

## **FRESH TALK**

by **Dick Baldwin, FFS President**

This space on land or sea has a new perspective - don't be wordy, be worthy. For a comfortable spell I have not been involved in a chain of command with reporting responsibilities. Now, times have changed - I report to a higher authority - the members of the FF Society, where "It's A Blue World." And, the Bluer The Better!

On May 10 Carolyn and I were fortunate to attend the orderly Pittsburgh Convention Committee Meeting at Chair Bob Baker's Butler, PA residence. Three plus hours did it - covered the coming August 24-26 Pittsburgh action. Bake has a great convention planned and the Lydics, Dot and Harry, the Music Mart's Bob Lininger, pencil sharp Dolly Persun, Stew Sander, and Bake's assistant Karen (or do I have it reversed?) were in attendance. They are the leaders of the so-called TASK FORCE. FN Editor Chick Trafford was among some of the notables unable to attend this particular date.

The Pittsburgh city-setting will be exciting and the downtown Hilton has it all. Plus, Sue Raney & Friends are inked and Pitt's own Harold Betters Quartet will bridge the gaps between Freshmen features. This could be one of the great conventions in the series.

Don't just BE THERE, BE THERE EARLY, so you won't miss a move. The story-telling is going to be awesome between sets.

The Baker Alumni line-up will include the Flanigans, Barbours, Comstocks, Stegemans and Browns. Will there be surprises and mystery guests too?

The drive back to Williamsville (northeast of Buffalo proper) was an "on the road musical experience. Maybe you have sorta been in our camp, or we've been in yours, over these many years - normally hesitant to try contemporary jazz things and artists (live/recorded). The Bakers loaded us up with two discs for the trip north (200 mi. plus). The car rack has five slots for tunes, so we bypassed our own storage of George Shearing, 32 *Jazz Quiet Times*, Michael Crawford, *Freshmen 22 Legendary Hits* and Charlie Parker for Michael Buble and Renee Olstead, a 17-year-old lass with pipes.

The music mags always write, "if it doesn't swing, forget it," and/or "it's good because there's a little attitude in there." Apply such to the above. We liked the tunes. The Side3 was musically rewarding with educable moments, not a state of popinjay..

Please keep the Pitt rivers in your plans. It's true that these annual affairs are about the Freshmen, then and now, but the conclaves are also about you all. It's difficult to keep track of all the great people we've met at these bashes. And, I'm coming right out with it now, straight ahead, This Whole FF Nation Swings! Hard!

Compliment the Editor and you might get some bonus space. Such as -

1. The DVD shoot from the Las Vegas Suncoast February 19 is in production and should be available at the Convention FFS Music Mart - make room Bob L. You should know that it's the best on show film or disc of the Freshmen, ever.
2. Make note of the new web address for the #22 Freshmen direct - **www.FourFreshmen.com**. It includes the "key" to [www.Four Freshmen Society.com](http://www.FourFreshmenSociety.com), too.
3. Get to know Regional Reps Barbara, Don, Mel & Wayne. They're the Best!

## **HOT OFF THE WIRE**

**Dick Baldwin, Pres. (NY)**

I WANT YOU TO BE AWARE THAT THERE ARE NOW TWO WEB SITES FOR OFFICIAL FRESHMEN INFORMATION. JOINING [WWW.FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY.COM](http://WWW.FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY.COM), IS THE NEW [WWW.FOUR FRESHMEN.COM](http://WWW.FOUR FRESHMEN.COM) site.

Chaz Cone remains the FFS web master, while Brian Eichenberger now runs the FF site with lots of good features.

It's easy to stay up to speed and beyond with these two official sites.

Welcome to the Blue World!

## **From Jean Dolan and Mary O'Brien from Reston, VA**

At the Capital Theater, Chambersburg, April 7, 2006, we had our picture taken with Brian. We both love him and it made our night!



Mary O'Brien, Brian, Jean Dolan