



# DISPATCHES FROM NEW FOLK with Dalis Allen

**T**elling the story of the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk from the viewpoint of its beginning and the paths it and the artists who are a part of it have taken, is an ongoing process for a long time to come. But as with anything that has longevity, the story must certainly include the continued new history being made. I referred to the 2014 Award Winners tour in the last issue. I would now like to challenge our readers that are songwriters to enter your songs this year, 2015, and become a part of the history. There are so many different opportunities to do that. Here's one now!

**SONGWRITERS!!!!** If you are planning to enter the 2015 GRASSY HILL KERRVILLE NEW FOLK COMPETITION, have we got a cool deal for you!

New Folk and the Music Camp for Teens are two of our most beloved events. So for everyone that enters New Folk before February 13 a donation will be made to the fund to sponsor kids to come to camp. What a great Valentine's Day gift to a teen that is interested in music. All you have to do is send in your songs and they get help to come to camp. Perfect, right?

So get your entry in by mail, email or Sonicbids and be a supporter of a wonderful opportunity for our young humans!!!! And feel great about having that one more thing done and off of your plate. And hold the thought for yourself that you will be playing your songs at Kerrville this year.

Here's a little info about Camp for those that are not aware. We began the Music Camp for Teens in 2006 as a collaboration of The Kerrville Folk Festival Foundation and Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas. We typically have 60 - 80 in attendance. Some of them already play an instrument or even write songs and poetry; truly a lot more now, especially the ones that have attended Camp more than once, but it is not a requirement. The mission is to create understanding in young

people about the way that music affects us in our daily lives. Even if a music career isn't a goal just being around music and feeling the healing powers it can have has been life changing for not only the kids but the coordinators and faculty too. This year Steve Seskin, Tom Prasada-Rao, Annie Wenz, Roy Wooten, Jena Kirkpatrick, Frank Meyer and Bill Oliver are the lucky artists that will be the Teaching Faculty.

Join in to be a part of two really life changing experiences!

And now to tell some more stories of past participants.

If you go to the Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk page <http://www.kerrville-music.com/newfolk.htm> and scroll down a bit right above the listings for 2013 you will see

## History of the New Folk Competition

Kerrville New Folk Archives

courtesy of [www.happenstance-music.com](http://www.happenstance-music.com)

If you click on this link, there is not just the Award Winners of New Folk but a complete list of the names of ALL of the songwriters that came to the Festival to play and sing the two songs that they submitted. These pages were put together with loving dedication by Doug Coppock to whom we owe our deep gratitude. I have looked at them countless times. And still a recent discovery is an account of a participant named Gordon. I am taking this story directly from the archived pages. It is from the very beginning.....

I'm Gordon Henry Barth

I played Kerrville in 1973 as a new folk artist. I was reminiscing about those days and decided to google things and came up with your web site. I was nineteen at the time and was going to Texas Tech. Allen Damron was playing tunes at a place in

Lubbock called The Brookshire Inn where I earned money for school. He sat me down in the apartment where he was staying and made a tape of me and sent it in for the New Folk entry.

Back then, it was pretty rusty. I remember playing on the grounds of the Schreiner Institute. Bill and Bonnie were front row. It was pretty relaxed at that time and if I knew that Kerrville would turn into something BIG...I might have put in a little effort into the deal. It was pretty informal and relaxed back then. If I remember correctly, they didn't have "winners or losers". The deal was that if there was a good artist, he or she would get to play at the concert at the auditorium that night.

I went to the first festival in 1972 at the auditorium and was wowed by the excitement of the deal. My cousin wanted to go to the States arts and craft fair at the Schreiner and when we went, there was advertisement for the music festival so we decided to go. What magic!

Today, I get to play tunes at places around the South Texas area. I've become friends with Jack Motley and his Sister, Mary Martha.....they are some Kerrville die hards. I get to play with Jack at times when he invites me to sit in. (Ed. note: Jack is host at Camp On This and a dear friend of mine as is Mary Martha - Camp on This is what I consider my home at KFF)

Most of my time is spent being a Family Practice Physician in the town where I was born....Yorktown, Texas. I went to Medical School in the Dallas Fort Worth region and turned into a dedicated Doctor instead of a musician. I decided music was not my first true love....but it still remains my second. I love Jack's zeal for keeping the spirit burning and cherish the times I get to sit in with him.

This is a little story about the days back in 1972-1974. I never was a STAR but was invited to play at the cabins north of Kerrville where the top artists were staying and was known as a backup player for Bill and Bonnie, Allen Damron, Jerry Jeff, Bobby Bridges and Townes (he was pretty drunk back then). Those days were the original campfires. I was staying in a tent with friends at the state park back then and I remember EVERYONE stayed up all night playing tunes. This was before

they moved the festival to the ranch. Music was played 24 hours a day. I can't remember the name of the cabins where everyone was staying but it was up the road on the Guadalupe. I wish I could have remembered more but to me it was just playing and jam sessions and there was a "Woodstock" feeling of peace and love at that time. A time of magic. This is a semi accurate account of what I remember.

Side note. B.W. Stevenson came to Lubbock about that time and Allen sent me back stage to talk to him to tell him to come to the Brookshire Inn (now known as Gardski's Loft) B.W. was staying in the Holiday Inn in Lubbock, so we went to pick him up to take him to the Brookshire to meet with Allen. He was pretty drunk at the time and he came with us. He had opened for the Doobie Brothers back then. Michael Raphael told us not to "abuse BW" and he was laying in the 2 double beds that the four member group was staying. B.W. spent about an hour and a half entertaining us with an audience of about 30 people. We went back to Allen's apartment to play some tunes but B W drank about a liter of Wellers bourbon and passed out in the bathtub. We stayed up till about dawn and I never knew what happened to B. W. .... pretty exciting times for a 20 year old going to Texas Tech and getting to play with some of these guys.

Just thought I would send my memories of some events in those early days of the Festival. It's my story of those days and it really was a Texas Magic back then. Sorry to see Allen D. pass away, he was always so good to me.

Dr. Gordon Barth  
Yorktown, Texas

(Ed. Note: Thanks Gordon! from all of us who wish we coulda been there!!!)

I am delighted to share these stories of New Folk experiences from the artists viewpoints, and in the process discover some new ones myself.

Thanks to the Heart Beat of the Texas Hill Country for the space and to you for reading!

*Dalis* 