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A Date With Barbara
Veluzat Born With 'Destiny to Fulfill'

By BARBARA O'Rourke

"There's no business like show business," my hand-some dark-eyed date assured me. "And I've sure had a taste of it," he said as he shook his head in amazement, not disturbing his carefully styled pompadour-length hair.

A "taste" of that bitter-sweet world of show business was putting it mildly. I thought as I thumbed through the many scrapbooks, placed at my disposal by his parents, depicting the career of the multi-talented fifteen-year-old Renaud Veluzat, rock 'n' roll band leader and lead guitarist of his group known as Renaud and the Bristol.

I recalled my first meeting with Renaud moments before as I cautiously edged my car in among his priceless collection of automobiles — hot rods, a Cadillac, a Lincoln, Corvette, Stingray and others — being careful not to rub paint-jobs with his father's 1963 Rolls Royce. My eyes delightfully appreciated the slightly-framed five-foot-nine-inch, 120-pound musician, noting the tight-fitted gold velvet cord pants, an and white checkered shirt with black Flaminco boots.

I returned his warm, generous smile of welcome and immediately all the strange-ness of a first meeting dissolved into the mediocrity of the many pine trees surrounding his arched French Norman home in Newhall.

He introduced me to his parents, Paul and Opal Veluzat, who eagerly escorted me into Renaud's music room . . . and before long I found myself caught up in the tremendously exciting world of this new young talent.

Renaud was born with a destiny to fulfill . . . that of living up to the stage name his mother had given him.

"I gave all three of my sons stage names," Renaud's mother admitted, "and so far, they have all lived up to my expectations in the performing arts . . . also in different mediums."

Renaud comes by his musical talent quite honestly. His parents were in show business, his mother as a dancer and his father played the banjo as a vaudeville comedian in the famous Georgia J. C. O'Brien Minstrel, playing all over the south. Since his vaudeville days, Paul Veluzat has traveled all over the country with his string of race horses.

Renaud was born in Los Angeles, attended elementary school in Huntington Park and seven years ago when the family moved to Newhall, he attended Hart High school, graduating in 1964.

"My dad has taught me everything I know about show business," my date confessed. "He gave me my first guitar when I was seven. Bing Crosby gave it to him. I started playing it right away . . . just picked it up naturally. I never took a lesson in my life."

Renaud's first acting role



RENAUD VELUZAT

came as the result of his father signing him up in the Children's Screen Guild. "I was eight years old when I made my acting debut in a television commercial. I ate so much pink ice cream making that commercial that I was sick all the way home," he recalled laughing.

He has appeared with his brothers in the Burks and Polly Shows, traveling seven years with the fair circuit during the summertime playing his guitar and singing. He has appeared on many radio and television shows over the years — Grand Ol' Opera, Mr. Now, Death Valley Days and others. He has appeared in several movies, "Inherit The Wind," "The Last Out of Durango," Walt Disney's "Sundown At Devil's Flats." He has also played at many

U.S.O. shows and did who shows a week for twenty nine weeks for the Board of Education Academy of Music. In 1963 he was judged "All American Boy" at the Hollywood Bowl.

Renaud's local claim to fame, as many of you will remember, is winning the Battle of the Bands at Pacific Ocean Park in 1963 under the name of Renaud and the Stringbusters. This won for their rock 'n' roll group a two week engagement at the park, which ended up in their playing their for over a year.

Six months ago, Renaud changed the name of his musical group, now consisting of Renaud as lead guitarist, Keny Ray, rhythm guitarist, Don Poncher, drummer and Ed King, bass guitarist. The group is now known as Renaud and the Bristol — which twangs of that ever popular Liverpool sound which is the "boss" sound today in the very competitive world of rock 'n' roll musical groups.

Renaud, having written over twenty-five songs, finds his inspiration comes to him while working on his cars or when he is in bed.

"I like to play my guitar in bed. When a tune comes to me, I turn on my tape recorder and capture the notes before I forget them."

I found Renaud to be a lover of the late, late entertainment world, enjoying playing to people who come out specifically to be entertained. He is a late morning sleeper and is awakened with coffee served by either his mother or one of the musicians in his band who come to practice. He practices usually two hours a day when not working and six hours a day when working.

Now a student at Valley Junior College studying journalism and music, Renaud finds the fundamentals of music to be elementary after playing such intricate instrumentals for so many years by ear. However, he feels this is very important to learn and wants more

anything at this time to complete his junior college education and go on to San Fernando Valley State College. He has given up many foreign tours to promote albums to further his education.

Renaud's goal in his musical career right now is to find that big hit record . . . and hopes that his newly released album in Japan will be a success, plus others he is making — instrumentals and vocals. My date's future desire is to go to Europe and bring back a yellow Jaguar XKE to add to his automobile collection.

Renaud's passions are wearing different clothes and long hair.

"I've always liked long hair," he said. "I've been wearing my hair long since I was twelve years old. I have my hair styled at Cosmo in Hollywood. This is what you would call a Flip," he informed me as he turned his head to show me this particular style. I nodded my approval.

I wasn't surprised then to find the first thing Renaud notices about girls is their hair.

"I like long hair on a girl . . . it's exciting to look at — either coming or going!"

Renaud looks forward to his appearance on the Shindig and Hullabaloo television shows. He is now engaged in a twelve-week tour with the Walt Disney Review.

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