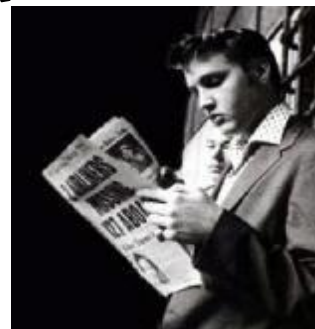




Have you heard the NEWS



"There's Good Rocking Tonight"

News letter for members of the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club, Elvis-Aberdeen.

40 Year Anniversary of "American Sound Sessions"

It is difficult to believe that 40 years have passed since Elvis walked into Chips Moman's American Sound Studios in Memphis on January 13th, 1969 to make music history.

Elvis recorded a number of tracks including 'Long Black Limousine', 'This is the story', 'You'll Think of Me' and 'Just a Little Bit of Green'. However, it is the tracks such as 'Suspicious Minds', 'In The Ghetto' and 'Kentucky Rain' which stand out even more than the others.

It was clear that Elvis had put a lot of his effort and soul into these recordings and had finally put his foot down to the Colonel when it looked as though RCA was trying to force Chips Moman to release copyright of the songs to Elvis' own publishing company.

Elvis himself believed that he had recorded some of his best material. He did so with focus and effort, and by asserting a kind of independence which was unusual for him. But it was an independence tempered by a willingness to work with and be guided by a producer he had never met, in a



studio he knew by name only. Desperate for a number one hit Elvis took chances he would never take again.

Many critics and fans alike have often claimed that if only Elvis had taken more control of his career, had trusted his own instincts, made the movies and recorded the music he really wanted, if he had just gotten rid of the Colonel his career would have

been much better off. It's hard to argue with the Colonel's success, but it may be said with certainty that in this instance, without being tied by the Presley machine, Elvis rose to and met every challenge. When Elvis walked into American Sound Studio that January evening, he hadn't had a top five record since 1965. He would never get as high on the charts again as he did with Chips Moman.

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Elvis Trivia

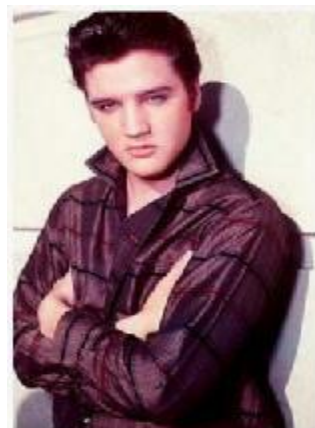
Chips Moman introduced Elvis to Suspicious Minds. Chips had recorded it with the song's writer Mark James in 1968, but the record never made the charts. Chips thought he had a good chance with Elvis whose voice and intensity were perfect for the song. When the time came to cut the tracks, Chip used the same arrangement as with James (played by the same band), believing that only Elvis was the missing ingredient to a hit record. He was right.

FTD News

The big news on the internet seems to be in relation to the price of the FTD releases which are issued every few months in order to quench our appetites for all Elvis audio available. The unfortunate news coming from FTD is that they are going to be increasing prices by 30% from what is already an expensive £1.99 + postage for a single cd. (Although some are released as doubles)

This would be unfortunate as the release of these CD's has been a big success.

As for the latest releases, the next releases in the pipeline are [Blue Hawaii](#), a 2 CD version due on [February 14th](#), and [Standing Room Only](#), a 2 CD with Live Recordings from February and March 1972 which is due for release on [March 15th](#).



And now a contribution from one of our own members entitled;

The musings and ramblings of a Baby Boomer!!

I remember I first became aware of Elvis in my class at Skene Street Primary school in Aberdeen, where I was a pupil from 1958 to 1962. For most of my time there, my teacher was one Mr Reginald (Reggie) Morrison, who, like most teachers of the time, commanded the utmost respect from his charges, and instilled in us wide eyed kids many good habits which would stand us in good stead through our lives - and we liked him.

Mr Morrison, however, did not like Elvis, or at least he was of the school of thought who dismissed Rock'n'Roll generally and the King in particular as a bad influence on the youth of the day and would, when the opportunity arose, attempt to put us off by decrying the music as not worthy of the name and the lyrics as just so much unintelligible gibberish. This, of course, had precisely the opposite effect and I resolved to find out more.

My parents loved music and, although we did not have television during my early years at school, we did of course, have radio, and our house was always filled with the sounds of the popular tunes of the day, mainly from stations such as the BBC's Light Programme. The BBC, at the time did not play anything remotely controversial so it was a rare event indeed to hear Elvis on mainstream radio.

I can't remember exactly when, but I think I was about 11 years old in 1957 the first time I heard Elvis sing, I do remember the song was Hound Dog and, to use a term from modern parlance, it just 'blew me away'. I have been a fan ever since.

From that moment on I would take every opportunity, when my parents were not listening to their stations and programmes, to tune the big wooden radiogram (how luxurious!!) in the corner of the living room into a crackly Radio Luxembourg to avidly listen to any and every song of the King's which was played.

The radiogram, of course, could also play records at 33 1/3, 45, and 78 rpm and I eventually saved enough pocket money to buy a couple of second hand 78s from a record and music shop in Queen Street near the Castlegate. (By this time 45s were the new technology and were beginning to replace 78s). The records were HMV labelled and included Hound Dog/Don't Be Cruel. One of my sisters, of which I have four, generously saved up her pocket money and purchased the King Creole single, before she inexplicably metamorphosed into a Cliff Richard fan. Those discs are long since broken unfortunately, most of them probably due to weakening caused by the amount of times they were played!

In the same street as I lived in, I had a good mate, Dougie, also an Elvis fan. Now Dougie had a younger brother, Tommy, and Tommy, one black day, contrived to stand on the King Creole single. After much discussion and soul searching Dougie and I deduced we probably would not get away with tying Tommy to a fish box and casting the little twerp adrift from the North pier, so we settled for feeding him some worms from the next door wife's front garden. Happy days! In today's PC world though, my mate and I would surely have merited some serious counselling for that episode, but come on, what were we supposed to do? After all the horrible little cretin broke an Elvis record!

Before the demise of the rather fragile 78s though, I do remember feeling really cool with my Elvis records nestling on the sideboard beside the rather more staid Bing Crosby, Mario Lanza and Jimmy Shand offerings belonging to my parents.

Speaking of my sisters, who are all younger than me, reminds me of the sometimes animated discussions we would have on the relative merits of our favourite artists. It will be no surprise to fellow Elvis freaks to know that I would always emerge triumphant from these. After all, I had the King, they only had the pretenders to his throne - Cliff and Billy Fury.

Then came the movies.....

Perhaps I can ramble on about them in a future newsletter...?

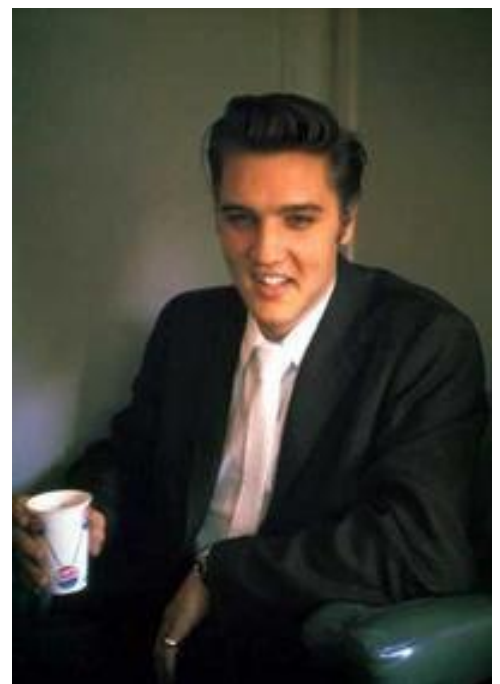
Regards to all fellow Elvis aficionados

John Stephen,
Dyce.

Membership Fees

As mentioned in the December Newsletter, all reminders for the Annual Subscription for membership (which will remain at £) will be issued in February/March.

Lets hope the Membership continues to grow during 2009!



Next Dance: Friday 30th January