

The Day the Music Died

May 13, 2022

43° 13' 13.3" N, 93° 22' 53.1" W

Today, we went to the *place* the music died.



The pilot of the Bonanza, Roger Peterson also died in the crash.

Rock-and-Roll icons Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and "The Big Bopper" all died when their Bonanza V-Tail aircraft crashed at these coordinates. The incident, occurred on February 3, 1959, near Clear Lake, Iowa,



Buddy Holly's signature black-framed glasses are enshrined at the site entrance.

Don McLean immortalized the event in his 1971 song "American Pie". Maclean referred to the death of the three rock-and-roll icons as, ...

... "The Day the Music Died"

[American Pie](#) – Don Maclean



*Well, that'll be the day
When you say goodbye
Yes, that'll be the day
When you make me cry
You say you're gonna leave
You know it's a lie
'Cause that'll be the day
When I die*

[That'll Be the Day](#) – Buddy Holly



[La Bamba](#) – Ritchie Valens