

FOUR DECADES LATER BREWER & SHIPLEY RETURN TO THE CITY THEY INTRODUCED TO AMERICA

FOLK DUO STILL “SMOKIN’” AFTER 40 YEARS

Tarkio Road it's a mother, it's just like oh so many others. Where the children reject you and the police inspect you. Lookin' inside the trunk and under the hood hopin' to find the secret places where you always keep your mind... ...If you're looking for some trouble you can find it on the Tarkio Road.

Spring 1971, folk duo Brewer & Shipley were riding high on the Top 10 success of “One Toke Over The Line.” In need of a follow-up single from their third album, “Tarkio,” the decision was made to release “Tarkio Road” which garnered even more chart success for the duo. However, only those intimately familiar with Missouri geography could have known that the album title and its second single evolved from a small town with approximately 1,900 residents located in the northwest corner of Missouri.

On Saturday, June 25th, forty years after “Tarkio Road” found a home on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, Brewer & Shipley will return to Tarkio, MO to perform on “Tarkio Road” (Main Street) for the residents of the rural community, which they helped introduce to the rest of the country.

When asked about the origin of the song, Michael Brewer recounts, “There are so many bogus tales of the song.” He continues, “When we left L.A. we moved to Kansas City and started a company (Good Karma Productions) with some friends. At the time we were virtually playing every college and high school that existed in the heartland. We were driving everywhere and whenever we went to Iowa or Nebraska we would take the same two-lane highway, which went through this little town Tarkio, MO. In fact, we played the college there as well. We found ourselves on that highway so many times that we eventually nicknamed it Tarkio Road.”

“This was ‘69-‘70 and we were fresh out of L.A., so we didn’t really fit in with everyone in the heartland at the time,” Tom Shipley added. “We kind of glowed in the dark, so we had to pick and choose where we’d stop to eat and get gas. Pretty innocent, though the rumors of us being arrested there make for a much better story.”

Michael Brewer and Tom Shipley were among the pioneers of folk rock throughout the early/mid seventies - releasing 7 albums and charting a total of 3 singles on the Billboard Hot 100. Though they will always be remembered for the hit that etched their name in rock history, few recall the story - and the controversy - that surrounded it at the time. “One Toke Over The Line” was first performed live at Carnegie Hall, when after their second encore the duo found themselves tapped out of material. Never intended as a single, the song was eventually released due to the overwhelming response it was receiving in concert. Despite the fact that it was being banned by radio stations across the country for its “controversial” lyrics the song still reached the top 10.



Ironically, simultaneous to Vice President Spiro Agnew specifically referring to the duo as being "subversive to America's youth" and President Nixon adding them to his enemies list (a badge they still wear with honor), the song was being performed on the Lawrence Welk Show with Welk calling the song "a modern spiritual." Video of this performance can be viewed on YouTube.

A favorite of musicians from the era, Brewer & Shipley shared the stage and/or recorded with many of the biggest artists, including: Elton John, The Eagles, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel, Bonnie Raitt, Jerry Garcia, Electric Light Orchestra, Jethro Tull, Humble Pie, Ted Nugeent, Mike Bloomfield, Leon Russell, Jimmy Messina and Black Sabbath among others. Constantly touring, Brewer & Shipley could regularly be found performing in such notable venues as; Carnegie Hall, The Bottom Line, The Troubadour, The Roxy, The Cellar Door, Keil Opera House, etc.

In recent years, the duo has witnessed rejuvenated interest in their music, beginning with the re-issue of the critically acclaimed "Tarkio" release which was soon followed by the inclusion of "One Toke Over The Line" on the "Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas" motion picture soundtrack (starring Johnny Depp). The duo was later invited to contribute guest vocals to a cover of their trademark song performed by The Rainmakers on "Hempilation II". Other compilations have included include "The Best of Brewer & Shipley" and "Tarkio / Weeds."

So how did the upcoming 40th anniversary show in Tarkio, MO show come to be? "I received an e-mail from a long-time Brewer & Shipley fan now living in Denver," stated the duo's manager Alan Rommelfanger. "He was interested in hosting a private party in Tarkio for small group of friends who had attended college there in the early 70's. Upon further discussion we realized that there was an opportunity to do something much bigger, particularly given the significance of the 40th anniversary of 'Tarkio Road' as a single."

Now long-time residents of Missouri, Brewer & Shipley continue to perform regularly to audiences comprised of old fans and a younger generation who have been turned on to their music. Regarding the duo, Ron Sylvester of The Branson Note wrote, "An actual group from the 70's still capable of making vital music..."

Date: Saturday, June 25, 2011
City: Tarkio, MO
Location: Main Street (aka: "Tarkio Road")
Time: 2:00PM CT

www.brewerandshipley.com

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