

In February 2015 I sent Art Steinman [The Jagged Edge/Shaker] a couple of questions via email to which he graciously replied with some full and detailed information which I'm very thankful for.



Shaker , a power trio with (l-r) Jerry Nolan (on drums), Art Steinman (vocals, lead guitar) and Gregor Laraque (bass) and Photo of Shaker courtesy of Art Steinman.

"I left college after two years [late 60's] to become a full time starving artist.

Actually, in 1970 I played the Fillmore East with **Wilbert Harrison** [a rhythm and blues singer and pianist, known for making "Kansas City" a hit in '59]. I moved to California after that but returned shortly [to Brooklyn] and signed a solo artist contract with Atlantic Records but nothing came of it except a band called Home. We lived and recorded in Mountaintale, NY for a summer. We did a demo for Atlantic but no dice.

In 1971 I auditioned for **Curtis Knight**. Jerry [Nolan] and Gregor [Laraque] were already there and I was hired. Curtis dropped us after a few gigs and we decided to form our own group [**Shaker**]. I can't recall more dates of the Mercer gigs [that Shaker did as support for the New York Dolls]. I remember us [Shaker] doing a show there [at the Mercer Art Center] with the Manhattan Transfer as well. We did a gig for several days in Wikes-Barre, PA at a bar [perhaps called the Sportsman's Lounge]. Really enjoyed that. Jerry and I would bomb around town looking for wears at the Salvation Army, Good Will, etc. It was right before the Susquehanna river flooded the town [in June 1971].

Yes, the Dolls took Jerry to replace Billy [in December 1972]. He fit right in. Always dressed and acted like the rock star he would become. Gregor and I just went our separate ways after that.

I formed a band with my brother, Wes. He was very talented. The band was called **Snailspace**. I convinced Ahmet Ertegun to give us some studio time. We did a demo but Ahmet passed on it. After the band split up Wes and I continued as a duo. Did some recordings I'm very proud of. We wrote and performed together until his death in 1976. During this period I also worked a day job as an editor at Music Sales Corp. in NYC.

I stopped pursuing a career as a blues/rock guitarist after that and just lived like a "civilian" as Jerry would say. Worked a steady job, settled down, etc.

So that's my story, in brief. **Shaker** is a fond memory and I thoroughly enjoyed our time together." Art Steinman.