

Rock On!

Tyndall’s Historic Groveland Park Ballroom To Be Inducted Into The S.D. Rock Hall Of Fame

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TYNDALL — Rich Beringer recalls the night in 1958 when the backup band brought down the house at his family’s Groveland Park ballroom.

A young group known as Myron Lee and the Caddies was invited to accompany a big accordion band playing the dance at the pavilion just north of Tyndall. The Groveland appearance was the band’s first performance outside Sioux Falls.

“Myron asked to play on his own during an intermission break at Groveland,” Beringer said. “He asked if it was OK to play this ‘different’ music. So from 11:30 to midnight, the polka band took a break

PHOTO

It’s no longer a ballroom, but Groveland Park north of Tyndall will remain alive in the memories of music fans with its 2013 induction into the South Dakota Rock and Roll Music Association (SDRRMA) hall of fame. The April 13 induction ceremony will be held at the Ramkota Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls. At its peak, Groveland hosted regional and national acts drawing more than 1,000 people nightly. (Photo courtesy Leonard Huber)

and he played rock and roll.”

The audience, particularly its younger members, roared its approval for Lee and his band, Beringer said.

“The crowd really approved of Myron,” he said. “When it came time for the accordion band to come back on stage, the audience booed. They loved Myron so much that they wanted more of him and his rock and roll. After that, he came back

and played for us (as headliner).”

The word was out, and the rock and roll group was soon in great demand throughout the upper Midwest.

The night in 1958 at Tyndall may have helped launch Myron Lee and the Caddies, but it also showed the huge influence of Groveland Park. All the area touring groups as well as national acts performed at the dance hall, usually to a full house. The audiences — often exceeding 1,000 — doubled Tyndall’s population which now stands at about 1,300.

Groveland has been selected for induction into the South Dakota Rock and Roll Music Association (SDRRMA) hall of fame. It is one of four ballrooms selected this year. The induction ceremony will be held April 13 at the Ramkota Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls, with tickets going on sale today (Friday).

Groveland no longer operates as a ballroom, although the structure does still exist. Now, the facility will remain alive as part of South Dakota’s legacy.

Built and located near Yankton, the building was originally called the Green Gables Pavilion. In 1939, the building was purchased by the Firemen’s Park Association of Tyndall. The firemen had it moved from Yankton by horses, renaming it Groveland Park after the trees in the vicinity. The volunteer firefighters group used the building as a means of fundraising for the community.

In 1947, local barber George Beringer and his wife Beatrice — Rich’s parents — purchased it for \$10,000.

Groveland Park held dances on Saturday nights. All of the top Midwestern bands played at Groveland Park, including the Red Dogs, Flip-pers and Spider & the Crabs.

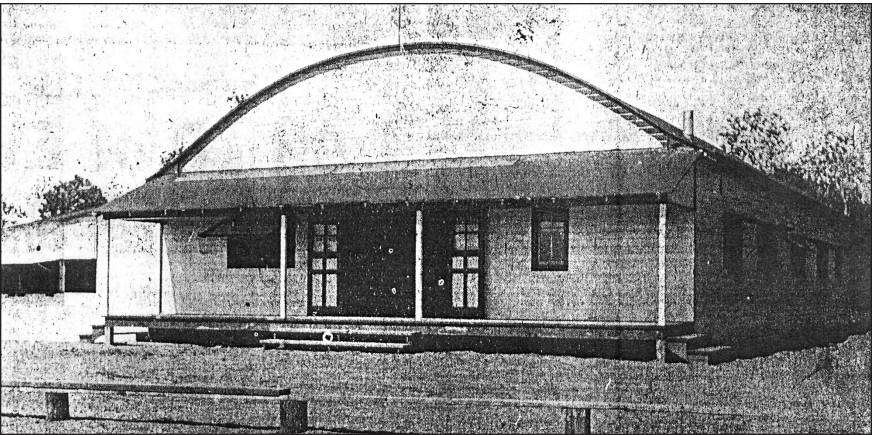
“For the dances, we drew from all over,” Rich Beringer said. “The wedding dances were free and drew hundreds of people, and for the other dances we had the college students and other people from the area. We would have 1,000 people a night.”

The audiences and music preferences changed over the years, Rich said.

“At first it was all polka, but then we had rock and roll, and the polka dancing slowly faded away,” he said. “I just remember my younger brother, Doug, going crazy over this Elvis look. My brother had to have his hair slicked back and the white shoes.”

In addition, Groveland hosted roller skating on Wednesday nights, Beringer said.

“My folks bought new roller skates from a place in Chicago called the Rink. They manufactured roller skates,” he said. “I used to



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