

The Garden of Allah Music Hall (1929-1964), Niles, California

Did you know that Johnny Cash played at the Garden of Allah in Niles (1956 & 1957) ? Thanks to a museum patron we have added information about this history.

The Garden of Allah was a Rock and Roll and Country and Western Music Hall that was built in the 1929.

The Garden of Allah was a mushroom farm, a dance hall, a roller skating hall and again a music hall. Susan VanHecke wrote in *Race with the Devi: Gene Vincent's Life in the Fast Lane*:

Gene (Vincent) often performed at the Garden of Allah in Niles, just outside of San Francisco. He liked the place, since they booked both country-western and rock "n" roll, bringing in top names like Jim Reeves, Rose Maddox, and Bob Wills on Saturday nights and Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and the Everly Brothers on Friday evenings. Gene would play both nights, altering his set accordingly.

The club owners, Chuck Wayne and his wife Johnnie. Chuck was a disc jockey and had his own band, which he called Chuck Wayne and the Honeydrops. Chuck play guitar and Johnnie would sing.

Imogene Ellwanger wrote...The "Garden of Allah" located in Niles, California became a big spot for country stars to appear at and was owned by none other than Black Jack Wayne and his little brother, Chuck Wayne. Imogene wrote that they always had a good crowd show up when the doors opened...

Later on in her column, Ms. Ellwanger mentions that KOVR, Channel 13 in Stockton, had two Western music shows on the air. One show had Glenn Stepp and his band. The other had Black Jack Wayne and his "Bar 11 Ranch Boys".

Black Jack had also started a live radio show from the Garden of Allah nightclub he owned that was broadcast over KEEN (radio) every Saturday night.

The Garden of Allah Wayne is listed in the 1959 telephone book, 35845 Mission Blvd., Niles. Sycamore 3-4799.

Read more at these links:

Tri City Voice article

<http://www.tricityvoice.com/articlefiledisplay.php?issue=2012-06->

[05&file=Garden+of+Allah+++TCV.txt](#)

Black Jack Wayne (owner of the garden)

<http://www.hillbilly-music.com/artists/story/index.php?id=12275>

Another blog on Black Jack (read comments on bottom, one fellow lists the performers he saw at the "Garden")

<http://www.bopping.org/black-jack-wayne-bay-area-country-rock-1957-1960/>

The Son of Chuck Wayne

<http://www.reverbnation.com/CharlieWayneandCWB>

Book on Gene Vincent:

Race with the Devil: Gene Vincent's Life in the Fast Lane

By Susan VanHecke

https://books.google.com/books?id=yaMRBDIQCykC&pg=PA110&lpg=PA110&ots=y-1UlfGMDG&focus=viewport&dq=garden+of+allah+niles+gene+vincent&output=html_text