

Flashback to the first weekly Best Selling Pop Albums tally.

How long ago was March 24, 1956? On that date, Billboard reported that the country's top TV comedy was *I Love Lucy*, the top comedy among men was *The Honeymooners* and the most-watched syndicated children's comedy was *Abbott and Costello*. (The issue cost 25 cents). Position, Artist Title No.1, Harry Belafonte, *Belafonte* No.2, Soundtrack, *Oklahoma!* No.3, Soundtrack, *Carousel* No.4, Soundtrack, *The Benny Goodman Story* No.5, Julie London, *Julie Is Her Name* No.6, the Four Freshmen, *Four Freshmen and Five Trombones* No.7, Mario Lanza, *The Student Prince* No.8, Jackie Gleason, *Music to Change Her Mind* No.9, Lawrence Welk, *Sparkling Strings* No. 10, Soundtrack, *The Man With the Golden Arm* 3/24/2010

Bill Wagner RIP

Long-time Four Freshmen manager, Bill Wagner, passed away Friday, June 3rd in Los Angeles at the age of 91.

Mr. Wagner's relationship with the Freshmen began as a fan dating back to the late 1940s when they met while the guys were performing in Indiana and evolved into managing the group from the mid-50s through the 1960s.

As their popularity increased, Mr. Wagner assumed management of the group, moving to Hollywood, CA from his hometown of Warsaw, IN 1955. Mr. Wagner continued to manage the group through the 1960s, eventually leaving management to work at Capitol Records.

So enamored with the Freshmen sound, many young groups sought Mr. Wagner's advice, including Brian Wilson, becoming a mentor to Wilson, providing advice and Freshmen vocal charts for the fledgling Beach Boys.

Among Mr. Wagner's many associations were artists and bands including Stan Kenton, Kenny Rogers, John Klemmer, the Si Zentner Band, Paige Cavanaugh Trio, the Air Force's Airmen of Note and dozens of developing and established artists, serving in such capacities as manager, producer or mentor.

Mr. Wagner was pre-deceased by his wife of 68 years, Vicki, in January 2010. A memorial service for Mr. Wagner was held for Saturday, June 25th at 1:00 pm at Sherman Oaks Presbyterian Church, 4333 Noble Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.

Bill and Vicki will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC in October, honoring Bill's WWII U.S. Army Air Corp service as a bomber pilot and his service at the Pentagon.

The Four Freshmen Appreciation Society

A copy from an note circa 1989

The 1st annual FFAS Midwest Convention was held in Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 15 & 16th, 1989. We met members and held a dinner at the Hilcrest Hotel. The Four Freshmen were performing at John Moran's place, FRIAR TUCKS. Unfortunately, both are closed now. There were 4 members in attendance. Chick and Sue Trafford from Jeannette, PA, John & Doloros Bangs from Oshkosh, WI, Ted & Karen Driscoll from Elyria, OH, Dave Barnes from Mc Lean, VA, Rollie & Theresa Jakuboski from Toledo, OH, Ken Horn & Dolly Fritz from Cincinnati, OH, Bob Watts from Madison, IN, Eloise Zuber from Angola, IN, Bill Coyle from Toledo, OH joined us later. Ken Horn's friend from Cincinnati was Lorry Rice, now deceased.

FFAS President, Edd Townsend was not present. No business meeting was held.



Left: Doloros Bangs, Dave Barnes, Chick & Sue Trafford, Ted & Karen Driscoll.
Head: Rollie Jakuboski
Right: Theresa Jakuboski, Eloise Zubor Angola, Bob Watts.
Photographer: John Bangs