**Mongrel Empire Press Announces *Mama Said, ‘This Boy is Gonna Be Somebody!’: The Untold Story of Oklahoma Blues Legend D.C. Minner,* a biography by LaNelda Hughes with Selby Minner..**

Norman, OK 08/09/20188—Mongrel Empire Press, an Eclectic Publishing House specializing in regional and uncommon literary works, is happy to announce the publication of *Mama Said, ‘This Boy is Gonna Be Somebody!’: The Untold Story of Oklahoma Blues Legend D.C. Minner*, a biography by LaNelda Hughes with Selby Minner.

The Press is honored to present this biography of Minner, a nationally-recognized , multi-award-winning blues man and Oklahoma icon.

Born in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, January 24, 1935, D.C. Minner was the only child of Helen Pearson Minner and Clarence Minner, but was raised by his grandmother, Lura Drennan, on family land where she operated a juke joint, speak-easy, grocery, and after-hours blues club beginning the early 20th century. His family came to Rentiesville from Alabama, with four Cherokee sisters and their black husbands settling in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation which was more hospitable to mixed-marriages between American Indians and Blacks of the period. Rentiesville was close enough to the Cherokee Nation so the sisters did not have far to go to visit their relatives. As a youngster, D.C. spent hours listening to the acoustic blues played by various traveling musicians in the club, often picking up their guitars during breaks between sets and then trying to imitate what he saw on stage.

After tiring of constant life on the road, in 1988, Minner and his wife and bandmate, Selby, returned to Rentiesville and converted Minner’s grandmother’s prohibition-era corn-whiskey hall, The Cozy Corner, into the after-hours club, The Down Home Blues Club. The club quickly became what it had been in the first half of the twentieth century, a favorite spot for after hours relaxing, socializing, dancing, and listening to blues, and rhythm and blues, played by D.C. and Selby.

In 1991, D.C. and Selby started the annual Dusk Til Dawn Blues Festival, held each Labor Day Weekend on three stages on the family property. Since then, the event has grown into of the premier regional blues festival in the United States, featuring many artists whose authenticity often outweighs their lack of national exposure. The festival has always had a significant component aimed toward youth with many local bands, artists, and performers geared toward developing an appreciation for the blues as an art form among young people.

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**About Mongrel Empire Press**

Mongrel Empire Press was established in 2007 with a mission to publish well-written, thoughtfully-considered works across generic and disciplinary boundaries. The Press actively identifies and promotes Oklahoma and regional writers while at the same time making room for outside the region works that, because of their mixed generic, disciplinary, and philosophical approaches, cannot find a home at other presses that have a more narrowly defined mission.

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