



**we are
family**

tops in blue priors' newsletter

Vol. 10 No 2

May 2003

REUNION: TIME TO WALK THE TALK



It seems that the moment the 45th Anniversary reunion ended, the talk began. "This was great, but wait until the 50th!" was the word weaving its way along the TIB grapevine. Everyone, it seems has been talking about the 50th Anniversary Reunion, (scheduled for July 5-12 in San Antonio) for the longest time. There's been talking, talking, and

TAKING IT TO THE TOP

Priors Making Their Mark in Showbiz

Looks like La Bouche is back in business! Lane McCray has a new partner in crime so to speak, her name is Kayo (Kai-O) Shekoni and she hails from Stockholm, Sweden. The duo current has the #9 Dance Single on Billboard's Hot Dance Tracks. The song is entitled "In Your Life," in memory of Lane's former partner, the late Melanie Thornton. La Bouche expects to release a long overdue LP CD in early Fall and Lane's solo project "Naked to the World" will follow. La Bouche is currently booked to perform with LL Cool J and J-Lo at a Tucson radio show on May 18th. For more info on where La Bouche will be this summer you can visit the group's website at LaBouche001@Yahoo.com or e-mail to Lane at LaBouche001@Yahoo.com Congratulations Lane. You go boy!

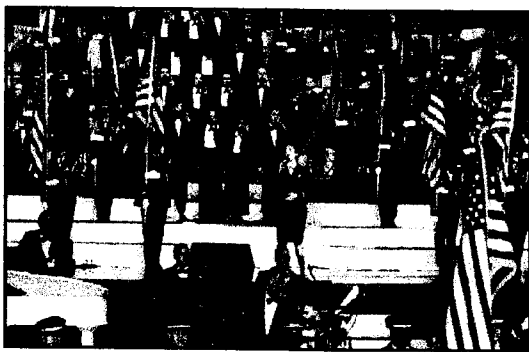
more talking. "But up to now," says Tom Edwards, "talking is all that many priors have done." In my recent conversation with Tom, he expressed his dismay at the fact that more priors had not taken the initiative to contribute to making the reunion the first class, memorable event that we have all been talking about. Says Tom, "It's time to walk the talk!" He's right because this is not Tom's reunion, it's not Air Force Entertainment's reunion. It's our reunion! Indeed, many priors have already committed to attending the reunion and several have volunteered to help with the program, and for that Tom, his staff, and the Reunion Coordinator Carol Sudy are truly grateful. It is also understood that not everyone can attend, nor can everyone who attends contribute on a large scale. However, numerous requests for simple, small scale contributions have gone largely unanswered. For example, nearly a year ago it was requested that priors submit ideas for a 50th Anniversary logo. Granted we may not all be graphic artists, but it's hard to fathom that AFE would only receive 5 submissions from over 400 priors in the database. Likewise Carol Sudy has asked for tour stories to include in a "coffee table" book that chronicles 50 years of TIB. For as much as we love to talk about our tours and are more than willing to spend hours regaling each other with the incredible stories from our time on the road, how can it be that out of over 400 priors, only two have submitted stories? Yet, there may be those who will be quick those who will say, "How come nothing was in the book about my tour?" The answer will be "What did you contribute?" To be sure, it is not this editor's intention to put a damper on the reunion. The reunion should not be about work, for we all want to have a great time and enjoy reconnecting with our TIB family members. But we also have to realize that this is a huge undertaking for Tom, his staff, and Carol, especially when they are also working around the clock to put TIB 2003 on the road. Their plate is fuller than full, and that's why they need our help to make the reunion everything we hoped it

would be when we began talking about it five years ago. What can we do? Well, here's what Carol has to say: "Greetings priors! I'm working behind the scenes on the 50th Anniversary program but to make it happen I need your help. Many of you have volunteered for projects and we thank you. We are trying to sort our those projects and will be getting back to you. Right now, what we need most at this point is tour information and help in locating priors. Here are some areas you can assist us with:

- If you haven't already filled out a priors update form please do so. Do it online at http://www.tibpriors.org/50th_data.htm or fill out the enclosed form and mail it back to Air Force Entertainment.
- If you haven't contacted your fellow tour members and talked to them about the reunion, it's definitely time.
- We are looking for tour stories or quotes that can be used to tell the TIB story to the public. Not necessarily the "funny or embarrassing stories" like the ones you rib each other with. We need specific topics -- audiences, comedy, show themes, special songs, costumes, what touring meant to you.
- If you know someone doesn't go to the web often - send them this information via snail mail—it's important we get in touch with everyone!
- I'm also looking for people who toured with Music Express, I would like to talk to some of you to get a little better feel for that portion of TIB.
- Also looking for anyone and everyone who made recordings during the non-touring years 1959-72. They don't seem to be in the listings of TIB priors. If you know of someone who worked on the recordings if you could pass them my name and number that would be greatly appreciated.

So, there are at least six things you can do today to help make your 50th a success! Thanks a million!" – Carol. So you see, my fellow priors, it's nothing difficult, nothing too time consuming. If you can contribute more, surely it would be appreciated. But this is the least we can do. So, let's stop talking and start walking and make our 50th Anniversary Reunion a celebration to remember. If you need more information you check online at <http://www.tibpriors.org/50th.htm>, you can e-mail Carol Sudy at Carol.Sudy@agency.afsv.af.mil or you can give her a call at 210-652-4945 or DSN 487-4945.

TOPS IN BLUE STARS IN CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT SALUTE



Tops In Blue wrote yet another chapter in its storied history on March 27th as it headlined an extraordinary military show performed for nearly 13,000 people at Randolph Air Force Base's Centennial of Flight Tattoo at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater. Under the coordination and direction of Tom Edwards, the hour and an half entertainment extravaganza featured both the 2002 and 2003 casts of Tops In Blue, The Air Force Honor Guard Drill team from Washington, D.C., the Air Force Band of the West from Lackland Air Force Base and approximately additional 150 military men and women. The event began with a phenomenal aerial review of 28 military aircraft spanning the 100 years of powered flight, followed by a musical tribute to the history of the Air Force and its impact on the San Antonio community and a tribute to the America and the American Flag. Rooted in military ritual, the tattoo has evolved into a celebration of military heritage. The tradition

stems from centuries ago when British troops housed in The Netherlands spent their evenings at local pubs. Drummers signaled the soldiers when it was time to leave the pubs and for the innkeepers to stop selling beer. They sounded 'Doe den Tap Toe,' which means, 'Turn off the taps.' The troops learned only the last words - 'Tap toe' - and the phrase was popularized as 'tattoo.' The custom later developed into full bands that played for the whole garrison, and thus began the tradition of the military Tattoo.

Where Are They Now?

This special edition of "Where Are They Now" owes a special thanks to Jane Bunker Overy who provided a wealth of reunion information to Air Force Entertainment on her cast members from TIB 57-58. Here are just some of them:

Jac Hayden – MC/Magician – TIB 57-58

Jac has continued in show business through the years. He still works showrooms in the Las Vegas area with his comedy/magic act and MC's other acts as well. He has also taken his act world wide on cruise ships, etc. In addition to performing, Jac is also a set decorator for private and public parties in the Las Vegas area.

Michael "Mickey" Sharp – Drummer – TIB 57-58

Mickey lives in Union Town, Pennsylvania these days. He has continue entertaining, switching from the drums, which he played in Tops In Blue to piano. He is still playing in his own small band at the Holiday Inn in Union Town and has played with a number of well known big bands and worked with a number of celebrities.

Francis "Frank" Williams – Vocalist – TIB 57-58

After his tour with TIB, Frank remained in the Air Force and went from being an Airman to becoming an Officer. He retired as Colonel. Currently he is working with a company in Dayton, Ohio, where he resides.

Jane Bunker Overy – Vocalist – TIB 57-58

Jane currently resides in Searchlight, Nevada. After winning 1st place as a female vocalist in 1958, she met and married her husband Carl in 1959. She is the founder of the Searchlight Historic Museum, Searchlight Mining Park, and the Searchlight Museum Guild. She has served on numerous committees for local and national projects through the years. In addition, she is an historian and artist.

TIB "Blue Notes"

TOPS IN BLUE 2003 is currently in staging for their upcoming tour. The show entitled "Soaring With Eagles" commemorates both the Air Force's Centennial of Powered Flight and The 50th Anniversary of Tops In Blue. The show (which is still in development at this writing) will feature a number of memorable songs and performances from past TIB shows. We recently heard from prior Faith Sullivan. She is currently singing in the ministry with a community choir in Mobile, AL, the Port City Noted Voices of Praise at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, where her youngest brother is the pastor. Faith says she expects to have a CD out by the end of the year. Also heard from the "First Lady of TIB," Doris Johnson (TIB 53). She's currently residing in Sylmar, CA and still as busy as ever! Congratulations to prior Dianna Ring who's hearing wedding bells. She was recently engaged in Ohio and is due to wed this month! Congratulations also go out to priors Rob and Nadine Martin, proud parents of Ethan Michael Martin, born on 24 March. Ethan weighed in at 7 lbs 2 oz, and was 20 1/2 inches long. Says Rob, "Nadine and Ethan are doing fantastic. Mom did so well, and I'm so proud of her. Thanks for all of your prayers." That's it for this edition. Hope to see you in San Antonio! – T.A.

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