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**By Roy Bragg**

*QUH! — The band was playing, the adults were dancing, and the kids were moving in packs.*

It was a typical Saturday night dance at the Quihui Gun Club, one of the most historic and well-preserved dance halls in Texas, situated at the end of a winding dirt road just outside Floresville.

For generations, venues such as Quihui have served to keep Texas’ rural traditions alive, said Patrick Speakes of Texas Dance Hall, a preservation group dedicated to keeping these halls alive and healthy.

The immediate wood dance floor, steeped by tables and illuminated by a year-round by Christmas light strings, wowed by a little girl, and good times afoot.

**Cedar fever: It’s not just a pain in the nose**

As I sit down to write today’s column, I stop ever few minutes because I get the feeling that something goes is about to happen.

I grab a Kleenex and I begin to feel that the natural flow of things, if you know what I mean, do this at least 25 or 30 times a day. As the day progresses, the trash can at my foot fills with spent tissues.

These days, my lips are chapped and my nose sore all of the time. My voice sounds like Tom Waits with a sprinkling of Texas hill country on top.

So, if you aren’t business — which do I do — I sound like a Kentucky coal miner nearing retirement.

I’m sneezing a lot, too. Last Sunday, while watching football, I sneezed so hard that I pulled — at least the mashed of the Texas Hill Country who suffer from allergies I don’t know what we did to deserve this, but AMN expert Baron Recher has a pretty good idea about why it’s so bad.

First, says Recher, associate professor and extension specialist with Texas Agrilife Extension service, it’s not mountain pine. That’s a plant that grows in the mountains westward.

The tree getting a bug up our nasal is the cedar juniper, also known as the blueberry cedar. It’s native to Texas. And, Recher says, we may have ourselves to blame for this horrid, annoying, sneeze-ridden status of affairs.

See BRAGG/3K

**Collections reveal culture**

William J. Johnson’s “Sowing,” a mixed media print owned by Jenns and Leo Edwards of a couple planting cypress, is part of the San Antonio Collects African American Art exhibit, opening Thursday at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

He turns out, the same exhibit spurred the interest of another husband and wife team, Leo and Irene Edwards, founders of the Kinney who, with encourage- ment from the older cou- ple, began their own col- lection. San Antonio Collects African American Art exhibition, opening Thursday at SAM to mark the 25th anniversary of the San Antonio MLK March, features 26 works, including painting, prints and photographs, that reflects the African American experi- ence, both in art and the community.
HALLS
CONTINUED FROM 1K

Dancers dip to the music of Bobby Jordan and the Ridgeway Band during a Saturday night dance at the Quihi Gun Club. The dance hall has drawn folks from around the world, washed over several times when Quihi Creek jumped its banks. Munen-

“Once, there were a

he numbers are diminish-

played there. Bob Wills
derick Bourgeois). Elvis played

“You take an old place like

trafﬁc to me,” he says.

fraction are still booking
dance halls, agrees.

what holds Texas togeth-

little boys standing on their
daddy’s legs. I’m the little
girls learn to dance, in dance
halls, “he says.

dance hall keeps tradition

God continue to bless us with many more years of your laughter and wisdom.

“The history behind them that makes them atrac-
tive to me,” he says. “You take an old place like Cherry Springs Hall (a
close venue north of Fredericksburg). Elvis played there, Hank Williams

jumped there Ernest Tubbs played there.

Historic dance halls dot

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half are still standing, and only

fraternity are still being built

in boots that had exposed their

Isolation.

the next day.

stay out on the floor all night.

dance floor. Dancers can

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m g h t s t a b l e s .  A l s o  i n  b o o t s

unnecessary.

s t r i c t .  M a n y  g o r e  t o  b e

h a l l .

T h e  r u l e s  w e r e  s t r i c t .

“IT’S A SAFE PLACE,” says

n’t have to worry

times when Quihi Creek jumped its banks that had exposed threats that were

tracking the ﬂoor. He was surrounded by several men, who hurled him down the

steps — because he laughed when he was asked to change boots or stop
dancing. In those days, the hall wasn’t air-conditioned, so Bobby Jordan, whose

describe playing there as a cold night in

to remember them putting

tinkling waters on that ad

several times.

Another unique aspect

h ave b o t h  b e e n  p r e s e r v e d

B o e r n e  a n d  B u l v e r d e ,  a n d

dances.

you didn’t want to

people go where you didn’t

places that they cushion

in boots that had exposed

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when a man from a neigh-

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