

AN ULTIMATE NIGHT



Johnnie & Joe

Rock & Roll entrepreneur Henry Farag of Canterbury Productions coordinated a star-studded concert on November 21, 2009. This was the first time Lou and I saw some of these groups so it was a real treat for us. Farag emceed the show and his vocal group, Stormy Weather, opened with *Just Two Kinds of People* in the World. The swinging Flat Cats provided instrumental backing for all of the groups.

Cathy Jean and The Roommates started out singing *Please Love Me Forever* which has always been one of my favorites. Even though Cathy Jean is the only original, the three men performing as the Roommates



Henry Farag



Harold Winley



Cathy Jean & The Roommates (L-R) Jerry Pilgrim, Cathy Jean, Carlos Rampolla, Shelly Wengrovsky

featuring WILLIE ROGERS
with a tribute to SAM COOKE

CHICAGO
THEATRE

OF DOO-WOP

BY LIZ HARRIS



Tyrone Burwell of the Clovers

Johnnie & Joe are a class act and never disappoint the audience. *Over The Mountain* is a beautiful song with their voices so well blended that it sounds just like the original recording.

Harold Winley is the only original member left of The Clovers but is still vivacious and animated while singing many of his original hits including *Devil or Angel* and *Love Potion #9*.

This was the first time we saw The Spaniels perform. Jimmy Beaumont and The Skyliners were scheduled to perform but couldn't make it. It was our good fortune that The Spaniels were available to fill in at the last minute. They serenaded us with *Goodnight, Sweetheart, Goodnight* as well as other tunes.



The Spaniels

did a superb job with the background vocals. As I was doing some research, I discovered that the original recording was done in two parts. Fourteen year old Cathy Jean Giordano recorded the song for the Valmor label, and later The Roommates overdubbed the harmony parts that ended up being the major hit of their careers rising to #12 on the Billboard 100. In 1960, The Roommates consisted of Steve Susskind (lead), Jack Carlson (first tenor and falsetto), Felix Alvarez (second tenor) and Bob Minsky (bass). None of the original Roommates are currently performing with Cathy Jean.



The Clovers



The Flamingos



Terry Johnson



The Super Girl Group
(L-R) Margaret Ross, Beverly Warren, Lillian Walker, Louise Murray



(L-R) Jeff Calloway, Joe Mirrione, Liz, Terry Johnson, Theresa Trigg



Liz with Margaret Ross



The Jive Five

(L-R) Herbert Pitt, Beatrice Best, Frank Pitt, Casey Spencer, Eugene Pitt

Terry Johnson's Flamingos was another first for us and when they started singing / *Only Have Eyes For You* the audience went wild. Terry joined the original group in 1956 and was instrumental in their success by writing, arranging and singing on many of the songs that became national hits. Each of the members of the current group had an opportunity to lead sing during the show. They are all talented individuals and true performers.

The Super Girl Group is fun, energetic and can easily transport you back in time to those younger years of our youth. Each one of the members were originally in another girl group in the 1950's to 60's. Margaret Ross of The Cookies sings one of my favorites *Don't Say Nothing Bad About My Baby*, Lillian Walker earned her wings with The Exciters and gives a lively rendition of *Tell Him*, sing along with Louise Murray to *Sally Go Round The Roses*. Louise was an original member of two legendary groups, The Hearts and The Jaynetts. Beverly Warren of The Raindrops sang one of their national hits, *The Kind Of Boy You Can't Forget*.



The Jayhawks

There are not very many groups still performing that can say they have three members who have been together for over 40 years but Eugene Pitt and the Jive Five can live up to that claim. Beatrice Best and Casey Spencer joined the group in 1962 and are on many of the hits The Jive Five had such as *What Time Is It* and *I'm A Happy Man*. Read more about this group in the interview with Eugene Pitt in this issue.



Encore

We met Carl Fisher for the first time at this show. Carl was an original member of The Jayhawks, The Vibrations and The Marathons and was also in our Name The Artist contest in Keep Rockin's February issue. The songs they performed are a lot of fun: *The Watusi*, *My Girl Sloopy*, *Peanut Butter* and one of our favorites *Stranded In The Jungle*.

Henry Farag brings together some class acts and always gives his audience their money's worth. Lou and I are looking forward to his next show in June which will have the famous Dion as the headliner for that show! We're happy to see so many of these groups are still out there performing and we'd like to send the message to all of them to **Keep Rockin'!**

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THE SOUL STIRRERS
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CHICAGO THE CHICAGO THEATRE



Lou with Carl Fisher