

## FRESHMEN, WOODSTOCK AUDIENCE EARN A TIP OF THE HAT

by Mike McCoy, FFS Wisconsin Rep.

Here's a tip of the hat to the Four Freshmen, who did a great job June 19 at Woodstock, Il., entertaining the audience for about two hours and then spending a lot of time after the show meeting and greeting fans in the bar adjacent to the Opera House where they performed. A lot of fans lingered with the Freshmen there well after the show and had a great time talking about all things Freshmen.

The comment from one fan, Char Jeske, after the show perhaps was typical: "It was the best show I have seen in years. Thank you, Freshmen, for such a delightful evening."

And here's another tip of the hat to the audience, which was clearly in the Freshmen corner from the first steps on stage to start the show. The applause throughout the show sounded to me like it was coming from an audience twice or three times its size. From the start, the solos the guys performed got recognized with good applause. This was a knowledgeable crowd and, based on the applause when Bob Ferreira mentioned the Four Freshmen Society from the stage, there was a good Society membership turnout as well.

I think those fans who decided to take part in the pre-show FFS-hosted socializing and dinner at the nearby Public House had a great time (I know I did), and we also saw some additional faces of fans back at the Public House after the show for the informal FFS-hosted Afterglow. I thought it all made for a great evening. Lots of smiles, laughs, and good conversations. It all took place over about six hours and for at least those six hours, it just seemed that all was right with the world...particularly when the Freshmen were singing.

Wayne Corey and I had a neat experience as we prepared to leave the restaurant for the short walk to the Opera House. A waitress stopped Wayne to say someone at a table elsewhere in the restaurant was asking about some of the songs most associated with the Freshmen.

Wayne and I were happy to go to his table and answer his question, only to suddenly have several other tables ask us to come over and answer the same question, and others. It seemed most of those in the restaurant had tickets to the show, and for many of them this was going to be their first time ever seeing and hearing the Freshmen live. We hope we added to their anticipation by communicating our own excitement to hear the Freshmen that night.

I know the Freshmen also were impressed with both the audience and the venue and would be thrilled to return to the Woodstock Opera House in the future. If you're from the area and want to help make that happen, I'd encourage you to write the Opera House (121 Van Buren St., Woodstock, IL 60098) and encourage them to book the Freshmen again and let them know you'll be there.

## Following That "Sound of Permanence"

by Ross Barbour

Thursday, Sept. 2, was the beginning of Joel Rothman's 10th Anniversary "West Coast Jazz Party" at the Marriott Hotel in Irvine CA (the south edge of LA).

There was wall-to-wall jazz for four days down there. I mean jazz by the pool and in the lobby...everywhere. They would have had a 5-piece band in the men's room, but it would have made it too crowded to dance. (That's an old Jack Benny joke.)

This PARTY was no joke though. Joel brought in maybe 50 major jazz soloists - Terry Gibbs, Ken Poplowski - Chuck Berghofer - Jeff and Scott Hamilton - Rob McConnell - on and on.

The Basie Band was there on Sunday! When Joel does it, he really DOES it!

Well, the Freshmen were there in the ballroom Friday evening, Sept. 3rd. It was Vince Johnson's birthday and Curtis' third anniversary as a Freshmen.

Sue and I were there with Bob and Mary Flanigan and Greg and Johanna Stegeman. We, and all the rest of the crowd, were calling for "more" after 55 minutes. That was not enough. So the next night Sue and I followed them 80 miles to The Civic Arts Center in Thousand Oaks, CA (North and West of LA).

It was the celebration of Radio Station KCLU's 10th Anniversary (88.3 FM). They filled this grand theater with their jazz listeners and they brought in a dazzling jazz pianist who stunned us all, partly because he was 13 years old. Austin Peralta - you'll hear from him.

The Woody Herman Orchestra was on the bill too, rompin and stompin! Oh My!

Our Freshmen did such a beautiful show they got a standing ovation, and later they came back to sing in front of that "Herman Herd" for all of us.

Ken and Nancy Albers hadn't heard the Freshmen for a while. They were really thrilled and delighted. Yes, Freshmen, your sound brings us all pleasure we can't get any other way.

Frank Tiberi leads the Woody Herman band now. When Ken Albers got out of the army he was 20 years old, and he would go "sit in" with every band that came near his hometown, Pitman, New Jersey. Ken said that Frank Tiberi was doing that then too, so that's how they first met - almost 60 years ago!