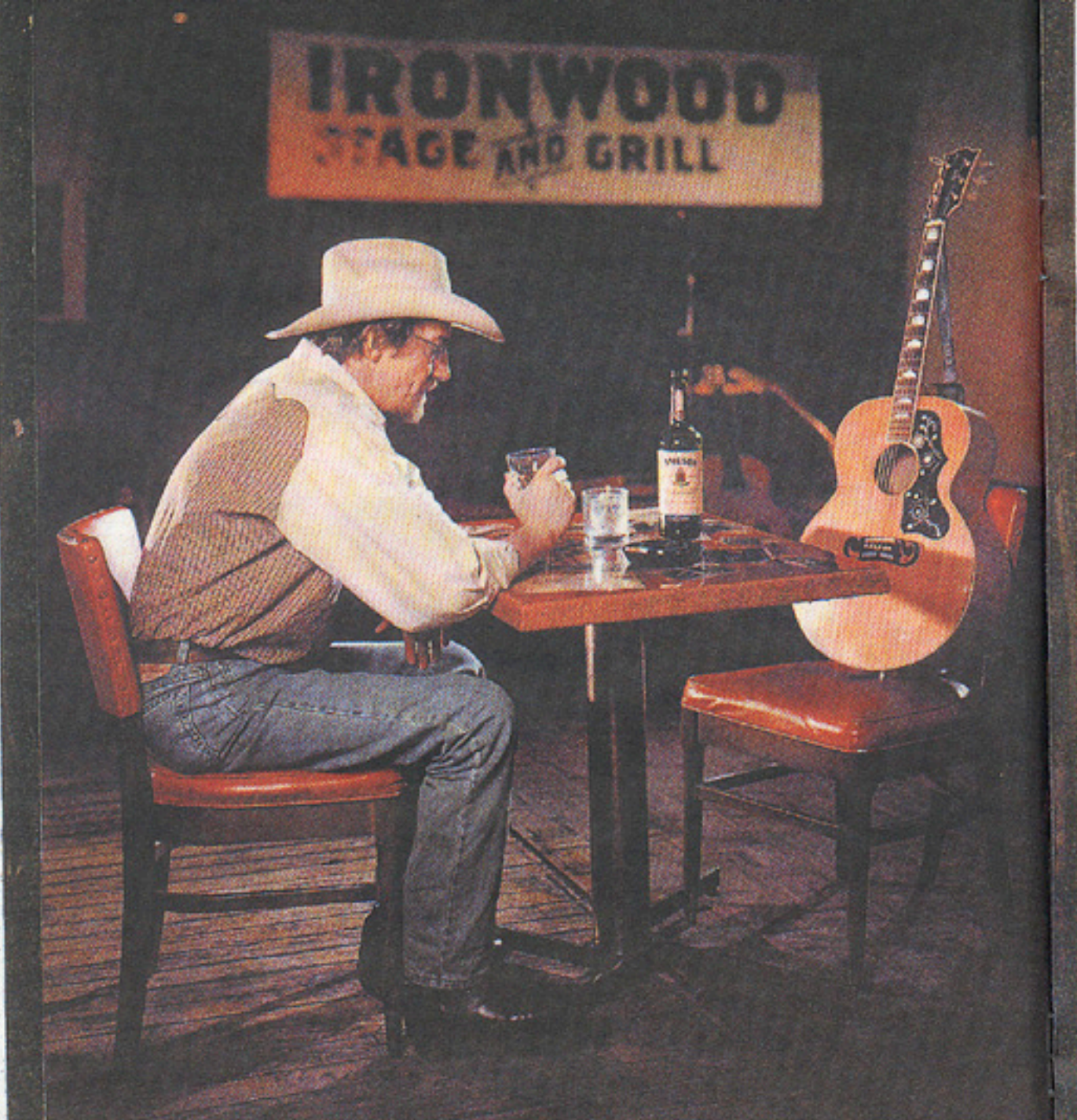


“THOSE KINDS OF ROAD-  
HOUSES LIKE THE MECCA  
AND THE IRONWOOD ARE  
WHERE ROCK 'N' ROLL AND  
COUNTRY MUSIC CAME  
FROM. THE DRINKS WERE  
A LITTLE STRONGER,  
IT WAS ON THE EDGE  
OF TOWN AND IT SMELLED  
LIKE BARBECUE.  
IT WAS MY FAVOURITE  
ROOM TO HEAR MUSIC.  
I REMEMBER SEEING BILLY  
COWSILL THERE AND,  
OH MAN, I THOUGHT  
I HAD DIED AND  
GONE TO HEAVEN.”

— TOM PHILLIPS



In a recent November night at Merlot, one of the few Calgary clubs that deigns to book local roots acts, Cowsill sat listening to an acoustic set by Phillips, Kit Johnson and bassist John Hyde. “He writes great tunes,” Cowsill said as Phillips played one of his many originals.