

MY TEN GUITARS

AS THEY SAY...

BARRY LINTON

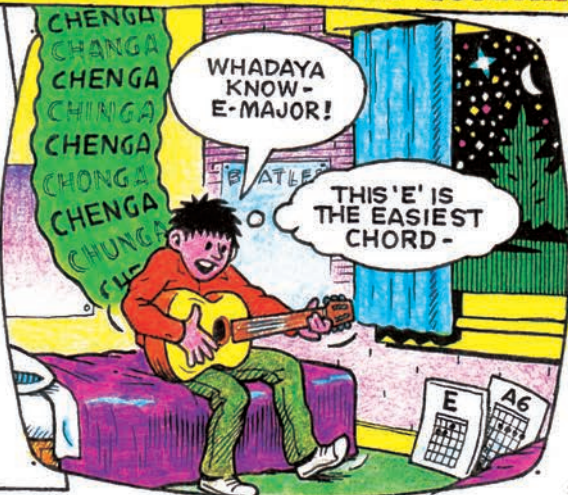


LIKE WOMEN, I LOVED 'EM BUT I COULDN'T KEEP 'EM-

1 E-MAJOR

STARTER-GUITAR

My FIRST guitar, I bought on lay-by in HAMILTON, 1963. I was 16 and I drummed it for many hours before discovering basic chords. There's few thrills like full-on strumming a guitar on A6TH and over to E-MAJOR. Rockin'!



2 HOMEMADE 'STRAT'



Lotsa new big rhythms happened those days; all -electric bands appear. A favourite of mine was THE SHADOWS - without Cliff Richard. They made a dramatic sound on all-FENDER guitars. I could not buy one so I made my own STRATOCASTER of pinex wall-board and red house paint...

3 BIG WHITE

The 'FIRST' real guitar followed me but I lost it in AUCKLAND, then, Animals, Beatles, Byrds, Doors, Dylan, Floyd, Hendrix & Santana... I dropped out of Art-School and bought a BIG WHITE guitar.



SKADUBITY - SHADAHBITY
WAYO DIDLY WHYU DUDAH!
(DONAL' BYRD, MAN) ♪ . .



Drifting from HAMILTON friends, I was in FREEMANS BAY with two other guys, a pub' friend WALLY, a scat-singing Donald Byrd fan and his old mate BILLY. One night, during a typical weekly party, some visitor sat on BIG WHITE on the old couch. Badly broken now, it had served us well.

4 CAROLYN'S YAMAHA

Later, flatting in PONSONBY with CAROLYN from ENGLAND, often jamming with local music mates. She gave me her big, boomin' YAMAHA.

Played beautifully, even after I ruined it by prizing the scratch panel off 'to replace it', leaving a grubby scar. Still, it travelled well on buses, trains, trucks and roadsides...



I last saw it running through the trees behind a WINN RD flat at night. Returning home, I found a pub' party all through both floors and none of the flat-mates there. My room's window wide open and 25 records, my new jeans, a borrowed electric bass, the YAMAHA, & a JANSEN, gone! They couldn't carry the record player.

5 Around that time, I also had a perfect little red JANSSEN BEATMASTER, (excellent NZ copies of FENDERS, mine a TELECASTER copy) stained woodgrain, with white out-line. A wonderful rhythm guitar, favourite of rock'n'soul bands, fluid, dynamic and sharp-great adult fun, also stolen from WINN RD. LATER, I saw a rising local band playing a red stain'd TELE' or a JANSSEN, and I recall wondering where...



6 BLONDE MATON

MADE IN AUSSIE

ME NEX



Also at WINN RD, I had a broad, blonde, MATON semi-acoustic jazz guitar, shallow but wide in body, three pick-ups so it had wide variety of tone; a favourite. A luxury item.

One night, there was another big party when I was broke and I sold it to enthusiastic hippies from RAGLAN.

@ no fixed abode, WELLINGTON, one time, I bought a very glossy red electric guitar, small but heavy. I had no amp then but I wanted a teardrop shape so I sawed the horns off and rasped the stumps down. While it was in pieces, I painted it yellow & orange.

BUMBLE BEE



Then I discovered hollow wooden walls make a soundbox, if you lean a solid-body rhythm guitar against them, while playing-

That was amusing - That little bee was finally given away for parts, up north.

8 EXCELLENT EKO

Mid-70s, my brother bought a chopper and lent me his ZEPHRE 6 car. I regularly visited mates up north at WHANGAREI and NGUNGURU.



A foto from there shows my neat, hardy, compact, Italian made EKO acoustic with shallow body and a solid block inside the base of the neck. It balanced in one hand, always sang perfectly.

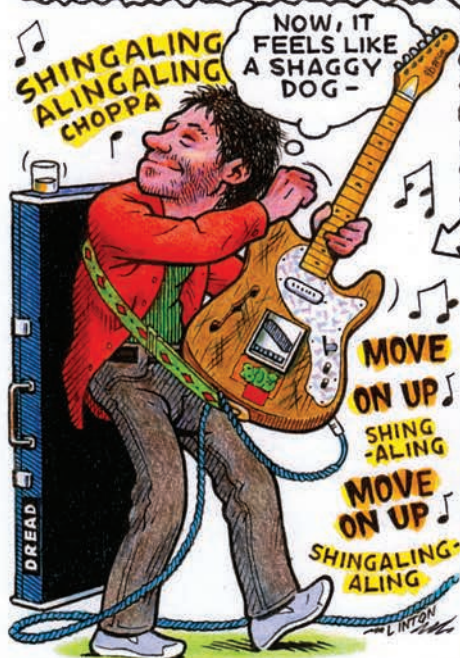
Taken from a car in FREEMANS BAY, with a bag o' herb and five reggae discs. An instant party!

9 One summer, on a week-end market-stall, I found an abused IBANEZ, copy of the great TELECASTER 'DELUXE', like CURTIS MAYFIELD plays, so cheap I couldn't pass it. But the whole top, even the machine-head pole-tops, was coated in a thick crust of many-coloured glitter! Still, it played OK, so I began scraping it all off.

IBANEZ DOG



Soon, it's a scratched-up, clear-varnished, decent rhythm guitar, with a good low action. Bent the pick-up switch flat, took the knobs off, added a green TIKI sticker behind the bridge...



Enjoyed by many for decades, till I left it in its case, with leads and all, under the couch a day or so... I found out a skanky, self-obsessed, thieving flatmate had sold it to 'Cash-Converters', ONEHUNGA. She was thrown out but I couldn't prove that dog was mine, even if I found it.

SWEET CHERRY-STAINED YAMAHA

Then I met a sweet
YAMAHA acoustic,
with built-in pick-up,
sunburst cherry front,
all cherry back and
white body trim...



In steel strings, it was
loud 'n' clear - amp'd,
light 'n' clear if not.
A tiny ding on the
neck behind B \flat had
reduced the price.

Oval sound hole,
No scratch panel,
Long fretboard,
Light weight,
Similar look
to the EKO[®]
and the
JANSEN[®]

I CAN
WORK
AROUND
THAT -

NOT TO
SCALE

* \flat = a flat note

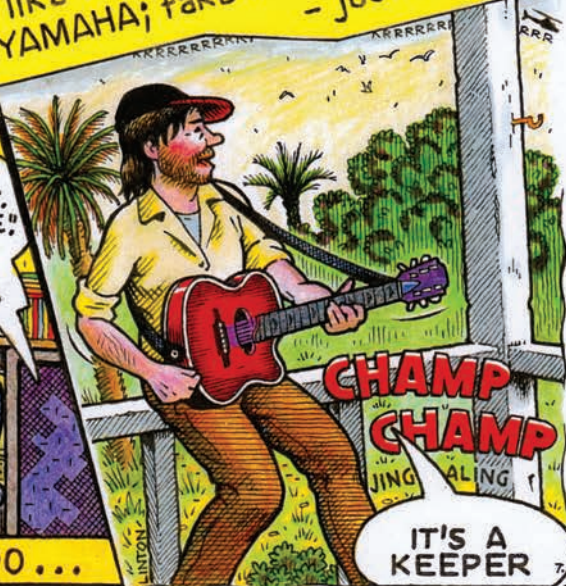
But when the afternoon sun hits,
I like to tickle the sweet, cherry
YAMAHA; take it on a rhythm run,
- just for fun.

and now,
listening to
African* and Cuban
and Fado, I don't
play so much,
anymore -

"THE BEST.
AMBIENCE!"



LOTS OF DRAWING TO DO...



CHAMP
CHAMP
JING ALING

IT'S A
KEEPER

PLUS

NZ JANSEN ELECTRIC UKELELE

Summer of '76, living at WOOD ST, I bought a rare electric ukelele

WOT A FIND!

AMAZING!

BONUS PAGE

A FADED 'JANSEN' DECAL
◀◀◀ SEE 6

Like a mini FENDER STRATOCASTER, A bass pick-up set into the scratch panel, Bridge was a bit clunky -



fretting was rough like most acoustic uke's

BETTER GIVE IT A GOOD TRY-OUT...

YOUCH!

Amplified, this thing was brutal

BLAANG!

At big volume it was like a punch in the face



ANOTHER GUITAR'S IN A FOTO, BUT I FORGET WHERE IT WAS FROM AND WHERE IT WENT, SO THAT ONE DOSN'T COUNT-

Bridge needs lowering - frets need filing - a better pick-up? I thought I'll find a luthier - make it nice?

I DUNNO... I'LL TRY-



NOW IN PIECES



DRUNK

MY OLD
STENCIL

... I STILL MISS THE BEATMASTER AND THE EKO.