

Please excuse all my mistakes! Oct. 18, 1979

Dear Paul,

First off, I'd like to apologize for this typewriter ribbon. It's all goofed up and sometimes it's red print and sometimes black so I hope you won't mind too much!

Thanks for your nice letter! Yes Gene & Dona Wilcox are very good friends of mine and I always try to visit with them when I'm in Ohio.

I hope I can be of some help to you in supplying some information on the Hoosier Cornhuskers. I was with the group from Jan.- 1950 through Mar. of 1951 when I was drafted into the Army. We had two daily half hour shows on WKJG there in Ft. Wayne and played just about all the surrounding towns in the area at the various high schools. They were indeed the good old days as far as I'm concerned. Darl Fox still lives there in Ft. Wayne at 1130 St. Marys. Al Pettit lives in Logansport, Ind. but had to retire from music after he suffered a stroke a few years ago. Pete (Grandpap) Smith lives in Star City, Ind. (Route 1) and he and his wife Audri are playing in a band every week at various Moose and Eagle clubs in the area. I just visited all the old gang this past year while on vacation. Pete could supply you with early information on the group as he and Al were partners for 25 years. I was the last member they hired before the group broke up. I have a lot of old records taken from our programs on WKJG but the quality isn't the best. I could make you some cassettes on better ~~year~~ ^{year} a ~~real~~ ^{real} to reel recording of some of the better stuff if you'd like. I have a lot of Pete on the fiddle. Pete and I also worked together later on in Jacksonville, Ill. and I can also include some of those songs too if you'd like. Then I also had a group known as Barbara Price &

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The Golden River Boys and we had a weekly show on WONO in 1954, 1955 and 1956. I can also send you a few songs from those shows too if you'd like. We played at Buck Lake Ranch as a staff band in 1956 and worked with Tex Ritter, The Wilburn Brothers, Jean Shepard, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Ray Price and Red Sovine. I sang: "In The Jailhouse Now" with Teddy and Doyle that year and just sang it with them again this past May 6th. That was a real thrill after 23 years to sing it at the same place.

I've released two albums on the HEB label and I'll send you the one I cut with the Buckaroos if you'd like one. The first one is all gone but I can send you some cuts on a tape. I'm proud of both of them but especially proud of the one with the Buckaroos. Don Rich is on it and he even sang some harmony with me so I'm extra proud of that.

I have a band now known as: "FOUR YOUR PLEASURE". I've been here in Yakima for 20 years now. I did a TV show for 2 years when I first moved here on KIMM TV with Bert Wells. We are presently playing at the American Legion but we were at the Eagles club for 6 years. so I've been pretty lucky with steady work.

I think that about covers the highlights of my career. I hope I've given you some information that can be used. Let me know which tape you'd like and I'll make one for you okay? So long.

Your friend,

Bob
Bob Homan

P.S. By the way, my phone number is: 1-509-453-5978 in case you ever want to call me for anything. Your mentioning The Hilltopper

P. S. # 2

I just reread my letter and I thought I should clarify something. I was actually the next to the last member the Cornhuskers ~~had~~ ^{hired}. When I went into the Army they hired a guy by the name of Glenn Gordon but the group broke up about 6 weeks after he was with them.

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Nov. 16, 1979

Dear Paul,

I thought I'd let you know that I received your nice letter and the tape a few days ago. I've got your tape started but I'm having quite a time trying to get some decent quality on the songs as the records are scratchy and my old turntable is just about shot. Maybe some of them will be worth using. The rest of them you'll just have to keep for your personal collection! I have another tape on hand that I'll go ahead and use as I'm sure I'll need more than one tape. The songs that I'll send you from our shows on WLDS in Jacksonville, Ill. will be a lot better than that with the Cornhuskers and The Golden River Boys as it was recorded on tape originally. It's too bad that tape recorders weren't around in the early 50's. I know you'll especially enjoy the fiddle and mandolin music.

There's someone else you ~~should~~^{should} contact in Ft. Wayne about the old radio shows and that's Joe Taylor. He had a show on WGL for years and also did a segment of Folk Music time on WOWO the same time that we did with The Golden River Boys. I think his number is listed in the phone book. He lives on Hillegas Rd in Ft. Wayne. He could certainly supply you with information about the early shows. WANE is the only station that I never worked in Ft. Wayne so I didn't get to know the folks you mentioned other than Leo Zimmerman. I met him somewhere along the line I know. I also remember Paul Remaklus. Another former member of the Hoosier Hop: George Arthur is a DJ in Marion, Ind. His wife Judy and her sister Jen also sang on The Hoosier Hop. Maybe Pete Smith has already told you this information. Two members of the Cornhuskers are deceased who worked on the Hop with Pete and Al. They are Fred Oliver and Patsy Jo Kelly.

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I hope you met and recorded Pete's group by this time. He and Audri are very special friends of mine and I'm so glad they are still pickin' & singin'.

I will ~~send~~^{send} you one of my albums with The Buckaroos. I'm just sorry now that I didn't have Don Rich play fiddle more on the album. He was so good! He was never appreciated until after he died. We have a young fiddle player who works with us occasionally and I'll try to include a couple of his songs on the tape okay? He's 22 years old and is real good I think. His whole family is talented and they all play just about every instrument in the book.

I also made an album called "Beamin' All Over" but they are all gone. I'll also put a couple cuts on the tape from that album. This will all take some time but I'll do my best to get the tapes completed as soon as possible. In the meantime if I can be of any further help just let me know okay?

That's it for now. The best of luck in your project. I think it's great that someone is interested in the old shows.

So long.

Your friendly

Bob Homan

JJ Please excuse all the typing mistakes.