

The MAN in Oxford, Ohio

by Bruce Ronald, FFS Ohio

On Monday, March 20, 1950, I somehow made my way from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio to Dayton. I had some time to spare before attending the Stan Kenton Innovations Concert, so I stopped off to see the town's two jazz disc jockey's, Gene "By Golly" Barry and Symphony Sid Garriss.

Barry welcomed me and added "Hey stick around. Stan Kenton will be here." And, wonder of wonders, the huge man bounded up the WING stairs, and, I a college freshman, was introduced to the MAN.

We met at least three times years later, and on every occasion (but the last) he would recall my name: "How's it going, Ronnie?"

This was the night when Gene Barry and Symphony Sid took Stan to hear a promising jazz instrumental vocal quartet called the Four Freshmen. Was I present at that historic meeting? No. I was really too young to frequent a bar (although I might have been able to have a 3.2 beer – remember those?)

My girlfriend, Virginia (later my wife of 60 years), and I saw the Four Freshmen at Miami University. Probably in 1952, after they recorded *Blue World*, but before its release. Due to the quartet's mini vacation, Bob Flanagan had lost the calluses he needed to play the string bass without pain. He asked Virginia if she could find him some adhesive tape. The best she could do was Band-Aids but they helped.

In those days, dating couples often had "special songs." Ours was – and still is – The Freshmen's *Now You Know*.

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2. If you only view Fresh News online, consider printing the current volume and passing a copy along to your friends. Online access to the Society website also includes a Membership Application Form.

As membership Director Chaz Cone has reported at our annual conventions the past three years, our new memberships continue to grow each year. However, this good news is offset somewhat by member attrition, attributable to a variety of reasons (including, unfortunately, aging!). You can be of help in growing our membership by your willingness to renew when the time comes. It's easy to do so by credit card using phone, mail, or the Internet, or by utilizing the mail-in form cited above. Please remember that a discount is available if you choose to renew for multiple years. So I hope you'll all "re-enlist" when you hear from Chaz that it's time to renew. We value your membership, and we're looking forward to your continued support of the Four Freshmen Society and the Four Freshmen.

FF at ZPAC

by Dick Hatfield, Ohio Rep.

On March 27, four of us from Springfield Ohio trekked to Zionsville, IN to see the Fresh for the first time since the Ft. Wayne convention.

ZPAC, the Zionsville Performing Arts Center was perfect for a Four Freshmen performance: great acoustics, intimate, and comfortable. Not too mention a scad of FFS members in attendance. And thank you Neil Lantz for the friendly welcome in the lobby.

Our favorite four sang mainly those evergreens we all love. The most notable nicety with this new group is the bass and guitar banter by Bryan and Stein. Outstanding! You can hear it vividly on their new album. Vocally, you won't notice any difference in their sound – about like when Errair left and Albers came on board. Ever so slight.

Group 23 is phenomenal.

IMAGES FROM TAMPA

