

SECOND LINE

Newsletter of the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society

A Quarterly Newsletter

January 15, 2022

Officers:

President: Peg Isakson
Vice Pres, interim: Fred W Smith
Treasurer: Merritt Pitcher
Secretary, Fred W Smith:
fwsmithpe@msn.com
Band Leader: Lenny Kellogg
Membership: Ted Turner
Director: Myrne Watrous
Director: Carol Lingenfelter



The PRIJB: L to R: Ray, Clarke, Charlie, Larry, Alan, Rory, Oscar, Lenny --- Founded by Bob Cooke, 1995

Website: <https://www.prijb.com/>

Chairperson's Note:

What Stories Do Jazz Musicians Have to Tell?

Musicians are real people with talent, passion, enthusiasm, and with stories to tell.

Since the pandemic began, I've been reading biographies and memoirs of musicians. It's impressive to read about the amount of dedication these musical artists have, and we are the lucky ones when we listen to their wonderful artistry. The sound and feel of their music reaches into our soul, our rhythm, and our emotions.

Recently I read about Dottie Dodgion in a newsletter from *AllAboutJazz.com*. Dottie's 2021 book, *The Lady Swings: Memoirs of a Jazz Drummer* by Dodgion and Enstice, is available from University of Illinois press. Dottie was a female drummer who overcame challenges and forged through new opportunities in jazz. She passed in September 2021 at the age of 91.

Follow this link to hear her stories and her playing "Deed I do"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZOA0V6u8Iw>

We have musicians in our NCTJS (Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society) who have interesting stories to tell. I recently chatted with Jeannie Davis, a long-time fan of The Poudre River Irregulars.

Jeannie began piano lessons at 8 years old, on a grand piano in the ballroom at the Swastiska Hotel in Raton, New Mexico. (In Indian language swastika means well-being.) In 1939 the name of the hotel was changed to The Yucca, after Hitler stole the swastika symbol, and Jeannie played on.

In the 50s she played the organ for a vocalist at an elegant restaurant in Montrose, CO. Gay Johnson's was the fancy place to eat in Western Colorado at the time. A recent Facebook post about Gay Johnson restaurants in Montrose and Grand Junction tells us Gay Johnson "was a character." Must have been a fun place!

Recently Jeannie has played piano and percussion instruments for the local New Horizons concert band. <http://NorthernColoradoNHB.org> She has stories to tell of driving the country roads in Weld County, searching for the scheduled sites to play concert gigs. She knows how to get around in Colorado!

Jeannie has continued her "entertainer" up-bringing from ballroom to "fine-dining", to the New Horizon band and to enjoying some "fine refreshment" with the Traditional Jazz Society. A true fan of the PRI!

Hearing so much enjoyment, how do we let our musicians know how much we appreciate their music & stories? Join NCTJS (aka NoCOJazz) – and keep up with the dues. Your membership and attendance at jazz shows (when **live** on the calendar) will help to sustain the lively PRI jazz programs we all love. More info at www.prijb.com. (www.nocojazz.com redirects you to the same website in case that's easier to remember.)

Stay tuned for more stories!

Peg Isakson, your chairperson

If you know a member of NCTJS who has music stories to tell, kindly forward the name to jazzwithpeg@gmail.com.

There's nothing like music to relieve the soul and uplift it.
Mickey Hart

Secretary's Note:

The election of our Board of Directors is complete, and the election was a unanimous landslide in favor of the board members listed in this newsletter. The board can use a couple more members to help us keep the ball rolling for our Band and our Jazz Society. If you are interested, please contact Fred at 970-227-8640 (Please leave a message) or by email at: fwsmithpe@msn.com.

I got a note from NoCOTradJazz Society member and Board Member Myrne Watrous about a recent CD box set release of Louis Armstrong Studio Sessions from 1946 to 1966. The box set of CDs can be seen and purchased at:

[Complete Louis Armstrong Columbia & RCA Sessions - Mosaic Records](#)

NoCOTradJazz and Ventilation

Now that's a crazy title, isn't it? What could this possibly be about? Well, it goes like this –

Avo's has been a great benefactor of the Poudre River Irregulars Jazz Band and the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society for many years, since 1996, providing us with a great music venue for all that time. Back in those days, Rob at Avo's remembers that he was trying to develop Avo's as a music venue and was not having a lot of success. He was about ready to give up on that idea when Bob Cooke came to him seeking a better venue for his band and Rob said yes. The PRIJB already had a solid following, and the first performance was a sell-out. The presence of Bob and the PRIJB over the ensuing years really helped to develop Avo's as a music venue and helped our band be a great success over the years.

Rob said that Bob was forward looking and inspired about what the band and the jazz society should be doing. He often brought in guest musicians to sit in or to present special performances. We remember performances with Butch Thompson (Prairie Home Companion) with he and Bob; and a solo performance by Sue Downs and others. Rob says Len does a fantastic job as well and keeps the traditions alive. Through his leadership, he has developed a great band and his banter at the mike keeps the crowd happy and entertained. Rob has great memories, as do we, of the many years of having a great venue, great jazz, great fans and the great times. He also remarked, as we have as well, that we have had this close collaboration for so many years – unusual in the music business. We look forward to it continuing into the foreseeable future.

So, what does ventilation have to do with it?

As you know, we have recently moved back to the indoor room at Avo's. While we have truly appreciated the opportunity to conduct our performances outdoors in Avo's back patio over the warm months during the pandemic, we are very pleased to be able to move inside now given that the cold months are upon us. Given the pandemic concerns, it is natural to wonder about being indoors when the pandemic is still going on. It is important for us to know that Avo's has seriously undertaken the government recommended protocols that mitigate against the covid risks involved - protocols such as, distancing, masks, separation of tables, reduction of occupancy maximums, and assurances that their ventilation system is up to the task.

Among the conditions at Avo's is an excellent ventilation system. You would probably be surprised to learn that they have not one, but six Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. These systems are designed to exceed ordinary ventilation standards. The middle room where we have our concerts has two units with fans running full time with the air changes taking several minutes rather than the much longer times that are usual for houses. In addition, the dining room/kitchen area has two units, the bar has one, and the bathroom has one. There are also two make-up air fans. The entire system was designed to be significantly oversized to exceed usual standards. They have undertaken careful maintenance practices as well, having the entire system checked and filters changed on a regular basis.

In December 2021, we had our first indoor concert in the middle room, which is now limited to 60 in attendance compared to the much larger limit under which we had operated previously. Avo's is hoping to host us for concerts in the middle room along with the pandemic protocols for the foreseeable future and until the pandemic is gone.

So, we look forward to having Jazz indoors with excellent ventilation in addition to the other protocols. We hope that is a suitable combination for audience participation and that you will come and join us on our First-Friday-at-Avo's jazz events that take place each month, covid permitting.

First Friday at Avo's

Next Dates:

Feb 4th (go/no-go decision is pending due to covid increases – we will keep you posted);

Mar 4th; April 1st.

Avo's is located at 605 S. Mason, Fort Collins, (970) 493-5555.

***Hot Jazz with the
Poudre River Irregulars Jazz Band***

<https://www.avogadros.com/>

Become a Jazz Society member today go to www.prijb.com



SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:

For Facebook: When you're logged in to Facebook, search for "Poudre River Irregulars Jazz". Please "like" our page and "share" the page to your contacts. Your "like" and "share" are very important to spread the word of our Northern Colorado exuberant jazz! Your help is appreciated!

Our Google page: On your device (cell phone or ipad) you can google the band by using "Poudre river irregulars jazz band" in the search box. You'll see that you can click to the new website home page, to Facebook posts by us and to Facebook posts by Avogadro's, KRFC, Denver Jazz Club, and more.

