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They not only bonded with the crowd but with each other and with each other's families.

"They're not my sisters, but they're my sisters," Viv said.

"Our husbands were very supportive in the early years they drove the van to the shows," Laurie said. "Then we started having so many they had to stay home with the kids while we traveled around every Friday and Saturday night. All our parents became friends and our kids all grew up together. We went camping with all our families and really spent a lot of time together."

Even though Patches was an all-girl band that traveled late at night by themselves in an era before cell phones and GPS, the women said they were never intimidated and never gave it a thought.

"We always acted like mothers and made references to our families a lot," Viv said. "We were respectful and professional and no one ever treated us any different."

"I think the novelty of the all-girl band was really the driving force of our limited success," Laurie said. "Even today there are women in their 30s and 40s who will approach me and say they remember the band and recall how much they looked up to us and how much they wanted to be like us."

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame on Oct. 20 at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings are Viv Lackas, Wausa; Marj (Carlson) O'Leske, Martin, S.D.; Jeanie Anderson, Wausa; Eunice Palu, Bloomfield; Babs Wolfgram (deceased), formerly of Plainview; and Laurie Larsen, Bloomfield.

Scheduled to receive honorable mention also are Beth Greeno, Colorado; Deb Bloomquist, Wausa; Brian Clinton, Clearwater; Ken Crisp, address unknown; and Mike Peck, Yankton.

For more information about the Patches, visit www.patchesband.com/.



THEN & NOW: Members of Patches during their heyday in the 1980s (LEFT) and members now (not pictured is Marj O'Leske). (RIGHT).

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■ Story by Tera Schmidt



Savor the possibilities

It's all about fresh, seasonal dishes prepared by our culinary expert, Chef Staci Stengle.

Check out Staci's case-for pre-made salads and side dishes, ready for your table!
Or pick your favorites for the perfect picnic to take to the lake or your campsite!

Chef Staci will also answer your food questions and give advice on how to prepare chef inspired meals.



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