

KOERNER, RAY AND GLOVER

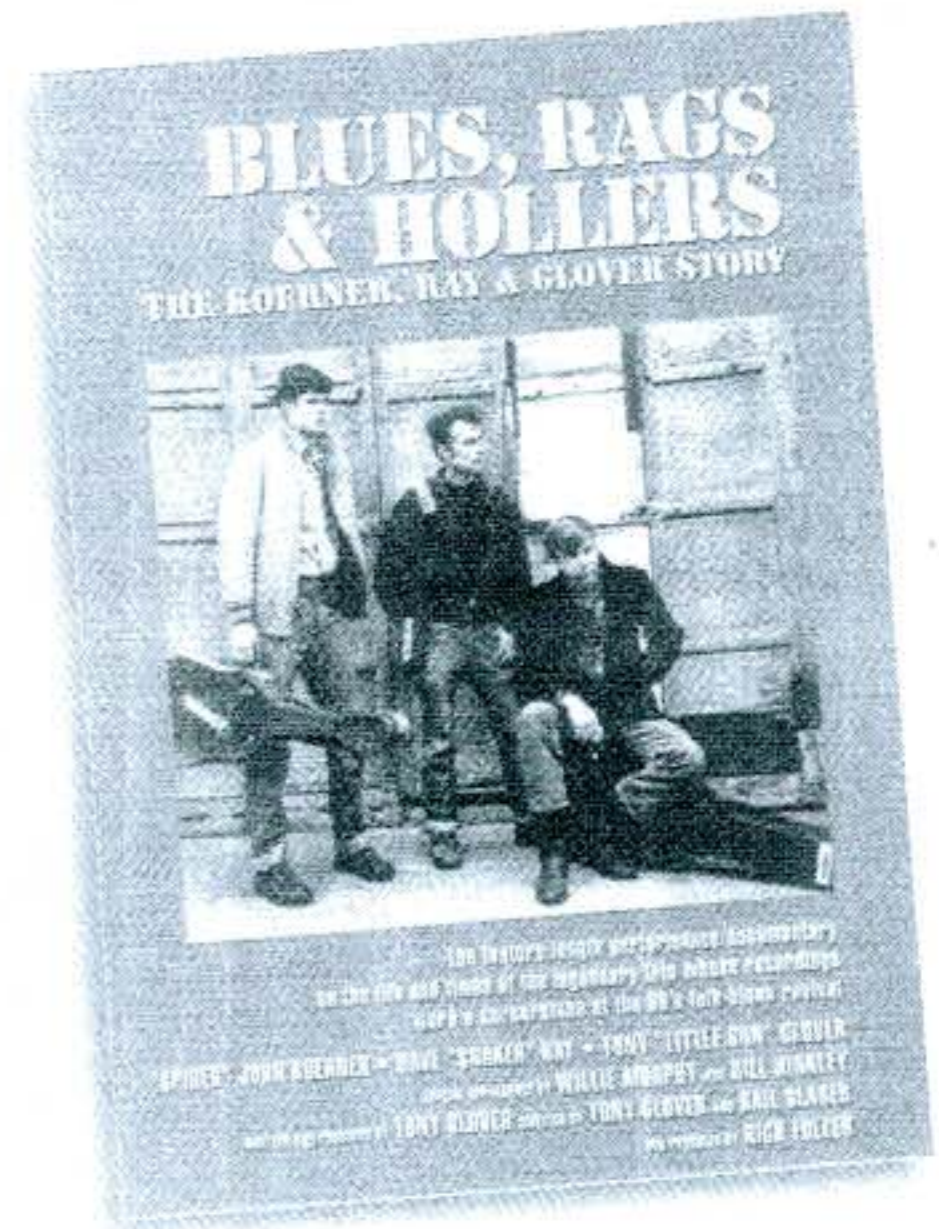
Blues, Rags & Hollers DVD

(MVD Visual)

If you never heard of Koerner, Ray and Glover, you've still been affected by them, because they influenced everybody who discovered the blues in the '60s. Bob Dylan mentions "Spider" John Koerner in his *Chronicles*; John Lennon listened to their first album with reverence. They recorded "What's the Matter With the Mill?" years before Muddy Waters did. Tony Glover jammed with fellow Elektra artists, the Doors. This is their story, as presented by Tony "Little Sun" Glover himself.

Around 1963, somebody in Minnesota turned on a tape recorder with these boys in the room. The result, *Blues, Rags & Hollers* was so good that it wound up on Elektra, the premier folk label of the day. KR&G were instant stars within the tiny world of traditional folk music, and later that same year released *Lots More Blues, Rags & Hollers* to ecstatic reviews, well-deserved. Paul Rothchild described them this way (from *Follow the Music* by Jac Holzman): "One doing almost perfect

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incarnations of Leadbelly 12-string guitar, another writing his own songs in an uneven bar style that blew your mind, and one guy on the moon who played the strangest harmonica you ever heard."

Although never really a "band" (even when on stage together, they didn't play every song together), their three names are inextricably tied, and their careers have intertwined over the years. Ray and Koerner have made solo albums. Koerner and Glover have both made films, Tony Glover has been a late night disc jockey, a rock critic, and has released instructional videos for the harmonica. Dave Ray ran a studio for years, then later an insurance agency. And they never have stopped playing, solo and together.

This film, originally released in 1986, has been added to over the years. While it has an eerie homemade feel, very fitting to the "folkiness" of its subject, it is really quite interesting and informative...and quite professionally done. If you love the crazy world of the professional artist-scholar, if you love the blues, if you enjoyed the '60s or wish you could have, this is for you.

—Robin the Hammer