

FRESH FUN IN VAN WERT, OHIO

by Donna Gallaway, FFS Ohio

A beautiful autumn day in rural western Ohio greeted the Four Freshmen on October 15th. What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than listening to and seeing the Freshmen in a live performance! Van Wert would be their fourth show in as many days, so with travel between venues and the actual performances, they were tired but never showed it on stage. In fact, they were even more fun than usual throughout the show - perhaps a bit "punchy?" Bob commented that he was running on just two hours of sleep.

Football fans were kept updated on scores of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Cincinnati Bengals games as Bob reported during the afternoon performance. (Steeler quarterback, Ben Roethlisberger, is from Findlay, Ohio, just a few miles from where we live, so many Ohio folks have become Pittsburgh fans, too.)

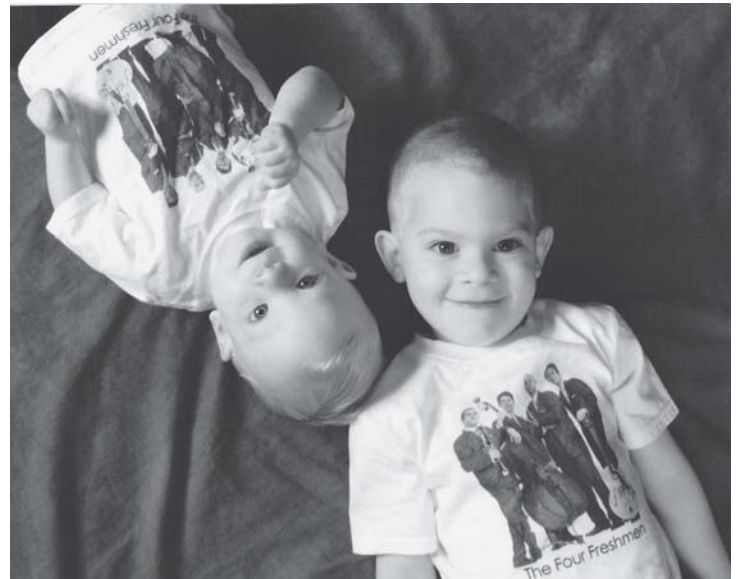
The rather small Marsh Foundation auditorium was filled to capacity with appreciative fans - even had extra chairs brought in at the back to accommodate the overflow. The Freshmen sang some of the beautiful arrangements from their newest album plus many of the old "chestnuts" as Ross Barbour always referred to the basic FF repertoire. Tom and I really got a good laugh when Brian introduced *The Day Isn't Long Enough* as a song that Vince wrote while in an Alaskan prison one winter." Then Bob used his drumsticks to play with a spider that had descended from the rafters above him, and then declared himself Spiderman!

Following the very entertaining two-hour show, a gentleman approached Vince at the CD sales table, where I was working, and showed him a ticket dated 1959 from a FF show in Abilene, Texas. The ticket had been signed by Ross, Bob Flanigan and Ken Albers. Great fan to have saved that ticket for 47 years!

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when something has broken when we are at soundcheck just hours before a gig, to those of you who just come out and clap loudly at our new and old arrangements alike, to those of you who offer yourselves to the group just because you care about us and the music and all those who preceded us. We can't thank all of you enough. I get Christmas cards from many of you (and if I find out who gave you my home address, I'm going to hunt them down) and thank you notes and I appreciate the sentiments very much. Whether you are actively helping us at shows, booking gigs or just showing up and giving us support, you are all equally important to us because without you guys doing those things for us, we might not be as successful to this day as we are.

Thank you very much from the four of us, and I know all those before us are just as thankful because they know all that you do and have done for the group. God bless all of you and we hope you have a beautiful new year and we look forward to seeing many of you at many more of our concerts.



Brian Vince Karen Sebo Curtis

