



Blast from the Past

35 Years Later, Teamster's Song Becomes a Hit

In 1969, Jack Bernard, then a high school student, walked into a recording studio in Atlanta to record a song by his band, the Oxford Nights. Now, 35 years later, Bernard is a Teamster. And his song, "I'm Such a Lonely One," is a hit.

The Georgia-based Bernard is now an International Representative and the Southern Region Director of the Warehouse Division. It has been a long time since he was the drummer for a few Augusta, Georgia-based bands and a dues-paying member of a musician's union. Now that he is making money off of the band, he wants the proceeds go to something useful.

"Not long ago, I got a call from the record's producer who said the record was a hit in England and that if I had any of the 45s of the song left, he'd sell them, so I sent him 10," Bernard said. "Well, the first one sold for \$1,250. The first thing I thought was how wonderful it would be to give that money to good causes."

Those good causes turned out to be the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund and the James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Giving Back

"The band was fun while it lasted. My brother, who was also in the band—we put ourselves through school as musicians," Bernard said. "The Teamsters have given me and my family a great life, so I figured if I can give back in some way, that's all that matters."

"When that first 45 sold for so much, Florida was getting hit by hurricanes. I know the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund does a lot of good work for our members and I wanted to help out," he said. "I never would have dreamed that this song we recorded 35 years ago would be able to help other Teamsters."

Bernard said this isn't the last you'll be hearing from his band. A book is being published about bands from the Southeast who played the same kind of music as the Oxford Nights—rhythm and blues. The author, Greg Haynes, collected singles from artists around where he grew up and wrote a book about it that will include two CDs of music, including the single by Bernard's band.

"The Oxford Nights song I included with the book is wonderful—it's a great



song," said Greg Haynes, author of "The Heeey Baby Days of Beach Music." "It's up-tempo, characteristic of that type of party song. The bands I profile in this book didn't want to sound like the Beatles. They wanted to sound like James Brown. The Oxford Nights is a great example of this almost-forgotten genre of Southern rhythm and blues."

For more information on the book, visit www.heybabydays.com