



**NO DANCE on this Sunday November 6 Rescheduled on November 13**  
**LINCOLN HIGHWAY to RETIRE Don't miss the party!**  
**Great Dance planned for Sunday November 13, 2022!**



**JOHNNY GIMBLE**

*Inducted Oct. 4, 1987*



**JOE YBARRA**

*Inducted Oct. 3, 2021*

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

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*Rex Barnes*

Here is our GREAT president of Western Swing Society. He does so much for us that I don't know where to start.. Thanks Rex for another great year at WSS. You do an incredible job with all the challenges that are thrown at you!

**GUEST BAND**  
**Sunday, November 13, 2022**



**Lincoln Highway Band**  
**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

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, Ronnie Elkan

Treasurer, Linda Swanson

Secretary, Doug Weiss

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Bartender, Cyndi Lee

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Jam Room, Tony Arana

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McCoy

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Website Manager, 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.

**Letter from The Editor**



Hey there all my Western Swing Society friends. As most of you know I'm still in Houston Tx getting care at MD Anderson for my

wife Shelley. We hope to come home on November 19, 2022 if all goes well. I've been doing the monthly newsletter from here. We sure are missing everyone and the music.

Fortunately we have some great friends that have been letting us know what's going on at home. We heard the Hall of Fame was fantastic and a lot of the musicians that came from out of town will be back to play for us.

Linda Baughman wrote: *Good morning,*

*Thinking of you two when I woke this morning.*

*Thought I'd update you on how The HOF went. I've seen lots of things on Facebook, all good, but, just so you can feel like you were there.*

*First the decorations were great. Rex and helpers (?) did a fantastic job.*

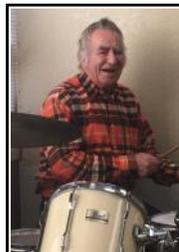
*Highlights:*

*We went to the dinner Friday night and really enjoyed the band. Loved that Olen was part of it. Of course, missing one special fiddle player.*

*Saturday, Belinda Gail comes to the top of the list. She received a standing ovation for her beautifully polished performance. I also have to mention the Lincoln Highway Band. Best performance they've ever done as a band as far as I'm concerned. Disappointed more dancers and members didn't take part in the HOF weekend when there is such a great venue.*

*Continued on page 9*

**JAM ROOM JAMMERS**



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](mailto: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.

Come in and join in, you can listen or sign up to play and/or sing.

*Tony Arana, Jam room Host*



**JOHNNY GIMBLE**

Inducted October 4, 1987  
Born May 30, 1926 Died May 9, 2015



Gimble was born in Tyler, Texas and grew up in the nearby community of Bascom. He began playing in a band with his brothers at age 12, and continued playing

with two of them, George and Jerry, as the Rose City Swingers. The trio played local radio gigs, but soon after Gimble moved to Louisiana and began performing with Jimmie Davis gubernatorial campaign. He returned to Texas after completing his service in the U.S. Army in WWII.



After serving in World War II, Gimble returned to Texas and continued to hone his fiddling skills with a number of Texas radio and dance bands. In 1948 he made his first recording, playing with Robert Bro's Rhythmairs in Corpus Christi, and one year later he joined Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, with whom he toured for most of the next decade. With Wills, he played both fiddle and electric mandolin, and distinguished himself by using a five-string fiddle (most fiddles have four strings).

Gimble's fiddling style, while uniquely his own, was greatly influenced by other Texas fiddlers who played the "breakdown" fiddle tunes. What came to be known as the "Texas fiddling style" emerged during the first half of the twentieth century among fiddlers such as Cliff Bruner, Louis Tierney, and Jesse Ashlock. Gimble learned from them, and further developed while playing with Wills, who epitomized and promoted a new sound known as Western swing. Western swing rose to national prominence in the 1940s, combining the old-time, Southern-derived Anglo string band tradition, with its breakdowns, schottisches, waltzes, and reels, with the big band jazz and pop music of the day.

After Gimble's marriage to Barbara Kemp of Gatesville, Texas, in 1949, he settled in Dallas. There, in the 1950s, he began doing radio and televi

*Continued on page 4*

**JOSEPH (JOE) YBARRA**

Inducted October 3, 2021  
Born October 1950



Born in Sacramento in October 1950, Joe Ybarra's early years were influenced by uncles, cousins and a great-grandmother, all of whom played guitar. He began seriously playing guitar at age 14 and focused on the music of the British Invasion groups and the blues through 1965.

In 1966, he and some friends formed the Continental Combo and their first gig was to perform for the young inmates inside the Sacramento Co. Juvenile Hall. Around 1968 he acquired his first lap steel guitar, a three-legged stand-up Rickenbacker. His family bought this guitar from a school friend's parents who had sold steel guitars door-to-door since the '50's.

In 1969 he played his lap steel in Buckwheat, a country-rock band in the vein of the Flying Burrito Brothers. This band opened for Taj Majal at Freeborn Hall on the UCD campus, and for Tower of Power at the old state fairgrounds. Hall of Famer Bobby Woods remembers he first heard Joe practicing with Buckwheat from across the park in Orangevale and walked over to listen. The impact on Bobby was dramatic and his fire for western swing had been lit! Bobby acknowledges, "I wouldn't be in the Hall if I didn't meet Joe."

Around this time he was greatly influenced by the Byrds' album *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* and especially the pedal steel playing of JayDee Maness and Lloyd Green. The steel took him into the broad genre of country music and he would soon incorporate the western swing style in his playing. He says, "It's been a lifetime journey ever since; I'm constantly trying to improve and find new patterns". Joe was and continues to be tremendously influenced by other favorite pedal steel players such as Buddy Emmons, John Hughey, Paul Franklin, Weldon Myrick, Curly Chalker, Herb Remington, Joaquin Murphy and Doug Jernigan. He still owns all of his parents' old Bob Wills 78's.



*Continued on page 5*

*Johnny Gimble continued from page 3*



sion shows with Bill and Jim Boyd (of the Lone Star Cowboys) and performed on The Big D Jamboree, a weekly variety show broadcast live from the Sportatorium in Dallas. He broke off to form his own group in 1951, performing as the house band at Wills's club in Fort Worth and Oklahoma City, but rejoined in 1953 and continued to play with Wills until the early 1960s. He played fiddle on Marty Robbins' #1 hit "I'll Go on Alone".[2]

In 1955 Gimble, moved to Waco and supplemented his income from hosting a local television show Johnny Gimble & the Homefolks by working as a barber and at the V.A. hospital. In 1968, after repeated encouragement from his peers, Johnny moved his family to Nashville, TN. From then on, his steady work as a session musician included sessions with Merle

Haggard on his Bob Wills tribute album, A Tribute to the Best Damn Fiddle Player in the World (or, My Salute to Bob Wills), Conway Twitty, Connie Smith, Lefty Frizzell, Ray Price, Willie Nelson, and Chet Atkins on Superpickers in 1973. The following year he took a cue from a song he wrote and performed on the Atkins' Superpickers album, Fiddlin' Around and recorded the first of ten solo albums, Fiddlin' Around.



From 1979 to 1981, Gimble toured with Willie Nelson worldwide. In 1983, Gimble assembled a Texas swing group featuring Ray Price on vocals, and charted a country radio hit with "One Fiddle, Two Fiddle," featured in the Clint Eastwood movie Honkytonk Man, where Johnny had a supporting role as Bob Wills. Gimble appeared in the 1970s through the 2000s on Austin City Limits television and Garrison Keillor's radio broadcasts. Gimble was also a member of the Million Dollar Band.

Johnny and his son Dick Gimble, a College Professor of Music, started a fiddle camp and with the help of daughter Cyndy ensured that the western

*Continued page 5*

## 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 link below these instructions to enter that photo album.
- 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 of a particular person, click then click [See all people](#) at the bottom of the dropdown list. Scroll and click on a person. You will see all photos of that person. Then you can download and print what you like.



### PHOTO LINKS

#### Monthly Dance Photos

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5ma7guDZhAo4owYW8>

### FOOD AVAILABLE

American Legion Post #709 , Mather and Rancho Cordova, are all volunteer veterans that prepare meals and cook for us at all our Sunday dances. Next Sunday's Dance we will have an expanded menu with some new items on the menu. Come early for lunch to support these volunteers and stay to dance.

A hot meal, reasonably priced, provided by our American Legion Post #9! Thank you for your service!



**All credit card transactions will have a \$.50 surcharge added.**



Follow the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest at [www.wsmss.com](http://www.wsmss.com)

or on Facebook at: [Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest](#)

*Johnny Gimble continued from page 4*  
 swing style of country music was passed on to the next generation.

Gimble died shortly before his eighty-ninth birthday on May 9, 2015.[3][4]

Gimble's granddaughter, Emily, is a notable vocalist and keyboard player who has performed with Johnny Gimble and other bands. Emily currently plays with Asleep at the Wheel as keyboardist and vocalist, a band that frequently partnered with Johnny to bring the music of Bob Wills to newer generations. Gimble's grandson, Jon Gimble, is the District Clerk in McLennan County as of January 2015.



**RIP TIGAR BELL**



*Tigar Bell, a fiddle player and great musician of our time has passed away this week. He had been working and living in Nashville, TN. If you never heard him play you just have to look*

*him up. Here he was with (right to left) Merle Haggard, Tigar, Tiny Moore and Johnny Gimble*

Tigar Lee Bell, 57, of Nashville, Tennessee passed away September 18, 2022. He was born July 10, 1965 in Newberg, Oregon to Lester and Betty Bell. Tigar was a gifted musician and well-known fiddle player who has performed with Merle Haggard, Ricky Van Shelton, Travis Tritt, Collin Raye and Pam Tillis and many others.



Nashville Cremation Center is honored to be entrusted with handling Mr. Bell's arrangements. Please visit his tribute page to leave a thoughtful note for the family. .

So after a couple years of woodshedding Joe, Bobby and Hall of Famer Richard Casanova formed Tokpela around 1971. The song catalogue of Bob Wills was most of this band's repertoire and they became locally known as Sacramento's version of Asleep At The Wheel. In fact, they once opened for Asleep At The Wheel at Crabshaw Corners and Joe enjoyed a short jam session with Lucky Oceans later that night. They also opened for Commander Cody at the old Public House on Auburn Blvd. This was one of Joe's first performances on the pedal steel guitar and he had to do it in front of Bobby Black! They also opened for Cody in Berkeley. One time they were scheduled to open for Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks; when Hicks blew off this gig, Tokpela inherited the full house and played the whole show for an appreciative crowd.

Around 1976, Joe joined the Dusty Rustlers with Bobby and Conrad Nelson (another of our Hall of Famers). During the Urban Cowboy phase, Joe and the band played their extensive repertoire of western swing almost exclusively, playing rodeo shows, state fairs and dance bars, and they



*Joe survived The Dusty Rustlers and Conrad Nelson*

opened for a few acts coming through town. They also played the Showcase Lounge on Auburn Boulevard on the one night each week that country music was featured there. The Dusty Rustlers convinced the club owner to convert the showbill from what was mostly disco and pop to all country every night of the week. This band played western swing six nights a week and the dance crowd quickly went from platform shoes to cowboy boots. During this period Joe, Conrad, Richard and Bobby also played with Hall of Famer Tiny Moore on the *Easy Livin' Country Show* on Channel 40 on Sunday mornings.

Joe played in David Westmoreland's band around 1979, and took to the road playing country cover tunes from here to Colorado and back. When they came off the road, David (son of Hall of Famers 'Okie' Paul and Ola Louise Westmoreland) and Joe each had jobs waiting for them in the house band at the Detour Inn in North Sacramento.

From 1980 to 1982, he played with Hot'l Sacto, focusing on country rock popular during that time. One night in Sonora they opened for Hank Wil

*Continued on page 9*

TIME TO SWING



*Thank you to Mary Harris, and anyone else who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.*

**LET'S VISIT AT WESTERN SWING**

**Make sure to see the instructions on how to access the photos online, page 5**



*Thank you to Mary Harris, and anyone else who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.*

THANKS FOR ALL THE MUSIC



*Thank you to Mary Harris, and anyone else who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.*

*Joe Ybarra continued from page 5*



liams, Jr., who performed using an oxygen tank on stage soon after his fall off the mountain. Joe remembers tuning up his pedal steel at sound check and being joined by several of Hank Jr's band members for a long jam session.

In the 1980's, he toured Canada far and wide playing country music with Alibi. He later formed the Silver City Band with brother Rudy, touring the Nevada casinos and many venues in Oregon. They later got the house job at Angelo's in Sacramento with a steady playlist of country music.

Around 1993 Joe and his band Tolatrez received a Community Service Award from the City of Sacramento for playing so many events at the Music in the Park series.

Spreading his wings a little during the mid-90's through 2016, Joe focused on guitar in the band Prizm, exploring the genre of jazz/rock. A turning point occurred in Joe's life in 2016 when his close friend, pedal steel player Chris Ivey, passed away. Joe found out later that Chris had bequeathed his Emmons D10 twin-neck to him. This personal tragedy formed Joe's inspiration to return to performing on pedal steel guitar.

Joe is an accomplished musician and in addition to western swing, has played in many styles and genres throughout his career. His many bandmates through the years know him as a dependable, enthusiastic and prepared musician; a solid player who gives 110% and an easy guy to be around. Joe says, "Western Swing is my all-time favorite to perform and my involvement in this style of music is the main reason I continue using the traditional lap steel in some arrangements." Of all his life experiences, his career in music has formed his strongest and most cherished memories.

**MUSIC ALERT:**

You can see our soundman perform every Wednesday Night at the Valencia Club on the indoor stage from 7:30-10:30. You just never know who he'll have with him on stage.



*Editors Letter continued from page 2*

*Sunday went really well, Candy Girard was awesome!!! Loved everything about her. Such a kind and talented person. She used Kevin Russell's band and they have been playing together a lot, very polished. If no one has mentioned it, Candy was hoping they could play at the WSS in April or May 2023.*

*The ceremony went off really well, and of course Janice Allen did great as usual. Bobby Black played in three bands on Sunday and did so so good, (blessings). The Hall of Fame Band was well organized and went off without a hitch. Loved all the talent on stage.*

*I know I missed some of the venues but, I hope this quick little run down makes you feel like you were a part of it all.*

*You two continue to be in our hearts and prayers daily. Love you both.*

*Doug Weiss wrote: From the first note of the Bob Woods Band on Friday night at the dinner/dance until the last one played by The Lincoln Highway Band on Sunday evening the Hall of Fame Festival was an enjoyable, entertaining and a successful event. Those in attendance Friday night were treated to Bob's tribute to Bob Wills.*

*Saturday morning began with Tony Arana and the Jam Band kicking things off. They were followed by Ray Poe and Pickin' Time, The House Band, The Lincoln Highway Band and Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars. Inductee Belinda Gail backed by The House Band completed the day's activities. If you missed her, you missed something special. Belinda finished her set with an a cappella rendition of Amazing Grace for which she received a standing ovation from the crowd.*

*Sunday found Inductee Candy Gerard and the Familiar Strangers on-stage. Candy's vocals and fiddle playing were outstanding. Next up was Don Burnham and the Bolos featuring the dynamic vocals of Inductee Pamela Brandon.*

*The Induction Ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors by the Auburn Area Color Guard followed by the National Anthem sung by Janice Allen. Terry Crouson did a suburb job as Master of Ceremonies for the proceedings.*

*Nine inductees were present – Janice Allen, Linda Baughman, Bill Bergen, Pamela Brandon, Michael Cox, Candy Gerard, Tom Gunterman and Dave R. Jeffrey – receiving plaques and certificates presented by Charlie Hull (Hall of Fame Member #25) and*

*Continued on page 10*

*Editors Letter continued from page 9*

*President Rex Barnes. Marc Caparone, Kevin Porter and Dave Stucky were unable to attend.*

*Dave Rietz provided keyboard music that enhanced the affair. Once the ceremony was completed Janice Allen and All The Queen's Men hit the stage with an energy filled hour. The Induction Band followed with a superlative set of music that kept the dance floor full.*

*After listening to them, it left no doubt why they were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Bob and Virginia Kuykendahl conducted the raffle between bands with George Silva winning both the hand painted violin donated by Mary Dillingham and the electric guitar donated by Skip's Music. Rob Shotwell presided over the auction of an acoustic guitar - signed by the 2006 Hall of Fame members of the North West Western Swing Society – donated by Bill Enyeart's son, Jason. The Lincoln Highway Band closed the Festival. The crowd was treated to an impromptu appearance by Elvis impersonator George Silva.*

*We are most appreciative of the efforts of all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on the Festival as well as the continued support of you, our members. Now there is nothing to do but look forward to the 2023 Hall of Fame weekend.*

**NO DANCE ON SUNDAY NOV.6 RESHEDULED ON SUNDAY NOV. 13. PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS**

*Western Swing Society Presents*  
**Sunday Dance**  
 New Date of Dance! 2nd Sunday, November 13th  
**Lincoln Highway Band**  
 Will disband after this show  
 1PM—3PM  
 Let's give them a BIG Western Swing "Farewell Party"  
**HOUSE BAND**  
 3PM-5PM  
 American Legion Auxiliary will provide FREE Cake for the party!  
 2749 Sunrise Blvd. Rancho Cordova, CA

Membership List:  
 \$7 Members  
 \$10 Non-Members  
 \$15 Membership—Single  
 \$25 Membership—Doubles

**Raffle Winners**



*Thank you to Mary Harris, and anyone else who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.*

MORE PICTURES OF HALL OF FAME(More pictures "Online Pictures" page 4)



**OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS**

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

**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

**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 and Swingitude:** [www.graceAclarkmusic.com](http://www.graceAclarkmusic.com). 925-443-5217

**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:**

Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$6 cover at the door. <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 2740 Auburn Blvd.,  
 (916) 686 - 5666 Sacramento, CA 95821  
[www.skipsmusic.com](http://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](mailto: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: \$7 for Members; \$10 for Non-Members  
 For information, browse to [www.westernswingsociety.net](http://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.