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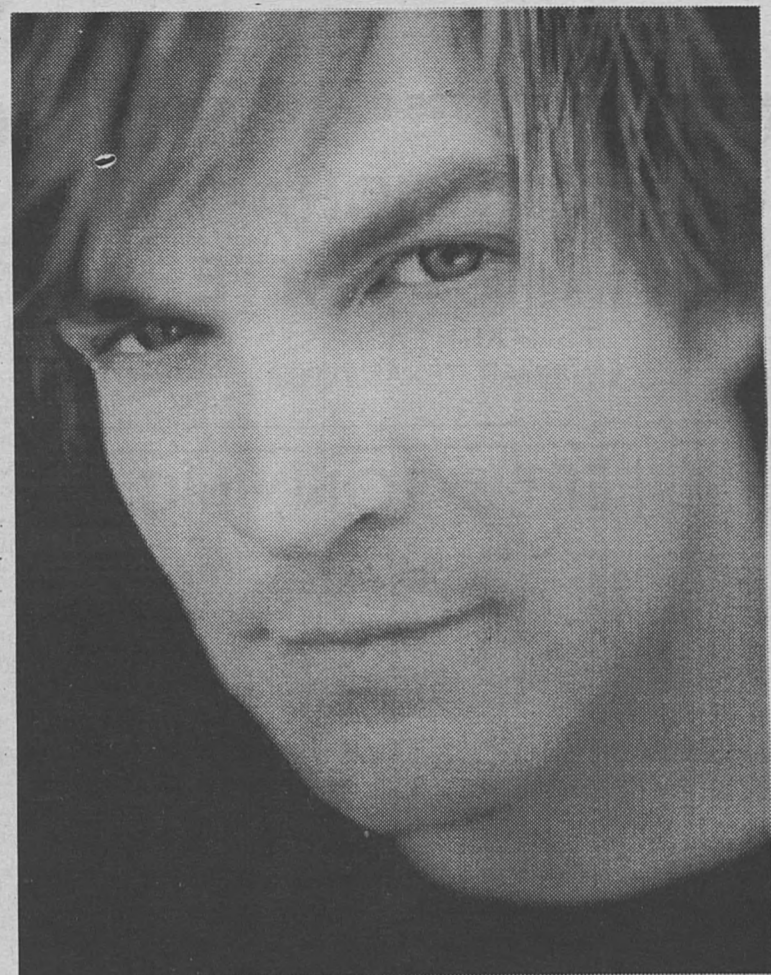
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Jack Ingram

Jack Ingram will kick-off this year's fair activities, Thursday, September 12. Ingram will perform under the Pavilion at 9:30 - 11:00 p.m. Opening for Ingram will be the ever-popular dance band The Emotions from 7-9 p.m., also under the Pavilion.

Singer/songwriter/performer Ingram, who will do 200 shows this next year, started off in 1993 with "Self-Titled." Since that time, he has commanded the attention of a broad base of music fans from the frat-boy crowd to serious singer-songwriter fans who listen to the quieter words of Ingram's music in songs like "Biloxi."

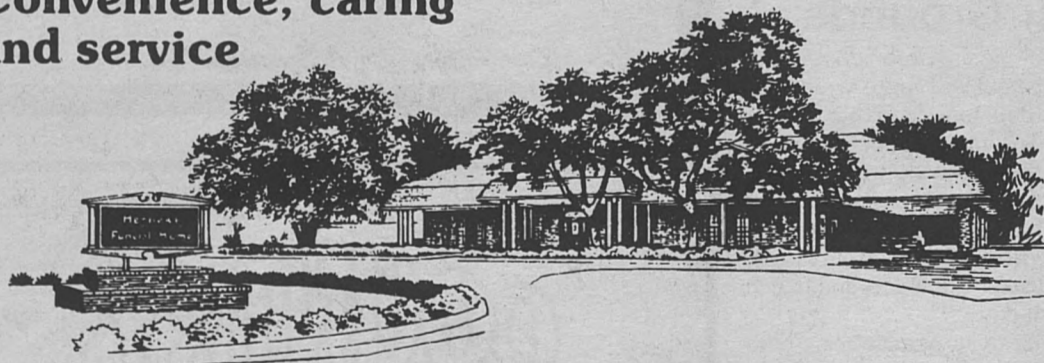
A former Southern Methodist University psychology major, Ingram has 10 very successful CD's under his belt with his most recent, *Electric*, released in June. Ingram says the "bug" to perform did not come until he started visiting Adair's, a tiny, concrete-floored country music outpost on the fringes of Dallas' bohemian district while in college. When he listened to the likes of Tony Lane, Jon Maston and Diamond Jim Richmond on Thursday nights, he says the fire was lit. Shortly afterward he asked Adair's owner if he could perform some of his music on stage and the rest is history.

On the new, solid roots-rock/country *Electric*, Ingram sings about love and loss, about facing adversity, and about questions, rather than answers. Critics claim the most intriguing song may be "Pete, Jesus & Jack." Inspired by Pete Coatney, Ingram's drummer for the past nine years, it explores Ingram's own spirituality through Coatney's beliefs. The song comes out of a babble of voices in the first few seconds, sounding like an old vinyl recording.

"I just wanted it to sound like it was some people on a porch playing the song, and then a marching band comes through the front yard," Ingram told *Paste Magazine* in their debut issue August 2. "Something crazy happens in the front yard, and it goes away and you still have the basics of the people sitting on the porch. The words talk about Pete, but the song talks about my questions."

For Ingram, distinctive music comes from honesty. *Electric* was released in June. Nearly two months earlier, an advance copy was going for \$50 on eBay, and fans were already discussing the songs on-line. One summed up what sets Ingram apart from some of his neighbors: "Unlike some artists, Jack has refused to find a song writing niche to milk for all it's worth. Jack is proof positive that you don't have to write about tacos, beer, bait, ammo, and road trips, etc., to be a songwriter from Texas."

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