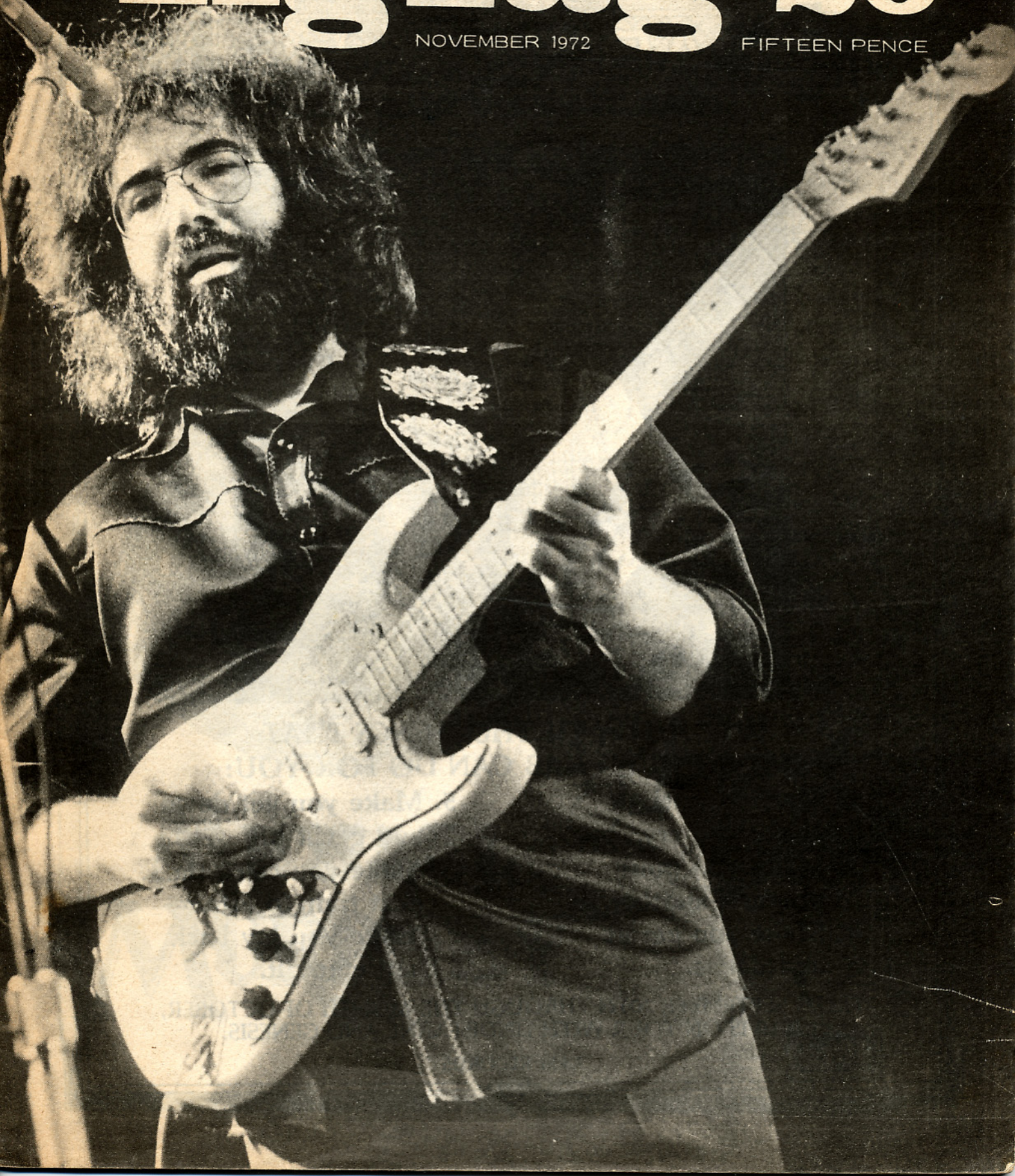


zigzag 26

NOVEMBER 1972

FIFTEEN PENCE



QUICKSILVER MESSENGER SERVICE #1

Late 1965 to Spring 1966. Started out playing clubs and coffee houses in North Beach area of San Francisco. The original group was to have included Dino Valente but he got busted and they got going in his absence. Quicksilver seems to be about the least documented of the San Franciscoan groups, but for fuller information see Zigzag #12, and Supersnazz Vol 1 No 1.



DINO VALENTE gr/vocals legendary 12 string guitars & folk singer. Giggling around, getting busted, writing songs & finally recording an album on Epic (October 1968). Decided to start a rock band.

QUICKSILVER MESSENGER SERVICE #2

March '66 - Jan 1969. One of the last SF bands to sign with a label, they signed with Capitol in 1968 - for an unprecedented advance and royalty deal. Very big concert draw during those spreading-SF-sound years.

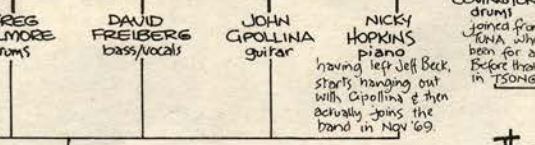


The OUTLAWS
In Jan 69, the two of them went to New York to look for a bass player, a drummer & a pianist. Within 8 months, they were back in the Bay Area... still looking. They never found the personnel they wanted, and after a year without gigs or records, they both went back to Quicksilver.

Jan 1969 - Feb 70. Album: SHADY GRAVE (Nov 1969).

QUICKSILVER MESSENGER SERVICE #3

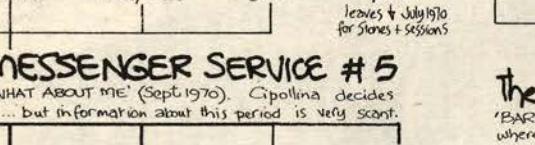
After recording 'Happy Trails' they more or less broke up, and remained in a sort of gigless limbo. After a while, Nicky Hopkins arrived and they started work on a third album.



Feb 70 to July 1970. Album: JUST FOR LOVE (September 1970).

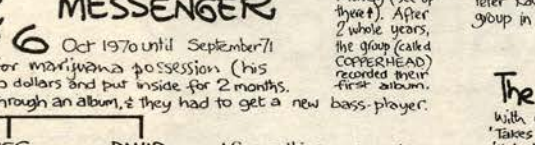
QUICKSILVER MESSENGER SERVICE #4

They got back on the road (as a sextet) and gig for a couple of months, before going to Hawaii from April to June to record their 4th and part of their 5th albums.



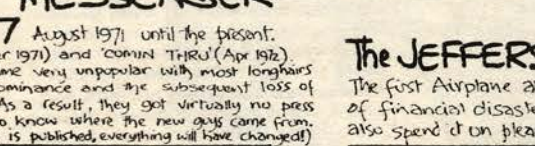
QUICKSILVER MESSENGER SERVICE #5

July 1970 - Oct 1970. Album: WHAT ABOUT ME (Sept 1970). Cipollina decides to pull out and it's back to 4... but information about this period is very scant.



QUICKSILVER MESSENGER SERVICE #6

Oct 1970 until September 71 when Freiberg was jailed for marijuana possession (his 3rd conviction). He was fined 500 dollars and put inside for 2 months. At this point they were halfway through an album, & they had to get a new bass player.



QUICKSILVER MESSENGER SERVICE #7

August 1971 until the present. Albums: QUICKSILVER (November 1971) and COMIN THRU (Apr 1972). By now, Quicksilver had become very unpopular with most longhairs because of Dino Valente's dominance and the subsequent loss of their acid-rock guitar sound. As a result, they got virtually no press publicity and no one seems to know where the new guys came from. (You can bet that by the time this is published, everything will have changed!)



The JEFFERSON AIRPLANE #1

Album: JEFFERSON AIRPLANE TAKES OFF - October 1966. One of San Francisco's first groups - only The Charlatans and the Mystery Trend pre-date them. Playing almost acoustic folk-rock at the Matrix in SF and topped the first Family Dog dance on Oct 16th 1965. Marty (who founded the group the Beatles) & Paul tried out several people before agreeing on the four.



The JEFFERSON AIRPLANE #2

The Airplane became the first San Francisco group to make the national & international big-time, with top ten hits 'Somebody to Love' and 'White Rabbit'. They even made it to Europe in August/Sept 68 to do free concerts, a Roundhouse gig and the Isle of Wight festival. For much fuller details, see Ralph Gleason's book 'THE JEFFERSON AIRPLANE & THE SAN FRANCISCO SOUND'.



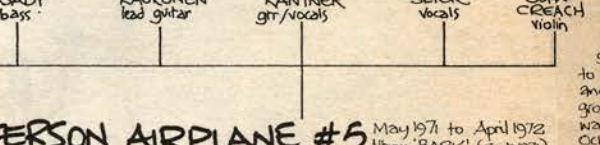
The JEFFERSON AIRPLANE #3

A lazy period, during which Jack & Jorma got the first Hot Tuna album together, & the Airplane return to England to play the Bath festival in July 1970. Kantner's his Jefferson Starship album, and Grace Slick's stomach began to swell with it.



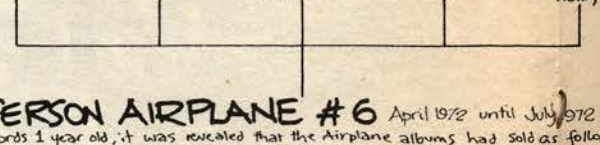
The JEFFERSON AIRPLANE #4

October 1970 until May 1971. Again, no Airplane albums released. This period saw the disengagement of Marty Balin, founder of the group, and also the Grace Slick car-crash (3.5.71)... not to mention the births of China Slick. It might be seen the odd drug bust - I don't know; Airplane drug-busts are too numerous to keep track of.



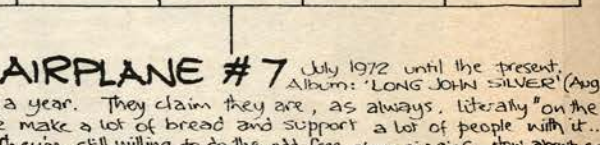
The JEFFERSON AIRPLANE #5

May 1971 to April 1972. Album: BARK (Sept 1971). 'BARK' appeared on their new Grant label, their own co-operative record company where the group & artists share the profits. Meanwhile, a second Kantner/Slick album is released, a solo Papa John album and a second (and third) Hot Tuna album. Kantner proclaims that he is now 'off cocaine' - there you go!



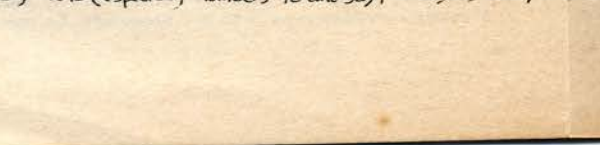
The JEFFERSON AIRPLANE #6

April 1972 until July 1972. With Grant Records 1 year old, it was revealed that the Airplane albums had sold as follows: 'Takes Off' - 300,000, 'Blow' - 1,200,000, 'Bark' - 400,000, 'Crown' - 250,000, 'Rainbow' - 350,000, 'Volunteers' - 700,000, 'Worst of' - 900,000, 'Earl' - 600,000. Everybody loves the Airplane!!!



The JEFFERSON AIRPLANE #7

July 1972 until the present. Album: LONG JOHN SILVER (August 1972). The first Airplane album for a year. They claim they are, as always, 'literally' on the edge of financial disaster... we make a lot of bread and support a lot of people with it... also spend it on pleasures. They're still willing to do the odd free open air gigs. How about you?



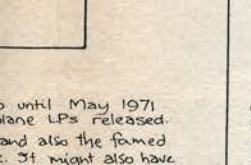
#1 August 1965 - Sept 1966
 One of San Francisco's pre-date them. Started out SF and topped the bill at the...
 founded the group after seeing...
 reing on the following line-up:



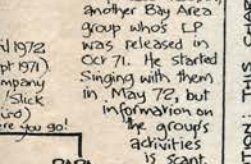
#2 September 1966 - March 1970
 Albums: 'SURREALISTIC PILLOW' (3-67), 'AFTER BATHING AT BAYTERS' (1-68), 'CROWN OF CREATION' (9-68), 'BLESS ITS POINTED LITTLE HEAD' (2-69), 'VOLUNTEERS' (10-69), 'THE WORST OF JEFFERSON AIRPLANE' (11-70)



until October 1970. Albums released... together, & which saw...
 O. Kantner started on a swell with pride.



until May 1971... LPs released... and also the famed...
 It might also have to keep track of.



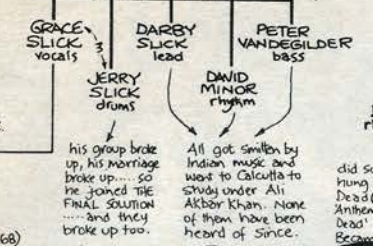
to produce GRACIA, another Bay Area group whose LP was released in Oct 71. He started singing with them in May 72, but information on the group's activities is scant.



present... 'LIVER' (August 1972)...
 'on the brink... with it... we...
 low about coming over to England then?



THE GREAT SOCIETY
 August 65 - Sept 66. Albums: 'CONSPICUOUS ONLY IN ITS ABSENCE' (March 66) and 'HOW IT WAS' (Sept 66).
 could have been a big group, but Columbia only released the albums after they split up and Grace had become famous. They split, because of diverging musical directions, in Sept 1966.



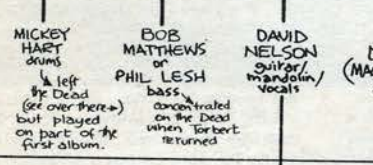
his group broke up, his marriage broke up... so he joined THE FINAL SOLUTION... and they broke up too.

All got smitten by Indian music and went to Calcutta to study under Ali Akbar Khan. None of them have been heard of since.

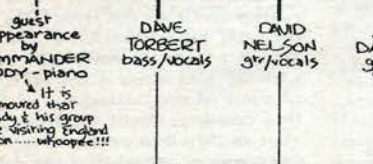
did solo gigs, but still hung around with the Dead (he's mentioned on 'Anthem', 'Workingman's Dead' & 'American Beauty'). Because even more involved in Spring 1969, when Garcia re-invested in a pedal steel guitar & got into country music again. That's when the seeds for the New Riders of the Purple Sage were set. (See below).

The name of DAVE NELSON keeps cropping up on Grateful Dead sleeves too (he's on 'Anthem', 'Workingman's Dead' & 'American Beauty'). He was in a group called the WILLOWOOD BOYS with Bob Hunter, Garcia, & Peter Albin back in 1962 & when Garcia became a juggler and then a Warlock, Nelson & Albin formed 'BIG BROTHER AND THE HOLDING CO.' He split from that to start THE NEW DELHI RIVER BAND with Dave Torbert.

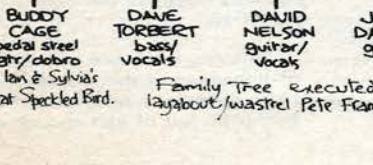
THE NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE #1
 Spring 1970 - Spring 1971. Bob Hunter & Dave Nelson named the band by 'numerological transportation' from their old name. Matthews started on bass, but it didn't work out & Lesh took over. There were always 5 members, but until Spring 1971, the personnel was very fluid.



THE NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE #2
 Spring 1971 until November 1971. Album: 'THE NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE' (Sept 71). The New Riders, still comparatively obscure, were touring with the Dead and doing the support or intermission spot. Dave Torbert returned from a long holiday in Hawaii to replace Lesh on bass, and Spencer Dryden came in as permanent drummer. Garcia continued to do 2 jobs (at least!).



THE NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE #3
 November 1971 until the present. Album: 'POWERGLIDE' June 1972. Toured Europe with the Dead in April/May 72. As they grew in stature, they were able to survive separately from the Dead & therefore got in Buddy Cage to replace the shipped out Jerry Garcia.



MOTHER M'CREE'S UPTOWN JUG CHAMPIONS
 A Palo Alto, California jug band; 1964 - 1965

This venture was an extension of their individual folk music pursuits; in 1959, Garcia was thrown out of the army, & started folkling around with Bob Hunter (later Dead lyricist). Then he did solo gigs, and eventually got into old-timey country stuff with Dave Nelson (later in NRPS). The jug band started, but got few gigs.



The jug band electrified (or Pigen's insistence), modified, & played R&B/Rock standards. JUNE 65 - FEB 66. they became

THE WARLOCKS
 The jug band electrified (or Pigen's insistence), modified, & played R&B/Rock standards. JUNE 65 - FEB 66. they became



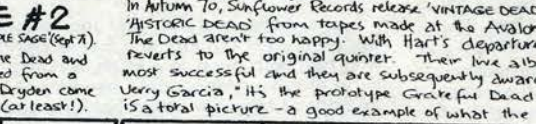
around FEB 66 & this line-up was the same until SUMMER 1967. Did the 6-nights-a-week-at-the-same-club scene as the Warlocks until they fell on with the 'Acid Set' in Nov 1965. They supplied the music at all the acid tests (Dec 65 - March 66) & then, Kesey having split to Mexico & the Merry Franks losing their axis, they moved to Owlsey, the acid maker's house in Watts, L.A., where he constructed a giant PA for them. In June 66 they moved to 710 Ashbury in the 'Haight' area of San Francisco, & shortly thereafter they signed with Warner Bros and made their first album (on speed & pot): 'THE GRATEFUL DEAD' (March 1967).

shortly after getting busted in late 1970, they moved to separate dwellings scattered around Marin County & San Francisco. They did tours, took a lease on the Carousel Ballroom in early 68 but that was a financial disaster until Bill Graham turned it into a goldmine as the Fillmore West. Big mid 69, self-confessed managerial inefficiency had steered them into a 60,000 dollar debt - growing all the time. Pigen & Weir who almost left in late 68 are now sold again, & Spivaker groups are also doing gigs: BOBBY (war) Ace & The Cards from the Bottom, MICKEY HART & the Heartbeats, & the New Riders (see left). Busted again in New Orleans early 1970, but coming out of that bad Altamont era better.

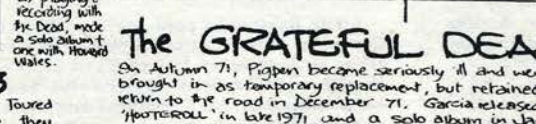
THE GRATEFUL DEAD #2
 SUMMER 67 to SPRING 70. Albums: 'ANTHEM OF THE SUN' (Aug 1968), 'AOKOMOXOA' (June 1969), 'LIVE DEAD' (Jan 1970)



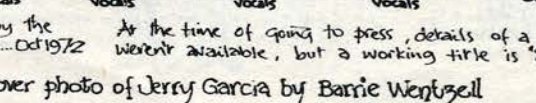
THE GRATEFUL DEAD #3
 SPRING 70 to NOV 70. Albums: 'WORKINGMAN'S DEAD' (July 70), 'AMERICAN BEAUTY' (November 1970)



THE GRATEFUL DEAD #4
 Nov 1970 until Sept 1971. In Autumn 70, Sunflower Records release 'VINTAGE DEAD', & in summer 71, 'HISTORIC DEAD' from tapes made at the Avalon & Matrix in 1966: 'THE GRATEFUL DEAD' another live double album - Sept 1971. The Dead aren't too happy. With Hart's departure, the line-up reverts to the original quintet. Their live album becomes their most successful and they are subsequently awarded a gold album: "It's us man" says Jerry Garcia, "it's the prototype Grateful Dead - basic unit. Each one of those tracks is a total picture - a good example of what the Grateful Dead really is, musically!"



THE GRATEFUL DEAD #5
 Sept 1971 until present. In Autumn 71, Pigen became seriously ill and went into hospital. Keith Godchaux was brought in as temporary replacement, but retained when Pigen recovered sufficiently to return to the road in December 71. Garcia released an album with Howard Wales called 'HOPPERCORN' in late 1971 and a solo album in January 72. Bob Weir released a solo album 'ACE' in July 1972. In April and May, they made their first extensive tour of Europe and recorded most concerts to edit for a 'live-in-Europe' album.



Family Tree executed by the layabout/wastrel Pete Flame... Oct 1972

At the time of going to press, details of a new Dead album weren't available, but a working title is 'Europe on \$5000 a day.'

cover photo of Jerry Garcia by Barrie Wentzell

Much as I might strain & try to cram a polluted (pol-head) history of the Dead onto this small area, I can only squish in so much. For a full picture, the following are invaluable:

"THE ELECTRIC COOL-AID ACID TEST" by Tom Wolfe
 Rolling Stone 40, 100 & 101
 Ziggag 13 (June/July 1970)

quit performing & became a studio engineer... and subsequently engineered & produced much Dead music. Now boss of Alembic Studios.

around FEB 66 & this line-up was the same until SUMMER 1967. Did the 6-nights-a-week-at-the-same-club scene as the Warlocks until they fell on with the 'Acid Set' in Nov 1965. They supplied the music at all the acid tests (Dec 65 - March 66) & then, Kesey having split to Mexico & the Merry Franks losing their axis, they moved to Owlsey, the acid maker's house in Watts, L.A., where he constructed a giant PA for them. In June 66 they moved to 710 Ashbury in the 'Haight' area of San Francisco, & shortly thereafter they signed with Warner Bros and made their first album (on speed & pot): 'THE GRATEFUL DEAD' (March 1967).

* they had a different bass player to begin with, but Lesh joined after a few gigs in July 1965

Albums: 'ANTHEM OF THE SUN' (Aug 1968), 'AOKOMOXOA' (June 1969), 'LIVE DEAD' (Jan 1970)

Albums: 'WORKINGMAN'S DEAD' (July 70), 'AMERICAN BEAUTY' (November 1970)

leaves to go solo & eventually makes an amazing album (10.72)

Album: 'THE GRATEFUL DEAD' another live double album - Sept 1971

played organ on 3 tracks of the live album

joined the Dead in Sept 1971

joined the Dead in Sept 1971

ZIGZAG 26/page twenty-one