

Just Call Me A Groupie

by Pat Tollifson (WVA)

Earlier this month I called my old friend, Bonnie Neeleman, who lives in Lee's Summit, MO, to tell her the Four Freshmen were going to be in her neck of the woods on September 9th and 10th. They were doing a show for the Kansas City Jazz Workshop at the Marriott Downtown Hotel and then appearing at the beautifully renovated Old Missouri Theatre in St. Joseph, MO, the next night.

My friend informed me that she probably wouldn't attend the shows by herself and that's what jump-started me. After my husband, Skip, told me the car "was good to go" I called our state reps from Missouri, who are Bob and Judy Rossi, and found out about tickets & times for the Marriott show. Bonnie made arrangements for the tickets for St. Joseph, MO.

Next I packed a bag, made sure I had Four Freshmen tapes in the car and took off on Saturday morning the 7th of September.

I had a lovely drive and sang my heart out right along with the guys. At one point, going around St. Louis, I found myself driving on Route 66 marked with a fancy sign telling me how famous it is. Of course, I was singing it too.

Got there late Sunday afternoon just in time to go out and have a lovely dinner and make our plans for going to see our "Freshmen."

The Marriott reminded me a lot of the Hyatt from our convention. The Freshmen show was in the Count Basie Grand Ballroom. They had a bar set up just like the Hyatt. Bonnie and I got there early and had the best seats. We were about eight feet from the stage. Word got around that I had driven over a thousand miles just to see them so I was awarded a tee shirt from the Jazz Workshop people. We had some lovely people at our table and being a State Rep. from WV meant I had to spread the word about our guys, so I kept asking folks "Are you going tomorrow night?" Many didn't know and after a wonderful show (what else) people asked "Where are they going to be tomorrow night?"

We saw quite a few people Tuesday night who had been at the Marriott show.

The Freshmen were just marvelous. They put on two terrific shows and it's always fun talking to them after. My friend was very impressed. And, at both performances, the people introducing them brought up the Four Fresh Society, asked for a show of hands, and told about our large membership and how it beats the groups of today like N'Sync and the Backstreet Boys.

They called us unique and it made me proud to be a part of it. I told the guys after the last show that I was going to have withdrawal symptoms I had been listening to them so much. They were very sweet and told me to drive home safely which I did, again, singing the whole way. It's funny I never get tired when the tapes are playing.

The car got me home in one piece with no problems. It was a wonderful trip and I plan to do it again as soon as possible.

Thanks guys, you were great.



9/10/02 - Singing a cappella



Here is a very happy W VA State Rep!



I don't know the gentleman on the right