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Great West Texas
Honky Tonk Tour



Volume 1 • Number 8 • December 1990 • FREE

KLLL

● *Lubbock's Longtime*
● *Leader Known For*
'Progressive' Style

BY SHANE WEST

It's long been said, in the South anyway, that cotton is king. And, as true as that old adage has been to past and present generations, perhaps somewhere along the way someone could have added that indeed country music, too, resides somewhere near the throne.

A simple flip through the endless maze of both AM as well as FM stations dotting the radio dial here on the South Plains quickly reveals quite a number of country music broadcasters. None, however have proven more consistent in as many areas, for as long a period of time, as the station whose easily-recognizable call letters reside at 96.3 on the FM dial.

Since the fall ratings period of 1988, KLLL-FM has been ranked first in overall listening audience and is currently, as general manager Scott Harris puts it, riding "at an all-time high."

Of course, folks in this part of the world have long referred to the station by its less formal moniker ("K-Triple-L") as it has come to be known since its inception in March of 1958. Since that time, a span of 32 years, the station has become a major part of the daily lives and routines of hundreds of thousands of listeners while along the way proving itself a launching pad for quite a number of disc jockeys; some who perhaps became more "infamous" than "famous" along the way.

It's true that from the beginning, the founders of the station, three brothers (Larry, Sky, and Ray or "Slim") Corbin sought to bring into the Lubbock market a fresh, progressive country station that would offer something more than *(continued pg. 10)*



Photo by Cat Crisp

The President Speaks...

Hi Folks,

Thanks very much to the members who attended the first of our regularly scheduled WTMA meetings, November 14th. Everyone who came showed a great deal of interest in our upcoming projects, and most of them volunteered to help in some phase of their completion. I think we really filled some voids in our various committees. For those of you who don't know what these projects are, I guess you'll just have to wait until the next meeting to join in the fun.

Tentative scheduling has this meeting on Thursday December 13th, 7:00 PM at Tommy's Place. Tommy and his staff have given us a \$100.00 tab for each one of these meetings so there are advantages to getting there early. Who knows, we may even offer some kind of door prize one of these days. So come on out and see what's going on, have a beer and get involved with our organization!!!

Chester Marston III
WTMA President

Letters

True Meaning of Christmas...

Dear Editor:

With the Christmas season at hand, perhaps we should stop and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. If Christ had not been born, we would not have been extended the gift of eternal life. Since life on earth is also a gift from God, eternal life is even more significant.

Instead of commercialism, raw greed, and competition, we should grasp peace of mind and of heart by giving to those who have nothing. Support the South Plains Food Bank, invite someone, who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day, to your house, sponsor a poor family, or just concentrate on being a better friend. Get close to someone around a fireplace, hug your children, smile at everyone, or for one whole day, commit yourself to being as positive as possible with everyone.

Good times and good feelings are made with very little money. All it costs is a little love, a smile, and a tiny bit of your time. Give it and you'll get it back...with interest.

Sincerely with Best Wishes for the Season,

Rebecca Hopkins

'Fantom' Climbs Aboard...

Dear Sir:

I would like to do music reviews for the West Texas Sound. I wish to do this under

the name of THE FANTOM OF THE OPRY. My identity must remain a secret or the intrigue of the reviews will be lost.

Those wishing to have their cassettes and CD's reviewed by the Fantom can mail them to:

THE FANTOM OF THE OPRY
405 Slide Road
Suite 111-127
Lubbock, Texas 79416

I realize this idea has to be presented to the Board of the WTMA before any decision can be made. I have enclosed my reviews for the first article for the Board's consideration. If it is agreed upon, write to me at the above address and include deadline dates and guidelines that I need to follow. If this idea is not accepted the Fantom will just slip away and no one will ever know "WHO IS THE FANTOM OF THE OPRY?"

I am a member of the WTMA and I would like to see more attention brought to the good music of West Texas. I will watch my mail for your reply.

Sincerely,
The Fantom

Dear Fantom:

Thank you for your reviews. The Sound is always looking for writers to express themselves on these pages. Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month. Please submit your reviews to: Editor, West Texas Sound, P.O. Box 65081, Lubbock, Texas, 79464. We look forward to many more installments. CH

WEST TEXAS SOUND

The official of the West Texas Music Association (WTMA), is published monthly as a forum for its members as well as the area music community. Its contents are comprised of submissions by members of the organization.

WEST TEXAS SOUND is distributed free of charge at local outlets and available by subscription as a part of the general membership fee of \$10 yearly.

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"Hub-Bub"

MUSIC MUSINGS & ASSORTED WHAT-NOTS

BY CHRIS HARMON, MANAGING EDITOR

WHOOPS

I have to hang my head in shame! Last month I invariably put blatantly wrong information into an article by Lloyd Maines. I gave the credit to Broadway Studios for a lot of very fine work done by **Don Caldwell Studios**. I am very sorry for the error on my part (Lloyd had the information correct in his article, I just typed it wrong). Anyway, I am sorry for the mistake. And while we're on the subject of credit, I apologize to **Cat Crisp** for not giving her all the photo credits she was due in the November issue. All the photographs from the **Griffin Benefit Concert** where shot by Cat. Cat Crisp donates her time, eye, and film to the **Sound...** you would think the least I could do is acknowledge her contributions. We definitely appreciate her work.

HO HO HO

Yes-N-Deedy, it's that time of year again. Merry Christmas!!! Let's remember that Christmas is a time of giving - so the **WTMA, Landa's Salon, KFMX-FM** and many other sponsors are giving you a fun way to kick off the Christmas season and help a worthy cause at the same time. We're having a pre kick-off for the **Food Bank** drive that Lubbock holds every year. The event will be at **Southwest Plaza, 4825 50th Street, December 2nd, from 1pm to 6pm**. A mini festival will be taking place featuring **P.J. Belly and the Lone Star Blues Band with Elvis the Busboy, Doug Smith, Blue Thunder, Fusion West**, and many more. There are lots of activities planned and admission is **only 3 cans of food**. It will be a great day for fun & sun, so we hope you all will plan to attend.

Tommy's Place has a cure for those Christmas Blues...Sunday, December 23rd, Ol' Top Hat is planning an evening of merry making and music. We invite all of you who are finished with fighting the Mall to come sit back and kick up your feet before you have to go home and deal with "some assembly required." Mike is pulling in all his favors to guarantee a great musical line up and best of all...all proceeds from the door will benefit the WTMA. Hope to see you there!

Also at Tommy's Place, remember the monthly meeting/mixer will be **Thursday, December 13th**. These meetings are an open forum for you, the membership, to voice any opinions on the direction of the Association. You can make a difference, and the beverages aren't bad either.

IN THIS ISSUE

I called **Cary Banks** to see what he thought about this new idea I had for an article, "why don't we get an artist to tell about where a certain song came from, you know, the store behind the lyrics?" Cary laughed. It turns out he had just finished an article with almost the same idea in mind, and what a better song for the season than **Andy Wilkinson's "The Tumbleweed Christmas Tree."**

Well you though we were done with **Tommy Hancock** stories for a while...Wrong! Tommy wrote an essay on practical Christmas gifts...**Bill Manley** wrote about getting lost while driving Tommy's bus (Room didn't permit us to run it this time, check next month's issue)... Speaking of lost...Where are you **Uncle Bob**? As of press time there has been no word from the boys on the motor home. **Tex Slim** has some more CD reviews and the **Fantom of the Opry** debuts as our new "ghost" reviewer. **Susan Grisanti** is back with some helpful hints on guitar tuning and **Ron Riley** is in New York on the **West Texas Honky Tonk Tour**. **Cat Crisp** has an interview with **John Sprott**, and by the way, this will hopefully become a monthly feature - if you or your band would like to be interviewed, send your name, phone number, and address to the **Sound**.

I'd like to welcome our new members to the WTMA: **Clarence Nieman** from Tahoka and **Tommy Hancock**.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year...we'll talk next year...

• MUSIC NEWS •

U-Can-Share Food Drive Kick-Off Dec. 2

An exciting, worthwhile event will take place on Sunday, December 2nd, from 1pm to 6pm. The WTMA, in conjunction with several local businesses and individuals will hold a pre-kick-off for the Food Bank drive that Lubbock holds every year. The kick-off will be at Southwest Plaza, 4825 50th Street. Landa Gamble-Jones, KFMX (our Media Sponsor), and many others have joined forces to help support the cause. A mini festival will be taking place. In addition to local celebrities, Miss Lubbock, Lee Fevreau and Maid of Cotton, Kara Stalcup, we have a musical line up which includes:

Donnie Allison (1 pm -1:45pm); Mike Pritchard & Blue Thunder (2 pm-2:45pm); Tommy Gun from San Angelo (3pm - 3:45pm); Robin Griffin Band (4pm-4:45pm); P.J. Belly and the Lone Star Blues Band with Elvis the Busboy (5pm-5:45pm); Fusion West(Playing inside "Landa's Salon"; and more.

Admission to all of these activities will be 3 cans of food. An autograph from Miss Lubbock or the Maid of Cotton will be 2 cans. Texas Tech football celebrities will also be on hand for pictures and autographs.

There will also be Santa's kitchen, where various restaurants will be serving hot dogs, bar-b-que, nachos, and much more. Bobby McDowell will be Santa Claus and the Channel 11 kid will be elves. The fraternities will be having a Christmas Tree building contest with the donated cans of food.

The staff at Landa's Salon and Diane Hudgens of Hair by Diane will be cutting hair for a donation of 5 cans. Other merchants in the area will also be participating. Charles Key of West Central Investment is one of our many supporters and participants. This kick-off will also serve as an open house for Landa's, The Choice Salon.

EVERYONE is encouraged and urged to stop by and contribute. Again, the cost is 3 cans of food and the event will take place **Sunday, December 2nd, at 4825 50th Street, from 1pm to 6pm. Be There!!!**

The Art of Gigging

BY SUSAN GRISANTI

"ESSENTIALS OF TUNING"

You're on stage, about to perform your latest and best solo, and as you hit the first chord, you realize the roar from the crowd caused you to commit a major blunder; your second string on your guitar is 1/4 tone sharp but it's too late to turn back now. Whether you just played a songwriter's night or the Grammy Awards, this is a thoroughly embarrassing situation for any musician. Those electronic tuners you buy at the music store are great until you're next on stage and your tuner's in the trunk in the parking lot. Until the day of the self-tuning guitar, here are three rudimentary tuning methods.

The ideal situation is to master all three methods until you can do them while carrying on a conversation with someone in a noisy room. Method I is the easiest to master but the least accurate for most guitars. Method III is the most accurate and also the most difficult to master. Since every guitar has a slightly different tone and feel, string type and age also make a difference, you'll need to know all three methods "blind in a snow storm."

METHOD I: Commonly known as the "Fifth fret method" and the one all beginners need to know. Tune: 1) Your sixth string open "E" to a pitch pipe, piano or other source, 2) Fifth string open "A" to the sixth string fifth fret, 3) Fourth string open "D" to fifth string fifth fret, 4) Third string open "G" to fourth string fifth fret, 5) Second string open "B" to third string fourth fret, 6) First string open "E" to second string fifth fret.

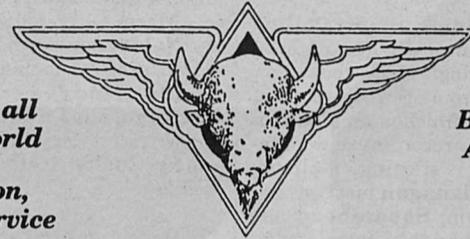
METHOD II: Known as the "Octave and fifth method." Tune: 1) Your fifth string open

"A" to tuning fork or other source, 2) Third string second fret "A" tuned one octave above fifth string open "A" (an octave is the distance from the first to the last tone when you sing the DO-RE-MI up to DO sequence.), 3) Fourth string second fret "E" tuned a "Fifth" above fifth string open "A" (a "fifth" is the distance of DO up to SOL or the opening two melody notes in the song "Chariots of Fire."), 4) First string open "E" tuned one octave above the fourth string second fret, 5) Second string open "B" tuned a fifth above the fourth string second fret, 6) Sixth string open "E" tuned one octave below the fourth string second fret.

METHOD III: Known as the "Harmonic method." (A harmonic is the pure tone produced by plucking the string directly over the fret without touching the string on the fingerboard.) Tune: 1) Fifth string open "A" to tuning fork or other source, 2) Third string second fret "A" to fifth string twelfth fret harmonic, 3) Fourth string seventh fret "A" tuned to fifth string twelfth fret harmonic, 4) Second string tenth fret "A" tuned one octave above fifth string twelfth fret harmonic, 5) First string fifth fret "A" tuned one octave above fifth string twelfth fret harmonic, 6) Sixth string twelfth fret harmonic tuned to fifth string seventh fret "E."

With any of the above methods you may also need to make the following adjustment: slightly raise the second and fourth string and lower the third string. The next article will feature the essentials of chord charts and tablature. Your suggestions for future articles will be greatly appreciated. Until next time... see you in the stringdom! !

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West Texas Recording N•E•W•S

BY LLOYD MAINES

Editor's Note: Last month's column regrettably contained typing errors. This is an updated column with new additions.

Don Caldwell Studios: Jimmy Collins has just finished an album of original material and has released a CD single of "Cowboy Rap," an authentic rap track from a cowboy's point of view; **Les Walker** just finished an album of original songs and is now recording new material; **Wilson Baldwin** is starting an album; **Johnny and Nelda Flanagan** just finished their 12th gospel album; **Squarehead** has started a rock & roll album to be completed in December; **Squire Parsons-Passage Records**, a label from North Carolina, contracted Caldwell's staff to produce an instrumental gospel album; **Jim Fullingim** just released a new gospel album; **Eve Johnson** has started a new album; **Georgia Brown** is working on original material for an album; **Aces & Eights**, a local rock & roll band, is working on an album; **Jennie Reed** just released a gospel album; **Terry Allen** completed a 30 minute radio show for National Public Radio; **Jeri Lowe** started a new album; **Tom Stampfli** is working on a new piano album; **Doug Smith** has a new album project; **Sara Clayton** just finished an album started in 1984; **Andy Wilkinson** has started his second album; **George Allison** started his third album; **His Image Singers** has a gospel cappella album; and **Richard Cambell** just released a new album. Also; **John Sands, Lisa Bivens, Amber Pennington, Nowlin Tubbs, Dale Dunn, Terry Smith, and**

Emmitt Rogers are in the process or have completed work on their song demos and **H. Lynn Mercer** just completed a jingle; other jingle work includes **Parkinson Electronics, Mac's Olds, United Supermarkets, and Nelda Armstrong Advertising**; other album projects include **Noelia Cavazos, Buddy Hodges, Adobe Records, Univerzo, and La Tronda Maines**. Other demos include **Bryan Pope, J.W. Daniels, Kathy Suchy, Kelly Sinclair and Jan Herzog**.

Broadway Studios is working on various post musical scores including one for a **Methodist Hospital** video and music for **Bob Bullock's** campaign; and a jingle for **Skibells**; **Vinnie Thomas** has a song demo; **Jay Lemmon** is working on a single; **Leslie Sawyer** is working on song demos.

Audio Chain has just finished an album for the rock band **Off Limitz**; a gospel album for the **Jackson Queens**; and a gospel album for **The New Beginnings**.

Jungle Studios has been working on an album for **Ground Zero**; **D.G. Flewelen** started a Folk album; **Bugs Henderson** has an R & B album project; and **Kyle Abernathie** is also working on a new album; rock & roll band **The Nelsons** recorded a song demo. **Jungle Studios** has also been working on separate live albums for **Captain Rowdy and P.J. Belly**.

Writers Wanted:

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• TEX SLIM'S • CLASSIC WAX COMPACT DISC REVIEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tex Slim is a former disc jockey and retired harmonica player. He owns and operates a compact disc library (600 discs) in Shallowater, Texas. He can be reached through this address: P.O. Box 1207, Shallowater, Tx., 79363.

HUMBLE PIE - *PERFORMANCE - ROCKIN' THE FILLMORE* - A&M

Humble pie was the only band to equal Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac in doing loud rock blues. "Performance" is the only live "Pie" to ever be released. Peter Frampton and Steve Marriot did old blues material (Muddy Waters and Ray Charles) like no one else. Marriot's throaty voice with his and Peter's guitar work thrilled many an audience. The clarity and coordination of Humble Pie makes 80's and 90's rock blues acts sound trashy. Peter Frampton and Steve Marriot later disbanded "Pie" after only a handful of discs and this live LP (double) is the gem of the collection. "Performance" rates an A+.

JOHNNY WINTER - *SECOND WINTER* - COLUMBIA

Johnny and Edgar Winter were the first Texas brothers to play rock blues as a team. This 3-sided double LP (one CD) is vintage boogie. Edgar's piano and sax with brother Johnny's guitar and vocals, brought new meaning to "Slippin' and Sliddin'," "Miss Ann," and "Johnny B. Goode." This 45 minutes plus, was recorded in Nashville. The Winter brothers split up after this LP and only recorded together once thereafter. This is a jazz/rock/blues collectors item and gets an A+.

JERRY LEE LEWIS - *THE SESSION - IN LONDON* - MERCURY

This is a 1973 superjam with Jerry Lee working with Alvin and Albert Lee (no relation) as well as Peter Frampton and Rory Gallagher. This double LP (one CD) spawned the radio hit "Drinking Wine Spo-Dee O'Dee." Jerry Lee also revs up some old Chuck Berry tunes as well as a classic rock and roll medley of Little Richard's. Almost everybody went to London to crank out something good and Jerry Lee Lewis sounded better than most with these Englishmen. This is the only double LP to be released from the many London sessions and Jerry Lee has never topped this double dose of fine wine. "London Session" grades an A+.

Z Z TOP - *RECYCLER* - WARNER BROS.

The long awaited follow-up to "Afterburner" is far from climatic. "Recycler" sounds like the little old band from Texas spent 5 weeks instead of 5 years working on this disc. This disc does have more in substance than "Afterburner" but Z Z collectors expect and should get more than ten 4-minute generic songs. The bright spot on this disc is that only two songs fall apart and several of the remaining eight cuts will get FM airplay. Billy Gibbons guitar work has grown routine and "Recycler" grades a B-.

ZEBRA - *LIVE* - ATLANTIC

This is Zebra's fourth LP and their "Zeppelin" studio sound does not go on the road. This 3 piece outfit has unachieved potential. Randy Jackson's vocals and guitar work are faint copies of those "Zep" Page/Plant rave-ups. This live disc does offer above average sound for a concert, but Zebra is still an opening act for a big name. "Live" Zebra is a flat B.

ROBIN TROWER - *IN THE LINE OF FIRE* - ATLANTIC

Robin Trower's career since leaving Procal Harem has left guitar music lovers looking for concert tickets (one such 60 minute show in front of Foreigner years ago). "Line of Fire" is the second Atlantic LP and Trower's use of Davey Pattison as vocalist shows no creativity (James Dewar is still needed). Trower has resorted to the old overdub trick with rhythm on one channel and lead on the other channel. This is another average metal record with no outstanding guitar work. DJ's have never played Trower material and "In the Line of Fire" is no exception. "Line of Fire" is a bland C.

NOTE: Most compact discs reviewed in the Tex Slim Classic Wax column were acquired as a special order from Hastings or Sound Warehouse.

FANTOM OF THE OPRY REVIEWS

Grab your favorite partner and two-step 'cross that HONKY TONK HARDWOOD FLOOR or do some fancy steps to the SEMI-NOLE SHUFFLE. These are just two of the twelve very good, upbeat songs on the MAINES BROTHERS latest release, WIND STORM. This is quality dance music. This album has something for everyone. The Graphics by BOB HUDNALL lend excitement to the WIND STORM of music waiting for you. Get this one. You'll be glad you did.

The TEXANA DAMES have done us a favor. Their recording simply called TEXANA DAMES (and believe me that says it all), has music of every kind. In the tradition of the talented Hancock family, the ladies have presented us with a regular smorgasbord of musical flavors. This album has Cajun, Mexican, Rock & Roll, Boogie, and just plain Texas boot-scootin', good music. My favorites are ARRIBA NUEVO MEXICO with TRACI LAMAR on lead vocal and SAME TASTE IN MEN with LA CONNI on lead vocal. Get it! You're gonna love it!

Guitar Great, JESSE TAYLOR, has a

super release on Bedrock Records of England, entitled LAST NIGHT. This recording is aces all the way and Taylor fans (isn't everyone?) will quickly know this album is a winner. It includes ten great songs recorded by Jesse during his "Tornado Alley" days. The list of songs is: LAST NIGHT, STRUCK BY LIGHTENING, GAMBLIN' MAN, ONE A.M. BLUES, DO THE SISSY, SOUL ROCKIN', EVIL, SLIM JENKINS JOINT, GANGSTER OF LOVE, and OH, MARY DON'T YOU WEEP. The band is made up of all greats: JESSE TAYLOR, DAVE HEATH, STEVE MEADOR, DON CALDWELL, GRADY ALBERT, and LLOYD MAINES, with SHEILA PATTERSON and AVIS WILLIAMS on background vocals. If your local sound center does not have this one, tell them to get it, FAST! This is a must have!

The Fantom was fortunate this month with such good recordings to review, but my next reviews may be very different. Wait and see!!!



REMEMBER THIS??? Mud wrestlers at Joe Ely's 1982 Tornado Jam in Buddy Holly Park. Photo courtesy of Landa Gamble-Jones



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DECEMBER

LIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

BELLY'S 5001 Ave. Q

Tues - Sat Donny Allison (Happy Hour)
 Tuesdays Robin Griffin Band
 Wed - Sun. P. J. Belly and Lone Star Blues
 Band with Elvis the Busboy
 Fridays Don Caldwell & Mainframe
 31 P. J. Belly and Lone Star Blues Band
 with Elvis the Busboy

BORROWED MONEY 910 E. Slaton Highway

1 Steve Stewart
 5-8 Angel Fire
 12-15 Rob Dixon
 13 Canyon
 19-22 Sante Fe
 26-29 Larry Cagle & Crazy Fox
 31 Larry Cagle & Crazy Fox

CHELSEA STREET PUB South Plains Mall

3-8 Skin & Bones
 10-13 Reed Boyd

DEPOT WAREHOUSE 19th & Ave. G

schedule not available

GREAT SCOTT'S BAR-B-QUE

7 & 8 D. G. Flewellen
 14 & 15 K. J. & the Heartbeats
 21 & 22 Boonie Ratt Band
 28 & 29 Strawberry Jam

JAZZ 3703 19th

Thurs & Sun Tommy Anderson &
 Jazz Alley

MAIN STREET SALOON 2417 Main St.

1 Night Child
 7 & 8 Envoye Express
 11 Chain Socket
 14 & 15 Intruder
 21 & 22 Alister Axe
 31 Intruder

ORLANDO'S 2402 Ave. Q

11 A Class Act
 18 Yellowhouse Reunion w/ Matthew
 McLarty
 24 Susan Grisanti (Holiday Music)
 31 Susan Grisanti

TACO VILLAGE 6909 Indiana

1 Bobby Shade w/ Nolan & Jo Harmon
 8 Yellowhouse
 15 Joe & Al, 2 Swell Guys from Texas
 plus 1
 26 Bobby Shade w/ Nolan & Jo Harmon
 and Jack & Chrisy Tyson
 29 Andy Wilkinson w/ Michall Carlton

TEXAS CAFE 3604 50th

No LIVE music scheduled

TOMMY'S PLACE 302 E. 82nd

1 Clay Blaker & the Texas Honky
 Tonk Band
 28 Bugs Henderson
 31 (Call for listing)

TOWN DRAW 1801 19th

Thursdays P. F. John - Jam
 1 Microwaves
 8 Traumatix
 15 Envoye Express
 31 Eddie Beethoven & the Sons of Fun

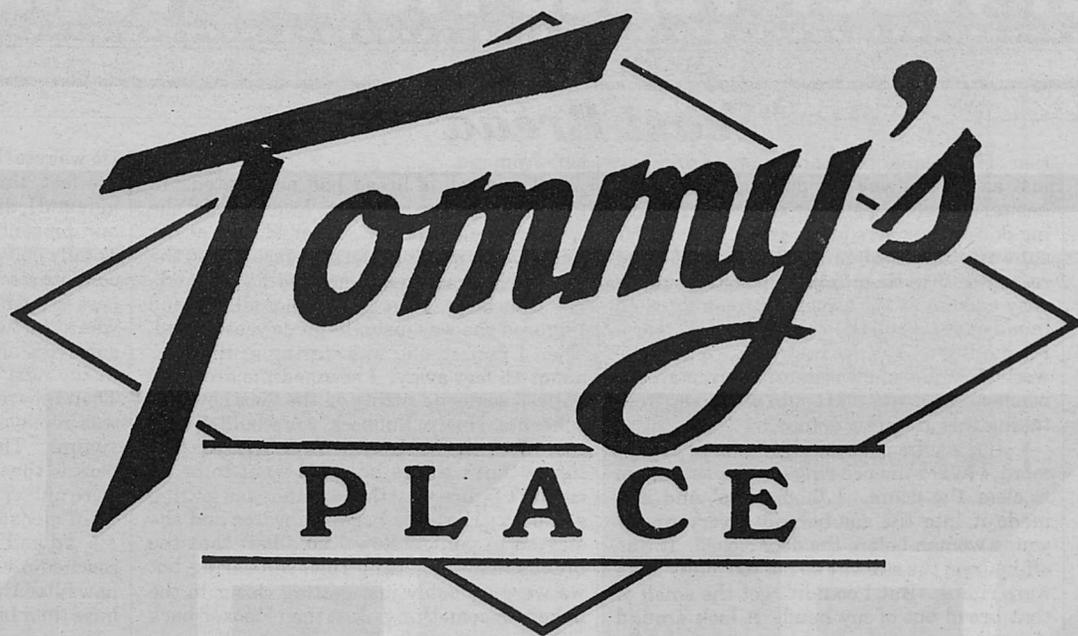
WESTERN TACO 6319 W. 19th

Fridays Open Jam

LUBBOCK MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER

31 The Maines Brothers Band

*Please Remember...
 Times and dates at press time are subject to
 change. Call ahead for updated information.*

The logo for Tommy's Place features the name "Tommy's" in a large, stylized, cursive font. Below it, the word "PLACE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is enclosed within a diamond-shaped border with a horizontal line through the center.

Top Hat's been talking to ol' P.J.
We're planning a Christmas party
With plenty of bands to play;
So grab your Christmas balls
And come deck our halls,
We'll have one heck of a good time
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**302 E. 82nd STREET
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The Great West Texas Honky Tonk Tour

BY RON RILEY

"Yeast Bread"

My guitar case was wrapped completely in duct tape. Along the neck was a sticker with the shape of Texas and "Boondoggle Festivals, Midland, Texas" printed on it. Being well over six feet tall in full cowboy regalia (boots, hat, yoked jacket, vest, and Wranglers), I'm pretty hard to miss in a Manhattan subway station. But the The Great West Texas Honky Tonk Tour will go anywhere to play songs about Texas to those who have, until now, only seen the movie.

I hadn't intended to be in New York City for more than a couple of weeks but after a few days and a few auditions, I was lucky enough to get work lasting more than a month. So here I was getting around just like the locals. I had bought a subway map and learned to find my way fairly well. Tonight it was a gig at O'Lunney's. The first time I went to New York City I auditioned at O'Lunney's and it turned out to be the focal point of all my trips there. So, tonight I was going through a routine which I was getting more familiar with all the time.

Staying with a friend in Queens meant a subway ride on the F train was necessary in order to get to Manhattan. This trip I left early so that I could audition at a club in The Village before going uptown to O'Lunney's. Through some error in my navigational abilities, I ended up at the 5th Ave. station waiting for the correct train to get me to my destina-

tion. I remember the smell of bread arriving just as the subway car door opened, and I hesitated just long enough to consider tracking down the source of the smell. The larger subway stations often have little shops and restaurants in them, so I figured it would be easy enough to get a piece of freshly baked bread or yeast roll then catch the next train. My mother makes the best yeast rolls in the world and the smell began to permeate the whole area. It was all I could do to keep from taking this aromatic detour.

Just at the peak of my aromatic excitement, I heard the bell ring for all passengers to clear the doors. I "hopped to" and just made it into the car behind a very pretty young woman before the door closed. It was off-hour on the subway so not too many folks were riding. But I couldn't get the smell of that bread out of my head. A look around showed me that she and I were apparently the only two in our car and there were three or four more in the car behind.

I smiled politely to the woman standing next to me and said, "Howdy Maam." She grinned timidly which is more than most New Yorkers will do. I don't think it's so much that they're unfriendly, just that they're inundated by such a multitude of people every day that they don't know just where to dole out kindnesses. I was sort of abnormal looking I suppose, so she thought she was

safe from me.

The smell of bread had not abated. In fact, it had gotten stronger, I wondered if she was enjoying it as well. I looked back at her and saw her making a terrible face just as she covered her mouth and nose with her hand. Her eyes bugged out and she got all red, and I figured she was just allergic to yeast bread. Then I noticed she was staring at the floor about 15 feet away. I scanned the area and noticed someone sitting on the floor between the seats. Now in Lubbock, you would go over and offer help, but in New York City, you just figure that's where he must want to be. I couldn't figure why this woman was getting so upset. Her eyes began to water and she started to panic. Now I do admit that the bread smell was getting a bit overbearing, but we were probably just getting closer to the bakery or something. Just then I looked back at the person on the floor. He was obviously a transient from the way he was dressed. Sweater too small with holes, hair matted, pants that were too short, and black tennis shoes that were once white but now were filthy. He sat there on the floor with his run-down-at-the-sides, much-too-large shoes off. He was picking and scratching his feet which were... Oh my God... he's...

His feet were terribly eaten up by advanced stages of athlete's foot. He had obviously not had a shower for many days, possibly weeks, and at that moment, I knew that the yeast smell was not from bread, but from his feet. His feet were literally rotten with fungus. I pulled out my bandana and tied it around my face (like I would in a West Texas dust storm). The woman and I looked at each other and immediately headed for the other end of the car trying to escape this horrible smell. It's funny, when I thought the smell was bread it was the most wonderful smell in the world and reminded me of home. But when I realized it was a fungal infection attached to the foot of a scrounge derelict, I nearly lost it.

The malodorous had permeated the entire subway car and there was no escaping so I tried the doors at both ends but they were locked "for the protection of the passengers." The windows were all sealed shut and there truly was no way out until the car stopped and the doors opened. So while the lady and I tried to keep our lunches down, the car began to slow down. We began to anticipate relief. Soon the doors would open and fresh air would once again fill our lungs.

The subway stations are always lighted and trips between stations are through dark tunnels where the only light comes from the overheads in the car. We were slowing to a stop now, but we were not approaching a station. Great, we were going to be stuck here while another train loaded and passed so that we could get into the station. Of course it felt like hours and smelled like hell so I tried to imagine it was just a few minutes and Mrs. Bairds Bread.

Finally, the train began to roll again and I could feel new hope rising. We weren't far from the station at that point so we both make our way past our odiferous foe to the doors next to the following car. When we pulled into the station, stopped and the doors opened, there were people waiting at the door to get in. We rushed off toward the next car in line warning an Asian-looking guy as we ran. "Don't take this car" was all we had time to say. But no one heeded the warning. Even with my bandana across my face they thought nothing was strange. About 8 or 10 folks make it into the car before they got a whiff of the wind and all of them bailed out into my new car...All but one.

When the doors closed there was one guy who had already seated himself before he realized that everyone else was abandoning ship. He hit the doors just after they closed...

He was stuck. The strangest part of all this is the fact, that throughout the ride with the lady and I, the stinkfellow never acknowledged our presence. He was in his own world. Totally oblivious. And now, here he was in a car with a screaming Indo-Chinese trying his best to open one of the doors while the train was in motion. The lady and I and the 6 or 8 survivors all laughed from our safe position in the next car. We thought it was funny. Then the train stopped. And the same scene was replayed again using a different set of victims. The ones quick enough to make it back to the next car laughed at the ones who were unlucky enough to be stranded with the whiff monster.

I'd had enough of this fun by the time I reached my stop. So I let the crowd, which now filled the entire subway car I was riding, have their big laugh at the two or three people who got stranded each stop.

I stepped off and the smell of freshly baked pizza hit smack in the face, but at this point, I just wasn't hungry.

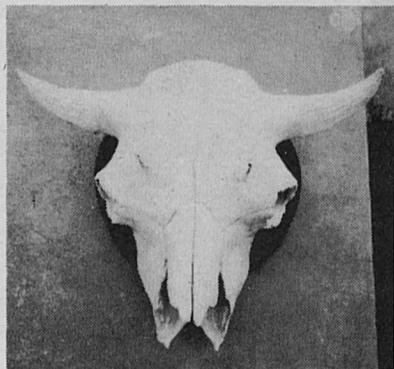
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A Christmastime Wish From Tommy Hancock

Dear Friends;

Just before Christmas, my close friend Jimmy Peters left this dimension in a car wreck. We played music together in Lubbock for several years some time ago. I still do songs he wrote. Jimmy Peters was one of the finest musicians I've ever known and also a good man and a swell pal. He helped me get started in Central Texas when we first moved here. He was very popular in San Antonio and Abilene in particular, but also had some minor hits nationwide. To me, there's a certain tragic perfection in Jimmy's being such a dedicated professional musician and going out the way so many of those in that game have gone. Good show Jimmy! You made the magic. A beautiful life. See you next round.

Speaking of Christmas. At this time of year? Forgive me. It's important. Listen to this! How would you like to get out of spending much money at Christmas and yet enjoy the holidays more? (And still retain your dignity.)

Here's the plan: It's based on the phenomenon of a gift being more interesting in its Christmas wrapping than it is in and of itself. Having and opening the packages is the fun. It's not in the accumulation of more stuff.

Most of what we receive at Christmas time is really relatively unimportant to us after we've had it a while. The real fun is also in the giving — the selection of the thing and trying to hit on something the recipient will really like.

But getting into traffic and looking at crowded stores for gifts during the Christmas season is a poor way to spend the holidays and usually has a vague hopelessness, lurking in the consciousness, of ever hitting the right item for the right person. Many people already have everything they want. And most Americans are certainly loaded with things they don't really need. **THIS IS THE KEY!**

If possible, give things you already have. If not, shop at second-hand stores. Cheaper and more soulful. Nearly empty when new stores are full. Or, make something or whip

up something. For examples: many are already wise to how great it is to give and receive cooking; parents and aunts and uncles and grandparents could use Christmas as a good time to hand down family treasures to their descendents; or, you could tape records and give them. (We don't mind. Nobody should. Spreading the music is the point. You can borrow our records from us.)

A second-hand Christmas has benefits that go on and on. One big one being that the energy and wealth of our country could go more toward producing the necessities of life for everyone rather than mountains of useless stuff. Our most powerful economic weapon is our money, not politics. Don't buy it.

Giving things you don't want is fair. It's preferable as far as I'm concerned. The ideal gift would be one that the giver doesn't need or want, but that the receiver really wants and will use. One man's monolith is another's jelly candy, so to speak. If you get something you don't want, pass it on until it finds its reason for being. Giving something that you don't want to someone who doesn't want it either, can express your sense of humor. Extremely cool.

We draw names in our family because there's so many of us. We have so much stuff and so little money. Christmas of 1984, we're having a second-hand Christmas.

Well, when I get to be President ...all airplanes are gonna have to have muffle....waterfront land is gonna be mostly public. There should be walk space next to water...sufficient technical know-how will be turned toward making phone cords and instrument cables that don't tangle....there will be no more building in parks (Lubbock lost most of its soul when a new courthouse was built in the courthouse square park.)....Chinese language will be taught throughout a public education...I enclose an original essay as my gift to you.

Thanks for your friendship.

Love,

Tommy

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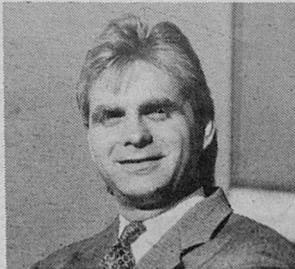
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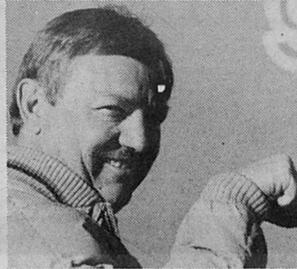
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'Triple L' Morning Team Tops



Jon Steele



Don Vanlandingham



Jane Prince-Jones

(cont. from pg. 1) the standard fare of music and of course, the all-important revenue-producing "commercial." The Corbins encouraged "personality", or more specifically, on-air interaction between the disk jockeys and their radio audience. As many folks remember, the early days of the station provided some of the most unexpected and often hilarious moments in Lubbock radio history. On-air conversation between the seemingly insane Don Bowman and a youthful Waylon Jennings are still talked about today.

Jay Richards, current Music Director, notes that "Triple L has always had its personality; it's always been an up-tempo station."

Interestingly enough, though it has always been a strong station in terms of audience, not until 1976 did KLLL first take the lead as the top-ranked country station. Up until that time, the leader in Lubbock was the AM veteran KDAV, which in fact has been credited by many to be the very first all-country radio station...anywhere. For the next half-decade, KLLL-FM jockeyed with several other stations, both AM and FM, as the top all-around rated radio station in the area eventually claiming a stronghold in the marketplace with the coming of the national "Urban Cowboy" craze in 1981. KLLL-FM showed an incredibly steady performance record throughout the decade only bowing from #1 to #2 in area rankings to the newly-formatted, contemporary hit radio FM version of KDAV (KRLB FM-99) for a period of eight ratings periods from the middle of the decade up until the fall of '88 when the station reclaimed the top spot.

Harris, who came aboard the KLLL boat in 1980 from crosstown AM powerhouse KSEL and who doubles as co-host Jon Steele of the top-ranked morning show team of "Jon, Don, & Jane" knows exactly where the station's success lies.

"The key to maintaining anything is consistency. The general public doesn't like drastic change; around here the changes are subtle. You've got a very conservative area here and people tend to resist quick turnover," he said.

Still, perhaps as much a key to the success of the station may be the oftentimes irreverent behavior of the various personalities. For instance, along with Steele, Don Vanlandingham and Jane Prince-Jones (who both came over from KSEL as well) concoct a top-heavy mix of mostly ad-libbed one-liners, skits, jokes, and (of course) news which in turn makes them the most-listened-to morning show in town.

"It's not always done that way because you can't just walk in and have something fresh. We really try to put time into coming up with new stuff; we try to prep something new each day for the following morning," Harris said.

As for the rest of the day, the philosophy is the same. Unlike many country-oriented stations across the nation, KLLL-FM continually strives to do something different. In short, if market share is its target, then "progressive country" is its calling card.

"Triple L has always been what I would call a 'high-energy' station," said Harris.

"Musically, we've tried to always be contemporary...while at the same time reaching and pulling in a large audience which includes the younger demographics with the new music."

New music. Key words indeed.

Certainly it would seem, if anything, "new music" has had as much effect on the continued success (and evolution) of the station as any other single element. While most country music stations rely on old stand-by hits to be the cornerstone of their playlist, a very different approach is taken by the KLLL bosses.

Music director Jay Richards points out that "if you go to Dallas for example, you're going to hear 40% "gold" (or "classic" country hits) and 60% "current"; at Triple L, you're gonna hear the opposite."

And then some.

Harris, in fact, says the station's consultant estimates the figure to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 70%, which would rank KLLL-FM as "one of the highest, if not first in the country" in that unique category.

It's certainly not surprising. One glance at the current roster of talent now residing on the national weekly country music charts shows an incredible trend toward fresh faces. Names like Garth Brooks, Randy Travis, Kathy Mattea, Shenandoah, and Clint Black to name but a few, have "replaced" many of the veteran stalwarts who for so long dominated the scene in general...not the least of which included radio station playlists. In fact, a quick scan of the current country charts would almost certainly leave many longtime fans wondering just where their "favorites" have seemingly "disappeared." Notable names from the not-so-distant past such as Merle Haggard, Janie Frickie, John Conlee...these represent only a handful of once easily-recognizable "hit" artists only a short while ago who now find it increasingly difficult to even make a noticeable showing on the charts amid the sea of new talent flowing out of Music City, USA, since about 1986.

In addition to his difficult role in selecting the music which is to be played on the airwaves, Richards points out that a major focus directly related to KLLL programming is organizing and carrying out the never-ending string of give-aways, promotions and community projects in which the station is involved.

"We're very promotion-oriented," he explained. "We always want to be there first and we want to do it best...no matter what we're doing; whether it's the Blood Drive or the money give-aways. Being Number 1 is our goal not only in Lubbock but even as far as our national advertisers. Coca-Cola doesn't listen to this station; they look at numbers."

That fact, of course, was not lost on judges at the annual Country Music Association (CMA) awards in 1989, where KLLL-FM was named second in the nation-wide competition for best station in the small market division. That strong showing, Richards says, has in fact inspired even greater progress for the station that makes "progressive country" its trademark. **WTS**

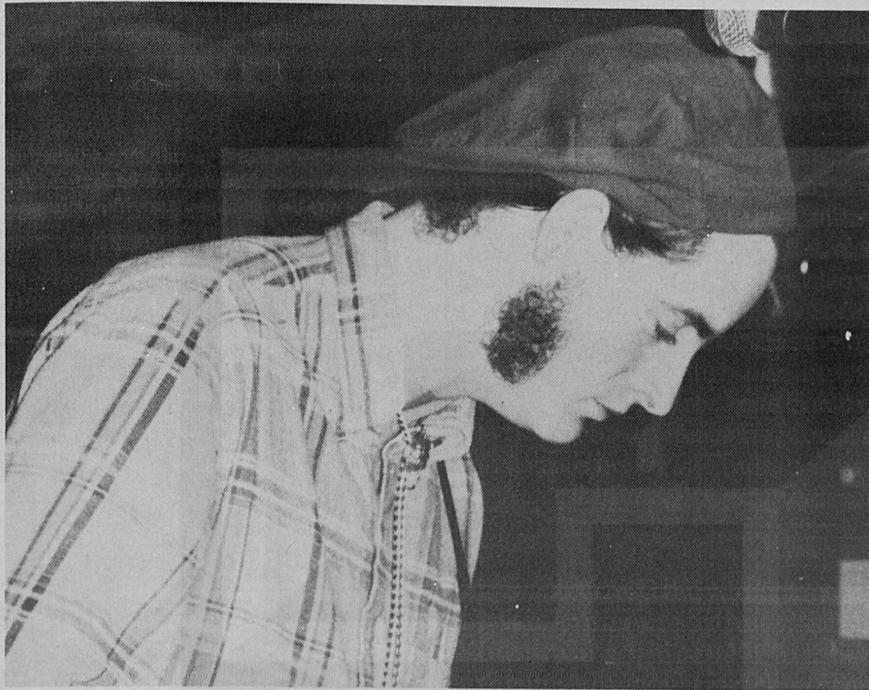
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank You...

Marnee, Cole Bleu, Joanna, Steve, Laike, Sheila, Skip, Buzz, Revis, Sally, Petra, Jessie G., Jesse R., Claudette, Thelma, Darlene, Walter, Earlene, Eric, Gloria, Olga, Charles Key, Becky, Southwest Plaza, KCBD, West Central Investment, Diane Hudgens, Hair By Diane, Chester Marston, West Texas Music Association, Tommy Politte, Jim Womack, Electric Ear, Miss Lubbock, Maid of Cotton, Mark Gilliam, Neebee Productions, Baxters, Blue Thunder, Mamarita's, Pac 'n' Mail, Fusion West, Robin Griffin, Bijou, KFMX, D.J. Belly & The Busboy, Donnie Allison, Hickory Nut, Great Scott's, Domino's Pizza & The Noid, Santa Fe Station, River Smiths, Firetruck from Tommy's Place, Santa Claus - Bobby McDowell, Lindsey's, D.B. Dynasty, Green Oaks, 'Tis Christmas, Aalon Salon, Designer's Group, Chez la Femme, Upper Room, Gazebo, Hair By Daniel, Football Celebrities and first of all, my heavenly Father... for being a wheel in the machine of makin' something happen in the "Hub!"

Landa Gamble-Jones

Caught In The Act...



Butchin' The Blues - John Sprott with ax in hand — Photo by Cat Crisp

JOHN SPROTT: One Thing Leads To Another

BY CAT CRISP

When you start out with a well-liked local band such as the Nelsons, you've got a head start. But when you branch off on your own, and in six months, everyone in town knows the new name, it's that unique sound and individual talent that gets you there.

John Sprott, who backs up Don Allison with the Nelsons, now heads up the Blues Butchers. The "B B's" as John likes to call them, have really turned some heads this year. A definite addition to the list of West Texas talent.

This band has one of those sounds you can't really put into a category. But on stage, their music jumps out at the audience and John is a real performer. John describes the "B B's" as 4/4 rock and roll with a unique twist here and there, a little "folkrock" and aggressive R & R mixed, to produce a "totally unexpected flavor."

The Blues Butchers are made up of three very powerful musicians: John Sprott, guitar and lead singer; Kevin Paul Mackey, drums; and Sean Frankhouser, bass. John started the "B B's" about six months ago, but started making guitar noises at the age of five. He's been surrounded by music all his life; With Mom on piano, Dad on vocals and the ukelele, big sister fifth chair alto, John had found his place, too. He still enjoys playing with the Nelsons, but has a strong desire to focus on the uniqueness of the music the "B B's" play.

Being a musician is a hard career to follow. You must be dedicated and your music a part of your soul. But as John put it, "certain things seem to happen when your heart's really in it. 'Little messages in life' that let you know you're headed in the right direction. Unexpected opportunities that help keep you in the thick of things." Such as, at 32, John has already been exposed to a good local band - The Nelsons; Farm Aid II - playing in front of thousands; songwriter J. D. Souther; Jimmy Page, and also with the Nelsons, the opening act for Jeff Healy at the Lone Star in Kansas City.

"Finding myself in the presence of such folks inspires me," says John. "Helps to keep me focused. I am always aware of my every move on stage. How it sounds, looks and feels."

John and Kevin have played together since around 1984. As John was creating the idea for the "B B's," he found Sean to be just what he needed to complete his three piece sound. And for three guys, this band is powerful and very entertaining (These musicians are totally committed to their music and it shines brightly on stage.)

Since I've been with West Texas Sound, I've come to realize the volume of talent we have in this area. Everything from "Buffalo Grass," to "Hot Jazz." Follow the Sound and we will keep you up on what's going down in the West Texas music world.

Readers...

As a new feature of West Texas Sound, we invite and encourage all readers to send in old photographs of notable (and not-so-notable) events from our area's musical past. Concerts, festivals, anything goes. All photos may be reclaimed by simply stating so on a separate card or letter. It's a great way to share the fun!

For this month's featured photo see pg. 5



"Do It
For Your
Hair"



Country Corner

BY SHANE WEST



Diffie onstage November 14 at Borrowed Money — Photo by Cat Crisp

Joe Diffie Hits 'Home'

For the better part of the 1980's, the best-kept secret in Nashville was a young, strong-voiced Duncan, Oklahoma, boy named Joe Diffie who possessed a voice akin to that of the greats. He recently became a member of a very elite group of singers who've notched a Number One hit with their debut single. In October, the sentimental song "Home" became only the second single in the past 15 years to attain the top position on the country charts.

"I feel extremely lucky to be where I am," he said after his recent Lubbock performance. "I've been singing most of my life and I know that the song is everything. There are a million singers who could have hit with that song. Randy Travis had it on hold for possible recording for almost a year before I was offered it."

Humble though he is about his success, when music biz execs heard him sing around Nashville four years ago, comparisons to folks like Lefty Frizzell and George Jones easily came to mind. Even so, while a long list of other new male performers (Travis and Keith Whitley to name but two other traditional-styled baritones) were ushered into studios and the spotlight soon thereafter, Diffie was content to ply his trade as the most in-demand demo singer in Music City. Along the way, he developed his songwriting skills as well, writing the recent No.1 hit "There Goes My Heart Again" for Holly Dunn.

"I really learned alot singing demos and spending time in the studio," he explained. "And if it weren't for Bob Montgomery (V.P. and A&R Director of Epic Records and a Lubbock native), I probably wouldn't be in the position I'm in. He got me to hang around long enough 'til it was my turn."

RHYTHM, RHYMES & ROYALTIES

BY CARY C. BANKS

"The Tumbleweed Christmas Tree"

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah, ya'll! What better way to celebrate the holiday season than through great music. Why do you suppose the same old Christmas tunes keep coming around year after year? It might well be argued that 'Tis the season to be sentimental," but while that may be a factor, I believe the great Yuletide tunes such as "White Christmas," "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer," and "Silent Night" remain popular year after year because, first and foremost, they are simple, timeless, and extremely well crafted songs. Anyone who's ever tried to write a new and original Christmas song quickly discovers "Tis no easy task." That is why I believe Andy Wilkinson's "Tumbleweed Christmas Tree" deserves our inspection.

The idea for the song was born following a conversation Andy and I had in which I asked him if he had an original Christmas song we could feature on the special West Texas Music Hour Christmas show (West Texas Music Hour airs each Sunday night at 8:00 pm on KLLL-FM radio 96.3 on the dial). The idea distilled into a story about a poor West Texas family and their attempts to celebrate Christmas by decorating a tumbleweed. The story is told, in reflection, through the eyes of a young boy.

There are so many elements of the song that are well written it would be hard to list them all but, like all good storytellers, Andy gives us, with just a few well chosen words -

Setting - "Christmas eve in No Trees Texas" where "Santa Claus was a rich kids saint and a poor kids dream." Oil patch poor and bleak!

Conflict - The proud father, too poor to buy his family a Christmas tree much less

any presents. "Daddy lived on good intentions . . . When he didn't have a sawbuck, he brought back a tumbleweed."

Resolution - The family comes together while decorating the tumbleweed and discovers the true meaning of the season. "It means love and it means lovin', it means money don't mean nothin'."

In addition to the wonderful story told here, the aspect of mysticism is not lost either. The underlying thread that runs through this song is HOPE, and the perseverance of the human spirit. Not only is the family drawn closer by the tumbleweed Christmas tree, it reaffirms the belief that something ugly can be made into something beautiful.

Andy's use of slang and West Texas vernacular give depth to the story and credence to the characters with lines such as "Sittin' on the sofa on the duct tape Naugahyde." The tune has a simple 2-beat country feel and the melody and instrumentation are kept sparse by design, to allow the listener to devote attention to the details of the story. (A glance at a Texas map reveals there truly is a town called Notrees, and a more fitting name for a West Texas town would be hard to find.)

An old songwriting axiom says, "Write what you know," and Andy Wilkinson certainly knows West Texas, its' people and its' soul. A master storyweaver, he gives us a little slice of West Texas life that we can all enjoy for a long time. Thanks, Andy.

"The Tumbleweed Christmas Tree" appears on Andy's "Texas When Texas Was Free" cassette and compact disc (Adobe Records Inc. P.O. Box W, Shallowater, Tx 79363) and can be found in fine record stores

throughout this area. Record was produced by Lloyd Maines.

Season's greetings all and PEACE!

**Lyrics reprinted with permission.

The Tumbleweed Christmas Tree

copyright 1989

D. A. Wilkinson

Caint Quit Music BMI

1) It was a rough year for a roughneck's children,
Hard times and harder livin'.
We moved when the rent come due
And it come due once a week.
That year in late December
Found us in an old house trailer.
West of Odessa in
A Town they call Notrees.

2) Too poor to pay attention
Daddy lived on good intentions
He wanted Christmas to be
Just what we believed.
He drove to town in the company
pickup
When he didn't have a sawbuck,
For the price of a Christmas tree
He brought back a tumbleweed.

Chorus:
Christmas eve in Notrees, Texas

Wind blowin' through the cactus
Santa Claus was a rich kids saint
And a poor kid's dream.
But I'd trade every fancy present
I ever got or ever will get
For the night of the Tumbleweed
Christmas Tree.

3) Daddy sat it on the dinette table.
Momma made a newsprint angel.
Ornaments of tin-foil scraps
Buttons on a string.
It took us all night to decorate it,
When we got done I'll have to say
that
It was the purtiest
Tumbleweed I'd ever seen.

4) The wind rocked the trailer like
a cradle
While we sang the Christmas carols
Sittin' on the sofa on the
Duct tape Naugahyde.
Daddy looked proud as a big city
banker
Momma tried hard to be thankful
But lookin' at the tumbleweed
She laughed until she cried.

5) I was just six goin' on seven
But bein' poor was an education.
That night I learned a lot
About just what Christmas means.
It means love and it means lovin'
It means money don't mean nothin'
It means a tumbleweed
Can make a Christmas tree.

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