

Rita

From: "Judy Gordon" <judygordon708@verizon.net>
To: "Taffy Myobe" <taffy@aohell.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 01, 2008 6:59 AM
Subject: Picking Up The Tempo, number 20, November 01, 2008

november 1, 2008 – no. 20

~~A TEXAN RANGER.~~

A gentleman, just from Richmond, gave the following account of these redoubtable warriors:

Ben M'Cullough's Texan Rangers are described as a desperate set of fellows. They number one thousand half savages, each of whom is mounted upon a mustang horse. Each is armed with a pair of Colt's navy revolvers, a rifle, a tomahawk, a Texan bowie-knife, and a lasso. They are described as being very dexterous in the use of the latter.

HARPER'S WEEKLY – July 6, 1861

<p>Picking up The Tempo a country western journal</p>	<p>a DEXTEROUS NEW VOICE in Country from the ~ Music HALF ~ SAVAGE Southwest</p>
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PICKING UP THE TEMPO, a country western journal
November 01, 2008, number 20

© 2008, Judy Gordon,
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Introduction: The title of this journal comes from Willie Nelson's song, "Pick up the Tempo." Since I am relocated in Garland, Texas, will attempt to publish this journal on a regular basis first day of each month to seek out new writers and bring back some existing ones.

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Edited and Produced by Judy Gordon

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ROXY WRITES NOVEMBER 01, 2008

"Heck"

by Roxy Gordon – © 2008, "Heck"
[Edited by Judy Gordon]

"HECK"

I saw *True Grit*, the old John Wayne movie, on TV last night. I saw that movie first in Los Angeles, when it first came out. I thought it to be the best John Wayne movie. Several years later, my friend Lonny Taylor, who works for The Library of Congress, told me the Rooster Cogburn character, John Wayne's character, is based on an Oklahoma Federal Marshal named Heck Thomas. Lonny also told me

that Heck Thomas was the inspiration for *Heck Ramsey*, a Richard Boone television series in the '70s. Heck Thomas was my great-grandfather's first cousin.

I grew up knowing about Heck Thomas. My grandmother has a photo of him and his sons in her picture box. Several years ago she was staying at my house when I bought a copy of Glenn Shirley's book about Thomas. It is called *Heck Thomas, Frontier Marshal*. My grandmother read the book and said to me, "He wasn't anything but a killer." And so he was. I can't get an accurate count of his killings from the book, but I read somewhere he killed over twenty men. The twenty were, of course, on the other side of the law. Grandma said her father had about the same opinion of Thomas, that he was a killer.

Heck Thomas was born and raised in Georgia. As a very young man, he fought in the Civil War. Then he was an Atlanta city policeman. He came to Texas to work security for the railroad. He helped track down the train and bank robber, Sam Bass. He went to work in Oklahoma for Judge Isaac Parker, the famous hanging judge of Fort Smith, Arkansas. That court had jurisdiction over the Indian Territory and Thomas was a Deputy Marshal in the territory. He was known as one of the Three Guardsmen. The other two were Cris Madsen and Bill Tilgham. The three of them became the most effective and famous of the Territory marshals.

I often go to Oklahoma. My mother keeps telling me which towns my relatives live in, but I don't know those relatives. My mother doesn't know them, either, and my grandmother has lost track of them. So I never make any effort to locate them. But I was, a year ago, telling my friend David Hill about Oklahoma relatives. And we made a strange connection.

David is a Choctaw who lives near Sasakwa, Oklahoma. He was around near the beginning of the American Indian Movement. He went to Washington, D.C., with the Trail of Broken Treaties caravan that seized the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in the early '70s and was at the occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota. That was in 1973 when the American Indian Movement made headlines for several weeks because of their seizure of the little town where the American army massacred Big Foot and his band of Sioux at the end of the Ghost Dance scare in 1890. I met David through the movement to free Leonard Peltier. Leonard is an Indian activist who has been in the federal prison system for sixteen years. He was convicted of the murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1975. I have been convinced for years that Leonard killed no one. Robert Redford made a documentary movie about the case. The movie, *Incident at Oglala*, presents convincing proof that Leonard is not guilty. At least three books have made the same point.

When I played the Kerrville Folk Festival in 1989, I met several people from Dallas who were heading a Leonard Peltier support group. Through them, I met David Hill. David came down to visit. We decided to write a long poem together about the beginnings of the American Indian Movement and David's part in it. David likes to talk a lot. So do I. We spent several days talking about that and everything else in sight. I told David about my Oklahoma relatives and he told me about his.

It turns out, David is kin to the famous Doolin family. The Doolins were from a non-Indian side of his family. The Doolins, along with the Daltons, did a good job of robbing banks, railroads and stores in Oklahoma. We talked about the Doolins and about my almost-relative, Black Jack Ketchum, who did some serious train-robbing, including one at Coleman Junction, and was hanged in Clayton, New Mexico.

Suddenly I began to realize what David was saying. Bill Doolin was his relative. I was pretty sure Heck Thomas killed Bill Doolin. I checked Shirley's book. Heck Thomas did indeed kill Bill Doolin. One of my relatives killed one of David's relatives in Oklahoma in 1896.

We talked about that and everything else in sight for the rest of the afternoon. Judy got home late and we told her what we'd discovered. David grinned and said, "Roxy and I just talk each other to death."

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end

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(Published by *Coleman Chronicle & DV*, 10 September, 1992)

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(Continue next issue Roxy Gordon's "*The West Texas Town of El Paso*," and "*Why There Were So Many Presidents Of The U.S. On The Fort Peck Reservation*."
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CAROL GERHAUSER WRITES

"Soul Searching in San Marcos"

by Carol Lemming Gerhauser, ©2008, Dallas, Texas

"SOUL SEARCHING IN SAN MARCOS"

*as if I wrote the book on
the negative connotations
of the N word and
thus never used*

A rebel without a cause—

dead before her time

the Robespierre of an

isolated bit of soil

between the ears

as the law provides, for whom

not me, injustice on both sides of the

bench

crimes against humanity

says Tom Paine

it could be anybody

slipping up a lot

Learning to value each other

in spite of deeds, judgements,

misgivings

– Carol Lemming Gerhauser

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end

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Carol Gerhauser provided a collection of her poems entitled "Her Clean Up Days," in *Picking Up The Tempo*, journal – number 3, September 06, 2001. She can be contacted at e-mail Clgerhauser@aol.com.
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ART COELHO WRITES

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Art Coelho
P.O. Box 249
Big Timber, Montana 59011
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"Nothing Fits in My Saddlebag"

My gems have escaped me,
impossible boulders are my only feat;
I feel like kissing the wind
when you kneel at my feet.

Truth has its slack water,
your smile its uncertainty—
I somehow passed up the stars
never visioning no mercy would go this far.

I guess I'm still really fast asleep.
Not even soft illuminations fit in my saddlebag.
My dreams are unfolding crude

all paper ones with red flags!

Will the angels ever take off their face masks—
 does Heaven have unknown gifted waters,
 can a stranger still be charmed back to life,
 or am I just the Devil's sidekick?
 What I seem to know for certain these days
 is the trail's broken at this salt lick.

I'd high-tail it back to Sweet Mary,
 but she's working up a fondness for Clyde.
 Guess the only thing left, babe
 is an old heavy dose of pride's stride.

– Art Coelho

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 (Coming next issue Art Coelho's "*The Terrible Itch*" and "*The Blessing*."
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end

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=====
RICK AND JAN SIKES CO-WRITE

"JUST ONE MORE KISS"

© 2008, Rick & Jan Sikes – 325-625-5014

Verse:

Just One More Kiss

Before I Go

I'm heading back
To Old Mexico
Still In My Heart
The Flame Will Burn
Someday, Some Way
I Will Return

Cho:

Until I Hold You
Close To Me
Our Love will Last
It is Meant to Be (STOP OR PAUSE)
It's Not Forever
It's Not Goodbye (Repeat 2 lines in Spanish)
Not Now or Ever
So Please Don't Cry

Spanish:

No es Adiós
Me Vida Estua

Repeat Cho:

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(Coming next issue Rick Sikes' "About You.")
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RHYTHM REBEL

Rick Sikes

900 N. Neches
Coleman, Texas 76834
Phone: 325/625-5014

Rick Sikes' CD's For Sale

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 published by Wowapi Press, 1996, 2001, inquiry.
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www.myspace.com/ricksikes and www.ricksikes.com (Main Web-page)

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ROY HAMRIC WRITES

Dream

Last night it was
 my dead mother dropping by

Just says
 Know, know, know
 I love you

Then she sends her love
 Airmail direct

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end

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 Roy Hamric was the editor of the former weekly newspaper, *The Desert-Mountain Times*, in Alpine, Texas. He edited a collection of newspaper columns, *Archer Fullingim: A Country Editor's View of Life*, which won the Texas Institute of Letters best work of journalism award in 1976, and he took the photographs for *The Big Thicket*. For many years, he took photographs which regularly appeared in Wowapi publications.
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PETER O'BRIEN WRITES

"Hotter Than Hell"

by Peter O'Brien © November 01, 2008, Surrey, England

"HOTTER THAN HELL"

When I first went to Texas in '77
 it was hotter than hell and it felt like heaven.
 But no air conditioning, not even a breeze.
 I was sweating buckets, guzzling iced teas.

I flew into L.A. in '78.
 It was hotter than hell in the Golden State.
 I was staying in Malibu, close by the beach,
 those California girls were just out of reach.

Arriving in Denver in '79
 it was hotter than hell but I was doing fine.

I went up to Red Rocks where I had been told
people out there were turning music into gold.

I rode into Montana in '83.
It was hotter than hell but all I could see
were wide open spaces, the American dream.
Like old western movies on the big screen.

Atlanta, Georgia, in '88.
It was hotter than hell in that red dirt state.
What did I expect in the hometown of Coke?
It gives them red necks, or is that a joke?

I was in Chicago in '93.
It was hotter than hell in the Windy City.
I went up the tower above the heat haze.
Had pizza and beer, it was one of those days.

To South Dakota in '98.
It was hotter than hell but I did great.
Hiking the trails in Custer State Park,
camped by a lake in the cool after dark.

Stayed in Virginia in 2004.
It was hotter than hell and then a bit more.
Kevin Welch and Steve Forbert playing in town.
Their music and songs kept me hanging around.

I went to Seattle one year on the train.
It was cloudy and cool with every day rain.
One year later I returned on that train.
It was hotter than hell, Starbucked again.

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end

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Peter O'Brien is an author and publisher, *Omaha Rainbow*, and under his
Sun Storm Records, launched Roxy L. Gordon's music.
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JUDY GORDON PAINTS
#2600

Assiniboine, Media: Acrylic on Canvas, Date: c. 1968, Dimensions: Not given,
Current whereabouts of original: Private Collection, Valera, Texas.

Judy's comments::

Have original painting at my son, Quannah's place in Coleman County in west Texas.
Peter O'Brien photographed original during one of his visits from England, then
provided a slide of it.

While living at Lodge Pole, Montana, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, John and Minerva, and the whole Allen family, became mine and Roxy Lee Gordon's closest friends. They helped, and guided both of us, throughout all the years, 1968 through 1969. Family connections still exist.

John and Minerva Allen, named and adopted Roxy Lee Gordon, into their Assiniboine Allen family – *First Coyote Boy – Tu Gah Juk Juk Ka Na Hok Sheena*. Still being very close to the Allens, I was given the instructions to paint this Assiniboine Indian. Red lighting important on this one, too. Brush strokes very noticeable.

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end

(Next issue will have Judy Gordon's "Wanada Parker--Hat and Flower.")

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By Way of Vicki Meek—THE SOUTH DALLAS CULTURAL CENTER, NOVEMBER, 2008, contact her for ALL EVENTS: msart55@yahoo.com.

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FOLLOWING CD REVIEW:

RICHARD DOBSON with THOMM JUTZ: DOPGELGAENGER

*by Judy Gordon**

1. "Woody Knows Nothing," *What an honor and he lets her know about it,*
2. "Small Town Hero," *This is true Americana—listen to slide—honors Blaze Foley,*
3. "Forever, For Always, For Certain," *Compliments Guy Clark—1971,*
4. "The Boll Weevil Song," *Tongue-in-cheek—hippity hop—listen to slide,*
5. "I Ain't Got No Home," *Harmonica right along, reflects it,*
6. "Uncertain Texas," *Right along with Rodney Crowell's lyrics—listen harmonica, guitar, and yep, chiggers mentioned,*
7. "No Blue Song," *So easy going, Richard remembers her, one in a million and there's the harmonica, thank goodness,*
8. "Woody Went Down In The Deep Hold," *Honor Woody and Cisco, and the ship, The Liberty and soldier boys,*
9. "Jesus Take Me Fishing," *All instruments take care of Richard,*
10. "Pastures Of Plenty," *Honor Woody Guthrie's classic, learned on the guitar,*
11. "Across The Wide Missouri," *Harmonica takes you with easy*

guitar strum, 12. "So Have I," *Co-written with Guy and Susanna Clark—Richard sings it right*, 13. "May You Glide Like A River/The Birthday Song." *Edith gathered the stones to compliment his words.*

Contact: Richard J. Dobson – saltysongs@bluewin.ch
or Thomm Jutz – thomm@thomm.de – www.thomm.de

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5. #400—*CRAZY HORSE NEVER DIED.* Eleven tracks lyrics ©© 2001, the Estate of Roxy Gordon & Music production by Wes McGhee ©© 2001 Bug Music \$15.00

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6. **BREEDS**, by ROXY GORDON © words & artwork, 2001, the Estate of Roxy Gordon \$10.00 book, #3700, 66 pgs.

7. **SOME THINGS I DID**, by ROXY GORDON © 1971, Encino Press, 127 pgs. See Amazon to order.

8. **WOWAPI: ANYTHING WRITTEN IN ANY FORM**, by Judy Gordon, poems, drawings, and photographs, now available.

#4A Wowapi Press Chapbook, 2007—\$10.00.

9. **THE ART OF JUDY GORDON**, by Judy Gordon, all prints are on 8½" x 11" archival matte paper, \$30.00, plus postage and handling.

10. **LIVING LIFE AS A LIVING TARGET**, by Judy Gordon, poems and drawings, a chapbook published by Marquette Herring, Editor-Publisher, **PAPERBACKS PLUS PRESS, 1987**; limited quantity available.

11. **PICKING UP THE TEMPO**, a country western journal, current or back-issues, on Roxy Gordon's Website, under *Picking Up The Tempo*, you will find Archive.

12. **SPECIAL AVAILABLE – Wowapi Press brings CHARLEY MOON'S – GREAT AUNT LESSIE BELLE'S FUNERAL, 2005, 2007, chapbook, \$10.00, plus postage and handling.**

13. **ANOTHER SPECIAL AVAILABLE – Wowapi Press brings us KAREN X's – TENDER BLUE FLICKERS, 1993, chapbook, \$10.00, plus postage and handling.**

14. **JULY 4TH, 2007—SPECIAL AVAILABLE—Wowapi Press, 5A, brings us MINERVA ALLEN'S INDIAN COOKBOOK, from Ft. Belknap Reservation, Dodson, Montana. 1988, chapbook, \$10.00, plus postage and handling.**

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