Here's what happened behind the music scene

Each year in the music business is as exciting and crazy as the last, and 1981

exciting and crazy as the last, and 1981 was no exception.

It's amazing how many people come up to me in the course of a year and tell me how they wish they had my job. After reading this, maybe some of these people will put away their rose-colored glasses and be happy with the job they have

glasses and be happy with the job they have.

This section could easily be titled "The no-good, the bad and the ugly" (as well as the extremely frustrating). Those who think the world of rock and roll and music journalism is easy and all tun have a lot to learn. The following stories are my way of letting down the image and laughing at my own mistakes and misfortunes throughout the year.

In May, I was in Ann Arbor to talk to Robin Lane & the Chartbusters at the Second Chance. Though the Chartbusters were friendly, Miss Lane was not. She seemed to think my questions were lacking and humorous. Only months alter. I found it humorous that the only thing she was lacking was a band. The members of the Chartbusters left her and her moods alone.

ON SEPT. 16, when most smart media people were enjoying a peaceful evening listening to the beautiful ballads of Australia's Air Supply at Ford Auditorium, this reporter had to make the heroic decision to brave the unseasonably cold rain to see the legendary Kinks at Pine Knob. After enjoying most of the show from the wings, one of the road crew mistook me for a fan and literally threw me off the stage by

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per out the back entrance of its room as he boarded his bus. Thanks for nothing.

One of the strangest with ex-lefter-son Starship vocalist Mary Balin Balin called at 9 and one to talk about his stranger of the stranger of

ON A LIGHTER note, I went to talk to that working-class dog himself, pop-singer/actor Rick Springfield, who was doing a record store promotion in Lin-coln Park. Turned out I was recruited to keep 3,000 screaming female 14-year-olds away from Rick. Oh yeah, no interview.

interview.

I did, however, get an interview with
Tiny Tim (not the same day, of course).

Tiny gave me a private concert during which he sang and played his ukelele to a song called "I Wish I Was In Michigan." The new tune has all the charm of his previous hit, "Tiptoe Through the Thirse."

on in previous hit, "Tiptoe Through the Tulips."

Now that I've got that off my chest, Now that I've got that off my chest, we can talk about the good things. The folling Stones' one-every-three-years tour landed on 1981 which brought them to the Silverdome for two spectacular shows. I'm happy to say the whole ordeal was a success.

A somewhat-awaited show by Christie Hynde and the Pretenders finally materialized earlier in the year at the Royal Oak Music Theater on Aug. 19. Although the band had a great second album, the live show was somewhat monotonous.

THE DYNAMIC Pat Benatar played three shows at Pine Knob in September. On the last show, she donated her chare of the earnings to an organization for Vietnam velerans.

Canada's hard rock tire, Triumph, played an excellent show at Cobo with Frank Marino on Oct. 3. Rocket Rik Emmett made his fingers fly on new songs from the ablum "Allied Forces."

New bands like Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, Franke & the Knockouts, Silver Condor and Loverboy brought some fresh air to a sometimes stale rock scene.

On an even more local level, Detroit's new wheels, WILLZ, finally made the big move from Detroit to beautiful Farmington. Welcome.

New hit makers, Radio City, hit the recording studio. This time it was in Toronto with Canada's A&M Becord footing the bill. Can't wait to hear the album, that is if we know who you are. Seems Radio city is looking for a new name (any ideas?).

Last, but not least, here's my favorte to albums released in 1981. Thanks to my readers for making this such a great year.



Rick Springfield heads the list of favorite albums for 1981, with "Work ing Class Dog" on the RCA label.

1. Rick Springfield — Working Class Dog — RCA
2. Tom Petty — Hard Promises — Backstreet/MCA
3. Foreigner — 4 — Atlantic
4. Journey — Escape — Columbia
5. The Knack — Round Trip — Capitol
6. Pat Benalar — Preclous Time — Chrysalis
7. Go Go S — Beauty & the Beat — A&M
8. The Pretenders — 2 — Sire
9. Billy Squier — Don't Say No — Capitol
10. The Police — Ghost In the Machine — A&M

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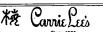
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