

# KEY-NOTES

JUNE 2000  
ISSUE #119

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Doo-Wop music continues to be alive and well, with help from Pennsylvania media. In May 1999, Pittsburgh PBS affiliate, WQED had an idea. Let's get together *original* members of

legendary Doo-Wop groups, throw a concert and then use this for our annual fund campaign programming. Last August "Doo-Wop - 50" debuted. It generated more pledge dollars than The Three Tenors, jazz and classical specials - just about anything that had ever been aired!

The rest of the country would have to wait until this past winter to see what all the fuss was about. Most of the PBS affiliates that ran the special say that it generated more money than anything else they have offered. This was especially true in the northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

More specials followed with the Philadelphia affiliate offering, "It's Doo-Wop singing with Harvey Holiday". TV programmers finally started seeing the light that aficionados have known for years: this timeless music is still commercially viable.

The evening of our April show, marked the debut of the Central Pennsylvania broadcast of "The Doo-Wop Stop" with DJ Bobby B - a three-hour show Sunday evenings. (See Steve Yohe's article elsewhere in this issue). It only took WWKL, 11 years (they went on in 1989 as an oldies station) to realize this music has quite a following with dedicated fans throughout the region.

This region has always been a hotbed for doo-wop and soul music right from the start. Now the people who make the decisions on what we watch and listen to over the airwaves are catching up - congratulations and thank you!

Mark your calendars and get ready for Doo-Wop 51. Taping was done May 16 and 17 at the Benedum Center in Pittsburgh. A handful of KRC members were lucky enough to be part of the festivities. The show will air in the 'burgh in August with national PBS availability starting in December. Look for a review of the two night concert in KEY-NOTES #120.

Adding icing to the cake, I recently took a trans-atlantic flight for some R&R. Typically the audio programming offered is extremely weak in regard to oldies, let alone *quality* oldies. I was delighted to find this United Airlines flight offered on their "Flashbacks" channel: "The Days of Doo-Wop" with host Billy Vera (a respected musicologist in that genre). Crossing the ocean in both directions was much more pleasant, listening to 42 great tunes from the likes of The Dubs, Skyliners, Capris, Jive Five, Flamingos, Willows, Wrens, Teen Queens, School Boys, Jesters, Five Satins and more. There were even a few unfamiliar gems: My Friends by the Strangers, Darling by the Vocaltones, Hong Kong by The Quinns, Dear Lord by the Continentals, and All Night Long by the Du Mauriers. Flying the friendly skies was enjoyable and musically entertaining.

As New York radio DJ Gus Gossert (the man who coined the word "doo-wop" in the early 1970's) once said, "God Digs Doo-Wop". So do I and so do quite a few Central Pennsylvanians.

Musically Speaking,

*Derek*

B. Derek Shaw

KEY-NOTES Editor

## KRC Members Asked to Participate

June 24th-25th 11AM-7PM

Sergeant Pepper welcomes you to Pepperland where the 50's, 60's, and 70's rock on.

Jitterbug to the cool sounds of Sure Gold and go cheek to cheek with the Doo-Wop harmonies of Philly's Street Corner Five. Hob nob with such stars as Cher, Elvis, and Jim Morrison. Join hands and sing along at the Hootenanny. Without and escort? No problem, audition for a spot on the Dating Game.

Shopping too with 45's, CD's, comics, clothing, and the fun fads of the past on display. Plenty of dogs, burgers, and malts, or maybe a beer from our new Swashbuckler Brew-Pub. Dance, trivia contests, and classic cars add to the fun. This is one cool trip down memory lane filled with music and memories. Bring the whole gang!

Adult \$19.95 - Child 5-11 \$9.95

-On the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire-  
Rt. 72, 14 miles East of Hershey, 15 miles North of Lancaster-  
-1/2 mile South of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 20-  
Box Office: 9am-4pm, M-F, 717-665-7021, ext. 231

# Thank You

# Oldies 96.1

Issue #3 of free music publication, "Flashback" is out. It features Elvis on the cover and the PA Music Expo on page 12. Since the publication debuted, the station has been kind enough to run a copy of the KRC show dates flyer. Since the station first hit the Central PA airwaves, they have been supportive of our efforts, first with setting up at our shows and now, more recently, with info in their publication.

**Thank You!**



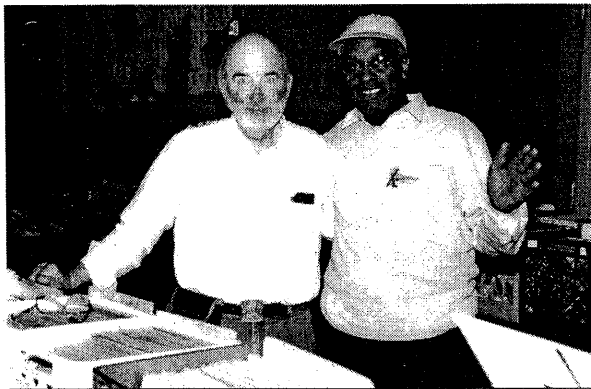
## KRC INFO LINE

(717) 898-1246  
CALL ANYTIME!

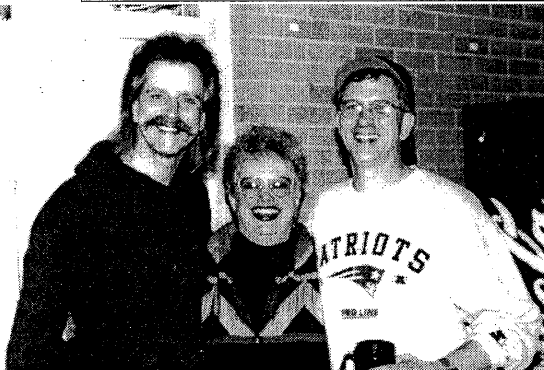
### KRC in 2000

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
**LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**  
FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE, SO TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!  
ANNOUNCEMENTS AVAILABLE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.  
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY OTHER SHOW AT 5PM.  
(DURING THE MONTH THERE IS NO KEY-NOTES)

## FACES IN THE CROWD



**Vendor Duo:** Past KRC President, **Jack Supplee** (right) and **Alonzo Kittrels** take a break in the action to pose for the KEY-NOTES camera. Both gentlemen have been part of our show since the days of the Columbia Market House.



**A trio of customers:** Tom "Big Daddy C" Coulson is a frequent visitor. He performs with Custer Last Band and the Class of '60 Somethin'. In the center is Oldies Dance Review promoter, Cindy Nace. She also is promoting Charlie Thomas, an original Drifter, now living in York. On the right is Tom's younger brother, Chuck. Chuck, a mobile DJ among other things, does the popular Lancaster Summer Rec Dances. He's a regular at the show, snapping up music that he doesn't have.

## KEY NOTES

Issue #119, June 2000

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Names in **bold** type are members of Keystone Record Collectors

## THE "DOO WOP STOP"

A Review by **Steve Yohe**

You know those great group harmony sounds you've been hoping South Central PA oldies stations would play instead of the same boring top ten hits over and over again? Probably as a result of the resounding success of PBS's "Doo Wop 50" fundraiser, one area oldies station is giving us three hours on Sunday evenings to revel in great street corner classics as well as some interesting lesser known tunes.

It's great to hear such songs as "Here Am I Broken Hearted" by the 4 J's, "Please Be My Grilfriend" by the Cadillac, "Magic Moon" by the Rays, and "Rainy Day Bells" by the Globetrotters without having to travel to Philadelphia, New York City, Baltimore, or Washington.

Called the "Doo Wop Stop," the show occupies the 9 PM til Midnight slot at Kool 99.3, (WWKL-FM) in Harrisburg. It's a syndicated show hosted by "Cool Bobby 'B.," who is extremely knowledgeable about group harmony records; he seems to have an extensive collection of favorites. He plays a good variety of the familiar and the less-than-familiar—most of his selections reveal a good, hip sensibility.

The first several weeks weren't without glitches. On its first night, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the second 90-minute segment was a repeat of the first segment. More recently, part of the show seemed identical to a section of the previous week's show. Whether it was the result of careless tape handling or that was how the show was delivered, I don't know. The show could be improved by correcting these irregularities.

My only criticism is that Bobby occasionally uses the annoying Jerry Blavat technique of talking over and chanting during 1/3 to 1/2 of a record. This affectation was abominable when Jerry did it, and it hasn't improved with age.

The choice of exciting music not often heard in these days of formulaic programming more than makes up for these minor problems. Make the "Doo Wop Stop" soon, and if you too like what you hear, call Kool 99.3 at 717/540-8800 and register your approval so that we can keep hearing good group harmony.



**Atwater** (left) and **Vince Habel** take a moment to pose for the camera. **Bob** held Marketmaster duties and **Vince** was our Phone Reservationist early in the history of the club. Both are still active collectors and occasionally find their way to Lancaster Catholic.

**A Couple of Rare Finds:** Prior to the *Stompin' Times Again* CD Release and Dance Party Reunion, long time KRC members **Bob**

# "STOMPIN' TIME AGAIN" by Steve Yohe

## The CD...

If you did not grow up in Southern and Southeastern PA in the 60's and early 70's, you may not be aware of how many rock and roll, rhythm and blues, and soul groups were spawned here. Many of them recorded on labels produced by Stan Deppen and Pancho Villa, notably DB and Pee Vee. KRC's own Dr. Phil Schwartz has painstakingly assembled 26 representative cuts taken from tapes and best-source 45's. The CD includes a fascinating, meticulously researched booklet replete with vintage photos.



With the invaluable aid of the ear and sound studio of Little Walter DeVenne, these cuts emerge with a cleaner sound than the original 45's. Talent-wise many of these performances sound every bit as good, if not better than much of what was released elsewhere in the country—even many of the recordings that were major hits.

Fans of garage/rock and roll will be impressed with the Shaynes' "From a Window" and "You Tell Me Girl," "You're a Better Man Than I," and "A World Outside" by the Loose Enz, the Romans' "The Drag," "Take Your Only Chance" by Omnibus, the Czars' "What's the Matter Baby," "It Makes Me" by the Val-Jeens, and "Feelings" by the Couriers. Also by the Couriers is "Stompin' Time Again," a good, commercial-sounding, white group-harmony sound.

For lovers of blue-eyed soul, there are several good recordings by the Ambassadors and two cuts by the Go-Gos: "Shake and Fingerpop" and "Just a Little Bit of Soul," which, while just adequate vocally, are strong instrumentally.

I was especially gratified to hear "Ramblin' Guy" finally slowed down to its normal speed. This was the first of two highly collectible 45's by Little Duck and the Drakes. The other, their cover of "Every Beat of My Heart," is also included, as are their versions of two previously unreleased group harmony songs. The better of these two is a nice version of "Darling Lorraine," which—unlike the Knockouts' original version—actually has group harmony.

Two especially good group-harmony performances are "Over the Rainbow" by the Royal Five and "Have You Heard" by the Royal Knights.

Seventies soul is briefly, but well, represented by the two efforts by the Disciples of Soul. "Peek-a-boo" is an impressive, smooth ballad, and "Living in a Glass House" is a funky, midtempo groove.

To purchase these performances on 45's, if indeed they could be found, would cost an astronomical amount. The CD, on the other hand, is modestly priced at \$20. It is available from X-Bat Records, PO Box 5347, Lancaster, PA 17606.



**A Packed House:** There wasn't a seat left in the house or extra room on the dance floor throughout most of the evening. Closing act, Little Duck and the Drakes, keep the dance floor hopping.

## The Concert...

"All the bands sound better now than they did on their records." "I've never seen so many people hugging at a reunion before." "I haven't seen you for over 35 years." These are just a few of the comments overheard in the capacity crowd at the *Stompin' Times Again* CD Release and Dance Party Reunion in Lancaster on Friday, April 28, 2000.

A labor of love for KRC co-founder **Dr. Phil Schwartz**, who also produced the CD, the evening brought together for the first time members of at least ten of the Southern Pennsylvania groups included in the *Stompin' Time Again* compilation. (See review at left.) Actually performing were Lancaster County's Little Duck and the Drakes, the Ambassadors, and the Val-Jeens and York County's the Romans, all of whom performed and recorded between 1965 and 1974.



### Fireside, err Stageside

**Chats:** Throughout the evening, between bands, organizer Phil Schwartz (left), held interview sessions with different people. On this occasion, Charles ("Pancho Villa") Martin was interviewed on his days running the record label and the Lancaster music scene at that time. NOTE: The new KRC banner was on display behind each of the bands all evening.

Interspersed between the musical sets were interviews with Stan Deppen, Jr. of Dee-Bee records, Charles E. "Pancho Villa" Miller of Pee Vee records, period radio personalities from WSBA radio in York and WLAN radio in Lancaster, and members of the non-performing groups.

A variety of styles of music were represented during the evening. Two sixties tock and roll groups kicked off the show. First came the Val-Jeens from the Elizabethtown/Mount Joy area with a fun set including good versions of "Seventh Son" and the garage classic "Gloria." Next came a surprise appearance by Yorks Romans, who ended their brief but satisfying set with their trademark song "The Drag."

The third act of the evening brought soul music fans rushing to the dance floor. Lancaster's Ambassadors were especially impressive with a strong set of classic soul covers and performances of several of their original songs that were better than their records. The singers in particular sounded much stronger than they did 35 years ago.

Doo wop was the style of Little Duck and the Drakes as they brought the show to an enthusiastic conclusion. Donald "Duck" Hunter made his first appearance with the group in many years with a voice as strong as it was in the sixties. In fact, all of the Drakes demonstrated their abilities to sing a strong lead. Aply backed by the Roof Rockers, the group shone with a full set of good material including a great arrangement of "Darling Lorraine" and their own "Ramblin' Guy."

Much applause to Dr. Phil for his tireless efforts to pull off this very successful event. Even before the night was over, there was talk about a second reunion next year with the Shaynes and the Couriers already discussing re-forming their groups to perform. This year's sell-out crowd will undoubtedly be back for more.



**The organizer With The Legend:** Phil Schwartz takes time to pose with WSBA radio great, Ed Lincoln. Ed, now retired from the station, was one of the major influences on rock and roll in Central PA, since it's inception. Ed and Phil also talked on stage for everyone's benefit.



In  
Cartoon  
Form

# The Pennsylvania Music Expo

In  
Actuality



KEYSTONE **K**  
RECORD **WEST**  
COLLECT★RS

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