

Three musicians touch soul with a wave of magic

by Liz Blum

Assistant Features Editor

Once upon a time, there were three musicians: Two playing with a well-known east-coast band and one soloing on the west coast. The east joined the west and voila! A magic force charged the air and the hottest new band Raleigh has seen became a reality.

PKM began performing together in the spring of 1981. Pee Wee Watson, Kenny Soule, both originally with Nantucket, and Mike Gardner, formerly with High and Mighty, formed the band over a game of pinball at the Starwood in Los Angeles, during a Nantucket tour.

There is a magical force about the band. A powerhouse trio of three versatile and talented musicians, PKM emanates success. In less than a year, they have acquired a huge and dedicated following from fans, radio stations and critics.

"It might seem strange that a band formed only a few months ago is already one of the most played and one of the most requested groups here at Rock 88. But it's true, and that band is PKM. If you've heard them, you know why." Don Dickinson, program director at WKNC, said.

"It doesn't have to grow on you. It's straight ahead R&R with an intensity that refuses to let you feel anything but good."

Soule, Gardner and Watson have acquired the main ingredients for a successful rock 'n' roll band. Professionalism and a tight bond are exhibited in each performance.

The band members produce a dynamic show with a



Staff photo by Jim Frei

hard-driving beat, strong vocals and an incredibly full sound. Their bond naturally transcends itself to the audience, contributing to the natural charisma that has been a huge part of their success.

Godfrey Cheshire, executive editor of *Spectator Magazine* said of the band's success: "PKM's music is fresh, exciting, hard-driving original rock, and they perform it live with great showmanship and consummate professionalism.

"It isn't, however, something that emerged full-

blown out of nothing. Quite obviously, the band members' previous experience in other top-ranked bands has contributed to their unprecedented feat of starting out virtually at the top of the local scene.

"The Triangle right now is a hot spot for emerging talent. PKM will undoubtedly conquer this area — if it hasn't already — and move far beyond it with a speed that will amaze us all. You count on it," Cheshire said.

Watson on bass, Soule on drums, and guitarist

The magical force of PKM hits Raleigh with a fresh wave of originality. The band consists of Pee Wee Watson on bass, Mike Gardner on guitar and Kenny Soule on drums.

Gardner are all masters of their instruments. They each sing and write, contributing to the band totally. The three combine their talents to make a full, well-rounded sound and performance.

PKM has not acquired its 360 degree sound by luck. All three members have definitely been around. Soule and Watson are both well-known celebrities on the regional and national rock circuit. Gardner has been with several popular rock bands and has worked in Europe and California.

Listening to the band, all the hard work and long nights seem to have paid off. PKM has found its vehicle to success through its power trio.

"PKM is an incredibly talented musical organization with a sense of direction unique to rock 'n' roll these days. I've seen first-time PKM audiences respond like long-time friends — become a part of the energy," Daniel Brunty, former program director at WQDR, said.

PKM has performed throughout North Carolina, including such notable clubs as The Attie in Greenville, Big Surf in Atlantic Beach, and The Pier, Silver Bullet and other clubs in Raleigh.

PKM has brought a fresh breath of originality, quality, energy and depth into rock 'n' roll for the Raleigh area.

Who says magic no longer exists in the music industry? Three magicians have waved their wands and come together to bring it to their audiences. The magic fingers of their music have reached out and touched the area's soul. And, judging from PKM's incredible leap into success, the magic will continue to grow and reach out to the rest of the nation.