



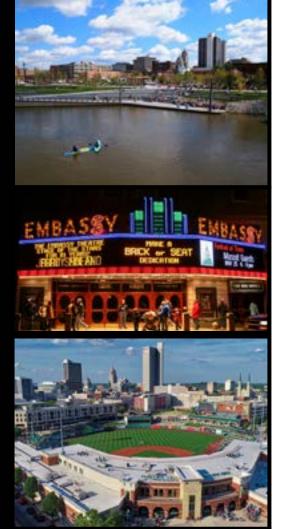
Celebrating... The Four Freshmen 1948-2023

> Four Freshmen Society 2023 Convention Fort Wayne, Indiana

September 21-23, 2023







Our President, **Donna** Gallaway





Looking back on 2022, it was a very good year. We enjoyed a successful convention or reunion in September when we were finally able to gather as the Freshmen family once again and experience live music from our favorite vocal group. It was so nice to catch up with all of you and to get to know some new Fresh fans.

I was very happy to attend the Toledo, Ohio show that was dedicated to a former FFS President, Mel Meyers. It was a great show with The Four Freshmen accompanied by five trombones played by masters of the instrument.

Now as we shift gears and prepare for a terrific celebration of the 75th anniversary of The Four Freshmen, excitement is building. This event in Ft. Wayne, Indiana must be on your calendar, or perhaps as a part of your own bucket list. Marlene and Dave are pulling out all the stops to make it a truly memorable experience for us and the Freshmen. Get ready to register in February. You do not want to be full of regret by passing up this wonderful opportunity to share in a very special time with FFS and the four guys who thrill us every time we see and hear them perform.

I have just returned from a week of mission work as I write this, which always makes me full of gratitude for all the many blessings I have enjoyed. I hope you all have had some time to reflect and be thankful as we move into 2023 with a *Fresh* start. Let's make it a year to remember as we celebrate 75 and honor those who are and were able to call themselves Four Freshmen.

2022 Reflections and Looking Ahead to **2023**

By Gil Peterson

My hope for each of you is that you had a safe, healthy and joyous holiday season with family and friends and that 2023 will bring you much success and happiness. 2022 had a lot of ups and downs and I hope the ups exceeded the downs for you. One of the highlights for the FFS in 2022 was the fact that we had a very successful convention in Bay City, MI. Jim and Linda Williams did a masterful job as Co-Chairs of the convention. They had to overcome many obstacles to make it all happen and they did an outstanding job. The FFS owes you both many accolades. I, on behalf of the FFS, extend to you many thanks for your tenacity and dedication. GREAT CONVENTION!!!!

I know it is almost impossible to believe, but 2023 represents the 75th anniversary of The Four Freshmen. Historically, no other musical group has ever come close to continually performing for that length of time. I don't know if you have heard group 27, but if you haven't, do yourself a favor and see them if they happen to be performing anywhere near you.

As I am sure you are all aware by now, our 2023 convention celebrating this miraculous75th anniversary is going to be held in Fort Wayne. David Blackwell and Marlene Lobsiger are Chairing this convention. A huge celebration is being planned and this is one convention you absolutely do not want to miss. All the information is in this issue of the Fresh News. I suggest you register as soon as registration opens on February 1, 2023. I can assure you that this is going to be a spectacular musical extravaganza.

I am looking forward with great expectations to seeing you all in Fort Wayne.

Happy New Year to you all.

Tribute To Mel

by Gil Peterson

On July 30th, the FFS lost a giant of a friend and dedicated supporter. As most of you know, Mel Meyers was our President and Chairman of the Board for many years. Mel was not one to ever seek the limelight or accolades, but when things needed to be done, in his own quiet way he was always there for us. Frankly, I don't really have the vocabulary to truly honor the remarkable man Mel was. All I can say is that we were very fortunate to have experienced his leadership skills. We will never forget him and he will always be a guiding light for us to follow. If we could all simply follow in his footsteps, what a wonderful world this would be.

May God bless your family, Mel, with the knowledge of how much you were truly loved and appreciated.





Newsletter artist, Eric Winkel and Barb got to reunite in the lobby of the Valentine



Bob and Barb share a big hug



The November 12th concert at the Valentine Theater, Toledo, Ohio, in honor of Mel was wonderful and filled my heart with joy. I hope Mel was looking down on us.

We had friends and relatives that we haven't seen in a while, and it's all due to Ron Kishuk and our Four Guys - Bob, Tommy, Ryan and Jake.

Thank you so much to the five of you for making this happen. - Barb Meyers



Ron Kishuk introduces the Five Trombones

Back Home Again in Indiana

This year we'll celebrate 75 years of the Four Freshmen at the 34th Annual Convention of the Society, September 21-23, to be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This will be an encore of the 2013 Convention which was held there as well. It will be especially exciting for Sara Lou and me as I was born and raised in Fort Wayne, and she moved there from West Lafayette while in high school.

This year's Convention promises to be another great event under the leadership of Marlene Lobsiger and Dave Blackwell, both of by Neil Lantz



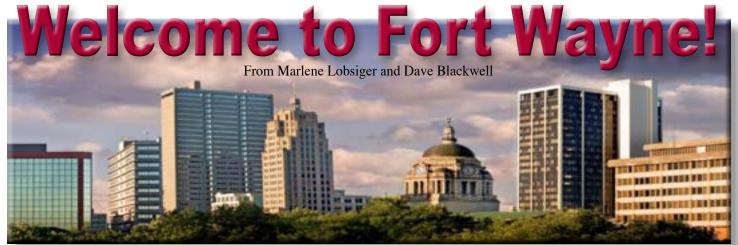
Sarah Lou and Neil Lantz

whom were responsible for the 65th anniversary gathering. Again this year, they're assisted by several members of the 2013 committee who are excited about this year's milestone occasion. Be sure to congratulate and thank them all, together with the FFS Board of Directors, for their dedication and hard work in planning and executing another great opportunity for all of us in the FFS family.

And, of course, we need to salute original Four Freshmen Group

our memories of the late members of the original Four Freshmen Group #1 in 1948: Ross and Don Barbour from Columbus, Bob Flanigan from

Four Freshmen Society 2023 Convention September 21-23, 2023, Fort Wayne, Indiana



Dear Four Freshmen Society Members,

As Co-chairpersons of the 2023 Four Freshmen Society Convention, we can hardly wait to welcome you to Fort Wayne, Indiana and "Back to the 113 Club." We are going to have a great time celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Four Freshmen and the 34th year of the Four Freshmen Society right here in our city.

The Hilton Hotel has graciously extended their low room rates three days before and three days after the convention date. A free shuttle is available from the airport to the hotel. You may call the Hilton Hotel 260/422-4002 and advise them of the arrival time of your flight. This will give you a shorter wait time for the shuttle.

Parking in the city parking garage is free; however the Hilton confirmation system will always show a parking fee on your bill. When you check in be sure to ask the desk clerk to remove the fee.

Dan de la Torre has designed a great logo for the 75th Anniversary Commemorative shirt. The shirt is a collared shirt in black and available in both ladies' and men's sizes.

"Fresh Memories" was a winner last year and once again we will meet to share and enjoy memories of the past. Current and former Four Freshmen and others, along with members from the Ross Barbour family will share their memories from 1948 to the present.

Members from our Fort Wayne committee will be on tap to greet you in the 113 Club. The Wannabees will meet both Thursday and Friday afternoon. We will be singing those great tunes that have been sung and performed by the Four Freshmen for the past 75 years. Thursday evening, opening night of the convention is the traditional Jam Session anchored by Dave Blackwell and The Jim Steele Trio where Fresh Fans and Four Freshmen alumni can sit in with their instruments or voices. The Jam Session is a great evening of fun and always brings some surprises. We encourage all musicians to sign up and be a part of this great, but casual opening night.

Friday morning both tours will leave the hotel at 9:30. A box lunch will be included with each tour.

Friday will be a very special night of celebration, taking us back to memories and memorabilia of the 113 Club, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The theme "Celebrating 75 Years" will open with dinner music by Jim Steele, local outstanding jazz pianist. The fabulous Four Freshmen will close out the evening's celebration followed by an "Afterglow" where you can meet and greet The Four Freshmen in the Hilton Hotel lobby.

Saturday morning there will be a Four Freshmen Society General Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting. Please check the schedule for the time.

Saturday night we will enjoy dinner music by Jim Steele jazz pianist. Following dinner we will have the pleasure of hearing another great concert by The Four Freshmen.

Fort Wayne known as "the city of churches" has much to offer its visitors. Some of the highlights of our beautiful downtown are great restaurants, unique boutique shops, the Allen County Library with the second largest genealogy center in the U.S., the beautiful Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, TinCaps Minor League baseball field, Embassy Theatre, Botanical Gardens, Fort Wayne Art Museum, the Allen County Courthouse with its magnificent mural paintings, Freimann Square and its beautiful flowers and fountains. One of the highlights of your visit that you will not want to miss is a visit to Fort Wayne's newest and most beautiful Promenade Park, located along the river with swings for adults, a covered pavilion, kayaking, walking trails, outstanding play areas for children with many other interesting things to do. Fort Wayne is also home to one of the top ten best Children's Zoo in the US. If you like to shop, it is only a 15 minute ride to the state-of-the-art Jefferson Pointe outdoor shopping mall including many places to dine. A 28 minute drive from the hotel will take you to Auburn, Indiana where you can visit the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, a National Historic Landmark Exhibit of 120 cars on 3 floors. The famous Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival and Car Auction over Labor Day weekend brings thousands from all over the world into the area every year.

Coney Island

Opening on Main Street in 1914 Coney Island is the oldest Coney Stand in America and Fort Wayne. Stepping into Coney Island is like stepping back in time. From the outside you can feast your eyes on the neatly lined rows of hot dogs cooking on the grill in the front window. The restaurant sells an average of 2,000 hot dogs a day and chops 70# onions per day. Coney Island is a local tradition and a must-see for visitors. Visiting and feasting on a hot dog at Coney Island is a must, and don't forget to grab a Coke in a classic bottle! Oh, by the way, try their famous chili, hamburgers and pie.





Sweetwater TOUR IS LIMITED TO 30. REGISTER EARLY. Sweetwater is the nation's largest retailer in the US for musical

instruments, pro audio gear and a campus that includes both in-house and online sales. The campus includes an Academy of Music and Technology, private lessons, three state-of-the-art recording studios, arcade games, a performance theatre, an outdoor performance pavilion for shows and an in-house diner and café.

Sweetwater employs over 2600 people offering their employees many perks on-site such as a Health Club with personal trainer, a salon and spa, medical clinic, DVD lending library, concierge service and more.

The tour begins at 10AM and ends at 11:00AM. A boxed lunch in their Downbeat Diner is included following the tour. The tour bus departs at 12:15 PM for the Hilton Hotel.

Veterans National at 12: Memorial Shrine and Museum

Founded by Eric and Cleo Scott in the early 1950s, this 40 acre Memorial Park welcomes all past and present Veterans. Eric Scott enlisted in the Army at the age of 19 and served in World War I. He spent six weeks in training and was assigned to the Third Infantry Division, Sixth Combat Engineers in France.

During the Battle of Marne in 1918, under heavy fire from his foxhole, Eric promised God if he survived the intense fighting he would establish a memorial to honor all of his fellow fighting soldiers and their families when he returned home. Eventually he began building a 2,400 square foot Shrine, museum and reception hall at 2122 O'Day Road. Their first reception was held in 1952 to honor many of his buddies who he served with.

The Vietnam Memorial Wall is one of the featured attractions at the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum. The permanent wall was dedicated in May 2021. This 80% replica stands 8 ft high at its center point and runs a full 360 feet from end to end. All 58,320 names of those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice will forever be remembered on the wall here in Fort Wayne. At the east end of the wall is a Vietnam War monument erected to honor the local Vietnam community and all those that served during the 20 year war. A red legacy brick walkway leads to the monument lined with soldiers names and the dates they served.





FN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2023

A new 6,000 square foot W. Paul Wolf, War History Museum was recently built. The museum features military artifacts from all conflicts, displays and exhibits, a gift shop and a Paul's Coffee Café, where Veterans can gather and talk about their experiences.

Another highlight of the Veterans Shrine and Museum is the 40/8 Merci Box Car presented to the State of Indiana in 1949. This Box Car was a gift from the French people for supporting their efforts to defeat Nazi German during World War II. The French presented every state in the union with a commemorative Box Car filled with gifts from the French people.

2023 FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Listed below are details that give further information in regard to the Registration Form

REGISTRATION INFORMATION - Registration may be made online at <u>ffs2023.com</u> or by mail. Pay by check or with credit card using the form on the back of this page. Please provide all requested information including first <u>and</u> last names. Early registration is encouraged.

TABLE ASSIGNMENTS: Please provide all names of others you want seated at your table. Encourage your preferred tablemates to mail or create online their registrations early. Seating will be arranged by postmark date or online registration date of the last member in your party. MULTIPLE REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED ON THE SAME DATE WILL BE DECIDED BY A LOTTERY.

HOTEL INFORMATION: We recommend making your hotel reservations early. Rooms at the Hilton Fort Wayne and Convention Center will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates for the convention are guaranteed at \$149 per night plus tax for 2 queen beds or a king bed, double occupancy. Reservation rates subject to availability will also be available for three days before and three days after the official convention dates of September 21 - 23. TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM, CALL Hilton at (800) 445-8667 and ask for Reservations. Be sure to use the group code <u>FOU</u> (FOUR FRESHMEN) Registration Link - https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/fwafhhf-fou-e623565b-9ba9-4474-bbba-6b7232989498/

SHIRTS: The shirt color is Black with the convention logo. Shirts are silk-touch 65% polyester, 35% cotton polostyle with collars. <u>Please Note</u>: <u>Convention shirts must be ordered at time of registration</u>. <u>Shirts will not be</u> <u>available for sale at the convention</u>.

JAM SESSION: Thursday night's open jam session promises to be a great evening of jazz. Society members are encouraged to participate. A professional jazz combo will anchor the evening's festivities. Freshmen past and current and attendees are welcome and encouraged to perform. <u>Please indicate your song, key and instrument on the registration form so the combo will be prepared to back up your song.</u>

TOUR: Two tours will be offered. The Veterans National Memorial Shrine is a tour of the grounds including an 80% replica of the Vietnam Wall and a Museum with artifacts from all wars. The Sweetwater tour will take you to the complex of the largest dealer in the United States of music gear, instruments, recording studios and equipment. Please refer to the photos in Fresh News. Both tours leave the hotel Friday Morning at 9:30 AM. You can only take one tour.

MENU SELECTION: Please specify if you require vegetarian or gluten free meals.

PAYMENT SUMMARY: Please complete all information on the Registration Form and forward your payment. Pay by check or credit card. Only **MEMBERS** of the Four Freshmen Society may attend this convention. Nonmembers must join the FFS for \$15, single or for a couple to attend the convention. The registration form can be duplicated for non-members who wish to attend the convention.

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL: The Hilton Hotel offers a free shuttle from the Fort Wayne International Airport. Please call the hotel with your arrival time two days in advance. 260/420-1100. Rental cars and other transportation services are also available at the airport.

HOTEL PARKING: Parking is free for convention hotel guests with in and out privileges.









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MENU SELE	CTIONS: Do you nee	d vegetarian or gluten i	free meals? How man	ny? Friday	Saturday
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Deadlines for consideration of articles:

1. Jan/Feb/March - Dec 012. Apr/May/June - March 153. July/Aug/Sept - June 154. Oct/Nov/Dec - Sept 15

Submit manuscripts to the Editor: Barb Meyers, <u>bam241136@gmail.com</u>, Cell 419-309-7855

Editors Note:

Linda Harrison was the author of the wonderful article about Erich Bucholtz shown in the previous issue of *Fresh News*.

I apologize for not catching that her name did not head up the article.

I hope she forgives me and writes more articles. They are all wonderful.

- Barb Meyers

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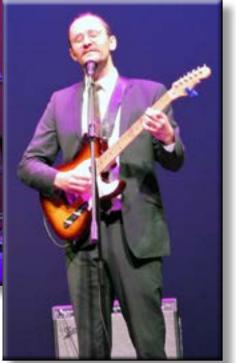
Dave Blackwell, Ft. Wayne, IN Kathy Feese, Maple Valley, WA Neil & Sara Lou Lantz, Fishers, IN Tony Leone, Washington, PA Marlene Lobsiger, Ft. Wayne, IN Barb Meyers, Lakeland, FL Gil Peterson, Winchester, OR Carol Roessing, Findlay, OH Jill Wickham, Defuniak Springs, FL Eric Winkel, Sandusky, OH

New Members_

Vicki Barham, Fairway, KS Nicholas & Dianah Hughley, Portland, OR Jack & Betsey Moreland, Prairie Village, KS Mark & Beth Samuelson, Greenwood Village, CO Paula Sanders, Lenaxa, KS



Bob and Tommy sounded fantastic at the Toledo, OH concert for Mel.





Item	Cost	QTY Tot	al		
5 Trombones/5Trumpets	\$15.00				
50 Years Fresh	\$15.00		Please use "Return Address" label	when available . Thanks	
Culmination - Greg Stegeman (*)	\$15.00	+ +	Prease use recurrinducress raber	when available - Thanks	
Faux Freshmen - Scratchin' the Surface	\$10.00	++	-		
Faux Freshmen - Seasons of the Heart	\$10.00	+	-		
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Faux Freshmen - Unsung		++			
Four Freshmen (Jazz Factory)	\$15.00	+ +	Street:		
Four Freshmen and Friends	\$15.00	+ +			
Four Freshmen and June Christy on the BBC	\$15.00	++	City, State:		
Four Freshmen Live in Stockholm (*)(CD & DVD) terms 4	\$15.00	+ +			
Four Freshmen in Japan (CD)(*)	\$15.00	+	Zip Code:		
Four Freshmen in Japan (DVD)(*)	\$15.00		_		
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Fresh	\$15.00				
Freshmas	\$15.00		Email:		
Freshmen Year/Voices in Latin	\$15.00				
Golden Anniversary	\$15.00		Name on Card:		
Graduation Day	\$15.00				
In Session	\$15.00		Credit Card Number:		
Live at Butler	\$15.00				
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Live Trombones	\$15.00	+	Live at Constitution Hall (2)		
Lost Soul - Curtis Calderon	\$15.00	++	Graduation Day (3)		
Love Songs	\$15.00		Fresh (2)	Faux Freshmen	
More 5 Trombones/In Person Vol. 2	\$15.00		Return to Romance	Unsung	
Remembering Ken (*)	\$15.00		Remobering Ken	Scratchin' the Surface (2	
Return to Romance/Live in Manchester (*)	\$15.00		Voice in Love (2)	Season of the Heart	
Road Shows	\$15.00		The Liberty Years		
Road to Portsmouth (*)	\$15.00		Voices in Latin	Ray Brown	
Snowfall	\$15.00		Still Fresh	Southern Comfort	
Stars in Our Eyes/The Swingers	\$15.00		Greatest Hits	Thank You Very Large	
Star Spangled Banner (up to 10 per order)	Free		Live at Butler		
Still Fresh	\$15.00				
The Liberty Years	\$15.00		New LP's - Friends \$20, others \$15		
The Swingers/ 4 Freshmen-5 Trumpets	\$15.00		Four Freshmen and Friends		
Through the Years (*)	\$15.00		Fresh		
Voices in Brass/In Person Vol. 1	\$15.00		The Freshmen Year		
Rod Henley's Jazzmin Vocal Band	\$10.00				
"Now You Know" (Leather Bound Book)(\$120 non US)	\$100.00		-		
Subtotal Shipping - \$1 per CD for US orders (CD/DVD Combo is \$ \$4 per LP for US orders Foreign Country: actual shipping costs for CDs	24		2		
and LPs, \$20 for "Now You Know" book Total		-	(*) Available to Members Only		

Back Home Again

(continued from page 3)

Greencastle, and Hal Kratzsch from Warsaw. The group, all of whom were music students at the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Butler University in Indianapolis, was originally a barbershop singing quartet named Hal's Harmonizers. They were later renamed the Top Hatters when they began to experiment with more modern harmonies. Significantly, in September of 1948, the quartet hired a Chicago talent agent, Dick Sheldon, who changed their name to the Freshmen Four and contracted their first professional gig at the 113 Club in Fort Wayne. Coincidentally, the Grand Wayne Convention Center and the connecting downtown Hilton Hotel, location of both the 2013 and this year's Convention, is nearly at the same location of the old 113 Club where Group #1 was booked for a week beginning on September 20, 1948. Following that week, the group continued with several other Midwest gigs until a January booking in Green Bay, Wisconsin, after which their name was changed to the Four Freshmen!

Seventy-five years later, it's also appropriate for us to celebrate the uninterrupted record of that great Freshmen sound as it has been continued for our fan pleasure by two dozen additional dedicated musicians including the great guys of Group #27 this year in Fort Wayne: Bob Ferreira, Tommy Boynton, Jake Baldwin, and Ryan Howe.

Without question, the track record of the 33 previous Conventions of the Society promises to be another great event for #34, and we hope to see all of you "Back Home Again In Indiana."

The Four Freshmen: Crooners Club

By Don Follet

It was a little scary; just a little, when the Four Freshmen bounced onto the Crooners nite club stage with pre-Halloween masks, singing *Fools Rush In* in a slow, haunting manner.

It got a rousing laugh from the audience. Then your favorite quartet soon broke out with *Day In, Day Out* to officially launch the Oct. 30 show.

The Crooners Club at a Minneapolis suburb has supported jazz singers and bands for only a few short years, but is drawing good crowds and had the Freshmen return, following their successful 2021 gig. The setting at Crooners was a large tent, set for dining-in. The Four Freshmen show was the last of the tent's fall season. The Crooners has other smaller rooms for more intimate shows.

As always, the FF 90-minute set covered some of the Freshmen's song history — *Easy Street* and *Poinciana* as well as their current CD, *From This Moment On, All the Things You Are*, and *Have You Met Miss Jones?* It was an appreciative crowd, responsive and in a good mood.

The night's performance showed again it's still the tight harmony, uptempo or otherwise, which so identified The Four Freshmen in their first 74 years, while highlighting some super instrumental performances.

Jake Baldwin, featured in several songs, continues a tradition of outstanding Freshmen horn work. New member, Ryan Howe, showed he can carry forth the important lead voice in the Freshmen delivery.

For Jake and Tom Boynton the Twin Cities area is their home base now. Jake is a well-recognized horn player in the area.

Coming down the show's closing stretch, the group ended with *The Day Isn't Long Enough* and *Route 66*, two stable tunes that brought standing applause, with *In This Whole Wide World* being the group's encore.

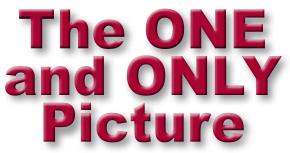
Minnesota FFS state rep Ann Johnson was busy chatting up the tables and sales were brisk for the new CD.



Ryan and Jake sounded fantastic at the Toledo, OH concert for Mel.







By Jørgen Bjørno, Denmark

Through the many years I have followed The Four Freshmen, there have been a vast number of photos. From conventions to concerts all over in the USA and also in Europe. But there will always be one special photo which will be, for me, "the one and only" - the first one.

Here is the photo and now I will tell you the story: In July 1966, The Four Freshmen came for the first (and the last) time to Denmark to entertain on the big stage in Tivoli, Copenhagen. (It was Group 5: Bob Flanigan, Bill Comstock, Ross Barbour and Ken Albers) The performing became an outstanding wild experience for me and 9-10,000 others.

After the show I got permission to go backstage (it would never happen today), to say hello and greet my four idols. I brought them a little gift, and asked them if I could take a photo. Quickly they gathered, and there I stood confused with a camera I didn't really know. So without remembering anything about time, blænder and flash, I just pushed the button and happily said, "Thank you."

The day after, I delivered the film to a

photographer and waited anciously on the result. It was terribly disheartening when the photographer told me that there was nothing on the film! Well, he promised to go back to his darkroom, to see what he could do, and after some time he informed me that there was four men in the dark! I was happy. I got my picture, and here it is: Ken, Bill, Bob and Ross - satisfied after their fabulously good show. My first picture... my one and only!

The Four Freshmen...On the Road!

Check the Website: fourfreshmensociety.com or fourfreshmen.com for updates For bookings: International Ventures Incorporated

Dina Sheets-Roth P.O. Box 993, Hampton Bay, NY 11946 Phone: 661-259-4500 Email: ivimanagement@me.com Please note: Dates subject to change without notice.

Due to the current health restrictions, please be sure to keep up with the status of concerts online at fourfreshmensociety.com

2022

December 28

Minneapolis, MN

Spring, TX

Crooners Supper Club, 6161 Highway 65 NE Show time: 4:30p & 7:30p Tickets: 763-760-0062

December 31

Venue: The Centrum, 6823 Cypresswood Drive Show time: 8:00p Tickets: 281-440-4850

2023

February 19

Cerritos, CA Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr Tickets: 800-300-4345 Show time: 3:00p

March 3

Pinehurst, NC

Bradshaw Performing Arts Center - Owens Auditorium, 3395 Airport Rd Show time: 7:00p Tickets: 910-695-3800

March 18

Vero Beach, FL Treasure Coast Jazz Society Oak Harbor Club, 4755 S Harbor Dr Show time: 12:30p Tickets: 772-234-4600

April 1

Bothell, WA

Northshore Performing Arts Center, 18125 92nd Ave NW Show time: 7:30p Tickets: 425-298-3449 (availability TBA)



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