



Readers' Comments First Quarter 2008

2008: The Year We Round Up More Members of The Never Gonna Give It Up Club

Comments March 18, 2008

Unfortunately we have gone through a dry spell in which we have not heard from many members of the illustrious Never Gonna Give It up Club. As we print in bold above, 2008 is dedicated to rounding up more members of bands from the Heeey Baby Days especially those that are still performing. A few days ago we struck another vein of gold and now we add the legacy of the Caravelles of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Another band of Carvelles from Charlotte, North Carolina

Discovering more active members of The Never Gonna Give It Up Club. Today featuring the Caravelles from Charlotte, North Carolina



The Caravelles of Charlotte North Carolina

Although the photo above appears in the book in the section of the book called “More Great North Carolina Bands,” we really only recently got additional information about the band from its originator Bob Cook, an attorney in Atlanta. Incidentally, Bob fully qualifies for membership in The Never Gonna Give It Up Club. He and former Catalina, Mark Alexander are members of the Atlanta Swing Orchestra. I wish the Internet had been working a little faster back a few years ago as we would have had a great additional photo for that prestigious club. www.atlantaswing.org

Here follows edited emails between Bob and I. Subsequently, I brought Tommie James of Second Nature and business manager for the Clemson based Caravelles of the 60s into our email conversation. I originally thought the Bob’s band had been connected in some way to that band but there was actually a third band of Caravelles, some members of which had been in the Clemson band. That was the band the Bennett brothers started in Kings Mountain North Carolina.

Greg,

Is it possible to obtain a copy of the picture of my band listed as "Courtesy of Jeff McNeill" in your book? A friend of mine here in Atlanta, Mark Alexander, former drummer with the Catalinas, showed me the picture. Mark and I currently play together in the Atlanta Swing Orchestra).

Thank you,

Bob Cook

Bob,

I just looked at www.atlantaswing.org It's a great site. We have an update section of www.heybabydays.com called the reader's comments section. Next week, we'll add a comment about you and Mark being members of the Caravelles and Catalinas and now being members the Atlanta Swing Orchestra... I see that you are a member of State Bar of Georgia. My wife and I are pictured in the current issue of State Bar Journal in an article titled "Less Than the High Museum."

Regards,

Greg Haynes

Note: I also mentioned to Bob that I lived close by and that he, Mark Alexander and I should get together at the O.K. Café and talk about the good old days of R&B. (The Heeey Baby Days)

Greg:

Small world. I'd love to get together with you and Mark at the OK or elsewhere. Yes, I've been practicing law in Atlanta since 1971, first with Troutman Sanders, then Parker, Johnson, Cook and Dunlevie and since 1996 with Womble Carlyle.

The Charlotte Caravelles were not related to the Clemson Caravelles. The Charlotte Caravelles were started in 1961 by me (manager, sax and piano), my brother, Tommy Cook (rhythm guitar), Phil Chadwick (lead guitar), Ellison Honeycutt (vocal and piano), Jamie Farquharson (vocals), Mark Wender (sax) and Mike Pittard (vocals/trumpet). I can't remember who played bass or drums originally. We were all students at East Mecklenburg. We were not aware of the existence of the Clemson Caravelles. We were looking for a name and after a trip to Myrtle Beach during which I had seen a number of billboards for the Caravelle Motel, I suggested the name which stuck.



The Caravelle Resort in Myrtle Beach
Namesake for the Carvelles of Charlotte, North Carolina

We played a number of gigs in S.C. including Anderson, Florence, Rock Hill, Myrtle Beach (Beach Club and Pavilion). I hope they weren't expecting the Clemson group.

We were booked by Ted Hall Productions. The picture in your book was done for Ted Hall's promotion efforts, so I expect his files were your source. He put us into the Joker's Three Lounge in Greensboro, a number of fraternity parties, Park Center and various jr. sr. proms in Virginia, NC. and S.C.

As members graduated from high school, we added new members. Mike Mallonee (drums) went to Country Day or Myers Park, John Cisne went to Meyers Park. Chip Carter (vocal) and Barry Farr (vocal and sax) went to Garanger.

I was the manager and organizer. Ellison was the musical director. At the end of the summer of 1964 after we graduated from East Mecklenburg, the group disbanded. We did have a couple of gigs that summer and had to cobble together a group. Nat and Bobby Spear of the Riveria's subbed in for one gig. After the gig, Nat said that he was putting together a group to go on the road and tour. He asked Ellison and me if we would consider putting off college for a while and touring with him. Neither of us accepted his offer. I went on to Duke and Ellison to Carolina. Ellison started a band at Carolina and I gigged with him once.

After that, other things (college, marriage, law school, law practice, four kids) took priority, and I wasn't able to pick up the sax again seriously until my 4th child went off to college. Since then, I started the Atlanta Swing Orchestra (a 17 piece big band). Mark Alexander also from Charlotte and formerly the drummer for the Catalinas is the drummer for the Atlanta Swing Orchestra.

I'll try to collect more information from the members of the Charlotte Caravelles. If I learn anything interesting, I'll pass it along.

I sent a copy of Bob's email to Tommie James of Second Nature because I knew that he would be as surprised about another band called the Caravelles just as Bob was about the Clemson Caravelles. Interestingly, both bands were formed in 1962 and played some of the same venues (Beach Club, Myrtle Beach) but were not aware of one another. Another oddity only possible in the Heeey Baby Days.

E –mail from Tommie James of Second Nature to Bob and I:

Hello Greg & Bob,

Thanks for copying me on the info about the group from Charlotte that existed from 1961-64. I joined The Caravelles of Clemson during the '64-'65 school years, and as you have mentioned was business manager in '66-'67. I left Clemson and the Caravelles after graduation in the summer of '67.

It is interesting to learn that the Charlotte group was booked by Ted Hall of Hit Attractions, because when I joined the Clemson group, they were also being booked by Ted Hall. I don't know exactly when that arrangement began, but I inherited it when I became business manager.

It would have been unusual for 2 groups by the same name to be represented by Hit Attractions at the same time, so maybe The Caravelles of Clemson began the relationship with Hit upon the demise of the Charlotte group, and maybe even owe some of their success to the Charlotte Caravelles' name recognition + previous success with Ted Hall. The Clemson Caravelles enjoyed tremendous success during my tenure and for several years after I left. I always thought it was because we had a great band, and have never known that there was a Charlotte group by the same name in the early 1960's.

You are also aware that another group of Caravelles was started by the Bennett brothers of Kings Mountain, NC around 1969, and I believe the Clemson group also continued to exist into the early 1970's with Harry Parker as lead vocalist for most of the 10+ years of the Clemson Caravelles' existence.

The Bennetts were in the Clemson Caravelles when I joined, but left about a year before I did. The Kings Mtn. Caravelles were also represented by Hit Attractions according to a brochure I saw around 1970. I went to see and hear this group once and thought they were good, but in my opinion the Clemson group was better at around the same time and until it disbanded. I don't know what happened to the relationship between the Clemson group and Hit Attractions after I left, but it was very strong as of mid-1967.

As described in the HBD book, The Caravelles of Clemson also originated around 1961, and I believe I heard from someone that they chose the name from a car model called a "Caravelle" that existed at the time.



The Caravelle was manufactured by Renault beginning 1959 , namesake for the Clemson Caravelles

I will try to confirm this by contacting one of the original members, now that we know who they all are (thanks to Chip Collins).

I'm also intrigued by the description of the personnel in the Charlotte Caravelles where there was at least one connection to The Catalinas which originated in 1958. They were among my first musical heroes, and several of them from the early '60's became my life-long friends.

I can relate to the fact that some of the original Charlotte Caravelles have either continued or renewed their musical endeavors by playing in a live band.....more proof that no matter how old you are, when it "gets in your blood", it never goes away! I hope to hear them play and meet them in person some day.

Musically, "TJ"

Tommie James
Second Nature
Camden, SC

Comments February 22, 2008

THANKS TO THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SEND INFORMATION TO US ABOUT THEIR BAND OF THE HEEEY BABY DAYS. Here follows recent submissions (using the site contact form). We will be adding this information to the band directories. There are hundreds of other 60s bands who played the music of the Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music. Send Info, send photos. Here follows recent information received that will soon be found in the directories:

The Original Dedications, Greenville, Alabama

Mike Morris, Wayne Neuendorf (leader), Jack Boutwell, Larry Hughes, Rickey Shirley, Tim Nix and Mike Walters. Band was formerly known as the Kavaliers from 1965 to 1968 and was a 5 piece pop/rock/soul band playing all over Alabama and West Georgia. Changed to The Original Dedications in 1968 and became a show band. Recorded "I've Been Hurt" in 1968. #1 on WBAM in Montgomery in August '68 and stayed in their top 40 8 weeks.

Mike Morris

The Pastels, Clinton, Tennessee

Lead Singer: Ricky Gann, Bass: Joe Hollingsworth, Guitar: Steve Baker, B3 Organist/Keyboards: Dennis Poly, Drums: Gary Cox, Trumpet: Steve Seivers, Trombone: Randy Horton, Tenor/Baritone Sax: John Webber, Roadie: Gary Groover
I have occasional contact with some of these fellows. I have little or no other documentation or memorabilia from the band.

My older brother was in another band in your list, the Deltas, also from Clinton, TN and Oak Ridge, TN. Another listed band, the Embers, was also from Clinton/Oak Ridge. Most of the members of these three bands attended Clinton High School, Clinton TN between 1962 and 1970. Deltas~1962-65, Embers~1965-67, Pastels~1967-70. I'll have to check with the guys I can get in contact with for photos/memorabilia, etc.
Cool, Man!

John Webber

The Vikings Roanoke, Virginia

Great Bar Band... Allen Nelms, Lane Craig, Tommy Holcomb, Joy McKeever, Fred (Freddy) Frelantz, Tyler Pugh, Dewey Anderson, Ann Francis, Steve Snedegar ...
That is all i have ... still have a cassett tape ... my mother send it to me
years ago .. actual years .. 1961-1976 .. check them out .. hey days .. old days
will never die Thanks for the memories ..

Halsey Hill

Bob Marshall & The Crystals

I'm trying to get more history about Bob Marshall & The Crystals -- when they were active, who were members, exactly what type of music they performed -- some webpages call they're songs northern soul and another brief mention described it as beach music, etc.

Real issue is that I've got a very cool large cardboard concert poster from Fredericksburg, VA with Marshall/Crystals on it and I'm trying to confirm the year -- could it be 1962 ?

Also, there's another band on poster called the Rock-A-Teers and my few hours of Google searches aren't giving much info. Could this be an early band that the Persuader's Richard Poindexter was lead vocalist for ? Do you know this band ? There was also a rockabilly band with Billy Adams in late 50s called Rock-a-Teers, but I'm not sure if they were still active in early 60s.

Any info you could share would be appreciated since I'm into concert poster and music history.

Walker

The Morlocks Montgomery, Alabama

AKA The Back Street Society
Windy Leavell - Guitar, Vocals (Chuck Leavell's cousin)
Mac Barnes - Bass
Mark Burns - Rhythm Guitar, Vocals
Jim Cawood - Drums
John Heninger - Keyboards
Boyd Campbell - Sax

Boyd Campbell

Suzy Storm & the Laymen Pensacola, Florida

Suzy was dating Joe Namath which was very good for business. The band was very loud; we were generally told by the various venues (such as the Cascade Plunge, Brandon Armory, the Place, etc.) that we were the loudest band that ever played there. Did gigs with some major groups and backed up some well known solo acts. Band dissolved when then current guitar player killed himself.

Jim Roark

The Huckleberry Mudflap, Harker's Island, North Carolina

The Huckleberry Mudflap was a local band formed in Harkers Island on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The 4 members were Morris Willis rhythm guitar and vocals, Clinton Nelson lead guitar and vocals, Donny Brooks bass guitar and vocals, Jimmy Amspacher drums. The group performed in night clubs, tv dance programs, private parties, college fraternities, from Canada all along the eastern seaboard to Key West Florida and as far west in Kentucky. The Mudflap became so popular we recorded for Line 5 records out of Wilson NC. The record label was owned by Bowie G Martin and Michael D Collins of Bowmar Productions. They recorded Blue Surf, Eyes of Blue, and GoodNight Mrs. Kollendoffer. The Mudflap traveled performing their original material and cover songs. The Mudflap signed a recording contract with Scepter Records New York City. The Mudflap was the opening band for the Allman Brothers, The Box Tops, Electric Light Orchestra, The Guess Who, Al Wilson, B.J. Thomas. Unfortunately, the Huckleberry Mudflap did not last forever, and the band broke up in 1970, with a years worth of bookings left to perform. Clinton Nelson became a Preacher, Donny Brooks and Jimmy Amspacher build boats, and Morris Willis is still performing in clubs, private parties, festivals, providing Beach, Country, and Rock N Roll music.

Morris Willis

Thank you to Bonne Cella for her mention of "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music" in the February issue of The Georgia Bar Journal. To read the story, go to IN THE NEWS.

Comments February 5, 2008

Note: *The narrative below came to the site without a byline or return email address. We hope whoever sent it will email us back so we can give you credit for the submission. For those who follow the web site on a frequent basis surely know by now that there several great bands in "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music" named the Villagers. At least three bands were named Villagers in just South Carolina. Those that thought the Monzas from Burlington, North Carolina were the only ones named for the car have learned of another band of Monzas, from Tennessee. Now we add another band of Castaways in addition to the longstanding Castaways from North Carolina that are mentioned in Alabama's, "Doncing of the Boulevard"*

**Well the Embers singin' up on Ocean Drive
And the Castaways are gettin' loud tonight
At the Electric Circus they all getin' down
And the Carousel's spinnin' round and 'round
See them dancin', shaggin' on the boulevard
I see 'em dancin', shaggin' on the boulevard**

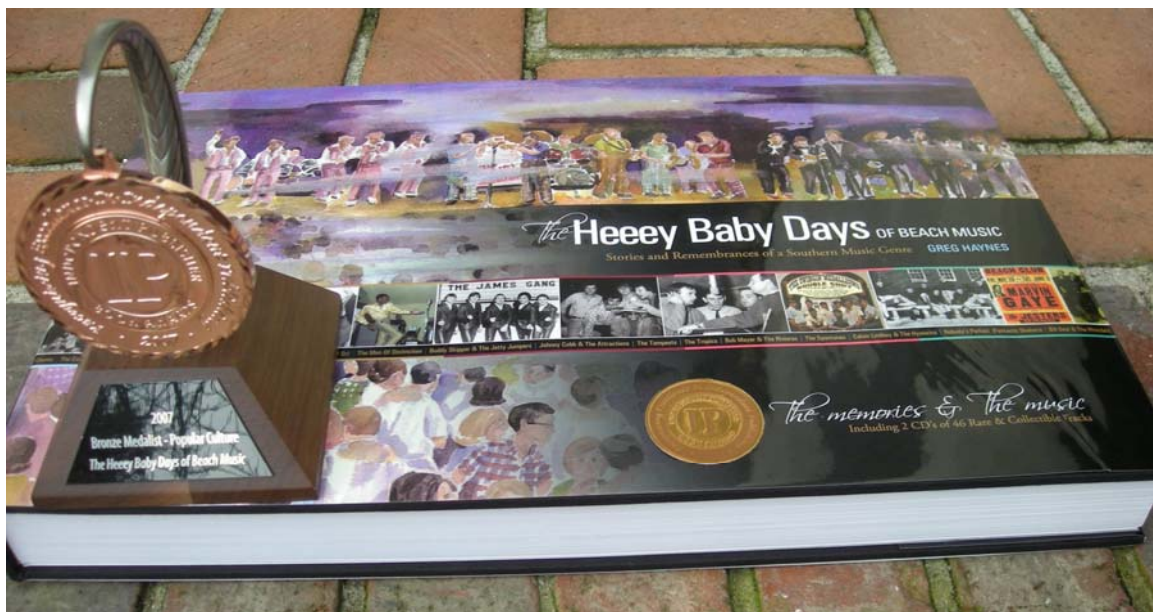
What we particularly like about the following narrative is that it typifies the evolution of a Heeey Baby Days band.

"After a few changes (we got a bit more serious) the horns became an intricate part of the band. ... The band fell out of "the Hey Baby" days in 1972 and did more of the rock sound, dropping horns as members went their separate ways from college."

A Short Narrative of The Castaways of Kingsport, Tennessee

The band started as any other band in the mid 60's...guitars only. After a few changes (we got a bit more serious) the **horns became an intricate part of the band**. Our lead singer, Joe Barker, had a brother who had us over to Clemson for his fraternity's party. We found the juke box and our "Carolina Soul" sound was on for the next 6 years. His brother, Jim, later became the President of Clemson University. The band played the fraternity circuit at University of Tennessee, East Tennessee State University and later hooked up with Hit Attractions to play The Cellar among other clubs in Charlotte. In 1968, The Castaways won a band battle which included a 3 hour recording session at the famed Bradley's Barn in Nashville. The recording was an original written by Mike Leach (drummer), Joe Barker (vocalist) and Wally McNew (keyboards) named "If Our Love Is Strong". The song made the local AM charts in the Tri-Cities area of East Tennessee. A rep for Mercury Records, Dave Moore, found the band and branched us out throughout the Southeast. Dave was originally the booking agent for the Rhodes Scholars of Gainesville, GA but had moved to Knoxville. He still had connections in Georgia and North Carolina. The introduction to a radio owner, Happy Howard, of Eatonton, GA took The Castaways to small towns around Eatonton, Milledgeville (oh those beautiful girls from Milledgeville), Gray, Macon & Tifton, GA. Those gigs translated to frat parties at UGA, Alabama

and other major universities throughout the South. The band fell out of "the Hey Baby" days in 1972 and did more of the rock sound, dropping horns as members went their separate ways from college.



Buying the book made simple.

We have heard from several buyers of the book that the procedure for buying the book from Rare Reads is a bit cumbersome. Therefore we are taking steps to make it easier and faster. We have decided to eliminate the form that we asked book buyers to fill out and mail in to us. Rather, the book can now be purchased immediately from Rare Reads through ABE Books and shipped within 24 hours of purchase. The ABE book is offered "signed" with the Bronze Medal sticker attached (as shown above) or unsigned and in the factory shrink wrap without the Bronze Medal sticker... Occasionally, the ABE

connection offers used copies of the book at a reduced price. ABE accepts all major credit cards as well as Pay Pal.

PLUS:

On the contact form, **three additional options to buy the book** are listed including on line from **Barnes & Noble** or **Books-A-Million**. Links to their on line services are provided. We also encourage buyers to look at the **retail store listings** for a store in your area that handles the book.

The Bronze Medal Edition is no longer available.

The 15 additional CDs are available from Ripete Records at www.ripete.com.

We have learned of yet another band named The Villagers from South, Carolina ... and they were all great bands... It could have only been possible in the era known as "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music", when anything was possible. We continue to get great submissions like the one below. We regret that many great bands were overlooked but we intend on making sure that all these great bands are recognized at www.heybabydays.com

So if you know of authentic Heeey Baby Days Bands (bands formed in the 60s or even earlier) and that a majority of their play list was R&B/Soul/ or Beach Music... we want to know. Here follows a narrative provided by Ken Sparks of The Original Villagers of Union South Carolina.

The 'Original' Villagers were an R&B (Beach) band hailing from Union and Whimire in upstate South Carolina between "1965 - 1969". The 8-9 member group enjoyed popularity with the college and high school crowds from Virginia to Florida and as far west as Arkansas. The 'Original' Villagers could often be found backing-up the popular R&B vocal groups touring the south in those days such as The Platters, The Showmen, The Radiants and others in "live" performances in the tri-state area. They were also a front band for the "Pieces of Eight" for a period of time after the "Pieces" rise in popularity with their recording "Lonely Drifter". The Villagers performed in places like "The Red Rooster" in Panama City, Fla., the Pavilion at Myrtle Beach, and , of course, at fraternities and sororities in every major college and university in the southeast. The group recorded two 45-rpm records. The first was recorded and released in 1966 on the TVU label titled "Send Down All Your Lovin', b/w Tossin and Turning, their version of the 1961 hit recorded by Bobby Lewis. The second release was an instrumental entitled Bye Bye J. J. b/w Love is the Word on the Emerald Label and recorded in Greenwood under the name "The Townsman" in 1967. They briefly performed using that name before reclaiming their original name, The 'Original' Villagers a few months later. The groups' final performance was in October, 1969 at a University of Alabama frat party. By that time, the draft

and Viet Nam war had taken half of the band, and the remaining members decided to go their separate ways.

Ken Sparks
Keyboards, The Original Villagers

We have been deliberating about the musical based on the book. In addition to doing a wonderful job crafting a play from the book, Nora Marion did a great amount of research on various dances that were occurring around the South during *The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music*. If we are able to get the play off the ground, it would be important to regionalize it so that the music and dance used would be germane to the performance location. While the shag may prevail in Carolina, it's very possible that the bop would be employed for performances in Alabama and Florida. We have a vast number of songs that will be utilized and it would depend on the location. We would hope to use members of The Never Gonna Give It Up Club for the music. Beginning today, we are going to publish a few excerpts from the play. First, we will introduce the characters and give you a small snippet of the first of the play and depending on the response we get, we will continue to roll it out over the next few weeks. In the mean time, we will be talking to various production companies about the play. Please give us your feed back. To view and read the first segment, **click under: The Play on the Book page:**

Regards,

Greg

We were pleased to get a note from Morris Willis of The Huckleberry Mudflap. It's another band that should have gotten a little more coverage in the book. The band stayed together for six years which is no small accomplishment back in the day. We are very pleased when musicians from the 60s write the site and update us their bands from back in *The Heeey Baby Days*. Eventually, we'll have Volume II of the "*The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music*" ready courtesy of the musicians who continue to contribute stories of their band. Here follows the latest contribution from Morris Willis:

The Huckleberry Mudflap was a local band formed in Harkers Island on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The 4 members were Morris Willis rhythm guitar and vocals, Clinton Nelson lead guitar and vocals, Donny Brooks bass guitar and Vocals, Jimmy Amspacher drums. The group performed in night clubs, TV dance programs, private parties, college fraternities, from Canada all along the eastern seaboard to Key West Florida and as far west in Kentucky. The Mudflap became so popular we recorded for Line 5 records out of Wilson NC. The record label was owned by Bowie G Martin and Michael D Collins of Bowmar Productions. They

recorded Blue Surf, Eyes of Blue, and Goodnight Mrs. Kollendoffer. The Mudflap traveled performing their original material and cover songs. The Mudflap signed a recording contract with Scepter Records New York City. The Mudflap was the opening band for the Allman Brothers, The Box Tops, Electric Light Orchestra, The Guess Who, Al Wilson, B.J. Thomas. Unfortunately, the Huckleberry Mudflap did not last forever and the band broke up in 1970, with a years worth of bookings left to perform. Clinton Nelson became a Preacher, Donny Brooks and Jimmy Amspacher build boats, and Morris Willis is still performing in clubs, private parties, festivals, providing Beach, Country, and Rock N Roll music.

Morris Willis

"Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby" gets the royal treatment!

When I first heard "Rhythm" by the In-Men Ltd., I was excited as I knew that it was going to be a hit... but then again I had such thoughts about recordings before that did not pan out. I sought a second opinion on "Rhythm" from Nora Marion and got two more thumbs up for the cover by the boys from Burlington. *Rhythm's* dominance of the Beach Music charts in 2007 is a matter of record. Now, it has happened again.

This time it's from the realm of the enduring King Edward & the BD's from Richmond, Virginia. YES! The icons of Northern Soul have recorded their own version of "Is you is or is you ain't My Baby"

Louis Jordan's No. 1 hit in 1944 has been covered by others including The Andrews Sisters, Bing Crosby, Nat "King" Cole, Buster Brown, Renee Olstead, Dinah Washington, B.B. King and Joe Jackson.

But wait until you hear King Edward's cover. It's addictive It a jazz standard with a shagable beat!

I did get a second opinion and yes, Nora Marion gives it another two thumbs up! We heard it for the first time Tuesday night when King Edward Martin and BD sax player, Buddy Williamson presented us with a special signed pre-release copy. It's gonna be ANOTHER SMASH HIT from a member of the sainted "Never Going To Give It Up Club." Long Live The King!



Thanks to all those who send me CDs . We intend to start putting a clip of each on the Sound Tracks which can be found by scrolling all the way down the Band Page.

Another CD received with a decided Beach Beat is from Sonny Coley of the legendary Tassels of Raleigh, North Carolina; its title says it all: “Wilmington Tracks” was dedicated to Wayne Lanier, one of the best sax players in North Carolina history. Wayne was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968 but his memory lives on through the efforts of Sonny Coley and Larry Nixon, two charter members of The Never Gonne Give It Up Club.

One of the things that does not give me a lot of pleasure is placing on this page the news that a member of the Never Gonna Give It Up Club has gone on to become a featured performer at The Party To End All Parties. We learned just the other day from the daughter of Hazel Martin that her dad has passed away and that we should update our directory to reflect his passing. Hazel Martin had a most unforgettable voice. Every time I hear one of my favorites “Would You Believe” a great uptempo song by The Tempests of Charlotte, North Carolina , I always wonder why that great band never got the recognition it deserved. Today, we pause to honor the memory of a great performer, Hazel Martin.

Hazel Martin, Jr.

Mr. Martin, of Charlotte, died on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at Carolinas Medical Center.

Funeral service will be held on Thursday, at 1:00 p.m. in the A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Visitation will be from 12 to 1:00 p.m. Interment will be at North Pinewood Cemetery. He attended West Charlotte High School. He was a founding member of the Calypso Four Band.

Hazel is survived by: his wife, Hettie Martin, sons, Hazel L. Martin (Cathy); Ronald E. Martin, Vincent L. Martin, and William M. Martin; daughter, Crystal Martin-Nance, 7 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren; two sisters.

Grier Funeral Service in charge of arrangements.

Published in the Charlotte Observer on 1/16/2008.

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Hi Greg,

I just wanted to follow up our talk with one bit of info. I told you that my college roommate, Terry Neill, originally from Troutman (near Statesville NC) was given your book by someone at his church. His name is Travis Turner (from Gastonia NC). Terry said he was a NC band promoter, too, but I don't know exactly where. Just wanted to pass that name along and see if you know him.

Thanks again for the great visit on the phone this morning. This is exciting and fun for me. It was just last Friday that Terry told me about your book. I can't believe it's been out over a year and I never heard of it till last week. Just shows how out of touch some of us are.

Dan Allen

Note: Dan was a saxophone player for Sousearchers (Dunn, NC) and The Originals (Burlington, NC)

Dan,

Thanks for your note and I do know Travis...He is a client of David Nixon, one of my colleagues here at CB Richard Ellis. I got to know Travis when David Nixon showed Travis one of my listings. We quickly connected on Beach Music and the good old days of bands. He got a book and took it to church (Peachtree Presbyterian) to show it to one of the members of his Sunday class that was from North Carolina. He didn't give me a name but it was obviously Terry O'Neill. He said Terry grabbed it and wouldn't give it back. (Kidding) When you told me the story, it connected and I thought it might be the same story.

I wouldn't classify you as "being out of touch" because we estimate that the number of people who would be interested in the book if they knew about it is many many times greater than the people who know about the book. It's much harder to get PR for an independently published book and as a result, most of the sales regarding the book have been by word of mouth or someone seeing it in someone's home or office. For example, Travis has been personally responsible for the sale of five books. (Don't tell him because he'll call and want a commission... kidding)

It was always our plan to market the book the way we have because we didn't want people standing in line all night just to buy the book like they did for the last Harry Potter book. Most of the buyers for the book are older than me and they need their rest. I am on a roll with this attempt at humor thing. Your book is going out today. Let me know how you like it and tell your friends ... and if they want one, they will need to act quickly as we have less than 100 copies left other than the Bronze Medal Edition .

Got to go, Oprah is on the other line. She keeps bugging me about coming on her show. I am not going to Chicago at this time of year. Too cold !

Regards,

Greg

P.S. Don't forget the Jokers 3 Posters and the write up James Brown when you were in the 11th grade !

We will first print our stories in the Readers' Comments Sections and then publish them in the More Stories section. If you know of a real authentic Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music band that was over looked in the book. Let us know. Ever hear of Larry & The Loafers. They had a big following back in the day .

Larry,

Thanks for sharing the information on Larry & The Loafers. During our five year research period prior to publication of "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music," we came across the name Larry and the Loafers several times and indeed knew that the group was an excellent one back in the day. While our focus was on bands that we had engaged for shows and dances back in that period of time, we did include others as well , some which we really were not acquainted with back in the Heeey Baby Days. It turned out that there more really good bands and groups than we could possibly follow up on and we regret that many like yours did not get a mention in the book. We are however continuing to collect information for the web site and for possible future supplements to the book and would love to have any information you can provide on the band including photos posters images etc. that we can share with the large number of visitors that come to our site, many perhaps looking for information on Larry & The Loafers.

Regards,

Greg Haynes

Larry and the Loafers recorded the hit "Panama City Blues" on Reed Records in 1960 and in 1961 rerecorded what was promoted as a new update version of PC Blues for Heart Records. We were the season opening act at the Old Dutch on PC Beach for three years running. We were held over each time for additional weeks. I was disappointed when a friend of mine discovered your book and told me that there was no mention of Larry and the Loafers in it. This band was not like any other band of the that day .Each member of this five piece group were multi talented .Everyone sang harmony, read music and could play at least five different instruments. Example my guitar player Wayne Gross additional played Sax ,Clarinet, Piano ,Trombone ,Drums and of coarse Bass and Banjo. Bass player Charles Giambrone played trumpet ,Trombone ,Piano ,Drums and Alto Sax. Drummer Dale Serrano who came out of a dance studio family was our choreographer and we had step and dance routines to all our songs. Picture five guys 18 to 21 years

old ,playing anything from Mack The Knife to Annie Had A Baby and you have Larry and The Loafers

. Thanks, Larry

Note to readers: "We'll be following up and will publish additional information about Larry & The Loafers very soon

Hi Greg, I enjoyed meeting you and I sure do appreciate your wonderful beach music history! It's unbelievable; I couldn't put it down last night!! I'm having the best time going through it and reminiscing. Thanks so much. As I mentioned, I plan to take it to my Chapel Hill reunion next month and hope I can sell you a few copies.

Thanks again, Tom