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Volume 36 Issue 3

A News Letter For and About Our Members

March 2019

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



Pictured above: Enumclaw Music's Mascots—Jack and Bob

BEGINNING MARCH 17:

Western Swing Jam in Enumclaw, WA

Where: Enumclaw Music, 1515 Cole Street

When: The Third Sunday of the Month, from 2 to 5 pm

Hosted by members of the NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

Bob Wills, the King of Western Swing, was born on March 6, 1905, and died on May 13, 1975. This month we celebrate the birthday of Bob Wills. By the last week-end in April, fans and musicians alike will fill Turkey, Texas, to celebrate Bob Wills Day! As part of this



Jeanne Yearion

extended celebration, the March issue of this newsletter focuses on glimpses into his life and his music.

In addition, it seemed timely for the NWWSMS to launch our new Western Swing Jam at Enumclaw Music on March 17. We are looking forward to sharing our love of this energizing, danceable music with western swing music enthusiasts, whether long-time fans of the genre or those curious to know more. Joining me will be Toby Hanson, who plays western swing accordion/keyboards with Mike Faast & the Jangles as well as Kristi Nebel & Cowgirl's Dream. *(Those of you who know Toby realize music - a wide variety of music - is his life.)*

For those of you who are familiar with acoustic, circle jams, this will be a different experience. Our western swing jam will give participants an opportunity to practice playing as part of a 'band,' as well as experimenting and developing their skill at improvisation. Whether you are just beginning to play with others or a seasoned musician, come on by and sit in!

All skill levels are welcome but we ask that jammers have a basic understanding of their instruments. Also, you are welcome to bring sheet music as a reference; however, we do encourage developing your ear and memory. Whether you come to listen, play, or both, we look forward to meeting you! Almost forgot to mention . . . it's FREE! 2 PM, Sunday March 17, Enumclaw Music.

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NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

A 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FORMED IN NOVEMBER 1983 BY A GROUP OF MUSICIANS AND ENTHUSIASTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING, PROMOTING & PERFORMING WESTERN SWING MUSIC.

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

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Visit us on the web at: www.nwwsms.com
to read the newsletter in full color, JOIN
the NWWSMS, RENEW your membership
or DONATE.

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[NorthWest Western Swing Music Society](https://www.facebook.com/NorthWestWesternSwingMusicSociety)

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

PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase photos by Jeanne Yearian.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 10, 2019

President Jeanne Yearian cancelled the February meeting due to weather - a heavy snowfall. The Lynnwood Eagles club was closed.



Bob Wills King of Western Swing Dies

(Editor's Note: The following was reprinted from Tulsa World, May 14, 1975)

The cigar-smoking ebullient father of Western Swing is dead.

Bob Wills, a former Tulsan and country music legend, died Tuesday (May 13, 1975) at Fort Worth, Texas. He was 70.

Wills, the author of "San Antonio Rose," and "Maiden's Prayer," had been in fragile health since 1969, when a stroke left him partially paralyzed and confined to a wheel-chair.

The end for the country music giant came at 1:05 p.m. at the Kent Nursing Home at Fort Worth. The immediate cause of death was reported to be bronchial pneumonia.

Only last July he was readmitted to a Fort Worth hospital and his condition was for a time listed as critical. . . .

. . . The man Time Magazine dubbed a "backwoods Guy Lombardo" had a career spanning 50 years in music and film.

He was in 26 films, produced records that sold 20 million copies, wrote and recorded 470 tunes and at one time was reportedly the highest paid bandleader in the U.S., with an annual income in the 1940s estimated \$350,000.

It was a stunning life for the son and grandson of champion Texas fiddle players, a boy who once rode 50 miles on horseback to hear blues singer Bessie Smith.

Born James Robert Wills on March 6, 1905, near Turkey, Texas, Wills was one of 10 children who grew up on a 500-acre cotton farm owned by their father, John.

Young Wills learned to play guitar, mandolin

and fiddle from his father and grandfather, and played with John Wills at "kitchen dances."

Wills at various times was a barber, a lay preacher, a blackface medicine show entertainer and zinc smelter worker.

In 1931 he joined W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, then a Fort Worth flour mill executive, and the two formed the Lightcrust Doughboys. O'Daniel later used the band to campaign for governor and U.S. senator. Wills left in 1932, taking the original band to Waco, where the musicians became the "Texas Playboys."

A major impetus to his career came in 1934, when he got a one-time tryout spot on Tulsa radio station KVOO, the first in a series of noon broadcasts that lasted 25 years.

Wills' band broadcast from Cain's Ballroom, where a plaque on the wall, "Nothing forced or fancy," succinctly expressed the music style. That was the start of his fame across the Southwest and ultimately the country. The man whose first violin cost \$2 once paid cash for a \$5,000 violin from a Hollywood shop.

Wills eventually moved to California, although he always considered Tulsa his home and once boasted "10,000 people in Oklahoma" wanted him to run for governor or senator. Wills declined, saying, "I don't know anything about these politics. I'm a fiddler."

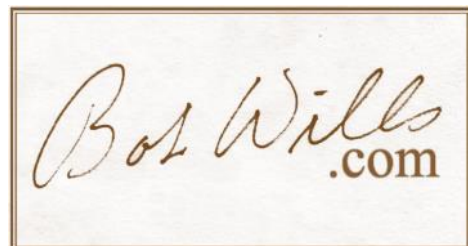
When World War II started the bandleader joined the Army and after his discharge he led his group on bond drive tours. On one tour crooner Bing Crosby sang "San Antonio Rose" with the band when a bidder offered to buy \$50,000 worth of bonds to hear it.

Hollywood also beckoned, and Wills made 26 films, the first of which, "Take Me Back to Oklahoma," featured a Wills composition, "Take Me Back to Tulsa."

His band, which included his brother, Johnnie Lee Wills, Tommy Duncan, steel guitarist Leon McAuliffe and Eldon Shamblin, was largest in 1944, when it included 22 men. During his career, Wills hired more than 600 musicians.

Wills was nationally famous, and fans, whether Western Swing buffs or not, recognized the omnipresent smile, cigar and

(Continued on Page 4 . . .)





President's Corner



Jeanne Yearian

There's still time to get those nominations in for the 2019 Hall of Fame! But, hurry! The deadline is **March 15**. Email your letter of sponsorship, your nominee's bio, contact information and a clear photo to jeanneyearian@yahoo.com.

Our February host band, **Sharyn Lee and The Sundowners**, looks forward to entertaining us in August, at the annual festival, August 8-11 (the western swing music camp will begin on Wednesday, August 7).

Before we know it we will be gathering at Enumclaw's historic Field House for our August festival! This is as close as we can come to a Cain's Ballroom or an historic Texas dance hall. Looking back through the photos, reminded me how much fun we had as we further explored the possibilities of our new location by hosting a series of western swing workshops.

Now that we have seen how well it works for us, we have begun planning to make our festival one of the "Do Not Miss" events on everyone's calendar. The rustic, climate-controlled hall has one of the biggest, if not THE biggest, suspended, hardwood maple dance floors left in our area. Downstairs and outside are spaces we can use for workshops and jams. This year we hope to have a 'pavilion' (a 20' x 20' tent) outside to accommodate jam sessions and workshops. What a great opportunity for musicians from around the country to encourage and inspire each other.

Last year, in keeping with the celebration of the Society's 35th year, a special historical display allowed participants to walk through the history of the NWWSMS - an exhibit honoring those who established the organization and kept it going. Our thanks to Lou Bischoff for making that possible. This year we hope to build on her work.

Western Swing music is made for sharing. What would make this year's festival even better than the last? In a word, MORE - more dancers, more listeners, more musicians! If each of us invites dancers and other music enthusiasts to join us - whether for an afternoon or the week-end - you have our guarantee we will make them feel welcome. Let's fill the hall!

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.

3rd Sunday Western Swing Jam, Enumclaw Music, 1515 Cole St, from 2 to 5! Jeanne Yearian & Toby Hanson hosting. **Beginning March 17** Call 425-432-7888 for info.

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.

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

Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners. Dance Hall Music by **The Sundowners**, the 4th Sunday of every month (beginning Jan. 27, 2019) 1:30-4:30pm at Swede Hall, Rochester, Wash. Visit their website for information on additional play dates: www.thesundownersband.com

JC McCormick & the Cherokee Band. For booking information or a schedule of upcoming play dates, call JC at: 253-268-2314

Congratulations to the **2018 Showcase Band of the Year**. We will be announcing the winner at the March Showcase. The winning band gets to display the trophy at various NWWSMS events and choose when they will play at the August Festival. Our thanks to everyone who took part.

Has the Society ever had to cancel a showcase because of the weather? What February's inclement weather left me with is a yearning to see all of my western swing friends! Sunday can't come soon enough. March is always a special showcase with **Butch Gibson and Pardners** once again hosting our 'Bob Wills Birthday Bash' from 1 to 3. Then, from 3:30 to 5, the jam portion of the program begins. If you would like to join in for a few songs, be sure to sign up at the information table.

See you on the dance floor! JY

Let's celebrate the musical contributions of the King of Western Swing!

It's the Bob Wills' Birthday Bash!

On March 10 join your western swing family

From 1 to 5 pm at the Lynnwood Eagles

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

Featuring

Butch Gibson & Pardners

Come for free dance lessons from 12 to 12:45, taught by MaryLee Lykes

- NOTICE-

Beginning **March 10, 2019**, there will be a \$2.00 donation requested from non-members of the NWWSMS to attend the dance.

Current members of the NWWSMS will be admitted free of charge.

Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: (To use PayPal or your credit card go to our website or click on this link:)

Become a member, renew or donate on-line or by mail.

Mail your check to: **NWWSMS, PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082.**



Cherishing the Memories

(. . . Continued from Page 2, Bob Wills Obituary)



Bob Wills

fiddle, the Stetson hat, and the cries of "Aaaah-haah!" and "Take it away, Leon," an urging to McAuliffe that became his own motto as a bandleader.

In the 1950s, Wills returned to his native Texas, but moved to Oklahoma City for a short period before making his home at Fort Worth.

His health started to fail about 1964, when he suffered liver ailments, diabetes and a heart attack. But he kept working.

The big band he fronted eventually broke up, and Wills led a smaller group until suffering a crippling stroke in May 1969.

Some of Wills' perennial compositions included "San Antonio Rose," "Faded Love," "Maiden's Prayer," "Spanish Two-Step" and "Stay All Night (Stay a Little Longer)."

In 1970 a benefit program staged at the Tulsa Fairgrounds raised \$24,400 for Wills' medical expenses, and one week was set aside as Bob Wills Week. That same year the Oklahoma House passed a resolution expressing "commendation, admiration and appreciation" to the bandleader. Wills in 1968 was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville and was made a lifetime member of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

In 1973, as a special guest at the annual banquet in Nashville of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, Wills was given a plaque for his "unequaled leadership" in music. Leading music figures gave Wills a standing ovation when the announcement was read. The plaque said ASCAP "honors our member Bob Wills for his long, productive and creative association with country music and his unequalled leadership as a musician and as a man."

Wills' work recently enjoyed renewed popularity. Country artist Merle Haggard recorded an album of Wills standards that sold over 245,000 copies, and two years ago Wills himself and Haggard joined with some of the old Texas Playboys for a recording session that produced a two-disc album, "For the Last Time." . . .

Music critics have noted how Wills' band effectively fused jazz, country and western and blues into a melodious, swinging package, but Wills always brushed aside theorization about his music.

Asked about rock and roll several years ago, Wills chuckled, "Why man, that's the same kind of music we've been playing since 1928."

. . . Wills' lingering fealty to Tulsa was once expressed in a film conversation he had. Asked if he'd ever been to Oklahoma, Wills quipped, "I had a meal in Tulsa one night." Asked how long he'd been away from the city and the state, Wills smiled, and said: "I never left." . . .

The following was a Tulsa World editorial published on May 15, 1975.

Music For the People

For want of a better name they called it "Western Swing," even though it wasn't exclusively Western and it wasn't exactly Swing. It was rooted in the tastes and experiences of plain people, workers and farmers of a predominantly small town and rural America of the 1930s. It could be described as a latter day version of American folk music except for the fact that it was created by a single talented musician – Bob Wills.

By any name, the music of Bob Wills had something about it that people like. His records sold 20 million copies. He made 26 films and wrote and recorded 470 tunes, many of which are still standard in the recording and broadcasting industries. In the 1940s, his estimated annual income reached \$350,000, the highest of any band leader in the country.

Wills was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville in 1968. He was made a lifetime member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers honored him for "unequaled leadership" in music. But the greatest tribute came from the public. It is a tribute that will last as long as songs like "San Antonio Rose" are heard and enjoyed.

In the old days, monarchs honored artists and musicians "by appointment" to their courts. Bob Wills was, by appointment, musician and composer to the common man of America. . . .

"He did more to put Tulsa, his home, on the map than anybody," one man wept. "And today he came home like his album said, '... For the Last Time.'" . . .

Sharing the Journey

With Well Wishes and Prayers

Graham Lees	JC McCormick
Lou Bischoff	Larry Broad
Eleanor Ford	Gloria Schindler
Jimmy Queen & the Jazabillies	Connie McMahon
Charlotte Tomlinson	Ed Hynes
Kevin Healy	Betty Reeves
Joe Dwyer	Paul Cooper
Betty Hastings	Judy Collender
Arlene Stuth	Wanda Ramos Love
Geno Burbank	Chuck Robbins
Greta Larson	Jim Sanderson
Fern Hooper	Lane Johnson
Jody Meredith	Keith Holter
Ken Jones	Jim Wallace
Robert LaClaire	Kathie Wallace
Shorty Joe Quartuccio	Red Gillean
	Cindy De Leon
	Web Tipton
	Vi & Jay Anderson

Condolences

To Mary Meadows, family and friends on the loss of Merle Anderson.

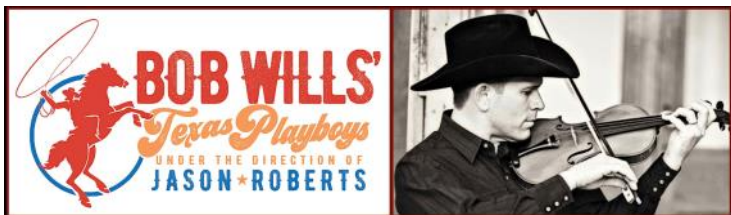
To the Burnett family and large community of friends and fans on the loss of Charles 'Edd' Burnett

*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).



Tulsa's Cain's Ballroom Hosted their Annual Birthday Bash, Celebrating Bob Wills, the King of Western Swing, with the Texas Playboys, now under the direction of Jason Roberts

(Editor's note: Bob Wills was born on March 6, 1905. The following article is taken from the Cain's Ballroom website, 2019.)

When Texas Playboys front man Jason Roberts steps onto a stage with his fiddle and utters his first "AH-ha" of the evening, western-swing fans know they're seeing and hearing nothing less than the living embodiment of a tradition that stretches all the way back to 1933. That was the year the charismatic fiddler Bob Wills and several other musicians in a group called the Light Crust Doughboys broke away from Fort Worth's Burris Mills and its autocratic business manager, W. Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel, to form their own band. As Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, they became one of the most popular touring and recording acts in the nation, offering audiences the highly danceable musical mixture that came to be known as western swing.

Following Bob's 1975 death, a group of ex-Playboys led by former Wills steel-guitarist Leon McAuliffe and hand-picked by McAuliffe and Bob's widow, Betty, came together to keep the Bob Wills sound alive. Those men made a promise to one another that when the first of their number died, they would disband – and, true to their word, the group dissolved in 1986, following the death of piano player "Brother" Al Stricklin.

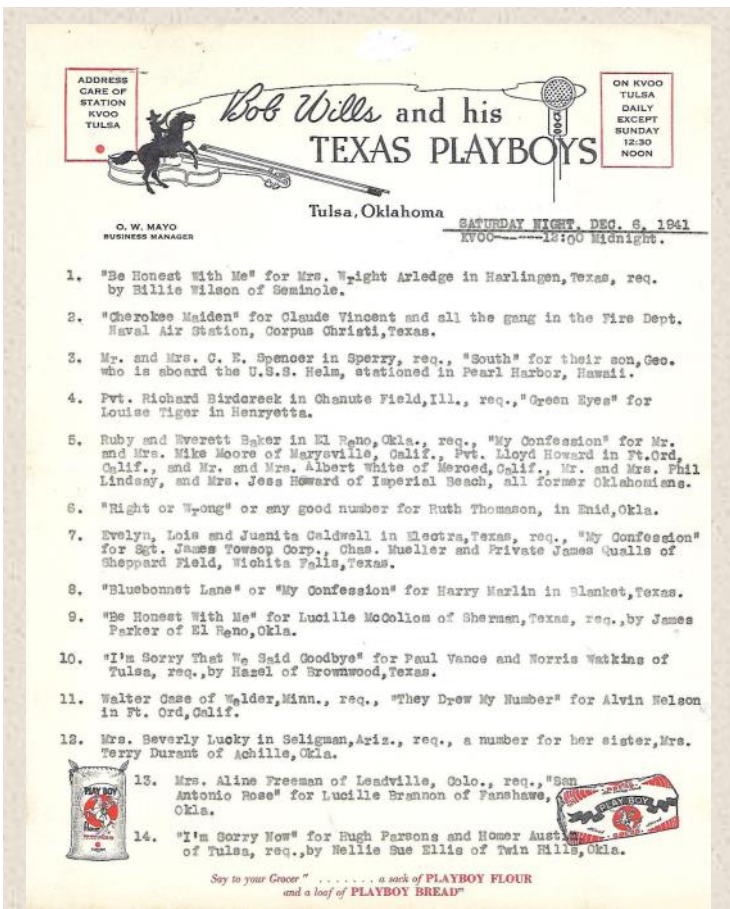
Eventually, with the blessing of the Bob Wills estate, guitarist-producer Tommy Allsup, a longtime Wills collaborator, and Leon Rausch, the Playboys' last great vocalist, took over Bob Wills' Texas Playboys. They continued squarely in the Wills style, delighting old fans and making new ones, until 2018, following the death of Allsup and the retirement of nonagenarian Rausch.

Today, the Bob Wills sound continues, as big and bright and brassy as ever. The newest Texas Playboys aggregation is led by two-time Grammy winner Roberts, hand-picked by both the Wills

estate and Leon Rausch, whose nearly two decades in the famed western-swing band Asleep at the Wheel includes an eight-year stint actually playing Bob Wills in the Wheel's nationally touring musical-theatre production, A RIDE WITH BOB. And, like Bob's original band, this group of Playboys includes some of the best swing musicians both Oklahoma and Texas have to offer.

The Okies include trombonist Steve Ham, trumpeter Mike Bennett, drummer Tony Ramsey, and fiddler Shawn Howe. The contingent from south of the Red River boasts guitarist Rick McRae, a veteran of George Strait's Ace in the Hole Band, along with piano player Wayne Glasson, steel guitarist Dave Biller, and bassist Albert Quaid. Many of these top-notch players from both states have already done stints with the band's earlier incarnations.

Together, Bob Wills' Texas Playboys forge on through the 21st Century, bringing a nostalgic glow to longtime Wills fans and the joy of discovery to those who might not have even been born when Bob died. Once again, the baton has been passed, and the hands that grasped it are crafting some of the finest examples of Bob Wills-style western swing anyone could ever want to hear.



"Radio in Tulsa is rich in history. The legendary Bob Wills broadcast his show and live dances with the Texas Playboys from Cain's Ballroom every Thursday and Saturday evening over KVOO. The program reached homes across America and soldiers, and fans would write in their song requests and tune in faithfully to listen. Tulsan Brett Bingham and manager for the new Bob Wills' Texas Playboys Under the Direction of Jason Roberts, has preserved the original song sheets as part of his personal collection. This specific song sheet was from December 6, 1941 and aired the night of Pearl Harbor."

Posted by Tulsa DJ and author, John Wooley



The Texas Playboys at Cain's Ballroom



Coming May 3 & 4, 2019
The Cowtown Society of
Western Music's 21st Annual

SwingFest

The Cowtown Society of Western Music's 21st Annual CSWM Western Swing Fest is May 3rd and 4th, 2019, at Holiday Hills Country Club in Mineral Wells, Texas. Swing on down to Mineral Wells, Texas, for the weekend and join all the fun!

Congratulations to all of the Heroes of Western Swing being inducted this year!



Paula Jungmann



Hello,
from deep in the
Heart of Texas!

by Paula Jungmann

When I was researching the genre of Western Swing I didn't find much on the internet other than definitions, some biographies on Bob Wills and Milton Brown and the current artists who were performing the music locally, across discussion groups on the internet where musicians would talk about the music. They'd tell stories of shows, who they played with and their instruments a great deal. I felt like a virtual fly on the walk trying to soak in some information from the professionals who were a part of that music scene.

One day I chimed in and asked a small question or two and as time progressed I would do that more often. Occasionally I would post a show or two that they might be interested in attending. I posted the Bob Wills Day Event in Turkey, Texas, which brought some stories of when some had attended. They wrote about the huge crowds that attend the event and all the great musicians and how much fun they always had through the years. That was something that I could share as I'd been there. One of the guys asked if I was going to attend that years event and the group would like to meet me. They'd be around Bob's fiddle display case in the museum on Saturday, Bob Wills Day.

I didn't know the group personally, but, was curious and I wanted to thank them for putting up with this novice and how much I appreciated them. When the celebration rolled around my husband and I went to the museum. No one was at the fiddle case but there was a group of men standing together in the next room. We stood close enough for me to over hear a bit of their conversation, "I don't know if she'll show" was my cue to introduce myself. One of them had a plastic sack and pulled out this hard cover book and said, "I brought this for you so you'll have the correct information." Much to my surprise the book was *San Antonio Rose the Life and Music of Bob Wills* by Dr. Charles Townsend. But, they wouldn't let me have it until it was properly signed by its author.

Dr. Townsend graciously verified that the book was an original issue of the book and penned a nice dedication on the inside cover. The gentleman who gave me the book was Billy Byrd.

I think that they wanted this newbie to have the right information. There were so many misquoted statements and information being published out on the internet and they wanted to make sure what I had was correct - sort of fighting a fire they might be able to put out in time.

I can't tell you how many times I've referred to this "Bible of Western Swing" - too many times to count. The discussion group kept up the page for many years until the software they were using was discontinued. The new software package wasn't as user friendly so they disbanded the group. The members still are in contact and do see each other occasionally at different events.

LIVING HEROES:

Robert Weeks
Tommy Thompson
Janet Lynn
Mark Abbott
Randall Palmore
Kenneth Guinn
Tommy Hooker
Jake Hooker
Curtis Lovejoy
David Waddle
Richard Cartwright
Pee Wee Whitewing

RISING STARS:

Jack Phillips
Hailey Sandoz

DISC JOCKEY:

Sean Hickey

PROMOTER:

Dena Wood

BAND OF THE YEAR:

Louise Rowe
And The Texan Playboys

POSTHUMOUS HEROES:

Dewey and
Quinlan Groom

VENUE:

Lil' Red's
Longhorn Saloon
(Craig Copeland),
Fort Worth, Texas

LIVING LEGENDS:

Dwight Cook
Gil Prather
Howard Higgins

FANS OF THE YEAR:

Randy and
Linda Chisholm
Charlie Johnson

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:

Red Steagall



For More Information about our 21st Annual CSWM Western Swing Fest, please go to our website:

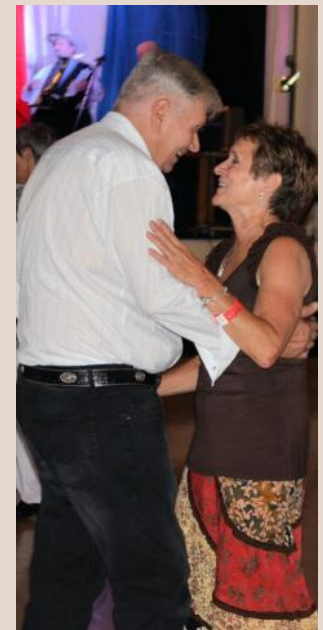
cowtownwesternswing.com

Gary Beaver, President,
and Joyce Miller,
Secretary of the CSWM

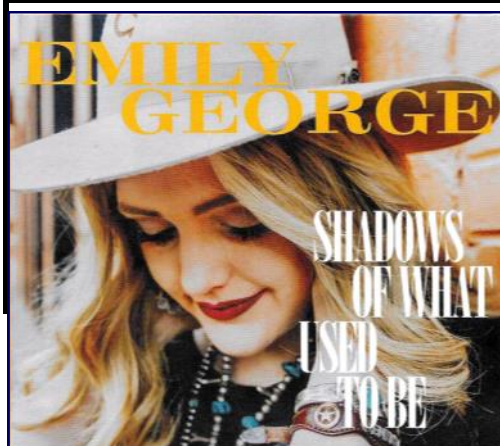
Photo Highlights

from the NWWSMS 2018 Western Swing Festival

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 March Showcase.
Save a smile for the camera!*



Album:
Shadows
of What
Used to Be

Album Reviews

Artist: Emily
George

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



Mike Gross

Felice and Boudleaux Bryant wrote *Raining in My Heart*, Luke Reed penned *Bluebonnet Blues* and from the Bob Wills book Emily brings back Cindy Walker's *You're from Texas* and the standard *Old Fashioned Love*.

The album can be ordered for \$17 (\$15 plus \$2 postage) from Emily George Music, 1765 CR 13, Tulia, TX 79088 e-mail- emily.george20@gmail.com

This is a wonderful new CD with hit potential by a talented young lady. On this album Emily is backed by many talented musicians who are heard throughout this CD of 10 very enjoyable cuts.

The steel guitarist is Tommy White and the rhythm and lead guitarists are Andy Reiss and Joe Settlemires. Harold Bradley also plays rhythm guitar. Jeff Taylor plays piano, Kenny Sears plays fiddle and Dennis Crouch plays upright bass.

This album opens with *Texas in the Swing*, a swinging sound from the pen and book of Jimmy Burson. Jimmy also wrote *Shadows of What Used to Be* and *I'm Back Texas*, a tune with huge top 10 potential. From the pop music world Emily borrows the Harold Arlen/Yip Harburg standard *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *Are You Lonesome Tonight* from Elvis and a duet with Jimmy Burson on *You've Got a Friend in Me*.

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

Mike's Top 10 for March 2019

Songs:

1. Swing Time Baby - Steel Horse Swing
2. In the Middle of the Song - Western Swing Authority with Carolyn Martin
3. King of the Blues - Western Caravan
4. Wild Texas Rose - Jimmy Burson
5. I'm Back In Texas- Emily George
6. Texas When It Swings - Terry Brown (THB)
7. Lone Lonesome Moon - Clint Bradley (Bluelight)
8. One Fiddle, Two Fiddles - Bret Raper
9. Swing Me Back to Texas - 3 Trails West
10. Rainbow Song - Jimmy Burson

Albums:

1. Swing Time Baby - Steel Horse Swing
2. Honky Tonk - Western Caravan
3. Time Changes Everything - Leon Rausch
4. Lone Star Dust - Jimmy Burson
5. Big Deal - The Western Swing Authority
6. Swing Set - Lee Lee Robert (Musikode)
7. Sactown Playboys - Sactown Playboys
8. Somewhere Near Austin - Bret Raper
9. Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend - Tommy Thomsen
10. Shadows of What Used To Be - Emily George

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

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.



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



Texas Playboy, Bobby Koefer

Something besides talent

(Editor's note: we are so pleased to share these thoughts and musings by Bobby Koefer and his wife, Judy. If the name, Bobby Koefer, is new to you, here, by way of introduction, is part of an article, 'Bob's Playboy Pickers,' by Rich Klenzle, from Vintage Guitar Magazine)

Bob Koefer (1951)

Billy Bowman became the Playboys' newest steel guitarist in 1950, but with the Korean War raging, the Army snatched him away. Replacing him was one of the band's most remarkable and unorthodox steel guitarists, Bobby Koefer (b. 1928), from Clay Center, Kansas. With no frame of reference as he learned, nearly everything about Koefer's style was unconventional. He used only a thumbpick, anchoring his right hand fingers on the steel body as he strummed and picked. Nor did he use the usual chromed steel cylinder for fretting. His was a unique, angled unit.

While Koefer's thumbpicking gave him a soft, creamy texture, he could tear loose during his days with Wills and often did. One can hear him do that on the Playboys' 1951 MGM recordings of "Sittin' On Top of the World" and "Hubbin' It." That year, Koefer could be seen with the band in a series of filmed performances (the "Snader Telescriptions," produced for TV in L.A.) playing both these numbers, as well as "Ida Red." By year's end, Koefer had joined Pee Wee King's successful Louisville-based swing band the Golden West Cowboys.

Koefer created explosive moments on the Cowboys' 1953 RCA recordings of the "Dagnet" theme and "Steel Guitar Rag," along with 1955's "Seven Come Eleven" and "Farewell Blues," recorded shortly before Koefer's departure. He also played superb accompaniment on Cowboys' vocalist Redd Stewart's early-'50s solo records for King. After working with Billy Gray's Western band, Koefer left music to work in Alaska. He eventually returned to the lower 48 and remains active today, still playing a 1953 triple-neck Fender Stringmaster in his distinctive style.

Following is a discussion that took place via email between the Koeffers, a good friend, Dale Altizer, and Bobby's son, Gregg. It all began with Dale's question:

Hello Bobby and Judy,

. . . I have no idea what the difference is, but to hear the Playboys was to hear something very unique, no other band can produce an equal sound. Do you know why that is? They can play the same songs but the sound never comes out the same. Is there that much difference in talent level or what could it possibly be?

Dale Altizer (Note: Dale Altizer is a good friend of the Koeffers in Oklahoma City, Okla.)



Click to watch Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys (which included Bobby Koefer on steel) play western swing standard, Ida Red. Our thanks to RadioBob805 for posting this!

(Continued on page 10. . .)

NOMINATIONS

FOR INDUCTEES INTO THE

2019 NWSMS HALL OF FAME

NOW BEING ACCEPTED !

Reminder: if you are either a former inductee or a member in good standing (dues paid to date), you can submit one candidate per year for consideration by the Nominations Committee.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE DESIGNATIONS:

PIONEERS OF WESTERN SWING: Those musicians who have played and/or promoted western swing music for at least 20 years of their performance careers prior to the death of Bob Wills in 1975.

HONOREES OF WESTERN SWING: This category includes musicians and promoters.

MUSICIANS: Those who have played western swing music for at least 20 years of their performance careers.

PROMOTERS: Those who have helped preserve western swing music for extended periods of time by promoting events through volunteer activities, organizing events, publishing, broadcasting or developing social media.

THE CATEGORY OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION: This designation, established in 2014, recognizes those who, through their actions, although not meeting "Inductee" requirements, greatly encouraged and continue to inspire those preserving, performing and promoting Western Swing music. Nominees in this category are submitted by current Hall of Fame Inductees.

E-mail (preferred) or mail your cover letter and nominee's musical biography to:

NWSMS, Nominations Chairman

c/o Jeanne Yearian

21221-174th Ave. SE

Renton, WA 98058-9740

E-mail: jeanneyearian@yahoo.com

The cut-off date is MARCH 15th. We are limiting the number of inductees to a maximum of 14 per year. If your candidate does qualify but we receive your cover letter and bio after the first 14 have been received, you will be asked to resubmit your candidate the following year.

Those selected will be notified by early May. A picture suitable for publication will be requested at that time.

(Continued from page 9, *Something Besides Talent . . .*)

First, Judy Koefer's response, followed by Bobby's son, Gregg:

The basics of the old music sound vs the music sound of today.

Before television:

Learning how to play required a good ear, was self taught or you learned from Uncle Joe or neighbor Bob. This resulted in the music, sound and rhythm being loosely structured, with lots of improvisation, and a driving beat. (It should be noted-improvisation requires talent, imagination and a belief in ones ability.) All the instruments were very basic with little sound equipment.

The venue for bands were Dances. Dances are crowd/people participation, which thrives on music with loose structure and lots of improvisation with a loud and driving beat. It is all about all of the band, of which the vocalist is a part of. Each band member adds his twist or riff. This inspires the other band members as well as the dancers.

Bob Wills knew the sound he wanted and hired those that could give him that sound. After 5, 10, 15 years, with no major outside influences a distinct driving sound was born.

After television:

Dances gave way to TV shows and concerts. Instruments improved with added control knobs and buttons. There is no money in playing dances.

Music is now visual-requiring a nice looking well dressed, good vocalist and a band that can promote his talent. Music is now taught by professional teachers. There is no improvising; that has been replaced with reading sheet music. This resulted in structure, discipline and perfection. There is no inspiration - it is preformed the very same way every time.

This way of playing music cannot reproduce the "old" sound. It is near impossible for a structured, disciplined band to do an about face and do something that is loosely structured and requires lots or even some improvisation. And it requires all the band doing so.

So while any of todays bands can play a Bob Wills tune, they can't produce that old sound. Their background and training keeps them from doing so. Plus, the instruments of today have a different sound or tone.

Bottom line: Its how you grew up, how you learned, your day to day influences and what you do with it.

Its all about money-concerts are money-vocalists are concerts.

Gregg is right on and more in depth with the inner workings of being a Texas Playboy and their sound.

Judy

Dad,

In my humble opinion:

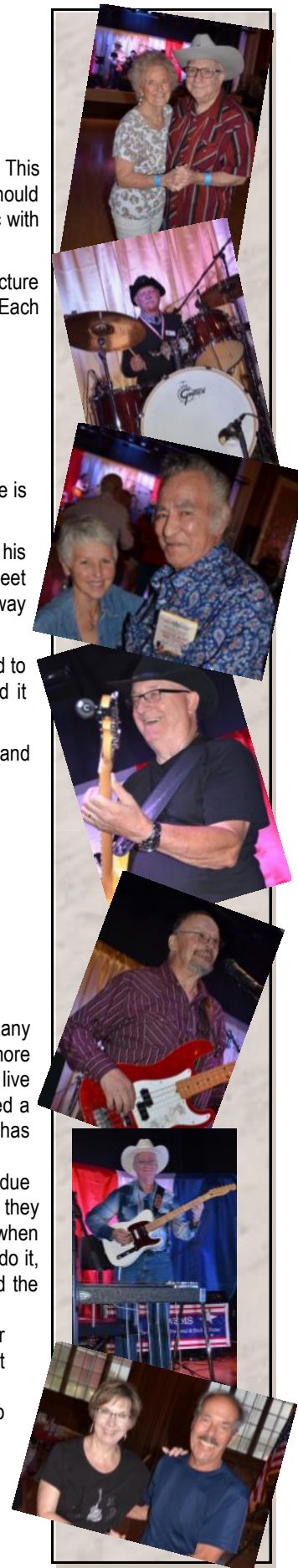
There has long been a "bigger than life" persona surrounding Bob Wills, and with good reason from the many anecdotal stories I have learned through the years. I believe that the musicians that worked for him felt it was far more than just a job- it was a shared passion that lifted each player beyond their best. The music was heightened in a live setting by the ecstatic crowds who heard a backbeat and tunes that connected with common folks, and that provided a joyful distraction through hard times and real life as it happened. Those memories mattered greatly to the fans and has driven their loyalty and interest for a lifetime.

I am sure that you can clearly recall some specific nights and gigs when you played beyond your own capabilities due to the response and thrill of the crowd- you rose to the occasion. I sense that the entire Playboy band did that when they worked together, each one's intensity playing off the other's fierce talent. The listener can tell the difference when someone just takes a chorus versus when the player attacks a chorus with reckless abandon- that is how I see you do it, how the mandolin, fiddlers, and brass always did it, and all backed by a rhythm section that for decades compelled the smiling dancers to the floor all night long.

The Playboy sound was meant to be infectious, heartfelt, and indelible, and most folks agree that it was near perfection even on an off night. So, to try and characterize the phenomenon of Bob Wills' Texas Playboys and that unmatched sound, I can only say that *the sum is more than the total of its' parts*.

You are a great player, and I am proud to have experienced the music and the memories that have impacted so many for so long.

Love, Gregg

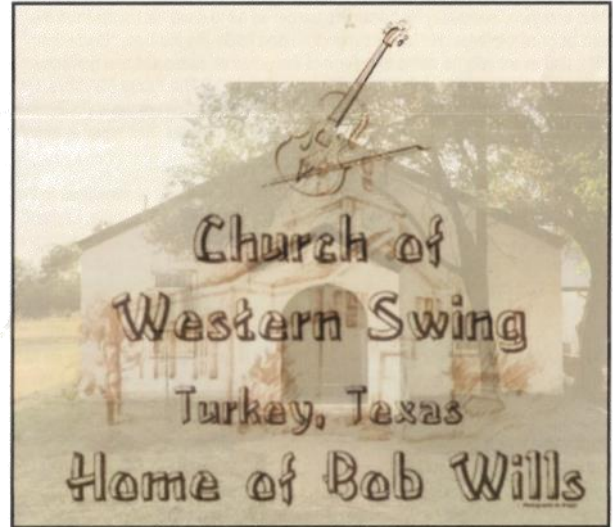




THE STORY OF TOMMY THOMSEN AND THE CHURCH OF WESTERN SWING

ALWAYS SWINGING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL

Turkey, Texas - In the early 1920's, Bob Wills' mother and father, "Uncle John" and Emma Wills, moved their family to a 600 acre ranch/farm between the Big Red and the Little Red rivers, just north of Turkey, Texas. Jim "Bob" Wills was the oldest child in the family. He was raised in the little yellow house 'between the rivers'. Bob grew up in Turkey, working the mules in the cotton fields and, then, eventually becoming a barber so as to save his hands from the hard labor of the fields. He learned mandolin and fiddle like his dad and eventually came to be one of the greatest musicians and performers of all time.



The small West Texas town of Turkey has welcomed tens of thousands of annual Bob Wills Day festival since 1972. From as far away as Australia, England, Germany and Japan, from babies to 90-year-old dancers, the jam-packed legacy of the Legendary Bob Wills has also become a legendary event of its own in its 40+ year history. . .

The Church of Western Swing (C.O.W.S.) was started in the year 2000, but, actually, it had begun 20 years before when Gene Crownover, the legendary steel guitar player for Bob Wills began working with Henry Baker's band out of Bartlesville, OK. Soon, many of Bob's old band mates found themselves working with Henry Baker. By the year 2000, people were getting into Turkey more than a week before Bob Wills Day. So Henry Baker, Bobby Baker and part of the old Texas Playboy band started playing shows at The Church. This went on for 18 years, until Henry passed away on June 2, 2017. After a year, Henry's partner in life and widow, Doris, decided to sell the place to the right buyer - someone who would cherish the old place and, perhaps, rebuild it into what it once was many years ago, honoring the tradition of Western Swing music and the legacy of Bob Wills.

In walks Tommy Thomsen, a true Bob Wills fan, a singer of Western Swing music for many years and a four-time inductee into Western Swing Halls of Fames, Sacramento, Seattle, Tulsa and Fort Worth. Tommy was in Turkey with his partner, Ms. Freya Home, for the Bob Wills Day celebration and heard that the Church was for sale. He spoke with Freya and decided it was actually an opportunity and blessing in disguise. They made an offer to Doris Baker, who graciously accepted, and, as of June 2018, the Church officially changed hands. Tommy says, "It's the spiritual center of Western Swing. It is filled with signed photographs of the Texas Playboys and other great musicians no longer with us, posters, flyers, playbills, instruments, saddles and flags. We are thrilled to be the new owners of this great, unique venue."

Great efforts are now and have been underway rebuilding the Church. Walls and ceilings have been replaced. A new foundation has been put in with sub-floors and new flooring. There are new RV hookups, paint on the place and new signage with dozens of other repair and replace items still on the agenda. Take part in keeping the C.O.W.S. alive - now a 501c3, all donations are tax-deductible! A Go Fund Me account has been set up to receive money for repairs.



We have a Go Fund Me account set up for donations:

"KEEPING THE C.O.W.S ALIVE"

To help finance much-needed repairs to the *Church of Western Swing* in Turkey, Texas, musician Tommy Thomsen has started a GoFundMe campaign. Contributions in any amount are accepted at gofundme.com/the-church-of-western-swing.

Also, *The Church of Western Swing* is now officially a 501c3 non profit corporation, Texas based.

All monies donated are now dollar for dollar deductible. We are very happy to get this important designation moving forward with donations.

Non Profit
 IRS EIN 83-2573109
 Texas Taxpayer No.
 32068847667



- ★ This year catch the Tribute to George Strait featuring Derek Spence and Southern County Line!
- ★ Be a part of the weekend! We put on a Singer/Songwriter Showcase on Saturday featuring talent from our friends and community. Submit a video of you to our Facebook group and you could be on stage too!
- ★ We welcome back a crowd favorite, The Lake Travis Fiddlers! A talented group of young musicians from Lake Travis ISD who are always a treat to watch perform.
- ★ Jody Nix Fiddle Extravaganza, watch as legendary artist Jody Nix join together with many of the fine fiddlers here at the Gathering for a truly unique musical experience!

Our venue is perfect for good country dancing and great acoustics for listening to our fine artists. Plenty of room to invite your partner and two-step your boots off. The Fayette County Fair Association will also be selling good cold beer, fresh grilled hamburgers and setups for folks wanting to bring their own bottle.

\$30 for both Friday and Saturday admission!



Wyn on . . .

. . . Oamaru Country on the New Zealand
Country Music Radio Network
. . . www.nzcmr.com



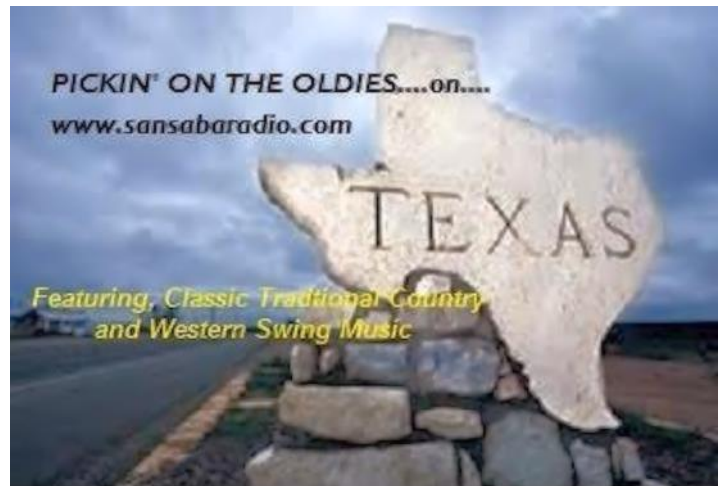
March 2019 Playlist for "Wyn on Tuesday"

1. *My Shoes Keep Walking Back*, Ray Price
2. *Zip Zip Zipper*, Light Crust Doughboys
3. *Steel Minor*, The Cactus Swing Band
4. *Just a Little Bit Cowgirl*, Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
5. *The Covered Wagon Rolled Right Along*, Texas Jim Lewis
6. *Take the A Train*, Bobby Boatright
7. *I'd Fight the World*, Bobby Flores
8. *Baton Rouge Waltz*, Hot Texas Swing Band
9. *From Hell to Turkey, Texas*, Dick Damron
10. *Neon Sun*, Chuck Cusimano

Artists are welcome to send cds to:

**Wyn Machon
5 Lowther St.
Oamaru 9400.
New Zealand.**

wynmachon39@gmail.com



March Playlist for "Skeebo's Line Shack Review"

We here at Pickin' On The Oldies want to thank all of our very loyal and "new" listeners to our internet station. One thing we strive for is "Traditional

Country and Western Swing," featuring the classic great artists and all of the upcoming new independent artists who are continuing "Dance Music." Gotta have fiddles, steel guitars, good lyrics and be danceable. Check us out. If you like us, please share with your friends who enjoy this music as well at www.sansabaradio.com 24/7- plus we've added old radio versions of Gunsmoke on Sat. morn at 7am ... and Sundays at 6am and 6pm.

Beats Walkin' - *House of Blue Lights*

Jimmy Burson - *My Blue Heaven*

Mike Siler - *Sign of a Fool*

Bret Raper - *One Fiddle, Two Fiddles*

Western Swing Authority - *My Window Faces the South*

Tommy Morrell - *Sioux City Sue*

The Quebe Sisters -

You Don't Care What Happens to Me

Jeff Woolsey & the Dancehall Kings -

Take Me Back to Tulsa

Miss Devon & the Outlaw - *Pliney Jane*

Rick & the Ramblers - *You Can't Make It Up*

Artists may send mp3 submissions to

production@sansabaradio.com

and personal messages to skeebo@sansabaradio.com

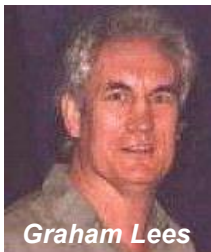
We are on Facebook as well... Pickin' On The Oldies.

To listen go to our website www.sansabaradio.com



Western Swing Forum

Keep those letters coming!



Graham Lees

Dear all,

You may remember that I sent you a message a month or so ago regarding 83 year-old Tony Founds who, as an 8 year-old was playing with friends in a park in Sheffield, Yorkshire when a damaged American Flying Fortress plane named Mi Amigo crashed in nearby wooded area in 1944.

Tony has tended the memorial in the park for the 10 man crew who died in the crash. Tony wanted a aero flypast to mark the 75th anniversary of the these airman who gave their lives to save those of the children and others that were on the ground and in the nearby houses.

The flypast took place last Friday 22nd February. This link tells you more and has a video of the event that drew around 10.000 people including family members of the pilot who travelled from USA specially to attend the tribute to those brave and selfless airmen.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-47323045>

Regards...Graham

Member NWWSMS Hall Of Fame 2017

DJ Of The Year 2016 Cowtown Society of Western Music

Nominated DJ Of The Year AWA 2014

member

Academy Of Western Artists

Western Music Association U.K.



The 10-man crew aboard the B-17

The 10 men killed in the crash:

- ★ Pilot Lt John Kriegshauser, pilot from Missouri
- ★ 2nd Lt Lyle Curtis, co-pilot from Idaho
- ★ 2nd Lt John Humphrey, navigator from Illinois
- ★ Melchor Hernandez, bombardier from California
- ★ Harry Estabrooks, engineer and gunner from Kansas
- ★ Charles Tuttle, gunner from Kentucky
- ★ Robert Mayfield, radio operator from Illinois
- ★ Vito Ambrosio, gunner from New York
- ★ Malcolm Williams, gunner from Oklahoma
- ★ Maurice Robbins, gunner from Texas

Planes that took part in the flypast:

F-15E Strike Eagles from RAF Lakenheath

KC-135 Stratotanker

MC-130J Commando II

CV-22 Osprey from RAF Mildenhall

Typhoon from RAF Coningsby

Dakota from RAF Coningsby



WESTERN SWING TIME!

JOIN TEX HILL WEDNESDAYS AT
NOON CENTRAL KYACFM.ORG

The North West Western Swing Music Society's

2019

Western Swing Music Camp and Festival

Music Camp:

Wednesday, August 7 – Saturday, August 10

Music Festival & Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony:

Thursday, August 8 – Sunday, August 11

Held at the historic Field House in Enumclaw, WA

Music Camp is limited to 25 students. Register early to avoid disappointment.

Register on-line: Brown Paper Tickets.com, (search for NWWSMS)

\$130.00 – Tuition includes Hall of Fame Festival weekend pass. (Save \$30.00 by paying \$100.00 in full by July 15, 2019.)

Study the culture behind the genre Performance Tips Soloing Slow Jams Vocals & Harmony

NWWSMS Application for 2019 Music Camp

COMPLETE & MAIL THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO: SUZE SPENCER, PO BOX 61509, VANCOUVER, WA 98666-1509 (SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE - PLEASE CONTACT jeanneyearian@yahoo.com FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY) QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING CAMP EXPERIENCE: CALL SUZE AT 360-696-0801

NAME: ADDRESS: CITY: STATE / ZIP: PHONE: E-MAIL: DANCER SUPPORTER PERFORMER VOCALIST SOLOIST INTERESTS: INSTRUMENT(S): MUSICAL EXPERIENCE (IN YEARS): MUSIC EDUCATION (IN YEARS):

Make checks payable to: NWWSMS

I have enclosed an additional \$ donation to the NWWSMS music camp/scholarship fund

**2019 NW Western Swing Music Camp
Who Will Be There - What to Expect**

Meet This Year's Lead Instructors



Suze Spencer

Suze Spencer was born into one of America's most renowned Western music families. Raised in the fold of working ranch hands, musicians, artists and entrepreneurs, she began learning guitar by watching her grandfather and Karl Farr, the original guitarist with Sons of The Pioneers. Later, Lloyd Perryman, Roy Lanham and Freddie Green were influential to her style. Suze teaches master classes in the Classic Western and Western Swing styles in SW Washington, at festivals and music camps across the USA.

Tim Dawdy



Tim Dawdy is the Dobro and steel guitar player for the Steer Crazy Western Swing Band. His approach to teaching the Dobro is to train the players right hand to in simple picking patterns. The left hand is trained in basic bar technique. This will allow the player to rapidly advance to a level where they become comfortable playing music with others. And, jamming with others is where the real fun begins.

Wednesday Afternoon: Meet the instructors and coaches in a relaxed setting. Discuss what you and the other attendees as well as the instructors would like to take away from this week-end. Get started!

Thursday: After an intensive day of study, the Music Camp staff and attendees will host a Hawaiian-themed social hour under the pavilion before the festival weekend kicks off with a covered dish dinner followed by a free dance and jam.
Western Swing = music made for dancing!

Friday: After a morning of classroom instruction, continue outside, under the pavilion, where there will be a mixture of small group instruction.

Saturday: This morning there are dance lessons in the main hall, preparing couples for the dance contest taking place on Sunday afternoon to close the festival! The camp attendees will take turns both on the dance floor and on the bandstand, playing. Then, kick off Day 2 of the festival by performing on the Main Stage!

*Spend the rest of your week-end enjoying the music, playing, dancing, visiting with new friends!
Please let us know about your experience. And we'll look forward to seeing you next year!*



PLEASE NOTE: There will be separate flyers for the NW Western Swing Music Camp and the Western Swing Music Festival and Hall of Fame Celebration. These are two separate events rolled into one fantastic musical week-end! Due to advertising opportunities, the flyer for the music camp has come out first. Much more to come!!!



NWWSSMS
North West Western Swing Music Society
Preserving, Promoting & Performing America's
Western Swing Music Since 1983
www.nwwssms.com

The North West Western Swing
Music Society's 2019
Western Swing Music Camp
is partially funded through the

**Rus Davis
Scholarship
Fund**



Rus Davis, 2015 d.

3 Days of Music,
Dancing, Jam Sessions

Meet the Super Sidemen -
The Sounds behind the Stars!

Enjoy the sounds of the music too country for jazz
and too jazz for country - Western Swing!!



CELEBRATING 36 YEARS

Dance and play with us at the 29th Annual Western Swing Music Festival and Hall of Fame Celebration of the NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

August 8 -11, 2019

Location: The Historic Field House, located on Hwy 410, part of the Enumclaw Expo Center, Enumclaw, WA

Festival Schedule

Dance Friday through Sunday to local and guest bands in the main ballroom. Join in the jam sessions taking place in the Western Swing Party Room and outside, under the Pavilion and around the venue's RV park. (The venue's doors open daily at 11:00 AM to jammers and dancers.)

Thursday, August 8, join us under the Pavilion for an Hawaiian Happy Hour; then sit down with our guests to a covered dish dinner in the Field House.



Meet & Greet Jam Session/Dance on Thursday evening:
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Friday, August 9: 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Saturday, August 10: 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Sunday, August 11: 11:00 AM to 6:30 PM

On Sunday, August 11, the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony begins at 1:00 PM. Dance before and after the Induction Ceremony. The Festival closes with a Dance Contest at 5:15 PM.

Admission for General Public (children under 10 admitted free):

Thursday - Free of Charge
Friday, Saturday - \$15.00/day at the door; Sunday - \$10.00
Discounted tickets available through brownpapertickets.com (search: nwwsms)

This family-friendly event is open to the public. Food and a selection of adult beverages are available at the venue.

Visit our website at nwwsms.com or look for us on Facebook (Northwest Western Swing Music Society).