

January 19, 2019 Ames Tribune  
**Richie Lee & The Fabulous '50s show  
to make third appearance in Nevada**

**By Marlys Barker Nevada Journal**

NEVADA — One of The Talent Factory's most well-received music groups will return for a third show at the Nevada venue on at 7 p.m. on Jan. 26.

Tickets for Richie Lee & the Fabulous '50s are on sale at The Talent Factory website: [www.iowatalentfactory.com](http://www.iowatalentfactory.com), with general seating starting at \$15.

Talent Factory owner Larry Sloan said the group pulls in great crowds of all ages.

"They are very authentic, musically and vocally," Sloan said. "It's just a four-piece band, like the old days."

In addition to Richie Lee, performers include Dennis Niedert on bass, Justin Cramer on drums and Tony Halsrud on keyboards.

Lee is a native of Des Moines and a 2008 graduate of North High School. When interviewed at this time last year, Lee, now 28, said he was always a little different than most of the kids when it came to music.

"I grew up listening to the older rock 'n roll ... that was just always the kind of music I wanted to do," he said.

In honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the plane crash that killed three greats — Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper — one segment of the Jan. 26 show will be a tribute to the three.

Lee said, "They call it 'the Day the Music Died,' but did it? Their music lived on to inspire many to come."

Lee admits he can't believe it's been 60 years since that plane crash.

"It seems like yesterday when we reached 50 (years). That was a great celebration," he said.

A little history on "the Day the Music Died," is given by Sloan: "Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. 'The

Big Bopper' Richardson died in a plane crash following the concert at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake.

"Holly decided to charter a plane for himself, guitarist Tommy Allsup and Waylon Jennings, so they could fly to Fargo, N.D., instead of taking the long, frozen bus trip. Richardson, who was suffering from the flu, asked Jennings for his seat on the plane, and Valens asked the same of Allsup. When Jennings told Holly that he was going to take the bus, Holly jokingly told him he hoped the bus broke down, to which Jennings replied, 'I hope your ol' plane crashes.' None of them could have known that the Beechcraft Bonanza would crash into an Iowa cornfield."

In addition to that segment of the show, Lee said, "we play music by Ricky Nelson, Eddie Cochran, Beach Boys, Beatles and many more."

As for favorites, Lee said, "I don't really have any. ... I love them all."

Lee said he and his band enjoy coming to The Talent Factory.

"I love the responsive audiences of all ages. That is what makes what we do feel successful. No feeling like it," he said.

Sloan said his audiences have loved the band when they've performed previously.

"I think it's the connection they can make to the music, and the way the band appears very approachable," he said.

For more information about tickets, contact The Talent Factory at (515) 382-0085.

