

# THE BILLY CHRONICLES



Texas Tales of Transgression,  
Retribution, Reconciliation  
and Dominoes.

LARK SPARROW PRESS

The Billy Chronicles consist of three original short stories: *D.B. and the Double-Five*, *Lizard and Julio Go Nel-o* and *The Colonel's Chicanery*. Each story relates the experiences and trials of the once and future Texas State Domino Champion, Big Billy.

As a sequential narrative, the stories are a close look at incidents in the life of a self-centered, loud and boisterous manager of a Street and Waste Water Department for a small Texas town in the 1970's. He is an arrogant, profane and shrewd individual whose life has meaning only in the context of winning his favorite bid-style domino game – "42," which forms the underlying theme for the three stories. All the stories are true, happening just as they have been recalled from the mind of Big Billy.

The stories exist in three separate forms: as text in three different concertina books, as 15 -35 minute performance pieces recorded on each story's CD and in each of the three books' eight illustrations. Each form of the story gives nuance to the narrative.

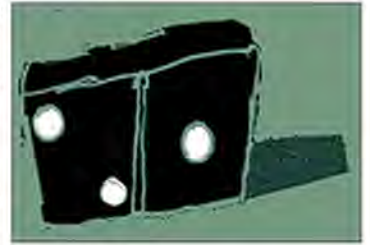
The tenor of the stories are satiric, tongue-in-cheek tales that encourage laid-back, casual listening. But the underlying content invites a second look at people and events. Though satire may diminish the person who is its object, it is also a mirror that shows us a side of ourselves of which we are usually, blissfully unaware.

Behind the satirist and artist is a reformer, a person who would like to see a better world, a person who believes progress is possible and change is essential. The intent is to amuse but also to point out that, as individuals, we can do better.

Each story is editioned to 15 numbered copies. They are hand printed in two colors on a Vandercook IV using handmade cotton and abacca paper. They are printed with 12 and 14-point hand-set Clarendon and bound up with book cloth and goat skin. Each case includes a CD of the performed story (with the slide guitar stylings of the Rev. Floyd - an officially ordained Texas minister), a set of liner notes, a 14-foot concertina book, and a set of tournament-quality dominoes.

In addition to *The Billy Chronicles* there are four other books that complete the press's current book list. Three are abecedariums – *The Republic of Texas Stamp Album* with humorous text and full sheets of perforated stamps on each page; its smaller version, *The Republic of Texas Mini Stamp Album*, with single stamps on each page; and *A Totally Legal Abecedarium*, illustrating the wacky world of patent law through a tale of patenting an actual invention.

Lastly, there is a venture into limited edition, fine art printing with the poem *I Am Already*. It is letterpress printed using Ludlow type on handmade paper and is hand bound. The poem is editioned to 100 signed and numbered copies.



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Big Billy is calm under unimaginable pressure.



Sweet Pea sits in on the last hand of the game.

### D.B. and the Double-Five

This is the first story in *The Billy Chronicles*. It's the story that introduces the main figure in the series – Big Billy. Beneath the surface of a game played with his friends JimBob, JoeBob and Bubba, Billy relates a Texas slight-of-hand morality tale about "Winnin' when you thought you was losin'." The above images are details from two of the eight illustrations in the fourteen-foot concertina book that comes with the cased-in story. Each book weighs about 3 pounds and measures 11.125" high, 9.75" wide and 2.5" thick. All materials are archival and the edition is signed and numbered 1 to 15.



Lizard blamed Julio. Julio blamed Big Billy. Billy blamed...



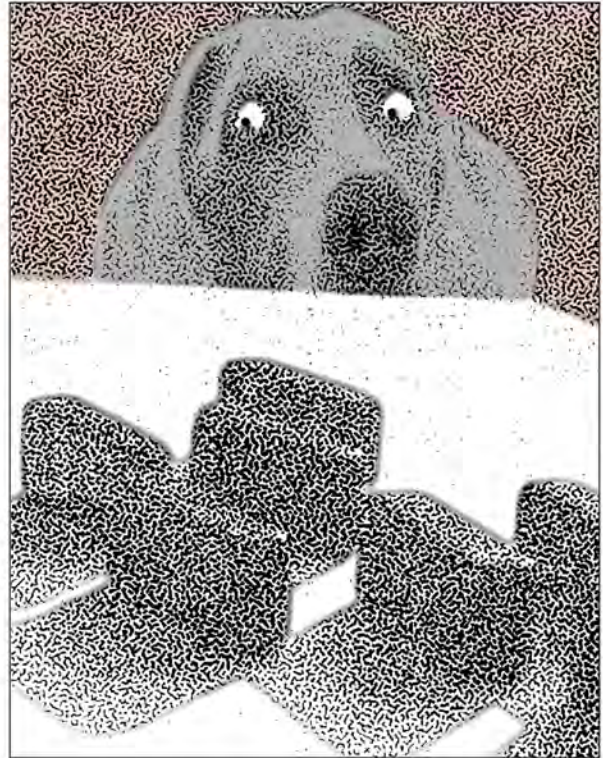
The Suds N' Dunk laundromat ran on pesos.

### Lizard and Julio Go Nel-o

Lizard and Julio are the two shady characters who attempt to foil Big Billy in the second book of *The Billy Chronicles*. Ever the story-teller as well as the moralist, Big Billy relates a different tale about dominoes, the Texas State Championship, true love, the Suds N' Dunk and "Losin' when you thought you was winnin'." The above images are details from two of the eight illustrations in the fourteen-foot concertina book that comes with the cased-in story. Each book weighs about 3 pounds and measures 11.125" high, 9.75" wide and 2.5" thick. All materials are archival and the edition is signed and numbered 1 through 15.



Walking Bar-b-que



Peaches's domino hand

### The Colonel's Chicanery

The *Colonel* is the third book in *The Billy Chronicles* and is a morality tale that includes a comeuppance. Big Billy tells it just as the events unfold on the Colonel's deer lease outside of Old Dime Box, Texas. The story is replete with a road trip by Billy and his pals Rabbit and Peaches, stops at the East Texas Snake-A-Rama, the International Speedway and the Center for Conservative Christians. There's "huntin', storytellin', domino playin', cheatin'" and retribution. The above images are details from two of the eight illustrations in the fourteen-foot concertina book that comes with the cased-in story. Each book weighs about 3 pounds and measures 11.125" high, 9.75" wide and 2.5" thick. All materials are archival and the editions are signed and numbered 1 through 15.



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