

# ROADHORSE

# Interviewed

by Chuck (with a drinking Kevin Dean in the peanut gallery)



**T&D-** How did the band get the name Roadhorse?

**VINNIE-** I own it according to the federal government. I had it long before we had the band. The meaning is a combination of the fact that I ride motorcycles and that I use to drive trucks; roadhorse being slang for a great big truck that drives coast to coast. They're big, they're heavy, they're made out of metal, they're powerful and loud like rock n' roll and metal [music]. They are rolling metal... that kind of thing.

**T&D-** Where is Roadhorse from?

**VINNIE-** All of us are from Springfield, Mass. I met our guitarist Joel when I was working at a music store. He had just gotten out of the army and came in looking for a job. That was our start.

**T&D-** How long has Roadhorse been together?

**VINNIE-** Since the late eighties.

**T&D-** Wow, how long have the current members been in Roadhorse?

**VINNIE-** Joel (guitar) and I (drums and vocals) have been in it since the beginning. Mike (bass) is the new guy. He's only been here since '95. (\*Laughs\*)

**T&D-** What is the band like now compared to back then?

**VINNIE-** Well, now we are a three piece. And back then we were a four

piece with a gifted singer who had a billion octave vocal range. Back then we did a lot of long opus type songs with many tempo changes; it was very progressive. Our songs ended up getting a lot more basic after we stripped down to a power trio. We

never found another singer, so between the three of us we agreed that we could all sing for the band. But it ended up that I became the lead singer.

**T&D-** Do you get a lot of compliments for singing and playing drums?

**VINNIE-** A Lot! I get a lot of people that say, 'I don't know how you can do that?' I'm not sure how I do it; I just do it. It really feels good! I think the important part is that it makes people remember us. If they haven't seen us before, once they get through the few songs wondering where the vocals are coming from and then see it's me, they remember the band.

**T&D-** What was your initial reason for doing a band back in the eighties?

**VINNIE-** We always approached it as an original project. It was never a weekend cover band, not that there's anything wrong with that, but that wasn't for us. We do throw covers in our set, but it was always from the get go an original band that we want to take all the way to the top!

**T&D-** How do you guys approach writing music?

**VINNIE-** It has always been a collaborative effort. It's never been one person doing all the writing, although at certain times different



people have brought different stuff to it. But by the time everyone stirs the soup, we make it into something different that we're all happy with.

**T&D-** What would you say are the similarities of tooling around with a bike and writing a new song with your band?

**VINNIE-** I guess when they're both running right; they feel great... like a surging power! You know when you are playing; there is a power that runs through you. It's kind of like the same thing when you are riding. When the bike is running right, and it rides right, it feels great! The same is true when a song comes together and when everything is clicking. Old Harleys are kind of like bands, you know, kind of temperamental. Sometimes it runs great, and then

sometimes like with a shitty practice, you are like 'why is this thing loading up on me?!'

**T&D-** If you mistakenly married the most beautiful, and evil, woman in the world (\*back ground laughs\*) and after the honey moon she said to you, "Vinnie, you have to choose between keeping your drums OR your bike", which would you choose and why?

**VINNIE-** Why does she have to be the most beautiful woman in the world?

**T&D-** ...because otherwise you would have seen through her evil side and wouldn't have married her. Blinded by beauty I guess.

**VINNIE-** Oh ok, I'll choose the third alternative. **GET OUT OF MY HOUSE BITCH!** Does that count?! (\*all laugh\*)

**T&D-** Hypothetically, if you were forced to choose between the two.

**VINNIE-** I'd pick the drums... because I have to create. It's something you're doing with other people. And I couldn't -NOT- play. For me, I represent three generations of family that tried to make it in music. So yeah, definitely the drums.

**T&D-** Thanks Vinnie!

Pictures obtained from Roadhorse.

