

The Clash are on the road in the USA and Ray Lowry is right there with them. He'll be presenting his, uh, unique reports for as long as he or the tour lasts.

Clash USA '79

By Lowry



Part of the Clash Crew T-shirt design.

THAT'S FAMILY DOG,

MEET THE

AT THE SECOND
ANNUAL 'TRIBAL
STOMP' AT MONTEREY

FAIRGROUNDS,

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER

8TH 1979 ON THE VERY

SAME STAGE JIMI HENDRIX

ABUSED WITH HIS LITTLE

TIN OF LIGHTER FUEL ALL

THOSE YEARS AGO. AHH

HISTORY, AHH BULLSHIT,

WHAT HAD HAPPENED

WAS THAT AT THE

END OF THE HENDRIX

OTIS FESTIVAL THE GATES

WERE PADLOCKED, BARBED WIRE

WAS STRUNG AROUND THE ARENA

AND ARMED POLICE REFUSED TO

LET ANYONE ENTER OR LEAVE

UNTIL YESTERDAY - THE FIRST

CONCERT OF THE CLASH '79 TOUR

OF THE AMERICAS. WELL, NATURALLY

BACKSTAGE AREA WHERE THEY HUMMED MASSES OF SPEAKER CABINETS AROUND OR LISTLESSLY

PUSHED DRUM RISERS FROM ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE TO THE OTHER. THE MUSICIANS HAD ALL

ESCAPED IN PRIVATE HELICOPTERS BUT THE MORE IMPRESSIONABLE MEMBERS OF THE

AUDIENCE CARRIED ON APPLAUDING AND SHOUTING "RAH! ON!" OR "OH GURUOTHER!"

AT ANY ONSTAGE ACTIVITY. AFTER YESTERDAY'S UNLOCKING THE FIRST SURVIVOR TO MAKE

CONTACT WITH THOSE FROM OUTSIDE WAS THE LEGENDARY WAVY GRAVY, STILL AT HIS ZINGY

BEST AFTER SO MANY YEARS, HE STUMBLED AROUND DRESSED IN A SANTA CLAUS OUTFIT, AND

DEMANDED THE ANSWER TO THE ALWAYS PERTINENT QUESTION "WHAT DOES DIDDY WAH

DIDDY MEAN?". WHAT A CAT, HUH? WHEN THE CLASH ARRIVED TO PLAY TO THE DAZED

SURVIVORS THE MORE LIVELY ONES GATHERED ROUND TO MARVEL AT THEIR BIZARRE

DRESS AND PHOTOGRAPH THESE OUTRAGEOUS ENGLISH GUYS HAIRSTYLES

"WELL, CATCH THESE GUYS! HUH?" AFTER THIS HIGHPOINT OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE

YEEHAW! GUYS! HUH? AND NATION SPEAKING WITH FORKED TONGUE UNTO

NATION THE DOZEN OR SO STRETCHER CASES WERE LAID

OUT IN FRONT OF THE STAGE AND APART FROM JOE

ELY'S SET WERE SOOTHED, RATHER THAN INSPIRED TO

ANYTHING STRENuous, DESPITE CONSTANT REASSURANCES

THAT THE ARENA WOULD FILL UP FOR THE CLASH THEY

PLAYED TO AN AUDIENCE SIZE THAT WOULD HAVE MADE HITLER

ENGLAND, IF HE'D DRAWN AS WELL AT NUREMBURG. NEVERMIND

BY THEIR ABSENCE THEY WERE, STILL, THEY DID THEIR BEST

TO GODDAMN WELL GOP WHEN THE CLASH CAME OUT. THIS

IS PUHNIC RORK, HUH? WELL LEMME JES SHOW THESE

LAHMYS WHUT US AMERICAN PUHNIC RORKER'S KIN DO!

YESSURR, OUTMAWAY BOAH. UNFORTUNATELY, ON THE TIME

INTO ANOTHER NUMBER AND HE'S GOT TO WORK OUT HIS COMPLICATED REACTION

ALL OVER AGAIN. WHEN THESE PEOPLE GO APE THEY DON'T POGO BUT PULL OUT A

GUN AND WIPEOUT THEIR NEIGHBOURS. THE HILLBILLY CAT AND EDDIE COCHRAN IS

THE MISTS OF ANTIQUITY AND ROCK AND ROLL MEANT WOODSCHTOCK,

THE BAND WERE COMPETENT, RATHER THAN INSPIRED

BUT THE ICE HAS BEEN KICKED THROUGH AND THE

BETWEEN BAND AND PROMOTERS, INCIDENTALLY, WAS

A FOUNDER OF AMERICAN R.A.R., AND RUNS A POLITICO

ROCK MAGAZINE ALONG THE LINES OF 'TEMPORARY

CREDIBILITY OF HIS GOODWORKS BY ACTING THE

COMPLEAT ACID CASUALTY. WATCH OUT FORTHE

BROWN ACID, MAN. NEXT WEEK - MINEAPOLIS

AND OTHER MISSPELT AMERICAN TOWNS, THE NOISES

IN THE NIGHT, THE POSTCARDS HOME (COMING,

HONEST) AND WHAT'S BEHIND THE FEAR AND

LOATHING BEHIND THE 'WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?'

MEANWHILE, BYE FRUM THE

I'M SO BORED WITH
THE U.S.A. —

ME TOO, BROTHER!
SHOOT.
* CONCERT
PROMOTER

TRIBAL STOMP

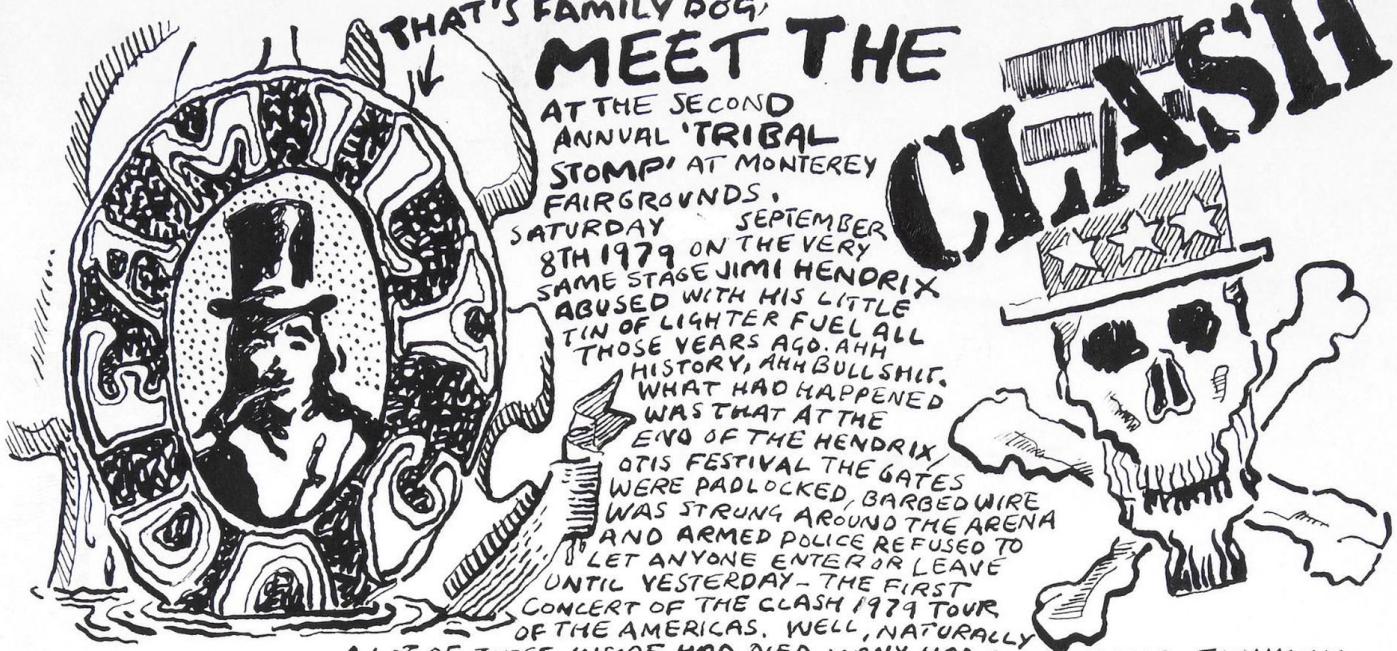


From the New York Post
(August 23). Sent by Rob and
Oak fresh from Broadway.

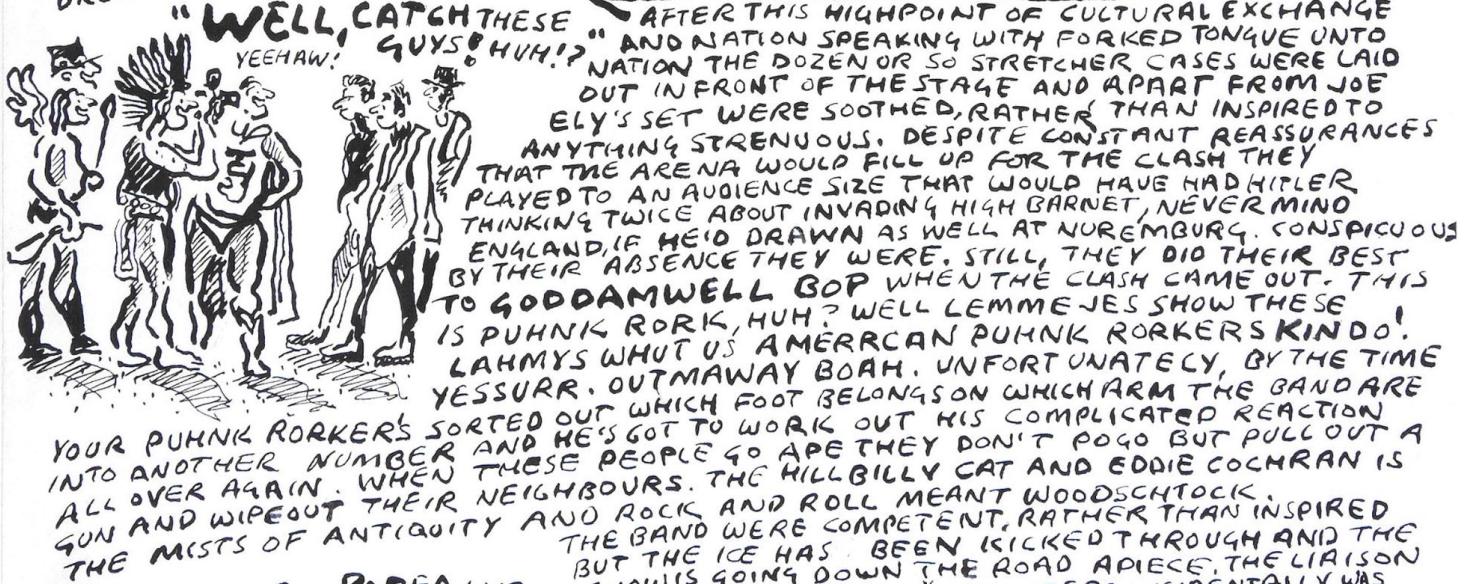
Sign of the times

Finally, if you do not mind travelling to Manchester or Liverpool, you could see the enigmatic Gary Numan, who recently, with the aid of Takeaway Army, got to No. 1 in the charts with "Are Friends Electric?"

Comin' soon to a Col.
Sounders in your area!
Spotted by Neil Ratbrain
Ratcliffe, computer
programmer, in't Burnley's
Evening Star.



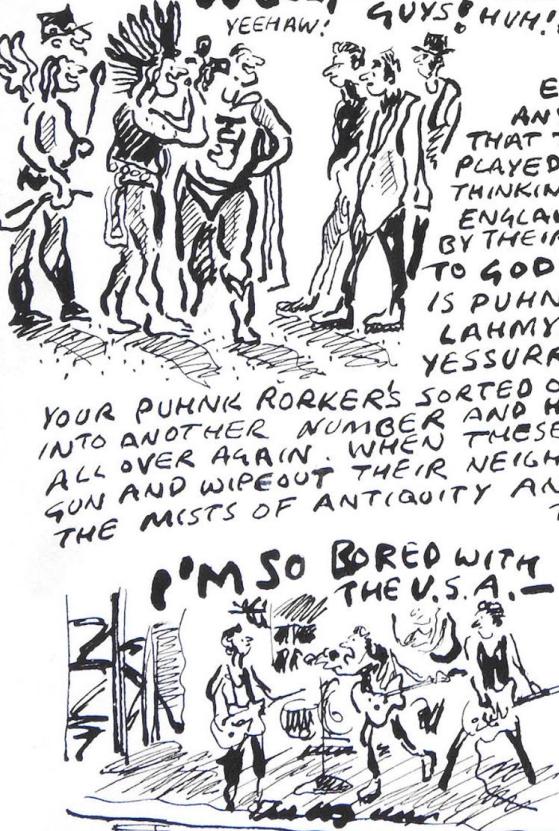
A LOT OF THOSE IN-SIDE HAD DIED, MANY HAD GONE INSANE, THINKING IT WAS STILL 1967, AND THE REALLY CLEVER ONES HAD GRAVITATED TO THE BACKSTAGE AREA WHERE THEY HUMPED MASSES OF SPEAKER CABINETS AROUND OR LISTLESSLY PUSHED DRUM RISERS FROM ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE TO THE OTHER. THE MUSICIANS HAD ALL ESCAPED IN PRIVATE HELICOPTERS BUT THE MORE IMPRESSIONABLE MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE CARRIED ON APPLAUDING AND SHOUTING "RAHT ON!" OR "OH BUROTHER!" AT ANY ONSTAGE ACTIVITY. AFTER YESTERDAYS UNLOCKING THE FIRST SURVIVOR TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THOSE FROM OUTSIDE WAS THE LEGENDARY WAVY GRAVY. STILL AT HIS ZINGY BEST AFTER SO MANY YEARS, HE STUMBLED AROUND DRESSED IN A SANTA CLAUS OUTFIT AND DEMANDED THE ANSWER TO THE ALWAYS PERTINENT QUESTION "WHAT DOES DIDDY WAH DIDDY MEAN?". WHAT A CAT, HUH? WHEN THE CLASH ARRIVED TO PLAY TO THE DAZED SURVIVORS THE MORE LIVELY ONES GATHERED ROUND TO MARVEL AT THEIR BIZARRE DRESS AND PHOTOGRAPH THESE OUTRAGEOUS ENGLISH GUYS HAIRSTYLES



THE BAND WERE COMPETENT, RATHER THAN INSPIRED BUT THE ICE HAS BEEN KICKED THROUGH AND THE SHOW IS GOING DOWN THE ROAD APIECE. THE LIAISON BETWEEN BAND AND PROMOTERS, INCIDENTALLY, WAS A FOUNDER OF AMERICAN R.A.R., AND RUNS A POLITICO ROCK MAGAZINE ALONG THE LINES OF TEMPORARY HOARDING! UNFORTUNATELY HE UNDERMINES THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS GOODWORKS BY ACTING THE COMPLEAT ACID CASUALTY. WATCH OUT FORTHE BROWN ACID, MAN. NEXT WEEK - MINE APPOLIS AND OTHER MISSPELT AMERICAN TOWNS, THE NOISES IN THE NIGHT, THE POSTCARDS HOME (COMING, HONEST) AND WHAT'S BEHIND THE FEAR AND LOATHING BEHIND THE 'WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?' MEANWHILE, BYE FRUM THE

* CONCERT PROMOTER

TRIBAL STOMP



THE SHAPE OF THIN

by fab, one-off, Johnny Restivo was blasted out to New York punters in the intermission before the Clash came out and shredded the second night audience at New York's Palladium theatre with their magnificent rock and roll. (21/9/77)

Opinions vary as to which have and haven't been great shows, but everytime I've been down in the audience rather than shuttled in to the liggers enclosure at the side of the stage, I've seen only excellence from the Clash. It's been said before to the point of embarrassment, but, as the band currently shouldering the burden of redefining white rock and roll for the rest of the world, they are doing it right on so many levels as to make most of their predecessors and nearly all of their contemporaries look like slabs and jerks.

mission to find a space large enough to lay out and paint a forty by twenty feet backcloth to replace the flags you're probably familiar with. Feeling like the most insignificant speck of shit in the world's biggest dustbin I trudged aimlessly from one fictitious address to another, only able to get a taxi out of it all, eventually, by hurling myself on to one as it stopped at traffic lights. New York is hell, on foot, in the rain. For all I know the backcloth has been chopped into small pieces and sold as genuine, holy relics and the paint I luggered around has been hurled into New York harbour but I fear I'll be seeing a lot more of it soon.



But on with the tour - From Chicago to Detroit to Boston to New York on a bus called Arpeggio. Fuelled by great foods like I.C.I. used to make.



The New York audiences know what was expected and after the Under-tones and Sam and Dave had got them boiling they went outrageous for the Clash - applauding and shouting for about ten minutes solid after the first night's set. In New York I became a pawn in the ongoing saga of the New Backdrop which involved my spending most of a day shunting around in pouring rain on a fruitless



THE BIG CRAB-APPLE

Philadelphia was a great show from out in the audience and I celebrated by getting so viley drunk that I spent the next day mostly comatose, occassionally trying to find the hole in my head to shovel the pills in and periodically barfing up quantities of old bilge water, paint stripper and ships barnacles. Terrific! NEXT WEEK - I ENTER A MONASTERY AND SOLVE THE MYSTERY

OF THE SOILED PILLOWS TOUR ?



Meanwhile, the casualties mount as we roll into Canada after a stopover in Philadelphia where the audience stood and pounded their hands together for so long that Joe had to come out after the encore and explain that they were too tired from travelling to play any more

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS? THERE'S GOOD ROCKING TONIGHT!!

Atlanta, Georgia

October 1st.

I forgot to mention Philadelphia's mutants - more disturbing looking people than even Liverpool or Warrington can boast. People with noses in their ears and hands growing out of the sides of their legs. Faces like a handful of stones set in dripping. Heads like hairy jellies and flaming complexions like beds. Walking potatoes with hole where their heads smeared all over them. giant clothespeg that ignore. and the Clash busclogged for two shows on the 25th Canuck audiences. Visible enthusiasm displayed the first serious gobbing after a touching request distance throat clearing, the audience invaded the set and at the O'Keeffe about twenty or thirty seats died. That's New Pop.

THIS IS AN AMAZING TOUR -

The Americans had 'Give 'em Enough Rope' as the first official album release (Although 'The Clash' is said to have sold in vast quantities on import) and an amended version of the first album has only recently been released, but the lights are going on over peoples' heads all over the place, and the (P)political message has obviously been picked up by many of the punters who try to get their messages of goodwill through at the end of each show. ('What I saw in the band was a concentration of all the pain and outrage this system has lodged in my gut - U.S. Revolutionary Worker 28/9/79) To many, of course, it's just a great rock and roll show and, as if guided by some infallible rock and roll tribal consciousness, the Clash are looking more than ever like the bastard offspring of Eddie Cochran out of Gene Vincent and a Harley Davidson. Dumbfounding to see the most intelligent, positive rock and roll on earth at the present time being presented nightly by a band who look like the wild ones who haunted the troubled skies of the fifties. America is being reminded of how rock and roll looks, as well as how it's never sounded before. A girl hesitantly unveiling two oil paintings of Mick and Paul in Monterey, was face to face with different incarnations. But there's much more going on here than that. American

Kids are being given the rude awakening that was so swiftly pooh-poohed by the vested interests when it happened in England. After Canada it's marathon drives again to Worcester Mass., and Maryland. More images of America being given the message. London's calling to the faraway towns. To the abandoned drive-ins and the big macks like sleeping dinosaurs in the fog at the side of the truck-stop, to the gas attendant in the yellow, all night doorway, to the uneasy sleep of the cities, to the people. Rolling Stone has just printed the album review that was needed here in 1977. This is the beginning of the end of many things. NEXT WEEK:
WAR WITH THE U.S.S.R.



BROTHEL CREEPERS OVER AMERICA

OR SUEDES OVER THE STATES

Part 2...

The Clash are in Chicago where the streets can be intimidating if you're a goddam, wimp, English whiteboy like me. Battered, old pimpmobiles limp around like wounded animals and the most popular taxi style resembles a mobile, size two hundred and seventeen Dr. Martens boot with a girder slapped around it for a fender and a MADE IN HONGKONG style colour scheme complete with painted on windows and driver. After the false start of Monterey



CRUNCH! TRAMP.

A ROCK AND ROLL RESCUE OPERATION



things clicked into gear in Minneapolis where it rains a fair amount and the Undertones and David Johansson supported the Clash at the Civic centre and it became evident that a lot of

about rock and roll rather than Rock Music. The excitement has finally touched the U.S., and though it's bad news for English isolationists and Public Images the Clash aren't going to get lost over here. American rockers need the example of the Clash every bit as much as England, and when you think of the horrendous alternatives doing the rounds and the impractical ability of the rock and roll population of the States being imported, common sense says that they have

to get out here periodically to stamp their authority on the Cowboys.

AND ON TO CHICAGO

Where I hide behind a double-locked door from the violence and intimidation which is room service coming to tidy up and empty the ashtrays. A ride through darkened, beat-up streets, over heavy-duty industrial bridges roughly banged together from enormous lengths of junk metal and tossed haphazardly over rivers of raw sewage and worse, delivered the Clash to their first Chicago show at the Aragon ballrooms. The Aragon is the result of mating the Ponderosa ranch with the Albert Hall, setting it down in Blackpool in Scots week and calling in the Mongol hordes. And the Mongol hordes love the Clash! The Undertones and Bo Diddley stoked up the rampant insanity and by the time the Clash



CHICAGO CALLING

had finished their set the audience had melted down into a heap of steaming insides and twitching nerve ends slithering around the floor of the theatre. Songs like, The Right Profile, Guns in Brixton, Revolution Rock are being infiltrated into the older material and making for great new Clash set. This band is still rock and roll central and the standards they're setting on every level are still so high. Any of the popular English criticisms of them have to be measured against their admirable achievements. GOT TO MOVE NOW - NEXT WEEK AMERICAN T.V. AND THE MEANING OF LIFE.

Great American Greases

Los Angeles 10/19/79

What am I doing here? I got on this tour because I wanted to do some paintings about rock and roll. About what shows are like. The light and the lights, the audiences, the performers from the audience point of view, the stage. I had an idea that I could convey something that the camera, and the kind of heroic, icon-like images that most rock and roll paintings have been concerned with, perhaps couldn't. That was a month and a continent ago and I've had plenty of second thoughts along the way. Simply being out of England at a time when



things are getting tougher is obviously quite-inducing. I've stood among American audiences or at the side of the stage on many nights through this tour wondering what the hell I was doing here and why the Clash were away from England as another winter, and all that entails, closes in. I'm massively compromised of course, but it's never going to be 1977 again, there's such a transparent desire by the band that they galvanize the audiences out here into doing something for themselves, (what they're always striving for in England) and the fact is that if there is anything honest and worth caring about in contemporary rock and roll, it's still best embodied in this band. And paintings. Do

paintings matter at all? At the moment, I don't know.

SINCE ATLANTA

From Georgia, through Texas to Los Angeles taking in the Armadillo World Centre in Austin, it's Schoolbook Depository, horrible Houston and Lubbock, with Buddy Hollymania. Joe Ely has been supporting again, through Texas. It's supposed to be heresy to say - steel accordion, kitchen sink and all mod cons arrangement that he has at local band plus one M. Jones and one N. Headon for one number (BeBop A Lula) running through a bunch of straight old rockers like 'that's Alright', 'Whole Lotta Shakin' etc., in a local booze bar. Good stuff which I'd like to see him do with his own band. The Clash show in The Armadillo was a good one - the Club has a nice atmosphere and I nicked a Coors beer jug.

★ By Houston, on the fifth, I was walking in my sleep and I vaguely remember a college show. Pennie Smith flew back to the NME with vast numbers of Clash photographs. It's a great pity that only a small percentage can be used by the weekly music press.

DALLAS, on the sixth, was another big city, another small gig, but a well won audience and I look at the spot where John F. Kennedy was assassinated. The book depository is far closer to the point where the bullets hit the Presidential limousine than films of the event ever indicate and standing on the road in bright sunlight it's hard to believe that dozens of people wouldn't have spotted Oswald and any accomplices and nabbed them within minutes. A very surprising place and oddly disturbing to see traffic trundling along the short stretch of road and into the underpass as though nothing special had ever happened there.

P.S. I believe they're cramming these dispatches into smaller spaces. Write to complain now.

I GROW MY
FINGERNAILS
LONG SO THEY
CLICK WHEN I
PLAY WHITE
RIOT!

★ What happened in Lubbock on the seventh, was that after the show at the Rox nearly everyone got wasted in their chosen fashion and made a middle of the night visit to Buddy Holly's grave-stone. This was my great error of the tour because I was in such a zombielike state that I went to sleep right after the show and missed what to me, should have been an essential trip. Dreadful time to get knackered but I'm completely well again now and rode the famed Route 66 to Los Angeles on the famous Arpeggio rock and roll bus. The band flew it. What a bunch of softies!

NEXT WEEK: I WALK HOME

JOE ELY
COWBOY PUNK





THE FINAL SCENE WAS FARCE WITH FLIGHT-HOME TIME NEARER & NEARER & NO PLANE TICKETS, NO LUGGAGE, NO BODY READY, NO IDEA WHAT WAS HAPPENING. AN HOUR OR SO BEFORE FLIGHT TIME ATTEMPTS AT ORGANIZATION WERE ABANDONED IN FAVOUR OF PERSONAL SALVATION AND A DASH TO THE PLANE. THE BAND DIDN'T MAKE IT. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



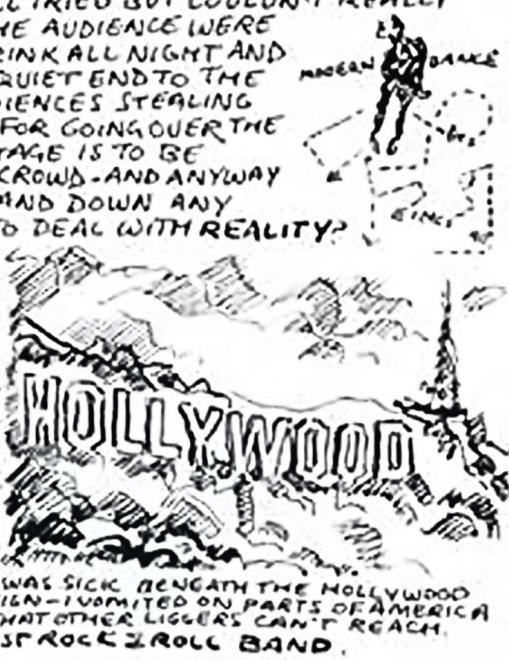
MY LAST DISPATCH WAS SUPPRESSED BY THE AUTHORITIES BUT CHRONICLED CLASH SHOWS AT THE ARMADILLO WORLD HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTIN TEXAS ON THE 4TH OCTOBER - 'CLASH TRASH ARMOURED, BURROWING QUADROPEDS!' DALLAS ON THE 5TH - 'CLASH ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KILLERS' WITH HOUSTON THE WORLD! AND LUBBOCK ON THE 7TH AS HOLLYMANIA SWEEPS CLASH AS ALL THIS WAS, I'VE ONLY SPACE HERE TO WRITE OF THE LAST FIVE DATES OF THE TOUR. FROM LUBBOCK, THE BAND FLEW, AND THE ALCOHOLICS BUSSED (VIA ROUTE 66) TO LOS ANGELES AND THE WILDEST SHOW OF THE WHOLE TOUR. THE HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM AUDIENCE LOOKED DIFFERENT - AS MEAN AND NASTY AND DOZY LOOKING AS AN ENGLISH AUDIENCE - AND WERE DETERMINED TO GOZ ALL OVER ANYTHING ONSTAGE THAT WASN'T THE CLASH AND TO HURL A GOOD BIT ON THEM AS WELL. JOE ELY (A CONSTANT PRESENCE ON THIS TOUR) AND THE (ROCKAGOU) REBELS PLAYED THROUGH NON-STOP AGUE AND SPIT AND THE ELY BAND MADE THE MISTAKE OF RETALIATING WITH A DUSTIGN OF WATER, WHICH UNDERSTANDABLY MADE THE FRONT ROWS EVEN MORE HOSTILE TO ANYTHING ON THE STAGE. A LOT OF THIS WAS THE RITUAL BELLIGERENCE THAT AUDIENCES EVERYWHERE THINK THAT THEY HAVE TO DISPLAY, AND THE CLASH CAME ON TO GREAT CHEERS MASS JUMPING UP AND DOWN, SURGES ONTO THE STAGE, FIGHTING, CURSING, SPITTING AND STOMPING ASS (OBSCURE AMERICANISM - SEE ALSO GITTIN' DOWN AND KICKIN' ASS), AT THE END OF THE SET WITH JOE ELY, THE REBELS, A FEW DOZEN OF THE AUDIENCE, THE CLASH AND ASSORTED ROADIES, BOUNCERS AND LIGGERS ON THE STAGE PLUS A CONSTANT STREAM OF BODIES BEING HURLED OFF INTO THE PULSATING MASS, THE HALL LOOKED LIKE ONE OF THOSE BIG CECIL B. DEMILLE BLOWOUTS JUST BEFORE SAMSON COMES OUT AND PULLS THE ROOF DOWN OR MOSES ENTERS ON A MOUNTAIN TOP WITH A MESSAGE FROM GOD FOR ALL THE FORNICATION SINNERS DOWN BELOW. GOOD SHOW



SAN FRANCISCO (13th OCT), SEATTLE (15th) AND VANCOUVER, ALL TRIED BUT COULDN'T REALLY MATCH LOS ANGELES. SAN FRANCISCO WAS A GREAT SHOW BUT THE AUDIENCE WERE A BIT LESS BOISTEROUS THAN L.A., SEATTLE, I DIDN'T HAVE A DRINK ALL NIGHT AND DON'T REMEMBER TOO MUCH OF IT. VANCOUVER (16th) WAS A QUIET END TO THE TOUR WITH JOE STRUMMER AGAIN RAILING AGAINST PASSIVE AUDIENCES STEALING HIS SOUL. THE PARADOX HERE, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE REWARD FOR GOING OVER THE TOP AND SHOWING ULTIMATE ENTHUSIASM BY CLAMBERING ON STAGE IS TO BE BUNDLED OFF AND OUT OF THE DOOR OR HURLED BACK INTO THE CROWD - AND ANYWAY (AS THE LONE GROOVER WAS ASKING RECENTLY) IS JUMPING UP AND DOWN ANY KIND OF INTELLIGENT RESPONSE TO MUSIC THAT ASPIRES TO DEAL WITH REALITY? KVESTIONS, KQUESTIONS, BACK HOME... AND ALREADY SICK

OF MAKING PLANS FOR NIGEL AND THE COLD AT NIGHT AND AUTORITARIAN VIOLENCE BEING SO NEAR AND SO PERSONAL AGAIN. THE OPTIMISM AND THE NAIVE HOPE THAT THIS LAST ROCK AND ROLL UPSURGE WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING HAS LONG GONE, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S A STUPID MISTAKE TO TURN INWARD AND IGNORE THE ISSUES THAT THE CLASH BROUGHT INTO THE 'POP' MUSIC FIELD OF INTEREST, OR REVILE THEM FOR FAILING TO OVERTURN THE GOVERNMENT. IF THE CLASH PACKED IT IN TOMORROW WE'D LOSE THE SOLE LIVING EVIDENCE THAT ROCK AND ROLL ASPIRES TO BE ANYTHING MORE THAN BLIND ESCAPISM AND THEY'D BE REPLACED BY SOMETHING INFINITELY LESS WORTHY WITHIN WEEKS.

I'D LIKE TO BE BACK ON THE BUS WITH THE LAST ROCK & ROLL BAND.





The Clash
Up Close and Personal

DVD & BOOK

DVD AND BOOK SET

FANTASTIC PORTRAIT OF AN ERA OFTEN OVERLOOKED

AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD RECORD SHOPS

THE CLASH
Up Close and Personal
DVD AND BOOK SET

DVD & BOOK

DVD AND BOOK SET

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