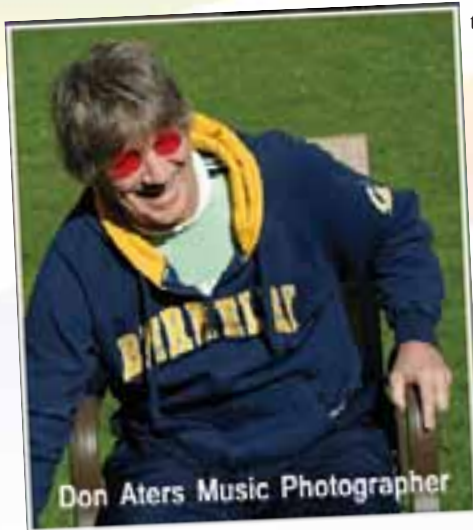


The Rainbow Warriors

Bring Interactive Show to Kent Feb. 10th

By Helen Marketti

Psychedelic swirls of the 60's blended a culture of music, free spirit and a changing of the times as youth questioned the guidance of authority. People went against the grain of what society was continuing to dictate and found ways to send the message that they were not going to take it anymore. A large part of the revolution, so to speak, came through the music of the time and the lasting impression of the images



Don Aters Music Photographer

caught on film.

Don Aters, music photographer and rock historian has been capturing images on film for over forty years. He attended the Monterey Pop Festival, spent a historic three days at Woodstock 69 and attended hundreds of shows before and since.

"I spent time in Vietnam for awhile and took photographs of recon missions while I was in the military," explains Don. "Once I came home, I wanted to be like everyone else of that time. I wanted to become a rock star. I wanted to move to San Francisco and become a hippie."

Don is originally from Chicago and it is there where he first met Chet Helms. Chet was the

founder and manager of Big Brother and the Holding Company. He recruited Janis Joplin to be their lead singer. "I first met them when they recorded their first album in Chicago," said Don. Don's friendship with Chet Helms would last until his death in 2005.

"I became friends with all of them," said Don. "I took pictures of Janis Joplin at the Fillmore East. She said that if all the photos were as good as the ones she saw, then I could come to their shows any time I wanted to. So whenever I had time, I would go to their shows. There have been a lot of great female singers since Janis but no one has been able to replicate what she gave on stage over forty years ago."

Don was present for all three days of Woodstock 69 and had access to incredible artists while capturing one of music's historical impacts on film. "I was there all three days until Jimi Hendrix played on Monday morning," remembers Don. "The weather elements were cold but you didn't think or worry about that. There was no food or water. Many people brought their own food. You had to drive over 100 miles before you could buy a bag of chips. Places nearby were sold out of everything."

Don continues, "There were 500,000 people at Woodstock with 300,000 more waiting to get there. You will never see anything like that ever again. In my eyes, one of the best bands that played Woodstock was Ten Years After. People are in the haze that the 3-day concert on Max Yasgur's farm was free. It didn't start out that way because you had to purchase tickets ahead of time. I had bought my ticket but once 200,000 people show up and burst through

the landscape, how can you get ticket money then?"

With over 200,000 photo images taken during a forty-year period, what constitutes a great photo for Don? "After a time, photographers get noted for a certain thing. I don't care for taking



"whole band" shots. I don't like to take wide angle stage shots," explains Don. "I may take group shots of a band back stage but not when they are on stage. I think it's too much. Every band has one component, maybe two. There are certain elements that make a band work. If Led Zeppelin were to reunite, fans would come because Jimmie Page and Robert Plant are still here. While their drummer, John Bonham is gone and indeed "Bonzo"



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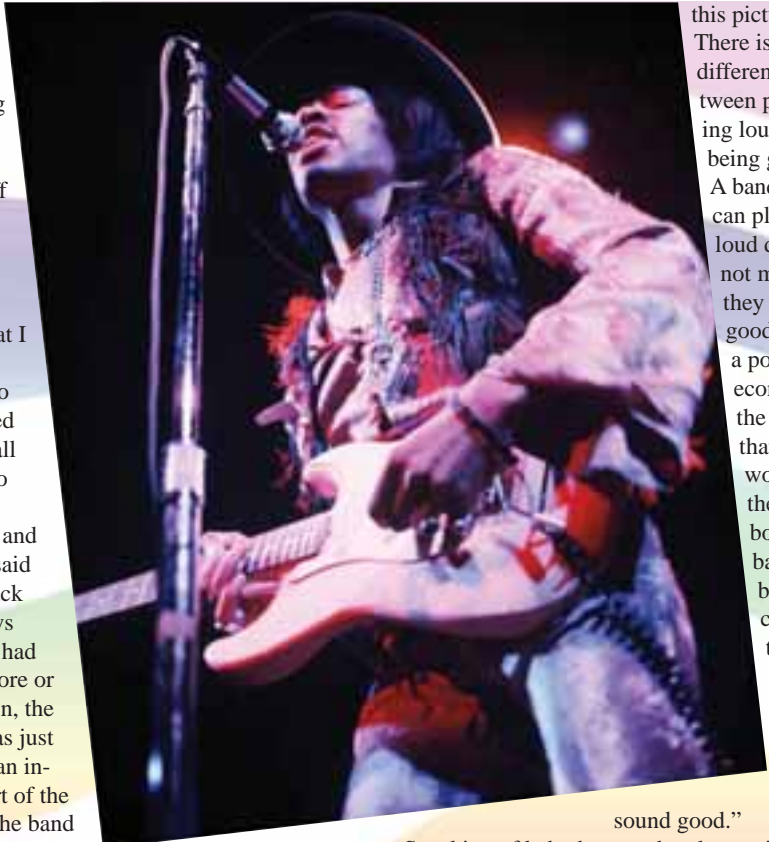
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was unique with his talent using the sticks, you could still pull off a successful show with Page and Plant. That is what I mean.”

“I like to take isolated shots. It’s all about who has stage charisma and charm,” said Don. “Back in the days when we had the Fillmore or the Avalon, the crowd was just as much an integral part of the show as the band on stage. The band and the crowd knew each other. Then corporate rock came along in the 80s with all those hair bands and killed what it used to be. Some of these hair bands have made more than the legendary hit makers who came before them. There is something wrong with



this picture. There is a difference between playing loud and being good. A band that can play loud does not mean they are good. In a poor economy, the music that still works is the baby boomer bands because they still play and

sound good.”

Speaking of baby boomer bands, music fans of all ages will appreciate an evening with meeting, greeting and talking with some of rock’s legendary notables. On Thursday, February 10 at 7:00 pm, fans will be able to attend an evening with The Rainbow Warriors at Kent State University in the Student Center

Ballroom. The Rainbow Warriors are Tom Constanten (keyboardist, The Grateful Dead), Gary Duncan (guitar, Quicksilver Messenger Service), Jerry Miller (guitar, Moby Grape) and Mark “Slick” Aguilar (guitar, Jefferson Starship) and Don Aters, music photographer. Don will introduce everyone and tell a little bit about each musician. They will play a few songs together and participate in a “Q & A” with the audience. There will also be time for autographs and photos.

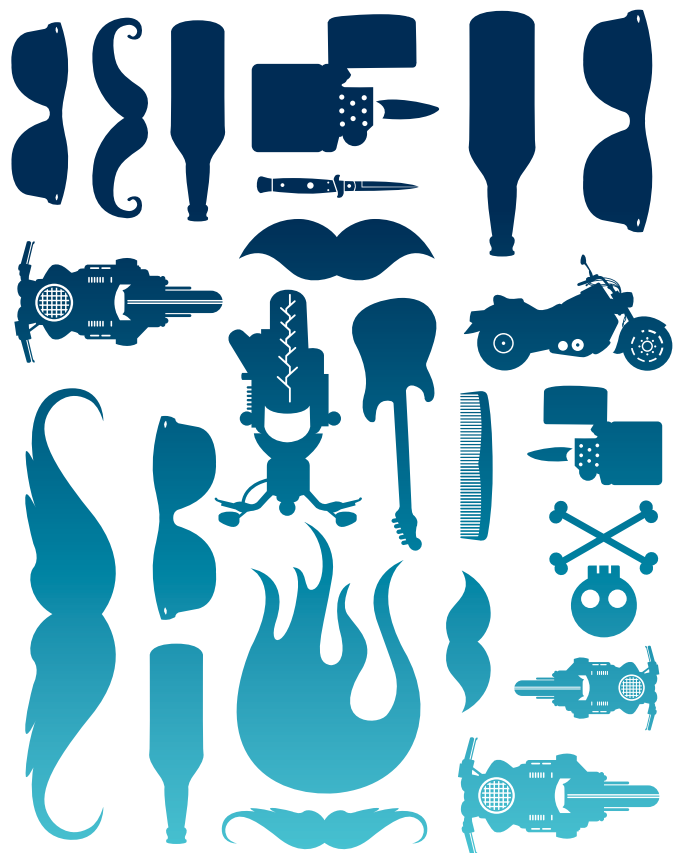
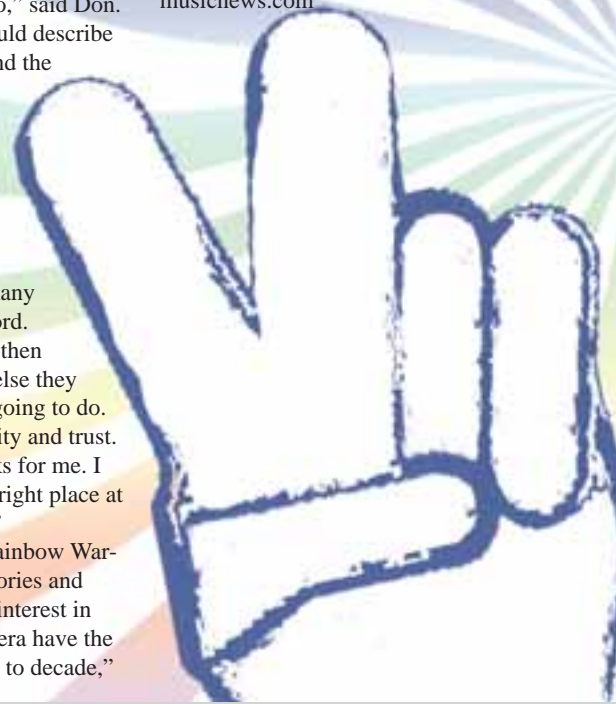
“Rainbow Warriors is a term I heard from biblical terms a very long time ago,” said Don. “I was looking for a word that would describe these guys, the era they’re from and the ideology of the times. I have used this term for more than thirty years. It’s my way of giving back to the good they have brought to others. It is why I took the photographs because I wanted to give back. They trust me because not only have I known them for many years but I also stay true to my word. If you can’t trust someone’s word then why would you believe anything else they say? I always do what I say I am going to do. That is how you establish credibility and trust. These guys trust me and that works for me. I was fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time all those years ago.”

Fans have flocked to see the Rainbow Warriors, listen to their music, their stories and experiences. Why is there still an interest in them? “Many songs from the 60s era have the lyrics that transcends from decade to decade,”

explains Don. “For example, “Teach Your Children” by Crosby, Stills & Nash is still used in movies and commercials because it still has value and meaning. Songs like that still make an impact.”

For more information about an evening with The Rainbow Warriors, please visit Woodstock Entertainment: www.woodstock4ever.biz

For more information about Don Aters, please visit his Facebook page or www.haightstreet-musicnews.com



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