

EAGLES- THE LONG RUN



A History

1971 — Glenn Frey and Don Henley meet as members of Linda Ronstadt's band. A mutual goal — the foundation of their own band with rock and country roots — is unexpectedly realized when John Boylan, then Ronstadt's manager, teams them with Randy Meisner and Bernie Leadon as a projected backing band for Linda. Instead, the Eagles are formed.

Signed by Asylum Records, the four travel to London to record their debut album with Glyn Johns (The Who, Rolling Stones) at Olympic Studios.

1972 — The debut album, *Eagles*, is released in June. The first single, "Take It Easy," earns them immediate national recognition, and the group tours the U.S. for the remainder of the year.

1973 — In April, Asylum releases the Eagles' second album, *Desperado*. This work marks a trend towards conceptual writing, which is to become a group hallmark. Touring activities continue, and, as part of the musical design of *Desperado*, an orchestra is added for several major concerts. Winter sessions for the third album begin in London, again with Glyn Johns, but the band develops a tougher, more rock-oriented sound and shifts the project to California, with producer Bill Szymczyk.

1974 — During recording sessions in California, guitarist Don Felder contributes slide guitar to several songs. As *On The Border* is completed, Felder is added as the fifth member of the Eagles.

During the spring, the album is released, and the Eagles sign with Irving Azoff's Front Line Management. During the summer and fall the Eagles tour coast to coast. Although two earlier singles from *On The Border* bolster their popularity, the third, "Best Of My Love," places them in a cross-over category reaching both country and adult listeners, earning them a gold single record.

1975 — "Best Of My Love" earns multiple Grammy nominations, as well as an American Music Award, and in Nashville, a Songwriters Award. *On The Border* passes the million unit mark, equivalent to a platinum record. (The RIAA didn't institute platinum awards until 1976.) Eagles and Szymczyk begin recording the fourth album in Miami and Los Angeles. The title track, "One Of These Nights," a rhythm & blues flavored single, is released in advance. The album is certified gold within a week of release and the band embarks on an international tour in support of *One Of These Nights*. In the fall

the "Lyin' Eyes" single is released, and is successful on pop, country, and MOR charts.

At the year's end, Bernie Leadon departs the band, prompted by a desire to spend less time on the road. Eagles continue with the grueling pace, and facing a tour of Australia and the Orient, invite old friend Joe Walsh to join them. This leads to a permanent relationship between the Eagles and Walsh.

1976 — As "Take It To The Limit," another single from the *One Of These Nights* lp, climbs the charts Asylum releases *Eagles Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975*. Its immediate success affirms the Eagles' preeminence among American bands. *Greatest Hits* sells over one million units on release, earning the first RIAA platinum award to be given in that category. The record is the third album in the history of the recording industry to certify a million sales upon its release. Coinciding with this honor the group wins its first Grammy for "Lyin' Eyes."

In December, with *Greatest Hits* still maintaining a high position on the charts, Asylum releases *Hotel California*. The album ships platinum, and is an outstanding commercial and critical success. "New Kid In Town," the first single released from *Hotel California*, generates an overwhelming response.

1977 — Upon release of the single, "Hotel California," the Eagles tour the eastern U.S. and Canada. In April, the Eagles perform to SRO audiences in England, Scotland, Europe, Scandinavia, and America. By the year's end, *Hotel California* has sold nine million units. Their *Greatest Hits* lp surpasses seven million units sold. In August, Randy Meisner leaves the band and is replaced by Timothy B. Schmit, former bassist and vocalist for Poco.

1978 — With Eagles records selling at one million per month for 18 months, the band enters the studio with Bill Szymczyk in Miami to record their new lp. In February the group receives two Grammy Awards: Best Vocal Arrangement for "New Kid In Town," and Record of the Year for *Hotel California*.

Taking a break from recording sessions, the Eagles perform a series of concerts, performing before over a half-million fans and breaking attendance records in virtually every city in which they appear.

In December, the group releases the single "Please Come Home For Christmas" b/w "Funky New Year" as a seasonal offering to their fans. The single becomes the first Christmas record to break into

After release of *The Long Run*, the band embarked on a major U.S. tour...

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the top twenty on the national music charts in over twenty years.

1979 — After completing recording sessions for *The Long Run*, the group fulfills a promise of a long-awaited Japanese tour with one stop in Hawaii.

In October, Elektra/Asylum ships *The Long Run* and the group embarks on an extensive tour of the U.S.

THE EAGLES ARE:

GLENN FREY (guitars, vocals, keyboards)

— A Detroit native, Frey formed the duo Longbranch Pennywhistle with J.D. Souther, recording an album for Amos Records. Glenn has also recorded with Bob Seger, played a short back-up stint with Bo Diddley and was a member of Linda Ronstadt's band when the Eagles formed. Frey continues as one of the band's chief writers.

DON HENLEY (drums, vocals) — Henley grew up in Texas, and first drew attention

as a drummer and vocalist with Shiloh, a high school band that stayed together long enough to record an album for Amos Records. He met Frey during his induction into Ronstadt's band and together, they formed the Eagles. Henley is also a principal writer and handles the majority of the band's lead vocals.

DON FELDER (guitars, pedal steel, banjo, vocals) — Floridian Don Felder originally came to the attention of the Eagles by his session work on the west coast. His slide guitar abilities led to a session call for the Eagles third album, *On The Border*, and then to his inclusion as a full-time member of the band. Don was a co-writer of the *Hotel California* lp which received the Grammy for Record of the Year in 1977.

JOE WALSH (guitars, vocals) — Originally the central figure for the notorious James Gang, Walsh relocated to Colorado to form Barnstorm, his initial solo project. Walsh

has worked with producer Bill Szymczyk (the producer of the Eagles' last four albums), and during recording of *So What?* Joe invited members of the Eagles to play on the sessions, an early example of what has since become a full-time collaboration. Joe also continues his pattern of highly-successful solo albums with *But Seriously Folks...*, released in the summer of '78 and certified platinum shortly thereafter.

TIMOTHY B. SCHMIT (bass, vocals) — Timothy B. Schmit comes to the Eagles with a strong grounding in professional music, starting in a high school group, The Contenders, and then on to The New Breed. (That group's final incarnation, Glad, recorded an album for ABC Records in 1968.) In 1972 Tim joined country-rock band Poco, replacing departing bassist Randy Meisner, who had joined the Eagles. In 1977, Tim became a full-time member of the Eagles.



Left-to-right: Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Timothy B. Schmit, Don Felder, and Joe Walsh

Brian King/1979