

BIOGRAPHY (Part One) - from an interview with Phillip McIntyre: Published in The Good Guide; MR Times June 25, 1997.

"Anyway I put together a band with Joe Williams [now Velikovsky] on bass when we got back from America. We got on to Dave Carruthers who's a fabulous drummer and a great bloke. He'd moved up from Canberra where he'd been playing guitar in a band called Room 101. Before that he'd played drums in a touring dance band. We had some auditions and he was the first guy there and we loved him so we cancelled the rest. We rehearsed ourselves into the ground and played a few shows around towns. It cost us money to play solely original stuff! Anyway Dave didn't want to get too serious and he wound up playing in a covers band to bring in the money. That didn't stop us recording with him though!

We called the band Texas Radio and the Big Beat which proved to be pretty amusing. People invariably got it wrong. Texas Radio and the Big Boot was a good one! Either that or they thought we were two separate bands. Some people thought we were a Doors concept band! Fair enough, because that's where the name comes from but I just loved the imagery in that song.

"I want to tell you about Texas Radio and the Big Beat.  
It comes out of the Virginia Swamps, cool and slow,  
with a backbeat, narrow and hard to master.  
Some call it heavenly in its brilliance  
others, mean and rueful of the Western dream  
I love the friends I have gathered together on this thin raft  
we have constructed pyramids in honor of our escaping.  
This is the land where the Pharaoh died."

Anyway we had a friend who worked at Trafalgar Studios in Sydney who was a bass player in Boris and the Karloffs which was my old band. He went out on his own freelance engineering and had some downtime lined up at Rich Studios in Kent Street so we went down there and recorded a couple of tracks. Then we went over with Mark Tinson to what used to be Skyhigh Studios in Jesmond and some of the recordings we did there are on the CD. They've got a really good vibe.

Actually one of them, Wasteway, wound up on the Cat in A Hat compilation album that Wayne Hindson from 2NUR FM produced. We took a few people unawares because most of them hadn't heard us and weren't expecting it. The Groove entertainment guide said we were 'surprise newcomers who wowed us with their tune Wasteway'. To Concrete Press we were 'great new local talent'. They were excited to come across 'relatively unknown gems.' Our 'pop melodies were refreshing in this age of heavy guitar rock'! Anyway that album's been taken to Germany and France and Wayne took a trip across the States to promote it to college radio. We were featured in a television news story that Prime TV did and we also got airplay with Wasteway on 2NUR and also NXXFM's show 'Alive and Brilliant' that Stephen Pickett hosted.

We also made a video clip for that song which I was pretty happy with but I've done a few since for other people and learnt a fair bit more. I've just finished editing Weld's video and it's dynamite! Anyway, with some of the money from recording demos for other bands, the PA/sound jobs I was doing, and producing Gorillafish's CD, we went over to Forefront Studios in Adamstown and laid down some more rhythm tracks, this time with Ric McCann on drums. He was in Bleutongue who were signed to Polydor. Then we took the tapes back to Mark's Overhead studios in Cooks Hill and I engineered the rest with Joe's help and we did it all from there.

Bob Spencer, who used to be in the Skyhooks and The Angels, was in the studio because he's a good mate of Mark's and was interested in playing so we got him to play a solo on one track. We got in a few other friends who'd been playing in various bands and I even managed to get the old Boris and The Karloffs line-up down on tape for one song. The guys from Rum Jungle also came into the studio. We had a great time recording that track.

We took the album to Keytone studios in town to edit and then down to Don Bartley at Studio 301 in Sydney to master which I'm really happy about. The artwork was done here in Newcastle by Wayne Hindson and we got a good deal to get it manufactured through Oracle Records in Brisbane.

While we were waiting for it to come back we scored a support with The Saints and that's kind of a neat twist because it was seeing them when they came out with Stranded that made me want to play electric guitar in the first place.

Anyway the album's been christened Texas Radio and the Big Beat and we'll be releasing it at the Lass O'Gowrie Hotel with the original band. The reaction so far has been pretty positive. 2NUR has a preview copy and they've been playing tracks from it and Rob Meaton from 2BOB FM was more than impressed. He's been featuring the album on his breakfast program. The comment we got from Anthony Scully who writes for the Post/TE entertainment guide was,.....`BLOODY EXCELLENT!!!!'