

Western Swing

MONTHLY

Your Schedule of Western Swing Music Events and More!
Barbara Martin, Publisher

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SPOTLIGHT ON...MILTON BROWN AND THE MUSICAL BROWNIES

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Brownies page: www.thompsonian.info/brownies.html

Roy Lee Brown page: www.thompsonian.info/brown-roy-lee.html

The last Sunday in October rolled around again, and it was time for **BROWNIE DAY!** Musicians and fans gathered from far and near to play and hear some great Western Swing music in honor of **Milton Brown and the Musical Brownies**. Thanks to **Charlie and Linda O'Bannon** for playing and hosting this annual event at their place in Cool, Texas. It was great to meet Donald Stockard (son of Ocide Stockard) and Milton T. "Sonny Boy" Brown and Ronnie Brown (sons of Derwood Brown). It was a special treat for everyone to hear Roy Lee Brown sing several Brownies songs backed by the outstanding group of musicians including Tom Mack Holmes, Elmer Laurance, Eddie Ferguson, Bill Gilbert, Pat Jacobs, Johnny Case, Kenneth Doyle, Larry Reed and more.

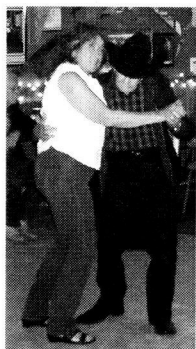
On the way up to Cool, I drove to Stephenville and



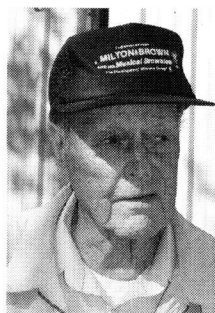
Roy Lee, Elmer, Eddie Ferguson



Sonny Boy, Don Stockard, Bill, Roy Lee and Ronnie Brown



Lucky me I got to dance with a prince



visited Milton Brown's grave in the Smith Springs Cemetery. A State of Texas historical marker has recently been placed at the front of the cemetery, citing Milton's contributions to the world of music. In addition, a special stone has been placed at Milton's grave with more details about his role as the "Founding Father of Western Swing". This stone was donated by the Smith Springs Cemetery

Association with help from the Brown family and other friends. The original headstone on Milton's grave that was placed there soon after his passing in April 1936 shows two radio towers and a microphone with his initials W.M.B. Visit the "Links" page on the Western Swing Monthly website for links to my Milton Brown and the Musical Brownies web page and my Roy Lee Brown web page. I always welcome suggestions and information for the web pages, and would be glad to hear from other Brownies fans.

Here is the full text of the new marker stone on Milton Brown's grave:

WILLIAM MILTON BROWN
1903 - 1936

Milton Brown, a native of Smith Springs, created

Western Swing music. In 1918 his family moved to Fort Worth where he played at dances and on radio station WBAP. Early in 1931 Milton, with his brother Derwood on acoustic guitar, formed the Light Crust Doughboys who were popular on the radio. In Sept. 1932 Milton formed Milton Brown and His Musical Brownies, combining brother Derwood's guitar, a jazz piano, twin fiddles and amplified steel guitar for a unique sound known today as



Don, Bill Gilbert, Larry Reed



Tom Mack and Pat Jacobs



DECEMBER 2011

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to these music greats with wishes for many more!



December 7 Don Maddox

December 13 Connie Hancock

December 17 Gary Williams

December 19 Vince Moss

December 20 Bill Dowdy

December 22 Red Steagall, Curly Lewis

December 24 John England, Cornell Hurd and Jackie Greene

December 25 Don House

December 27 Leonard Zinn

December 30 Rick McRae, Henry Baker

Remembering these Greats: Jesse James, Ray Whitley, Hugh Farr, Floyd Tillman, B. D. Griffin, Tom Brumley, Merl Lindsey, Spade Cooley, Junior Barnard, Frankie Miller, Bill Pray, Justin Williams, Billy Gray, Wes Tuttle, Joaquin Murphey

Western Swing. The Brownies recorded more than a hundred songs including versions of "Corrine Corrina" and "Right or Wrong". Milton Brown died in 1936 of injuries sustained in an auto accident in Fort Worth, Texas. THE ORIGINAL FATHER OF WESTERN SWING

Here is an excerpt from the text of the

state historical marker: Milton Brown (d. 1936), a noted singer and songwriter who was one of the founders of Western Swing music, is interred here.

