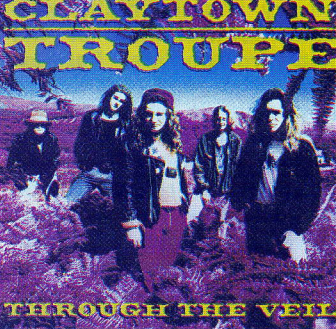


LP

CLAYTOWN TROUPE 'Through The Veil' (Island ILPS 9933)

Here's a remarkable band doing interesting things. With the spirit of the Red Indian looming large in their consciousness and their curiosity about the mystery of man's existence pervading their music and lyrics, here we find sensitive souls, far removed from the usual run of mindless barbarians who generally control our daily lives and seem to set the standards by which we must exist. Christian Riou is the singer who attacks his songs with meaningful menace but insists on clarity of delivery. You can hear most of the lyrics as they pour forth on a succession of imaginative and brilliantly performed songs. They sound a little like Dawn After Dark



on the opener 'Real Life' which also has some of the distinctive tribalism of early Adam & The Ants. (Now there is a blast from the past. Whatever happened to Adam incidentally? Come up and see us some time. We can have a beer and talk over old times... bloody hell, the record's still playing, sorry lads). Yes, this is a good record alright and 'Alabama' has some pretty hot guitar work courtesy of Adrian Bennett, who sounds a bit like Peter Banks, who sparked early Yes records. Watch out for Paul Waterson's fine,

subtle bass guitar work on this cut by the way, all you thinking head bangers. Andy Holt could have given a bit more variety to his drumming, especially on 'Prayer' where he tends to stick pretty much to the beat, probably under strict orders and intimidation from the engineer. Cut loose man! Blow your ass off! Listen to Jason Bonham on his album. He don't let no producer push him around. Old Adrian certainly doesn't pull his punches on this one, and eventually it has to be said that Andy does start to cook, with splashing cymbals and excitable fill ins. That's more like it!

There is a lot of depth to their music, and as all the songs are printed on the sleeve, we won't attempt to do a full scale analysis and interpretation of their meaning, as we'll probably get it all wrong anyway. More important, you should know this LP contains some highly melodic, imaginative music, delivered with due consideration and made even more attractive with the added bonus of a 12 inch 4-tracker, featuring different mixes of 'Bury My Heart,' 'The Veil' 'Prayer', and 'Hey Lord'. These chaps could be the future of rock in the Nineties. Or possibly the next century if they can wait that long.

CHICK WINDSOR

