

# KEY-NOTES



DECEMBER 1998  
ISSUE # 110

- Jack Steps Down
- A New Hall of Fame
- Renewal Time
- Happy Holidays!

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## From the Editor's Desk



Welcome to the busiest time of the year. We just finished Thanksgiving, and in a few short weeks Christmas will be here, then the new year.

As we begin 1999, a new timetable is in place for our shows. We will now be operating from 9 AM - 3 PM, closing down one hour early. Why the change? The 3-4 PM hour has usually been slower at our shows. We typically are an early morning phenomenon. Also the extra 60 minutes will give those distant dealers 60 extra minutes to travel home. If ever we see the trend reverse, then we will reverse our decision.

As we enter a new year, it allows us to pause to celebrate another KRC milestone. 1999 marks our 20th season of providing shows to the music collector. Our thanks to long time KRC friend Mark Wyatt for creating another anniversary logo for us to use throughout the year. Mark designed our 10th anniversary logo and was also responsible for incorporating the KRC logo into the current one that is wrapped around an outline of the state. If enough of you are interested, we will offer 20th anniversary Tee-shirts and/or polo shirts. Thanks Mark!



This issue of Key-Notes again brings you a few offers, encourages you to renew your membership and allows you to take part in an historic event, if not in person, through the printed word and photos.

All the best to you and your family this holiday season.

Musically Speaking,

B. Derek Shaw  
Editor, Club Publications

## DON'T LOSE IT THIS YEAR!

Your 1999 KRC membership renewal notice is included in this mailing. It should be returned quickly so that it doesn't get mixed up with monthly and Christmas bills. By renewing your membership early, you'll be assured of a listing in the 1999 *Club Directory* and you won't miss out on any of the special offers that appear in *Key Notes*.

## ... AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Included in this issue of *Key Notes* is a membership renewal form, as well as a ballot for selecting 1999 KRC officers. To vote, you must be a member for the upcoming year. So fill out the top part of the form first (renewal), then complete your ballot. To avoid the confusion of holiday bills and activities, complete and mail it today.

## FINAL VIEW FROM THE TOP

I have enjoyed my years as your President, however it is time for new leadership. Please support the new team and continue to do whatever you can to promote the KRC and our show. As with any club, it is difficult to find people willing to do the work.

Dealers !!! Please continue to provide a quality product at a fair price. Bring new stock to each show. Bag your sales. Be polite and helpful. "They will come."

The KRC financial house is in order. We are getting the best bang for each buck with our advertising. Problems or complaints from the public have been minimal. Table fees have remained constant.

I will continue to be active in the KRC and hopefully will be a vendor for a long time.

I would like to extend my thanks to the officer team who helped make my time as President both enjoyable and satisfying. It was a blast. I am honored that I was chosen to provide service to a worthy organization.

- Jack Supplee  
1998 KRC President

## KRC Memberships Make Great Christmas Gifts

Buying a club membership for the music collector husband, wife, cousin, uncle or grandfather or friend of yours makes an excellent stocking stuffer gift for the holidays. For just \$12 a year, someone you know can enjoy (or continue to enjoy) a membership in the world's largest organized record collector's club. Membership provides six issues of the club newsletter *Key Notes*, an issue of *Recorder* magazine when published, in addition to discounts on sleeves, price guides and special offers. Also, selected music retailers in South Central Pennsylvania offer a cash register discount to card holding KRC members (an up-to-date list is available from club secretary Erna Reinhart). If that's not enough, many record/CD shows in the region recognize the value of KRC membership and offer admission discounts to their shows with a current KRC membership card. What are you waiting for? Sign up your neighborhood today! Gift memberships may be obtained by contacting club secretary Erna Reinhart at 1616 Robert Road, Lancaster PA 17601, or calling (717)299-4935.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE KEY-NOTES STAFF!





## KRC INFO LINE

CALL ANYTIME!  
(717) 898-1246

### KRC in 1999

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 5 PM..  
PLAN TO BE THERE.

## Here's What the Hall of Fame Looks Like



The Vocal Group Hall of Fame & Museum is conveniently located at 98 East State Street in downtown Sharon, Pennsylvania.

## Weather Information

Should the weather get bad this winter and become snowy or icy right before one of our shows, call the KRC telephone number at (717)898-1246 for a weather update and show operation status. We are planning to get the word out to Harrisburg, Lancaster and York radio stations. The phone message update will always be your most up-to-date source. When in doubt, call.

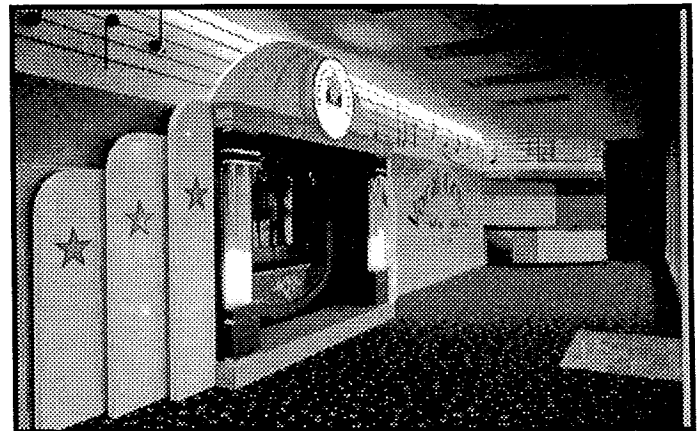
## KEY NOTES

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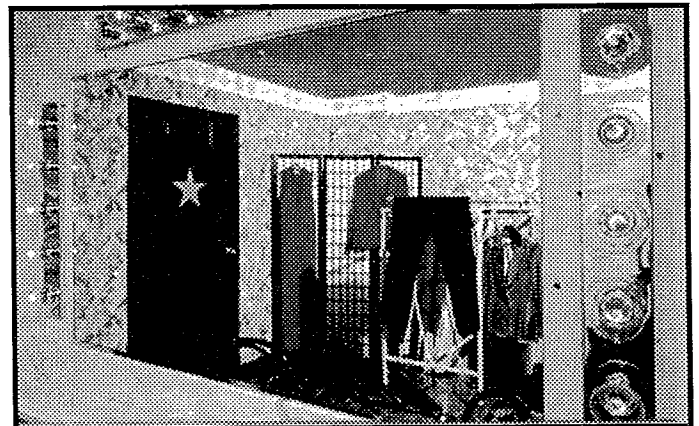
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Names in bold type are members of the Keystone Record Collectors

(Deadline for #111 is January 10)



Visitors to The Vocal Group Hall of Fame & Museum in Sharon, PA are greeted with a historic music video in a '50's style juke box exhibit.



The Stars' Dressing Room in The Vocal Group Hall of Fame & Museum in Sharon, PA, provides visiting vocal groups with the perfect "echo" chamber.

## -AWARD WINNERS- VOCAL MUSIC HALL OF FAME

The Pioneer of Musical Style Award Winners were:

THE BOSWELL SISTERS- accepted by daughter Helvetia Boswell  
THE FIVE BLIND BOYS OF MISSISSIPPI  
THE GOLDEN GATE QUARTET  
THE MILLS BROTHERS-accepted by Mills Brothers Int. Fan Club  
THE RAVENS-accepted by Warren "Birdland" Suttles, org. baritone  
SONNY TIL AND THE ORIOLES-accepted by Albert "Diz" Russell,  
member of The Orioles since 1954

The Class of 1998 Inductees were:

THE AMES BROTHERS - accepted by Ed Ames  
THE ANDREWS SISTERS  
THE BEACH BOYS - accepted by Al Jardine  
CROSBY, STILLS & NASH-(couldn't be present because presently in-studio recording new material)  
THE MANHATTAN TRANSFER - accepted by Tim Hauser  
THE ORIGINAL DRIFTERS - accepted by Bill Pinkney  
THE PLATTERS - accepted by Pat Benti, friend of Herb Reed  
THE SUPREMES

# Review of Vocal Group Hall of Fame First Annual Induction Ceremonies October 30, 1998 Sharon, Pa.

by Phil Schwartz

I received a call late on a Sunday night from Derek Shaw offering me the opportunity to represent KRC at the inaugural induction ceremonies to the new Vocal Group Hall of Fame. Having attended and thoroughly enjoyed the past two R&B Pioneer Awards dinners / award ceremonies, I quickly accepted the offer and took the approximately 300 mile trip west to Sharon, Pa. via I-81.

The Vocal Group Hall of Fame was the brainchild of Tony Butala, original member of The Lettermen, who enlisted the help of his friend and civic leader Jim Winner, Jr. Determined to rebuild the downtown Sharon area, beginning with a cornerstone which would attract music enthusiasts from all over the world, the two assembled a dedicated committee of local participants, including Linda Stewart-Savach, who serves as CEO of the venture. In December of 1997 the HOF opened its doors to a gathering of media who were invited to meet those who had played a critical role in developing this world-class facility. In May, 1988, the HOF was officially opened to the public.

Goldmine Magazine has been the closest national media partner to the attraction. Many KRC members may remember the official ballot earlier this year within the pages of Goldmine which enlisted reader opinions to aid the decision process for selecting inductees. In fact, upon arriving at the HOF at 10:00 AM for the celebrity interviews, Greg Loescher, Goldmine Editor and Chairperson of the event, was the first person I ran into. There were plenty of media representatives from Pittsburgh and Youngstown, including radio (WJAS is the official in-house station), and television. I had the good fortune to team up with Chuck Miller of Goldmine (Collectormania!), and Debbie Wachter Bonnie of the New Castle News, two knowledgeable music writers whose company I enjoyed as we guided each other through the interviews.



PHOTO # 1- (Left) "Diz" Russell and Greg Loescher, Goldmine Editor.



PHOTO # 2 - Ed Ames

All of the celebrities were extremely cordial and very accessible during the time prior to the actual ceremonies. Each interview could be an article of its own, so I have chosen to include only some noteworthy quotes regarding the photos included in this article. (See the flip side.)



Photo # 3 - (L to R) Tim Hauser, Manhattan Transfer; Al Jardine, Beach Boys; Tony Butala, Lettermen; Warren "Birdland" Suttles, Ravens.

The facility itself is first-class, laid out in three stories. Upon entering, the visitor is confronted with four large bronze statues of The Mills Brothers. The displays are enclosed within showcases around the perimeter of each floor, with side room attractions such as an in-house radio facility and a bar-restaurant. The items in the gift shop were tastefully done and reasonably priced.

The awards ceremony was emceed by Jack "Johnny Angel" Hunt, a local entertainer and promoter of vocal harmony. He was well-spoken, and aided by radio legends Jack "The Rapper" Gibson, and Martha Jean "The Queen" Steinberg, and by music executive/historian Jay Warner. (Award winners can be found on page 2.)



PHOTO # 4 - Bill Pinkney, original Drifters Bass with KRC's Phil Schwartz

The second day of the event was highlighted by a concert in Pittsburgh featuring The Original Drifters, The Lettermen, The Four Dots, and Johnny Angel & The Halos. I was not able to attend the second day, however I understand that ticket sales were going very well.

The Vocal Group Hall of Fame is a much-needed entity in the world of music appreciation. It occurred to me as I toured the facility that it should be a required visit for any college pop-culture or mass media course who could possibly get there for a day. One of the missions of the foundation, directly from the program is "helps to preserve the legacy of vocal harmony in our culture." As I toured the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland on three separate occasions, I realized how scant

Article continued on The Flip Side . . .

Vocal Group Hall of Fame - Continued from Page 3. . .

the recognition of vocal harmony is within that facility. I realize that organization must play to a much broader array of musical styles and interests, but one photograph of The Orioles and an album cover of The Coasters were about the extent of the representation of the earlier influences of this important musical heritage. Because of the close proximity to Cleveland, the two attractions actually offer a natural complement for the traveler.

What impressed me the most about the Vocal Group Hall of Fame? I think that it was the marriage of white and black groups of many different styles. Record collectors have seemed to gravitate to the Rhythm and Blues, small independent label, end of collectables, over the past 30-or-so years. I'm one of them! Yet, here there are fabulous memories of the great pop groups such as McGuire Sisters, The Four Aces, and The Hilltoppers intermingled with the Orioles, Ravens, etc. An additional feature I really enjoyed was at each display case, the visitor can push a button and hear a representative song from each act. This is perfect for the casual visitor or the spouse

who, even after years of coaching, has to fake that he or she actually remembers what that group's hits were. The memorabilia itself varied widely in authenticity and originality. Some displays, such as The Four Coins, were loaded with great photos and one-of-a-kind items. Others, such as The Clovers, need major work, sporting, for example, a Silver Spotlight reissue of "Love Potion No. 9". Still others, such as The Five Keys, are only under construction. Yes, even Central Pennsylvania's Pixies Three have a place. Now that the Hall has been established, hopefully the artists and the collecting world will come together to donate or lend authentic items.

This is an attraction you should not miss. The Hall is located at 98 East State Street, Sharon. A Barber Shop Harmony Hall is also under construction just across the street. You can contact a representative at (724)983-2025 by telephone, or (724)983-2030 by fax. It will be a worthwhile stop on a family vacation, or make a great trip for you and your friends who appreciate vocal harmony.

#### QUOTES REGARDING PHOTOS ON PAGE 3. . .

PHOTO # 1 - Albert "Diz" Russell of the Orioles(left), Greg Loescher, Editor, Goldmine (right). "Diz" Russell joined the Orioles in 1954 and is still performing as a member of the Legendary Orioles as the group celebrates its 50th anniversary. "Diz" talked about The Regals on Atlantic becoming the Orioles on Jubilee. Referring to the breakup of the original Orioles he said, "I can say it now, they're both gone to glory, but Sonny (Wright) and George didn't get along too good. Sonny was the star, but George wanted to sing (the leads). There was a little jealousy, you know, it happens with a lot of groups."

PHOTO # 2 - Ed Ames - Talk about how the Ames Brothers got their contract and their biggest hit for Coral Records: "There was a big musicians' strike, and Billy Crystal's uncle Milt Gabler, one of the top executives at Decca Records, hired us to sing accapella to fill in some of the parts (of the instruments). When the strike was over, they didn't know what to do with us, but they were about to start a new label called Coral Records. This was around 1948. We don't have anybody yet, so we'll take these kids and stick them on it. We were the only act they had, and we started to sell quite a few records. I have to tell you, it was in Pittsburgh, Pa. . . . at a small record store...and I'm sorry that I can't remember the name, but he was a wonderful man...he said I have two songs for you, one by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, and the other one by Mary Lou Harp. He said, if you boys will agree to do it, I'll pay for the sessions, and I'll guarantee that I'll sell enough records for you. These songs were "Rag Mop" and "Sentimental Me", both from the country field. Of course, it was a double sided hit, and from there we were on our way as recording artists."

PHOTO # 3 - During his acceptance speech, Tim Hauser of Manhattan Transfer talked about his inspiration for becoming a vocal group performer: being present at a rehearsal session for Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers when he was fourteen years old. "Just sitting there, listening to them create this sound . . . I knew that was something that I wanted to do." Tim is also an avid record buff and talked about growing up in New Jersey, and occasionally going "into the City to buy records at a place called Silm's (Times' Square) Records." There he could buy records that he couldn't find at home. "These were not records", he added, "these were treasures."

Al Jardine of The Beach Boys talked about the influence of the Four Freshmen. Asked if Murray Wilson (father of Brian, Carl, and Dennis) was responsible for any of the early arrangements, Al replied, "No, it was all Brian. We would sit down at the piano and work out all the harmonies, and he loved the Freshmen. So did we. We didn't like the Hi-Los that much. I don't know why. The Hi-Los were too high (laughs). They sang too high for us. the Freshmen were more in that mid-range... Our harmonies fit the Freshmen a little better...."

PHOTO # 4 - Bill Pinkney of The Drifters made the most emotional speech of the day when he accepted his award:

"Clyde is gone...the Thrashers are gone...and I just want to thank God. The reason that I want to thank God so much is that He has allowed me to live to smell the flowers."



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