

Quest for the Crown of Trent

Chapter Four

The Amulet of Drak



By MIKE MACKINNON
Brunswickan Staff
(Summary: Jar Farnel has returned from the tree of time and discovers that his leg has indeed been healed)

The three companions were once again sitting by the fire with the Shaman. Jar had just finished recounting his experience on the time branch. Throughout the narration the Shaman had been silent and brooding. He spoke when Jar was finished.

"Jar," he began, "I know of your quest. I also know that ahead lies many perils, some that may test the strength of you and your companions greatly."

"How do you know all this?" Jar asked.

The healer shook his head as he replied. "You forget that I can travel the branches of time. I have seen what your future can hold."

"Then you know whether we will be successful on our quest." Althar said hopefully.

Once again the Shaman shook his head. "I did not walk that far along the branch. What I saw terrified me so I was reluctant to go any further." The three companions looked at each other uncomfortably. What had terrified

him, Jar wondered.

The Shaman continued. "I have prepared something that may help you with your quest... This!" He handed Jar a medallion-like amulet. Jar turned it over in his hands and discovered that both sides were completely flat yet when he looked into its face, it appeared to be concave. The face had the head of a grinning demon set inside a circle, the five points of a star going out beyond the circle's edge. Jar found it nearly impossible to look away from the eyes of the demon but with much effort was able to.

Jar discovered that he had fallen into a trance and that the Shaman had been speaking all along.

"I see you have already discovered some of the power of the amulet," the healer said softly. "Beware Jar Farnel. There is much power contained within that device and it must be used with care. You can only use it when evil is present. Should you use it in the absence of evil you and your companions will be the target of its power. You already feel a desire to use the amulet, but do not give in to it. No matter how strong the desire becomes you must listen to and heed my

warning. When evil is present the desire to use it will reverse itself. That is when you will know that it is safe to use.

One last bit of advice. The amulet can be used only once—so use it wisely! I suggest that you try to get along without using it for as long as possible."

Jar looked uncertain. "What if I can't fight the desire to use the amulet?" he asked.

"I have confidence in your willpower," the Shaman said gravely. "All you have to remember is to use the amulet when the desire to do so is absent. You have two strong companions with you, they will help you fight the desire."

A leather cord ran through an eye at the top of the amulet. Jar placed the cord over his head about his neck. The amulet hung down into his tunic. Almost immediately he felt a desire to fondle it. His battle over the power of the amulet had begun.

Jar thanked the healer for his help, then mounted his horse. Tran and Aither did likewise. They rode across the plain towards the Haln Forest, their minds filled with misgivings about the future. As they rode, Jar heard one final shout from the Shaman: "Beware the power of the Amulet!"

Nighthawk: a new sound for Fredericton

By MIKE MACKINNON

Frederictonians are about to experience something new—the Night Hawks. The Night Hawks are a four piece band brought to town through the combined efforts of Malcolm DeWolfe, of A Minor Music Co and Assoc., Rick Bastedo, of Magic Forest Music Store, Rick Cuthbertson of the Social Club and CHSR (promotions). The goal of these people is to lure bands other than those that appear in the local pubs. The quality of these bands will be better as many of them will have played at the Misty Moon, the El Macombo or other such clubs. Many of them will be unknowns.

This is a subsidized effort so the chances of seeing bands of the calibre of Night Hawk at one of the local pubs is very small. It is hoped, by the people involved, that a reasonably strong support of Night Hawk will open up the way for other acts such as George Thoroughgood, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters and Captain B. Fart. All of these groups are on the same management.

The band Night Hawk, as mentioned before, is a four piece band and consists of a lead guitarist, a bass player, a drummer and a harpist. Not the average personnel of a band. Jim Thackery, guitarist, was the runner up guitarist of the year in Guitar Magazine last year. His guitar playing is comparable to George Thoroughgood concerning energy and speed.

The harpist, Mark Wenner plays cleanly and unique and produces sounds similar to

those of a saxophone or horn. Vocals are by Thackery and Wenner.

The Night Hawks are a favorite group of George Thoroughgood. One interesting story is the time Night Hawk and Thoroughgood were playing in two pubs opposite each other on the same street. At a prearranged time both bands went into a guitar break. Thoroughgood and Thackery strode out into the street and dualed with guitars, much to the amazement and

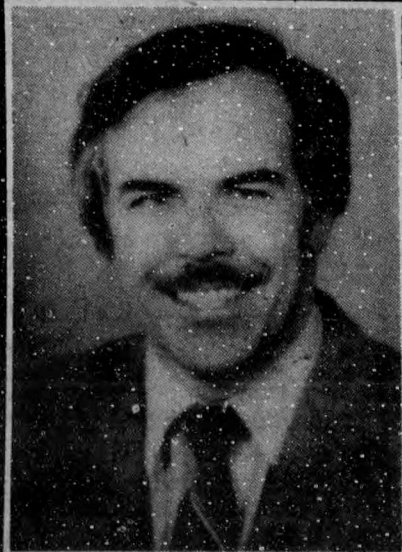
annoyance of those driving. After the dual they strode back into the pubs, and played with the other's band.

Night Hawk has performed with B.B. King, Muddy Waters, South Side Johnny and Greg Almand. It was once thought that Almand would join the band.

The group performs live with a great deal of respect for their audience. No screaming obscenities, no mindless garbage, just straight ahead blues

and rock n' roll. Their latest album, "Ten Years Live," is just the group on stage; no tapes, no overdubs.

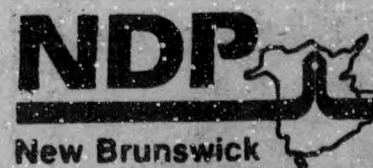
One review, that sums up the bands style, was in Playboy. It was that Night Hawk plays blues and rock n' roll like a motorcycle gang in heat. They are reputed to be the strongest white blues band in America.



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