

FRIDAY FOLLIES

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Hey!

September 26, 2003

What a difference three weeks makes. Unbelievable! The last time I wrote, I said there would be no Follies for a week because we were headed for 8 days on the Radisson Seven Seas Navigator to sunny Bermuda (if Fabian didn't beat us there.) How ironic...and sad. Fabian DID beat us there and my beautiful Bermuda was ravaged. (I still haven't been able to get in touch with our friends there.) So our ship sailed to Canada instead (more on that later) and we returned just in time to be greeted by our own September guest..... ISABEL.

She was not welcomed.

Where on earth do I start? First, I will start by saying I am typing these Follies on Sunday, September 21 on my little, antique computer. There's no Internet. There's no cable. There's no telephone line. There's no cell phone. There's no power. Our new generator in the backyard is powering my pitiful, little PC. We have been without power now for four

days and there is no guarantee that we will have it anytime soon. The generator has allowed us to use the chain saw to cut up all of the trees and branches, it has saved the food in the refrigerators, it has helped to make coffee and boil water to wash clothes and do the dishes, and it has powered a light and the TV for the news at night. THANK HEAVENS, for we have been so cut off from the rest of the world.



Isabel approaching



From what I saw on the news last night, Isabel was an unwelcome guest all the way up the east coast. I saw a news report while still on the ship (the only news we got was a fuzzy picture of CNN) that said Isabel was a category 5 and headed for Virginia Beach. I wanted OFF the ship when it docked in Norfolk.

They would not let us disembark. I am serious.

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Because of international maritime laws, something called the Jones Act, passengers cannot board a ship in one port and disembark in another. I mean, you can, but the fine is huge for the passenger and for the ship. They were going to have to ask us to go home, board up the house, take care of the pets and my daughter, and then get back on the ship and sail back to our port of origin, NYC. They were then going to fly us home the next day.

Common sense told me there would be no flights back to Norfolk the following day with the storm coming in. I was in tears all night long. Thank Heavens, the good people on the Navigator took care of the details since it was an emergency situation, and we were allowed to leave the ship when it pulled into Norfolk. I don't know what strings they pulled, but it was greatly appreciated!

Don't get me wrong...another 24 hours on the ship and then another night in NYC would have been delightful. We hated to leave, but there was no way I was going to get back on that ship under those circumstances. Can you imagine how excruciating that would have been...sailing away from your home, pets, family, and friends as a huge hurricane was approaching? (Not to mention the rough seas.) As it was, the Navy and Air Force were flying out all of the jets and deploying all of the carriers and ships...and we would have been right there along side of them.

But I digress.

Let's start at the beginning.

The weekend of the 5th and 6th JP hosted the International Mills Brothers Society's Convention here in Virginia Beach. JP's sister, Sue, her friend, Teresa, his Uncle Lennart and Aunt Betty, his cousin, Carol, and numerous other friends from around the globe were here for the concerts, meetings, and festivities. We had a wonderful time.

Friday the 5th started off with the manufacturing of the second batch of "Gus and Judi's Sunshine Pasta Sauce." We had JP's sister, Sue, and her friend Teresa to help us. Here is Sue putting in some of the orange bell peppers. They were amazed at the whole process.

And here are labels waiting to go on the jars

Our friend "Skipper," a Special Olympian from Bellefonte, PA, took this picture for us and I promised I would use it in the Follies. Thanks, Skip! Here are Aunt Betty,

Sister Sue, me, Teresa, Uncle Lennart, JP, and Carol enjoying the roof garden reception.

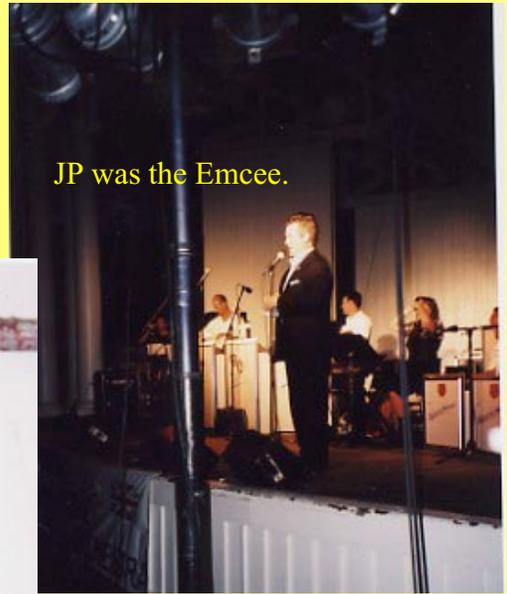
Here Elmer Hopper, formerly with the Platters, talks with Carol and Uncle Lennart.



The 24th street stage is a beautiful place for an outdoor concert on the oceanfront.



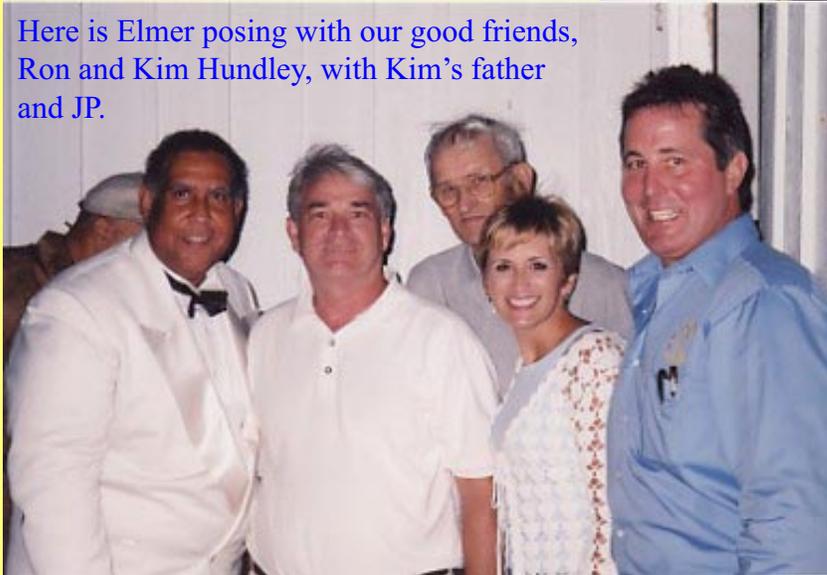
JP was the Emcee.



I like this shot of John between the pillars.



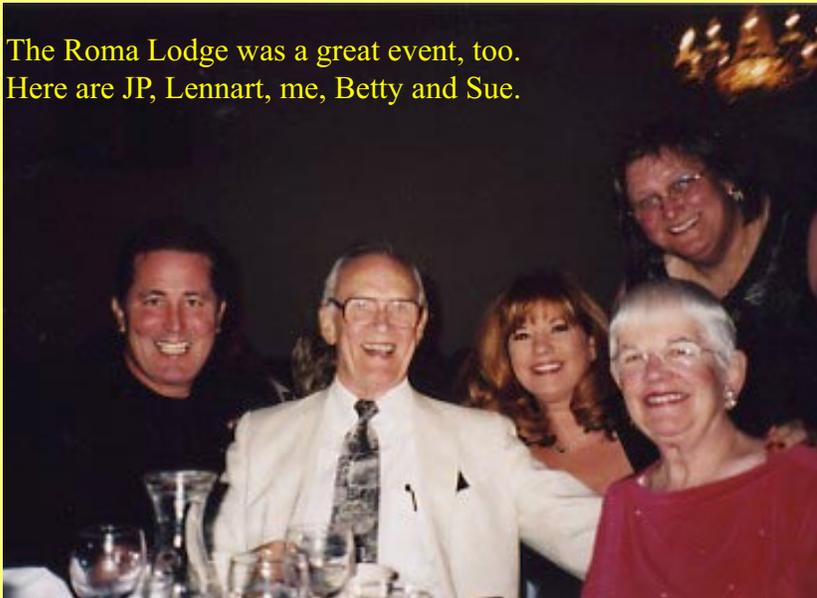
Here is Elmer posing with our good friends, Ron and Kim Hundley, with Kim's father and JP.



Kim with John. Kim, you look like a movie star!



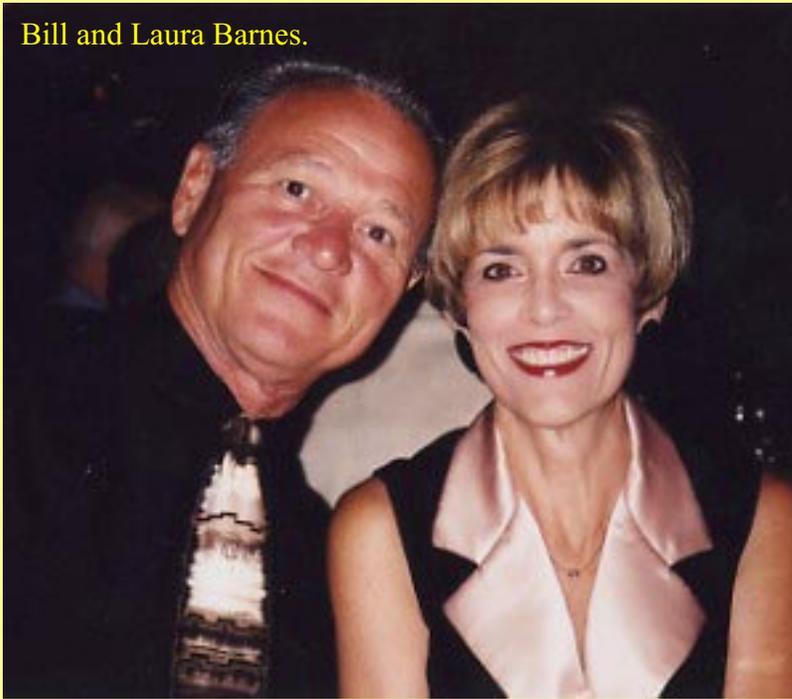
The Roma Lodge was a great event, too. Here are JP, Lennart, me, Betty and Sue.



Paul and Kathryn Houseman.



Bill and Laura Barnes.



Ken and Rowena Copeland with Sue.



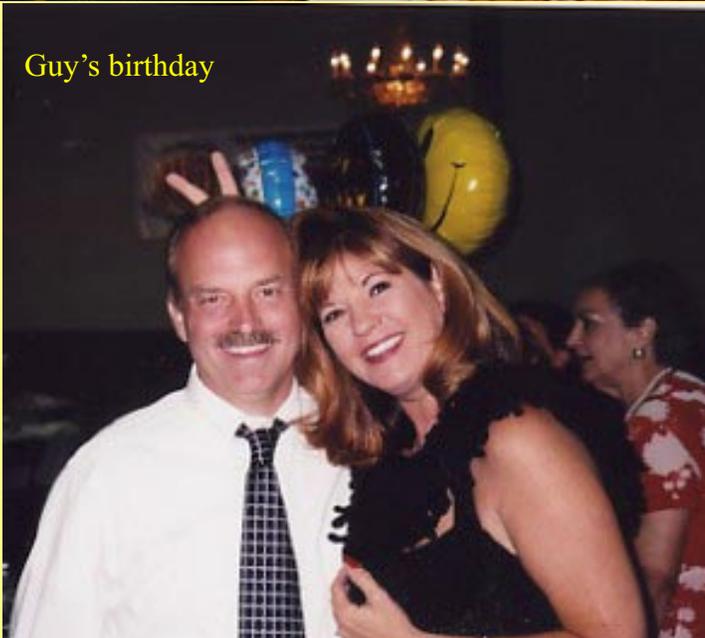
Dave and Mildred with Betty Spiegel in the background.



Charlie Theiz and her friend.



Guy's birthday



It really was a great weekend.
We loved every minute of it.

Stay tuned for Part II...