



Volume 30, Issue 6

A ***News*** Letter ***For*** and ***About*** Our Members

June 2013

"If You Can't Dance to It, Don't Play It" *The Nix Connection between West Texas and Western Swing*

Editor's note: The following article is a compilation, edited due to space limitations, from the following sources: Joe W. Specht, "An Interview with Hoyle Nix, the West Texas Cowboy," Old Time Music, nos. 34-36 (1980-81). Paul Kingsbury, ed., The Encyclopedia of Country Music: The Ultimate Guide to the Music (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998). Joe Carr and Alan Munde, Prairie Nights to Neon Lights, The Story of Country Music in West Texas, (Texas Tech University Press, 1995)

The postwar years have been called the "Golden Age of Country Music," and the music produced then is still the measure by which traditional country music is judged.

In Texas, after WWII, Bob Wills-style western swing was firmly established as a popular dance music. On a national scale, however, despite Wills' movie appearances and national hits such as "New San Antonio Rose," his prominence was limited to areas in which he had toured and performed on radio extensively: Oklahoma, Texas, and California. As a result, Wills had very little contact with the eastern country music community. Many of his innovations were too modern for that country music establishment. Possibly because Wills' music was closer to jazz than were the Grand Ole Opry offerings, his style was seen as renegade . . . Despite the resistance of traditionalists, many of Wills' musical innovations were soon incorporated into the mainstream in a new type of country music. The changing face of country music audiences after World War II and the popularity of dance halls, roadhouses, clubs, and honky-tonks after the war led to the development of a music form uniquely suited to these environments: honky-tonk music.

As honky-tonk music emerged, western swing continued to be popular with West Texas musicians and fans alike. For a time in the mid-1950s, Bob Wills lived and performed in Amarillo, appeared on a daily noon-time radio program, and was a regular Friday night feature at the Cotton Club in Lubbock. West Texas was also the retreat for many of Bob Wills' former musicians who found a home with Hoyle Nix's group in Big Spring. Despite the decline of western swing music in other parts of the West during the 1950s, Nix experienced great success.

Hoyle Nix is second only to Bob Wills in West Texas western swing. Unlike many musicians of West Texas, Nix had a successful music career without leaving the region. For nearly forty years, from the formation of his **West Texas Cowboys** in 1946 until his death in 1985, Nix entertained West Texas audiences with his own brand of Wills-inspired (Continued on page 5)



Join us as we honor our fathers and our flag at the
Western Swing Showcase: Sunday, June 9
at the Lynnwood Eagles, Lynnwood, Washington



19223 Hwy 99 - Three Blocks North of 196th Street on Hwy 99

WOOD DANCE FLOOR - NICE SEATING - FAMILIES WELCOME - FOOD AVAILABLE

LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING: 1:00 - 5:00

Featuring

LeRoy King and GTO



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.

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Annual Membership:

Full membership (one couple at one address):

\$25.00

Single membership: \$20.00

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

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

PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase by Lou Bischoff & Rus Davis.
Thank you to all of our contributors!

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

MAY 7, 2013



President, Lloyd Hooper, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Present: Ramon Selby, Alice Striegel, Lloyd Hooper, Jerry Seitz, Lou Bischoff, LeRoy King, Dave Duchane, Jeanne Yearian, Patty McConnell.

Absent: Bill Gates

Guests: Fred Yearian, Ed Bischoff

Treasurer: Ramon Selby provided the financial report, which was approved as presented.

Bills: Approved to pay as presented..

Showcases: There will be a cake provided for the May 12 Showcase in honor of Mothers' Day. Alice Striegel will purchase the fresh, floral arrangements that will be given out at the Showcase in recognition of the oldest mother, the mother with the youngest child and the mother with the most children.

Membership Committee: New members continue to be added to the Society. Keep up the good work!

Scholarship: Matthew McCravey (our current scholarship holder) continues to improve healthwise.

Website: In June, the NWWSMS website will begin to be rebuilt. It is hoped that it will be finished before the August festival.

Hall of Fame: Lou Bischoff has ordered the new 30th anniversary T shirts and hats.

The new wristbands which will be used to denote payment of the admission charge will be ordered, a different color for each day of the event. Also, a wristband with an American flag motif will be purchase for members of the Eagles and their guests.

There are 15 inductees to be honored and Lou Bischoff has contacted each one of them. They have all expressed much appreciation at being so honored by the NWWSMS.

The MC for Friday will be Leroy King; MC for Saturday will be Lloyd Hooper; MC for Sunday is yet to be determined

For the Good of the Order: NWWSMS will sponsor a benefit auction for Danny Lyons at the

(Minutes of May 7, 2013, Continued)

Lynnwood Eagles on Saturday, June 1. Auction items will be appreciated. Flyers will be passed out at the May Showcase.

Motion passed to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Striegel, Secretary

Join us on July 14th for a Picnic!

The Annual NWWSMS Potluck
& Summer Jam will be held
at the home of

Lou and Ed Bischoff

10930 38th Drive, SE
Everett, WA

Bring:

Family and guests

A favorite dish for the potluck
Comfy lawn chair
Instruments

Come ready to make music,
dance and relax!

Look for more information in
next month's newsletter

The next Showcase at the
Lynnwood Eagles will be held on
September 8, 2013

It's Your Newsletter

Contributions of your news items, letters, pictures and advertisements to the **Western Swing Music Society News** are needed and encouraged. (Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of materials.)

Deadline for consideration is the 15th of the month, but sooner is better. Send to or e-mail:

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Renton, WA 98058-9740

Phone: 425-432-7888

Email: jeanneyearian@yahoo.com

Prez Sez-

By Lloyd Hooper



I was sorry to miss the performance of Shelly McNaughton and her group, **Southern Comfort**. She has such a great voice and certainly knows how to use it. Sources tell me I wouldn't have been disappointed. Thank you, Shelly!

Now, I have the great pleasure to announce the individuals chosen to be inducted into the 2013 North West Western Swing Music Society's Hall of Fame during the 23rd Annual Western Swing Music Festival scheduled for August 8 - 11, 2013. The Nominating Committee presented their selections to the Board at the May meeting. The Committee's nominations met with unanimous approval!

The NWSMS Hall of Fame Inductees for 2013 are:

Biff Adam, Auburn, CA
Sean Allen, Napa, CA
Jim Baughman, Auburn, CA
Orville "Teddy" Bensmiller, Armstrong, BC
Cliff Brizendine, El Sobrante, CA
Willie Carter, Lebanon, OR
Glenn "Buddy" Collins, Muskogee, OK
Rus Davis, Bothell, WA
Bonnie "Guitar" (Tutmarc), Soap Lake, WA
Darrell Haddock, Duvall, WA
Chet Hasting, Milton, WA
Gary Hood, Prescott, AZ
John Jones, Spring, TX
The Nix Family, Big Spring, TX
(Hoyle, Ben, Larry & Jody)
Bill F "Froggy" Worden, Fort Worth, TX

Additional information on each of these outstanding candidates will be available in upcoming issues of the newsletter (see this month's feature article on West Texas Western Swing and the Nix family). They will also be featured in a

commemorative booklet available on Sunday, August 11, 2013, at the induction ceremony to be held at the Auburn Eagles. Now, if you miss all of these opportunities to get to know more about the 2013 inductees, check the NWSMS website in September!

At the start of my presidency, I had promised myself that I would make every showcase, opening to closing, regardless of whether I had to play music that weekend. Remarkably, O! Lloyd sometimes shows a grain of common sense! After hitting a 'rough patch in the road,' I wisely took some time off. Hopefully, I'm on the mend, so I'll look forward to seeing you at the June 9th showcase!

Our showcases continue to amaze. I understand there was another full house, a testimony to our devoted musicians, our executive board, the Lynnwood Eagles, and especially to our generous guests, who enjoy some of the finest dance music around the Sound . . . our beloved Western Swing.

There will be no shortage of entertainment at our next showcase when my friend, LeRoy King, and "GTO" hosts. (*Go ahead, ask him what "GTO" stands for!!*)

Time to get swingin'.
Lloyd

(Editor's Note: the following note of thanks was received by Jim & Lue Neel from Matthew McCravey and his family)



Thank you for all the wonderful music. It will certainly keep me busy listening while I recover. Hope to see you guys soon.

*Musically yours,
Matthew*

What a wonderful surprise for Matthew—25 Western Swing cds . . . WOW!!!

Being from Texas, it was fun to read some of the covers and the names of tunes. Western Swing music always makes feet tap and brings smiles to faces. It just has to perk the boy up and lift his spirit.

Matthew is getting better. Please keep praying for him.

Mike, Denise & Matthew

(ps) This morning, my mother, who is 91 years old and lives with us, was dancing to the music you sent =)

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.

Dan Leal and the Hometown Band, at the Historic Everett Theatre, 2911 Colby. Visit their website for information on upcoming play dates: www.hometownhootenanny.com

Lloyd Hooper and the Cascade Ramblers. June 7-8 & 14-15 at the Sedro-Woolley Legion from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm.

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 available. June 4, 11:00 am, Enumclaw Senior Center. June 14, 8:00 pm, Tacoma AmVets. June 21, 8:00 pm, Port Orchard Eagles. June 28, 7:30 pm, Tacoma Eagles #3.

For additional information, call Patty: 425-255-3178 or Leroy at 253-845-8359.

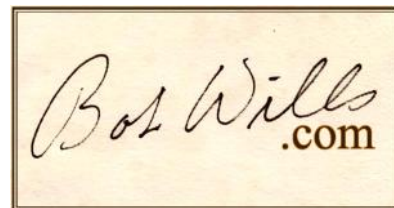
Ken Fullerton and Country Fever. Auburn Eagles, every Monday, 6-9 pm. Dinner is available! First Fridays dinner/dance at the Black Diamond Eagles from 5:30 to 9:30. Call 253-922-7888 or 253-380-2445 for more information.

Nick Dumas, Northern Departure, Visit their website for information on upcoming play dates and appearances: www.northerndeparture.com

Rick Jorgensen, The Dakota Territory Show, live webcast playing 78s from 1925-1965, on the 3rd Saturday of the month, from noon to 6 pm at: www.therightcountry.com

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/BobWills/radio



Cherishing The Memories

JODY NIX SHARES SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM THE BOB WILLS SESSION, FOR THE LAST TIME, RECORDED IN DALLAS, TEXAS

Editor's Note: The following is a portion of a transcribed interview with Jody Nix. The transcription in its entirety can be found at www.bobwills.com. This transcription has been edited due to space limitations in this publication.

I first heard about this recording session in the middle of September of 1973 or somewhere there about. My Daddy, Hoyle Nix, told me one Saturday night at the Stampede, that there was going to be a recording with Bob Wills and Johnny Gimble was going to be there too. At that time I didn't know who all would be there. As time went on and it got closer, I did know. I felt very honored to be a part of this. I didn't know what all I was to do . . . but I knew I was going to record with **Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys** and I was only 21 years old.

As time drew closer, it all was becoming a reality. The morning that we left, which was Sunday, December 2, 1973, Daddy, my Stepmother, my little sister Robin and I took off on an historic trip. I drove my own pickup carrying my drums (I furnished them for the session) and my clothes. The family was in Daddy's car. We left for Ft. Worth, Texas. We were on our way to Bob Wills' home for a jam session, a meal, a get together, a rehearsal, a homecoming of Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys in preparation for an album which was to make musical history, and I was part of it! We arrived around noon or soon after. Al Stricklin and Keith Coleman were already there. It was great to see them. We visited for a short while. I remember in the conversation that Al Stricklin said "We are here because of the old Master." We talked to Betty (*Wills, his wife*) and then we went in to see Bob. He was lying in bed - very alert - and seemed so happy that all this was taking place. I took his hand and talked to him. I had known him personally since I was 4 years old, had played drums with him countless times and worked many dances with him.

But now it was different - I wasn't just the drummer. He said to me (*and I remember it as if it were yesterday*) and I quote, "You see what I wanted don't you?" He meant that he wanted me to be featured on this album vocally, as a singer, a chance to be heard by



Holye Nix and Bob Wills

other people and it was Bob that gave me that chance. It was Bob that I was singing for. It was a great feeling, an honor, and a humbling experience. Soon after the visit other Texas Playboys and family members started to arrive. Next was Johnny Gimble, then Tommy Allsup (*the producer and long-time friend of Bob*), Charles Townsend (*author of the biographical book on Bob Wills, San Antonio Rose*), Smokey Dacus, Eldon Shamblin, Leon McAuliffe, Leon Rausch, Al Stricklin and Keith Coleman - all former and famous **Texas Playboys**. The jam session started. Betty rolled Bob into the living room. There were drums, fiddles, steel, guitars - all of it was there, and he was in the middle of it again. We rehearsed, played for fun, ran over songs for the session.

Soon after it got started (*they probably had done one song*), Bob called on me to sing *My Shoes Keep Walking Back To You*. I was sitting on the couch just watching but I was ready when it was my turn. I told them the key, which was E. Eldon Shamblin said "E," and I said, "Yes." Johnny Gimble kicked it off as smooth as silk. There I was, singing with Bob and the Texas Playboys - you think that won't get at you? I can't remember all the songs that we did that afternoon, but Bob loved it. Betty prepared a wonderful meal for all of us, and the house was full - full with family, friends, and musicians. I remember later on after the meal we were jamming again and I just had to play drums. They were playing *Twin Guitar Special* and really smokin' it. It felt so great to put a beat behind those guys - I just loved it.

Too soon the jam session was over. We all were headed to Dallas to the hotel where we were staying. When we got there, everybody was going to their rooms and talking about the session coming up the next two days. I remember starting up the stairs to go with my Dad to get a room and Tommy Allsup said, "He can stay with me." I shared a suite in between Tommy and Johnny Gimble. (Continued on Page 6)

Sharing the Journey

WITH BEST WISHES and PRAYERS

Rick Dunn
Matthew McCravey
Bob Dolle
Vi & Darrell Anderson
Keith Holter
Bob Cobb
Dick Sanderson
Betty Reeves
Harry Coffman
Rudy Alexander
Bob Woeck
Audry Clayton
Julie Martin (Mrs. Bob)
Carmen Champion

CONDOLENCES

To Bonnie 'Guitar' (*Tutmarc*), family and friends on the loss of her daughter, Paula.

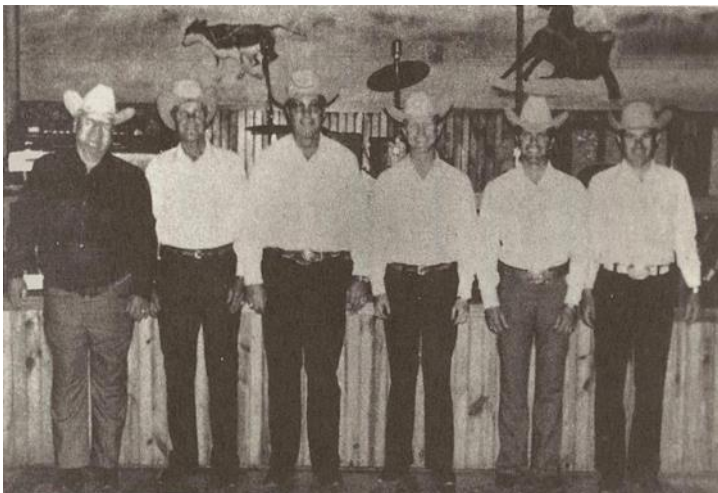
*A friend
is someone who knows the
song in your heart
And can sing it back to you
When you have forgotten the
words.*

-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).*

Continued from page 1 . . . *The Nix Connection Between West Texas and Western Swing*



Hoyle Nix and the West Texas Cowboys at the Stampede Club in Big Spring, TX. Left to right: Hoyle Nix (fiddle), Ben Nix (rhythm guitar, vocals), Tommy Harvel (lead guitar), Larry Nix (bass, vocals), Jody Nix (drums, vocals) and Dusty Stewart (steel guitar). Photo courtesy of Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

western swing dance music and kept the tradition alive. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, while the country music industry was reeling from the effects of the rock and roll invasion, Nix's group was at its zenith. Traveling in a bus, they worked steadily, made recordings, and attracted a number of Wills' alumni to the band. This impressive record is without equal in the region.

Hoyle Nix (1918-1985), West Texas fiddler, bandleader, and exponent of the Bob Wills sound, was born to Jonah Lafayette Nix and Myrtle May (Brooks) Nix on March 22, 1918, in Azle, Texas. The family moved to Big Spring when Hoyle was one year old. His father was a fiddler and his mother a guitarist, and the couple often performed together at community gatherings. Nix was six years old when he learned his first fiddle tune. In addition to his parents' influence, the music of Bob Wills was also very important to his style. According to Hoyle, (Bob) Wills was the finest fiddler he ever heard.

During the 1930s, Hoyle along with brother, Ben Nix (1920-1994) on guitar, formed the **Centerpoint Serenaders**. In 1946, Hoyle and Ben formed the **West Texas Cowboys** and patterned the band after Bob Wills' **Texas Playboys**. In 1954, the Nix brothers built a small dance hall on the Snyder highway just outside of Big Spring and named it the **Stampede**. Nix had already established a dance circuit in the area and was making regular appearances in other towns, including Abilene, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, and San Angelo. The **West Texas Cowboys** cut their first recordings in 1949 for the Dallas-based Star Talent label. The initial Star Talent release, Hoyle's *Big Ball's in Cowtown*, a folk-derived rewrite, proved to be an enduring standard. He continued to record for small Texas record companies - Queen, Caprock, Bo-Kay, and Winston - in the 1950s and early 1960s. In 1968 Nix started his own recording label, Stampede, named after the dance hall.

During the late 1950s, the **West Texas Cowboys** grew to its largest size with nine members. The band at this time included former **Texas Playboys** Eldon Shamblyn, Millard Kelso, and Louis Tierney. Hoyle Nix had first shared a stage with Bob Wills

in 1952 in Colorado City, Texas, and their two bands soon began touring together, splitting the playing time at each dance.

Hoyle married five times and had four children, Larry (1940), Jody (1952), Hoylene (1957), and Robin (1959). Larry joined his father's band in 1957 and played bass. When Jody signed on in 1960 as drummer and fiddler, the two siblings became the rhythm section of the **West Texas Cowboys**, a position they held for the next twenty-five years. Jody, who began learning to play drums at age four, remembered this period fondly: "I was playing with the 'big boys' now. I really had to get it. . . . We played Tuesday at Brownfield, Wednesday at Lamesa, Thursday at Abilene, and Big Spring at the Stampede on Saturday." Despite this schedule of five late nights a week, Jody was expected to attend school regularly.

After Wills disbanded the Texas Playboys in the early 1960s, he continued to appear with Nix on a fairly regular basis until his first stroke in 1969. The respect that Wills had for Nix was evidenced when he invited Nix and his son Jody to participate in what turned out to be Wills' final recording session, *For the Last Time*.

In 1973, Hoyle and Jody Nix recorded the landmark United Artists album, *For the Last Time: Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys* along with Merle Haggard and a who's-who of former Texas Playboys. Although never a member of Wills' group, Hoyle Nix was asked to play fiddle and sing on the recording in a capacity similar to Wills. Nix's own *Big Ball's in Cowtown* was recorded on this session, as well as *Crippled Turkey*, one of Nix's favorite fiddle tunes. Jody, age twenty-one years old, was invited to sing several songs on the album as well as playing drums behind his father's fiddling. This album is often credited for starting the western swing music revival of the 1970s.

After Hoyle's death in 1985, Ben, Jody and his brother, Larry, continued performing with the band. Having played drums with the band since childhood, Jody was well prepared to carry on in his father's tradition. Jody started fiddling at age eleven but actively worked on it only after his father's death. He was named for Bob Wills' jazzy left-handed fiddler, Joe Holley, whom Wills often called "Jody" in on-record introductions. Hoyle was said to have wished for a left-handed boy fiddler and, strangely enough, got just that. Jody is left-handed and plays the fiddle on the right shoulder without reversing the string order, just as his namesake did. Ben continued to play with The Texas Cowboys for another 4 or 5 years after Hoyle's death. Larry continued to play and sing with the band until just a few years ago and, now retired, lives in Big Spring.

In addition to writing and recording his original music, Jody and his band, **The Texas Cowboys**, play throughout the year at rodeo dances, VFW halls, and dance halls, just as his father did. In 1988, Jody played in Washington, D.C. during the inauguration of President Bush at the request of Texas state representative Charles Stenholm of Stamford. With Jody taking over leadership of the band as his father wanted and 'carrying on the show' at the **Stampede** (now owned and operated by him), West Texans are assured of dancing to the music of a Nix fiddle well into the twenty-first century.

Hoyle Nix was inducted into the Nebraska Country Music Hall of Fame in 1984, the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame in 1985, the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame in 1991. Jody was inducted into the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame in 1996 and has received many other honors. This year, Hoyle, his brother Ben and his sons, Jody and Larry, collectively as the Nix Family, will be inducted into the Northwest Western Swing Music Society's Hall of Fame.

Cherishing The Memories

(Continued from page 4, Jody Nix remembers . . .)

What a thrill to be around those guys and hear their stories.

The next morning we got up early. I remember really dressing up that day - nice western dress pants, nice shirt, western sport coat, good boots and my good hat. I went to breakfast and then I went to the studio. I had my drums so I had to take them to the studio for Smokey. All the other men were getting there as well. The session was held at Sumet-Burnet Studios in Dallas, a great place to record. The engineer's name was Bob Sullivan, what a guy, great man to have on board. Soon after, around 10 am or so, the session started. All the Texas Playboys were there, along with dignitaries and the press.

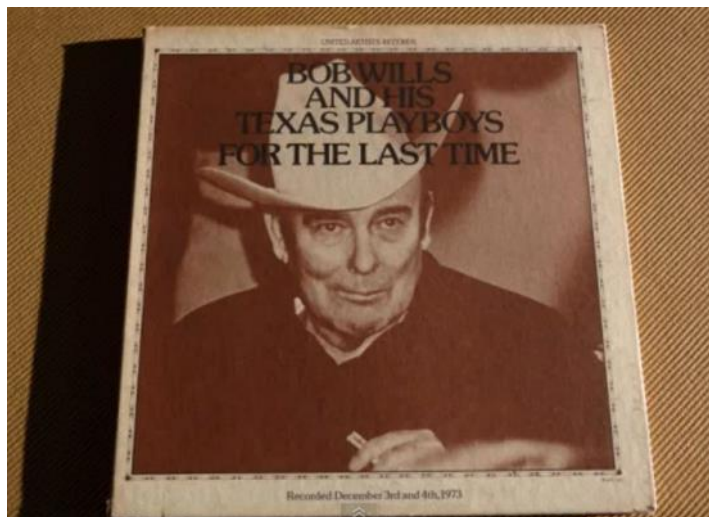
Betty arrived with Bob. She rolled him into the studio. He was smiling and excited to be there. All the Playboys were greeting him and saying hello. My Daddy, Hoyle, was elated, because Bob Wills was his hero. They rolled him into the middle of the studio and the band was just around him. There they were once again, as it was long ago, and I was in the middle of it. I remember the first song they recorded was *Blue Bonnet Lane*, a Cindy Walker song. Johnny and Keith played the sweetest kickoff on it - just would give you chills. Leon McAuliffe sang it and, on the bridge, Johnny and Keith sang harmony - just beautiful. Ol' Bob had his microphone and was trying to put his ahh-haa's in. They were there, but not as crisp as they were in days gone by. Still, the Charisma of Bob Wills was very evident.

It wasn't long after the first song that he called on me to do Cindy Walker's song, *When You Leave Amarillo*. I will never forget that. The vocal mic was right by him. He was to my immediate left, watching me the whole time. To this day I can see those jet black eyes just gleaming. He put quite a few ah-ha's and other words in my song. The feeling was indescribable, knowing that the King of Western Swing was right there and had asked me to be a part of this. Every time I sing that song today, I can still see him sitting there. At the end of the song, the line says "When You Leave Amarillo, Turn Out The Lights," and Bob said on the end, "Cut Out The Lights." We didn't know it at the time, but that is the last recorded voice of Bob Wills.

The session continued. I can't remember all of them in order, but we recorded about 12 songs that day. Bob got Daddy Hoyle up real soon after me to play the fiddle tune that he wrote called *Coming Down From Denver*. Bob loved this old tune. Daddy wrote it in 1958. He was driving his tractor and said the tune kept swirling in his head. He picked his plows, came to the house, went to the bus, got his fiddle and played it. That is how it was written.

They ask Daddy to do *Big Ball's In Cowtown*. He was hesitant to do it, but they kept on, so he did it. I played drums with him on that. He always said his bow wouldn't work right if I wasn't playing the drums behind him. He fiddled it just like always, and Johnny Gimble sang harmony with him. They had a great time doing that. Then it was my turn to do another one, *My Shoes Keep Walking Back to You*. It came off on the first take. Bob was pleased.

Late that afternoon, Bob was getting tired. He had a good day, but he wanted to go home. Betty was rolling him out of the studio and in came the newly formed group, **Asleep At The Wheel**. There was big Ray Benson, Lucky Oceans, Richard Casanova, Chris O'Connell, Lee Roy Preston and Floyd Domino the great piano man - the new western swing boys. They met Bob and



visited briefly before he left. They hung out with us the rest of the night. I went to the Bus with Ray - his Scenic Cruiser Greyhound - and got the words to *I Can't Go On This Way*. We came back and I recorded it. I played fiddle with Richard Casanova. I remember Floyd Domino sitting with ol' Al at the piano and they were playing up a storm. Of course Johnny Gimble was smiling the whole time. He was pretty well the leader of the session. He knew all the tunes, the style, tempo, and everything. He and Keith played so good together.

Well, the evening wore down and the session was over for the day. Stories abounded. We left and went to the hotel to rest to get ready for the next day. I saw Merle Haggard's bus when we got to the hotel. I went to my room, opened the door and Merle was sitting on my bed. Merle was thrilled to be there to be a part of the session. He absolutely loved Bob Wills.

We had all gathered back at the studio (*the next day*) and, not long after the session began, Betty called with the news that Bob had a bad night. He had suffered a massive stroke. The atmosphere changed. All the Playboys were quiet - but there was a job to do. Merle had wanted the "Ol' Man" to be there so much, but it just wasn't going to happen. The session started. They recorded the *Playboy Theme* that had been heard by millions of people. Dr. Charles Townsend (*author of the book San Antonio Rose, the biographical history of the life and times of Bob Wills*) did the intro of *The Texas Playboys Are On The Air*. Merle Haggard sang it and played fiddle with Johnny and Keith. Hoyle put the Bob Wills touch on it with the ahh-haa's, in the right spots too. Merle then recorded *Yearning*, an old song that Bob always sang. He did such a great job on it. Then he did the beautiful *I Wonder if You Feel the Way I Do*. Those were the 3 songs that Merle did for the album. He stayed around for most of the day, visited, listened to stories.

I remember Daddy doing two more songs. One, a great song that he and Curtis Haskins wrote, was called *She's Really Gone*. Bob loved that tune. Then Hoyle fiddled *Crippled Turkey*. Merle Haggard never took his eyes off of him while he was playing - he liked it.

The news came later that Bob's condition had worsened but the session went on. The most trying time was when they recorded the classic *San Antonio Rose*. Leon Rausch just sang the fire out of it.

Cherishing The Memories

(Continued from page 6, Jody Nix remembers . . .)

Daddy Hoyle once again did Bob's part with the Ah-ha's and they were so close to Bob's it was eerie. When the song ended, there was not a dry eye in the studio. After we all gathered our composure, the session resumed.

The session began winding down. Parts were being replayed - overdubs here and there. Pictures were being taken. Before we parted company, the Playboys were talking about Bob, the condition he was in and that more than likely, this would be it. Keith Coleman made the statement that he hoped Bob 'was right with the Lord.' We all knew he was. Then we went back to the hotel. The session was over. The stories were told. History had been made.

I didn't see Bob again until Spring of 1974. I went by myself to Ft. Worth to see him at the nursing home after the album came out. Betty and Diane went with me. He was in his bed and on that day a radio station was featuring the *For The Last Time* album. I was in the room with him when it came on. He turned his head and was listening. He couldn't talk but he knew it was him and his boys. I am glad I went.

I had supper with the family that night. My memories went back to the very first time I ever met Bob. I was about 4 years old (*this was about 1956*). He worked our dance hall, **The Stampede**, in Big Spring. I wasn't tall enough to see him just by standing on the floor watching, so I pulled myself up and held on to the rail of the bandstand where I could take it all in. I watched all night right there. He was like a great white Stallion. So charismatic, those black eyes, white hat, the cigar, the lonesome fiddle, the great music. Even at that age I was just mesmerized. I remember I was almost asleep before they got me up to play drums with him. It was either *Beaumont Rag* or *Lonestar Rag* that he played. Quite a treat for a little boy - I will never forget that either.

I worked with him on numerous occasions since then until 1969, when he had the first stroke. It has been over 30 years since the last session was recorded, but it seems like only yesterday. I was a part of an historical album and no one can take that away from me. Thank you, Bob, for allowing me to be there. I'm still carrying on the show for you and Hoyle.

Come Join The Fun At
**The Western Swing Society's
 32nd Annual
 WESTERN SWING
 HALL of FAME
 MUSIC FESTIVAL**
October 3-4-5-6, 2013
 Machinists Hall, Rancho Cordova, California



1983-2013 Celebrating 30 Years!

The Northwest Western Swing Music Society's
 23rd Annual

Western Swing Music Festival & "Hall of Fame"

August 8-11, 2013

At the Auburn Eagles Club - 702 'M' Street SE, Auburn, WA
 With Its Beautiful, Big Dance Floor - Four Days of Great Music

Special Note:

Make your motel reservations as soon as possible!
**The motels listed are expecting an unusually high volume of
 business in August.**

The motels below are available but you must call them directly!

Motels: Hall of Fame 2013

-To receive special rates listed below -
 - Call the front desk and mention Western Swing -

La Quinta Inn & Suites

225 - 6th St SE, Auburn, WA 1 Bedroom \$119.00
 Phone: 253-804-9999

(New facility, on Auburn Way South, behind Denny's - right where
 Highway 18 passes overhead. Splendid rooms, nice breakfast
 facility - with a live cook!)

Amenities: Free Bright Side Breakfast®, Free Local Calls, Free
 Newspaper, Free Parking, Business Center, Convenience Store,
 Guest Laundry Facilities, Indoor Swimming Pool, Spa, Fitness
 Center, Pets Welcome

Comfort Inn

1 - 16th St NE, Auburn, WA Singles \$ 89.00
 Phone: 253-333-8888

Amenities: Free wireless high-speed Internet access, Free local
 calls, Indoor pool, Indoor hot tub. Complementary hot breakfast
 with eggs, meat, yogurt, fresh fruit, cereal and more, including
 your choice of hot waffle flavors.

Travelodge Suites

9 - 16th St NW, Auburn, WA Single Queen . . \$ 54.00
 Phone: 253-833-7171 Double Queen . \$ 64.00

Amenities: Complimentary breakfast with coffee, tea, danish,
 muffins, toast, juice, fresh fruit, Belgian waffles, oatmeal and
 cereal; coffeemakers; hair dryers, cable TV.

Have you heard?

*Papa Carl &
Mother Hen (aka Vesta)
are at it again!!!*

You Are Invited!

*Music, Friends, and
Food!! It doesn't get
any better than that!*



JOIN US FOR THE

11TH ANNUAL PIG ROAST

2:00 PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2013



The fun starts Friday evening. 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!

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

Maps to Carl & Vesta's on Camano Island will be available at the June Showcase. Questions? Please call: 360-387-2691

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

FOURTH OF JULY JAM AND CAMPOUT JULY 4TH 5TH AND 6TH

**DANCE TO MUSIC, MUSIC AND MORE MUSIC
GREAT MUSICIANS AND BANDS FROM NEAR AND FAR
ALL WEEKEND LONG**

at the home of Jesse and Lorene Jones, Dryden, Washington
At the junction of highways 97 & 2
(behind the Y Cafe and Wedge Mountain Motel)

**YOUR HOSTS: LORENE JONES, PATTY MCCONNELL &
THE TRAVELIN FOUR BAND AND JACK DEVER**

This is a musical jam so bring your instruments and talents. Fun, food and entertainment all day long, all weekend long. Potluck every day, so bring your favorite dish to share. Plenty of parking for RV's (no hookups), tents, porta-potty and motels nearby.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

LORENE JONES 509-548-6770; PATTY MCCONNELL 425-255-3178
or JACK DEVER 253-854-2240

WEDGE MOUNTAIN MOTEL 509-548-6694 - \$65.00
(mention 4th of July party for this rate)

CASHMERE VILLAGE INN (5 miles away) 1-800-793-3522



**Visit our friends at the original
Western Swing Society - these
guys are the ones who started
it all way back when.**

www.westernswingsociety.org



**Visit The
"Western Swing
Music Society of the
Southwest's" Web Site:
www.WSMSS.com**

OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS

Canadian Western Swing Music Society. Contact John York, 3565 Cambridge St., Vancouver, BC, Canada V5K 1M3. Phone 604-299-2301.

Sacramento Western Swing Society. PO Box 985, Sacramento, CA 95691. Music 1st Sunday of each month from 1-6 pm at the Machinist Hall, 2749 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA. Phone 916-974-1236.

Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest. PO Box 22185, Oklahoma City, OK 73123. Contact Larry Lange at 940-855-8256. Quarterly showcases featured. www.wsmss.com

Fresno Western Swing Society. Contact Joe Sausage at 559-222-5095.

Lincoln Western Music Roundup. 661-6th Street, #24, Lincoln, CA 95648. Music 4th Saturday of each month, 12 noon to 5:00 pm at Stewart Hall, 6005 Camp Far West Road, Sheridan, CA.
Ph: Georgia Fuentes, 916-645-8521.

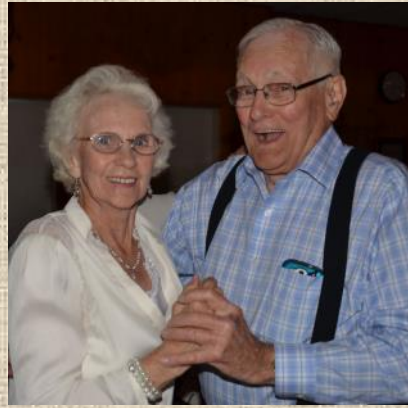
Greater Arizona Country/Western Swing Association and Hall of Fame Inc. PO Box 953, Dewey, AZ 86326.
Phone: Jim Gamble at 928-458-0714.

Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame. PO Box 1943, Manchaca, TX 78652. Al Dressen, president.
Ph: (512) 295-2770.

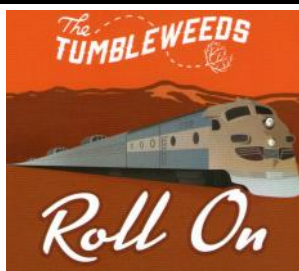
Cowtown Society of Western Music. Contact Joe Baker, CSWM Membership Director, at 940-452-6300.
On-line search: [Facebook](#), [Cowtown Society of Western Music](#)

Highlights from the May Showcase

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



*Hope to see everyone back on Sunday, June 9th!
Save a smile for the camera!*



Album: Roll On
Artist: The Tumbleweeds

Here is a very enjoyable new CD by The Tumbleweeds, a recent addition to Albuquerque's class Western Swing scene. They are joined on this CD of 11 tunes by some members of The Curio Cowboys, a name synonymous with Albuquerque Western Swing.

The Tumbleweeds are Joe Carter, fiddle and vocals, Byron Ripley, guitar and vocals and Jordan Ripley, banjo and vocals. They are joined by Curio Cowboys leader John Feldman playing steel guitar, electric mandolin and vocals, Jay Rosenblum, bass and Tom Walker, drums. Art Maya plays steel guitar on two classics, Haven Gillespie's *Right or Wrong* and Louise Massey and the Westerners, *My Adobe Hacienda*.

The album opens with an intro and then, from Leon McAuliffe and the Cimarron Boys, *Panhandle Rag*. The group then goes to the country world to borrow *Hey Good Lookin'* from Hank Williams. The album also includes a swinging and enjoyable *Roadrunner Ramble*, the exciting train tune, *California Zephyr* and the instrumental *Rubber Dolly*. Others from the

Bob Wills library are Fred Rose's *Home on San Antone* and the classic *A Maiden's Prayer*. The two final tunes are a south of the border treatment to the instrumental standard *Sobre Las Olas (Over the Waves)* and a fantastic version of the Johnny Bond masterpiece, *Cimarron*.

The CD can be purchased at this link: <http://tumbleweedsmusic.bandcamp.com/> It can also

be obtained by mail at Byron Ripley, 515 7th St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102 or e-mail: TumbleweedsMusic@gmail.com

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

Album Reviews

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



Mike Gross

Mike's Top 10 for June 2013

Songs:

1. Swing On - Carolyn Martin (*Java Jive*)
2. Can't Get Enough of Texas - River Road Boys (*Buzzard Roost*)
3. New Star Over Texas - The Time Jumpers (*Rounder*)
4. Yodel Western Swing - Kristyn Harris
5. Time Changes Everything - Christina Mae
6. Texas Dance Hall - Hot Texas Swing Band
7. All Dolled Up - Western Swing Authority
8. Funny It's Not Funny - Shoot Low Sheriff
9. Take Me Back to Texas - Mary Kaye (*Don't Fence Me In*)
10. That Lady's Man - The Ball Family

Albums:

1. Thursday Nite Live at Broken Spoke - Tony Harrison
2. Songs From Beautiful Texas - Al Dressen's Super Swing Revue (*Range Cube*)
3. Can't Get Enough of Texas - River Road Boys
4. The Time Jumpers - The Time Jumpers
5. Tennessee Local - Carolyn Martin
6. Where in the Dickens R U? - Miss Devon & The Outlaw (*Sharin' the Moon*)
7. All Dolled Up - Western Swing Authority
8. By Request - Billy Mata & Texas Tradition
9. Let Me Ride - Kristyn Harris
10. Hot Texas Swing Band - Hot Texas Swing Band



PO Box 14003 MILL CREEK, WA 98082

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___ Performing Member ___ Supporting Member

Instruments _____

_____ Vocalist _____ Band Leader

Send newsletter to my : ___ e-mail ___ mail -box

His Birthday _____ Her Birthday _____ Couple's Anniversary _____



MAY 12 SHOWCASE

By Lou Bischoff

First of all, we congratulate all of the new inductees to the 2013 NWWSMS' Hall of Fame! Included among this year's inductees are those who were and are true Pioneers of Western Swing as well those who gave so much of their lives and talent to encourage, foster and promote the preservation of America's Western Swing music.

The large crowd was welcomed by emcee, LeRoy King, in the absence of President Lloyd Hooper. Honoring our mothers is one of the special times of the year. Our thanks and recognition, no matter how sincere, seems the very least we can do to honor the commitment and sacrifice of mothers to their families. We also like to recognize a host of other supporters who have helped these moms raise and nurture their children along the way. As a heartfelt show of appreciation, Carl and Vesta Neue were ready at the door to make sure every woman coming to the showcase that afternoon received a red foil-wrapped, chocolate rose.

We were fortunate to have **Southern Comfort**, with special guest Paul Anastasio, showcase our program today. They are a premiere band in the Northwest, featuring Dave DuChane on bass and vocals, Geno Burbank on lead guitar and vocals, Robert Van den Akker on drums and vocals, and, of course, the multi-talented Shelley McNaughton on vocals. Paul added a western swing touch with his superb fiddling. You just can't get any better than that.

Shelley opened with *Pride* and *Blue Kentucky Girl*. Dave followed, singing *From a Jack to a King* and *I Love You Because*. Many of the ladies melt when Dave sings. When Van began singing *Just Call Me Lonesome*, some of the girls were seen looking for his cell number.



Shelley sang one of the songs Bob Wills made famous, *My Window Faces the South*. She is a classic. How proud we are of her. Dave sang *San Antonio Rose* followed by *Charlie's Shoes*. By that time, not another couple would have been able to squeeze onto the crowded dance floor. When Shelley began crooning *Last Cheater's Waltz*, no one left the floor. Then Shelley and Dave joined voices to sing a song written by Curley Williams and recorded by many, *Half as Much*. Shelley followed with *Right or Wrong*. Geno, Shelley and Dave belted out *Remember Me*. It was outstanding. *Take These Chains from My Heart*, sung by Southern Comfort's noted trio (Geno, Shelley and Dave), was Hank William's last #1 hit but always reminds me of Ray Charles' version that came out ten years later.

Lefty Frizzell's classic *Mom and Dad's Waltz* struck a chord in many hearts and was beautifully done by Geno and Shelley. Then Shelley and Dave stepped up to sing Hawkshaw Hankins' *Lonesome 7-7203*.

Between the music, we took time to honor our special moms present today with fresh flower arrangements offered for the occasion by Alice Striegel. The three vases were designated to be presented to the oldest mom, youngest mom and the mom with the most children. Our oldest mom (92), the youngest (with an 18-year-old son) and the mom with the most children (7) all walked away with a beautiful floral arrangement. Then, to my surprise, Vesta Neue presented me with two dozen gorgeous white roses in a beautiful pink vase, announcing that I had been designated the "mother" of the Northwest Western Swing Music Society! LeRoy King made the moment even more special by adding how much I have contributed to the western swing society. What a thoughtful gesture. I understand that it took the NWWSMS President's approval. Much love and thanks to you all.



For those of you who saw Lois and Darrell Haddock present but may have wondered why he did not get up to sing, I am pleased to report that Darrell is doing quite well. His decision not to sing with the band was made for reasons other than health. Bubbles is back after some down time. Good to see her! Nice, also, to see Joan Busch back after health issues. Speaking of that, our hard-working Lynnwood Eagles lady, Helen Winnem, is recuperating from major surgery. We hope she is all well by the time you receive this newsletter. Paul Anastasio's lovely wife, Claudia, was here today, enjoying the music with friends, as she watched her husband perform. Looks as though all our winter travelers are back home now.

(Continued on page 12)

(MAY SHOWCASE, continued from page 11)

We were pleased to see Jim Meeker and Donna Hagan back in the western swing family fold again. They love to dance and we surely delight in giving them the music made for dancing!

LeRoy King made great signs announcing our June 1st benefit and auction for Danny Lyons. Just in case folks missed seeing the flyers, he also announced it from the bandstand. Thanks, LeRoy.

Then came jam time. LeRoy opened on bass and vocals, singing *Big City*. He does that so well. Jim Neel and Steve Carter covered lead as well as rhythm guitar along with Larry Broad, who sang *Lone Star Beer and Bob Wills Music*. That smooth drummer, Larry Turner, took over. He mentioned he is moving to Arizona within the month. We will miss his gentle smile. Jerry Seitz and Ramon Selby played fiddles – very well, I might add. LeRoy followed singing *Lucille*. Jerry introduced vocalist, Linda Kirgan and her family. She blessed us with her sweet voice on *Candy Kisses, Crazy, and You Ain't Woman Enough to Take My Man*. What a lovely lady. We hope to see her again! Larry Broad was up next, singing *Drinking Champagne*, followed by newcomer James "Mitch" Mitchell singing *It Keeps Right On A-Hurtin'* and *Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain*. It's encouraging to see such a nice young man following his dream. Mitch went on to sing *Your Cheatin' Heart* with that sparkle in his eyes. Bass player, Al Spurlock, joined us once again and sang *Don't You Ever Get Tired (of Hurtin' Me)*. Margie Shatzka sang *Satin Sheets* and *Lonesome Blues*. What a darling! Enjoying her performance were her mom and dad, both beaming with pride. Al Spurlock sang *If I Ever Get to Heaven* followed by Big Ed Kasner singing *Blue*, LeAnn Rimes' signature tune. He was 'persuaded' to sing that by Jim Meeker and Donna Hagan. What fun we have at western swing! Gil Barbee took over on drums as Patty McConnell took time out from directing the jam to sing *My Heart Skips a Beat*. Seen dancing were our newsletter editor and her hubby, Fred. They are so talented.

Cutting the beautiful Mothers' Day cake were Jeanne Yearian and Shelley McNaughton. Serving was Shelley's daughter, Lacy. I might add we had three generations of Shelley's family with us for Mothers' Day – mother, Sandy; daughter, Shelley; and, granddaughter, Lacy. A special day it was!



The day wouldn't be complete if I didn't mention our loyal help from Lynnwood Eagles Club, Carl and Vesta Neue who handled Split-the-Pot, and Lorraine Bowen who took care of door prizes. Mae was at the door, documenting how many joined us on this special day.

Southern Comfort with Shelley McNaughton Showcase Band for May



Pictured (left to right):

Top row: Dave DuChane (bass/vocals), Shelley McNaughton (vocals)

Bottom row: Geno Burbank (guitar/vocals), Robert Van den Akker (drums/vocals),

Guest musician: Paul Anastasio (fiddle)



Club manager, Kathy, directed her help to give us their best possible service. Most of all, we'd like to thank Dave DuChane, who supplied the sound system for the day.

To everyone who made our Mothers' Day so special, I thank you all, especially my hubby, Ed, who is my most loyal and faithful supporter. Remember our loved ones daily and pray for those needing help with health issues.

Love to you all,
Lou