

Ron Salzbach on Music as Therapy



*Music out
of this world*

For six months, four Iselin boys, the Embalmers, have been boasting "Music out of this world," for charities including a benefit for the blind and appearances at various Army forts and Air Force bases. From left to right, the Embalmers are Peter Cody, 16; Ray Sosnicki, 16; Ron Salzbach, 15, and Ken Sosnicki, 15.

I watched the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show when I was 12 years old and knew I had to learn to play the guitar. By age 14, I started up a band with 3 neighborhood friends. We called ourselves "The Embalmers" after my cool Uncle Bob who was a mortician. The band was very committed to practicing everyday and got to be quite good, obtaining an adult manager. My dad bought a station wagon to haul the equipment, and we started making a little money in the latter part of the exciting 1960's. We played school dances, battle of the bands, Rutgers University frat parties, Elks clubs, Moose clubs, V.F.W. posts, wherever. We had our picture in the newspaper (picture at left) when I was 15 years old, after we played for U.S. Army troops in Fort Dix, New Jersey that were being deployed to Vietnam. When it became clear that we were not going to become The Beatles, we moved on. Later in life, in the early 80's, my brother in law and I played folk music in small clubs in Roanoke. These are wonderful memories and my love for all types of music continues. It's my therapy.