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May 2018



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Greg Mastalerz

Interview and article
on page 7

From Cancer to Concert

CONCERT DETAILS

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Photo by
 Clem Spalding

Veteran Texas singer/songwriter Jim Chesnut
 was diagnosed with oropharyngeal cancer in June
 2017. Fortunately, the treatment he received at San
 Antonio's START Center has been successful. He
 has returned to public performance filled with
 gratitude and a newly discovered sense of purpose.

Jim will perform selections from his catalog of
 original music such as *Oklahoma Morning*, a
 Chesnut original recorded by Charley Pride in the
 mid-1970s.



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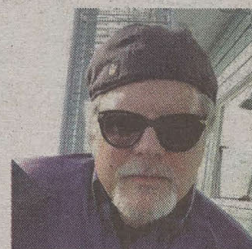
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'Bad' Bob Rohan 'fiddles' with Buffalo Gals

Bad Bob Rohan, the fiddling cartoonist whose Buffalo Gals strip has been running in Action for a number of years, is back with more artwork and a couple of books to boot.

The "Bad" in Bob's nickname is a misnomer; he's a good guy but a badass fiddler and cartoonist--hence the "Bad Bob" handle.

Here is a sample of Rohan's work,

plus a photo of the fiddling artist as he appears today.

Two volumes of Buffalo Gals are in book form. See ad in this issue of Action for order details.

Said Rohan: "I continue to play

the fiddle in the Texas area and I am currently working on my third volume of Buffalo Gals. I am playing at a restaurant in Fulshear, Texas with a fine singer/guitarist named John G.

Hamilton. Together we are a duo act of fiddle and guitar calling ourselves the *Honky Tonk Men*.

"I am also playing senior dances in Pasadena, Texas hosted by Randy

Meadows. Randy's father, Bucky Meadows, played with Willie Nelson for many years."

Rohan's Buffalo Gals cartoons will resume in future issues of Action Magazine.



Bob Rohan



BESS WINCHESTER HANDLES A CASE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT!!

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Texas Radio a real rock band with legendary status in S.A.

By Sam Kindrick

Except for some in South Texas, the Polish name Mastalerz might be a mind boggling tongue-twister.

But people don't readily associate Greg Mastalerz with his name. He is associated, instead, with a rafter rattling brand of rock-and-roll which has long defined San Antonio's longest running nightclub rock act.

Mastalerz's group Texas Radio came out of the garage for the first time in 1991 to open at the downtown La Semana Alegre for Omar and the Howlers followed by the Arc Angels. The crowd was estimated at 27,000, and Mastalerz had a following before he knew it. There followed skull orchard bookings all over the city, and an early day Action Magazine article on

Texas Radio which Mastalerz still displays in laminated form.

"We've had a long, good run, and I aim to keep it going as long as God provides me with the energy and the will," says Mastalerz. "One poll had us picked as the top rock band in San Antonio. I like that billing, and I will always bust my butt trying to live up to it."

Mastalerz is 57 now. He still doesn't carry an ounce of extra meat on his wiry frame. He is gaunt-faced, snaggle-toothed and hungry looking as a starving wolf, one of the best in the rock music business. He wears no makeup. He is sober and dope free, a vocalist with clear, powerful pipes, and a lead guitarist who can stretch the strings until they smoke and cry out for mercy.

A South San Antonio iron worker, welder, and metal fabricator when not playing music, Greg Mastalerz guides a sometimes hardscrabble gang of rockers who, over the years, have opened locally for the likes of Blue Oyster Cult, L.A. Gunns, Arc Angels, Omar and the Howlers, Lover Boys, and numerous others.

"I have always been blessed with some of the finest backup musicians the city has had to offer," Mastalerz said. "Those first band guys sort of found me. They had a band called The Automatics. They were looking for a dynamic front man who could sing and play guitar. So we joined forces and renamed the band Texas Radio. Each member wrote a suggested name on a slip of paper, and we had someone's girlfriend

draw the winner out of a hat. Texas Radio was the winner. We never even questioned who entered it. We have been Texas Radio ever since and I will always love those players and be grateful for the chance they provided me. Their photos all appeared in that first Action Magazine article. They were Robert Aguilar on keyboards, Robert Medrano on drums, Al-Medrano (no relation) on lead guitar, and Fred Glasco on bass."

Greg's current crop of fellow band members include guitarist J.J. Chapa, bassist Fred Polanco, and Fernando Lopez on drums.

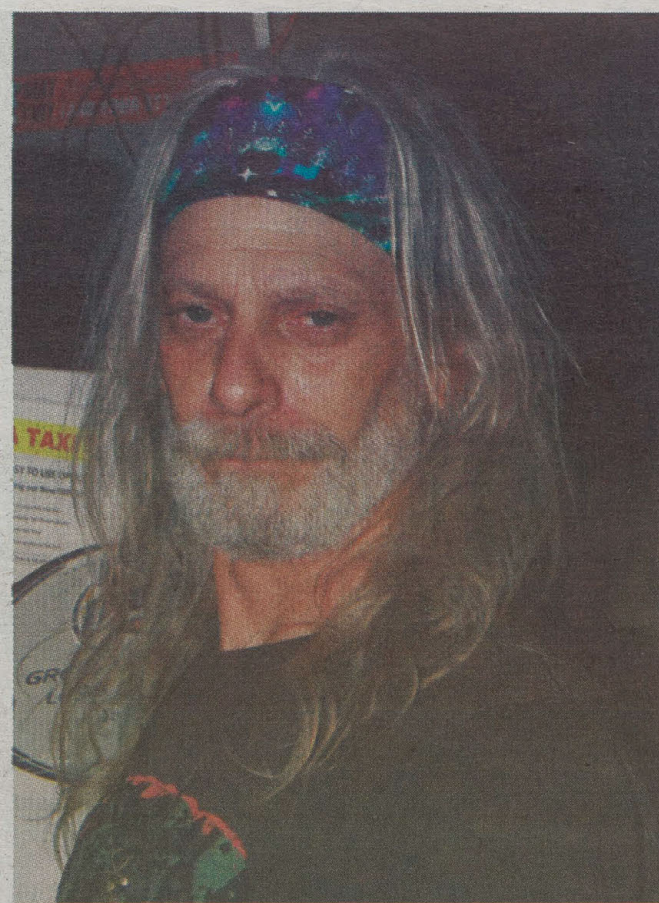
"J.J. has been with me for about 15 years," Mastalerz said. "We do a tandem lead guitar act that seems to work well."

Texas Radio plays all over, but now has regular gigs at Sir Winston's Pub on Nacogdoches Road (third Saturday of each month), and Booze Hounds on Perrin Beitel Road (first Friday of each month).

Greg Mastalerz is smart enough to cover the hot stuff now blaring on rock radio, a must for survival on any saloon circuit. But he is a creative cat who is always writing original material which he sandwiches in when the crowd seems most receptive. His lone cd contains 8 originals, all produced and engineered by Donny Meals and Steve Cureton at Meals' Editpoint Studios.

And just what do you reckon Greg named the record?

Turn on the Radio, what else?



Greg Mastalerz brought his Texas Radio group out of the garage in 1993, and says he has never looked back.

"I guess it is more of a demo at this stage than anything else," Mastalerz says. "I will never stop writing original material."

Mastalerz is a first generation American whose greatest vocal influences have been Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin and Paul Rogers of Bad Company. Guitar influences he lists are Jimmy Page, Billy Gibbons, Van Wilkes, and the late Chris Holzhaus of San Antonio, who played lead guitar with both Augie Meyers and Delbert McCClinton.

"Chris was a super talent, and I must not forget my mentor Jimmy Spacek," Greg said. "Jimmy has always been my blues guitar hero. And the list goes on and on. Gary Gabitch, Danny Cowen, and some I can't even recall right now."

Greg Mastalerz says he was a late arrival on the music scene, but ad-

mits that his talent for both music and showmanship seemed to come naturally.

"I say I'm a first generation American because that's what I am," Mastalerz said. "My folks came to this country from Poland. My dad Chester Mastalerz had been liberated from a concentration camp. (Greg's parents both passed in recent years). I started loving to entertain when I was just a little kid with the Krokoviak Polish Dance Group. We performed at the Polish American Center on Mission Road, a place where I still go for suppers now and then. I could rattle in Polish when I was little, and I can still speak the language."

Greg said he didn't own a guitar until he was 28. A graduate of Sam Houston High School in 1980, he got the itch to pick and sing while hanging out at

Continued on pg. 10



J.J. Chapa and Greg Mastalerz are lead guitar tandem in Texas Radio.

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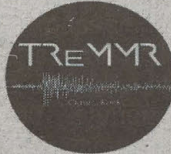
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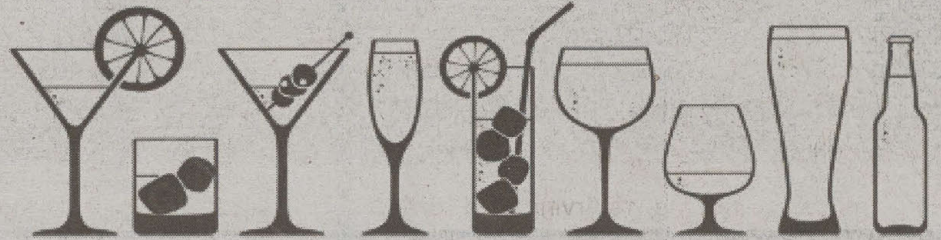
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Sam Kindrick



Some good Americans get their underwear in a bundle over President Donald Trump.

Some good Americans go ballistic over gun control or the lack of.

Then we have the immigration extremists. Some say bring them home and put them up in the spare bedroom; others advocate C.E.C. (Castigation, Extradition, and Castration).

Build the wall, asshole, and we will figure out how to pole vault over it. Or, better yet, dig under it like El Chapo.

Other good souls and residents of the USA just like to march. If they don't have a cause to march for, then they will find one to march against. If they don't have something right handy to march for or against, they will "sit in."

The "sit-inners" can be as troublesome as the marchers. They are sometimes difficult to dislodge, especially the tree hugger types.

But the hardest of the malcontents to figure are people like me. We represent a mentally stressed segment of the population that has grown to hate and despise television injury lawyers, especially those San Antonio area ambulance chasers who have hogged and defiled so much advertising space around the local newscasts.

Maybe we have brain damage that might have started with TV car salesmen.

For some indeterminate reason, all TV car salesmen think they have to shout. They have done this for years. Now we have the creep lawyers who bellow from the tops of 18-wheelers, wave sledgehammers at the TV audience, and all but leap out into living rooms with numerical exhortations which include hand signals and telephone numbers shouted in rapid-fire cadence.

Jeff Davis is the jowly legal jokester who now commands more TV advertising time than any other San Antonio lawyer.

Davis has the phone number comprised of all 4s. With an exaggerated sense of all-important urgency, he holds up 4 fingers and hollers: *Four! Four four four, four four. Fo-fo-fo-fo!*

Old Jeff is a true clown, but it's sad when one considers the real truth. Clowns can make big money. The circus is living proof. Davis and other injury lawyers of his ilk, make their livings suing or threatening to sue insurance companies. They garner thousands, even millions, for their clients and themselves, and their asinine antics on TV are devastatingly effective. They spend thousands on TV advertising for one reason and one reason only: It gets them clients and easy money, for the public has demonstrated for years what P.T. Barnum said many years ago: *There is a sucker born everyday and two born to take him!*

How any half-sane citizen with an 8th-grade education could possibly retain the services of an injury lawyer like Jim Adler is beyond the pale of reason and sane thought, yet Adler has been quoted as saying that his TV bluster has proven highly profitable.

Adler calls himself the "Texas Hammer." His TV commercials often picture him standing on top of 18-wheeler trucks.

"If you have been injured by a big truck, call me," Adler bawls.

My wife calls Adler "the old codger," but he confronts his TV audience like a geriatric John Henry with sledgehammer in hand, ready and willing to race a steam drill to the top of the hill, and win his clients untold thousands in lawsuits he hankers to file. Although he would probably have trouble hefting a croquet mallet, Adler bills himself as the "Texas Hammer," and he is unapologetic.

The longest running ambulance hustler on TV is Wayne Wright and his cadre of injury Howdy Doodles in 10-gallon cowboy hats. These monkeys are not drug-store cowboys. They are courtroom Yosemite men who wouldn't know a branding iron from a curling iron, but they have a singleness of purpose when it comes to pursuit of the insurance company buck.

Everyone knows that Wright has a history of collecting big bucks for clients who retain his services. And there are numerous other familiar injury lawyer faces on the tube today--Villarreal and Begum, Carabin Shaw, Fidel Rodriguez, Joe Gamez, and others.

Most of the big name criminal and civil attorneys prefer to remain away from TV advertising. Big guns like Alan Brown, A.L. Herndon, Roy Barrera Sr., etc., eschew cheap advertising gimmicks, relying instead on word of mouth.

Lawyers who save clients from prison, financial ruin, and the death chamber, don't need to wave hammers on television or spew digits of their phone numbers.

Brown and Herndon are both personal friends of mine, and I can never forget the late Beb Ladon, one-time Express and News legal expert who successfully defended me in two libel suits I incurred while writing for the newspaper in the 1970s.

But these high-dollar attorneys bear no resemblance to the "Texas Hammer" and his odious counterparts. And these TV legal turkeys were the last to be considered when Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings recorded their hit song *Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys* which went:

Mamas don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys;

Don't let them pick guitars and drive them old truck,

Make them be doctors and lawyers and such...

It sure ain't like it used to be when our parents ranked lawyers high on the ethics ladder with scientists and medical doctors.

I read somewhere that attorneys are on the very bottom of the list when professional people are rated for honesty, integrity, and common decency. Politicians don't rate high, either, and I believe that newspaper reporters hold an even lower position where public opinion is concerned.

I have ranted before about the TV hustlers.

How many people charged with capital murder would feel comfortable if they were on trial for their very lives with either Jeff (fo, fo, fo, fo, fo,) Davis or Jim (The Texas Hammer) Adler sitting first chair at the defense table?

I can't think of anything anymore frightening.

Plenty of mystery in San Antonio evolution

Editor's Note:

This is the first of a two-part article on the the mystical origins of San Antonio. We think it is more than fitting with the tricentennial now upon us.



Michael D. King

Part I

By Michael D. King

San Antonio is celebrating it's 300th Birthday in May, or is it?

We should always remember that paleontologists have found evidence of nomadic hunters and gatherers (Indians) living in the San Antonio River Valley for at least 10,000 years. The day the city got it's name, the Indians were here, living in a little Indian village near the headwaters of the river. The village was called Yanaguana.

But if we want to look at when San Antonio, a city of New Spain was born, we should begin at that beginning. The first time a European stepped foot in what is now Texas was in 1528. That's not three hundred years ago, that's 489 years ago. This is

when Spain's claims to Texas began.

Keep in mind that the City of Vera Cruz, Mexico also celebrates a birthday next year. It celebrates it's 500th birthday. Vera Cruz, just 700 miles to the South was here for 200 years when San Antonio was founded.

By the time New York City was founded by the Dutch, Vera Cruz was 100 years old. I think sometimes we in the US overlook Mexico and it's deep heritage and establishment.

We should always keep in mind that the mother country of Texas is not England, it's Spain and the mother tongue of Texas is not English, it's Spanish. And remember, when you are in conversation about "who we won our independence from, in the Revolutionary War", to a Texan, the answer is Mexico.

Getting back to the Tricentennial - it's really a broader usage of the word. If you want to celebrate the founding of San Antonio, there are three dates you could use:

June 13th, 1691 - The day the city and the river were named.

May 1st & May 5th, 1718 - The founding of the Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo) & the Presidio de San Antonio de Bexar - the military presence in San Antonio.

March 9th, 1731 - The arrival of the 55 Canary Islanders, the establishment of the Villa de San Fer-

nando and the 1st city government established here.

What the Spanish would do is send large expeditions into the frontier. The expeditions were called "Entradas". The entradas were a dual function expedition, part military and part Religious. There was always a military commander, in charge of the soldiers, and a Priest (Franciscan) in charge of the members of the Religious Order in the expedition.

The Franciscans would request that missions be established in a specific area and the Crown would support the enterprise by ensuring the military would be present to protect it. The thinking of the Crown was that the local Indians could become citizens of Spain by becoming Christian (Catholic) subjects and then at the same time learn the culture of Spain. The idea of a separation of Church and state was foreign to the Spaniards.

If you were a good Spanish citizen, you were a devout Catholic. If you were a Good devout Spanish Catholic, you were a good citizen - the two went hand in hand. While the military and the Religious did not always get along, the myth of conquering Spanish Conquistadors brutalizing and enslaving local populations of Indians simply did not occur in Texas. By 1690, the Spanish crown were worried about the

French encroaching into New Spain from the East.

In 1685, much by unfortunate accident, the French explorer LaSalle had landed and set up a fort in Texas, a few miles from Matagorda Bay (about 20 miles East of present Victoria, Texas) though it did not survive and several French survivors were found living among the Indians of East Texas. Keep in mind, neither the French nor the Spanish knew where the French Fort had been established and it was looked for in several of the entradas. The remains were finally found and burned to the ground.

This fort is one of the key factors to San Antonio being founded when it was.

We are fortunate to have the diaries of these two leaders of the expedition.

During an entrada in 1691 we find the following:

Father Damiano Massanet wrote in his diary on June 13, 1691:

"On this day, there were so many buffaloes that the horses stampeded and 40 head ran away. These were collected with the rest of the horses by hard work on the part of the soldiers. We found at this place the rancheria of the Indians of the Payaya nation. This is a very large nation and the country where they live is very fine. I called this place San Antonio de Padua, because it was his day. In the language of the Indians is

called Yanaguana....

"I ordered a large cross set up [on the 14th], and in front of it built an arbor of cottonwood trees, where the altar was placed. All the priests said mass. High mass was attended by Governor Don Domingo Teran de los Rios, Captain Don Francisco Martinez, and the rest of the soldiers.... The Indians were present during these ceremonies.... Then I distributed among them rosaries, pocket knives, cutlery, beads and tobacco. I gave a horse to the captain [the Payaya chief]."

Domingo Teran de los Rios, the leader of the expedition, mentioned above by Father Massanet, also wrote an account of the discovery and naming of the place:

"On the 13th, our royal standard and camp moved forward in the aforesaid easterly direction. We marched five leagues over a fine country with broad plains -- the most beautiful in New Spain. We camped on the banks of an arroyo, adorned by a great number of trees, cedars, willows, cypresses, osiers, oaks, and many other kinds.

"This I called San Antonio de Padua, because we had reached it on his day. Here we found certain rancherias in which the Payaya nation live. We observed their actions, and I discovered that they were docile and affectionate, were naturally friendly,

and were decidedly agreeable toward us. I saw the possibility of using them to form reducciones [Indians submitting to mission life] -- the first on the Rio Grande, at the presidio, and another at this point."

Finally, 27 years later, in 1718, an expedition led by Don Martin de Alarcon, Governor of Coahuila y Texas, reached this same area. Keep in mind, by this time San Antonio had already been named and was on maps distributed by the Spanish. It should be noted, again and again the Spaniards commented on the docility of the indigenous peoples of Texas and how open they were to the idea of Christianity.

On May 1st, 1718, Father Antonio Olivares, a Franciscan missionary, established the mission of San Antonio de Valero which had been founded by the governor "about three-fourths of a league down the creek" from the presidio. The Mission was finally moved to it's present location, where the Alamo is now, in 1724.

Four days later, on May 5th, 1718 - The Presidio de San Antonio de Bexar was founded, establishing the Crown's military presence in San Antonio.

In 1720 a second mission was established along the San Antonio River, Mission San Jose Y San Miguel de Aguayo (diminutively known as Mission San Jose). This mission which would come to be called the

Continued on pg. 13

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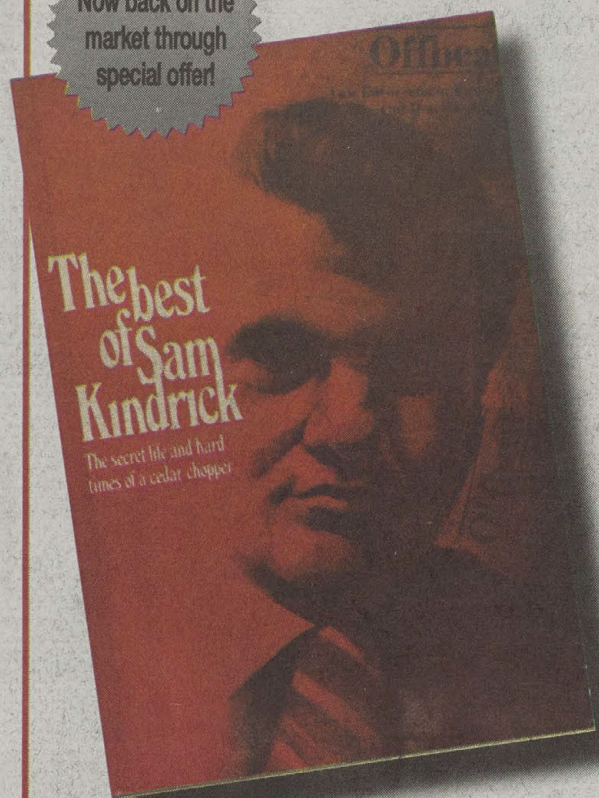
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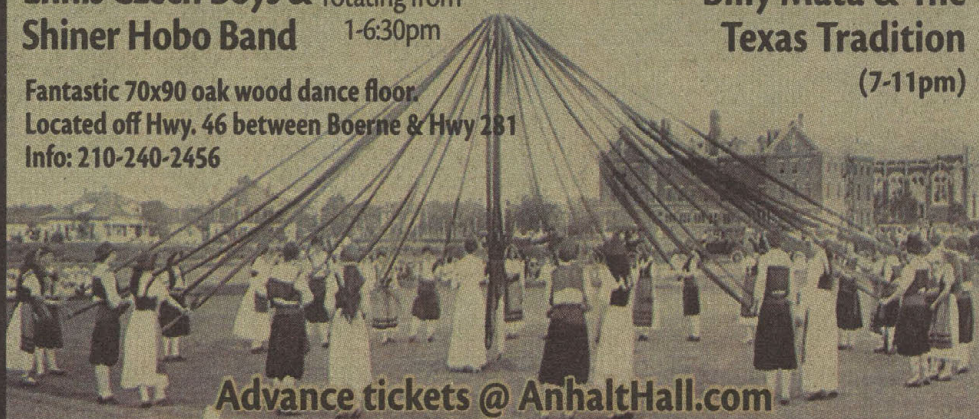
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EVERYBODY'S SOMEBODY IN ACTION MAGAZINE



Texas Radio continued from pg 4

Malcolm Bell's old Knave Pub on Austin Highway.

"They were having amateur contests and open jams and I just wanted to be a part of it. So I got me a guitar and started teaching myself by listening to the radio," Mastalerz recalled. "If someone had told me 25 years ago that I would still be fronting a band and playing in clubs, I would have told them they were crazy. I guess it's what God wants for me. I love this life and I have since the beginning."

Twice divorced and with no children, Mastalerz lives with a girlfriend and works as a self-employed welder and metal fabricator.

He said he can do anything that has to do with iron and steel.

"And I have worked in just about every live music bar in San Antonio, some long gone and some still standing," Mastalerz recalls. "No rock band has been around as long as Texas Radio. And our alumni list is all but endless. Everybody has worked with Texas Radio at one time or another it seems. Jeff Doyle was once a Texas Radio guitarist. He is playing now with Wayne Wilson and the Bad Boys, all good friends of mine. And some of our guys have gone on to bigger and better things. Donnie Van Stavern was a Texas Radio bassist who went on to join the group Riot which is now in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The list seems endless."

Greg Mastalerz said the band name Texas Radio might have been a misnomer at first.

"I think some of them assumed we were a country band," Greg laughs.

"They were showing up in cowboy boots and poodle skirts, all prepared for a little country two-stepping. I know we must have scared hell out of some of them."

Recalling the string of joints Texas Radio played, Greg remembers Dawn Sahn, daughter of the late Doug Sahn, managing the bar and booking Texas Radio in the old Yosemite Sam's Club.

"She didn't take any shit off any of them," Mastalerz laughs. "A really strong lady."

He recalls playing the old St. Mary's Strip during its booming heyday.

"We were in Salute, Crazy Horse Saloon, Tycoon Flats, and St. Mary's Brewing Co.," he said. "And we played every club on the South Side. We played Frank Mueller's Trap, and we played for every club owner and every club name which was once at the Brooks Pub location, which is now owned and operated by Linda Reese and Rob Brewer and managed by Cindy Bonds, another great lady we have been associated with throughout the years. Linda and Rob are the greatest of people. You have to love club owners like these."

The South Side of San Antonio has always been a hotbed for rock music, and Texas Radio has always been ready to meet the demand.

"We do everything from late-60s rock to the current hits," Mastalerz said, continuing: "Check Jack FM and 99.5 playlists and that's us. Everything from Led Zeppelin to Aerosmith to Alice In Chains. We run the gamut."

Like most practitioners of live music, Greg Mastalerz says he "despises" karaoke.

"I don't despise the

people who do it, I despise the onset in general," Greg said. "San Antonio has always enjoyed a reputation as a bastion for great live music. Now I think we may be losing ground to karaoke, which I believe is stealing away the venues we need to make a living. I want to be one of the local musicians who does his part in trying to reverse the trend."

Mastalerz continued: "I have never played music for personal gain, for booze, for dope, or for women. I have always played music for the pure joy I get out of doing something that is creative and a joy for others. I do charity work every year playing for Gypsy Motorcycle Club benefits for the poor. I have contributed to Toys for Tots and the Battered Children Center. I try to always raise my hand when asked for help."

Ask to reveal the underpinnings of his band's longevity, Mastalerz said:

"We work at it. I don't want people who hire us to believe they have to babysit the band. We know what to do. We bring a maximum load of gear, loading in and loading out faster than the bands that bring the smallest amount of gear."

"We bring lights, sound, a full PA. And we don't act like a bar band. We are a concert band on a smaller scale. I want every single customer in the house to leave one of our shows feeling like they have just been to a miniature concert."

Greg Mastalerz thought about this mouthfull, and then he added: "I want people to leave with a little bit of greatness ringing in their ears."



Greg Mastalerz and Texas Radio are mainstays at Sir Winston's Pub.

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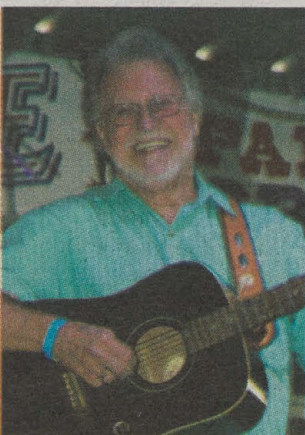
Jerry King sendoff

Country radio legend Jerry King will be honored with a retirement party on Saturday May 6 at Texas Pride Barbecue.



Jerry King

Scheduled to play the event are Darrell and Mona McCall, George Chambers, Bobby Flores, Billy Mata, Bimbo and Borderline, and Virgil Hoy.



Darrell McCall



Mona McCall

King is retiring after five decades in country music radio, the last 43 of them at KKYX.

The Texas Pride show will run from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.



George Chambers



Bobby Flores

Known to his listening audience as Cousin Jerry King, the veteran disc jockey and former station music director is enormously popular in San Antonio and across the AM station's vast listening area of South and South-Central Texas.

King has been known to pick and sing a little himself, and his rapport with country musicians is accented by the fact that it was King who played a George Strait record for the first time on a Texas radio station.



Billy Mata

Strait fans all recall that first recording, a tune called *Unwound*.

The 72-year-old King said: "It's been a wonderful career. This is where the cowboy rides away with gratitude for the great professionals I have worked with throughout my 53 years in radio."

King has been inducted into the San Antonio Radio Hall of Fame, the Texas Radio Hall of Fame, and the Country Music Radio DJ Hall of Fame.

Bad Boys back

Wayne Wilson and his Bad Boys band returned to action last month with a rousing show at Sir Winston's Pub.



Wayne Wilson

Winston's owner Susan Dinn said the place was as packed as it gets, and vocalist Wilson was in rare

form as he rocked the crowd with old favorites plus new material which the group has long been known for.

Familiar faces on the bandstand with Wilson were the Doyle twins, Jeff on guitar and Jerry on drums. Chris Watkins is the bass player who writes a lot of the band's original material.



Jeff Doyle



Jerry Doyle



Chris Watkins

Of the Doyles, Wilson said: "We had played together for over 30 years, but it has been over 10 years since we last shared a stage. I think we had to let some time pass to heal old wounds and realize we still had some gas in the tank, that there is unfinished business and unplayed songs. We just decided that pissing and moaning over the past was just a waste of precious time. Besides, we're really all family...underneath all the bickering, we love each other."

Jeff Doyle, incidentally, once played guitar with Greg Mastalerz and Texas Radio, the cover article in this issue of Action.

Kaiti for anchor

With veteran meteorologist Steve Browne retiring from KSAT-TV next month, the station now has a chance to do something bold, new, and refreshing.

That something would be to name newcomer Kaiti Blake the 10 p.m. weather anchor to replace Browne.

It probably won't happen, since the powers that be at KSAT likely favor nerdy little 5 p.m. weather man Adam Caskey, but Blake would do more for the late weather show than any other meteorologist on the KSAT payroll, including Caskey with his cornball homemade thermometers.



Kaiti Blake

Kaiti is a rare one, stone fox in the class with ABC's Ginger Zee.

Blake is just a kid, but she is a kid who would likely excel and eventually make the KSAT big boy come through like geniuses at ratings time.

Not only is Kaiti Blake prettier than any other female weathercaster in town, she is poised and polished with weather knowledge far beyond her years.

We googled up the Kaiti Blake bio to learn that she graduated from Texas Tech in 2014 with a bachelor of science degree in geosciences, and from Mississippi State in 2016 with a masters in meteorology.

She worked at stations in Mississippi and Abilene, Texas before landing her current job with KSAT.

Born and raised in the Houston area, she was weather geek whose parents enrolled her in weather camp when she was in middle school.

Continued on pg. 14

Hand jobs are always best

It is said that hand-cranked ice cream is best.

Not sure it has been said?

Well, now it has.

Hand-cranked ice cream is best.

C.A. Stein may have proved me wrong, however. I'm including a photo of him tending to a Rube Goldberg-ish device that blends old technology with even older technology.

See, he rebuilt a 1927 McCormick-Deering single cylinder, gasoline powered, 4-stroke, still-chuggin' engine and

hooked it to a crank-by-hand ice cream maker.

Of course, he could never stray away very far with his oil can, or the whole thing might 'freeze up'. But this way his crankin' arm wouldn't cramp.

Sorry. Couldn't resist that one pun.

Anyway, I was tune croonin' one Saturday afternoon recently for some fellow Methodists from my church, Oak Island United Methodist, when I met Mr. Stein and his somewhat portable ice cream factory.

He also rebuilds antique tractors. Interesting fellow ...

Even though, biological splitters might say it wasn't truly hand-cranked ice cream, the biological lumpers would surely disagree, because the outcome was the same, yummy, homemade ice cream (the best thing to ever happen to Carnation milk, except, of course eating it right out of the can).

I am telling this story to make a point; technology doesn't have to destroy tradition like it appears to have done with modern radio. In the 'hand-crankin' days of radio, DJs would sit at a desk and crank out the tunes with the intent of making listeners happy. They, the DJs, would offer interesting stories to augment the listening experience.

By the time you read this, Jerry King, the KKYX morning DJ, will have retired after 43 years with the station. King, elected to the Country Music Hall

of Fame a few years back, will likely be missed by throngs of South Texas listeners, many of whom grew up listening to the banter of Bill Rohde, Pat Tallman and Max Gardner on the 50,000 watt powerhouse AM station.

Although some local stations continue to offer remnants of the hand-cranking days that have long passed, most of today's terrestrial radio airtime is filled with automated sameness that doesn't seem to need much 'oil canning' to keep it running. I'm not even sure many people would give a shit if they did 'freeze up'.

Why am I whinin' so much about the hand-crankin' days?

Because I miss 'em.

I got my start in music at KOYL-AM, a country music daytimer in Odessa, Texas. Lee Alexander was the morning guy with a commanding voice who could regale listeners with tales of elbow-rubbing with the likes of Wayon Jennings and Willie Nelson. I sounded like Gomer Pyle compared to that guy.

Anyway, I moved to Austin after a year and signed on with KVET-AM, where I worked flexible shifts on the air, and engineered the Arleigh Duff Show. Duff wrote the mega-hit, Y'all Come, thus introducing me to song-



This is not Rube Goldberg. It's C.A. Stein and his motorized ice cream machine.

writing. He was amazing! Brash, but amazing.

While on the air, he once called the Whitehouse in Washington to speak with President Johnson. When told Johnson couldn't take the call, he replied, "And, why not? I am a tax-payer from Austin, Texas, and last I checked, he works for me."

That didn't work.

Except for talk-radio,

that kind of hand-crankin' rarely happens on music-playing radio stations these days.

What we need is someone like C.A. Stein to blend the older and newer technologies in broadcasting to maximize the value of radio to listeners.

Well, that's enough whine for today. Now pass me some homemade ice cream, and get me the president on the phone.

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Mystical Origins continued from pg 7

Queen of the Missions was established by a remarkable Franciscan named Venerable Antonio Margil de Jesus.

There were of course hundreds of devout and dedicated Franciscans who carried on the apostolic work of the missions of Texas, some martyred by Comanches, some Franciscans, like Blessed Juniepero Serra (The Apostle of California), are better known than others. But Margil, who was born in 1657 and died in 1726, left Valencia, Spain as a young man, never to return. He founded more missions than Serra. Margil founded Missions from Guatemala to East Texas. He always traveled on foot, usually barefoot.

Imagine walking from Central America to East Texas, much of it without roads, barefoot. He was noted to sleep no more than four hours per night, rising in the middle of the night to pray. He practiced corporal mortification, never took siesta, fasted constantly and was tremendously effective in his missionary activity. He was someone we should remember.

The year 1731 was a very big year for San Antonio. Three additional missions, Concepcion, San Juan & Espada were all moved to the San Antonio River Valley.

The Spaniards, as seen, were remarkable missionaries, but not so remarkable as colonizers. The one exception in all of Texas happened on March 9, 1731 when 55 colonists originating 5,000 miles away, across the vast Atlantic Ocean and a 700 mile overland journey from Vera Cruz Mexico. The 55 Canary Islanders, joining what military families and Indian converts who lived in the area formed the first city government in San Antonio. The government established its headquarters at the Presidio. The "Villa" established by the Crown was to be known as the "La Villa de San Fernando". The bluest blood in modern day San Antonio are the descendants of these original 55 Canary Islanders.

All of the Canary Islanders, being Catholic, were happy that finally on May 11, 1738, the cornerstone was laid for their new parish church. This simple church was originally and briefly called the parish of Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria y Guadalupe, after the patroness of the Canary Islands and the Blessed Virgin, but by the time construction began, it was officially named San Fernando after St. King Ferdinand III of Castile, a 13th-century Spanish king. King Ferdinand was canonized in 1671.

San Fernando had humble beginnings as a little parish church in one of the most remote locations imaginable. But as the city grew, so did San Fernando and her importance. She would eventually become the oldest Cathedral in the United States, after much, much history had passed. San Fernando is the oldest parish church in Texas. In many ways San Fernando has been a party to more history than any other place in the United States. As a parish church, James Bowie and Ursula de Vera-mendi were married here. The Texian forces who battled and routed General Martin Perfeto de Cos, in 1835 did so in the plaza in front of San Fernando - Ben Milam died close to there. El Presidente Lopez de Santa Anna raised the flag of "No Quarter" from its bell tower and the dome and sanctuary of this church are actually decades older than the Alamo or any of the other four mission churches in San Antonio. Up until modern times, the center of the dome of San Fernando was where all measurements to and from San Antonio would be taken from - it truly is the City Centre.

In 1869 the beautiful church we enjoy today was built "around" the existing church. The tabernacle of San Fernando is where it has always been,

since 1738; 279 years ago. In 1874, the Diocese of Galveston was split, San Antonio became a diocese and San Fernando became a Cathedral. Then, in 1926, San Antonio became a metropolitan Archdiocese.

There have been well over 100,000 baptisms in San Fernando. San Fer-

nando has survived terrible fires, acts of vandalism, witnessed wars, revolutions, battles. San Fernando has witnessed the Church cooperating with the Villa de San Fernando, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, the State of Texas, US Federal Government, Confederate government, the

government of the Republic of Texas, the United States of Mexico and the Royal Spanish government. Perhaps San Fernando's greatest day came on Sept. 13, 1987 when The Holy Father, Pope St. John Paul II visited the venerable church.

Next month: Part II: The Lady in Blue.

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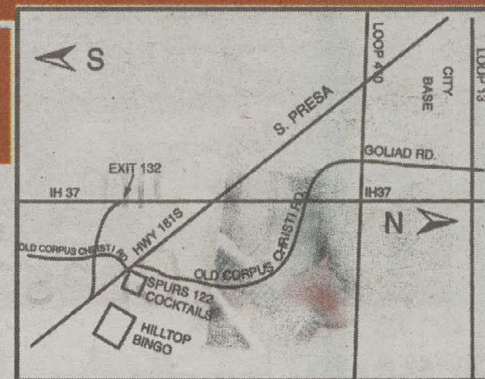
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Country star Johnny Bush

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Scatter Shots

continued from pg 11

She likes her cat, animals in general, and the great outdoors, all qualifications for taking over Browne's' popular 'Crittter Cam' birds, beasts, bugs, and fishes feature which he uses to close out many weathercasts.

And if KSAT's brass-

hats did have the brains to let their viewers pick Steve's successor, Kaiti Blake would be the slam-dunk winner.

If KSAT doesn't treat her well, Kaiti Blake will soon be gone for bigger and better things. Like a network job.

Cajun Fest

The Medina Lake Cajun Festival keeps on

rolling out the good times, bringing the music, food and culture of Louisiana to the Texas Hill Country for fun the whole family can enjoy.

It has been announced that this year's blowout will be Saturday September 22 at the Lakehills Civic Center at Medina Lake.

Visitors can listen and dance to topnotch

Louisiana Cajun and Zydeco music, taste the best homemade Cajun food this side of Louisiana, and sample gumbos in the Great Gumbo Cook-off.

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