

So Many Conventions - So Many Friends!

by Yas Ichiura, FFS Japan rep

I was born in 1945 and first heard The Four Freshmen in 1963 through US Military radio station FEN in Japan. I went to my first Freshmen live performance in 1964 in Tokyo. Bob Flanigan gave me FFAS (at that time) application form in 1989 and my first attendance to a FFS Convention was in 1992. I have been to most of the Conventions since then, mostly with Michiko. It was my 27th Convention in Fort Wayne in September last year and 23rd for Michiko, and hope it won't be the last one.

It has always made me very happy and honorable to listen to their great sound and talk to them in person at each Convention. However, making friends and keeping long-time friendships with many fans just like me among the fans from all over the world, is something special to me. It may be the same for everybody. Michiko and I have been so lucky to be invited into some of our friend's homes on the way to the Conventions. We stayed with Paul and Kris Halac seven times, however, they visited us only once in Tokyo - so far.

Michiko and I wouldn't have attended so many Conventions without having such nice friends from all over the world. Therefore, I would like to thank all the Freshmen throughout history, not only for the great harmonies that made our lives happier, but also providing us the opportunity to get know each other in the FF Society.

Footnote from the editor: Yas inherited Bob Flanigan's trombone. Yas has also taken many photos throughout the years. He says he has 130,000 photos in his library.

