

HOT WAX SHOW - Lawrenceburg Indiana (06-15-06) : It's Tuesday afternoon around 5:00 and I'm getting prepared to write my commentary. I have a cup of hot tea and a few cookies sitting on the left of my desk. On my right....I have my radio on and tuned to 1160 Wdjo. I hand wrote 7 pages of notes last night so all I have to do now is go through all of those notesand try to make some sense out of them! Excellent song playing on the radio right now! Johnny Maestro is singing "Step by Step". You can never go wrong with a Johnny Maestro song whether he was performing with the Crests or the Brooklyn Bridge. Johnny may have been the most underrated artist of his time. Hot Wax has performed a few of his songs recently. Last year our boys were doing Johnny's "Juanita" and this year they are doing Johnny's "There's trouble in Paradise" or as I like to call it "Calling all Angels". I imagine that our boys have done many of his songs over the years.....but I digress!

After freezing to death at Dillsboro a few weeks ago and then again at Mason....it was great to be heading to Lawrenceburg last Thursday on a beautiful warm Summer afternoon. My gang of 9, consisting of the Jimster, Shirley, Carol, Denny, Sandy, the Rickmeister, Mary, Gail and myself arrived at Lawrenceburg around 5:30 or so. The 10th member of our "Terrific Ten"gang, Gwin, could not make it as she could not get off work early enough. Can you imagine that... a boss that would not let you off work early to catch a "Hot Wax" show? What's this world coming to? Anyway, we needed to get to the show early so we could save some spots for the notorious Helwig clan who consist of the Hilton sisters, Nancy & Barb and of course their lovely Mom, Mary. Other members of this rowdy clan include Pat & Otto and Paulette and Jackie. Pat, I know that you are having some tough health issues right now....but I was so glad that you were able to make the show.....because I know how much you love our boys....and I loved watching you have so much fun at the show! Our two groups were going to be sitting together. I just hoped that both the city of Lawrenceburg and our "Hot Wax" boys were prepared to handle all of us rowdy "waxers"! Dealing with one of our groups is tough enough ...but to handle both of groups together might be more than anyone could handle! We were happy to save some spots for Tiffany's Parents also. They are Hoosiers themselvesand are really nice people! By the way I must apologize to them as I must have been gabbing to someone at the end of the show...imagine that.....and did not get a chance to thank them for coming and to tell them good bye!

What a perfect setting for a "Hot Wax" show! This was once again Americana at it's best. The show was set up right down on the river.....but a large flood wall prevented us from seeing the river. The show was being held on a little street that had been blocked off for a cruise in. For those of you who do not know what a "cruise in" is.....it is a gathering of great classic cars from the past. Most of the cars were built in the 60's, 50 and 40's....but some go even beyond that. They are great fun to look at and admire and provide a great setting for a great "Oldies" show like the one "Hot Wax" puts on! Also located at the show site was a very large old fashioned gazebo. The street we were on consisted of a bunch of quaint little shops.....including an old fashioned little ice cream parlor that we visited.....and very much enjoyed. At the actual show sitethe aroma of brats , metts and hamburgers hung in the air. Now, as I looked around on Main street at all of the intimate small shops, with the classic custom cars parked in front of them, the large gazebo and our boys preparing to get on stage with their 50's rock N' roll outfits on.....it was as if we had all stepped back in time.....and what a great feeling that was! Now, imagine that setting and that atmosphere and then hearing our boys doing their great four part harmony on the great Danny & the Juniors hit, "At the Hop"! How awesomeis that? I suggest to you that it simply does not get any better than that....does it?

Oops...time out for a minute.....the "Hand Jive" is playing on the radio right now.....and I can't type and "Hand Jive" at the same time....in fact, I can barely type when I am not "hand Jiving". Ok, that was fun....as you can see....it doesn't take much to entertain ole "Ambassador Bob"!

Now, back to the show. Our boys sounded fantastic and they just keep getting stronger at every show.....and that is just naturally going to happen as they get more reps on each song and also more rehearsal time. I almost wished our boys would have an off night every now and then so I

would have something different to write about.....but that is about as likely to happen as me becoming speechless.....in other words....no chance! There just are no OFF nights for "Hot Wax".....and I like it that way! As good as our boys are....imagine when our new talented guitar player, the "Great Sigsby", is playing full time with "Hot Wax!" The "Great Sigsby" actually got into A "Hot Wax" uniform and teased us "waxers" a little as he played on a song or two.....and we liked what we heard! The "Great Sigsby" played on the Johnny Cash "Folsom Prison Blues" number and the "Great Sigsby's" style gave the song a different feel....and again we liked it! I think the "Great Sigsby" was scheduled to play a little more than he actually did in Lawrenceburg....but I think the "Great Sigsby" had a few technical problems with either his amp or his guitar chord. I look for the "Great One"... to play a lot when the "Hot Wax" tour rolls into Bellevue.....and remember the "Great One" can sing some also....so that should be interesting to see how that develops.

How awesome is it that we have....not just one lead guitar player....or even two lead guitar playersbut three lead guitar players and all of them are outstanding! How many bands in the area would kill to have either Bruno, Tommy or the "Great Sigsby" in their band! Sometimes as a member of the "Hot Wax" family.....I almost feel greedy or selfish or maybe spoiled. Much like the Yankees in baseball who have the best talent, best uniforms, best stadium, best tradition, best fans....and the biggest salaries. "Hot Wax" also has the most talent, best uniforms, best tradition, best fans, best sound equipment and the best lighting.....and of course the best support troops with our "Syndicate of Sound" boys. Now, don't all of you "waxers" feel just a little guilty that we have so much here in "Hot Wax Land"...while some other bands have so little? Now, be honest "waxers".....your not worried at all that we seem to have the best of everything.....are you? Guess what....either is Ole "Ambassador Bob".....in fact I love the fact that we have the best of everything! I'm not proud that I feel that way....but that is the way I feel! Let's face it.....I am a greedy "waxer".....and I don't apologize for it....I'm just enjoying it....LoL! Bobby & "Hot Wax" deserve what they have.....as they have earned it for all the hard work and effort that has gone into maintaining "Hot Wax's" great reputation and tradition over these 22 years or so! Bruno, Doc and Tito certainly deserve a lot of credit also especially for the last 10 years or so.....and I'd be remiss if I left out Mr. Buddy Love.....and certainly all of the spouses and mates!

Bobby told us at the beginning of the show that the "Great Sigsby" once played with Barry Manilow, Wayne Newton.....and Shelly Fabres! Bruno is still asking "Who is Shelly Fabres"....LoL? Shelly Fabres was Mary Stone on the old Donna Reed show.....and also had the number #1 hit song back around 1960 called "Johnny Angel". Yep....to this day ...Ole "Ambassador Bob's" heart beats a little faster when I think back to ole Shelly. When I was about 12 and Shelley was about 14I thought that Shelly was quite the hottie! By the way....later on....Shelly could be seen on the sit-com "Coach" as she played coach Hayden Fox's wife, Christine, on that show.....but I digress again.

Now, Ole "Ambassador Bob" is pretty gullible....but I'm not buying it that the "Great Sigsby" played with Manilow, Newton or Fabres. Now, I also heard that the "Great Sigsby" played with country star, Vince Gill, and that the "Great Sigsby" also played with "Pure Prairie league" at one time. Maybe T.G. Sigsby played with both at the same time as Vince Gill also once played with "Pure Prairie League". Now, I might buy that.....but I'm still not sure about that one either. Quite a few "waxers" like Sandy and Shirley got to meet and talk to the "Great Sigsby" and they said he was a pleasure to talk to and that T.G. will fit right into the "Hot Wax" family!

This show was a short show by "Hot Wax's" normal standards as it was suppose to run from 7:00 till 9:00....but the city and "Hot Wax" agreed to extend the show 15 minutes to 9:15. However, even with that extension some parts of the show had to be left out. These are the songs that were missingthat I can remember anyway. Tito's "When a man loves a woman", Einstein's "I believe" and Einstein's covers of Frank Sinatra's "That's life" and "New York, New York ". Bobby's "Only make believe" and Bruno's "I don't know why I love you but I do" and "Wildwood days". The entire Hula Hoop skit was missing. I'm not sure if that was because of the Hula Hoopgate scandal....or because of time constraints. I'm thinking it was probably time

problems! However, I have heard that a special prosecutor has been appointed and that subpoenas are coming shortly in the ever expanding Hoopgate scandal! While most of the show was done in full sunlight....it did get fairly dark during the patriotic part of the show. "Hot Wax" had the lights up and ready to go....but for whatever reason.....they were never turned on. I believe that was the cities decision for some reason.....but I'm not certain on that.

This Lawrenceburg show took place on a Thursday night....and with people getting off work late on Thursday and people having to get up early for work on Fridayyou would have expected a small crowd. Well, if you were expecting a small crowd then you would have been wrong! "Hot Wax" just continues to do what they have done all year.....and that is just to pull in huge crowds everywhere they perform. The crowd started small Thursday night.....and then began to grow.....and then it grew some more.....and then it continued to grow.....and by the time "Hot Wax" had hit their intermission.....the crowd was huge with estimates ranging anywhere from 2500 to 3000 people! This is just an amazing feat to me.....and again....remember this is a Thursday night in Indiana!

This huge crowd was very appreciative of the performance that "Hot Wax" put on! Like always.....there were many standing ovations....but many of these ovations were led by the hometown Lawrenceburg citizens....who kept beating us front row "waxers" to our feet! I just love when our boys play at relatively new venues where there are lots and lots of first timers....because I love to see the first timers reactions at certain parts of the show, especially when I know what is coming! It is just so much fun to see the excitement on their faces....and then get a chance to ask the newcomers what they think of our boys! Then I give them a little history about "Hot Wax" and of course do a little bragging....not too much....but a little!

Before the showI talked to as many of the classic car owners as I could.....and told them that if they enjoyed "Hot Wax" then they should come to Northern Kentucky and check Bobby's boys out at Cold Spring on August 12th.....and see a full show and a great car show also. They were polite to me.....but I'm not sure that they were interested enough at this point to make the one hour drive.....but of course they had not heard "Hot Wax" yet! However by intermission and at the end of the show..... I bet there were at least 6 or 7 of these car buffs that approached me and enthusiastically said how much they enjoyed "Hot Wax".....and they wanted more information about the Cold Spring show.....and that they would probably see me there and bring some of their friends! Great Job "Hot Wax" and great job "waxers" for traveling so far and showing up in such large numbers on a week night!

Most of you "waxers" may or may not know by now that Ole "Ambassador Bob" has picked a winner for the last two years for the "Best Outdoor Show" crowd. The competition is based on many factors including crowd size, crowd enthusiasm, fan creativity.....and several other factors! The two time defending champion for the years 2004 and 2005 is Falmouth Kentucky. Bellevue and Cold Spring came real close to dethroning Falmouth last year....but it was just too close to call.....and when it is that close....then just like boxing.....the defending champ keeps their title! There have been 3 outdoor shows this year so far.....and based on Lawrenceburgs great performance last Thursday night.....they are currently the city to beat. The crowd at Lawrenceburg was both huge and enthusiastic! Both Dillsboro and Mason did a nice job also.....but were handicapped somewhat by inclement weather. Lawrenceburg was so strong the other night that they may be tough to beat....but remember the competition gets even stronger from here on out! Both Bellevue who a lot of the experts pick to dethrone Falmouth this year and a very strong Cold Spring are still lurking.....and of course the two time defending champion, Falmouth, is still on the schedule! There are also a couple of sleeping underdogs still on the schedule like Evandale and St. Bernard....so don't count them out either. Pay attention "waxers" when you are at these shows as I may have to call on all of you "waxers" who attended everyone of these shows to help me pick a 2007 Champion!

(MORE MISCELLANEOUS BAND & SHOW FACTS) : (1) I don't know if this was intentional or unintentional but the bass was really cranked up at Lawrenceburg....but in either case....it

really gave Boomer a chance to showcase his talent.....and we fans could really hear every note.....and it made us aware of just how good Boomer actually is! Boomer happens to be a great guy also and has become a real fan favorite.....along with his lovely wife, Angie! Boomer mentioned to me at the show that he and Angie are concerned about Boomer's use of the flag in the show.....and whether anyone was offended or thought that he was being disrespectful in any way. I told him personally.....that as a Vietnam vet....that I like what Boomer does with the flag especially during the patriotic part of the show....and that it makes me feel very good! It was important to me that Boomer meant his gesture to be respectful in every way.....and I know that he does mean it to be respectful. If Boomer was using the flag for the entire show....that would be different in my opinion....but he isn't....so I think it is great. If anyone else feels any differently....then please let us know!

(2) I still think that if we want newcomers or first timers to comment on the comment page.....that it is important.....that the web site is prominently displayed somewhere during the show. I don't necessarily think that it has to be a 15 foot banner but maybe just a poster board size sign somewhere. That way....when "Hot Wax" fever hits the first timer at some point during the showand we know it will....than they can copy the web site down. Fans in their seats are just not ready to write it down when Bobby announces itor they just don't hear it well enough. That's my humble opinion anyway.

(3) I noticed that Cadillac Charlie's neat little banjo looks like it has a few miles on it....and someone told me that Charlie built the banjo himself. If that is true....then that is pretty cool!

(4) I asked Bruno if he could sing Tommy's great "Cara Mia" number when Tommy is unable to be at a show. As most of you "waxers" know.....Tommy sings a lot of that song in a very high falsetto voice. Bruno told me that some very painful and unnatural things would have to happen to him before he could sing in that high voice that Tommy sings in! I choose not to elaborate....LoL!

(5) I spent the day Saturday with two of my oldest friends that I haven't seen in quite awhile. I worked with both Dave and Mark at the Cincinnati Post for many years. Dave now has his own 4 piece band called the Cross Eyed Crickets and my friend Mark is and has been the mayor of Taylor Mill for quite a few years now. While Mark & I were watching Dave play Saturday evening....I asked Mark if they have ever hired bands for their Summer in the park series. Mark told me yes.....but that they never drew any people. I explained that "Hot Wax" is an entirely different animal.....and that he would have a good crowd just from "waxers" alone. I told Mark to check with his fellow mayors in Bellevue, Cold Spring and Florence and see how impressed these mayors were and are with "Hot Wax!" Mark said he would check with them at the next meeting of Northern Kentucky mayors. I expect to talk to Mark again....so cross your fingers. An outdoor gig at Taylor Mill would be great!

(6) Now for a sad note. Tommy's lovely wife, Patty, lost her Mother last Tuesday as she passed away suddenly at the age of 71. I would like to offer our condolences from the entire "Hot Wax" nation. Patty, you are in all of our hearts, thoughts and prayers! Tiny, you too are in our prayers.....and we so happy to here that you are recovering nicely from your nasty fall!

(MISCELLANEOUS FAN NOTES): (1) A new "waxer" tradition may have started this week. Otto suggested that when Bobby sings his moving "Fans" song and mentions the "Boys in the Band" the first timethat we should give them a standing ovation...and we did....and I like it! This will join other "Hot Wax" traditions like Bruno singing his stirring rendition of "Proud to be an American".....and us "waxers" standing at just the right time! Another tradition is the crowd starting to cheer even before Tommy sings the first note of "Cara Mia"! Then the Rickmeister must also either shout at Tommy before he sings "Cara Mia" or shout...."We love you Hot Wax"! We also must holler "One more time" until we get our encore....and then another tradition is then to get our dance line to rush the stage and mimic our boy's dance steps while they are performing the encore song. There is another new tradition.....and that is.... that while Ole "A-Bob" is trying

his best to copy the dance steps of our boys during the encore song.....that that wisenheimer Bobby throws in a fake move to mess me up and it always works! I have started my own new traditionand that is that I simply don't look at Bobby....and I watch someone else! I think we have now reached the point where all new "waxers" will be required to take a 2 hour course to learn proper "Hot Wax" protocol....before becoming official "waxers"!

(2) Both of my good buddies, Pat Roth and Debb Leppert, who are having a few health problems told me that they would love to make it to the Bellevue show if possible.....but that they might need just a little bit of help when they get to the show. Girls, if you want to come to the show....we would be thrilled to see you.....and I guarantee you that you will get all the help that you need and more!

(3) It was nice like always to talk to the lovely First lady, Tina, and also Boomer's lovely wife, Angie! It's always a pleasure to talk to Cadillac Charlie's very nice and lovely wife, Bonita, also! Since I grew up in Bellevue and Newport before moving to Florence 30 years ago....it's always nice to see my Newport & Bellevue gals, Barb Gabbard....and her lovely young daughter Christina Farrell. I missed seeing a few of my favorite people at the last two shows....and that would be Tiffany, Gwin and Doc's lovely bride, Katie! Katie, I hope you are doingOk.

(4) Tommy had a few friends from work come to see him perform....including a very nice lady named Barb who had never seen him perform before. It was great fun watching her reactions as Barb's Monday thru Friday co-worker became Tommy Casino! She was really impressed with the entire "Hot Wax" band.....and Barb thought that Tito was fantastic! Barb may be hooked!

(5) Its always great to see Lisa Conley at the shows. I believe Lisa plays a big role in the New Horizons Fund raiser in Sunman.....and Lisa has always been very helpful to Gail and I on our ticket arrangements. Thanks againLisa!

(6) Jean , I know you hated to miss the show....but Bobby didn't sing his "Only make believe" numberso at least you didn't miss that song! Jean, I promise you that I cheered twice as loud when Bobby did our favorite song "Hurt" and also the "Trilogy" just to make up for you not being there. Maybe you heard me in Fairfield....LoL! The show wasn't the same without you....hope to see you at Bellevue!

(7) I met a real nice lady at the Dillsboro show a few weeks ago and she was enjoying the show...but she was kind of down as her husband had passed away fairly recently. I told her that she needed to go see our boys again in a much warmer environment like Jim & Jacks. It turns out that she actually went to J&J's....but I did not see her or know she was there. This very nice lady showed up again at Lawrenceburg....and came up and talked to me.....and now we have another very satisfied customer! I'm very sorry that I could not remember your namebut please introduce yourself to me again at the next show!

(BELLEVUE PICNIC): Here's the deal. Most of us ...or at least a lot of us "waxers" usually go to the Bellevue venue very early in the day to place our chairs.....and stake our claim to a good spot at the show. Then most of us leave and then come back later. I have a better idea....I think. Let's have a picnic.....but a very informal picnic. Coolers are allowed.....so bring your own drinks if you choose....like we do normally.....but add food also if you wish. However if someone doesn't want to bother with that.....than just share a few drinks with the people who brought extra. If you don't bring food and you get hungry....then there are about 10 fast food places about 5 minutes or less from the park including Chicken and Pizza places! If you want to wait till about 6:00 to eat....then the park will provide burgers and hot dogs. I figure people can come whenever they want....but that 2:00 sounds like a good starting point! Of course this all depends on the weather.....which is another reason not to make this very formal or official. I will provide at least one corn hole game....and hopefully there will be a few others. Here's where maybe our beloved "Syndicate of Sound" boys can maybe help us out. It would be nice if they could rig us up something so that we could hear either some WDJ0 1160 AM "Oldies"....or some "Hot Wax"

tapes....in case we have an urge to have a little sing along....or maybe even do a little dancing before the show. Now, around 5:30 or so.....sometimes.... you also get treated to a few songs while "Hot Wax" does their sound check....which is pretty cool. Anyway....this would be a very trouble free and easy way to have some fun as we "waxers" sit around and get to know each other better! What do you think "waxers"!

Ok. I have done two of these commentaries in less than 7 days and my little brain is fried. I am truly worn out! Tommy....I need a vacation. Do you have room for Ole "Ambassador Bob?" Thank God....there is a few weeks until the Bellevue show! I am going to have to shorten my commentaries up quite a bit as the season wears on.....so people don't have to take two days out of there busy life to read them.....and because Ole Ambassador Bob is simply going to run out of material! Oh ,Oh....Wdjo is playing my favorite Bee Gees song "To Love Somebody!" We heard that up at Jim and Jacks last weekdidn't we gang....and we all agreed as much as we liked it....that it would be so much better if "Hot Wax" did the song! Why don't you all e-mail Bobby and ask him very nicely if his boys could learn that song. We would be ever so grateful....and I'm sure that Bobby would love to hear from all of you! Therethat ought to teach him to quit messing up my dance steps....LoL!!!

Ok, I hope to see all of you "waxers" at Bellevue! You don't want to miss this one as this is one of the best venuesand there is a great fireworks display at 10:00...right after the show! Also, remember weather permittingget to the show early and have some extra fun!

Ok, finally I must be OFF (insert your wisecracks here!) "Ambassador Bob"