

# Former Eagle won't return to the nest

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Randy Meisner has heard the rumors, too.

One of the super groups of the 1970s, the Eagles, might get back together.

The only problem is that Meisner is a founding and longtime member of the Eagles, and if there is going to be a reunion he says no one invited him to join.

"I would have said 'No,' but I would have liked to have been asked," the Nebraska native says. "I'd like to think I wasn't asked because of Poco. Right now I'm happy. If I could have worked it in to do an album with the Eagles, I would have. I asked Don (Henley) and Glenn (Frey) to sing on my second solo album to kind of smooth things over." They did.

**MORE THAN** 20 years later, things have been smoothed over enough to make possible the current reunion of the five original members of Poco, a group born out of bands such as the Buffalo Springfield, and credited with giving inspiration to such later groups as Crosby, Stills & Nash, the Eagles, Loggins & Messina and Fleetwood Mac.

Poco is considered to be one of the pioneering groups in the genre of country-rock. They are back with a new hit album, *Legacy*, two hit singles (*Call It Love* and *Nothin' To Hide*).

In addition to Meisner on vocals and bass, Poco is: Jim Messina, guitars and vocals, who came out of the second edition of Buffalo Springfield and went on to Loggins & Messina after Poco; Richie Furay, guitars and vocals, an original member of Buffalo Springfield who remained with Poco until 1973, then formed Souther-Hillman-Furay and is now a minister in Boulder, Colo.; George Grantham, drums and vocals, who was with Poco until 1977 and then went with Ricky Skaggs and Steve Wariner; Rusty Young, steel guitar and vocals, who was with Poco until it disbanded in 1984 and then



Singer Randy Meisner (right) was with the Eagles from 1971-77, along with Joe Walsh. "The Eagles are remembered in some ways as the American Beatles," Meisner says.

moved to Nashville.

**IT'S FUN** again, says Meisner, 44, and twice a grandfather.

"It seems to be working out real well, as opposed to maybe 20 years ago," he says. "Basically the music in the show will be what people remembered, only better. Our age has done us well (he laughs). I'm thinking when we played 20 years ago, we were all young and wild. There's something to say for that. Hopefully we're older and wiser now and the music should be better."

He agrees that there are more factors working against a band, any band, staying together, than there are in favor. "There will always be problems no matter which band you're in," he says. "You get a bunch of people together and there always seems to be something popping up. Now we seem to be dealing with it better. It's easier to deal with. We talk about problems and work them out. Everybody wants the same thing in this group."

The reunion of Poco is intended to be a one-album, one major tour proposition.

**WHEN MEISNER** runs his

career video tape in his mind, he says he freeze-frames on "the highlights of all the groups I was with," including his work in Rick Nelson's Stone Canyon Band, playing behind Linda Ronstadt "when we were all nothing," and the three songs on which he played on James Taylor's debut album, *Sweet Baby James*.

He was in the Eagles from 1971-77. "The good times were great and the bad times were bad," he says. "The first three or four years were the most fun for me with the Eagles. Once we were established it was fun for the first big tour. Then *Hotel California* (the album) turned into a lot of work. We were doing the *One Of These Nights* tour and working on *Hotel California* at the same time. When we did the *Hotel* tour, a lot of attitudes changed in the group. It seemed too big for me. I hadn't seen my family much."

Another reason he left the Eagles, he says, is "I wanted to sing more. Don and Glenn were doing most of the singing. I wanted to get out there and experience it."

Success to Meisner is "just to be happy with what you're doing." "Money," he says, "is one thing. Happiness is the greater."