

Bobby Sweet - Maplevue Ballroom Radio

when we were really small kids, it was called the Maple View Ballroom. And, uh, not only did our dad play there, but our great-grandfather played there. He called square dances there. It had the biggest dance floor- Yeah ... probably in the county. And, um, my dad used to play there with the October Mountain Boys.

And, uh, so it was Punky Zink and Louie Zink, Ronnie Zink. And, uh, every Saturday night, they did a radio show out of there. For a couple hours, they were on the air. And so it was a live broadcast from Woody's Roadhouse. And this one particular night, uh, Dad told me this, this dog had crawled up under the stage end of the building and was under there barking the whole entire, uh, the duration of the radio show.

So they're hearing, "Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof," under the stage while they're doing their tunes. And then they, they got to when they, they signed off at 11:00. And the bartender always had the radio on right there where he was working, and he would listen for the radio host to sign off, and then they would just go back to the station from there.

And, uh, the guy at the radio, uh, the host, fell asleep that night, and they did their sort of, "Okay, guys, let's take it out," the last tune. They played themselves out, and they thought they were signed off. And then the guys in the band started, uh, using some colorful language about the dog under the stage.

And the bartender said, he yells across the room, "You guys are still on the air. You gotta keep playing." So they just picked up their instruments and kept playing and kept playing until finally the show was cut off, and the guy must have woke up. But- ... um, that's just one of many funny stories. Dad also talked about calling Punky Zink before another night they were gonna play up there, except the water was frozen in the building.

So he said, "Punky, you gotta come up and help me thaw out the water." So they crawled around underneath the building with propane torches, the way you did back then. Oh,

geez.

And they're heating pipes up, like, beyond where there should be water, and finally they said, "You know, I don't think there is any water in these pipes."

And Dad had told the guy, "If you leave the water drip, drip out of the faucet overnight, it won't freeze up." Well, he opened the faucet up kind of way too much, and it just drained out the well. So finally they traipsed up through the snow. They had a shallow well up there in back of that, and they pulled the cover off, and sure enough, there was no water.

Wow.

So there was no gig that

night.