

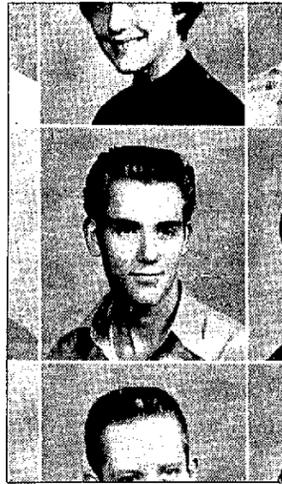


Rock and Roll  
Bop-Kats

Hot  
Rods  
---  
Dragsters

It's Cool

JOE FRANK CAROLLO  
"Barollo" - Elvis, Jr. ---lov-  
able---Kool daddy on the skins



The Leland High School annuals of 1957 and 1958 reveal a different Joe Frank Carollo, both musically (at left, playing drums for the showboating Bop-Kats) and hilariously (above, in a swept-sides flat-top). The commentary is from his senior picture.



Photo by Littleton Upshur

Joe Frank solos at Leland concert

# 'Nobody made any fuss then. . .'

So you want to be a rock 'n' roll star  
Then listen now to what I say  
Just get an electric guitar  
And take some time  
To learn how to play  
And when your hair's so bright  
And your pants are tight  
It's gonna be all right . . .  
In a week or two  
If you make the charts  
The girls will tear you apart . . .  
—The Byrds, "So you want to be a  
Rock 'n' Roll Star"

By LEW POWELL  
DD-T City Editor

LELAND—Joe Frank's old friends and relatives—is there anybody in Leland who's not a cousin?—have been coming by all day, and he's been so busy talking to them and setting up the concert and doing interviews that he hasn't even had a chance to eat.

Mrs. Helen Carollo has been operating in the background during all the confusion, dishing up hamburgers for Joe Frank's band and keeping a wary eye on visitors' children wandering through her tidy home. "Elvis doesn't have that problem," she says, mostly in jest.

Her son at last freed for a moment from his

public, Mrs. Carollo plops two huge meatballs on his plate. As he eats, she stands by to replenish his glass of Pepsi after every sip.

It's been a year since Joe Frank Carollo was last in Leland. "Nobody made any fuss then," he notes, but that was, after all, a gold record ago.

As the middle member of Hamilton, Joe Frank and Reynolds, he has seen the year-old group's first record, "Don't Pull Your Love Out," rise to the top of the national Top 40 charts. At 32, he has become, by the standards he set for himself as a teen-ager, a big success.

"You know how Conrad Hilton used to play hotel when he was a kid? Well, I was the same way. I'd dream about getting a band and playing around the country."

"I couldn't get it out of my system. I used to take a job and do it a year and then I'd say, 'Naw, man I just gotta play!'"

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It's been a long, winding road. In high school Joe Frank was a member of the Bop-Kats—now there's a 1950s name—and later rode the Fraternity-party circuit leading Joe Frank and the Knights. About 1964 he moved to Memphis and joined a group billed as the Markeys but which, in

that strange schism-fusion flow peculiar to rock groups, wasn't the real Markeys.

From there it was on to California and the T-Bones, the New Christy Minstrels, the Brothers and finally Hamilton, Joe Frank and Reynolds.

"I guess I'll be at it until my hair falls out," Joe Frank says. "Age doesn't make much difference, really."

"When you're 20 they say you'll be through at 25, and when you're 25 they say you'll be through at 30 . . ."

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He and the other band members (Danny Hamilton, Tommy Reynolds, Virgil Weber, Joe Barile) spent several days here last week, relaxing between a Southern tour and a recording session in Los Angeles, where they now live. Tuesday night they performed a benefit concert for the local Knights of Columbus.

Excerpts from a DD-T interview with Joe Frank:

How has Leland reacted to your visit?

It really freaks me out. Everybody wants to know about everybody else in the group, what kind of people they are. They're just like everybody else, from little towns, from Washington state and the Virgin Islands and Fresno. They're just ordinary people—old

country folks.

We're really not the Hollywood type, like it used to be, in the '60s, the 'rock 'n' roll star' thing. We're just glad we've got a hit record, and we want to work because we enjoy it.

You're going to get the key to the city tonight—does that surprise you?

Yeah, it does. I don't know what they want to give it to me for. . . Maybe I could get out of jail with it sometime. It just feels weird, you know . . . I mean, I haven't changed since I was here before. I don't feel like I've done anything to earn the key to the city. I'm just doing my job, like a lot of other cats who leave here. . . It's the national recognition, I guess.

Do you find people who used to give you the cold shoulder, here and elsewhere, warming up now?

Yeah, they come out of the woodwork. Even old agents in California. You'd be surprised at the phone calls you start getting from all over the country. Cats who wouldn't talk to you before. Now they're all proud of you. You'd think I'd gone to Vietnam and gotten some kind of medal.

I never say anything. It's senseless. I just let it pass through my mind.

Is it like you hoped it would be? (Having a No. 1 record?)

It's getting there . . . People think because you've got a hit record you're a millionaire, but we haven't really made a lot of money yet. It costs us a lot of bread just to travel. It'll be six months or a year before we make the money you associate with a top act . . . The thing that's nice, though, is the recognition. That's what a musician works for. The applause on stage. . .

The bread is nice, and it keeps you alive, but playing is the thing for us. I don't think we could do it if it wasn't.

How did you decide on the name?

Well, we wanted the names in it, somehow, because it's a nice steppingstone. We know we're not going to be together for years; we'll stay together as long as we can, but when you want to get into another act it's good to have people associate with your name.

It beats the Bop-Kats, anyway.

Yeah.

What do your parents think about all this?

Oh, man, they're knocked out. I used to call them every time we'd cut a record, when the

cats would go through all this Hollywood bull about "This is it this time." They've heard so much of that.

So this time I didn't say anything to them for about two months. Then I called Daddy and said we've got a record out that'll probably do all right. I really didn't want to get anybody hyped up on the thing, because it's such a letdown . . . and I'd gone through so many of them.

The record company would come to us and say, "Hey, man, it's No. 10 this week!" That's nice, we'd say. "Well get excited! Do something! Jump around!"

Well, when it got to No. 1, we jumped around—a lot.

You've got a new single out.

Yeah, "Annabella," it was released last week. The response has really been nice. It puts us into sort of a ballad field. And the third one, if it's the one we think it is, is a real cooker. We just hope we can get a string of them.

Maybe 10 hits in a row. We're looking for longevity. We want to be around awhile. Look at the Rolling Stones, how long those cats have been around . . .

## Boykin talks MVSC

By LAVONNE MORRIS  
DD-T Staff Writer

"Is that the new president of Mississippi Valley State College? He sure looks young! If they keep getting that young, I think I'll go back to college!"

This is one of the typical remarks made by farmers as they were about to be addressed by guest speaker Ernest Boykins, 39-year-old president of MVSC at the recent Delta Field Day program in Stoneville.

In response to those members of the crowd, Boykins said, "I always say when people tell me how young I look that I am 25 and hopeful."

A native of Vicksburg, Boykins, who succeeded Dr. J. H. White as president of the predominantly black school since its founding 21 years ago, is a graduate of Xavier University in New Orleans with a bachelors degree, Texas Southern University with a masters degree and Michigan State with a doctor's degree.

He had held "numerous positions of leadership" at Alcorn A&M College, according to the college board. Boykins has been on the honor faculty since 1966 in biology, junior class sponsor since 1964 and has chaired committees of athletics and discipline.

The following is an interview with him that reveals what the new college president is all about:

Are you anticipating what has become an annual disturbance at colleges all over the world to occur again this year at MVSC?

We (administration) will always be prepared for possibilities of occurrences of disturbance at an institution of this sort. We must be prepared to do pre-thinking along all lines. I sincerely believe that the only reason I'm at MVSC is because students are there. . . no students, no need for a president. It's part of my job to anticipate irregularities in the operation of the college.

Do you think campus unrest is unavoidable? Just what do you propose as a preventative action?

I don't believe they are completely unavoidable. . . one step which I'm going to take by way of preventing student dissatisfaction is to keep the channels of communication open in all areas. Right now



Dr. and Mrs. Boykin greet guests at a recent reception in their honor at Mississippi Valley State College.

we're in the process of planning a student retreat where we're going to identify with about 15 or 20 student leaders. We hope to go to Memphis for this retreat to take about two or three days away from the campus atmosphere and exchange ideas with the students. This way I hope to alleviate problems that might occur before they occur. The demands that were not satisfied by the students (a list of 30 demands was given to President White during the Feb. 1970 disorder at MVSC. All of them were not granted the students.) will be discussed and a better understanding will hopefully be the result.

We don't expect to solve everything at the retreat but we do hope to bridge somewhat the growing gap of misunderstanding.

What do you think of Dr. White's decision to haul 891 students to Parchman during last year's unrest at MVSC?

I'd rather not comment.

Would you have sent the students there?

I wasn't in Dr. White's situation. I'm not familiar with the actual violence enough to comment on a question of that nature. Action on those grounds have to be played by ear. . . I'm hoping to avoid such by negotiations.

What are some of your plans for improvement at MVSC?

I plan to upgrade several areas—the academic program by way of expansion especially by offering a large variety of subjects. Particularly pre-professional programs like pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, the allied health area, pre-law and so forth.

As a result of trying to expand academic programs we will naturally expand the faculty, not only through bringing in new faculty members but encouraging members of the present staff to seek additional

training and advance degrees.

We're now involved in self study. We're required by the accreditation committee to do this every 10 years. The institution itself will re-evaluate every segment of the college life—purpose, student personnel, physical plant. We will use this as a foundation to make significant change. In a self-study everybody should be involved—not only faculty and staff, but student body, alumni, board of trustees and the community.

After the self-study is over, a visiting committee from the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities will come and extend accreditation.

A former instructor at MVSC, Dr. Richard Tucker, who was dismissed from his job on Feb. 2—the day before the 891 students were arrested and bused to Parchman—said of MVSC in a letter to the DD-T, "It is a hinterland—situated on a spongy, waterlogged swamp which provides fertile ground for the furtherance of ignorance and fawning servility." In lesser words, Tucker criticized the educational and physical structure of the college. Do you think that MVSC measures up enough to make false these accusations?

I'd like to be more positive about my institution rather than to be critical of Dr. Tucker. I feel Valley State has an excellent academic program, but like many other institutions we need to develop and improve. The needs of the people that a college wishes to serve is not always the same—it changes from time to time. Therefore the college has to always adjust the kinds of services it provides. Probably 15 or 20 years ago, most of our students were interested in going into the teaching profession. Now their interests have broadened tremendously. We have to adjust our academic program to meet their

interests. Every institution is subject to criticism. . .

Dr. Tucker also said MVSC was an inferior supposedly "separate but equal" institution "provided by the white power structure." What do you think about that opinion?

I think an institution which serves primarily black communities (even though admittance is not restricted as such), shouldn't be concerned so much about the kind of students we take in but we should be concerned with the kinds of students we turn out. Our philosophy at MVSC is to take a student in regardless of his academic background and bring him as far as we can. We should try to teach him not only how to make a living but also how to live.

We should constantly be prepared to help students identify a talent and once identified, to develop that talent. MVSC racially constructed? No!

Our physical plant at MVSC is one of the best in the state. In addition, we're now in the process of building new buildings—a new library, a health and physical education building. . . We're in the planning stage. We've already appropriated funds for a new social science building worth more than \$1,200,000, an addition to the administration building valued at \$400,000, an educational classroom building at \$400,000 and two five-story dormitories worth \$1,000,000 each. We will also be working on an addition to the faculty housing. All of these extensions will probably be under construction within the next academic year.

We also have funds to renovate buildings for our ROTC program. We will use the old library as an academic development center. I invite every citizen in Mississippi to visit MVSC and to participate and observe the many activities and services we are offering.

## Car & kids! Grrrr!!//X

By LEW POWELL  
DD-T City Editor

Until I reported last week on my Southwest Passage, I hadn't realized how many other people feel the same way about their cars. The fact is, cars are just about as much trouble as children. And if you've got both . . . well, this letter from an Avon reader, who asks that her name be withheld, says it better than I can:

Dear Lew Powell:

I'm not so sure we didn't use the same car, only different times. "How was your vacation?" was and still is a question I shy away from.

My experiences may not have been as black as yours, but I don't think you would have liked my shoes either. How can a woman with only four children for companions while en route to Big D (Dallas) via Interstate 20 ever have one of those pretty recapped tires come uncapped? Have you ever tried to change a tire (my first ever) while the jack sinks into that soft black edging while your car slowly rolls forward? Do you know how many kids it takes to hold that car (VW—no less) steady while those big trucks keep trying to blow your car over? Now try to buy a VW tire for less than \$30—it can't be done.

Say, did you happen to be in that Louisiana storm that forced so many drivers off the road? Guess who was leading the list. Well, it was raining so hard I couldn't see a thing—one reason being my windshield wipers (which looked like macaroni) were flapping like lame. Let me tell you how to make a six-hour trip in only twelve hours.

First, you need four slightly hamburger-hungry kids. So you go for a quick bite to eat. Getting off that highway in the sky is easy enough, but I dare you to get back on that interstate octopus going in the right direction, because if you vary ever so slightly, you may find yourself on this bridge (the traffic is bumper-to-bumper) with no way of getting off. At the end of this iron path, of course, is Vicksburg, Miss. Now for the U-turn and let's start again.

Anonymous yours,  
Weeping Also

Yes ma'am, I was in that storm, but I was more scared to stop than I was to keep going.

Being carless for the past week hasn't been a great burden—it's been a relief, actually—but I did encounter one rather surprising problem. I live just behind the drive-in window of my bank, so I walked over to cash a check. "I'm sorry," the woman inside said, "We can't cash that."

"You have to be in a car."

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One of the oddities of the first primary: Andrew Sullivan, the Jackson non-candidate, outpolled Roy Adams, Marshall Perry and Ed Pittman in Coahoma County.

It was mostly overflow, of course, from Charles Sullivan supporters who pulled the wrong lever. \* \* \*

WABG-TV's election night coverage was atrocious.

It's not an easy job, as the DD-T reporters who struggled through the night will attest, but it is one that WABG as an ostensible news medium is obligated to perform with some degree of professionalism. For many people, Channel 6 was the only source of local election information until the next afternoon:

—statewide returns that lagged well behind at least one Jackson station;

—continued references to "Arthur", Sullivan and "Billy" Winter;

—intermittent reports on the latest from Sidon, Money and North Ita Bena ("Roy Adams, two votes. . . Marshall Perry, four votes. . .");

—alleged "computer" totals that seldom agreed with those of the announcer;

—a fundamental lack of familiarity with the issues and candidates on the part of on-camera personnel.

Election night should be a showcase for the best that television has to contribute to the community, as it often is on the networks and on local stations elsewhere. It should not be a rip-and-read circus.

WABG will have several chances in the next few months to redeem itself. Let us hope it comes to take its responsibility more seriously.

Opinion

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