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# Country Music: Clubs thrive on New Year's Eve

By TOWNSEND MILLER

Special Writer

New Year's Eve in Austin was interesting in many ways. The clubs I visited or had reports on were jammed, which is great, for musicians and club owners all must make money for live music to survive. Just the fans — who, in typical Austin fashion, were more interested in listening, laughing, and living than fighting — seemed to be having a great time and I heard complaints about not getting their money's worth although I didn't check any of the \$15- to \$20-per-person spots!

New clubs come and, sadly, close up. New Year's Eve marked the last night under the ownership of the beautiful Chicken Ranch Club which has provided some fine music for the past year. Owner Linda Ellis will go to Houston to couple of years, but all is not over and has put the Chicken Ranch back up for sale. If interested, call her at 445-7285.

The night, on the other hand, marked the official opening of the huge new Silver Dollar dance facility. This beautiful club, with its giant hardwood floor, carpeted seating area, live sound, and copious of ever one thousand, surely is an asset for the Austin country music scene. Incidentally, those strange looking objects scattered around the ceiling are electronic smoke removers. Owner George Stevens and Manager Mike Gamble had a capacity crowd on hand, and the night was great except for a serious shortage of bartenders.

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without an argument from anyone the greatest guitar picker in the area, and Eric Gammon will remain together. During their long string of "trial appearances" the past month they acquired veteran guitarist Layton DeWomino to replace Bill Stoner, and now they've added Don Fisher on drums.

The new group hasn't decided on a name yet, but they already have put in many hours of rehearsal, are ready to go, and are accepting bookings.

**This Week In Austin**  
I am keeping an interested eye on the progress of Austin's two new country-oriented clubs in the downtown area, the Bandbooks, operated by Laraine Hildebrand and her son Larry McDonald, and the new Plum Nelly Robson?

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A couple of weeks ago a group called Four Crow dropped by the Bandbooks and asked for a chance to play, which was granted. I haven't heard them, but the report I got was that the fans loved 'em. They'll be back at the Bandbooks Saturday night and also will participate in the regular Sunday afternoon All Band Adult at the Split Rail.

Popular vocalist Michael James provides the "house band" at Dejah's. Saturday night will be something special there, as friend Rusty White is promised to bring his band through Saturday, Jan. 13/17.

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there for what should be a lively jam session.

The two clubs are located

**amusements**

with a couple of blocks of each other, so Saturday night will provide a fun chance to get acquainted with both.

Elsewhere, other highlights of a great Saturday night schedule everywhere include Woodfield at Carle Creek and Doug Sahm, whose new band keeps getting better every time I hear them, at Armadillo World Headquarters.

Tony Douglas and the Spanglers come to the Broken Spoke Wednesday night. They have lingered on the brink of greatness with a long string of medium-sized hits for a good many years. Now his current hit "I'll Be Home Again" is skyrocketing on the national charts and shows promise of making him one of those "one year overnight sensations."

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This is a wonderful facility. It's money (although I'm sure I don't really see the acre it seems), and the ceiling is about three stories high. It is well lighted for the television camera, and you can see and hear well so matter where you may be in the studio. If you haven't experienced music there, you don't know what you're missing. New year's have a chance.

**A Bar Offer**

In the long and wonderful life I've lived, I've heard music in a lot of places. Among spots I recall without where the sound was the greatest are the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, former home of the Grand Ole Opry with its fantastic acoustics, the Halbeist Pavilion in Houston where the oceanic know what they were doing, and almost anywhere outdoors. But my favorite place of all is right here in Austin. It's the television studio of KLRN, located in the communications building on the University of Texas campus.

before more-or-less closed its doors with a limited invitation list. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, Peter Ford and the KL staff are leaving everyone, up to a limit of

and an average 2 million over July Fourth and in early August but we still have plenty of rooms at other times," he said.

Colin Williamsburg appeared to be the most popular Biculturalist spot on the East Coast, but president George H. Bush said "we're not actually trying to draw more people here."

He said Williamsburg estimated visitors in 1975 totaled 13 million, about a 21 per cent increase over 1974.

The D.C. Bicentennial Commission and a White House task force both estimate visitors to the nation's capital in 1975 will total 17.2 million compared to 14 million in 1974, a 22 per cent hike.

In Boston, some hotels are already booked solid for the Fourth of July and the rest are looking forward to a big year.

John Davis State of Sheraton's chain cited a "very big demand. We are looking forward to a bumper year. Everyone wants to come to Boston."

Kenneth Roberts, spokesman for the city's "Boston 200" agency, said 6 million to 6.5 million visitors were anticipated in 1976, up from about 3.5 million this year.

He said nearly half would stay with friends, the rest in hotels and the average stay would be about three days.

"Washington and Williamsburg virtually are the charts with triple the bookings there for 1976," said John Slachnik, president of Pullman-Town in Chicago. He said his company booked 3,000 students for the two cities for this spring compared to 3,100 in spring 1975.

course, is aimed on these two weekend sessions. All you have to do is get a ticket.

Greyhound will be taking Tuesday and Wednesday. It has tickets in my pockets if you see me around the clubs, or you can phone 61-4112 for information.

Incidentally, it has been my good fortune to see previews of several of the completed sessions. The all-around production is simply fantastic in every way, and this could turn out to be one of the most musical television series ever produced by anyone!

The first show of this great series featuring the Austin music scene was shown Friday night. The second, which featured the Austin music scene, was shown Friday night. The third, which featured the Austin music scene, was shown Friday night.

Even far-away Nashville is being formed on by a bumper crop of new acts, which perhaps is a big reason they have been so fantastically successful with the artists they manage.

Townsend Miller's country music column appears each Friday in the Austin American-Statesman.

**What's Going On**

**FIRST RUN MOVIES**  
"The Black Bird" (PG) - George Segal stars in this spot of the detective genre as Sam Spide (he is not search of the elusive Malibu Falcon. At the Fox Twin.

"The Hindenburg" (PG) - George C. Scott and Anne Bancroft head an actor cast in the film which hypothesizes the events which led up to the explosion of the large zeppelin in 1937 over Lakehurst, N. J. At the Highland Mall Cinema.

"Dog Day Afternoon" (R) - Al Pacino stars in Robert Royce's film version of an actual attempted bank robbery in which a man tried to secure funds for his male lover's sex change operation and the bizarre circumstances that followed. At the University.

"The Image" (X) - Peter super-director Ridley Metzger examines submanhood. At De Texas.

"Lucky Lady" (PG) - Shirley Dorn's movie about running from Mexico to California during Prohibition. Starring Liza Minnelli, Bert Reynolds and Gene Hackman. At the Highland Mall Cinema.

"The Human Factor" (R) - George Kennedy and John Mills star in this tale of a man seeking revenge on a gang of militants who kill his wife and three children. At the Aquarius IV and Northern 6.

"Hallelujah" (R) - Bart Reynolds and Catherine Deneuve in a police action drama from director Robert Aldrich. At the Capital Plaza Cinema.

"The Gentleman Tramp" (G) - Documentary on the life and career of Charlie Chaplin. At the Village Cinema IV.

"The Killer Force" (R) - Action drama starring Telly Savalas. At the Northern 6.

"The Man Who Would Be King" (PG) - Sean Connery and Michael Caine star as two men who seek to rule a country in this film version of the Rudyard Kipling classic, directed by John Huston. At the Northern 6.

"The Story of O" (X) - Controversial French, soft porn movie based on the classic erotic novel. At the Northern 6.

"The Killer Elite" (PG) - James Caan and Robert Davul star as Sam Peckinpah's film about an independent protection agency assigned to take care of high-risk, top security cases. At the American.

"Out of Season" (R) - Vanessa Redgrave, Cliff Robertson and Susan George star in this tale of a woman and her daughter and the man who returns from the past. At the Northern 6.

**ONSTAGE**  
"Don't Mess With Frigid" - Don Ameche stars in this hit comedy from the 1930s, the current production at Country Dinner Playhouse. Doors open at 3:45 p.m. Curtain at 8 p.m. Reservations necessary.

"Daga Revue" - Ken Johnson's nightclub revue continues at Center Stage's new location at 220 E. 6th. 8:18-9 p.m.

**CLUB ACTS**  
Premieres at Senator Pingfong's. Blind George McLean at Split Rail. Resumes at the Showboat. Frank James at the Showboat. Renee Mae Miller at the Colours. Geneva and the Gentleman at the Seville Room in Sheraton Crest. Bernice Siben at Casbahora. Buddy Wilson and Squatter's Rights at the Saddle Club. Trippy of Holiday Inn South. Harlan and Russell at the Red Grifter. Jerry Stephens at Red Tomato. Country Road at Skyline Club. Doug Sahm at Armadillo World Headquarters. Woodfield at Carle Creek.

**2 More Days**  
**Frankenstein & Dracula**  
**SPECIAL DOUBLE FEATURE**  
The original versions (KOD) of two of the most famous horror films of all time.  
Starring Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi  
Frankenstein 7:20 (KOD)  
Dracula 1:50 Children  
1.00 before 7  
713 Congress 472-5412

**SOUTHVIEW**  
FRANKENSTEIN & DRACULA  
OFFER 12.45 @ \$1.75 TR. @ Features 1.00-3.00-7.00-9.00  
Children Under 12 \$1.25  
Still the fairest of them all!

**Walt Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**  
SPECIAL DOUBLE FEATURE  
HELD OVER!  
AT 7 THEATRES!

**northcross six theatres**  
454-5147  
ANDERSON LANE & BURNETT RD.  
AN AMERICAN FILM OF POLAROID THEATRE  
**OUT OF SEASON**  
Cliff Robertson  
Vanessa Redgrave  
Susan George

**Sean Connery...Michael Caine**  
**Christopher Plummer**  
"One of the year's best!"  
1 in 10 film ever made  
**The Man Who Would Be King**  
2:00-4:45-7:25-10:00  
Tue-Thu W. 4:45-6:15, 8:15

**TELLY SAVALAS - PETER FONDA**  
**HUGH O'BRIAN - O. J. SIMPSON - MAUD ADAMS**  
(CHRISTOPHER LEE)  
**KILLER FORCE**  
1:00-3:00-5:15-7:00-9:45  
Tue-Thu W. 4:45-6:15, 8:15

**"THE STORY OF O"**  
1-43-45-60-815-1030  
Tue-Thu W. 5:30-6:00, 8:15

**TRAVEL & TOURS**  
**AQUARIUS-4**  
SEE DIRECTORY AD FOR FEATURE TIMES  
Your family has just been murdered without motive, without mystery, without anything inside your recollections for help!  
It's locked!

**EMERSON PRESENTS**  
**A FRANK AVICCA PRODUCTION**  
**GEORGE KENNEDY - JOHN MILLS**  
**THE HUMAN FACTOR**  
Cliff Robertson - Barry Collier - Bill Thompson - Arthur O'Connell - Tom Hayden

**George Segal's bird?**  
HELD OVER!  
AUSTIN THEATRE  
2130 S. CONGRESS  
BIG DRIVE 10PM 12:30  
AHS 11:50 • CREW 11:30  
CRIBBA IS THE NATURAL SUCCESSOR TO BRUCE LEE!

**THE STREET FIGHTER**  
IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT FIGHT DIRTY!  
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