



## **Jerry Jeff Walker Time Line**

- 1942** Born Ronald Clyde Crosby in Oneonta, New York on March 16.
- 1957** Performs in numerous teen combos around Oneonta, including the Pizzarinos, the Chymes, the Tones and the Townies.
- 1960** OHS graduation; Ron is a half-credit short but graduates during the summer.
- 1961** Joins the National Guard, undergoes basic training at Fort Dix, N.J.
- 1962** Ron and a friend hitchhike from Oneonta to Florida, just in time for the first-ever Spring Break; Ron is photographed on the beach with a guitar by the A.P.
- 1963** Hitchhikes to New Orleans, begins to street-sing in the French Quarter, also travels to Texas for the first time.
- 1964** As “Jerry Ferris,” he meets Babe Stovall, who becomes his performing mentor.
- 1965** First trip to Austin; On July 5, arrested for public intoxication in the French Quarter, meets street-dancer “Bojangles” in the New Orleans drunk tank
- 1966** Drives an old Mercury from Texas to Washington, D.C.; Adopts the name “Jerry Jeff Walker,” Forms the Lost Sea Dreamers band.
- 1967** The Lost Sea Dreamers become the house band at the Electric Circus in NYC and change their name to Circus Maximus; CM records two albums for Vanguard Records, *Circus Maximus* and *Neverland Revisited*.
- 1968** Circus Maximus breaks up; JJW cuts first solo single for Atco Records, plays Newport Folk Festival with David Bromberg, releases the *Mr. Bojangles* album.
- 1969** *Five Years Gone* and *Driftin’ Way of Life* released.
- 1970** JJW relocates to Key West and Coconut Grove in Florida, joins Jimmy Buffett on the last run of the Pan-American Flyer from New Orleans to Nashville (the inspiration for “Railroad Lady”); *Bein’ Free* released.
- 1971** JJW moves to Texas, begins to gig around Austin.
- 1972** *Jerry Jeff Walker*, recorded in Austin and NYC with a mixture of Texas and New York pickers released; the “progressive country” or “outlaw” bandwagon begins to gather steam in Austin; Jerry Jeff turns thirty.
- 1973** *Viva Terlingua*, recorded in the Luckenbach Dancehall, released featuring the first incarnation of the Lost Gonzo Band (called, on *VT*, the Deaf Cowboy Band).
- 1974** JJW and Susan are wed in Luckenbach; JJW plays Willie Nelson’s Fourth of July Picnic in College Station, Texas; *Walker’s Collectibles* released.
- 1975** The “progressive country” boom is at its height, with Jerry Jeff, Waylon Jennings, and Willie Nelson at its apex; JJW releases *Ridin’ High*, recorded in Austin and Nashville.
- 1976** *It’s A Good Night For Singing* released.



**1977** The Lost Gonzo Band spins off on their own solo career; *A Man Must Carry On*, a eulogy for Luckenbach owner Hondo Crouch and the “progressive country” era released.

**1978** The Bandito Band is formed to back up JJW; *Contrary To Ordinary* and *Jerry Jeff* released; Jessie Jane Walker born.

**1979** *Too Old To Change* released

**1981** Django Cody Walker born.

**1982** *Cowjazz*, JJW’s last major label album released; JJW’s 40th birthday party features an all-day concert at Austin’s Town Lake with seemingly every band in Austin.

**1986** JJW and Susan form Tried & True Music, the better to do it their way; *Gypsy Songman* cassette released; first JJW Birthday Weekend held in March.

**1987** T&TM signs an international distribution deal with Rykodisc; Ryko and T&TM release *Gypsy Songman* on CD.

**1989** *Live At Gruene Hall*, recorded at Texas’ oldest dancehall, released; three singles from *LAGH* appear on *Billboard’s* Country Singles chart; Gonzo Compadres formed with Lost Gonzo Band alumni John Inmon (guitar) and Bob Livingston (bass), with Bandito Band drummer Freddie Krc.

**1990** *Navajo Rug*, recorded in a makeshift studio on the *Austin City Limits* TV soundstage, released.

**1991** JJW plays for Texas Gov. Ann Richards’ inauguration; JJW hosts *The Texas Connection* on The Nashville Network.

**1992** JJW hosts a second season of *The Texas Connection* for TNN; JJW turns 50; Tracks for the *Hill Country Rain* album recorded in Austin.

**1993** JJW hosts a Caribbean cruise for the Tried & True Warriors; JJW plays the Clinton-Gore inauguration, and the Prez and Vice-Prez return the favor by showing up at a JJW show in February; JJW tours Europe, records *Viva Luckenbach* in the same Luckenbach Dancehall where he recorded *Viva Terlingua* 20 years earlier.

**1994** JJW hosts the first Fan Club week in Belize; *Viva Luckenbach* released in March; *Christmas Gonzo Style* recorded in May and released in September; live sessions for *Night After Night* recorded at The Birchmere in Alexandria, Virginia.

**1995** JJW builds a second home in Belize; *Night After Night* released in March; Jessie Burdic Conrow, JJW’s grandmother who gave him his first guitar, turns 100; *Jerry Jeff Walker Songbook, Vol. 1* released; Jerry Jeff gets a home page on the World Wide Web.

**1996** T&TM turns 10; *Scamp*, JJW’s first album of all-original material since *Driftin’ Way of Life* recorded in Austin and released in October; JJW hosts the first outdoor Luckenbach Laborfest on Labor Day Weekend.



**1997** Second Laborfest extravaganza held in Luckenbach; In August, JJW travels with his band to Belize to record *Cowboy Boots & Bathin' Suits*, the first (as far as we know) album by a commercial artist recorded in Central America.

**1998** *Cowboy Boots & Bathin' Suits* released on T&TM in March, in time for the annual Birthday Weekend celebration. Third Laborfest event held in Colorado. Warner Bros. Records releases *Jerry Jeff Walker: The Elektra Sessions*, a compilation of cuts from 1978's *Jerry Jeff* and 1979's *Too Old To Change* albums. Jerry Jeff and Susan purchase a house in the French Quarter.

**1999** *Gypsy Songman*, Jerry Jeff's long-awaited autobiography, is released, along with the accompanying album, *Gypsy Songman: A Life In Song...Django Walker, Jerry and Susan's son*, accepted at the prestigious Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts; *The Best of the Vanguard Years*, an anthology of early JJW cuts, is released. Last Birthday Weekend of the millennium.

**2000** *Gypsy Songman: A Life In Song* enters the Top Ten in the Gavin Americana radio chart.

**2001** *Gonzo Stew* released.

**2003** *Jerry Jeff Jazz* released.

**2004** *The One and Only* DVD released.

**2005** *The Best of the Rest* CD released; Jessie Jane married Robert McLarty in Big Sur, California; Django released his second CD, *Six Trip Around the World*.

**2006** 20th anniversary of Tried & True Music and the Birthday Bash.

**2007** Scamp Walker turns 65. Renames Birthday Bash in Austin the "Retirement Bash".

**2008** Confusion ensues over Jerry Jeff's alleged "retirement."

**2009** *Moon Child* is released as digital download from [www.jerryjeff.com](http://www.jerryjeff.com). Jerry Jeff starts Tweeting.