

Volume 28
March - April, 2013

Hi Fans -

Do we think Spring has finally sprung? Been waiting a long time in some parts this year. Spring is just about my favorite time of the year as our shows get busier and I get to see more of my great fans.

We're glad to welcome Chad Phillips to the Farewell Party Band as the new lead guitar player. You can read more about Chad in this newsletter . Of course we still have the rest of your favorite band members too, Chip Bricker on piano and band leader, Todd Hines on drums, Danny Naccarato on pedal steel and Staley Rogers on bass. I'm proud to have this great group working with me night after night. There's not a nicer group of people nor a better road band anywhere!

Looks like we're traveling all over the world for you this year. We're going to Norway to the Norsk Country Treff festival in July, going to England and Ireland and doing quite a few shows in Canada including one June 7th in Ontario and one June 29th in St. Johns, Newfoundland. You can find out more on the tour dates on the website and tour dates are also listed at the end of the newsletter.

Speaking of traveling, I don't think Larry Black with the RFD shows has announced the cruises just yet but I've already let him know I'll be there for those so just keep checking the www.CFRCruise.com site for the 2014 sign up. Word is he's planning a Caribbean cruise for February and very likely an Alaskan cruise for July! I've always wanted to see an iceberg up close and personal so hope that comes together.

Hope all of you are doing well and just know I appreciate you every day.

A handwritten signature of Gene Watson in black ink.



FUN SHOWS

FROM EAST COAST TO GULF COAST



Gene and Rhonda: In February, Gene Watson & Rhonda Vincent wowed the audience at the Neuse River Music Fest in Kinston, NC. Look for a return appearance there February 15, 2014.



Gene & Gene & Jeannie: Gene Ward (married to Jeannie Seely), Gene Watson and Jeannie Seely take a moment to visit before their March 10th show at the Cailloux Theater in Kerrville, TX . Tickets were sold to fans in over 90 zip codes for this show!



The Farewell Party Band: Here are the Best of the Best! Left to right: Staley Rogers (Bass), Danny Naccarato (pedal steel), Chad Phillips (lead guitar), Chip Bricker (piano), and Todd Hines (drums).

MARCH IN NASHVILLE

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Grand Ole Opry, Jack Greene Memorial Service, Opry Country Classic



Beauty and the Best : Visiting backstage at the Ryman auditorium after Jack Greene’s Memorial service are Carrie Moore, Jeannie Seely, Gene and Debbie Moore. Carrie and Debbie perform as “Moore & Moore” and provided beautiful harmonies for Gene’s performance of “There Goes My Everything”.

Backstage at the Opry Country Classics show : One of the nicest guys in Nashville, Vince Gill, stopped to say hello to Gene at the Opry show March 28th. Vince was performing with the Grammy winning Time Jumpers. Gene sang several of his classic songs before Larry Gatlin called on him to sing “Bitter They Are, Harder They Fall. ”





Meet Chad Phillips!

The Newest Member of the Farewell Party Band!

Where were you born & raised? I was born on Dec 25, 1971 and raised in Bonham, TX. It's about 10 miles south of the Red River, and 40 miles west of Gene's hometown, Paris, TX.

Where do you live now? I moved to Keller, TX about three years ago when I married my beautiful wife, Tracy.

How & when did you first get started in the music business? When I was 9 years old my dad took me to my first concert. Coincidentally, it was Gene Watson playing in Paris, TX in 1981. When I was 11 years old, I performed for the first time on stage at the Blue Ridge, TX Opry. Joan Kelton, a family friend and great traditional country singer, took me to local festivals and jamborees almost every weekend for several years after that.

Did you play an instrument in school band? No, strangely enough, they didn't want a guitar player in the school band. LOL

What was your first professional band? My first band was a three piece, when I was 14. Our drummer was fellow-classmate, Scott Mathews, who has been with the Derailers for many years now. When I was 16, I helped start a band called Stampede, and we actually got paid to play at the VFW, Moose Lodge, etc. So, I guess that was "officially" my first professional band. Out of high school, I played with several different cover bands until 2003. That year I joined Johnny Lee and The Urban Cowboy Band, and continued playing for him until 2006. After that, I only played occasionally until I got the call from Gene.

How long with Gene Watson's band? My first show with Gene was on February 15, 2013 in Shelby, NC. As I'm sure folks could tell, you could have knocked me over with a feather that night. What an honor to get to share the stage with one of country music's greatest living legends.

Do you have a favorite Gene Watson song you like to play? Well, I really enjoy playing "Don't Waste it on The Blues" and "Pick The Wildwood Flower", but as for my favorite song, I'd have to say "Farewell Party". I've been playing and singing that song for as long as I can remember. It is a true classic!

Do you like sports/have any favorite teams? Baseball is my favorite. Go Rangers!!! I also like the Cowboys, although they haven't given us much to be excited about in recent years.

Who are your musical influences? To name a few, and in no particular order: Ray Price, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Buck Owens, Ronnie Milsap, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, George Strait, Vern Gosdin, Ricky Skaggs, Vince Gill, Marty Stuart, and of course, Gene Watson. I also like other genres, such as southern/classic rock, blues, Motown, etc. Good music is good music, no matter what the genre. Of course, my heart is still with country music.

If you weren't in the music business what job do you think you would have or would like to have? Well, I worked as a car salesman for a few years, and I can say emphatically that I WON'T ever do that again. I hope to retire a musician. It really is my one true passion.

What is your favorite hobby? I don't have a lot of hobbies as music has dominated most of my life. I'm sort of a history buff, so my wife and I like to travel to historic places. I did just buy a 1952 Chevy 2dr Sedan Deluxe from my dad, so I plan on restoring it over the next few years in my spare time.

Other than Gene's music, name a couple of your all time favorite songs. Let's see..."For the Good Times", "Mama's Hungry Eyes", "Chiseled in Stone", "Sunday Morning Coming Down", "The Grand Tour", "Almost Like a Song", "Kay", just to name a few.



"..strangely enough, they didn't want a guitar player in the school band."



Spotlight on Penny LaFave!

Fan Spotlight

Where do you live? Harrisville, New York, a very small town in northern N.Y. I was born there and have been there ever since. It is not far from the Canadian border.

What type work do you do? I was a mother and house wife. I am a cosmetologist but when I was about five I was hit by a car that left me with back problems later in life.

Tell us about your family – I've been married 45 years this July to Roger LaFave. I was 13 when we started dating and have been together 50 years. I am now 62. We have one daughter Billie Jo , one granddaughter Brooke 16 years old, and a great son-in- law Scotty. I had 4 sisters and 2 brothers . I lost 1 sister ten years ago and 1 brother 4 years ago. I lost my Dad in 1982 and my Mom in 2011. We grew up pretty poor but never went hungry.

What are your Top Five Gene songs? (1) Couldn't Love Have Picked A Better Place To Die (2) Across The Great Divide (3) I Never Go Around Mirrors (4) If I Painted A Picture (5) Farewell Party. Boy, that was hard just picking five . I could have picked 20. I have always told my husband for years that when I die I want Farewell Party played at my funeral.

What are your hobbies? I do a lot of crafts and craft shows, and I enjoy fishing.

Where did you first hear about Gene Watson? Years ago, when I was about 18, I heard Farewell Party and fell in love with that and have been a fan every since.

How many concerts have you attended and/or what is your most recent concert attended? I have only been to three concerts: the first in 1987 in Clayton N.Y. which is the picture sent and the most recent was March 1st at the Strawberry Festival in Florida. Hope to get to more. Wish Gene could come our way more often.

Is there anything else you'd like to say? I first met Gene in 1987 It was so awesome A small town girl getting to meet a star. It was 25 years later when I got to see him again in Wiersdale, Florida. It was as awesome as it was the first time. I had seen on line that he was going to be there. I ordered the tickets and then we planned a trip to Florida.

Thanks so much for picking me as your Spotlight guest. I am so thankful. God Bless

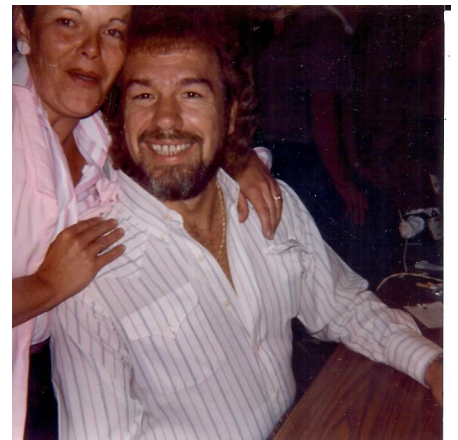


Roger & Penny LaFave

“I do a lot of crafts and craft shows and I enjoy fishing.”



Penny & Gene Watson 1987



TOUR SCHEDULE

SPRING & SUMMER 2013



| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| April 12 | Farmers' Opry | Pace, Florida |
| April 13 | Orange Blossom Opry | Weirsdale, Florida |
| April 20 | Billy Bob's TEXAS | Ft Worth, Texas |
| April 26 | Hardy Murphy Coliseum | Ardmore, Oklahoma |
| May 3 | Tivoli Theater | Chattanooga, TN |
| May 4 | Houston Fest At Felts Park | Galax, Virginia |
| May 9 & 10 | Starlite Theatre | Branson, Missouri |
| May 11 | Downtown Spring Festival | Van Buren, AR |
| May 17 & 18 | Whiteriver Hoedown | Mt. View, AR |
| May 24 | Choctaw Casino | Grant, Oklahoma |
| June 1 | Pennington Festival | Princeton, KY |
| June 7 | Renfrew RCAF #433 Champlain Wing | Renfrew, Ontario, CA |
| June 14 | Sesser Homecoming Days | Sesser, Illinois |
| June 15 | McFerren Park Civic Center | Hoopston, Illinois |
| June 29 | Holy Heart Theatre | St. Johns, Newfoundland, CA |
| July 5 | Cherokee Casino Seven | W. Siloam Springs, OK |
| July 6 | Longhorn Saloon at Whispering Pines | Ringgold, LA |
| July 13 | Norsk Country Treff | Breim, Norway |
| July 18 | Music Ranch Montana | Livingston, Montana |
| July 20 | Sugar Creek Casino | Hinton, Oklahoma |
| July 27 | Georgia Mountain Fair | Hiawassee, Georgia |
| Aug 3 | Midwest Country | Sandstone, MN |
| Aug 4 | Northern Lights Casino | Walker, MN |

TOUR SCHEDULE

SUMMER & FALL 2013

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|------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aug 9 & 10 | Cactus Pete's Casino | Jackpot, Nevada |
| Aug 13 | Sportsman's Backyard | Lake City, Colorado |
| Aug 16 | Delcambre Shrimp Festival | Delcambre, Louisiana |
| Aug 17 | Texas Country Music Hall Of Fame | Carthage, Texas |
| Sept 6 | Boulder Station Casino | Las Vegas, Nevada |
| Sept 14 | Fall Festival | McLeansboro, IL |
| Sept 18 | Washington County Fair | Brenham, Texas |
| Sept 24-26 | Starlite Theatre | Branson, Missouri |
| Sept 27 | Renfro Valley Entertainment Center | Renfro Valley, KY |
| Sept 28 | Kentucky Opry | Benton, KY |
| Oct 4 | Garner Performing Arts Center | Garner, NC |
| Oct 5 | Chocowinity | Chocowinity, NC |
| Oct 10 | Butlins Resort | Skegness, UK |
| Oct 12 | Leeds Irish Center | Leeds, UK |
| Oct 14 | Allingham Arms Hotel | Bundoran, Co. Donegal Ireland |
| Oct 15 | Armagh City Hotel | Armagh, Co. Armagh Ireland |
| Oct 18 | Lovelady Old Gym | Lovelady, Texas |
| Oct 19 | The Legends Club | Salado, Texas |
| Nov 7 | Nelson's Music City | Knob Lick, Missouri |
| Nov 8 | Country Tonite Theatre | Pigeon Forge, TN |
| Nov 22 | Bridgestone Arena | Nashville, TN |
| | George Jones Final Concert | |





How To Find Gene Watson Music On The Web!

The Official Gene Watson Website

www.GeneWatsonMusic.com

Gene Watson Videos

www.youtube.com/GeneWatsonVideos

“Like” Gene Watson on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/genewatsonmusic

“Follow” Gene Watson on Twitter!

[@GeneWatsonMusic](https://twitter.com/GeneWatsonMusic)

The Gene Watson fan based website

www.gene-watson.com

The Gene Watson Fan Forum online at

www.genewatsonfans.proboards.com



Contact Carrie Moore-Reed at Third Coast Talent to book Gene Watson for an event in your area! Phone number: 615-685-3331 or by mail at P. O. Box 334, Kingston Springs, TN 37082

Carrie@ThirdCoastTalent.com



Trivia Contest Winner!



Congratulations to Patricia Toomey of Salinas, CA who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: Which Gene Watson album first featured the Farewell Party Band on his recordings? The answer: “Sometimes I Get Lucky And Forget”. Trivia Contest question: For your chance to win an autographed tee shirt, just answer the question sent to Fan Club Members only and send the correct answer to:

GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com.

If you are reading this and not a registered member of the Gene Watson Fan Club, just sign up at www.GeneWatsonMusic.com. Only Fan Club Members get the Trivia Contest Question!