Hidden Kitchens Texas with Host Willie Nelson
Produced by The Kitchen Sisters (Davia Nelson & Nikki Silva)
In collaboration with KUT FM at the University of Texas in Austin & NPR
A New NPR Nationwide Special
Summer/Fall 2007

Peabody Award-winning producers, The Kitchen Sisters, NPR, and KUT Austin present Hidden Kitchens Texas, a lively, illuminating, sound-rich hour of stories about the Texas experience through food, told by people who find it, grow it, cook it, eat it, sell it, share it, celebrate with it, and write about it.

Host, Willie Nelson and Dallas-born actress Robin Wright Penn (whose mother was a Mary Kay Cosmetics Executive), along with some extraordinary tellers, take us across The Lone Star State and share their own hidden kitchen stories in this new special that comes alive in story and sound, laced with soulful array of Texas music. Stories of NASA's space kitchens, cowboy kitchens, oil barrel barbeques, ice houses, chili queens, the birth of the Frito, the birth of the 7-11, the birth of the Slurpee, the birth of the Frozen Margarita, the first barbeque pit on the moon, a car wash kitchen in El Paso, and so much more. intimate, historic, offbeat, profound and wild.

As we did with the Hidden Kitchens Morning Edition series, we opened up a Hidden Kitchens hotline across Texas, and listeners called in by the droves with their own tales and tips that we followed to in all kinds of places. “Deep Fried Fuel: A Biodiesel Kitchen Vision, travels to Carl’s Corner Truck stop in Carl’s Corner Texas, a tale of fuel made from farm crops and restaurant grease. We get some cattle drive cooking, visit a Christian cowboy kitchen, NASA’s space kitchens, a restaurant hidden down a driveway in Fort Worth, Fuel City in Dallas (if Hugh Hefner had a gas station it would probably look something like this.), farm kitchens, rodeo kitchens, musicians’ kitchens, cottonpickers’ kitchens It’s Texas, and that’s what makes these stories so big, eccentric, and compelling

So many issues we all share play out in these Texas kitchen stories --oil, land, food, family, elders, war, work, immigration -- issues that touch the lives of listeners everywhere.

Hidden Kitchens Texas is full of interviews, unusual archival audio, field recordings, oral histories, radio stories that come alive like small movies. These stories unfold against a soundtrack of soulful Texas music that conveys a deep sense of time and place. Willie Nelson, Jimmie Dale Gilmore and the Flatlanders, Los Lonely Boys, Flaco Jimenez, Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys, Lightnin’ Hopkins, Guy Clark, Clarence “Frogman” Henry, Chingo Bling, Tex Czech Polka Bands, Archie Bell and the Drells, Lydia
Mendoza, who sang in the plazas of the Chili Queens of San Antonio and many more voices are all heard. -

Shimmering musical transitions are also provided by the Austin steel wonder, Cindy Cashdollar, who has performed with Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Rod Stewart, Asleep at the Wheel and appeared on “A Prairie Home Companion.” Cindy grew up on a raw milk dairy farm in Woodstock, so you know she rocks.

This new broadcast special, one of the most entertaining and surprising you’ll hear on public radio this year, is now available on NPR’s Content Depot. Hidden Kitchens Texas is produced by The Kitchen Sisters (Nikki Silva & Davia Nelson) in collaboration with NPR and KUT 90.5 FM at the University of Texas in Austin.

“Hidden Kitchens: Stories, Recipes and More From NPR’s Kitchen Sisters”, a James Beard Award nominated, New York Times Notable Book of the Year and is now out in paperback. Our 3 cd, Audie Award winning Hidden Kitchens Audio book, narrated by Academy Award Winning actress, Frances McDormand, is available as well.

**Short Version**

“Hidden Kitchens Texas” with Host, Willie Nelson
Produced by The Kitchen Sisters in collaboration with NPR and KUT Austin
A New NPR Nationwide Special

Hidden Kitchens Texas, a new special narrated by Willie Nelson, comes to NPR stations nationwide this summer. Peabody Award-winning producers, The Kitchen Sisters and KUT Austin present this lively, illuminating, sound-rich hour of stories about the Texas experience through food, told by people who find it, grow it, cook it, sell it, celebrate with it, and write about it. Willie Nelson, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, and Dallas-born actress Robin Wright Penn, along with some extraordinary tellers take us across Texas and share their own hidden kitchen stories in an hour of new radio that comes alive in story and sound.