

Herndon-Edwards band travellin' again

"We just all wanted to record," says Dave Edwards now.

Guitarist and lead vocalist Edwards is explaining the motivations that saw the Herndon-Edwards Band disappear from the local music scene not long after they opened one of the Pousette-Dart shows last year.

The band is back now, better than ever, and the album they recorded during their absence, "Travelin' All Over," should be in local record stores within the month.

The Herndon-Edwards Band had its genesis about three years ago, with Edwards, Jerry Herndon on lead vocals and guitars, Steve Fletcher on drums and backing vocals, and Robert Sweitzer on bass. The latter three had been playing together off and on as they grew up together in Virginia Beach. Hampton native Edwards, meanwhile, was playing in an acoustic three-piece called Redbud.

Then he got a call from Herndon. Now Edwards is also the band's business and promotions manager. Tom Farley, a local acoustic guitarist, just recently joined the band, providing an additional depth to their sound, as does pedal steel player Donny Satterwhite.

"Donny can't make a full-time commitment to the band because of other, outside commitments," says Edwards. Then, chuckling, he adds, "But he sure has been showing up regularly." Actually, all the members of Herndon-Edwards have daytime jobs. That's because "everything the band makes, we put back into the band," Edwards explains.

It was part of that money that went for their single, "No Time Waiting," a while ago. Favorable response led to a reissue of the tune, which now



The Herndon Edwards Band: (from left) Robert Sweitzer, Jerry Herndon, Dave Edwards, Tom Farley and Steve Fletcher.

appears on the album. It was that response, coupled with radio airplay of the single, that led the band to decide it was time to cut an album.

Herndon-Edwards' sound mines the vein worked by groups such as Poco, Marshall Tucker and Firefall, and their stage show still carries some choice selections from artists of that genre. "You might describe us as soft rockers," says Edwards, "but we also rock out just as much."

His point is born out by the catchy title track, "Travelin' All Over." With its trading of guitar lines laid over Satterwhite's pedal steel work, it's

an excellent highway-styled tune with the kind of melody that sticks in your head.

And so, the band has returned to the area nightclub circuit, playing at venues like the Jewish Mother and Pacific Station, but there's no denying their ultimate goal. Like any other group, "we want to make it on a national level," Edwards affirms.

But the band's members have no illusions about that kind of move. "We'll wait until we get a firm offer."

In the meantime, the Herndon-Edwards Band will be playing to audiences on their home turf, so don't miss them. Once the album's released they may just end up "Travelin' All Over."

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