

A Career of a Different Kind

By: Helen Marketti

When requesting an interview or a press kit from an artist, one usually goes through a process of corresponding with a Press Agent, Media Consultant, Tour Manager or some other title before you have access to the artist. They have a role to play and are an important part of keeping the operations running smoothly. Often times, it has been a curiosity of what their lives are like. How did they end up working for so and so? What were they doing before then? What is a typical day like for them? Is there such a thing as a "typical day" in the entertainment world? Armed with such questions, an interview sprouted with Rhonda Brewster, better known as Ronna to her family and friends. Ronna is the Marketing Assistant to Brian Ray. Brian is the bass guitarist for Paul McCartney.

Ronna's life took a turn that began innocently enough when she and a friend decided to travel to California for a vacation six years ago. "The weather had a lot to do with it plus



Ronna, her grandson and Brian Ray

I loved being near the beach," said Ronna. "All of my life I had never really felt like I truly belonged anywhere. It wasn't until I came to California that I felt "at home". This is where I belonged."

Ronna continues, "My friend and I moved out here nearly one year to the day from when we were first here on vacation. We saved our money, tried to figure out how

much we needed to rent an apartment. What we didn't think about was that no one would rent to us without having a job first. So, we lived in a hotel, which made us go through our money much faster. We were in Los Angeles for a total of 40 days before I found the job that I have now. My friend found a job a week later. Eventually we were able to move into an apartment. Now both of us work at the same place, too."

Ronna shares the job duties of her current position. "The company I work for is called, Entertainment Partners which has several divisions. I work in Central Casting Payroll, which is the oldest division for "extras" in Hollywood. They have been in existence for over 60 years. What I do is payroll for the "background talent" which means the "extras" that you see in the movies or on television. I work nine hours a day, Monday through Friday. It is interesting work."

So, how does Brian Ray figure into this equation? "First of all I've always been a fan of Paul McCartney," said Ronna. "I had been to one of their shows in Atlanta during the first tour that Brian had done with Paul. I had not yet moved out here. Anyway, I went on line to try and find more information on Brian but I couldn't find anything. I went to Paul's web site and posted a question on the message board, asking if anyone had any information on Brian Ray. Well, the response to my question was overwhelming. The thread on the message board is still there and still active to this day. Through that, I started meeting and corresponding with people. When I eventually moved to LA, I attended gigs that Brian was doing with his own band,



Black Unicorn. He had sent me an email to come to one of his shows as his guest so then I was able to meet him in person and we became friends. Eventually he asked me to help him with his marketing by sending out CDs, t-shirts and so on to his fans."

Ronna said that working for Brian Ray is her "side job" and of course enjoys that very much. "The best thing about what I do is that I have met some fantastic people who I know I will be close to for the rest of my life. I have met so many people from so many different cultures and learned so much about them. I find it all fascinating."

On a personal level, "The most rewarding thing is having one of my songs recorded. I have been writing songs since I was kid. A local artist out here recently recorded one of my songs. He goes by Zallen but his real name is Mike Jones. He recorded my song, "I Hate Heights" on his new CD. This is the first song that has been recorded so I am very excited about it."

Thinking about her life, what she does and how she feels, Ronna said, "I love California. I love the people I have met here. It's a fantastic life."

Bike-a-thon to Benefit CASA scheduled in May

The Leadership Sandusky County Class of 2010 and CASA are gearing up to raise funds by hosting the "Let's Get Movin' in May" bike-a-thon. The May 22 event will start (and finish) at Biggs-Kettner Park on the east side of Fremont; it will run from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, a non-profit group who work for the abused and neglected children of Sandusky County. The CASA volunteer group supports and trains individuals to advocate for abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers need help with monetary donations from our local businesses and individuals. Philanthropic support from the community will provide CASA and its volunteers with the essential tools needed to effectively support our future---its children.

There is a \$25 registration fee for the bike-a-thon. All proceeds will benefit CASA. Individuals who register will receive a t-shirt as well as an entry into a raffle with various prizes. The grand prize is 24-hour guest pass to Eagle Isle Resort and Spa. For more info including sponsorship and registration contact Andrew Smith or Kim Moyer at kemoyer@wsos.org, Andrew.Smith@memorialhcs.org.

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Willows is located at 101 Auxiliary Drive, Bellevue
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