

BLUESWAX

The Austin Experience

During the Phenomenon Known as South By SouthWest
Music & Media Conference & Festival

Done *BluesWax Magazine* Style

By T-Bone & Beardo

SXSW04

I briskly walked over to the Cedar Street Courtyard to once again arrive just in time to hear the first notes ringing out from the utterly amazing **Henry Butler** and his jaw-dropping piano pounding. Henry gave it all he had, as usual, giving us plenty of his special brand of funky Blues - N'awlins style.

A glance at my watch and it was time to beat feet back to the Austin Music Hall for the spectacle of Little Richard's Wild Rock 'n' Roll Show. He took a hold of the audience and didn't let go until we were all either exhausted or energized, depending on your inner constitution. They ripped into "Good Golly Miss Molly," and commenced to run the gamut of his butt-shakin' hits, along with some well-chosen covers: "Born In The U.S.A.," "Tutti Frutti," "Boney Maroney," "Lucille," "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll," "Blueberry Hill," "Jenny, Jenny," plus snippets of "Chain Of Fools," "Keep A Knockin'," and "Rip It Up." He showed his blue heart near the end with a version of "Down Home Blues."

After this tour-de-force, I decided to sit down and relax for a while with another tasty margarita at Cedar Street for **Van Hunt's** set. Here is a talented young man doing something fairly fresh with R&B and Soul.

He made way for the last act of the night – **Gary "U.S." Bonds**. The man who rocked the world in the early '60s with songs like "New Orleans," is still going mighty strong. In fact, I didn't think it was possible, but I do believe he was having more fun than even Little Richard. I know I was having a ball and judging from the other smiling faces and wigglin' bodies, everyone else was too. If you'd like a combination of Delbert McClinton, Bruce Springsteen, and Otis Redding, you just might enjoy Mr. Bonds. His sax player, in particular, was smokin' and Gary's beautiful daughter was one of the two talented backup singers. What a way to finish an incredible night of music.