



Dean Rutledge has entertained young and old alike.

Performer offers guitar and vocals

Dean Rutledge, entertainer who has performed for young and old, is presenting his talents at Win Schuler's Grate Steak and Seafood Lounge, the Ha' Penny, in West Bloomfield.

Rutledge, a vocalist and guitarist who admits to being "extremely vocal," accompanies himself on a six and twelve-string guitar and a five-string banjo. He sprinkles his performance with patter and humor.

The performer's repertoire spans the

music from the '40s to the '70s and includes pop, rock, folk and ragtime.

Rutledge also has appeared with the New Christy Minstrels and the Kingston Trio. He has performed in more than 100 clubs from Denver to Detroit and from Traverse City to Florida.

Rutledge performs in the Ha' Penny lounge Tuesdays-Thursdays from 7 p.m. to midnight and Fridays and Saturdays from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. until Sept. 29.

Museum announces dinner theater evening

In a repeat effort, the Museum of Arts and History and Port Huron Little Theatre (PHLT) will combine talents to present "Theatre in the Galleries, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 14 and 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the museum.

A roast beef dinner and champagne, plus a performance of "The Fourposter," are included in the admission price of \$12.50.

Because the event was such a success last year, a Saturday night performance has been added, a spokesman said. Tickets may be reserved through the museum, 982-0891, or Port Huron Little Theatre, 984-4014.

Reservations must be made by Sept. 7. No tickets will be sold at the door.

"THE FOURPOSTER" will feature Wendy Krabach in the role of Agnes. Krabach played Charity in "Sweet Charity" as well as many other lead roles and supporting parts, demonstrating singing, dancing, drama and comedy abilities.

Playing her husband Michael, is a relative newcomer to Port Huron and theater, Ed Gurauskas. Although in the group only a year and a half, Gurauskas has already been seen as Geoffrey in "The Man Who Came to Dinner," Krabach also has served as treasurer of PHLT, choreographer, director, and worked backstage. Gurauskas is currently on the PHLT board and has been an assistant director.

'At the Hop' evolved

By DON WELLMAN

Baaaaaasaaa, baaaaaasaaa
Baaaaaasaaa, baaaaaasaaa
At the hop!

Fledgling rock 'n' rollers, even those who are too young to order a beer at Napoleon's in Plymouth, recognized the opening ba's of "At the Hop." They listened with engrossed, if somewhat bemused, reverence as Danny Rapp sang:

"You can rock it
you can roll it,
Do the bop and even stroll it
at the hop."

It was 22 years ago that Danny and the Juniors recorded "At the Hop," still considered to be the quintessential rock 'n' roll song.

"When the records start spinning,
You calypso and you chicken at the hop."

While the bop and stroll, calypso and chicken are today little more than rock 'n' roll hieroglyphics, Danny and the Juniors are still shakin'. Following a recent appearance at Napoleon's, Danny Rapp and Joe Terranova recounted the story of "At the Hop."

"THE PHILLY SCENE in the late '50s was the center of everything," Terranova recalled. "Someone would start a dance step and do it on 'Bandstand,' then some group would write a song and it would become a hit."

Dick Clark's "Bandstand" was a local television program in Philadelphia where teenagers danced the lindy and jitterbugged to early rock 'n' roll records, and did the fox trot to slow songs. Then, in the summer of 1957, the bop was introduced on "Bandstand" by some teens vacationing from California.

When "Bandstand" became "American Bandstand" on Aug. 5, 1957, with a network feed to 67 stations, everybody in Philly was doing the bop.

Rapp and Terranova, along with Dave White and Frank Maffei, were the Juvenaires, a vocal group signed to Philadelphia's Singular Records, when the bop caught on. To capitalize on the dance craze, they recorded a song called "Doin' the Bop."

Artie Singer of Singular and a local disc jockey, Larry Brown, suggested the group rename itself Danny and the Juniors and played the record to Dick Clark.

Clark's reaction was pessimistic. He felt the bop, as a fad dance, had almost run its course. But the song had potential if it could be rewritten to incorporate a broader topic — perhaps a record hop.

Artie Singer, Dave White and Joe Medora, another Philadelphia musician, rewrote "Doin' the Bop" with lyrics that expressed the feeling of a record hop, then Danny and the Juniors went back into the studio with the new song "At the Hop."

"There wasn't that much difference between the two songs," Danny Rapp said. "A few of the lyrics were changed, but it was basically the same. I don't even remember anymore how the original went."

"WE RECORDED" "At the Hop" in 12 or 13 takes — less than a half hour," Terranova recalled. "There wasn't all this dubbing and overdubbing like back then. You sang it through until you got it right and that was it, that was your record."

Recorded with vocals, a bass, drums and piano, "At the Hop" was released in November 1957. When the disc began to sell, it was sold to ABC Paramount Records, and by January 1958 it was the number-one record in the U.S., knocking Pat Boone's "April Love" out of the top spot. Since then, rock 'n' roll records have dominated the Top 40.

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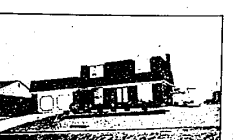
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