Rock and Roll

Hall OF Famer

Panhandle native to be enshrined with rock greats

Ask any of his friends or family and they'll tell you they never doubted Randy Meisner would rise to fame in the music world.

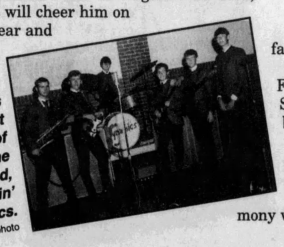
By STACY NICK
of the Star-Herald

The Panhandle native rises to Rock And Roll Hall of Fame status Monday. Meisner will accept the award with former bandmates, The Eagles, in New York City.

No surprise for his mom.

"When he was a little boy, he used to imitate Elvis all the time," said Emilie Meisner, of Gering. "I always knew he was bound for something big. You could see it when he played with The (Drivin') Dynamics. You could see he was thinking about making it and he did." She was referring to her son's first local band.

As Meisner walks on stage in New York, friends will cheer him on from near and far.



Randy Meisner began his career at the age of 15, in the local band, The Drivin' Dynamics.
Larry Soto photo

Roger Frank, Scottsbluff, will attend the ceremony with his close friend.

"We've always been proud of Randy — the local boy who made it big," Frank said.

In the '70's Frank went along on one of the Eagles' tours with Randy and said he can't wait to see them play together again.

"They haven't played together for over 20 years," Frank said. "This ceremony is kind of the end of the cycle, the cap on the whole deal for them as a group.

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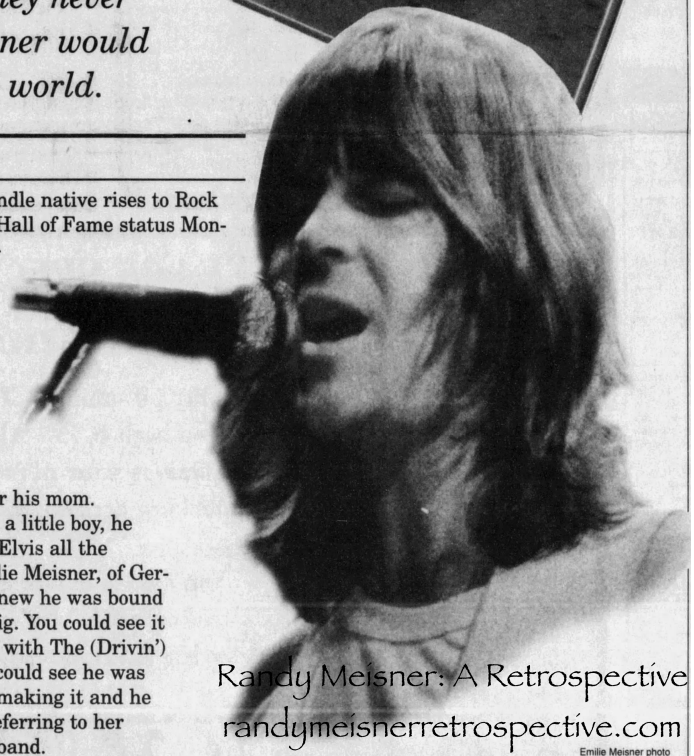

Randy Meisner: A Retrospective
randymeisnerretrospective.com

Emilie Meisner photo

In the early seventies, Randy Meisner, formerly of Scottsbluff, played bass guitar and sang backup vocals with the rock band The Eagles.

A talk with Randy Meisner

After 20 years away from his former bandmates, Randy Meisner says he's looking forward to seeing his fellow desperadoes.

"But what I'm really excited about is getting to play on stage with them again," Meisner, of Studio City, Calif., said in a Thursday phone interview.

For the first time since his 1977 departure from the band, all four of the original members, including Don Henley, Glenn Frey and Bernie Leadon, will perform together, and they'll play two of their biggest hits: "Take It Easy" and "Hotel California."

Meisner was associated with many of the Eagles' biggest recordings. One of their most popular songs, "Take It To The Limit," was written by Meisner.

"The butterflies in my stomach won't stop until I'm finally up on stage and playing," Meisner said.

But he added that he's ready for it.

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EAGLES

■ **The Thirteenth Annual Induction Ceremony is on VH1 on Jan. 19 at 9 p.m. The station is not available on local cable line-ups.**

■ **Besides The Eagles, other Hall of Fame inductees include: Fleetwood Mac, The Mamas and the Papas, Lloyd Price, Santana and Gene Vincent.**

The Randy Meisner file

1946 - born to Herman and Emilie Meisner in Scottsbluff, Neb.

1961 - started career as bass guitar player and vocalist in the band The Drivin' Dynamics.

1970 - joined the band, The Eagles.

1975 - penned one of the band's biggest hits, "Take it to the Limit."

1977 - left the band to pursue a solo career.

1980 - worked with Rick Nelson's band and the band, Poco.

1980's - pursued a solo career and produced albums for other artists.

1996 - started the band, The World Classic Rockers, with members from the bands Toto, Steppenwolf and Wings.

1998 - inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame for his work with The Eagles.

★ Talk

"Got my tuxedo and my bass all ready to go."

Being included with other Hall of Fame inductees Fleetwood Mac, The Mamas and the Papas, Lloyd Price, Santana and Gene Vincent, is "a real honor," Meisner said.

Meisner said he had always known music would be an intricate part of his life and career but said he never expected anything of this magnitude.

After he left The Eagles in 1977, he played with other bands, including Rick Nelson's band and Poco.

During the last few years, Meisner worked as a producer and has started up a new band, the World Classic Rockers, with members from the bands Toto, Steppenwolf and Wings.

— Stacy Nick

★ Eagles

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They started together, and now they'll end together."

Former Drivin' Dynamics bandmate Larry Soto, Gering, said Randy had what it took.

"He had an incredible stage presence," Soto said. "I could tell he had a burning desire to be somebody.

"Randy was a pure showman ... He had the knack of feeding off the crowd."

Meisner's friends said success never changed him.

"He's a diehard Nebraska kind of guy," Frank said.

On stage with the Eagles, Meisner would wear Frank Implement (Frank's company) T-shirts and had a Frank Implement bumper sticker on the back of his guitar.

"He used to flip his guitar up so the audience could see it," Frank said. "He took Frank Implement all over Europe with him."

Emilie, who due to health problems isn't attending the ceremony, said she's with him in spirit and couldn't be more pleased by his accomplishments.

"It just really gets to me," she said. "The Hall of Fame is quite a deal."

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