

1972 PUBLICITY PHOTO

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Here’s your do-you-feel-old-yet moment for today: One of the bands that helped build the legendary 1970s rock music scene released its first album 50 years ago when the Eagles’ self-titled debut LP hit record stores. Three singles from the album would reach the Top 40 singles chart and the album would go on to sell more than a million copies.

The Eagles themselves would pick up a few more members and then score five No. 1 singles and four No. 1 albums before the end of the 1970s.

The Eagles were:

(Left to right, corresponding with the photo above.)

BERNIE LEADON

GUITARS AND VOCALS
Age in June 1972: **24**

Had played with the Flying Burrito Brothers and Dillard-Clark. Leadon did session work with a series of bands until he met up with Don Henley and Glenn Frey.

Leadon’s childhood friend and guitarist **DON FELDER** would join the group in 1974.

Leadon would leave the Eagles in 1976 and would be replaced with **JOE WALSH**, who had played with The James Gang and who had released several solo albums.

RANDY MEISNER

BASS GUITAR AND VOCALS
Age in June 1972: **26**

Had played with Ricky Nelson, was a founding member of Poco and did a lot of session work in Los Angeles — which brought him into contact with Leadon and Linda Ronstadt’s band.

Meisner would leave the Eagles in 1977 and would be replaced by **TIMOTHY B. SCHMIT**, who had followed Meisner in Poco.

DON HENLEY

DRUMS AND VOCALS
Age in June 1972: **24**

While still in high school, he formed a group called Shiloh that met with limited success. He became a session drummer in L.A. and was eventually hired by Ronstadt’s band.

As a solo artist, Henley had eight Top 40 singles and six No. 1 albums and won two Grammy Awards.

GLENN FREY

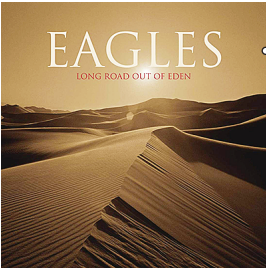
GUITARS AND VOCALS
Age in June 1972: **23**

A prolific songwriter, Frey had played with Bob Seger and J.D. Souther. He teamed up with Henley in Ronstadt’s band and then became the primary songwriters for the Eagles.

During the Eagles’ hiatus between 1980 and 1994, Frey embarked on a successful solo career with seven Top 40 singles and two gold albums. Frey died in 2016.

THE EAGLES’ SINGLES CHART HISTORY

PEAK ON BILLBOARD HOT 100 SINGLES CHART	U.S. RELEASE DATE
#12 Take it Easy	May 1 1972
#9 Witchy Woman	Aug. 1
#22 Peaceful Easy Feeling	Dec. 1
#64 Tequila Sunrise	April 17 1973
#59 Outlaw Man	Aug. 6
#32 Already Gone	April 19 1974
#77 James Dean	Aug. 14
#1 Best of My Love	Nov. 5
#1 One of These Nights	May 19 1975
#2 Lyin’ Eyes	Sept. 8
#4 Take It to the Limit	Nov. 15
#1 New Kid in Town	Dec. 7 1976
#1 Hotel California	Feb. 22 1977
#11 Life in the Fast Lane	May 3
#18 Please Come Home for Christmas	Nov. 27 1978
#1 Heartache Tonight	Sept. 18 1979
#8 The Long Run	Nov. 27
#8 I Can’t Tell You Why	Feb. 8 1980
#21 Seven Bridges Road	Dec. 15
#31 Get Over It	Oct. 18 1994
#69 Hole in the World	July 15 2003



THE EAGLES’ ALBUM RELEASES

U.S. RELEASE DATE	PEAK ON BILLBOARD 200 ALBUM CHART
1972 June 1	Eagles #22 U.S. sales: More than 1 million
1973 April 17	Desperado #41 U.S. sales: More than 2 million
1974 March 22	On the Border #17 U.S. sales: More than 2 million
1975 June 10	One of These Nights #1 U.S. sales: More than 4 million
1976 Feb. 17	Their Greatest Hits #1 U.S. sales: More than 38 million
1976 Dec. 8	Hotel California #1 U.S. sales: More than 26 million
1979 Sept. 24	The Long Run #1 U.S. sales: More than 8 million
1980 Nov. 7	Eagles Live #6 U.S. sales: More than 3.5 million
1982 Nov. 13	Greatest Hits Volume 2 #52 U.S. sales: More than 11 million
1994 Nov. 8	Hell Freezes Over #1 U.S. sales: More than 9 million
2003 Oct. 21	The Very Best Of #3 U.S. sales: More than 5 million
2007 Oct. 30	Long Road Out of Eden #1 U.S. sales: More than 7 million
2020 Oct. 16	Live from the Forum MMXVIII #16

Sources: “The Encyclopedia of Pop, Rock and Soul” by Irwin Stambler, “The Definitive Illustrated Encyclopedia of Rock” edited by Michael Heatley, “Best-Selling Albums of All Time” by Metro Books, “The Billboard Book of Top 40 Hits” by Joel Whitburn, Stori.us Magazine, American Songwriter, Fort Worth Business Press