

## ■ BOOK REVIEW

## New book recalls tales, songs of '60s Southern beach music

When Greg Haynes set out to write down the stories he remembered from his days promoting concerts in the Waycross area and later at the University of Georgia in the late '60s and early '70s, he had no delusions of grandeur.

"First of all, I'm not a writer, never was," Haynes, an Industrial Real Estate agent in Atlanta, said. "I didn't know a dangling participle from a swimming fish. My idea was to write down some of the stories I remembered from those days and hopefully come up with a small, comic book-sized paperback book. I figured I'd give out about 10 copies to my friends and my dad."

Five years after he started writing down those stories, Haynes has come up with a classic of a book for any person who loved Southern "Beach Music" in the mid- and late '60s. And "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music: Stories and Remembrances of a Southern Music Genre" is a good bit more than comic book-sized; the 553-page, coffee table-ready, 11-by-17-inch, 12-pound tome is filled with enough photos, souvenir reprints and anecdotes to keep music lovers entertained for days.

And if they want a break from reading, there are two CDs included in "The Heeey Baby Days" package, filled with 46 rare and essential songs from the era.

The treasure trove of music and memories, courtesy of Rare Reads Publishing of Atlanta, sells for \$59.95 and is available online at [www.heybabydays.com](http://www.heybabydays.com).

"It's amazing to me what this turned into," Haynes said. "I have so much passion for that period and that music, I thought I'd just write down some of my memories. But when I started calling up some of the people in these bands, this thing just took on a life of its own."

"I didn't know what the

reaction would be, but there was so much enthusiasm. It became, 'You know, you really should call so-and-so and talk to him' when I'd finish talking to a musician. I became like a trustee, one who gathered the stories."

And what great stories they are. From the early days of the regional Beach

Music craze with bands like King Davis & the Slaves (featuring a young Russell Martin on trumpet), the Candymen, the Swingin' Medallions, the Tams to memorable concerts at the jam-packed Radium Springs Casino to a state-by-Southern-state rundown of

bands to the legendary Beach Music venues, the era comes alive in "The Heeey Baby Days."

Haynes, as it turns out, is the perfect "trustee." He alternates between his own vast collection of stories and memories to letting the musicians tell their own tales.

"I got involved in promoting the shows to make a little money for the weekend, but, heck, my main reason was the same as the musicians': It was a great way to check out the girls," Haynes said. "There were plenty of ups and downs along the way, but, man, it was such a great experience."

"I thought my involvement gave me a fairly good base of knowledge, but I found out what I knew was minute compared to the body of information these guys who played in the bands had. I was e-mailing one musician back and forth, and all of a sudden he sent me a story about how his band got its equipment and about this wild frat party his band played at Georgia Tech. It hit me: This is the way to go; let the musicians tell their stories."

"The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music" takes its readers along for the ride, and it's a ride music lovers won't want to miss.

Haynes will be in Albany today for a book signing and private reception.



CARLTON FLETCHER