



Title: Buddy Holly Statue

Catalog Number: LPA1

Artist: Grant Speed

Date: Dedicated September 6, 1980.

Location: Buddy Holly Plaza and Walk of Fame, Avenue Q and

Description: A larger than life statue of Buddy Holly in the center of a round, raised concrete circle. Embedded within the circle are several bronze plaques honoring musicians who have been inducted into the City of Lubbock's Buddy Holly Walk of Fame. The statue itself is holding a guitar and has Buddy's characteristic glasses on. The area is well lit.

History: Grant Speed was born in San Angelo, Texas in 1930 and spent his summers and post-high school years working as a cowboy. At 18 he joined the U.S. Air Force for two years, spent

the next 7 working as a cowhand and rodeo rider, attending college and completing a 3-year mission for his church. He married Sue Collins in 1958 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in "Animal Science" from Brigham Young University in 1959. Speed supported his family (he has three children) by teaching elementary school in Salt Lake City, while living in Provo. After eight years he quit his teaching job to devote his life to art full time. His work and career have grown steadily since then. Speed characterizes his work as "Loose Realism." He and his family currently live in Lindon, Utah.

Charles "Buddy" Hardin Holley was born September 7, 1936 in Lubbock, Texas. By age 13, Holly and his friend Bob Montgomery were playing a kind of music they called "Western Bop," as well as mainstream country songs which they performed at local clubs. Buddy Holly formed his own band, "The Crickets" and he was the lead guitarist and vocalist. The group's musical talent, together with Holly's unique "excited" style of singing, quickly made them a success. Songs such as "Maybe Baby," "Oh Boy!" and Holly's solo hit "Peggy Sue" became extremely popular. In 1959, as part of a rock show, Holly toured with Ritchie Valens and the "Big Bopper," J.P. Richardson. They chartered a plane following a concert at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake Iowa and it crashed after traveling only eight miles. All those onboard were killed. Buddy Holly's music and hometown are still popular.

Works Cited: Buddy Holly Center. <http://www.buddyhollycenter.org/>

Civic Lubbock Inc. <http://www.civiclubbock.com/>

Other artwork by artist/places exhibited: Sculpture for Charles Goodnight for the Pan Handle Plains Museum of Canyon, Texas, "Keepin' and Eye on the Riders," "Ropin' Out the Best Ones," "The Red Raider," Texas Tech University's Mascot.

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 7' 11"

Condition: 1

Owned By: The City of Lubbock, P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, TX 79457; (806) 775-3000.

Commissioned by: Civic Lubbock Inc., Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 MacDavis Lane, Lubbock, Texas, 79401; (806) 775-2242.

Entered by: Victoria Beles

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