

# THE NAME - MILLS BROTHERS - LIVES ON - EVEN TODAY AT THE SANDS HOTEL

"To me, one of the most spontaneous sounding groups in the music business is The Mills Brothers. Every time they sing a song,

cause they feel it, and the reason they feel it is because they approach each performance as though it were for the first time they're doing

Magazine about the problems of maintaining a spirit and professionalism for performers and the common sense needed to make life more

The Mills Brothers began singing in their home town of Piqua, Ohio when they were very young boys. In 1922 they were first billed as "Four Boys and a Guitar." Their father, John, Sr., a concert singer, taught the boys to sing. When John, Jr. died in 1936, he was replaced by his father, until his own death in 1968. The three brothers, Herbert, Harry and Donald continued as a popular trio until Harry's death in 1982. At that time Herbert, who now lives in Las Vegas—the oldest brother retired from the group.

The remaining brother, Donald, who sings the ballads as well as doing the instrumental impression with his voice, has brought his son John into the act.

They are now a duo and currently appearing at the Sands Hotel.

John's nickname is "Skip." He was named for his grandfather, John, Jr. At 27 years of age, he has been in the music business most of his life. He made his first recording when he was 12 years old on a Mills Brothers/Count Basie album. For the past 10 years John has been arranging, composing, and recording and producing music.

The Mills Duo is doing all of the songs that The Mills Brothers made famous plus new material has been added. Some of the most requested songs are: "Paper Doll" (which has the Brothers greatest hit having sold over 18 million records), "Glow

Worm," "Lazy River," "You Always Hurt The One You Love," "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You," "Yellow Bird," "Opus One," "Tiger Rag," "Basin Street Blues," and many more.

In their heyday, the Mills Brothers toured throughout the world 45 weeks per year.

Their first billing in Las Vegas was held at the Biltmore Hotel (the present location of a furniture store at the corner of Bonanza Road and Main Street) during 1941.

An avid boxing and professional wrestling fan, Herbert Mills, and wife Dorothy have been Las Vegas residents for 16 years. They have been married for 21 years.



A BIT OF NOSTALGIA—The famous Mills Brothers—1941 photo.

they sound as if they're doing it for the first time. I heard them do "Paper Doll" recently, and I could have sworn that they had just started doing the thing. The reason it sounds this way is be-

cause they feel it, and the reason they feel it is because they approach each performance as though it were for the first time they're doing the song." That statement was made more than 30 years ago by Artie Shaw, one of the most noted of all the Swing Era Band leaders. He was talking to George T. Simon of Metronome

Magazine about the problems of maintaining a spirit and professionalism for performers and the common sense needed to make life more livable for dance band musicians. The self discipline of The Mills Brothers was one of the things that so impressed Artie, and he felt it kept them at the top of their art.

## MORE NOSTALGIA Photo Comments

The family photo shown on the front page (top center) was taken at Piqua, Ohio at the family site. It was a close family and musically inclined. The family included not only the famous Mills Brothers, shown in the center of the second row in dark suits (l-r, Herbert, Donald, Harry and John, Jr.), but also a sister (front row, seated extreme left) Pauline Mills who formed her own orchestra. Band members are shown standing in last two rows. The mother of this famous group is Eathel Mills, shown seated on front row—fourth from left. At Mother Eathel's left is another daughter Dorothea and on her left another sister Margaret. Seated at the extreme left is the famous family's step-grandmother. Others shown in picture are friends of this proud family. John, Jr. died during 1936.

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