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THE GOSPEL TRUTH

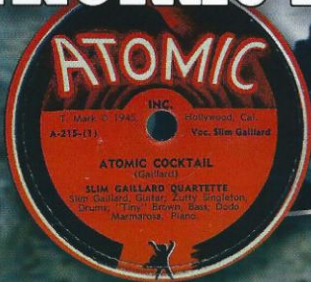
£4.50

# BLUES & RHYTHM



## The Sam Charters Story

### Atomic Boogie



### Albert King



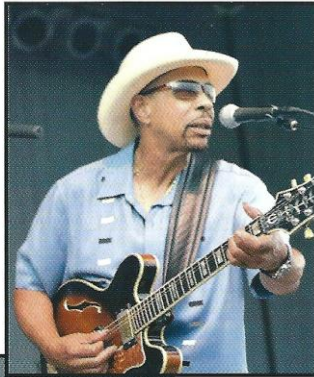
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## BLUES ON THE FOX

**Aurora, Illinois, 15th-16th June**

Aurora is considered as a far west suburb of Chicago – sixty miles from the Windy City. It was widely known as 'The City Of Lights' as it was the first in the U.S. to use electric lights for public lighting. Aurora's Leland Tower also hosted a recording studio used by producer Lester Melrose to record Sonny Boy Williamson, Big Bill Broonzy, Tampa Red, Big Joe Williams, Robert Nighthawk, Washboard Sam and Yank Rachell. Today the Paramount Theatre and the Hollywood Casino sponsor the annual Blues On The Fox Festival.

This year the Friday show featured just Shane Dwight and Kenny Wayne Shepherd. The Saturday programme was much more meaty with Shemekia Copeland, still buzzing from a great Chicago Blues Festival show. She entertained the large audience with songs from her latest



Top: John Primer, above: Shemekia Copeland, Aurora, Illinois. 15th June. Photo: Robert Sacre.

album. Shemekia was followed by the Lee Boys, a sacred steel gospel group led by Glenn Lee on pedal-steel guitar and featuring the passionate singing of Glenn's older brother, Keith.

The 'Chicago Blues: A Living History' all star package took the stage starting with

an intro by the backing band of Johnny Iguana on piano; Billy Flynn and Carlos Johnson on guitars, and Kenny Smith on drums before welcoming Billy Boy Arnold who delivered 'I Wish You Would' and Sonny Boy's 'My Little Machine' and many more.

Billy was followed by John Primer on a fine Chicago blues set and then Billy Branch played 'Yonder's Wall' and 'Mellow Down Easy'. Lurrie Bell entertained the crowd with 'Stockyard Blues' and last but not least, Carlos Johnson also played to an enthusiastic audience.

The Neville Brothers brought New Orleans sounds to the show and Art, Charles and Cyril did their best with their funky rhythms and second line sounds. It was just a pity that fifteen minutes before the end of the show, showers of rain came down as part of a forecast tornado!

**Robert Sacre**



**CHICAGO GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL:** This four-day event was held between 21st and 24th June at different venues – with the opening night at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in the Millennium Park featuring J.C. Brooks and The Uptown Sound who provided shock treatment to the audience with a mix of funk, r&b, rap and soul. On 22nd June the festival site was the Chicago Cultural Centre on Randolph Street with Valencia Lacy and Unquenchable Worshipper; Caryn Holmes and Light of Love who sang contemporary gospel and Ron Barrett a relative of the Barrett Sisters gave a good recital of gospel standards. On 23rd and 24th June the festival moved to Bronzeville, in Ellis Park, the home of Thomas A. Dorsey and black Chicago gospel music. The highlight was The J.C. Singers (above), who performed a traditional gospel repertoire delivered with fire and devotion – they were by far the best group of the festival. Report and photo by Robert Sacre.