



# MUSIC NEWS

Published by the Western Swing Society, Sacramento, California  
Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones

Volume 39, Number 6

June 2021



**GOOD NEWS, We will have a dance Sunday July 4th, 2021  
at The Machinist Hall, 1-5 (Band To Be Announced)**



**LOUISE ROWE BEASLEY**

*Inducted Oct. 4, 1987*

*Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 3*



**CLARENCE CAGLE**

*Inducted Oct. 4, 1987*

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**OPEN POSITION on the BOARD**  
Please help us fill this position!

**GUEST BAND July 4th, 2021**

**Band To Be  
Announced  
1:00 to 3:00pm**

**Followed by  
The "House Band"  
3:00 to 5:00pm**

**The Western Swing Society**

PO Box 2474

Carmichael, CA 95609

westernswingociety.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, (open)

Treasurer, Linda Swanson

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, (open)

Bartender, Brian from the Eagles

Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes

Equipment and Staging, Gary Blodgett

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Master of Ceremonies, (open)

Membership Director, (open)

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, (open)

Public Relations Administrator, Jeff Tilton

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, (open)

Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett

Website, Dave Rietz

**EDITOR'S LETTER**

Finally! California is opening and so are we. On Sunday July 4th 1-5 we will have a dance at the Machinist Hall. Here is the caveat though. First of all, we are not sure that we will be able to get our liquor license in time. This means that we may only be selling water and soft drinks. Second is that I will announce the band through email when I know who that is. The "Jam room" band will be playing in the jam room and our wonderful "House Band" will be on the main stage at 3:00 after the feature band. We will still be following CDC guidelines, whatever that is?

We had another great turnout at the Valencia Club for a dance on Sunday May 16.



Thank you Lincoln Highway for putting on a great show and keeping everyone entertained. These boys provide a professional touch to any stage.



Mary Harris said:

"Beautiful day to be outside listening to fabulous music of the Lincoln Highway band, dancing, hanging out with friends and enjoying life at the Western Swing Society dance in Penryn at the Valencia club."

Jeff Tilton said:

"Such a great day! The jam room and the outside stage were hoppin"

Thank you Mary Harris for all the great photos. Super eye behind the camera.

A lot of our folks, including our President (Rex Barnes), drove down south to Tehachapi Ca. to take part in the Western Swingout Weekender. Robin Torbet gave me a great report that I will include in this newsletter.

With our dances kicking in I will ask again for any of you to volunteer. We have all kinds of jobs to fit your time and schedule. We have lost some board members and need anyone that might have an interest in being on the board to let Rex know. See Ya Soon, *Ronnie Elkan*

**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.

**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.

**LOUISE ROWE BEASLEY**

Inducted October 4, 1987

Born 1932



Louise Rowe holds the distinction of being the only female *musician* Bob Wills ever hired. That was quite an accomplishment for a woman in the fifties, not only to be working in the music business, but to be working in one of the hottest western swing bands of the day. Initially hired as the "girl singer" for a tour of southern California, Bob Wills found out in short order that not only could Louise sing any harmony part, she also played rhythm guitar and bass. When Jack Lloyd left the band to get married, Louise got her union card, her Texas Playgirl uniform, and was officially listed as "musician" on the payroll.

Although she was only 18 years old when she became a Texas Playgirl, she had gained a lot of experience working with her family, the Seven Rowe Brothers. This year in San Marcos, Texas, the Rowe Brothers received a Lifetime Achievement Award celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the business in connection with the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame. Louise has produced a CD of her brothers' music consisting of 22 songs dating from the '30s to the '90s.

Louise toured California with the Bob Wills band from 1952 to 1953. During this tour Bob recorded several radio transcriptions on which Louise



appears. When the tour ended, Bob had agreed to do another tour for agent Lucky Moeller. Since the musicians had already been booked for this tour, Bob told Louise that she had a job with his band and that when the tour ended, he would call her.

In the meantime, Louise went to Longview, Texas and played bass in the houseband at the Rio Palm Isle Club. On her night off, she went to Lawton, Oklahoma to hear a friend's band, and there she met.

*Continued on page 5*

**CLARENCE CAGLE**

Inducted October 4 1987

Born April 19, 1920-Died October 5, 2003

Clarence Cagle was born April 19, 1920 to Charlie Bud and Mary Amy (Beaty) Cagle. He began playing violin and banjo at house parties at the age of nine and later found his calling with the piano, the instrument that made him famous. He played at the Moonlight Gardens in Oklahoma City, where he became friends with legendary jazz musician Charlie Christian, who was playing at the club next door. After a stint with Herb Goddard's Oklahoma Wanderers, he auditioned for Bob Wills, and performed with the Texas Playboys until Wills left for Hollywood to make western films. It was during his time with the Texas Playboys that he developed his well known "Boogie Woogie Highball". Clarence stayed in Tulsa and performed with Wills' brother, Johnnie Lee Wills for the next 17 years. Clarence was also known for his work with Leon McAuliffe and was admitted to the Western Swing Hall of Fame in Sacramento, CA in 1988. He once figured that he could play more than 1000 songs on the piano without sheet music to assist him. He officially retired from music in 1999.



Thank You Linda McCarley for all that you do. She is just one of our wonderful volunteers that make it all happen.

**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!

## ROBIN'S REPORT ON THE SWINGOUT WEEKENDER



Not Western Swing; Western Swingout!

*Roger and Robin went on an adventure to the Western Swingout in Tehachapi! We decided to go by train, with an elegant Amtrak bus bridge from Bakersfield to Tehachapi (where plenty of trains go by but do not stop) and arrived in Tehachapi safe and sound on memorial day weekend. The event is Friday night, Saturday, Sunday, and half of Monday. We were definitely part of the Sacramento delegation.*

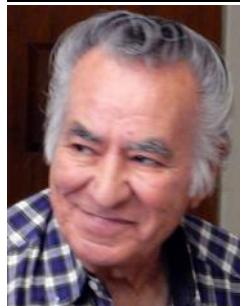
14 bands played for our dancing enjoyment. There was plenty of food and drink at the VFW, where the event took place. Sophisticated DJ music between bands with Western Swing flavor, and a contest between Jive and Lindy hop dancers

People wore western shirts and vintage fashions in the rockabilly era, and there was a vintage fashion show along with a fancy boot contest, all was emceed by Big Sandy, a longtime pro of the Big Band world. The dance floor was a little small but accommodated everybody

The event was very lively, and there were people there from all over California. The event was absolutely on schedule the entire weekend. There was plenty to keep you busy all day long and the hotels were walking distance or a short drive away. The people putting on the event were great. There were restaurants in town including steakhouses, Italian

*Continued on page 5*

## TONY'S JAMROOM EXTRAVAGANZA



WOW! Tony had stage full of great pickers at the Valencia Club on May 16 for a dance. He had his sidekick Dave Rietz right there to help run the stage and play fiddle too. If you come in to the jamroom to play or sing please let one of these guys know you're there. Don't be shy!



Like I said, he had a great bunch of players:

Dave Rietz, fiddle and vocals; Jimmy Spero, lead guitar and vocals; Brad Barnett, keyboard and vocals; Billy Smith, bass; Lenny Serdahl, lead guitar and vocals; Gary Blodgett, lead guitar; Bill Cornett, drums and vocals; Dan Jones, drums; Rob Shotwell, lead guitar and vocals; Steve Clark, bass and vocals; Ronnie Elkan, fiddle; Shelley Elkan, vocals; Nancy Long, vocals; Wendy Higgins, vocals; Maxine Chan, vocals; Tom McVeigh, vocals; Dave Channell, vocals; Roy Pruitt, vocals and Tommy Thomsen, guitar and vocals.

Thank you to all that talent for coming out to perform.

## 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

## WE HAVE A BOARD POSITION OPEN!

We will be looking for a new secretary if you have the time and the experience.



**DANCE AT MACHINIST HALL JULY 4TH 2021**

Band to be Announced Soon



# WESTERN SWING SOCIETY MUSIC NEWS

June 2021 - Page 5

*Louise Rowe Beasley continued from page 3*

Tommy Allsup. By the time Bob Wills called Louise to come back to work, she had fallen in love with Tommy, and was working in Odessa, Texas. They divorced in 1958, and Louise moved to Dallas, Texas.

In 1959 Louise married fiddleman Buddy Beasley, and they raised two daughters, Rhonda and Marcie. Marcie takes after her dad and is a fiddle player as well as a singer and songwriter. While Marcie isn't pursuing a career in music, she did appear on Louise's album "Shades of Swing" where she played fiddle and sang two of her own compositions, "Western Swing" and "What Love Can Do".

In 1982, Buddy and Louise developed a color-code teaching method for fiddle called the "Buddy System" which is still being sold in music stores. One student of this method is Jason Roberts who is currently working with Asleep At The Wheel.

In 1994, Louise produced a cassette called "Texas Playgirls and Playboys" which includes former Texas Playgirls Darla Daret, Dean and Evelyn McKinney, and Ramona Reed, along with former Texas Playboys Eldon Shamblin, Bob Boatright, Johnny Cuviello, Floyd Domino, and Billy Briggs. There is also a video filmed partially in Turkey, Texas during Bob Wills Day. There are so many Texas Playboys in this video that you have to watch it several times to see all of them.

Louise has fond memories of being a Texas Playgirl and of Bob Wills. She recalls that whenever he wanted to talk to her about boys, he called her "Child", but after she tripped over a cord and brought down a couple of amplifiers he nicknamed her "Pluto" after the Disney cartoon dog.

Today, besides playing bass for other bands, she works with her own band, the Western Swing Road Band consisting of former Texas Playboys. Her peers, steelman Tom Morrell, saxman Larry Reed,



*Continued on next column*

*Louise Rowe Beasley continued from previous column*



and fiddleman Bob Boatright, among others, consider Louise one of the finest western swing bass players working today.

At the Legends of Western Swing festival in

Snyder, Texas this past June, a fan remarked to me that he noticed Louise had played in several bands that day. I said, "That's because she can cut it". And that brings us to the undisputed truth that when it came to musicians, Bob Wills knew how to pick 'em!

by Dayna Wills,

*Swingout continued from page 4*

food and other restaurants with eclectic flavors. We sat entirely in the shade with comfortable chairs.

Saturday night was the big night with plenty of people, fashion and dancing. The event occurs mostly outdoors but that was not a drawback because we found the weather was nice for this time of year and most of the time we were in short sleeves.

So pack your hats and make your plans for an adventure for year #5 next Memorial Day in Tehachapi in 2022!

Be prepared to listen to the trains go by!

So experience Western Swing Out with people dressed to the nines in vintage fashions, great music and friendly people having a terrific time!

Robin Torbet



## NEW MENU FOOD AVAILABLE

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!!!

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



**BACK TO DANCING**

## **BRAND NEW AT THE WESTERN SWING SOCIETY by Edd Burhans**



### Jacket Front with Fitted Ball Cap



### Jacket Back



www.ijerpi.org



## 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**

**Small - Extra Large** \$78.00  
**2 XL** \$82.00

**3 XL \$85.00**

**4 XL**

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**



**JUST A GREAT TIME TO DO SOME VISITING**

**JUST A GREAT TIME TO DO SOME VISITING & DANCING**

Thank you to Mary Harris,  
and anyone else who helped  
me get some pictures off of  
Facebook

### 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=2)

**Carolyn Sills Combo:** [https://www.carolynsills.com/](http://www.carolynsills.com/)

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

**Gary Blodgett,** Every Wednesday night at the Valencia Club on the indoor stage from 7:30-10:30. <https://www.facebook.com/gary.blodgett.142>

**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](http://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](http://www.wsmss.com).

### 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 Machinist Hall in Rancho Cordova.



*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](http://www.skipsmusic.com)

2740 Auburn Blvd.,  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
(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@westernswingociety.net](mailto:membership@westernswingociety.net). Thanks! Keep on Western Swingin'

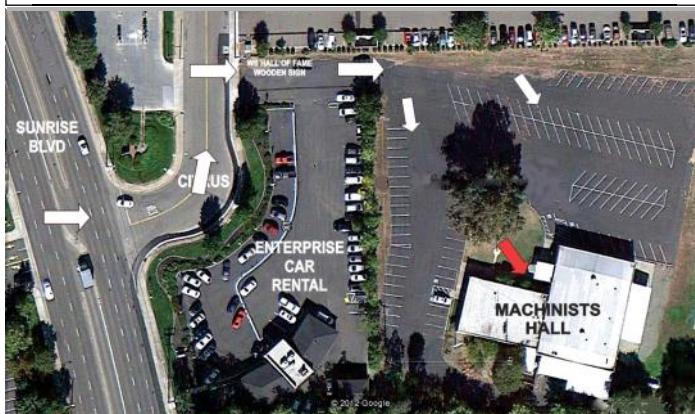
### MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

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.westernswingociety.net](http://www.westernswingociety.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.