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Luckenbach MOON



"People can't believe we have such a big moon for such a small town" —Hondo Crouch

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 8/9

Dedicated to Peter Cedarstacker

August/September 2005

SATURDAY, AUG 13TH ROGER CREAGER



Tickets \$15 adv.
\$20 Day of Show

Opening Acts
The McKay Brothers
& Honeybrowne

8:30pm



McKay Brothers



Honeybrowne



presented by



Wick Fowler's
2-Alarm
Chili

SEPT. 9TH & 10TH, 2005

AUTHORS & ARTISTS

Geronimo Trevino
Joaquin Jackson
David Marion Wilkinson
Craig Hillis
W.C. Jameson
Jan Reid
Becky Crouch Patterson
Back at the Ranch
The Hundred Dollar Men
Zach Huckabee
Jed & Kelley
Ryan Bingham
The McKay Brothers
Bonnie & Blythe
Bodie Powell
Jimmy Adams

Jeff "Wild Horse" Posey
Gary Nicholson
The Note Groppers
Pauline Reese Band
Thomas Michael Riley Band
Brian Burns
Johnny Gringo
Tommy Alverson
John Arthur Martinez
Bonnie Bishop
Walt & Tina Wilkins
T-Roy Miller
Debbie Walton
Forlini & Cross
Mike Blakely &
The Whiskey Traders

Authors/Artists subject to change

Labor Day Weekend Celebration SEPT. 3RD - 5TH, 2005

SATURDAY Butch Morgan & the HIX
2 - 6pm - FREE
Bodie Powell - 9pm Dance
\$5 @ the door

SUNDAY Kevin Deal 2 - 6pm FREE

MONDAY Red Dirt Rangers 2pm FREE
Special Children's Show noon - 1pm



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EDITORIAL AUGUST 2005

Every now and then we get a Somebody by, and they ask the Question, "What is it about Luckenbach?"

Usually, the Question is asked by a reporter or over the phone by a Somebody who has not been en-lightened by a recent visit or a distant memory. There is an Answer to the Question; however the Answer is much akin to Latin as a language.

We can't speak it (the Answer). Maybe like Latin we can write it.

The "It" about Luckenbach starts (for most folks) with an experience, or expectation of an experience, based on The Song, or Willie's Picnic (past), or The Famous Recording of Viva! Terlingua! In The World Famous Luckenbach Dance Hall, or a quiet Moment shared with total strangers who are now your new Best Friends (because you just listened to some unknown Picker or a Famous Singer/Songwriter play a tune you have never heard or a tune you have heard on the radio all your life).

Simple enough for a start.

Fleshing out the remainder of the "It" becomes more complicated when you have to consider the remainder of the "It about Luckenbach" is based on a formula developed by Hondo Crouch, Guich Kooock and a continuing cast of revolving characters.

The formula goes something like this: 1 part reality + 2 parts individuality x 3 parts logic free thought; mixed into a big ol' Chili Pot (no beans); Simmer slowly for just the right amount of time.....add an equal amount of Imagineering to taste; Repeat as often as necessary until you get IT!

That simple!

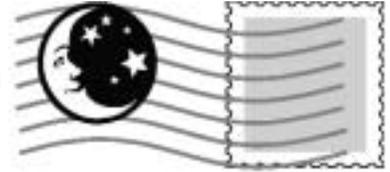
Watch us on CMT August 27th as part of "20 Greatest Songs about Cities" the folks from CMT got "It" after a short visit..... (Except for the part about us not really being a City, and maybe the part about the quiet Moment.....well, at least they got a start).

Remember "Fight fighting!"

Hasta,
The Big MOO

Luckenbach MOON

The LUCKENBACH MOON is published monthly by Luckenbach Texas, Inc. Opinions expressed in The LUCKENBACH MOON do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the owners, directors, or staff of Luckenbach Texas, Inc. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following "Somebodies" who made this month's MOON possible: Peter Cedarstacker aka Hondo Crouch, Becky Crouch Barrales, John Raven, Neal Brown, and Mary Lee Edwards.



PEOPLE SEND LETTERS TO THE MOON

Received the Luckenbach MOON while on my recently-completed tour in Iraq, and enjoyed it immensely! It was quite a morale lifter both for myself, as for our battalion staff (quite a few Texans - 1st Cav Division)...

RTG

ROBERT T. GERHARDT, MD, MPH, FACEP
Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Corps, Flight Surgeon,
U.S. Army



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Note: From 1961-1973, Hondo (nom de plume, or alias, or AKA Peter Cedarstacker) wrote a social satire column for the *Comfort News*. The fictional town of Cedar Creek and all of its characters eventually became the real town of Luckenbach and all of its characters (and Luckenbach has some real characters!) The MOON reserves a special corner for Peter Cedarstacker, Writer, as a corner of wit and human insight for us today.

-Becky Crouch Barrales

CEDAR CREEK CLIPPINGS

The public weigher in Bear Creek questioned Jesus (pronounced Hey soos) McNeil about stealin' chickens Wed. of this week. You see, the public weigher is the closest thing we have to a law because he has a government piece of paper to prove he can weigh things and we respect the gov't because we're afraid. And Mrs. Jones thought he was stealin' 'em. Early every mornin' when Jesus leaves in his empty watermelon truck he loses chickens when he goes thru town.

He wasn't. It's just here in town where he gets up enough speed that the chickens fall off the drive shaft where they roost every nite. Can't you see a log rollin' rooster losin' a battle with a Model A drive shaft at 4 O'clock in the mornin'.

The bug watchin' club "Bugs United Together Stand" (BUTS) met at the Park Side Road Wed. of this week. The main topic was mosquito bugs, and Mrs. Worstbottom, president, filled out the program and several chairs were brought to the meetin'.

Mrs. Spite talked about the mephistophoclese and cutex mosquitoes and Mrs. Schoefferkoepter mused at how a little bug can sell so many screens and chase 200 pound people into the house.

Mrs. Gutowsky said the mosquitos not only upset her because they usually bit you where its hard to scratch like between the knuckles or where sometimes at a dance its not nice to.

Peter Cedarstacker
Writer

Remember: Fight Gravity



Rawley Miller
Internet Shopper - Stationed in Iraq

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These young ladies, Mallory, Meagan & Madeline McKaylis spent the afternoon under the oak trees entertaining the crowd.



Charles Grohman
101 Years Young
First time visitor to Luckenbach Texas

UGLY HAT CONTEST



**Saturday Afternoon
Sept. 10th**

(at the Fandango)

Winner receives a new hat
from our sponsor

SNAIL CREEK HAT CO.



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LUCKENBACH TEXAS

One of the "20 Greatest
Songs about Cities"

**Saturday, August 27th
8pm Eastern/7pm Central**





EVERYBODY'S SOMEBODY

by
**Becky Crouch
Barrales**

Not that anyone's against tourists – everyone is traveling from there to somewhere. There are some of us who remember Main St. in Fredericksburg when hunters and agriculture was still the main source of income. We used to set our clocks by the noon fire siren. Freddy Peters never gave a ticket to expired parking meters. He actually fed them a dime if your time ran out. At the Kallenberg Pharmacy (The Secret Garden now) you could smell medicine as well as fountain

sodas. Little round pies were novelties. Raymond Kuhlmann, upon eating his first pecan pie, cut right through the paper plate and ate it too. HEB closed little supermarkets. Lifestyles changed.

BACK WHEN

**No one cared about tourists then,
There was no "Rather Sweet", no "Remember When"
No "Chocolat", no "Hondo's" joint
No "JEK's", no "Sandy's Needle Point"
No G Harvey art, no B and B's
No oak wilt in the Live Oak trees.**

**We still had The Tower and Pat's Hall, too.
Crittell was on the trash-truck crew.
There was Fatty, Ernestie, Bob Coe and others,
Paulie drove a truck for the Pfeil brothers.
Buttercup hung out at Traveler's Café,
At Milam and Main there was no "Cuvee".**

**There were places to park if you fed the meter
If not, you'd get a ticket from Freddie Peter.
There were grocers and barbers and beer joints on Main.
A person jogging would have been considered insane.
Water came from the fountain, hose or tap.
To get to Dooley's no one needed a map.**

**There were Little League games at the Market Square
Every night of the week and, during the Fair,
The Cubs and Giants played – and also on Sunday,
Then everyone went back to work on Monday.
Tommy delivered funeral notices here and there
Long before Sherman was a millionaire.**

**But times have changed; Jim's Ice House is gone,
No fire siren sounds "tween dusk and dawn.
We wouldn't want to upset our visiting guests
All snuggled in their "Gasthaus" nests.
Let's keep them content in most every way
So they'll spend their money but hopefully not stay.**

**(This poem was written by Terry Crenwelge who is a football coach at Fredericksburg High School.
But he is also a poet and never forgets.)**

September @ Luckenbach

Sunday Hill Country Musician Jam	Sept. 4th - Kevin Deal; Sept. 11th - McKay Brothers Sept. 18th - Ben Beckendorf; Sept. 25th - Freddie Steady Krc
Wacky Waylon Wednesdays early evening • FREE • 7pm	Sept. 7th - Ben Beckendorf; Sept. 14th - Jay Sims Sept. 21st - Ron Knuth; Sept. 28th - Doug Davis
Loco Locals Thursdays 7pm • FREE	Sept. 1st - McKay Brothers; Sept. 8th - John M. Greenberg Sept. 15th - Thomas Michael Riley; Sept. 22nd - Mike Blakely Sept. 29th - Special Guests
Labor Day Weekend Celebration September 3rd - 5th	SATURDAY - Butch Morgan & the HIX 2 - 6pm - FREE Bodie Powell - 9pm Dance - \$5 @ the door SUNDAY - Kevin Deal - 2 - 6pm - FREE MONDAY - Red Dirt Rangers - FREE - noon til ?
Tex-Americana Fandango September 9th & 10th Advance tickets \$20 for both days 	FRIDAY - 3 - 6pm Book Signing & Wine Tastings Texas Authors & Texas Wines - FREE 7pm - Kick-off Concert - Outdoor Stage - \$5 SATURDAY - Music starts @ Noon Noon til 6pm - \$5 / Evening only \$10 All Day - \$15

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

35TH ANNUAL LADIES CHILI COOK-OFF

Scenes from past years



You can't forget Memories



© John Raven, USA 2005

The rusting remains of the steam engine and its boiler on the banks of Grape Creek at Luckenbach mark an era of Gillespie County's history. It was an era when cotton was king.

The German pioneers in the hill country were first subsistence farmers. That is, they used everything they raised to survive. Being an industrious lot they soon began to raise cash crops to bring in money to buy the things they could not raise. Their first cash crop was tobacco. Soon they started raising cotton as a cash crop. Cotton originated in Egypt a long time ago. It really didn't get popular until it was planted in the southern United States. The cotton loved the climate and soon it was the number one cash crop and remained so for about one hundred years.

Raising cotton is labor intensive. The hill country folk did not have a lot of slaves to do their work so they had instead a lot of children. Even a very young child can pick cotton.

Cotton likes to be planted in a row. After it's planted and is a couple of inches tall, it has to be "Chopped". That is the farmer or his agent took a hoe and went down the rows removing weeds and thinning the cotton plants so they would not be too crowded.

After that it was pretty much just sit and wait for the cotton to mature. It blooms a pretty yellow bloom. The bloom turns into a seed pod called a boll. The boll contains the seeds all wrapped in cotton fiber. When the boll is mature it pops open exposing the fiber. That's when it's picked. "Picking" refers to removing the fiber and seed from the dried boll. This was a mean job. It would make your fingers sore and the cotton never grew tall enough to be harvested standing up; you had to bend over or crawl to retrieve the fiber. A really

good cotton picker could pick a hundred pounds of fiber a day.

In order to make the cotton fibers into cloth the fibers had to be separated from the seed. This is not as easy as it sounds, again a lot of hand work.

Eli Whitney invented a process to remove the seeds with a machine. This became known as the cotton gin. What a blessing.

At the gin, the cotton was removed from the trailer and sent through the gin. A series of "stands" separated the seeds from the fiber. The stands were like a series of circular saw blades placed very close together. The saws ripped the fiber from the seed. The stands required someone to keep the cotton moving through them. This was a very dangerous job. Many fingers, hands and whole arms were lost.

The cotton fiber, free of the seeds, was compacted into a bale. The size of the bale was usually about five hundred pounds. The size depended on how much cotton was in the trailer, each load was processed separately.

The usual arrangement was the gin kept the seeds as payment for their services. The farmer could get some back for planting the next season. Cotton seed was used as livestock feed and processed into many products.

The Luckenbach gin was steam powered as were all the early gins. There was plenty of wood to heat the water and the need for a lot of water was met by locating on the banks of a stream. The Luckenbach gin operated until about 1941.

Cotton is a crop that sucks a lot of nutrients out of the soil. The farmers did not rotate crops; they planted cotton on the same ground for years. As the nutrients were used up, the crop became smaller and smaller until finally it was not profitable to raise cotton there any longer. The thin soil of the Texas Hill Country wore out pretty quick. I haven't seen but one patch of cotton here in the past seventeen years or so. It was fun while it lasted but like so many other things the community gin has outlived its usefulness.



Pencil Drawing © Charles Beckendorf
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2005 Luckenbach Schedule



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Please do not bring alcohol or take
it off the grounds when you leave

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Sunday Hill Country Musician Jam	Aug. 7th - Claude Butch Morgan; Aug. 14th - T-Roy Miller; Aug. 21st - Ben Beckendorf; Aug. 28th - Freddie Steady Krc
Wacky Waylon Wednesdays early evening • FREE • 7pm	Aug. 3rd - Ben Beckendorf; Aug. 10th - Jay Sims Aug. 17th - Ron Knuth; Aug. 24th - Doug Davis; Aug. 31st - T-Roy Miller
Loco Locals Thursdays 7pm • FREE	Aug. 4th - McKay Brothers; Aug. 11th - John M Greenberg Aug. 18th - Special Surprized Guest; Aug. 25th - Mike Blakely
Saturday, August 6th Two Tons of Steel	Special Guests - Morrison-Williams 9pm \$10 adv. \$15 Day of Show
Saturday August 13th Roger Creager	Special Guests - The McKay Brothers & Honeybrowne 8:30pm \$15 adv. \$20 Day of Show
Saturday, August 27th	Luckenbach on CMT 8pm Eastern / 7pm Central
Labor Day Weekend Celebration September 3rd - 5th	SATURDAY - Butch Morgan & the HIX 2 - 6pm - FREE Bodie Powell - 9pm Dance - \$5 @ the door SUNDAY - Kevin Deal - 2 - 6pm - FREE MONDAY - Red Dirt Rangers - FREE - noon til ?

This schedule may change...so, ya' might want to call us...if yur comin' aways! 888-311-8990



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