

BIRMINGHAM BATCH

THESE DAYS IT SEEMS YOU can get anything delivered to you via mail. Monthly boxes of makeup, clothes, pet treats and more are all the rage. But Nashville-based company Batch twists the idea in favor of promoting a city's local artisans. Each box includes food, beverage and other items, locally made.

And in August, the company turns its focus to Birmingham for a special-edition Birmingham Batch. It's part of a six-part tour of the South, which began in April. The box will include five locally made goods with information about the people who made the items.

"We're using locally made goods to define a sense of place," co-founder and CEO Sam Davidson said in a press release. "Towns and cities are often defined by their food, unique goods and the businesses that produce them. Batch allows everyone to share in the varied tastes and identities of the South."

Request the Birmingham Batch (\$42) by July 31 at batch.is/tour, and learn more about other Batch boxes at batchnashville.com.

—CARLA JEAN WHITLEY



Counting Their Assets

HOW DOES A NINE-PERSON BAND reach its 25th anniversary without breaking up? It's quite an accomplishment and one few bands have accomplished; even the Beatles, one of the most influential and most popular bands ever, stuck together for only a decade.

Before Total Assets found their rock 'n' roll fame in Birmingham, they were ordinary suit-and-tie bankers who worked together under the same roof of SouthTrust Bank (now Wells Fargo), hence the name Total Assets. Their first performance was supposed to be their last – the nine collaborated to play eight songs for their employees at the bank's annual party. Their coworkers demanded they play their songs over and over, and over again.

"We had such a great time that night that I actually woke up the next morning depressed thinking that it was all over – it was a one-time event and that was the end of the band," says David Salter, the band's guitarist.

Twenty-five years later, Total Assets continues to perform classic hits from the 1950s through the 1980s, at corporate functions, weddings, charity events and private parties. They performed at Birmingham's now-defunct music festival, City Stages, and have played alongside big names such as The Drifters, The Temptations, Davy Jones and more.

"The cement that holds us together is

the crowd reaction," says drummer Vince DiChiara.

"It's a tremendous feeling to be up on stage and look down to see the audience tapping their feet and singing along, knowing that you're bringing happiness to people through your music," Salter says.

Total Assets is famous among its fans for catering to the crowd's desires with animated entertainment, professionalism, high energy and playing music their fans want to hear. It's no wonder why their fans are so loyal.

See what all the hype is about at the Total Assets 25th anniversary concert at Iron City Birmingham July 25 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available now at ironcitybham.com for \$12.50 in advance, and will cost \$15 on the day of the show.

—MORGAN TAYLOR

