

country music

Kerrville fest slates top acts

By TOWNSEND MILLER

Special to The American Statesman
The Kerrville Folk Festival, which this year is scheduled liberally with country-oriented acts, is coming up next weekend, four night concerts plus daytime specials, Thursday through Sunday, May 27-30.

I will be going on vacation next week so attend we won't write any columns, so this is the last notice I will have to talk about this great family-oriented outdoor event.

To put important things first, for complete information about the concerts and camping accommodations at the concert site or in the Kerrville area (hotels already are sold out), phone Kerrville 324-696-2000 — and here are the daily schedules of events:

THURSDAY, Concert, 6 p.m., (in order of appearance) 1976 National Yodeling Champion Ker-ty Hatcher, Rich Minn, Richard Mause, Don Sanders, Bill and Bonnie Iearne, Bobby Bridger, Alexander Harvey, De Moeller, Delbert McCl-roy.

FRIDAY, Concert, 6 p.m., National Yodeling Championship, Don McCrinnen, John Vandev, Laura Lee McVie, TAM Express, B.W. Stevenson, Marla Ball, Alvin Crow, Daytime Specials, 11 a.m., New Folk Concert competition, 1 p.m., Frisbee Frolic with demonstrations by professional Aces Frisbee Team and informal competition open to everyone, 4 p.m. miniconcert with Allen Damron, Patsy Montana, and Kenneth Threadgill.

SATURDAY, Concert, 6 p.m., Mike Williams, Ed Miller, Townes Van Zandt, Bill Staines, Carolyn Hester, the Singing Christians, Steve Fromholz, Harlin and Russell, Milton Carroll, Daytime Specials, 11 a.m., New Folk competition (at Arts and Crafts Fair); 4 p.m., reunion of Joe Ely and the Flatlanders.

SUNDAY, Concert, 6 p.m., John Gatzra, Bill Priest, Shug Maiden, Robert Shaw, Butch Hancock, Steve Young, Devin, Josh Graves with Bluegrass Roanoke band, Guy Clark, Daytime Specials, 11 a.m., Folk Mass with the Royal Lipgig-ers, 1 and 3 p.m., New Folk winners (at Arts and Crafts Fair).

One important change has been made in the original schedule. Note that Steve Fromholz and B.W. Stevenson traded nights: B.W. will perform Friday, Fromholz on Saturday.

I have written several times that the biggest favor I feel I could do for you is to persuade you to attend one of the four Kerrville music festivals held each summer. If you can't attend all four, please, try just one. Kerrville is a drive of only 104 beautiful miles.

At least three factors make these festivals particularly enjoyable — talent, the setting and facilities, and the attitude of the fans who attend.

Fans go to Kerrville for one reason. They enjoy listening to good music. That environment creates a relaxed but joyful family-type atmosphere where true music lovers can have a ball.

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JOE ELY TO PERFORM

Reunion with Flatlanders at 4 p.m. May 28
A few suggestions. Limited seating is provided, but you might find lawn chairs more comfortable. Remember, it's an outdoor concert, so take protective clothing against possible rain, chilly May nights and exposure to sun.

No glass or beverage containers of any kind are permitted in the theater area, but beer, soft drinks, and food are available at reasonable cost.

ALL OF THE Kerrville music festivals have unusual and intriguing special attractions. For instance, the Folk Festival next week end will have informal frisbee competition Friday afternoon with a demonstration by the professional Chicago-based Aces Frisbee Team. Townes Van Zandt will be reunited Saturday night with his former backup musicians, master guitarist Micker White and Rex Bell, for Townes' first Central Texas performance since he moved to Nashville, and the annual National Yodeling Contest will be held Friday night.

One of the most interesting special events will be a Saturday afternoon reunion of the Flatlanders, a Lubbock-based group which was tremendously popular in Austin in the early 1970s. The Flatlanders contained five amazing musicians — Joe Ely on lead guitar and vocals, guitarist-singer Erich Hancock and Jimmie Gilmore, Steve Weason on autoharp and musical saw, and Tony Pearson on mandolin.

The Flatlanders existed for about two years. They played here a number of times in 1971-72 at the Armadillo and the One Knight and appeared at the first Kerrville Folk Festival in 1972. Joe Ely performed in "Stump," the rock musical which originated in humble fashion here at the University of Texas and attracted so much attention it eventually toured the nation and Europe.

Joe, of course, has his own Austin-based band, wrote four of the 16 songs on Joe's album, and former Flatlander Jimmie Gilmore wrote one of them.

The Kerrville reunion of the Flatlanders Saturday afternoon will be followed by a performance by Joe and his great current band, with Jesse Taylor on lead guitar, Lloyd Malone, steel, Patti Bone, accordion, Gregg Wright, bass, and Steve Keeton, drums.

Townes' Miller's country music columns appear every Thursday and Friday in The American Statesman.

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Korman very funny; show lacks depth

By LISA TUTTLE

ABC fired Harvey Korman away from "The Carol Burnett Show" on CBS by offering him his very own show. Alas, that show didn't make it into the fall line-up, so we won't have Harvey to laugh at for a while, at least.

But "The Harvey Korman Show" (pilot airing tonight at 8:30 on KXUE, channel 24) has a good chance of making it as a second season replacement series.

The best thing about "The Harvey Korman Show" is that Korman, in the person of a flamboyant, eccentric actor (and acting teacher), is given the opportunity to mug and mime and perform outrageously. He's not tied to being constantly "in character" in the usual limiting sitcom role, and has the opportunity for almost any kind of subject and freedom as on "The Carol Burnett Show."

KORMAN MAKES the most of his opportunities, and when he gets going he's very, very funny.

But the show works only as a vehicle for Korman. The situations themselves are neither especially funny nor at all convincing, and the other characters are awfully weak.

Susan Lawrence is livelier as Korman's daughter, and Milton Selcher forgettable as his agent.

Still, for Korman it's worth watching — he's a lot more than most situation comedies can boast.

ECONOMICS has always seemed a difficult, dry, dull subject to me —

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television

something I managed to avoid in school and out.

So I got these old homework beebie-jobbies when I heard that the new PBS series, "The Age of Uncertainty," was all about economic theory.

Surprise! "The Age of Uncertainty" premiering tonight at 8 on KLRN, channel 9) is very entertaining in addition to being informative.

John Kenneth Galbraith reveals economics in a new (to my) light, as the most basic of philosophies. Using imaginative studio sets, computer graphics and lots of beautiful on-location sequences, including the ancient dockyards of London, Versailles, and the Scottish highlands, Galbraith removes economics from the area of textbooks and numbers and places it firmly among humanity.

"HOLLYWOOD HIGH" is an NBC pilot airing tonight at 8 on KTV, another stand-by comedy which didn't make it into the new season as a regular series.

The title pretty much tells all. Juvenile humor aimed at the pre-high school set, concerning the antics of several supposedly typical high school students. It's not too bad, as these things go, which means it isn't too good, either.

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"Up or down?"
"Up."
"Dig or delphus?"
"Dig."
"Right so far, Bobby."
"Maybe I'm not cut out to be a teacher."
"Could be, Miss Forward."

THICK OR THIN?
"Wrong, Bobby. You can't say both."
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"I guess you got me there, Bobby."
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"Could be, Miss Forward."

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