

On The Road  
For December 2009

End of the year stories! My **favorites** include the following: going on the road with Bob and Willie for three concerts in Texas over a week; enjoying a stunning coffeehouse experience at Schreiner with Joel Guzman and Sarah Fox, Noel McKay and Brennen Leigh, Patricia Vonne and Robert LaRoche; producing the Living History Day in September with an focus on the the great-grandchildren of Jimmie Rodgers, the Masons and Jimmie, Texas songwriters in the Union Church and many more highlights; experiencing an engaging Folk Festival last May/June and an inspiring Wine and Music Festival in September all produced by Dalis Allen and the Kerrville Folk Festival; hearing Karen Abrahams do a semi-bluegrass rock version of “White Rabbit”; loving a tribute to Hispanic Heritage at Luckenbach with Joel Guzman and Sarah Fox on September 29; house concerts galore; the conjunto festival in San Antonio; the exciting Rice Festival carrying all the energy of a vision being carried out; the Monterey Bay Blues Festival held the weekend of the Young Rhetorican’s Conference in June; new friends who have shared new stories with me about one of my heroes, Bob Dylan; Friday nights at the home of Ramon Luera in Laredo, joining in a musical celebration of our Hispanic heritage in song; hearing Terri Sharp sing “Paloma Negra” at the Concert of “Trios” in Laredo; reading No Depression bookazine published by UT Press, carrying a story about Steve Earle, Justin Townes Earle, John Townes Van Vandt, Townes Van Zandt (fathers and sons); a spring coffeehouse series that featured Willie Jaye, Patrice Pike, and Thom The World Poet; a trip to San Miguel de Allende to perform with Ken Bichell (on piano) and Tim Hazell (painting) at the Literary Author’s Sala; welcoming Charlie McCormick to Schreiner as the new provost and new Ph.D. in Folklore on campus; a Dia de los Muertos celebration with Janice Kennemer on November 1, featuring Terri Sharp singing in Spanish and Spare Parts getting all the Calaveras out on the dance floor; a lecture at the El Paso Museum of History where I met one of the original Dixie Chicks; talking about the poetry of Texas music at the November 30 Chautauqua Series at Schreiner University; visiting with Annabel and David (mom and dad) on a regular basis, soaking up their wisdom; videos by Jim Leavell on [www.hill-country-visitor.com](http://www.hill-country-visitor.com) and several made it to youtube; and...of course...the opportunity to write for HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS. (Now that’s one long sentence! And grammatically correct while lacking parallel structure. Teaching grammar and syntax in the spring at Schreiner.)

**Patricia Vonne** and partner in both art and life, **Robert LaRoche**, visited my American Ethnic Literature class, sharing their stories and songs. Each in the class was personally inspired to keep fulfilling on creative vision! Her visit to the classroom was just further proof that education is enriched when we invite other voices into the classroom! The THMF Bard Project, funded by the Peterson Foundation, is sending musicians into classrooms and into places that work with kids at risk, one way of transforming the world.

I received a new cd from longtime friend, **Mark Ambrose**. He showed up one September with **Roxy Gordon** (now deceased) and performed a song at our tribute to Jimmie Rodgers. I called him up again for more songs, hearing that troubadour, Townes Van Zandt, hearing Jimmie, hearing a voice both honest and authentic!

His cd, self-titled “**Mark Ambrose-Troubadour**,” is a mixed combination of live performances, studio work, and a radio performance. He tells stories, we hear about Roxy,

and we get to laugh a lot. “Shadow on the Moon” was always one I requested, and he introduces that song as one he “must” perform because someone requested it. I guess I’m not the only one. The song about redbirds in Valero after the funeral of Roxy Gordon reminded me of my experience of that funeral. We could not believe that we were living in a world without Roxy. The redbirds remind us of other possibilities. Roxy was one voice that encouraged me without hesitation! In the spirit of all Texas Troubadours, Mark holds his place!

Ahead is another THMF coffeehouse series for the spring, a writers conference on April 22 featuring local writers and Gabriele Rico, my mentor, and author of the class *WRITING THE NATURAL WAY*: a residency the third week in March with Tim Hazell at Schreiner and his participation in the Bard Project; a visit from Thom The World Poet to my children’s literature class, and the spring coffeehouse series the first Wednesday of February, March and April.

Don’t forget your favorite non-profits as the end of the year approaches. Might just need to give some of that money away. Good time to join up, renew membership, become a sponsor of your favorite event. The **THMF** is looking for development money to hire a director. If you have ideas, contact me at [kat@maverickbbs.com](mailto:kat@maverickbbs.com)

The Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honored **Austin City Limits** as one of the nine other designated rock and roll landmarks across the country. The upcoming season will feature a joint performance by Willie Nelson and Asleep at the Wheel. Nelson was on the original pilot episode for the show recorded in October 1974, and Asleep at the Wheel performed on the first official season show. And, for more synchronicity, Ray Benson played guitar with Willie on the summer tour I followed this year. Everything connects. I went to Cleveland in 1997 for the induction of Jimmie Rodgers into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Lynyrd Skynyrd rocked out with “T For Texas,” and Guy Clark sang, “He’s In The Jailhouse Now.” And Rounder Records has published a new collection of essays based on that event.

Now for one final CD from someone we all love in the Hill Country, **Shelley King**. I once interviewed her on the porch of the Watering Hole, after hearing her at a big festival in Austin, after talking with her and Floramay Holliday in Luckenbach. Her interview is included in the short stories of my book, preserved online at [www.kathleenhudson.net](http://www.kathleenhudson.net) Her beautiful third CD, entitled “Shelley King Welcome Home,” featuring the members of the subdudes is a collection of songs in the Americana genre of music, and it originates from the soul/gospel side rather than from the usual country/folk side.

While, “Driving By Myself,” became an anthem and sing-along when she performed it, her list of songs on this album shows the results of digging deeper into her musical roots. I don’t think my fans, or people in general, want to hear an entire evening of just one style of music...it’s nice to take a musical journey that leads down a lot of picturesque side roads rather than down the middle of the same old interstate. They all get you to the destination, but a varied route makes the journey a lot more fun,” she states in her press material. I have always loved a Shelley King show. Go online for her Texas tour schedule. I’ll be using some of her words in talks I give on the poetry of Texas music.

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