

Narvel Felts Appreciation
Society (Europe)
Howard Cockburn, President
43 Kenilworth Road
Monkseaton
Whitley Bay
Tyne and Wear
NE 25 8 BB
England



Narvel Felts

2005 Narvel Felts Avenue
Malden, MO 63863-1210 USA



February 2004 Newsletter

Narvel Felts Fan Club
(U.S.A.)
Roy E. Combs, President
286 Primrose Lane
Clarksville, Indiana 47129
U.S.A.
Virginia Carpenter
Vice President

Malden, Missouri February 1, 2004

Well Hello There,

I hope all is well with you and yours. When I wrote you in June of 03, I told you that my wife Loretta's sister Althia Wheeler had been car jacked and murdered. Five months later on September 10th, 03, her brother Billy Joe Stanfield died. Another tragic year for Loretta who's had such a hard time dealing with the loss of our only son Narvel "Bub", Jr. on September 14, 1995. She hasn't been in good physical health since her 1999 back surgery.

Though I played fewer dates in 03 than in previous years, I still kept busy. My apologies for not getting this letter to you in December when it was due. When it was time to start writing it, it was time to master and mail my Christmas CD to radio. With radio calls and answering Christmas cards there didn't seem to be time left for the letter. Thank you for your birthday and Christmas cards. Those of you who send Christmas cards could do me a big favor by printing clearly your first and last names plus complete mailing address on your envelope. That makes it so much easier for me to answer.

There's two family birthday's this week. Our daughter Stacia February, 3rd, our granddaughter Nicole on the 6th. I'll now take you through the months since June, then back in time to 1994, 1984, 1974 and 1964.

Hi Lites June 2003

June 14th, I made the 2½ hour drive alone to WYNNE, ARKANSAS. I was there to do a show at Farmfest that night. This outside concert was with Ace Cannon and Sonny Burgess and the Pacers. They'd had us do taped advertisements for this event. They were played on 5 radio stations. The newspaper did a phone interview with me and ran the article and my picture on the front page. Though rain was forecast a huge crowd gathered in front of the covered stage. Sonny went on first, then Ace, then me. All of us were backed by the Pacers. During Ace's show it started raining. I thought the show would be over, that everyone would leave before I went on, but they didn't! Farmfest officials estimated some 1,000 people sat in rain throughout my show. They gave me a great reception as the Pacers did a good job backing me. I called Sonny and Ace back on stage for our finale of "Shake Rattle and Roll." Paul Burlison (guitarist with Johnny Burnett's Rock 'N' Roll Trio) was in the audience. He was fighting a bout with cancer! I called him to the stage to join us for the finale. Also in the audience was Bob Timmers, editor of the internet Rockabilly Hall of Fame and singer Roman Self. After the show a long line of autograph seekers waited patiently in the rain as Ace and I signed. Club members from Little Rock attended.

The 28th, I made the 250 mile drive alone to MALVERN, ARKANSAS. That night along with Ace Cannon plus Sonny Burgess and the Pacers, I did my show at Brickfest. Hundreds gathered on the courthouse lawn for our concert on that beautiful June night. The Pacers did a good job backing me. The audience gave me a standing ovation. A long autograph line awaited after our finale, it included a fan club member from Little Rock and a disc jockey from Hot Springs. The following day I made my 5 hour Sunday afternoon drive back home.

July

The July 4th weekend was my home town of MALDEN, MISSOURI'S 125th birthday celebration. The morning of the 4th I was Grand Marshal in the parade, riding in a red 03 Thunderbird. Saturday night the 5th I did my concert to a packed community center. The Bill Barnett Band did a good job backing me. Jerry Tuttle played for dancing after my show. The receptive audience included Malden alumni from through the years and from coast to coast. A

some 2 hour autograph line awaited me in the lobby. My wife Loretta attended this one (only her 2nd time since we lost our son "Bub" in 1995.) Our daughter Stacia, son-in-law Tommy and grandson Dakota also attended.

July 18th, I made the some 12 hour drive alone to the New Orleans suburb of CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA, arriving late that night. I was there to do a show Saturday the 19th. A surprise 80th birthday party, at Vucinovich's Restaurant, for fan club member Dr. Lucas DiLeo. Callender, did their sets and did a good job backing me. The near 200 who jammed the restaurant kept the secret well. Lucas was totally surprised when Callender started "Funny How Time Slips Away" then introduced me. The restaurant was full of his family and friends. Some patients of this still practicing physician also attended. New Orleans D. J. Dan Stien, who plays my records, also attended, as did several of my Louisiana and Oklahoma club members. The DiLeo's have a young granddaughter who loves my recording "Little Miss Blue" and plays it everyday. The audience gave me a great reception. After my show an autograph line awaited. Sunday I made the drive home, a 1,141 mile round trip.

August

August 8th, my manager Harold Boner and I made the 125 mile drive to JACKSON, TENNESSEE. I was there to do a show at the Carl Perkins Convention Center for Rockabilly Fest 03. I had decided not to attend the Sam Phillips memorial service in Memphis the afternoon before or the rockabilly Awards Banquet in Jackson the night before, as we'd just found out that my wife Loretta's brother had cancer. She needed me at home more than I needed to attend these. Her brother Billy Joe would die a month later.

Before our show on the 8th Sonny Burgess and I were requested to be on the channel 4 TV news for a live interview in front of the convention center. For that night's show I was backed by Sonny's band The Pacers, who did a great job backing me. Fans from coast to coast in the USA attended plus some from Canada, England and Japan. Some of my Tennessee club members attended. The audience gave me a great reception. For my finale I called Sonny back to the stage, along with W. S. Holland and Paul Burlison - Paul's final finale with me. After my show a long autograph line awaited. The following day we drove home.

The 15th I made the some 200 mile drive to the St. Louis airport and caught my flight to Minneapolis/St. Paul. I was then driven to my motel in Hinckley. I was there to do a matinee and night concert at the Midwest Country Theatre in nearby SANDSTONE, MINNESOTA the following day Saturday the 16th. Leroy Glazier and the Midwest Country Band did a great job backing me on both shows. A near full theatre welcomed me to the stage for each show. A couple from Phoenix Arizona flew all the way there to attend. Each audience blessed me with 3 standing ovations and a long autograph line after each show as Huey's record rack opened with my CD's. Huey P. Long had driven up from Kansas City to handle my concessions. The following day he took me to the airport, I flew back to St. Louis and drove home, arriving around midnight. I'd stopped by the hospital in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to visit my brother-in-law Billy Joe Stanfield on my way home from the airport.

August 22nd, I played a concert in the city park at KILLEN, ALABAMA. It was their Founders Day Festival. I was backed by the Muscle Shoals area band, Blue Water, who did an excellent job. Several hundred enthusiastic fans attended. In the audience was a buddy who had played rhythm guitar for me on a four month tour of Canada in 1960, Hulen Hubbard. A long autograph line which included a TV interview awaited. Harold Boner and I had driven down the night before. The following afternoon we drove back home, a 533 mile round trip.

August 30th was a make up date for August 2nd which was rained out at Whippoorwill Lake Camp Ground near MARBLE HILL, MISSOURI. As it was raining again the morning of the 30th, some musicians in the band scheduled to back me (Crossfire) pulled a mutiny on their leader and decided not to play that night. Bill Barnett managed to get some musicians together at the last minute and get there in time for our scheduled 7:30 p.m. show to start around 9:00 p.m. Despite threatening weather an understanding crowd was there. It did start raining about halfway through my show. The bandstand was covered but the audience was in the rain. I asked them to go to a nearby shed where they could still hear my show, I then completed my show, then met them in the shed for my autograph line at Harold's record rack.

September

September 17th, I made the drive to HEBER SPRINGS, ARKANSAS. I was there to master our Christmas CD in nearby Drasco the following day. I left late that afternoon and drove on to Clarksville where I met Huey P. Long, who would make the drive on to KINGSTON, OKLAHOMA with me, we arrived after midnight. I was in Kingston to do a show at the Striper Festival there Friday the 19th. An Oklahoma 60's rock 'n' roll band, The Imposters, did a good job backing me. The lead singer of this band is lead prosecutor for Oklahoma's Attorney General. A good crowd awaited this outside show on this chilly night. The audience included fans and friends from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and Illinois. A long autograph line awaited. The following day we drove home arriving around midnight, a 1,108 mile round trip.

September 26th, I made the some 10 hour drive alone to MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA. Part of the way that night it was pouring rain. I was there to do a concert Saturday the 27th with Loretta Lynn at the Civic Center. With almost equal billing in radio and newspaper advertisement more than 2,200 attended our show. I was on first backed by Rodney Lay and Wild West who did a great job. The audience blessed me with 3 standing ovations during my show. I went directly to the lobby to autograph during the intermission between my show and Loretta's. My suitcase of CD's at Huey's record rack were gone in a few minutes. My autograph line lasted through the intermission and many chose to stay in my line to near the end of Loretta's show. (As we were in the lobby this didn't interfere with her show.) This turned out to be the biggest concession night I'd had. Fan club members from Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas and Florida were there. Recording artists there were: Bobby Poe, Vernon Sandusky, Peggy Rains and my buddy since 1956, Matt Lucas. Club members held a reception for me afterwards. The following day I made my Sunday drive home, an 852 mile round trip.

October

October 4th, Harold Boner and I made the short one hour drive to CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI to the Casino Aztar. I was headlined to do a concert in their Riverview Amphitheater on the bank of the Mississippi river that afternoon. There had been great radio and newspaper advertisement for a 90 mile radius. I was told the amphitheater was set for 3,000. The weather was beautiful, Manitou did the opening set. Blue Water from the Muscle Shoals area of Alabama then took the stage to back me, they did a magnificent job. The Amphitheater was comfortably full. The audience blessed me with 3 standing ovations. Fan club members were there from Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. My sister Ogareeda was in the audience as were Sheryl Crow's parents, Wendell and Bernice. For my finale I called from the audience my co-producer Joe Keene, his son Kelly, Circuit Judge Steven Sharp and Sheryl Crow's Dad Wendell. From the stage I went to the autograph table at Harold's record rack. A line 3½ hours long awaited. This became the top concession sales I've had at a show, breaking the record set in Muskogee the week before.

My apologies to those of you who came to my scheduled concert "that didn't happen" in PINCKNEY, MICHIGAN October 18th. The promoter could not be found until it was too late to go. It has been re-scheduled for Saturday, March 6th, 2004. Information is on the show dates page of this letter.

November

November 8th, I did my annual birthday show (actual

birthday November 11th) at the Music Barn at Trail's End Ranch near LOVELACEVILLE, KENTUCKY, sponsored by 96 Classic Country, Wickliffe, Kentucky. Harold Boner and I made this some 2 hour drive over that afternoon. Stanley Walker and his band plus Molly Slone and her band were on the show which was M.C.'d by Larry Kelly. A full house stood and sang happy birthday to me as I walked to the stage. The Bill Barnett Band did a good job backing me, Molly Slone joined me for a duet, Stanley Walker joined me for my finale. The receptive audience gave me a standing ovation after "*The Little Drummer Boy*"; another at the end of my show. Fan club members from Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee attended. Other fans who made the trips from as far away as Nevada and Alberta, Canada were there. A long autograph line awaited. Afterward, Harold and I drove home, a 187 mile round trip.

I was up early the next day the 9th. I had an invitation to attend the induction ceremony for the Dunklin County Hall of Honor, located in the County library and museum in our county seat, KENNETT, MISSOURI. My wife Loretta and our daughter Stacia made the drive to Kennett with me. My sister Ogareeda and brother-in-law L. V. also came to see my induction. Among the other inductees were former Missouri governor, the late John Dalton, Sheryl Crow, musician/producer/author Joe Keene and newspaper pioneer Allen Black.

Saturday, November 15th, I played a concert at the Lyric Theatre in HARRISON, ARKANSAS. Harold Boner and I made the some 7 hour drive through the Ozarks the rainy night before. Steel Creek, a band from that area, put a lot of effort into learning my songs to back me that night. Without a lot of organized advertisement, a small but enthusiastic crowd welcomed me to the stage. They blessed me with standing ovations and encores. Fan club members from Arkansas were there. Fans from Missouri and Iowa were also there. An autograph line formed in the lobby after my show, it included a lady I'd gone to high school with back in Bernie, Missouri, Wanda Heigle. I hadn't seen her since. The following day Harold and I made our Sunday drive home, a 618 mile round trip.

December

December 6th, was my annual homecoming show at the American Legion in my home town of MALDEN, MISSOURI. After my introduction, the full house stood while I walked to the stage. The Bill Barnett Band did an exceptional job backing me. The audience blessed me with standing ovations after "*O Holy Night*", after "*The Little Drummer Boy*" (in memory of our son, Bub) then another at the end of my show. My scheduled hour and 20 minute show became an hour and 45 minutes with additional requests and encores. For my finale I called former Charlie Rich drummer/former Senator/now Circuit Judge Steven Sharp on stage to play drums with me. Among the other officials at his table were Dunklin County Prosecuting Attorney Steve Sokoloff, Missouri Court of Appeals Judge Bob Barney and my attorney Max Hilfiker. Fan club members from Louisiana, Kansas, Tennessee, Illinois and Alberta were there. Fans from Arkansas, Alabama, Arizona and all the way from Scotland were there. Also in the audience was Lee Lampkins! Who on Christmas night of 1955 was sitting in a corner booth, while J. W. Grubbs, Harold White and I sat on stools at the counter of the Highway Cafe, 2 miles south of Bernie, Missouri, with our acoustic guitars, I for the 1st time sang a few songs. Lee, in his Air force Sergeant uniform, plus the man and wife who ran the cafe were the only ones there. After a few songs, Lee (whom I'd never met) called me over to his booth, invited me to sit down, bought me a coke, then pointed his finger at me and said – Son, don't you ever pick another boll of cotton – cause you don't have to! Thankfully since then I haven't had to. Back to December 6, 2003: When my show was over I walked directly to the autograph table at Harold's record rack. A line of friends and fans 2 hours long patiently waited while I stood and greeted each and everyone, thus ending my appearances for 2003.

January 2004

I saw this New Year in quietly at home in Malden, Missouri, with my wife Loretta. My first date of the new year (my 48th in show business) was at the Midwest Country Theatre in SANDSTONE, MINNESOTA Saturday the 10th. The day before, I was up at 7:00 a.m., made the 200 mile drive to the St. Louis airport, flew to Minneapolis/St. Paul, was met by Jerry and Bev who drove me to a home in the suburbs, where I changed cars and was driven on to my

motel about 100 miles away in Hinckley, by Jeff, arriving around 9:30 p.m. My buddy Huey P. Long had driven up from Kansas City to sell my CD's and met me there.

The theatre was full for the Saturday matinee. The opening set was performed by the Holker Family and Cactus Willie. The very receptive crowd gave me a rousing welcome when I walked on stage. Leroy Glazier and the Midwest Country Band did a wonderful job backing me. The mood was magic for that show. Fans from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa were there. They blessed me with standing ovations and encores after "Drift Away", after "My Prayer", then again at the end of my show. A long autograph line awaited.

The theatre was about half full for the night show. After a good reception at the start of my show, as I was telling my short story to set up my 3rd song, loud talking from my buddy in the audience (who should know better) interrupted my set up, distracted the audience and made it hard for me to get them back. I finally did when I answered a request for one of my hits not in the script. Although the band was not prepared for, "All In The Name Of Love", it brought a standing ovation and an encore. Another came at the end of my show. A long enthusiastic autograph line awaited. Sunday I traveled home.

Radio

OMAHA, NEBRASKA – WAITT RADIO NETWORK: Sunday, January 4th, a phone interview I taped with John Thomas ran on his show, Kickback Trax, and was heard on this network's 26, Country Today, stations from Hawaii to West Virginia. During each hour he played interview segments with some of my records. In the 1st hour he played "Funny How Time slips Away" and "Blue Suede shoes." The 2nd "Drift Away", "Reconsider Me", and "Lonely Teardrops". The 3rd "Somebody Hold Me" and "Away". In the 4th hour he played "To Love Somebody", "She Loves Me Like A rock", then ended with "My Prayer". Part of this then ran on their 14, Classic Country, stations nationally Tuesday, January 6th. "Lonely Teardrops" is in their classic country regular play rotation.

LONDON, ENGLAND – RADIO CAROLINE: Dell Richardson's show, Good Rockin' Tonight, is heard across Europe on this station. The majority of the music he plays is from rockabilly oriented bands currently on the European scene, with the occasional track by such legends as Buddy Holly. Dell sent a copy of his Christmas special to me. He played "You Can't Have A White Christmas (When You've Got the blues)" by me. Later he had a request from the Netherlands, for my recording of "Merry Christmas".

WARRENTON, MISSOURI KWRE: This classic country station serves the St. Louis area. In December I did an on air phone interview with Larry Allen. He played, "Season's Greetings", the title track to my Christmas CD. Earlier in 03 I heard "Lonely Teardrops" on this station while driving through.

DENVER, COLORADO – CLASSIC HIT COUNTRY NETWORK: This network is broadcast from the Denver suburb of Englewood and carried on 136 radio stations nationwide. In November operations manager Lew Jones phoned and told me he'd be playing tracks from my Christmas CD "Season's Greetings" starting the day after Thanksgiving and playing through Christmas day. This network has some of my top hits in their rotation.

PINE CITY, MINNESOTA – WCMP: I was up early January 6, '04, to do an on air phone interview with Mike Hughes at 8:30 a.m. on this station, to promote my shows in nearby Sandstone the 10th. He had already played "Lonely Teardrops" and "Reconsider Me" when I called. Just before he introduced me he said, "It's 1 below in cool country, up from 9 below yesterday morning". (Those of you in Europe, that's about 20 below). After our interview he played "Drift Away". This station plays the current hits with classics sprinkled in.

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI KWKZ: My wife Loretta keeps the radio's in our house on this station. I do an on air phone interview from time to time. In recent months I've talked with Cousin Carl and Susan (Susan Anderson Bell has a new CD out), Mick Vandiver and Rick Jones. They tell me "The Little Drummer Boy" from my Christmas CD was their most requested Christmas song. I also heard: "Season's Greetings", "Winter Wonderland", "Christmas Is Everywhere", "You Can't Have A White Christmas (When You've Got The Blues)", "Merry Christmas", and

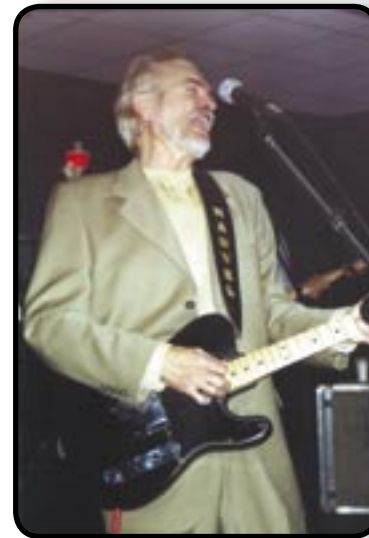


Photo: Faye Huffman

Belting a High Note
Narvel on stage, his annual homecoming show. American Legion, Malden, Missouri, December 6, 2003.



Photo: Faye Huffman

Dad and Daughter
Narvel and Stacia, American Legion, Malden, Missouri, December 6, 2003.



Hall of Honor
Circuit Judge Steven Sharp inducts Narvel into the Dunklin County Hall of Honor – County Library and Museum, Kennett, Missouri, November 9, 2003.

"O Holy Night". I've heard Cousin Carl Play "Don't Do It Darlin'", "Fraulein", "Stranger On The Shore", "Blue Darlin'", Mick play, "Drift Away" and Randall Lee on his Gold Dust Saturday morning play, "I'd Trade All Of My Tomorrows", "Foggy Misty Morning", "Remember Me" and "From Memphis To Malden".

MINGUS, TEXAS – KFWR: This station covers Fort Worth, Abilene and in between. Joe Bielinski phoned me the Sunday afternoon after Thanksgiving for an on air interview. He tells me he's a big fan, that when he was a boy his job was to clean up the Texas honky tonk his parents ran and he'd play my records on the jukebox while he cleaned. He says he gets a lot of requests for my music. He played "Reconsider Me" and "Just For Me".

RENO, NEVADA – KBDB: Ken Haskins (Rockin' Rev) phoned me for an on air interview on his Doo Wop Special January 24th, 04. My thanks to Charlie Gracie (who had a #1 pop hit in 1957 with "Butterfly") for suggesting me to Ken. Rockin' Rev played: "Earth Angel" and "I'm Headin' Home".

ROCKLAND MAINE – WRFR: The morning of December 19th Larry Beckwith featured me on his show, Got It? Flaunt It! After his show's opening with "Golden Rocket" by Hank Snow, he then played my music for the next hour and 7 minutes. He played 3 at a time from my "Drift Away - Best of - 1973 - 1979" CD, my "Season's Greetings" Christmas CD, my "On The Wings Of Song", gospel album and my latest CD "Super Songs Narvelized". Between music sets he'd point out my versatility in the different type songs I do. He then phoned me and did a 53 minute on air interview with me.

Sunday morning January 4th on his show Hallelujah Train he did a 75 minute tribute to Bub playing my entire gospel album. Then from our "Ode To Bub" CD, he played my late son Bub singing "Light At The End Of The Tunnel", me singing "Go Rest High On That Mountain", "When The Saints Go Marching In" and "Ode To Bub", in memory of him.

SAINT QUENTIN EN YVELINES, FRANCE – TRIANGLE FM: M. Brette Dominique plays my records on a regular basis on his Memphis Tennessee Show. In December he reports playing "Tally-Ho", "It's Not The Presents Under My Tree (It's Your Presence Right Here Next To Me)", "You Can't Have A White Christmas (When You've Got The Blues)" and "Even Now".

KENNETT, MISSOURI – KTMO: This powerful station in the Bootheel of Missouri can be heard clearly some 100 miles away in downtown Memphis. During the 1st week of December I was a phone guest of Tom Coldin on his Morning Mayor Show. He was kind enough to promote my homecoming show in Malden that weekend. He played "You Can't Have A White Christmas (When You've Got the Blues)" and "Earth Angel".

KASTRUP, DENMARK – KODA: Anne Lise and Knud B. Nielsen report playing "Even Now", "From Memphis To Malden" and "Ode To Bub" on their KIS Country Show.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – PIG 'N' WHISTLE SHOW: Alex Ward's Oldie Rock 'N' Roll Show is aired on Cool 107, Batesville, Mississippi and Oldies 102.3 Wynne, Arkansas. For my birthday November 11th, he played "Three Thousand Miles", my first to make the national chart in 1959. During December he played "The Little Drummer Boy", "Pretty Paper" and "It's Not The Presents Under My Tree (It's Your Presence Right Here Next To Me)".

SAULK RAPIDS, MINNESOTA – WBAL: January 8th, I did a phone interview with Bob Webber and Cindy Glazier on this classic country station. They played my 1975 single of the year, "Reconsider Me".

RADIO REPORTS: The preceding are but a sample of reports and interviews since my last letter. My thanks to the U.S. stations from New York to Oregon and from Wyoming to Georgia, the European stations from Norway to Austria and to those down under in New Zealand and Australia for your play and reports.

Prayers For Those Ailing

Joe Taylor, Roy Drusky, Bill Barnett, Jim Fritzler, Jean Blankenship, Barbara Allister, Judy Cole, Amy DeKeyser Buhr, Diane Luitjens, Rube Yelvington, Allen Black, Bo Berglind, Ronnie Dove, Sydney Cox, L. V. Bryant, Lottys Stanfield, Harold Boner, Freddy Fender, Bev Jackson, Ann Anderson and Cousin Carl.

Final Farewell (To Those I Knew Along The Way)

Myrt Bruner, Arlen Vaden, Gracie Stanley, Sam Phillips, Ava Aldridge, Billy Joe Stanfield, Johnny Cash, Sheb Wooley, Paul Burlison, Wilma Burgess, Billy Glass, Jay B. Lloyd, Ronnie Dawson, Nellie Phillips, Gary Buck, Don Gibson, Teddy Wilburn, Dorothy Ritter, Ray Harris, Rudy Pylant, Jerry Zimmer, Sr., Dean Noe, Larry Thomason, Gary Stewart, Claude Trenier, Millie Arnold, Melton Felts, Jim Snider, Bob McGill, Dave Dudley, Sue Uthoff, Bill Johnstone, Jack Waller and Avie Parton.

Back In Time 1994

I counted this year in at Zed's in Alexandria, Virginia. That February my son Bub and I made the snowy drive to Clear Lake, Iowa in our white '91 Lincoln Town Car. We stopped in Kansas city to pick up my friend since high school Huey P. Long who made the drive on with us. I was in Clear Lake to play the Buddy Holly Reunion at the Surf Ballroom. Bub played drums with me as the Blue Caps provided the rest of the backing. I played dates that year from Maryland to Louisiana and from Michigan to South Carolina. that April I drove to Branson, Missouri to film Heart to Heart hosted by Stan Hitchcock and aired on the Americana TV Network. In May I made the drive to Nashville to be a guest on Music City Tonight with Hosts Crook and Chase on TNN. Among the other artists I did shows with were: Ronnie Dove, Johnny Rodriguez, Don McClean, Robin Lee, Eddie Bond, The Crickets, Bobby G. Rice, Rick Trevino and Graham Fenton. Musicians extraordinary who came to my shows and sat in with me were: D. J. Fontana, Kenny Lovelace, James Burton, W. S. Holland and Dale Potter. Artist who came to my shows, got up and sang with me were: Sonny Burgess, Billy Lee Riley, Vernon Taylor and Jerry Lee's wife Kerrie Lewis.

Back In Time 1984

This year our son Bub was my full time drummer. His Mom traveled with us selling the tapes and albums. We did shows from Delaware to Louisiana and from Florida to Michigan. We traveled in our black '82 Lincoln Town Car. Records that made the national top 100 in Billboard and Cashbox were: "Fool", "You Lay So Easy On My Mind," "Let's Live This Dream Together" and "I'm Glad You Couldn't Sleep Last Night". Twice that year I was headlined on the legendary show that gave such legends as Roy Acuff, Chet Atkins, Carl Smith and Don Gibson their starts, the WNOX Barn Dance in Knoxville, Tennessee. I made the trip to Nashville four times to do TV shows. Twice I was a guest on Nashville Now with host Ralph Emery. I was also profiled on Yesteryear In Nashville with host Archie Campbell. These shows were broadcast nationally across the U.S. and Canada on TNN. I also filmed That Nashville Music, a nationally syndicated show that survived as one of the top country TV shows from the 1960's to the 1980's. In the 80's the Music Country Radio Network was tops, with the Charlie Douglas Show going out live nationwide each night. I was Charlie's in studio guest from time to time. This was broadcast from the WSM studio in the Opryland Hotel. Hit artists I did shows with that year were: Ronnie McDowell, Sammi Smith, Razy Bailey and Johnny Carver.

Back In Time 1974

This year began with "When Your good Love Was Mine", my new record. It followed by breakthrough hit "Drift Away" and it's follow up "All In the Name of Love" up the charts. It would peak at #10 around the 1st of April. I first heard it on the radio the week before Christmas 1973, riding in the blue and white '72 Dodge van owned by the band who was traveling with me and backing me that week in Savannah, Georgia. Their name was Wild Country. A few years later they would become Alabama. Easter weekend of '74 I was honored to join an all star cast and make my first trip across the Atlantic to London, England. We were there for the International Festival of Country Music at Wembley Arena. Bill Monroe, Jeanne Pruett and I shared an assigned limo from the airport to our hotel. My portion of the show was filmed by BBC-TV. "Drift Away" was used on the network special, thus becoming my first national TV appearance. My U.S. national TV debut would soon come on the Porter Wagoner show, with Dolly Parton still a member of the cast. My national Canadian TV debut would also soon come on the Ian Tyson Show. My Grand Ole Opry debut was the weekend after London. I was first introduced by Billy Grammer. I received a standing ovation after

singing "When Your Good Love Was Mine". Other hits that year were: "Until The end Of Time" (with Sharon Vaughn), "I Want To Stay" and "Raindrops". Four Ascap Awards were presented to me that October at the D. J. Convention in Nashville. Among the other artists I did shows with were: Marty Robbins, Tanya Tucker, Don Williams, Bill Anderson, Johnny Rodriguez, Jacky Ward, David Rogers, Terry Stafford, Ray Price, Red Sovine, Stella Parton, Larry Gatlin, Darrel McCall, Jim Glaser and Bobby Bare. In Saginaw, Michigan, Lefty Frizzell opened the show.

My wife Loretta, our children, Stacia, Bub and I continued making our home in Malden, Missouri, despite being urged to do the politically correct thing and move to Nashville. As I flew most of my trips that year I was back and forth to the Cape Girardeau, Missouri and Memphis, Tennessee airports, on a regular basis in our silver '73 Lincoln Mark IV. Billboard Magazine listed me, the #8 male country artist of 1974

Back In Time 1964

When this year began, "Mountain Of Love" had just been a big regional pop hit in Memphis, Little Rock and Pittsburgh. The "The End Of My World Is Near" became a big regional hit across the midsouth in early 1964. My lovely wife Loretta and our baby daughter Stacia were joined that April 1st by a new baby boy, Albert Narvel "Bub" Felts, Jr. Early that year the Narvel Felts Show made it's debut on KAIT-TV 8 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. It became the station's #1 show. It would last from early 1964 till late 1965. My guests on this weekly show included Carl Perkins, Bobby Lee Trammell, Travis Wammack, Bill Rice and Karen Wheeler. During this time with my trio I was packing high school auditoriums and clubs 6 nights a week. Monday's were reserved for National Guard drills in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. We traveled the highway's of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee in my red '64 Buick convertible. Other records that year were: "Four Seasons Of Life", "All That Heaven Sent", "You Were Mine", and "You Didn't Tell Me." Other artists I did shows with were: Conway Twitty, Willie Nelson, Jackie DeShannon, Hank Cochran, Sandy Posey and Tommy Allsup. Bill English who sang with the Bill Black Combo who opened for the Beatles on their first U.S. tour in '64, told me they watched my TV show from a ranch near Alton, Missouri, on one of their days off. Country star T. G. Sheppard told me that before he was in the business he was in the audience when I played the Mid South Fair in Memphis in '64.

Back To Now

Once again thanks for reading this too long, too late letter. I must confess it's getting harder to write these. I hope to see you at one of my shows. I plan to write again in about 6 months.

Till We Meet Again,

Narvel

Now Dig This – England



SURF BALLROOM LINE-UP

Jack Scott and Narvel Felts are two of the headliners at the '50s In February festival to be held at the famed Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa on February 5th, 6th and 7th. Others appearing will include The Diamonds, Jason D. Williams, Joey Dee & The Starlites and The Big Bopper's Rock & Roll Revue. Visit www.surfballroom.com for full details and ticket information. (Photos: Barry Dixon)

SHOW DATES

2004 shows confirmed at this time – Please phone and check before you travel – dates will be kept current at <http://www.mkoc.com/NarvelFelts/>.

Saturday, February 14, 2004

Private Show
Dexter, Missouri

Saturday, February 21, 2004

Gaslight Theatre
Georgetown, Ohio
With: Gaslight Theatre Band
Show: 8 p.m.
Phone: (513) 616-3558

Saturday, March 6, 2004

Performing Arts Theatre
Pathfinder School
M-36 and McGregor Rd.
Pinckney, Michigan
With: Bob Wurst Band
Shows: 4 and 8 p.m.
Phone: (734) 878-3700
Sponsored by Police Department

Saturday, March 20, 2004

Florida Sunshine Opry
431 Plaza Dr.
Eustis, Florida
With: Florida Sunshine Opry Band
Show: 7 p.m.
Phone: (352) 821-0000

Saturday, March 27, 2004

Music Ranch USA
West Point, Kentucky
With: Country Classics Band
Show: 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (502) 922-9393
(Narvel's 48th Anniversary in the music business show.)

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Old State House
300 W. Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas
With: Sonny Burgess and The Pacers
and Charlie Rich, Jr.
Show: 7 p.m.
Phone: (501) 324-8641

Saturday, May 15, 2004

High School Auditorium
Streator, Illinois
With: Jeannie Seely, Steve Hall/Shotgun Red and
The Shotgun Red Band
Show: 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (815) 433-5853

Saturday, May 29, 2004

R.V. Convention
Youth Berrian Springs Fairground
Berrian Springs, Michigan
With: J. R. Country
Show: 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (918) 283-1755

Sunday, July 11, 2004

Americana International Festival
The Country Show Ground
Winthrop, Newark, Nottinghamshire, England
With: Paul Overstreet, Manfred Mann, Amazing Rhythm
Aces, Dave Edmonds, Albert Lee, Heather Myles, Billy
Adams, Rimshots, Rip Masters and Many Others
Narvel's Show: 3 or 4 p.m.
Phone 01159 390595

Saturday, July 17, 2004

Kontry Kuzins Theatre
3659 U.S. Hwy. 59
Grove, Oklahoma
With: Ricky Van Shelton, Rodney Lay and Wild West
Shows: 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Phone: (918) 786-9458

Friday or Saturday, August 6 or 7, 2004

Rockabilly Fest 04
Jackson, Tennessee
Information – TBA
Phone: (731) 423-5440

Saturday, August 21, 2004

Midwest Country Theatre
Sandstone, Minnesota
With: Marvin Rainwater, Leroy Glazier and
Midwest Country Band
Shows: 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Phone: (320) 245-2429

Saturday, August 28, 2004

Ft. Smith Convention Center
55 Seventh St.
Ft. Smith, Arkansas
With: Don Williams, Rodney Lay and Wild West
Show: 8 p.m.
Phone: (918) 786-9458

Saturday, October 23, 2004

Parsons Municipal Auditorium
112 South 17th St.
Parsons, Kansas
With: Don Williams, Rodney Lay and Wild West
Show: 7:30 p.m.
Phone: (918) 786-9458

Saturday, November 13, 2004

Narvel's Birthday Concert
(Actual Birthday Nov. 11)
Music Barn – Trails End Ranch
Lovelaceville, Kentucky
Sponsored by 96 Classic Country
Information – TBA
Phone: 1 (800) 493-9696



Rockabilly Fest 03
Narvel on stage, Carl Perkins Civic Center, Jackson, Tennessee, August 8, 2003.

Photo: Shirley Wilkerson



Finale
Narvel, joined on stage by Wendell Crow (Sheryl Crow's Dad) and Judge Steven Sharp. Riverview Amphitheatre, Casino Aztar, Caruthersville, Missouri, October 4, 2003.



Surprise
A surprised Dr. Lucas DiLeo and Narvel, who did a show at the Dr.'s 80th birthday party. Vicinovich's Restaurant, Chalmette, Louisiana, July 19, 2003.

Photo: Faye Huffman



Fairwell
Final farewell to Loretta Felts' brother. 1937 - 2003



Walking Tall
Buford Pusser and Loretta Felts, Malden, Missouri, August 1973



Precious Memories
Narvel, Fox Records President Morten Reff and Bub Felts, Drobak, Norway, November 4, 1990

NARVEL CD'S, CASSETTES, & T-SHIRTS

Latest: NARVEL FELTS – SUPER SONGS NARVELIZED (CD)

19 Songs, 6 Page Booklet, New Millennium Recordings – *Lotta Lovin', You Don't Know Me, Till Sundown, Baby Let's Play House, Stranger On The Shore, Earth Angel, Tally Ho, Don't Do It Darlin', Cara Mia, Great Balls Of Fire*. Re-Mastered Memories – *Somebody Hold Me, Even Now, Loretta, Pink And Black Days, Convicted, On My Word Of Honor*; (past two previously un-issued) *I'm Headin' Home, Since I Don't Have You, Four Seasons of Life*.



DRIFT AWAY - THE BEST OF NARVEL FELTS, 1973-79 (CD)

28 Songs, 24 Page Booklet, Original Hit Recordings

Reconsider Me, Lonely Teardrops, Drift Away, Somebody Hold Me, Funny How Time Slips Away, Everlasting Love, When Your Good Love Was Mine, My Prayer, All In The Name Of Love, To Love Somebody, One Run For The Roses, Fraulein – **16 More**

NARVEL FELTS – THROUGH THE YEARS – VOLUME ONE, 1956-1959 (CD & CASSETTE)

This Legacy Series Release Presents Narvel's 50's Rockabilly Career In It's Best Light. 16 Songs, 4 Page Booklet, Original Sun, Mercury and Pink Recordings.

My Babe, Did You Tell Me, Kiss-A-Me-Baby, Foolish Thoughts, A Teen's Way, Cry Baby Cry, Three Thousand Miles, Genavee, Honey Love, Darling Sue – **6 More**

ODE TO BUB (CD)

23 Songs, 24 Page Booklet, in Memory of Bub

Narvel Sings: *Blue Darlin, From Memphis To Malden, Sonny Man, Spirit In the Sky, The Little Drummer Boy, When We Were Together, Danny Boy, When The Saints Go Marching In, Go Rest High On That Mountain, Ode To Bub* – **9 More**

Bub Plays: *Wipe Out, Sings: Mony Mony, Light At The End Of The Tunnel, Honky Tonk Woman* – **4 More**

NARVEL FELTS – THE HI RECORDS ERA, 1959-1973 (CD)

29 Songs, 12 Page Booklet, Original Recordings

Cutie Baby, Cindy Lou, I Swear By Stars Above, Little Miss Blue, I'd Trade All Of My Tomorrows, Don't Let Me Cross Over, Since I Met You Baby, A Little Bit Of Soap, Butterfly – **20 More**

SINCERELY YOUR FRIEND (DOUBLE CD)

44 Songs, Recorded 1962-1991

I'm Just that Kind Of Fool, Look Homeward Angel, The Twelfth Of Never, Fool – **40 More**

NARVEL FELTS & JERRY MERCER - RADIO ROCKABILLIES (CD)

35 Tracks, 12 Page Booklet, 1956 Radio Shows

Narvel Sings: *Mystery Train, Blue Suede Shoes, Go Go Go* – **4 More "His First"**

Jerry Sings: *Boogie Woogie Country Girl, Seven Nights to Rock* – **26 More**

NARVEL FELTS, AT ROLLIN' ROCK (CD)

19 Songs, 4 Page Booklet

1998 Raw Rockabilly & Rockaballad Recordings for Rollin' Rock In Las Vegas-1999 Release by Goofin' Records of Finland.

Honey Bun, Fool in Paradise, Shake It Up, Lonely Hours, Do What I Do, Riverside Drive, Hard Time Gettin' Home – **12 More**

PORTRAIT OF MY LIFE (CD)

10 Songs, 4 Page Booklet, Narrations by Narvel, His Life Story From a 1989 Perspective. Bub Played Drums.

My Innocent Age – **9 More**

THE VERY BEST OF NARVEL FELTS (CD AND CASSETTE)

20 Songs, 1981 Re-recordings. Hits Not Available On Other CDs or Cassettes Include: *Raindrops, Crying, Just Keep It Up, Mountain Of Love, The End Of My World Is Near* – **15 More**

SEASONS GREETINGS (NEW CD RELEASE)

13 Songs, Recorded in 1988 and 1991, Bub played drums on 11 tracks.

Season's Greetings, Winter Wonderland, Christmas Is Everywhere, You Can't Have A White Christmas (When You've Got The Blues), The Little Drummer Boy, Even Now, Merry Christmas, It's Not The Presents Under My Tree (It's Your Presence Right Here Next To Me), Prince Of Peace, Pretty Paper, I Want To Be Home For Christmas, On This Merry Christmas Night, O Holy Night.

CD's \$20, CS \$10, plus \$4 Shipping Per Item

**To: Norma Williams
247 Abelia Drive
Parma, MO 63870 USA
Phone (573) 396-5816**

The following available from Faye Huffman: T-Shirts, Tour T-Shirts or Ode To Bub T-Shirts \$20 plus \$4 shipping

**To: Faye Huffman
P.O. Box 1306
Meraux, LA 70075 USA
Phone (504) 277-4101**

Malden Printing Company
Malden, Missouri
573-276-4508
E-mail: maldenprinting@brick.net