

# KEY NOTES

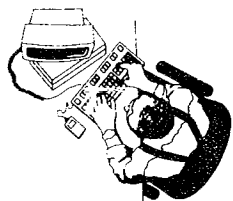
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ISSUE #81

## INSIDE:

- Icy Winter Debut
- 610 Area Code is New
- Doo-Wop Book Review
- BPMs Timed for You



## From the Editor's Desk

Yikes! Just as we're starting to "batten down the hatches" for our iciest winter in recent years, I've been doing some "battening" myself with a new full time job. Yes - you heard right - a new gig. I'm now the media relations person for the mayor of York. 40+ hours a week will still leave me time to do some record shows along with a few DJ jobs. One thing this full time position could limit is the amount of time I can contribute to *Key Notes*. I'll continue to edit the newsletter, as long as we get some increased articles, photos, etc. material from the membership. I need help from all of you so that we can continue to enjoy this bimonthly publication.

On with the show... The Blue Ball Market facility continues to hold its own, despite naysayers and their voices of doom. President Steve Clark assisted with an excellent article about record collecting that appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. About a fifth of the piece focused on our show. That's the kind of publicity we can always use. So start thinking, and get to work on some in your neck of the woods.

My thanks to those of you (dealers) that cooperated with our one time table assessment program for badly needed repairs. To those that gave club officers grief: shame on you. A quick comparison of table prices around the region for record/CD shows still puts the KRC at a better value even if the tables were double the current \$20 price. Enough said.

Thanks to all the hard work and diligent effort the elected and appointed officers gave during 1993. Let's hope the 1994 team can go even a few steps further.

Musically speaking,

B. Derek Shaw,  
Editor, Club Publications

## View From The Top

### Really Cool New Year

1994 has been much cooler than we could have ever imagined, setting record low temperatures. I'm just grateful we were able to have the January show as scheduled. If the show had been scheduled the following two weeks, we would have had to cancel. Realizing that so many people were disappointed when last year's blizzard forced cancellation of our March show, I resisted calling off our first '94 show. We did receive several inquiries on our hotline number.

We welcome Alan Czertkes, poster dealer from the New York City area, who decorated the far left corner with an impressive display of great posters. He has many hard-to-find import and collectable items. The import posters tend to be considerably larger than the domestic ones. Alan liked our crowd and plans to become a KRC mainstay.

### Have We Got A Deal For You

Special members-only promotions, such as our popular *Billboard* charts and price guide book offers, will continue as usual. I pledge to be ever diligent in searching out interesting items for you. In late January, I ordered several music collecting software packages for evaluation. Hopefully, I'll review these products in the next *Key Notes*. Since these are "shareware" products, they will be available free (cost of disk and postage) to club members.

Recently, I talked to Robert DiMartino, author of *Record Rating Guide*, a book rating more than 3,000 group harmony, doo-wop songs. He sent me a preview copy and extended a special price for KRC members (see review inside and special offer on page 4).

I also contacted Larry Clawson, a Massachusetts DJ, who invented "The Time Machine," a fascinating electronic product which accurately and quickly calculates a song's beats per minute. Larry also agreed to a great deal (again, check my review and special offer on page 4).

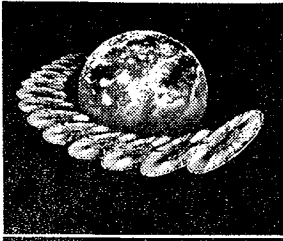
### Continued Recognition

KRC member Mark Marymont, a nationally known newspaper reporter and freelance writer, had a feature story in the January 6th *Philadelphia Inquirer*. The topic dealt with the "problem" of disposing of vinyl LPs after converting to compact discs. Mark mentioned KRC prominently in the article and included several quotes from me. The timing was great, with the story running immediately before the January show. We received several Philadelphia calls that same evening. The story is included as an insert.

Sadly, Mark moved to Springfield, Missouri earlier this month. We wish Mark continued success, but KRC has lost a good friend and contact at the newspapers in both Philadelphia and Wilmington.

Steve Clark  
KRC President





## MID-ATLANTIC MUSIC EVENTS

All of the following events provide a special admission discount to KRC members upon presentation of your KRC membership card unless there is a **NO** in bold type after their listing.

### KRC in '94

**EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 4 PM  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

at THE BLUE BALL MARKET, 1/2 MILE EAST OF RT 23 ON US RT 322, BLUE BALL, PA. 8 miles south of PA Turnpike exit #22, 9 miles east of Ephrata.

KRC FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE DURING EACH SHOW...

TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!

**BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY SHOW...  
PLAN TO BE THERE.**

**EVERY SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH:** Record/CD/Tape Collectors Convention and Sale. Fireman's Hall, Parish Dr., Wayne NJ. Rt. 23 at Rt. 202 (north of US 46 and I-80). 10 AM-4 PM. Info: Fred Falk 201-773-6067.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20th:** Maryland Music Collectors CD/Record Expo. Arbutus Fire Hall, 5200 Southwestern Blvd., Exit 12A off I-695 (Baltimore Beltway). 10 AM-4 PM. Info: Ray Quigley 410-247-2589.


**SUNDAY, MARCH 6th:** Lost and Found Record Review, session #23. Bring your obscure doo-wop, r&b, soul, instrumental records **only**. White Rose VFW #556, 333 Eberts Lane, York PA. 6-10 PM. Info: Skip McComas 717-767-5198. **NO**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20th:** Maryland Music Collectors CD/Record Expo. Arbutus Fire Hall, 5200 Southwestern Blvd., Exit 12A off I-695 (Baltimore Beltway). 10 AM-4 PM. Info: Ray Quigley 410-247-2589.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27th:** WEZX CD and Record Convention. Lackawanna Station Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Ave., Scranton PA. 10 AM-5 PM. Info: Jack Skutnik 607-648-4997. **NO**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10th:** Lost and Found Record Review, session #24. Bring your obscure doo-wop, r&b, soul, instrumental records **only**. White Rose VFW #556, 333 Eberts Lane, York PA. 6-10 PM. Info: Skip McComas 717-767-5198. **NO**

**ABOUT OUR CALENDAR:** Dates and times of events are subject to last minute changes and/or cancellation. Please call ahead to confirm. *Key Notes* will gladly list other record shows and concerts of interest to our members, space permitting, as long as they do not conflict with any KRC scheduled event. Send your items to: 329 Rathton Road, York PA 17403-3933. This service is provided **FREE** of charge. **Deadline for Key Notes #82 calendar is March 13th.**



**NUMBERS  
YOU  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
FORGET**

**TABLE  
RESERVATIONS**  
•  
**CAROL  
HERTZOG**  
**610-589-5094**  
**(24-HOUR INFO LINE)**

**MARKET  
HOUSE**  
**(DAY OF SHOW  
EMERGENCIES ONLY)**  
•  
**717-354-4331**

## The Face is Familiar



**HOWIE GROSCH** has been involved with our shows for quite some time. The Chalfant (suburban Philadelphia) vendor specializes in punk, garage and psyche music. He can usually be found at space #72 or #73.



**INTERNATIONAL CD** is represented at our shows by one Kai Daniel Kates. Kai has an impressive selection of foreign and domestic CDs at decent prices. He also promotes shows in Allentown, Wilkes-Barre and Fort Washington (see Other Music Events, opposite). You can find him in spaces #67 and 68. Occupying space #45 is the coal region's own Scott Campbell. He always seems to have some of this and some of that and all priced to move.

## KEY NOTES

#81, February 1994

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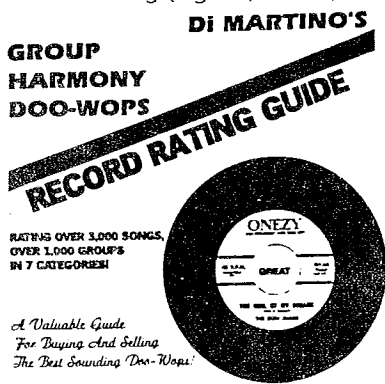
Names in bold type are members of the Keystone Record Collectors  
**(Deadline for #82 is March 13th.)**

**BOOK REVIEW by Steve Clark**

# Di Martino's Doo-Wop Record Rating Guide

by Robert Di Martino, 117 pgs., ©1994, \$19.95

Lifelong doo-wop enthusiast Bob Di Martino of Long Island NY has recently published an evaluation of over 3,000 doo-wop songs by 1,000 groups. In spite of its 100-plus pages, the book contains only four pages of text, which describes the author's background and how the songs were evaluated. The book is essentially an extensive list of graded song titles, alphabetized by group name. Each page contains four columns: group, song title, beat (F or S), and rating (e.g. EX, GREAT, TOP, etc.).



At 49 years of age and a long-time NYC-area resident, Bob was certainly in the right place at the right time to develop a love for group harmony and become a self-styled authority. Although his evaluation is completely subjective, the author analyzed each song's seven categories of performance: total group performance; sound of group harmony; lead singer's voice; voice and style of the bass and tenor; intro, bridge and ending;

instrumentation; and total arrangement. He then assigned one of seven ratings: top (best rating); great, excellent, very good +, very good, good, and fair. It is a tad confusing for "excellent" to be only the third highest rating, but the author seemed to concentrate on the best of the best. Very few "fair" songs were found in the ratings.

After finishing his time-consuming evaluation, he reviewed his findings with respected doo-wop collectors and found general agreement. In several phone conversations with him, I could sense Bob's passion for the music. We discussed several groups and songs and were definitely on the same wavelength. His favorite group is the Harptones, followed closely by the Skyliners. I was surprised that he was not familiar with "Comes Love" (a 1962 Skyliners release on Viscount), which is my personal favorite.

Since his objective is to put doo-wop collectors in touch with the sound they love, Bob decided to keep his book as simple as possible. The author believes that many good songs are passed over because the collectors don't recognize the title and/or the artists. I compiled a list of 65 TOP-rated songs and purchased 10 easily obtainable reissue 45s for review. For the most part, I had not heard these songs before or at least did not recognize the titles. I spent several hours enjoying my new-found treasures. Several I recognized immediately, such as the School Boys "Please Say You Want Me" and the Rivas "Count Every Star," but others, such as the Bonnevilles "Zu-Zu," the Chanters "Angel Darling" and the Channels "The Gleam In Your Eyes" were welcome additions to my collection.

Although this self-published book contains some typographical errors and occasional annoying truncated artist names or song titles, I recommend this book to doo-wop lovers as an opportunity to hear even more great sounds they probably have missed. For KRC members, our special price of \$12.50 is a good investment with potential yields of great listening enjoyment.

**PRODUCT REVIEW by Steve Clark**

# The Time Machine

by X-Mix, Inc., \$120

The beat is the integral part of all music. Since the early days of "American Bandstand," teenagers have struggled to explain why they liked a song the first time they heard it, simply saying "It's got a good beat and it's easy to dance to."

Have you ever wondered just how fast or slow a song really is? Club disc jockeys have long used BPM (beats per minute) as the common denominator for comparing, sequencing and mixing songs. Some songs are incredibly slow, such as "Wonderful Tonight" (47 BPM), while others are very uptempo, such as "Morse Code of Love" at 164.

I have noticed that the same 12" dance songs had different BPMs written on their covers. Obviously, many DJs had difficulty determining the accurate beat. Since I used a simple approach of counting the beats for 15 seconds and multiplying by 4, I was always impressed with odd-numbered BPM, which implied accuracy and precision. Invariably, I'd check each song two or more times, just to be "accurate." I really perceived the process as a hassle... until I tried **The Time Machine**.

This lightweight electronic accessory, measuring 5-1/2" x 3" x 1-1/2" (about the size of a portable radio), is the brainchild of veteran Boston-area club DJ Larry Clawson. Clawson has successfully marketed his product via DJ publications for the past two years, while also becoming well known for his X-Mix, Inc. remix service.

I received my Time Machine in early January and was absolutely fascinated by its accuracy and ease of use. It requires no patch cords or external connections. The user simply taps to the beat on the unit's surface button and the BPM appears in red LED display within 5 seconds. The display lasts for 30 seconds to conserve the D cell battery. Larry claims with practice it is possible to determine the beat with only two taps. (I agree... I was able to do it!)

**WE GOT THE BEAT**

Thanks to The Time Machine, we are able to provide the BPMs of these popular songs. Hope you enjoy this information:

BPM	SONG/ARTIST
047	Wonderful Tonight/Eric Clapton
062	What Time Is It?/Jive Five
067	Can't Help Falling in Love/Elvis Presley
076	Tonite, Tonite/Mello-Kings
078	After The Lovin'/Engelbert Humperdinck
100	Hip Hop Hooray/Naughty By Nature
102	Rump Shaker/Wreckx-N-Effect
102	Islands In The Stream/Rogers & Parton
104	Electric Boogie/Marcia Griffiths
113	Gonna Make You Sweat/C&G Music Factory
120	Opus 17/Four Seasons
133	Love Shack/B-52s
135	U Can't Touch This/MC Hammer
143	Back In The USSR/The Beatles
164	Morse Code of Love/Capris

The Time Machine contains a computer chip which constantly recalculates the average beat as the tapping continues. The longer you tap, the closer your accuracy is assured. I tested the unit using promotional CDs, which listed the BPMs. When I asked my 9-year old daughter (not a DJ!) to determine the BPMs, she hit 10 out of 10 songs exactly. The Time Machine is better than "Hooked on Phonics" and certainly more fun.

This product is so easy to use that I carry it with me all the time. While talking on the phone, I calculated the beat of a song playing on a jukebox in an adjoining room. I've also computed BPMs in my car while commuting to work.

While The Time Machine is obviously intended for disc jockeys, I believe serious collectors will enjoy the benefits as well. I highly recommend this excellent product, especially at our special KRC members-only blowout price of \$85. You'll love it!

**KRC MEMBERS MAY ORDER THE BOOK AND/OR TIME MACHINE USING THE FORM ON PAGE 4**



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: That's what you'll find when you stop at spaces #5 and #6. Paul Hamilton and partner in crime Pat have long been doing our shows, even back to the days of Columbia. Paul now owns the successful Iko's Music Trade in the East York suburbs. It's a continuation of where you leave off after shopping with him at one of our shows. (Maybe Pat will make you some lemonade if you stop at the shop!)

## Check Your Area Code

Effective January 8th, the KRC Reservation Phone Number and code was changed. The first three digits are now 610 instead of 215. We are now part of Bell Atlantic's new area code.

During the next six months, there is a forgiveness period – meaning you can dial either and be connected. However, it's a good idea to start now and get in the habit of dialing 610 when you want to reach Carol Hertzog.

## Hot Deals for an Icy Winter

The *Doo-Wop Record Rating Guide* and *The Time Machine* described on page 3 are not only great additions to any collector's collection, they're offered to KRC members at 30-40% off the 1994 MSRP (plus \$1 postage and handling per item). **ONLY ONE OF EACH ITEM PER MEMBER PLEASE.** Orders must be received by March 1, 1994. Delivery is expected in time for the April 10th show. To order, mail a check or money order for the entire amount to: Keystone Record Collectors, 1616 Robert Rd., Lancaster PA 17601. If you order something, plan to pick it up at the show. If you cannot attend, include an extra \$1 per item, so that it (they) may be mailed to you. Don't miss out, order today!

### SPECIAL OFFER ORDER FORM

Check the item(s) you wish to order. Include check or money order and mail to: Keystone Record Collectors, 1616 Robert Rd., Lancaster PA 17601. Prices include discounts and mailing costs. Limit: One of each item per member. Must be received by March 1, 1994.

- Doo-Wop Book – \$13.50 (list price: \$19.95)
- Time Machine – \$86.00 (list price: \$120)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ORDER \_\_\_\_\_



February 1994  
P.O. Box 1516, Lancaster PA 17608



"A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of the hobby of record collecting"