



Johnny Cale 1955



J. J. Cale Current

Below is an email to **Dick Rapier** and **Dotty Westby** from **Dick Manley** with info on CHS Classmate **Johnny Cale**. If anyone knows where and how to contact Johnny, please contact Dick, Dotty or me. Also below is a professional bio of **J.J. (Johnny) Cale** which is most interesting. I stopped searching after 25 pages on Google and just copied the below. – Fred Benford

Dick & Dotty-

I saw that **Johnny Cale** was listed as a Lost Classmate. Johnny has been well known in the music industry for forty years as J.J.Cale, a song writer and performer. A trip to GOOGLE with his name provides a number of websites regarding his songs and success. I recently purchased a CD of a live performance and noted glowing comments from music industry stars (ie Eric Clapton) in the websites. I haven't seen Johnny in forty years, but did read about him some thru the years. Hope this will assist in contacting Johnny, and perhaps he will attend the reunion. I would enjoy seeing him again.

Dick Manley

PROFESSIONAL BIO FROM ROLLING STONE ON J.J.CALE, CHS CLASSMATE

The Oklahoma-born singer-songwriter J.J. Cale pioneered the "Tulsa sound," a combination of blues, rock, jazz and country. Born in 1938, Cale began playing in local clubs as a teenager, later forming his own group called Johnny Cale and the Valentines. In 1959 he moved to Nashville and performed with the Grand Ole Opry for several years, eventually returning to his band in Tulsa. In the mid-'60s Cale moved to Los Angeles, where he became a studio engineer and pursued a solo career, recording the single "After Midnight," which was later made into a hit by Eric Clapton. After a stint with Delaney and Bonnie, Cale formed a psychedelic rock group in 1966 called Leathercoated Minds, which released one album before breaking up. He then returned to Tulsa to work on his solo career in earnest.

In 1969 Cale signed to the Shelter label, releasing his debut album *Naturally* in 1972. Already known thanks to Clapton's cover of "After Midnight," Cale increased his profile as a musician and songwriter with the Top 40 hit "Crazy Mama," a single off the album which was one of the first hits to employ a drum machine. Another LP was released shortly thereafter, called *Really*. Several more albums followed throughout the 1970s; though the now Nashville-based performer remained basically a cult artist, Cale's songs were popularized by other musicians, including Lynryrd Skynyrd ("Call Me the Breeze"), Eric Clapton (who also covered "Cocaine"), Santana ("The Sensitive Kind"), and Deep Purple ("Magnolia"). In 1979 Cale jumped to MCA, who released 1981's *Shades*, then moved to Mercury, where he released two low-profile LPs. During the 1980s Cale went on hiatus, returning in 1990 with *Travelog*. In 1994 Cale signed to Virgin, releasing his most recent album, *Guitar Man*, in 1996. Cale remains a "songwriter's songwriter" and underground guitar hero.