

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the Western Music Association

Crosshairs: JOE TEXAS SHOOTS STRAIGHT

R.J. Vandygriff
"The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet!"

Jeneve Rose Mitchell
on American Idol
DOES WESTERN PROUD

Spreading the Word - Arts in Arizona

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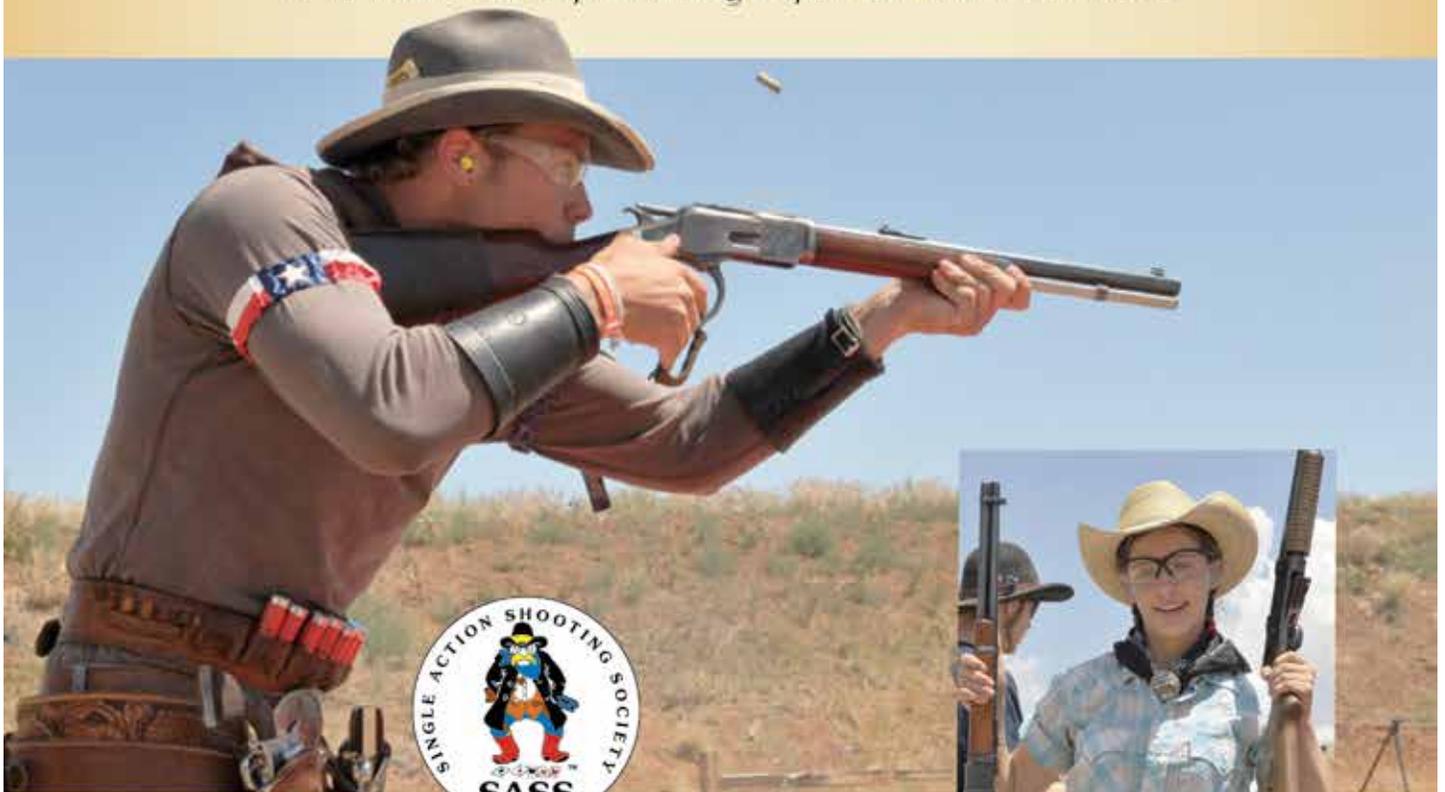
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Pictured: James F. Walker Nelson (1920-1993) in the late 1970s, barrier and father of poet Andy Nelson and Jim Nelson, co-hosts of Clear Out West (C.O.W.) Radio. Photo courtesy of the Nelson family. This image is selected as the 2015 cover art for the double-CD compilation of highlights of all of the past CDs (release: Fall, 2015).

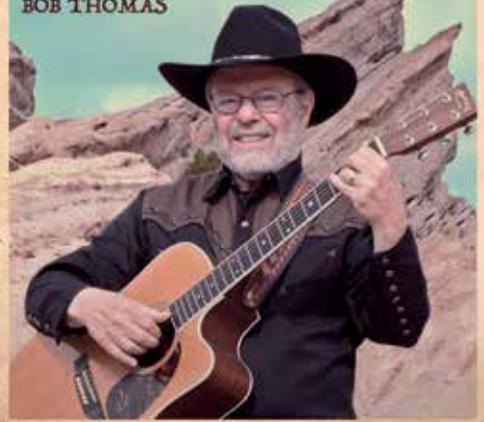
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From The President...

ATTENTION WMA Membership and Friends:

It is with deep regret that the WMA Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of Steve Taylor from the Board and as President of our organization. Steve has served the WMA as President for more than 10 years. He has served the Association faithfully because of his own commitment to its mission. His leadership will be sorely missed but we know you will join us in wishing Steve and Terri well as they continue their own musical journey. An Interim President will be appointed by the Board of Directors to serve until November. at which time the new President will be elected.



Steve Taylor
Past WMA President

Howdy To All:

From time to time a board member will be asked, "What does the WMA do for me?" It is a good question, and there is an answer, but when the answer is given, it is usually followed up with a similar question, "What can you do for the WMA?" That is another good question but it can sometimes the response is a blank look. The WMA is a conduit (not a booking agency) for performers and fans to associate with each other and to spread the word of what we are doing and what our music and poetry is about. Here are some things that you can do!

For the non-performers/fans of WMA:

- If you live in an area where there is a chapter, you can support your local chapter by attending meetings when they are held.
- Attend venues that are in your area with WMA performers.
- Have WMA brochures & applications with you at all times. Your voice concerning the WMA is the most powerful tool that there is.
- Request some complimentary copies of the Western Way Magazine and put them in places that you frequent, like hair salons, doctors' offices, etc... Leave them anyplace that people "wait."

For the performers that are WMA performers:

- Do all of the above, plus...
- Point out from the stage that you and whoever else may be there are WMA performers/members.
- On your Bio that is submitted to the venue where you are performing, make sure that you include that you are a WMA performing member.
- Make sure that you know and mention the Web site, www.westernmusic.org.
- Support the other performers that may be performing at the same venue as you by listening to them. You may pick something up from them that you like or they may ask you for help in an area.
- On your CD/Book table or a central point, place brochures and applications.

Sarah Ban Breathnach quoted, "The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all the world needs dreamers who do."

Be one of those dreamers who do and we can continue to help the WMA grow by leaps and bounds.

One easy way to help the WMA, if you are in need of a great Christmas or Birthday present or any other gift, give someone a membership to the WMA.

Thank you all for your continued support and remember to mark your calendar for 2016 WMA CONVENTION - NOVEMBER 9-13 IN ALBUQUERQUE.

Steve Taylor, Past President
Western Music Association



www.WesternMusic.org

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Contributing Writers
Les Buffham, Samantha Meyer Gallegos,
Buck Helton, Rick Huff, Judy James,
Marvin O'Dell, Theresa O'Dell, Marsha Short,
O.J. Sikes, Steve Taylor

Contributing Photographers
Multiple photographers.
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Managing Editor/Advertising
Theresa O'Dell
wweditor1@gmail.com; 805-551-7763

Graphic Design
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Western Music Association
P.O. Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019
Cell Phone 505-563-0673
marsha@westernmusic.org
www.westernmusic.org



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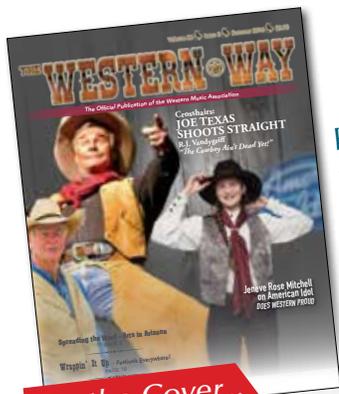
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R.J. Vandygriff shares some insight into his alter ego, Joe Texas of "The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet" fame and Jeneve Rose Mitchell finishes in final 14 on American Idol.

Content and opinions expressed in articles and reviews published in the Western Way are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the WMA or the Western Way.

Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell

How many times have you said "Where has the time gone?" Maybe you are referring to the day, the past week, the last few months, or even the last however-many years. Time does seem to slip away and usually there are no "do-overs" and time waits for no one.

Some reader may be struggling with how much time and resource should be invested in a western entertainer's

career. It's a tough call; the bills must be paid and the family's needs must be met. I believe you need to decide how much of what you're doing – singing, playing, reciting – is because you have a burning passion within your soul to preserve the western culture and you must do your craft despite the cost and hardships; or, you need to acknowledge that you do this because you like to sing, play, write, perform, and sometimes get awards!

I'm not here to say there is a wrong or right motive. I do think it's important to look at your life from time to time, count the cost of doing what you're doing and evaluate the affects:

- on those who share your life
- on your financial future
- on the sustainability of maintaining your craft

Why do you do what you do? Remember, time waits for no one. The following may help with the tally. Is the cost too high?

Time Waits for No One

To realize the value of a sister/brother:

Ask someone who doesn't have one

To realize the value of ten years:

Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years:

Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year:

Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months:

Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize the value of one month:

Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week:

Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute:

Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second:

Ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one...Treasure every moment. You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special. To realize the value of a friend or family member: lose one.

Remember . . .

Hold on tight to the ones you love and maybe put their needs and desires ahead of your own!

– Origin Unknown

For all things western,

Theresa



From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

Every few years I feel the need to write an article about what an association is and why people join them. Basically, an association joins like-minded people together to accomplish things that they couldn't do on their own.

So what does WMA specifically do besides publishing *The Western Way* and putting together the **Annual Convention**? Through membership dues and sponsor contributions, we are able to provide the following for our members:

Performing Members are given a free listing on the **WMA website** (westernmusic.org). This is the place to find information about performers, local chapters, and upcoming events. The website receives about 1,000 "hits" every week from around the world.

The Crisis Fund was established several years ago to assist WMA members who need help. Through the generosity of members throughout the year and during the Crisis Fund Benefit Dinner in November, you've sent over \$39,000 to members who needed help. Anyone can apply for help for themselves or on behalf of someone.

WMA's Youth Chapter is a group of incredibly talented young people who are committed to keeping Western Music & Poetry alive. Through the **Youth Scholarship Fund**, they have the opportunity to receive some help to attend music camps or hire music teachers.

WMA provides **Directors & Officers Liability Insurance** for all Chapter Officers and has liability insurance that Chapters can use when scheduling chapter-sponsored events or festivals in schools or other venues that require proof of insurance. There is no additional cost to the chapters for this coverage.

We have recently received blanket **ASCAP and BMI Music Licenses** to cover WMA Chapter-sponsored gatherings and festivals. Again, this is at no cost to the chapters.

Associations are required to have an annual meeting of their members. We're fortunate that WMA can make this a FUN meeting with music, poetry, educational workshops and camaraderie. Musicians, songwriters, poets, authors and fans can all spend a few days together relaxing in Albuquerque. I hope you're keeping **November 9-13** open on your calendar and plan to be with us!

TOGETHER we can promote the WMA mission statement of "preserving and promoting" the music and poetry of the American West. 

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For more information contact
Marsha at marsha@westernmusic.org
or **Theresa at wweditor1@gmail.com**.

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IN YOUR MARKETING PLAN**

Multiple Copies Distributed Free to Locations Throughout the United States and Read Internationally through its International Membership and Online Outreach From California to Georgia and across the seas, *The Western Way* magazine gets into the hands of the people you want to reach. As a quarterly print publication and with a dynamic online, digital presence, your ad works for you for the full three months that it is out. *Our readership is mobile and "on the move;" shouldn't they know your business is where they are going to be?*

Example of Distribution Outlets:

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- Autry National Center – Los Angeles, CA
- Prairie Rose Chuckwagon - Benton, KS
- Doss Heritage & Culture Center – Weatherford, TX
- OutWest Boutique & Cultural Center – Newhall, CA
- Lone Pine Film History Museum – Lone Pine, CA
- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Ogden Union Station – Ogden, UT
- WMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals across the country
- www.westernmusic.org – 365 days a year!

The Western Way is the official magazine of the Western Music Association, a non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation, and is supported through paid advertising.

WEST WEST

SPREADING THE WORD OF THE WEST AND HELPING KIDS ALONG THE WAY

WEST

*By Samantha Meyer Gallegos
(Freelance Writer)*

African-American novelist, essayist, playwright, and poet James Baldwin once wrote, “Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.” For children in at-risk situations, however, history and place may be beyond reach, imperiling their sense of belonging and plans for the future. But by giving them a piece of history, they may find a community, and direction, of their own.

As the Western Music Association, we strive to keep the music, poetry, values, and culture of the American West and the cowboy alive and thriving, and we reach out to teach others. One of our own talented performing members, Janice Deardorff, believes she can help children from different backgrounds, including foster situations, find a place and a purpose through all that she and the WMA have to share.

It started out with an idea, a passion, and a meeting with Bud Strom. Bud, one of the founding members of the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering in Sierra Vista, Arizona, helped begin a program for children’s cowboy poetry in 1996. After performing at the Gathering one year, Janice found she admired the program and its purpose. “It was something that I wanted to do,” Janice told *The Western Way*. “But what I’ve done looks quite different from their program because of the opportunities available to us in our community.” She dreamed of a Western heritage program for children, one that took the music, culture, and rich history of the West she loved and presented it in a fun, engaging, and educational way. And with 42 years in education, the native Tucsonan and singer-songwriter had the experience to back her idea.

Encouraged by Bud and by her daughter who works with Arts Express, a non-profit organization in Tucson that shares the arts with children and adults through various programs, Janice spoke with Karen Wiese, their executive director. After eighteen months of planning, a new Arts Express program was born: Arts Arizona. A whopping 80 percent of Arts Express program attendees are in foster care programs, and Arts Express and Arts Arizona rely on grants, contributions, private sponsors, and volunteers to continue their important mission. Last year, the WMA Arizona chapter, two anonymous donors, volunteers, and the partnership of the Arizona History Museum allowed 18 children, grades two through five, to be part of an experience they otherwise would not have had. For now, Janice will keep the program small, “...so we’re able to do one on one interaction with the kids.”

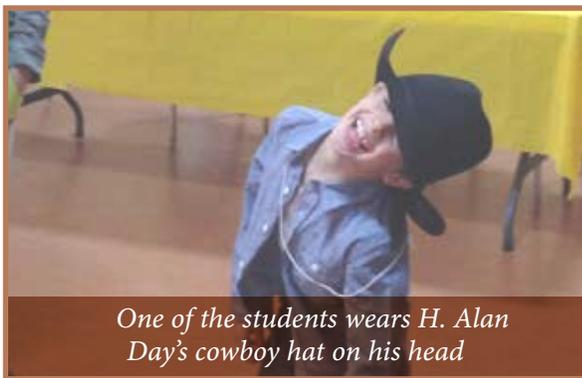
The inaugural Arts Arizona took place on February 25 and 26, 2016 at the Arizona History Museum in Tucson.



The Arizona Ghostriders performing their historical skit

There, the children experienced a multi-genre program that included music, poetry, storytelling, dance, historical comedy improvisation, food, crafts, and hands-on activities.

Eileen Ahearn, from the Cochise Gathering, shared a bag of props, music, and costumes from the West along with samples of children's Western poetry. She encouraged the children to continue writing poetry like the simple four-line cowboy limerick they'd written. The children listened to author and storyteller H. Alan Day (brother of Sandra Day O'Connor) as he told them about his novel *The Horse Lover* and shared stories of his horse Chico and his ranch of 1,000 rescued BLM mustangs. And after a visit from Jorge Alvarez and his miniature horse Amaretto, the students were infected with the love of horses.



One of the students wears H. Alan Day's cowboy hat on his head

Gail Kolenda provided instruction on Western collage and painting, the children learned the dance "Cotton Eyed Joe" from Sarah and Mason Berg, and the Arizona Ghostriders performed a comical historical skit complete with a miner and an outlaw. "One of the children took the fool's gold the 'robber' had given him and said, 'Here. You have my gold so you don't have to be a bad guy anymore and steal from people.' He was very concerned," Janice laughingly shared. After each lesson, students explored the museum's exhibits to help them better absorb and understand what they had learned. The experience even included dressing in period costume to play in a restored 19th century mercantile, hacienda, and Native American Indian village.

Janice herself taught the Western music portion, sharing songs that included both her own pieces and Western classics: "Ghostriders in the Sky," "Home on the Range" and everyone's favorite, "There's No Tortillas." Along with her daughter Sarah, Janice created hand motions to help with retention and engagement. Exploring a restored stagecoach brought to life her songs "All Aboard" and "Part of the West" which also paralleled beautifully with an exhibit within the museum titled "I am Tucson." Much like the songs described life in the West, the exhibit showed the myriad cultures and lines of work that made up the fabric of historical Western life. Guests were then invited to write down their place in Tucson's



Arts Express Executive Director Karen Wiese with the kids in the mercantile at the Arizona History Museum

present, whether a teacher, a hiker, a city worker, a tourist, or a lifetime resident. Posted on a wall, the cards wove the past together with the present into an unbroken chain. That is, after all, part of Janice's original vision for the program: You're Part of the West

"Many of these children don't know the world beyond their everyday," Janice said, speaking of the students in the program who are part of the at-risk population. In teaching the heritage of the West, Janice hopes they find a place of their own in their unsettled and often undefined worlds. The class could ignite a light of interest that could turn into a lifelong love, a hobby, or even a career. The Cowboy Code, too, plays a large part in what Janice hopes to pass along to these children: ideas of good character, fairness, and a moral compass that could help them navigate life's difficulties successfully.

For Janice, there is also an important connection between being a performer of Western music and Arts Arizona. Performing put her in touch with many of the faculty and supporters of the program. Through song and education, she found a path with which to pass on the music, poetry, and history of the West. The same path she found could help broaden the world of the children who attend the sessions, exposing them to new experiences so they can see beyond their small corner of the world. She is helping them to discover this new world in the past, in the music, and in the poetry. "One little girl," Janice recalled during our interview, "was bored with the whole thing the first day. After learning the dance, she said, 'I didn't know I loved to dance!' and another kid said 'I love singing!'" She hopes the children take with them not just a piece of Western heritage, no matter their background, but an appreciation of the unique environment in which they live: the West.

"We are looking forward to our second annual Arts Arizona program in 2017." For more information on Arts Arizona or Arts Express, or to make a donation online or over the phone, you can contact Arts Express at www.arts-express.org, by phone at (520) 319-0400, or by mail at Arts Express, PMB 138, 4729 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson, AZ 85718. A big "thank you" to Janice Deardorff for her information and help, as well as to Karen Wiese!

In the CROSSHAIRS

Joe Texas



Editor's Note: R.J. Vandygriff plays the part of Joe Texas in his stage play *The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet*. We've asked R.J. if he would conduct an interview with Joe Texas for *The Western Way*. He obliged. The result is this intimate look into the life of a real cowboy. We give you R.J. Vandygriff interviewing his character, Joe Texas.

R.J. Vandygriff: Joe, first of all, what's the biggest need of a cowboy?

Joe Texas: A sympathetic wife with a good job!

R.J.: Joe, what makes a successful rancher or a great ranch?

Joe: Well, in most cases behind every successful rancher, you'll find a good woman shakin' her head and rollin' her eyes!

R.J.: But a lot of cowboys never marry; any idea why?

Joe: I reckon some of them figure marriage is like a hot bath - the longer you're in it, it just ain't that hot.

R.J.: Joe, do you ever leave the ranch and visit town?

Joe: I don't visit civilization often, and when I do I'm reminded why I don't!

R.J.: Have you ever been to a big city?

Joe: Once went to New York!

R.J.: Really! What did you do?

Joe: One thing I didn't do; I didn't go skipping down Broadway singing, "I wanna be a cowboy's sweetheart."

R.J.: What did you like best about the "Big Apple?"

Joe: Leavin'!

R.J.: Joe, other than a good wife, what else does a cowboy need?

Joe: A GOOD horse. Nothing can make a man appreciate a good horse like having to saddle a sorry one. Same is true for women, friends, and dogs.

R.J.: What do you look for in selecting a good horse?

Joe: I always look at their momma. A colt doesn't fall far from the mare. Same is true in selecting a wife I'd say.

R.J.: Joe, you've seen a lot of changes in the west; anything in particular that you see as a good change?

Joe: Rocky Mountain Jeans! Them folks did a great job of shapin' up the ladies of the west!



R.J.: I know you've ridden many different horses in your day. Is there any one in particular that stands out to you?

Joe: Lord's blessed me with some good ones, yessiree. Back in the day, I worked for an outfit that ran Brahma cross yearlings; they could run like the wind. Ya had to have a fast horse. I was ridin' a pony called Blaze. He was so fast, when ya put the spur to him, it'd take a day and half before his shadow caught up.

R.J.: Joe, I've gotta say, "that's fast!"

Joe: Sonny boy, when you threw your loop from ol' Blaze, if you didn't rein him in, he'd run right through the loop 'fore it got to the calf!

R.J.: What advice would you give a youngster just learning to cowboy?

Joe: Well, you don't have to know everything there is to know about working cows, but you should know enough to stay out of the way of them that do!

R.J.: In the branding pen, the most important job is ropin' and draggin' calves to the fire. Is that usually your job?

Joe: If I'm assigned to rope and drag, most of the boys bring their recliners so they can take a nap in between my catches.

R.J.: What's your least favorite job when gathering cattle?

Joe: Ridin' drag behind the herd! I once swallowed so much dust they tried to annex me for a state - and I couldn't spit for a week!

R.J.: Joe, I'm told cowboys sing to the cattle herds; do you have a favorite song to sing?

Joe: Darn sure do! Ya wanna hear it?

R.J.: Certainly!

Joe (singing): Dang this panhandle wind, it blew up granny's bloomers agin

If I'm not mistaken, she looked like fried bacon; dang this panhandle wind.

Dang this panhandle wind, just blew my hat off agin.

Continued on page 35

The WESTERN WAY



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



In the Saddle, On the Desert Trail . . .

But wait! It certainly is a saddle and there is plenty of sand but instead of horses and the Arizona desert, it looks like there's a new breed of camel jockey roamin' around in the sands of Israel.

Yep. That would be Mike and Lori Rutherford waving bye-bye as they prepare to ride off into the sunset, uh, I mean sand storm. Looks like they have taken some well-deserved time off for a grand vacation.

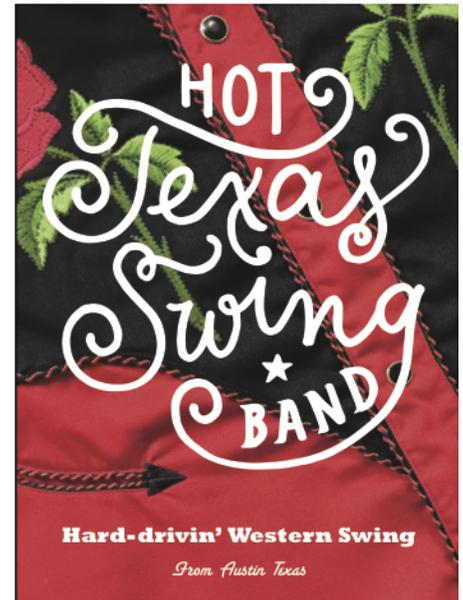
Past recipients of the Western Music Association's prestigious Bill Wiley

Award, Mike serves as the president of the board of directors for the Arizona Folklore Preserve (AFP) near Sierra Vista, Arizona. The AFP hosts many of our western music talents almost every weekend of the year. Lori is the founder of a new enterprise called Lori's Place, a shelter and family advocacy center for battered souls in Sierra Vista.

Here you can see Mike has relegated Lori as back seat driver. I hope she's good at it 'cause it looks like ol' Mike can use some help. 🐾



Mike & Lori Rutherford. Looks like ol' Mike can use some help!
Picture provided by Les Buffham. Used by Permission.



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Penned by Lantern Light

This column will spotlight members of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the Western Music Association. It will highlight an invited poet guest with possible short biographical information of his/her works. If a member of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter and if interested in submitting one piece of original work for publication, please contact the Western Wordsmiths chapter president.

A Quarter of a Century

By Linda Nadon

Our Lacey is home for Easter, her third year of University is almost at an end. She heads out to visit the horses to spend some time with her old equine friend.

He's a solid little fella, beautiful dark bay with jet black flowing tail and mane. Once a chuck wagon pony, barely 14 hands high, but a heck of a Ranch Horse just the same.

We got him when they were both five and they made such a striking pair – The dancing little dark bay pony and the tiny girl with the long golden hair.

They always rode at the back any time we moved the cow herds.

Prince and Kippie kept 'em movin' while little Lacey enjoyed the butterflies and birds.

Many a city-slicker, greenhorn or tiny youngster he would carry with pride. It didn't matter who was aboard, Little Prince made sure they enjoyed their ride.

He was as good as any big Ranch horse when it was branding time.

Prince loved to drag the calves to the irons, as a rope horse he really did shine.

And He was an awesome gymkhana pony, quite different when the horn would blast.

Our little Prince was a fierce competitor and he was wicked fast.

The top of our piano is crowded with trophies the kids won on the back of this little gem –

Poles, barrels, rescue race and even team penning – he always did his best for them.

I recall the time Prince and Lacey led the Parade at the Trailrider's Rodeo.

He pranced and danced, side passed and even reared – Man, they sure put on a show.

He's there in her Graduation pictures, In fact, he even shared her Wedding Day. She sat upon his back in her white crushed taffeta, She wouldn't have it any other way.

Now, I watch from a distance and take a mental picture so it will forever last – Arms around his neck, her golden waves against his jet black mane in such a sharp contrast.

For her, her whole life is before her, there's no end to possibilities that lie ahead. For him, his best days are behind him, the day is coming that we all dread.

They are standing quietly together, sharing 20 years of memories untold – The sway-backed old pony and our beautiful young daughter, both a quarter of century old.

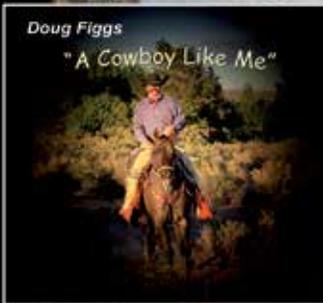


Linda and her husband, Larry, own and operate the N7 Ranch, a commercial cow-calf operation located near Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, CANADA. She writes about her life on the Ranch, often adding a humorous twist and perhaps a bit of embellishment. The critters and calamities that come with life on the Ranch provide an unending supply of poetry material. Linda is a Veterinarian Technician and has a deep love for animals and for Nature. She is passionate about horses and much of the ranch work is done on horseback. They have two grown children, Lacey Thiessen and Landon. Landon rides bareback broncs. Linda had been writing poetry for 20+ years and has performed at many local functions and a number of Cowboy Poetry Gatherings. She is starting to venture further from the local scene. Linda comes from a family of musicians; she also sings and plays guitar and is no stranger to the stage as she began performing music at a very young age. Her debut CD "North of 54" was released in September 2015.

Doug Figgs

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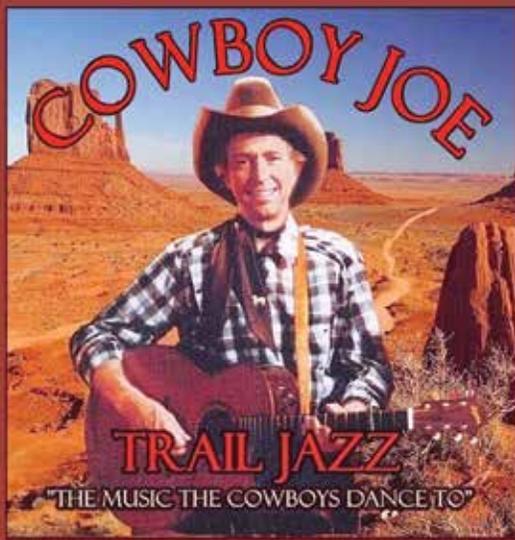
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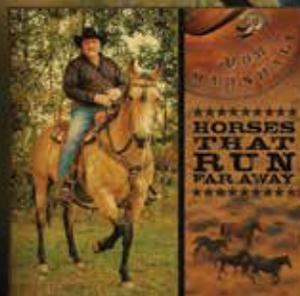
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The background of the entire page is a silhouette of a person carrying a guitar on their back, set against a sunset sky with a bright sun on the left and a green light on the horizon. The person is in the lower half of the frame, and the guitar is held high. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and some clouds.

My American Idol Experience

by Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Age 16, 2016

Editor's Note: The Western Way is very proud of the Youth Chapter program and its very talented young musicians and poets. Many have come through the Youth Chapter ranks and are making their way into festivals and venues all across the country. One very special, talented young member, 16-year-old Jeneve Rose Mitchell, recently battled her way through the grueling television maze of the American Idol, this year being its final season. Jeneve managed to win the judges and audience approval to make it to the final fourteen. No easy task; we are very proud of her taking Western music to this new level and new audience. Here in Jeneve's words is her story of the American Idol Journey.



I had wanted to audition for American Idol since I was very little, partly because it was one of the only TV shows I ever watched. As I got older, I started really wanting to audition, and as the years went by, this crazy dream got closer and closer. My parents and I live off the grid on Saddle Mountain in the Elk Wilderness of Western Colorado where it is quite a rare thing to have enough gasoline to power up even a small generator. So when my mom yells “fire up the generator, Idol’s getting ready to start!” that was always a real treat for us.

I was 15 years old, the year was 2015, and it was American Idol Season 15...the karma was good. When I found out that it would be their final year of making the show, I looked at my mom, and she looked at me, and she told me “What the heck, it’s a good omen, let’s go try.” We were lucky because auditions were only a 6-hour drive, when on other seasons the audition cities were much farther away.

My first auditions took place in Denver in July of 2015. I did the well-known “cattle call” audition style, where you stand in line for a bazillion hours with over 10,000 other contestants before the clock struck 5am. My mom shoved me over to the outskirts of the huge line in hopes that the producers—who were running around with cameras—would notice me. All of a sudden I hear an Irish accent yell out “Cowgirl! Cowgirl, over here! You didn’t dress like that not to be noticed!” and that’s when it all began, really. I suppose my regular workwear (a wild rag, a big ‘ol ten-gallon hat, a huge belt buckle, and jeans tucked into high top Tony Llama boots) drew the attention of the producers! I’ll betcha anything that all those important-looking people assumed it was a costume to get attention...but as they got to know me better throughout the months of auditions, they realized that being a true cowgirl was really who I was, and I dress like that even when I’m not in front of people. I took my cello out of the case right in line (the producers had asked me to, seeing the big thing I was lugging around, wondering what kind of strange guitar could be in such a huge case). Eyes widened.

Right in line, they asked me to play them a song, and I surely did. I chopped my heart out on the cello and sang them a super bluesy and funky version of the old Western song, “Bury Me Not.” They really started talking and staring then, along with the other contestants and their families that were waiting to get into the Coliseum to audition. It was a good thing that my mom reminded me to take off all my skinning knives before we went!

Two crazy auditions were on the first day, and that got me a ticket to come back the day after for two more brutal cuts. Sixteen people were left out of the 10,000 “hopefuls” as the producers call them. Passing those four auditions got me to the point where I could audition in front of the famous judges two months later... Keith Urban, Harry Connick, and Jennifer Lopez! The adventure continues...

In September, I auditioned for a golden ticket that would get me to Hollywood Week...everyone around me was so freaked out and nervous that they were practically turning green. In all the bathrooms and in every corner of the inside and outside of the waiting room, you could hear singing. And practicing. And more singing. And maybe a little bit of crying. Me, I was not practicing at all. All I had to do was talk to my family (who



Continued on page 16



had come to support me) to get my voice warmed up enough to perform for the judges...I figured I wouldn't psych myself out by playing my song too much, it seemed like overkill...after all, if I didn't already have my song down by then, I figured it would be way too late to start practicing anyways. And I know myself. I know how I think in different situations. And I knew as soon as I stepped in front of those judges, all I would be able to do was rely on muscle memory and just try not to crash and burn. And that is exactly what I did! I brought an aunt of mine there, two of my sisters, and my mom and dad. I was planning on playing two songs for the judges, "Chainsaw" by the Band Perry, and "Stupid Boy" by Keith Urban... my mom was freaking out at the thought that I would be playing a song that Keith Urban covered right in front of him! All of my family that came to support me were decked out in their custom made American Idol t-shirts sporting "Team Jeneve" on the back. I even met the famous Ryan Seacrest, though my family spent more time with him than I did! My family and I were awaiting

my approaching audition (with me in the tiny room called "the chamber" and my parents with Ryan Seacrest). Ryan and my dad shared a plate of salmon and zucchini! Ryan found my dad a fork, and they ate while watching me perform on the big screen monitors. My mom was absolutely mortified, but kept her cool (barely). Meanwhile, I was told to wait until the green



light came on to step into the audition area...the same room as the three famous judges! And so I sang... And I asked them if I could play them a second song just for fun, and they said yes. My performance of "Stupid Boy" sure was fun to play for the three, and I even got Keith and Jen tearing up. I won over the judges with my "crazy stupid funk" on the cello...as said by Harry Connick. They told me they were mighty impressed, and the next thing I knew, I was holding a golden ticket in my hand and being tackled by my family, who Ryan had ushered in to congratulate me. The adventure continues....

Hollywood week (AKA "boot camp" or "hell week", as called by producers and anyone who had been through the torturous

process) came fast. In front of the celebrity judges once again, contestants got in lines of ten, and one-by-one stepped forward to perform a 30-second number. I played “Boondocks” by Little Big Town, and was told to step forward. “Front line is going through to the next round, back line, I’m sorry, this is the end of the line,” is what they said. That was day one.

The rest of Hollywood week was all a blur of crying people and running producers, races through the halls between contestants, and a lot of drama. The next round was group round...all the contestants were ushered onto the giant Dolby Theatre stage and had to find two or three partners and have a song ready to perform by morning. Everyone was pushing and shoving to find the best partners. I got on the stage late,



three of us passed through to the next round! Thank goodness that was over.

With 77 contestants left, the brutal showbiz training continued. Several contestants quit the whole show and gave up on their dreams due to the super high levels of stress. Solo rounds...I was excited. I had no idea what to sing, since my top two choices of songs from the list of available tunes were taken. I decided to do an original, but at the last minute was told by a smart producer to save it for later in the competition and sing an oldie (that I wasn’t very familiar with) instead. And he was definitely right. From 10 pm till about 12:30 at night I learned “Danny’s Song” by Kenny Loggins, and took a quick catnap from about 1am to 2:30 am in the hall where everyone else was hitting the sack. I had my hat over my head to block the bright lights shining on everyone, and the producers got a kick out of filming me sleeping like that! I met with the vocal coaches at 2:30 am...and call time was 4:30 am. As you can imagine, I



but luckily I found two other country-looking girls who needed a third member. That was at 10:30 at night. How is anyone supposed to work up a complete song with them in just a few hours and perform with no sleep? This seemed to be a huge dilemma for most people...but not me! It felt just like a normal late-night jam session to me, or just another day to get up and take care of young animals. All the drama that you see on TV isn’t the half of it. We had to literally run to get to big sign-up sheets and fight over the pens...the lower you are on the list, the later you get to meet with the vocal coaches. Some people didn’t get to meet with them until 6 in the morning. And call time was 7am! Somehow we all had it together and sang “Need You Now” by Lady Antebellum in front of the judges, and all



didn’t get much sleep at all. I was terribly sick and couldn’t eat anything or it would just come right up again. But I pushed through, and performed. I didn’t perform well, in my opinion, but I performed. They separated all the contestants into three rooms, and for each of the rooms the judges personally told

Continued on page 21

WRAPPIN' IT UP

COCHISE COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC GATHERING SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

by Les Buffham

Photos courtesy Jack Hummel. Used by permission.

It was with feelings of great expectations that outlaws and lawmen descended on the Buena High School for the 24th annual Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering. Those lawmen and outlaws were figurative but resounded live in many of the songs and poems that a multitude of highly-talented performers gave forth to illustrate the "Outlaws and Lawmen" theme for this year's gathering.

One highlight of the three-day show that certainly addressed the lawman part of the theme was a tribute song to the late Larry Deaver, Cochise County Sheriff for four terms who lost his life in a vehicle accident while hunting in northern Arizona. The song was performed by Almeda Bradshaw who had written it only days before the gathering. Larry was well respected and much loved by folks in Cochise County; there was hardly a dry eye in the house at the conclusion of Almeda's performance.



Almeda Bradshaw.
Photo courtesy Evelyn Shaw.



Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band

An outlaw representation was half of the duo, Miss Devon and The Outlaw. I don't know if Jessie Robertson, aka "The Outlaw," is a real outlaw but he certainly looks like he could be.

Another special moment for me was to see WMA Youth Chapter member, Maria McArthur appear at the open mic, and although she plays the fiddle like an angel, she

also did an exceptional job playing her guitar and singing. Other sightings of possible outlaws or lawmen (or simply cowgirls and cowboys) included the award-winning Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band and Barry Ward, just to name a very few. There were so many great performers that it is impossible to mention all of them here, but you can check out everyone on the Website at www.cowboypoets.com.

Once again the Cochise Gathering incorporated an outstanding youth program. Over a thousand poems were collected from area youth in schools all over the county and were judged. The winning writers were given an opportunity to recite their poems on stage during the featured performances.

Kudos to Co-Chairs George Wheat and Nancy Fusco and all of the volunteers for carrying on this tradition. If you are in the area next year and are yearning for some first class western entertainment be sure to put this one on your calendar for next year, February 3-5, 2017! This will be the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the event and the theme is SILVER SCREEN COWBOYS. 🐾



Maria McArthur



Barry Ward

WRAPPIN' IT UP

SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA

by Voleta Hummel

Photos courtesy Jack Hummel. Used by permission.

Once again during the fourth week in April, the strains of western music echoed from a total of ten stages located throughout the Santa Clarita Valley from Old Town Newhall, to William S. Hart Park and Manson, to the Performing Arts Center and resounding back from the Rancho Camulos Museum.



Syd Masters and Swing Riders



Don Edwards

Added into the mix were the sounds of Indian drums, antique brass band instruments, swing, folk, country, bluegrass, Americana, rockabilly, jazz, rock 'n roll and, of course, cowboy poetry. (There were after all TEN stages!)

As if that wasn't enough there were cowboys in a cow camp, an Indian village, blacksmiths, chuckwagons, an expert gunslinger, vendors, authors, food booths including the Festival's traditional dutch oven peach cobbler, and even a "bouncing house" in the shape of a stagecoach for the kids.

OutWest Boutique & Cultural Center's concert series opened the festival's activities with the energetic, enthusiastic, and entertaining Syd Masters & the Swing Riders from Albuquerque, NM. After that it was full steam ahead through the weekend with performers such as Don Edwards back for his 23rd consecutive appearance. Andy Nelson and Gary Robertson traded off poems. Sourdough Slim used his songs and

accordion to illustrate his particular brand of humor. It was really great to see Brenn Hill again. It has been a while since he has appeared at the Festival. What can be said about WMA performers like Mikki Daniels, Cow Bop, Hot Club of Cowtown, The Quebe Sisters, and Dave Stamey that hasn't been said before?



Sourdough Slim

In addition to the two theater stages in Old Town



John Bergstrom and Andria Kidd Newhall, the California Chapter WMA members including Andria Kidd and John Bergstrom performed in front of the OutWest



Brenn Hill

Boutique. The chapter president, Gency Brown; vice-president, Steve Justus; and chapter member Dr. Sharone Rosen worked to spread the WMA word and there should soon be new members due to their efforts.

Since it is impossible to report all the happenings, performers, and fans that make up the full story of California's Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival, here are two suggestions for you: #1 - Look up the Website cowboyleft.org and #2 - Come on out and be part of the story next year!

WRAPPIN' IT UP

SPIRIT OF THE WEST WELCOMES "THE RIDERS" ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON

By Tommy Tucker

Photos courtesy Molly Morrow. Used by permission

Three young fellows got together 38 years ago and decided to form a trio with one goal in mind. To keep Western Music alive! They called themselves "The Riders In The Sky"! And entertain they did, of course adding a fourth member to the group 10 years later. Ranger Doug, Woody Paul, Too Slim and Joey the CowPolka King have been thrilling audiences ever since. As members of the Grand Ol' Opry and Grammy® winners, they have fathered a legion of fans along the way. The Riders' last album was a "Salute to Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys" and they featured songs from it during the show. The audience found out during their Saturday performance at the 12th annual Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering in Ellensburg, WA., just why Riders In The Sky are the number one western band performing today. Besides the obvious outstanding music, there's a chemistry between these artists that is unmatched, each performer's individual display of talent and the funny banter between them on stage earned them a standing ovation from the audience! And well deserved!!!

Friday night the attention was on the Liberty Theater (Calvary Baptist Church) with a country music concert with Chance McKinney headlining the performance with Cody Beebe and Sarah Gerritsen opening. Each gave a fine performance. The festivities for the gathering really began on Friday morning with venues at six downtown locations with free performances and with vendors and artists set up at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. Other activities included Ranch Roping, Kids Corral / Rodeo Fun, Kids Music Time, plus workshops & demonstrations.

Friday the attendance was fairly light, but Saturday most the venues with entertainers performing were standing room only. And for good reason! Outstanding talent on display with a mixture of musicians and cowboy poets like David Anderson & Jenny Lynn, Jim Aasen, Barbara Nelson, TR Stewart, Stan Kvistad, Duane Nelson, Tom Swearingen, Coyote Joe, Rockin'

HW, Andy Bales, Paul Wilson, Kevin Barnhardt and Rico Nova & The Desired. Also paying visits to the venues were the 2016 Miss Spirit of the West, Cora Clift, 7th grader from Kittitas, and The Ellensburg Rodeo Royalty.

On Saturday night, the dance at the event center featured Rico Nova, playing a mix of classic country and classic rock. The dance floor was jumping!

One thing that is a must see at the gathering is the Fiddle Contest held at the Liberty Theater.

It's an all-day event with seven categories judged. I watched the small fry division. What fun to watch these youngsters, out future stars, perform.

Sunday, the final day of the gathering began with Cowboy Church, followed by a Gospel Concert. And the finale was the Sweetheart Dinner & Show featuring Jeanne Coady with a "Patsy Cline Tribute." Jeanne is a teacher at the local high school and horse rancher who moonlights during the summer as Patsy Cline at venues throughout the West.

With all the dust from the festivities finally settling down, it's time to plan for next year's gathering. The 17th Spirit of the West, Presidents Day weekend... see ya there!



Group: The Riders with Tommy Tucker and Paul Wilson. Individual: "Too Slim"

Continued from page 17

them if the contestants in that room had made it through or not. It was quite a nerve racking experience, but my room made it through.

I survived boot camp! They brought the remaining 51 contestants in a room and told us that we could go home but would be coming back in ONE WEEK. One week to get our thoughts together! That was no time at all! They were going to let us sing one more time on the big Dolby Theater stage. Finally, we got to pick our own songs that we wanted instead of picking from a list of song possibilities. This performance would tell who would be in the top 24! The adventure continues...

I picked "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash to do. I really changed up that song a ton, re-harmonized it, and added a ton of emotion. I played the guitar on that song with the amazing Rickey Minor Band! But...the night of the performance came, and all of the chicken soup I could eat would not save me from the laryngitis that completely took my voice away. Apparently the producers liked that I never had any drama, so they chose not to put anything on TV about my sickness. They even cut out the parts where I would respond to questions in a barely whispering tone...and thank goodness. I didn't want anybody feeling sorry for me. Patrick, one of my favorite producers, bless his heart, knew how sick I was and let me go up to the room earlier than everyone else so that I could rest. Later, I built up the



Jeneve back home in CO.

energy to sing my dad gum guts out! The audience was intense and loved my introduction to the song...

"When June Carter wrote this song, she was in the worst part of her relationship with Johnny Cash. Since it's actually a girl's song, I re-harmonized it, and now you can really hear the story

Continued on page 30

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FROM the TRAIL

Editor's Note: I am delighted to introduce Samantha Meyer Gallegos as a new Freelance Contributing writer addition in this issue of The Western Way. Samantha will be tackling special interest stories as well as contributing to the TUNE YOURSELF! feature. You may expect to hear from her in each issue. I will let Samantha introduce herself here, but check out her work in this issue in TUNE YOURSELF! as well as in the engaging article about the Arizona Arts Program.

Meet Samantha Meyer Gallegos – In Her Words



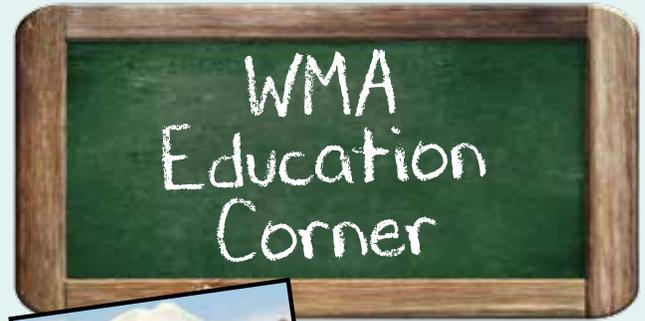
Hello, all, and nice to meet you! My name is Samantha and I am very happily the new addition to the contributors to The Western Way.

To start, the basics: I am a freelance writer, blogger, and editor and I adore playing with

words. My husband and I, along with our two dogs, reside in Albuquerque, New Mexico, although I've called Southern California, Oregon, and Seattle home. I love living in the West, and especially the Southwest, and sharing in the rich mix of cultures and histories, from the pueblos to the Spanish settlers to the cowboy. The wide open spaces, awe-inspiring vistas, and breathtaking sunsets can't be beat, either.

Among other things, I am a lover of music; it runs through my blood. I come from a family of musicians and am a classically-trained soprano. Western music, however, is new to me, but over the past four years, I have gained a great appreciation for it and for Western poetry. While living in Seattle, I regularly received calls from my mother. Sometimes she would tell me of something new she was taking part in – the Western Music Association. Over the course of several years, I heard all about the wonderful music, the exciting events, and of course, the people. When I moved home to Albuquerque, I had to see what all the excitement was about! What I found was a wonderful, colorful, and talented group of people who created some amazing music! I also realized that the WMA members are warm, funny, caring, honest, and decent. A short story: during the Annual Convention last year, I had spent much of my time interacting with people “outside” and it had left a sour feeling in my mouth and a cloud hanging over my day. When I arrived at the WMA convention, however, the friendly faces, even friendlier conversation, and lively music almost instantly put me into a better state of mind

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By Judy James

Teaching Moments!

It's summer time and the HEAT is on! It is definitely time to “kick back” and not consider education programs right now. After all – schools aren't in session. I don't need to worry about it. Right? Well, not so fast. Some of the most rewarding times can be programs presented at libraries. This is a built in audience because libraries are not just for checking out books. You might contact your local public library to see if they are in need of a program. History? Yes, we can do that! Music or poetry? Yes, we can do that! Talk with your librarian to inquire about the openings available. Artists who tour regularly may already have libraries in their tour schedules; but those who are beginning to build their schedules might not have considered area libraries. If the library schedule is full, attend some library events or check on line to see how you can embellish these schedules next year! Have a great summer!

*If you have a story to share, email me –
judy@judyjames.com*



Judy James is an award-winning educator who retired after 30 years in the classroom. She has been touring her education programs in public schools, home school organizations, and other educational organizations since 1994. She is also a singer/song writer/guitarist/author/radio DJ. Email judy@judyjames.com. Address: PO Box 953, Weatherford, TX 76086



Chapter Update

Arizona Chapter

President: Yvonne Mayer
Steidl-mayer@msn.com

This quarter has been busy for our performers and volunteers, with a well-attended Meet and Greet at Monterey Court, Tucson, where our performers strolled through the audience entertaining our guests. The finale was a performance by Johnny Bencomo, featuring his 18-string guitar. Our Chapter, along with Old Tucson Studios, presented a 2-day Western Music Festival with performers filling three stages. Our last meeting of the season was held on May 15 at Old Tucson Studios. We began with a jam session and progressed to our business meeting, recapping the year's activities, which included several "firsts." We participated in Tucson Meet Yourself and the Tucson Rodeo Parade. We plan to make these annual events. Although we will not meet during the summer, we will continue to perform. We are pleased to announce that Monterey Court, Tucson, will host three fundraisers at Western Music Nights in June, July and August. Each night will feature two acts. We are looking for a venue in Phoenix that will provide a similar event. Our season will begin with our September meeting being held in Gold Canyon.

California Chapter

President: Gency Brown
Gncbrown2009@live.com

As we continue to enjoy old events, we have something new to celebrate as well! Our Western Music Showcase at The Autry Museum Of The American West on the third Sunday of each month has really been fun the last few months.

More and more performers have begun to join us and our faithful audience grows each time. If you're going to be in the area, please contact us at wmacc@westernmusiccalifornia.org and we'll give you all info you need to stop in and add to the fun of keeping Western music and poetry alive in California. We had an inspiring and educational afternoon on June 25 in the classrooms of The Autry, **'Words To Music: The Songwriters Circle'**. Michael Fleming, Katy Moffatt and Tom Corbett performed their songs while describing the process of crafting a song. This workshop was a highlight for anyone who loves good songs and the stories behind them. More information about this and other events can be found on our chapter Web site, www.westernmusiccalifornia.org or like and follow us on Facebook.

Colorado Chapter

President: Floyd Beard
febeard@yahoo.com

The Colorado Chapter held its first meeting of 2016 on March 15. All those participating in the meeting were very excited and optimistic about the chapter's upcoming events. As we did last year, WMA-CO will be holding a series of showcases this year where our chapter members will have the opportunity to show the public our brand of Western music and cowboy poetry. Our first showcase this year was held on April 22 in cooperation with The Colorado Classic Horse Show at the Events Center of the National Western Complex in Denver. Performers featured at the event included Susie Knight, Sandy Reay, Mark Baker, Tom and Donna Hatton, Tim Krebs, Peggy Malone, Dennis Russell, J. J. Steele, Jimmy Lee Robbins and Lee Patterson. An audience of approximately 80 people were there to enjoy the music and poetry and everyone had a very good time. We would like to thank all our members who took part in the event, especially Susie Knight who made all the arrangements and managed the show. We would also like

to thank Becky Murr and all the other fine folks from the Colorado Classic for inviting us to perform at their event. Our second showcase of 2016 will take place at The Chief Theater in Steamboat Springs on July 9. Performers for the event will include WMA-CO Chapter members Floyd and Valerie Beard, Susie Knight, Terry Nash, Dale Page, Sandy Reay, Dennis Russell, J. J. Steele and The Yampa Valley Boys. The third showcase for 2016 will be held at The Grange Hall in Florissant on August 6th. Performers for that event will include WMA-CO Chapter members Susie Knight, Tim Krebs, Lloyd Morris, Jimmy Lee Robbins, Tom and Donna Hatton, Dick and Jane Morton, Lee Patterson and Sandy Reay. The Colorado Chapter will also be holding the second annual Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering this year on September 24. The event will be held at The Cripple Creek Heritage Center in conjunction with the Cripple Creek Fall Festival. Details concerning the PPCG can be found at www.wmacolorado.org and www.pikespeakcowboygathering.com. The Colorado Chapter will also present its second annual Top Hand Award during the Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering. The award is a beautiful, custom-made trophy buckle. Chapter members can earn points for the award by coming to and helping with chapter events throughout the year. The upcoming showcase events and the PPCG are excellent opportunities for members to earn points. Contact one of your chapter officers to find out how you can earn your Top Hand points.

East Coast Chapter

President: Aspen Black
Aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

Because the chapter is so spread out, geographically, it is hard to get together on a regular basis, although, plans are still on the table for group events in MD and NC. Meanwhile, many of the chapter members cross paths at shared

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Chapter Update

Continued from page 23

performances throughout the year, providing support to one another. The networking and relationships that have been built by being part of the WMAECC family continues to be beneficial to our careers and creates a sense of belonging when we, otherwise, feel alone on the "Eastern Frontier." Several of our members have news to share: On March 12, 2016, Carol Markstrom received the 2015 Western Music Female Vocalist of the Year Award from the Academy of Western Artists in Fort Worth, TX. Carol



Markstrom will also be repeating her previous Alaska tour this summer and will be joined by WMA members and fellow Academy of Western Artists award recipients, Jim Jones and Doug Figgs. In April, Kerry Grombacher performed at the 47th annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. He was joined on stage by Chip Dolan (accordion and piano), Bennett "The Eastside Flash" Spielvogel (Dobro), Michael Kerwin (bass), and Brian "Breeze" Cayolle (saxophones & clarinet) for a 50-minute set of original western songs. This was Kerry's fifth appearance at Jazz Fest, which features 11 stages and average daily attendance of over 65 thousand people. Cindy Smith organized and promoted her first festival using her new venture, "3 Diamonds Festival & Event Planning."



It was a fundraiser for a PTSD Service Dog for a local Veteran taking place on the grounds of an American Legion. It was all day fun, including Western and Civil War style music, movie actors, re-enactors and a raffle. Cindy appeared on Fox 5 TV show, Good Day Atlanta,



promoting the event. She plans to promote Western music and WMA performers in the southeast in future events. Aspen Black has released her first cowboy poetry book for children called "Peek-A-Boo, Buckaroo - Western Wordplay for Kids". It is a collection of 12 cleverly-crafted poems intended to be read to ages birth - six. It is illustrated, in color, by the author. A companion CD is planned. Jerry Campbell (of The Rocky River Cowboys), our oldest chapter member, continues to perform in, and around, central North Carolina. Although age has curtailed his ability to travel to WMA conventions, and death has, sadly, shrunk the group's size, they do a great job keeping Western music alive and kicking in NC!

Kansas Chapter President: Jeff Davidson jeff@jeffdavidsonmusic.com

The qualifying rounds for the state cowboy poetry contest are now complete. The qualifying events were held at Ellsworth on April 29, Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper on May 7 and Fredonia on May 20. The field of qualifying contestants include Marci Broyhill, Dakota City, NE, Dwight Burgess, Wamego, Betty Burlingham, Manhattan, John Cannon, Fredonia, CW Harris, Hepler, Jerry Jones, Salina, Robert Lakey, Wichita, Danny McCurry, Springfield, MO, Dana Moodie, Neodesha, Carl Stueve, Olpe, and Don Welborn, Meriden. These poets will compete at the State Contest June 10 at the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan. There will be a serious and humorous division. First place

winners in each division will receive the Saddlejack Bradrick award, the coveted Governor's Buckle, gift certificates and discounts at leading western stores, two tickets to the Symphony in the Flint Hills, the opportunity to present the winning poem in the Story Circle following the Symphony and entry fees paid to the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo, August 4-6 in Abilene. The Symphony in the Flint Hills will be June 11. Besides the poems, Story Circle performers include WMA members Annie Wilson, Geff Dawson and Jeff Davidson. The Kansas Sampler was held in Winfield with over 8,000 people attending. The event features attractions from all over the state including entertainers. WMA members Del Shields and Jeff Davidson both participated in this year's event. **Western Days** at the Prairie Rose was a two-day event this year, the first being devoted to educational presentations to school children, some 1600 attended the event. Orin Friesen organized the event and also entertained, as well as Jeff Davidson. A great night for western music was held at the Prairie Rose on May 20. Johnny Western, a founding member of the chapter, returned from Arizona to host a special benefit concert. It was the most notable gathering of western groups in Kansas for several years. Special guests Belinda Gail and



Les Gilliam joined Kansas musicians The Prairie Rose Rangers, Del Shields, members of the Diamond W, Jenny Lou Melcher of the Cherokee Maidens and cowboy poet Ron Wilson. There was a great turnout for the event. The

event was conceived and organized by Orin Friesen to raise money for a heart transplant for Larry Trittschuh.

**New Mexico Chapter
President: James Michael
mhosea@zianet.com**

The New Mexico Chapter has been very busy lately. In March, we held our first general membership meeting outside Albuquerque. The meeting was held during the Cowboy Days celebration at The New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces. Attendance was very good with several of our members from the Albuquerque area coming to Las Cruces for the event. We are hoping to occasionally hold our meetings in other areas of the state in the future. The NM Chapter is continuing its efforts this year to bring Western music and cowboy poetry to New Mexicans. We held our first concert of the 2016 New Mexico Summer Concert Series on May 14 at The Rio Bravo Brewing Company in Albuquerque. Our own NM Chapter members, The Buckaretttes put on a great Western music show for the first half of the concert. During a brief intermission, the group did a costume switch, exchanged one member and performed the second half of the show as the outstanding popular music trio JeezLaweez. Everyone had a terrific time! We would like to especially acknowledge Betty Carter and Marion Rutherford for all their work in making this show a success. We are all looking forward to our next concert on June 25 featuring NM Chapter member and multiple WMA award winner Mikki Daniel. Our third show in the series will be the third annual Horses for Heroes benefit concert on July 23. That concert will feature NM Chapter members Randy Huston, Cowboy Way (Jim Jones, Doug Figgs and Mariam Funke) and Tumbleweeds (Byron Ripley). As of this writing, we are still in the planning stages for the August concert. The September concert, however, will be the first of our Summer Series to take place outside the Albuquerque area. It will be held September 9 at McGee Park in Farmington, NM and will feature NM Chapter members James Michael and Call of the West (Jeanne Cahill and Jerome Campbell). We are hoping this concert will be the first of many WMA-NM concerts to be held in the Farmington

area. On June 26, we will hold our third annual Western Youth Day Concert on the Plaza in Old Town, Albuquerque. This concert features young Western musicians and cowboy poets. Our line up this year includes The Anslovers (NM State Champion Fiddler Emily, bassist Jamie and guitarist John); 2015 NMFFA Entertainer of the Year, Austin Van; 2015 WMA Crescendo Award winner Hailey Sandoz and multiple WMA and AWA award winner Mikki Daniel. This is going to be a terrific show, folks so if you missed it, you really missed a good one. In addition, our chapter continues to hold an open-mic/jam session at The Blue Grasshopper (our first official WMA-NM venue) on the first and third Mondays of each month. If you happen to be in Albuquerque on one of those Mondays, please be sure to stop by the Blue Grasshopper for some fine Western entertainment. In closing, we would like to thank Rick Huff, Mary Ryland, Michael Coy and Lee Peters who have recently represented WMA-NM at events taking place in the Albuquerque area. We of the New Mexico Chapter tend to think of Albuquerque as the "home base" of the WMA. We are therefore always interested in taking advantage of opportunities to work closely with the city and to make more Albuquerqueans aware of who we are and what we do.

**Oklahoma Chapter
President: Susie Case
susieb.case@gmail.com**

Howdy from Oklahoma! Chapter members have been busy and continue to be through the summer months. Scott and Leigh Ann Matthews perform July 19 at Jincy's Kitchen in Qualls, OK, a filming location for the movie "Where the Red Fern Grows." Cowboy Jim Garling was a part of Scouts' Campfire Singing at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City over Memorial Day weekend and guested June 11-12 at the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show in Pawnee, OK. Jim also appears July 29 for "Music on the Patio" at the St. James Hotel, Cimarron, NM, and the weekend of Sept. 29 at Guthrie, OK's International Bluegrass Festival (the event features Hot Club of Cowtown). Donnie Poindexter was a part of "Old West Fest" at Sycamore Springs Ranch in Locust Grove, OK,



Leigh Ann & Scott Matthews. Photo courtesy www.matthews-music.com.

May 20-22 (the festival starred Red Steagall and Jason Roberts). Donnie also appeared at the Fort Smith Museum of History's "Cowboy Music & Poetry Show" in Ft. Smith, AR, May 30, and will once again be part of the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration in Lubbock, TX, Sept. 9-11. Our Oklahoma Chapter will hold its first "It's not Country ... it's Western" music event in Pryor, OK, on July 22 as part of that weekend's "American Cowboy Trade Days & Celebration of the American Cowboy." Some of the acts scheduled include Jerome Campbell of Call of the West, Scott & Leigh Ann Matthews, and A Little Farther West. A number of annual western heritage events in Oklahoma



Pryor Cowboy Trade Days. Photo courtesy Pryor Chamber of Commerce.

this summer include: the Pawnee Bill Memorial Rodeo, Aug. 11-13, in Pawnee, OK; the Oklahoma Cattlemen's

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Chapter Update

Continued from page 25

Association "Range Round Up", Aug. 26-27, in Guthrie, OK; "Western Days," Sept. 9-10, in Mustang, OK; the "Heart of America Farm Show," Sept. 22-24, at the Tulsa RV Ranch, Beggs, OK; the "Western Heritage Weekend & Tom Mix Festival," downtown and at Prairie Song Village in Dewey, OK; and the "Wild West Festival" in Historic Old Town McAlester, the weekend of Sept. 30 in McAlester, OK. Two events of interest at the Woolaroc Museum and Wildlife Preserve in Bartlesville, OK, are the "Cow Thieves & Outlaws Reunion," Sept. 24, and the "Fall Mountain Man Encampment," Sept. 30. And our own Jeanne Cahill, reigning WMA Instrumentalist of the Year, performs with Kristyn Harris Sept. 28-Oct. 2 at Silver Dollar City's "National Harvest & Cowboy Festival" in Branson, MO. Have a great summer!

Western Wordsmiths Chapter

President: Geoff "Poppa Mac" Mackay
poppamac@hotmail.com

The Western Wordsmiths Chapter is here to: "To produce, promote and preserve

the Tales, Stories, and Poems of Western Culture in Written or oral form." Well folks, it seems that the summer season is upon us. Was great to see how many of our members were out performing and promoting cowboy poetry during this year's Cowboy Poetry week. We have implemented a new concept for the Cowboy poetry contest. It will now take place Saturday morning on the main stage with the Yodeling and Harmony contests. No more categories as all members are professionals. No fee either. We as the Executive Committee believe it is important to give all chapter members the opportunity to vote. With that in mind we will be offering the opportunity of Chapter members to use a proxy vote. We now have a chapter Newsletter. Thanks to Mark Munzert for all his hard work. The newsletter will be sent out via e-mail. I encourage all Members to get involved in the National Day of the Cowboy. This is an important event for our unique way of life. Reminder: If Western Wordsmiths Chapter members want to perform at the Convention in November please get your applications filled out and returned ASAP. Once again if Chapter members wish to have their poems considered

for publication in the Western Way they need to e-mail them to me with a short Bio and picture.

Youth Chapter

Coordinator: Jane Leche
Rangerjane@rocketmail.com

The Western Music Association is offering an exciting opportunity for WMA Youth Chapter members who would like to expand their Western music or cowboy poetry performance skills. The Young Performers Education Scholarship has been established and is available to Youth Chapter members in good standing for instrumental, vocal, songwriting or poetry private instruction, a music camp session, or class instruction at a music school. For more information on applying for this scholarship go to the WMA website www.westernmusic.org and click on the Youth tab. Many thanks to the WMA members who have so graciously donated to the Youth Chapter and whose generosity has provided funding for this scholarship and other Youth Chapter opportunities. If you would like to donate to the Youth Chapter Fund, check the WMA Web site for more information. Thank you!



From the Trail

Continued from page 22

and lifted my mood!

My always-intense fascination of the "Old West" helped along my appreciation for the music. The history to the horses (I've always loved horses and was lucky enough to ride for a long time) to the movies—I eagerly absorbed every bit of it. The cowboy, too, whether the historical figure or the archetypal film and movie star, has always had special place in my heart. The music, I've discovered, captures and reflects this particular part of life in the West in a way that is unique, beautiful, and, of course, incredibly enjoyable!

I love returning every year to hear the music and enjoy the celebration of all things cowboy and Western and I'm looking forward to being a contributor to The Western Way and sharing that passion with you all. Next time you see me, don't be afraid to say "hi" and tell me your story—there might just be an article in there somewhere!



Lasso the Past



Taken at Gene Autry Museum, Gene Autry, OK, September 1999. Pictured (l to r): Jeanne Cahill, Rodeo Kate, Devon Dawson, Karen Gogolick.

for a suggested donation of \$100 to go to the WMA general, the Crisis Fund, the Youth Scholarship Fund, or the Western Way. Photographs should feature current or past WMA performers or fans. Here is all you do: 1) send image electronically* (scanned), 2) identify those in the photo and other pertinent info such as when/where it was taken, and 3) send a check or provide credit card info when invoiced for \$100 once your photo runs in an issue. When paying the invoice, you designate where your donation should be used. *(Photos will be used on space availability; there may be more than one per issue; email wweditor1@gmail.com if you have questions.)

Hey, wanna be a part of something new in The Western Way? Something where we remember 'the good ol' days' but help others at the same time? This issue contains the maiden ride for "Lasso the Past," a place where you can submit old photographs from past WMA/western events or gatherings, simply

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In Memoriam



Billy Joe Rogers. 1929 – 2016

Billy Joe Rogers, WMA Life Members, passed away at his home in Farmersville, Texas April 16. After leaving the Army, he began making custom saddles and tack that were shipped around the world. He has a custom trophy saddle on display in the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs. He is survived by his wife Amanda.

Billy Joe donated his body to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to First Methodist Church, P O Box 680, Farmersville, TX 75442.



Tommy Wheeler 1931 – 2015

Tommy E. Wheeler, talented gospel music composer, musician and Sons of the Pioneers music collector, born Feb. 1, 1931, passed away Nov. 21, 2015. The son of an original Stamps Quartet member, Palmer Wheeler, Tommy was a charter member of the Western Music Association. His understanding of the Pioneers' harmony helped Tommy compose hundreds of gospel songs sung in churches throughout the United States and in other countries. His most notable composition was "I Love the Lord." A member of several gospel singing groups, Tommy also recorded four part harmony albums where he sang all four parts.

Tommy's writings on the history of the Sons of the Pioneers were cited in books by Ken Griffis and Ranger Doug Green of Riders in the Sky. Along with fellow WMA member Jerry West, Tommy also produced several Sons of the Pioneers tribute programs for KERA radio in Dallas, Texas.

A long-standing member of ASCAP, many of his songs are also listed with the Christian Copywriter Licensing International organization. Tommy's musical legacy will be long remembered by gospel and western music lovers.

TUNE YOURSELF

Exercises for the Hand and Wrist for Guitar Players

Samantha Meyer Gallegos

As musicians and performers, we keep our instruments in top shape but sometimes forget that playing guitar can do a number on our hands and wrists. Cramped positions held for long periods of time, unusual fingering, and repetitive motion can put stress on tendons that can lead to pain, tingling and numbness. While visiting the doctor should be your first course of action, these simple therapy exercises can stretch tight tendons to help relieve your pain.

Something to keep in mind: if you feel pain during an exercise, stop. Pain means you're stretching the tendons too far. Go only to the point of discomfort. You can increase the degree of motion over time as tendons loosen. In addition, if pain, numbness, or tingling persists or increases, decrease the range of motion or pressure until it's only a stretch. If the symptoms continue, stop the exercise to avoid further injury.

The following exercises are for the flexor tendons that run from inside the elbow, down the underside of the forearm, to the ends of the fingers. These exercises also stretch the connective tissue that runs across the underside of the wrist and the median nerve in the wrist and hand. These tendons, tissues, and the median nerve are commonly involved with carpal tunnel issues.

1. Exercise: Table Top

Note: It is important to keep the wrist in a neutral position with the pinky side of the hand resting on a flat surface and your thumb up, as pictured in Figure 1, not stretched either forward or backward. It's also very important to keep your hands and fingers loose.

How to Do It: Form the hand into a "duck bill" position. Keeping the thumb still, gently glide the fingers open until your hand is in a "check" position, then return to the original position.

Repeat: 10 times, 3 times a day, as pain and symptoms allow



Exercise 1 in "duck bill" starting position



Exercise 1 ending in "check" position

2. (A) Exercise: A Fist

Note: for the Following Exercises: Many patients can't touch the bottom of their palm or make a fist completely without feeling pain. Go only as far as you can go without pain.

How to Do It: Use the same position as Table Top, making sure your wrist remains in a neutral position. Start with the hand open then gently close your fingers to make a fist. Open the hand, then repeat the exercise.

Repeat: 10 times, 3 times a day, as pain and symptoms allow



Exercise 2A in a neutral-wrist position



Exercise 2A in ending fist position

Next Step (2B): Start with an open hand, then slowly touch the tips of your fingers to the top of your palm before returning to an open hand.

Repeat: 10 times, 2 to 3 times a day, as pain and symptoms allow



Exercise 2B in ending position with fingers touching the top of the palm

Next Step (2C): Start with an open hand, then slowly touch the tips of your fingers to the bottom of your palm before returning to an open hand.

Repeat: 10 times, 2 to 3 times a day, as pain and symptoms allow



Exercise 2C in ending position with fingers reaching towards or touching the palm of your hand

3. Exercise: Self-Massage

Note: It can be beneficial to put a heat pack or heating pad as tolerated on the area for five to ten minutes to help loosen the tendons.

How to do it: With your hand placed on a table top with your palm up, place your fingers on the underside of your wrist and massage the tendons with side to side and circular motions.

Repeat: 5 to 10 minutes, 2 to 3 times a day, as pain and symptoms allow



Exercise 3 side-to-side self-massage



Exercise 3 circular self-massage

4. Exercise: Wrist Stretch

How to Do It: With your elbow straight, palm down and wrist relaxed, pull your hand up and back gently with the opposite hand until you feel a gentle stretch.

Repeat: Hold 10-15 seconds as tolerated, 2 to 3 times a day



Wrist stretch end position

5. Exercise: Median Nerve Progression

Note: Perform all steps in this progression slowly. If at any time a movement causes pain, numbness, or tingling, gently return to the previous movement, count to five, and end the progression there.

How to Do It: A. Standing, hold your arm up with your elbow bent so that your hand is in a “blade” position close to your face with your thumb facing towards you. B. Make as much of a fist as is comfortable, making sure your hand is relaxed and your thumb is facing towards you. C. Next, open your hand into a blade again. D. Gently tilt it back and slowly rotate it forward, clockwise, until you’re holding your palm

out to the front, palm up. E. With your palm out, extend the arm, straightening your elbow, and bend your hand back gently. If you’re feeling a deep pull, count to five and release your arm. Stop the exercise there.



Exercise 5A starting position, “blade”



Exercise 5B second position, comfortable fist



Exercise 5C third position, “blade” tilted back



Exercise 5D fourth position, “blade” rotated forward slowly



Exercise 5E fifth position, arm out-stretched and hand bent back gently

F. If you’re only feeling a gentle stretch at this point, continue in the position and rotate your arm to the side. If that isn’t too much of a stretch, you can tilt your head to the opposite side. Hold for five seconds and release.

Repeat: Entire progression 5 times to your personal stopping point, 2 to 3 times a day, as pain and symptoms allow



Exercise 5F sixth position, arm rotated out to the side, hand gently bent back

The above stretches can be a helpful part of your strategy to keep your hands and wrists in exceptional playing condition and to keep repetitive motion pain at bay! As always, these exercises should not be taken as medical advice. Please consult your physician before beginning any exercise regimen. A special thank you to Veronica Coffing COTA/L and Amy Martinez PT, DPT for all of their help and information!





of how she fell into a Ring of Fire.”

The audience of 2,000 people was so intense and I felt so energized on stage that my voice was barely good enough to croak out the song. Thank goodness! I put as much emotion as I could into the song and got a standing ovation from Keith Urban!

The next elimination would happen the next day, after the judges had decided everyone’s fate, and would cut the top 51 down to the top 24. Technically, on TV it was called “Judgement Day”, but the producers and contestants all called it “The Green Mile”...referring to the long walk taken before sitting the electric chair. At the end of the long hallway were the judges, sitting in three seats. Each contestant had to walk down “The Green Mile” one-by-one to meet their fate. So I sat in front of them, and they looked at me and I looked at them. Harry Connick told me about how there was both bad and good news...the good news was that I was great with my emotional performance, and the bad news was that because we didn’t have power where I live, the folks at home can’t watch me while I’m on the Top 24! I couldn’t breathe. It was so surreal. (Little does Harry know that Crawford has power, just not us because we live on a mountain! Haha!). It was really an honor to be picked for the top 24. The adventure continues...

By this point, I know that some of you readers are wondering things like, who was watching the farm at home? Which parent got to go? How did I do school? Well, here’s how it really was: only one parent got to go with each minor at a time. My parents took turns taking me back and forth to Hollywood. Sometimes I was lucky enough to have them both come, while one stayed

back and the other one went with me on any mandatory excursions for Idol video shoots. Most times, though, they would just fly out each one a few days before the auditions. They were both there during boot-camp week, and thank goodness for that. My parents were glad to have each other to switch off when one needed a break. We had to pay someone to take care of the farm, and I did three hours of school each day, even on live show days! It was required by law. That was extremely difficult for us minors, between rehearsal time, eating, being in the dressing room, getting our hair and makeup done, meeting lawyers, talking with producers, doing photo and video shoots, taking lessons from the social media guru, and MUCH more... there definitely wasn’t a lot of time.

After the holidays, they had two groups of 12 come back, one week apart to sing another solo. I picked “Angel”, by Sara McLaughlin, and planned to perform it on the harp. We were also paired with other Idol Alumni (most winners or finalists). The contestants needed to be cut from top 24 to top 14... and fast. I was in the first group of 12, of which five would be going home after those two performances... the solos and the duets. I was assigned the song “Gone” by Montgomery Gentry to learn as fast as possible, and I would be singing with previous Idol winner, Scotty McCreery! That was a highly interesting and fun experience.

I sang my solo song “Angel” in a beautiful Los Angeles Cathedral in front of a great audience on National Television. The producers didn’t think that playing the harp would be such a great idea, since I could focus more on the words and the story and the vocals without being distracted by the chords and

playing the harp. I could see why they thought that, but I was determined to play the harp on that stage. It was an Angel song that I played in a church! How could I not have the harp? My parents ended up giving their only two tickets to the show that day to my music teachers that came that came up to Hollywood all the way from Colorado just to watch me perform. My music teacher — David Hauze (who began lessons with me at the age of eight) — had just made a case for that harp of his and loaned the beautiful instrument to me so I could play it on the Idol stage. Little did the producers know that the morning of the performances my grandpa passed away. I kept it to myself... I didn't want anyone feeling sorry for me. I know he was there watching me. After I sang Angel, it was the same night that we all did our duet performances. After everything was done, we were lined up on stage and everyone who got through was called on-by-one. With all the talent that surrounded me, I never in my wildest dreams thought that the judges would slowly announce... "...and the last one we are putting through tonight is... Jeneve!" I was shocked. My mouth hung open as it sank in. I was in the top 14. All of my friends that stood around me who had held my hands were eliminated. I was picked out of that bunch of talent...but I was elated. And the adventure continues...

The contestants who had made it through got to go home for 5 days while the second group of twelve contestants were selected. We all went back to Hollywood and got reunited. What fun! Weeks of music lessons, lawyer meetings, picking brains of genius producers, vocal coaching, jamming with contestants, video and photo shooting, performance coaching,



choreography classes, social media classes, and waiting for forever in little rooms with the other contestants sure taught us all a ton. It was, as producers say, a “crash course in showbiz.” And, as a surprise, all of the top fourteen got verified on three social media platforms... the marks of all our hard work! Each of us had to do a “repeat song” for our next show and I chose Ring of Fire because I thought it went over really well the first time, and no one had heard a full performance of my version on TV before. I was told by the producers to put down the guitar and sing Ring of Fire without an instrument. When we heard it without the guitar, and just the raw voice, we all thought that it was amazing in rehearsal. However, during the performance itself, I wasn't connected at all to the song for some reason. It wasn't like it was in rehearsals...it wasn't meant to be, I suppose. Everything seemed to work out for the better, though!

All of America voted that night on who they wanted to be in the top 10. That whole next week we rehearsed our next songs that we would do, and for the first time I met with the wardrobe crew whose objective it was to shape everyone's look. It was quite the experience! I did not let any scissors get close to my super long hair, though the stylists sure tried. And the wardrobe crew had never heard of a “wild rag” before, one of my signatures! haha!

It was time for the last moment that I would be on TV. The fourteen of us came on the stage all at once, waiting to sing our songs. The judges had already pre-selected three contestants to be in the top 10, so there were seven spots to be filled. Four of us would be going home. My name wasn't called, but it was okay. I waved goodbye to America and walked off the stage. I met with a psychologist later (everyone had to, to make sure we were all stable!) and then my parents and I went home the next day.

My time on American Idol will always be an amazing memory to look back on, but now I'm ready to move on to bigger and even better things! Thanks to everyone who supported me on this journey. I couldn't have done it without you. My following is continuing to grow on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, so if you want to join the #Rosebuds family, be my guest! It means a lot that you have believed in me and the western ways of life.

And my adventure is just beginning . . . 



In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...The Western Writers of America (WWA) will release *Pen & Ink, Voice & Strings - Echoes From the New Frontier*, a compilation CD of contemporary western songs, at its annual convention in June in Cheyenne, WY. Produced by **Jon Chandler**, the 14-song collection features many winners of the WWA's Spur Award for Best Song along with a variety of tunes selected for their outstanding literary content. **Juni Fisher, Mike Blakely, Dave Stamey, Jim Jones, Chuck Pyle, Jon Chandler, Gary McMahan, Wiley & the Wild West, Carol Markstrom, Mary Kaye, Bill Barwick, Mark C. Jackson, Doug Figgs, and Bill Groneman** contributed performances of their own compositions. Co-writers include **Waddie Mitchell, Paul Zarzyski, and Todd Carter**. For more information, go to www.westernwriters.org.

...**Dolan Ellis**, long-time member of the New Christy Minstrels, is celebrating 50 years as Arizona's Official State Balladeer. The Grammy® award-winner also has a featured display at the Arizona Museum of Instrumental Music. He has also been inducted into the Arizona Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame and the Arizona Tourism Hall of Fame. Plus – he is still performing at age 81!

...**Mary Kaye** received the 2016 Wrangler Award from The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for "Outstanding Original Western Composition" for her song "Ride A Wide Circle", the title track of her latest album. Also, the highly-respected international music review magazine *Country Music People* gave the CD Five Stars, their highest honor.

...**Sidewinder** has added Coko Brown to their group. Originally a bass player, Coko will mostly play rhythm guitar in the band and do some singing. She is also a gifted artist and painter as well as a rancher living in Julian, CA.

...British disc jockey **Graham Lees** became possibly the first DJ outside of North America to be awarded for his work by the Cowtown Society of Western Music. In May, he was given the Disc Jockey of the Year award by the organization.

...**Paul Kelly** was a finalist again this year at the Chris Austin Song Contest at Merlefest in NC. He also took first in the "Country" category!

...**Carol Markstrom, Jim Jones, and Doug Figgs** will be on tour in Alaska this summer performing as "Western Attitude." They have several scheduled performances at various venues around the Kenai Peninsula including Homer, Seward, and Soldotna. For more information, visit www.carolmarkstrommusic.com.

...**Gary Allegretto** is working on a new solo album. At the same time, he has been invited to teach harmonica at SPAH, the world's largest harmonica convention to be held in San Antonio, TX in August.

...*Daybreak Moon* is the title of the newest **John Bergstrom** CD. The album features fourteen songs, twelve of which are original. In March, John appeared on Pasadena (CA) public TV demonstrating a couple of his songs.

...Two WMA members entered the Ms. Senior Arizona Pageant in March where Jeanne Martin (**Rockin' M Wranglers**) was honored with the crown as Ms. Senior Arizona 2016. Gale Rogers (**Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers & Journey West**) was also a contestant.

...**Bob Marshall** recently helped his mother celebrate her 90th birthday. As a special gift, Bob recorded a two-song, limited run EP of his mother's favorite songs, "Fly Me to the Moon" and "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." Titled "Boots, Spurs and Other Jazz" the EP can be obtained by contacting Bob at BobMarshallMusic@aol.com.

...**Devon Dawson** was asked to write a song for the city of Port Townsend, WA. "City of Dreams" is a collaboration with her brother, Jerry Osborne, who is a 25-year resident of Port Townsend. Miss Devon and the Outlaw have recorded the song and will release it as part of an EP to be made available at a special concert in August at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. The concert will also feature **Notable Exceptions** (Judy Coder & Jennifer Epps) and WMA Female Performer of the Year, **Kristyn Harris**.

...**Del Shields** is proudly announcing the birth of a seventh grandchild, Kinsley Wade. Del also informs us that he has a new release coming out after a five-year gap. The project is still untitled at this time.

...The Gentleman Outlaw, **Royal Wade Kimes**, has a new album coming this summer with a video scheduled to precede it. His latest album, *Shadows of Time*, was named "Country & Western CD of the Year" by the Rural Roots Music Commission. He also has a new audio western novel scheduled. *A Braver Man's Fear*, is the third sequel to *A Braver Man*, published by Books In Motion publishing out of Washington.

...In May, **Peggy Malone** and her husband, Bill, celebrated 54 years of marital bliss. In July, their daughter, Beth, (who stars in the CBS sitcom "Brain Dead") is treating them to a trip to Ireland.

... **Almeda Bradshaw** is now working with a full band. Almeda's M2B Band consists of Nashville bass player Wes Horton, veteran bluegrass fiddler Naomi Atkins, and Montana mandolin picker, Trent Indreland. The band will be sharing the St. John's Summer Concert Series stage with Montana's **High Country Cowboys** in July.

...An all-cowgirl band comprised of **Devon Dawson, Kristyn Harris, Jean Prescott, Brook Wallace, Ginny Mac and Ginger Evans** opened a concert for **Johnny Bush** in March.

... **Kristyn Harris** has entered into the cattle business with her first set of black angus cows and her own registered brand, the Diamond K. In August, she will be taking western music to France where she'll perform for the 2016 Equiblues Western Festival in Saint Agreve. She was recorded live in May for the NPR show "Tales from the South."

...In April, **Dave Stamey** performed with the Grinnell College symphony orchestra for a Standing Room Only audience. He performed 10 songs that were beautifully conducted plus gave a songwriting workshop to interested students.

...Poet and songwriter **Tom Swearingen** has accepted an invitation to participate in a singer/songwriter residency this summer at PLAYA Summer Lake in Lake County, OR. PLAYA is a nonprofit organization supporting innovative thinking through work in the arts, literature, natural sciences and other fields of creative inquiry. Also participating will be **Hal Cannon** with his 3hat trio.

...In May, **Mikki Daniel** received the Cowtown Society of Western Music Rising Star of the Year Award for her "outstanding contributions in the promotion and preservation of a unique and authentic genre of American Music known as Western Swing - the Official Music of Texas!" In March, cable TV company RIDE TV began airing on their cable station and their Facebook page their commercial "Mikki Daniel:

I Am #RIDENation" for 2016. Go to RideTV.com to learn more about their programming and to MikkiDaniel.com to view the commercial directly.

...**R.J. Vandygriff** recently received the Living Hero of Western Swing medallion from the Cowtown Society of Western Music. Along with the medallion, a certificate from Texas Governor Greg Abbott was given in recognition of R.J.'s contributions to the "Official Music of Texas, Western Swing."

...For the first time since it originally hit the airwaves, Riders Radio Theater is once again available to the public. Streamed via Soundcloud or downloadable via iTunes as a Podcast, **Riders In The Sky** will release a new episode once a week at no cost to fans. The first episode of Meltdown on the Mesa is now live and available for download. Go to: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/riders-radio-theater/id909752433?mt=2>.

...The Prairie Rose Chuckwagon hosted a "HelpHopeLive" benefit concert in May for Larry Trittschuh who is in desperate need of a heart transplant. WMA Hall of Fame member **Johnny Western** emceed the event. Performers included **Belinda Gail, Les Gilliam, Del Shields, Ron Wilson, the Diamond W Wranglers**, and the **Prairie Rose Rangers** among others. Hoping to raise \$5,000, the event raised \$12,000 on the evening.

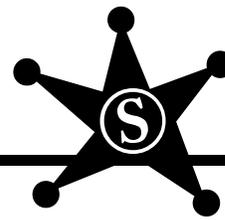
...**Jim Jones** will see his fourth Western novel, *The Big Empty*, published by Five Star Publishing in December.

...Cowboy Poet and Balladeer **Butch Martin** and his wife, singer/songwriter **Christina Lynn Martin**, producers of *Whittlers Corner* and *Time Travels Through the American West* radio shows, are touring this summer and fall with their stage show *Romancing the West*. Along the journey, they are visiting with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, numbering almost 70.

...**Aspen Black** has released her first cowboy poetry book for children called *Peek-A-Boo, Buckaroo - Western Wordplay for Kids*. It is a collection of twelve cleverly-crafted poems, illustrated, in color, by the author. A companion CD is planned. Aspen's daughter, WMA youth member **Alice Black**, has begun recording her first CD. It will contain all original western songs.

...*Rawhide Robinson Rides the Tabby Trail: The True Tale of a Wild West CATastrophe* by **Rod Miller** is nominated for an award by the Western Fictioneers in the category of "Best Novel for Young Adults or Children." Winners will be announced in June. The book has also been nominated for a Spur Award by the Western Writers of America.

Continued on page 35



Western Music is most often acoustic in its core instrumentation. Its lyrics are typically about the lives, loves, lore, locales, legends and legacy of the old and new West, its peoples or Cowboying worldwide.

Tips? Comments? Ideas for the column, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442 or bestofthewestswcp.com

Nobody can say I haven't been talking about it! I mean the opportunities that are waiting for Western Music promotion and growth outside of the continental United States and North America. The sooner the WMA gets serious and focused on specific plans of outreach toward those mostly untapped resources, the better it will be for our beloved genre! It is trying to grow even without our nudging or exploration, simply due to the Internet and the positive worldwide image of The Cowboy. If you scan Marvin O'Dell's invaluable and regularly updated listing of Western-friendly radio programs, you will find some shows on foreign soil. To obtain permission to run my Western reviews on his site, one of those hosts contacted me through O.J. Sikes, who is conversant in Spanish from his United Nations days, and I sincerely thank him for facilitating things and translating questions to and answers from Miguel Angel Diaz Gonzales), KWC Americana Radio in Guipuzcoa, Spain... which allowed the following illuminating interview to be conducted.

Q: What attracted you to Western Music and Western Swing?

A: What attracted me first was its rhythm. It sounded very different from the music I'd heard up to that point. To be honest up until about 25 years ago I wasn't much interested in Western Music and Western Swing. Back then we didn't hear those kinds of music here in Spain and most kids were listening to Punk and Heavy Metal. Nevertheless, I preferred styles that were more 'American' and when I was 15 I started listening to Rockabilly classics (ed: still a part of his programming). Then at 18 I started going to Rockabilly festivals where I also found a wider variety of music including Bob Wills, Marty Robbins, the Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry, Rex Allen and more. Now thanks to the label Bear Family and later to my favorite label BACM, I learned a lot more about the classics, and thanks to my wife and the Internet I was able to learn the stories (lyrics) of the music.

Q: Have you played contemporary Western artists on your show and how has the audience reacted?

A: Actually I only play contemporary bands and artists like Almeda Bradshaw, Allen & Jill Kirkham, Barbara Nelson, Belinda Gail, Bill Barwick, Carol Markstrom, Clint Bradley, Trinity Seely and so on. I have a special weakness for Kristyn Harris, Mikki Daniel, Doug Figgs, Susie Knight and several great Cowboy Swing bands like 3 Trails West, Bar J Wranglers, Old West Trio, Stardust Cowboys and others. I play great newer Western Swing bands like Sharyn Lee & The Sundowners, Saddle Cats, Peter Krebs & His Portland Playboys, Oregon Valley Boys, Tulsa Playboys and Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition. Each week I get a lot of email asking about these bands and I refer the writers to the bands' websites and Facebook pages. You can visit my YouTube channel to see the artists I work with. I have about 250 Western Music videos and 360 Western Swing videos!

Q: What age groups tend to like the contemporary Western performers?

A: For contemporary performers all ages listen, but the largest group is from 45 to 54. Some 74% of the audience is male. Thanks to Jeneve Rose Mitchell's recent successful participation on American Idol, it looks like the audience for that show has taken a new interest in this musical genre.

Q: Where do your listeners live?

A: Most are in the US, many are in Canada, the UK and the next largest group live in Europe. But we have listeners from Argentina to Asia!

Q: How long have you had your Western Music show and your website?

A: The radio show started on a local station in 2001. In 2009, I launched an online Rockabilly station which is still going and it has been well received too. I also work with a YouTube channel on which I include one song per featured CD unless the artist asks me to include more. In the description of the videos I always let the viewers know where they can buy the CDs.

Q: Are there artists in Spain or elsewhere in Europe who sing and play Western and/or Western Swing and, if so, do you also play their CDs?

A: Western Music doesn't get a lot of exposure (yet) in Europe. Western Swing has more visibility at present thanks to being picked up by Rockabilly bands. The best example we have here of Western Music from Europe is (England's) Clint Bradley who, with his first CD, managed to fit right in with the best in the genre. In Spain there are several bands that play Western Swing, but Los Locos del Oeste deserves special mention. Other examples from Europe include Zazou Cowboys, The Country Side of Harmonica Sam, Fia Sco & The Majestics, Stretch Dawson & The Mending Hearts, Swing Commanders and Swinging Hayriders to mention just a few. Of course I play them on my show! There's room for all!!!

Q: Do you have stories to tell about people who first discover your radio show and the music?

A: The only thing of note is that here in Spain they look at you like a rare bug when you try to just explain the kind of music you like, but after hearing the show or seeing some of the YouTube videos, a lot of folks are pleasantly surprised to find that they like it!

Ya see, folks?? It's time we get on this!! Why fight the battles for American attention when the world awaits??!!

Mailing address:
KWC Americana Radio Station
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez
avenida galtzaraborda n°47 2ºA
20100 renteria
Guipuzcoa
España
miguelbilly56@gmail.com

In the Crosshairs

Continued from page 10

Someone in south Texas is wearin' my Stetson; dang this panhandle wind.

R.J.: Joe, cowboys have to work in all kinds of weather conditions; bet you've been there, too, right?

Joe: Son, I seen summers so hot, rattlesnakes were crawling into the campfire just to get in the shade of the skillet! Seen northers so cold they'd freeze boiling coffee in the pot and the ice was still warm!

R.J.: When you're out there all along working cattle, do you spend a lot of time talking to yourself?

Joe: Dern right – myself is the only person I know that agrees with me 100% of the time, and he's always right!

R.J.: Joe, what's the average rainfall in the panhandle of Texas?

Joe: Well, youngster, you heard the story about Noah, when it rained for forty days and forty nights? We got a 1/4 inch.

R.J.: Cowboyin' is hard work and long hours. Does it pay well?

Joe: Youngster, we're paid in sunrises and sunsets painted by the greatest artist of all. Ridin' a good horse or sharin' a warm campfire with good friends is something money can't buy. Yessir, in my book, we're paid mighty well. By the way, could ya spare a dollar?

R.J.: Starting your day so early, what's the first thing you usually do?

Joe: Well, sometimes I wake up grumpy...but I usually let her sleep until the coffee's ready.

R.J.: Joe, can a fellow make money ranching and cowboying?

Joe: I can guarantee you'll make a small fortune...if you start out with a big one!

R.J.: Joe, some people say the cowboy's time has come and gone. Are they right?

Joe: Not in my way of thinkin'! Some jobs require a horse, rope and saddle. It takes a cowboy.

R.J.: Do you think the cowboy is important in today's world?

Joe: You bet your hat he is! No individual represents freedom and independence more than the cowboy. The code sets us apart. The good Lord only selected a few out of all the people in this world to be cowboys and cowgirls. We're blessed.

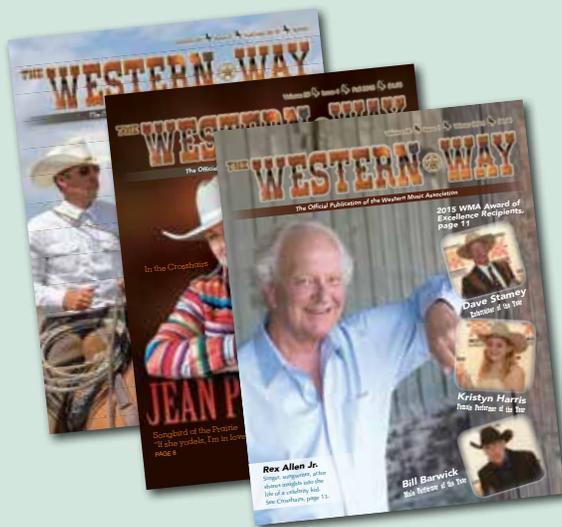
R.J.: Should a young person aspire to be a cowboy when he grows up?

Joe: Cowboyin' ain't for everyone! There are two kinds of folks in this world - cowboys and those less fortunate.

R.J.: Any advice you'd like to share with our readers?

Joe: I'd say, tell 'um to put their faith in Jesus, not what politicians say. Get up every mornin' and live life every day! Just "yeehaw" and be thankful for the life they live. 

ATTENTION WESTERN WAY SUBSCRIBERS



Due to rising costs, it is necessary for the Western Way to increase subscription rates* for the first time since beginning the publication. As a special offer to current subscribers, you may lock in your current rate by renewing your subscription today! The new rate for the quarterly publication is \$21.95 yearly; \$40.00 for two years; and \$70.00 for three years.

***NOTE: Remember that the Western Way is included in your membership to the Western Music Association. The WMA annual membership is \$40.00 and the cost of membership is NOT increasing. Maybe this would be a great time to join the WMA, support the preservation of the western life and culture, and continue to receive the Western Way each quarter!**

In the Spotlight

Continued from page 33

...**The Carolyn Sills Combo** just released their new album. Titled *Dime Stories, Vol. 2*, the project contains mostly new originals with a couple of interesting obscure cover songs. For more info, visit www.carolynsills.com.

...**Allen & Jill Kirkham** are the western music artists performing at the "Grand Jamboree Show," a Branson-style

variety show taking place in Custer, SD for the summer tourist season.

...In July, the 19th Annual Maine International Film Festival will feature a film titled "Everything in the Song is True," featuring Gary McMahon and friends. Check out the YouTube video at: <http://everythinginthesongistrue.com>. 

O.J. Sikes

Reviews



A Musical Note From OJ...



O.J. Sikes

Long-time friend **Jerry West** (from Waxahachie) and I were talking the other day and the subject of the musical group, **The Mellomen**, came up. You've seen their name in credits on **Disney** movies and records and heard them countless times. But apparently, although they seemed to be "everywhere" in the '50's and 60's, few people today remember them.

Their involvement with Western music was somewhat marginal, but we'll get to that in a moment. First, a little of their history. The group was founded in 1948 by [Thurl Ravenscroft](#) and **Max Smith**, who had been members of **The Sportsmen**, a quartet you may remember from their work with **Bing Crosby**, *The Jack Benny Show* and **Phil Harris**. But the Mellomen were more diverse, working on radio, tv, records, movie soundtracks (especially for Disney) and commercials for everything from breakfast cereals to pet food. They were the core of the **Norman Luboff Choir**, they backed numerous artists (**Rosemary Clooney**, **Frankie Laine**, **Teresa Brewer**, **Doris Day** and even **Kirk Douglas**, among others), on commercial recordings and they recorded film soundtracks with **Elvis**, **Peggy Lee**, etc. The Kirk Douglas recording for the Decca label was of a song co-written by Hall of Fame member **Jimmy Kennedy** with **Lou Smith**, from the Western film, *Man Without a Star*. They also sang on the soundtrack for the **John Wayne - Robert Mitchum** film, *El Dorado*. And when Disney first recorded the theme from the *Zorro* tv series, the Mellomen accompanied **Henry Calvin** (the portly actor who played **Sgt Garcia** in the series) when he introduced the song.



Bill Cole

The quartet's membership changed over the years, but two of their long-time members, Thurl Ravenscroft (bass) and **Bill Cole** (tenor) had additional ties to Western music. Both recorded with the **Sons of the Pioneers!** Although Ravenscroft's musical output was enormous, he is probably most widely remembered as the voice

of **Tony the Tiger!** RCA Victor brought him into the studio to record with the Pioneers after **Hugh Farr** left the group, and his deep bass voice is very audible on the Pioneers' *Cool Water* and *Lure of the West* albums. Earlier, in 1958, Disney Studios had asked Thurl to join the Sons of the Pioneers on an album of **Stan Jones** songs to celebrate the country's National Parks, followed shortly by another LP of Stan Jones songs titled *This Was the West*. Thurl narrated both albums, but on the latter, he sang the lead, backed by the Sons of the Pioneers, on "Saddle Up!" The following year, the Pioneers would record the same song for RCA Victor, with Thurl singing bass while **Tommy Doss** sang the lead.

While Ravenscroft is fairly well-known to fans of the Pioneers, for years we saw a reference to a "**W. Cole**" in the Pioneers discography compiled by **Nora Griffis**, and to most of us, that name was a mystery. As it turns out, W. Cole was Bill Cole of the Mellomen, one of the most sought-after tenors in Hollywood. While he was a vital member of the Mellomen, he also did a tremendous amount of work as a soloist for Disney and on radio/tv commercials. He also backed a number of prominent artists, so was available to record with the Pioneers in 1968 and '69 on their *Tumbling Tumbleweeds* and *Sons of the Pioneers Visit the South Seas* albums. But there's a behind-the-scenes story to these recordings.

The Pioneers spent a lot of time on the road doing personal appearances, and their line-up changed over the years. But for the last 20-some years of their contract, RCA Victor imposed their own ideas regarding which members (or former members) of the group they wanted to record, and those ideas didn't always match

Continued on page 45

To submit your CD for review, send to:

O.J. Sikes, 327 Westview Avenue,
Leonia, NJ 07605-1811

Required: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone
Number

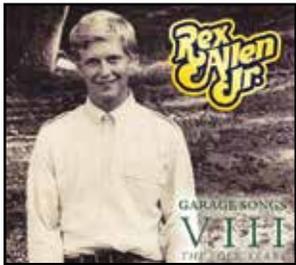
Questions? You can email O.J. at osikes@nj.rr.com

★ ★ ★

GARAGE SONGS VIII: THE FOLK YEARS

Rex Allen, Jr.

BPR RECORDS 2016



Traditional or Folk Music in America has its roots in the British Isles, Europe and Africa. As the music evolved, guitars replaced lutes, banjos replaced gourds and new songs emerged as new stories were told about life in the new country. Folk singers were active here in many settings, including on

trail drives and around campfires, and eventually, fairly early in the 20th century, a few singers had their performances recorded. In 1941, Burl Ives recorded his first sides for the Okeh label and his work, along with the recordings of Woodie Guthrie & Cisco Houston, among others, later that decade, brought folk music to national prominence and paved the way for a "Folk Music revival" that was to take the U.S. by storm late in the 1950's.

In 1958, when The Kingston Trio recorded "Tom Dooley," a song from 1868 about a real-life event from back in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the fan base for folk music grew by leaps and bounds. Rex Allen Jr. was influenced by all of these musical developments (he included a terrific rendition of "Tom Dooley" on this new CD, by the way). Rex was a teenager at the time all this was happening, and he fell in love with this "new" music.

This new CD takes us back to that time, with some of the most popular folk songs of the day, beautifully presented by this legendary singer who grew up singing them. If you remember those years or if you want a taste of what it was all about, and why the music still lingers on in the memories of so many, this CD is for you. Available from CDBaby.com and iTunes.

★ ★ ★

RADIO TRANSCRIPTIONS

Arizona Joe (Robert Streepy)

BACM CD D 522



Had it not been for the tireless efforts of researcher Dennis Flannigan, this CD might not have seen the light of day. In fact, the work of balladeer Robert Streepy, a.k.a. Arizona Joe, might have been lost forever! As it is, few people outside of the Pacific Northwest know who he was, so this new CD will

help preserve his legacy and will be a special keepsake for those who enjoyed seeing him on tour in the '30's and/or listening to his radio broadcasts in the 1940's.

Joe had a pleasing voice, somewhat reminiscent of

Burl Ives', but he had difficulty with meter. That's not terribly unusual; Tex Ritter and a number of western swing artists also had the same difficulty, and some do today. In Ritter's case, rhythm guitarist Wesley Tuttle often had to help him get through songs in the recording studio. That issue doesn't bother all listeners, but it drives some people nuts, so if it's the kind of thing that bothers you, you may be hard pressed to appreciate Arizona Joe's work.

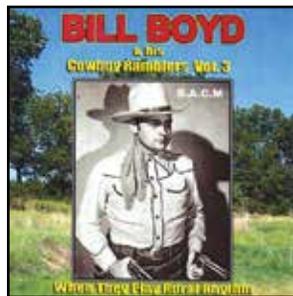
Joe and his guitar perform 27 songs on this CD, many of them well-known. If you remember his music from his work on radio and personal appearances in the Northwest, you'll definitely want a copy of this new CD. The tracks include his theme song, "When the Bloom is on the Sage," and have been very hard-to-find until recently. As of this writing, this is the only place you can hear them. Available from VenerableMusic.com, phone [\(678\) 232-0268](tel:678-232-0268) or Amazon.com.

★ ★ ★

BILL BOYD, VOL. 3: WHEN THEY PLAY RURAL RHYTHM

Bill Boyd & His Cowboys

BACM CD D 512



Bill Boyd & his Cowboy Ramblers recorded over 200 sides for RCA Victor between 1934 and '51, and that period of time is represented on this third BACM volume of songs by this popular western swing band. Probably, today fewer people know who Bill Boyd was than, say Bob Wills or the

Light Crust Doughboys, but this Texas-based band was hugely popular in the 1930's and 40's. Many of Boyd's sidemen were also famous members of other great western swing bands, and all the fans knew their names. Cecil Brower, Jesse Ashlock, Knocky Parker, Marvin Montgomery, Art Davis and Bill's brother Jim Boyd come to mind.

In this collection of 26 tunes you'll hear a few typical Texas string-band stylings, especially among the earliest recordings, but blues and hot Western swing soon pretty much take over. And it's clear why these guys became so popular. One of my favorites is "Oh No She Don't" from 1936, featuring a vocal by Jesse Ashlock and Jim Boyd. Another is "Bill Boyd Rag" which, I believe, was composed by Bill along with Art Davis who, probably, is also the featured fiddler on this track. Another couple of favorites I didn't expect to find in a collection of western swing, are swing arrangements of "Alice Blue Gown" and Duke Ellington's "Jeep's Blues."

In the early 1940's, Bill went to Hollywood with his fiddler, Art Davis, where they teamed up with Lee Powell to star in a half-dozen or so B-western movies called the "Frontier Marshalls" for PRC studios. Bill & Art sang (Art has no vocal solos on this CD and he was absent for

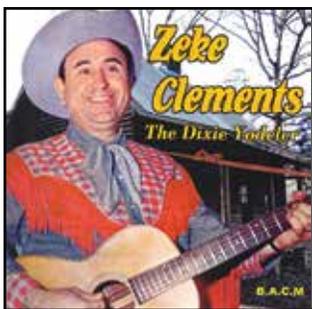
Continued on page 38

a time in the 30's, appearing in some of Gene Autry's films, but his fiddle is here). Unfortunately, Boyd's band isn't heard on those PRC film soundtracks but now we have a significant amount of the band's music on CD. Folks who came to the early WMA conventions may remember an accordionist named Red Gilliam. Red appears on one of the last tracks on this CD! Detailed liner notes by Kevin Coffey. VenerableMusic.com, phone [\(678\) 232-0268](tel:678-232-0268).

THE DIXIE YODELER

Zeke Clements

BACM CD D 507



When the Walt Disney Studios made their feature-length animated motion picture, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, in 1938, they had to recruit talented speakers and singers to do the singing, yodeling and speaking voices of the characters. 20 year-old Wesley Tuttle was recruited for a part on "The Silly Song (Dwarfs' Yodel Song)." Which dwarf his yodeling represented has been lost to memory, but it was likely to have been "Sneezy," whose very active Adam's apple fascinated "Dopey" during the song (Sneezy's speaking voice was done by Billy Gilbert). One of Wesley's friends, Zeke Clements, yodeled for another dwarf, "Bashful."

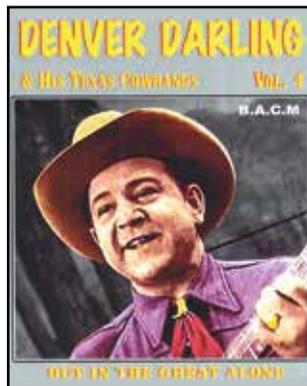
Before Zeke Clements went to Hollywood, where he found bit parts in a number of Western movies with Roy Rogers, Tim McCoy and John Wayne, he worked on the Iowa Barn Dance with Texas Ruby. One of the songs on this new CD is a duet Zeke and Ruby recorded in 1937, "Pride of the Prairie." I found it to be quite good, but it's the earliest recording on the disc. Early in his career, he had been a member of Otto Gray and his Oklahoma Cowboys but no recordings from that era are on this disc.

This album contains a number of tracks from the 40's, but nearly half of the songs are country tunes from Zeke's years with the MGM label in the 1950's. Only four of the 26 tracks on the CD might be described as "Western." The remainder are country and inspirational and they include several of his own compositions. He was an accomplished composer, having written "Smoke on the Water" and "Just a Little Lovin' (will go a long way)" but these are not part of this collection. Available from VenerableMusic.com, phone [\(678\) 232-0268](tel:678-232-0268) or Amazon.com.

OUT IN THE GREAT ALONE

Denver Darling and his Texas Cowhands (Vol. 4)

BACM CD D 269



As historian Kevin Coffey points out in his excellent liner notes, Denver Darling's recording career only lasted 6 years, but he was remarkably prolific. He recorded commercially for the Decca and MGM labels, but most of the songs on this new CD are from his World Transcriptions. There's variety in the selections, with several Western tunes

included that take full advantage of Darling's smooth voice, e.g. "My Little Buckaroo," "There's a Blue Sky Away Out Yonder," "When it's Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley" and the album's title song, one that was new to me and quickly became my favorite from among the 27 tracks on the CD.

There's also an old tune Liz Masterson recorded with Sean Blackburn early in their career (1988), "Smile and Drive Your Blues Away." Liz & Sean gave the song a slightly more spirited treatment; the title seems to me to call for that. Darling decided to offer a somewhat more relaxed rendition, but there's a hot guitar solo mid-way through that keeps the listener's attention. On the other hand, his "Free a Little Bird as I Can Be," taken from an old folk song, really swings, as does "Hand Me Down My Walking Cane!"

Another swing tune, "Honest as the Day is Long," was recorded in 1947 at his last session for the MGM label, and Coffey suggests that the sidemen on that tune may have included the legendary Tommy Jackson on fiddle and Jerry Byrd on steel. Darling was popular during the war years, and much of his music still appeals. Available from VenerableMusic.com, phone [\(678\) 232-0268](tel:678-232-0268) or Amazon.com.



Did you know...John Russell ('Lawman') was a US Marine WWII veteran who was first rejected when he tried to enlist because he was too tall (6'3")? Eventually, he earned a battlefield commission and decorations for valor at Guadalcanal.





★ ★ ★ ★ ★

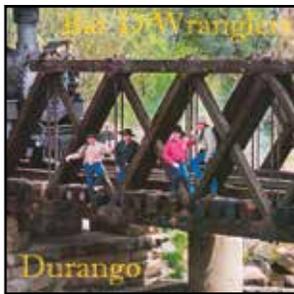
RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

To submit items for review, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442. Include: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number. We also recommend you furnish a land source (Address or PO Box) as well as Online sources for obtaining product. Submitting a CD or Book for review does not guarantee that it will be reviewed or that a review will be published. Finalized CD or book cover art must accompany the work and be unsigned.

★ ★ ★

BAR D WRANGLERS

"Durango"



Along with great barbecue dinners, the Chuckwagons of America show a always dish up a

heapin' helpin' of those Western standards done in perfect four-part harmony. On the Bar D Wranglers' newest CD there are a few not too often heard gems as well.

Singer & fiddler Matt Palmer takes the lead on the title track "Durango," a fine cowboy love song. It's a very appropriate one for this famous Durango band to feature. Other less heard items include "The Big Corral" and Palmer and flat pick guitar champ Gary Cook shine on the instrumental romp "Forked Deer" (sounds delicious... whoops, 'guess that's not a Bar D Chuckwagon dinner item)!

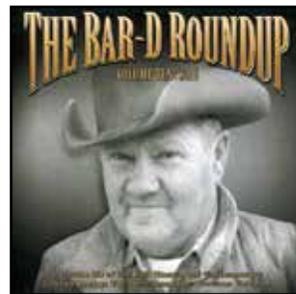
Jeff Solan guests on harmonica, adding nice augmentation to the familiar rich sound of Bar D regulars Richard Espinosa (vocals & guitar), Gary Cook (vocals & lead guitar), Matt Palmer (vocals & fiddle) and Joel Racheff (vocals & bass). The illustrious Cy Scarborough is pictured on the album...did he slip in for a note or two?? Hard to keep a good cowboy down! Fifteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$4 s/h through www.bardwranglers.com (and at their shows, of course)!

★ ★ ★

BAR D ROUNDUP

"Volume Ten - 2016"



For the tenth annual volume of this famous series, it was decided that taking a look back at what has

been accomplished in past releases might be in order. It has resulted in a best of the best double CD collection that truly is one for the books!

Hear the actual voices of legendary figures from the genre delivering masterworks of theirs including Robert O. Service (a ghoulishly intense delivery of "The Cremation of Sam Magee"), Gail Gardner ("Tyin' Knots In The Devil's Tail"), Charles "Badger" Clark ("A Cowboy's Prayer") and several late contemporary masters who include Buck Ramsey ("Anthem"), J. B. Allen ("The Medicine Keepers"), Larry McWhorter ("Waitin' On The Drive"), Sunny Hancock ("The Horse Trade"), Wallace McRae ("Reincarnation") and others. Of course many poets who are still with us are with us here: Zarzycki and Rieman and Sicking and Steagall and Hollenbeck and Snider and Richardson and... and...and...

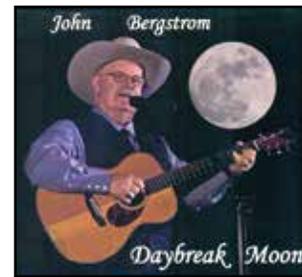
Two CDs with fifty-five tracks. Obviously this one is a must-have!!

2-CD set: \$25 ppd from Center For Western & Cowboy Poetry, PO Box 1107, Lexington, VA 24450 or through www.CowboyPoetry.com.

★ ★ ★

JOHN BERGSTROM

"Daybreak Moon"



Cozy, jam-like, unprocessed and straightforward. These could be the benchmarks for CDs from John Bergstrom.

Vocally he nudges toward the Burl Ives direction but with more sand. Accompaniment is provided by John Nelson (banjo & guitar), David Jackson (bass & accordion), Jesse Olema (fiddle), Tom Corbett (mandolin) and Gency Brown (harmony vocals). And very much a vintage effect it is, which suits Bergstrom's material. His are frequently saga songs done in tribute to or stories of their title subjects. Songs like "Daybreak Moon" and "Red Rocks of Sedona" are literal, the song "Lawmen" is about lawmen and so on, no muss-no fuss! "Come Waltz With Me" seems like a visit from a bygone era and John's fans like it that way.

Some of those fans' more requested songs (like "Latchkey Cowboy" and "Western State of Mind") have received remakes here among the new material. As John puts it, "it's some things old, some things new, some things borrowed ('Mexicali Rose' & John Zipperer's 'Ballad of Micah McDowde') and

Continued on page 40

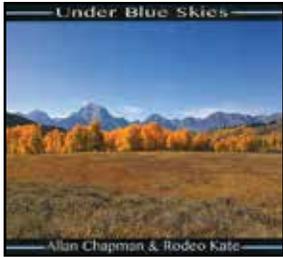
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a little bit of blues!" Fourteen tracks.

CD - \$15 ppd from John Bergstrom, 27590 Olive Mill Ct., Valencia, CA 91354 or through cdbaby, amazon and others.

ALLAN CHAPMAN & RODEO KATE

"Under Blue Skies"



Welcome to one of those don't need to prove nuthin' kind of albums! It's mostly originals with covers of J. Gorka's "People My Age" (with rhythmic tuba punctuators) and a gypsy-tinged treatment of C. Cohen's "Dance Me To The End Of Love."

The mounting is acoustic, elegantly simple and it's nice to hear Kip Calahan (in any manner she'll allow us to) on harmony vocals. On "The Western Star" Chapman & Chapman give her the chance to prove something can be done with the solo word "water" beyond what Bob Nolan did! Other picks include the saga song "Cinco Peso," a bittersweet love song "Signal Fire," "A Hard One To Know" (seemingly Allen's reconciliation song of sorts with his dad) and "The Question" (and its shut-down answer)! There are opportunities for Kate to take the lead on the instrumentals "Caledonia Stomp" and "Last Roundup Waltz." There's also a fond look back at some of Allan's professional history in "1*9*7*3," a year of high hopes in the music business.

"Under Blue Skies" is a pleasant collection that should wear well with you over time. Twelve tracks total.

CD: \$15 through contacting allanandkatie@earthlink.net.

BERNADETTE DUCHARME

"One Boot In The Stirrup"



Bernadette Ducharme engages in the long honored practice of putting Cowboy Poets' verses to music, a natural fit most of the time. Happily she is skilled and ably pulls it off with songs created in tribute to fellow Canadian poets.

Others have found musical inspiration in works of Mag Mawhinney. Six of her poems are given firm Ducharme mountings... in particular "One Foot In The Stirrup" (a stirring saga song) and "He Was Good Around Horses" (not a particularly obvious poem for putting to music, and it works well here). Other Mawhinneys are "Hoof Prints In The Snow," "When A Cowboy Made Me Cry," "Git 'Er Done" and "Something About A Cowboy." The late Mike Puhallo's "A Cowboy's Advice" and "Call Me A Fool," Bruce Rolph's "The Old Felt Hat" and "Ghosts Of Stockyards Past" and Frank Gleeson's "My Favourite Buckskin" round out the poem-songs and two nice Ducharme originals complete the package.

Hers is a pleasant ballad voice that I feel doesn't require quite as much reverb as the studio applied, but it's a worthy collection regardless.

CD: \$20 ppd US & CAN from Bernadette Ducharme, PO Box 408, Horsefly, BC Canada V0L 1L0 or through www.bernsmusic.com.



DAVE INSLEY

"Just The Way That I Am"



In his lower vocal register, you might be tempted to place Dave Insley squarely in the Ernest Tubb tradition. Then in his higher register some "Willie" slips in.

Insley's thoughtful original writes and co-writes are offered in a variety of effective mountings. Brassy swing arrangements like the one provided for "Drinking Wine & Staring At The Phone" or a Western Ballad styling such as "I Don't Know How This Story Ends" are counterbalanced as the brass takes a Spanish turn with "Arizona Territory 1904," a sort of retelling of Marty Robbins' "El Paso." "Footprint In The Snow" evokes a "Gentle On My Mind" feel, then shufflers can shuffle to "Win-Win Situation For Losers." And there's even a novelty "Dead & Gone," with its attention-getting opening line "my wife and my girlfriend met at my funeral!" The catchy "We're All Here Because Of You" could be Dave's atonement for that last one!

An amazing group of players including Kelly Willis, Red Volkaert, Dale Watson, Rick Shea and other top session folk help to make this CD one to consider. Twelve tracks.

CD: (available through www.daveinsley.com).

JUNCTION 5-12

"San Miguel"



On occasion I have extolled in print the arrival of what I've termed "emerging

power duos.” I’m hoping it’s not a curse. Some of them seemed to dissolve even as the words were leaving my fingertips! Undaunted, I’m attempting the exercise again. In Junction 5-12 we certainly have the makings of “the next one!”

As has been said of The Pioneers, “it isn’t the flash...it’s the blend.” Denver’s popular Mary Gifford and vocalist/producer/multi-instrumentalist Ernie Martinez have issued their first album collaboration together, and it goes down smooth! CD picks include a fine new saga song from Mary’s hubby, Joe Gifford, “Memory Of The Sea” (referring to prairie grass waves), “One Wild Heart,” “Once A Cowboy” (a cow-cure for PTSD), Hugh Priestwood’s “Bristlecone Pine” and a fresh treatment of Lange & Daniels’ “Blue Shadows On The Trail.”

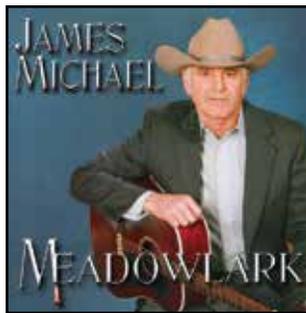
Junction 5-12 definitely has plenty to offer, and it’s obvious here that the whole is greater even than the sum of its parts. Particularly in this case, that’s saying a lot! Ten tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$2 s/h from Junction 5-12, 8023 East Harvard Circle, Denver, CO 80231 or through cdbaby or iTunes.

★ ★ ★

JAMES MICHAEL

“Meadowlark”



For his second CD release, James Michael has called on the skills of Jeanne Cahill & Jerome

Campbell (many instruments & vocals), Cathy Boeker (harmony), Jon Messenger (fill and slide guitar), Mariam Funke (fill & rhythm guitar) and Judy Coder (Native American flute). Good choices all!

Picks include Jeanne’s “My Heart Lives In Old Santa Fe” (with Spanish verse by James), English

and Spanish versions of “Sunset On The Water” (written with Jon and Jerome), the bilingual “Down By The San Pedro” (co-written with Les Buffham) and the interesting title track, written for his parents, which features a neatly interwoven whistle with “Meadowlark” call. Two covers are welcome additions as well... Bob Nolan’s “Tumbleweed Trail” and Cindy Walker’s AWA Award-winning “Ruidoso.” And the poet in the performer shines through with “Gaishena” (a Chaco Canyon fable) and the Gail Gardner-inspired “August In Arizona.”

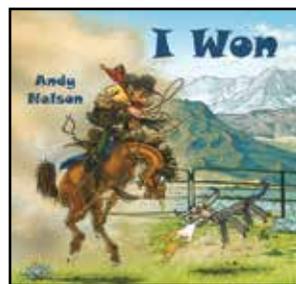
Stylistically James Michael is a balladeer in the Marty Robbins tradition and he carries that tradition proudly. Recommended. Fifteen tracks.

CD: \$15 +\$3 s/h check or money order to Mike Hosea, 4980 Baylor Canyon Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88011, emailing mhosea@zianet.com and through cdbaby.com.

★ ★ ★

ANDY NELSON (W/BRENN HILL)

“I Won”



here works wonderfully well, and the experiments were worth trying.

Big successes include the reflective “Waiting On The Thunder,” “Family Cemetery,” “Will They Write Songs About Us,” a minor miracle about parenthood called “His Baby Girl & Her Little Boy” and Andy performs Brenn’s eerily beautiful verse “Cottonwood” with conviction. For me the jury’s still out on laying “The Horse Sale Catalog” over a custom-extended track of Leroy van Dyke’s “The Auctioneer.” Fans of Nelson

This time it’s a nice Andy Nelson / Brenn Hill collaboration that greets us! What works

nuttiness will enjoy “I Won,” “Feline Orthodontics,” “What Are They Thinking” and “Cowboys On Facebook.”

Three tracks are poem-with-song combos. They include Andy’s “Worst Winter Ever” (a not-all-that-exaggerated Wyoming winter’s tale) with Brenn’s “Fair Weather Cowboy” (call me when it’s nice out) and another that struck me as being a bit overbalanced in the ratio of poem to song...Andy’s “Be The First” with Brenn’s lyrically dominant “Single Winter Rose.” The third is religious.

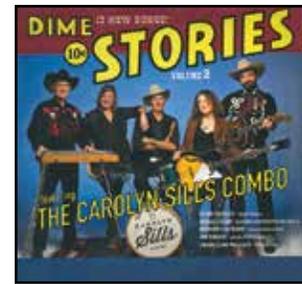
All-in-all, it’s enjoyable and done by two guys who know how it should be done. Fifteen tracks.

CD: visit www.cowpokepoet.com.

★ ★ ★

CAROLYN SILLS COMBO

“Dime Stories Volume 2”



Vintage elements in contemporary dressing (as in “salad”)! In other words, here we

have a most edible offering for those who can take their classic styles beat driven and chewy! Ok, “Buffalo Bill’s Defunct,” the one track billed as a “Western Anthem,” is actually a Rock Chant...but it’s a party. Chill!

The Carolyn Sills Combo is no copy of any group. Not even an homage to one, although “Rotary Phone Blues” does sort of lean toward Les Paul & Mary Ford. Basically they do what they want. They deliver a clever Rockabilly Swing arrangement on “Big Canoe” (I love the whistling and voice harmonizing on the bridge)! And then they come back with “Even Villains Once Were Babies” with refrain lyrics that may burn the braids of the uber-staid! Then there’s the Western-styled but eye-opening “Along The Pelican Trail,” Swing romps “Tinker To Evers A Chance,” “Hot Tamales” and “Boot Heel Drag” and...in keeping with

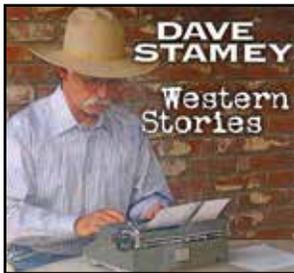
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the non-theme...“Catalina Island,” a samba tempo piece with semi-Hawaiian steel!

Don't pigeonhole this herd! They'll bolt on ya. Deal with it!! Thirteen tracks.

CD: available through www.carolynsills.com or call 718-755-5977.

DAVE STAMEY “Western Stories”



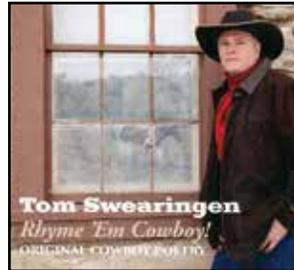
Nowadays it's almost presumptuous to begin to review a Dave Stamey release. The name is its own review! It's Dave Stamey, for Pete's sake! You know it's going to be good! And he is joined again by his favorite “harmonizer” Annie Lydon because...if it ain't broke and so forth.

While all the songs on this CD bear the familiar stamp of the artist, Stamey doesn't do filler material. He makes you glad that every song is included. So here once again find that Stamey style of power ballads, reflective Spanish laced songs, songs to make you smile and think. The medicine show snake oil salesman song “Let Me Sell You A Dream” is one of those infectious Stamey swingers people dig. You'll also love “Runaway Horse” as much as finding out it was inspired by Stamey's desire to flee from the Seattle Airport! And a personal Thank You to Dave for including the one called “New Mexico Woman.” We can invite you back now!!

Recommended, of course. Fourteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$4 s/h from Horse Camp Music, PO Box 189, Orange Cove, CA 93646 or through www.davestamey.com.

TOM SWEARINGEN “Rhyme ‘Em Cowboy!”



The reverse of Tom Swearingen is characteristically brief, always to the point, effective and (most often) optimistic. And once again he has chosen to record his CD in front of appreciative living beings, which I generally find to be a plus!

Whether he is operating in the realm of Novelty (“Teddy Frank Is One Tough Hand”) or he is leaning more toward the thought-provoking (“The Visit,” “One To Ride The River With” or “Dogies In Our Band”...are human dogies and their “misfortune none of our own?”), Swearingen spins a fine tale and his expert delivery is comfortably conversational in its cadence. Other picks in the collection include “Scotty's Christmas Tree” and “When A Horse Hoof Hits The Ground.”

Tom Swearingen is most certainly one of the poets folks might want to point out when they are trying to explain or typify the genre of Cowboy Poetry. His style and body of work make him one of the most approachable cowbards workin' Recommended. Seventeen tracks plus the opener.

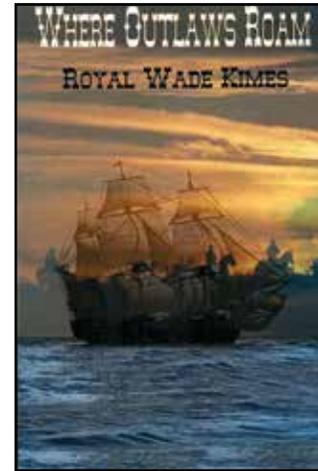
CD: \$15 “plus postage” through www.oregoncowboypoet.com, also spotify, iTunes, cdbaby and other outlets.



BOOK REVIEW

ROYAL WADE KIMES “Where Outlaws Roam”

ISBN 978-194327628-8 (IRONGATE BOOKS)



I've not made a practice of reviewing novels. However I now feel I should cover writings of singer/songwriters as they branch out. Royal Wade Kimes certainly has a storyteller's heart as is shown in his adventurous songwriting. In his debut novel, he brings a certain swagger as he pulls on limbs of inspiration from his own family (hanging?) tree!

If you're okay with a certain amoral bent of the “heroes,” then the plotline of this sprawling tale should roll out for you satisfactorily. One positive is that events are allowed to happen with the disorder of real life. We embark with a ne'er-do-well of royal blood, banished to the land “where outlaws roam,” who then rides from the bayou swamplands up into Kansas where comes redemption (of a sort). There are occasional dialog and narrative incongruities (example: a 19th Century character refers to a “significant other”), typos (“detour” used for “deter”) and other issues (repetitious laughing in the face of death/danger) that more judicious editing would catch. But songwriter Kimes should prove to be an able hand at the Western novel genre as well! 275 pages.

Trade Paperback: \$14.98 through www.bookdepository.com.

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. A Cowboy Like Me – Doug Figgs
2. Lovers, Wives & Mothers - Almeda Bradshaw
3. Ride a Wide Circle – Mary Kaye
4. Western Stories – Dave Stamey
5. Down the Trail – Kristyn Harris
6. Cowboy to the Bone – R.J. Vandygriff
7. Songs of...the High Country Cowboys – High Country Cowboys
8. He's Just a Cowboy – Les Frick
9. All I Need – Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
10. Just an Old Song – Jerry Bell
11. Cowboy's Wage – Trinity Seely
12. Cowboy Songster 2 – Andy Hedges
13. Crossing Borders – Carol Markstrom
14. This Cowboy – R.W. Hampton
15. Riders In The Sky Salute: Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys – Riders In The Sky
16. Cowboys and Girls – Randy Huston & Hannah Huston
17. Race With the Wind – Jim Jones
18. Cowgirl Swing – Mikki Daniel
19. Too Hot to Handle – Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
20. Jewel of the West – LeeLee Robert
21. Keeper of the West – Ryan Fritz
22. Goodnight From Texas – Tom Hiatt
23. Riding After Midnight – Clint Bradley
24. One Boot in the Stirrup – Bernadette Ducharme
25. Big Corral Roundup – Barbara Nelson
26. Horses That Run Far Away – Bob Marshall
27. Shadows of Time – Royal Wade Kimes
28. Under Blue Skies – Allen Chapman & Rodeo Kate
29. Granite Mountain – Belinda Gail
30. Cowboy Songs – Rich Price

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Trail Jazz – Cowboy Joe Babcock
2. Ain't Dead Yet – Hot Texas Swing Band
3. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas – Susie Blue
4. Down the Trail – Kristyn Harris
5. A Platter of Brownies
(The Music of Milton Brown)
6. Legends – Coby Carter
7. Still the King – Asleep at the Wheel
8. Now Playing – The Western Swing Authority
9. Hey, Wait – Oregon Valley Boys
10. The Cherokee Maidens Ride Again – The Cherokee Maidens

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. A Cowboy Like Me – Doug Figgs
2. Old New Mexico Moon – Doug Figgs
3. Somewhere in the Rubies Tonight – Almeda Bradshaw
4. Travelin' in My Boots – Kristyn Harris
5. Heavenly Here With You – Almeda Bradshaw
6. Cowboy to the Bone – R.J. Vandygriff
7. Don Edwards for President – Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
8. Swingin' on a Gate – Patty Clayton
9. We Were the Vaqueros – Trinity Seely
10. Roll Along – The High Country Cowboys

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
2. Rhyme 'em Cowboy – Tom Swearingen
3. Amongst Friends – Baxter Black
4. Cowboy Poet: the Poetry of Larry McWhorter – Various Artists
5. Cowboy Lonesome – Duane Nelson
6. That Old Yellow Horse – Dennis Russell
7. One Hundred Years of Thunder – Doris Daley & Bruce Innes
8. Elko: A Cowboy Gathering – Various Artists
I Won – Andy Nelson
Rhyming the Range – Yvonne Hollenbeck
Sweat Equity – Waddie Mitchell
Pull My Finger – Pat Richardson

*A missing number in the list represents a tie for that spot.

Attention DJs! Your contributions to *The Western Way* charts are welcomed. Please send your playlist, including the song and the CD on which it appears, to meoteo@aol.com.

Various DJ friends have reported their playlists for the last quarter, thus helping us compile these charts reflecting which CDs are being played the most on their radio shows. You will find a listing of those reporting DJs on the following page.

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Waynetta Ausmus
PO Box 294
Tom Bean, TX 75489
waynettawwr@yahoo.com
www.WaynettaAusmus.com

Michael Babiarz
KVMR Community Radio 89.5FM
120 Bridge Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
530-265-9073
916-233-6203
www.kvmr.org
back40radio@kvmr.org

Marshal Allen Bailey
High Plains Public Radio
210 N. 7th St.
Garden City, Kansas 67846
westswing@yahoo.com
www.hprr.org/wsot.html
1-800-678-7444

Bobbi Jean Bell
OutWest
16654 Soledad Canyon Rd #148
Santa Clarita, CA 91387
"Campfire Café" w/host Gary Holt
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com
661-255-7087

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky
Rogue Valley Bound Show
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-301-7649
www.earsradio.com
skipbessonette@gmail.com

Peter Bruce
Flagstaff Country FM 93.5/AM 930
KAFF Radio
1117 W. Route 66
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
928-556-2650
www.country935.com
peter.bruce@kaff.com

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo
Calling All Cowboys Radio
88.9 FM, KPOV FM
22470 Rickard Rd.
Bend, OR 97702
541-388-2537
http://kpov-od.streamguys.us/calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio
radio.spalding-labs.com
callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
(prefers music to be sent digitally)

KWC Ameriana Radio Station
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez
avenida galtzaraborda n°47 2ªA
20100 renteria
Guipuzcoa
España
miguelbilly56@gmail.com

Mike Gross
15 Nina's Way
Manchester, CT 06040
"Swingin' West"
mike@swinginwest.com
www.swinginwest.com
(plays primarily western swing and more band-oriented western material.)

Greg Harness
KRBX Radio Boise
1020 W Main St #50
Boise ID 83702
greg@gregharness.com
"Ramblers' Retreat"
Wednesday, 6-8am Mountain, 89.9 FM
http://ramblersretreat.com
http://radioboise.org

Steve Harrington
PO Box 803
Show Low, AZ 85902
(928) 242-3367
stevetn47@gmail.com
www.mountainsaddleband.com/
old-west-chapel

Paul Hazell
PH Records
Royal Mail Building (PO Box 3)
Brambleside
Bellbrook Industrial Estate
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1XX, UK
"Paul Hazell's World Of Country"
www.uckfieldfm.co.uk
Uckfield FM (in the UK)
paul.hazell@uckfieldfm.co.uk
Telephone: +44 7775 545 902

Randy Hill
Western Swing Time Radio Show
KMUZ-FM
P.O. Box 17264
Salem, OR 97305
(Plays only western swing)
westernswingtime@gmail.com
www.westernswingtime.com

Judy James
Cowboy Jubilee with Judy James and
Western Heritage Radio
PO Box 953
Weatherford, TX 76086
judy@judyjames.com

Tom Kerlin & Uncle Rich
Horsetown South Western
Music Show
WEKS
120 Village Circle
Senoia, GA 30276
770-599-1923
unclerich@925fmthebear.com

Al Krtil
"Early Morning Trails"
225 West 7th Street,
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008-4637
(609) 361-8277
alkrtil@yahoo.com
www.sudzincountry.com

Jarle Kvale
KEYA Public Radio
PO Box 190
Belcourt, ND 58316
jkkeya@utma.com

Graham Lees
Radio HWD
13 Overthorpe Ave.
Dewsbury, West Yorkshire
WF120DS, UK
graham@grahamlees.co.uk

Eddy Leverett
c/o Campfire Productions
1623 Co. Rd. 820
Cullman, AL 35057
Around the Campfire
WKUL
www.wkul.com
kudzu cowboy@hotmail.com

Wyn Machon
5 Lowther Street
Oamaru 9400
New Zealand
New Zealand Country Music Radio
FM 107.3 (NZCMR)
whitestone.music@inbox.com

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Butch and Christina Martin
"Whittler's Corner Show"
Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org
The Dalles, OR, Y102
1410 Kubli Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
www.ButchMartinMusic.com
www.romancingthewest.org
(541) 218-2477

Dallas & P.J. McCord
30 Village Dr.
Creswell, OR 97426
KNND 1400AM Sunday's 1PM to 4PM
Cowboy Culture Corner
dallasmccord@yahoo.com

Marvin O'Dell
"Around the Campfire"
defendersoffreedomradio.com
KKRN (Redding, CA)
www.earsradio.com
meoteo@aol.com
10430 W. Loma Blanca Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351
805-551-4649
www.musikode.com

Bob O'Donnell
1028 Borner St N
Apt 119
Prescott, WI 54021
justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

Barbara Richhart
Western Belle of KSJD
CowTrails Show
32229 CO RD P
Mancos, CO 81328
Studio: Sundays 12:00-2:00 PM
Studio: 970-564-0808
Home: 970-882-1413
Cell: 970-739-8408
Streaming www.ksjd.org
bfboston@fone.net
www.cowtrails.com

O.J. Sikes
327 Westview Ave.
Leonia, NJ 07605
osikes@nj.rr.com
KKRN, Redding, CA
www.earsradio.com

Totsie Slover
Real West From The Old West
AM 1230 KOTS Radio
220 S. Gold Ave.
Deming, NM 88030
575-494-0899
realwestoldwest@live.com
www.realwestoldwest.com
www.demingradio.com
Facebook/totsieslover

Eric Swansick
Back at the Bunkhouse
13800 NE Merchant Rd.
Carlton, OR 97111
503-708-3960

Tommy Tucker
"Snake River Radio Roundup"
KRLC Radio
805 Stewart Ave.
Lewiston, ID. 83501
208-743-1551
tommy@idavend.com
"Keepin' It Western"

Leonard Werner
Country Routes
WDVR FM 89.7 & 91.9
PO Box 191
Sergeantsville, NJ 08557
609-397-1620
www.wdvrfm.org
Leonardwerner44@comcast.net

Western Music Association Web Site

You can now view The Western Way as well as the Festival and Events Calendar on our Web site! Visit often to keep up with what's going on in our Western Music family.

www.westernmusic.org

A Musical Note from O.J.

Continued from page 36

the then-current line-up of members. At various times in the '50's and '60's, active members Tommy Doss, Dale Warren and Rusty Richards were sidelined while a retired member was called back to make a record. This was not a pleasant situation for the group, to say the least. The active trio in '68-'69 was **Lloyd Perryman**, **Dale Warren** and **Luther Nallie**. They had perfected their harmony on the road and were well-prepared to record. According to historian **Laurence Zwisohn**, the idea of bringing in an outsider, Cole, although he was one of the "best in the business," did not please Lloyd, the group's leader. But once again, the record company had the final say.

The identity mystery is solved, but the issue of the

questionable input from record company executives remains a sore spot, with me, at least. For example, I was disappointed with the instrumentation on the *Pioneers' Campfire Favorites* LP (with an electric piano and vibraphone dominating the sound, marring some beautiful songs) but that issue goes back to the mid-40's transcriptions when Musical Director **Ivan Ditmars** insisted on playing his vibraphone with the Pioneers on their radio shows, detracting from what I considered to be a Western sound, and not at all what we heard in their **Roy Rogers** movies at the time. Too bad we don't have tapes of the Pioneers' music the way audiences heard them in "live" performances on the road. Still, what we do have is "gold."



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