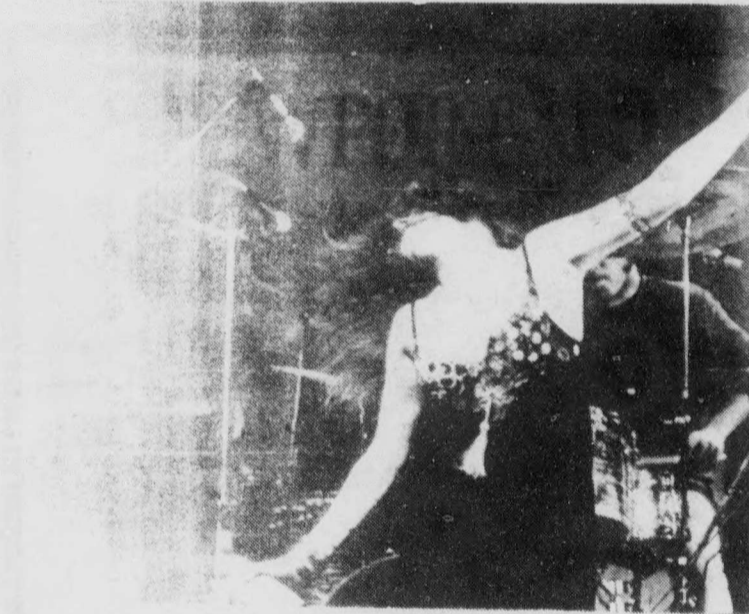




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WOODSTOCK — THE GREATEST EVENT IN ROCK AND ROLL HISTORY

BY Marc Pepin

Rock'n roll is now twenty-four years old if anybody ever wanted to know. This raunchy aggressive grating noise, as most of our peers would call it, has become one of the biggest industries in the world. It has made more millionaires than any other profession except for, of course, Hollywood. Rock'n Roll has been spit upon, scorned at kicked at, but yet the beat just keeps going on and on. Its music for the young at heart and those that can hear 120 decibals pounding on their eardrums. Let's take a look at how rock'n roll has progressed.

It all started with Alan Freed, a Detroit DJ who promoted rock'n roll as well as the movie 'Blackboard Jungle' which featured Bill Haley and the Comets and their smash song 'Rock Around the Clock'. Suddenly rock stars were invented and there was Chuck Berry dockwalking to 'Johnny B. Goode', Jerry Lee Lewis crawling all over to the piano playing 'Whole Lotta Shakin Goin On', Carl Perkins fruging out 'Blue Sued Shoes' and Little Richard belting out 'Long Tall Sally! there were of course, other acts that did very well in the 50's including the Platters, the Everly Brothers, and Dion to name a few. Then came Elvis and America had a new superstar.

Elvis started out very popular and had a style that would make grannies turn red. He showed us how to captre an audience and no one touched him until the Beatles. He dominated radio play with songs like 'Jailhouse rock', 'don't be cruel', 'All shook Up', and 'Hound dog'. However the 50's ended, grese was still in but Elvis started doing films and switched to slower music. In came Phil Spector who showed us that there was more to rock than ready set go!

Phil Spector is one of those few geniuses who came along at the right time. He became a millionaire before he reached twenty. He is still considered rock's best producer and during the early sixties produced some fine records with the Shirelles as well as a whole string of other groups. He used symphones as well as multiple trackings and emphasized the singer's on groups' best qualities. Just listen to the original version og 'Du Doo Ron Run! He had this habit of producing hit after hit.

Rock'n Roll was basically the same three chord pattern changes; with songwriters behind a desk

writing songs for the singers before the Beatles came. The Beatles changed everything. They brought in the concept of group rock and grese was now out long hair was in. The Beatles even wrote their songs and dominated the sixties. Along with the British boom in music came groups like the Who, Yardbirds, Dave Clark Five, and the Rolling Stones who were high on charts in '65. Bob Dylan and Simon and Garfunkle came along too and showed as that there's more to lyrics than words. The Beach Boys showed us how to harmonize and everyone, was doing th twist.

The n came 1967 and rock became acid rock. The Beatles released Sgt. Pepper, the Monterey Pop Festival occured the same year and L.S.D. was in. There were high times. The Who, Jimi Hendrix, Cream, the Byrds and the Moody Blues showed us thair rock was now art. Lyrics and chord changes



were becoming more complicated and groups were concentrating on albums instead of the 45's. The sixties ended with the breadkup of the Beatles. Something new had to replace them.

During the early seventies groups were trying to explore new directions, hard rock was the in thing and progressive rock emerged. Groups like ELP* Yes, and Led Zepellin led the way. Alice Cooper led the way as the next big superstar in 1973 with his Billion Dollar Baby Album and his big concert tour. He showed us what theatrical rock was all about.

After Alice came everybody. There are more big artists now then there ever was and more albums being put out too. However Elton John led the way for awhile. He managed to dominate the scene from his Goodbye Yellow Brick Road Album to Rock of the Westies. He was one of rock's more elaborate



Rock 'n'

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dressers. Then a new phase of music came out --disco.

Disco started in '75 with Van McCoy's 'The Hustle' iniating the craze. People were now dancing more than they ever did. Disco clubs opened all over the world and made a mint. However the content was rather backward and definitely most boring to listen to. Groups like KC and the Sunshine Band, Ohio Players, the Jacksons, Wild Cherry, and Stevie Wonder enjoyed success with this brand of music.

Disco is now in the process of fading out and big act have once again hit the scene. Peter Frampton enjoyed phenomenal success with his 'Frampton Comes Alive' LP. The Fleetwood Mac have made it very big here in the late seventies and lately so has the Bee Gees just recently. Production on albums now are more complex than even four years ago. Rock is always progressing. Sometimes it has gone back to its roots with punk rock being a pssing faze. The Sex Pistols and the Ramones lead the way here and go back to simplicity.

By 1980 it should be very different. The Beach Boys and the Stones will have played together almost twenty years. John lennon will be 40 years old, Shaun Cassidy and Leif Gareth and Andy Gibb will probably dominate th charts but something else will come along to save rock'n roll. What has made rock'n roll so lasting is its ever constant change and variety that has made it everything but boring. As someone sang in the mid 50's, 'Rock'n roll Will Never Die.'