

# Newest Hall-of-Famers no strangers in Milam

## Dowdy, Carroll, Schlesinger picked for honor

GATESVILLE — How hard is it to be inducted into a country music hall of fame?

Ask three area musicians who recently traveled to the Gatesville City Auditorium to be honored.

Rhythm guitarist Bill Dowdy of Lexington, steel guitarist Roy Carroll of Round Rock and fiddler Paul Schlesinger of Taylor agree that it didn't take too much arm-twisting to accept the honor.

Roger Vierser, director of the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame, said the performers were selected "because their dedication to country music sets high standards of excellence of those with true professional ability."

"They've paid their dues, and have given many people lasting memories," he said. "They exemplify country music."

Hall of Fame members already include country superstar Tracy Lawrence and renowned Texas artist Clifton Jansky.

**'OLD SCHOOL'**—Schlesinger said ability is not the only factor involved in hall selection:

"We owe a lot to Henry Jost from Copperas Cove. He wrote a tune called 'A Million Tears,' recorded by Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters in 1950.

"Jost and I met several years ago at a Melody Masters reunion and became friends. He brought Roger Vierser to see us perform at the Thorndale VFW Jamboree back in September. Vierser evidently heard or saw something he liked!"

Dowdy, Carroll and Schlesinger are disciples of "old school" country music, and no strangers to the

Rockdale area. Carroll and Schlesinger both play with the Milam County Cowboy Church band. Schlesinger and Dowdy periodically perform live on Rockdale's KRXT radio station, promoting shows like the recent Perk Williams tribute held in Chriesman.

Schlesinger frequently appears on the Milano Opry. All three play at the Thorndale VFW Jamboree each fourth Monday.

**Rockdale Reporter** publisher emeritus Bill Cooke has often drummed behind Schlesinger and Dowdy at various venues, Schlesinger noted.

**MUSIC VETERAN**—Dowdy, who got his musical start prior to WWII, played with Rockdale's Tommy Thompson band from 1949 to 1951.

He made his first commercial recordings as a vocalist with the group, released on 4-Star Records, a national label. The band broadcast daily over Taylor's KTAE radio from Thompson's Rockdale cafe, Singer's Grill, and played for dances.

Over the years Dowdy has worked with many area groups. His rhythm guitar style earned his induction into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame in 2003.

His other current gigs include the monthly Lone Star Opry in Giddings and Schlesinger's Knights of Texas Swing band.

**NATIVE**—Carroll, a Cameron native who grew up in Freeport, cut his teeth with Texas-based bands such as Bill Henderson and Sundowners of Temple/Belton.

That band also included his

dad, Bill Gilbert. Roy's perseverance paid off as he ultimately became a top session player in Houston in the mid 1970s, and toured the Southwest with his own band.

His first album, released in 1978, was produced by Faron Young. Carroll has performed with scores of entertainers including Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis, Wynn Stewart, Ernest Tubbs, Mel Tillis, Gary Stewart, Ray Price and Gene Watson.

In the 1980s he became a Nashville-based independent record producer and demo singer. He returned to Texas in 1998. Some of Carroll's current gigs include Glen Collins' Honky Tonkin' Buddies of Austin, and Schlesinger's Knights of Texas Swing.

**PERK-N-PAUL**—Schlesinger, who was taught to play fiddle by the late, legendary Perk Williams of Chriesman, got his professional start in 1997 with Dowdy in Lexington. They produced their first CD in Rockdale in 2005, entitled "Our Way," which quickly sold out of its initial pressing.

It's currently available at cdbaby.com, the Dowdy House in Lexington, and at live shows.

Other current gigs for Schlesinger include Glen Collins' Honky Tonkin' Buddies, Joe Boyd Reynolds' Second Chance band, Stardusters, Comal County Opry band, and his own Knights of Texas Swing.

Schlesinger's band, the Knights of Texas Swing, is scheduled to perform for the Thorndale Downtown Café's Christmas party on Dec. 22.



Photo courtesy Rita Baughman

From left, Roy Carroll, Paul Schlesinger and Bill Dowdy are newest Texas Country Hall-of-Famers after being inducted in a recent ceremony at the Gatesville City Auditorium.

### MANOR OAKS NEWS

We have created a Memory Tree this year in observance of all the residents who have passed away.

You may purchase an angel for \$5 and the tree is located at the North entrance of the building.

Please come see Lisa Debault about purchasing an angel in memory of a loved one.

Our holiday dinner is Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Manor Oaks staff will be serving a holiday meal to residents, their families and friends.

A big thank you to all Manor Oaks staff, vendors and community shoppers.

Our first annual Christmas Bazaar was a huge success and we appreciate all the support.

We are currently making plans to have a Spring Fling.

Manor Oaks is a non-profit organization and we depend on the support of our community.

For more information, call Michelle Morgan at 512-446-5893.

Manor Oaks Rehab & Nursing Center is located at 222 S FM 487 in Rockdale.



### SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Monday—Fried chicken breast, low-sodium cram gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, fruit cup with oranges, 2% milk.

Tuesday—Chicken Alfredo pasta, buttered carrots, squash, bread, hot cinnamon apricots, 2% milk.

Wednesday—Swiss steak with gravy, roasted potatoes, garden mix vegetables, roll, orange dream pudding, 2% milk.

Thursday—Pork chops, Italian marinated chicken, sautéed spinach, wheat bread, fruit, 2% milk.

Friday—Crumb top baked fish, pan roasted potatoes, braised red cabbage, tropical fruit cup, bread, 2% milk.

Admission \$6.50 All ages, all seats, all times. Now Playing at The Howard Theatre DECEMBER 7 -13

Wreck it Ralph Rated PG 1h 45m Friday 6:30 9:30 Saturday 3:30 6:30 9:30 Sunday 3:30 6:30 Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

SkyFall Rated PG-13 2h 30m Friday 6:00 9:00 Saturday 3:00 6:00 9:00 Sunday 3:00 6:00 Mon.-Thurs. 6:00

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1st Annual Rockdale Country Blowout. 2013 Ford Explorer XLT \$33,157. 2012 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT \$25,248. 2012 Ford Focus \$16,988. 2012 Ford F250 C/C \$31,328. 2011 Ford F150 Supercrew 4x4 Lariat \$33,480. 2013 Ford Escape SE \$24,436. 2012 Ford Expedition XLT Texas Edition \$36,331. 2012 Ford Mustang Premium \$26,294. Ask Us About Our 0% Financing. Prices include all applicable rebates, incentives, and discounts, W.A.C.

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