

During this time ('92-'94), they were labelless, the only new releases being SAFE WORLD RECORD, and a cassette demo. STATIC AND WEAK TEA, the first recordings with Jonah as a band member. The first 'official' recording wouldn't be until 1995, when the band joined Slow River Recordings who released BIG GRAPEFRUIT CLEANUP JOB - a double-live album (at least on LP) recorded in late 1994, which accurately captured the ambience of the ERQ experience. It also has the distinction of being their only album which features "Drivin' 0" 9". a staple of their live shows that had been" covered by The Breeders on the LAST SPLASH album. AT THE FISH AND GAME CLUB, released in IS%. was their second album with Slow River. and their last album as a band.

Ironically, as they had decided to call it quits. they were featured in a small indie comedy, ED'S NEXT MOVE (1996), which had theatrical release through Orion Classics and gathered good critical notices. A soundtrack album was released on Milan Records which featured several songs of the band re-recorded for the movie, featuring actress Callie Thorne on lead vocals.

ERQ did indeed have a reunion show in April, 1998 and another reunion in August, 1999; this description of the 1999 show courtesy of Carrie (from the Unofficial ERQ website):

"You know what, it was awesome. Ten minutes before the show, Dan and I were still running over a couple things, and it seemed clear that the whole thing could be disastrous... but we hit the stage and it all kicked in, and it was one of those strange and wonderful, quiet but - edgy? raucous? Ed's nights... we played 20 songs and probably more than exhausted everyone's appetite for Ed's revisited, but we had a great



Dan Leone

time and I think, played really well. For "Lawn Dart" - feeling the need to do something different with our "Freebird" - we cued up a tape of it that we recorded at soundcheck, turned on the disco ball and sat down at a little table and ate hotdogs. It was a good night.

Da" and Jonah efforts Post-m's went towards writing: Dan writes a food column, 'Cheap Fats' for the San Francisco Bay Guardian weekly. and a collection of those



columns. Eat This, San Francisco: A Narrated Roadmap to Diver, Joints, All-Night Cafes, Noodle Houses, Buffets, and Other Cheap Places to Eat in the Bay Area, was published by Sasquatch Books in late 1999. His fiction column, "Looseleaf" can be found on the Bay Guardian website (<http://www.sfbg.com/looseleaf>) and he has a collection of his stories due out soon.

Jonah continued writing children's books - in 1993 he had written a biography of the painter, Diego Rivera, Diego (Knopf Books), which garnered acclaim and was featured on the PBS show, READING RAINBOW. His second book, Fair Ball: 14 Great Stars from Baseball's Negro Leagues (Scholastic Trade), was published in 1999, followed in 2000 by Once Upon A Time in Chicago: The Story of Benny Goodman

Ray Halliday is the driving



The Buckets

force behind The Buckets, which he started on the East Coast. Ray was a school friend of the ERQ members, and was their manager for a bit in the early days-he produced the 7" ERQ records. He Was also, for a short time, a" early member of The Breeders - if you look closely at the songwriting credits on POD. the first album. you'll see his name as co-writer on a couple of songs.

Although there were earlier versions of The Buckets prior to Ray's relocation to the West Coast, I don't have very much info about that period (aside from someone on the ERQ List mentioning that they played a lot in Cambridge, MA)... shortly after ERQ moved to SF. Ray resided in North Carolina for about a year and during that time did a demo. The Butter Brothers.

After Ray moved to SF in 1991,

The Buckets, 1992: L to R- Carrie (Wanda Taters), Cory Porter (Kid Coyote), John Pike (Long John Gonzales), Adam McCauley (JoJo Hoot), Ray Halliday (Earl Butter)

The Buckets as a performing band began to coalesce - John Pike (Long John Gonzalez) on bass, Cory Potter (Kid Coyote) on lead guitar, Adam McCauley (JoJo Hoot) on drums and Dan Leone (Jesse "Boats" Daniels) on banjo-ukelele were the initial members as the band began performing in clubs. Adam eventually dropped out due to other commitments. and was replaced by Melanie Clarin [now DiGiovanni] (Bea Donna Potts). Soon thereafter. John Pike left the band and was replaced by Stephen Silbert (Slim Volume), who was part of the East Coast version of The Buckets This last configuration was pretty much the line-up at the height of the band's SF popularity.

The first releases from the SF Buckets were cassette demos, usually available at

shows INTERSTATE DEMO (1992) was a collection of six songs ["Postmarked Virginia", "Seven Babies", "I Wrote This Song", "Cowgirls", "Western Star", "Buckets Theme"], followed in the next year with BARN DEMOS (1993), a four-song collection ["Empty Cage", "Come Around", "Maid of the Mist", "Beer Belly"]. The first 7" "Cowgirls b/w "Western Star" came out on Hairy Records (Hairy Records 003) in late 93.

There was one recording made after Clarin took over drumming chores and prior to Silbert's arrival - "The Dog" was part of a double 7" set along with songs from The Doubters. Tarnation, Dieselhed and The Assponys, AIN'T THIS BLISS WITH YOU AND THIS (Spin The Bottle Records, 1994). Another recording, "El Caballero, El Viento, El Diablo", surfaced on a compilation CD for the Kommotion zine/art collective in 94 or 95. The earlier cassette demos were reissued as one cassette, with

