

Our President, **Neil Lantz**



LOOKING AHEAD

Following two great Four Freshmen concerts in Central Indiana the past weekend, August 24-25, I'm again thinking about the "maturing" age of so many Freshmen fans as we celebrate the group's 70th anniversary year. I often think about and occasionally bemoan the aging of our Society membership and the challenge we face in attracting the interest of younger generations in the wonderful music of the Four Freshmen. On a positive note, however, it was a joy to meet several younger fans at both of the recent concerts. While their numbers were minuscule out of the 2,000 people gathered for the free (sponsored) outdoor concert in Noblesville and the 600 in attendance for the performance as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Columbus North High School (formerly Columbus High School, Ross and Don Barbour's alma mater), it was most encouraging to see several members of the younger generation enjoying Group #25. In fact, the youngsters shown here purchased copies of the vinyl recordings of *Four Freshmen and Friends* and were excited to have their copies autographed by the guys. Not only did the young fans in Columbus enjoy the great performance by the Freshmen, fourteen of the high schoolers, the 25th Street Jazz Singers, opened the concert with their sharp rendition of the Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer jazz classic, *Satin Doll*. Earlier in the day, the ensemble had participated in a special instructional session with the guys. I'm confident the day will be long remembered by the young singers. Their polished evening performance was certainly enjoyed by the audience.

There's a point in all of this, and it suggests an opportunity (responsibility?) for all of us in the Society. As faithful fans of the Freshmen, some having enjoyed as much as 70 years of the wonderful sound begun by the original group at Butler University in 1948 and continued to the present by dedicated Groups #2 -25, I would suggest that it's our obligation to spread the word to future generations as much as possible.

Naturally, there has always been and will continue to be competing interest in many other genres of popular music, but appreciation of the

Eva (15) and Dylan (16) Carson from Chicago attended the Four Freshmen concert at their dad's high school in Columbus, IN on Saturday, August 25.



Geneva Salas and Kaylee Earle, both 10, with the Four Freshmen in Noblesville, IN on Friday, August 24.



Joshua DeGroat and Alex Farrar, both 16 and members of the Columbus North High School 25th Street Jazz Singers who performed the opening number for The Four Freshmen Concert on Saturday, August 25.



Four Freshmen sound has lasted for seven decades. Hopefully, it will be continued for many more. As dedicated fans, we can help make it happen by continuing to support the latest iteration of the group and the Society. How about inviting a young relative, friend, or neighbor to join you at a Four Freshmen concert? Or giving a Four Freshmen CD as a gift? Or better yet, introducing a friend to the Society by gifting a one- year FFS membership? Let's do what we can to spread the word about the Four Freshmen history and support the current guys. As well, let's work to ensure the uninterrupted FF future decades to come.

Seventy years have been great, but 80, 90, 100 and more will be even greater! Please help to make it happen – future generations of Freshmen fans should count on us.

Let's Have a Little FUN!

Editors note; Don't forget about the crazy picture contest. Whoever sends me the best and craziest picture of the Four Freshmen will have their picture on the cover of the July issue.