



PO Box 14003
MILL CREEK, WA 98082

Celebrating
Our 32nd Year

Founded
In 1983

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

Volume 32, Issue 6

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

June 2015

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

'LOST TAPES' OF BOB WILLS RESTORED BY OKLAHOMA'S 46 STAR RECORDS

(Editor's note: We thank Graham Lee Brewer of *The Oklahoman* and the Oklahoma Historical Society for the following articles and photos)

In 1949, after 15 years with his band, the Texas Playboys, Bob Wills had broken out of the local radio market and onto the national music scene in a big way. His influence stretched far, and historians later would credit his unique sound with ushering in a new style of country music.

Project Director for the OKPOP Museum Jeff Moore holds a copy of a new Bob Wills record, "Let's Play, Boys!," on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. The record was released by 46 Star Records, a new label created by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the OKPOP Museum. Photo by Bryan Terry, *The Oklahoman* **Bryan Terry - THE OKLAHOMAN**

But, with many of his band members splitting off to do side projects or pursue work with other bands, the Playboys were going through significant changes, including Wills taking over much of the singing duties.

That same year, the band recorded hundreds of songs and rehearsals, no one is sure exactly where, for radio play and personal use. For decades those recordings were passed down through family members and friends, never officially released or shared with the public. Together, they make up hours full of laughter, banter, the shuffle of boots on hard wood floors, and, above all, great music.

Now, the Oklahoma Historical Society, through a brand new record label it created, 46 Star Records, has released some of those songs for the first time on vinyl.

(Continued on page 6...)



Celebrate



Our Flag and Fathers Day at the

Western Swing Showcase: Sunday, June 14th

Hosted 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 Country Fever



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.

2015 Officers and Board Members

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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

or

Like us on FACEBOOK at
Northwest Western Swing Music Society

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

PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase photos by Jeanne Yearian.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

May 10, 2015



Alice Striegel
Secretary

President, Jerry Seitz, called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

Present by Verbal

Role Call: Lou Bischoff, Sharon Capps, Dave DuChane, Patty McConnell, Shelley McNaughton, Alice Striegel, Dave Wheeler, Jeanne Yearian.

Excused: Sharon Smith

Guests: Ed Bischoff, LeRoy King, Fred Yearian.

Treasurer: Sharon Capps presented the Financial Report.

Bills: Approved to pay.

Committee Reports:

Information Table: President Jerry Seitz reported that he set a table up at the first workshop held at Dusty Strings. Five copies of Dick Gimble's book and one used book were sold. Four new members signed up.

Website: Jeanne Yearian reported that updates have been made to both the website and Facebook.

Audit Committee: Shelley McNaughton reports that the audit is progressing.

Membership Committee: Dave Wheeler reported that there are 178 members in good standing with a total of 7 new members since January 1, 2015.

Program/Special Projects: Dave DuChane reports that the refurbished PA system is ready to use.

Showcase: Lou Bischoff reported that Country Fever will be the host band at the June Showcase. The Society's annual picnic in July will be held at the Bischoff's residence.

Hall of Fame: Lou Bischoff and Jeanne Yearian reported that the list of 2015 Inductees, festival dates and sponsoring motels are posted on Facebook as well as the website.

Scholarship/Workshop Committee: Jeanne Yearian reported on Dave Alexander's Big Texas School of Swing and proposed that money be set aside for this again this year.

"Sharing the Journey" was updated by Lou Bischoff.

New Business: Motion made, voted on, and approved to send \$450.00 to the Dave

(Minutes, continued . . .)

Alexander Big Texas Swing School Scholarship fund. Motion made, voted on and approved to give Jerry Seitz authority to purchase additional western swing educational materials for the Information Table, particularly an unspecified number of Dick Gimble's books.

For the Good of the Order: LeRoy King donated his supply of button-making equipment to the NWWSMS. A donation to the NWWSMS of \$25.00 was received from Shorty Joe Quartuccio.

Motion passed to adjourn at 12:105pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Striegel, Secretary

Dusty Strings
MUSIC SCHOOL • SEATTLE

Western Swing

Pete Martin

Saturday, June 6

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Free

Western swing is a wild and wonderful mélange of vintage jazz, swing, fiddle tunes, old-style country, blues, ragtime, Mexican polkas and more. Hot solos and jazzy arrangements were mandatory, and bands like Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys were top draws in Texas throughout the 1930s - '50s.

The Western Swing Society, the workshops' sponsor, wants to re-ignite the western swing fire, so come on down and be part of the conflagration!

The last in this series will be taught by multi-instrumentalist and instructor, Pete Martin.

All ages, ability levels and instruments are welcome. CDs, DVDs and sheet music for all tunes taught will be handed out.

Dusty Strings
3406 Fremont Ave. N., Seattle

...

206-634-1662

www.dustystings.com

Join us on July 12th 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
Phone: 425-357-9210

Come ready to make music,
dance and relax!

Bring:

Family and guests
A favorite dish for the potluck
Comfy lawn chair
Your beverage of choice
Instruments

Provided:

Sound System
Cups, Plates & Eating Utensils
Soft Drinks and Main Dish

Driving Directions: On I-5,
Northbound, take Exit 189. Stay in the
right-hand lane. Exit freeway eastbound
and IMMEDIATELY turn South on 19th
Ave. SE. Travel southbound to 100th
Street SE. Turn left and follow the road
all the way to 35th Ave. SE. Turn right
onto 35th Ave. SE and travel South to
109th St SE (a short block before the
light).

Alternate Route: From I-5 go East on
128th/132nd St SE, then North on 35th
to 109th St.

Reminder:

The event begins at NOON on July 12th.

Anyone arriving BEFORE 11:30 will be
expected to help set up for the picnic.

In case of rain,
the picnic will be rescheduled for
the following Sunday, June 19th.

If you have any doubts, please
call the Bischoffs to confirm.

Cherishing The Memories



Virginia Weston

(McGladrey) Thomsen.

Virginia, also known as "Toots,"
graduated from Arlington High School in
1948. Virginia married Eugene Martz and
they had three children, Michael, Al and
Suzanne.

After Eugene's death, Virginia later
married Delbert Weston and had another
daughter, Kathy. Virginia and Del lived in
Washington, Colorado and Alaska over the
years. They moved back to Arlington in
1980, living there until her death.

Virginia was a loving and caring wife,
mother, grandmother and friend to many.
She was involved with the Pioneer Hall
Assoc and Genealogy Society in Arlington
and a long-time supporter of the NorthWest
Western Swing Music Society.

The family wants to thank their mother's
very special friend, Doris Bruce, for all she
did for her. She will be missed but never
forgotten by a large community of friends
and family.

Virginia Ann
(Martz) Weston
was born
September 25,
1930, in Arlington,
Washington and
passed away May
24, 2015, with her
family by her side.
Virginia was the
daughter of Rudie
and Clara

Around the NorthWest Support Live, Local Music

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

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

The Barn Door Slammers. For
information on upcoming play dates, check
their website at: www.barndoorslammers.com.

The Oregon Valley Boys. For information
on upcoming play dates, check their website
at: www.oregonvalleyboys.com.

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

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. June 12 - Tacoma Eagles #3, 7:30.
June 5, 13 & 21 - Renton VFW. June 19 -
Lynnwood Eagles. June 26 - Tacoma AmVets.
For additional information and play dates, call:
Patty: 253-249-8788

Ken Fullerton and Country Fever. Auburn
Eagles, every Monday, 6-9 pm. Food
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.



www.westernswingsociety.org

Join the conversation on Facebook:
Sacramento Western Swing Society

2015 FOURTH OF JULY JAMBOREE AND CAMPOUT JULY 2nd, 3rd & 4th

DANCING, MUSIC AND MORE MUSIC
GREAT MUSICIANS & BANDS
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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
PATTY MCCONNELL 253-249-8788
LORENE JONES 509-548-6770

Cherishing The Memories



**CLIFF "SKEETER" ELKIN
NWWSMS POW 1995**

Skeeter passed away Friday, May 8, 2015, at a hospital in Auburn, California where he had been taking radiation treatment for a cancer on his head. His son, Jerry, says there will be no memorial service. Skeeter played piano in Bob Wills Texas Playboys for many years, and finally settled in Sacramento where he played in the band of Bob's brother, Billy Jack Wills. Skeeter was 92, and still bright and conversational. He loved talking about his glory days with the Wills boys.

Condolence cards or letters may be sent to Jerry Elkin, 2731 Harkness Street, Georgetown, CA 95634.

Cliff "Skeeter" Elkin was born in Denison, Texas, just south of the Oklahoma border in Grayson County, in 1922. The north Texas-southern Oklahoma area in which he was reared was a musically rich one and was particularly responsive to Western Swing when the music began to take shape in the early-to-mid 1930s. Elkin first took to accordion and was playing professionally by his mid-teens with Knight's Happy Cowboys on KRRV, a transitional band that straddled the fence between Western Swing and older styles. Elkin joined the Texas Playboys in late 1950s.

(Thanks to Dayna Wills for sharing this memory)

Several years ago Skeeter and I flew to Austin, Texas together. . . . We met at the Sacramento Airport at 4 A.M. The plane was "supposed" to depart at 6 A.M. We boarded the plane, and sat there until 8 A.M. because there was a "mechanical" problem. They couldn't fix it, so we waited until noon before we could get on another plane. There was a lay-over in Phoenix, and we finally arrived in Austin at 11 P. M. All this time, Skeeter walked all over the airports. He had no special dietary needs when we stopped to eat. He never complained; I got the rental car and we headed to Barbara Martin's house in Georgetown, 30 plus miles from Austin. We are tired and to make matters worse, it's raining cats and dogs. About this time, Skeeter asks me if I will turn on the overhead light so that he can set his watch to the local time. I haven't have adequate time to bond with this rental car, so I push the wrong button which promptly opens the sunroof! I am doing 60 MPH and frantically to push the right button to close the sunroof. Finally. And we didn't get a drop of rain on us. He never complained. What a trooper. R.I.P.

Our thanks to the Western Swing Society of Sacramento for the photo and what follows:

Skeeter passed away Friday, May 8, 2015, at a hospital in Auburn, California where he had been taking radiation



**JOHNNY GIMBLE
NWWSMS POW 1993**

May 9, 2015, near his home in Dripping Springs, Texas. He was 88. Gimble's wife, Barbara, posted a public notice on Facebook "to let you know of Johnny's peaceful passing early this morning." An Associated Press report quoted his daughter, Cyndy, as saying Gimble was "finally rid of the complications from several strokes over the past few years."

Gimble had been in declining health since his first stroke in 1999, but he continued to be musically active into his 80s. His last album, "Celebrating With Friends," came out in 2010 and included contributions from Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Vince Gill and Garrison Keillor, whose "A Prairie Home Companion" program featured Gimble on many occasions.

Gimble also appeared often on the music TV show "Austin City Limits," both as a headliner and as a sideman with acts such as Chet Atkins and Willie Nelson, with whom he toured in the late '70s and early '80s. "Before Lloyd Maines set the current record, Johnny played more times on ACL than any other musician," said Terry Lickona, the show's executive producer."

Lickona added that "aside from being a Texas Playboy, most would agree he was the finest country and western swing fiddler who ever played."

Gimble's presence still looms large on Austin music. His granddaughter, singer and pianist Emily Gimble, last year joined Austin's renowned Western swing institution Asleep at the Wheel, which has helped to keep alive the fiddle-heavy country-jazz style that Gimble helped pioneer in the 1940s and '50s. Over the years, he mentored many aspiring fiddlers who are now fixtures on the Austin scene, including the Mastersons' Eleanor Whitmore and longtime Asleep at the Wheel member Jason Roberts.

"Johnny has a jazz mind, and Western swing is just jazz played by country musicians." (Jason) Roberts told the American-Statesman's Michael Corcoran in 2010. "He's a great improviser and he's a master of that big, round, warm, buttery fiddle tone, so he was perfect for the Playboys."

In lieu of flowers a contribution to the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians would be appreciated. <http://www.myhaam.org/>. A note to the family would be addressed:

c/o Apt #20
800 Claremont
Marble Falls, TX. 78654

(The following was published in the Austin-American Statesman, Austin, Texas)

Johnny Gimble, who played fiddle for Bob Wills in the Texas Playboys and went on to become one of country music's most accomplished and respected musicians, died early Saturday,

Sharing the Journey

With Well Wishes and Prayers

Barbara Karr	Noreen King
Judy Collander	Bobby Wynne
Chuck Robins	Topyy Brigge
Jim Sanderson	Vi & Darrell
Louise Hamel	Anderson
Robert LaClair	Betty Reeves
Lane Johnson	Faye Woeck
Red Hildreth	Don Eardley
Jack Naughton	Rod Rodriguez
Keith Holter	Chuck Woods
Cindy De Leon	Pat Gore
Carmen Champion	Lou Rochelle
Harold Selby	

Condolences

To Barbara, family and a very large community of friends on the loss of her husband, Johnny.

To Faye Woeck, family and friends on the loss of her husband, Bob.

To family and friends on the loss of Virginia Weston.

To Jerry Elkin, family and a large community of friends on the loss of his father, Skeeter.

*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).*

NWWSMS Hall of Fame 2015 Inductees

With the editor's apologies, corrected listing below:

- Bob Baker – Oklahoma
- Rhonda Craig – Oklahoma
- Terry Crouson – California
- Mike Faast – Washington
- Kent Harrison – Oklahoma
- Ray Harrison – Arizona
- Gene 'Pappy' Merritts – Tennessee
- Bill Mitchell – Texas
- Sharyn Lee – Washington
- Dennis Wall – Oregon
- James Wallace – Oregon
- Virgil Watts – Missouri



1983-2015 Celebrating 32 Years!
The Northwest Western Swing Music Society's

25th Annual Western Swing Music Festival & "Hall of Fame" August 14 -16, 2015

At the Auburn Eagles Club - 702 'M' Street SE, Auburn, WA
With Its Beautiful, Big Dance Floor - Three Days of Great Music
(Please note: Minors under 21 are not allowed in the club for this event)

MOTELS SPONSORING THE 2015 NWWSMS WESTERN SWING FESTIVAL/HALL OF FAME

To receive special prices listed below
Call the front desk and ask for the 'Western Swing Rates'

Comfort Inn Located at 1 - 16th St NE, Auburn, WA
Western Swing flat rate . . . \$ 105.00 for rooms
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, waffles, yogurt, fresh fruit, cereal and more, including your choice of hot waffle flavors.

Guest House Inn Located at 9 - 14th St NW, Auburn, WA
Western Swing flat rate . . . \$ 79.00 for rooms (if booked before 7/01/15)
Phone: 253-735-9600

Amenities: Free wireless high-speed Internet access, Complementary breakfast with coffee, tea, muffins, juice, fresh fruit, cereal, sausages, biscuits with gravy. All rooms with cable TV, coffee maker, hair dryer, ironing board, microwave and refrigerator.

Travelodge Suites Located at 9 - 16th St NW, Auburn, WA
Western Swing flat rate . . . \$ 65.00 for rooms
Phone: 253-833-7171

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

Special Note:

Make your motel reservations as soon as possible!
The motels listed are available but you must call them directly and ask for the WESTERN SWING RATES.

Bobby Flores' 4th Annual
SUMMER MUSIC
CAMP RETREAT!!!
Traditional Country & Western Swing

FIDDLE 	GUITAR 	VOCAL
PIANO 	BASS 	STEEL

Solid Rock Camp
Eastland, TX 76448
July 19 - 23, 2015
For More Info Call:
Bulverde Academy of Music
(830-438-3565 or Email: bam8@gvfc.com
Website: www.bam8.com

(Continued from Page 1, Lost Tapes Restored. . .)

GOING DIGITAL

Grammy-nominated recording engineer Steve Ripley was tasked with touching up the songs, which were recorded on acetate records. Such records were made for radio play, not public distribution, and were much more prone to degradation and wear.

After they were digitized, the files Ripley were given were in bad shape, showing the signs of heavy use over many years. Restoring the audio was an arduous task, he said.

“They were unlistenable for the most part,” Ripley said. “Not to say there weren’t some. I listened to all of them. There were hundreds and hundreds of songs. Maybe 500 songs.”

“I just started wading through them, and I waded through all of them two or three times, taking notes.”

Ripley said hearing Wills sing so much on the recordings was a delight, and he was very pleased with the performances of the band. The end result, he said, is something that die-hard Bob Wills fans will love. A mix of classics and songs rarely heard covered by the band.

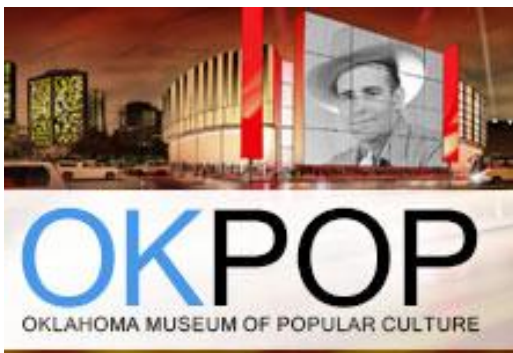
Moore said while they haven’t quite decided what to release next, **46 Star Records** plans to put out more Oklahoma music in the future.

Bob Wills fans can purchase the album online at www.okhistory.org



Photo taken at the Bob Wills vinyl release party, held May 18.

The Jason Roberts Band hosted, with Jason characterizing Bob Wills, as he did in the long running production of the play, **A Ride with Bob**. If you look closely stage left, you will see 2015 Inductee, Bob Baker, on steel guitar. The camera just missed another 2015 Inductee, Rhonda Craig and her husband, Dick, dancing across the floor. Be sure to meet these folks at this year’s August Festival.



It’s also the first release of 46 Star Records, the new record label arm of the Oklahoma Historical Society, who has been publishing books on Oklahoma topics for 40 years. Jeff Moore, the project director for the proposed [Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture](#), or OKPOP, says OHS recently began looking beyond books as a way of sharing information and history. “We want it to be an opportunity for us to share Oklahoma history in a new way -- in a way that engages the public differently, and gets people excited about history in a way they may not have thought about previously.”

In 2012, the Oklahoma Historical Society announced the Wills Family donation of a collection of Bob Wills’ personal items. Included in that was a massive audio collection, showcasing roughly 130 recordings of radio broadcast transcriptions from the 1940s.

“These songs from this collection are kind of the rare lost tapes. The people in the industry that were involved in releasing previous Bob Wills music knew that they existed. They knew about the recording sessions. They didn’t know a lot about them and they didn’t know where they were.”

The material these personal transcriptions were recorded on were only meant to be played a limited number of times. And, in the more than six decades since the recordings were made, however, the audio began to deteriorate. “Over time, it wore down and there were snap, crackles, and pops all over the place. Some of them really sounded rough and honestly the first time I heard it, I said, ‘Okay, we’ll go ahead with the project and see what we come up with,’ but initially, I really had my doubts.”

Even Steve Ripley, who digitally restored and remastered the songs on the album, admits he gave up several times during the restoration process due to the deterioration of the recordings. Ripley says that in order to remove anything that would take away from the listening experience, he would often spend days working on just one section of one song. “There was always a balancing act of eliminating noise but trying to keep the sound of the band. And I found with software that’s recently been released I could get rid of almost all the noise, but the band started sounding funny. So I tried to walk that balance beam, not fall off one way or the other.”

Moore says preserving this music of Bob Wills also means preserving and sharing the story of the Great Depression. “That music is what the people that were going west during the Depression to try to get better jobs in California in the orchards and the agricultural fields – that’s what they heard on the radio. And what they heard when they did dances was that western swing that Bob Wills was creating. So, you had a whole generation of people looking for hope and they found that in the music of Bob Wills.” . . .



Project Director for the OKPOP Museum Jeff Moore holds a copy of a new Bob Wills record, “Let’s Play, Boys!” on Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

Photo 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 at the June Showcase!
Save a smile for the camera!**

(Remember, you can view this page in color on our website at: www.nwwsms.com)



Album: Ain't Dead Yet
Artists: Hot Texas Swing Band

Album Reviews

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



Mike Gross

This is a new CD, the third by this wonderful Texas band that combines Western Swing, Texas dance hall and big band instrumentation with some top class vocals on 13 beautiful cuts. As with their previous CDs the band's sound is reminiscent of Bob Wills' big World War II vintage band. It is also respectfully dedicated to the memory of recently deceased Western Swing legend, Johnny Gimble.

Alex Dormont produced this really enjoyable album, does vocals and is the band's bassist. The steel guitarist is Denny Mathis and Karen Biller plays drums. The fiddle player is Erik Hokkanen and the trumpet heard is that of Jimmy Shortell. Cat Clemons plays guitar, Scott Benner plays sax and Alex and Selena Rosanbalm are heard on vocals.

The album opens with an Alex original, the album title tune, on which he does vocal. Alex also wrote and does vocal on *Back in My Texas Home*, *Castle Walls* and *7 Gigs in 7 Days*. Another of

Alex's Compositions is *Whole World's Asleep* a duet with Selena. He also wrote *The Hard Way* and *Spring Has Come* both sung by Selena. She also sings the old pop standards *Sway* and *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*. The two remaining vocals by Selena are the Cindy Walker classic composition that had Eddy Arnold input, *You Don't Know Me* and *Bang, Bang*. Also included are Johnny Gimble's instrumental *Junior's Shadow* and from Roy Rogers, Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters and so many others, *Along*

the Navajo Trail with Alex on vocal.

The album can be obtained from Alex Dormont, 501 Spring Creek Rd., Dripping Springs, TX 78620. The cost for mail orders is \$18. To order on line, go to www.HotTexasSwingBand.com and from itunes and www.amazon.com.

Mike Gross, KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX & KTNK-AM, Lompac, CA www.swinginwest.com

Mike's Top 10 for June

Songs:

1. Slow Boat to China - Western Swing Authority (Canadian Import)
2. Lonesome Town - Coby Carter
3. **Swingin' in Tucson - Kristi Nebel (Icebird)**
4. Navajo Trail - AATW, Willie Nelson & the Quebe Sisters (Bismeaux)
5. It's a Sin to Tell a Lie - Mikki Daniel & Dave Alexander (Musikode)
6. Under a Cowboy Moon - Rob Harding
7. Don Edwards for President - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers (Musikode)
8. Let's All Go to El Paso - Curio Cowboys
9. That's My Home - Jason Roberts
10. You Can't Miss Me - Saddle Serenade

Albums:

1. Legends - Coby Carter
2. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel (Musikode)
3. Now Playing - Western Swing Authority (Canadian Import)
4. Still the King - Asleep At The Wheel (Bismeaux)
5. Old Pictures in a New Frame - Brady Bowen (West Texas Country)
6. Badger & the Belles - Rich O'Brien, Devon Dawson & Kristyn Harris
7. That's My Home - Jason Roberts
8. Tulsa Playboys and Friends - Tulsa Playboys
9. A Platter of Brownies - Carolyn Martin
10. Sunburst Sage - Curio Cowboys (Ruido)

NWWSMS Application for Membership

Date Rec'd: _____ **Rec'd by:** _____

NAME: _____ **NEW MEMBER** **RENEWAL**

ADDRESS: _____ **INDIVIDUAL, \$20.00** **COUPLE, \$25.00**

_____ **DANCER** **SUPPORTER**

CITY: _____ **PERFORMER** **VOCALIST** **BAND LEADER**

STATE / ZIP: _____ **BAND:** _____

PHONE: _____ **INSTRUMENT(S):** _____

E-MAIL: _____

I have enclosed an additional \$ _____ donation to the NWWSMS workshop/scholarship fund

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

- E-mail preferred (if you have given us an e-mail address above, this will be used)
- Please have someone send me a paper newsletter
(Note: the NWWSMS will not mail out paper newsletters after 12/31/15)
- I'd be happy to print and mail _____ extra newsletters to those without e-mail access (how many)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



Lou Bischoff

Highlights from the May Showcase

By Lou Bischoff



At the May Showcase, which fell on Mothers Day, we honored all mothers, whether biological, stepmothers or those who have taken on the role of 'mother' for someone less fortunate. And, for the second year in a row, the weather in the Northwest was glorious. But the unusual summer-like conditions here at home were in stark contrast to that of our western swing family in the mid-west and southern states. At this time, I am relieved to report that none of our dear friends have lost property or, more importantly, loved ones in the flooding and tornadoes that have swept through the plain states. I know I am not alone when I say that those of you in these storm-ravaged areas are not far from our thoughts. Our prayers go out to you all. We are doing our best to keep up with you and are looking forward to calmer, drier days ahead.

At our May Showcase, they did it again. Southern Comfort put us in the comfort zone with their western swing performance of Bob Wills music. With Dave DuChane on bass and vocals, Geno Burbank on lead guitar and vocals, Van on drums and vocals, lovely Shelley McNaughton on vocals, adding Paul Anastasio on fiddle and Pat Rowe on steel, it was a fantastic opening as they kicked off with *Heartaches by the Number*.

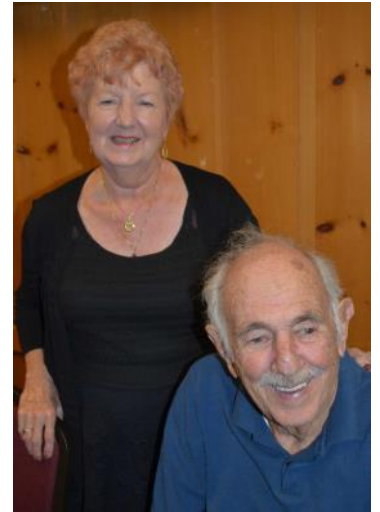


Then, those close harmonies we have come to expect from this group began. On *Pride*, Dave and Shelley gave us a preview of what was to come. It was a rousing start to Southern Comfort's two-hour program. *Charlies Shoes* with Dave and Shelley, was followed with *Home in San Antone*. Paul Anastasio added such energy on fiddle. Dave sang *Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain*, again with Paul's special touch. Pat Rowe's steel guitar makes it all so western swing. With Dave and Shelley on *Waltz Across Texas*, the dance floor filled to overflowing with some fine waltzing. When Shelley and Geno sang *Jambalaya*, the room really began to swing. Shelley, Dave and Van on *Lonesome 77203* was incredible. Van is one of those multi-talented guys who can sing just as well as he can play those drums. Shelley's strong vocal on *My Window Faces the South* really got the attention of the crowd.

But, Shelley had just begun! Next, she and Dave sang *Route 66*. My, oh my, they do that *so* well. Geno slowed things down a bit on his version of *The Rock*. That brought those couples inclined to cuddle out on the floor. Dave's *Swingin' Doors* was followed by *Take These Chains from My Heart* with Paul's able assistance. Shelley sang the *Last Cheater's Waltz* and then changed the pace, belting out *Cherokee Maiden*. Geno crooned once again, singing *I Thought of You*. The couples in love shot sweet glances into each other's eyes.

From a Jack to a King, with Dave and Shelley, is a great dance tune as is *Old Flames*. Dave and Shelley sang *Half as Much* and *Crazy Arms*, both touching tunes. Southern Comfort's special guest musicians, Pat Rowe and Paul Anastasio truly made it all happen. We can't thank them all enough for sharing their Sunday afternoon with us.

Time for the jam now, with Patty McConnell going all out organizing these talented jammers on stage. The first jam band was ready to go shortly after Southern Comfort left the stage. But, before they began, it was time to recognize the mothers present and to honor Vesta Neue as our Mother of the Year. She and hubby, Carl, faithfully honor us with special items to commemorate the occasion - like the chocolate roses they gave to each mother today. They also handle the Split-the-Pot, always willing to assist where we have a need. Thanks, dear Vesta and hubby too.



Lou Bischoff presenting Vesta Neue with the 'Mother of the Year' Award

(Continued from page 9, Highlights from the May Showcase)

Our good friend from the Rockin' M, Neal Jeans, played rhythm guitar and began the jam singing *Honky Tonk Blues*. He has such a great, strong voice. Rockin' M's Paul Cooper was first up on bass. Paul sang *Big City* . . . wow! Drumming was Randy Miskulin, also from the Rockin' M. Pat Rowe remained on steel. Jeanne Yearian filled in on fiddle.



Jammers Steve Carter
and Dave Enslow

Steve Carter took over on lead guitar. He gave us his version of the western swing classic, *Wabash Blues*. Super job, Steve. Neal crooned *I Overlooked an Orchid while Looking for a Rose*, followed by George Jones' *I Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair*. Paul was up once again, singing *Pass Me By*. Dave Enslow is one of our regular monthly jammers. He sang, *Don't Worry 'Bout Me* and *I Can't Stop Loving You*. Gil Barbee relieved Randy on drums. We are so lucky to

have this kind of talent among our jammers.

LeRoy King was up next, singing *Remember Me*, *Detour* and *Lucille*. Fine job, LeRoy. Dave Wheeler took over on bass as a new jammer, Darrell Wallis, came up to share a few tunes. Patty is now on drums as we began to close the day. Steve Carter sang *It's My Lazy Day*. Shelley sang *Crazy*. She and Dave sang *I Fall to Pieces*. Patty closed with *Blackboard of My Heart* to finish a day filled with western swing music.

Thanks to Dave DuChane for handling the sound system and all who so willing took part to make the day so enjoyable. Joanne assisted by Mary and bartenders Karen and Linda, as well as the cooks made us feel right at home. Also, my thanks to all the Board Members who so unselfishly give up the second Sunday of every month, lining up such great entertainment and more behind the scenes. Remember your friends and loved ones each day with compassion and prayers. They do make us complete. Once again, my sincere thanks to everyone for taking a special interest in my memory book project.



Stop by the Society's Information
Table monthly and see what's new!

p.s.) Check the play dates for
band performance times and
places. Support our bands and
venues offering live music!

Musically yours,
Lou and Ed, too

May's Host Band Southern Comfort



Pictured top, left to right:
Shelley McNaughton, Geno Burbank, Dave DuChane,
Paul Anastasio, Robert Van Den Akker, and Pat Rowe



Remembering Johnny Gimble

By Jason Roberts
Grammy-award winning fiddle
and mandolin player



(Editor's Note: The following was reprinted from the June 2015 issue of Country Music People)

In 1987 or so, an envelope arrived in our family's mailbox in Lampasas, Texas, and changed my life forever. The envelope contained cassette tapes with hours of audio that Johnny Gimble recorded. For me. A 12-year-old fiddle playing boy who was lucky enough to know the world's greatest fiddle player. On those priceless recordings, Johnny played licks only he could pull off, described how he made his sound, explained music theory (without saying so), and let me peer into his magical improvisational world. That envelope of tapes embodies the lasting musical generosity that was Johnny Gimble.

John Paul Gimble passed away on May 9, 2015, a few weeks shy of his 89th birthday. Like he was for countless musicians who crossed his path, Johnny was my hero.

Johnny married into our family in 1949 around the time he began his run with Bob Wills and his world-famous Texas Playboys. During my childhood, Johnny had returned to Texas after several years in Nashville where he was one of the most in-demand session artists of the day. Country music listeners who may not know Johnny Gimble's name have almost certainly heard him play. He was the go-to fiddle and mandolin player for country royalty like George Strait, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Conway Twitty, Dolly Parton, Ray Price, Chet Atkins, Marty Robbins, Lefty Frizzell and more.

As a kid, of course, I knew none of this as I sat at Johnny's feet in Briggs, Texas, while he jammed with my grandfather and uncle (Buck and Carlton Roberts of the Rhythmaires). To me, he was just Johnny and

he was spectacular. At 11, I picked up a fiddle for the first time and I've spent the 30 years since as a student of Johnny's effortless, organic improvisational style.

His easy-going musical genius is what made Johnny such a coveted player. He pioneered a style that layered jazz into Nashville's traditional sound and helped to define country music of the 1970s and 80s. Eventually, his work was pervasive on the hit records of the day and listeners could pick out a Gimble lick within a few bow strokes. Even today, try as we might, no one sounds like Johnny Gimble.

His many awards are a testament to his musical greatness and include five Country Music Association awards for musician of the year, nine more from the Academy of Country Music, two Grammys for work with Asleep at the Wheel, and a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. If there was an award for charisma and great jokes, Johnny would have won them too.

With a big laugh and a toothy grin, Johnny had a spirit that was contagious and a quick wit that lasted as long as he did. He was an enormous presence. We all wanted to sound like him, to be like him. And in his humility, he encouraged us all to be scholars of our craft and to find our own sound. Every day, Johnny Gimble's influence rings in my ears and I hope comes through in my playing. It's the best way I know to honour the most incredible musician I've ever been blessed to know.

Godspeed Johnny Gimble. And thank you.

Jason Roberts

(Our thanks to Barbara Martin for the following information: JOHNNY GIMBLE CELEBRATION Sunday, JUNE 7, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM. Let's gather together to celebrate the life and music of Johnny Gimble at Luckenbach, Texas! Of course! The Family invites Everyone! Cyndy said they are going to tie it into a benefit for Health Alliance for Austin Musicians. Details at www.johnnygimble.com)





THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR BEING A GOOD LEAD GUITARIST

Written by Terry Neville
Crouson, NWWSMS 2015 Hall
of Fame Inductee

1. Thou shalt always endeavor to make other members of the band, especially the main performer of the moment, sound their best. Remember that playing with others requires teamwork. Be a "team player," not a self-appointed "star."
2. Thou shalt be humble to any and all other lead guitar players, knowing that every guitar player knows something you don't. Humbleness will not diminish you, but rather enhance both your playing abilities and the respect of other musicians.
3. Thou shalt never play too loud. Always seek a warm balance. If you're too loud, the others will turn up to try and match you, resulting in everyone being too loud.
4. Thou shalt not over-play. Keep it clean and simple enough to enhance your band's delivery. Your instrumentals are your "show off" times. And learn to relax your fret hand and picking hand. Light pressure will allow you to hear and correct most mistakes before being heard by others, or at least they will not be sharp and blaring.
5. Thou shalt play guitar quieter when others are performing. When your turn comes, turn up ever so slightly. Insist that the rest of the band do the same for you. "Star" only when it's your turn.
6. Thou shalt never clash with other lead instruments. When they play, you don't, except maybe employing runs or certain muted rhythms to enhance their parts.
7. Thou shalt understand "trade off." In general, if you kick off a song, the other lead takes the first backing and you the next; unless, of course, there are more than two lead instruments. Take turns on the lead parts in order.
8. Thou shalt watch the other members of the band, particularly the one performing at the moment, to

absorb cues and/or chord changes. Always be alert to body language. Each performer has his/her own body language.

9. Thou shalt not anticipate chord changes. If you are not sure, or don't know the song and its changes, back off, listen and watch until you have it. Don't be the one to mess it up.
10. Thou shalt always be ready to learn, ready to help other musicians and be on time for the gig. And when the leader is on the bandstand, follow immediately. When you play, play the role of a professional. Remember that some of the best musicians are not good performers and can't be depended upon.

Follow these rules and you'll play when others don't.

by Terry Neville Crouson

(Editor's Note: Meet the Crousons in August at the NWWSMS Festival and Hall of Fame!)

2015 West Texas Western Swing FESTIVAL
THE COLISEUM • SNYDER, TEXAS

2015 Lineup

Wednesday- 06.10.15
"Welcome Home" Burger'n Beans & Jam Session

Thursday- 06.11.15
Tommy Hooker
Curtis Potter
Bobby Flores

Friday- 06.12.15
Rance Norton
Larry Lange and the Troubadours
Jody Nix

Saturday- 06.13.15
Eddie McAlvain and the Mavericks
Tony Booth
Billy Mata

2016 RV Registration on Saturday 1pm-5pm

Advance Daily Tickets \$23
To May 22nd, 2015
Daily Tickets \$25
All Week Pass \$80

Save the Dates, June 10-13, 2015
visit snyderchamber.org for more info



"Keeping It Real"

THANK YOU, BILLY POTEET

Chuck Cusimano

At what point do we become brutally honest with someone about their "lackadaisical" performance - when we feel that they really could do better?

Do we risk friendship and say what really needs to be said or do we "roll with the tide" and stay unsatisfied with the results?

This is what happened to me and I am forever grateful for the "Eye opener":

When I started playing music full time, (May, 1973) I was the lead guitar player and one of the lead singers in a basically pure Country, Western Swing band. I wasn't into WS as much as I was into Merle Haggard and Buck Owens. I could play the James Burton, Roy Nichols, Don Rich style pretty well but didn't know what to play when it came to Bob Wills and others' music.

Matter of fact, I didn't know how to play the right stuff (fills) in the Ray Price, Johnny Busch or even Conway Twitty songs.

In September 1973, I moved to Lubbock, TX, and joined another band. We also played 6 nights a week but we rehearsed two or three times a week. One day at a rehearsal I was floundering, frustrated and wishing rehearsal would hurry up and be over with when the steel guitar player turned to me and said, . . . "I have an idea. Why don't you take your guitar, put it in the case, take it home, put it under the bed and crawl under there with it . . . or learn to play it!!!!"

I stood there, shocked, but man enough to realize that he was right and he was doing me a favor. I said, "Well, I don't know what to play on these kinds of songs." (I know my face must have been red as a tomato.)

The steel guitar player, Billy Poteet, said, "Can you play these notes?" He played the lead notes to the intro to Bubbles in My Beer. I played them and he said, "Good!! Now, when I count it off, you play those notes and I'll play the harmony notes." We did and it opened up a whole new world to me.

THANK YOU BILLY POTEET!

I am forever grateful!

And thank all of you for Keeping It Real!!!
Chuck Cusimano - Springtown, TX

Chuck Cusimano, 2013 NWWSMS HOF, can be reached at: chuck@chuckcusimano.com



Billy Bowles

Reporting On Bob Wills Day, Turkey, Texas

Billy Bowles

Howdy Do, Friends,

Saturday, April 25, 2015, was the 44th Annual Bob Wills Day in Turkey, Texas. Here are my thoughts and take on the Outdoor Concert.

The opening act was nine-time, Grammy Award winning Ray Benson & Asleep At The Wheel. They did an awesome job as always and featured several of the tunes from their new CD, *Still The King*, a tribute album celebrating the music of Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys. Pick up a copy at your favorite retailer or go to www.asleepatthewheel.com.

Then came THE MAIN EVENT. As Dr. Charles R. Townsend, the biographer of Bob Wills and Emcee said, it isn't every day AATW gets to open for the Main Attraction. I'm sure those of you who were there will agree, this year's Playboys line-up KICKED ASS & played Bob Wills music to near perfection!!!

For starters there was Bobby Koeffer on steel, Joe Settlemier on guitar, Jason Roberts, Gregg Gibbs, & Jimmy Burson on fiddles, Larry Reed on sax, Wayne Glasson on piano, Billy Champion on banjo, Chad Maines on drums and Lee Barlow & Louise Rowe on upright bass. Then there were the vocalists: Billy Mata, Living Legend and Voice of The Texas Playboys Leon Rausch, special guest Jody Nix, and Monty

"Hawkeye" Henson. Every musician on the bandstand poured their heart into the music to the delight of the many thousands on hand to witness it.

Make your plans right now for Next years 45th Annual Bob Wills Day Celebration always the last full weekend in April.

May God Bless You and Yours. Keep Swinging it Country,

Billy Bowles



Photo taken at the Bob Wills Day, 2015, outdoor concert, held April 25.

Swinging Country's New Home, New Times:
Saturdays, 10 am - Noon Central Standard Time
CLASSICS RADIO at WWW.LUBBTEXRADIO.COM

God's Gems

By Rhonda Craig

My mother laid a foundation upon which I build daily. One of those buildings is the WSDN Surprise Appreciation Awards program. I find that even after 3 very successful years of giving the WSDN Surprise Appreciation Awards to the unsung heroes ...the reason for these awards is still misunderstood among some about their purpose. I want to take a minute and explain the inspiration from which they were birthed.



Rhonda Craig

I grew up very poor, as many of us did whose parents lived through the great depression. Mother had a beautiful 21 Jewel Buliva watch that was so out of place in our home. You see mother had been abandoned when she was 8 months old, raised by not so loving grandparents, and reunited with her birth father when she was a teenager. On her 14th birthday he bought her that 21 jeweled watch which she cherished as the only tangible expression that she was of value to anyone on this earth. Being perplexed by the words "21 Jewels" (when none were visible), I inquired why the watch had that name. Mother carefully removed the face of the watch, exposing the inner workings, took a magnifying glass and began to explain. She said "Look carefully, Rhonda, and you will see 21 diamonds, rubies and emeralds deep inside the watch doing all the work, making sure the time is kept perfectly. They never tire or wear out. No one sees them or cares but they are there nonetheless. Without them the watch would not last."

I was amazed! My mother's wisdom could have only come from the God she adored and taught me to love and trust as well. She replaced the face and said (as she always did when a life lesson had just been illustrated) "Listen to what I am telling you Rhonda and don't ever forget it! You saw all the jewels inside the watch and wondered why they were not on the outside so they could be viewed by all. NOT ALL OF GOD'S JEWELS ARE USED FOR ADORNMENT! Some of God's most important jobs are accomplished by His jewels who do so out of sight... just like the jewels in this watch. But make no mistake...they are priceless jewels nonetheless!"

More than 60 years have transpired and I have never forgotten that astonishing lesson. I have learned to carefully

look for the jewels that, in obscurity, are doing the work that no one seems to notice but whose efforts make the wheels and gears of any project work efficiently. They are the glue that holds it all together.

They are the unsung heroes.

When God called me to initiate the Western Swing Prayer Network and eventually the information sharing network (WSDN) in our western swing music family I began to quickly uncover the jewels or gems that work tirelessly with no praise or recognition. I decided that it was time for another of my mother's truths to be used. She always said "Rhonda, don't wait until someone dies to give them flowers! Give your bouquets to them while they are still alive and can enjoy them."

With that bit of wisdom firmly entrenched along with the discovery of the gems everywhere in obscure places, it seemed the right thing to do...surprise those gems with a bouquet...or rather a plaque that said "Thank You" job appreciated.

I searched and found some other folks in the dance community who felt the same way and together we formed a Committee to be sure we surprised the 'Gems' among us with a thank you award presented in front of their peers.

Some folks might not understand and think these awards should go only to the obvious 'popular jewels' in our music family but no...those folks are already in the spotlight and need no other bling to make them shine. WSDN Awards from us dancers are for those gems hidden in darkness but whose works shine like diamonds.

God grant us, the dancers (who are all unsung heroes as well) the ability to recognize the 'gems' among us who often work undercover. Help us single them out and give them a well-deserved bouquet (Award) before they pass from us. That is our mission as the Western Swing Dancer's Network.

Without all you unsung heroes this program would not have flourished as it has. Thank you for all your love, support and donations! You are the best! And now you know the rest of the story.

(Editor's Note: Meet NWWSMS 2015 Inductee Rhonda and her husband, Dick, at the August festival.)

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