

On The Road  
October 2009  
by Dr. Kathleen Hudson

Heading into my Libra birthday month! On October 2 I'll be asking myself, "Do I really feel one year older?" The road to this moment has been filled with stories and songs, for sure. The Kerrville Wine and Music Festival gave me some new joy this month when Friday, September 4, I sat entranced by the music of Chip Dolan and Marvin Dykhuis, two men I first heard as side-men with Tish Hinojosa. This special performance showcased the talent of both men, talent that had been lauded in the Texas music scene for many years. And now a special CD features this talent. They showed up later in the evening supporting the performance by Karen Abrahams, one that rocked! Karen, holding a special place in my oral history on the women of Texas music, is back on the road after a couple of years taking care of her father. And she announced, "I am glad to be back!" The audience welcomed her, and she ended the evening with her own version of "White Rabbit," with Chip and Marvin taking us higher than Jefferson Airplane ever did!

I also enjoyed Los Texmaniacs, who sang from their latest album, "Borders and Bailes," and brought the authentic Conjunto sound to the Kerrville stage. Exciting, interesting, and a visual delight! This group went to Iraq to entertain our troops this fall and also participated in the Living History Day on September 25. Max Baca and David Farias also perform as a duo. Check them out!

The Coffeehouse at Schreiner on October 7 will celebrate Texas Music Month, featuring The McKay Brothers with special guest Brennan Leigh. I brought the McKay Brothers, from Bandera, to Schreiner years ago when they were about 15 years old as part of a forum on creativity. At that time, Noel put his guitar behind his head and played a lead. Those days may be over, but the albums they have produced capture the distinct sound of Texas music. I remember introducing them to Guy Clark once. He was impressed!

Brennan has also played the coffeehouse before and the tribute to Jimmie Rodgers. Her voice alone will move the house. I first heard her singing a song about Jimmie at the now defunct "Java Pump." Those were the days when many gathered to just listen to stories and songs...and drink lots of coffee. A colorful Mexican café now adorns this corner on Water Street.

I am going to use my column space this month to share some visual moments, my photos in the field, as I tracked down the music of Texas. My current interest for research and writing is on the songs of Texas music...or perhaps the songs of American music. November 13 I speak at Angelo State at the American Studies Conference. The theme for this academic conference is "The Beat Goes On," and I love speaking and dancing to that beat! November 5 I'll be at the El Paso Museum of History speaking on the music of Texas. What fun! Our November 4 coffeehouse features Patrice Vonne, and she will also speak to my American Ethnic Literature class at 3:50. Her heritage is rich, including some Cherokee. And we will pay tribute to American Indian heritage at this coffeehouse. *Ils Sont Partis*...and enjoy the photos! KH