

July - August, 2014  
Volume 36

# Gene Watson News!

Dear Friends - Here we are still enjoying the end of the summer and already looking at all the concert dates we've got planned for 2015! Anytime we release a new CD as we did with "My Heroes Have Always Been Country" it's a little busier with the requests from the media but it's all fun. I appreciate all of your kind comments about the new music, too.

In this newsletter you'll see a whole lot of photos we took in Alaska from the Country's Family Reunion cruise. We just had way too much fun with Larry's Country Diner crew and all the other great acts on the shows. Alaska should be on everyone's bucket list. Such beautiful scenery and wildlife there. One night we were having a dinner with all the artists and the fans and someone spotted whales out the window so everyone rushed to see that sight. Thought we might tilt that ship right over! There was always something going on to keep us all busy. Of course Rhonda Vincent and her mom, Carolyn, held court every night with a jam session which I know all the fans enjoyed. I have to say I didn't mind having cool weather either. Back in Texas it was closer to 100 degrees than the nice 60 degree weather in Alaska.

Speaking of cruises, if you missed the Alaska cruise, you can join us January 31st - February 7th as we cruise with Larry's Country Diner gang again. This time we'll head to the Eastern Caribbean so check out that if you are interested at [www.CFRcruise.com](http://www.CFRcruise.com).

Wherever we are on the road, I hope you can get out and meet us there. Til then, you take care.



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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Check out the 2015 Tour Schedule!
- Enjoy meeting Van Hesse this issue's Fan Profile
- Enjoy photos from Alaska, the Grand Ole Opry, the Larry's Country Diner taping and much, much more!



# ALASKA!



Gene and Rhonda get welcomed aboard the Norwegian Jewel!



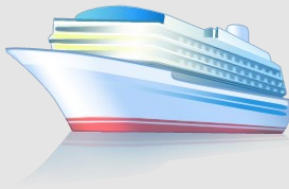
Bill Anderson (center) leads the group in singing "Family Reunion" to start the show!



Caught in the elevator! Gene, Nadine, Jimmy Fortune, and Rhonda Vincent!



Gene, Moe and Tami Bandy enjoyed a great meal aboard the ship. The molten chocolate lava cake seemed to be a favorite among the fans.



Gene said "The things you see when you don't have a shotgun" when he stumbled across Keith Bilbrey and Moe Bandy shopping for "Moose Hats" in Ketchikan, AK.



Gene and Rhonda thrilled the fans with their classic "Together Again" as Bill Anderson looks on.



Bill Anderson and Rhonda Vincent laugh as Gene tells a funny story on Moe before launching into his #1 hit "Fourteen Carat Mind."

When Gene saw all these pictures: " Was there a contest to get Moe Bandy in every photo?"



Gene and Moe are all smiles during "Dinner With The Fans" night.



Gene, Janis Oliver (Sweethearts Of The Rodeo), Jimmy Fortune, Christine Oliver (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) and Moe Bandy are happy to be sharing a dinner with the fans.



Jimmy Fortune, Jeannie Seely, Gene and Moe posed for this picture on the second night of "Dinner With The Fans".



Gene, Moe and Jeannie Seely are ready to start an autograph session with the fans.



Showing their pearly whites are Moe Bandy, Jimmy Fortune and Gene.



The ship photographer did NOT know what to do with this group photo! See if you can find Jimmy & Michelle Capps, Gene, Nadine, Moe, Nina & Jimmy Fortune, Jamie Dailey, Boot Daddy's Randy Little, Nadine's husband, Homer and EmyJo & Keith Bilbrey.



Gene and Moe posed for this photo during a Dinner With Fans night.



Gene enjoys the Alaskan scenery as the ship glides toward Sawyer Glacier.



Craig Morris plays piano while Gene sings "You Belong To Me", the 50's hit by Jo Stafford. That's Jim Ed Brown seated in the background.



Gus Arrendale "The Chicken Man" on Larry's Country Diner hosted a lovely reception for the artists on board the ship. Seen here singing "Crazy Arms" are Moe Bandy, Jimmy Fortune, Darrin Vincent, Gene, and Rhonda Vincent.



The last day of the cruise! Left to Right: Rhonda Vincent, Keith Bilbrey, Gene Watson, Jimmy Capps, Jimmy Fortune, Jeannie Seely, Jamie Dailey and, of course, Moe Bandy.

# A Night At The Opry!



Opry and WSM Radio announcer, Bill Cody, share a laugh backstage.



The Farewell Party Band pose with one of their favorite entertainers, Jeannie Seely.



Gene's booking agent, Rob Battle and his wife, Julie, dropped by to visit with Gene during the Opry store autograph session.



Jeannie Seely shows Gene how he can accessorize his jacket before going on stage.



We think Jimmy Wayne (singer of Top 10 singles "Stay Gone" and "I Love You This Much" is telling Gene about the size of a fish he caught.



Gene so enjoys hearing Jimmy Wayne sing that he stood on the side of the stage to listen and this photo was snapped as Jimmy ended his set.



Jimmy Capps on guitar and Michele Capps singing background vocals. Doesn't get any better than that according to Gene.



Johnny Rodriguez taped the show after Gene's so the two longtime friends had some time to visit between tapings.



Hall of Fame musician, Jimmy Capps, Johnny R and Gene smile for the camera.



Before the taping began, Gene caught up with Gus Arrendale, known as "the Chicken man" on Larry's Country Diner. Gus is the President of Springer Mountain Farms, one of the sponsors of the show and a good friend of country music.



Leroy Hellwig of Sisseton, South Dakota made a fabulous Bar-B-Que dinner prior to the show there for Gene Watson & the Farewell Party Band.

# Meet Fan Van Hess

**Where have you lived?** I have lived in Aledo TX since 1995 – small town east of Weatherford TX & west of Fort Worth--where I moved to in the 1970s

**What is your occupation?** Retired May, 2012 after 22 yrs with New York Life Insurance Company; 10 years with non-profit organizations' fundraising & entertainment; 10 years in educational administration

**Tell us about yourself and your family:** Divorced since 1991; two grown children (ages 45 & 47) two grown granddaughters (19 & 23). My son danced to Gene's show in Hibbing MN a few years ago...he was thrilled when I told him I was going to see Gene. My dad was a huge country fan in the days it was western music (1930s & until his death in 2010) so I grew up listening to country. Also had a boss (in 1970s) who listened to country at work so I "reformed" and gave in to the country stations...and they were playing Gene's music

**What are your Top 5 Gene Watson songs?** Sure you've heard this before but how can I only pick 5?? But I'll try: "Don't Waste it on the Blues", "Love in the Hot Afternoon", "Memories to Burn", "Farewell Party", tie here-both from new CD "Here Comes my Baby Back Again"& "I Forget You Everyday". Oh...and "You Gave Me a Mountain This Time" and "Climb Higher" and "Carmen" and "At Last" ...and everything he's ever sung!

**What are your hobbies?** Since retiring (from Work not Life) I'm a Blogger (about life/travel/music); Traveler (anywhere anytime); Dreamer;

**When did you first hear of Gene Watson?** First heard Gene sing on radio in the 70s+ and his music was played in country dance clubs in 80s & 90s when I was boot scooting around Texas.

**When did you first attend a Gene Watson concert?** First time to see Gene live was 7/5/14 at Texas Opry Theater in Weatherford TX; Next was 8/2/14 at Stagecoach Ballroom in Fort Worth, TX.

## Other notes:

My most frequent quotes about Gene Watson:

"One of the strongest voices in country music with the ability to hold a note long past its shelf life—then & now!"

"there's no other voice like his and he gives everything he has to a song"

"no better way to spend a *hot afternoon* than in TX with Gene."

Thanks for the music, **Gene Watson!**

**Van Hess – Texas Red**

**7/10/14**

You can find me on Twitter @VanHessTXred

or my blog <http://newjourneysonoldroads.com>



Van Hess & Gene Watson 7/5/14

## Tour Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>City/State/Country</b>
<b>August 14th</b>	<b>Tom Johnson’s Camping Center</b>	<b>Marion, North Carolina</b>
<b>August 15th</b>	<b>Hawkinsville Opera House</b>	<b>Hawkinsville, Georgia</b>
<b>August 16th</b>	<b>Red Barn Convention Center</b>	<b>Winchester, Ohio</b>
<b>September 1st</b>	<b>Catlettsburg Labor Day Festival</b>	<b>Catlettsburg, Kentucky</b>
<b>September 2nd</b>	<b>Grand Ole Opry</b>	<b>Nashville, Tennessee</b>
<b>September 10th</b>	<b>Sanderson Centre</b>	<b>Brantford, Ontario, Canada</b>
<b>September 11th</b>	<b>Renfrew RCAF #433 Champlain Wing</b>	<b>Renfrew, Ontario, Canada</b>
<b>September 13th</b>	<b>Marmora Jamboree</b>	<b>Marmora, Ontario, Canada</b>
<b>September 14th</b>	<b>159th Spencerville Fair</b>	<b>Spencerville, Ontario, Canada</b>
<b>September 19th</b>	<b>Dailey &amp; Vincent Festival at Denton Family Park</b>	<b>Denton, North Carolina</b>
<b>September 20th</b>	<b>Ohio Valley Opry</b>	<b>McConnelsville, Ohio</b>
<b>September 23rd</b>	<b>Red River Valley Fair</b>	<b>Paris, Texas</b>
<b>September 24th</b>	<b>Starlite Theatre</b>	<b>Branson, Missouri</b>
<b>September 26th</b>	<b>Eagles Club</b>	<b>Cape Girardeau, Missouri</b>
<b>September 27th</b>	<b>Renfro Valley Entertainment Center New Barn</b>	<b>Renfro Valley, Kentucky</b>
<b>September 28th</b>	<b>McFerren Park Civic Center</b>	<b>Hoopston, Illinois</b>
<b>September 30th</b>	<b>Duke Energy Center For The Performing Arts</b>	<b>Raleigh, North Carolina</b>
<b>October 11th</b>	<b>Dublin Theater</b>	<b>Dublin, Georgia</b>
<b>October 13th</b>	<b>Georgia Mountain Fall Festival—Anderson Music Hall</b>	<b>Hiawassee, Georgia</b>
<b>October 17th</b>	<b>Lovelady Old Gym</b>	<b>Lovelady, Texas</b>
<b>October 18th</b>	<b>Truman Lakes Opry</b>	<b>Tightwad, Missouri</b>
<b>October 25th</b>	<b>Bowie Community Center</b>	<b>Bowie, Texas</b>
<b>November 1st</b>	<b>Caslan Centre</b>	<b>Caslan, Alberta, Canada</b>
<b>November 2nd</b>	<b>Winspear Centre Enmax Hall</b>	<b>Edmonton, Alberta, Canada</b>
<b>November 8th</b>	<b>Newberry Opera House</b>	<b>Newberry, South Carolina</b>

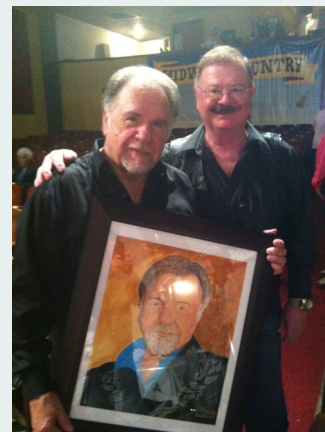


<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>City/State/Country</b>
<b>November 13th</b>	<b>Dosey Doe</b>	<b>The Woodlands, Texas</b>
<b>November 14th</b>	<b>Corsicana Opry &amp; Event Center</b>	<b>Corsicana, Texas</b>
<b>November 15th</b>	<b>Choctaw Event Center</b>	<b>Durant, Oklahoma</b>
<b>November 22nd</b>	<b>Music Country USA Theatre</b>	<b>New Boston, Texas</b>
<b>November 29th</b>	<b>South Carolina State Bluegrass Festival</b>	<b>Myrtle Beach, South Carolina</b>
<b>December 12th</b>	<b>Boulder Station Casino—The Railhead</b>	<b>Las Vegas, Nevada</b>
<b>December 13th</b>	<b>Yuma Quartermaster Depot Historic State Park</b>	<b>Yuma, Arizona</b>

**2015**

<b>January 1st</b>	<b>New Year’s Bluegrass Festival in Convention Center</b>	<b>Jekyll Island, Georgia</b>
<b>January 2nd</b>	<b>Living Truth Church (formerly the Farmer’s Opry)</b>	<b>Pace, Florida</b>
<b>January 23rd</b>	<b>Marion Cultural &amp; Civic Center</b>	<b>Marion, Illinois</b>
<b>February 27th</b>	<b>Mill Town Music Hall</b>	<b>Bremen, Georgia</b>
<b>February 28th</b>	<b>Itawamba Community College</b>	<b>Fulton, Mississippi</b>
<b>March 20th &amp; 21st</b>	<b>Ross Country Jamboree</b>	<b>New Washington, Indiana</b>
<b>April 10th &amp; 11th</b>	<b>Orange Blossom Opry</b>	<b>Weirsdale, Florida</b>
<b>May 1st</b>	<b>3rd Annual Little Roy &amp; Lizzy Music Festival</b>	<b>Lincolnton, Georgia</b>
<b>May 7th</b>	<b>Leo J. Welder Center For The Performing Arts</b>	<b>Victoria, Texas</b>
<b>May 30th</b>	<b>Bluegrass On The Plains</b>	<b>Auburn, Alabama</b>
<b>June 5th</b>	<b>Cherokee Bluegrass Festival</b>	<b>Cherokee, North Carolina</b>
<b>June 26th</b>	<b>Music In The Mountains Bluegrass Festival</b>	<b>Summersville, West Virginia</b>
<b>July 4th</b>	<b>The Texas Opry</b>	<b>Weatherford, Texas</b>

**Longtime Gene Watson fan Doug Lentz surprised Gene at the Sandstone, MN show with a painting Doug did of Gene Watson.**



## Trivia Contest Winner

Congratulations to Larry Byers of Norwich, Ontario, Canada who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: "Who was the ABC Monday Night Football announcer who sang "Turn Out The Lights, The Party's Over" when the outcome of a game had been decided by a runaway score? And the answer: "Dandy" Don Meredith

The next trivia 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](mailto: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](http://www.GeneWatsonMusic.com). Only Fan Club Members get the Trivia Contest Question!



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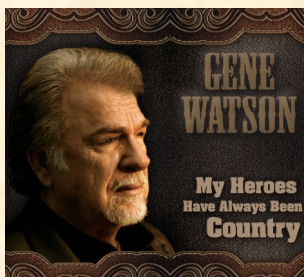
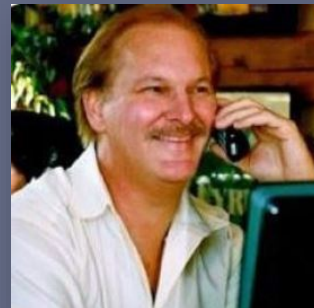
## Battle Artist Agency

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

Agent: Rob Battle

615-368-7433

[RBattleArtistAgent@United.net](mailto:RBattleArtistAgent@United.net)



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