

BUILDING REPORTS



It's the 50's every night for OTOW residents Carol Jo and John Brenneman

There is a nostalgic song by Ronnie Milsap that sounds like it was written about this month's featured residents, Carol Jo and John Brenneman.

The song is called "Lost in the Fifties Tonight." However, in the case of Carol Jo and John, it should read "Lost in the Fifties Every Night."

Carol Jo and John met in Ohio when Carol Jo needed someone to help move her and her young daughter from Marion to Van Wert. There, she hoped to start over after a failed marriage.

The mover who showed up was John.

The move went well and afterward John asked Carol Jo out on a movie date. Carol Jo didn't have a babysitter so John took both girls out to see Disney's 101 Dalmations, and Carol Jo knew she'd found a keeper.

That was 55 years ago.

It looks like she was right.

In 1982, Carol Jo and John attended a Bo Diddly concert where they noticed a mob of fun-loving dancers jiving to "The Hand Jive." When Carol Jo approached them, she discovered that they were The Florida 50's Original Rockers. Carol Jo and John joined the club the next day and remained for the next 16 years.

While Carol Jo and John were club members, they opened for acts like Del Shannon, Joey Dee and the Starlighters and The Tokens at the Pinellas County Fair and other local festivals.

The Original Rockers held a "Rockers Night Out" at least once a month at venues where 50's and 60's music was played. They also traveled regularly to Little Darlin's in Kissimmee, a club owned by The Diamonds.

The Rockers were a favorite with local radio disk jockeys like Howard Hewes, Scott Robbins, Marvelous Marvin and John Boswell, who pro-

Getting to Know You

A monthly feature about the people in your
On Top of the World community

by John Koning



Carol Jo and John Brenneman remember John's interaction with legendary TV show host, Dick Clark.

moted them regularly. They danced in parades in St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Dunedin and right here in Clearwater.

Across the bay, in Tampa, the club participated in the Route 66 Reunion and earned them a feature in Mustang magazine.

The Original Rockers' dance team was 30 strong. They were hired to appear by municipalities for special events and by companies for store openings. With the money they earned, and the dues paid by members, the club would donate to a chosen charity or they would select a family in need to assist.

Giving back was always a prime

function of the fun loving group.

One favorite club activity was visiting area nursing homes. They danced, joked and otherwise brightened the lives of the residents while they were there.

When the club was invited to the Kathy Fountain TV show, John got up close and personal with the legendary Dick Clark. John presented the celebrity guest with an honorary membership in The Original Rockers.

The Original Rockers is still Pinellas County's premier social club devoted to preserving the music, dances and memories of the 50's and 60's. They

50's & 60's
MUSIC
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 1990
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
(Gates open 5:00 p.m.)

**BILL
HALEY'S
COMETS**

★ ★ ★
Original Rockers

★ ★ ★
"The Sevilles"

★ ★ ★
Mike Merritt
from the
"Original Coasters"
with
High Interest
and Mike Williams

DUNEDIN STADIUM
at Grant Field
373 Douglas Avenue
Free Parking

hold dance practice twice a month and teach all interested members the old dances, like the Stroll, the Hully-Gully, the Bop, the Hand Jive and the Jitterbug. The club holds a sock hop each year when the general public is invited to rock around the clock.

Carol Jo and John have given up the poodle skirts, saddle shoes, shirts and penny loafers now, but they haven't lost that lovin' feelin' for the music and memories of the fabulous 50's.

They take away with them many warm and wonderful memories that swell to life every time they hear one of those special songs from that magical era. What a sweet fate for a couple so hopelessly lost in the 50's.