

Re-Vue Chicago

January 2006

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



PRE-VUES:

GUITAR GEEK FESTIVAL
PONDEROSA STOMP

RE-VUES:

DVD - NIGHTCOURT USA
CDS- SPO-DEE-O-DEE
"THE MANY SIDES OF..."
THE ROUND UP BOYS
"GOOD LOOKIN' DADDY"

SAYING GOODBYE

CLOSINGS:

BERGHOFF

TINY LOUNGE

MARSHALL FIELDS

TRADER VICS

CITY NEWS

JAMES DEAN GALLERY

PASSINGS:

CANDY BARR

JAMES AUSTIN



AS ALWAYS NEWS, REVIEWS, EVENT NOTICES,
CALENDAR AND MORE INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Re-Vue

Another new year!

The Re-Vue staff were primed and ready at the end of 2005 to start the fourth year for Re-Vue... then the Holidays struck and some of us did a little too much celebrating! So, the Re-Vue gang are *EASING* our way into 2006 with a no-frills issue.

This month our most dedicated writers went forth into the farthest reaches of the city to bring you a look at what will be missing in Chicago this year. So many great places shuttered their doors in December and we wanted to do a little something to mourn their passing. Time-honored favorites like Marshall Fields, the fabulous Berghoff Restaurant (the oldest restaurant in the city will close its doors in February!!), and Trader Vics. We also felt that the time was right to take a woeful look back over all the celebrities that we lost in the last year. **Col. Dan Sorenson** started his own version of (pardon the expression) "death watch 2005" early last year. He compiled a very comprehensive list of celebrities, has-beens, and the almost never-weres that passed on to the great beyond. Next month we'll have the full list for you!

Coming in the next few months are several events that should not be missed. Of course everyone by now is aware of the hoopla that takes place in Vegas every Easter. But we're shedding a little light on the often-raved-about Ponderosa Stomp which will happen this Spring. Due to Hurricane Katrina, the hosts for the event had to find a temporary home for it. They found this home-away-from-home at the Gibson Guitar Factory in Memphis, Tennessee. This year's Stomp will also donate proceeds to assist New Orleans musicians that were affected by the hurricane. Also, this very month in just a matter of days, Deke Dickerson will be assemble one of the largest showings of guitar greats on his side of the Mississippi during his Guitar Geek Festival. Make sure you check out the list of acts and the ad in this issue. Make the time and take the trip to California. That one is a sure fire hit.

Matt Strickland shares his reviews for several CDs in this issue. Matt is fairly keen on all that's rockin', and this time in, he reviews the release, "The Many Sides Of..." by Spo-Dee-O-Dee. He additionally reviews another European act's release, "Good Lookin' Daddy" by The Round Up Boys.

Doug Freedman has never let the Re-Vue reading public down. He has never failed to send in an outstanding review. Not to be confused with that 80's sit-com of the same name, "Night Court USA" was a series on TV back in 1958. Doug thinks its another one of those entertaining gems on DVD that shouldn't be missed.

Who doesn't love an old all-American black-and-white television comedy show. Re-runs of shows that most of us were too young to see the first time they aired are now accessible to Chicagoans on



network TV. **Julia Baresch** sent in this article that describes the many programs that can be seen in syndication on Channel 23, ME-TV.

James Ventrella spent quite a few years working in downtown Chicago. He learned the ins and outs and all the best places to catch that noon-time meal. He weighs-in on the recent decision by the Berghoff family to close the oldest restaurant in the city.

Ken Mottet loves to chronicle the Chicago rockabilly scene. He's been Johnny-on-the-spot, a regular Jimmy Olsen with that ever present camera. Sure to catch the shot when someone trips, makes a funny face, rips a dress, or does something equally undignified, Ken has volumes of photos he's taken over the years. Sometimes, if you've been lucky enough, and you're kicking back at his and Mary's homestead, he'll pull out some of the dusty volumes to share the joy of previous rockin' nights.

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Re-Vue

Don't ever try to get him to take a picture *OUT* of the album though (I've tried, believe me!). Ken explains what he's learned after looking back over the many, many years of photos. Ken also gives a little buyer's tip to the readers regarding super sale-priced DVDs on sale at your local (dare I even say it?!) WAL-MART.

Rocko submitted an article this month that was a bit unexpected. After the holiday rush and the family gatherings and the happy days of celebration... he describes the darker, seedier, and sadder side of the holidays.

Within the last month there were quite a few stories in the news that were of interest. City News, a neutral ground for all the city papers and TV stations to gather the same information and a training ground for countless aspiring Chicago newsmen and women was closed on Dec 31. In our "Saying Goodbye" section, we cover more about City News.

It was announced late in 2005 that the famous James Dean Gallery in Indiana (owned and run for many years by local rockabilly well-loved promoter, David Loehr) would be closing at the end of the year. After moving into a state-of-the-art building in recent years which dwarfed the original space for exhibits related to silver screen legend James Dean, hopes were high that the new location would increase traffic. Due to sky-rocketing energy costs and some other operational factors, it was no longer cost effective for the Dean memorabilia to remain housed at the new facility. More information about this can be found later in the issue.

Busy as the holidays are, **Desiree Kiss** still managed to keep track of all the new dates for coming events in the month of January. Special thanks to Dez for maintaining the list and providing the dates to us so we can generate the handy-dandy back-page calendar. As always, if your band plays in Chicago or in the Midwest area, drop us a line with your dates: revuechicago@yahoo.com.

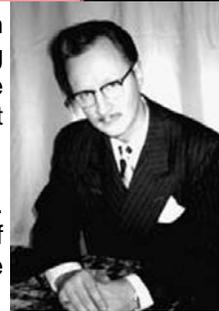
Dennis Leise is a jack-of-all-trades lately. Guitar-picker, door-man, dancer, and all around nice-guy... It's the nice guy that asked that we dedicate an article this month to a pal that runs sound at Fitzgerald who fell ill over the holidays and ended up in the hospital. Some benefits are planned for him in the coming month and Dennis wants to be sure you know where and when. We excepted the info from the Blood-shot Records Webpage.

If you have an event to promote, feel free to send us photo-ready digital images or the description of the event and we'll do our best to help you get the word out.

As always, if your band has a CD or record you would like us to review, you can send a copy to us and we'll get it reviewed. Just drop us a line at revuechicago@yahoo.com and we'll tell you where to mail it.

Covering all the angles, all the time...

Susan E. Funk



KEN MOTTET



JAMES VENTRELLA



ROCKO



DOUG FREEDMAN



**MATT
STRICKLAND**



SUSAN E. FUNK



DESIREE KISS

**OTHER CONTRIBUTOR'S NOT
PICTURED INCLUDE:**

**DENNIS LEISE
JULIA BARESCH**

Re-Wind

End of an era: The Berghoff



So the other night I was sitting around the Orbit Room, saw Frank D'Rone at Toulouse on the Park, stopped in for a pop at the Step High Lounge. Beat it to the Blackstone Hotel for a drink then went on down to the Checkerboard, and then a quick nightcap at Gerri's Palm Tavern. Then I woke up from a lovely, but slightly hung-over dream. Indeed, dreaming about those places is the only way you will get in the door these days.

So now the Berghoff too. Going the way of the legendary German Restaurants, such as the Old Heidelberg, the outside of which you can still see at the corner of Randolph and State, and the North Side legend Zum Deutschen Eck.

The bar is fantastic, and will, from published reports, re-open under a new name. That bar where you had to stand, and until 1969 be a man to get in. After getting my first real job in the loop the clock struck five and I beat it down to the Berghoff to have a cold one, and feel like a real he-man just like the guys did in the 30's, 40's, 50's, etc. They all stood there. It was history you could literally drink. The food? Say what you want, and I'm no expert in German cuisine, but I know a few Germans who seemed to like it just fine. I loved it. Creamed spinach and spatzel that was amazing.

They say that nothing stays the same and that change is good. I'm not so sure. Life is hard enough, and sometimes what makes an anniversary or holiday or birthday great is to go someplace familiar. To have a tradition. I like that.

I'm sure the Berghoff family is tired, just as the owners of the Come Back Inn got tired and moved on. It is hard to see a good friend go. I've been to the Berghoff more times than I'd like to mention, and many times during the Christmas season to take in some delicious food, and a beautifully decorated atmosphere. On my last visit I was given a prime seat a fantastic waiter, and I took it all in. What I noticed most? So many single diners. Young people, downtown workers, business trippers, tourists, and many older women. The Berghoff was that kind of place. A place you could go alone. A place where you could find comfort when there was no friends or loved ones near. The place itself was all you needed, and I'm sure those single diners were glad to have it.

A big city needs those kinds of places. This is why it is a shame to see it go, not because of the annual trip a family makes, but because it was always there when you needed it, not to mention that there is so little of that kind of Chicago left and it was delicious.

Postscript- For those of you who missed the Berghoff, or would rather eat Italian food, your best bet now is the Italian Village. Three restaurants to choose from. Walk up the steps, take a step back in time, eat dinner, and your stomach will ask you if you've died and gone to heaven. Don't wait.

No one ever thought the Berghoff would close either.



Re-Wind

The wonder years:

The Berghoff is not about power lunches. It's not about tourists. It's the experience.

**By Kurt Ullrich
December 30, 2005**

I am not bothered by the possible transformation of Marshall Field's flagship store on State Street. Yes, I have memories of the place, memories going back half a century, memories hinged directly to a Chicago-born mother and father. Memories having little to do with retail. Field's quit selling ambience years ago, and the rest is available at department stores all over town. Does it matter that Field's will evaporate into the ether of diesel-fueled capitalism? Nah, not really. It's the way stuff works in America.

Restaurants, too, come and go with great regularity, and I've grown accustomed to this fact. However, having said that, the closing of The Berghoff on West Adams Street feels like a gut punch. It is one of the few places in the city where I feel I can relax.

In the 1930s, my German immigrant grandfather would park his car on Adams Street and spend time in the Berghoff bar. My guess is he spent most of his time arguing politics and religion. He was one of those "never in doubt, often wrong" characters who insisted on being right. While he quaffed and debated at the bar, his little daughter, my mother, sat in the car and waited for him, which would indicate that he was

a marginal father or the Loop was slightly safer than it feels today. The truth, as in most issues, undoubtedly lay somewhere in the middle.

Alas, my grandfather and my mother are long gone, gone to that ancient German altstadt where the beer is biting strong and the veal is always tender. After their passing, it became my duty, as well as my pleasure, to dine at The Berghoff. Admittedly, I adore the place. I don't let the brusque hosts or hostesses put me in a dark corner near the bar or, in the old days, send me to the basement. For me, eating at The Berghoff means a seat in the elegant large dining room where murals of the 1893 Columbian Exposition keep guard over gorgeous oak paneling and hungry diners.

I admit to pedestrian tastes and I have three favorite restaurants in the world that I try to visit as often as possible. They are the Sternbrau in Salzburg, Austria, the Augustinerbrau in Munich, Germany, and The Berghoff in Chicago. All three places are of similar vintage and similar feel. The major difference between The Berghoff and the other two restaurants is that in Munich and Salzburg no one seats you. You simply walk in and look for a table, and tables are shared. There is nothing better than sharing a table with Austrians and Italians on a cold December day in Salzburg. I did just that two weeks ago, and three days after arriving home I was driving the 3 1/2 hours to Chicago to eat at The Berghoff.

At 107 years old, The Berghoff is old school. It's not about being

seen. Not about power lunches. It's not even about tourists. It's about the food. Some might call it "honest" food . . . I don't know what that means. But I do know that in a world where perky waiters and waitresses introduce themselves and say "I'll be your server tonight," The Berghoff offered longtime, world-weary waiters who were glad to bring food to your table; but don't expect them to act happy about it. The Berghoff is where you eat and drink. Period.

You could never rely on The Berghoff to give your life meaning. You bring your own meaning to the place, placing it next to you at one of the wooden tables, telling it to relax and offering it a dark beer. You got problems? Leave 'em at home. Want the world to think you're a big shot? Go somewhere else. Care to try a very good sauerbraten with creamed spinach? Welcome home.

Will I miss The Berghoff? Absolutely. Will its closing change anything in my life or in the life of a vibrant city? Probably not. Its essence will always be there, whether I'm sitting at my kitchen table in Iowa or in a comfortable restaurant in Munich. Much like my longing for my German grandfather and my mother, I simply know that I'll not see The Berghoff again, at least not in this life.



Re-Late



A typical lame plot for the film was that a young impressionable high school girl gets lured into a hotel room by a traveling salesman.

Candy, whose real name was Juanita Dale Slusher, led a truly unique life. She lost her mother at 9 years old and her new stepmother made things so difficult, she ran away and got married at 14 to a safe-cracker. After divorcing him, she continued on to become a cigarette girl and made her way up in the risqué burlesque world as an exotic dancer. This was when she changed her name to Candy Barr since her dancing career required a more catchy name.

In 1956 she shot her second husband in the stomach after he got drunk and allegedly threatened her (she married 4 times), but he insisted that he deserved it and the grand jury dismissed the charges.



When one of the Re-Vue staff forwarded me the link to the New York Times article about Candy Barr, I figured it was yet another burlesque/risqué icon that had passed away. It wasn't until I actually read the first couple lines that I got interested. Those first few lines read:

"Candy Barr, an exotic dancer whose hardscrabble life became Texas legend as she befriended Jack Ruby (who killed President John F. Kennedy's assassin), dated a mobster, shot her husband, went to prison for drug possession, and starred - unwillingly, she insisted - in a famous stag film, died on Friday in Victoria, Tex. She was 70."

Miss Barr's first pass at fame was in a grainy black and white stag film, "Smart Alleck" at the meager age of 16 in 1951. In this day and age, such a film would actually be considered illegal as she was still a minor.

CANDY BARR - R.I.P.

In 1957, she was stripping in Las Vegas and even had a legitimate role in a comedy in Dallas. Later that year, she was caught on marijuana charges and Texas had a very strict law. During her appeal, she was making \$2000 a night stripping in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. She even dated

"For students of the Kennedy assassination, it is her friendship with Mr. Ruby, a nightclub owner, that is most provocative. They were friends over the years, and seven months before the assassination, he visited Miss Barr after her release from prison and gave her two dachshund puppies. He thought she should breed them."

DOUGLAS MARTIN,
New York Times, January 4, 2006

famous mobster, Mickey Cohen at that point in time. She was sentenced and served 3 years of a 15 year sentence.

While serving her time, Ms. Barr wrote a poetry book. When she was released she donned a somber black outfit and quoted from the bible.

In the 70s, she stayed largely out of public view. She did an interview and photo nude pictorial with Oui Magazine in 1976 when she was 41 years old.

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When Joan Collins was preparing for her role in "Seven Thieves" in 1960, they consulted Ms. Barr on how to portray an exotic dancer. She even got a screen credit as a "technical adviser".

Re-Late

CANDY BARR

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She bounced back and forth over the years between her real name and Candy Barr.

Douglas Martin of the New York Times wrote, "Though she told Inside Detective magazine in 1959 that she was fed up with notoriety and hated being called Candy Barr, she went back and forth and never really relinquished the name."



She was also interviewed by Texas Monthly in 2001 and stated, "Let the World find someone else to talk about...I like being left alone".

Her last public appearance was in 1998 at the Ruby Room opening in Dallas, Texas and she went under her stage name, Candy Barr.

In 1999, many years after her stag film days and her exotic dancing fame had ended, Candy Barr was named in Playboy Magazine's list of the 20th Century's most desirable women.

If your mother says she loves you, check it out - City News

Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane would be rolling over in their graves. Chicago's 100 year old famed news wire service, City News, submitted it's last headline on December 31, 2005.

In a hustle-bustle news environment, where internet news is becoming more prevalent and people can Google just about anything they could ever want to know about, City News was a last hold out to the old days of hard-biting news reporting.

Many now-famous writers got their start at City News; novelist Kurt Vonnegut, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh, Mike Royko and scores of other Chicago journalists.

As an article in the Tribune indicated, "It made reporters out of young men and women by pushing them relentlessly, often forcing them to go back to sources and get (more) precise details". Teaching the keen art of fact checking, reporters were required to check every quote and often the director would force the young staffers to go "back to the source" for details as seemingly unimportant as the color of the victim's eyes or to find a street address for a vacant lot. This type of strict attention to detail brought about the bureau's motto, "If your mother says she loves you, check it out."

This "just-the-facts" wire service operated 24 hours a day covering courts, police stations and emergencies seven days a week since 1890 when it was started in cooperation by 8 local newspapers as a cheap way for them to share expenses and information.

James B. Kelleher wrote in the Tribune article, "Over the years, City News broke big stories including the capsizing of the S.S. Eastland in the Chicago River in 1915, the St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929, and the death of Harold Washington, the city's first black mayor, in 1987."

The Tribune was the last newspaper holding out and keeping City News funded. They pulled the plug since their competitors were using it to break stories hours before the print editions of the Tribune could release the information.

Bureau chief, Paul Zimbrakos, who started in 1958 and never left, filed the last story for City News at 11:30pm ...an obituary of itself.

Re-Late

Platters singer, James Charles Austin, 68

JAMES CHARLES AUSTIN, JR., 68, of Memphis, died Saturday, December 24, 2005 at Methodist University Hospital after a short battle with lung cancer. Professionally, he was a singer with the renowned "**Platters**," having traveled and performed all over the world. He was predeceased by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. James C. Austin, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Janet "J.P." Netters-Austin; four daughters, Tonyus Chavers of Minneapolis, MN, Angela Austin of Jacksonville, FL, Linnea Epstein of Seattle, WA and Kim Netters of Memphis; three sons, Terry Chavers of Memphis, James L. Netters III of Las Vegas, NV and Julian Netters, Sr. of Atlanta, GA; four grandchildren; two brothers, William Austin and Victor Austin, Sr., and three sisters, Aranda Robinson of Detroit, MI, Violetta Rollins and Vishnu Jennings. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to James Austin Benefit Fund, P.O. Box 820905, Memphis, TN 38182. R.S. Lewis & Sons Funeral Home 901-526-3264

The Lone Sentry: Trader Vic's

As many of you are already aware from coverage in the newspapers, on chat lists and of course from last month's issue, the original Chicago location for Trader Vic's has closed. But there are rumors and reports that this Tiki lounge will have a lasting legacy. The Harry Caray company (who have a successful track record with restaurants in Chicago) bought the franchise and are searching for a new location. A visit about 36 hours before the doors closed yielded the following information. They had posted an armed guard at the bottom of the subterranean entrance (maybe they figured out that light-fingered tiki and rockabilly scenesters were trying to pocket anything that wasn't nailed down!)



In any case, in the last hours that Trader Vic's occupied its home for the past almost-50 years, they were working on a reservations only basis. The guard was of course kind enough to let us wander in to take a last look. But even seats at the bar were over an hour wait.

In a short conversation while snapping a few pictures, the guard indicated that he had heard from staff that the thought was to try to relocate to the River North area or the Magnificent Mile (an article about the Harry Caray franchises role in the deal confirms this intention).

And he indicated that it was planned for EVERYTHING to go into storage until the new location was secured. So the hopes that there would be a grand Tiki sale or that a trip to the dumpsters behind the Palmer House might yield some remarkable treasures are probably mislaid dreams indeed.

Stay tuned. We'll keep you posted and advise of the new location when one is found.

— Susan E. Funk

Buyer Be Aware!!

Normally I would recommend against shopping at Wal-Mart (it's that whole retail world domination jazz) but they have an offer that's mighty hard to resist. That's right...\$1 DVDs. Located near the check-out lanes in prime impulse buying position are cardboard boxes filled with the lowest of low rent no-frills DVDs. And that means the very best that Hollywood has to offer can be yours for a mere bag of shells. Steve Reeves as Hercules. Ozzie and Harriet. The Lone Ranger. Arch Hall Jr. in "Wild Guitar." George Hamilton as "Evel Knievel." A little bit of digging can unearth a load of entertainment all for less than the cost of an absolutely blank DVD.

— Ken Mottet



Re-Late

Wanda Jackson to Release Elvis CD

By: Dave McGurgan

She's the first female rock and roller and as the reigning queen of rockabilly, Wanda Jackson, now 68, continues to perform live and record new albums.

America was right in the middle of its innocent years when rock and roll and rockabilly came onto the scene. And Jackson, an up-and-coming country singer, was right there when it happened. And by her side was none other than Elvis Presley.

Elvis Presley took a special interest in Jackson and her music. The two toured together in 1955 and 1956 and also dated during that time, with Elvis giving Jackson one of his rings as a token of affection. And as Jackson continued to perform country songs, Elvis saw her true potential urged her to try her hand at the frenzied sounds of rock and roll.

"I honestly think I never would have tried this music had it been for his suggestion and encouragement," says Jackson. "It gave me the courage to try and man, I found my home." Rock and roll paid off for Jackson in a big way with a string of hits including "Let's Have a Party," "Fujiyama Mama," "Mean Mean Man" and "Funnel of Love."

Now Jackson is paying back the favor by recording an Elvis tribute album featuring many of the songs that he sang when the two worked together such as "I Forgot to Remember to Forget," "Baby's Let's Play House" and "Good Rocking Tonight."

Jackson says the album will also feature at least one non-Elvis song. "I'll be doing a song that a friend of mine wrote," she explains. "It's called 'I Wore Elvis Presley's Ring' and it's a real cute little rockabilly song. Robert Warren wrote it."

So does all this Elvis nostalgia bother Wanda Jackson's husband and manager, Wendell Goodman?

"The first years that we were married it was hard for him," says Jackson. "It was difficult for him to even get used to sharing his wife with the world and everybody coming at me from all directions."

Then one evening in Las Vegas, Jackson, her husband and a few friends checked into a hotel. They saw plenty of security and found out that all the rooms on their floor except theirs were booked by none other than Jackson's former flame Elvis. Presley came down to Jackson's room where Goodman met the crooner for the first time.

"Once he met Elvis, he saw how important Elvis was to my career, making all this happen for me. I think that really helped Wendell because he just saw the affection that we had for each other. It was a very sweet relationship." And 43 years after they pledged their vows to each other, Jackson and Goodman are still very much in love.

Although Wanda Jackson's Elvis tribute album won't be released until early 2006, she'll be touring with select dates in Toronto, Ohio and Texas with a special stop in Washington D.C. this September.

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Re-Late

Wanda Jackson to Release Elvis

CD (Continued from Previous Page)

By: Dave McGurgan

That's because she is one of only 12 people to receive this year's National Endowment of the Arts' National Heritage Fellowship. Jackson is both the first female country and rockabilly singer to receive the award, which recognizes artists who have contributed to the heritage of American arts.

And while she's in practically in every music hall of fame on the planet, an induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inexplicably remains elusive for Jackson, despite a well-organized campaign by her manager and fans. Even fellow musicians such as Elvis Costello have gotten behind the effort to get Jackson into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

And even though it's been 50+ years since Jackson first began performing, she says her fan base continues to grow. "I get e-mails from people all over the world almost daily saying they've just discovered my music and now they're trying to buy up all they can find," she says. For more information go to Jackson's Web site, <http://www.wandajackson.com/>.

RE-VUE CHICAGO
ONLINE JAN 10TH
WWW.RE-VUECHICAGO.50MEGS.COM

Ferlin Husky Undergoes Heart Surgery



Country Music Legend Ferlin Husky underwent successful heart surgery on Tuesday morning (December 27) in Springfield, Missouri.

Doctors found two of his arteries ninety nine percent blocked. Two stints were placed in those arteries and doctors expect a full recovery. Husky will be released from the hospital on Wednesday.

"Ferlin looks just great," Leona Williams said. "They brought him out of the recovery room at about 12:30 PM and he looked great and said he felt good. He should be up walking and back to singing soon."

Husky was born in Flat River, Missouri, on December 3, 1925. His first hit record was a duet with Jean Shepard on "Dear John." That was followed by a string of songs that topped both the Country and Pop charts including "Timber I'm Falling" "Gone" "Country Music Is Here To Stay" "Little Tom" "I Feel Better All Over" and "Once."

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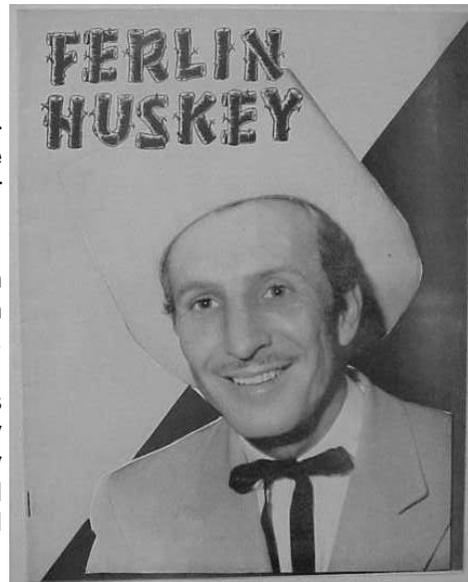
Re-Late

Ferlin Husky Undergoes Heart Surgery (Continued from Previous Page)

Husky had his biggest success in Country Music with the multi million selling "On The Wings Of A Dove" in 1960. It stayed at the number one position for over ten weeks and reached number twelve on the pop charts.

Husky has just signed with Heart of Texas Records based in Brady, Texas. He will return to the studio in late January to begin recording his first country studio album in over ten years.

"We are very pleased with the surgery," Heart of Texas Records President Tracy Pitcox said. "Ferlin was having some difficulty breathing during his last few shows and on a recent celebrity cruise. The blocked arteries were the problem. We are excited about the new album and about Ferlin working some additional dates in the future."



Cards can be sent to: Ferlin Husky P.O. Box 777 Vienna, Missouri 65582.



I found out late in December that yet another favorite of mine, a sophisticated, smooth, suave, mellow cocktail lounge was being closed due to CTA Brown Line expansion.

The Tiny Lounge wasn't exactly a hot-spot within the scene. Nary a rockabilly band graced this bar and the clientele was somewhat gentrified and pretentious. It was largely a martini bar in recent years.

And yet, there were so many enticing qualities about this fabulous lounge...

CTA Claims Another Victim: *Tiny Lounge*

The rich luxurious feel to the décor, the mellow romantic lighting, the private back room... which was probably where the bar got it's name. You could probably fit less than 10 in the back room. There were a couple small love-seats (I imagine they accomplished their purpose many a time..) and a couple other rich velvet upholstered chairs. The room could be made quite cozy when the velvet draperies were closed off to the rest of the bar... although the owners often popped in at inopportune moments and would draw the curtains again. Perhaps some amorous couples got a little too frisky?

In any case, with much lament, I report to you that this prime location has been reclaimed via eminent domain and the CTA will be expanding the EI where this fine establishment once served up their tiny beers. Tiny Lounge closed on Dec 31 and is seeking a new location.

Re-Late

It was with some shock and a sense of loss that we all heard that David Loehr and the James Dean Gallery were in trouble. For over a decade he has toiled to provide us all with a juvenile delinquent's dream weekender in Indianapolis, the Rockabilly Rebel Weekend. Every summer, hundreds of us descend on the Hoosier state to belly up to the bar, dig some tunes, see kick ass car shows, sun ourselves in the pool, and more than anything act like we're all 17 years old for a few days. He does this for the love of the music and the joy that he brings to people that come. He doesn't do it for the money and that's the difference between David Loehr and the rest of the promoters in the world.

And now, our friend faces an insurmountable issue. The cost of doing business is just too great.

For those that don't know, the James Dean Gallery first opened in 1988 in Fairmount, Indiana which was the actor's home town. Opened in an old Victorian house which was and is also David Loehr's home. The entire first floor was converted into a museum to house James Dean memorabilia. After a small electrical fire in the old home, David decided that it was better to find more suitable home for the largest collection of Dean Memorabilia. A new facility was built in early 2004 an art-deco style nearer to the Interstate; 7200 square feet and state of the art.

But with size of the new facility comes the increased costs to heat and maintain it.

Since the 1988 opening of the collection, nearly 100,000 people have visited.

And with the sky-rocketing costs for energy, Loehr faced the inevitable decision to close the new location. Of all things... the cost to heat the new facility will be the its ultimate downfall.

David Loehr writes on his website, "James Dean has influenced so many actors, directors and musicians we were hoping that someone would step forward with the necessary financial assistance that we needed to remain in operation" says Loehr. "People come from all over the world to see the exhibit, the hometown and Dean's gravesite and it is a shame for the county and the state to loose this local cultural attraction".

The issue with the gallery occurs in the wake of other problems in Dean's hometown. A festival in Marion in June of 2005 to mark the

50th anniversary of Dean's death drew nowhere near the expected number of attendees; about 6,000 people instead of 100,000.

David has noted that he will put his collection into storage and continue to operate a separate gift shop in Fairmount.

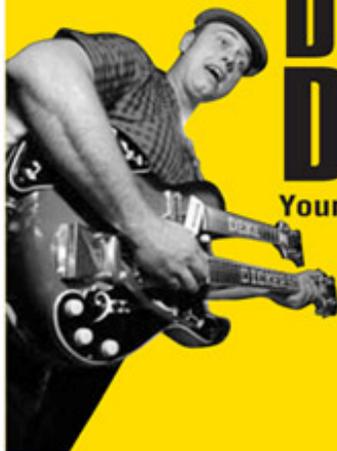
Rebel Without a Home?

James Dean Gallery Closes



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Re-Wind

SPO-DEE-O-DEE "THE MANY SIDES OF..." (RHYTHM BOMB)

Spo-Dee-O-Dee, one of Europe's top rockin' acts, has recently gone back into the studio to record their fantastic new CD "The Many Sides Of". This brand new set of recordings contains a nice cross section of rockabilly, hillbilly, 50's rock n roll' and R&B...as the title alludes to. Retaining the line-up from their last release, Spo-Dee-O-Dee has added extra instrumentation in the form of Axel Praefcke on 2nd lead guitar, Nina Tropitsch on piano, the Mellowdations & the Del Jays on backing vocals (I wonder who that could be on the wailing sax?). The CD was recorded of course at the hotter than hot Lightning Recording Service in Berlin. Needless to say, the sound on the CD is period perfect throughout!

Fifteen of songs of pure rockin' enjoyment is what you get with this one! Wild boppers with "Crazy For My Baby" (rockabilly bopper original) and "I Aint Got You" (blues bopper with heavy guitar). Fantastic jivers in "Love Struck Baby" (unusual cover, written by the late Stevie Ray Vaughn), "Let Me In" (wailin' sax and savage lead guitar break) and "Miss Blue Eyes" (Warren Smith/Sun record's rock n roll). Rockin' blues with "I Ain't Got You", "I Wish You Would" and "Pride And Joy" (another Vaughn cover). The big surprise of the CD is the WILD rocker "Go Little Got Cat" (savage cover of the Four Teens original), sure to be a favorite in all over! Also included is an alternate version of "Tell Me Who" a fantastic ballad complete with haunting western movie style backing vocals is hidden on the end



STRICKLAND SCALE:
4 FEZES

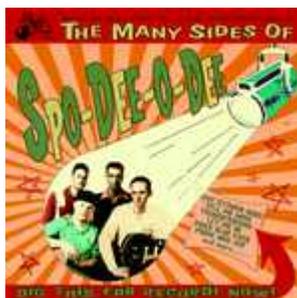
of the CD. This is one solid listen from start to finish! Be sure to pick this one up wherever Rhythm Bomb records are sold!

Track List:

Crazy For My Baby
Love Struck Baby
Don't Go Pretty Baby
It Breaks My Heart
Why Did She Have to Go
I Wish You Would
Tell Me Who
Thunderbirds
Let Me In
Miss Blue Eyes
I Ain't Got You
(I'm Gonna) Paint This Town
Pride and Joy
No More Crying the Blues-
Such A Long Way
Go Little Go Cat

www.rhythmbomb.com
www.spo-dee-o-dee.com

Also recommended listening by Spo-Dee-O-Dee – "Shake Rattle and Blue Moon" CD



THE ROUND UP BOYS "GOOD LOOKIN' DADDY" (RHYTHM BOMB)

Fronted by one of the happiest cats on the planet, Michael "Humpty" Kirscht, the Round Up Boys are back with their latest release..."Good Lookin' Daddy!". You'll see why Humpty is so happy after hearing these fantastic new rockabilly recordings! Rounding out the boys are Axel Praefcke guitar, Lucky Lehmann on bass and Torsten Peukert on drums. Also included in the recordings is none other than Ike Stoye on sax/piano! The album was cut at the ever popular Lightning Recording Service in Berlin...can't beat the sound!!!

Packed into "Good Lookin' Daddy" are 14 brand new originals and two aptly chosen covers. Standouts on the CD are "I'm on My Way" (original bopper w/wild guitar), "The Blues Kept Knockin'" (nice jiver with shuffle beat and pickin' guitar), "Good Lookin' Daddy" (rockin' jiver with sax and guitar breaks) and "Almost Anything" (nice

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Re-Wind

THE ROUND UP BOYS

"GOOD LOOKIN' DADDY"

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

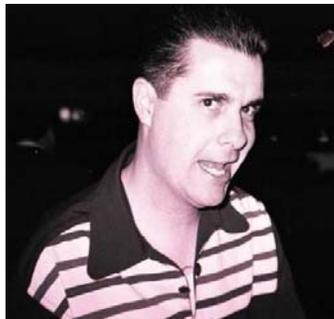
country boogie with piano) . Absolute best cut on the album is the rock n roll jiver "I Got Love So True (For You)" with incredible vocals and killer guitar break! Nice material from start to finish!!!

Track List:

I'm on My Way
The Blues Kept Knockin'
Amarilla
Cool Cool Love
Good Lookin' Daddy
Make It Allright
Don't Cry I'll Be There
Bad Baby Doll
I'm Outta Here
Let's Have Fun Tonight
Almost Anything
Never Had A Love
Hurry Hurry Baby
When I Love You
I Got Trouble
I Got Love So True (For You)

www.rhythmbomb.com
www.theroundupboys.com

Also recommended listening by the Round Up Boys – "Lift Off Like A Rocket and Rock"



MATT STRICKLAND



STRICKLAND SCALE: 5 FEZES

**HAVE A CD YOU WOULD LIKE US TO RE-
VIEW? CONTACT THE EDITOR VIA E-
MAIL: REVUECHICAGO@YAHOO.COM**

Re-Wind

Thu Dec 29 '05 1:21 pm
<http://www.bloodshotrecords.com/news/>

Behind the public and well-known faces of musicians and bands of Chicago's vibrant and wildly diverse music scene there is a community of creative and dedicated people who make it all possible. Theirs are names you will likely never know and whose faces don't make the glossy magazines, but whose contributions to the music we all love are irreplaceable.

If you have been a regular concert-goer in Chicago during the past twenty plus years, odds are strong that you have benefited from the ubiquitous and experienced ears of Gary Schepers behind the soundboard. He has been the big man with the big voice and the good heart working the sound at Lounge Ax, the Abbey Pub, Empty Bottle, Martyr's, Fitzgerald's, Schubas and every other venue you can think of. He's been the sound man for Eleventh Dream Day, Uncle Tupelo, Son Volt, Material Issue, and John Parish. In short, Gary is one of THE unsung people that help keep our city the vital and accessible music scene that it is.

Recently, Gary was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and is spending the holiday season in a hospital room recovering and getting treatments. Like many people in the music industry, Gary is without health insurance. To help defray his mounting medical bills, there will be a series of benefit concerts featuring just a tiny percentage of the artists he has worked with over the years.

The speed and ease with which these fundraisers have come together, and the breadth of talent participating in them, is testimony to the appreciation and high regard held for him within the community of musicians that have performed in this city.

From the Bloodshot perspective, Gary was responsible for the sound at our first showcases at Lounge Ax and Empty Bottle. He handled our neophyte, multi-band nights

Chicago Acts plan shows to benefit Gary Schepers

of chaos with a serene, unflappable manner. He never let on if he was bothered by a bunch of screwballs learning how to put on a show on the fly and on his watch. Over the years he's taught us when to worry, when to yell and when to just enjoy the moment. He has produced and engineered several records for us, both live and in the studio, and has been holding down the bottom end on the tuba with Devil in a Woodpile at the Hideout.

Gary's steady and quiet contribution to the Chicago music community is one of building, in quotidian fashion, a body of work and experience that has shaped the concert going experience for all of us.

Benefit Shows for Gary Schepers:

Fitzgerald's, Friday, January 20:
In the main room: **Robbie Fulks**, Jay Farrar, Corky Siegel

In the side bar: **Devil in a Woodpile** (all night)

Side building, front room: **Dolly Varden**, Bunker Town, Prohibition Orchestra
Show times and ticket price to be announced.
www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com

The Hideout, Sunday, January 22:
An afternoon kids show from noon to 4:00pm with: The Blisters, Wee Hairy Beasties (featuring **Jon Langford**, **Sally Timms**, **Kelly Hogan**, & **Devil In A Woodpile**), **Nora O'Connor**

In the evening:
Califone, Edith Frost, Chris Mills (solo) Show times and ticket price to be announced.
www.hideoutchicago.com

The Abbey Pub, Wednesday, January 25:
Jeff Tweedy, Devil in a Woodpile
Doors at 8pm, show at 9pm \$30.00 advance, \$30.00 day of show, on-sale date to be announced.
www.abbeypub.com

Schubas, Friday, January 27:
Bottle Rockets, Tijuana Hercules, Great Crusades
Doors at 9:00pm, show at 9:30pm.
\$12.00 advance, \$12.00 day of show.
Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased here:

www.schubas.com/calendar.aspx
Plus many more bands: Jim Bohquist, **Kelly Hogan & The Wooden Leg**, Yellowhammers, Bakelite 78, New Duncan Imperials, Mr. Rudy Day, Jane Baxter-Miller, Hoyle Brothers, James Conway, Eric Nodon, Diamond Jim Greene.

Look for even more benefit shows at Martyr's, The Empty Bottle, The Abbey, and The Hideout. 100% of all proceeds will go directly to Gary Schepers.

JANUARY 2006

Re-Wind



Before there was "Judge Judy". Before there was "Judge Jerry". Before there was even Judge Joseph Wapner. There was Judge Jay Jostyn of "Night Court USA". I saw an ad for this DVD that stated "The riviting stories are both strange and funny, revealing a wide assortment of human

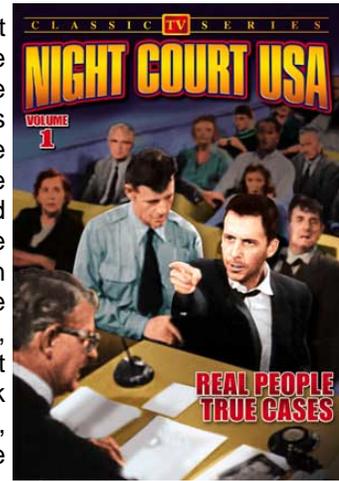
frailties behind the multitude of shocking offenses." I thought that this was just a bunch of hype. How can a courtroom show that was made almost 50 years ago possibly stand up to the courtroom shows of today? Well, I bought this DVD, slipped it into my player, and discovered something, This show kicks ass! This is better than anything on T.V. today.

If you think today's judges are tough, wait until you see Judge Jay Jostyn. When was the last time you saw Judge Judy deport someone to Mexico? When was the last time you saw Judge Joe Brown sentence someone to 6 months in prison? Not only does Judge Jostyn sentence a man to jail, he sentences the man's wife who wasn't even arrested or charged with anything, to jail. Jay Jostyn can hold his own with any of today's judges.

Unfortunately, not everything is perfect. While I was researching this show I discovered that all the people in this show are actors. The advertisement had already claimed that the defendants on the show were actors portraying real people, and that the cases were actually real cases. But, upon further research I discovered that Judge Jay Jostyn was also an actor and not a real judge. I guess that if you like professional wrestling and roller-derby, then this should not detract from your enjoyment of the show.

The courtroom shows of today depend on the judges eccentric personalities to make the show interesting. The thing that is different

about "Night Court USA" is that the defendants help carry the show. On today's courtroom show's, the people involved in the case are well mannered and respectful and are afraid of the Judge. On "Night Court USA" the people on trial are drunks, weirdoes, oddballs, or just plain defiant. Fights break out among the spectators, and many of the



NIGHT COURT U.S.A. VOL. 1 (1958)

defendants have to be dragged out of the courtroom by policeman after their sentencing.

The highlights of this show include a juvenile delinquent, who looks like he just came from a Viva

Las Vegas weekender, being charged with carrying a concealed weapon. All through the trial he is very hostile and defiant. He has to be warned many times to be respectful to the court. After being sentenced to six months in the county jail, he is dragged out of the courtroom by the police yelling "I'll get you judge."

In another case, a young woman is charged with loitering at a bus station. During the trial it is revealed that she is unmarried and pregnant. It seems that her mother was fixing her up with the dorky male relatives of all her "old lady" friends claiming that they were nice boys. The woman got so fed up with it, that she wanted to prove to her mother that they weren't nice boys and ended up getting pregnant.

In a very weird turn of events, a black man is arrested for begging. He was an ex-vaudeville dancer who was down on his luck, and was reduced to being a street performer and having people throw money in his hat. Luckily for him, Judge Jostyn happened to catch his act 20 years earlier, and has him do a tap dance in the middle of the courtroom. Not only does the guy get off lightly, but Judge Jostyn promises him to introduce him to some show business people that can get him a job.

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Re-Wind



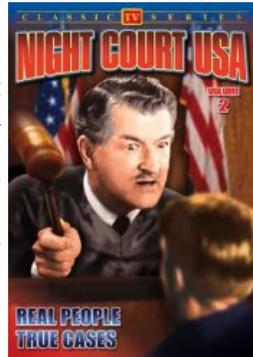
In another case a blind man is arrested for begging. During the trial, it is discovered that he really is not blind. It becomes apparent that sensitivity training didn't exist 50 years ago, when the judge starts yelling at him, calling him a liar, and telling him that he is the lowest form of humanity on earth.

The show turns serious when a prominent surgeon is arrested for using drugs. Luckily for the surgeon, the judge had met him during WWII and remembered his outstanding war record as a surgeon. The surgeon relates that he got addicted to drugs because of the pain from a war injury that he suffered. The judge sentences him to drug rehabilitation and promises to talk to the American Medical Association in an effort to prevent him from getting kicked out of the medical profession.

It's back to the funny stuff again, as an obese woman is arrested for hitting her husband over the head with a pot. She tells the judge that for the past 13 years her husband has the habit of clicking her false teeth. She couldn't take it anymore and hit him over the head with a pot. The judge shows us that he is an advocate of women's rights and suspends her sentence, as long as she promises never to do it again.

The funniest and best case in this whole series is a drunk man arrested for disturbing the peace. The man is played by burlesque comic Harry Rose. If you own any of the Something Weird Video burlesque videos, you will know

this guy the instant you see him. He comes into the courtroom totally wasted. It seems that he was so drunk that he went inside the gorilla's cage at the zoo thinking that he was entering his mother's apartment. When he discovered where he was, he started screaming and woke up all the other animals and causing a big disturbance. Things become more



surreal when Judge Jostyn says to him "You are on your way to becoming an alcoholic", even though it is obvious that he already is one. The judge sentences him to 30 days in the county jail in order to prevent him from becoming an alcoholic, but it's probably too late.

NIGHT COURT U.S.A.

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

This great and totally awesome DVD is available at Tower Records or at www.oldies.com which has a big selection of old and obscure DVD's. The good news is that this is volume one. There are three more volumes in this series. Each volume contains four one-half hour episodes, and only cost \$5.95. I have seen volume two and it is as good as volume one. In fact "Night Court USA" is so good, that some T.V. station should start showing reruns.



Re-Wind

I've always loved comedy. Anything that cheers me up and makes me laugh is a good thing. If you've been watching network TV, you know comedy is not doing so well right now. Most of the network comedies are dreadful, and the ones that are original, funny and intelligent quickly get cancelled. Currently the only network shows I make an effort to watch are "Two and a Half Men", "Gilmore Girls", and "Lost". Two of these shows are dramas. The other, "Two and a Half Men", is often hysterically funny and is also very intelligent. Somehow it slipped by the network rule of canceling such shows. Shhhh – don't bring it to their attention! I also turn to "My Name is Earl" if I get the chance.

Some of the network comedies I liked, or even loved, that were quickly cancelled recently were "Whoopi", "Like Family", "Nikki", "Greetings From Tucson", "Living With Fran", and the list goes on... around this time TV Guide stopped covering comedies, and I never found out what happened to them. They just disappeared. I don't subscribe to TV Guide anymore. Their bill for renewal came right after my last layoff, and I learned I'd been paying \$50 a year for a guide that ignores my favorite shows and leaves out half the listings!

So before you watch yet another formula comedy featuring a husband (usually fat) who behaves like a small child and a wife (always thin and beautiful) who functions as his mother, I'd like to review for you some of the best comedies on television – from the 1950's, 60's and 70's.

They're all on Channel 23, also called ME TV. I set the timer on my VCR to tape my favorites and watch them when there's nothing else on TV, which is often.

"I Love Lucy" is tied with "Barney Miller" for my favorite comedy of all time. I'm sure you've seen or heard of Lucy. From 1951 to 1957 Lucille Ball, her husband Desi Arnaz, Vivian Vance and William Frawley starred as Lucy, Ricky, Ethel and Fred. This show is great

Classic Comedies

fun, timeless, and beautiful. I've seen most of the episodes more than once, but I still love watching it. It's never dull, the characters are lively and always up to something, either playing jokes on each other or trying to accomplish something that leads to over-the-top hilarity. Many bits that are comedy clichés today were first done on this show. The chemistry between Lucy and Ricky is wonderful and real, since they were married in real life. The friendship between all the characters is sweet, and much more realistic than on most modern TV shows. It's also fun to look at the vintage dresses and shoes. I'd so love to run barefoot through Lucy's closet! After the first season Lucy was astonished to find she was pregnant after being married 11

years. She had to fight the network to let her appear pregnant on TV, at the time such a thing was unheard of! Their TV characters became pregnant and had a son, just as they did in real life. Currently Lucy is on from 1:00 to 2:00 weekdays.

"Barney Miller" ran from 1975 to 1982. It's a unique show, set in the squad room of the 12th Precinct police station in New York City, of which Barney is the captain. All the action takes place in this room, there is never any background or mood music, and no sound from the audience until the end. It's an intelligent show with six unique and interesting regular characters, the detectives, and a never ending parade of colorful characters as the people being arrested, lawyers, relatives, higher-ups, and folks who just wander in.

There's such a variety of plots and jokes I'm not sure I can generalize about this show. As you can imagine, the possibilities are infinite with this premise. Whether it springs from a prisoner, a sweet old lady, a detective, or Barney's boss, there's always a funny, new and interesting story on this show. They achieve what other shows could not, keeping it funny and satisfying even when dealing with heavy subjects. Over time some of the detectives left and were replaced with new characters who were completely different, which changed the show but still keeps it interesting. I watched this show as a child, but most of it went over my head, and I get much more from it now. Between then and now I read that the show was originally intended to be about Barney's home life, but the squad room stole the

(Continued Next Page)

Re-Wind

show instantly and the producers went with the flow. The same article pointed out how unique this show is since it's done more like a play than anything else, with the entire show in one room. There's never been anything else like it, and the men of the 12th make even 1970's fashions look good. J Currently Barney Miller is on at 11:00 weeknights.

The Burns and Allen Show ran from 1950 to 1958. George Burns and Gracie Allen were a famous comedy team, and in this show they play a married couple who are in show business. The key to the comedy is Gracie's ditzy character, whose mixed-up way of perceiving things and expressing herself leads to lots of zany twists. Meanwhile, George is on the sidelines telling the audience what he thinks about it all. Their signature joke was this: George says "Say goodnight, Gracie", and Gracie says "Goodnight Gracie". This show is well worth watching, especially if you like vintage humor. Currently it's on at 10:30 Sunday night.

"Mary Tyler Moore" ran from 1970 to 1977. It was a groundbreaking show about a single, over-30 career woman. Mary Tyler Moore plays a woman who works as an assistant producer at a TV news show and Ed Asner plays her boss, Lou Grant. It's funny and serious at the same time, mixing jokes and comic characters with occasionally serious subjects, like when Mary found out she was being paid less than her predecessor because she's a woman. Even with such subjects, it never gets too heavy.

I find it a bit annoying that every man Mary meets asks her out, but otherwise it's a great show. Currently it's on at midnight on weeknights.

"The Brady Bunch" – if you're over a certain age, I don't have to tell you about this show. Everyone watched it. Everyone knew about it. There have been satires, plays, TV movies. It's been running almost continuously in syndication since the original run from 1969 to 1974. It was about a woman

same outfits more than once. They have the same coffee mugs my aunt had. The children share bedrooms. These people are not mysteriously rich and wearing designer clothes, like many of the TV characters on modern shows. In real life people like Cheyenne Hart (Reba), Daphne Moon (Frasier), and Lorelai Gilmore don't wear the latest fashions. Back in the day TV producers understood that! "The Brady Bunch" is currently on at 4:30 and 7:30 weekday evenings.

So those are some of my favorites, and there are plenty more. ME TV also shows The Partridge Family, Green Acres, The Honeymooners, The Bob Newhart Show, Who's The Boss, All in the Family, The Jeffersons, Family Ties, Good Times, Jack Benny, and others. They show vintage dramas including Quincy, Starsky and Hutch, Hawaii Five-O, The Untouchables, Batman, Baretta, Kojak, and others. They also show vintage commercials going back to the beginning of time, which is fun. I loved the one with Howdy Doody and the animated tooth (for "Colgate Dental Cream").

For some reason they change the schedule three or four times a year. I don't know if they're looking for perfection, or just like to mix things up. Almost as much fun as the shows are their promotions for the shows, which show clips with a vintage song like "Kiss Me" or "Do You Love Me". When I notice a schedule change coming up, I buy a Sunday Tribune and check it's TV schedule. Last time I checked, TV Guide didn't even list Channel 23.

Classic Comedies

(Continued from Previous Page)

with 3 daughters who married a man with 3 sons and a housekeeper, forming a blended family. This was a very daring idea for TV at the time. They never said what happened to the previous spouses. This was also the first show in which a husband and wife were shown in a double bed (except for some episodes of "I Love Lucy", but that doesn't count because the actors were married in real life). Scandalous! J "The Brady Bunch" is a very sweet, comforting show. The parents are attentive and caring, the problems are always solved, the weather is always nice. One thing I like about this show is the way the characters are dressed and accessorized like real people. They wear the same clothes I wore, and the

Re-partee

Now, I dig the Holidays, I'm the kinda guy who's always trying to put a happy face on it for people who want to mope around with it. It's of course just flat out depressing for alotta people, I just don't happen to be one of them. So that's why I saved this little bit here about the morbid side of Christmas until after the decor got all stacked up and the plastic tree was ready to go back in the box:

Johnny Ace was this R&B singer back in the day who blew his head off on Christmas Eve playing Russian Roulette backstage at his own concert. All of his music happened to sound a whole lot like funeral music, too. When we get into this time of year, where the Egg Nog is souring in the fridge and everyone is bushed from the Holiday rush, when the feeling isn't so much post coital as post traumatic, I think of poor old Johnny Ace, with a chip on his shoulder and too much to prove. By default, "Pledging My Love" is a good sad Christmas song, even though there's no Christmas in it.

Howlin' Wolf brought us one of my favorite Christmas but not really songs with "Sittin' On Top Of The World." It's easy to miss if you're not paying attention (and you should always pay attention, when the Wolf talks you better listen) but the big line is "I had to take Christmas in my old barn." The Wolf spent Christmas in a barn, dog. Sitting on hay. It was cold and dark. There were horses and cows all around him. And he was down with it: "but I don't worry, I'm Sittin' on Top of the World."

Living dentistry textbook photo Shane McGowan provided the only Christmas song I know of to involve the words "faggot" and "drunk tank." It's about a guy in jail



Johnny Ace

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF CHRISTMAS



Howlin' Wolf

on Christmas Eve remembering better days, in New York City with bells ringing and Frank Sinatra singing, when he loved a woman who loved him back, but then he almost immediately blew it. I've always been very ambivalent about McGowan, but this song is awesome. I forget the name of it. Google Shane McGowan and Christmas, I can't be bothered with it right now.

And New Year's...I always imagine that someday I'll go to some New Year's Party where everyone is witty, urbane, well kept and laid back. I don't know if such a place exists, every NYE thing I ever went to was drunken idiocy and lude, crude, and rude. That'd be fine 364 nights a year, but on the last night of the year I think it's good to take that thing home in a manner that will reflect well on the year to date and set a good precedent for the year to come. I usually spend the night quietly with one of the few people I love more than myself. We kick back and watch Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve.

This year Dick Clark came back after his stroke to host the ball dropping in NY, and it was rough. The World's Oldest Teenager sure grew up fast. Growing up on the 10,000 Dollar Pyramid and the 80's incarnation of American Bandstand I thought he was cool, my opinion grew harsher when I found out who Alan Freed was and how his cookie crumbled. Time mellowed my stance, one thing I got from my dad that I've been trying to defuse and deprogram from my mind is a tendency to really hate on successful people in the name of less successful people. Like dissing Elvis because Chuck Berry is less famous is a favorite of dad's. It's not Dick Clark's fault that he was (and hell, still is) successful and shrewd enough not to get caught in anything compromising. When I read about how it was at one of Dick Clark's events that Jackie Wilson took his Great Fall at and that Dick himself ran out on the stage and openly wept, I was back to being a fan. Dick Clark is cool and he's cool by being pleasant and still hip. I think that's something to aspire to. Happy New Year, I'll see you pretty soon.

Re-partee

My basement is full of stuff. Okay, maybe I didn't phrase that accurately. My basement is absolutely packed to the rafters with worthless junk of every make and model. As we have learned, I have a basement full of Batman and Spiderman costumes (one of each, thank you), ashtrays from many long demolished Las Vegas casinos, an Electrolux vacuum cleaner or two (or four) and an art deco bar with seating for four (six, if two of them lie on the floor...which tends to be the rule not the exception).

Also warehoused in my basement are my most precious photo albums. It is fairly obvious that I am the Jimmy Olson of the operation. Rarely is food placed in an open mouth or a pair of pants taken off in public that I am not there with my pesky flashbox. Year after year and roll after roll, I have chronicled Chicago's rockabilly culture. And after more than twenty years in the trenches and behind the lens I have some fabulously great news to report.

Rockabilly people, for the most part, appear to age very well. This seems to run counter to all that modern health sciences recommend. Day after day we hear it from all the TV talk shows--eat right, exercise, get enough rest and steer clear of cigarettes and alcohol. Those rules might apply in the Bizarro Rockabilly World. But down here on earth it just ain't the case.

Each weekend--and often once or twice on a school night--

hillbillies from around the globe stay out way too late in crowded, sweaty bars drinking the finest in cheap beers and just plain carrying on like there's no tomorrow. And fairly early the next morning we're back in the harness at our menial jobs dragging home that paycheck. For all intents and purposes we should all be worn down to a nub. But we survive. We continue. And we look damn good in the process.

When I crack open the photo albums and return to the Mesozoic Era in Chicago rockabilly, I am always mildly surprised. Sure, the hair was darker than it is now. The hair was thicker than it is now. The faces were a tad thinner and shinier as well. But overall we are doing battle against Father Time quite nicely. And I have two theories that explain this anomaly in very very...unscientific terms.

First of all, having a great time is its own reward. Certainly a fellow could go on a bender of Spencer Tracy-sized proportions and just be hilariously happy. But that can really damage a person in the long run. However, maintaining the perfect gentle buzz keeps a person serene, unphased and un wrinkled. Besides if you're having a ball you're just bound to look and feel better.

My other theory behind our youthful vigor and appearance is much easier to document and explain. It's my secret weapon and I discovered it entirely by accident. When you

are still a very young person (this even works for those in high school) start dressing and acting like an old man. Keep that haircut short and tidy. Dress like you're headed for the VFW at all times. White socks are not an option--they are a requirement! And carry yourself like an old man. Drive in a reasonable manner. Keep at least three dollars in change in your pocket at all times. Order a Manhattan every time you take your place at the bar. Start carrying on like you're fifty about thirty years early. Then when you finally are fifty, folks will say you look just like you did when you were twenty. Instant fountain of youth!!

We are a bunch of middle-aged juveniles. We have mortgages and growing families. We have snow to shovel and yards to mow. And yet we manage to steer clear of many of adulthood's silent pitfalls--boredom, solitude and bitterness. In a word, hooray for us. Ain't we cool!!!



Regarding...

Ray Price's Birthday

Thursday, January 12 is the eightieth birthday of country music legend Ray Price. In honor of this great man and the music he has created for the last fifty years, the Gin Palace Jesters will be performing at Fitzgerald's in Berwyn. The music starts at 9 and will feature Chicago's original Honkytonk fools and some of their friends playing the songs made famous by Price and their own tunes as well. This evening will serve as a prelude to a rare Chicago appearance by the man himself Sunday March 19 at the Old Town School of Folk Music.

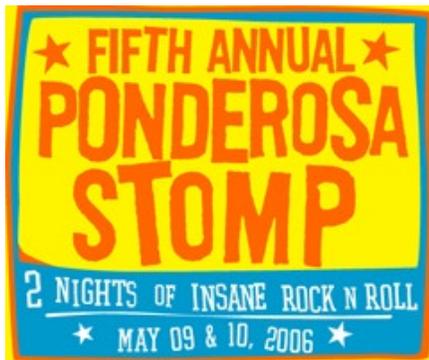
— Ken Mottet

Chinese New Year Parade, Jan 29

Chinatown, 2200 S. Wentworth Ave., Chicago, IL

Celebrate the Year of the Dog, 4704, at this spectacle featuring a 100-foot-long dragon float and the traditional Chinese lion dance.

Jan. 29: 1 p.m.
Free.



**Ponderosa Stomp #5
May 9th and 10th, 2006, at the
Gibson Factory, Memphis
Tennessee**, from 5 P.M. till 2 A.M Nightly, Admission \$40 per Night ... Celebrating the Unsung Heroes of the Blues, Soul, Rockabilly, Swamp Pop and New Orleans R&B

Artists slated to play include:

Clarence "Frogman" Henry, Joe Clay, Jay Chevalier, Rebirth Brass Band, Willie Tee, Eddie Bo, Al "Carnival Time" Johnson, Rockie Charles, Tammy Lynn, Alvis Wayne, Warren Storm, Lazy Lester, The Bad Roads, Barbara Lynn, Roy Head, Lil Buck Sinegal, Archie Bell, Scotty Moore, DJ Fontana, Sonny Burgess, Hayden Thompson, Ace Cannon, Hi Rhythm Section, Travis Wammack, Willie Cobbs, Kenny Brown, The Bo Keys, The Nightcaps, Kenny & the Kasuals, ? & the Mysterians, Lady Bo, Billy Boy Arnold, Jody Williams, Deke Dickerson & the Eccofonics, Johnny Jones, Chick Willis, Little Freddie King, Clifton James, James Blood Ulmer, Betty Harris, Dale Hawkins, Dennis Coffey, William Bell, Fillmore Slim, The Tennessee Three featuring W.S. Holland and Bob Wootten, Wiley and the Checkmates, Syl Johnson, Herb Remington, and The Fabulous Wailers. More to come.

Early sponsors onboard for the event include Gibson Guitars, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and The Blues Foundation.

Tickets

Tickets for the Fifth Annual Ponderosa Stomp are still available. All tickets are \$40 per night and are general admission - re-entry is allowed.

Advance tickets will be available online on January 20, 2006. Tickets will be available at the door the night of the show.

The Gibson Factory, Memphis

The annual New Orleans roots music romp that draws music fans from all over the world, will find a temporary home in Memphis in 2006. The festival will take place May 9 & May 10 at the city's multi-level Gibson Factory.

Hotel Accommodations

Special discount rate for Ponderosa Stomp attendees at Wyndham Garden hotel, 300 N Second St, Memphis, TN. Rooms for 5/7,8,9, and 10 are \$150 per night inclusive of all taxes. To make reservation call hotel 901-525-1800 and tell then you are attending the Ponderosa Stomp. To get the special rate, rooms have to be booked by 4/2.

www.wyndhamgardenmemphis.com

Website for the Ponderosa Stomp is:

http://www.knights-maumu.com/stomp_5.php



Re-Vue Chicago

BE SURE TO CHECK WITH VENUES BEFORE SHOWS. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. DATES ARE COMPILED THROUGH SEVERAL SOURCES:

GUNTHERMURPHYS.COM, BEATKITCHEN.COM, ABBEYPUB.COM, FITZGERALDSNIGHTCLUB.COM, SCHUBAS.COM, METROMIX.COM, MARTYRLIVE.COM, MWRAB@YAHOOGROUPS.COM, CHICAGOROCKABILLY.COM (AMY OTT), DESIREE KISS, AND YEPROC.COM.

January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sundays: Honkytonk Bingo 7 Fulton County Line 9 @ Pontiac Cafe	2	3 Tuesdays: DJ Pete spins rockabilly, doo-wop, blues, 50;s, R & B @ Streetside Devil in a Woodpile @ HideOut	4 Wednesdays: The Rhythm Rockets @ Frankie's Blue Room	5 Big C Martyr's Gin Palace Jest- ers host Most Thursdays Sidewinders @ Green Dolphin	6 trip Daddy's, Rockin Billy and the Wild Coyotes, Koffin Drag- ger, the Dealbreak-	7
8 Beg. Swing Workshops 10am- 12:30 pm Las Manos Gallery 5220 N Clark Street Matt Lewis & his Medium Big Band @ One Galleria 5130 N Western	9	10	11	12	13	14 GKO, Gina and the Jets @ Willow- brook Ballroom
15	16	17	18	19 Hot Rod Hucksters @ Mar- tyr's for Twang Off competi- tion	20 Big sandy and His Fly Rite Boys in Madi- son WI	21 Big Sandy & His Fly Rite boys @ Fitzgerald's
22 Big Sandy and his Fly Rite Boys @ Old Town School of Folk Music Kids show 2pm	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		Thursdays: Psychibilly DJ Kevin Massacre @ Exit Susie Gomez Open mic nite @ Innertown Urban Hog Wranglers @ Smoke Daddy	Fridays: Hoyle Broth- ers @ Empty Bottle	