THE HOLIDAY EDITION!

PINUP America

THE PHOENIX Pinup Dolls

BOYLESQUE
NYC'S FAUX PAS & BOBBIE BURLESQUE

PINUP FROM DOWN UNDER
NEW SOUTH WALES' MISS PIXIE

THE "REAL" MILITARY WIVES
CALIFORNIA'S SARAH LAYTON

PUTTIN' THE ROCK IN ROCKABILLY
MARYLAND'S VINCE MALOY

DIARY OF A TATTOO
FLORIDA'S SKIP SAMPSON

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CONTENTS

PIN UP America

Puttin' the Rock in Rockabilly 4-6
Greg Laxton brings you the Southern Maryland Rockabilly Cat, Vince Maloy.

Diary of a Tattoo 8-9
Meet Skip Sampson, owner of three Ybor City tatt shops.

The "Real" Military Wives 10-11
This is the real thing baby! Sarah shows some love for her man in the military, Gunnery Sergeant Lewis W. Layton III.

How to Be a Pin Up 12-13
Ladies, have you been naughty or nice? Check out Judy Pop's "gotta have" list to Santa.

SLC Pinup with Ink Contest 14-16
Get up close and personal with these Salt Lake City inked beauties.

The Pin Up America Show 18-19
Check out the show's special guests and correspondents from around the world.

Bettie Page 20-22
Sweetheart eternal of the fishnet underground. DC Larson commemorates the anniversary of Bettie's passing.

Cover & Centerfold 24-27
The Phoenix Pinup Dolls have combined their love of pinup with their appreciation for those serving in the military.

All Dolled Up 27
Master hair and makeup stylist, Jay Burnett, takes you on a groovy trip down bouffant lane.

Pinup From Down Under 28-29
Miss Pixie is making pinup history with "Miss Pinup Australia".

Time Flies 31
Pro photographer, Bodacious Betty, shares her tips for great holiday photos.

Burlesque Around the World 32-37
Burlesque meets Boylesque! Contessa describes two amazing men who both share the love of Boylesque but in two entirely different forms.

Winners of the Photo Competition 38-40
Pin these two pages up on your wall during the months of November & December. Check out the 8 runners up.

Past Events 42-43
We've had a blast the last couple of months and have the pics to show it.

Future Events Around the World 44
Ever wonder where the next great event will be? We have a world-wide list and are sharing it with you.

Retro Corner 46
Recipe, dictionary, and humor by Erica Hesse.

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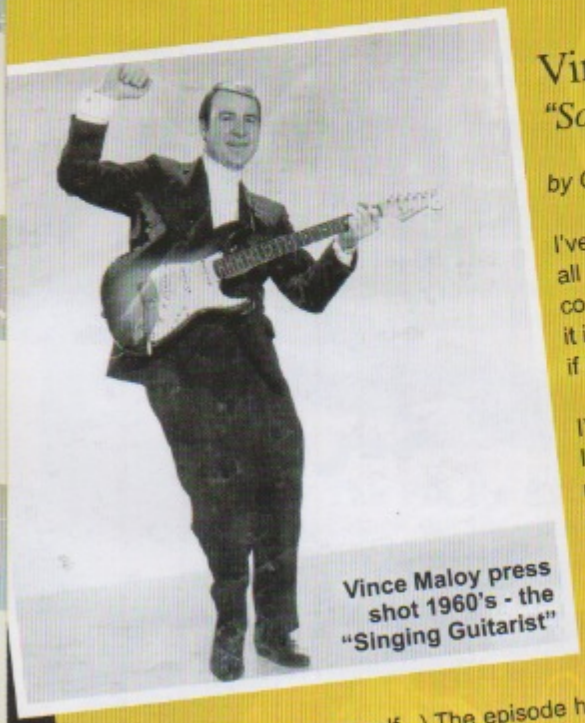
Puttin' the Rock in Rockabilly



Vince Maloy press shot 1960's - the "Singing Guitarist"

Vince Maloy
"Southern Maryland Rockabilly Cat!"

by Greg Laxton

I've been a "roadside archaeologist" most of my life. I'm the person that gets all excited when my eye catches something that doesn't quite fit next to the cookie-cutter chain stores that litter virtually every town. It doesn't matter what it is – a neon sign, some glass brick accents on a building, a Victorian home... if it looks like it was made before the disco era, I gotta take a photo!

I'll always be a "roadside archaeologist" at heart, but over the past decade, I've seemed to morph into a "kulture archaeologist" - anything to do with that mid-century time frame of classic Americana. Lead sleds, early Muscle Cars, boomerang coffee tables... and music. As a kulture archaeologist, this is the story of my first "music dig."

My first exposure to rockabilly and early rock & roll happened when I saw my first episode of "Happy Days." Actually it was the pre-Happy Days episode that was first broadcast on the old 70's show "Love, American Style." (Now I'm really dating myself...) The episode had a different Mr. C. and taught me how to play sock-drawer-basketball. (If you remember, you're old too!)

Fast forward to 1980. I'm a teen staying up late watching the old ABC show "Fridays." Huh, Stray Cats?? I had to find out more! A quick 100-mile round trip to the nearest import record store and I scored my first Stray Cats record.

In 1994, I was lucky enough to find the magazine "Continental Restyling" from the UK. I read each issue cover to cover, several times. It was my first real exposure to the rockabilly lifestyle... even if it was happening across the pond. I still remember what a thrill it was to crack open the mailbox and see that envelope made of odd brown paper and the funny stamps... My connection to folks just like me! You have to remember, this was years before the Internet suddenly connected the World with the click of a mouse.

Around the end of 1997, I was at work one day and one of my bosses, Ron Maloy, saw the "Continental Restyling" sticker on my clipboard "for a desperate 50's lifestyle." We talked a bit about rockabilly music and he commented "my brother used to have a band." Picturing a mid-70's pop cover band, I didn't give it much thought... until the next issue of Continental Restyling came in.

Vince @ WKIK AM radio station, St. Mary's County Maryland

In the records section of the mag was a review of a Sugar King Boys EP. It stated, "Hubba Hubba Ding Ding sounds very much like Vince Maloy's original and is just as good." Wait a sec... my boss Ron MALOY told me his brother used to play music! Nah... it couldn't be.

I showed my boss the mag, he called his brother... VINCE... who came right down to the office. Yep, CR was talking about the brother of my boss. Pretty crazy if you think about it. It took a magazine in England, writing about a band in Washington, who covered a song by a rockabilly guy in Maryland before I finally met Vince, and I worked with his brother for ten years! Over the next few years, I got to know Vince quite well.

In 1957, Vince saw a singer on The Milt Grant Show, a pre American Bandstand Record Hop show on WTTG-TV in

Washington DC. He was playing this new music called rock and roll. Vince thought, "If he can do it, I can too." Vince got some local musicians together, recorded a few songs, and then Web Records out of New York pressed "Honey Baby b/w Wine Bop Bop."

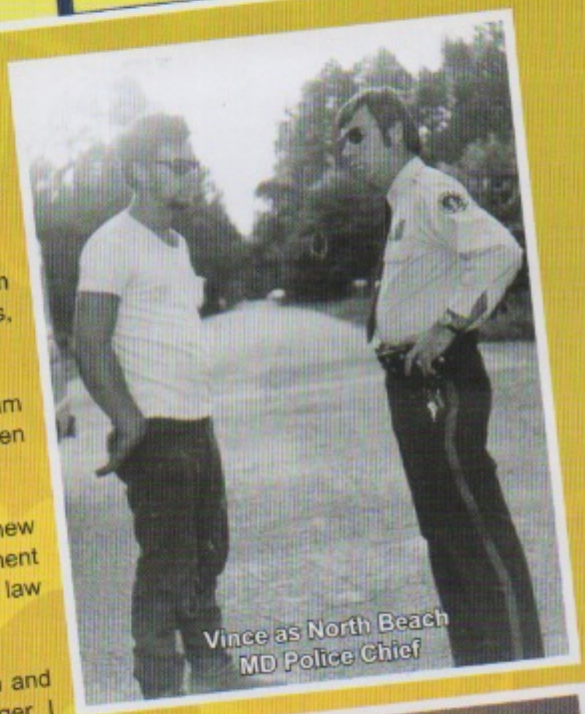
Vince, 45 in hand, went to see Milt Grant. Milt immediately put him on the show. Vince went on to appear dozens of times and met many stars of the day. As a sign of the times, Vince did have a bit of trouble getting one song past the censors. "I took a test pressing of 'Havin' A Ball 'N All' to Milt. He related 'havin' a ball' to going to bed with a girl. He said it would never get airplay because it had vulgar overtones."

Vince rode the rockabilly wave hard, releasing a trio of 45's in as many years, including the song that he's best known for among rockabilly fans "Hubba Hubba Ding Ding." He logged many miles playing gigs and doing TV and radio appearances from Southern Maryland to New York City.

Vince got a break in 1959 with a one-off hot rod 45 "Draggin' All Night" from Felsted, a subsidiary of London Records. Unfortunately, like Vince's other sides, this one never charted.

In the 60's Vince established himself as a nightclub performer. His act took him to Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, and Las Vegas. His last recording was "I've Been Around Your Door... Before" in 1968.

Success in the music business eluded Vince and in 1970 he decided to start a new career in law enforcement. He joined North Beach, Maryland's Police Department and advanced through the ranks, becoming Chief of Police. He continued his law enforcement career with the Federal Government and retired in 1997.

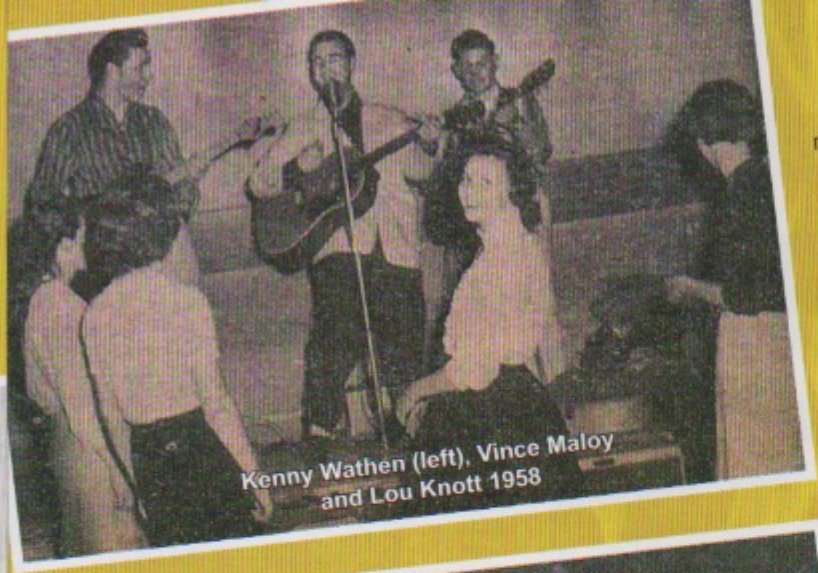

Vince as North Beach MD Police Chief

It was right after his retirement that I hooked up with Vince. We had lunch and I went over to his house to learn more about his time as a rockabilly singer. I got quite a kick looking over dozens of old photos and gig flyers. He still had his Fender guitar from 1958. He dug out a small stack of battered 45's, all with "Vince Maloy" on the label. They had seen better days decades ago. Had they all been mint, the five discs would have been valued at around $1500. Vince lamented that he was missing his 45 that featured his song "Flying Love". He said, "My kids used to play with them. They must have lost it years ago."

I asked Vince if he had any old tapes lying around. He proceeded to open up an old wooden cabinet. Inside were a dozen old reels. "You can't even find a machine to play these things." Vince was right. These reels weren't the standard 3-¼ and 7-½ ips reels that are common on home reel-to-reel players. These reels were 15 ips, common on recording studio quality machines.

Lance LeBeau to the rescue! Lance runs Vinylux, a "vintage only" recording studio in Accokeek, Maryland, a short drive from Vince's house. He had the correct

Vince and wife Shirley - National Country Dance Sr. Class winners - 1994



Kenny Wathen (left), Vince Maloy and Lou Knott 1958

machine to play these tapes.

Vince and I headed over to Lance's place. It was very cool to put Vince's reels on the machine – listening to music that hadn't been heard in over 40 years. Lance put a reel on from a box labeled "Be My Chick." It was an instrumental. I looked over at Vince. He had a blank stare on his face. "Hey Vince, what's wrong?" He said, "I remember that session, but I'll be damned if I remember the words to that song!"

Kenny and Vince 2001

In late 2001, Vince did a session with members of Lance's band, The Flea Bops. The results were impressive. During a later jam session at Vinylux, Vince played with his old guitar picker, Kenny Wathen, for the first time in over 40 years. For a couple hours these senior citizens were 20 years old again. Vince was getting his chops back and actually talked about playing again in his retirement.

I'd hoped to get some of the rockabilly festivals interested in booking Vince, but it never got a chance to happen. After a long battle with leukemia, Vince passed away in August of 2002. The following month, Buffalo Bop released the CD "Live It Up" featuring four Vince titles.

The CD included "Flying Love" - the song Vince didn't have.

VINCE ON YOU TUBE
http://www.youtube.com/user/recordpickers

A little about the writer, Greg Laxton

An avid old car nut, Harley enthusiast and record collector, GREG LAXTON has been a rockabilly/ roots music fan since catching the Stray Cats on the ABC show Fridays back in 1981. His Dad turned him on to Link Wray's crunching guitar in the late 70's, starting an obsession that continues to this day with the websites LinkWray.com and VernonWray.com.