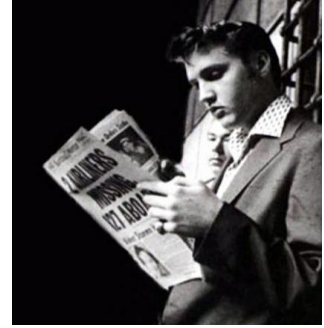


ISSUE No 70
August 2009



Have you heard the NEWS



“There’s Good Rocking Tonight”

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

Anniversary of Elvis’ Death Passes Once Again

Here we are once again at the crossroads of another year passing without Elvis in our lives. I mean of course without the physical Elvis, as it is now more obvious than ever that there will never be a day that passes most of us by when Elvis is not in our thoughts at one point or another.

I found myself reflecting this year more than ever about what my life would have been like had Elvis lived beyond his 42nd Birthday and taken a different direction in life. It is of course very difficult to determine what path his life would have taken, but interesting to ponder the possibilities none the less.

I for one would of course have loved to have seen Elvis Live in Concert, as unfortunately I was too young to experience that. It is a huge regret to me that I will never have that chance but even more than that, I would have loved the opportunity to tell Elvis how much I loved him and his music. I seem to crave that because I am not certain that Elvis really understood how much his fans loved him. I always get the impression that there was an emptiness or loneliness in Elvis’ life, perhaps I am mistaken although I remember Elvis once said himself that he could be lonely in the middle of a crowd.

I suppose I wanted to be the one to make Elvis happy, but I suppose it is you girls who would do that job better than I! But then there were many around Elvis over the years who were friends and presumably there to make Elvis happy. Did any of them succeed? I am



not sure but I hope so. I am uncertain if Elvis was indeed unhappy but get the impression from everything read over the years that he was certainly unfulfilled professionally, and it is perhaps this aspect of his life he was unhappy about.

I am unclear who could have changed this other than Elvis himself, and perhaps his reluctance to confront Colonel Parker on the management of his career was ultimately his mistake. We will of course never know, but had he lived longer I feel certain that he would have been more appreciated professionally and less parodied by the Media which is the one thing as an Elvis Fan I hate more than anything else.

Please excuse my sentimentality this month when I say, Elvis we miss you and love you.

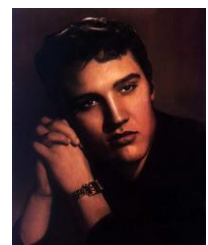
Richard Stables—President, Elvis Aberdeen

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Elvis Trivia

Marc Salem—Name of a Philadelphia man who, on August 12, 1977 predicted Elvis’ death. He placed his written prediction inside an aspirin box that was baked into a pretzel. This was done under the guidance of Arlen Spector, former Philadelphia District Attorney. He not only predicted Elvis’ death but gave the headlines: Daily News: “The King Is Dead”, National Enquirer: “The King Dies at 42”, Bulletin: “Elvis Dies”. All headlines were as he predicted.



In the late 1950s life in Aberdeen and indeed in most of Great Britain still had a feeling of "greyness" about it which probably owed much to the fact that the world had been at war only a matter of 15 years before, and although we, the generation born just after the war ended, had never experienced and, indeed, never would experience, the privations inherent in such cataclysmic events, our parents and grandparents certainly had, and we were occasionally told stories of wartime life.

We were therefore aware of what had taken place and respected it, but, in the manner of youth, we looked forward and not back, and wanted our world to be different. Rock'n'Roll had hit the world in the mid to late fifties spawning "giants" like Bill Haley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry and others, along with the king of them all of course, Elvis. The king's early, mainly black and white movies, and others of it's ilk almost certainly helped to give our generation the impetus to change the way forward, and the sixties beckoned full of promise.

Elvis by this time had completed his army service and, despite his own previous doubts, his popularity had not diminished in any way. As demonstrated by his phenomenally successful early sixties releases like "It's now or never", "Good luck charm" and "Are you lonesome tonight", he was still the unchallenged emperor of the popular music world and, as if to reflect the vibrant feeling of a new era, all his films would now be gloriously technicoloured, beginning, in 1960, with the movie which drew upon his time in the armed forces, "GI Blues".....

The sense of excitement and anticipation was palpable as we queued to take our seats at the first showing in Aberdeen of this eagerly awaited Presley vehicle. We sat through the now long forgotten supporting B movie and, as the lights dimmed after the film trailers and commercial break, we waited impatiently for our first glimpse of our hero and we were not disappointed.

As the starting credits rolled and the military soundtrack to the opening scene boomed out, we were transported to post war occupied Germany, to a GI training exercise and to the sight of Elvis in combat fatigues in the gun turret of a Sherman tank guiding a shell unerringly to it's target and we were glad to be alive and witnessing the king's return.

As the film progressed and the plot unfolded, we were caught up in the fortunes of the "Combo" trying to break into professional music. We watched open mouthed and hung on every word as Elvis worked his magic on screen.

The musical highlights were many. Elvis's rendition of "Shopping Around" in the "Café Europa" at the behest of the fictitious "American Army General", the romantic way he sang "Rainbows" to Juliet Prowse on the chairlift, and, of course, the spectacular finale performance of "Didja Ever" were unforgettable. My own personal favourites at the time included his rendition of his big UK hit, "Wooden Heart" at the Punch and Judy show, which demonstrated the king's ability, denied to many famous actors, of being able to work with children, and the driving "Frankfort Special" which ended with one of Elvis's expressive grins as the sequence ended with him playing the closing guitar chords while a fraulein in a red polka dot dress gyrated in the train corridor behind him.

Tongue in cheek humour was, of course, a constant feature of Presley movies, with Elvis himself often being the butt of the dialogue. He was never afraid to portray his own character's vulnerable side to enhance plot situations such as the scene where, as if to explain something he had just done, he drily drawls to the sergeant "Maybe I'm just stoopid"

Speaking of the irascible but rather slow witted sergeant, brilliantly played by Arch Johnson, the busy actor who also appeared in Jailhouse Rock, I fondly remember the scene where one of Elvis's platoon mates, the one originally picked by the "band of brothers" to try to spend a night with "Miss Lili", turned up at a bar with a choice of blonde, brunette or redhead to accompany the "Sarge" for the evening. "Red's my favourite colour" says Sarge, choosing the redhead. One of the accompanying G.I.s adds "He wouldn't care if she was bald as long as she wiggled". "You got it!" replies Sarge. What did he mean by "wiggled", I wonder?

GI Blues was just a wonderful light hearted enjoyable film and I would never miss an opportunity to go and see it anytime it was screened in Aberdeen.

This was, of course, long before the video age, but I think I saw it something like 15 times in about 2 years. That must have made quite a dent in my available pocket money, but it was worth every penny to watch the king in action.

In the meantime of course, Elvis was busy making more movies and, for we rabid fans, things were about to become even wilder in the country and bluer in Hawaii.....

John Stephen, Dyce Elvis Aberdeen member.

Elvis Movie Night

Tuesday 15th September 7pm-10pm

15 Bon-Accord Square, Aberdeen

Contact info

By email:

aberdeen@elvis-a-presley.com

The club has decided to hold an Elvis Film night on the above date. Please come along and support the club and see Elvis on the big screen! It looks as though one movie will be shown as well as other material. Please note that there will be no entry fee to this event.

Next Dance: Friday 28th August