



Podiatry Associates of Erie, Inc.

FOOT & ANKLE

C E N T E R

Richard D. DiBacco, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S.

Board Certified: ABPS, ABQAURP

THE MOST EXPERIENCED OFFICE IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

Erie, PA

4402 Peach St. • (814) 864-4874

Meadville, PA

105 Mead Ave. • (814) 337-0404

Conneaut, OH

167-B W. Main St. • (440) 593-6476

www.eriefootdoctors.com

V now WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti



Star Time

An interview with Marshall Thompson of The Chi-Lites

The Chi-Lites were a R & B group that gave us powerful and memorable hits such as “Oh Girl”, “Have You Seen Her”, “Give It Away”, “Are You My Woman (Tell Me So)” and “Stoned Out of My Mind”. Marshall Thomp-



son has been the driving force for The Chi-Lites for over sixty years. Singing on street corners in their home town of Chicago, hence the name, The Chi-Lites, Marshall has fond memories of his childhood. “Both of my parents played keyboard. By the time I was six years old, I had to learn to play an instrument. That was the rule in the household, we each had to learn to play something. I chose the drums. I loved listening to The Dells, The Flamingos, all of those doo-wop groups back then because their harmonies were so strong and tight. Eventually I transitioned from drummer to singer.”

Marshall continues, “I remember being at the Regal Theatre and Gladys Knight & The Pips were rehearsing. I was just watching, so in awe of them. For some reason I kept focusing on their drummer for that show, maybe he wouldn’t be that good, maybe he would get sick and I could play for her. (laughs) Well, my dream came true because he left and I remember yelling to Gladys that I could play the drums for her! She invited me to come up onstage and that’s how I got my big break.”

The original Chi-Lites group members were Eugene “Gene” Record, Robert “Squirrel” Lester, Creadel “Red” Jones and Marshall Thompson. Marshall is the last surviving member of the group as he carries on their legacy to this day. “We all knew each other as kids, we grew up together. We sang on the street corners of Chicago and all the girls would gather around and scream. (laughs) Those were great memories. We finally got a record deal and signed with Brunswick Records. “Oh Girl” is our most popular song and we actually debuted the song for the first time on The Flip Wilson Show.” “Oh Girl” has been ranked the 36th song of the century by BMI.

At 79 years old, Marhsall recently accepted a star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame dedicated to The Chi-Lites. “I can’t even begin to ex-



press what this has meant to me, to my family and to the family members of Eugene, Robert and Creadel. I spoke two years ago at the ceremony for the late Jackie Wilson and never gave it a thought that The Chi-Lites would get a star in Hollywood. It is truly an honor.”

Currently, Marhsall is getting ready to go on the road and bring the music of The Chi-Lites back to dedicated fans around the country. “You have to keep moving, keep yourself going. This is what I love to do. Most recently, Mick Jagger had said that The Rolling Stones are going to release their cover version of The Chi-Lites, “Troubles a Comin’. This shows how our music still makes its mark.”

In 2014, Marshall’s memoir, *The Last Man Standing* (Anytime Enterprises, LLC) was published. It details the career of The Chi-Lites, along with the triumphs and tragedies of his life. There is a quote in Marshall’s book that seems appropriate to close this article as he remembers his band mates. “May the memories we shared and the mark we left upon this world remain a hallmark to the future musicians and entertainers of this world.”

www.chi-litesofficial.com

www.helenrosemarketti.com

Complete Family & Cosmetic Dentistry



It's Never Too Late To Have a Great Smile!

Preventative Services: Hygiene Therapy
Periodontal Screenings & Maintenance | Oral Cancer Screening

Technology: CEREC – One visit crowns

Cosmetic Dentistry: Porcelain Crowns and Veneers | Implants | Teeth Whitening

Other Procedures: Root Canal Therapy | Dentures | Tooth Colored Fillings
Extractions | Infections | Trauma | Denture Repairs

Financing:

We accept Cash, Check, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover
Financing available through third party options such as Care Credit

Fortney Dental Group

299 South Broadway • Geneva, OH 44041

440-466-2721

Hours by appointment including evenings & Saturdays • Serving Ashtabula, Lake and Geauga Counties

www.fortneydental.com

NEW PATIENTS & EMERGENCIES WELCOME