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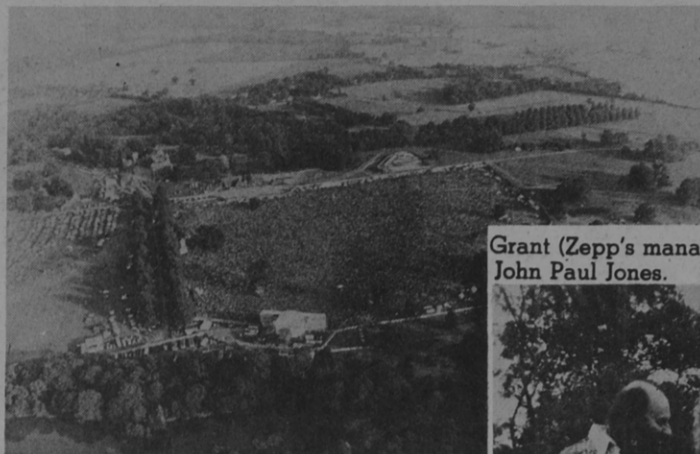
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Led Zeppelin's Knebworth concert.

John Bonham, and Lisa Robinson



Grant (Zepp's manager), Robert Plant and John Paul Jones.



The phenomenally swift success of **The Knack** in the United States has prompted a Knack backlash. Californian artist Hugh Brown is spearheading an anti-Knack movement and selling T-shirts stickers and buttons that read "Knuke the Knack". So far Brown and his supporters have not been attacked by any fanatical fans of the band, indeed when the Knack's drummer turned up at one of the anti-Knackers meetings, he was beaten up. "That's my kind of crowd", commented Brown ... **The Tom Robinson Band** have split. Robinson explained: "After 2½ years the band had become a bit tame and predictable. It was time to move on and try something fresh". Robinson is currently at work on a third album, while the other members of the band are moving into session work. Guitarist Danny Kustow is also playing gigs with Rich Kids, Glen Matlock and Steve New in a band called The Jimmy Norton Explosion ... and guitarist Gary Moore has parted with **Thin Lizzy** and, according to which report you believe, he was either fired or quit. Temporarily replacing Moore is one-time Slik and Rich Kids guitarist, Midge Ure. However, Ure is only a temporary replacement as he is committed to joining Ultravox in November ... the **Rolling Stones** have reportedly completed work on their new album. Recorded in Paris, the set is tentatively titled *Another Fine Mess You've Got Me Into, Ronnie* ... work on the album meant that Ron Wood's band The New Barbarians, had to cancel out of the first of two gigs supporting **Led Zeppelin** at Britain's Knebworth



Randy Newman, before and after.

festival... the new Led Zepp album, *In Through The Out Door*, was in fact recorded at Abba's Swedish studios but, contrary to some reports, Abba do not appear on the album ... **Woodstock II**, the festival that was to mark the tenth anniversary of the first Woodstock festival, has been called off as the organisers have been unable to locate a suitable available site ... and **Frank Zappa** has had to abandon the multi-media presentation of his music with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra when Austrian Television withdrew part of the finance. Zappa feels the conservative attitude of most symphony musicians contributed to the failing of the project. "Symphony orchestras don't like to play new music because they just don't care. It's much easier for them to please their clientele by playing the same old thing. Every garage band can play "Louie, Louie" and every symphony orchestra can play Beethoven's Fifth". In a move unrelated to these problems, Zappa has had his hair cut. Commented Frank: "It's not fashionable, it's short". Watch out for the first record in Zappa's three album opera, *Joe's Garage*, which should see local release soon ... an organisation calling itself **MUSE**, Musicians United for Safe Energy, has organised three concerts at New York's Madison Square Gardens to raise funds which will be distributed to other groups fighting the use of nuclear power. The three concerts will include performances from Bruce Springsteen, Ry Cooder, Chaka Khan, Jessie Colin Young, Jackson Browne, John Hall, the Doobie Brothers, Graham Nash, Bonnie Raitt, and James Taylor ... **Steely Dan** eventually gave up the search for a hot rookie New York drummer and instead flew in veteran session man Jeff Porcaro from Toto to handle the job ... **Neil**

Young will follow up his current release *Rust Never Sleeps* with the soundtrack from the film of one of his live shows. The film title? *Rust Never Sleeps*. The double soundtrack from the movie is also titled *Rust Never Sleeps*, and is not to be confused with ... Reports on the new **Bob Dylan** album, *Slow Train Coming*, which is set for overseas release on September 15, confirm that the album does strongly suggest that Dylan has become a born again Christian. Some of the songs on the album are: "Ye Shall Be Changed", "Wake Up", "Serve Somebody", "When He Returns", "Gonna Change My Way of Thinking" ... while on the kick off track on his album, *Born Again*, **Randy Newman** asserts "It's Money That I Want". These touching sentiments are carried over onto the cover where the singer sits at a desk in white face make-up kinda reminiscent of a certain popular music combo, only Randy doesn't have stars or even cats whiskers painted over his eyes but giant, green dollars signs ... **Cars'** songwriter Ric Ocasek is to contribute songs to the new album by one-time **Stories** singer Ian Lloyd ... and **Graham Parker** fans will be peeved to learn that after the first 225,000 copies of *Squeezing Out Sparks* has sold in the United States, his US record company, Arista, will press a fresh batch with an additional two tracks, "I Want You Back" (available in NZ on the B side of the 45 of "Protection") and "Mercury Poisoning" which is otherwise unavailable ... **Ronnie James Dio**, singer at one time for **Rainbow**, has joined **Black Sabbath** as replacement for **Ozzie Osbourne** ... and lead singer for the **Village People** **Victor Willis** has quit the boys to pursue a solo career, though he will still feature on their next LP ... permanent replacement for bassist **George McArdle** in the **Little River Band** is ex-Chain and Renee Geyer Band member **Barry Sullivan**. Also along on the Little River Band's current US tour is keyboardist **Mal Logan** whose history includes stints with the Renee Geyer Band and Larry's Rebels ... latest in California is a band that's described as a cross between the Sex Pistols and the Beach Boys. They're called — what else could it be? **The Surf Punks** ... the second **Pointer Sisters** LP on Planet Records is again produced by **Richard Perry** and shows that somebody in that organisation has got good taste, for this time the girls cover Bruce Springsteen's "The Fever", **Graham Parker's** "Turned Up Too Late", The Band's "The Shape I'm In" and the Stones' "Happy" ... the Eagles' new LP, *The Long Run*, is now set for September release ... the new **Van Morrison** release, *Into The Music*, should also be released around that time ... as will be **Rod Stewart's Greatest Hits** which will include all his hits from Warner Bros (that is, from the *Atlantic Crossing* album onwards) plus re-recorded versions of his hits on Mercury Records such as "Maggie May" ... also due in the very near future are newbies from **Cheap Trick** (titled *Dream Police*), **Meatloaf** (once again produced by **Todd Rundgren**) and the **Stranglers** (titled *Raven*, the album was recorded in Paris) ... while currently in the studio are **Joe Jackson** (produced once again by **David Kershenbaum**), **The Clash** with producer **Bill Price**, and **Elvis Costello's** band **The Attractions** are laying down a solo album ... the remaining members of **Lynyrd Skynyrd** are to regroup and will be known as the **Gary Rossington Allan Collins Band**... on the disco front: producers **Nile Rodgers** and **Bernard Edwards**, the powers behind **Chic** and **Sister Sledge**, are to do the honours on the next **Diana Ross** album... while **Pete Bellotte**, one of the songwriters and producers behind **Donna Summer**, is to produce the next LP from **Elton John**... **Donna Summer** teams up with **Barbra Streisand** for one track on Barbra's next set... also in the studio are **Foreigner** (once again with producer **Roy Thomas Baker**) finishing up work on their third album, *Head Games* while **Dwight Twilley** is at work with producer **Jack Nitzsche**... **Elvis Costello** is to record his fourth album in Australia, again with **Basher Lowe** at the helm... **Nick**, meanwhile, has married **Carlene Carter**. This makes him **Johnny Cash's** step son-in-law. Is this a record? ... Who guitarist **Pete Townshend** produced and played all the instruments on the first single from **Stiff Records'** 11 year old singer **Angela**...