

PRIME MOVERS BLUES BAND
July 5, 2010

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

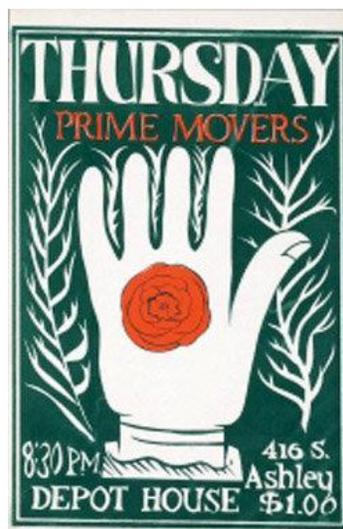
Taken at Ann Arbor, Michigan

I came across these old photos of me back in the day when I was a musician and thought some of you would get a kick out of seeing these.

In the summer of 1965, the same time the Grateful Dead started up on San Francisco, my brother Dan and I, along with some friends started the Prime Movers Blues Band in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I was the lead singer and played amplified Chicago-style blues harmonica, and sometimes rhythm guitar. My brother Dan Erlewine played lead guitar, Robert Sheff (Blue "Gene" Tyranny, today) played keyboards, Jack Dawson played bass (later Siegal-Schwall Blues Band), and Iggy Pop played drums. You all know what Iggy did later. The band played from 1965 until sometime in 1971, when it kind of dried up and blew away.

We played all over the Midwest, but also spent the Summer of Love (1967) in San Francisco, where we played most of the clubs, including opening for Cream at their first concert in the U.S. (so I am told) at the Fillmore Auditorium.



I was not only the lead singer, but also the manager, the booking agent, and the designer of most of the band's posters. Here is one I did for the Depot House in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Sometimes we had to put on our 'rock star' outfits to play a rock gig. Here we are playing in front of Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor. Iggy pop is on drums by the doors of the auditorium. Brother Dan is out front on lead guitar.



Yup. This is what I looked like back in the day.

THE LIVING END

8225 John C. Lodge
Cross street Seward

872-4990

PRESENTS

'THE LIVING END'....not really a place, really an idea. No fancy decor, no antiques, no costumes, no pop corn machines, no gimics.....just a stage. A stage that comes to life with an Odetta, a Gordon Lightfoot, a Judy Henske, a Phil Esser or with one of the fine young performers on their way up.....

JULY 19 - JULY 24

THE PRIME MOVELA

RETURNING AUG 2 - AUG 7

Are sure to move you. Perhaps straight to the dance area we will set aside.

ONE WEEK ONLY JULY 26 - JULY 31.

*JUDY HENSKE

Electra recording artist. The Rusty warren of Folk. When Judy's here you won't want to dance. She & the group do the swinging.....

AUG 9 - AUG 14

THE PAUL BUTTERFIELD BLUES BAND

Electra recording artists. Back by popular demand & once again you just might not be able to stay on your seat.

AUG 16 - AUG 21

Cedric Smith

Back from England. Actor, humorist, folksinger. Fine voice, fine guitar. May we request you not roll in the aisle.....

AUG 25 - SEP 4

Gordon Lightfoot

Folk music at it's smoothest. Composer of songs recorded by Joan Biaz; Peter, Paul & you know who; Marty Robbins etc. Oh! yes and Gordon Lightfoot on United Artist.....

SEP 5 - SEP 18

MARC FIELD

A fine performer...Will be making a national T.V. appearance while here. He's already asked for the day off.

SEP 20 - OCT 3

Fred Thompson

A real showman. Movie star too - remember 'Bloodbath's' vampire? On stage he won't scare anyone. Just entertain the ----- oh well !

Good Luck Phil!

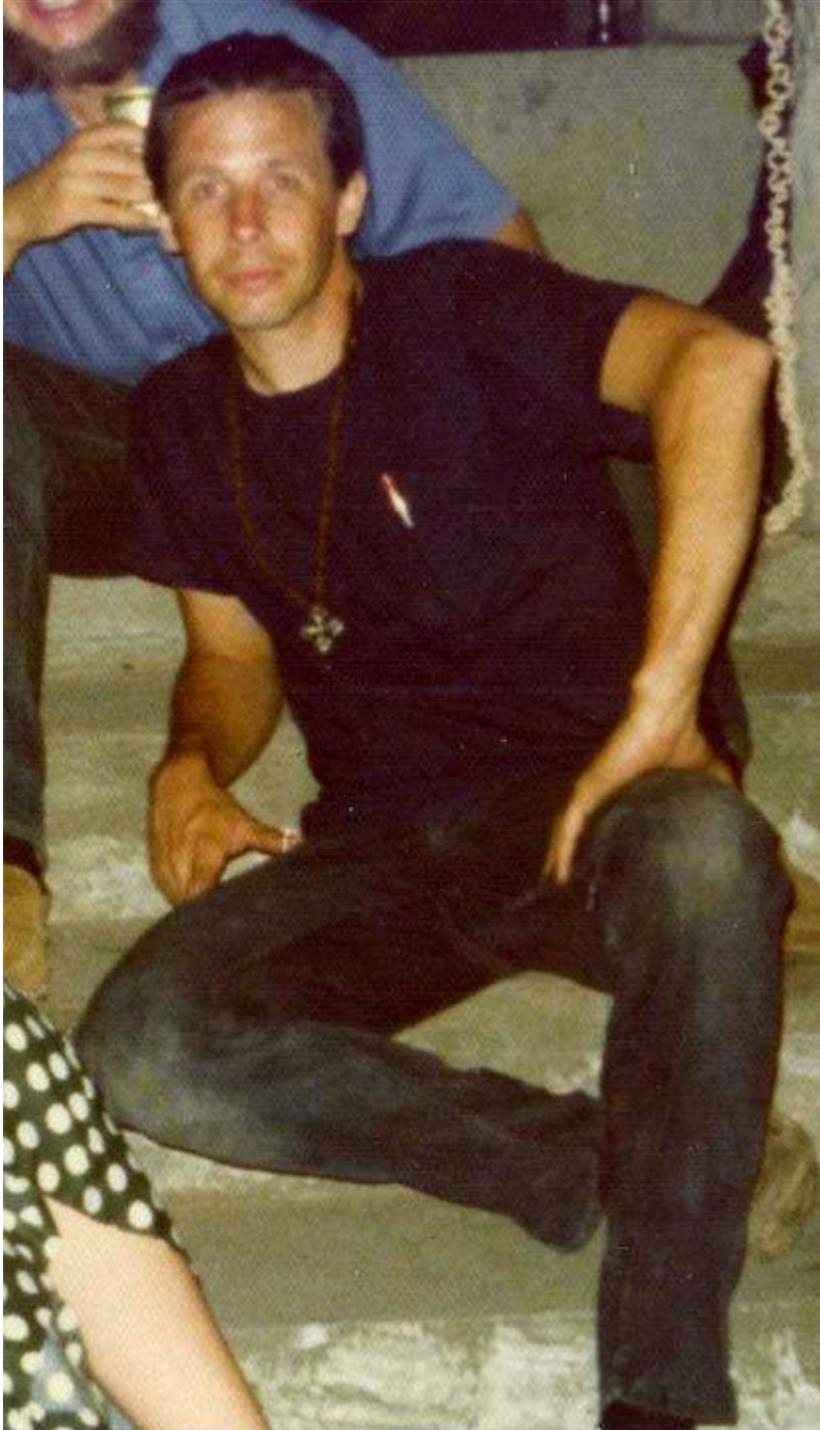
(SUN, MON, TUES Thru JULY 26th)

Going to New York but returning to Detroit soon. Since 1964 our finest. Hurry back PHIL MARCUS ESSER.

Here is a poster for our band (not my design) for The Living End in Detroit, Michigan. We played there fairly often for a while.



Here is the band at The Living End in Detroit. I am on the left, brother Dan on the right front. Note Iggy on drums.



This is me again... probably in the early 1970s, since I would not have known about the double-dorje pendant I was wearing before then... I guess.



And we also sometimes had to wear suits when we played at teen clubs back then. Here we are at Daniel's Den... somewhere in Michigan.



This looks like we playing in the West Park Band Shell in Ann Arbor, probably when we played with Jerry Garcia and jammed together, but I am not sure.