

Third Quarter 2008 October 21, 2008

We just got a great letter from Buddy Skipper of Jetty Jumper Fame.

 **Buddy Skipper**
145 Presidio Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28412-2824

OCT. 17-08

Dear Gregg

I just received your magnificent book, wow!!! I can't wait to read about all of this awesome period which you have captured so beautifully in word picture and sound.

I have been richly blessed to have been a part of this experience you describe so well. I admire your talent and the time and energy that it took to create this awesome picture and document of a time and experience that is worth remembering and passing on.

Thank you so much for doing this and including "the Jetty Jumpers" in your masterpiece. Thank you for sending me this book. I will always treasure it in my memories of being part of something so cool -

God Bless -

Buddy Skipper
145 PRESIDIO DRIVE
WILMINGTON, N.C. 28412
910-799-0454

P.S. "DON'T Forget
"HONKERS & SHOOTERS"

Ready for Prime Time Department: Now, all the bands of The SEC and ACC should start playing the song. Why let LSU have all the fun ?

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=LSU+Hey+Baby&aq=f&oq=>

October 9, 2008

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NAMI WALK. We have gotten great reviews about the “Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music” T. Shirt. They really are nice and reflect the image of the book.

A nice note about the T Shirt from John Bradley of the Dynamic Consouls:

Greg,

I was happy to receive the HBD tee shirt today. Those miscreants that I play with will be jealous when I show up at our next get together.

The tee shirt is a small thing, but I believe it represents a great trait of yours. It reflects the generosity you have consistently shown throughout this whole HBD phenomenon. Thanks again for all your efforts.

**Best,
John**

The article that appeared in last Friday’s Atlanta Business Chronicle has just about finished off remaining books. Within a couple of weeks , we expect to post BOOK SOLD OUT at the site.

It appears that several other of the family of Biz Journals around the country picked up the article. Some are in areas that you would not think of when we talk about Southern styled Beach Music... such as: Dayton, Ohio, Phoenix, Arizona, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

We will soon update our listing of the stores where there are books. Many of the Barnes & Noble stores and Books A Million stores listed have sold out. We are very appreciative of the book’s success and its reception among fans of the bands that made the music so special.

Last Friday, we attended the memorial service for Eddie Peede, successful businessman and long time trumpeter for King David & The Slaves back in the Heeey Baby Days. Several former members of the band joined together to sing a song that he requested be sung at his memorial service. Former lead singers for the band, Jack Brinkley and Randall Bramblett were among those honoring Eddie in a great rendition of “My Girl”

Greg:

I haven't written in awhile but wanted to share a website with you. You may already know about this website.

Two weeks ago I was in Pensacola for the Battle of the Bands between the Layman and the Thirteen Hour Glass. Two of the older bands of which Tommy Ratchford was a member of both like we discussed earlier. Tommy told me about this website where he wrote a great article about Pensacola music in the 60s.

The show in Pensacola was great with most of the original members of both groups in attendance. A lot of other people from other bands were also there to enjoy the show. It was like going to a 30 year high school reunion.

I bought a copy of your book and gave it to Tommy since the Laymen were mentioned in the book. He still looks forward to talking to you and if you want I will send his email and phone number to you. They closed the show with "Double Shot" and dedicated it to my wife and I. That was great.

Next year I would like to book these bands myself along with the Swingin Medallions for one great show.

The website is:

www.60sgargagebands.com

let me know what you thiink.

Bill Kimmons

Bill,

First of all, I can't think of a better song to end a show with than "Double Shot (of My Baby's Love)" although Bruce Springsteen led off with it at a recent Charleston, S.C. show. I can understand its popularity down in your part of the country. A friend of mine,

Tom Senkbeil, said that he was down in P.C. in the 60s (presumably at the Old Hickory) and the Swingin' Medallions played it ten times one night. I didn't ask him if he had a few PBRs but it's the area where the song really took off. I certainly would like to talk with Tommy about his 60s bands; just sorry I didn't have the opportunity back when we were doing the book research. However, I am very aware that the gulf area was rich in the type of bands and acts that the book reprises. If we can get to a second edition, it would be natural to add a section between chapters 14 & 15 that deals with those bands.

Regarding www.60sgargagebands.com I am very familiar with that great site. Mike Dugo was very gracious in allowing us to use two of interviews in the book. Mike should publish his material as it is certainly great stuff.

I think your idea of having the Swingin' Medallions down there would be great. The band certainly keeps alive the spirit of "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music."

Regards,

Greg

Sad News to Share: Eddie Peede , trumpet player for King David & The Slaves passed away after a long and courageous bout with cancer. A highly successful Brunswick, Georgia businessman he was like many of the members of The Never Gonna Give it Up Club, he loved the music. He has requested that in addition to "Amazing Grace", that "My Girl" be played at his funeral.

The other long time trumpet player for the band, Russell Martin passed away just over a week ago. He too was a fighter in addition to one of Albany Georgia's top real estate brokers. He also loved the music and continued to play with his band, Relapse up until he could no longer.

Drummer Skip Davis of Soul Inc. passed away just over a month ago in Columbia , South Carolina. He wrote the terrific letter that is linked below . He was kind in comments about the book but I hope that he knows and that Eddie Peede and Russell Martin know that there would not have been a need for the book were it not for musicians like them.

http://www.heybabydays.com/Reader_Letter_01.pdf

All of these great musicians had heart and soul and now have a ticket (Chapter 25) to the party to end all parties.

We promise that the next comments that we post will bring better news.

Greg

Good to hear from you. I did not know you were in financials; I thought you were a dentist and a writer! Greg, I have 798 shares of Norfolk Southern Railway that was left to me in my parents will. It is the only stock I have. What is your advice to a 55 year old "beach bass player?"

**I hope you are doing well. Hows' the book sales?
Take care, from your 'ol Divot friend.**

Greg Slusher

Greg

You're wrong on all three! I am actually a broker of industrial properties for CB Richard Ellis in Atlanta, Georgia, Are you still in Texas? We have offices throughout the Lone Star state. However, sometimes I feel like a dentist because getting deals to happen can be like pulling teeth. As to being a writer, I guess a fraternity brother of mine said it best, "Haynes ain't no William Faulkner, he's is more of a Willie Tee." I would be proud to be in either's league! Good bless their souls.

I can say this much about your stock however. The two most successful investors I know besides Warren Buffett are my Dad and Gregory Slusher. That's because they own railroad stock... My Dad has had much success with CSX railroad stock as you have had with NS. At this time, my advice would be to hold the NS stock ... but again I am not a stock advisor. I do think CSX and Norfolk Southern have great ads on the tube. Railroads make sense especially with gas prices so high. However, a great investment would be to make a small contribution to NAMI per the attached letter.

By the way, Nora Marion and I were antiquing a few weeks ago and were on Bennett Street in Atlanta where there are so many shops. As I walked through one of them, I remembered the story that you shared in the book. The story was about the time that the Divots were playing Uncle Sam's in Atlanta and the night that a guest band came in and shared the bill. The guest band was Wayne Cochran & The CC Riders. The band's bass player asked to borrow your equipment so he would not have to unpack his for I guess what was a one set performance. How cool was it that the bass player for Wayne Cochran was Jaco Pastorius . What a show that was. I was thinking about that story as we browsed the highly partitioned antiques shop which was at one time a center for Atlanta's party time, Uncle's Sam.

As to the book, we are virtually sold out. We will make a decision on a second printing soon.

Regards,

Greg

Hey Greg!

First of all, let me tell you how nice it was to see you and Nora this past Saturday evening at the SC. State Museum. It was a very good crowd and I hope that translated into good "book sales" for you! I want to tell you that your book has taken on a life of it's own. Everyone raves about the book and the contents. You are to be commended for documenting this segment of music history!

The highlight of my evening was when you joined us on stage to perform "Double Shot Of My Baby's Love"! You are a "natural" and I heard many compliments about your dancing...lol! I hope our paths cross again in the near future and in the meantime, I hope success continues to be yours!

Musically Yours,

Gene Lee (Sensational Epics)



Greg with Gene Lee of Sensational Epics performing “Double Shot”
August 18, 2008

We had a “*Sensational*” time in Columbia, South Carolina at the State Museum of South Carolina this past Saturday night. Realizing that we were going into the heart of Gamecock country, we focused on music and not college football. The Epics lived up to the “*Sensational*” part of their name. These guys have not missed a step since 1963 when their great horns first blasted on the scene. Like the Jesters of Athens, Georgia, they feature great horns and solid vocals. If I didn’t know better, the Epics and Jesters use the same play list, a repertoire that is very particular to the music of “The Heeey Baby Days.”

One song that was on almost every play list in the South in the 60s is the national anthem of the party, “Double Shot” of My Baby’s Love made famous by the Swingin’ Medallions of Greenwood, South Carolina. The Epics have had it as part of their play list ever since their friends from down the way first recorded the song. The strong ties between the two bands go way back. Read about it in the book. On Saturday night, the Epics invited me to the stage to perform with them the classic song. The “Medallion Shuffle” is the dance routine that all good party bands know and do while playing the song. Photos of my performance of the Medallion Shuffle are on the site tonight. I can’t sing either!

Believe it or not, another performer was trying to compete with me Saturday night just down the road in North Charleston. Details can be found by clicking on the following link:

http://charleston.net/news/2008/aug/17/playing_selections_old_new_springsteen_d51167

Meanwhile, a few hours South at the Beach Music Festival in Jekyll Island, Georgia the authentic purveyors of the song were partying on ... perhaps playing song at the very time I was Medallion Shuffling with the Epics at the State Museum in Columbia and another performer was doing the same in North Charleston.

Unfortunately we didn't get to see all the other great performers on hand at the event but judging the response of the crowd, all performed spectacularly. Talk about getting you money's worth, Saturday night in Columbia was hard to beat. It was free! Courtesy of the State Museum. I missed "the Fever" with the great Georgia Prophet, Billy Scott but I did get his signature in the book. Billy has a serious case of "The Fever" going on! Caesar and the Sugar Bees, The Flashbacks , Natur Blu. William Taylor and Clay Brown rounded out what could only be described as an Extravaganza. Oh ! another great highlight was an incredible vocalist, Larissa Holliday .



Larissa Holliday performing at the State Museum of South Carolina

August 5, 2008

Greg, I am just thrilled to be reading HEEY BABY DAYS. It reminds me of so many bands and places that I've been, and enjoyed the party.

I remember many nights when Willie Tee slept over in the Lambda Chi house, not to mention Scotty Todd....the only time I ever heard Oh Charlena played live was by the Magnificent Seven in the Old Hickory....loved that band....saw them in Albany at the bowling alley a time or two. It's just a great book, and thank you for doing it! Good gosh, the pier at Daytona....the first time I saw and heard the Swingin Medallions, must have been 1967....I'll never forget, they play an instrumental that had sounds like Sea Gulls calling....I was amazed at them.

Now, two questions for you that come to me from all those years ago.....I once had a 45 rpm by the Medallions called I Found a Rainbow. Do you know it, or anything about it? Of course, I can't find it now. Two, the Pieces of Eight recorded Come Back Girl....who was the lead singer on that record? I saw the In Men in Cordele one night...blown away by them. Saw King David in Charlotte NC when Randall Bramlett was the lead singer, before Eddie joined them...I assume it was him.....short guy with blonde hair.

While I was at UGA I played for awhile with Harold DeLong, Joe West and Bill Harding, who had a band but I can't think of the name right now....old age being what it is.....these guys were from Gainesville GA, all Lambda Chis./ then later

had my own band with some guys from Macon who were frat brothers, called the Blue Cats....we just did reunions, birthdays, armory gigs for about 10 years.

By the way, the Seros (which later became Cotton), was originally composed of Bobby Joiner, Eddie Middleton, Stan Glass on piano, Mills Rooks on guitar, Steve Norman on bass and Mark Yarbrough on drums. Rooks was later replaced by Roy Stephens on guitar, Norman left and Stan Glass played bass on the piano. Don't think they ever did anything original as a group although Joiner wrote a pretty interesting tune called Give Herschel Walker the Ball, which he recorded. After the breakup, Eddie sang with Big Ernie Soul in Albany for awhile before going to King David....and I've seen him perform with New Song too.

Charlie

Charlie,

Thanks for the great email. It is really enjoyable when I get one about the book and the times that has so much substance such as yours. I am going to attempt answers to some of your questions without looking them up so if I err, I'll correct.

You'll recognize so many things in the book. Sorry to have to break this to you, but the Willie Tee that slept over at the Lambda Chi house was Willie T. Walker not the real "Willie Tee" Turbinton. See chapter 20 about page 384. A photo of Scotty Todd is also a few pages back. There is a great story about in Chapter 14 about the Magnificent Seven written by John Wyker. The instrumental that the Medallions did that sounded like sea gulls in the background was the "Sun, Sand & Sea" written by keyboardist and leader John McElrath. "Come Back Girl" was written by Carlie Barbour, guitarist for the POE. Not sure who sang the lead... it is on one of the 15 other CDs that comprise the Heeey Baby Days compilation series. It was probably Ken Helser (who sang lead on "Lonely Drifter") but it could have also been Steve Caldwell... I'll check) "I Found A Rainbow" is a song written by Ray Whitley. It was released as a single by the Medallions on the Smash label. I have a copy that you can borrow anytime.

I was not aware that the In-Men played in Cordele. I thought their only South Georgia gig was in Waycross in 1969 but I sure could be wrong. The In-Men Ltd. from Burlington, North Carolina were so good. They played Athens a lot and you'd be surprised to learn that they released a record last year that stayed at the top of the Beach Music top forty longer than any other release for the year. If you haven't heard "Rhythm" by the In-Men Ltd., you're in for a treat. You know that Eddie Middleton was with them after he left the Slaves. Randall Bramblett was the lead singer you remember with KDS. He was a student at UNC at the time.

I think the band you are referring to from Gainesville was the Rhodes Scholars. They are mentioned in the book by Marvin Taylor who plays with one of their former members, Steve McRae. We had a photo of the band scheduled for the book but the resolution was too weak for print.

We got the photo of the Seros too late to get it in the book. You can find it on the book web site: www.heybabydays.com Go to Bands click on the photo icon under Seros under Georgia. We also tried to get a photo of the Gants from Mississippi but sort of lost our shirts on that one too. We got a lot to do before the Second Edition comes out.

Thanks for sharing

Regards,

Greg

P.S. I would love to get any other comments from you about the book. We share many of the emails we get on the reader' comments section of the web page. It's a great to expand the knowledge base about the era, bands and music.

July 21, 2008

We had a great time in Augusta on Saturday night. I finally got to meet Archie Jordan, composer of some terrific songs for the Tams, Ronnie Milsap and others. Archie signed his photos in the book when he was a member of the Intruders and Second Nature. What all star bands they were ! and Second Nature continues to this very day led by Beach Music Hall of Famer, Tommie James. Just a couple of weeks ago while in Aiken, I got Mike Stewart to sign a couple of copies of "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music." Soon, I'll get Stuart Harris and others from the famed Aiken, South Carolina to sign the book. When most people think about the Intruders, they think of the vocal group that sang the Beach Music classics, "Cowboys To Girl", "Always Together" and others. But can you name another band from "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music" that had THREE band members that went on to write Number One Country hits Jordan did for Ronnie Milsap; Stewart did for Ronnie Milsap; and Harris did for Travis Tritt, Mickey Gilley, Wyonna Judd and Waylon Jennings.

Johnny Hensley and the Red Hots put on a great show for the sold out Augusta crowd. Check out the photos.

July 18, 2008

George Croft of Pallbearer fame invited us to come to Augusta Saturday night for the 50th anniversary of Johnny Hensley & the Red Hots. We have taken George up on the offer. He told us to bring some of the books because the Barnes & Noble and Books A Million stores in Augusta were sold out... so we will. Look for us at *The Heey Baby Days of Beach Music* banner. Click below for more information about the event.

http://www.metrospirit.com/index.php?cat=1993101070588705&z_Issue_ID=11010807080454106&ShowArticle_ID=11021507083271270

We continue to find great stories on the internet that connect to the book, the bands and music of The Heey Baby Days of Beach music. One very good one written by Ben Windham of the Tuscaloosa News about Wilbur Walton Jr. may be accessed by clicking on the link below. We appreciate Ben's comments about the book.

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20080523/tusk02/278636859>

July 9, 2008

Nora and I had a great time on July 4th in Aiken South Carolina at the Rose Hill Estate where several outstanding performers played for the benefit of the Wounded Warrior Project building the Fisher House to assist families of hospitalized veterans. See the photos from the event: Clifford Curry, Rhonda McDaniel, and Mike Stewart What a Great Show!

http://www.heybabydays.com/photos_182.htm

Thanks to Steve and Ava Mueller for their hospitality and deejay Tony B. for his help as well. . What a great venue is Rose Hill! They have great Beach groups at up upcoming events so check them out. Several people brought books that they had already purchased at Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and other stores which we were delighted to sign.

Prior to the event, our friend, Don Rhodes, of the “Augusta Chronicle” wrote a great story about the book. Check it out at IN THE NEWS or click below.

http://www.heybabydays.com/HBD_Augusta_Chronicle.pdf

At the event, we were interviewed by columnist, Rachel Johnson of the “Aiken Standard.” She captured the essence of the book and we thank her for that. Check out her story at IN THE NEWS or click below.

http://www.heybabydays.com/HBD_Aiken_Standard.pdf

Over thirty publications have now written stories about the book of which we are most grateful.

In the near future, we will be added additional photo to the web site so look for that.

Also, we heard a great new cut by the In-Men Ltd. but we can't talk about it yet. Some other outstanding cuts were made when the In-Men Ltd. Cut “Rhythm” (with help from the Impressions and lead vocals by Geoff Smith) There are additional cuts with the outstanding vocals of Geoff Smith as well as sister, Suzanna Smith. Yes, “Moose” Smith's children. Talent runs deep. Other vocals by the one and only Eddie Middleton that is guaranteed to get a buzz south of the gnat line.