

ST. BERNARD - Outdoor Park Show (8 -11-06): Ok gang...bear with me this week. It has been suggested to me that there might be a better way to do my commentaries...and I think I am going to give it a try....and we'll see what happens. There are some pro's and some cons with the new format. I am a little worried though because what is the old expression...."If it ain't broke....don't fix it!" I keep thinking about the guy who came up with the idea to change the Coke formula years ago. That did not turn out very well and shortly after it was taken off the market. Coke has never seemed the same to me since! Now, after saying all of that....Ole "Ambassador Bob" is kind of a perfectionist so if there is a way to improve my commentaries then I want to give it a try! By the wayI heard some of my wisenheimer friends out there say the best way to improve the commentaries might be to replace the writer!

The new format is basically that I will have two commentaries for each show. The first commentary will be mostly just about the actual "Hot Wax" show and the performers. The second commentary will be mostly a Social page or a Fan's page. It will be used mostly for mentioning people who were or were not at the shows, or people who are on vacation or new fans at the shows. I will also use this second page to mention people who have not been feeling well enough to attend shows recently or may be in the hospital. I imagine that this new page also would be used to cover events like the picnic in Bellevue or the post show party at the McGee mansion this past Friday night.

Like I said earlier....I hope everyone is patient with me this week as my head is spinning. I not only have to try out the new format....but I have two shows to cover plus the fantastic McGee party. I also want to find some time to talk about the next two exciting indoor shows that are coming up in the next two weeks! To sum up....if this works the way it is supposed to....then there will a total of four commentaries....two from each show (the actual show & then the Fan and Social part). I believe each commentary will have it's own page and there may be some pictures involved also.....which would be pretty cool. There is the potential for this to work very well.....or not...LoL! I'll give it a try and I'm sure you will let me know what you prefer.

Well, it's been 3 long weeks since the last "Hot Wax" show in Evendale. Why do those 3 weeks always seem like 3 years....and yet my birthday that comes once a year seems like they happen every 3 weeks.....go figure! Anyway, we were really looking forward to this weekend. We had the St. Bernard Show Friday night and then the party at the McGee Mansion right after the party! Then the next night, Saturday, we were going to see another great show at one of our favorite venues...Cold Spring! If your a "Hot Wax" fan.....and who isn't...then I submit to you that it simply does not get any better than thatdoes it?

Friday did not start out well as it was dark all day long with rain showers off and on all day. In the past Ole "A-Bob" would have been spitting out all kinds of expletive deletives like [#@^*&&%\\$^&##@#\\$](#) and mumbling something like.....stupid rain!!!! However, that was before I realized that "Hot Wax" has that special magic and I now realize that nothing bad ever happens on "Hot Wax" day....like I have talked about in other commentaries. Remember the rainbow popping out just as we entered Clyde Ohio last year after it rained all day on our 4 hour trip up there for that show! Remember the Mason show this year where it started to sprinkle 15 minutes before the show.....and as soon as the "Hot Wax" horns hit their first note....it stopped. How about the Evendale show this year where it got very dark and started to rain lightly.....and then 5 minutes later.....the sun came out and we had a beautiful evening! Well Friday.....I did not get upset with the dark sky's or the rain because I knew the "Hot Wax" magic would take over....and it did! As soon as Gail and I headed to the show...and got about a block from our house.....the sky turned blue for the first time all day and the sun came out for a beautiful evening! The good fortune with the weather has been amazing when you think about it. We had absolutely no rain problems at all last year.....and none again this year! I am not worried about jinxing us this year because we only have one outdoor show left....and it is in Falmouth on September the 9th....and it has a roof over the venue. The last time we lost any part of a show due to inclement weather was at Bellevue 3 years ago when the show was delayed for about an hour. We also lost the

second half of the Cold Spring show 3 years ago when the threat of lightning canceled the entire second show.

We arrived at St. Bernard about 6:30 so we could mingle a little like I always doand also to save some space for our new friends Pat & Otto. Pat is so much fun to watch at a show. Obviously all of us "waxers" have a great time at all of the shows or we wouldn't go to so many....but there are a few "waxers" who just can't hide the fun they are having as it is written all over their face....and I mean for the entire show. Pat is one of those people....much like Debb, Jean, Rickmeister, myself and many others! Mary Day is that way also when she is at a show! Speaking of going to a lot of shows.....Gail and I have now attended every show since the Boone County fairgrounds show 3 years ago in early June of 2004. I have lost count on how many shows that would be but I'm guessing somewhere between 60 and 70? I believe the only 2 people who have seen as many shows as Gail and I during that time period would be Bobby and Bruno. There is a chance that Tito may have been to every show since then....but I'm not sure. I know that no one else has been to every show during that time frame.....although Shirley Breeze and Carol Woodward come pretty close.

"Hot Wax" doesn't usually draw one of their larger crowds....at least by "Hot Wax" standards at St. Bernard.....although other bands would kill to draw the people that we get there! This year...St. Bernard started out kind of slow and looked like it would be an average crowd at best.....but by the third or fourth song people were entering the park from every direction! It turned out to be another large crowd in a year where "Hot Wax" seems to draw nothing but huge crowds. I doubt if any records have been kept....but I venture to guess that the average attendance at a "Hot Wax" show this year would shatter the records of any other season in "Hot Wax's" 24 years of existence!

There is nothing better than to watch our boys storm the stage on a beautiful summer evening after a three week hiatus....and then anticipate the great entertainment that lies ahead for the next 3 hours! Although the stage at St. Bernard is pretty good size it can seem pretty small when "Hot Wax's" huge band of 10 hit's the stage. The show started with this years opening song of "Rock this Town" with the "Great Sigsbee" singing the lead.....and he just gets better and better each week. That song has had an interesting history this year if I have this right. I'm pretty sure that Kingsley did that song the first 2 or 3 weeks of the year. Then I believe that Bruno took that song over and performed it for the next 10 shows or so....and now the "Great Sigsbee" has performed it the last 4 shows starting with the Bellevue show.

We had been told by Bruno, Tommy, Mr. Buddy Love and several others about how talented the "Great Sigsbee" is and as Davy Jones of the Monkees might say..." I'm a believer! " I was doing a little research on the computer the other night and I ran across some very interesting information on the "Great Sigsbee". TGS has been performing for over 25 years.....and is very versatile and can play anything from Rock to Folk, Bluegrass and Blues.....and he does all of them equally well! TGS won the very prestigious Cammy award as the best guitar player on two different occasions.....and that is very impressive! I might be wrongbut I believe TGS won those awards during the years of 2002 and 2004. I also think that TGS is a very underrated vocalist.....and he will add a lot more to "Hot Wax" in that area down the road! I've been told that TGS is capable of singing and doing a great job on a couple of our favorite Oldie artist....that have been in "Hot Wax" shows in recent years. You know that I always like to leave you wondering about something.....so use your imaginations....as my lips are sealed.....LoL! In case we didn't know this already....it appears that the "Great Sigsbee" was another great hire for our boys! I saw where TGS took the time to post a nice comment on the comment page to Lucy about missing her party the other night....and that tells Ole "A-Bob" that Bobby has hired not only a quality musician.....but a quality person also!

Since our boys were on a three week hiatus....I was wondering if there was anything new in the show. It turns out that there was one small change and a very creative one. During the jailbird skit.....the "Peter Gunn" theme temporarily replaced the "Dragnet" theme. I believe there is a

small inside joke there somewhere! Speaking of the "Peter Gunn " theme....Ole "Ambassador Bob" recalls as an 8th grader marching around Gilligan Stadium in a Bellevue High School band uniform at 6:00 in the morning while learning formations and where to stand during our half time show while performing....yep you guessed it...the Peter Gunn theme song!

Hearing "Hot Wax", the best cover band in the entire tri-state area, perform is always the highlight of any evening for me and Friday night was no exception. However, there was another unexpected highlight for me. A few weeks ago all 5 members of the Vibe band attended a "Hot Wax show in Evendale....and that was very classy and a nice touch. Now...last weekend at a Vibe show in Deer park.....all of the top brass in the "Hot Wax" organization like Bobby & Tina, Bruno & Carol and Doc & Katie reciprocated and showed up at the "Vibe" show.....and that was equally classy. Later on that night...Sonny invited Ole "Ambassador Bob" to come up on stage and perform a song with them and I did and I played the heck out of the ole cowbell....and that was great fun! Now....this week at the "Hot Wax" show in St. BernardSonny's very lovely and fun loving wife, Christine, was in attendance....and she was pulled up on stage to perform with the hula hoop on the "Hot Wax" stage...and that was very cool also! What's going on here...as this is getting a little confusing isn't it....with the "Hot Wax" ambassador performing on the "Vibe" stage.....and Sonny's lovely wife Christine performing on the "Hot Wax" stage? You know what....I'm not going to over analyze it....I just know it has a real good feel to it and all of my "waxer" friends feel the same way! Both bands are just terrific....and let's just enjoy the fact that we have great friends in both of them!

As I was watching the show Friday night I decided to watch a little more closely than usual. While there is not a bad song in a "Hot Wax" show.....I think there are some underrated songs in the show that maybe don't get the credit they deserve. We all know about the show stoppers like Bruno's "I who have nothing" and his stirring rendition of "Proud to be an American" with the great "America" added to the end of that song. We know about Doc's great "Love potion # 9" medley and Tito's terrific "When a man loves a woman" number! Einstein's moving "I believe" is a real attention grabber! We have talked many times about Bobby's two show stoppers and that is Bobby's great cover of the Timi Yuro "Hurt" number....and also the very moving "Trilogy" number especially with what is going on in the world right now. Now last but not least....we certainly know that Tommy's Cara Mia is certainly a show stopper!

"Waxers, what I am curious about now iswhat is your favorite song that is not included in the well known show stoppers? That's a tough one for me! I love Einsteins "Calling all Angels" and Bruno's "I don't know why I love you" or maybe Tommy's very underrated "Mr. Lonely" or how about Bobby's "Only make believe". This is tough....but my own choice if I can only name one would be Bobby's "Only make believe". What about you other "waxers".....what would be your favorite song if you could not name one of the obvious show stoppers that I already mentioned? E-mail me and let me know.....and maybe I can put them in my next commentary.....don't forget!

There was a new touch Friday night in St. Bernard. As Bruno was doing his now famous "Proud to be an American" number Otto unveiled a 10 foot American flag.....and I helped him unfold it and we carried it out to front of the stage and held it for the entire song. That seemed like a nice touch. I'm not sure if that will be done at every show. Maybe we will save that for special occasions or special shows. Maybe like the Reds who wear their special red jerseys only on home games on Sunday or Notre dame who breaks out their special green football jerseys only for extra special games! The " Solid Gold Hot Wax Dancers" group at the end of the show just continues to grow as Otto joined the group for the first time this week and did an outstanding job!

As I get ready to close this part of my commentary...I just want to say how great Friday night was. Beautiful weather, another great crowd and an of course another outstanding show! The best part was that there was still a great "waxer" party to go to later Friday night at Lucy & Denny Mcgee's.....and believe it or not another outstanding show to anticipate the next day at one of our favorite venues, Cold Spring!

Ok....this was the first of four commentaries coming this week. Part 2 of the St. Bernard show should be posted hopefully at the same time as part one. Now, Saturdays Cold Spring commentaries both part one and part two may not be posted until Thursday or Friday. I am trying my best.... but these commentaries take quite a bit longer to compose than you might think.....and I have a busy week ahead of me. You don't think that these gems just happen by accidentdo you....LOL? Believe it or not Ole "A-Bob" puts quite a bit of thought into these commentaries! Ok time to work on part 2, the Fan & Social part of my commentary, for the St. Bernard show which will include Lucy's party at the Mcgee Mansion.

Ok...I must be OFF...(Your wisecracks here!) "Ambassador Bob"

ST. BERNARD - Outdoor Park show - (PART 2 - FAN'S PAGE) (8 -11 - 06) : Ok.....If this works the way that I think it is supposed to work....then this page will be kind of a multi purpose page. This page will be a conglomeration or an assortment of unrelated thoughts and topics! Huh? What the heck did I just say....LOL! I think what I am trying to say is that this page will not be as structured as the commentary page except in rare cases where I might be talking about a non show event like the picnic in Bellevue or the party at the Mcgee mansion Friday night in St. Bernard. Most of the things that you will read here will be just brief sentences in no particular order about people who were at the show or even people who were not at the show. This page will just kind of be like a smorgasbord of many things! What.....did I do it again? I can't explain it so why don't I just start writing it.....and it will explain itself!

Lets begin by talking about the much anticipated post party show hosted by Denny & Sandy Mcgee at the McGee mansion near the St. Bernard show. The party was basically open to anyone who wanted to attend including "waxers", band members & spouses and the "Syndicate of Sound" boys. Even though the party did not start until after midnight about 30 to 35 people still showed up. Lucy was expecting I think maybe about 15 "waxers" or so but she was thrilled and delighted when Lucy found out the number was going to be much larger.

While everyone was hoping that some of the band members and some of their lovely spouses would show upnot many of us were expecting that to happen. We knew how tired the guys probably were.....and we knew that they had another show the next day in Cold Spring and probably a pretty early sound check....so we figured that the party was probably just too late and just not practical. I think Boomer and his very nice and lovely wife, Angie, set the tone. While everyone else was understandably hesitant to commit to coming to the party at that late hour.....Boomer and Angie immediately said to count them in.....and I think the rest of the band guys just kind of fell into place and it snowballed after that. Tommy agreed shortly after that. Cadillac Charlie and his lovely wife Bonita then agreed to come....then Doc Roc and the lovely and also very funny Miss Katie then accepted. Katie and Doc are both so funny and I get a kick out of both of them! Bobby was the next to accept....and then Bruno agreed to come also.

We felt bad that the "Syndicate of Sound " boys could not get free to come over. No one enjoys partying more than those hard working chaps.....and no one deserved to have some fun more than the SOS boys. It didn't seem fair somehow that the hardest working people in the entire "Hot Wax" organization this weekend were the only ones who did not get to join us at the party. The Hilton sisters made up for that a little bit the next day as they went over to Cold Spring early and took our boys some very tasty Brownies. A very nice gesture girls....and I'm sure it was greatly appreciated!

Others who attended the Mcgee Mansion party were "waxers" and host Denny and Sandy Mcgee and I believe Sandy's brother Jerry and his wife. By the way....they both play in a small 4 piece band called the Core's. Ole "Ambassador Bob" and Mrs. "Ambassador" Gail were there along with the Jimster and "Little One". Rickmeister and the lovely Mary Montgomery and their cute little granddaughter Khrystian were there also. The lovely Carol Woodward was there too. Then came the Helwig gang or the Hilton Sisters along with Mama Hot Wax! The lovely Jackie and Paulette were there also. I should have never named namesbecause I'm sure that I forgot somebody.....so I apologize in advance! Tito wanted to come but had to get home to help Karen out for his 7 year old daughters birthday party the next day, Saturday. I hope she had a very happy birthday! I'm sorry that I don't know her name. The Great Sigsbee had an early appointment Saturday morning. I know that Sticky and Karen and Einstein and Kim would have been there also if they could have. They are very nice people also!

It looked like the presidential party when the band rolled into the Mcgee Mansion as a convoy of about 6 vehicles followed each other in. Ole "Ambassador Bob" had a flashback and recalled all of his Military Police training and convoy training from the Nam.....and I waved them all into their parking places just like a real cop.....LOL!

The Mcgee mansion is very old and it is a large two story house that is about as warm and cozy as a house can be.....just a great house and the Mcgee's have it fixed up so nice. The backyard where we partied is just an awesome place to have a party. It is very large with all kinds of different nooks and crannies to get comfortable in and excellent places to socialize! The landscaping is outstanding as there is no grass.....just mulch with great flowers and shrubs everywhere with a couple of cool little running brooks. They also had a neat little area with a small outdoor fireplace that the boys in the band gathered around. Ok...that will end the Martha Stewart portion of my commentary. Buddy Love has enough doubts about me as it is because of my pink "Hot Wax" shirt. I don't think I need to give him any more fuel....not that there is anything wrong with that!

The chow was great as the Rickmeister grilled Burgers & dogs....and Lucy had made great meat balls. The boys in the band gathered around the fireplace and talked shop....and of course Ole "A-Bob" enjoyed that as I could talk music for hours.....Ok.....I could talk about anything for hours....but I would enjoy talking music the most! I may do a commentary someday on just sitting around and asking the boys questions. I got some interesting answers the other night in the time I had to talk to them.

Rick & Mary's little Granddaughter likes both of her Bobby's and wanted a picture taken with both of us....but then got a little shy when Bobby agreed....but we finally got a great picture with her. Bobby Valentine is her "Hot Bobby" and I am her "Gray Bobby".....hmmmm....oh well she likes me anyway. Gail loved the picture.....but I have a hunch I know why....and I don't think Khrystian or I have anything to do with it! The boys in the band stayed about an hour and then had to leave....but it was great that they came over.

After they left....we did a little dancing especially Barb "the Dancing Queen" and Gail and Paulette! Shirley "Little one" shocked everyone by getting up and doing the hula hoop.....and she did it effortlessly much like the little girl did at the show Friday night. I was telling them all that when I was a kid that I could let the hoop go down to my knees and then work it back up to my waist....but no one believed me.....and I was starting to doubt it myself. Then Otto challenged me to a contest....and he picked the worst timebecause it all came back to me all of a sudden and to my amazement.....I was able to do what I did as a kid....well at least as far as a hula hoop goes!

It was great to see so many of us from so many groups all mixing together and having so much fun. The party simply could not have been any better and that was because Sandy and Denny were such great host. I have been to their house 3 times now....and each time it just gets better! The party went so well that Lucy is thinking of making it an annual event after the St. Bernard show every year....and hopefully we can get all of the band and their lovely spouses next year. Lucy....do you like how I am now running the party at your house....LOL! Ok...that will do it for the party but once again thank you Lucy and Denny for your hospitality at the McGee mansion!

Now for a few notes. It was nice to see my buddy Jean who is the president of the "Bobby Valentine " fan club while I am serving as her vice president. Although we missed Jean at Cold Spring and will miss her at J&J's.....Jean will be ready for the "Summer Bash" at the Palace on the 26th of August. We have missed the dynamic duo of Loma & Judy as both have been out of town a lot latelybut I believe both will be back for Jim & Jacks Saturday. Loma, thanks for the very kind e-mail about my commentaries....although you may want to take those words back after this one!

I talked to Selena twice on the phone and she is doing much better.....and she may be able to go home to rehab Friday if everything goes right. Denny and Lucy went over to visit her Monday afternoon. Rick wrote a nice letter to Selena....and I believe Bobby is going to call her so I'm sure this all picked her spirits up some. "Waxers" never cease to amaze me as I have never met so many great people before....and I mean in my entire life! If Selena didn't have bad luck...she would have no luck at all. Selena's daughter Nikki broke her ankle last week and she is down

now also. Bob....you have your hands full.....and our thought are with you buddy! Nikki.....your idol Sonny reads my nonsense now and then and he knows how you feel about him.....so maybe Sonny will send you his best wishes or give you a call. I know that would pick your spirits up. Maybe Ole "A-Bob" can pull that off somehow.

This has been a big week for Denny & Lucy as they became Grandparents to 7lb. Dillon who was born early Tuesday morning. Congrats to the entire family! My good friend and long time "waxer" Connie was very sick with a virus and was not able to make the show at St. Bernard but I am happy to report that Connie was much better and was able to come to the show Saturday at Cold Spring. It was great to see Jim & Rita at both shows.

In case anyone is interested....like maybe Bobby....I just heard that on 1160 WDJQ AM radio....that tonight from 6:00 till 11:00 that they will play everyone of Elvis's hit records in the order that he recorded them in from his first to his last! That might be pretty cool.

I heard from the Hilton sisters that our brothers over in the American Graffiti band had some bad new Friday night at Burbanks. While performing their bass player became very ill and passed out and he may have suffered a heart attack. Ronnie who does Elvis in the band and is the leader of the band also works with my wife Gail.....so we would like to wish the bass player and the entire band nothing but the best and hope everything turns out alright! They do a great job.

Ok.....this ends the first trial run of the new commentary idea.....and I'm not sure what to think yet. I may need to try a few more. Hang in there with me gang....but I may not get the time to complete the Cold Spring show until maybe Friday. I have so much to do in the next couple of days....but like always I will try my best!

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