



**NWWSMS**

**NorthWest Western Swing Music Society**

*Preserving, Promoting & Performing America's*

*Western Swing Music Since 1983*

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

**PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082**

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**Vol. 39, Issue 4**

**NorthWest Western Swing Music Society**

**July-Sept 2022**

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

*(Editor's Note: Our sincere thanks to Ray Miller-Still with the Enumclaw Courier-Herald for the following article on the 2019 NWWSMS festival. It is reprinted below with minor changes to the dates and information for 2022.)*

## **WESTERN SWING FESTIVAL HOSTS EDUCATIONAL MUSIC CAMP FOR ASPIRING ARTISTS . . . hosted at the Enumclaw Expo Center Field House.**

By Ray Miller-Still  
Wednesday, July 24, 2019 9:52am

It's never too late to learn a new skill — which is why the 30th annual Western Swing Music Festival is hosting its second Western Swing Music Camp before the festival begins.

The whole event is organized by the Northwest Western Swing Music Society, which has been hootin' and hollerin' in Washington since it formed in 1983.

For those not in the know, Western Swing is a highly improvisational form of country jazz that was born in mid-western states in the early 1920s and '30s. One of its key features is the use of rural string instruments, like steel guitars and twin fiddles, rather than the traditional big band instruments that were also popular during this time period.

But it's not just the music that makes Western Swing so lively, said Jeanne Yearian, the Northwest Western Music Society president and Maple Valley/Renton resident.

"The dancers and the people listening help make the music," she said in a previous interview. "Their interaction with the people on stage, with the musicians, their feedback, that give-and-take, helps make the music."

The Western Swing Music Festival, from Thursday, Aug. 11 to Saturday, Aug. 13, is filled with dozens of live performances, jam session opportunities, and — of course — an open dance floor, all topped with a Western Swing Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday morning. *(See Page 7 for the full schedule of festival events.)*



*File photo by Ray Miller-Still*

*(Continued on Page 5 . . .)*



**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 photos by Jeanne & Fred Yearian.

## MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

APRIL 10, 2022

*These minutes were approved by email confirmation from attending participants.*

President Jeanne Yearian called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

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

**Excused:** Tony Bachler, Butch Gibson, Judy Hayes  
**Guests:** Suze Spencer

**President's Report:** On Tuesday, April 12, Jeanne will be meeting with the staff of the Expo Center to sign the contract for this year's festival. They have also agreed to a brief tour of the Field House, especially the downstairs, to check on room availability for workshop breakout sessions and jams. Photos to come. Jeanne hopes to have the Summer Camp brochures/applications completed by Tuesday and leave some at the Expo Center office.

Jeanne contacted Mike Markwardt, the producer of the documentary, **The Birth & History of Western Swing**, about arranging a private screening during the festival. He said he will leave the decision as to whether this would be a positive arrangement up to the Society.

### **Treasurer's Report – Lori Hanson**

**Submission of Bills/Vote to Pay:** The \$294.00 bill to pay the fee for the NWWSMS PO Box was approved for payment.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Newsletter/Website/Facebook – Jeanne Yearian**

**Newsletter:** The March-June newsletter was posted on the website as well as Facebook. Jeanne is planning to print copies at home to send out instead of using outside printing services.

**Additions/Changes to newsletter:** Once the Hall of Fame Inductees for this year have been chosen, a 4-page news brief will be sent out with the listing of honorees and additional festival information.

#### **Additions/Changes to website/Facebook:**

Updates to the website were delayed

**Membership – Lori Hanson:** Lori Hanson presented a membership update to the Board. She is compiling a new membership listing which will eventually include the honorary members of the Hall of Fame as well as paying members with voting privileges.

#### **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 & Partners

**Dancers:** Jeanne has contacted both Robert Cottrell and Ron Bolin, who send out dance calendars to

South Sound (Robert) and North Sound (Ron) dance communities. They will be posting the Showcases and the August Festival on their calendars that go out weekly to their dancers. Robert and the South Sound community used to attend the western swing festivals held at the Auburn Eagles and have very fond memories of the event. They did not know we had moved the festival to Enumclaw and are looking forward to trying out the new dance venue.

**Charge for Showcase Dances:** At the end of 2019 the Society began asking for a \$2.00 donation from non-members to attend the dance. Members were admitted free of charge. After discussion, it was decided to raise the donation request to \$5.00 for guests. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed.

**Sunshine – Jeanne Yearian & Lori Hanson** No report given.

**King County Fair Update – Jeanne Yearian:** Jeanne will meet with Lynn Kopelke on Tuesday, before meeting with Expo Center staff.

### **2022 Western Swing Festival – Jeanne Yearian**

It was decided that the daily entrance fee for this year's festival will be \$10.00/person/day. Since Brown Paper Tickets is no longer available, we may not have an online option this year.

Nominations continue to come in. So far there have been 8 submitted. They will be forwarded on to Morey Sullivan and the Nominating Committee by April 15 for their consideration.

Lori Hanson announced that Tony Arana has offered to run the jam this year. The jam room will open at 1 PM on Friday and again at 1 PM on Saturday (after the Induction Ceremony).

### **Scholarship/Workshop Committee Report – Jeanne Yearian**

Jeanne Yearian, Toby Hanson and Suze Spencer have been meeting to discuss this year's program. The brochure, summer camp application and scholarship application have all been updated and are nearly ready to post and distribute. Members of the Board should have received them along with this agenda. Camp admission fees have been kept low to encourage attendance. Motel costs alone have risen 50%. We did receive a discount from both the Rodeway Inn (next to the venue) and the Econolodge (in Buckley).

**Unfinished Business:** No report given.

**New Business:** It was decided special NWWSMS festival musicians will be chosen to help complete bands who couldn't attend with all of their members. These musicians will wear a special tag so they will be easily identified by band leaders.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 10 AM PST. Lori Hanson will be sending out the Zoom link.

Motion passed to adjourn at 11:43.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Yearian, Secretary



## President's Corner



Jeanne Yearian

With the first two showcases now completed, we are looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring. On July 10, the Society will host it's final scheduled showcase at the Lady Luck Steakhouse in Tacoma. Our sincere thanks to Lorraine and her staff for making us feel so welcome. They gave us the encouragement and support we needed to get back up, dust ourselves off, and try again!

Later that same week (July 14-17), we will be setting up the Northwest Heritage Stage at the King County Fair. Once again, we are so encouraged by the support from the Enumclaw Expo Center, providing this opportunity as well as giving a donation to the Society for the entertainment provided by its members! After 4 fun-filled days at the Fair, we will

finish preparations for the annual festival in August.

Pick up discounted festival tickets or register for the Summer Music Camp at our table at the Fair.

One other bit of housekeeping: We do not have use of the Expo Center campgrounds this year; however, dry camping is available free of charge in the parking lot behind the Field House.

Let me encourage you to take part in this year's music at the festival. There are so many ways to enjoy it, either by joining one of the jam sessions around the venue, or dancing to the scheduled entertainment in the ballroom. We have a wide variety of performers coming from around the country, spotlighting seasoned professionals as well as those who are content playing weekend gigs. We appreciate every one of them, helping to keep western swing music alive.

Did you ever wonder how the Societies come up with so much variety and talent? The answer to that question is twofold: tradition and love of the music. When the western swing societies first began, over 30 years ago, the musicians agreed that they would gather together just to play western swing music for the pure enjoyment of the musical style.

In the beginning, they would open their gatherings to the public, charging just enough to cover the rental cost of the venue. Most still have a free first night of dancing to make sure everyone can take part and enjoy the music. The musicians never received any money for sharing their talent and time. That is still true today. None of the musicians performing at the annual festival receive compensation outside of the immense appreciation of the audience! Money not reserved for the cost of the venue goes into a scholarship fund. Let's show these musicians just how much sharing their music means to us. Smile, hoot or holler as you dance past the stage or purchase CDs displayed on tables around the hall.

*Our sincere congratulations to all of this year's Inductees! See you at the Field House in August!*

JY

## 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](http://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](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.

**NWWSMS Hall of Fame  
2022 Inductees**

**Lowell 'Red' Arwood - Tennessee**  
Ray Benson - Texas  
Steve Carter - Washington  
Jim Halsey - Kansas  
Mike Hylton - Kansas  
Joey & Sherry McKenzie - Texas  
Shelley McNaughton - Washington  
Lenny Serdahl - California  
Dave Waters - Texas  
John Wooley - Oklahoma

**Posthumous Inductees**  
Pee Wee King - Kentucky

**Special Recognition**  
Frederick 'Fred' A. Yearian - Washington



**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.](mailto:NWWSMS@nwswms.com)



## Cherishing the Memories



**Dr. Jean A. Boyd**

Jean Boyd, 74, passed away Monday, May 9, 2022.

Jean was born in Fort Worth and began playing piano at the age of 5. Music quickly became her lifelong passion, and she graduated from Baylor University in 1970 with a Bachelor's degree in

Church Music and again in 1972 with a Master's degree in Music History. She went on to earn a PhD in Musicology from the University of Texas in 1985.

Jean was a beloved Baylor faculty member from 1972 until her retirement in 2020. She was a passionate educator, and nearly every Baylor music major experienced her unique talent for bringing music history to life during those 48 years. She was a devoted teacher and colleague, but her true passion above all was her students. Her office door was always open, and it was her honor to serve as a teacher, mentor, and advisor to her students throughout her tenure at Baylor. She also served as the sponsor of the Phi Xi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon at the Baylor School of Music and was a member of the faculty senate for many years. She was an American Music Scholar and expert on Western Swing music, publishing three books and numerous periodicals on the subject, as well as presenting at countless events and professional meetings. Jean had begun working on her fourth western-swing book, to document and explain the spread of western swing all over the United States, to Canada, Australia, and parts of Europe.

Jean Boyd was inducted into the NWWSSMS in 2018.

A scholarship in Dr. Boyd's memory is being established, and the family welcomes you to contribute in advance. Memorial gifts should be directed to the Baylor Memorial Gifts Fund, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97050, Waco, Tx 76798-7050, or online at <https://baylor.edu/give/inmemory/JBoyd>. Please note that the gift is in her memory.



Kenneth Dee "Ken" Jones played and promoted Western Swing music professionally ever since childhood. Born into a musical family, Ken Jones started learning to play drums when he was only five years

old. His dad taught him the basic guitar chords and, by age eight, he was playing drums and guitar in his dad's band, **The Oklahoma Playboys**. He later took guitar lessons from world-renowned guitarist Eldon Shamblin, who lived in Tulsa and played with Bob Wills for many years. Ken practiced and took lessons as often as possible, becoming better all the time, loving every minute of it, as music was in his blood. He also practiced and became proficient in playing steel guitar and bass.

While growing up, Ken worked in the family-owned Jones Grocery & Hardware Store in Kiowa that Ken still owns today. At 14 years of age, he drove a 1-ton flatbed truck, delivering everything sold in the family store. In 1954, his dad established and operated a large dance hall in Kiowa, known as The Big Red Dance Barn, which became the center for Western Swing music in that area. When Ken's father met an untimely death in a car crash caused by a drunk driver behind the wheel of the other car, Ken inherited and became manager of both businesses. One of the persons he did business with was Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, who worked out of his car back then and would come and park in front of the Jones' store.

Running The Big Red Dance Barn, Ken had his own 8-piece band but, from time to time, booked in some of the most popular Western Swing bands of that era, including Bob Wills, Johnnie Lee Wills, Miller Brothers, Merle Lindsay, Hank Thompson and others. Willie Nelson and his Trio were booked regularly, every third Wednesday. Ken also held regular jam sessions where numerous youngsters would come and sing, including the then-teen-age Reba McEntire.

Over the years, Ken played with many of the most famous Western Swing musicians and bands in the country, such as Johnnie Lee Wills, Hank Thompson, Ray Price, Johnny Gimble, Jody Miller, and Gene Gasaway, just to name a few.

In 2014 Ken was inducted into both the NWWSSMS and the WSMSS Halls of Fame.

Ken was a passionate caretaker of animals and made sure homeless animals in the area received food and care. His final wish was to start an endowment fund for homeless animals



**Kenneth Dee Jones**  
1938 - 2021



**Stan Schroeder**  
1945—2021

Stanley Dean Schroeder was born in Freedom, Oklahoma to Tom and Mabelle Schroeder.

When he was only 5 years old, he had already learned to play a standard guitar. When

Stan was 7 years old, he was struck with polio and was bedfast for several months. During this time his dad bought him a single neck steel guitar, and he learned to play it in a short period of time. By the time he was 8 and recovering from polio, he was impressing a lot of musicians, playing steel guitar.

Merle Lindsey had a TV show in Oklahoma City and he invited Stan several times to come and play on his show. Once Lefty Frizzell was a guest on his show at the same time as Stan. Stan still couldn't walk very well, so Lefty carried him out to the stage and set him on the stool so he could play.

In 1971, a farm machinery accident cut off the ends of his fingers on his right hand. He could no longer hold the picks to play the steel guitar, so he got serious with the saxophone. Wes Potts had come off of Ray Price's band and put together a group in Woodward, Oklahoma and Stan worked with that band for several years.

Stan worked several jobs with Eddie McAlvain beginning in the 60's. When Eddie formed The Maverick Western Swing Band. Stan was one of the first musicians Eddie asked to come aboard. Stan remained a Maverick.

Some of the highlights of Stan's musical successes included opening for George Jones and Ray Price and traveling to Bosnia with Eddie McAlvain's Maverick Western Swing Band, where they entertained the American troops. Stan performed at the Senior National Finals Rodeo in Amarillo, Texas, and played every year at Bob Wills Day in Turkey, Texas, with Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys.

Stan was inducted into the Country Music Western Swing Hall of Fame multiple times. His Hall of Fame plaque is displayed alongside other well-known musicians such as Merle Haggard, Bob Wills, Hank Thompson, and Mel Tillis.

Stan was blessed to fulfill his dreams of leading a life of adventure that all began growing up on his grandfather's homestead beside the salt flats of the Cimarron River.

In 1996, Stan Schroeder was inducted into the Sacramento, California Western Swing Hall of fame and in 1999 into the Seattle Pioneers of Western Swing Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the WSMSS Hall of Fame in 2015.



(Continued from Page 1, WS Festival hosts music camp . . .)

Once again this year, in honor of the late Mayme “Lou” Bischoff, a dedicated member of the Northwest Western Swing Music Society, first responders (active duty police, firefighters, and EMS) are being provided free admission to the festival, plus one complimentary meal and beverage every day.

“In her immediate family were several first responders and veterans,” Yearian said. “She took every opportunity to express her admiration and gratefulness for their contributions to our communities and country. Her expressions carried over into western swing functions, honoring their service during showcases and festivals.”



Lou Bischoff



Suze Spencer Workshop

But to get chord fingers stretched and dance feet loose, Suze (pronounced Suzie) Spencer will be leading the Western Swing Camp from Aug. 10 to the 13 in order to teach folks how to jam, play with a western swing band, and move along to the music.

“Music is a wonderful thing,” Spencer said. “It gives you something positive to do. It’s very good for the brain and the neuron connectors. And it’s the same thing with dancing — we all have busy lives, and sometimes stressful lives, and there’s just nothing so stimulating in a relaxing way [than]

playing music and dancing.”

Spencer hails from a family prominent in the Western Swing scene, with her grandfather having performed with several prominent leaders of the Western Swing movement in the 1930s. She also grew up watching Karl Farr, the original guitarist with the Sons of the Pioneers.

In the late '80s, she managed a music store and for 15 years, taught immersive Western Swing music lessons; Spencer continues to teach individual and group music lessons around southern Washington at festivals, universities, and camps.

This particular camp won't be for people completely unfamiliar with an instrument — you should already know the basics, she said. “We’ll work with the people who are a little less accomplished because the whole idea is to get them more accomplished, but it isn’t [time to] borrow a guitar and take a class [you’ve] never done before,” Spencer continued. “They might have a hard time.”

Nearly any instrument can be incorporated into a Western Swing Band, so feel free to bring your accordion or harmonica. And if you can't play any instrument, you're certainly welcome to come sing.

“It’s fun to make music with your friends,” Spencer said. “Making music with your friends is emotionally, socially, and intellectually stimulating... [and] it’s much more fun to play music with others, because you have to learn to speak the language, and you’re speaking the musical language with other people.”



Suze Spencer



Joey McKenzie



Sherry McKenzie

**Suze Spencer, Camp Coordinator, rhythm guitar, mandolin, ukulele, chord theory, vocals**

**Toby Hanson, Assistant Coordinator, accordion, keyboard**

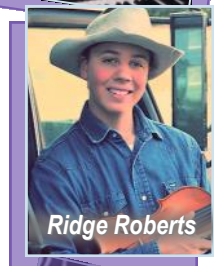
**and featuring:**

- ★ **Joey McKenzie - rhythm guitar/fiddle**
- ★ **Sheri McKenzie - fiddle/ rhythm guitar**
- ★ **Ridge Roberts - fiddle/ guitar**
- ★ **Matthew Mefford - bass**

*Meal options and lodging/camping are within minutes of the venue.*



Toby Hanson



Ridge Roberts



Matthew Mefford

## Introducing the Instructors for the NWWSMS 2022 Western Swing Music Camp & Festival

**At the historic Field House in Enumclaw, WA, August 10-13**

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

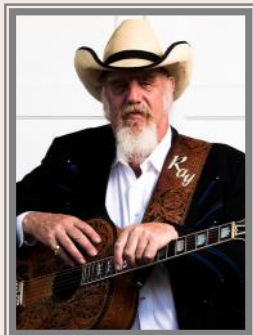
She hopes that younger musicians will come to learn the Western Swing style and play along with some of the old timers. “It doesn’t matter what your age is — when you’re playing music together, it makes no difference at all,” she said. “There’s not a lot of things multiple generations can participate in together on an equal level.”

**The camp starts off at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at the Expo Center Field House with attendee check-in, teacher introductions, and class descriptions. . . Sign up before July 15 to receive a discount on the cost of the workshop/festival bundle.**

# 2022 NWWSMS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES & SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



Lowell "Red"  
Arwood  
Tennessee



Ray Benson  
Texas



Steve Carter  
Washington



Jim Halsey  
Kansas



Mike Hylton  
Kansas



Pee Wee King  
Kentucky



Joey McKenzie  
Texas



Sherry McKenzie  
Texas



Shelley McNaughton  
Washington



Lenny Serdahl  
California

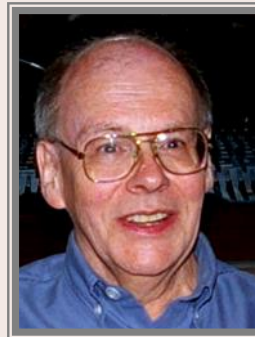
Special Recognition



Dave Waters  
Texas



John Wooley  
Oklahoma



Fredrick 'Fred' A.  
Yearian  
Washington





### Thursday, August 11th

- 4:15 - 5:00 PM **Polka Party** on the Porch—meet our music camp attendees!
- 5:00 - 6:45 PM **Meet & Greet** for our out of town guests. Covered dish - bring something for the table!
- 7:00 - 11:00 PM **FREE Community Dance** - Open to all ages. Enjoy the music of our guest musicians

### Friday, August 12th

- 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Ballroom opens
- 12:45 - 1:00 PM *Welcome, Jeanne Yearian*  
Opening Song  
*Presentation of the Colors, Awards*
- 1:15 - 2:15 PM **NWWSMS - String Bands to Swing Bands**  
*A Musical History of Western Swing*
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM **Sharyn Lee & The Sundowners**
- 3:45 - 4:45 PM **Kristi Nebel & Cowgirl's Dream**
- 5:00 - 6:00 PM **Butch Gibson & Pardners**
- 6:15 - 7:15 PM **Morey Sullivan & Friends**
- 7:30 - 8:30 PM **JC McCormick & the Cherokee Band**
- 8:45 - 9:45 PM **Soul Posse**
- 10:00 - 11:00 PM **The AdVentures** *Tribute to Western Swing*

### Saturday, August 13th

- 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM *Welcome, Butch Gibson, MC*  
Opening Song  
*Retirement of the Colors*
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM **HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY**  
*Presenters: Morey & Dorrie Sullivan*
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM **Western Swing Students**
- 2:45 - 3:45 PM **Grace Clark & Friends**
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM **THE INDUCTEE BAND**
- 5:15 - 6:15 PM **Morey Sullivan & Friends**
- 6:30 - 7:30 PM **The Western Flyers**
- 7:45 - 8:45 PM **The Old Stokers**
- 9:00 - 10:00 PM **Tony Arana & Friends**
- 10:15 - 11:00 PM **The Super Sidemen**  
*The Sounds Behind the Stars*
- 11:00 PM **Festival Closing Remarks**



## THE NWWSMS 2022 WESTERN SWING MUSIC FESTIVAL

AT THE FIELD HOUSE,  
ENUMCLAW, WA, AUGUST 11-13

**\*TICKETS AT THE DOOR:**  
**FRI & SAT, \$10.00/DAY**  
**CHILDREN 10 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER: FREE**



**WITH FOOD SERVICE PROVIDED BY  
NEW YORK CATERING**  
**LUNCH 11:00 - 2:00**  
**DINNER 4:00 - 7:30**  
**BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY THE  
ENUMCLAW EXPO CENTER**

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





**Driving Directions to the  
NWSMS Festival Venue**

***THE HISTORIC FIELD HOUSE***

*a.k.a. Pete's Pool*

**1456 ROOSEVELT AVE. E, ENUMCLAW, WA**

**From SEATAC/Seattle:** Head towards Renton on Hwy 405. Take the Maple Valley Exit. Follow the directions below.

**From Hwy 405 heading South:** Take Exit #4. Go through first traffic light, moving left. At the second light, Maple Valley Hwy, turn left, going under Hwy 405. Continue on Maple Valley Hwy/ 169 for approximately 20 miles. In Enumclaw, follow the signs for the Expo Center. Turn left onto Hwy 410, heading East. Pass through the traffic light at 284th Ave. SE, continuing on Hwy 410 another 300 feet. Turn right into the Field House parking!

**From Auburn:** Take Auburn Way Southeast (Hwy 164), past the casinos, into Enumclaw.

**For Those Coming North on I5:** Take the exit to Puyallup/Hwy 512. Stay in the right lane and exit onto

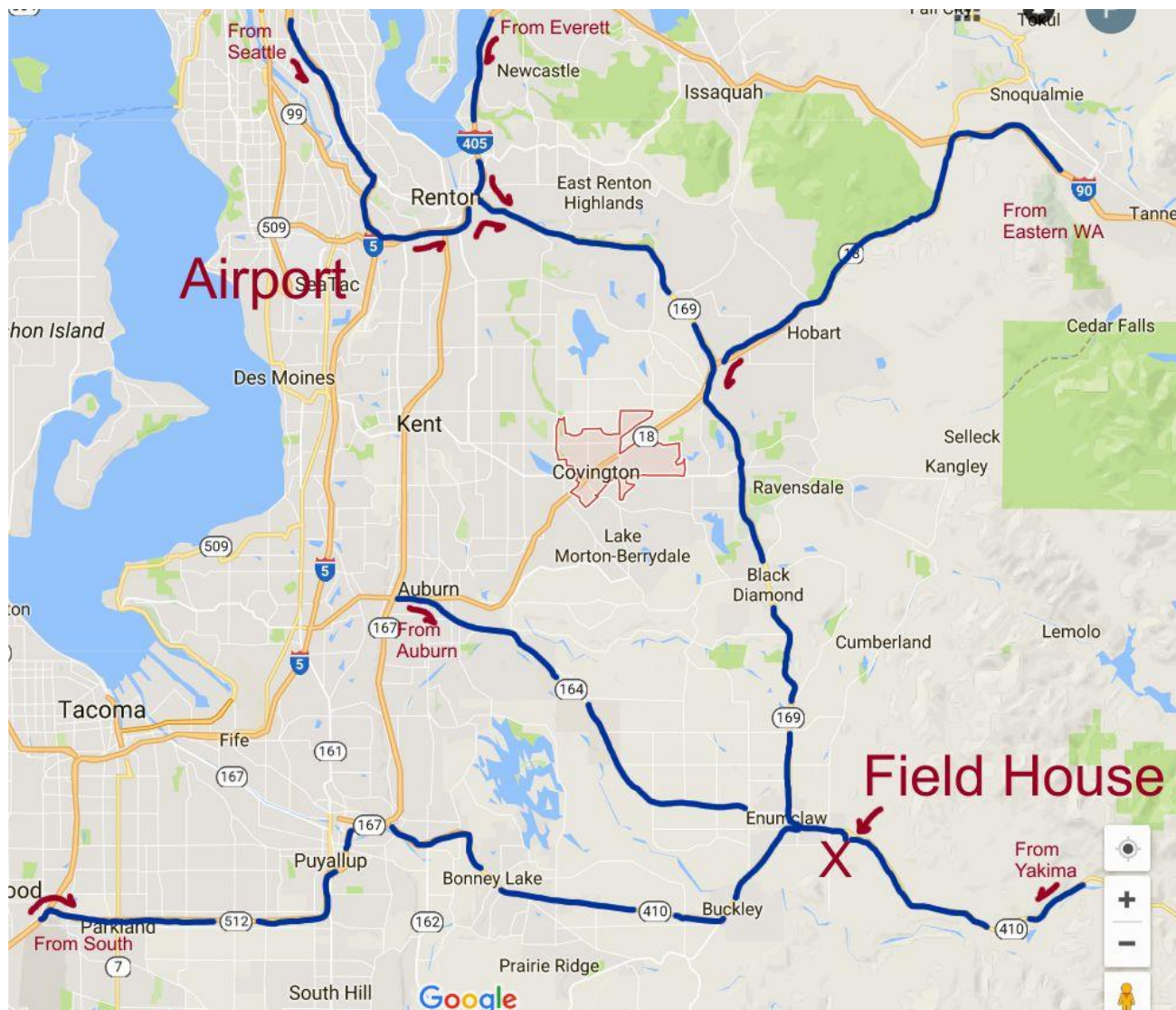
Hwy 167. Staying in the right lane, take the next exit to Hwy 410. Follow Hwy 410 to Enumclaw, turning right into the Field House parking lot after the light at 284th.

**From Eastern WA on Hwy 90:** Heading West, go on Hwy 18 to the South. Exit to 231st; make a left turn onto 231st. Make a right turn at the second traffic light onto Hwy 169. Stay in the left lane and follow Hwy 169 to Enumclaw. Turn left onto Hwy 410, heading East. Pass through the traffic light at 284th Ave. SE, continuing on Hwy 410 another 300 feet. Turn right into the Field House parking lot!

**From Yakima:** Take Hwy 410, watching for the Field House on the left. The entrance will be before the Rodeway Inn, also on the left.

**ROAD WORK ALERT:** For road construction updates, check the Washington DOT website: [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov) OR dial 511.

**ATTENTION RV'ers:** Turn South on 284th off of Hwy 410. Enter the parking lot behind the Field House, next to the play field. Dry camping is free of charge this year! The RV park is full.







Pictured above: Ramona Reed, photographed at her home in Clayton, OK, in 2020, holds a photo of herself with Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. She was once a member of Wills' band and doubled as Martha White on the Grand Ole Opry.

Tom Gilbert, Tulsa World

Reprinted from Tulsa World

## Texas Playgirl,' Opry performer and Oklahoma Music Hall of Famer Ramona Reed dies

By [Jimmie Tramel](#)

• Jun 25, 2022 Updated Jun 25, 2022

Ramona Reed's singing voice took her to the Grand Ole Opry as a teen and won her a gig as a "playgirl" with a legendary Western swing band, Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. She died Saturday, her family confirmed. She was 91.

In addition to touring and recording with Wills (including the duet "Little Girl, Little Girl"), Reed made appearances on the Opry as Martha White on behalf of a flour company.

Selected for the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 2009, Reed was born in Talihina, Oklahoma. She grew up on a farm and, as a child, sometimes sang to farm animals. "I used to climb aboard our smokehouse and sing so all the neighbors could hear me," Reed wrote in a manuscript she kept in case she wrote a book about her life. "I would pretend that I was on some radio station or singing in a movie. I was quite confident that someday I would be singing on the radio or in a Western movie."

During her early years, Reed auditioned at Tulsa radio stations to try to get her career jump-started. She visited Cain's Ballroom to watch Johnnie Lee Wills do a radio show. "Little did I dream that I would be singing on that stage some day with Bob Wills," Reed said in her manuscript.

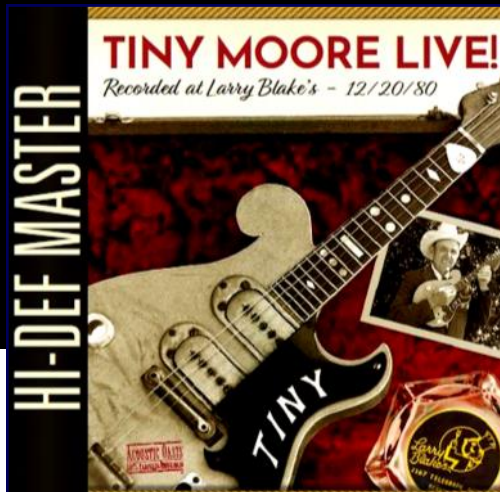
(Continued on Page 14 . . .)

## Photo Highlights from the May & June Showcases

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 August Festival!  
Save a smile for the camera!



# Album Reviews

Album:

Tiny Moore Live!  
Recorded at Larry Blakes, 12/20/1980

By Dick Heil

Artists:

Tiny Moore – Electric Mandolin, Fiddle  
Dick Whittington – Piano  
Robb Fisher – Bass  
Vince Lateano – Drums



Dick Heil

Very seldom can I say this about any collection of songs, "These are all musical Cadillacs in this set and should satisfy all Wester Swing and Swing Jazz fans alike." The only bad news is the fact that it's only on download and not on CD or tape. So here is the download:

<https://acousticdisc.com/product/tiny-moore-live-download>

Good news!! Dix Bruce cleaned out his closet! Better news!!! He found tapes of a 29-song jam session with Tiny Moore (fiddle and electric mandolin), Dick Whittington on piano, Bobb Fisher on bass and Vince Laserno on drums! This is genuine 'ear-candy' for folks who like western swing and jazz combined. *My Blue Heaven* starts and *Exactly Like You* closes the show with tunes like *Perdido*, *A Train*, *Over the Rainbow*, *Honeysuckle Rose*, and *It Had to Be You*, in between. Tiny sings the only vocal, *Take Me Back to Tulsa*. Amazingly there was no rehearsal. Tiny called the tunes and keys, counted off the tempo and the fun began. Every tune was the best and that's amazing in itself. Besides the music for the 'Jumpers and Swingers' we have *Over The Rainbow* and *Georgia On My Mind* for the 'relaxers.

If these don't make you tap your foot you better sell your instrument and take up knitting!

SET 1

- 01 – My Blue Heaven
- 02 – I Surrender Dear
- 03 – Indiana
- 04 – Georgia on My Mind
- 05 – Exactly Like You
- 06 – Birth of the Blues
- 07 – Out of Nowhere
- 08 – C-Jam Blues

SET 2

- 09 – Don't Get Around Much Anymore
- 10 – Perdido
- 11 – Misty
- 12 – Caravan
- 13 – Stardust
- 14 – Take the 'A' Train
- 15 – Mood Indigo
- 16 – When You're Smiling

SET 3

- 17 – How High the Moon
- 18 – Over the Rainbow
- 19 – Take Me Back to Tulsa
- 20 – Satin Doll
- 21 – Sweet Georgia Brown
- 22 – St. Louis Blues
- 23 – Honeysuckle Rose
- 24 – I Can't Get Started
- 25 – S'Wonderful
- 26 – It Had to Be You
- 27 – Closing Intros
- 28 – Exactly Like You

## 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.

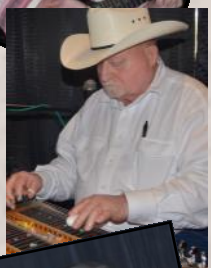


Visit us on the web at: [www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



**Butch  
Gibson  
& Partners**  
NWWSMS  
Showcase  
Band for May  
2022



*Pictured from the top:*  
Butch Gibson  
Judy Hayes  
Larry Broad  
Mike Schweedler  
Jim Hollinger

**Festival Sponsorship Update for  
April/May/June:**

Western Swing Society of Sacramento  
Lady Luck Steakhouse  
Tony Bachler  
Greg & Julie Hansen  
Butch Gibson  
JC McCormick  
Steve Carter & Shelley McNaughton  
Fred and Jeanne Yearian  
Economy Data Processing  
New York Catering  
Enumclaw Expo Center  
Rodeway Inn, Enumclaw  
Econo Lodge Buckley

*Thank you for your support!*

Watch for updates with the latest information on this year's festival and western swing music camp on our website at: [www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com) and on Facebook please 'like' the: Northwest Western Swing Music Society

**Highlights from the May & June Showcases**

Our first two showcases since the lock down brought new musicians and old friends together, giving us some sense of community again. The showcase on Sunday, July 10, from 4 PM to 8 PM, featuring JC McCormick and Cherokee, will close our season. Your support and contributions have meant a great deal. We could not include the photos of everyone who participated in the last two showcases . . . but our thanks to The Travelin' Four and Cherokee for helping with the jam sessions.

Our list of Friends continues to grow. And we certainly appreciated every one who stepped up on the bandstand with us! We don't have the words to express our gratitude to Lorraine and the staff at Lady Luck Steakhouse for their hospitality and generosity.

Now it is time to come together and celebrate, renewing our commitment and musical ties to our western swing friends across the nation. Please make plans to stop by the Northwest Heritage Stage, sponsored by the NWWSMS, during the King County Fair! In addition to lively entertainment, we will be selling discount admission to the August festival as well as the 2022 Summer Music Camp!

Join us for our annual western swing 'family' reunion at the Field House in Enumclaw, August 11-13! Watch for future Showcase locations to be posted.



**Wally  
Giffin  
& Black River  
Falls**  
NWWSMS  
Showcase  
Band for June  
2022



*Pictured from the top:*  
Wally Giffin  
Charlie Gould  
Butch Gibson  
Peter Ross



# Bring the whole family out to the King County Fair!

The NWWSMS hosts the Northwest Heritage Stage once again . . .

. . . and take a look at the talent we have with us this year







## Welcome to the Northwest Heritage Stage

hosted by the NorthWest Western Swing Music Society  
at the King County Fair, Enumclaw, WA, July 14-17, 2022

Located on the east side of the Fairgrounds, across from the Covered Arena

### Thursday, July 14, 2022

10:00 - 10:15 AM Stage opens with **Kiamichi Isham** playing Native American Flute, followed by a **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

10:30 - 12:15 AM **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

12:30 - 1:30 PM **Cowboy Poetry Workshop Part 1: Getting Started**, hosted by Lynn Kopelke

1:45 - 2:45 PM **String Bands to Swing Bands: A Musical History of Western Swing Music**

3:00 - 3:30 PM **Cowboy Poetry**

3:45 - 4:45 PM **The Unstrung Geezers**

5:00 - 6:00 PM **Toby Hanson & The Smilin' Scandinavians**

6:00 - 6:30 PM **Kiamichi Isham - Native American Flute**  
Stage closes for the evening

### Friday, July 15, 2022

10:00 - 10:15 AM Stage opens with **Kiamichi Isham** playing Native American Flute, followed by a **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

10:30 - 12:15 AM **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

12:30 - 1:30 PM **Cowboy Poetry Workshop Part 2: Presentation**, hosted by Lynn Kopelke

2:00 - 3:00 PM **String Bands to Swing Bands: A Musical History of Western Swing Music**

3:30 - 4:30 PM **Sharyn Lee & the Sundowners**

4:30 - 5:00 PM **Cowboy Poetry**

5:00 - 6:00 PM **Toby Hanson & The Smilin' Scandinavians**

6:00 - 6:30 PM **Kiamichi Isham - Native American Flute**  
Stage closes for the evening.

### Saturday, July 16, 2022

10:00 - 10:15 AM Stage opens with **Kiamichi Isham** playing Native American Flute, followed by a **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

10:30 - 12:15 AM **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

12:30 - 1:45 PM **The Legacy of The Cowboy Campfire, the music, the poetry, the tall tales**, hosted by Lynn Kopelke, Steve & Kristi Nebel & the Rockin' HW

2:15 - 3:15 PM **The Cherokee Band with Doug McCoy**

3:45 - 4:45 PM **Soul Posse, Country Rock**

5:15 - 6:15 PM **The AdVentures (Ventures Tribute Band)**

6:30 - 7:00 PM **Kiamichi Isham - Native American Flute**  
Stage closes for the evening

### Sunday, July 17, 2022

10:00 - 10:15 AM Stage opens with **Kiamichi Isham** playing Native American Flute, followed by a **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

10:30 - 12:15 AM **Musicians' Jam**, everyone welcome!  
*Hosted by Butch Gibson & Partners with Mike Schweedler*

12:30 - 1:30 PM **Cowboy Church with selected music and cowboy poetry**

2:00 - 3:00 PM **Auntie Amelia and the Puniwai Trio Music & Dance from the Hawaiian Islands**

3:30 - 4:30 PM **The Old Stokers Country Music Band**

4:45 - 5:45 PM **Toby Hanson & The Smilin' Scandinavians**

5:45 - 6:00 PM **Kiamichi Isham - Native American Flute**  
~Happy Trails~







For details and additional information on all things related to the King County Fair, begin on our page on their website at:

<https://www.enumclawexpo.com/p/king-county-fair/northwest-swing-stage>



The Best Western and Texas Swing, This Side Of The Pecos River... it's the Western Swing Time Radio Show With Tex Hill!

Tune into the podcast any day, any time, at

[https://](https://whentcowboysings.com/)

[whentcowboysings.com/western-swing-time](https://whentcowboysings.com/western-swing-time)



**Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest**

A Texas based 501(c)(3) nonprofit

**2022 Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony!**

**DANCE AND JAM**



**July 14th, 15th and 16th**

*Sponsored by The Lawton Fort Sill Convention and Visitors Bureau*

Cake Walks; Door Prizes; 50/50 Drawings

THU: MEMBERS FREE - \$5.00 NON-MEMBER

FRI & SAT: \$5.00 MEMBER—\$10.00 NON-MEMBER

**The Great Plains Coliseum (Comanche County Fairgrounds)**

920 S.W. Sheridan Rd.

Lawton, Oklahoma 73505

**(No outside alcohol allowed)**

**\*\*\* Mention Western Swing Music Society for Special Rates \*\*\***

1. SureStay Plus by Best Western - 1125 E Gore Boulevard - 580-713-0255

Single or Double - \$65 per night plus tax (2 guests) **Full hot breakfast included**

2. Baymont by Wyndham - 1203 NW 40th St - 580-353-5581

King \$89, Double \$95 plus tax **continental breakfast**

3. Fairfield Inn & Suites - 201 SE 7th St - 580-248-5000

King \$99, Double \$114 plus tax **complimentary buffet breakfast**

4. Plenty of onsite RV sites available - no need for reservations!

(30 & 50 amp, some full hookups & dump station - \$20.00 per day)

Thursday, July 14th, 10:30 am to 11:00 pm: All Day Jam Bands

Friday, July 15th, 10:30 am to 11:00 pm: Scheduled Bands and Jam Sessions

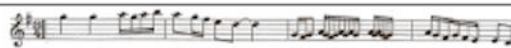
Saturday, July 16th 10:30 am to 11:00 pm: Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Scheduled Bands and Jam Sessions

For Information Contact: Jerry or Sandy Harper (580) 425-1999 / (580) 425-1993



*Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest*



**2022 Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**

**Lawton, Oklahoma**

**July 14, 15, 16**

*Congratulations 2022 Inductees!*

<i>Mark Abbott</i>	<i>(posthumous)</i>
<i>Doug Boggs</i>	<i>Spring, TX</i>
<i>Jim Garling</i>	<i>Guthrie, OK</i>
<i>Matlock Rice</i>	<i>Sealy, TX</i>
<i>Bob Tuttle</i>	<i>Springfield, MO</i>
<i>Baxter Vaughan</i>	<i>Lubbock, TX</i>
<i>David Waters</i>	<i>Victoria, TX</i>

*A few years ago, we put together a short video to advertise the 2019 festival. The video clips and slides are a collection from the 2018 festival. If you haven't seen it yet, just click on the dancers below!*



**10th Anniversary celebration**

**September 9-10, 2022**

**Doors open at 11:30AM, music/dance starts at noon both days, till 11:30 pm**

**Cowboy Church on Sept 10th at 10-11 AM**

**Vendors, food, full cash bar**

**Tickets and sponsorships on sale**

**Call 325-763-9923 or go by Holland's Jewelry in San Angelo to purchase**

(Continued from Page 9 . . .)



Above: A photo of Ramona Reed performing with Bob Wills.

Reed tried out for Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys in 1950. “Bob Wills was sitting out in front, and he was smoking that cigar,” Reed told the Tulsa World in a 2020 interview. “I could not tell if he liked what I was doing or not. Finally, I had sung just about everything I thought I knew. So I kicked off my shoes and I sang the rest barefoot. He kind of liked that.” More importantly, Wills liked what he heard. “You not only sound like I always wanted a girl singer to sing,” Wills told Reed following the audition. “You even look like I wanted a girl singer to look.” And that’s how a barefoot country girl from southeastern Oklahoma became a Texas Playgirl.

When Reed was selected for the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, fellow inductees included Rocky Frisco and Carrie Underwood. Underwood told Reed’s children she learned to yodel by listening to Reed, according to Reed’s daughter Karen Smallwood. Said Smallwood: “She was in awe of meeting mother. It was really pretty cool.” Reed’s parents told her she was singing and yodeling by the time she was walking. At age 15, she was performing weekly at a radio station in McAlester. In the summer of 1948, when Reed was 17, she felt compelled to go to Nashville. Her mother drove her there. Reed popped into radio station WSM for an audition and was invited to be on the station’s “Noontime Neighbor Show” that day. By the following Saturday, she was sharing a Grand Ole Opry stage with Roy Acuff, who introduced her as “not as big as a minute and cute as a bug’s ear.” WSM program director Jack Stapp urged Reed to return to school (Colorado Women’s College) and come back to Nashville the next year. She took his advice.

When Reed returned, Grand Ole Opry sponsor the Martha White flour brand needed someone to embody the character Martha White. The flour company had a Martha, recalled Reed, but she wasn’t ideal for the part, so Reed was invited to be the new Martha. She declined, saying she wanted to make a name for herself instead of using Martha’s name.

When Reed returned to Oklahoma, however, she had a change of heart. She wrote a letter saying she would like to be Martha after all. Reed didn’t get a response right away, giving her reason to be concerned, but when the response arrived, it was, “Can you be here Saturday for the Opry?” Reed was hired to make appearances and perform as “Martha” on the Opry every Friday and Saturday night, in addition to making daily

morning appearances on WSM. She shared a dressing room with Minnie Pearl at the Opry. “There weren’t any other girls on the Opry at that time,” Reed told the Voices of Oklahoma oral history project. “I mean, there had been some, and there were some later, but there weren’t any then.” Reed felt fortunate to be around Opry performers she admired, but two years as Martha was enough. She returned home, not knowing what her next step should be.

“Mr. Taylor, our dear old neighbor who lived across the road from us, told Daddy that he was worried about me sitting outside looking sad for long periods of time,” Reed wrote in her manuscript. “I guess I was thinking. I knew that somewhere out there had to be something for me. Even Nashville hadn’t been exactly what I was searching for.”

She found what she was looking for when the Bob Wills Ranch House opened in Dallas. A parade was scheduled in conjunction with the launch. Reed and a girlfriend hopped into her convertible so they could join the parade and get a foot in the door. Her car stalled, which proved to be a lucky break. Reed finished the parade by riding on a stagecoach with the Texas Playboys.

At the Ranch House, she saw the stage and knew she had to get on it. “And I was before long,” she said.

The barefoot audition led to two years of touring and performing with the Texas Playboys before she left the road for domestic life. She returned to Oklahoma to see her brother off to the Korean War and, while there, found a husband. Driving through Clayton, Oklahoma, she did a double take when she spotted a handsome soldier in front of a cafe; “When I came back through, someone was flagging me down and said, ‘There’s a soldier that wants to meet you.’”

She and Lt. Jim Blair, a decorated returning Korean War officer, were married less than two months later — Sept. 28, 1952. Wills approved, telling her she “found a real man this time.”

Reed became a mother to four children who shared her love of music and occasionally reunited with Wills over the years. In her 2020 interview with the Tulsa World, Reed said she cherished making people happy with her singing and yodeling.

Ramona June Reed Blair was born Nov. 16, 1930 to Ben and Marie Reed.

[www.westernswingsociety.net](http://www.westernswingsociety.net)

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**Western Swing Society**