

SONNY THROCKMORTON by Bob Gray

On Wednesday, October 6th, the Texas Heritage Music Foundation and Schreiner University are bringing Sonny Throckmorton and Rock Killough to the Coffeehouse Series. The Series is held in the Cailloux Snack Bar on the SU campus the first Wednesday of each month. There will be an open mike from 7 to 8 pm. – and Sonny and Rock will take over from 8 to 9 for a tremendous showcase of great songwriting.

Sonny is one of those guys who actually makes country music work – he sings, he plays, he writes the hits that others sing. Without the Throckmortons of the world, Country music would still be the bad adenoids, stolen trucks and missing dogs of the 1950's.

Among his seventeen top of the chart hits are: *Where the Cowboy Rides Away* (George Strait), *It's a Cheating Situation* (Moe Bandy), *The Way I Am* (Merle Haggard), *I Wish You Could Have Turned My Head (and Left My Heart Alone)* (Oakridge Boys & Peggy Forman), *I Feel Like Loving You Again* (T.G. Sheppard), *Last Cheater's Waltz* (T.G. Sheppard & Emmylou Harris), a dozen more.

He has won Songwriter of the Year awards four times, and two of his songs won Song of the Year (*It's a Cheating Situation* and *Why Not Me*). In fact, two of his songs, *Middle Age Crazy* and *I Wish I Was Eighteen Again*, (both recorded by Jerry Lee Lewis) were made into movies! Now *that's* songwriting.

Sonny cut his first album in 1962 at twenty-one years of age. Forty plus years later he is still writing and performing. As Sonny put it in an interview with Kathleen Hudson, "... I figure it (life) is going in the right direction if I don't get in its way." I can't imagine a life having gone in a better direction, and if you're a fan of country music you aren't going to get a better chance than this to see one of the true pillars of the genre up close – and **free** to boot.

Rock Killough is another of the country music support-beams that goes largely unnoticed by anyone other than the devoted fans who know what to look for. His first project as a singer was in 1977 on the Epic label, but his songwriting has been a mainstay of dozens of performers for much longer. He has songs on gold albums by The Oak Ridge Boys (2), Hank, Jr., Sammy Kershaw (3), and songs on platinum albums by Hank, Jr. and Sammy Kershaw. Johnny Rodriguez, Brenda Lee, Jerry Jeff Walker, Jeannie Seely, Mickey Newbury, Carole King, Waylon, Jeannie Pruett, Jerry Reed, Marty Raybon, 4-Runner, and Randy Travis and John Conlee have all done Killough's songs.

We hope to see you at the Cailloux Snack Bar on the Schreiner University Campus in Kerrville, Texas, Wednesday evening, the 6th of October. Come early for the open mike session from 7 to 8 pm, for a preview of those who will be future headliners, then stay for Sonny Throckmorton and Rock Killough. Life seldom pays off this well – if you're alive, then collect. Come join us. BG

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