

COMMENTARY

Lauren Hull: She's really just ONE of 'The Girls'...

It's all coffee, laughter and talk as I gab on a bright summer morning with Lauren Hull and her mother, Amy Shea, of Painesville Township. The topic is music; what else? Lauren, after all, is one of "The Girls," a band that's been steadily building up fans and making its musical mark in our region.

If there's a generation gap between the Painesville Township mother and daughter sitting now before me, it is not detectable; music erases it. Music, after all, is in the genes of both women. Though Amy is busy these days as the mother of a large family, music has been a part of her life. As a teen, she performed with the Top 25 in Mentor and sang with a band in college, and her grandfather played honky-tonk ragtime piano.

"Mom and I love the same

ROSE AROUND TOWN

By Rose Moore
Columnist

music," says 14-year-old Lauren, who according to her mother has developed a wide vocal range. With a smile, Lauren adds that her voice runs "more toward the lower range; I could sing with the boys."

Amy recalls first noticing her daughter's singing voice when Lauren was four or five years old. "I thought, 'Wow! She can carry a tune!' By the time she was seven or so, we'd take her places and she'd climb up on stage and sing. She began entering contests and winning them. She did fairs, open-mike nights, karaoke... She sang constantly, all times of the day, whatever she was doing; she still does."



PHOTO COURTESY OF 'THE GIRLS'
THE GIRLS who front the band—Carrie Vieweg, Brittany Klarich and Lauren Hull—are good friends on stage and off.

From the beginning, it seems, Lauren's family and extended family has supported and encouraged her.

"It is definitely a joint effort," Amy says. "We're one big family. Lauren's grandparents (Phil and Leslie Gertner of Concord Township) have often been the ones who have taken her to karaoke and practice..."

Though she's an honor student at school, Lauren seems as serious about her music as she is about her studies. "Maybe more so," she admits. "I love school, but I want to pursue my music too. Mom says she wants me to have a back-up plan. Maybe college. But whatever I do, there will be music in it."

She plays the guitar, writes and loves all sorts of music... "That's what's great about the band," Lauren says. "We're diverse, we're versatile, we do country, rhythm and blues, oldies, pop... But I have to say that rock

is my own personal favorite, whether it's classic, modern, alternative, heavy metal..."

Her mother speaks of a personal trait she believes will carry her daughter a long way in music and in life, observing that, "Lauren has never been afraid to be herself; she's comfortable with who she is, and now she's really coming into her own."

PHOTO BY ROSE MOORE
It's joy and laughter for both when Lauren Hull (left) talks



PHOTO BY ROSE MOORE
It's joy and laughter for both when Lauren Hull (left) talks



PHOTO COURTESY OF 'THE GIRLS'
"The girls and their musicians."

All three girls have won many singing competitions. They've been cover girls on regional music magazines and have been featured on radio interviews. But there is apparently no ego among them.

Their guitarist, Dan Rose, refers to them as "a blessing to us," and band manager Fred Grube of Madison speaks with pride of the wholesome appeal of the young women.

"You can bring anyone of any age to these performances without worry about the content, and I guarantee you will enjoy the performance," Grube declares. "They're a pleasure to perform with, too."

"Carrie already has a lot of history in music," he says. "She can sing a very powerful lead, has very good stage presence and relates very well to the audience... Lauren, the youngest and also newest to the group, has great character to her voice; she sings beyond her years, with a rich and powerful voice... Brittany has extremely good pitch, can sing either high or low, and does much of the vocal arranging. These girls are the best combination of talent."

THE BOYS IN THE BAND—seasoned veterans with a solid and extensive history on the music scene, and a collective performance experience of 200 years—are Dave Alexy, drums and percussion; Fred Grube, bass guitar; Karl Peters, lead guitar; Dan Rose, acoustic and electric guitar; Dr. Walt Vieweg (Carrie's father), vibes, flute, trumpet, sax, harmonica and mandolin; and Danny "Slick" Watkins, keyboards.

Playing back-up with "The Girls" throughout Lake, Ashland, Geauga and Cuyahoga Counties and beyond, you have seen them performing in clubs, concerts, community events and benefits (the most recent being the Lake County Flood Relief at Beachland Ballroom in Cleveland).

In July, "The Girls" played side-stage at the sold-out Toby Keith concert at Blossom Music Center. Sponsored by Scene Magazine and the House of Blues, they earned a lot of attention there. How they happened to be chosen remains a mystery to the girls; not one of them is sure how that honor came to be. All three described the experience as "amazing and awesome."

"It was the largest crowd ever, with the best sound system we have ever heard," says Carrie. She has been singing since the age of two or three, and plans to try to get into Juillard School of Music in New York, or to major in music and minor in English at Baldwin Wallace.

Brittany, who says she has been singing "most of my life, as far back as I can remember," considers the appearance at the Keith event to be "an amazing privilege from which we gained some really good experience."

They had little time for any special preparation, for it was little more than a week before the concert that "The Girls" were called and told they were to appear. By all reports, they proved themselves worthy of the honor.

FOR A SCHEDULE of future appearances, contact www.ourweb.com/users/thegirls.

(Our columnist Rose Moore can be reached at 440-351-5818.)

Labor Day grew from violent roots

Violent Pullman strike in 1894 impetus for national holiday

INSIDE SCOOP
By Debbie Cordes
Columnist

Most Americans consider the long Labor Day weekend the last hurrah of summer before autumn. Many take advantage of the three-day mini vacation and hop on the nation's highways in large numbers to visit distant relatives or take one last family getaway. Still others stick close to home choosing instead to picnic with friends or just relax around house doing nothing.

What many may not be aware of is that the origins of the national holiday we celebrate the first Monday of September is actually steeped in protest, violence, and even death.

The first celebration of the American worker began rather benignly on May 18 in 1882 Peter McGuire, a founder of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions in 1881 and a precursor to the American Federation of Labor (AFL), proffered an interesting suggestion before an audience of union members attending a meeting in New York City. He called for the labor union to organize a "workingman's day" to celebrate the glory of American industry. Union members responded enthusiastically to his words.

Four months later on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, a parade of 10,000 bricklayers, risking termination for not going to work, and mounted police officers, marched down Broadway Avenue to Union Square in New York City. After the parade the marchers met at Reservoir Park for a picnic, concert and speeches.

Gradually the idea to honor workers with a special day spread across the country and in 1887 Oregon became the first state to declare the day a legal state holiday. Efforts by some to encourage the U.S. Congress to make the day a national holiday were ignored.

However, in 1893 events in Pullman, Illinois changed all that.

Pullman, a company town located near Chicago, was owned by the Pullman Palace Car Company. The town was built in 1880 to house the employees' families and the factory where they worked. Rent for housing was deducted from paychecks drawn on the Pullman Bank.

Although not perfect, the system worked well until 1893 when a nationwide depression put a strain on the finances of Pullman Palace Car Company. To trim expenses in 1894, the company fired hundreds of workers and cut the wages of those who remained. Workers, who had little to show for their efforts after rent was deducted from their wages, had enough and walked off the job. The strike began May 10, 1894 just one

month after the Pullman employees had joined the American Railway Union.

The Pullman workers were soon joined in their strike by Eugene V. Debs and other members of his American Railway Union, who came to Illinois to offer their support. At the same time, 150,000 railroad workers across the nation, who had also heard about the strike, showed support by refusing to work on any trains using Pullman cars.

The strike spread. Riots broke out. Railroad cars became targets and were severely damaged or totally destroyed by mobs of union and non-union supporters. Buildings in Chicago were set afire. Train traffic to and from Chicago was at a virtual standstill.

Due to pressure exerted by railroad executives, an interruption to mail service, and the strikers' refusal to obey a federal court order requiring them to go back to work, President Grover Cleveland was forced to take action. Cleveland declared the strike to be a federal crime and deployed 12,000 troops to disperse the strikers. The troops were joined by United States Deputy Marshals, who it is reported were actually strike-breakers hired by the railroad companies and then deputized.

"If it takes the entire Army and Navy of the United States to deliver a postal card in Chicago, that card will be delivered," Cleveland stated at the time.

A violent clash occurred between the troops, the strikers, and their supporters. Many strikers were injured in the melee. United States Deputy Marshals fired into a crowd of strikers killing two men in

Facing insurmountable odds, the strikers soon ended their walkout. Pullman workers went back to work while pledging to never again attempt to unionize. The American Railway Union was dissolved and Eugene V. Debs went to jail.

However, in the aftermath of the Pullman Strike, a public outcry about President Cleveland's use of U.S. troops against American workers, coupled with the fact it was an election year and American workers needed to be appeased, led the United States Congress to rethink the "workingman's day" issue.

Legislation declaring Labor Day a national holiday quickly passed both houses unanimously and was ready for the president's signature. The bill was signed into law by President Cleveland on June 28, 1894, thus establishing the first Monday of September as the "workingman's day" first proposed 12 years before by Peter McGuire.

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E-mail: tribune@gazettenews.com

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President: Jeffrey J. Lampson
VP/COO: James R. Hardin
Executive Editor: Katherine Whorowski
Editor: Debbie Cordes
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