

## The TCB Band Biography



The TCB (Taking Care of Business) Band. Left to right: James Burton, Glen D. Hardin, Jerry Scheff, Ronnie Tutt

### **James Burton, Lead Guitar**

James Burton began his career at age 14, playing guitar in the house band for Shreveport's famed Louisiana Hayride. While playing in Dale Hawkins' band in 1955, he wrote the music for the hit song Susie-Q and recorded it with Hawkins. In 1957, he began a nine-year run as guitarist for Ricky Nelson, including recording sessions and concert tours with Nelson and weekly appearances on the Nelson family's classic television show *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. By the mid-sixties, Burton was in demand as a session player and made some recordings of his own. Among the many artists he has recorded with over the years are: Elvis Presley, Ricky Nelson, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, John Denver, Johnny Cash, George Harrison, Rosanne Cash, Frank Sinatra, Henry Mancini, The Byrds, The Everly Brothers, Tina Turner, Elvis Costello, Andy Williams, Dolly Parton, Linda Rondstat, Hank Williams, Jr., Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Dean Martin, Glen Campbell, Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, Arlo Guthrie, Johnny Mathis, The Mamas and the Papas, The Mills Brothers, Herb Alpert, and many others. Elvis himself called James Burton and asked him to help put together a band for his 1969 engagement in Las Vegas. Burton was Elvis' lead guitarist in concerts for Vegas and national tours, and on many recordings, from 1969 until Elvis' death in 1977. The next long-term gig for Burton was recording and touring with John Denver for a number of years. Today, he continues to work with a wide variety of artists in the studio and on the road, and he is involved in a broad range of projects. Among guitarists James Burton has become an icon, and his influence on generations of guitar players, both the famous and the unknown, is unmistakable.

### **Glen D. Hardin, Piano**

Glen D. Hardin grew up in Texas and made his way to Los Angeles in the fall of 1961 after leaving the U.S. Navy. By early 1962 he was playing piano at the Palomino Club and soon started touring with the Crickets. Over the years he has worked as an arranger and recording session pianist with artists such as Elvis Presley, Emmylou Harris, John Denver, Merle

Haggard, Marty Robbins, George Jones, Dolly Parton, Tanya Tucker, the Everly Brothers, Ricky Nelson, Travis Tritt, Trisha Yearwood, Alan Jackson, Vince Gill, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers & the First Edition, Bing Crosby, Andy Williams, Jim Nabors, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Sonny & Cher, k.d. lang, Roy Orbison, Linda Rondstat, Ike & Tina Turner, Cass Elliot, Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, Tammy Wynette and many others. He toured with Emmylou Harris for three years, the Crickets for eleven, and John Denver for sixteen. His work has taken him all over the world. His work with Elvis was from 1970 to 1976, playing live concerts with Elvis, creating some of his arrangements and being a part of numerous Elvis recordings.

### **Jerry Scheff, Bass Guitar**

Jerry Scheff grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, started playing tuba in grammar school and, by seventh grade, got into playing string bass. His musical bent was toward jazz and R&B. By age fifteen he was playing in clubs in his new hometown of Sacramento and back in San Francisco. As a high school senior Scheff joined the U.S. Navy and wound up in the Navy's school of music in Washington, D.C. taking a nine-month course studying theory and harmony and getting to play with some great musicians. After the course ended he stayed on to teach, moonlighting as a player in jazz clubs, then the Navy transferred him to San Diego. Some time after his service discharge Scheff moved to Los Angeles and played regularly at a club called The Sands in Watts, where a teen-aged Billy Preston often appeared doing James Brown covers. Oddly enough, bass player Scheff began his work in the L.A. recording session scene playing valve trombone. The first hit record Scheff played bass on was an album by the group The Association, including the singles Along Comes Mary and Cherish. On Mary, Scheff made a bass mistake that got left in, so the thrill of hearing his work on a radio hit was counterbalanced by his cringing every time he heard the mistake. However, a couple of years later, it was gratifying to hear an "elevator music" cover of it that had the bass player copying Scheff's part, bad note and all. A special career highlight was playing on The Doors' album LA Woman. Over the years Scheff recorded with Bobby Sherman, Tiny Tim, Johnny Mathis, Nancy Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Bobby Vinton, The Everly Brothers, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Dionne Warwick, Barbra Streisand, Linda Rondstat, Judy Collins and many others. By the late sixties he crossed paths with guitarist James Burton, who remembered Scheff's work and called him when putting together the band for Elvis in 1969. Scheff worked with Elvis from 1969 to 1973 and 1975 to 1977, on stage and on a number of recordings. Reflecting on those years, Scheff says "Elvis had a big impact on my career. It was like going to school." Today, he continues to work as a session musician with a wide array of artists. A passion in recent years has been song writing. Although much of his career has been working with rock and pop greats, he still enjoys sitting in to play a little jazz every once in a while, as he says "to keep the cobwebs clear." Both of Scheff's sons, Darin and Jason, are musicians. Jason Scheff took over Pete Cetera's spot in the band Chicago.

### **Ronnie Tutt, Drums**

Ronnie Tutt is originally from Dallas, Texas. He studied music at the University of North Texas, played gigs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, and held staff positions (drums and vocals) at two "jingle" studios. In 1963 he moved to Memphis and played with some of that city's great rhythm sections during an exciting time in Memphis music history. In 1969 he auditioned for Elvis, who was putting together a band for his Las Vegas engagement. He got the job. Beyond talent as a drummer, what seemed to put him above the competition was his way of connecting with Elvis - watching him, making eye contact, anticipating where Elvis was going with a song. Their "musical communication" was a key part of making a great show. From 1969 to 1977 he was Elvis' drummer on stage and on a number of recordings. For a long time Ronnie Tutt was a studio musician in Los Angeles, later relocating to Nashville. His work with Elvis is his most celebrated, but his list of recording credits with other legends of pop, rock, and country music is long. For several years he was part of the Jerry Garcia Band, doing albums and extensive touring. Since 1981 he has been a member of the Neil Diamond Band, recording and touring around the world. Tutt is endorsed by DW Drums, Paiste Cymbals and Calato/Regal Tip drumsticks.

### **Useful Links for more information**

<http://www.james-burton.net/> - The official James Burton Website

<http://www.scheff.com/tcb/> - TCB Band Website – under construction

[http://www.elvis.com/elvisology/elvis\\_links.asp](http://www.elvis.com/elvisology/elvis_links.asp) - Link to TCB Band on the official Elvis website

<http://www.scheff.com/jerry/> Jerry Scheff's official Website