Salute to the Steel Guitar
featuring cotton patch picker David Simper
By Gary E. McKee
Story on Page 4
By Theresa Cernoch Parker

On Jan. 10, I attended the annual meeting of the Polka Lovers Klub of America Texas Chapter where the officers are installed for the year. What a great turnout! It was a cold day, but it soon warmed up as enthusiastic polka lovers filled the American Legion hall in Sealy.

Congratulations to new president Kathy Cernosek. I know she will do a great job in leading the organization. And thanks to Clinton Ellebracht for serving the Klub as president for the past three years.

I was honored to receive an award of appreciation for serving as executive secretary for three years. Thank you Bob Bourassa of Willis, for stepping up. I know Kathy and the other officers appreciate it.

I know we are all busy with multiple responsibilities, but serving on the board is not that time consuming. It’s not too late to volunteer. Kathy’s contact information is located on page 16. Read her column and give her a call or email to let her know you’re willing to help.

If you’re not a member, consider joining. Come out to the Klub fundraiser on Sun., Feb. 21, at the American Legion Hall in Wallis, and find out more about the organization. It will be a great dance, too, with music by the Red Ravens.

As you finalize your resolutions for 2016, make it a year to promote your heritage and Polka On!
**From the TPN Archives: March 2005**

**REMEMBERING BOB WILLS - A TEXAS LEGEND**

*By John Rivard*

[As printed in March 2005] Editor’s note: Bob Will’s 100th birthday is March 6 (2005). Although Bob died in 1975, his music lives. The following article is in birthday tribute to the man who made western swing.

“Deep within my heart lies a melody…”

Yes folks, it’s the familiar refrain from the great Bob Wills western swing hit “San Antonio Rose,” and it’s known to fans of great music everywhere. It also graces the grave of the legendary Bob Wills as a fitting epitaph for this man and musician known as “The King of Western Swing.”

How big was Bob’s contribution to the development of western swing? Simply stated, Bob Wills put western swing onto the nationwide scene with his Texas Playboys band, radio shows, movies, dance hall performances, and great recordings, including the landmark hit “San Antonio Rose,” which helped vault the music to nationwide recognition.

Yes folks, Bob Wills is a Texas legend, with his fiddle, the jaunty cowboy hat, a cigar in the corner of his smiling mouth, and his famous “hollers” that punctuated the music that he created. His role is best summed up by lyric of Waylon Jennings’ tribute song, which concludes, “Cause once you’re down in Texas, Bob Wills is still the King.” Let’s learn a little more about Bob and his music.

**From Our Readers**

A while back, I received copies of the Texas Polka News from you that contained the article about the Joe Patek Band and mentioned the death of my father, Quentin Hoffman. I wish to extend a sincere thank you for sending them to me. I was able to give by brother and two sisters each a copy. They are most appreciative. I wish you a happy, healthy, holy, joyous, and prosperous New Year! 

Johnnie Hoffman, Praha

We really enjoy your newspaper. You are doing an absolutely great job on pictures, articles, and presentation. Gary, I really enjoy your articles and especially the research you must do to get such details and in-depth information. Since being associated over the years with so many of the people you interview, I am able to associate with many of the events that are described. It is sad that over time, much of this will be lost. Theresa, we enjoy your take on life and how polka music/dancing adds so much. Your cute jokes at the of the online (polkabeat) weekly news are also great. Please keep it going.

Ed & Marlene Kadlec, Hallettsville

Keep up the good work. Really enjoy keeping up with the bands and news.

Barbara Sutton, Taylor

The January issue was fantastic. The addition of color is great. Thanks for the coverage of the Texas Chapter of PolK of A. Any mention of the Klub is always greatly appreciated. We always look forward to the next edition.

Clinton & Dorothy Ellebracht, Schulpenburg

Wow! You and Gary sure make us look good. Knew there would be a picture but didn’t expect this (being on the cover). What a great Christmas gift. Thanks to all of your staff for a great job and here’s to the best of 2016 for all of you.

Russell & Barbie Loitz, Houston

**Editor’s Log**

**Salute to Steel**

*By Gary E. McKee*

**Polka Date: February 2016. The editor has always been intrigued by the steel guitar ever since he saw Alvino Rey’s talking steel guitar on a black and white television in a burg in a far away galaxy known as pre-Interstate 10 Schulpenburg.**

Just to establish terminology: originally a lap steel was a “normal” acoustic wooden guitar that is played on the musician’s lap, however early (1940ish) players such as Herb Remington and Leon McAuliffe had stands built and later electronics added. The strings are picked with finger picks and a polished steel bar slides along the guitar’s neck.

A pedal steel guitar is a solid block of wood with pickups (tiny microphones) under the strings to capture and amplify the sound. The bar slides back and forth along the strings just as a lap steel. Alvino Rey, big band leader and lap steel player, was frustrated with the musical restrictions of his instrument. He and a mechanic devised a system of foot pedals that smoothly transitioned from chord to chord by lifting the strings. The device, the first pedal steel guitar, marketed by Gibson Guitar Corporation, was unveiled in 1940 and called the Electraharp. Knee pedals were later added to increase versatility by Zane Beck who backed Hank Williams, Jim Reeves and Webb Pierce. On both types of guitars, the frets (those tiny raised bars on guitar necks used to produce different chords) are never used.

**ALOHA**

The “delicate instrument,” as Mike Brinkmeyer of The Telstars describes it, had its origins in Hawaii. In the 1800s the Spanish guitar was introduced to the Hawaiians. Legend has it that around 1874, young Joseph Kekuku attempted to lay his guitar flat and play it, but wasn’t satisfied with the sound. To improve it he fashioned a smooth steel bar and metal finger picks to produce an entirely new sound that swept the islands and soon traveled to the United States. The sound stayed relatively obscure since recordings hadn’t been invented yet.

The earliest record of the Hawaiian guitar sound was when cowboy movie star Hoot Gibson brought Sol Hoopii, Hawaiian steel star, to Los Angeles to play with his band in the early 1920s.

**POCKETKNIVES, BEER BOTTLES AND DOUBLE NECKS**

The popularity of the lap steel sound spread and soon inventor/musicians were adapting the playing style to various music genres. Blues musicians loved the slow mournful sound produced when sliding a glass bottle or pocketknife along the neck. Early 1900s jazz bands adjusted tunings to get a snappy, sparkly sound which soon evolved into what later became known as western swing.

Bob Wills’ lap steel player, Noel Boggs, was a friend of Charlie Christian, the renowned jazz guitarist, and began emulating his sound. Boggs is also credited with adding a second neck to the steel. The versatile lap steel guitar has become a standard instrument used in thousands of bands.
Cotton Patch Picker

By Gary E. McKee

Whenever Charles and the Fabulous Four announce that [Got a] Little Bit of Heaven is the next song, a small crowd gathers in front of the steel guitarist. This group knows that what they will hear next will generate some goose bumps as David Simper serenades them with his distinctive warble and better-than-original rendition of this classic song.

David hails from Moulton, Texas - the same cotton farming community as Adolph Hofner. Following in the Hofner tradition of community as Adolph Hofner. Texas - the same cotton farming community as Adolph Hofner. Growing up in Central Texas in the 1950s, it was next to impossible to escape music with the likes of Jimmy Brosch and the Happy Country Boys, the Joe Patek Orchestra, Frank Migl Orchestra (just to scratch the surface), and KCTI polka radio all playing in your proverbial backyard. David was absorbing it all between cotton crops.

David had learned to play his father's accordion by the age of 12. He got his first gig (non-paying) at the Moulton church picnic playing the music for the cakewalk (similar to musical chairs). At some point, his father had bought an old lap steel guitar from his uncle. David "started messing around with it" and took a liking to it. His father engineered legs and a bracket for the guitar out of barn lightening rods and a car's steering wheel to allow him to stand and play. Shortly thereafter in the mid-1950s, the Simper brothers, George, Willie, and David formed a band (along with two friends) appropriately called, George and the Country Boys. At Saint Gerard's Parish in San Antonio, he played his first of over 60 New Year's Eve gigs. The band played polkas, waltzes, and country music wherever they would get paid, even Corn Cob Hill, outside of Moulton.

After the family went their separate ways, David and his lap steel guitar played in a series of groups, Jessie Lee and the Texas Valley Boys, The Henkhous Barons and The Schuck Brothers for a number of years.

VELVET REVELATION

In 1961, Donnie Florus and James Farek, from the Flatoria area, (who both had been in The Schuck Brothers) approached David about playing in their new band called The Velvets. David agreed and ended up playing steel guitar for 19 years. The Velvets core members consisted of Donnie and Tony Florus, Joe Woods, James Farek, Abel Rodriguez, and David. What started out as a country band with a rock influence, soon became a well-known country band.

After a couple of years with the band, David had enough extra bucks to purchase a pedal steel guitar. This upgrade greatly expanded the band's sound. It took a while to master this sensitive instrument. At a gig in front of the LBJ Student Center in San Marcos the band was playing in the shade of some massive pecan trees. After intermission, David returned to his steel to find that the tree had wept its sap over the strings making it sticky to play and out of tune for the rest of the set.

In the mid-60s rock and roll was king with The Triumphs, The Barons, and The Moods ruling the roost. This left The Velvets to focus on country music that quickly developed a hardcore following. At times, they crossed paths playing battle dances which boded well for ticket sales, but also at times turned volatile. Willie Nelson hadn't arrived on the scene to make peace between the country crowd and the long-haired rock and rollers.

STANDING ROOM ONLY

The band was getting more popular every year. A dance schedule from August 1978 showed The Velvets performing 28 gigs that month.
Every first Saturday, they played Shiner, the next Saturday they were in El Campo, and Moulton was the following Saturday. This schedule went on for years. This writer remembers frequent gigs at Cistern hall on Sunday nights during the school year.

In between standing Saturday dances were dates in Austin, Houston (Bill Mraz and Dancetown USA,) San Marcos, Wharton, Hallettsville, and Victoria; in addition to New Bielau, Freyburg, and Swiss Alp halls. Late during a gig after Christmas at Mraz’s Ballroom, Rudy Mraz handed Florus a napkin written upon "2800 TICKETS SOLD BLOW IT OUT!" (the hall only held 2,000.)

After the Urban Cowboy phenomena burst upon the scene in 1980, things got really busy for this Flatonia band. Between Don Florus' fiddle and David’s steel guitar, and the bands 15+ years of experience, they were the one of the best, and most sought after country bands. By then the KCs were building large capacity halls in Hallettsville and El Campo. The Velvets packed them all.

Their high visibility got them jobs opening up or backing touring acts such as Bobby Austin (Apartment Number Nine), Tony Booth (Key's in the Mailbox) and many others. The most well-known star that they backed up was Bob Wills. During the 60s, Wills' time as a big band leader had passed and he was touring with just a guitar player, trusting the promoter to provide an adequate band. The Velvets backed him up in Moulton and later in Swiss Alp. David still remembers when it came time for a steel guitar solo and THE Bob Wills pointed his fiddle bow at David and said his famous, "Take it away." The reality of who was telling him to take it away hit home, and "I just played the best I could." After two decades of juggling the late hours and a day job, The Velvets finally slowed down and went into hibernation with frequent reunion shows.

STEEL FEVER
After playing thousands of one-night gigs, David took a year off, but when a friend started a band, and asked if he would be their steel player, he agreed and joined Country Fever. Several years later, David attended a wedding reception at which Rhythm of the Road was playing. He was impressed and asked if they needed a steel guitar player. ROR was a sponsored band, meaning someone else paid the overhead of performing. ROR's popularity grew and they were soon having their gear hauled by an 18-wheeler with state-of-the-art lighting and computer-controlled sound systems. It was a long way from the sparseness of his first band playing at Corn Cob Hill with hardly a PA system. David said that he could have been a grandpa to the rest of the musicians, but they treated him well, and he was with them for six years before the grind of the road wore him down as he was still working his day job at Kasper Wire Works in Shiner.

After he caught his breath, David was once again drafted into a friend's band that eventually became the Tim Hall Band and this lasted for several years. Presently he is giving goose bumps to folks in Charles and the Fabulous Four. So, check the TPN listings to see this great band. David said, "I would appreciate it."
Soybean Steel

By Gary E. McKee

Craig Schmidt had been playing bass in a country band since the age of 13 when the bass player in his older brother’s band (The Outlawed Four) quit and he was drafted into the position. When he saw Hal Rug, staff steel player for the Grand Ole Opry, on the Wilburn Brothers’ TV show, Craig knew that was the only instrument he really wanted to play.

For years he stood in the back of the stage watching various steel guitar players take hot solos and make their instruments cry and sing. In the mid-1970s, Craig and his wife farmed land down in Speaks, and one year their soybean crop sold above average. His wife, aware of his fascination with the steel, slipped on the instrument. He was about to give up, however he stuck with it for a year before he felt comfortable.

Craig's pursuit of Buddy Emmons' (world's foremost steel guitarist) ability to get a glass-like sound that kept him practicing. Before he became an Opry star, Craig did his time in the honky-tonk dance hall circuit for 11 years with The Spurs of Country Music, The Bush Riders, and Whiskey River Band before taking a decade off for family. In 1997, Buddy Boehm from Hallettsville coaxed Craig out of retirement to play steel for his new band, The Country Knights for several years.

Currently Craig holds down the steel position slot in the Doug Boggs and Cowboy Jazz Band out of Spring, and occasionally performs at the All Cowboy Church in Sealy.

HEADED TO THE OPRY

Fortunately for Central Texas, Craig mastered it. Every month will find Craig on stage backing up a wide variety of musicians from the classically trained Jordan Sisters to honky-tonker Darrell McCall as a member of the house band at the Rosenberg, Giddings, Brenham, La Grange, Edna, and Bastrop Opry shows. Playing with constantly changing lead musicians and quickly adapting to their styles is a treat and learning experience (see TPN for dates).

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By Gary E. McKee

The title pretty much sums up Dennis Shimek's childhood and adult life. His grandfather on his mother's side was Rudy Kurtz of the Kurtz Orchestra. When his mother, Helen, was six she learned the button accordion and along with her brothers started a musical legacy. Wence Shimek met Helen at a Kurtz performance and decided to capitalize on their common interest in music. They married and formed the Wence Shimek Band, which eventually included four of their sons and one of their daughters (they had 13 children together.) After Rudy Kurtz retired from the stage, the two bands blended together and the Wence Shimek Orchestra carried on the family tradition.

STEEL CONFIDENCE

With self-confidence, Dennis joined a group of like-minded young men assembled in Hallettsville to see if they could play music together. They were Jody Hermes, Alvin (A.J.) Drabek, Hubert Janak, Hubert Darilek, Shorty Pavlas, Valentine Janak, and Dennis. They found they could and began playing the honky-tonks and local parties.

This was a training ground for these young musicians to go their separate ways, joining other bands that are still playing today. After several years, Dennis upgraded to a pedal steel guitar and joined Gene Drozd and The Westerners making his steel cry and sing for the folks of Central Texas for 15 years. The Westerners were the house band for Hallettsville's Fiddler's Frolics and backed up the star performers.

The uniqueness of the steel guitar has made Dennis in demand for groups that want the country and western sound. Add to that his Czech/polka background and that took a while to get the basics down but after that it became a labor of love as he was able to express the emotions of the songs he played.

Surrounded by Music

The Vrazels Polka Band and The Lee Roy Matocha Orchestra were the two main groups in the 1960s and 70s that included steel guitar players. Wence and Helen’s son, Dennis, had always been fascinated with the sound of the steel guitar as he grew up surrounded by instruments. While in his teens he procured a lap steel and listened to records over and over figuring out how to emulate the complicated sounds of the famous steel players. It
makes him a double ringer for bands in the Polka Belt. Presently, Dennis spreads his skills between Texas Sound Check, The J & S Playboys (Hubert Janak and Dennis Shimek), Texas Dream Band, and his own country-flavored band, Southern Express.

Lucky for us, Dennis said, "I will keep entertaining folks until the day I die."

**Western Swing**

By Mike Stroup

Mike Stroup is a Central Texas troubadour who has performed all over the state, from the Bill Mraz Ballroom to swing festivals actually in the Western part of Texas and all points in between. He currently spreads his hot guitar chording and picking at intimate venues in CenTex such as The Red Vault (Flatonia) and Hickory Hollow (Houston Heights.) He still performs with the Wild River Band (Houston) which features Herb Remington (Bob Wills) on steel guitar. Mike is also a director of the Schulenburg Sausage Festival.

In 1990 I was in Heights Sound Studio (Anderson Fair, Houston) recording an album with friends when Karl Caillouet (engineer/producer/bassist) queued a CD by Tom Morrell and The Time Warp Tophands. I haven't stopped listening and playing western swing since.

Western swing has a swingy (is that a word?), bouncy feel to it with usually a jazz chord structure. It's also just a bunch of fun to play and I would like to see and hear more of it, especially locally.

So, the following is in part from the Western Swing Music Hall of Fame website and some of my own words.

Western swing music was named the Official Music of the Great State of Texas by the 82nd State Legislature on June 17, 2011. It is the only musical style that was born and raised right here in Texas. The Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame is located in San Marcos, TX.

Western swing has its roots in country, blues, big band swing, early fiddle band music, cowboy and gospel, and Dixieland each of which influenced this new musical style coming out of the 1930s. The music pioneers most credited with this style are Milton Brown, Spade Cooley, and Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys.

Two of the musicians from The Texas Playboys can still be heard performing with western swing bands: Leon Rausch, former vocalist beginning in 1958, and Herb Remington, the steel guitar player from 1948–1952.

Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel are at present carrying the banner for this music. The popular Wheel tours year around, recording with major acts such as Willie Nelson and George Strait. The past and present members of the Wheel are a who's who of the finest musicians. Having the best musicians available continues another practice of Bob Wills.

Though many of the original swing musicians have left us, western swing bands are alive and well performing at dances, western swing festivals, and cowboy gatherings. Western swing and cowboy music are a close fit and seem to share a western feel and sound. The Western Music Association promotes western music and mentors young musicians in cowboy poetry and music. Many of these musicians, such as Kristyn Harris, Mikki Daniels, and Hailey Sandoz, are winning music awards and making their mark in western music by keeping the music alive and bringing in younger audiences.

Here are some upcoming cowboy and western swing events:

Ray Benson solo at the Bugle Boy, La Grange - Thurs., Feb. 11
8th Western Swing Valentine Party, Canton - Feb. 11-13
Darrell McCall at Fayette County Country Opry, La Grange - Mon., Feb. 15

The Best Little Cowboy Gathering, La Grange, March 10-13.
32nd Texas Steel Guitar Assoc. Jamboree, Irving - March 10-13
Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame Show, San Marcos - April 1-3

Check out Western Swing Monthly: wsmonthlyonline.com for western swing events and news. Also, the Texas Polka News has it all! Happy trails and please support live music.
from Bob Wills to Lawrence Welk to Pink Floyd. I recently watched as Robert Randolph backed by two other steel players performed several Jimi Hendrix compositions at a tribute concert. (Yes, he lifted it up and played it behind his back.)

It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that all the TPN readers have heard a lap steel. Remember a dreamy, belt-buckle polishing song by Santo & Johnny: Sleepwalk? This instrumental, released in 1959, was played on a triple-necked Fender lap steel and caused a spike in sales for steel manufacturers and became the most requested steel guitar song.

A style known as Sacred Steel is played in churches, particularly those with gospel choirs. The steel’s unique ability to mimic and accompany human voices blends with the choir voices. Check it out on YouTube.

In 1939, when Alvino Rey added the pedals to his lap steel, the floodgates of innovation opened. Musicians began experimenting with multiple necks, distortion devices, "normal" electric guitar pickups (Telecaster and Stratocaster), knee levers, and extra pedals to produce a multitude of sounds in one song. Some tune their extra necks a certain way to eliminate retuning for a different song. David Simper likes a double neck, so if he breaks a string he instantly jumps to the other.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS
The steel guitar is not just a man's instrument as there is a video clip showing a 5-year-old girl playing a steel on the Mickey Mouse Club. Barbara Mandrell, born in Houston, was a child prodigy, reading music and playing accordion at the age of five. By her early teens, Chet Atkins had discovered her steel playing abilities, and soon she was playing steel for Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash, and George Jones. Just as Barbara was giving us her farewell tour in the late 1990s, rumors of another young lady virtuoso began surfacing.

Cindy Cashdollar had moved to Austin after perfecting her lap steel and dobro skills by backing up Paul Butterfield, Levon Helm, and Rick Danko of The Band. She quickly found a seat in Asleep at the Wheel’s music bus. After eight years with the Wheel, she began backing up Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Ryan Adams, and appearing semi-regularly on Prairie Home Companion. During this time she racked up five Grammy awards and was Instrumentalist of the Year in the Western Swing category for the Academy of Western Artists.

DAY OF STEEL
As a youngster, Jimmy Day had trouble learning the conventional guitar, but when he saw Shot Jackson playing a lap steel in 1949, he found musical salvation. He took to the steel and by the age of 16 was a regular in the honky-tonks, then graduated to the Louisiana Hayride.

He went into the studio and recorded a single with Webb Pierce and pianist Floyd Cramer, which hit number one the day before his 18th birthday. Not slowing down, he was in Hank Williams’ band when Hank died. He then backed up Red Sovine, Jim Reeves, Lefty Frizzell. His final lap steel session was with some guy named Elvis Presley. Day finally got his hands (and feet) on a pedal steel guitar and he never looked back. He stayed with Presley until he went Hollywood, and then Day hooked up with Ray Price to record Crazy Arms. By then Day was only 21.

Day convinced his mentor, Shot Jackson, to build a custom-built guitar, which he named "Blue Darlin." After a two-year stint, he toured with Webb Pierce and Ernest Tubb and then rejoined Price’s Cherokee Cowboys. Playing with them for three more years he and the bass player, Willie Nelson, struck out on their own. The following decades had him playing session work with a who’s who of country music (short list): Willie, George Jones, Ferlin Husky, Leon Russell, Clay Baker, Charlie Louvin, and Don Walser.
I included this short bio of Jimmy Day for the reason that in the late 70s, he was playing in the Central Texas area, doing session work with Willie and Johnny Bush. In between sessions he would play with the Clay Baker Band at the Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos. I frequented the honky-tonk where the alternating band was Ace In the Hole with a kid named George Strait singing.

During intermissions I would sit back stage with Jimmy and listen to his stories of the road and playing with my idols, which the few stories I remember (blame it on 50-cent beer) are not printable in this paper. He was just a regular guy, who had experienced so much of the music scene. When the band struck up a note, Jimmy would flick his cigarette away and say “gotta go play” and play he did!  

Note: I know this just scratches the surface about the steel guitar. Rest assured, there will be more to the story in future issues.

**INSTRUMENT OF THE SOUL**

Brandon Hodde, a multi-instrumentalist, has been learning to play the steel for less than a year and these are his thoughts: I would have to say that the steel guitar is definitely a challenge. But you can’t express yourself - emotions, nor feelings - as fully on any other instrument like you can on the steel guitar! There is something about it that just lets you put your soul into it!

Jim Rob Wills was only ten years old in 1915 when he fiddled at his first dance in Turkey (TX), being called to fill in for his daddy, also the son of a fiddler. It was the first of thousands of nights on stage over the next six decades.

Then earning a living as a barber and salesman, the musician Bob kept working to develop the blend of Tex-Mex, Dixieland, Tin Pan Alley pop, and big band jazz that evolved into western swing.

His first big break came in 1930 with a daily radio show for his band, the Aladdin Laddies, on Fort Worth radio WPAB. When Aladdin Lamp dropped sponsorship, the band became The Light Crust Doughboys, named after the new sponsor. Thus began Bob’s association with Burrus’ Light Crust Flour and W. Lee “Pappy” O’Daniel.

In 1932, the association with O’Daniel broke down (in part due to Bob’s drinking) so Bob (with brother Johnnie Lee) took off for Waco, Texas, where his band the Texas Playboys was truly born, playing frequently on radio station WACO.

From there, they moved on to Tulsa (OK) finding their long running national radio home on KVOO, broadcasting daily from Cain’s Ballroom for eight years (see “Cain’s – The House That Bob Built” in TPN, June 2004).

Bob and the Texas Playboys were invited to perform at The Grand Ole Opry in Nashville in 1945. Bob and the band also appeared in several movies during the 40’s.

While national radio exposure helped popularize the new brand of music, playing dances was Bob’s real love.

“Bob was a stylish, western rogue,” says Ray Benson, a disciple of Wills and leader of the Grammy-winning group Asleep at the Wheel. “He danced onstage, he was outrageous. He strutted like a peacock, unheard of back in those days,” said Benson.

Over the years, many of the great and near great worked The Playboys. The songs they made famous live on today and are standard fare for the scores of western swing bands that keep the music alive. San Antonio Rose, Faded Love, Maiden’s Prayer, Take Me Back to Tulsa, Yearning, Lily Dale, Bubbles in My Beer, Hubbin It, My Life’s Been a Pleasure, Stay All Night, and so many more.

Bob continued to perform throughout the 50s and 60s, but health concerns became an issue, including strokes. Bob died in May 1975, age 70. The King was dead.

But his music is with us. Deep with our heart lies his melody...
Treat Your Sweetheart For Valentine’s Day!

Enjoy a formal evening at the Valentine Dinner and Piano Concert sponsored by the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange on Sat., Feb. 13. The evening will begin at 4 pm with a social, featuring appetizers, along with dinner, dessert, wine, roses. Evening attire. Ticket includes all beverages, appetizers, dinner, dessert, wine, roses. Benefits TCHCC Maintenance Fund.

**Social 4-6P / Dinner 6P / Concert 7P**

John Dujka will perform a variety of Czech and classical favorites.

Hanslik Hall
Donation: $75/person by Feb. 8

Tickets: info@czechtexas.org / 1-888-785-4500

250 W. Fairgrounds Rd. La Grange, TX
czechtexas.org

**The Czech polka bands of Ennis invite you to the 10th annual ENNIS CZECH MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, February 13, 2016**

1:00PM to 10:30PM

**Sokol Activity Center**
2622 E Hwy 34 – Ennis, TX 75119

- **CZECH HARVESTERS** 1:00
- **JODIE MIKULA ORCHESTRA** 3:00
- **CZECH & THEN SOME** 5:00
- **MORAVIANS** 7:00
- **ENNIS CZECH BOYS** 9:00

Only $8 Per Person – Ages 13 & Under Free – Doors Open 12:00PM
No reservations – Kitchen Open – Cash Bar – Raffle Prizes

Dress casual, or this would be a great time to put on your “kroj” (CZECH COSTUME)

**Feb 12th – Polka On! Pre-Party**
6PM–11PM in Sokol Clubroom (back entrance) – DOORS OPEN 5PM – No cover charge
Ennis’ newest & youngest polka band OUT OF THE BOX 7:00–11:00PM

“This is a great way to extend your support & appreciation for Czech music & heritage”

Stay tuned to the KBEC Polka Party 9AM–11AM every Sunday on KBEC 1390 or www.KBEC.com

www.EnnisCzechMusicFestival.com
EnnisCzechMusic@yahoo.com | 972-878-4748 | Like Us On Facebook

 reservations only by Feb. 8. Tickets are $75 per person and includes all drinks, appetizers, dinner, concert and roses for attendees. Only 80 tickets will be sold and the proceeds benefit the TCHCC.

For more information or to reserve your tickets, see ad, this page.

**Polka On! Mardi Gras Style**

The International Dance Club of Colorado Springs invites you to laissez les bons temps rouler at its 35th annual Mardi Gras Polka Fest March 18–20.

The fun begins on Friday with the opening ceremony, followed by lots of dancing to the music of Julie Lee’s White Rose Band and the Top Notchmen.

Doors open at 10:30 am on Saturday and Rick Borger kicks off the music at 11:30, followed by the Top Notchmen and Julie Lee.

On Sunday, doors open at 11 am, and the Top Notchmen play from 12-4 pm, followed by the closing ceremony.

A pass for all three days is only $40. IDC President Judy Nelson has all the info on motels, campgrounds, and church services in the area. See ad, this page, and contact her to make your reservations.

Visit the club’s website to learn more about this group that started in 1969 and built their own dance hall. "Many people have come and gone over the years, but what has endured is the keen friendship among members and their love of music and dance," Judy said.

Judy and Gary Nelson invite you to let the good times roll in Colorado Springs!
Rybaks Invite You to Europe!

No doubt about it, Chris and Edita Rybak are established polka promoters in Texas! Chris, sometimes referred to as the Accordion Cowboy, performs regularly solo, and with his own band all across the state.

Chris and Edita invite you to join their European Tours in 2016 to Czech Republic, Austria, Italy, the Vatican, and Germany. The tours are scheduled from April 3-17 and Sept. 11-23.

The tours feature the beautiful scenery of towns, churches, castles, along with wine and beer tastings, a Mediterranean cruise, and shopping for souvenirs. All along the way Chris provides the music and has set up polka parties with local bands and a dinner cruise in Prague.

Whether you want to try pivo and kolaches in the Czech Republic or visit the pope at the Vatican, there is a tour for you! The flight, hotel accommodations, luxury bus, program, meals, drinks, professional tour guide, and music are all included. For information and to make your reservations, see ad, this page.

Rybaks Invite You to Europe!

No doubt about it, Chris and Edita Rybak are established polka promoters in Texas! Chris, sometimes referred to as the Accordion Cowboy, performs regularly solo, and with his own band all across the state.

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Fundraiser for the International Polka Association
Sponsored by Texas Polka News

“Come on out and learn about the IPA and its Hall of Fame, become a member, and help polka music stay alive and well!”

Dance: 1:00-4:00pm
Doors: 11am
(only one intermission)

Sauerkraut Food Truck on site!

Meet and Greet SqueezeBox members
(Mollie B, Ted Lange, & Dana Lindblad)
11:30am -12:45pm
Merchandise will be available at this time.

Tickets are $12 in advance (available on the Internet only) and $15 at the door. Kids 12 and under free.
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For advance tickets, visit SqueezeBoxBand.com, click on “PURCHASE TICKETS,” then click on ticket and finish the order.
DANCES - FESTIVALS - EVENTS - LIVE MUSIC

Monday, February 1
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Evangeline Cafe, 6:30P
GIDDINGS: Lone Star Opry @ Giddings High School, 7:30P

Tuesday, February 2
GERONIMO: The Gathering Music Show @ VFW, 7P
GEORGE WEST: Brush Country Jamboree with Billy Mata @ Dobie West Theater, 7P
HOUSTON: German Singing Society @ Liederkranz Hall, 7P
HOUSTON: Houston Accordion Association Jam @ Son Nam Vietnamese Restaurant, 6:30P

Wednesday, February 3
HALLETTSVILLE: Squeezebox @ KC Hall, 7-10P
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lechner's, 6-10P
SAN ANTONIO: Rex McNeil @ Martinez Social Club, 7:30-10:30P
SCHULENBURG: Pettit Brothers @ Sengelmann Hall, 7P

Thursday, February 4
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Cypress Grill, 6:30P
BASTROP: Farm Street Opry @ Bastrop Convention Center, 7P
EL CAMPO: Texas Mavericks @ American Legion, 7:30-10P (Ad p. 23)
MISSION: Squeezebox @ Bentsen Grove, 7P
THE WOODLANDS: Mike Gést/ Night Session (60+ Dance Club) @ S. County Community Center, 6:30-9:30P
TOMBALL: Alex Meixner @ Main Street Crossing, 8P

Friday, February 5
EAGLE LAKE: Lazy Farmers @ Community Center, 7:30-10:30P
ENNS: Alex Meixner @ KJT Hall, 7:30-11P
GRANGER: The Pearl Snaps @ Cotton Club, 8:30P-12A
MISSION: Squeezebox @ Mission Bell RV Resort, 7-10P
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King's Biergarten, 6-10P

Saturday, February 6
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Callahans General Store, 12-4P
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Central Market N, 6:30P
COLUMBUS: Lost Cause @ Shaws Bend Social Club, 8:30P-12:30A
FORT WORTH: Bobby Flores/Yellow Rose Band @ Stagecoach Ballroom, 8:45P-12:15A (Ad p. 6)
GATESVILLE: Squeezebox Rounders @ VFW, 8P
GRANGER: People’s Choice @ Cotton Club, 9P-1A
GRANGER: Squeezebox @ Sts. Cyril/Methodius Rec Center, 6-10P
HOUSTON: Alex Meixner @ Liederkranz Hall, 7-10P
HOUSTON: Moonglow Orchestra (Mardi Gras) @ SPJST Lodge 88, 8-11:30P (Ad p. 21)
LIBERTY: Liberty Opry on the Square – Gospel, 2P
MARATHON: Community Center Fundraiser/Fish Fry - Justin Trevino, 6P-12A, Dance @ 8P
NEW BADEN: New Baden Jamboree @ Community Center, 6-10P
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King’s Biergarten, 5-10P
PROCTOR: Jeff Woolsey/Dancehall Kings @ River Club, TBA
ROUND TOP: Round Top-Carmine Foundation Fundraiser @ Charles/Fab 4 @ Rifle Hall, 8-11P
WEBSTER: Kenny James @ Alpine Brauhaus, 6-9P
YOAKUM: Los Kolaches (Pearl City Club) @ Turner Hall, 8P-12A

Sunday, February 7
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ The Continental Club, 3:30-6:30P
HOUSTON: James Garner Band @ VFW #10352, 2-6P (Ad, p. 20)
HOUSTON: International Polka Association Fundraiser – Squeezebox @ SPJST Lodge 88, 1-4P (Ad p. 11)
ROUND TOP: Polka Bowl 2016 w/Alex Meixner @ Rifle Hall, videotaping & Super Bowl halftime
SAN ANTONIO: Country Tradition @ Martinez Social Club, 3-6:30P

Monday, February 8
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Evangeline Cafe, 6:30P

Tuesday, February 9
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ All Saints Episcopal Church, 3:30-6P
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Evangeline Cafe, 7:30P
HOUSTON: German Singing Society @ Liederkranz Hall, 7P
NEW BRAUNFELS: Fat Tuesday – Alex Meixner @ Brauntex Theater, 7:30-9:30P

Wednesday, February 10
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lechner’s, 6-10P
SAN ANTONIO: Countrymen @ Martinez Social Club, 7:30-10:30P
SCHULENBURG: Pettit Brothers @ Sengelmann Hall, 7P

Thursday, February 11
CANTON: 8th Western Swing Valentine Party @ Civic Center – Justin Trevino & Amber Digby, Hoss Huggins/Ponderosa Band
DISSING / SPRINGS (Austin): Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Hudson’s on Mercer, 7-10P
EL CAMPO: Charlie Merta @ American Legion, 7:30-10P (Ad p. 23)
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lechner’s, 6-10P

Friday, February 12
CANTON: 8th Western Swing Valentine Party @ Civic Center – Jeff Woolsey/Dancehall Kings w/Bobby Flores/Yellow Rose Band
CONROE: JEM Dandy Legends (60+ Dance Club) @ Conroe Activity Center, 6:30-10P
CORPUS CHRISTI: Dancehall Sounds @ VFW #3837, 8P-12A
ENNS: Ennis Czech Music Festival Polka On! Pre-Party @ Sokol Clubroom, 6-11P (Ad p. 10)
FORT WORTH: Jason Roberts @ Lil’ Reds Longhorn Saloon, 9:15P-1A
GRANGER: Scooter Dubec @ Cotton Club, 8:30P-12A
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lechner’s, 6-10P

Saturday, February 13
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Sunset Valley Farmer’s Market, 10A-12P
BANDERA: Bobby Flores/Yellow Rose Band @ Farm Country Club, TBA (Ad p. 6)
CANTON: 8th Western Swing Valentine Party @ Civic Center – Billy Mata/Texas Tradition, Jason Roberts Band
ENNS: 10th Czech Music Fest @ Sokol Hall, 1-10:30P - Czech Harvesters, Jodie Mikula Orchestra, Czech & Then Some, Moravians, Ennis Czech Boys (Ad p. 10)
GRANGER: Kenny Orts @ Cotton Club, 9P-1A
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lechner’s, 6-10P
HOUSTON: The Fab Five (Beats Tribute) @ SPJST Lodge 88, 8-11:30P (Ad p. 21)
LLANO: Johnny Bush 81st Birthday Bash @ Llano Country Opry, 2:30 & 7:30P
LIBERTY: Liberty Opry on the Square – 50s & 60s Sweetheart Show, 2P
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King’s Biergarten, 5-10P
ROSENBERG: Texas Sound Check (Happy Cousins Club) @ American Legion, 8-11:30P
SAN ANTONIO: Cactus Country @ Leon Springs Dancehall, 8P
TOMBALL: Annual Valentine’s Dance w/ The Telstars @ VFW, 8P-12A
WEBSTER: Kenny James @ Alpine Brauhaus, 6-9P

Sunday, February 14
ELGIN: Dujka Brothers @ SPJST Lodge 18, 3-7P (Ad p. 15)
GERONIMO: Glen Collins/Alibi @ VFW, 3-6:30P
GRANGER: Can’t Hardly Playboyz @ Cotton Club, 5-10P
HOUSTON: Detour @ VFW #10352, 2-6P (Ad, p. 20)
NEW BRAUNFELS: Barefoot Becky (Goodtime Club) @ Eagles Hall, 3-7P (Ad p. 18)
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King’s Biergarten, 5-10P
SAN ANTONIO: Jim Byrom @ Martinez Social Club, 3-6:30P
SEATON (Temple): Jerry Haisler/ Melody 5 @ Secfik Hall, 6-10P
SWEET HOME: Nathan Colt Young @ Community Center, 2-6P (Ad p. 15)

Monday, February 15
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Evangeline Cafe, 6:30P
LA GRANGE: Country Opry featuring Darrell McCall @ KC Hall, 7:30P (Doors open 5:30P, $5)
MISSION: Barefoot Becky @ Mission Bell RV Resort, 7-10P (Ad p. 17)

Tuesday, February 16
AUSTIN: Ameripolitan Music Awards w/host Ray Benson @ Paramount Theatre - Justin Trevino, 8-10P
DONNA: Barefoot Becky @ Victoria Palms Resort, 7-10P (Ad p. 17)
HOUSTON: German Singing Society @ Liederkranz Hall, 7P
HOUSTON: Houston Accordion Association Jam @ Pizza Inn on Mangum & 18th, 6P
SEABROOK: Mike Gest/Night Session @ Bay Area Community Center, 7-10P

Wednesday, February 17
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lehner’s, 6-10P
SAN ANTONIO: S.A. Country @ Martinez Social Club, 7:30-10:30P

Thursday, February 18
BRENHAM: Bluebonnet Opry @ Silver Wings Ballroom, 7P
COLORADO CITY (near Big Spring): C City Opry, 7P
EL CAMPO: Gravel Road @ American Legion, 7:30-10P (Ad p. 23)
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lehner’s, 6-10P
MISSION: Barefoot Becky @ Riverside Club, 2-6P (Ad p. 17)

Friday, February 19
CONROE: Cadillacs (60+ Dance Club)

Saturday, February 20
ANHALT: Billy Mata @ Anhalt Hall, 8P-12A
CYCLONE: Red Ravens @ SPJST Flag Hall, 7-11P
GOLIAD: Scott Taylor Band @ Schroeder Hall, 8P
GRANGER: Johnny Bush @ Cotton Club, 9P-1A
HOUSTON: Barefoot Becky @ SPJST Lodge 88, 8-11:30P (Ad p. 21)
LIBERTY: Liberty Opry on the Square – Country/Western, 7P
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King’s Biergarten, 5-10P
SAN ANTONIO: Jeff Woolsey/Dancehall Kings @ Leon Springs Dancehall, 8P
SEGUIN: The Survivors @ Texas Theater, 2:30 & 7:30P
WALLIS: Texas Sound Check @ American Legion, 8-11:30P
WEBSTER: Kenny James @ Alpine Brauhaus, 6-9P

Sunday, February 21
ELGIN: Barefoot Becky @ SPJST Lodge 18, 3-7P (Ad p. 15)
GERONIMO: Czechaholics @ VFW, 3-6:30P (Ad p. 17)
GRANGER: Can’t Hardly Playboyz @ Cotton Club, 5-10P
HOUSTON: Liz Talley/Dusty Spurs @ VFW #10352, 2-6P (Ad. p. 20)
SAN ANTONIO: Most Wanted @ Martinez Social Club, 3-6:30P
SEATON (Temple): Fritz Hodde/Fab 6 @ Secfik Hall, 6-10P
SWEET HOME: Charles/Fab 4 @ Community Center, 2-6P (Ad p. 15)
WALLIS: PoLk of A Fundraiser – Red Ravens @ American Legion, 2-6P (Ad p. 16)

Monday, February 22
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Evangeline Cafe, 6:30P
SAN ANTONIO: San Antonio Accordion Assoc. Meeting, 6P @ Chester’s Hamburgers,

Tuesday, February 23
EDNA: Flag City Opry @ Jackson County Services Building, 7P
HOUSTON: German Singing Society @ Liederkranz Hall, 7P

Wednesday, February 24
HOUSTON: Das Ist Lustig @ Rudi Lehner’s, 6-10P
SAN ANTONIO: S.A. Country @ Martinez Social Club, 7:30-10:30P

Thursday, February 25
EL CAMPO: Charles/Fab 4 @ American Legion, 7:30-10P (Ad p. 20)

Friday, February 26
AUSTIN: Billy Mata @ Broken Spoke, 8:30P
CORROE: James Garner (60+ Dance Club) @ Conroe Activity Center, 6:30-10P
GIDDINGS: Lost Cause @ The Bull Pen, 8:30-11:30P
GRANGER: Out of the Blue @ Cotton Club, 8:30P-12A
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King’s Biergarten, 6-10P
SAN ANTONIO: Countrymen @ Leon Springs Dancehall, 8P

Saturday, February 27
CORPUS CHRISTI: Polka Fest – Red Ravens, Czechaholics, Leo Majek Orchestra @ Sokol Hall (Ad p. 21)
GOLIAD: Stoney LaRue @ Schroeder Hall, 8P
GRANGER: Debonaires @ Cotton Club, 9P-1A
HOUSTON: Jude Moreau/Bon Temps Playboys @ KC Hall #2917, 7:30-11:30P (Ad p. 20)
LIBERTY: Liberty Opry on the Square – Specialty Show: Blend from Energy, IL, 7P
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King’s Biergarten, 5-10P
SAN ANTONIO: Almost Patsy Cline @ Leon Springs Dancehall, 8P

Sunday, February 28
ELGIN: Glen Collins @ SPJST Lodge 18, 3-7P (Ad p. 15)
ELLINGER: Charles/Fab 4 @ C of C Hall, 1-4:30P
GERONIMO: Countrymen @ VFW, 3-6:30P
GRANGER: Can’t Hardly Playboyz @ Cotton Club, 5-10P
HOUSTON: Texas Roadrunners @ VFW #10352, 2-6P (Ad, p. 20)
LA VERNA: Litt’l Fishermen @ Christ Lutheran Church (Church service and festival), 10:15A-1:30P
ROBSTOWN: Dancehall Sounds @ Community Hall, 4-7:30P
SAN ANTONIO: Nashville Sounds @ Martinez Social Club, 3-6:30P
SCHULENBURG: Central Texas Sounds (Swiss Alp Club) @ KC Hall, 3-6:30P (Ad p. 19)
SWEET HOME: Neon Cowboys @ Community Center, 2-6P (Ad p. 15)

Monday, February 29
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Evangeline Cafe, 6:30P
INDUSTRY: Four County Opry @ Fireman’s Hall, 7-9:30P

Tuesday, March 1
GERONIMO: The Gathering Music Show @ VFW, 7P
HOUSTON: Houston Accordion Association Jam @ Son Nam Vietnamese Restaurant, 6:30P

Wednesday, March 2
SAN ANTONIO: Vernon Doeye @ Martinez Social Club, 7:30-10:30P

Thursday, March 3
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Cypress Grill, 6:30P
BASTROP: Farm Street Opry @ Bastrop Convention Center, 7P
EL CAMPO: Czechmates @ American Legion, 7:30-10P (Ad p. 23)
THE WOODLANDS: Texas Ramblers (60+ Dance Club) @ S. County Community Center, 6:30-9:30P

Continued on next page
DANCES - FESTIVALS - EVENTS - LIVE MUSIC

Friday, March 4
EAGLE LAKE: Rabbs Creek @ Community Center, 7:30-10:30P
GONZALEZ: 1st Texas Independence Songwriter's Festival - Open mic, Templin Saloon; Live music, Running M Bar/Grill, 7P (Ad p. 5)
GRANGER: Texas Family Tradition @ Cotton Club, 8:30P-12A
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King's Biergarten, 6-10P

Saturday, March 5
COLUMBUS: Lost Cause @ Shaws Bend Social Club, 8:30P-12:30A
GERONIMO: Justin Trevino @ VFW, 8P-12A
GONZALEZ: 1st Texas Independence Songwriter's Festival - Songwriter 40-minute shows @ Templin Saloon (1P) & Running M (1:30P) (Ad p. 5)
GRANGER: Kenny Orts @ Cotton Club, 9P-1A
HOUSTON: Moonglow Orchestra @ SPJST Lodge 88, 8-11:30P (Ad p. 21)
LIBERTY: Liberty Opry on the Square – Gospel, 2P
NAVASOTA: Jeff Woolsey/Dancehall Kings @ Western Club, TBA
NEW BADEN: New Baden Jamboree @ Community Center, 6-10P
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King's Biergarten, 5-10P
SAN ANTONIO: 3rd Crockett Fiddle Fest @ The Alamo - Celtaire String Band, Tennessee Valley Authority, RJ Smith, Mario Flores, Frio Dou w/Ron Knuth, Jason Roberts, Rick McRae
SEALY: 12th Texas Music Festival @ KC Hall, 12-7P - Czechaholics, Red Ravens (Ad p. 21)

Sunday, March 6
AUSTIN: Jason Roberts @ Little Longhorn Saloon, 4-8P
ELGIN: Glen Collins @ SPJST Lodge 18, 3-7P (Ad p. 15)
GERONIMO: Good Ole Boys @ VFW, 3-6:30P
GONZALEZ: 1st Texas Independence Songwriter's Festival - Texas-style brunch w/ gospel music, Templin Saloon, 12:30P (Ad p. 5)
GRANGER: Can't Hardly Playboz @ Cotton Club, 5-10P

Monday, March 7
AUSTIN: Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Evangeline Cafe, 6:30P
GIDDINGS: Lone Star Opry @ Giddings High School, 7:30P

Tuesday, March 8
HOUSTON: German Singing Society @ Liederkranz Hall, 7P

Wednesday, March 9
SAN ANTONIO: Bimbo/Borderline @ Martinez Social Club, 7:30-10:30P

Thursday, March 10
DRIPPING SPRINGS (Austin): Charles Thibodeaux/Austin Cajun Aces @ Hudson’s on Mercer, 7-10P
EL CAMPO: Odessa @ American Legion, 7:30-10P (Ad p. 23)
LA GRANGE: Best Little Cowboy Gathering @ Fayette Co. Fairgrounds Dance Hall – Rance Norton, The Survivors; Main Stage – Jeff Woolsey, (Ad p. 4)

Friday, March 11
CONROE: Glenn Lenderman (60+ Dance Club) @ Conroe Activity Center, 6:30-10P
CORPUS CHRISTI: Dancehall Sounds @ VFW #3837, 8P-12A
GRANGER: The Pearl Snaps @ Cotton Club, 8:30P-12A
LA GRANGE: Best Little Cowboy Gathering @ Fayette Co. Fairgrounds Dance Hall – Rocky King, Jeff Woolsey, Jake & Tommy Hooker, Main Stage – Rance Norton, Landon Dodd, Jason Roberts, (Ad p. 4)
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King's Biergarten, 6-10P

Saturday, March 12
GRANGER: People's Choice @ Cotton Club, 9P-1A
HOUSTON: Red Ravens @ SPJST Lodge 88, 8-11:30P (Ad p. 21)
LA GRANGE: Best Little Cowboy Gathering @ Fayette Co. Fairgrounds - Dance Hall – Jody Nix, Billy Mata; Main Stage – KR Wood, Kristyn Harris, Devon Dawson, Ginny Mac, Jean Prescott & Brook Wallace, Jody Nix Fiddle Extravaganza, Lake Travis Fiddlers, Billy Mata, Kristyn Harris, et al, Johnny Bush, 10P (Ad p. 4)
LIBERTY: Liberty Opry on the Square – Elvis Tribute, 2P
PEARLAND: Enzian Buam @ King's Biergarten, 5-10P
ROSENBERG: Charles/Fab 4 (Happy Cousins) @ American Legion, 8-11:30P
SAN ANTONIO: Matt Rogers/Chansons Et Soulards (CFMA) @ Hermann Sons, 7:30-11:30P
SAN ANTONIO: Bobby Flores/ Yellow Rose Band @ Leon Springs Dancehall, 8P (Ad p. 6)
WACO: Spur City Rounders @ Shriners’ Hall, 8P

Sunday, March 13
ELGIN: Fritz Hodde/Fab 6 @ SPJST Lodge 18, 3-7P (Ad p. 15)
NEEDVILLE: Polka Fest @ KC Hall, - Czechaholics, Red Ravens, 1-6:30P (Ad p. 9)
GRANGER: Can't Hardly Playboz @ Cotton Club, 5-10P
HOUSTON: Country Jim/Allstars @ VFW #10352, 2-6P (Ad p. 20)
LA GRANGE: Best Little Cowboy Gathering - Cowboy Church, 10A (Ad p. 4)
SAN ANTONIO: Countrymen @ Martinez Social Club, 3-6:30P
SWEET HOME: Charles/Fab 4 @ Community Center, 3-7P

Add a dance/festival: theresa@polkabeat.com Go to PolkaBeat.com every week for updates.

2016 U.S. Event Music

MARCH 6
Bexar County Czech Heritage Society Dance
Martinez Social Club, San Antonio 210-648-2681 (Ad p. 17)

MARCH 10-13
Best Little Cowboy Gathering
Fayette County Fairgrounds, La Grange / 979-702-0086 (Ad p. 4) bestlittlecowboygathering.org

MARCH 18-20
Mardi Gras Polka Fest
International Dance Club
Colorado Springs, Colorado 719-598-2311 (Ad p. 10) internationaldanceclub.org

MARCH 18-20
South Texas Polka & Sausage Fest
KC Hall, Hallettsville, Texas 361-798-2311 / kchall.com (Ad p. 8)

APRIL 2
3rd Annual Sausage Festival
Schulenburg, Texas 866-504-5294 (Ad p. 7) schulenburgsausagefest.com

APRIL 1-3
Tomball German Heritage Festival
Tomball, Texas / 281-379-6844 tomballgermanfest.org

APRIL 9
Annual Crawfish & Shrimp Boil
Anhalt, Texas 210-355-1157 / anhalthall.com

APRIL 16-17
27th Annual Cotton Gin Festival
Burton, Texas cottonginmuseum.org

Check polkabeat.com for complete listing of Texas/U.S. festivals
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21 Barefoot Becky
28 Glen Collins
March
6 Glen Collins
13 Fritz Hodde/Fab 6
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Po. L.K. of A. Texas

By Kathy Cernosek, President

From member to Executive Secretary, King/Queen, Prince/Princess, Membership Secretary to President. What an honor to be elected President. I am looking forward to my new role and I know I have some mighty big shoes to fill.

The Klub will be quite busy as we have just completed our annual January membership meeting and are getting ready for our fundraiser in February, to be held in Wallis at the American Legion Hall on Feb. 21, with music provided by the Red Ravens.

We have parades that will be coming up, as well as dances throughout the year. We will continue our relationship with The Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum, which will be dedicating its new building on Feb. 28. The building is very nice and I am sure they will have many visitors that will pass through the doors.

I am going to repeat past President Clinton Ellebracht’s message, “I urge everyone who loves their heritage, that includes polka music, to consider joining the Texas Chapter of Po.L.K of A.” If you know someone that is considering but not really sure, invite them to see what we are all about and surprise them with a membership!

See you on the dance floor or on the float at a parade.

Sunday, Feb. 21
Klub Fundraiser
Wallis American Legion
2-6 pm  $10
Red Ravens

Silent auction
Refreshment basket raffle
50/25/25 raffle

Polka Lovers Klub of America
Annual Dues: Couple $24 / Single $12
Klub newsletter 2 times/year, 2 free dances/year, parade float, scholarships, support of polka organizations, shared activities w/Polka Lovers Club of Texas Museum

For more info: polkabeat.com/polk-of-a-texas-chapter-i
Kathy Cernosek, President, 832-544-0716
Betty Tidwell, Membership Secretary, 281-452-4174

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Fritz Hodde is pickin’ and grinnin’. Gary E. McKee photo
Vice President Rudy Antrich (l) presents Clinton Ellebracht with an award of appreciation for serving as Klub president for three years./Mark Hiebert photo
Gwen Petersen and Jan and Dick Cole bid on silent auction items./Berger Okruhlik photo
Barbie and Russell Loitz will continue on as King and Queen of the Klub./Hiebert photo
Jonathan Pawelka and his friend enjoyed the dance./Berger Okruhlik photo
Evelyn Maresh, Pauline Trefny, and Janie Sitka enjoyed the fellowship./Berger Okruhlik photo
Dancehall Sounds Celebrates 10 Years

One steel guitar player has parlayed his love of country music into a DJ business. Allen Pollard began his music career as lead guitarist for Mac Pollard & The Western Stars. He later became steel guitar player for Al Dean & The Allstars, Boxcar Willie, and Leona Williams. His radio career spanned 15 years working as announcer, program director, and salesman at country stations KOPY in Alice, and the former KROB in Robstown.

Allen's DJ business began in 2005 at a private Christmas party at the VFW post in Corpus Christi. "The manager heard the type of traditional country music I played from my private CD collection and hired me to play public dances once a month at the VFW," he recalled.

He decided on the name Dancehall Sounds because he plays the songs and sound that have been a tradition of Texas dancehalls. "You'll hear traditional style Texas two-steps, shuffle, waltzes, polkas, schottische, Cotton-Eyed Joe, Put Your Little Foot, and many other traditional dance favorites," he said.

Dancehall Sounds has performed at numerous public and private dances from the Corpus area to Goliad, Houston, and the Texas Hill Country. In 2015, he played almost every weekend with 46 gigs. He reported his three most requested songs are Frauline by Bobby Helms, Hearts Aches By the Number by Ray Price, and Silver Wings by Merle Haggard.

Allen's CD collection also includes 50s and 60s rock-n-roll, and polka! He has every CD the Duija Brothers released, in addition to CDs by the Red Ravens, Vrazels Polka Band, Praha Band, Jodie Mikula Orchestra, Czechaholics, The Majeks, Mark Halata & Texavia, Jimmy Sturr, Chris Rybak, Joe Patek, Fritz Hodde & the Fabulous 6, Vernon Drozd, Six Fat Dutchmen, and his all-time fave - Adolph Hofner & the Pearl Wranglers.

Allen's objective at every dance is to present the audience with traditional, danceable country music. "I play many of the original country classics, as well as current traditional country artists, such as Jake Hooker, Bobby Flores, Amber Digby, Justin Trevino, Leona Williams, Darrell McCall, Johnny Bush, Rocky King, Billy Mata, Jody Nix, and many others."

Dancehall Sounds can handle any size public dance event or private party, such as wedding, anniversaries, school class reunions, and birthdays. "I am totally portable with the best DJ sound equipment available. I am constantly increasing my country music sound collection, and hopefully play your favorite country song, waltz, or polka."

See Allen's ad, page 15, for contact information.
**Texas Polka News - February 2016**

**Festival & Dance Notes**

**LOS KOLACHES – THE BAND**

Los Kolaches will help you burn off extra calories from any los kolaches of the dough kind you may have consumed recently on Sat., Feb. 6, at Turner Hall in Yoakum.

This is the Pearl City Dance Club’s first dance of the year, and they welcome all! Memberships are also available to this club that has been supporting the Texas dance hall tradition since 1957. See ad, p. 17.

**IT’S A CZECH MUSIC FEST!**

Feeling blue now that football season is over? No problema. The Czech music brain trust in Ennis has the solution – attend the 10th Ennis Czech Music Fest, always held the weekend following the Super Bowl.

This year’s event gets started with a Polka On! Pre-Party on Fri., Feb. 12, in the Sokol Club Room, from 6-11 pm. You’ll have a chance to win some cool Polka On! prizes and hear the newest polka band to hit the circuit – Out of the Box, plus the musicians’ jam.

The fest on Saturday starts at 1 pm with the Czech Harvesters, followed by Jodie Mikula, Czech & Then Some, Moravians, and Ennis Czech Boys. See ad, p. 10.

**BAREFOOTIN’ IN NB**

Barefoot Becky & the Ivanhoe Dutchmen begin their Texas tour in New Braunfels on Sun., Feb. 14, at Eagles Hall, from 3-7 pm. The dance is hosted by the Goodtime Polka & Waltz Club, and will serve as a fundraiser for the club with a silent auction.

Becky has a new CD called A Box Blend, which features the four-piece band with accordion, guitar/banjo, drums, and electric bass. “It’s full of fun polkas and waltzes in the Slovenian style,” Becky said.

Come on out and show Becky and the guys some Texas love on Valentine’s Day! See ad, p. 18.

**POLKA MOTION BY THE OCEAN**

The South Texas Czech Heritage Society invites you to the 31st Annual Polka Fest on Sat., Feb. 27, at Sokol Hall in Corpus Christi. Enjoy dancing to the Red Ravens, Czechaholics, and Corpus natives, The Majeks. They promise to once again offer great Czech food, beverages, and, of course, kolaches. See ad, p. 21.

**CTS IN SCHULENBURG**

Central Texas Sounds will kick off the Swiss Alp Dance Club year of dances on Sun., Feb. 28, from 3-6:30 pm, at the KC Hall. The club holds six Sunday dances a year. All guests are welcome and they would love to have you join the club. See ad, p. 19.

**NIGHTRIDERS CONTINUE THE TRADITION**

Bobby Lee retired on New Year’s Eve, but The Nightriders continue on. The group, consisting of Kevin Ward, Bobby Smith, Donnie Hons, Joel Nava, Bill Elliott, and Dennis Wood, will play on Sat., March 5, at the DaCosta Hermann Sons hall. See ad, p. 9.

**TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL BENEFITS TPMM**

The 12th Annual Texas Music Festival will be held from 12-7 pm on Sat., March 5, at the KC Hall in Sealy. It’s a fundraiser for the Texas Polka Music Museum in Schulenburg, but really you’re the one who will benefit.

Dance to the music of the Red Ravens and Czechaholics. “Win” stuff in the live and silent auctions. Enjoy the barbecue sandwiches. Door prizes will also be given hourly. See ad, p. 21.

**BE MY CAJUN VALENTINE**

The Cajun French Music Association in Houston will host Jude Moreau & The Bon Temps Playboys from the Port Arthur area on Sat., Feb. 27, at the KC Hall on Whitney Drive.

Bring your sweetheart and treat him or her to some of the club’s good eatin’ – gumbo and boudin. It’s the perfect Valentine date, especially if you forgot to take your flame out on Valentine’s Day! See ad, p. 20.
COME AND LISTEN!
The first Texas Independence Songwriter's Festival will be held the first weekend of March in Gonzales. Nine of Texas' finest songwriters will perform at two of Gonzales' downtown live music venues. Confirmed artists at press time include Mitch Jacobs, Emily Herring, Chuck Hawthorne, and Bill Pekar.
Festivities begin Fri., March 4 at 7 pm with "open mic" at the Templin Saloon, and live music at the Running M Bar & Grill.
On Saturday, the songwriters will perform 40-minute shows beginning at 1 pm at the Templin Saloon, and 1:30 pm at the Running M.
Sunday, the Templin Saloon will serve a Texas-style brunch with live gospel music beginning at 12:30 pm to conclude the first annual Texas Independence Songwriter Festival. See ad, p. 5.
If you dabble in songwriting, you will want to check out the Songwriter Serenade Contest. Deadline for entries is March 20. Fifteen songwriters will be chosen to compete for $5,000 in prize money at the 10th Annual Songwriter Serenade, to be held on Sat., May 7, at historic Moravia Parish Hall. Go to songwriterserenade.com for details.

POLKA FEST IN NEEDVILLE
Polka, sausage dinner, and $3 pitchers of beer. It doesn't get any better than this! The Knights of Columbus 7067 in Needville know how to throw a party – the 22nd Annual Polka Fest on Sun., March 13, from 1-6 pm.
You're the winner as the Red Ravens and Czechaholics battle it out on the dance floor (and $3 pitchers of beer). Enjoy the sausage, sauerkraut, and German potatoes meal for only $8 (and $3 pitchers of beer). Take chances to win one of the many prizes given away. And did I mention $3 pitchers of beer?? See ad, p. 9.

SALUTE TO THE COWBOY
The Best Little Cowboy Gathering in Texas just keeps getting better and better. The 8th annual event will be held March 10-13 at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. “It has become such a popular, growing event that last year we had to split the great entertainment onto two different stages, the Dance Hall and the Main Stage,” said BLCG Committee Member Jon Quinn. “This is a weekend of great music and dancing day and night, BBQ cookers, children's events, historical events, and Texas-sized hospitality!”
A total of 500 tickets are now on sale for access to the Dance Hall, with reservations being offered first to previous years' attendees. Ticket price of $130 for the Dance Hall reservation includes admission for the entire weekend and both evening catered meals on Friday and Saturday.

Reservations are also available without the catered meal for $100.
If you don't get a reserved seat in the Dance Hall, don't fret! You can reserve seats to the entertainment on the Main Stage. “Several improvements have been made to the Main Stage making it twice as big

Continued on next page
Festival & Dance Notes
Continued from page 19

with plenty of room to dance!” Jon said. The stage can now be enclosed by new vinyl siding depending on the weather, and will feature a wood floor. A regular day pass to The Gathering gets you access to all the entertainment at the Main Stage. You can also reserve seats at the Main Stage for the entire weekend for $70 (no catered meals) or $95 (with meals).

The music begins on Thursday with Rance Norton, The Survivors (Darrell McCall, Tony Booth, Curtis Potter), and Jeff Woolsey.

On Friday, Rance and Jeff are back, along with Rocky King, Jake & Tommy Hooker, and Jason Roberts. The Saturday lineup features Jody Nix, Billy Mata, Devon Dawson, Ginny Mac, Jean Prescott, Brook Wallace, Lake Travis Fiddlers, and Johnny Bush.

Kristyn Harris is this year’s featured female artist who will be joining other musical guests on stage for special performances. Named Western Music Association 2014 Female Performer of the Year, Kristyn is noted for her powerful vocals, strong rhythm guitar style, songwriting, yodeling, and upright bass playing.

“Our aim is promote the cowboy culture with a variety of music emphasizing western swing, country, and old cowboy classics but above all, to have a good time,” Jon said. See the music lineup and find out how to purchase your tickets online in ad, p. 4.

March 18-20, since the fourth Sunday is Easter.

Friday night begins with a fish fry with all the trimmings followed by a night of polka music and dancing to The Czechaholics and The Moravians.

Saturday, the festivities begin with a Polka Mass celebrated at the hall in the afternoon, with Czechaholics and Dujka Brothers providing music. Enjoy a delicious meal of sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes, chicken noodle soup and, of course, tasty kolaches, starting at 4 pm. Polka music starts at 5 pm with Dujka Brothers, followed by Jodie Mikula Orchestra. Sunday, the fun starts at 10:30 am with the same menu as Saturday PLUS fried chicken. Music continues throughout the day with Shiner Hobo Band, Ennis Czech Boys, Leo Majek Orchestra, and Red Ravens. All the bands join together for a concert from 4:30-5 pm. See ad, p. 8.

SPEAKING OF SAUSAGE

Take a break from sausage on Easter Sunday weekend, then head to Schulenburg for the 3rd Annual Schulenburg Sausage Festival on Sat., April 2. The event features sausage-making contests, and new this year, contests to find the best homemade wine, sauerkraut, and pickles. Some judges will be chosen from the audience, so get your taste buds ready!

And what’s a sausage fest without great polka music! Enjoy the music and dance in the street to the Shiner Hobo Band, Czechaholics, Mark Halata & Texavia, and Texas Dream.

Food booths open at noon and children’s activities will be held from 1-5 pm, including a visit from the Easter Bunny! Shop the arts and crafts booths, and enjoy the display of antique cars and tractors, and motorcycles. See ad, p. 7.

TGI THURSDAY!
The El Campo Seniors invite you to go dancing on Thursdays at the American Legion Hall from 7:30-11 pm. February has a great lineup with Texas Mavericks, Charlie Merta, Gravel Road, and Charles & the Fab 4. The first dance of the month is always a celebration of attendees’ birthdays and the last dance of the month is for bringing food to share. (That’s the one I would go to!) Singles and all ages are welcome. See ad, p. 23.

ELGIN IS FOR LOVERS
Lovers of dancehall music! Barefoot Becky will close out her Texas tour at SPJST Lodge 18 on Sun., Feb. 21, before putting on her snow boots and heading back home to Iowa. On the 14th, the Dujka Brothers will provide the music for the sweetheart dance, and Glen Collins will close out the month on the 28th with some good ol’ country. The dances are 3-7 pm, the kitchen is open, and the bar is serving ice cold pivo. See ad, p. 15.
**31st ANNUAL POLKA FEST**

February 27, 2016

Sokol Hall
5502 Kostoryz
Corpus Christi

Admission: $10

**Meals Available for Purchase**

- Sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes, green beans, bread
- Chicken noodle soup  *  BBQ beef sandwich
- Beer, tea & soft drinks (No BYOB)

**Raffle**

- * Silent Auction * Kolaches

chsSouthTexas.org

**Band Schedule**

10 am Doors Open

10:15-11 am.............................Sokol Gymnastics

11 am-12 pm...................................Czechaholics

12-1 pm...........................................Red Ravens

1-2 pm.............................................The Majeks

2:30 pm 3 Band Concert

3:30 pm.....................Grand March Line Up

3:45 pm..........................Czechaholics

4:15 pm...............Grand March/Red Ravens

4:45-5:45 pm..................................Czechaholics

5:45-7 pm.................................The Majeks

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**Boots Scootin’ Sundays**

Get your cowboy duds on and mosey on over to the VFW Hall on Waverly Drive in Houston on Sunday afternoons. Check out this lineup for February: **James Garner, Detour, Liz Talley/Dusty Spurs,** and **Texas Roadrunners.** The dances are always 2-6 pm. See ad, p. 20.

**Sweet Home Sweethearts**

**Nathan Colt Young** will provide the music for slow dancin’ with your sweetheart on Feb. 14. **Charles & Fab 4** will be in Music City on the 21st, and **Neon Cowboys** close out the month on the 28th. Dances are only $8 from 2-6 pm. See ad, p. 15.

**Te Amo Bobby Flores**

You’ll have three chances to see **Bobby and the Yellow Rose Band** before they head out of Galveston on the 6th Western Swing Caribbean Cruise on Feb. 21. The band will be in Fort Worth on Feb. 6, at the 8th Western Swing Valentine Party in Canton on the 12th, and at the Black & Red Ball in Bandera on the 13th. See ad, p. 6.

**Can’t Buy Me Love**

But you can buy tickets to see the **Fab Five** Beatles tribute on Sat., Feb. 13, at SPJST Lodge 88 in Houston. Also in February, the Lodge hosts **Moonglow Orchestra** on the 6th (Mardi Gras, y’all), and **Barefoot Becky** on the 20th. Are you still a little uncertain when it comes to your dance moves? New this year at the Lodge: dance lessons. You can sharpen your skills before every dance with the help of instructors Ben Schielack and Rick Archer. The dances start at 8 pm, and lessons begin at 7 pm.

The Lodge will also be the site of the Super Bowl Party, featuring **SqueezeBox**, on Sun., Feb. 7, from 1-4 pm. See ad, p. 11. See Lodge monthly ad, p. 21.
Holiday Dancin'

At right: Mary Jane Patek, Patsy Zamykal, and Bernice Ellinghausen at the South Texas Tractor Club New Year’s party in Moulton. Gary E. McKee photo. Below left: Becky and Roy Gilbreath at NYE party at Sengelmann Hall/McKee photo. Middle top: Harvey and Ann Williams at Sweet Home; Larry Volkmer at Da Costa/Karen Williams photos. Below right: Mark Dujka and his daughter at Moulton party/McKee photo. Next page: Barbara and Frank Milder at the Christmas party in New Taiton; Line dancing at Ellinger Polka Fest/McKee photos.
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**February**

4 Texas Mavericks (B)  
11 Charlie Merta  
18 Gravel Road  
25 Charles/Fab 4 (F)

**March**

3 Czechmates (B)  
10 Odessa  
17 Texas Mavericks  
24 No dance  
31 Charlie Merta

*B=Birthday celebrations (6:30 p.m.)  
F=Food night (6:30 p.m.)*

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