

# Gary And Dave



The Canadian music field is opening up, and one of the groups that is helping it to do so are "Gary and Dave", a combination that is responsible for a number of recent hits in the field of commercial radio, both in Canada and the States, and across the water. In Australia their former number one here "Could You Ever Love Me Again", is now on their charts at the number five position.

Dave of "Gary and Dave" is Dave Beckett of Newmarket, Ontario, originally, but was raised in Toronto after ten years of age, and went to Northern Secondary High in T.O. where he met Gary Weeks in grade 7. Gary was originally from the Island, P.E.I., a little place called Fredricton. They've been together since grade 7, went to University of Western Ontario together and both graduated with their B.A.'s in Psychology.

Dave spent some of his younger days musically with the St. James Cathedral Choir, and played the piano and organ at the Royal Conservatory of Music, before quitting in high school to follow popular music styles. These he followed with Gary, and during these years they went through a number of neighborhood bands in Toronto, playing with different people, including

Bob and Danny McBride, who have also come a ways since then. In University the band thing seemed to be going nowhere, and the duo has been in existence ever since.

I had the unique opportunity of joining "Gary and Dave" on their maritime promotional tour last Tuesday, as well as their producer, Greg Hambleton. We flew to Moncton in a twin engined Aztec, with Dave doing the piloting, and Gary the co-piloting. Both are trained commercial pilots as well as musicians. It was a beautiful day to fly, and was my first opportunity to go up in a small plane, so I spent most of the flight taking in the panorama of the maritimes changing color in the fall. I did, however, manage to get in a few words with Greg Hambleton, regarding his past in production, and his affiliation with "Gary and Dave".

Greg explained that he started in recording by sweeping floors at a recording studio in T.O. He went on to form "Tuesday Records" and recorded "Ten Pound Note" by "Steel River", "Mexican Lady" by "Southbound Train", and "I Believe In Sunshine" by "Madrigal". Three years ago he formed Axe Records and recorded their first single for "Rain", "Out of My Mind". Since

then he has recorded Thundermug's "Africa", as well as albums and singles for Gary and Dave, and Jay Telfer.

We touched down in Moncton and set off for studios CKCW where we breakfasted with Doug Pond, Program Director, and discussed the new release, "I May Never See You Again", and various other aspects of the music business, college radio and its future, the way a station is formatted, C.R.T. C. etc. "Gary and Dave" then made a fifteen minute recorded interview with CKCW's Ed Leslie for their daily "Dialogue" feature. A quick flight to Charlottetown and CFCY's J.P. Gaudet had his hands full with another interview.

Gary and Dave when interviewed come on as almost a comedy team in a number of respects, usually starring Dave as the clown prince. Occasionally, though, Gary gets his licks in as well, and more than once the butt of their jokes is Greg, who takes it all as one of those things you learn to live with.

One of the things that really impressed me was the camaraderie between these three, and the down to earth human manner in which they made me feel not as a reporter tagging along for a story, but as a friend, and indeed, we did

part as such. J.P. Gaudet talked for awhile on the Canada/States controversy, and asked if they had plans to go to the States to break through in a hurry, as many Canadian groups had done in the past. The response he got was that personally Gary and Dave preferred working in Canada, and that they didn't believe it was necessary to become monster stars in order to become entertainers. Gary said that they really did not want to become huge stars that they preferred to remain as entertainers on a level at which they still had the freedom to do what they wanted. Dave elaborated, explaining that they both love to fly, and that they believe that maintaining a level between their separate careers helped them to enjoy both, and not become so immersed in either one that it became a task instead of something that they enjoyed. We were a little behind schedule following our visit to CFCY but Greg hadn't seen the Confederation Bldg. and so we dropped in there to see where Canada's future was decided in 1867 before flying on to Summerside and radio CJRW.

After a short discussion with Rodger Aaron, the music director, they did a short on air live interview with John Perry. Now having pretty well caught

up to schedule we grabbed some take out chicken (typical road food) and were driven to the airport.

On the flight back we talked about the past history of "Gary and Dave", about the concert at Osaka Expo 70, about the people they'd played with, their records, and their plans. Some of the things that came out of the discussion were a little surprising, even after a day of talking to them. They've played with the Irish Rovers, the Guess Who, Chilliwack, the Stampeders, Gene McLellan, and the Bells. Two albums to their credit, and a list of hit singles that include "Here It Comes Again", "It Might As Well Rain Until September", and "Could You Ever Love Me Again". In the future there are more albums, more singles, and more flying.

A reception at the Citadel Inn closed off the day, and Gary and Dave got some well needed relaxation before they set off in the western tour starting Oct. 15. They also have plans for a Maritime tour before the big Australian tour next year. Hopefully, they'll be able to get Dal as one of the dates. My thanks to Gary, Dave and Greg for a great day, and everything else.

by Tom Clahane