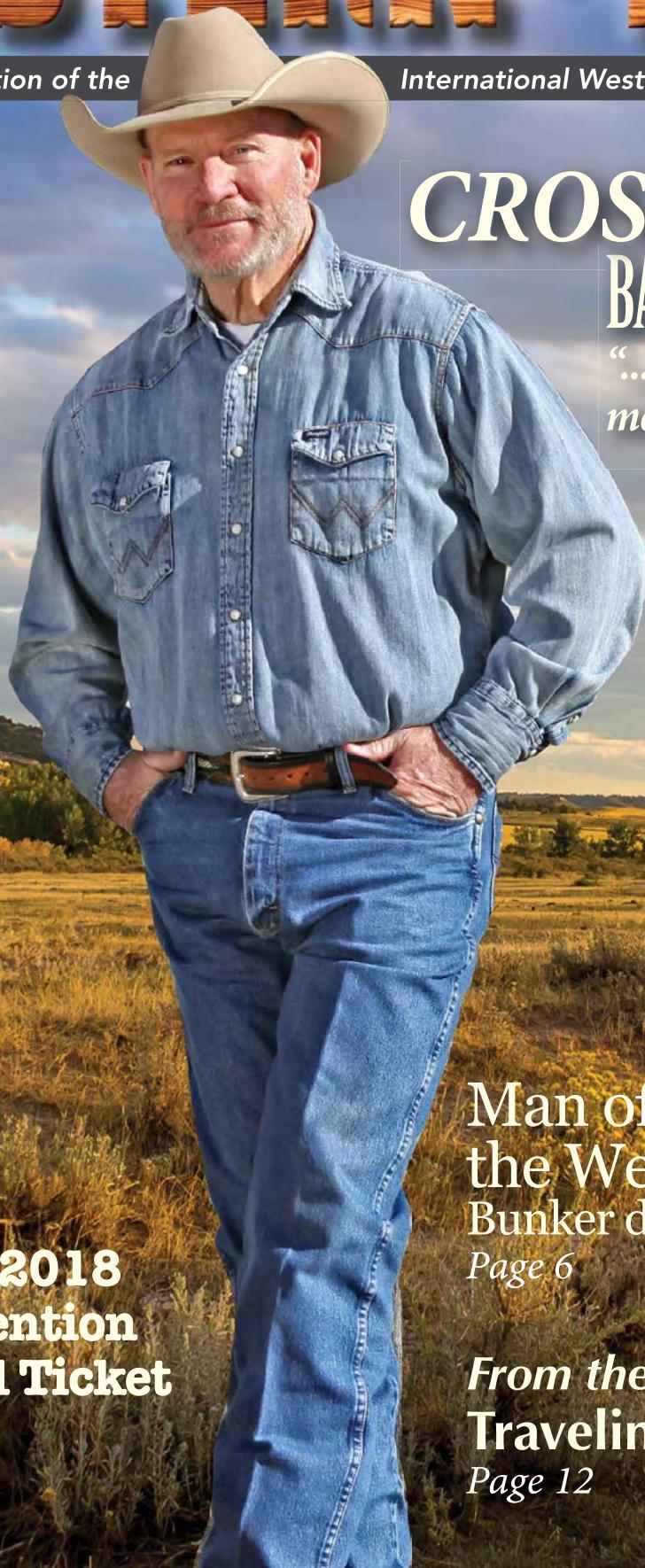


THE

WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the

International Western Music Association



CROSSHAIRS: BARRY WARD

*“...write songs that
mean something.”*

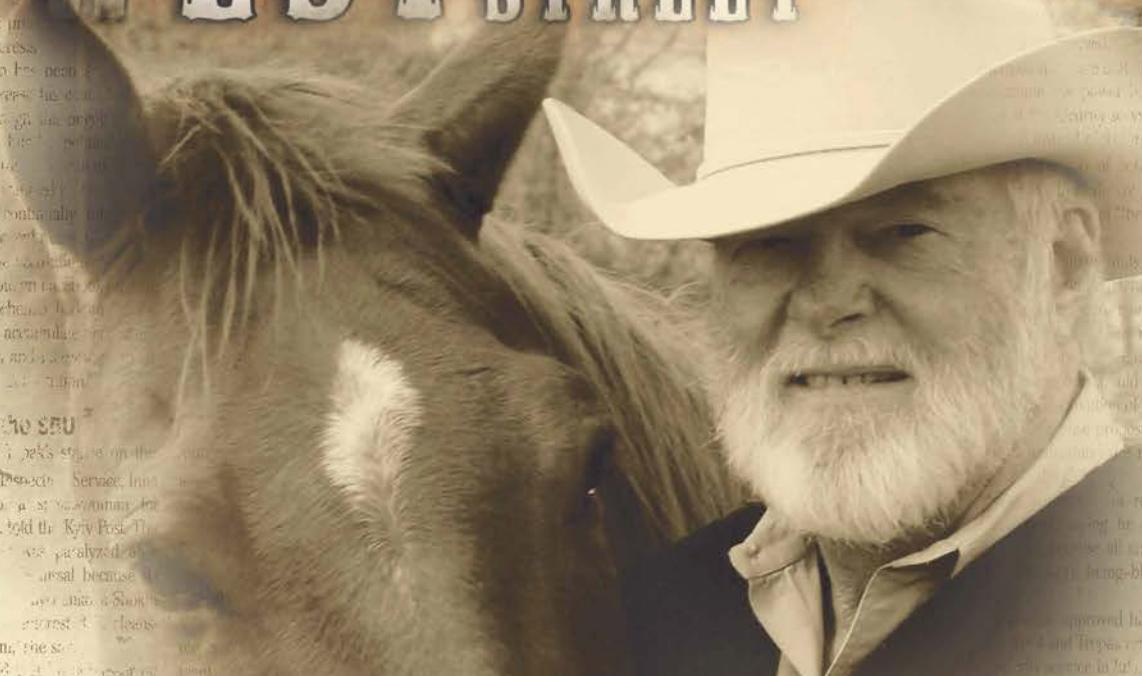
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the system," she said. Trepak said that his son job, Pavlo, was second-hand me to him. In the office, a genuine fight would have been between his subordinates.

President Yanukovych's office, headed by Oleksandr Hutsulyak and his son, Oleksandr, former subordinates of Trepak's.

Yakymchuk, who from March 2014 to April 2015, was the head of the National Security Service, had wanted to expand its powers, including the right to inspect them to interfere in their service. Yakymchuk, from the position of chief of staff, was heading to the Security Service.

Critics expected the anti-corruption department to become a strong anti-corruption department. Instead, it became a factor of insecurity. Then the department will turn from a factor of security to a factor of insecurity.

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General Prosecutor Service, Ilna Kovalchuk, a former subordinate of Yakymchuk, told the Kyiv Post. The vice minister was paralyzed after he was asked because he did not want to damage his political career. The state prosecutor's office has been trying to fire the vice minister since 2014, but he has not been able to do so.

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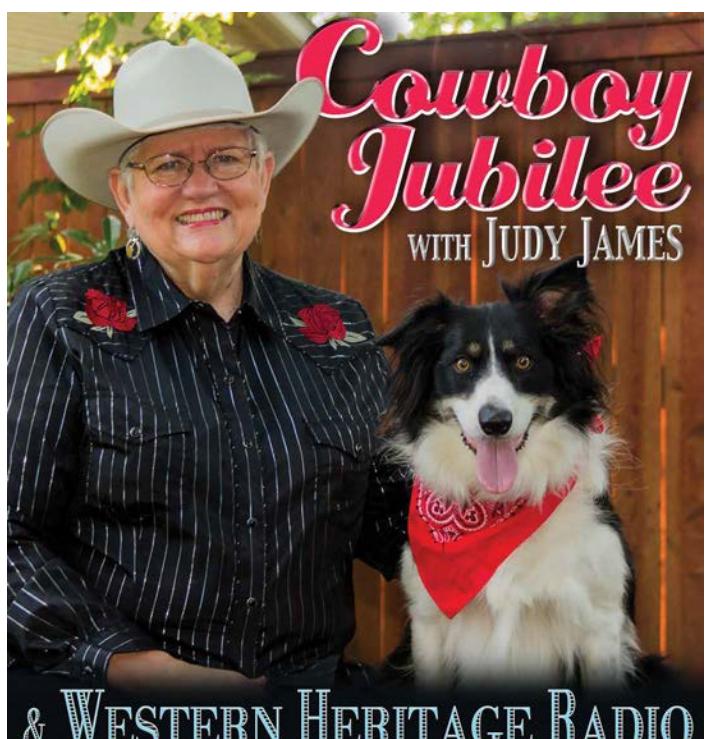
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From The President...



Marvin O'Dell
IWMA President

When one makes a commitment, one should not go back on that commitment. God has a way of letting us know that. I promised once that I would never fly again, but recently I went back on my word.

While working on a new album with LeeLee Robert a few months ago, I was talked into flying with her and Tom Boyer to Nashville for some sessions we had scheduled there. I don't remember getting drunk or completely losing my mind, but I must have because I agreed to do it. It's the first time I've been on an airplane in YEARS, but, somehow, I was talked into flying on a private jet. I was assured that it would be a fun way to get to Nashville.

I was assured that Captain Rick, the pilot and LeeLee's husband, carried the highest license one could get for flying private jets. He was even licensed to carry government officials. (Oh, wow! So was the pilot who flew Poland's president Lech Kaczynski.)

I hardly slept for two weeks thinking about what a mistake I was making. Finally, the day came. Tom and I drove to a small airport in Mesa, AZ to board the plane. To call this thing an airplane is to greatly exaggerate. It was only a small aluminum tube in which you couldn't even stand up; I could picture some kid on the ground operating it with a remote control. Seats faced both backward and forward - so close that my feet were between LeeLee's feet who was sitting across from me. Before boarding, I told everyone I left my wallet in the car. I ran to get it, but the captain followed me to make sure I didn't get in my car and leave. Thus, that plan was foiled.

I got back on the plane telling myself over and over again, "He can fly government officials...he can fly government officials...", which brought me, I might add, little comfort. From the sky, earth is just as far down for a government official as it would be for me! LeeLee told me, with a sinister look on her face, that the plane would lift off when it reached 100 mph on the ground. 100 mph! Didn't the pilot know that you have no real control over any vehicle going over 75?! (I read that on the Internet, so it must be true.) Well, we did lift off, and the plane began hitting turbulence faster than you can say, "I hate the Wright Bros."

We didn't fly to Nashville, we BOUNCED our way to Nashville with me closing my window shade so I wouldn't see the parts breaking off the plane with each bump. LeeLee and Tom were gleefully proclaiming that this is the "way to travel." Had they never heard about birds being sucked into engines? Or the terms "wind shear" and "metal fatigue?" Had they never seen a movie where the pilot has a heart attack and one of the passengers has to land the plane? Had they never heard of a computer crashing? (Captain Rick told me that the plane was very safe - that it practically "flew itself" - the very thought of which activated diarrhea-like gurgling in my stomach).

Just before landing in Nashville, the plane suddenly ROARED! I grabbed hold of everything and everybody within reach. (I apologized later for being in LeeLee's lap; I promise nothing improper was meant.) Tom and LeeLee, giddy with flight enjoyment, told me it was only the reverse thrust necessary for landing the plane - in other words, they said, the plane was putting on the brakes. My not-so-calm reply was, "WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE WARN ME ABOUT THIS!?" I don't remember much after that - Nashville, where we ate, the recording session - because all I could think for 48 hours was, "I have to get back on that thing to get back home - or rent a car (a very serious consideration that, unfortunately, I couldn't afford)." Why I allowed that aluminum flying tube to shoot me back across the skies at insane speeds two days later, I have no idea. I kept thinking, "I hope my friends in the Non-Flyer's Club don't find out about this - they'll think I'm a traitor."

Well, the flight back was not near as bumpy - until what I refer to now as my "near-death experience." Coming in over the mountains dropping into Mesa, the plane

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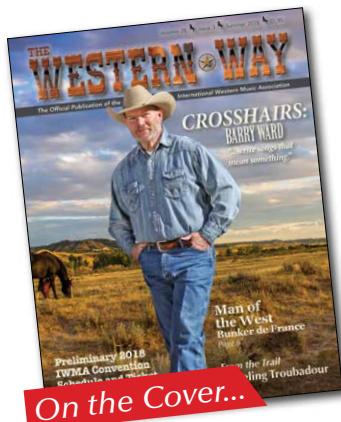
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Award-winning singer, songwriter and entertainer Barry Ward is at home on the stage or on the ranch, holding a guitar or riding a horse. He is passionate in his love for the USA and bold in his personal faith. The Bear - the real deal! Image courtesy Ashley Bogle of Eureka, KS. Used by permission.

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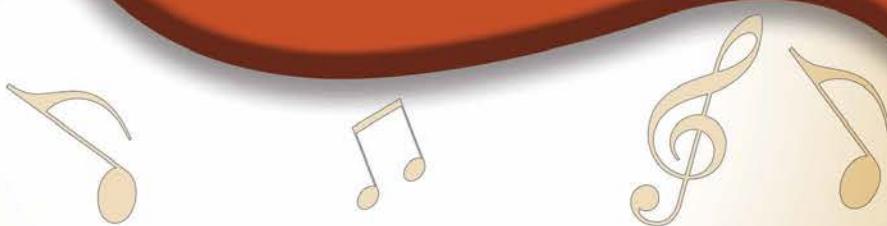
Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell

"Do not wait; the time will never be 'just right.' Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along."

- George Herbert



I think it was about 2004-05 or so when I first became aware of the IWMA (then WMA). Since my hubby was into the “music-thing” long before I was, I can’t remember the exact date I began to pay attention to some of his music association affiliations. He was already doing Bluegrass radio, a real stretch for this “raised on traditional gospel music girl,” then added a classic country radio show to his music love, and soon followed with a Western music show as well. I began to pay a little more attention! I liked the old cowboy songs and although I didn’t have an extensive knowledge of the music or artists, I had grown up watching the movie cowboys on TV. I found something familiar in this Western music genre. And, loving the simplicity and the harmony in gospel music made it a comfortable transition to Western music as I began to expand my musical repertoire.

Before I knew it, I was making my way to a few festivals and began to get acclimated to new “old” stuff. I began to meet and develop friendships with western music performers and fans. I liked it! Then came the next step.

About seven years or so ago (time flies...can’t remember exactly when!), I joined the IWMA board of directors. I didn’t really need another cause to champion, but I had grown to believe in its mission and was already working to spread the word. I was ready to commit and to work harder! Once on the board, I took on responsibility as Treasurer and served in that capacity for a couple of years (not because of extensive expertise in that area, but to fill a need at the time.)

In 2011-12, the board asked for someone to act as board liaison to work with Don Cusic, the Editor of the *Western Way* magazine. Now that was something I could get excited about, so I raised my hand! I had enjoyed a 25-year career in publishing and although I could not bring Don’s extensive historical knowledge of the genre to the magazine, I could bring other skills that I hoped would benefit the magazine and, thereby, further the mission of the IWMA. Later when Don resigned, I was given the opportunity to assume the awesome responsibility of continuing the voice of and promoting the work of the *Western Way*, The Official Publication of the International Western Music Association.

I’m not sure exactly why I decided to share this information at this time. Maybe it is because I believe strongly that there is never the exact “right” time to start new things, learn new techniques, begin new programs, write new songs, expand a business or step out of a comfort zone to explore new possibilities. Sometimes you just need to do it! Failure only means you tried, it didn’t work, you hone your skill and you try again. I am thrilled to see young artists braving into the world of performance, and to see more mature, seasoned artists stepping out from comfortable old ways to try new methods and approaches.

Start with what you have and use those tools. Fill a gap that needs filled. Then, watch for the opportunity to add new tools and do new things. Life is too short not to explore the possibilities!

From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

Don't Starve by Jeff Goins (available on Amazon, of course). I don't like to promote books or CDs since it's hard to tell when to stop, but this was something that needed to be shared.

- The Starving Artist believes you must be born an artist. The Thriving Artist knows you become one.
- The Starving Artist strives to be original. The Thriving Artist steals from his influences.
- The Starving Artist believes he has enough talent. The Thriving Artist apprentices under a master.
- The Starving Artist is stubborn about everything. The Thriving Artist is stubborn on vision but flexible on details.
- The Starving Artist waits to be noticed. The Thriving Artist cultivates patrons.
- The Starving Artist needs no one. The Thriving Artist finds a scene.
- The Starving Artist always works alone. The Thriving Artist collaborates with others.
- The Starving Artist does his work in private. The Thriving Artist practices in public.
- The Starving Artist works for free. The Thriving Artist always works for something.
- The Starving Artist sells out too soon. The Thriving Artist owns as much of his work as possible.
- The Starving Artist does one thing. The Thriving Artist does many things.
- The Starving Artist despises the need for money. The Thriving Artist makes money to make more art.

Then I started reading what I had just typed and realized that this could apply not just to performers but to all of us. Two lessons here: work hard for what you want and value yourself. If you do those two things, you can conquer the world or at least your small part of it! Your IWMA family is here to help raise you up and support you through good times and bad. Together we can make a difference.

So once again, I'm encouraging you to start making plans to join the family in Albuquerque this year and bring a friend! There will be music and poetry, educational workshops, evening concerts, and more music and poetry. Look for a preliminary program and registration information further back in this issue. This is the place to be in November! (Excerpt used by permission.)

Getting what you want isn't easy...it takes a lot of work and sleepless nights. Ask anyone who is an "overnight success" how long that overnight actually was. And success is fleeting. What works for you one day, may not work the next. And then there's the danger of reaching a plateau and really not knowing what to do next. Do you continue to do the same things over and over, thinking that it will turn out differently this time?

I was perusing performer websites when I found one that had an excerpt from Real Artists



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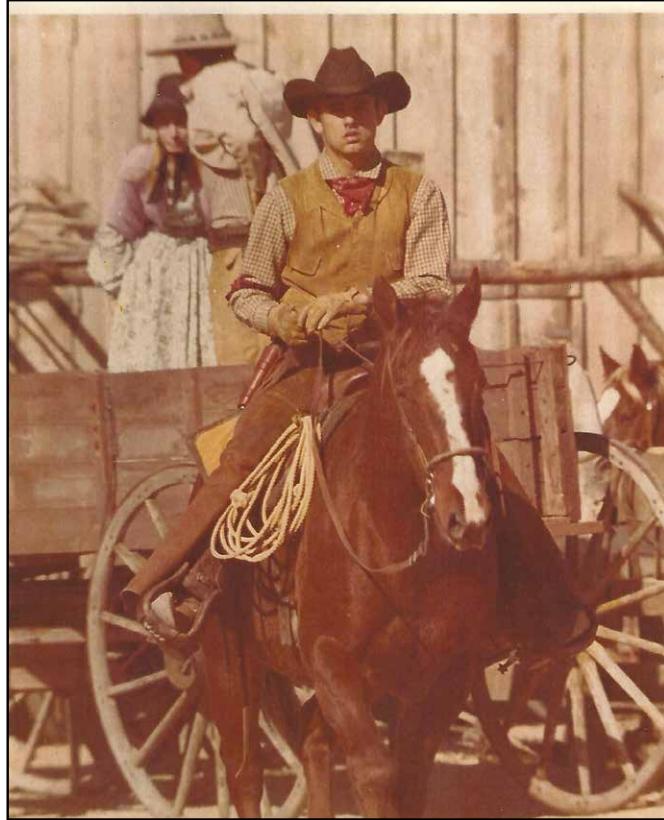
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- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
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Bunker de France MAN OF THE WEST

By Yvonne Mayer

Remember those days of yesteryear? The cowboy on his silver (or palomino or black) horse comes riding over the hill guns blazing chasing the outlaws? Little buckaroos were thrilled by the action at the Saturday matinee and wanted to be that cowboy. Steve "Bunker" de France became that cowboy riding horses in Western movies and TV series as a stuntman!



Bunker filmed for a Chevrolet commercial, late 1960's

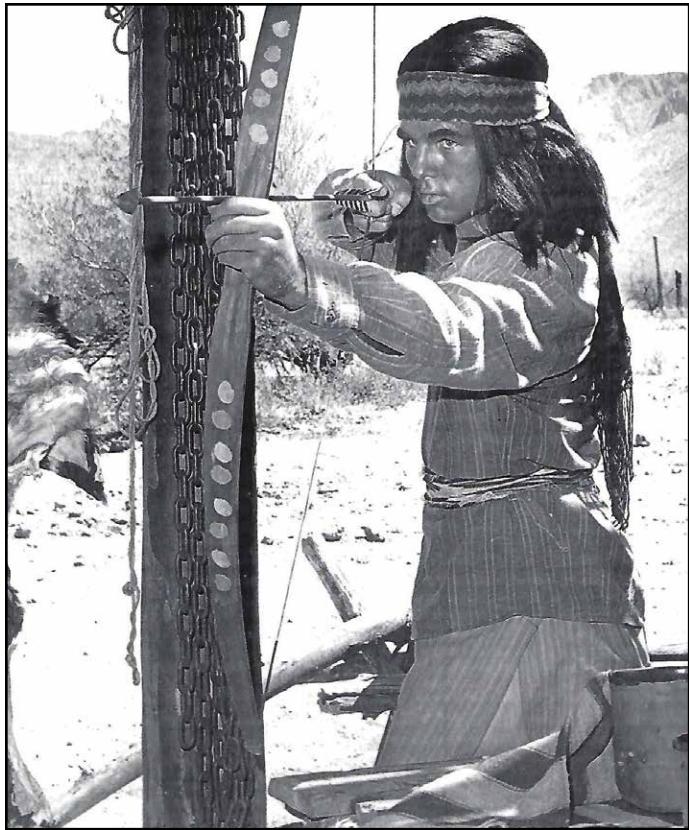
Growing up in Ruidoso, NM in the '40s and '50s was the ideal environment for an aspiring young cowboy. His mother and step-father ran a bar and had horses that they raced, so Bunker learned to ride at an early age. He even tried bull-riding.

After a stint in the Navy, Bunker got serious about a career. At a casting call, he declared he was an actor. They weren't looking for more actors, but did need horse handlers. And so, his movie career was born. His first job was to keep horses calm and to see they did not injure the cast or themselves.

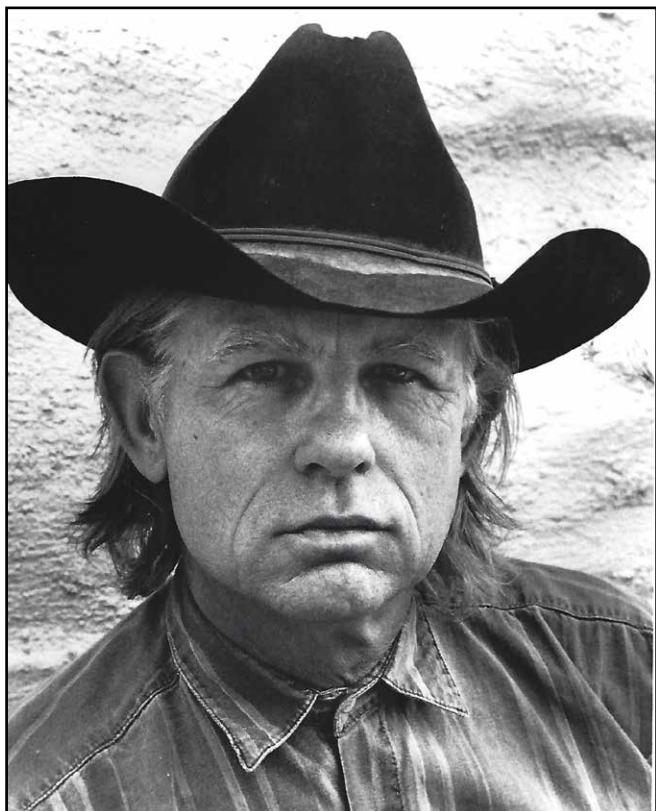
From horse-handler to stuntman to stand-in, Bunker has had an action-filled career. He worked with the likes of John Wayne, Lee Marvin, Paul Newman and James Arness, to name just a few. Whether working in the movies or TV series, actors and casts are always on the move from location to location. Bunker likens it to a rodeo circuit; "when one job finishes, you pack up and head for the next one."

Many Westerns were shot in Arizona. Sitting in the green room at Old Tucson Studios one day, Bunker pointed to a movie prop and said, "I was a bank teller in that cage in *Dundee and the Culhane!*" De France is now retired-sort of. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Empire Ranch Foundation, an historic ranch founded outside of Tucson, AZ in the late 19th century. It too served as a movie location for many movies.

He is compiling a list of movies shot in Arizona and their locations, and serves as a co-host on a Tucson radio KVOI pod cast. Every Saturday the station features "Voices of the West" dedicated to Western music,



De France during filming of the *High Chaparral* television series



Steve M. de France

Cowboy poetry, Western movies and history of the area. You may also find "Voices of the West" on Facebook. No, he's not really retired. A tip of the Stetson to you, Bunker!



In Memoriam

Jerry Bobroff (1945 – 2018)



The International Western Music Association (IWMA) and the California Chapter lost a great friend and supporter Jerry Bobroff, May 11, 2018 after his brave battle with liver cancer. Right up to the end he was planning to visit IWMA friends across the country and enjoy as much live music as he could. Sadly, he and wife Carol did not get to make that trip. For nearly a decade they have been frequent smiling faces in the audience at most of our events and anywhere music of any kind was being played.

Jerry was born Jerome R. Bobroff March 15, 1945 in Lakewood, NJ. After joining the US Navy, he and Carol enjoyed travelling the world as they began their family. After settling in California in retirement they continued their travels but it usually involved surrounding themselves with the music and friends they had found in IWMA. What we found and who we will miss terribly was a supporter and IWMA family member, not to be forgotten. To Carol and son, Michael, we offer our heartfelt condolences.





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THE VIKING COWBOY

By Mag Mawhinney

The year was 1949 and my Dad, a Norwegian emigrant, had started a horse logging homestead in the Cariboo, British Columbia. Before we moved up to the homestead, we rented property from a "Swede-Finn". This fellow was especially noted because one had to be aware he wasn't a Norwegian—in case he did something stupid. Dad's law.

Anyhow, not only did we rent the property from the "Swede-Finn", we also boarded two of his horses. Now, you have to know, these were not thoroughbreds—only a couple of mangy cayuses, slightly winded and ready for the bone yard, one of which was an old mare by the name of Dolly.

One particular winter day, Dad needed to get to the mill site, about three miles away, and had no means of transportation. So, he saddled up old Dolly and proceeded up the road, past the window with Mom's cherished Venetian blind, through which we were peeking. This sorry sight doubled us over with laughter. His profile was hilarious! Walt Disney could have used his image as a cartoon character.

Dad, who was tall and lean, sat astride the swayback mare like a true greenhorn. Not long on patience, he hadn't taken the time to lower the stirrups to accommodate his long

legs, so they just hung over the top with his toes almost touching the ground. Furthermore, Dolly didn't want to go so she clomped each hoof down like a spoiled child, creating a lot of daylight between Dad and the saddle. There wasn't a relaxed muscle on Dad's body and he was leaning backwards, shifting his center of gravity so that he wouldn't fall forward should the horse stop suddenly. His bottom lip, full of "snoose", jutted forward and his toque was shoved back on his balding head. Most of the toque—the kind that came to a point with a tassel—flopped rhythmically to Dolly's jarring gait. Off he went into the wild, blue yonder.

About four hours later, they were seen trotting down from the tree line, up from the meadow. Every time Dolly clomped a hoof down, steam came from her nostrils—and Dad's mouth. Now, he was leaning farther backwards in the saddle because they were going downhill. By the time he got to the house, his toque was so askew, it almost hung from one ear.

A few minutes later, he came into the house to warm up. He made his way over to the couch, and, aware of the broken spring, sat down gingerly.

That was the end of his cowboy days. Dolly and Dad had parted ways.



Mag Mawhinney is a Canadian poet and published author, and proud member of the IWMA.



THE WESTERN WAY GOES BACK TO WASHINGTON

Part II



Photos courtesy Greg Bade



President Washington's Fruit Orchard



The Nation's Capitol,
Washington, D.C.



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.

When You've Hung Up All The Harness

Victor T. Anderson

*Have you ever stopped and listened to the horses chewing hay
when you've hung up all the harness after feeding cows that day?
Old Princess turns her head and she nuzzles at your coat.
And King, his nose is snuffling, searching for that final oat.*

*The cold of every breath you take makes nose hairs freeze and thaw
while you check the horses' shoulders, keeping watch for patches raw.
A tail lifts, the barn is filled with a strong, familiar smell.
A snort, King shakes and Princess stomps. You know they're feeling well.*

*There's hay out on the bobsled for tomorrow morning's feed.
It'll take a bit of work to give the cattle what they need.
You have the bobsled runners parked upon a chunk of wood
so they won't be frozen down and they'll slide just like they should.*

*Next morning, just at sunup, harness frozen, stiff and cold
when you take it off the tack hook, makes you feel a little old.
'Cause your hands are some arthritic and your back just aches away.
'Till you see a calf a sucklin' on the feed ground that cold day.*

*Morning's sun has warmed the landscape when you get the bobsled stopped.
As the horses blow a steamy breath, they cock a hind leg up.*

*You can smell the horses sweat while you're stacking on more bales.
They shift their weight and shake their bits, morning's breezes brush
their tails.*

*So, you load another rack full and you swing the team around
and you tie up both the ribbons when you're on the feeding ground.
On the river water hole the fog is wispy, gettin' thinner,
Spring is just around the corner, you c'n smell the end of winter.*

*While the horses make their circle as you're feeding off the hay
the jingling of the tug chains and the bobsleds swing and sway,
murmur songs and whisper rhythms that you've known for many years.
Muscles warmed, you shed your coat, lift the earflaps off your ears.*

*Then you point that sweating team toward the barnyard when you're done,
with a load of hay all ready for tomorrow mornin's run.
You park the sled, unhitch the team, and lead them to their stalls.
Then feed 'em hay and once again, you check their hides for galls.*

*Take quarter straps, the belly bands, the britchen and the hames,
sling 'em on the tack hook, 'long with collars, bits and chains
Then you stop. For just a moment, while the horses chew their hay.
When you've hung up all the harness after feeding cows that day.*



ABOUT VIC ANDERSON

Vic has been a rodeo contestant, farmer, cowboy, hay foreman and top hand on a large ranch in Montana, big game and fishing guide, outfitter, dude wrangler, livestock inspector, workers compensation claims investigator and examiner, respiratory therapist, sleep lab technician, singer/songwriter, columnist, author, poet, and western entertainer. He and Catherine still have their horses and they care for a couple more. Vic spends the rest of his time as a cowboy entertainer and writing short stories, songs, poems and novels.

SONS OF THE PIONEERS

1934 TILL TODAY



L-R: Ken Lattimore, Tommy Nallie, John Fullerton, Paul Elliott, Dusty Rogers
(Submitted photo. Used by permission.)

By O.J. Sikes

(Published in Western Clippings. Reprinted by permission.)

When young Leonard Slye helped his family pack up all their belongings and move to California in 1930, he had no idea what was in store for him but he had a dream. The entertainment field, especially radio, offered the possibility of relief from, or a way out of, the dreary life that so many were experiencing during the Great Depression. Others shared Slye's dream, among them Clarence Nolan and Vern Spencer, who, after several unsuccessful experiments with other aspiring musicians, were to come together to form the Pioneer Trio, soon to be named by a radio announcer, The Sons of the Pioneers.

The boys' names changed, too, at different times. First, Clarence became Bob Nolan. Later, Len Slye's dad suggested that Vern change his name to Tim Spencer. And in 1937, Republic Studios changed Len's name to Roy Rogers when he left the Pioneers to become the star of one of their feature films, *Under Western Stars*. But that

wasn't Roy's first appearance on screen. The Sons of the Pioneers had appeared in a Warner Brothers film, *Radio Scout*, in May of 1935, by which time the Farr Brothers had joined the group, and several other films followed that year, but their most significant screen appearance in 1935 was in *Gallant Defender*, Charles Starrett's first Western. That opened the door for a partnership in a series of films with Starrett for Columbia that lasted until 1941.

When Roy left the group, late in 1937, he called on his friend Pat Brady to replace him as the Pioneers' comic, but Pat's voice was not as pleasing as Roy's, so Lloyd Perryman was added as the third member of the vocal trio: Nolan, Spencer and Perryman. Perryman made a major contribution to the group's "sound," helping them perfect the art of stacked harmony, something that set them apart from other groups and, along with the original compositions written by Nolan and Spencer, made the

Pioneers the premier Western group of all time. Recording contracts with Decca and Columbia and film appearances with Bing Crosby, Dick Foran, Charles Starrett and Gene Autry made it easy to transition to Republic Studios as full-time performers in the series starring their old pal Roy Rogers. The group had consisted of the same members for a number of years, with only occasional substitutions, but the war had an important impact on the line-up. Perryman and Brady joined the war effort, and Perryman was replaced in 1941 by Ken Carson, who had been a member of the Ranch Boys, a well-known Western trio. In the 1930's, Carson had worked with the Beverly Hill Billies where he became friends with Shug Fisher, so when Pat Brady was called into the army in 1943, Ken suggested Shug as Pat's replacement. Shug was an excellent musician with his own group (recording with Merle Travis and Wesley Tuttle), but he was also a great comic and was soon to become a famous character actor on TV, e.g. as "Shorty Kellums" in the Gunsmoke TV series. Shug continued with the Pioneers in the 50's when Brady became Roy's TV sidekick.

Before TV, there were more lasting changes in the Pioneers' line-up. In 1949, both Tim Spencer and Bob Nolan retired from touring, and were replaced by Tommy Doss (for Nolan) and Ken Curtis (for Spencer). Doss sounded remarkably like Bob Nolan, so there was continuity in the "sound" of the Pioneers. Curtis had recorded with the Tommy Dorsey and Shep Fields orchestras, had been a silver screen singing cowboy star for Columbia Pictures until Gene Autry was hired by Columbia, and he had hosted his own radio show before joining the Pioneers in '49.

Curtis became an important part of the Pioneers' radio broadcasts in the early 1950s. He took over the Pioneers' radio show in '53 and eventually became "Festus" on TV's Gunsmoke. Curtis was replaced as lead singer for the Pioneers by Dale Warren. But as the era of musical B-Western movies ended, the Pioneers' record company, RCA Victor, felt that the public would insist that the Pioneers' "sound" of the 40s remain on their records, so RCA required that Curtis and Nolan continue to record, leaving Warren and Doss to tour with the group but not be represented on records during the mid-50s. When the opportunity arose to make movies with John Ford and John Wayne, Ford wasn't keen on having the Pioneers appear in his films because Hugh Farr, the Pioneers' famous fiddler, had a reputation for being cantankerous, which could lead to fist-fights; something Ford did not want to see on his sets. So he asked his son-in-law, Ken Curtis, to "get some friends together" to make music for several of his films. In those instances, record contracts did not apply, so you'll hear Tommy Doss on film



L-R: Ken Lattimore, Dusty Rogers, John Fullerton, Paul Elliott, Tommy Nallie (Submitted photo. Used by permission.)

soundtracks while Nolan, who was happy to be out of the limelight, was obligated to sing on records during this period.

Warren and Doss returned to RCA Victor in 1958, making the 1958-1969 recording trio Perryman, Doss & Warren. But Doss was tired of touring and in 1963, rodeo rider and TV stuntman Rusty Richards started touring with the group until he left in the 80s. Roy Lanham, whose group, The Whippoorwills, had recorded "Happy Trails" with Roy & Dale in 1952, replaced guitarist Karl Farr in 1961. When Perryman died in 1977, Warren became the group's "Trail Boss," until Luther Nallie took over in 2008. Other outstanding musicians have served as members of the Sons of the Pioneers over the years, e.g. outstanding entertainer Gary LeMaster, Billy Liebert, Rome Johnson, Sunny Spencer, fiddlers Billy Armstrong, Dale Morris, Jr., Doc Denning, Ricky Boen & Roy Warhurst, yodelers Bob Minser & David Bradley, and John Nallie, Daryl Wainscott, Randy Rudd and Mark Abbott. Today, the Pioneers are Tommy Nallie (Trail Boss), "Dusty" Rogers, Ken Lattimore, John Fullerton and fiddler Paul Elliott. They're touring the US & Canada at the moment, with multiple concerts scheduled for Branson in Sept-Oct. For their tour schedule see SonsOfThePioneers.org.

THE GLAMOROUS LIFE OF A TROUBADOUR

By Ralph Estes

School's administrative offices: "Howdy. I'm Ramblin' Ralph and I'm here as a troubadour for the New Mexico state Chautauqua program."

"A whaat for the whaat?"

I explain that New Mexico has a Chautauqua program that sends actors, authors, poets, and entertainers to communities all over the state. As a troubadour I sing and tell stories. Usually gratifying, but sometimes . . .

So, to start at the beginning. Phone call:

"Can you perform for Podunk (not the real name) High School on Friday the 15th?"

Check the calendar, clear. "Sure. What time?"

"9:15 am; it'll be in the high school gym."

"Okay. Do you have a sound system?" "Um, yes, I think so, I'm pretty sure we do." (Note to self: that shoulda been a red flag.)

Hmm. Podunk is several hours drive, so we'll need to spend the night. But, what the heck. "Fine. I'll try to load in by 8:45."

My wife and I usually prefer our travel trailer to a motel room, so I start searching for an RV park reasonably close to Podunk High School. None such. In fact, all the RV facilities in and around Podunk seem to be permanent resident mobile home parks with a couple of spaces for RVs. Okay, forget the nice views and communing with nature; I call the one closest to the school.

"Do you have hookups?"

"Oh yes, we have everything." Okay, sounds pretty good. I charge the \$40. "When you come, just find site number two. Walk back to the office - there will be no one there - put your money in the envelope and slide it into the door slot."

Evening before the performance we roll into Podunk, find the RV "park." It's an industrial area, but our hosts do have a helpful billboard. We turn in, but can't find number two. After several awkward backing and filling turnarounds in the tight place, we stop while one of us goes walking. Eventually returns - "It's over there."

"Over where? All I see is a concrete wall."

"That's right. It's on the other side."

"Uh, how do we get there?"

"I'm not sure, but why don't we just drive around until we find an access."

Driving around (see backing and filling above) is no piece of cake, but eventually we find a way.

"Gee, are we supposed to back in there?"

"C'mon, Ralph, you can do it."

We do get parked, find the electrical outlet. No water. No sewer, no trash can. Turns out there is also no restroom, no shower, no lounge, no game area, no washer/dryer.

We are self-contained, so it doesn't much matter for one night - except the fee in New Mexico for such as this ought to be around \$20, not \$40.

Enough of that. Next morning we head for what turns out to be a large regional high school, and arrive about 8:30. Instructions were to report to the "office" for a badge and parking permit. The whole campus, it seems, is under construction - to be completed in one month! It's a jumble of temporary buildings, tall wire fencing, piles of pipe and culverts - to my innocent eye a pretty big mess.

At the office, no one is expecting me. There's quite a bit of back and forth among the office staff, some phone calls, then the principal shows up. He knows nothing either. After trying several locations/phone numbers, they finally reach the person who arranged the gig. We then get badged.

"So where's the gym?" "Out that way." "Behind those buildings?" "Yeah, sorta." Looks like a half a mile.

"Can we park over there." "Oh no, you'll need to park here." "Do you have anything to carry my gear over in?" "Oh yes, I'll call the Lemonzine."

Turns out the Lemonzine is a well-named battery-sort-of-powered four-wheeler. It's so loose and rattle-y I expected to see a trail of parts. The trip around and through construction sites brought to mind military jeep journeys over terrain populated with rocks and gullies. Except the jeep trips were easier; I was only 18.

Student driving pulls up before some fencing, "This is as far as the Lemonzine can go." "So where's the gym?" "It's just through there." Quarter of a mile. "Can you help us carry this gear." He's your basic skinny high school kid, so in sympathy my wife and I shoulder the heavier stuff.

In the gym there are several adults - and several dozen basketball-shooting teenagers. The adults know nothing about a performance. "Here? In the gym?"

The person who did the booking isn't around, no one knows where she is. But, with understandable uncertainty they yell to the kids that they'll have to clear the floor. The adults talk among themselves about what to do - where can they find the "hostess," where to put me, should they rearrange the bleachers?

I see there's no stage. "Where do you want me? Students in those stands, and me out here on the floor?" "Yeah, suppose so." They guess there might be 400 students, and wonder whether they need to add extension seating.

So it's gonna be me, alone, out in the middle of the floor. Thank heaven they have a sound system.

I corral one of the adults, big guy. "I have a mic cable with an XLR connector, and an instrument cable with a quarter-inch connector. That's all - should be no problem." Big guy: "Don't know what you're talking about." Me: "Hooking into the sound system." "Sound system? Don't know about that. What we have is a battery-powered mike, and it goes out though the PA system."

My instrument is an autoharp. It's a wonderful instrument, but not very loud. Mine has a pickup and is great with amplification - which is good because microphones just won't pick it up (sound engineers never believe me, until they try).

Fortunately I had brought my small 15-watt amp, I thought just as a security blanket. With it on a chair out on the gym floor, the autoharp sound seemed to be carrying well enough. So far so good; however, the adults were still in intense discussion about the microphone.

Finally they decided to string a cable seventy-five feet across the gym floor and use a non-portable mike. We do a sound check and all is good.

Still no sign of my contact person, who would normally handle these arrangements and introduce me. The 9:15 start time has run up to a bit past 9:30, so I'm thinking about compressing the program. Then I learn that the gym is needed for a class at 10:15, so we'll have to be cleared out by 10:05 to allow time for students to get in.

Whoopee. I've got 33 minutes left for a one-hour program. I hop to it.

Although there's the usual amount of fidgeting and chattering, the kids are a pretty good audience. I've spoken to several, and rapport seems to be good and building.

Suddenly there's a teacher's booming voice: "I'm getting a lot of noise and activity in the stands. IF IT doesn't stop I'm gonna start dragging people out, taking names. Now SHUT UP!"

So much for rapport. I try to regain control. "Well, even if that teacher hadn't warned you, I know you would be wanting to listen carefully for this short poem I'm getting ready to recite." Gloriosky, it worked! And there was good participation in songs when I invited the audience to sing along.

Decided to wind up with "The Orphan Train," since audiences usually get into singing along. It's a great Utah Phillips song about a significant movement in American history - and my program is, after all, about the history of the American West.

Off we go, and the response is amazing: Nearly all 400 high school students singing with gusto and, amazingly, decent pitch. This left the kids - and me - in a pretty good mood.

As I'm packing up Martha goes looking for the contact person to sign the Chautauqua

form. Eureka, the woman has shown up, but is now hightailing it down a hallway. "I don't have time to talk, I have to be in class." The ever-tenacious Martha slams her against the wall (well, at least in her mind) and gets the essential signature.

Coulda been worse. We thank the several adults, minus the delinquent contact, and ask about the Lemonzine, as promised. They know "nozzing" but get on the phone to the all-powerful "office." Oh, the driver is in class. But they did round up another kid and soon the Lemonzine pulls up - a quarter mile away, of course.

We're in the midst of a kazillion students coming in and going out, so I grab two of the larger ones and "invite" them to help carry. They were willing, and soon we are on the road again.

Podunk High actually seems like a fairly good school - although there is one AWOL hostess I'm not too crazy about.

She's probably the principal now.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**RW Hampton** was named the 2018 recipient of the Philmont Staff Association's Distinguished Staff Alumni Award in Philmont, NM. Hampton, who is preparing for the release of his new album *My Country*, served as the keynote speaker of the opening assembly for Philmont's 1100 seasonal staff members in May. Hampton also joined **Michael Martin Murphey** for the July 4-8 American Westfest® in Red River, NM.

...In April, the city of Santa Clarita and the William S. Hart Museum awarded several western performers in recognition for their contributions over the past 25 years to the City of Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival. The awards, presented at the Hart Mansion in Santa Clarita, were received by **Belinda Gail, Jon Chandler, Don Edwards, Sourdough Slim, Waddie Mitchell, the Sons of the San Joaquin, Dave Stamey, and R.W. Hampton**.

...**The Los Bunkhouse Boys** (Cisco Jim and Juan Carlos) are appearing in a new show called "The Hoot-N-Holler Show" at the Roaring Camp Railroad in Felton, CA. The vaudeville-type show will feature guest performers, sing-alongs, jokes, and skits.

...*Everything in the Song is True*, a film produced by **Gary McMahon**, has been released and is now on Amazon Prime for free. You can watch the film and leave an honest review on Amazon.com.

...*Along the Upward Trail*, a second book from **Abe Reddekopp**, is available on Amazon. And Abe was recently inducted into the National Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame in Le Mars, Iowa.

...**Greg Hager** just returned from a 20-concert "Original Music Tour" of Japan. The music was very well received, and plans are beginning for his 3rd Japan tour in 2019.

...**Royal Wade Kimes**, the Gentleman Outlaw, has just released a new western novel titled *Sleeping Charge*. He was also interviewed recently on the Fox Network where he performed two of his hit songs. He is currently in the final stages of editing the film *Bittersweet*, a one of a kind western film.

...The latest project from Southern California cowboy singer **Ron Christopher** is titled *Outside the Fence*. All 14 songs are composed and arranged by Ron himself.

...Last November **Belinda Gail** performed at the Arizona Rangers' 60th Anniversary celebration. Stranded in Louisiana with motor home problems, Belinda and her husband, Robert, flew back to Mesa, AZ for her performance. Afterward, Belinda was surprised by being made an Honorary Member of the AZ Rangers.

...In the summer of 2018, **Syd Masters & The Swing Riders** will perform their 3,000th live concert! To celebrate this milestone, a re-mastered issue of Syd's very first CD was released this spring along with 5 new bonus tracks.

...**Tom Hawk**, from Cumberland, MD, has released his second cowboy and western album titled *Earning My Spurs*. There are twelve songs on the album, most of which are from the first half of the twentieth century. Tom yodels in four of the songs. Greg Latta, provides instrumental support and produced and engineered the album. For more information, go to www.tomhawkydeler.com.

...**Jim Jones** reports that **The Cowboy Way** (Jones, Doug Figgs, and Mariam Funke) is working on their second album. He says, "Following up on the overwhelmingly positive response to their innovative cover design with the first album (blue), they plan to remain on the cutting edge...this time, they'll go with red." It will be all new music, though.

...In May, **Jean Prescott** and **Darrell Arnold** received the Western Writers of America Spur Award for their song "The Pitchfork Grays." Jean also received a finalist certificate for her song "The Ridge." Gary & Jean Prescott are also happy to announce that their daughter was married on their ranch in May. They have gained a wonderful son-in-law, two grandsons and one great grandson!

...**Devon Dawson** is preparing a gospel CD with her original songs and **Teresa Burleson** poems. Their joint project will be titled *My Story, My Song*. Simultaneously, **Miss Devon & the Outlaw** are working with the legendary **Rich O'Brien** for a much-anticipated 2018 release.

...England's **Clint Bradley** is in the studio at present recording a new western album. All the songs are Clint's own original compositions this time. Hopefully all will be ready for an autumn release. Clint has been on the road in England with his western music and reports that he has had "some storming gigs so far this year." He is also working through the Visa complications in hopes of doing a U.S. tour soon.

...In a once-in-a-lifetime trip, **R. J. Vandygriff** performed for guests at the Mata Velha Ranch in Uberaba, Brazil, in April. He was flown first-class to Sao Paulo where he was picked up and flown by private jet to the ranch. The event was for their annual cattle auction.

...*Thinkin' of You...*, the recent release from **Mikki Daniel** and **Doug Figgs**, was the New Mexico Music Awards 2018 "Country CD of the Year." A song from the CD, "In It For the Ride", was a NMMA top 5 nominee for "Western Song." Another song from the album, "Alchesay", was a top 3 finalist for the Western Writer's Association Spur Award.

...The latest **Carol Markstrom** album, *Desert Rose*, received the 2018 Country and Western CD of the Year Award from the Rural Roots Music Commission. She will perform and receive the award Labor Day Weekend at the National Old Time Music Festival in La Mars, Iowa. Carol was recently awarded the 2017 Western Female Vocalist of the Year Award from the Academy of Western Artists.

...In April, **Miss V**, the gypsy cowbell, released her 5th CD titled *Tribal Pilgrim*. The CD features 14 original songs. Miss V is also working with a master luthier this year to hone her banjo making skills.

...**Allen and Jill Kirkham** were notified by the Rural Roots Music Commission that their latest album *Sunrise On The Prairie* is awarded 2018 Original Western CD of The Year. The duo has also been awarded long term performance contracts by the Diamond Tours Company to perform the "Allen and Jill Western Music Show" in Rapid City, SD for the May-October 2018 tourism season and for the Custer State Park South

Dakota "Blue Bell Lodge Hayride and Chuckwagon Show" for the 2018 Tourism Season

... Mindi Palmer of the **Vince & Mindi** duo had a mad pregnant cow take a run at her in a fit of bovine rage in April. After knocking her into a plow and charging a second time, the cow got her head into Mindi and pitched her over the fence. This happened an hour and a half before a gig. On the way to the doctor, she called Vince to tell me to find a substitute. Their good friend and fiddle buddy, Shelby Murdock, covered for the evening. Besides hurting real bad, Mindi's ankle was broken, but she hopes to be in a boot and able to perform again in June.

...**Peggy Malone** and her husband were visited by family from Berchtesgaden, Germany, in the spring. The day before Mother's Day, while driving on a backroad, Peggy unfortunately hit a black angus cow. She wasn't hurt, but the cow had to be put down – which to Peggy was worse than the loss of her car. The Malone's daughter, Beth, is performing in the Broadway play *Angels in America* which has received 11 Tony nominations.

...**Linda Nadon** and her husband, Larry, are pleased to report that their son, Landon, is joining them raising commercial beef cattle on the N7 ranch near Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada. Landon is the 4th generation of Nadons to occupy the original homestead.

...**Jim and Jeanne Martin** are proud to announce the marriage of their youngest son, Breck, to Rebekah, the "love of his life." According to Jim and Jeanne, "She is one amazing young lady and a great addition to our family."

President's, Continued from page 2

hit what I was told was "just a hole." JUST! A HOLE! Are you kidding me? Why would anyone get into a plane with the possibility that it could fall into a HOLE?! Tom and I flew out of our seats with Tom's head hitting the ceiling - which was only about two inches away anyway. The plane was moving side to side ("just a little wind," I'm told). When we finally landed, as soon as I was able to walk, I re-dedicated my life to Jesus and promised Him I would NEVER be so stupid again. I asked God to forgive me for some of my thoughts about Him abandoning me, my fellow passengers to forgive me for some of the language I'm sure I used when we fell into "the hole," and John Madden to forgive me for not listening when he said, "It may be safer to fly in a plane, but it's not safer to crash in one." One of these days, I will find the courage to go to Captain Rick and return the armrest that I couldn't let go of for about a week after getting off the plane. I guess I ripped it out when we fell into "the hole."

It's been about 4 months now, and I still get nervous when I hit a bump while driving. I have to keep reminding myself that I'm on the ground, not in the air. The only thing needed to make it a really fun flight would have been to fly through an Arizona dust storm. LeeLee and Tom would have loved that. I suspect Captain Rick would have loved it, too. Asked about "the hole," he responded by saying, "Aw, it wasn't even a distraction." He sounded disappointed. I can't help thinking, "He's one of those guys that sits up there HOPING a wing falls off just to see if he can land government officials with only one wing!"

Did you ever wonder why you got into the music business to begin with?



Marvin O'Dell
President, IWMA

In the CROSSLHAIRS

BARRY WARD



Barry at American Soul Live!
Photo courtesy Bill Patterson

Barry Ward: I appreciate you taking time with me.

TWW: You have actually taken western music to Africa, Barry. I think our readers would be interested in how that came about. Can you fill us in on that?

B.W.: Um, I've known for years the CEO from a ministry called T-Net International that basically trains pastors world-wide. Their Board of Directors met and thought that it would be a good idea to have me go over there. According to them, no one had ever taken Western Gospel Music to Cameroon, Africa. So I went over there for sixteen days doing eight different concerts in eight different locations. It was a life-changing experience for me! They just went crazy over Western Music. And my cowboy hat!

TWW: Did you ever imagine when you were younger that you would ever go to Africa of all places?

B.W.: (Barry laughs and places his head in his palm leaning on the table). Not in my wildest dreams! I grew up in school singing in the choir, but that was pretty well the extent of it...oh, I played in band, too...but I never dreamed that I would be making my living by performing music.

TWW: Your family has been both cowboys and farmers, right?
B.W.: YES! My great-granddad was more cowboy than he was farmer. And he was the one who homesteaded in southwest Kansas, west of Dodge City in 1885. And then it kinda just started to transition to my generation that were mostly grain farmers.

TWW: Did your father ever work at anything else?
B.W.: No; in fact, his dad and his grandad all ranched and farmed and never had any other jobs.

TWW: Tell us about your first guitar.

B.W.: (laughs) I was in the 6th, no 5th grade, and I wanted to learn how to play the guitar; so mom and dad bought me a "Kay" guitar back in the day! Interestingly enough, I still have that guitar! Well anyway, I took only three lessons and then quit and didn't pick up another guitar until I turned 35 years old!

TWW: And how did an ol' farm boy like you convince such a beautiful girl (Miss Victoria!) to marry you?

B.W.: (snickers and shakes his head) Well, I would like to say it was because I had a lot of money! But I don't have



Barry in photoshoot with photographer Ashley Bogle

that, so, uh, it was a God-thing all the way. God put us together and God is keeping us together. Victoria has been a huge blessing

TWW: How many years have you been married?

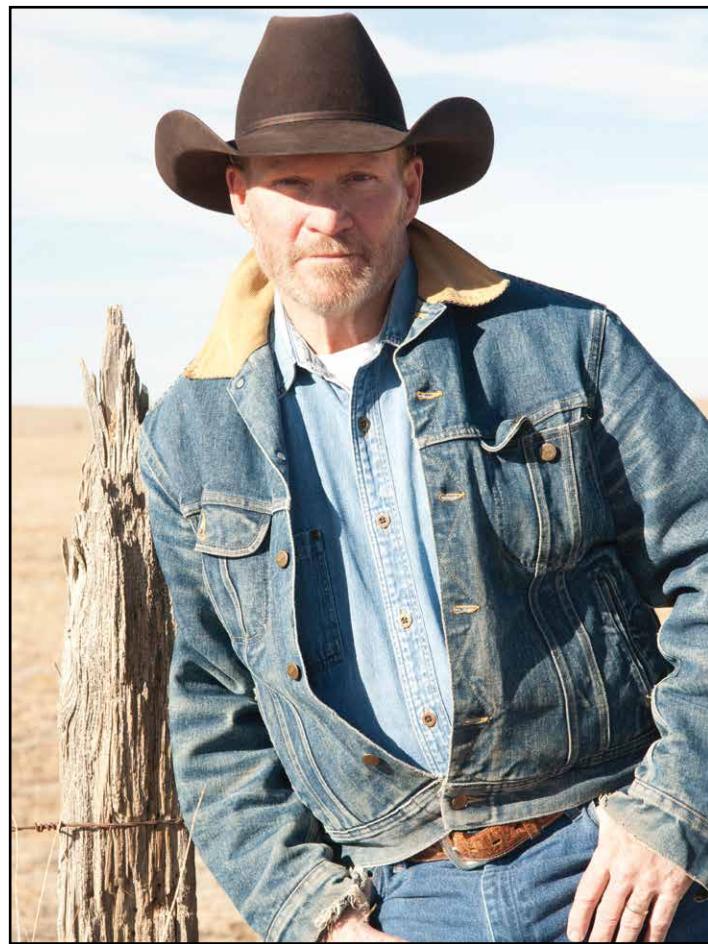
B.W.: T-H-I-R-T-Y S-I-X (he says very slowly and carefully).

TWW: Children?

B.W.: Yes, we have two sons and a daughter.

TWW: You have a new album out called "Coyotes & Cattle." Does that title speak of something special?

B.W.: Well, yes, it means something special to me mainly 'cause I love to sit out on the porch in the country and hear the coyotes and then the cattle answering. That is a very spiritual time for me. But also, it was an event that happened in a nursing home with an old 92-year-old rancher. I was able to be blessed by him. So "Coyotes and Cattle," the title song, is about those experiences.



Barry Ward Photo courtesy Donald Kallaus

TWW: Can you tell us more about the 92-year-old rancher?

B.W.: I was performing at a Western festival and was asked if I would do a program at a nursing home the next day. As I did, I noticed a gentleman sitting over on the side very bitter, very angry, wouldn't talk to anybody. After we were done with the program, I walked over and sat down beside him. It turned out to be one of the biggest blessings I received.

He finally started talking about his life on the ranch and some experiences, and before it was over, a man who wouldn't say a word was laughing with me. What a blessing that was to me; that's why we do what we do.



Johnny Neill joins Barry on stage

TWW: Do you have a favorite song that you especially like to perform?

B.W.: (a long pause before answering) I get asked that quite a bit. I'm not sure I can put my finger on just one; there's just too many. But I enjoy "Bandito;" I do enjoy doing that. (another pause) Probably, uh, my most favorite is "Welcome Home."

TWW: Why is that?

B.W.: Because I am passionate about honoring our Veterans for what they have done for us. Especially our Vietnam Veterans who got a bad homecoming. And I get to see God work in a powerful way when I sing that song; because it's not from me, it's from God. Those guys need to be told, "Welcome Home!"

TWW: You have a lot of western-themed gospel music on your albums. That is obviously important to you. Tell us about that.

B.W.: Well, my faith is the number one thing. And....(Barry stops to focus on his words as this is important to him). I want to write songs that mean something. Songs that are real. Songs that make you really think about "Where did this all come from? Where we're all going? Serving our Lord Jesus Christ."

Continued on page 20



TUNE YOURSELF

TMD and Vocal Performance: Part 1

Samantha Meyer Gallegos

Your voice is a complicated mechanism. From your vocal cords to your muscles, your mouth shape to your lungs, your posture, stomach muscles, and diaphragm, everything must work together smoothly to create the sound you want. Unfortunately, so many moving parts provide ample opportunity to throw one piece out of whack, which can throw the entire process off.

In past articles, we've talked about issues that can affect your vocal ability, including poor posture and stomach tone, but here is another that isn't as well-known: temporomandibular joint disorder, or TMD. **What is TMD?**

Temporomandibular joint disorder is the name for a set of musculoskeletal disorders of the temporomandibular joint, or jaw joint. These joints on either side of your head connect the mandible, or jaw bone, to the temporal bones of the skull, and they allow your jaw to move up, down, and side to side.

TMD causes pain in the jaw and surrounding muscles and limits movement of the jaw. One or both joints may be involved, and depending on the severity of the TMD, the disorder can even affect your ability to make facial movements, eat, swallow, and speak. Symptoms of TMD can include:

- Pain in the muscles of the jaw, neck, and shoulders
- Chronic headaches
- Stiffness and limited movement of the jaw
- Clicking when you speak or eat
- Ear pain, pressure, or fullness
- Ringing in the ear
- Dizziness
- Changes in vision

These symptoms are not always connected with TMD, so it is essential that you speak with your doctor or dentist if you suspect you may have TMD.

Unfortunately, TMD is not a well-understood disorder, and the exact cause can be difficult to pinpoint. Causes include clenching, stress, anxiety, jaw position, jaw injuries, odd positions (such as those when you use the phone often or play the violin or fiddle), and conditions including autoimmune diseases. According to a study published in the Dental Press Journal of Orthodontics, TMD is considered a functional pain syndrome similar to chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). Studies have found comorbidity of symptoms, such as the amplification of pain perception, between TMD and other functional pain syndromes.

Additionally, the TMJ Association points to a possible genetic component to TMD, connecting increased pain sensitivity to a gene variant. The fact that TMD occurs most often in women of child-bearing age could also point to hormones, such as estrogen, as an additional contributing factor, according to the TMJ Association.

How Does TMD Affect Vocal Performance?

We all know the mechanics of the voice and how important freedom of the mouth, jaw, and throat are to singing. TMD causes tightness of the jaw and throat muscles, which affects the correct and free movement of the jaw and your ability to produce a clear, correct sound. Any tension in the jaw, mouth, or neck can also inhibit airflow.

Singers can feel the effects of TMD when their mouths are open wide in the form of

pain as well as the inability to reach notes in the upper register—your voice may feel strangled, or you may be unable to lift your soft palate enough to feel the resonance in your face mask. You may even find yourself compensating, which causes stress and strain in the throat and fatigue of the voice. If you find yourself unable to sing for long periods of time or with a hoarse voice afterward, you may have TMD.

What Can You Do About TMD?

The first step is always to consult with a medical professional before beginning any treatment, whether at home or a professional setting. Your doctor or dentist will give you the proper treatment path once he or she has assessed your condition.

Both the Cleveland Clinic and the TMJ Association agree that it is better to seek non-invasive treatments before trying any procedures that are irreversible or may change your bite or jaw in any way, including injections, surgery, and implantations. The TMJ Association points to the fact that more research is needed to verify the

safety and effectiveness of such treatments. Several therapies you can try at home that may offer some relief include:

- Moist heat
- Ice (do not use for more than 10 to 15 minutes at a time)
- A soft food diet (to give your jaw a rest)
- Relaxation techniques (such as deep breathing and guided imagery)
- Jaw relaxation
- Supporting your chin as you yawn
- Refraining from opening your jaw too wide for several days (also to give the jaw a rest)

This article is not intended to stand in for medical advice, and a medical professional will have further information and treatment options available. In part two of this series, we will provide several therapeutic exercises you can do at home to help alleviate TMD pain and tightness and hopefully tune your voice back to perfection!

"Till next time!

References: "The Real-World Benefits of Strengthening Your Core" Harvard Healthbeat, "Lumbar/Core Strength and Stability Exercises" Princeton University Athletic Medicine, TheTummyTeam.com, "Breathing Between the Lines" Classical Singer Magazine

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Continued from page 17

TWW: Who are you especially impressed with among the young performers in the IWMA today?

B.W.: (laughs and raises his eyebrows in surprise) Well, of course, all of them! They are amazing! But I think Mikki Daniel is awesome. I have done a number of shows with her and so appreciate the heart she has, not only for the music and performing, but for the people. She's got nowhere to go but farther up!



Barry performing at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas with Keith Burdett, Orin Friesen and Jesse Friesen

TWW: What would you say to a young performer of western music today to encourage them in keeping the music alive?

B.W.: (A long pause as Barry thinks before he answers) I would tell them to be true to themselves. And who they are and what they do. More than that, have fun with what you are doing! If it's not fun, then they will fall by the wayside. So, have fun!

TWW: Is there anyone who was a special encouragement or mentor to you when you first got started performing cowboy and western music professionally?



Barry with Duane Steinbrink, one of the real Granite Mountain firefighters, portrayed in the movie by Jeff Bridges



Barry with Jean Prescott and RW Hampton

B.W.: Well, in the initial stages, when I started taking guitar lessons at 35 [years old], it was my guitar teacher Ron Rolland. Ron lived in Dodge City, KS, and he had a country/jazz influence. He really took me under his wing and made sure that I played what I heard. To him, that was essential to getting me going down the right road musically. He thought that he heard something special with me, and he wanted me to stay true to myself, [just like those kids] not just what someone else was playing. He would tell me "now you play what you hear, not what they hear." So, I did. Also, my good friend Troy Bateson, who has been encouraging me all along the way! In fact, I am still playing to this day a Martin OM-41 that Victoria bought me one Christmas from Troy!



Barry with daughter Sierra

TWW: If it weren't for your wife, Victoria, would you ever make a performance on time – or at all?

B.W.: (Barry laughs out loud and shakes his head as he repeats the question in two parts) On time???? Yeah, maybe...but

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WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR*

2018

Western Heritage Days

June 22-23 – Stevensville, Montana

IWMA-COLORADO Chapter Showcase

June 30 – Steamboat Springs, Colorado

IWMA-COLORADO Chapter Showcase

July 14 – Fountain, Colorado

IWMA-COLORADO Chapter Showcase

July 28 – Florissant, Colorado

Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering

August 9-11 – Prescott, Arizona

Custer County Cowboy Gathering

August 17-19 – Westcliffe, Colorado

5th Annual Cimarron Cowboy Music & Poetry

Gathering

August 24-26 – Cimarron, New Mexico

National Cowboy Symposium

September 7-9, 2018 – Lubbock, Texas -

30th Anniversary Celebration

San Angelo Cowboy Gathering

September 7-8 – San Angelo, Texas

24th Annual Col. Charles Goodnight Chuck Wagon

Cookoff

September 21-22 – Clarendon, Texas

Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium

October 12-13 – Ruidoso, New Mexico

Llano Western Weekend & Llano River Chuckwagon

Cookoff

October 19-20 – Llano, Texas

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering &

Western Swing Festival

October 26-28 – Ft. Worth, Texas

IWMA Annual Convention

November 7-11 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center Cowboy Poetry

Gathering & Contest

November 16 – Duncan, Oklahoma

IWMA Education Corner



By Judy James

Keep Learning – All Roads Lead to Albuquerque!

“I’m not going to get old today, I learned something”. That is a favorite saying of a friend of mine. When you think about it, it is really true. Are you a life long learner? Are you always seeking to learn, grow, and improve? As musicians and poets, more of us can probably say yes than the average person because we must keep mentally active to create and learn new material.

Education is not just for the youth; it is for all of us. Many opportunities to learn and enjoy are available at the IWMA convention this fall. Topics include The Business of Music, Prose Workshop, House Concerts, Harmony, Lands of the American West, and National Day of the Cowboy. You can even get a Poetry P.H.D. You can also learn how to start your own youth program by attending the Cowtown Opry Buckaroo Showcase! Look at your program and select a time to grow and continue your life long learning experiences.

Remember: All roads lead to Albuquerque in November. See you there!



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



Chapter Update

Arizona Chapter

President: Yvonne Mayer

Steidl-mayer@msn.com

Our April meeting was held in Prescott where Belinda Gail performed. Special thanks to the staff at Las Fuentes Resort Village for hosting us, and to Jim Buchanan for arrangements.

The May meeting was held at the Pony Express Restaurant at Old Tucson Studios. Besides the jam session and our business meeting, we were instructed in the art of tying square or "horsetail" knots in our neckscarves. Special thanks to Johnny Bencomo for his extreme patience in extricating our fingers from the knots! Recent guests



*Johnny Bencomo Teaching Knot Tying
Photo by Yvonne Mayer*

on Voices of the West were poets Mike Dunn, Dan Wilson and Bob Sampson. Voices of the West may be heard every Saturday from 4-5PM at: [www.http://voicesofthewest.net/](http://voicesofthewest.net/). Podcasts may be streamed any time. Each Saturday program features either western music, poetry, movies or history. Our next meeting will be held on September 16, 2018.

California Chapter

President: Steve Justus

sjustusCA@gmail.com

A warm hello to everyone! The California Chapter is again pleased to report on

several great events, past and future, and share some sad news as well. Our new initiative is an ambitious goal to expand our reach throughout the large and varied state of California. Our efforts are beginning to produce results. Carolyn Sills, our Northern California Representative, has been working to develop an IWMACC presence at a new *Western Guitar and Music Festival* in Northern California in July in Alturas. We will have a booth, of course. Greg Khougaz and Alan Sloane will be in the lineup of performers and will represent our chapter. Sharone Rosen and Darlene Wilcox have found new venues in San Diego and Laguna Hills. Cindy Quigley has scheduled a house concert with Claudia Nyggard for August 11 in Lodi. The Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival took place April 19-22. John Bergstrom both organized and hosted a full two-day schedule for the Outwest Stage with a list great performers: John Bergstrom, Jerry Hall and Trickshot, Nancy Lee, Ron Christopher, Almeda Bradshaw, Joyce Woodson, J.R. Sanders, and Chuck Learn. That took a lot of hard work on John's part, and we all appreciate and benefited from his efforts. We appreciate all the fine performers for supporting Western Music at the Festival. Diane Huml hosted two great house concert events this quarter at her home in Canyon Country, Santa Clarita. First up was "Cowboys by Profession, Entertainers by Accident", Gary Prescott and Chris Isaacs, March 22. Next up was *An Evening of Entertainment Cowboy Style* with Gary Allegretto and Andy Hedges on May



Gary Allegretto and Andy Hedges



*Chris Isaacs, Diane Huml and Gary Prescott
Photo by Jack Hummel*

12. As always, we invite you to join us when you can on the third Sunday of every month for our Showcase at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles. The Showcase continues to draw sizeable crowds and returning attendees with high



New CA Performers Joe Lima and Scott Tonelson in Wells Fargo Theater Photo by Jack Hummel

energy and exciting performances by our anchoring performers and by new talent! Some folks state that they joined the Autry just to hear the Western music performed at the Showcase! That is a testimony to the hard work, talent, and warmth of our performers. Lastly, we turn to sad news for all of us. IWACC said goodbye to a great friend and supporter this month when Jerry Bobroff lost



*Jerry Bobroff
Photo by Jack Hummel*

his battle with cancer on May 11. We bet you have met or seen Jerry and his wife, Carol, at the National Convention. As loyal supporters of western music, Jerry and Carol were at most

performances, showcases, and workshops. As Cindy Quigley reports, "Right up to the end, he was planning to visit IWMA friends across the country and enjoy as much live music as he could". This writer always found Jerry and Carol to be friendly, supportive, and positive. We will miss him terribly and offer our sincerest condolences to his wife, Carol, and their son, Michael. We will not forget you sir.

Continued on page 24

Chapter Update

Continued from page 23

Colorado Chapter

President: Susie Knight

lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com

Two Showcases down (Evans and Denver), 3...and possibly 4...more to go before the end of September. Thank



Performers of IWMA-CO-Evans Showcase:

Front row: Sherl Cederburg, Sonja Oliver, Pat Martin

Middle row: Vic Anderson, Susie Knight, Terry Nash.

Back row: Dennis Russell, Ray Delgado (Photo by Bill Patterson)

you to all the members that have volunteered, participated, and/or performed so far. Your involvement



Performers of IWMA-CO Showcase-Denver/Colorado Classic Horse Show From left: Rex Rideout, Sonja Oliver, Susie Knight, Tom Hatton, Donna Hatton, Sara Oliver, Jimmy Lee Robbins, Darren Oliver, Vic Anderson, Lynne Belle Lewis. Not shown: Lloyd Morris, Art Collins (Photo by Bill Patterson)

makes for the excellent energy that has audiences all over our state begging for more! More Western Music! More Cowboy Poetry! Upcoming showcases are as follows:

- 6/30/18 - Steamboat Springs, CO, Bud Werner Library Hall, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 7/14/18 - Fountain, CO, KOA Campground, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- 7/28/18 - Florissant, CO, Florissant Grange "Heritage Days" Fest, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- 9/8/18 - (Pending) Craig, CO
- The event at the Florissant Grange on Saturday, 7/28/18, our chapter

will be the only music and live entertainment at this year's annual Heritage Days Fest, and we'll be inside the Grange Hall. Outdoors, there will be vendors and activities provided by the locals and the Grange. There's a \$10.00 admission for ages 19 and over. Free refreshments! Entertainment schedule tentatively is:

- 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. - Mountain Fiddlers-Music of America and Beyond (Featuring students of our chapter's member, Ann Brown.)
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. - Open Mic (Sign up at 9:00 a.m. on the steps of the Grange.)
- 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - IWMA-CO Showcase-FLORISSANT

Columbia Chapter

President: Duane Nelson

shortcutpoetry@hotmail.com

I sent out the word, of what had occurred, to wit: from Marsha, an e-mail. Got few returns, so naught I could learn, my goodness, what an absolute fail! I asked for some notes, from singers and poets, to include in the old *Western Way*. Some folks sent a few, for me to review, so I guess this is all I can say! Well, folks, greetings and salutations from the COLUMBIA CHAPTER!! There may not be a lot to report on, but what's there all grades out prime #1 beef! April saw two members, Duane Nelson and Kathy Moss, receive trophies at the Columbia River Cowboy Gathering in Kennewick, Washington. Kathy was voted "People's Choice, Open Mic" and Duane took 2nd place in the Poetry Division in the "Cowboy Idol" competition. Other Chapter members performing at the Gathering were: Janet Bailey, Panhandle Cowboys, Joni Harms, Charlie Root, Coyote Joe & Little Joe, and Tom Swearingen. Duane and Lynn Kopelke were also prominent contributors to the "Poet-Painter-Poet" exhibit at the 26th Annual Dakota Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Medora, North Dakota over the Memorial weekend. This project entailed a painting (or other medium) inspired by a "source" poem, then a different poet writes a poem inspired by that painting. A lot of fun, lots of good poetry, and some fine artwork! The NORTH DAKOTA COWBOY HALL OF FAME is going to house the exhibit through

the summer for the public to enjoy. June 9 brings the Columbia Chapter Showcase at the Moose Lodge in Lewiston Idaho. Many thanks to Lauralee Northcott for being the driving force behind the show. Members performing include Lauralee, Lynn Kopelke, Dawn Nelson, Kathy Moss, Alan Halvorson, Dave McClure, Barb Nelson, Dave & Jenny Anderson, Tom Swearingen and Notable Exceptions. Duane Nelson is one of the hosts for the 2nd annual "Buckaroo Rendezvous" at Camp Morrow in Wamic, Oregon, September 21-23. A very low-key affair, the Rendezvous features lots of Western Music and Cowboy Poetry, along with trail rides, Ranch Roping, and other horseback events. Once again, our Annual Meeting & Showcase is scheduled for early October (date TBD) at the Bingen Theater in Bingen, Washington. New officers will be voted on at the meeting. Showcase performers will be determined at a later date. November 16-18 are the dates for the WAYNE NELSON MEMORIAL GATHERING, in Rupert Idaho, produced by Chapter member Sam Mattise. For further info: 208-860-5958 Tom Swearingen and Notable Exceptions recently performed to a sell-out crowd at ARTICHOKE MUSIC, Portland's venerable folk music listening room. The success of that night of Western Music and Poetry has led to the booking of Juni Fisher and Tom Swearingen this September. Likewise, the Hanson Family and Tom performed at the Portland Folk Music Society monthly concert to a standing room only crowd, which led to the booking of more Western music and poetry for next year's series, with Tom opening for Dave Stamey. Well done, guys!! Well, I'm thru with my rambling, I'm all finished scramblin', to get this report done on time. There's lots been left out, of that there's no doubt, but I wrote all I had that was prime. I could write down some more, but that would just bore, all the members who read *Western Way*, So I'll end this right now, take a small bow, saddle my horse and be on my way. Cowboy up, get big, never weaken!"

East Coast Chapter

President: Aspen Black

aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

The IWMAECC completed an event at the Pine Mountain Gold Museum in Villa Rica, GA. Five members performed several

sets of western music throughout the day. Plans are being considered for next year's chapter event. One possible location is Cumberland, MD, at a venue the chapter has considered in past years. Meanwhile, individual members continue to perform locally and across the country. Aspen and Alice Black will be on a two-month 54-stop tour in June, July, and August, bringing western music and poetry to an estimated 4,000 + children and youth across two-thirds of the US. Alice Black, 13, recently won first place in the youth category at the Richard Leigh Songwriting Contest for her song, "The Town of Bodie." Hers was the only western finalist in the mainstream music festival, featuring four Nashville Hall of Fame writers. Carol Markstrom will be performing and



Alice Black receives award

promoting her new CD, Desert Rose, this summer at a variety of gatherings and venues in WV, AZ, NM, and WY. Kerry Grombacher will be recording a new CD and performing in LA, AZ and NM over the summer, before heading on the road for a three-month multi-state fall tour. Catherine Thompson



Alice Black & Kerry Grombacher
Villa Rica, GA April 2018

(youth) will be performing in and around GA promoting her new CD release, Western Serenade. Jerry Campbell, in his 90's, recently performed western music



Catherine Thompson - Villa
Rica, GA IWMAECC Event

at the Milo Holt Western Festival in Siler City, NC. Tom Hawk released a new CD, Earning My Spurs, and recently returned from a performance in CA. We also welcome new member, Terry

King, and await the release of his new CD.

Kansas Chapter

President: Orin Friesen
orin@banjoranch.com

Members of the Kansas Chapter continue to look for creative ways to promote western music and cowboy poetry. On April 3, 2018, several members went to the Kansas State Capitol building in Topeka, to present a program of western music in the Rotunda. Performers included Barry



Members perform at State Capital

Ward, Del Shields, Jeff Davidson, and the duo of Annie Wilson and Carl Reed. The official Poet Lariat of Kansas, Ron Wilson emceed the event. Kansas Chapter President, Orin Friesen, and Secretary, Sharon Chesmore were also in attendance. A couple of special events planned for this summer included the Kansas chapter in the beautiful cowboy town of Cottonwood Falls, Kansas on June 29. Following that meeting, IWMA members performed on Main Street near the historic Chase County Courthouse. This night of western music was hosted by Annie Wilson of the group, Tallgrass Express. Another IWMA member, Del Shields has offered the use of his ranch near Humboldt, Kansas for a night of western music and cowboy poetry around the campfire. Del is best-known as the cowboy singer on RFD-TV's "Best of America by Horseback." The date for the event is still pending. New episodes of the "Cowboy Up" TV show are being added to the rotation. The program, which features most of the IWMA Kansas Chapter performing

members, and can be seen on cable TV channels throughout Kansas. The finals of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest was held on June 8 at the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, Kansas. (Winners cannot be announced here since this event took place after the deadline for submission to the magazine!) Spokesperson for the event was Kansas Chapter member, Ron Wilson. The following day, several Kansas Chapter members performed at the annual Symphony in the Flint Hills, which took place on the Rosalia Ranch in Butler County.

New Mexico Chapter

President: Joe Brown
jbrown2452@yahoo.com

The chapter has spent the last few months putting our efforts into getting 2018 off to a fast start. We are thrilled that we were able to support several house concerts while we continued working the plans with our new partners we described in the last issue. The biggest effort during the past months was a program the chapter produced for the New Mexico Westerners Association. This is a group of wonderful



Chapter Member Performers Photo by C. Quigley

folks who share many of the goals and focus we have in the IWMA. The program was a history of western music starting with our Celtic/Irish roots through the cowboys on the cattle drives/ranches of the 19th and 20th centuries, the influences of the movies and swing in the 30s, 40s and 50s, to the influences of Nashville and on into today. We performed several songs from each of these eras as we told the western music story. The



Western music night in front of
the Chase County Courthouse
in Cottonwood Falls



Linda, Joe and Gency Brown

Continued on page 26

Chapter Update

Continued from page 25

performance was very well received, and we have been encouraged to consider doing it for other organizations in the future. The chapter would like to thank Michael and Donna Coy, Scott Wilson, Tony Duarte, Cindy Edgecombe, Mark Smith, Gency Brown, Linda Brown and Joe Brown for sharing their talents in creating and executing this program. We are looking forward to having our



Chapter Members Photo by C. Quigley

Youth Day in Old Town Albuquerque this Summer and we will provide you with words and pictures in the next issue. Things continue to move forward here in the "Land of Enchantment."

Oklahoma Chapter

President: Donnie Poindexter

cowboydp51@gmail.com

Vice president Ron Secoy reports that IWMA OK chapter members will perform in Rush Springs, OK Jul. 28 on the National Day of the Cowboy for the "Oklahoma Wildfire Relief Gathering." The event will feature twelve chapter members and will raise funds for wildfire victims and the Rush Springs Fire Department. Our chapter partnered

with the Rush Springs Lions Club, the Oklahoma Ranching and Farming Foundation, and Cowfolks Care. Cowboy Jim Garling travels to Cimarron, NM to perform

Aug. 3 at the St. James Hotel's "Music on the Patio" series. He is emceeing and performing Aug. 28 at Moore, OK's "GOSPELfest" and returns to Jana Jae's Fiddle Camp in Grove, OK Aug. 31-Sept.



OK Chapter VP Ron Secoy

2 and to The Great State Fair of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, OK from Sept. 13-23. In addition, Jim will be participating Sept. 29 at the Cowboy Campfire at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, OK. The Tower Theater venue in Oklahoma City presents Asleep At The Wheel in concert Jul. 14 and Riders In The Sky in concert Jul. 28. The Shepherd of the Hills Homestead Adventure Park in Branson, MO presents the Sons Of The Pioneers chuckwagon show Sept. 11-15, 18-22, and 25-29. The shows feature the group's new lineup including Roy (Dusty) Rogers, Jr. Also, in Branson, Silver Dollar City's "National Crafts & Cowboy Festival" begins its 5-day-a-week run on Sept. 12. The event includes a Wild West Show inspired by the legendary Buffalo Bill, a Barn Dance, Gunsmoke's Buck Taylor and chuck wagon master Kent Rollins. President Donnie Poindexter announces the proposed date for our Oklahoma chapter's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers is Sept. 29, Gene Autry's Birthday. The location is yet to be determined.

Texas Chapter

President: Johnie Terry

wildwesttoys1@aol.com

Hot, lazy days in Texas, but we were active in June. A chapter meeting and a jam was held early in the month at the Stockyards and election of officers for the next year was held mid-June. (Results to be announced in the next issue, since they took place after the submission deadline for this issue!) The second annual Music Youth Camp and Workshop was also held June 18-21 with a finale concert performed at the Doss Museum on June 21. We are also hoping to have an official event in late July. Details will be posted on our Face Book page.

Upper Michigan/NE Wisconsin

President: Thomas Betts

hrambler@bayland.net

Our Yooper Chapter has been spreading the word throughout our vast territory. Most of the people contacted have never even heard about the I.W.M.A. Most were interested in hearing more about the possibility of having live Western Music performed at their venues. Most want to know the cost. Performance fees are a factor. The

busy tourist season is Memorial Day to Labor Day, the rest of the year is sporadic. The Chapter had a meeting in May and agreed to get information that would determine when we could get a workable program started. The Hiawatha Rambler group had four shows in June and will begin a Cowboy Church at Senior Homes for residents that do not have religious services available. Happy Trails from IWMA Upper Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter.

Utah Chapter

President: Sam DeLeeuw

samcowgalpoet@aol.com

"What is with this new name, IWMA?" was the question at our last meeting. "Who or what is International? What is the benefit of this name change?" All good questions and as we discussed the new name change for our Association, a broader understanding of just who WE ARE was taking place. We are no longer a small group of in-kind minded performers and supporters of a Western music and poetry genre. We have grown from being fledglings into becoming a more evolved form of entertainment. The Utah Chapter still performs around town, in parks, at civic celebrations, in care centers and for a varied populace of folks who want good, rich, family entertainment. We still travel around the State of Utah to gatherings, festivals, fairs and shows. We even travel to surrounding states as we are invited to their shows and celebrations. But now, members of the (prior) WMA have gone INTERNATIONAL and travel to other countries. We have traveled to Canada for years without fanfare, but now WMA goes "abroad" and "down under", making us, guess what? INTERNATIONAL performers! Our reputation as excellent performers and recording artists have also gone INTERNATIONAL. Cowboy poetry and music CDs are being played around the world! The name INTERNATIONAL WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION best describes who we are and who we have become! So as the Utah Chapter discussed the name change, it became more and more clear that the name change more clearly describes its membership and more clearly describes the Association! So now we proudly say, we are members of the International

Western Music Association. Does it sound lofty? Not lofty, but a more correct, descriptive nomenclature of what we are now. We have grown, we have matured and we have earned our way into this next era of entertainment. Utah Chapter is a proud member of the INTERNATIONAL WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION!!

Youth Chapter

Youth Coordinator: Jane Leche

wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com
The IWMA Youth Chapter Officers (YCO) are working hard to strengthen the foundation of the Youth Chapter by boosting communications online. Thanks to Youth Chapter Social Media and Communications Coordinator Abby Payne, all members of the IWMA can "Like" our young performers on Facebook's *International Western Music Association-Youth Chapter* page or "Follow" them at *iwmayouthchapter* on Instagram. In addition, an electronic newsletter will be available soon created by YCOs Hailey Sandoz and Abby Payne where all Youth Chapter members can be featured through stories, articles, short videos and photos. A highlight to these communications outlets is YCO and Program Manager Leah Sawyer's new "Musician's Minute" - a monthly post where she conducts a brief video conversation with select musicians who share their background and philosophy on what makes great music #musiciansminutemonday. The YCOs have also added returning Youth Chapter member and cowboy poet, Thatch Elmer, to the group as liaison to the cowboy poetry side of the IWMA. Welcome, Thatch! As always, sincere kudos to donors who support the Youth Performer Education Scholarship fund. Five scholarship recipients are off to music camp this summer thanks to donors generously giving. For more information on the IWMA Youth Chapter, please contact Youth Chapter Coordinator Jane Leche at wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com.

Western Wordsmiths Chapter

President: Dan "Doc" Wilson

wwpres2018@gmail.com

Our Mission: To produce, promote and preserve the tales, stories and poems of the Western culture in written or oral form. The first quarter has been

a busy one for us at the Wordsmiths Bunkhouse. A few of the items we've been pursuing were mentioned in the last report, so here's a brief update. **Poetry Friendly Radio Stations** – As reported in the last Wordsmiths Chapter report, Sam DeLeeuw has compiled a list of radio stations that will air cowboy poetry. Now we are asking for feedback so that we may assess how well the list is working. Email me at the address above. **Score Sheets** – Scoring sheets for the fall poetry contest have now been revised by the judges' committee consisting of Sam DeLeeuw, Terry Nash and Deanna Dickinson McCall. The score sheets will be available for use this fall. **Poetry Contest** – the poetry contest will be comprised of three divisions: Open Division, Intermediate Division and a Youth division. Trophy buckles will be awarded to winners of each division. **Youth Membership** – the Western Wordsmiths Board has voted to waive the Wordsmiths membership dues for any youth in the IWMA whether or not they have joined the Youth Chapter. **Workshops** – the fall convention workshops mentioned in our last report are on! Workshops sponsored by Western Wordsmiths include 1) "What is a Poetry P.H.D.," led by Sam DeLeeuw, 2) "Telling Your Story in Song," led by Jim Jones, and 3) a Western Prose writers workshop led by Western Wordsmiths VP, Vic Anderson. **Story-Tellers** – if you're a story-teller, we'd like to hear from you. We're looking for ways to support the efforts of story-tellers, and your ideas will help. **Songwriters** – We're working toward offering a songwriters' open mic or showcase in Albuquerque where songwriters will have the opportunity to perform their original songs. If you write song lyrics, this is for you. Details later. **Website** – development is under way and should be available this summer. If you have items you would like to see on the website, let us know. **Penned by Lantern Light** – This issue of *The Western Way* features a poem by Wordsmith member Vic Anderson. The poem was selected by a team of Wordsmiths' well-known and highly respected cowboy poets, who wish to remain anonymous. A dozen eligible poems were reviewed. **Trail Dust** – Several of our Wordsmiths chapter members were slated to recite at the

Arizona Cowboy Poetry Gathering in August in Prescott, AZ: Floyd and Valerie Beard, Sam DeLeeuw, Gary Kirkman, Deanna McCall, Mark Munzert and Dennis Russell. Doc Wilson and Bob Sampson had their poetry read on the "Voices of the West" radio station in Tucson, AZ. Keep your cinch tight!

Wyoming Chapter

President: Jerry Bell

cowboypoetbell@wyoming.com

Just a brief word... The Wyoming Chapter is headed full steam ahead for the Annual Day of the Cowboy with a great line up of artists. The event will take place on July 25. Eight performers from four states will be participating. Everyone is welcome!



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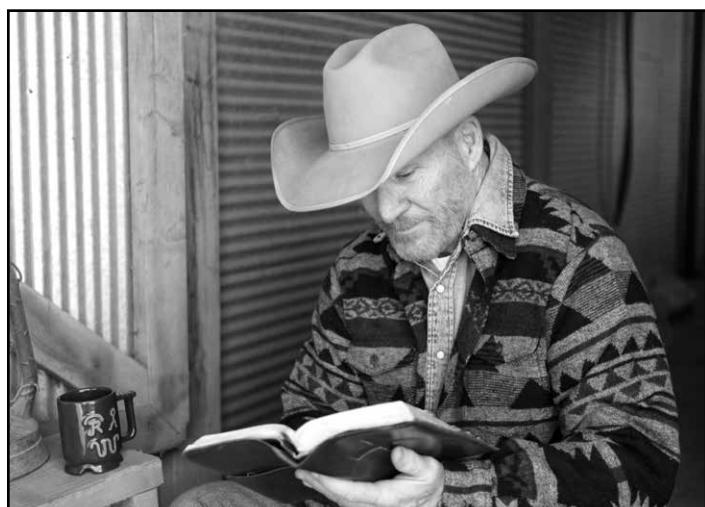
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Continued from page 20

then maybe not at all. Actually, if it wasn't for Victoria and her support, her encouragement, her expertise...um...I would still be digging out a living in the dirt farming! But that's not where God wanted me to be.

TWW: Do you feel that the IWMA plays an important role in the preservation of western music?

B.W.: Most certainly! It takes so many people giving of their time to keep an organization like the IWMA going, and that's a sacrifice. But that's what it takes! I think there have been some great moves in the industry. I think that it's growing, especially with the young people. And I'm encouraged with the amount of 25- to 35-year-olds, at least at my western concerts, which are coming in there and buying my music and also buying it over the Internet. Those are things that are telling me there is an upside happening.



*Barry with his roadmap, the Bible
Photo courtesy Ashley Bogle of Eureka, KS*

TWW: And do you have any thoughts on what the IWMA could do better?

B.W.: (A very long pause) I think there's...how many are on the Board? Twelve? Oh well, I'm not sure about that, but I think that is where the Board's direction comes in. I don't really think in those modes. I think in the appreciation of what they have done for me, and the doors they have opened for me, and the respect that I get from them.

TWW: Barry, thank you for giving up some of your personal time to allow us to probe into your mind and life. *The Western Way* wants to wish you the best and safety as you continue to travel the highways of this great land of ours performing your brand of western music.

B.W.: Thank you very much! What an honor! And God bless! Thanks a lot!



Barry with the late Hal Spencer

Dawn Anita: Down on Wildhorse Creek

Down on Wildhorse Creek

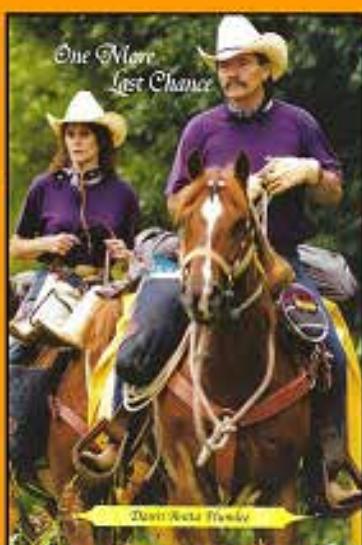
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BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



GRANNY AT SIZZLERS

Like they say on the TV news, "The graphics you are about to see (in your own mind) may be disturbing for some of you." There, you've been warned.

A lady rancher friend of mine name of Clara has a place in Wyoming a few miles out of town.

Her grandma who is 93 is in a rest home there in town and when Clara goes in every couple weeks or so, she picks up Granny and takes her for a drive just to get her out of that place and to have a little visit.

One time last summer they were cruisin' and Clara asked Granny if she was hungry. She said she was and wanted to go to that sizzlin' place. She'd heard on TV that they had all you could eat steak and shrimp. So Clara took her to Sizzler®. When their order came Granny tore in to them shrimps with unimaginable gusto. Seems they didn't offer no fare like that at her rest home. Suddenly she stopped chewing and got a faraway look in her eyes. Clara asked her what was the matter and Granny said, "I don't think I feel so good. Maybe I ought to have a 7-Up®." Clara goes to get her one and when she gets back Granny is starin'

at the wall, her eyes are bugged out and her cheeks are puffed out like a squirrel storin' up for winter. Clara starts to ask her what was wrong when she cut loose and blew all she was holding across the table.

You could have heard a pin drop there for a few seconds. The music even stopped. Then there was a scraping of chairs and tables turnin' over and there was a regular human stampede of dainty diners for the door.

A young waiter who was a little braver than the rest came with a bucket for Granny. He was holding it out at arms' length towards her. She looked him in the eye, turned her head about three clicks and let go again all across the table. This time her false teeth flew out and landed in a salad bowl. They set there grinnin' back at her. Clara picked them up with a napkin and stuffed them in her purse. Then she got Granny by the arm and they went shuffling toward the door apologizing to the crew.

Granny starts to hold back and asks, "Where are we goin'? I'm still hungry."

Clara took her to McDonalds... To the drive through.

To the IWMA:

Thank you for the deep honor of Entertainer of the Year... and for all the overwhelming support from day one.

I love my western music family!

Kristyn Harris



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Performer's Perspective

Answer the Call

By LeeLee Robert

..Answer the call.

My Producer on the other end of the line said, "There's a possibility that we can get three top Nashville session musicians to do the solo work on your upcoming album." I saw large dollar signs looming. "How much?" I said. He responded, "That's just it. We'd save enough in editing and speed in getting good tracks down, that financially it would not be that much more than if we recorded with local musicians!" I didn't hear any downside. "Let's do it!"

The session people were well-known in country, western, and bluegrass music: Stuart Duncan, fiddle; Rory Hoffman, accordion, guitar, harmonica, and piano; Doug Jernigan, pedal steel; Richard Smith, Engineer at Tunemsmith Studios.



"Pilot Rick"

As it happens, my husband, Rick, is a really good pilot, so his part was flying my Producer, Co-Producer and me in the aircraft to Nashville. That alone was enough to create some fun! I used to be afraid of flying, but now I love the feeling of lift-off: weightless. It is very exhilarating, and it saves time and energy with no wait time!

It took about three hours at 39,000 feet and we landed in a suburb of Nashville in time for a nice barbecue meal near our hotel. We then checked in and decided to go to The Nashville Palace to have a beer and watch Rory Hoffman (one of our session musicians) and the band, "Fifty Shades of Hay" perform. No cover charge, and the level of musicianship was gobsmacking!

Every musician in that six-piece band could have fronted their own band with different genres: Irish, bluegrass, blues, western, hillbilly. The vocalist was beautiful and personable and one of her most outstanding features besides perfect pitch was that she could sing back-up harmony with any of the rest of the band with such precision they sounded like one voice. We left after the second set with Rory singing, "Nightlife." I took a video with my phone and I have been starting my day everyday watching his inspiring rendition because it was so good it made me squeal!

The next morning when we got to the studio, after Tom got us a little lost with his driving, I was introduced to everybody and we took our seats – I liked the small couch that had a pillow on it that said, "My Happy Place," and I got out my knitting. Then we all held onto our seats!

These musicians blew everything I'd ever experienced at a recording studio out of the water! Not only did they each have their own creative genius to add to the mix, but they seemed to make a most amazing game



LeeLee Robert
Cowgirl Jazz

out of combining their talents together to create a fresh creation beyond what any one of them could do individually.

The pattern seemed to be: three takes all the way through with a couple of tweaks afterward. The gentlemen totally "had the feel" and music of the tune the first time through; the second time through it started taking on a whole new personality; by the third time through they had together built an arrangement that was completely unique, brilliant, and turned the tune from good to great.

My Producer, Co-producer, Captain Rick and I just sat in our seats shaking our heads and laughing like kids on a roller coaster ride. There was a mid-morning break for brownies that Stuart Duncan's wife had made: chewy and chocolaty, with a variety of coffee and tea options from the Keurig complete with creamers, assorted syrups, and sweetners. Then... onward!

We broke for lunch mid-afternoon for pizza where I got to chat with the musicians, eat with them, thank them, and observe how personable and humble each of them were. They each had their own added skills: Doug refined the charts, Rory was a natural arranger, Stuart had stories of touring with Diana Krall that made you realize the circles he was traveling in.

The day continued with amazing energy. I kept thinking that the musicians would get tired and the level of creativity would drop; but amazingly, the creativity and energy only seemed to increase! How does that happen? By 4:30pm the eleven tunes were complete and "in the can." Rory had to leave because he had a gig that evening with The Time Jumpers.

I said some special prayers that night, "God, I am so grateful for the experience you have just given to me. I am humbled and inspired by the people you have brought into my life and the creative genius that has graced this experience. And God, please help me remember not to let my Co-producer drive again 'cause he got us lost one more time!"

I had a friend say, "In your pictures you looked like you were having so much fun... I've heard that it can be brutal there!" I said, "That was not my experience. After this experience, I believe that excellence does not have to be brutal. In fact, in this case, it was easy and had better results!" I believe when you reach out to life with both arms, life has the opportunity to hug you back and transform you.

What else did I learn? 1) I don't want to come back to earth. 2) I never want to hear, "That's good enough," from any mediocre effort. 3) Life can be like a wonderful meal that I never get full from, and I'd like a few more bites.

My final learning (besides next time, don't let the Co-producer drive?) ... answer the call!



L to R: Stuart Duncan (Fiddle),
Doug Jernigan (Pedal Steel), LeeLee,
Richard Smith (Engineer)



LeeLee in Nashville

Editor's Note: You may want to read the President's Message (this issue) for another perspective on this experience!

An on-going gathering, updated continually with news; event listings; cowboy poems and songs; and more.

Pictured: Design by Chris Kirby for *MASTERS: Volume Two*, a double CD of the poetry S. Omar Barker with over 60 recitations, introduced by Andy Hedges.

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O.J. Sikes

O.J. Sikes Reviews



A Musical Note From OJ...

The other day I was listening to a local weekly radio show whose host plays a variety of music (mostly 50's & 60's Rock & Pop), when the host answered a request for "Cool Water" by the **Sons of the Pioneers**. The request came from **Will Hutchins**, TVs "Sugarfoot," who has been interviewed on the show several times in recent years and I've heard the host say that Will is his favorite interview subject. The station was having a fund-raising drive and, after the song, the host commented with a chuckle that the phones lit-up, saying "leave it to the Sons of the Pioneers to make the phones light up with pledges!" Needless to say, that brought a grin to my face, too! Programmers, take note!

In the last issue, we talked about big bands and their role in spreading Western music back in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. A reader suggested that we might continue this month with a focus on pop music singers and the role they played, as well. While many of them graduated from the big bands, and some, like **Vaughn Monroe**, wore two hats simultaneously, their popularity grew after the war, while that of the big bands began to fade. That tends to happen as culture changes (in this case, the advent of rock 'n' roll), new cohorts come along and fans get older, leading to smaller fan bases. But the pop singers helped keep Western music in front of large audiences as the country continued to change until their audience, too, got older and comparatively smaller.

Bing Crosby, a Westerner, loved Western music and recorded dozens of Western songs, with a number of hits among them. Being one of the most popular entertainers of the 20th Century, he played a major role in bringing Western music to new audiences. **Perry Como** recorded his first Western song, "Out Where the Blue Begins," when he was the vocalist with the **Ted Weems** big band. Later, as a super-star, he recorded a beautiful version of "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," backed with "You Don't Know What Lonesome Is (till you get to herdin' cows)" with the Sons of the Pioneers, and later,

he recorded **Cindy Walker**'s "Gringo's Guitar." **Frank Sinatra** recorded "Call of the Canyon" when he sang with **Tommy Dorsey**'s band, and later had a hit with his swing rendition of "South of the Border," also recorded by **Patti Page**, whose career began as a Western swing singer in Oklahoma.

The Ames Brothers recorded "Cool Water" and **The Mills Brothers** recorded a number of Western songs for the Dot label in the 1950's/60's. **Dick Haymes** recorded "Streets of Laredo" as a solo artist, "Rancho Pillow" with **Harry James** and "Idaho" with **Benny Goodman**. **Frankie Laine** had a hit record of "High Noon" before **Tex Ritter** did, and Laine went on to record other movie and TV themes, including "Rawhide," one that was still crossing genre lines decades later. The legendary **Jo Stafford** was one of several pop stars who recorded country "singles" with singing movie cowboys, but she recorded "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and "Ragtime Cowboy Joe" as a solo artist. **Peggy Lee** recorded "Johnny Guitar" and was one of many who recorded "Riders in the Sky" (a Cowboy legend). **Julie London** recorded "Saddle the Wind," and if you've ever watched *Rio Bravo*, you're familiar with the Western music of **Dean Martin**. **Marilyn Monroe** sang "River of No Return" and **Dinah Shore** scored big hits with "Along the Navajo Trail" and "Buttons and Bows." Of course, "everyone" knows **Gogi Grant**'s "Wayward Wind."

There are more, but we're out of space. No worries! You get the point, I'm sure, and you are now qualified to compete for the top prize in the next Western Music Trivia contest!



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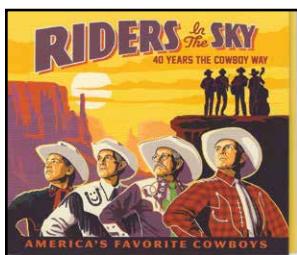
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40 YEARS THE COWBOY WAY

Riders in the Sky

Riders Radio Records 1006



40 years ago last November, Riders in the Sky launched a career that would become a major influence in keeping Western music in the public eye for the rest of the 20th century and into the 21st. To celebrate, they released their 41st album, containing 15 tracks, and it's a gem!

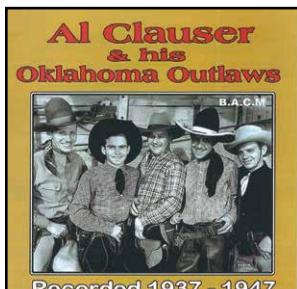
The lead-off tune is "Cimarron (Roll On)" and the wonderful Western harmony, combined with the Riders' amazing instrumental prowess, made this my personal favorite, although there's plenty more here to choose from. There are songs that are new, like Ranger Doug's "Old New Mexico" (co-written with "Hoot" Hester) and Sidemeat's "I've Cooked Everything," some old favorites like "We're Burning Moonlight" by Joey Miskulin and Woody Paul, a couple of terrific instrumentals and some old standards, e.g. "Press Along to the Big Corral," done up Riders style. Each member of the group is featured so you'll have the opportunity to hear your personal favorite perform in the spotlight as well as in harmony with the others.

Don't miss this one! Available from Too Slim's Mercantile at RidersInTheSky.com or phone (615) 321-6152.



AL CLAUSER & HIS OKLAHOMA OUTLAWS

Recorded 1937 - 1947



Al Clauser didn't make many commercial recordings, but he made enough transcriptions that his fame spread over a considerable area. Radio, combined with touring and at least one appearance in a 1937 Gene Autry film (Rootin' Tootin' Rhythm), made Clauser and his boys a very popular western swing band in Oklahoma, Texas and beyond. According to music authority Kevin Coffey, Clauser was using the term "western swing" to describe his band's music

before Bob Wills and Spade Cooley adopted it!

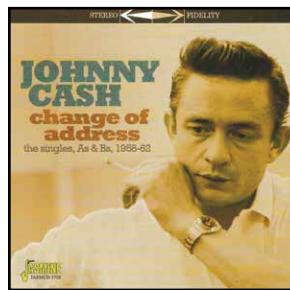
This new CD from BACM includes "Trail of the Mountain Rose," one of the songs the group performed in the Gene Autry film. It was recorded during the time they were in Hollywood to make the movie. There are 32 other tracks on this CD (with detailed notes by Coffey), and most feature vocal solos or trios, but my favorite track is a fiddle instrumental with the unusual title, "Sunrise on a Guinea Farm," composed and performed by Slim Phillips. When I played it on my radio show, listeners described it as "terrific." Contact VenerableMusic.com or phone (678) 232-0268.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS: THE SINGLES, As & Bs, 1958-62

Johnny Cash

Jasmine JASMC 3708



One of the smash hits from the first Johnny Cash album Columbia Records issued, was a Western song, "Don't Take Your Guns to Town." It helped make the LP a huge success (Billboard's Album of the Year) and the song was issued as a single as well, backed with "I Still Miss Someone." The single stayed at the top of the charts for 6 weeks in 1959.

This new Jasmine label release contains 32 of the sides Johnny Cash recorded for Columbia in 1958-62. While most of the recordings featured here fell into the country category, several had Western themes and at least two of them, TV themes "Bonanza" and "The Rebel-Johnny Yuma," are probably more popular today than they were when they were first released. A third, "Girl in Saskatoon," was co-written by Cash and Johnny Horton, and recorded only weeks after Horton's untimely death. While not categorized as C&W material, Cash insisted on recording "Peace in the Valley" and "Were You There," in 1962, and those sides, too, have remained popular with Cash fans much longer than anyone anticipated at the time they were recorded. This CD contains all the gems from the early years with Columbia and is widely available.



The Western World Tour



by Rick Huff

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.

Maybe these days it comes as no particular surprise when you hear folks...as in "us"...state that the making of Western Music...as in "cowboy" and "cowboying"...is a worldwide phenomenon. Heck! In the past even the good folks who put on "Elko" have tried on their stages to put across the concept! The reality of it is one reason for the new name of the column I write and for the show of that name I personally underwrote for the 2017 convention. Now some of the attendees there may have taken it to heart. At least one is really acting on it by regularly featuring international Western selections on her radio show.

"It all started with the Western World Tour show in November! It was really eye-opening," says Nancy Flagg, host of "Cowboy Tracks" (heard live and steamed each Friday over KDRT-FM in Davis, California and replayed the following Wednesday, with recent shows being stored at www.kdrt.org for additional enjoyment). "The mission of my show," she continues, "is to lift up the genre of Western Music so people will know about it – how it's completely different from Country! And to embrace the international music makes it a two way street. Our artists (are heard in and) can access markets outside of the U.S. and international artists can bring their music here. All boats rise! That can really invigorate and boost the genre!"

Nancy Flagg's initial contact with Western Music follows a pattern common to so many of us. She was first influenced by Roy Rogers on the tube, but she adds "my dad was a big fan of Western TV programs and Western movies, so we saw a lot of those at home. That just sort of simmered in the background for years and years. Then not that many years ago, I went to see an Ian Tyson concert and was mesmerized by the music!!" (Whoa, Horsey!! That's the self-same Rogers-to-Tyson trail taken by my own life partner Mary Ryland on her journey to eventually producing live Western stage shows, including two with our now personal friend, Ian Tyson! Anyway, back to the interview!)

Although Flagg had earlier radio experience, the Tyson revelation propelled her into finding out more about

Western Music and going back onto the airwaves to share what she had learned. "Western is so authentic," she enthuses! "So many of the people who perform it actually do the work themselves! They're cowboys or ranchers and that comes across in the stuff they write!" Nancy has also found that many of her listeners seem to have an urgent personal need for the Western Music sound and message, or as she puts it "people have said they find it a soothing antidote to the modern stressful world."

Nancy Flagg's style of presentation on her show is direct, unvarnished and informative. And she is finding that listeners appreciate the broadening horizon that comes from including the International Cowboy in the mix. "They learn that all around the world there are people who love and create Cowboy songs around their own cattle herding... or reindeer herding...traditions," she smiles. With luck in time more of our Western Music show hosts will see fit to follow the "Cowboy Tracks" example and include the music of the world's cowboys in their own offerings. Doing so can only help distinguish the importance and the unique properties of the Western Music genre. As Flagg sees it, the potential is enormous. "The IWMA could become the center for worldwide Western Music!!"

From your lips to the IWMA's ears, Nancy....

For airplay send CDs (preferred) to Nancy Flagg, Cowboy Tracks, KDRT-FM, 1623 5th Street, Davis, CA 95616...and Nancy adds "if you have songs on iTunes you can direct me there and I'll pick them up."

HUFF UPDATE on efforts to upload the Western World Tour show: Although I paid to have the November show recorded and hoped for the best, it still had to be done under less than optimal conditions, which resulted in some balance challenges between voice and instruments. Without dumping technical excuses on you, I am back in a friend's professional recording studio paying more to recapture and bring forth as fully representative a product as can be had. If fortune smiles (and mine doesn't run out) before long the show will be up and fully "operational" on YouTube. Once it's uploaded, hopefully a link to it will be provided on the IWMA Website.



RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

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BRITT ARNESEN

Dream In Blue



Here is one of those borderline cases. Is it Western, Western-ish or none of the above? It's a case of moods, people

and images that could slip into a Western framework...or avoid it totally. The tracks that do come closest are "Calamity Jane," "Wood River Moon" and "No Kind Of Angel."

In addition to a conundrum, what Alaska transplant to Montana Britt Arnesen has provided to us is a very original and poetic set of lyrics and melodic patterns set to the rich vintage slack key accompaniment of an 1891 Martin Parlor Guitar (tuned A=432hz for the technicians among you)! Arnesen paints word pictures with impressionistic strokes and colors. Vocally Arnesen can almost seem like a waif fighting tides of fate, sort of but not precisely from the Melanie Safka school.

Having travelled from the far north to Missoula, Montana specifically to study with the region's Bluegrass and Western performing artists, Britt Arnesen certainly has the potential to bring us new and exciting work that embodies Western occurrences and sense of Western place. We eagerly await it, and

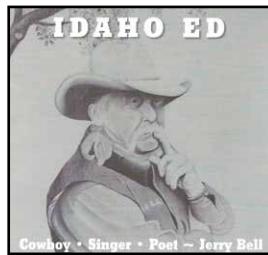
in the meantime...you might want to check this out! It's really well done. Twelve tracks.

CD: \$10 + \$5 s/h from Britt Arnesen, PO Box 8365, Missoula, MT 59807 or through www.907Britt.com



JERRY BELL

Idaho Ed



I'm sure I'm on record, probably in triplicate, as having maintained that what I think of as "sing-speaking" works well for a certain kind of singer...and particularly well when that singer is delivering saga songs. By "sing-speaking" I mean sounding a pitch on a word with minimal or no effort to sustain the note. Jerry Bell uses the technique. His title track on his new CD "Idaho Ed" is helped out by it as is his "Devil's Rope." But Bell's spoken delivery on the poems remains the high-point of his releases. Here he offers convincing renditions of Larry McWhorter's tall tale "8 Ball & High Ball," Bruce Kiskaddon's "How A Cowpuncher Rode" and "Winter Horses," Pat Richardson's "Bad Habits," S. Omar Barker's "Hosses vs Horses" and Jesse Smith's "The 3-Wheeler."

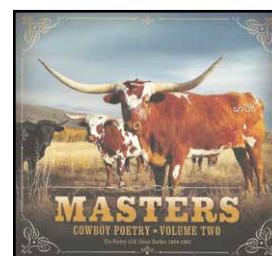
Of the songs I most like, Bell's take of Stan Jones' "Cowpoke," Carson Robison's (not "Robinson" as credited) "Carry Me Back To The Lone Prairie" and I would include his performance of Dave Stamey's "Campfire Waltz" but I'm not sold on the drum work behind it. Fourteen tracks total.

CD: \$15 + \$2.50 s/h through JerryBellPoetry.com, CowboyPoetBell@wyoming.com or from J.R. Bell, 20 Foxtail Lane, Riverton, WY 82501



MASTERS COWBOY POETRY VOL. TWO

The Poetry of S. Omar Barker



The Masters of Cowboy Poetry series from CowboyPoetry.com showcases both the masters of writing Western Poetic words and masters of delivering those words. It just doesn't get any better than that!

Masters Volume Two brings us the poetry of S. Omar Barker (1894-1985) on two jam-packed CDs. Included are the most famous of his works and plenty that may well become more famous now. As for the caliber of the reciters, the attuned who read this will only need last

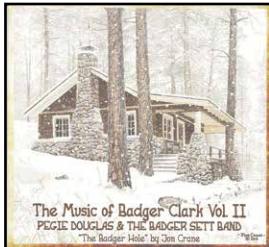
names of most: Hedges, Rieman, McMahan, Morton, Steiger, Nelson, Black, Beard...Blackbeard?? :^)... Swearingen, Zarzyski, Isaacs, Groethe, Snider, Hollenbeck and the list goes wonderfully on!

With a total of sixty tracks here to amuse and educate, this collection makes me...a born and bred New Mexican...particularly proud to recall that Mr. Barker was one as well. Highly recommended. Lovers of content should be very contented!

2 CD Set: \$25 ppd through CowboyPoetry.com, PO Box 1107, Lexington, VA 24450

PEGIE DOUGLAS & THE BADGER SETT BAND

"The Music of Badger Clark Vol II"



In listening to this release, I was particularly struck by the skillfulness with which Clark's poetry has been set to music. Creating songs using classic Cowboy verse is one of those classic slippery slopes, but Pegie Douglas just artfully skates along it! The tracks here are perfectly thought through and well executed. Now there are more successful Badger Clark-based songs from which to choose than just "Spanish Is The Lovin' Tongue!" And remember this is "Volume Two," too!!

The poems used here were drawn from the Clark collections "Sun & Saddle Leather," "Skylines & Woodsmoke" and "Cowboy Poetry: Classic Poems & Prose by Badger Clark." South Dakotan Douglas obviously created these works as a labor of love to fellow South Dakotan Clark who, incidentally, was that state's first Poet Laureate. Some are mixes of song and recitation nicely rendered

by Ned Westphall. In addition to him and Ms. Douglas (lead vocals & guitar), other members of the Badger Sett band (they do "sets" of Badger's music...get it?) are Cheryl Janssens (bass), Marcia Kenobbie (lead/harmony vocals & mandolin) and Katie Lautenschlager (violin).

From inception to performance, this CD is Top Drawer all the way. Ten tracks. Highly recommended!

CD: Contact Pegie Douglas, PO Box 925, Hill City, SD 57745 or visit pegiedouglas.com for information.



PAULA ERLENE

*"Across The Brazos" and
"Forever In The West"*



Here is an awarded yodeler who makes use of the yodel breaks in her voice to achieve a rather unique (and identifiable) style stamp in her "normal" singing. Paula Erlene (Williamson) is the wife and frequent stage performance partner of John Wayne double and Western novelist, Ermal Williamson.

Two releases from Paula Erlene came in the same package. The first, "Across The Brazos" was actually released last year and continues to enjoy considerable airplay among the Western DJs. Picks on it include the title track, "Singing Myself To Sleep," "Don't Know A Thing About Texas," "Whisper" and "Ballad Of Ginny McBride." The newest album release is "Forever In The West." As picks there we'll cite "Gonna Find Myself In The West" with its unusual structure, a goofy novelty "Ghost Yodelers In The Sky," Ruby Allmond's "Reno" and "The Women Who Tamed The Men Who Tamed The West!" Hopefully show hosts won't run out of air announcing that last one!! CD producer and multi-instrumentalist Brian Pearson joins Williamson on the movie classic "My Rifle, My Pony & Me."

In the picks, I would have included Paula's take on "Fading Sunsets, Fading Cowboys" except for some ragged supporting instrumental work on it, a problem that rears its head more than once on the CD.

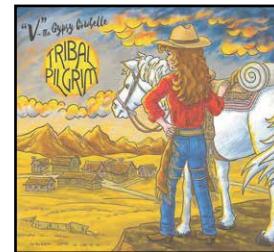
Fifteen tracks on each of the two albums.

CDs: \$15 ppd (or two CDs for \$25) through www.yodellady.com or www.ermalandpaula.com and direct from Paula Erlene Williamson, 10315 E. Capri Ave., Mesa, AZ 85208



"V" THE GYPSY COWBELLE

"Tribal Pilgrim"



In the listening and the reading, releases from "V" The Gypsy Cowbelles are always trips to fresh new places, and CD #5 for her is no exception. She educates and entertains anew in this spritely collection of originals put together at various locations across the course of four years!

Top musical hands joining her include Ernie Martinez, John Maguire, Johnny Neill, Jon Chandler, saw man Robert Armstrong and "V's" longtime friend and mentor, the late Liz Masterson, to whom the album is dedicated and who harmonizes on an Amelia Earhart-inspired song "Dawn In The Night." Each track has elements to recommend it, but other picks include the saga song "Resolve," "Long-Legged Cowboy" and the song "East To Go West," which may become for "V" what "If I Hadn't Seen The West" has for Joyce Woodson!

It's encyclopedically annotated in a booklet (and all sides of the cover), so settle back, read and listen!! "V" is a journey...a for some still a discovery...well worth making. Fourteen tracks and recommended.

CD: \$20 ppd through gypsycowbelles.com, cdbaby or form Gypsy Cowbelles, PO Box 809, Thermopolis, WY 82443

STEEL HORSE SWING

"Swing Time Baby"



What terrific fun this jazzy Colorado assemblage is!! Not thickly produced, Steel Horse

Swing's premiere album is just sweet and sorta vintage (surprise-surprise) Swing!

The band features our new friend Carlos Washington on lead vocals. We were introduced to him (and he to us) at this past November's IWMA convention in Albuquerque. A former professional rodeo rider, Washington used to sing to earn his entry fee. At such events, he used to not be allowed to get away without singing the National Anthem to open the gate. Hopefully now he can sing to earn bigger money, more fans and deserved fame. There's no good reason why it all shouldn't be headed his way!

There's not a weak one in the bunch, but we'll name the following as picks: the title track "Swing Time Baby" (a Washington original), Hank Williams' "Hey Good Lookin'," Wood Newton & Joni Harms' "Put The Western Back In Country" and their "Cowboy Up," the spritely M.M. Murphey/Don Cook/Chick Rains song "Let The Cowboy Dance" and Ray Benson's "Dance With Who Brung Ya."

A closed-circuit message to Carlos: Watch out on that "doggie" pronunciation! They getcha on it!

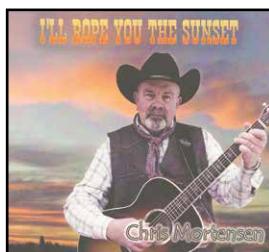
Eleven tracks. Highly recommended.

CD: \$15 (downloads \$9.99) from Carlos Washington, 11675 Steele Ave., Elbert, CO 80106 or download through <http://store.cdbaby.com/cd/steelhorseswing>

The WESTERN WAY

CHRIS MORTENSEN

"I'll Rope You The Sunset"



In a past review, I drew a comparison between Chris Mortensen's vocal styling and that of Neil Young, which Mortensen writes he finds "a bit puzzling." Well, puzzle onward! For me it still holds true. To my ear on most of the tracks, something in Mortensen's swoop onto and casual glide over notes still evokes a bit of Neil Young, particularly in Young's more recent material where he sings closer to Mortensen's vocal range. And a certain rock sensitivity on Mortensen's part is suggested by the presence of the track called "Missing Glenn Frey!"

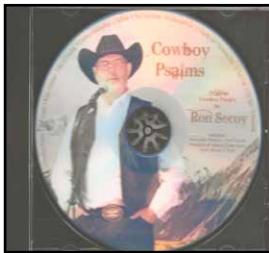
Basically, this release is a mix of ballads and saga songs. Picks include Bob Parson's "When His Eyes Are Closed," Randy Abel's unusual and compassionate "Sgt. Eli's Silver Mine," Mortensen's own "Shawn Wayne" and his "Eight Second Blues." The offering is enhanced significantly by the instrumental support on varying tracks of Ryan Shupe (fiddle), Bob Parson & Josh Ward (electric guitar), Scott Olson (harmonica & guitar), Ernie Sites (mandolin & acoustic lead guitar), Kelin Gibbons (banjo), Karl Gibbons (dobro), Greg Forbush (pedal steel), Tony Messerly (banjitar) and Zan Summers (drums). Fifteen tracks.

It definitely should please Mortensen fans.

CD: \$15 ppd from Chris Mortensen, PO Box 405, Paradise, UT 84328

RON SECOW

"Cowboy Psalms"



Rather than being a specific statement of content, "Cowboy Psalms" is actually the

title track of the newest release from Oklahoma poet Ron Secoy. In truth, most of these tracks are religious, some less so. But all are lessons.

Picks here include the title cut "Cowboy Psalms" (equating herding herds and herding words), "Outlaw" (an O. Henry-worthy encounter at a campfire), the barroom braggin' piece "Tall Tail" (his spelling not mine), "Adam & Eve" as cowfolk, "Ol' Bill" and "Mustang," an unusual healing horse story set to Indian flute accompaniment.

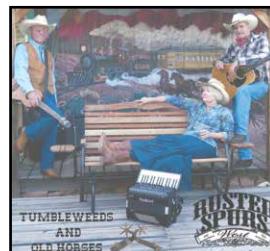
Secoy's delivery is straight forward, clear and deliberate...as are the points of the stories. When I received it, I had first thought the CD must be an early release sent ahead of cover art and a tray card being ready. But in phoning Secoy, I found this was not the case...or rather, I was looking at the complete case! I fear it will hurt the album gaining radio/online airplay and certainly will knock it out of any award eligibility in the Fall. But it's listenable and orderable, and maybe that's the artist's main consideration. Fourteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$5 s/h from Ron Secoy, 272826 Gatlin, Duncan, OK 73533 and through www.ronsecoy.com



RUSTED SPURS WEST

"Tumbleweeds and Old Horses"



Longtime WMA folks from the 1990s may be reminded of the late Dave (& Patti) Bourne's Lobo Rangers

in the vocal blend achieved by Arizona's Rusted Spurs West. And this group has a "Patti" too!

My Western Music mentor and IWMA Hall of Famer Hi Busse would have appreciated tasty the accordion lead of Patti Hamell on the CD. The presentation is nice for this cozy Western combo consisting of harmonious vocals,

Continued on page 43

Catch Miss Devon & The Outlaw "On The Trail" in the West!

6/23
DALLAS, TX

7/11

Albuquerque, NM

7/12-14

Grand Canyon area

7/15

Ruidoso, NM

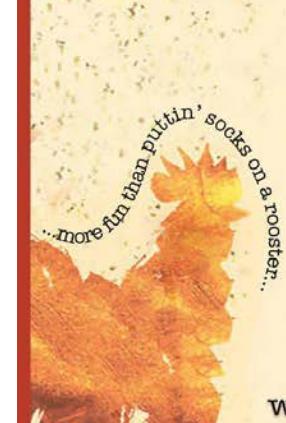
7/28

Cleburne, TX

(special 'all star' show for
National Day of the Cowboy!)

www.missdevonandtheoutlaw.com

W



SARA LOU & THE COWBOY

Western Recording Artists, Songwriters, Musicians, and Entertainers

New CD Releases



Released April 2018



Release Date July 2018

Contact and Booking Information

Website: SaraLouAndTheCowboy.com

Email: info@SaraLouAndTheCowboy.com

Facebook.com/SaraLouAndTheCowboy

Phone: 720-770-0385

See you at the 2018
IWMA Annual Convention

Come see Sara Lou & The Cowboy for the Chuckwagon Dinner, at the Custer County Cowboy Gathering, in Westcliffe, Colorado on July 18th, 2018.
Get your dinner tickets at CusterCountyCowboyGathering.com

Sign up for our CD Release Reminders & Newsletter at SaraLouAndTheCowboy.com

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews

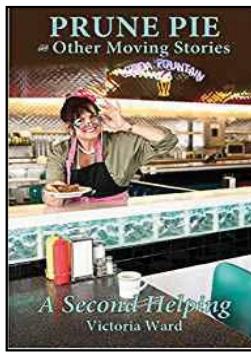


Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

VICTORIA WARD

"Prune Pie and Other Moving Stories: A Second Helping"



Barry Ward can't say he didn't know right from the start what sort of life he had blazed for himself when he married Victoria. On their

honeymoon trip, Barry -- rancher, farmer, Western music performer -- had to strip down to his T-shirt and jeans, giving discarded articles of his own clothing to Victoria so she wouldn't freeze to death.

She had insisted that she and Barry sit in the open-air car on the narrow-gauge railroad ride to Chama, N.M., so they could better enjoy the view of the October foliage and the "crisp" mountain air. Never mind that everyone else on the train had the foresight to find seats in the heated passenger cars.

It was on the way back down the mountain that it started to snow.

"Are you going to be like this for the rest of our marriage," Barry asked through what I imagine must have been chattering teeth. Victoria could not deny that was likely.

Victoria recounts that frigid escapade in "Chama Train Ride to Siberia," one of the 49 essays, mostly humorous, in this book,

her second collection of true stories drawn from her life on the road with Barry and also from their everyday life together and with their children.

Barry, WMA's 2013 male performer of the year, is often on the receiving end of his wife's humorous jabs. She exposes his tendency to get nauseous on carnival rides in "A Very Weak Stomach," his forgetfulness in "You're Fired," his fear of heights in "Crossing the Royal Gorge" and his aversion to snakes (I don't like them either) in "Snake in the Basement."

But she also writes about the generous nature and big heart in the man she affectionately calls Bear in "We Don't Call 9-1-1" and about his humble nature, strong faith, love of family, music, dogs, old cemeteries, Western movies and every kind of sport in "What Makes My Bear Tick."

And Victoria does not shy away from putting herself on the spot, revealing embarrassing, awkward and scared-witless situations in which she's been the central figure in stories such as "Chewing Tobacco Joke" and "Jurassic Park is Real."

"Jurassic Park," a tale of critters encountered during a science trip she made to Matagorda Island off the coast of Texas, may be my favorite piece in this collection. Even as I write this, I can hear her screaming "AAGGHHH! RUN, SIERRA! RUN!"

It's not that funny things happen more often to Victoria and her family than to other people. It's just that she finds

humor in situations where many people would find only frustration and anger.

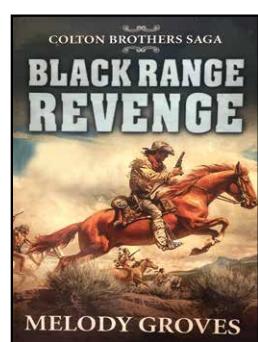
However, as I suggested earlier, not all these essays are light-hearted. "A Christmas Miracle" is taken from her diary account of a nearly two-week period in December 1984 when her son B.J., then 18 months old, was hospitalized with spinal meningitis. This selection is a testament to Victoria's religious faith.

She sees humor in most things and the hand of God in everything.

(**"Prune Pie and Other Moving Stories: A Second Helping," ISBN 9781943829103, paperback, \$15, Rhyolite Press LLC, 2017, available in bookstores and through amazon.com)**

MELODY GROVES

"Black Range Revenge"



"Gunfire, whoops and screeams shattered the symphony of chattering birds and gurgling water."

From the first page of Groves' novel, the very real risks of panning for gold in southwestern

New Mexico in 1863 is evident. Apaches, inflamed by the murder of their leader Mangas Coloradas by U.S. soldiers, were taking revenge with deadly attacks on prospectors.

In September 1863, Andy Colton, just 18, huddles down behind a rock and a juniper bush as he listens to the terrifying sounds of an Apache raid going on not far from his gold-panning camp.

Helping bury the bloodied dead afterwards, Colton decides his best course is to return to family in Mesilla, New Mexico Territory. Good idea.

But he changes his mind. Bad idea. From there things get downright harrowing.

"Black Range Revenge" is the fifth book in Groves' Colton Brothers Saga. Like the other books in that series and Groves' stand-alone novel "She Was Sheriff," winner of a 2017 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award, "Black Range Revenge" is marked by Groves' diligent research, attention to detail and love of old-fashioned Western adventure stories.

Groves grew up in Las Cruces, N.M. and lives now in Albuquerque. She writes about places she has walked, ridden or driven through, and she makes the extra effort to achieve authenticity in her fiction.

She was once a member of New Mexico Gunfighters, an Old West re-enactor group, so she knows what it feels like to wear a revolver on her hip, hold a revolver in her hand, hear the report of a shot

ringing in her ear. Groves even had a go at bull riding, so she understands what it's like to fall fast, land hard and carry the hurt and the bruises with you for days and weeks.

All of this proves valuable in the depiction of young Andy Colton's ordeals at the hands of fierce Apaches and other dangerous frontier denizens. But it is the characters, the well-established Colton clan, and the story, the Colton brothers' unwavering search for their youngest member, that makes "Black Range Revenge" a novel that is as satisfying as it is suspenseful.

(**Black Range Revenge**, ISBN 9781432837266, hardcover, \$25.95, Five Star Publishing, 2018, available in bookstores and through amazon.com)



INTERNATIONAL WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

You can now view
The Western Way
as well as the Festival
and Events Calendar on
our Web site!

Visit often to keep up
with what's going on in
our Western Music family.

www.westernmusic.org

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Desert Rose - Carol Markstrom
2. 2000 Miles From Nashville - Wylie & the Wild West
3. Rerides - Brenn Hill
4. Thinkin' of You... - Doug Figgs & Mikki Daniel
5. On the Loose and Headed Your Way - Lauralee Northcott
6. Satisfied Hearts - Gary & Jean Prescott
7. Coyotes and Cattle - Barry Ward
40 Years the Cowboy Way - Riders in the Sky
9. Down on Wildhorse Creek - Dawn Anita
10. Silent Trails - 3 Trails West
11. Stockyards Serenade - The Cowtown Opry Buckaroos
12. Sunrise on the Prairie - Allen & Jill Kirkham
13. Cowboy - The High Country Cowboys
14. Screen Door - Bob Marshall
15. Once Upon the West - Eli Barsi & Doris Daley
16. Songs and Tales of the Old Chisholm Trail - K.R. Wood & Friends
17. Take Me Back to Texas - Mary Kaye
18. Souvenir - Notable Exceptions
19. Up for Adoption - Richard Ellyon & Steve Wade
20. A Kansas Souvenir - Diamond W Wranglers
21. Montana Moon - Dan McCorison
22. Cowboy Life - Donnie Poindexter
23. Abby Payne - Abby Payne
24. Outside the Fence - Ron Christopher
25. Tribal Pilgrim - V-the Gypsy Cowbelle
26. Western Serenade - Catherine Thompson
27. Pale Moon on the Prairie - Rick Pickren
28. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris
29. Just Cowboyin' - Matt Robertson
30. Dom Flemons Presents Black Cowboys - Dom Flemons

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Off the Beaten Trail - Hot Texas Swing Band
2. Swing Time, Baby - Steel Horse Swing
3. Swingin' Through the Years - Chuck Cusimano
4. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas - Susie Blue
5. Wild Blue Yonder - The Western Flyers
6. Paul Schlesinger & His Knights of Swing - Paul Schlesinger
7. Just Stay - Sara Lou & the Cowboy
8. Taryn Noelle Swings - Taryn Noelle
9. Take Me Back to Texas - Mary Kaye
10. Somewhere There's Music - The Swing Sisters

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Ruts of the Santa Fe Trail - Barry Ward
2. Hot Rod Yodel - Wylie & the Wild West
3. Too Bad This Town Ain't in Texas - Carol Markstrom
4. Saddle Up Song - The Farmer & Adele
5. The Pitchfork Grays - Gary Prescott
6. Roll Along, Prairie Moon - Abby Payne
7. Bandida - Carol Markstrom
8. Riding Home to You - Eli Barsi
9. Cowboy - The High Country Cowboys
10. Colorado Horses - Dan McCorison

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Once Upon the West - Doris Daley & Eli Barsi
2. Tales From the Road - Aspen Black
3. I'll Ride Through It - Deanna Dickinson McCall
4. Short Grass Country - Floyd Beard
5. Masters, Vol. 2 - Various Artists
6. Saddle Up for Cowboy Poetry - Marleen Bussma
7. Cowboy Seasons - Sam Deleeuw
8. A Good Ride - Terry Nash
9. Fillin' Tanks - Susie Knight
10. Masters - Various Artists

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

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

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

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

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

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

Bobbi Jean Bell
OutWest
8201 Gold Course Rd NW
Ste D3, #189
Albuquerque, NM 87120
"Campfire Café" w/host Gary Holt
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com
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
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/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd.
Bend, OR 97702
541-388-2537

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

KWC Ameriana Radio Station
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez
avenida galtzaraborda nº47 2ºA
20100 renteria
Guipuzcoa
España
miguelbilly56@gmail.com

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

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"
www.uckfieldfm.co.uk
Uckfield FM (in the UK)
paul.hazell@uckfieldfm.co.uk
Telephone: +44 7775 545 902

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

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

Al Krtil
"Early Morning Trails"
225 West 7th Street,
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008-4637
(609) 361-8277

alkrtil@yahoo.com
www.sudzincountry.com

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

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

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

Wyn Machon
5 Lowther Street
Oamaru 9400
New Zealand
New Zealand Country Music Radio
FM 107.3 (NZCMR)
wynmachon39@gmail.com

Butch and Christina Martin
"Whittler's Corner Show"
1410 Kubli Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
Earsradio.com
Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org
The Dalles, OR, Y102
KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY
www.ButchMartinMusic.com
www.romancingthewest.org
(541) 218-2477

Heartland Public Radio
c/o Rowena Muldavin
2001 Coffer Lane
Placerville, CA 95667-8718

Marvin O'Dell
"Around the Campfire"
www.defendersoffreedomradio.com
KKRN, Redding, CA
KZNQ, Santa Clarita, CA
<https://tunein.com/radio/KZNQ-Q-Country-1015-s264146/>
www.earsradio.com
meoteo@aol.com

10430 W. Loma Blanca Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351
805-551-4649
www.musikode.com

Bob O'Donnell
355 N. 7th St.
Apt. 526
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

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

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Leonia, NJ 07605
osikes@nj.rr.com
KKRN, Redding, CA
www.earsradio.com

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609-397-1620
www.wdvrfm.org
Leonardwerner44@comcast.net



Continued from page 37

acoustic guitars, lap steel and bass provided variously by "Miz Patti," "Slim" and "Tex." Actually, Michigan was the point of origin for Rusted Spurs. They added the "West" to their name when they hit Arizona. "Tex???" ;^)

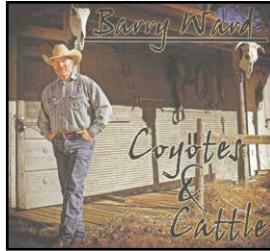
There's nice Cowboy Swing in pick tracks such as Steve Earle's "Hometown Blues," Cindy Walker's "It's All Your Fault" and "Miss Molly," and additional picks include Bill Browning's "Dark Hollow" and Peter McLaughlin's "So Long Arizona."

A crediting note: While Ella Fitzgerald twice recorded "Cow Cow Boogie" she certainly didn't write it. Ron Raye, Gene DePaul and Benny Carter did back in 1941. And, rightly or wrongly, "My Love Is A Rider" (a.k.a. "My Bucking Broncho") has generally been credited to The Bandit Queen Belle Starr!

Fourteen tracks. Recommended.

CD: \$15 ppd from Rusted Spurs West, 24360 E. Cholla Rd., Florence, AZ 85132

— ★ ★ —
BARRY WARD
"Coyotes & Cattle"



The newest from The Bear strikes me as containing more first person reflections and "End of Life's Trail" songs than usual. Am I mistaken, or is he trying to tell us something? What am I saying! Barry Ward frequently tries to tell us something!!!

Seven of the tracks here are Ward originals. Picks among them in-

clude "Ruts Of The Santa Fe Trail," the wistful title track "Coyotes & Cattle," "That Old Barn," "Saddle Up" and the rousing voice and guitar showpiece "Bandito," even though its religious U-turn ending might otherwise make me veer off. Among the covers we'll name as picks are Marvin O'Dell's "Keep A Candle In The Window," the Indian-intoned "Wayfaring Stranger," fellow Kansan Larry Hannon's 1995 Will Rogers paean "The Man From Coo-Wees-Coo-Wee" and Gordon Mote's "Wake Up Dancin'."

Barry Ward is a former (then) WMA Male Performer of the Year and his CD "Coyotes & Cattle" will still give you a good indication why. All-in-all it's another solid horse in his string! Thirteen tracks. Recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Barry Ward, PO Box 185, Eureka, KS 67045 and through BarryWardMusic.com



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Dates:
November 7-11, 2018

Location:
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Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Call 505-843-6300 –
Tell them you're attending the IWMA Convention for the \$119 rate



INTERNATIONAL
WESTERN
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

2018 IWMA Annual Convention
November 7-11
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, November 7

12:00 noon-6:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique accepting items to sell or donate
3:00-6:00 pm	Performers CD Check-In
3:00-6:00 pm	Vendor Set Up
3:00-7:00 p.m.	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
5:30-6:30 pm	So You Think You Can't Dance? Swing Dance Workshop Instructor: Jim Calvert, High Desert Dancers
7:00-10:00 pm	Swing Dance Spectacular & Dessert Featuring: Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing, Alex Dormont & The Hot Texas Swing Band, 3 Trails West

THURSDAY, November 8

7:00-10:00 am	Vendor Set Up
8:00 am-7:00 pm	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
8:00 am-12:00 noon	Western Wear Consignment Boutique accepting items to sell or donate
8:00 am-5:00 pm	Performers CD Check-In
8:30 am -5:00 pm	Professional Development Workshops
8:30-9:45 am	Coffee with the DJs Facilitated by Marvin O'Dell
10:00 am-11:00 am	Rivers, Trails and Public Lands of the American West: It's All Yours! Presented by Jane Leche
11:15 am-12:30 pm	The Business of Music Presented by Lynn Marie Rusaw
1:00-2:30 pm	Telling Your Story in Song- Sponsored by the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Facilitated by Jim Jones
1:00-2:30 pm	Focus on House Concerts! Facilitated by Joy Burns
2:45-3:45 pm	Harmony Workshop Presented by Judy James & Jeanne Cahill
2:45-3:45 pm	Prose Workshop-Sponsored by the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Facilitated by Vic Anderson
4:00-5:00 pm	What Is A Poetry P.H.D.- Sponsored by the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Presented by Sam DeLeeuw
4:00-5:00 pm	National Day of the Cowboy Panel Discussion Facilitated by Bethany Braley, Executive Director-National Day of the Cowboy
12:00 noon-5:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN
12:00 noon-5:00 pm	CD Mercantile OPEN
12:00 noon-5:00 pm	Vendor Area Open
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Showcase Performances
6:00-9:00 pm	Crisis Fund Dinner & Concert Entertainment: Jon Chandler & Friends, featuring Ernie Martinez & Johnny Neill
	Featured performance by Dry Branch Fire Squad
10:00 pm-12:00 midnight	Midnight Pajama Showcase

FRIDAY, November 9

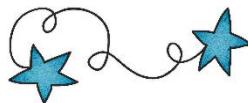
8:00 am-6:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN and accepting items to sell or donate
8:00 am-6:00 pm	CD Mercantile OPEN (reopens after the Western Opry)
7:30 am-6:00 pm	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
8:00-9:30 am	IWMA Chapter Officers Roundtable & Breakfast
8:30 am-4:00 pm	IWMA Youth Chapter Meeting, Workshop & Rehearsal Time
9:45 am-1:45 pm	Campfire Stage
2:15 pm-5:00 pm	Development Stage
10:00 am – 5:00 pm	Showcase Performances
12:00 noon-6:00 pm	Vendor Area Open
1:00-1:45 pm	Banjo Workshop
2:00-2:45 pm	Harmonica Workshop
3:00-3:45 pm	Rhythm Guitar Workshop
7:00-9:00 pm	IWMA Friday Night Western Opry Hosted by Judy James

SATURDAY, November 10

7:00-8:30 am	Veterans Appreciation Breakfast & Show
	Hosted by Jerry Hall
8:30-10:00 am	IWMA Membership Meeting
	Open to all current and future WMA members
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN and accepting items to sell or donate
10:00 am-5:00 pm	CD Mercantile OPEN (will reopen after Awards Show)
10:00 am- 6:00 pm	Registration & Ticket Sales
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Vendor Area OPEN
10:15-11:15 am	Harmony Contest
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Yodeling Contest
12:45-1:45 pm	Poetry Contest
1:45-3:00 pm	IWMA Youth Chapter Showcase
3:00-5:00 pm	Showcases
3:00-3:25 pm	Corral Chorale
3:30-3:55 pm	Songwriters Showcase sponsored by IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter
4:00-4:45 pm	Cowtown Opry's Buckaroos Showcase & Workshop
4:15-5:30 pm	IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Meeting
7:00-10:00 pm	IWMA Awards Show

SUNDAY, November 11

7:00 am-12:00 noon	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN and accepting items to sell or donate
9:00 am-12:00 noon	CD Mercantile OPEN
9:00 am-12:00 noon	Vendor Area Closed
9:00-11:00 am	Sunday Morning Gospel Concert



MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND NOW!
HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT THE HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN
Call 505-843-6300 – Tell them you're attending the IWMA Convention for the \$119 rate

Check for details on the IWMA Convention Brochure and at www.westernmusic.org/events

2018 IWMA CONVENTION TICKET PRE-ORDER & MEMBER REGISTRATION

November 7-11 – Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

Return to: IWMA ∙ P. O. Box 648 ∙ Coppell, TX 75019 - email marsha@westernmusic.org - call 505-563-0673
PRE-REGISTER & RECEIVE A FREE GIFT WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR TICKETS!

Name _____

Company or Group Name (*if applicable*) _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Email _____

IWMA MEMBERS ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if this is your first time to attend!	What year did you first join IWMA?	
		Members	Non-Members
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Package <i>(includes ALL workshops and daily showcases; does NOT include evening shows)</i>		\$50/person	\$60/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Sidekick Package <i>(includes workshops, showcases and evening shows)</i>		\$175/person \$325/couple	\$250/person \$475/couple
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Spur VIP Package <i>(includes workshops, showcases and reserved seating for all evening shows)</i>		\$275/person \$450/couple	\$325/person \$550/couple
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Spur Sponsor Package <i>(includes workshops, showcases, reserved seating for all evening shows and your name listed in the program as a sponsor)</i>		\$550/person \$900/couple	\$675/person \$1,050/couple
WEDNESDAY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Swing Dance Spectacular & Dessert <i>(Ticket price includes So You Think You Can't Dance? Workshop)</i>	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person
THURSDAY (If you purchase a package, PLEASE indicate which workshops you will attend)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Pass for Showcases	# of tickets _____	\$0	\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days
Workshops			
<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee with the DJs	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Rivers, Trails & Public Lands of the American West	# of tickets _____	No Charge	No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/> The Business of Music	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Telling Your Story in Song	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus on House Concerts!	# of tickets _____	No Charge	No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmony	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Prose Panel Discussion	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> What Is A Poetry P.H.D.?	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> National Day of the Cowboy Panel Discussion	# of tickets _____	No Charge	No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Crisis Fund Benefit Dinner & Concert	# of tickets _____	\$50/person	\$60/person
FRIDAY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Pass for Showcases	# of tickets _____	\$0	\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days
Workshops			
<input type="checkbox"/> Banjo	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmonica	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm Guitar	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Friday Night Western Opry	# of tickets _____	\$25/person	\$30/person
SATURDAY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Pass for Showcases	# of tickets _____	\$0	\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days
<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!			
<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 _____

Some space is limited so order tickets early! Cancellations after October 31, 2018 cannot be refunded.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Music and/or entertainment business persons and performers. Professional members may have a listing on the IWMA website. Choose your level of Professional Membership below:

- Individual Professional Membership \$50
- Individual Youth Membership (21 and under) \$10
- Small Music/Performing Group (2-3 members)* \$75
- Medium Music/Performing Group (4-6 members)* \$110
- Large Music/Performing Group (7+ members)* \$150
- Patron Membership \$100
- Business Professional Membership \$110
- Individual Professional Life Membership \$600

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

Not a Music or Media Professional but want to take part? Choose your level of supporting membership below:

- Individual Supporting Membership \$40
- Individual Youth Membership (21 and under) \$10
- Family Supporting Membership* \$65
- Patron Membership \$100
- Business Supporting Membership \$100
- Individual Supporting Life Membership \$600
- Sponsor Supporting Membership \$1,000

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

In addition to your Professional or Supporting Membership, you may also support your local chapter of IWMA by adding a Chapter Membership. Check the chapter(s) you wish to join and add the related charge for each chapter.

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Michigan/ | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | NE Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana/Dakotas | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Coast | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | |
| | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Wordsmiths Chapter (poets, authors, songwriters) | | |
| | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Membership (each) Individual \$10 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Membership (each) Family* \$15 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Membership (each) Group* \$25 | | |

*One member may vote

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT **WESTERNMUSIC.ORG**

Please tell us about your involvement in Western Music. Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performer/Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Songwriter | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poet/Reciter | <input type="checkbox"/> Author | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manager/Booking Agent | <input type="checkbox"/> Fan | <input type="checkbox"/> DeeJay/Radio Station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____

ZIP/Post. Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

It's OK to list my information in the printed IWMA Membership Directory. _____ (Initials)

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Phone Number | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Payment Information

Total Due \$ _____ Check Enclosed

Please make check payable (U.S. Dollars) & send to:

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COPPELL, TX 75019**

Please charge my credit card:

- AMEX Visa Mastercard Discover

Name on Card _____

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Questions?

Email marsha@westernmusic.org or call 505-563-0673.

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