



# Gene Watson Fan Club Newsletter

Volume: 70

September - October, 2020



Dear Friends -

With the pandemic still in full swing, most venues have asked to change our shows to 2021. While we miss you at the shows, we want everyone to stay healthy so just hold on a little longer and we'll see you in 2021.

In this down-time, I've been busy at my Toy Shop, working on a few cars and trucks. I'm hoping to show you some photos soon. Right now I'm working on a 1983 Monte Carlo SS that I'm planning to show.

I also have a 1998 Chevy Silverado 3 door extended cab that has been setting up too long so it has needed some work.

Thank you for hanging in there with us. We can't wait to see you on the road.

All the best,



# Photos From The Vault



A venue in Oklahoma  
circa 1980



Taken at a TV taping,  
Gene sold this photo  
at his shows.



On stage at the  
Grand Ole Opry



John Conlee, Charley Pride  
and Gene



Two Houston natives:  
Gene and BJ Thomas



Fun times at the old Fan Fair in Nashville



Gene receives his first  
R.O.P.E. Entertainer of the Year  
Award from Johnny Russell

# DALLAS WAYNE



[Dallas Wayne](#) considers himself lucky to be able to make a living doing something he loves — working as a singer, songwriter, radio DJ, voice-over artist, actor and music producer. Some people might say it has more to do with talent than luck.

Dallas has performed throughout North America and Europe, releasing 12 albums of his own, and performing on various compilation and band recordings. He released his most recent albums, ***Songs The Jukebox Taught Me, Volume 1 and Volume 2***, on the [Heart of Texas Records](#) label.

Dallas got his start in radio in 1989, drawing on his many years as a performer. Currently, he can be heard on [SIRIUS XM Radio](#): Weekdays from noon to 6 p.m. Eastern at Willie’s Roadhouse (channel 59), and Tuesday through Friday in Outlaw Country (channel 60) from 10 a.m. to noon Eastern.

“From the first time I heard Gene Watson sing at a show in central Missouri in the mid '70s, I have been a huge fan. His vocal command is unequalled,” said Dallas. “Still today, when I spin one of his records on SIRIUS XM Willie’s Roadhouse, or when I have the honor to watch him work from the wings as we play shows together across the country, he still blows me away. Gene values the tradition of this music, like I do. He’s a fellow traveler on the Honky Tonk Highway.”



# Q & A's with Gene about Touring!

**What are your favorite cities to play in based on the food served/ restaurants?** We love when we play Mill Town Music Hall in Bremen, GA because they bring in a special caterer who cooks just for us. They usually serve delicious steaks and fresh vegetables. Everything served is excellent. We also enjoy stopping on the way to Nashville at The Log Cabin in Waverly, TN for their home style cooking. Of course we always find a good Chicken Fried Steak with mashed potatoes and cream gravy is high on our list, which is served in the middle of the USA but especially in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

**Is there an album track (not a hit) you'd like to perform if the time was right ?** If a track affects me so much, I'll usually just add it to the show whether it's a hit or not but one song right now I plan to add to the show is the Ray Price hit, "For The Good Times." I've never sung that onstage but the band and I ran through that one time before the pandemic and we all loved how it sounded so be looking for that to be in the show in the future.

**Before the show, what's the one thing on your mind before you go on?** I'm thinking about the audience and wondering if it's going to be a super lively crowd or more of a listening audience. It's great to have a nice mix but I don't ever plan out a show so depending on the crowd type, we'll do a show according to how they react.

**What's better: walking on the stage or walking off the stage?** Definitely walking on. When I've finished a show, I've put everything I've got into it. I've given it all I've got so as I'm leaving my energy level is not what it is going on.

**Would you consider doing a live album?** Absolutely but the time would have to be just right with a perfect venue, recording equipment, etc.

**Do you ever do a set list & if you decide to change up in the middle of the show, how do you let the band know?** I never make a set list but mostly the band has to listen to how I introduce the song and they'll know what I'm about to sing. We do have a few hand signals and key words if that's needed but my band stays on their toes during the show and they're sharp, so they know what to do.

**Are there places or venues that you haven't played but would like to?** I'd say Carnegie Hall would be on the list but it's not something I think of too much because I've pretty much played most places I'd like to – and really, I just want to play where the people are that want to hear my kind of country music. The building is secondary to the great fans who come to support real country music.

**What is the strangest place or show you have played in your lifetime?** Hands down, the strangest event I've ever played for was Robert Gentry's funeral in Marthaville, Louisiana where Mr. Gentry was alive and well. He had all of his pallbearers onstage and the guests were dressed all in black. Here's what the national news "The Boot" had to say about it. "Some 500 people attended Gentry's 'Roast Before He's Toast' party, with Gene and his Farewell Party band providing the main entertainment for the festivities. The event was held on All Saint's Eve in the heart of Cajun Country at the Rebel State Historic Site, which Gentry helped found.

The invitation to the gathering read, "Robert Gentry. Birth: January 5, 1940. Death: God Only Knows." It further stated that "the eulogy, insults and other fitting remarks will be lead by former Louisiana Gov. Edwin W. Edwards."



Remembering the Watsons by Jim Millsap

## “The Ole Lake Road”



Leaving the nearest county road, traveling a mile or so past the Smiths & the Hensons & the Slagles and other good people, brought you to the Watson's little frame house on the left side of the road. Another half-mile down the hill (pictured), and on the same side, was the side-ways-to-road shotgun house dad built—over much-time—for his ever-expanding family. Up and down this little gravel hill—quoting Jessie Watson, two years younger than Gene and me—was where the Millsap and Watson boys "kicked a lot of rocks down the ole road together."

Some called it the Ole Lake Road back then. Today, it's vastly changed, and has a number as its identity. But no matter how identified, every time I drive the road, long since asphalted over, lots of memories surface, mostly to do with the Watson/Millsap boys' trips up and down this country pathway, which led to the mischievous group's respective places of abode. I suppose time will never dilute some of those unique memories.

One such memory is of the creative way Gene and I had of driving our “cars” (actually car tires) up and down that country hill. Drivers license was still a ways in our future, so Gene drove (pushed) “Slick” (no tread) while I drove “Knobby” (mud-grip tread). Amazing how little gas those “cars” used. We usually went in at night with blackened hands and little unspent energy, but we had many a good time racing and/or otherwise cruising those tires around the neighborhood. What memories!

While visiting Gene in Houston a few years back, he took me by his business: “The Toy Shop.” We were a long way in time and distance from our growing up days, but I wasn't too totally surprised when Gene opened a side door at his business just to show me his stash of car tires. Looking at the abundant inventory, I couldn't help but think back to Slick and Knobby and the Ole Lake Road. —Jim Millsap



# 2021 Tour Schedule

Date	Venue	City, State
January 15th	Edna Boykin Cultural Center	Wilson, North Carolina
January 16th	Newberry Opera House	Newberry, South Carolina
January 17th	Social Circle Theatre	Social Circle, Georgia
February 5th	The Park Theater	McMinnville, Tennessee
February 12th	Arlington Music Hall	Arlington, Texas
February 13th	Old Town Theater	Huntsville, Texas
March 6th	Azteca Event Hall	Amarillo, Texas
March 12th	Florida Strawberry Festival	Plant City, Florida
March 13th	Dothan Opera House	Dothan, Alabama
March 14th	Walhalla Performing Arts	Walhalla, South Carolina
March 20th	Mill Town Music Hall	Bremen, Georgia
March 26th	Heart Of Texas Music Fest	Brady, Texas
March 27th	The Ritz Theatre	Wellington, Texas
April 8th	Sisseton Performing Arts	Sisseton, South Dakota
April 9th	Wild Rose Casino	Emmetsburg, Iowa
April 10th	Windstone Entertainment	Jefferson City, Missouri
April 16th & 17	Liberty Showcase	Liberty, North Carolina
April 30th	Little Roy & Lizzie Festival	Lincolnton, Georgia
May 1st	The Barn	Sanford, Florida
May 7th	Nashville Palace	Nashville, Tennessee
May 8th	Red Barn Convention Center	Winchester, Ohio
May 14th	Palace Theater	Crossville, Tennessee
May 15th	Harvester PAC	Rocky Mount, Virginia
May 16th	American Music Theater	Lancaster, Pennsylvania
May 20th	Arena Theater	Houston, Texas
May 22nd	Riverwind Casino	Norman, Oklahoma
May 23rd	WinStar Casino	Thackerville, Oklahoma

# 2021 Tour Schedule—continued

Date	Venue	City, State
June 4th	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas
June 5th	Coyote Store	Gail, Texas
July 3rd	Margaritaville Casino	Bossier City, Louisiana
July 10th	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana, Indiana
July 29th	Hippodrome Theatre	Waco, Texas
July 30th	Paramount Theatre	Abilene, Texas
July 31st	Greenville Municipal Auditorium	Greenville, Texas
August 15th	The Melba Theater	Batesville, Arkansas
September 4th	Anderson Music Hall	Hiawassee, Georgia
October 16th	Mansion Theatre	Branson, Missouri
October 23rd & 24th	Old Dominion Barn Dance	Hopewell, Virginia
November 6th	Mansion Theatre	Branson, Missouri
November 19th	Country Tonite Theatre	Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
December 3rd	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas



## TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER!

Congratulations to Donna Lancaster, Lawrenceville, GA who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: The question : Name the ARTIST that INVITED Gene to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry. Answer: Vince Gill. 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!



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



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