



NWWSMS

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

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

PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

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Vol. 39, Issue 3

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

April - June 2022

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



Reprinted from the July 2010 issue of Cowboys & Indians

His name is synonymous with western swing.

by Carolyn Wills

(Editor's Note: Bob Wills was born on March 6, 1905. Since we were not able to celebrate his contributions to America's music together this year, we hope you enjoy the following.)

The sound of air brakes exhaling from a big black and white bus emblazoned with the words "Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys" announced my father's homecoming. It was the early '60s and my parents, older brother, two younger sisters, and I lived in a two-story red brick home in what was then a Tulsa, Oklahoma, suburb. Our house faced west in the direction of the towns and cities that knew Bob Wills so well. These were the touring years, and fans continued to crowd dance halls eager to see the man and his band, to hear the music, and to dance to favorites like "San Antonio Rose," "Faded Love," "Stay All Night," "Big Beaver," and "Take Me Back to Tulsa."

If somehow you're unfamiliar with Bob Wills or have yet to tap a toe to Western swing, it's safe to say you're within inches of someone who has. Today, living west of the Mississippi virtually assures a lifestyle influenced by him. More than a hundred years after his birth and now 35 since his death, Bob Wills and his music remain deep within the heart of America's West. From a family of fiddlers and cotton pickers, he became a Western legend, minstrel, preacher, and hero across four decades.

The oldest of four brothers and six sisters, he grew up in a small frame house "down between the rivers" of Hall County near Turkey, Texas. By today's standards, his family would be dirt-poor, but for the times, their standard of living was fairly typical. Rural America had yet to head for the city and agriculture was still the occupational standard. My grandfather, who I knew as "Daddy Papa" and the world knew as "Uncle John" Wills, was a champion fiddler and struggling cotton farmer who relied on his eldest son to play the fiddle for ranch dances and to pick cotton. The best the young Jim Rob "Bob" Wills took from those parched Texas cotton fields was a love for the blues and jazz sung and played by neighbors and migrant workers, and the best he got from his father were the teachings of a master fiddler and the sense of being central to the survival of others. No surprise that the charismatic firstborn would be gifted and burdened with talent, ambition, and a genius for creative evolution.

Bob Wills rose to stardom in the mid-1930s and enjoyed the ride well into the '60s. Committed to lightening the woes of people wearied by the Depression, he

(Continued on Page 6...)



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
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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
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:

February Showcase photos by
Jeanne & Fred Yearian.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

MARCH 12, 2022

President Jeanne Yearian called the meeting to order at 10:22 am.

Present by Verbal Role Call: Lori Hanson, Ramon Selby, Morey Sullivan.

Excused: Tony Bachler, Butch Gibson, Toby Hanson, Judy Hayes

Guests: Suze Spencer

President's Report: This has been a month of meetings but much has been accomplished. The Expo Center has a new head of maintenance. They are scheduling a time and day for us to meet towards the end of the month. Jeanne will be taking photos of facility changes to share in April.

We have been contacted by Mike Markwardt, the founder of the Cowtown, Birthplace of Western Swing Festival, first held in Fort Worth last year. He is also the producer of the documentary, **The Birth & History of Western Swing**, which was just selected for the HOLLYWOOD GOLD AWARDS. Mike asked if we would be interested in hosting a free private screening of the film during the festival. He is currently asking for donations to their 501(c)(3) nonprofit to help complete the feature length 2 hour documentary and secure all of the necessary licensing so they can move towards a national broadcast on PBS television, and eventual distribution via streaming platform like Netflix and DVD sales. Discussion and consideration of Mike's proposal followed.

Treasurer's Report – Jeanne Yearian
Submission of Budgets for 2022: The newsletter and festival budgets for 2022 were submitted for approval. The budgets were discussed, a motion was made to accept and approve. All were in favor. The motion passed.
Submission of Bills/Vote to Pay: No update at this time.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter/Website/Facebook – Jeanne Yearian
Newsletter: Printing costs have dramatically increased. A 12-page newsletter (3 11x17 sheets) now costs \$3.00/copy plus postage. We are mailing out between 30 and 35 copies per issue to those who do not have access to a computer. It was suggested we contact those receiving printed copies and ask if they would consider giving extra money to help cover those costs.

Additions/Changes to newsletter: There was discussion regarding number of

newsletters to publish per year. It was decided the newsletter would be sent out quarterly instead of monthly. A motion was made to accept and approve this change. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Additions/Changes to website/Facebook: The fee for the website will be due in July of 2022. We pay for 3 years at a time with a secure socket to prevent hackers from stealing information. In all, the cost of the website in 2019 was \$538.60 plus security (roughly \$18) plus the domain name (NWWSMS.COM) (\$20/year). After discussion, it was decided the website is valuable to the Society. A motion was made to accept and approve the fees associated with renewing the www.nwwsms.com website for three years. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Membership – Lori Hanson/Tony Bachler: Lori Hanson will present a membership update to the Board at the April meeting. We have been receiving renewals. Membership cards are being sent out.

Showcase – Butch Gibson (*Jeanne Yearian reporting for Butch*)

Lady Luck Steakhouse, Tacoma: 3 showcases (May, June, July), then a review. No charge, possibly a donation from the Club if we bring in enough business. Same format as Lynnwood but begins at 4PM: 2 hour set by host band followed by short intermission while the stage is reset for the jam session. 50/50 with drawing around 6 PM.

May Showcase Band: Butch Gibson & Pardners

June Showcase Band: Wally Giffin & Black River Falls

July Showcase Band: JC McCormick & Cherokee

Odd Fellows Hall, Bothell: Showcases possibly beginning after the festival in September.

Sunshine – Jeanne Yearian & Lori Hanson

King County Fair Update – Jeanne Yearian: The Expo Center contacted Jeanne and requested a schedule for the NWWSMS Northwest Heritage Stage at the King County Fair to be submitted by April. Jeanne met with Lynn Kopelke, who is in charge of cowboy poetry and western music to discuss this year's format. Butch Gibson & Pardners have agreed to begin each day with a Western Swing jam: 10-11:30. The music will be followed by cowboy poetry workshops and poetry. The rest of the afternoons will feature music (1 hour sets) with 30 minutes of cowboy

(Continued on Page 3 . . .)



Let's Celebrate our first Showcase since February 2020 with Live Music, Good Food and a Dance!

(A Special Mother's Day Tribute to 'Mama Lou' and Ed Bischoff.)

On May 8, join your western swing family at the Lady Luck Steakhouse 14114 Pacific Ave S, Tacoma, 1 253 538 4996

Featuring Butch Gibson & Pardners



*The Western Flyers
Ridge Roberts (fiddle), Matthew Mefford (bass)
Joey McKenzie (guitar)*

(March 12, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, continued from Page 2 . . .)

poetry in between groups (to change stage set ups). Kristi and Steve Knebel (Cowgirl's Dream) will be performing as well as conducting a workshop on writing poetry and putting select pieces to music. On Sunday, after the morning jam, we will be hosting Cowboy Church, featuring Mike Faast and Brother's Keeper along with cowboy poets and other western entertainers. As well as performing throughout the weekend, Toby Hanson will once again close the stage Sunday evening with his Smilin' Scandinavians!

The stage will open daily at 10:00 AM and close around 6:00 PM. At this time, we do not have volunteers to help setting up on Wednesday or breaking down on Sunday. Jeanne will be contacting bands in the next month to, hopefully, fill most of the music spots.

Lynn Kopelke will be contacting cowboy poets. At this time we do not know the size of the contribution the Expo Center is donating to us. Jeanne suggested we prepare to offer a minimum honorarium to the groups performing. Several last year donated their talents. Lori Hanson will be hosting a NWWSMS table, encouraging new memberships and providing information on the festival and summer workshops. Lynn Kopelke will arrange for the cowboy poets to have a table as well.

2022 Western Swing Festival – Jeanne Yearian

Jeanne will be sending out invitations to bands to perform by early April. Nominations for the 2020 Hall of Fame have begun to come in. They will be forwarded on to Morey Sullivan and the Nominating Committee after April 15 for their consideration.

Scholarship/Work Shop Committee Report – Jeanne Yearian

Notes: We have received one request for a scholarship to the summer workshops. Jeanne will send out the scholarship form. The Expo Center has added an extra room downstairs for breakout sessions. Pictures to come.

Jeanne Yearian has been meeting with Toby Hanson and Suze Spencer to discuss this year's program. They have decided to keep the group small and possibly offer a new format to encourage both students and teachers to attend. The workshops will begin on Wednesday afternoon with registration and a

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.

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

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

Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners. Dance Hall Music by **The Sundowners.** 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.

casual meet and greet followed by a jam session. The workshops will continue all day Thursday and Friday until noon. Friday afternoon will be set aside for private lessons pre-arranged with individual instructors.

The downstairs 'jam rooms' will be reserved for the workshop attendees only until the workshop program is over. The main 'jam room' will open to everyone beginning on Friday from 1 PM-11 PM and Saturday from 1 PM - 11 PM.

Unfinished Business: No report given.

New Business: No report given.

Good of the Order: Congratulations to Lori Hanson. She was elected the Grand Associate Conductress of the Grand Court of WA, Order of Amaranth. In March of 2025 she will be installed as the Grand Royal Matron. 👑

Amaranth is a fraternal organization, related to Freemasonry. Amaranth's primary charitable cause is the American Diabetes Association. The Order has contributed over 17M to the ADA since 1979.

The next NWWSMS board meeting will be held on April 9, 2022, at 10 AM PST.

Motion passed to Adjourn at 11:57.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Yearian, Secretary

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



Bobby Giasson

Longtime supporter of the Western Swing Society of Sacramento, Bobby Giasson passed away on January 27, 2022. Bobby was born in a small town in the State of Maine. He started his musical career at the age of 14. He was in a group called *The Rocky Road Blues*.

At the age of 15, Bobby met Hawkshaw Hawkins along with Hawkshaw's fiddle player, Eddie Miller. They did some jams and a show in town. Bobby ran across them often over the years.

Bobby's reputation was well-established as a guitarist. When he was seventeen, Bobby was asked to do a radio show on the new radio station in town. Included in the group that performed was his soon-to-be wife (7 years later), Jeanette..

Bobby did a stint in the Navy and played a lot. In 1957, while still in the navy, he married Jeanette. In 1958 he was discharged from the service. He went on the road with Skeeter Bonn as well as a daily TV show which could be seen throughout the Northeast.

Over the years Bobby played with many groups and played many different styles of music. He played rock n roll for a couple of years with Alabama's Curtin Johnson. In the mid-sixties he went back to Country and Pop with Dick Curless.

In 1973 Bobby came west and played with Gene and Gretchen Todd. Since being inducted into the WSS Hall of Fame in 1991 Bobby felt he had been privileged to make music with many great musicians and singers. Bobby was inducted into the NWWSMS Hall of Fame in 2008.

(Editor's Note: Thanks to John Jones, current president of the WSMSS, for the following. To read it in its entirety, please refer to the WSMSS Newsletter. Our sincere condolences to Bob's wife, Virginia, family and large community of friends and fans.)

All of us at WSMSS were saddened to hear about the passing of our beloved Cape Girardeau, MO Director, Bob Dolle. Bob was an avid musician and promoter of Western Swing Music, and he and his wife, Virginia, put on 16 annual Western Swing music showcases and dances in their hometown of Cape Girardeau.

Robert Edwin Dolle was born in Cape Girardeau on August 31, 1930, and he died there on November 21, 2021. He was 91 years young and continued to live life to its fullest until the very end...

... Through the early 1960's, Bob played in local bands that included the musical influences of swing, country, pop, jazz, big band, Dixieland and breakdowns. He also formed his own band during this time and focused on the danceability of these musical styles. . .

... After his retirement in 1993, Bob spent the winter months in Southern Texas and expanded his involvement in Western Swing music. He played keyboard and fiddle regularly with the Texas Travelers, Village Dixie Band, weekly with a Western Swing band on the Rio Grande River and multiple jam sessions. During this time, he also played with the Fun Valley Playboys at the Fun Valley RV park Resort in Southern Colorado.

Bob played at many WSMSS showcase since his induction into our Hall of Fame in 2002 and he continued playing Western Swing music in the south Texas Rio Grande Valley, which included 14 annual Bob Wills shows in McAllen, TX.

In addition to Bob's induction into our Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest's Hall of fame in 2002, Bob was previously inducted into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame as a member of the Texas Travelers, and as an individual member into the Pioneers of Western Swing Society Hall of Fame, both in 1999. Bob was also later inducted into the Western Swing Society (near Sacramento, CA) Hall of Fame in 2003. . .

... We owe Bob and Virginia both a great deal of gratitude.

John Jones , President WSMSS



Bob Dolle

LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FOR INDUCTEES INTO THE 2022 NWWSMS HALL OF FAME

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:

**NWWSMS, Nominations Chairman
c/o Jeanne Yearian
21221-174th Ave. SE
Renton, WA 98058-9740
E-mail: jeanneyearian@yahoo.com**

The cut-off date is APRIL 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. If not received prior, a picture suitable for publication will be requested at that time.



www.westernswingsociety.net

**Join the conversation on Facebook:
Sacramento
Western Swing Society**

Click on the image or text above to be directed to the organization's website.

1983-2022 Celebrating 39 Years!

We are returning to Enumclaw's historic Field House (aka: Pete's Pool)

Location: The Field House, part of the Enumclaw Expo Center, is located on Hwy 410 (1456 Roosevelt Ave. E), Enumclaw, WA

Dance Friday through Saturday to local and guest bands in the main ballroom.

Drop in to join the open jam sessions or sign up in advance for western swing music workshops taking place over the weekend. (See page 4 - More information coming soon.)

The main doors open daily at 11:00 AM

Thursday evening, August 11:

To welcome our out of town guests, a Meet & Greet Covered Dish Dinner begins at 4 PM, followed by a western swing Jam Session on the main stage from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Bring something for the table and your dancing shoes!

Friday, August 12:

Sign up to take part in the western swing jam on the main stage from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM The jam picks up downstairs 1PM until 11. In the Ballroom, the scheduled entertainment continues to 11:00 PM

Saturday, August 13:

The 2022 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony begins at 11 AM Dance to scheduled entertainment after the ceremony until 11:00 PM The Jam Room is open downstairs after the Ceremony until closing.



President's Corner



There's still time to get those nominations in for the 2020 Hall of Fame! But, hurry! The deadline is **April 15**. Email your letter of sponsorship, your nominee's bio, contact information and a clear photo to jeanneyearian@yahoo.com.

On Mother's Day, (one of Lou's favorite holidays) we will be hosting our first showcase since February 2020. We hope to see many of our friends at the Lady Luck Steakhouse in Tacoma. We're still looking for a central location to hold the Showcases but are very grateful for this invitation from Lady Luck and opportunity to rebuild.

Before we know it we will be gathering at Enumclaw's historic Field House for our August festival! Band leaders should be receiving invitations to perform by the beginning of May. We are also making contact with those dance clubs who survived the lockdowns and hope to attract a great crowd of eager dancers!

In 2019 we hosted our first western swing music camp, led by Suze Spencer and Tim Dawdy. This year we have a special learning opportunity for those attending the summer music workshops. Leading with Suze Spencer will be Toby Hanson along with guest instructors Joey and Sherry McKenzie assisted by the young fiddle virtuoso for the Western Flyers, Ridge Roberts (see the video clip on the bottom left of page 3 as well as additional information on page 10 of this newsletter). Class size is limited. You must register to attend.

We celebrate the NWSMS' 30th Hall of Fame and Western Music Festival this year. Let's fill the hall! Brochures and flyers on the festival and music camp will be out later this month.



Pictured left: Above: Warming up inside the hall, Front Porch Jam Below: A front Porch Jam Session

Pictured above - The Historic Field House, Enumclaw WA

(Continued from page 1, Carolyn Wills talks of her father, Bob Wills)

understood the effect of hard times and the formula for easing its hold. As people moved from the country to the city and dance halls replaced the ranch dance, Bob Wills made sure Western swing traveled, too, bringing with it the sound of a happier, roaring decade. He became the genre's favorite son, while his Texas Playboys surrounded him with a musical family of sheer enjoyment.

Onstage, he was the consummate performer. His unconventional "holler" and animated presence thrilled audiences up, down, and around Route 66 from Texas to the California coast, in dance halls, on the radio, and in western movies. His music lifted spirits that clearly needed lifting. It brought people to their feet and, more important for his time, proved for a humble picker from the cotton fields of Texas that sitting on top of the world was indeed possible.

Undoubtedly arising from his early experience of family, my father was acutely aware of the importance of others. His commitment to pleasing and elevating everyone — band members, family, audiences — inspired unwavering devotion and a kind of personal ownership from all who knew him. He admired great musicians and could spot and attract them instantly. His band, The Texas Playboys, was synonymous with the name Bob Wills, and thanks to my father's onstage commentary, band members were known individually almost as well as he was. He was a natural leader who encouraged self-expression within strict and oddly diversified codes of behavior and performance. And by the numbers of Texas Playboys who proudly served over the years and ultimately relished in the telling of "Bob stories," following his rules was, in the end, a rite of passage.

Well-known Texas Playboy piano pounder Al Stricklin recounted his travels with my father in *My Years with Bob Wills*, describing him as "The man who started it all; the man who could get 110 percent effort out of his musicians like a good football coach; the man who was feared and loved by his men; the man who could sell his product like nobody else, as testified to by the thousands of people who turned out to listen" Al's son, Dr. David Stricklin, reminds me that much of my father's story revolves around "anti-rules," of ignoring boundaries — as illustrated by his swing-dance version of the "William Tell Overture" — and "of fracturing such musical niceties as observing time signatures."

He was his own kind of outlaw. "Bob broke meter and made it work, even though it drove the 'serious' musicians crazy," Stricklin says. "Daddy referred to how Bob took music out of the straitjacket. ... The thing was, if you were willing to accept the discipline of being in Bob's band, you had to adopt the work ethic that enabled them to survive the grueling schedule, the ways Bob drove them during performances, and the absolute requirement that people who paid to see them were going to get their money's worth. Within those rules and that work ethic, there was a lot of room for self-expression. Daddy always said that



*The Light Crust Doughboys
(left to right) Herman Arnsperger, Bob Wills, Milton Brown
and announcer, Eddie Dunn*

when Bob pointed his bow at you — and you never knew when that was going to happen — you couldn't just play exactly what you'd played the last time the band did the song. You had to think, Bob wants me to play all I know, and, if possible, play something I didn't know I knew. That was light-years from the attitudes of so many bandleaders in those days, even the ones we regard as highly inventive. It's one of Bob's great contributions and, I think, one of the keys to understanding his great humanity."

My father's talent for presentation, for skirting the edge of what fans could embrace and yet dream to emulate, began with his arrival on the musical scene at the start of the '30s. It was in Fort Worth, Texas, that he formed the Wills Fiddle Band; Milton Brown soon joined as vocalist and the group became the original Light Crust Doughboys. In sweaters and dress slacks, the band looked more like college boys than young men fresh from the farm.

In 1933, when Bob Wills left Fort Worth to broadcast on a radio station in Waco, the band became known as The Playboys. My father was 28; the band was young and they continued to dress like college students. From Waco, they headed for Oklahoma and their destiny to broadcast on KVOO. From 1934 through 1938, Bob Wills appeared in a tailored double-breasted suit and polished custom-made boots, and the Texas Playboys dressed in business suits, white shirts, and neckties. They were on their way to becoming the largest and most famous Western band in the history of America, and their increasingly familiar image announced the dawning of "Western chic."

(Continued on Page 9...)

NWWSMS Summer Music Camp

August 10-13, 2022

WHO WILL BE THERE - WHAT TO EXPECT



Suzy Spencer

Suzy Spencer, Camp Coordinator, 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.

Toby Hanson's association with his most well-known instrument, the accordion, began early in his life. Born into a musical family in Puyallup, WA, his accordion playing really became serious in college when he began studying with noted local accordion educator Gary Dahl. Gary's teaching gave Toby the foundations he would need for his professional career as a musician, including the skills that would make him a valuable band member. Besides his work in Western Swing, Toby is also the leader of the Smilin' Scandinavians polka band.



Toby Hanson

(Continued on Page 10 . . .)



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!



The NorthWest Western Swing Music Society's 2022 Western Swing Music Camp is partially funded through the

Rus Davis Scholarship Fund

Financial Aid Available.

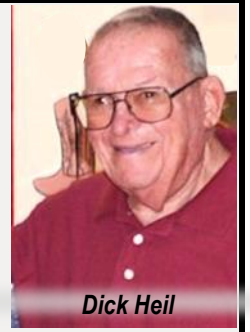


Rus Davis, 2015 d.



Album Reviews

By Dick Heil
NWWSMS Co-Founder



Dick Heil

Mike Faast Sings the Standards – 12 songs from 1928 to 1965.

Wow! A great job of singing and selection of songs that swing. The musicians are outstanding, but where are the fiddles and steel guitar? Even without them I highly recommend this album as a perfect place to learn where western swing was born and where all the "hot licks" started.

Good swing music started with people like "Fats" Waller and Louis Armstrong. People like Jesse Ashlock, Bob Wills, Fred "Papa" Calhoun, Earl Phelps, Leon McAuliffe brought jazz into country-western and even bluegrass. I thank my parents for getting me Bob Wills and Fats Waller 78 RPM records when I was still in grade school, and for encouraging me to learn the accordion. "One never knows, do one?" – Fats Waller 1936.



- 1 I Got Rhythm (1930)
- 2 Autumn Leaves (1945)
- 3 Don't get Around Much Anymore (1945)
- 4 Georgia on My Mind (1930)
- 5 Ain't Misbehavin' (1929)
- 6 Summer Wind (1965)
- 7 If I had You (1928)
- 8 All of Me (1931)
- 9 Honeysuckle Rose (1929)
- 10 Sway (1953)
- 11 Gee Baby, Ain't I good to You (1929)
- 12 Route 66 (1946)

Musicians
 Mike Faast - Guitar/Vocals
 Mike Eytcheson - Stand Up Bass
 Frank Grace - Rhythm & Lead Guit
 Randy Doak - Drums
 Mark Drake - Drums
 Eric Likkell - Clarinet & Sax (4,5,6,7,8)
 Eric Vanderbilt Mathews - Clarinet
 Sax/Piano (1,2,3,9,11,12)
 Eric Verlinde - Piano/Marimba
 synthesizer (5,6,7,8,10)

8 88295 96488 3

NWWSMS Application for Membership

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

NAME: _____ NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

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

CITY: _____ DANCER SUPPORTER

STATE / ZIP: _____ PERFORMER VOCALIST BAND LEADER

PHONE: _____ BAND: _____

E-MAIL: _____ INSTRUMENT(S): _____

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Use the E-mail provided above to send newsletters and other NWWSMS news
- Please have someone send me a paper newsletter
(Note: the NWWSMS does not mail out paper newsletters)
- I'd be happy to print and mail _____ extra newsletters to those without e-mail access
- Please DO NOT include me in the Membership Roster.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

(Continued from Page 6, Carolyn Wills . . .)

In 1939, my father and Mr. O.W. Mayo started the annual Bob Wills Stampede (Rodeo) in Tulsa and it was then that the Texas Playboys began to dress Western: cowboy dress shirts and Western pants, bolo or standard ties or Western scarves, vests or Western-cut sports coats, and cowboy boots with pants tucked in or out. Nowhere were there sequins, appliqués, floppy lapels, or loud colors. As the bandleader, Bob Wills became known for his trademark cowboy hat, boots, and Roi-Tan cigar. He usually wore a light-colored Stetson with a medium crease and slightly folded edges. A hat pushed too far back or pulled down to hide a man's eyes was not acceptable.

"Those rodeos were what is called a happening today," says Al Stricklin, who recalled one parade where people started waving and shouting, not at the Oklahoma governor but at Bob Wills. "[Wills] had on a well-tailored Western suit and was riding Punkin, that great stallion, saddled with that beautiful silver-lined saddle that Tulsa restaurateur George the Hamburger King had given him. It was a beautiful sight."

A rare change to my father's dress code occurred during the making of a western movie in which the Hollywood director insisted he wear a 10-gallon white hat and tuxedo to conduct the band in a dance scene. Everyone on the set who knew him immediately recognized the anger and discomfort captured in that cut.

By 1942, my mother, Betty Lou Anderson, had fallen in love with and married Bob Wills. She was young and petite with curly black hair, big brown eyes, and an attitude of total possibility. At 37, he had matured into a dark-eyed heart-melting celebrity with a list of failed marriages. The connection between the two would carry them through ever-changing times, 32 years of marriage, and four children. Early on, I saw my parents' relationship as a working partnership as much as a great romance. From the outside, it may have appeared he was king, but from the inside I knew she was also queen. My mother excelled at business, and, as it turned out, she brought her own element of style to the Bob Wills image.

When we lived in Las Vegas in the late '50s, I remember helping her shop for dresses for a young singer hired for the Golden Nugget shows, and through the years I often heard her discussing with my father what the band would wear. I especially remember the period when she actually made his Western shirts. It was a time when pearl snaps were a must and to secure them to a shirt meant standing in the kitchen at the ironing board and pounding them over and over with a meat mallet.

While a great era in American history passed with my father's death on May 13, 1975, those who knew him — and many who knew those who knew him — were not prepared to see his legacy die. His memory is honored in numerous halls of fame, museums, and tributes, including the Country Music Hall of Fame, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. At the 2007 Grammy celebration, my niece and I were privileged to accept the Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed on my father by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for his contributions to American music. Ray Benson's stage production of A Ride with Bob is entertaining audiences across the country. And the annual Bob Wills Day in Turkey, Texas, is approaching its 40th year.

"Bob was a stylish Western rogue," says Benson, Asleep at the Wheel frontman. "As outrageous as his onstage dancing, hollering, and strutting were, he led the band in a presentation that was downright orchestral ... and always electrifying."

To hear the music called Western swing is to feel a connection to America's West. To know the man who was its instrument is to admire one of America's great agents of change. Not only did his music bring America to its feet, but his view of and pride in being Western evoked a now-classic style. His talent for synthesizing sound — whether in the vein of blues, jazz, ragtime, Hispanic, country, gospel, or big band — into the music known as Western swing translated to his equally contagious and innate sense for designing the image known as Bob Wills. Whether it applied to the band or signage or the bus; whether it was expressed by his performance or attire, or for that matter, his horse and tack, if it had to do with Bob Wills, it had to do with class.

OFFICIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5 BOB WILLS DAY APRIL 28-30 2022

THURSDAY April 28
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30pm
\$30
ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
BILLY MATA AND THE TEXAS TRADITION
Asleep at the Wheel 7:30pm - 9pm
Billy Mata 9:30pm - 12am

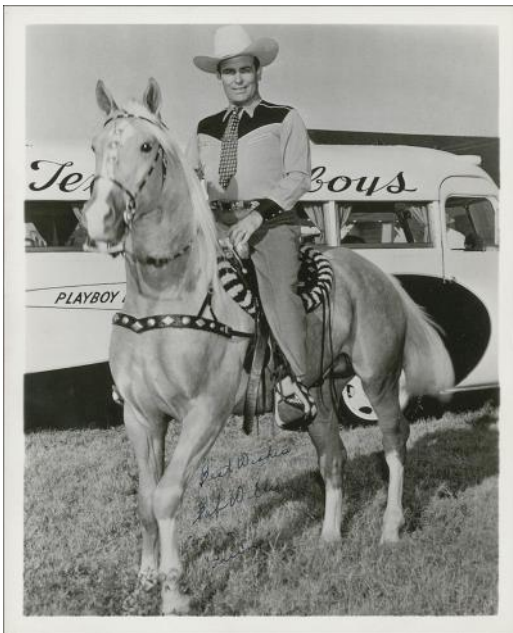
FRIDAY April 29
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm
\$30
BOB WILLS' TEXAS PLAYBOYS
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JASON ROBERTS 5:30pm - 8:30pm
JAKE HOOKER AND THE OUTSIDERS 9pm - 12am

SATURDAY April 30
PARADE 10AM - presented by Turkey Creek HOD
BBQ COOK OFF - all day in the City Park (Fri & Sat)
BBQ LUNCH \$20 - 11:00am at the Bob Wills Cafeteria - Fat & Happy BBQ
FIDDLERS CONTEST \$10 - 11:30am - presented by Joey Yates Construction
FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT- 2:30pm on the football field
Dr Charles Townsend as master of ceremonies

DOORS OPEN AT 6pm
\$30
THE SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE WESTERN SWING BAND 6pm - 8:30pm
JODY NIX AND THE TEXAS COWBOYS 9pm - 12am

DAILY EVENTS
Visit our Local Businesses in Turkey, Texas!
Souvenir Shop at the Bob Wills Center and at the Dances
Valley High School Cheerleader Concession Stand
Arts & Crafts at the Bob Wills Center
Happy State Bank Bob Wills Monument
The Texas Music Office Open Jam at the Museum
The Birth & History of Western Swing
Film Screening at the Gem Theatre

50TH ANNUAL BOB WILLS DAY
KING OF WESTERN SWING MUSIC PRESENTED BY
Michelob ULTRA



Bob Wills riding Punkin

Introducing the Guest Instructors for the 2020 NWWSMS Western Swing Music Camp August 6th - 9th

(Editor's Note: The following is reprinted from the McKenzies' website:
www.fiddlesaregood.com)

Since meeting at the National Old-Time Fiddlers Contest in Weiser, Idaho as young teenagers, Joey and Sherry's influence on the fiddle world is very evident. Both have won multiple state, national and world fiddle championships and as teachers, several of their students have gone on to win major national fiddle championships of their own. In addition, the McKenzies are very proud of their students who have advanced into successful music careers, as well as the many others who have become life-long music lovers who play strictly for the fun of it!

Joey McKenzie

Accolades

Joey McKenzie is a natural musical wonder. He is such a gifted musician, arranger and musical visionary. I truly admire him. One of the things we both share in common is rhythm. I always keep an eye out for rhythm specialists. When I first heard Joey play I proclaimed him the best, rock solid. He takes care of business at the microphone in a mighty way.

Marty Stuart ~ Grand Ole Opry star and host of "The Marty Stuart Show" on RFD-TV.

Joey McKenzie: Master of the guitar! As you watch him play, you know he has been blessed with power and perfect control over the instrument. In my opinion, he is the greatest guitar player this side of Heaven. He is an Icon, and my hero.

Leon Rhodes ~ Legendary Nashville session guitarist and member of Ernest Tubb's Texas Troubadours.

The first time I heard Joey McKenzie, his playing impressed me. His sound, chord progressions and ability to keep such good time - even when playing alone, was amazing. That guitarist is Joey McKenzie. His L-12 is the best sounding I've ever heard. You've got to hear him to believe it!

Bob Bain ~ Guitarist for 22 years on "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson" and L.A. session icon.

Joey's first musical experience began at age of 11, tuning the instruments his father had around their house - a guitar, mandolin, tenor guitar, and a tenor banjo. Around the age of 12, he started learning a few chords and licks on each of the instruments and has been playing them ever since. When he was 17, he became interested in playing the fiddle after becoming friends with Texas fiddle legend Benny Thomasson. "I went to fiddle contests just playing rhythm guitar, but I wasn't really inspired to play the fiddle. When I got the opportunity to back Benny up in a few contests and hear the way he played, all I could think about was trying to learn to play the fiddle!" It wasn't long before Joey began competing and has since won well over 100 fiddle contests and awards on other stringed instruments. Some of these include three-time World Champion Fiddler, World Series of Fiddling Champion and five-time Texas State Guitar Champion. As a touring musician, Joey has performed in 45 U.S. states as well as Canada, Europe, Russia and South America. Joey's performance highlights include The Grand Ole Opry, The Kennedy Center, NYC's Lincoln Center, Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, NPR's "A Prairie Home Companion" and RFD TV's "The Marty Stuart Show". In addition, Joey has shared the stage with

musical greats Merle Haggard, Ricky Skaggs, Ray Price, Asleep at the Wheel, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Connie Smith, and even a ukulele-slinging billionaire by the name of Warren Buffett! He has always been fascinated with the great behind the scenes rhythm guitar work of players such as Eldon Shamblin, Homer Haynes, Eddie Lang, Karl Farr, Freddie Green and Oscar Moore. In addition to touring with [The Western Flyers](#), Joey enjoys restoring, repairing and collecting vintage stringed instruments and says he is still trying to get them in tune!

Sherry McKenzie

When eleven years old, Sherry experienced fiddle music for the first time. "I saw a fiddle player on TV," she recalls, "and thought it looked really, really fun. My parents got me an instrument, and I started playing in the sixth grade orchestra in my hometown of Idaho Falls, Idaho and I just fell in love with the music. The sound of it made me feel good." Sherry has essentially learned to play Texas-style completely by ear. "My parents would get me a record, like Benny Thomasson or Kenny Baker, and I would try to put those licks in the old-time songs I was playing. I entered the state fiddle contest just for fun (I placed next to last!) but that year I fell in love with the Texas-style versions of the tunes I heard. I met Mike Parsons and Roberta Pearce at the contest and began taking lessons from them, learning this exciting style of fiddling, and the next year I got first place in the Junior Junior Division." After this first win, Sherry headed off to the national contest in Weiser, a few miles down the road. "I remember sitting in the gym at Weiser watching the open division and hearing the great Texas-style players for the very first time. Herman Johnson made a big impression on me--the way he stood, the way he played, even how he walked out on stage to compete, and I just thought he was so amazing." That year Sherry met Herman along with Benny Thomasson and Dick Barrett. These three fiddlers would deeply influence her playing over the next few years. "I had never met a Texas-style fiddler in person," she recalls.

"I just had this Benny Thomasson record. I remember playing outside on the sidewalk at Weiser-- I'm squeakin' around on this fiddle, and I heard fiddling over my shoulder and looked over and it was Benny Thomasson. I had been playing Clarinet Polka, and he was playing the harmony. I got really nervous and I thought, 'this is that man that I have the record of!' And he was just so nice. I met Dick Barrett that same year - my dad approached him and asked if he would have some time to watch me play and talk with me, which he did. Dick took me aside and showed me a different way to hold my bow, and I asked him some questions. He showed me Black & White Rag, and helped me all afternoon to get the bowing right. I greatly admired these three fiddlers and wanted to play just like they played." After these encounters, Sherry recalls, "I would spend hundreds of hours with a record, slowing it down and listening over and over. And I spent hours watching great fiddle players, trying to figure out how they bowed certain songs." Sherry has completed Suzuki Violin Unit 1 at Texas Christian University and has incorporated the pedagogical ideas of the method into her teaching. "I believe there are more similarities than differences with the Suzuki method and a systematic approach to learning traditional fiddling." Sherry enjoys working with Suzuki students in an Enrichment role to supplement their existing studies and with intermediate level students of all ages. She is a sought after instructor at workshops and institutes across the country.





CSWM President Gary Beaver
& Secretary, Joyce Miller

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



**CSWM 2022
SWINGFEST
HEROES OF
WESTERN SWING**

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.

LIVING LEGENDS

LARRY NIX

SONNY RICE

BILL HEARNE

JOE SETTLEMIRE

ROGER EDGINGTON

HEROES OF WESTERN SWING (LIVING)

JOHN STEELE

HOWARD KALISH

HARLAN KUBOS

DEVON DAWSON

WILL TAYLOR

JOE DEGELIA

GREG HARDY

BILL ATWOOD

BUBBA COX

LYNN FRAZIER

ALFIE JOHNS

DIXIE HANKINS

MATLOCK RICE

POSTHUMOUS HEROES

DICKY OVERBEY

DISC JOCKEY OF THE YEAR

H.D. AINSWORTH

BAND OF THE YEAR

WSMSS BAND UNDER THE

DIRECTION OF JOHN JONES

FANS OF THE YEAR

PAUL GONZALES & KRISTY HALL

PROMOTER OF THE YEAR

TERRI HOLLAND

RISING STAR

RIDGE ROBERTS

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

AL DRESSEN



Bob Wills Day 2022 Highlights April 28, 29 & 30

Make your plans now to be in Turkey, Texas for this annual must see event!

BOB WILLS DAY EVENTS

- Parade
- Fiddle Contest
- BBQ
- Concerts
- Dances
- Concessions
- Vendor Booths
- Bob Wills Day Gear
- [The Slab](#)

THE SLAB

FREE LIVE BAND & DANCING

Location: SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET, TURKEY, TEXAS

Hours: BOB WILLS CELEBRATION WEEKEND, LAST WEEKEND IN APRIL

Cost: Free



TOMMY THOMSEN AND THE CHURCH OF WESTERN SWING

*ALWAYS SWINGING THE LAST
WEEK OF APRIL
IN TURKEY, TEXAS*

Church Bulletin:

Howdy Church Friends!! Improvements at the church continue. Don't you love the new patio?? And did you notice the extra room on the dance floor? We look forward to making more improvements as funding permits. The church would like to send a sincere thank you to the folks that came the week before the event and helped get everything ready. . . including building the patio cover!

Thank you to the C.O.W.S Band that continues to give their

time and amazing talents so generously. We couldn't do this without your dedication to the church and this music.

Finally, we'd like to thank the folks that come to the church for fun, fellowship and to dance and listen to some of the finest western swing musicians around.

Don't forget that The Church of Western Swing is now a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the music we love.

Enjoy the pictures and videos and look for more news to come.





10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

COUNTRY & WESTERN SWING MUSIC FESTIVAL

SEPT 9-10 2022

FIRST FINANCIAL PAVILION
50 E. 43RD ST, SAN ANGELO TX

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

- The Old Hat Band
- Monte Good
- Darrell & Mona McCall
- Tony Booth
- Jody Nix & The Texas Cowboys
- Jake Hooker & The Outsiders
- Jeff Woolsey & The Dancehall Kings

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

- Cowboy Church at The Gathering with Ricky & Darrell Boen
- Chuck Cusimano & Country Enough
- Brady Honeycutt
- Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition
- Floyd Domino
- Justin Trevino Band
- Rocky King Band
- Jason Roberts Band
- Jody Nix & The Texas Cowboys

Tickets are \$50 per day or \$75 for a 2 day pass
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 Call 325-763-9923 or 325-486-8637
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2022 Emcee
Tracy Pitcox,
Heart of Texas Records!

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Bobby Flores

& The Yellow Rose Band



Quantum of the Seas

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2N Outside - \$1071
4D Balcony - \$1440

All rates based on
Double Occupancy

Western Swing Cruise To Alaska



Quantum of the Seas

7 Days - Sailing August 15, 2022 From Seattle, WA

Call For Additional Pricing

Bob: (432) 638-3707

P
O
R
T
S



Sitka



Juneau



Skagway



Victoria, B.C.

\$700 deposit per cabin at time of booking. Final payment due May 10, 2022. Pricing based on double occupancy. Taxes and fees are additional, based on current cost. Airfare not included.

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