

Glad I Made The Call

It occurred to me that maybe I really didn't want to make contact with Sonny Long, the guitarist and business manager of the In-Men Ltd. Band of Burlington, North Carolina back in the 60s. After all, I wanted to talk with him about the bomb that occurred in the Waycross City Auditorium in August of 1969. This bomb was not the one of an explosive nature but rather the kind which occurs when a musical act and a promoter are among the few attending a planned concert. It would have been a little self serving to have only written about those show and dances where the only fear was the fire marshal shutting the concert down because of too much attendance.

I'm glad I made the call because what resulted was a great story in chapter 12 of the book titled "Down In The Alley With The In-Men Ltd." Additionally, perhaps in a small way it helped rekindle conversations between members of that great band to get back together, talk, and if so moved, maybe strike up a note or two.

Well far more than a few notes have been struck over the last couple of years. And the cast has been extensive. With the exception of the late great Freddy Owens, virtually everyone that ever took the stage as an In-Men participated. They even brought in Linda "Quig" Quinlin James of Monzas fame for support. Freddy Owens widow Ada was also there for support. And what ever happened to the legendary horns of the In-Men Ltd? Well, just listen to the teaser and you'll recognize that fabulous brass section. The teaser medley that the webmaster of the Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music, "Captain Craig", has mastered will further remind you of how indeed talented the In-Men were back in the 60s and even now in the year 2006.

Here are some interesting tidbits about what you will hear on the teaser sound clip:

Lead vocals on "Rhythm" are supplied by Geoff Smith, son of keyboardist, "Moose" Smith. Background vocals are provided by the SAME gentlemen who supplied the original vocals on the original Major Lance recording of the Curtis Mayfield composition. YES, the background vocals are by THE IMPRESSIONS. How did that happen?

Is this another one of those stories that could have only occurred in "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music?" Actually, this occurred this year, 2006. The Impressions had been discussing with Tim Eaton and Studio East some new recordings when according to reliable sources; Tim asked them to hear the almost finished "Rhythm" by The In-Men Ltd. featuring the vocals of Geoff Smith. They loved it and told a surprised Tim that they had sung background vocals on the original recording for Major." Guess what the almost finished "Rhythm" needed? Right! Background vocals and WHO better to supply the background vocals than Fred Cash, Sam Goody and the Impressions. This is a true story in spite of such improbability.

We are so pleased to have the privilege of sharing at www.heybabydays a portion of Rhythm by the In-Men Ltd. Featuring the vocals of Geoff Smith and back ground vocals

of the legendary Impressions. The other three compositions will surprise you. Yes they are covers but these covers are designed for those who need to dance to the beat. One more little tidbit before you click to the sound. Lead vocals for "Superstition" are supplied by Eddie Middleton. For those unfamiliar with Eddie, he is a South Georgia legend who began his career in Albany, Georgia with the Seros. Bobby Joiner was also a member of that band. While Eddie was at Valdosta State he sang lead vocals during the school week with a band called R.C & The Moonpies. Other vocals in that part time band included Mickey Thomas who went on to sing lead vocals on Elvin Bishop's "I Fooled Around And Feel In Love." On the weekends, Eddie would meet up with Randall Bramblett and the rest of King David & The Slaves where they traveled the frat and party circuit. The Slaves were another legendary beach band whose membership included some other greats including Davis Causey on guitar and Harold Williams on Saxophone in addition to Middleton and Bramblett. Check out other members of the Jesup, Georgia based Slaves, The Jesters and The In-Men Ltd in the band directories. Before Middleton headed "Down Home" in South Georgia with Wayne Scarborough and John Smith, he had a stint with The In-Men Ltd. and now in 2006 returns with a cameo appearance with The In-Men Ltd. with "Superstition." After lining his shelves with awards received as a member of the Christian group, New Song, Eddie Middleton has primarily given his talents to a higher calling. We are thankful that he took his testimony and talents back for a brief revisit to the Heeey Baby Days.

Postscript: Thank You In-Men Ltd. for allowing us to share and remind the visitors to the site of how truly great the In-Men Ltd. were back in the 60s and how that talent even remains today. Watch for their NEW CD coming soon! WOW! I covered all that in less than a 1000 words!