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Everybody had an input. It always makes it simpler by referring to it as Ram Band and Sun Machine, so on and so forth. This present band, which is only a few months old are really the Sam Moon band because they all come from different groups and different walks of life, except for Neil MacKinnon. We've played together for a couple of years now. Richard King is from Fredericton - an excellent guitar player.

Let's talk a little bit about the first album, New Moon. When was that recorded and released?

I guess it was recorded in the summer or fall of 81. It was released on April Fool's Day in 82, the first night we opened for the Beach Boys in Moncton.

There were three releases off that album--''Hostage'', "Eclipse", and "See You Tonight".

Oh yeah. Singles.

"Hostage" never got very much airplay here, in fact, I don't think I ever heard it.But the other two got exceptionally good airplay.

"Eclipse", I know for sure was released here for the first time and got the heaviest play of anywhere. "Hostage"was sort of a feeler type of tune.It was not a bad tune but they wanted to save the other tunes after and see how the feeler turned out.
So it was a dress rehearsal sort of thing. Funny enough in Halifax "Hostage" was the more popular tune which is kind of funny. "Eclipse" got airplay all across Canada. "Hostage" did not.

The song "Eclipse", which you co-wrote with Pat Riley, was probably the biggest of the three of them in terms of singles. You could read a joke or a pun into that song--eclipse, Sam Moon, and so forth.There's also reference to the moon in some of the other tunes too. Is that something conscious or was it just sort of subconcious advertising?

Sort of, If you look at a lot of songwriters they tend to repeat certain words throughout their career in writing. Van Morrison makes references to radio in a lot of his songs, and that's like a trademark where he sorts of sneaks it in. I think a lot of writers sort of do that to see if they can get away with it. Sort of like a little signature thing. That was one of the reasons we decided to call the album *New Moon*. I thought I would sort of put it in there-- of course it's been in the song for three years. It was sort of a little joke, in a sense.

Eclipse was a concept from the start. We didn't have a song called Eclipse but the title of the album was going to be Eclipse so Pat and I sat down and said why don't we write a song with that theme. So we were working on the idea of sort of a guy-girl relationship about things maybe not going too well; the idea of a darkening sky and so on and the "acting kind of strange" idea, meaning that the relationship was a little different. The reggae beat came from an idea that I got from George (Antoniak) when we were fooling around with the song. It was sort of like a Beatles song and then George, jokingly, started doing the reggae thing. I started singing it not in a reggae style, but with a sound from the Islands and not from the islands, just the rhythmic line with the chords and everything. It came out as it is just by fooling around. When Pat and I sat down and did the words and chords we didn't have a beat. It was a little bit different, we had the chords and words in about 15 or 20 minutes. It was really weird, it doesn't happen very often. It's better if it happens that way. We did it real quick.

Some tunes can come pretty quickly.

"See You Tonight" took a bit longer. It was sort of a rock 'n roll tune and actually all the verses weren't really together until recording time. I had been singing the song for about a year or two before in a whole different style, and I was repeating a verse. We got another verse together a couple of years later. Just goes to show you what the span can be. It can be years or a few minutes.

How did the album do, in terms of sales?

It wasn't tremendous, it didn't sell anywhere near Matt's album or anything like that. It was pretty conservative sales. I don't even know what the final figure was. It was well under 25,000 copies.

For a first album....

It was received well, by the public and by critics I read from Upper Canada and everything. There were some very nice ones in *The Music Express* and *Canadian Musician* and it made the top 100 on C100 in Halifax. I got a *Music Express* award for it and a Golden Mic award for it for Regional Artist of the Year, which was nice.

Was the record distributed nationally?

The record was for sale just in the Maritimes. But it goes to show you how well it did without the big push of a major company. Major record companies at the time were in dire straits. It was the year when record sales just sort of went down. Nobody was signing up anybody.

But radio stations in places like Calgary, Ottawa and Edmonton played it, which was very frustrating for me, because people liked it and you couldn't go to the store and get it. I heard a story about one lady who went into a record store in Edmonton and asked for it. The guy behind the counter said he didn't have one, but if she ran across a copy, could she lend it to him so he could tape it.

He had heard one of the songs on the radio and he liked it, but he couldn't buy the album. So it was kind of frustrating. But this time around I hope maybe some of the major record companies will take notice. They seem to want consistency and I know on this recording we have come out with a consistent product.

It's going to be an E.P. (Extended Play, or 'Mini-Album'). How many songs will be on it?

We recorded six songs but the E.P. will probably contain only four or five cuts. We'll probably go with the strongest tunes and the others will go in the library, towards an album which we're starting to work on already, writing tunes for. It looks like we'll be going to the studio around the end of the summer so I'll have a bit of a jump on it--I'll have two tunes ready. Between now and then I'd like to come up with about 15 or 20 new tunes to go with that. So the songs that aren't going to be on the E.P. aren't going to be lost. They're very good tunes. I don't know what tunes they are now but I liked every tune that we did. We meant to have this as an album but two things stopped it.

First, we knew it was going to take longer. It was going to be well into the spring before we finished recording, and that's with me out on the road, playing, going into the studio, playing, going out on the road. Also, it's been quite a while since I had something out so the idea was to get something out right away. And to get something out to the record companies also, to look at so that if they like the E.P. they might take some of the tunes off it. They might go for the album songs like "Eclipse" maybe

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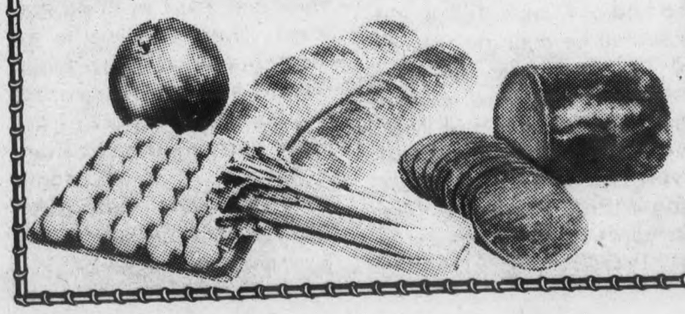
I came rushing out of a doorway doing a James Brown sort of shuffle...I don't know if he thought we were any good or not, but he thought we were crazy.

NUTRITION WEEK

★GET THE FACTS★

March is Nutrition Month in Canada. Ms. Debbie Durant, Dietician for Beaver Foods Ltd., will be hosting a Nutrition Display Booth in each cafeterian during the week of March 19 - 22/84.

Come by and visit with Debbie and ''Get The Facts'' on nutrition. You could also win one of two ''Trivial Pursuit'' games to be given away on March 22nd, 1984. Draw will take place at 1:00 p.m. in the S.U.B. cafeteria.



The UNB Forestry Association

would like to thank everyone who worked at and attended the successful Monte Carlo night.

Thank You! .