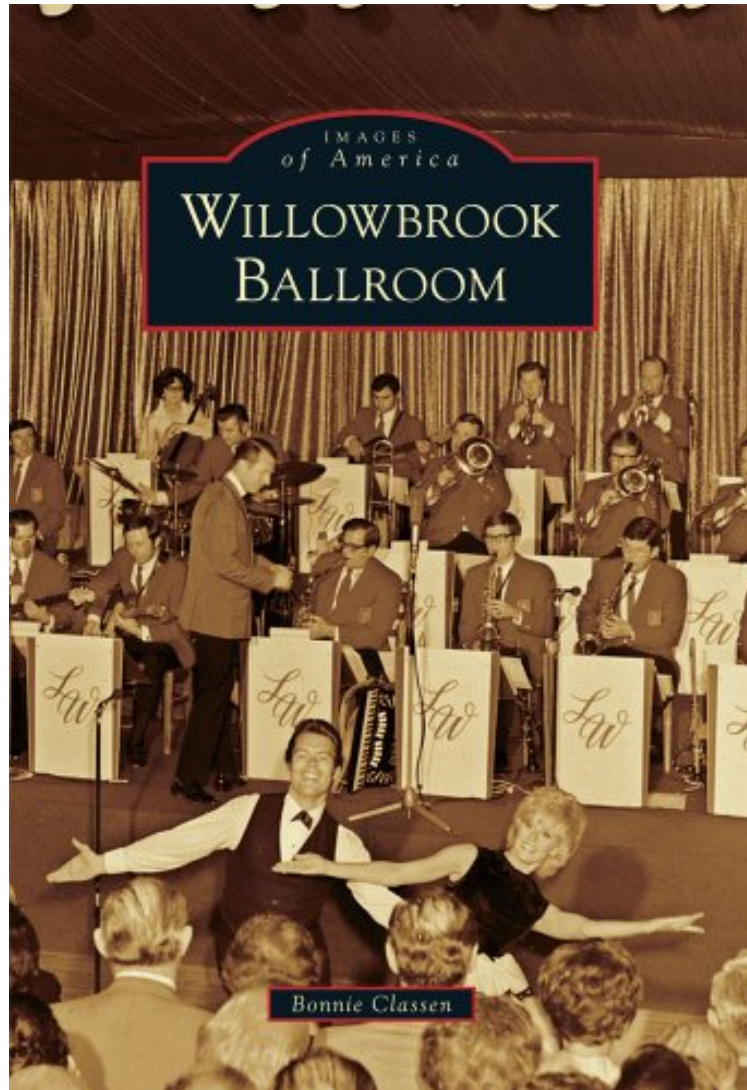


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Willowbrook Ballroom (Images of America)

Bonnie Classen

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Bonnie Classen : Willowbrook Ballroom (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Willowbrook Ballroom (Images of America):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. RIP Willowbrook ballroomBy Douglas HillmanOrdered this up upon hearing the news that the Willowbrook was burning down. A total loss of a historic ballroom with one of the best dance floors in America.Nice history with some good pictures. It's unfortunate that the recent section doesn't have more about the swing revival and the salsa scene, both of which have been high points of the last few decades, but that doesn't detract much.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Willowbrook BallroomBy nancy a hudsonI

ordered the hard cover edition..I am a Willowbrook Alumni. I am so thankful for this book..it has more pix and history of this wonderful place to so many. We just celebrated 95 year anniversary party in Aug 2016. This was the the happiest place for me and my dance family. We miss and will cherish the memories . I never realized the band's that played on that beloved stage. Oh the memories..Oh how I pray they rebuild. Love my book. Thank you Jodwalis Family Bonnie Classen for this book is priceless!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerExcellent, very insightful and a lot of fun to read, especially now, since it has burned down

The Willowbrook Ballroom was originally built as an outdoor dance pavilion named Oh Henry Park by Austrian immigrant John Verderbar. Wildly successful, it was enlarged and fully enclosed in 1923, and a 10-a-dance policy was implemented. Destroyed by fire in 1930, a determined Verderbar hired a crew of 200 carpenters, and a new facility was built to the tune of a then-staggering \$100,000. In 1959, it was renamed the Willowbrook Ballroom, and dancers have since enjoyed the big band sounds of Count Basie, Teddy Lee, Harry James, and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. As record crowds flocked to the 6,000-square-foot dance floor, the Willowbrook also became a favorite setting for weddings, proms, and other once-in-a-lifetime events. Today, at the height of its popularity, the Willowbrook is one of only five ballrooms of its magnitude in the United States and the only one remaining in the greater Chicagoland area.

About the AuthorBonnie Classen is a freelance writer and occasional host/promoter of the popular singles dances at the Willowbrook. She utilizes vintage photographs from the family of original owners, among other collections, to tell the story of this south suburban landmark and its surroundings.