



**NWWSMS**

**NorthWest Western Swing Music Society**

Preserving, Promoting & Performing America's  
Western Swing Music Since 1983  
www.nwwsmc.com

PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

**Vol. 39, Issue 1**

**NorthWest Western Swing Music Society**

**January-March 2022**

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

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### RECLAIMING OUR PURPOSE - PRESERVING OUR LEGACY

During the lockdowns people experienced varying degrees of suffering. But each of us had no choice but to become more introspective. Even the most extroverted turned inward and began prioritizing what they value and want for themselves and others. Having a purpose is becoming more important, no matter which generation you identify with. Can we see any glimmers of silver linings in the Pandemic clouds still lingering? Or am I one of 'those' people who just have to make lemonade out of any lemons that come my way (*don't need to answer that one*).

I have found myself more open to new ways of doing things—more adaptable you might say. Perhaps this is why we are holding our first online board meeting, encouraging people out of the local area to take part in helping us rebuild. And, as we look into new ways of living and working together, I am searching for new partnerships.

Last month I received a request from Graham Griffith, an Australian musician/songwriter, requesting information on our Northwest Steel Guitar virtuoso, Jim Webb. Graham, a steel player himself, was concerned Jimmy's musical contributions would be lost as it seemed no one outside of America's Pacific Northwest had heard of him. So Graham contacted Jimmy. Now a collaboration has formed between Graham, Jim and Jim's nephew. They are rummaging through Jim's files to see what treasures can be found and posted.

Graham has undertaken the task of introducing Jim's musical stylings to as many as possible . . . and, isn't that part of the reason the NWWSMS exists? We try to preserve the stories and legacy of the musicians, supporters and promoters who helped create and continue to develop western swing music.

First let me introduce Graham Griffith (page 9) and present the work he has done to this point. The YouTube videos Graham and Jim have posted are audio, accompanied by a slide show. Jim was recording his performance for his own education. So, what we have are Jim's steel parts loud and clear above the vocals and other instruments in the band. The YouTube links to both videos are on page 9 and 11. If they are helpful to you or other steel players you know, please encourage them to listen and 'like' the posting.

Speaking of YouTube, we were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Bob Richards aka radiobob805. Bob treated us to rare glimpses into western swing's early years. He uploaded over 400 videos, many selections from his own personal library. What happens to all that work, all that history as seen through Bob's eyes, now that he's gone? From what I've been told, as long as people are still playing the videos, YouTube will leave Bob's channel intact. Now I realize YouTube is changing its focus so there aren't any guarantees. I am planning to download my favorites to some external hard drives over the next several months . . . just in case.



Jeanne Yearian





**NWWSMS**  
NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

### Business Address

PO Box 14003, MILL CREEK, WA 98082

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.

### 2022 Officers and Board Members

**President/Secretary:** Jeanne Yearian  
21221-174th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98058  
Phone: 425-432-7888 (h); 206-271-2295 (c)  
Email: [jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Lori Hanson  
Phone: 425-750-3263  
Email: [l.hanson@plcnw.org](mailto:l.hanson@plcnw.org)

**Board Members:** Tony Bachler, Butch Gibson, Toby Hanson, Judy Hayes, Ramon Selby, Morey Sullivan

### Annual Membership:

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

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

Like us on FACEBOOK at  
[NorthWest Western Swing Music Society](https://www.facebook.com/NorthWestWesternSwingMusicSociety)

Contact the editor,  
[jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com), to receive our newsletter in your in-box.

### PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase/Festival photos by  
Jeanne & Fred Yearian.

### MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OCTOBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

In observance of the State-wide quarantine, the NWWSMS Board did not meet during the months of October 2021 - January 2022; however, corresponding through email it was decided:

- ★ to welcome Morey Sullivan to the Board.
- ★ to schedule an online meeting of the Board on February 12, at 10 AM. Toby Hanson will send a link (using his Zoom account) to the Board members as well as interested members of the Society. Our meetings are open to all. If you would like to join us using Zoom, send Jeanne Yearian an email by February 10th ([jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com)).
- ★ to renew the raffle license, and
- ★ to renew the non-profit corporation license with the State of Washington.

- ★ to investigate additional showcase venues and festival opportunities as the Society rebuilds.

We are still waiting for the State of Emergency and Covid restrictions to be lifted in the State of Washington. At this time we do not know whether our annual festival and workshops will take place as planned this August. We are holding a deposit and August dates on the Field House in Enumclaw however, the Field House has been closed to large groups for over a year. We may look at a smaller venue for 2022. More to come as things develop.

We will be filing the 2021 tax return before April. Our sincere thanks to CPA Linda Teachout, who has once again volunteered to do the taxes this year at no cost.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Yearian,  
Secretary



**1983-2022 Celebrating 30+ Years!**

*The NorthWest Western Swing Music Society*  
30+ Years!

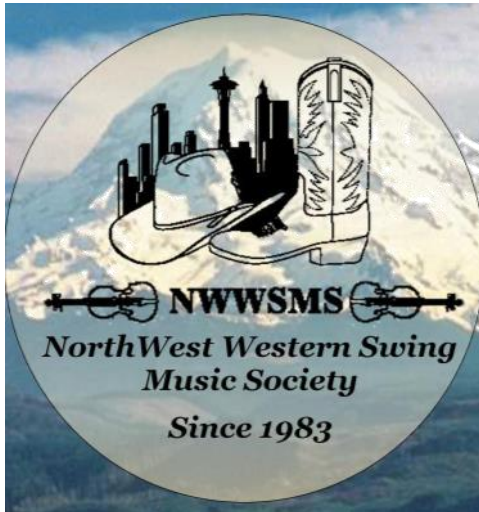
**DUE TO CONTINUING RESTRICTIONS, THE NWWSMS AUGUST 2022 EVENT IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.**

**WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AUGUST 2022 NW WESTERN SWING MUSIC CAMP, WESTERN SWING FESTIVAL AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CELEBRATION COMING SOON.**

**August 2022**

**at the historic Field House (aka: Pete's Pool) at the Enumclaw Event Center!**

Click on the photo to the left for more information on the facility or go to:  
<http://www.enumclawexpoenter.com/>  
Additional information on the festival and summer music camp coming soon!



# LADY LUCK'S



## STEAKHOUSE & SALOON

*We're slowly coming back but until we meet again, stay safe and let's take care of each other.*

*Remember: Find ways to support your favorite musicians.*

The NWWSMS has been invited to hold three showcases at the Lady Luck Steakhouse in Tacoma, WA. They will be held on the second Sundays in May, June and July. The music will begin at 4 PM and continue until 8 PM.

*Look for more information on the bands that will be playing in the next newsletter . . . but, mark your calendars now!*

**NWWSMS Showcases at the Lady Luck Steakhouse  
14114 Pacific Ave S, Tacoma, WA  
1 253 538 4996**

Sunday, May 8 (Mothers Day)	4 PM to 8 PM
Sunday, June 12	4 PM to 8 PM
Sunday, July 10	4 PM to 8 PM

### **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! Due to State mandate, cancelled until further notice. Jeanne Yearian & Toby Hanson hosting.  
Call 425-432-7888 for additional information.

**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](http://www.barndoorslammers.com).

**Mike Faast and Jangles.** For information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: [www.janglesband.com](http://www.janglesband.com)

**Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners.** Dance Hall Music by **The Sundowners.** Visit their website for information on additional play dates: [www.thesundownersband.com](http://www.thesundownersband.com)

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

### **Here at Lady Luck Steakhouse** *(pictured right)*

*Whether it's Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner, we here at Lady Luck Steakhouse pride ourselves in our homemade menu items. Using high quality ingredients, we hand make everything from our*



*9oz fresh ground chuck burger patties, Hand cut Rib-eyes Steaks, Freshly Cooked Prime-Rib, Hand Breaded Coconut Chicken Strips, Hand-cut Tortilla and Cowchips, to our handmade Breakfast Sausage Patties, Hand-Cut Pork Steaks, Fresh Cut Fruit, Daily Scratch Soups, and much, much more!*

## Cherishing the Memories



**Ray Harrison  
1942-2021**

On August 3, 2021, Ray Harrison passed away after a brief illness.

Ray Harrison was born in San Antonio, Texas, on March 2, Texas Independence Day.

Ray spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy and retired as a Sonar Tech Chief. He was very

proud of his years of service in the military. After retirement, he worked civil service transferring his naval service knowledge to supporting the fleet until his final retirement in 2005.

Ray's passion was playing music. Country music was his favorite, specifically western swing. He was an accomplished bassist and vocalist, being inducted into the Northwest Western Swing Hall of Fame in 2015 (see video below). Some of his greatest joys were opportunities to jam with his fellow musicians, especially at Marty Robbins tributes or Steel Guitar Shows around the country. He loved leading worship at his church. Ray was an active and avid member of the Lion's Club for 33 years in AZ and CA and believed deeply in community service.

During Ray's years in the US Navy (1961 - 1981) he performed all over the world, either with a ship's band or his own band in local night clubs.

Ray considers that he has been blessed with the quality of musicians he has worked with over the years. It was one of the greatest joys of his life.

While in San Diego, CA, off and on from 1964-2005, Ray worked with Sam Necochea, Merv Cook, Ray Poe, Alton Simpson and other members of the Western Swing Society's Hall of Fame. Sam used to take him to Yuma for the Western Swing functions where he got to meet and play with many others. Below is one of our treasured memories, Ray singing at the NWWSMS Festival with the Inductee Band in 2015.



**Bob Richards  
1934-2021**

2019 Hall of Fame Inductee, Bob Richards, passed away on November 12, 2021, after suffering a massive stroke. This music historian and loyal friend will be sorely missed by many of us. His close friend, Charles Oliver, put it well. He said when an old person dies, it

as though a library has burned down. Bob's death could be compared to the burning of Egypt's Great Library at Alexandria. Here is just a small part of Bob's western swing connection:

Bob Richards was born in Arkansas, way too many years ago. He and his family came to California in 1942, just in time for the start of World War II with Japan. When he was 12 his mother bought him a windup console phonograph for \$3 from a Goodwill store. At noon, every weekday in 1947, Bob listened to KLX radio in Oakland. The announcer's was named "Cactus Jack" and he played an hour of Bob Wills music from records and transcriptions.

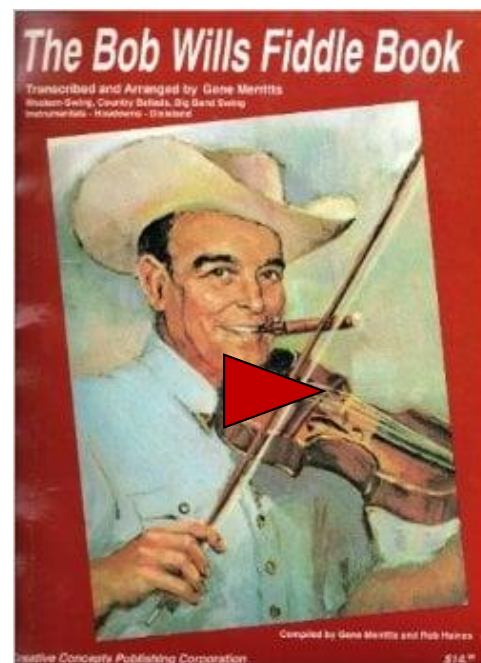
When the Texas Playboys came to San Jose, Bob persuaded his uncle to take him to the dance. He actually met and talked with Bob Wills who was very nice to that 12-year-old. Bob has been a fan ever since. But that was not the last time he would meet Bob Wills and Tommy Duncan.

The YouTube channel Bob developed, radiobob805, was his hobby. He was a Bob Wills fan and has been since 1946 when he first heard him on the radio. He remembers how hard it was to find those 78s to buy. He owned many recordings by Wills unavailable elsewhere. Bob added pictures to the audio to make a slide show and uploaded it to his channel. Below is just one of Bob's radio shows, originally recorded in 1962.



**Gene 'Pappy' Merritts  
1929-2021**

Gene "Pappy" Merritts passed away on December 18, 2022, at the age of 92. Gene was inducted into the 2015 NWWSMS Hall of Fame. After an extensive career as a band leader and playing country/ western swing music, he ended up in Nashville, TN. In 1971, Opryland U.S.A. came into being. Gene got a job there after the second year it was open, playing fiddle in the Country Music Show at the Theater by the Lake. He played for that same show until Opryland closed, 24 years later. In 1997, Gene joined the band of Jesse Lee Jones, Brazillbilly, playing at Roberts Western World in Nashville for 11 years. Then, around 2003, Gene joined John England & the Western Swingers. Click on the book Gene wrote (pictured below) to watch them performing live at the Loveless Cafe in 2013:



# Bob Wills



(Editor's Note: Our thanks to John Wooley for permission to reprint this snippet of Western Swing history.)

I've done a pretty good amount of research on Bob Wills over the years, and one of the more interesting things I've unearthed was his apparent attitude toward rock 'n' roll music in the late 1950s. Of course, this was when he and brother Johnnie Lee left the Cain's Ballroom with the band, taking up a temporary residency in Las Vegas.

In all the interviews I've seen from this time period, Bob always says that rock 'n' roll is basically what he and the band were doing from the beginning — mixing Black R&B and

blues with white country music, and giving it all a solid dance beat. Sometimes, though, if you read between the lines in those interviews, you can sense his frustration with not being able to appeal to the kids.

A few years ago, I taught a class on Oklahoma movies and music at OSU's Tulsa campus. Of course, we'd get into all of this, and then I'd ask them: Since Western swing embodied so many elements of rock 'n' roll, why weren't Bob and Johnnie Lee able to attract teens with their music?

I got a variety of answers every time I asked the question, and many of 'em were solid and thoughtful, but I think the main one remains obvious: Kids want their own music, and it's not going to be what their parents like. It wasn't Bob's music that turned teens off; it was his age — the fact that he was of their parents' generation. I think this also goes a long way toward explaining why he and Johnnie Lee and the rest of the band went to Vegas. Patrons of the casinos were older, and more likely to be Bob's contemporaries, age-wise.

So Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys never really became a rock 'n' roll act. But it's not because they didn't try. Always amenable to changing with the times, Bob played and recorded at least a few rockers, one of which starts this Saturday's edition (01/29/22) of SWING ON THIS.

**JOHN WOOLEY** is a writer, novelist, lecturer, filmmaker, and radio and TV host who specializes in the movies, literature, and music of the 1930s and '40s as well as other pop-culture history.

He is also the producer and host of the highly rated [Swing on This](#), Tulsa's only western-swing radio program, heard at 7 PM Central time every Saturday night on NPR affiliate [KWGS \(89.5 FM\)](#); it won an Outstanding Special Programming Award from the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters in 2012.



John Wooley

## Play It Again!! (Part 2)

By Dick Heil



Dick Heil  
NWWSMS Co-Founder

I've been lucky enough to play with many of my "idols", who turned out to be good friends. Some of the stars I was lucky enough to become friends with like Jim Reeves (a hamburger and coke in Idaho), Hank Thompson (I booked him for an appearance in Port Angeles, WA), Conway Twitty (same deal), and Bob Wills (he autographed a 78 RPM of San Antonio Rose for me when I was 16 . . . and, he never forgot me any time I showed up at one of his dances).

The names I was lucky enough to back as a side musician will come later in various stories. While in college at WSC (now WSU) in Pullman, I was playing accordion in a country western band, 'The Chucklers,' led by Chuck Snyder (later the voice of VIC-TROLA, the record machine on Stan Boreson's TV show for kids). We broadcast Monday nights on KWSC (1250) and played dances in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. When I turned 21 years old, I took my accordion down to Shadow Lake Ballroom and talked my way into a job with 'Bashful Billy Lee' and his band. Fiddlin' Dick Barrett and Bonnie Guitar joined and we had fun. Don Stark (steel), 'Dud' Durrie (drums) and Van Hamilton (guitar) were already on board.

After graduating I briefly worked a radio job at KGY in Olympia, WA, then joined the Navy. While stationed in Norfolk, VA., I sat in on piano and bass with 'Norman Phelps and The Virginia Rounders' several times. Then it was back to Seattle and The Circle Tavern with Jim Pierce and an after-hours gig with 'Dick Barrett and the Ranch Hands.'

Next was a job at The Flame Tavern with the Jack Rivers Band. This turned into a lifetime friendship and a great learning experience for me. Through Jack, I got to work TV shows in Seattle, WA, and Bakersfield, CA. I became the last bass player in the original 'Western Caravan,' led by Tex Williams and Smokey Rogers at the Bostonia Ballroom in El Cajon, CA.

Guest artists we backed included Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, Tommy Duncan and Freddy Hart. After heading back toward Seattle, I sat in with Sheets MacDonald's band and played a Saturday matinee at the Town Hall Party.

Then, it was back North to Lewiston, Idaho, and the famous 'Pair-A-Dice' club for two years, until my phone rang at 4 AM one morning. Stay tuned for details in the next issue!



Paula Jungmann

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

*by Paula Jungmann*



I ran across my first column in the NWWSSMS newsletter from 2016 this morning and thought it might be a good time to update the happenings surrounding our great western swing music. For despite the lockdowns, in the past couple of years we've had some great things come about to bring more recognition to the music.

Through the pandemic we've kept our Facebook pages going. Getting used to digital technology and what it offers, many of us posted videos and events on YouTube, uploading live streams of music by our very talented artists. Studios have been busy during this down time, recording new music being performed by both new and established groups. The dance halls here in Texas are opened to bring live music to the fans although not yet at full capacity but getting closer. Dancers have been finding ways in lockdowns to remain active by dancing in their homes using their favorite artist's recordings.

For the first time in the history of **Bob Wills Day** the 2021 event, although smaller than in years past, was moved to September. This year the Official 50th Anniversary Celebration of the festival will be held again on the last weekend of April 2022.

November 11 to 13, 2021, the first **Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing Festival** took place in historic Fort Worth - where the music began. The top Western Swing artists were there, gracing the stage at Ft Worth's historic National Hall. Everyone came out in their best western finery, all gussied up for a fine party. Plans are currently in the works for the 2nd Annual CBWS fest in 2022.

Bands are adding western swing music to their repertoire. Check out **The Academy of Western Artists'** directory. It has a worldwide listing of performing Western Swing Bands.

The producers of the **Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing Festival** are working on a wonderful documentary, ***The Birth and History of Western Swing*** that will hopefully be out the Spring of 2022....

New CD's are out by **Big Cedar Fever, Tumbleweeds, Billy Mata Cowboy, Crooner and Troubadours, Western Swing Authority LIVE In Full Swing**. While Covid was raging our artists were working, providing medicine for our souls.

As far as my Facebook page, Western Swing Music of Texas, we added a Group by the same name that is growing by leaps and bounds. Our music fans, artists and radio stations are adding more content and there is more flexibility and room for growth. After just a couple of years the new group has grown to 8,000 fans. And, we still have the larger page with over 17,000 members who have access to the new group.

Wishing all of you a most prosperous 2022...

"Till Next Time

## Festivals scheduled for 2022

Festivals will be added as they become available.

Amended 1/ 25 / 2022

(taken from the Western Swing Music Group on Facebook)

Month/Dates	Festival	Location
Feb 10-12	2022 Classic Country and Honky Tonk Fest	Canton, TX
March 11-13	Best Little Cowboy Gathering	La Grange, TX
April 1-3	Llano Fiddle Fest	Llano, TX
April 22-23	Anhalt Western RoundUp	Spring Branch, TX
April 28-30	Bob Wills Day	Turkey, TX
May 19-21	Shuffle Festival	Western Club, Navasota, TX
June 17-18	Legends of Western Swing Fest	Fort Worth, TX (previously Wichita Falls, TX)
Sept 9-10	San Angelo Cowboy Gathering	San Angelo, TX
Oct 13-15	October Turkey Fest	Turkey, TX
Nov 4-5	Bob Wills Fiddle Fest	Greenville, TX
Nov 10-12	Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing	Fort Worth, TX. location to be announced

## San Angelo Cowboy Christmas Ball 2021

by Terri Holland, Director

After 2 years of rescheduling, the San Angelo Cowboy Christmas Ball was held on December 4, 2021, at the San Angelo Civic Hall. I had originally scheduled this dance for April 2020, but when Covid was rampant in our community and across the nation, the venue was shuttered by our county officials. I then renamed and rescheduled it for December of 2020, thinking we would be back to "normal" by then. No such luck, as we had the same issues, so once again we rescheduled. Not to mention the venue changed ownership during this timeframe, which meant working with a new management person as well.

I had been selling tables and tickets all along in confidence this dance would be a GO. Thankfully we finally got to open the doors on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> to a Sold Out venue. Almost 700 attendees came flowing in, ready to dance and celebrate the upcoming Christmas season. Our volunteers had set up tables, chairs and decorated the evening before, and had each table looking very joyous. Poinsettias graced the stage as *Jake Hooker & The Outsiders* went on first, followed by *Jody Nix and The Texas Cowboys*. The bands alternated sets for 4 straight hours, and the dance floor stayed full the entire night. God's Creation Photography by Linda Hofacket, was available for photo opportunities to capture the special evening with loved ones and friends.

The dance was a fundraiser for *Children's Advocacy Center of*



Terri Holland

*Greater West Texas (CAC)*. I always like to have our dances and events give back to our community charities. CAC had 3 baskets valued at over \$200 available for raffles during the night, and we had requested that the attendees if possible bring an unwrapped item from a Christmas list that was provided to us by CAC. It took 3 SUV's to haul all that Christmas joy back to their offices, and they raised \$1600 from the raffle ticket sales. Several of the CAC employees were on hand to volunteer during the night, as well as a couple of our San Angelo Cowboy Gathering volunteers helped out. Regardless of Covid, rescheduling, and new venue management, I believe our dancers had a terrific time and kicked off their Christmas with lots of smiles, hugs and a ton of dancing.

We have now turned our attention to the 10<sup>th</sup> *San Angelo Cowboy Gathering*, to be held on September 9 & 10, 2022. This will be a big celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> year, along with a tribute to our long time Emcee, Skeebo Norris, from San Saba, Texas, who we lost in 2021 due to heart complications. Skeebo was an integral part of our festival each year and he is greatly missed. I am pleased to announce that Tracy Pitcox, from *Heart of Texas Records/Heart of Texas Country Music Museum* in Brady, Texas, will be our Emcee this year. We have our sponsorships on sale now, with general admission tickets on sale in March 2022. We are accepting Vendor applications at this time too. All the information can be found on our website, [www.sanangelocowboygathering.com](http://www.sanangelocowboygathering.com). Our festival will benefit *House of Faith in San Angelo* again this year.

Many photos from the Christmas Ball and our 2021 festival can be found on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SanAngeloCowboyGathering](http://www.facebook.com/SanAngeloCowboyGathering). We look forward to seeing you in September 2022!



Bobby Reid & Joyce Coleman



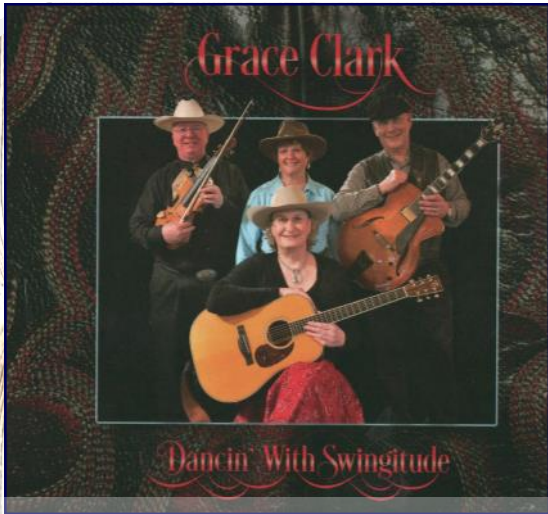
Jody Nix with Brenda & Ken Cook



Jake Hooker & The Outsiders, opening the show



THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE!! WOULD YOU LIKE TO REVIEW THE LATEST WESTERN SWING CDs, INTRODUCING FAMILIAR STANDARDS AND NEW RELEASES PLAYED BY ESTABLISHED ARTISTS AND NEWCOMERS ALIKE? PLEASE CONTACT JEANNE YEARIAN (CONTACT INFORMATION ON PAGE 2 OF THIS NEWSLETTER).



Album: Dancin' With Swingitude
Artist: Grace Clark

Album Reviews

by Music Enthusiast
Jeanne Yearian



Jeanne Yearian

Swingitude, under the direction of Grace Clark, has just released their first CD of 4 cuts with the spotlight on their fine musicians. Members of Swingitude include Grace Clark (vocals, rhythm guitar), Lisa Burns (bass fiddle), Dave Rietz (fiddle), Jimmy Spero (lead Guitar), Scott Clark (drums), Billy Wilson (steel guitar), Joyce Woodson (harmony vocals), and Sylvia Herold (harmony vocals).

The album opens with an original tune, Dancin' with Swingitude - music and Lyrics by Grace Clark. Next is a Charlie Mercer favorite, I'm An Old Cowhand, followed by a Cindy Walker classic, Take Me In Your Arms and Hold Me, first recorded and released by Eddy Arnold, The Tennessee Plowboy and His Guitar in 1949. It has been recorded by Janice Harper, Cindy Walker, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Les Paul and Mary Ford and other artists but Eddy Arnold is credited with making it a hit. Swingitude ends on a lighter note with a well-known Cindy Walker favorite, also from the 1940s, It's All Your

Fault.

When I received the CD, what immediately struck me was the beautiful, richly designed CD cover and enclosed booklet. Once I listened to the selections, I realized the cover suited the arrangements and musical tone well.

Grace is currently playing Western Swing and Jazz music with Swingitude; however, Grace's musical beginnings are varied and deep. A multi-instrumentalist with a classical/roots background, Grace formerly co-founded and led the Brushy Peak Bluegrass Band and the Wild Rye Bluegrass Band.

Listen to each of the selections by going to the website, www.GraceAClarkMusic.com. To order the CD or if you have any questions, email Grace at clarkga1@comcast.net. The CDs are \$10.00 each, \$15.00 with shipping. To see a live performance, check the band schedule for the Western Swing Society out of Sacramento, CA.

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
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.



## INTRODUCING GRAHAM GRIFFITH



Graham Griffith

Graham Griffith first took up conventional guitar at 14, studying classical guitar. In his early 20s he played self taught fiddle in a jug band called the Cosmo Hamfat Entertainers. After seeing virtuoso pedal steel guitarist Kenny Kitching in 1976 he bought his first pedal steel guitar (a Sho-Bud double neck 10 string) and began investigating its complexities.

He later spent 3 months at the end of 1978 with master instrument maker/player **Zane Beck** as well as playing in a local VFW club in Little Rock, Arkansas. He had adopted Zane's single neck 12 string E13th pedal steel tuning the year before. Zane instilled in Graham a love for jazz tunes, taking his playing beyond the usual country music "bag".

Back in Sydney, after 6 months in the States, Graham became further inspired by Sydney's **Jack Richards**, a close friend of famous Australian jazz guitarist George Golla. Jack had played guitar in ABC orchestras, hotels and clubs and taught music until retirement. Jack's brilliant playing of old standards on his own E6th pedal steel tuning further showed the way. Jack also designed the "Kord King" pedal steel guitar, 100 of which were manufactured in 1948 for Palings (a music store in Sydney).

Since that time Graham has played in many different contexts such as "western swing" (The Baylor Brothers), country (various artists, including Reg Lindsay, Anne Kirkpatrick, Ian B. MacLeod and the Rockabilly Express), country rock (the Wright Brothers) original (Mental as Anything, Fifty Million Beers) jazz (Ian Date, George Washingmachine, Roger Janes and Tom Baker), R&B (Donny Hop & the Kings of Bop) and Hawaiian (Hoola). He has also recorded with various bands and artists including The Welcome Matt, Knievel, Alan Caswell, Dave Steel, Jason Walker & Karl Broadie, WA pop band "Little Birdy" and Sydney band Wicked Beat Sound System.

With his wife Jenny, Graham plays in three local Sydney bands - "Out of Nowhere" which plays retro country, western swing and jazz standards, "Hoola" devoted to Hawaiian and island music mixed with old standards and more recently, "The Hokey Carmichaels" which blends the sound of pedal steel guitar with cornet and tenor sax. Graham also arranges parts for these bands. Graham is a founding member of Sydney originals band "50 Million Beers"

Graham played pedal steel with the indigenous group Mission Songs Project for an "Artist in Residence" performance at the Campbelltown Arts Centre in March 2017 and the 2018 Sydney Festival as well as performances in Melbourne, Brisbane and the Darwin Festival in August 2018.

Graham is a 2012 inductee into the Australian Steel Guitar Hall of Fame.

## JIM WEBB'S MUSICAL HISTORY AS TOLD BY GRAHAM GRIFFITH

(PHOTOS BY JOHN MCCLUNG)

The tape (below) of the Seattle-based pedal steel guitarist Jim Webb (HOF 2002) playing with the **Jeff Young Group** was recorded on a Sony Cassette recorder placed on the bandstand close to Jim's amplifier. The whole band can be heard but the proximity to the steel guitar amplifier resulted in an excellent clarity highlighting Jim's technique. Jim recalls the group as: Jeff Young - bass & vocals Gary Grubb - guitar Ed Grant - drummer Jim Webb - pedal steel guitar **The Jeff Young Group** lasted less than a year.

Part 1 of the audio recording featuring Jim Webb playing with The Jeff Young Group in Montana, 1977:



(Continued on page 11)

<p>JOIN US FOR THE <b>TSGA JAMBOREE</b> WITH **</p> <p>TRAVIS TOY   BUCK REID SARAH JORY   RONNIE MILLER JAYDEE MANESS   JOAN COX JACOB KING   JODY CAMERON RUSS &amp; LANEY HICKS RANDY BEAVER   JANET LYNN DAVID WRIGHT   MARGIE MAYS MIKE SWEENEY</p> <p>AND MANY MORE!! **PLAYERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO SCHEDULES**</p> <p><b>MARCH 10-13, 2022</b> <b>Sheraton DFW</b> 4440 W. John Carpenter Fwy. Irving, TX   972-929-8400</p> <p>**STEEL GUITAR EQUIPMENT/ACCESSORY MANUFACTURERS**</p> <p>**BUDDY BRYANT SHOWCASE, Thursday, March 10, 6pm-midnite**</p> <p>**GOSPEL SERVICE /SUNDAY MORNING**</p> <p>**WESTERN SWING DANCE • SATURDAY NIGHT, 10pm-midnite**</p> <p>**NON-PEDAL SESSION—FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 10AM—6PM**</p> <p>**Join us for our monthly meetings: 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30pm with 2 great steel players. Open to the public at NO CHARGE. Doubletree Hilton, 4441 W. John Carpenter Fwy. Irving, TX</p>	<p><b>TEXAS STEEL GUITAR ASSOCIATION</b> 817-558-3481</p> <p><b>ADVANCE TICKETS</b> WWW.TEXASSTEELGUITAR.ORG OR CALL: 817-558-3481</p> <p><b>AT THE DOOR</b> Weekend Pass Members: \$65 Non-members: \$75 1 session tickets available</p> <p><b>SEMINARS:</b> register at the door or the contacts below... <b>TRAVIS TOY \$75</b> THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 E9 PEDAL STEEL SEMINAR MAIL: TRAVIS TOY, 1413 SPRUCEDALE ANTIOCH, TN 37013</p> <p>PAYPAL PAYMENTS: register@travistoy.com</p> <hr/> <p><b>BUCK REID \$75</b> FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022 buckjreid@gmail.com MAIL: 207 Hayes St. Hartsville, TN 37074</p> <hr/> <p><b>LARRY TOLIVER \$25 each</b> **Thursday, March 11, 2022 NON-PEDAL SEMINAR</p> <p>**Friday, March 11, 2022 BEGINNER'S E9 PEDAL</p> <p>PO BOX 156, MERKEL, TX 79536 EMAIL: LARRYTOLIVER@WINDSTREAMNET CELL: 325.518.3947</p>
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Joyce Miller

May 7, 2022  
 The Cowtown Society of  
 Western Music's  
**22nd Annual  
 SwingFest**

Cowtown Society of Western Music is pleased to announce we are finally going to host the 22nd Annual CSWM Swing Fest and Awards Ceremony in May 2022. This event will honor all of the 2020 Heroes of Western Swing we chose for 2020 but did not get to acknowledge for the past two years due to the pandemic. The event details are as follows:

**22nd Annual  
 CSWM Western Swing Fest  
 and Awards Show**

**Saturday Ceremony & Dance - May 7, 2022**

Holiday Hills Country Club.  
 4108 Hwy 180 E. Mineral Wells. Texas  
 Noon to 10:00PM - Ceremony & Dance

\$20.00 ADMISSION FOR ADULTS  
 \$5.00 ADMISSION FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

Be an early bird and come to our jam session on Friday, May 6th, and listen and dance to some of the best Western swing musicians on the planet from 4 PM 'til 10:00 PM for only \$5.00 Admission. Kids are free on Friday.

Food and beverages are available for purchase both Friday and Saturday. Masks are encouraged.

More details about this event can be found at our Facebook page: Cowtown Society of Western Music, Inc.

Need Accommodations? Call our host motel, Best Western in Mineral Wells 940/325-2270 and ask for the Swing Fest discount.

Hope to See Ya There!



For more info, contact:  
 Joyce Miller  
 817/558-7580  
 jmlbubbles032443@att.net  
 Check us out on Facebook too.



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 HOWARD KALISH  
 HARLAN KUBOS  
 DEVON DAWSON  
 WILL TAYLOR  
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 GREG HARDY  
 BILL ATWOOD  
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**PROMOTER OF THE YEAR**

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**RISING STAR**

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**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

AL DRESSEN

(Continued from Page 9, *The Jim Webb Story* by Graham Griffith)

(*Jim continues with the story . . .*) “What happened was Jeff Young hooked up with someone and basically fired the whole band and we all went our separate ways. I came back to Washington and went from there to Montana. That was in 1977. I played over there for 3 years and when that band broke up the guitar player (who was also the bandleader) and I went to San Jose in 1980. I had a job waiting with the same house band that was there in 1977. I stayed in San Jose and he wound up working at another club. But he didn't like it so he went back to Montana.”

Part 2 of the audio recording featuring Jim Webb playing with The Jeff Young Group in Montana, 1977:



Born 1936, Jim Webb is a retired Seattle-based pedal steel guitarist. He was professionally active from 1956 to 1990. In 1950 at age 14 he took Hawaiian guitar lessons for 6 months with the Oahu School of Music but after 2 lessons he was working out tunes by himself from the radio. He was using a conventional Spanish guitar converted for Hawaiian style playing with a raised nut. During this time and afterwards he was self taught. In 1951 or 1952 he played 1st professional gig with another male student on guitar from the Oahu School at a library - they earned \$5 split 2 ways! Another early gig was the Senior Prom for High School. The trio had bass, guitar and lap Steel - there was enough money and so they hired a drummer. That gig was four hours on lap steel - amongst the repertoire Jim played Hawaiian tunes such as Maui Chimes; Hilo March from the Oahu course as well as popular tunes of the day. To play what he heard on the radio he was playing A6th ; C6th before he finished his 6 month course ; he was being used as an example of the course to sell the franchise. He quit when they cut him no slack to move him on to other tunings other than the E major tuning they were using (which proved boring

to the young Jim Webb). Through Paul Tutmarc's son Bud, he saw the famous Hawaiian steel guitarist Sol Hoopii play in Seattle. Sol played a song with a title similar to “Life's Railway to Heaven” imitating animal sounds. “Anyway Sol Hoopii was quite a star back in the 40's and 50's. I got to see him in person once and he was right up there with Jerry Byrd. Really good. I saw Sol Hoopii at some kind of religious function. He was still playing the pop and Hawaiian songs of the day but he had given them all Christian titles.” A couple of his steel guitarist heroes were Jerry Byrd and Buddy Emmons.

By age 20 (c. 1956) Jim started playing professionally. From 1950 till 1959 he played both lap steel and guitar. He tuned his lap steel to C6th and A6th (“because you only had to change pitch on a couple of strings”). In 1959 he traded in his guitar, a Fender Stratocaster, on a Fender 400 pedal steel. He tuned it to F9th which he used like an E9th with one pedal lowering the top string to E and raising the 5th string to E and giving him C6th. About his move to pedal steel: “I struggled with tuning to figure out how Bud Isaacs was getting his sound and eventually realized he was using a pedal after remembering seeing the Gibson Electraharp as used by Alvino Rey.” He also remembered Alvino Rey had a talking guitar well before Pete Drake's did it in 1964 recordings.

Jim got a job playing with the Jack Roberts band in 1961. Jack was a booker and performer - his band backed up major artists on tour. The band was on local TV on Saturdays (the show was taped on Wednesdays). The band usually played two dances a week besides the show for about 3 years. During the day Jim worked as a mailman. His first double neck pedal steel was made by Chuck Wright. He said it was a bad guitar with a long scale which meant you had to tune the E9th to C9th because of string breakages. It used cables like the Fender 400. The pedal stops were when the pedal touched the floor! It also had a solid bridge instead of fingers which affected accuracy. His next twin neck was another home-made instrument - a twin neck 9 stringer - which was better than the Wright but not a professional level instrument like the Emmons twin neck he bought in February 1968. The Emmons became his professional instrument till he retired at age 54 in 1990. He still has this instrument.

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