

MapleBlues November 2004

Chick Roberts *Blue Turning Gray* Old Blue
Goat OBGR001

Chick Roberts has most recently been associated with **Mariposa in the Schools** and has been an active member of our folk scene for over forty years. It was he and **Amos Garrett**, when they were both in the **Dirty Shames**, who took **John Hammond** to see **Levon & The Hawks**, a visit that led to music history being made. The folk scene, then perhaps more than now, was very much into blues and people kept saying to Roberts that he should do a blues album. He always responded by saying he wasn't old enough. Well, the album's out now so I guess he's old enough and he isn't lying when he sings **Eddie 'Cleanhead' Vinson's** "Past Sixty Blues". This CD is a kind of snapshot of that bygone era: the **Climax Jazz Band**, who accompany Roberts on four songs, seems a perfect choice because that kind of instrumentation doing vaudeville blues was a more important part of the scene then, **Jeff Healey's Jazz Wizards** notwithstanding. Garrett also plays on four; **Eddie Baltimore** brought his dobro and **David Gogo** his electric guitar among the many other players. The glue for all this is **Tony Quarrington**, who, in addition to producing, plays guitars, mandolin and tenor banjo. Roberts tackles old favourites of his and some other songs that are age-appropriate, such as the **Fats Waller** tune that gives the CD its title. It is perhaps not a coincidence that Garrett's recent *Acoustic Album* covered much the same musical territory. As of this writing, www.chickroberts.com is under construction but he has copies for sale at Sam The Record Man.

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