

Tom Lavin talking

The following is an interview conducted at the Misty Moon on Tuesday night by Walter Speirs and Rob Cohn. The subject of the interview is Tom Lavin, spiritual leader of the Powder Blues band. Our thanks must be expressed to Les, the road manager, Cathy our editor for her support and Lynn for her assistance in preparing this interview. Of course our thanks and well wishes must be extended to Tom and the rest of the band who are in town until Sunday night.

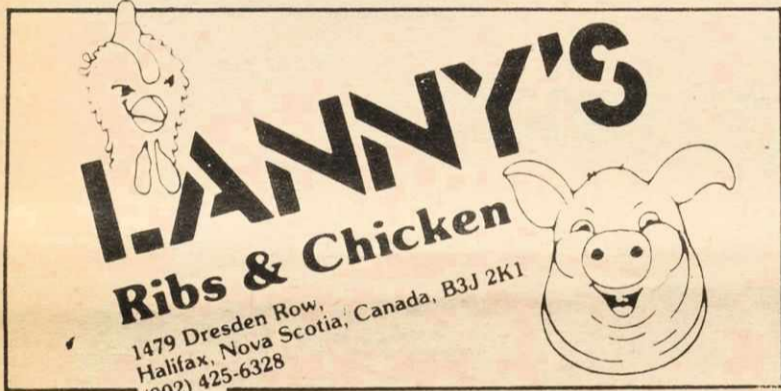
T.L.: O.K., where do we start?
Gaz.: Let's start with the tour.
T.L.: We took the month of May and part of the month of June to record the album, which was **Thirsty Ears**, for Capitol Records, and delivered it early June. It was released in Canada July 17th, so we were on the road already for a month before that. So, we've been on the road for four and a half months right now.

Gaz.: The LP has been released in the U.S. Did that coincide with the Canadian release?
T.L.: No, they released it five weeks later in the States to let it do something in Canada first. I should mention at this point that the first album on RCA Records, **Powder Blues Uncut**, to date has done about 230,000 copies in Canada alone. It has taken a year and a half to do that; it was on the charts a long time. This album has been out now eight and a half weeks and it's already done 175,000, so it's selling at twice the rate of the first album. So it hasn't made us rich, but it has made us hopeful that there is a continuing career for the Powder Blues.
Gaz.: How long has the band been together in it's present form?
T.L.: Well, we played our first gig under the banner Powder Blues in June 1978, in January, so I mean it is a little over three years.
Gaz.: At that time was it con-

sidered to be a lasting project?
T.L.: I've had the idea for this format of a band since '63. So, it's been eighteen years that I've been thinking about this kind of band.
Gaz.: Why did it happen when it did, in comparison to the other fifteen years in between?
T.L.: There's a number of factors involved. I think primarily I couldn't find the players that were capable of blues, or if they were capable of playing the blues, they weren't interested in playing the blues, or blues-oriented music. And this is the first band chemistry that's really happened for me.
The newest member of the band is Bill Runge and he's been with the band a year already. The second newest member is Duris Maxwell and

he's been with the band two and a half years. And everyone else has been with the band since the beginning, pretty well. Mark joined at the time of recording the first album, which was November '71.
Gaz.: Tell us about the first album.
T.L.: RCA did a lovely job with the first album, but they couldn't get us a release in the States.
Gaz.: Why not?
T.L.: At the time, RCA in the U.S. was going through an executive dictatorship change. One guy was going out and they didn't know who was coming in, and no one was in a position of authority to make decisions in terms of purse strings, so they passed on us, which was probably one of the bigger mistakes that they've made in recent years. But


that's alright, we did change labels. It's a shame that we had to leave RCA in Canada, because a lot of people who worked on the label were friends of ours.
They worked very hard on making the Powder Blues the success that it is today, whatever level of success that you deem that to be. It is a certain sense of success, especially considering for example, when Powder Blues Uncut was recorded, we went to CBS and they have a director of marketing research who is paid about one hundred grand a year to be real smart. He listened to the record, we put it in the computer and a week later they came up with the statement this album will sell approximately 5000 copies nationwide. It's sold 230,000 now, of course, so he was out



LANNY'S
Rib & Chicken
1479 Dresden Row,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3J 2K1
(902) 425-6328

GINGER'S
INVITES YOU TO COME ON DOWN FOR

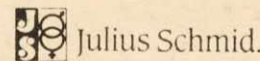
MUSIC, MERRIMENT, GREAT FOOD AND BEER



(Hollis at Morris)
Sat. Afternoon and Mon. Night:
"CAPER"
Tuesday Night:
OPEN MIKE

Better safe than sorry.

If you conceive an unwanted child, it's too late to be sorry.
If you contract venereal disease, it's too late to be sorry.
If you develop side effects as a result of using another form of birth control, it's too late to be sorry.
Use electronically tested quality condoms manufactured by Julius Schmid.
Be safe, instead of sorry.



Products you can depend on - products for people who really care.

