

Recording studio expands scope

by Angel Stokes
Battalion Staff

Recording studios usually are associated with big cities, big names and big money. Roadrunner Production Company of Bryan doesn't fit that image...yet.

Roadrunner — created by Kevin Bomar, Terry Dossey and the owner of Tip Top Records and Tapes, Tommy Howard — has been doing commercials, jingles and recordings by local bands since its beginning, but the company already has expanded its scope.

Besides studio work, Roadrunner plans to produce a series of concerts with nationally known performers that will be financed by Fish Richards Inc.

"Fish Richards is trusting us to bring in the groups," Bomar says.

The concerts will be in a building previously used as a warehouse, but the building has a new name — the Heavy Metal Coliseum.

The coliseum, at the corner of the East Bypass and Highway 21 in Bryan, has approximately 48,000 sq. feet inside and can hold 10,000 people. Over six acres outside is available for parking. The building is being leased on a year-long basis, Dossey says.

"The building is acoustically better than G. Rollie," Dossey says. Improvements inside the building include building a permanent stage and reworking the wiring, he says.

Reasons for expansion into producing concerts are two-fold: to make money and to bring this area live professional entertainment.

The first concert, set for Oct. 29, is the "Full Moon Costume Concert" featuring Joe "King" Carrasco. Bomar says the concert will be different from any other concert held in College Station.

"It will be more of a festival atmosphere," he says, "because there will be no arranged seating."

The world's largest hors d'oeuvres tray ever served will be provided by Fish Richards, he says. The tray, which will have

fruits, meats, cheeses, vegetables and bread, will be approximately

30 to 40 feet long and will be replenished continually, Bomar says.

In addition to the tray, beer, fajitas and sausage-on-a-stick will be for sale, Bomar says.

Carrasco tickets will be \$9 and include the hors d'oeuvres tray, Bomar says. Tickets will be sold at Hastings Books and Records and Tip Top Records and Tapes.

KTAW Radio also is involved with the concerts, Dossey says, by providing station time and advertising.

Future concerts may include: ZZ Top or Loverboy on the weekend of the Texas A&M v. Texas football game, Sammy Hagar and Billy Squire.

At this time, Loverboy is more definite than ZZ Top, Dossey says. Sammy Hagar has been contacted, but no contract has been signed, he says, and Billy Squire has expressed an interest in having a concert.

The studio branch of Roadrunner, located in the back of Tip Top Records and Tapes, "solidified" in March 1983. Bomar says that's when he and Dossey decided to "stop cutting each other down and start working together."

The studio has 24-channel, eight-track recording capabilities — eight individual parts can be recorded on one tape with three channels on each part. The studio has full noise reduction, Dossey says, which is unusual for an eight-track studio, and harmonizers and digital delays. The studio uses Sennhieser, JBL and Tascam equipment.

He says keyboards — piano, string and synthesizers — also are available for studio use.

Bomar says the studio is capable of making demo tapes (sample songs from a band's repertoire), remote recordings, recording mixes, albums, 45's, extended-play records, commercials and jingles.

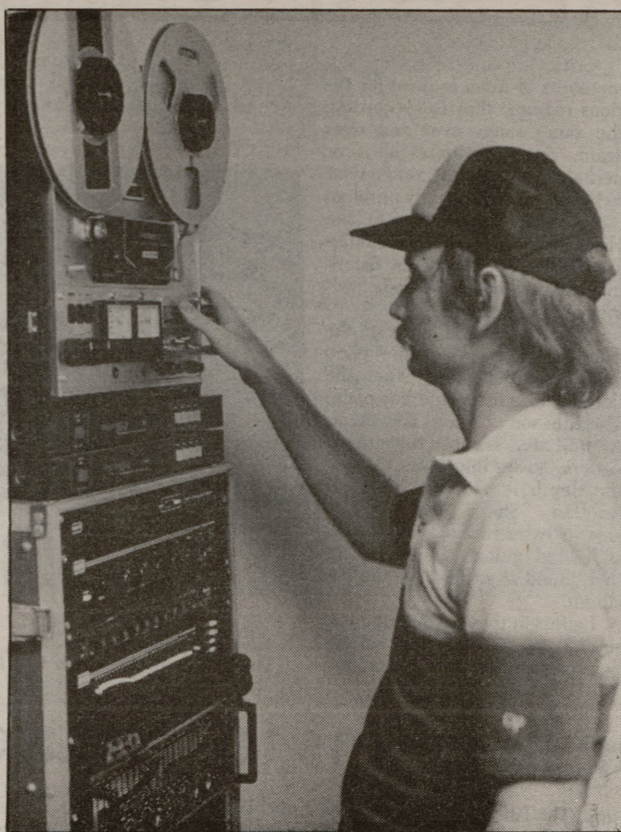


Photo by Guy Hood

Terry Dossey checks recording equipment in Roadrunner Productions' studio.

area," Dossey says. He says because there is no place to play in the area the musicians get frustrated and leave.

"We want the music to survive and work in this community," Dossey says.

After finishing Brazos Valley Gold, Roadrunner is planning Texas Rocks — a rock album promotion with KTAW.

Roadrunner also is the largest disc jockey company in the area, Bomar says. He says that the company has the equipment to handle three parties a night. He says the repertoires are updated on a regular basis and contained in tape format.

Roadrunner also books bands and does referrals on a small scale, he says.

Besides having studio equipment, Roadrunner also has major concert equipment. This includes 10,000 watts of sound, 10,000 watts of lighting — expanding to over 22,000 watts soon — fog, concussion, sparkle and confetti bombs and all kinds of speakers.

Both Bomar and Dossey have other jobs during the day and also play in a local band — Rackitt.

Bomar works at the First Bank and Trust in Bryan as a loan officer. Originally from Dallas, he has lived in Bryan for four years.

Everything but the pressing of albums is done at the studio, Dossey says. Pressing is done by Rainbow Sound in Dallas.

The company is doing jingle work for some local businesses, Bomar says, including Court's

Western Wear, Pepe's Mexican Food Restaurants and Deluxe Burger Bar. The jingles are written, produced and recorded in the studio.

Dossey says the jingles are written either by Bomar, keyboardist Mark Wilson or himself.

"Basically whoever comes up with an idea first," he says.

Roadrunner also is producing its first album — Brazos Valley Gold — as a promotion with KORA.

The album will feature 10 local country musicians chosen out of approximately 150 who entered the Brazos Valley Gold contest. Out of the 150 who sent in tapes, 34 are being sent to local judges. The tapes will be judged in 10

categories.

The album will be sold locally and part of the money from sales will go to local charity, Bomar says.

"There are a tremendous amount of good musicians in the

While in Dallas he did studio work as a singer and played in local bands. Bomar attended Tarrant County Junior College for two years and then went to work for a finance company in Dallas.

Bomar went into the banking business after he married because the music business is so unstable.

Dossey, from San Antonio, has been in B/CS for 10 years. He played with the local band OZ and before that bands in San Antonio. He also did studio work in San Antonio. He received a degree in electronics from Texas A&M and is employed as a pavement design researcher and computer programmer at the Texas Transportation Institute.

Orchestra to perform in Rudder Thursday

by Brenda Bivona
Battalion reporter

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, recognized in the United States and internationally for their musical excellence, will perform here Thursday.

Under the direction of guest conductor Maestro Garcia Navarro, the orchestra will perform works from Strauss, Harris and Tchaikovsky. To be performed are:

— *Don Juan*, composed by Richard Strauss and first performed in 1899.

— *Symphony No. 3*, com-

posed by Roy Harris, an American composer, in 1937.

— *Symphony No. 5*, composed by Pytor Tchaikovsky in 1888 and first performed in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1891 by conductor Theodore Thomas, has received more Grammy Awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences than any other orchestra in the world. In 1982 the orchestra won four Grammys, including Best Classical Performance.

Paul Hume of the Washington Post said of the orchestra, "Chicago Symphony Orchestra... one of the wonders of the world. To describe it would be an idle listing of the kinds of perfection that are dreamed of in imagining an ideal orchestra."

Full-length concerts by the orchestra are taped weekly, under sponsorship of Standard Oil Company, and broadcast over more than 400 stations in the United States and Canada.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

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