

OCTOBER + RECORD RESEARCH = SAVINGS FOR KRC MEMBERS!

Each fall the KRC offers our members the opportunity to purchase the definitive source for Billboard album and single music chart data – the Record Research/Joel Whitburn catalog. With savings of **up to 40% off the cover**, this is an *exclusive* offer of the **entire 44 item catalog** for card carrying KRC members. We only make this offer *once a year*, so stock up now! *Yet another benefit of being a current member of the Keystone Record Collectors!*

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All books are hard cover, unless specified.

Order Deadline: November 13th, 2011 show
Expected Delivery: December 11th or January 8th shows
Photocopies are acceptable. Mail form with payment to:
 Keystone Record Collectors, 1616 Robert Road,
 Lancaster, PA 17601-5633
 Add \$5 postage for each book if you want to have them shipped directly to your home. The only exceptions are the DVD-ROM's - they are \$2 if this is all you are ordering (1 or 2 same price). If you order a book and a DVD-ROM...just \$5 for the book - the DVD-ROM goes along for **no extra charge!**

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#187, October, 2011
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"A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of music collecting"

KEY NOTES

PUBLISHED BY KEYSTONE RECORD COLLECTORS, P.O. BOX 1516, LANCASTER, PA 17608

OCTOBER 2011
 ISSUE #187
 Inside...
 ♪- Raiders invade PA
 ♪- Vinyl goodies coming
 ♪- More Ritchie Grasso
 ♪- Whitburn offer is back and more!

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

The issue of **KEY-NOTES** that you are holding in your hands contains the ever popular Joel Whitburn/Record Research book catalog. We offer their entire catalog **every** October to club members, including a few titles not advertised, but still available. In fact, there are some people who join specifically so they can enjoy 40% off cover prices that club members enjoy. *Yet another benefit of KRC club membership!*

Fall is the time of year to start thinking about the leadership you want your club to have for 2012. Nominations will be accepted for all four elected positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) at today's show (October 9th) and next month - November 13th. Ballots will be mailed with the December KEY-NOTES and membership renewal form. When you renew, by the January 8th show, you are entitled to vote.

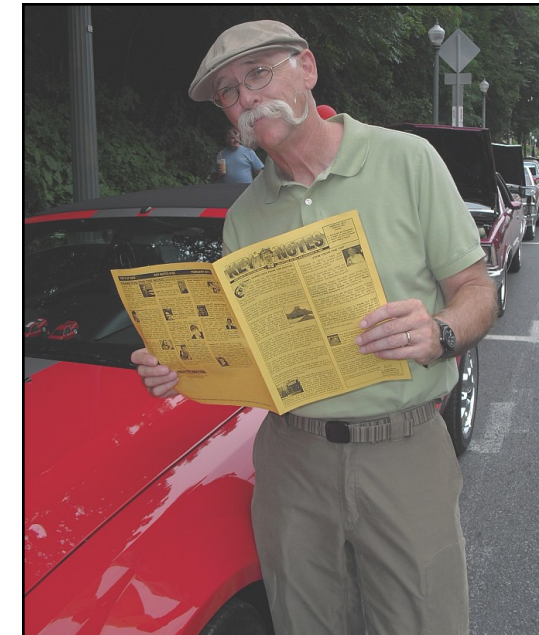
Get your Christmas shopping done early – at the **Pennsylvania Music Expo!** Why not give the gift of music. 2012 KRC memberships make great stocking stuffers! See Club Secretary **Erna Reinhart** at the show for more details or write her at: P.O. Box 1516, Lancaster, PA 17608.

Next month the American Historic Jukebox Association makes their semi-annual pilgrimage to our show with another batch of vintage jukeboxes for sale. So come on out and pick up one for your living room, den, office or music room! Spread the word - invite others to attend. Also a huge batch of records will be making the first of many appearances at our show throughout the fall/winter months. Details next column.

Until next time, keep looking for those treasured tunes!
B. Derek Shaw
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COMING TO THE NOVEMBER SHOW: The first installment of a large collection from the estate of a former KRC member. Approximately 17,000 45's and 500 albums will be offered for sale over the next few months. All genre's featured from the 1950's through the 1990's. Attractive pricing with a reducing scale later in the day. **DON'T MISS IT.**



Classic Cars ...and KEY-NOTES?

KRC's **Eddie Collins** caught up with Dennis Gage, TV host of Speed Channel's *My Classic Car*, as he took a break from the festivities at the 18th annual Pottsville Car Cruise weekend. While catching up on his reading of 'KEY-Notes', Dennis reflected on his career as a musician, "I played pedal steel with Ken Little & The Spoon River Band and recorded an album in 1975 ("Leanin' On The Bar") released on a Chicago label, Dharma Records". Dennis extends a special 'happy hunting' greeting to record collectors in search of his rare LP and to all the auto enthusiasts..."Happy Motoring!"

Roving KRC reporter, **Eddie Collins** with his grandson Billy and Paul Revere (of the Raiders). Show review, page 2.

HOW TO REACH US...
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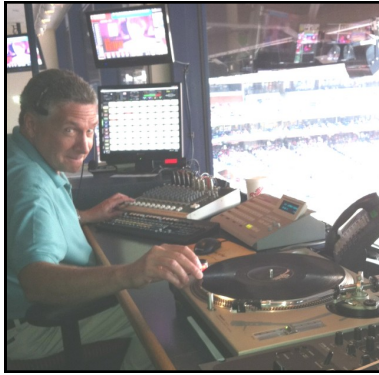
KRC in 2011

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

THE CONTINENTAL INN

FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE, SO TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!
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.

FROM THE KRC E-MAIL BAG...



"Bet you never thought you'd see THIS in my booth! In early August (for 1980's Night) I played actual records. It's the first time we ever attempted to play VINYL at the ballpark. They sounded great!"

(via **Mark Wyatt**, who works at Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia.)



TRIBUTE TO ALLEN BAKER (1914-2011)

Allen (l) and his son **Barry** (r) helped to start the Keystone Record Collectors and have been strong supporters throughout the years.

He and his family have been friends of mine for many years. **Allen** and I met through a common interest in the music of Guy Lombardo, with our families attending many Big Band dances and concerts together. Allen had a very large collection of records.
- **Dave Kressley**

KEY NOTES

Issue #187 - October, 2011

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(Deadline for #188 is November 13th)Names in **bold** type are members of Keystone Record Collectors

The Revolutionary Sound of Paul Revere & The Raiders, Schuylkill County Fair - A concert review by Eddie Collins -

Neither wind, nor steady rain could stop the summer ride of Paul Revere & the Raiders, as they invaded NEPA August 6th in Summit Station, PA. Paul Revere, who is often coined as 'the last madman of rock n' roll' and his merry men assaulted the stage dressed in full regalia of gold-trimmed red waist coats, black tights, and trademark boots, giving fairgoers exactly what they came for: a night of The Raiders high energy chart topping hits, laced with Paul Revere's flair for comedy and theatrics.

The show soared into high gear with "Just Like Me", from the spring of 1966, that gave the band their first Billboard Top 20 hit. Next the group proceeded into "Steppin' Out" and the Tommy Boyce/Bobby Hart penned (I'm Not Your) "Steppin Stone", which appeared on the band's "Midnite Ride" album, later becoming a huge hit for The Monkees, ironically produced by the Boyce/Hart team.

While PR & R marched on with "The Great Airplane Strike", "Him Or Me, What's It Gonna Be" and others from their Columbia catalog, it was quite apparent that much recognition should be given to lead singer Donovan Tea. Also doubling on guitar, Tea does a remarkable job vocally on the group's hits which were personified by Mark Lindsay, who went solo in 1970. Rounding out the act, are Ron Foos on bass guitar, guitarist Doug Heath, both with the group since 1973, Danny Krause on keyboards and drummer Tommy Scheckel, formerly of The Buckingham's.

Paul Revere's quick wit and comedic timing were definitely the 'glue' that bonded this show together. At one point, during a keyboard malfunction, as a stage hand approached Revere's keyboard (adorned by the replica of a 65' Ford Mustang front end), he cleverly said, "It's great to see we have a mechanic in the house!" Later, Paul sent the crowd into near hysterics, when delivering an intro for the much referred to, as 'drug induced' Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil lyrics of "Kicks". Revere told the audience, "this one's from the acid rock era, now it's acid reflux... same people, different drug!"

It almost seemed like the stage was perfectly set, with dark clouds overhead and a heavy rain beginning to fall upon the driving drum beat of "Indian Reservation", a song which cracked the charts in 1968 by Don Fardon. A total reworking by PR & R, resulted in the group's first number one single during late summer 1971. The band closed the show with "Louie, Louie", then encored with Grand Funk's "We're An American Band." Mr. Revere extended an American flag from his keyboard, flicking the switch of a hair dryer, making sure 'old glory' was waving.

Following the performance, when I asked Revere about the amazing longevity of the group. He said, "Look, I'm 73, Andy Williams is 83...so you can count on seeing me back here in ten years!"

Hiding Behind The Shadows Of A Dream... The Richie Grasso Story Part II

By Eddie Collins

A very 'Essential' connection...

Summertime 1963, Richie → meets another fledging artist, Billy Carlucci (aka Billy Carl). As lead singer for Billy & The Essentials, protégé of the Madara/White hit factory and producer for Shelby Singleton and Mercury Records, Carlucci had a few credits under his belt. By late 1964, Billy and Richie were collaborating together and during the next few years, wrote and produced records by The Flamingos, Sonny Richards & The Panics, The Three Degrees, The Encounters and The Lollipops etc. They also cut a few sides under pseudonyms The Heatwaves, The Styles, Vinny & Melvin, Marshmallow Way and Eefrom Zeefrom Mixture, to name a few.



While reforming 'The Essentials' in 1965, Carlucci added Richie Grasso to the new lineup. Having a contract with Smash Records to fulfill, soon to expire, they frantically came up with their next release at producer Joe Venneri's Mira Sound recording studio. Richie states, "Joe Venneri asked Jimmy Sofia (group member) to go to a record rack in the next room & pull out any 45, and he came back with "Babalu's Wedding Day" by The Eternals". Within minutes, in a vocal booth Richie Grasso was dominating the bass vocal, answered by Carlucci's falsetto. 'Babalu' and flip side "My Way Of Saying", a Carl/Venneri/Grasso composition, were released (Smash 2045) in early 1966.

The record received generous airplay in Philly and the east coast, prompting a follow up, and their final release for Smash, "(Don't Cry) Sing Along With The Music" (Smash 2071) with the b-side, again written by the Carl/Venneri/Grasso team entitled "Baby Go Away". The group would undergo a 'more hip' name change in 1968, emerging as The Magic Fleet, releasing "Mary Elizabeth" for the Koppleman - Rubin Hot Biscuit Label (#1453) produced by Joe Wissert, with Richie Grasso arranging the vocal backgrounds.

Bright Lights...Big City...Big Seven!



With the onset of 1967, Richie was off and running, as Neil Galligan, General Manager of Roulette Records publishing arm Big Seven, enlisted Richie as a staff writer. His tunes were now being recorded by Roulette artists The Choir, Brenda Jo Harris, Chris Wilson and Ila Vann. In addition, under the Big Seven banner, Richie's songs hit the charts with Jackie De Shannon, Brook Benton, Los Bravos, The Gentrys, The Players,

Tommy Vann & The Professionals and more in the years to follow. In particular, was a ballad "I Can Remember" written by Richie Grasso, Myrna March and Gary Illingworth. Neil Galligan was so impressed with this song, and being relentless, placed it with almost a dozen artists, including releases by James & Bobby Purify, The Righteous Brothers, Billy Vera, Oliver and a smash in the UK for Billie Davis and Peter and Gordon.



The Roulette wheel keeps on spinning...

Tommy James & The Shondells, label breadwinner for Roulette Records, eventually called upon Richie Grasso's talents, and by 1968, Richie contributed background vocals on the "Mony Mony" session, and wrote "Nighttime (I'm A Lover)", "I Can't Go Back To Denver" and "Do Unto Me" (b-side of "Somebody Cares" 45 release), all included on the 'Mony Mony' album. Then, in 1969 after having a #1 hit with "Crimson & Clover", it was Roulette's top gun Morris Levy, who paired up Richie Grasso with Tommy James in exclusive secrecy to write another top ten smash for the group, "Sweet Cherry Wine" (Roulette 7039).

As Richie states, "I couldn't tell anyone about this, not even my closest friends, only my wife Karin knew, since she was Morris' secretary...nobody knew I wrote it with Tommy until it hit the charts." The single climbed to #7 by May of 1969, and following it came the album 'Cellophane Symphony', containing the hit and a composition from the pens of Richie Grasso, Tommy James, and Pete Lucia entitled "Changes". In 2005, Richie and Tommy would join forces again to do a gospel reworking of "Sweet Cherry Wine" for James' CD 'Hold The Fire' on Aura Records.



Editor's Note: Coming in Part 3, December issue of KEY-NOTES: Richie joins Capitol Records A & R staff, produces his solo LP and sings with The Tokens.