

KEY NOTES

FEBRUARY 1996

ISSUE #93

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- Radio Fans Needed

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From the Editor's Desk



Will winter ever stop? This season has really been a piece of work. It all started with more snow than we usually get before the first of the year. Then South Central Pennsylvania gets two huge snowfalls dumping 50 inches of the white stuff that to me should only be reserved for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. A week later, the temperatures skyrocket creating flooding

conditions that would have impressed Noah! Yikes... what next? Well, we haven't had a tornado, hurricane, earthquake or monsoon yet. But then again, there's still over ten months of 1996 to go.

Many days before the January 14th show arrived, people were calling, asking if the show were still on. Three days to a week before – we didn't have an answer – nor can you expect us to. We don't want to guess or second guess what the show day might be like – we have to be **patient** and **wait** until closer to the show date.

President **Jack Supplee** did the right thing. He waited, talked to others, followed the news reports and then made his decision to cancel at noon the day before the show. That's about all the advance time we'll be able to provide. Our show thrives on local support from people living in the Lancaster, Harrisburg, York and Lebanon metropolitan area. They are the people we have to consider first.

This time, Jack's decision was made for him. The City of Lancaster banned travel on all roads in the city, however, the show is just outside City limits and some if not many people traveling to the show would have had to travel in or through the city to set to our site. (Yes, Park City Center is within City limits.)

Anyone traveling any distance has a few choices. If you are experiencing problems in your area, maybe you should stay home. You are welcome to call the club phone **after 12 noon** on the Saturday before any shows that could potentially be cancelled because of inclement weather. If you're a dealer you have another option: cancel and donate the \$20 per table rent to your club. It's an inexpensive donation that won't break the bank like some other shows. The bottom line is that everyone has to exercise common sense during adverse conditions.

Elsewhere inside this issue, you'll find an interesting story about getting doo-wop music on your satellite dish. I recently had a chance to listen to "The Saturday Night Stroll" show. The host is a 15-year old – yes, I said 15! He knows more about the doo-wop music genre than many people four times his age. P.J. Noce is a teenager that knows his music. Yes, he sounds young and a bit of a novice on the radio, but that's insignificant compared to the great sounds he shares with people in Central New Jersey and now everywhere thanks to the magic of satellite coverage.

Testing 1, 2, 3. Yes, we've had problems with the Lancaster Catholic High School cafeteria sound system that is used by **Dennis Emerick**. Now I'm told that school officials have spent a great deal of time and money this past month to get their sound system up to snuff. They found damaged ceiling speakers, faulty wiring and other problems that I'm told have been corrected. Starting today, you should be able to hear the improvement.

Next month is our first anniversary at Lancaster Catholic High School. I'm sure you'll agree that the site works well for our show. It seems that all sites have worked well for us at the time we were there. As we fine tune the show, we welcome your comments, suggestions, ideas and volunteer assistance. Just talk to any of the officers or stop by the club table. **Happy anniversary!**

Musically speaking,

B. Derek Shaw,
Editor, Club Publications

View From The Top

1996 got off to a rough start with our January show cancelled due to snow. The Mayor of Lancaster imposed a travel ban in the city until 6 AM Monday morning making it impossible to get the workers to the High School for set up preparations of the facility for Sunday's show. We were forced to cancel the show to avoid violation of the ban.

My personal feeling about show status in bad weather is that if at all possible, we should have the show even with limited participation. Our show draws from a large geographic area so the conditions are not the same everywhere. I feel that we owe the public that makes an effort to attend something for their effort. We should be no less loyal than they.

It is not easy to make the decision to cancel or to go. Either way, there are going to be a lot of unhappy people and either way it is a no-win situation. The KRC especially loses because of some of our fixed expenses.

Until next time... think sunshine.

– Jack Supplee, KRC President

THANKS FOR CHILLING OUT

Your KRC officer team thanks everyone (customers and dealers) for being patient and understanding (for the most part) during the recent "Blizzard of '96" cancellation of our January 14th show.

It is with a great deal of consolation and discussion that we occasionally have to cancel a show because Mother Nature doesn't deal us a good hand. On top of that, the City of Lancaster had a travel ban all that weekend.

When in doubt, either call the KRC phone number 610-589-5094 and listen to the recorded message, or tune into any Harrisburg, York, Lancaster or Lebanon area radio station for their weather cancellation listings.

Again, thank you for your cooperation.

KRC in 1996

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

LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE DURING EACH SHOW...

TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!

BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS EVERY OTHER SHOW AT 5 PM...
PLAN TO BE THERE.

You'll notice Mid Atlantic Music Events that normally is in this space, missing from this issue. Starting soon, we will unveil a Mid Atlantic promoter directly in this space. We plan to run it 3 times a year. If you need calendar information, consult *DISCoveries*, *Goldmine*, *Record Collectors Monthly* or *Record Finder*.



OVER HALF MADE IT: Four of the original seven Magnificent Men '60s blue-eyed soul group were in attendance at the "Class of '60 Somethin'" autograph party during the morning of our December 1995 show. They are one of four groups totaling 28 artists and musicians that worked on the first album release. (Left to right): Buddy King; Jim Seville; Bob Angelucci and Dave Bupp. Angelucci is in the currently popular group Class Act featuring Rita (Bob's wife). By the way, Volume Two of the "Class of '60 Somethin'" album is due out this spring.

Oops!

A gremlin must have jumped into the computer when our Show Dates Calendar for 1996 was being put together. After being out for three months, only one member detected the error. Marketmaster Steve Yohe quickly realized that we don't make a practice of holding our show on a Thursday (or a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday for that matter). The flyer says **November 14**. It should read **November 10**. I suspect this shouldn't steer too many people wrong.

As a rule of thumb our shows are **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS** the second **Sunday** of the month unless Easter falls on that day, then it becomes the third Sunday of the month. Also, if inclement weather forces us to cancel a show, we do not schedule a make-up date. The show resumes the following month.

KEY NOTES

#93, February 1996

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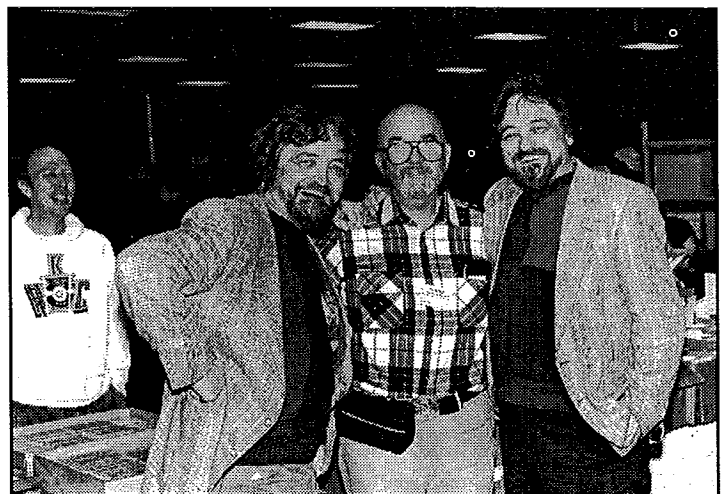
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Names in bold type are members of the Keystone Record Collectors
(Deadline for #94 is March 10.)

Between The Grooves

Compiled by B. Derek Shaw

Even after the first couple of plays I came to a very early conclusion about the "Class of '60 Somethin'" CD: Besides being well done, it is recorded much hotter than most CDs. The 28+ musicians and singers are already back in the 13 South George Street studio in York working on Volume Two. This disc will feature some covers of Carolina Shag tunes as well as the usual healthy diet of 60s soul....Bob Miles with Live Gold Productions plans to phase out producing CDs by the end of 1996. He will have 20 total titles in the Million Dollars Worth of Doo-Wop series, 10 titles in the Girl Group category and possibly do a new "Cruisin'"-type series featuring disc jockeys across the country. Even though he will be getting out of the CD line he plans to introduce new reproductions of 50s and 60s tour books and concert programs....Mr. Pittsburgh's Greatest Hits is at a new address. Those of you wanting to reach Travis Klein can now get him at: 6416 Landview Road, Pittsburgh PA 15217. 412-421-0755. He tells me that Volume 7 is just around the corner - can't wait....The new owner of the Keystone Music Exchange record shop is none other than KRC's own **John Hertzog**. John took over the Quentin Circle Shopping Center store in Lebanon right after the first of the year. On hand to help is girlfriend Lori and KRC first lady of telephone reservations, **Carol Hertzog** (John's mom). Good luck!....Last issue the rumor about Starview 92.7's (WHTF-FM) new format was oldies. Inside sources say it will be something that competes with the River (WRVW 97.3 FM). That's as much as we could get out of them....Farewell to yet another AM radio station. WSHP (1480) based in Shippensburg pulled the plug on December 31st, after serving Cumberland County for 35 years. Another one bites the dust....He's up and running again. **Don Mennie** gave everyone a scare at the December Arbutus show. He fainted not from high record prices but from what later turned out to be a detached retina. Don is recuperating nicely and should be back full force at the next KRC show (today)....That's all the news we could round up this time. Keep those cards and letters comin' (as the late Dean Martin used to say). Until next time, keep groovin'.



CAN YOU IDENTIFY the twins in this shot? No, the guy in the middle isn't one of them. Also at the December show we had an afternoon autograph party with the Kalin Twins. In the late 1950s they had a series of pop hits including: "When," "Three O'Clock Thrill," and others. They still look identical, making it hard for your editor to properly identify them. One is Hal, the other is Herb. The non-twin in the middle is Jack Supplee, KRC president and all around good guy. Looking on is Bob Atwater, the man responsible for arranging to get these Northern Marylanders to attend our show.

Doo-Wop by Satellite

by Paul "Skip" McComas

15 to 20 years ago I invested in a Satellite Television System. Yes, I was one of those nuts who wanted to be able to watch the uncensored versions of network TV, raw news feeds before editing, etc. Then everything interesting became scrambled and you had to subscribe to HBO like everyone else. But there was still great viewing of channels that were only on the satellites, and the audio sub-carriers allowed me to tune into radio stations from all over North America. There was only one problem. I could not find a doo-wop radio station anywhere! So for all these years, my satellite receiver was just a variation to regular broadcast on the cable.

Well, there is finally some good sense in the world. A little radio station in New Jersey that goes by the call letters of WCNJ put a good friend of mine on the air. His name is P.J. Noce. This young man is not old enough to drive a car, but he is what I call a walking doo-wop dictionary. Every Saturday evening from 4 PM to 8 PM on 89.3 and 91.9 on the FM dial you can listen to "The Saturday Night Stroll." This show is strictly devoted to doo-wop! I was happy as I could be until I tried to tune the show in. Well, as you might have already guessed, the station is not powerful enough to be picked up here in the York/Lancaster area. What a bummer.

A couple of months later, I get a phone call from P.J. The radio station is going to broadcast over the C-band satellite system, under the name of The Skylark Radio Network, on Galaxy 4, transponder 22. Needless to say, I turned on my Satellite Receiver, tuned it in, and there it was! I was happy again! And still am. Now, every Saturday night, I'm in doo-wop heaven. The programming during the rest of the week is a welcome change too.

For some of you out there that have a C-band Satellite Receiver, the Skyland Radio Network is listed in all the major Satellite Program Guides, in the Audio Sub-carrier section. I am not able to give you the exact sub-carrier frequency because my receiver is so old that it does not give readouts on any audio carrier. It just has idiot lights. Check your Program Guide for the exact listing.

Those of you who have a real powerful FM radio antenna tune into the above-mentioned frequency and you can go to doo-wop heaven.

X-Bat Hits Another Home Run

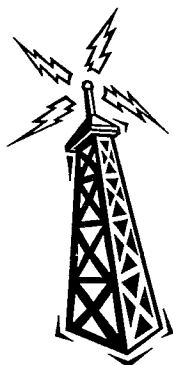
Phil Schwartz, President of X-Bat Records, has announced an agreement with Russ Golding, former General Manager of Bee Records, Reading, Pennsylvania, to re-release some of the material in the Bee catalog. The Bee label was operated by Russ and the late Grover Barbour from 1957-66.

The first release will be "Tell Me If You Know" b/w "That's A Teenage Love" by the Teen-Kings. Formerly released as Bee 1114/1115 in late 1959 or 1960, this has become one of the most sought-after records by group vocal collectors. The Teen-Kings record will be available in red plastic with an exact reproduction of the Bee label and custom sleeve.

Reportedly, there are less than a dozen known copies of the original record. Phil will have copies available at today's show in booths 30-31.



A CHARMING KIND OF GUY: From the Charm City, Baltimore (or very near it) is Marty Metee, long a regular at our monthly swap meets. Marty usually travels with Ray Quigley. He carries a great collection of vinyl, including a fair amount of hard-to-find items. Marty frequently publishes a set sale list for his customers that are looking for "heavy duty" items.



Attention Radio Collectors

Bob Miles from Live Gold Productions, Inc. (Million Dollars Worth of Doo-Wop, Girl Groups and Christmas CD fame) is at it again. Later this year he plans to issue a new CD series, and he needs your help.

Bob is looking for airchecks of radio disc jockeys from the late 50s and early 60s. He plans to release a series (a la "Cruisin'" -type) that will feature a different DJ each time. Some of the people he is especially looking for include: Murray The K, Alan Freed, the WMCA Good Guys (a New York radio station), Hy Lit, Joe Niagra, etc.

If you have any vintage recordings of these DJs or other major market talent from that time span, please contact him. Contribution credit and compensation will be given. You can reach Bob at: P.O. Box 5053, Inverness, Florida 34450-00503. His phone number is 904-637-3321 or you can fax him at 904-637-4291.

Revolution in the Head by Ian MacDonald (Holt, 1994)

Book Review by Greg Pennell

The first thing you want to know before reading anyone's rock biography should be "just who does the publisher think I am?" Am I someone's demographics? Did they aim above or below your taste? If above, will you feel more brilliant having read it? If below, will it be beneficial slumming or will it leave you with a strong desire to take a shower and deny any acquaintance? In this case, while deconstruction of the long-famous is certainly fun for the author, it has a limited appeal for the reader, unless written in a memorable style (read the hysterical *Full Moon*, a Keith moon bio of a few years back by Dougal Butler). All Beatles material is necessarily aimed at those who buy almost anything on them, those upon whom all sales projections are based, and they want to read nice. They want to know the same things they read in the last book on the subject in order to confirm they know more than the author. Following far behind this group are those with a mild interest, those with a passing interest and those who aren't interested at all but will read anything soaked in scandal or likely to pop up on Oprah.

So what we have here in *Revolution in the Head* is a book by a journalist who, for years, had no outlet to knock the Beatles simply because he wasn't reviewing rock seriously 30 years ago (and who was?). So now he finally vents his opinion, for instance, that 1968's "Across the Universe" is a tuneless and lyrically formless song that leaves him mystified as to why it was one of Lennon's favorites. He says the Beatles' attempts at "heavier" material (i.e. "Helter Skelter," "Come Together," even "I'm Down") are and always were, laughable; most songs pre-"Rubber Soul," according to MacDonald, were either insignificant hack-work or hysteria-enhanced minor league pop songs; their cover songs were always filler – even when he likes something he feels obliged to recognize it as a faint version of another song.

I don't say that he shouldn't be able to knock the Beatles; it's become one of the great indoor sports (along with Dylan, the Beatles are the only guaranteed sales outlet for shut-ins and anal retentives to write about 30 years ex post facto). It seems to me that in a book that sets itself up as a knowledgeable handbook to their works, there should be a loftier standard than "what I bloody well think of this song." The author holds no weight that I can find, by either reputation or persistence, among fans: he prowls and parades as though his opinions should hold weight simply because he gets them published by a major trade house. As far as I can tell, he's based his book on the books of others (Lewisohn's *Beatles Recording Sessions*, most notably), and has come up with a few original, factually-based insights. Instead, he tends to throw in references to his own ability to tell one note or chord from another – a questionable talent given his audience – and you are left wondering who he thought this faceless mass was destined to be – it certainly isn't academics, nor students of '60s pop culture (they all bought Lewisohn). In the end, I think it will be no one.

My opinion of this thing is that it's either overheated or undercooked, and is ultimately unnecessary; all of his best stuff is from other books, his research seemingly done in his favorite living room chair reading other people's work and using it to prop up and puff out what few original insights the guy ever had. The book looks to me like cynical publishing at its best – done strictly by formula and sales projections based on how the last book by the Beatles sold. And anyone who describes "Got To Get You Into My Life" as "a pastiche of... recent hits for the Supremes" is no one I'd follow lock-step into the sea.

Grade: C- for beginners
D for anyone else

Editor's note: Greg, from Haddonfield, New Jersey, has been setting up at our shows this past year or so. He has a real interest in promoting the hobby of music collecting. His reviews of music-related books will appear in our newsletter from time to time. Thanks, Greg!



#93, February 1996

P.O. Box 1516, Lancaster PA 17608

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