



Station 3 - Faith and Family

Link Wray: “My mom, she would get out on the streets of Dunn and Benson and Raleigh and Wilmington, and you know preached to blacks who were drinkin’ and not livin’ a good life, you know, killin’ each other, knockin’ each other, gettin’ drunk. You know, low morals. And she’d preach to them and preach to poor whites. The poor white people were livin’ right outside of us. They were poor downtrodden people too, you know. Even though it was in the South where the blacks and whites didn’t mix. She was preaching to all of them.”

“I lived very close to my mom. You know, she brought me up with a very close love. “[We weren’t] mixin’ with anybody. Not mixing with the whites, not mixing with the blacks, even though we lived around them, you know? We just lived a very quiet life.”



From left to right: Doug Wray, Vernon Wray, Link Wray

Sherry Wray: “[Link’s mother] would take the children on a picnic and sing to them all day long while she picked cotton, to keep their focus on her, and as they got older they sang with her.”

Link Wray: “God zapped ‘Rumble’ into my head, you know. I’m not religious, I’m very spiritual, and that’s from my Shawnee Mommy.”

“I wasn’t a churchgoer. My mother never went to church. She went to brush meetin’s out in the fields. Me and Doug and Ray would play songs while she was preachin’ while we were kids.”

“When we recorded in our studio, [my brother] was the technician. He was a good technician, he helped me get my sounds.”

Sherry Wray: “My father, Vernon Wray, was the first of the three to get a record deal. Through that deal and the ensuing session, is how my uncle, Link Wray got to do the demo that became “Rumble.” My father’s youngest brother, Doug Wray, was their drummer. . .They started playing together as kids. There are a lot of families who were in business together, but I can’t think of a single one who is as close as mine was. It was like having three fathers. They were in the studio every spare minute, and they toured together all the time.”