

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Grand Funk Railroad



It all began in Flint, Michigan forty-seven years ago where a rock stompin' band called, Grand Funk Railroad stepped out of the blue collar city and into the classic rock history books. Don Brewer who is one of the founding and original members of GFR welcomes fans of all ages to their show at the Northwest Rib-Off in Maumee, Ohio on August 15!

Many will recognize the rock staples of Grand Funk Railroad in which Don keeps the beat going behind the skins. *We're An American Band, Some Kind of Wonderful, I'm Your Captain (Closer to Home)* and their well-known version of *Locomotion!* It promises to be a rockin' evening for all generations.

"There are many classic rock fans," said Don. "Music like that isn't being created any more and it stands the test of time. Audiences still appreciate the classic rock sound. I don't believe a lot of the music being created now is going to have that kind of a life span. I think the music that we created in those days was honest and heartfelt. We have to remember that radio was very cooperative in those days as well. We're not the only band that has had this kind of classic rock success. I think it's great!"



Standing the test of time is evident when the US Golf Open wanted to use the song, *We're An American Band* for its ad this year. "We received a call asking permission for them to use the song which is very cool. They had used the song once before so when people are getting in touch, you know it's great."

Don first began playing guitar then switched to clarinet. "I absolutely hated playing clarinet," remembers Don. "I had worked my way to the first chair in the school band and then worked myself all the way to the last chair. (laughs) Finally, one day the band director said he needed someone for the drum section because it was all girl drummers and they needed someone to carry the bass drum. I immediately raised my hand and said I would be glad to volunteer! (laughs) I remember when I got home from school that day and telling my dad, I was now playing drums in the school band. He was elated to hear my news because he was a drummer during the Great Depression era. He went out and bought a drum kit for me. He showed me how

to sit behind the kit and what to do. That's how it all started."

Mel Schacher and Don are the two original members currently playing in Grand Funk Railroad. Band members also include Bruce Kulick, Max Carl and Tim Cashion. Don always seemed to be the "go to" person for the band even in their early days. "I remember my dad helping build our first trailer for our equipment. We used to rehearse in our basement and I always seemed to be the one who would arrange rehearsals and organize our schedules for gigs. Every band needs someone like that I just did it. I still have that role!"

Don always looks forward to doing Grand Funk Railroad shows.

"We do some songs that are new and see how it flies. It helps keeps things fresh for ourselves. The fans are coming to hear the hits. That's what they want to hear and that's what we play. Fans who remember us forty-seven years ago now bring their kids and grandkids. It's nice to see all of the different generations," said Don. "I still get some butterflies when I step behind the drums before a show. Some people are surprised



by that but it's true. You never know what's going to happen. Sometimes things can go wrong and you don't want to be out there in front of an audience with egg on your face. I do love being challenged. It's amazing that after all these years; people still want to hear the music. It's such a great feeling. It was a creative force in the early days. Everyone was working together for a common goal. As for the show in Maumee, come on over! Be ready to sweat and be ready to have a good time. I'm looking forward to another great year!"

www.grandfunkrailroad.com



CALICO CAT

Antiques & Collectibles
Collection of Old & New Items

Children's Books • Furniture • Toys • Kitchenware
• Primitive • Linens • New Items Weekly

END OF SUMMER SALE
VINTAGE BACK TO SCHOOL
& AUTUMN ITEMS

115 S. Main St., Clyde
(Former Dime Store Building, next to Our Town's A Brewery)
419-547-2701

Call for Updated Specials & Hours!
Open Thurs. 3-7pm

CLYDE ST. MARY'S

615 Vine St., Clyde

ALL PAPER BINGO - NO SMOKING BINGO

\$500 BONANZA in 56#

The last Tuesday of the month drawing for \$100.00

TUESDAYS

Doors Open 5:30 pm
Games 7:00 pm

Free Coffee
Progressive Lucky Number

BIG GAME
SUPER 19
\$1000.00
Consolation of \$150

JACKPOT
\$1000.00 in 54#
1 Consolation of
\$150

HOMEMADE DESSERTS & SANDWICHES - WIDE VARIETY OF INSTANTS, KENO & SEAL CARDS
GROUND FLOOR - PLENTY OF PARKING - SECURITY - REFRESHMENTS - LIC. 0276-45



FREMONT FLOOR COVERING
OUTLET LTD.

Carpets • Linoleum • Tile
Hardwood • Laminate Floors

All carpet and vinyl remnants 20%-50% Off
Starting As Low As \$5.00 Each

6x9 Bound Area Rugs \$69.00 -
Great For College Dorm Rooms
Other Sizes Available

www.fremontfloorcovering.com
218 N. Front Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420
(419) 355-8480

EXCELLENCE

In Service



- Diagnostic Hearing Evaluations
- Digital Hearing Aids and Service
- Cerumen (Wax) Removal
- Financing is Available



Pinnacle Hearing

at Elmwood at the Springs,
Green Springs • 419-639-6251

Aaron Burks, Au. D.
Doctor of Audiology