Twitter Thread by David Burge

David Burge
@iowahawkblog

62nd anniversary of The Day The Music Died.



Advertisement for the last performance in Clear Lake, Iowa, February 2, 1959 (Mason City Globe-Gazette)

Some shots from that final show at the Surf Ballroom. That's Waylon Jennings playing bass for both Buddy Holly and Richie Valens. He didn't ride on the plane because he lost a coin flip.



correction - it was Buddy Holly's guitarist Tommy Allsup who lost the plane ride coin flip to Richie Valens; Waylon Jennings reluctantly gave up his seat on the plane to JR "The Big Bopper" Richardson because Richardson had the flu.

In their last conversation, Buddy Holly kidded Jennings for 'chickening out' of the plane ride, and joked "I hope your damn bus freezes up again."

Jennings, joking back, told Holly "I hope your ol' plane crashes." That joke haunted Jennings for decades.

The Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake survives, though, and is still a gem; and still hosts an annual February commemorative Winter Dance Party.

