



**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

## Included In This Issue

- 1 For Sale: The Longhorn Ballroom
- 2 NWWSMS 2020 Event Cancelled: New Dates Announced for 2021
- 4 ★ Cherishing the Memories: Jim Sanderson  
★ Western Swing Forum
- 9 ★ Radiobob805: Hot Western Swing  
★ Historic Accordion Finds a New Home by  
Toby Hanson
- 11 ★ San Angelo Cowboy Tribute to Ernest  
Tubb  
★ Academy of Western Artists Awards  
Banquet Rescheduled
- 12 ★ Bob Wills Day, Turkey, TX Rescheduled,  
New Dates Here  
★ Update on the November 2020 Bob  
Wills Fiddle Festival & Contest in  
Greenville, TX

## In Every Issue

- 2 ★ NWWSMS Mission Statement/Contact  
Information  
★ Current Officers & Board Members  
★ Meeting Minutes of the Board
- 3 ★ Upcoming Showcase Information  
★ President's Corner  
★ Renew, join or donate - Here's how!  
★ Around the Northwest-bring local, live  
music to your event
- 7 Event Photo Highlights
- 8 ★ Swingin' West's Top Tens & Review by  
Mike Gross  
★ NWWSMS Membership Application
- 11 Top 10 from DJ Skeebo Norris, Texas

**Vol. 37, Issue 6 & 7 NorthWest Western Swing Music Society June/July 2020**

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

*(reprinted from the Dallas Morning News, June 2, 2020)*

## **The Longhorn Ballroom, Dallas' ultimate Country-Western dive, is for sale**

***Legendary cow palace south of downtown is up for grabs.***



*(Above: The 70-year-old entertainment venue on Riverfront Boulevard is being sold out of bankruptcy. (DMN files)*

*By Steve Brown, 10:05 AM on Jun 2, 2020*

Here's your chance to buy the ultimate Dallas honky-tonk. The historic Longhorn Ballroom — a storied music venue south of downtown that's hosted generations of performers — just hit the market.

The 70-year-old performance hall on the banks of the Trinity River is being sold out of bankruptcy after the previous owners defaulted on loans on the property.

"It's a Chapter 7 liquidation sale," said Dallas real estate broker Candace Rubin, who was just hired by the federal bankruptcy court to peddle the property.

"It's a little over 5.5 acres with entertainment zoning," Rubin said. "I think it's a killer piece of property."

Built in 1950, the music hall at Corinth Street and Riverfront Boulevard has hosted performers ranging from the legendary Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys country swing band to the punk rock group the Sex Pistols.

*(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.

**2020 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)

**Vice-Pres:** Sharon Capps  
16625 41st Dr. NE "A", Arlington, WA 98223  
Phone: 425-218-6515  
Email: [ress8shk@comcast.net](mailto:ress8shk@comcast.net)

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

**Board Members:** Tony Bachler, Dave Enslow, Butch Gibson, Toby Hanson, Judy Hayes (alternate), Ramon Selby, Sharon Smith (alternate)

**Annual Membership:**

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

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

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

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

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

Showcase/Festival photos by Jeanne & Fred Yearian.

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD**

**APRIL AND MAY, 2020**

In observance of the State-wide quarantine, the NWWSMS Board did not meet during the months of April and May, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Yearian, Secretary



**1983-2020 Celebrating 36 Years!**

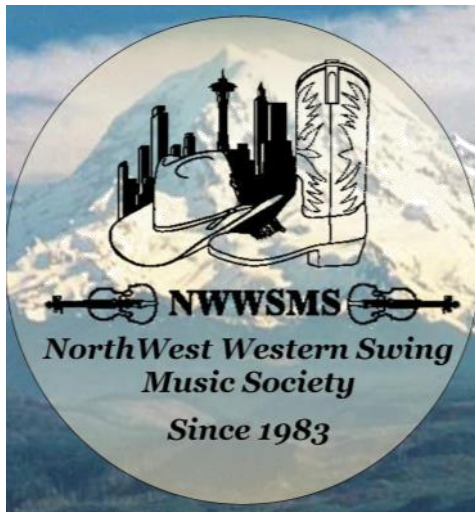
The North West Western Swing Music Society  
30th Annual Western Swing Music Festival  
Hall of Fame Induction Celebration

**DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS, THE NWWSMS AUGUST 2020 EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED. SAME LOCATION, NEW DATES: AUGUST 12-15, 2021**  
**WATCH FOR INFORMATION ON THE AUGUST 2021 NW WESTERN SWING MUSIC CAMP, WESTERN SWING MUSIC FESTIVAL AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CELEBRATION.**  
... (aka: Pete's Pool) ... Event Center!

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







## President's Corner



Jeanne Yearian

Has anyone besides me regretted buying a 2020 planner?

Even as our country begins to open up, there are signs in various places warning those over 65 and under 10 to continue to stay home.

This may not be encouraging; however, every day brings us closer to additional physical protection against the virus, whether in the form of a vaccine or treatment methods.

I have hear from some of our members that they would like us to consider a late summer picnic, with music and a covered dish buffet, in a park, where social distancing would not be a problem. Sounds like an expanded version of Lou and Ed Bischoff's July picnic - and sounds like fun. Please let me or one of the other members of the Board know if you are interested . . . and be sure to suggest a possible location and date! I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Some of you might know I take an occasional music lesson from Gary Williams (HOF 2016) via Skype. Gary and Hollie Williams are part of the WSMSS house band.

We've just begun working on a tune that is new to me. 'Estrellita' (little star) was written by Mexican composer Manuel Ponce around 1912 and made famous in 1939 by violinist Jascha Heifetz in the film *They Shall Have Music* (where he found it is a wonderful story). From there I've lost the historical thread . . . how it found it's way into western swing and jazz . . . perhaps by way of Chet Atkins or Johnny Gimble and Bobby Hicks? If you have 'the rest of the story' I hope you will share! Here are two of my favorite versions. 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.

**3rd Sunday Western Swing Jam,** Enumclaw Music, 1515 Cole St, from 2 to 5! Due to State mandate, cancelled until further notice. Jeanne Yearian & Toby Hanson hosting. Call 425-432-7888 for additional information.

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

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

**The Barn Door Slammers.** For information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: [www.barndoorslammers.com](http://www.barndoorslammers.com).

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

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

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

**We'll be back once the dust settles, but, until then here are a few musical ideas guaranteed to help relieve stress:**

- 1. Check out the live streams on the internet! Many of your favorite musicians are stepping up to provide free concerts and lessons.**
- 2. Living room dancing! Or, if you prefer, try Driveway Dancing for Date Night. Check out Doug and Betty Carter (HOF 2016) on Facebook for ideas!**

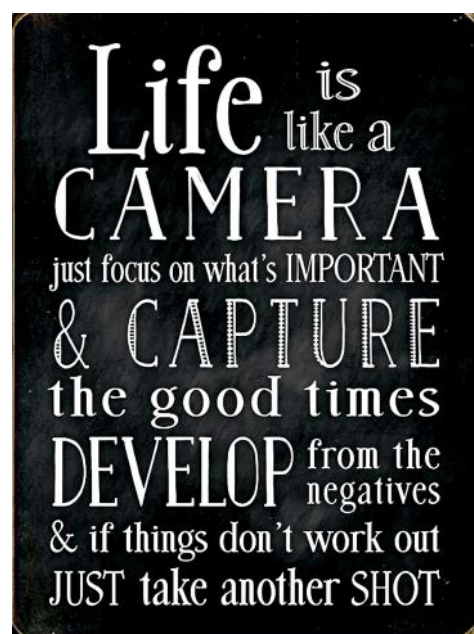
**Until we understand the new 'normal' stay safe and let's take care of each other.**



Estrellita, performed by Johnny Gimble (above)



Estrellita, Bobby Hicks and Texas Shorty (above)



**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: [NWSMS, PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082.](mailto:NWSMS@nwswsmusic.com)





## Cherishing the Memories



**Jim Sanderson**  
May 2020

Jim Sanderson (1997 HOF) passed away last week at the age of 90. No memorial services are planned. Our sincere condolences to Jim's family, in particular Jim's nephew, Randy, friends and fans.

Jim was a staunch supporter of the NWWSMS and attended every event he could. Jim was born in 1929 in Mabin, West Virginia. He started playing music at the age of six. By the age of 17 Jim was playing over the radio in Blueville, West Va., on stations WWYO and WHIS.

In 1949 Jim joined the army and was stationed in Fort Lawton, WA. While there he met Marty Dahlgren. They played together in the Vick Marten Band. After spending a year in Korea, Jim ended up at Camp Cook, CA., playing weekends in a band with Big Howdy Forrester at the Club Oasis in Long Poke, CA.

Following his discharge in 1952, Jim returned to Seattle to make it his home. Jim's first playing job in the area was with Bonnie Guitar (pictured below: together one last time in 2013). Over the years Jim played with such greats as Ferlin Huskey, Cal Smith, T Texas Tyler, Hank Thompson, Dusty Rhoades, Truitt Cunningham and Red Gillean; as well as locals Bobby MacAvoy, Dick Heil, Bill Brooker and Don Berkshire. In later years, Jim performed around the area with his Jack Daniels Band.



## Western Swing Forum Keep your letters and e-mails coming!

Hello Western Swing

folk,

My name is Kevin Russell and I have a question for you. I'm wondering if you, or anyone you might know, can identify the people in the photographs that I'm sending over as an attachment. I got the photos from Al Stutzke ("Fiddling' Al, your musical pal").

All of these folks were involved in the western swing music scene in Seattle in the early 50's.



I'm aware this might be a bit of an odd request but I'm hoping someone there may be able to identify these folks from this photo taken about 1952. Long shot, I know but no harm in asking, right?

Thanks very much!

Kevin Russell

*If you recognize anyone in these photos, please send the information to the Newsletter Editor: [jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com). If the name, Kevin Russell, sounds familiar, here is a video clip of Kevin and the Western Swing Caravan with Bobbie Black and Blaine Sprouse, among others:*

**The Western Swing  
Caravan**

Dear NWWSMS Friends,

I miss you all so much! I must say that I am very disappointed that we had to cancel our showcases and our annual festival this year. Unfortunately, our activities do not allow for social distancing and your safety is our biggest concern. I hope to see you all as soon as we possibly can.

I am lucky to be deemed an essential employee. I work for the Granite Falls School District, at Crossroads High School. While the teachers are zooming with students with computers and internet, my job is to help coordinate deliveries of food and schoolwork to students outside the reach of the internet. I'm also the secretary to the principal and the liaison between the teachers and the delivery team. I'm looking forward to our virtual graduation and the end of the year in hopes that September will bring our students back to school.

Finding activities to keep me busy during Covid has been fun. I taught my daughter how to make bread, we started a vegetable garden in our urban back yard, and we're remodeling our bathroom. I've been painting as much as possible, but my paint and sips and window paintings are on hold for now. You can see my work at [hanlandia.com](http://hanlandia.com).

This summer, my husband and I plan to travel to Reno to visit with my father, Tony Arana. He too is disappointed that we are not having our festival. We'll all be driving back to Washington together so he can have his annual two week vacation in Maple Valley. He's hoping to visit as many friends as possible while he is in town. Call him if you'd like to make plans!

I wish you all health and happiness as we get through these unprecedented times, alone but together.

Lori Hanson, your POWS Induction Hostess



Tony Arana with his daughter, Lori Hanson

(Continued on Page 5 . . .)



**Lori Hanson**  
Board Member



## Western Swing Forum Keep your letters and e-mails coming!

Hi, Jeannie!

Old Stokers is laying low for the duration and being socially conscious as to mingling. I have stopped by to see Shelly and Steve a couple times, just to see them. They're doing great. Neil is as well, and his sense of humor is still....well.....consistant. Geno is still in good spirits as he works to get better, and we all are keeping him in our thoughts and prayers.

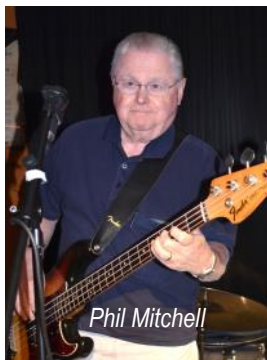
Haven't heard from Randy, so assume he is healthy and still working.

We miss our weekly jam, and certainly miss the monthly music at Lynnwood!

Stay well, everybody!

Cheers,

Phil Mitchell for OLD STOKERS



From Paula Jungmann,  
*Deep in the Heart of Texas*

Through the pandemic we've learned that it interrupts our lives, turns it upside down and makes us wonder if things will ever be the same again. We here in Texas are slowly opening our businesses and watching each step carefully to see what we should do next without increasing the covid19 cases, so far we're able to move to the next level without reclosing.

The music industry has been hurt tremendously, here and elsewhere. Venues are trying to come back, in hopes that they'll be able to stay in business. The artists have been pretty much shut down except for doing you tube and face book performances to get some tip money to help them make it through until they get their show going again. All of the dancers and festival goers saw their favorite



events being cancelled one by one. Likewise, the venues and artists saw their livelihood go away with each show they lost.

The thing I'd like to say is we need to be patient with the businesses while they work through all the regulations that are required of them. Many are having to raise their prices in order to purchase the disinfectants to clean and keep the building to the specifications required of them. Their clientele have been reduced in order to keep the virus from spreading. The owners are still going through a lot and they certainly want to open and get back to business. It's not the same business they've enjoyed just a short time ago. Let's be understanding and help make this work for everyone.

For a business person this has to be the hardest ordeal that they've ever experienced. Be kind, be helpful, be encouraging. be patient, do attend do give a tip if you can. We'll get through this together.

Till Next Time

## WSMSS 2020 Lawton, OK Showcase (Hall of Fame) Cancelled and Swing Beat Newsletter Temporarily Suspended

WSMSS regrets to announce that our 2020 Hall of Fame Showcase in Lawton, OK, has been cancelled. The Comanche County Fairgrounds is currently closed until at least mid-June and possibly later, and at this time, events such as ours are still highly discouraged if not outright banned in many cities and towns across the country. The primary age group of our members and guests are among the most vulnerable for complications and deaths from COVID-19, and obviously it is not practical to socially distance at a dance. In addition, we usually have people travelling from numerous cities and states, which could lead to transporting more COVID-19 cases both into and away from locations where our showcases are held. We plan to honor our 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees at our 2021 induction ceremony. We will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions about our remaining 3 planned showcases as they grow nearer.

WSMSS is also announcing the suspension of our quarterly newsletter, Swing Beat, until after our showcases resume. The reasons for this decision are twofold: 1) there is significantly less information to disseminate, with several of our showcases already being cancelled and the near-term uncertainty of our remaining 2020 showcases; and, 2) the significant cost of publishing and mailing newsletters cannot be justified in the absence of WSMSS showcase-generated income.

WSMSS is, however, proud to announce that we have been able to fully honor our youth music scholarships for 2020. Hopefully, we can get back to normal quickly and any potential budget shortfalls will take care of themselves.

Please continue to monitor our Facebook page for updated information. We also ask that everyone help get the word out about this cancellation, especially to those who do not have PCs or use Facebook.

Best Regards,

John Jones—President

Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19: After careful thought and consideration, we have decided to cancel The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival 2020. With so much of the future unknown at this point, we feel this difficult decision is in the best interest of our fans, our musicians and our family. If you have already purchased your ticket, we will refund hopefully within the week.

We will miss seeing you in June, but know this is not a forever decision and we are already working on exciting plans for 2021! We pray daily for your health and safety and look forward to seeing you down the road soon!

The Miers Family



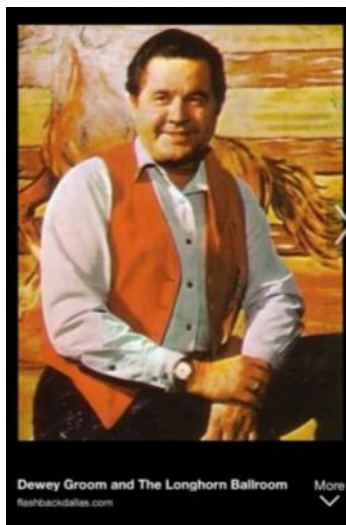
(Continued from Page 1, Longhorn Ballroom . . .)



The city of Dallas agreed to provide a \$500,000 economic development grant to preserve the building. But the owner ran into financial problems last year, and the Longhorn Ballroom was placed in receivership.

The music hall is in a neighborhood that's getting more attention from property investors. It's in the area where high-speed rail developers are planning to construct the Dallas terminal for a proposed bullet train to Houston.

*(Editor's note: But, there is so much more to the story of the 'Longhorn Ballroom,' aka 'The Silver Spur,' aka the 'Bob Wills Ranch House.' Dewey Groom, inducted into the 2019 NWWSSMS Hall of Fame, operated the Longhorn from 1958 to 1986. What follows is only a small part of his amazing career - our thanks to Dewey's daughter, Saran Knight, for sharing and preserving her father's story.)*



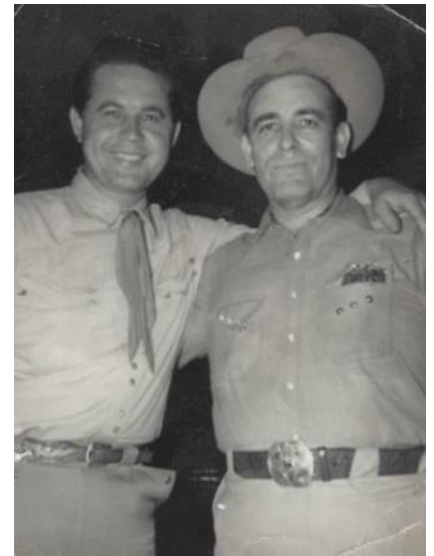
Dewey Groom was born April 30, 1918, in Van Zandt County, Texas. There were seven Groom children and most of the family either sang or preached when they weren't in the cotton fields. It didn't take Dewey long to realize that he didn't want to be a tenant farmer like his family so he learned to play guitar and sing. In 1941 he went into the Army like most men at that time and took his passion for music with him.

When he got out of the service he had developed into enough of an entertainer to land a spot on the radio with Pappy Hal Horton and played local school dances through the 1940's.

In 1950, Groom opened the Bounty Ballroom, a walk-up joint in downtown Dallas, and in the mid 1950's went to work alongside Jack Ruby at the Silver Spur, which later became the Longhorn Ballroom. After a disagreement with Jack Ruby, Dewey left to go open up a place on Main Street with his big band. During this time Jack Ruby had left 216

Corinth and opened up the Carousel Club. In the meantime the Bob Wills Ranch House, then the Silver Spur, had sat vacant for a while. The land owner, O.L. Nelms, asked Dewey in 1958 to come back and open up his own place. So that is how the infamous Longhorn Ballroom came into being.

The Longhorn Ballroom in its heyday seated 2000 people which made it one of the largest dancehalls in the country for that era. Everyone played there from George Strait, Conway Twitty, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson (who was a regular), Loretta Lynn and countless others.



Dewey Groom with Bob Wills

Dewey was revered and respected by the traveling musicians and entertainers because he never cheated anyone and the stars knew he was a man of his word. Most country acts of the day knew that they had made the big time when they could get booked at Dewey Groom's Longhorn Ballroom in Dallas, Texas!

Dewey also established Longhorn Records and recorded many local artists. For years he did segments on the locally produced 'COWBOY WEAVER SHOW.' There are several of his musicians who went on to work with major stars and to win acceptance into many Western Swing Societies. Dewey Groom was inducted into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame in the 1990's.

He operated the Longhorn from 1958-1986 when he retired and sold the business.

Dewey and his family retired to some family land in Henderson County, TX where he lived near all his family until his death on March 31, 1997.

His motto was that, 'he loved people and they loved him back'.



**WESTERN SWING TIME!**

JOIN TEX HILL WEDNESDAYS AT  
NOON CENTRAL KYACFM.ORG



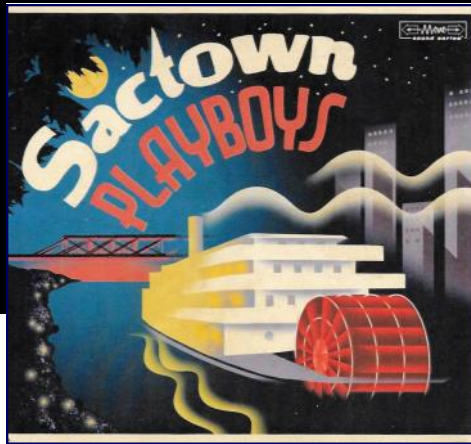
# Past Photo Highlights from NWWSMS Showcases and Festivals

Inspired by Western Swing music . . . made in America!



***“When it's sugarcane time. And around about June.  
I'll be walkin' with my sugar. 'Neath that old sugar moon.”***  
*(Sugar Moon by Cindy Walker)*





Album/Artist:  
Sactown  
Playboys

## Album Reviews

By Mike Gross KSEY - FM  
[www.swinginwest.com](http://www.swinginwest.com) Seymour, TX



Mike Gross

Walk Out, Leon McAuliffe and Eldon Shamblin's instrumental, *Twin Guitar Special*, Wills and Rusty McDonald's *I Didn't Realize* and Bob Wills and Harley Huggins' *I'm Feelin' Bad*. There is also the instrumental *Subterfuge*, and from both Roy Rogers and the Crosby/Andrews Sisters team is borrowed the western standard *Along the Navajo Trail*. There is also from the Hawkshaw Hawkins pen and library *Teardrops From My Eyes*, the pop standard *Dinah* and the album closes and changes moods completely from the Pee Wee King library with *Catty Town*.

The album is available either digitally or as an actual CD on [www.bandcamp.com](http://www.bandcamp.com)

Mike Gross, KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX & KTNK, Lompoc, CA & [www.swinginwest.com](http://www.swinginwest.com)

### Mike's Top 10 for June/July 2020

**Songs:**

1. Little Bit of Texas - Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing
2. Wanderin' Star - Kristyn Harris
3. Wild Texas Rose - Jimmy Burson
4. There's Not a Cow in Texas - Rod Moag
5. Don't You Dare - Curio Cowboys
6. In the Middle of the Song - Western Swing Authority with Carolyn Martin
7. Route 66 - Mike Faast
8. Rainbow Song - Jimmy Burson
9. San Antonio Rose - Jan Schiferi
10. Stardust Ballroom - Nancy Elliott

**Albums:**

1. Little Bit of Texas - Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing
2. Room in Your Heart - Curio Cowboys
3. A Place to Land - Kristyn Harris
4. Lone Star Dust - Jimmy Burson
5. Sactown Playboys - Sactown Playboys
6. Swing Set - Lee Lee Robert (Musikode)
7. Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend - Tommy Thomsen
8. Ridin' Ropin' & Rounders - Rusted Spurs West
9. Big Deal - The Western Swing Authority
10. Shadows of What Used To Be - Emily George

(This album was first reviewed in November, 2018, and is still in Mike's Top Ten!! We're so proud.)

This is a wonderful new CD of 14 tunes by three very talented Sacramento area musicians and two other special guest musicians that are heard on most other tunes on the album. The Sactown Playboys are Geoff Miller- guitar and vocal, Zack Sapunor- upright bass and vocal and Olen Dillingham- electric mandolin and fiddle. The special guests are Derek McDonald- drums and the wonderful steel guitar of Billy Wilson.

The album includes many from the Bob Wills library. It opens with the instrumental, penned by Wills, *You Just Take Her*. There are also so many other recreations from the Bob Wills songbook which include Cindy Walker's *I Hear You Talkin'*, Junior Barnard and Bob's instrumental *Fat Boy Rag*, *Fan it* and another from Cindy's prolific pen, *Blues for Dixie*. Also borrowed from Wills are *Who Walks in When I*

## 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.





Bob Richards  
YouTube: radiobob805

## MERLE HAGGARD, UNRELEASED + HOT WESTERN SWING - STEREO

Here are six early Capitol Recordings. They were not released for various reasons like minor mistakes, someone off mike, or hits a bad note, but this is special stuff, including some great

Dixieland. The unreleased tracks are from the Box Set, The UnTamed Hawk.

Merle in his prime with top musicians and an augmented band. Well recorded and true Stereo, too. It's a quickie, but the music is so great. I want to share it with the group. Check out the great bass sound at 9:22. Bet you'll feel like dancing'.

### Lovesick Blues

### I Ain't Got Nobody

### Right or Wrong

### You Don't Love Me, But I'll Always Care

### Don't Let the Deal Go Down (fiddle instrumental)

### Big Bad Bill is Sweet William Now

'Right or Wrong' is hot, hot, hot. I added 'Big Bad Bill' for the Dixieland and the fun lyrics. Listen to the bass line on 'You Don't Love Me, etc,' Amazing.

Fun Tech Tips: Anyone can upload a mono wave file to Moises.AI and get back up to five tracks for remixing into stereo. Totally free. You can even choose to remix it right there. Great way to remove a vocal from a song so you can sing it yourself. They use the files to train the program via Artificial Intelligence. It keeps getting better. MIT also has a program.

That's what I did with 'Bring It On Down' after Charles de-noised it. Then I punched up that drum. That's the only Bob Wills song that starts that way. Bam!

Don't forget I will be happy to share anything in my library with the NWWSMS. My favorite thing is when I get a comment about how great the music is. One Guy said, "I'm 70 years old. Where has this great music been all my life."

Remember. . . comments appreciated!



## HISTORIC ACCORDION FINDS A NEW HOME

by Toby Hanson

All musicians have heroes that they look up to; performers who help define a genre or codify a style; performers who occupy an important place in music history. Fred Martin was one of those monumental performers, although few today know his name or his place in music history. Despite his relative obscurity today, he was one of the leading players of his era and helped to define the sound of Western music, both as an instrumentalist and a singer. I have come to know much more about Mr. Martin and his career because I own one of his accordions.

Fred Martin was born in Cass County, Texas in 1916. Not much is known about his early musical training, but his professional career eventually brought him to radio station WFAA in Dallas where he was hired as a staff musician in the mid 1930s. While at the station, Martin was called on to fill some unexpected blank airtime, which he did by telling some jokes and playing accordion. Soon staff guitarist Jerry Scoggins, who would go on to later fame as the singer of the theme song for "The Beverly Hillbillies," joined Martin, singing duets together and playing guitar. The act started to get popular and they soon added Burt Dodson, bass player from the Light Crust Doughboys to round out their trio. In



addition to playing bass, Dodson was also a very fine tenor singer. The combination of the three musicians quickly became popular on the Dallas radio station. They were nicknamed the "Cass County Kids" by a station announcer because of Martin's home in Cass County, Texas.

(Continued on Page 10 . . .)



(Continued from Page 9, *Historic Accordion Finds a New Home . . .*)



While their careers were certainly going well as staff musicians at WFAA, fortune eventually found the trio when Gene Autry discovered them during his military service in World War II. The trio,

which Gene renamed "Cass County Boys," became regular guests on Autry's Melody Ranch radio show. After the war, when Autry moved to California permanently, he brought the trio with him as his backup band. By that time, the Cass County Boys were becoming popular in their own right. They appeared with Autry in his western movies and television shows, as well as doing movies with other actors like Tex Ritter and Charles Starrett. They also did recordings of their own for Decca and Columbia records. Eventually the trio would be inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame in 1996.

Fred Martin's accordion of choice in the 1930s was an Excelsior Model 00 (Double Aught) with handmade reeds produced in New York City by the Panicotti Brothers. At the time, piano accordions were still a fairly new instrument, having only been introduced to America in 1909. By the 1930s, Excelsior was making some of the best accordions in the world. Excelsior accordions were the choice of all the great accordionists of that era, including the great Charles Magnante, who was a staff musician at NBC radio in New York. The Excelsiors were known at the time for having a clear, bright tone that sounded good on radio and in recordings. They were also known for their rocker switches on the front grill which were used for changing combinations of reeds.

Although Fred would own many accordions throughout his career, he kept his Excelsior 00 until he passed away in 2010. After his passing, his daughter inherited the instrument and took it to Dave Caballero who runs an accordion repair and sales shop in Los Angeles. Sensing the historical nature of the instrument, Caballero asked Martin's daughter why she was looking to sell the instrument and not donate it to the Autry Museum. Apparently there had been some disagreement between Martin and Autry and he didn't want anything from his estate going to Autry's museum. Caballero agreed to take the instrument in on consignment for Martin.

Shortly after acquiring the instrument, Caballero found a willing buyer in Jack Cook, an amateur accordionist and Air Force retiree from Las Vegas. Cook eagerly bought the historic accordion and took it back to his home in Las Vegas where it resided for several years. During that time, Jack purchased another similar Excelsior of the same era and mixed and matched parts between the two instruments to create what he felt were two better instruments. Half of Martin's accordion stayed in Las Vegas and the other half wound up in Kelowna, BC, where Cook's wife had a summer home. By leaving an accordion in Canada it would make it easier to travel to the

summer home and not have to take an accordion with him.

In 2017 I was performing in Las Vegas at the Southwest Polka Party. I had known Jack for several years from his travels to various accordion festivals around the country. I had the opportunity to visit him at his home and see his home studio and collection of fine accordions, including what was left of Fred Martin's Excelsior. After our visit, Jack gave me the accordion which contained half of Fred's original instrument, with the promise that eventually I would get the other instrument that contained the remainder of the parts.

At the time, I assumed it would be many years in the future before I would ever get the other half of Fred Martin's accordion. Tragically, Jack passed away just a few months after I last visited in 2017. His widow knew of his promise to me and assured me that she would eventually retrieve the other accordion from Kelowna. In summer 2019, I received that other accordion and brought it home with me. Although the two instruments were nearly identical, there were a few differences with the chrome trim and lettering on them. Sorting out which instrument was which would take some work.

In November of last year I took both accordions down to Chuck Berger in Gresham, Oregon. Chuck is an accordion repairman who specializes in restoring vintage instruments. Chuck was able to go through each instrument individually and sort out which parts had come from Fred Martin's accordion and which had come from the other one. After a few months of painstaking work, I had Fred Martin's accordion back in its original form with all the correct trim and markings. The other Excelsior is also a complete instrument, but not in quite as nice a shape as Martin's.

Now I find myself in the enviable position of owning a piece of music history. This is the accordion that was played on all the Gene Autry recordings after 1946, including "Here Comes Santa Claus" and the re-recording of "Silver-Haired Daddy Of Mine." To see and hear the accordion in action, go to YouTube and look up the song "Great Grand-Dad" from Autry's 1947 movie "Twilight On The Rio Grande." The instrument still needs more restoration to get into playable condition and I am hoping that, in the coming years, I will be able to return it to good playing condition and start playing it out on jobs. A piece of musical history like Fred Martin's accordion deserves to keep playing the music that made its place in history.



*Fred Martin's restored Excelsior*

**-Toby Hanson**

*Living in the Garden Spot of South Pierce County-  
So far from Puyallup, not quite in Eatonville.*



**Waitz Across Texas**



**An Ernest Tubb Tribute**  
benefits the San Angelo VFW Post (125 S. Browning)  
July 11, 2020  
Doors open 11:00 am • Dance noon-midnight  
Food • raffles • silent auction



**BYOB**  
Beer & Set ups for sale

Dance to Jeff Woolsey, Justin Trevino & Myra Rolan, and Jody Nix  
Tickets are \$45 per person  
Reserved tables of 6 & 8 - \$250 & \$350  
Call Terri Holland at 325-763-9923 or Janet Sheppard 325-655-6550 to purchase




**24th Annual Awards Rescheduled**  
Academy of Western Artists



**AUGUST 12TH & 13TH 2020**

## 24th Annual Academy of Western Artists Awards Rescheduled for August 12th & 13th, 2020

Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible. We are limited to quantity we can offer. The price for a table of 6 is \$750. Single tickets are \$75. Each. Per State requirements, if there is a table that has a family relationship or other close relationship this can be changed to 8 or 10 seats per table.

The price will increase to \$100. per ticket on July 1, 2020. There will be no exceptions, we have to abide by the guidelines set in place by the state of Texas. It is on a first



## June/July Playlist for "Skeebo's Line Shack Review"

We here at Pickin' On The Oldies want to thank all of our very loyal and "new" listeners to our internet station. One thing we strive for is "Traditional Country and Western Swing," featuring the classic great artists and all of the upcoming new independent artists who are continuing to produce "Dance Music."....plus, we air old radio versions of Gunsmoke on Sundays at 6am and 6pm, along with Luke Clayton's Outdoors Show at 7am-8am on Sunday morn and archived editions of Glory Road, the old Quartet Gospel Music, with the late great Larry Scott as host at 9am-10am also on Sundays ...We'd LOVE to have you join us.... If you like us, please share with your friends who enjoy this music as well at [www.sansabaradio.com](http://www.sansabaradio.com) .....we are the Academy of Western Artists, STATION OF THE YEAR FOR 2018.....streaming 24/7.

Jimmy Burson - *Someday You'll Want Me to Love You*  
Buddy Hrabal - *Bad News Gets Around*  
John Arthur Martinez - *Cherry Springs Swing*  
Larry M. Clark - *Rockin' Ridin' Rambler*  
Red Knuckles & the Trailblazers - *Wigwam Wiggle*  
Rio Grand Band - *Blue Bonnet Lady*  
Tommy Morrell - *Good Bye Liza Jane*  
Western Swing Authority - *All Dolled Up*  
Tommy Duncan - *Who's Sorry Now*  
Rick & the Ramblers - *You Can't Make It Up*

Artists may send mp3 submissions to [production@sansabaradio.com](mailto:production@sansabaradio.com) and personal messages to [skeebo@sansabaradio.com](mailto:skeebo@sansabaradio.com)

We are on Facebook as well... Pickin' On The Oldies.  
To listen go to our website [www.sansabaradio.com](http://www.sansabaradio.com)

come first served status, if you are an artist in the top 5 and you have not purchased your ticket as of yet, please do so immediately. When all tickets are sold per space available there will be no more.

All tickets will be picked up at the door before the dinner.

.....HOST HOTEL.....

Radisson Fossil Creek  
2540 Meacham Boulevard (located just north of the Ft. Worth Stockyards on I-35 W)

Fort Worth, Texas  
PH (817) 625-9911

Mention AWA Awards for their special rates, limited time





# Bob Wills Day 2020 Rescheduled October 8, 9, & 10

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

## 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



## BOB WILLS DAY EVENTS

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



**Editor's Note:** At this time the festival is still taking place as scheduled; however, tickets are not yet available. The manager of the Greenville Municipal Auditorium is still waiting for more information on how much of the facility will be available for ticket holders. There will be new developments later this summer. Keep posted.