Dawn And Sunset “Move In The Room” b/w Soft Touch “Plenty Action” (BAY AREA FUNK II SAMPLER)  STREET DATE: 3/07/2006

For Bay Area Funk II we enlisted the help of Bay Area musicologist Justin Torres to hone in on an even deeper selection than Volume I. Setting the tone is this 7” single which features two super rare tracks previously only available on ridiculously rare wax.

Side A is sure-fire DJ friendly raw-funk-jam with vocals. Almost nothing is known about Dawn and Sunset other than the band was made up of Don Thompson, Tim Jones and Virgil Rucker. They released this track on their own DT&V label for Jim Moore (Jasman records, Sugar Pie Desanto etc) who distributed the record. All the tapes, paperwork and records made in connection with the recording session were unfortunately lost in the Oakland Hills fire of 1991. Moore only remembers a tall brown skinned guy and a band who recorded at least one, possibly two, 7” singles. Otherwise the band is a mystery to anyone we’ve asked.

Side B is a minimal funk joint powered by a slick vocal, rude drums, and a nasty bass line. Recorded in 1976 at Freeway Records in Oakland, Soft Touch had a later sound than Dawn and Sunset with pre-disco electronic instrumentation. Taken from the only single released by Soft Touch, “Plenty Action” is, according to band member Vernon Roberts, “A message to the man to leave those women alone! If they don’t want it then don’t bother them.” Soft Touch were an all-vocal group made up of Vernon Roberts, William Lockett, Larry Beachamp, and Jim Brown. Early on in their career the members of Soft Touch played with the Black Panthers prior to the Lumpen becoming the Panthers main band.

The instrumental backing group was put together especially for this session by the song writer Philip Hunt. Despite delivering this killer piece of sly funk Soft Touch disbanded one year later before any more recordings were made. “Family priorities and better jobs came our way,” explains Roberts, “but we all stayed in touch.”

Soft Touch “Plenty Action” was used by a certain Bay Area producer of note...can you guess who?

Two super rare Bay Area funk tracks on one double-sided 7” single

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