

# Luckenbach MOON



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

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 12

Dedicated to Peter Cedarstacker

December 2008

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW! SEE WEBSITE OR CALL FOR INFO**

***Saturday, Dec. 13th • 8pm***

**Mark David Manders**

**FREE** opening - blacktopGYPSY

***Saturday, Dec. 20th • 8pm***

**GARY P. NUNN**

**Luckenbach  
Christmas Ball**



***Saturday, Dec. 27th • 8pm***

**THE GOURDS**

**opening-The Band of Heathens**

*Happy Holidays*  
**from Luckenbach Texas**

Closed - Thursday, December 25th

***Wed., Dec. 31st***

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE**



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BLAKELY**

**& the  
Whiskey  
Traders**

**opening - Bo Porter  
& The Dixie Rockits**

Limited Seating



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**"THE MOON"**

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## A VERY LUCKENBACH CHRISTMAS

Our friends from Sister Creek Ranch, Beth and Bruce Johnson and a bunch of their "horsy people" friends will be riding into Luckenbach on the afternoon of Saturday, December 20th. Everyone is invited to come out and join us for Christmas carols. Kathy Bauer will host the afternoon pickers circle. That evening will feature Gary P. Nunn in the dance hall for the Luckenbach Christmas Ball.

# WEEKEND DANCES

5th - Josh Peek Band

12th - Bo Porter & the Dixie Rockits

19th - Amber Digby & Midnight Flyer

26th - The Doug Moreland Show

## 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, Maggie Montgomery and C. P. Vaughn.



**BBQ,  
Burgers & More!**

**Friday - Sunday  
11am - 9pm**

*Luckenbach Team -  
I thank you  
for a "gameitlich" evening!  
It was wonderful  
to have such a gathering  
of folks that share the  
old time comradery for  
which Luckenbach was  
known!*

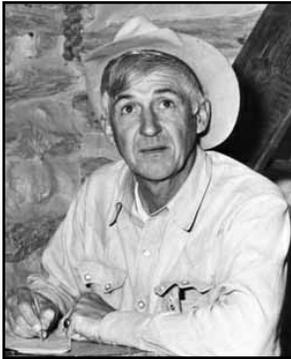
*I especially appreciate  
all your efforts and  
work - and I am proud  
of your results -*

*Shazie*

*Sep 30, 08*



**Congratulations to Wade Sandel!**  
Wade celebrated his 75th birthday  
on Monday, November 17, 2008.



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

Wednesday of this week I came home from the Post Office-beer joint where I sharpen scissors every Wed. and found Mama standin' on the front porch with tears on her face. And still tearin'. I asked her, "Where's he at?" Figgerin' little Jay had blowed a bridge up or robbed a bank. She said it wasn't that. For the first time since we've had little Jay Elbie he kissed her and called her Mama. Now she wants to change his name from Jay Elbie to ours and get him a foreign car for Christmas. That's a woman. It kinda made me feel a little resourceful and homogenized my own self. I wanted to do somethin' for him to prove I didn't hate him anymore. He was under the house huntin' doodlebugs, my way, when I found him.

I took him to the creek to teach him how to skip rocks on the water. He chased a armadillo deep into the forest and I followed. As we rested on a big limestone rock Jay asked, "What's pollution?" "Yikes!" I thought and tried to answer him. "It's a mess of stuff floatin' 'round in the water, on the earth and in the air. People make it, animals in the woods don't and trees sop it up. We make carbon dioxide and trees breathe it. Trees breathe out oxygen for us to run fast and jump high. Without trees we'd be up to our knees in bad breath." I could tell he was impressed with my rock-skippin' instructions and lecture on trees and pollution by the way he took my hand in his little dirty armadillo-chasin' hand and held it all the way home.

It took us 'till dark because every tree we passed he patted it, looked up at its giant branches and said, "Thank you."

Peter Cedarstacker  
Writer

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## EVERYBODY'S SOMEBODY

by  
Becky Crouch  
Barrales

### DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOT TIL YOU GOT NUNN

Tension. Stress. War news. Freeways. It's spring and beautiful! Let's get out of line and get gone, as Gary P says in "Road Trip". Waylon sang about getting back to the basics of life. Gary P nails joi de vie with these words:

We're goin cruising down 281  
We'll be 2-steppin', skinny dippin, soakin' up the sun  
With the top down, getting brown,  
Ain't it good to be alive!

We'll sing a chili song- there's a party comin on.  
We're gonna cut some rug till the cows come home.  
Lookin like a Luckenbach good time Saturday night.

Gary P. Nunn is one of Texas' best ambassadors and troubadours singing about what we all love and feel about the culture of fun in Texas. The big news about Gary P is that he wrote what is known as the "Texas anthem", "London Homesick Blues" (I Want to Go Home With the Armadillo). It sold over a million on Jerry Jeff Walker's albums, and was the theme song for 28 years on Austin City Limits TV show. Texas Music magazine said the quintessential Texas experience would be to dance to that song at Luckenbach.

The little news about Gary P is that he has been a tradition here since 1973. And that his sincerity, genuine fun, and laid back demeanor makes you feel like he personally wants you to have a good time. Throughout all these years he has become legendary in Texas music-as a writer and performer- but he has never gotten too big for us. Here at Luckenbach we have a little dance hall, but a big moon, and a Gary P with his big heart.

I tracked Gary P down for a too short conversation in Kerrville April 5, as he was setting up for Schreiner College's Homecoming dance. The

Luckenbach connection, he reminded me, went back to 1973 when he met Hondo in Austin at Tim O'Connor's bar. Gary P and John Inman had just split up with Michael Murphey and joined up with Jerry Jeff's band, which had just changed its name from the Deaf Cowboy Band to the Lost Gonzo Band. He was 28, and on their first meeting Hondo had asked him why he didn't cut his hair and beard. When Gary P arrived in Luckenbach to help Jerry Jeff record "Viva Terlingua" album (a first for record producers and Luckenbach), he had cut his hair and beard just for Hondo. "He made me feel very special," Gary P explained. "He influenced me the rest of my life. He was always way ahead of you, always planning, in an intuitive way."

Gary P recalled the fun he had singing harmony with Hondo Sangria Wine on Jerry Jeff's album. Afterwards, Hondo's voice could be heard correcting on tape, "No it's sangrita wine!" Back then bales of hay were used to block sounds like crowing roosters.

Gary P wanted to name his newborn son Lucken Bach Nunn. His wife settled for Lucken, and spelled Lukin at that. During the recording of Walker's second record album at Luckenbach in '76 (A Man Must Carry On), Gary P and wife Karen stayed the whole time in a real Indian tea pee on the creek bank. After the recording session finished and everyone had gone, Hondo called the store to tell Gary P, "Don't let him leave 'til I get back." He came back with a gift for toddler Lukin, a train engineer's striped overalls with matching cap, complete with a red bandana. Years later, Gary P gave Hondo the guitar on which he had written "London Homesick Blues". It was a simple classical guitar like Hondo played. "I gave him my guitar," Gary P said. "But Jerry Jeff said he gave him his heart."

Two weeks after the recording, September 27, Hondo died; from all the sleepless story-telling jamming nights under the oak trees, they'd feared. The album then took on a different mood and purpose. Relationships are born here but they never die here. We "chew on the good times and spit out the bad", as Gary P sings.

Since then we've danced a lot of miles with Gary P, whether a sweet waltz or a sweaty swing. Whenever I hear the sparkle in his voice, brought forth by that famous smile, I breathe deep and feel at

Continued on page 5

home listening to him. He sings about our life in Texas – from Tex Mex to tarpins in Corpus, the chili cook-offs, Terlingua skies and Guadalupe River. We float and twirl with him, unified by that same big blue canopy down in the Big Bend that covers us all. His "Ask Me What I Like About Texas" is a classic portrait describing our varied regions as well as characters.



Hondo and Gary P sharing the same birthdays, December 4, 1973, thirty years ago, at Palmer Auditorium on Town Lake, Austin.

Gary P never takes himself too seriously. "Public Domain" proves that.

Gary P has been living with wife Ruth in his tee pee on family land in Oklahoma. But when his 30-year-old horse dies, he plans soon to move back to Texas. He's already building a house in some cedar breaks near here. He works 2 to 3 days a week, commuting from Oklahoma. He likes it simple. His favorite kind of tour would be playing in those old dance halls with open windows, like Gruene, Broken Spoke, and Luckenbach (formerly Engel Halle).

He's working on a live album now. (Scare me!) He wants to put songs on it like Red Steagall's "Lone Star Beer and Bob Wills Music", and "A Heart Shaped Like Texas". He sees himself as keeping up the same traditions as Bob Wills, the Texas Playboys, Hank Thompson, Ray Price, and Ernest Tubb, playing the honky tonks. "I like dances where the whole family can come and the kids run around," he said. I told him that's the way my parents raised us. Mama and Hondo, expert dancers, even square danced. People would stop and stare at them doing the polka. Many a night we kids slept under the tables on the rode decca (red blanket) at such open air dance halls as Criders in Hunt, for example.

Gary P is a craftsman of a songwriter. "I like the hooks in your lines," I commented. One catchy hook on one of Gary P's hits was recorded by Willie, "The Last Thing I Needed the First Thing This Morning

(was to have you walk out on me)". He's working on a song now called "Don't Get Me Started If You Don't Want to Go All the Way." I told him to write a song to go with a title Dow Patterson thought up: "I Always Hit the Ceiling When You Drive Me Up The Wall." We chuckled at our favorite country song titles, giving Susana Clark credit

for my all time favorite: "If You Don't Leave Me Alone, I'll Find Someone Who Will".

They've made a state park out of the Big Blanco River. But we here at Luckenbach are like the Little Blanco River, still running but not big enough to be a state park. Like the Little Blanco River, Gary P, don't ever get too big for us. Please keep runnin' and comin.' Like you said,

We don't know what we got when we got it.  
We don't know what we've missed til we've tried it.  
(Terlingua Sky)

We've come a long long way  
And we've got a long way to go.  
(A Long Way To Go).

Becky Crouch Barrales  
Writer

**P.S. Don't miss a genuine Texas dance hall experience twirlin' around with Gary P on Saturday, December 20th at the Luckenbach Christmas Ball.**

**"BE SOMEBODY" in LUCKENBACH APPAREL & STUFF**

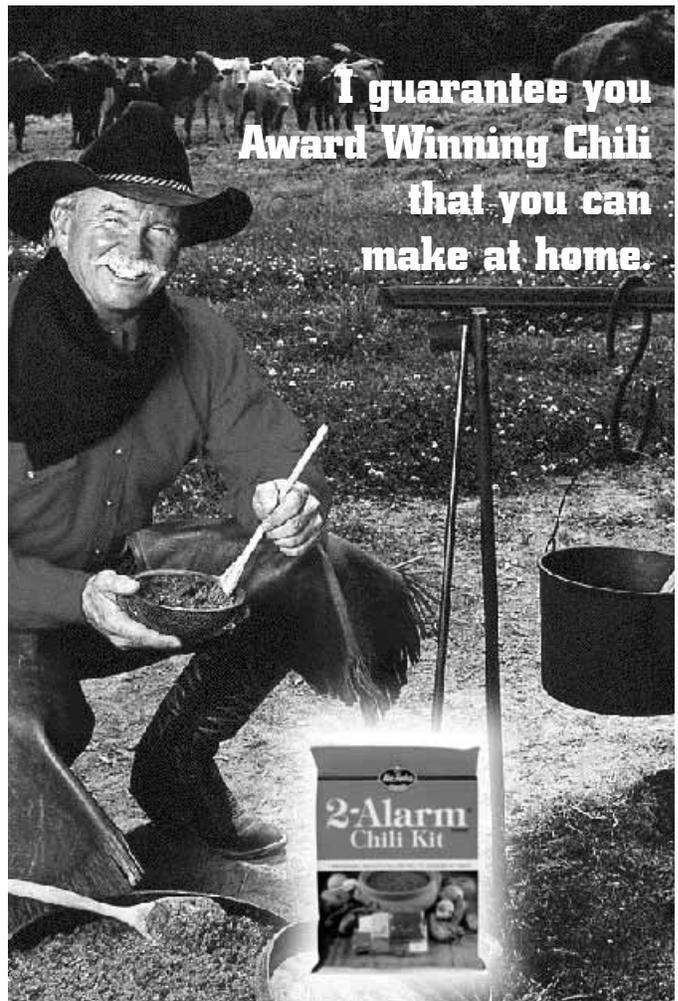


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make at home.**

# You can't forget Memories

December 2008  
Copyright John Raven



A few weeks ago while I was probing for useful items in my old residence at The Creek; I saw my autographed picture of Hondo Crouch hanging on the wall. It was not a photograph but a pin and ink drawing done by Jack White and it was Hondo's favorite. Hondo gave out autographed prints to folks. I got mine at the Folklife Festival in San Antonio, probably in 1975. Hondo had signed it with his "I know God likes good people because he made one named: (In my case, Bad McFad).

I have treasured the gift. I made a rough cedar frame for it and hung it on my wall. My present residence has a paucity of wall space so I delayed bringing in my "Hondo" until I found the proper place for it. I have been living here now for eight years and I still haven't found wall space.

Meanwhile back at The Creek I gave my picture a close inspection. To my surprise I found the Mud Daubers have chosen the image of Hondo as the site of one of their condominiums. The picture and frame have been home to many Daubers.

Knowing Hondo's love of the little builders, after all, Luckenbach is home of the Mud Dauber Festival every spring. I decided the picture should be in Luckenbach. I emailed Management at L'bach and told them of the treasure I had found. David said he would be happy to have it and would find a good site to display it. So that is how it got to where it is.



I know this is December and I should be writing about things snowy and cheery but I'm an old man and this is what I want to write. So there.

I, like Hondo, have a soft spot in my heart for Mud Daubers. They have been around for as long as I can remember. They are friendly little critters, they like to live with people. They are not ill tempered like their wasp and hornet brethren. The only time I was ever stung by a Dauber was when I accidentally put my hand on him and it was his way of asking me to kindly remove my hand.

Luckenbach has had the Mud Dauber Festival for many moons (Luckenbach). The MDF celebrates the day the Mud Daubers return to Luckenbach from their winter homes in Bolivia. Much ado is made over the return and the person who spies the first returning critter gets free haircuts for a year from the Pehl Sheep and Goat shearing service.

I was fairly new to Luckenbach when the first MDF was instigated. I thought it would be a nifty idea to go to the celebration dressed as a mud dauber. I put together a costume with the aid of my two ugly stepsisters and my fairy goduncle.

Upon arriving the day of the festival I was surprised to learn there was a mud dauber impersonation contest. Needless to say I won. Guich Koock was on hand as master of ceremonies and I quickly wrote a script for my interview with Guich or his interview with me however it worked. My answer to every question had to do something with mud. I.e. "Where did you get your education"? My answer was "Mississippi University at Delta" Good old MUD.

It was great fun. One year I was inspector of belly buttons looking for the best navel lint. The winner was a guy---dammit.





# 2008 Luckenbach Schedule



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Help us keep Luckenbach legal!  
Please do not bring alcohol or take it off the grounds when you leave

<b>Sundays • 1pm</b> <b>Cowboy Doug Davis @ 5pm</b>	<b>Dec. 7th - Claude Butch Morgan; Dec. 14th - Royce Laskoskie;</b> <b>Dec. 21st - Thomas Michael Riley; Dec. 28th - Noel McKay</b>
<b>Lone Star Pickers • Tuesdays • 5pm</b>	<b>Host - Dale Mayfield</b>
<b>Hometown Wednesdays • 5pm</b>	<b>Dec. 3rd - Scooter w/ Idgy Vaughn; Dec. 10th - ShAnnie;</b> <b>Dec. 17th - Claude Butch Morgan</b>
<b>Thursdays • 5pm</b>	<b>Dec. 4th - Bill Lewis; Dec. 11th - T&amp;C Miller;</b> <b>Dec. 18th - Ken Finlay's Songwriter Circle</b>
<b>Weekend Dances • 8pm</b>	<b>Dec. 5th - Josh Peek; Dec. 12th - Bo Porter &amp; the Dixie Rockits;</b> <b>Dec. 19th - Amber Digby &amp; Midnight Flyer; Dec. 26th - The Doug Moreland Show</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec 13th • 8pm</b>	<b>Mark David Manders - Opening blacktopGYPSY</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 20th • 8pm</b>	<b>Luckenbach Christmas Ball - Gary P. Nunn</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 27th • 8pm</b>	<b>The Gourds - opening The Band of Heathens</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 31st • 8pm</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Dance - Mike Blakely &amp; the Whiskey Traders</b> <b>opening - Bo Porter &amp; the Dixie Rockits</b>

**25¢**



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Fredericksburg, Texas 78624  
[www.luckenbachtexas.com](http://www.luckenbachtexas.com)

This schedule may change...so,  
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