

EVENDALE OHIO - Pavilion Park Show (07-22-06) : Ok, this is going to be a tough one this week. In fact, my commentaries get tougher each week as we get deeper into the schedule. Hot Wax is just so consistently good show after show that I run out of new ways to say it every week! Now, that is a good thing.....but I would have more to write about if they messed up once in awhile...LoL! Naturally, I'm just joking because their consistency is one of the things I love about "Hot Wax"! You always know you are going to see a great show....and you're never going to get cheated or short changed! Bobby just has too much pride.....and just would never let "Hot Wax" put on a show and just go through the motions. Each show we see has the same effort and enthusiasm as the first show of the season.....and that is a real credit to the entire "Hot Wax" band!

This commentary was going to be tough to write for another reason. "Waxers" like Jean, Rickmeister, Lucy, Shirley, Otto, Darlene, Jimster, Karen, Al and Gail did such a great job writing on the comment page that there was nothing left for me to cover! Then....just as I came up with some new material.....then Barb Hilton "the Dancing Queen" writes one of her first comments ever on the comment page.....and it happens to be 4 pages long.....so there went the rest of my material!!!!

Hmmm.....what to write about....what to write about....let me think. I know what might help. I need to go turn on my radio and tune to yep...you guessed it 1160 Wdjo....and listen to some great Golden Oldies. That always gets me inspired! Once again.....they are playing the lovely Miss Tina's favorite Elvis song "Suspicious Minds". Tina just loves that song and she can never hear that song enough! Ringggggggg, Ringggggg, give me a second to go answer the phone. Speaking of Elvis....It's 9:00 and I pick up the phone and who is on the other end? It is Elvis himself.....Mr. Bobby Valentine! Perfect timing....just when I needed some inspiration to write....there is Mr. Hot Wax himself on the phone. Bobby & I had a nice little chat and Bobby provided me with some new info that has me pumped up and inspired to start writing again!

Bobby told me that the show at Evendale could not have gone any better.....and that everyone of the officials from Evendale that Bobby had a chance to talk with was very pleased and impressed with our boys and when you think about itwhy wouldn't they be impressed. "Hot Wax" put on an outstanding show like always.....and the "Waxers showed up in great numbers like always! Between the great weather, great venue, the very nice people of Evendale, the awesome performance by "Hot Wax" and the huge crowd.....what was there not to like about Saturday night! The "Hot Wax" fans absolutely loved Evendale and I had the feeling that the city of Evendale felt the same way about "Hot Wax"! I had talked to a few of the nice people at Evendale also and a very nice gentleman who gave me a ride in the golf cart told me that he loved our boys and was especially impressed with the patriotic part of the show. I told him how much we loved this venue.....and how we were hoping we would be invited back. He told me that he couldn't imagine us not being asked back. This nice gentleman told me that in the years that he has been part of the shows at the park....that this was by far...the largest crowd EVER to see a show there! Way to go "Waxers!"

"Waxers", once again ...give your selves a much deserved pat on the back! Just like you have done all year....you came through again. You have been there whenever "Hot Wax" has needed you! You were there for a sell out crowd for the opening show at Jim & Jacks when the new guys needed your moral support. You were there in Wilmington when more than 600 of you showed up at the Murphy theatre when we wanted to impress the people there! When we wanted to impress the Crystal Palace.....you packed the Palace and drew their largest crowd of the year thus resulting in 3 more bookings at that great show place! Hot Wax went to Lawrenceburg Indiana a few weeks ago for the first time on a Thursday night for a short 2 hour show. No one knew what kind of a crowd to expect on a week night far from home in Indiana for a short show. We were guessing that maybe 300 people or so would show up. We underestimated the incredible drawing power of "Hot Wax"....and the loyalty of the great "Waxer" fans as over 3000 people turned out on that Thursday night in Lawrenceburg! Then once again....last Saturday night we wanted to impress the very nice people of Evendale so that hopefully we would be

invited back.....and what did we do? We drew their largest crowd ever! Now here is our next challenge. I have been told many times by lots of folks in many bands including our own that it is nearly impossible to draw large crowds to an indoor venue in the summer time. As a "Waxer".....I accept that challenge.....and we will prove again why "Hot Wax" has the best fans of any band in the entire tri-state area!

I have already made 28 reservations for the Jim & Jacks show coming up on the 19th of August.....and there has been great interest in our "End of the Summer Bash" at the Crystal Palace on the 26th of August. I will be shocked and very disappointed if we don't shatter our own record for the largest crowd ever at the Palace! I once made 46 reservations for Jim and Jacks.....but if everyone who has told me that they are planning on going to the Palace on the 26th actually goes.....then my record of 46 reservations will fall! Remember, if you are reading this and you would like to be part of the great fun event at the "Summer Bash " party at the Palace on the 26th of August....then please get in touch with me. Greg, who owns and operates the Crystal Palace, has been great to me and the entire "Hot Wax" nation.....and Greg promises me the best seats in the house as long as we keep bringing big crowds!

Ok....where was I.....oh yeah....I just got off the phone with Bobby. Bobby told me there are a few things probably in the works for the "Summer bash" show. There might also be a few surprises for everyone down the road involving the "Great Sigsbee"....but Ole "A-Bob" forgot to see if that was confidential info or not. I better choose to keep quiet on all of thatbecause a lot of times Bobby likes this stuff to be a surprise when and if something new is added to the show.....so I will respect that. By the way...in case you are e-mailing Bobby and not getting any response. Bobby & the lovely first lady, Tina, will be gone for a little while on a much deserved vacation. I will not reveal the locationbecause I don't want the Paparazzi to hound Bobby & Tina! There is a rumor that Bobby & Tina are on the same island that Brad Pitt and Angeline Jolie went to avoid the publicity.....but I will neither confirm or deny that rumor! A couple of you "waxers" including Gail and myself were wondering how Bobby's beloved little 4 legged buddy, Max, was doing. Bobby told me that he is doing great....and we all are glad to hear that! Bobby just loves that little guy!

We got to the show about 2 hours early like we usually do....but guess what....it wasn't early enough as those wild Hilton sisters had already been there and had their chairs positioned right up front. The Hilton gals have quite a sense of humor as they had real nice signs hanging on their chairs that said they were the Hilton sisters.....and on their mom's chair was a sign that read "Hot Wax Godmother".....very good girls....LoL! It was Mary's, Hotwax's Godmother's, birthday and she was so pleased that everyone was so great to her. She received several birthday gifts from us "Waxers" and Bobby and the boys sang "Happy Birthday" to her and she was thrilled! Mary is such a great fan....and while her Hilton daughters enjoy and follow several bands.....there is only one band for Mary....and that is "Hot Wax!"

Mary is also a huge fan of Ole "Ambassador Bob" and every Wednesday Mary goes out to eat with her two lovely daughters Barb and Nancy.....and it has become a Helwig tradition that Barb or Nancy must print off a copy of my commentary.....and then read it to Mary while they are having dinner. If they don't have a copy of my commentary like they didn't a few weeks ago when there were some printing problems.....then the Godmother is very upset! Mary had Nancy sit down yesterday and write me a very nice and touching e-mail telling me and my gang that even though Mary has not known us for all that long.....that she really enjoys all of us and that we have provided Mary with a life time of memories. Thanks Mary for those very kind words! Mary is kind of my idol.....as Mary is a very young and spry 82 years old...yet she is at nearly every "Hot Wax" show.....and always wearing her "Hot Wax" t-shirt. When I am 82 years old....I will be wearing my "Ambassador Bob" shirt and be attending my 634th show in a row.....and be looking forward to hearing Bobby singing "Hurt!" Granted, Bobby will be about 73 years old.....but he will only look like he is 41. Einstein, Bruno and Tommy's grandchildren will be singing back up.....but Bobby will still look younger than they do! I will attempt to stand up and give Bobby his usual standing ovation after he sings "Hurt"....but it may take me two songs to get to my feet.....but that will still

be the end of the "American Trilogy " song.....and I usually stand for that one also....so that will work!

I always enjoy getting a chance to talk to a few of the boys before a show. I got to spend about 20 to 30 minutes or so talking to Tommy and his very lovely wife Patty. I'm getting to know Patty better at each show.....and she really is a very nice young lady! Seriously, does any band have a nicer group of ladies than "Hot Wax".....I don't think so! I always enjoy talking to Tommy because I always learn something interesting about Tommy's musical background. Tommy was telling me this week about his first phone call to Bobby many years ago.....when Tommy answered an ad in the paper when Bobby was looking for a singer for "Hot Wax". The story is too detailed to go into it in my commentarybut I did tell some of you about it after the show while we were at Perkins.....and it was very interesting and amusing. I also enjoyed chatting with the very personable and talented Mr. Einstein and his lovely wife, Kim. I found out that they just got back from spending some vacation time at Hilton Head where they had a great time. If it makes any of you feel better.....Einstein told me that the humidity in Hilton Head was just as bad as it was in Cincinnati!

I always enjoy walking around out in the crowd before a show and talking to first timers. The Evendale show was like a smorgasbord for Ole "Ambassador Bob" as there were many, many newcomers! I don't know who was more excited.....the people I was talking to about "Hot Wax"....or me for having the opportunity to tell them about "Hot Wax!" Just as the show started I decided to make a quick trip around the perimeter of the venue.... just to ask some folks how they were doing and to tell them to enjoy the show. I also ask them if everything sounds alright to them from where they are sitting. Once the show started and the first timers in the crowd heard our boys.....I was not able to move more than a few feet or so before I would be stopped and told how good "Hot Wax" was or be asked questions about where they were from or where could they see them again. Now, of course Ole "A-Bob" is always happy to discuss "Hot Wax".....so needless to say.....my little short trip around the perimeter took me the entire first show to complete! My gang got concerned about my whereabouts.....and I became an MIA and was reported to be missing in action!

While I spent the first half of the show at the back of the venue.....I learned something. While the "Hot Wax" sound is terrific....if you are a real hardcore "Waxer".....then you need to be up front and close to the stage! When I returned to my seat in the front row for the second half of the show....the difference in the power and force of the sound sitting down in front from the sound standing way in the back was just amazing to me. It was like two totally different experiences to me and once again....if you are a real "Waxer"then closer is much better!

While I was walking around in the crowd I met a very nice couple and their names were Dave and Bert Quint. It turns out that they are friends of Sandy Mcgee and were sitting way in the back of the venue. It was great fun to watch their reactions at their first show. Dave had many questions about "Hot Wax" and I was more than glad to answer them. Dave really seemed to get into the show.....and by the second show Sandy invited Dave to take her seat in the front row. Poor Dave not only had to deal with Ole "Ambassador Bob" during the first show....but when I returned to my front row seat Dave was sitting right next to me again....LOL! Actually, I think Dave enjoyed me giving him some insights into the show. I do know one thing and that was that Dave was also amazed at the power of the show when sitting close compared to way in the back! While I love the atmosphere and the huge crowds at the outdoor shows.....I still prefer the pure force and volume of the indoor shows and I think the indoor shows displays "Hot Wax's" talent much more adequately.....at least in my humble opinion. Based on the reactions of both Bert and Dave....I will be surprised if they are not at the next show....and before long they will become "Waxers!"

Something pretty cool happened while I was in back during the first show. I happened to glance to my left and about 15 feet away, there sat the entire "Vibe" band....all 5 of them! I think I will use their "Hot Wax" names here so everyone knows who I am talking about. There was Sonny,

Bubba Q., Biff, Frankie and Bear! It was great to see "Hot Wax's" lovely first lady, Tina, walk up and greet each one of them....and it was very nice of the guys to show up. The boys could only stay for a short while before heading down the road just a bit to their own gig at Foley's. "Waxers" got a rare treat Saturday night as we enjoyed the entire "Hot Wax" show.....then some of us still had time to travel down the road and catch the second half of the very entertaining "Vibe" show! Just seeing "Hot Wax" alone on any given night is more fun than anyone should be allowed to have.....but getting to see both of these very talented bands in the same night could just simply spoil a person! How do you top that! Bobby told me after the show that Tina and him hope to catch a "Vibe" performance soon.....and that would be cool! I wonder if I happen to be there if I could shove Bobby up on stage to perform a numberlike maybe "Hurt" or "Livin in the USA?" As most of you knowOle "Ambassador Bob" can be pretty persuasive when he wants to be!

(A FEW SHOW COMMENTS) : I don't have a lot of comments this week about the bands performance because like I said earlier "Hot Wax" is just consistently great every week....and this week was certainly no exception! All you had to do to see how great our boys were was to walk among the new fans like I did and see the excitement and enthusiasm on their faces as they talked about "Hot Wax". I think some times it is easy for us to take "Hot Wax's" great talent for granted.....so it is refreshing to see the excitement of the newcomers.....and it quickly refreshes our memories and reminds us again why we love "Hot Wax" so much!

I was telling everyone before the show how impressive it was to follow a band that is 10 members strong and that it is an awesome look. Just about that time the entire 10 man band came marching all in uniform out of the tree line on a hill top and then marched single file down the hill behind the stage.....and I know it was only 10 band members....but I swear it looked like 20. The people talking to mesaid"Oh my goodness.....look at all of them"LoL!

I thought that the "Great Sigsbee" had his coming out party this week. While I said I couldn't judge the "Great Ones" guitar playing at Bellevue....I certainly could this week in Evendale.....and I thought the "Great One" was simply outstanding this week! I could clearly see the talent that both Tommy and Bruno raved about. Like I said earlier in my comments....I also heard some more good things about the "Great One"....but we will have to keep some of that under wraps for awhile. Einstein and the boys always do a great job on the acappella "I Believe" number.....but Saturday night the song was even better than normal. With Einstein singing the lead and Bobby, Bruno and Tommy providing the back up harmonies....that was about as good as that song can be done! The perfect 4 part harmony almost took your breath away....just outstanding!!!! Great job ...guys! Anyway to sum up this part of my commentary.....just like I expected....with Sigsbee playing like he did and Tommy being back and moving to the front line the band not only sounded great but looked great also!

MISCELLANEOUS FAN NOTES - I enjoyed talking to Tiffany and her 12 year old son Corey and his friend Jake at the end of the show. Both of these talented young guys are quickly becoming a couple of our best dancers in our very talented "Waxer" dance line at the end of the show! Corey....Ole "A-Bob" let you down the other night and I apologize. Corey wanted me to find him a magic marker pen.....and I promised him I would but I failed. Corey and his buddy wanted to remove their shirts and write "Hot" on Corey's belly and "Wax" on Jake's belly. Now when "Hot Wax" gets a chance at free promotion like that ...well ...you just have to take advantage of that!

It was great to see Pat Roth having so much fun at the show like she always does! However, just like the rest of usPat loves to mingle and talk about our boys also.....but right now she is restricted to her wheel chair.....but Pat would love for all of you "Waxers" to stop by and say hello to her. Pat, I promise to introduce you to some more of my gang at the next show. Pat, I also think that you would be able to handle the St. Bernard show if you change your mind and decide to go. The Cold Spring show might be a little tough for you. It's always fun when we mix the "A-Bob" gang with the "Helwig Clan".....and Saturday night was no different! JeanI was very sorry I missed you at the show....but like I said earlier...I was missing in action for quite awhile!

Debb, we missed you also and I had to sing "I don't know why I love you" by myself!" You need to start making more shows....young lady!

I would also like to thank both Bruno and Bobby for the nice remarks about me Saturday night while they were on stage! That's always nice to hear....especially when I invite friends to the show. Jimster, it's nice to see all of the fans giving you the credit you so much deserve for all of the great photo's you take at each and every show! Rickmeister.....kudos to you also for the great job you do with the souvenir stand before and during the show! Sandy Mcgee... thanks for volunteering the other night during the break and passing out schedules to the newcomers and helping to win over new fans!

Bobby put some very nice comments on the message board today....and I agree with him whole heartily. The "Hot Wax" fan base is growing larger and larger everyday! We are not only getting largerbut we are getting closer to each other also. That makes for a powerful force! Much like a pyramid.....every time we welcome a new "Waxer".....then there is an excellent chance that "Waxer" will bring in another friend or two and so on and so on. I can't tell you how important a large fan base is to "Hot Wax" or any other band for that matter. I'll give you an example. I have talked to several mayors this year about booking our boys for an outdoor show....and I have been told that they have tried bands before for their outside showsbut they just didn't draw anyone. I then tell these Mayors not to worry about that because in the case of "Hot Wax" it has a large fan base that follows the band wherever they play. They will provide an instant crowd....before another single person from the community ever shows up! It is amazing how interested they get in talking to me after I tell them about all of the loyal "Waxers!"

It is getting harder and harder to get live bands booked these days....and really hard for a band the size of "Hot Wax".....but make no mistake about it.....it is the huge fan base of "Hot Wax" that will have us returning to the Murphy theatre in Wilmington.....and to Lawrenceburg.....and got us the extra gigs at the Palace.....and has us returning to Falmouth, Bellevue, Cold Spring and hopefully Evendale year after year after year! To give you an example of what I am talking about and I hope Sonny doesn't mind. I once asked Sonny after we were booked for the Crystal Palace if the "Vibe" had tried to contact the Palace about a gig. Now...we all know how talented the "Vibe" are....and they are better than quite a few of the groups we see at the Palace.....but Sonny was being honest and told me they could never play the Palace as they just don't have a fan base large enough to interest a venue the size of the Palace or the Murphy theatre..... and to the owners of these establishments.....that is very important! So I guess what I am saying is that "Hot Wax" provides the talent and the entertaining shows that hook us.....but it is the loyal "Waxers" that keep it all going....so we make quite a team! "Hot Wax" & "Waxers" both..... give yourselves a well deserved pat on the back and let's keep this "Hot Wax Machine" rolling! Geez.....I just reread this paragraph.....and I felt like an Evangelist preacher for a moment there or two....LoL! By the way "Waxers"....it great seeing everyone writing in on the "comment page".....and you all are doing a great job! Keep up the good work.....although some of you are getting just a little too good and Ole "Ambassador Bob" is starting to worry about his job!

Ok, finally last but not least.....the Evendale venue was just fantastic and the people who ran the event could not have been any nicer! It was a first class event all the way around.....and the City of Evendale should be very proud! It is certainly is one of my favorite venues as I'm sure it was for most of you also. Anyway, if you get the timegive the mayor or park director a call or send an e-mail and make sure you tell them who we are and tell them how much we enjoyed ourselves at their great park! Also tell them what a great job the people did at the park to make us all feel so welcome! I would love to come back to Evendale every year.....and I have a hunch they would like to have us back every year!

Ok, it will be a long 3 weeks until Friday night August the 11th in St. Bernard.....but I hope to see everyone there! Thanks everybody! I must be OFF! (Insert your wisecracks here!)

"Ambassador Bob"