

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

by Bob Flanigan (Long Tall Hero #1)

Having people like you who have been friends for many years is something very special and is something which we take very seriously. I must address something regarding Freshmen history and our relationship with our fans.

A lot of Great Things have happened to The Four Freshmen from 1948-2005. The interest of Stan Kenton, Capitol Records, our friendship with so many great musicians, band leaders, arrangers like Pete Rugolo, Dick Reynolds, Nelson Riddle, Bill Holman and Billy May. Singers like June Christy, Carmen MacRae, Sue Raney, Billie Holiday, Julie London, and many others in the Jazz world have been inspirational to us.

We have enjoyed the company and loyalty of our fans. Bob Watts has been one of our most ardent supporters, but sometimes his imagination gets the best of him. The article by Glenda Sanders contains inaccuracies from his interview I need to correct.

*According to the Villages article, Bob said he managed The Freshmen. He never did. During the years discussed, Bill Wagner was our manager.

*College Dates: Fred Dale was our agent. And we never had a tour for 31 days with dates 250 miles apart. The story about George Shearing and driving the bus never happened on a Kenton tour. But something similar happened on a tour with Nancy Wilson, George Shearing and The Freshmen.

*The Arthur Godfrey story was not true. We never met Arthur Godfrey let alone be in the same studio with him; we couldn't have been "ordered out of the studio."

*The newspaper article told a story about rehearsing in Simi Valley CA....but that never happened. Both Ross and Ken moved there after they left The Freshmen and I have never been in either home and wouldn't know how to find either one. Bob Watts "Singing behind the stage curtain" never happened to my knowledge. Not in Evansville IN - Tokyo - London - Greencastle or any other place.

Having said my piece, I think I'll now do something I enjoy - retire to my den, lift a glass or two, and listen to Bill Comstock's EARLY AUTUMN (one of the greatest charts ever written for The Four Freshmen).

Editor's Note: The now infamous "Villages" article was submitted to Fresh News by one of our Florida FFSers, not by Bob Watts. The editor regrets the avalanche of negative feelings that resulted. I apologize profusely to Bob Flanigan, Ross Barbour, Bill Comstock, Ken Albers, Bill Wagner and anyone else who may have been affected. Our fandom should be a totally uplifting condition...I think I'm going to form a veracity squad to screen any future Fresh News articles that do not contribute to that uplifting condition...and then follow Flanigan's lead about lifting a glass or two and immersing myself in that Freshmen Sound! That is what FFS is all about...n'est pas? - Chick

FN July, August, September 2005

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Ed Monborne (PA)

After many years of agonizing and consternation I have finally decided to dispose of my entire collection of VINYL albums which include the entire collection of FOUR FRESHMEN ALBUMS. I do not however have the two most difficult albums that were apparently compiled in Germany. I do have most of the rare albums including the following:

Live in Tokyo

Live at Penn State

Mount Freshmore

Deluxe

Double Deluxe

My Special Angel

Best of the Freshmen (This album has a silver and blue jacket.) It is not the more well known album with the Freshmen in red sweaters.

Don Barbour's solo album

*Bob Flanigan and JJ Grey
(Togetherness-Instrumental)*

Ken Errair (Solo Session)

Boxed set with *Freshmen-Kenton and June Christy*
(Not the Road Show) Single sided vinyl record
on the ROSSDON label.

And all the other albums listed on the
FRESHMEN DISCOGRAPHY

I also have a large collection of single 45's -
however I do not have all of the Freshmen 45's.

If you or any of your acquaintances have the desire to obtain any of my Freshmen collection please feel free to submit a bid on individual albums or the entire collection. I do however reserve the right to reject any or all bids. Please be assured that I am serious about disposing of this collection. I prefer to have these albums in the hands of true FRESHMEN fans rather than be used for target practice by someone who doesn't appreciate the quality of this great music.

Please submit your bids by letter or by fax at the address or fax number at the bottom of this letter. **Please - no phone calls.** I look forward to hearing from you.

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