

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

A Dream Come True



Dann Simmons did not set out to marry one of the beautiful voices of Motown. While he had dreams about music and a career to serve others he had no idea that a chance meeting in 2002 would change his life.

Dann replied, "It's the kind of music that everyone loves and enjoys. The baby boomers now have the finances and resources to see these acts in person. Many of the artists are accessible and will interact with fans. These are legendary artists."

"In 2002, I first met Mary Wilson of The Supremes. She was doing a show in Marion, Ohio. My son and I attended the show and met her after words. I shared with her how her music changed my life. Many of the Motown groups came from a tough background and did something positive with their lives. I came from a tough background and I made something of my life as well. It was wonderful to talk with her. She had mentioned that she and some of the girl groups would be coming to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland in a couple of months and asked me if I would like to meet them and spend time with everyone. We became friends almost instantly. Mary knew that I was genuine and sincere. There were no other motives and she knew this from having been around many people over several years."

"Over time, after attending a few events and keeping in touch, I was introduced by a friend of Mary's to Annette Beard of Martha and The Vandellas. Annette's sister had been ill with cancer and I was an RN so we

talked a lot about what her sister was going through. I was going through a divorce at that time so it was nice to talk with someone. We became friends and kept in touch. Little by little, our friendship evolved. We found that we had a great deal in common. At this point, it's now 2005. Annette and I didn't push anything or rush into a relationship. We allowed things to develop naturally. We were married in 2008."

"We have a wonderful relationship. It has had some challenges as not everyone is accepting or supportive but you learn to live with it and move on. I work as an RN and always felt I wanted to be a singer. Annette is a singer and always wanted to be an RN. It's interesting sometimes how your life can bring you to the people who are meant to be in it. She encouraged me to fulfill my dream of my singing group, The Grover-Simmons Connection. We do a variety of styles and songs. Annette and I are behind each other one hundred percent because that is what relationships and marriage are all about."

"When schedules permit, we travel together as well and love to sing for the baby boomer audiences. First, my career as an RN is my ministry. I will do anything for the patients and residents under my care. Annette and I work with many youth group organizations. She tells young people to make sure

you get your education and choose a profession. It isn't wise to place all of your hopes on being a star because it can fade. I tell them to be the best they can be on their own because they will not be good for anyone else if they can't take care of themselves."



Dann shares some lasting thoughts about life and relationships. "Whenever you think about getting married, it's important to be friends first. Many couples just start dating right away and don't take the time to know each other. You can be attracted to someone and be in love but that doesn't always mean it's the right person. You need to take the time to make sure both of you are making the right decision."

"The girl groups of Motown were always my favorite artists when I was growing up. There were several music programs on television such as Shindig, Hullabaloo, American Bandstand and Ed Sullivan. I loved watching those programs. I had always loved Elvis Presley and Engelbert Humperdinck," recalls Dann. "I grew up in a dysfunctional home so music was something that I clung to because it made me think that maybe some day I could be a star. Music has always been my salvation. We must also remember that we can be a star at anything we do or we can decide to be mediocre. It's a choice."

When asked his thoughts about fans still being interested in the music of the 60s,

Campfire News and Notes



The Tiffin Charitable Foundation, Inc. recently awarded Camp Fire Sandusky County with a check in the amount of \$3066.00 on behalf of the John E. Pollock Fund.

A gracious thank you is also due to those who pledged to the Bellevue United Selective Fund. Camp Fire received a donation totaling \$600.00. The support of donors like this is a blessing.

Summer Camps are in full swing. Our first Classic Camp was a huge success. We had 47 kids who enjoyed swimming, canoeing, hiking, crafts, fishing, and woodworking. Does playing Olympic type games and

learning about the USA sound fun to you? If so then you should come to our camp Let The Games Begin. Let The Games Begin will be running August 8th-12th. To register stop in to the Camp Fire office. Any question feel free to call us at 419-332-8641.

Having a party and need a place to have it? Camp Fire is available for rentals. Just give our office a call to find out more information.

In 1995 at age 76, Mr. Pollock lost his life to lung cancer. He designated that all revenue generated from the sale of his Water Safety Company be put into a trust and be "used for the training and handling of boats under manual or sail power; public safety education as it affects boating and natural and applied science education, and to provide education for young people about boating safety and other marine education programs." His trust also stipulated that the funds must be used in the Sandusky River area. Camp Fire teaches safety and handling procedures in canoes during camps. Campers gain educated hands-on experience all while having fun. Camp Fire is proud to honor Mr. Pollock's wishes by sharing his love with a growing number of youth throughout the community.

Christopher Liebold

For Sandusky County Commissioner



"Paid for by Liebold for Sandusky County, Jack Fatica Treasurer" 404 CR 108, Fremont, Ohio 43420.

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