

It Ain't Fair

(to be stuck out in the lobby signing books when "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music" Road Show is in session)

It was beyond spectacular. It seemed like there were a zillion people there but it was probably only a thousand or so ... which is not that many considering there were almost a thousand great bands from Burlington in 1967. Seriously, this was event for the crème de crème of Beach Music. I dare not list the performers in attendance because I will surely miss one but there must have been at least one hundred of Beach Music's finest.

The musicians that performed and those who attended Sunday's Burlington event were the "who's who" of The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music. We tried to get as many signatures as possible in the two official Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music autograph books. One of the books will be auctioned at a later time for the benefit of NAMI.(National Alliance on Mental Illness). The other was purchased by Rare Reads for \$1,000 in November for the benefit of The Atlanta Study Hall. We had a great time but had to leave early because of our flight schedule. Both Nora Marion and I had to be back in Atlanta on Monday morning for meetings. We spent our time signing books for the masses of kindred souls from the Burlington/Greensboro area that turned out.

UNFORTUNTANTLY, because of our early departure, we surely missed out on quite a bit and over the next week we will be offering the comments from those who attended and didn't get stuck out in the lobby signing books. We are grateful for all those who are buying the book and we are honored to sign the book but what would you rather be doing: signing a book in a lobby or watching Ken Helser sing lead on "Lonely Drifter" with many members of the original Kallabash Corporation. (Incidentally, Ken Helser sang lead on the 1967 cut by the Pieces of Eight.) Although I only got a glimpse of the performance, Kallabash was fully clothed and OUTSTANDING. I also got a brief look at Susan Trexler performing the new arrangement of Donny Trexler's "Inventory on Heartaches." Wow! Personally, I like both arrangements of the song.

And speaking of great ladies of the genre, The "First Ladies of Beach Music" were both there. Also in attendance were many original members of the great bands: In-Men Ltd., the Monzas, the Playboys, the Alpacas, the Weejuns (including the "godfather" of Burlington bands, Don Miller), the Magnificents, and more that we will name through the week. Other great personalities of the genre were there as well such as one of the great promoter/club owners, Bill Kennedy, the great deejay of the era and area, Charlie Brown, the great historian and philosopher, John "Fessa" Hook (He is writing more books about Beach Music and they will no doubt be as good as his current one, "Shaggin' in the Carolinas" . This was a night of the All -Stars !!!!!!!!!!! More to come...

We are hoping to add photos from the event to the web site from those who will send them in. There were so many flash bulbs popping, I was almost positive that Charlena was somewhere around there. Stay tuned throughout the week as we hope to report on more from Burlington, North Carolina.