



## CHARLES "POPPY BOB" WALKER

### Dirt Bike Vacation

Label

**WORRIED SONGS**

Format

**LP**

Catalog Number

**WS 019LP**

EAN

5060853704321



Store Price

**\$22.79**

Release Date

**11/08/24**

Territory

**U.S. EXCLUSIVE (No Exports)**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - W - ROCK**



Exclusively Distributed by

**FORCED EXPOSURE**

60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476  
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321  
fe@forcedexposure.com

## DESCRIPTION

*Dirt Bike Vacation* – for Worried Songs Records – explores the sonic world of the late amateur guitar player, **Charles 'Poppy Bob' Walker**, through a captivating set of instrumental songs made in the mid-1980s. Recorded on a single-track, Marantz field recorder, the project is a transportive document of Walker's days spent as a meatpacking employee in Yuma, Arizona and the dailiness of that existence: driving to work, sitting in his backyard, walking around drunkenly, unwinding on the couch with a friend. These sketches, showing an experimental tendency, are surprisingly ahead of their time; some exhibit ad hoc tape delay, while others make use of primitive overdubbing. Not dissimilar to works such as **Bruce Langhorne's** *The Hired Hand* soundtrack, Walker's guitar playing is melodic, texturally rich and beautifully sober. On a musical tour from Nashville to Los Angeles, musician-archivist, **Cameron Knowler**, uncovered these songs from a series of dusty cassette tapes housed at a branch of the Yuma County Library. Originally tipped off by cryptic metadata entries found through an online finding aid, Knowler requested a sound sample and was immediately drawn in by their eerie, yet hopeful nature. Sorting through the index cards associated with these tapes, Knowler was able to gain a detailed sense of most recording's provenance, whereabouts and time: Walker's Datsun pickup truck chugging along boiling hot Interstate 80, the Marine Corps Air Station parking lot, the Eastern Wetlands on the banks of the Colorado River, a fishing trip to Martinez Lake. Trying to reduce the amount of his own subjectivities coloring the work, Cameron constructed titles and track sequences by borrowing information gleaned from Charles' handwritten notes. This proved no small task, as many notecards had to be deciphered and then coupled with their native tapes which needed extensive restoration treatments. The result is a project very much out of the blue, and one that is intensely personal to Knowler, having grown up in the same town under similar circumstances. In their current form, the tracks combine to create a sonic journey that boldly contributes to the traditions of acoustic guitar soli, archival digs and field recordings all the same; most importantly, it is a creative document which shows a day-in-the-life of a man grappling with the human experience under a ubiquitous Yuma sun.

## TRACKLISTING

01. High Above
02. Baby Bird
03. Backyard Soliloquy
04. Driving to Town
05. Continuation to Moon Doctor
06. Airbase Blues
07. Goodbye, YMCA
08. Train Over Main Span
09. Signs for Ehrenberg
10. In with the Grackles
11. Granite Bluffs
12. Back to the Foothills
13. On the Couch with Bernie
14. Sunset in the Gilas
15. Walking at Night

## HIGHLIGHTS

- *Dirt Bike Vacation* – for Worried Songs Records – explores the sonic world of the late amateur guitar player, **Charles 'Poppy Bob' Walker**, through a captivating set of instrumental songs made in the mid-1980s.
- Recorded on a single-track, Marantz field recorder, the project is a transportive document of Walker's days spent as a meatpacking employee in Yuma, Arizona and the dailiness of that existence.
- On a musical tour from Nashville to Los Angeles, musician-archivist, **Cameron Knowler**, uncovered these songs from a series of dusty cassette tapes housed at a branch of the Yuma County Library.

**Press Contact:** [publicity@forcedexposure.com](mailto:publicity@forcedexposure.com)