

# Musician turns people on with his 'getting down' style

By SUE MUTZEL  
Battalion Staff

B. W. Stevenson and his back-up group resemble gypsies on a road that few can travel successfully.

"I like to go on the road," Stevenson said, "but I say that I don't." "We're here to make music, try to make people happy, try to keep people dancing, and keep them listening to some stuff," the heavy-set, bearded singer said. "We try to make them think about themselves."

But living on the road isn't easy. "I mean, I quit about two or three times a week," he said. "But I can't — it's just in my blood. You get that gypsy bone and you can't ever get rid of it."

"I'll stay out there as long as they want me to, but when I get off the road, I lay back pretty much — try to write some tunes and relax."

Stevenson talked of being on the road and the music world in general last Thursday afternoon. He was relaxing on his bus-turned-mobile home before his second of two performances in College Station. With him were his blonde wife, Barbara, and the members of his back-up group, Evangeline Made.

Beards and bellies were everywhere as the men sipped beer and talked of their experiences earning a living at music.

Evangeline Made, consisting of

Kerry Robicheaux, Clarence Smith, Gene Woods, Eddie Hale, Jimmy Adroin and Rod Simon, have only been playing with Stevenson for four or five performances.

Both Stevenson and the group noted differences in audiences wherever they have traveled.

"They vary in every city, every club and every place," Stevenson said. "It depends on the night and on how everybody's feeling — what's going on in the air."

"There's a certain magic in the air one night," he explained, "the next night it may be gone."

"You've got to feel your audience sometimes," Robicheaux said. "You pace your show at times."

"This 'feel' doesn't develop overnight."

"It just comes by working in a lot of clubs," Stevenson said. "You ain't got no experience — you can't feel the audience."

Playing in different areas of the country draws different reactions to their music.

Evangeline Made recently performed in California and received an overwhelming response.

"Just coming from the South, in a lot of places in the United States, turns people on," Robicheaux said.

"Just the idea that we're from that part of the country (Louisiana) seems to turn some people on automatically," he said.

"It's (the South) an area of the United States not a whole lot of people have a chance to understand or visit."

Stevenson wasn't sure if the sound he and his band are spreading is actually "progressive country."

"I don't even know what that means," he said.

"The Austin sound," so often associated with progressive country, drew another reaction.

"I put the wheels on that bandwagon," Stevenson said.

He does consider himself a part of the Austin music scene.

"Certainly," he said, "I live down there."

"I don't want to be put into a category to where I can't be versatile enough to turn on an audience — say in New York or someplace like that — where they listen to different types of music," Stevenson said.

"You have to be versatile or you're going to kill yourself."

Somebody made up the Austin sound and progressive country sound labels for a style of music, according to Stevenson.

Everybody has their roots in that kind of music because they're from the country, he said.

Stevenson didn't really grow up in the country though. But every summer, he worked on his uncle's farm.

"I really didn't even like country-western till just recently" he said.

His uncle, who was a blacksmith, turned him on to "getting down" to music, Stevenson said.

"Getting down" to music as a professional is not an easy thing to do.

"This is the most frustrating, complex business there is," according to Stevenson.

"I mean, I didn't start like just all of a sudden I was there," he said. "But I still ain't there."

"You've got to get out there and do it. You can't come to someplace and expect to be laid back and do what you want to do unless you want to play a gig here and there and be a cook on the side."

"There's a lot of cats out there around the streets that could probably blow the socks off you but they probably won't ever do anything," he said, "cause they just weren't in the right place at the right time."

Luck, or lack of it, plays a big part in a musician's success.

"It's like a song I wrote once," Stevenson said. "The wheels don't roll around on the wheel of fortune much. They don't come around at all unless you've got that lucky touch."

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## Bill possibly unconstitutional

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Somewhere in Texas there apparently is a town that either wants to get rid of its office holders or have something special passed, and wherever that town is, the Senate has voted to help them.

The Senate has approved a possibly unconstitutional bill by Sen. William Moore, D-Bryan, which extends recall, initiative and referendum powers to Texas cities with populations between 2,540 and 2,560 in the last federal census.

"I don't know what city this covers," Moore said. "It doesn't cover any city in my district. It's a fairly narrow bracket bill that covers one city but I don't know the name of that city."

A search of census statistics in the Legislative Reference Library indi-

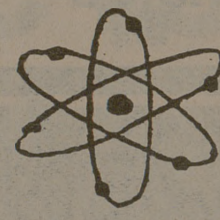
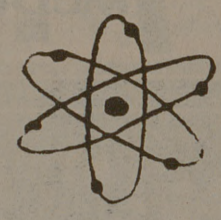
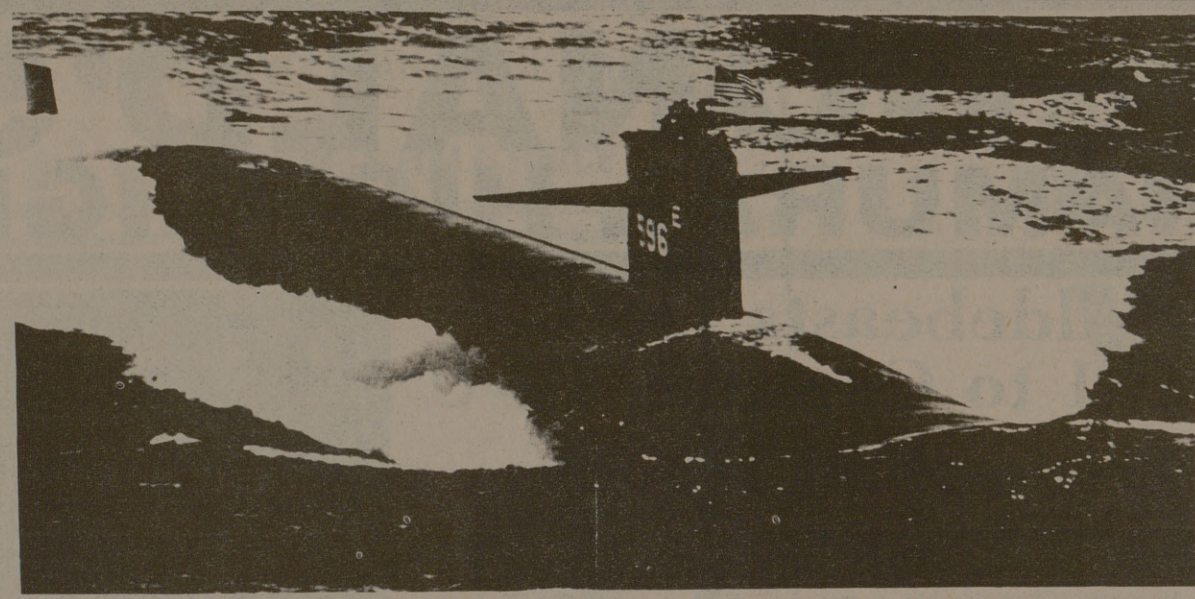
cates five Texas cities fit that description — Hooks, Bowie County with a population of 2,545; Piney Point Village, Harris County with 2,548 residents; San Saba with 2,555 people, and Lacy Lakeview, McLennan County, and Kirby, Bexar County, with identical populations of 2,558.

The Texas' constitution prohibits passing local or special laws where a general law could be made applicable. Courts repeatedly have ruled the constitutional provision forbids narrowly drawn bracket bills.

"It's as unconstitutional as it can be," said Sen. A. M. Aikin Jr., D-Paris. "It's a question of whether you're willing to vote for an unconstitutional bill or against a senator's local bill."

The bill was approved on a voice vote.

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