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excerpt from  
by Davey L



Ray Peterson performing at the Outback 40th anniversary concert in Sumter, S.C., 1993. (Courtesy Ray Peterson)



Singer Arthur Epps (former singer with Bill Pinkney and the Original Drifters) at the old Capricorn Recording Studio (now Phoenix Sound Studio) in Macon, Ga.—1993 (Courtesy Arthur Epps)



Singer George Smith, formerly a vocalist with Lionel Hampton's

Doris Jackson and her Shirelles (Faniita James, Gloria Jones) with Harry, wife Jean, promoter Ron Simpson at Roswell Mill in Atlanta—1993. (Courtesy Talmadge and Eugene Stuckey)



smell brings back pleasant memories.

Finally, I settled in Portland, Oregon for a month. James Brown and his orchestra came to the local coliseum shortly after my arrival. Naturally, I attended, along with an enthusiastic audience of about 8,000 and it was the usual energetic show, with possibly even better musicians than before. The staff writer in the next day's *Portland Oregonian* gave the show and the band rave reviews. I felt a little touch of home that evening, because out west, there simply wasn't much R&B played on the radio. Except . . .

In Portland, I discovered my first all-oldies station on the car radio as I drove throughout the area. The station offered a great mix of oldies, including a good bit of R&B. It blew me away to think that I first heard this new and unique concept in a distant suburb of Portland, Oregon, because for years I had felt it could work well in the South. However, it was a couple of years before I heard an oldies format back home.

That summer, the media continued massive coverage of anti-war demonstrations and the counterculture movement. The anti-war movement was gaining a real head of steam, and it came together at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Live footage of the ongoing disturbances, often fraught with law enforcement brutality, was aired nightly. Though appalled at the violence, I was equally disturbed by the obvious lack of respect for authority by young demonstrators. There were those fighting serious battles within their own consciences; but there were many who were simply quintessential "rebels without a cause" (like Marlon Brando's and James Dean's characters had been) or rebels for other reasons.

A young boy confessed to me that he was happy he failed his Army physical because he didn't want to go into the service and face its discipline. When I asked him how many of his friends were true pacifists, he replied, "I don't know any pacifists, all my friends feel like me. They just don't want to go in the service, and all that hippie, anti-war stuff has just made it easier to get by with it."

The media portrayed the movement as espousing peace and love: "Make love, not war." (Ironically, not "Be loving, don't make war.") It was as though the hedonistic "Playboy philosophy" was replacing the "wisdom of the ages." When demonstrators threw profanities around