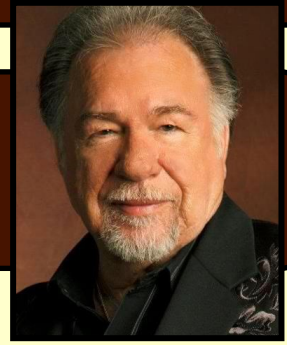


# Gene Watson Fan Club Newsletter

## May-June, 2015



Hi Friends-

It has been a good summer for us so far and we're always grateful to have wonderful fans like you coming to our shows and staying in touch on Facebook, Twitter, etc. As I like to say in my shows, who would have ever thought I'd be one to "Tweet"! But learning all this new stuff keeps us young I guess.

The band and I are looking forward to playing the Grand Ole Opry Saturday, June 27th. A few of us were recently talking about what standing on that Opry stage means to us as artists. My family was like many back in the day – we'd sit around on a Saturday night and listen to the Opry on our old radio and I'd learn all those songs, just hearing them on the show. It meant so much to me when the Wilburn Brothers invited me to travel to Nashville back in 1964 and put me on the Opry. I was 21 years old and scared to death to stand on that famous stage. I got a standing ovation and an encore singing the Hank Williams song "I Can't Help It If I'm Still in Love With You" and "It Is No Secret What God Can Do." After that, they took me down to the Ernest Tubb Record Shop where I sang again and it was broadcast on The Midnight Jamboree. That was my first experience with the Big Time in Nashville! Hope you will come see me and the Farewell Party Band at the legendary Grand Ole Opry!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene Watson". The signature is stylized and cursive.



# TV TAPING - MAY 12, 2015



Gene & the Farewell Party Band delight the audience with the #1 hit "Fourteen Carat Mind".



Moe Bandy and his band check the sound before the doors open for the sold out crowd.



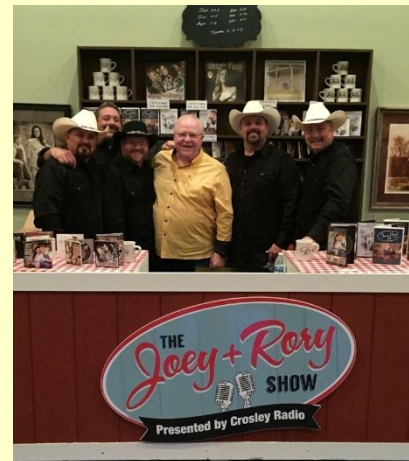
Gene wow's the crowd with his sizzlin' song "Love In The Hot Afternoon".



Gene and Moe snapped this photo backstage, just before showtime!



The Farewell Party Band pose with Joey of Joey+Rory. The TV show was taped at Joey & Rory's farm near Columbia, TN.



The Farewell Party Band members cozy up with Larry Black of Larry's Country Diner for this photo.



## TV TAPING - MAY 13, 2015



The TV crew follow Gene and Moe through the garage as they admire some amazing antique cars and trucks. Gene was in "hog heaven" as it's often said in the South!



Gene and Moe shot scenes at the Possum Hollar Garage in Sawdust, TN. Here, Gene is admiring the restoration of this beautiful old Chevy truck.



On location at a nearby farm, Moe gives Gene a lesson about Bulls!



This is the world-famous Marcy Jo's Mealhouse, featured on the Joey+Rory show. Marcy is Rory's sister and she fed the cast and crew a delicious home-cooked meal.



Left: Marcy Jo takes a quick picture with Gene and Moe before heading back to wait on her other customers in the restaurant that day.

## PHOTOS FROM THE GRAND OLE OPRY!



May 29, 2015



May 29th: Gene and the band always enjoy performing at the Grand Ole Opry and on this night, they performed "The Old Man And His Horn" with steel player, Danny Naccarato, adding the horn part on his saxophone. WSM announcer, Eddie Stubbs was heard to say "Interesting - we don't get a lot of horns played on the Opry!"



You know him as the famous Sheriff on Larry's Country Diner but you should also know Jimmy Capps (shown here with Gene), is a member of the NC Musicians Hall Of Fame, the national Musicians Hall of Fame and most recently honored by the State of Tennessee.



Gene enjoyed a visit backstage with Oak Ridge Boys' William Lee Golden at the Opry Country Classics at the Ryman Auditorium. The Oaks big hit "Elvira" was written by Dallas Frazier who also wrote Gene's big hit "Fourteen Carat Mind."



## Historic Photo

### First Time Singing Together!

This is THE very first time Gene and Rhonda met in person, when they stepped onstage to sing LIVE for the Opry which was also being televised. No rehearsal -as Rhonda's plane was late so only two super pros as they are could have handled it. They sang "Together Again".



# Fan Profile

## Donna Wildman!

**Where do you live?** I was born in Los Angeles, CA but grew up around Long Beach, Anaheim and Buena Park area. Lived in Joplin, Mo. for a short time, Potsdam, NY, Enid OK and a few other places too numerous to mention. Came to Diamond City, AR to visit my brother in 1994, and ended up staying for a year and worked a season in Branson ,MO . After going back to Riverside, CA for 6 years I ended up moving to Branson & have been here ever since.

**What is your occupation?** I worked for a few years in the hotel industry (laundry mostly) BUT I have a lot of stories from working there, like the time I personally got to wash, dry & press Ricky Van Shelton's jeans just before showtime! Also worked at Liz Claiborne outlet for 5 years before retiring. Loved that job!

**Tell us about your family** – I'm single at present, never able to have children, but have raised step-children that I feel are my own. I am the oldest of 5 children. I have lost 2 brothers in the last 4 years. The most recent one was just last year. Have 1 brother & 1 sister left. I have a very lovable little four-legged child now that is the joy of my life. His name is Riley, he's a 3 yr.old Shih-tzu Maltese toy Poodle mix. His groomer calls him a "shimaltipoo"



Riley

**What are your Top Five favorite Gene Watson songs?** It's hard to say what my 5 favorites are. I haven't heard a song from him yet that I don't like A LOT, but if I have to choose, I'd say "Climb Higher", "Old Man & His Horn", "Forever Again", "No Goodbyes", & " I Forget You Every Day". Also, I LOVE his re-do of "Make The World Go Away" & "Here Comes My Baby Back Again" on his " Heroes" CD .

**Do you have one particular Gene Watson album you play more than others?** Not really. I pretty much play ALL of them all the time. He's the one who spends most of the time on my stereo! Do ya kinda get the feeling yet, that I'm crazy about Mr. Watson?? LOL.

**What are your hobbies?** My hobbies are reading, and making jewelry. My favorite author is Debbie Ma-comber. I spend a lot of time making jewelry & I really enjoy it a lot.

**Where did you first hear about Gene Watson?** I have bought so many albums & CD's of his thru the years, I can't remember when the first one was. I know it was back when I was a teen. The first song I remember hearing him sing was "Old Man & His Horn" and I was hooked! I also remember the first time I saw his picture I had a mad crush on him. With those looks, & that voice....who wouldn't!

**How many concerts have you attended?** Unfortunately, I haven't been able to travel much, so I've only been able to attend 3 concerts SO FAR & they've been here in Branson. I try to see him every time he's here. My favorite is to see him in person, but I also catch him on "Larry's Diner" when he's on. AND, of course I play his music at home & in my car most every day.



Donna Wildman and Gene Watson in Branson, MO at the Starlite Theatre!

# A Conversation With Farewell Party Band Member Danny Naccarato About...Wine????



**We heard a rumor you are involved with a winery in Calif. How did it start?** My sister Laurie Kelsey's in-laws, Dick & Delores Kelsey, started a little winery back around 1999 after Dick retired. Actually, HE DID. She wanted nothing to do with it (not kidding). He had a barn on their property and one morning looked at it and thought it'd make a great tasting room. He hired a winemaker not long thereafter and Kelsey See Canyon Vineyards, Inc. was born, much to Dolores' dismay.

**So the rumor is true!!!!** The short answer is "yes". The longer answer is an incredible journey, not necessarily by me. In January 2008 Delores was diagnosed with Stage III Ovarian Cancer. It really knocked the family sideways. They asked me to come out for a couple of weeks to help out any way I can. After I got there, they asked me to move out there and run the winery as General Manager. The family wanted to focus all their energies on helping Delores beat the disease. I didn't know squat about wine, but I figured if I could get the Winemaker to make Crown Royal, it'd be a win-win :)

**We want to know about Delores.** She's tough as nails. Incredible business sense. She beat the disease a year later. It continues to come back every so often in different places, but between her and Laurie, they stay on top of it. They are aggressive with the doctors and each time it's tried to come back, they've beat it back.



**Where in California is it located ?** The Central Coast of California. San Luis Obispo county. 5 minutes from the ocean and Avila Beach, nestled in a canyon dotted with apple orchards and vineyards. It is one of the most beautiful and idyllic places on Earth. The county has nearly 400 wineries, mostly in Paso Robles. The first wineries began back in the 70's. It's what Napa and Sonoma were 40-50 years ago. It truly is a paradise. Look on a map, halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. <http://www.KelseyWine.com>.

**Apple Orchards?** Yes. As a matter of fact, the biggest selling wines are the unique apple blends; Golden Delicious which is 50% Chardonnay and 50% apple juice. The Red Delicious, nicknamed "Hot Tub Wine" is 50% Red (usually Merlot or Syrah) and 50% apple juice.



**That sounds fun. Are there more?** Yes. Several varieties: Syrah, Zin, Mouvedre, Grenache, Merlot (Staley's fav), Cabernet (Staley's other fav), Pinot Noir (Staley's... never mind, he loves them all). Chard, Albarino, Muscat, Viognier. Also many blends. Never did convince the winemaker to make Crown Royal though :(

**Hot Tub Wine?**

(Continued on the next page)

## Continued....A Conversation With Danny Naccarato

**Why did you leave?** In 2010 things were running well. Delores was healed. I realized I was doing more and more of the tasks on a computer. Although I've been visiting the area for 40+ years, not to mention my mom and sisters all live there, my kiddos and newly created grandkids lived in Fort Worth. Also, my soon to be wife then, Suzi, lived there. We realized I could move back to Texas, continue to be involved as a Financial Consultant, and devote more time to music. As it were, Suzi and I got married that summer, and 18 months later I became a member of the Farewell Party Band, working for the legendary Gene Watson. It was a great decision for many reasons. Laurie and her brother-in-law Keith Kelsey run the winery. Jac Jacobs came on board as winemaker a couple of years ago and is making incredible wines. I still manage the finances. It's a win-win (still no Crown Royal though).

**Do you miss it?** I still get out there often so that takes care of missing it. I'm still involved on a near daily basis. It's doing much better since I left. Seriously. Laurie, Keith & Jac have made a great team. Dick and Delores are still involved. It's an awesome place to visit. Quaint tasting room, with 50+ Peacocks roaming the grounds. Live music on weekends, great wine clubs. They've done a great job. But, I get to play steel for a legend, see the kids, grandkids and wife, so it's a win-win all around. Staley and I get to do some sampling however, when they send some my way to check out. That right there is also a win-win!! Ask him.



## Trivia Contest Winner!

*Congratulation to Dottie Lance of North Port, FL who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: "Name the FEMALE recording artist (RIP) that shares a birthday with Gene Watson."*

*And the answer: Dottie West*

*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 Gene Watson's Fan Club, just sign up at [www.GeneWatsonMusic.com](http://www.GeneWatsonMusic.com). Only Fan Club members get the Trivia Question!*

## Tour Schedule

July 3	Dosey Doe	The Woodlands, TX
July 4	The Texas Opry	Weatherford, TX
July 11	Melody Ranch	Waco, TX
July 18	Paragon Casino	Marksville, LA
July 24	Eaglenest Entertainment	Maggie Valley, NC
July 25	Rural Retreat Heritage Days	Rural Retreat, VA
Aug 1	Stagecoach Ballroom	Ft Worth, TX
Aug 13	Mason County Fair	Point Pleasant, WV
Aug 14	41st Annual NC Bluegrass Festival	Marion, NC
Aug 15	Sagebrush Roundup At WV Country Music H.O.F.	Fairmont, WV
Aug 21	Riverwind Casino	Norman, OK
Aug 25	Kentucky State Fair	Louisville, KY
Aug 29 & 30	Midwest Country Theater	Sandstone, MN
Sept 11	Nelson's Music City	Knob Lick, MO
Sept 12	Renfro Valley Entertainment Center New Barn	Renfro Valley, KY
Sept 24 & 25	Starlite Theatre	Branson, MO
Sept 26	Leon Co. Expo Center	Buffalo, TX
Sept 29	Red River Valley Fair	Paris, TX
Oct 3	Penn's Peak	Jim Thorpe, PA
Oct 9 & 10	Kentucky Opry	Benton, KY
Oct 20, 21, 22	Starlite Theatre	Branson, MO
Oct 24	Anderson Music Hall	Hiawassee, GA



## Tour Schedule-continued

Nov 6	Country Tonite Theatre	Pigeon Forge, TN
Nov 7	Liberty Showcase	Liberty, NC
Nov 8	Augusta Expoland Benefit	Fishersville, VA
Nov 14	Lovelady Old Gym	Lovelady, TX
Nov 21	Newberry Opera House	Newberry, SC
Dec 3, 4, 5, 6	Starlite Theatre	Branson, MO
<b>2016</b>		
Jan 16 & 17	Orange Blossom Opry	Weirsdale, FL
Jan 31-Feb 7	Country's Family Reunion Cruise	Caribbean
March 4	Mill Town Music Hall	Bremen, GA
March 5	Itawamba Community College	Fulton, MS
March 7	Strawberry Festival	Plant City, FL
March 12	Performing Arts Center	Effingham, IL
March 18 & 19	Ross Country Jamboree	New Washington, IN
March 26	Arlington Music Hall	Arlington, TX
April 29	Little Roy & Lizzy Festival	Lincolnton, GA
May 14 & 15	Old Dominion Barn Dance at the Henrico Theater	Highland Springs, VA
Sept 23	Bluegrass Island Festival	Manteo, NC

## BATTLE ARTIST AGENCY

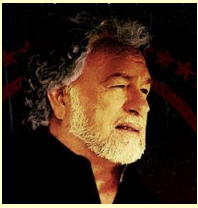


To book Gene Watson for an event in your area contact:

Rob Battle, Battle Artist Agency at 615-368-7433 or

e-mail: [RBattleArtistAgent@United.net](mailto:RBattleArtistAgent@United.net)

# Gene Watson Online!



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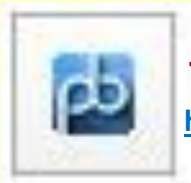
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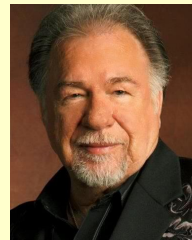
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