

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society Preserving, Promoting & Performing America's Western Swing Music Since 1983 www.nwwsms.com PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

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Vol. 39 . Issue 4 NorthWest Western Swing Music Society Oct - Dec 2022

Preserving the music that is too country for Jazz and too jazz for Country

Highlights from the NWWSMS 30th Annual Western Swing Music Festival, Summer Music Camp & Hall of Fame Celebration

.... hosted at the Enumclaw Expo Center Field House

If you enjoy or have a passion for live, American roots music, dancing set in a warm, welcoming environment then this was one of the best local music festivals/music camps you could have attended in 2022! Of course, you had to be ready for a weekend full of discovering dance moves and musical licks you didn't know you had . . . along with the possibility of walking away with a bag full of new skills and a few new friends to boot!

The Board approached this year facing many challenges. Several of our members and guests still had serious concerns about gathering in public - indoors or outside. In addition, much to our surprise, our festival overlapped another event, limiting motel accommodations in Enumclaw as well as access to the campground. But, we decided to go



The front porch of the Field House was THE PLACE to gather over the weekend. Pictured above, the summer camp students and instructors run through their set list for Saturday's performance.

One of my favorite memories: While they were practicing 'Faded Love' on Thursday afternoon, Sherry McKenzie connected with Carolyn Wills (daughter of Bob Wills/head of the Bob Wills Foundation) through a video chat to share the moment with her!

forward and we were so glad we made that decision! As the weekend came to a close we realized we didn't want it to end! We would love to hear your story and share it (with your permission). Please email your NWWSMS festival experiences - whether from 2022 or earlier events - to jeanneyearian@yahoo.com. Of course, we couldn't have done it without the super-human efforts of our volunteers - you all were truly amazing. Let's do it again!

NWWSMS Annual Meeting Notice

The NWWSMS Annual Meeting will be held on the second Sunday in November (13th) at the Bothell Odd Fellows Hall, 10116 NE 185th, Bothell, WA 98011. Nominations and selections for officers and board members to serve in 2023 will be accepted at this time. The meeting time and agenda is posted on Page 4 of this Newsletter.

Reminder: You must be a member in good standing (dues paid) to participate, nominate & vote.

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

October-December 2022



Business Address PO Box 14003, MILL CREEK, WA 98082

A 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FORMED IN NOVEMBER 1983 BY A GROUP OF MUSICIANS AND ENTHUSIASTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING, PROMOTING & PERFORMING WESTERN SWING MUSIC.

2022 Officers and Board Members

President/Secretary: Jeanne Yearian 21221-174th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98058 Phone: 425-432-7888 (h); 206-271-2295 (c) Email: jeanneyearian@yahoo.com

<u>Treasurer</u>: Lori Hanson Phone: 425-750-3263 Email: <u>l.hanson@plcnw.org</u>

<u>Board Members</u>: Tony Bachler, Butch Gibson, Toby Hanson, Judy Hayes, Ramon Selby, Morey Sullivan

Annual Membership:

Full membership *(one couple at one address)*: \$25.00 Single membership: \$20.00

Visit us on the web at: www.nwwsms.com to read the newsletter in full color, JOIN the NWWSMS, RENEW your membership or DONATE.

Like us on FACEBOOK at NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

Contact the editor, jeanneyearian@yahoo.com, to receive our newsletter in your in-box.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase/Festival photos by Jeanne & Fred Yearian. & friends

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

President Jeanne Yearian called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Present by Verbal Role Call: Lori Hanson, Butch Gibson, Morey Sullivan

Excused: Tony Bachler, Judy Hayes, Toby Hanson

Absent: Ramon Selby Guests: Suze Spencer

President's Report: Jeanne Yearian reported the NWWSMS Showcases will be held at the Bothell Odd Fellows Hall beginning in October. We have the hall from 1 to 5 on the 2nd Sundays of the month. We are looking into an extension - opening the hall at noon and closing at 5:30 to allow more time for set up, a short board meeting and clean up. Since we have not had the opportunity to visit the hall, it has been suggested that October be considered a 'soft' start up, with a Board meeting, tour and jam (test the sound in the hall) with those who bring instruments! Once we have an idea what to expect, we can invite members and dancers to a full showcase on November 13. At the November showcase, the annual meeting and elections for 2023 will be held.

Treasurer's Report – Jeanne Yearian for Lori Hanson Jeanne Yearian reported the 09/20/22 balances after festival income was deposited. All outstanding checks have cleared. The combined total for both accounts is \$10,429.73. Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the report as submitted.

Submission of Bills/Vote to Pay: None.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter/Social Media: The next newsletter will be published at the end of September with the agenda and notice of the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Additions/Changes to website/Facebook: The website will be updated at the end of September.

Membership - Lori Hanson: No report given.

Showcase – Butch Gibson (Jeanne Yearian reporting for Butch)

Lady Luck Steakhouse, Tacoma: The staff at the Lady Luck Steakhouse have been gracious hosts. The \$400 donation to the NWWSMS was greatly appreciated. We are booked again on the FIRST Sundays in December. <u>Butch Gibson and Pardners</u> will host the holiday showcase in December.

Odd Fellows Hall, Bothell: The Lodge is not charging us as long as we clean up after ourselves; however, we will have a donation jar at the entrance to the hall to donate back to the Lodge. Our Society will still raise money through Split-the-Pot and other fundraisers. We will have use of an industrial kitchen. People can bring in their own food and beverages, including alcohol. We have more space available. We would like to consider holding a workshop or two during the showcases in the future. This did happen back when the Society was young. Combining the festival and summer music camp follows that tradition. It might be the time to add teaching back into the monthly program.

Sunshine – Jeanne Yearian & Lori Hanson: No report given.

King County Fair Update – Jeanne Yearian: No report at this time.

2023 Western Swing Festival – Jeanne Yearian We are looking for a new venue for 2023. Lori Hanson will form a search committee at the October meeting. The Board agreed that the month of August was preferred, especially for summer camp students of all ages.

Scholarship/Work Shop Committee Report – Suze Spencer reported she is still receiving great feedback from the summer camp students and instructors. If we would like to invite The Western Flyers back in 2024, we need to decide as soon as possible to book the dates.

Unfinished Business: 2023 Venue location for Annual Festival and Summer Music Camp. The Field House is no longer an option due to significant price increases (Saturdays now rent for \$4,500) and availability. The Board will look over options and decide how to proceed. Lori Hanson will form a search committee at the October meeting. Jeanne Yearian has distributed to the Board check lists of things to consider when visiting an event venue.

New Business: Problem: a shortage of local western swing bands and teachers in the Society to support the monthly showcases. Proposal to be discussed: A slight shift in the monthly showcase format to include more bands and teaching opportunities. The monthly showcases will be held to promote live music, couple dancing and fundraising. The preferred music would still be western swing but traditional country and pop would also be welcome. The money would be used to help finance an annual western swing music festival/ music camp where we would bring in western swing entertainers and teachers from around the country.

The Board will look into the possibility of finding sponsors as well as a (501)c3 western swing partner to develop a western swing hall of fame/festival/ music camp event.

Good of the Order:

Lori Hanson is settling into her 'transition' housing with her 3 cats.

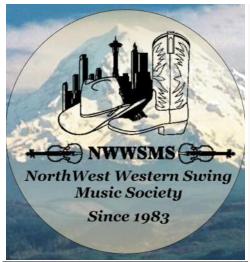
Randy 'Tex' Hill and the Oregon Valley Boys have asked to be placed on the festival schedule for 2023.

The next meeting will be held at the Bothell Odd Fellows Lodge (10116 NE 185th, Bothell, WA 98011) on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 1:00 PM PST. Lori Hanson will send out the Zoom link.

Motion passed to adjourn at 5:18 PM. Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

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NorthWest Western Swing Music Society



Around the NorthWest Support Live, Local Music

For regular appearances at a particular venue to be included in the newsletter, contact the editor. Contact information for a member band is always welcome.

Steel Country. For bookings or schedule updates call Duane at (425) 870-7311 or Pat at (425) 745-3798.

Mike Faast and Jangles. For information on upcoming play dates, check his website at: <u>www.mikefaastmusic.com</u>

Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners. Dance Hall Music by The Sundowners. Visit their website for information on additional play dates: www.thesundownersband.com

JC McCormick & the Cherokee Band. For booking information or a schedule of upcoming play dates, call JC at: 253-268-2314.

The Lady Luck Steakhouse (pictured below)

Whether it's Breakfast, Lunch. or Dinner, we here at Lady Luck Steakhouse pride ourselves in our homemade menu items.

Using high quality ingredients, we hand make everything from our 9oz fresh ground chuck burger patties, Hand cut Rib-eyes Steaks, Freshly Cooked Prime-Rib, Hand Breaded Coconut Chicken Strips, Hand-cut Tortilla and Cowchips, to our handmade Breakfast Sausage Patties, Hand-Cut Pork Steaks, Fresh Cut Fruit, Daily Scratch Soups, and much, much more!



The NWWSMS has been invited to hold one more showcase at the Lady Luck Steakhouse in Tacoma, WA. It will be held on the FIRST Sunday in December. The music will begin at 4 PM and continue until 8 PM.

NWWSMS Showcase at the Lady Luck Steakhouse 14114 Pacific Ave S, Tacoma, WA 1 (253) 538-4996

Sunday, December 4 4 PM to 8 PM

Need a holiday boost? No one can share their joy of the holidays through music like <u>*Butch Gibson & Pardners*</u>

NOVEMBER 13, 2022

2nd Sunday Western Swing Showcase/Jam Where: Bothell Odd Fellows Lodge, 10116 NE 185th, Bothell, WA 98011 When: The Second Sunday of the Month, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm

> -Please bring your own snacks and drinks-Hosted by members of the NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: (To use PayPal or your credit card go to our website or click on this link:) Become a member, renew or donate on-line or by mail. Mail your check to: <u>NWWSMS, PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082</u>.

Pay Online

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NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

October-December 2022



President's Corner -

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, Article IV from the NWWSMS By-Laws has been included below. Please note that the

terms of office are the minimum required. There has been no limit to the number of successive terms an Officer may serve. We are looking forward to welcoming new officers as well as new Board members in January! See you soon!

ARTICLE IV

TRUSTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. These shall be the PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER and FIVE TRUSTEES.

Section 2. These Officers and Trustees shall be elected by the VOTING MEMBERSHIP at the *ELECTION MEETING* to be held in November of each year with installation to be in January.

Section 3. The term of office of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be one (1) year. The term of office of the Board of Trustees shall be one (1) year.

Section 4. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS:

1. President: The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation, and subject to the control of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES, The President shall supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the corporation. The President shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the members of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES. The President may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the corporation authorize by the Board of Trustees, papers, except in cases where signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the BOARD OF TRUSTEES, or by these By-Laws to some other officer or agent of the corporation, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and in general, the President shall perform all duties incidental to the office of the President and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the membership or by the Board of Trustees. The President shall ensure that a qualified attorney is available to the corporation for consultation in all legal matters. This attorney shall be an ADVISORY MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

2. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall act for the President in his/her absence and perform such other acts as the President may direct. 3. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the organization and serve as

Meeting Agenda

for the NWWSMS Annual Meeting Sunday, October 9, 2022, 2:00 pm at the Bothell Odd Fellows Hall 10116 NE 185th, Bothell, WA 98011

 Nominations and Selection for the 2022 Board of Directors

Club's Future Direction

secretary of the Executive Board and keep minutes of its meetings. The Secretary shall give to the members whatever notices may be required by these By- laws, orders of the President, or the Executive Board, and carry on any other correspondence at the direction of the Executive Board.

4. **Treasurer**: The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of the organization, and as such shall receive all monies and disburse funds only upon sanction of the Executive Board or the Membership. The Treasurer shall submit a monthly report at each meeting and make a full, written audited report at the annual meeting of all receipts and disbursements during the preceding year. The Treasurer shall submit the books for auditing. The audit report may be made no later than 30 days following the Annual Meeting. The audit committee shall be responsible for corporate records and Corporate filing as required by **State Law**.



Western Swing Forum Keep your letters and e-mails coming!

(Editor's note: Red's performance with the Inductee Band was one of the Festival highlights. We hope to have a video soon!)

Jeanne,

Yes, absolutely, you can include my version of "Sweet Georgia Brown" in your video.

If you will indulge me, a little history on my whistling and playing my horn on the tune, "Sweet Georgia Brown."



In October of 1977,

President Jimmy Carter had a party on the back lawn of the White House for 800 Georgia folks that worked to get him elected President. I was leading the Army Blues 5-piece Combo on a portable stage that was set up for us on the lawn.

It was well-known that President Carter's favorite song was the Georgia State Song "Georgia On My Mind" as performed by Ray Charles, which, of course we played several times during the evening.

About half-way through the party, a few black Georgians approached the stage and said they, too, liked "Georgia On My Mind," but could we please play something for the Black Contingent from Georgia.

My piano player suggested "Sweet Georgia Brown." They said that would be great and so I whistled and played the tune and they loved it. Moments later President Carter got up on the stage and asked if we'd perform it one more time. We did, and I performed "Sweet Georgia Brown" dozens of times since then. It was one of Bob Dolle's favorite things to perform with me.

Thank you for making the NWWSMS such a wonderful experience for Marilyn and me.

All the very Best, Red Arwood, Gallatin, Tennessee Dear Jeanne.

I hope you can connect me with a person who manages "Lost & Found" items. I am missing the power supply for my *Line 6 Remote Guitar Pickup* system. I believe I forgot and left it plugged into a power strip on the stage in Enumclaw after my set. It was plugged into the power strip on the floor, in front of the riser that held the drum kit. I used your Fishman Amplifier, and my remote pickup was plugged in right below where your amp was resting.

Thank you again for the wonderful 2022 festival you hosted. It was extraordinarily excellent!

Best wishes, Grace Clark & Swingitude

Reprinted from The Dallas Morning News, 5:55 AM on Sep 23, 2022 CDT

Dallas' Longhorn Ballroom, from Bob Wills to the Sex Pistols, a history worth saving

If City Council OKs \$4 million in financial incentives, this legendary honkytonk is back in business.

By Sharon Grigsby



Edwin Cabaniss in front of one of the entrances to the historic Longhorn Ballroom, which is just southwest of downtown Dallas and the Cedars neighborhood. (Liesbeth Powers / Staff Photographer)

My earliest memories are of how much my parents loved to dance. They twirled on the tailgate of Dad's truck astride a low water crossing. They waltzed on our kitchen's mint-green linoleum as supper sat unfinished. Best of all, they brought back to us kids in Waco the magical stories of Dewey Groom's Longhorn Ballroom.

We didn't have much back then, but Keith and Bette Grigsby always found money in the budget for a quick road trip to a worn-slick dance floor Dad swore was as big as Big D.

Sometimes they made the drive just to two-step to the house band's Western swing. More often, it was for Ray Price, Marty Robbins, Loretta Lynn or George Jones. For country and western royalty, the Longhorn Ballroom was their palace and owner-manager Dewey Groom presided over the kingdom. Indeed, the roots of my raising run deep in this historic Dallas honkytonk, where I eventually spent my own boot-scootin' nights as Merle Haggard or George Strait commanded the bandstand.

Many decades after those memories were made, the dance hall's giant fiberglass longhorn still keeps watch on the intersection where Riverfront Boulevard dead-ends into Corinth Street, just southwest of downtown and the Cedars neighborhood.

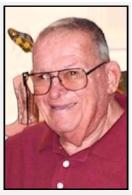
But the Longhorn Ballroom sits stripped and abandoned, lit up only by the dusting of broken glass across its parking lots. This home to legends is found not in concert listings but on Preservation Dallas' "most endangered places" list.

The venue's musical heartbeat can quickly be revived if on Wednesday the Dallas City Council will approve about \$4 million in financial incentives — the final piece in Kessler Theater owner Edwin Cabaniss' \$14 million restoration and reopening plan.

Play It Again!! (Part 3)

By Dick Heil

Texas Jim Lewis used to claim that he got out of bead at "the crack of noon!" So, it was no surprise at 4 AM to receive one of Jim's calls. He was appearing at "The Golden Apple" Club at 9061st in Seattle and was putting together a new band for the 1962 Seattle



Dick Heil NWWSMS Co-Founder

World's Fair. He wanted me along with Lee and Judy Knight to be in it. Jack Rivers came back from Tucson, AZ, and Neville "Pappy" Carter stayed on drums.

After the Fair, we stayed until 1963, when things changed and I joined Ray Taylor's trio at the Lynnwood Tavern and went to KMO radio as a 3 AM to 6 AM country disc-jockey (another Jack Rivers' enterprise). Then, I replaced Buck Owens as the 1 AM to 6 AM DJ on KAYE in Puyallup, WA. Then it was back to The Circle Tavern with Butch Paulson's trio. Butch and I moved from drums to guitar on each set and fronted the band. Next, I worked for Boeing as an industrial engineer until the big 1970 layoffs. At that time I helped Don Berkshire put his band together, "The Bootleggers."

I might add here that I formed my first band, "The Barnstormers" at Bellevue High School in 1950 and kept it going besides working in other NW bands (about 30 at last count). I did western swing, jazz, pop, square dance and solo accordion and piano gigs too. I've lost count of all the people and places I worked or sat in but I learned something from each one of them, even if it was what <u>not</u> to do.

At this point I must explain that my many varied gigs have produced interesting and sometimes funny moments. Quickly trying to remember forgotten words while singing a song has gotten many of us in a pickle and I'm here to tell you there is no "Heartache #4" in Ray Price's "Heartaches by the Number." However, watching all 385 pounds of Bill Garner laugh so hard he couldn't play for 16 or 17 bars and to see most of the dancers wonder what happened to Bill was worth it to Norm Shaffer and myself. And, no, I can't tell you my ad-libbed attempt at substitute lyrics. (This is a wholesome, family-oriented publication you know.) Brace yourselves...I'll be back!!!

Just a reminder . . . and a link for more information





Come Join The Fun At The Western Swing Society's 41th Annual wiesttern swing HALL of FAME MUSIC FESTIVAL Dinner Dance W/ Bob Woods Sept. 30, 2022 HOF Oct., 1 & 2, 2022 Machinists' Hall, Rancho Cordova, California \$10 a day Saturday and Sunday THIREE DAYS OF DANCING AND LISTENING FUN A Dozen Great Western Swing Bands Daily Jam Sessions For Listening and Dancing Hall of Fame Inductions on Sunday, October 2th

On-Site Beverages and Food Available Hotels In The Area

HOTELS IN THE AREA

La Quinta: 11131 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, (916) 638-1111 Holiday Inu: 11269 Point E. Drive, Rancho Cordova, (916) 635-4040 Doubletwe Suites by Hilton Hotels: 11260 Point E. Drive, Rancho Cordova, (916) 638-4141 Merriott: 11211 Point E. Drive, Rancho Cordova, (916) 638-1100 The following was reprinted from the Center for Sacramento History

Multi-instrumentalist and bandleader Loyd Jones (pictured below) moved to Sacramento in 1949 and

became a kingpin in our area's western swing music scene. Here, he's seen in 1950 playing with his band at Wills' Point out on Auburn Boulevard in one of the only photos we have of the iconic joint, and unfortunately a blurry one. Wills' Point's was owned by Bob Wills, the king of western swing himself. Its house band was led by Bob's brother Billy Jack Wills, and Jones played in the house band for a time



Loyd Jones, co-founder of the Western Swing Society, Sacramento, CA

before starting his own group. He played with Billy Jack Wills again on Wills' weekly KCRA TV show from 1958 to 1959. Jones continued to play regularly with his band until a few years before his death in 2009 at his Rio Linda home.



Loyd Jones and his band playing at Wills Point. We believe Charlie Hull (holding his clarinet) is standing next to Loyd.

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society





Our heartfelt congratulations to all of the WSS Inductees from your western swing family in the Great Pacific Northwest.

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NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

October-December 2022

2022 NorthWest Western Swing Music Society (NWWSMS)

Dedicated to preserving, promoting and performing America's Western Swing Music

The Covid shut-down has given us the opportunity to reevaluate the goals and objectives of the NWWSMS. Help us understand what is important to you . . . what makes membership in the NWWSMS valuable. To begin, please rank the following in order of importance. Once you've completed the survey, mail, email or hand it in to a member of the Board by the end of the November 13 showcase. (Extra surveys will be available at the October & November showcases.)

Please rate the following events from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important) on their value to you as a member of the NWWSMS:

Are you a voting member (dues paid) of the NWWSMS for 2022?	Yes	No
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 Monthly showcases featuring local bands playing a variety of dance music including <u>Western Swing</u> for couple dancing.
 Monthly showcases with a blend of western swing workshops and local bands playing a variety of dance music.
 Monthly showcases to help raise money to finance an annual Northwest Western Swing Music Festival and summer music camp.
 Only host quarterly events to help raise money to finance an annual Northwest Western Swing Music Festival and summer music camp.
 Host an annual Northwest Western Swing Music Festival and summer music camp.
 Provide scholarships to music students interested in playing western swing.
Did we miss something? Write it below.

Thank you for participating!

NWWSMS Application for Membership

Date Rec'd:	Rec'd by:			
NAME:				
ADDRESS:	INDIVIDUAL, \$20.00 COUPLE, \$25.00			
CITY:	PERFORMER 🔲 VOCALIST 🗔 BAND LEADER 🗌			
STATE / ZIP:	BAND:			
PHONE:	INSTRUMENT(S):			
E-MAIL:				
☐ I have enclosed an additional \$ donation to the NWWSMS workshop/scholarship fund				
WESTERN SWING	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NESTERN SWING MILL CREEK WA 98082 MILL CREEK WA 9808 MILL C			
PO Box 14003 MILL CREEK WA 98082 Will CREEK WA 98082	 □ Use the E-mail provided above to send newsletters and other NWWSMS news □ Please have someone send me a paper newsletter 			
WILL CREEK WASSOUR				
(Note: the NWWSMS does not mail out paper newsletters)				
S TOAL	□ I'd be happy to print and mail extra newsletters to those without e-mail access			
	Please DO NOT include me in the Membership Roster.			
Visit us on the web at: <u>www.nwwsms.com</u>	THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.			

Photo Highlights from the 2022 August festival

Come by and let us overwhelm you with hospitality and the sounds of Western Swing music . . . made in America!













Hope to see everyone in November! Save a smile for the camera!

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NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

October-December 2022



Paul Anastasio

fiddler Jason Roberts, will be performing both nights.

There's also a fiddle contest, a swing fiddle contest, live bands performing outside, lotsa jamming and more. You can look up Bob Wills Fiddle Festival and Contest on YouTube for more information or click on the poster to the right to go to their website.

The Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing festival (birthplaceofwesternswing.com) in Fort Worth promises to be great fun. This year's festival, to be held from November 11th through the 13th, is sold out, but it promises to be an annual event. Mike Markwardt, the head honcho, has put together a terrific two-hour video, entitled The Birth and History of Western Swing, which will be shown in its entirety at the festival. You can see a three-minute trailer at the website. The Texas Playboys, the Quebe Sisters, Billy Mata and many other bands will be performing.

I'm going to be presenting a short talk at the event about the many great western swing fiddlers I was privileged to meet and play with — Johnny Gimble, Cliff Bruner, Joe Holley, etc., etc. I aim to tell some funny stories about these guys and show some of their video clips. Maybe I'll be able to show the talk at one of your western swing events. Time will tell...

Adios from the sunny south! I miss you guys! -Paul

Paul Anastasio here, reporting from Louisiana.

One good thing about living in Louisiana is that several Texas fiddle contests and western swing events are just a day's drive away. Llano, Hallettsville and Athens are all excellent contests.

One event, the Bob Wills Fiddle Festival and Contest, will be taking place this November 4th and 5th in Greenville, Texas, about 50 miles east of Dallas. The Texas Playboys, under the direction of



- LEE ROY PARNELL
- THE BOB WILLS' TEXAS PLAYBOYS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JASON ROBERTS
- BRENNEN LEIGH



NorthWest Western Swing Music Society



MESSAGE FROM JOHN JONES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN SWING MUSIC SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHWEST

Despite the heat and high gas prices, our most recent two showcases in Springfield, MO and Lawton, OK were largely successful. As expected, the attendance was down approximately 20% from last year at each location....

. . . As in the past, WSMSS will again be down to five (5) showcases, which will give us more time to prepare for the Hall of Fame showcase in Lawton, OK in July. Our Hall of Fame showcase and induction ceremony in Lawton, OK (July 14-16) was a major success, and the Comanche County Fairgrounds Coliseum continues to be a great venue. There was plenty of seating, a large dance area, two jams rooms, and a large staging area for music equipment. I want to extend a special thank you to our new directors, Jerry and Sandy Harper, who did an excellent job! The Hall of Fame ceremony itself was opened and highlighted once again, by the Buffalo Soldiers Lawton-Fort Sill Chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry, with the presentation of the flags. WSMSS vice president, John Steele, then gave an excellent performance of our national anthem! For the second year in a row, emcee duties were performed admirably by longtime friend, WSMSS Hall of Fame inductee (2017) J.D. Barham. He did an excellent job, and also fronted a band both Friday and Saturday, J.D. put on an excellent and entertaining performance on both nights! Mrs. Lucy Dean Record was back onstage to provide our background music during the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and she did a wonderful job! As always, we were all very honored by her presence and her music!

In addition, I want to thank everyone who worked behind the scenes to help make this a successful event!... There were also numerous volunteers, who helped with various tasks throughout the weekend. I cannot remember all of your names, but your help was truly appreciated! As usual, we had a very deserving group of inductees this year, and we are honored to welcome them into our WSMSS Hall of Fame. All of the bands were excellent, and we really appreciate their strong support. As in the past, the folks in Lawton were extremely welcoming and supportive of WSMSS, with the CVB (Lawton Fort Sill Convention and Visitors Bureau) providing a very substantial sponsorship. In addition, all the staff members at the Comanche County Fairgrounds worked very hard to ensure everything went off without a hitch. We very much appreciate all their efforts!



Follow the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest at <u>www.wsmss.com</u>

or on Facebook at: <u>Western Swing Music Society</u> of the Southwest

(Continued from Page 5, Longhorn Ballroom renovation update . . .)

... Originally called the Bob Wills Ranch House, this joint opened in 1950 to showcase the legendary Western swing artist and His Texas Playboys. On at least one occasion, Wills rode his favorite horse, Punkin, onstage as the band played on.

Country and western ruled on Fridays and Saturdays. But the Longhorn also tried things deemed progressive in those pre-civil rights days when Black people were prohibited from many local entertainment spots. Soul and blues were spotlighted on Sundays and Mondays to the delight of the mostly Black crowds. Plus, big-name Black artists performed in front of integrated Longhorn audiences, including Nat King Cole in 1954 and Ray Charles in 1959.

Jack Ruby was the Longhorn manager who first booked soul and jazz, a tradition carried on after he left to run the Carousel Club. Yes, the same guy who in 1963 killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

The list of Longhorn performers is a playlist of diversity: Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings, Selena and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, James Brown, Al Green and Otis Redding, Charley Pride, Conway Twitty and Tammy Wynette.

The Longhorn's fame went international after one of the Sex Pistols' few U.S. performances dissolved into chaos when a fan headbutted Sid Vicious and the punk rocker played on as blood streamed down his chest.



The Sex Pistols at the Longhorn Ballroom in Dallas in January 1978. (Richard E. Aaron / Redferns)

Tickets that night were \$3.50 and Groom was quoted as saying during the melee, "There's not a regular in there."

.... A fifth-generation Texan, Cabaniss knows these stories by heart and he can't help trying to preserve what he believes is the most historic music venue in the state.

... Cabaniss is well down the road to getting the Longhorn listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a good sign of his commitment to its preservation. The <u>100-page plus</u> <u>application</u>, which is a fascinating read, requires state and federal approval. The Texas Board of Review unanimously approved the nomination earlier this month.

... Cabaniss gets it. "It was a legend for much of its first 75 years and I want it to live on another 75, long beyond me."

