

# Grapevine

## Buddy Holly's widow offering rare memorabilia in April auction

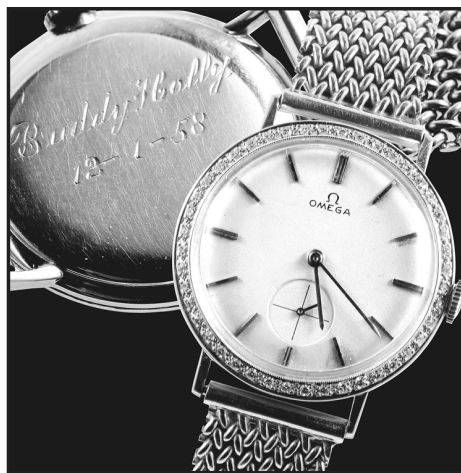
DALLAS — An astonishing treasure trove of Buddy Holly artifacts, including unreleased acetates never heard by the public and the wristwatch he was wearing when he lost his life in the 1959 plane crash that also killed Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper, will go on the auction block April 14-15. There's no questioning the authenticity of this one-of-a-kind collection: It's the property of Holly's widow, Maria Elena Holly.

Heritage Auction Galleries in Dallas will conduct the public auction of more than 100 pieces from Maria Elena's personal collection. "It's better to make sure that the right people get it, people that love Buddy and his music, to have a part of him. And so I decided that it was time," said Maria Elena. "It's hard to let go, but you have to let go some time or another to avoid problems later on. So this is the reason for this one. Hopefully, the people who buy these things, if they buy them, they will have something of Buddy's."

Beautifully inscribed with his name and the date "12-1-58," the diamond-and-white gold Omega wristwatch was given to Buddy by his new bride as an early Christmas present, and it miraculously survived the plane crash. "I gave it to him, and he went on the tour, the last tour, with that watch," she said, noting that Buddy's late father subsequently wore it. "I took it to New York, had it cleaned. It's in working condition. It's perfect."

Maria Elena held a 1990 auction at Sotheby's that included one of Buddy's trademark Stratocasters, but plenty of miraculous pieces remain. "She brought in — I guess it's about 21 acetates. Some of them are just demo versions, real close to the released versions," said Heritage music and memorabilia specialist Garry Shrum. "Some of them are just off-the-wall completely different — different titles that were renamed later, some stuff that was never used, some early recordings from '55 that are his brother Larry and Bob Montgomery jamming together, just some real loose stuff. Then there's another one where they're doing some kind of country songs that a female singer is singing along with them. It's rough outtakes — nothing finished — but they're just messing around in the studio."

Among the acetate motherlode are unissued versions of Holly's classics "That'll Be The Day," "Peggy Sue,"



Photos courtesy of Heritage Galleries

**The gold wristwatch worn by Buddy Holly during the plane crash that took his life in 1959 will be auctioned April 14-15.**

"Maybe Baby," "Not Fade Away," "Words Of Love" and "Everyday." "Those are going to be auctioned with some restrictions," said Maria Elena. "Whoever gets them has to sign saying that they will not put those records out."

"We've got the passport that he used for the Australian and English tour, with the stamps and everything in it," said Shrum, "the work permit for the English tour. We've got some jewelry, like cufflinks and things. We've got some business cards, old business cards."

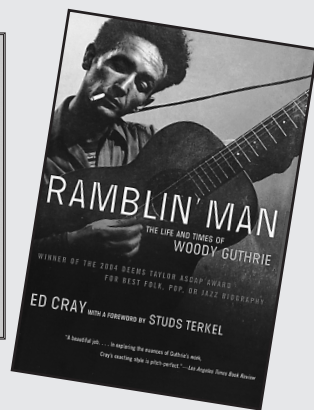
Several dozen photographs, many snapped by Holly himself, are also up for bid. "There are some photos of when Buddy was a little boy," said Maria Elena. "There are photos that they took when they were flying out to Australia, and on the back of those photos, Buddy always had a tendency to write on the back of a photo, what it was all about."

Items from Buddy's personal wardrobe are also featured. "We've got a selection of clothing — coats and jackets and sweaters and shirts and pants," said Shrum. Holly's record collection will also be on offer, including "A whole bunch of 45s, a bunch of Buddy's DJ copies that he got sent from the label, and some stock copies and some other singles that he pulled," said Shrum.

Puerto Rico-born Maria Elena Santiago met her future husband in the summer of 1958 at the New York offices of

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## GRAPELEAVES



**News & notes:** Former Warrior Soul drummer Mark Evans' killers were convicted and sentenced in British criminal court Feb. 24. Anthony Aldis, Leanne Terry, and Stephen Fullerton will spend life in prison for Evans' murder, with almost 15 years before they can be considered for release. Court files are confidential, so details of the trial, including motive, are unknown. Evans was found in a car park dumpster, strangled and set on fire Jan. 26, 2005. May Mark, his fans, friends and family now find some peace.

**On the bookshelf:** *Ramblin' Man — The Life And Times Of Woody Guthrie* by Ed Cray is a comprehensive biography compiled from more than 100 interviews of Guthrie's friends and family and access to more than 10,000 pages of poetry, journals and more from the Woody Guthrie Archives. There is also a foreword by Studs Terkel. (Norton, ISBN: 0-393-32736-1)... The story of one of England's most popular post-punk bands is told in Jeff Apter's *Never Enough — The Story Of The Cure* (Omnibus Press, ISBN: 1-84449-827-1). Within, details of the making of albums such as *Pornography* and *Disintegration* are chronicled along with the personal drama between members Robert Smith and Lol Tolhurst and a band seemingly in constant flux.

**For couch potatoes:** Eagle Rock Entertainment/Eagle Vision's next title in its *Classic Albums* series features a behind-the-scenes look at the recording of Cream's second album, *Disraeli Gears*. This DVD contains new interviews with Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce, and Ginger Baker as well as quotes from lyricist Pete Brown, Atlantic's Ahmet Ertegun, John Mayall, and Manfred Mann. There are also new acoustic performances by Clapton ("Sunshine Of Your Love" and "Outside Woman Blues" and Bruce ("We're Going Wrong"), as well as archival concert footage of Cream at The Revolution Club in 1968 and in Paris in 1967. (April 4)...

**Leo Kottke — Home & Away Revisited** features a previously unavailable complete 1988 performance at Toronto's Bathurst St. Theater. Kottke plays favorites such as "Last Steam Engine," "Pamela Brown" and "Vaseline Machine Gun." The DVD also includes previously unreleased footage of Kottke playing with the late Michael Hedges backstage in Nashville and an extended performance with Chet Atkins and Doc Watson at a photo shoot. Kottke

also leads a tour of his house and property in Minnesota... A children's book containing a collection of poems by William Plomer called *The Butterfly Ball And Grasshopper's Feast* was the inspiration behind 1975's live production *The Butterfly Ball*. Recently departed Deep Purple bassist Roger Glover assembled a cast of musicians and hollywood stars including Ian Gillan, Tony Ashton, David Coverdale, Glenn Hughes, Eddie Hardin, John Lawton, Jon Lord, Twiggy, Barry St. John and others for a benefit for Bud Flanagan's Leukemia Fund and Action Research For The Crippled Child. The performances took place at London's Royal Albert Hall Oct. 16 and were narrated by Vincent Price. (Music Video Distributors, 5.1 surround sound)... Famed supergroup Blind Faith's live debut before an estimated 100,000 people is coming to DVD. Titled *London Hyde Park 1969*, the disc features all six tracks from the band's 1969 self-titled album, which was not yet released at the time of the Hyde Park show, as well as covers of The Rolling Stones' "Under My Thumb" and Traffic's "Means To An End." Composed of Eric Clapton, Ginger Baker, Steve Winwood, and Rick Grech, Blind Faith existed for one album and a United States tour before disbanding. The DVD also contains classic performance footage of the Spencer Davis Group, Traffic, and Cream. (Sanctuary, May).

**Sites and sounds:** Mark Lindsay of Paul Revere & The Raiders fame hosts a weekly radio show for KISN in Portland, Ore., that *Goldmine* fans are sure to enjoy. The five-hour program, titled "Mark After Dark," airs Saturdays from 7 p.m.-midnight PST. Lindsay plays music from the late '50s-early '70s and shares stories about many of the artists he has personally worked with. The show also features exclusive interviews with Lindsay's musician friends such as Johnny Rivers and Micky Dolenz. The program can be heard online at www.KISNAM.com or locally at 910 AM. Lindsay also takes requests via the station's toll-free number, 800-733-KISN.

**For analog kids:** John Denver's *Back Home Again* was released March 24 by Speakers Corner (RCA) on 180-gram vinyl. The album includes well-loved Denver favorites such as "Grandma's Feather Bed," "Thank God I'm A Country Boy," "Annie's Song" and the title track.

— Todd Whitesel