

## On The Road for April 2008

*From: Kathleen Hudson*

I am writing this after attending the third annual Bluebonnet Blues Festival in Marble Falls and after a fundraiser at Antone's in Austin that featured Marcia Ball, Delbert McClinton, Shelley King, Stephen Bruton, Ray Wylie Hubbard with son Lucas giving us a real taste of blues, and many more musicians who showed up to raise money for an organization that helps out musicians with health needs. All that in one weekend with a flight to Dallas on Sunday for a birthday lunch with mom. Whew....these non-stop days of music and fun are now days that also leave me a bit tired. Imagine that!

Blow and Cindy Vaughn, energy and brains behind this festival (with the help of many, many sponsors and volunteers) have created another piece of Texas heritage. Sister Carolyn joined me on the road, and we danced a bit, met lots of interesting folks, talked with musicians, slept in the "ghost" room of the Wallace House right off the square and had great meals at R-Bar, Cecil and Company and Patton's. And I had breakfast Saturday at the famed Bluebonnet Café with Aunt Barbara, now 91 and going strong.

The music was laced with the horns of Kaz Kazanoff and Al Gomez. We discovered Homemade Blues Jamz, a young group (15, 13 and 9) who played guitar made from mufflers but also delivered the real-deal blues from Tupelo, Mississippi. They are also playing the June Monterey Bay Blues Festival in California. I'll be there!

I loved the addition of an afternoon workshop with author Barry Pearson. I heard stories from the musicians, up close and personal, in the class Marble Falls Theatre. Also home to a series featuring the likes of Pauline Reese, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Kinky Friedman and Steve Fromholz (in May) and many more. Check them out in Marble Falls! I had a book signing in this town last October at a show with Marcia Ball, Yes, I'm feeling like Marble Falls, also home of the Mike Blakely Tuesday night showcase at the River Grill, is a hub for this growing Texas music scene.

The festival includes great food and an art exhibit, including a contest with plein aire artists working out in the streets all weekend. I first learned of this type of art from Gordon Fowler, Marcia's husband. What fun to stand behind an artist while shuffling around a bit to the blues music, watching the creative process! Yes, I do love an interdisciplinary approach. And that is the approach of my new course to be offered at Schreiner University this Fall...Texas Music. The course will be Wednesday night from 6-7:40 so consider joining us. You can audit for ½ the price!

Carolyn pushed me to attend the Sunday night show at Antone's in Austin. Glad we did. Not only was the music spectacular, the silent auction fun, the crowd rowdy, but we had a chance to hang with Peter and Rudi from Belgium, part of a group touring Texas for two weeks. I heard stories about Texas from the eyes of someone who lives in Belgium. Now that is another perspective. And they did love the music! I was also reminded of a large blues festival each July held in Belgium. That might be worth the big trip across the water. Of course, this July I'll be studying Spanish in San Miguel de Allende. More festival stories next month.

Susan Gibson is part of the bill at a new event to be held at Threadgill Theatre on the Quiet Valley Ranch, home of the Kerrville Folk Festival on Highway 16 south of Kerrville on April 5. I'll be at a conference in New Orleans and have to miss this. Just can't do it all, I guess.

Jeff Gavin, music aficionado, founder of the Rice Festival, founder a house concert series held at San Saba Caps in Kerrville, is bringing together a lineup that includes Susan Gibson, a woman who wrote the number one country song for the Dixie Chicks called "Wide Open Spaces" started out playing with The Groobees and evolved into her own solo act then added compadres who play excellent music. I last saw her perform at a Kerrville Folk Festival, and her energy at that time rocked the stage. I interviewed her for my book on women in Texas music at a South by Southwest conference in Austin several years ago. Carolyn Pillow, my road warrior sister, joined me for the conversation. Below an excerpt from Susan's chapter in my book:

**"I feel like I've learned a lot, and I write about some of that. Then that's misleading because I don't really know. I realize at times that I'm at the beginning. Sometimes I learn more about myself after singing a song and having someone come up and tell me what they heard in that song, what their impression was."** Yes, Susan and I share a fascination with perspective and the power of our own interpretation of reality, our story!

One highlight of March for me occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup> when Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines returned to Schreiner University for a coffeehouse experience celebrating Women's History month. (And Terri was someone who told me to go talk with Susan.) They have performed for THMF several times, including a Literacy and Learning Concert and several coffeehouse events. Their return is an act of generosity on their part, a gift to our students and our community. Touring behind a new album, "The Spiritual Kind," Terri had lots of stories to tell, and Lloyd was the perfect "straight man," alluding to his value as the "old guy with the AARP card." A bit humble for one of the best musicians in the county! Some say, "The best." And he produced the number one album for The Dixie Chicks in 2002. Ah...synchronicity and connections abound in my world. And I tell this to my students all the time as I teach communication in the workplace...and in life, of course! If we are open to seeing, the miraculous can occur. I love the patterns I see in the the tapestry called my life. Very interesting.

I overheard many in the audience commenting on the joy present when Terri and Lloyd perform. I stood transfixed as she sang/spoke a song "If I had a daughter." I even tested the video on my camera, recording this for my daughter Lisa and granddaughter, Jessica, to see one day. Not just hear, but see. Her support for women, for women loving themselves and not giving away power to men or culture for approval, for women to take a stand and create, was something I've always wanted to say to my girls....a daughter, daughter-in-law, 5 granddaughters! Maybe I'll just send them all Terri's new cd as a message from Grandma Starr. Now that name is another story!

Excited to be listed on the speaker's bureau for Humanities Texas. One talk listed is "My Life as Belle Starr," and other includes Texas music, songwriters, women in Texas music, Jimmie Rodgers, Native American educational topics, learning stories and more. Spread the word...I want to be out there sharing the stories I know with new groups of people.

A beautiful green carpet of grass covers my newly-burned pasture. Life after death and all that. The cleansing power of fire, the alchemical transformation possible in extreme heart. Imagine the metaphors and stories I know have after seeing my front 8 acres burn up. Of course, the loss of a storage building containing about 3,000 items could be sad, but I've found a way to celebrate the new space in my head and in my life! Now I don't

have to go through all that and make decisions. We Libra women sometimes want to avoid certain kinds of decisions.

Looking ahead to the Kerrville Folk Festival at the end of May and the first of June. Looking ahead to the Monterey Bay Blues Festival on June 21-22 in Monterey, California. Looking ahead to all the Sunday night songwriting showcases at the Bandera Saloon! Yes, that is something to talk about now. My first night there was rewarding. Art and Lisa host the series, adding an educational component with handouts and specific themes. Sunday, March 16, we studied the works of Guy Clark while hearing performances from many local songwriters. I heard John Andrews Parks there my first Sunday, and I had the pleasure of sharing the event with friends who do not follow the Texas music scene. Yep, that's what I like best: the sharing. Thus, this column, the THMF, the Living History Day, the books, the Texas music course this fall. All about sharing what I love.

John Andrew needs to be on a big stage playing around the world with his energy and voice. His experience in both New York and Los Angeles gives even more depth to his Dallas roots. We are talking about a trip to China for Texas music...in the future. He has already played a concert there, with a theme song penned by John. One of his stories to me told of the great interest in a pre-conceived notion of Texas that included lots of stuff twisted around the cowboy hat. And lots of photos. By the way, his theme song, "Planet Texas" was also recorded by Kenny Rogers (a shorter version) and became a theme song for KFAN radio stations.

Looking ahead to April 11 when The One Horse Art Gallery (owned by Karen Musgrave and some friends) opens in Fredericksburg, and Kacey Musgrave will be playing on the porch around 4 p.m. before heading over to Luckenbach on Saturday the 12th for an evening show with some friends. I heard of Kacey from several people while researching the women of Texas music. And does she have a voice! Don't miss this opportunity to hear this young woman perform. [www.kaceymusgrave.com](http://www.kaceymusgrave.com) And the gallery show sounds quite intriguing as well.

THMF news: we are raising money for several projects including the new expanded Bard Project (sending musicians into the schools) that volunteer Paula Reynolds coordinates for THMF; the expanded Living History Day that now includes a possible songwriting symposium on Saturday Sept. 26-27; new opportunities for Tim Wilton as part-time assistant in the THMF office; new opportunities for volunteers (just call us at 792-1945 to get on the team!) and more. Glad to know that during March Tumbleweed Smith ran his syndicated show (about 40 stations) on the Kerrville connection to the story of Jimmie Rodgers. We do have the ONLY tribute to Jimmie in the state. And his great-grandchildren will return this year for the tribute.

We have tracked down the grandchild of Wayne Kennemer, our scholarship namesake, and Jesse Wayne Kennemer is a young bluesman who has played with Taj Mahal. Now we just need to get funding to bring him here in September.

The collaboration with The Texas Folklore Society has grown, and the panel this year, hosted by Jean Schnitz, will focus on the "Songs of Texas." We hold this from 4-6 on the Friday of our September event, Sept. 26.

Il's sont partis and down the road. KH  
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