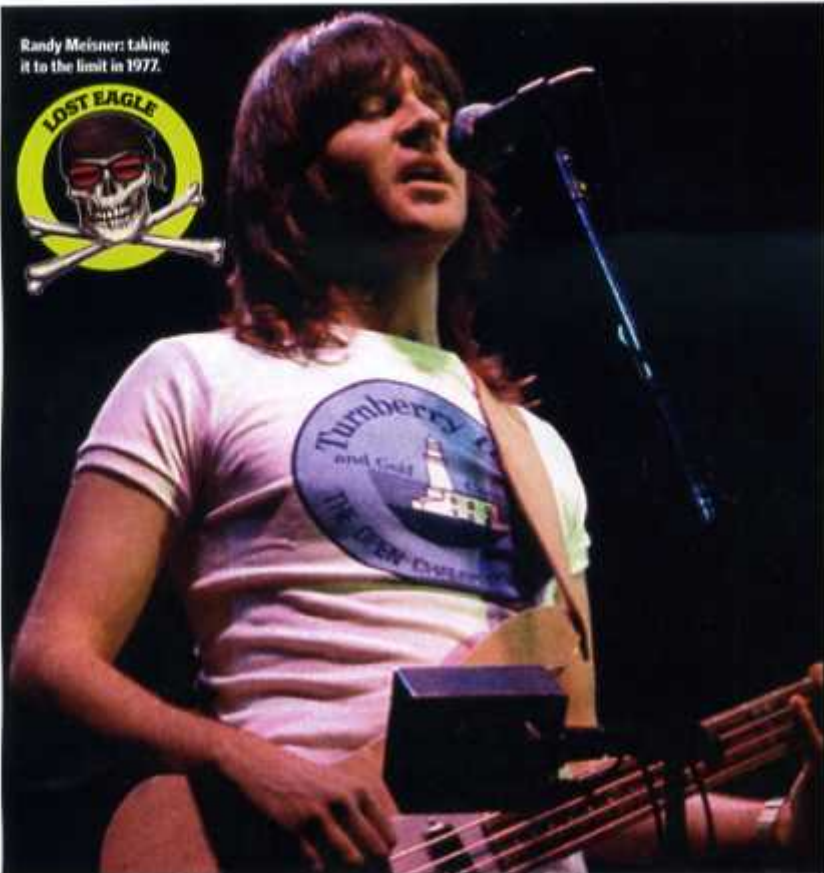


Randy Meisner: taking it to the limit in 1977.



## Randy Meisner

The Eagles' first bassist likes life out of the limelight.

**R**andy Meisner found international fame as a founding member of the Eagles. A talented bassist and a versatile singer/songwriter, Meisner delivered the Eagles' 1975 smash million-seller *Take It To The Limit*. He remained an integral part of the Eagles throughout the group's 70s heyday, before leaving in 1977 after the completion of the *Hotel California* tour. He went on to release several solo albums and today spends his free time playing gigs with the World Classic Rockers, a band comprised of former members of

**majority of the Eagles' material, was it difficult for you to get your own songs recorded?**

No. Everybody was welcome to write a song. I didn't write as much, that's all. I'd bring in a song and they'd tell me if they liked it and often they'd say: "Let's finish this sucker."

**How did *Take It To The Limit* come about?**

We drank a lot of beer at the Troubadour—Randy Newman, Steve Martin, Jim Morrison, all these people that we'd know hung out here. We'd go down there and have a few beers. That's how I started *Take It To The Limit*. I went back to my

## "IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT KIDS TODAY ARE LISTENING TO THE EAGLES."

Journey, Steppenwolf, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Santana and Toto. *Classic Rock* grabbed him for a quick chinwag.

**You're very underrated as a bass player—your lines in the Eagles are very melodic.**

I loved R&B and the bass players on the Motown stuff were great. They really inspired me. I can't read music. Once I learn a part it's there. My bass playing came real naturally. In the Eagles' rehearsals that's how a lot of the songs would come together. Everyone would bring their own little thing of how they played, and that's what made the sound of the band. On *Hotel California* [Don] Felder designed that bass part and I played it. Boy, it was a rough one to sing and play at the same time. That took a while to learn.

**With Don Henley and Glenn Frey writing the**

house one night from the Troubadour. It was real late at night. I was by myself and started singing and playing. 'All alone at the end of the evening...' That's where it started. I had a couple of verses. Don and Glenn [Frey] helped me finish it just in time to get it on the record.

I was nervous about doing that song live. I wouldn't have spotlights out on me. I just didn't want to be in the limelight.

**Have you come to terms with the Eagles' legacy?**

It's just good to know that kids nowadays are listening to it. It's long-standing music. They're good songs. The lyrics are really good and the way that they were produced and the way that we played them. That's why on *Hotel California* we were so precise and wanting to make it so perfect. We made sure we got it so good.