

Richie Lee and Skinny Dennis set to perform over the Fourth

Are you a fan of the old time rock and roll? Then you won't want to miss Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50's on the bandstand July 4th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Seventeen-year-old Richie has been singing and playing the music of Buddy Holly and other 50s and 60s rock stars for nearly half his life. But it was Buddy Holly's music that instantly inspired him as he listened to CDs at age 6. He began taking guitar lessons at age 11 and drum lessons at 12. He has played with many Iowa Rock N Roll Hall of Fame bands and been nationally recognized, going as far as Boston to play with The Drifters. This summer he will go to Memphis for an Elvis Tribute and perform at the Minnesota State Fair.

Lee is determined that Holly's music is doesn't "fade away." "I want to bring back this sound for kids so it's not forgotten. I want them to hear what real rock music sounds like." For more information about Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50's, check out his website www.richieleeproductions.com

Street Dance with Country Sounds of Skinny Dennis

The street dance Saturday July 5 from 9 p.m. to midnight near the Osceola Fire Hall features country band "Skinny Dennis," a group of friends who just happen to play in a band together. According to the group's bio, the premise for the band was to play country music with overwhelming attitude, "not your grampa's country band". The inspiration for the band's song selection comes straight out of the Oklahoma Texas panhandle area represented by bands such as Cross Canadian Ragweed, Reckless Kelly and Shooter Jennings, a mixture of 70s rock and roll and red dirt country. The band also pays tribute to the standard country heroes, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, George Strait, and Hank Williams Jr. to name a few.

Why the name "Skinny Dennis"? It comes from an old Jerry Jeff Walker song, L.A. Freeway. Skinny Dennis Sanchez was a bass player who performed in the 60s and 70s. He was 6'11" 135 pounds. He died while on stage in Nashville.

"Skinny Dennis" members are Rick Burke, bass guitar and vocals, Tyler Graham, guitar and vocals, Don Billington, guitar, and Rich Richmond, drums and vocals. They have more than 80 years of combined experience performing live music in the central Iowa area. For more information visit their mySpace page.

www.myspace.com/skinnydennis

www.osceolaiowa.com/articles/2008/07/09/news/local_news/07news.txt