

Jerry Songer Collection
Progressive Country and Rock History
1969-1989



Dennis Kilmer, Danny Sears and Jerry Songer
1978

History and Biographical Notes



Jerry Glynn Songer was a local rock and roll musician who founded several bands and gained some prominence in the Texas rock scene in the 1980s. Jerry Glynn Songer was born Dec. 3, 1954 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The family moved to California in 1960, where Songer became interested in rock music as a teenager and learned to play guitar. In Junior High he started his first band, The 'Royal Confederacy'. The family moved to Hurst, Texas in 1969 where Jerry enrolled in high school. At Hurst Junior High he re-formed a new version of the Royal Confederacy with his new friend James Linton. He played with several other garage bands during his high school years, and founded a band with Buddy Whittington. After high school he became more serious about music as a possible profession. He began working with his high school friend and fellow guitarist James Linton, and drummer Dennis Kilmer.

Intent on improving their skills, Kilmer and Songer enrolled in music classes at the Northeast Campus of Tarrant County Junior College. Songer and Linton joined with Danny Sears, Dennis Kilmer and Monty May formed the band Linger in the fall of 1977. (The band's name derived from a combination of Songer and Linton's last names.) They also performed as Hammer in 1978.

In the 1980s, Songer, Linton, Kilmer and Danny Sears collaborated to form Theodore Goathhead, Pecos and Radar Men. Theodore Goathhead performed in 1979-1980, playing classic rock. Pecos played progressive country, while Radar Men returned to the classic rock format. Pecos existed from 1981 through 1982. Radar Men formed in 1986. Radar Men seems to have achieved the most critical and commercial success, playing venues throughout North Texas.



In the 1990s, Songer pursued a career as a mechanic and played music on the side. Jerry Songer died suddenly of a heart attack January 15, 2002.

Jimmie Linton moved to Austin where he co-founded Linton-Mancilla with Eric Mancilla in 2000. Dennis Kilmer plays drums professionally in the Dallas Fort Worth area. Buddy Whittington is a prominent Texas blues musician. Danny Sears

In 2011 a paper Mr. Songer wrote for a history class was discovered in one of the local history collections in the Tarrant County College District Archives. This paper was an account for Mr. Songer's life and formative years as a musician. The archivist believed Mr. Songer's story represented an interesting slice of Texas music history. When he discovered Mr. Songer had passed away he contacted his family and friends for more information. Mr. Songer's friends and family then graciously donated the material in this collection for research and study.

Provenance

The material in this collection is the property of the Tarrant County College District. Contact the Archivist for permission to copy, reproduce or use for publication.

Scope and content notes

This collection consists of photographs, artwork, correspondence, notebooks and scrapbooks relating to the music career of Jerry Glen Songer from 1969 to approximately 1987. Some components of this collection are in a digital format, including a scrapbook created by Mr. Songer and some photographs and art work. Links to these items are provided in the finding aid.



Box 1

Folder

1. Linger: The History of a Rock Band from Hurst, Texas (1976) Student paper by Jerry Songer. Manuscript with photographs and clippings
2. Photographs: 4 8X10 BW prints, one 8X10 color print. PR photos of Pecos.
3. 5 pages of 35mm color negatives
4. 3 pages of 12mm color negatives

Box 2

James Linton and Jerry Songer. Material from the bands Pecos and Radar Men, 1985-86.

Folder

1. Radar Man binder with plans and goals; list of venues; expense accounts; stage set up instructions.
2. Clippings and newspaper articles; promotional material.
3. Graphic art and sketches for posters; brochures and other promotional material.
4. Song lists, including original songs; correspondence.
5. Radar Men brochure mock-up
6. Photographs: 7 Radar Men promotional photographs
7. Photographs: Pecos promotional photographs, 15 8X10 black and white prints
8. Photographs: contact sheet and 14 8X10 black and white prints
9. Miscellaneous photographs, Pecos and Radar Men: 2 5X7 black and white prints; 11 3X5 color snapshots; 1 Polaroid; 1 4X6 color print; 4 3X4 color prints.
10. Notes and doodles
11. Memorabilia: 1983 certificates from the UTA Shorthorn; 3 calendars from the White Elephant Saloon 1981

Box 3

Oversized material: hand drawn art on paper; band logos; other drawings

Folder

1. Pecos logos
2. 2 8X10 black and white prints of Pecos logos
3. Theodore Goathead (a brief incarnation of Pecos) 2 drawings on art paper

Box 4

Newspapers with articles on Pecos and various band members. Fort Worth Star Telegram; Northeast Weekly Student.

Box 5

Jerry Songer Scrapbook. Documents and photographs relating to Songer's life. Photos from his childhood and high school years; material on his first efforts in starting a band.

Box 6

Songer color slides. Sixty two images of the Songer family and images of Songer's band (probably Pecos) performing in various venues.