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## **'Heeey Baby'** **New book chronicles history of beach music**

Before it was called beach music, it was rhythm and blues or soul music, and people in the South wanted to hear it, play it and dance to it. Sumter was no exception in the 1960s, where beach music took off with such bands as The Jackstones, The Villagers, The Duprees, The Marquis, The Footnotes in all their incarnations and numerous other groups.

Beach music is still popular, and many of the same musicians are playing it. The Footnotes of Sumter and Second Nature, based in Camden but with deep Sumter roots, are just two of them. Both are included in the new history of beach music titled "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music," named for the song made famous by the late Bruce Channel ("Hey, heee—ee—ee-y, baby, I want to know if you'll be my girl)."

Greg Haynes, who was briefly a band promoter more than 30 years ago, said he was prompted to write the book about the beach music phenomenon because, as it says in his biography "... if someone didn't make a permanent record of the unforgettable music, times and events of those days in the Southeast, the memories would be lost forever."

Tommie "TJ" James, keyboard player and manager of Second Nature, still has lots of those memories. In fact, they make up a good portion of the chapter on South Carolina in Haynes' massive tome recently released by Rare Reads Publishing of Atlanta.

The book is almost as huge as the beach music phenomenon itself — it's the size of a board game and weighs 12 pounds, and it's full of pictures, many furnished by James, and essays, including those by James and Sumter native and longtime Footnotes guitarist Charles Stafford. And Haynes intimates in his introduction that there may be another volume yet to come.

This one will keep you busy for a while, though, especially if you listen to the two compilation CDs included while browsing the hundreds of photos and essays. Readers will recognize many of the bands from around the Southeast, along with some nationally known performers who play or played rhythm and blues — Bill Pinkney, Jackie Wilson, Jerry Butler, The Tams, for example. Even the Rolling Stones covered American soul music — there are several photos of them playing a party at Georgia Southern College shortly before they released "Satisfaction."

"I know a lot of the (beach music) guys," said James, who is one of the founders of Second Nature, a perennial favorite beach music (and variety) band that is still much in demand. You can read almost his entire musical history in the book.

That history began in Sumter when he played with the Marquis and Nomads/Duprees at Edmunds High School. While taking a break from Clemson, he helped form a six-piece Sumter band called The Footnotes. Soon after, he joined the Caravelles at Clemson. In 1967 he joined The Persians, then reunited with some old Marquis and Duprees to form Second Nature in 1971. Many of those musicians' names will be familiar to Sumterites: James, Buzz Arledge, Charles Stafford, Hank Martin, Archie Jordan and Tom Graham.

James has been waiting for the book's publication for almost a decade.

"Greg and one of his assistants came to visit me about eight years ago," James said. "I had all this stuff in a trunk in the attic, and Greg had heard that we traveled on a bus, and he even wanted a photo of the bus. I wrote a couple of things (for the book)."

He laughed, pointing to photos of the Caravelles' orange touring bus.

"They were really intrigued by that old bus."

There is also a copy of the "set list," songs the band played.

"It was interesting — back then, no matter what state you were in, most of the bands covered the same songs," James pointed out.

And many of them are still performed today, as habitues of Sumter@Six know. Songs in the Caravelles' list include "Double Shot (of My Baby's Love)," "Stubborn Kind of Fellow," "Stay," "My Girl," "Thank You John" and "May I." "We called it soul music, and a lot of those tunes are now called beach music," James said, as he pointed out several other photos.

"Here's The Jackstones and The Villagers," he said. "They kind of merged to form The Footnotes."

Amy Whitaker played guitar for The Villagers and The Footnotes.

"My guitar was an orange Gretsch Country Gentleman. All the guys were playing one, too, because that's what George Harrison played then."

She recalls that The Villagers grew out of a band called The Mellotones that started at McLaurin Junior High School in the early '60s.

"I was 13," Whitaker said, adding that "Steve Mims, the only drummer I ever

played with in a beach music band, was about 12. He is an incredible drummer."

Whitaker listed Mims with Tommie James and Charles Stafford as the best musicians she's played with. For his part, James remembers Whitaker as "one of the best guitarists I've performed with."

She was probably the only female guitarist he played with, too.

"I'm pretty sure I'm the only female who played an instrument with a touring beach music band," Whitaker said Wednesday from her home in Orlando.

While it was an experience she cherishes, she said it had good and bad points.

"The frat boys in the audience would laugh and point and say 'That's a girl!' until I started playing," she recalled. "Then they'd stop laughing. Oh, the boys (in the band) complained a little about having to pay for extra hotel room just for me, but they were really a great bunch. I loved it. I love music."

Whitaker also recalled The Footnotes playing with some other outstanding musicians.

"Jackie Wilson ('Higher and Higher') was phenomenal. Billy and Barbara (Scott) and the Georgia Prophets, they were great. There were so many." While Whitaker said she made enough money with the bands to "buy my own schoolbooks and pay the rent (after high school)," James actually has the ledgers he used to manage the Caravelles' finances.

"I found this in the bottom of a box," he said, pointing in the book to a photo of a ledger page he kept "while I was manager of the Caravelles for a few years. This is my crude accounting system about where we played, how much we were paid and where the money went."

The ledger shows the Caravelles making \$350 for a fraternity party in 1966.

Other photos also stir memories for James.

"This is Charles Stafford playing with Billy Stewart in about 1969. ... Here's a picture of me and Joe Jackson with Major Lance. This picture shows me at the 1968 Mayewood High School junior-senior. I played (keyboards) with The Footnotes because Bert (Taylor) was off at college and couldn't make it."

Haynes' book covers bands in each of the states where beach music thrived, and there are chapters on popular clubs and a scrapbook of pictures of "The Party to End All Parties" and "The Never Gonna Give It Up Club."

The places where the bands played include Cecil Corbett's Beach Club, Pawleys

Pavilion, The Coachmen and Four, The Pavilion, The Pad and The Bowery in Myrtle Beach.

One of James' favorite photos is of the Caravelles playing at the Pawleys Island Pavilion.

"This was the last one," he said. "It burned around 1970. We played every Easter weekend. This picture showed up in a gift shop outside of Pawleys Island. If you get a magnifying glass and look closely, it says 'The Caravelles, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 24th, 25th and 26th.'"

Second Nature, The Footnotes, Billy Scott, The Joe Pope Tams, Bill Pinkney and the Original Drifters, the Men of Distinction and Haynes' personal favorites, The Swingin' Medallions, are still playing festivals and parties around the Southeast.

"The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music" is an unabashed celebration of the "('60s) party bands that played great R&B music," Haynes freely admits.

"We didn't call it Beach Music then. But that's what it was — it was the music of the party."

*"The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music" is available in Sumter at Pizza Lane and Standard Music. It sells for \$59.95, has 552 tabloid-sized pages and weighs 12 pounds. The three CDs included with the book are housed in a specially designed art card affixed to the inside back cover. The CD booklet is also included.*

*To order by mail, send a check or money order for \$69.95 (includes postage) to: Rare Reads, 203 Townsend Place, Atlanta, GA NW 30327. To order by phone with your Visa or Mastercard, call Nora at (404) 261-6236. An order form can also be downloaded from the Web site, [www.heybabydays.com](http://www.heybabydays.com).*