

Ukulele Lady, err Man

(With apologies to Arlo Guthrie's song)

By Karl (Skip, Buddah) Wolf

During the school year of 1963-64, I was a 7th grade student at Henry Houck Junior High School in Lebanon, Pa. My music teacher was Mrs. Kathryn Heckard, a very accomplished and knowledgeable musician—a force to be reckoned with. You did not cross her, misbehave in her class or question anything she taught us.

Part of her 7th grade curriculum was a unit on learning to play the ukulele. Since I was left handed, I immediately held the neck in my right hand and strummed with my left. Obviously, holding the ukulele in a manner opposite all my right-handed classmates my fingerings on the frets were all wrong and the sound omitted were not to my teacher's liking.

She in her "kindly" manner made fun of my attempt to play left-handed and told me that I had to hold the instrument like everyone else and play right-handed. If Mrs. Heckard declared no one played a ukulele or guitar left-handed then I accepted her declaration and struggled to play right-handed.



Needless to say I was stymied when I noticed during a Beatles performance, Paul McCartney played his guitar left-handed! Furthermore, during Woodstock, Jimi Hendrix played left-handed. My question to readers is as follows: What other rock performers played left-handed?



In addition if a performer played left-handed, does the instrument have to be restrung in the opposite order or can the performer actually learn the fingerings in a new and different manner since the string order will be inverted if you merely turn the guitar in the opposite direction?

DUE TO INCREASED OPERATING EXPENSES, THE KRC MUST RAISE TABLE RENT FEES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 10th. NEW FEES ARE \$40 FOR A 6 FOOT TABLE AND \$50 FOR AN 8 FOOT TABLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.



Temperature checks, masks and social distancing at all Pennsylvania Music Expos is in force.



KEY NOTES

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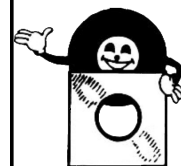
RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

It is appropriate to thank the 2020 KRC officer team for their hard work this year. COVID-19 certainly made their jobs even more challenging. In an all volunteer-run organization, it is not possible to accomplish the many things on our agenda and organize a show every month without the continued efforts of many different people. So, whether it was a small one-time job, or a continued monthly commitment, thanks for another great year!

As we move into a new year, please give us your thoughts, suggestions, ideas and feedback on how we can make the **Pennsylvania Music Expo** and the **Keystone Record Collectors** even stronger. At the same time, we NEVER discourage interested members who would like to volunteer.

Until next time, keep looking for those treasured tunes!

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year!



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Show Operation Changes

The Keystone Record Collectors, host of the Pennsylvania Music Expo, take the health and safety of our customers and vendors very seriously. **For upcoming shows (unless state guidelines change) we have a limit of 25% (about 125 vendors and customers) of the normal room capacity.** Below are procedures for each show for the foreseeable future.

- * Temperature monitoring will occur outside by Spooky Nook Sports - LANCO staff
- * Everyone (dealers, helpers and shoppers) MUST wear a mask, at all times inside. Bring one with you. **Of course social distancing is encouraged.**
- *The show will take place in our normal room.
- *Entrance/exit is only through the main entrance area (double set of doors.)
- *There is no consumption of food in the building (except at the round tables in the hall area.)

If you are uncomfortable or do not want to comply with these guidelines, we ask that you sit out the show and not attend.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Keystone Record Collectors Officer Team

KRC MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!



Buying a club membership for the music collector spouse, cousin, uncle, grandparent, co-worker or friend makes an excellent stocking stuffer gift for the holidays. For a nominal \$15 a year, someone you know can enjoy (or continue to enjoy) a membership in one of the world's largest organizations for music collectors.

Membership provides six issues of **KEY NOTES**, the official club newsletter, and **KEY NOTES UPDATE**, a monthly cyberspace communication and show reminder via e-mail. This is in addition to discounts on price guides, chart information books and special music and book offers that appear in **KEY NOTES** from time to time. Members also gain entry into every **Pennsylvania Music Expo** prior to 9 am. Gift memberships may be obtained by contacting the Keystone Record Collectors, Attention **Arlene** at P.O. Box 10532, Lancaster, Pa. 17605.



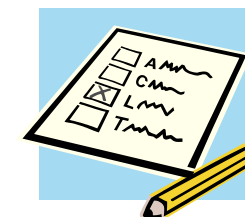
Selected music retailers in South Central Pennsylvania offer a cash register discount to card holding KRC members (an up-to-date list of participating retailers is available from Club Treasurer, **Gay Williams**). If that's not enough, some record/CD shows throughout the mid-Atlantic region offer discounts to attend their show with a current KRC membership card. What are you waiting for? Sign up your entire neighborhood today!

DON'T LOSE IT THIS YEAR!

Your 2021 KRC membership renewal notice is included in this issue of **KEY NOTES**. It should be returned quickly so it doesn't get mixed in with monthly and holiday bills. Better yet, **renew at the show TODAY**. By renewing your membership early, you will be assured of a listing in the 2021 Membership Directory. You also won't miss out on any special offers that appear in many issues of **KEY NOTES**.



YOUR VOTE COUNTS



Also included in this issue is a ballot for selecting your 2020 club officer team. To vote, you must be a member for the upcoming year. Please fill out the top part of the form first (Renewal Application); then complete your ballot. *Time flies, so don't procrastinate!*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR KRC OFFICER TEAM!

KRC in 2021

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH (EXCEPT MAY 2ND)

SPOOKY NOOK SPORTS - LANCO

FLIERS ARE AVAILABLE - TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD! ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.

Fred Clemens' COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS ...for the Record

The Trials of A Record

This Trial was brought about by a recent record purchase I had made, of a record I'd already had but in a different pressing variation. I'd already had the one pressing (on the white label), but when I finally ran across the blue label pressing (that I did know about), I figured I would complete the set. Sounds simple enough!



Little did I know what would lie ahead for me! While many who know this as a break-in record, a record that used bits of other recordings to fill in dialogue, you may also be familiar with a comparable version as by Herb B. Lou and The Legal Eagles. There was even more to that release than meets the eye. As those variations go, there was also one that credited the Artist only as The Legal Eagles. (I didn't know that yet.)



HOW TO REACH US...

www.recordcollectors.org



Keystone Record Collectors

717-898-1246 CALL ANYTIME!



KEY NOTES

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(Deadline for KEY NOTES#243 is January 10th)

Names in bold are members of the Keystone Record Collectors

As to which one came first there, it was still a mystery at the time. But if you go according to a December 1958 Billboard Review of both records, you'll see that there was no mention of Herb B. Lou anywhere to be found. And even the Parkway release showed a variation that I wasn't aware of yet, as by Jerry Field and the Philadelphia Lawyers. I soon ran across a third variation of the Parkway release that originated from the west coast. That was told by a Delta number found etched in the dead wax (20692), but only on the B-side, which was an instrumental track called "Easy Steppin'".



It was that lone delta number that would fit my later findings, as this was still far from being over just yet. Getting back to the blue Parkway label, ...that also was differentiated from the white label pressing in that the blue issue had been pressed by RCA, and featured an RCA master number on the label, as well as being etched in the dead wax just outside the label. Pressed at the RCA plant in Indianapolis, Indiana, there was also another abnormal aspect to it that differed from the white label pressing. It was on that RCA pressing that I noticed an etched C-132-A that wasn't scratched out, as it was scratched out on the white label pressing.

Following a bit of investigation, I soon discovered the release that was Cameo 132, a record by Dave Appell and The Applejacks. The side that would be known there was the background music track used on an earlier Cameo release by John Zacherle, "Dinner With Drac". But checking the label there revealed that side was C-132B. So what was C-132A...? That track was called "No Name Theme". While it didn't show up in Billboard, it was Reviewed in Cash Box in March 1958 where it received a B rating.

DAVE APPELL & THE APPLEJACKS (Cameo 132) B "NO NAME THEME" (2:20) [Mayland BMI-Lion] A swinging instrumental rocker with a staccato tempo is excitingly fashioned by Appell and his boys. Good teen dance fare. C "DINNER WITH DRAC" (2:55) [Mayland BMI-Shedden, Lane] The background theme from the hit record is presented (sans lyrics) by the crew. More excellent dance merchandise.

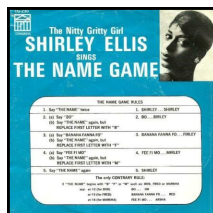


As you can see, the Cameo release also involved at least two separate pressing, including one by RCA. And if you check even closer, you'll notice that the RCA master numbers match on the Cameo AND the Parkway issues, J9OW-1387. They even went so far as to use the exact same stampers on both. They ("No Name Theme" and "Easy Steppin'") are both the exact same recordings, despite any credits given!

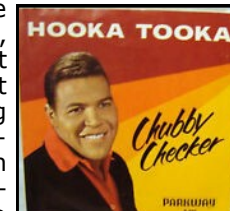
Peace...

Sweet Sorrow in the Grooves By Lynn E. McCutcheon

Was it Will Shakespeare who coined the phrase "Sweet Sorrow"? Who among we record collectors has not experienced the sweet sorrow of listening to a record that reminds us of a wonderful lover from yesteryear, tinged with sorrow because the precious moments with that lover are gone forever, like the ripples on a stream? Webster called it nostalgia, a longing for something or someone long ago or for former happy circumstances.



Strikes me that there are at least two kinds - one type triggered by a record/song associated with former happy times, ("Hey Baby) They're Playing Our Song;" "Those Oldies but Goodies (Remind Me of You)." The song itself may be trivial, "The Name Game" by Shirley Ellis, "Hooka Tooka" by Chubby Checker or have



non-nostalgic lyrics, "Mother-in-law" by Ernie K-Doe, but associated with a person or pleasant experience long gone. Was that song playing on the radio when you exchanged an electrifying kiss? With trembling hands and a wildly palpitating heart were you reaching for a button on her blouse just as the Chubster was trying to determine who had absconded with his friggin' soda cracker? Associational learning, or, as B. F. Skinner called it, operant conditioning.

The second kind is expressed in the lyrics themselves. Such lyrics remind us of Frost's famous poem about the fork in the proverbial road and the road not taken. I suppose I will never know what happened to a sweet girl named Bernice, with whom I shared a few tender moments listening to a nostalgic record called "I Remember When" by the Cameos back in 1963. Septuagenarian collectors like me will recall: "Moments to Remember" by the Four Lads; "Your Graduation Means Goodbye," the only hit by the Cardigans; and "Valley High," by Bill & Doree Post. I can get a lump in my throat when I hear "Blue Velvet" by the Clovers. I get teary-eyed listening to "Lost Love" by the Superiors, and the Orioles doing "A Kiss and a Rose" has me reaching for a Kleenex. Younger collectors will no doubt be able to supplement my short list with examples from records made more recently.

Of this second type, in which the lyrics call forth moments of sweet sorrow, I think there are at least two subtypes. The first type is exemplified in Bobby Vinton's smash hit, "Roses Are Red." Based on a simple nursery rhyme and an equally simple melody, this record rolls along at a nice sugary pace. Boy meets girl and falls madly in love with the sweetest female the world has ever seen, yada, yada. Surely this relationship is headed for the altar. Then the lyrics take a



familiar turn. He goes far away and she finds another. How many of us can relate to that? Did Uncle Sam call? Did he go off to college or take a job in another town? Near the end of the song we listeners get hit with a nostalgic wallop we never saw coming! "Is that your little girl? She looks a lot like you." Wow! With these 11 words Vinton turns the whole song into a bucket of sweet sorrow. Consider the implications. Not only did the relationship dissolve, but the two former lovers meet for the first time in years, perhaps by accident, after having traveled very separate pathways in life. He might be thinking "If only things had worked out differently, that little girl could have been my daughter." She might be thinking "Maybe I should have waited for him." We listeners are left to wonder what happened in the years in between this chance meeting. Is there some regret, some lingering sadness, some if-only-I-had-done-this-instead-of-that, involved on her part or his? We are also left to ponder similar sad, road-not-taken experiences in our own lives.

Cheer up! Sweet sorrow is sometimes more of the former than the latter. Consider the Flamingos recording of "Time Was." This is a beautiful song, done exquisitely by one of the greatest doo-wop groups of all time. The song chronicles a love story that begins in childhood (fun on the schoolyard swing), moves along through high school (we exchanged graduation rings), and continues beyond to reminiscing metaphorically about one lovely yesterday. So, where is this couple now? Are they still together, or, are the lovely yesterdays gone forever? I have listened to this gorgeous ballad many times and wondered if the couple met the same fate as the pair in "Roses Are Red." Recently I caught two words in the lyrics near the end of the song that convinced me that this slice of vinyl nostalgia has a happy ending. The words are "Darling," followed by "Every tomorrow will be complete if all our moments are half as sweet, as all our time was then." There is considerable ambiguity embedded in these lyrics, but I take the "Darling" and the "our" to mean that the lovers are still together, perhaps newlyweds, contemplating the future that lies ahead, but also savoring those carefree lovely yesterdays (writing love letters in the sand, lingering over our coffee) that created a strong bond - one that hopefully will stand the test of time.



May all the sweet sorrow you find in the grooves of your vinyl be more sweet than sorrowful!



2021 show dates: 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/2, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, 12/12