

(Fresh Talk, continued)

**Bob Flanigan's** remark was: "Well, that scares me to death."

**Curtis Calderon** replied that harmonics seem to add a 5th note. He gave as an example the chord sung right after the "ooohs" in the song *Poinciana*.

**Ross Barbour** noted that harmonics are what a lot of us love about the Four Freshmen sound. He said that if you leave in the 5th, it makes the chord ring. If you do the 7th and leave out the 5th, it makes the chord ring. If you do the 7th and leave out the 5th, sometimes you hear the 5th. He said, "It's a little trick we play on the ear."

THE CURRENT FRESHMEN were asked how they go about working up a song they want to perform. So they staged a demonstration for us, using the Bill Comstock arrangement of "Early Autumn." (If this was a work in progress, they sure learn fast, because they performed it later that night for us at their concert.)

THE ORIGINAL FRESHMEN were asked where they got the idea of accompanying themselves. Bob Flanigan replied: "There were many years where if we'd had to hire a rhythm section we'd have been out of business."

The early Freshmen were asked where were some of the most unusual places they'd ever had to perform. Ross Barbour replied: (1) from the back of a semi in Ontario, (2) a supermarket parking lot, (3) a shoe store in San Francisco - to get a set of matching shoes for everybody, (4) a Ford Dealership in Columbus, and (5) one show that they had to finish by candlelight, because the electricity went out.

**Curtis Calderon** shared with us that he just found out at 3:00 this morning that he's an uncle - that his sister had just had a baby. (We, of course, applauded and congratulated the new uncle.)

The Freshmen were asked how they go about warming up their voices before a show. Ross said that his brother, Don, used to grab a big handful of heavy stage curtain and do a loud "Ha" into it. Bob Flanigan said, "I yodel."

We really appreciate the original Freshmen, the current Freshmen, and all those treasured Freshmen in between for answering all our questions and further delighting us with tales of how this wonderful group came to be and evolved through the years.

## Four Freshmen Society Open Meeting Saturday, August 10, 2002

by Ann Smith (TX)

President, Tom Purvis, informed us that Warner Brothers wants to publish a Four Freshmen songbook, with 25 to 30 songs, pictures, etc. These would be sold in the Music Mart. They're interested in the legendary group only.

The question came up about getting set up to accept credit card purchases, which is particularly of interest to the foreign members. The reason for the delays is security issues.

We were informed that the FFS is reasonably healthy financially. The FFS funded the recording of the new CD. It has been partly repaid and partly donated to the Freshmen. We've already sold over 400 and make \$5 to \$6 on each CD.

For bookings of the Four Freshmen, we are to submit all requests and all information to Tom Purvis - NOT directly to IVI. The information needed is: venue, number of seats, contact person, phone and fax numbers. These CAN be cold contacts. A form for us to use will be put in the newsletter. Also, we were informed that community theaters must sell at least 700 seats to make it work.

Our 2003 convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, at the Holiday Inn on International Drive. It is being hosted by Ray Brown, former Freshmen. The dates are September 25-27 of next year. The room rates are very reasonable: \$85. There are also many low fares to Orlando, plus Ray is working on getting other discounts for us. As Ray says "there's a free airport shuttle, and grits on request." A question came up about hurricane season and possible cancellation of the convention due to weather threats. This can be extremely expensive to cancel a convention at the last minute, and the possibility of getting cancellation insurance was suggested and will be considered. When asked about dress code, Ray said that there's no dress code. "It's Florida." Friday night is scheduled to have dinner, piano, and a big band. The Freshmen would only perform on Saturday night because of the fees charged for both nights. It was suggested, and it was enthusiastically agreed by all present, that we would rather pay a little more for registration, especially in view of the very reasonable room rates, so we could have the Freshmen perform both nights. The sum of around \$150 was discussed. That's still only a little more per person - but would allow us to have the Freshmen perform both Friday and Saturday nights.

We also briefly discussed the possibility of a tiered dues structure, such as the "Bob Flanigan Membership," the "Ross Barbour Membership," etc., with no details yet drawn up on how that would work.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been suggested for Convention 2004. The date mentioned was sometime in July. This is still in the proposal stage. It was announced that we usually have about 200 repeat members in attendance at our conventions, and that they are extremely difficult and expensive to put on. One thing Ray Brown told us is that Orlando is not an expensive place to visit, and there are lots of discounts available as well as many other drawing cards. He said we expect a big turnout and need at least 320 to break even. Ray said it could even be as big as the Las Vegas turnout, which was 800. Wheeeee!!!!

### FFS Regional Directors

Members who need materials or guidance should contact their State Representative or State Coordinator, who in turn contact Regional Directors. The Membership Department is available for additional assistance. Currently we have in place two State Coordinators:

Lois Frye (FL)  
Ann Smith (TX)