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Concho Valley Life Variety

Is Billy coming to Texas?

FREDERICKSBURG — As appearance by the cast of the television show *Carter Country*, a star-studded musical lineup, the best food this side of the Red River, h-and-made wares exhibited by some of the best Texas craftsmen and artists and the best of parade you can imagine will all highlight activities at the three-day "Great World's Fair", which begins Friday at Fredericksburg's Gillespie County Fairgrounds.

And, fair promoters seem to believe there is a distinct possibility Billy Carter will show up.

Remember the World's Fair held at Lockenbach each year? Well, this is the same shindig with a different name and location.

This Fredericksburg fete has just about every kind of event one could think of. A prime example of this is the music — the talent lined up for this year's musical entertainment is impressive.

Austin songstress Marcia Ball, backed by her band *The Misery Brothers*, will perform for the crowds, as will San Marcos' Kent Finley and the High Cotton Express. Also on hand will be fiddle wizard Alvin Crow, also from Austin.

According to Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce manager Judie Schofield, music fans could be treated with a visit from a surprise guest. "Jerry Jeff Walker might show up. We just don't know for sure right now," she said.

Music isn't the only drawing card at the fair — matter of fact, it's not even the primary attraction.

There will be arts and crafts booths set up on the county fairgrounds site, manned by the state's outstanding potters, painters, weavers, leymakers, silversmiths, blacksmiths, sculptors, quilters, leather workers, horse shoers, soap makers and whittlers.

There will be puppets of all shapes and sizes, an Antique Show and Sale, country dancing, square dancing and dancing by the world champion Kiowa Indians.

Add to that polkas and waltzes, Mariachis and marching bands, oompah bands, the Fredericksburg Rinderfest and an old-fashioned Medicine Show.

Included in the contest portion of the fair will be Hot Air Balloon races, dominoes, checkers, washer pitchin', rattlesnake races, "thoroughbred" armadillo races, marker shooting, husband calling, buffalo chip tossin', the Hondo Crouch Memorial Tobacco and Watermelon seed-spitting contest and the Intergalactic National Chicken Flying Contest — featuring Kooch and fellow *Carter Country* stars Victor French and Kene Holliday pitted against the real-life police force of Plains, Ga.

And don't forget the parade.

"The best parade in the world," bragged Ms. Schofield.

"... the greatest parade since Caesar's triumphant march into Rome," noted Kooch.

Starting time for the parade is 10 a.m. Saturday.

There will be a fee charged for people to get inside the fairgrounds each day, according to Ms. Schofield. "It will cost $4 for adults and $1 for children," she said. "This will cover everything but your food and drinks."

Gates at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds will open at noon each day and activities will conclude each day about 1 a.m.

"They're talkin' about filming the whole fair and then showing it later on television," concluded Ms. Schofield.

"We hope everyone will come be with us this weekend," said Kooch. "to help make the 1978 Great World's Fair another smooth, grassy meadow in the forest of your dreams."

Fandangle featured in Albany

ALBANY (TNS) — The Fort Griffin Fandangle has been set for June 15-17 and June 22-24 in the outdoor theater on the Fandangle grounds located northwest of the Albany city limits.

Fandangle is the name of the show which the people of Albany have presented every summer or so beneath the stars of the Texas sky since 1938. The show is a unique blend of the wild west and ballet, fantasy and realism. The show is a community project, with the local people acting in, staging and producing the Fandangle.

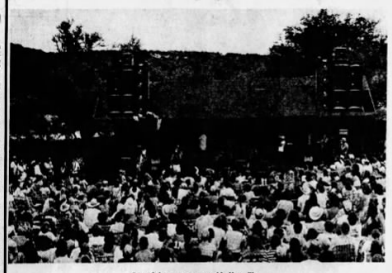
With cowboys on horseback, covered wagons, a stagecoach, Indians, authentic costumes and sets, singing, dancing and acting, the show re-creates the look and feel of time long past. The Fandangle seeks to bring history as it lingers in the minds of the Old Timers.

The insignia of the Fandangle is a fiddle and bow superimposed upon the head of a longhorn steer. The steer signifies the memory of a pioneer past. The fiddle and bow represent the music and merriment to be created in the hearts of the viewers.

A special parade will be held at 6 p.m. June 22 in downtown Albany. A barbecue precedes each performance on the Courthouse Lawn. Prior to each performance a calliope concert is performed at the Fandangle grounds. A calliope is a steam powered organ.

West Texas songwriter Doak Snead entertained

An afternoon sing-along backstage



Part of the concert crowd in Kerrville

Kerrville Fest made to please

By GREG DENSMORE
Staff Writer

KERRVILLE — The 1978 Kerrville Folk Festival, held over the Memorial Day Weekend at Rod Kennedy's Quiet Valley Ranch, was a genuine success.

It wasn't always that way. For the first five years — from 1972 through 1976 — the festival lost money. When Memorial Day Weekend rolled around, something would always happen. Like it would rain for all four days, or the bridge would wash out or something just as bad.

It must have been somewhat disheartening for Kennedy, a former Austin night club owner, to operate in the red for those first fledgling years.

But finally Kennedy's persistence paid off. The 1977 festival actually made money. And the 1978 festival? Well, festival director and entertainer Steve Fromholz had a few words to say about this year's extravaganza.

"Absolutely, this was the biggest one yet," smiled festival director and singer Steve Fromholz as he stood backstage.

Kennedy, concert announcer as well as festival producer, let the crowd know it midway through the final night of performances.

An aide of Kennedy's walked onto the stage, a bottle of champagne in hand. He draped his arm around Kennedy and g ured a little into a glass.

"You trying to tell me something?" asked Kennedy, a wide grin on his face. "You trying to tell me we're in the bl ck?"

The aide nodded and the crowd cheered as Kennedy toasted them with the glass.

Yep, it was a real humdinger.

There are many factors which could be accredited with the festival's success. The weather was nice, advance publicity was more widespread and Kennedy, as usual, ran a well-organized show.

But the deciding factor had to be the talent — the entertainers who drew record audiences each night.

People like Colorado folk singer Dan McCrimmon, the legendary Jimmy Driftwood, fiddle genius Alvin Crow or Texas rocker Joe Ely. Add acts like barrel-house piano player Robert Shaw, the duo of Bill and Bonnie Hearne, Gary P. Nunn of the Lost Gonzo Band, country-folk balladeer Townes Van Zandt, in his best form, and the always popular Guy Clark, who took a quick break from a Nashville recording studio to perform.

Other noted musicians and singers on the bill included Bobby Bridger, Don Sanders, Rusty Weir, Fromholz, Delbert McClinton and Milton Carroll.

Kennedy, during Friday night's performances, said it best. "There are just bunches of good music all over here," he said. "I wanna tell you that Texas music is alive."

There were some surprises, like when rodeo king Larry Mahon appeared with Carroll's band or when Bronte's own Doak Snead captivated an audience of several thousand folks during his opening set the last night of music.

Yarrow, Moeller and Nelson were all sorely missed but with the lineup that remained, it wasn't that big a loss.

Kennedy must believe in saving the best for last because the last night's concert was the grandest of them all.

It was a night for the songwriters and for the balladeers and most of all, it was a night for the "folkies" — those bona-fide lovers of folk music who, for the most part, had camped the entire four days on the festival grounds and who had endured the heat, the crowded conditions, and even scorpions and spiders to enjoy a few hours of their kind of music.

The crowd waited patiently for the show to begin. The sun, which has roasted the crowd throughout the festival, had been covered with a thick layer of clouds, and for once, the weather was cool.

"And now, here's a young man who's been paying his dues for quite a while," Kennedy announced. "Ladies and gentlemen, a big warm welcome for Doak Snead!"

It's been quite a transition for Snead. Some three years ago, he was the leader of a five-man, country-rock-jazz band from Austin, touring the countryside with heavy success. He threw all that away, moved back to his hometown Bronte and changed his sound, opting to perform as a single.

He had been trying to play at Kerrville for five years. Persistence finally paid off and Kennedy asked him to appear in the 1978 show. Snead didn't disappoint anyone.

He was supposed to warm the crowd but he did more than that. Snead has always had a good rapport with crowds and this night was no exception. In his quiet, humorous manner he led the 2,000 or so folks through his set, weaving his stories in his musical loom.

For Snead's last tune, he brought up friends Frank Delvi, Rich Minus, George Ensley and Lindsey Haisley to help sing a Woody Guthrie tune *So Long It's Been Good To Know You*.

He got quite an ovation as the crowd demanded an encore.

Ol' Snead's smile was as wide as the Mississippi as he came back for more.

And the whole night was like that.

Allen Damron, joined by newcomer Vicki Fowler, singing old folk tunes, the crowd singin' along. Singer Mike Williams after them with the same results. Like I said, the air was electrified. The stars must have been right or something. It was a magical night.

David Amram, New York-based composer and musician — described by Kennedy as a "remarkable genius" provided the only real shift from basic folk music.

His music — I guess you could call it Latino-Africano folk-jazz — was nonetheless effective. Amram is a master of music instruments. I mean he can play anything and play it very well.

Joined by Texas songwriter Gary P. Nunn and the *Kerrvilleires*, a thrown together bunch of singers and musicians which included Bobby Bridger, Haisley, Donny Dolan and Noel Escue, Amram completely mystified the crowd.

Combining such unlikely instruments as a French Horn, autoharp, slide trombone, flutes, piano, Indian War Drum, Amram had gypsies had the audience on their feet, swaying and singing to the beat.

After Amram's set, the crowd was drained. But they revived when the North Texas folk duo of Aileen & Elkin hit the stage. Again the crowd was treated to an excellent performance.

By the time legendary folk singer Tom Paxton stepped into the lights, the weather had turned sour. It was beginning to sprinkle as some of the crowd began to leave.

Paxton turned back the clock. It was the 60s once again as Paxton sang *Drafteulogy Rag* and *Talkin' Vietnam Blues*. The crowd was dead silent as he sang, the only sounds you could hear were the raindrops as they splattered here and there.

Paxton sang other great folk tunes, including *The Last Thing On My Mind* and *May The Circle Be Unbroken* and it wasn't too hard to see why he was the only performer to rate two encores. Paxton is held in reverence by folk fans.

Rain had steadily been getting harder and when the last act walked on stage, not many fans were left in the theater.

By the time John Vandiver and the Shake Russell Band were halfway through their set, the rain was flooding the countryside. But there were still some fans — about 100 of them under tarps and umbrellas — who wanted to hear the music. Vandiver and crew did just that.

In the future . . . around the state

MONDAY

9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. — Stitchery display, North Angelo Branch Library.
9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. — Veribest Quilting display, Angelo West Branch Library.

TUESDAY

9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. — Stitchery display, North Angelo Branch Library.
9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. — Veribest Quilting display, Angelo West Branch Library.
7 p.m. — Tom Green County Unit of the American Cancer Society annual meeting and banquet at the River Club. Dr. E. R. Franks of Iraan will be guest speaker.
8 p.m. — Opening of San Angelo Civic Theatre's production of "Stalag 17" at Nasworthy Playhouse. Reservations may made by phoning 949-3044. Festivities begin at 7:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. — Stitchery display, North Angelo Branch Library.
9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. — Veribest Quilting display, Angelo West Branch Library.
2-5 p.m. — "Dimensions of Fiesta del Concho" art exhibit at Kendall Gallery.
8 p.m. — "Stalag 17" at Nasworthy Playhouse. Staged by San Angelo Civic Theatre.

THURSDAY

9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. — Stitchery display, North Angelo Branch Library.
noon-9 p.m. — Veribest Quilting display, Angelo West Branch Library.
7:30 p.m. — Sacred music concert by Lindsey Gayle Horsey and Ted Cornell. First United Methodist Church sanctuary.
8 p.m. — "Stalag 17" at Nasworthy Playhouse. Staged by San Angelo Civic Theatre.

AROUND THE STATE

June 14-Aug. 26 — Outdoor musical drama "Texas" at Canyon's Palo Duro Canyon.
June 15-17 and June 22-24 — Fort Griffin "Fandangle," an outdoor musical-history play, Albany.
June 17 — Dionne Warwick at El Paso Civic Center as part of the San Carnival Queen's Coronation and Ball. Activities begin at 7:30 p.m.
June 17-25 — Fiesta del Concho
June 17-18 — Southern Hushpuppy Olympics in Lufkin.
June 19 — Popular singer B. J. Thomas performs at Country Dinner Playhouse in Austin at 8 and 10 p.m.
June 20-28 — "California Suite" at Fair Park Music Hall. Tuesday-Saturday at 8:15 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m.
June 20-Aug. 13 — Tenth Annual Odessa Shakespeare Festival in Odessa's Globe of the Great Southwest Theatre. "Othello" is the opening play. "Love's Labour's Lost" opens July 7 and July 16 "The House of Saul" opens.
June 26-30 — El Paso/Chamizal Fiesta of the Arts in Chamizal National Memorial Theater. Nightly cultural activities leading to a big outdoor Fourth of July function.
June 27 — Ray Charles performs at Country Dinner Playhouse at 8 and 10 p.m.
June 27 — Mitzi Gaynor Show opens at Fair Park Music Hall at 8:15 p.m.
June 30 — Mel Tillis at Music Mill Theatre at Six Flags Over Texas at 8 and 10 p.m.
June 30-July 2 — Kerrville C&W Jamboree and Cowboy Horse Race at Quiet Valley Ranch.

This weekend

FRIDAY

9 a.m.-2 p.m. — Bruce Marshall western art show at San Angelo National Bank.
9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. — Veribest Quilting display at Angelo West Branch Library.

SATURDAY

1 p.m. — San Angelo Boys Club Annual Benefit Golf Tournament at Lakeside Golf Course.
2 p.m. — Robert Garden Painting Method Demonstration by Betty Ansell of Abilene. Ocean's Arts and Crafts.
2-5 p.m. — "Dimensions of Fiesta del Concho" at Kendall Gallery.
2:30 p.m. — Odessa Brand New Opreee at Globe of the Great Southwest Theatre.

SUNDAY

9 a.m. — Fifth Annual Candy's Run in the Sun, beginning at Irving Street and Park Drive.
1 p.m. — San Angelo Boys Club Annual Benefit Golf Tournament at Lakeside Golf Course.
2-5 p.m. — Opening reception of "Dimension of Fiesta del Concho" art exhibit at the Kendall Art Gallery. Awards will be presented at 3 p.m.

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