

Keystone Review



"Fuzzy" on the bongos.



Lead guitarist Kent Hamilton.

Keystone, one of Lincoln's hottest new rock bands should probably not be named Keystone.

Instead, it should be named something like the "Three E's", or some other synonym for electric, exciting and energetic. Because that's what Keystone's audience experiences whenever Keystone takes it to the stage.

And this summer, besides taking it to the stage, the seven-member, extremely versatile group will also take it to the streets in a 23-foot camper/van and a 16-foot horse

trailer as Keystone begins a five state concert tour that might change their lives.

The band, who when in Lincoln, is usually seen at the Royal Grove Lounge, will tour North and South Dakota, out-state Nebraska, Iowa and Colorado. It is a giant step for the band, yet only a dent in the competitive music world.

Keystone's greatest quality, and the members agree, is its ability to adapt to all styles of music. Six of the seven members are strong vocalists who greatly increase the band's style options.

It is also interesting to note that five of the seven are Lincoln East High School graduates. They, along with a wholesome Tennessee boy and a stylish New Yorker, combine sounds, ideas and styles and produce very convincing and viable musical sound.

Different tastes

"All seven of us have different tastes," said Norman "Fuzzy" Blagman, 21, the bongo player and middle tenor from Yonkers, New York.

"We just kind of pool them together. We have to give a lot to make it work," he said.

The band usually performs other groups work, however, the members agreed they would like to start experimenting with some original pieces.

Mark Anderson, 21 from Kingsport, Tenn., and Kevin Moore, 22, from Lincoln combine voices that sparkle at any vocal range. Moore, the bass guitarist, can smoothly move from low-bass almost bull-frog note to a high tenor falsetto. Anderson, an acoustic guitarist has perfected Rod Stewart stage movements which boosts his credibility as a rough-edge sounding tenor.

Rick Hamann, 21, a keyboard player from Lincoln, portrays a very showy Rod Seiger and plays an impressive piano. Chuckie McCracken, 21, the drummer and Rob Palmer, 23, another keyboard player add very fine backup and rhythm sounds.

Kent Hamilton, at 19, is the youngest member of the band. However, he is experienced—and shows it—as the band's lead guitarist. His ability to "bend" his guitar strings combined with some fast finger work produce an almost ideal sound that is well-blended.

Fine harmony

And Blagman, while singing most of the band's disco/jazz songs doubles as a fine harmonizer.

Keystone is not only an exciting band to listen to, it is exciting to watch. Hamilton said that is one of the band's goals.

Each radiates with electricity that seems to encircle and captivate their audiences as well.

They just look like they're having a good time.

As for long range goals, Anderson laughingly said their ultimate was to be "rock gods" but seriously added that they all know they have a long way to go.

Formerly known as Fragile, Keystone is a band that up until now Lincoln has called it's own. The band has accumulated a lot of Lincoln loyalists who want to think that "hometown boys have done good."

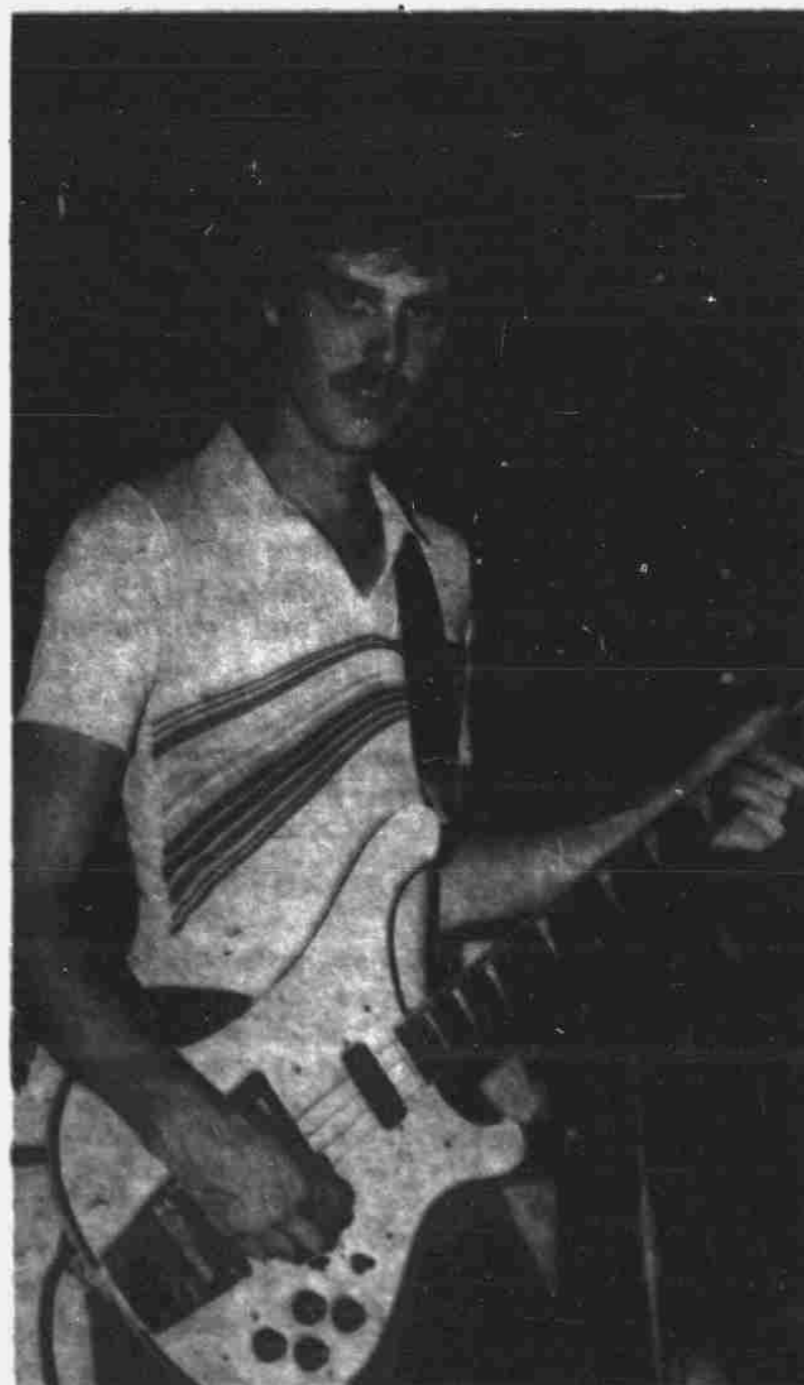


Norman "Fuzzy" Blagman, Mark Anderson, Kevin Moore and Kent Hamilton of Keystone double their vision while singing the Blues Brothers "I'm a Soul Man." Not pictured are Chuckie McCracken, the drummer, Rob Palmer, keyboard player, and another keyboard player Rick Hamann.

Story
and
photos
by
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Rick Hamann at the keyboards.



Kevin Moore, bass guitarist.