

CASEY GILLIAM AND EVAN BALDWIN | HOLIDAY EVENTS | DEBORAH KUNIC

Journal **PLUS**

MAGAZINE OF THE CENTRAL COAST

DECEMBER 2009

UNFINISHED BUSINESS



INSIDE
CENTRAL COAST
Home &
OUTDOOR

ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN...

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ROCKS THE CENTRAL COAST

By Susan Stewart



WHAT DO A HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES teacher, a retired carpenter, an ex-FBI agent, an appliance store adman and the keyboard player for U2 have in common? The answer is a matter of unfinished business – a love for the music of the 1960s, and an unabashed desire to keep playing it. The result is *Unfinished Business*, arguably the best '60s cover band in the state.

That five ordinary guys over 50 could still be playing great rock and roll with as much (if not more) energy and skill as any band no matter what their age is testament to the due diligence each member has paid to his craft.

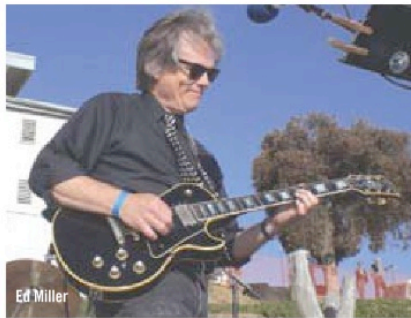
For Ed Miller, who founded the band in 2003, it all began with one pivotal night in 1964 when the Beatles made their American debut on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. He was only 11 years old at the time, but it changed his life. He begged his parents for an electric guitar and began taking lessons. Ed learned the basics from a classical and Flamenco guitarist but taught himself most of what he knows about rock and roll by going to see live bands in his native Carlsbad. Ed's dream was to play and sing in a real band, and that came true in 1967 when he joined "The Electric Mirror" at 14. He has been playing in one band or another ever since.

Ed quit playing just long enough to get his degree in Accounting at San Diego State University. But when he graduated and got married in 1975, he began to "dabble" in music again, and it wasn't long before he was playing in bands again. Ed was hired by the FBI in 1976 as an agent specializing in white-collar crime. Over the years he rose in the ranks, raised a family, and was transferred to Santa Maria in 1982.

"I knew that if I could, I wanted to play in a working band when I retired," Ed said. "One that specialized in the music of my youth."

He began to assemble the members of *Unfinished Business* in 2003, and by the time Ed retired in 2005, he had done it. A stickler for details, Ed himself plays lead guitar, fluently covering every rhythm and riff from the original recordings, holding the essence of every tune the band performs. His wide range, pure falsetto, and attention to harmony make him the treasured double treat that every rock band seeks – guitarist and vocalist. The drummer and bass guitar man have been with him from the first rehearsal, but it took another year or two to get the right rhythm guitar and keyboard members in place.

Drummer Dave Hollister is the heartbeat of the band, a superb and versatile musician who plays every '60s genre with equal finesse. His



Ed Miller

Motown “pocket” is smooth and funky, his surf beat is hard-driving and metronomically precise, his ballads are designed with style and warmth, and his rock and roll is delivered with power and passion.

Ed says he is the “textbook” drummer for a ‘60s tribute band. Now retired after 35 years in the building trades, Dave is an accomplished carpenter and the father of three daughters, two of them still at home.



Ben Davis

Jim Witt witnessed musical history being made when he saw The Beatles live – twice. Once at the Hollywood Bowl and again at Dodger Stadium. Ed calls Jim the blood flow of the band, laying a solid harmonic foundation for the chords and deciding whether the tune “drives or lays in the pocket ... whether it grooves or cooks.” Born and raised in SLO, Jim’s been playing guitar in working bands since 1964. He switched to bass guitar to fill an opening in a soul band during an overseas stint with the U.S. Air Force, and he never looked back. Today, he runs a guitar repair business and has an impressive vintage guitar



Dave Hollister



Jim Witt



Terry Lawless

collection. He’s also a husband, father, and the ad director for a local appliance store.

Mild-mannered, social studies teacher by day, rock star by night, Ben Davis is every rock band’s dream lead vocalist. Trained as a percussionist, Ben is also an accomplished rhythm guitarist, having started in the mid-sixties. His band, called “The Thanes,” played Hollywood’s Pandora’s Box while the Doors were across town at the Whiskey-a-Go-Go.

As soulful as Smokey, as gritty as Mick, as smooth as Crosby (Bing or David), Ben Davis pulls the audience into a song like no other singer on the Central Coast. At 60, he performs like a kid, jumping, sliding, and running the stage like he owned it.

Terry Lawless is living the dream on a slightly larger stage. As the keyboard man and programmer for the Irish super-group U2, Terry is also the “orchestra” behind Unfinished Business. When he is not on the road with U2, Lawless plays flute, sax, and keys for UB, specializing in Hammond organ

The Gift Everyone Will Love....

Taste The Great American West!
F. McLintocks
Family of Fine Restaurants

F. McLintocks Gift Cards
 Available and Redeemable at all 5 locations

or online at:
www.mclintocks.com

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| F. McLintocks Saloon & Dining House 750 Mattie Rd., Shell Beach 773-1892 | Steamers of Pismo 1601 Price St. Pismo Beach 773-4711 | F. McLintocks Saloons: Paso Robles 1234 Park St 238-2233 | San Luis Obispo 686 Higuera St. 541-0686 | Arroyo Grande 133 Bridge St. 481-1700 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|



– a signature sound for the band. He also sings powerful lead and superb harmonies. Terry's musical history includes touring with Cher, Chicago, Springsteen, Bowie, Boston, Phil Collins, and The Moody Blues. Ed Miller contacted Terry in late 2005 for advice about how to replace a lost band member. Imagine his surprise when Terry offered to do it himself.

"His world class ears, lifelong music education, stunning equipment and amazing versatility help make every song a sonic déjà vu," writes Ed.

Known for their uncanny ability to so closely replicate the sounds of the '60s, the members of Unfinished Business use vintage '60s guitars for added authenticity.

"You gotta have an original 1963 Hofner bass if you want to get close to Paul's [McCartney] signature sound," Jim explains. "When we do Beach Boys, I grab my '63 Olympic White Fender P bass [like the one Brian Wilson used on early recordings.] And Ed grabs his 12-string Rickenbacker for songs by The Byrds."

Come Live With Us

Comfortable, Safe, Secure Assisted Living

- 24 Hour Assisted Living with Lots of Tender Loving Care
- Alzheimer & Dementia Care
- Delicious Meals & Snacks
- Beauty & Barber Services
- Planned Activities
- Lovely Patio & Garden



Hillview Residence

Your Home with a Heart

937-2360 or 937-5117

3705 Hillview Road • Santa Maria • Lic #421704099



Unfinished Business has more than 200 songs in its repertoire, making every show unique and leaving every audience not just satisfied but pleading for more. Admittedly heavy on Beatles tunes, UB also covers Creedence, the Animals, Buffalo Springfield, the Stones, the Doors, the Temptations, Four Tops, and Marvin Gaye – to name only a few.

UB plays fundraisers, weddings, wineries, and class reunions; they have opened for such heavyweights as the Ventures, and have played prestigious private parties at Clint Eastwood's Tehama Golf Club in Carmel and the Bacara Resort in Goleta.

For a complete song list, booking information, and a long list of unsolicited and unanimously glowing testimonials, visit www.unfinished-business.org.

This New Year's Eve, Unfinished Business will help us finish out a momentous 2009. For the third consecutive year, UB Productions will host an evening of cocktails, dinner, and dancing – this year at the South County Regional Center – on December 31st 2009 from 6 to ... well 'till early 2010! Call 929-5211 for tickets.

But this isn't an advertorial. It's a tribute to one of the best "tribute" bands around. These guys aren't just making a living. They're all well past the "doing-what-they-have-to-do" part of their lives. Now it's time to strap on their guitars, turn down the lights, rev up the crowd and bring down the house. What a consummate joy it is to watch them work this hard at something they love this much!

"This band is about five guys playing the best music ever written," said Jim. "Not worrying about fads, fashion, or what's hip. This band is about pure '60s Rock 'n Roll."

It Won't Be Long before I show up at one of their gigs so I can Come Together with A Little Help from My Friends to Twist and Shout after a Hard Days Night. Something tells me I'll Get Back way more than I bargained for.

