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IN JULY**

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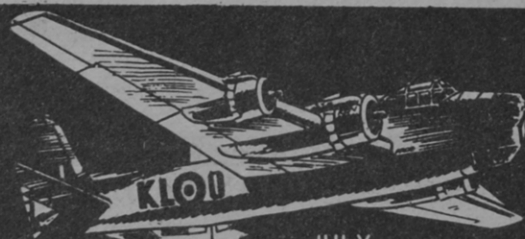
- 19 ONE GOOD REASON — The Swingers RIP 002
29 FEEL SO GOOD — The Spelling Mistakes REV 2
32 CITY SCENES — The Features REV 1

The above three NZ singles were all recorded at Mascot Studios. Wreckless Eric was recorded live at Mainstreet, also by Mascot.

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6-9 SANDOWN PARK, GISBORNE
14-16 WILLY'S WINE BAR, WELLINGTON

AIRSTRIKE

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By mid last year, though a top live act, Jo Jo Zep and the Falcons had two hit-less albums behind them and ahead of them, a few more laps around the Aussie pub circuit. But the sessions that produced *Screaming Targets*, their first album for Mushroom Records, changed the situation. The album was a major chart success in Australia, as were the recording's two singles — "Hit and Run" and "Shape I'm In".

The final stop for the Falcons, on a four week world tour to promote *Screaming Targets*, is Auckland's Mainstreet, August 4. Earlier stops include Montreux Festival, London's The Venue, Amsterdam and major USA cities.

When Elvis Costello played Sweetwaters, one of the covers he performed was "So Young", a Zep and Fs' song from pre-Mushroom days. (The song is available in NZ on a collection of early material entitled, *Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons* (on Rockburgh Records) and on the flip of the new single, there's a re-recording of "So Young" with producer Pete Solley). Though Costello has recorded the song, first to release a cover of the song is Scotland's own, Frankie "Darlin'" Miller.

The band were going to open for Costello on a 30 day UK tour but Elvis cancelled his tour, and when *Rip It Up* spoke to Falcon's frontman, Joe Camilleri, they had been back on Aussie roads for two days after several months off the circuit. Their new album *Hats Off Step Lively* was completed and Joe had been producing the Dots — label mates fronted by Paul Kelly, writer of "Only The Lonely Hearted" on *Screaming Targets* — and recording 45s for his own record label, Mighty Records.

Rather than talking about the band, their albums or the imminent NZ concert, the singer/saxist was more interested in chatting about six fresh-from-the-factory, pic sleeved Mighty singles.

About Mighty Joe explains, "It's for my entertainment that's what my management keeps saying. After being a record collector and record buyer, to have your own little label is like a dream come true."

Camilleri was producer on all six singles and recording took place at Melbourne's Armstrongs Studio, where LRB and Split Enz record. (Sometimes using two tracks, sometimes all 24, depending on the artist.) Joe also did the pic sleeve concepts, found the money (\$12,000) and chose to 'market' six at once, to gain impact.

Joe is into handshake deals: "I definitely don't want the label restricted by having an act under its belt. There's a lot of majors and independents miss cos they're trying to build up a label."

The first six Mighty 45s feature the Honeydrippers (soul band named after Zep stage fav), Joey Vincent, Gary Young (some

rockabilly from the Falcon's drummer), the Creatures, Gulliver Smith and Highrise Hilton and the Skyscrapers. What's next?

"I'm releasing 12 artists on six records. We've already recorded three."

Leaving Joe's hobby behind, it was time to talk about the band's recordings, in particular *Screaming Targets*, an album they recorded a year ago with ex-Stiff producer Peter Solley.

Was the album a breakthrough?
"Yeah, when you're selling 5,000 and all of a sudden you sell 30,000 in 10 weeks — it's another stumble forward."

Was it a turning point for the band musically?
"Not really. It's something that just hit with the audience. The early recordings never made it with the public."

"But it was a lot harder then. There was no Australian music getting airplay. Before the album we'd only had a large audience live."

"We'd been playing the music for a while before recording the album, so the change had already happened in the music."

Was producer Solley important?
"Yeah, of course he was — he did a great job. But we had a lot of arguments. I'm more ethnic, down to earth, where as he says, it has to be done certain ways."

Always a black music fan, Camilleri used to 'dig' the soul greats. The Falcons still close with Otis Redding's "Security".

"I love Otis Redding and Wilson Pickett recordings. It must have been great to see those bands."

Now, Camilleri is more interested in Jamaican music. In the last two years he has collected 200 or so albums and when he speaks of their London visit he adds:

"I've only got two days to see as many reggae bands as possible. I'm knocked out that I've got the opportunity to go and play. It's every Australian's dream to play in the UK or the United States."

Like R&B in the sixties, Falcons music is a musical pile-up. One fine band hits crazy soul fan/singer, collides with reggae and comes out of the intersection in fine shape.

Their sound is unique, yet the influences are apparent. In that strange white/black area of music termed R&B, this band leads the way, leaving contenders like Southside Johnny or sixties R&B revival bands, far behind.

Live, Joe Camilleri's fan-like love of music makes an evening an experience. They've got great material of their own, even Elvis plays it — yet on stage, Joe says:

"This is for Michael Roberts (Falcon's manager), he thinks this is the pits — I think it's the greatest!"

"Route 66".
Don't miss them live, the band contributes as much as Joe does — so it's quite a team.

Murray Cammick

Rory Live Soon

Gaelic guitar hero, Rory Gallagher, dropped into New Zealand late last month for a short tour and some cheap shirts. We took the chance to catch up on the latest news.

Recently, Gallagher toured the US with Jefferson Starship. Rumours are a flare-up between Gallagher and Paul Kantner. Gallagher explains, "Well, it was basically non-violent. It was a slow build-up. We were guests on their tour, and the contract stated we were allowed about fifteen feet of stage to put our equipment on. Bit by bit, they took it back, and then they wouldn't let us use the monitors and it just got worse and worse. It ended with me punching him. It was the first time I'd ever done anything like that. I think they were surprised at how well we were going down, and it upset them. They sacked us from the tour after that."

Prior to Gallagher's New Zealand tour, he toured Ireland, France, and did a couple of nights at the Lyceum in London. From these, and other shows, he intends to produce a new live album about September. Rather than being lazy, he says, and use material from just one or two shows, they want to pick the best performances available, so they have recorded virtually every gig all year. The band does have some material for a new studio album, but the live one is taking priority. They may go back to the studio around December.

Rory Gallagher has no plans to stop touring. "I like going to different countries too much to stop now," he says, "but maybe in a few years' time, I could see myself spending six months or so on other people's albums. At the moment I look forward to touring."

Mark Phillips

STREET TALK

July, Auckland
Gluepot
Thu 17 - Sat 19
Windsor Castle
Wed 23 - Sat 26