

Texas Living: People & Places  
A BONUS SECTION FOR OUR TEXAS READERS

# Southern Living

The heart of Southern life

**59** Pages of  
**Idea Houses**  
Useful Tips &  
Creative Ideas

**Summer Treats**  
Quick & Easy Seafood Sandwiches  
Favorite Vegetable-Plate Recipes

**Home Style**  
Shady Garden Makeover  
Fast Summer Arrangements  
How To Anchor a Swing

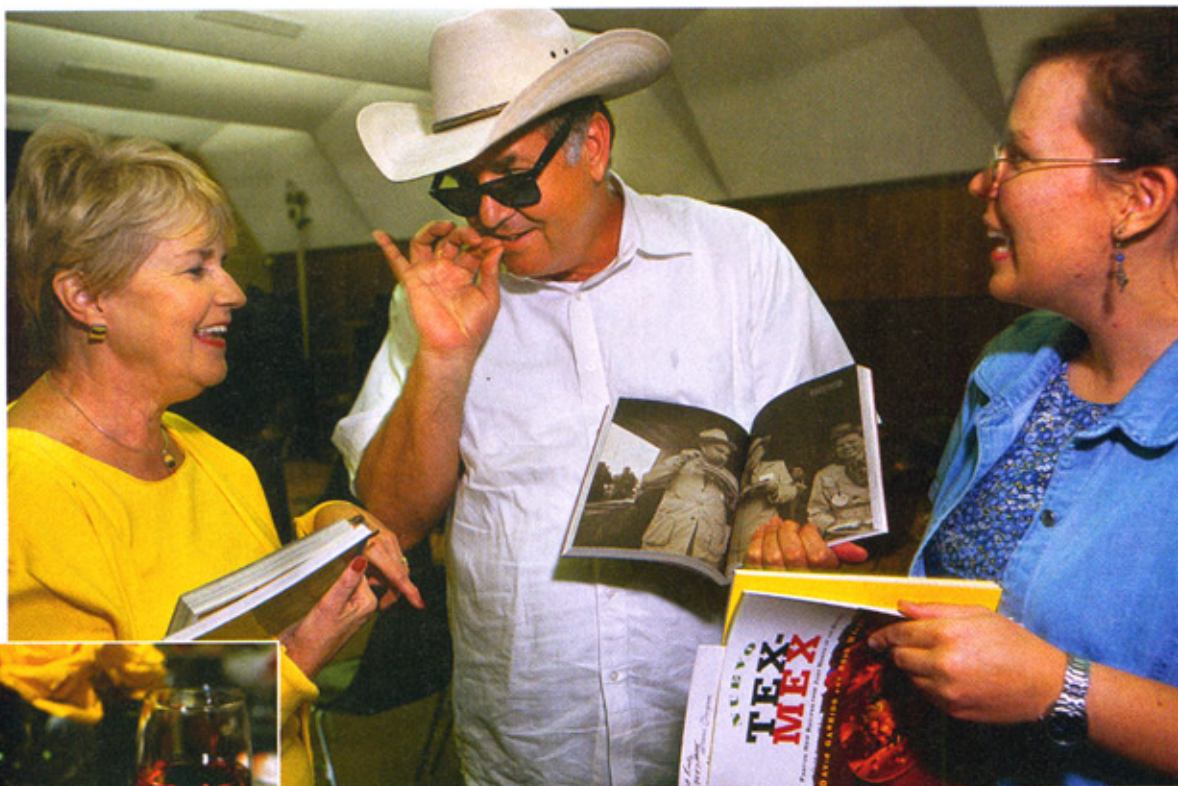
**For Busy Families**  
Fresh, Flavorful Chicken Salads  
Quick Weeknight Suppers  
Tasty Pasta in a Flash

plus: **29**  
**Great Ideas**  
From Our Houses

AUGUST 2008



southernliving.com  
All Keyword: Southern Living



PHOTOGRAPHS: MEG MCKINNEY

## Once Upon a Time in Abilene

Good food, great writing, and fine songs fill the menu of the West Texas Book & Music Festival.

**top:** Food writer Robb Walsh of Austin brings his knowledge of Texas cuisine to the book festival. **above:** Chef Ty Thoren leads a cooking demonstration and serves his lessons as lunch.

While a September dusk simmered, book lovers gathered at the Abilene Country Club for the Texas Cookbook Gala. As servers moved through the tables, authors and vintners stood and described each course and wine as it arrived.

After five chapters of foods and wines, ending with crispy Mexican wedding

cookies, writers autographed their books with most proceeds going to the Abilene Public Library. The 2005 gala set just the right atmosphere for the West Texas Book & Music Festival—friendly, open, and plenty of good cooking.

### Authors, Workshops, and Luncheons

For the festival's sixth edition this September 19-23, Friends of the Abilene Public Library and the *Abilene Reporter-News* will add a new note. Local artists in gospel, folk, jazz, and country will perform throughout the event.

Two dozen authors will speak, mix, and mingle at author luncheons, cooking demonstrations, workshops, and exhibitions. Some writers fan out to young

## West Texas Book & Music Festival

Tickets to the Texas Cookbook Gala are \$100 per person (\$150 for patrons). Tickets for the Boots & Books Luncheon are \$25. Admission to other festival events is free. For information call (325) 673-6212, or visit [www.abilenetx.com/apl/festivalindex.html](http://www.abilenetx.com/apl/festivalindex.html).



Authors speak at schools during the festival week. Lester Galbreath of Albany holds youngsters spellbound at Wylie Elementary School.

readers for "Authors in Schools." Last year Lester Galbreath, author of *Campfire Tales*, spun stories of cowboys and cattle drives to a rapt audience at Wylie Elementary School. Elsewhere participants nibbled box lunches in an upper room of the Abilene Public Library while Robb Walsh, author of *The Tex-Mex Cookbook*, delivered "History of Food in Texas."

### More Authors and Autographs

On Saturday in the Abilene Civic Center, participants gulped down facts about publishing from Rue Judd, founder of Bright Sky Press in nearby Albany. "It's an opportunity to focus on an area so rich in history that has been given short shrift," she says of publishing books with West Texas subjects.

"We're an author incubator," commented Joan R. Neubauer in describing her and her husband Steve's Alpine publishing corporation, WordWright.biz.

Participants drifted to panels on ranching heritage, writing for children, and sports. Guests leading discussions included Western novelist

Elmer Kelton, children's author Jan Peck, and sports writer W.K. Stratton.

### Chapter One for Abilene

To a large extent the festival embodies a West Texas philosophy: pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. "We started it from scratch," comments Glenn Dromgoole, former editor of *Abilene Reporter-News*, who co-founded the event with Jane Jones. "We thought we could have a little session and have authors come and sell their books and give a percentage to the library," he continues. One hundred writers as speakers or guests appeared for the first event.

From one year to the next participants have included writers, readers, educators, chefs, and cops. This year, the festival will feature musicians as well.

Great food, however, sets this festival apart. The festival's closing Boots & Books Luncheon featured brisket from Sharon's Barbecue & Catering. For each table, festival organizers chose the perfect centerpiece for a West Texas book festival—a boot filled with a gusher of colored paper. GARY D. FORD

## Authors in Abilene This Year

The following writers are among those expected at the 2006 event.

- Dixie Cash (Pamela Cumbie and Jeffery McClanahan), authors of *My Heart May Be Broken But My Hair Still Looks Great*
- Donna Ingham, Spicewood, author of *Tales With a Texas Twist*
- Elmer Kelton, San Angelo, voted all-time best Western author by the Western Writers of America and winner of the 2003 A.C. Greene Award
- Joe W. Specht, Abilene, author of *The Women There Don't Treat You Mean: Abilene in Song*
- Lori Wilde, Weatherford, author of more than 20 romance and mystery novels