

## The Winston-Salem Arts, Culture and Entertainment Memorial Walk of Fame

February 25, 2016

### Stage Name

- **The “5” Royales**

### Given Names:

- Obadiah Carter
- Jimmy Moore
- Lowman Pauling, Jr.
- Eugene Tanner
- Johnny Tanner

### Biography of The “5” Royales

The “5” Royales journey began in 1942 in Winston-Salem by Lowman Pauling Sr., and his 3 sons. The gospel group then known as *The Royal Sons Quintet*. In 1951, Apollo Records signed the group after listening to a demo submitted by their manager. Apollo asked the band to try some secular songs, and they agreed. Their first hit record was “Baby Don’t Do It” recorded in 1953. They were the first hard R&B vocal group of the fifties to come from a full gospel background. **Lowman Pauling Jr., Johnny Tanner, Eugene Tanner, Obadiah Carter, and Jimmy Moore, were all members and all from Winston-Salem.**

North Carolina Arts Council website description of their style of music is solidly rooted in the gospel and spiritual harmonies they perfected as youngsters in the 1940s, singing in churches and on street corners. Lisa O’Donnell, a huge fan of the group, and a Journalist with the Winston-Salem Journal had this to say; “Last year, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame had the good sense to correct a long-time oversight -- it inducted the “5” Royales into its ranks, where it joined other pioneers and musical giants. While this groundbreaking vocal group is often overlooked by mainstream music fans, its impact can be gauged by the people it influenced -- **James Brown, Ray Charles and Steve Cropper**, to name just a few”. Several of the country's most highly regarded music critics, Ed Ward and Peter Guralnick, among them, also have high esteem for the Royales. There are truly fewer groups of that era that had a bigger impact on what would become rock and roll said Lisa O'Donnell, the Winston Salem Journal.

**Rolling Stone** stated in an article that, the first rock & roll record is a matter of debate. **This is not:** The first rock & roll group was the "**5**" **Royales**. **Mother Jones** and **Trunkworthy**, describes them as the best group that you have never heard about. **Boston Review** acknowledges them as the Kings of R&B.

**James Brown** mimicked his first group, **The Famous Flames** after them. **The "5" Royales** were known as show stoppers impacting other major recording groups like, **The Temptations**. **Otis Williams** an original **Temptation** stated in an interview with the Winston Salem Journal that, without The "5" Royales, there would not be **The Temptations**. The band's leading guitarist and song writer, **Lowman Pauling Jr.**, made an impact himself on other famous guitarist like, **Eric Clapton**, **Jimi Hendrix**, **Jimmy & Stevie Ray Vaughn** and many more. **The "5" Royales** "**Dedicated To The One I Love**" written by **Pauling**, was covered by **The Shirelles**, and **The Mamas & The Papas**. Both covers were hits. One of their Top 10 hits, "**Think**" was also covered by **James Brown** and **Mick Jagger**. **Ray Charles** covered "**Tell The Truth**". Both songs were also written by **Pauling**. During their career they had two number 1 hits and seven that reached the top 10. There were other notable recordings like **Slummer, The Slums, Laundromat Blues, Monkey Hips & Rice, Catch that Teardrop, I Like It Like That,** and more. The group disbanded during the 1960's.

In 1992 The "5" Royales received the NC Folk Heritage Award, and in 2009, were inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame. Lowman Pauling also received a Song Writers Award. In 1991, the City of Winston-Salem named a street, **Five Royales Drive** in memory of the group. On April 18, 2015, they were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for Early Influences. In May of 2015, The Blues Hall of Fame named, Soul & Swagger, The Complete "**5**" **Royales**, 1951-1967, as Historical Album of the Year. **Lowman Pauling** is listed as one of the top guitarist of all times.

The members of the "**5**" **Royales** are all deceased, but their music, impact on the industry and musical influence is still evident today.

My name is Karen Scales, the daughter of Obadiah Carter and niece of Lowman Pauling. The family and friends of the group are proud of **The "5" Royales** for all of their achievements. Their music was powered by gospel, spiked with Rock & Roll, R&B, and Soul.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate **The "5" Royales** for this prestigious "Hometown" award.