



## **Kick Up Your Heels in Ten Texas Dance Halls**

**By Jerry Turner - Special to The News  
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My mother taught me to have great respect for dance halls, bars, and honky tonks. The same respect that one would have for a rattlesnake - STAY AWAY! So as a result, her favorite son can't dance a step, feels guilty if he drinks a beer, and has little or no knowledge of Texas dance halls. But being inept at late-night Texas social skills, doesn't keep me from appreciating Pat Green's Dance Halls & Dreamers written by Luke Gilliam and photos by Guy Rogers III published by the University of Texas Press.

Pat Green had no such hindrance in developing his love for beer joints and dance halls, in fact, he says that he loves them. He talks about them as if they are addictive. The authors spent a day at each of the ten venues discussed in the book, interviewing performers and customers to get their impressions of a particular place. The result is an unprecedented day-in-the-life look at the people who make the Texas music scene flourish. Each of the chapters documents a venue's personality, history, and atmosphere as everyone prepares for and parties at the biggest show in town. Some of the dance halls covered are Billy Bob's, Stubb's Bar-B-Que, the Bandera Caberet, Luchenbach, Schroeder Hall, and Gruene Hall

Pat Green shares his memories and favorite stories of each place. A collection of Texas musicians share their stories about dance halls. Willie Nelson, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Robert Earl Keen, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Cory Morrow, and Kevin Fowler tell how Texas dance halls have influenced their careers and their music.

These professional musicians will play for a night then leave, but the heartbeat of these halls are the owners, bartenders, bouncers, and fans. These folks are nightly visitors.

Luke Gilliam, an experienced journalist, interviewed the musicians who have played in these legendary dance halls. He had written an entertaining account of the ten famous places and the people who made them so. The dance halls almost come alive with Guy Rogers' photographs. He has captured the moods that Gilliam wrote about.

Get a copy of Pat Green's Dance Halls and Dreamers from the University of

Texas Press (512) 471-7233 or at bookstores. 12x10 inches, 184 pages, 208 color and 28 b/w photos. Hardcover, \$30.00.