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THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

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Bugalooos are outasight!

By DEBBIE WALLACE

Have you ever found yourself wondering what it would be like to meet someone whom you admired and respected a great deal? Did you ever dream about this meeting taking place and how you would react?

These questions have been running through my mind more than once and I never really had an answer for them—until last Saturday afternoon, that is.

WYNE PEN and notebook in hand, I went racing off to Stouffer's Inn where I was to interview the Bugalooos for Teen-Ager.

When I arrived at Stouffer's, I was informed by Dick Bethel of Capitol Records that the Bugalooos were still changing their clothes after their last performance at "Toys for Tots" Christmas party across the street at Convention Center, and that they would be arriving shortly.

This meant that I had a few more moments to get a good, firm hold on myself and convince myself that I wasn't on the verge of a nervous breakdown at all!

But before I could even get settled in a chair, in they came and from then on it was one fantastic moment after another.

No one could stay nervous for long around a group of individuals like the Bugalooos. They make you feel so at ease and so much a part of their group that it is impossible for you to feel like an outsider.

I'm sure that by now you have either heard about or even the Bugalooos singing and dancing their way into your heart from their Saturday morning television show on NBC at 9:30 a. m. Remember how "Joy," "Harmony," "Courage" and "I.Q." are always trying to stop Benita Bizarre from carrying out one of her fiendish plots, just so she can make a break into the recording business?

The Bugalooos, in reality, are Caroline Ellis, Wayne Laryea, John Philipott and John McIndoe. They were chosen by Sid and Marty Krofft from nearly 4000 people who auditioned for them in England this past spring.

By now my nervousness had completely vanished and I was ready to begin asking my mountain of questions. Wayne describes their music as being happy. "Every song has a message that is easy to understand and our songs are easy to sing and move to." They plan to record some of their own material on the next album, which they will begin working on after the holidays. They also have a few guest spots planned on other shows such as American Bandstand, Merv Griffin, and hopefully Laugh-In and Flip Wilson.

EVERY BUGALOOO agreed that America is a very huge, spaced out country and that the weather was fantastically warm even at this time of year, compared to England. Caroline remarked that she saw her first palm tree when they arrived in Los Angeles and

Wayne couldn't believe that there were so many gas stations, sometimes on all four corners.

In regard to their work on the Bugalooos, all four stated that they found the idea of playing "bugs" to be hilarious. They had only been shown a rough sketch of what the character they were to play would look like, while they were still in England and after they arrived in America and were fitted for their costumes they found the idea of having wigs and antennae and being able to fly delightful.

Caroline Ellis, who plays "Joy," the dainty butterfly, just turned 20 on October 11. Caroline, born in Whetstone, London, has light brown hair, brown eyes. She has three brothers. Her younger brother, Christopher, is also involved in acting.

Caroline became interested in show business when she was six years old and enrolled in a theatrical school where she studied acting and dancing for ten years.

CAROLINE PLAYS the tambourine and is learning to play the guitar. She likes Paul Newman, the Beatles, swimming, horseback riding, fresh fruit. Eilon John, a ring that her godmother gave her on her 16th birthday, pink and her work.

Caroline is the type of person who reacts to other people. "If they are happy so am I." Being pressured a lot doesn't really bother her and it doesn't take much doing to bring a smile to her lips because she is such a happy, sincere person. Caroline doesn't like selfishness, however, and egotistical people really turn her off. If she wasn't in show business, Caroline thinks she would like to work with animals, especially horses.

Wayne Laryea, "Harmony" (the friendly bumblebee), is the youngest of the four. Just 18, Wayne was born in London on April 11, 1952. With black hair and brown eyes, he has one brother and two sisters.

Some of Wayne's favorite things are playing the piano and organ, writing, sleeping, peanuts, H. R. Fulham's. The Bugalooos, beans on toast, memories, Beatles, Cy Frost, and blue and green.

It wasn't hard for Wayne to decide what he wanted to do with his life since he was born into show business. He does admit, however, that if something were to happen and he couldn't continue with his career, he would like to write or teach English.

Like Caroline, Wayne describes himself as the type of person who reacts to people. "If they smile at me, I feel like smiling back."

Wayne finds being under pressure rather nice. "If I didn't have somebody there to give me a little push now and then, I'd never get anything done." He finds it easiest to laugh at situations; things that might be funny to him but not to anyone else.

People who are bigoted make Wayne very uptight and he also finds it very uncomfortable to be around

people who are egotistical. He says people who are different are definitely a turn on for him.

John Philipott, often called Little John, plays "Courage," the lovable ladybug. John was born in Deal, Kent, England on April 3, 1948. He has dark brown hair and blue eyes and six brothers and one sister, Jane.

Little John plays drums and guitar, and is learning to play the piano. He enjoys fishing, playing his drums, writing music, ice cakes, the color red, the Bugalooos, an old drum set that he had to sell before he left England, the acting of Nyree Dawn Porter and sketching.

Little John entered show business at the age of 17 and became involved in acting through his great love for music. He says that the only time he is ever really temperamental or moody is when it involves music. If he weren't in show business, Little John would probably be an artist because he loves to draw.

How would Little John describe himself? "I'm the type of person who can be happy with whatever I've got." The only thing that makes him uptight is being around people who are uptight. Lary people turn him off and people who are themselves are the best kind for him to be around.

"One of the things that makes me laugh the most," says Little John, "is some of the disagreements that we have about all sorts of things. Maybe they aren't funny at the time, but afterwards they can really make me laugh."

JOHN McINDOE, or Big John, plays "I.Q.," the fun-loving grasshopper. Big John is the only member who isn't originally from England—he was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on Feb. 23, 1948. He has blond hair and brown eyes, and one younger brother, George.

Like Wayne, Big John was born into show business. His mother and father had a trapeze act with the circus and Big John used to be a clown. He also fooled around with the trapeze a bit.

Teaching Scottish would probably be the most interesting thing for Big John to do, if he weren't involved in show business.

Big John enjoys playing his guitar and kinnor, swimming, reading, the Bugalooos, Mod Squad, Jerry Lewis, the Beatles, the color brown, and the very old creek coin that he wears on a chain around his neck.

Big John is truly the clown of the group. He is always trying to trip you up and he constantly keeps you guessing.

The only thing that makes Big John uptight is Wayne in the morning. "It's so hard to get him up and then he is never fully awake until around 3 o'clock in the afternoon."

Big John dislikes people who are openly sarcastic but if you are a happy person then you are okay in his book.

When the Bugalooos first arrived in California, they were given a 48-room mansion in North Hollywood to live in. Since then they have moved to a 20-room mansion in Beverly Hills where there is a guest cottage located on the grounds and a swimming pool.

It is very plain to see that friendship means a great deal to the Bugalooos. If it didn't, how else could four people who had never met before the auditions, get along so beautifully together. As Caroline says, "To make any friendship last, both parties must be true and sincere in their efforts. You have to be concerned about them as yourself." Like the song says, you have to be willing to fly the earth for a friend.

Love is another quality that all four Bugalooos excel in. Their wish for the whole world is to put men and women together so everyone can live together in peace.

If you were to spend a working day with the Bugalooos, you would have to be at the studio by 8 a. m. From 8 until 9 a. m., Caroline, Wayne, Little John, and Big John are in make-up and wardrobe. They must be dressed and on set by 9 a. m. to begin rehearsals for the day's shooting. Around 17 scenes are shot a day with an equivalent of 12 pages of dialogue to learn each night. It takes about 3 1/2 days to film one show.

Caroline doesn't mind all the hard work when she sees the end result. "Just know that I have done something worthwhile and that will make me happy is enough for me."

None of the other Bugalooos mind the hard work either. As Little John puts it, "The work is great. It's just that sometimes the lights can really get hot and it is always tiring when you have to sit and wait for so long. We have to be on the set by 8 a. m. and maybe one of us might not be called for a scene until, say 3 p. m."

All four Bugalooos agree that working with Martha Raye, who plays "Benita Bizarre," is great. "She's very professional," says Big John.

They all feel that the two greatest influences in their career have been self-motivation and each other. "Self-motivation is number one though," says Wayne. "Without the desire within yourself to be a success, you can never accomplish anything."

With that last thought, my interview came to a close and no one in the world could have been sorer than I. Just a couple of hours before, I had been scared to death at the thought of meeting the Bugalooos and now I didn't ever want to leave.

If you would like to write to the Bugalooos or find out how to go about joining their fan club, just write to them at 6311 Yuca St., Hollywood, California 90028.



The Bugalooos

John Philipott, Caroline Ellis, Wayne Laryea, and John McIndoe, are winged wood creatures who live in Tranquility Forest and brighten the television horizon Saturday mornings over Channel 5. They flew into Cincinnati last weekend and chatted with Teen-Ager reporter Debbie Wallace. Read Deb's story alongside.

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