



Booklet by Beryl Shawley — With harassment by Ray



Founded in 1983

**SEATTLE WESTERN
SWING MUSIC
SOCIETY**

**18TH ANNUAL
PIONEERS OF WESTERN
SWING FESTIVAL**

2008 INDUCTEES

Celebrating Our 25th Year



2008 Seattle Western Swing Music Society Officers

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**A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FORMED IN NOVEMBER 1983 BY
A GROUP OF MUSICIANS AND ENTHUSIASTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
PRESERVING, PROMOTING & PERFORMING WESTERN SWING MUSIC**

Annual Membership: \$15.00 Single, \$20.00 Couple Newsletter Only: 10.00

Business Address: PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

Web-Site Address: www.seattlwesternswingmusicsociety.com

WELCOME

Dear Friends and Western Swing Fans:

Welcome to the 18th annual Seattle Western Swing Music Society Hall of Fame induction ceremony for our 2008 Pioneers of Western Swing. This annual ceremony is our way of recognizing those musicians whom we feel have made an outstanding contribution to Western Swing Music and to other worthy individuals who have helped promote and preserve Western Swing music.

We thank you for coming and appreciate your support in our efforts to preserve and perpetuate this very special music form. It is our privilege to carry on this legacy handed down to us through the years by giants in the music business which are too numerous to list here.

Sincerely,

M. Lou Bischoff, President
Seattle Western Swing Music Society

POWS HONOR ROLL

What Is Western Swing Music

In 1934, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Bob Wills organized his band from musicians that performed mostly country music. He then added horns and drums to the mix. They took the big band sound, added fiddles and guitars to it, and developed a style of music called Western Swing. As Truitt Cunningham will tell you, "Western Swing is the first cousin to Dixieland Jazz, second cousin to Big Band Swing, third cousin to Blues and fourth cousin to Country with a little Mexican music mixed in . . . so there is a little something everyone will enjoy".

About the Seattle Western Swing Music Society

The Seattle Western Swing Music Society was formed in November 1983 by Western Swing Music enthusiasts who were concerned that this form of music was in danger of "dying out," as the older performers were one by one passing on, and that there were no young players to take their place. Thus was born the Seattle Chapter of the Western Swing Society, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to Preserve, Promote and Perform Western Swing Music. Monies generated by the club strictly pay for operating expenses and donations to deserving charities. A scholarship program has been established and this year two promising young players were awarded tuition to music camps. Each member of the Society pays yearly dues of \$15.00 per person, \$20.00 per couple. A monthly newsletter is sent to members apprising them of the state of the Society, upcoming local and national functions, etc.

- 2002** – Gerry Adamus, Vic Ashmead, Wanda J Blevins, Roy Lee Brown, Robert Burton, Dugg Collins, Bill Dessens, Don Gillespie, Mike Gross, Kelli Grant, Tommy Howser, Cliff Mitchell, Joe Mitchell, Tom Morrell, Charlie Mudford, Alton Simpson, Norm Stephens, Roy Warmack, JimmyWebb.
- 2003** – Bill Adams, David Allen, Paul Anastasio, James 'Deacon' Anderson, Jimmy L Burrell, Clarence Buell Cagle, John 'Dusty' Carroll, George Cecil, Carolyn Coker, Sandy Coker, Roy Ferguson, Jack Hutchinson, Bob Kelly, Harlan Kubos, Mel LaBoyne, David Menefee, Jim Nelson, Tommy Thomsen, Les Wamboldt, Lynn Ward, W. K. 'Pee Wee' Whitewing.
- 2004** – Vernon Carson, Buddy Ferguson, Jim Grabowske, Harold Hubbard, Evan Kemp, Lucky Lee Leise, K. C. Don Maddox, Obie Noonkester, 'Speedy' Price, 'Shorty Joe' Quartuccio, Dick 'Sandy' Sanderson, Ted Scanlon, Chuck Smith, Morey Sullivan, George Uptmor, Jr., Jack Wohl, Jimmy Young, Curtice Williams.
- 2005** – Darrell Anderson, Roy Ayres, Lou Bischoff, Don Burnham, Gene Carter, Phil Cavin, Marian Hall, Earl Hill, Lloyd Hooper, Charlie Hull, Darrell Dean Klein, Lee Loyd, Jim Neel, Candy Noe, B i l l O'Connor, Bert Rivera, Jimmy Rivers, Jr., Harold 'Pete' Scholz, Cubby Slayton, J. D. Walters, Kenny Williamson.
- 2006** – L. C. Agnew, Dave Alexander, Mike Bennett, LeRoy 'Sonny' Brigge, Larry Broad, Judy Collender, Mark Dessens, Bill Enyeart, Wayne Glasson, Pat Goodbla, Dave Holter, 'Big Ed' Kaestner, Telia Summy-Lewis, Patty McConnell, Jody Meredith, Ray Price, Dean Rankin, Lou Rochelle, Jim (Snyder) Schneider, Smokey Silver, Dean Simmons, Les Tucker, Chuck Woods.
- 2007** – Chet Calcote, Bill Compton, Jimmy Cox, Patrick Gore, Bud Harger, Steve Hathaway, Fred King, Herman Johnson, Jim Johnson, Larry Lange, Travis McCann, Gloria Miers, Stan Remick, Tom Rose, W. A. 'Tommy' Thornton, H. 'Buck' Wacker.
- 2008** – Bill Anderson, Joe Baker, Brownie Brown, Leo Buchholz, Bill Cornett, Huck Fields, Bill Gates, Bobby Giasson, Jim Gough, Tony Grasso, Mike Greenwood, Howard Higgins, Joe Holley, Len Knutson, Del Puschert, Frankie Rodgers, Hank, Rodgers, Carol Rose.

POWS HONOR ROLL

1996 – Gene Albright, Stogy Buckhorn, Bob Cobb, Bob Dunn, Jerry Emery, Pat Gerow, Dave ‘Pappy’ Hamel, Dick Heil, Gary Howe, Johnny Jansen, Buck Wayne Johnston, Rose Maddox, Sam Necochea, Bill Pray, Bobby Reeves, Glen ‘Blub’ Rhees, Jelly Sanders, Glen Tarver, Elmer Tippe, Tommy Turman, Cindy Walker, Dale Wilson.

1997 – John Barwis, Clarence Boyd, Bill Brooker, Tommy Duncan, Earl Finley, Bill Garner, Bobby Gilstrap, Ray Jensen, Curly Lewis, Kenny Lowrey, Bobby MacAvoy, Dick McComb, Charlie Moore, Joaquin Murphey, Bill Philley, Wade Ray, Jimmy Rivers, Jim Sanderson, Myron Sautter, Norm Shaffer, Bobby Wynne, Jack Wyse.

1998 – Troy Burgin, Carolina Cotton, Roy Cowan, Cleo Gilstrap, Rocky Gregg, Ted Kiger, Bob Kley, Judy Klotzer, Judy Knight, Lee Knight, Eddie McAlvain, Gene Ochitwa, Jack Osborn, Stan Peters, Bernie Rogers, Boyd Rogers, Bob Rosenquist, Burr Sanders, Al ‘Smokey’ Stutzke, Wayne Thomas, Jimmy Wyble.

1999 – Lisa Barrett, Lafe Henry ‘Curly’ Booth, Albert E. Brumley Sr, Billy Champion, James Champion, Joe Champion, Ken Carter, Harry Lee Coffman, Bobby Dixon, Darrell Downing, Bob Dolle, Bill Gilbert, Chuck Hayes, Odis James, Perry Jones, Benny Kubiak, John Parker, Chuck Robins, Stan Schroeder, Dale Starcher, Elmer Whittle.

2000 – Hank Ballard, Jack Engel, Marty Engel, Evelyn Horner, Bud Isaaces, Geri Isaaces, Joe Knight, Don Lacey, Don Lewis, Irv Mayhew, Al (Misty) Moorman, Bob Onstott, Ken ‘Shorty’ Reeves, G. H. ‘Rod’ Rodriguez, Phil Schwendt, Joe Settlemires, Bob Smoot, Roy J. Stane, Harrell J. Tervooren, Wilber (Web) Tipton, Steve Vaughn, Johnny Wakely.

2001 – Tony Arana, Gary Bloxsom, Bob Boatright, Gary Bryant, Dwight Cook, Sammy Daulong, Keith Holter, Dave Karr, LeRoy King, Billy McBay, Charlie McBay, Bobby McBay, Billy Mize, ‘Barney Paul’ Northcut, Johnny Patterson, Arthur ‘Ray’ Poe, Buddy Ray, Jay Riley, Ray Shawley, Dennis Slaght, Travis Smith, Dayna Wills, Buddy Wilson.

*IN DEDICATION TO THE MANY WESTERN
SWING MUSICIANS AND FANS WHO HAVE
PASSED ON DURING THIS LAST YEAR.*

THEY WILL BE MISSED.

*Remembrances may be made to the
SWSMS Music Scholarship Fund.*



What Is POWS

Originally formed in November 1983, the Seattle Western Swing Music Society's first annual gala to honor early Western Swing performers was held in 1991. Now in its 18th year, the Music Festival and Ceremony continues to recognize deserving past and present performers and supporters as "Pioneers of Western Swing."

POWS HONOR ROLL

- 1991** – Les ‘Carrot Top’ Anderson, Bill Boyd, Jim Boyd, Marty Dahlgren, Burt Dudder, Frank Elder, Texas Jim Lewis, Marvin ‘Smokey’ Montgomery, Rocky Rauch, The Rowe Brothers Band, Bob Wills.
- 1992** – Billy Armstrong, Jesse Ashlock, Don Berkshire, Truitt Cunningham, Johnny CuvIELLO, Bud Duncan, Glynn Duncan, Loyd Jones, Bobby Koefler, The McKinney Sisters, Tiny Moore, Cotton Roberts, Vance Terry, Billy Jack Wills, Johnny Lee Wills.
- 1993** – Joe Avants, Jimmy Benjamin, Spade Cooley, Larry ‘Pedro’ DePaul, Johnny Gimble, Ronnie Hutchinson, Norman Phelps, Willie Phelps, Ray Robinson, Smokey Rogers, Andrew ‘Cactus’ Soldi, Floyd Tillman, Ivan Wood, Jimmy Thomason, R. T. ‘Windy’ Wood.
- 1994** – Dick Barrett, Lonnie Bell, Ted Daffan, Slim Dossey, Paul Harper, Moon Mullican, Leon Rausch, Herb Remington, Buck Ritchey, Jimmy Wakely, Bob White (steel guitar), Tex Williams, Luke Wills.
- 1995** – Shelly Lee Alley, Shelly Lee Alley, Jr., Sid Barnes, Bus Boyk, Billy Briggs, Clyde Brewer, Cliff Bruner, Skeeter Elkin, Red Gillean, Harley Hess, Adolph Hofner, Emil ‘Bash’ Hofner, Hank Penny, Tommy Perkins, Leon ‘Pappy’ Selph, Eldon Shamblin, Hank Thompson.



Carol Rose is a true pioneer in the Western Swing music field. In her 39 years of performing, she has accomplished many of her goals by hard work and determination.

Born in 1943, the youngest of 12 siblings to James and Erabelle Johnson, in a small coal mining town in Oak Creek, Colorado, she learned how to make the best of what she had. As a single Mom, and not wanting her four boys to lack for anything, she threw herself into full time music as a way of

making a living at something she really loved. This decision propelled her into many areas of the music field, from singing, playing the guitar and adding piano and song writing and producing.

Carol moved to Las Vegas and was hired by clubs such as Sams Town, Silver Dollar, Maxim, Swankys, Barbary Coast, and the Golden Nugget. She worked alongside some well know groups such as the Ink Spots and others. She performed as Patsy Cline in two full production shows and was part of the group that created the idea to start the Legends in Concert that still tour around the country.

On the production side of music, Carol has produced two of her three albums and owns Misty Records. This success was gained by the experience of doing sound for performers and working with well known artists such as Charlie Straight of the Light Crust Dough Boys and Gary Lemaster, who was a member of the Sons of the Pioneers for 15 years.

Carol is currently working in Yuma, AZ, performing at Micky B's for the "snow birds." Many of the Pioneers of Western Swing go to Yuma in the winter and have expressed their appreciation of her talent and have enjoyed working with her. As Carol has said on many occasions, "working with the greatest musicians like Red Gillean, Bud Duncan, David Menefee, Charlie Mudford and too many more to mention, has brought back good memories of the big band era." She never lets one day go by without promoting or performing the never dying "Western Swing Music" that is in her heart.

CAROL ROSE

2008 P.O.W.S. INDUCTEES

BILL ANDERSON - Cape Girardeau, Mo

JOE BAKER - Ruidoso, NM

BROWNIE BROWN - Penryn, Ca

LEO BUCHHOLZ - Riverside, Wa

BILL CORNETT - Calistoga, Ca

HUCK FIELDS - Valley Springs, Ca

BILL GATES - Anacortes, Wa

BOBBY GIASSON - Carmichael, Ca

JIM GOUGH - Liberty Hill, Tx

TONY GRASSO - La Mesa, Ca

MIKE GREENWOOD - Spokane, Wa

HOWARD HIGGINS - Big Spring, Tx

LEN KNUTSON - Surrey, BC, Can

DEL PUSCHERT - Annapolis, Md

FRANKIE RODGERS - Surrey, BC, Can

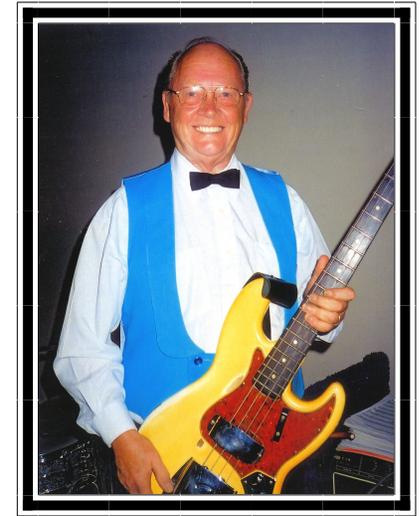
HANK RODGERS - Surrey, BC, Can

CAROL ROSE - Meeker, Co

— Posthumous —

JOE HOLLEY - Clovis, Ca

Hank Rodgers is an accomplished steel and guitar player who has spent most of his musical career as part of the "Rodgers Brothers." In his hometown of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Hank became a regular back up musician for the Grand Ole Opry shows, which toured Canada in the 60's.



Hank and Frank Rodgers have been favorite sons on the country music scene around Alberta since the early 1950's.

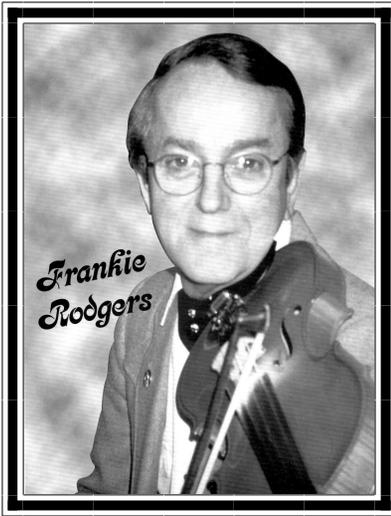
With a strong interest in Western Swing as well as traditional country music, they toured the country promoting their own music as well as providing back up for some of the biggest stars of the day. They toured with Hank Snow, Wilf Carter and worked with well-known movie star and singer Rex Allen. Some of their concert venues were as far away as Australia, New Zealand and many locations in the western United States.

As soloist on the many Rodgers Brothers recording for both Decca Records and Rodeo Records, Hank Rodgers distinguishes himself as an accomplished musician in his own right as well as creating uniquely stylized arrangements for the group. When not touring, they managed to record eight albums. They were a featured act on the Chuck Wagon television series and were frequent guests on Evan Kemp's national television show in the early 60's.

Hank and Frank have been long time residents of the Vancouver, BC, area and have made an important contribution to the Western Swing Showcases in Vancouver. Hank continues to participate regularly in these events and continues to entertain in and around the area.

For the past few years, Hank and his wife Charlene have been spending the winters in Mesa, AZ where they maintain a home.

HANK RODGERS



Frankie Rodgers grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and by the age of 16 he knew that playing fiddle was his love. Frankie and his brother Hank would be hired as the opening band for the Grand Ole Opry shows in Edmonton. Their talents were recognized by many artists and they were relied upon to be the back up band for such artists as George Jones, Jim Reeves, Lefty Frizzell and Ray Price.

Frankie performed for ten seasons on TV shows on

CFRN-TV and had appearances on the national CTV series, Cross Canada Barn Dance.

A Cross-Canada tour introduced Frankie to the recording side of music at RCA Victor Studios in Montreal. Later, the Comp Recording Co., (MCA) signed Frankie to record ten albums of Fiddle tunes. Frankie's own compositions became popular on many of those albums. First recorded on his LP "Maple Sugar," in 1960, "Ook Pik Waltz" became popular among North American fiddling genres. Rumors and folklore about its Inuit origins, with the title meaning "snowy or Artic Owl," abounded, and it surfaced as a contest waltz at the Weiser contest with a group of Spokane fiddlers about 1970. In Texas, this waltz is commonly known as "The Canadian Waltz."

Later years have been particularly exciting for Frankie with performances at Expo '92 in Seville, Spain, Oktoberfest in Germany, The Ozark Jubilee in Branson, Missouri, and a tour of Switzerland for the Canadian government. His nomination as "Instrumentalist of the Year," six times, and his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame, in 1995, are but a few of his many honors.

A quiet spoken individual, Frankie loves to entertain. No performance is complete without his signature tune, "Orange Blossom Special," a number familiar to Seattle Western Swing during his appearance with Evan Kemp at POWS in 2004. Frankie Rodgers continues to put his unique mark on the sounds of Western Swing and Country music wherever he performs.

FRANKIE RODGERS

"Cousin Carl" Anderson was born Billy Ray Anderson on December 14, 1940 near Foreman, Arkansas. He grew up on a cotton and cattle farm in Southwest Oklahoma.

Bill began his radio career during his last year of high school at Radio Station KDQN in DeQueen, Ark. This station is now owned by county singer Collin Ray.

Bill was named Country Music DJ-USA in Nashville, TN while he was employed at KDQN. KDQN was

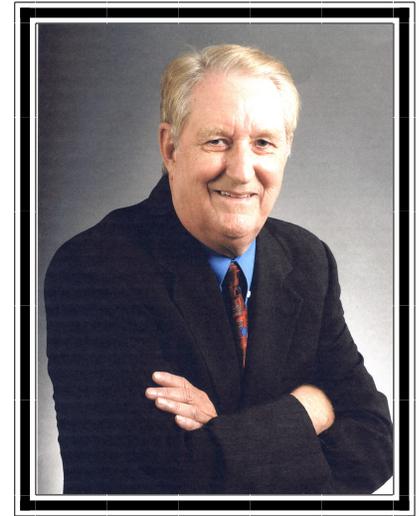
advertising for a night club called "Wagon Wheel Dance Land" located between DeQueen and Broken Bow. Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys were performing there frequently. It was there that Bill had the pleasure of meeting Bob Wills and became hooked on Western Swing Music. He had listened to Western Swing Music on the radio as a small child and grew up liking it and recognizing a beat or sound found only in that style of music.

"Cousin Carl" has continued to play Western Swing Music throughout all the forty-nine years of his radio career. Western Swing is his preferred music and his station KWKZ 106.1 is strongly influenced 24 hours a day.

His wife Ann has always supported his broadcasting work. They have three children and all three have gone into broadcasting careers. Their youngest daughter Susan, has worked with Bill in different phases of broadcasting since she was 14. She is a well known country artist and know by the audience as "The Girl" on his show, which Bill still does on their family owned station KWKZ located in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Bill notes that when we listen closely to a lot of today's country artists, we can hear how much influence the great Bob Wills has on our music today.

Bill said as long as he lives, he will be promoting and playing Western Swing Music and yes, The Great Bob Wills will always be played on KWKZ 106.1.



BILL ANDERSON



Joe was born October 7, 1952 in Mineral Wells, TX. He was raised on a Black Angus cattle ranch near Flower Mound. Joe was drafted into the Army in 1972 and remained there until 1983. While in the Army, he worked as a music promoter. Joe said his love for Western Swing and Cowboy music started at an early age and has continued throughout his life.

Joe started his radio career in his hometown of Mineral Wells, but it is from the state of

New Mexico that he has become world famous for his promotional work on behalf of Western Swing and Cowboy music. They go hand in hand. Just look at the careers of Bob Wills and Spade Cooley.

Joe has been featured in numerous magazines and publications throughout the United States and Canada. He is a member of the Western Music Broadcasters Association and on the Board of directors for the Academy of Western Artists – Southwest Region which covers Colorado, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico.

Joe keeps himself busy not only with his radio show and promotional work for major Western Swing artists and Western stars, but he also finds time for the "Tucson Cowboy Music Roundup," "3BarJ Ranch Western Swing Tribute" and "Georgia Cowboy Poetry Gathering" productions. He has also worked with Cal Farley's Boys Ranch on special events.

Joe is the disc jockey for "The Backforty Bunkhouse Show" which began at KWES Radio in Ruidoso, NM in June of 2001 and ran until March, 2003 when he joined MTD Broadcasting, Inc. Although he is only 55 years of age, his show is reminiscent of radio programs that aired in the '40s and '50s. He plays requests, holds weekly contests, giving away new CD's and Tee shirts or backstage passes to concerts and has a diverse and loyal listening audience. He is surprised when a teenager wins a CD of Western Swing or Western Music and get so excited saying "Where did you find this kind of music?" Listeners are genuinely pleased to get their hands on it.

JOE BAKER

Del Puschert was born in Maryland. He is a modest man who surrounds himself with Americana memorabilia at the Annapolis home he shares with his wife Harriette.

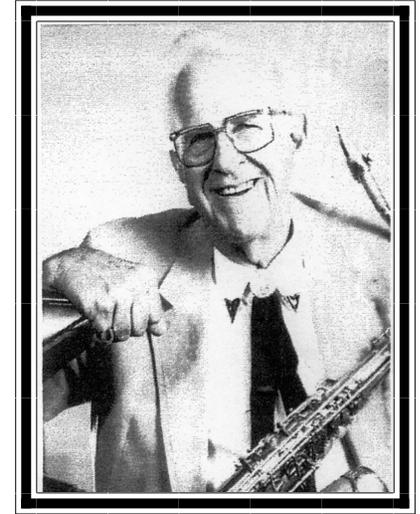
Outwardly, Del seems to consider his music prowess as "just something he does." Perhaps, that is because he has been playing saxophone since he was just three years old. And at the age of ten, played his first professional gig!

Most of the hundreds of people in Maryland that Del calls friends and the thousands locally that hear him play, think of him as a guy from Annapolis who turned out to be a very special saxophone player. To the music world, he is thought of as a "saxophone player's saxophone player." In his career, Del has played in the band of none other than the "King" himself, Elvis Presley. His dynamic sax backed up Elvis on a mid-fifties tour across the country from Texas through the Southwest to Florida.

Returning home, he met with The Van Dykes founder, drummer Roland Brown and became an integral part of Maryland's most popular band throughout the 50's and 60's. He played on their hit records on the Atlantic label. Many people in Maryland remember Del throughout the Washington, D.C. posh hotel circuit as leader of his own band. They eventually took up residence as the house band at the prestigious Annapolis Yacht Club.

Over the past four winters, Del has felt the pull to get back to Texas where he first was introduced to Elvis. He lends his acclaimed saxophone to some of the top Western Swing groups on the storied Austin Music City circuit, such as the bands of Floyd Domino, Dale Watson, Mary Ann Price, and others. Del can be heard on no less than five CD's with the popular Cornell Hurd Band. Western Swing Festival goers get treated to Del's playing whenever he joins members of the famed Asleep At The Wheel.

Del remains an in-demand, busy musician but, when he's home in Annapolis, he still finds time to do a bit of barbering in his own shop.



DEL PUSCHERT



From a small prairie town in Alberta, Len's family moved to Canada's isolated northwest coast, settling in the community of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, when Len was just a toddler. He spent his early years listening to the old 78 recordings of Western Swing artists of the day and the nightly Buck Ritchie show, which brought this music to the airways on Radio KVI, Seattle. The Grand Old Opry was carried "live" over radio KTKN, Ketchikan, Alaska. As

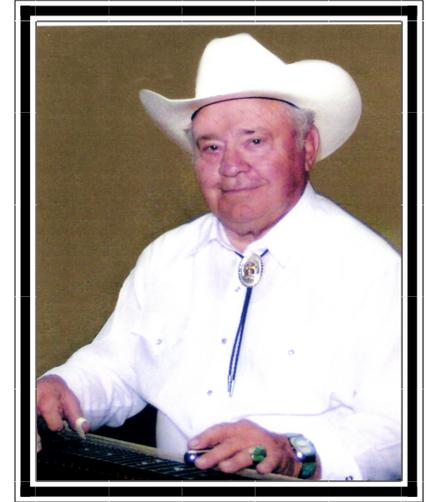
the closest American neighbor, the station came in loud and clear. The exposure to the music of Red Foley, Bob Wills, Spade Cooley, Tex Williams, Pee Wee King, Hank Thompson and a host of others became a driving influence to a youngster so intent on learning to play the kind of music which was a craving so deep within.

Len used these vehicles to satisfy his yen to learn the music. Raising and lowering the needle in the grooves of the old 78's until he mastered the tunes on his guitar. The guitar became his instrument of choice after several months of piano lessons but without a guitar teacher he spent many hours applying his keyboard knowledge to the frets of the guitar.

Len has had the opportunity to perform and tour with musical groups from coast to coast in Canada, as well as points south of the border and Alaska. These early tours led to an appreciation for the many talented musicians that he came to know and associate with. He can be heard as "session man" on recordings by Alberta Slim, Frank O'Connell and Evan Kemp. As an advocate for live music, Len prefers to present the music as "the musician's make it" rather than using gimmicks or aids to enhance the instrument's sound. As a life member and past President, of the Vancouver Backstage Club, as well as Vice President of Vancouver's Western Swing Music Society (Canada), Len brings his character and musical talents to these organizations in order to support their aims and objectives. Always a gentleman, Len is well respected in the British Columbia music community for his reliability, integrity and musicianship.

LEN KNUTSON

"Brownie" was born January 26, 1931 in Bastrop, Louisiana. At the age of 16, he joined the United States Air Force and was stationed at Mather Field Air Base in Sacramento, California.



He started playing steel guitar and quickly became acquainted with Western Swing musicians in the area. He played "back up" for headliners like Wynn

Stewart, Freddie Hart, Susan Ray, Rose Maddox, Bonnie Owens, Freddie Weller, and a host of other entertainers.

Brownie performed at many nightclubs and casual engagements throughout his 59 years in the Sacramento area. He performed with Loyd Jones and the Truitt Cunningham Bands.

Brownie lives in the Sacramento foothills with his wife Myrtle. They have been married 59 years and have two grown children, two granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren.

Brownie became the 46th inductee to the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame in 1981 and in one of the most memorable sessions, Buddy Emmons joined Brownie and played side by side on their steel guitars.

Brownie now serves on the board of the Sacramento Western Swing Society, and performs the first Sunday of each month with Bill Enyeart and the Dry Creek Boys.

BROWNIE BROWN



Leo started singing at the age of five. His mother played piano and organ in a band, and he would join her many times singing while she played.

Leo went into the armed forces at the age of 15. He was in the occupation forces at Japan and Korea. He got out of the army in 1948 in Fort Lewis, WA. He met up with a band playing Grange halls in the Vancouver and Portland areas and got his first job playing bass on an old wash tub bass.

On one occasion, a guy got up and sang a couple of songs. His name was Willie Nelson, but that was long before he became famous. When Willie finished, the band leader told them he didn't think Willie would ever make it in music.

Later, Leo moved to Kirkland, WA and joined together with his sister and two other in-laws to form the first Western Swing Band to play on Kirkland Radio KNBX, call the Utah Playboys. As "Leo Buck," he later formed his own band, playing Western Swing music for 3 1/2 years at the Cottonwood Grove in Maple Valley, WA.

Leo became popular as the years went on. He appeared with many major acts and shows in several different clubs and venues including local TV with Buck Owens, Jack Roberts and the Evergreen Jubilee, Evergreen Ballroom, Hiesers Shadow Lake, and in Las Vegas and Reno with Jean Valley. He also played the Lynnwood Tavern.

Over the years, Leo either booked, sat in with, or traveled with and became friends with many legends of Country and Western Swing music including Lorretta Lynn, George Jones, Jimmy Dickens, Ernest Tubb and Bob Wills. He was loved by many and his enthusiasm and dedication to Western Swing will always be remembered.

Today, Leo lives with his wife Judy in Riverside, a quiet little town in eastern Washington where the sun sets down on the prairie with lots of musical golden memories.

LEO BUCHHOLZ

Joe Holley was born on March 31, 1917 on a farm outside of Stephenville, TX about 50 miles west of Ft. Worth. His real name was James Cordell. He was the youngest of seven boys.

Joe learned how to work hard on the farm keeping up with his older brothers. He plowed, chopped and picked cotton, milked cows, and branded and de-horned cattle.

Joe started playing mandolin when he was five years old. He switched to his dad's old fiddle when he was 13.

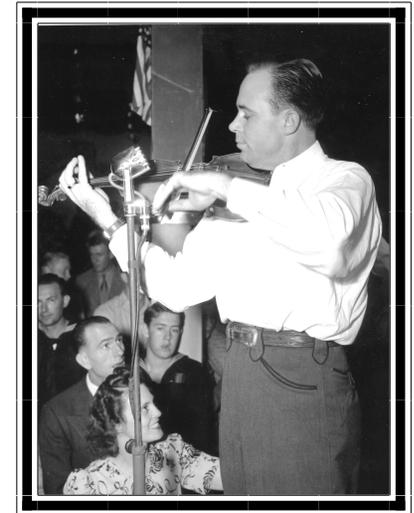
As time went by, he got with others who could play a little for their own, and others, entertainment – at the box suppers at the school house, in homes, and for country dances where they passed the hat to pay the musicians. Sometimes he'd make 50 cents.

When Joe was 16, his father took sick with TB so Joe worked the farm and played fiddle when he could. He took care of his parents until they died. He worked with some little groups in Ft. Worth and the first \$20 he made, he sent home to his father. He always had great respect for his father.

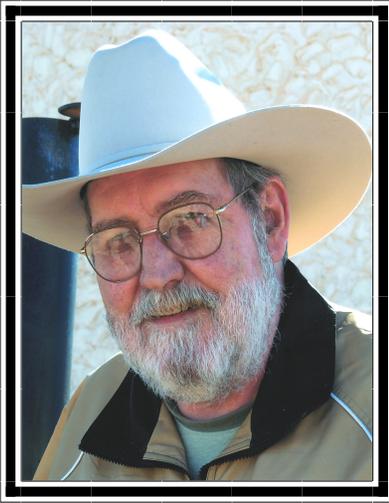
In 1941, at the age of 24, Joe was discovered by bandleader Bob Wills who overheard him playing in the next studio and wanted to hire him but he didn't have an open spot for a fiddler in his band. So Bob arranged for Joe to move to Tulsa to play for his brother's band, Johnnie Lee Wills and His Boys, where they toured throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas. He joined Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys in 1944 in California.

Joe Holley stayed with Bob Wills longer, and traveled more miles with Bob than any other Texas Playboy fiddler. He continued touring with Wills until 1949, and continued playing occasional concerts with Wills for the next 12 years. In 1978, Joe played the fiddle on the Reunion album, which was considered one of the greatest Western Swing albums ever recorded.

Joe Holley died July 25, 1987 at the age of 70 in Fresno, CA after a bout with pneumonia. He is buried in Clovis Cemetery.



JOE HOLLEY



Howard Higgins is a Texan hailing from the state where all our Western Swing started with Bob Wills and Milton Brown. Howard was born July 11, 1941 and spent the first five years of his life in Baird, TX.

Howard first showed an interest in music at the age of fourteen. He was given a mandolin to learn to play on but his interest lay with the guitar. Like most of us, Howard learned all the songs of the day from the radio. That was the entertainment back in those

days. He started playing dances around the age of fifteen and soon learned it wasn't all fun and games when dance patrons would get lit on bootleg moonshine whiskey.

Howard graduated from high school in 1959 and enrolled in college in 1960. The only spending money he got from home was five dollars a week and even that wouldn't buy much. Howard took a job with Gilbert Prather's band earning about thirty bucks a night. He also performed on the radio in Alpine once a week on a show sponsored by Lone Star Beer.

In college, Howard got a degree in chemistry with a minor in math. When he graduated, he went to work for a chemical company. He was transferred to Amarillo, TX about the time Dugg Collins was needing a bass player for his band that played at the Playboy Lounge, a sprawling place that would seat 200 people and it was packed every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Howard worked with Dugg for several years. Howard was especially fond of working with Carl Smith during their days together.

When Howard left Amarillo, he moved to Big Spring, TX where he promptly went to work in a swing band and played all over Texas and New Mexico. Howard started teaching school in Big Spring in 1992 and started an internet web site known as West Texas Country where he promotes Western Swing and Country music artists.

Howard has been in the music business for over fifty years. He has paid his dues many times over.

HOWARD HIGGINS

Bill Cornett was born on May 11, 1942, in Springfield, Missouri. He grew up in a very musical family, listening to blue grass, gospel and country and of course, western swing music. His dad played the fiddle and mom played the guitar and piano. They had a family band that played for all the dances around the area. At one time their family band was rated right up there with the Carter family.

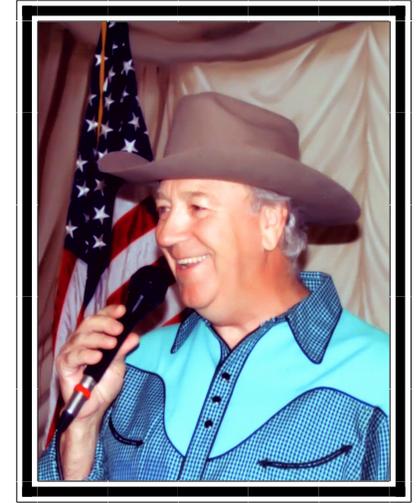
Bill's dad passed away when he was six months old, and the rest of the family moved out west and settled in Fairfield, California because they had relatives living there. He can remember on the weekends, everyone coming together and just playing all night long.

While in high school, Bill joined a band and they played for dances around the area. They even played for the junior and senior proms. Following his high school graduation in 1961, Bill joined the Navy. While on board ship, he joined a really great band. They played for all the officer's parties and in different clubs throughout the Far-East.

After Bill's discharge in 1966, he played with different bands in the Los Angeles area. He moved back to Fairfield in 1968 where he started playing drums for an old high school buddy. Bill later moved to Concord, CA and started playing in a group with Larry Murphy.

In 1973, their band went out on the road and played the Nevada Circuit for two years. Bill got tired of living in motels and left the band and settled down in Richmond, CA. Bill started driving for a living and playing music on the weekends. While at a jam session, he came across Curly's Club, where Tom Rose and Bobby Thompson were playing. He got a chance to play in this group and took it.

Bill was inducted into the Sacramento Western Swing Hall of Fame in 2006. At the present time, he is playing drums for the Dry Creek Band which includes Bill Enyeart, Tom Rose, and Brownie. Bill feels very honored to attend the Western Swing Society music session every month and be with all of the wonderful musicians and singers knowing they have played with some of the best.



BILL CORNETT



Huck Fields learned to play the mandolin at age five so that he could help his dad play the old breakdowns for square dances. He then learned the fiddle and guitar. Huck comes from a very musical family as his older brother and several of his cousins and uncles were musicians. There was always music around their Arkansas and Oklahoma homes.

In 1939, Huck moved to the West Coast. He joined the Air Force in 1941 and stayed

busy playing with USO bands in North Africa and Italy.

After he was discharged in 1945, Huck joined Ray Wade and the Rhythm Riders Band in San Pablo. They played the dance halls and clubs in the Bay Area including the Garden of Allah, The Dream Bowl and Maple Hall. During this time, he also worked with Glen Campbell, Johnny Cash, Hank Thomson and the ever popular Tommy Duncan.

In 1975, Huck spent some time in Hawaii where his middle son lived. He played with several local bands and also for his Granddaughter's first birthday (which is considered a very important event in Hawaii).

Huck had semi-retired in 1976 from music in order to assist his wife Dottie run her restaurant business. His interest in music was renewed after many years when he visited longtime friend Vern Baughman, who introduced Huck to Truitt Cunningham and Glenn Tarver. He was given the opportunity to join Truitt's San Antone Rose Band. They spent some time in Yuma, AZ at the Country Roads Resort playing Western Swing music. Off season, they made a tour of California, Washington, Idaho and the Grand Daddy of all rodeos, Cheyenne. Huck has always been a loyal fan of Bob Wills' Western Swing Music.

Huck was inducted into the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame in 1988 and has been very active there.

HUCK FIELDS

Mike was born in Dubuque, Iowa and comes from a very musical family dating back to the 1800's. He was immediately influenced by the melodious sounds surrounding him.

Mike's father, Ben Greenwood was and still is a performing musician as are both of Mike's uncles. As a young boy, Mike enjoyed the Sunday afternoon jam sessions in East Dubuque, Illinois, and those in their home. As he grew up, music was always abundant and

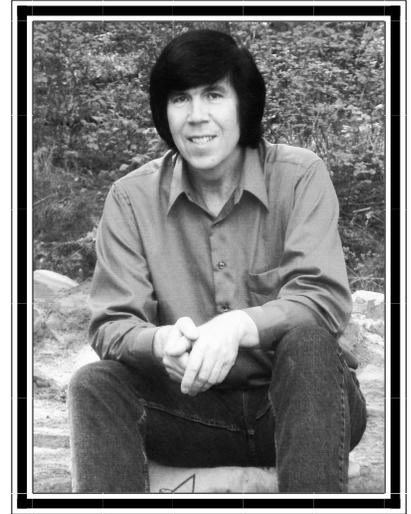
music became a huge part of Mike's life. East Dubuque was, at the time, a gold mine for live music and a wonderful place for musicians to gather and perform for hours and hours. During Mike's younger years, his love for music developed and he was greatly influenced by a particularly catchy sound, "Western Swing."

When opportunity would arise, Mike would go with his father, Ben, to the various venues and delight in sharing the stage with him for such classics as "San Antonio Rose," "Deep in the Heart of Texas," and "Bubbles in My Beer."

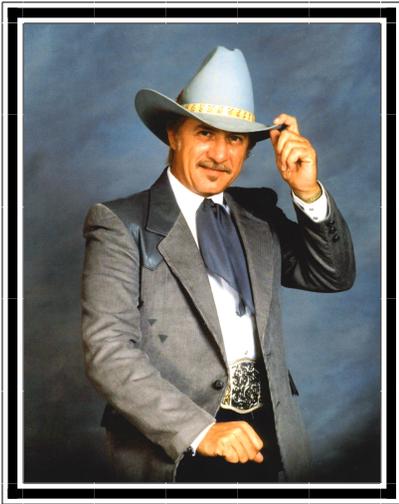
Upon completing High School in 1973, Mike went on to perform with many traveling road groups, and worked with talent agencies across the country.

Mike has traveled and performed in much of the Northwest and Midwest in states such as The Dakotas, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, Iowa, Wisconsin and even a few states in the Southwest. He continues to perform today, and has spent over 35 years promoting "Western Swing" along with Country music. As of recent, Mike has added a very special "Tribute To The Music of Roy Orbison" to his production.

Mike is now booked at many venues in the Northwest, even reaching as far as the East Coast. With his unique style and diversity, he performs many types and styles of music, but continues to perform one of his first loves, "Western Swing." His hope is that live music will live on and the traditions of "Western Swing" will live eternal.



MIKE GREENWOOD



Tony was born on January 17, 1942, and raised in Tucson, Arizona. He was introduced to music at the tender age of eight. This education was in the form of formal music lessons by his father, who was a fine musician himself, and who was heavily influenced by Bob Wills and Gene Autry. Tony soon followed in his fathers footsteps.

In the 1950's what we now call 'classic' Western Swing Music, was the music of the day in Tucson. By the age of fourteen, Tony was performing with well seasoned musicians in the Tucson area.

In the mid 50's, Tony began to compose music. A strong Ray Price influence can be heard in his music. A passion for that style of music was instilled in him then and remains to this day.

Through the years Tony has met, performed on the same stage, or sat in with many big names in the entertainment field. His dynamic bass playing has earned him much recognition among his peers. He has been involved with recordings for major record labels and had the opportunity to play, sing, and act in movies.

In 1964, Tony became the bassist and a singer with The Cascades. Their first major hit record was the song "Rhythm of the Rain." In concerts around the world, he represents Western Swing Music in his personal performances with the Cascades. His participation with other groups always included a large portion of Western Swing Music. In 1985, Tony received the highest award for his musical diversity from the CCMA, San Diego Chapter, for Loyalty/Artist of the Year.

As the bassist and a lead singer for the 'Fugitives,' he is a staunch supporter of Western Swing Music. Tony's musical life has come full circle and he is still playing the music he loved from the beginning. He says "it's been a great ride."

TONY GRASSO

Bill Gates was born April 28, 1930 in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Folks of that era had only the family radio for entertainment, and Bill was no exception. He spent his young life listening to stations in Clovis and Amarillo, and to everyone's favorite, the "out-law" station in Del Rio, TX.

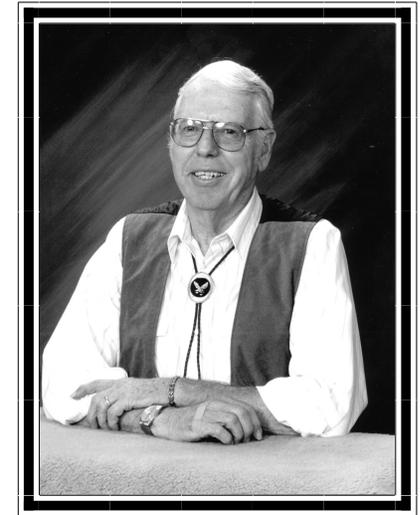
As soon as Bill got a taste of Western Swing music, he was hooked. At the age of 13, he learned the lap steel and formed a high school band called "The Westernaires," copying the styles of their heroes Bob Wills, Spade Cooley, and other Western Swing greats of the day. This band was featured in many of the dance halls and honky-tonks around Clovis, Tucumcari, and Amarillo.

In 1950, Bill joined the Navy. During his Navy stint, he played his Western Swing with several service bands. He was discharged in 1954 and returned to Tucumcari, to rejoin "The Westernaires."

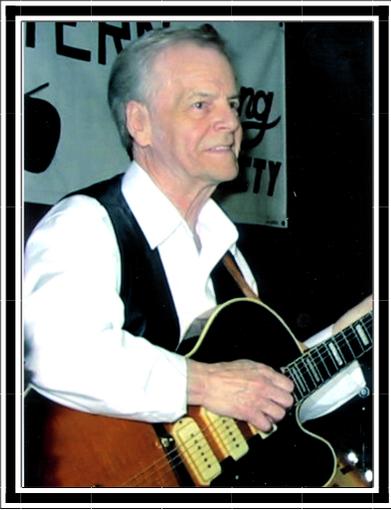
Having spent time at Naval Base Whidbey in 1956, Bill decided to return to the Northwest and settled in Anacortes, WA. For the next 30 years, he played with several local bands, one of which was the "Cascade Ramblers" with POWS member Lloyd Hooper. He also played many dates with POWS member Bill O'Conner who says, "the hardest part of playing with Bill Gates is getting him to play something other than Western Swing!!"

Bill played with many bands backing artists such as Little Jimmy Dickens, Faron Young, Merle Haggard, and for six month he was with Loretta Lynn. He also performed many times on the Buck Owen's Show in Tacoma.

In 1957, Bill started a disc jockey career at KAGT in Anacortes. A person could always hear Country music by tuning in Bobby Wooten on KAYO, Jack Roberts or Buck Ritchey on KVI, but if you wanted Western Swing Music, you HAD to tune in to Bill's show on 1340. He and Edd Burnett kept Western Swing alive in upper northwest Washington for many years.



BILL GATES



Bobby was born in the state of Maine in a small town. He started his musical career at the age of 14. He was in a group call "The Rocky Road Ramblers" and their theme was "Rocky Road Blues."

At the age of 15, Bobby met Hawkshaw Hawkins. At the time he had a fiddle player, Eddie Miller. They did some jams and did a show in town. Bobby ran across him often over the years.

In that time period, Bobby would run across Dick Curless who was nineteen. Bobby's reputation was well established as a guitarist. When he was seventeen, Bobby was asked to do a radio show on a new radio station in town. Included in the group that performed was his to be wife of seven years later and her brother Bill (who is in the Sacramento WSS Hall of Fame).

Bobby did a stint in the Navy and played a lot. In 1957, while still in the Navy, he married Jeanette. In 1958, he was discharged from the service. He went on the road with Skeeter Bonn and at the same time did a daily TV show which could be seen throughout the northeast. While on the show, he appeared with Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper. On another show, he appeared with the great Don Gibson.

Over the years, Bobby played with many groups and played many different styles of music. He played Rock and Roll for a couple of years with Alabama's Curtis Johnson. In the mid sixties he went back to Country and Pop with Dick Curless. They recorded such hits as "Tombstone Every Mile."

In 1973, Bobby came west and played with Gene and Gretchen Todd. Since being inducted into the Sacramento WSS Hall of Fame, Bobby feels he has been privileged to make music with many great musicians and singers. He has worked with Jay Riley for many years performing at their monthly meetings.

BOBBY GIASSON

Born in the state of Texas, Jim started playing guitar at the age of 10 in Austin. He studied under Joe Castle.

Jim played his first "ranch dance" with a cowboy fiddler and a rancher's wife on piano in Menard at the age of 14.

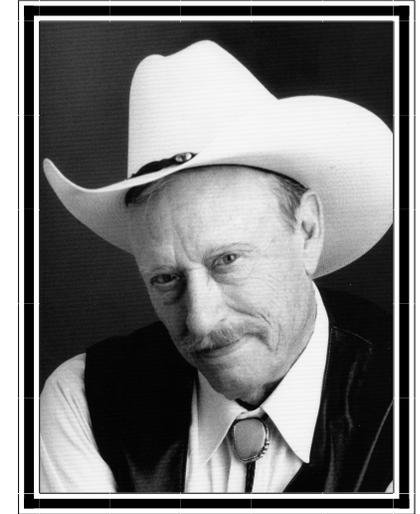
Jim, along with steel player Wayne Wood, formed his first string band, "The Rhythm Wranglers" in 1947. They played dances around Austin at nightspots like the Hilltop Inn, Copenhagen, Cinderella Club, Dessau Dance Hall and Skyline during 1947, '48, '49, and '50.

The band was featured at UT's "Roundup" along with The Jesse James Gang in 1949.

Jim went into the Navy in 1951 and formed a Western Swing Band on a Navy Airfield near Manila. While serving aboard ship, stationed in Long Beach during 1954, he immediately joined Dowell Smith's great band "Smitty and the Ranchhands." Jim was vocalist, front man and played rhythm guitar.

In 1975, Jim founded "The Cosmopolitan Cowboys." This band featured some of the great Gulf Coast sidemen such as Ernie Hunter, Bill Dessens, Herb Remington, and Bob White. During the period from 1981 through 1990, Jim was vocalist, front man and rhythm guitarist for Cliff Bruner's "Texas Wanderers."

When Herb Remington formed "Playboys II," Jim joined the band as frontman, singer and rhythm guitarist. He continues to play to date with this outstanding group of ex-Playboys. Upon retirement and moving back to the Austin area, Jim has formed another fine Western Swing band featuring Bert Rivera, Ray Tesmer, Gail Gough and Jim Gough, Jr. Jim has devoted a lifetime to promoting and playing Western Swing Music. He's kept the unique music alive through the years through his many radio shows in Dallas and Houston. He has had the honor of playing with many of the greatest names in Western Swing: Leon McAuliffe, Johnny Gimble, Joe Holley, Bob White, Gene Gasaway, George Uptmor, Herb Remington, and many, many more. He was inducted into the Sacramento WSS Hall of Fame in 1999.



JIM GOUGH