



Top, Left to Right: Bob Godfredsen, Denny Kintzi, Jim Wiener, John Senn
Bottom: Gary Lind, Denny Storey

DEE JAY & THE RUNAWAYS

Denny Storey, John D. Senn, Gary Lind, Jim Wiener, Bob Godfredsen, Dennis Kintzi, Sam French, Tom Vallie

The Dee Jay & The Runaways' story begins in 1964 in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Denny Storey (Dee) and John Senn (Jay) brought together Gary Lind, Bob Godfredsen, Tom Vallie, and Chuck Colgrove. Soon after that, Denny Kintzi joined, completing the original group's lineup.

one of the only Iowa groups to have appeared on Dick Clark's *Where The Action Is* in July of 1966. The group played on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Forrester, entertaining American troops docked in Virginia.

Soon after the group's formation, the Iowa Great Lakes (IGL) Recording Studios was founded by John Senn and Milford, Iowa residents Cliff Plagman and Roger Blunt. It would be there that Dee Jay & The Runaways would record and release a single that would make them one of the most successful recording and touring bands of the 1960s from Iowa.

The hit recording in question, "Peter Rabbit" written by Myron Wachendorf of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was released on both the IGL and Smash Labels. The record sold over 400,000 copies and charted number 1 in Baltimore, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, and Seattle, and would also become a big seller in countries such as Canada, Italy, and Brazil. "Peter Rabbit" also charted on *Billboard's* Top 40 in 1965 and remained on the national charts for fourteen weeks in late 1965 and early 1966.

With their release of "Peter Rabbit," the group would make appearances on regional and national TV shows. They were



Dee Jay & The Runaways recording "Peter Rabbit" at IGL. Roger Blunt (left) and Cliff Plagman at mixing board.

1997 / BAND



Dee Jay & The Runaways performing on the deck of the U.S.S. Forrestal for *Where The Action Is* in July of 1966.

Dee Jay & The Runaways also had success with their recordings "She's a Big Girl Now" (Smash) and "It Doesn't Matter Anymore" (Sonic).

Following the success of "Peter Rabbit," the group toured throughout the United States and Canada in 1966. Some of the groups that Dee Jay & The Runaways have performed with during their career include BJ Thomas, Paul Revere & The Raiders, The Guess Who, Bobby Vee, Tommy Roe, The Platters, Bill Doggett, Mitch Ryder, The Young Rascals, and Bryan Hyland.

Eventually, outside influences such as the Vietnam War and marriage would take its toll on the group. The original group members would remain the consistent lineup throughout most of Dee Jay & The Runaways' lifespan, but other musicians would play with the group. These musicians include Rusty Davis, Terry Klein, Sam French, Grant Gilmore, Jim Johan, Jim Groth, Roger Whitmore, Roger Hughes, Jim Weiner, and Curt Powell.

Dee Jay & The Runaways officially broke up in 1968. Many of the musicians from the group continued to be an active part of the Iowa music scene. Since their induction into the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association's Hall of Fame in 1997, Dee Jay & The Runaways have also been inducted into the South Dakota Music Association's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Denney Storey passed away on Thursday, September 13, 2018, at his home in Dickens, Iowa, at the age of 74.

John Senn passed away on Thursday, July 18 at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake, Iowa after a courageous battle with lung disease at the age of 78.

