

Music Notes

By LOUIS HILGARTNER
Staff Columnist

Unless you've been living under a rock — or don't have cable hooked up to your stereo — you probably know that there are several big-name acts headed this way.

Judas Priest, Huey Lewis and the News, Rush, The Cars and Van Halen are but a few of the bands that will be coming through Texas this spring and summer.

It's relatively easy for me to find out what's going on across the state. I call my informants at radio stations in Dallas or Austin or wherever and ask.

When it comes to finding out what's going on locally, it's a whole 'nother ball game.

Part of the reason is advertising.

Obviously local clubs that offer live entertainment can't mount an ad campaign like Judas Priest or Van Halen can.

You would think, though, that a club that offers live acts would make a public announcement, and I don't mean filing a

small ad in The Battalion.

How about some real publicity every now and then? A radio or television spot, or an occasional handbill would help the masses decide how and where they want to spend their weekends.

There must be more to life than the same old drink specials week in and week out.

In fact, I know there is. Night clubs aren't the only place to find entertainment.

There are hundreds of little parties and celebrations going on every weekend. When people start hiring bands to play at every one of these parties, it becomes impossible to keep up with who is playing in whose backyard.

All of which brings me to my point: It's all well and good to cover the ZZ Tops and Joe "King" Carrascos, but the local bands need coverage, too.

If you are in a local band and you have the gig of a lifetime, give me a holler. I'm interested in where and when you will be playing.



Louis Hilgartner

It's important that local talent doesn't get overshadowed.

I can be reached at The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, at 845-3312.

Other note-worthy tips:

Saturday, May 5, will bring out some of the best local talent as part of the Heritage Days celebrations in downtown Bryan.

Entertainment will include the Bryan High School Stage Band, the Bryan High School Cheyennes drill team and Stage Center, the drama club from Bryan High. Also appearing will be Notropis, a jazz-blues-folk band comprising several students from Texas A&M and The Executives, a top-40 dance band.

But wait, there's still more:

Phoebe's Home, the local shelter for battered women and their children, will be sponsoring a charity auction. Also, local merchants will have a sidewalk sale of arts and crafts. Give your kids a shot at stardom by letting them march in the Children's Parade in the morning.

There will even be a south-of-the-border flair as Cinco de Mayo also will be celebrated.

For more information, contact Jewel Hill at 764-0928.

CONCERTS:

Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings ... Tonight ... at the Summit in Houston. The kings' of "outlaw country" will cut loose tonight in Space City. A

few tickets still remain.

Judas Priest ... Sun., April 29 ... at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin. Attention all headbangers, attendance is mandatory!

Van Halen:

★ Austin ... Sun., June 10 ... at the Frank Erwin Center. A few tickets are still left, but I don't imagine they will last too long.

★ San Antonio ... Mon., June 11 ... at the San Antonio Convention Center Arena. Sold out.

★ Houston ... Tues., July 10, Wed., July 11 and Thurs., July 12 ... at the Summit. All shows are sold out.

★ Dallas ... Sat., July 14 and Sun., July 15 ... at Reunion Arena. Both of these shows are sold out, but there are rumours of a third show in the works. I'll tell you what I can when I can.

The Texas Jam ... Sun., June 10 ... at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. No specific bands have been announced yet. However, Sammy Hagar and Van Halen are being discussed as possibilities.

George Strait bridges age gap

United Press International

AUSTIN — Hawaii seems an unlikely place for a budding country western superstar to start, but that's where Texas native George Strait says he first developed a serious interest in music.

It happened during a three-year tour in the Army in the early 1970s. Strait learned to play the guitar and sing when he was based in Hawaii.

Today, the 31-year-old singer-musician has turned his brand of unabashed western swing into a string of hit records and the number one spot on the country western album charts.

The current popularity of the South Texas teacher's son seems to have bridged the gap between young and old.

His boyish good looks and shy demeanor have captured the hearts of the screaming teeny boppers and his traditional western swing music is popular among adult honky tonk goers.

"I started singing seriously as a career when I was 21 years old in Hawaii in the Army," he says. "Eventually I got a band together and the last year I was in the service, what I did was sing for the Army."

Strait's band, Rambling Country, entertained military personnel on the island.

After discharge, he remained there six months with a band called Santee.

"It (country western music) was big in the military clubs," he said. "That was the only demand for it over there then. We worked the NCO clubs and offi-

cer's clubs, but that kept us pretty busy."

Strait, whose third and most recent album, "Right or Wrong," tops the country charts, said he returned to his native Texas because he couldn't take it any longer.

The Pearsall native then earned a degree in agriculture education from Southwest Texas State University, in San Marcos.

Between classes and his work as a ranch foreman, he played music at clubs throughout central and south Texas.

In San Marcos he became friends with Erv Woolsey, a nightclub owner, who booked him.

Woolsey moved to Nashville in 1981 to become an executive with MCA records.

He later invited Strait to Nashville to record a song called "Unwound." The record made it to the number five spot, and Strait signed with MCA and began a string of successes.

While in Austin recently for an appearance on the TV show, "Austin City Limits," he said his success has been a pleasant surprise.

"I'd been working at it a long time," he said. "I was just about to give it up when it all happened."

Even after signing with MCA, Strait said he wasn't sure where his career was headed.

"They had a big roster of big stars (including Merle Haggard, Conway Twitty and Tanya Tucker) and was kind of afraid I'd get lost in the shuffle.

"But they got right behind me See "Strait" page 12

Movies made in Texas bring welcome publicity

United Press International

DALLAS — Texas-made movies nearly swept this year's major Academy Awards, and the producer of best picture winner "Terms of Endearment" said Tuesday he has another movie to be filmed in the state this summer.

Producer Martin Jurow's new project, "Sylvester," is scheduled for location shooting after June around Marfa and Alpine in west Texas, the same towns where "Giant" was filmed nearly 30 years ago.

In addition, native Texan Horton Foote, who won his second Oscar Monday night with his screenplay for "Tender Mercies," started filming this week on his new movie. Foote's "1918," which he wrote and is producing, is being shot in Waxahachie, the rustic town south of Dallas that was also the locale for "Tender Mercies."

Jurow, a veteran Hollywood producer who now has his main offices in Dallas, and Joel Smith, director of the Texas Film Commission, said Tuesday they welcome the publicity resulting from Texas-made movies winning seven of the top eight Oscars. But both agreed it does not herald a major production shift to Texas from California.

"I'm elated about what I continue to believe Texas can become — a great source of production in and of its own," Jurow said in a telephone interview from his North Hollywood home. "Perhaps this would inspire some more talent for Texas.

"I think they (most filmmakers) would consider it for this

year a coincidence because you have to understand that pictures take a great deal of financing," Jurow said. "Most of it keeps coming from California or centers other than Texas.

"I can only look upon this as a remarkable and very interesting coincidence. I don't see this as an exodus to Texas or a rush to Texas. Finance plays a great part," said Jurow, who also produced "Breakfast at Tiffany's" in 1961 and "The Great Race" in 1965.

"And yet at the same time there's the hospitality and the lure and the generosity and some of the economic advantages" in Texas, he said.

Smith echoed Jurow's comments about power still being concentrated where the financing is.

"I don't think this sort of thing affects the filmmaker that much," he said. "He's going to take a good hard look at his project and see where it is best for him to do it.

"No matter how hard we work," Smith said, "it would be real rare for there to be as many high quality films (made in Texas) as were released in 1983. They were all real fine pictures."

Jurow said he heard an interview with Ron Howard Monday in which the young director, who has shot television movies in Dallas and is extremely popular now with the

success of "Splash," talked about "the excitement of regional work."

"When you get that kind of talent liking the work in Texas and the crews in Texas, then you've already achieved something that is extremely worthwhile," Jurow said.

"Louis Malle is working in Texas now," the producer noted. "Mike Nichols enjoyed his work in Texas (on 'Silkwood'). Bruce Beresford (director of 'Tender Mercies') loved working in Texas. All of those factors are very important when you get creative talent beginning to like the atmosphere, the talent, the people."

"Terms of Endearment," partly filmed in Houston, picked up awards for Shirley MacLaine as best actress, Jack Nicholson as best supporting actor, and feature film rookie James Brooks as director, scriptwriter and co-producer.

"Tender Mercies" star Robert Duvall won best actor as a broken-down country singer. Foote won his first Oscar in 1962 for his "To Kill a Mockingbird" screenplay.

The third major Texas production, "Silkwood," which was shot at The Studios at Las Colinas near Dallas and on north Texas locations, was nominated for several awards but did not win any. Cher had been a favorite for best supporting actress but was beaten out by Linda Hunt of "The Year of Living Dangerously."