

Concert held at fountain

Texas music on hot Texas night

By RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN
Battalion Writer

T. Gosney Thornton brought his brand of country music to Texas A&M Monday night.

Thornton, one of the most promising musicians in Austin today, plays what he calls "Texas music," a blend of country tunes, progressive country and some old country standards. About half of Thornton's set was original material.

Although it was extremely hot and muggy, Thornton played a lively, boogie concert outdoors in the Rudder Mall at the Memorial Student Center. His 90-minute set, which included some of the best country music I've heard in a long time, was played before a very small audience.

Thornton and his band (bassist Mark Webbernick, drummer Bill Gossett, Dan Hanson at keyboards, and steel guitarist Neil Kulhanek) work very well together on stage. The band was very tight and controlled, for the most part, and at no time did any one member overpower the others. They really seemed to enjoy playing together and the set flowed smoothly.

Most of the songs were very well done. Thornton is developing into a fairly accomplished songwriter. Three of his songs, "West Texas Flash Flood," "Dog House Blues," a song about the oil field around Big Lake, Texas, Thornton's hometown; and "Terror of Tucson," a song about a rare busting everyone in Tucson, Ariz., were especially good. However, the band fell a bit on "San Antonio Rose." Like most people who play the song, they couldn't quite capture the lilting loveliness of the Bob Wills classic.

Thornton, whose real name is William Thomas Gosney, has been playing guitar and singing for quite a few years. In 1966, while still in high school, he and his band opened for The Doors at the Alexandria Rolling Rink, in Alexandria, Va. He later drifted into the San Francisco music scene and played college coffeehouses on the West Coast for several years. About two years ago, Thornton became bored with the stagnating situation in California and moved to Texas.

He fell in love with the music in Austin and, except for short trips elsewhere, has remained there ever since.

Thornton acquired his unusual name honestly. His real father is Gene Gosney, a former heavyweight fighter from Bowlegs, Okla., and his step-father is Jay Thornton, a retired Air Force man now living in San Angelo. He combined their names and added the "T" for his nickname.

"Tex," which he picked up in California.

T. Gosney studied journalism for two years at San Angelo State. "I was always interested in writing," he said. "I liked poetry, and I was interested in photography at one time. Since I had been fooling around with a guitar for years, it occurred to me that I might write a song. So that's how I got into the entertainment business."

Several months ago, Thornton released a single, "Dog House Blues" and "13 Times." Within the next

couple of weeks, he plans to release another single on Redneck Records and an album is scheduled for the end of the year.

"Zenith," a well-known Bryan band, opened the show with some high energy rock-and-roll. The band played at the first "Hostock" at Hotard Hall last year. "Zenith" consists of Lynette Kuykendall, keyboard and vocals; Tom Williford, drums; Joe Jones, bass; and Terry Dossey, lead. Although the band has potential, their bass overpowered everyone else; the vocals were almost inaudible.

Dave Adams played a two-hour set between "Zenith" and Thornton. Adams has been singing and playing for 10 years, beginning his career in Mississippi. He came to Texas last year and formed a duo to play in Brownsville and the Rio

Grande Valley.

He is quite capable alone with his twelve-string, playing a lot of laid back, mellow music (he is very strongly influenced by Dan Fogelberg) but he hopes to start a band someday. However, that will have to wait while Adams is not yet able to afford a car.

Williams' condition improving

Texas A&M University President Jack K. Williams "has experienced very gratifying improvement," notes a report issued Monday morning by the Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Dr. Williams' condition is now described as "serious," rather than "critical." The "critical" description had been in effect most of the time since he was readmitted to the hospital July 9 following a cardiac arrest at his home, where he was recovering from earlier heart-related problems.

The report indicated Dr. Williams began sitting up over the weekend and was to have walked Monday.

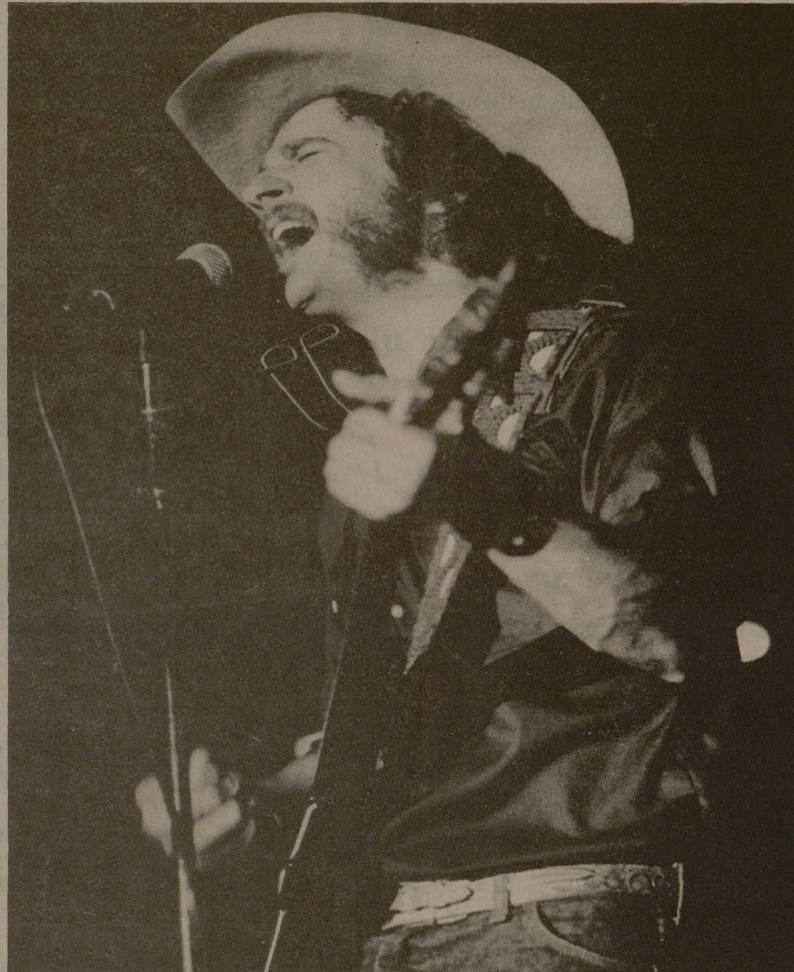
Complete text of the hospital statement released Monday:

"During the past week, Dr. Jack K. Williams has experienced very gratifying improvement. Over the weekend he has been sitting up. Today he will walk. Dr. Williams will remain in the intensive care unit while he is gaining strength during ambulation. The rhythm of Dr. Williams' heart has responded satisfactorily to therapy, and physicians have changed his condition from 'critical' to 'serious.' He is alert and comfortable, reading the newspaper and enjoying his food."

Hospital officials said this morning they have nothing new to add to this information.

Craft projects will be moved

All projects must be claimed or removed from the Craft Shop in the Memorial Student Center by 5 p.m., Aug. 13, 1976. If you will be here this fall, arrangements can be made to leave your project over the break. Any projects and material left unclaimed will become shop property, according to Karen Zantow, shop manager.



T. Gosney Thornton feels the emotion of country music Monday night in the Rudder Mall. He and his band are among most promising of Texas music artists.

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Publications reorganized

The Student Publications Board yesterday approved the administrative reorganization of Student Publications operations.

The Office of Student Publications, previously a separate administrative unit, was redesignated the Division of Student Publications and made a unit of the Department of Communications, effective September 1.

Bob Rogers, Chairman of the Student Publications Board and Head of the Department of Communications, said the reorganization will permit more effective utilization of resources and personnel.

Gary Baldasari, editor of the A&M yearbook, the Aggieland, reported to the board that the centennial edition of the Aggieland, reportedly the largest college yearbook ever published, should be ready for delivery by early or mid-October.

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