

# Black Boy Shine

Harold Holiday, known as Black Boy Shine, was a blues pianist and vocalist based in Houston, Texas. He, along with Robert Shaw, Pinetop Burks, and Rob Cooper, was part of the Santa Fe Group, an informal and changing association of black pianists in the 1920s and 1930s that gathered in the Fourth Ward of Houston. They played in the roadhouses and juke joints along the Santa Fe tracks, influencing countless others by combining the structure of blues with ragtime jazz syncopation.



In 1936 and 1937 Black Boy Shine recorded eighteen songs for the Vocalion label in San Antonio and Dallas, including songs such as "Dog House Blues" and "Back Home Blues." Aubrey "Moon" Mullican encountered Holiday frequently in the honkytonks and barrelhouses around Houston. A fortuitous meeting for nicknames, they formed a duo called "Moonshine." In the duo, Aubrey was 'Moon', while Shine was 'Shine'. Shine died of tuberculosis in 1948.