Juke Boy Bonner – Things Ain't Right (1970)

A1 Let's Boogie On A2 Talkin' About Lightnin' A3 Well, Well A4 Mr. Downchild A5 B. U. Blues A6 Regent Sound A7 Things Ain't Right B1 Belfast Blues B2 Trying To Call Home B3 Mojo Hand B4 Texas Turnpike B5 Sun's Going Down B6 Where I Live B7 Travellin' Shoes Juke Boy Bonner - guitars, harmonica, vocals + Bruce Langsman – guitar Ron Skinner – bass Melvin Wright – drums Bonner – electric guitar, harmonica John Lewis - piano

One-man bands weren't too common on the postwar blues scene. Joe Hill Louis and Dr. Ross come to mind as greats who plied their trade all by their lonesome -- and so did Juke Boy Bonner, a Texan whose talent never really earned him much in the way of tangible reward. Born into impoverished circumstances in the Lone Star State during the Depression, Weldon Bonner took up the guitar in his teens. He caught a break in 1947 in Houston, winning a talent contest that led to a spot on a local radio outlet. He journeyed to Oakland in 1956, cutting his debut single for Bob Geddins' Irma imprint ("Rock with Me Baby"/"Well Baby") with Lafayette "Thing" Thomas supplying the lead guitar. Goldband Records boss Eddie Shuler was next to take a chance in 1960; Bonner recorded for him in Lake Charles, LA, with Katie Webster on piano, but once again, nothing happened career-wise. Troubled by stomach problems during the '60s, Bonner utilized his hospital downtime to write poems that he later turned into songs. He cut his best work during the late '60s for Arhoolie Records, accompanying himself on both guitar and racked harmonica as he wove extremely personal tales of his rough life in Houston. A few European tours ensued, but they didn't really lead to much. Toward the end of his life, he toiled in a chicken processing plant to make ends meet. Bonner died of cirrhosis of the liver in 1978. ---Bill Dahl, allmusic.com

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