

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the
International Western Music Association

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

DOUG FIGGS

MULTI-AWARDED SINGER/SONGWRITER,
WORKING COWBOY AND
CERTIFIED JOURNEYMAN FARRIER

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2022 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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IWMA
Songwriting
Contest

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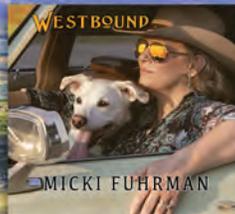


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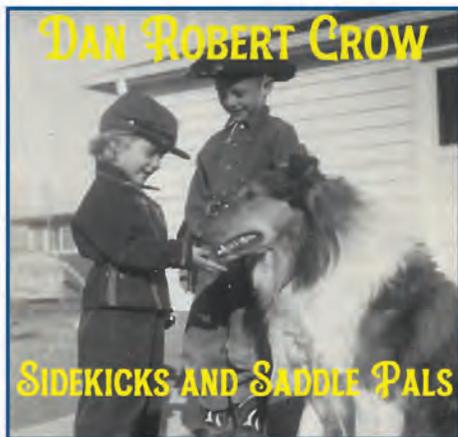
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From The President...



Robert Lorbeer
IWMA President

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

The weather is starting to get cooler, the cattle are coming down from the mountains, and that means everyone is getting ready to pack up their fancy western duds, dust off their boots, and head to Albuquerque, NM.

It's time for the IWMA gathering. Five days of Western music of the American West, and new music created by the International Western

Music Association membership. And yes, there will be some Western Swing music, and Cowboy Poetry, and dancing, and jam sessions, etc., etc.

We are excited that we will have a special guest at the Opening Luncheon, Ranger Doug of Riders In The Sky! It will be at this lunch that Ranger Doug will lead a very special Hall of Fame induction ceremony – something different than in years past.

Don't forget there will be the ever-popular Western Consignment Boutique, so go thru your closet and bring your cowgirl/cowboy clothes, and boots and jewelry, and...all of those treasures that you no longer wear! Hand them off to others who would love them, and put a little cash in your pocket, too. Check out the IWMA website, iwesternmusic.org, click on Events, and find all the details of placing your items for sale in the Boutique or look for information in this magazine.

The schedule is full this year. See the complete schedule of events (at this writing, at least) in this issue of the magazine you currently hold in your hands.

Like any great event – things are also subject to change at the last minute. But peruse the schedule and you will be convinced that it's going to be a great five days in Albuquerque!

Come one, come all! We want to see you at the Hotel Albuquerque for IWMA2022.

Robert Lorbeer
President IWMA



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THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Quarterly Publication of the IWMA
Deadline for next issue: December 1, 2022

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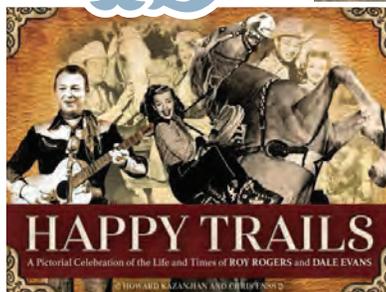
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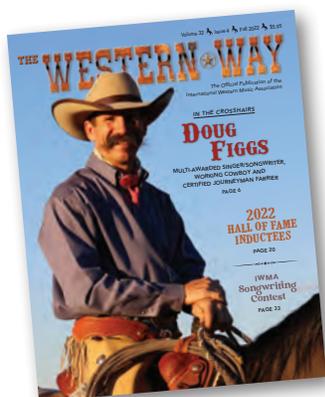


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ON THE COVER...

Since 2016, Doug has consistently added awards to his resume. He juggles busy music writing, travel and recording schedules with his family and his job as a day working cowboy. Doug has toured extensively and continues to turn out western songs that range from hard-driving with a tinge of southern rock to moving ballads and everything in between.

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 IWMA or *The Western Way*.

Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell
Editor

Just Here to Say Thanks

As I have considered what to write to you in this issue, something that might be instructional or educational or high interest, I have just gone blank!

Maybe it is because, like you, I lead a busy life. I sit on a couple of boards. I sing in

the church choir. I do media relation functions for a local nonprofit. I am active in our homeowner's association, and I devote time to the board of the IWMA and to this *Western Way*. Of course, there are "life" things I try to participate in – spending time with family. Being a good neighbor when there's a need. Exercising a few times a week for my own well-being. And, maybe even reading a book or catching up with friends through social media.

You are busy too. Whether you are a performer or a fan, you have a life outside of the IWMA (at least, I sure hope you do!). What we do collectively to ensure the future of the IWMA is all volunteer. We give. Sometimes those of us busy with tangible tasks of the organization or those who sit on the Board may forget how much others in the membership do to keep the IWMA functioning. Shame on us!

I thought it might be nice to write something that says "thank you" to all our members without asking for anything or guilting you into doing more. Actually it can be more

difficult to write that kind of a message than it is to come out and ask for more volunteers, more money or more advertisers!

But not so for me today. Today I am tired, have been burning the candle at both ends, and see a lot on my to-do list that still needs to be completed and marked off. As I read through Chapter Updates submitted for this issue, I am reminded of you. You are out there doing so much – for your careers, yes, but also to promote our organization. I am not the only busy person!

So today, I understand how valuable YOU are. You have lists, too. You have responsibilities and families. You have careers. Maybe you have health issues. But so many of you, our readers, have a genuine love for the IWMA and its mission. You give sacrificially of your talents, your time, and your resources. You encourage those who are leading the organization, and you ask what you can do to make it better. (There's an answer for that... could be a future article!)

But today, as we are entering into Fall and the season to celebrate and be thankful, I will say now that I am thankful for you – all of you! Whether you are on stage, behind the stage, in the audience or one of the very valuable unknowns scattered across this continent or the globe, thank you for simply being counted among the ranks of the IWMA. You are of great worth.

The IWMA is only as strong as our committed membership and to me, we are VALUE strong.

Theresa

A promotional graphic for 'Photography by Neets'. The background is a soft-focus image of a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a red dress, sitting and playing an acoustic guitar. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

It seems like everything around us is changing, even things we thought would stay the same forever. I graduated from Stevens Henager Business College back in 19—don't ask. I could type 90 words a minute (on a standard typewriter – electric typewriters were new and expensive so would never catch on), “speedwrite” 120 words a

minute and work a myriad of office equipment that's now defunct. One thing our typing instructor told us was that it didn't matter how much times changed, “men would always need secretaries.”

Most of the things I do now have nothing to do with what I was trained to do: internet technician (unplug the modem for 30 seconds and plug it back in), computer repairman (unplug it for 30 seconds and plug it back in), grocery clerk, service station attendant, and the list goes on. And most “men” definitely don't need secretaries anymore.

There are a lot of us who struggle understanding everyday things from how to set the clocks on the stove and microwave so they both tell the same time to learning which buttons to push to switch from Hulu to Netflix.

You know what hasn't changed? The talent in IWMA. Does the IWMA of today look like WMA in 1988? Definitely not, but it's the same hard-working, good-hearted people who are members...people who appreciate good entertainment and people who can provide it. A lot of gatherings and festivals have closed their doors, but others are starting up to take their places. You still hear the old standards like “Cool Water” and “Tumbling Tumbleweeds” but there's a lot of amazing new music being written.

And the place to hear that new music as well as the old standards is the IWMA Convention in Albuquerque. This is the place to be in November...it's where you need to be in November, among old friends and family. See you there!

Marsha



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- Arizona Folklore Preserve – Sierra Vista, AZ
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- Museum of Western Film History – Lone Pine, CA
- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
- Tigard Public Library, Tigard, OR
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
- iwesternmusic.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 505-563-0673

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In the **CROSSHAIRS**



Doug Figs: Singer, songwriter, farrier, cowboy, and so much more.

DOUG FIGGS

By Tom Swearingen

Those familiar with award-winning musician and top-level professional farrier Doug Figs might think he was born with a guitar in one hand and a lead rope or shoeing hammer in the other. But no. Music and horses would come later. Born in Prescott, Arizona when his dad had a flagstone quarry at the time in nearby Paulden, the family didn't stay there (or anywhere) for long because his father also worked in construction which had them picking up and moving often. Starting in Sacramento when dad worked on building the 400-plus mile California Aqueduct the family moved with the work southward to Los Angeles. Doug recalls the desire to cowboy was made stronger knowing of his dad's younger years rodeoing. In Doug's high school years (Class of '78) his father quit construction and bought a wrecking yard in the small town of Springerville, Arizona. Shortly after graduating Doug was finally able to get his first horse, a yearling filly. With a chuckle, Doug admits, "I didn't know enough to know I couldn't just start a horse." So, he just did it...self-taught for the first part, and then with help from future wife Cathy, a horsemanship instructor at Northland Pioneer College's branch in Springerville who he met when he was riding colts for other people in her classes. "She's ridden more miles on a horse than I'll ever ride," says Doug who added cowboy day work in the area to his "junk yard kid" jobs. With that first horse Doug's attitude was, "If I own a horse, I should learn everything I can about it and its care and the best way to learn was hands-on." Shoeing that first horse and then others he owned with lessons learned from shoeing books and by listening to farriers was a first step that would lead to his eventual career.



Cathy and Doug

But more on that later. Because, you may have noticed there's not yet been any mention of music. So, when did music enter Doug's life? "Dad always played music when I was growing up," Doug recalls, "piano, guitar, banjo, accordion, mandolin...all by ear. So, music was always part of our home." Doug started playing guitar himself when he was 14 or so. Playing his favorite style at the time (and still), the Southern rock of bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Allman Brothers, Poco, The Eagles, and especially the Marshall Tucker Band. Those early years of playing were mostly self-taught or with help from his sister, brother, and dad. Doug admits he was far more into sports than music in high school. No band. No choir. No music. All sports. Playing football, baseball, running track, and wrestling, Doug was a three-sport athlete every year in high school with wrestling his favorite and where we found the most success, winning the state championship. Getting serious about music and finding his home in western music would come later.

In 1987 Doug and Cathy moved to the small community of Lemitar, New Mexico where they would marry in 1990. Doug points out that Lemitar (about an hour south of Albuquerque) now has a post office and the Figgs have PO Box 3. "We got there late," says Doug. In Lemitar they both worked on a big Holsteiner breeding farm primarily doing artificial insemination with the expensive German warmblood jumpers. In addition to shoeing his

own horses Doug was also doing some shoeing and trimming for others in the area but in 1993 went to farrier school in Tucumcari, New Mexico to learn from legendary world champion farrier Jim Keith. Doug summarizes that decision with, "I figured if I'm going to shoe for the public I'd better know some more." And he certainly did learn more, competing successfully in contest shoeing to test his skill against the best. The competitions were his stepladder up the difficult climb from Certified Farrier to his top-level Certified Journeyman Farrier designation with the American Farrier Association. Next time you see Doug you might just take a look at his belt buckle, which is likely one of several he won in those contests. In 1993 Doug started full time shoeing. Doug figures he's worked on more than 30,000 horses having done everything from backyard horses to top athlete performance horses. He now works for two large barns. One, a client for more than 30 years, is the Holsteiner barn he and Cathy used to work at. The other raises Swedish Warmblood dressage horses. Both are breeding barns, so he does a lot of trimming babies, which he says is his favorite thing. "I get a horse that is unspoiled. No one else has done anything with this horse. It's my fault if anything's wrong," says Doug continuing, "Babies are so cool because they learn so fast. And they can learn bad things so fast. So, it's my job to put a good start on them. And I love it."



Certified Journeyman Farrier trained to be the best.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7



A modern-day cowboy, one way Doug stays busy when not playing music.

When Doug and Cathy moved to Lemitar he played in a country music band for a few years. “I just played whatever I could,” Doug confesses, “real simple country stuff.” His music journey took a positive turn when Mariam Funke (who would later be part of the award-winning trio Cowboy Way with Doug and Jim Jones) came to the area and Cathy saw that this talented musician was offering guitar lessons. “Cathy was very cool about it,” Doug recalls with a smile. “She knew that I may have had some ‘limitations’ so she nudged me toward getting better by buying me lessons for Christmas,” he laughs. (A subtle move we’re all thankful for Cathy!) Doug says he learned more from Mariam and has continued to learn more from him about guitar playing and songwriting than he’s learned from any other source. At this point Doug was still primarily playing country music and southern rock.

So, when did western music enter Doug’s life? Again, we can thank Cathy. In 2011 she saw that the WMA (prior to IWMA) was holding its convention in Albuquerque. She again “nudged” Doug towards attendance. Seeing there was a songwriting workshop he first thought, “Songwriting is some mysterious thing that other people do. No way could I do that.” He’d pretty much resigned himself to do cover songs, feeling that was all he was capable of. But Cathy’s nudge to the convention and into the workshop got Doug to thinking, “Maybe I could do that.” And meeting the WMA members at the convention had him thinking,

“These are my people.” Right after the convention he wrote his first song “The N Bar Song” named for a ranch he shod horses for. Asked if it was any good Doug chuckles and says, “I think it holds up to anything I’ve written...which amazes me...but then again that’s where Mariam came in.” Doug explains that he wrote the lyrics and music and then took the song to him. Mariam made no changes and that encouraging vote of confidence spurred Doug to write others. Now Doug always takes new songs to Mariam for reaction and input which often results in helpful musical suggestions and a co-writing credit for Mariam. Even when writing with other co-writers such as Deanna McCall, Floyd Beard, and Todd

Carter, Doug takes the songs to Mariam for approval or suggestions. He points out for example the 2021 Wrangler Award-winning song “El Caballo del Fuego” that he wrote with Floyd Beard. Doug says Mariam didn’t have to do much, but he believes the little things he did suggest made it an award-winning song.

Speaking of music awards and recognitions... Doug has many. In 2015 things took off for him. “A crazy year,” according to Doug. That year “Socios” was Western Music Association Song of the Year (the song also winning the Academy of Western Artists Will Rogers Award the prior year), “Charlie and Evangeline” won the Western Writers of America Spur Award for Best Western Song, “Running with the Wind” was named Best Western Song by the New Mexico Music Association, and Doug was named WMA Songwriter of the Year and AWA Western Male Performer of the Year. In the years since, several more awards have deservedly come Doug’s way for his solo work and for Cowboy Way’s songs and albums. The key Doug believes, is writing what he likes. “If what I write appeals to me it is likely to appeal to someone else too,” he concludes. Hard to argue with that as it appears to be working for him!

Something else that works for Doug is Cowboy Way. “The trio has been great,” says Doug, “If I could I’d always play with the trio. When the three of us get together it works. It’s a great feeling.” While not always feasible with travel and logistics and three members



Cowboy Way Trio (LtoR) Jim Jones, Doug, Mariam Funke

needing to be paid, the three look forward to playing together whenever they can. Highlights on the trio's future calendar are headlining next year's Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering and Genoa Western Heritage Days. Trio member Jim Jones by the way, was one of the "these are my people" folks that attracted Doug to the International Western Music Association at that first convention. As he does with Mariam, Doug also enjoys duo gigs with Jim, who he credits with being helpful when he was getting started. "Jim recommended me to venues and to gatherings early on and has been amazingly helpful...a good friend," Doug shares.

Asked if he has upcoming projects on the horizon his first response is, "Yes. I've got a '72 El Camino that's taken me three years to tear apart and hopefully in the next couple of years I'll get it all put back together." The non-music related answer underscores the fact that Doug always has a lot of irons in the fire. In addition to his music, he is a hay farmer, keeps cows in addition to their three saddle horses, is passionate about hunting, is grandparent to 11 with one more on the way (the product of his and Cathy's blended family of four children), co-hosts the weekly live "Keepers of the West" radio show on RioGrandeValleyRadio.com with Reese Janca, and of course, there's the farrier work that affords him the opportunity to do music and everything else.

Oregon horseman **Tom Swearingen** is an award-winning cowboy poet who tells stories of the people and land of the American West through original poetry that is often inspired by his own experiences and observations from the saddle. He loves the cultural tradition and artform of western and cowboy poetry. Writing and performing poetry himself comes from a desire to continue the tradition, and his western lifestyle provides much inspiration. Tom brings his stories to life with rhythm and rhyme and a style that makes him a popular performer.

Directing the question of upcoming projects specifically to music, we learn of two new albums in Doug's plans. The first, recorded in September at Butch House's The Ranger Station Studio in Colorado is a revisit of some of his older songs. Songs Doug considers his best that he hopes to release before the end of the year. And then, after the first of the year Doug will record an album of all new songs set for release in the summer of 2023.

Through it all Cathy works with Doug on the scheduling and business end of the farrier and music business. "She tells me where to go," Doug deadpans in what could be the punchline to one of his on-stage jokes. The jokes. If you've had the pleasure of taking in a Doug Figgs performance you've heard (and likely groaned at) his puns. "It's tough getting out in front of people. A joke gets people relaxed and gets me relaxed. When people laugh at a joke, I'm ready," Doug explains.

Well Doug, we're ready too. For those two upcoming albums and whatever else might be in your musical future. When asked if he had any final thoughts Doug shared, "God has blessed me in so many ways and that's what I appreciate most. I believe that any talent I have is God given and it's my responsibility to develop that." 🐾



Cathy with Doug after receiving one of his many awards.

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WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR

2022

**Waxahachie Chautauqua Cowboy
Poet Gathering**

October 8 – Waxahachie, TX

**Western Music & Cowboy Poetry at
Columbia Gorge**

October 22 – The Dalles, OR

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering

October 28-30 – Ft. Worth Stockyards, TX

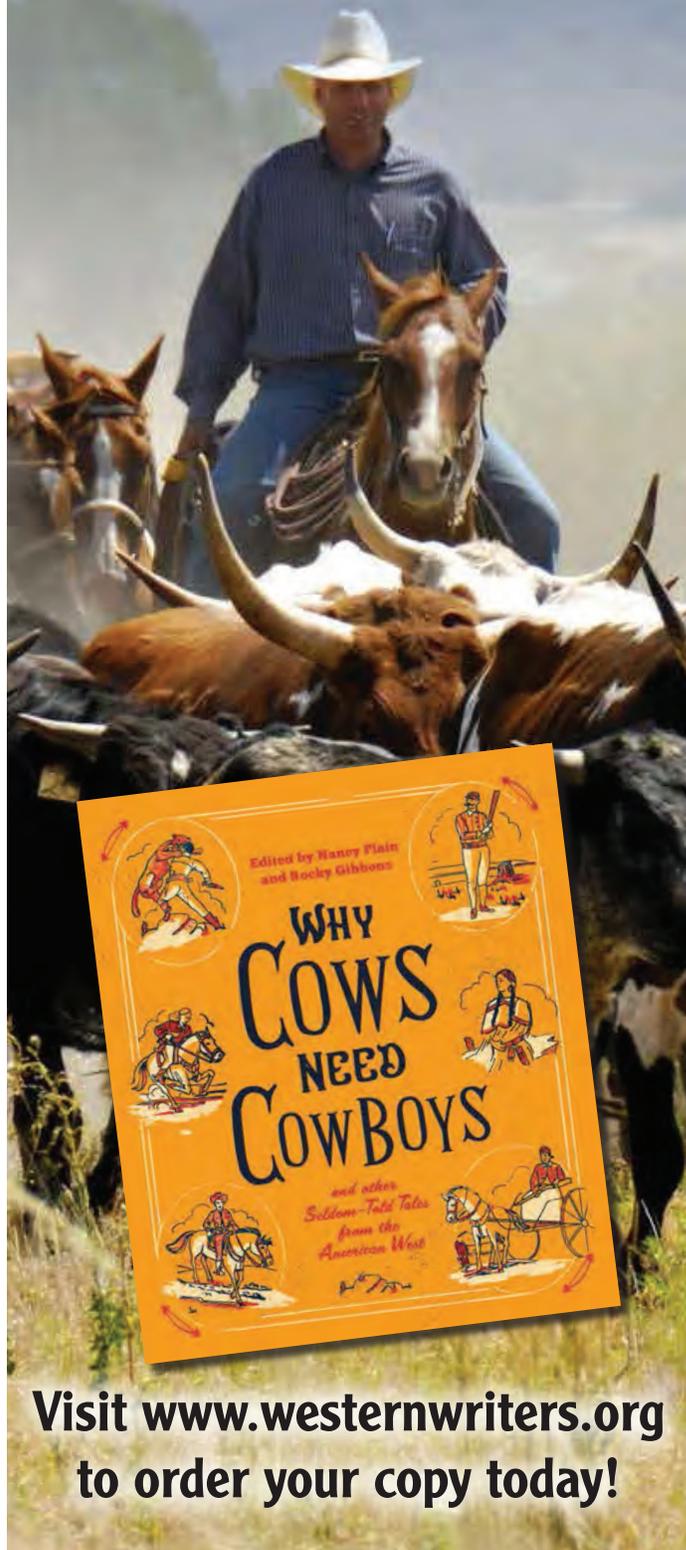
Western Slope Cowboy Gathering

November 4-5 – Junction, CO

IWMA2022 Convention

November 9-13 – Albuquerque, NM

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Penned by Lantern Light

This column will spotlight members of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the International 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.



COFFEE WITH THE LORD

by Charles 'Smokey' Culver

*The workday will be startin' soon, a chill is in the air
the cows are stirrin' in the mornin' light
The coffee's brewin' on the fire, a cowboy's wakeup call
I had myself another restful night*

*I look up at the sky as stars make way for rays of sun
I think of just how all this came to be
Creation lies before me, all its beauty to behold
it's coffee time with just the Lord and me*

*I think about the life I might have had if I had gone
the other way, not lived the cowboy's dream
If I had never spent the night out on the open range
or tasted water from a mountain stream*

*I guess a hand reached down to me from up above somewhere
and pointed me to-ward the western sky
Cause I was destined to become exactly what I am
I guess I'll be a cowboy till I die*

*Every time I bow my head to say a prayer of thanks
I look down at these old dusty boots I wear
And realize how blessed I am, no briefcase in my hand
a saddle, not a fancy office chair*

*Now, I'm not sayin' that my life is easy, not at all
but I'd not want to trade with anyone
I'll ride as long as I can saddle up and say a prayer
and work each day from dawn till setting sun*

*This life of workin' cattle has been one of great rewards
He rides beside me watchin' o'er the herd
We have this talk each mornin' while the world is quiet and still
and when I speak He listens to each word*

*That special way he answers me, I always understand
he tells me of his love in many ways
A gentle breeze across the grassy plains, a sky of blue
a field of wildflowers on a sunny day*

*Recalling when I saw a herd of mustangs running free
across a canyon on a winter morn
I pull my Stetson down and feel the comfort that it brings
cause just like me, it's gettin'n kinda worn*

*Of all the trails I've followed in the years that I have lived
they've wound around, not one has yet been straight
But I've survived the challenges, the trials that I have faced
and done my best at closin' every gate*

*Of all of my possessions, all the earthly goods I own
there's none that I'd not gladly give away
If keepin' it meant giving up the life that I have known
and ridin' for the brand another day*

*As mornin' falls and birds begin to sing their cheerful songs
I pour a cup and look around to see
Another day, another chance to live my life for Him
enjoying what the Lord has given me*

*A man can be a king with gold and treasures that abound
and anything he wants he can afford
Yet he'd not be as rich as this ol' cowboy sittin' here
enjoyin' mornin' coffee with the Lord...*



Charles 'Smokey' Culver was born in Baytown, grew up in Pasadena and Southeast Texas and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad from 1970-1995 and still works as a Safety Consultant for the railroad. He is a ranch hand and investigator at Habitat for Horses Rescue Ranch in Galveston County, Texas. 'Smokey' writes about whatever comes to his mind, mostly farmers and ranchers and down-home folks. The Lord has blessed the affable cowpoke with the ability to put thoughts into words that generally make sense, and even stir up emotions sometimes. 'Smokey' says: "My poems are both happy and sad. If I make you laugh, I have done my job. If I make you cry, I have done my job."

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...“What Did I Get Myself Into”, a recent composition by **Patty Clayton**, has been chosen as the theme song for a new podcast produced by Dr. James Wall of the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, MT entitled “What Did We Get Ourselves Into.” In the podcast, wives of early Forest Service employees discuss their personal experiences and numerous adventures of marrying “into the outfit.” The first two episodes of this series of podcasts, with more to come, can be heard at forestservicemuseum.org/oral-history-program/podcasts/.

...In July, the Tennessee chapter of the IWMA hosted an event called “Songwriter in the Round Spotlight” at the famous Bluebird Café in Nashville, TN. Featured for this sold-out show were performers **Bobby Marquez, The Farmer and Adele**, and **Mary Kaye Holt**.

...Some well-known cowboy/western musicians and poets helped kick off a new cowboy festival in Waxahachie, TX in October. The “Chautauqua’s Cowboy Poet Gathering,” hosted by Waxahachie’s Chautauqua Auditorium, was held on Saturday, October 8, 8AM-5PM. Admission was free. The lineup included **Kristyn Harris, Devon Dawson, The Ramblin’ Rangers, Mike Blakely, Teresa Burleson, Washtub Jerry**, and more.

...**K.C. LaCourse** wrote a poem titled “Music Fallin’” that was picked up by an Australian country singer, **Warren Kearney**, who put the poem to music. The song was released to radio in July and is dedicated to **Dawn Anita Plumlee, Joe Diffe**, and other singers we have recently lost. The song has been on a Top-40 chart in Australia for several weeks and has gone to #4 on the Strabane Irish chart.

...**Alice Black** recently joined a bluegrass band called “The Downtown Pickers,” playing traditional gospel, country, and western music. Her mother, **Aspen Black**, is meanwhile recording a new album in Nashville. She hopes to release the first single in early 2023.

...In July, **Buddy Greenbloom** released his second original single “Tent City,” a dark tale about the horrors prisoners experienced while incarcerated in the open-air desert jail in Arizona, where temperatures would often exceed 110 degrees. In August, Buddy and his band performed his new song “Rodeo Grounds,” a pun-filled tale of a cowboy surfer out on Ventura (CA) Point.

...The Buffalo, New York Music Hall of Fame has inducted **Nolan Bruce Allen** into its hall of music celebrities. The induction ceremony was held this fall.

...**Tom Swearingen** and his poetry book *Reflection* was featured on Bobbi Jean and Jim Bell’s LA Talk Radio show *Rendezvous with a Writer*. Tom will guest host a December episode with his guests **Doc Mehl** and **Doris Daley**.

...IWMA member **Joe Brown**, writing as E. Joe Brown, saw his novel *A Cowboy’s Destiny* released in August. In support of that, he launched three book-signing tours across Oklahoma and New Mexico this fall. Joe also has been a guest on several radio programs in Oklahoma and New Mexico. In November, he will appear on the LA Talk Radio program *Rendezvous with The Writer*, hosted by Bobbi and Jim Bell.

...In September, **Sam Mattise** put together a show in Weiser, ID called “Cowboy Music and Poetry at the Star.” The star is the historic Star theater in Weiser. He presently produces two other shows in Idaho: The Idaho City Gathering in October in Idaho City, ID and The Wayne Nelson Memorial Music Festival in November in Rupert, ID. This year was the first for a gathering in Weiser, Idaho. It happened Sept. 23-25, Cowboy Music and Poetry at the Star”. The Star is the historic Star Theater in Weiser.

...**Glenn Parker** has recently retired from touring with Gene Watson and is now booking gigs on his own. He has opened concerts for the likes of George Jones, Garth Brooks, Tracey Lawrence, Merle Haggard, Mark Chesnutt, Clay Walker, Willie Nelson, and ZZ Top.

...**Larry Wilder** has been busy performing with a Mariachi Band and teaching yodeling at Music in the Mountains for Songmakers of Southern California. He will work with the Boy Scouts of America and other groups with Veteran's Day activities in November.

...**Ron Christopher** has been in the studio recording a Christmas song titled "The Child." The tune will be released as a digital single in November.

..."The House Still Standing," the latest release by **Cowboy Joe Babcock**, is out now on Chimney Rock Records and is in full rotation on christianservanradio.org. The song is included in his recently released album *Songs Of Life And Love*. The album is country gospel but is a mixture of just about everything including western.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** has hired a virtual assistant through Outsourced Doers. Filipino Redentor Feria is the newest member of her M2B Music marketing team. Almeda plans to stay home more and focus on writing while using technology to reach new fans for her music. She was recently featured as Songwriter of the Month for Nashville Christian Songwriters.

...**Rik "Yonder" Goodell** released two western albums this year. *Why We Cowboy* was released in July and *Saddle-Borne Lessons* in August. Rik's website is yonderintales.com.

...**Merel Bregante** has begun production work on the new **Jim Jones** project, *Story Tellers: Tales From The West*, and the first two singles from **Sarah Pierce**, "Cowboy Way" and "I Want To Go Home." These projects are mastered and ready for release.

...Promoting his new album *Sidekicks and Saddle Pals* on Owlhoot Records, **Dan Robert Crow** has performed this summer around New Mexico at Old Fort Days in Fort Sumner, Old Lincoln Days, and The Geronimo Event Center in Rodeo.

...Geary Parsons and J. Michael Mullins, aka **The Timberline Cowboys**, had a very busy summer. They played numerous benefit concerts, played three nights a week at Durango's Bar D Chuckwagon Chapel, and completed work on their debut album titled *Breathless*. The CD was released in July.

...Santa Fe, NM songwriter **Paul Kelly** has been selected by a panel of judges for the "Songwriter's Spotlight" at the International Bluegrass Music Association convention for the second straight year. Kelly was also selected in 2015. He also released a new western album this year titled *Sugarfoot*.

...September was an exciting month for **Phoebe White** as she celebrated the release of her new album *UnXpected*, featuring Riders In The Sky. She also celebrated her 13th birthday.

...**Devon Dawson** and **Kristyn Harris** are featured in a new documentary film about the history of western swing. In a segment of *Cowtown: Birthplace of Western Swing*, produced by Mike Markwardt, the two perform an original song and highlight the careers of several great ladies of the genre. The film debuts in November in Fort Worth, TX.

...**Igor, the Jazz Cowboy** and former New Christy Minstrels member has registered the trade name "Igor's Christy Minstrels." He performed tribute concerts in August in Santa Maria, CA, Hollywood Hills, CA and Mesa AZ. The show consists of three guys and two ladies and has a Western section as part of the program.

...**KG & The Ranger** expect to finish their new album *Saturday Matinee* in time for the IWMA convention. The project features classics from the days of dime matinees plus a rare gem or two. The album includes Ranger Rick's daughter Angie with some sweet trio harmonies and terrific fiddling by **Suzanne Lansford**.

...**Carol Markstrom** has released a new single titled "Kay-Yah Ha Chickasaw," a song co-written by Carol and **Dawn Anita Plumlee**. The song has been popular in several European countries, New Zealand, and Australia where it has been on a Top-40 Chart for several weeks. In June, it won the Best Songwriting/Lyrics Award from the Cowpokes International Film Festival in Texas.

...A performance at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival in CT capped off a northeastern tour for **Claudia Nygaard** where she was chosen "Emerging Artist" by a juried panel. Following was a western tour through Texas to California and back that included the Durango gathering.

Continued on page 14

...**Allen & Jill Kirkham** teamed up with **Scott Tonelson** (aka Scott T) in the studio during the summer to record two singles released to radio in September. Songs were: "Colorado Trail" and the classic hymn "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone."

...**Ralph Estes** will be performing the one-man show "Me and Billy" (story and song) at the Roswell Public Library on January 8 at 2:30 pm. The program, which tells of Ralph's days with his best friend Billy the Kid, is sponsored by the New Mexico Humanities Council and is thus free to the public.

...Steve and Terri Taylor, collectively known as **STAMPEDE!**, have been voted as "The Top Country Band in Northern Utah" for the 3rd year in a row!

...**Teresa Kay Orr** presented her Tribute to Korean Veterans at the Siouland Freedom Park Memorial Fundraising Ball in Sioux City, IA in October.

...**Juni Fisher** has been showing her mare, Reydio Airplay, at National Cutting Horse Association approved shows on the west coast, and winning checks. The mare, affectionately known as DeeJay was sired by Fisher's winning mount at the NRCHA Celebrity Cowhorse Challenge ten years ago. Also, Juni's signature look has been chosen by a nationally known maker of silver trophy buckles to be their newest image for custom belt buckles. Designs will be released later this year if all goes as planned.

...**Templeton Thompson** recently released a new video for her latest single "Get Back Up", the title track of her new album and simultaneously released her new single to Australian country radio. In September, she returned to her home state of Texas with her husband Sam to perform at the *Road to the Horse Wild Card Challenge* in Ft. Worth and at the *First H.E.L.P. 2022 Honor Dinner* in Dallas.

...In August, **Grace Clark** was a featured performer at the Northwest Western Swing Music Society's 30th Annual Western Swing Music Festival and Hall of Fame Celebration in Enumclaw, WA. She is currently in the studio, working on an album of a dozen or so of her original songs.

...The digital release of the new **Randy Huston** album, *Times Like These*, was August 26. By the end of the first weekend, the songs had over 13,000 streams. Since January, songs off the album have been in social media videos and have had almost five million views.

...**Riley Black**, son of **Aspen Black**, graduated high school this year and is headed to Liberty University to major in Aviation.

...In August **Tom and Carla Swearingen** celebrated the 5th birthday of granddaughter Flora, the subject of Carla's *Flora is Curious* children's books. And by the time of this reading, they are celebrating the birth of her new cousin, their second grandchild. 🐾



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INTERNATIONAL WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION

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 bestofthewest@swcp.com

In August we saw the 102nd anniversary of milestone legislation. It marked the signing of the 19th Amendment, nationally assuring women of their right to vote. That's noteworthy, but we must add the word "nationally" there because, it turns out, women in the West could vote decades earlier! That is just one of the eye-openers revealed in the writings of our column's subject this time around. She is the accomplished historian, performer, prolific author (and Past-President of the Western Writers of America) Chris Enss.

"In the West women who were landowners could vote in elections," Enss told us in an interview from her Northern California home. "Not all history was attractive. Mainly it was the ladies of ill repute who owned property. If you bought a license for your business, you could vote!" Enss has penned dozens and dozens of books and articles covering various aspects of frontier life, but her particular specialty concerns the various ladies who helped build the Western legacy, whether famous or unknown (until now)! Many feel she has become "the" authority on the subject. The women Enss has covered in absorbing accounts for over thirty years were tradespeople, actresses, homesteaders, explorers, doctors, mail order brides, Little Big Horn widows and, of course, there were plenty of those "ladies of ill repute." And, for our purposes, Enss has also collaborated with Howard Kazanjian on two books about the King & Queen of the West. First there came "The Cowboy and The Señorita" and now this year's "Happy Trails: A Pictorial Celebration of the Life and Times of Roy Rogers & Dale Evans." On that famous teaming Enss is serendipitous.

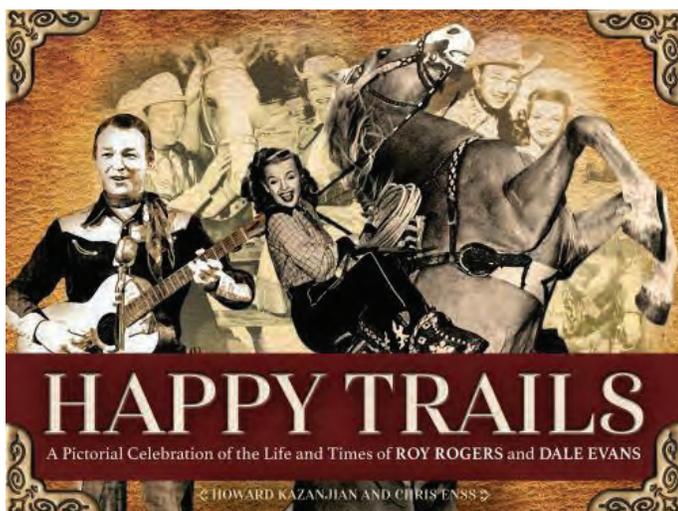
"Of all the things I've been able to do, writing about Roy & Dale has been my favorite! The chemistry between them was palpable. Dale's first dream was to be on Broadway. The last thing she thought she would ever do was to be in Westerns with Roy! She was cast in "The Cowboy & The Señorita" and immediately she thought to herself 'I'm going to be better than they even think and so they'll look at me and say why is she in these pictures?!'" Dale just *might* have come to see them differently!! Enss laughs "they were signed to do seven more pictures!" And in a way Dale finally got her Broadway wish fulfilled. Fans will recall that Republic's chief Herbert Yates saw the big west musical "Oklahoma" in New York and was inspired to create staged production numbers for those films...and, unfortunately for him, also Vera Rhuba Ralston. But that's another story.

Well suited to researching the activities and lives of the Women of the West, Chris Enss is also a licensed private investigator! As she tells it, "I don't like to get my history filtered through something else because it could be wrong. I like to go to primary source material. I enjoy the deep dive!" One such submersion involved going to the area in Pinewood, NC that had hosted Annie Oakley's shooting school and scouring through archives. Her work resulted in the book "The Trials of Annie Oakley," wherein she chronicles the legendary sharpshooter's six-year battle in the courts suing William Randolph Hearst and his fifty-five papers for Defamation of Character. As Enss reports "from fifty-four of them, Annie won as much as \$1000 and as little as a dime!!"

Another result of Chris Enss' research was an award-winning Western song. Enss co-wrote "A Cowgirl's Lament" with Mark Jackson, David R. Morgan & Pamela Haan. It was inspired by the lives of the ladies who worked shows with Casey Tibbs...in particular one young trick roper who fell in love with the legendary rodeo star. Like Vaughn Horton's



Chris Enss





Chapter Update

ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: John Paulson
johnpaulson1945@gmail.com

As temps heat up in Arizona, so does anticipation for a chapter meeting and jam in October. This is an important time for the chapter as all offices (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) will need to be filled. The leadership and future of the chapter is at stake. There are capable and gifted members who can brighten the future of the chapter so all chapter members are asked to please step up and consider this challenge.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Greg Khougaz
gregkhougaz@earthlink.net

Howdy from California! It was a busy summer though it began bittersweet. July 10, friends and family of Jack Hummel gathered with Voleta to celebrate his life and many contributions to the IWMA. We enjoyed the comradery and soliloquy, poems and songs of tribute to our official photographer. We gathered again on August 14 to pay tribute to our friend and behind-the-scenes worker, Diane Bergstrom. Her loving husband, John, and the IWMA Mercantile will especially miss her. It was a summer of music! July 24, many of us attended and performed at the Cowboy Social Club's "All-American Pancake Breakfast" at the Burbank VFW. Early August saw 3 Trails West, accompanied by Marvin Gruenbaum, lifetime violist with



3 Trails West, Lori Beth Brooke and Marvin Gruenbaum

the Kansas City Symphony and Lori Beth Brooke, International Yodeling Champion and Accordionist, take the southern route to So Cal for 3 shows including one night under the stars at Marilyn Tuttle's. August 13, our Poet Lauriat, P.W. Conway, hosted a Cowboy Poetry Contest and IWMACC showcase at the Ventura County Fair. In addition to the great poetry contest, there were performances from Mr. Conway and Charles "Smokey" Culver from the Texas chapter. Musical performers included Fiddlin' Phil Salazar, Buffalo Bryan Marr, Joe Lima, Ron Christopher, David Volk and Bob Thomas. Continuing with the Texas flavor, we enjoyed a house concert from one of the IWMA's most honored

performers, Belinda Gail, at Marilyn's whose backyard is a veritable, Western Red Rocks. Speaking of our Grand Dame (Marilyn), September 3 we gathered for a "Pickin' Party" at her home to celebrate her **th birthday! She still rocks with those beautiful, Western harmonies and it's an honor to sing with her! As you can see California is charging into fall.



Belinda Gail performs at house concert.



P. W. Conway, Cowboy Poet



"Fiddlin' Phil" Salazar and Joe Lima



"Fiddlin' Phil" with David Volk

COLORADO CHAPTER

President: Levi Cody Richardson
howdylevecody@gmail.com

Well, the Summer of 2022 is coming to an end, but this Chapter is just beginning to get its wheels rollin' again for a revival of the super popular SHOWCASES that made our Chapter grow strong a few years ago! The first Showcase of this year was held at the home of Susie Knight in Conifer, Colorado on Saturday, September 24. The Professional Chapter Members that replied first to the "Call for Performers" sent via email to the Performing Members by Secretary/ Treasurer and Showcase Liaison, Susie Knight, are Patty Clayton, Steve Jones, Jimmy Lee Robbins,

Continued on page 18

Two-Cents of Songwriter Savvy

BY A.B. SHAW



Dear Ms. Two Cents. To address your “chicken or egg” question, I have to say I hardly ever write the words first. I write the words and music together, although I spend a lot of time editing the words to get it where I’m happy with it. Thanks for your insight!

In my first column, which debuted in the summer issue of this fine publication, I wrote about the songwriting process from the query “which do you write first: the words or the music?” This question intrigues me because songs are so unique in that they combine two stand-alone art forms: words and music, to create a hybrid entity called a “song.” I closed my article with a request for the “two-cents” of others with the hope of exchanging ideas and opinions with them, so I was thrilled to receive a long and thoughtful email response from a member and past president of the IWMA Western Wordsmith Chapter, Dan “Doc” Wilson.

Dan points out, **“Alan Jay Lerner claims his partner, Frederick Lowe, always added the music after he’d written the words. I think Richard Rodgers also added music to lyrics first written by Oscar Hammerstein III. Ira Gershwin, on the other hand, wrote words to the music of his brother George after the music had been written.”**

Absolutely! It does work both ways! There is no right or wrong answer to the songwriter “which comes first” question. However, I will dare to postulate that there **MUST** be some form established, a set of metric boundaries, for the words and music to fit together effectively. This essential metric form can be established by the words or by the music. Either way will work if meter is involved.

I really like Dan’s comment about spending **“a lot of time editing the words.”** I believe this supports my words-first position. (Not suggesting right or wrong. It’s just how I process my songwriting.) As I pointed out in my last column, words must make sense and convey a cohesive cognizant idea and be concise in doing so. The words need to be fresh, memorable, and singable. In my opinion, I see a lot less leeway in the choice of words for a song than in the choice of notes of a melody or maybe even the chords used to structure the melody. Of course, that’s why words require so much editing!!

In my **GIVE IT A TRY**, I suggested writing a poem with the goal of perfect meter and rhyme, an exercise in word choice forcing one to fit words into a pre-determined meter pattern, much like a jigsaw puzzle. I have to say, Tom Hawk, IWMA member of the East Coast chapter, hit it **RIGHT** on the money with his poem, “The Bison.” I could not find a single misstep of meter and only two very minor, actually insignificant, end rhyme differences involving plural versus singular. I realize he didn’t write his poem in specific response to my challenge, but he accomplished exactly what I was getting at. “The Bison” is an outstanding example of writing poetry with perfect meter and rhyme. **[See Western Way, Volume 32, Issue 3, Summer 2022, page 11]**

Dan differentiates between adapting and setting poetry to music when he says, **“I’ve also “adapted” cowboy poetry to music rather than “set to music” because I found I had to modify the poem to fit the melody. “Set to music” implies what you so perfectly stated that the poem needs to be in perfect meter first.”** I think there’s something to this.

My first album project was “Voices from The Range: Almeda Terry Sings the Poetry of Rhoda Sivell.” I discovered Rhoda’s poetry Labor Day weekend 2009 at the Bear Lodge Resort in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. Perusing books in the gift shop, I selected a paperback edited by Virginia Bennet called, “Cowgirl Poetry.” I read the very first poem, “The Range Call.” It nearly knocked me over. Rhoda’s expressions of being “lonely for the old range” and for her “old friends and the

Continued on page 19

“GIVE IT A TRY”

Choose an existing song and rewrite the words. Use the melody and follow the established meter. Write it as a completely different song, different topic, different theme. This is an exercise in the jigsaw puzzle of word choice. Have fun!

Almeda Bradshaw comes from a long line of writers. Her bookshelves hold a treasure of family journals, diaries, books and manuscripts dating back to the late 1800s. Almeda feels privileged to be carrying on that tradition through her own life of journaling, essays, poetry, songwriting and, under the pen name **A.B. Shaw**, her work as a free-lance writer and future novelist.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 16

and The Russellers (Dennis and Beverly Russell). Hosting a Showcase is easy and fun! If you're thinking about hosting a Showcase in your area or home, contact Susie Knight at lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com for more information. On the last Saturday of July, Susie Knight and several of our Chapter Members met up in Florissant, Colorado for the annual Heritage Day Celebration at the Florissant Grange. Although this was not an IWMA-CO Showcase, Susie called upon her talented friends in the IWMA Colorado Chapter (Levi Cody, Sonja Oliver, Jimmy Lee Robbins, and Dennis Knill) to join her in bringing western music and cowboy poetry to the event.



LtoR Levi Cody Richardson, Susie Knight, Dennis Knill, Sonja Oliver and Jimmy Lee Robbins.

Dennis Knill even took on the role of a strolling balladeer outdoors on the midway where people were perusing the arts and crafts. He pointed them toward the free entertainment inside the Grange Hall where they could partake in free refreshments, listen to the music and poems, and pick up a complimentary copy of *The Western Way* magazine. The Pass-the-Boot donations were very generous and helped the entertainers with their travel expenses. Looking ahead to the IWMA Convention, this Chapter looks forward to meeting YOU in the Franciscan Room of Hotel Albuquerque immediately following the Friday Night Opry (11/11/22) for a SHARING SESSION! (Unlike a Jam Session, we'll go around the circle and give everyone, members and non-members alike, a chance to shine—western style!) SEE YOU THERE!

COLUMBIA CHAPTER
President: Tom Swearingen
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Notable Exceptions has been busy around home this summer with music and more. *Jewelry By Notable Exceptions* has a regular artisan booth at the Ellensburg Farmers Market, where Judy

Coder and Jennifer Epps are gaining lots of new friends and fans. A very successful evening for the First Friday Art Walk gave folks in Ellensburg a chance to take in a healthy dose of Notably Happy Music. They participated in International Play Music on the Porch Day with a live show from their front porch. October will find them up in Canada with Doris Daley and Doc Mehl for a big concert that's been in the works since the Beforetimes. They are looking forward to being back on the road and will see y'all in Albuquerque! B.C.'s Ed Wahl and Alberta's Mike Dygert have been



Mike Dygert and Ed Wahl

plenty busy performing together and with others. They report a great time at the Stoney Plain Cowboy Gathering, two nights at the "Greatest Outdoor Show on

Continued on page 30

#1 THE REAL WEST

PATTY CLAYTON

- Prairie Passages
- Long Gone Out West Blues
- A Call For Brides
- This Flat Land
- Red Buffalo
- Prairie Dog Blues
- Wagonhound
- One Lone Man
- The Lilacs & The Roses
- Buffalo Chips
- Before the Prairie Met the Plow

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- JOE NEED, PRODUCER, COMPOSER, FIDDLER

WESTERN WORLD TOUR

Continued from page 15

“Teardrops In My Heart” the song as performed by Enss has a sung intro and outro with an extended recitation between. In 2021 it took top honors as the Wild West Festival’s “Country Song of the Year!” (Even the Wild West Film Festival doesn’t distinguish Western from Country!! Growl!) But Enss confesses to having her own particular burr under the saddle. “It really chaps my hide when I hear people say women were excluded because men wrote (the histories). It’s not true!” Enss exclaims. “There were very few women out in the Gold Rush area and the women they did meet were women of ill repute! They’re not going to write home about that!” The period accounts by men did cover Nancy Kelsey, the first white woman to cross the Sierras by wagon train, and they did so with respect and a certain awe. “She made the journey barefoot and carrying a one-year-old baby,” Enss reveals, “so whenever the men were tempted to stop, they would look back and see her! There are amazing stories about what women endured to have a better life for themselves and their families.”

TWO-CENTS OF SONGWRITER SAVVY

Continued from page 17

voices I love to hear” spoke directly to my wounded heart. I had recently moved from a small prairie town in north central Montana to the big city of Billings. I was being divorced from a marriage, the family, friends, town, and location I loved for so many years. Thus began my cathartic journey into the poetry of Canada’s pioneer ranch woman, Rhoda Sivell (1873-1962).

While getting to know Rhoda’s life story, I discovered she had been approached by a song publisher in the 1950s. He recognized the song potential in her work and asked for the rights to her poetry. She turned him down. I feel distinctly honored that years later, I received permission from Rhoda’s grandson, William Sivell, to set her poetry to music. The task was not hard. The meter and rhyme of Rhoda’s poetry made singing it easy.

IWMA Western Wordsmith member, Dale Paige, related this amazing co-writing experience to me: ***“Mary Kaye asked me to write a poem she could put to music. I was sitting at the kitchen bar when my wife, Paula, walked up behind me and read my newly finished lyrics on my laptop. Then we spontaneously started singing the same tune to my carefully metered poem!”***

What?? How crazy is that?

Dale continued: ***“That was strange enough, but then, the melody Mary Kaye ended up recording was the same melody Paula and I sang! And I had never told Mary Kaye about that melody!”***

Dale and I talked about how something like that could happen. He attributes it to the perfect meter it was written in because Mary

Chris Enss provides the material for a much longer column to be written than this one. But we’d say songwriters and poets might do well to lay in a supply of her books. That way people will have the security of knowing their inspiration will come from “the facts, ma’am, just the facts!”

Unfinished Business:

Upon seeing the WWT column in the WW Summer 2022 issue and citing confusion that has apparently gone unchecked for decades, reader Jack Falk alerted us to the existence of two apparently unrelated but similarly occupied Ruth Grubers!!! Even an online IMDb biography we consulted mixes the ladies’ life works on Jewish culture subjects. For clarity see Ruth Ellen Gruber’s posting “My Farewell To The Other Ruth Gruber!” From my column you can strike the bits about documentaries being done about her life and, happily, her obituary. Ruth Ellen, author of “Sturm & Twang—Sauerkraut Cowboys...” is very much alive, so maybe I can eventually fulfill my wish to speak with her after all! 🐾

Kaye remarked to him how easy it was to put the lyrics to music. So, whether you are a words first songwriter or melody first or words and music at the same time type of songwriter, the key to good songwriting, in my humble opinion, is meter.

Dan describes his song writing process like this: ***“I always do the words and the melody simultaneously. It feels as if the melody is “embedded” in the words, or emanates from the words, the words magically define the melody and by the time I have the words, I also have the melody.”*** I love this! When the melody is embedded in the words, there is an effective blend of poetic and musical meter. Very cool!!

Ray Kraft has this to say about developing an internal sense of meter: ***“... listen to lots of music, learn the songs, sing along, sing in the car, sing in the shower, sing by the campfire . . . read lots of poetry . . . cowboy poetry . . . and other good rhymed and metered poetry . . . and free verse too . . . Badger Clark . . . Rudyard Kipling . . . James Masefield . . . Robert Service . . . Robert Frost . . . Robinson Jeffers . . . read poetry aloud to yourself . . . aloud to anyone . . . It’s like charging a battery. You charge it until it’s fully charged and eventually your subconscious mind may begin to think in poetry, think in songs.”***

One last quote from Dan: ***“I’m intrigued by the “sung to the tune of” approach of the old days when they wrote lyrics to popular songs of the day. “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean” and “Polly, Wolly, Doodle” were often used.”*** This is an excellent segue into another GIVE IT A TRY challenge.

And that’s my Two Cents of Songwriter Savvy. 🐾

2022

IWMA WESTERN MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

This summer, the Hall of Fame Committee of the IWMA concluded that with so many deserving nominees still on the list for induction it would take several years before they would all get placed in our honorable hall. In the meantime, others might be added to the list making it even longer before the inductions could be done and presented to the IWMA members. Consequently, a decision was made to have a mass induction of 23 well-deserving individuals into the International Western Music Hall of Fame at this year's convention. Some of these names will be familiar to our members and some will not. However, all have left their indelible mark in the advancement and production of western music over the years. Here is the list of inductees with a small bit of information showing why they have been deemed worthy of induction by the Hall of Fame Committee:

Bob Baker A singing movie cowboy, Leland "Tumble" Weed performed at WLS in Chicago before going to Hollywood to begin a career in western movies. Most of his songs for his Universal series were written by IWMA Hall of Famer Fleming Allan. The Baker-Allan combination produced a number of cowboy songs. Bob's career at Universal wrapped up with 31 films in all, several co-starring with Johnny Mack Brown

Charles and Nick Kenny Composers who wrote "Leanin' on the Old Top Rail," "A Cowboy's Serenade," "There's a Goldmine in the Sky," and "Beyond the Purple Hills." Their compositions were recorded by The Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry, Jimmy Wakely, Vaughn Monroe, Eddy Arnold, and others.

Eddie Cherkose A noted film composer who wrote music and lyrics for Republic Studios on a regular basis, sometimes collaborating with Smiley Burnette and others. He contributed songs for approximately 50 movies starring Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Rex Allen, Smith Ballew, Mary Lee, Smiley Burnette, and others.

Johnny Lange "Pecos Bill," "Blue Shadows on the Trail," and "Mule Train," are all familiar songs written by Johnny Lange. He also co-wrote many songs with Lew Porter for records and B-Western films.

Carl Cotner Performer/conductor/arranger for Gene Autry, and violinist who was largely responsible for creating Gene Autry's Western "sound" from the 1940s on, in movies, on recordings, radio and television.

William Lava Soundtrack composer – He wrote the soundtrack music/cues for both the Cheyenne and Zorro TV series. He also co-wrote the theme for Cheyenne with Stan Jones. Credits for his soundtrack music can be seen in numerous B-western movies, especially those filmed at Republic Studios and including Roy Rogers & Gene Autry films. He was also music supervisor/composer for 67 episodes of Bonanza, a contributor to several episodes of Have Gun – Will Travel and over 30 other western films and serials

Jay Livingston & Ray Evans Composers who wrote "Bonanza," "California Rose" [recorded by Vaughn Monroe, Roy Rogers and performed by Roy in Son of Paleface], "Buttons & Bows" [hit recording by Dinah Shore, Gene Autry, etc. and performed in Son of Paleface], "Whing Ding Tonight" [recorded by Jane Russell & Bob Hope and performed in Son of Paleface], "Brave Man" [recorded by Tex Ritter, the Wagonmasters and Rosemary Clooney and performed in Red Garters], and "Streets of Laredo" [recorded by Dick Haymes and Gene Autry, and performed in the 1949 film, Streets of Laredo (starring William Holden)].

Guy Logsdon A historian who was the director of libraries and a professor of American Folklife at the University of Tulsa. His published work included a history of early working cowboy music based on songs he had collected, and he was a fellow at the Smithsonian Institute. Recognized as an authority on Woody Guthrie and Bob & Johnnie Lee Wills, he also wrote the booklet accompanying the Marty Robbins western boxed CD set, Under Western Skies, issued by the Bear Family, and he annotated numerous CDs issued by the Smithsonian.

Frank Luther A composer and major Western performer in the 1920s and 30s, teaming with Carson J. Robison to popularize a number of Western songs and working individually with his wife (Zora Layman), and his trio on record and on the radio. Composed "Curtains of Night," "When it's Roundup Time in Glory," and "A Cowboy's Best Friend" among others.

Dorothy Page The first (and only) singing cowgirl movie star. Grand National Studios tried appealing to a different segment of the audience, the young girls, when they introduced Dorothy Page in "The Water Rustlers." She sang and she was the heroine of the day. Two more films followed, "Ride 'em Cowgirl" and "The Singing Cowgirl."

Lew Porter Composer/arranger/saloon piano player in many B westerns; collaborated with Johnny Lange on B westerns through the early 1940s. Played saloon piano in many uncredited film appearances. His compositions appear in at least 65 western films from 1937-1949.

Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger Composers who wrote "Hills of Old Wyoming," "Silver on the Sage," "The Funny Old Hills," "Lone Cowboy," and "A Gal in Calico" (which Robin wrote with Arthur Schwartz). Their compositions were recorded by The Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry, The Jimmy Wakely Trio, Bing Crosby, and others.

Sid Robin & Foy Willing Co-composers who wrote at least a dozen songs that were performed in the films of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans along with Foy Willing & the Riders of the Purple Sage.

Hans J. Salter A prolific composer of Western film soundtracks who composed a significant amount of the theme and cue music that accompanied a number of Western films from 1939 to 1959 that starred the likes of Johnny Mack Brown, Joel McCrea, Randolph Scott, and John Wayne,

Walter G. Samuels The composer who wrote "Take Me Back to My Boots & Saddle" and "Rollin' Plains" with Leonard Whitcup and Teddy Powell. Alone, Samuels composed film cues and lesser-known songs for several Roy Rogers movies as well as Tex Ritter and Gene Autry films.

2022 IWMA WESTERN MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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Packy Smith: A western film and music historian who co-produced the *Happy Trails Theatre* TNN TV series about Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. He authored books about Gene Autry and Hopalong Cassidy and was the co-founder of the Memphis Western Film Festival. He was an expert on Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Tex Ritter, The Sons of the Pioneers, Rex Allen, Foy Willing and other singing-cowboy stars.

Hank Snow: Although better-known as a country music icon, Snow started his commercial singing career as a cowboy singer, billing himself as "The Cowboy Blue Yodeler," then later as "Hank, the Yodeling Ranger," and then simply "Hank Snow, the Singing Ranger." Calling his home "The Rainbow Ranch" during the early part of his career, he recorded many cowboy and western songs. He later recorded a tribute album to the Sons of the Pioneers.

Rudy Sooter A composer and performer who formed a band that once featured Len Slye, Bob Nolan & Tim Spencer for a couple of years. After forming and performing on three radio stations in Hollywood with other players, he brought Spade Cooley to Hollywood where they played together on many recordings. Sooter played in films with Ken Maynard, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Tex Ritter, and Bing Crosby and recorded with Tex on many of his early recordings.

Max Steiner A soundtrack composer who began writing scores for westerns in 1930 with Edna Ferber's "Cimarron." By 1939 he was scoring ten pictures a year, some with co-composers. His western credits include "The Oklahoma Kid" (Bogart – Cagney), "Dodge City" (Errol Flynn), "Virginia City" and "Santa Fe Trail" (Errol Flynn), "They Died with Their Boots On" (Errol Flynn), "The Searchers" (John Wayne), and "The Hanging Tree" (Gary Cooper), among many others.

The Whippoorwills: Performers who backed Roy Rogers & Dale Evans on the original recording of "Happy Trails." Served as the band for Smiley Burnette's radio show. Leader Roy Lanham later became the lead guitarist for the Sons of the Pioneers.

John White: A performer/writer who, according to historian Jim Bob Tinsley, "Probably more than any other performer delved into the background of songs he sang and wrote numerous articles about their origins." His research resulted in several books and booklets of cowboy/western songs and about their origins.

Tex Williams: A performer widely recognized as a Western swing singer and band leader, Tex also filmed a series of B-Western musical shorts for Universal with his sidemen Smokey Rodgers and Deuce Spriggins, and recorded a number of Western songs. He is best remembered by country music fans as the man who had a big hit of the song "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke That Cigarette."

Victor Young Composer and conductor who wrote the themes from *Shane*, *Rio Grande*, *Johnny Guitar* and other Paramount westerns as well as music for several Hopalong Cassidy features. He also conducted the orchestra for Rex Allen's best-known classic Western album, *Under Western Skies* (Decca Records).



IWMA 2022

“ALL ROADS LEAD TO ALBUQUERQUE”

NOVEMBER 9-13 ★ HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- 10:00 am–8:00 pm **Member Registration & Ticket Sales**
- 10:00 am–6:00 pm **Performers CD Check-In**
- 12:00–1:30 pm **Opening Lunch**
Special Guest Speaker: Ranger Doug-Riders In The Sky
- 1:45–5:00 pm **Showcase Performances**
3 Trails West, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark, Kimberly Kaye, Ed Meyer, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg
- 12:00–6:00 pm **Western Wear Consignment Boutique**
- 7:00–10:00 pm **Swing Dance**
Syd Masters & The Swing Riders

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- 8:00 am–7:00 pm **Member Registration & Ticket Sales**
- 8:00 am–5:00 pm **Western Wear Consignment Boutique**
- 8:00 am–5:00 pm **CD Mercantile**
- 8:30 am–5:00 pm **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**
- 8:30–9:30 am **Coffee with the DJs** – Hosted by Peter Bruce
A time for you to get to know the DJs and learn how to present your music for maximum airplay
- 8:30–9:30 am **Skills for Effective Interviews** – Jennifer Herron
The task of promoting one’s career and raising one’s visibility in Western music and poetry often falls on the artist, but the needed skills do not automatically come to most people. Jennifer Herron brings a wealth of experiences to this session having been in TV and radio for decades. She has knowledge on the kind of information hosts are seeking in interviews and has coached clients in this regard. There is much to facilitating a great interview which can then lead to more airplay and other opportunities. Learning effective interview strategies can also contribute to better stage shows as artists are encouraged to think about how to identify and concisely get across information about themselves during their performances that will have the greatest impacts for their careers.

- 11:30 am–1:00 pm **Recording Workshop** – Dave Martin
This workshop explains the process of recording your own project, from coming up with a realistic budget, to choosing and arranging your songs, and all the way through the mixing and mastering process. Topics will include (but are not limited to): Song selection; Recording other people's songs; Arranging the songs for the recording; Working out a budget; Planning the recording sessions; Choosing a recording space; Figuring out timeline and schedule for the recording; Capturing a great vocal performance; Editing and mixing; Mastering or not; The importance of album graphics; Song publishing and licensing; Distributing your album – DIY or using a distribution company like CD Baby, Tunecore, or Distrokid, and Creating a promotion plan. The goal of the workshop is to give attendees the information they need to plan on creating their own project.
- 1:00–2:00 pm **Sound Workshop** – Leo Eilts, Roger Eilts & Syd Masters
Tips on how to best use a large diaphragm mic in a live setting. Understanding vocal placement, instrument staging, and how to set one up if you are running your own sound. Learn how each member of the band needs to learn how to use the microphone.
- 2:15–3:15 pm **Western Finger Style Guitar** – Scott Tonelson
ScottT will share his talent, approaches, and insights into Western style fingerpicking guitar at this hands-on workshop. Guitar players of all levels are welcome to learn from this workshop. The goal: to help you learn basic thumb and finger picking patterns, basics of Merle Travis and Chet Atkins style guitar picking, how to use a thumb pick, and how to apply these techniques to your favorite Western songs. You can learn to play your very best through tips on tone production, hand position, fluidity, using your palm for muting, harmonics, and musicality. Bring your guitars tuned to standard tuning and any questions you want to ask!
- 3:30–4:30 pm **Open Range Cowboy Music & Poetry** – Steve Cormier
Traditional cowboy music came from the work of ranch hands on the open range and early fenced ranch years. The period is from post-civil war to roughly the 1920s. Working cowboys, mostly anonymous, composed poetry and songs about horses, cattle, love, hate, longing, success, and failure, religion, and death. The music was an expression of their lives and is the foundation of modern western music. We will cover the development of this music from the trail songs of the 1870s to the 1920s "Tyin' Knots in the Devil's Tail" and "Little Joe the Wrangler."
- 10:00 am–4:00 pm **Showcase Performances**
Alice Black, Venessa Carpenter, Sherl Cederburg, Ron Christopher, Jeff Davidson, DoubleTake, Pegie Douglas, Olivia Harms, Independence Creek, KG & The Ranger, Greg Khougaz, Susie Knight, Jeff Mamett, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Claudia Nygaard, Ramblin' Rangers, Timberline Cowboys, Tom Swearingen, Scott T, Phoebe White
- 5:00–6:30 pm **IWMA Raffle & Reception**
- 6:30–9:00 pm **IWMA Benefit Dinner & Concert**
Featuring Dave Stamey

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- 7:30 am–6:00 pm **Member Registration & Ticket Sales**
- 8:00 am–6:00 pm **Western Wear Consignment Boutique**
- 8:00 am–6:00 pm **CD Mercantile OPEN**
Reopens after the Opry
- 8:00 am–6:00 pm **Vendor Area Open**
- 8:00 am–9:30 am **IWMA Chapter Officers Roundtable**
- 8:30 am–4:00 pm **IWMA Youth Chapter Meeting & Workshop**
- 9:45 am–1:45 pm **Campfire Stage**
Vic Anderson, Ned Bodie, Marleen Bussma, Ron Christopher, Smokey Culver, Rik “Yonder” Goodell, Tom Hawk, Paul Kelly, KC LaCourse, Mike Mahaney, Stan Mahler, Barbara Nelson, Dale Page, Rich Price, Lindy Simmons, Bob Thomas
- 2:15–5:00 pm **Development Stage**
Venessa Carpenter, Ted Coffman, Jeff Davidson, Linda Nadon, Judi Seger, Phoebe White
- 10:00 am–5:00 pm **Showcase Performances**
Allen & Jill, Almeda Bradshaw, Lori Beth Brooke, Jon Chandler & Ernie Martinez, Patty Clayton, Steve Cormier, Doug Figgs, Micki Fuhrman, Joni Harms, Kristyn Harris, Mary Kaye Holt, Gary Kirkman, Mike Mahaney, Stan Mahler, Carol Markstrom, Dan McCorison, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Miska Paget, Sarah Pierce, Prairie Moon, The Renfrees, The Russellers, Simple Gifts-The Sawyer Family Band, Bob Thomas, Yampa Valley Steve
- 1:00–2:00 pm **Introduction to Rhythm Guitar** – Ernie Martinez
- 2:15–4:15 pm **Introduction to Western Swing/Jazz Rhythm Guitar** – Grace Clark
with Special Guest Instructor Ernie Martinez
Learn the fundamentals that will jump-start you with this exciting and beautiful guitar style. The course materials provided will allow you to continue learning at home. First, we learn fundamental music theory concepts. Second, we explore the fingerboard knowledge and chord vocabulary that will launch you into a new musical world. Third, we learn the swing guitar strumming style, complete with the “left hand release technique” that puts the exciting “snap” in the rhythm. Fourth - Starting with simple songs, we add “fancy swing chord progressions” one-by-one, until we arrive at fully developed swing-style arrangements of the songs. Bring your guitar!
- 4:30–5:15 pm **Special Showing: Miner’s Candle**
This award-winning short film features IWMA performer Carol Markstrom.
- 7:00–9:00 pm **IWMA Friday Night Western Opry**
Hosted by Roger & Leo Eilts
3 Trails West, Allen & Jill, Floyd Beard, Aspen Black, Almeda Bradshaw, Lori Beth Brooke, Venessa Carpenter, Ron Christopher, Patty Clayton, Doug Figgs, Belinda Gail, Kerry Grombacher, Jerry Hall & Trick Shot, Joni Harms, Kristyn Harris, Mary Kaye Holt, Carol Markstrom, Bobby Marquez, Dan McCorison, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Notable Exceptions, Miska Paget, Prairie Moon, Tom Swearingen, Scott T, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg, Phoebe White

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 7:00–8:30 am **Veterans Appreciation Breakfast** Hosted by Jerry Hall
Belinda Gail, Kristyn Harris, Jim Jones, Robert Lorbeer, Jeneve Rose Mitchell,
Mark Munzert, Sonja Oliver, Dale Page, Rich Price, Simple Gifts-The Sawyer Family Band,
Yampa Valley Steve
- 8:45–9:45 am **IWMA Membership Meeting**
Open to all current and future IWMA members
- 10:00 am–5:00 pm **Western Wear Consignment Boutique**
- 10:00 am–5:00 pm **CD Mercantile** – *Will reopen after Awards Show*
- 10:00 am– 6:00 pm **Registration & Ticket Sales**
- 10:00 am–5:00 pm **Vendor Area**
- 11:00 am–12:30 pm **Poetry Contest** – Emcee: Kimberly Kaye
Vic Anderson, Floyd Beard, Jack Blease, Ned Bodie, Almeda Bradshaw,
Venessa Carpenter, Ted Coffman, Jeff Davidson, Rik “Yonder” Goodell, Tom Hawk,
KC LaCourse, Ed Meyer, Linda Nadon, Dale Page, Miska Paget, Francine Roark Robison,
Lindy Simmons, Ron Wilson
- 12:30–1:15 pm **IWMA Youth Chapter Showcase**
Alice Black, Venessa Carpenter, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg, Phoebe White
- 1:30–5:00 pm **Performer Showcases**
Marleen Bussma, Jim Jones, Bobby Marquez, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Mark Munzert,
Notable Exceptions
- 12:45–1:30 pm **Harmony Contest**
Grace Clark, DoubleTake, Micki Fuhrman, Mary Kaye Holt, Tecia McKenna,
Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg
- 1:45–2:45 pm **Yodeling Contest**
Venessa Carpenter, Igor Glenn, Tom Hawk, Stan Mahler, Jeneve Rose Mitchell,
Kacey & Jenna Thunborg, Phoebe White
- 3:00–5:00 pm **Team Penning**
Smokey Culver & PW Conway, Dan McCorison & Venessa Carpenter, Vic Anderson &
Steve Jones, Doug Figgs & Floyd Beard, Lindy Simmons & Mike Mullins, Pegie Douglas
& Sherl Cederburg, Almeda Bradshaw & Mark Munzert, Tom Swearingen & Joni Harms,
Jeff Davidson & Ron Wilson, Dennis Russell & Beverly Gray-Russell, Lori Beth Brooke
& Teresa Burlison
- 6:30–7:00 pm **Awards Pre-Show** – With Notable Exceptions
- 7:00–10:00 pm **IWMA Awards Show** – Hosted by Jon Chandler

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 7:00 am–12:00 noon **Western Wear Consignment Boutique**
- 9:00 am–12:00 noon **CD Mercantile**
- 9:00 am–12:00 noon **Vendor Area**
- 9:00–11:00 am **Sunday Morning Gospel Concert** – Hosted by Belinda Gail
Allen & Jill, Jack Blease, Almeda Bradshaw, Jeff Davidson, Miss Devon & The Outlaw,
Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Simple Gifts-The Sawyer Family Band

Times & Performers Subject to Change

IWMA 2022 TICKET PRE-ORDER & MEMBER REGISTRATION

November 9-13 – Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

Return to: IWMA | P. O. Box 648 | Coppell, TX 75019 Email Marsha@WesternMusic.org | Call 505-563-0673

Name _____

Spouse or Guest Name(s) if attending _____

Company or Group Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Email _____

IWMA MEMBERS ONLY Check if this is your first time to attend!

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Package <i>(includes ALL workshops and daily showcases; does NOT include evening shows)</i>	\$75/person	\$85/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Sidekick Package <i>(includes workshops, showcases and all ticketed events)</i>	\$225/person \$425/couple	\$265/person \$495/couple
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Spur VIP Package <i>(includes workshops, showcases and reserved seating for all ticketed events)</i>	\$350/person \$575/couple	\$450/person \$695/couple

WEDNESDAY

<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Lunch ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? _____	# of tickets _____	\$40/person	\$50/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Swing Dance	# of tickets _____	\$20/person	\$25/person

THURSDAY

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops (included in all packages; please indicate which which you will attend)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee with the DJs	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Skills for Effective Interviews	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recording Workshop	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Workshop	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Fringer Style Guitar	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Range Cowboy Music & Poetry	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Benefit Dinner & Concert ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? _____	# of tickets _____	\$50/person	\$60/person

FRIDAY

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops (included in all packages; please indicate which you will attend)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Rhythm Guitar	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Western Swing/Jazz Rhythm Guitar	# attending _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Friday Night Western Opry	# of tickets _____	\$20/person	\$25/person

SATURDAY

<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Appreciation Breakfast & Program	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you would like to sponsor a veteran	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you are a veteran...there's no charge for your ticket!			
ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Awards Show	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person

TOTAL DUE

\$ _____

Payment Information

Check/Money Order enclosed Credit Card Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Billing ZIP Code _____

Some space is limited so order tickets early! Cancellations after October 31, 2022 cannot be refunded.

In Memoriam

JACK O. HANNAH (1933 – 2022)



Jack Hannah, age 88, of Fresno, California went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Jack was born in Marshfield, Missouri, in 1933 to Lon and Melba Hannah. The family moved to the San Joaquin Valley in

1937. Jack was raised in the Visalia area and came to Fresno to play baseball and football at Fresno State, where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. After completing his degree, he went on to become a professional baseball player, pitching in the Milwaukee Braves farm system for six seasons.

Jack became a P.E. teacher and coach at Hoover High School and later went on to be a guidance counselor at Clovis West High School. He led the Hoover Baseball team to two Valley Championships and was named Baseball Coach of the Year for the Western Region United States in 1980 and was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

Jack had a solo gospel singing career throughout his life, which produced two albums.

In 1987, Jack, his brother Joe and nephew Lonnie formed The Sons of the San Joaquin, a Western musical group. Jack was awarded several Songwriter of the Year awards from the Western Music Association along with four Western Heritage Wrangler Awards.

Jack was married for 62 years to the love of his life, Linda. Together they had three children, one chosen daughter, two sons-in-law, and nine grandchildren. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, and friend. Jack loved God, loved his family, and loved his fellow man.

A memorial service was held on August 10, 2022, at People's Church in Fresno. In lieu of flowers, the Hannah family requests donations be made to Heart of the Horse Therapy Ranch.

ROBERT "BOBBY" FLORES (1961 – 2022)



Robert Daniel Flores, Jr., "Bobby," went home to be with our Lord at the age of 61 on Thursday, June 23, 2022, after a hard-fought battle with esophageal cancer. He was a musical prodigy, a lover of nature, a loyal American, a believer in Christ, a devoted family man, and a good friend to many.

Bobby was born on June 18, 1961 in San Antonio, TX and was married on December 28, 1979 to his loving wife, Annette (Stokes) Flores. Together, they raised three children.

Bobby was introduced to music at a very young age, picking out harmonies on his father's old accordion at two or three. By the age of 7, one year after Bobby broke his father's guitar by turning it on its side and riding it like a horse, he mastered the guitar. There was a time when his prized Ventura 12-string acoustic guitar was taller than him. With his ear for music and perfect pitch, Bobby could play any instrument put in front of him – not just well, but brilliantly. Indeed, shortly after being asked to work with Bobby, both his guitar and violin instructors had to report that there was nothing more they could teach him.

Starting his singing career as a child, Bobby performed in a duo with his mother, and by age 13, started performing with his own band at fairs and festivals. One of the family's favorite memories is the Big Red Commercial Bobby did in the '70s where he sang the song he had written in his red country-western suit. While still in school, Bobby started performing with Ray Price whenever possible, which led to a lifelong standing invitation for Bobby to perform in Ray's band, which he did for decades. At 19, Bobby joined the band of Texas legend Johnny Bush, whom he also continued to perform with over the years. In his lifetime, Bobby led several bands, including The Boiz, Gone City, Angel Fire (with brother Greg and sister Sandra), and Bobby Flores and the Yellow Rose Band, and he performed in many others. In 2002, he started his own label, Yellow Rose Records, under which he released eight albums over the next 16 years, including 2018's *Coming Full Circle with God*, featuring many of the Christian hymns he had performed with his mother in the early days, and which included a special performance with his mother, four days before she passed, singing *What a Day That Will Be*.

In Memoriam

Bobby studied music theory and classical violin at Trinity University under Dominic Saltarelli. He also studied jazz guitar with Jackie King, and classical guitar with David Underwood. Though a legend in his own right, he never stopped collaborating with other musicians, allowing him to perform at places like the Grand Ole Opry and Austin City Limits. He was well-known throughout Texas as a solo artist and often appeared on Tru-Country. He has credits on over 400 albums and singles, including major label artists and performers from outside of the United States, and not just in country music, but in jazz, blues, classical, and Latin music as well. He received a Grammy Award in 2002 for his string and brass arrangements and violin performances on Freddy Fender's album *La Musica de Baldemar Huerta*. One of Bobby's recordings, *I Wonder Who'll Turn Out the Light*, was included in Tommy Lee Jones' 2005 film, *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*. He also composed all the music for the Emmy-nominated documentary *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez*. In 2009, Bobby established the B.A.M. Recording Studio and the Bulverde Academy of Music School where he taught music. His great joy was to instill in his students, and especially children, a love and passion for music. We will never fully know the impact and ripple effect Bobby had on the lives of those he taught. Bobby will be missed tremendously by his family, friends, students, colleagues, fans, and the country music industry. Our loss is Heaven's great gain. A celebration of life will be scheduled for a later date.

ALVIN G. DAVIS (1927 – 2022)



Alvin Glen Davis passed away June 22, 2022, he was 94 Years old. Alvin was born to Glenn M. Davis and Viva (Cowdrey) Davis on November 12, 1927 at home in the Graham Chapel Community southwest of Post, Texas.

He graduated from Post High School in May of 1944 and attended Texas A&M for one semester. When he turned 18, he joined the Army and was honorably discharged at the end of his enlistment at 19 having attained the rank of Sergeant. In 1947 he enrolled at Texas Tech and graduated with a BS in Agriculture in 1951.

On July 28, 1955, he married Barbara Ann Hext of Apache Creek, New Mexico.

In 1948 Alvin was named the Top 4-H Boy in the U.S. as the winner of the National 4-H Leadership Award. That same year he founded the Southwestern Championship Junior Rodeo at Post, Texas. In 1950 he was elected President of the Texas Tech Rodeo Association. In 1952 Alvin founded The American Junior Rodeo Association and served as its Secretary-Manager for 6 years. In 1955 he became the first Secretary-Manager of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. In 1984 he was named Outstanding Citizen in Terry County and in 1984 he was selected to be the first inductee into the Texas Tech Rodeo Hall of Fame. He was presented with the Texas Tech Ex-Students Association Distinguished Service Award in 1990. Alvin was inducted into the Buddy Holly Walk of Fame in 2003, named an Honorary Masker Rider in 2004 and inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2009.

Alvin worked at Brownfield State Bank from 1952 through 1964 and the First National Bank Clovis from 1964 to 1965. From 1959 through 1979 he was Owner/Co-owner Manager of the Cowboy Stores in Post, Levelland and Brownfield. In 1981 he joined the Ranching Heritage Center at Texas Tech and was the Executive Vice President and General Manager until his retirement in 1993. From 1994 through 2015 Alvin devoted his time to the National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration held annually in Lubbock. Alvin dedicated his entire life to preserving and promoting Western Heritage and Cowboy Culture. He was a founding member of IWMA and served many years on the IWMA Board of Advisors.

Over his lifetime Alvin was an active member of the Church of Christ and served as an Elder in several of the congregations he attended. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Barbara (Hext), His children Bob Davis and his wife Lee, Debbie (Davis) Garland and her husband Mike, Todd Davis and his wife Lena, his grandchildren Travis Garland and his wife Erika, Taylor (Garland) Neal and her husband David, Cameron Davis, Annie Davis and his great granddaughters Avery Neal and Emily Neal.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to The Alvin G. & Barbara A. Davis Rodeo Endowed Scholarship, Texas Tech University, Davis College P.O. Box 42123, Lubbock, Texas 79409-2123

Continued on page 33

Chapter Update

Continued from page 18

Earth" Calgary Stampede, and a variety of corporate and other events. Thankfully, lifted Covid-19 travel restrictions will once again allow them to venture south of the Medicine Line and they'll be part of the Columbia Chapter's October Annual Meeting and Showcase Concert in The Dalles, OR. Others in the cast are Duane Nelson, Larry Wilder, Barbara Nelson, Tom Swearingen, Chinook Winds (Veronica Manis and Joe McCutcheon), Sam Mattise, Ned Bodie, Janice Williams, Venessa Carpenter, and Thomas Fitzgerald.



Venessa Carpenter

The concert will also feature our latest youth cowboy poetry contest winners. Suze Spenser instructed and was Camp Coordinator at the Northwest Swing Music Society Music Camp. Columbia Chapter members Grace Clark and Lynn Kopelke were among



Suze Spencer, Grace Clark, Lynn Kopelke are pictured (front left) with other concert performers

the participants. Oregon's St. Paul Rodeo featured Tom Swearingen and Joni Harms one night and Joni and Olivia Harms another...three

hour shows before the rodeo. Joni and Tom also played the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering. Tom, Olivia, and Kathy Moss took to the stage at the McKay Creek Cowboy Gathering in Central Oregon.



Tom Swearingen and Joni Harms

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen
orin@rbanjoranch.com

The IWMA Kansas Chapter was well-represented at this year's celebration of the National Day of the Cowboy, which was held at Pioneer Bluffs in the beautiful Kansas Flint Hills. Jeff Davidson and Annie Wilson & Tallgrass Express provided the music, while Ron Wilson and Scott Wiswell entertained the crowd with



Ron Wilson entertains on Day of the Cowboy.

their cowboy poetry. Orin Friesen spoke about the history of the area's country (and western) music and showed lots of photos from his latest book, *Honky-Tonkers & Western Swingers*. Before the Covid pandemic, we began our quarterly meetings with a "lunch and learn" program. Lunch & Learn returned for our summer meeting. Annie Wilson spoke on the "Osage Nation, Culture and History – An Education Project." Ron Wilson and

Jeff Davidson will be presenting a program at the Santa Fe Trail Center in Larned, Kansas, on September 24. Ron and Jeff are also members of the International Chisholm Trail Association and are planning to attend the annual meeting in Oklahoma City on October 14-15.

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black
aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

Kerry Grombacher performed on the Rhythmporium Stage at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on Friday May 6. This was Kerry's fifth appearance at Jazz Fest, which takes place over two weekends



Kerry Grombacher performs at Jazz Fest.

every spring. Tom Hawk of Cumberland, MD, toured and performed along the route of the Chisholm Cattle Trail in Kansas, May 5-15, as the guest of the International Chisholm Trail Association. Tom had very successful performances at the Caldwell, KS, Annual Chisholm Trail Days, at Cowtown in Wichita, KS, at the Lazy T Ranch in Manhattan, KS, and in Ellsworth, KS. He also had a fun radio interview and live



Tom Hawk

Continued on page 38

IWMA WESTERN CONSIGNMENT

Boutique

It's time to start cleaning closets and looking for those perfect items for the IWMA Western Consignment Boutique November 9-13 in Albuquerque.

Beginning at noon, Wednesday, Nov 9 the boutique will be accepting items to sell. We will also accept items from 8 am to 5 pm on Thursday, Nov 10.

New and gently worn Western clothing, jewelry, boots, hats and instruments are rounded up and ready to purchase beginning at 8 am Thursday Nov 11.

This is an excellent opportunity to purchase great finds and help the IWMA. 15% percent of all consignment sales



NOVEMBER 9-13 IN ALBUQUERQUE

go directly to the IWMA. Better yet is the opportunity to make some money by selling your new or gently worn western items!

For those who arrive Friday and Saturday, items will be accepted before 3 pm each day.

Detailed guidelines and clothing tags can be downloaded from the IWMA website. Look for the

Convention Schedule for Wednesday and download the Boutique Guidelines and Clothing Tags or contact Marsha at 505-563-0673 or marsha@westernmusic.org for details.

Please pass along this information to your fellow performers, members and friends of the IWMA. 🐾

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BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



DIVER TOM

My brother-in-law, Sam "Mack" McIntyre and my sister "Sary" were fixin' to gather and work a bunch of yearlings. It was a September day on the West slope of the Colorado Rockies with that warm-to-cool, off-and-on sorta blustery weather that the mountain states are so well known for. There was a little more country and cattle than they could handle by themselves so they'd called on one of their neighbors to come and give them a hand.

Tom "Smith" (last name changed to protect the innocent) brought his whole crew, which was his wife, daughter and son. They'd had a good mornin' work and hit the ranch house around noon for grub. Now they were fixin' to go ride the sand hills on the north side of the river in search of a few they'd missed in the mornin' gather.

Sam had a phone call to make and Sary was cleanin' up the kitchen while everyone else went to the corral to get their horses ready. They'd turned 'em loose with the bridles hangin' on their saddle horns. The "Smith's" crew was ready and Tom, bein' the gentleman that he is, had caught and was fixin' to bridle Sary's horse for her. He was standing with his back to a round stock tank that was in the corner of the corral. Unbeknown to him, Sary's horse had a nasty habit of throwing his head up when he was bein' bridled. When he pulled that little trick Tom got just a hair off balance, stepped back to catch himself and the rim of that stock tank hit him right in the back of both knees. I reckon you know what happened.

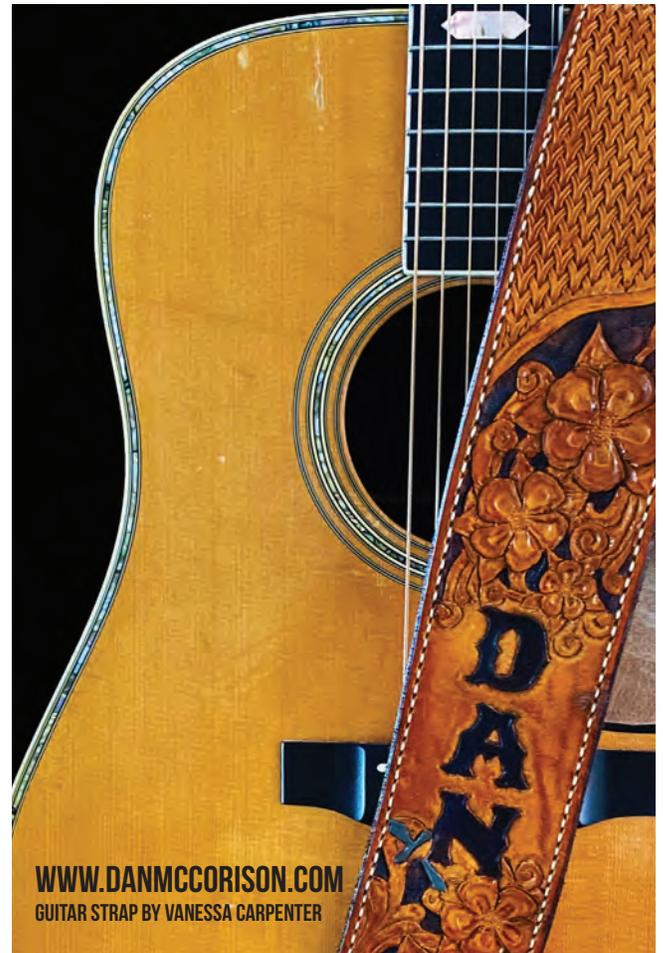
Tom is a fair-sized old boy, stands about 6 feet 3 in socks, probably presses the bathroom scales at around 230 and he made a fair-to-middlin' splash when he hit that water flat on his back. His top end went clear to the bottom while his legs were still hangin' over the side of the tank. When he bounced back up and broke the surface spoutin' water and blowin' bubbles, all of his crew were all standing there lookin' at him. No one offered to help. He grabbed a big breath and went down again. When he came up the second time his crew were all bent over in fits of laughter. His son hollered, "Roll over, Dad, you look like a beached whale!"

His daughter made a beeline for the house to get Mack and Sary. Seems she thought it would be a real shame if they missed out on all the fun. If you've even been in the unlikely position old Tom was in, you can no doubt sort of imagine his predicament. Somehow, he finally got his lower legs over the rim and underneath him. Lookin' sorta like a drowned rat he came crawlin' out with his John B. Resist-all hangin' down over both ears. For some reason he wasn't near as amused as everyone else seemed to be. By the time he got his boots dumped out he was startin' to grin a little and 'fore long he was laughin' at himself as hard as the rest of them.

Sam cut the afternoon ride a little short as the wind came up and it got kinda cool. By the time they reached the home corral again Tom's teeth were beginnin' to chatter. Everyone was a little concerned he might come down with pneumonia. Sam offered to give him a shot of Pen-Strep™ as a preventative measure. Tom politely declined.

Someone had put a few goldfish in the stock tank prior to Tom's diving expedition just to keep the moss and algae down. Sam called Tom the next mornin' early and asked him, "Would you mind checkin' your pockets? I seem to be missin' a few goldfish!"

**Pen-Strep (also known as penicillin-streptomycin) is an injectable antibiotic for use in livestock. 🐾*



In Memoriam

THOMAS "TOM" SAUL BETTS (1936 – 2022)



His final song has been sung. The final bell has rung. Long time Shakey's [local restaurant] piano player and boxing coach, Thomas Saul Betts, born November 20, 1936, died August 30, 2022.

Tom was known among his family and friends as an outgoing, compassionate, generous and kind man. Born and raised in Marquette, Michigan, Tom attended Michigan State University on a boxing scholarship.

Tom married Virginia May McGraw on Valentine's Day, 1956. Together they raised three children, Harvard (Naomi), Linda, and William. Linda passed away in 1976 at the age of 18. Virginia was with him when he took

his final breath, along with both of his sons and one daughter-in-law.

Tom owned and performed at the Dynamite Lounge in the 1970's, and the following two decades at Shakey's Pizza Parlor in Green Bay. Tom was a strong proponent of organized labor, serving many terms as Secretary of The Green Bay Federation of Musicians. He also played piano and sang at many New Year's Eve Parties at Flannigan's Bar, in Marquette, Michigan. Living to be 85 years of age, Tom outlived many of his family and his friends, but be assured he had always kept them in his heart and never forgot them. Tom was the founder and president of the IWMA Upper Michigan/NE Wisconsin Chapter.

Tom is survived by his wife, his two sons and daughter-in-law, his brother Blaine (Gretchen) Betts, and his sister Dawn Betts of Marquette, Michigan.

★ ★ ★ FIRST ANNUAL! ★ ★ ★

2022 IWMA SONGWRITING CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

The first annual IWMA Songwriting Contest winner has been decided. It was a very difficult contest to judge simply because there was a proliferation of excellent writing that was submitted. Before the judging began, one of the judges commented that this probably would not be too difficult because "the cream would rise to the top." The only problem was, there was a LOT of cream that rose. When all the songs were listened to and the judges' work was finished, the winner was determined:

The winning song is **Take Me to Montana**, and the writer who will collect the \$1000 first prize is Happy Anderson of Surprise, AZ. The second-place prize of \$100 will go to Micki Fuhrman of Nashville, TN for her song titled **Yours Truly, Truly Yours**.

Each judge commented on how difficult it was to judge the contest because of the excellent quality of the material submitted. One judge asked, "Can't we

award first place to about 25 of these songs?" Although there was no third-place prize, the following songs all tied for that honorable-mention position:

Doan's Crossing by Tim Callaway

I Wanna Go Home by Sarah Pierce

Shoein' Broncs Again by Doug Figgs

This Old Saddle by Scott Glenn Lambertson

Other songs that deserve special mention for their very high scores are: "Leather and Lace" by Tecia McKenna; "Mustangs" by Claudia Nygaard; and "Pretty as a Cactus Bloom" by Igor Glenn.

Watch for coming announcements about next year's contest. There will be more opportunities to win next year with more than one category. The IWMA thanks everyone who participated to make this a very successful and exciting contest!



A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

To submit your CD for review, send to: O.J. Sikes, 681 Ellington Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Required: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number | **Questions?** You can email O.J. at ojsikes@gmail.com

Dance Bands Recorded Western Songs in the 1930s-50s

From early in the 20th Century, Western music has found acceptance in both Country and Popular music settings. In the 1930s, **Gene Autry** recorded all three types of songs as his audience grew. As an aside, it's interesting to note that his 1940s audience insisted that he re-record the Western songs that had initially been hits for him in the 30s, in the style they had become accustomed to hearing on his radio show, newly arranged by **Carl Cotner**, with emphasis on **Frankie Marvin's** smooth, Western-style steel guitar. Pop singer **Gene Austin** had recorded "Turkey in the Straw" with what was termed a hillbilly band in 1924, before hitting the big time as a pop singer with his multi-million seller, "My Blue Heaven," and before he recorded a beautiful version of "Under a Texas Moon." **Hank Williams** adopted **Bob Nolan's** composition, "Happy Rovin' Cowboy" as his theme song in the 1940s, and one of **Bing Crosby's** earliest hit records (1933) was "The Last Roundup." Another pop crooner, **Perry Como**, had recorded "Out Where the Blue Begins" as the vocalist with **Ted Weems' Orchestra**, long before his beautiful rendition of "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" with

the **Sons of the Pioneers**. All of the singing cowboys in the movies recorded country material as well as Western, and **Rex Allen** even crossed over to the pop field.

While all this was happening, the jazz era was beginning and big dance bands were becoming popular. They, too, found that their audiences enjoyed Western music! The first band leader to discover this was **Guy Lombardo**, and his 1930s hits included "South of the Border" and "It's a Lonely Trail." Later, he had hits with "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and a delightful song composed by his brother **Carmen Lombardo**, "Our Little Ranch House," with a vocal by their brother-in-law, **Kenny Gardner (Guy Lombardo & his Royal Canadians** were very much a family organization). In the 1950s, **Lawrence Welk** became hugely popular as television brought his band into millions living rooms every Saturday evening, and he recorded "The Wayward Wind" with his Champagne Lady, **Alice Lon**. Soon, his most famous Champagne Lady, **Norma Zimmer**, would record as a background singer with the **Sons of the Pioneers**. And while Dixieland clarinetist **Pete Fountain** was on the band, Welk recorded a great version

of "San Antonio Rose." In 1956, his guitarist, **Neil LeVang** was featured on Welk's recording of "Ghost Riders in the Sky," a tv performance of which you can enjoy today on Youtube.

Going back to the late 30s and early 1940s, other big bands got into Western music in a big way. **Glenn Miller** recorded beautiful versions of "A Prairieland Lullaby," "The Cowboy Serenade," "Along the Santa Fe Trail" and "Sierra Sue." **Tommy Dorsey** had a hit with **Billy Hill's** composition, "Call of the Canyon," featuring a young **Frank Sinatra**. And Tommy's very popular brother, **Jimmy Dorsey**, recorded "On the Trail" (from the "Grand Canyon Suite"), as did **Ray Conniff**, a few years later. Tommy also recorded "Pale Moon" and "Indian Love Call," and together, the Dorseys recorded an instrumental version of "Wagon Wheels." **Eddy Howard** introduced "My Adobe Hacienda" to pop audiences, and in the early 40s, **Horace Heidt's** band recorded "Don't Fence Me In" and had a hit with "(I Got Spurs that) Jingle Jangle Jingle," as did **Kay Kyser's** band. Kyser also had a big hit with "Ol' Buttermilk Sky," and much earlier (in the 30s) Kyser recorded "Hi-Yo Silver."

One of the bands that brought Western music into its repertoire most significantly was **Sammy Kaye's Orchestra**. In the 1940s, Kaye hired singer **Billy Williams**, based on a song he had composed titled, "Where the Mountains Meet the Sky." The song was a hit and it led to hit recordings of "Along the Navajo Trail" and "Along the Santa Fe Trail." After Williams left the band, Kaye recorded a Western novelty song I learned about from a former president of the Sons of the Pioneers fan club: "Red Silk Stockings and Green Perfume."

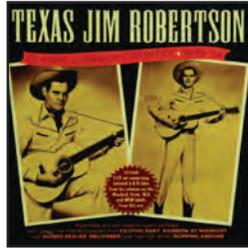
But the band leader who had the greatest impact on the spread of Western music was **Vaughn Monroe**. He started in 1940 with what was probably the strangest version of "The Last Roundup" ever recorded, but soon fell into the Western groove with his records of the title song from a Gene Autry movie, "Ridin' on a Rainbow," and **Cindy Walker's** first composition, "The Lone Star Trail." His 1945 recording of "Cool Water" with the Sons of the Pioneers sold more copies than the Pioneers' version recorded the same year! Later, he was to record the definitive version of a song that reflects changes that were coming to the West, "No Range to Ride Anymore," and a beautiful song he introduced in one of his Western films, "Mexicali Trail." Monroe recorded many more Western songs, far more than any other band leader, but his most famous and enduring recording was the one that outsold all others, "Riders in the Sky (a Cowboy Legend)."

Sadly, the era of the big bands is gone; only a few "ghost" bands remain. But we still have the music they recorded years ago, including some great Western tracks, online and on CDs. They're worth a listen!

TEXAS JIM ROBERTSON & HIS PANHANDLE PUNCHERS

"Classic Cowboy Country 1939-54"

ACADDCD3433



The mention of "Texas Jim" Robertson's name to anyone who grew up in the Northeast

in the 1940s-50s will surely bring a smile. While the native Texan may not have been as well-known in other parts of the country, he was a regional super-star in NY, and he scored several hits on the national charts. The hits were in the country genre, but he had a healthy repertoire of Western songs as well, and many of them are featured in this 2-CD set containing 52 tracks.

It's not fair to compare voices, but in case you aren't familiar with his "sound," his deep voice most closely approached Tex Ritter's. But he didn't try to be a "sound alike." The members of his band changed over time and included some prominent sidemen, like Elton Britt, who played guitar on his earliest Bluebird label sides, Gene Traxler, the bassist on some of the RCA Victor sessions, and Chet Atkins, Tony Mottola and "Little Roy" Wiggins on some of the later sessions. The Fontane Sisters and The Three Suns recorded a couple of sides with Jim in 1950-51.

Fifteen of the tracks on the first CD are Western songs, several of which were originally issued as part of a 78rpm boxed set titled 'Round the Campfire. Some are standards, like "Red River Valley," while others are less well-known, so it's good to have them available to listeners who haven't heard them in decades,

if at all, and for today's musicians who are looking for "lost" material. The first track, "Bouncin' Along," from 1939, is one of those, as are "Purple Night on the Prairie" (which became closely associated with Robertson), "I'm Gonna Throw My Lasso" and Bob Miller's "Way Down in Texas." Widely available, e.g. through HamiltonBook.com

FOY WILLING & THE RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

"Texas Blues: The Classic Years, 1945-1950"

ACADDCD3437



At long last, in this new CD set, we finally have a collection of almost all of the commercial

recordings made by Foy Willing & the Riders of the Purple Sage. For years, the main sources of their music were radio transcriptions and DVDs of movies they made with Monte Hale and Roy Rogers, but all of the recordings in this 2 CD, 48-song collection are from commercial sessions. Some of them made the charts! All are identified in detailed liner notes prepared by Paul Watts.

Watts made a valiant effort to document the history and status of these recordings, sometimes having to navigate some very muddy waters. There are a couple of mistakes, but they are inconsequential and forgivable, given the difficulty of locating some of the details of the group's recording history. For readers who are interested in that history,

Continued on page 41



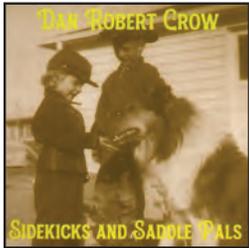
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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.

DAN ROBERT CROW

“Sidekicks and Saddle Pals”



The press packet accompanying this seven song EP states that Dan Robert Crow is the

alter ego of Dan Crow. Dan-without-the-Robert is famed for appearances on Nickelodeon, national tours and more, having also written and sung the theme for the Disney movie “Milo & Otis!” Whichever he chooses to be, gritty-voiced Crow couldn’t have found any better musical support for his Western songs than the exemplary Folk/ Bluegrass group otherwise known as “The Hard Road Trio” and others brought aboard for this project! Leader Steve Smith also produced it.

By subject, Crow’s original Western songs are mostly historically inspired. “Snap Mary Snap” jauntily profiles the legendary Stagecoach Mary. “Law Dog Lament” has as its source the hunt for Billy The Kid by Pat Garrett. And a co-write (or “Crow-write?”) with John Wood “Bob Fitzsimmons” eerily introduces us to you-know-who. Crow’s title track “Sidekicks and Saddle Pals” elevates the second bananas to the heroic status usually reserved for the glittery B-Western

icons. And “The Coffin Note” tells what is known about the suspicious 19th Century disappearance of the Fountains, a father and young son who ran afoul of the wrong people.

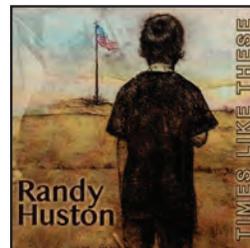
From lyrics to vocals to arrangements, there exists a jovial vintage feel to the proceedings that is most welcome. All seven songs could be called “picks” and we will call this one “a goodtimer” all the way. Highly recommended.

EP: \$10 + \$3 s/h from Dan Crow, 1003 Hess Terrace, Las Cruces, NM 88005 and do check out his site herelies.net while you’re at it!



RANDY HUSTON

“Times Like These”



For being such an accomplished Cowboy poet/singer, to my way of thinking Randy Huston

is far too unsung. Whether Huston is dealing with the somber, the jubilant, the novel, the portrait or the moment in his Western creations, Huston artfully writes from experience with more than a dash of panache. This release is arguably his best one yet.

As always each of his tracks has a good reason for being, but we’ll name as picks the elegantly arranged “Where The Storms Go To Die,” “Reflections,” the private man-to-horse equation “Ride Of My Life,” “Dust Off Your Saddle,” the meaningful insight of title track “Times Like These,” the rallying “Way Of The Cowboy” (both mixes), the jaunty if dour “Tumblebug Blues” and the swinging “Cowboy Card.”

Going back to the 1980s when I first came across his work, I’ve found Randy Huston simply doesn’t misfire. His newest album is another production of both Cowboy scope and power. Thirteen tracks, very highly recommended.

CD: \$18 ppd from Randy Huston, PO Box 875, Rociada, NM 87742 or through randyhuston.com



LANCE SHAW & 419 SWING

“Take Me With You”



The origin of this group’s name rests in an address once occupied by its founders... but we’re

sure “Swing” probably was not the street name!

On this, their second album release, we find an even mix of covers and originals (from Lance Shaw and one co-write with Ricky McFaul). The group bears the comfortable earmarks of one of those groups whose fans will either trail them from club to club or will be regulars if they serve as a house band. By that I mean they obviously understand the tempo mix and ratio of fast to slow that dancers prize. Plus they actually have some Western content in their Western Swing! Original picks include the clever lyrics of the title track "Take Me With You," "Bull Bucked Me Money," "Angels Walk Around Texas" and "Texas Tumbleweed." Pick covers are "Six Pack To Go," "Sugar Moon" and "Undo The Right."

Lance Shaw & 419 Swing is a fairly new assemblage, beginning a short four years ago and firming up their current personnel within the last two. Their first album gained favorable recognition, landing among the top five finalists for the AWA's Swing Album Of The Year honors. So you can rightly assume they have something good to offer! Ten tracks, recommended.

CD: (suggest googling by name)



BOB THOMAS

"My Tree"



One of Bob Thomas' anthems really should be "My Way!" Across the course of nine

releases now Thomas has forged ahead doing it "his way!" There is a certain Western precedent in it. The creators of early Cowboy songs

were, in fact, early cowboys! For the most part they were anything but schooled songwriters let alone skilled singers. Arrangements and in some cases subject aside, Bob Thomas' basic performance and construction effect is rustic.

Thomas' people know he will hit his subjects head-on, say whatever however he wants to, and then stop without ceremony. There is some sophistication in the musical mountings. Even Gary Allegretto returns to provide harmonica for some tracks here.

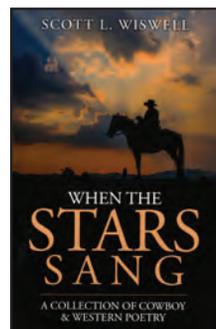
If we were to name some picks, they would be "Day Dreaming" (done with Thomas' daughter Erinn Rachelle) and "The Drift" or "The End." And BTW his unusual hidden "Row Row Row Your Boat" signature is again present, placed at a distance behind "The End." Should I have brought it up?? Ten tracks total.

CD: (available through bobthomasmusic.com)



SCOTT WISWELL

"When The Stars Sang" (Book)



The title poem from Scott Wiswell's new collection comes from a section entitled "Native American." It is the tale of a compassionate

cowboy who winds up having a kind of Cheyenne 'close encounter of the third kind.' And it is an example of this Cowboy Poet and former police officer's fresh style of storytelling.

Other works are grouped into the categories "The Cowboy and The West," "Kansas," "Rodeo,"

"Christmas," "Faith" and "Veterans." To be sure some of the common threads and themes you find in nearly all books of the genre are found here. But Wiswell mixes in sufficiently frequent fresh spins to elevate things. From there you will also encounter some extraordinary insights ("The Measure Of A Man," "Mendin' Fence," "An Old Veteran" and "A Cowboy Parable" among them); strong portraits ("The Hand," "The Barrel Racer") and wry fun worthy of the late Baxter Black (such as "Cowboy Romance" and "So You Want To Be A Cowboy").

At their best, Wiswell's works are literate and concise in encapsulating big ideas in easy doses. I must admit I am not sold on his occasional archaic drops such as "doth" and "bestoweth." It's Kansas, not Pennsylvania Dutch country! But overall his "When The Stars Sing" is a superior entry in the Cowboy Poetry genre. Sixty works on 149 pages, highly recommended.

Soft-bound book: \$14.99 with Prime Shipping available through Amazon. 🐾

CLASSIFIED

**COMPOSER SEEKS
ORIGINAL COWBOY/WESTERN
POETRY TO SET TO MUSIC.
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Chapter Update

Continued from page 30

play on KWLS in Wichita. There were visits to the Cherokee Strip Museum in Enid, OK, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City where he met with the curator of Cowboy and Western Culture, and Dodge City to learn about its Dodge City Days. Tom made contacts with the Cattle Trail celebration coordinators for potential future performances at all of the cowtowns in Kansas – Abilene, Ellsworth, Newton, Wichita, Caldwell, and Dodge City. Aspen and Alice Black made an oval around the country in June, performing in VA, MO, WY, NM, TX, and back to VA. In July, Aspen returned to NM to perform solo before finishing out the tour in her home state of VA. Alice Black stayed home in July to perform with her new Bluegrass band, “The Downtown Pickers”.



Alice Black and The Downtown Pickers

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Dennis Russell
drnpoet@gmail.com

It is September already. Wow! This get out of ‘Covid Jail’ year is flying by! By the time the *Western Way* is published and mailed we will have held our First Annual Western Heritage Day at the New Mexico State Fair on September 15 on the Chevron Pavilion Stage. Michael Coy, Grace Clark, The Russellers, Independence Creek, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Jack George, Kacey and Jenna Thunborg, Valerie Beard,



The Thunborgs



The Figgs, Beards and Russellers help with Howard Daughters of the American Revolution Fundraiser.

Doug Figgs, Floyd Beard, and Jim Jones will have shared their stories and songs with the attendees at the fair. I want to thank David Nidel and the New Mexico Chapter for putting this program together. Kacey and Jenna, together with Jim Jones, played a benefit house concert at the home of Joy Allen in August. The concert was in support of the girls’ goal to attend the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance conference in Austin, Texas in September. Their attendance at the conference will provide an awesome opportunity for the girls to move their musical careers forward to the next step. The girls were among the top five finalists’ nominations by the Academy of Western Artists for Young Artists and Western Music Song, “In The Moment,” co-written with Jim Jones. David Nidel is performing with the Mac-Tire of Skye Pipes & Drums at the Highland Games in Aztec, NM on October 2 and 3, 2022. The annual IWMA Convention in Albuquerque is just around the corner; we are always needing volunteers to help out even if it is just acting as a greeter. Judi Anderson and I are working on the Western Consignment

Boutique, giving it a new look with new displays. Don’t forget to bring your items to be sold during the convention.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Robert Maxwell Case
robert@robertmaxwellcase.com

During the several years of the pandemic, our chapter of course has not held an event. The board announced a 2022 get-together and jam scheduled for Sunday, October 16 at 2:30 p.m. All of our members, both in-state and out-of-state, are invited to attend, as well as anyone interested in joining our chapter. A central location (probably Okemah, OK) will be communicated via email and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/International-Western-Music-Association-Oklahoma-Chapter-283383592088330/ We are proud to announce that Oklahoma’s own Cowboy Jim Garling has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest. The ceremony was held Saturday, July 16 in Lawton, Oklahoma. The late Mark Abbott of Sons of the Pioneers also was inducted. The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum will host the 25th Annual Express Employment Professionals’ Cowboy Christmas Ball featuring singer-songwriter Michael Martin Murphey on Friday, December 16 in Oklahoma City, OK. This year Michael also is bringing the Cowboy Christmas Ball to Tulsa, OK. It will be held at the Cox Business Convention Center’s Legacy Hall on Sunday, November 27.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

President: Gary Holt
GIH50@live.com

As the winter season approaches, many are busy in studio recording new projects, and producing new videos. Many are out and about the

Continued on page 40

CLASSIC PROFILES

SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

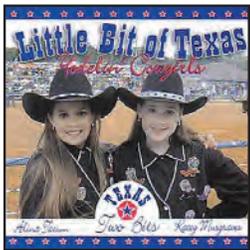
(Recordings From Our Great Western Treasury That Deserve a New Spin)

BY RICK HUFF

We're proud to say that more artists are creating and performing Western Music these days than at any other time in its long and illustrious history. Its legacy includes others who have helped to fortify the trail that Western artists of today continue to ride. So that they might be properly saluted, let's take a fond look back at some of those Western performers and albums from the past. It could be said these people are from our rank and file, but their work ranks high and shouldn't remain filed away. In some cases, you might find their releases available from aftermarket or collector sources. Others might now have been prepared for download through sites. In every case you will find the work should continue to be celebrated, heard and enjoyed.

TEXAS TWO BITS

"Little Bit Of Texas" (2000)



For sure this duo appeared onstage during the final Tucson convention years, but I

would have sworn they were with us in 2004 at the Wichita debacle, gamely playing for the two or three people who showed up for that one! Yet the online info says they split in 2001. Who ya gonna believe??

Texas Two Bits consisted of a pair of aspiring 14-year olds named Alina Tatum and (perhaps you've heard of) Kacey Musgraves!! Far from being just a historic curiosity and premiere of two talented youngsters, the Texas Two Bits' album is a very professionally rendered and produced collection of Western Swing standards and others. Such songs as "Yodel Your Troubles Away," "Miles and Miles of Texas," "Don't Ever Fall In Love With A Cowboy" and "Til There's Not A Cow In Texas" provided a lasting example of performance skills on all levels and, obviously, helped to

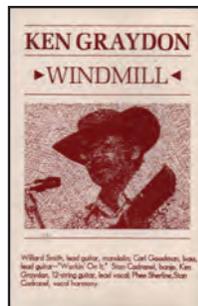
launch one of the participants to lofty heights.

The album still holds up nicely and deserves to be heard on its own merits. By the way, Alina Tatum also played onward and built her own following in the Texas Music scene. Her 2005 CD "You're Lookin' At Country" is still available, at least for the hearing. You can hear the girls' early sound for yourself on various sites that let you listen in.



KEN GRAYDON

"Windmills" (1983)



Here was a folksinger at heart and in practice who recognized and celebrated the value of Western. Ken Graydon was there for the early years of the genre's rebirth. He was intensely respected as a performer and songwriter, much loved by the music community in particular. Along with others, he often appeared with his wife Phee Sherline (harmony and autoharp) as he does on this

annotated release. Decades after his passing in 2011, occasionally we still encounter covers of his songs on new releases. You might google "Ken Graydon singer" to get a better idea of his impact.

Three cassette albums (the medium of convenience for that age) are cited in write-ups online. Graydon had an ideal baritone voice to convey his subject mix of Cowboy (his dad was a working one), Seafarers (being true to his Scottish heritage), Railroading (it's Folk so, naturally) and, more than once, pithy social commentary. His range of poetic observation and his 12-string work sealed the deal. Online you can find at least one "live" example of Graydon's work as he and his mates (Bruce Huntington and maybe Wayne Shrubsall...his face is mostly blocked by his mic) give us his original "Somewhere West Of Laramie." And, although not specifically Western, another of his songs that is offered online with scored lead line and lyrics could be very topical for our situation today ("The Singer Sings The Song").

My strong recommendation is to watch for future download opportunities. Ken Graydon is very much worth hearing and having! 🐾

Chapter Update

Continued from page 38

country, sharing their unique brand of our dear Western Music!!! We're praying for safety, blessings, and much success. Equestrian Legacy Radio's RENDEZVOUS 2022 was held September 29-October 1 at the Circle E Guest Ranch in Winchester Tennessee... Then, Friday night Mary Kaye Holt, Tecia McKenna, and Mike & Doris Merritt were in concert at the Lodge. Saturday night the first ever Songwriter's Night was held with these Award-Winning Singer/Songwriters Tecia McKenna, Bobby Marquez and Mary Kaye Holt! RENDEZVOUS 2022 was 3 Days of Trail Riding, Music Concerts and Craig Cameron's Extreme Cowboy Race Regional Championship, all to benefit the Mustang Heritage Foundation. We're very excited to announce that our Autumn IWMA-TN Chapter Pot Luck and Pickin' Party will be held on October 23, 2022 @ 4:00PM. Members and plus ones are invited to our first Chapter Gathering. Join us on Magnolia Hill for a time of fun, food, and fellowship. Bring your favorite dish or beverage, and a musical instrument for some pickin' around the fire pit, or piano, depending on weather! For More info and RSVP, please contact Micki Fuhrman at mfmilom@comcast.net. The last Quarter has been an incredibly busy time for our chapter and its members right here in Nashville, TN!!! Award winning IWMA-TN members Mary Kaye Holt, Bobby Marquez, and the Farmer and Adele graced the center round to a sold-out crowd at the world-famous Bluebird Cafe. The bi-monthly IWMA-TN songwriter night at The Famous Commodore Grill, with Debbie Champion at the helm, welcomed IWMA-TN members the Renfrees,



The gang at the Bluebird Cafe



Mary Kaye Holt, Tecia McKenna and Micki Fuhrman perform at Bluebird.

Mary Kaye Holt, Micki Fuhrman, and Tecia McKenna. A hardy Thank You to both establishments for their support and encouragement!!! The TN Chapter is also looking forward to our 1st IWMA convention in November and several TN members will be participating in show cases for their first time. On Tuesday night, before the convention, TN member and New Mexico native Jim Jones, will be hosting a showcase for the new TN Chapter at the BEST WESTERN in OLD TOWN. We hope you'll come join us! As we welcome the New Year, plans are in motion for an early 2023 Gathering. Stay tuned to the IWMA-TN website and Facebook page for details!!!!_Thank you! All of you, for continuing to embrace, love, and promote our American cowboy culture with your support, songs, poems, stories, art and craft. May God continue to bless your works as you journey on!!! Saddle up!

UPPER MICHIGAN/NE CHAPTER President: Tom Betts

It is with extreme sadness that we report the news that Tom Betts, Chapter President, musician, and all-around great guy has passed away. You can read more about Tom in the In Memoriam section of this issue. He will be missed.

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Mark Munzert
markmunzert@gmail.com

Deanna Dickinson writes! Poetry, short-stories, and was recently published in the venerable Range magazine. Deanna's article, 'Rolling with the Punches' speaks to the trials, tribulations and necessity driven adaptations of a ranching family to stay ranching viably. Tom Swearingen was featured on Bobbi Jean and Jim Bell's LA Talk Radio show "Rendezvous with a Writer" in October and Tom will guest host a December episode with his guests Doc Mehl and Doris Daley. Tom's performance calendar has been active with a variety of shows including The Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering, a benefit concert in Prineville, OR, acting as MC and 'celebrity' auctioneer for a historical society annual dinner auction, bookstore signings for his poetry book, *Reflection*, and with wife Carla Swearingen and her *Flora is Curious* children's books, and a concert at Portland's Artichoke Music. Vic Anderson has retired from the Lazy B Chuckwagon to spend more time with Catherine, kids and grandkids, at Cowboy poetry, music, storytelling gatherings, jam sessions, rodeos, fishing & hunting sites, writing songs, short stories, poems, and of course the GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL, playing with the dogs, caring for the cat and the chickens, and taking the occasional nap. KC LaCourse teamed up with Warren Kearney to take the #5 spot on the Strabane Radio Top 20 for the song Music Fallin'.

Continued on page 45

O.J. SIKES REVIEWS

Continued from page 35

Foy's widow, Sharon Lee Willing, has written a book titled *No One to Cry To*, a "must" for all Sager fans, and it would make a good companion to this CD set. The revised, 2019 edition is available from Amazon.

Unfortunately, the CD's producers were not able to locate pristine copies of a few of the hard-to-find tracks, but they opted to clean them up as much as possible and include them, rather than lose them. Even with these inconveniences, this set is a treasure trove of what had been, until now, a significant amount of music that was "lost." And much of the audio quality is exceptionally good.

Some of the songs became chart "hits" for Foy and some became "hits" for others. You'll recognize many of them from radio and movies, but you may also find a few songs that are new to you. You're sure to enjoy all of them. The group's distinct, smooth Western harmony made them popular in the 1940s. That appeal is still there! Available from your usual sources.



GENE AUTRY, JOHNNY BOND, JIMMY WAKELY, TEXAS RUBY, HANK PENNY, ELTON BRITT, SLIM DUSTY, ETC.

"Country Music Goes to War and Whitey & Hogan

BACMCDD688



This new CD's title rightly suggests that the music it contains is Country, rather than Western. The exception is Gene Autry's "Private Buckaroo." But a large number of the singers/musicians featured

on this disc are Western and/or Western swing artists. And some of their work, while it's been around since the "war years," may be new to you. Johnny Bond's "Draftee Blues," Hank Penny's "Army Blues" and Elton Britt's "I'll be in the Army for a Stretch" may be cases in point.

In addition to these Western artists, you'll hear war themes from Texas Jim Lewis, Carson J. Robison, Texas Ruby (whose dad composed "Cattle Call"), Merle Travis, Frank Ifield, T. Texas Tyler and a Tex Ritter narration, "The Great American Eagle." Anyone interested in war years music will be delighted with this collection of 24 period songs, in most cases very nicely remastered and sounding great!

When BACM released this CD, they also released one by Whitey & Hogan (BACM CD D 689) that may have more regional than national appeal, but when I was a very young boy in NC, I listened to their music "live" on clear channel WBT radio every weekday, so this release caught my eye immediately. They and their musical pals, the Briarhoppers, were among my first musical heroes, and to see this first-ever CD of their 1939-48 recordings come out in 2022, was truly amazing!

A few years ago, I was invited back to my hometown to give a lecture, followed by a Q&A session. To my surprise, the audience wanted to talk about Whitey & Hogan, although my lecture was about something entirely different! The duo's most popular songs, including a great 1948 rendition of the traditional Western standard, "Jesse James," are on this disc, nicely re-mastered. It's hillbilly music, performed by the best. It's the real deal! BACM CDs are available from BritishArchiveOfCountryMusic.com

ELTON BRITT, RAY WHITLEY, FRANKIE MARVIN, THE PRAIRIE RAMBLERS & VARIOUS OTHER ARTISTS

"OLD TIME Tunes & Songs, Vol. 5

BACMCDD687



This collection of 24 recordings comes from 1926-1941. Most of the artists featured here were

country music performers. But Elton Britt and Ray Whitley come to mind as examples of those who became prominent in Western music as well. On this disc you'll hear Elton's cover of a Gene Autry hit, "Good-bye, Little Darlin', Good-bye."

One of the interesting features of this new disc is that Western music is represented in some of the instrumental dance music, e.g. "Rustic Schottische" by Cliff & Ray (Dallas, TX, 1938), "Ladies' Quadrille" by The Happy Hayseeds (Culver City, CA, 1930) and "Smoky Mountain Schottische" by the Prairie Ramblers featuring Tex Atchison on fiddle (from 1937), but there are also a couple of vocals that may be of interest, e.g. "Last Great Roundup" by The Arkansas Woodchopper from 1931.

The audio quality is impressive, especially given the age of the sources, and the list of performers is a long one. Bill Carlisle & His Kentucky Home Boys sound especially good, and Karl and Harty, Clayton McMichen & his Georgia Wildcats, The Owens Bros. and Lester McFarland & Robert Gardner, among others, are well represented.

Available from: <https://country-music-archive.com/> and you can listen to samples on the BACM website. 🐾

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews



Ollie Reed, Jr.

To have your book reviewed by Ollie, send a copy to: Ollie Reed, Jr., P.O. Box 2381, Corrales, N.M. 87048 or contact him at: olreed.com@gmail.com

What comes to mind when you think of a traditional western novel?

Maybe “The Virginian” (1902), by Owen Wister, considered by many to be the grandfather of all Westerns.

Or perhaps Zane Grey’s “Riders of the Purple Sage” (1912), or Jack Schaefer’s “Shane” (1949).

All those novels share elements we have come to expect in Westerns – white hats vs. black hats, gunfights, some romance.

The two books I review in this issue were honored by the Western Writers of America in the traditional novel category of the organization’s 2022 Spur Award competition.

“The Loving Wrath of Eldon Quint” won the Spur, and “The Comanche Kid” was a Spur finalist. And while both novels exhibit the traits we have come to expect of traditional Westerns, they are different also. It is not so easy, for example, to figure out who the good guys are in “The Loving Wrath of Eldon Quint.”

CHASE PLETTS

The Loving Wrath of Eldon Quint



Fair warning right from the start. This novel is more Cormac McCarthy than Louis L’Amour, more “Blood Meridian” than “High Lonesome.”

It’s a dark, menacing book, violent and profane but also powerful and inescapable, a book fearsome to read and impossible not to read because of its intimately portrayed characters, forceful writing and complex and compelling plot

“Another shot sang out of the whirl.” That’s the first sentence and things don’t slow down much from there. The story barrels along like a runaway freight wagon dragging readers with it, but what makes the novel exceptional is the love, loyalty, grief and regret that simmer beneath the over-the-top action.

Author Pletts is a Los Angeles resident and a writer of screenplays.

“Eldon Quint” started out as a screenplay but ended up being Pletts’ first novel.

It opens in 1883 on the Dakota frontier, works its way through flashbacks and ends up in the Midwest. It’s about twin brothers Eldon and Clayton Quint, the former a widowed farmer trying to raise two young sons and the latter an outlaw who goes by the name of Jack Foss and is the source of misery for his brother.

That shot in the first sentence is fired at Eldon by men who think they are hunting Clayton. The scene evolves into a gunfight at Eldon’s Dakota cabin that leaves one of his sons dead. So, you think you are reading a book about a good, hardworking man whose life is cursed by the sins of his criminal sibling. Turns out it’s not so straightforward as that.

Eldon and Clayton were brought up by a cruel father who favored Eldon and despised Clayton and shaped each of his sons’ lives for the worse. Both brothers – not just Clayton – are deadly, dangerous men.

After the gunfight at the cabin, Eldon and his surviving son, Ian, put the dead

youngster’s body in a wagon and set off for Springfield, Missouri, to bury the child next to his mother. Along the way they meet and help a young woman escape a vicious man who has been keeping her and other women as slaves.

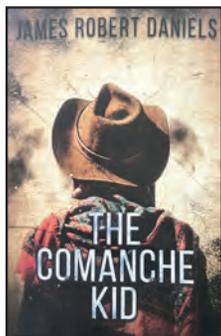
This villain, Major Bertrand Sinchilla, is nearly 7 feet tall and travels in a stagecoach pulled by eight horses. The coach is festooned by the mounted heads of animals, and the major is accompanied by Indian warriors wearing brightly colored women’s dresses. I told you this isn’t Louis L’Amour.

But it is an extraordinary novel that boils down to a climatic gun battle in which Eldon and Clayton come to terms with each other as they take a stand in defense of decency and innocence.

(“The Loving Wrath of Eldon Quint,” 9781942645948; paperback, 369 pages, \$18.99; Inkshares; available at Barnes and Noble, Target, amazon.com and other bookstores and outlets.)amazon.com and other bookstores and outlets.)

JAMES ROBERT DANIELS

The Comanche Kid



On the surface of it, you could not imagine a more traditional Western than “The Comanche Kid.” It’s got Indian attacks, a cattle drive, stampedes, the search for a child

abducted by Comanches and a teenager coming of age on the Western frontier.

What makes this novel different than other Westerns is its main character, Jane, a 16-year-old girl as fiercely brave and unflinching as any grizzled, hard-bitten gunfighter, lawman, mountain man or cavalry trooper in any Western you can pull to mind.

Like “The Loving Wrath of Eldon Quint,” this book opens fast. Jane and her twin brother Jamie (yeah, more

twins) are foraging for wild plants about a quarter mile from their ranch cabin when they hear screaming.

Comanches have attacked the place. They kill Jane’s mom, dad and Jamie, who joined the fight after forcing Jane to hide, and they kidnap her little sister Sally and steal the ranch’s cattle.

Jane crawls out of hiding to find the mutilated bodies of her mother, father and brother. She is wracked by grief, guilt and horror, but doesn’t waste much time wallowing in those feelings.

She buries her family, arms herself, mounts her good horse Buck and sets out on the trail of the raiders to rescue her sister, recover the cattle and exact revenge. If those Comanches had known about Jane, they’d passed by her family’s place and attacked the next ranch they came to.

She gets back the cattle and takes a measure of revenge rapidly. But the quest for Sally turns into a longer ordeal, so Jane disguises herself as a boy and throws her cattle in with a herd moving north,

hoping to pick up Sally’s trail as soon as possible.

The complications of a young woman pretending to be a boy while riding with mostly good but totally masculine men is played to fullest advantage by author Daniels, who previously has written primarily for the stage. Jane falls in love with one of the cowboys but cannot let her feelings show. When she goes into town with the other hands for a night at a brothel, only quick thinking and luck preserve her secret.

But it is Jane’s search for her little sister that is at the heart of the novel, and it is the culmination of that search that provides a unique perspective on the situation and the most moving passage I can ever recall reading in a Western.

(“The Comanche Kid,” 9781952138942; paperback, 354 pages, \$18.99; Cutting Edge Books; available at Barnes and Noble, amazon.com, booksamillion.com and other bookstores and outlets.) 🐾

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AZCowboyPoets.org



Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Joe Angel

KEOS
PO Box 1085
Del Valle, TX 78617
jangedj@arhaven.com

Bobbi Jean Bell

"OutWest Hour"
KUPR, www.kupr.org
Out West, 8201 Golf Course Rd NW
Ste D3, #189
Albuquerque, NM 87120
"Campfire Café" & *"Saddle Up, America"*
Equestrian Legacy Radio Network
Co-host with Gary Holt
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com
www.equestrianlegacy.net
661-714-0045

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky

"Rogue Valley Bound Show"
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-301-7649
www.earsradio.com
New Zealand Public Radio
KSHD, Shady Cove, OR
skipbessonette@gmail.com

Janice Brooks

"Bus of Real Country"
170 Jodon Ave.
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823
Busgaljb@gmail.com

Peter Bruce

"Under Western Skies"
KAFF Country Legends
FM 93.5/AM 930
1117 W. Route 66
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
928-556-2650
www.kafflegends.com
peter.bruce@kaff.com

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

"Calling All Cowboys Radio"
88.9 FM, KPOV High Desert
Community Radio
http://www.kpov.org
http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
e-mail: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
Station NFLY - No Fly Internet Radio/
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Doug Figgs

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505-440-0979
www.doufiggs.com
http://www.RioGrandeValleyRadio.com

Nancy Flagg

"Cowboy Tracks"
KDRT 95.7 FM live radio
and internet streaming (www.kdrt.org)
1623 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616
Email: CowboyTracks2@gmail.com
Website: Facebook.com/cowboytracks

Sam Harris

CVFM Country
4 Shadforth Close, Old Shotton Village
Peterlee Co. Durham
SR8 2NG England
www.cvfm.org.uk
samharris01@aol.com

Paul Hazell

PH Records
Royal Mail Building (PO Box 3)
Brambleside
Bellbrook Industrial Estate
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1XX United Kingdom
"Paul Hazell's World Of Country"
Big River FM (NZ) and others and
several other stations around the world
Paulhazellsworldofcountry@gmail.com
Telephone: +44 7775 545 902

Randy Hill

"Western Swing Time Radio Show"
5114 Balcones Woods Dr., Suite 307-387
Austin, TX 78759
(Plays only western swing)
westernswingtime@gmail.com
www.westernswingtime.com

Gary Holt

"Campfire Cafe and Saddle Up America"
5005 Sunset Way, Hermitage, TN 37076
www.equestrianlegacy.net
gih50@live.com
615-478-2138

Judy James

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

Allen & Jill Kirkham

"Circuit Rider Roundup" on
"American Cowboy Radio"
KJAG FM 107.7 Guthrie, TX
http://www.americancowboyradio.com
25353 S. Lightning Creek Road
Custer, SD 57730
(Plays Western Gospel music and
cowboy poetry)
Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm (CST)
Monday 8:00 pm (CST)
KirkhamMusic@icloud.com
605-440-7338

Susie Knight

"The Western Way Hour" (poet friendly)
http://www.coniferradio.com
PO Box 76, Conifer, CO 80433
303-495-4869

Al Krtil

225 W. 7th St.
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008
alkrtil@yahoo.com

Jarle Kvale

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

Eddy Leverett

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 www.earsradio.com
 meoteo@aol.com
 10430 W. Loma Blanca Dr.
 Sun City, AZ 85351
 805-551-4649

O.J. Sikes

681 Ellington Rd., Ridgewood, NJ 07450
 ojsikes@gmail.com
 KKRN, Redding, CA
 www.earsradio1.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

JJ Steele*"Cowboy Corral"*

c/o JJ Steele
 KLZR
 103 South 2nd Street
 Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

Tommy Tucker*"Snake River Radio Roundup"*

93.1 FM/1350 AM KRLC Radio
 (Does Not Use MP3s)
 805 Stewart Ave.
 Lewiston, ID. 83501
 208-743-1551
 tommy@idavend.com
"Keepin' It Western"

Wayne & Kathy*"Swing 'n' Country"*

KBOO 90.7 FM
 20 SE 8th Ave.
 Portland, OR 97214
 wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net

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.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 40

And the Wild Bunch Film Festival selected her videos: 'Looking for One Good Cowboy' (finalist); and, 'The Drifter' to be included in the festival. We'll look for the report of K'C.'s travels 'down under' next quarter. The Flints Hills Discovery Center hosted the 12th annual state finals for the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest. After advancing through two regional competitions, seven finalists took the stage to perform all-original poems about the cowboy and ranch lifestyle. Western Wordsmiths Scott Wiswell of Valley City placed first in the serious poetry category and Betty Burlingham, also of Manhattan, placed third in the humorous category for her poem about cow pies and state fairs. Scott has a newly published book: *When The Stars Sang: A Collection Of Cowboy & Western Poetry* available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Kansas Jim, (James H. John) after a longer than planned absence is back wordsmithin'. Jim was very active about fifteen years

back with many organizations and projects. Some illness, surgery and family related challenges took 'Kansas Jim' away and he is "back at it again." Susie Knight, Vic Anderson and Terry Nash lent their respective talents to the Colorado Cowboy Gathering Summer Concert at the Cherokee Ranch Castle. Susie continues The Western Way Hour with Susie Knight, The Saddlebag Lady. Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. MT, log in to www.coniferradio.com to hear Susie's show. Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Western Music Rendezvous was held August 12-13 in Lewistown, Montana. Wordsmiths Vic Anderson, Sherl Cederberg, Rik "Yonder" Goodell, Kimberly Kaye, George Ray Russell, added their talents to the Gathering. Jo Lynne Kirkwood keeps a busy schedule, she recently performed at: the prestigious Entrada Institute's Cowboy Way Festival in Torrey, UT, with Hal Cannon; a Highway Patrolman Convention (no doubt to avoid speeding tickets); and she is prepping to Host the poets Stage at the Heber Valley Music & Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Terry Nash

reports the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering is slated for November 4-5 at the Grand Valley Event Center, Grand Junction, CO. and features Western Wordsmiths: Floyd & Valerie Beard; Jo Lynne Kirkwood; Dale Page; The Russellers, (Dennis & Bev); and he himself, Terry Nash. westernslopecowboygathering.com The Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering went off without a hitch August 11-13 in beautiful Prescott, AZ, and the Yavapi College Campus featured Western Wordsmiths: Floyd Beard; Valerie Beard; Gary Kirkman; Deanna McCall; Terry Nash; Miska Paget; Tom Swearingen. 'Yours truly' was sadly unable to attend due to a long uphill stretch. The Cowboy Poetry Contest for the IWMA Convention is packed with eighteen of the top talented poets, five judges, and an emcee. Contestants and judges will receive notification of criteria in advance of the contest. Back East, yours truly, Mark Munzert performed at the Cheshire Fair in Vermont, a couple of Active Adult Communities, and at Lake George, NY, with Ernie Sites. The Western Wordsmith's have been busy. 🐾

Western Charts

Attention Musicians and Poets! 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 in this issue.

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Westbound – Micki Fuhrman
2. Yellow Horse – Doug Figgs
3. The Real West – Patty Clayton
4. Good Days Are Comin' – Jim Jones
5. Times Like These – Randy Huston
6. If I Had a Horse – Almeda Bradshaw
7. Range of the Buffalo – Kerry Grombacher
8. She's Leaving Cheyenne – John Lowell
9. Sugarfoot – Paul Kelly
10. Me and Les – Dan McCorison
11. Old West Requests – Pioneer Pepper
12. American Outlaw – Chris Guenther
13. Doin' What We Do – The Cowboy Way
14. The Last Best West – Jim Reader
15. Devil on My Tail – The Hot Texas Swing Band
16. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
17. Frontier – Mary Kaye
18. Words and Music – Jim Jones
19. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
20. Rancher's Paradise – Barry Ward
21. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
22. Mile After Mile – Carol Markstrom
23. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
24. Family Shiloh at the Gold Copper Ranch – The Shiloh Family
25. Straight From the Heart – Suzie Killman & Cyndi K. Austin
26. Sidekicks and Saddle Pals – Dan Robert Crow
27. Cow Pony – Ryan Fritz
28. Turn 'Em Loose – Susie Knight
29. One More River to Cross – The Ramblin' Rangers
30. Once Upon a Desert Night – Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Yearnin' – Jim Winters
2. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
3. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
4. Devil on My Tail – The Hot Texas Swing Band
5. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
6. Dancin' With Swingitude – Grace Clark
7. Harmony Grits – Ida Red
8. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
9. Swingin' Open Range – Barbara Nelson
10. Obsessed With the West – Brennan Leigh
This is Swing Country – Steve Markwardt

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJs

1. What a Moon – Micki Fuhrman
Range of the Buffalo – Kerry Grombacher
3. Sacramentos – Doug Figgs
Ways of Another Time – Doug Figgs
Yellow Horse – Doug Figgs
6. Welcome to Wickenburg – Dan McCorison
7. If I Had a Horse – Almeda Bradshaw
The Grulla Mare – Doug Figgs
In the Moment – Jim Jones w/Kacey & Jenna Thunborg
10. Long Gone Out West Blues – Patty Clayton
You Oughta See Wyoming – Micki Fuhrman
Times Like These – Randy Huston
Mighty Fine Life – Jim Jones

20 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. No Better Life – Valerie Beard
2. Between the Sun and the Moon – Teresa Burleson
3. Wisdom in the Wind – Sherl Cederburg
Circle Back – Kimberly Kaye
5. The Best Horses in Heaven, They Have no Tails – Miska Paget
New Mexico Stray – Dennis Russell
7. They Come Prancin' – A.K. Moss
8. Horse Tales and Cow Trails – Floyd Beard
9. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
10. Amongst Friends – Baxter Black
Cowboy Mentality – Baxter Black
Deep Tracks – Marleen Bussma
The Journey – K.C. LaCourse
14. Wagon Train – Colt Blankman
Pensive & Playful – Mark Munzert
A Good Ride – Terry Nash
17. West Texas Heat – Teresa Burleson
Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg
Day Workin' – Mark Munzert
20. Stories in Rhyme – Jo Lynn Kirkwood

***A MISSING NUMBER IN THE LIST
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MAILBAG

I got my latest copy of *Western Way* and there was Jack Hummel grinning at me. I thought, cool, they put Jack on the cover. How right is that? Now I have learned that he is gone and I won't be seeing his welcoming face at our conferences. I don't know how I missed this but I am so sorry that Jack has left us. I know his main purpose was to be a chronicler of the IWMA but to me he was the guiding hand saying "Welcome! Come and join this great bunch of people!" I will miss him.

~ Rex Rideout

Theresa, I just read your insight in the Summer 2022 issue of *The Western Way* magazine. I completely agree with your assessment regarding market ready performers. It took me 20 years and thousands of hours of practice and introspection to achieve market ready performance standards you mention in your article. Sure, coming out of the gates I had the "it" factor, and some charm.

But I quickly learned to be more than a novelty act and one-trick-pony, I needed discipline and a bit of humility. Discipline is key to long standing success and personal fulfillment in any endeavor. I really appreciated your insight as validation of my ongoing efforts to improve and not rest on prior knowledge and accomplishments. Thank you!

~ Buddy Greenbloom

Just wanted to thank you and Theresa for putting together such a quality publication year after year. "Many hands make light work" is true; and you have a great team. However, you two do all the heavy lifting. A somewhat somber obituary issue, but hey, that's just the way it is ... I really enjoyed Bryan's tribute to Duane. As you know, Baxter was an old friend too. I guess that's it. Just wanted to check in and say thanks.

~ Peter Bruce

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