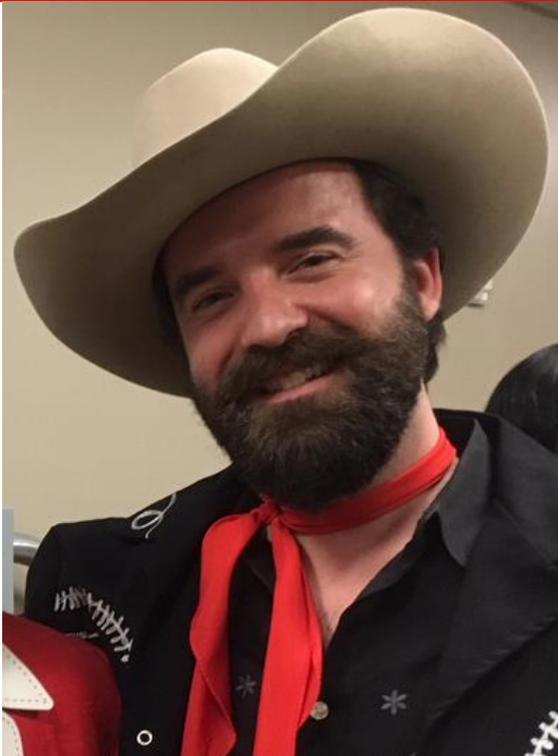




**Sad News NO DANCE I Repeat NO DANCE on April 5, 2020
 RIP To Our Legends BIFF ADAM, ROGER SHAW & KEITH HOLTER**



GERARD EGAN

Inducted Oct. 6, 2019



HAROLD HENSLEY

Inducted Oct. 6, 1985

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 4

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NO DANCE In April
 We are sorry to inform all
 our great people that we
 have to **CANCEL** our April
 5 dance due to the pandemic
 (Coronavirus)
STAY SAFE EVERYONE

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, Edward Burhans (916) 225-3645
 Secretary, Cheryl Dearborn

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

What a heart breaking month it has been for The Western Swing Society. We lost three of our legends, Biff Adam, Roger Shaw and from Seattle, Keith Holter. We mourn our loss along with the family of these three incredible musicians. You can read more on Biff, page 16 & 17; Roger, page 6; Keith, page 12.

Along with that sad news we then find out that our country and the world is in the middle of a pandemic with "Coronavirus". This will cause us to cancel our April 5 Sunday dance. Please call your friends to let them know we will NOT have a dance on April 5.

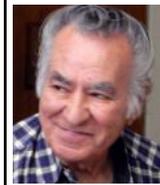
Well, we did have a dance in March. Thanks to Grace Clark and Swingitude. The band was led by Grace Clark, singing and playing that wonderful arch-top guitar. Dave Rietz played fiddle and did some vocal work. On lead guitar is the great Jimmy Spero. Billy Wilson traveled a long way to play for us on that steel guitar. Rounding out the band was Phil Speer on drums.

Our "House Band" was sure missing the great Jimmy Baughman. The show must go on. Gary Blodgett, ready to run sound and play any instrument you need was there. If you get a chance please give this man a big thank you for all he does. Ralph Chase played keys and sang, Lenny Serdahl played guitar and sang, Bill Cornett played drums and sang, Dan Cribb played guitar and sang and Billy Smith held down the low notes for us.



Continued on page 18

JAM ROOM JAMMERS



Jam Room line-up here. Tony was back at it in "Full Swing"

Billy Smith - Bass
 Bobby Giason - Lead

Guitar & Vocals
 Nancy Long - Vocals
 John Gwinner - Lap Steel
 Tom Gunterman - Fiddle & Vocal
 Chuck Webb - Bass
 Danny Rupley - Lead Guitar & Vocals
 Terry Crouson - Lead Guitar & Vocal
 Nancy Long - Vocal
 Lenny Serdahl - Lead Guitar & Vocals
 Jesse (?) steel guitar & Vocal
 Bill Fortin - Bass & Vocals
 Larry Deleon - Drums & Vocals
 Dan Jones - Drums
 Bill Cornett - Vocal
 May (?) - Vocal
 Addie Grove—Vocal
 Jump in and join us! Just let Tony know you're there. It's always a highlight for the folks that participate. We'd like to have you write to us about your experience if you play in the jam room or go in to listen. We'll share your comments here in this column. Just send your thoughts to this email: ronnie.elkan@gmail.com or send us a letter via snail mail. In the meantime we'll list the players who joined us last month.



Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest

A Texas based 501(c)(3) nonprofit

2020 Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony!

DANCE AND JAM



July 9th, 10th and 11th

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 ***

** Reservations made after 6/10/2019 subject to availability **

1.) Candlewood Suites - 940 NW 38th St - 580-354-9906

\$64.99 + tax, single queen - \$69.99 + tax, double queen - **Breakfast not provided**

(Nearby restaurants serving breakfast)

2.) Best Western - 1125 E Gore Boulevard - 580-353-0200

\$69.00 + tax - one or two queen beds - **Hot breakfast included**

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

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

Thursday, July 9th, 10:45 am to 11:00 pm: All Day Jam Bands

Friday, July 10th, 10:45 am to 11:00 pm: Scheduled Bands and Jam Sessions

Saturday, July 11th 10:45 am to 11:00 pm: Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Scheduled Bands and Jam Sessions

For Information Contact: Orville Lindsey @ 972-658-0204 or John Jones @ 713-208-4793



Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest Annual Dance

Aug 20-22

The Springfield Regional Chapter of the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest will host their annual dance August 20-22, 2020 at the Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque, 601 E. St. Louis, Springfield, MO. There will be musical festivities daily from 11:00 AM-11:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$10 for non-members for the three-day event.

More information on the Society can be seen on their homepage at www.wsmss.com. The section on Upcoming Events lists the dates of other WSMSS regions hosting annual dances.

50/50 RAFFLE WINNERS!

Thank you to our raffle hosts, who do such a great job every month!



PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT

Pictures are now available on our website:

<http://westernswingsociety.net/>. OR on [Google Photos](#)

Tips:

- From PDF newsletter, click on the links below.
- Use the three dots at top right to download entire album or a selected photo
- To see all albums, click top left on [Google Photos](#)
- Once back at the home page, click on Albums in the left column

To find all photos with a particular person, click in the upper left corner on People then scroll down to see all photos of that person. Then you can download and print what you like.



People

3-1-2020 Monthly Dance Pictures

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xxTYesdRMEiJGMfM6>



GERARD EGAN

Inducted October 5, 2019

I was born, Gerard Matthew Egan, on April 8, 1979 in Summit, New Jersey to Gerard Francis Xavier Egan & Nancy Ann Egan. As a child, my earliest music influences were Warner Brother cartoons. I can remember being mesmerized by how the action in Bugs Bunny cartoons perfectly synced up with the orchestral accompaniment. My parents always had music on the stereo and encouraged me to listen from the very beginning.



I started playing violin at age 5 thanks to my mom. My best friend, his younger sister and I all started taking lessons at the same time. When I was in 8th grade, we formed a string quartet with a cellist and started getting gigs playing weddings, restaurant openings and private parties. Since my friend and his sister both played violin, I decided to switch to viola to round out the quartet. I remember getting paid \$800 for our first gig and thinking, "hmmm... maybe there's a future here." It took me some years of reflection to realize what a fantastic learning experience I had had playing classical violin in youth symphonies around New Jersey. I learned so much about the language of music, dynamics, listening to others etc. Truth be told, I was never that thrilled playing violin and it wasn't until the guitar hit me like a ton of bricks when I was 13 that I suddenly loved playing music. I spent all my time practicing guitar and pouring over music magazines and books on how to repair guitars. I couldn't get enough. My first teenage guitar idols were rock n rollers. I quickly developed an obsession with Jimi Hendrix and researched all of his influences, trying to figure out how he had developed such an outlandish sound and style. This led me to all the classic blues music from Chicago, Mississippi and Texas. This was the first roots music I had heard. The more I got into it, the farther back I looked. Towards the end of college I was getting into rockabilly. Always the music researcher, I wondered what had inspired these guys in the 50s and that's how I discovered Western Swing. I felt like I had found THE music. I loved that it embraced the full American music spectrum. As much as America is the melting pot of cultures,

*Continued on page 6***HAROLD HENSLEY**

Born July 3, 1922—Died September 15, 1988

Inducted October 6, 1985

Harold Hensley was born at Whitetop, Virginia. He grew up in a family of seven sisters and brothers in a hewn log house completely built by his great grandfather. It is still standing. His family was musically inclined so by the age of six, his dad and grandfather had taught him simple hoedowns and waltzes on the fiddle.

Harold had his early musical experience playing for local box socials, molasses stir offs, and private homes in this very mountainous part of Virginia, about thirty miles east of Bristol, Va.-Tenn.

His first radio broadcast was on WOPI Bristol, and was rather scary but very thrilling. This led him into the field of radio broadcasting and doing shows in clubs and school houses throughout the South.

His first daily shows were on WLAP Lexington, Kentucky about 1937. In 1939, he was at WHIS Bluefield, West Virginia. From there he went to WPVA Fredericksburg, Virginia with a cowboy swing band, Blacky and the Lazy E Ranch Boys. In 1940 he joined The Tobacco Tags at WPTF Raleigh, North Carolina and did his first recordings for Bluebird Records.

He spent a few months with the Blue Mountain Boys in Lynchburg, Va, then went to Mineral Wells, Texas to broadcast over the Texas Quality Network for the Crazy Water Crystal Co. There he met many of the good Texas and Oklahoma musicians and toured Texas with (Pappy) W. Lee O'Daniel when W.Lee was running for reelection to the Senate. (he was elected). This left Harold without a job so he migrated to WMC Memphis, Tenn. And the Hal Burns Garratt Snuff Varieties, and transcribed shows played daily on 28 stations throughout the South.

He spent 1943 and early '44 on the Grand Old Oprey in Nashville, Tenn. With Paul Howard and the Arkansas Cottonpickers. Much road work and broadcasting. He then (1944) moved to the

Iowa Barn Dance Frolic at WHO Des Moines, Iowa. He received a telegram from Hank Penny saying "Come to Hollywood". He packed up his new wife, Phyllis, and moved to Hollywood, Ca.

Continued on page 5

We do appreciate the ongoing help. You all have really chipped in. It makes the job for our volunteers much easier.



Harold Hensley continued from page 4

There he studied harmony, counterpoint, and theory, etc, at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music. His teachers were top musicians, staff on CBS and NBC there.

He then joined Cliffie Stone and the Hometown Jamboree for 11 years of daily radion and 9 years of Saturday night television. During this time he was busy recording with Tennessee Ernie Ford, Kay Starr, Skeets McDonald, Farlin Husky, Jimmy Davis, Lorretta Lynn, Jim Reeves, Hank Thompson, Leon McAuliffe, and many others.

He spent three months with the George Liberace band playing violin, saxophone, clarinet, and flute.

Since that time he has worked in 43 major motion pictures, The Lucy Show twice, Danny Thomas show, The Virginian, Mission Impossible, The Waltons, ETC.

At the time of his induction to the Hall of Fame he was busy recording for motion pictures, doing shows and club dates, etc.



UPCOMING BANDS

April **APRIL DANCE CANCELED**
May Lincoln Highway
June Slade Rivers Band



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.

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'

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, April 5, 2020

APRIL DANCE CANCELED

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING PLEASURE



Gerard Egan continued from page 4

Western Swing seemed to be the melting pot of all American music from jazz, cowboy songs, fiddle breakdowns, polkas, blues, country and Hawaiian music. It represented total musical freedom and encouraged diversity. As a kid who was raised with music on MTV in the 80s/90s and later grew to fall in love roots music from the 20s-50s, I felt like Western Swing's philosophy was to embrace all your influences, spin them around and do your own unique thing with the music. I also dug how at its core, Western Swing is dancing/party music. Those musicians were having a ball and encouraging their audience to do the same. It is a music that encourages virtuosic playing while seemingly not taking itself too seriously. It was danceable jazz with a cowboy hat and a big ol' grin. What's not to love?

My wife, Carolyn Sills, and I write and produce a lot of original songs in our band, The Carolyn Sills Combo. We've been playing together for 18 years, making our way to our current home in Santa Cruz by way of Connecticut, Brooklyn and Phoenix. She and I met as students at Connecticut College, sharing a mutual passion for blues music. She was a singer and bass player and played in several bands on campus. When we graduated, we moved to Brooklyn (where my father grew up) to play music together. Our various bands in New York evolved from bluesy rock bands to more of a rockabilly sound. In 2005 we decided to learn a bunch of Patsy Cline songs. We began performing all over NYC with our group, The Poor Man's Roses. It was a fantastic education in Patsy's music. I played tic-tac bass in that project. It was around this time that we started learning Bob Wills songs and other Western Swing gems.

We love spaghetti western films and our old vinyl record collections of Bob Wills, Patsy Cline and Merle Travis and Les Paul & Mary Ford. We try to keep our music real and swinging, something you might hear on an old juke box. We're tipping our hats to the music that made us want to play, and hoping our original takes on these classic styles that will keep the genres moving forward. My early exposure to classical music and reverence of the film score work of Ennio Morricone has influenced some of our songwriting with a 'soundtrack visual' quality. Because of that and the multitude of genres that we

Continued on page 8



RIP ROGER SHAW

Passed March 20, 2020

Inducted into

HOF #532, October 10, 2004

Roger was a big part of our Sunday dances and will be missed. Our hearts go out to Cynthia Casey, his wife, and the entire family. We were all like family. Here is something that was posted by his daughter, on Facebook:

By Mistery Santiago Mitchell
March 20 at 11:40 AM:

God Lover, Angelic Singer, Great Musician, Loving Husband, Father & G-Pa, Kind Friend, Godly Mentor with a godly testimony My Papa, My Hero. You lived a GREAT life and lived it to it's fullest until you couldn't. I can only imagine what you are experiencing right this very moment! Until we meet again Papa "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Matthew 25:23

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact President, Rex Barnes (916-704-1566)

Needs/Skills:

- Word processing
- Photo editing
- Set up and tear down assistance

NEW MENU FOOD AVAILABLE

NEW! The Chef's Salads will be a continuing item and guests can choose either Turkey or ham.

For February, the special will be Gyro sandwiches on Pita bread. The cost will be \$7.00

We now also have the ability to accept credit cards. All credit card transactions will have a \$.50 surcharge added.

Thank you to the American Legion Post #9 for providing us with delicious hot food at our monthly dances!



Please check out our new menu!!!

Board Meeting Minutes March 1, 2020

- I. Meeting called to order by President Rex Barnes at 10:35 a.m. A. Roll call to establish a quorum.
1. Present were President Rex Barnes, Vice President Jimmy Boehnke, Secretary Cheryl Dearborn, Treasurer Eddie Burr, Linda McCarley, Jeff Tilton, Ronnie Elkan, Dave Rietz, Edd Burhans.
Quorum was established.
 2. Guests were Don DeMars, Bill Seabridge, Paula Harrington, and a few late comers.
- II. Reading of Minutes from February 2, was on March 1, 2020. Approved as read.
1. Motion by Ronnie Elkan to post the Minutes in the monthly newsletter prior to Board approval.
 2. Vote was carried unanimously. Notice stating “subject to approval” will be posted at the top of the Minutes.
- III. President’s Report by Rex Barnes
1. Rex called on Linda McCarley to give us a factual number of who was present at the dance from the new form that was generated. There were 66 members, 32 non-members, one free pass.
 2. Sub-Committee for HOF had a great meeting, which will be reported by Jeff Tilton later in this meeting.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report by Eddie Burr
- A. We are still looking for a bookkeeper/accountant who is trustworthy, experienced, with references.
 - B. A good year to report, September and December were down. All other 10 months were good.
- V. Newsletter Report by Ronnie Elkan.
1. Ronnie is appreciative to any and all additions and/or corrections to the newsletter.
 2. Super Bowl Weekend was a welcome success. Fact is, dancers want to dance.
- VI. Web Master Report by Dave Rietz. Everything has been updated and staff positions have been changed. Check out the website.
- VII. Committee Reports
1. Public Relations Committee Report by Jeff Tilton
 1. The Face Book page is at 800 plus members. Trying to use this to build community.
 2. A young man, like Cactus Pete, who spins records is a possibility.
 2. Hall of Fame Sub-Committee by Jeff Tilton.
 1. Ways to make an effort to meet new people could be a mixer dance, Paul Jones on youtube, or a Jack-n-Jill dance.
 2. We might have a beer donation for the weekend.
 3. Marketing Report by Edd Burhans.

Minutes continued from page 7

1. Edd introduced a new boot/grocery bag for sale today.
2. Edd volunteered to make new name tags per Jimmy's suggestion of Board Members wearing name tags during dances to be more approachable and for suggestions.

VIII. OldBusiness

1. The Hall of Fame Sub-Committee meeting is at Denny's on Auburn Blvd, March 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
 2. The Board voted unanimously to have a qualified technician fix the computer. Costs were estimated at \$300-\$500.
- C. Discussion of a general meeting is pending.
D. Bill Seabridge discussed the C-3 Corporation, established in 1986, as a non-profit registered with the State of California.

IX. New Business

1. Taxes are going to be done by a regular tax person.
2. There was a discussion of table and chair set-up for the dances.
3. Get a bid to have a picture framed. Edd Burhans volunteered.
4. There was a discussion that the current By-Laws need to be read and then subsequently amended by the Board.

X. Open Forum – No contributions.

XI. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m., and next meeting date will be 10:30 a.m., April 5, 2020.

Cheryl Dearborn (Secretary) March 1, 2020.

Off Site HOF Committee Meeting

The HOF Sub Committee met on March 11, 2020 At Denny's on Auburn. This was our 3rd meeting.

Present at the meeting was the Committee Chair Jeff Tilton, Rex Barnes, Jimmy Boehnke, Cheryl Dearborn and Edd Burhans.

We Remembered Biff Adam and his talents and contribution to WSS.

The discussion started with the exact dates being set as Oct 2,3, and 4th is the "Official" date. Also the fact it will be at Machinist Hall this year.

There was mention of inviting possible High School Bands to participate in certain time slots. We are trying to keep Western Swing alive with a spark from Billy Jack era with that type of infusion.

Another approach would be to invite younger musicians to participate that already play for the younger generation. Some of these Eva knows through contacts and could have them meet with Ronnie and Shelly.

A suggestion was made by Dave Rietz that we literally clean out the JAM room. Remove all furniture and piano and any excess things sitting around. This would create more room for key boards or dancing.

Cheryl suggested a white board before the Men's room and across from the ladies be installed, so it can be seen from the dance floor, that says JAM ROOM with an arrow.

There was a discussion of a possible tent, location to be determined, and outside chairs for an extended Jammers and workshops to take place. These would be scheduled workshops and incorporate JAM sessions. We want to use and enhance all space available that we have. Some ideas were fiddle players. Western Swing Style Rhythm teachings. We want to create excitement that is orderly and supervised and a learning experience for all. Something fun but tutorial at the same time. Think of people that could create this atmosphere.

Continued on page 16

Gerard Egan continued from page 6

love outside of traditional western swing, we describe our music as 'spaghetti western swing.'

We've been fortunate to attract top Monterey Bay talent to our combo. We feature Charlie Joe Wallace on non-pedal steel guitar, Jim Norris on drums and Sunshine Jackson on harmony vocals and percussion. We keep our live show full of three part vocal harmonies, dueling guitar and steel instrumentals and tight arrangements of our own distinct brand of Spaghetti Western Swing.

Carolyn and I both have dream jobs for musicians. After nearly a decade living in Brooklyn, we had had enough of big city life. I had been inspired to learn how to build guitars after working at Rudy's Music Stop in Times Square. It was where I was first exposed to master guitar makers like John D'Angelico and Santa Cruz Guitar Co. In 2009 I decided to enroll in a guitar building school in Phoenix, AZ, which offered a 6 month immersion course in guitar design and building. Upon graduation, I landed a job building guitars at Santa Cruz Guitar Co. Carolyn ended up being hired by the small company to work in the office. Her various skill sets, resourcefulness and incredible work ethic were quickly recognized and she is now Head of Operations at the world renowned custom guitar manufacturer. After 8 years building guitars at SCGC full time, I decided to leave and pursue music as my main source of income. I still repair instruments part time as well as teach guitar lessons, play solo shows and co-host a radio program with Carolyn on KPIG dedicated to western swing, country, surf and rockabilly music. It's called The House of Twang. I love the idea of people driving around the Monterey Bay listening to us spinning records by the Sons of the Pioneers, Duane Eddy and Hank Thompson etc. Both our careers allow us amazing flexibility to take 3-4 weeks off at a time to tour with our band throughout the year.

I've had the honor of opening for and/or sharing the stage with western music legends, Asleep At The Wheel (at the Fox Theater), James Hand, Don Edwards, Nokie Edwards and Dale Watson. We are currently preparing to release our third album which we recorded in the high desert of Southern California the fall of 2018. It is a concept record inspired by Marty Robbins' 1959 smash hit, "El Paso." We

Continued next column

Gerard Egan continued from previous column

wrote 5 songs from the perspectives of the characters in "El Paso," with insightful lyrics that reference Marty's original song while expanding on the back story of that fateful night at Rosa's Cantina. It was recorded, mixed and co-produced by Sylvia Massy (who has recorded Tom Petty, Johnny Cash, Prince)

I'm proud to say that The Carolyn Sills Combo has been nominated for five Ameripolitan Awards in the last three years (2016-2018). Three times for western swing group and twice for western swing female. The group took home the trophy for 2018's Ameripolitan Best Western Swing Group. We have also received four nominations from the Academy of Western Artists.

Our current release, Dime Stories Vol 2, was named by No Depression as one of the top new releases of 2016.

It's a thrill and an honor to be nominated for the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame. To me, this music is as vital and fun as ever but I also recognize that it takes a little digging to discover it these days, particularly for a younger audience. It's also been great living in an area of California that was such a hot bed of the pioneers of Western Swing music. I'm proud to call Shorty Joe Quartuccio a friend. We met over a mutual admiration of Dude Martin. I see the Sacramento Western Swing Society as a vital organization in keeping this music alive for current fans, celebrating its founders as well as attracting new fans and musicians to sustain it and help it grow in the future. I like to think that between the music we play in The Carolyn Sills Combo and our radio show on KPIG, that we're playing a small but important part in keeping the flame of Western Swing burning bright.





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

Elk Grove (916) 686 - 5666 www.skipsmusic.com	2740 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95821 (916) 484 - 7575
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BRAND NEW AT THE WESTERN SWING SOCIETY by Edd Burhans



Jacket Front with Fitted Ball Cap



Jacket Back



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





HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

THE TIMING

January 1—May 31st: Submissions of nominees for consideration accepted from a member in good standing

June: Hall of Fame Selection Committee reviews and chooses 12 nominees to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. Nominations must adhere to the rules and be complete in order to be considered. Any submissions not chosen roll forward to the next year for consideration

July: Board signs off on the chosen inductees. Inductees are notified and told about our Hall of Fame Event details

August: List of inductees first appear in the newsletter

September: Photos of inductees appear in newsletter. List of HOF bands in newsletter

October: The three day celebration, culminating in the Induction Ceremony on Sunday

HOW TO AND THE RULES

Let's have another inspiring set of inductees for the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame event, the 1st Friday—Sunday in October. ***The closing date for submission of nominations is May 31st. Start NOW. Time FLIES!***

Any member in good standing may make 2 nominations, by either postal or email.

An 8 x 10 hard copy photo or a digital jpeg (at least res. 300 dpi) is required at the time of nomination.

The nomination should contain sufficient biographical information to enable the committee to evaluate the nominee's qualifications.

Nominations must include the name (as they wish it to appear in our Hall of Fame registry), address, phone numbers and email addresses (if available) for the nominee **and** the person submitting them. If the nominee is deceased, please include the name of a person who may be able to accept the award.

Mail to: Western Swing Nominations Committee, P. O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609

It's Easy!

Nominate a musician or exceptional volunteer for this year's Hall of Fame

Time is running out. May 31st is the last date to submit your nominations for our Hall of Fame celebration!

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is a BIG HONOR, so submit a nomination and make someone's day!

1. The name, address, phone and email of member submitting the nomination
2. The name, address, phone and email of the nominee
3. The nominee's name as the nominee wants it shown in the bio and on the Hall of Fame registry
4. Biographical information about the nominee, with emphasis on involvement with Western Swing Music.
 - Birthplace and date.
 - Age at which participation in music began? How? Singing? Playing an instrument?
 - Early inspirations and influences?
 - Time and place of first professional performance.
 - Name of well-known bands and/or performers with which nominee has played.
 - Names of well-known locations where nominee has performed.
 - List of any awards or formal recognitions received by the nominee related to his or her music career.
 - Nominee's personal reasons for involvement in and support of Western Swing Music.

See the instructions in the previous column and email or mail your completed nomination information so that it is received by WSS no later than May 31st.

DON'T FORGET to include *your* phone, email and the *nominee's* phone, email and mailing address so that we can contact you.



MIKE GROSS REVIEW

Album: Down the Trail

Artist: Kristyn Harris

Young and talented Kristyn Harris has just released another very exciting new CD. This 13 tune album includes some great Western Swing and Western sounds with wonderful and talented musicians and the spotlight on the beautiful voice and yodeling of Kristyn. Kristyn also plays rhythm guitar and plays upright bass on two tunes. Russ Rand plays bass on the others. The album features some awesome guitar playing by Rich O'Brien, super steel guitar by Gary Carpenter and Hank Singer is doing the top class fiddling except on two tunes that feature Brook Wallace on fiddle. Michael J. Dohoney is the album drummer, Tim Alexander-piano and Jon Stutler plays clarinet. Kristyn, Rich and Devon Dawson do harmony vocals. Kristyn opens the album with the Duece Spriggins composition from the Sons of the Pioneers, *Down the Trail to San Antone* and then follows with the first of her own compositions, *Mustang Waltz*. She also wrote *Acres of Nowhere*, *Diesel and Dust*, *Guitar Man*, *Yodelin' Fever* and also co-wrote with Randy Huston the fabulous *Texas and You*. Cindy Walker wrote the beautiful *Travelin' in My Boots* and also included is the Bob Wills masterpiece *Maiden's Prayer*. Kristyn also brings back the western classic *When the Bloom is on the Sage* and the sacred classic, *Amazing Grace*. The final two tunes are a Texas version of Hank Snow's 1960s hit *I've Been Everywhere* and the swinging *Thank Heavens for Dale Evans*.



It can be ordered by sending a check to Kristyn Harris at P.O. Box 6807, McKinney, TX 75071. The price is \$18.50, which includes shipping. It is also available for download in mp3 form on CDBaby.

Mike Gross, KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX & KTNK, Lompac, CA & www.swinginwest.com



RIP KEITH HOLTER

June 26, 1931—February 21, 2020

Inducted into HOF October 9, 2005

#5440

Longtime, local musician and life-long, Longview-Kelso resident, Keith Galen Holter passed away at home surrounded by loved ones on Friday February 21, 2020, at the age of 88.

Born June 26, 1931, to Walter Galen and Ida Vivian (Ferguson) Holter, in Longview, WA. Keith attended RA Long High School and was a member of the US Army Reserve. Keith retired from Weyerhaeuser in 1993. He was a longtime member of the IWA 536 and the Musician's Union.

Keith was most well-known for his guitar mastery. Many locals referred to him as "Mr. Guitar." Keith started his professional music career at age 14. He played at most of the Northwest Music venues, including the Glide Hall in Kelso, Plaquato Ball Room in Chehalis, Tiny Dumont's, Division Street Corral, Watkins Park and Wagon Wheel Park in the Portland area, as well as many night clubs and private clubs in the Northwest. Keith also taught guitar for many years. He began teaching in the 1950's at Korten's Music then opened his own store "Holter's Strum and Drum" in the early 1960's. Keith continued to teach until the late 1970's.

After retiring from Weyerhaeuser, Keith continued to play music, pursuing his favorite genre, "Western Swing" along with his son, drummer Dave Holter. Together Keith and Dave traveled the country playing Western Swing with the Longview Longhorns. Keith was inducted into the Western Swing Music Society Hall of Fame chapters in Seattle, Sacramento, Oklahoma, Alaska and Canada. Keith continued to play his guitar until the day before his passing.

Keith is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda, 5 children, Jeri (Dennis) Wormington, Vickie (Bob) Giles, Michael (Lisa) Holter Sr., Mark (Shelia) Holter, Becky (Phillip) Cramer, 17 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

Keith was preceded in death by his son, Dave, his father, Walter Galen, his mother, Ida Vivian, and 2 brothers Kenneth and James Ronald. He will be greatly missed.



Let's Dance!



Photos By Don deMars

LINE DANCERS (Photos by Don deMars)



SWINGIN' (Photos by Don deMars)



Guest Band GRACE CLARK & SWINGITUDE (Photos by Don deMars)



HOUSE BAND (Photos by Don deMars)



THE JAMMERS (Photos by Don deMars)



RIP Biff Adam - You're Up There With the Rest Of The "Strangers"

1936 to March 7, 2020

Inducted HOF October 7, 2001 #474



This was a shock to all his friends at Western Swing Society. We all looked forward seeing Biff's smiling face and sharing a laugh of two. He provided hours of music at our monthly dance without advertising his extensive background as a "Big Time" musician. He was a "Stranger". He played for Merle Haggard for over 4 decades. He made it easy for the musicians and dancers to forget about his celebrity. We at WSS would like to give our condolences to his daughters, Debi Stalder and Connie Ishman. Please stay tuned and we will announce a "Celebration of Life".

Here is an article from Rolling Stone that tells it all. Well worth reading:

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-country/biff>

[-adam-merle-haggard-drummer-dead-obit-964608/](https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-country/biff-adam-merle-haggard-drummer-dead-obit-964608/)



Here is a great article also. This was published many years ago in a home town newspaper in Pennsylvania, The Sun:

Ringo, Ronald And Biff (The Sun, Pennsylvania)

Drumming With The Stars

By Susan Alger, Coordinator, MHS Department of School History

What do Ringo Starr, Ronald Reagan, and Milton Hershey School have in common? A drummer by the name of Biff. Clair "Biff" Adam came to Hershey Industrial School (now Milton Hershey School) in December 1949 at the age of 13 from Reading after the death of his parents.

From eighth grade to his graduation in 1954, he enjoyed life in a farm home. In a recent interview he shared, "I liked milking, I liked farming. I took care of the horses right from when I first got there... I got to work them so in the summer when we were bringing in hay, I was driving the horses and I didn't have to pitch bales (of hay)."

After taking mechanical aptitude tests, Biff chose the machinist vocational training. He was good at math, liked the machine shop, and appreciated that it was clean, "that you didn't have to go out and get dirty."

As a new student, Biff learned that he could take music lessons and decided to give it a try. After six months of lessons, J. Atlee Young, the music teacher and band director, told him that Biff was doing better than him at reading music and coordination. Biff quickly learned the marching band's street beat and played in the band until he started playing football. Biff didn't give up the drums, playing big band music in the Spartan orchestra and teaching other students how to play.

How did a boy who liked farming and learned the machinist trade turn into a professional drummer for Merle Haggard? After graduation, Biff joined the Navy at a suggestion of a friend. Biff did well in the Navy, moving up the ranks swiftly to First Class Petty Officer, and credits that to his vocational training at Milton Hershey School. He had the opportunity to be in a Navy band, but wanted to travel and didn't want to be stationed in Washington, D.C., to "just play for the big, high falutin' guys."

While serving on the USS Wilkinson in Long Beach, Calif., Biff and his buddies went to music clubs on shore leave and his buddies suggested to club bands that Biff sit in on the drums for them.

"So, I used to get up and play drums," Biff said. "I got to meet Roger Miller and Bobby Bare. They said, 'when you get out of the Navy and if you're looking for a job, just come on back here.' So, that's basically how I got into country music."

After four years in the Navy, Biff went back to his brother's family in Kutztown, but jobs for drummers were

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Biff Adam continued from page 16

scarce. He loaded his drums and went back to Long Beach. He played for six years in the Palomino Club in North Hollywood, one of the top clubs in the country, with a band called Red Rhoades and the Detours. Biff played six nights a week at the Palomino Club, on recordings for Capital Records, and in a house band in Disneyland on Sunday afternoons. Biff is credited with creating the double shuffle technique. Unlike other drummers playing a shuffle with just their right hand, he started playing it both with the right hand on the high hat and left on the snare drum. Drummers everywhere copied the technique and still use it, so you might call Biff the “father of the double shuffle.”

One night, Merle Haggard came in to the Palomino Club after recording at Capitol Records and saw what Biff could do on the drums. Haggard needed a drummer for his Strangers band and offered the job to Biff. With a daughter still in high school, Biff turned down the offer. A few weeks later, Haggard came back. Biff and his wife, Betty, decided they would give it a try.

Merle Haggard got a good value with Biff Adam. Not only was he an amazing drummer, his machinist training came in handy again and enabled him to take care of the tour buses. With his Navy leadership training, he served as the band leader. The band traveled all over the world and Biff took care of everything, arranging flights and hotels. In his modest way, Biff says, “I was a pretty good organizer. I lucked out at that. They let me do everything.”

Biff appeared on more than 70 albums with Merle Haggard’s Strangers band and other musicians including Willie Nelson. The band opened for Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones. The Academy of Country Music recognized the band as “Touring Band of the Year”

When asked what experience meant the most during his long career, Biff shared that performing for President Nixon in 1973 was a thrill, but most meaningful was when they worked the western White House for President Reagan’s birthday. Biff said that President Reagan was, “a super person” and his wife Betty became friends with Nancy Reagan. In his unassuming manner, Biff said, “Then of course, I met Ringo Starr, (he) is a close friend of mine. Some of the Stones, yeah, I know a lot of people.”

Biff was honored by MHS in 2008 with the W. Purnell Payne Lifetime Achievement Award for Musical & Vocal Performing Arts. At that time, he donated a Taye drum set to the school for students to use in performances. He also gave five Gold Records and two pair of drumsticks in a case with plaque inscription that gives thanks to the school, “for giving me the opportunity to pursue a professional music career and exposing me to the highest level of teaching of the fine arts of music appreciation.”

Biff lives in Northern California with his daughters Debbie and Connie, and has four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Biff formerly retired in 2013, but hasn’t given up the drums. He still plays and still gets asked about creating that double shuffle. Milton Hershey School honored Biff in 2014 by inducting him into the Visual and Performing Arts Spartan Hall of Fame.

Reflecting on how his days at Milton Hershey School made an impact on his life, “I tell everybody...I learned three trades. I learned a trade as a machinist, I could have been a farmer, and plus the music part. I had three chances... you learn how to take care of yourself...If something goes wrong you got to handle it yourself.” Milton Hershey’s dream was to give students in his school opportunities, “to give as many boys as possible real homes, real comforts, education, and training, so they would be useful and happy citizens.” Clair “Biff” Adam is the embodiment of that dream.

Milton Hershey School is one of the world’s best private schools, offering a top-notch education and positive home life to children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade from families of lower income at no charge.

Learn more at www.mhskids.org.





Mike Gross Top 10

**"Swingin' West"- Mike Gross
KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX
April 2020 Top 10**

Songs

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

Albums

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

Editor's continued from page 2

Janice Allen was there to lead the band in some great vocals. We had Brad Barnett come in and play Ralphs piano. Nancy Long sang and Larry Deleon played drums.

By now I hope word has gotten out that we had to cancel our April dance. Not sure how this Corona-virus is going to affect us in the future. I'm praying for all of our people to stay healthy. We'll see how it shakes out for May.

Stay Safe, Ronnie Elkan *editor*

HOF Committee continued from page 8

There was a discussion about the use of Drink tickets to expedite the line for alcohol. This could be multi colored by price or all at \$1.00 each. It would be nice to have them sold separately from the entrance so it doesn't hold up that line either. There could also be a floater or two Where people could add to there original purchases.

Ed said he thought he could come up with some past numbers from last year to help us plan.

We talked about sponsors for the booklet. The timeline and value. Plus getting it on the Website and in the Newsletter ASAP.

We talked about the value of Eventbrite

We discussed the Pros and Cons of Ticket prices for HOF Weekend.

3 Day	\$ XX.00
2 Day	\$ XX.00
1 Day	\$ XX.00
Evening Only	\$ XX.00

Early Bird Special \$ XX.00 Booked 45 days before
????????????? \$ XX.00 Booked 30 days before

Asleep at the Wheel \$XX.00 Late Bookings

We also discussed Food Court closing at regular time and have one or two Vendor trucks available to cover the late shift.

This is a big venture and at some point committee members will be needed. Please think about all the assets you could bring to the table

Next meeting will be Tuesday April 7 630@ Denny's on Auburn.



"DANCIN"



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

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, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, 1-4pm, Ramada Inn, 2600 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, \$6.00 cover. Information call (916) 580-7390. <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.



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.



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.

MAILBAG



Heartfelt thanks to Candy Galassi for her generous donation to the Society in memory of Biff Adam!

As Candy said in her card, "Please use this check in memory of Biff Adam. He was a good friend of mine. I will miss him forever."

Candy Galassi