
THE BACKSTAGE PASS

Season 40 Letter 8a

February 23 2003

A Thank You Edition from ZCT!

Note From the President

If there was any question about our local musical talent, it should have been answered February 15. We slid in between the snow storms (no pun intended) and despite a few glitches, not ZCT's fault, we had a great show! Chuck & crew was fantastic! We put our name out to a group of people who weren't familiar with ZCT. The lobby and our greeters - OUTSTANDING! A first class program all the way! It's a proud moment for ZCT and we made some money, too! We may right the ship yet. Folks - Good Work Everybody! Let's keep moving forward!

Richard Tolliver
President

A Surprise!

On top of doing PR, Lobby Arrangements, Banner Painting, Music Rehearsals, Program Assembly, and Musician Sketches...we also planned a surprise. As Hannibal would say "I love it when a plan comes together!" I was in the audience when our surprise took place. Mayor Jack Fenton sent a representative to present the theater with a proclamation of its 40 proud years of service to the community...and to honor Chuck Spires for teaching and being an honorable man in the community.

He was moved. So was I. It was a wonderful feeling to see a hardworking teacher acknowledged for his years of service - to his students and his community.

Thanks to all our fellow secret-keepers! It wasn't easy. I myself almost e-mailed Chuck details of the surprise...how dumb would I have felt? At any rate - Thanks to the conspirators! It was an excellent surprise!

What A Show!

A break in the winter snow welcomed an excited gathering of people to see a little concert called "Chuck Spires, An Evening with Family & Friends". And what a show it was! The only glitch was a 20 minute delay in show time due to the people waiting on tickets. Overall, not a bad thing.

The concert started with a welcome from our President, Richard Tolliver. Then, a wonderful spotlight on our main man, Mr. Chuck Spires. The music kicked butt! A slow country classic to a fired up mix of music that kept toes tapping all evening.

It was awesome! I just can't say enough about the experience. The musicians were wonderful! Humble! You'd think for as talented and gifted as each of the musicians are they'd have an ego to go with it. Definitely, not so! Daniel Shuey must have said 10 times that Kenny Sidle is the nicest man he's ever met. You know, I can honestly say that of all the members of the band. Cordial and kind. They made me feel welcome.

The show offered group talents, they spotlighted talents, they threw the spotlight between them. They shared the spotlight. The kids who graced the stage were "the bomb". Three boys played the song "Wipe Out" - but here's the catch...they'd switch during the song from guitar to drums - and the song never missed a beat! They were what the thrill of music should be! Magnificent!!

To all who participated, to all who enjoyed the concert - thank you. It was a success because of you.



To Those Who Made it Possible

I wanted to take a minute and run through our program and thank all those who supported our benefit. Its folks like these who keep the arts alive in a world where a tough economy puts the crunch on the appreciation of art in schools. These are also the folks who support our community and its growth.

Please keep each of them in your mind while shopping for goods or services.

Al Taylor of Al's Pizza and Subs was the first to jump in and support the cause. He dedicated his restaurant sign to telling those in his area about the concert. Thank you very much Al!

Olde Falls Inn - If you want a wonderful meal in an out of the way environment this is the place for you. Their gift certificate caused quite a phone fury on WHIZ! Thanks for your generosity!

Business Equipment supplied the paper! And just enough! Check them out for all your stationary and artistic needs! They have a huge selection of quality papers at a reasonable prices. Its worth the drive down town!

The Crooksville-Roseville Pottery Festival is July 10-13! Take a drive to a lively town with a history of dishes and craftsmanship! We are proud to include their advertisement in our program. More people need to know of hometown pride and celebrate it!

SEO Fire and Water Restoration is a new Dresden Service. They have the top of the line equipment to get the job done and with a 24 hour emergency service availability. 754-2369. Well worth the call when circumstance arises.

Mattingly Foods - A great store with great prices. For the money minded - this is the place. Thanks for your support!

Dresden Village Furniture & Carpet - Another great place to find high quality furniture at wallet

pleasing prices. Visit Dresden and check them out! 754-2369.

Century National Bank - Again, community minded and caring. Not many financial institutions can carry that banner with integrity. Thank you Mark Ritchey and Chad Tom! We appreciate your support.

Orthopaedic Associates of Zanesville - Thank you so much for your support! I can say that you'll be greeted with that human touch that helps when a doctors care is what you need. People helping people!

The Olive Garden, Picnic Pizza, and Red Lobster! Thank you for adding delicious meals to our WHIZ Ticket Give Away!

Coca Cola out did themselves with their generosity! Thank you so much! The members of the concert appreciated it too! Definitely "At Work in Our Communities".

Pick-N-Save - Did you know that we have so many community minded people? They are wonderful! Stop in and shop around! Thank you!

Pete Regalis of ZANCO has supported the theatre longer than I've been involved with it! The theatre appreciates everything you do for them! Thanks for being part of our concert!

To the folks at BIG BEAR - Thank You Very Much! Your contributions were appreciated by the concert musicians and the crew!

Maria Adornetto Restaurant - Your donations of wonderful cooking added atmosphere to our evening! Thank you for your support!

Donald's Doughnuts - What can I say? Saturday Morning Breakfast was started with huge smiles from

the musicians, crew and members! What a way to start a successful day! Thank you!

Spragg's Hair Fashions - Certainly a "cut above the rest". Thank you for helping to make our concert a success.

Goss Supply Company - These are the guys with the connections! Not to mention pride in their community! Thank you for your generosity! Look these guys up if you are in a construction type of mood. If they don't have it, they can certainly find it!

The Community Bank - "Personal Hometown Family Bank" and a new branch is opening near Lowe's! Small town hospitality and professional service. Thank you for helping us out!

C.A.House Music - Thanks for jumping on board! Check them out for awesome guitars, musical instruments...and lessons too! Thanks!

Snouffer Funeral Home - We appreciate your support very much! Although I'm in no hurry to utilize your services, I like what I have heard about your business approach. Welcome to the community! I'm glad we can count you among our supporters.

Mike Ward Music Center - It's a music center on Maple Ave. Stop in and see what they have to offer. We appreciate having you on board!

Carl Rittberger Sr. Inc. Their meat trays are delicious! Thank you so much! If you are interested in a tasty lunch meat variety - this is your place to shop! You'll be eating sandwiches like a king!

Kyle Trout Landscaping - Its hard to find a responsible young man who's dedicated to his work. He offers a complete line of landscaping services including snow removal. For a free estimate - give him a call. 819-6824.

The SEO Cheer & Tumble Center - Thank you for your contribution! Its appreciated!

Bed & Breakfast for Dogs -For happy pups while you are on vacation - this is the place for your fuzzy loved one! Keep them in mind. The Longaberger Family Day is the first Saturday in May...give your pet a family day and don't forget the coupon they included in the concert program! A money saving prospect without of the worry of leaving your pup alone. Thanks for helping us out! 740.849.2588.

The American Light Company - Since 1910 - They have the light supplies and fixtures for you design! Thank you for lighting the way for our concert's success!

The Geo. P. Frueh Company - These are the guys for industrial construction ideas! Check them out! 452-9951. Thanks for supporting our benefit.

Pepsi-Cola - thank you for your refreshing donation of H2O! Water was definitely the musicians best friend. Thank you for helping us out!

Dr. Godarzi - what a welcome addition to our musical event! Thank you for your support both on and off stage!

Roger Touvell not only helped out in person, he donated to "the cause", too. For heating, air conditioning, refrigeration and plumbing needs - both industrial and residential call Roger at 453-2547.

The Downing Companies was the first to sign up for a full page ad and support Chuck and his friends and family! Thank you very much!

I want to thank our media sponsors, too. The Zanesville Times Recorder, The Muskingum Advertiser, and WHIZ, especially Brian Wagner. The TR worked on articles. The Advertiser was

wonderful! They had our poster in every issue of their paper since the first week we asked them to join in the advertising. Thank you very much.

WHIZ! They have always supported ZCT and their theatrical endeavors, and this concert was no exception! Many people enjoyed the WHIZ reports and radio spots - not to mention the chance at free tickets to the show!

Board Member of February

Dave Hammer graces this "Thank You" Edition of The Backstage Pass. Dave is our Membership Ambassador. He's always up for a good story or a sneaky joke. He's been Mark Twain and has probably immortalized the role of Sheriff Ursel Twang forever in *The Cowboy II, Return to Coldwater*. He is also a stage manager for the upcoming *Zaney Follies* in Zanesville.

I asked Dave the usual questions for a Board Member and he wrote me the answers. Here is what he wrote.

During a Zane Trace Commemoration in the early 1970's - We performed a Melodrama on the riverbank, in a tent - What a Hoot!! Rain-mud-heat. It was definitely an experience. That was my first experience with ZCT.

My motivation to be involved with ZCT was to get over my shyness - Seriously, I really didn't know why I would do such a silly thing except it sure is a lot of fun and theatre people are all great people to be around - maybe a little crazy - but are just caring - gentle - crazy people.

Hunting, Fishing, Camping are my main hobbies. I can't decide which one I like best, so I do them all. My family consists of my loving wife, Chris, a sister Ruth Anne in Mississippi, and a son Michael in Colorado - Since I am retired I don't really have a schedule - except I seem to be very busy most of the

tie - I just sort of react to the situations as they occur. Go with the flow, so to speak. Right now my dog BG is in the spotlight. She is a 5 month old 75lb. Old English Mastiff. She probably will be around 200 lbs and 33 to 35 inches tall when fully grown.

The favorite part of theatre work for me is the excitement of everything coming together just before a performance - costumes - props - q's - you can feel the excitement in the air as soon as you walk in the door - if you haven't tried it - sometime after you get in the door, STOP!!! Close your eyes and feel the electricity in the air, in people's voices, actions and yes, occasionally tempers flair. We wouldn't be human without emotion - but after all, isn't theatre EMOTIONS!!!

The most fun I had with one part, which I played two separate times was of the Stage Manager in the Play "The Mystery of Edwin Drood". I was onstage the entire play and it was fun.

My favorite play or plays I should say were "Hello Dolly" and "Carousel" but then again "Mr Roberts" and "Edwin Drood" were good, I would like to see Carousel don again - it is a good money maker.

As a Board Member I would like to see our membership grow and see the theatre filled to capacity for each performance. Everyone who gets this newsletter needs to get involved with theater - we need help in every play! Recruit new members! Recruit new people to be in the plays. Just talk of the theater to your friends, neighbors, fellow workers and yes, family and relatives. Encourage them to get involved. That's what I would like to see happen for Zanesville Community Theatre!

- Dave Hammer

More to Thank

There are many people who helped out tremendously and weren't mentioned in the program. These folks are like the elves in the Elves and the Shoemaker. Secretly and quietly - they helped out - and in a big way.

Conni Matz-Tolliver - Did you know the evening of the concert she alone shoveled the snow from the walk in front of ZCT? In the snow and the cold - it was an appreciated miracle. We thanked our mystery helper all the while we unloaded from the concert. Now, we can give credit where it is deserved. Thank you very much Conni!

We have the Janice and Eric Blake and Martha Staley to thank for the corsages that the ZCT Ushers wore at the concert! Thank You Very much!

The folks at Williamson Grange were kind enough to put us on their sign on Maple. Thank you very much!

Amy Ritchey added her artistic skills to helping me out with the banners. She "colored", as she put it, in the words of "friends and family". An artist in our midst! Thanks for the help!

Martha gets an extra thank you for the wonderful cake she made and decorated for the concert. Chuck had his wife take a picture of it before anyone could cut into it. YUM!!

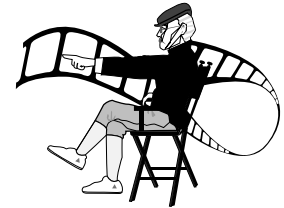
Jan Kiika was a brownie baking diva! Even Niel deserves some kudos for the cookies. Its not a party without munchies from Jan's kitchen! Thanks!

Todd King added to our crew menu by making a delicious shredded chicken medley. It was eaten with appreciation.

The Tollivers and Grandma Greever pitched in for supper. Sloppy Joes - Dick Tolliver's recipe

(and Mrs. Tolliver's finishing touches) gained high acclaim. Grandma Greever's meatballs were a favorite as well. Happy people are those who've enjoyed a good meal. And we ate like kings!

Meet the Director



President Richard Tolliver will be directing the upcoming season finali "The Diary of Anne Frank". I asked him the newsletter's standard set of questions. Here are his responses.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE "Diary of Anne Frank"?

Several reasons. Its or 40th Season and we highlighted popular shows from past seasons. This show has been requested a lot over the years. I originally did it because I felt it was well written. It moved me. I believe the number one criteria for directing a show should be having a passion for it. Having German ancestry and being a student of human nature - I was compelled to do this show. I never entertained the thought of directing this show agin because the first production was so good. It did most everything I wanted it to do - from the set to the characters the actors created...the audience reaction when we heard Anne's voice reiterate "in spite of everything I still believe people are good at heart." - not a dry eye in the house.

The challenge is not to try to recreate the first production - that would be dangerous. This show must stand on its own.

WHY DO YOU DIRECT?

Gratification. Its one of the most rewarding things I do - seeing it all come together, seeing an actor get it; teaching, learning, feeling, being, taking a story and creating the suspension of disbelief and watching the audience get it. When I get on the jazz - its me, the actors and the story we want to tell. It doesn't get any better than that!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SHOW?

Not a fair question. Musical - "Fiddler on the Roof". Drama - "The Diary of Anne Frank", "To Kill a Mockingbird", or "Steel Magnolias". Comedy - "The Nerd".

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROLE?

Clive Padget in Edwin Drod or Bob Ewell in Mockingbird. Trinculo was fun in The Tempest.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIRECT BUT HAVEN'T?

"Our Town" and "Foxfire"

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE SHOW?

To make it the very best I can. I have a story to tell - the rest is gravy!

TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF.

I started to do theatre in high school in 1976 and haven't quit. I weave baskets at Longabergers. Its not a bad job - it beats killing hogs for a living. I've done that, too. I've done a little of everything. A man's gotta live. My dream job - theater writing, directing and acting, set design and building - to get paid to do what you love would be great.

I am happily married to Shelley and work on our house in between shows. Life is good. All I need is a good lottery ticket and I'd have the world by the ass!

Get Well Soon!

Darren Brown helped out with our Benefit Concert and overdid it and had to go back to the hospital. Dude, you gotta get well soon!

Mark Your Calendars

AUDITIONS FOR ANNE FRANK

When? Sunday, March 2 & Monday, March 3

Where? ZCT

Time? 7:00 pm

Who? Auditions are open to everyone!

ZCT BOARD MEETING

When? Sunday, March 2

Where? ZCT

Time? 5:00 pm

Members of the Board

