



Our History

It all started as a simple 4th of July fund-raiser. In 1925 Walter and Audrey Crider hosted a rodeo to benefit the Hunt School P.T.A. The guests of Heart of The Hills Inn (now a girls camp) and some folks who had summer homes, wanted a place to learn folk dances, etc. A wooden dance floor was built on the lower banks of the Guadalupe River on the Crider property. The rodeo, dance and barbeque were held each 4th of July. In the early 1930's this became a weekly event during the summer months. Friendships, love affairs, and general good will towards men have been engineered at Crider's ever since.

When Crider's began, the admission for gents was 35 ¢ and the ladies were free. Soda pop was 5 cents and the favorites were Coca-Cola, cream soda, strawberry, Orange Crush and Delaware Punch. Another interesting fact, during prohibition no alcoholic beverages were allowed inside the dance hall. However, in the parking lot and down the road, bootleggers peddled moonshine for 25¢ a shot or about \$3.00 a gallon. Some of the moonshine was put into old bottles and the stopper was a twisted piece of cloth.

When beer could be sold the price was 15¢ or 2 for 25¢. some of the favorites were Southern Select, Grand Prize and Pearl. The Ice was hauled in from Kerrville at a price of 75¢ for a 300# block.

The first string bands were paid \$25.00 a night. There's always been a string band! Some of the greats were the Musical Buddies, Black Diamonds, the Snodgrass band known as the Whipperwils, Phil Trimble, Clyde Jones, Jack Rich and the Continental Cowboys, George Chambers, Jimmy Fletcher from San Angelo, Texas Top Hands, Adolph Hofners and the Pearl Wranglers, Willie Nelson, Sleepy Short, Johnny Lee Wills, Bill Dickey, The Carlises, Floyd Tillman, Scott Randolph Band from McAllen, Circle C Band, Japonica, Roland Davis and the Tune Wranglers, Leon Rush, Junior Pruneda, Ed Gerlach Orchestra from Houston, Dennis Crow, Charlie Walker, and Billy Hogan.... to mention a few.

After several years of floods, the wooden dance floor was moved across the highway, next to the Crider's country store and Humble gas station. After World War II, the dance floor was moved to its present location overlooking the river. The rodeo arena was built nearby and the rodeos were held every Saturday night as well.

A large wooden sign, embossed with rope letters reading "Crider's", stands over the entrance to the dance floor. Massive Oaks grow out of the roomy dance slab. A building housing a cafe stands to the side. This establishment is typically Texas. Crider's has no specialized clientele. The charm of it lies in the unpretentious mingling of people. They are rustics, sophisticates, oil men, grounds keepers, high school students, teachers, professional football players, TV personalities, Presidents, Governors, Astronauts, movie stars, camp counselors, truck drivers, cowboys, grandparents, grandchildren, business executives, the works! Not all that go to Crider's dance... some go to hear the music, watch the dancers or just have an evening out with friends. Crider's is a great place for a family outing.

Cotton Eyed Joe, Put Your Little Foot, Schottische, Little Brown Jug, Black Eyed Susie, Two Steps and Waltzes were the traditional Texas dances that have been danced at Crider's since 1925. The rodeo was featured before the dance. They had all the events which make up a modern rodeo. But I'll bet if you ask some of the old timers about it they'll say, " the horses were ranker, the bulls were meaner and the cowboy's were tougher! Oh yeah, the girls were prettier too!".

The best thing about how Crider's use to be is... it's still the same.
Seems like it has always existed and always will!