

THE RANT AND RAVE GAZETTE

A Music Newsletter

Issue 7

Welcome to the seventh issue of the Rant. NOTE: the most recent issue comes up first with the past issues following. Cheers!

THE HOKEY POKEY

“YOU PUT YOUR RIGHT HAND IN



“Ahh, so now it’s the right HAND is it?”

I just returned from a homecoming at the Red Onion Saloon in Skagway AK. - the famous old brothel where I ran the jazz jams for many years.

In 1983, the cruise ships were just starting to come into Skagway. It was the perfect northern turnaround for the Alaska tours. Not that there were many – the three ‘love boats’, the Sun Princess, Island Princess and Pacific Princess were coming in on a regular basis, as well as the Royal Viking and several ships from other lines. Every week the same cruise ships would do a turn-around in Skagway and the musicians and crew would have a town day. The watering hole of choice was the Red Onion. It was a comfortable venue where the musicians got to jam and the crew got to hang. It ended up feeling like a second home for many of them and it eventually turned into a bona fide musical scene.

The musicians coming off those cruise ships were great players. They hailed from New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Europe, and they all wanted to blow their brains out after playing the same shows for an entire week. Many of those jams could have taken place at the Blue Note or the Village Gate. They were that good. And they were wild. Some afternoons we would have twenty players sitting in.

When you do a gig for that long in one place, you end up being part of a big family. I swear every member of that family still alive and well after all these years showed up for last night’s little concert in the courtyard back of the R.O.

The latest from the muse:

He wore a hat few could handle
A beret older than dirt
proclaiming membership in a club
of one

Gardening perhaps
Mechanics certainly
Dirt never an issue
A badge of honour in fact
Leaning on his spade
Head turned slightly
The grace of a monarch
questioning a minister
on the current situation in Europe
Or the state of the tulip bed
against the back wall

PL

LITTLE GEMS

ADVICE THAT WAS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD



“If you’re not taking chances, you’re not playing”

THATS ALL FOR NOW FOLKS! SEE YOU NEXT TIME