

### Press Release

Gene & Buddy's Museum is celebrating its grand opening, October 2001. The museum is located in Concord, North Carolina, approximately 20 miles north of Uptown Charlotte and 1 mile north of the Lowe's Motor Speedway on US Highway 29 North.

Gene & Buddy's Museum - named in honor of legendary drummers Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich - is dedicated to preserving the history of Jazz and Rock N' Roll through interactive exhibits, music education, community performances, and special recognition of legendary performers.

From Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich, and Louis Bellson to Duke Ellington, Fleetwood Mac and Cheap Trick, Gene & Buddy's boasts an impressive collection of over 100 vintage drum sets. Visitors will enjoy the wide variety of offerings at Gene & Buddy's which include an extensive drum pedal collection ranging from the late 1800's to the present. Over 300 one of a kind snare drums along with an extensive Krupa and Rich album collection will impress even the very discerning musician. Krupa and Rich videos along with original movie sets and clips from a wide array of other famous drummers are sure to inspire future musicians. Those wishing to try out their skills can visit our crash room/cymbal display and our state of the art digital recording studio. Along with the one of a kind museum pieces, Gene & Buddy's offers for sale a vast collection of vintage and new drums by Pearl, Yamaha, and Ludwig through its Drum Store.

Currently, we're working on "Phase 2" of Gene & Buddy's - scheduled to open Fall 2002 - which will further explore the history of Jazz and Rock N' Roll through additional drum displays. This phase will also include an intimate venue for musicians to showcase their talents through public performances, clinics and special jam sessions.

For more information on Gene & Buddy's please call Charlie Benton / President at 704-721-3111.



### Franky Dee Cerro

**F**ranky Dee Cerro began playing drums at the age of 14, after playing the piano since the age of 7. He took lessons from Carl Wolf and later with Joe Morello.

Between 1974 - 1979, Franky Dee played drums for Sonny Ray and the Del Rays. From there, he went on to work with a popular New Jersey band called *Cookbook* for four years. In 1982, the band signed a deal with Warner Brothers and was produced by Charlie Green, who was responsible for finding Sonny and Cher, Iron Butterfly, and Stephen Stills.

Franky Dee has been with The Happenings (4 gold records) since 1995, traveling extensively around the country playing concerts.

"There have been many musicians who have influenced me over the years", says Franky. "On the traditional scene, Gene Krupa stands alone and is father to us all! Buddy Rich's rudimental technique and left hand had dazzled us for years. On the commercial scene in the 60's, Dave Clark's classic rim shots on his Rogers snare was the ultimate sound. On the rock - fusion end

of music, I was always impressed with Bill Bruford who played with King Crimson back in the 80's", Franky went on to say.

Now on to the drums! His first set was a 1966 John Grey 5 piece kit in Blue Pearl, which Franky says looked beautiful and sounded great! His next kit was a 1969 Slingerland 6 piece set in White Marine Pearl. Back then the cymbals of his choice were Paiste 602's which still remain in his collection. Here is a partial list of some of Franky Dee's vintage collection:

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| 1970 Gretsch Peacock Satin Flame 5 pc.          | 1970 Slingerland WMP 6 pc. W/matching Radio King snare         |
| 1961 Slingerland Blue Sparkle 4 pc.             | 1958 Slingerland Capri Pearl 4 pc. W/matching Radio King snare |
| 1983 Tama Cordia Artstar 6 pc. W/matching snare | 1920 Leedy solid walnut gold plated snare drum                 |
| 1920 Ludwig solid mahogany snare drum           | 1950 Rogers Eagle badge Scottie snare drum                     |
| 1964 Roger Luxor Gold Sparkle                   | 1960 Slingerland 7 x 14 BDP Radio King "pristine" snare drum   |
| 1965 Rogers wood Powertone Red Ripple           |  |

Franky Dee is currently endorsing Noble & Cooley drums, Bosphorus cymbals, Aquarian drumheads, and Trueline Drumsticks. He has also invented some new drum related products. Check out his website at [www.percussionconcepts.net](http://www.percussionconcepts.net).