Comets Visit Bill Haley Mural in Downtown Harlingen

The Original Comets visited Downtown Harlingen today, to look at and be photographed in front of the Bill Haley mural that honors the late “Grandfather of Rock ‘n’ Roll,” who lived in Harlingen at the end of his career. Since its dedication in 2003, the spectacular 20’ x 12’ mural honoring Haley has attracted visitors from around the world to the corner of Jackson and “A” Streets.

Rock Around the Clock by Bill Haley and his Comets in July 1955 became the first rock ‘n’ roll record to achieve Number One status on the bestseller lists and become the first international rock ‘n’ roll hit. Bill Haley was one of the first to be inducted into the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in 1987. Haley’s music has transcended the generation gap, with hits such as Rock Around the Clock, Shake Rattle and Roll, See You Later Alligator, and Razzle Dazzle reaching new listeners and remaining as popular today as they were more than 50 years ago. The Original Comets were in town to perform these and other hits at RioFest. The band includes Joe Ambrose on sax, John Grande on piano, Marshall Lytle on bass, Frank Beecher on guitar and Dick Richards on drums.

Artist John Aretakis created the Bill Haley mural under the auspices of the Harlingen Mural Project, a new program to create public artworks to beautify downtown Harlingen, interpret aspects of the city’s history and heritage, and attract visitors.

For additional information, contact the Harlingen Downtown Office, (956) 427-8703.

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