

## **“Name Dropper”**

by Ross Barbour

Every time the East Coast gets a hurricane, the news always mentions Wilmington, North Carolina. It sticks right out there into the Atlantic Ocean like the chin of a careless boxer, but Oh, it is a good place to be when the weather is nice.

Lucky us. We appeared in Wilmington in the 70's and those people just took us to their hearts. Every year they have an “Azalea Festival,” and that year Anita Bryant and we were in the parade down Main St. in the morning, and we were shown through the park full of azaleas that afternoon.

After our show in the evening there was a dance and a party after that. They know how to celebrate! But, what I'm getting to....the first hand we shook was at the Raleigh Airport. This man had been sent to greet us. Now North Carolina people have such a beautiful way of speaking anyhow...it is so full of “welcome” and so rich with that southern pronunciation, but this chunky fellow was a specialist. You could tell he was a practiced public speaker and an experienced greeter when he straightened himself up and slowly proclaimed his flowery message. It was something like “My name is Napoleon Bonaparte Barefoot and welcome to beautiful North Carolina. I'm here from Wilmington to take you to our Azalea Festival and to see that you have everything you could possibly want.”

After his bow, we shook his hand. I don't know if it was his name that made him a character or if he would have been a character anyhow, but he was un-forgettable. He was a judge and an important man in the community. I'll bet he was liked by everybody in town - except for a few criminals he had put in jail.

He enjoyed talking about his name. The year before he had greeted the Azalea Festival star who was the actor/comic who played the part of the Captain on “McHales Navy.” Not Ernest Borgnine - the guy they played all the tricks on. If you can think of his name, put it right here \_\_\_\_\_.

Anyway, Judge Barefoot said “I welcomed him like I did you, and I told him my name. Well, it stopped him for a second, but then he put on a phony southern accent and he said ‘My name is Julius Caesar Stark Naked, and I'm proud to be here.’”

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### **Ross-isms:**

Yogi Berra said, “It's hard to predict anything...especially if it is in the FUTURE.

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So this policeman stopped this motorist and said, “Your eyes look bloodshot. You must have been drinking.”

And the motorist said, “Well, your eyes look glazed. You must have been eating DONUTS!”

## **THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC (FRESH STYLE)**

by Donna Gallaway, FFS Sec., Ohio

Tom and I decided that the Freshmen concert in the beautiful rolling hills of western Pennsylvania, at Butler, would be a nice weekend getaway and a great way to celebrate my birthday. Being dedicated “Fresh Fans,” we even gave up our tickets to the Sept. 12th Ohio State-North Carolina State football game in Columbus to see our favorite vocal group. Turned out to be quite a sacrifice since our National Champion Buckeyes squeaked out a win in the third overtime - the first overtime ever played in Ohio Stadium! We caught the last few minutes of the game on TV in our motel room in Butler, thinking Wow, those Freshmen better be good tonight after missing that exciting live action in Columbus!

We need not have worried - the guys delivered. From the energy-filled opening bars of “Day In, Day Out” to the flawless a cappella close of “Their Hearts Were Full of Spring,” Brian, Bob, Vince and Curtis were in top form (or voice) throughout the entire show. Looking around the auditorium at the intermediate High School in Butler, it was plain to see these folks were having a good time. Feet were tapping and graying heads were bouncing in time to the polished bass sound and whistling coming from Vince combined with the wonderful rhythm of Bob's drums. Curtis amazed everyone with his trumpet skills, and Brian's beautiful guitar work did not go unnoticed. The vocal harmony was superb, and these guys are doing some fantastic arranging in addition to making the music. For example, the change in tempo on “Every Time We Say Goodbye” from ballad to swinging is just so cool. Brian's arrangement on the new “The Very Thought of You” is expertly done - both vocally and instrumentally. “September Song” is a gorgeous arrangement by Vince with a lovely a cappella opening and strong instrumentals.

More wonderful new stuff just kept flowing from the stage - “I Could Have Told You So,” “Somebody Loves Me,” “Mamselle,” and Bob's new solo “How Do You Keep The Music Playing” - such a beautiful ballad by Michel Legrand which was very well received by the crowd. This entire concert was like the very best chocolate you've ever eaten - smooth, satisfying and distinctive, leaving you begging for just a little more.

It was so nice to see Chick Trafford introduce the Freshmen and testify to his long burning passion for the music. FFS was well-represented with many local Pittsburgh area residents along with members from Ohio, Michigan, New York and Florida, plus others we didn't have the opportunity to see.

Anyone who has not seen this current group LIVE must go to the nearest show next time they are in your area, and take along some friends or family and you will have some FRESH believers after the show, no doubt.