

A LETTER FROM MARTIAL



(Copyright Gerard Hadders)

40 Years of Everly Brothers International...

Dear Everly friends and fans,

As requested by so many of you, I have summarized a brief History of EBI, the Everly Brothers International Fan Club as it was called initially.

Everly Brothers Fan Club... to explain what a fan club actually is I give you the true meaning of the word "fan" as it is listed in the dictionary, which is: "a devoted admirer" or "an enthusiast". And that is of course exactly what we are today, as much as we have been for all these years ago. It perfectly defines the reason behind our very existence.

We call our fan club Everly Brothers International, and it is to date the biggest organization for Everly fans in existence anywhere in the world. With the help of Martin Maas, Cor van den Maagdenberg, Gerard Arkenbout and Gerard Peet, I've run this outfit starting out as Dutch Representative of B.E.B.I. (in Dutch pronounced as 'baby') for the Dutch speaking fans in Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. I became the International EBI Coordinator in 1969. Our correspondent in the USA even then already was Heidemarie Ploen.

I am Martial Bekkers and I would like to present The History of EBI to you in my own words.

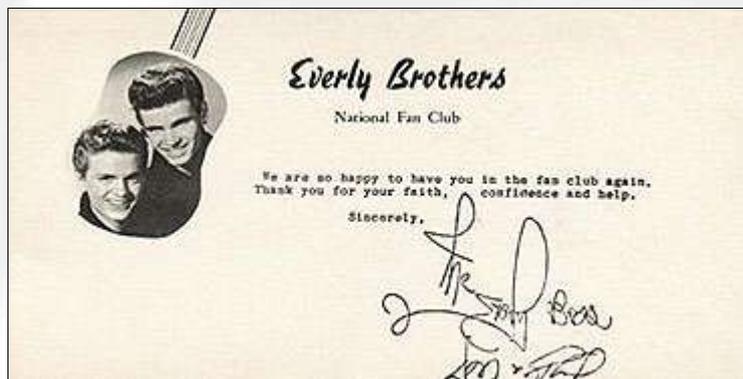
The Everly family came from a poor coal-mining district in Kentucky. The brothers reached stardom and international recognition through their unusual style of harmony singing.

Needless to say, the popularity of the Everly Brothers has been astonishing. There is hardly a person anywhere in the world who does not know at least one of their songs or own at least one of their recordings.

My admiration for the Everly Brothers' great musical talent prompted me to initially join one of their first fan clubs in the early sixties. This had been a continuation from the original fan club in the USA, the Everly Brothers National Fan Club, which was founded in 1960 and was run by Susan Rose in New York.

Mrs. Margaret Everly was gracious enough to send us the stocks of the official fan club kit that they used to send to the new members in those days. We value the friendship and 100 % trust of Don and Phil's Mother and I treasure the letters, cards and phone calls we shared.

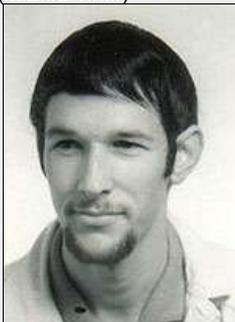
(Photo Margaret Everly Collection)



In The Netherlands the Original Dutch Everly Brothers Fan Club 'Our Stars' was run by Henk Koster, Eddy Gijsman and Gerard O. Arkenbout. They had been working together with the UK fan club that was run by Sheena Mackay at the time. I was a member of 'Our Stars' and the other fan clubs that were run by Kit Jennings in the USA and by Joyce Woods and Christine Bickerdike and Sheena Mackay in the UK. The Dutch fan club, 'Our Stars', had folded in 1965. John Plamont took over the wheel for a little while. In September 1966 he handed things over to Willem Vonk and me. Sheena Mackay ended some very successful years in the UK and later for the rest of the world. When she suddenly closed the shutters of the international headquarters in England we decided EBI shouldn't die just because the president thought the time had come.

With the help of our English and American friends we were able to continue the organization under the same name worldwide ...a combination of all these fan clubs under the name of Everly Brothers International, as it was last called in the USA and the UK. From then on EBI was the only fan organization for Don and Phil Everly in the world. We officially introduced ourselves to the fans at our first EBI Party in The Hague, The Netherlands on 17th May 1969. By then we had 167 members.

(Martial 1969)



With the rapidly growing popularity of the Everly Brothers we quickly started to welcome many fans worldwide.

New members paid a small annual fee that varied for the various countries, depending on shipping expenses for the material that we mailed. For that fee we'd send them a membership kit upon joining plus paper newsletters and our 'Kentucky' magazine throughout the year. Imagine what is in that kit:

- - Our letter of welcome
- - Data sheets on Don and Phil
- - The Duography, the story of the Everly Brothers
- - A photo of the Everly Brothers
- - Membership card
- - The Discography, the updated record list
- - List of Everly Photographs, photos for sale at EBI
- - Tapotheque, list of 150+ audio recordings, often rare live items
- - Order Form, list with items for sale like CDs, DVDs, videos, posters, badges, books, exclusive back issues of the Kentucky Magazine

Of course new members who send us a fee and their shipping address receive this membership kit still!!!

Every month Gerard Arkenbout and I not only duplicated a complete Dutch magazine, called 'Kentucky', but also a complete English version...at most times containing between 25 to 50 pages. Imagine the hours and devotion it took for my then wife Renate and our families and us when the album 'Roots' was released at the end of the 60s and then the Everly Brothers shortly afterwards did their US Summer TV Series plus their European tours. Anyhow, we'd like to think that at this very important stage in the EBI history we saved the organization and that fans all over the world were and still are grateful for it.

EBI published its first magazine Kentucky in a duplicated form in 1970 with the help of Gerard O. Arkenbout, Martin Maas, Cor van den Maagdenberg, and Maureen Lo. With the help of Renate I was duplicating them at our loft for days and days. After I had finally done 10,000s of prints we'd call the EBI board and volunteers to get together. We'd collect, bundle and staple all these hundreds of magazines...after a while completely dizzy of walking around my table at home!

Anne Norcia (then Annie) produced many wonderful drawings for our 70s 'Kentucky' magazines. She meanwhile has worked for NASA and made the greatest artwork for Carl Sagan's TV series. Anne even won an Emmy Award as astronomical artist! When she wrote that she unfortunately did not have enough time to help me out anymore, she was not kidding!

Following in her footsteps was Hans van der Linden who produced some very fine artwork for our publications in the '70s.

We appreciate both their efforts and skills so much.

We got a system going with National EBI Coordinators in more and more countries in all parts of the world.

For nearly four decades, we have been running this organization with their help. As our most valued contributors, they have freely volunteered and donated their time and often-limitless resources with great enthusiasm.

Our initial team consisted of 15 Coordinators. We called them EBI Officers back then. People like Gerard O. Arkenbout, Willem Vonk, Peter Aarts, Cor van den Maagdenberg in The Netherlands, Sue Goodwin and Laura Williams in England, Eileen Hutchison and later Sheila Connelly in Scotland (great memories of the get-togethers on tour in Scotland), Marthe and Freddy Smagghe in Belgium, Anne and Alain Fournier in France, Frode Skaar in Norway, Janet Wachs in the USA, Lasse Karlsson in Denmark, Irene Eckertova in (then) Czechoslovakia, Christine Gallant in Canada, Cees Zwaan in Germany and first Doreen Tennant and later Tasso Matheas, who continued the work for the late Tom M. Lewis in Australia.

EBI's first lady in the USA still was Heide Ploen and she would be our biggest help for many years to come.

Over the years the list has grown to 36 National EBI Coordinators:

Allan McPherson and John Chichester in the UK, Miep van der Meijs, Marja and Martin Alberts, Marianne Heuvelmans, and Yvonne van Rooijen in The Netherlands, Monika and Hans-Joachim Wasse and today Denise Hickinbotham in Canada, Patti Zink in IL, USA, Jürgen Nowak in Germany, Ricardo Mielgo in Argentina, Patricia Sentral in Indonesia, Rita de Cássia Salgado Borges in Brazil, Anneke Drese in Australia and we have added EBI Coordinators in Russia (with our WebSite in the Russian language thanks to Mike Elagin).....and now covering all parts of the globe.

Since we have always treated the Everly fans with the greatest respect and courtesy, many of these early fans have become lifelong friends. Several of them have become an integral part of this organization.

Together we have initiated many of our original ideas and projects.

In the early days the Everly Brothers toured Europe many times and were particularly made to feel welcome in The Netherlands. Such a small country with such a large following! The Everly Brothers and their families toured The Netherlands many times, culminating in the concert at Rotterdam to kick off the 70s during, which they brought their mother and father with them. This was a concert that still brings a tear to the eye of our many devoted fans.

Everly Brothers International worked tirelessly to promote and honor the Everly Brothers' image and music. By then our organization had grown to vast numbers. The Everly Brothers have always shown great appreciation for the work Everly Brothers International has done for them and recognized EBI's role in helping expand their ever-increasing fan base.



(Photo Renate van Putten)



(Photo Renate van Putten)

Since 1969 we have organized an EBI Party for Everly fans at least once a year in The Netherlands. This adds up to more than 35 parties so far. A wonderful tradition, if I do say so myself!

We have also organized several great parties and dances in the UK with Sheena Mackay and Sue Goodwin, Laura Williams, Lesley Cross and Rupert Blake. I loved the Café Royal, and the Grosvenor, and the other parties like the one in Lincoln. I miss those these days.



(Wim Vonk and Martial with Donald Everly)

Hello Everyone,
 I want to wish all the
 members of "Kentucky" and
 "E B I" the very best. Thank
 you for all the hard work you
 have put into Don * I.
 Regards
 Phil Everly

The Everly Brothers themselves also realized the importance of a dedicated and bona fide organization such as ours, and as early as 1970 officially endorsed Everly Brothers International.

This also cemented a firm mutual friendship between the two famous brothers, their family and EBI. Over the years the Everly Brothers have shown their support and appreciation in many different and varied ways, often with acts of great gratitude.



On several occasions they included personal notes to thank EBI and its members, like this letter from Phil that is on the back of the sleeve for his LP 'Star Spangled Springer'.

At the time of the Everly Brothers split in 1973 things began to get so busy and the work load so much, that when Gerrard Arkenbout stepped down for personal reasons, I was forced to look for assistance. We were pleased when in 1974 Laura Williams and Sue Goodwin, two good friends of mine in England, agreed to help us out by producing the English version of the 'Kentucky' magazine. They had been active members for many years and I completely trusted them to do a good job. For over ten years we have survived internal misunderstandings and an almost 'Everly-less' era together and I feel Sue and Laura deserve credit for that. Throughout this period I have done my best to insure that the Dutch branch and I were credited for the part we played in the running of the organization. All these years we went on producing the quarterly magazine that we kept calling 'Kentucky'. The number of Dutch members almost doubled and even quite a few non-Dutch speaking fans, for their own reasons wanted to subscribe to our magazine in addition to the one they got from England.



(Copyright Peter Meijboom)

In 1980 EBI co-organized Donald's solo appearance with The Dead Cowboys at the Gouda Concert Hall. This was a very special atmosphere with the older of the brothers enjoying himself like he was on a vacation that had been paid for: another memory, another initiative of EBI to treasure.

During the quiet years - when the brothers went their separate ways - Everly Brothers International maintained a high profile. The forever-loyal Everly fans had to rely solely on EBI for information about the brothers. Later the brothers' personal reconciliation led to the famous Reunion Concerts.

Throughout the years EBI has organized trips to England and Germany and sold many tickets for Everly concerts.

We went to London to see Don Everly perform at the Country Festival at the Wembley Arena in 1977 and in the years after that. Miep van der Meijs, Marianne Heuvelman and Yvon van Rooijen have organized many trips for EBI since then.

We sold thousands of tickets for events such as these, the most legendary being our bus trip to Cologne, Germany.

Our EBI parties in all these past decades have always been known for some great live music. In the 70s and 80s our EBI Band in various line-ups was at the center of our sing-a-longs. In 1982 The Brothers Poyck and The EBI Band released a special single called 'Ode to Don & Phil'.

The EBI Band then was Noël and Bert Poyck, Peter van Calck, Miel Groothedde, Michel van Geel and Jurry Visser.

In the cover was a nice bonus insert with a short story of Mrs. Margaret Everly about her sons that was signed by her.

At our Party of October, 1982 the band introduced their special record and they performed their complete 'Everly Show' on our 'Celebration Party'.

I am one of the proud owners of this silver covered EP.

Many people will fondly remember our live performers of later years: The Askay Brothers, The Problems and, up to today, the best duo we've ever had, Harmony Trail. So many of us owe many hours of enjoyment, listening to the harmony singing and arrangements of father Fred and son Geoffrey van Vugt.

They will be bringing their live music again at our next EBI Party on our traditional Saturday in October 2004!

After the Everly Brothers' Reunion Concerts in London in September 1983 we teamed up with Sheena Mackay, who then had become active in the UK again and was able to gather most of her Representatives together who had been active in the '60s. In that year we passed the '1,000 members' mark!

Meanwhile, we continued to publish our magazine, dressing it up with a new and glossy appearance. We owe so much to Henk Vredenburg who did the lay-out and a lot of the art work in the '80s for most of these issues, thus helping out Henk and Rick who picked out the photo material and designed some of the special pages at first. Emmy Elsthout took care of almost all the typing. When she got too busy Elly den Dekker took over, typing all those hundreds of pages that the fans and I came up with. It was a job well done. 'Kentucky' Magazine had earned a place in the hearts and minds of most Everly Brothers fans. It found its way into the mailbox of many of them.

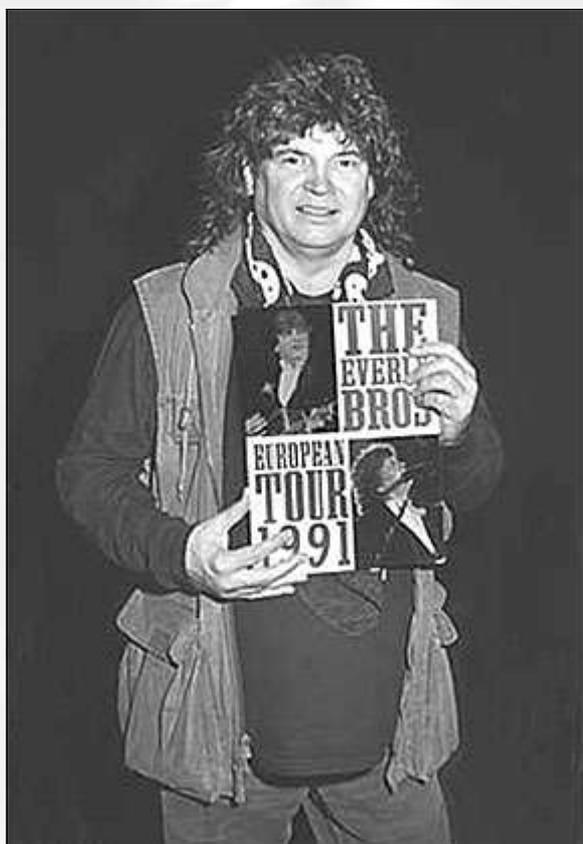
When Roger White's biography on the Everly Brothers, 'Walk Right Back', first saw the light of day in 1984, he thanked me in his Acknowledgements when he wrote: 'Martial Bekkers of Holland allowed me access to his vast collection of scrapbooks'. To coincide with the 15th Anniversary of the Reunion Concerts, Roger added some nice interviews to his book, and in the new 1998 edition he wrote, 'Until 1997 he was responsible for issuing the Kentucky magazine, which was probably the single most valuable source of information for this edition'.

We are proud to know that the best Everly Brothers magazine in the world ever got this recognition from one of the Everlys' biggest fans, who spent so many hours of serious work on one of the best books on the Everly Brothers and their family that has so far been issued.

I have fond memories of the days when Roger would visit Renate and me at our house in Gouda to borrow clippings, articles and photos from our collection that were of great use for his quality biography.

Our appreciation goes to rock photographer Henk Tas, as well as to his and our friend Rick Vermeulen, a great designer. With the help of Anne van Eijk and Gerard Hadders and their team they made it possible for us to publish 17 issues of our much-praised glossy deluxe Kentucky magazine that reached a unique height of quality in the fan club world.

This same team was responsible for the Tour Souvenir Programs that we produced for 5 European Everly Brothers Tours in the '80s and '90s, as well as the unique merchandise that accompanied it, such as T-shirts, mugs, neckties, caps, and post cards - the lot.



(Copyright Martin Alberts)



Henk and Rick (Copyright Martin Alberts)

After Roger White's book, EBI inspired, encouraged and supported several other good writers to publish a book on the Everlys during the '70s and '80s and at the start of the '90s.

Martin Maas was the first to release a very good and detailed Everly discography with the help of Cor van den Maagdenberg and myself. He just called it 'Discography 1956-1971', no photographs simple printing but high-class information.

Then there was 'Living Legends' by John Hosum, 'an illustrated discography that includes contributions by several other EBI members', including Judi Gemeinhardt, Sharon Royer, Dale Leichsenring, Diana Barbour, Bill Sauer, John Ferrel, Glen Johnson, and Jay Berman. The quality of the reproduction of photos and info was unfortunately lacking as a result of the use of unbleached stock paper. Only color is a cerise gash across the front. It's nice to see that EBI gets credit for bringing the Everlys' records to the public that wants them.

Jerry Spies wrote 'Phil & Don Home Again!' a photo document of the Everlys' Homecoming in Shenandoah, Iowa, our thanks to him and the community and Deb and Bill Hillman. As Jeri Naven wrote about that July 5, 1986 'It was a day to kiss old childhood sweethearts, visit with favorite teachers, walk the old neighborhoods, soak up that firm midwestern stalwart nature'. Again, why not spend a little more on better printing? Same cerise gash on the front!



(Phyllis Karpp at the book presentation)

One of the very best books on the Everly Brothers, 'Ike's Boys', was written by Phyllis Karpp. I fondly remember and still have our correspondence with Phyllis and my late friend Jay Berman who was constantly very actively involved. Many very special photos, all bound in a hard cover. 'Nothing is beyond the reach of determination'; right Phyllis?

Peter Aarts and Martin Alberts compiled and wrote 'For-Everly Yours', A Guide For Everly Brothers Albums Collecting. This proved to be a great piece of research, which included wonderful photographs from Martin Alberts on heavy glossy paper. I followed the way they slowly but surely completed this work and found it most impressive. It's become a classy book.

Consuelo Dodge wrote the book 'Ladies Love Outlaws' in 1992, a paperback that does not deal with the facts too much. A few special photographs, unfortunately the print quality is poor.

Alain Fournier's book 'Route d'Everly' by contrast, however, is one of the best examples of high quality content, including both the story and the photos. A laminated full color photo cover, glossy paper throughout, and many of the best photographs. This book saw the light at the end of 1993. The story was written in French, not easy to read for some. But even then, those photos are so much worth seeing. Alain has been with EBI from almost the very beginning.

EBI was involved in the making and the marketing of these books, except 'Ladies Love Outlaws'. We supported all others the best possible way. EBI helped sell many hundreds of copies of them through our order forms, Kentucky magazines and advertising whenever possible.

As a token of their appreciation I cherish the signed copies I have with personal messages from the makers. Running this organization I get a feeling of gratefulness to be able to support initiatives, sometimes fund them, advertise them, and help sell them in any way that's given to us.

Throughout the years the address of EBI was mentioned in these books and Everly Brothers Tour Souvenir Programs in all parts of the world. We are grateful for this piece of marketing. As a result of the vast attention drawn to us we welcomed many new Everly fans to this organization.

We have lost some wonderful people along the way these past 40 years. Dear to me are my personal friends, Jay Berman, Tom Lewis, Riet van Oudheusden, Gerda van Steensel, and Dolf Rutjes. This is for them and all other loyal fans who meanwhile passed away and are in your memories.

Close to you and us in one way or another were the Everlys' close colleagues from the music business. Their songwriters, Felice and Boudleaux Bryant, their drummers Graham Jarvis and Larrie Londin, keyboards player, singer, songwriter and arranger Warren Zevon, master guitar player and producer Chet Atkins, giants, all of them!



(Copyright Martin Alberts)

And let's not forget the people who suffer from an illness now. I hear from fans who are not doing well. They let me know how much they enjoy what we produce and try to establish.

I am very proud and grateful to have had the honor of coordinating EBI for all the appreciative fans who enjoyed it all these years. I thank each and every one of the many people who have contributed in any way towards helping to make EBI the success it has always achieved.

Another great milestone of EBI was the EBI LP Project. In that series Willem Vonk of Hitsound Records and I very successfully re-released 10 Warner Everly albums on vinyl in the '80s. Insiders let us know that the sound quality was even better than that of the American originals from the '60s.

Years after the release of these vinyl LPs a whole series of CD's was released of these Warner albums. Didn't take us long to find out that the albums from the EBI LP Project were (mis)used to copy them from. Copied by bootleggers.... what more praise can you get?

To Hollywood Blvd. Via Everly Brothers Ave. was the title of a video that was exclusively released by EBI in 1986. It was a report in full color of the Walk Of Fame ceremony and the Shenandoah Homecoming in 1986.

It took a while before The Everly Brothers got their star in the Walk of Fame in Hollywood. But Heide Ploen and Miep van der Meijs were there for EBI along with celebrities such as Tom Petty when they finally did.



(Photo Miep van der Meijs)

Miep van der Meijs washed and cleaned The Star the day after the ceremony. She could not prevent it from cracking not too long after that. A new star was put in The Walk, which everybody can admire up to the present day.

I particularly treasure a moving personal dedication by Don Everly during an Everly Brothers concert at the Ahoy' Sports Palace in Rotterdam, The Netherlands on May 23rd, 1993, in front of an audience of 5,000 people, when Don paused for a while and then made the following statement:

"It's dedication time - Indulge us for a few minutes here".

"Phil and I have been coming to your wonderful country for a long time now and it has somehow become part of our career over the years. The Everly Brothers International is located here in Holland. Somehow you got us through the lean years and we'd like to say thanks, especially to EBI International - all of you connected - Martial Bekkers, you wonderful people, the spark that keeps it alive. I'm so glad I don't have a list, because it would take forever to thank you individually and personally, but we'd like to tell you, that we really appreciate, what you have been doing for the Everly Brothers over these years - and - who knows, it might last forever! We'd like to salute you with thanks.

That's the dedication for tonight".

Twenty years later, on 17th July 1990, the Everly Brothers endorsed EBI as their only official fan organization.



To all Everly fans,

With this document we assure you that Everly Brothers International (EBI) is the only such organization officially recognized by us. We both have complete confidence in Martial Bekkers and his team in every aspect of the work they are carrying out on our behalf all over the world. Their aim of promoting our careers and particularly our music in a healthy and positive way is actively encouraged by us.

We thank them very much and also thank all of you for your continued support.

Some day, somewhere down the road we hope to bring our music to you personally.



Together with the Muhlenberg County Fan Club from their native Kentucky presided over by Marilyn Kirtley, we worked tirelessly for many years to maintain the Everly Brothers image and music on an international level.

From its humble beginnings, in the early '60s, Everly Brothers International has grown into the oldest, largest, fastest growing and most comprehensive international fan organization for the Everly Brothers worldwide. And with the introduction of our own WebSite in 1993, EBI has become even more easily accessible, resulting in many more fans joining this organization. Some are from far reaching parts of the world such as Russia, Australia, New Zealand and South America.

We have been sending EBI's FREE weekly EVzines (electronic Everly newsletters) to every on-line fan in our address book since that day, which means every week for way over 10 years now.

Many more on-line EBI services have become interactive since then.

The EBI WebSite contains [the latest Everly news](#), [Tour News](#), the Everly [Discography](#), and [Duography](#), [EBI Archive](#), [On-line Guestbook](#).

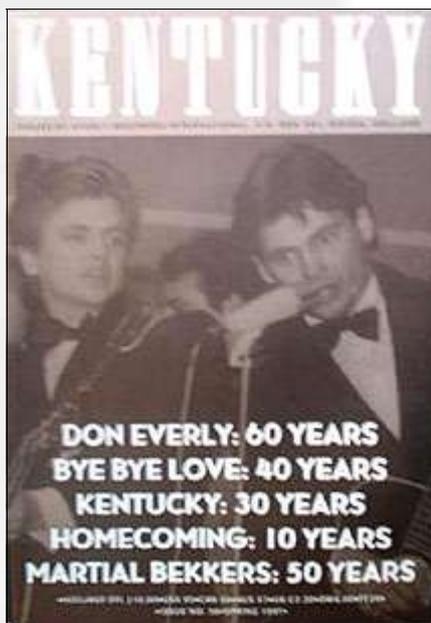
We did a monthly [EBI On-line Quiz](#) (which will be back as soon as our scarce spare time permits us), with original prizes and often collectibles as prizes.

Every two weeks there's a new [SoundClip](#) to be enjoyed and every month there is a new [Pic\(k\) of the Month](#).

A wide selection of Everly Brothers Merchandise can be found in the [Kentucky On-line Shop](#), including CD's, DVD's, Videos, Magazines, etc. Nothing big, but the fans find what they're looking for at very decent prices.

The increased use of the Internet lead to EBI publishing its last printed Glossy DeLuxe 'Kentucky' Magazine (issue No. 58 in 1997).

Since then we have built the completely improved On-line 'Kentucky'



magazine, including over a hundred links to many other interesting WebSites, of which the sites of our very active members [Martin Alberts](#) (Everly Brothers Curiosities) and [Piet Piekstra](#) (My Personal Collection Site) should get a special mention.

EBI's Everly.Net WebSite is presented to you by our multi-talented and skilled Webmaster Bas Siewertsen. All these years he has updated our WebSite at an average of at least once a week.

EBI, without any doubt, has the biggest Everly Brothers collection in the world. There are many scrapbooks with very rare clippings, photos, and memorabilia that Elly den Dekker with much love has compiled for me for years. It's become a much greater, rare treasure thanks to her.

We have a photo archive that many members donate negatives, slides and photos to, many of which can still be ordered through Marja Alberts from our List of Photographs.

We guard hundreds of audio recordings in our Tapotheque. Cassettes, tapes and disks that are regularly used for Radio or TV, for commercials etc.

EBI has 33 hours of Everly footage on video tapes. My thanks to Cor van den Maagdenberg, Peter van Calck, and Peter Guijken for your help to preserve the audio and video material the best possible way.

If you have recordings, clippings or Ev memorabilia that you'd like to part with or that you would like to share with your fellow Everly fans in every corner of the world please contact us and we will help you from here.

We all owe a lot to those who contributed often-rare material to our archives.

Our WebMaster has invested hours of his scarce spare time to scan articles, photos, and clippings.

The EBI archives played an important role in the impressive BBC TV documentary 'Songs of Innocence and Experience' for the Arena series. Fans rate this as the best on the Everlys so far. It was made by Tony Wall, Stephanie Bennett, Joan Sauers and Alan Yentob. Tony was genuinely grateful for our material and sent me a very rare personal gift with his thanks.

The video 'Rock 'n Roll Odyssey' was released by Delilah Films soon after that. It is a compressed 60 minutes report taken from this gem that the BBC screened.

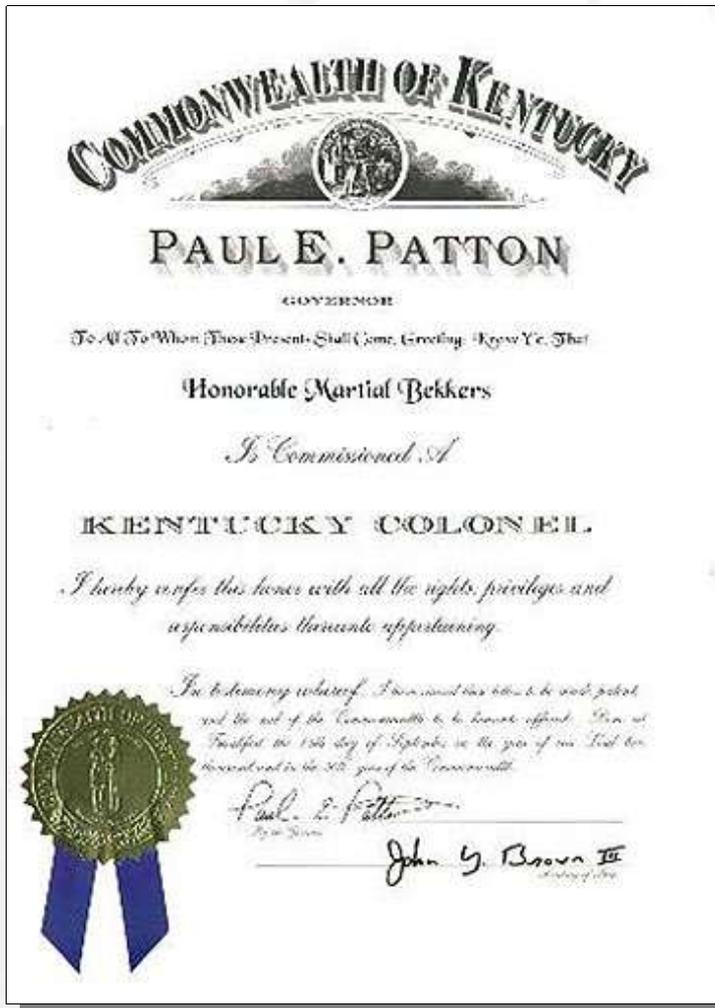
The BBC keeps in close contact with us. In May 2002 Jane of the BBC called us to ask for some photo material and clippings that she wanted to use in the TV documentary 'It Takes Two', a very high quality special on duos in pop music.

My thanks go to Tony, Alan, Stephanie, Jane and Jenny at the BBC.

Incredulously, also since the year 1997, EBI has experienced a dramatic upsurge in new members and visitors to our WebSite. Our member base has now swelled to thousands and our site welcomes hundreds of visitors every day, hundreds of thousands since 1993. On the 6th November 2003 we had a record amount of 1,132 visitors on our site... 1,132 on one day!!!

Needless to say, the Everly Brothers should have good reason to be proud of our organization and the 40 years of dedication given by all who contributed their time, efforts, as well as information regarding the Everlys and their music.

The Governor of Kentucky, Paul E. Patton, did certainly not overlook this fact. On the 13th day of September in the year 2000, he bestowed upon me the great and magnificent distinction of Kentucky Colonel to show appreciation for all the hard work Everly Brothers International has put in honoring the Everly Brothers' music and the State of Kentucky.



I could not have wished for greater recognition, than that given by an office of such integrity and status. It has greatly humbled me to be able to accept the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky on behalf of all Everly Brothers fans worldwide!

Of course I realize I have not been able to achieve these goals on my own. I have had the help of some great and talented people who over the years have shown me the meaning of true friendship. I am particularly indebted to the many Everly fans who have devoted their time and resources to help make this organization into what it is today.

We are very grateful to the Everlys' personal managers, tour managers and agents who throughout the years made it possible to enjoy all this.

We've seen quite a few come and go: Jack Rael, Michael Levine, Peter S. Brown, Don Wayne, Dwayne Hooper, Gus Douglas, Fred Lawrence and Mick Healy, Mervyn Conn, Bill Boyd, Dick Katz (M.A.M. Ltd), Derek Block and Jeff Hanlon at DBCP, my thanks to all of you.

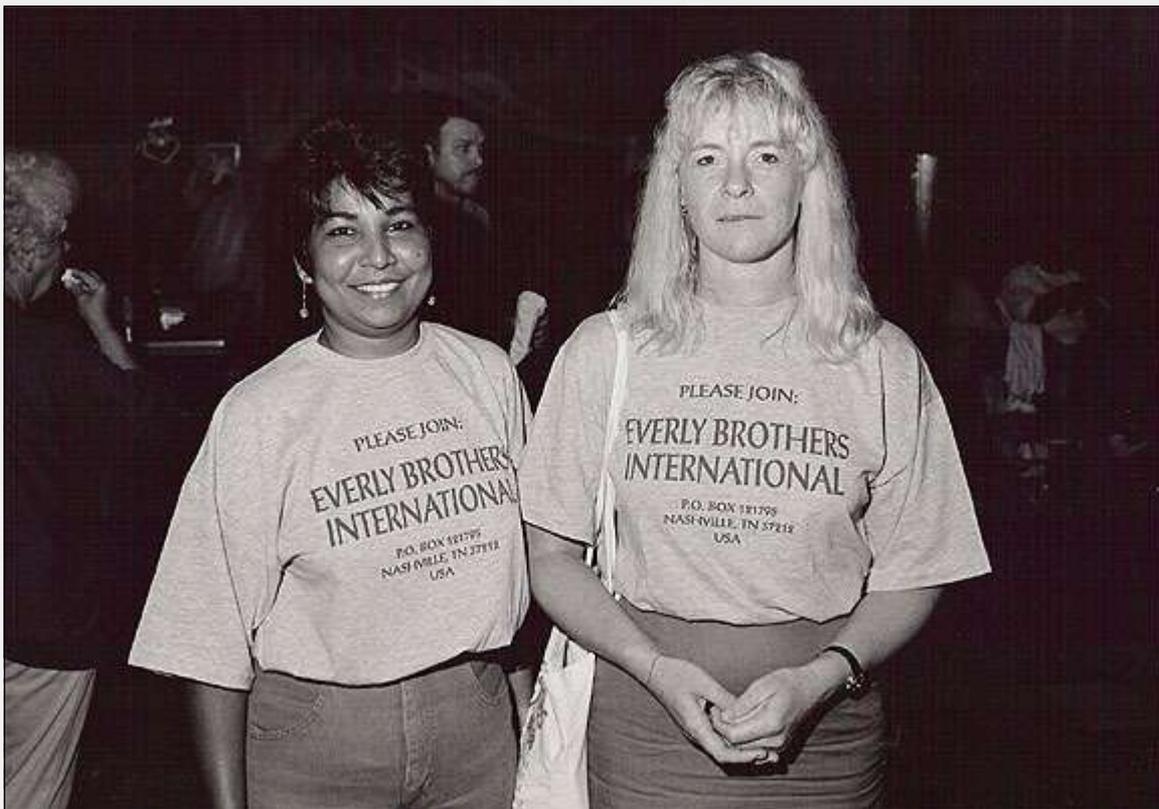
Had a great time with the band members, including the ones who passed away.... Albert, Buddy, Pete, Phil and Tony Newman, Mitch, with such fond memories of Warren Zevon, Larrie Londin and Graham Jarvis.

Loved working and talking with the long time crew members John Earl, Paul Gabriella, Robert "Sparky" Nielsen and David Wentling, very familiar, friendly faces during the tours.

Carolyn Morgan and Judy Newby very often helped us out with the most recent tour schedules and information, advise, prizes for the lottery at our annual parties.... so, so much.

Carolyn has run the Everlys' business office in Nashville and later became Donald's business partner, also for the wonderful Everly's Lake Malone Inn. Judy Newby runs a Management Agency in Nashville. She had been working with Don and Phil in connection with their Central City Homecoming for three years and became their full-time publicist in 1990. Judy and her husband also handled the Everly Brothers tour merchandise in the USA during those years.

Carolyn and Judy even shared the keys for our P.O. Box that they opened for us in the name of EBI in Nashville, TN, USA.



Lilian and Marja (Copyright Times-Argus)

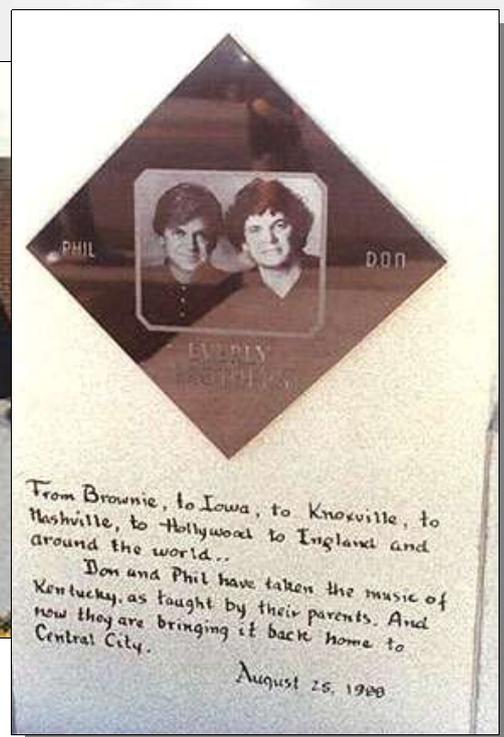
We are very obliged to Dianne Burch, once helping out the Everly Brothers Foundation in Central City, and Mark Stone of the Times-Argus in Central City, KY, USA. Together they opened a P.O. Box for Patti Zink and me at EBI in their little town. The P.O. boxes were important marketing tools for EBI. They certainly served their purpose at a time when letters and cards were still often sent by snail mail. We received plenty as a reaction to local advertisements and other EBI action. When the E-mail era took over we decided that the annual P.O. box fees should be put to use for other EBI services so we closed them.

For many years Central City honored the Everly Brothers at the annual Homecoming.



We are very grateful to Mr. Hugh Sweat Jr., mayor of Central City during most of the years that the Music Festival and celebrations took place, Marilyn and John Kirtley, Joyce Stevens, Judy Staples, Diana Sue Taylor, Helen Arnold, Shelia Bivins, Nancy Tishner, all the kind people of Central City.

An important silent activator and motor behind Don and Phil is their cousin, the Reverend Mr. Ted Everly. Ted is a kind hearted man who is and was of great importance to his cousins, working in the background for the Reunion Concerts and the annual Music Festival happenings in Central City that the people of Central City and us Everly fans enjoy so much.



I would like to close this letter with personal, heartfelt and sincere gratitude to all our loyal and respected Everly Brothers fans around the globe, for your continued support lasting more than 40 years. On behalf of EBI and our coordinators I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude for all your stories, pictures, newspaper clippings, SoundClips and donations.

'It is an amazing feat when you go back in time and see this tiny fan club in the sixties grow into one of the largest, undoubtedly one of the oldest, most classic fan organizations in the world. And of course I would never have believed back then that 40 years later I and many of you would still be an active part of all this. We did it, you and I!'

Thank you - all who have helped me in more ways than I could list to help keep EBI the most successful part of the Everly Brothers' connection with their dedicated and loyal fans.

And most of all, thank you Renate for standing by me for so many years. The Everly Brothers and their fans should know that without your love and devotion for my sons and me this would never have been possible!!!

For all the service EBI provides it hasn't asked a membership fee in almost 10 years. I am proud to say that unlike other fan clubs we are aware of, we are able to do this work that I love thanks to the voluntary donations from the fans and thanks to our sponsors Caribbean Paradise Travels, Diba International, The Rocky Top Music Group and Hitsound Records.

We are 'enthusiastic, devoted admirers' still, just like you. It is of the utmost importance that a fan organization like ours stands up to its promises, sends out news to its members regularly through newsletters, keeps them informed through regular WebSite updates.

It has been and continues to be a great pleasure doing this for all you Everly fans out there, wherever you are. We hope you will stick with us for a long time in the future. You are the greatest source of inspiration, and we treasure you! Come back and gather to visit [EBI's WebSite](#) regularly.

Enjoy.

God bless.

Best regards and take care,

Martial F. Bekkers

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Thank you...

I still cherish the hundreds and hundreds of letters that I saved in my archives dating from the '60s up to today from very active die-hard fans like Don Larson, Carla Parker, Lezlee Elmore, Ann Dale, Peter van Calck, Burt Poyck, Mary Pavlik, Keith Watson, Hilary Rodgers, Bob Naylor, Fred Muter, Jim Hicks, John Davidson-White, Heide Ploen, Andrew Vaughan Smith, Sandra Rehse, Wendy Long, Lesley Cross, for often writing and correcting my articles and doing the English/Americian newsletters, Lynda Cumberland, her and her husband have been of great support, Val Hannah, John Firminger, who produced Stories We Could Tell for years and kindly let us make use of his interviews and archives, Jeanette Blackstone, Thijs van Oudenaarde, Donna Beetel, Henk Verbeek, Elsie Lee, who still does the Nightingale Newsletter, Laurie Recktenwald, Valerie DePaola, Peter de Vos, Pat Welch, Fred Schroder, Linda King, Jolante Clarke, who has improved and corrected my articles in English for years, Frank Murzyn, Robet Steinegger, maker of the Ike Everly Guitar, Jean Gilliland, for taking care of regular news updates, Paula Mason, marvelous photo work throughout the years, Janice Sadler, Jenny Hardy, John Hosum, who often contributed articles and reviews for our publications, Janice Sadler, Connie Konefes, Cor Sanne, Suzy Burnett, Dick Kooiman, Jillian Paterson, Deb Coté, such a sweet and good EBI Coordinator as Deitz in those days, Ian Tilbury, Torbjorn Calvero, Henk Vredenburg, Joan Sturrock, Terri Leatherwood, John Beecher, Sylvia and Robert Phillipson, Sheila Todd, Carol Woodward, Brenda Roper, Marina Bodicker, Emmy Elsthout, Linda Atwell, Sue Barnes, Karen Holt-Spickerman, Pat Jones, Carolyn Robertson, Joan Hamlet, Gayle Sas, Jim Young, Pam Black, Sue Hargreaves, Graham Barker, Renate van Putten, so many people that advised and supported EBI in the 70s and 80s to make it to what it is today.

When you start reminiscing there's no end. And imagine how many people I forgot!? Let me hear from you and we will add your name.... this is all interactive now. You should be in this gallery.

11 July 2004

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