The big weekend

US Festival '83 will bring some of the top names in rock to San Bernardino County

By RAY COOKLIS

Sun Staff Writer ast fall's US Festival, which featured such rock stars as Santana, The Grateful Dead, The last fall. Kinks, Fleetwood Mac, Jackson Browne and The Police, might be considered a hard act to follow.

But for next weekend's sequel. US '83, festival producers again includes some of the top British albums. names in this particular musical genre.

The Clash, Van Halen and David Bowie headline the three-day US rock extravaganza, slated for Memorial Day weekend May 28in Devore.

Also among the 25 perform-The Pretenders.

A pattern may be seen in each day's list of scheduled bands. Saturday's program features several "new wave" groups, Sunday is "heavy metal" and hard rock day, and Memorial rock mainstreamers and new wa-

performances are as follows: 11:20 a.m. Saturday, May 28; 12:10 p.m. Sunday, May 29; 9:15 a.m. Monday, May 30. Tickets are \$20 per day in advance, \$25 per day at the gate. For ticket information, call (800) 222-0533 or Ticketmaster at (213) 480-3232.

Here is a rundown on each day's scheduled performers:

SATURDAY

A British band that has moved from pure punk to a blend of rockabilly, punk, reggae and other styles, The Clash came to attention in the United States through hit songs like "Rock the Casbah" and "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" Its London Calling, Sandista and Combat Rock were named Top Album in Village Voice polls in 1980, '81 and '82, respectively.

It's been anything but Business as Usual for Australian band Men at Work in recent months. The group, from the rough-andtumble Melbourne suburb of Richmond, struck gold in its native country, then in the U.S., with the single "Who Can It Be Now," featuring the saxophone work of Greg Ham. Its first album, Business as Usual, went triple platinum in Australia, and scored heavily in the U.S. as well.

The Stray Cats, a trio of New Yorkers cultivating a '50s-like rockabilly sound, has become popular (both among youngsters and those ancient creatures who actually remember the '50s) with such songs as "Rock This Town" and "Stray Cat Strut."

Curiously, the band started its road to success in London, where the three slept in parks and allnight movie theaters before be-

ing discovered by the Rolling Stones' Bill Wyman and others.

Its first album, Built for Speed, started slowly, but reached the top of the charts late

The English Beat, which performed in last year's US Festival. is a seven-man band from Birmingham, England, considered one of the hottest bands in that have come up with a lineup that country with two of the top five

Formed in 1978 out of members from several punk bands, the group released its first single. a version of Smokey Robinson's "Tears of a Clown," in 1979, which reached the U.K. Top 10 30, at Glen Helen Regional Park list. It soon became the top-selling singles group there with songs like "Mirror in the Bathing groups that will tickle the as- room" and "Hands Off ... She's sembled multitude's eardrums Mine." Its albums Wha'happen? are Men At Work, Stray Cats, and Special Beat Service have Ozzy Osbourne, Quarterflash and been released in the U.S., along with concert tours here.

Oingo Boingo, another US Festival repeat performer, started out as a bizarre street-performing theater group in 1971. It eventually evolved into a group stressing music more than theat-Day will bring an assortment of rics, losing much of its original cult following in the process. In its albums — Only a Lad and Starting times for each day's Nothing to Fear — the group uses such innovations as West African percussion instruments and a horn section.

> Formed in a Hollywood punk club in 1977, Wall of Voodoo began by writing music for lowbudget horror flicks. It graduated to performing at such venues as Immaculate Heart Girls School in Hollywood, then got its break in the spring of 1980, when it signed with the new-wave I.R.S. label. A popular L.A. newwave band, it is noted for its critically well-received albums Dark Continent and Call of the West, and the single "Mexican Radio."

> A new Australian group known for what Rolling Stone magazine calls its "garage-band power," the Divinyls started out two years ago playing in bars in the Kings Cross area of Sydney. The group features what one magazine has described as the "hiccupy lead vocals" of Christina Amphlett. Its American debut record, Desperate, includes two singles popular in Australia. "Boys in Town" and "Only Lone-

Also on Saturday's bill are A Flock of Seagulls, an English newwave group noted for songs like "I Ran," and Inxs (pronounced "in excess"), yet another new Australian band.

SUNDAY

Sunday's headline band, Van Halen, features lead singer David Lee Roth and brothers Eddie and Alex Van Halen, natives of the Netherlands. Eddie is considered one of the hottest guitarists in rock today. Named "best rock guitarist" for four consecutive years by Guitar Player magazine. he's also a soloist on Michael

Jackson's current No. 3 single, for 11 years, touring and record- Judas Priest "the ultimate heavy "Beat It."

cently, being banned in Australia and Japan.

A German heavy-metal band, voice. The Scorpions has been around

ing eight albums. Popular first in metal band," and few would ar-The hard-rock group, formed Europe, it has become noticed in gue. Formed in the British steel and based in Southern Califor- the U.S. and Japan. It has toured city of Birmingham, the band nia, has produced five consec- over the years with Ted Nugent, came out with its debut album, utive platinum albums - Van UFO, Sammy Hagar and others. Rocka Rolla, in 1974. Its first ma-Halen, Van Halen II, Women and Its latest album, Blackout, fea- jor U.S. tour in 1977 was cli-Children First, Fair Warning and tures the songs "Dynamite," the newest album, Diver Down, "China White" and "Can't Live which includes songs like "You Without You." Lead vocalist iseum. Other albums include Sin Really Got Me," "Dance the Klaus Meine had surgery on vo- After Sin, Stained Glass, Hell Night Away," "Pretty Woman" cal cords last year during record- Bent for Leather, Screaming for and "Dancing in the Streets." ing sessions for Blackout. For a The video version of "Pretty time, it looked as though he Point of Entry. Woman" has caused a scandal re- wouldn't be able to sing again, but proper training with an opera coach has helped save his

rock," Britain's Ozzy Osbourne noted for such stunts as biting off a live dove's head after sign-Lead singer Rob Halford calls ing a contract with Epic Records,

maxed by an appearance with

Led Zeppelin in the Oakland Col-

Vengeance, British Steel and

The consensus "madman of

and doing likewise to a dead bat tossed on stage by an admirer in Des Moines in 1982. The latter incident earned him a series of rabies shots. He also plays music. "To me, rock 'n' roll is a real positive force," the former Black Sabbath lead singer told a Los Angeles newspaper recently.

Also on Sunday's bill are Joe Walsh, a guitarist who played with The James Gang and The Eagles before embarking on a solo career, and heavy-metal-

(Please see Festival, D-6)



Clockwise, from top, Van Halen, David Bowie, The Clash, John Cougar and Oingo Boingo

Festival... (Continued from D-1) style bands Motley Crue and Triumph.

MONDAY

Frl., May 20, 1983

A true highlight of this year's US Festival will be the first musical appearance by David Bowie in the United States in five years. Bowie, a recording star since 1968, has been a trendsetter during his varied career, blazing the way in glitter rock, then white funk, then synthesizer rock (with producer Brian

Bowie has branched out into acting, with notable success -first in the 1976 movie The Man Who Fell to Earth, then on tour in 1980 in The Elephant Man, and currently as a rapidly aging vampire in the film The

He's begun making music again, though - Bowie's latest single, "Let's Dance," is No. 2 on the current Billboard chart.

Long a mainstay of the band Fleetwood Mac, Stevie Nicks has branched out into a solo career with the album Bella Donna, featuring songs like "After the Glitter Fades," "Leather and Lace," "The Highwayman" and "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around."

Raised in California, Nicks started out as a singer with the Bay Area band Fritz in late 1960s. Then she met Lindsey Buckingham, went with him to L.A. and recorded the album Buckingham Nicks in 1973. She joined Fleetwood Mac in 1975, working on such albums as Fleetwood Mac, Rumours (which sold 15 million copies), the daring Tusk and last year's Fleetwood Mac Live.

Bloomington, Indiana-based John Cougar has made a career out of writing songs on kids growing up in the Midwest. "I feel comfortable singing things that the kid that pumps gas or works in the steel mill can relate to - basic human emotions," Cougar says. Born John Mellencamp, Cougar grew up in the small town of Seymour, Indiana. At the start of his career. Cougar supported himself by installing phones while working with his first band. When he was laid off by the phone company, he went to New York and began recording.

His first record "Chestnut Street Incident," was a flop, but it's been uphill ever since with albums A Biography, John Cougar, Nothin' Matters And What If It Did, and American Fool. That last title, the bestselling album of 1982, featured hit singles "Hurts So Good" and "Jack and Diane."

New Wave band The Pretenders made a big splash in 1980 with its debut album The Pretenders, featuring the single "Brass In Pocket." Since then, the makeup of the band has changed, most notably through the drug-related death of guitarist James "Honeyman" Scott. Vocalist Chrissie Hynd remains the group's mainstay, and its single "Back on the Chain Gang" was a hit several months ago.

A group from Dublin, U2 is one of Ireland's most popular bands. Formed in 1978, the group started playing in London in 1979, and quickly became the top band in annual polls by a major Irish rock magazine. Its first British single was "11 O'Clock Tick Tock" in 1980, and the LP Boy was released later that year, leading to first a European tour then an East Coast U.S. tour. In 1981, Boy reached the U.S. charts, and its single "Gloria" became an international hit later that year. The group has toured with The Police recently, and released its latest LP, War, in February, featuring the song "New Year's Day."

A Portland-based band formerly known as Seafood Mama, Quarterflash hit the big-time with its 1980 song "Harden My Heart" under its present name. Exteachers Marv and Rindy Ross are the core of the band, with Rindy supplying both vocals and saxophone solos. The band's name comes from the Australian expression "a quarter flash and three parts foolish." Other songs it's known for are "Cruisin' with the Deuce," "Valerie" and "Find Another Fool."

Berlin, actually a Los Angeles group, received widespread attention with its independently produced, September 1982 EP release, Pleasure Victim, which quickly became one of L.A.'s top records. Founded in 1979 by John Crawford, the group has specialized in synthesizer-heavy "electro-pop." Its most recent major single is "Sex (I'm A . . .)."

Also on the Memorial Day slate are Missing Persons, a popular L.A. new-wave group led by former Playboy bunny Dale Bozzio and several instrumentalists formerly with Frank Zappa, and Little Steven and the Disciples of Soul, an r&b-styled group led by Steve Van Zandt, a guitarist and producer for Bruce Springsteen.

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