

News Flash! **Sad News NO DANCE I Repeat NO DANCE Oct. 4, 2020**



JOHNNY CUVIELLO

Inducted Oct. 5, 1986



BOB SHULZ

Inducted Oct. 6, 2019

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE	
Officials & Staff..... 2	Bio's Continued 5
Letter From The Editor 2	RIP Barbara Martin5
HOF Profiles 3	New Merchandise 6
RIP Duke and Jeanie..... 4	Other WSS Orgs 9
Membership Application... 4	Monthly Music9
Board & Volunteering ... 4	

OPEN POSITION on the BOARD

Please help us fill this position!



Membership Dues to Resume! The WSS board had a meeting and felt that we need to start our membership drive up. A lot of folks have already paid their dues and will be receiving their cards soon, Thank You!

The Western Swing Society

PO Box 2474

Carmichael, CA 95609

westernswingsociety.net

Facebook: SacramentoWesternSwingSociety

Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones to enable performance, preservation and perpetuation of the unique American art form known as Western Swing Music.

Officers:

President, Rex Barnes (916) 704-1566

Vice Pres, Jimmy Boehnke (530) 886-8375

Treasurer, Cheryl Dearborn

Secretary, (open)

Other Directors:

Tony Arana (775) 971-3070

Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463

Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520

Jeff Tilton (916) 798-9377

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Admissions Coordinator, Linda McCarley

Bar Manager, Jimmy Boehnke

Bartender, Cyndi Lee

Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes

Equipment and Staging, Gary Blodgett

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Master of Ceremonies, Jimmy Boehnke

Membership Director, (open)

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Donald deMars

Public Relations Administrator, Jeff Tilton

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, (open)

Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett

Website, Dave Rietz

Western Swing Society Music News

is published monthly by the

Western Swing Society

Views and opinions expressed by contributing authors are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Society.

Submitted articles, publicity notices and letters not relating directly to the Society or its members may be published at the discretion of the Editor, as space permits. The staff reserves the right to edit any and all items submitted for publication.

Deadline for Submittals:

All items, photographs, articles, and ad's are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Hi Folks, sorry but once again I have to announce that we will not have a dance on October 4th 2020. Gee, this would have been our great Hall of Fame weekend. We had a great group of nominees this year and the board decided to put their nominations off for next year.

Thanks to all that are keeping the organization going by sending in your dues. It's not that we need the money now, but when we are allowed to have our dances I'm sure we will be operating in the red until we get it going again. I'm up for the challenge as well as all the rest of you are. I can tell by the wonderful support WSS is getting from all our members.

Please send your dues in to:

The Western Swing Society

PO Box 2474

Carmichael, CA 95609

Well, if you haven't heard, our good friend and Western Swing Music Hero, Billy Champion had a fall and a stroke. He is now home and on his way back to walking. We wish him the best. Here are a couple of Facebook reports we received from his daughter, Sarah:

“Hi Western Swing Folks Everywhere. This is a post from Billy Champion's daughter, Sarah Champion Pederson. Let us all pray he will make a complete recovery. He is a legend, an icon and a great ambassador of Western Swing. For those of you who know him you know him as the most generous humble guy there is. He is in the middle of the photo in red.”



September 10 at 6:05 PM ·

“Hi all - Last week my 92 year old Dad had a minor stroke that caused a fall that broke his neck. My mom found him quickly and was able to get him to ER as soon as possible. He quickly regained consciousness, but had no ability to move the right or left side of his body. He underwent emergency surgery that stabilized his fractured vertebrae and decompressed his spine. For his age, this surgery had some risks, but he recovered without any complications. He is now showing some movement in both arms and legs, which is promising for more mobility recovery. He is fully alert, eating well, and all of his memory, charm and sense of humor appear to be intact. My mom has been his only onsite visitor due to Covid -19 restrictions, and her years of PT and spinal rehab expertise are paying off tremendously as she works closely with doctors and specialists to get him on the best path to recovery. He wants everyone to know that he's optimistic and is looking forward to chatting with friends and family as he's able to in the near future. We're all so grateful for the tireless care and support of the doctors, nurses and specialists. As I get more updates from his care team, I'll share pertinent info with friends and family.”

Continued on page 4

JOHNNY CUIVELLO

Inducted October 5, 1986
Born August, 8 1915—Died September, 2006



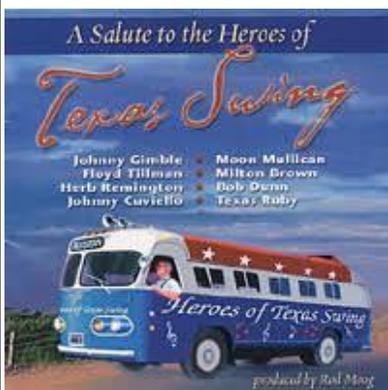
Johnny Cuiello "Texas Drummer Boy"

In the last year or two we've lost several Texas Playboys from the 1940s: guitarist Jimmy Wyble, singing sisters Dean McKinney Moore and Evelyn McKinney Wills, and now Johnny Cuiello.

Johnny Cuiello, drummer for Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys in 1946 and 1947 and one of the last surviving band members from that era, passed away last week at the age of 97.



Cuiello, a Fresno native and the son of Italian immigrants, connected with the band in 1946 when Billy Jack Wills, Bob's younger brother, asked his help in tuning his drums before a recording session at station KMJ. Cuiello sat in on drums that day while Billy Jack moved to bass fiddle (which he preferred to drums), and at the end of the day Bob offered Johnny a job. Cuiello was with the band only for about two years, but at a pivotal time -- he's on all but one of the Tiffany Transcriptions sessions and played on Bob Wills's final sessions with Columbia and first sessions for MGM.



Cuiello had been playing drums professionally since high school, and his career included a gig at a burlesque theater and in a band with Buck Owens at The Blackboard in Bakersfield.

In a profile published in 2008 in the *Journal of Texas Music History*, Cuiello told the story of how he came to be a Texas Playboy and the unceremonious way he was dropped from the band. It says something about the limits of Bob Wills's fame that, as well known as he

Continued on page 5

BOB SHULZ

Inducted October 6, 2019
Born July 1 1938

Robert "Bob" Schulz, born July 1, 1938, is an American Jazz & Western Swing cornetist. Bob is a native of Wonewoc, WI., born into a musical family, who started on his Father's cornet by the age of 10. He attended LaCrosse State Teachers College, receiving his teaching credentials in music, biology and social studies. For 17 years Bob taught music to students, 1st through 12th grades, including concert band, marching band & jazz bands. Bob loved encouraging and teaching young musicians.

In 1979 he was asked by Turk Murphy to join his San Francisco Jazz Band. Working five nights a week at Turks nightclub, Earthquake McGoons, he settled in for 8 years with Turks band. While with his band, Bob recorded over 300 live radio shows, 10 LPs, toured the US and Europe, and played the Carnegie Hall Tribute with Turk. Bob still leads the Turk Murphy band for special engagements.

Bob was interested in joining Don Burnham's great band, the Lost Weekend Western Swing Band, and in



1999 he was excited to finally have the opportunity to flex his chops on Western Swing. Bob is a long time admirer of Danny Alguire. Danny was the trumpeter with Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys, as well as the Firehouse Five + 2 Jazz Band. Bob heard the similarities between old Jazz and Western Swing and immediately fell in love!

Bob often had the opportunity to listen to Don and his Lost Weekend Western Swing Band as their paths crossed on the music circuit. The Longhorns section of the band was sensational! Leading the Longhorns was Jim Rothermel (reeds, arranger) with whom Bob worked for many years. Bob Meilke on Trombone and Jack Minger on trumpet rounded out the sound of the Longhorns. When Jack became ill, Bob stepped in and eventually replaced him. The current Longhorns, Bob, Kevin Porter

Continued on page 5

Editor's letter continued from page 2
 Good news on Billy Champion!
 September 24 at 10:35 PM



Update on Billy Champion: "I'm happy to say that he is back home after 2 weeks in the hospital! My mom was by his side making sure that would happen, and we're all so glad to see that come to fruition. We set him up in his old office, where he had decorated the walls with cherished pictures, awards and other mementos from his life, career and hobbies. Watching him look around and smile at being home in a familiar place set all our hearts at ease. He is needing quite a bit of round the clock care, but thanks to Mom's rehab care knowledge, we're working together effectively to make that happen. Right now, he doesn't have trunk support, but is continuing to show signs of improved movement in his legs, shoulders and arms. We're also working on exercising his lungs, as he's mostly able to whisper now and conversation beyond a few words is a little too advanced for him at the moment. However, with his strength returning, we're starting to hear more of his normal voice each day. Next week, we'll get more routine visits from nurses and therapists, so we're optimistic he'll keep improving. As he gets his strength back, we'll let everyone know when phone calls are possible. I keep sharing all the kind words from friends and family with him, and now I can enjoy first-hand the smiles it brings to his face."



RIP J Boyd "DUKE" Morse



We got word that Duke Morse passed away September 21, 2020. You will be missed old friend. Duke always showed incredible support to all the musicians that donated their time to play music for the dances. People like Duke and his dance partner, Inez, are the core folks that make the Western Swing Society what it has been to so many since 1981.



RIP Sweet Jeanie Poe



I got a call from Ray Poe on September 19th letting me know that his wife of 71 years had passed away. She took a fall from a stroke and had complications in the hospital that she couldn't fight through. She and Ray were at every Hall of fame except when Ray had medical issues that stopped them from attending. What a huge loss for us. Prayers for Ray. Cards may be sent to PO Box 2292, El Cajon, CA 92021



APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

Submit the following information in a note with your check to:
The Western Swing Society, P.O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609:

Name(s), mailing address, email address, and telephone number.

Fees (make check payable to Western Swing Society)

Individual Membership, \$15 per year.

Couples Membership, \$20 per year. (one address only).

Dues renew every July.

If you join during any other month, your membership fee will be prorated to align with the July renewal.

You will receive a color version of our newsletter via email. Paid membership also includes reduced admission fee at Society music functions, and the right to vote in Society elections and on proposed By-Law changes.



Sunday, October 4, 2020

OCTOBER DANCE CANCELED

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING PLEASURE



Johnny CuvIELlo continued from page 3

was among the Texans and Oklahomans who had moved to California to farm in the Central Valley and work in the defense industry, the son of an earlier wave of California immigrants had never heard of him. And perhaps because he was one of the few band members without roots in Texas or Oklahoma, he never quite fit in. He was older than most of them, too -- 31 when he joined the band.



Johnny with legendary band leader Billy Mata

But CuvIELlo got along well with frequent road roommate Herb Remington (an Indiana native) and together they worked up a tune that CuvIELlo wrote into the song that Bob Wills would dub "Texas Drummer Boy." Although drums were always important to the Texas Playboys sound, "Texas Drummer Boy" was the only Texas Playboys song to feature prominent extended drum solos, alternating with Remington's steel guitar riffs and Tiny Moore's mandolin solo.

Bob Shulz continued from page 3

(trombone) and Dale Mills (reeds) deliver a drive the Lost Weekend Swing Band thrives on!

For 20 years Bob has considered himself lucky to have played with Don Burnham's Lost Weekend Western Swing Band and enjoyed the camaraderie of extraordinary musicians, great music and dedicated western swing fans. Bob is an extremely talented and popular cornetist/bandleader/vocalist. In the last Mississippi Rag Poll, Bob was voted the #1 cornetist and #3 vocalist. Bob's diverse musical abilities allow him to shine in bands of many styles, including Don Burnham's Lost Weekend Swing Band, the Royal Society Jazz Orchestra, Golden Gate Rhythm Machine, Mid-Coast All Stars as well as Guest Artist appearances at festivals.

Enjoying life in San Anselmo, Marin County, CA., playing music and still going strong at the ripe young age of 80...



RIP DEAR BARBABA MARTIN

Barbara Martin



WSMSS is deeply saddened to hear about the passing of outstanding promoter and WSMSS Hall of Fame member, Barbara Martin, on September 20, 2020.

Barbara proudly carried the nickname "Sweetheart of Western Swing," and was perhaps best known for her *Western Swing Monthly* periodical. This highly information publication first went to press in 1998 and continued until her retirement in 2019. Barbara was born and raised in California, before moving to Texas, and then back to her native California after retirement.

Barbara was a true friend to so many musicians through the years, and she will be deeply missed! Our sincere condolences go out to her family!

John Jones – President

Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest

The Following is Taken from Barbara's 2004 WSS Hall of Fame Induction Biography:

Barbara Martin grew up in a California home where big band music was always on the radio. Her Dad's good taste in music influenced her for the rest of her life. Over the years Barbara became very familiar with lyrics and song titles of standard tunes, and took an interest in composers, arrangements and section work. She will be the first to admit she has no talent and can't sing. She explains, "I always knew I was a musician in my heart."

Continued on page 7

BRAND NEW AT THE WESTERN SWING SOCIETY by Edd Burhans



Jacket Front with Fitted Ball Cap



Jacket Back



CLOTHING PRICES

T- Shirts

Small - Extra Large \$15.00
2 XL \$17.00

Polo Shirts (Men's & Women's)

Small - Extra Large \$20.00
2 XL \$22.00

Onesies \$12.00

Caps \$20.00

Jackets

Small - Extra Large \$78.00
2 XL \$82.00
3 XL \$85.00
4 XL \$90.00

All Prices Include Sales Tax



Merchandise is available at our monthly dances and at our annual Hall of Fame.

Jackets and Polo shirts can be customized with name for additional cost.

Brand New: Womens and Girls V-top Tee. The red in the logo is glitter.

It will sell for \$18 Small thru Extra Large. \$20 for a XXL



Barbara Martin continued from page 5

Her literary career started in junior high school when she authored and announced morning radio spots on the campus PA system. She was the Editor of the school yearbook. As college electives, Barbara studied music theory and composition and took journalism classes. Music and journalism are her life's passions.



Elvis and Ricky Nelson took the music world by storm. Her Dad built a tall mono speaker

and surprised her with "Travelin' Man" as the first vinyl he spun. In the early '60's Barbara's taste in music branched out to include the "country and western" sound. Televised music shows such as Town Hall Party, and The Blackjack Wayne Show caught her attention. Bands in sharp western wear were swinging out with steel guitar, drums, guitar, doghouse bass and fiddle. During her college years in the Bay Area, Barbara was attracted to local alternative and country-rock bands that were blowing the roof off with steel and fiddle choruses: Asleep at the Wheel, Commander Cody, Elvin Bishop, Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks.

Traveling and living in different regions of the country was a challenge that appealed to her and to the gypsy in her soul. After college, she attended graduate school in Virginia and happened to stumble upon a bluegrass festival that Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys headlined. That was another style of music new to her, and she loved the fiddle breakdowns. The local Southern radio stations were playing Southern rock by Amazing Rhythm Aces, Allman Brothers and Eric Clapton coming out of Muscle Shoals Alabama studios and she took to it. Many of the artists were working in Tulsa, too, contributing to what came to be known as The Tulsa Sound. Of course she bought LPs by JJ Cale, Leon Russell, Jesse Ed Davis.

Forever a fan of harmony and lyrics that paint a picture, cowboy music has been a staple in her life since television first brought Gene Autry and Roy and The Sons of the Pioneers into our homes. "Riding Down the Canyon," "When the Bloom is on the Sage," "The Timber Trail." She has been to doz

ens of live performances of her heroes Sons of the Pioneers, Red Steagall, Riders in the Sky and looks forward to dozens more. Being open to all forms of music and going out to enjoy live music wherever she lived have brought a world of new experiences to Barbara's life. "It will open up your world and bring you joy."

In 1993, a friend gave her Asleep at the Wheel's first Tribute to Bob Wills album. At the time she was bored to death working in an office in Danville, CA. and this woke her up! It opened a new horizon. She thought the music was so compelling, she had to learn all she could about Bob Wills and the unique American art form called Western Swing. Time to travel to Texas!

Red Steagall's Cowboy Gathering in Fort Worth introduced her to the Texas Playboys: Leon Rausch, Johnny Gimble, Joe Frank Ferguson, and Billy Briggs live on stage playing Western Swing! Next at The Legends of Western Swing Festival in Texarkana she happened to win the drawing for the Leon Rausch Fan Club. Barbara got to go back stage and meet Leon, Johnny Gimble and The Texas Playboys, and needless to say she was thrilled!

Barbara next found the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium in Glencoe NM where she met Jesse Morris, Dean McKinney Moore and Ray Reed. She attended the 1996 Bob Wills Birthday Bash at Cains in Tulsa and met Luke Wills, Benny Garcia, Glynn Duncan and Blub Rhees. She accompanied Dean McKinney to Turkey Texas for Bob Wills Day and met Curly Lewis, Bobby Koefer, Eldon Shamblin, Dr. Charles Townsend and Jody Nix. Dean introduced her next to Herb Remington and Cindy Walker. Dean, as President of the Sacramento Western Swing Society, offered her a column to report her travels in the Music News. Barbara called her column Music Notes. She wanted to make fans aware of these fabulous festivals.

Realizing that Texas was the birthplace and hotbed of Western Swing music, Barbara packed up and moved there. To her surprise, there was no central clearinghouse to notify fans of the upcoming dances and festivals. Johnny Gimble, Curly and Edie Lewis, Leon and Vonda Rausch, and Dave Alexander encouraged Barbara to send out a fan letter so folks would know where bands will be playing. In No

Continued next column

Continued page 8

Barbara Martin continued from page 7

vember 1998 the first issue of Western Swing Monthly was printed and mailed. The purpose of the magazine was to bring fans and bands together, to increase awareness of Western Swing music everywhere, to recognize and celebrate the greats who gave us this music and to preserve the traditions of fellowship and camaraderie that started with the ranch dances of long ago.

Fans of music around the country gravitated to the publication as it became the hub of news about the Western Swing world. Dave promoted it on his radio and live shows; Johnny Gimble introduced her in the audience at music festivals. Larry Scott and Mike O'Daniel recommended WSM. Cindy Walker, Cliff Bruner and other greats got behind the efforts of Western Swing Monthly. It couldn't have happened without them. I will always be grateful.



Barbara's monthly periodical has been the definitive standard for Western Swing playdate listings and current events. It has reunited long-lost bandmates, brought together generations of Western Swing performers, kept readers apprised of others who were ill and needed cards. The magazine introduced and reviewed new Western Swing bands, CDs, radio programs, movie and book projects from all over the country.

After 21 years and 243 regular monthly issues, Western Swing Monthly is the only regular current events periodical of its kind. It has been praised by musicians and fans alike.

Johnny Gimble: "Bless you Barbara Martin"

Herb Remington: "I'm glad you're on our side"

Jody Nix: "The First Lady of Western Swing"

Eddie McAlvain: "If it ain't in Western Swing Monthly, it ain't happening"

Joe Knight: "She is The Sweetheart of Western Swing"

Barbara's research and articles on Western Swing music and its music makers over the past three decades have enriched the annals of music history. She has written biographical articles and in-depth interviews about Eldon Shamblin, Adolph Hofner, Deacon Anderson, Joe Frank Ferguson, Johnny Cuvillo, Skeeter Elkins and Jimmy Wyble. Folks say "she knows everyone!" It's because she has attended more than a thousand Western Swing dances and

shows and festivals, face to face with musicians and music fans. Her support and promotion of musicians and bands, club owners and festival sponsors, and the thousands of fans who keep the music alive have won her friends and admirers from around the country.

**ACADEMY OF WESTERN ARTISTS
HONORS BARBARA MARTIN**



Photo by Diana Wood

Barbara Martin accepting her AWA Lifetime Achievement Award with Albert Talley and Brady Bowen.

"I was very happy on stage. Albert, Debbie Talley and Brady Bowen brought me up. I was so excited but got a little verklempt feeling all the love that was in the room. Lost composure for a second, then got it together. Love was all around and I

was in Heaven! Thank you to everyone for my special night receiving AWA Lifetime Achievement Award!! It's beautiful on my entry table!! Xo"

Taken from a previous newsletter. RIP, Barbara!



2020 WSS Hall of Fame Cancelled

Due to an abundance of caution in these uncertain times of Covid, the Board has made the decision to cancel our three-day Hall of Fame event in October.

All prospective nominee submissions from 2020 will be rolled to 2021.

OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Buck Ford & Pure Country Band: Check Website for schedule, <https://buckford.com/events/>

CA Old Time Fiddlers Association, Meets 2nd Sunday. Orangevale Grange on Walnut Avenue in Orangevale, CA. [www.cbaontheweb.org/region_details.asp? Region 2](http://www.cbaontheweb.org/region_details.asp?Region%202)

Carolyn Sills Combo: <https://www.carolynsills.com/>

Cowtown Society of Western Music, Contact: Joe Baker, Membership Director, 940-452-6300, 4361 F.M. 1195, Mineral Springs, TX 76067

Grace Clark & Swingitude: <http://www.GraceAClarkMusic.com>

Greater Arizona Country/Western Swing Association and Hall of Fame, Inc. PO Box 953, Dewey, AZ 86326. Contact Jim Gamble at 928-458-0714.

Hot Club of Cowtown: <https://hotclubofcowtown.com/>

Lincoln Highway Band <https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

Northwest Western Swing Music Society, Contact: Jeannie Yearian, President, 425-432-7888, or cell 206-271-2295, Lynnwood Eagles, 19223 Hwy. 99, Lynnwood, WA. **Meets 2nd Sunday** www.nwwsms.com

Sactown Playboys @ <https://www.facebook.com/sactownpbs/>

Slade Rivers Band: <https://sladeriversband.com/events/>

Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest, PO Box 644, Shattuck, OK 73858. **Meets quarterly.** Go to website at: www.wsmss.com.



We buy, sell, & trade new & used gear!
-- Free appraisals --
Serving the Western Swing Society for over 45 years!

Elk Grove 2740 Auburn Blvd.,
 (916) 686 - 5666 Sacramento, CA 95821
www.skipsmusic.com (916) 484 - 7575





MEMBERSHIP

Any Changes? Keep us up to date on any changes in your membership information, especially email addresses. We can't get your newsletter to you unless we have your current information.

You can mail changes in your information to the Society at P.O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609; or email it to

membership@westernswingsociety.net
 Thanks! Keep on Western Swingin'

MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at The Machinists Hall
 2749 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA*

Donation: \$5 for Members; \$8 for Non-Members

For information, browse to www.westernswingsociety.net

*The address is Sunrise, but the driveway is on Citrus.



Board Meeting Invitation

You can attend the Society's monthly Board meetings; first Sunday of each month starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Machinists Hall in Rancho Cordova.



Driving Instructions to MACHINISTS HALL: From Hwy 50, take the Sunrise Blvd. South exit and cross two lights (Folsom Blvd. and Trade Center Drive). After crossing Trade Center, be in the left lane and take the next left turn which is Citrus Road. You will see an Enterprise Car Rental lot in front of you. Turn right into the driveway just past Enterprise. You'll see our sign, and you are there. Park, come in and join the fun.