

Travis Edward Pike's Odd Tales and Wonders



1964-1974: A Decade of Performance

Foreword by music journalist Harvey Kubernik, author of *A Perfect Haze: The Illustrated History of the Monterey International Pop Festival and Canyon of Dreams: The Magic and Music of Laurel Canyon*.

TRAVIS EDWARD PIKE'S ODD TALES AND WONDERS 1964-1974: A DECADE OF PERFORMANCE

Travis Pike



OTHERWORLD COTTAGE INDUSTRIES The history of rock and pop is filled with the stories of the could've beens, the should've beens, the close brushes with stardom and near misses with fame, and Travis Edward Pike's self-published *Odd Tales And Wonders* is one man's short, sweet and refreshingly cheerful tale of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory in the pursuit of pop glory amidst the coffee shops of New England and the clubs of LA in the mid to late '60s.

Pike first tasted minor success as a pop star whilst stationed in Germany during a stint in the navy, but it's with his return to the US, and formation of rockers Travis Pike & The Boston Massacre (later Travis Pike's Tea Party) that the story really kicks into gear, with bands such as Beacon Street Union, and forgotten players like The Montclairs, The Brattle Street East and the fabulously named Oedipus & His Mothers all taking a bow.

The second half of the book is filled with Pike's lyrics and stories from the era, many of which have a pleasing Edward Lear/Lewis Carroll nonsense quality to them, but the main interest for the casual reader will be the first half with its tales of filling out dancehalls in Pomona, blowing Moby Grape off the stage at The Psychedelic Supermarket in Boston and turning down the chance to record 'Green Tambourine' a month before The Lemon Pipers took it to the top of the charts – demonstrating that in the quest for success, fame and fortune are only ever a hair's width away.

Tom Patterson

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Travis Edward Pike



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