



In Search of El dorado

A daily journal of my travels and adventures in my.....Search for Eldorado

Hello to Family & Friends

Saturday, March 6th 2021 Day 48



The truck stop was peaceful as long as the semi next to me was idling through the night. About 5 a.m. I realized I could hear vehicle noise from the highway and that my semi had left.

I made my way to Austin and found a parking spot at a restaurant that was for lease. I was pretty early so I ordered a soda and watched a little volleyball. Think how many of us reading this newsletter might have never known each other if not for Wednesday night volleyball.

A coxed four heading down-river. There were several sculls, fours, doubles and singles out today.

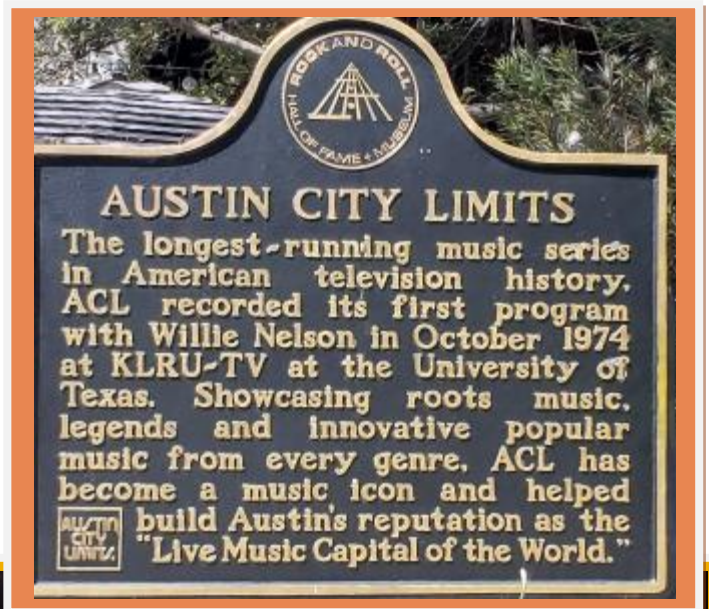


The street in front is the main east/west thoroughfare; the fence behind the tents borders the river and the hiking/biking/running trails alongside; you can see the Congress Ave bridge in the background, the main north/south avenue. Discarded belongings and garbage all along the street.



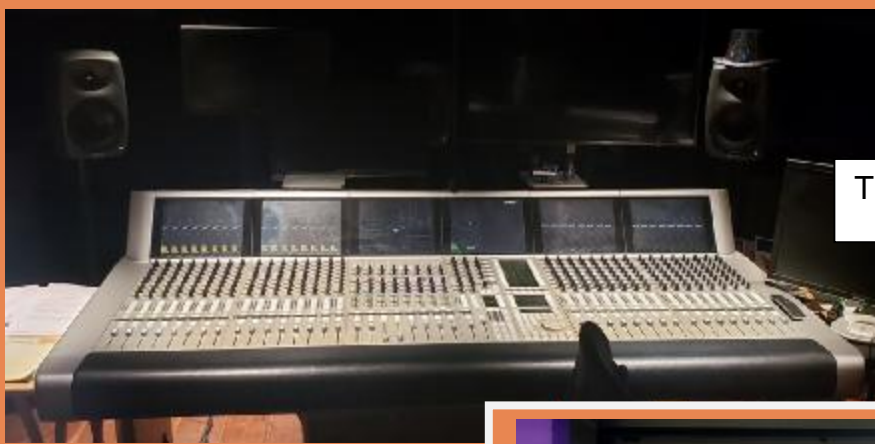
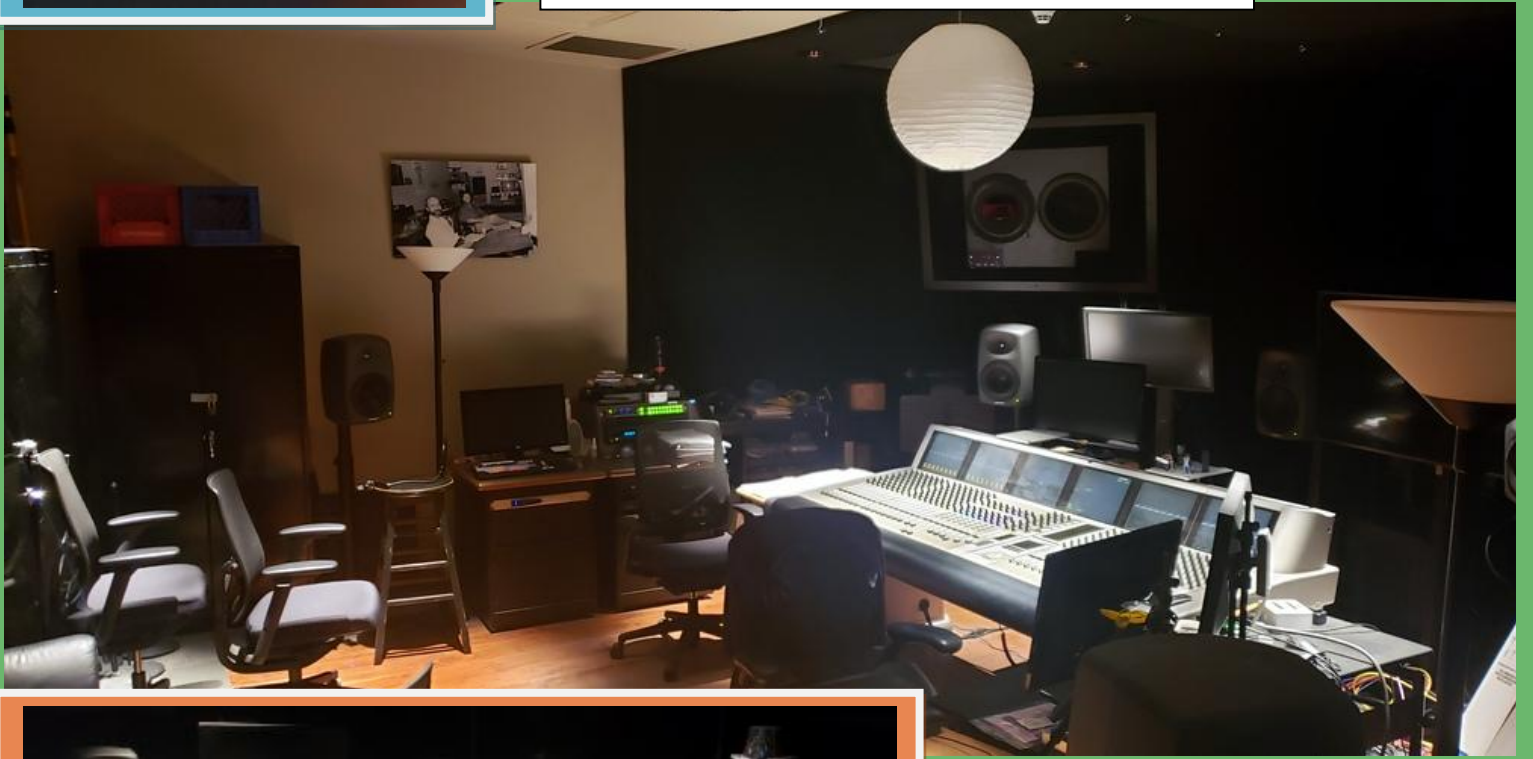
Left is one of the murals I was speaking of the other day. This one is eleven stories tall.

Below - Ok, ready to try it again? I was early for our 12:30 meet and sat out front for awhile, but Kaitlin met me at the appointed time and started my personalized tour with the Willie statue I showed you the other day. Inside we went for a look at the Austin City Limits stage. I could not attend an eleven o'clock tour like normal because of a wedding. You can see the bride and groom enjoying a final champagne toast lower left.



RECORDING STUDIO

I believe Kaitlin mentioned that ACL is one of only two venues in the U.S. that also has a recording studio.

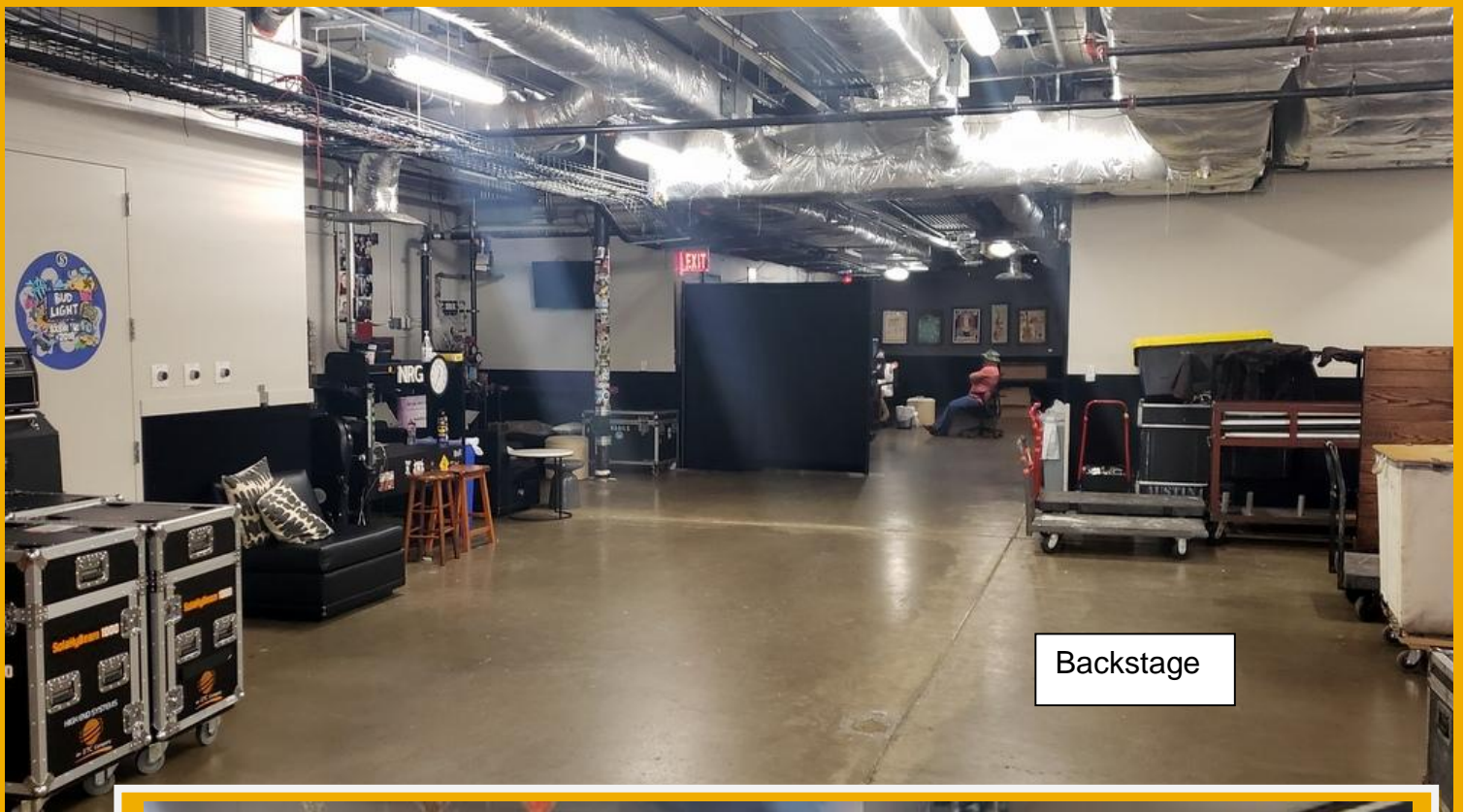


The master board

ACL also has a freight elevator that the performer's semi's can back right up to and unload their equipment for transport to the stage. This is much easier than wheeling it all in from the street.

Pay no attention to body outlines, no one died, this was part of the Halloween Party ACL hosted. I think they kind of like the reminder of a good time and will wait for the tape to wear off before they remove it.





Backstage



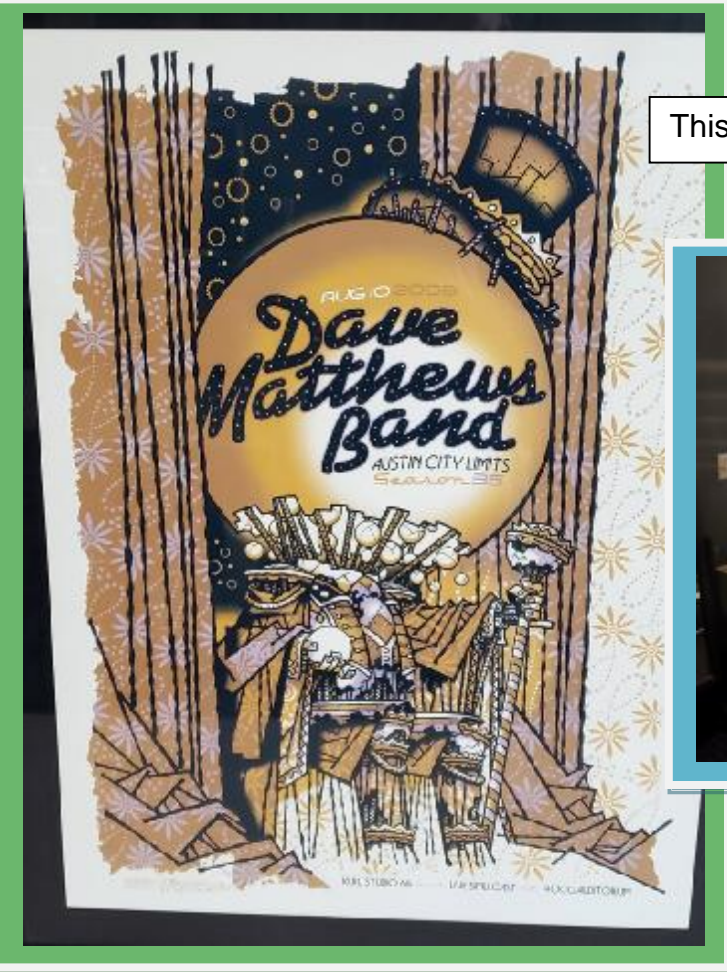
If I remember correctly, this would be like the Green Room, where the artists can hang out before going on stage. The posters are of prior ACL shows.



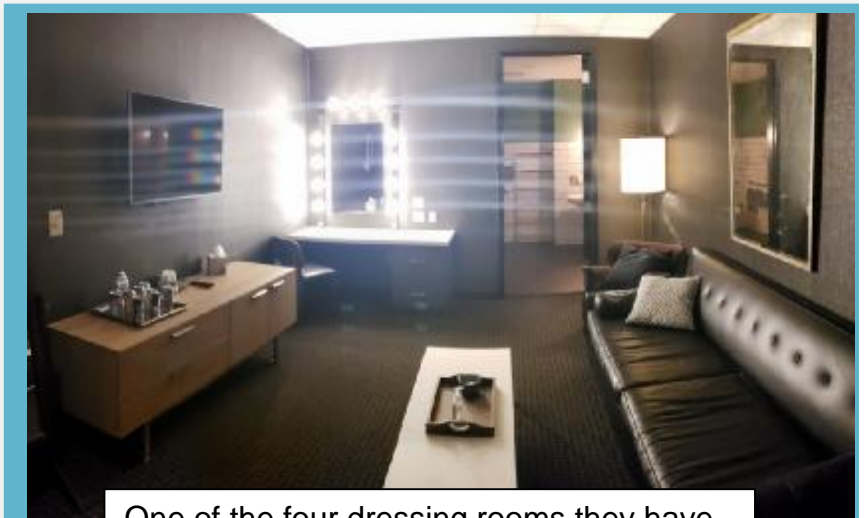
The company break room. They have some interesting art on the walls which you can see below.



I probably won't have to tell any of you who is the star in most of the photos you see. If you're not sure, just ask the person next to you.



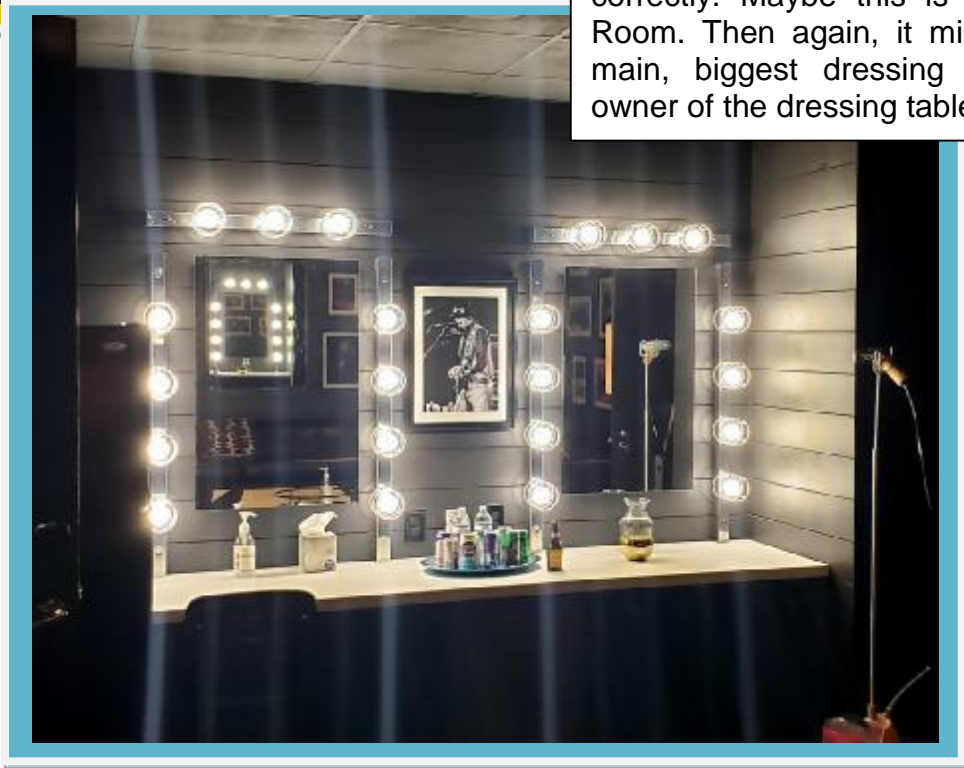
This one is for Erin



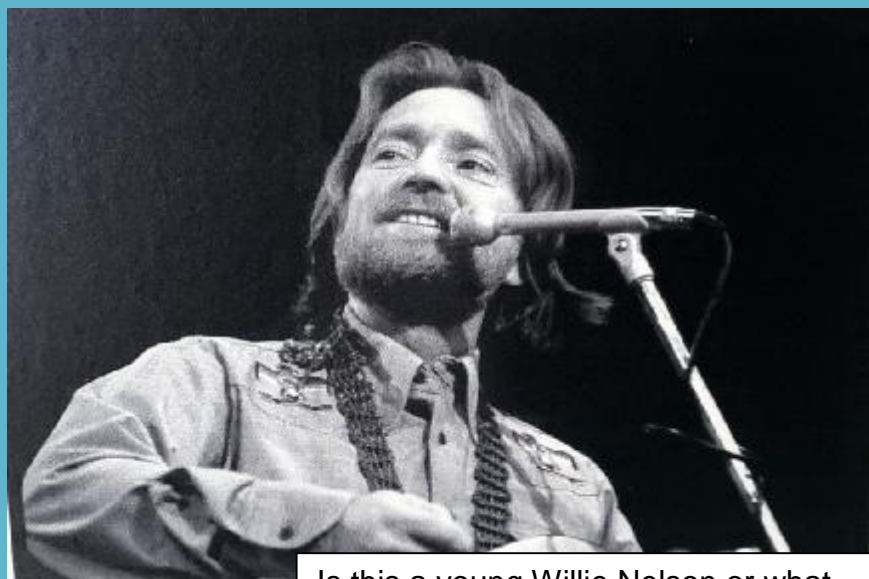
One of the four dressing rooms they have.



Well, like I said, if I remember correctly. Maybe this is the Green Room. Then again, it might be the main, biggest dressing room and owner of the dressing table below.



Because Willie Nelson was so instrumental (ha ha) in getting ACL started he has his own balcony where he can step out and have a 'smoke'.



Is this a young Willie Nelson or what

PILOT | 1974

Spearheaded by creator **Bill Arhos**, producer **Paul Bosner** and director **Bruce Scafe**, the pilot episode, featuring **Willie Nelson**, shoots October 14, airing the next year as part of a PBS pledge drive. Willie will eventually appear in 17 episodes.

This is the first entry of a timeline on the walls of a hallway

AUSTIN CITY LIMITS

MILESTONES OVER TIME

1974: 50

Number of stations the original pilot episode aired on

1996: 300

Austin City Limit's 300th episode airs

2010: 2,750

Seating capacity of ACL's new home at the Moody Theater

1980: 260

Number of stations Austin City Limits could be seen on

2002: 42,000

Attendees to the first ACL Fest in Zilker Park

2013: 8 FEET

The height of the Willie Nelson statue unveiled at the Moody Theater



ARTISTS WITH THE MOST EPISODES

ON AUSTIN CITY LIMITS

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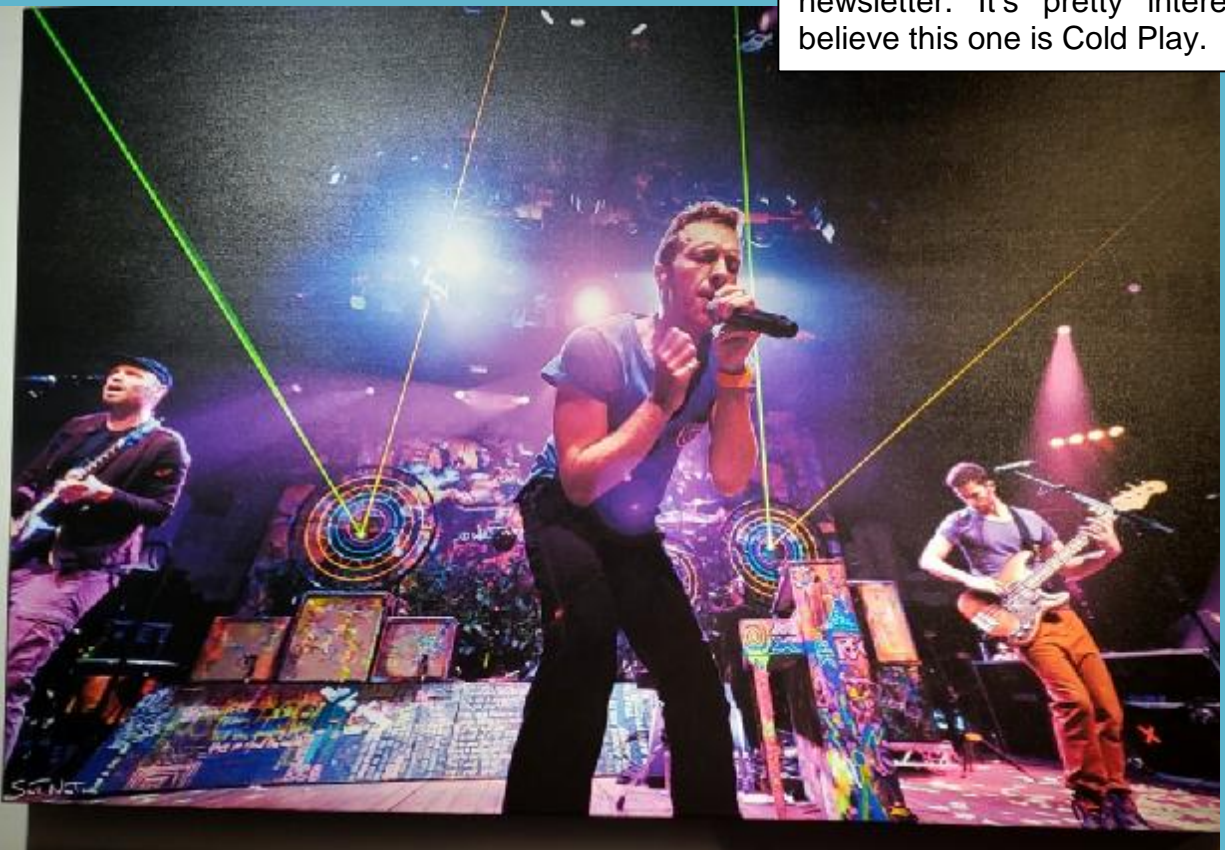
ON AUSTIN CITY LIMITS

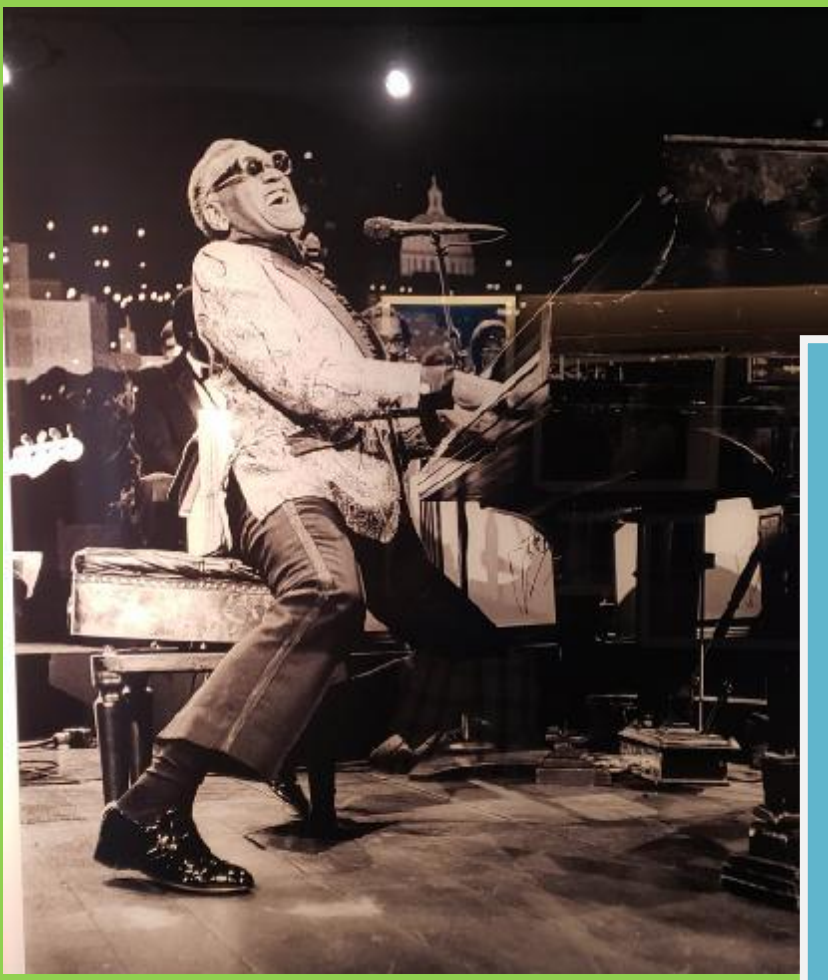


6	7	8	9	11	13	15
VINCE GILL	ROSANNE CASH	JOE ELY	MERLE HAGGARD	ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL	LYLE LOVETT	WILLIE NELSON

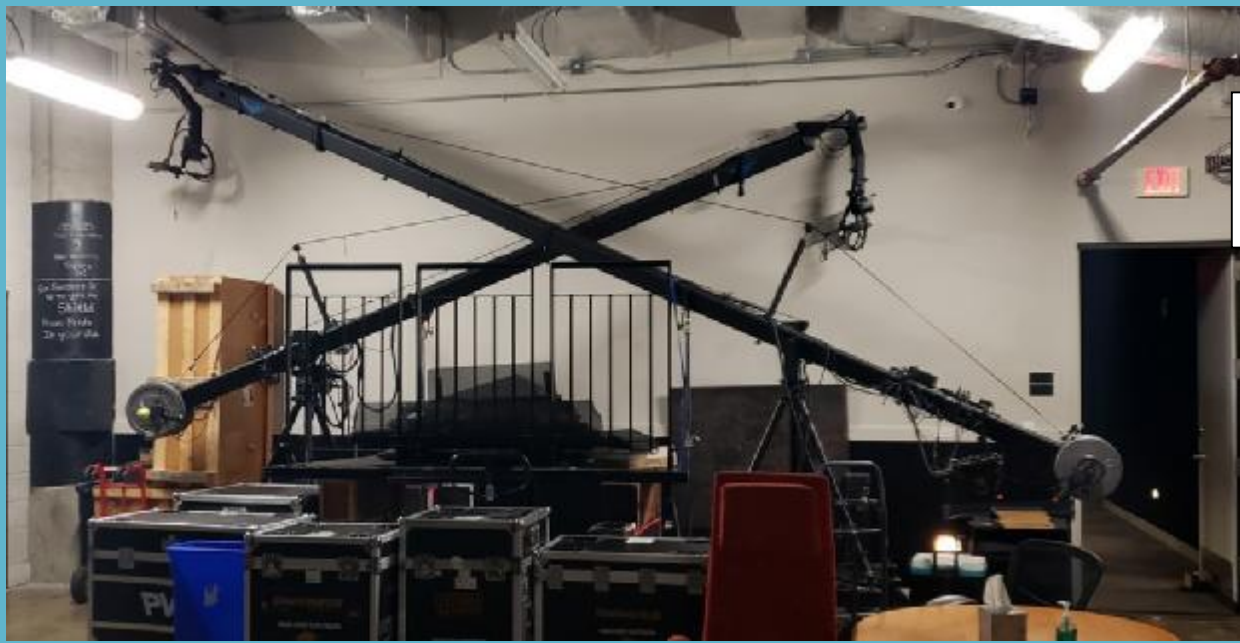
THE KELLER PFLUGER GALLERY

The photos on the walls of this gallery are the work of Scott Newton. I will put a link to his story at the end of the newsletter. It's pretty interesting. I believe this one is Cold Play.



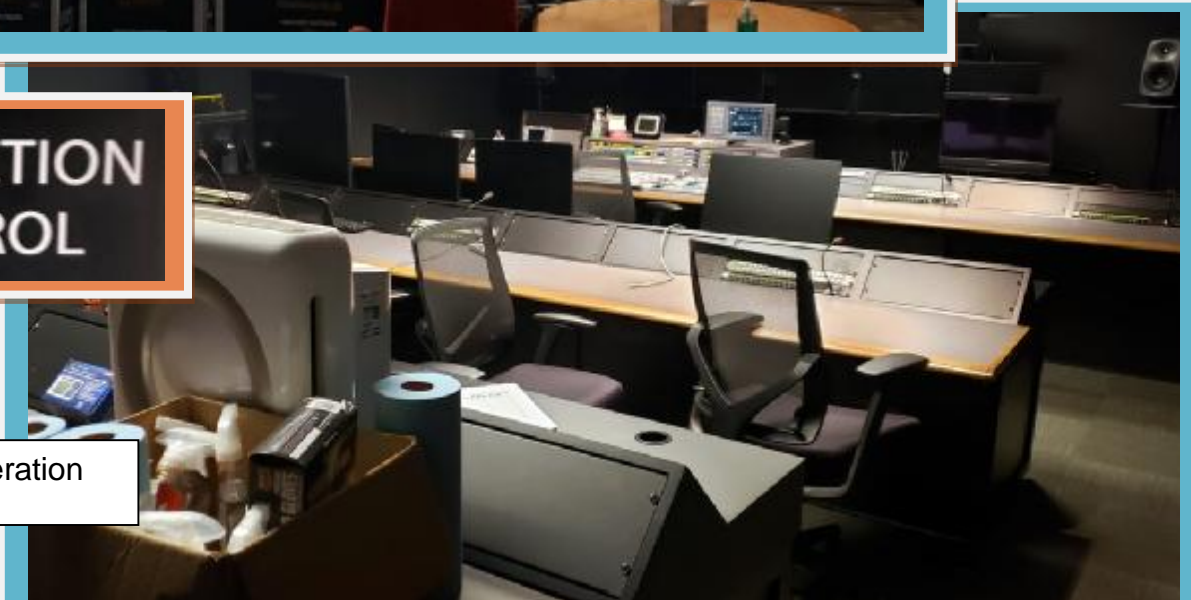


This is the stage from the middle balcony.



Camera booms ready to be hauled out to the stage.

PRODUCTION CONTROL



The heart of the operation



This board goes along with twenty or so monitors in the room.

Jim Marshall passed away in 2010, but his iconic photography of the 60's and 70's lives on.

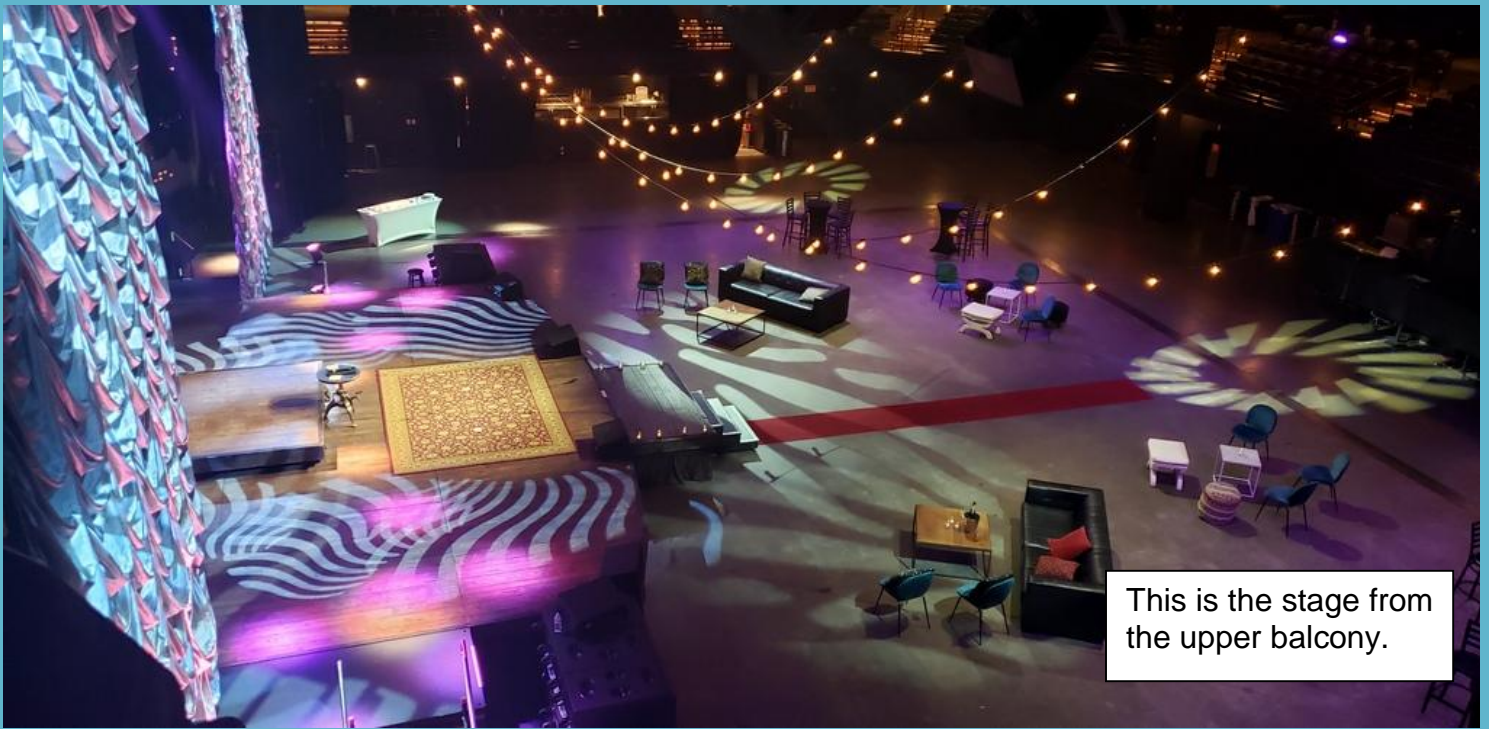
The Jack + Jim Gallery

A collection of Jim Marshall Photography
Presented by Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey
At Austin City Limits Live

Jack Daniel's, Jim Marshall Photography LLC and Austin City Limits Live are celebrating the 8th anniversary of the "Jack + Jim" Gallery, the longest continuing exhibition of works from the archive of legendary photographer Jim Marshall. 2019 is a special year for Jim Marshall Photography LLC with the worldwide premiere of the feature length documentary, *Show Me The Picture: The Story Of Jim Marshall* at the SXSW Film Festival.

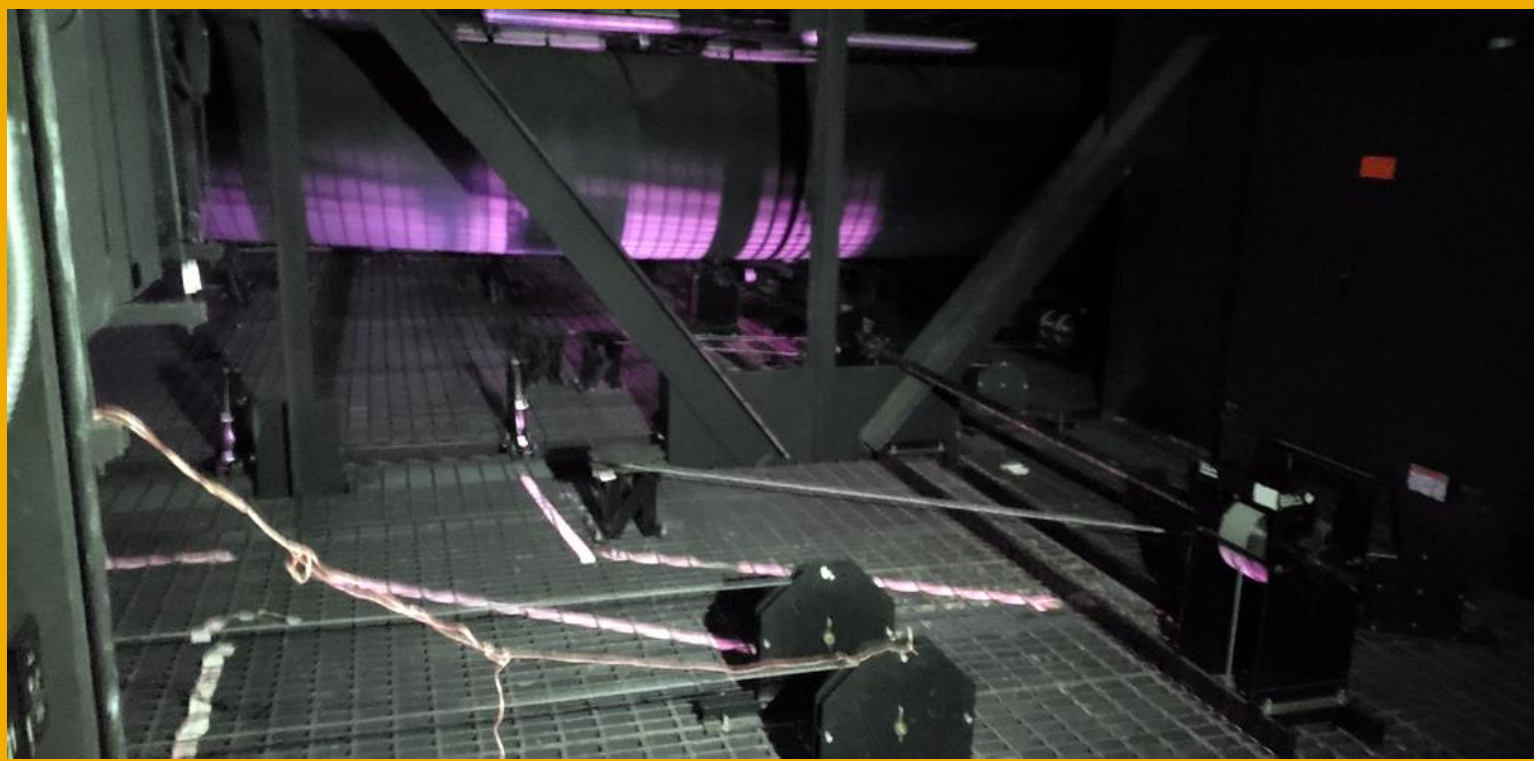
Santana's first appearance, Woodstock 1969. Morgan, Matt and I saw him live at the Houston Rodeo in 2019.





This is the stage from the upper balcony.

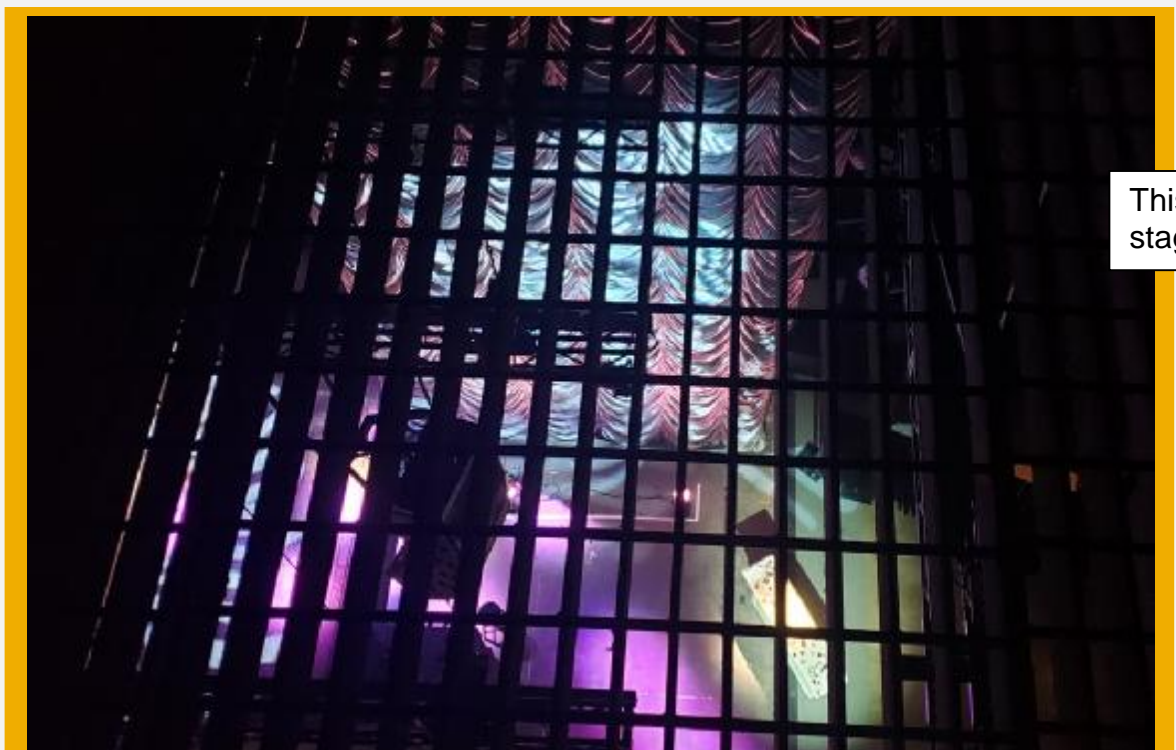
There are so many bars in this venue that Kaitlin told me they are part of the twelve step program, always have a bar within twelve steps.



During my tour I mentioned I used to own a roofing company and that I currently climb on roofs for a living, so Kaitlin felt it was safe to take me up to the 'grid'. This is the area above the lights where anything descending from the ceiling will be controlled from. It's not part of the regular tour and it was a very different view of the stage, as you will see.



We had to use flashlights to move around, and I had to turn on the camera flash. I was ducking under the A/C ducting and over guy wires stretched along the floor.



This is a look at the stage through the grid.



This is a view of the cameras that were currently active. They have many more for the live shows.

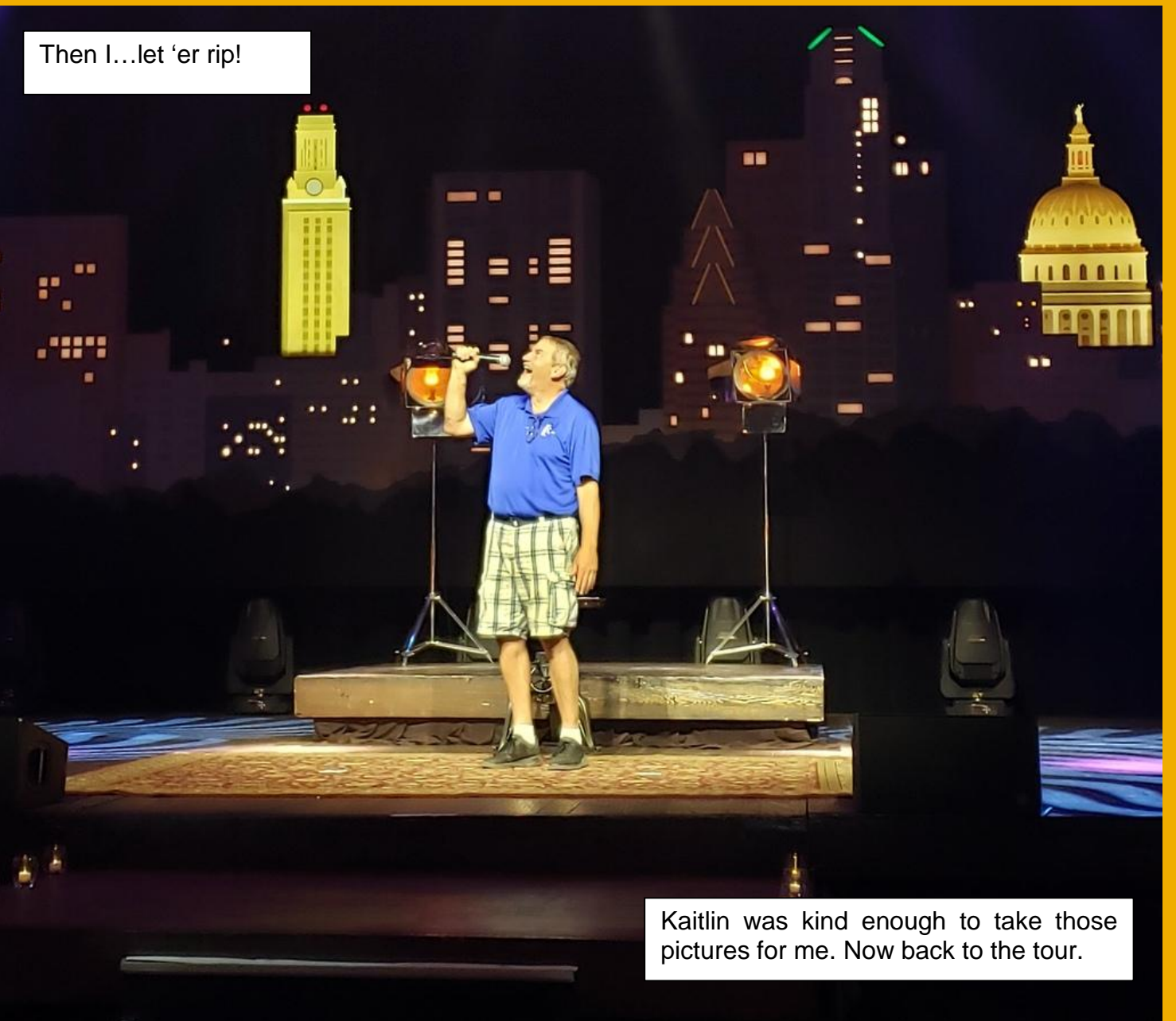
Now comes the really special part of the tour. I was invited back for the evening to sing my favorite song right on the ACL stage. Here I am waving to my fans.



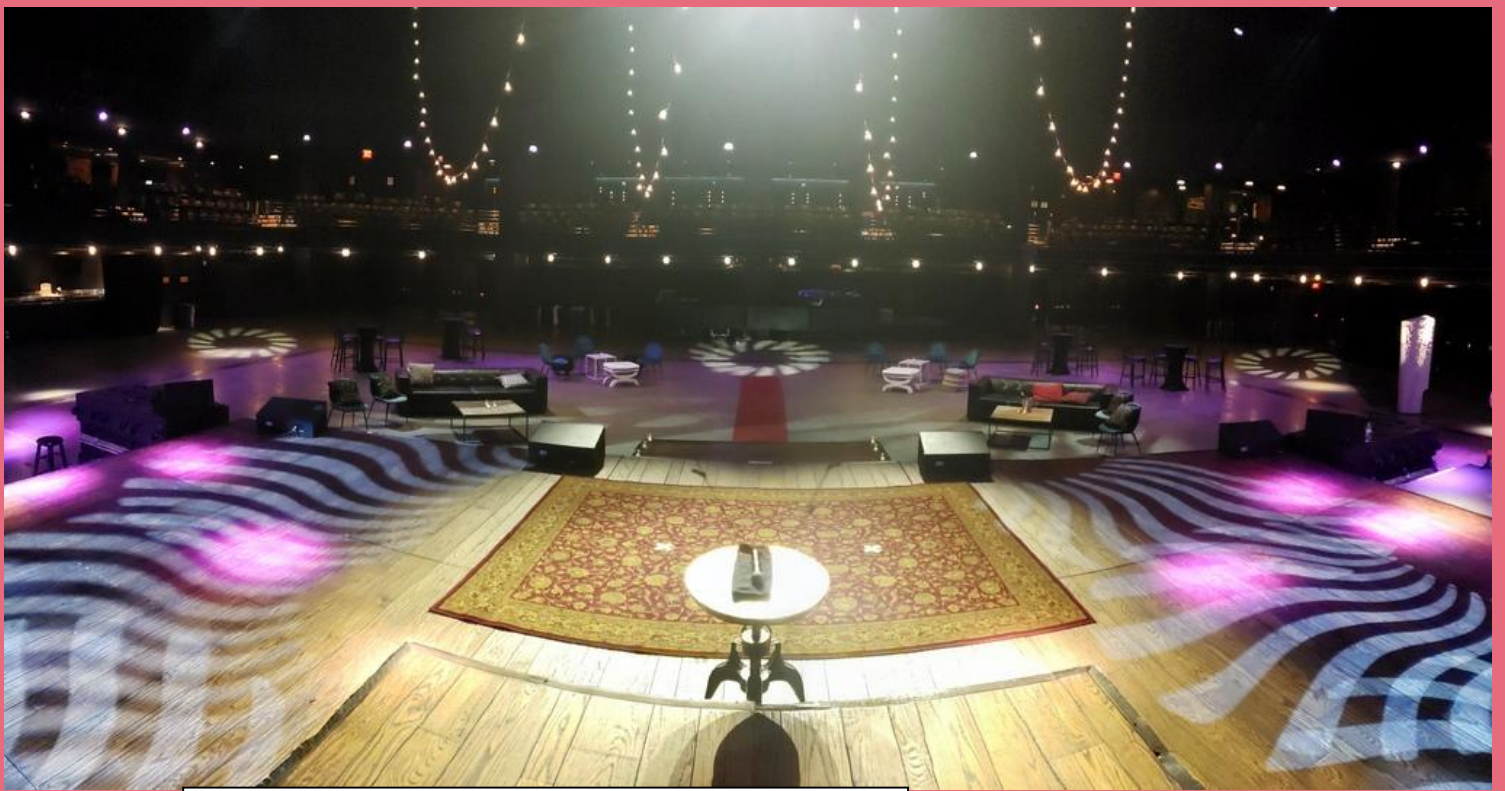
I took a moment to tell everyone who I was and why I was there and what I was going to sing.



Then I...let 'er rip!



Kaitlin was kind enough to take those pictures for me. Now back to the tour.

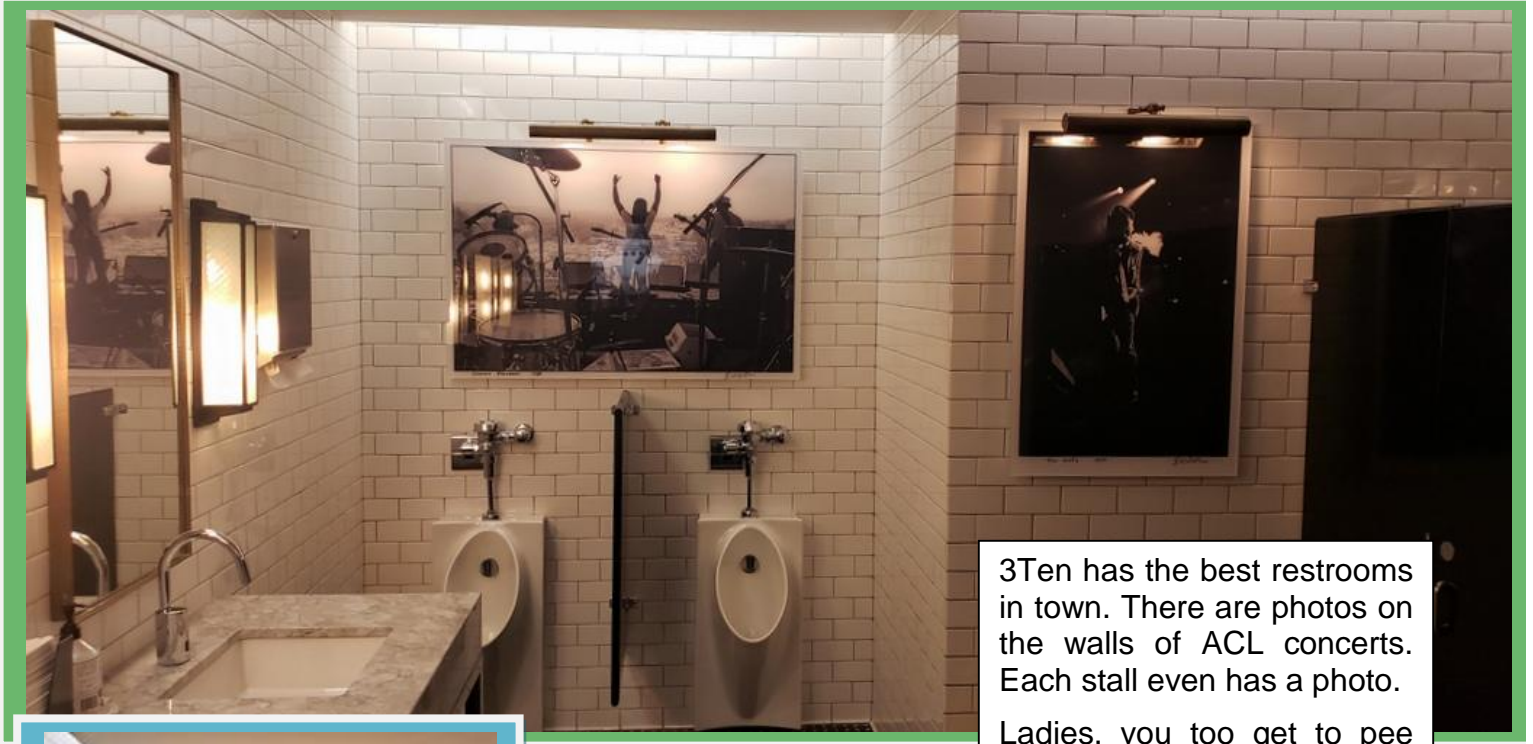


This is a panoramic from the back of the stage.



Last, but not least, we visited the 3Ten, another smaller venue they use for smaller bands and street concerts. They can open the large patio doors and let the music run wild. Kaitlin offered me a couple free tickets for tonight's concert, but I had never heard of the band, and since it felt weird sitting in the Menger Bar and drinking alone, I thought it would probably feel similar here.



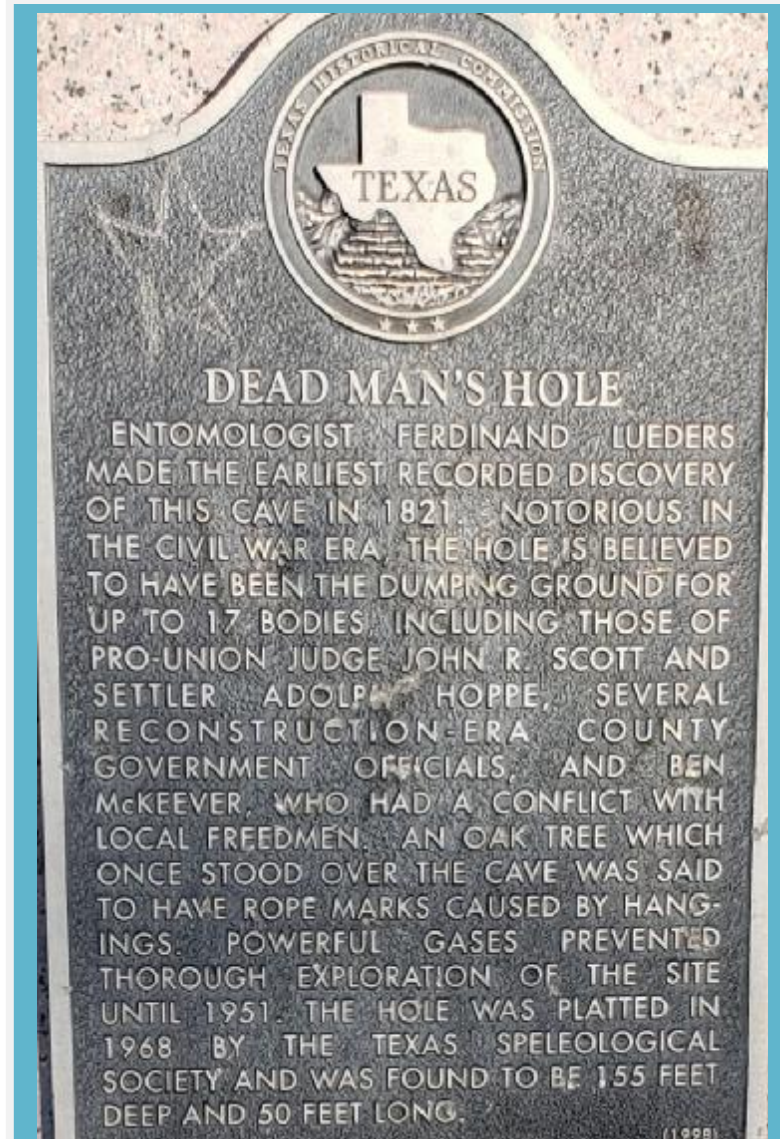


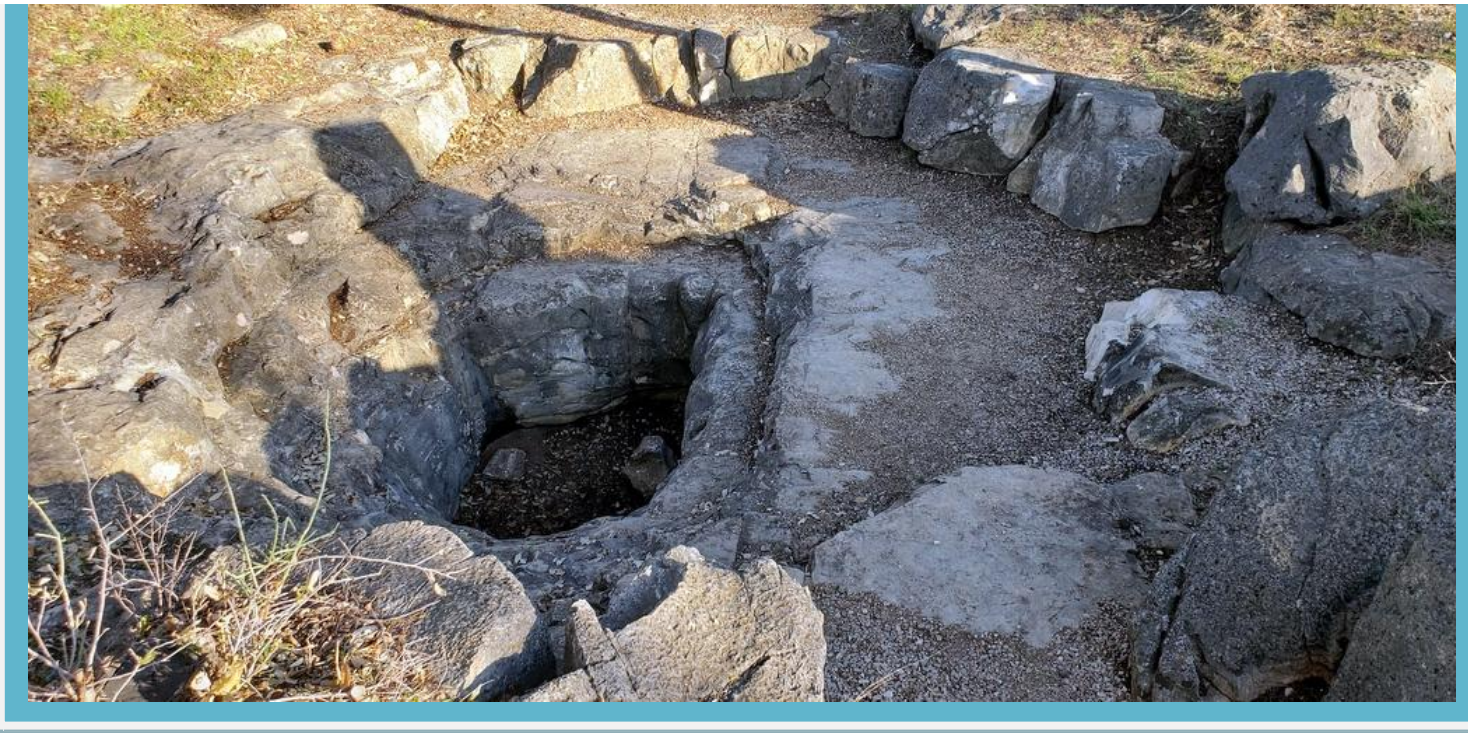
3Ten has the best restrooms in town. There are photos on the walls of ACL concerts. Each stall even has a photo. Ladies, you too get to pee with a celebrity.



I thanked Kaitlin for the great tour. I sure am glad I came back for it.

Well, time to 'get back on the road again'. I entered Dead Man's Hole on Google maps and followed their directions until I arrived at a gate across the road. What the hey? Who would think that there would be two streets named Dead Man's Hole near Austin. I followed a lot of single lanes and curving roads, crossed the stream below, and still was only at an intersection. I had to use the directions from Roadside America to get me where I wanted to go.





Yup, it's a hole in the ground. The hole is covered by that steel plate. There is a six inch round hole that you can look through if you want, but I did not have the urge. The story is rather interesting. The hanging tree is gone. I had to fill up this space with something.





I leave you with a view of my one and only appearance on the Austin City Limits stage. Whenever I watch the program on PBS I can say "I was there", and have fond memories of the tour I took of ACL.

Here is the link I mentioned earlier

<https://austin.culturemap.com/news/entertainment/08-18-11-14-10-iaustin-city-limits-i-icons/#slide=0>

Until next time.....