

ROCK MUSIC

RHYTHM 'N' BLUES

RK-RB1 United States 1955

CAVE MAN

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Billy WARD (LY-RK#)

Rts: Ward-Marks (BMI)

Perf: **BILLY WARD AND HIS DOMINOES**

Billy Ward (vocal)

David McNeil (bass vocal)

James Van Loan (tenor vocal)

Joe Lamont (baritone vocal)

Orch: (?) Rene Hall Combo

Rene Hall (guitar)

(with tenor sax, bass, & drums)

Prod: (?) Ralph Bass

Prod. Co: Federal Record Co.; Cincinnati, OH

Rec. Date: 1953

Matrix: F 1126

Rel. Date: Apr. 1955

Rel. Co: (No. 4 – LP Reissue) Gusto Records; Nashville, TN

Time: 2:27

1. Original Single **78:**

Federal 12218

Flip Sd: Love Me Now Or Let Me Go

10" 78rpm

2. Original Single **45:**

Federal 45-12218

Flip Sd: Love Me Now Or Let Me Go

3. Reissue on Compilation **LP:** THE DOMINOES –

21 HITS – VOL. 4 (1977)

Series: Vintage Vault Collectors Series

King K 5008X

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 11)

4. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** THE DOMINOES –

21 HITS – VOL. 4 (1988)

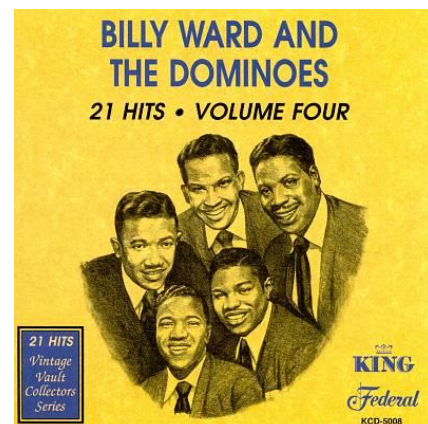
King KCD 5008 (Tk 11)

Notes: A very fine example of early fifties up-tempo rhythm 'n' blues music which evolved directly from the Chicago blues and the gospel

quartet traditions. Billy Ward was from Philadelphia, PA and he had directed the choir in his father's Baptist church and also a choir in the U.S. Coast Guard. The Dominoes were formed from selected students in his voice classes. By being one of the first rhythm 'n' blues groups to incorporate the gospel style, they were to become one of the pioneer and leading groups of early rock 'n' roll.



LP n. 3 cover illustration by R. Szolkowski



Recorded in 1953 and not released until April 1955, this was probably the first "caveman" rock record ever made. It leads off with a chorus of primitive grunts and growls, the standard elements of many "cavemen" songs, which followed later.

McNeil's deep bass voice comes in with the first two stanzas (see under Rock Song Lyrics) and then the tenor sax rips into a wild, inspired break backed up with rousing vocal support from the others, who shout at the tenor player –

Blow! (3x) Look at that caveman,
Yeah, yeah
He's a caveman
Get it, get it, yeah!

Things get pretty lively and then McNeil comes back and sings the last stanza.

The influence of the blues shows clearly in the song's basic structure and the familiar message of sexual virility and infidelity in love. This image of the "caveman" as a fast mover with women closely resembles a similar idea used in "Cave Man Blues" by the Memphis Jug Band (see under Jazz Music – Blues) 20 years earlier – nothing new here as far as the sexual theme is concerned, the novelty appears in the novel presentation of the "prehistoric caveman" image. This image of the caveman lover would be picked up later by other rock 'n' roll artists, both black and white, but rarely would the resulting product be as gutsy and primitive as this one.

The complete audio sample of this song on [YouTube](#) uses clips from an unidentified prehistoric caveman feature film, possibly the 1967 film, *Prehistoric Women*, starring Martine Beswick.

A copy of this 78 record is somewhat easier to find than the 45 and the quality of the 78 is superior anyway. Many collectors claim that the 78s from the 50s are cleaner and clearer pressings than the 45s of that period. As a teenager I started collecting records right around 1954 and I remember well that buying the 78 copy of a song was a lot cheaper than buying the 45 single, and you didn't have to fool around with those plastic centers for the big hole 45s.

Ref: Billy Ward & His Dominoes, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Billy Ward & His Dominoes, 21 Hits, Vol. 4 CD, [Allmusic](#)

Billy Ward & His Dominoes, 21 Hits, Vol. 4 LP, [Discogs](#)

Billy Ward & His Dominoes, Cave Man, [45cat](#)

Billy Ward & His Dominoes, Cave Man, (2:30), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Billy Ward & His Dominoes, In the Spotlight, [about](#)

Goldberg, Marv 1999, The Dominoes – Part 1, [uncamaryv](#)

Gonzalez, Fernando 1977, *Disco-File*, 2nd Ed., p. 119

Grendysa, Peter A. 1993, The Dominoes, *Discoveries*, n. 60, May 1993, p. 23-25

Nite, Norm 1974, *Rock On*, Crowell Co., NY, p.194-5

Propes, Steve 1973, *Those Oldies But Goodies*, Collier Books, New York, p. 34-37

RK-RB2 United States 1956

CAVE MAN ROCK

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Doo-Wop– Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: McARTHUR, Milt OSHINS, & Henry STONE ([LY-RK#](#))

Rts: Sherlyn Pub. (BMI)

Perf: **THE MAJESTICS**

(?) McArthur

(?) Johnny Mitchell

(?) K. Taylor

Sam Moore (backing vocal)

Prod: Henry Stone

Prod. Co: Marlin Productions; Miami, FL

Matrix: C-170

Time: 2:20

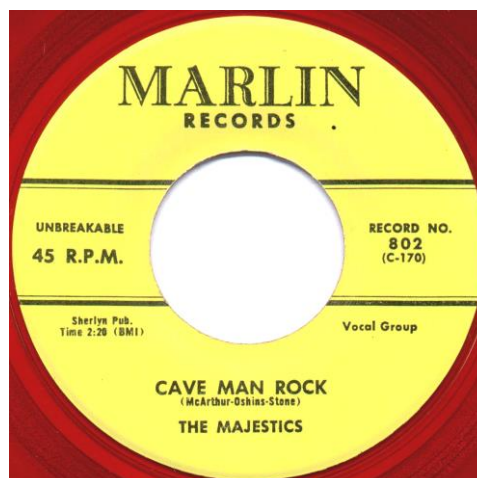
1. Original Single **45s:**

Marlin 802

Flip Sd: Nitey Nite

Spec: 10" 78rpm & 7" 45rpm

2. Bootleg Reissue Single **45:**



Marlin 802

Flip Sd: Nitey Nite

Spec: 7" 45rpm (red vinyl)

Notes: Superb 50s rhythm 'n' blues with a boogie beat that just won't quit. When the tenor sax comes in to do the break it'll send you back – right back to the prehistoric basics of rock. Listening to that nitty-gritty sax solo you'll start wishing it would never end, but when it does the whole thing gets wrapped up in fine, wild style. It is not surprising that this one has become a highly sought-after collector's item. Rare original copies have gone for anywhere from \$60 to \$120 in auctions, making it undoubtedly the most expensive of all early cave rock singles. It was seen listed in a 1982 auction with a minimum bid tag of \$140. However, Tim Neely prices a new/mint copy at \$1000. (Neely 2005) The red vinyl bootleg facsimile is a lot cheaper but not easy to find either.

When asked about the origin of The Majestics, Stone simply said that they "were guys who hung around the studio. They just came in off the streets." (Volker 1972) "The group recorded one single for Marlin, a prototypical talking doo-wop, 'Nitey Nite' (sic) backed with 'Cave Man Rock.' Released in late 1954 [sic], the record generated a little local notoriety but not much else. By 1957, the Majestics had changed their name to the Gales ..., left the secular world behind, and embarked upon a gospel career." (Bowman 2000) More than one source has given the release date for this single as 1956.

At least three other rock groups used this name – a white group in 1959-65; another in 1960; and finally a third in 1973. A group by this name recorded singles for NCR (Judd) Records in 1958 and for Chex in 1962.

This song was used as the opening music under the introduction of my program of caver's dance music for the "Cavers' Hop" at the 1995 Old Timers' Reunion in Randolph County, West Virginia.

A selection of stanza II was also used in my paper, "Speleo-Discography: A Progress Report," which I presented at the 2005 UIS (International Speleological Union) Congress at Kalamos in Greece.

Ref: Anon., Auction Results, *Record Exchanger*, v. 6, n. 1, Issue 28, 1979, p. 26

Bob Magnus Auction, *Goldmine*, n. 79, Dec.1982, p. 145

Bowman, Rob 2000, *Soulsville U.S.A.: The Story of Stax Records*, Schirmer Trade Books, p. 65, google.fr

Gonzales, Fernando 1979, *Disco-File*, p. 263

Kranzel, Rich, *Bucks County Diviner*, v. 18, n. 1, Sept. 1997, Bucks County Grotto, NSS, p. 1, 4

Leszczak, Bob 2014, *Encyclopedia of Pop Aliases, 1950-2000*, Rowman & Littlefield, p. 310-311, google.fr

The Majestics, Cave Man Rock 45, (2:24), YouTube (◀**COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE**)

Neely Tim 2005, *Goldmine Price Guide to 45 RPM Records*, KP Books, p. 433, google.fr

Volker, Al Jr. 1972, *Record Exchanger*, v. 2, n. 4, Issue 9, 1972, p. 18

RK-RB3 United States 1960

CAVE MAN

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Watusi – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: L. TEMPLE & James JOHNSON (LY-RK#)

Rts: Arc Music (BMI)

Perf: **THE VIBRATIONS**

James Johnson (lead vocal)

Richard Owens (first tenor)

Carl Fisher (second tenor)

Dave Govan (baritone)

Don Bradley (bass vocal)

Prod. Co: Chess Producing Corp.; Chicago, IL

Matrix: 10381

Rel. Date: Aug. 1960

Time: (No. 1) 2:25; (No. 2) 2:27 & (No. 3) 2:32

1. Original Single **45:**

Checker 961

Flip Sd: Feel So Bad

2. **LP:** WATUSI (1961)

Checker 2978 (mono)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 2)

3. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** OUT OF SIGHT –



THE CHECKER YEARS (2004)

RPM RPMSH 278 (Disc 1 – Tk 5)

Notes: Ranks high among the best early rock "caveman" songs. The lyrics here are especially amusing for cavers, in particular the hardcore bachelor types (see under Rock Song Lyrics). The chorus runs –

Give me back my club and my bearskin rug;
Give me back my cave and the good old days
Where a man was free
And the women let him be.

The rhythm is what came to be called, "watusi," one of the many popular rock 'n' roll dance steps that caught on just after the "twist" craze around 1960-61.

The group first got together in Los Angeles in 1956 as the Jayhawks and then in 1960 changed their name to The Vibrations. In 1961 they scored very well with their hit record, "Watusi," and this was their second single. Afterwards they continued recording right into the 1970s.

The first two stanzas of this song were included in the "Caves on Phonograph Records" program in 1967 and the entire song was used for the "Cavers' Hop" at the 1995 Old Timers' Reunion in Randolph County, West Virginia.

Ref: Anon., *Bim Bam Boom*, v. 1 , n. 5

Nite, Norm 1974, *Rock On*, Crowell Co., NY, p. 632-633

Pruter, Robert 1978, *Goldmine*, n. 29, Oct. 1978, p. 20

Pruter, Robert 1997, *The Vibrations, Doowop: The Chicago Scene*, University of Illinois Press, p. 78-79, google.fr

The Vibrations, Cave Man 45, [45cat](#)

The Vibrations, Cave Man 45, [Discogs](#)

The Vibrations, Cave Man 45, (2:32), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

The Watusi (dance), [Wikipedia](#)

RK-RB4 United States 1958

CRAZY CAVE

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Doo-Wop – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: David WHITE [aka. D. W. Tricker] ([LY-RK#](#))

Arr: (Vocal) David White

Rts: Singular Music Publishing Co. (BMI)

Perf: **DANNY & THE JUNIORS**

Danny Rapp (lead tenor vocal)
Dave White [aka. Dave White Tricker]
(1st tenor)

Frank Maffei (2nd tenor)
Joe Terranova [or Terry] (baritone)
Lenny (or Lennie) Baker (tenor sax)

Prod: Artie Singer



Joe Frank Dave Danny

Scene from film "LET'S ROCK" (1958) performing "At the Hop"

Prod. Co: AM-PAR Record Co.

Matrix: AMP 45-4035

Time: 2:27

A. American Releases:

1. Original Single **45:**

ABC-Paramount 45-9953

Flip Sd: A Thief

2. Reissue on **LP:** ROCK AND ROLL IS HERE TO STAY (1970s)

Singular 569

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 4)

3. Reissue on **LP:** ROCKIN' WITH DANNY & THE JUNIORS (1983)

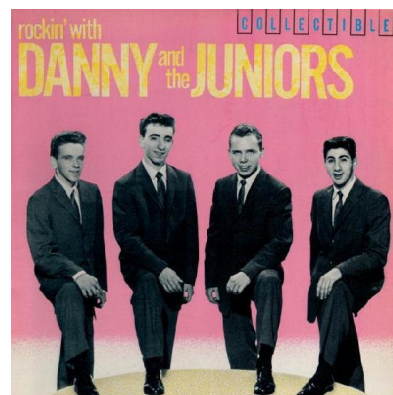
MCA Collectibles MCA 1555 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 5)

4. Reissue on **CD:** ROCKIN' WITH DANNY & THE JUNIORS (1983)

MCA Collectibles MCAD 31060 (Tk 5)

6. Reissue on **CD:** DANNY & THE JUNIORS – GOLDEN CLASSICS



EDITION (1997)

- MCA Collectibles 5670 (Tk 7)
- B. Canadian Reissue on **CD**: ROCKIN' WITH DANNY & THE JUNIORS (1994)
Point CD 16280 (Tk 7)
- C. West German and Dutch Reissues on Bootleg **LPs**:
Singular 569
12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 4)
- D. Dutch Single **45**: (1958)
Artone AP 22.042
Flip Sd: Dottie
- E. Swedish Single **45**:
ABC-Paramount (?)
- F. Reissue on Japanese Compilation **LP**: DANNY & THE JUNIORS
V.S. DELL VIKINGS (1985)
MCA P-11578
12" 33rpm



Notes: Originally formed in 1957 in Philadelphia, PA, this group of high school friends made history with their hit, "At the Hop," followed the next year by the now-classic, "Rock 'n' Roll Is Here to Stay." "Crazy Cave" was their fourth single and it too, although less well-known, should definitely qualify among the better "oldies but goodies." Cub Coda says about this one and others on the CD compilation – "Philly doo wop at its best, street accents intact." (Cub Coda 2015)

The lyrics tell about a cave in a park where teenagers went to dance to records. To enter this crazy cave you had to crawl on your "hands and knees." There are no caves in the Philadelphia area and the nearest one that, in the late 19th century, did once serve as a dance cave was Durham Cave in Bucks County, some 40 miles north.

The last stanza and chorus were used for my paper, "Caves on Phonograph Records" which I had first presented in the General Session at the 1967 NSS Convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Soon after I prepared this reel-to-reel audio tape and color slide program for national distribution through the NSS Audio-Visual Aids service. For many years this show was a great success with Grottos around the country and proof of this came in the early 1990s when all the NSS Audio-Visual Aids programs were destroyed in a fire at Bob Liebman's place in West Virginia and I was asked by my friend Dale Ibberson, acting on behalf of Bob, to send another copy of my program to replace the destroyed copy.

Almost 30 years later the entire song was used for the "Cavers' Hop" at the 1995 Old Timers' Reunion in Randolph County, West Virginia. This is a very typical early and rather silly rock 'n' roll song, which has not aged well. The song went over fine in the late sixties, when early rock was still popular, but it definitely bombed at the Old Timer's in the mid-90s. I was disc-jockeying the affair for a half-hour slot in the entertainment event and, right in the middle of this one, a cute blond came up to me and yelled, "What's this crap you're playing." Tastes change with the winds.

Ref: Cub Koda 1984, Reviews, The Vinyl Junkie, *Goldmine*, v. 10, Issue 2, n. 93, Feb. 1984, p. 67

Cub Koda 2015, Danny & The Juniors, Golden Classics Edition CD, [Allmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Danny & The Juniors, Crazy Cave, youtube (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

Danny & The Juniors, Bio, Official Site, [dannyyandthejuniors](#)

Danny & The Juniors, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Danny & The Juniors, Discography, [rocky-52](#)

Danny & The Juniors, Rockin' with Danny & The Juniors LP, [Discogs](#)

Hardy, Phil & Laing, Dave 1975, *The Encyclopedia of Rock-Vol.1*, Panther, p. 94

Jones, Wayne 1980, Joe Terranova (Interview), *Rockin' Rollin' & Rappin'*, Goldmine Press, Fraser, MI, p. 16-18

Kranzel, Rich 1997, *Bucks County Diviner*, v. 18, n. 1, Sept. 1997, Bucks County Grotto, NSS, p. 4

McDowell, Mike 1979, *Blitz!*, n. 30, Mar.-Apr. 1979, Dearborn Heights, MI, p. 25-26

Vance, Marcia 1974, Danny & The Juniors, *Bim Bam Boom*, v. 2, n. 8, Issue 12, 1974, Bronx, NY, p. 32-33

RK United Kingdom 1966

I'M GONNA FIND A CAVE

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Buddy SCOTT & Jimmy RADCLIFFE

Perf: Miki DALLON (vocal)

FOR FULL ENTRY SEE UNDER ROCKABILLY

RK United Kingdom 1966

GONNA FIND A CAVE

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: (Credited to Miki Dallon) Buddy SCOTT & Jimmy RADCLIFFE

Perf: Jimmy POWELL (vocal)

FOR FULL ENTRY SEE UNDER ROCKABILLY

RK United Kingdom 1966

GONNA FIND A CAVE

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Garage – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Buddy SCOTT & Jimmy RADCLIFFE

Perf: THE SORROWS

FOR FULL ENTRY SEE UNDER ROCKABILLY

RK Argentina 1966

**VOY A ENCONTRAR UNA CUEVA
(I'M GONNA FIND A CAVE)**

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Garage – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Buddy SCOTT & Jimmy RADCLIFFE

Perf: LOS BULLDOGS

FOR FULL ENTRY SEE UNDER ROCKABILLY

RK-RB5 United States 1962 or 1963

STONE AGE

Rhythm 'n' Blues – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: James STACY (LY-RK#)

Rts: Roydon (BMI)

Perf: James STACY (vocal)
(with guitar, bass, & drums)

Prod: Dave Russell

Prod. Co: Gardena Records; Portland, OR

Time: 2:15

Label: Gardena G-136

Flip Sd: Dandylions (sic) Roses

Spec: 7" 45rpm

Notes: A whiney, bluesy piece that talks about riding a lizard fish, hunting dinosaurs, and all the trouble he's been having with his girl. Here' the chorus –

Start pretendin' that I'm in the Stone Age – The St-on-e A-ge
Make believe I'm livin' in the Stone Age – The St-on-e A-ge
People happy livin' in the Stone Age –
Than being tormented by you.

Some of the words in stanzas 3 and 4 were very hard to decipher (see under Rock Song Lyrics) and the conjectured words were placed in italics between brackets. The song ends with some spoken lines –



Oh, baby, why do you put me down so bad?
This whole scene's goin' Nowheres-ville.
Ya gotta be crazy, baby !

That the US Congress with a Republican majority in 2015 should be in hardcore denial about so many issues, among which universal health care, the Iran nuclear treaty, and police killings of unarmed black men, just proves that most US senators and representatives are still "livin' in the Stone Age." Stone cold, thick-headed rocks who can't rock 'n' roll.

Nothing is known about James Stacy. He should not be confused with the television actor of the same name.

A well-known group, Paul Revere & The Raiders, also had a single on the Gardena label.

Ref: Gardena Records, 45 Discography, James Stacy, Stone Age, [globaldogproductions](#)
James Stacy, Stone Age, (2:20), [YouTube](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

caveinspiredmusic.com