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*books, music, technology*

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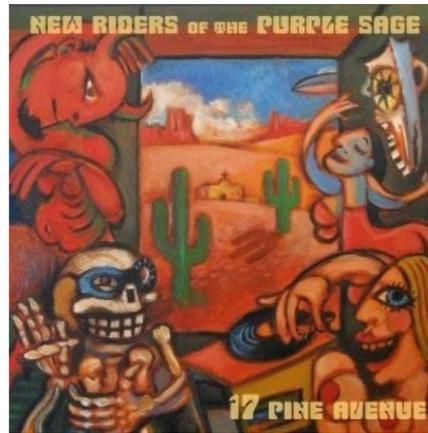
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Saturday, March 24, 2012

## CD Review: "17 Pine Avenue" by New Riders Of The Purple Sage

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17 Pine Avenue

### "Cosmic Since 1969"

Around 1969, if you remember 1969 you weren't there, country rock emerged on the scene with the country leanings of groups such as Dillard & Clark Band, the Clarence White-era Byrds, The Band, Gram Parsons' Flying Burrito Brothers, and Bob Dylan. For nearly a decade, Jerry Garcia (of the Grateful Dead) buddy, David Nelson and a young John "Marmaduke" Dawson (who was enamored with Bakersfield country music while still providing a vital link between the East Coast, Timothy Leary-dominated psychedelic scene and the West.), had been performing country tinged folk music in and around San Francisco.

Dawson and Nelson's vision was timely as Around this time, Garcia was similarly inspired to take up the pedal steel guitar, and Dawson and Garcia began playing coffeehouse concerts together when the Grateful Dead were not touring their



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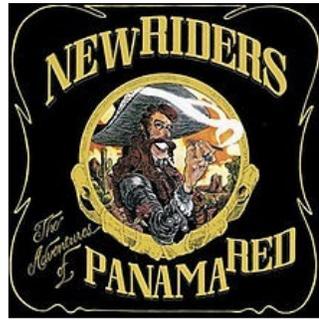
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Psychedelic Rock act, which was the Dead's milieu for their first couple of albums. By the summer of 1969 it was decided that a full band would be formed. The band that came to be known as the New Riders of the Purple Sage (a nod to the **Zane Grey** classic and the western swing combo from the 1940s led by Foy Willing) consisted of Dawson, Nelson and Garcia on pedal steel joined by Robert Hunter on electric bass and Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart. Hunter was soon replaced by Bob Matthews, before Phil Lesh of the Grateful Dead was named bassist. The most well-known version of the New Riders, referred to as the "core" by many, was Dawson, Nelson, **Dave Torbert** on bass, **Spencer Dryden** on drums, and Buddy Cage, who joined the band after about a year and a half and replaced Jerry Garcia on pedal steel.



After a few warm-up gigs throughout the Bay Area in 1969, the New Riders began to tour in May 1970 as opening act with the Grateful Dead. This relationship continued on a regular basis until December 1971. Throughout much of 1970, the Dead would open with an acoustic set that often included Dawson and Nelson before segueing into the New Riders and then the electric Dead.

By the time the New Riders recorded their first album in late 1970, change was in the air. Dave Torbert then replaced Lesh. After Hart went on sabbatical from music in early 1971,

Spencer Dryden (from **Jefferson Airplane**) began a ten-year relationship with the group as their drummer, and eventually manager. By the time the band cut *The Adventures Of Panama Red* (their 4th album in 1973 and an 'ode to a popular brand of marijuana) they had reached their height of popularity. It remains the bands only Gold Album although they maintained a cult following second only to Dead Heads. But, they continued touring and releasing albums throughout the mid to late 1970s and early 1980s.

By '82, Dawson was the only original member left but with the addition of multi-instrumentalist Rusty Gauthier, who sang and played acoustic guitar, slide guitar, mandolin, banjo, and fiddle, they continued as The New Riders (having dropped the Purple Sage moniker) until '97 when they split up.

John "Marmaduke" Dawson died on July 21, 2009 at the age of 64 in Mexico, where he had moved to teach English. The band won a Life Time Achievement Award from *High Times* magazine in 2002 while a frail Dawson suffering from emphysema was present . Shortly after the death of Spencer Dryden, a reconstituted line-up of the New Riders began touring in late 2005. It features David Nelson and Buddy Cage, alongside guitarist Michael Falzarano (formerly of Hot Tuna), bassist Ronnie Penque, and drummer Johnny Markowski who all contribute to this great renaissance to the ground breaking psychedelic act.

■

"Prisoner Of Freedom" New Riders Of The Purple Sage

It includes 12 brand new songs from the originators of country-delic music (I just made that word up). And, it is like being transported back to those 'hazy' days of the



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My review on Amazon - edited for SFW - This is not a band of tired, tie-dyed troubadours seeing out their later years, going through the motions and rehashing their greatest hits - these crazy bastards are still full of life; full of fire; full of music.



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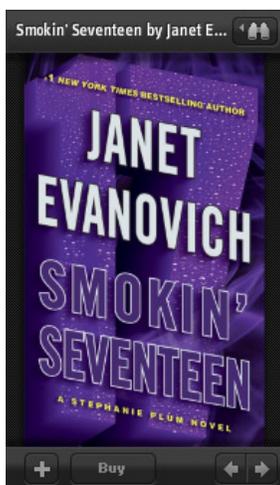
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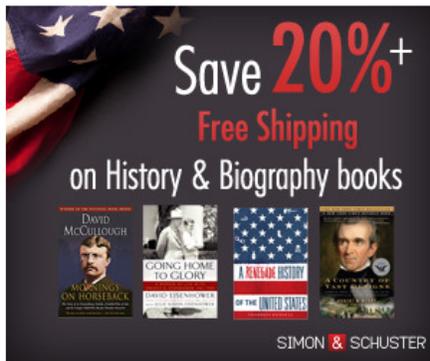


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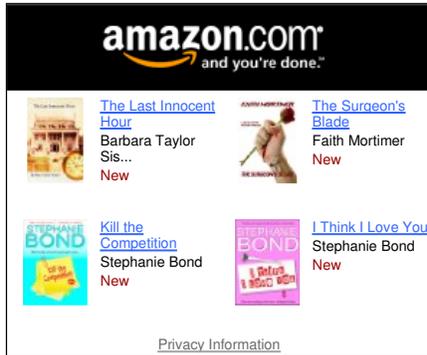
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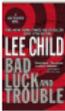
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8:00 AM PDT 3-27-2012

Carl Hiaasen was one of the first best-selling adult authors to also start writing for kids. In fact, his debut book for middle graders, Hoot, won a Newbery Honor in 2003—not bad for your first time out! As I learned...

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11:00 PM PDT 3-26-2012

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**Philip Athans on Building Immersive Sci-Fi & Fantasy Worlds**

12:05 AM PDT 3-26-2012

Special Announcement: Susan J. Morris (Writers Don't Cry columnist) Philip Athans will both be appearing at Emerald City Comicon in Seattle, WA, on March 30th. Meet the authors as Susan discusses the secrets behind creating killer villains for games and...



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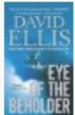
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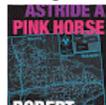
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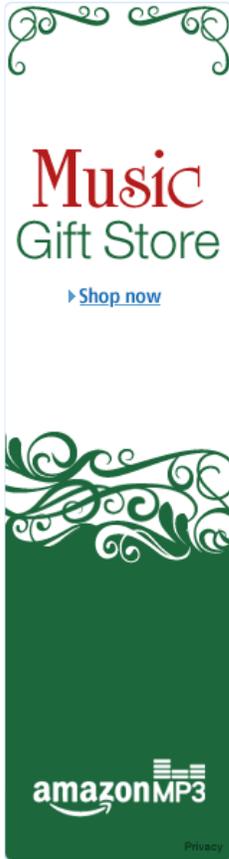


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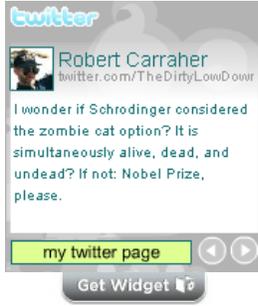
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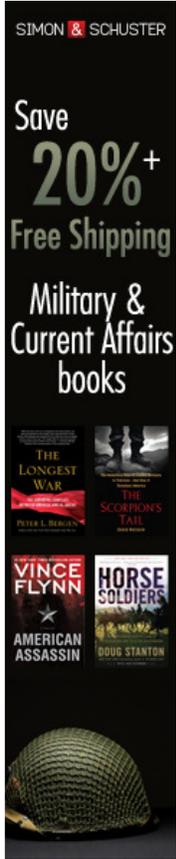
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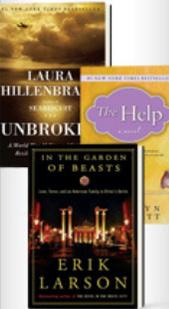
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About Me



**Robert Carraher**

By profession, he is an Electrical Engineer who also holds a degree in European History. Robert Carraher spent nearly 9 years in the military and saw a lot of the world during that time doing many interesting jobs. Communications Security,

Cryptography ,carrying very large radios in unfriendly places, and teaching NSA computer systems. Once Uncle Sam was done with him, he spent most of his career in the I.T. world as a network engineer with bouts of teaching at the university level. Since he lost his sight to an auto immune disease, he has recreated himself as a writer and cynical bastard.

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