

## Will The Number One Soul Band Please Report To The National Guard Armory



Very strange, I thought when I first came across the flyer advertising a show and dance at the Oak Grove, in Bailey, South Carolina. A few things immediately caught my eye such as the claim that if you attended this deal, “You will see everybody in the world at this dance.” I knew that Jet Set Enterprises, the event promoter, might be stretching it a bit, but I was not going to cast any stones because I had taken a few liberties as well when I was promoting bands during that period of time. In fact, on that very night in January of 1969, I was only 80 miles away promoting my own show featuring the “World Famous” Tams and their 17-piece revue. You can read all about it in *The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music* in a story titled “No, Sweat, Sweat.” Another thing that attracted my attention was that “All Attendance records would be broken for this one.” We had over 1500 attending the Tams Show & Dance at Southern, I bet that there were not that many

at Oak Grove... But the thing that attracted me the most on the dance flyer was the claim: **Mouse, The Boys & Brass: The #1 Soul Band in Southeastern America.**

Oh no! Here we go again. How many bands are going to make that claim or a similar one. Should I dispute the claim on the flyer? I saw Mouse, The Boys & Brass several times back then and I will vouch for them being a first class soul band. Mouse did a very good cover of JB's "Try Me." I must confess that I knew quite a bit about soul music back in the 60s. I think that's why I added a little tag line to the radio spot for a dance Robert Adams and I were promoting in 1967 featuring **King David & The Slaves, the #1 Soul Band in Georgia.** We were a little more conservative than Jet Set Enterprises, confining our claim just to Georgia rather than the entire Southeast.

Hear the ad promoting that dance at <http://www.heybabydays.com/sounds.htm>  
However, about 7 or 8 months later, a local radio deejay Wayne Scarborough introduced the **Swingin' Medallions** to a packed Waycross City Auditorium as the **Number 1 Soul band in the South.** Hear Wayne's introduction of the band at <http://www.heybabydays.com/sounds.htm> Double Shot "live"

It was my gig but I did not ask Wayne to say that about the band. Since he was also the bass player for King David & The Slaves, it was a little confusing to me that he would refer to another band as the Number 1 Soul Band especially in light of the fact that I had already given his band that title.



However, about the time Robert Adams and I were promoting the King David & The Slaves show at the Waycross Recreation Center, a band from Alabama rolled in with a van that claimed them, The **Rockin' Gibraltars**, to be the **#1 Soul Band in The South**. I saw them too and it would be hard for me to dispute their claim especially when their lead singer, Sonny Grier, did his James Brown medley. What really confused me was the statement that the Rockin' Gibraltars' drummer, Bobby Dupree, made for the book, "**The Best Soul Band was the Rubber Band.**" I should have asked Bobby if he really believed that the Rubber band was the best soul band, then why did they have on the band's van that the RGs was #1. He'd probably give me some kind of BS like, "Well Greg, The Rubber Band may have been the best but we were #1."

I decided to cease my research for the #1 Soul Band because the claims of being the Number One Soul band would grow. There's only one-way to settle this for once and for all. We'll battle it out. So I am going to issue a challenge. Will the #1 Soul Band please report to the National Guard Armory ? ( James Brown capes will be provided)