

FreshNews from Sue Barbour

If you read the last issue of the *FreshNews* you may have learned about a proposal of a Four Freshmen concert in Middletown, OH. I would like to follow up with more information. The bride-to-be is my lovely, great-niece Lauren Lewis. She is the granddaughter of my older sister Martha Stillabower and daughter of Nancy and Greg Lewis. Her wedding to Mr. Ben Kloke will be held in May of 2016 in Columbus, IN. The reception will be in the same hotel where Lauren first saw The Four Freshmen perform when she was only two months old.

Back on the Radio

by Doug Bruso

I was listening to NPR radio recently and recognized a Four Freshmen sound sample being used by a music producer going by the name of "Jamie xx." Has anyone heard this yet? I found myself enjoying this song a little too much and then realized what I was hearing. It's undeniably The Four Freshmen singing *Blue World*. Everyone I played the song for got a real kick out of it.

If you would love to hear the guys are back on the radio, go to the two links below. They will let you listen to his song titled *Sleep Sound*. The first link will play the whole thing front to back, while the second link will skip ahead to the Freshman part.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fOHh5Q7Q1E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fOHh5Q7Q1E#t=95>

The Odd Couple??

by Joe Lathrop

It all started back in the fifties, when two college friends discovered their mutual obsession with the Four Freshmen music. Lowell Lytle and Joe Lathrop, both men, happily married to beautiful women, with growing families, and each pursuing their separate goals in life discovered how the Freshmen sound was captivating to them and how much they enjoyed the mutual interest.

They are now in the "November" of life, and the memories they share of times either with the "Frosh", or just digging the sound makes great fodder these days. Their recollections go back to the days when so many of the young college folks loved and followed the group.

This article is written by yours truly Joe, so I'll continue in the first person as I share a few of those memories. I believe the first live concert we attended was in St. Petersburg. Lowell told me that he and Barbara wished to invite Sindy and me out for dinner to celebrate my birthday. Little did I know the "dinner out" was front row seats at a Four Freshmen Concert. We were able to go back stage at the intermission to meet and greet our favorite performers. Lowell had become acquainted with Bob Flanigan, thus the back stage opportunity.

Other times included Dearborn, MI, and one special time when Lowell and I were traveling in England on business. We drove from London up to Manchester to the now long gone "Blighties Night Club". We stayed over night and helped the group travel across town in a driving rain to set-up for another gig. I'm sure Ross never knew who those two crazy Americans were that showed up to help them, but believe me we never forgot that day.

Since those days, I have heard them live in Port Huron, MI, Tampa, FL, Toledo, OH, and I hope to be in San Antonio next fall.

I have convinced myself how "good" I am singing along with CD's in my car. Funny how we think we sound so good and how we believe we are right on pitch. I do know the lyrics though, and seldom miss.

Lowell was the owner of a musical production company that trained young performers to entertain and perform at high school assemblies across the US and Canada for many years. One of the shows we wrote was "Freedom Jam" a musical production of the history of American music over the past 200 years.

That show was during the Bi-Centennial years. Included in the show was a short version *In This Whole Wide World* sung by four young rock and roll guys. Can you imagine the challenge trying to teach those long hair dudes to sing "real music"? They all loved it though, and believe it or not they sounded...well OK!

So if you see two old guys at the convention, one very tall, and the other rather "portly" that's us. We have many more stories to tell of our adventures, so sit with us and share your stories as well.