

THE FRESHMEN WERE FABULOUS IN ROSEBURG!

by Gil Peterson

Tuesday July 16th was a sensational day for Freshmen fans in the northwest. The weather could not have been more perfect, the setting along the north bank of the South Umpqua River was nothing less than superb....and the Freshmen never sounded better!

Although the performance was wonderful, the day did not start out quite like we planned. I had planned to pick up the group at 12:35 PM in Eugene on Tuesday morning. Driving time from Roseburg to Eugene is approximately one hour and twenty minutes. I departed for Eugene at 11:00 AM with a van and a small trailer, giving myself ample time to arrive a few minutes early. Eugene is a small airport and has only one baggage claim area. I had my van parked directly in front and the flight arrived on time. All the passengers arrived in the baggage area within a few minutes after landing. The baggage carousel was rolling and within a few minutes, everyone had left the area. It became quite obvious, the FRESHMEN WERE NOT ON THAT FLIGHT! Checking with United, I found they had, in fact, missed the flight out of San Francisco and the next flight would not arrive until 4:45 PM. Are you getting the picture? Their performance was scheduled for 7:00 PM! I made a few phone calls and advised the Half Shell Committee that there was a very good chance we would be late getting to the venue.

As it all turned out, the next flight was a few minutes early and I scooped up the boys and at approximately 5:00 PM, away we went, MACH ONE, for Roseburg. Because of our late arrival, the officer at the barricade did not believe I had the Freshmen with me and I had to do some quick explaining in order to get through. We arrived at 6:25 PM. With a little help from the committee members, we had the equipment set up and a mike check completed within a matter of minutes. The group made a quick wardrobe change and went on stage at exactly 7:00 PM. WOW!!!!!!

None of the above appeared to phase the Freshmen at all and they put on a fabulous performance. WHAT PROFESSIONALS.....WHAT A SHOW!!!!!!

Some 25 plus society members from Washington, California and Oregon attended. I was able to arrange the best seats in the house for our group. Some 1500 to 2000 people were in attendance. Many present had never heard of the Freshmen, but as the evening progressed they were captured by that Freshmen sound that we have loved for all these many years.

The group has added a lot of new material to their repertoire. If you haven't heard them lately, do yourself a favor and catch them if they appear anywhere near you. By the way, their new CD captures the group magnificently. GET ONE!!!!!!

After the performance, the restaurant next door to the Windmill Inn where the Freshmen and the society members were staying, reserved the patio area for a nice gathering under the beautiful Oregon sky. The Freshmen joined us and performed a capella, Bobby Troup's hauntingly beautiful "Their Hearts Were Full of Spring," and the Matt Dennis-Earl Brent classic, "Angel Eyes." It was a marvelous ending to a sensational evening of music.

We are already making plans to have them back here in the northwest soon.



7-16-2002 At the Half Shell in Roseburg



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