

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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These girls know how to rock n' roll



DAVID DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonnie and the Working Girls currently plays at Charles Too in Garden City. Bonnie Williams is on bass guitar (right), Caroline MoShane is on lead guitar (left) and Kaylynn Coleman is lead

singer. Other group members are Pam Day on saxophone, Kelly Reid on keyboards and Kris Herkness on drums.

They are all former waitresses, so what better name for an all-female rock 'n' roll group than Bonnie and the Working Girls?

And if you catch Bonnie and the Working Girls at Charles Too in Garden City, where the group plays Wednesday-Saturday nights, you'll see why Working Girls is a great name for the six-member band.

Slugging out hits from some of the fine groups of the 1950s and '60s, the Working Girls ends its sets sometimes with dancing and tambourine-bumping on the bar. It's not even unusual for tall and lanky Bonnie Williams to be on the shoulders of a bartender as a song ends.

"I STARTED out doing this for fun," said Williams, who plays bass in the band, "and it just took off." The Garden City woman is married to Jeff Williams, who is the band leader of Jeff and the Atlantics. When she started her band a year and a half ago, she knew she had a novel idea.

"I knew it was unusual. We've really made a name for ourselves." The name helps to draw crowds wherever the band plays. Recently, the group was booked to open up the evening at the Center Stage before the Heams-Holter light.

Vivacious Bonnie said the band enjoys most doing the songs that female



on music
James Windell

groups of the past have done, referring to vocal groups such as the Crystals, the Chiffons, the Angels and the Supremes.

AS A result, most of the group's tunes have a feminine perspective, but there's nothing dainty about the way it knocks out a song like "My Boyfriend's Back" or "Leader of the Pack."

The Working Girls, decked out in caps and sunglasses, convert the Shangri-la's tune of the 1950s into a rock 'n' roll tour de force — complete with Williams handling the motorcycle sounds. What other all-female band would do "Leader of the Pack" or, for that matter, "Gee?"

"Gee," a minor hit of the early 1950s by the Crows, is in the Working Girls' repertoire and may be one of the songs recorded when the band gets around to doing a record.

"A LOT of people have been asking us to do a record. In addition to 'Gee,' the group would like to do a

song that's a real "kicker," Williams said.

The other Working Girls were Caroline MoShane of Glenside, lead guitar; Kaylynn Coleman of Garden City, lead singer; Pam Day of Westland, saxophone; Kris Herkness of Garden City, drums; and Kelly Reid of Garden City, keyboards.

Bonnie and the Working Girls will be at Charles Too, Ford Road and Merriman Road, indefinitely from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. every Wednesday-Saturday. For more information, call 421-6540.

URSULA WALKER and the Buddy Budson trio are at Nicky's in Troy every Monday evening until May 20. A favorite singer around Detroit for perhaps more years than she'd like to remember, Walker was first a child singing star on the "Auntie Dee" TV show way back when Detroit television was just getting started.

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