



THE BUCKETS

© 93 by david fremont www.

Robert: Here at Larry Blake's with Buckets members Earl Butter & Wanda-leen Taters.

Wanda: You can call me Wanda.

Robert: Where do the Buckets come from?

Earl: Hard to say. Utica, NY is where we're from, but I would say we originally started playing in Boston- We're from all parts of the U.S.

Robert: Utica.., strange place.

Earl: Not so strange.

Wanda: We were born & raised there...

Earl: Or near there, as Wanda was.

Wanda: After you've had the beer, then it all starts to make sense.

Robert: How long have you all been playing together?

Earl: I'd say 2 years, Wanda & I have been together most our lives.

Wanda: We've been together for a long time; coming up on half a decade, aren't we Ray?

Robert: What started you down this road of broken relationships & wanderlust?

Earl: Broken relationships & wanderlust, mainly. It's absolutely true. Wanda & I moved from one part of the country to the other every couple of years & we've seen each other through a lot of broken relationships - one right after the other after the other & the songs come out of that. Every relationship is a different song - sometimes several.

Wanda: Ray did a whole album's worth out of 1 relationship.

Earl: You can milk a whole album or 2 out of 1 relationship & if YOU don't mind stretchin' the truth a little, you can get a lot more - do double albums.

Wanda: "12 Songs -- 12 Broken Hearts".

Earl: The 1st country-rock opera. "12 Songs - 1 Broken Heart". That's what we'll call our greatest hits album.

Robert: A silly question -- why specifically, country?

Earl: I'll field that one...

Wanda: Please --

Earl: I don't know . . .

Wanda: -- having been yanked from the rock n' roll ranks, myself.

Earl: I started out playing in rock bands pretty much & I found writing rock songs -- Looking back at it, I had too many influences & too many things were trying to sound like something else and I felt like, there was no way I'd found anything that sounded original. When I wrote something, it sounded old; it sounded used. And also, the thing with R&R, you have to be, it seems to me, extremely clever all the time.

Robert: But most of the Buckets songs are extremely clever...

Earl: I'll get to that. There's so many people doing R&R & so many good people doing it & for me, I just couldn't find a way to make it feel comfortable. And when I first started writing country songs, I wrote them for this band I had in my head called The Buckets, & I wrote 1 song, *POSTMARKED VA*, and within a week to 2 weeks, I had enough songs for a set. It was the easiest thing I've ever done.

Robert: How many other bands were you in before you decided to strike out on your own?

Earl: I was pretty much only in 2 other bands -- 3, if you count a small stint with a more famous band. I was in 2 bands with 1 guy who wrote all the songs & sort of was the director of the band. Got a lot of influence from him, I guess, just in mostly writing songs. He gave me confidence to just go out & do it.

He'd just sit down & write songs. I'd been trying for so long & had written so many terrible songs & this guy sorta gave me the idea that you could write songs -- if you just relaxed, you could do it.

Wanda: You'd actually been trying to write songs before you met me?

Earl: Yeah. When I was 18, I just wrote all sorts of terrible songs. I'd always tried & just gave up on it all during undergrad.