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**Volume 31, Issue 3**

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

**March 2014**

## **What Will Be the Fate of Merle Haggard's Childhood Home?**

***As reported in The Californian on October 26, 2013***

**Notes from the editor:** Our thanks to musician/songwriter Jerry Hobbs of Bakersfield, CA, for bringing this story and new developments to our attention. This story does not have an ending . . . yet! The New York Times printed an update to this article on February 26, 2014. (Follow this link for their story and more photos:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/27/us/preservationists-aim-to-save-merle-haggards-childhood-home.html?smid=fb-share&\\_r=3](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/27/us/preservationists-aim-to-save-merle-haggards-childhood-home.html?smid=fb-share&_r=3))

The important piece of information added is that a fundraiser to move Merle Haggard's childhood home will be held this month at the Bakersfield Harley-Davidson dealership located on Merle Haggard Drive (formerly Seventh Standard Road).



Photo courtesy of Lillian Rea  
The boxcar as it was in 1935, before James Haggard converted it into the family home

For those who might not be aware of Merle Haggard's connection to western swing, most music history books credit the western swing 'revival' of the '70s to the efforts of Merle Haggard along with those of Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel. Merle Haggard not only financed Bob Will's album, *For the Last Time*, he assembled former Texas Playboys to help him record the album credited with kicking off the western swing revival in the '70s, *A Tribute to the Best Damn Fiddle Player in the World (or, My Salute to Bob Wills)* JY

Though it started out much like its most famous resident did -- riding the rails thither and yon -- the boxcar that Merle Haggard grew up in has stayed put for nearly 80 years on Yosemite Street in Oildale. But if a pair of history preservationists have their way, the boxcar will be on the move again, to what they hope will be its final destination: the Kern County Museum.

"I think we owe Merle Haggard a thank you for what he's done for our community," said Glenda Rankin, who is leading the effort to move the home. "A lot of people in Bakersfield (Continued on page 5 . . .)



## ***You're Invited to a Party!***

***We're celebrating the birthday of the King of Western Swing***

## ***Bob Wills***

## ***Sunday, March 9th***

## ***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 Ken Fullerton & 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.

### 2014 Officers and Board Members

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Phone: 360-731-3946  
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**Board Members:** Lou Bischoff, Dave DuChane, Patty McConnell, Jeanne Yearian.

**Alternates:** Shari Abbott, Shelley McNaughton

**Annual Membership:**

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

**Business Address**

PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

Visit us on the web at: [www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com)  
to read the newsletter in full color!

Contact the editor,  
[jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com), to receive our

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

Showcase photos by Rus Davis

## MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 9, 2014



**Alice Striegel**  
Secretary

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

**Present:** Alice Striegel, Dave Wheeler, Lou Bischoff, LeRoy King, Dave DuChane, Jeanne Yearian, Ramon Selby, Shari Abbott, Shelley McNaughton

**Excused:** Dave DuChane, Patty McConnell, Jeanne Yearian

**Guests:** Ed Bischoff, Gayle Vader, Janis Wheeler.

**Treasurer:** Ramon Selby presented the financial report.

**Bills:** To be paid.

**Committee Reports:**

**Budget Committee Report:** President Jerry Seitz and Treasurer Ramon Selby have scheduled a meeting to review the annual budget projections.

**Membership Committee Report:** Dave Wheeler and Lou Bischoff will be reviewing the current membership list and bringing it up to date to assure the accuracy of the list.

**Hall of Fame Committee Report:** Currently 4 profiles for nomination to the August 2014 NWWSMS Hall of Fame have been received. The Committee (Lou Bischoff, Dave Wheeler and Ramon Selby) will review all the profiles as they are received. The contract for this event has been approved and signed by NWWSMS officers and by the Auburn Eagles.

**Showcase Report:** The March 9, 2014 Showcase host band at the Lynnwood Eagles will be Country Fever. This Showcase will honor Bob Wills' birthday.

"Sharing the Journey" was updated by Lou Bischoff.

**Unfinished Business:** The application paperwork to seek reinstatement of our 501-C7 non-profit status has been submitted to the State of Washington by President Jerry Seitz. Vice President Dave Wheeler will investigate what will be needed to submit an application to the Internal Revenue Service for their approval, after confirmation of approval from the State.

(February 9, 2014 Minutes continued . . .)

Motion passed to adjourn at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Striegel, Secretary

## Music Scholarships Available

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

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

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

## NOMINATIONS FOR INDUCTEES INTO THE 2014 NW WSMS HALL OF FAME NOW BEING ACCEPTED !

— Those nominated to be inducted into the 2014 NW WSMS Hall of Fame must have had at least 25 years of Performing, Promoting or Preserving Western Swing Music, but do not have to be members of this or any other Western Swing Society.

— Those making nominations must be current members of the NW WSMS or have been previously inducted into the NW WSMS POWS/ Hall of Fame.

— Include a complete profile of the nominee along with your cover letter, to:

NWWSMS, Nominations Chairman  
PO Box 14003  
Mill Creek, WA 98082

— Deadline for receipt by the Society is April 15, 2014. Those selected will be notified by early May. A picture suitable for framing will be requested at that time.

— This year's Hall of Fame will be held again at the Eagles Club in Auburn, WA, August 7-10, 2014.

# Prez Sez-

by Jerry Seitz



Here we are in the last month of winter. "Time flies when you're having fun." The Board has been making progress I am happy to say.

Paperwork has been submitted to reinstate our non-profit corporate status with the State of Washington and it's being processed. A new application is being prepared for the IRS 501c7 non-profit status and, hopefully, will be approved for submission to the IRS with appropriate fees at our March board meeting.

Shelley McNaughton is auditing our books for 2011, 2012, and 2013. Ramon Selby is preparing a budget for 2014 and will present it at our March board meeting.

We are revamping our membership roster, bringing it up to date. We need more folks to opt for receiving their newsletter via e-mail rather than "snail mail". In the process of creating a budget for 2014, we discovered that 60% of our organization's income goes to paying for the newsletter. A good part of that expense is postage.

I am also looking for a volunteer committee chairman to head up Ways & Means. Please contact me if you would like to become involved at [jerryseitz@msn.com](mailto:jerryseitz@msn.com).

LeRoy King is retiring from the board of directors as of March. LeRoy's many years of dedicated service to the North West Western Swing Music Society will be sorely missed. Hopefully, he will continue to entertain us at Showcases and act as Master of Ceremonies during the annual western swing festival and hall of fame.

I would like to thank **Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners** for a great Showcase in February. We played to a small but enthusiastic crowd. I'm sure a great time was had by all.

See you at the March showcase!  
Jerry Seitz

Editor's Note: Here is part of a wonderful, encouraging letter received from Jack Engel (POW 2000), from Bryan, TX.

Thank you, Jack!



October 2013

Just received the great WS monthly you and yours put out. What a great job and all the great pictures . . . #1 is the smiling Red Gilean plus a lot of familiar faces. . . I am grateful you made mention of the Yuma group. This is the same bunch of folks that followed our group (Sunset Band) three nights a week in Yuma—every Wed., Fri., & Sat. A great bunch of friends. When I realized this group pretty much was from the Northwest, I mentioned to the late Dick Taylor, "Why don't you all take in the Western Swing festival in Seattle every August?" From then on, things picked up. . . It's good to see Dennis Ford still snapping. Lou Bischoff has done her share of great pictures. It comes to mind, I don't reckon I've ever seen Chuck Hayes dance with his pretty lady before. And Jim Sanderson looks like he's just settling down from finding a good melon patch (keep having fun, folks). . . I wish I was closer. The last time we came that way, I swear we crossed 150 mountain ranges.

Thanks for a great job,  
Jack Engel, Bryan, TX

The following note of thanks was received from Kay Alexander:

October 2013

I want to thank everyone that donated to the Western Swing Scholarship Fund in memory of Rudy, and all the cards, thoughts and prayers.

He didn't realize how many good friends he had. He was truly blessed.

Love,  
Kay Alexander

## Celebrate Spring

at the Lynnwood Eagles

19223 Hwy 99

(Three Blocks North of 196th Street)

Join us for the April 13, 2014  
Western Swing Showcase

Remember, nominations for the  
2014 NWWSMS Hall of Fame need  
to be in the hands of the Nominating  
Committee by April 15. Make sure  
they have received yours before the  
deadline!

## 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.

**Mike Faast and the Jangles.** 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm - the Jangles will be at the Royal Room in Columbia City, Seattle, WA. Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> - the Jangles performing at the Highline Vintage Jazz Festival. For additional information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: [www.janglesband.com](http://www.janglesband.com)

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

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

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

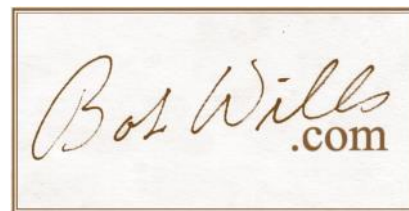
**Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners.** Visit their website for information on upcoming play dates: [www.thesundownersband.com](http://www.thesundownersband.com)

**Patty and the Travelin' Four.** Dance to their music on Wednesdays, from 6–9 pm, Auburn, Eagles. Everyone welcome. Food available. Although Patty has taken a few months off to visit with friends and family in Yuma, AZ, Kevin Parr will be hosting the Wednesday night dance until she returns.

**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.

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

[www.bobwillsradio.com](http://www.bobwillsradio.com)





## Western Swing Music Society Vancouver, BC Canada

3565 CAMBRIDGE STREET  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
V5K 1M3

Contact – John York

*Editor's Note: Our thanks to John York and the Western Swing Music Society of Vancouver, BC, for the following:*

### FOUR THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WESTERN SWING

#### 1. Western Swing is dance music.

Its roots are in the small fiddle bands that played for country dances in the American Southwest. By the 1940's western swing bands often equaled the big bands in size, sophistication, and popularity, playing for audiences as large as 5 to 6,000 in the great dance halls and pavilions that could be found in every large city in the U.S. and Canada. Even on the slow tunes a western swing drummer would lean into the beat, providing a solid rhythm for the dancer.

#### 2. Western swing isn't exactly country music.

Western swing instrumental styles have had a profound influence on the development of modern country music, but western swing itself has always had more of an urban outlook. Even when the bands play a country dance tune, it's filtered through a jazz sensibility. Improvisation is central to the music, the soloists building on the energy of the audience; and the music has to swing. They may have come from the country, but western swing musicians saw themselves as jazzmen, and rightly so.

#### 3. Rock and Roll wasn't the first time.

There's a popular notion that Elvis and his peers were the first to synthesize black and white music styles. The early western swing musicians were equally inspired by black blues and jazz in the early 1930s, adapting what they heard into their own traditions. All of a sudden the fiddles were riffing like a big band reed section, and the newly amplified guitars and steel guitars sounding like horns. Bob Wills' favorite singer was blues artiste, Bessie Smith; his Texas Playboys always featured plenty of blues numbers and, later, western swing bands drew on boogie woogie, jump blues, rhythm and blues - even bebop.

#### 4. Western Swing lives!

There are a number of organizations in North American dedicated to keeping this great music alive. Its membership includes musicians who have played western swing since the 1940's, as well as many younger fans and enthusiasts. One of the society's primary activities to hold western swing showcases, hoping to expose a wider audience to western swing and the musicians who play it.

### 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](http://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](#)

## Sharing the Journey

### With Well Wishes and Prayers

Betty Champion	Gary Hood
Billy Champion	Vi & Darrell
Carmen Champion	Anderson
Lloyd Hooper	Keith Holter
Dennis Morgan	Betty Reeves
'Big Ed' Kaestner	Bob Woock
Noreen King	Don Eardley
Toppe Brigge	Dick Heil
Dan Bowen	Diane Meeks
Jim Gough	Geno Burbank

### Our Condolences

*To Lew and Sharyn Packwood, family and friends on the loss of Lew's brother*

### Congratulations

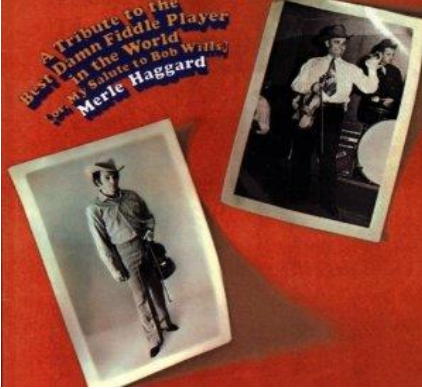
*To Morey Sullivan and Dorrie Holland, joined in marriage on January 3, 2014.*

*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, California preservationists begin drive to save Merle Haggard's boxcar home)

aren't country music enthusiasts, so they might not have the same feeling about it, but I think he's put Bakersfield and Kern County on the map. When people mention Bakersfield, that's what they think of: Buck Owens, Merle

Haggard and the Bakersfield Sound."

Rankin and her sister, Dianne Sharman, envision the Haggard home as a powerful draw for the museum, not only among Kern County residents but for country music fans the world over, many of whom already make pilgrimages to Buck Owens' Crystal Palace, established in 1996 by Owens, in part to preserve and share his own impressive legacy.

In their quest to move the home, Rankin and Sharman are in the final stages of the application process to form a nonprofit organization -- Citizens Preserving History -- and have developed a plan with several key provisions already checked off, including:

- \* The blessing of Lillian Haggard Rea, Haggard's sister and frequent proxy on matters related to their family history.
- \* An agreement in principle with the current owner to transfer title of the home to the nonprofit.
- \* An estimate on the cost of restoring the home and building a replacement structure for the current owner.

All they need now is a commitment that the museum will accept the building. And that's not a given.

Though museum executive director Roger Perez calls the concept "a great idea" and is optimistic the project will move forward, the Kern County Museum Foundation, which governs the museum, has a number of concerns, primary among them that the building not sit forlorn on museum grounds, inaccessible to visitors, while Rankin raises money for its renovation.

"We have to take it into the context of the overall mission of the museum, which is preserving Kern County history, but we also have to take it from the standpoint of practicality," Perez said. "When you accept things -- even if they're totally donated -- you have to confront how to keep them, how to staff them, maintaining them in perpetuity. How it fits into the grounds. You have to look at the cost and benefit of it.

"When you add something like this, you're adding more in operations. You're expanding your museum. You add to that the fact that many of the buildings we have now are in disrepair, and we have to get those up to snuff now for the visitors."

Rankin and Sharman, who mounted a successful effort in 2008 to move their mother's historic home -- the Lopez-Hill house -- to the museum, began the Haggard effort about five years ago on the recommendation of their friend Dale Houston. They'll find out at a meeting of the foundation's board whether they can move forward with their plan. Rankin is hoping there are more like her and her sister in the community who want to see the Haggard house restored and put on public display -- and that they'll contribute money to the effort.

"We'd like to celebrate Merle's 77th birthday on April 6 by doing this project," Rankin said. "We can't wait to do this project if we want Merle and Lillian to be there to enjoy it."

Lillian Haggard Rea, Merle Haggard's sister, is the keeper not only of her own family's history but a prolific writer and font of information about Kern County. She agreed to share with Californian readers the story of her father's connection with the family of Bakersfield pioneer Christian Bohna and how the Haggards came to settle in Oildale because of mother Flossie's health needs.

### Growing up in Oildale

Being the sister of Merle Haggard, Lillian Haggard Rea -- vivacious and stunning at 92 years old -- is asked a lot whether she likes her brother's music. "I say, 'Sure I do.' But I don't like to listen to it because there's a line in every song that I know where that story comes from. And it makes me cry." Rea of course is not alone in her admiration of Haggard's artistry, his unique and celebrated ability to convey with poetic grace the life he's lived.

That life started in 1937 in Oildale, in a boxcar that was lovingly transformed into a home by Haggard's father, Jim, a hardworking Oklahoma transplant who settled his family here for good in 1935, the same year he bought and converted the boxcar.

(Continued on page 6 . . . )



Photo by Henry A. Barrios / The Californian  
A chain-link fence separates Merle Haggard childhood home from the alley near Yosemite Drive and El Tejon Avenue in Oildale. There is a proposal to move the country star's old home to the Kern County Museum.

(Continued from Page 5, California preservationists begin drive to save Merle Haggard's boxcar home)

"All of us loved the boxcar house," Rea recalled. "We never said, 'Oh, we live in a boxcar.' We had an apricot tree in the yard that ripened around the Fourth of July every year. And our mother had these beautiful roses. Mother could heat the whole house by turning on one burner on her gas jet."

The entire Haggard family -- Jim and Flossie and their children, Lillian, Lowell and Merle -- lived in the 629-square-foot home, which could accommodate three bedrooms after Jim's additions.

The boxcar was the only childhood home Haggard ever knew, and though it couldn't always confine his restless spirit or penchant for mischief, he invariably returned to the home and the embrace of his family. It was while he lived there on Yosemite Street that perhaps the most traumatic -- certainly the most formative -- event of his life occurred: the death of his father when Haggard was 9.

The Haggards held on to the home, and Flossie made improvements over the years, like having the exterior stuccoed. She eventually built a second house that still sits in front of the boxcar home. Rea sold the property to some cousins in the 1980s, after her mother's death, and eventually it was sold to Marie Himes, the current owner.

As for whether the home should wind up at the museum, Rea is ambivalent, and she hasn't talked to her brother about the matter at all. He usually defers to her judgment on these things anyway, she said. But she would like to see it restored to the "immaculate" and inviting home she remembers from her childhood. "It's not my history. It's Merle's history we're dealing with."

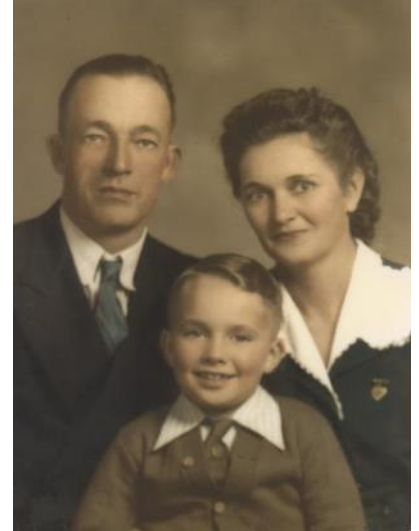


Photo courtesy of Lillian Rea  
Merle Haggard shared a boxcar with his parents, James and Flossie Mae, and siblings

### Getting on the same page

Though several foundation members expressed interest in the project at the last two board meetings, the sticking point between the museum and Citizens Preserving History comes down to logistics and money: Perez said the board wants the home renovated before it is moved -- or the full cost of the restoration in the bank -- but Rankin's plan is predicated on the improvements occurring at the museum, and soon.



Photo courtesy of Lillian Rea  
The Haggard kitchen, as it was in the 1980s before it was sold. Lillian Rea recalls that the Haggard kitchen was immaculate when the family lived there.

"I think it's unreasonable to move it already restored," Rankin said after the board meeting in September. "We can't go into the location in Oildale and spend the time to renovate. (The current residents) want their home."

The projected cost of the entire plan -- moving and restoring the home and building a replacement dwelling -- is \$102,000, said Rankin, who intends to raise the full amount. Roughly \$52,000 of that would go to the move and renovation, while the remainder would be used to build the new home, which Rankin's contractor told her would take under two months.

"We can't ask them to be out of the home that much longer," Rankin said. (Repeated calls to the home's owner were not answered.) The alternative to restoring the house before it is moved is securing the entire cost of the project, and there's the rub, Rankin said: How can her group raise money unless there's an iron-clad commitment from the museum to take the home?

A subcommittee working on the issue intends to present to the board at Monday's

meeting a recommendation on conditions that must be met before the museum would accept the structure.

"It will be put in a motion to give the Rankins a letter that we will accept the house as long as you meet these conditions," Perez said. "They can use the letter to fundraise."

Perez referred questions about the subcommittee's recommendations to attorney Joe Hughes, the foundation board member who is drafting the letter. But Hughes declined to divulge the list of conditions, saying the draft is "a work in progress." . . .

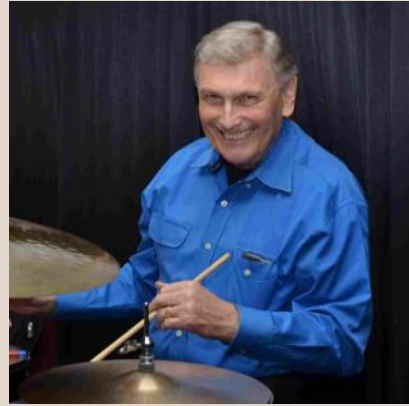
"I think they want it, but they don't think the timing is right," she said. "We think it will enhance the museum. People come from all over the world to the Crystal Palace to see Buck Owens' history, and they're going to go to the museum to see Merle Haggard's history if it's there."



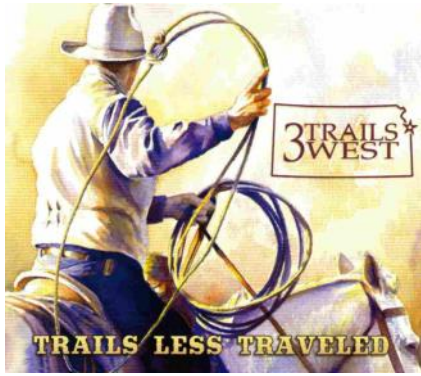
Photo by Felix Adamo / The Californian  
Lillian Haggard Rea (sister of Merle Haggard) is flanked by Dianne Sharman and Glenda Rankin, who hope to restore and put on display the childhood home of Merle Haggard.

# Highlights from the February 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, March 9th!  
Save a smile for the camera!



**Album:** Trails Less Traveled  
**Artist:** 3 Trails West

# Album Reviews

By Mike Gross KSEY - FM



Mike Gross

Tex Williams and Frank Sinatra with the Tommy Dorsey big band. The group brings back Billy Hill's classic composition *Empty Saddles* and an instrumental gem from the pen of Spade Cooley Musicians Joaquin Murphy and George Bamby, *Vance Lane Special*. Two newer items are Roger Brown and Luke Reed's *Line Shack Blues* from Don Edwards and from the pen and book of Don McCalister Jr., *Swing Me Back to Texas*. Then there are the three bonus tracks which includes a short

PSA and Ray Troll's *Whorl Tooth Sharks of Idaho* and the band's instrumental composition of *Minor Whorl*.

This CD can be obtained from the 3 Trails West website: [www.3trailswest.com](http://www.3trailswest.com). The cost is \$15 plus \$2 shipping and handling.

Mike Gross, KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX and [www.swinginwest.com](http://www.swinginwest.com)

A follow-up to their live CD, 3 Trails West, this wonderful western group that bridges the gap between Western and Western Swing Music has issued their second studio CD and again it is a gem.

The group's nucleus is Garry Bury doing lead vocals and also vocals by brothers Roger and Leo Ellts. Leo plays bass and Roger plays guitar. The Trailhands with them again are Bill Dye playing some very enjoyable steel guitar and electric guitar, Ken Lovem - accordion and Marvin Gruenbaum plays some super fiddle.

The album opens with the first of three from Andy Parker and the Plainsmen, *The West is as Wild as Ever*. The other gems from Andy and his wonderful group are *Roamin' in Wyomin'* and *Ruby Red Lips*. From the Sons of the Pioneers library the group does Bob Nolan's *One More Ride*, the inspirational *Land Beyond the Sun* and one that they did with Bing Crosby in one of his early movies, Johnny Mercer's *I'm an Old Cowhand*. Also included is the Stuart Hamblen masterpiece *Texas Plains* and *Pale Moon* which is from Jimmy Wakely,

## Mike's Top 10 for March

**Songs:**

1. Alexander's Goodtime Band - Dave Alexander (DAP)
2. All Dolled Up - Western Swing Authority
3. New Star Over Texas - The Time Jumpers
4. Three Acres of Fillies at Billy's - Dennis Ledbetter (Mallory)
5. Swing On - Carolyn Martin (*Java Jive*)
6. Punchin' Cows, Settin' Posts, Stretchin' Wire - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
7. Fruit Stand - Brooke Graham
8. Texas Kerosene - Mikki Daniel (Musikode)
9. Texas Memory Trip - Durwood Haddock (Eagle International)
10. Prairie Skies - Eli Barsi (Red Truck) (Canadian Import)

**Albums:**

1. All Dolled Up - Western Swing Authority
2. Steel Highway - John Lang
3. Alexander's Goodtime Band - Dave Alexander
4. The Barn Door Slammers - The Barn Door Slammers
5. Trails Less Traveled - 3 Trails West
6. Silver Dollar City - Live - 3 Trails West
7. Live in Deep Ellum - Light Crust Doughboys (Art Greenhaw)
8. 'Bout Time - Hot Texas Swing Band
9. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers (Musikode)
10. Thursday Nite Live at Broken Spoke - Tony Harrison



PO Box 14003 MILL CREEK, WA 98082

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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\_\_\_ Individual, \$20.00      \_\_\_ Couple, \$25.00  
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**Thank you for your support!**

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\_\_\_ Performing Member    \_\_\_ Supporting Member

Instruments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Vocalist                  \_\_\_\_\_ Band Leader

Send newsletter to my :  e-mail  mail -box

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_





## February 9th Showcase

By Lou Bischoff

Valentine's Day is over. We hope you were all loved and remembered by those you care about. It isn't just a day for lovers. It is important that we show our special love to those who mean so much, family members, good friends and neighbors we depend on to keep peace in our lives. We hope you all had that luxury. It helps to keep us positive in spite of world problems we can't solve.

Our permanent Western Swing Valentine's Day Sweetheart, Sharyn Lee, and her gang of the Sundowners gave us an excellent showing of great, down-to-earth western swing music. We thank you all for traveling so very far, through snow and ice, to perform your very best for this special showcase.

Attendance was down a bit as a result of the weather but those present enjoyed themselves to the fullest! Jim Neel and my hubby, Ed Bischoff, were their 'best selves' as they set up for the day. LeRoy King set up sound and we had many compliments on the great day in general.



Honoring Sharyn Lee (right) as the Western Swing Valentine's Day Sweetheart

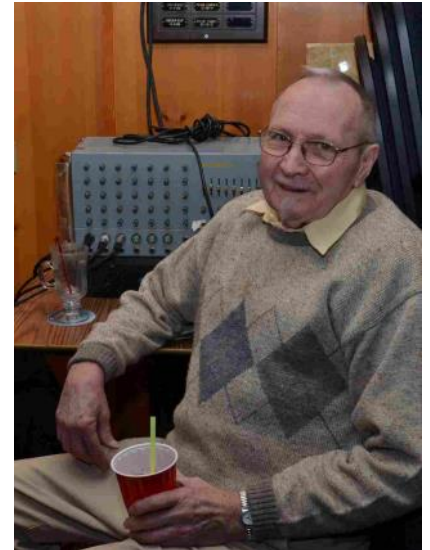
Satisfied with You. How nice, Jerry! Bass man, Dave Wheeler, sang *Old Flames*. Sharyn Lee sang an old favorite, *You Can't Break My Heart*. To end the first set, fiddlerman Jerry Seitz join Sharyn Lee in performing *Bonaparte's Retreat*.

While the host band took a short break, we presented Carl and Vesta Neue with a small token of the Society's appreciation for all they do, recognizing the Neues as the Valentine Couple of the Day. All of us who regularly

attend the monthly showcases are impressed with the Neue's faithful efforts to keep western swing music alive. They are among our most treasured volunteers. I presented them with a framed

photo of themselves snapped while they were dancing at one of the Showcases and a note of special thanks for their dedication to our Society.

Sharyn Lee opened the second set with Hank William's *Move It On Over*. What a fun song, especially with Pat Edwards on steel. Dave Wheeler sang *Heartaches by the Number* as wife, Janis, smiled and kept shaking her head "No." Sharyn and Jerry harmonized on *Can I Have This Dance*. Then Jerry continued with *Bordertown*, which is always a hit. Sharyn Lee always looks so cute when she sings *You Look So Good in Love*. Jerry kept things swinging, singing *All of Me*. I tried hugging him but couldn't reach around him - we do have fun! Dave belted out *Corrine Corrina*, just the way I like it. Thank you, Dave. Steel man, Pat Edwards sang *A Hole in My Pocket* - a fun song!



## Jam Time

The jam band filled the stage. LeRoy King on bass sang *Big City* and *Among My Souvenirs*. He dedicated George Strait's *You're Something Special to Me* to someone special. Wayne Franco on steel adds so much to the program. He, too, travels many miles from Silverdale to join us. Jim Neel was on lead guitar, Gil Barbee was on drums and Paul Anastasio played fiddle. Sandy Meacham on accordion filled out a great group assembled by Jim Neel, who so graciously agreed to run the jam. Thanks so much, Jim! Wife Lue looked on proudly.

Sandy played a polka tune followed by *Just Because* - super sound!! Good friend, Jerry Mulasky from the Seattle Eagles, Aerie #1, sang *Rose of San Antone* and *Tennessee Waltz*.



Vesta and Carl Neue  
The Valentine Couple of the Day

Companion, Katy, watched intently with a broad smile. Always nice to have visitors from other Aeries join us.

(Continued on page 10)

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



Bill Bissonette sang *Crazy Arms* (my favorite), *Muddy Waters* and *Truck Drivin Man*. He does a fine job. *C Jam Blues* with Paul and Wayne was a hit, as always. Dave Wheeler, Gil Barbee and Eddie Fields each took turns on drums.

It was a great jam! Thanks to each of you who participated. And, thanks again to Jim Neel for handling the jam part of the Showcase in the absence of Patty McConnell. Jim and Lue Neel also never miss a showcase and, in appreciation, I presented them with a Valentine's Day box of chocolates – a thank you gift. Speaking of gifts, Sharyn Lee and Sharon Smith donated all

of the door prizes and gifts today. Thanks, girls, for your generosity.

Now, this announcement is very special. Both of the Split-the-Pot winners donated their winnings back to the Society! Our thanks to Paul Anastasio and Sharon Smith for their generosity!

The Valentine's Day cake was cut by Sharon Smith and served by our waitresses, Joanne and Holly. Joanne and Holly took care of all our afternoon food and drink needs. Our appreciation to the bar and kitchen staff as well. They are all volunteers and value the gratuities we offer them.



Many heartfelt thanks to my "rock," my hubby, Ed, and all the musicians who so generously give their time and talent. We also hold in high regard the loyal companions, family and friends supporting our volunteers and musicians. Their encouragement, in turn, supports the mission of the Society.

See you next month for the Bob Wills' Birthday celebration! Be prepared to share your Bob Wills

stories. **Country Fever** will entertain us once again. I'm looking forward to that.

Remember our loved ones in prayer and don't forget to tell those important to you how much they add to your life.

Love to you all,  
Lou

## February's Host Band Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners



Pictured above, left to right: Row 1: Sharyn Lee, Lew Packwood;  
Row 2: Pat Edwards, Jerry Seitz;  
Row 3: Dave Wheeler, Tom Manhart