

*continued from pg. 5*

at Madison Square Garden. Right after the NYC gig, I quit playing with Buddy and moved to Denver. I stayed in Denver for about 3 months, trying to get a new start. I had previously committed to doing something with Hoshal Wright (another Denver guitarist, took Mike Bloomfield's place in the Electric Flag). This guy, Harvey Brooks, worked out a contract with Columbia Records. We were getting ready to record during that same week that Band of Gypsies was happening, so I couldn't go with Hendrix.

**JH** *Wow.*

**BR** Yeah, if I ever regretted anything in my life it might be that. But I don't know. Who knows? You never know what's going to happen. My head might be so big you might not be able to talk to me!

**RECORDING WITH JOHN MCLAUGHLIN****JH** *What was the record?*

**BR** It was 'Devotion'. Buddy on drums, Larry Young (organ) and John. I had no idea what I was getting into. I didn't know John. Like I said, I wasn't able to do Band Of Gypsies with Hendrix, but his producer, Alan Douglas, called me 3 months later and wanted me to do this studio thing with McLaughlin. I went to the studio and these guys were doing all this space s\_\_t. It was like, you know, very different for me. We rehearsed for two days and then tracked for two days. I listen to that stuff now and I think, 'Damn...I wish I could have done that differently'...but it was cool. We did that for a couple of days, working in the studio.

*JH note (Devotion is still a highly-regarded recording, a must-have for McLaughlin fans).*

**MUSIC****JH** *Do you have a favorite kind of music (to play)?*

**BR** I like a lot of different kinds of music. I was doing country-western stuff with Roger Tillison and Jesse Davis, a couple of other guys like Geoff Muldaur. I was playing with everybody. I played jazz with Joe Keel, Gene Harris when I was in Denver. Did some reggae, rock and roll. I grew up on R&B and the blues.

*"...forgot to mention that I received a Grammy for a song I wrote called "69 Freedom Special". It was recorded by Les Paul..."*

I love Brazilian sambas and stuff like that. I love to play it. I try to play it all. At the same time you try to be original. I incorporate all that stuff into what I'm doing, the blues.

**JH** *A lot of guys don't like the blues. They only play it because it's a gig.*

**BR** Well, the blues is good. I played a little with Pinetop Perkins, Charles Brown..man, 8-bar blues, 5-bar blues, even 6 1/2-bar blues. I mean, that stuff's amazing. I like the blues, man. Some people think it's easy but it's not. It can be 1 4 5, it's like a certain feel that comes with it.

**JH** *What kind of rig do you have?*

**BR** I like Ampeg gear. SVT. Fortunately, when I'm on the road, they usually have Ampeg stuff. For smaller clubs I like Gallien-Krueger amps with 4 10's. I play the Warwick Streamer Stage11 bass.

**JH** *Do you ever play upright bass?*

**BR** Yeah, I had to get acupuncture on my left forearm after playing that for a while. You use muscles you don't normally use on the electric bass. It kind of messed me up. I still mess with it a little bit, but I'm still trying to learn the electric bass! A lot of people say I get a certain tone on the electric bass that reminds them of the upright.

**JH** *Anything else? What are you working on now?*

**BR** Oh, yeah...forgot to mention that I received a Grammy for a song

I wrote called "69 Freedom Special". It was recorded by Les Paul. I just found out a little while ago. (Originally record-

ed by The Buddy Miles Express on "Electric Church". Hendrix was the producer). And I'm working on a new CD, got about five songs. Some blues, funk, R&B. Some of the musicians are guitarist Marlo Henderson (from Maxayn), Dave Schuls (Michael Franti's band), Dave Keys (NYC keyboardist) my son Scott Rich playing keyboard bass, Tony Black, Steve Dunn, lot of good players and Tony Furtado. So I don't know what you'd call it with Tony on it!

Also, I've recorded a few CD's on the Music Maker Foundation Label, the last one just released is called Big Ron Hunter "The Great Unknown" check it out... §