

FRESH TALK

by Dick Baldwin, FFS President

It Was A Real Party In Pittsburgh! And, we're back home, but unsettled. Normally, after such a bash, it's easy to return to your base with much still left undone and unsaid. Are you with me?

Ponder some of the following unfinished FF business -

*Does Vince Johnson have anything else to do other than worry about his overhead garage door problem? Practice smiling?

*Will Brian E. come clean with his ruff-riding cycle background with the Apple Valley Avengers? He reportedly has guided his Harley around Minnesota with abandon.

*Let's all chip in and purchase a real trumpet for Curtis. Enough of those spicy rides with his mongrel instrument and the oversized bell. But it's cool!

*How many drum sets does Bob Ferreira own? Seems every time I see the group he plays a different set and a diff color? Are they flashy Jeff Hamilton hand-me-downs?

*Does Greg Stegemen in the classroom ring right? Certainly does! The best the high schoolers could get is leads from this veteran FF alumnus.

*Missing but not without our concern - The Comstocks. Is there a better FF couple than Bill and Sue? Alumni family of the highest order.

*Would a convention minus the Barbours be acceptable? Ross and Sue seem to remain the same from 1998 and beyond -

*And, the Flanigans will drive anywhere when the Freshmen Family gathers. Mary is a grand sport to make these trips with Roadrunner Bob.

Although alum Ray Brown, the annual Thursday nite Jam MC was back in Florida with a medical problem, Brown's sister, Marty Bentley, was busy at the registration table with the Lydics. Hopefully, Ray will see no more "Rainy Days." Sisters Irene Anderson and Loretta Hetzer were at the action, too.

The DVD is a hot product, as are #22. The traveling Four Freshmen are the best music show on the road. When will the jazz mags get it? A large feature is due the group because of their king-size treatment of America's Songbook. "After You" is definitely worth a trip to Cleveland Heights' NightTown. Jim Wadsworth, one table front, please!

Thanks Joel for the Habitat challenge. Sue Trafford has been a long-time leader with that humanity program in the local Greensburg area.

Guy Infante, Springfield, OH, promptly produced a Stan Kenton-June Christy big band photo for me. Thanks Guy. It's prominently posted in my office with the Frosh and some hockey stuff. Donna's silent auction was top shelf with historical items. Well done.

Please don't forget Guest Conductor/Pianist Donn Trenner for Sue Raney. He hangs out now in Connecticut after a career of touring with the jazz headliners.

And, trombonist Harold Betters continues to build his base as a first-class entertainer. Harold has a good quintet, can play and knows the biz.

The Saturday concert MC was WTAE-TV's Bill Hillgrove, the NFL Steelers play-by-play veteran. Bill is a Pittsburgh legend with good FF intros. Nice job.

Any recap of the successful convention isn't complete without a bow to one of the best lady vocalists in the land - the dashing Sue Raney. Sue talks like a diva, dresses like a diva, sings like a diva - A DIVA? Yes, she is a pro package with that stage presence. Thanks, Sue, for singing the third time in our annual FF convention line-up. Make Carmen bring his horn next time.

And so it's almost over. except for an extra congrats to soundman Erich Bucholtz. Erich has done the electric's at two conventions. The sound works makes a difference and there was proof again at the Hilton. The huge performance venue (Ballrooms 1-4) never sounded so good. Many stars, Erich, for your sound.

Portland next, Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, August 2-4, 2007.

Watch It Keith-Gil. Here we come!

A PARTY IN PITTSBURGH

August 24-26, 2006

Five Stars To The "Task Force"

**Chair Bob & Karen Baker
Dot & Harry Lydic
Dolly Persun, Stew Sander
Bruce & Helen Camlin
Bill Hillgrove and Bob Lininger**

**Dick Baldwin, President
Four Freshmen Society**