

# Gene Watson Fan Club Newsletter

Jan., Feb., March, 2021

Volume 72

Dear Friends - As we move toward Spring, I hope each of you had no issues with the snow, ice, freezing temperatures and floods. If so, congratulations! I think Mother Nature needs to get back on her meds.

Recently I received many questions about my past buses so here's a rundown on those. My first bus was a 1957 GM 4104 35'. The engine sat crossways in the back. We called this the Hailball Express (hailball is Texas slang for "hail"). This bus was impounded by the police when a promoter incorrectly claimed I broke his contract. I won that court case but lost the bus because the police let it set up and the motor froze.

Next I bought a brand new 1980 40' Silver Eagle painted silver and black. It was so new, the interior wasn't finished. We had to take it out anyway and got to our first concert not having a single mirror on the bus-so we just hoped we looked okay that night. Sadly, this bus was totaled in a crash and the bus driver was killed. At the time I was running two buses for crew and musicians so I also bought Conway Twitty's personal MCI that had his Twitty Bird logo on it. I had that re-painted to look like the 1980 Silver Eagle.

I then bought two older model buses, a green Eagle and a white MCI. After downsizing back to one bus, I traded those two buses for a 1997 45' blue Eagle. This bus had previously been owned by Patty Loveless and the interior was pretty as I'm sure Patty designed it. Eventually I traded the blue Eagle for the 1999 MCI that we run today.



1957 GM



1980 Silver Eagle



1997 Blue Eagle



1999 MCI

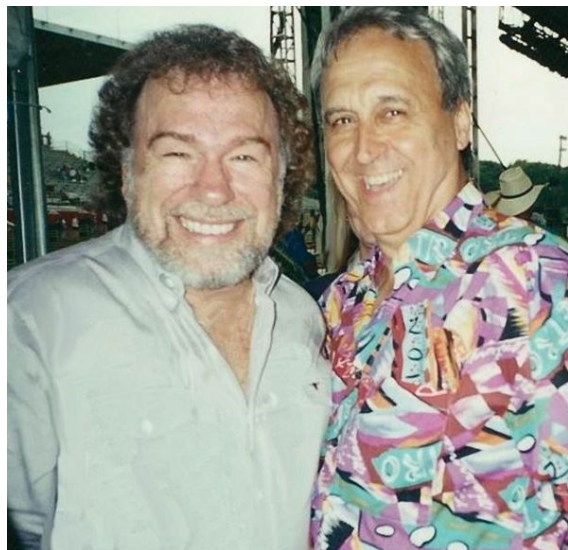
## Photos From The Past



Brothers, Eddie Watson and Gene Watson as they traveled by ferry from Galveston to the Bolivar Peninsula. Eddie is Gene's older brother that was in the band, Gene Watson and the Other Four. At one time the "other four" were all Watson relatives. Gene says one of Eddie's favorite singers was Carl Smith so Eddie sang the lead on those songs, with Gene adding the high harmonies.



Gene is shown here with two of his beautiful nieces, Glenda on the left and Norma on the right. They are in front of Gene's very first 1957 GM bus, for "Gene Watson & The Hailball Express."



Left: Gene and SiriusXM Willie's Roadhouse morning DJ, Charlie Monk. Charlie was just given the prestigious "Joe Talbot" award by the CMA, given to only 9 people in the history of the Country Music Association. Former recipients include Merle Haggard, George Jones and Alan Jackson. It is awarded for the preservation and advancement of country music. A well-deserved award to the Mayor of Music Row!

<http://www.facebook.com/williesroadhouse>



Gene Watson and the Other Four performing at the Crow's Nest. Originally, "the Other Four" were all Watson relatives but later on, as in this photo were (Left to Right): Ronnie Burks on Steel (he was the first non-Watson in the band), Ray Whitlock on drums, Gene's brother, Eddie Watson on lead guitar, Gene's cousin Pat Watson on bass (Pat is Donnie's (aka Drop's brother) and Gene.



Jack Greene and Gene backstage at the Opry. When Jack passed, Gene was asked to sing one of his favorite songs for Jack's funeral, held at The Ryman Auditorium and he chose, "There Goes My Everything." You can watch the impromptu rehearsal here <https://youtu.be/p-ZV5jW4e2w>

**Farewell Party band leader and guitar player, Chad Phillips, shares how he has stayed busy during the pandemic at his beautiful Texas ranch.**



**“Bought a new custom made guitar by Lucky Dog Guitars in Cleveland, TN.”**

**“Repainted my homemade gate sign for my entryway and built a loft in my workshop.”**



**“Built 1500 ft of barbed wire fence, built a custom pergola outside our sunroom, and installed a 20’ flagpole”**

**“Lost 70lbs and wife, Tracy, lost 35lbs on the Optavia diet!”**



## 2021 Tour Schedule

Date	Venue	City, State
May 1st	The Barn	Sanford, Florida
May 7th	The Nashville Palace	Nashville, Tennessee
May 15th	Harvester PAC	Rocky Mount, Virginia
May 20th	Arena Theater	Houston, Texas
May 23rd	WinStar Casino	Thackerville, Oklahoma
June 4th	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas
June 5th	Coyote Store	Gail, Texas
June 12th	Social Circle Theater	Social Circle, Georgia
June 19th	Azteca Theater	Amarillo, Texas
June 26th	The Park Theater	McMinnville, Tennessee
July 2nd	Old Towne Theatre	Huntsville, Texas
July 3rd	Margaritaville Casino	Bossier City, Louisiana
July 10th	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana, Indiana
July 17th	Mill Town Music Hall	Bremen, Georgia
July 29th	Hippodrome Theater	Waco, Texas
July 30th	The Paramount	Abilene, Texas
July 31st	Greenville Municipal Auditorium	Greenville, Texas
August 7th	The Ritz Theater	Wellington, Texas
August 15th	Melba Theater	Batesville, Arkansas
August 19th	American Music Theater	Lancaster, Pennsylvania
August 21st	Walhalla Performing Arts Center	Walhalla, South Carolina
August 28th	Barn Convention Center	Winchester, Ohio
September 2nd	Dothan Opera House	Dothan, Alabama
September 3rd	Arts Council of Wilson's Boykin	Wilson, North Carolina
September 4th	Anderson Music Hall	Hiawassee, Georgia

## 2021 Tour Schedule continued

Date	Venue	City, State
September 5th	Newberry Opera House	Newberry, South Carolina
September 10th	The Palace Theater	Crossville, Tennessee
October 1st	Arlington Music Hall	Arlington, Texas
October 2nd	Municipal Auditorium	Sweetwater, Texas
October 3rd	Doesy Doe	The Woodlands, Texas
October 16th	The Mansion Theater	Branson, Missouri
October 23rd & 24th	Old Dominion Barn Dance	Hopewell, Virginia
November 8th	The Mansion Theater	Branson, Missouri
November 12th	Wild Rose Casino	Emmetsburg, Iowa
November 13th	Sisseton PAC	Sisseton, South Dakota
November 19th	Country Tonite Theater	Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
December 3rd	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas
December 4th	Honky Tonk Texas	Silsbee, Texas



New address for Gene Watson correspondence.



Keep up with Gene Watson online! Click on one of these trees to access the favored Gene Watson websites and social media spots!

### Battle Artist Agency

To book Gene Watson for an event in your area contact:

Rob Battle at Battle Artist Agency  
at

1-615-368-7433 or by email at:

[rbattleartist@gmail.com](mailto:rbattleartist@gmail.com)



Rob Battle

### Adkins Publicity

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Representing Gene Watson



Scott Adkins

## TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER!

Congratulations to Gary Garcia of Bakersfield, CA, who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: The question : Name the Christmas song Gene recorded with George Jones. The answer: "Silver Bells". For your chance to win an autographed tee shirt, just answer the trivia question sent to Fan Club Members only and send the correct answer to: [GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com](mailto:GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com).

If you are reading this and not a registered member of Gene Watson's Fan Club, just sign up at [www.GeneWatsonMusic.com](http://www.GeneWatsonMusic.com). Only Fan Club members get the Trivia Question!