

TEXAS HERITAGE MUSIC FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KERRVILLE—A tribute to the Father of Country Music, Jimmie Rodgers, is a central part of the upcoming Texas Heritage Living History Day. Celebrating Rodgers' birth month, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. over 35 performers will gather on the Schreiner University campus in Kerrville to share history and heritage through songs and stories. Thanks to local sponsorship, this event is free for all of the community to enjoy. The weekend will continue with a free of charge Texas Heritage Seminar on Saturday, September 27 from 10:00 a.m. until noon and a Literacy and Learning concert on Sunday, September 28 beginning at 3:00 p.m. The \$15 per ticket proceeds from the concert will benefit the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund (THMG) and Families and Literacy.

Since 1997 Tony Navarra has told the stories of Jimmie—his association with country music, Texas and specifically, Kerrville. Spread throughout the campus this day will be chuckwagons, teepees, storytellers, demonstrations, Texas Ranger tales, Texas history re-enactments, dancers, and that's not all!

Jimmie Rodgers was born September 8, 1897, and he died of TB on May 26, 1933, at only 35 years of age. He was working for the railroad by the time he was 14. When he became ill, he began singing and writing songs to earn a living. He was first recorded by Ralph Peer in

“COMMITTED TO THE BELIEF THAT TELLING STORIES AND SINGING SONGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

1927 and recorded 110 songs by his death. A popular performer during his era, Jimmie came to Kerrville, Texas, to build his dream house, Blue Yodeler's Paradise at 617 West Main. Kerrville has celebrated this man, who was one of the first three members of the Country Music Hall of Fame when it began in 1961. His late grandson, Jimmie Dale Court, was a regular at this event until his untimely death in 1996.

The Texas Heritage Living History Day is free and open to the public. Schools are invited, and educational packages are available. Transportation grants are available upon request. The website is www.texasheritagemusic.org. Call Kathleen Hudson for information at 830-367-3750. Dr. Kathleen Hudson is a full-time English professor at Schreiner University.