippi Delta Blues and Heritage Festival in Greenville.

[http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Thomas_\(blues_musician\)](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Thomas_(blues_musician))

clay sculptures:

<http://soulsgrowndeep.org/artist/james-son-thomas>





