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Patsy Montana to appear with Marcia Ball tonight

By TOWNSEND MILLER
Special to The American-Statesman

Since I will be on vacation to attend the Kerrville Folk Festival next week and will not write any columns, this week's preview of country music in Austin and the accompanying Country Calendar will extend partially through next weekend.

Highlights include country music's pioneer female country singer **Patsy Montana** with Marcia Ball at Soap Creek Saloon Friday, **Steve Fromholz** at Rome Inn Tuesday and Wednesday, and three national headliners at Armadillo World Headquarters next week — the **Charlie Daniels Band** Wednesday, fiddling master **Vassar Clements and Band** next Friday, and **Guy Clark plus Marcia Ball** next Saturday. Also next week the **Kerrville Folk Festival**, featuring many country acts, opens Thursday for four days and nights through Sunday.

Patsy Montana was the first female country singer to have a record which sold a million copies with her "I Want To Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart" in 1936. Several years ago I told Marcia Ball about the song and suggested it might be a good one for her. I dug the old recording out of my collection for Marcia to hear. She liked it but was a bit taken back when she discovered the song had a yodeling chorus. Marcia had never even attempted to yodel.

To Marcia's own surpise, she discovered she could yodel and yodel well, and the song, which she later recorded, has become one of her most popular renditions.

I wrote Patsy and told her about Marcia's recording, and Marcia sent her a copy. Then they exchanged correspondence.

For years I had wanted to meet Patsy, and now Marcia had a like wish. Both of us had the pleasure of getting to know Patsy at the Kerrville Country and Western Festival last summer.

Patsy still is a very beautiful and totally charming lady. She and Marcia, now mutual admirers, will have a chance to appear together when they perform at Soap Creek Saloon tonight.

Patsy will go from here to return to the Kerrville Folk Festival, where she will perform next Friday afternoon and judge the National Yodeling Contest that night.

Moon Hill Management will showcase two of their acts, **Steve Fromholz** and the rock-country **Denim** band at Rome Inn Tuesday. Steve, who will be held over for Wednesday also, will introduce

PATSY MONTANA
At Soap Creek

his new group. He has added **John Houser** on bass and drummer **Kenny Johnson** to **Larry Nye's** lead guitar.

Next week is a big one at Armadillo. The highly popular hard-rock-country **Charlie Daniels Band** comes in Wednesday to fill a late booking. Then next Friday **Vassar Clements** displays his fiddle and band, and next Saturday **Guy Clark** joins Marcia Ball for a twin billing.

Vassar, a veteran of many of the nation's leading bluegrass and country bands, recently (beginning with his fantastic performance on **Richard Betts'** "Highway Call" album) has added to his versatility by coming into his own as a superb jazz fiddler. A new album, his first on the MCA label, is due for release momentarily.

As you recall, I named **Guy Clark** second only to **Waylon Jennings** in my annual list of favorite male country singers this year. I much regret that I will miss the performances at Armadillo by Guy next Saturday and by Vassar, long one of my favorites, Friday, but I'll get to hear Guy at Kerrville Sunday night.

In addition to the above highlights, other good things are happening this week in Austin. KLRN continues with its new "Austin City Limits" television series with a repeat of the **Willie Nelson-Tra-**cy Nelson program this Saturday at 11 p.m. and the first showing of a program with the **Amazing Rhythm Aces plus Gove** Monday at 9 p.m.

Saturday the **Savages** play for the annual George Majewski Look Alike night at Soap Creek Saloon.

Laguna Gloria's art "Fiesta '77" has scheduled a wide variety of musical entertainment Saturday and Sunday. **Crystal Image** will play for a teen dance Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m., and the **Geezinslaw Brothers** play for an adult dance Saturday at 9 p.m. Listening music will be provided by the **Strawberry Pickers** Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m., by the **River City Variety Band** Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m., and by the **Round Rock Jazz Band** Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m.

The **Austin Friends of Traditional Music** host a meeting and jam session at Rome Inn Sunday at 2 p.m.

Three big nights at Liberty Lunch feature **Mike Williams** and **Don Sanders** Monday, **Bobby Bridger** and **Bill Priest** Tuesday, and **Allen Damron** and **John Garza** Wednesday.

Jon Emery returns from a trip to his former home Nebraska territory to play with his **Missouri Valley Boys** at Steamboat Springs Tuesday through Thursday, and **Townes Van Zandt** will be joined by his **Hemmer Ridge Mountain Boys** at Bull Creek Inn Wednesday and Thursday.

Then next Thursday the country-oriented Kerrville Folk Festival begins its four-day-night run through Sunday at Rod Kennedy's beautiful permanent outdoor amphitheater on his Quiet Valley Ranch. Details appeared in my column Thursday.

country music

country calendar

(Compiled by Townsend Miller from information furnished by club owners, musicians, and agents)

Friday only — Patsy Montana plus Marcia Ball at Soap Creek, Al Dean and the All Stars at Broken Spoke, Al Dressen at Lumberyard, Moods at Silver Dollar, Jody Jay Band at VFW 6767, Country Road at Skyline.

Friday and Saturday — Silver City Saddle Tramps plus Bill and Bonnie Hearne at Bull Creek Inn, Dan and Dave at Back Room, Wildwest at Steamboat Springs, Manby Holmes at Shorthorn, Rosewood Junction at Lock Stock & Barrel, Audry's Choir at Filling Station, Silvertones at Alliance Wagon Yard, Wild Jalapeno at Holiday Inn South.

Saturday only — Audrey Lowdon at Lumberyard, Roger Beck and Band at Old Ferry Tavern, Ace in the Hole at Broken Spoke, Hay Robbins at Silver Dollar, South Side Band at Split Rail, Al Dressen at Doc Creek Tavern, Willie Nelson and Tracy Nelson on KLRN "Austin City Limits" television series (11 p.m.), Bert Rivera at Skyline.

Sunday only — Kiwi at Steamboat Springs, Somewhat Country at Broken Spoke, Cooder Browne Band at Split Rail, Austin Friends of Traditional Music meeting and jam session at Rome Inn (3-6 p.m.), jam session with Jubal Clark at Bull Creek Inn, Beto and the Fairlanes at Alliance Wagon Yard, Audry's Choir at Filling Station, Penny Nay at Back Room, Manby Holmes at Shorthorn, live country music at Old Ferry Tavern (4-8 p.m.).

Sunday and Monday — Buddy Wilson at Side Saddle, Country Express at Lumberyard, Michael Ballew at Lock Stock & Barrel.

Monday only — Bourbon Brothers at Back Room, Dixie Dixiells at Split Rail, Mike Williams plus Don Sanders plus (tentative) John Vandiver at Liberty Lunch, Amazing Rhythm Aces plus Gove on KLRN "Austin City Limits" television series (9 p.m.).

Monday and Tuesday — unannounced at Filling Station.

Tuesday only — Steve Fromholz plus Denim at Rome Inn, Bobby Bridger plus Bill Priest at Liberty Lunch, Doug Sahm at Soap Creek, Cooder Browne Band at Alliance Wagon Yard, Country Edition at Lumberyard, Debonaires with Jerry Green at Silver Dollar, Back Burners at Back Room, Joe Bob's Bar and Grill Band at Split Rail, folk music open jam session at Luigi's.

Tuesday through Thursday — Jon Emery and the Missouri Valley Boys at Steamboat Springs.

Tuesday through Saturday — Rosewood Junction at Lock Stock & Barrel.

Wednesday only — Charlie Daniels Band at Armadillo, Dale McBride at Lumberyard, Allen Damron plus John Garza at Liberty Lunch, Peoples Choice at Broken Spke., Jess DeMaine at Silver Dollar, Steve Fromholz at Rome Inn, Butch Hancock at Split Rail, Marcia Ball at Soap Creek.

Wednesday and Thursday — Partners in Crime at Back Room, Townes Van Zandt at Bull Creek Inn.

Wednesday through Sunday — Monty Holmes at Shorthorn, Woodrow and Marcus at Filling Station.

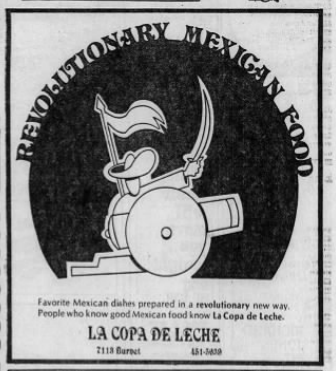
Thursday only — Country Edition at Broken Spoke, Debonaires at Lumberyard, Moods at Silver Dollar, Howlers at Rome Inn, unannounced at Split Rail, country music open jam session at Hut's, Greezy Wheels at Soap Creek.

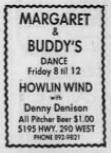
Thursday through Sunday — Kerrville Folk Festival at Kerrville.

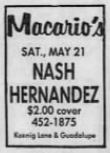
Friday only — Vassar Clements Band at Armadillo, Dolbert McClinton at Soap Creek, Country Music Revue at Broken Spoke, Jess DeMaine at Silver Dollar, Dan and Dave at Back Room.

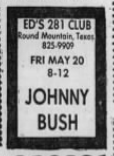
Friday and Saturday — Howlers at Alliance Wagon Yard.

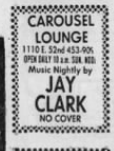
Saturday only — Guy Clark plus Marcia Ball at Armadillo, Al Dressen at Broken Spoke, Peoples Choice at Silver Dollar, Country Road at VFW 6282, Alvin Crow plus El Molino at Soap Creek.

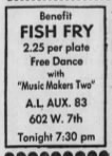


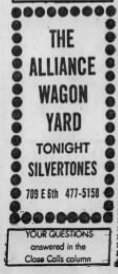


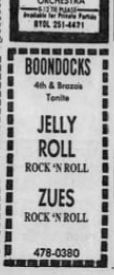












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