

## Quest for the Crown of Trent Chapter Seven

# The history of Valton revealed



By MIKE MACKINNON

(Summary: Jar has met the wizard Drak and discovered that he is responsible for all the events that have happened in the last few days. The overall design was for Jar to find the Realm of Drak and help with the wizards' escape.)

Jar and Drak had spent the morning, as far as Jar could tell in this timeless land, preparing for the escape. Drak had mixed numerous potions and placed them in front of a wall of shimmering light. Jar had assumed that this was the wall of the realm.

Jar was not certain of his

role in the upcoming escape. As far as he could see the wizard had everything in control. At this moment Drak was standing in front of the wall just behind the decanters of potion. He was muttering some chant in a tongue that Jar could not understand. As he watched, Jar could suddenly feel his strength being drawn from his body. He now understood what he was being used for. He was the extra strength that Drak would need for his feat. The light grew intense, then suddenly disappeared. Jar and Drak were standing back on the Hain Plain.

Althar and Tran stared at Jar and the newcomer. One minute they had been fighting in a blinding rain storm - the next they were standing in a plain littered with burnt carcasses while they stared at a wizard. It was not difficult to recognize the new man as a wizard for he was dressed as most wizards were.

Jar quickly explained the situation to his two companions. Althar was quick to welcome the stranger into their midst but Tran could be heard grumbling something about not trusting the wizard clan as a whole. Jar shrugged it off and put it down to the general suspiciousness of the dwarf race.

Jar suggested that they all mount up and get started. He wanted to make up for the valuable time they had lost. Drak had no horse and it would be impossible for him to walk, so he rode behind Jar. As they rode he related the tale of his battle with Valton.

"About three thousand years ago the races on the continent of Hain were more scattered and fewer in number. Of the four races only the wizards made contact with the others. This was unfortunate because it allowed one wizard, Valton, to set man against the elves and dwarves. Alone, there was no one who could destroy this evil wizard. However, some of the wizards were able to discover that he was the one responsible for the Three Race War. The discovery unfortunately came too late and many of the men were killed.

The clan of wizards joined forces and attempted to destroy Valton. His strength was too great and they had to settle for banishing him from the continent of Hain to Nymn, then a barren land. During the next one thousand years the race of man grew and became friendly with the elves and dwarves. A government system was set up from which the present system grew. The continent flourished and times were good for everyone.

Then Valton returned. How, no one knows. By that time many of the wizards that had fought him earlier were dead. Those that still survived were too old to care. I remembered what he had done though and attempted to get him banished again. It was useless. So in desperation, I challenged him and fought him at his castle in the Badlands. As you know, I lost and was locked in the dimension that you found me in by Valton.

Shortly after my defeat Valton dropped out of sight. Then strange things started happening. Groups of elves or dwarves would be slaughtered for no apparent reason. A few small wars broke out but nothing major enough to allow Valton to show his hand."

Jar thought about what Drak had just said. "Why would Valton do all of this?" he asked.

"Revenge and power." Drak answered. "Revenge; because of his banishment to Nymn. Power; because of his lust for it."

"Why is it that we have not heard of this before?"

"The only record of the events was kept by me. After defeating me Valton destroyed my castle and all of my records. That is what was so painful about my imprisonment, watching the activity of the world and not being able to do anything. I was a helpless spectator while Valton twisted the lives of others."

Jar was taken back with the vehemence of Drak. Only once before had he heard someone speak with such anger and hurt. That was when the present ruler of Hain had discovered the loss of the Crown of Trent.

The connection between Valton and the theft of the crown seemed more than a little suspicious to Jar. He did not trust Drak. For one thing there was his manipulation of events to bring Jar to him. That spoke of power greater than the wizard was letting on. Another suspicious event was the loss of Drak's records. It was more than just convenient that Valton ruined them. Now there was no way of checking up on Drak's story.

Jar decided to trust the wizard as little as possible and vowed to get to the bottom of his tale as soon as an opportunity presented itself. There was more to Drak than he was revealing.

(continued next issue)

## Mason Chapman band release first album

The Mason Chapman Band - the "all keyboard" quartet - from Halifax, Nova Scotia, known for its varied repertoire and four-part harmonies, has released its first album on M.C. Records, "The Mason Chapman Band."

The album of ten original compositions, written mostly by keyboard players Doris Mason and Bruce Chapman, was recorded for Radio Canada International the shortwave service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for use on its international and domestic broadcasts.

Halifax musician Skip Beckwith and CBC Radio producer Glen Meisner teamed

with Solar Audio in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, to produce the ten tracks before taking them to Son Soleil Studio, Montreal, for final mixing and where string arrangements were added by members of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

A single from the album "Still Want You" written by Bruce Chapman featuring Doris Mason on vocals has been selected for release to radio stations.

Together for almost four years, playing the Atlantic region exclusively, the Mason Chapman Band has developed a sound that relies heavily on the voices of three lead singers Mason, drummer David Skin-

ner and bassist Roger Arsenault and on the music from seven keyboard instruments which include electric piano, Fender Rhodes piano, clavinet, organ and three synthesizers.

The variety and range of keyboards and voices allows the band access to all styles of music, from today's contemporary pop sounds, to rhythm and blues classics to the occasional hit from the 1940's swing era. The wide variety of music presented by Mason Chapman accounts for its label of "unique and different" among today's crop of lounge acts.

Besides an extensive and growing repertoire of original

tunes, the Mason Chapman Band brings its 'unique' touch to the compositions of today's hottest pop music performers including Mike Oldfield, Steely Dan, Stevie Wonder, Devo and Robert Palmer.

On stage the band is proud of the fact that the spotlight never rests, moving from one vocalist to the next, from one keyboard to another allowing for a more dynamic show, giving a freshness to each set and providing both musical and visual variety to their audience.

Mason Chapman Band has played all the major clubs and lounges in the Atlantic provinces and has recorded

material for CBC radio programs "The Entertainers" and Music Maritimes. They have played during the annual Halifax Natal Day 'Concert on the Hill' and have a selection "Just One Bullet" - included on the record "Eastern Alliance," a compilation album of Nova Scotia rock groups.

With release of "The Mason Chapman Band" and "Still Want You" the group hopes to broaden its appeal with appearances in Ontario and Western Canada as well as strengthen its position as one of the top musical attractions on the east coast.