

## Granbury to kick off songwriter concert series

BY BILL HANNA  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

GRANBURY — Although it is a long way from becoming the Ker-ville of North Texas, Granbury is staging its first acoustic concert tomorrow night in what may be a first step toward an eventual music festival.

The first Texas Songwriter Series at the Granbury Opera House, featuring Ray Wylie Hubbard, Townes Van Zandt and Terry Allen, is in the same vein as the music popularized at the annual Hill Country festival outside Ker-ville. And Granbury organizers are hoping that bimonthly concerts at the 110-year-old theater will help build support for an outdoor music festival next fall.

"There's always been the senti-ment that we wished the Opera House would do more and have a broader venue," said John Ragland of the Granbury Convention and

Visitors Bureau. "I think drawing another group of visitors to Gran-bury and exposing people locally to something new is tremendous."

The Opera House, with shows such as *Oklahoma* and *South Pa-cific*, has helped bring one genera-tion of tourists to the Hood County seat's historic town square to fill the antique stores and restaurants. Now officials hope that Texas music can persuade others to make the 40-mile drive from Fort Worth and other parts of the Metroplex.

"For this concert, we've gotten a pretty good cut coming out of Fort Worth, and some are coming from as far as Dallas, which is pretty re-markable for a Thursday night," Ragland said. "That's something we can build on and hopefully focus in our market for these shows."

The second show Dec. 5 will fea-ture Guy Clark, and promoters are talking to Tish Hinojosa, Jerry Jeff Walker and the Dixie Chicks about

appearances in later shows.

Many of these artists already play shows at Metroplex venues. Van Zandt and Hubbard, for ex-ample, are also scheduled to play at Dallas' Poor David's Pub this week.

But Granbury organizers believe that there is a market for these shows. And one Dallas-based pro-moter agrees.

Mike Snider, who started sched-uling shows at the historic Sons of Herman Hall in Dallas in 1994, said Granbury can be successful.

"I'm considering going," Snider said. "It's a great lineup, and I love Texas music. I think the more peo-ple playing it, the better. We've put up the poster for their show here, and there's been a lot of response."

Along with the concerts, the Granbury town square will soon have a brew pub and a coffeehouse on either side of the Opera House.