

**On the Road**  
**September 2005**

*from Kathleen Hudson*

Many moving musical experiences for me in August, and I'm looking forward to the ones ahead. I also enjoy staying home at my casa on the high plain, enjoying the animals. I buried my lifetime companion out here on August 17, a 15 year old wolf/malamute female. We all miss her terribly. We includes two horses, Brownie and Spirit, and four cats: Tuxedo, Jesse James, Frank James and Spider. I don't think the armadillo who also lives in my yard misses Cante as much as the rest of us. Yes, I do love living in the country. I think it affects how I hear music. After all, I hear the music of the spheres each night out here, and the truck traffic on I-10 only adds the melody of the road.

School started at Schreiner University August 24, and I have four classes of new faces, new stories for interaction. Excited as always about teaching. Since the Texas Heritage Music Foundation office is now on campus, I have a short walk between offices. And I have two wonderful new work/study students, Stephanie Gaines and Kallie Edmonds. Tim Wilton is producing the September Living History Weekend as a part-time employee at THMF office.

And we're bringing the "Ride With Bob" show to Kerrville, with Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel. Lots of help, lots of work. Three shows, running from October 20-22 (and the 23<sup>rd</sup> if the demand is there!), is a huge production. Expect to hear the grammy award winning music of Asleep at the Wheel doing Bob Wills music. Ray's fiddle player (some of you heard him at the Hill Country Opry show) not only plays fiddle with the best of them, but also looks like Bob. Eerie to witness. This show brings to life our Texas heritage in a way that only stories and songs can do. Peter Schwartz, producer of the show, reports that the show in Austin last March sold out immediately and left folks asking for more. This tour is more, and it begins in Kerrville! Get your seats early. Sit up close for \$45. Join the VIP group for \$100 (reception with the cast/band). Tickets for sale through Playhouse 2000 box office. A part of the proceeds of the show benefit the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund. Recently Micah Meador headed off to college in San Angelo with \$1,000 of help from this THMF fund. Always about the learning for me. Interested in donating? Interested in creating an event that benefit this fund for young people who love music and need the help with college? Contact Janice Kennemer, the scholarship director. E-mail THMF at [kat@maverickbbs.com](mailto:kat@maverickbbs.com)

Today, August 27, as I write this column, Sandra Cisneros (one of my literary heroes) is bringing me a new dog, Houdini. He's solid black, feisty and smart. I may have to give him a shorter name when I call him in from the field. Right now, after 24 hours at my house, he's Houdini Max....Max for short. He once lived in the streets of San Antonio. Sandra rescued him, revived him and has found him a new home in the country, my place! Since I read poems from LOOSE WOMAN to all my classes at Schreiner and often study HOUSE ON MANGO STREET, this dog brings his own Sandra connection with him. I love "You Bring Out The Mexican In Me," a poem that speaks to my complete love for Mexico.

September 7, Los Texmaniacs with Willie Jaye play the FREE Texas Music Coffeehouse at Schreiner University from 7-9 p.m. outdoors in the quad. Bring a blanket

and dancing shoes. Willie Baca has history with Texas heritage going back to his work with Doug Sahm. See [www.texmaniacs.com](http://www.texmaniacs.com) for more information. Tex/Mex rock with a blues lead guitarist! Glad they could take a break from touring the U.S. and touring Europe to play this small university! Another way of learning at an institution that says "Schreiner University...Learning By Heart."

Our FREE Living History Weekend kicks off Friday, September 23, at 9:00 a.m. when over 60 performers come together at the Robbins Lewis Pavilion on the Schreiner campus. The audience consists mainly of students and teachers (over 2,000) as well as tourists, retirees and others who can take Friday off from work. Billed as "Another Way Of Learning," this event has evolved from the annual tribute to Jimmie Rodgers, the Father of Country Music. And we'll still pay tribute to him at noon. Saturday the Texas Folklore Society is hosting our annual Texas Music Seminar from 1-3 p.m. in the Cailloux Student Center Theatre. RSVP early and get a free lunch! The weekend comes to a grand finale with a 3:00 p.m. concert on Sunday, featuring local performers. Donations support the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund, and there is no entry fee. Held in the Robbins Lewis Pavilion, the concert features Sol Patch, Mr. Clark, Midway, Mike Kasberg and more.

And now a little about my musical journey: I went to one of my favorite venues, Hondo's in Fredericksburg, and heard Almost Patsy Cline for the first time. Based in Bandera, this group does it all, great interpretations of well-known songs, originals, dance music and a CD to carry home. Booked solidly, this group has done what many aspire to: created a good time for themselves and for their audience.

I attended a Hanger Dance at The Hanger in Fredericksburg that same night, a must for big band fans. Luckenbach is always up and running with exciting music. Mike Blakely is bringing Fandango back, a festival on September 9-10. You can now subscribe to great newsletters from Luckenbach as well as other venues. I love the one that Joe sends out from Casbeers in San Antonio. And the John T. Floore newsletters keeps us posted on the shows at this venue with over 60 years of history.

September 4 is the big day for the third Jack Ingram Real American Music Festival at John T. Floore Country Store. The lineup, which includes one stunning Texas woman. Leeann Womack, is a lineup that rocks! James McMurtry, always a favorite of mine, always a stunning performer and writer, brings us his edgy brilliant perspective. Yeah, I'm a bit partial here. And I put Hayes Carll and Nathan Hamilton in that same box....edgy and brilliant. Jack, also a writer, had pulled together a group of musicians who rock and write! The place should be packed as Cross Canadian Ragweed brings their crowd. Be ready to rock from 12:30 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

At this same time, the Kerrville Wine and Music Festival at Quiet Valley Ranch on Highway 16 about ten miles south of Kerrville, brings another spectacular lineup of musicians to the area. Friday, September 2 Tom Russell returns. His stories in writing rival any literary character I teach, and his performance works as well on stage as it does in the classroom. Yes, he's been in my English class, and he knows his stuff! Saturday, another chapter in my mss. on Texas women appears, Susan Gibson. Her delivery is as honest as her writing. Caroline Aiken also performs that evening. I don't have room here for a story on each person on the bill. Just count on the fact that Dalis Allen and crew put together a great show, no matter if some of the names might be new to you. That's the point. Sunday, the Wine and Music Festival comes to a close with Will Owen-Gage, a

local young guitar slinger that we've all come to love, Sisters Morales (another chapter in my book) and The Greencards, who had to cancel their appearance at the June Folk Festival to tour with Bob Dylan. Allen Damron, longtime friend of Festival founder, Rod Kennedy, and longtime performer at the festival died in August. Dalis says a tribute is in order at the Wine and Music Festival. Yep, a great weekend of talent just south of Kerrville.

I attended a moving production of "Jesus Christ, Superstar," at the Hill Country Youth Ranch in Ingram. I also have the CD and video, "Broken Wings Can Fly," a production of the stories these young people have to tell....set to music. Every show I've seen there has been moving. Gary and Carol Priour do a great job using the arts as a form of healing. Another way of learning. The set of "Jesus Christ" was stark, and the songs pulled out many emotions.

Monday Night Meltdown, a production of Mike Williams at the Inn Pub, brings varied voices to the stage. Bonnie Bishop hosted in August, and I became one of her new fans. Her originals are engaging, and her version of Janis Joplin brings new life to this story. She also gives new life to Bonnie Raitt when she sings, "I need someone to love me like a man." One night she featured Matt Martindale, lead singer with Cooder Graw, a favorite band of mine. In case you haven't noticed, I write about my favorites! Sending me a press kit really helps, if you wish to have a CD reviewed here. The local media in both Kerrville and Fredericksburg support Texas music. KRVL Radio, 94.3, is a sponsor of this Meltdown. The September schedule is an exciting one: Gordy Quist returns Sept. 5 as host. The rest of the month includes Brandon Rhyder, Adam Carroll, Hayes Carll (don't miss) and Brian Keane (see August story).

And now for a CD release: "Ten in Texas," produced by Ray Benson with special thanks to Lloyd Maines, is set to hit the streets August 30. Icehouse Music, Inc. is the label, and it features the old, the new, the classic, the famous, the infamous. Listen to this lineup.....Ruthie Foster (singing "Texas Cookin'" by Guy Clark), Carolyn Wonderland (a new hero of mine, a woman with tattoos on her arm who plays a mean guitar while singing rock and blues....my hero!) singing a Billy Joe Shaver song; Aaron Watson singing Buddy Holly; Joe Ely singing a Kris Kristofferson; Gary P. Nunn singing a Red Steagall song; Asleep at the Wheel singing "The Other Woman," by Rollins; Terri Hendrix singing Betty Elders; Dale Watson, Johnny Bush and, of course, Willie Nelson singing Ed Bruce. Whew....that's more than ten great songs by ten great Texans. That's a chance to soak up all the flavors of Texas music. Ray introduces the compilation: "There are songs contained on the album recorded by stalwart Texans who have laid the foundation over the last 40 years and newcomers who are carrying on the tradition." I'm excited to be working with Ray to bring his tribute to Bob Wills to Kerrville Oct. 20-23!

The last story I'll share is the most exciting one for me: I toured with the Gipsy Kings for 4 days as a guest of the driver of their sound truck. Now that was one adventure in a huge Peterbilt truck. We started new San Jose at The Winery, a venue on top of a mountain, at the end of a winding road that does not have room for a 65 foot truck to make 20 foot hairpin turns. We did it, though, hauling about 78 tons of equipment. John Edwards drove that truck and year ago sailed around Cape Horn. I don't know which challenge gave him the most trouble.

I slept through the drive all night and we ended up at a Casino outside of Santa Barbara at the Chumash Reservation for the next show. I first became a fan of the Gipsy Kings in

the late 80's when I heard their music blasting from the stereo of a jeep going down a cobblestone street in San Miguel de Allende. I was immediately hooked and followed these gypsies from album to album, always wanting to attend a gypsy gathering in Southern France. And I still may.

The band is comprised of two families, The Reyes and the Baliardo families. Each man takes his turn at the microphone and with the guitar. The music and stunning light show convey a piece of the gypsy heart that we could not have any other way. Canut and Nicolas sing with tears in their voices and with pure joy in their voices. Tonino Baliardo takes Flamenco guitar leads. The voices, more than the words, carry the story of pain, love, loss and celebration. The stage is sliced with triangles of white light and bathed in blues and purples. Nothing like a live Gypsy King show. I last heard them in the Majestic Theatre in San Antonio, an excellent show where I stood and danced in place all night. The last night of my time with them in August was at The Grove in Anaheim. On this night, two young ladies stood up and danced on stage with them. Each night ladies jumped up on the stage dancing. These two young ladies were "young." I met their family afterwards, only to discover that their father, Bob Holloway, had attended Schreiner University (when it was a military institute), and they lived in San Antonio. Tiffany Holloway and Natalie Kerr had the time of their life up there on that stage. Now that's a small world! Those Texas connections abound whenever I travel. With this "behind the scenes look" at all the management and crew have to do for a national tour, I will never view a big production the same way. All the crew, the trucks, the buses, the hospitality and planning fall to a road manager along with band management and tour support. I mean, I got to see what teamwork really is!

Happy trails, down the road, ils sont partis.

Be sure and send me your stories, suggestions, press kits and photos. Next month I'll tell you about Jim Raby from San Angelo. See [www.jimraby.com](http://www.jimraby.com) to get the jump on the story. His new CD, "Pickin' Mexico," was released at the end of August. Back Porch Mary returns to rock at The Nautilus Bar on Sidney Baker on September 2. See [www.texasheritagemusic.org](http://www.texasheritagemusic.org) for more on our organization. Join us!