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Christmas Jubilee



ALAN FREED

Alan Freed was born Oct. 15, 1922 in Johnstown, Pa. After living for a while in Oklahoma City and Alliance, Ohio, the family settled in Salem, Ohio, which since Freed's rise to fame has looked upon him as a native son. Freed's parents still live there.

Freed showed some musical talent at an early age, and was introduced to the trombone at the age of 12. In high school, Freed organized a band, named it the Sultans of Swing after a famous Harlem orchestra of that name, and played dance dates in Salem and its environs.

In the last months of college, Freed, still infected with the radio virus, auditioned for stations for miles around and finally landed a \$17 a week job with WKST in New Castle, Pa. After graduation, Freed quit his inspector's job and went to work in radio, despite a hefty pay cut.

He stayed there for six months, a period which Freed calls the most important in his life. While at the station, he did everything from sweeping floors to writing his own continuity and acting as engineer for his shows.

Once, after auditioning for CBS in New York, he was told that his Midwest accent was too grating and that "if I had any other profession I should get out of the radio announcing business as soon as possible."

But Freed persisted and in 1945 landed a sports announcer job at WAKR in Akron, Ohio. Through an accident, he became a disk jockey.

"One night," as he finished the 11:10 sports broadcast he got a very quick call saying the disk jockey for the 11:15 show had not shown up. As he was the only announcer in the studio, he was elected.

He grabbed a stack of records, any records, and the engineer in the control room told him which ones were popular. So he did the show. The next day the sponsor called up and said he liked the show. The owner of the station did, too, so he fired the other guy and gave him the job.

In 1950, Freed attempted to leave WAKR for a better job and wound up in a court fight over a clause in his contract with the station, which kept him from taking another radio job in the area for a year. The court upheld WAKR, so Freed quit radio and got a TV job on Cleveland's WXEL-TV. The clause in the WAKR contract did not cover TV.

Eighteen months later, Freed returned to radio, on WJW in Cleveland, at the urging of Leo Mintz, owner of Cleveland's largest record shop, who had noticed that "race" records—rhythm and blues—were beginning to get popular and believed that a R & B craze might be imminent.

Freed played only R & B records on his show, although he christened the style Rock and Roll to avoid the racial stigma of the old classification.

Early in the program, Freed developed his trademark—slamming out the beat with his hand. At first he whopped the table top, wearing a golf glove to protect his hand, until someone gave him the idea of using a telephone book, which was softer than wood.

In March, 1952, Freed decided to cash in on the success of Rock and Roll by staging a Moondog Ball in the Cleveland Arena, which has a capacity of 10,000. About 9,000 tickets were sold in advance, and the night of the ball 30,000 persons showed up, crashing the doors down and bowling over the outnumbered cops.

The show had to be called off, but it wasn't a financial loss. Everybody had such a grand time breaking into the arena they didn't ask for their money back.

Freed gave up the idea of staging dances in Cleveland, and instead ran eight reserved seat theater-type shows in the Arena and in the city's public auditorium. All were sellouts.

At the height of his popularity in Cleveland, Freed almost lost his career and his life, in the tangled wreckage of his auto. In April, 1953, he fell asleep while driving home after a late broadcast and his car smashed into a tree near his home in Shaker Heights, an exclusive Cleveland suburb.

For the first 10 days he was not expected to live.

Forty-eight hours after the accident his heart stopped beating and they injected adrenalin directly into the heart to get it beating.

Five weeks after the crash, Freed had recovered sufficiently to resume his Moondog broadcasts, lying flat on his back in his hospital bed. When he left the hospital after 16 weeks, he went home for three months of convalescence, and did his broadcasts from a chair beside his bed.

But as a concession to his healing insides, he temporarily gave up beating time on the phone book to the rowdy rock and roll beat.

He continued promoting Rock and Roll dances and shows and built up a sideline as a record distributor, while in his quieter moments he tried writing songs. In 1954, when New York, the biggest rat race of all, beckoned with showy displays of cash, he was ready to make the move.

Freed accepted the offer of WINS to put Rock and Roll on the local airwaves, in return for a contract calling for a guaranteed \$25,000 a year against a percentage of sponsors' fees.

Freed made his first New York broadcast on Sept. 8, 1954. The program was an almost immediate success. But one of the interested listeners was the real Moondog, the Times Sq. character, who hauled Freed into court and got him enjoined from using the name "Moondog" on the show.

So the program became simply, "Rock and Roll Party." Whatever the name, the beat was the same, and the teenage crowd began listening steadily. In January, 1955, after only four months on the air, Freed threw two rock and roll dances at the St. Nicholas Arena. In a way, these dances marked the turning point in the acceptance of Rock and Roll.

Freed still carries a heavy broadcasting load. In addition to his programs for WINS, he tapes weekly shows for broadcast in Baltimore and St. Louis, and one for Radio Luxembourg, for broadcast in Europe, which is rapidly becoming Rock and Roll conscious. And for six months, he emceed a weekly Rock and Roll show for the CBS radio network.

He's a business executive, too, with interests in two firms that handle his theatre promotions and music publishing. His partners include Gene Goodman, brother of clarinetist Benny Goodman, and Phil Kahl and Morris Levy, who is associated with Birdland and The Embers.

In addition to his work as Rock and Roll impressario, emcee, band leader, recording artist, movie "star," song writer, and disk jockey, Freed is snowed under by chores that have resulted from his popularity in these fields.

There are more than 4,000 Freed fan clubs, mostly in the east, and each of them have from 10 to 300 members. And each of the kids seems to be impelled to write to Freed—he gets about 10,000 letters a week, in normal times, and twice that number when Rock and Roll and/or Freed is being attacked.





SCREAMIN' JAY HAWKINS

HAWKINS was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1929. Jay has come a long way in developing his musical talents. Not only does he sing, but he is also adept at the piano keyboard and plays saxophone as well.

He earned a reputation for being a quick-stepper and having a solid background in the fighting ring. So good a fighter was he, that in 1947 he won the Golden Gloves Diamond Amateur Contest and went on to beat the light champ, Billy McCan of Alaska in 1949.

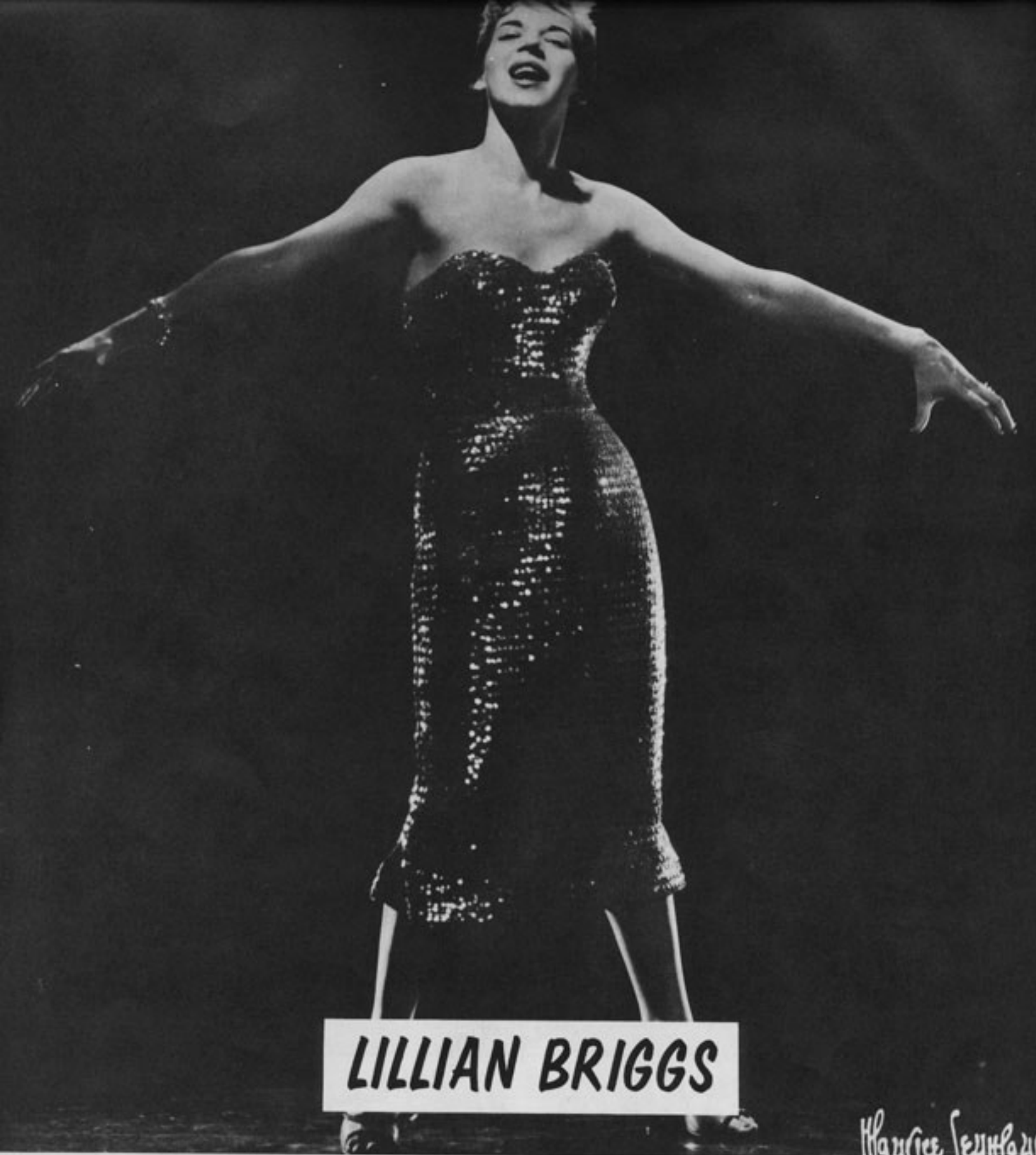
With his pugilistic days behind him, Jay embarked on a new phase of his varied career, singing, or "screaming". For that is exactly what he does. He literally "screams" his way through a song. Thus, the name, SCREAMIN' Jay Hawkins. In 1954 the great Fats Domino heard him "scream" and suggested Jay go on tour with Fats and his troupe. And, Jay has been touring all over the country since.



SHIRLEY and LEE

James J.
Cosmopolitan
NY

SHIRLEY & LEE is a youthful girl and boy singing duo, whose smash-hit record of "Feel So Good" has firmly entrenched them as headliners. They are billed as the "Sweethearts of the BLUES". Among their other hits are "That's What I'll Do", and currently "Let The Good Times Roll".



LILLIAN BRIGGS

Harrie Seymour

Lillian Briggs had hoped to be a psychiatrist when she was a starry-eyed kid at school in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Lillian who had taken violin and piano in grammar school, decided to follow music.

After graduation she joined a local all-girl orchestra called the "Swingettes."

She sang at the Arcadia in New York. Evidently her husky voice appealed to the manager. He asked her if she had ever considered singing

as a career. She recorded for Epic Records.

As the Nation's juke boxes and radios began blaring "I Want You To Be My Baby" and Epic record sales soared, Lillian came into demand for personal appearances.

Her first date at the Lotus Club in Washington, D. C., was sensational. Reviewers said she was "the most controversial singer since Johnny Ray" while many said hers was "the greatest new voice in years."



THE MOONGLOWS

In March of 1951, Bobby Lester who had been featured with several nationally known vocal groups, organized a quartette in his home town Louisville, Ky. Bobby named the group the "MOONGLOWS", and within a few weeks were making personal appearances in midwestern and southern towns.

Alan Freed made arrangements with the Chance Record Company of Chicago to record their songs.

Several of the records gained wide attention but two numbers sold especially well. These two tunes were "Ooh, Rockin' Daddy" and "Secret Love."



GEORGE HAMILTON IV

This likeable youngster, who stands six-foot three and is 19 years old, was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The president of WTOB-TV secured an audition for George on the Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts show. George appeared on the program and was signed by Godfrey to appear on his morning television shows for the remainder of the week. George also appeared on the "Arthur Godfrey and his Friends" telecast. During this same week, his recording of "A Rose and a Baby Ruth" was released. The record sold 100,000 copies within two days!



THE HEARTBEATS

Wally Pomeroy





PROGRAM

The Three Friends

G Clefs

Barbie Gaye

George Hamilton IV

Shirley and Lee

Lillian Briggs

Intermission

Jessie Belvin

The Dells

Mac Curtis

The Moonglows

Eddie Cooley
and the Dimples

The Heart Beats

Screamin' Jay Hawkins

Alan Freed and his Orchestra

Featuring

Sam (The Man) Taylor - Al Sears and Jimmy Wright

Program subject to change without notice





G CLEFS



EDDIE COOLEY

and the DIMPLES

21 year old Brooklynite, originally began his career as a songwriter and gained national fame with his composition of "Fever". With this success under his belt Cooley went on writing and found himself demonstrating his own songs. His demonstration to the Roost Record Company led to his being signed to a recording contract. Eddie suggested that three little neighborhood girls with whom he entertained with at parties in the neighborhood would be most helpful, and so the "Dimples" were born. The three girls Beverly, Barbara, and Carol have since then become an important part of the success of "Priscilla" and what the future holds for Eddie Cooley and the Dimples.



So

*Another great
my 55 friends!
Love & Hugs
from
Barbie Gaye
Dustin*

BARBIE GAYE

This fourteen year old bubbling, bouncing youngster was born and raised in Brooklyn and still resides there.

She was discovered a few months ago and has already cut her first record—"My Boy Lollipop" on the Darl label.

For one so young she has a great love of life, people and activity—her energy is unbounded—her personality dynamic. Add to this the fact that she is as cute as a button, has talent galore, and is as sweet as can be, and you can readily understand why she is considered by so many as a bright up-and-coming new star.



THE THREE FRIENDS

The young men known as the "Three Friends" are: Frank Stropoli—lead and harmony, Age 20; Joe Francavilla—lead and harmony, Age 20; Tony Grochowski—first tenor, Age 21.

Their latest release "Blanche" on Lido Records is having tremendous success and shows signs of going right to the top. The remarkable versatility of the boys is evidenced by the fact that "Blanche" was written by "The Three Friends" themselves.



THE DELLS

*To go to
Singer
Mabel*

*Bob
Dorsey*

*Bob
Dorsey*

*Bob
Dorsey*



*Mincerely
your
Grace Belvin*

John E. Re
Hollywood

JESSIE BELVIN



MAC CURTI





SAM (The Man) TAYLOR



JIMMY WRIGHT



AL SEARS

