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was such a welcomed thing to be with the girls,” Viv recalled. “We ended up playing at Ed’s Bar with Beth and Laurie on their guitars and me playing the tambourine. We sang 10 songs and got paid \$10 a piece. And that’s how we got started.”

As more and more gigs were scheduled at area bars, local churches and schools, it was decided to add more members to the band and Jeanie was asked to “audition” at Viv’s house.

“I had a guitar with a magnetic pickup and a tiny amp, but I could play a run and they said I was in,” Jeanie said. “We had a gig at a school the next Saturday and we decided what were singing on the way to the show. We were always winging it, which was different for me as I was used to preparing a bit more. Eventually, I learned to play lead.”

Viv also switched from the tambourine to the bass. A drummer was needed at one point and Laurie played softball with Eunice and heard through the grapevine that Eunice played the drums.

“She asked if I would sit in,” Eunice said. “I told her I didn’t have a drum set but she said she had that handled. I drove to a farmhouse and picked up the drum set and drove to this house way out in the country and tried out. They said, ‘You’re hired, here



are your clothes, we play on Saturday,’ I wasn’t even sure I wanted to do it, but I did.”

Speaking of clothes, Patches was almost as famous for their matching outfits as their music.

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