

CHILLIWACK

Interviewed

Well, here we are once again with a Gateway Arts Pages sponsored centrespread interview. This time it's with Chilliwack and is conducted by Mr. Lawrence Wilkie. The members of Chilliwack are: Bill Henderson, on guitar, bass, piano and vocals; Claire Lawrence, on flute, bass, organ, saxophone and vocals; and Ross Turney, on percussion.

Wilkie: How were the Collectors formed?

Henderson: Ross had a job.

Turney: I was working in a blues club that had strippers and I was with a band. The band and the leader split and I stayed around...so I started hiring people.

Wilkie: So you in fact formed the Collectors yourself.

Turney: Well, if you could call it that. You know one person doesn't form a band. Five of us did.

Wilkie: Did you start writing your own stuff right away?

Henderson: Yea, as soon as we were in the same group together material started being written.

Turney: Some of the titles of groups at that time were very interesting...Incredible Unanimal, Beautiful Soup

Lawrence: Another was Killer, Big Fat Jessie

Turney: Beautiful Soup was 5/4 time...just incredible.

Wilkie: Do you anticipate any future changes such as members being added?

Lawrence: I hope not. It would be nice to stay with this configuration here.

Turney: A three man group has a lot of advantages. It's a lot easier to work out things and get organized.

Wilkie: There are obvious disadvantages in your stage act, though.

Turney: It limits Claire somewhat. It keeps him from doing other things. He would be playing bass and I would be wanting him to be playing saxophone. I might rather have him playing guitar than bass.

Lawrence: As you can see he doesn't like my bass playing. (laughter) I practice faithfully everyday and no one appreciates it.

Turney: I don't dislike your bass playing. It's not that.

Lawrence: Actually, though, overall there are as many disadvantages as advantages...the biggest advantage being in the act of recording or producing a song...there are only three of us so you only have to get three minds thinking alike instead of perhaps four or five. If you can do that then you're off to a good start.

Wilkie: Why the switch to A & M?

Lawrence: I think it's pretty obvious now...just look at the results. We've got a gold record for Canada for the newest record (the double) a week and a half after it was released...for sales.

Wilkie: Why is the new album priced as a single?

Lawrence: That's always the way we intended it and the record company saw it the same way...we never even had to discuss it. I mean those other things on the album were things we always wanted to do but things that we didn't want people to pay an extra five bucks for. That isn't really right.

Wilkie: I've talked to people about the second non-commercial part of the new album and most of them think it detracts from the overall effect.

Henderson: Detract? How does it detract?

Wilkie: They just don't think you should have even bothered with it.

Henderson: The way we think of it is there is a bunch of things we like to do and we want people to know about it 'cause we do them on stage anyway and the things we have on the third and fourth sides we've never had on an album and

yet they're very close and dear to our hearts and everything. So we put it in an album.

Turney: There will be things that will crop up on future albums...things that will be totally divorced from say side one so what. They're different, right, so listen with different ears.

Lawrence: It seems that the people you were talking to think we're ripping them off by putting out the second album which supposedly serves no purpose. I know a lot of people who happen to like the second L.P. It would have been pretty bloody stupid to put it out by itself.

Henderson: Yea, we dig it, and know lots of other people dig it and the people that don't like the second album probably don't like the whole damn thing. If we were in a contest we'd look at the thing a whole lot differently. If we were playing football, man, before we went on stage we'd have ourselves all psyched up, and yea, we're going to kill them. Our only goal is not to have a number one record with everybody liking it. Our goal is to get a record that is as popular as possible while still satisfying our own needs, our own desires. So that's what we've done.

Wilkie: What do you think of the Canadian music scene as a whole?

Henderson: I think it's a hype. I think there is such a thing as Canadians and Canadian music but there is also the hype. It makes people think that Canadian music is very, very far out but for the most part it is very similar to American music. I don't think there's very many songs on AM what you might call have a distinctive Canadian sound. People make a little game of saying (ha ha) that's Canadian, that just sounds Canadian...but you don't really have anything that far out until you go into ethnic music or what you might say having a true Canadian sound.

Wilkie: How are you being received outside of Western Canada?

Lawrence: Very well

Henderson: In Quebec it's going really, really well. With French people...that's what's so groovy.

Turney: We're doing really well all across Canada right now.

Wilkie: How is it going in the States.

Turney: The single's (Lonesome Mary) just been released and it looks like it's going to do as well as it's done in Canada.

Wilkie: How did the other album do there?

Lawrence: Not very well. That's why we're not with London records. London records of Canada did a pretty good job but as far as London Records of the States were concerned we didn't even exist. If you found it in a catalogue you could get it but that's about the only way you can get it down there.

Wilkie: Are you, in fact, going on a European tour?

Turney: When we got into Edmonton for the last gig we heard about Chilliwack ready to embark on their European tour. We said, "Isn't that wonderful, when do we leave?"

Henderson: That's the way it is.

Lawrence: Actually the commercial said International tour but we took it as meaning Europe. We'd love to go there and I think we'd do really well.

Turney: It's inevitable, really.

Henderson: Chilliwack has never played in the States...the Collectors did but not Chilliwack. If the single does well it will open roads for us so that we may go down there and be successful.

Wilkie: How was the States' reception to the Collectors?

Lawrence: The Fillmore audience was great.

Turney: We had phenomenal success on the West Coast from Van right down to Mexico. Nothing came of it East of the Rockies because little did we know that our manger was having a running feud with Warner Brothers records which was our label at the time. Nothing happened to us. WB said no to us no matter what we were doing.

Wilkie: How did the Indian influence get into your music?

Lawrence: We have taken feelings around we have gotten from West Coast as as I incorporated it into our music. We probably before we thought of it. It probably came and it was something we just dug and started doing it. The first song we did with Seventeenth Summer. It was probably the la with that in mind too. We're not an Indian isn't our bag...but we really dig that stuff.

Wilkie: Can you think of any people that have

Henderson: Yea, it's probably a pretty long small record collection but I have a Mi Young LP which I have played over and over I guess you could say they have influenced Lennon.

Lawrence: We've just received a whole bunch from A and M records but we've been away haven't had time to play them.

Wilkie: What struck me last August on yo Procol Harum was that you tuned your guitar touched it.

Henderson: I only play violin when I re because I don't play it very well I can't rely have to play it purely on inspiration.

Lawrence: I have some bagpipes but I pro them (laughter)...

Wilkie: Is your stage act inspirations to performer is doing?

Lawrence: Sometimes. Sometimes we do on w which are very sketchy ... or skeletal...met other's inspiration or sometimes we have. C new album the arrangements are a little r although we're managing to open the up. challenge to open up something this on long. For the most part we don't play that r when we come to Edmonton the thing up some type of music. That's why we're doing : concerts have been in Edmonton.

Henderson: The place I like the best of a Pavilion. That was when we were still Col sound, it was the right size, I liked the hell. (

Lawrence: The dressing rooms were really insi

Wilkie: Why did Glen Miller leave (for a bas

Lawrence: It got to the point where I had t making the gigs. I mean physically I wasn't went down to Calgary to play and had to the hospital. We couldn't wait for him to be c a pretty shaky base to operate a tour...

Turney: He's quite well now. He's doing some rehearsing with some people and they're doin

Wilkie: Do you see any set direction for your

Turney: We go in all directions.

Lawrence: That's the reason that album is ou reason we wanted to get that much material o

Wilkie: Have you been to the studios where th released?

Henderson: We are going to record the n soon as soon as there's a break in our schedule

Turney: We'll have to record very soon sir finally have a record company that releases albums out on a regular basis.

Wilkie: Any plans for a live album?

Turney: The next one after the next one shou

Lawrence: We were planning the next one were doing this one. But we have a lot of ne to record and I don't think the ratio is yet.

Lawrence: You need the facilities a tim only two remote units in North America quality to record live so you have to get tl you have to get them for a number of night with the Cream on their last tour they t recording every gig they played.

Wilkie: Do you think Grand Funk has a musically?

Turney: They have something to offer obviously, because people are buying them in concert. A lot of people like them people like something it should be in, it Grand Funk have a right to be there a lot them.

Henderson: One thing that's a drag is the G hype. It tampers with what people really wa search for what you really want, I don't kno hell is a promo hype that doesn't help you c