



"Music is the art which is most nigh to tears and memory." ~Oscar Wilde



WILDWOOD by-the-sea: Nostalgia & Recipes The Music of the 50s & 60s and the Magnatones

by Anita Hirsch excerpted from her book
"Wildwood-By-The-Sea: Nostalgia and Recipes"

Wildwood in the summer, especially in the fifties and sixties, was the place to go to hear the best music. All the notable bands and singers could be found in at least thirty-one clubs located around Oak and Atlantic Avenues, each featuring a different headliner.

When Bill Haley came to town with the Comets in 1954, he played at the Hofbrau Hotel, where they introduced "Rock Around the Clock." That is now the site of the Beach Terrace Motor Inn where a marker has been placed on Atlantic Avenue to note that spot.

Four other favorite clubs were the Martinique, the Oak Club, the Rainbow and the Fairview, which featured Sal Masie and the Untouchables. The Fifth Dimension appeared at the Hurricane, which is now the site of Luna on Pacific Avenue.

Ginny Wood, a Wildwood native, loved to stop at "her three favorite clubs" in those days: Phil and Eddie's on Schellenger near Atlantic, the Bolero and the Rip Tide.

The entertainers would perform in Las Vegas in the winter and come to Wildwood in the summer. The Treniers: four brothers who sang, danced, and summered in the Wildwoods, recorded "Everything's Wild in Wildwood".

And there was Freddie Bell and the Bellboys, Buddy Holly's Crickets, The Drifters ("What A Wonderful World", "Under The Boardwalk", and "Take It Back!"), The Coasters ("Yackety Yack"), The Chantels, The Cadillacs, Little Anthony and the Imperials, The Dovells, Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge, the Platters (remember "Only You", "Twilight Time", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", and "The Great Pretender"), The Shangri-Las, Joey Dee and the Starlighters ("Peppermint Twist"), Tommy James and the Shondells, the Soul Survivors, the Turtles, the Beach Boy sound of "Help, Help Me Rhonda" and "California Girl", and Frankie Avalon.

"Performing in Wildwood during the 1960's was a great thrill for all

of us," says Ed Hickman of the Magnatones. "From our start at the Emerald Room, all the way to Las Vegas and back again, it was a thrilling ride that could never be duplicated."

The Magnatones still play up and down the east coast, although there are a few new members. They played together at a Fifties Weekend reunion in Wildwood in 2006.

The Magnatones originated in Gloucester City, New Jersey and all were in high school. They were taken under the wing of an ex-Vaudevillian Tommy Tattler, who taught them how to be professionals which included how to enter and exit the stage, how to dress and how to dance. A future member of the group, Shawn Kelly, their lead singer, also taught them some "moves".

Tommy Tattler was the one who booked the Magnatones into the Emerald Room in Wildwood before any one in the group graduated from high school. The Emerald Room, a classy spot in Wildwood, was part of the Blackstone Hotel. The Magnatones appeared every summer, seven nights a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day, for eight years. Ed Hickman remembers that they celebrated the 16th birthday of Bobby McCann, the bass player at the time, in Wildwood. "We were so young! We couldn't even drink in the bars that we played in", says Ed. "Even in Las Vegas we had to be led by security up to the stage."

The current Magnatones are Ed Hickman on sax, Ed Gibson bass, Skip McCarty guitar, Billy Zane drums and the singer is Jimmy (Pasquarello) Anthony. Some of the old songs they like to play are: "Splish Splash", "Bristol Stomp", "Sixteen Candles", and "In the Still of the Night".

Now many of these entertainers are coming back to Wildwood to perform during the Fabulous Fifties and Sixties Weekend. The first ever Wildwood Music Award, created by Paul Russo, owner of



Eddie Rossi and Phil Bonelli in front of Phil and Eddie's Surf Club

Cool Scoops Ice Cream Parlor, was given to Charlie Gracie in 2004, a Philadelphia native. Charlie presented Chubby Checker with the second annual Wildwood Music Award in 2005. Since then there have been many artists who have received recognition: Dee Dee Sharp, The Comets, The Orlons, The Dovells, Ed Hurst, The Association, The Archies, The Monkees, Dick Clark's Original Bandstand Dancers and many more.

A walking tour map is being created by Paul Russo which will include all of the Wildwood's historic musical venues made famous by those honored by the Wildwood Music Awards.

JACKIE HICKMAN'S *Chicken Cutlets*

Jackie Hickman whose husband Ed is part of the Magnatones, says this is an easy recipe and can be served with vegetables, used with pasta and sauce, on a sandwich or cut into strips and used in a salad.

- 1 lb. chicken cutlets
- 4 tbsp. mayo, light
- 4 tbsp. bread crumbs
- 4 tbsp. grated parmesan cheese



Slice each cutlet vertically, so they will be thin. There will be about 6 slices. Spray a baking sheet with non stick spray. Lay the chicken cutlets on the baking sheet. Spread a layer of mayonnaise over the chicken. Then sprinkle a layer of bread crumbs over the top and finally a layer of parmesan over that. Bake uncovered for 1 1/2 hours at 250°. They should be nicely crispy on top and slightly browned. Check after an hour, they should be ready by then. Yield: 3-6 servings

Thank you to Ed and Jackie Hickman and the Wildwood Historical Society for help with this article.



Charlie Gracie at the Bolero 1958



Original Magnatones: rear from left: Billy Zane, Shawn Kelly, and Ed Hickman, front: Joe Spyttek and Jim Pasquarello.



Magnatones playing in 2006 at a Fifties Weekend, L-R: Skip McCarty guitar, Ed Hickman on sax, Jimmy (Pasquarello) Anthony singer and Ed Gibson on bass



The Hurricane, now Luna at Garfield & Pacific Aves.



Bill Haley announcement at Hofbrau 1953

Riptide Club	
245 E. OAK AVENUE - WILDWOOD - BY - THE - SEA, NEW JERSEY	
Week of July 3rd to 9th	FATS DOMINGO
Week of July 10th to 16th	WAYNE NEWTON
Week of July 17th to 23rd	LLOYD PRICE
Week of July 24th to 30th	ADAM WADE and MICKEY SHAUGHNESSY
Week of July 31st to August 6th	KAYE BALLARD
Week of August 7th to August 13th	GEORGE KIRBY and KATHY WOODRUFF
Week of August 14th to 20th	MEL TORRE
Week of August 21st to August 28th	DEE DEE SHARP

Appearing at the Rip Tide this week