

Three foot stompin' bands

Country rock shatters dome

by Randy Stapilus
of the Argonaut Staff

Four and a half hours of fine country rock filled the Kibbie Dome Sunday night as the New Riders of the Purple Sage, Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen, and the Pure Prairie League rocked an enthusiastic audience.

"The audience is a lot more responsive this time than for Edgar Winter," many observers said. The critical difference, good as Edgar Winter was, may have been the groups. All performed very well.

The headlined group, the New Riders, played almost 20 songs, including all their old

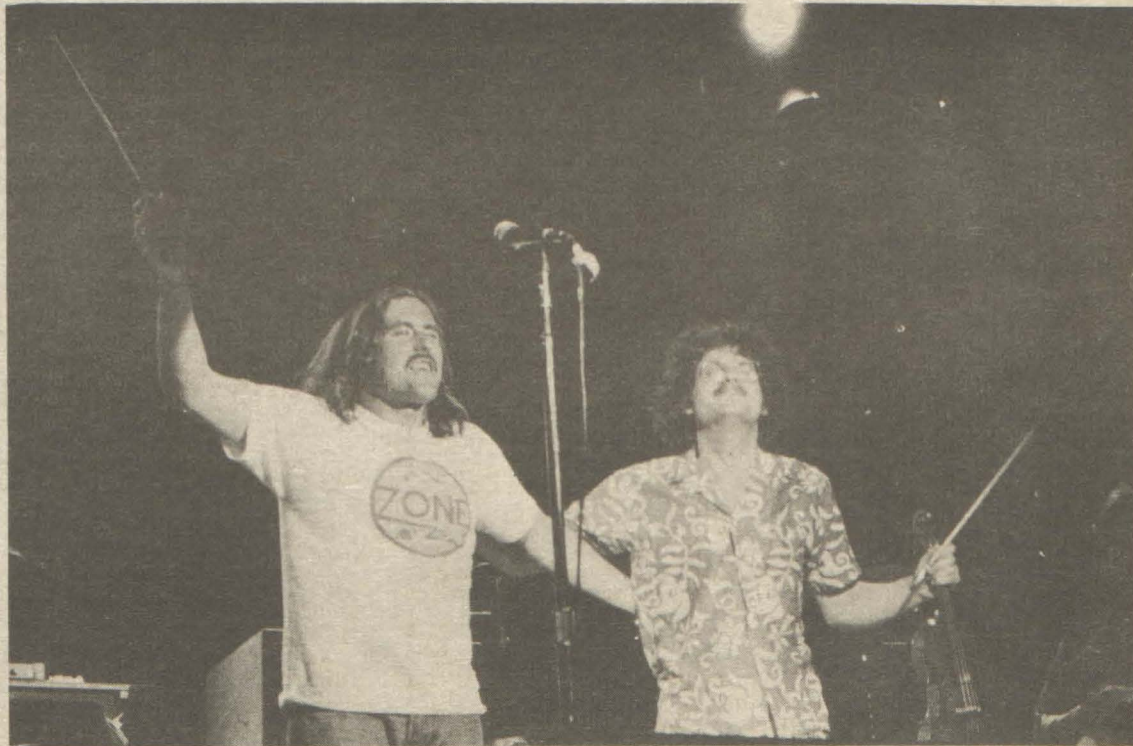
favorites, and the audience responded, many dancing on the floor.

They started with "Panama Red: He'll steal your woman then he'll rob your head..." Their performance left little to be desired, only leaving many wondering if they could keep up the pace for long.

They did for some time, with energetic, foot-stompin' versions of "L.A. Cowboy," "Slide Down the Mountain," "Over and Over," and others.

They hit a weak spot with "On Top of Old Smokey" and "La Bamba," but toward the end, with "Somebody robbed the Glenville Train" and "Strangers on a Train," they recovered admirably.

This reviewer's personal favorite, however, was the encore song "Up Against the Wall, Redneck Mother," which showed their great sense of



Chris Pietsch



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swing in country rock, and showcased some of the finest guitar playing of the evening. The crowd seemed to pick up on the song about a redneck who's "thirty four and living in a honky tonk - Kicking hippies asses and raising hell."

While the New Riders' set may have been a little long, everything they played was worth listening to.

Second-billed Commander Cody, according to many concertgoers, stole the show. They are truly an old-fashioned, raisin' hell bar band, and played so hard it was hard to take your eyes off them.

The Commander himself played piano most of the time and very well. He outdid himself on "Beat Me Daddy Eight to the Bar," a single from several years back.

The violinist, who doubled as a sax player for their brassy numbers, was also excellent in "Lone Star Beer" and "Seeds and Stems."

There were several truck driver songs - "Truck-Driving Man" and "Looking at the World Through My Windshield," which were expected, and the also expected brassy swing numbers such as "Don't Let Go." What came as a surprise was a interesting classical piece by the aforementioned violinist. It eventually turned into a dance instrumental, but it was a shocker nevertheless.

The Commander's finest moment came during his first (they were called back twice) encore, when the band gave a

perfectly rowdy performance of their 1972 hit "Hot Rod Lincoln," improvising, making the band sound like an accelerating car, casting red and blue lights around, and sounding like a police siren at the appropriate moments.

The audience called them back yet again, and the band performed "No You're Wrong" and "Lost in the Ozone."

Pure Prairie League was also a crowd pleaser. They ran through all their best known songs "I'll Fix Your Flat Tire, Merle," "Amie," and "Two Lane Highway," all of which sounded a little better in concert than on record. They could do no wrong with the crowd - even when tuning up.

"If this is Sunday night you must've had a hell of a weekend," said the leader, throwing in comments from time to time about Moscow and a Joe Vandal T-Shirt he used to wipe his guitar with.

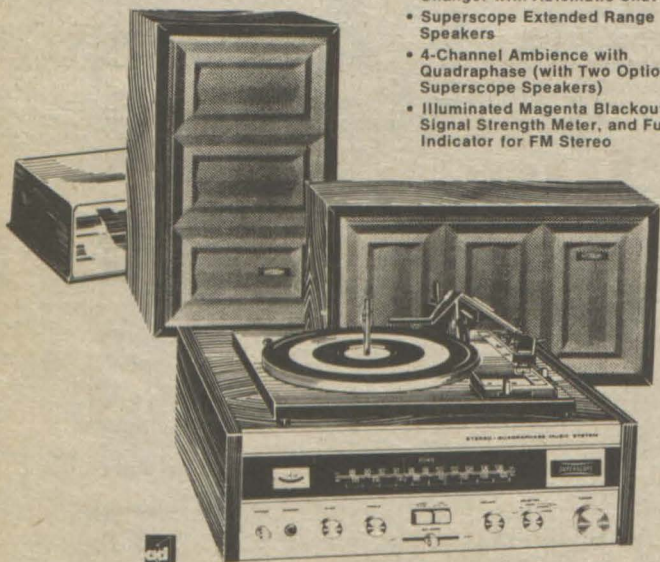
Crowd estimates were around 3800 - better than breakeven ticket sales. But some students said it was a shame more people didn't turn out to see three fine performances for five dollars.

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