

THE OFFICIAL
uriah heep
APPRECIATION SOCIETY



Issue 11

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URIAH HEEP'S OFFICIAL WORLD WIDE FAN CLUB -- ADMINISTERED BY DAVID OWEN & ALAN HARTLEY

Hi again and welcome to issue 11,

The first thing to do in this first issue of 1994 is to wish all our members a happy new year. The band report that the "Total Recall" tour of North America was absolutely brilliant and very successful on a number of counts, the audience reaction was great and it was fantastic to play to such large audiences. The tour proved to people that the band are still rocking and this surprised a lot of people in the music business from where the band received extremely positive feedback to the point where they may be looking at North America as part of their regular touring schedule. There are the usual members live reports in this issue from North America, Germany and Austria and a couple of press reviews also. What is interesting in the press reviews is that they mention Uriah Heep as being the best band on the bill and the band that a large percentage of the audience came to see. Still on the subject of North America, there's a great article in this issue from Bernie Shaw who reports on the tour from the band's point of view which gives a different and interesting perspective to life on the road.

Many of you who were at the shows will have heard Bernie announce "Words In The Distance" as being on a new album to be released in 1994. We can tell you that a recording deal is definitely on the horizon and as we go to press negotiations are taking place with a record company to thrash out the exact terms of a contract. The band plan to spend the early part of the year on live work and hope to go into the studios later in the year to record an album that could be released towards the end of this year or early next year. Mick says that by the time the next issue is due we should be able to bring you full details of a new recording contract if everything goes as he hopes. The band have been writing some new material so watch this space for all the latest news.

On the subject of live work the band are considering various offers at the moment so send in an SAE (UK members) or an International Reply Coupon (overseas members) and we'll send you details of any gigs as soon as they are confirmed. One thing we can tell you is that Trevor and a host of other music celebrities will take part in the Mick Ronson memorial concert on 29th April at the Hammersmith Apollo in London.

In the Members Letters section of the last issue we mentioned the possibility of a new Heep song book. Mick has looked over the proofs for this project and returned them

to the publishers with his comments and corrections so it seems that the book is one step closer to publication but there is no date set at the moment, more news about this when we have it.

Ken Hensley told us a while ago that he played a gig similar to the one we reported on in Austria on 13th March 1993 in issue 8. This time Ken played with Steve Lynch and Alfonso Johnson in Buenos Aires, Argentina on November 28th, 1993 in what was really another jam session. Thanks also to Raul Fernandez from Argentina who also let us know about the show. Ken's new album "From Time To Time" is now due for release on CD only sometime in April through Red Steel Music in the UK and Red Steel/Viceroy in some overseas markets. The track listing has only recently been finalised and there is a full review of the release and an exclusive interview with Ken in this issue. There is also the opportunity for you to order the CD from us using the separate order sheet in this issue. We will be able to supply it as soon as it is manufactured, the delay in the supply of "The Lansdowne Tapes" was due to delays in the manufacturing process. When we bring you reviews of these forthcoming releases the review is done before manufacture has even started, we do this to bring you the information at the earliest possible point in the project. We do not review the finished CD's so there is often a long wait for the finished article, this is totally out of our control and all we can say is that we will supply the CD's as soon as we get them from the record company and we ask you to understand that release dates often change as was the case with Lansdowne. It does help us to get your orders in advance as we can only afford to buy the amount we know we can sell so if you do want a copy please return your order as soon as possible. As we've previously reported Ken is also working on a brand new solo album. More details of this are in part 2 of his interview which will be in the next issue.

Red Steel Music are presently putting together for Castle a 25th anniversary box set of 4 CD's and a comprehensive booklet. The material will include at least 2 CD's of totally re mastered classic tracks, this does not mean re mixed, they will be in their original form but re mastered using the latest technology to sound better than ever. The remainder of the material will hopefully be previously un released and will include live concerts and studio tracks, Byron and Hensley solo tracks and tracks that have never been on CD such as "Who Need's Me" from the "Live In Europe 79" CD and even the Spice single "What About The Music" and its B side "In Love". There's even the possibility that other Spice tracks could be included. Red Steel tell us that the box set could be released this year so we'll keep you informed.

We have had to hold back the Chris Tetely Head First interview from this issue due to the amount of other material but it should be in the next issue.

Once again our thanks go out to the following people for their help and support, Mick, Lee, Bernie, Trev and Phil, Ken Hensley, Paul Newton, Rob Corich, Tina Lewis, Isabella Seefriedt, Steve Thomas, John Wiggelarr, Chris Previti, Barry Lombardo, Bill Smith, David Zimrv, Frank Hunlich and Stefan Pawlata.

Enjoy the mag,
Keep on rockin'
and we'll see you in about 3 months.

Alan & David

March 1994.

ON TOUR WITH BERNIE

TOTAL RECALL, NORTH AMERICA, 1993. AN EXCLUSIVE REPORT.

With Heep off to North America for the first time since the start of The Official Uriah Heep Appreciation Society, it seemed a great chance to get an inside view of the tour from somebody who's from that part of the world. When I first put the idea to Bernie he was all for it so he packed his Walkman cassette tape recorder and took the time and trouble to provide us with this exclusive insight of life on the road with Uriah Heep.

Alan Hartley.

Well Alan, here we go, it's Monday the 8th November 1993, we're still feeling a little jet lagged and were just coming down out of "Rogers Pass", we played last night in Kamloops, got up early this morning, hopped on our beautiful American Eagle tour bus, more about that in a minute and I'm looking out the window and I can see beautiful snow covered mountains. We've just come through a blizzard coming over the top of the pass and we're now coming down out of the foot hills towards Calgary. We've just passed the hour zone so instead of being 1.15pm it's now 2.15pm and we'll be in Calgary about 4 or 5 o'clock.

That's enough about where we are now, when we left England we got to the airport on time and everyone had their quantity of walk on luggage, ie, guitars and cymbal cases, we were only allowed one bag each because of the weight restriction. We had a great flight, kept the steward's busy bringing large quantities of alcoholic beverages to our little section, we got a bit of sleep to and woke up just coming into Vancouver. It was really nice because a couple of my cousins were waiting at the airport for us, I had no idea that they were going to be there so we had a little welcoming party which was really cool. We got in about 5 o'clock on the Thursday afternoon and it was beautiful, it was about 13 or 14 degrees, blue sky, just absolutely stunning. The hotel was only a four block walk to the gig in a area of town called Granville which is notorious for X rated places, cut price T-shirts and there was even some latex and leather boys shops. The gig was a beautiful place called "The Comodoor Ballroom", the only ballroom in Canada built before the war with a complete rubber sprung dance floor which is the biggest dance floor in western Canada. There were two tiers of seating, a balcony, a full size stage, it was a really pretty place.

After we'd checked the gig out a friend of mine that I haven't seen for about 10 or 12 years came down and took us to a place called "The Bar None" where his band was playing. His name is Mark and he's Bryan Adams guitar technician, when Bryan is just sitting on his butt in London, Mark has a really nice flat in Vancouver where he stays and his band consists of Bryan's back up band and a drummer from Bob Rock's band "Rockhead". By this time too much alcohol was flowing through my veins and I think I got dragged off to bed about 4 in the morning only to be woken up at 6 with the jet lag again. Friday was gig day and all the stuff arrived from back East which was nice and new. There wasn't much time for sound checks, as you can imagine it was all pretty

hectic. The gig wasn't sold out by the time Wishbone Ash took the stage but by the time we got on, or soon after we started our set we heard that the sold out sign had been put up for tonight's show which was pretty good because it was 28 dollars a ticket. It all seems a bit hazy now because by the time we went on at 9.15pm, if you added 8 hours it was 5 o'clock in the morning for us. We did a pretty good show but it was very very tiring at the end of it.

Saturday's show in Vancouver was sold out weeks in advance, the place was humming! it was probably the highlight of my career, I had 30 people on the guest list, I had my mum, my dad, my aunts, my uncles, my cousins, my second cousins, my friends that had come over from the island who I have known since I was 5 or 6, a guy called Don Restall, the first guy I ever had a band with, he was a drummer, he came over and we cordoned off about 4 or 5 tables for everybody and it was a very very moving gig for me, really heart wrenching, I wish we could have played longer just for them. A really good thing for them was before we came on the whole of the audience were chanting out Heep! Heep! Heep! Heep! which sounded really good and we went on and played an absolute blinder. After the show I didn't hang around backstage, I went out and was with my family most of the night, we went out for a nice Japanese meal afterwards and finally they went one way and I went the other. I was absolutely shattered, the whole band was and rumour has it that we stole the show that night which is pretty good, there haven't been too many teething problems yet but days are early.

Sunday morning we got up bright and early, 8 o'clock rise for everybody and 9 o'clock leave for the drive up to Kamloops. Sorry I can't tell you anything about it because I just climbed onto this enormous bus of ours and went right to sleep. We woke up in Kamloops which is a very small halfway town between Vancouver and Calgary, it's the last stop before you go over the Rocky Mountains. We played in a brand new arena, I don't know how many thousands were there but it was a damn good turn out. The bad thing was that although our crew were up there nice and early, the PA and lighting company which we were going to be using for the rest of the tour had not arrived yet. Rumour has it that they were stuck at customs but they turned up at 3 in the afternoon and the whole show was running hours late. We came down for a sound check at 5.45 and they were still setting up lamps, Wishbone hadn't done their sound check yet, there was a curfew of 12 midnight for the gig and things were getting very very hot under the collar. Wishbone went down OK, they only got to play about 20 minutes, we went on and did not get to play our full set, everything was chopped and it was not a gig to be remembered, we played a good gig personally but the organisation has something very very wrong with it. Even though it's the 3rd night of the tour we're treating it as 1st night jitters because of the new PA system. Hopefully by Calgary they will have it all sorted out because I don't know how the hell we will feel if it's not, I really don't want to go through a night like that again.

The weather so far, Vancouver was beautiful and sunny, we could have been wearing shorts but it was a little bit nippy at night. Kamloops, you needed your long underwear on, it was around the freezing level. Right now there's snow outside, I can't believe it, we're into long underwear and muck a luck weather. The bus we're in is a 1980 something American Eagle which is one of the big touring busses, it's decked out in solid oak panelling inside, it's super comfortable, there's a big lounge at the back

where I'm sitting with eight overhead lockers, eight individual lights, there's a skylight in the back here, a TV, video and stereo, CD player. It sleeps 12 in very nice comfortable bunks in the middle of the bus and in the front of the bus there's two settees, a table that everybody can sit around, there's another TV and CD etc, a toilet, fridge, microwave, coffee maker, you can only just hear the humm of the engine, it's beautiful, sometimes busses are so loud and echoey that you have to shout to someone across the way but not in this one. I've just got out of bed and I had no idea that we'd been through sub-zero weather so it's lovely and warm, most of our gear is underneath in the two big luggage bays which is great. The drivers name is Tom and he's a real card, he's been filling us full of one line jokes that we've never heard before. I can't really tell you anything about Calgary yet until we get there, I just know that it's going to be very cold and a friend of ours called George Norton who's having his 50th birthday today does not know that we're coming in, he thinks were staying in Kamloops for another day so he's got a surprise 50th birthday party coming up. I'll sign off for now and talk to you later.

It's now Tuesday the 9th and its 4.30 in the afternoon, I'm about to hop into the shower and get ready for the gig. I'm on the 20th floor of the Calgary Delta Bowl hotel which is absolutely stunning. The view from my room is just breath taking, there's nothing, no mountains, no foothills, it just rolls and rolls and rolls on, it's scrub land and beautiful modern houses and there's a river running outside the room, absolutely stunning! Calgary has got to be one of the most pretty and clean and well laid out cities I've ever seen. All the buildings look no more than 2 years old, I went passed a really old stone building yesterday which was built in 1930 and I think that's the oldest building in Calgary. The place is so beautiful, there's not a cloud in the sky and it's minus 5.5 degrees, it's freezing cold but clean as a whistle, it makes the hair in your nose freeze. Anyway, we'll talk about the gig afterwards.

Well Alan, it's only 2 minutes since I was talking to you and I forgot to tell you about last night. George Norton who is a really good friend of Trevor's, had his 50th birthday yesterday and we were all going to have a big party. His wife 'phoned us in Kamloops and said, "I want you to 'phone George and say that because the gig in Saskatoon was cancelled, they want you to do 2 shows in Kamloops and then say sorry George, we won't be in Calgary for your birthday". It's a bit os a stinky thing to do and it was against all Mick's principals but she said, "it was just for a surprise because you're only 50 once so let's have a bit of fun". So as soon as she put the 'phone down Mick phoned George at work and said, "I'm really sorry but we're not going to be in Calgary for your birthday, we'd love to be there but it's just impossible" and George was absolutely gutted, just absolutely flattened even though he still had a couple of family and friends coming over for what was supposed to be a big roast turkey dinner. We turned up about 7 in the evening and parked the tour bus right outside his house, walked in the door and you could have pushed him over with a feather, he was just elated. It was a really good time, his family and friends were there, there was a drummer called Dennis from a famous band called "The Stampeders" who had a big hit over here around 1972 with a song called "Sweet City Woman". George who plays bass, has a band with Dennis and they just play pub gigs at the weekend, he was saying to me that "Coldsweat", one of my old bands, sounded familiar to him but he didn't know why. We were talking and talking about

different musicians and the name Dave Holloway comes up, I said "Dave Holloway!", and he said, "yeah, he was the guitarist in our band up until last week". This is the guy who was my guitarist in Coldsweat 14 years ago, George didn't believe it would be the same guy but there in his book is Dave Holloway's phone number so I called him up and sure enough, it's the same guy. He's been living here for 8 years and Dave and his wife are coming to the show today so that will be pretty cool. As for the dinner, George's wife was a little run down with getting all this party organised and there was a 25lb turkey in the oven and all the food and vegetables for about 23 people, Mick said, "you've got the day off Bernie", which means I don't have to sing, "so get in that kitchen and rattle those pots and pans". So I grabbed a couple of the family members, put on an apron and swung a serious turkey dinner for 23 people out of a little tiny kitchen. We had a gravy made from the dripping of the bird and it had 3 bottles of beer in it to the horror of the guests, they didn't think that you could put beer in gravy, but we thickened it up and it was all pretty yummy stuff. Half an hour after we'd finished eating there was a knock on the door and it was Andy Powel, Ted Turner and Ray Weston from Wishbone Ash, they had to be fed so out came the left overs, into the microwave it went and they had turkey dinner as well. We staggered out about 12.30 or 1 o'clock this morning and everybody was elated, we'd had a great time, it couldn't have worked out better to be in Calgary on the day of his birthday and actually having a day off, it was great timing, signing off for now Alan.

Last night we played Calgary at what was once a giant bowling alley type venue, there was a 20 foot bowling pin on the top of the building and the place has been renovated for rock concerts. There was a great turn out, for me the best part was after the show because Dave Holloway, my guitarist from "Coldsweat" was there and he hasn't changed one bit in the past 14 years. We were sitting back stage during Blue Oyster Cult's set reminiscing big time about the old Coldsweat days. We started the band when we were 19 and we were 23 by the time things went a stray. It was pretty good, he remembered a lot of things that I'd completely forgot about, a lot of parties, a lot of good times, a lot of little towns, a lot of girls, a lot of everything. He had his photo album and in those days it was all platform shoes, bell bottom trousers, I had longer hair and a moustache, I was as skinny as a beanpole and it was really hilarious, the rest of the guys were all howling, it was so funny. He filled me in with a couple of the other members that he's either seen or keeps in touch with, he is the only one who's still playing, our old drummer lives in a tiny little place called Red Deer, he has a dry wall company, our bass player still lives in Victoria, he hasn't worked a day in his life, he lets his wife support him. It was a good time, I'll probably see Dave again, I've got his phone number now.

Yesterday we played in Edmonton, it was only about 4 hours from Calgary, one road due north, very flat tundra country. We didn't check into the hotel when we got there because since we lost the Saskatoon show, which would have been today, we did the whole trek from Edmonton to Winnipeg, which is where we are now. We were driving all night. The gig at Edmonton was in the Conference Centre, it was absolutely huge, I think it was one of the biggest gigs I've ever seen. There must have been about 5000 places set out with tables and chairs and a huge dance floor come standing area too. It was the first proper sound check of the tour and it made a hell of a difference. It was the first night of Lee using the Blue Oyster drum kit rather than the Nazareth kit

and it made everything a lot smoother running. We got a brilliant reception, the dressing rooms were way off behind the stage and when the guy went on stage after Wishbone and said, "thank's to Wishbone Ash but stay around for Blue Oyster Cult, Nazareth and Uriah Heep", the place went mad when he said Uriah Heep and we were the next band up and we got a terrific reception, probably the best gig of the tour so far, we will definitely be going back to Edmonton. Unlike Calgary where it was just a bunch of cowboys, these guys were just party animals and really let us know that they appreciated the band. After the show we loaded up the bus with food and drink and set on through the night, a couple of videos later we all hit the bunks, woke up in some little tiny place about 2 hours out of Winnipeg, absolutely in the middle of nowhere, it was like a truck stop with home made food and fruit pies etc, we had a enormous breakfast, plates that you had to climb rather than eat, it was a pretty good way to start the day. We got into Winnipeg about an hour ago, checked into another Delta hotel which is very nice, I'm sitting here in my bath robe just getting over the 17 hour bus ride, a fair old distance! Today is November 11th, it's Remembrance day and the whole of Canada is locked up tight, you can't buy a drink, you can't buy groceries, you can't buy anything, we're sitting here in our rooms just kinda veging out and wondering what were going to do tonight, I'll talk to you soon.

It's now November 19th so just to re-cap, we played Winnipeg on November 12th, it was a huge Convention Centre gig again, a really good turn out but very cold, about minus 2 degrees, but it was a brilliant gig, one of the best so far, it was like a giant club atmosphere with about 4000 people if you can imagine that. We went down really well, gave everybody else a run for their money. After the show we got on the bus for another over nighter to Minneapolis MI where we played a ice arena, it was 19500 capacity but it was cut in half and the people that we played to were serious Uriah Heep fans, I couldn't believe it. We went down a storm but it was a bit of a drag because it was a seated gig and the people were not allowed to stand up or walk around, there was no dancing in the isles or anything like that, it was pretty well restricted. We went out and signed some autographs after and the people were saying, "come back again but don't play here because we can't have any fun, we've paid 25 dollars and had to sit down".

The next night which was November 14th we played Kansas City and wow! there was about 3000 people there, kick ass city!!! We've got to go back, there are some Uriah Heep fans who were just unbelievable, a really good place. We had another long ride on the bus to Stevens Point WI which is a very small college town, we had a day off to get there because again it was about 10 hours on the bus. The gig was in a sealed complex with a hotel, swimming pools, recreational areas, conference centre etc, you were completely enclosed in this building which was pretty good because it was about minus 2 degrees outside. The gig was sold out but it was only about 1300 people and to sell some more T shirts we decided to go out to the T shirt stall after our set, we're selling pretty good, everyone likes the wizard T shirt but a soon as they see the "Uriah Who ?" T shirt they all want one of those for some reason, humm, I can't imagine why! Again it was straight back on the bus for a long drive to Fort Wayne ID. We're spending a lot of time on this bus, we've done a large percentage of nights on the bus travelling to the next town straight after the shows. None of us have got much sleep, I've come down with a stinking head cold, I'm not very happy right