



R. HORSE QUIT

Anyone who has seen them in action over the past six months wouldn't say that they were flogging a dead horse . . . or even dare to suggest that they should be put out to pasture. In fact Rockinghorse have reached a musical peak, which is ironical since they have decided to call it a day.

R. Horse are one of the most successful, and longest established rock bands in New Zealand. They formed five years ago with ex-Formyula singer Carl Evenson and the only founder members remaining are keyboardist Wayne Mason and bass player Clinton Brown. Guitarist Kevin Bayley joined 3½ years ago. They write some great songs.

Rockinghorse have had highs and lows. When Carl left, about a year ago they went down musically and in morale but with the arrival of zany singer Barry Saunders, they rose to the occasion and have been playing 100 miles an hour ever since. Only a few months ago Steve Garden joined the band as drummer and he's driven them to an even tighter, more driving sound.

Rockinghorse haven't had all the breaks that they deserve in this country. To a great extent it has been a matter of not being in the right place at the right time. They had come to a crossroad, and under the management of Danny Ryan, had reached the point where an album for overseas release was on the cards. And that involved overseas travel and promotion.

That's when some of the band dug their heels in — after five years slog up and down the country Clinton felt that the travelling life wasn't for him. And the rest of the band were adamant that they went together or not at all. So they stalled — came to an abrupt halt and fell apart.

Nobody has any immediate plans . . . Wayne will keep writing and hopes to get an album together and Steve has some gigs with Auckland band Bamboo. Clint and Danny will work on getting their club *The Last Resort* together.



Jefferson Starship — Paul Kantner, Grace Slick, Marty Balin (front), David Freiberg, John Bar-bata (rear), Peter Sears and Craig Chaquico.

GRACELESS EXIT FROM STARSHIP

It appears that Grace Slick, one of the founding members of Jefferson Starship, has quit the band.

Her decision was brought on when, at a German rock festival, Slick became seriously ill with what was at first thought to be a ruptured appendix. After examination by a doctor it was decided that Slick could perform at that day's show if she acted cautiously. But Slick refused and told Starship founder and ex-husband Paul Kantner that she didn't want to play with the band ever again.

She reportedly said: "I'm fed up with rehashing the 60s. I'm fed up with the bitchery in this band. I don't like the sound and there hasn't been any publicity for this f**king tour."

As a result, Jefferson Starship pulled out of the festival. The crowd at the Loreley Ampitheatre outside Weisbaden, who had already been promised the Atlanta Rhythm Section, only to have them not appear, rioted at the announcement of Starship's cancellation. They invaded the stage and took to the equipment with axes, while others heaped gear into a pile, poured petrol over it and set it ablaze. Others from the audience dismantled the stage and smashed lighting equipment. Jefferson Starship lost nineteen guitars and suffered damage amounting to \$200,000!

At a gig the following day in Hamburg, Grace Slick had become seriously unbalanced by alcohol. Commented bassist Pete Sears: "She shouldn't drink at all. She's an alcoholic. Just a single drop will send her over the top."

At the concert, Slick wandered around in the audience, missed many of her cues and sang from the lap of a man in the audience. It was after this show that Slick quit and flew out for the States.

Meanwhile the band who had one show left to perform at Britain's Knebworth Festival, worked at restructuring the show. Marty Balin took over some of Grace's vocal parts, while both David Freiberg and Johnny Barbatta sang lead on others. But by all accounts the show went very well, and while in Britain they assured reporters they'd be returning to Britain as soon as possible with Grace Slick to compensate for her absence at the Festival.

'War Declared' continued from page 3

L.A.-based group: Night Shift.

Enter Eric Burdon, having just disbanded his New Animals and hanging out with a Danish harmonica-player named Lee Oskar. Burdon was impressed with Night Shift. He (and Oskar) began working with them. He also changed their sound by trimming away most of the brass. He also changed their name.

Eric Burdon and War then cut a single — "Spill the Wine" — which went straight to No. 1 all over the world. They had two successful albums and toured extensively during 1970 and '71. When Burdon collapsed from exhaustion the band completed their itinerary handling all vocal duties themselves.

The split became permanent and War soon gained fame as a highly proficient street-funk/soul outfit. With their combination of smart musicianship, an often jazz-influenced beat and catchy melodies War have achieved considerable success, particularly in America where at least five of their albums have gone gold. Not quite so popular here, they are probably best known for such singles as "Slippin' into Darkness", "The Cisco Kid" and "Low Rider".

If your taste runs to soulful black funk, you will get the opportunity to make War in September.



The Eagles — Glenn Frey, Don Felder, Don Henley, Joe Walsh and Timothy B. Smith.

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ton, England. The show was open to members of the club only at a cost of \$25 a head who had the pleasure of witnessing Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Ginger Baker who were also joined by Steve Winwood . . . The Stranglers may have to perform in London under an assumed name. The Greater London Council has repeatedly blocked attempts by the band to find a venue and now promoters in the area are refusing to book them because of the expected reaction from the council . . . LA hipster, Tom Waits has finished scoring the music for and acting in Sylvester Stallone's new movie *Paradise Alley* and is now to write the text for Guy Peellart (of *Rock Dream's* fame) new book *Vegas* . . . 10cc to reform in original line-up? . . . Now for the recording news. Joni Mitchell is currently recording in New York. Nothing unusual about that but she's recording with veteran sax player Gerry Mulligan and bass player Stanley Clarke. The music they're recording has been written by jazz bassist Charles Mingus with lyrics written by Joni Mitchell . . . Yes have finished recording their new album, only mixing remains to be done. September release is likely . . . Jethro Tull's next LP likely to be a live double and Ian Anderson is on record as saying that Tull

will return to hard rock and his acoustic material will be featured on a solo album . . . Fleetwood Mac have booked 6 months in an LA recording studio to work work on the follow-up to *Rumours* . . . Ron Wood has completed the backing tracks for his new solo album which is being produced by Queen producer Roy Thomas Baker. Among those helping out Ron are Charlie Watts and Mick Fleetwood . . . Van Morrison is remixing his *Wavelength* album with producer Brooks Arthur . . . the Doobie Brothers are working on their next LP with producer Ted Templeman . . . Emerson, Lake and Palmer have completed recording in New York and are believed to be aiming for a hit single . . . The Eagles have finished the basic tracks for their album . . . Carlos Santana's working on a new solo album . . . and Mick Ronson is to reunite with Ian Hunter for an album . . . enough of this rubbish. This is where we get to the really important news. Right first . . . Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich have reformed though without Dave Dee . . . Al Green has opened the Al Green Hair Salon in Memphis . . . and finally Graham Nash and David Crosby went bowling together and silly Graham dropped a ball on Dave's foot and broke it. Shucks . . . for more news of equally vital importance to the nation, tune in next month to *Rip It Up's* Small Stuff. Remember you read it here first or second or third . . .

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