

Dateline: June 21, 2002
Four Freshmen In Person
by Dick Hatfield (Ohio Rep.)

The Four Freshmen arrived at the Columbus, Ohio, airport on Thursday, June 20th, at 4:35 in the afternoon. A DJ friend, Craig Robinson, and I picked them up in a 15-passenger van with the two back seats removed - they had a boatload of equipment and luggage to haul. The fifty-mile ride back to Springfield was filled with fascinating Fresh talk.

On Friday at two we chauffeured the Freshmen to Veteran's Park for a sound check. For Craig and me, the sound check was like being at a private concert. Other than the technical crew, we were the only two there, sitting in the midst of a jillion empty lawn chairs, taking in all those cool sounds. They sang at least six songs all the way through. Eric Johnson, the sound engineer remarked, "The goosebumps are there!"

Next up, a quick stop at a drugstore where Bryan bought a decongestant for a cold he'd picked up in New Zealand, and Bob bluntly announced that he had purchased some deodorant, much to the approval of Vince and Curtis.

At five, I escorted this famous quartet to our Clark County Heritage Center across from the Springfield Inn. There in the lobby they sang *Blue World*, *Route 66*, and *Graduation Day* for the Springfield High School Class of 1952 who were having a casual cocktail party as part of their 50th class reunion weekend. This rendezvous was hosted by FFS members Tim and Jackie Juergens. Later, the class went to the concert in the park.



The concert at Veteran's Park at 8 pm was outstanding. This was the fifth time the Springfield Arts Council has invited the Freshmen to entertain at their month-long summer series. About 1500 fans relaxed in their collapsible chairs and gave an ear to the exceptional talent and charm of this current Four Freshmen group. It makes no difference what they sing, they are right on the money with that Freshmen harmony. I hope Bob, Vince, Bryan and Curtis remain together till the end of time.

Saturday at noon, with FFS member Guy Infante riding shotgun, it was time to return the Four to the Columbus Airport Rental Car Area. They had a van and a car reserved for them in which to head up to Youngstown and Cleveland for their subsequent gigs. It was on the way back to Columbus, though, that Curtis declared, "Hey Dick, why don't you just drive us up to Youngstown and we'll sing some of your favorites on the way!"

If I'd had the time, man, I sure would have.

