

The last picnic show

by DEBBIE NELSON

Willie Nelson invites you to his last eighth annual Fourth of July picnic at his own Pedernales Country Club near Lake Travis in Austin....

A canned speech on a picnic information line in Austin repeats the message over and over while canned Willie Nelson songs wind through the background.

The "picnics" started in 1973, in a cow pasture filled with 50,000 progressive country fans, country singers like Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson and of course, Willie Nelson.

Following years took Willie and his picnic from the cow pasture in Dripping Springs to the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, with cold beer, excessive heat and unruly crowds all part of the tradition.

So why is this the last picnic? "He accomplished what he set out to, bringing together rednecks and hippies with the mutual understanding of music," said David Anderson, public relations man for Nelson in Austin.

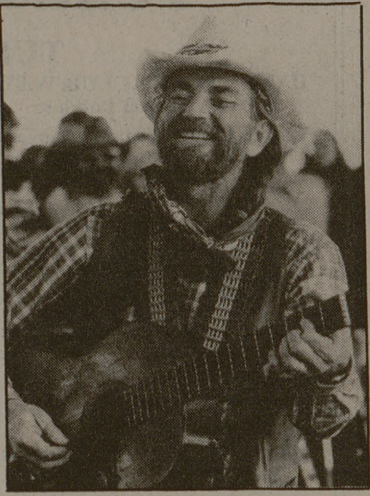
"He also did it to promote the artists at the picnic, which it did. Besides, it takes six months out of the year to set up the picnic and another six months to revive from it."

This year's picnic features, besides the 47-year-old Nelson, such country music names as the Charlie Daniels Band, Ray Price, Merle Haggard, Ernest Tubb, Leon Russell and Asleep at the Wheel.

Picnic tickets at \$13 each are available at Rainbow Ticket Master locations throughout Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Also, tickets will be available at the entrance for \$15.

Locally, the only place to buy tickets is Hastings Books and Records in Culepeper Plaza, which has sold 300 tickets.

Anderson said mail orders for tickets were accepted for the first time this year, with over 1,000 tickets



Willie Nelson

being sold for a special \$10 price.

"We got mail orders from London, Mexico, every state of the Union," Anderson said. As for this year's picnic, he predicted, "I know it'll be the best. I don't know about the biggest."

Anderson does expect a bigger crowd than the 25,000-30,000 who attended last year's picnic, which was on a Wednesday, in the middle of the gasoline crisis.

The Pedernales country club, 30 miles west of Austin off state Highway 71, is the scene of this year's picnic. Nelson bought the abandoned golf course, country club building and two homes for \$250,000 as a site for last year's picnic. Previously, he had trouble leasing land, plus trouble providing adequate sanitation facilities and security guards.

Nelson also had trouble convincing some residents of the Briarcliff subdivision, which surrounds the country club, that they would not suffer "irreparable harm" from the

anticipated crowds. Not until July 3, when the Texas Supreme Court refused to hear the case, was the fate of the picnic secure.

The picnic went on as planned, evidently to the benefit of some Briarcliff residents. The Houston Post reported residents were selling lemonade, beer and tacos to the crowds packing the area roads.

The concept of outdoor concerts has changed since Nelson's first picnic, Anderson continued. "We might wait a few years and come back and do some indoor concert dates, some stadium dates, but this is definitely the last one (picnic) here at Briarcliff."

This year there are no lawsuits trying to keep Nelson and his friends from their picnic. Anderson said when Nelson bought the country club he told area residents the picnic would be an annual event, but some residents still objected.

Anderson explained the picnic uses no tax money, because the county is reimbursed for any expenses. Besides Department of Public Safety and medical attendants, about 500-600 private security guards will be hired this year.

Expenses for the annual picnics have cost Nelson about \$250,000 a year, Anderson said, but he claimed the picnic tradition is not being broken because of the money.

Instead, Nelson may be going out of the picnic business and into the movie business.

Nelson's film "Honeysuckle Rose" premieres July 3, Anderson said. The soundtrack contains some of the first original songs Nelson has recorded in quite some time.

And although rumors have floated since 1978 about a movie based on Nelson's "Redheaded Stranger" album, Anderson said work on the film is scheduled to begin next year.

Sounds like Willie is changing his tune.

Five who scaled Alamo walls scheduled for court today

United Press International SAN ANTONIO—Five members of the Maoist Revolutionary Communist Party were scheduled to go to court today to defend themselves against disorderly conduct charges filed as a result of their symbolic "takeover" of the Alamo on March 20.

On that date, three members of the group scaled the walls of the historic shrine, which they termed "a symbol of oppression of Chicano people," took down the Texas flag, ran up a red banner and shouted revolutionary slogans through a bullhorn as an angry crowd yelled for police to remove them.

Scheduled to appear before Municipal Judge Benjamin Samples were James Callahan, Gary Clements, William Chavez, Hayden Steele

Fisher and Abigail Bayer.

Fisher, Bayer and Damian Garcia were arrested on top of the Alamo and were originally charged with desecration of a venerated object, a charge that later was dropped for lack of evidence. The other three were arrested on the ground near the shrine.

Garcia, whom the Maoists termed a "martyr," was stabbed to death April 23 in Los Angeles, Calif., and Fisher was wounded in a knife attack during a communist demonstration in a barrio housing project.

Monday a half dozen members of the Maoist group talked to reporters in Alamo Plaza and charged that Garcia was killed in "notorious coincidental fashion" by government agents who they claimed vowed to hunt down those who participated

the Alamo demonstration.

Neta Reynolds, 30, of Houston, spokesman for the group, said the Maoists had applied for a parade permit to stage a rally at noon today in front of the Alamo to protest Garcia's death and to support the five communists to be tried on the misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge.

"The Alamo takeover and the Alamo itself are going to be on trial," she said.

"The Alamo itself is offensive, not only to Chicano people but to people all over the world. It's a decrepit old monument. It is a symbol of oppression, not freedom; slavery, not liberation. I think the thing is an insult."

The Alamo, a mission established by the Spanish in 1718, was the site of an 1836 battle during Texas' war for independence from Mexico.

Surgery today first step for Pryor

United Press International LOS ANGELES Comedian Richard Pryor, suffering from pneumonia and in critical condition, today faced the first of what may be years of operations for severe burning.

Pryor's physician Dr. Jack Grossman said Monday that some misleading news reports had given the impression Pryor was out of danger.

"He's in very critical condition," Grossman told a news conference. "He's about as sick as you can get and still be alive."

Pryor has developed a form of pneumonia that afflicts some burn victims, but Grossman said it was "one of the anticipated complications."

The comedian, who received third-degree burns on his chest, up-

per arms, armpits and face, was scheduled for surgery today to remove the burned flesh.

After surgeons remove the damaged tissue, skin grafts can begin. Grossman would not comment on the course of treatment, but medical

experts have said that burn cases as severe as Pryor's usually require two or three skin grafting operations.

Rehabilitation to increase elasticity of the grafted skin can take years, leading up to plastic surgery to reduce scarring, especially on the face.



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Houston Woman's Thin Dreams Come True and Ken Stabler Congratulates a Loser

Special writer: Michael Hutchins

Kenny Stabler plays to win. And as Houston's new Oiler quarterback, it's not often that he congratulates a loser.

But Linda Clements' story is different. She met Stabler after losing more than 62 pounds. No wonder she's smiling! Her new figure has enabled her to do things she only dreamed of when she was overweight. Like meeting Kenny. At 126 pounds, Linda feels fantastic. And not a bit self-conscious. Even with a celebrity! "I feel like a new person. It certainly has changed my life."

Linda started gaining weight when she was only three years old. Her dieting attempts have been unsuccessful all her life. And on top of her unhappiness, she was beginning to worry that her weight would lead to a health problem.

Linda explains that she has tried every fad diet and program imaginable. Doctors' diets, diet clubs, fasts: you name it, Linda's tried it. The only constant in her Battle of the Bulge was the fact that nothing ever really worked for her.

"The main problem was that I never ate enough to satisfy my appetite. I always felt hungry. And I felt so tired... so I would eat more to feel better."

Even after so many vain attempts to lose weight, Linda was not ready to quit. She was plainly "tired of being fat." And that meant that she was ready to "be happier... feel better and wear nice clothes."

So she decided to enroll in the Houston Medical Clinic weight loss program. And it proved to be very successful. Linda shed more than 60 pounds on the Clinic's professionally supervised, quick weight loss program.

Within only a few months of joining Houston Medical Clinic's "losing cause", Linda went from a size 18 to her goal... a junior size 9!

And she was able to reach her desired weight without drugs, fasting or strenuous exercise. "One of the best things about the program is that I had lots of energy and never felt hungry."

According to Linda, the Houston Medical Clinic's plan is not only "a great program" but it is also "the easiest program for anybody to follow."

The key element of Houston Medical Clinic's quick weight loss program is their specially designed Nutri-Medic nutritional system, a nutritionally sound food program formulated for the clinics. Patients are given a wide selection of satisfying low calorie meals from which to choose.

How do they taste? "Really great!", says Linda. The pre-designed meal program eliminates the need to count calories and makes food decisions hassle-free. And patients are not required to drink gritty, tasteless protein powder.

Coupled with Houston Medical Clinic's Nutri-Medic system is a maintenance plan designed to teach the patient how to keep the lost weight off. Behavior education training instructors concentrate on teaching the patient such things as good nutritional basics, better eating habits, and most importantly, new attitudes toward food. Because, Linda agrees, keeping the weight off is the key to success.

Another important reason for choosing Houston Medical Clinic's program is professionalism. They don't skimp on the things patients need like EKG's, blood tests, urine analyses and medical examinations.

The Clinic's professional staff designs weight loss programs that are individually tailored to patients' special needs. A professional staff of Medical Doctors, Registered Nurses, Dietitians and Psychological Counselors help patients every step of the way. This insures that each patient achieves a safe maxi-



Kenny "Snake" Stabler with Linda Clements.



Linda Clements before

Until Houston Medical Clinics, I lied about my size.
To my friends and especially to myself. Now I'm a beautiful size 7 and proud of it.

Linda Clements, 60 pounds trimmer

Houston Medical Clinics can help you lose weight safely and easily, too.

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