



This happens every time he plays
"I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles".

SOUTHERN COMFORT

NEWSLETTER April 2008

It was nice to have Brian Graville back from his trip up the Nile, and especially nice to see the audience back after the awful storm on the weekend of our February gig. Unfortunately Bryan Day couldn't make it, but he promises to be with us next time. We were fortunate to have Ben White sitting in on bass. Besides being a fine bass player he sings so well. As a special bonus we had a couple of vocals from his lovely wife. Ben's late father, Ed White, led the Sultan's Six, the first band I ever played with that actually received payment for performing. At the time I played with them Ben was a teenager playing electric bass guitar. We played some weird gigs, particularly memorable was the one for Hell's Angels. I'll save that story for another time.

During the past couple of months Canada lost two important jazz musicians.

First there was Oscar Peterson and later Jeff Healey. Our drummer, Gary Tomlin, had played with Oscar Peterson (and that too is another story) and he was touched by my playing Peterson's "Hymn to Freedom" on Sunday afternoon.

My best memory of Jeff Healey was the time when I was playing with the Silverleaf JB and we were performing at Fritzel's in New Orleans. Kid Bastien, who was supposed to play trumpet had been "waylaid" by Sammy Rimington's band and we were struggling along without a trumpet lead. At about nine p.m. In came Jeff, who had been touring with his own band and "popped in" to see us.

He borrowed a horn from a young lad in the audience who had already played the one tune he knew, and Jeff played lead trumpet with us until about 4 a.m.

The poor lad who owned the trumpet quietly waited all that time. I hope he enjoyed the gig as much as Jeff and the rest of the band did.

On **Saturday** afternoon **APRIL 12** at **3 to 6 p.m.**, ***Southern Comfort*** will be playing in Toronto at the "***C'est What***", the home base of the Toronto Hot 5 JB. This is a great venue with the atmosphere of a Paris jazz club of the '50s. They also have an amazing selection of micro brewery beers. Try and make it.

Jazz club in Paris c.1950

OUR NEXT GIG AT **Café 13** is **Sunday, April 20, 4 to 7 p.m.**