

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

The Wills/Duncan - Haggard Connection

Editor's Note: On April 6, 2016, America lost Merle Haggard, often referred to as the "Poet of the Common Man." The following excerpts were taken from an article written by Scott B. Bomar, published in The Californian, Friday, April 8, 2016, titled THE ROOTS OF HIS RAISING: THE MEN WHO SHAPED HAGGARD'S ARTISTRY



Pictured above: Bob Wills with Joe Holley.

"You know what I learned from Bob Wills?" Haggard asked during a 2010 interview. "Everything!"

. . . Of course a musical genius and singular artist like Merle Haggard is much more than simply the sum of his influences, but understanding Haggard's artistry begins with recognizing the importance of his musical heroes. It's something the man himself wanted us to understand. . . Some of the most influential of those artists were:

Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys

The Texas-born "King of Western Swing" began recording with his band in the mid-1930s. He found major success with hits such as "New San Antonio Rose" in 1940 and, following a short stint in the Army, relocated to the Los Angeles area in 1943 where he began reorganizing the Texas Playboys. Laborers from all over the country were migrating to industrial jobs on the West Coast during the war years, and many Southern and Southwestern transplants flocked to the dance halls to hear Wills and his band. They became at least as popular — if not more so — than big bands fronted by Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman.

Wills and his band moved to Fresno in 1945, and toured relentlessly up and down the coast. For more than a year, they played a weekly gig at Bakersfield's Beardsley Ballroom. At least once per month the show was broadcast live on the radio. One of the most dedicated young listeners was Merle Haggard. "Bob Wills' band," Merle claimed in his second autobiography *My House of Memories*, "was the best in the history of live radio."

But it was more than the stellar musicianship that Merle came to appreciate. "Our people were often looked down on by the natives as being dumb and ignorant Okies," Haggard noted. "We needed a hero, and Bob was certainly that and more."

(Continued on page 4. . .)



Celebrate Mothers Day at the Western Swing Showcase: Sunday, May 8th



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 the Southern Comfort Band



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

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
and

Like us on FACEBOOK at
Northwest Western Swing Music Society

Contact the editor,
jeanneyearian@yahoo.com, to receive our
newsletter in your in-box.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase/Workshop photos by Lou Bischoff & Jeanne Yearian.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

APRIL 10, 2016



Alice Striegel
Secretary

Secretary Alice Striegel (in the absence of the Society's President and Vice President) called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

Present: Lou Bischoff, Shelley McNaughton, Jerry Seitz, Alice Striegel.

Excused: Sharon Capps, Dave DuChane, Sharon Smith, Dave Wheeler, Jeanne Yearian

Guest: Ed Bischoff

President's Report: The Non-profit Annual Report has been filed with Washington State.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee Report: Dave Wheeler reported that currently the NWWSMS has 208 paid up members with 2 new members in 2016.

Showcase: Lou Bischoff reported that the host band for May will be **Southern Comfort**.

Sunshine: Lou Bischoff updated "Sharing the Journey."

Hall of Fame: President Jeanne Yearian reported that she is still waiting to hear whether the Auburn Eagles will be using the back room for bingo on Friday evening of the Festival. Once this has been determined, workshops and jam times will be scheduled.

Raffle Update: News was just received that JC McCormick will be donating a Wilson Bros. electric guitar/amplifier and gig bag. Steve Carter has generously offered to make/donate a commemorative quilt for the raffle. Al Anderson will donate Mariner tickets along with a Mariner Moose plush toy again this year. Our sincere thanks to everyone for their generous support. Other raffle prizes will be needed.

Nominating Committee Update: Shelley McNaughton reported that the Nominating Committee selected 14 inductees to the 2016 Hall of Fame. (See page 6 for the listing!)

Workshop Report: Jerry Seitz reported that the attendance at the first workshop was great! There were more than 30 participants. Another workshop is scheduled on April 23 at Dusty Strings. The Workshop/band/dance instruction clinic has been scheduled for

Saturday, May 14, from Noon to 4 pm at the Lake City Eagles (Aerie #1). Workshops will be staffed by Paul Elliott, Pete Martin and Elena DeLisle-Perry. The dance instructor is MaryLee Lykes.

Unfinished Business:

Filing for 501(c)(3) Status: Dave Wheeler reported that the application will be submitted by the end of April.

New Business: There was no new business to report.

The meeting's minutes were read and approved by those board members present.

Motion passed to adjourn at 12:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Striegel, Secretary

The NWWSMS Newsletter has gone digital

If you know someone who used to receive a paper copy of this newsletter but now does not receive it, please remind them to send us their current e-mail address to continue receiving the newsletter directly to their preferred e-mail account.

E-mail jeanneyearian@yahoo.com with the request to be added to the list of e-mail recipients. There are two additional options to accessing the current issue. The newsletter is available as a PDF in the newsletter archive on the website at:

www.nwwsms.com/newsletters.htm

A link to the current issue is also posted monthly on the Society's Facebook page.

Celebrate Our Fathers and Our Flag!

Dance at the Lynnwood Eagles

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

The June 12th Showcase will feature Country Fever

Prez Sez-

It is a great honor and pleasure to announce the individuals chosen to be inducted into the 2016 NorthWest Western



Jeanne Yearian

Swing Music Society's Hall of Fame, scheduled during the 26th Annual Western Swing Festival to be held August 12-14. The Nominating Committee's selections were presented to the Board at the April meeting.

The NWSMS Hall of Fame Inductees for 2016 are:

- Larry Anderson - Texas
- Paul Henry & Doris Ann Baker - Texas
- Kim Beck - California
- Doug & Betty Carter - New Mexico
- John England - Tennessee
- Robert Fjeldsted - Oklahoma
- Bobby Flores - Texas
- Butch Gibson - Washington
- Paula Jungmann - Texas
- Jack Loyd - California
- Dave Rietz - California
- Pat Rowe - Washington
- Rob Shotwell - California
- Gary Williams - Texas

I look forward to expressing my heartfelt congratulations to many of you in August!

Additional information on each of these Inductees will be available from time to time in our newsletters as well as in the

commemorative booklet that will be available at the Hall of Fame on Sunday, August 14, 2016. If you miss these opportunities to get to know the stories and musical histories of the 2016 Inductees, the commemorative booklet will be stored as a PDF on the website this fall.

Well, I knew I'd miss a good one when Lou Bischoff told me that **Paul Cooper & Pickin' Coop** were going to be playing for the April Showcase. And, from what I heard, it was a great afternoon of music and fun. Thank to all of you in the **Pickin' Coop** for sharing your music with us!

We are so pleased to have **Southern Comfort** back and playing for the May Showcase. Stop by and take a turn or two around the dance floor.

Until next month,
JY

The following e-mail was received from Arlene Stuth, long-time member and strong supporter of the NWSMS:



I wanted to express my sympathies to the family and friends of Bill Bailey, a good friend of mine that recently passed away.

Bill was the one that got me interested into Western Swing music. Until I talked to him I had really never heard much about Bob Wills and western swing music. I decided to join the Western Swing Society and I have to thank Bill for that.

I know he will be missed by many of the friends that he had.

Sincerely,
Arlene Stuth

Around the NorthWest Support Live, Local Music

For regular appearances at a particular venue to be included in the newsletter, contact the editor. Contact information for a member band is always welcome.

Southern Comfort. For bookings or schedule updates call Shelley at (206) 235-0530. Check out The Southern Comfort Band's current activities on Facebook!

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

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 9:00.

Call 253-922-7888 or 253-380-2445 for more information.



June 5-11, 2016

August 7-13, 2016





The following Facebook post was received from Paul Anastasio!

I'm thrilled to be teaching at Colorado Roots Music Camp, June 5-11. Expect some great swing music to be had, with Sylvia Herald, Raul Reynoso, Rene Worst and Jennifer Scott also on board!

<http://www.coloradorootsmusic.com/index.htm>

Cherishing the Memories

(Continued from Page 1, The Wills/Duncan - Haggard Connection. . .)



Merle Haggard

Editor's Note: Merle Haggard was inducted into the Western Swing Music Society's Hall of Fame in 1984.

In 1968 Wills was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. A stroke the following year left him partially paralyzed. Reflecting on his hero's contributions to the music he loved, Haggard mastered the fiddle in a few short months and started work on recording the awkwardly titled "A Tribute to the Best Damn Fiddle Player in the World (Or, My Salute to Bob Wills)."

Released in 1970, the songs were near note-perfect imitations of Wills' records. In addition to his regular band, the Strangers, Merle recruited several of Wills' Texas Playboys for the session, including Eldon Shamblin, Tiny Moore, Johnny Gimble, Johnnie Lee Wills, Joe Holley, and Alex Brashear.

"You know what I learned from Bob Wills?" Haggard asked during a 2010 interview. "Everything!"

Tommy Duncan

While Bob Wills taught Haggard about being an effective band leader, it was the Texas Playboys vocalist, Tommy Duncan, who was one of Merle's greatest influences as a frontman. "I think the first to impress me with his good singing voice was Tommy Duncan," Haggard revealed

in his 1981 autobiography, "Sing Me Back Home."

Duncan and Wills began working together in 1932 after Tommy auditioned with dozens of other singers for a spot in Wills' Light Crust Doughboys. The pair formed the Texas Playboys the following year. Tommy sang lead on most of the Playboys' hits until his boss's drinking created tension between the bandleader and singer. Duncan was fired in 1948, though he and Wills would work together again in the future.

In his early days as a Bakersfield picker, Haggard was called to play guitar in a one-off band that was assembled to back Duncan at a show in Hanford. "There wasn't nobody in the band that I recognized and it was an awful band," Merle recalled in 2009. "Tommy got onstage and did 'Deep Water,' and when he got through with it he walked over to me. . . . He said, 'Would you mind helping me keep these songs going?' And I just turned red all over, you know. But it took him one song to identify that out of the thirteen people, there was one guy onstage that might be able to play. Boy, that was the thrill of my life to get to play with Tommy."

My Merle passed away this morning peacefully surrounded by his loved ones after a long hard battle with his health.

Today April 6, 2016, which was his 79th birthday. He left to go to a much better place.

He was the best singer, songwriter and performer I've ever seen. Not only did he write the songs he sang, he was the music.

I will miss him forever.

Theresa Haggard

Sharing the Journey

With Well Wishes and Prayers

Virginia Dolle	Pat Stroud
Gene Carter	Red Gillean
Betty Hasting	Cindy De Leon
Sandy Macham	Harold Selby
Jeannie Poe	Roy Lee Brown
Kris Burnett	Tony Graziano
Ken Jones	Web Tipton
Robert LaClaire	Jerry Dezotell
Harlan Kubos	Ron Hutchinson
Lavena Hill	Vi & Darrell Anderson
Lloyd Hooper	Betty Reeves
Carl Christofferson	Rod Rodriguez
Wanda Ramos Love	Chuck Woods
Chuck Robbins	Pat Gore
Lane Johnson	Jim Gough
Jack Naughton	Gail Gough
Keith Holter	Dawn Hill
Howard Edwards	

Condolences

To Theresa Haggard, family, friends and fans worldwide on the loss of her husband, Merle Haggard.

To Brian and Peggy Shrum, family and friends on the loss of Brian's grandmother, Barbara Karr.

To Bobby Giasson, family and friends on the loss of his wife, Jeanette.

*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 or the editor of the newsletter (see page 2).

***NORTHWEST WESTERN SWING MUSIC SOCIETY
2016 WESTERN SWING SPRING DANCE &
DANCE BAND CLINIC***



Pete Martin

**Saturday, May 14th, Noon to 4 pm
Lake City Eagles (Aerie #1)**

Address: 8201 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA
Phone: (206) 762-5125

***Led by Paul Elliott, Pete Martin and
Elena DeLisle-Perry, with dance
instruction by MaryLee Lykes***



Paul Elliott

\$10 donation requested



Elena DeLisle-Perry

On stage, the workshop attendees will be joined by musicians from the NorthWest Western Swing Music Society. Whether you play a few tunes on your fiddle, guitar or mandolin or perform regularly, if you want to learn more about Western Swing, this event is for you.

***Bring a friend and join in
the fun!***

Watch for additional updates on Facebook or at www.nwwsms.com/events.



MaryLee Lykes

MAY 14TH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- Noon - 1:00 pm:*** ***-Dance instruction with MaryLee
-Band Practice with Elena, Pete & Paul***
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm:*** ***Dancing to the music of the
NorthWest Western Swing Music
Society's Workshop Jam Band!***
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm:*** ***-Dance instruction with MaryLee
-Band Practice with Elena, Pete & Paul***
- 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm:*** ***Dancing to the music of the
NorthWest Western Swing Music
Society's Workshop Jam Band!***

Food is available at the club!

NWWSMS Hall of Fame 2016 Inductees

Larry Anderson - Texas
 Paul Henry & Doris Ann Baker - Texas
 Kim Beck - California
 Doug & Betty Carter - New Mexico
 John England - Tennessee
 Robert Fjeldsted - Oklahoma
 Bobby Flores - Texas
 Butch Gibson - Washington
 Paula Jungmann - Texas
 Dave Rietz - California
 Pat Rowe - Washington
 Rob Shotwell - California
 Gary Williams - Texas

Posthumous Inductee
 Jack Loyd - California

*Your Special Invitation
 from
 Bob & Virginia Dolle*

*Join us in May for the
 WSMSS*



Showcase Dance and Jam

May 19, 20 & 21, 2016

VFW POST #3838

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI

3 music-filled days of jams, bands, cakewalks,
 50/50 and door prizes

Members \$5 - non Members \$10

For information please call: Bob or Virginia Dolle at 573-334-1377



1983-2016 Celebrating 33 Years!
 The Northwest Western Swing Music Society's

26th Annual Western Swing Music Festival & "Hall of Fame" August 12 -14, 2016

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 are not allowed in the club for this event)

MOTELS SPONSORING THE 2016 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. Complimentary 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 . . . \$ 89.00 for rooms (if booked before 7/01/15)
 Phone: 253-735-9600

Amenities: Free wireless high-speed Internet access, Complimentary 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.

Photo Highlights

April 10 Showcase & April 23 Workshop

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 May Showcase!
Save a smile for the camera!



Album: Paul Schlesinger & his Knights of Texas Swing

Artist: Paul Schlesinger & his Knights of Texas Swing

Album Reviews

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



Mike Gross

Little Bit of Heaven, from Wayne Newton. Other cuts include *I Guess I'll Just Say I Don't Know*, two from Bob Wills, Fred Rose's *Hang Your Head in Shame* and Dick Reinhardt's *A Broken Heart for a Souvenir* and the instrumental, *Golden Slippers*. Paul and the band also borrow from Country music Marty Robbins' *Pretty Words*, *Conscience I'm Guilty* from the Hank Snow hit parade, *Are You Trying to Tell Me Goodbye* from Perk Williams and Conway Twitty's *Walk Me to the Door*.

\$15 or order it online for \$ 1 5 from www.cdbaby.com/paulschlesinger or www.paulschlesinger.com (CDBaby offers a 10% discount if you order multiple copies.) You can also send Paul a check for \$17 (includes postage costs) to: Paul Schlesinger, 2500 Meadow Lane, Taylor, TX 76574.

This wonderful new CD, ten years in the making, includes 15 cuts by Paul Schlesinger and his Knights of Texas Swing, many of Western Swings brightest stars. They include Paul doing all vocals as well as playing a top class fiddle and rhythm guitar. Ray Tesmer plays lead guitar and fiddle and Bill Dowdy does rhythm guitar, bass and lead guitar. The steel guitarists are Bud Harger and Hall of Famers Jimmy Grabowske and the late Bill Dessens. The drummers are George Harrison and Jimmy Heap, Jr. Kim Cochran, Jr. plays bass and Greg Rikard plays piano and keyboard. Also on keyboard is Western Swing deceased Hall of Fame legend Clyde Brewer. Guest musicians are Scott Fischer-bass, Justin Dubecdrams and clarinetist Jonathan Doyle.

The album opens from the library of Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters with *You Were Meant to Ruin My Dreams*. Others from the Heap band are *This Song is Just for You*, later becoming a Hank Locklin country memory, *Haunted Hungry Heart*, covered in the country world by Slim Whitman, *Cat'n Around* and *Ethyl in My Gas Tank*. The cajun sound is present on Paul's composition, *Say Y Me Tib* and pop music on A

You can obtain the CD from Paul in person for

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

Mike's Top 10 for May 2016

Songs:

1. Love Is a Lingering Thing - Solitaire Miles
2. Smoky Clubs and Dizzy People - Cowboy Joe (Chimney Rock)
3. Okie Dokie - Cherokee Maidens
4. Everything's Gotta Swing in Texas - Cowboy Joe
5. Back In My Texas Home - Hot Texas Swing Band
6. Navajo Trail - AATW, Willie Nelson & the Quebe Sisters (Bismeaux)
7. Swingtime Lullabye - Western Swing Authority
8. This Song Is Just for You - Paul Schlesinger & His Knights of Western Swing
9. All the Love in San Antone - Lisa Layne
10. It's a Sin to Tell a Lie - Mikki Daniel & Dave Alexander (Musikode)

Albums:

1. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas - Solitaire Miles
2. Something to Bragg About - Leddy Bragg
3. I Ain't Dead Yet - Hot Texas Swing Band
4. Still the King - Asleep At The Wheel (Bismeaux)
5. Now Playing - Western Swing Authority
6. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris
7. Paul Schlesinger & His Knights of Western Swing - Paul Schlesinger
8. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel (Musikode)
9. That's My Home - Jason Roberts
10. Badger & the Belles - Rich O'Brien, Devon Dawson & Kristyn Harris

NWWSMS Application for Membership

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

NAME: _____ NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

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

CITY: _____ DANCER SUPPORTER

STATE / ZIP: _____ PERFORMER VOCALIST BAND LEADER

PHONE: _____ BAND: _____

E-MAIL: _____ INSTRUMENT(S): _____

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Use the E-mail provided above to send newsletters and other NWWSMS news
- Please have someone send me a paper newsletter

(Note: the NWWSMS does not mail out paper newsletters)

- I'd be happy to print and mail _____ extra newsletters to those without e-mail access
- Please DO NOT include me in the Membership Roster.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



Lou Bischoff

Highlights from the April 10th Showcase

By Lou Bischoff

April sunshine brought the **Pickin' Coop** members with Paul Cooper out for a fun-filled day of great western swing music with a bit from Merle Haggard's rich musical legacy thrown in. He was an icon and left his mark in the music history of America. Let's each remember him in our own way.

The host band kicked off with Paul Cooper on bass/vocals, Steve Carter on lead guitar/vocals, Pat Rowe on steel/guitar/vocals and Dan Lyons on drums/vocals. Shelley McNaughton filled in as guest vocalist. Her talent is simply amazing.

Paul opened with Red Steagall's classic *Lone Star Beer and Bob Wills Music*. It didn't take long for a large crowd of dancers to fill the floor. Slowing things down a bit, Paul sang George Strait's *Amarillo by Morning*. Steve Carter stepped up to the mic next then turned it over to Drummer Dan. Shelley took the stage, singing *Your Cheatin' Heart* and *Old Flames*.



Sandy Burrow thanking Paul for playing her song

Now Paul was back, singing Patsy Cline's *Crazy*, followed by *Waltz Across Texas* to a crowded dance floor. A real treat, Steve and Shelley harmonized on *Lonesome 7-7203*. What a special blend of voices! Paul was back up with *There Stands a Glass (I love his voice)*. Now it was Pat Rowe's turn with Shelley harmonizing on *Let's Chase Each Other 'Round the Room Tonight*. That delighted the crowd.

Steve sang a western swing classic, *My Shoes Keep Walking Back to You*. When he came to the line in the song, "and my arms keep reaching for you . . .," I held my arms out but his eyes were for no other but Shelley. *Faded Love* was played without a fiddle today and was loved by the crowd regardless.

We often remember where we were when we hear certain songs. Paul had a special guest in the hall who had come just to see and hear him, Sandy Burrow is her name. Her husband played with Paul years ago. So, he sang her favorite Merle Haggard tune, *Old Man From The Mountain*. She loved it and thanked him at the stage.

Steve and Shelley got swinging with *Home in San Antone*. Fine job! Then, Shelley finished with *My Window Faces the South*. Steve's last song, *Are You Sure This Is Where You Want To Be*, put the whole group in dance mode. Paul ended the set with *Just Walk On By*, but wait for the great jam coming up!

(Continued on page 10 . . .)





**Showcase Band
for April:
Paul
Cooper
& Pickin' Coop**



Pictured top to bottom, from left to right: Paul Cooper,
Dan Lyons, Steve Carter, Steve Carter & Shelley McNaughton,
Pat Rowe

(Continued from page 9)

Small colored candles were received by the door prize winners and Paul added, "It will light up you life." He can be so funny sometimes. But, I guess there is some meaning there.

The first jam band took the stage with Dave Davis and Larry Broad on lead guitars (*have you noticed Larry's beautiful smile these days?*), LeRoy King on bass, Pat Rowe remaining on steel, and Gil Barbee on drums. It was a nice surprise when Jim Sanderson came to pay a visit after a long absence. We couldn't convince him to sing a song – allergies have such an effect on so many folks this time of year.



LeRoy King

The Neues were out once again after a bout with the seasonal flu. Time now to have Tommy Christofferson on drums, singing *Neon Moon* with Shelley's harmony. Loyal jammer, Dave Enslow, sang *South of the Border* and *You Belong to My Heart*. Dave Davis sang *I Washed My Hands in Muddy Waters* and *Today I Started Lovin' You Again*. LeRoy sang his much requested *Remember Me* and *Lucille*. Great to see him playing bass on stage again.

Then, we got a delightful surprise when Steve and Kristi Nebel appeared and joined the jam. How special!! Steve played lead and sang *From a Jack to a King*. Kristi came up on bass singing *Heartaches by the Number*. LeRoy sang *Paper Roses*, one of his signature songs. Kristi sang *Satin Sheets* and *Six Pack to Go*. She is so sweet! Then, her hubby, Steve, sang the song he wrote titled *Strangers*. Some people have all the talent. That was so kind of them to join us, traveling up from Tacoma – a long haul. But, western swing moves people to make long drives to share what they do best – promote western swing music!

Nice to see our Yuma friends back in town. What a wonderful showcase today. **Paul Cooper and Pickin' Coop** did very well. Thanks a million to all the musicians and the dancers who so appropriately displayed their enjoyment of Paul's music by filling the dance floor. Thanks to the Lynnwood Eagles for the great service shown to us. Remember those in need of love and prayers and thank God for today.

Bless you all with love,
Lou



*Hello,
from deep in the
Heart of Texas!*

by Paula Jungmann



Graham Lees

United Kingdom
The Western Hour
Twang~Grass
The Country Connection
can heard streaming on the Home Page
of my website
<http://www.grahamlees.co.uk/>

Did you ever let your curiosity take you where you never expected? Well, I certainly did. For many years, from childhood our family would visit my maternal grandparents in Blanco, Texas, traveling up 281 from San Antonio and then returning home the long way, through Kendalia, Sisterdale and Boerne, Texas.

Going through Sisterdale, I'd always noticed this building shuttered and quiet. Later I found out that it was an old-fashioned dance hall. Through the years I thought of the old hall and wondered who played there? How was it back in the day? Were dances still held there? My dad occasionally would call me Sisterdale, so I suppose that was something else that stemmed my curiosity about the place.

Fast forward several years, my family moved to Boerne just 10 miles from Sisterdale and the old hall. Still, I knew nothing about the building. It was then that I noticed an ad in our little weekly newspaper, "Do you have a story? We'd like to print it." I really didn't have a story. I had a curiosity that was unfulfilled. I emailed the editor asking my questions in hopes that someone in the community would shed some light on the old building. The editor turned around and asked me a question. "It sounds as if you have a passion for this story. Would you like to write it?" Well, no, I wanted someone else to tell me about this place! I'd never written an article in my life, but, I tried to do a little research locally at the library and checked for information through the Texas Historical Commission on-line . . . nothing was there. After a few days without any luck, I again wrote the editor and told her what research I'd done but, that I had come up dry. Well, she didn't give up. She wrote me back and said "Paula, you have a story; if you don't write it I will." It didn't take long for me to own the story, whatever and wherever it was.

I don't know where the words came from, but the words flowed seemingly out of nowhere. I wrote what I knew of two halls in the area that had information and history and then here's this tiny little hall in Sisterdale that we know nothing about. I submitted the story - a mystery - which was printed on a full page with photos. Several weeks later I inquired to see if anyone came forward - again nothing.



A little more time passed and I got another email. This time a realtor wanted to arrange an appointment with me and the new owner of the hall. Sisterdale dance hall had been sold to a San Antonio attorney.

Top 10 Western Swing & Traditional Country for May 2016

Top Ten Albums

1. *Summertime: Willie Nelson Sings Gershwin*, Willie Nelson
2. *Cowgirl Swing*, Mikki Daniel
3. *Tennessee Local*, Carolyn Martin
4. *Dancing Your Memory Away*, Myra Rolan
5. *Go To Town*, The Lucky Stars
6. *Swinging Broadway*, John England & the Western Swingers
7. *Before It's Too Late!*, Billy Puckett & Tommy Dodd
8. *In My Spare Time, Vol. 4*, Brady Bowen
9. *Houston*, River Road Boys
10. *Whatever You Want Me to Be*, Eddie McAlvain

Top Ten Songs

1. *But Not For Me*, Willie Nelson
2. *Smoky Clubs and Dizzy People*, Cowboy Joe Babcock
3. *On the Street Where You Live*, Mikki Daniel
4. *Texas Bein' Texas*, Red Steagall & the Boys in the Bunkhouse
5. *Your Turn to Cry*, John England & the Western Swingers
6. *Don't Get Around Much Any More*, Brady Bowen & CB Sutton
7. *I Wonder*, John Lang
8. *Two-Steppin' Out on Me*, Bonita Mercer
9. *Right or Wrong*, Merle Haggard
10. *Ace in the Hole*, Bruce Greaves



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**May 2016 Playlist for
 "Wyn on Tuesday"**

1. *Your Old Used to Be* - Bobby Flores
2. *She Got Religion*, Cowboy Joe Babcock
3. *When the Bloom is on the Sage*, Kristyn Harris
4. *On the Street Where You Live*, Mikki Daniel
5. *Bang Bang Bang*, Hot Texas Swing Band
6. *Beautiful Texas*, Al Dressen
7. *Eleven Eighteen Nadine Lane*, Country Night Live
8. *Waltz Across Texas*, Kristi Nebel
9. *It's Who You Love*, Chuck Cusimano
10. *A Cup of Your Sugar*, Buck Ford

Artists are welcome to send cds to:
Wyn Machon
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Oamaru 9400.
New Zealand.

whitestone.music@inbox.com

**May Playlist for
 "Skeebo's Line Shack Review"**

- Mike Dart & the Skyline Wranglers -
It Makes No Difference Now
 Hot Texas Swing Band - *I Forgot to Remember*
 Billy Mata & the Texas Tradition - *See Who's Sorry Now*
 Lisa Layne - *In A Good Mood To Be Bad*
 Coby Carter & 5 Miles West -
That's What I Like About a Country Song
 The Quebe Sisters - *Green Light*
 Dan Roberts - *Swingin' Til We Can't See Strait*
 Jimmy Burson - *Texas in the Swing*
 Carolyn Martin - *That's What I Call Cookin'*
 Jason Roberts Band - *I Hear Ya Talkin'*

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\$700 deposit per cabin at time of booking. Final payment due April 15, 2017. Pricing above based on double occupancy. Taxes and fees of \$266.61 per person not included. Airfare not included. Pricing valid until March 1, 2017 and subject to availability.

The band will play 3 private parties for our group with open bar. Booking through any other source than the agency listed will exclude you from these parties. Fees include band fee, security fees and taxes. Travel agency reserves the right to charge a cancellation fee of up to \$100 per cabin. Fuel surcharges of up to \$10 per day per person may be charged by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

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THE COWTOWN SOCIETY OF
WESTERN MUSIC'S
18TH ANNUAL
SWINGFEST
MAY 7, 2016

(Continued from page 11 . . . Paula Jungmann)

Cowtown Society of Western Music is proud to announce our 18th Annual CSWM Swing Fest, a tribute to "Heroes of Western Swing," will be held Saturday, May 7, 2016 from Noon until 10:00 PM at the beautiful Holiday Hills Country Club in Mineral Wells, Texas. Admission will be \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased for \$12.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 and under by e-mailing Joyce Miller, Secretary, at jmlbubbles032443@att.net or calling her or Gary Beaver, President, at 817/558-7580. Or you can simply mail a check for the amount of tickets you want to purchase to Joyce at 3709 East Highway 67, Cleburne, TX 76031. So order early and save.

Our very special "host and emcee" will be Texas Playboy, Leon Rausch.

2016 SwingFest Schedule of Events

Noon to 12:45 PM	SHOOT LOW SHERIFF
12:45 PM to 2:00 PM	First Awards Ceremony for Heroes of Western Swing
2:00 PM to 2:45 PM	LOUISE ROWE AND THE TEXAN PLAYBOYS
2:45 PM to 4:00 PM	Second Awards Ceremony for Heroes of Western Swing
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM	PAT JACOBS AND THE CSWM ALL STAR HEROES BAND
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Third Awards Ceremony for Heroes of Western Swing
6:00 PM to 6:30 PM	SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY VALERIE RYALS
6:30 PM to 10:00 PM	BRADY BOWEN AND SPECIAL GUESTS



Follow the
"Western Swing Music
Society of the Southwest"
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Western Swing Music Society of
the Southwest



Paula Jungmann at the keyboard during a photo shoot at the Sisterdale Dancehall.

Upon arriving at the hall - my first time actually in the building - there was a table piled with papers sitting in the middle of this wonderful hardwood floor. Seated at the table was the attorney. The papers contained the history of the property. Are you getting the picture of what I'd stepped into? What in the world am I doing here, I puzzled? To my amazement, the new owner handed me the original copies of these papers to take home with me and see what I could find!

We did finally find out that the hall was built between 1867-1884 that it was a shooting club, opera house, dance hall and community center. The Home Band played there, made up of musicians from the area. Of course, the music was German. The Home Band played in a loft above the dance floor, carrying their instruments up a ladder via a rope. Adolph Hofner and the Pearl Wranglers and The Texas Top Hands played there as well. The last time a dance had been held there was in 1961, just prior to the owners moving away to San Antonio. The current stage was built in 1921, an anniversary gift from the owner to his wife on the occasion of their 50th wedding celebration.

The floor in the hall is original to the building and in immaculate shape. The stage surround and curtains together with the stage screens and props are original to the hall and most likely used by the opera house and the Saengerverein (German singing group). The hall was used in a George Strait Bud Light commercial, a Brooks and Dunn music video for the tune *Red Dirt Road* and a made for TV mini series, *North and South*, starring Kirstie Alley, Patrick Swazy and Robert Mitchum. Scenes from several other movies were filmed there as well.

The hall was refurbished, keeping it in compliance with the history of the place. It is being held in perpetuity in a trust. The hall was reopened in October 2009 with a dance! There was western swing music flowing through the hall and out it's propped windows. It was the first public dance in 48 years, being performed by **Billy Mata and the Texas Tradition**.

We shared the information we found, together with ownership information with the Boerne Public Library and Texas Dance Hall Preservation. Now my curiosity had been settled, the hall had found some love and a new passion for the historical preservation of our heritage had been ignited in me.

There is so much undocumented, local history about our communities out there. Let's work together to ensure it's not lost to future generations.

Til next time

Men of Steel

The Adventures of the Steel Guitar and Its Sound

(Editor's Note: This movie is currently in production but previews are available. Click on the links in this article to watch some film clips and find out more.)

AN AMERICAN RIVER OF SOUND

The fluid sound of the steel guitar flows throughout American music like a powerful river that cuts through and reshapes the terrain. It can be as tranquil as a babbling brook or as exhilarating as a raging torrent taking you on a thrilling ride. As it makes its way across our musical landscapes, it conjures the tranquil tropical beaches of Pacific islands, desolate deserts of the Southwest, beer soaked honky-tonks and jubilant dance halls of Texas, and lonely hollows of the South.

Whether it is conveying the authenticity of place or the sincerity of emotion, the flowing sound of the steel guitar is deceptively simple. Men of Steel takes you inside the sound to explore the rich medley of elements contained in its sonic simplicity. Whether you are a music fan or interested in American culture, take a fascinating trip through the histories and technologies that we hear when we cry with the steel guitar and when we turn the dial across the airwaves of our favorite music and television. Experience the fascinating adventures of the steel guitar as told by the "men of steel" – the very musicians who put the sound of the steel on our cultural map.



[THE BUDDY EMMONS INTERVIEW](#)

In 2015 the music world mourned the loss of perhaps the greatest steel guitar player of all time, Buddy Emmons. Our first [bio page is devoted to Buddy](#) and contains exclusive clips from our time with him. He tells about meeting Jimmy Day and Ralph Mooney for the first time and his experience recording a jazz record in New York.

[ROCKET SCIENCE:](#)

Experience the moment when country music was transformed forever. Meet the pioneering "men of steel" who brought the steel guitar into country and some of your favorite songs. Hear Bud Isaacs, the Neil Armstrong of country music who took the first step on the pedal that changed country music. Listen to Buddy Emmons, Don Helms, Ralph Mooney, Lyle Lovett and other performers describe how they use the steel to make the music you love.

[JUST ADDED: THE HAWAIIAN ROOTS OF THE STEEL GUITAR](#)

Our second preview "[Hawaii Calls](#)" takes you to the beginnings of the steel guitar sound in Hawaii and traces its impact on music and culture on the US mainland. Featuring Junior Brown, Bob Brozman, Lloyd Green, Herb Steiner, Jimmie Vaughan, and others.