

BILL and SUE-ON HILLMAN: A 50-YEAR MUSICAL ODYSSEY

50 Years on the Road with Bill and Sue-On Hillman

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GIG NOTES SECTION

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Presents

Part I: The Roots Years

Memory Take Me Back :: Roots and Wings

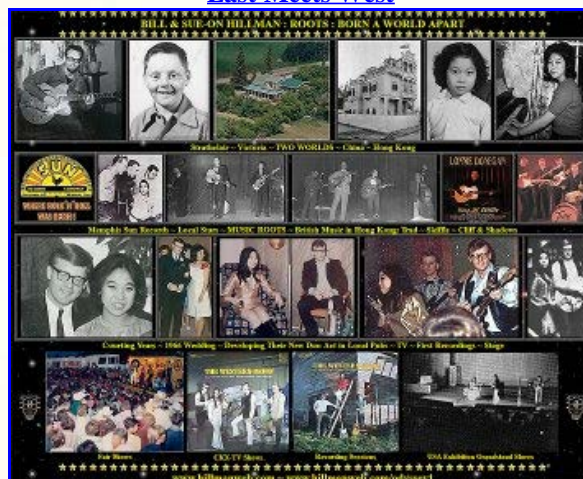
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East Meets West



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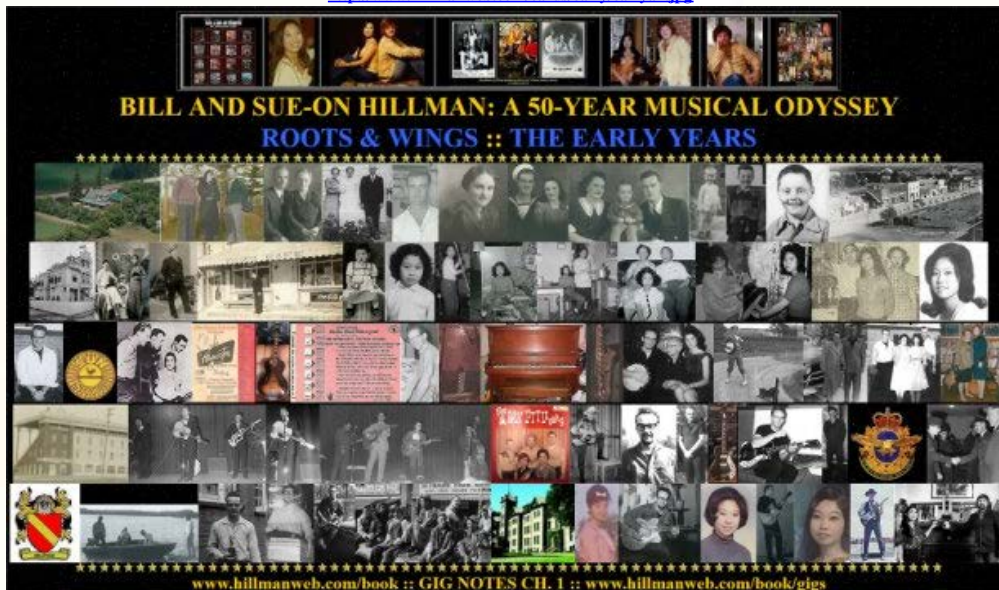


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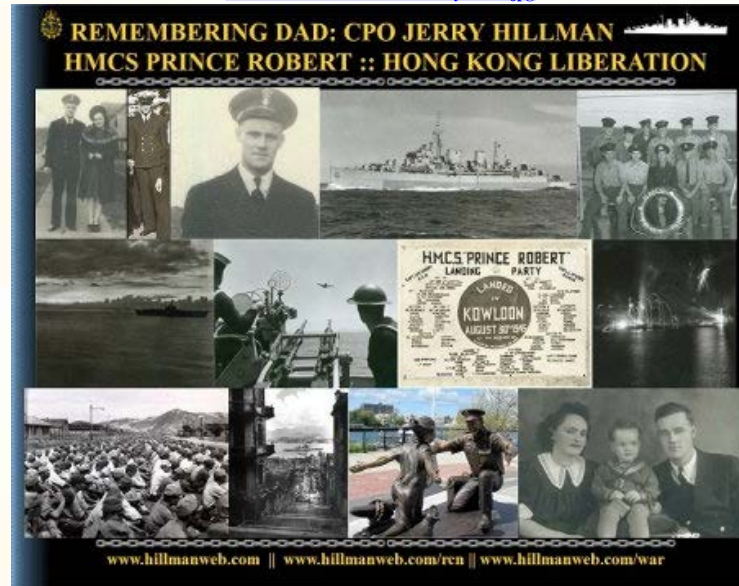
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Family Roots and Jams

War Baby Follows The Muse: Strathclair to Newfie

The music has always been there. I was born in wartime, January 11, 1943. Conception took place in Halifax where my dad, Jerry Hillman, was stationed with the Royal Canadian Navy but later, when my debut onto the world stage was imminent my mom, Louise, returned to Strathclair MB so I could be born at her birthplace surrounded by family. When I was old enough to travel we returned to the East coast to be with my dad. By this time he was stationed in St. John's, Newfoundland. The ferry to the island recently had been torpedoed by a German U-boat so dad arranged for us to take a passenger plane for the last leg of the trip -- he also had to arrange for passports as Newfie, at that time, was still a British possession. From that time on I was exposed to music as my parents' social life mostly involved jam sessions with friends. Dad blew the trumpet and sax while mom played accordian, and piano when available. My mom and I followed Dad to his RCN postings in Newfoundland, Halifax, and Victoria . . . and music was always there.

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WWII Music: Big Bands and Hong Kong Girl Singers

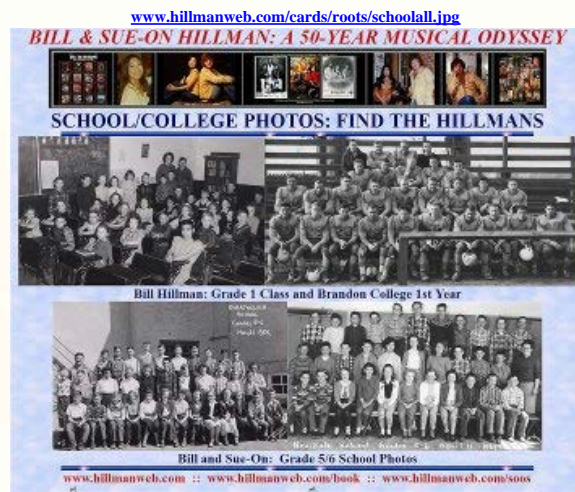
The music from those war years must have left its mark as I'm always filled by waves of nostalgia whenever I hear the big band sounds and hits from that era. In '44 dad was transferred to Victoria, BC (Esquimalt and Comox) and since my parents both loved to go to the movies, some of my first memories are of theatres with their magic images and soundtracks.

Near the end of the war dad volunteered to serve on HMCS Prince Robert, a ship that was fitted with the latest in radar and armament and was part of a joint British/American fleet to help facilitate the Japanese surrender in the Pacific. Mom and I returned to Strathclair to await his return. I have vague memories of his departure and return. His

ship had spent the summer of '45 in Hong Kong harbour and he returned with fantastic souvenirs, photos and stories that fired my imagination and which seemed to inculcate a lifelong appreciation and fascination for travel, the military, adventure, Chinese culture, and exotic lands and music.

Dad had fond memories of Hawaiian and Hong Kong entertainment troupes who had presented music and dance shows on board ship and during shore leave. One curious thing I remember him saying was that the Chinese girls -- the girls in the entertainment troupe were probably singing Chinese opera, somewhat strange sounding to Western ears -- were terrible singers... ah, if only he could have seen into the future :)

Magic Portal: Googling the Dial

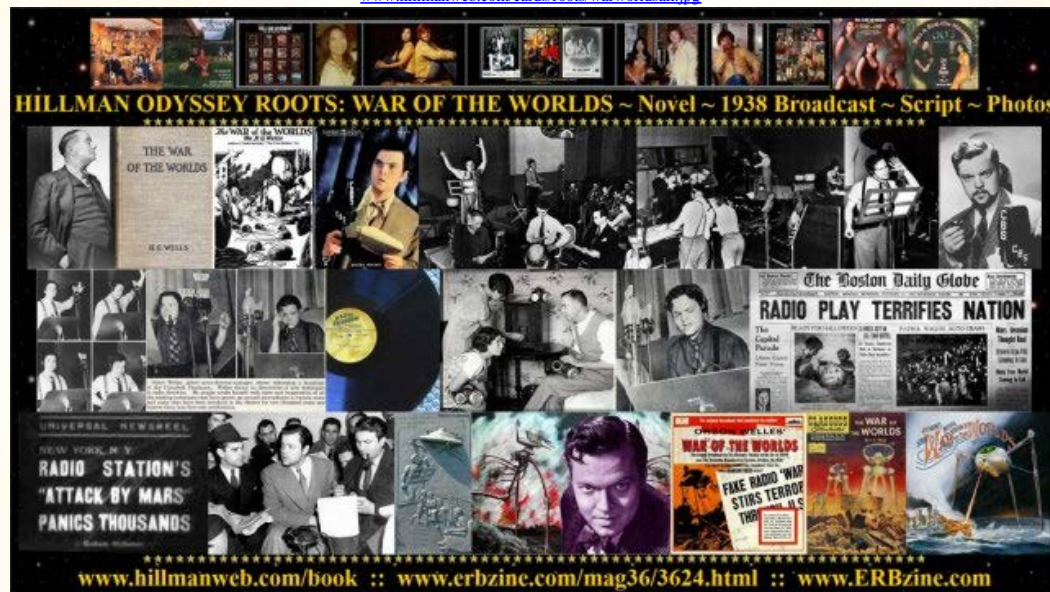


After WWII I grew up on our family farm, Maple Grove, a half-section grain, dairy and livestock farm homesteaded by my great grandfather in 1878. This marvellous place with its pastures, waving grain fields, woodlots, towering spruce trees, ravine, sloughs, old stone buildings, and majestic red brick house would be the centre of my world until I left for university in 1961.

Radio became my window to the world and I constantly roamed the dial of our big Westinghouse floor model, bringing in songs and voices from far-off places -- the equivalent of today's Internet. I became a sponge for every kind of music and radio programme -- shows that featured super heroes, mystery, comedy, SF, variety entertainment . . . and music of all styles.

Through the magic of radio I discovered the stars of Sun records and followed the birth of rock and roll. In fact, I heard Elvis, the Hillbilly Cat very early -- on stations beaming music from the deep south in 1954: WSM, WLS, KXEL, KWKH, etc. And, wired into this booming radio, was a 78 rpm turntable on which I played, over and over, the family collection of records: Bing Crosby, Hank Williams, big bands, pop songs and western swing.

A few years later I was able to purchase a reel-to-reel tape recorder which allowed me to tape home recordings as well as radio and TV shows. I was then able to build up a permanent library of thousands of old time radio shows. I traded with fellow collectors in the US for the shows that had fired my imagination as a kid in the '40s and '50s. One of the first shows I traded for was Orson Welles' 1938 broadcast of The War of the Worlds.



50 Top Hits On 78 RPM!

We had cattle and about 1,000 laying hens which I had to feed by carrying water, grain and chop by pails. My audience of cows and chickens gradually learned to put up with my vocal renditions of the hits of the day. I hauled out the manure, gathered eggs, milked the cows, and did the crushing, as well as shovelling snow, grain and coal. What money I saved from doing these daily chores went into buying records, books, magazines and comics.

I talked my mom into sending for records through an ad that offered 50 hit songs for just a few dollars. Too good a deal to pass by. The package that arrived in the mail wasn't quite what we had expected, however. Each 78 rpm disc had three somewhat abbreviated songs per side ... and they weren't by the original artists. But there was some good stuff there: *Sh-Boom*, *Sincerely*, *Moments to Remember*, *The Man in the Raincoat*, etc. - pop and C&W and a whole lotta stuff I'd never heard of.

Life Revolving at 78 RPM

My first real record purchase was at G.V. Henderson's Drugstore: *That's All Right Mama* b/w *Blue Moon of Kentucky* by Elvis Presley and the Blue Moon Boys on RCA Victor 78 rpm. Before long I had bought out his whole stock of Elvis records and had the entire collection of the singles Elvis had originally released on Sun Records.

The next treasure trove of singles came as prizes for selling school magazine subscriptions: Fats Domino, Jack Scott, Gene Vincent and Little Richard. Sadly there was very little music in our school. We did however, get permission to clear out an old junk room in the school's basement and on days when the weather was too miserable for us to play baseball or football outside (guys and gals played tackle football all winter out among the snowbanks), we listened and danced to records.

These were truly exciting music times -- the birth of rock 'n' roll and my own music awareness -- and today there are

very few hits from the '50s and '60s that don't generate some memory from the past. My life then, as now, seemed to revolve around music.

10 Inch Magic Platters

I wore out the family's stacks of 78 RPMs on a turntable we had wired to our big console radio. When Elvis records became available on RCA in 1956 every penny I could scrape up went to buying these \$1 discs. But the big old 78s in my collection just didn't have the pizzazz of the new unbreakable 45s and LPs with their stacking turntables, colourful photos and peer acceptance.

So, for many months leading up to Christmas '56, I started a campaign to make my parents very aware that our old turntable was terribly obsolete. Success! Under the tree that year was a portable RCA record player that could play all three speeds and all sizes of records. Along with this technological marvel was a selection of records from various members of the family: Elvis' second album, Bill Haley, Pat Boone and Crazy Otto (my Aunt Merna was a real fan), Tennessee Ernie Ford (my Nannie was a fan), and a few more.

My record collecting and guitar playing now went into full gear as I could hide away in my room and play along for hours every day, picking guitar riffs off my growing collection: Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Lonnie Donegan, Dale Hawkins, Gene Vincent, et al. This collection grew in leaps and bounds when I joined the RCA record club: Chet Atkins, Hank Snow, bluegrass, etc.

That Ain't How Jerry Lee Plays It

My mother, sensing a bit of a music obsession, enrolled me in piano lessons for a couple of years. Silly kiddie tunes, scales and boring practises just never captured my imagination... this wasn't the music I was hearing in my head. My sister Bonnie took the lessons much more seriously and became very accomplished on the keys. . . but alas . . . not for me.

Mom tried to kindle the fire by buying sheet music for songs in which I had shown some interest: *Love Me Tender*, *Don't Be Cruel*, *Third Man Theme*, etc. Dad's sister, Aunt Merna, tried to get me to put some excitement into my dreary plodding by giving me pointers on syncopation and rhythm. My music teacher added an element of fear through weekly scoldings and rapping my fingers with her pencil. And around this time Jerry Lee Lewis came on the scene with his pumping piano to show just how exciting a piano could sound. But he was too late.

Hello Monterey

Piano lessons weren't cool. . . this was a little before Jerry Lee. Elvis & Scotty and Johnny & Luther, and all the cool rockers played guitar. So. . . dad came home from Winnipeg one night with a Harmony Monterey archtop he had bought at Ray Hamerton's. That was cool. . . a dream come true.

But it was tough going for awhile since the strings hovered way above the fingerboard -- bleeding digits until calluses were built up. Dad showed me a few runs . . . and one day proudly boasted that he had heard a hit song on the radio -- *I Walk The Line* -- that used the same runs he had taught me. For a while then, Luther Perkins was a bit of a mentor :).

Encouraged by all this, dad soon added a 5-string banjo and autoharp to my arsenal. Uncle Don then showed me how to put some chords to some simple folk songs and I was on my way -- picking up ideas, riffs, chords from every guitar player I saw. Music continued to be a driving force: I sent for a Doc Williams acoustic guitar course from a Wheeling West Virginia radio station, and Mom bought music folios with guitar chords.

Rewards of Myopia

About the only good thing about being shortsighted and having to wear glasses was that I got to go to Winnipeg for appointments with an eye doctor in the Boyd Building. I saw Elvis's *Love Me Tender*, soon after it was released, in the Metropolitan Theatre -- well, "heard" more than "saw" because I had just come from an eye test and examination and had drops in my eyes.

I also went to my first major music concert -- at the Playhouse Theatre -- little knowing that in 20 years I would have the thrill of appearing on this same stage many times myself. But back then though, I was dazzled by the lights, the sound, the applause, the velvet curtains on the stage -- and the guitars! The show featured Jim Reeves, Johnny Horton, Country Johnny Mathis and Charlie "Hot Rod Lincoln" Ryan.

On later trips I returned home with hard-to-find Lonnie Donegan skiffle albums and LPs by England's guitar instrumental group, The Shadows.

Up Around The Bend

The Bend Theatre in Strathclair was a magic place that showed two movies a week, hosted many local concerts and, occasionally, brought in a touring music group. In the '50s, Winnipeg radio station CKY had a Saturday morning show that featured a regular live country band. The bands would use the show to plug their live performances around the province and most of them found their way to our theatre quite regularly.

Station DJs, such as Porky Sharpeno, would moonlight as emcees on these shows and would usually plug the show all week on their radio shifts. The stage shows featured a nice mix of country songs and instrumentals, pretty girl singer, cornball humour, audience participation, costumes, lighting (black light was a favourite gimmick), and sale of photos, programmes and songbooks.

Many years later I would refer to a Ray Little Show songbook for the lyrics to the *Kentuckian Song* that Sue-On recorded for our [fourth album](#). (The song had originally been featured on the soundtrack of a '50s Burt Lancaster movie, *The Kentuckian*.) After digging through stacks of memorabilia I finally found these obscure lyrics . . . on one of the inside pages beside the picture of the smiling steel player, Tex Emery.

Elvis And Chet Come To Town

www.hillmanweb.com/cards/roots/bendall.jpg



The stage show in our local Bend Theatre that stands out most in my memory was the Hal Lonepine / Betty Cody Show in the mid-'50s. Accompanying this husband and wife singing team was their 15-year-old son, Hal Lonepine, Jr. on Gretsch guitar. The kid was incredible . . . and he later became even more incredible when he set the guitar and jazz world on its ear. In those later years he dropped the Jr. stagename and performed under his real name: Lenny Breau.

The show also featured the Ward Sisters and a steel and bass player who came out later in a Grampa Jones type costume and persona to add a bit of comedy relief. The guest singer was a very young and dynamic Elvis impersonator named Ray St. Germain. Ray also went on to become a major performer with hit records, international tours and his own television shows.

One of our greatest thrills was meeting Ray, one of our early influences, many years later at the Manitoba Association of Country Artists Award Show. We and Ray were both up for the [Manitoba Entertainers of the Year Award](#). . . and Sue-On and I were more surprised than anyone in the room when we were announced the winners of this major award.

Royal American Shows

Another big event during my teen years was the annual Provincial Exhibition in Brandon. A trip to Brandon would give me a chance to roam through the record and book shops. Brandon Fair always offered great entertainment on the Grandstand and the two big tent sideshows -- one with black performers, one with white -- had exciting bands and dancers, albeit a wee bit racy for a youngster.

A few years later I would be performing on TV remotes and various stages at the fair, but in these early years the closest I came to performing was giving 4-H Club demonstrations and showing Rhode Island Red chickens since I was a member of the Strathclair Poultry Club -- not exactly a glamorous introduction to the world of show business.

China Doll

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, in Hong Kong, Sue-On was coping with being separated from her mother who was stranded in China, and from a father in Newdale, MB, whom she had never seen. Her grandparents had

enrolled her in a rather harsh Catholic school and she was absorbing the sights and sounds of this bustling English colony.

Luther Played the Boogie Woogie



Many Brandon music shows stand out in my memory - especially three shows featuring Johnny Cash. Seeing the first Johnny Cash / Jim Reeves Show in the old Brandon arena was a real thrill. I got some great photos.

After the show when the stars headed across the arena floor to the dressing room area, the majority of autograph seekers followed after them. But Luther Perkins, Marshall Grant, and W.S. "Fluke" Holland of Johnny's Tennessee Three stayed in the stage area to pack up. This was in the days before roadies and big tour buses.

I saw Luther alone at the side of the stage and made my way over to him to boldly ask if I could try out his Fender guitar. He said "Yup" and this led to my first real guitar lesson. Luther wasn't a really great accomplished guitarist... he probably didn't know many more chords than I at that time... but the lessons I learned in that short time about interaction with fans and the importance of creating your own style were invaluable.

Luther's "boom-chick" style of damped guitar and simple memorable riffs is probably one of the most imitated. Sadly, he died in a house fire a few years later. Soon after Luther's death, guitarist, Bob Wootton, was enlisted to join the Tennessee Three. Wootton is still on the road with the Tennessee Three (he does J.R.'s vocals and Luther's guitar). I'm very proud of one of the recent after-show photos that my friend Bill Stadnyk snapped while I was chatting with Bob and "Fluke" Holland.

Simon Crumb

The other major Brandon musical event for me was also at another old arena concert. One of the stars was Ferlin Husky, a dynamic entertainer whose contribution to country music seems to be somewhat overlooked.

What impressed me most about the show, though, was his lead player. I could hear steel guitar sounds, but there was no steel on stage. Upon moving closer to the stage I soon deduced that the lead player was getting these long sustained sounds with the aid of a volume foot pedal. It wasn't long before I had bought a DeArmond pedal and was imitating his

style -- a device I have used ever since, and is vital to my guitar sound and style.

Window to the World. . . and Brandon

Back in the early days of television in Southwestern Manitoba, one of the highlights of "going to town" in Strathclair was to join the crowd huddled around the window of the Somers Electric shop. Set up for public display was a Westinghouse 19 inch television set which pulled in a weak signal from CKX-TV Brandon -- 60 miles to the southeast.

Across this magic, flickering, black and white window to the world paraded a multitude of faces, places and sounds: movie stars, radio stars, variety performers, cartoons, TV actors, reporters, and singers. These small grainy images were all bigger than life, and unknowns became superstars overnight. The shows came from studios far and near: Hollywood, New York, Toronto, and Brandon... it didn't really matter where they came from... the performers were all fantasy-like figures in our minds.

It was standing on this sidewalk, straining to get a better view of the small screen that I first met Brandon's Russ Gurr. Most of the music shows on TV in the early and mid-'50s featured singers in stuffy dress wear, sedately standing in front of an orchestra of seated, chart-reading musicians. Seldom would I see the instrument that had become my obsession -- the guitar.

Then, one night, the small screen was filled with a strutting, posturing, singer decked out in fringed shirts and western wear, singing country/western songs, and wildly flailing a Martin flat-top guitar. This was before the emergence of rock 'n' roll and this unfettered, stylistic performer stirred the vanguard of musical instincts which would soon blossom fully with the arrival of Elvis and all the Sun rockabilly stars. Little did I know that our paths would cross a few years later and Russ and I would share many adventures on the road.

A Really Big Shew

The arrival of my transistor radio meant that I now had a constant musical companion while doing chores. Great changes were also wrought by the arrival of television in our home. There wasn't much of the new music on the tube, but the Ed Sullivan Show had the occasional rock act: Elvis, Buddy Holly, The Everlys, Buddy Knox -- and CBC's Hit Parade show and Country Hoedown had some interesting moments. But the early days of TV were magical. I've tried to share some of the excitement in the CKX-TV Overview entry in this Odyssey.

Trips to Paris

A few years later, whenever I went with the gang to functions in nearby Newdale, I always looked forward to having a coke or hot chocolate in Soo Choy's Paris Cafe because he always had a good stock of music magazines to browse through. We were sometimes served by his pretty young daughter, Sue-On, a cute and bubbly little girl who had recently come from Hong Kong with her mother. Her older brother Kenny and I were friends and classmates through grades 11 and 12.

Air Cadet PQ Jams and Bawdy Ballads

I was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets for eight years -- having joined as a Junior Cadet at age 11. My two weeks at Air Cadet 1960 Summer Camp in St. Jean, Quebec, gave me the opportunity to jam with another guitarist -- a

real treat because there were very few players around home. He wasn't much better than I was, but he did a nice version of *Honky Tonk* and soon I had another riff added to my slowly growing guitar repertoire.

I had hoped to take pilot training in Cadets, but my Nannie and the rest of the family would have no part of it. Memories of the Wartime losses of only a decade ago were still too horrific in their memories. I had lost three uncles -- brothers to my Mom and Dad. They were pilots in downed RCAF Lancaster and Halifax bombers.

Another memorable music experience associated with Air Cadets was the singing of a seemingly limitless number of bawdy ballads on the many military bus trips we took over the years -- songs I haven't had much occasion to sing since, as there hasn't been much demand for them in mixed company.



Electric Silver Tones

My Harmony Monterey archtop had served me well, but it had many limitations. One day in the summer of 1960, while thumbing through the new Simpsons-Sears mail order catalogue, I came upon a picture of a guitar that seemed to offer everything I wanted in an instrument: a shiny black, gold-flecked Silvertone electric guitar. The \$100 price was way out of my range, but my grandmother had been saving her pension cheques for an emergency such as this. The story and photos of this guitar, and of all the guitars that came after are featured in our Guitar Tales section.

Campbell Christie Orchestra

Mom and her surviving older brother, Don Campbell, had fond memories of the band that the three Campbell kids and neighbouring Christie kids had formed back in the '30s. In 1960 my obsession with music and the long hours I was spending with my new electric guitar revived their interest in jamming together.

This led to a booking in Strathclair Municipal Hall and what was to be my first stage appearance. Our repertoire consisted of instrumental solos with my mom on piano and Barbara (Christie) Wyton on violin. I might have played a few numbers, probably something like *Wildwood Flower* and *Under the Double Eagle*, and my Uncle Don played rhythm guitar. We were pretty ragged and the whole experiment was short lived, but it was an exciting and encouraging experience for me.

Neepawa Variatones

Gordie Pierson was a travelling hardware rep who made regular visits to my dad's hardware store. He played often and always packed his accordion in the company car which he brought out to our farm a few times for jams. I guess he saw some potential in my guitar playing, so he invited me to sit in for a few dances with the band he played with: the Neepawa Variatones. It was a good experience reading chord symbols to accompany their horn arrangements. I was on my way . . . ready for the big city :)

Don't Worry 'bout Marty

The best teen dances of my youth were at the Arena Dance Gardens in the nearby little town of Oak River. One night's show back in the early '60s that stands out featured Marty Robbins and his band. Marty was riding high with cross-over pop/country hits that included the classic *El Paso*. This was an event to look forward to because of the great guitar work on his hits (the guitarist on his recording sessions was usually Nashville legend, Grady Martin).

On this particular night, however, Marty's long-time lead player (name forgotten) fell sick and had to leave the stage. Marty ended up playing lead himself for the rest of the night . . . occasionally sitting informally on the front edge of the stage.

This was the first time I had ever heard fuzz guitar as the lead player had used the effect on Marty's hit, *Don't Worry 'bout Me*. Story has it that the effect on Marty's recording was discovered in the studio by accident when Grady's guitar solo was run through a guitar amp with a loose tube or through a faulty channel in the mixing console.

Fascinated with the sound I bought the first fuzz pedal -- a Maestro Fuzztone -- soon after. The fuzz/overdrive sound went on to become a staple in the rock world. I was a real Marty fan and still have many reel-to-reel tapes of Marty's all-night phone-in request sessions on Ralph Emery's WSM radio show out of Nashville. Marty sang and played every request that was phoned in to the station -- for hours. He played guitar and piano behind these impromptu on-air vocals.

The King of Skiffle Invades Manitoba

www.hillmanweb.com/cards/roots/doneganall.jpg



Lonnie Donegan was a major influence on British music. Anthony James Donegan was born in Scotland in 1931. Early in his career his jazz band opened for bluesman Lonnie Johnson. Donegan was a fan and in tribute he adopted the name Lonnie. He started the skiffle craze that inspired an army of music lovers to pick up guitars and look into American folk and blues music. Two young musicians who were captivated by the driving skiffle sounds were John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The repertoire of their first band was made up almost entirely of skiffle songs and guitar styles.

One of the first albums I bought back in the '50s was *Lonnie Donegan: An Englishman Sings American Folk Songs*. A hotspot for Donegan music in North America was Manitoba. Winnipeg radio stations picked up on this album and started a groundswell for Lonnie's records in the province. The most popular song off the album was "Frankie and Johnny" -- a rather unusual choice for such radio play since it hadn't been released as a single and its length was around five minutes -- in a time when nearly all hits were 2-3 minutes long. Interestingly, the second track on side 2 of the album was "Nobody's Child" which Tony Sheridan covered five years later in his recording session with the Beatles in Hamburg.

This explosion of Lonnie Donegan music came around the time I had abandoned boring piano lessons and picked up my dad's Harmony acoustic guitar. I had been scouring the radio dial looking for songs by Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Gene Vincent, Buddy Holly, et al, in which the guitar and blues were the main driving force in this new groundbreaking music called rock 'n' roll. Lonnie's brand of rockin' skiffle fit right in. One of the first 45 rpm singles that I played on my new multi-speed record player was Lonnie's frantic "Gamblin' Man."

[Lonnie Donegan Launches a Thousand Picks and Licks](#)

I learned years later, during the "English Rock Invasion," that I was not the only one deeply influenced by Lonnie. Young Brits found it hard to obtain many US records and a burgeoning domestic pop scene developed in the UK. Leading the pack was Lonnie Donegan, "The King of Skiffle." His success was soon followed by homegrown acts such as Cliff Richard and the Shadows.

Growing up in Canada in the '50s we were bombarded by American culture to the south, but we still had very close ties to Britain -- the best of both worlds. The success of Manitoba performers in the international entertainment scene owes much to this multi-cultural exposure which made them unique in many ways: comedians, folk and C/W singers,

rock bands, writers, TV personalities, actors, songwriters, etc. all benefited.

It is hard to find UK entertainers who came out of the explosive '50s-'70s who don't admit to Donegan's influence on their success. Up until the Beatles blitz he was Britain's most popular and successful entertainer. When John Lennon formed the Quarrymen in 1957, Lonnie's songs were riding the top of the British charts. The majority of the Quarrymen's first songs were Donegan covers. In fact, the earliest known "Beatles" recording is of Donegan's "Putting On the Style." Ironically, The Beatles' success eclipsed Lonnie's popularity and he came to be considered passe for too many years.

Lonnie's Farewell

Sadly, I never had the opportunity to meet Lonnie Donegan or hear him in person. The closest I got to the man was during our 1976 tour of England -- we even played some of Lonnie's hits on our shows. Our MC/comedian for one of the workingman club gigs we played had emceed Lonnie's show the night before. I pestered the poor guy all night with questions about the Skiffle King.

Earlier in the year, Lonnie had suffered a heart attack and undergone a heart operation, and the show the night before was billed as a farewell concert. A few years later, however, veteran trouper that he was, Lonnie returned to show biz. Two of my favourite albums came later in Lonnie's career: He was joined on the 1978 "Puttin' On The Style" sessions by a host of rockers who wanted to acknowledge his influence on their music. Among the guests on the album were Ringo Starr, Leo Sayer, Albert Lee, Brian May, Elton John, Klaus Voorman, Ronnie Wood, Jim Keltner, Nicky Hopkins, Rory Gallagher, Alan Jones, and many more.

Much later, his acclaimed "Live in Belfast 1998" album was done with Van Morrison, Chris Barber, and Dr. John. Lonnie Donegan died in 2002, aged 71, after suffering a heart attack while on tour, shortly before he was due to perform at a memorial concert for George Harrison with The Rolling Stones. I owe a great debt to this man who introduced me to American blues and folk music, English music hall performances, and Jazz, dixieland, and skiffle -- and fed into my passion for guitar.



www.hillmanweb.com/cards/roots/elvis1all.jpg || www.hillmanweb.com/cards/roots/elvisall.jpg

[Visit More Photos in the Photo Hillman Collage Archive](#)

This long "Root Years" pre-amble sets the stage for the start of a 50-year on-stage odyssey.
What follows are more anecdotes laid out as "Gig Notes" or "Road Tales"

NEXT: [The Swingin' Sixties](#)

Gig Notes I: Roots Years
SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

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www.hillmanweb.com

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[Choy Family Background](#)

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[Father CPO Jerry Hillman ~ RCN](#)

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[Music Influences I: 1943-1961](#)

[Music Influences II: 1943-1961](#)

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1. [Roots Years](#)
2. [The Swinging Sixties](#)
3. [Sue-On Arrives On Stage](#)
4. [Prairie and USA Tours](#)
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BILL and SUE-ON HILLMAN: A 50-YEAR MUSICAL ODYSSEY



BOOK COVER
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1. Gig Notes: 1-10	2. Album Notes	3. Guitar Tales	4. Prairie Saga
5. Roots	6. Photos	7. Media	8. 100 Songs



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