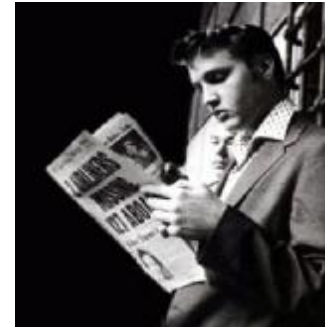


ISSUE No 85
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Have you heard the NEWS



"There's Good Rocking Tonight"

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

Elvis Best Selling Artist In The US

Good news this month as it would appear that with 2 New RIAA Awards Elvis has once again overtaken Garth Brook as the "Biggest Selling Solo Album Artist of All-Time". The 2 new RIAA Awards are via the 2 Brookville Marketing albums (sold only on television).

'Elvis' - issued in 1973 - 5 x Platinum
'Elvis in Hollywood' - issued in 1976 1 x Platinum

This is fine news as it puts Elvis ahead of Garth Brooks again as the Biggest Selling Solo Album Artist of All-Time in the U.S.A. Brooks currently has 128 million and Elvis now has 129.5 million.



ELVIS—ABERDEEN—MEMPHIS TRIP UPDATE

Due to the lack of contact from Members interested in going to Memphis in October 2011, names of which were supposed to have been advised to the club by 8th December, we may have to reconsider whether we will proceed at all with this trip.

Whilst we appreciate that there are a limited amount of members who still wish to go in 2011, we have to seriously consider that unless there are sufficient numbers who are willing to make the trip in 2011 we may have to postpone until 2012.

Therefore, please advise names and Passport numbers by 15th January 2011 if you definitely wish to still go on this trip, and depending on numbers the final decision will be made after that date.

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Elvis Trivia

Rolling Stones Guitar Player Keith Richards has just released his autobiography. In it he states, 'Good records just get better with age. But the one that really turned me on, like an explosion one night, listening to Radio Luxembourg on my little radio when I was supposed to be in bed and asleep, was 'Heartbreak Hotel'. That was the stunner. I'd never heard it before, or anything like it. I'd never heard of Elvis before. It was almost as if I'd been waiting for it to happen. When I woke up the next day I was a different man.'



REMEMBER NO ELVIS NIGHT IN JANUARY

Myrna Smith Passed Away



It is with great sadness that we have to report that Myrna Smith of The Sweet Inspirations passed away on Christmas Eve.

Myrna was rushed to a London hospital in March after she developed pneumonia and kidney problems while on tour with *Elvis: The Concert*. She later suffered from kidney failure and a severe stroke. Myrna spent her last weeks and died on Christmas Eve at the Canyon Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canoga Park, California.

The Sweet Inspirations evolved from the Gospelairees, which included Myrna's cousins Dionne and Dee Dee Warwick, Doris Troy and Judy Guions (later known as Stax's Judy Clay). The group's session work included backing vocals for Solomon Burke, Wilson Pickett and the Drifters. Myrna replaced Dee Dee in 1965 after she left to pursue a solo career. Estelle Brown also joined around that time. Dionne and Doris were later replaced by Cissy Houston and Sylvia Shemwell, respectively.

In 1967, the group was signed to Atlantic as the Sweet Inspirations. Their first release was a cover of *Why (Am I Treated So Bad)*, a top-40 hit on the R&B charts.

The Sweet Inspirations continued to work as session singers during this period, appearing on classic cuts by artists as diverse as Aretha Franklin (*Chain of Fools*), Dusty Springfield (*Son of a Preacher Man*), Van Morrison (*Brown Eyed Girl*) and Jimi Hendrix (*Burning of the Midnight Lamp*).

In 1969, Elvis Presley chose the Sweet Inspirations as his opening act and backing singers for gigs at the International Hotel in Las Vegas. The group appeared with Elvis in more than 1,000 concerts, as well as the television specials *Aloha from Hawaii* and *Elvis in Concert*.

Those of us who were lucky enough to meet Myrna have very fond memories of a lovely woman with a very special smile.

Sherrill/Shawn Nielson Passed Away

In other sad news this month, Sherrill Neilson passed away on December 11th after a battle with lung cancer.

In 1973, Sherrill, who had previously worked with the legendary Jake Hess and the Imperials Quartet, took a new direction by moving to Nashville, TN to organize a gospel group that opened the show for Elvis Presley. Elvis' love for Sherrill's tenor voice and gospel music led him to claim the group as his own and Elvis named the group VOICE (after a name he saw on the cover of a religious periodical). According to Felton Jarvis, Elvis' producer, Sherrill was Elvis' favourite singer. In 1977, Elvis and Sherrill's duet, "Softly As I Leave You" was nominated for a Grammy as duet of the year. Sherrill stayed with Elvis until Elvis' death in 1977.

Graceland Trophy Room to get a New Look

The entrance room inside the trophy building at the Graceland mansion is getting a new look! The room now features an interactive timeline celebrating 1956, the year Elvis Presley catapulted from anonymity to superstardom. The new display will be unveiled on January 8, 2011 during the Elvis Presley Birthday Celebration!

Remarkably, 55 years ago, Elvis enjoyed his first RCA single and national hit, "Heartbreak Hotel," his first album, "Elvis Presley," his first movie, "Love Me Tender," and his first television appearances on The Dorsey Brothers' "Stage Show," "The Milton Berle Show," "The Steve Allen Show" and "Ed Sullivan." The new timeline highlights each of these achievements through exclusive photos, video clips, and other memorabilia! Elvis' trophy building also houses an amazing collection of his gold and platinum records, as well as items from his movies, his charitable endeavours and more.

Source: Elvis.com

Contact info

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Next Dance: Friday 4th February