



Visit us on the web at: www.nwwsms.com

Volume 31, Issue 7-8

A News Letter For and About Our Members

July/August 2014

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



A tip of the hat and a big Western Swing thank you to Ed and Lou Bischoff for again hosting our annual picnic. Great music, great food, and great friends made this well-attended function a complete success. "Southern Comfort" was the host band, keeping the dance floor full and, thanks to Dave DuChane, we had quite a number of jammers get a chance to play.

It will not be long before we gather at the Auburn Eagles for our 24th Annual "Western Swing Music Festival and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony." This is going to be a stunning show, folks, so don't miss it. We are so pleased to have received confirmation that many friends, musicians and dancers, will be coming up from Texas, Oklahoma, New

Mexico, Arizona, and California!

The Auburn Eagles is a most hospitable venue, with a great dance floor, good eats, a good bar and a separate area for jamming. As in the past, there is no charge to attend the Thursday evening jam for all of our out-of-town guests. And, the good news is the price to attend the festival hasn't gone up! It's still a bargain at only \$5.00 per day for Friday, Saturday or Sunday. \$15.00 for a three-day pass.



Jerry Seitz

Now, the down side. There will be no one under the age of 21 years allowed on the premises of the Auburn Eagles due to



existing Washington State Liquor laws. Last year we tried to maintain certain limited areas where minors could enjoy the festivities; however, we were unable to control those boundaries. The Auburn Eagles cannot afford the risk of violating the state law.

I would like to meet more of our members and guests; so, if you see me wandering around please come up and introduce yourself.

Jerry Seitz



***24th Annual Western Swing Music Festival
and Hall of Fame***



Thursday, August 7 through Sunday, August 10

at the Auburn Eagles, Auburn, Washington

BIG, BEAUTIFUL DANCE FLOOR

WESTERN SWING BANDS AND MUSICIANS PERFORMING FROM AROUND THE US

A Full Week-End of Western Swing Music and Dancing . . . Pull out schedule inside!



Northwest Western Swing Music Society

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.

2014 Officers and Board Members

President: Jerry Seitz

1090 SW Harper Road, Port Orchard, WA 98367
Phone: 360-895-0632
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Vice-Pres: Dave Wheeler

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2708 Mission Beach Hts, Tulalip, WA 98271
Phone: 360-659-9713
Email: alicecedars@msn.com

Treasurer: Ramon Selby

26150 Dulay Rd., NE, Apt. 307
Kingston, WA 98346
Phone: 360-731-3946
Email: ramonselby@gmail.com

Board Members: Lou Bischoff, Dave DuChane, Patty McConnell, Jeanne Yearian.

Alternates: Shelley McNaughton

Annual Membership:

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

Business Address

PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

Visit us on the web at: www.nwwsms.com
to read the newsletter in full color!

Contact the editor,
jeanneyearian@yahoo.com, to receive our
"early-bird edition" electronically.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase and picnic photos by Jeanne Yearian.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

JUNE 8, 2014



Alice Striegel

President, Jerry Seitz, called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

Present by Verbal Role Call: Dave DuChane, Alice Striegel, Dave Wheeler, Lou Bischoff, Ramon Selby, Patty

McConnell, Shelley McNaughton, Jeanne Yearian

Resigned: Shari Abbott

Guest: Ed Bischoff, Fred Yearian

Treasurer: Financial report presented by Treasurer Ramon Selby

Bills: Approved to pay.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee Report: Shelley McNaughton reported that the audit is in process.

Newsletter/Website Committee Report: Jeanne Yearian, Newsletter Editor, read a letter from Dave Alexander thanking the NWWSMS for their check to sponsor a young musician at the Dave Alexander Big Texas Swing School in Gainesville, Texas, (as noted in the June 2014 Newsletter). NWWSMS will be given more information on the student after he/she completes the summer program.

Membership Committee Report: Dave Wheeler reported that the membership list is being worked on.

Program/Special Projects Committee Report: Dave DuChane is working on the determination of the first "Board Band" practice.

Showcase/Hall of Fame Committee Report: Lou Bischoff reminded the Board that today's showcase, hosted by Big Ed and Steel Country, will include the honoring of special guest, Bonnie Guitar.

"Sharing the Journey" was updated by Lou Bischoff and Patty McConnell.

New Business: Motion was made, voted on and approved to establish a

"Category Committee" to discuss adding more categories to the NWWSMS Hall of Fame. This Committee will consist of Dave DuChane, Alice Striegel, Ed Bischoff, Lou Bischoff and Shelley McNaughton, with Jerry Seitz as Chair. The first meeting will be Sunday, August 3, at 1:00 pm.

Motion passed to adjourn at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Striegel, Secretary

Music Scholarships Available

Financial assistance is available to those endeavoring to further develop their musical/vocal talents, preferably leading toward their performance of Western Swing Music.

Typically, past assistance has been to send younger musicians to summer music camps, but other directions of study will also be welcomed.

Please submit information on the applicant's qualifications and need to a NWWSMS board member.

Join Us in September

at the Lynnwood Eagles

19223 Hwy 99
(Three Blocks North of 196th Street)

for the September 14, 2014
Western Swing Showcase

featuring

Kristi Nebel
and
Cowgirl's Dream

**JOIN THE NEUES FOR
PAPA CARL'S PIG ROAST
2:00 PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2014**



Vesta and Carl Neue

Welcome All!

The island fun starts Friday evening. Follow the Papa Carl signs.

The P.A. will be set up. There is power for RVs. You can show up on Friday to relax or jam! Hot dogs and marshmallows will help fuel the merriment! Campers are welcome Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday! Power and water are available for RVs.

The pig will be here, and we'll start cooking it on Saturday evening. Bring an appetite and your favorite side dish! We try to eat at 2 pm on Sunday.

**Questions? Please call: 360-387-2691
352 Ridge Lawn Pl., Camano Island, WA**

***If you have an instrument,
bring it along and join the
jams!***



www.westernswingsociety.org

Cherishing The Memories



Al "Smokey" Stutzke

Albert Louis "Smokey" Stutzke passed away on June 10th in Bellevue, Washington, at 89 years old.

Al was born to Albert Sr. and Mary Stutzke on April 28th 1925 in Chicago, Illinois. He was a child protégé playing violin at an early age. His moniker was "Fiddling Al your musical pal". He was inducted to the Navy in July 1943 and served during WWII on the USS General M.L. Hersey. After being honorably discharged from the Navy as a pharmacist mate, he attended Cornish Institute of the Arts in Seattle and had a long musical career, playing 22 different instruments. He was known for his fiddle tricks including imitating bag pipes, bird calls and harmonica. He played with lightning speed which sometimes made the rosin on his bow smoke which is how he got his nick name, Smokey Stutz.

He played in many Seattle area stage shows with such legends including George Jones, Bob Wills, Waylon Jennings Slims Whitman, Marty Robbins and even Gene Autry. He played in many Seattle area country western bands most notably with the POWS, the Pioneers of Western Swing. He was inducted into the Western Swing Society's Hall of fame in 1998. It was hard won honor for him of which he was very proud. Al was also a member of the Musicians Association of Seattle Local 76-493 A. F. of M. and a prior member of Teamsters local Union #117.

Albert is survived by his Daughters Lauren Kaye White and Anita Clare Stutzke and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Please send any remembrances to the Northwest Western Swing Music Society, PO Box 14003 Mill Creek WA, 98082

Around the Sound Support Live, Local Music

For upcoming appearances to be included in the newsletter, contact the editor. Play dates / times / locations must be received by the first of the month.

Many of the bands listed below will be playing during the annual August Festival. Check the program on page 7 of this newsletter for times and days!

Mike Faast and the Jangles. For information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: www.janglesband.com

Big Ed & Steel Country, at the Lynnwood Eagles, 19223 Hwy 99, Lynnwood. Join the jam on the last Sunday of every month, from 3 to 7 pm!

Lloyd Hooper and the Cascade Ramblers. Check the calendar at the Sedro-Woolley Legion and/or call Lloyd for additional information on upcoming play dates at:

(home) 360-757-0486. (cell) 360-202-6930

Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners. Visit their website for information on upcoming play dates: www.thesundownersband.com

Patty and the Travelin' Four. Dance to their music on Wednesdays, from 6-9 pm, Auburn, Eagles. Everyone welcome. Food is available. CC's Lounge, Burien, Aug. 14, 7:30-11:30. Issaquah Grange Supply, Aug. 23, 11-3. White Center Eagles, Aug. 15, 8pm - 12. Renton VFW, Aug. 22 & 29, 7:30-11:30.

For additional information, call:
Patty: 253-249-8788 or LeRoy: 253-845-8359

Ken Fullerton and Country Fever. Auburn Eagles, every Monday, 6-9 pm. First Fridays dinner/dance at the Black Diamond Eagles from 5:30 to 9:30. Call 253-922-7888 or 253-380-2445 for more information.

Dwight Adair, Listen every Monday for the newest Western Swing broadcast - or browse the archives of both current and past broadcasts at:

www.bobwills.com



Cherishing The Memories



**Truitt
Cunningham**

Truitt Cunningham, a veteran Western swing musician who performed as one of Bob Wills' Texas Playboys and later with his own group, the **San Antone Rose Band**, died

June 5. He was 83.

Born Oct. 8, 1930, in San Angelo, Texas, Orville Truitt Cunningham moved with his mother and stepfather to California and settled in Modesto. Given a guitar at 5, he was taught to sing by his mother and began performing in public at 16.

Truitt was only 17 when Wills, the legendary bandleader, wanted to hire him as a singer – but the teenager was newly married and didn't want to go on tour and leave his wife, Vera. Instead, he played for Alex Brashear at Wills' popular Sacramento dance hall Wills Point before finally joining Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys on the road in California and Oregon in 1954. It was a dream come true for the young singer and bass player.

The gig lasted about six months before Mr. Cunningham quit because he missed his wife and three children at home in Loomis. But he went on to make and promote Western swing music for more than 50 years – first with Billy Jack Wills, Bob Wills' brother, and later with his own group, **Truitt Cunningham and His San Antone Rose Band**.

He met Vera Deon Holmes at a Christmas Eve dance in 1946. They married in 1947, had three children and later traveled together to shows that she booked as manager and publicist for his **San Antone Rose Band**. She died in 1998, after nearly 51 years of marriage.

Mr. Cunningham was a charter member of the Western Swing Society of Sacramento and received many honors over the years. He was inducted into the NWWMS Pioneers of Western Swing Hall of Fame in 1992. He will live forever in our hearts.



Bill Dessens

Bill Dessens, precious husband, father, grandfather, talented musician and friend to many, was called Home on June 16th, 2014 by his Savior.

He was born to Joseph and Dovia Dessens on September

25, 1930. He grew up in Rockdale, Texas and graduated from Rockdale High School in 1947.

He and the love of his life, Norma Eulenfeld, were married on November 22, 1953. After serving in the United States Air Force, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Houston Police Department, Bill worked for seven years for Alcoa in Rockdale, and then made a career as an insurance agent with State Farm, Allstate, and finally as co-owner of Axis Insurance Agency in Houston.

Bill was a proud member of the River Road Boys and the Texas Trio, where he entertained many with his musical talent, earning induction into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame, the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame (CA), the Northwest Western Swing Music Society Pioneers of Western Swing (WA), and the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest Hall of Fame (OK). He and Norma spent much of their retired time traveling, visiting family and friends, and enjoying precious moments with their grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and by his brother Frank.

He is survived by his wife, Norma; his son, Steven, son, David and wife, Lisa, and son, Mark and wife, Yvette; his grandchildren Adrien, Derek, Kyle and Sean; his brother Wayne; and many loving family members and friends.

Like so many others, I am truly heartbroken . . . We lost a great musician and a wonderful friend. Bill Dessens touched so many lives in so many different ways. I will always cherish the times I spent with this man . . . I was so proud to call my friend.

John Jones, River Road Boys

Sharing the Journey

With Well Wishes and Prayers

Alice Striegel	Toppe Brigge
Keith Holter	Jim Gough
Jesse Morris	Vi & Darrell
Cindy DeLeon	Anderson
Carmen Champion	Betty Reeves
Fern Hooper	Bob Woeck
Lloyd Hooper	Don Eardley
Noreen King	

To Trudy Tillinghast, family and friends on the loss of her father, Truitt Cunningham.

To Norma Dessens, family and friends on the loss of her husband, Bill.

To Laureen Kaye White, family and friends on the loss of her father, Al Stutzke.

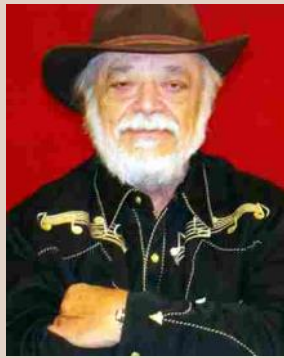
*A friend
is someone who knows the
song in your heart
And can sing it back to you
When you have forgotten the
words.*

-Unknown-

*Did we miss someone or
do you know of someone
who should be included in the next
Sharing the Journey report?
Please let us know.*

*Contact a member of the Board
(see page 2) or
the editor of the newsletter
(see page 2).*

The first Special Recognition Award for "Roadie of the Year" will be presented to Tony Graziano.



Save the dates and plan to attend!
 The Northwest Western Swing Music Society's
 24th Annual

Western Swing Music Festival & "Hall of Fame"
 August 7-10, 2014

Festival Schedule:

Thursday, August 7: 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm – Jam Session with Meet & Greet for our out-of-town guests!

Friday and Saturday, August 8 & 9: Scheduled music programs begin at Noon and close at 11:30 pm, after the jam session. Friday and Saturday jams on the main stage will take place from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and, again, after the last scheduled band of the day until the stage closes.

Sunday, August 10: The Ballroom is closed until 11:00 am. Scheduled programs begin at 11:00 am and close at 9 pm. Our Hall of Fame awards ceremony will take place between 12:45 pm and 4:00 p.m.

Facility/Accommodations: Admission is \$5.00 per day for non-participating members. The club offers lots of free parking. Food is available at the club and there are several restaurants within one or two miles.

The Auburn Eagles Club

Welcomes the NW Western Swing Music Society and their Guests

702 'M' Street SE

Club Room Phone: 253-833-2298

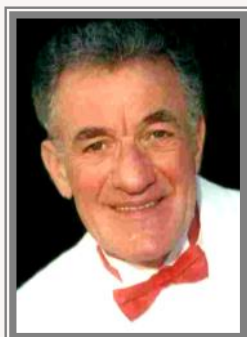
A Warm, Friendly Venue with a Beautiful, Large Dance Floor

Thursday Evening	Dinner	5:30 - 7:30	Chef's Choice	\$10.00
Friday	Lunch	1:00 - 3:00	Burger Bar	6.00
	Dinner	5:30 - 7:30	Baked Potato Bar	7.00
Saturday	Lunch	1:00 - 3:00	Soup & Sandwich	6.00
	Dinner	5:30 - 7:30	Chicken Marsala	10.00
Sunday	Lunch	2:00 - 6:00	Taco Salad	6.00

RVs: No Reservations – First Come, First Served Basis– Nominal Fees
 Limited spaces have hook-ups – LOTS of additional spaces
 Select your spot then pay at the bar or ask for help.
 Dump Station available (donation) – Lots of grass, horseshoes

MINORS: Please note this change: Children under the age of 21 are not permitted inside the club during this event.

NWWSMS 2014 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Ed Bischoff



Billy Bowles



Tink Cariker



Floyd Domino



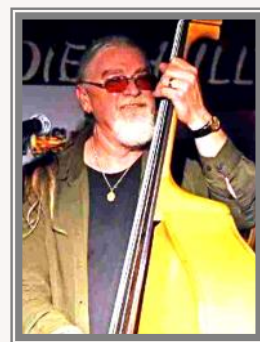
Randy "Tex" Hill



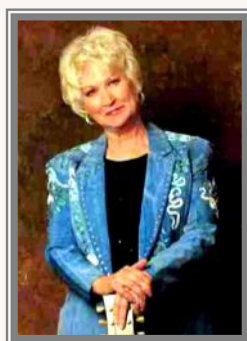
Kenneth Dee Jones



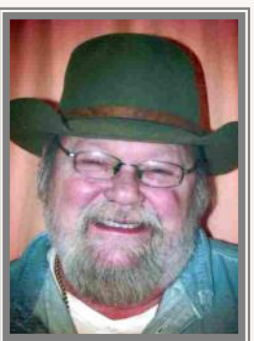
Carolyn Martin



B.B. Morse



Chris O'Connell



Jimmy Queen



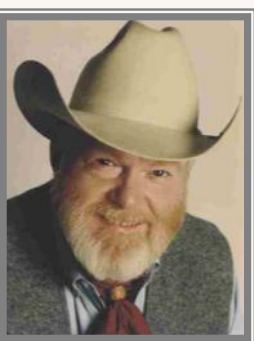
Starla Queen



Lucy Dean Record



Grady Smith



Red Steagall



Durwood Strube



Albert Talley

24TH ANNUAL WESTERN SWING MUSIC FESTIVAL AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Main Ballroom Scheduled Events

Friday, August 8th

10:00 -11:00 AM	Ballroom Jam
12 Noon	<i>Welcome, Dave Wheeler, MC</i> <i>Opening Song by Shelley McNaughton</i> <i>Flag Presentation by Ed & Lou Bischoff</i>
12:30-1:30 PM	Sacramento Western Swing Society
1:45-2:45 PM	Kristi Nebel & Cowgirl's Dream
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Sharyn Lee & The Sundowners
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Chuck Hayes & Special Edition
5:30 - 6:15 PM	<i>Special Awards: Jerry Seitz & Lou Bischoff</i>
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Butch Gibson & Pardners
7:45 - 8:45 PM	Chet Hasting & Country Fever
9:00 - 10:00 PM	<i>To be announced</i>
10:15 - 11:30 PM	Ballroom Jam & Closing



Saturday, August 9th

10:00 -11:00 AM	Ballroom Jam
12:00 Noon	<i>Welcome, Lloyd Hooper, MC</i> <i>Opening Song by Butch Gibson</i>
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Chuck Hayes & Special Edition
1:45 - 2:45 PM	NWWSMS Board Band
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Chet Hasting & Country Fever
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Sacramento Western Swing Society
5:30 - 6:00 PM	<i>Raffle & Split-the-Pot Drawings</i>
6:15 - 7:15 PM	Patty McConnell & the Travelin' Four
7:30 - 8:30 PM	Southern Comfort
8:45 - 9:45 PM	Randy Hill & The Oregon Valley Boys
10:00 - 11:30 PM	Ballroom Jam & Closing



Sunday, August 10th

11:00 AM	Ballroom Opens: <i>Welcome, LeRoy King, MC</i> <i>Opening Song by Shelley McNaughton, Geno Burbank & Dave DuChane</i> <i>Flag Presentation by Ed & Lou Bischoff</i>
11:30-12:30 PM	CAROLYN MARTIN & FRIENDS
12:45 - 4:00 PM	HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY <i>Presenter: Butch Gibson</i> <i>Keyboard: LeRoy King</i>
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Big Ed & Steel Country
5:30 - 7:00 PM	INDUCTEE BAND
7:15 - 8:15 PM	Southern Comfort
8:30 - 9:00 PM	Festival Closing Remarks



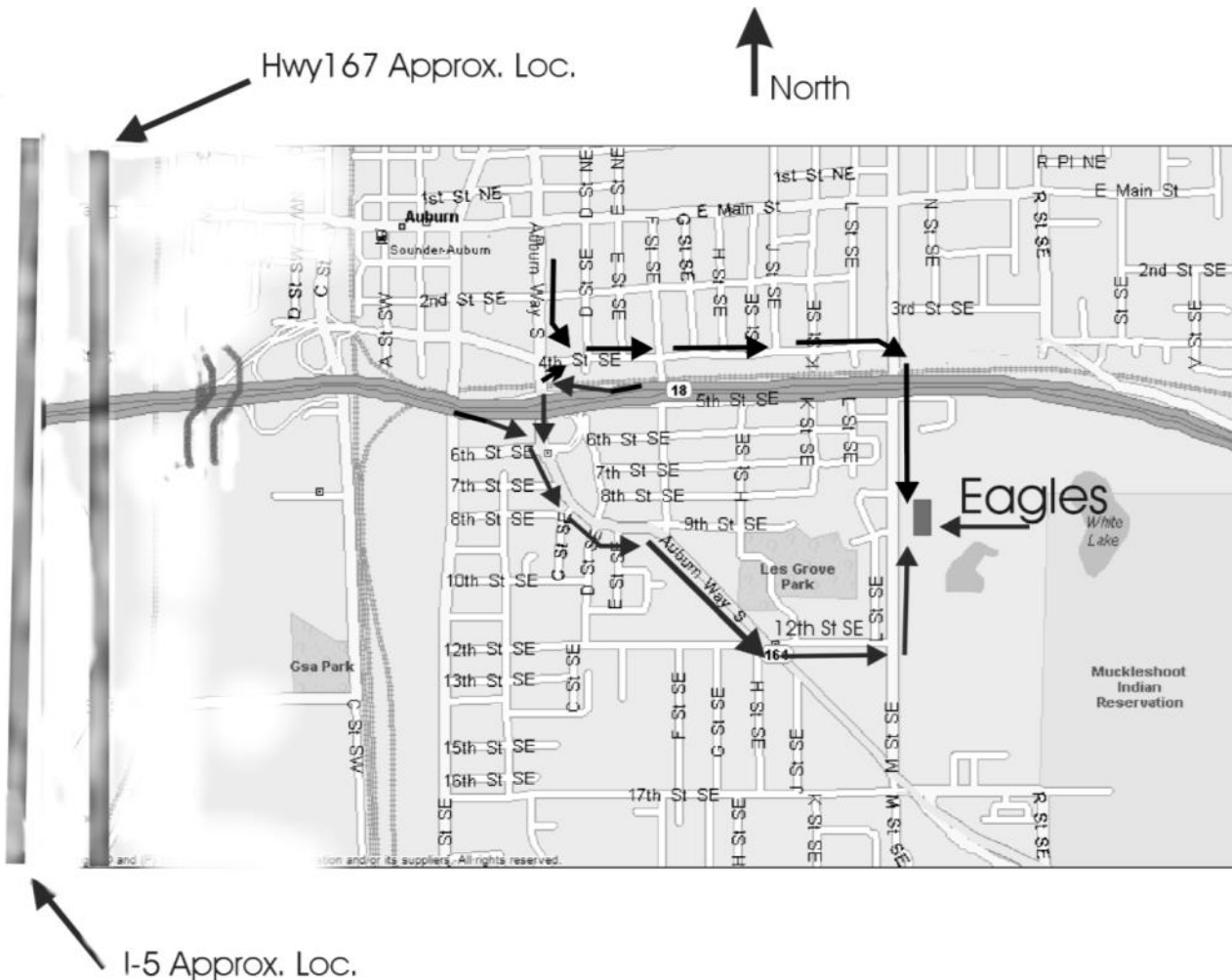
DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE EAGLES CLUB, 702 'M' Street, SE AUBURN, WA

From NORTH or SOUTH via I-5 or Hwy 167: Take a Hwy 18 exit EAST. Continue EAST and exit to Auburn Way S. Be in the right turn lane onto Auburn Way South. Follow Auburn Way S. (*stay in left lane*) to 12th St. SE (*landmark: Chevron Station at the intersection.*) Turn left on to 12th St SE. Continue EAST to 'M' Street. Turn left on 'M' Street, heading NORTH. Travel approximately 4 blocks to either of the Eagles' two entrances on the right.

From Hwy 405: Take the Hwy 167 Exit SOUTH. Then follow the Hwy 167 instructions above.

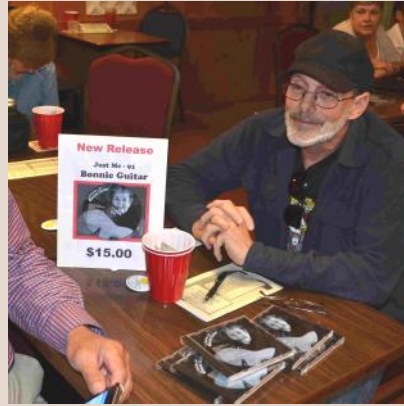
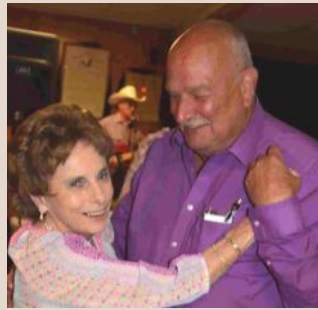
From EAST via I-90 and Hwy 18: Take I-90 WEST to Hwy 18 at Exit 25. Staying in the left lane of the exit, turn left, heading SOUTH on Hwy 18. Continue on Hwy 18 for approximately 30 miles and exit at Auburn Way S. (*The signs also show the exit is for the commuter train station.*) Stay in the right lane and turn right onto Auburn Way S. Immediately (*at the first light*) turn right on 4th St. SE. Proceed EAST to 'M' Street. Turn right, going under the railroad and I-18 overpass. Proceed three blocks. The Eagles entrances are on the left.

For Those Coming from Kent or North Auburn: Follow Auburn Way traveling SOUTH to 4th Street SE. Turn left and proceed EAST to 'M' Street. Turn right, going under the railroad and I-18 overpass. Proceed three blocks. The Eagles entrances are on the left.

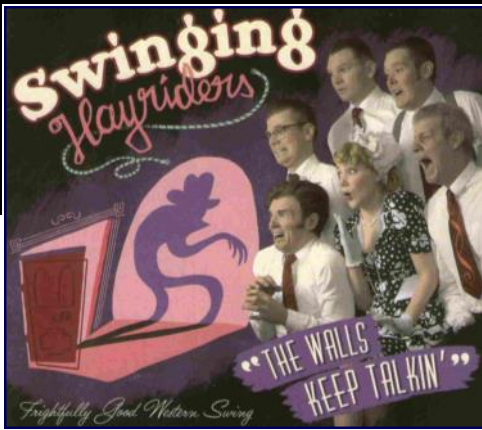


Highlights from the June Showcase

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



*Hope to see everyone at the August Festival!
Save a smile for the camera!*



Album: The Walls Keep Talkin'

Artist: Swinging Hayriders

Album Reviews

By **Mike Gross** KSEY - FM
www.swinginwest.com Seymour, TX



Mike Gross

Bring it on Down to My House Honey, Cowboy Stomp and from the early Wills days Fan it. Also brought back from both Tommy Duncan and Johnny Bond 78RPMs is Tex Atchinson's Sick, Sober and Sorry. The two remaining tunes are Welcome Mat and The Walls Keep Talkin'.

The band is comprised of Maria Stille doing the lead vocals, Ulrik Jansson playing double bass and Peter Andersson, steel guitar. Mats Bengtsson

plays piano and accordion, Johan Ek is the electric guitarist and the group drummer is Patrick Malmros.

The cost of the CD is \$20 plus \$5 postage to the USA and can be ordered on line from: <http://www.swinginghayriders.com>

Mike Gross, KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX and www.swinginwest.com

This wonderful Swedish western swing band has just released a fantastic follow-up CD to their awesome debut CD, *Get With It*. This new album, *The Walls Keep Talkin'*, is filled with 15 terrific and exciting musical cuts.

The album opens up with two that are from Leon McAuliffe and the Cimarron Boys, *Heart Attacks* and *Eatin' Right Out of Your Hand*. Then there is *You Better Wake Up Babe* borrowed from the Red Murrell band and *Great Big Needle* from the late Tex Williams. They go to pop music to borrow Johnny Mercer and Hoagy Carmichael's *Skylark*, the Ella Mae Morse memory, *Cow Cow Boogie* and Irving Berlin's *Blue Skies*. *Bloodshot Eyes* is from the Hank Penny band and *I've Taken All I'm Gonna Take From You* is from Spade Cooley. There are also three that are from the great Bob Wills Band,

Mike's Top 10 for August

Songs:

- Alexander's Goodtime Band - Dave Alexander (DAP)
- Don Edwards for President - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers (Musikode)
- All Dolled Up - Western Swing Authority
- One of Us Is Lying - Western Swing Authority (Canadian Import)
- Smack Dab - Jean Prescott
- New Star Over Texas - The Time Jumpers
- Swingin' in Tucson - Kristi Nebel (Icebird)
- Punchin' Cows, Settin' Posts, Stretchin' Wire - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
- Rye Whiskey Baby - The Lucky Stars (Fate)
- Hey, Wait! - Oregon Valley Boys

Albums:

- Tulsa Playboys and Friends - Tulsa Playboys
- Steel Highway - John Lang
- A Platter of Brownies - Carolyn Martin (Java Jive)
- All Dolled Up - Western Swing Authority (Canadian Import)
- Trails Less Traveled - 3 Trails West
- Live in Deep Ellum - Light Crust Doughboys (Art Greenhaw)
- Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
- Good Vintage - The Swing Commanders (UK)
- Alexander's Goodtime Band - Dave Alexander
- The Barn Door Slammers - The Barn Door Slammers



PO Box 14003 MILL CREEK, WA 98082

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

— Yearly Dues —

___ Individual, \$20.00 ___ Couple, \$25.00
 (one address)

Thank you for your support!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State / Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail Address _____

___ Performing Member ___ Supporting Member

Instruments _____

_____ Vocalist _____ Band Leader

Send newsletter to my : e-mail mail -box

Date Received: _____ By: _____



June 8th Showcase

By Lou Bischoff

Crowded with friends, old and new, Bonnie Guitar entered the Lynnwood Eagles' social room on the arms of her assistant, Nancy Ballantine, and myself. As we came into the room, the crowd present showed how excited they were to greet this great lady of

Western Swing.

Lloyd Hooper introduced her as the folks stood and received her with open arms. At 91 years of age, it was such a delight to meet her in great spirits and strength. We planned this party to recognize her induction into the Sacramento Hall of Fame last October. Bonnie was unable to receive her award at that time, so my hubby and I accepted on her behalf. A video was sent to her so she could witness the ceremony. We decided to have a party in her honor at a showcase so she could 'officially' receive her award. Lloyd made the presentation after Big Ed and Steel Country backed her singing a few of her favorite songs.

What a great event! We thank Big Ed and Steel Country for making themselves available for this special occasion. Not only are the members of Steel Country outstanding musicians, they are good people. Big Ed Kastner led the group on vocals/rhythm guitar. Dan Lyons was on drums/vocals, Pat Rowe on steel/lead guitar/vocals, and Duane Trueblood was on keyboard/bass/ vocals.

Accompanied by Steel Country, Bonnie added her special touch to some great classics, *Up the Lazy River*, *Frankie & Johnnie*, *Burning Bridges*, *When It's Night Time in Nevada*, and *Mac Namara's Band*. Truly an artist, her voice is amazing – showing incredible strength. Bonnie and Lloyd had prearranged to do a song together. They settled on Vernon Dalhart's *The Prisoner's*

Song. Without practicing before time, they just went for it! They were fantastic together.

Bonnie's son-in-law, Jerry Johnson (formerly with *The Hank Thompson, Tex Williams and Bonnie Guitar bands*), had invited some of his musician friends to this special Showcase. For the second set, they joined Bonnie on stage. Jerry took over on bass. Richard



Allen on accordion and vocals was exceptional. Beth Wulff (*Washington Blues Society Best Keyboards 2009*) was outstanding on keyboard with Jim Wulff on drums. Alan Troupe came over with Bonnie to accompany her on rhythm guitar and harmony vocals. Ramon Selby joined them with his 5-string fiddle.

Lloyd and I now began the award presentation. In addition to the plaque from the Sacramento Western Swing Society, Bonnie received a

letter of congratulations and special recognition from the Governor of California, for her contribution to western swing music. Bonnie was overwhelmed and we were very proud to assist.

Thanks, Lloyd, for coordinating the awards presentation. I do appreciate you as well as all those folks who came out on Sunday afternoon to support Bonnie and the NW Western Swing Music Society. Bonnie was kept very busy greeting her friends and fans as well as signing her new cd and the souvenir programs brought back from the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame.

Once the awards presentation had ended, the celebration cake was served to all the guests while Bonnie took a break from all the excitement. However, her dear friend, Kathy Keefer, who is working on a documentary of Bonnie's life, kept the camera rolling, recording all the activity. Longtime friend, Rus Porterfield, was present also. Rus helped with crowd control, making sure everyone had an opportunity to visit with Bonnie.



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(Continued from page 11, Highlights from the June Showcase)



Jimmy Johnson (twin brother of Jerry Johnson) ran the sale table, where Bonnie's new cd, **Just Me - 91**, was displayed. Thank you, Jim.

As the music began, on stage with Steel Country was 2013 HOF Inductee Willy Carter from Lebanon, OR. At 88, Willie is looking great and gave an outstanding performance. Willie's son, Steve, rode the train to Oregon, then drove his parents up to Lynnwood to take part in this special day honoring Bonnie Guitar. Steve drove his parents home again on Monday. What a guy!

Willie sang his signature songs so very well and energized the crowd with his fiddling. He is an amazing talent. *Draggin' the Bow* brought the

house down as did *Bubbles in My Beer*. The crowd showed their appreciation by keeping the dance floor filled most of the day. Lovely Conra Marsh sang *Kentucky Girl* – very well done! *Faded Love* was sung by LeRoy King, with Shelley McNaughton and Dave DuChane adding their harmonies – just beautiful!

Dave Wheeler took over on bass. On keyboard now was one of Jerry Johnson's very talented friends (*so sorry I didn't get his name*). Pat Rowe was on steel. Neal Jeans sang *Room Full of Roses* followed by *Back in the Saddle*. Love that deep, strong voice. Dave DuChane sang *Crystal Chandeliers*. Wille expressed a special thank you for the invitation to perform. He had a super time.

Jim McLaughlin, two-time world champion blues harmonica player, took the stage along with Steve Carter on lead guitar, Gil Barbee on drums, Jerry Seitz on fiddle, Larry Broad on rhythm/lead guitar, and Lloyd Hooper on bass/vocals. Bonnie was absolutely stunned when Duane Trueblood sang her personal request. She seemed to take a special liking to Duane and raved about Big Ed and Steel Country all day long. Thanks, Ed. You and Steel Country were the perfect band for this occasion.

Larry Turner was on drums now. It was so nice to see him again. He moved to Arizona a year ago but was back to visit friends. Patty McConnell introduced us to a friend visiting the



Western Swing Society Showcase for the first time, Gene Snyder. Gene generously donated an acoustic guitar to the Society. It will be raffled off at the August Hall of Fame. Thank you, Gene!

We were joined by an incredible group of musicians today. I apologize



June's Host Band **Big Ed & Steel Country**



Pictured above, left column, top down:
Big Ed Kastner, Pat Rowe.

Right column, top down:
Duane Trueblood,
Dan Lyons



for not being able to name them all, but we truly appreciated your part in the program – each one of you! Also, a big **'Thank You'** to everyone who came out to welcome Bonnie and enjoy the music, whether you were dancing or listening. Many heartfelt thanks to Lloyd and Patty for your assistance in running today's program.

Patty closed the show as she belted out *The Auctioneer*. My oh my, what a performer! Patty made a special request from the bandstand that Bonnie learn that song. Then, when we all meet again, she and Patty can perform it together. We'll see how that goes . . . stay tuned for next time!

Love and prayers go out to all those in need.

We sincerely appreciate you all!

Lou