

Lodge 80, Holland Lifetime Achievers



Lodge 80, Holland Vice President Joe Liles, right, presents Lifetime Achievement awards to Jerry David and Paula Weir for their years of service to Lodge 80 on Sunday, April 2, 2017.

—Submitted by Risa Pajestka

Paul Schlesinger of Lodge 29, Taylor wins song of the year

FORT WORTH — Fiddler and vocalist Paul Schlesinger of Taylor is the winner of the 2016 Western Swing Song of the Year for the tune, “You Were Meant to Ruin My Dreams.” The song is a track on his CD, *Paul Schlesinger and his Knights of Texas Swing*. The presentation took place during the 21st Annual Will Rogers Academy of Western Artists awards banquet on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at the Brown-Lupton Ballroom on the Texas Christian University Campus in Fort Worth.

“You Were Meant to Ruin My

Dreams” was written in 1949 by lyricist Cecil R. “Butterball” Harris and composer Arlie A. Carter, who were band members of Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters from Taylor. The song was originally recorded by the Melody Masters for Imperial Records, and sung by fiddler Perk Williams. All involved with the original recording are now deceased.

Schlesinger says, “The original recording is a tad slower than my version, and by today’s recording standards sounds a bit primitive. It sold well enough regionally, but was not a hit in 1949. In 2011, Cecil Harris told me he wrote the song to fit around the heart-break theme, using a ‘hook line’ that would hopefully catch the public’s

fancy. I always liked the song and occasionally performed it live at shows and dances. I thought it had potential, and I decided to revamp it for my CD, adding twin fiddles, twin guitars, drums, and swing-style chord pattern.”

In January, Schlesinger was contacted by the Academy of Western Artists (AWA) and informed that his recording of the song was a Top 5 Finalist for Western Swing Song of Year. “I didn’t know anything about the AWA and really had no idea the song would ultimately win,” says Schlesinger. My wife Tara and I attended the event thinking it would just be an interesting experience, and we’d never have the opportunity to go again. However, I think she secretly had more faith than me!”

Other award winners at this year’s ceremony include national celebrities Rex Allen, Jr., for Western Music Male Vocalist, and Roy Clark for Living Legend. Schlesinger reports that Red Steagall, a giant in the western music field, was in attendance, as was Kenny Sears, the featured fiddler on the Grand Ole Opry, and who is a member of the Time Jumpers, a popular western swing group featured on RFD TV. In all, there were about 400 people in attendance. Schlesinger says, “I gave my acceptance speech at the podium in front of all those luminaries. Since I didn’t think I would win, I had not prepared anything. So I thanked the Lord for setting me on my life path, all the musicians who helped with the CD, as well as those folks who

SPJST Smiles



District Six Director Karen Kaspar captured this beautiful moment of Ryan Koncaba with his mother Ann Marie at the Lodge 184, Moulton meeting on February 7, 2017.

supported me.”

The AWA’s mission is to promote and preserve America’s western past and its contemporary western future. Since 1996, the AWA’s Will Rogers Awards have become one of the highest forms of recognition for western artists in the world. All winners are selected by a blind jury of their peers. Awards go to the best western artists in three disciplines: trappings, entertainment, and media. Recipients are given a statue featuring the silhouette of the late Will Rogers, America’s foremost recognized cowboy, humorist, newspaper columnist, and social commentator.

The CD has caught the attention of many country and western swing enthusiasts around the globe, especially those who favor traditional, independently produced country music. *Country Music People*, an international magazine published in the UK, gave the CD a five-star rating in its July 2016 issue. The magazine also spotlighted Schlesinger’s career in its November 2016 issue. The CD is currently No. 1 on the international Swingin’ West radio show, a position held since last September.

Schlesinger is a lifelong resident of Taylor and a member of SPJST Lodge 29, Taylor. His wife Tara is an assistant activities coordinator at the S.P.J.S.T. Skilled Nursing facility in Taylor. In addition to his Knights of Texas Swing band, Schlesinger is the music team leader for the Lee County Cowboy Church and a member of the church’s band Second Chance, which includes his wife Tara on piano. The Schlesingers are also members of the Milam County

March Scenes from Ladies Circle of Lodge 92, Fort Worth

LEFT PHOTO: Birthday lady JoAnn Wilcox.



—Photos submitted by Joan Simek Shropshire



TOP CENTER PHOTO: Visitors Claire Rooney and Lola Taylor are pictured at the March 14, 2017, Ladies Circle of Lodge 92, Fort Worth meeting. RIGHT PHOTO: Hostesses, left to right, are Betty Loyd, Cherie Price, Robyn Brownlee, Lorenda Manasco, and Karen and Aleesha

Barrett. BELOW LEFT PHOTO: Line dancers, left to right, are Sandi Celusiak, Linda Baker, and Shirley Martin. BELOW PHOTO 2: Lydia Alholm is twirled by Lisa Juran. Lydia will be 97 on April 30. BELOW PHOTO 3: Yesterdaz Duo Jerry Baker and Ray Terrell.



Lydia Alholm, left, and Mary Ann Krivanek enjoy a dance.

Cowboy Church band, and the Comal Country Music Show house band in New Braunfels. They were named Entertainers of the Year in December 2016 by the Country Music Hall of Fame in Gatesville.

Schlesinger also performs regularly with Glen Collins and the Alibis, a classic-country show and dance hall band who have been featured on the syndicated television program "Songwriters Across Texas" and perform all over Central Texas, including regular dances in area venues such as the Taylor and Elgin SPJST halls.

Schlesinger's CD features many more tunes that were originally performed by Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters, a country dance band from Taylor who came into national prominence in 1954 with their top 5 Billboard hit recording of "Release Me" for Capitol Records, now considered a country standard. The band was active from 1946 to 1977.

Jimmy Heap, Jr., who grew up in Taylor and has since become one of Nashville's veteran country drummers, is delighted to see his dad's music still being recognized today. "We are proud to call Paul a friend and to see him carrying on true country music . . ." Heap says. "As the son of Jimmy Heap, I feel I can truthfully say that my dad, Bill Glendenning, and Butterball Harris would be proud of the way Paul honors



Congratulations to Paul Schlesinger, center, of Lodge 29, Taylor! He won the 2016 Western Swing Song of the Year award at the 21st Annual Will Rogers Academy of Western Artists awards banquet in Fort Worth on March 16, 2017. The song, "You Were Meant to Ruin My Dreams," is a track on his latest CD. Presenting the award is Billy Bowles



and Cathy Whitten, DJs of radio station KSSL FM in Slaton. More than 400 western artists attended the event. RIGHT PHOTO: Paul is pictured with his wife Tara. They are both members of the Milam and Lee County Cowboy Church bands, and Tara is an assistant activities coordinator at S.P.J.S.T. Senior Living Center in Taylor.

and carries on the Melody Master legacy. Keep up the good work and hope to share the same stage with you in the near future!"

Paul Schlesinger and his Knights of Texas Swing CD is available at personal appearances and online at www.paulschlesinger.com. Be sure to visit www.facebook.com/schlesinger.paul, and www.awaawards.org.

—SPJST—



Two Cents
By d.knape

A nosy nose cannot relent,
keeps poking under
other's tents,
yet those who nose
should take a hint,
keep to themselves
their own two cents.

—SPJST—



In Memory of Pearl Pokorny

Pearl Evelyn Pokorny, age 86, passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2016, at the S.P.J.S.T. Senior Living Center in Taylor, Texas. We joyfully celebrate her being carried away by Jesus to her Heavenly home.



Pearl Pokorny

Pearl was born on a farm near Thorndale on August 15, 1930, to Walter and Lydia (Dutschmann)

Schernik. She married William Pokorny on February 9, 1947, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Thrall. They made their home in Taylor and were blessed with 65 years of marriage.

Pearl worked as a homemaker and babysitter, and she loved to cook and sew. She enjoyed playing bingo and dominoes and reading. Most of all, Pearl was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, and friend. Pearl was also known as Momma, Grandma, GeeMaw, and Aunt Pearl. While caring for her grandchildren, she enjoyed cooking meals for them and their friends, and served as taxi - getting them to and from school and events.

She was a member of SPJST Lodge 29, Taylor for 72 years. She was also a longtime, faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Taylor, and was a member and served as an officer for many years in the VFW Ladies Auxiliary at Post 4476.

She is survived by daughter Jessica Schmidt and husband David of Taylor; grandchildren Erin Supak and husband Rudy of Caldwell, Jordan Schmidt and wife Peggy of Round Rock, and Joanna Schmidt of Denton; great-grandchildren Lila Kate and Emmy Pearl Supak; sisters-in-law Alice B. Schernik and Alice N. Schernik; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband; infant son David Wayne Pokorny; her parents; three brothers and sister-in-law - Ben, Lawrence and Annie, and Curtis Schernik.

Pearl will be missed by her family and friends, but never forgotten. She will be most remembered by her strong-willed and welcoming spirit.

Death Claims Paid in March 2017

SPJST • Temple, Texas

Name	Lodge	Location	Date of Admission	Date of Death	Age
Kelly Ann Zievert	88	Houston	5/01/1994	10/21/2016	31
Eleanor S. Campbell	178	Longview	12/14/1978	2/07/2017	90
John B. Bennett	202	Jourdanton	5/01/1956	1/24/2017	87
Benita E. Walzel	81	Needville	1/25/1974	2/13/2017	90
Bennie N. Hejl	9	Snook	7/01/1954	2/01/2017	90
Ann Marie Janca	40	El Campo-Hillje	3/18/1960	1/31/2017	79
Lois Marie Huber	88	Houston	10/05/1965	2/15/2017	82
Edwin G. Schumacher	17	New Tabor	5/05/1959	2/26/2017	85
Joyce Nell Floeck	17	New Tabor	8/07/1945	2/14/2017	82
Leroy A. Schiller	47	Seaton	4/18/1996	1/24/2017	70
Daniel H. Ginzel	17	New Tabor	7/07/1958	2/03/2017	74
Jerry Elvin Zmolek	135	Ennis	4/23/1968	1/04/2017	84
Lillian M. Cooper	92	Fort Worth	9/27/1938	2/21/2017	87