



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

In 1978, Janice Johnson and Hazel Payne formed a partnership in the entertainment field and became one of the best female duet groups worldwide. Their name? "A Taste Of Honey."

In their first year they received a crash course on the potential of a single. "Boogie Oogie Oogie," written by Johnson, hit the top of the charts and became an international smash. In the States the single and its album "A Taste Of Honey" were both certified platinum by the RIAA, and went gold in both the United Kingdom and Japan. The record also nabbed the group a prestigious "Best New Artist Of The Year" Grammy Award.

In July of '79 the group released their second LP, *Another Taste*, with Johnson and Payne writing and arranging most of the material; but the album was a victim of disco's backlash in the U.S. It climbed to the top of the charts in Japan, and the LP and its single, "Do It Good" both went gold. The record also won the Gold Prize in the 8th Annual Tokyo Music Festival. The group supported the honors with a tour of Japan and plenty of television promotion.

If there seemed to be a marked absence of A Taste Of



Janice Marie Johnson

Hazel Payne

A TASTE OF HONEY

Honey on American charts in 1979-80, Johnson and Payne changed all that in 1981. The departure of ATOH keyboardist Perry Kibble and drummer Donald Johnson left the responsibility for the band's musical direction solely on their shoulders, and for their third LP the duo went into the studio with George Duke. The result, *Twice As Sweet*, was released in September of '81.

The third single released from the LP, "Sukiyaki," a revitalized re-make of KYu Sakamoto's 1963 international

hit, went to Number One on the national charts, selling itself all the way to gold status. Not only did "Sukiyaki" put A Taste Of Honey back on the charts, but, as he has said in published interviews, the record also broke George Duke into the major leagues as a record producers.

Now, with Ladies Of The Eighties, A Taste Of Honey once again goes for the platinum. Eighties is chock full of contemporary music, such as, "Sayonara," the festive "We've Got The Groove," the thunderous rock-flavored "Lies," the seductive mid-tempo of "Never Go Wrong" and the splendid reworking of "I'll Try Something New," the cover of the Smokey Robinson classic that became a smash hit single right out of the box.

If the 1980s aren't held sacred for any other reason, at least in the annals of pop music the decade will be recalled as the one in which A Taste Of Honey forged ahead to solidify their stake in the competitive world of contemporary music.

A DREAM FULFILLED

Have you ever dreamed of owning your own television production company complete with the proper equipment?

Well, Donald Ray Hearon had this dream for many years, and as a result he now owns Aslon Production Studios located at 5130 E. Charleston here in Las Vegas.

As an eight-year-old boy, Donald Ray entered a talent show in Floydada, Texas. He sang and played a guitar that was out of tune. He could not reconcile the difference between his voice and the sound of the guitar. He was laughed off the stage.

Instead of giving up, Donald Ray became more determined to return later to Floydada as a professional entertainer. In the summer of 1970 he returned, and not only

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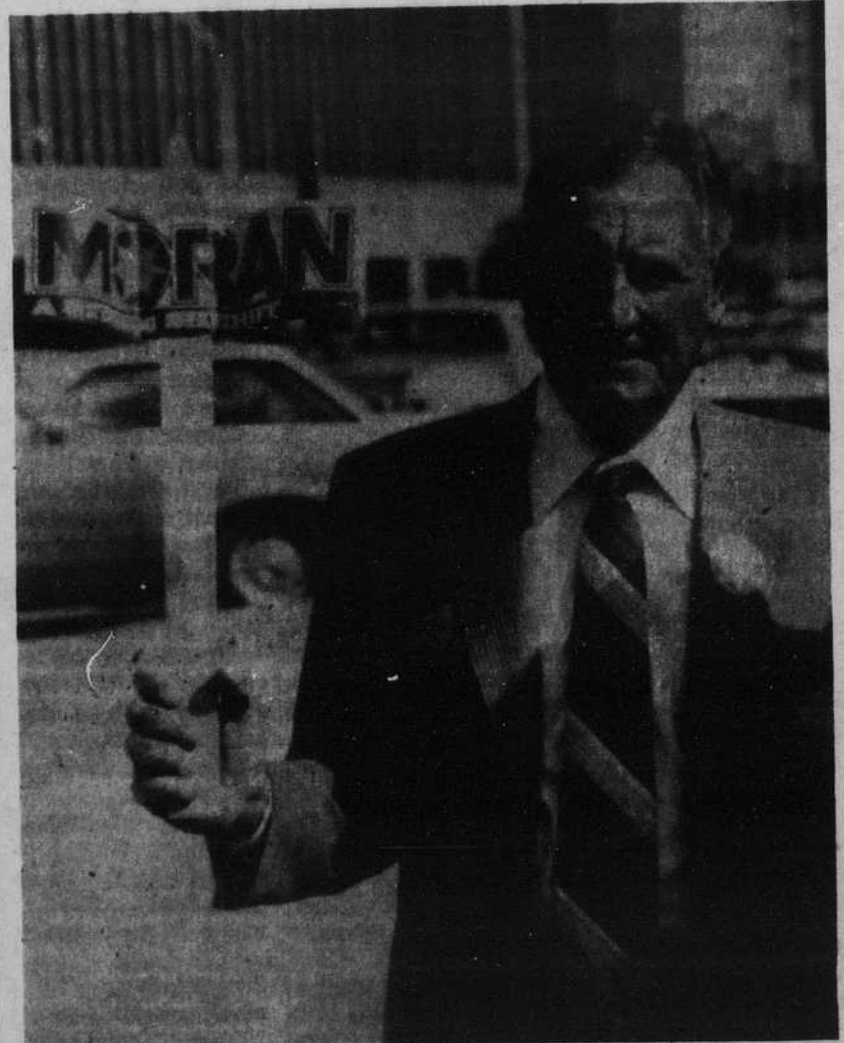
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