

JUL 15 1989

10,000 Maniacs Having Fun On Tour

The 10,000 Maniacs are enjoying a good tour life. *Hot Trax* caught up with bassist Steve Gustafson on July 3 and with drummer Jerome Augustyniak and keyboardist Dennis Drew at their hotel in Indianapolis, Ind. on July 7.

The band has played some very big places, including Radio City Music Hall and Rich Stadium, opening for the Grateful Dead July 4.

"The tour is going very, very good," Augustyniak said. "We played a good show in Pittsburgh and I can't even describe Rich Stadium to you. I'm speechless about that. Playing in front of the home crowd, Jerry Garcia is one of the nicest human beings I have ever met."

Drew agreed. "I met Bob Weir and Jerry Garcia. They hung out all day. They are just like any other musicians except they are 45. They were interested in the songs we played and the gear we had. They are really nice. Garcia described the 10,000 Maniacs as neat."

"The tour is very successful and very comfortable," he said.

Hot Trax asked about the high points.

"Having my parents come to Radio City Music Hall," Drew answered. And, "Doing the Dead show was pretty amazing."

Gustafson had the same sentiments.

"The number one highpoint is having my wife with

me. We got to spend four days in Boston and did a lot of shopping. I have gone to every Gap store in every city we've been in."

He also commented on the difference playing in bigger venues. "They are not quite as intimate. They are not as smoky and the people aren't as drunk. Radio City Music Hall is a great place. The people can't stand up, though."

On the English leg of the tour the band experienced great food. "It was all well prepared," Gustafson said. "It helps. We try to stay healthy."

"Every place we go, the promoter has to provide dinner," Drew said. "If you don't watch them, they won't give you good food and will charge you an arm and a leg for it. We still have to pay for it."

"We have a guy that coordinates that for us. He makes sure they do the right kind of shopping and provide the right kind of meals for Natalie and the rest of us."

What kind of food does the band enjoy?

"We eat a lot of vegetarian food. We eat tofu, lots of stir fry, lots of fish, Indian food and Chinese food. A real variety," Drew said.

On the road the band has been playing a lot of darts, according to Drew.

"All these English guys are into playing darts. We get to a venue about 4 (p.m.) and the show doesn't start until 9, so we eat, soundcheck and play darts," he said.



10,000 Maniacs

The 10,000 Maniacs had this photo taken in a Harlem small claims court. From left to right are, Steve Gustafson, Jerome Augustyniak, Rob Buck, Natalie Merchant and

Dennis Drew.