

Meet CrossRoads...



Mike Gibbs (Vocals and 12-string guitar)

Mike's interest in music began in Junior high school. After trading in his trombone for a guitar, he took group lessons with his friend and later to become band mate Dudley Fetzner. For 8 weeks they learned the basic chords and then ventured out on their own to become self taught. They wouldn't play together again professionally until much later. Mike played his first performance for a talent show with band mate Ray Ramsey and also began writing songs for the group. It was after that night that he was forever bitten with the performance bug. Mike taught Ray how to play bass guitar. Mike and Ray performed in a folk group through High School and into College. At college they formed a Top 40/Pop band and produced their first record.

Eventually Mike and Ray parted, each looking for professional success. Ironically, their careers led them back to their hometown where Dudley was "impatiently" waiting and a year later, 1979, **CROSSROADS** was born. Mike, Ray and Dudley have enjoyed a 45 year history of making music.



Ray Ramsey (Vocals and Bass guitar)

Ray has been playing music since his early teens. After saving paper route money and buying a set of drums, Ray played drums in several neighborhood garage bands. One Saturday afternoon Ray rode the bus downtown to the local music store and, using more money earned from that same paper route, bought a used bass guitar. He hauled that old used bass back home, again riding the bus. He didn't know how to play it so he took lessons from his friend Mike Gibbs. In Junior High School Ray and Mike began a trio called "**WE THREE**" with another school friend. "**WE THREE**" played together throughout high school and even had a weekly show on the local radio station WKBV.

After high school, Ray and Mike were roommates their first year of college at Indiana University. They continued playing music together while at college and called their duo **MUZIK**. In 1973 they went into Counterpart Studios in Cincinnati, Ohio, and recorded a couple songs and released their first record. Ray transferred to Purdue in the fall of 1973 to finish his education, and Mike moved with his family to North Carolina.

After college, Ray moved out of state for a few years, but in 1978 he returned to his hometown. A year later, he looked up his friend and former partner, Mike Gibbs, who had also recently moved back home to Richmond, IN. They were ready to play music again, and after meeting up with Dudley Fetzner one afternoon, they formed **CROSSROADS ...**



Dudley Fetzter (Vocals and Rhythm guitar)

Dudley started his musical education at an early age taking accordion lessons. Deciding he didn't like the accordion, and because the family owned a Starr Piano (manufactured in Richmond, Indiana), Dudley began taking piano lessons. This adventure lasted only two weeks. After that there was a very short stint with the harmonica. Then there were the Junior High School lessons on the trumpet, which lasted his entire 7th grade year. One day in 1968 the Fetzter family was browsing through a department store in Indianapolis when this red electric guitar caught Dudley's eye. After much pleading with the family, Dudley walked out of the store as the proud owner of a brand new guitar. A couple weeks later the family was in New York City on summer vacation. While walking down one of the busy avenues, there in a pawn shop window sat a little amplifier that Dudley just had to have. So, after badgering his parents (who thought the guitar was just a passing faze) , they walked back and bought that amp. Well it must have been more than a faze, because now, 45 years later, Dudley still plays the guitar.

When Mike and Ray went searching for a car, they found childhood friend Dudley Fetzter. In the course of looking at cars, the conversation veered to their common interest: music! Not only did Dudley sell a car that day, he had also sold himself into a band. He thought they would get together and just have some fun. They called themselves **CROSSROADS**, and it became a lot more than just "fun". He realized just how serious things were when the group played their first gig. **CROSSROADS** was performing a song called DIG A LITTLE DEEPER IN THE WELL. When it was time to switch to the verse, Dudley continued to belt out the chorus – he just kept on digging! Ray and Mike just followed along! Dudley is a musical veteran having mastered the guitar and developed a unique vocal style that helps give **CROSSROADS** that great gospel harmony sound.

Dudley has played professionally for over 30 years beginning with **CROSSROADS**. After an almost 10 year run with **CROSSROADS**, Dudley helped start another band, **TRADE SECRETS**. In 1997 Dudley was asked to MC a jam session at a Farm Machinery Show. He asked a friend of his to help and the shaky beginnings of a new band was born. The following year the two performed again, and with the help of his friend's dad, **3's A CROWD** was formed. An opportunity to join the **TROJAN BAND** came in 2006. That lasted 4 years. In 2010, coming full circle, **CROSSROADS** reformed. Dudley looks forward to many more years of playing music with his friends as **CROSSROADS** entertains all on its musical journey.



Jim Thalls (Lead guitar)

As a teenager, Jim was growing up with a fascination of rock bands, and dreamt of learning to play the guitar. So with the first paycheck from his very first job burning a hole in his pocket, Jim ran to Sears and bought his first guitar and taught himself how to play it. He went on to play in a series of rock and roll bands (THEY and ALYBI) while all of the time perfecting his craft. Eventually growing bored, he was attracted by the strong layered vocals and innovative sound of **CROSSROADS** and knew that he could help give them a rock edge. Today Jim's hard driving leads and on stage antics are highlights of any **CROSSROADS** performance.



Jerry Feller (Keyboards, Background vocals)

Jerry is the oldest member of **CROSSROADS** in age, but the newest member to join the group. He was asked to fill a vacancy in **CROSSROADS** a couple years ago and has been with them ever since. He started performing musically in the glory days of folk music. Jerry plays guitar, bass, and piano (not all at once) and also arranges much of the music **CROSSROADS** performs. Jerry sings lead vocals along with six other members of the local St. Mary's church liturgical folk ensemble. He has been involved with these and other avenues of church music since the early 70's. You might see him jamming with area musicians doing rock and roll or sitting at the piano with his vocalist wife performing 40's music. His connection to country music came through Western Dance with his wife many years ago. Word has it that he enjoys being with the members of the group as much as doing the music. That feeling is mutual Jerry!



Terry Cruse (Drums, Background vocals)

Terry sprang from a musical family, but his true inspiration was drummer Don Brewer of Grand Funk Railroad. He started out like a lot of musicians, in school band. By the time he was in High School Terry was playing in Night Clubs regularly along with any other gig he could get. Terry would play anywhere, anytime. He played in numerous rock and roll bands, developing an aggressive, masterful flair.

In 1978 his first recording experience at Queen City Albums (QCA) in Cincinnati, Ohio leads to a spot on the WTUE Homegrown II album project. The band was **Sapphire Wine**; the song was "Blond Beauties". After that he was playing honky tonk house band gigs until some guys from across town invited him to hear a new band they were in. One of those guys was Jim Thalls and the band was **CROSSROADS**.

Terry was blown away and knew he wanted to be in this band. Although a rock and roll devotee, **CROSSROADS** attracted him with their versatility and the opportunity for Terry to display his "front man" style. We worked out the details and before he knew it we were doing recording sessions, opening for major artists, and winning contests.

In the mid eighties, with much regret Terry decided to leave the band to pursue other musical endeavors and at the top of his list was make a living in the music business full time. And that's what he did for the next ten years. Terry then took a job with a sound company that built their own equipment and did that for the next 8 years. The owner was friends with Keith Whitley and had done a lot of work with Bill Monroe and the Oak Ridge Boys to name a few. They always had a booth at the NAMM Shows (National Association of Music Merchants) so that gave Terry a chance to meet people well known in the business.

In the summer of 2012 I got an e-mail from Jim Thalls. He invited Terry over for a jam session with the old band **CROSSROADS**. So if you want to know what happened next, you will just have to come to one of our shows and see for yourself.