



Chubby Checker dances "The Twist" with children he invited on stage during a performance at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center in Orlando in May 2009. **Photo by Barry Klein**

LET'S TWIST AGAIN!

Naples resident believes legendary musician Chubby Checker — who performs with Lou Christie March 2 at the Naples Phil — should be inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

By **Barry M. Klein**
 Community Contributor

Let me get right to the point: Chubby Checker deserves to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

I won't tell you my theories about why this has not yet occurred; I will begin by telling you why this has been long overdue.

Chubby Checker, born Ernest Evans on Oct. 3, 1941, had 21 Top 40 Billboard hits from 1960 through 1965. Although he did not write "The Twist" (Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Hank Ballard wrote it), his version of the song was not only the No. 1 song for 15 weeks in 1960, over a year later it was again the No. 1 song. Has any other rock 'n' roll artist ever done this? No!

Was Chubby Checker a one hit wonder? No! He continued to roll out Top 40 hits, and at least 13 of them were dance-themed titles. Chubby Checker is the undisputed "Dance King" rock 'n' roll singer of all time. Another dance hit of his, "Pony Time," also hit No. 1 on the Billboard charts. He was a Grammy winner in 1961 and had a best "Rock and Roll Sole Performance" with "Let's Twist Again."

Checker is the only recording artist to have five LP's in the top 12 Billboard positions all at the same time! Checker has appeared in 21 motion pictures, mostly as himself, and one of them was one of my favorite movies, the cinematic adaptation of Tom Wolfe's "The Right Stuff." In addition, Checker has appeared more than 40 times on television as himself.

I watched four of the nine shows Checker performed at the Walt Disney World Epcot Center in Orlando in May 2009. Every performance I saw was excellent. Checker looked good, sang very well, had an excellent repertoire of material and was a big hit with the audience. Speaking of the audience, in every show Checker invited to the stage, at various times during each performance, young children, "seasoned citizens," men and women, and they all got up there and knew how to twist. A "boomer" lady with a cane did very well, and she came on the stage for each of his three shows that night!

What song was named the biggest hit of all time on American Billboard's Hot 100 All Time Songs Survey in 2008: Chubby Checker's "The Twist."

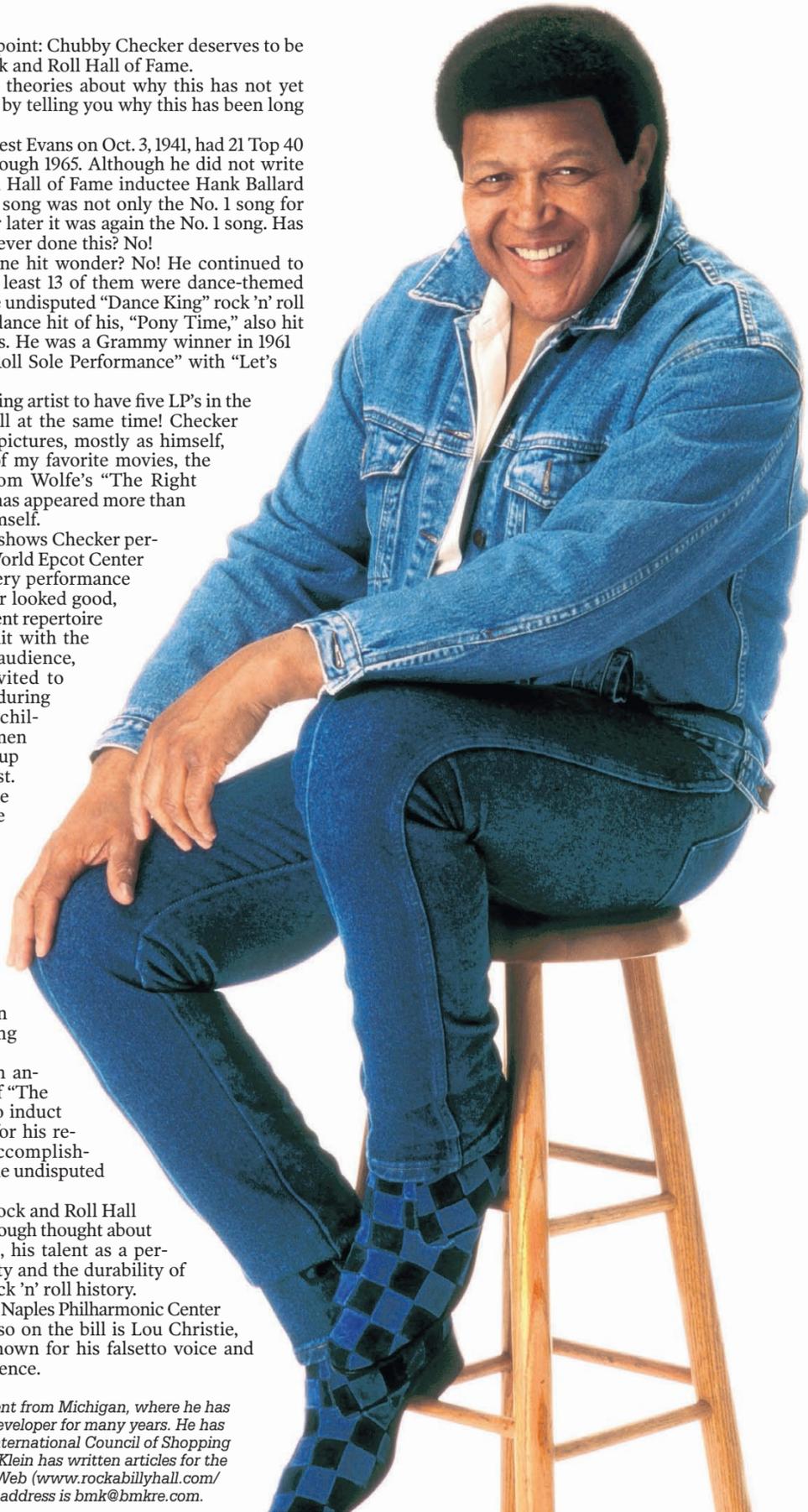
Checker's fame is world-wide. I still see old foreign films with people twisting away.

This year will be the 50th anniversary of his recording of "The Twist." It is a fitting time to induct him into the Hall of Fame for his recording and performing accomplishments, as well as his being the undisputed King of the Dance Crazes.

I think the people at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame just haven't given enough thought about Checker's accomplishments, his talent as a performer, worldwide popularity and the durability of the Twist and its place in rock 'n' roll history.

Checker will perform at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts on March 2. Also on the bill is Lou Christie, another early '60s singer known for his falsetto voice and comic rapport with the audience.

Barry M. Klein is a Naples resident from Michigan, where he has been a commercial real estate developer for many years. He has been an active member of the International Council of Shopping Centers since 1972. Since 1999, Klein has written articles for the Rockabilly Hall of Fame on the Web (www.rockabillyhall.com/BarryKlein.html). Barry's e-mail address is bmkb@bmkre.com.



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Top hits

Most-viewed news items

- 1 Letters to the editor:** Tuesday
- 2 Judge rules red-light** cameras unconstitutional in east coast city
- 3 Rescuers find 28-year-old man** reported missing in Everglades
- 4 Off-duty Collier deputy** bit by water moccasin at kids fishing event
- 5 Collier County deputies** crash Segways; 1 breaks ankle

Most e-mailed stories

- 1 Sonic boom** shakes Southwest Florida: Space shuttle makes rare nighttime landing
- 2 Naples getting** Hazelden substance abuse center that caters to celebrities
- 3 North Naples shopping center** sold for \$11 million
- 4 Bushes in Naples:** George W. and Jeb show personal side in appearance
- 5 Marco Community Bank** shut down

Most commented items

- 1 Letters to the editor:** Monday (277 comments)
- 2 Letters to the editor:** Sunday (167)
- 3 Letters to the editor:** Tuesday (165)
- 4 Naples police officer** suspended for derogatory comments caught on dashboard camera (104)
- 5 David Moulton:** Tiger Woods didn't fool anybody with his "apology" (62)



You said it

Here are some comments made on the story headlined "Collier County deputies crash Segways; 1 breaks ankle"

Oops. I didn't know they patrolled Hunter at 12:30 AM on Segways.

— **Posted by happybutterfly**
 on Tuesday at 12:20 p.m.

I can't imagine how embarrassed these guys are. I can, however, imagine how embarrassed they should be.

— **Posted by paysattention**
 on Tuesday at 12:49 p.m.

What a waste of money. Any halfway fit person could outrun one of those things in a heartbeat. Everytime I see a cop twirling around on one of those I just shake my head.

— **Posted by Nongeriatric_Redux**
 on Tuesday at 1:14 p.m.

I grew up in Golden Gate. I currently own a home there. I've been saying for years if cops REALLY wanted to make an impact on crime they should be on bike throughout Golden Gate in the evening/middle of the night. Cops on Segways are just as good I believe. Segways are nice and quiet and I'm happy to know they're being utilized to deter crime in "the old neighborhood". Awesome. I can sleep a little easier each night now.

— **Posted by ljfrolloff**
 on Tuesday at 2:37 p.m.

"Light duty" Have them sit at an intersection and give out tickets for right turn on red violators.

— **Posted by Davidh239**
 on Tuesday at 3:48 p.m.

Poll positions

One of the Daily News' latest polls is: "Was the two-day suspension the appropriate punishment for the Naples police officer caught using derogatory comments on camera?" Forty-five percent of readers said, "I don't care" while 20 percent said "It should have been more." Check out the rest of the responses and our other polls at naplesnews.com/polls

If You Go

What: Chubby Checker and Lou Christie • **Where:** Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts • **When:** March 2, 8 p.m. • **Cost:** \$59