THE FLIP SIDE **KEY NOTES #246 AUGUST 2021**

From the KRC E-Mailbag

Hi Derek,

Keynotes June article on songs about being 17 was great. I was 17 in 1958 and can really relate. ["You're How

Made me think about being 17 and as the writer said, it was magical. Hadn't really thought about it before.

The song that came to my mind immediately was titled "Seventeen" by Boyd Bennett and his Rockers a rockabilly band that sounded a lot like Bill Haley and his Comets. It was a top ten hit in the summer of 1955.

Thanks for the memories. You guys are awesome.

Bruce Edwards West Hempfield

RED RAVEN RECORD CATALOG

(All performed by the Red Raven Orchestra) Article can be found on page 1

- Tootles the Tug
- The Little Red Engine
- Old MacDonald Had a Farm
- Little White Duck
- 5, 6. Happy Birthday (Parts 1 & 2) Sidewalks of New York
- On the Merry-Go-Round
- Parade of the Wooden Soldiers
- Three Blind Mice
- 11. Little Bo Peep
- 12. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
- 13. Frosty the Snowman
- 14. Santa Claus is Comin' to Town
- 15. Suzy Snowflake
- 16. I'm a Little Teapot
- 17. Hey Diddle, Diddle 18. My Choc'late Rabbit
- 19. Easter Bunny
- 20. Get Along, Óld Pard
- 21. Circus Days
- Raggedy Ándy
- The Woblin' Goblin



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Remaining 2021 show dates: 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 and 12/12 "A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of music collecting



1202 JauguA 245# COLLECTARS **L**ECORD //C KEYSTONE



AUGUST 2021 ISSUE #246 Inside...

Remembering Jack Fritz Merry-Go-Round Turntable W.C. Fields From the KRC E-Mailbag

...and more!

Merry-Go-Round Turntable

By Karl (Skip) Wolf

When I was a boy my two brothers and I had a children's record player. One day we were presented with a most unusual gift. It was a mirrored attachment that one placed over the turntable spindle. It had about 8 mirror planes around the attachment resembled a small merry-goround. Accompanying the mirror attachment was a series of children's records on which the record label had printed on it a series of animated pictures with ever so slight variations contained within each animated drawing. When the record was played and the song or narrative gave a story, one could see in the mirrored planes the animated figures moving about and enacting the story. It was a most unique toy and record combination and quite clever to see the animated figures moving around your turntable.

I have never seen this item again in my lifetime, but my good friend, **B. Derek Shaw**, did some research and found the name of the company and the name of the toy and records. (Derek will continue this article with some photos of what I have described and a history of the company. He also mentioned he might try to buy me one of these toys and records on eBay in appreciation of writing this article for Key-Notes).

Editor's Note: The wishful thinking in the last sentence, isn't going to happen.

RED RAVEN MAGIC MIRROR RECORD PLAYER

This is the official name of the product Carl Wolf was describing in the first half of this article.

A description from Wikipedia, "The Red Raven Magic Mirror and its special children's phonograph records, introduced in the US in 1956, was a 20th-century adaptation of the praxinoscope. The Magic Mirror was a sixteen-sided praxinoscopic reflector with angled facets. It was placed over the record player's spindle and rotated along with the 78 rpm record, which had a very large label with a sequence of sixteen interwoven animation frames arrayed around its center. As the record played, the user gazed into the Magic Mirror and saw an endlessly repeating animated scene that illustrated the recorded song. In the 1960s, versions of the Red Raven system were introduced in Europe and Japan under various names - Teddy in France and the Netherlands, Mamil Moviton in Italy, etc."

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

2014 was the year when I thought the Pennsylvania Music Expo might fade out of existence. due to declining attendance and vinyl tanking. Then it came back, bringing younger collectors saving a bundle over 180 gram virgin vinyl reissues of proven catalog artists. Again, in 2020 when COVID-19 was running rampant, I thought that this might be the culprit to eliminate our 42-year event.

However, as good as it has been since the founding of the club, so many years ago, we are still going strong Perhaps it is word of mouth or social media, our reputation or something else. Whatever the reason, attendance continues to be strong. Of course there's always room for more people!



B. Derek Shaw **KEY-NOTES** Editor and Communications bdshaw73@gmail.com

This from Jason Curtis, curator of the Museum of Obsolete Media, based in Shropshire County, England, "The record itself is played at 78 rpm, and is a little over 8-inches in diameter. Early pressing were apparently on laminated cardboard, followed by styrene, with vinyl used on later pressings. Different colors of records were available (though some turn black as they age) and 20 titles were available.

The 16 frame animation was placed around the edge of the center label, which was much larger than normal. The Red Raven Magic Mirror, which looked like a carousel, was placed on the center of the record, and as the record span, the animation appeared in the angled mirrors, in a similar way to a praxinoscope.

While the records were almost all recorded in 1956, Red Raven Movie Records were apparently sold until the early 1970s, when record players began to stop offering a 78 rpm speed."







(B. Derek Shaw also contributed to this article.)

A complete Red Raven Magic Mirror Record catalog can be found on page 6, The Flip Side

KRC in 2021

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF **EVERY** MONTH

SPOOKY NOOK SPORTS - LANCO

FLIERS ARE AVAILABLE - TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD! ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS. BUSINESS MEETING VIA ZOOM, WHEN WARRANTED.

Jack Fritz 1964 - 2021 By Rich McLenson



felt it was important to let KRC members know about the death of someone who was a former vendor at our shows for many years and a long-time friend, Jack Fritz.

Jack owned and operated 'Noise Pollution Records', just off of South Street in Philadelphia since 1991. He had a great knowledge of all things music -

especially punk rock and The Beatles.

Jack and I go back to the late 1980's **Pennsylvania Music Expos** in Columbia where I first ran into him. At the time, he was sporting an outrageous mohawk with spikes that stood about 6" off the top of his head. When I walked up to his table, I saw a fair amount of punk, UK bands and a common bond that we both shared - a love of The Beatles. After talking over multiple shows we developed a friendship and discussed our hobby of Fab Four collecting.

Jack's dream was to open a music shop and in order to get financing, it meant parting with some of his beloved collection. I had always hoped to one day own a copy of the Beatles 'Yesterday & Today' album with the infamous 'Butcher Cover'. It so happened that Jack owned one that he was willing to sell to help finance his dream.







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(Deadline for KEY NOTES#247 is September 12th) Names in **bold** are members of the Keystone Record Collectors

Long story short, I purchased a beautiful copy of a third state 'butcher' which I own to this day. My purchase helped Jack on his way to realizing his dream, opening Noise Pollution in the summer of

Whenever I was in Philadelphia, I made a point to drop in to visit. He often had great stories like when Oasis were playing a local club and the Gallagher Brothers came in. [He tried to discreetly get their picture] Or when Sean Lennon stopped by and Jack asked him if he'd autograph an LP. It happened to be one that his dad John, had already signed years prior. [Sean was a bit freaked out by



At the time I was a KRC vendor and each month before the shows, I phoned Jack to see if he had anything that I was looking for and to catch up on our Fab Four purchases that we added to our collections. Some amazing things showed up at his shop, courtesy of people looking to sell records and memorabilia in need of cash. There were many good memories and laughs over the years as well.

Last October while in Philly, my lady friend and I stopped in the store. Jack was looking a little rough and I was going to razz him about his appearance. But after a short discussion he said 'I've got to tell you something. I have cancer'. He was going for treatments but never asked/wanted to know from the doctors, what stage he was in. That was Jack.

We kept in touch via email for the next 6 months until I learned of his death. Jack lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on May 5th at the age of 56. Become one with the light, my friend. I'll see you again.

Editor's Note: From his obituary, "In memory of Jack, play your favorite Beatles song and know that Jack is sitting beside you with his quick wit and expertise telling you all about that song."





ry of our club and other music material. Visit: www.recordcollectors.org

AUGUST 2021

KEY NOTES #246

W. C. Fields: Comedian, Actor, Juggler and Writer **By Arthur Levine**

William Claude Dukenfeld, star of stage, screen, and theater, a.k.a. W. C. Fields was born on April 9, 1879 in Upper Darby, Pa.

I was first introduced to the great man in 1971 or 1972. I use to work at 100 Broadway in New York City. Across from where I worked was the famous Trinity Church and a cemetery where Alexander Hamilton was buried. Inside the Church was a coffee shop. No clue why since I am not a church goer, however I ventured across the street because I heard the church had a coffee house. Low and behold, they were running some W.C. Fields short films. If I remember correctly they were showing "A Fatal Glass of Beer", "The Dentist", The Pharmacist," and "The Barber Shop". Never seeing anything before with W. C. Fields I was instantly turned on with his humor. He had great story lines, no cursing (unless you count one of his favorite sayings, "Godfrey Daniels") and laughs all the movies.



From that point on, I really became interested in anything and everything he was associated with. No easy task, as he had passed away about 25 years prior, on Christmas Day 1946. In fact the day he died one of his most famous quotes became a legend. Right before he passed he was seen reading a bible. Most remarkable and strange from him. I mean, W. C. reading a bible. How could this be? He was asked if he was turning to faith now that he knew his life was coming to an end. His famous reply was, "just looking for loopholes."





I continued buying anything I could on him - collectibles, books, whatever movies I could find and surprisingly found out he had made 26 long playing

record albums. Some were comedy albums, while some were his plays he had done on Broadway. I was very pleased that many were rebroadcasts of his old radio broadcasts. I was very fortunate to have met his grandson, Ronald J., in my collecting ventures.

W. C. started his career actually not as a comedian or actor, but as a jugular and pantomime artist. He worked at a resort, and made believe he was drowning. While drawing a crowd, he actually was "putting on an act." After being rescued, he would do juggling, comedy routines, and magic.



Fields married early in his career, with his wife accompanying him all over the world. Tiring of this travel, along with having a child, she decided she had enough.



He did not want to give up doing what he enjoyed. This led to a troubled marriage. They never divorced, as that was unheard at that time. He continued to send her money, though they never became a married couple again.

Eventually after performing on Broadway, doing stage, W.C. appeared on the big screen. First doing "silent" movies he then went on to "talkies," a new medium. Producers were never pleased with him because he never would "stick with the script." He made only

comedy films and shorts, except once and that was for the movie "David Copperfield." That was the only movie Fields ever performed where he did not deviate from the script.

To this day I try and collect virtually anything I can find on him that I do not own. If you are not familiar with W.C. Fields, try renting his movies - he performed many. You will not regret it.



W.C. Fields quotes

"I am free of all prejudices. I hate everyone equally."

"A rich man is nothing but a poor man with money."

"Once, during Prohibition, I was forced to live for days on nothing but food and water."

"Remember, a dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream."

"I once spent a year in Philadelphia, I think it was on a Sunday.'

"I never vote for anyone. I always vote against."

"It was a woman who drove me to drink, and I never had the courtesy to thank her for it."

"You can't trust water: Even a straight stick turns crooked in it."

"I never drink water. I'm afraid it will become habitformina."

"I never drink water; that is the stuff that rusts pipes."



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