



# Gene Watson Fan Club Newsletter

Volume 69

July - August, 2020

Hi Friends - I hope all of you are well and safe from the Covid 19 virus and anyone impacted by the hurricanes are doing okay also. Like you, I will be very happy when 2020 is over and we can hopefully all resume our normal lives. The band and I are definitely ready to get back to touring but we want to do that responsibly as do all of our venues - so until it's considered completely safe, we'll be at home like you and hoping for a good vaccine to be available very soon.

Were you able to listen to Willie's Roadhouse on SiriusXM when I was a guest DJ for the Opry radio show? I really enjoyed that and appreciated the good folks at SiriusXM and my wonderful Adkins Publicity team for setting that up. One song we didn't have time for was The Everly Brothers' "Wake Up Little Susie." You may not have realized The Everly Brothers were Opry members but they were and it reminded me of when I was just starting out, my brother, Jessie, and I tried our best to nail down the Everly's guitar licks and harmonies. I think we weren't too far off on our vocals but that guitar work which was so distinctive was another matter entirely.

One other bright note is that I received another #1 for my Gospel recording of "Fit For A King" in Cross Country magazine's chart and it's at #3 in Cashbox (and still climbing that chart). That makes 4 consecutive #1s from my "My Gospel Roots" album and I am honored to have that. I just did an interview with the Cross Country magazine and I think that will probably be in their September issue.

One of my favorite things recently was receiving the photo below. My friend, Jim Millsap, who is like a brother to me, sent it to me and did some research to share with you. The photo is from 1957 at my school where it was the crowning of the "Halloween Queen" so you can see the young ladies are dressed up behind me. The girl beside me is none other than my bass player, Staley Rogers', Mother! She was Patricia Ervin back then and she and her sister (an amazing accordeon player) performed often at our school. Just about anytime there was something special going on, Patricia, her sister and me were performing together. If you can believe it, Staley was working with me for probably 3 years before we both put it together that his Mom and I knew each other from our school days. Is this a small world or what.

Speaking of my great friend, Jim Millsap, his father was the pastor at our church growing up and I have a photo of Brother Millsap on the back of the "My Gospel Roots" CD. Jim and I spent so much time together as kids that we basically shared each others homes as our own. My mother and his mother were best friends and my father and his father were also best friends. When my father decided to take our family to Phoenix for a time, well Brother Millsap took his family there too. We were all inseparable and I'm pleased that Jim has shared another story for you further in this newsletter. We may request more features from Jim as his memory is sharp as a tack and he's got a great talent for writing.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of real country music and just as soon as we can, we'll be out to your city to sing for you again soon,



# Remembering the Watson Family by Jim Millsap

## Thelma Watson's Taters-n-Gravy

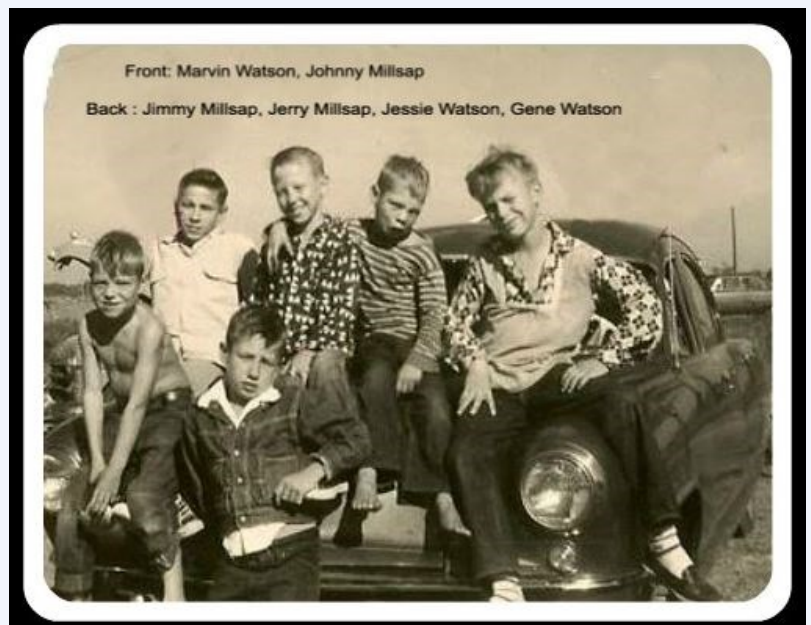
Mom's dish of perfection was pinto beans. She had plenty of practice cooking the little red devils, given the frequency they graced the table in our large family. Gene's mom did great fried potatoes, and when covered with gravy, they provided a wonderful contrast to the almost daily regimen of beans at our place. I sometimes was guilty of hanging out a little late in the afternoon at the Watson's. I learned early on that if a kid was present at mealtime, Thelma Watson was going to set an extra plate. She was that kind of woman.

Thelma and my mom were best friends; they shared love, support, material things, whatever—and made memories in both good and bad times, until cancer took mom's friend when Gene and I were teenagers. That was tough.

I still have precious memories of Thelma Watson. When I listen to Gene's rendition of "Swing Wide Them Golden Gates" from his latest gospel CD, I can still picture his mom singing that song in church, harmonizing beautifully with husband, Ted. Though time has dimmed some memories, I will never forget Thelma's singing...and I won't ever forget her lovingly setting another plate...and I won't ever forget her taters-n-gravy. -jm



Back row: Mother, Thelma; Father, Ted; Older sister, Mary Lois. Front row: Virginia Ruth, Gary Gene, and Edmond Ray



# SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLIE MONK—THE MAYOR OF MUSIC ROW!

Charlie Monk, the honorary “Mayor of Music Row” as well as the morning host for Willie’s Roadhouse (ch. 59) on SiriusXM, is celebrating over 60 years working in Country Music. Charlie began his career as a DJ back in 1956 in Alabama. He eventually became the Program Director at WUNI in Mobile, AL where he took that station to the #1 position for the city.

In 1968 he made the move to Nashville, TN and held a number of prestigious jobs including head of the Nashville ASCAP office and later head of CBS Songs/Nashville, guiding that company to become one of Nashville’s Top 3 Publishers. The well-known Acuff-Rose Publishing group then asked him to head up their office and under his leadership, Acuff-Rose was the first publisher to win both ASCAP and BMI’s “Most Performed Song of the Year” in the same year. That song was George Strait’s “What’s Going On In Your World.”

In his publishing career, Charlie was the first to discover and sign many notable singer/songwriters including Randy Travis, Kenny Chesney, Jim McBride, Holly Dunn, Keith Stegall and Aaron Tippin. Charlie eventually opened his own publishing company, Monk Family Music Group which has been successful for over 35 years.

Charlie’s talents don’t just start and stop with radio and publishing however. He’s had success himself as a songwriter with songs recorded by Jerry Reed, Eddy Arnold, Pat Boone, Jimmy Dean, Charley Pride and more. As an actor, he has been in many theatrical productions and you can see him in Dolly Parton’s movie, “Blue Valley Songbird”.

Charlie has served as an executive and member on the boards of such organizations as The Recording Academy (Grammys), Nashville Songwriters Association International, the Gospel Music Association and the CMA. Charlie also co-founded a huge music industry event, Country Radio Seminar.

As a record producer, he worked with Charlie Chase and Keith Stegall and managed the career of Keith Stegall as well. He co-authored the book “A Best Seller” and as a journalist, Monk has been a columnist and feature writer for many industry magazines. As a noted scholar on Country Music, he has often been asked to teach at universities such as MTSU and Trevecca Nazarene.

The accolades and awards for Charlie are so long, only a few of the biggest can be listed but here are some of his most prestigious:

Alabama Legislature Honor in 2007

ASCAP Publisher for Most Performed Song; BMI Publisher for Most Performed Song; CLIO for Coca-Cola commercial voice work; ADDY Award for C&P Telephone commercial

2018 Inducted into the TN Radio Hall of Fame and received the Lifetime Achievement Award

Most importantly, Charlie Monk is a huge fan of Gene Watson! Charlie had this to say about Gene:

“I’ve been in the country music business a very long time so I’ve heard just about every new act in the last 60 years but when I heard GENE WATSON, I knew he was gonna be around a lot longer than me and most of the others. Gene is definitely in the Top 5 of pure country singers ever. If you will just stop and listen to “FAREWELL PARTY”, you will understand why he is and always will be in that group. As the MAYOR OF MUSIC ROW, I’ve just appointed myself the #1 Gene Watson Fan For Life!!”



# 2020 & 2021 Tour Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>City &amp; State</b>
<b>2020</b>		
<b>November 13th &amp; 14th</b>	<b>Liberty Showcase Theatre</b>	<b>Liberty, North Carolina</b>
<b>November 22nd</b>	<b>Melba Theatre</b>	<b>Batesville, Arkansas</b>
<b>November 28th</b>	<b>Sugar Creek Casino</b>	<b>Hinton, Oklahoma</b>
<b>December 5th</b>	<b>Honky Tonk Texas Dancehall</b>	<b>Silsbee, Texas</b>
<b>December 12th</b>	<b>Margaritaville Casino &amp; Hotel</b>	<b>Bossier City, Louisiana</b>
<b>December 17th</b>	<b>The Arena Theatre</b>	<b>Houston, Texas</b>
<b>December 20th</b>	<b>WinStar Casino</b>	<b>Thackerville, Oklahoma</b>
<b>2021</b>		
<b>January 15th</b>	<b>Arts Council of Wilson Boykin</b>	<b>Wilson, North Carolina</b>
<b>January 16th</b>	<b>Newberry Opera House</b>	<b>Newberry, South Carolina</b>
<b>January 17th</b>	<b>Social Circle Theatre</b>	<b>Social Circle, Georgia</b>
<b>February 5th</b>	<b>Park Theatre</b>	<b>McMinnville, Tennessee</b>
<b>February 12th</b>	<b>Arlington Music Hall</b>	<b>Arlington, Texas</b>
<b>February 13th</b>	<b>Old Town Theater</b>	<b>Huntsville, Texas</b>
<b>March 6th</b>	<b>Azteca Event Hall</b>	<b>Amarillo, Texas</b>
<b>March 12th</b>	<b>Florida Strawberry Festival</b>	<b>Plant City, Florida</b>
<b>March 13th</b>	<b>Dothan Opera House</b>	<b>Dothan, Alabama</b>
<b>March 20th</b>	<b>Mill Town Music Hall</b>	<b>Bremen, Georgia</b>
<b>March 26th</b>	<b>Heart of Texas Music Fest</b>	<b>Brady, Texas</b>
<b>March 27th</b>	<b>Ritz Theatre</b>	<b>Wellington, Texas</b>
<b>April 8th</b>	<b>Sisseton Performing Arts Center</b>	<b>Sisseton, South Dakota</b>
<b>April 9th</b>	<b>Wild Rose Casino</b>	<b>Emmetsburg, Iowa</b>
<b>April 10th</b>	<b>Windstone Entertainment</b>	<b>Jefferson City, Missouri</b>
<b>April 30th</b>	<b>Little Roy and Lizzie Fest</b>	<b>Lincolnton, Georgia</b>
<b>May 7th</b>	<b>Nashville Palace</b>	<b>Nashville, Tennessee</b>
<b>May 8th</b>	<b>Red Barn Convention Center</b>	<b>Winchester, Ohio</b>

## 2021 Tour Schedule Continued

Date	Venue	City & State
May 14th	Palace Theater	Crossville, Tennessee
May 15th	Harvester PAC	Rocky Mount, Virginia
May 16th	American Music Theater	Lancaster, Pennsylvania
May 22nd	Riverwind Casino	Norman, Oklahoma
June 4th	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas
June 5th	Coyote Store	Gail, Texas
July 10th	Blue Gate Theater	Shipshewana, Indiana
July 30th	Paramount Theater	Abilene, Texas
July 31st	Greenville Municipal Auditorium	Greenville, Texas
September 4th	Anderson Music Hall	Hiawassee, Georgia
October 23rd & 24th	Old Dominion Barn Dance	Hopewell, Virginia
December 3rd	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas



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[www.genewatsonfans.proboards.com](http://www.genewatsonfans.proboards.com)

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## TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER!

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Congratulations to Lori Klug of Rushford, MN, who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: The question : Name Gene Watson's duet partner on the song "We've Got A Pulse" . Answer: Trace Adkins. 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!

## 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)

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