

JIM & JACKS SHOW 04-07-07) : As we all know...we always look forward to spending an evening out on the town...especially when we are going to a new venue....and that is what we did last week when we had a great time at the very successful Deer Park High School show! However, as most of us also know...after we have been out for a while...we always look forward to going home....as there is no place like home...and to us "waxers"...home is always Jim & Jacks! Jim and Jacks is where we were going to be on the night before Easter.

If it seems like "Hot Wax" gets a lot of gigs on the night before holidays and that is not entirely by accident. That has happened a lot for "Hot Wax" over the years....and the reason for that is very simple. A night before a holiday is not generally a great night to draw a large crowd....and club owners are well aware of that. However, a lot of club owners are not stupid either and are very aware of the great loyal following that "Hot Wax" has...and has always had....and they know that if they want a nice crowd on the night before a holiday....then you book a sure thing... and that sure thing would be..."Hot Wax"! It doesn't take Einstein to figure that out....although...I know that he could!

Bobby and I have a lot in common besides both of us being Bobby H's....and our very good looks! I know most of you "waxer's" know I have a hearing problem right now...but believe me...I can hear those snide remarks out there...and I know who you are...LOL! Actually, what we do have in common is that we are both worriers when it comes to anything pertaining to "Hot Wax"! Bobby told me last week that we are both going to have heart attacks if we both don't stop worrying about everything...after he watched me worry for months about the Deer Park show...and I watched Bobby worry about the crowd size at Jim & Jacks this week!! As soon as we are relieved that the last "Hot Wax" show was a huge success....within a day or two...we are already worrying about the next show!

Bobby was very worried about what kind of crowd we would draw at Jim & Jacks...after just performing a week earlier indoors at Deer Park...and once again performing the night before Easter only a week later. Normally, I would have been worried myself...but for some reason....I felt confident that we would have a big crowd...and I told Bobby that earlier in the week. All of my indicators were pointing in that direction....and my indicators were right!

By the time Saturday night got here....I had 42 reservations...and Nancy Helwig had at least 12 more...and you always know that Jean will have a nice size group also...so I was feeling pretty good based on those early returns. I know 42 was not near the record setting 59 reservations that I had for the "Standing Room Only" opening show of the year at Jim & Jacks....but still 42 reservations was a very good number...so again ...I felt very positive about the anticipated crowd size.

Like always...when we play at Jim & Jacks....I like to go up there very early.....so I got up to Jim & Jacks around 6:00. It not only allows me to check out all of our seating arrangements....but I have made some very good friends at Jim and Jacks...so I enjoy spending some time with them in a relaxed atmosphere....as the place is usually pretty empty at that time on a Saturday evening. When I arrived at Jim & Jacks the entire J&J gang which includes Ennie Jim, Jim at the door, Skin, Karen, Margie, Jessica, Joyce were already waiting on me to give me the good natured ribbing that they always give me...and I actually enjoy all of that....even though they are always having fun at ole "Ambassador Bob's expense...LOL!

I was going to be extra excited about this show....because I had 3 new family members coming with me...and as you all know by now...I love to come with newcomers! As the crowd started to file in ...Jim and Jacks began to fill in a hurry...and that is when I noticed that they had squeezed in extra tables on the dance floor...as you literally could not move. I must commend all of you "waxers" though as not one of you complained to me or anyone else that I am aware of! I think most of you realized we were just trying to squeeze in an extra table for our good friends and very long time "waxer's", the Steigerts, who just had their beloved mother Rita pass away earlier in the week.

The Steigert's did not make their reservations until very late...because they were not sure that they would be able to attend a show this soon ...because of the emotion involved with Connie's Mother not being there. However, Bobby and Tina and Einstein and Kim who attended the funeral services were able to convince the Steigert's that this is where Connie's Mom would want them to be on this evening...as Rita never wanted to miss a "Hot Wax" show...and for probably over 15 years or more...Rita very seldom did miss a show!

Anyway again...I want to thank Jim & Jacks for squeezing the Steigert table in at the last moment ...and again thank my fellow "waxers" for understanding and not complaining about how tightly we were packed! That will never be a problem again....because I have a large group going to see the Van Dells on Friday night May 4th...and I was informed by Karen of Jim & Jacks that they will not pack us that close again..as the waitresses had no lanes to get through...and that the fire marshal might not be too happy with that seating situation!

Anyway...as you can probably tell by now....although there were a couple of tables unoccupied on the far left side of the room against the wall....that with the extra people jammed into the middle of the room...Jim & Jacks was at capacity! Great Job...."Hot Wax" once again....especially the week after another show...and again the night before Easter. This again...is why club owner's like to book "Hot Wax" for tough dates....and who can blame them!

Because I get to the shows so early ...it allows me to socialize with all of my "waxer" friends...and I love doing that! I got to spend more than just a few

minutes talking to Jean...and since we are the President & the VP of the Bobby Valentine fan club...it is important that we meet now and then...don't you think....and I enjoyed our conversation! I have poor Jean so confused with all of the nick names that we have...so I took a few minutes to try to explain to her who everyone is...so when she reads the comment page Jean knows who is commenting....and I hope I helped Jean...at least a little.

I was also thrilled to see my good buddies Judy & Loma! I haven't seen either one of these young ladies for quite awhile now....so I was a little concerned about them...but it turns out that Loma has been fighting some serious sinus issues for awhile now...but again...it was great to see both Loma and Judy where I am used to seeing them... and that is at a "Hot Wax" show! JUdy & Loma...I am sorry that I was not able to improve your seating...but it was not for lack of effort...it was just packed in the middle of the room!

Now...I did miss a couple of my favorite people who were not able to be at the show. We all missed Debb...who is not feeling real well right now and we have not seen Debb since January 27th...if I'm not mistaken. However, Debb promised me that she will be at the next show on June 2nd at Jim & Jacks....and she has told me that if she is not there that a few of us ( no names) are allowed to go to her house and drag her to the show! AnywayDebb...hurry up and get well...young lady....as we really do miss you! I have also missed DC's lovely and very nice wife, Sandie, at the last couple of shows. I believe that someone told me that Sandie has not been feeling well....and if that is the case Sandie...then...we all hope you feel better real soon!...and I hope we see you on June the 2nd!

I had not seen Barb Gabbard or her lovely daughter Christina Ferrel at a "Hot Wax" show for awhile either...so it was great seeing them also....but they must have misbehaved or something as I think they were being punished by Jim & Jacks. They were sitting about as far away as you can possibly sit at Jim & Jacks...as they were in the far corner of the mirror room! Girls ...you need to call me next time. I can't promise you the best seats in the place for each show...but I know I can get you better seats than that!

I also got to talk to my boy "Boomer" for quite awhile as I always enjoy shooting the breeze about music with Boomer....and it was also nice getting a chance to chat with my good buddy "Bear" also. I knew that "Boomer" and "Bear" had known each other for many years...so when "Boomer" found out that "Bear" was at Jim & Jacks....Boomer wanted me to walk him over where "Bear" was seated...and the two of them had a very interesting conversation...and I enjoyed listening to these two very talented pro's reminisce.

It was also very nice of our new very talented and very exciting Keyboard man, Mr. Sammy Hammond, to come up to me and introduce himself.....and I enjoyed meeting Sammy very much. Believe me...it will not take long for Sammy to

become a crowd favorite as his enthusiasm...just like Boomers is just contagious....and their antics just pump us all up!!

Speaking of both Sammy and Boomer...I used to feel sorry for poor ole DC as DC is all cooped up in his tiny little fish bowl...and I worry that he get's bored back there...at least until we get to the outside shows...but I will not worry about DC being bored any longer. DC, now has stereo entertainers to observe...when DC looks to his left...there is ole Boomer dancing all over the place with his cocked sombrero and all of his facial moves and his fun antics! Then, when DC looks to his right....there is the "Energy bunny" himself, Mr. Sammy Hammond, bouncing all over the place! Now, not only does DC find this all very entertaining...but so do all of us "waxer's"...so keep it up guys!

If you want a good laugh...then just keep your eyes focused on Tiny...when he is watching Boomer or Einstein act up or misbehave while on stage. Tiny will just stare at them with a disbelieving look on his face...and then slowly...just shake his head back and forth. I can't quite capture the look on Tiny's face with words...but trust me when you see it ...you will laugh! That look is priceless...LoL!

By the way...."Boomer" is a very brave lad as he told me the other night that he and the "Angelic Angie" would like to join the "A-Bob" gang and the "Helwig Clan" some night when he is not playing and we are out on the town. That takes a lot of courage! Anyway "Boomer"....I won't pressure you....but there is a real good chance that we will be up Jim & Jacks this Saturday evening to see the "Avenues" who are very good....so if you and the lovely "Angie" are interested...let me know in the next day or two. Who knows....you might even run into Mr. Doc Roc and the lovely Prime minister Katie...as they have been known to pop in every now and then...so that would be fun! I'm not counting on Queen Spanky and Tito...because she has a reputation of standing us up....just joking Spanky!

Now...let's move on and talk about the great show that we witnessed Saturday night. I have a group of cousin's that are very big "Van Dell " fans....and I enjoy the Van Dells also...but I personally don't think they are any better than "Hot Wax"....and they are certainly not 5 times better...which is what the ticket price of \$25.00 to see the Van Dells would indicate! That is absolutely ridiculous!

Anyway...I convinced my 7 cousins to check us out at Bellevue last year...and let me know what they thought. When the show was over...they all told me that the show was great ...but not as good as I was promising them...and not as good as their beloved "Van Dells. I then explained to all of them...that sitting all the way in the back row up on the sidewalk at Bellevue was the absolute worst seat in the place as they are just way too far away to feel the power, rhythm and force of this big 10 piece band. I then explained to them that Tommy Casino was missing that night...and that not only were all of Tommy's great songs left out of the show

that night...but Tommy's harmonies and choreography were missing also. I also explained that our great new guitar player , "TGS" was performing in his first full show....so they would have to cut my boy's some slack...and they needed to come see them again...and indoors where I personally think "Hot Wax" sound their best!

It took me awhile...but I finally convinced one of the more avid "Van Dell "fans, my cousin Darlene, to give our boy's another chance....so about 8 shows ago or so...I got her to Jim and Jacks...and my cousin Darlene was simply amazed at what she was now hearing....compared to what she thought that she was hearing at Bellevue a few month's earlier. She was simply awestruck when she got to hear Tommy for the first time....and she told me that no matter how much she liked the Van Dells....the Van Dells had no match for Tommy or the "Cara Mia " number! My cousin Darlene has not missed a show since ....and has now been to 8 shows in a row...and she has no plans on not seeing our boys as she has told me to automatically make her reservations for every show until she tells me not to!

Darlene has now become a promoter for our boy's as she went back to the rest of my cousins and told them what I told her...and that was...that they had to check out "Hot Wax" again with everyone with the band and close up and indoors. Darlene was now telling my other cousins that she was still a huge "Van Dells fan...but that she could no longer imagine that the Van Dells could be any better than "Hot Wax"! The Van Dells might be as good...but she just felt that they couldn't possibly be any better than "Hot Wax"...just wasn't possible! Two shows ago...Darlene convinced another cousin, my cousin Pat, to come to another show...and after seeing our boy's from the front row at Jim and Jacks, Pat, who was not as big of a Van Dells fan as Darlene thought that "Hot Wax" was much better than the Van Dells....and Pat wanted to see "Hot Wax" again last week...and she did.

This time Pat brought her husband Jim with her....and my cousin Darlene brought her 30 year old son, Jason, with her...and because of his age ...that worried me a little bit...but Darlene assured me that her son, Jason, enjoys this kind of music....and he certainly did! Jason enjoyed the show so much...or at least I hope it was "Hot Wax"...and not Tiffany...that while attending a wedding together last Saturday night....Jason came looking for me to tell me to definitely to include him with my reservations for June 2nd show...and that he can't wait to see the show again!

Jason's favorite part of the show...I believe was the "Great Sigsbee's" Buddy Holly medley. That also happened to be Pat & Ottoman's very nice 19 year old son, Brandon and his very lovely girlfriend Felecia's, favorite part of the show the week before at Deer Park! However, while my 30 year old cousin, Jason, loved the Buddy Holly medley....Jason made it clear to me that his favorite performer in the band was by far....none other than the fantastic, Mr. Frank Einstein! Jason

loved his fun loving personality on stage...and most of Jason's favorite song's in the show were the ones that Einstein did! Once again...as I used to holler all of the time when I was a kid..."Way to Go Einstein!"

Long story short....yeah...I know...it is too late for that...so long story not as long as it could have been....5 of my 7 cousins from the Bellevue show have now been won over....and they now know what Gail and I get so excited about and why we are bragging so much about our boy's from "Hot Wax"!

Speaking of Mr. Einstein....didn't he have just a terrific night...or what? Einstein is always very good....but Einstein was extra special Saturday night! Einstein was extra special because he was unveiling 3 new terrific songs. After Einstein's great performance with the Christmas carols in the Xmas shows in December....I had a hunch that on the night before Easter...that Einstein might be doing the very well known Easter song..."In Your Easter Bonnet". Einstein did not do that song...but I bet if he would have...it would have sounded terrific!

The first new song that I want to talk about is the great old Dupree's classic..."You Belong to Me!" I have been asking for this song for a long time....and I am thrilled that it is back in the show....and so are a lot of other "waxer's"! Eugene used to do a great job on this number...and now...Einstein does an equally great job!

The second new number, the very popular Bobby Darin number, "Mack the Knife" received a very warm reception at our table also! It is not a personal favorite of mine....but that is only because both of my parents loved that song so much that they absolutely played that song to death in my household when I was a kid. That song stayed # 1 on the Billboard charts forever....and I'm convinced that it was my Mom and Dad that kept it there....and if I had all of the nickels that my parents put in the juke box's to hear "Mack the Knife"...I would be a rich man today! Anyway...Einstein does the song so well...that I still found myself enjoying Einstein's rendition of that huge former number one song!

The third new number that Einstein unveiled caught me completely off guard. I knew the song was coming in the second show right after the Elvis medley....and I was a little concerned about the song and I was wondering if this song was going to work. The song I am referring to is a song called "Minnie the Moocher". I was very familiar with this song...but only again...because..my parents played a lot of old 78 vinyl records on the old victrola I think it was called or the record player when I was a kid. This song was an old "Cab Calloway" number from probably the 1940's....and I was trying to figure how many people were going to know this song....and how was this song going to work in a "Rock 'n Roll" show. I knew this was a "Golden Oldies" show....but not quite that gold or quite that old...or so I originally thought.

Then...I mentioned my concerns to either "Boomer" or "Bear"....and one of them informed me that the song was done by an aging Cab Calloway and the song had a rebirth in a Blue Brother's movie from probably the 70's or the 80's....and because of the popularity of that movie..more people knew that song than I realized. I am not a huge "Blues Brother" fan...so I don't believe that I had ever watched an entire "Blue's Brother's" movie before....so I was not aware of that.

However, believe it or not...and I swear this is true....but while channel surfing today....I not only came across the "Blue's Brother's" movie....but Cab Calloway was in the middle of doing the "Moocher" number! I now see where Einstein came up with his very creative outfit! Well...after seeing the fun and excitement that song added to the movie...and the smiles on all of the "waxer's" faces as they took part in the audience participation during Einstein's great rendition....I now understand why that song was added to the show! I also now know why Bobby puts the show together...and not me! The song was great fun...and once again...Einstein just did a fantastic job on that number!

While...were still on the subject of putting these 3 new songs in the show....from what I have been told...our new keyboard man, Mr. Sammy Hammond, deserves a lot of credit for getting the new songs into the show so quickly. When I was talking to Bobby....a few days before the show...Bobby told me that they hoped to have the "You Belong to Me" song in the show for Saturday...but he wasn't sure if it would be ready or not. Now, as we all know...not only was "You Belong to Me" ready Saturday night...but so was "Mack the Knife"..and believe it or not...I was told that after only one run through at rehearsal....that Sammy already had the "Minnie the Moocher" song nailed also! That is very impressive, very impressive indeed...and a quick study like that will be invaluable to "Hot Wax" in the near future!

The ability of Sammy to learn new material so quickly...much like Sigsbee and I'm sure most if not all of the other band members...will be a big plus for the band as they will be able add more new material much more quickly than they could have in the past. Also, if the current "Hot Wax" band members can all stay together for awhile....the band should have the versatility and the flexibility...to change the shows on a week to week basis...as they can rotate songs from a bigger play list in and out of the shows...and that will provide a lot more variety in the shows.

While discussing new songs...if you are a big Bruno fan...and who isn't....the Bruno....did a fantastic job on a couple of new numbers at rehearsal this week....but as Bobby has told me many, many times...if I tell anyone...including the lovely Princess Gail...he will have to kill me...so obviously Gail would like me to tell someone...but I won't...so don't ask...LOL!

As I get near closing what was supposed to be a brief commentary...mainly because I didn't think I could come up with much material after doing a commentary for a show just a week ago...let me add just a few more comments. I know there are some of you who think my commentaries are too long...but believe it or not...there are as many "waxers" or more who say the longer the better...so obviously...I'm not going to be able to please everyone...but I always try anyway!

In summing up this fun filled evening at our home away from home, Jim & Jacks, I thought the evening was nearly perfect...except that I could not hear as well as I would have liked. The crowd was huge and very enthusiastic...and I thought that "Hot Wax" had just a terrific evening. The new songs by Einstein were very well received....and I thought the entire band had an excellent night!

I would also like to give a little extra mention to DC...whose drum solo...was just indescribable...and the crowd really gets into DC's solo! I also thought that Doc's performance during the "Moocher" number was just simply outstanding...and so did everyone else!!!! If all of that wasn't enough to make the night perfect...then an extra bonus for me...was that all of my family members who attended the show did nothing but rave about how good the show was after the rousing "Hot Wax" encore...and they all are either coming back on June the 2nd or they are coming to another show soon after!

Now....a few thank you's and I think I am done. I want to thank Bobby for making Shirley "Little One's", evening for her as Bobby sang to her during his Elvis medley. Shirley is going through a lot of tough stuff right now...and she never complains....so it was nice to see that big smile on my good buddies face for the rest of the evening! While I know that Shirley loves everyone involved in the "Hot Wax" band...there is no doubt that Bobby is her favorite!

I also want to thank Pat Roth, Ethel and Nancy for bringing all of the very tasty Easter goodies to the show. I also want to thank the entire Jim & Jack's staff with a special thanks to both Karen...and Margie for making our night at J&J's so enjoyable!

Last ...but not least...I want to thank Bruno ...for taking care of Bill Reynolds "the Godfather" for me....and taking the time out of his busy schedule to make the patriotic CD for Bill's special Vietnam tribute in Bill's home town in Indiana. As a Vietnam vet...I want to thank both Bruno ...and a very special thanks to a great patriot...Mr. Bill Reynolds...for the special Vietnam vets tribute!

Like always...a huge "thank you" to my "Syndicate of Sound " buddies for another job well done! Once again...I want to thank Mr. Buddy Love for always patiently answering my questions about the sound whenever I have a question! It would be very easy and understandable for Buddy to tell me to me to go back to my seat where I belong and leave the sound to the pro's....and I'm sure Buddy

probably feels that way some times...but he is always patient with me and at least pretends like he is listening to me...and I truly appreciate that....Thanks Buddy!

Ok...I guess that is about it...and I know this is going to be a long couple of months...but we have a lot to look forward to when our boy's do come back. Now that Sammy is aboard and will get some time and rehearsals under his belt...and now that the "Great Sigsbee" and "DC" has settled in....musically ...I have to think that this is about as much talent that any "Hot Wax" band has ever had...and that is saying a lot...because there has just been some unbelievable talent in "Hot Wax's" long proud history!

There will also be a lot of new material in the show when our boy's return....and of course we look forward again to our home away from home for that first show...and even though it is Summer time...and indoors...I will be shocked if Jim & Jacks is not sold out for this show...so don't wait to long to let me know if you are interested in attending. Also...as of a few weeks ago...Jim & Jacks is now computerized and when it comes to seating and they are following a much more first come...first serve policy...so that may make it much tougher to add you to my group..if you weren't there originally!

Now...if all of that is not enough to get you all fired up...remember that after the June 2nd show at Jim and Jacks that the fun outdoor season then begins...and there are some great new outdoor shows this season...plus the much anticipated new show at the great new indoor venue at Harrison...so obviously ...we have a lot to look forward to!

Ok...while we are in this break....lets all stay in touch...and write more often on the comment page. I know that just about everyone I know...reads the comment page! It is actually shocking how many people read it...but don't write. ...and I'm not sure why that is? There is nothing to be intimidated about...after all we are all just good friends....but I know that most "waxer's" would like to hear from more people. Do you hear me, Denny Mcgee, Shirley Breeze, Jimster, Carol Woodward, Gwen Floyd, Ethel, Loma , Judy, Christina, Connie , Jim, Vicki, Millie, Stan, Darlene Stern, Ken, Janet, John, Lesli, Robin, Bob and Selena Adamskiewicz, Nikki, Barb and Nancy Helwig, Brandon, Lenny, Jenny, Angie, Richard, Beckybear, Crystal, Khrystian, Jimmy, Margie, Greg, Lynda, Becky, my buddies in the "Vibe", ....and I could name a lot more people who read the comment page several times a day...but just don't write...for whatever reason..and that includes the "Hot Wax" members and a lot of their lovely spouses....if I had the space or the time. Come on gang....join us...really it is painless....and a lot of fun and no one gets graded...so again...jump on board....LoL!

Ok...thanks for your indulgence once again....and I hope you enjoy the commentary! As always ...thanks for treating me so nice when you see me or

write me! I'll see you all on June the 2nd! Ok...that is it so I must be OFF....(  
insert your wisecracks here! ).

"Ambassador Bob"