

D Legends™ Universe

The International Fan Club Magazine
A Drifters Legends Clubhouse Publication



The Drifters Legends
History Music and
Photographic Legacy
by Butch Leake



Issue 5 2016

D Legend Resurrection

Will The Bell / Arista
Recording Drifters
Perform again?

Tribute

Muhammad Ali

Spotlight On
Drifters Legend
Charlie Thomas

Remembering
Prince

The Drifter Wars
Maintaining The Legacy
by Butch Leake



Editorial Contributions & Credits

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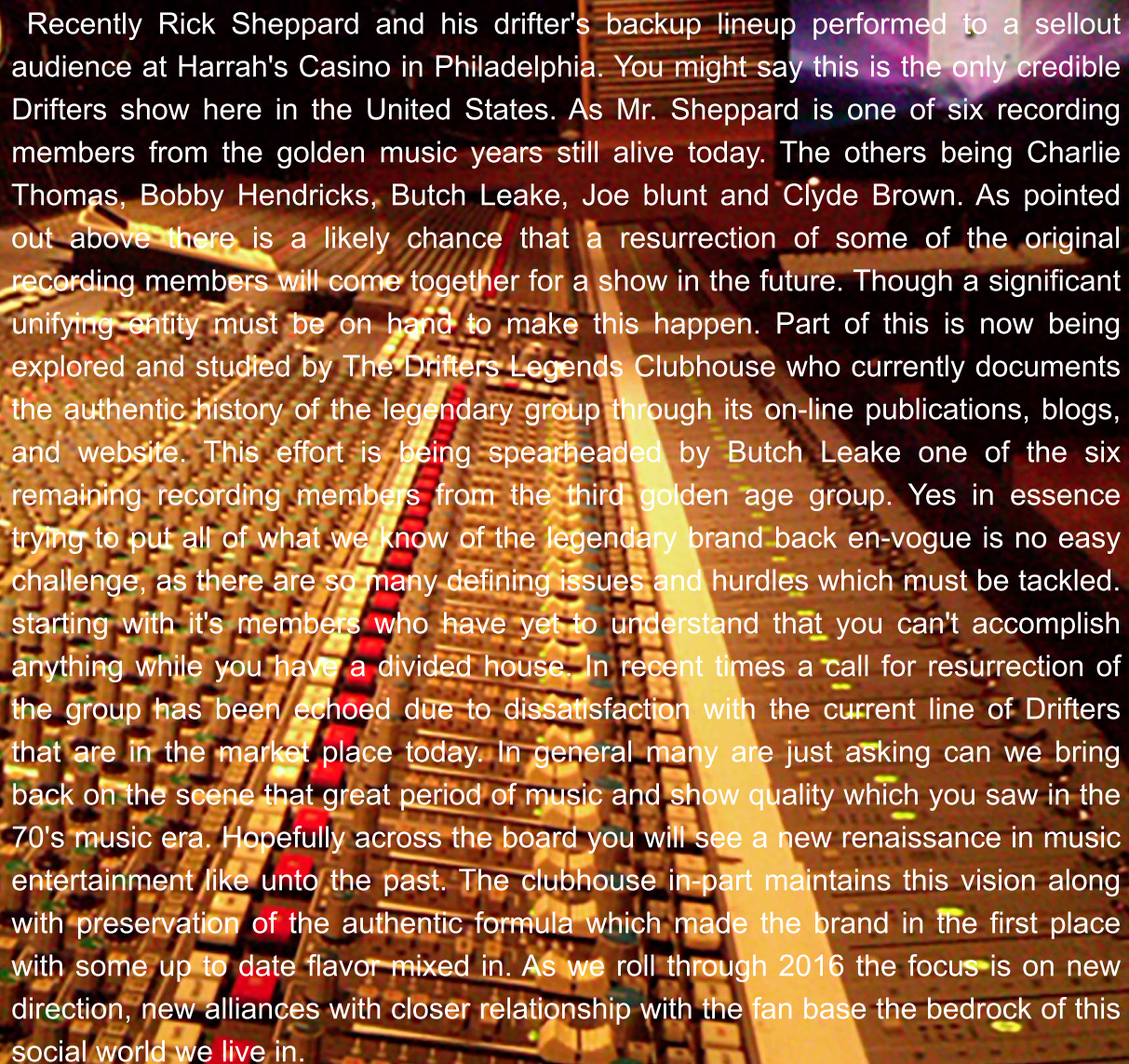
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D Legends Resurrection



Though it has been some time since the Bell Arista Recording members of The Drifters have graced the stage after the 3rd golden period in the music legacy. It seems the possibility of this happening is becoming more likely and leaning towards a reality. As for the most part there has been a lack of good and credible entertainment coming out of the Drifter camp accept a lot of tribute and phony pass off groups. Another myth that has surfaced since the death of Drifters Legends Johnny Moore many seem to feel The Drifters are totally at the end of its long and prestigious history. This thinking should be coupled with understanding what made the Drifters of old the unique brand that it became. Looking back there have been a number of great lead singers who have come through the lineup over the years and at the end of each one of those great individuals one could have taken the stance that the brand was at its end. Yet there's more to the story than just great lead singers. You must take into account the music, the writers, the marketing and the historical backdrop which all this was set in. Obviously, the question is can this be achieved again? Can there be a fourth golden period? Currently, the attempt to re-branding the Drifters brand has been made by The Prism Music Group in the United Kingdom with some success. Though a fourth golden period is far from ever happening under the current political environment which forever seems to plague a serious resurrection of the group. That is under the current brand name that is a constant object of biting off by the poachers of the name who are out there. As it stands there are a number of factions fighting for territorial rights to the name starting with the United States with the ongoing battle between the Treadwell and Pinkney camps, each who have service marks in The U.S. patent and Trademark Office in Washington D.C. Currently, none of the service mark owners have any former recording members performing with their lineups. Though Treadwell's lineup in the United Kingdom promoted as the only legitimate lineup and who have recorded with some minor success as of this writing will soon move out of the Drifter ruckus with a new name. Treadwell's old adversary Larry Marshak has resurfaced and now is promoting a number of Drifter, Platter, and Marvelettes shows across the United States.



Recently Rick Sheppard and his drifter's backup lineup performed to a sellout audience at Harrah's Casino in Philadelphia. You might say this is the only credible Drifters show here in the United States. As Mr. Sheppard is one of six recording members from the golden music years still alive today. The others being Charlie Thomas, Bobby Hendricks, Butch Leake, Joe Blunt and Clyde Brown. As pointed out above there is a likely chance that a resurrection of some of the original recording members will come together for a show in the future. Though a significant unifying entity must be on hand to make this happen. Part of this is now being explored and studied by The Drifters Legends Clubhouse who currently documents the authentic history of the legendary group through its on-line publications, blogs, and website. This effort is being spearheaded by Butch Leake one of the six remaining recording members from the third golden age group. Yes in essence trying to put all of what we know of the legendary brand back en-vogue is no easy challenge, as there are so many defining issues and hurdles which must be tackled. Starting with it's members who have yet to understand that you can't accomplish anything while you have a divided house. In recent times a call for resurrection of the group has been echoed due to dissatisfaction with the current line of Drifters that are in the market place today. In general many are just asking can we bring back on the scene that great period of music and show quality which you saw in the 70's music era. Hopefully across the board you will see a new renaissance in music entertainment like unto the past. The clubhouse in-part maintains this vision along with preservation of the authentic formula which made the brand in the first place with some up to date flavor mixed in. As we roll through 2016 the focus is on new direction, new alliances with closer relationship with the fan base the bedrock of this social world we live in.



The Official Drifters Legends Clubhouse

Music History In The



This issue of D Legends Universe fan club magazine is all about maintaining the legacy of The Drifters brand. The Clubhouse initiative began back in 2004 and crystallized in 2009 after the O2 Arena concert in London featuring The Drifters Legends and the official Drifters lineup at that time. For me the gross distortions, exploitation and fabrication that have clouded the authentic history of the brand and its members was just too much to handle and I thought it was time to fight back and give the members a voice that they never had back during the golden age periods when the music came about. Though there is much credible history floating around there is much that hasn't been spoken on by the real members that have been part of this legacy past and present. Myself and The Drifters Legends Clubhouse will dedicate the time in carrying forth this mission now and into the future..... Butch Leake

