

# Ray Conniff Fan Convention in Essen and Düsseldorf (September 4 – 6, 2015)

Participants: Warren, Rick (USA), Igor (Russia), Nimfa (Philippines), Sue, Trevor, Steve, Brian (England), Theo, Adelbert (The Netherlands), Claudine, Frank, Guy (Belgium), Otto, Irmi, Barbara, Bernd, Ingo, Irmgard, and Manfred (Germany)

Photographs taken by Claudine and Igor; a short report by Manfred

## Friday, September 4, 2015



This is the hotel we stayed at:  
The Mintrops Stadthotel "Margarethenhöhe" in Essen.  
Great rooms, excellent service, wonderful facilities.



We started the 2015 Fan Convention with a reception at 4 pm. We had drinks and finger food, and watched a slide show of 45 minutes that featured photographs of all conventions. In the background you could hear songs by Ray Conniff which all dealt with the theme "Memories".



This year's "Conniff Quiz" was a crossword puzzle. All its solutions could be found on a 3 CD set, titled "Girls, Girls, Girls", produced by Jürgen Klaus, who sadly passed away a week before the convention.



At 5:30 pm we left the assembly room for a short walk to a blacksmith shop ("Halbachhammer Ruhrmuseum").



There we were shown how horseshoes were made. Here you can see Bernd as a helping hand to the smith. After that most interesting demonstration we walked back to the hotel.



At 7:45 pm we were taken by “maxi taxis” to a wonderful restaurant named “Villa Vue”, from where you had an impressive look at the city of Essen and a water reservoir nearby.



Barbara had the best room reserved for us (a year in advance!).



The food was unbelievably gorgeous, too.



Claudine and Manfred



Irmgard and Igor



Theo and his brother Adelbert



Guy and Frank



Barbara and Ingo



Steve and Nimfa



Warren and Brian



Sue and Rick



At 11:30 we were taken back by taxi to the hotel. It was raining cats and dogs. Other than that, the weather god was in a relatively good mood throughout the weekend. Some of us took a nightcap or two at the hotel bar. All I can say is, we had lots of fun.

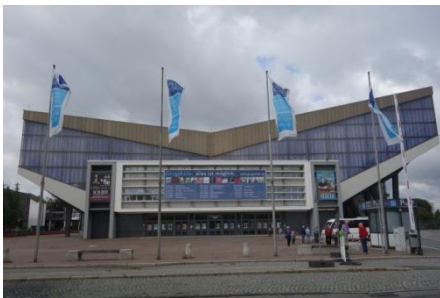
**Saturday, September 5, 2015**



After a rich and tasty breakfast we were shown around the city of Essen by coach. Here you can see our driver with Trevor and Adelbert.



The tour included the famous “Villa Hügel”, which used to be the residence of the Krupp family / dynasty.



We also paid a visit to the “Gruga-Halle”, where Ray Conniff gave a concert in 1969. The big billboard showed “Conni – the Musical”. Some of us thought they had forgotten the double-f. (Quite an idea, right?) The tour revealed many faces of Essen. It was greener than most of us had thought.



Our guide explained the coat of arms.



A huge canary – one of many leading the way to the station. You know, miners used to carry canaries down into the mine tunnels. If dangerous gases such as carbon monoxide collected in the mine, the gases would kill the canary before killing the miners, thus providing a warning to exit the tunnels immediately.



The first part of the sightseeing tour ended at the café/restaurant “Die Kokerei”, where we had lunch.



It consisted of a typical miner's meal, traditionally still served in that area, especially on Saturdays: Potato soup. You could add sliced sausages or salmon, and croutons.



This was followed by another traditional dish, named "Kalte Schnauze" – meaning "cold snout". (Don't ask, why it is named this way!) It consists of layers of butter biscuits and chocolate, served with fresh fruit.



Next we had a guided tour through Zollverein with a geologist whose command of English was excellent. He showed us around this unique Unesco World Heritage Site. We learned a lot about coal mining, coal washing etc.

There are three parts in the Zollverein area: Coking Plant, Shaft 1/2/8 and Shaft XII.



Here you can see the old machinery used for taking miners deep down.

At 4:15 pm the coach took us back to our hotel, where we could relax for a little time.



In the evening we were taken to "Sportlertreff am Baldeneysee" by taxis. This is a beautifully located restaurant. Again, we had excellent food, a buffet this time. We watched some more videos, such as Laurel and Hardy dancing along Ray Conniff's "Paradise" and a video collage of famous paintings (along with Ray's rendition of "To All the Girls I've Loved Before"), titled "Girls, Girls, Girls".



Otto gave Barbara a clock made of an LP copy of Ray Conniff's "It Must Be Him".

Again, great food →







Here you can see the happy couple, Barbara and Bernd. They had reason enough to be that way, because this convention was just fabulous due to their organization – and in spite of the fact that the number of participants was lower than usual.

Sunday, September 6, 2015



Some of us had to leave after breakfast, but others spent the day in Düsseldorf. Here you can see Bernd, Steve, Warren, Barbara, Nimfa, Rick, Trevor and Sue, waiting for their train.

Still in Essen on the way back from Zollverein to the hotel, Bernd asked the driver to stop the coach for a minute. Everybody got out and posed in front of this Coca Cola advertisement that originally showed a picture of Ray Charles. Well, thanks to Photoshop we came up with this souvenir photo of this wonderful get-together. Ray would have been pleased – like all of us.



Trevor, Sue, Nimfa, Steve, Rick, Adelbert, Igor, Frank, Barbara, Warren, Guy, Theo, Manfred, Claudine, Irmgard, Ingo, Bernd, and Brian

Photo taken by Bernd

## THE RAY CONNIFF QUIZ

Would you have been able to fill in all boxes (see next page)?

### Across:

- 3 The female form of the Spanish name Ramón
- 5 Last track on “Siempre Latino”
- 7 Ray’s recording features Tamara’s giggling at the end
- 8 A four-letter Dixieland lady
- 10 This married lady seduced Dustin Hoffman in 1967
- 12 This lady is called that way because she looks pretty in it
- 14 Weather-wise always on the bright side
- 15 Pet name for Germany’s chancellor
- 16 Before they break down the door, forgive me!
- 18 French for an unmarried and innocent (?) girl
- 19 Long Disco number on Ray’s album “Fantastico”
- 24 A type of fungus that can cause an infection, e.g. in the mouth
- 26 She can be found on “Hollywood in Rhythm”
- 28 Not the one from *Gone with the Wind*, whose name is spelled with a double-t
- 29 The name Judith would not have fit the rhythm of the song
- 31 Barbra Streisand played this role in her second movie
- 32 Name of Ray’s wife
- 33 Not a tribute song to Ms Allen but to a blue lady
- 34 Name of one of Ray’s wives
- 35 Cole Porter wrote this song, Ray recorded it twice
- 38 Name of Ray’s second daughter
- 39 This girl is swinging down the street so fancy free
- 40 Tamara’s pet name



### Down:

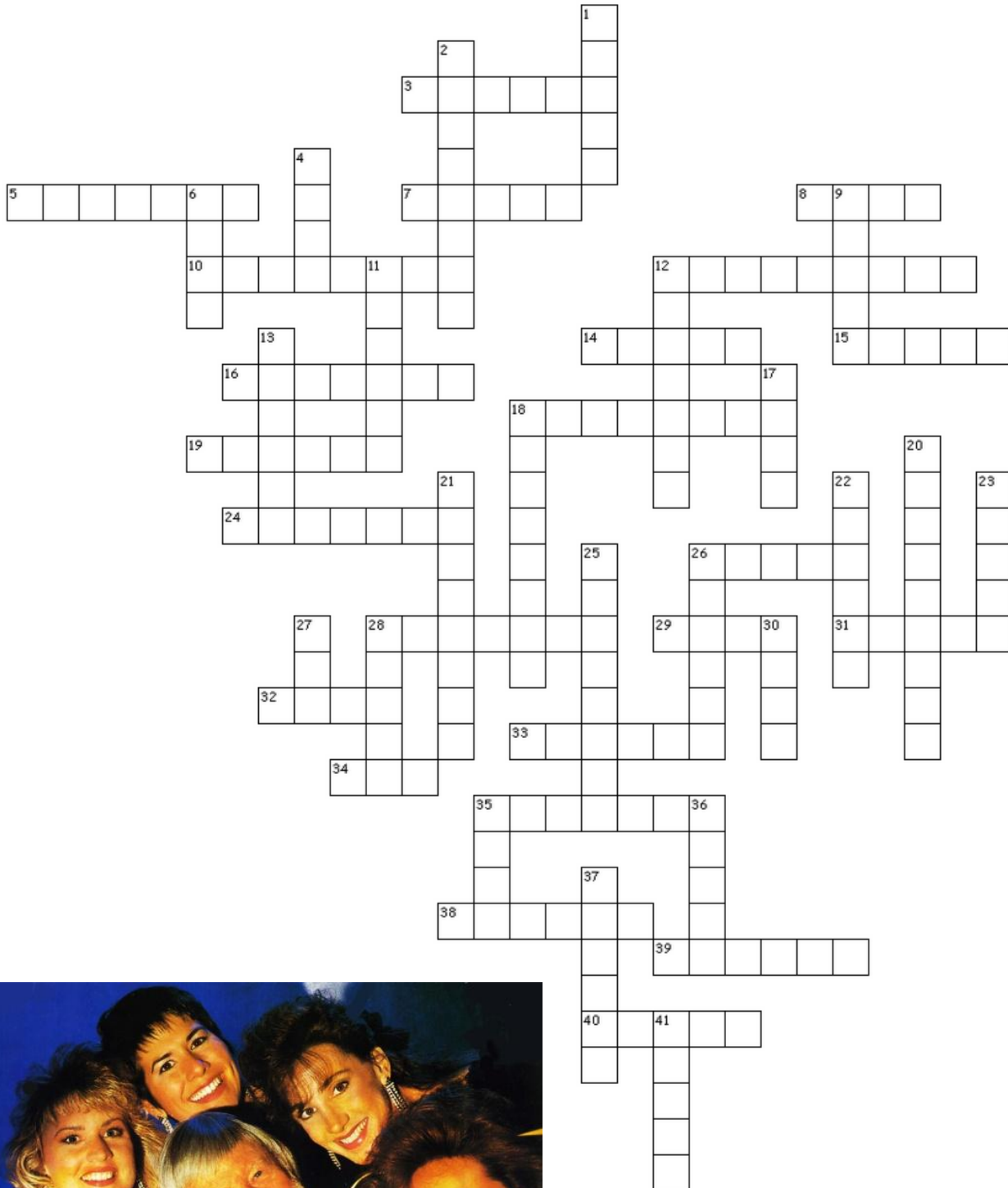
- 1 This lady gets too hungry for dinner at eight
- 2 This girl is sweet
- 4 A film and now a musical, too
- 6 This may be a girl’s name, but in *Gone with the Wind* it’s the name of the plantation
- 9 A Spanish girlfriend
- 11 Simply by Starlight
- 12 Short form of Emanuela
- 13 Spanish for lady
- 17 A girl’s name as well as an album title and a song
- 18 French name given by the Fab Four
- 20 Second track on Ray’s “Latinísimo”-album
- 21 The president’s wife
- 22 This lady can make you tipsy
- 23 Title of an unusual Conniff recording, using a harpsicord
- 25 Name of Ray’s first daughter
- 26 The first name of the president of the first fanclub in French
- 27 Billy and Ray commonly played a song with this name
- 28 This lady can be found on “Rhapsody in Rhythm”
- 30 Not a song written for Ms Fitzgerald, but part of a title in Spanish meaning “for ‘her’”
- 35 The name of Vera’s mother
- 36 Beethoven wrote this short piece for her
- 37 Most women are like that – or?
- 41 Can be both a girl’s or a boy’s name – not suitable for the president



GOOD LUCK!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_/46

## Girls, Girls, Girls... The Ray Conniff Convention-Crossword Puzzle (Essen, 2015)





## SOLUTIONS:

Rosalie / Cole Porter wrote this song, Ray recorded it twice  
Mame / A four-letter Dixieland lady  
Manuela / Short form of Emanuela  
Rosa / The name of Vera's mother  
Jean / A girl's name as well as an album title  
Louise / The English version of this name belonged to the president of the first fancub  
Ramona / The female form of the Spanish name Ramón  
Tammy / Tamara's pet name  
Marianne / The president's wife  
Delilah / Before they break down the door, forgive me!  
Sunny / Weatherwise always on the bright side  
Michelle / French name given by the Fab Four  
Gigi / A film and now a musical, too  
Popsy / Title of an unusual Conniff recording, using a harpsicord  
Brandy / This lady can make you tipsy  
Laura / She can be found on Hollywood in Rhythm  
Clair / Ray's recording features Tamara's giggling at the end  
Magdalena / Second track on Ray's "Latinísimo"-album  
Gloria / Long Disco number on Ray's album "Fantastico"  
Mandy / Can be both a girl's or a boy's name  
Scarlet / Not the one from *Gone With the Wind*, whose name is spelled with a double-t  
Candida / A type of fungus that can cause an infection, e.g. in the mouth  
Adelita / Last track on "Siempre Latino"  
Tamara / Name of Ray's second daughter  
Angie / Pet name for Germany's chancellor  
Caroline / This girl is sweet  
Sue / Billy and Ray commonly played a song with this name  
Dolly / Barbra Streisand played this role in her second movie  
Georgy / This girl is swinging down the street so fancy free  
Jude / The name Judith would not have fit the rhythm of the song  
Robinson / This married lady seduced Dustin Hoffman in 1967  
Jackie / Not a tribute song to Ms Allen but a blue lady  
Stella / By Starlight  
Mamselle / French for an unmarried and innocent (?) girl  
Vera / Ray's wife  
Ann / one of Ray's wives  
Tara / This may be a girl's name, but in *Gone With the Wind* it's the name of the plantation  
Elise / Beethoven wrote this short piece for her  
Patricia / Name of Ray's first daughter  
Senora / Spanish for lady  
Ella / Not a song written for Ms Fitzgerald, but part of a title in Spanish meaning "for 'her'"  
Pretty / Most women are like that – or?  
Amiga / A Spanish girlfriend  
Tramp / This lady gets too hungry for dinner at eight  
Moonlight / This lady is called that way because she looks pretty in it  
Spain / This lady can be found on "Rhapsody in Rhythm"

Ah yes, the winner was:



The first prize was a musical toy, which plays "Somewhere My Love" when you turn the handle.