

# Down Memory Lane

## with the Four Freshmen in Columbus, IN

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I did not know about the Four Freshmen until the Fall of 2014. I hear gasps out there and I totally understand. The Four Freshmen did a string of tours to Japan in 1964 but I was oblivious to their existence while watching *Dark Ducks* (see note) weekly on NHK. How did I miss them? I guess I will give myself some allowance for being just a toddler back then.

Thanks to our dear friend, Michiko-san ("Mikko"), my husband (Anton) and I joined the convention in Tampa in October of 2014. Soon after I met Michiko-san for the first time at the Double Tree Hotel, I realized that the event was not a convention. It was a family reunion.



Fast forward to June of this year, Anton and I took a business trip to Indiana to inspect a couple of commercial properties in Noblesville and Columbus. During the 2 ½ day visit, since we had a pocket of half a day, we planned a side trip to visit a few memorable Four Freshmen sites in Columbus. Anton is holding a photo of the Group #22 with Mr. Ross Barbour in the middle from their visit to this site in 2006. By a fortunate kismet, the road sign stands only about ½ mile East from the center we visited. What odds?!

A short drive - less than 10 min. - took us to the Garland Brook Cemetery where a few members of the Barbour Family rest. I am glad that I had done research beforehand on the location of the plot. The Barbour's plot is in Zone 52, across the street from Zone 51 near Zone 63. There in a compound of

the Barbour's resting places, we introduced ourselves to Mr. Harold and Ms. Maude (parents), Mr. Francis "Frank" and Ms. Carrie (grandparents), Mr. Wallace (uncle who perished when he was only 21 years old) ... and ... last but not least ... Mr. Don.

Another 10-min. ride took us to Columbus North High School (CNHS) where the Barbour brothers attended during the 1940s. Since the summer recess had begun sometime ago, the school building was empty save a couple of administrators at the reception area. The two kind ladies at the desk happily related that Group #25 had performed at CNHS last year as part of the school's 150th anniversary celebration.



With the exciting encounters with the memories of the Barbour Brothers and the Four Freshmen through the ages fresh in our hearts, we drove to Downtown Columbus where the brothers must have left their footprints from way back then. The cozy downtown had only a few people on the day of our visit. It is a hidden treasure trove of interesting and historical spots. If you ever venture out there, please be sure to step into the Zakarakos Ice Cream Parlor and Museum (<http://www.zaharakos.com/>). The original 1908 Welt automatic organ in the museum section of the store is a must-see.

Rewinding back to the fall of 2014, a few minutes after I met Michiko-san, Brian and Stein passed through the lobby where we were chatting away, followed by a scene of heartfelt greetings and introductions. With their pleasant reply to my request for a photo, I snapped a portrait with Michiko-san in the middle.

May the beautiful harmony of the Four Freshmen continue to echo through generations!



**NOTE:** *Dark Ducks* is a Japanese vocal quartet.  
[www.allmusic.com/artist/dark-ducks-mn0000464896](http://www.allmusic.com/artist/dark-ducks-mn0000464896)