

On The Road

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I invite each of you who read this column to contact me at kathleenhudson123@hotmail.com. I love a sense of readership, and communicating is one way to achieve that. My June adventures included spectacular evenings at the Kerrville Folk Festival. Hit the high road next year and show up. Enjoy evenings under a big Texas sky with songwriters and musicians from around the country. I not only enjoyed several of the women in my next book—Terri Hendrix, Ruthie Foster, Sara Hickman—but also went way back in time with Arlo Guthrie. Of course, when he sings of bringing home the body bags and no one there to notice at a time in the past, he also sings of this day, this war, this time. His newsletter, Rolling Blunder Review, has fueled my imagination since I started donating to his non-profit. Check him out on the web. He's totally committed to changing the world, and he lives his commitment without making anyone else wrong. That's a rare attribute.

Another adventure included the Monterey Bay Blues Festival in California with three Texas women on that bill! Trudy Lynn closed the last night by opening for the Neville Brothers. Shemekia Copeland tore down the house on Friday. Both women have Houston connections. And how did this Hill Country woman get interested in all these people? Listening to the great music that comes out of the Texas Hill Country.

I did spend my former years in Ft. Worth and discovered a blues scene and a folk scene in that area. But it was the family trips to Kerrville for the Annual Folk Festival at Quiet Valley Ranch that inspired me to eventually create some radio programming, newspaper columns and feature stories on Texas music.

And now for some venues: Mountain Home Opry, owned by a great guy named Don Jackson, presents an authentic Sunday afternoon experience of local musicians and an opportunity to dance. Nite Shift, a band that plays all kinds of music, will be playing there on July 15. Gene Fuller and the Westerners plays July 23. \$5 cover charge. Call Don at 866-3559 for more information. Drive out I-10 west for 21 miles to exit 488. Keep heading west about one more mile on the access road to I-10. There stands the Opry. I live on my eleven acres of paradise just another ½ mile west of the Opry! We do love the terrain and weather out west of town.

The Hill Country Opry and Grill is located in town on the Junction Highway between Kerrville and Ingram. The showcase there included all varieties of Texas music and good music. Leon Russell performs in July (Yes, I know he's not from Texas.). Lunch specials abound and music flows in this special venue. July includes Two Tons of Steel on July 1, Leon Russell on July 2, Guy Forsyth (a favorite of mine) on July 9 and Shake Russell on July 15. Call ahead for confirmation of schedule: 830-792 OPRY.

Mr. Clark, another band that covers all bases with a showcase of good dance music, plays outdoors at Chili's on July 9 and Saturday, July 23. Showtimes are 8-11 p.m. Chili's is located on the Guadalupe River, also showcasing a great sunset each evening next to the outdoor stage.

I must mention the annual Fourth of July Picnic which used to occur in the Hill Country! Now Willie Nelson is throwing his party in the stockyards of Ft. Worth, Texas. Joining him this year is his buddy, Bob Dylan, Los Lonely Boys, Janie Frickie, Pauline Reese and many, many more. Now that's worth the drive! See www.willienelsonpicnic.com for more information. As Willie moves through his seventies, we move through musical history. The man from Abbott, Texas, has become a legend in his own time, for sure, and captures the spirit of Texas music in all that he does. I keep inviting him to come to the Hill Country and play some gospel music with his sister, Bobbie.

I am currently working on our annual Texas Heritage Living History Weekend, Sept. 23-25, hoping to get that gospel due for our Literacy and Learning Concert on Sunday. See www.texasheritagemusic.org for details. That is a weekend to come visit the Hill County and introduce yourself to me: the tall woman meeting with over 1500 students and teachers on Friday as we introduce over 50 performers at the Living History Day at Schreiner University. If you're traveling Texas at this time, I want to meet you here! If you want to participate at any level (sponsor, volunteer, participant, performer), please contact us.

I am also part of another annual conference July 15-17 called Past is Prologue (PIP). We will meet at the Cailloux Center on the Schreiner campus, looking at Native American oral history as another way to learn. We call this one "Ancient Wisdom: Paths to Peace." Our guests include a man from Japan who translated *The Walking People*, the oral history written down by Paula Underwood. He will also speak Sunday evening at 7 on migration patterns and Japanese history. Woodrow Morrison, the keeper of the stories for the Haida Indians, is another guest for the conference. See www.shreiner.edu/pip for details and registration.

Another great local venue is Francisco's where you can hear the Mike Kasberg Jazz Trio on Thursdays throughout July. Not only is Francisco's an exquisite lunch spot on the star in Kerrville, but it also offers evening entertainment from time to time...and the food is gourmet in all ways.

Pontrachain's at 1201 Broadway in Kerrville also has music to accompany a menu of tasty Cajun food. The back porch, complete with ceiling fans, curves around a small stage. Check them out when you come to town. Tell them you read about it here!

I also love going to Hondo's on Main in Fredericksburg. You'll enjoy the food, you'll enjoy seeing the photos of the Texas imaginer, Hondo Crouch, smiling down on you as you eat. The beer garden calls for an outdoor experience, and the music is always tasty. In fact, I don't have time or space to talk about all the venues that I love in the Texas Hill Country. These are a few.

I met Tom Reed at the Kerrville Folk Festival and bought his archival DVD's: "Kerrville Kronicle and Kerrville Yearbook." These productions document a most important piece of our musical history. See www.sealionestates.com for more information. I can tell Kerrville stories forever, and I love what he's done with his version of the stories he collected.

On the road now.....ils sont partis.....kathleen