

BIG CITY BLUES

The Yardbirds The Story of the Yardbirds

In the early '60s rock was starting to bloom; Elvis commanded the stages (interrupted by his military service and a few movies). Buddy Holly, Ricky Nelson, the Big Bopper, and a label of "supergroup", the Beatles for sure ... the Stones ... the Animals maybe. The American scene Jimi Hendrix's Experience, Jefferson Airplane and Janis Joplin spaced-out sewed up the spaced-out West Coast sound and New York's Greenwich Village musicians led by Dylan, Joan Baez, Richie Havens, and Joni Mitchell..

Now let's not forget the three guitar of the Yardbirds; Eric Clapton, Jeff (Geoffrey Arnold) Beck, and Jimmy (James Stanley) Page. The ensemble formed around the lead guitarists. In its core was Chris Dreja's rhythm axe and/or bass guitar, Jim McCartney's the skinner, Paul Samwell-Smith was the steady thumper. and vocalist Keith Self pulled the harmonica duties. As well the maracas they gave accent.

The Yardbirds components started band in '64, and, broke up in 1968. Jeff Beck was the lead axeman the Yardbirds needed. The quintet then enlisted Page and Beck quit; Only to form his Jeff Beck Group ,, Clapton to Blind Faith's solo LP and Eric formed the heavy hittin' Cream; and Page's new crew was The New Yardbirds, then soon called Led Zeppelin.

Each the three are still performing in their solo and/or built squads paced with the times. There's few "supergroups" in the history of r & r ... This is one ... the Y'birds! The Brits were exploring the new realms for the mediums, instruments, the jamz ... giving every bandmate time to display their musical ware. Distortion was in, feedback was screachin', and Chicago blues and r & b was up-tempoed, energizing the players, their instruments, and audiences. Can ... Rock On!

- Mark