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As I did not then own a reel to reel player, this "jewel" which was already 23 years old, lay undiscovered for another 18 months. In early 1999, after acquiring a well-used but serviceable Sony TC-730 at a local thrift store, I first heard the performance and was awestruck as I hope you will be.

Ross Barbour was always at the center of the process that brought this music to life again. He, being the optimistic and positive person that he is, kept encouraging me to do whatever was necessary to finish the job. Thanks, Ross!



Eric Solheim, Dr. Ben Anderson, Jr., Bob Solheim

Several other people were involved in the project. They include: my brother Eric Solheim of Phoenix AZ (Captain Video) who always has encouraged me to keep the audio or video tape running as we jointly pursued our interests in this great music over many years.

Ted Sitterley (Recording Assistant), one of the principle architects of the 50th FFS Convention in Las Vegas, made his high quality open reel recorder available and made the first "working" master tape.

Paul Halac (Mr. Engineer) spent countless hours in his computer studio "Polishing" the 29-year-old tape to its present recordable state.



Alan MacIntosh, Lisa Adams, Ray Brown

As I'm preparing to put this in the mail to Chick Trafford, I'm somewhat emotionally overpowered. This world can at times be very small and the strands in the web of life can touch many of us from time to time. Among my thoughts are these:

- The lady that sold me the tape is a good friend of Alan MacIntosh's mother.

- There was an article in the last issue of "Fresh News" about a Group Five concert in 1973 in Raleigh, NC. Ted Sitterley now lives in Raleigh, NC.

Today, as I'm finishing this, Ramsey Lewis and Peter Cincotti played a memorable version of "All the Things You Are" on the Today Show on twin Steinways. How often have you recently seen quality music on commercial television? Forty-four years ago I sat at a table with Stan Kenton and Bob Flanigan after the evening performance of many great stars at the Playboy Jazz Festival in Chicago. The afterglow house band we were listening to in the Sherman Hotel penthouse was a young and eager Ramsey Lewis Trio.

As I think of the upcoming events in Orlando, I remember September 1988 in Las Vegas where approximately sixty of us got together at the Barbary Coast and Bob and Mary Flanigan's home as new friends with the common bond of the love of the music. My wish for all of us is to enjoy each day and, as we do, if we need a bit of a lift, put on some good music. I truly hope you will enjoy this new CD by these treasured **old friends**.

## WILL APATHY PREVAIL IN 'DOWN BEAT' POLL?

by Mike Collins (TX)

This year I might join the apathetic 90% of FFS members who decline from voting in DOWN BEAT Magazine's annual readers poll, which lasts for three months every summer.

Not that the current FF edition hasn't earned my vote. It certainly has. But what's the use of driving 30 miles (my local store doesn't even stock DOWN BEAT) to exercise my choice when, in live appearances and in press releases, previous victories are not promoted?

In last year's March-April issue of Fresh News, I urged the membership to select the FF as top jazz artist and record album of the year as well as for best vocal group and Hall of Fame induction. Less than 25 voted for the FF in these two categories. As for me, I voted twice (and a third trip was valueless, as the few issues on sale that month had been sold).

FF membership in the Vocal Group Hall of Fame also goes unpromoted. Such triumphs resemble the hypothetical tree falling in the deep forest - does it actually make a sound if nobody hears it? So I should join the ranks of our overwhelming majority and stop beating my head against the wall.

(Then again, I might cast my ballot. Perhaps somewhere in the world a decision-maker at a major jazz festival might learn that the group is alive and performing as well as it did nearly half a century ago when the FF began to win major laurels. Then, just maybe, the FF will leave the ranks of the uninvited to perform at such important venues.)