

Compiled by: B. Derek Shaw
A farewell to some of the talent who passed away in 2008...

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

January 10th: Rod Allen, 63, British singer and bassist (The Fortunes), liver cancer; **19th:** John Stewart, 68, (The Kingston Trio), stroke; **20th:** Tom Hoover, 61, keyboard player/background singer for The Endells/Magnificent Men.



February 10th: Freddie Bell (and the Bellboys), 76, r&b singer, cancer; **16th:** Charlie Ryan, 92, musician and songwriter (Hot Rod Lincoln), heart disease and Bobby Lord, 74, country musician; **24th:** Larry Norman, "the father of Christian rock music", heart failure, **26th:** Buddy Miles, 60, drummer (Band of Gypsies, Electric Flag), lead vocalist (California Raisins), heart failure; **28th:** Mike Smith, 64, singer (The Dave Clark Five), pneumonia.

March 2nd: Jeff Healey, 41, Canadian jazz-blues-rock guitarist/vocalist, lung cancer; **3rd:** Norman "Hurricane" Smith, (Oh Babe, What Would You Say) 85, British singer/recording engineer/producer (The Beatles, Pink Floyd); **4th:** Ronnie I (Italiano), 67, president/founder of United in Group Harmony Association. (U.G.H.A.) considered a 1950's Doo-Wop Icon, cancer; **16th:** Daniel MacMaster, 39, Canadian rock vocalist (Bonham), group A streptococcal infection; **23rd:** Jackson Armstrong, 62, radio DJ (Your Leader) 1971 Guinness World Record for "fastest talking human alive".



April 13th: Clifford Davies, 59, drummer for Ted Nugent, suicide by gunshot; **21st:** Al Wilson (Show and Tell), 68, soul singer, kidney failure; **22nd:** Paul Davis, 60, singer, heart attack; **27th:** "Big" Ron O'Brien, 56, DJ, WOGL-FM radio Philadelphia, pneumonia.



May 1st: Jim Hager, 61, country music singer and TV actor (Hee Haw), heart attack; **8th:** Eddy Arnold, 89, country music singer; **11th:** John Rutsey, 55, Canadian drummer (Rush), heart attack; **24th:** Jimmy McGriff, 72, jazz and blues organist, multiple sclerosis.



June 2nd: Bo Diddley, 79, rock and roll and blues singer, songwriter/guitarist, heart failure; **12th:** Danny Davis, 83, country musician and trumpet player with Nashville Brass, cardiac arrest; **24th:** Ira Tucker, 83, lead singer (The Dixie Hummingbirds), heart failure.

July 12th: Earl Lee Nelson, 79, R&B singer (Bob & Earl, The Hollywood Flames, Jackie Lee), Alzheimer's disease; **16th:** Jo Stafford, 90, traditional pop singer (You Belong to Me), heart failure; **25th:** Hiram Bullock, 52, jazz guitarist, throat cancer.



August 5th: Robert Hazard, 59, musician and songwriter (Girls Just Want to Have Fun), pancreatic cancer; **10th:** Isaac Hayes, 65, soul and funk musician (Theme from Shaft), actor (South Park), stroke; **15th:** Jerry Wexler, 91, record producer, heart failure; **16th:** Jimmy Moore, 82, member of The Five Royales; **18th:** Pervis Jackson, 70, R&B bass singer, The Spinners, cancer; **21st:** Buddy Harman, 79, session musician (played on 18,000 recordings including Elvis, Dolly Parton, Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash), heart failure; **22nd:** Ralph Young, 90, singer (Sandler and Young); **23rd:** Jimmy Cleveland, 82, jazz trombonist.



September 1st: Jerry Reed, 71, country music singer/actor, emphysema; **12th:** Charlie Walker, 81, country music singer (Don't Squeeze the Charmin), colon cancer; **16th:** Norman Whitfield, 68, Motown songwriter/record producer (I Heard It Through the Grapevine), diabetes; **20th:** Nappy Brown, 78, blues singer.



October 5th: Lloyd Thaxton, 81, host of The Lloyd Thaxton Dance Party, national TV teen dance show, myeloma; **11th:** Neal Hefti, 85, composer (Batman Theme, The Odd Couple Theme), heart attack; **12th:** Cliff Nobles (The Horse), 64, instrumental musician, cancer; **17th:** Levi Stubbs, 72, lead vocalist of The Four Tops, complications of cancer and stroke; **18th:** Dee Dee Warwick, 63, soul singer, long illness.



November 1st: Nathaniel Mayer (Village of Love) 64, r&b singer, stroke; **7th:** Jody Reynolds (Endless Sleep), 75, singer and guitarist, liver cancer; **16th:** Ron Brennan, 66, baritone singer with The Exciting Invictas and The Endells, heart failure, **29th:** Bill Drake, 71, pioneer radio programmer (created Boss Radio Top 40 format early 60's), lung cancer.



December 2nd: Odetta, 77, folk singer and human rights activist, heart disease; **7th:** Dennis Yost, 65, singer/drummer, member of The Classics IV, respiratory failure; **23rd:** Clint Ballard, Jr., 77, songwriter ("You're No Good"); **25th:** Eartha Kitt (Santa Baby), 81, singer/actress (Batman), colon cancer; **27th:** Delaney Bramlett, 69, (Delaney, Bonnie & Friends), complications from gall bladder surgery; **29th:** Freddie Hubbard, 70, jazz trumpeter, complications from a heart attack.

KEY NOTES

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

I was excited my new car came with a 3 month trial subscription to XM satellite radio. It's great to have music, jingles and radio air personalities without COMMERCIAL INTERRUPTION. However I soon learned this potentially great service is only mediocre.

Since Sirius gobbled up XM, there's been a mass departure of quality shows and DJ's, I suspect to pay Howard Stern's overblown salary. "Shock jock" radio was fine 15 years ago, however his act wears old quickly these days.

The service has minimal appeal to this Baby Boomer. One station for each of the decades, 1940's - 90's, however 7 hip-hop rap outlets an equal number of classic rock stations and scads of sports and news offerings, 55 and 25 respectively. There's of course all Elvis, Springsteen, Grateful Dead and Sinatra stations and I heard at one time all AC/DC - what's that about?

What has the potential to be great is just half-baked. Where's the all Beatles, Girl Groups, Doo-Wop, Rock-A-Billy, Beach Music and Jammin' Instrumental stations? Why not a channel for each year where you could hear every genre from a specific year? That's different and innovative.

The problem is the company has no interest in Baby Boomers. They are just pacifying us with a few offers. The service as offered, might be worth 25 cents a day. I'll wait until Howard Stern gives up the ghost. Maybe they will then divert money back into all their channels and programming with quality talent.

What's your take on satellite radio? Let us know.



One of KRC's unsung heroes: All elected and appointed officers work very hard for no pay and criticism more frequently than compliments. There's one person who has been quietly working behind the scenes since 1995 - 14 years. Bob "Will" Williams is the individual who negotiates with building owners, sets up/tears down each show, carts show helpers around, repairs tables and numerous other thankless tasks.

What appears to customers and members attending the **Pennsylvania Music Expo** each time as a seamless operation, is really the hard work of our Site Coordinator. **Thanks Will!**

Derek

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FIRST VIEW FROM THE TOP



Welcome to the start of a brand new year! With it came the changing of the guard with new officials to keep things going with the club! I'm very much looking forward to working with everyone involved in the operation of the club and shows and will be glad to assist and answer questions that you may have.

2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the Keystone Record Collectors, so we'll be gearing up to help celebrate that! Any suggestions are welcome! A big THANK YOU to the membership and dealers for helping to keep the Pennsylvania Music Expo as one of the continued largest and best music shows on the east coast!

KRC INFO LINE

(717) 898-1246
CALL ANYTIME!

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The Birth of Oldies Radio 1620

After noticing that oldies we know and love are missing from the commercial radio airwaves in the area. I figured it was time to stir the soup and bring oldies back in a new world of technology, via the internet! Your computer has the ability to tune to literally thousands of radio stations with quality audio! We decided to put our personal music collection of almost 30,000 45's to use, putting them into a computer and letting them play.

What we play is a little different. For example, you won't hear "Rock Around The Clock" by Bill Haley & The Comets, however you will hear "Hound Dog" or "Rocka Beatin Boogie", to "Color Him Father" by the Winston's to "Knock Knock (Who's There)" by the Orlons. Only music from the 1950's, 60's and 70's. The music is available by way of the internet to Harrisburg - York - Lancaster and the world! Tune us in and enjoy!

<http://www.oldiesradio1620.com/>



Billy C., Billy H. and Charlie

They all performed together in NJ last summer. Read the review on page two (inside)

Celebrating
Our 30th Anniversary
KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS
1979 • 2009



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www.recordcollectors.org

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ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY OTHER SHOW AT 3:30PM,
(DURING THE MONTH THERE IS NO KEY-NOTES) PLAN TO BE THERE.

A TRIO IN NJ - Concert Review by Mitch Johnson

Billy Carlucci, Billy Harner and Charlie Gracie appeared at a free outdoor concert to a small, mostly elderly, and fairly enthusiastic crowd at Millville, NJ's riverfront park late last summer.

Billy Carlucci, of Billy & The Essentials fame, remains a great vocalist and showman. Wearing a custom made "Billy & The Essentials" jacket, he sang his Philly hits including "Maybe You'll Be There" and other "oldies" to a pre-recorded backing track. The highlight of his set for me was his operatic cover of "Cara Mia."

Sporting alligator shoes, Billy Harner also has kept his vocal chops intact and provided a great set of his hits, several covers, and a new song or two. He sang live to the studio backing tracks from his latest CD, "Then, Now, Forever." Highlights included "Sally Sayin' Something," "She's Almost You," "A Message To My Babe," a dead-on cover of "Unchain My Heart" where he sounded very similar to Ray Charles & Joe Cocker, and a rousing finale of the Northern Soul favorite, "What About The Music." Unfortunately, the mostly elderly audience, who likely came to see Charlie Gracie and did not know Billy's hits, was not as enthusiastic about the show as I. His CD is available at billyharner.com

Charlie Gracie, wearing a white suit, played live with a long-time drummer and bass guitarist. At 72 years old, Charlie remains a guitar virtuoso and excellent entertainer! As expected, he played his hits "Butterfly" and "Fabulous." But he appeared to enjoy playing a guitar boogie shuffle instrumental and several ethnic sing-alongs the most. He is one of the few rock 'n roll pioneers that still perform. Charlie's set and the show closed with a rousing medley of Ray Charles' "What'd I Say" and "I Got A Woman" with Charlie Gracie and Billy Harner trading call and response vocals!

I highly recommend catching Billy, Billy or Charlie if you get the opportunity - all 3 are excellent showmen!



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(Deadline for #172 is March 8th)Names in **bold** type are members of Keystone Record CollectorsAMERICAN
MUSIC
THEATREMORE DOO-WOP AT THE AMERICAN
MUSIC THEATRE -
A REVIEW BY STEVE YOHE

The American Music Theater on US 30 in Lancaster is an excellent venue for live music. At a recent concert, four excellent acts from the golden days of rock and roll and r&b performed an evening of classics, some expected and some surprising.



The show opened with the Dubs, featuring original member Cleveland Still. A strong bass man, tight harmonies, and an able lead singer replacing the late Richard Blandon all contributed to effective renderings of the songs the group made famous. There were the memorable ballads: "Please Don't Ask Me to Be Lonely," "Chapel of Dreams," "Be Sure, My Love," and "Could This Be Magic," the one that everyone in the audience seemed to know. To show that they weren't one-dimensional, the group also did the rocker "Such Lovin'," the original flip of "...Magic."

The second act was the Duprees with their signature smooth harmonies and beautiful horn arrangements that recall the sound of the Glenn Miller orchestra but still manage to appeal to baby boomer audiences. The featured ballads were "Have You Heard," "Why Don't You Believe Me," "My Own True Love," the crowd favorite "You Belong to Me," and a very strong performance of "Take Me As I Am," a great "B" side that was of remake of the Demens' classic. They also did their interpretation of "Exodus," a less successful, but compelling single. For variety, one of the background singers took the lead in a Jackie Wilson medley, which was well done, but nowhere near as good as Jackie's originals.

Next came the Tokens with lead singer Jay Siegel backed by two outstanding harmony singers, who included Jay Traynor, the original lead singer of Jay and the Americans. They began with both sides of their first hit, "Tonight I Fell in Love" and the ballad "I'll Always Love You." Jay Traynor followed with a version of "Runaround Sue" that was faithful to Dion's original arrangement. Next was their hit version of "Portrait of My Love" and a medley of Happenings' and Chiffons' hits that the Tokens had produced: "See You in September" and "One Fine Day." They ended with a spirited version of the obligatory "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

The closing act was Lou Christie with an enthusiastic set that featured some surprising material along with the hits. He started with "I Still Want to Rock and Roll with You," a great song I hadn't heard before. This was followed by a strong version of "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me" and his first hit "The Gypsy Cried" in the same key in which he originally sang it! Two other hits came next: "Two Faces Have I" and "Rhapsody in the Rain," followed by an unusual arrangement of "The Wayward Wind" intermingled with a haunting, unidentified song featuring his excellent back-up vocalists. Then came "Beyond the Blue Horizon," which became popular when it was included in the movie "Rain Man," the hard-driving "I'm Gonna Make You Mine," and a big production of "Lightning Strikes" with strings augmenting the back-up band. The encore was another surprising choice, a pleasant rendition of "Never, My Love."

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT
LEVI STUBBS, JR By Denise Haage

Levi Stubbles Jr. was the fifth child born to Daisy and Levi, Sr. His mother (and my father) were both originally from Greer, SC. For a while, they lived in the Charles Terrace housing project in Detroit's blue collar North End, nicknamed "Cardboard Valley" due to its thin walls. Mable John's younger brother, Little Willie John, and Levi were neighbors, friends and grade school classmates. Levi sang at the Paradise Theater starting at ten. At twelve years old, he began entering the talent contests there and at the Warwick Theatre, winning frequently. Interestingly, he never had any vocal lessons.

While attending Pershing High School, Levi participated on its track team, but would often skip classes to spend all day listening to local groups. He and cousin Jackie Wilson, four years his senior, sang together in a group called The Royals. One afternoon, Levi rescued Duke Fakir from a gang fight. Duke returned the favor that evening while returning home. The group formed after a weekend high school graduation party in 1953. They all had begun singing in various other groups. The opportunity to appear in a local talent contest was their motivation, knowing then that show business was "it". They called themselves The Four Aims and became professionals immediately after graduation. Levi did not consider himself the lead vocalist.

The newly formed group wore white flannel suits for their first paying gig, a small night club in Flint. They spent the several summers polishing their stage act at the Paradise Nightclub, Purple Palace and Flamingo Club all in Idlewild, MI ("the Black Catskills"). The group became part of Arthur Braggs' Idlewild Revue. Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Della Reese, Sammy Davis Jr., Bill Cosby and Billy Eckstein performed there as well. Here, three of the members met ladies who would become their wives including Levi who began dating Clineice, a Ziggy Johnson dancer in 1955. Levi "Stubbles" changed his name to "Stubbs". "The Four Aims" changed their name to "The Four Tops" in 1956. During those lean times, Levi lived in Duke's basement for a year. Thearon "T-Man" Hill replaced Obie Benson from 1959 - 1962 while he served in the Army. The Four Tops released "Lonely Summer"/"Ain't That Love" on Columbia in 1960, with T-Man singing lead on the A-side. This is one of only three singles ever released by the group without Levi in the spotlight. The other two were on the Dunhill with Lawrence Payton up front.

Clineice and Levi were married at New Grace Missionary Baptist Church in 1960 where they continued to worship at the time of his death. Their marriage produced five children: Deborah Boatner; Beverly Meah; Levi III; Raymond and Kelly Lenton, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

At Motown, Levi did not always agree with Berry Gordy and others. He hesitated on "Baby I Need Your Loving" and argued that Lawrence should sing the lead vocals in 1964. The following year, the Four Tops record "I Can't Help Myself" was done in one overnight session starting at 2 AM.

Neither Duke nor Levi was convinced the song was hit material! He turned down the lead in the 1972 movie "Lady Sings the Blues" because he felt he could not be away from the group that long.

Additionally while at Motown, the Four Tops recorded several of their hits in Italian, Spanish and French. Many times in concert, Levi would sing the second verse of "Reach Out" in Italian. Also attesting to the group's closeness, Levi is godfather to Duke's son, Rev. Nazim Fakir - being influential in Fakir's son becoming a pastor. This is partially due to the fact that Levi felt called to the ministry himself when younger, but did not feel he could conform to the confines of the church.

After Motown, the Four Tops still had differences of opinion. Duke and Levi did not expect the Casablanca single "When She Was My Girl" released in 1981 to be successful. The group encouraged Levi to become the voice of Audrey II, the man-eating plant in the 1986 movie "Little Shop of Horrors" in spite of his objections. He rewarded his fellow group members by splitting the earnings equally among them. He was also the voice of "Mother Brain" in the Captain N Cartoon from 1989-91.

Outside of Motown, Levi preferred the home life. He did not enjoy playing golf as much as Smokey Robinson or the rest of the group, even though he lived on a golf course. His hobbies were collecting all kinds of hats and cooking, especially lobster, for his guests. He liked playing his melodica.

Levi gave his last full performance as a member of the Four Tops for the Clintons at the White House in December, 2000. Soon after, a series of strokes forced him to retire from touring. His wife nursed him just as she had nursed his mother, Daisy. Rev. Jesse Jackson visited with Levi and Clineice about three weeks before his death. It was clear to Rev. Jackson that Levi was upset with his near end-of-life immobility.

Levi Stubbs is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit. In addition to Obie Benson and Lawrence Payton, this final resting place also holds Rosa Parks; Edsel Ford; Lawrence Payton's cousin, Billy (Roquel) Davis; Aretha's father, Rev. C.L. Franklin; Marv Johnson; Motown composer and session musician, Richard (Popcorn) Wylie; Ronnie White of the Miracles; David Ruffin; Edward Patten of the Pips; Funk Brothers' Bassist, James Jamerson; and Billy Henderson of the Spinners.

His singing legacy continues on with his nieces, "The Stubbs Girls" and with DMK, his grand daughters.

(From his funeral service):

A precious one from us is gone
A voice we loved is stilled
A place is vacant in our hearts
Which never can be filled
After a lonely heartache
And many silent tears
But always a beautiful memory
Of one we love so dear

Author unknown

