

it just blew me away! There was never any doubt in my mind, once I got out of high school, where I was gonna end up.”

Cut to Orange County, 1964: Surfing, diving, partying. And KBCA, one 24-hour AM jazz station in Los Angeles, that played everything from Muddy Waters to John Coltrane. For Hanck, that was it. As he slyly remembers: “All of a sudden, I needed something to do with my *mind*.” He picked up a sax. “The tenor was the voice.”

Six years later, in 1970, Hanck moved north to the East Bay. His first band was called Grayson Street. “We played Bo Diddley, R&B, simple stuff,” he says. “We were too bluesy for the funk crowd, too funky for the rock ‘n’ roll crowd. They all hated us, except the musicians: That is always death, you know” Hanck says with a large twinkle in his eyes, “when you have real musicians coming to see you.”

One real musician who did come to see Hanck was **Elvin Bishop**, an alumnus of seminal American blues-rock group the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. “He heard the band in 1972,” Hanck recalls, “and asked both the harmonica player and I to join, knowing he was only going to pick one guy. So I said no. And the harmonica player said yes.” In 1976, Bishop brought Hanck to Miami to play on what became his classic album, ***Struttin’ My Stuff***, and which included his chart-topping smash hit “Fooled Around And Fell In Love.” Hanck was asked again to join the band, and as Hanck reveals “I said ‘no’ again, like an idiot. I had a single out with my band and I had a false sense of security. But in 1977 he asked one more time and I said ‘yes,’ finally. I joined when the band was on top. I went from riding around in a potato-chip truck to limousines.”

For over a decade, Bishop provided Hanck a worldwide stage to growl, squonk, soar and soothe on his tenor. In 1987, Hanck bid adieu to his friend, and formed his own group. “Terry Hanck is a fine vocalist, an amazing showman and my favorite sax player,” asserts Bishop today. That fact is borne out on the just-released May 2011 Delta Groove live album, ***Elvin Bishop’s Raising Hell Revue***, where Hanck re-joined his boss and friend on the 2010 Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise where the great vibin’ on the good ship was captured.

Thank Hanck too, for also on that cruise and album is Chris “The Kid” Andersen. Around the turn of the millennium, Hanck was in Norway, saw the young and talented Norwegian guitarist, and brought him to America, when he held down the guitar chair in Hanck’s band for four years. The strongly developed bond between the two has lasted, as Andersen has appeared on and co-produced all Hanck’s releases (including this one), since 2002’s ***I Keep On Holdin’ On***. Andersen has also produced a CD by Grammy-winning legend Charlie Musselwhite and multiple Blues Music Awards -nominated CDs by Terry, John Nemeth and Rick Estrin & the Nightcats.

Sharing dual responsibilities on ***LOOK OUT!*** is current guitarist Johnny “Cat” Soubrand, who replaced Andersen back in 2004. Reflecting upon Johnny’s role in the band these past few years Hanck affirms, “Johnny really works best for me. He’s right there with the sound.” Rounding out the tough rhythm section is long time drummer Butch Cousins (younger brother to Richard Cousins, currently playing bass for Robert Cray), and newest member bassist Tim Wagar, a stalwart of the San Francisco blues scene, replacing Terry’s longtime friend and bandmate Michael “Fly” Brooks who passed away on September 20, 2010. Additionally the album features Nightcats’ bassist Lorenzo Farrell, the multi-talented Bob Welsh on piano and B-3 organ, and Dennis Dove who contributes on background vocals as well as playing drums on “Girl, Girl, Girl.”

As a saxophonist, singer, bandleader, and songwriter, Terry Hanck is a rare breed-- and at an unbelievably youthful 66 (what *is* in that water he has always lived near??) -- he is singing better and playing better than he ever has. Twice recognized in recent years with Blues Music Awards nominations for 2009 and 2011 for Best Horn; a favorite of blues societies worldwide, this nice guy is finally finishing first.

---Mindy Giles, 2011

www.terryhanck.net