



**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!** (cont. from p. 2)

**9<sup>th</sup>: Richard Wayne Penniman**, aka "Little Richard", 87, bone cancer. One of the architects of rock and roll, known for his piercing wail, pounding piano and towering pompadour. He altered popular music while introducing black R&B to white America. The trailblazing rocker helped shatter the color line on the music charts, joining Chuck Berry and Fats Domino in bringing "race music" into the mainstream. Richards sold more than 30 million records worldwide, and his influence on other musicians was equally staggering, from the Beatles and Otis Redding to CCR and David Bowie; **10<sup>th</sup>: Betty Wright**, 66, cancer. Her 1972 single, "Clean Up Woman," would be immortalized in hip hop soul history when it was sampled for the remix of Mary J. Blige's "Real Love"; **11<sup>th</sup>: John David "Moon" Martin**, 74, guitarist, singer-songwriter, natural causes. He earned the nickname "Moon" because many of his songs had the word moon in the lyrics. Martin scored two minor hits of his own with "Rolene" and "No Chance" both in 1979. His 1982 song, "X-Ray Vision" was an MTV hit music video; **12<sup>th</sup>: Astrid Kirchherr**, 81, early Beatles photographer, after a short serious illness. The German photographer took her first photo of the group at the city's fairground when Pete Best was still the drummer and Stuart Sutcliffe — who later became Kirchherr's fiancé — was the Beatles' bassist. She is credited for giving Sutcliffe his "moptop" hairstyle, which eventually became an iconic look for the band. She remained close to the band for years, working as a set photographer on the group's first movie, *A Hard Day's Night*, and in 1968, a session for George Harrison's solo project, *Wonderwall Music*; **15<sup>th</sup>: Phil May**, 75, frontman of British rock band, Pretty Things, complications from emergency hip surgery. May formed Pretty Things in 1963 with guitarist Dick Taylor, an early bass player for the Rolling Stones. The group, known for its wild stage antics, became an integral part of the London blues-rock scene, earning success with songs like "Don't Bring Me Down," "Honey I Need" and "Cry to Me"; **24<sup>th</sup>: Al Rex**, 91, upright bassist for Bill Haley & His Comets, after a long time battle with pneumonia. Rex who also was in Haley's previous band, the Saddlemen, started playing for them in 1949 and became noted for "wild antics" on stage; **28<sup>th</sup>: Bob Kulick**, 70, guitarist and producer, ncg. He was best known for his work with KISS and Lou Reed. Kulick initially tried out for a then-unknown band called KISS in 1972, but they ultimately decided to hire another guitarist. In 1977, KISS hired Kulick to secretly record guitar parts for KISS Alive II, Unmasked, Killers, and Creatures of the Night, as well as Paul Stanley's 1978 solo album.



**June 4<sup>th</sup>: Steve Priest**, 72, bass player and co-founder of the UK group Sweet, ncg. Riding the glam rock wave alongside the likes of David Bowie, Queen and T.Rex, Sweet exploded in England with a string of top 10 singles in the early 1970s with "Little Willy," "Ballroom Blitz," "Fox on the Run" and "Love Is Like Oxygen".



**By C.J. Huss**  
**Chapter Nine – Let's Get Really Small, part 2**  
**RETURNS IN KEY-NOTES**  
**#244, APRIL 2021**

**8<sup>th</sup>: Bonnie Pointer**, 69, 1/4 of the Pointer Sisters, cardiac arrest. Her career began in 1969 when she and her sister June began their band as a duo. Later sisters Anita then Ruth joined the band hitting success with "Yes We Can Can," and 15 other Top 40 hits. Bonnie left the band in 1977 having a hit with her discolored redo of the Elgins 1966, "Heaven Must Have Sent You"; **27<sup>th</sup>: Tom Finn**, 71, bassist and founding member of The Left Banke, declining health. Finn, the last surviving member of the group, was the second member to die in 2020, and the fourth in just over five years; **29<sup>th</sup>: Johnny Mandel**, 94, composer ("Suicide Is Painless", "The Shadow of Your Smile", "Emily"), 1966 Grammy winner, heart ailment. Mandel was considered one of the finest arrangers of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, providing elegant orchestral charts for a wide range of vocalists including Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, Tony Bennett, Natalie Cole and Hoagy Carmichael; **29<sup>th</sup>: Benny Mardones**, 73, singer-songwriter ("Into the Night"), Parkinson's disease. He has the distinction of having his only hit reach #11 in 1980 and reach #20 a second time in 1989.



**July 6<sup>th</sup>: Charlie Daniels**, 83, Hall of Fame country singer-songwriter and musician, 1980 Grammy Award winner, hemorrhagic stroke. As a session musician, he played on three of Bob Dylan's albums as well as recordings for Ringo Starr and Leonard Cohen. He was a fixture on the touring circuit for the next 40 years, becoming a tireless advocate for servicemen and women; **6<sup>th</sup>: Joe Porcaro**, 90, jazz drummer (Toto, The Wrecking Crew), ncg. His three sons were in Toto: drummer Jeff, bassist Mike, and keyboardist Steve, who still is a session musician and programmer; **19<sup>th</sup>: Emmitt Rhodes**, 70, singer-songwriter and musician, (The Palace Guard, The Merry-Go-Round), died in his sleep. Given the nickname, "the one man Beatles"; **25<sup>th</sup>: Peter Green**, 73, English Hall of Fame blues rock singer-songwriter ("Black Magic Woman") and guitarist (Fleetwood Mac, Peter Green Splinter Group), died in his sleep.

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Steve Holland**, 66, guitarist, last original member of Molly Hatchet, also Gator Country, ncg. **11<sup>th</sup>: Trini Lopez**, 83, singer and actor in 'The Dirty Dozen,' complications from COVID-19. The Dallas native started playing in bands at 15. In 1958, his group the Big Beats signed with Columbia after recording with Buddy Holly producer Norman Petty. Lopez then went solo signing with King Records, releasing unsuccessful singles before leaving the label in 1962. Frank Sinatra saw his show and signed him to his Reprise Records in 1963. "If I Had a Hammer" was a global smash followed by "Kansas City," "Lemon Tree," "Gonna Get Along Without Ya' Now," and others.



(Cont. on page 4)

**September 6<sup>th</sup>: Bruce Williamson**, 49, lead singer of the Temptations from 2006-2015, complications from COVID-19; **9<sup>th</sup>: Ronald "Khalis" Bell**, 68, Kool & the Gang co-founder, saxophonist and songwriter ("Ladies' Night", "Celebration") ncg. Bell also served as a producer and/or arranger for the Fugees, Jimmy Cliff, House of Pain, Phillip Glass, and Rachid; **11<sup>th</sup>: Toots Hibbert**, 77, Jamaican singer with ska band Toots and the Maytals and songwriter ("54-46 That's My Number", "Pressure Drop"), complications from COVID-19. Credited with helping to bring reggae to the world's attention; **12<sup>th</sup>: Edna Wright**, 76, lead singer of Honey Cone, cardiac arrest. The girl group hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 with "Want Ads" in 1971. Also "Stick Up," "One Monkey Don't Stop No Show" and "The Day I Found Myself." Wright was the younger sister of Darlene Love; **18<sup>th</sup>: Georgia Dobbins**, 78, member of The Marvelettes and songwriter, ncg. In co-writing "Please Mr. Postman," Dobbins played an integral role in the history of Motown and pop music. The track became Motown's first #1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100. By the time the Marvelettes recorded it in 1961, Dobbins left the group to look after her ailing mother and because her father forbade her from touring or getting involved in the music industry; **18<sup>th</sup>: Pamela Hutchinson**, 61, one third of The Emotions, ("Best of My Love"), health challenges for several years. The Chicago-based trio began as gospel group, the HutchinsonSunbeams, comprised of sisters Pamela, Wanda and Jeanette, with Pamela joining the renamed act in the mid-1970s just as the family band began a fruitful creative collaboration with late Earth, Wind & Fire singer Maurice White; **21<sup>st</sup>: Tommy DeVito**, 92, founding member of The Four Seasons, complications from COVID-19. DeVito and Valli had been performing together in The Four Lovers and The Variatones since 1954 when they formed The Four Seasons with Bob Audio and Nick Massi in 1960. From 1962-67 they were regularly in the Top 10 with hits such as "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Dawn (Go Away)," "Rag Doll," "Let's Hang On!" and "Working My Way Back to You." DeVito had the fieriest personality of the four original members; **21<sup>st</sup>: Roy Head**, 79, singer, heart attack. Best known for the 1965 blue-eyed soul hit, "Treat Her Right", recorded with the Traits. After going solo, Head landed several hits on the c&w charts between 1975-85. Billboard observed Head's versatility actually worked against him since he did not fit into any specific marketing niche. His use of many small record labels also prevented his recordings from achieving national distribution. He and the Traits were inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in 2007; **26<sup>th</sup>: Jimmy Winston**, 75, original keyboard player for the English band, Small Faces and actor (Doctor Who), ncg. Winston had apparently previously worked under the stage name James Moody, before switching to Winston as a possible reference to Winston Churchill; **29<sup>th</sup>: Mac Davis**, 78, singer-songwriter ("Baby, Don't Get Hooked on Me", "It's Hard to Be Humble") and actor (North Dallas Forty), complications from heart surgery. After initial attempts as a songwriter and an artist failed in the early 1960s, Davis worked as a promo man for Vee Jay and Liberty labels. He moved to L.A. for Liberty, becoming a staff writer for Nancy Sinatra's publishing company. Davis began to write cuts including "Watching Scotty Grow" for Bobby Goldsboro and "Something's Burning" for Kenny Rogers and The First Edition, as well as a spate of Presley records, including "A Little Less Conversation," "Memories," "Don't Cry Daddy," and "In The Ghetto".



**29<sup>th</sup>: Helen Reddy**, 78, Australian-American singer ("I Am Woman", "Delta Dawn") and actress (Pete's Dragon), 1973 Grammy winner, dementia. In 1971, she had her first hit with "I Don't Know How To Love Him," making Reddy the first Australian to top the US charts. It was the release of her signature song "I Am Woman" that propelled her to international fame, becoming the anthem of the women's movement; **30<sup>th</sup>: Francis "Rocco" Prestia**, 69, battling various illnesses since 2001. He was bassist and founding member of Tower of Power, 1968 to 1977, and then again from 1983-2018. Rocco, who created their sound, always downplayed his legend status. He referred to the bass as 'a hunk of wood with some wires.' It was much more than that in Rocco's hands.



**October 6<sup>th</sup>: Eddie Van Halen**, 65, Dutch-born American Hall of Fame guitar virtuoso and songwriter ("Eruption", "Jump"), Grammy winner (1992), throat cancer. His pyrotechnic riffs and solos expanded the vocabulary of hard rock, inspired legions of head banging imitators. Often ranked alongside guitar-shredding rock gods Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Jimmy Page, Eddie developed a sound that was thunderous, bright and blazing fast. He hammered on the neck of his custom "Frankenstrat" guitar, leaned on his whammy bar to create a wailing vibrato and popularized a technique known as two-hand tapping, in which he effectively added a sixth finger to his left hand; **6<sup>th</sup>: Johnny Nash**, 80, singer-songwriter ("I Can See Clearly Now", "Hold Me Tight"), natural causes. Starting out as a Johnny Mathis sound-alike Nash soon developed his own R&B sound, even venturing into reggae, launching the career of Bob Marley, Lloyd Price and three other artists were on his label: JAD (Johnny and Danny) Sims. Nine of the 17 JAD 45 singles were his own. Johnny had 23 Top 100 records; **11<sup>th</sup>: Harold "Mr. Trombone" Betters**, 92, ncg. During the 1950's, he toured in a band with comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory and then the Ray Charles Orchestra. Because touring didn't suit him, Betters went back to Pittsburgh and was an institution in jazz clubs for decades. Harold and his brother recorded dozens of albums, starting in 1962 on Gateway along with three albums for Reprise Records. Among the legends who would jam with the Betters brothers, were Max Roach, Dizzy Gillespie, Stanley Turrentine, Roy Eldridge and Sonny Rollins; **19<sup>th</sup>: Spencer Davis**, 81, Welsh singer, guitarist and band leader, pneumonia. Hits included "Gimme Some Lovin'" and "I'm a Man." Influenced by the British blues and skiffle scenes, Davis performed in bands with future stars including the Rolling Stones' Bill Wyman and Christine McVie. He formed the Spencer Davis Group in 1963, with a teenage Steve Winwood on keyboards and guitar, his brother Muff Winwood on bass and Pete York on drums; **19<sup>th</sup>: Tony Lewis**, 62, English bassist, singer and songwriter (The Outfield), ncg. The band formed in the late 1970s as Sirius B and The Baseball Boys, before landing on another baseball-inspired name. The multi-platinum debut LP reached #6 on the Billboard 200, spending 66 weeks on the chart; **23<sup>rd</sup>: Jerry Jeff Walker**, 78, throat cancer. He penned "Mr. Bojangles" and was a pioneer of the "cosmic cowboy" sound that would evolve into outlaw country. In 1971, he landed in Austin, Texas, becoming a fixture of the local music scene, where artists like Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and Michael Martin Murphey were performing a new progressive style of hippie-country. "Outlaw country" made it sound like you had to go to jail to be an artist, but it's just that some people like Waylon and Willie were outside the business [norm]," Walker told *Rolling Stone*. (Cont. on page 5)

