

METRO SPIRIT

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"

He needs to pack his stuff up and get out of Columbia County.

" -- Columbia County Commissioner Tom Mercer.

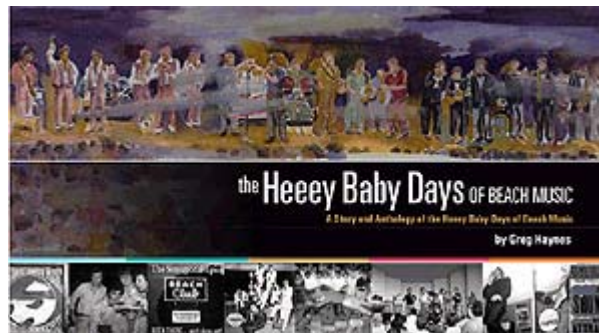


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'Heeey' day

'60s promoter produces veritable encyclopedia of little-known bands

BY ERIKA BOLIN



The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music
By Greg Haynes
Reviewed by Erika Bolin

Music has so many branches on its mighty oak. There are one-hit wonders and bands that had a chance to get it out of their systems before mortgages and car payments robbed them of their spur-of-the-moment youths.

In the '60s, a man named Greg Haynes helped promote many of these bands. It was a time when a film, a dance and a band were how teens spent their weekends. Good, clean, all-American fun. Well, that's what the parents thought.

It was rock 'n' roll in its youth — its pubescent years. A few friends would pick up an instrument and strum till their hearts' sang well enough to hit a stage.

The Southeast region was a hot spot for these bands. Most have fallen away to living on simply in our grandparents' scrapbook. A few still play at those common Fourth of July shindigs.

But whatever their current status, Haynes has made a dynamic record of these days, a history of the beach music.

Not that west-coast Beach Boys surfer tune turnings, but good-old twangy early rock from all the Southern region states. "White teens" were forbidden from listening to music by Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding or James Brown. Naturally, that created an offshoot first hailed in these parts as "Carolina beach music." The kids found their rhythm (and blues).

You read about bands such as Georgia's own The Pallbearers, The Tams, The Tip Tops, and King David and The Slaves. They were once big in the rec-hall world of venues.

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Left to right: Steve Cook - Sax, Robert Collins - Trumpet, N. Rod - Sax, Freddy Reynolds - Drums, Billy Mills - Vocals, Louis Perkins - Bass, Pete "Junior" Parker - Guitar

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In "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music," Haynes reaches out to dozens of these bands, and they responded with remembrances and vintage images. The stories are timeless. Back then, a working band without a record deal, also toured the open highways (and many pre-highway roads) in hot, cramped vans. Like today's grandchildren of the "indie" musical movement.

The result of Haynes' extensive research is this 552-page behemoth of a book jam packed with vintage images of these bands. It's a book as big as a table available for music enthusiasts. It's an encyclopedic-like whirlwind of information. And it's a great piece of musical history and not the kind made from the "big names."

If you are a music fan, this is a little slice that lives proudly next to the Rolling Stones, The Who and The Beatles. None included within HBDobM's pages reached that stratosphere of success or remain a household name today, but you can tell by their enthusiastic memoirs in the book that the trip was just as groovy for them without the Rolls Royces and the rolls of \$20 bills to use for fire kindling.

The book includes 46 rare recordings on two CDs. Ripete Records has also released an additional 17 CDs with 300 tracks.

"The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music," by Greg Haynes, is available at [Books a Million](#) and [heybabydays.com](#) (\$59.99).

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