

Fresh Memories

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house that night and perform for him. And Bill said that he had a contract with him and would get it out. The fellow replied, "Well, you are a bunch of turds!" Bill was rollicking with laughter as he told about this unexpected remark.

Kirk Marcy was Bob Ferreira's college teacher. He later referred Bob to the Freshmen. Kirk told us about "Rag Mop." It was, in Kirk's words, an awful garage band that Bob was in during high school.

Our next speaker, Nancy Lewis, is Ray Brown's sister. Ray was with the Freshmen from 1973 to 1977. Unfortunately, he was unable to be with at the convention this year. We have Ray to thank for getting the Thursday night jam sessions going at our conventions. Nancy shared that when the Freshmen sang the song *Nancy*, when she was young, she thought they were singing it to her.

Natalie is Ross' and Sue's granddaughter and she really got our attention. Not only is she a lovely person, but she came all the way from Hawaii, where she lives, to be with her family at the convention. When she started to talk about her granddad, she burst into tears, but kept smiling through them. She had all of us choked up too.

Rod Henley actually started the "Fresh Memories" session, regaling us with stories of the Freshmen's travels to the middle east. I got so enthralled with the stories that I forgot to start taking notes. As a result, my memories of them are sketchy. My apologies go out to Rod for dropping the ball like that. So perhaps we can impose on him to write up some of these stories for a future issue of "Fresh News." If that's too much work, I'll get him to refresh my memories of "Fresh Memories" and then write it up. The tales were very entertaining and well worth the telling.



Ross and Sue's granddaughter, Natalie gave us some of her memories of Ross.

REINCARNATION OF FRANKLIN CD AT THE METROPOLIS

by Laura Skylark (Dr. Cody Sweet)

The essence of the Live at the Franklin (Tennessee) Theater CD (the Four Freshmen's newest) came alive for the rockin' sold out audience at the 280-seat Metropolis Theater in downtown Arlington Heights, Illinois on Saturday evening, June 28, 2014.

The Franklin CD is the first to introduce freshman Freshmen Stein (pronounced Stain) Malvey to the Freshmen aficionados. As you "now know," Stein sings the second vocal and plays a compelling lead guitar. As a surprise for him, his favorite Ohio cousins clapped their praises from the audience. As a surprise for them, they discovered his virtuosity. (After the concert, the cousins told this Freshmen Society member they were aware Stein was a gifted guitarist since junior high. But they didn't know, he could sing!)

The 24-tune set list featured an even split of 12 songs in the first half and 12 in the last. The list was intersected by a lucrative intermission for the group. At the break, the CD and DVD sales were particularly brisk because of a pricing incentive. The initial purchase was priced at \$20. The second or more purchases were \$10 apiece.

New to this writer was Brian Eichenberger's solo on the classic Hank Williams honky tonk ballad *Cold, Cold Heart*. Warm receptions were given for Bob Ferreira's brush-smacks on the drum head and high hat on *Rain, Another You*, and particularly *Pick Up Your Tears*. Curtis Calderon commanded the room with his customary flugelhorn and trumpet solos following the group's initial 32-bar renditions of *Route 66*, *Day by Day*, *Charmaine* and FF goldens and homage to the Freshmen originals. At the close, the Freshmen were given a standing ovation.

Why it took ten years for the four to make a return appearance at The Metropolis is anyone's guess. (This writer had been approaching the theater booker for years.)

It was great working the sales table with Will Cochran, the faithful Illinois Freshmen Society representative, again. Ironically, the last time was for the concert a few years ago for the Northwest Suburban Community Concert Association in Arlington Heights.

Maybe the next Freshmen CD will be entitled Live at the Metropolis.

