

Hi Brian.

The corrections on "Fungus Among Us" are for the printed version, and also for the recorded version.

To begin, the name The Victors came from the producer of the session, a man named Vic Farachi. The group of singers (of which I was the lead) was called the Trav-a-Leers. Vic said we could not use the name because there was a group called The Travelers. I argued it was a different name, but to no avail. I think Vic wanted the group named Victors as in "Vic," but in any event I remember that he came up with the name. So we adopted the name after the session, since "Fungus Among Us" was a hit record.

I was never in the 101st Airborne. I was in the 1st Infantry Division, "The Big Red One." When I lived in Los Angeles after the war I did own a parachute that I hung over my patio when I gave a party one evening. Rich Mayer was there and he thought I had been in the 101st, Never was. I was badly wounded in Vietnam. Rich said a kid tossed a grenade. In fact we were moving on a truck through a village and there were women and children alongside the road. We never saw who threw the grenade. It may have been a kid, or a woman. It was tossed into the open truck that was moving slowly and wounded many of us. I think I was hurt the third worst of all. One guy lost his leg, one guy lost his eye and was partially paralyzed. I was next in line -- my legs were badly hurt, I almost lost my right leg, but somehow the medics and doctors saved it. I will always be grateful for their work, they were incredible.

The session came about when DJ Dick Biondi dug up the original single and played it on his show on WLS-AM in Chicago. In those day DJs could play just about anything they wanted. He started getting positive feedback about the song. Somehow Vic Farachi got wind of it and since the original single was out of print, he was asked by someone to record a new version. He called several people including DJ Marty Green and put out a call for musicians, etc. Marty called me and I brought the group to the session a few days later. The lead singer was Hugh Barrett. Then one night Biondi on the radio said, "Here it is, 'Fungus Among us!'" And he played our version. No explanation, no details. Kids were confused, but they bought the new version, the only one available.

The photo in the back yard -- I do not think it was my yard. I think it may have been Marty Green's yard, but I am not certain. The large guy in the photo is Paul Segal (not sure of the spelling) who went to high school with me. He sang with us on occasion, but was not on the record. The group sang now and the with Barrett, and then we broke up. I joined another group (The C-Notes) and we made some records that were not released. I did release at least one single under my name, on the Everest label that was a regional hit in the South.

A few months later we (Victors) wrote and recorded "Return of the Fungus" but it died. We made a few other records and then I went solo. I joined the C-Notes later, and then was drafted. So was Rich, but we had lost touch until we met briefly one day in the Army someplace Stateside, I don't recall where, but it was an Army fort.

After the war I worked for Capitol Records in Chicago as a junior promotion guy, then moved to L.A. in the late 60s. I worked for Capitol Record Club and produced compilation LPs on Nat Cole, Petula Clark, Glen Campbell and others.

I also wrote and produced singles under my own name (except for one with the group Undisputed Truth).

I continued to sing and work for music companies including Fender Guitar (customer service) and later became Director of Public Relations for Fisher Corp., the audio company. All along I was going to college and writing free-lance articles. Eventually I turned to full-time PR and later to journalism. I worked for several newspapers and magazine and TV, and in 2000 founded the Veterans Reporter newspaper in Nevada. We are the voice of the veteran in the Silver State. I also host the Veterans Reporter Radio Show on KLAV-AM in Las Vegas, which is also streamed live at www.klav1230am.com. (8-9 p.m. Thursday nights, Pacific Time.) We take call-ins, check us out!

The last time I communicated with Bobby Angel was in 1969 or 70. He wrote or called (I don't remember which, but I think he wrote) and asked what was going on. I was in L.A. he was in Chicago, I wrote back and filled him in, but never heard from him again until this day.

I could on and on, including the books I have written (including one on rock and roll), the songs I recorded and released, etc. But enough is enough. Thanks for the opportunity.

Chuck N Baker