

## THE FOUR FRESHMEN AND ALL THAT JAZZ ROSEBURG, OR., FRIDAY MAY 14, 2004 by Gil Peterson, OR

Marsha and I rented a fifteen passenger van, removed the two rear seats in order to handle the instruments and baggage, and met the Freshmen in Troutdale, Oregon, on Tuesday, May 11th. They had performed at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon, the night before. So we loaded the equipment and headed for Tillamook, Oregon, which is about one hundred miles west of Troutdale on the Oregon coast.

They performed at Tillamook High School before a crowd of approximately 600. They were fantastic as always and the audience was totally tuned in and loved every minute of the concert.

We left Tillamook on Wednesday, May 12th, around mid-morning and arrived in Roseburg around 3:00 PM. Wednesday evening we honored the group with a reception dinner at the China Palace. The event was covered by KPIC, our local TV channel, and the Freshmen sold a number of their new CD's.

We had a whole bunch of fun activities planned for the boys if the weather permitted. As it turned out the weather was gorgeous, and on Thursday morning I took Brian and Curtis out to the airport and we went flying in my Piper Cub. Once airborne I turned the controls over to each of them, and with very little help from me, other than a little verbal assistance, they both handled the plane exceptionally well. Curtis had received some previous flight instruction in the distant past, but Brian had never flown in a small plane before. They had a blast. After lunch we took an exciting jet boat cruise up the North Umpqua River. On Friday, we had a private tour of The Wildlife Safari, a drive-through exotic animal park just south of Roseburg. They were able to get up close and personal with many of the animals. What a treat! After lunch, we flew them over Crater Lake. It was a pristine day, and Crater Lake on a day like that is one of the most beautiful lakes anywhere in the world. It was spectacular!

Friday evening, the 14th, was concert time and we had a very enthusiastic audience of approximately 700. The show opened with The Gary Beck Trio, a superb guitar, bass and drums trio. The Big Horn Jazz Band, a sixteen piece local community band, followed the trio with several numbers. THEN, IT WAS FRESHMEN TIME! They did "Day In Day Out," "It's a Blue World" and "Route 66" with the band. The Fabulous Four then took center stage and kept the audience spellbound for the next hour and a half. If you have not heard them lately, they have added a number of astounding arrangements to their repertoire. "September Song," arranged by Vince, is perhaps the most beautiful rendering of that lovely ballad I have ever heard. It will absolutely knock you out! "You've Changed," arranged by Brian, is so gorgeous it will simply take your breath away. To make a long story short, the entire evening was SENSATIONAL!

We had forty FFS members present for the concert. We were delighted to have all of them here in Roseburg. We had a very nice afterglow gathering and we are looking forward to seeing all of you in Grand Rapids.

