

## SHARON BUSHELL and JOHNNY B. BIOS.

Sharon Bushell and piano-man Johnny B. are definitely a dynamic duo. Their author-in-the-school/music assembly opens doors to reading and writing in innovative and exciting ways. Students are left with a “can do” attitude regarding the pleasures of reading and writing as well as their own unique areas of creativity.

Born and raised in Port Angeles, Washington, **Sharon Bushell** moved to Alaska in 1977. She has been a features writer and columnist for the Anchorage Daily News for many years. Bushell has received numerous awards for her writing, including the Pacific Northwest Excellence in Journalism Award. In 2003 she was honored with the Alaska Governor’s Award for the Arts and Humanities for compiling and editing first-person accounts of hundreds of Alaskan old-timers. The Trouble With Bernie has been selected for Alaska’s Battle of the Books program for 2005/2006. The Trouble With Bernie and Bernie Jones and the Blazing Bandits are listed on the national Accelerated Reader and Scholastic’s Reading Counts! programs.

In tandem with writing for adults, Bushell began a series of children’s stories whose characters are set in the 1950s. Produced with music and sound effects, the Bernie Jones stories have aired on public radio stations around the U.S.

**John Bushell aka Johnny B.**’s first experience performing music was in pre-school as a wood-sticks player. His first piano lesson came during his kindergarden year in 1957. His teacher, Mrs. Penhote, taught him to read music, accept all styles and not to stop when he made a mistake. He did his best to practice ‘a little bit each day.’ Johnny B. has taught many subjects in schools from kindergarden to college levels. He has a Masters in Education, certified librarian and certified gifted /talented teacher. He retired from teaching in Alaska in 2004 to pursue even more creative outlets.

Johnny B. has served as Master of Ceremony and entertainer for numerous events during the 80s, 90s and present.

In 2004, after sending their two children off to college, Sharon and Johnny B. took to the road from their home in Homer, Alaska. To date over 50,000 students have experienced The Bernie Jones Assembly. Listed on their website are the phone numbers of every school they have visited. Call them. Each staff member will tell you the same ... The Bernie Jones Assembly was loved by students and staff. From start to finish, every word, every gesture, every song had educational value. Plus it was fun!