

6C WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1990

**ENTERTAINMENT**

# Enoch's books Van Zandt

## Texas songwriter juggles touring, recording sessions

**By JOHN ANDREW PRIME**  
The Times

**Townes Van Zandt**

- **The place:** Enoch's a Cafe, 1911 Centenary Blvd.
- **The date:** Thursday at 7 p.m., with an opening performance by the group Borderline.
- **The price:** Tickets are \$6.95 per person.

Lean, unadorned music. Raw and strummed to the sound of acoustic guitar — a sound natural to songwriters from Texas.

You hear it in the best of Willie Nelson, in Guy Clark, in Boz Scaggs — and in Townes Van Zandt.

Shreveporters will have a chance to hear Van Zandt Thursday at Enoch's a Cafe.

Van Zandt and Texas go hand in hand, actually. Think of Van Zandt County, which is named after his great-great-grandfather. Or tie him with Willie Nelson, who sang Van Zandt's *Pancho and Lefty* and made it a hit.

The trouble with Van Zandt is this: He doesn't spend enough time in either Texas or Tennessee to call either home. His life, like that of most players, is an endless series of performances, with meals from the microwave and mornings where the first act is to glance at the cover of the phone book to see what town he's in this time.

In a phone interview from Nashville, Tenn., Van Zandt, a rangy, smiling sort, sounds quiet and subdued.

Nashville is home now, he says, "because this is where the business is. Heck, at least half the music people here are from Texas."

This summer he has per-

formances in Little Rock, Ark., Dallas and three other Texas cities — Austin, San Antonio and Arlington.

"Then I'm through for a while," he says. But the respite won't be long. "After a bit, I'll be off to Australia and New Zealand."

Van Zandt has written several hundred songs — "maybe 120 really good ones" — but the hectic touring shows that the musician, now 45, isn't resting on his laurels. He's still quite active as a recording artist.

"Emmylou Harris has just cut one called *Snowing on Raton*, but I don't know when it will be released," he says. "I've just finished recording an anthology of 60 of my songs, to be a three-CD set. It'll come out on the Tomato label."

Van Zandt's work, on and off vinyl, is adventurous. He's known for his spontaneous performances.

"Yeah, at parties — on a good night, you can make up songs to play one time and never play them again," he says.



A prolific songwriter from Texas, Van Zandt wrote the Willie Nelson-Merle Haggard hit "Pancho and Lefty".