



**NEED BOARD MEMBERS/ Please Welcome Sandy Robinson to the Board!
 PLEASE Volunteer if you can! Bob Woods @ the Miners Foundry page 10
 Hall of Fame Nominees Page 6**



ROY LANHAM
Inducted Oct. 2, 1988



BILL BERGREN
Inducted Oct. 2, 2022

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 3

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“Thank you Rex Barnes for your service”

LOST AND FOUND
ONE PAIR OF TENNIS SHOES
PINK PURSE

GUEST BAND
Sunday, March 5, 2023



Rob Shotwell & His 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

Other Directors:

Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463

Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520

Jimmy Boehnke

Mae McCoy

Sandy Robinson

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Admissions Coord, Linda McCarley

Bar Manager, Cyndi Lee

Bartender, Cyndi Lee

Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes

Equipment and Staging, Gary Blodgett

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson

Membership Director, (open)

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Mary Harris

Public Relations Administrator Mae

McCoy

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, Janet Jimenez

Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett

Website Manager, Dave Rietz

Letter from The Editor



Hi Everyone

Most of all I want to thank everybody for coming out to WSS's February dance. We were notified on Friday that

there would be heat in the hall by that afternoon. Our deadline for renting a heater was 4:00 pm so we thought that "We got this". Saturday we found out it only worked for 2 hours. You all know what happened next. You all showed up and stayed to the end. I guess if you keep dancing and picking you don't feel the cold. It should be fixed by March 5 but I'm not going to hold my breath.

What a great dance we had as Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars took the stage. Mae has acquired a grant from the City of Rancho Cordova for The Western Swing Society. We will be filming the music and publicize it on social media to let people know we are here. The grant is for the equipment to do that and for stage equipment. Our great sound man, Gary Blodgett, is setting it up and will be teaching us how to use the new equipment.

Mae keep the tradition of western swing music alive and well. Mae has recorded at her studio and Justin Trevino's studio in Texas. Personally, I love that and it is one of the main reason for our society. Her band is Mae McCoy on guitar and vocals; Jim Baughman on lead guitar; Ralph Chase on piano and vocals; Chuck Webb on bass; Aron Smith on drums; Jesse Perso-neni on pedal steel guitar; Ronnie Elkan on fiddle.

"House Band" took the stage after the raffle. They did a great job and kept the folks dancing. The band is

Continued on page 10

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 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



"We miss our drummer Tony Arana. Get well buddy"



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.

ROY LANHAM

Born Jan 1, 1923 Died February 14, 1991
Inducted October 2, 1988



In 1939 Roy starred on WNOX, Knoxville, Tennessee, with Archie Campbell. In 1940 he joined Gene Austin with a quartet called “Whipperwills”, stayed with Gene a couple of years. He went to WLW, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he stayed from 1943 to 1947. He worked with some guest artists: Merle Travis, Joe Maphis, Hank

Rensley, Homer and Jethro, Rosemary Clooney, Captain Stubby and the Buccaneers, Brady Kincaid, the Delmore Brothers, and Grampa Janks. I remained friends until this day all of whom are still living.

We reorganized the Whippoorwills and came to Hollywood in 1950 where we joined Roy Rogers, replacing the Sons of the Pioneers who were doing a local TV show. They did Roy’s radio show for 1 year and toured with Roy for about 4 years. We disbanded in 1955 and he went on to replace Jimmy Bryant with Cliffe Stone. He stayed about 2 years with Cliffe and went on to join CBS on the Red Rowe Show. He worked TV and records through out



the 50’s where he was on a lot of hits, including: Bonnie Guitar, Jim Reeves, Johnny Horton, The Browns, Mitch Torak, and The Fleetwoods. He did all the music behind them, 2 guitars and bass including

“Come Softly to me” and the B side “Mr. Blue” which sold in the millions.

He joined the “Sons of the Pioneers” in 1961 where he spent the next 26 years. No doubt this has been the highlight of his career, they traveled all over the world and made millions of friends. He made about 45 albums with the “Sons”. He semi retired in 1987 along with his lovely wife of 43 years, Mari- anne. He says they are living “happily ever after”.

BILL BERGREN

Inducted October 2, 2023



Bill started playing the steel guitar at the age of 16 and soon found work in the honky-tonks and amusement venues around his SoCal home. Playing on and off, he worked with many acts, including the Wild Oats and Cowboy Maynard Bands. It was there that he met and worked with Larry Park in the early 1980’s,

holding the steel chair in major country venues, such as the ‘Cowboy’ and the ‘Crazy Horse Saloon,’ during the wild and crazy ‘Urban Cowboy’ days.

With musical work harder to find in the ‘90’s, Bill took advantage of his natural artistic abilities and went to work for a number of small advertising agencies, finally ending up at metropolitan newspapers such as the San Bernardino Sun and the Los Angeles Times.

Simultaneously, Bill turned back to his first musical instrument, the bass guitar, playing with local jazz bands and touring with bluegrass musician Andy Rau, a fine banjo player and composer of original music.

Pulling his trusty 1977 Emmons pedal steel from its case in the garage, Bill began to revisit some of his earliest musical inspirations: The Byrds, The Flying Burrito Bros, Poco, and all the great Nashville steel guitarists of the 60’s and 70s, as well as exploring its jazz capabilities. After moving to NorCal in 2015, Bill again hooked up with Larry Park and Worked with a variety of local artists before Larry asked him to join the Random Strangers at the end of 2019. It will be a renewed collaboration that should delight the aficionados of live music for many years to come! Bill Lives in Elk Grove with his wife of 41 years and a couple of cats, Van Gogh and Maurice (because “he speaks of the Pompatus of love”).

With The Random Strangers, Bill plays an Emmons double-10, push-pull model guitar, vintage 1977. Bill also plays dobro, mandolin and bass.

Even though Bill stays so busy he has found time to come in and play for us at The Western Swing Society. He has jumped in with Geoff Miller and Gary Blodgett just to mention a couple of Hall of Famers.

RIP MARTY JAMES #0389

Born April 7, 1936 Died March 2, 2023



Born, with given name: Neal A. Maertins on April 7, 1936, in Richmond, California.

Early music training: Piano lessons at age four formal violin lessons beginning at age 9.

Concert violinist at age fourteen, performing on stage with the Richmond, Oakland and San Francisco Symphonies at ages fifteen and sixteen.

Graduated from Richmond Union High School at seventeen, at which time was gaining clear interest in band music, performing as a member of local Glenn Miller style orchestras.

Entered the U.S. Air Force in early 1954 and upon being assigned to overseas duty in Tripoli, Lybia and North Africa was drawn to country and western bands and soon found himself with his own band playing in local service clubs. I was about this time that he teamed up Lucky Hill a local disc jockey. Lucky was responsible for coining his professional name, Marty James It was also at this time that he played on his first professional recording with Lucky on Starday Records.

Competed in All-Air Force talent shows with his western trio, winning at all levels, including the world championships in Las Vegas, Nevada in early 1956. From these performances his group was chosen to perform on the Ed Sullivan show. Soon after, he traveled with an all Air Force "Tops In Blue" variety show appearing in most of the eastern half of the U.S. As well as Iceland, Eastern Europe, Greenland and North Africa.

Marty rehearsing for my appearance on the Black Jack Wayne TV show in the 50's from Jack London Square in Oakland, California-Vern Orr at my right, Fred Lewis at my left Marty James fiddle, Chuck Gillette, Steel guitar. Memories of my country music career, Bill Carter. Page 10



Continued on page 10

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
- 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/ysnNJVJTxQ1dzzUw7>

FOOD AVAILABLE

American Legion, Mather and Rancho Cordova, are all volunteer veterans that prepare meals and cook for us at all our Sunday dances. Come early for lunch to support these volunteers and stay to dance.

A hot meal, reasonably priced, provided by our American Legion

Thank you for your service!

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



2023 UPCOMING BANDS

March 5	Rob Shotwell & His Band
April 2	TBD
May 7	Micheal Ray Strauch
June 4	Geoff Miller
July 2	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
August 6	Lincoln Highway
September 3	The DeLeons
Sept 29,30 Oct. 1	Hall Of Fame



Join us in celebrating the
“End of an Era”

The NorthWest Western Swing Music Society (NWWSMS) is dissolving after 40 years of Promoting and Performing America’s Western Swing Music in and around the Pacific Northwest. We will be celebrating the Society’s contributions to the Northwest music community on:

Sunday April 23, 2023

2PM to 7PM

Alki Masonic Center

4736 40th Ave SW

Seattle WA 98116

(near the Alaska/Fauntleroy junction)

Music for dancing provided by members of the NWWSMS

*There is no charge for this event. A catered meal will be provided.
Adult beverages will be available for purchase.*



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!

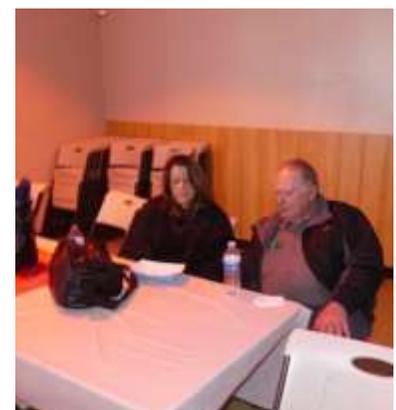
1. The name, address, phone and email of member submitting the nomination
2. The name, address, phone and email of the nominee
3. The nominee's name as the nominee wants it shown in the bio and on the Hall of Fame registry
4. Biographical information about the nominee, with emphasis on involvement with 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.

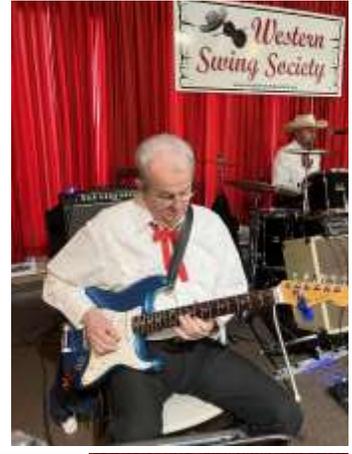
LET'S VISIT AT WESTERN SWING

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



Thank you to Don deMars who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

THANKS FOR ALL THE MUSIC HOUSE BAND



Raffle Winners



Thank you to Don deMars and Mae McCoy who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY BOARD MEETING FEBURARY 5, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Barnes at 10:33am.

Members Present: Barnes, Boehnke, Elkan, McCarley, Rietz, Swanson, Weiss.

Guests: Don deMars, Sandy Robinson, Bill Seabridge, Chuck Webb.

Approval of Minutes: February 5, 2023 minutes approved as corrected via email vote. 6-0.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Barnes Moved, Second Elkan that Sandy Robinson be accepted as a member of the Board to replace Mary Harris. Approved 6-0.

On Friday the Hall Representative notified Barnes that the furnace had been repaired. The President then canceled the hot air machine. On Saturday he received a text that the furnace had quit running.

A number of items were disposed of that were stored in the rented double storage unit. This reduction allowed a move into a single unit for half the cost.

LAWSUIT.

Guest Bill Seabridge updated the Board on the "shake down" lawsuit brought against the WSS. As per Board authorization, he will settle the suit for \$400 and a written release.

TREASURERS REPORT.

Swanson distributed the January, 2023 Income/Expense Report. Moved Weiss, Second McCarly to accept the report. Approved 7-0.

NEWSLETTER REPORT.

Going forward with the usage of clip-art for the Newsletter was discussed. The decision to use it or not is left up to Elkan. He will also be looking into the use of Google (cost, mechanics) for online Board meetings to replace the Sunday morning meeting.

WEBMASTER REPORT.

Site up and running with current Newsletter available. Rietz has done some reordering on the site. He also reported that all members of the Hall of Fame are accessible with the exception of the 2022 class. They will be added in the near future.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR AND GRANT MANAGER REPORT.

None

OLD BUSINESS.

The setup crew's responsibilities have been increased and begin today.

NEW BUSINESS.

Possible new locations for the Sunday dance were discussed. Rietz presented a list of 6 sites in Rancho Cordova. He, Elkan and Weiss will vet them.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Rietz will host his 80th Birthday Party on Saturday, February 25, 2023 in Placerville. E-Invites will be sent soon.

ADJOURNMENT.

Moved Weiss, Second Rietz to adjourn. Approved 7-0.

Doug Weiss, Secretary



*Banner day at WSS.
Lots of live music and
swing dancing. Thanks
to everyone who
showed up to support
the Western Swing So-
ciety!*

Marty James continued from page 4

While attending college in San Pablo, California he was hired by the Black Jack Wayne Band and performed at the Garden of Allah in Niles, California as well as weekly TV show on channel 2 in Oakland, CA.

His musical interests concentrated on Western Swing and he joined the Al Palmer band in the later 60's. There he was fortunate to perform and fine tune his craft with musicians who had played with the Bob Wills and Leon McAuliff bands.

In the mid 60's he was chosen to perform with the Ray Price big band premiering his "For The Good Times" hit at the Hollywood Pavilion.

Later he played fiddle with the Shorty Joe's "Red Rock Canyon Band" in San Jose, CA area and joined Shorty's band for Western Swing cruise ship adventure in the Caribbean in 1992. Some of the outstanding musicians on that trip included Bobby and Larry Black.

Still performing regularly with Tom Rose and Bobby Thompson bands throughout Northern CA.



Follow the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest at www.wsmss.com
or on Facebook at: Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest

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.



Editor's Letter continued from page 2

Jim Baughman on lead guitar and vocals; Ralph Chase on piano and vocals; Steve Clark on bass and vocals; Bill Cornett on drums and vocals; Jesse Personeni on pedal steel guitar; Gary Blodgett on guitar and vocals; Ronnie Elkan on fiddle. We were happy to have incredible singers join the band, Janice Allen, Nancy Long, Rhonda Rogers and Linda Baughman. All of these singers front their own group and volunteer their talent to us at WSS. Sitting in on drums was Charlie Nickrenz (Edgewood Station) and Arron Smith (Buck Ford). Rhonda Rogers and Edgewood Station will be with us July 2

Bob Woods has asked us to tell you about this special western swing event in Nevada City, Ca.:
March 26 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



It's been said that the Foundry's got the largest wooden dance floor in the west!

Grab your favorite dance partner and join us for a raucous afternoon of dancing to the amazing sounds of The Western Swing Trio (with Bob Woods) and The Heifer Belles (with Juliet Gobert)!



[Get Tickets!](#) | \$10-\$15 Show starts early at 1pm | Doors at 12pm Miners Foundry Box Office
Tickets available online, by phone or in person at the Miners Foundry Box Office:
325 Spring Street, Nevada City, CA 95959
Tuesday – Friday | 9:00am – 4:00pm (530) 265-5040

We will have to start eating better at our food counter. If the American Legion people don't sell enough we will surely lose them. They are a great organization and work so hard for us. If you can buy a sandwich or give an idea of what you might want it will be appreciated.

Hope to see you all in March and thank you for all of the support I've been getting, Ronnie Elkan.



LET'S SWING



Thank you to Don deMars who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

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. 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 Trio: Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$6 cover at the door. <https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars
Contact: maemccoy@gmail.com
<https://youtube.com/@maemccoyandherneonstars>

Micheal Ray Strauch & The Fortunate Few
Contact Facebook for dates and places

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.

Cliff Huey 27 Outlaws Band @ <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=cliff%20huey%2027%20outlaws>

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.

MEMBERSHIP

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

You can mail changes in your information to the Society at P.O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609; or email it to membership@westernswingsociety.net
Thanks! Keep on Western Swingin'

MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

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

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

Donation: \$7 for Members; \$10 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.