



## *George Frayne '62*



A serendipitous meeting between a guitar playing engineering major in charge of the kitchen crew (John Tichy) and a pot washing sometime piano player (George Frayne) at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity at the University of Michigan in the fall of 1963 launched a career. Begun in the fall of 1964 with a series of local engagements at Ann Arbor and then one on the road at Michigan State University, Frayne's band had no permanent plans. When he was offered a scholarship at the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, a new band was begun named Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen, after the 1950 movie of the same name.

After graduation from graduate school in the spring of 1968, Frayne took a job as an instructor of art at Wisconsin State University in Oshkosh. While working in academia, he returned to Ann Arbor every weekend, which kept the band going. This led to a jaunt to San Francisco, the purchase of an old double-decker Greyhound bus, and tours across the country. Albums were recorded, some more successful than others, and the band even headlined at the international communist party festival in Paris. Rolling Stone Magazine featured one album in their Best 100 albums of all time and one single reached the top forty on the Billboard chart. Frayne and his band also released a video, 2 Triple Cheese, Side Order of Fries, now in New York City's Museum of Modern Art in the permanent video collection. Frayne appeared on David Letterman three times and then, to bring things full cycle, renewed his friendship with John Tichy, who was now a professor of engineering at R. P. I.

Frayne's academic career included his undergraduate degree from Michigan and an MFA in Sculpture and Painting. He has exhibited at various art shows including having twelve of his paintings at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He has also lectured around the country ("The Function of the Sub-conscious Mind-Creating Fun") at eight colleges and universities and has had more than twenty one man shows.