

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the International Western Music Association



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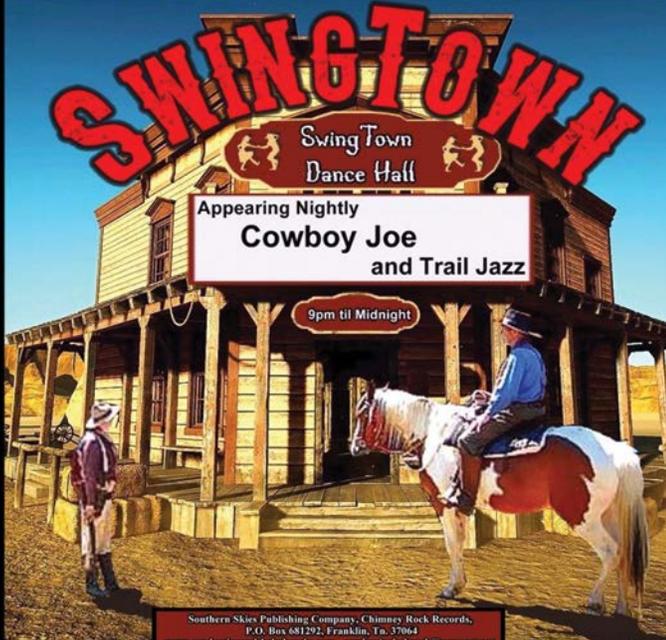


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## From The President...



Judy James  
IWMA President

**Thank you, Kansas Chapter, for meeting with the IWMA National Board in May!** We had a great meeting with the chapter, and I believe that each board had a greater appreciation and understanding of the other board. The various projects being undertaken by the Kansas chapter are worth noting, including producing radio shows, television shows, and having poetry contests. Hats off!

Your IWMA Board is on the road. Do you want us to meet with your chapter? Let me know and we will work towards that end.

### All Roads Lead to Albuquerque for IWMA 2019!

Do you have your reservations? Do you have your tickets? Don't forget to make plans to arrive in Albuquerque for the opening luncheon at *HIGH NOON* on Wednesday to hear our keynote address delivered by Red Steagall. It will be a very special beginning to a terrific week, which will include workshops designed for the performer and fans; entertaining showcases that will include some new performers; and new touches to the night shows. From the opening of the Wednesday luncheon until the end of the gospel concert on Sunday, IWMA 2019 will be "the best yet." Come join us! Get your tickets and reservations today. Check the Website for details – [westernmusic.org](http://westernmusic.org).

### IWMA celebrates the National Day of the American Cowboy on July 27 on FaceBook!

Each IWMA chapter is invited to have a 30-minute time slot to provide music and poetry and briefly tell about their chapter and how people can join them. Watch for details!

**"If you believe you can, you are right! If you believe you can't, you are right!"** I have seen this sentence many times lately, and I'm sure this is a familiar sentence to you. What does this have to do with IWMA? I hear people say that we can't grow and we can't become a viable organization. Others say, we **can** grow, we **can** become larger and our genre can become better known. Well, both statements are correct. Which do you believe? We act on what we believe. I choose to believe we **can** become larger and more viable. Who is with me? Let's act on it by each of us getting five people to join IWMA, finding two advertisers for the *Western Way* magazine, and finding just one sponsor for IWMA 2019! Let's continue to move forward!

Have a great rest of the summer! See you in Albuquerque! 🐾

Judy James  
President, IWMA



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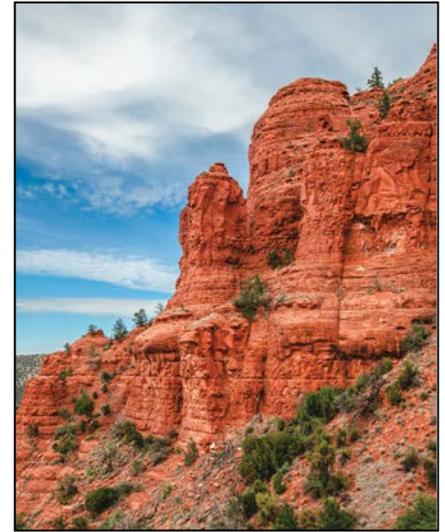
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*The cover captures the essence and vibrancy of multi-talented Lauralee Northcott, singer-songwriter/author/trail guide/teacher and the list goes on! The majestic mountain scene from her beautiful Washington State is a fitting backdrop for this lady without limits! Read more about Lauralee inside. Cover photo courtesy Teri J Pieper | Reflected Light Images, used by permission.*

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



Theresa O'Dell  
Editor

# HUNGER FOR THE BEST

*“Good, better, best.  
Never let it rest.  
‘Til your Good Is Better,  
And your Better  
is Best” - St. Jerome*

I come from a family of six children of which I am #5. My parents believed in the positive influence that music contributes to a child's life so each of us (which the exception of my younger brother, I believe) were given piano lessons whether we requested them or not! I had NOT requested them, but off I went at about 7 years of age to Mrs. Cordy's house for my weekly lesson. She had taught all of my older siblings...three of whom became pretty accomplished. You must understand, by the time she began teaching me, she was old (and cranky, in this child's eyes at least!). Also, those were the days when discipline in all things was important and permissible, and she was not adverse to whacking the top of my hands with her pencil when my hands were “lazy” and my wrists were not arched. Probably needless to say, but I will say it out loud here, I didn't like Mrs. Cordy and I was not inspired through her tutelage to become a pianist!

Practice between lessons was very low on this child's priority list. Tears and tantrums were weekly occurrences. Finally, after a couple of years, Mrs. Cordy told my parents that she couldn't teach me; they were wasting their money and her time. “She doesn't want to play the songs, she wants to sing them,” she reported. She suggested voice lessons (another story for another time!) So, my piano career was halted.

Why share this story? I was reminded of Mrs. Cordy recently when Marvin said he was hungry for waffles! You ask, “How does that relate to Mrs. Cordy?” Well, before I was terminated from my piano career, Mrs. Cordy attempted one more motivational gesture...she said if my sister (Sarah) and I came totally prepared to our next lesson (Sarah was ALWAYS prepared), if we truly gave it our best (Sarah ALWAYS gave her best), she would prepare waffles for us as our reward and we could eat all we wanted. My parents didn't own a waffle iron and I'm not sure I had ever eaten them, but I knew I would love them. With this gesture, Mrs. Cordy had found a real incentive for me to practice! Practice I did. No mistakes, wrists arched,

rhythm and timing were spot on! I exceeded expectations. And Mrs. Cordy was true to her word. I won't share the details, but I truly ate beyond my fill! The next several hours found one sick little girl!

Mrs. Cordy's time was not totally wasted on me. I did learn from her and I wish I could thank her now for all her efforts to teach me skills that have lasted a lifetime. Because of her diligence, I learned to read music. That skill helped me to develop the ability to site read and to sing and hear harmony. I never reached the level of “good” as a pianist, but for one week and one lesson I was **good, better** than I had ever been, and that one performance became my **best**. There were no more piano lessons in my future, but if I had continued lessons with that kind of motivation, I know I would now enjoy playing the piano myself instead of being captivated with the sounds made by others. Lessons learned, Mrs. Cordy; lessons learned! Oh, and I don't eat waffles anymore; I learned that **you can get too much of a good thing!** 🐾

A black and white portrait of a young man in a suit and tie, looking slightly to the right. The portrait is framed by ornate, gold-colored decorative borders with floral and scrollwork motifs.

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

Pictured: Design by Chris Kirby for MASTERS: Volume Three,  
a 3-CD set of the poetry of Bruce Kiskaddon.

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## From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short  
Executive Director

Summer's here. I can tell because Home Depot wants me to buy drought resistant plants, IKEA wants me to buy all new patio furniture and Pinterest...well, it's amazing what they want me to do with clay pots and potatoes (not necessarily together).

Summer also means that school is out and everyone is heading out on vacation.

Wherever you go, there's bound to be a Western Music or Poetry Festival or Gathering going on. July 27 is the National Day of the Cowboy and most chapters will have events, August 8-10 is the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering in Prescott, Arizona and August 22-24 is the Cimarron Cowboy Music & Poetry Festival in Cimarron, New Mexico. And dare we forget that August 8 in World Yodel Day! It hasn't caught on in the US as much as it has in the rest of the world but watch for it, and read the article about it in this issue.

And, of course, Summer means we're working on the program for IWMA2019 and nominations are open for the 2019 IWMA Awards of Excellence. The IWMA Youth Camp will be over by the time you read this but as I'm typing, we have a good group of campers coming to Texas to participate. The Youth Chapter will also have had their event at the Arizona Folklore Preserve in Sierra Vista. Thanks to Mike Rutherford for giving them this opportunity to show off their incredible talents and to Jane Leche for coordinating the details.

Recently I saw a Facebook posting from Jeff Goins (my favorite person to quote): Do you know why birds sing just before dawn? Scientists believe it's to tell their mates that they made it through the night, as a way of saying "I'm still here." Maybe that's why we sing, too, why we create art – as way of saying, "I made it. I'm still here." We keep singing, reciting, and telling stories trying in our own small way to make the world a better place...a small oasis amid the stress of everyday life. Make plans to be with us in Albuquerque and add your voice to let everyone know that we're still here! 



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Multiple copies are placed in strategic locations throughout the US and distributed internationally through our broad global membership outreach. As a quarterly publication with a dynamic online digital presence, your ad continues to work for you into the future. The Western Way readership is "mobile and on the go" ... shouldn't they know your business is where they are going to be?

#### Example of Distribution Outlets:

- Arizona Folklore Preserve – Sierra Vista, AZ
- Autry National Center – Los Angeles, CA
- Prairie Rose Chuckwagon - Benton, KS
- Doss Heritage & Culture Center – Weatherford, TX
- Museum of Western Film History – Lone Pine, CA
- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- Friends of Marty Robbins Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
- [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org)

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

# In the **CROSSHAIRS**

## **LAURALEE NORTHCOTT**



Lauralee Photo courtesy Teri White Brown

*The Western Way:* Today we're visiting with one of western music's enduring performers who has recently released a brand new solo album that has received lots of airplay on western music radio shows. She was formerly a member of the all-girl Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band and has since broken out on her own. We're happy to get this time with Lauralee Northcott.

**TWW: So, how's life been treating you since you became a solo act, Lauralee?**

*LN:* Thank you for asking. Life has been very interesting. I've been working pretty hard. You see, I realized to change from a vocal trio, bass player to a solo entertainer I would to develop new skills and repertoire. Being a solo is uniquely different from being a band member. So I took a step back to my roots. I was a wilderness guide and camp cook for a little over 30 seasons in the Pasayten Wilderness of northern Washington State. I had a saddlebag full of unpublished songs and poems reflecting those experiences. So I set two tasks for myself: a solo album; and a book. I gave myself one year for each project. The album was released in 2018, called, "On The Loose and Headed Your Way." Next, in 2019, I finished my book called, "A Cowgirl's Life in the Mountains". The concept of the book is to present song lyrics, poems, and mountain menus are woven together with stories then decorated with stylish pen & ink drawings. Ollie Reed reviewed my book in the Winter

issue of *Western Way* 2019. He made many interesting and thoughtful comments on the book and I think he really like it, which thrilled me. By the way, I will be offering a workshop at the IWMA Awards Festival in ABQ this year, to share some of what I learned about writing and publishing a book. Life is very interesting.

**TWW: How busy have you been since Horse Crazy disbanded?**

*LN:* I am as busy as I want to be. I like booking tours for myself but it isn't too long before I head home to my husband and dog.

**TWW: We love your new album, and it looks like it's enjoying a fine measure of success. So now we're wondering why it took you so long to do a solo project.**

*LN:* I was busy! Bands are very engaging. I love harmony and a musical group requires creating together, which can be exciting. Horse Crazy had eight different women members in its seventeen year run. Each one of them brought something unique and engaging. I was there the whole time. Thinking about creating a solo album was pretty scary. I truly have Dave and Carolyn Martin to thank for helping me create such a high quality product. They stood beside me, providing skill, enthusiasm, and friendship. Without their help it would not have become the work it turned out to be.

**TWW: You have exhibited some very fine and strong songwriting skills on this new project. What do you find to be the greatest challenge in songwriting?**

*LN:* Writing a song or a poem is the equivalent of writing a short story in just a few words. Sometimes I write a lot of the story before I can start whittling away to find a song or poem. I imagine what it must be like to be a sculptor, staring at a hunk of clay! My idea is that lyrics tell the story and music provides the emotion to carry to the story to the listener. It is funny though because sometimes songs take on a life of their own, and pull you around. One of the hardest parts of songwriting is finishing. You have to decide it is done even though you know it could be better. It can be hard to call a piece finished. Each part of the

process: imagination, creation and completion have their own challenges and rewards.

**TWW: You had some cowboy poetry on your solo album. Will you continue to make poetry a part of your future projects?**

*LN:* Yes, there is magic in poetry. However, it is massively difficult to write poetry and even harder to recite it. The spoken word has a rhythm and melody of its own. Some poets transport me to their world in just a few lines. I attended the National Cowboy Gathering in Elko, NV every year from 1999-2006 with my pal and original Horse Crazy member Virginia Bennett. Her personal friendships with Buck Ramsey, Joel Nelson, Sunny Hancock, Paul Zarzyski, Pat Richardson, Glen Orlin, and others, this gave me a back stage pass to some very inspirational times. As often as possible I'd just sit in the green room and soak it all up. Super fun times.

**TWW: Are there some certain songwriters that you feel have taught you a lot just by studying their writing? Some who have influenced you in that way?**

*LN:* I've learned something from each and every musician I have worked with. Learning with other musicians is the best. For writing traditional feeling music I go back to the celtic melodies that became the classic cowboy repertoire. For western swing Cindy Walker is the queen. I study her work and learn. Tin Pan Alley creations and later hollywood tunes were very complicated but so interesting. Ranger Doug is a master teacher to help understand how to use these tunes and swing them. Of course, for contemporary western music and story telling



*Lauralee and Moon*

Dave Stamey is the king. His music is a gift to all of us. His chord sequences can sure be weird though. I listen to all of it, diagram the work and then steal ideas here and there. Shhhh....don't tell anyone.

**TWW: Some songwriters we describe as “deep” or “introspective” or “dark” or “clever.” We say your songwriting is filled with “fun.” Do you view your songs in that way?**

*LN:* I am a big fan of fun. But of course, contrast is the key. One song doesn't make a show. I design my performances to offer the listener an overall feeling of happy, honest warmth. I like to write adventuresome story songs, which are usually humorous, because most of the stuff that happens on adventures needs a little humor to help you survive. I enjoy swing, and like to write in that style. If you've heard my album you know I'm a little crooner at heart, so I write some sweet stuff. Here is my soap box issue with dark and clever work. We have been manipulated by experts for at least a century. There has almost been a requirement for artists to struggle with the painful parts of themselves and expose those emotions in their work. As a human family we are just beginning to understand that all people battle internal circumstances. This is nothing new. A quote (most often attributed to Plato) says, “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.” Creating is a compelling force for artists, for me it's mostly fun.

**TWW: OK. Since the disbanding of the group, how have you developed as an entertainer? Has it been a difficult transition for you to move into a solo act? Has it been good for you in some ways?**

*LN:* It is much more difficult to be on stage alone, than with a group. Becoming a quality solo act will take the rest of my life and then some. So far, I have found three areas of performance that need big work. First: the quality of the work. It needs to be worthy of the audience's full attention. Next, I want to make connections for the audience using history to place my piece within the context of culture and time. Think PBS! Finally, I live to connect with the audience to create a magic time. That is the best part. It has taken a long time to figure out what I need to do, and it will take the rest of my life to figure out how to do it!

**TWW: When did you start playing music?**

*LN:* I started singing with my mom and dad's band when I was eight years old. My big hit was, “A Good Man is Hard to Find.” Got big laughs. Didn't know why. I've been in bands ever since.

# BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

with *Bryan Kuban*



## SAMPLES AND BITS

Besides engineering and producing records in my studio, I am also asked quite frequently to mix and master records that were recorded and produced in another studio.

The first questions I ask the artist or producer is: What audio format did you record with and at what Sampling rate and Bit rate did you record the project? Before you start yawning, this article has some very important tidbits that could be the difference between a good sounding record and a great sounding record.

### Formats

The digital recording World has been around for 30 plus years now but nearly all recording has been recorded digitally since about 2000. The most popular audio file formats are:

**BWF:** Broadcast Wave File is an extension of the popular Microsoft WAV audio format and is the recording format of most file-based non-linear digital recorders used for motion picture, radio and television production. It was first specified by the European Broadcasting Union in 1997 and updated in 2001 and 2003.

**WAV:** A WAV file is a raw audio format created by Microsoft and IBM. The format uses containers to store audio data, track numbers, sample rate, and bit rate. WAV files are uncompressed lossless audio and as such can take up quite a bit of space, coming in around 10 MB per minute with a maximum file size of 4 GB. There are more formats but these are the most popular.

**AIFF:** Audio Interchange File Format AIFF is a file format designed to store audio data. It was developed by Apple Computer but is based on Electronic Arts' IFF (Interchange File Format), a container format originally used on Amiga systems.

### Sample Rate

The sample rate, in a nutshell, is the number of samples per second in a piece of audio. It is measured in Hertz (Hz) or Kilohertz (kHz). Imagine the bandwidth of an EQ from low(Hz) to high(kHz)

Does having a higher sample rate make a noticeable improvement?

Your DAW gives you the option to record your audio at sample rates such as 44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2, 96kHz etc.

### So, what's the difference?

A sample rate will capture frequencies at half of its amount. For example, a sample rate of 44.1kHz will accurately represent frequencies up to 22kHz. Humans with great hearing can hear up to 20kHz (Children and Dogs ....lol), Adults hear between 15-18 KHz based on their exposure to loud sounds. This tells us that a sample rate of 44.1kHz is perfectly adequate to record music. 44.1kHz also eats up less storage on your computer than higher sample rates.

Some people insist they can hear improvements in audio recorded at higher sample rates.

My advice is to stick with 48 kHz. And, be sure to use great audio engineering techniques to get the best possible sound.

There is no substitution for a great audio engineer as well as quality sounding instruments as well as professional microphones and preamplifiers. If you are recording sounds such as brass or cymbals, recording in 88.2 or 96kHz can help reduce a harsh top end.

### What is bit depth?

Bit depth, in a nutshell, relates to the dynamic range in audio. In slightly more detail, the bit depth is the number of 'bits' of information in every single sample. The more bits, the more dynamic range. A larger dynamic range can be perceived as louder. Have you ever noticed how much louder music recorded in the past 20 years has gotten. The Dynamic range has expanded. I recommend 24 to 32 bit in your recording sessions.

A CD will host 16 bit audio, whereas download services like iTunes®, Amazon® music, as well as streaming services like Spotify® and I-Heart Radio® support up to 24 bits which can accommodate a larger dynamic range. For CD's you will have to bounce your audio at 16 bit. When bouncing your audio for online distribution, go for 24 bit to capture the true essence of the dynamics in your music.

I hope these tips will help you when you decide to record your music.

Please feel free to contact me with any related questions. I would be more than happy to assist you in anyway possible.

Bryan Kuban: Producer / Audio Engineer / Musician / Teacher.  
Kubemusic - bryankuban@gmail.com

About the author: Bryan Kuban, Producer/Audio Engineer /Mentor/Bass player, lives in Mesa, AZ. Bryan is the owner of Kubemusic Recording Studio (1996-present) and bassist for the "Mogollon" band (2002-present). "Growing up as a bass player I have learned to listen. This skill has helped me to hear the whole song and not just my part. This skill has evolved, giving me the skills to arrange and produce recordings. I enjoy helping musical artists realize their potential one note at a time." Western Music Credits: Mikki Daniel / "Gotta Be A Cowgirl" / Audio Engineer and Bass; Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers / "Breakin' Out" and "Too Hot to Handle" / Audio Engineer and Bass; Leelee Robert / "Jewel of the West" and "Swingset" / Audio Engineer and Bass; High Country Cowboys / "Cowboy" / Audio Engineer and Bass.



# 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.

---

## Quiet Conversation

© 2019, Tom Swearingen

---



*Just a quiet conversation  
Between friends as they both sat,  
Saddled, looking down upon  
The cattle on the flat.*

*'Cause the trail for one was ending  
In just weeks or maybe days.  
His "til then" getting closer  
Put both men in a haze.*

*A promise to rarely dwell on  
Lean and low times of the past,  
But rather, focus forward  
To pastures green and grassed.*

*'Bout things that don't get talked about  
Near as often as they should  
'Mongst men who've rode together  
For years through scarce and good.*

*Making words come not so easy.  
Hard to know just what to say.  
But still some things need saying,  
And this would be the day.*

*The words that were shared that morning  
Were heartfelt and came with tears,  
Conveying things not spoken  
For way too many years.*

*Sure, they'd done a lot of talking  
About subjects then at hand.  
About the herds or markets,  
Or issues with the land.*

*It started with, "I'll not forget  
All the kindness that you've shown.  
You've been quite the friend to me,  
I'd say the best I've known."*

*Lord, it's hard to bid your farewell  
To a pard who'll soon be gone,  
Stepping beyond the daylight  
To no more ride the dawn.*

*They'd talked about the need for rain.  
Spent hours in idle chatter.  
They'd solved the world's big problems,  
And some that don't much matter.*

*With the solemn silence broken  
These two cowboys' talk turned deep,  
To truths they'd always treasure,  
And promises to keep.*

*There was quiet contemplation  
Between friends as they both sat,  
The last time looking out on  
The cattle on the flat.*

*But this day some words were spoken  
That they'd never before shared,  
At least to one another,  
For now their hearts were bared.*

*A promise to keep forever  
His memory close at hand,  
And finish things he'd started,  
And live the dreams he'd planned.*



**Tom Swearingen** of Tualatin, Oregon is a horseman who tells of the people and land of the American West with cowboy poetry, often inspired by his own experiences and observations from the saddle. He brings his stories to life with rhythm and rhyme and a storytelling style that makes him a popular performer not only at cowboy gatherings and horse camps, but at libraries, historical centers, and wherever folks who appreciate the cultural heritage of the West are found. Tom is two-time winner of the National Finals Rodeo Cowboy Poetry Week Contest, and has been nominated as Male Cowboy Poet of the Year by both the International Western Music Association and the Academy of Western Artists. He has been recognized as a finalist for IWMA 2018, 2017 and 2016 Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year.

**TWW: Do you think as a solo act you might branch out into some different forms of music – or are you pretty much committed to the western genre?**

LN: I am committed (or, should be!) Seriously, I live in a small western boardwalk town of 300 souls. Owen Wister, who wrote the “Virginian” considered the foundation work of the great American Western novel, lived for a time, two blocks from my house. I couldn’t get away if I tried. Happily, western music has plenty of room for me to grow. We have four cool elements as I see it. We have classic repertoire, carrying the history of our people and nation. We also have western swing, which features jazz chords. Jazz is often considered the only truly original American musical form, that is no small potatoes. In addition, our genre has an entire repertoire of romantic, Hollywood pieces that could keep anyone’s toe tapping for an eternity. If that isn’t enough, think of our contemporary original writers who chronicle the present west, which is still of interest to the world at large. There are several lifetimes of music and poetry to explore within this wide-range genre.



Lauralee in Branson, MO



Lauralee taking a break!

**TWW: What would you like for your fans to know about Lauralee Northcott that they probably don’t know?**

LN: I was a very tall child but was dropped from a china cupboard which stunted my growth plates. [Hee, hee] Really, I have a very nice Website, which I have filled with interesting pictures and topics: [lauraleenorthcott.com](http://lauraleenorthcott.com). If folks want to learn more about my creative self, it is only a link away. I will be happy to autograph copies of my book and/or CD. Just contact me.

**TWW: Some other reflections from Lauralee:**

In closing, I would like to share with fellow performers my thoughts about the western torch we carry. Western music, cowboy poetry and the American western experience have come in and out of fashion for over 150 years. Right

now we are seeing our gatherings closing down which creates fewer places for performers to perform. This is unfortunate but is a natural result of the times. There is an enormous amount of available entertainment. The people my age and older who have experienced the ranching culture are getting to an age when they don’t go out of the house as much as they used to. Most younger folks just don’t have the experiences, so they aren’t attached to the cowboy world. I encourage all of us go out and find a bridge. Western values like hard work, perseverance, humor, friendship, and stewardship of the land are timeless endeavors. We can [and should] carry the torch faithfully.

**TWW: Any advice for aspiring young musicians who want to make music their career?**

LN: Most of the young musicians I know are way ahead of me. My favorite teacher is Kristyn Harris. She is my dear friend and a very smart person. She has helped me a lot. Also, watching the IWMA kid family grow up has been very exciting. Musicianship takes a lifetime, but it will keep you young. My mom is 104 years old and going strong. She plays the ukulele every day. She says, “Honey, you’re just a spring chicken.”

**TWW: Well, you have certainly set an example of perseverance for all to emulate. I know our readers will enjoy getting to know you better through this interview, and we thank you for giving us this bit of your time. We’ve always found you to be an enjoyable person with a quick smile and friendly way about you. And your music is simply wonderful!**

LN: Thanks for asking about my life and letting me share with all our IWMA friends. Keep it going folks; it’s good work.

# TALES OF THE WEST

by Jim Wilson



Hank Thompson, western swing star and leader of the Brazos Valley Boys, began performing during a time when musical groups rarely carried their own sound systems with them. In addition, they were often sadly disappointed with the sound systems available at different venues – a situation that some of us are confronted with even today. However, Hank had a leg up on most everyone else because he had been trained in electrical engineering while in the Navy. Not happy with what he encountered out there on the road, Thompson designed and built his own sound system for the band. Not satisfied there, he went on to also build a lighting system that would show off his band and their fancy western suits. Not only were Hank Thompson & The Brazos Valley Boys good musicians, but you could actually hear them and see them. Hank and his band were also one of the first western bands to be booked in Las Vegas and one of the first, if not the first, to be featured on color television.

Although we often shake our heads in wonder at some of the things our federal government does, you should understand that this is not anything new. In fact, there was a time when the brains in Washington decided that what our army needed in the American Southwest was camels. Yep, some expert – who had obviously never visited many deserts – decided that deserts are all alike and, if camels did so well in North Africa, camels would be just the ticket in the Southwest. In 1856, 34 camels were off-loaded from ships at Indianola, Texas, and trailed to Camp Verde, Texas. The idea was to use them as pack animals for military and survey crews across Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and into California. Reports of their success in our deserts were varied, to say the least.

During the War Between the States, the Union Army didn't have a lot of time or inclination to worry about camels and deserts, so they ordered the animals sold at auction. It appears that not all of the camels were disposed of properly because there were camel sightings in our deserts for years to come. The latest sighting of an escaped camel being in Arizona in 1891. I've always had a mental picture of some old cowboy rounding a bend in the trail to come nose to nose with a camel. I can just see him reaching back in his saddlebags, pulling out his whiskey bottle, and tossing it off into the rocks – taking The Pledge right there on the spot.

Speaking of the Southwest, there was a time when a dozen Apaches attacked and killed a cowboy named Frank Fisher in the Animas Mountains, of New Mexico. This same band then traveled west into Arizona and stole a bunch of horses and cattle from Ross Sloan, in Cochise County. A New Mexico posse quickly took the trail of the raiders as the band of hostiles headed for the Mexican border. However, the closest they came was jumping a still-warm camp and finding that the Apaches had made it across the boundary line. What is amazing

## KEEPING HISTORY IN PERSPECTIVE

*You might not be too surprised to know that American Indians are considered American citizens. After all, they were kind of here first, weren't they? But what I find interesting is that Indians were officially made citizens by an act of Congress on June 2, 1924. Since I am 1/8 Osage, from my mother's side of the family, I am somewhat relieved to know that I have legal status. But I wonder about those Apaches that killed Frank Fisher – were they American citizens or were they Mexican citizens? I suppose it didn't matter to Mr. Fisher.*

Continued on page 43

# WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR\*

2019

IWMA Oklahoma Chapter National Day of  
the Cowboy Celebration  
July 27 –Duncan, Oklahoma

Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering  
August 8-10 – Prescott, Arizona

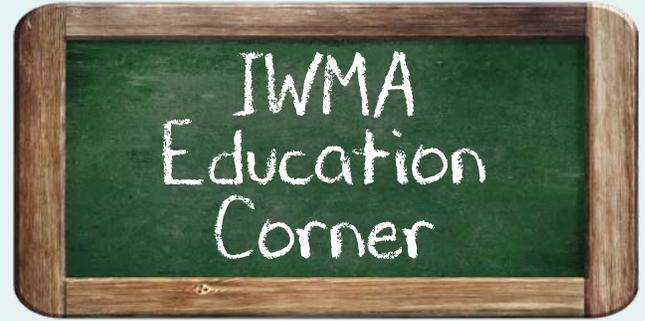
6th Annual Cimarron Cowboy Music &  
Poetry Gathering  
August 22-24 – Cimarron, New Mexico

San Angelo Cowboy Gathering  
September 13-14 – San Angelo, Texas

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western  
Swing Festival  
October 25-27 – Ft. Worth, Texas

IWMA 2019 Annual Convention  
November 13-17 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Coming  
November 13-17, 2019  
IWMA 2019 in  
Albuquerque, NM  
Learn more:  
[www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org).*



*By Dawn Wiseman*

## Music Aids in Self-Esteem and Successful Students

M-U-S-I-C! Making unison sounds is contagious, is an understatement when it comes to our family. We have always been that family that loves listening to music wherever we are even while we feed cattle or scoop poop out of livestock pens. We never thought that this love for music would take us to the places we have been or helped our daughter excel academically to the level that it has. Our 14 year old daughter walked across her Jr. High School stage wrapping up her 8th grade year at Montgomery Jr. High School in Montgomery, Texas as one of 28 students out of over 400 who received the President's Award for Educational Excellence in recognition of Outstanding Academic Excellence for 2019 signed by President Donald Trump.

As a public school teacher in Texas, I have always played instrumental music in my classroom to increase productivity of my high school students and not stopping there we play music at home as well to support and benefit our child's educational productivity. I would encourage all parents to encourage their children to not only listen to a wide variety of music but to sing and learn to play some sort of musical instrument. My youngest who just turned 14 has accomplished so much more in life musically and academically than I had at her age and I attribute this to amazing public school teachers and her amazing music education teachers and mentors outside of the public school setting. Research shows that learning to play a musical

*Continued on page 39*



**AUGUST  
8·9·10**  
Yavapai College  
Performing Arts Center  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA  
For more information, visit  
[AZCowboyPoets.org](http://AZCowboyPoets.org)



*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.*

Now what's been happening in the Western World since we last toured it?!! Over at HBO, after pondering the possibilities for thirteen years, the Powers That Be decreed a movie version of their late-lamented South Dakota Statehood series "Deadwood" would be made...original cast, creator/writer David Milch and profanity intact. Over in the closer-to-reality world, writer John Langmore and indie filmmaker Bud Force have traipsed across rural America capturing today's Western life as lived on ten working ranches for "Cowboys: A Documentary Portrait." It is to show in select theaters and festivals this year. And in another corner of the media, there's the 20-year old Atlanta rapper who issued a hip hop song with Cowboy lyrics, sampled acoustic banjo and Wild West video to boot that hit #1 on Billboard's Hot 100 and Pop charts. 'Say what?!!'

Actually the song "Old Town Road" is classified by its creator, Lil Nas X (Montero Lamar Hill), as being a hybrid of Country and an extension genre known as "Trap"...but we won't bother you with that. The part that made nostrils flare in Country corrals was the song getting booted off the Billboard Country Chart for "not having enough Country elements in it!" Among most of the online reviewers and observers of the Hot Country scene, the ol' fit hit the shan. Upon hearing "Old Town Road" for himself, the Achy Breaky Maker of Mylie, Billy Ray Cyrus, wrote: "What's the rudimentary element of Country and Western (yes, he used Western!) It's honest, it's humble, it has an infectious hook and a banjo! What the hell more do ya need?!!" Not being one to miss a beat (or a promotional opportunity for career advancement), Cyrus hip-hopped aboard the horse. He saw to providing a remix version of the song featuring himself and X (Lil? Nas??) and adding to it what he felt were sufficient Hot Country elements. This sent both versions of the Western Rap hit back up the Billboard Hot 100 and Pop charts. And only those charts. So, what's in the song that could actually let Western claim it when Country couldn't?! (Answer: Review the Western Music definition that always runs at the top of this column!) "Old Town Road" speaks of "ridin' my horse," "horse tack," "cowboy hat," "boots," "bull ridin'" and "wrangler." In an interview with the New York Times (!), Lil Nas revealed he used classic Western imagery to express a deeper personal backstory. Where have we heard that before?!! "I felt like a loner cowboy," he said of time spent languishing at his sister's house after leaving college. "I wanted to take my 'horse' (car) to the 'Old Town Road' (path to success) and 'run away' (try a new direction)!" Sure, the song also rides into some rap departures from the Western norm. By the time you read this, "Old Town Road," with its original pure Western video, will have garnered upward

of seventy million views on YouTube. It has been called the most talked-about new song in America! So is this the time to invoke for you the old adage "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em?" Or at least "if you can't beat 'em, include and encourage 'em??"

Some of you will recall a while back when IWMA co-founder Ernie Sites put out a rap version of Curley Fletcher's "Strawberry Roan." Of course, it was done as a novelty. But it also served as a tutorial about the adaptability of Cowboy Poetry! And it's Cowboy Poetry that could give Western its easiest ride toward gaining ground with an enthusiastic... and young...new audience. I personally witnessed impressive evidence of that one.

The scene is a school gym in historic Cimarron, New Mexico. It's the town that boasts the legendary St. James Hotel, host to such Western stalwarts as Jesse James (signing the hotel register as "Robert Howard"), Clay Allison and Bat Masterson. But tonight the town gymnasium is hosting the one and only Gary McMahan. Mary Ryland and I have traveled north from Albuquerque for the event. Seated on bleachers, we and the near capacity crowd are being congenially entertained by Gary's familiar mix of songs and liberal doses of Cowboy Poetry. As I always do at such times, at one point in the proceedings I scan the faces of the crowd to gauge the effect of the Western material on folks. It's only then I notice a group of young guys seated at the very top of the hall. They are leaning forward in an attitude of rapt attention. When the intermission comes, these dudes make a beeline for Gary and gleefully engage him in an animated Q & A session that lasts the entire break period. How do you decide on your meter?? How do you craft your rhymes?? Where does your inspiration come from?!! Make no mistake. These guys were full-fledged rappers of the caps on backwards and jeans half off their butts variety!! They and Gary were in hog heaven!! So what might this and the success of "Old Town Road" indicate?

Oh, just that we might have some tools at our disposal we haven't fully considered. Or that the Cowboy message can play just fine with a fresh and underappreciated potential audience of millions. The degree to which this or any other opportunity is seized depends on the IWMA constabulary's creativity or willingness to pursue it...to make Western Music visible as a genre and, importantly, a source and resource! Remember those two documentary makers we referred to earlier on who sought to accurately capture contemporary Cowboy life? They told a writer for Western Horseman Magazine they wanted to make sure the musical score also conveyed the correct mood for their film. To accomplish this, they figured they should use a composer from an outfit in Washington, D.C. They did, and they were serious. 🐾

# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

... In an emotional statement, the 2001 Subaru Forester that has carried western songwriter **Kerry Grombacher** all over the United States since 2002 announced its retirement from the road in May: "I've got over five hundred forty-one thousand miles under my tires, and it's time for me to take a break, get some work done on myself, and maybe explore new roads at a slower pace. Kerry and I met at the old Performance Subaru on Tulane Avenue in New Orleans in early 2002 when I'd come down U.S. Highway 61 from Mississippi at the end of a lease. From my time in Mississippi, I was steeped in the blues, but when Kerry slipped an Ian Tyson CD into my player, and pointed me across West Texas, I knew that I'd found my calling. Since then, we've driven to a lot of concerts from coast to coast, and border to border, and we've seen our share of gorgeous views and terrible weather. It's been an honor and a pleasure to ride with Kerry, who has always kept my tires true, changed my oil regularly, and paid close attention to routine and emergency maintenance. I'll miss Kerry and the road and wish him safe travels in the replacement we picked out last month – a 2019 Subaru Ascent. Good Roads, Kerry!"

...The upcoming PBS Ken Burns documentary *Country Music* features extensive interviews with Ranger Doug of **Riders In The Sky**. The Ranger, noted historian and author of *Singing in the Saddle*-the pre-eminent western music history-will appear in episodes concerning the singing cowboy phenomenon and early country music. Riders In The Sky sang "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" on stage at the Ryman Auditorium for an all-star show taping saluting the documentary, which will be broadcast in September. *Country Music* will run for eight nights on PBS beginning September 15, 8 PM EDT.

...**Grace Clark** is working on two studio albums: one featuring her band, Grace Clark & Swingitude, and one featuring all original songs. The albums include both Western and Western Swing music. An early mix of the title song for the band album, *Dancin' with Swingitude*, can be heard on her website: <http://www.GraceAClarkMusic.com>.

...*Soul of the West*, the new album from **Clint Bradley**, has received a stream of 5-star reviews in both the country and mainstream music press. Airplay has been excellent on the BBC and regional shows, the title track staying at No. 1 for seven weeks in the British & Irish Hot Disc country chart and five weeks at No. 1 in the European chart. Clint is about to embark on a series of live dates across the UK, Scandinavia, Ireland, and Spain and will perform at the Wickham Festival along with Graham Nash and The Keifer Sutherland band.

...Poet/songwriter/author **Mag Mawhinney** was presented with the prestigious Joe Marten Memorial Award at the Kamloops Cowboy Festival in March. This award is in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the preservation of cowboy heritage in British Columbia.

...**Dawn Anita** was winner of the 2019 Western Female Vocalist award at the Academy of Western Artists Awards Banquet held in March. She has also been in the studio working on a new album that she hopes to complete later this year.

...This summer, **Cisco Jim**, singing cowboy and Town Marshal of Roaring Camp Railroads in Felton, CA, sings his cowboy songs and rides his horse Silverado throughout California. **Cisco Jim & Los Bunkhouse Boys** have finished recording, mixing, and mastering a new Album, *Trail Back to You*, to be released this summer. Also, Cisco invites touring western artists to join him as guest artists on "The Hoot-N-Holler Show!" at Roaring Camp (contact Jim for details at [cisco@cruzio.com](mailto:cisco@cruzio.com)).

...**Roger Ringer** is about to come out with another book on Kansas History. The working title is *Eccentric Kansas*. Published by History Press (a division of Arcadia Publishing), the book is another collection of short stories that have been largely unknown or forgotten about Kansas and Kansans. On the back burner is a radio program that will tell the stories of Kansas and her people.

...In April, **The Cimarron Sidekicks** (Bob Sampson, Paul Sullivan, and Dan "Doc" Wilson) joined Jud Schandel, bass player of the now retired **OK Chorale**, to sing as the River City Ramblers barbershop quartet in a production of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*. The show was produced by the Arizona Christian University in conjunction with Mozart Productions in Phoenix, AZ.

...The city of Pasadena (TX) recently named **Charles "Smokey" Culver** as its official Poet Laureate. Mayor Jeff Wagner and the city council named Culver as the community's official poet in May and presented him with a plaque.

...**Allen and Jill Kirkham** released their new traditional western music CD *Allen and Jill Cowboy Classics* to western music radio in May. The album features all new recordings of their favorite classic western songs plus three originals.

...**Ron Christopher** was presented with the Western Song of the Year award in March by the Academy of Western Artists for his song "Line in the Sand." The song is heard on his latest album titled *Outside the Fence*. Ron has recently released two new singles titled "My Beautiful Lady" and "Soiled Dove", available on all social media platforms. He is currently working on a new CD to be released in January.

...*Girls From Centro*, the debut novel from singer-songwriter/author **Juni Fisher**, recently caught the attention of the curators and selectors at Tale Flick, a site that caters to the film industry. The novel became their Pick of the Month and received a prime spot to attract producers and directors looking for a book that will work well in a film or series. Juni recently completed the first draft of her second novel.

...**Pegie Douglas** and the Badger Sett Band won CD of The Year 2019 from the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame for their album *The Music of Badger Clark, Vol. II*.

...**Mike Mahaney and Trail Mix** are working on a recording of the Johnny Cash poem/song "The Walking Wounded." The song exposes the lifelong damage of trauma. The recording will be available on iTunes®.

...**Dan McCorison** was in Nashville in mid-May where he began work on his next album.

...**Red Steagall**, a recipient of the Golden Spur Award in 2018 from the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, Texas, was recently awarded a Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for Western Lifestyle Depiction through his "Somewhere West of Wall Street" program.

...**Rick Pickren** has had his song "Go Down To The River" arranged for SATB choir by renowned choral director Joel Raney and published by Hope Publishing Company.

...The cowboy poetry album *I'll Ride Thru It*, performed by **Deanna Dickinson McCall** and produced by **Randy Huston** and **Jim Jones**, won the prestigious Wrangler Award presented by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in April.

...**Tom Swearingen** and **Dave Stamey** appeared on Portland (OR) radio station KBOO-FM in March, and then performed for the Portland Folk Music Society concert. The concert broke attendance records for the series. Tom also represented Oregon poets in securing a Cowboy Poetry Week proclamation from Oregon Governor Kate Brown.

... While in route to perform at the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous in March, **Al "Doc" Mehl** had an opportunity to sit in with a musical ensemble during their Thursday night rehearsal; but not just any musical ensemble. It was the 350-voice Tabernacle Choir of the Church of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City. Doc joined the baritone section, singing along as the choir was accompanied by a 100-piece orchestra and the imposing Tabernacle pipe organ.

...A song by **Doug Figgs**, "I Make My Livin' In the Saddle," was named 2019 Best Western Song by the New Mexico Music Awards. The song is from **The Cowboy Way** CD *Go West*.

...**Bernadette Ducharme** won the Keeper of The West award at The Kamloops Cowboy Festival this year. The song, "That Faraway Look," is from her album *Melancholy Trail* which she released at Kamloops in March. The lyrics were written by **Mag Mawhinney**, and the music by Bernadette. The song was written about Bud Webb, a dear friend and fellow entertainer, who passed away in February.

...**Susie Knight** graduated from World Champion Ringman College in March. She has since volunteered as a Ringman at two benefit auctions in April.

...**Jon Chandler** has a revamped web site ([www.jonchandler.com](http://www.jonchandler.com)) with new features, graphics, music, and video. In August, he will release a new CD titled *Homage*, an appreciation of the songwriter's craft, featuring his take on seven American ballads by Paul Seibel, Greg Brown, Tony Joe White, Willie Nelson, Stan Jones, Gus Kahn & Walter Donaldson, and Mike Blakely. In October, Jon will be the keynote speaker at the Ozark Creative Writer's Conference in

Eureka Springs, AR, presenting an interactive program titled *The Story Song - Where Literature and Music Meet*.

...The Spur Award for Best Western Song of the Year has been bestowed upon **Mike Blakely** by the Western Writers of America for his song "The Outside Circle." Mike and his co-writer on the song, **Damon Rogers**, accepted the award at this year's WWA convention in Tucson in June.

...**Gary Allegretto** has been chosen for an upcoming feature episode of *Cowboy & Western*, a TV series featuring artists who are the "Heart of Western Music." Shot in the canyon country near Santa Clarita (CA), there will be an interview with Gary and 3 of his songs featured ("First Rodeo," "Blues on the Trail" and "Wherever I Roam") with **Ian Espinoza** accompanying on guitar.

...The New Mexico Music Awards has selected the song "Big Iron" as recorded by **Syd Masters** for their Best Remake Award. This category has dozens of entries from 23 different musical genres, making winning it a very special honor. Syd also won the same award in 2007 for his remake of the song "El Paso."

...**A Little Farther West** (Susie & Robert Maxwell Case) is at work in Oklahoma recording their fifth album, *Vaya con Dios*, slated for release in September. To be included are their versions of two Oscar-nominated pieces of music: "Theme from The Magnificent Seven" and "When a Cowboy Trades his Spurs for Wings" from *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*.

...It's back to the recording studio for **Marty Davis** in July. While on a brief hiatus from touring, Marty will cut a few tunes at Brady Goss' studio in Milwaukie, OR (near Portland).

...**Claudia Nygaard** will be releasing *Lucky Girl* in July. The Americana album is a collection of 13 songs all written by Nygaard, with Grammy-nominated Neilson Hubbard producing. The title cut was the winning song at the Tumbleweed Music Festival last year, and an early review has compared her songwriting to that of Loretta Lynn for its real-life lyrics and heartfelt storytelling.

...An as-yet-unnamed album with award-winning producer Aarom Meador is expected to be released by **J. Clayton Read** in early 2020. And Read says to keep your eyes open for a new western movie, *Showdown on the Brazos*, written and produced by award-winning screenwriter Bill Foster and scored by Read, to be released later this year.

...**Steel Horse Swing**, fronted by Carlos Washington (winner of the 2018 AWA Will Rogers Award for Western Swing Song of the Year for "Swing Time Baby"), has been in the studio recording their new album *Little Bit of Texas*. The album is scheduled to be released in July.

...Aussie poet and horseman, **Carol Heuchan**, has lived the best part of her life on cattle and sheep property in the Snowy River region (Down Under), but she's been a popular performer at US and Canadian Cowboy Gatherings for the past 15 years. Her new CD is in the hands of IWMA Instrumentalist of the Year **Ernie Martinez** to add his musical magic. An exciting double album, it will feature both Cowboy Poetry and Bush Poetry and is to be called *Both Sides of Carol Heuchan*.

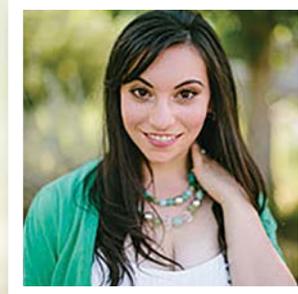
*Continued on page 39*



# EXPLORATION

## Places, People and Things

By Samantha Gallegos



## SEDONA, ARIZONA: RED ROCKS AND COWBOYS

When you think of Sedona, Arizona, what comes to mind? Do you picture majestic red rocks, awe-inspiring blue skies, outdoor adventure, and almost spiritual vistas? A place for artists to find their muse and seekers of the solace that a hiking trail and breathtaking vistas afford? But Sedona is more than a retreat for creatives and a haven for adventure seekers. It's part of the Old West, where the cowboys of reality and the movies made their home. From settlers from the East to ranchers to Hollywood movies, Sedona holds a unique tie to the history beyond the red rocks.



### The Real Cowboys of Sedona

With Arizona's long history of settlers and cowboys, both Anglo and Spanish, perhaps it's surprising that the first Anglo settlers did not reach the area until 1876 when John J. Thompson moved to Oak Creek Canyon. Sedona quickly became a place for orchards, farming, and ranching, although many of the ranches were small side enterprises. By the turn of the century, 15 homesteading families called the area home, including T.C. Schnebly (for whom Schnebly Hill is named), who ran the area's first hotel, general store, and post office. He named the town after his wife, Sedona.

Although fruit growing—especially apples and peaches—formed the bulk of the new economy, ranching was always a small but important activity in Sedona and the surrounding areas, including Cornville and Munds Park. The Schuerman family even cultivated a vineyard that found “a ready market with local cowboys, Jerome miners and Flagstaff loggers,” according to the Sedona Heritage Museum. Ranchers, including the Van Derens, Owenbys, Otto Hallermund, Kel Fox, and Pete Michelback, also called Sedona and its surrounds home and used it as their winter range (the Mogollon Rim served as summer

pasture). The US Forest Service still manages grazing permits in the area for the local ranchers.

As with many small ranching communities, each tract of land has a personal story. Consider, for example, that of the Loy family, the family that gave Loy Canyon and Loy Butte their names. They once owned a ranch that descendants worked until the seventies and early eighties. Samuel Loy was born in Hampshire County, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1821. After time and travel in California, Ohio, and Missouri, Samuel made his way to Arizona, specifically the Cornville area. There, he settled to farm and ranch cattle on the side. When his son, John, passed away, the land was sold and ranched by someone else until his grandchildren, Edward and Lindsay Loy, who had worked the land as cowboys for the Robbers Roost Ranch, repurchased it in the 1950s. There, they worked the land until Lindsay passed away in the mid-1990s. The last of the land was sold following the death of Edward's wife in the 2000s.

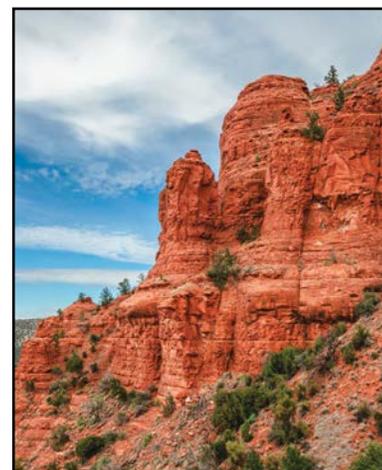
But as much as ranching and cattle were a way of life for many in Sedona, they weren't the only cowboys in the area.

### Sedona and the Golden Age of the Western

You can't picture Sedona without the iconic peaks of red rock, but that might not be true if it weren't for the movies. In the golden age of Westerns, the jagged red rocks (even in black-and-white) and rugged Arizona terrain provided the perfect backdrop for the films that paid homage to the cowboys that had worked the land in times past.

Sedona, Arizona has a long film legacy that includes more than 60 productions! The Sedona Heritage Museum puts that number closer to 100 with the addition of video productions and commercials along with feature films.

There is a small dark mark in the film history of Sedona, however. The Nazis used the landscape for several scenes in the 1936 propaganda film *Der Kaiser von Kalifornien*. While they made much of the movie in Germany, they shot



several of the exterior scenes on location in Sedona as well as the Grand Canyon and Death Valley. (The only other film produced by Nazi Germany was 1934's *Der Verlorene Sohn*, with scenes shot in New York City.) The Nazis used the film to promote the importance of hard work versus consumerism and the need for "living space," or *Lebensraum*. *Lebensraum* embodied the Nazi belief in expansion, and, unfortunately, the wide-open vistas of the American West embodied that vision.

According to Joe McNeill, author of *Arizona's Little Hollywood: Sedona and Northern Arizona's Forgotten Film History 1923-*



*1973*, the Nazis showed the movie to those citizens who made up the home guard, including "children, invalids and the elderly," to

inspire them to guard Berlin against the Russian advance. "How many kids were killed because they were influenced by this vision of Sedona? It's sick," he says in one interview in *Sedona Monthly*.

But this single smudge does not diminish Sedona's noteworthy role in film history, which is full of classic films, colorful figures, and a tie to the movie industry's earliest years—Sedona was the scene of one of the earliest Westerns: Zane Grey's silent film *Call of the Canyon* in 1923. Some of the most iconic, scenic shots in *Blood on the Moon* were filmed at Red Rock Crossing, and 1953's *Gun Fury* also utilized the Red Rocks area as a backdrop. John Wayne saw his first turn as a producer in Sedona for the 1946 film *Angel and the Badman*, and created a semi-permanent set that remained for many years.

Those buildings, as well as the Sedona landscape, is one reason, in the fall of 1953, Joan Crawford descended upon Sedona to film *Johnny Guitar*. The movie, today considered a classic but reviled by critics at the time, was selected for preservation by the United States National Film Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." But so much drama ensued during filming between Joan Crawford, her co-stars (especially Mercedes McCambridge), and the crew, that the scandalous stories of bad behavior that escaped following its release are nearly as famous the movie itself!

### Experiencing the Old West Today

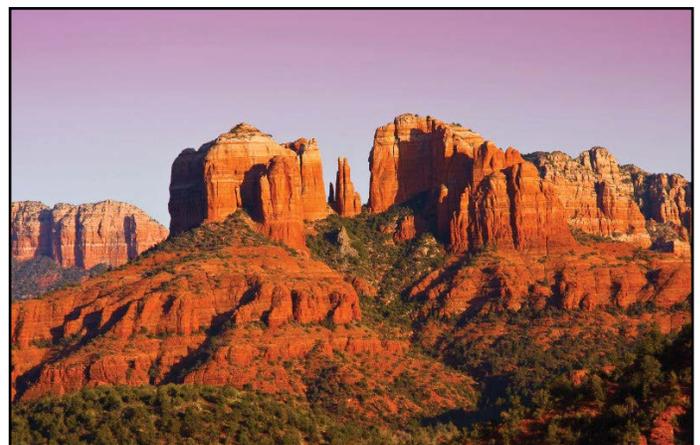
While movies and ranching aren't as much a part of today's Sedona, you can still find a taste of it as it was at the turn of the century. If you're looking to experience Sedona and its cowboys in your own way, you can turn to:

- Sedona Heritage Museum  
The Sedona Heritage Museum in the uptown area tells the story of Sedona, including the settlers, the

people, the cowboys and ranchers, and even the movies made in the area.

- Ranches  
There are several ranches in the area that offer excursions for visitors, including the Blazing M Ranch and the M Diamond Ranch. The M Diamond Ranch is a family-owned working cattle ranch that provides excursions and horseback rides, lodging, and cookouts. The Blazin' M is more of an Old West experience and even boasts a western dinner theater complete with the music of the singing cowboy.
- A Day in the West  
A Day in the West is a family-owned business that provides riding excursions around the Sedona area. Along with horseback tours led by "authentic cowboy and cowgirl tour guides," they also offer jeep tours and helicopter tours.
- Horsin' Around Adventures  
Horsin' Around Adventures provides horseback rides along scenic Oak Creek and Arizona's wine country. They offer both trail rides as well as an "authentic cowboys experience."

You can also visit the Cowboy Club in Uptown Sedona. Once called the Oak Creek Tavern, the now-restaurant was witness to the creation of the Cowboy Artists of America (CAA). The founding members—renowned western artists Joe Beeler, Charlie Dye, John Hampton, and George Phippen—met there on June 23, 1965 to create a society that would dedicate itself to the preservation of art depicting "the lifestyles of the cowboy and the American West." Now you can sit, order something to eat, and savor a little piece of history.



Whether it's the cowboys of today, the cowboys of the past, or the cowboys of the movies, Sedona offers the cowboy lover many ways to experience the Old West as it unfolded among the red rocks and rugged landscape. 🐾

# YODELING AROUND THE WORLD

**World Yodel Day: August 8, 2019**

*By Bjorn Tomren, Norway*



The stamp is a photo of Kars Myhren Holand and has been designed by photographer Geir Mogen and me. In 2017, after we had attended the World Yodel Day Festival in South Korea, I climbed up to the top of the mountain depicted on the stamp, Romsdalshorn (meaning the horn of Romsdal), and I yodeled down to the valley and the fjord. It was a marvelous feeling and I highly recommend it. If this, however, seems a tad impractical, the next best thing would be to listen to Odd Petersen signing “Ekko I Romsdalshorn” (the echo in Romsdalshorn on Spotify.)

On a trail in Tirol, bound for St. Anton, Austria, I’m trying to recall my first encounter with yodeling. It must have been “The Silly Song,” a fantastic musical piece from the 1937 Walt Disney movie, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. For some reason they air this small clip on the Norwegian state-run television before every Christmas Eve, and it’s a truly impressive symbiosis of cartoons and music. The seven dwarfs are putting on a great show for Snow White. They’re dancing, yodeling and playing different kinds of instruments with great virtuosity, while she is dancing around, laughing, clapping and sometimes joining in with her beautiful soprano voice. For a kid growing up in Norway in the 1980s, no Christmas holiday was complete without it.

Skipping ahead ten years or so, my main interest in life had gotten to be music and, in particular, Anglo-American music ranging from rock, grunge, blues, soul, folk, jazz, country, punk and so on. I had even picked up a guitar and learned a couple of tunes by the likes of Neil Young, Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan. My friends and I were constantly trying to dig deeper into the history of American music and soon we were familiar with artists such as Woody Guthrie, Rambling Jack Elliott, Hank Williams and Jimmie Rodgers. I was especially captivated by the voices of Rodgers and Williams and their soulful longing blues yodels. Jimmie Rodgers, by many regarded as the father of American country music, even had Louis Armstrong with him on some of the tracks and exclaimed that he’s learned both the blues and the yodel from the African-American population. There’s a lot of warmth and humanity in Rodgers’ songs, and his tales of hardship combined by his haunting sad train whistle yodels move me to this day.

“Long Gone Lonesome Blues” by Hank Williams was the first yodel song I ever learned. It’s a story about a guy who’s

down on his luck and when his girl leaves him, he decides to drown himself, but when he gets to the river, the river is dry. Hank slides neatly in and out of falsetto while singing: “She’s long gone, and now I’m lonesome blue.” My parents were less than impressed by my attempts but slowly and gradually I started to improve. Now, 20 years later, I must have performed it thousands of times in front of audiences, and I’m still not tired of it.

I grew up by a small fjord, a village on the west coast of Norway called Tomrefjord. It’s a branch of the ninth longest fjord in Norway named Romsdalsfjord. A picturesque and alpine valley, Romsdal, at the innermost part of the fjord, lends its name to the whole region. One day on a ferry crossing Romsdalsfjord, a song came on the radio that immediately made me laugh. It was a boy yodeling his heart out and singing “Je ger fra Romsdalen Norges Tirol” (I’m from Romsdal, the Tirol of Norway). Apart from being quite amused, I was surprised that there existed a Norwegian yodeling song. In Europe, as in most other places, we associate this technique with the countries connected to the Alps, but here was a yodel straight from my back yard, so to speak. I felt an urge to investigate this strange affair and soon discovered that yodeling was quite popular in Norway and in the whole of Scandinavia throughout the 1930s and 40s. Not only that, the kid on the record, Odd Pedersen, had recorded several yodeling songs in 1942 and had lived just 10 kilometers away from my home in Tomrefjord. I decided I should try to get in touch with him and enquire about his yodeling heydays. He could still be making music for all that I knew, but there was also a chance he had passed away. This was in the early 2000s and if he

*Continued on page 28*

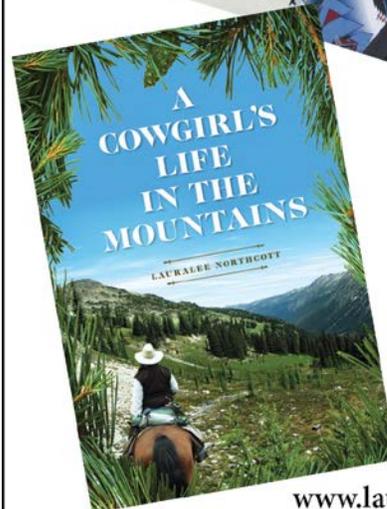
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### Artist Contact:

Mike Rutherford  
[mike@rdiinc.us](mailto:mike@rdiinc.us)

Arizona Folklore Preserve (AFP) is a non-profit organization where Arizona's songs, legends, poetry and myths are collected, presented for audiences of today, and preserved for the enrichment of future generations. Member of the Western Music Association.



## TIM SPENCER'S STEINWAY PIANO

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# Chapter Update



## ARIZONA CHAPTER

**President: John Paulson**

**johnpaulson1945@gmail.com**

During the summer break, the Arizona Chapter is not planning any meetings or events. Instead, the chapter looks forward to fall and the IWMA2019 in Albuquerque, NM, in November. Chapter members will be providing the entertainment at the rescheduled Western Music Festival to be held September 14 at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch in Tucson, AZ. The event will feature three performance stages, and the afternoon and evening shows will be open to the public as well as to the ranch guests. Chapter member Carol Markstrom teamed up with IWMA member Jim Jones for a wonderful evening of Western music at Monterey Court in Tucson, AZ., on April 24. They graciously asked members of the "43 Miles North" band (Sherry Walker, John Paulson, Nick Spiro and Rusty Ford) to also participate. It was a reminder of how much we all love hearing songs of the west.

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

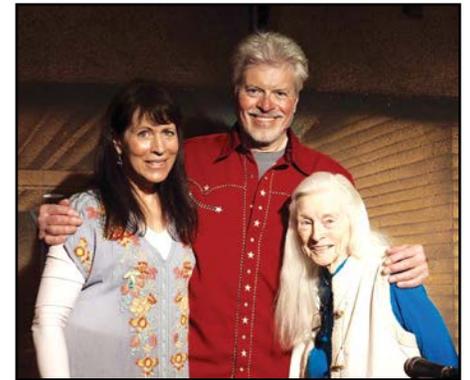
**President Steve Justus**

**sjustusCA@gmail.com**

Hello again to everyone. We are pleased that our efforts to increase the participation of Northern California members are paying off. We are a long state with members concentrated in certain areas, but also scattered widely. Not unlike the similar challenges most chapters face, our efforts have

included opening Board positions for specific geographies. To get better traction, we are finalizing two separate members' meetings in July. Board members will travel to Sacramento and San Jose. We are also exploring different media ideas, beyond conference calling. Our goal is to find an affordable approach with which we can conduct meetings, with dial-in access that includes both audio, audio/video capability, or program slides. We are recruiting volunteers to help with that project and we also appreciate any input any of you may have. The quarter was busy with a very successful Spring Party and, of course, the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival in April. We thank John Bergstrom again for his very hard work with organizing the schedule, the performers, and even doing the sound for the Outwest Stage. Performers included Ron Christopher, Joyce Woodson, Jerry Hall & Trickshot, Almeda Bradshaw, Chuck Learn, and of course, John himself. Enthusiastic reviews for everyone. Thanks go out to David Veal for setting up, organizing and running the Buckaroo Bookstore. We were all excited to see the Kristyn Harris Trio and other Western performers, such as The Cowboy Way, The Hanson Family, Carolyn Sills Combo, Michael Fleming and New West, and one of the best storytellers on the planet, Joe Herrington. How's that for Western Music immersion? Now we need to create new concert opportunities. We are targeting another concert in Santa Clarita at the Main Theater later this summer and one in San Juan Capistrano this fall, with Joyce Woodson and "Miss V". Additional performer(s) for each will be announced later. We are working on new house concerts for

Northern and Southern California as well and exploring a new venue in Laguna Niguel. After a fresh and entertaining performance at the Coffee Gallery in May by Larry Wilder, with Almeda Bradshaw and Marilyn Tuttle, we are quite pleased that Larry decided to join the IWMA California Chapter. We remain blessed that we have The



*Almeda Bradshaw, Larry Wilder and Marilyn Tuttle*

Autry Museum of the West as a monthly performance venue. We will have meetings with the staff to hopefully expand our collaboration with the Autry. Performance times are the third Sunday of every month, noon to 3pm. Please join us when you are in town. In May, we were excited to have P.W. Conway join us with his wonderful poetry from his new book, *Welcome to My Campfire* Traveling from Montana,



*P.W. Conway is back at the Autry*

Almeda Bradshaw visited us at the Autry. We are extremely proud of all

*Continued on page 29*

The WESTERN WAY

# FROM the TRAIL

## MISUNDERSTOOD WORDS

By Victoria L. Ward

*An excerpt from her book, "Prune Pie and Other Moving Stories." Reprinted by permission.*

I'm not saying that Barry [Barry Ward, past award-winning performer and IWMA Male Performer of the Year] has poor hearing. I just think he gets into his "zone" a little more often than is normal. Every woman, especially wives, knows what zone I am talking about.

Typically this zoning is usually harmless. But sometimes it can cause some real interesting conversations. Like the time we were traveling somewhere as a family. One of the children was telling me something about cheetahs. All of a sudden, Bear [as he is affectionately known] came out of his zone, looked into the rearview mirror to make eye contact with all three kids in the back seat and stated -

"Chickens? Chickens don't have lips!" The suburban exploded with laughter.

And honestly, it happens a lot with just the two of us in the truck or RV. The other day was a prime example.

We have a routine when it comes to bringing in our stuff from the vehicle and into the place where we are staying that night. On this one particular day, we were given a wonderful overnight stay at a lovely bed and breakfast. Bear unloaded everything

we might need for that night while I put things away and organized all of the items. In my sense of order, everything has a place and is not thrown on the floor or bed. I came to Bear's garment bag, took out his dress shirts and hung them up in the gorgeous and quite large antique armoire that graced our room. He had told me earlier that the jeans in the bag were not ones that he was going to wear

that evening. So I left them in the bag and laid it flat on the bottom of the armoire (you know that fancy French named free-standing closet thing) and closed the door to it.

After sound check we had to rush back to the

*"Chickens?  
Chickens don't  
have lips!" The  
suburban exploded  
with laughter.*

*Continued on page 27*

## International Western Music Association PATRON\* MEMBERS

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\*The Patron Member group in the IWMA is comprised of an elite group of people who pay \$100 annually for IWMA membership. For their generosity, they get nothing more than general members and they expect nothing in return. They simply believe in the cause and the mission of IWMA and go a little above in supporting it. They are unsung, behind the scene folks. We sincerely appreciate their support and take this time to say a public "Thank You!" for your unwavering support. You, too, can be a Patron Member with your \$100+ donation. Contact Marsha Short, [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org)

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# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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## 2019 IWMA Awards of Excellence Nominations

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MUSIC AWARDS:

- CDs can be self-nominated. IF YOU ARE SELF-NOMINATING, please provide the following: A copy of the nominated CD must accompany the Western Album or Cowboy/Western Swing of the Year nomination, a copy of the CD containing a nominated song, or a CD containing only the nominated song must accompany the Song of the Year nomination. Song nomination CDs must be accompanied by either CD artwork, or a photo copy of the artwork, showing the release date.
- In the case of Western Album of the Year and Cowboy/Western Swing Album of the Year, majority of the music on the CD must be of Western content, lyrically or musically. Country Music content does not count as Western Music.
- CDs must have a copyright date and bar code.
- CDs and individual songs, if the nominated songs are not released on an eligible album, must be registered on the IWMA CD Registry before the Nominations Committee can consider them (forms can be downloaded at [www.westernmusic.org/cd-registry](http://www.westernmusic.org/cd-registry))
- Non-IWMA members may be nominated. If a CD released by a non-IWMA member is eligible, or if a non-WMA member is nominated for a performance award, the nominee will be notified of the nomination and given the opportunity to join IWMA. They can decide to become a member of IWMA or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- Albums and songs will all have a "birth" date of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year and one subsequent year (January 1, 2018 through September 1, 2019).

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POETRY AWARDS:

#### **COWBOY POETRY CD of THE YEAR**

##### **REQUIREMENTS**

- CDs may be self-nominated. If you are self-nominating, a copy of the nominated CD must be submitted with the nomination.
- CDs must have a copyright date.
- CDs must have a bar code.
- Non-IWMA members may be nominated. If a CD released by a non-IWMA member is eligible, the nominee will be notified of the nomination and given the opportunity to join IWMA. They can decide to become a member of IWMA or decline the nomination and lost eligibility.
- All CDs will have a "birth date" of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year plus one subsequent year (January 1, 2018 through September 1, 2019).
- Poems written in free verse or blank verse are not eligible.
- 75% of the CD racks must be Cowboy Poetry, written and recited by a single person; the reciter must be the principal author of the poetry. The poetry must be the original work of the reciter, written in rhythm, rhyme and meter.
- 25% of the CD tracks may contain other material including:
  - Western Music, pre-recorded or live,
  - Prose, including short stories or spoken introductions,
  - Material written by someone other than the collaborators,
  - Poetry recited by someone other than the principal author, including poetry written by the principal author.
- Collaboration in writing is permitted. In the event a poem is written by the collaboration of two or more persons, one of the collaborators must be named as the "principal" author. The other collaborators will be regarded as co-authors. Editors are considered collaborators.
- Collaboration in reciting is not eligible. Any poetry tracks that are recited by other than the principal author, regardless of authorship of the poem, will not count toward the 75% Cowboy Poetry requirement.

##### **BACKGROUND MUSIC**

- Background music performed for the poetry CD is permitted. Music need not be original.
- Background music must be Western.
- Background music imported from an external source (CD, radio, etc.) is permitted. Such music must be properly licensed for inclusion in the poetry CD.

#### **COWBOY POETRY BOOK of THE YEAR**

*Poetry is defined as works containing rhyme and meter. Although the book's content may include short prose and free verse, the poetry alone will be judged in meeting criteria for eligibility. Anything that is not poetry as hereby described, including free verse, will be classified as prose.*

- 50% of the book must be "poetry" with rhyme and meter and must be original work written by the author of the book.
- 50% of those poems (criteria #1) must be 20 lines or more in length.
- Books must have ISBN# and copyright date and must be registered with the IWMA when released (online form on the WMA site)
- Credits for poems used as a "cover" and poems written by someone other than the author of the book (including anonymous works) must be given. Poems not written by the author of the book will be considered "prose" and will not qualify for the 50% eligibility criteria as described above.
- Books written by multiple authors are not eligible.
- All books will have a "birth" date of January 1 of the copyright year. Eligibility is for that year, plus two subsequent years.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- A reprint of a book published in a previous award year is not eligible.

**IWMA Awards of Excellence  
2019 NOMINATIONS BALLOT**

**WESTERN ALBUM of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) albums. *Award for an outstanding recorded performance by an artist or artists released during the specified time period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and producer. It is a juried award.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**COWBOY SWING ALBUM of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) albums. *This award is for an outstanding cowboy swing recorded performance which was either commercially released or showed significant chart action during the eligibility period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and the producer. It is a juried award.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**SONG of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) songs. *This Award is for any song which was released or showed significant chart action within the eligibility period. Any song which has been nominated for this award in previous years or has been recorded in previous years is ineligible. **The award recognizes the songwriter.***

**Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**WORKING COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) songs. *This award goes to a song recorded within the eligibility period that speaks expressly and clearly to real, authentic working cowboy life, historic or current. The award goes to the songwriter(s) and is based on lyrics, not performance. **SONGWRITERS: please submit a copy of the lyrics with your nomination.** This is a juried award.*

**Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUMENTALIST of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) instrumentalists. *This award is for the instrumental artist who has shown an extraordinary mastery of his/her instrument(s) on recorded and/or in-person performance during the specified time period. The award recognizes the artist.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**MALE PERFORMER of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) male performers. *Award for the outstanding male vocalist based on recorded and in-person performance. The award recognizes the artist.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEMALE PERFORMER of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) female performers. *Award for the outstanding female vocalist based on recorded and in-person performance. The award recognizes the artist.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUO or GROUP OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) duos or groups. Award for a group or duo who regularly performs together that has shown outstanding recorded and in-person performance vocally. The award recognizes the performing group or duo for their excellence.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTERTAINER of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) entertainers. This award is for the performing act who displayed the greatest competence in all aspects of the entertainment field. Consideration will be given to recorded and in-person performance, public acceptance, attitude, leadership, entertainment value of performances, and over-all contributions to the western music image. The award recognizes the entertainer or group.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**SONGWRITER of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) songwriters. Award for outstanding songs written in the past year by a songwriter(s). Commercial release and number of songs recorded during the year are to be considered. The award recognizes the songwriter(s) and is a juried award.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**LIZ MASTERSON CRESCENDO AWARD** Nominate up to three (3) individuals or groups. This award is for a group or individual, under 21, having made considerable advances artistically and/or commercially during the eligibility period. The band or individual should be performing under its/his/her name on a regular basis. The award recognizes the group or individual artist.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**RADIO DJ/RADIO PROGRAM of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) radio DJs/radio programs. This award recognizes outstanding service to western music in the field of broadcasting. The recipient will be judged for contributions to the field western music, professionalism, work and involvement in the western music community, and promotion and fostering of the western music image.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**COWBOY POETRY CD of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) CDs. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding achievement on writing, reciting and recording original Cowboy Poetry. The award recognizes the poet.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**COWBOY POETRY BOOK of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) books.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**MALE POET of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) male poets. This award is for the person who exhibits the ability to write original Cowboy/Western poetry or verse, who writes or expresses himself with imaginative power and beauty of thought, language and form. He performs original work but may occasionally perform the work of others to live audiences who showing the ability to enable audiences to develop a deeper understanding and appreciate of the Western lifestyle and history (with accuracy) through his performance.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEMALE POET of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) female poets. This award is for the person who exhibits the ability to write original Cowboy/Western poetry or verse, who writes or expresses herself with imaginative power and beauty of thought, language and form. She performs original work but may occasionally perform the work of others to live audiences who showing the ability to enable audiences to develop a deeper understanding and appreciate of the Western lifestyle and history (with accuracy) through her performance.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ballot must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 5, 2019 to be counted:  
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or info@westernmusic.org**

# IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

Rex Allen, Jr.	Nashville, TN	Janet McBride	Rockwall, TX
Cindy Argyle	Hooper, UT	Bobbi McGavran	Newport Beach, CA
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Floyd Beard	Kim, CO	Gary McMahan	Bellvue, CO
George & Doris Bensmiller	Armstrong, BC Canada	Al "Doc" Mehl	Black Diamond, AB Canada
Diane Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Tree Menane	Taos, NM
John Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Jon Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Carol Bobroff	San Diego, CA	Kathy Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Sherry Bond	Nashville, TN	Joseph Miskulin	Nashville, TN
Mark E. Brown	Franklin, IN	Rich O'Brien	Joshua, TX
Ken Bucy	Apache Junction, AZ	Marvin O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Stephen S. Burnette	Brownsville, TN	Darren Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Mae Camp	Tucson, AZ	Sara Lou Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Tom Chambers	Tucson, AZ	Billy Pitts	Kansas City, MO
Woody Paul Chrisman	Nashville, TN	Pamela Plaskitt	Waterloo, IA
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Peggy Collins	Cordova, TN	Jeff Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Henry "Steve" Conroy	Sierra Vista, AZ	Diana Raven	Lakewood, CO
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Stan Corliss	Hillsboro, OR	Victoria Rhodes	Foosland, IL
William Crowe	Van Horn, TX	Rusty Richards	Modjeska Canyon, CA
Don Cusic	Nashville, TN	Don Richardson	Upland, CA
Alvin G. Davis	Lubbock, TX	Barbara Richhart	Mancos, CO
David DeBolt	Nolensville, TN	Roger Ringer	Medicine Lodge, KS
Rich Dollarhide	Chino Valley, AZ	Jessie D. Robertson	Fort Worth, TX
Arlys Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Elizabeth Rukavina	Arleta, CA
Fred Engel	Kimball Junction, UT	Lori Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Robert E. Fee, Esq.	Tucson, AZ	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Juni Fisher	Franklin, TN	Ray Ryan	San Jose, CA
Robin Freerks (Ned Bodie)	Goldendale, WA	Yvonne Ryan	San Jose, CA
Norbert Gauch	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Mary M. Ryland	Albuquerque, NM
Val Geissler	Cody, WY	Rudolf P. Schai	Bernhardzell, Switzerland
Dick & Dixie Goodman	Sun City West, AZ	Jim Sharp	Nashville, TN
Fred Goodwin	Murfreesboro, TN	Hank Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Douglas B. Green	Brentwood, TN	Sharyn Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Betsy Bell Hagar	Mill Valley, CA	Cowboy Jerry Sooter	Apple Valley, CA
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Calvin Danner Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Cheryl Stanley	Roswell, NM
Lisa Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Bob Taylor	El Cajon, CA
RW Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Steve Taylor	Roy, UT
Eddy Harrison	Las Cruces, NM	Terri Taylor	Roy, UT
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Randy A. Hoyt	Grand Junction, CO	J. R. (Ray) Threatt	Oklahoma City, OK
Rick Huff	Albuquerque, NM	Alma Tussing	Hudson, WY
Jack Hummel	Valencia, CA	Stanley Tussing	Deming, NM
Voleta Hummel	Valencia, CA	Marilyn Tuttle	San Fernando, CA
Charles Jennings	Rockville, MD	Robert Wagoner	Bishop, CA
Emma F. Kaenzig	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Harvey Walker	Anaheim, CA
Karen L. Killion	Casper, WY	Alinka Wallace	Flatonia, TX
Fred LaBour	Ashland City, TN	Washtub Jerry	McDonald Obs, TX
Jane Leche	Lakewood, CO	Leonard Werner	Flemington, NJ
Paul Lohr	Nashville, TN	Johnny Western	Mesa, AZ
Clyde Lucas	Toluca Lake, CA	Norman Winter	Dubois, WY
Mike Mahaney	Burbank, CA	Joyce Woodson	San Juan Capistrano, CA
Michael P. McAleenan	Sheridan, WY		

room and quickly change our clothes, grab a bite to eat and then return to the venue before the doors open to the public. I was in the bathroom quickly touching up my war paint while Bear was in the other room changing clothes.

"Hey, where are my jeans?" he hollers to me.

"What jeans?" Thinking that I didn't see any except what was in the garment bag that I didn't think he wanted.

"The ones in the garment bag."

"Armoire," I answer thinking one word should do it as I am concentrating on not poking my eye out with the mascara wand.

"No, the ones in my garment bag!" he states again getting impatient due to the time.

"ARMOIRE" I yell back.

"WHERE???"

"A-R-M-O-I-R-E!" I answer for the third time.

"Why in the world would my jeans be in Ardmore???" (referring to the town in Oklahoma)he shouts back.

I walk into the other room with my mascara tube in one hand and the wand in the other. I point to the fancy French closet and slowly say –

"A-R-M-O-I-R-E" while pointing with my mascara tube.

"What's an Ardmore?" He asks, mispronouncing the word as he looks at me with a puzzled look.

I realized that he has not even noticed the very large 6'x5'x2' wooden structure with a full-length mirror on the front panel taking up most of the east wall.

It was not in his zone.

"You are a R-E-D-N-E-C-K," I respond and walk back into the bathroom.

*Editor's Note: At this point, we can only assume that "the Bear" figured it all out and he did in fact find his jeans before going onstage! Smile!* 



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was still alive and kicking, I reckoned he'd be in his 70s.

Odd Pedersen is a fairly common name in Norway, and it took me some time to track him down. He is now residing in the same town as I was studying in, Bergen, the second largest city in Norway. I called him up and we talked for quite a while. His innocent childhood alto voice I had gotten to know from old recordings had now turned hoarse and croaky. With a raspy drone, he told me that he and his family had escaped from Bergen up to Romsdal during the Second World War. It was there in Vestnes, my neighboring village, he learned to yodel. In 1942 he got the chance to perform in front of Norway's answer to Bing Crosby, Jens Book Jensen, who got so impressed with the boy that he brought him to Oslo for a recording session. Odd Pedersen enjoyed some years of fame in Norway before his voice changed due to puberty. When the peace came in 1945, he and his family moved back to Bergen. In his teens, Pedersen went to sea and remained a sailor for most of his working life.

For Pedersen, yodeling was a thing of the past; therefore, my interest in him and his music took him by surprise. Truth be told, a story of an unusual life far exceeds my interest in yodeling. In fact, I'm probably not the biggest yodeling fan you'll ever meet, but the genre has by strange twists and turns made a lasting impact on my life. Let me explain.

My childhood friend Hallvar Djupvik and I were quite into comedy acts and stand-up in our student days. In particular, there was an American comic called Andy Kaufman superbly portrayed by Jim Carey in the movie *Man on the Moon*. Kaufman had a knack for the absurd and had a gift for making the audience question what was real and what was not, what was an attempt at comedy and what was dead serious. Hallvar and I discovered that we got the same feeling when watching some of the Bavarian volksmusik (folk music) acts we found on YouTube: Wildecker Herzbuben, Franzl Lang, Florian Zilbereisen and so on. Were they joking or were they sincere? With this in mind, and after a couple of drinks, we figured we should start our own

polka and yodeling band and try our best to make people believe we were deeply passionate about the music. One could say it was an attempt at making a deluding comical avant-garde trickster our project. In 2007, we hooked up with the accordionist Heine Bugge and went to a yodeling festival in Switzerland. It was not what we had expected. Instead of funny and silly looking yodelers, we found yodel choirs that captivated us with their genuine, beautiful and meditative songs. (I later learned that yodeling, the switch between chest voice and falsetto, can be found all over the world. In Norway, we have old traditional cattle calls using this technique, but we also have something called Laling which can sound very similar to the Alpine yodeling and functioned as a form of communication between the shepherdess and shepherds in the older days.)

We abandoned the art project, drank up our money and turned street musicians to get home. Heine played the accordion, Hallvar sang opera, while I made some attempts at yodeling "Mein Vater ist ein Appenzeller." Back in Norway, someone had heard about our little odyssey and to our surprise wanted to book us for a concert. I was even more baffled when I realized we would get money for it. We rehearsed a couple of yodel hits, called ourselves Polkabjørn & Kleine Heine, and did the job. Not long after that we got booked to another job and then another. It escalated quickly. Soon we were the opening act for A-ha's farewell tour in Norway. We even had a concert in honor of Odd Pedersen in Bergen who attended with his daughter. In 2009, we got a manager and all of a sudden we started performing on TV and having concerts all over the world. Now, 10 years later, and I'm on a train in Austria with Heine, bound for another gig.

It has been a fun, strange and, at times, absurd journey and I've come to realize that yodeling has this life affirming quality: it makes people smile. And to quote Gershwin "Who could ask for anything more?"

With that, I salute all of you yodelers around the world and especially Peter Lim and **World Yodel Day** for keeping the spirit alive. Skål!

*All the best and with kind regards,*  
Bjørn Tomren



#### About Bjorn:

Bjørn Tomren is a Norwegian musician, singer, composer and adventurer, known for his great vocal range and his wide variety of vocal techniques such as yodelling, overtone singing, throat singing and Norwegian folk singing (kveding). For the past decade he has worked as a musician, performing around the globe either by himself or as one half of the Andy Kaufman-esque comical duo, Polkabjørn & Kleine Heine. The duo rose to fame in their home country through the documentary *The Art of Yodelling* (2012), which moved them from being A-ha's opening act back in 2010, to them traveling and performing around the world, exploring the phenomena of yodelling. The last couple of years Tomren has turned his attention to song writing and his debut album, along with girlfriend Åse Britt Reme Jakobsen, is due to be released in September 2019 on Propeller Records.

To learn more about **World Yodel Day**, check out their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/yodelday>) or visit with **Peter Lim who is scheduled to attend IWMA2019 and participate in the IWMA Yodeling Contest.**

# Chapter Update

Continued from page 20



Almeda Bradshaw, Montana performer.

the regular performers. The Autry staff compliments our diversity, professionalism and crowd appeal. Again, we welcome other IWMA performers traveling through these parts!



Jennifer Palmer-Lacey

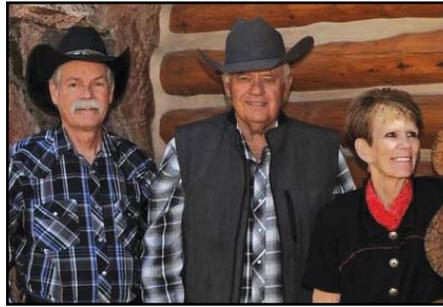


Buck Corbett with Greg Khougaz and Joe Lima

## COLORADO CHAPTER

**President: Susie Knight**  
**lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com**

On Saturday, July 20, from 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Tom and Donna Hatton will host their original program: “Something Cowboy This Way Comes OR East Meets West In Colorado” (A Cowboys Legacy Production) at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park, CO. This innovative program features cowboy songs, stories,



A Cowboys Legacy

and Old West characters that come to life! Hear the tall tales of Judge Roy Bean, the songs of Lily Langtree, the boasts of bronco-rider, Goldie Griffith and more! The IWMA Colorado Chapter will be represented with a booth manned by our Chapter members, and some may even appear on stage! Tickets: \$10.00 (18 & under - FREE). On Saturday, July 27, our Chapter hosts the IWMA Colorado Chapter Showcase—FLORISSANT during the Florissant Heritage Day festival. Food, kids’ activities, vendors! Entertainment begins at 10:00am inside the Florissant Grange Hall. A Cowboys Legacy (Tom & Donna Hatton, Dan Park) will kick off the day with their show. Performing with them will be our Chapter’s youngest Professional Member, 10-year-old fiddler, Evie Hatton-Gutierrez (Woodland Park). Then, the Showcase follows at High



Evie Hatton-Gutierrez

Noon – 3:00pm with performers: J a n i c e D e a r d o r f f (Tucson, AZ), Pegie Douglas (Custer, SD), Jimmy Lee R o b b i n s (Colorado Springs, CO), Dennis Russell (Cimarron, NM/Redwing, CO), The Ramblin’ Rangers (Gardner, CO), Ann & Carrie Brown (Divide, CO), Kerry Grombacher (New Orleans, LA), and Carter Benedict (Burlington, CO). We need Chapter members to volunteer to help us at this Showcase with set up,

strike, assist with refreshments, and more. Traditionally, we all try to gather after the showcase at a nearby restaurant for a meal and a laid-back Chapter Meeting. All IWMA-CO Members are encouraged to attend and voice their ideas, suggestions, etc. As always, TOP HAND POINTS apply to Chapter members’ attendance and involvement. A Showcase is planned at the Maple Grove Grange, in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, on Sunday, September 22, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. A “Call for Performers” will be emailed to our Professional Members soon. Now is the time to make plans to attend the annual IWMA Convention in Albuquerque. Last year, our Chapter gathered in the Franciscan Room for a “Sharing Session” immediately following the Friday Night Opry. This year, we’re going to meet there again! This was a fantastic way to get acquainted, play music, and recite poems with all our wonderful IWMA Colorado Chapter members. As always, everyone is welcome!

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

**President: Tom Swearingen**  
**tomswearingen@gmail.com**

In Mid-March, BC’s Ed Wahl, Washington’s Dave McLure, and Oregon’s Tom Swearingen were among those invited to perform at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kamloops Cowboy Festival presented by the BC Cowboy Heritage Society.

In early April, a full-house crowd



Ed Wahl, Dave McLure, Tom Swearingen at the Kamloops Cowboy Festival

enjoyed “An Afternoon with the Cowboys” in Brownsville, Oregon.

Continued on page 30

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 29*

The successful music and poetry concert was organized by newer Columbia Chapter members Marv Ramsey, singer, and poet Jim Crotts who performed along with other local artists. Poets Duane Nelson and Tom Swearingen were invited to join the bill as special guests. Also on hand was supporting member Ted Hunt who shared songs at the event's open mic following the concert. Cowboy Poetry Week activities in April provided several chapter members with opportunities to share poetry and music in their communities. In addition, Almeda Bradshaw, Duane Nelson, Kathy Moss, and Tom Swearingen were among those invited to recite Bruce Kiskaddon poems for "Masters Cowboy Poetry – Volume 3" released by the Center of Western and Cowboy Poetry. Mid-May saw the Chapter's "Clarkston Cowboy Music & Gathering" showcase concert at the Clarkston, Washington Moose Lodge. Organized by Lauralee Northcott, the show featured Lauralee, Kathy Moss, Lynn Kopelke, Ted Hunt, Dick Warwick, Barbara Nelson, Duane Nelson,



*Clarkston 2019 Showcase Performers*

Ed Wahl, Jim Crotts, Notable Exceptions, Sam Mattice, Panhandle Cowboys, Chinook Winds, and Jim Aasen with Tommy Tucker emceeding.

While in Clarkston for the performance, several members also met under the direction of Youth

Program Committee co-chairs Judy Coder and Kathy Moss to further develop plans for our youth poetry contest. Plans are underway for the chapter's fall showcase concert "Cowboys in the Hood" to be held October 12 in Hood River, Oregon. And, Lauralee Northcott is in early planning for an additional chapter summer concert in Washington. In addition to these shows, several chapter members are on tour and doing solo concerts in our area and throughout the west. A number of Columbia Chapter members will be at IWMA 2019 in Albuquerque in November. We'll see you there, if not sooner!

### **EAST COAST CHAPTER**

**President: Aspen Black**  
**aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com**

The IWMA East Coast Chapter is planning a concert at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Columbia, MD, on the afternoon of Sunday, August 25. Six chapter members are scheduled to perform: Tom Hawk, Aspen Black, Alice Black, Carol Markstrom, Mark Munzert, and Kerry Grombacher. Kerry Grombacher is producing the event, and Tom Hawk is handling pre-production planning, including securing the venue and coordinating ticket sales with our ticket partners, 4-H groups from nearby counties in Maryland and West Virginia.

### **KANSAS CHAPTER**

**President: Orin Friesen**  
**orin@rbanjoranch.com**



*National Board at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon*

The Kansas Chapter was honored to have the national officers and board members of the IWMA meet with us in Wichita on May 8. The national board arrived the day

before and were able to attend the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper, which featured the entertainment of IWMA members, the Diamond W Wranglers. Also in attendance that night were all of the Kansas Chapter officers. The Kansas Chapter officers and a few chapter members also met with the National Board the



*National Board Meets with the IWMA Kansas Chapter*

following day for lunch, the chapter meeting and an open discussion with the combined boards. It was productive and informative for all the participants.

It looks like the *Cowboy Up* TV show, produced by Kansas Chapter member, Ron Wilson, will soon be able to be viewed online via its own Youtube channel. After a short hiatus, Chapter vice president, "Tennessee Jim" Farrell's *Full Gallop* radio show will soon be back on Truckersradiusa.com. President Orin Friesen is continuing to add music to Accuradio.com's Americana channel, *Cowboy Singers & Poets*. This western channel is one of the highest rated channels among the 975 music channels offered by AccuRadio. Upcoming events that will involve Kansas Chapter members include the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest, the Best of America by Horseback Chisholm Trail Ride, Cottonwood Falls Western Music Night, and the Abilene Chisholm Trail Festival.

### **NEW MEXICO CHAPTER**

**President: Michael Coy**  
**Mmcoy3@msn.com**

We have not had many new developments here in New Mexico since our last report. We continue to host open mics at the Blue

Grasshopper in Rio Rancho up to twice a month. Also we continue to host showcase performances at the *Rio Grande Best Western Cork and Tap* near Old Town. On March 18, *James Michael and Buffalo Bill Boycott and Dr. Jo* put on a fine show to a full house.



Buffalo Bill and Dr. Jo

On May 27, *Sheriff Jim Wilson and Jim Jones* teamed up to do a show for us. We are starting to plan for a youth showcase scheduled for November 11 to kick off the November IWMA 2019 gathering. Fortunately for the future of IWMA and Western Music, we have plenty of youth performers to choose from. We encourage those of you who will be arriving early for the convention to show up and support our rising stars. Our next major event this summer which we are doing in collaboration with the city of Albuquerque on June 22 is a small festival in Old Town called the *Western Family Festival*. For that we have procured the talent of New Mexico's own talented Western balladeer, *Randy Huston*, local favorites *Holy Water and Whiskey*, and, as the headliner act, *the Kristyn Harris Trio*, comprised of national twin fiddle Champion and IWMA award winner, Leah Sawyer, and renowned upright bass player, Nathan Phelps. In addition to these scheduled events, we have been invited by Senior Olympics to provide entertainment on June 15 during their events in our city. Also, we are pleased to have *Cowboy Way* representing Western Music

for us at the Albuquerque Folk Festival ([www.abqfolkfest.org](http://www.abqfolkfest.org)) on June 15.



Bobbi Jean Bell at KUPR

I am pleased to share that our chapter has inherited the talents of radio host, Bobbi Jean Bell. Along with co-hosting *Campfire Cafe* with Gary Holt, she

now hosts the *OutWest Hour* on Placitas, NM community radio station KUPR 99.9FM. Tune in Saturdays 4PM or Wednesdays 6AM (MT) [www.KUPR.org](http://www.KUPR.org). Recently she featured *Cowboy Way* on KUPR's



Cowboy Way at KUPR Fundraiser

spring fundraiser. Speaking of radio programs in New Mexico, Totsie Slover is celebrating her 10th year hosting "Real West from the Old West" on AM KOTS out of Deming, NM. Tune in to these shows if you get a chance and enjoy Western music and conversation. The New Mexico Chapter is looking forward to seeing everyone at the Convention in November!

**OKLAHOMA CHAPTER**  
**President: Donnie Poindexter**  
**[cowboydp51@gmail.com](mailto:cowboydp51@gmail.com)**

Supporting the National Day of the Cowboy is important to IWMAOK. This year we are proud to present the National Day of the Cowboy Celebration on July 27 at Butterfield's Mercantile and

Ballroom in Duncan, OK. The event is to be kicked off with an opening ceremony including a proclamation from Governor Stitt read by Senator Paul Scott and singing of the National Anthem and Oklahoma, the State song. The day long event features cowboy music and poetry during the day including IWMAOK members Danny Carl Williams, Don Williams, Francine Robinson, Jan Carroll and James Crouch. Activities for the young buckaroos are calf (dummy) roping by Robert Beene, yodeling class from Dawn Anita Plumlee and a cowboy song singalong. The Cowboy Poetry Contest is full up with 13 entrants. IWMAOK entrants are Don Williams, Francine Robinson, Donnie Poindexter, Dawn Anita Plumlee and Curtis Krigbaum. Roy Madden will emcee this group. Dove Schmidt, of Crossroads Ranch, Depew, OK and the 2016 Ms. Senior Oklahoma, will present a Veterans Salute during the afternoon. Also slated then is a presentation from nationally known military and cowboy cartoonist, Daryl Talbot. Capping the day is an evening showcase emceed by Donnie Poindexter. Appearing on stage are Dawn Anita Plumlee, Robert Beene, Curtis Krigbaum, Roy Madden and Daryl Knight. The Stephens County Free Fair in Duncan, Oklahoma kicks off in August. IWMAOK is well represented during a morning show on August 24. Providing entertainment, cowboy style, are Ron Secoy, Dawn Anita Plumlee, Jan Carroll, Dan Williams, Donnie Poindexter and Daryl Knight. Curtis Krigbaum has begun a weekly feature on his Facebook page called, "Saturday at the Saddle Shop." He sings and plays by himself or with accompaniment by one of his pards, like Donnie Poindexter or Roy Madden. Stagecoach Station Venues in Early, TX, was the site for the Central

*Continued on page 33*



## BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



## GRANDMA AND THE BADGER

The ranch house I grew up in was snuggled up to one of those high adobe banks on Vermillion Creek in NW Colorado. My dad was quite a digger so everything we had was dug back in one of those cut banks. Our chicken coop was a couple of manmade caves.

I was about ten or so when Momma sent me out to the coop to get some eggs for some mystery- of-the-kitchen she and Grandma were working on. When I got there, I was lookin' through the chicken wire at a big fat badger and four or five dead chickens. He had dug under the wire and was makin' himself right at home. I ran back to the house and told Momma and she sent me back with the rifle with instructions to overcome and subdue Mr. Badger before he slaughtered all of our hens. When I got back there Mr. Badger was digging himself a hole back in that adobe bank. I guess he must have got wind of what was coming and was preparing hisself a place of refuge. All I could see was the hole where spurts of dirt were coming out.. I reported back to the two generals (Mom and Grandma) and they got their heads together and immediately came up with a war plan to do Mr. Badger in before he cleaned out the whole flock. The three of us packed Mom's old Maytag wringer washing machine down a ditchbank and across a footbridge and set 'er down next to the badger's hole. They stuck the exhaust pipe in the hole and fired up that two-cycle engine that powered the washing machine and they left me there to guard it. I stayed until the thing ran out of gas. No more Mr. Badger.

The next day Grandma went over the hill and through the woods to her house. When Dad rode in from cow camp, we proceeded to move the washing machine back to its former position. We had a terrible time. We should have had Grandma! 

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"THERE ARE FRIENDS AND FACES  
THAT MAY BE FORGOTTEN,  
BUT THERE ARE HORSES  
THAT NEVER WILL BE."



## COWBOY STEEDS QUIZ

By David Veal

Can you match the cowboy and the horse he rode? Many had long associations in films while others such as John Wayne, John Mac Brown and Wild Bill Elliott rode these horses in a film series.

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Lone Ranger        | A. Topper     |
| 2. Tonto              | B. Tony       |
| 3. Roy Rogers         | C. Buttermilk |
| 4. Gene Autry         | D. Tarzan     |
| 5. Tom Mix            | E. Silver     |
| 6. Dale Evans         | F. Scout      |
| 7. Hopalong Cassidy   | G. Champion   |
| 8. Ken Maynard        | H. Trigger    |
| 9. John Wayne         | I. Sunny      |
| 10. Wild Bill Elliott | J. Duke       |

Answers on page 39

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 31*

Texas Cowboy Gathering Jun 7-9. IWMAOK Member Glenn Murray organized this event. A Little Farther West (Susie and Robert Maxwell Case) are at work in Oklahoma recording their fifth album, "Vaya con Dios," slated for release in September. Set to be included are their versions of two Oscar-nominated pieces of music: "Theme from 'The Magnificent Seven'" and "When a Cowboy Trades his Spurs for Wings" from *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*. Dawn Anita Plumlee performed at a House Concert with Barbara Richhart, the Western Belle of CowTrails, on KSJD Radio in Mancos, CO, on June 22 and also performed at the Ms. Senior Oklahoma of America Pageant in Ada, Oklahoma on June 29. Dawn is hard at work in the studio in Garland, Texas working on a new album due out the end of this year. Dawn was honored by the Academy of Western Artists with the "Western Female Vocalist 2018" award on March 14, 2019 at their Awards Ceremony held in Ft. Worth, Texas.

### TEXAS CHAPTER

**President: Cary Wiseman**  
**wisemanranch71@gmail.com**

The IWMA Texas Chapter had its second event of 2019, "2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Jam & Membership Roundup," at the Cowboy Church of Leon County. The event was relaxed with time to visit and share our gift of music and poetry performance. We had a wonderful afternoon visiting with existing members and welcomed a few new members to IWMA. We want to thank the Church of Leon County for hosting the event. We are so grateful for the generosity of use of such a nice venue. We would also like to thank the performers that came and provided a fabulous show. We have received feedback to schedule events on the Gulf

Coast and in East Texas, to which we will plan accordingly. Interest has been expressed in East Texas as it is on the Louisiana border and we would like to take the opportunity to give this area exposure to Western Music and Cowboy Poetry. We want to thank the IWMA Texas Chapter Board Members and Event Coordinator, Nicole Foley, for all of their support of this event. Please contact Nicole Foley through email [iwmatxevents@gmail.com](mailto:iwmatxevents@gmail.com) if you would like to have a "Jam and Membership roundup" event scheduled in your hometown. It doesn't have to be a big event in a major city, all that we ask is there be interest to promote the IWMA and the culture which we represent. It's a great opportunity to get together with existing members, too! Hope to see you all soon. At this writing we look forward to the IWMA Youth Camp in Weatherford, TX, in June. It's always great to see the growth in our next generation of Western performers! There will be more to report on the Youth Camp event in the next issue of the *Western Way*.

### UTAH CHAPTER

*(This report contributed by Chris Mortensen for Brian Arnold)*

**President: Brian Arnold**  
**saddlestrings@live.com**

The Utah Chapter of the IWMA has been very busy lately. The Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous was a huge success, with many chapter members performing there. Kudos to Dale and Dawna Major for spearheading this great annual event. Mid-March saw the first edition of what is hoped to be an annual event in Malad, Idaho. The Iron Door Playhouse was the venue for a fundraiser for "Charlee," a beautiful little girl with a serious illness. This was co-sponsored by the IWMA Utah Chapter and the Cowboy Poets of Idaho. Charlee is the granddaughter of Brian and Teri Arnold. Many of our IWMA members also performed at the St.

Anthony, Idaho Cowboy Gathering in mid-April. Early May ushered in the Spike 150 Wagon Train, a six-day, sixty mile trek in conjunction with the commemoration of the driving of the Golden Spike. The Golden Spike was the final piece of hardware completing the first transcontinental railroad, 150 years ago at Promontory Point, Utah. Brian and Teri Arnold were the organizers of the wagon train, which included 70 horse and mule drawn wagons and many more "outriders." Things were going smoothly, until Teri's colt took a spill, slamming her into the ground and landing on top of her. Teri was well cared for at the scene and quickly transported by Air-Med to nearby McKay Dee Hospital. She remained unconscious for over two weeks, but is slowly and steadily making daily progress, and is now awake and alert much of the time. Prayers and support have been graciously offered by countless friends, family, and acquaintances. The Cowboy Legends at Antelope Island was held over the Memorial Day weekend and was again a great success. This annual event raises money for the Friends of Antelope Island and the Huntsman Cancer Center. People also donated generously to help Brian and Teri. Many IWMA musicians and poets performed day and night over the four days. We all missed seeing and hearing Saddle Strings, who did not perform this year due to Teri's accident and Brian's constant care and support of her. On June 1, a benefit dance and fundraiser was held in Hyrum, Utah to raise additional funds to help offset Teri and Brian's growing medical bills. Thanks to the Saddle Serenade Band, the Blankmans (John, Kristine, and Colt) and all others who are helping with and supporting this event. Brian is very humbled and appreciative of the support and prayers offered. He

*Continued on page 35*

## Janet Bailey (1952-2019)



Janet Bailey remembered as one of a kind - by Buffy Pollock for the Mail Tribune, excerpted for reprint.

Janet Louise Bailey (1952 - 2019)

Living life on her own terms, Janet Louise Bailey counted her life's blessings by way of children and grandchildren, musical performances and the animals

she cared for during a three-decade career as a cowgirl, musician and law enforcement officer. Born Sept. 22, 1952, in Seattle, Washington, Bailey passed away March 9 surrounded by her extended family after a long battle with an incurable lung infection. She was 66.

Growing up in Seattle, Bailey often described herself as a creative, wild spirit born to quiet, traditional parents who "didn't know what to do with me." Well known as a country singer, detective and devoted school resource officer, Bailey retired in 2015 from her post at Phoenix High School and as a child abuse and sexual assault investigator for Phoenix police.

While she hoped retirement would include lots of horseback riding and guitar strumming, the lung infection prompted a slow-down, but even during her illness, the mother of four daughters teased that she was "finally getting some sleep" after 60 years of not sitting still.

Bailey began her law enforcement career in 1980 as a legal assistant for the Benton County District Attorney's Office, assisting male officers with sexual assault and child abuse victims. One of the region's first female officers when she joined Philomath police — as a reservist in 1982 and patrol officer two years later — she was hired as a major crimes detective for Ashland police in 1987. She was eventually promoted to commander of a unit of 360 international police and support staff in the Bihac region near the border with Croatia.

Even in fading health, Bailey's recent social media posts showed her teaching a grandson to drive a tractor, beaming after delivery of her adopted daughter's new son, and throwing her own "going away party" as her health declined. Neighbor Laurie Jeandin said the world will seem less bright without Bailey. She recalled a time when a slight-framed Bailey single-handedly wrangled a disorderly drunk man waving a gun in a local restaurant.

Bailey is survived by her mother, Grace Bailey (Seattle); siblings Carol, Steve and Catherine Bailey (all of Seattle);

daughters Amy (David) Rathbun of Ashland, Danae LaQua of Medford, Sadie Bailey of Eugene, and Annie Bailey of Portland; and grandchildren Samantha, Caitlin, Cooper, Conner, Isiah, Mikayla, Micah, Nevin, Maya, Damian and Harper.

## Leon Rausch (1927-2019)



Edgar Leon Rausch, known as "the voice" of the seminal western swing band Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys, has died at the age of 91. According to the Bob Wills Facebook page, Rausch, commonly known as Leon, died on Tuesday morning in Fort Worth. "Edgar Leon Rauch, the

beloved Voice of the Texas Playboys for over 60 years, passed away in Fort Worth, Texas. Yes, our hearts are broken, as will be the hearts of the thousands of music fans he touched and influenced over his amazing career when they hear this news. Our band would not exist without Leon carrying the Texas Playboys torch all these years and giving us the blessing to carry it on. We are sad and send prayers of peace to his family and friends, most especially the amazing Vonda Rauch, who was by his side for 69 of Leon's 91 years," the post said. "We will find peace and healing by playing and performing the music that Leon helped immortalize. When an entertainer of Leon's stature and caliber passes away, we are fortunate because they leave a body of work that we can enjoy for generations to come. A lot of us will be enjoying Leon's body of work today and for years to come as we reflect on his life and legacy. Godspeed and well done sir," the post continued. Rausch was a relative latecomer to the Playboys, joining the group as lead vocalist in 1958 after its heyday had passed. He performed with the Texas Playboys until the mid-1960s when he left to launch his own group The New Texas Playboys, but rejoined his former compatriots in 1973 in time to record their final album "For the Last Time". Following Wills' death in 1975, Rausch continued to perform with the original group until their final concert in 1986. After the original lineup parted ways, Rausch continued to perform annually at the Bob Wills day festival in Turkey, Texas at the Bob Wills Community Center. - Copied CelebrityAccess

*Continued on page 38*

# Chapter Update

Continued from page 33

and Saddle Strings have donated their time and talents many times in the past for worthy causes. I know what goes around comes around. Thanks for all the prayers for Teri; and keep 'em coming!

## WESTERN

### WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

**President: Dan "Doc" Wilson**

**Email: wwpres1234@gmail.com**

*Our Mission: To produce, promote and preserve the tales, stories and poems of the Western culture in written or oral form.*

### Western Wordsmith Elections for 2020

– Please begin thinking about who you wish to lead the Western Wordsmiths Chapter in 2020. It is not too early to think about what you would like to see happen and who should lead the charge. Recall that in the past, elections were held at the Convention so only those in attendance were able to vote. Now however, elections are held via email in November so that those who do not get to attend the IWMA Convention in Albuquerque may vote as well. **Website** – The Western Wordsmiths Website has been updated with the posting of the poem "Those Who Have Gone Before" by first-timer Mag Mawhinney. The Poem appeared in the "Penned by Lantern Light" section of the Spring 2019 issue of *The Western Way*. Mag is the fourth first-timer who has published since we adopted the policy of selecting for publication, the best of those not previously published. If no suitable poem was found among those, we moved on to submissions from those previously published. The Submission Guidelines and deadlines have been posted on the Website under the LANTERN LIGHT/Submissions Guidelines tab. If you see something you want changed, updated or missing, let me know. The Website may be viewed at <http://www.westernwordsmiths.com> **2019 Convention** – The 2018 Convention was a great

success from our vantage point, and we trust the 2019 Convention will be successful as well. We're looking to schedule an open mic for poetry recitation so that Wordsmith members may practice their recitation skills. Original poetry not be required, and at this point there will be no judging or coaching. If that changes, we'll let you know.

**Songwriters** – We learned from the Songwriters workshop last year that a number of Wordsmiths members are also songwriters who write lyrics as well as compose their own melodies. This may be evidence of the need for further workshops for our songwriters. We're looking for activities to interest you, so if you have ideas, let us know. **Western Prose Writers** – some of you have written books about the west and are interested in having Western Wordsmiths provide activities to assist them. We're working on an online short story contest that may interest you. Meanwhile, Stay posted. Meanwhile, if you have ideas, let us know. **Penned by Lantern Light** – This Summer issue of *The Western Way* features a poem by Oregonian Tom Swearingen titled "Quiet Conversation." Tom returns after a two-year layout. Please read the poem and give Tom your feedback.

## WYOMING CHAPTER

**President: John Sidle**

**johnsidle@gmail.com**

As is sometimes the case in the Cowboy state, we have made a rapid segue from winter to summer this year, with snows continuing steadily through May. Also sudden was our transition from hibernation to the busy schedules which consume us in fair weather. As our chapter continues to grow, we are always seeking input from our members...ideas for new venues and volunteers for upcoming events. If you have suggestions, we would love to hear from you! We have decided to team up this year with the Big Horn Basin Folk

Festival in Thermopolis, WY for our chapter showcase. This has been a recent breakthrough, enabling us to maintain our annual showcase despite the fact that we will not be appearing in Lander for the Day of the Cowboy showcase this year. Our gracious hosts, Buffalo Bill and Dr. Jo, have family obligations that weekend and therefore will not be able to organize the event. We had a great run on it for the past three years, and hopefully will be able to arrange for this event again in the future. So, it is wonderful news to have recently discovered this opportunity to present at the Big Horn Basin Folk Festival, which originated in 2014 and takes place the first weekend of August every year. The event spotlights musicians and artists from Wyoming's Big Horn Basin and the surrounding regions. In addition to the musical main stage, there is a storytelling component as well as numerous demonstrators, emphasizing the vibrant community of traditional folk artists who thrive in the small communities which comprise Wyoming. As such, bringing the Wyoming Chapter of the IWMA to the stage will be an appropriate and welcome addition. The presenters and Miss "V" are excited to work together in the coming weeks to nail down the details and bring this to fruition. This is a great event, and we hope you will put August 3-4 on your calendars and help us demonstrate that Western Music will bring people to town. If things go well, perhaps this could become an annual venue for our chapter showcases. Come check out all that the Metropolis of Thermopolis has to offer!!

## YOUTH CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Jane Leche**

**President: Abigayle Payne**

**wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com**

The IWMA Youth Chapter is engaging in a new and exciting

# DJ BEHIND THE MIC

By Nancy Flagg



*In "DJ Behind the Mic," Nancy shares the life stories and musical insights of the deejays who broadcast Western music and cowboy poetry to the world.*



Bobbi Jean Bell sighed contentedly and declared "I'm home," after she and her husband Jim moved from New England to California and stepped into the Autry Museum. There was something about the atmosphere and exhibits that spoke to her. Just two

days after visiting the museum, she became a volunteer there and began soaking up information about Western culture and history. Concerts held at the museum by Buck Ramsey, Don Edwards, Sons of the San Joaquin and others were an eye-opening education for her on the roots of Western music. "I fell head over heels in love with Western music. Its storytelling spoke to me and touched my heart and soul."

## **Promoting Western Culture**

In 2009, Bobbi Jean and Jim opened their OutWest shop in Newhall, California with the goal of offering "retail with a cause." The "cause" was the promotion of Western culture. In their store, they not only sold fine western goods, but also hosted western art events, book signings and concerts. In their first concert, featuring Eli Barsi, Doris Daley and Joni Harms, Bobbi Jean and Jim emptied the store to fill it with chairs for the audience. It was a standing-room-only success which resulted in Leon Worden, the president of Santa Clarita TV, championing a regularly televised OutWest Concert Series. Today, the OutWest shop has moved online where it reaches customers worldwide (OutWestShop.com).

## **Radio Hosting**

The popularity of the OutWest events caught the attention of KHTS radio in Santa Clarita. Bobbi Jean

was interviewed on air and later invited to co-host the program, "Around the Barn" with Nancy Pitchford Zhe, Julie Fox Pomilia (Roy Rogers's granddaughter) and Mike Dowler. "I cut my radio teeth there and loved it!", said Bobbi Jean. After the show ended in 2013, Gary Holt asked her to co-host his worldwide "Campfire Café" radio show. Bobbi Jean noted that her most memorable moment as a DJ was "hearing our name called at the International Western Music Association" when she and Gary were honored with the 2018 DJ/Radio Program of the Year award.

Bobbi Jean's approach to life is to, "say yes to opportunities because you never know where they'll take you." Most recently, her "yes" resulted in her creating and hosting the weekly OutWest Hour at KUPR in Placitas, New Mexico. She is delighted to "provide a platform for the incredible talent and fabulous body of work that is out there."

## **Western Music Insights**

After nearly three decades of involvement with Western music, Bobbi Jean believes that the heartbeat behind the music is still there and that the music has been boosted by better recording production quality. As for the future of the music, she would like performers to be able to make a living as Western musicians. She would also like there to be wider public awareness of the genre, including a Western music category in the Grammy awards. In true visionary spirit, Bobbi Jean sees future generations mining archives for information on the history of Western music and she urges performers, songwriters and producers to preserve music, artifacts, posters, wardrobes and other materials of their trade. "You are part of this genre's history. Right now. What you're doing is significant."

## **How to hear Bobbi Jean behind the mic:**

- OutWest Hour: KUPR.org. Saturdays, 4-5 pm (MT) and repeated Tuesdays, 10 pm (MT).
- Campfire Café Radio Show with Gary Holt: Thursdays, 12-1 pm (CT), [www.equestrianlegacy.net](http://www.equestrianlegacy.net)

## **About Nancy Flagg**

Nancy is the producer and host of the "Cowboy Tracks" radio program on KDRT in Davis California. The show features Western music, cowboy poetry, interviews and Western history. The show can be found at KDRT.org, Facebook or iTunes. Nancy is a member of the California chapter of the IWMA. She is a retired University financial administrator and freelance writer. Nancy performs in amateur bands of many genres, but surprisingly none are Western.



O.J. Sikes

# O.J. Sikes Reviews



## A Musical Note From OJ...

Recently, I picked up a CD of **Russ Morgan**'s music, *The Hits Collection – 1935-56* on the Acrobat label. Morgan was a popular big band leader and there were some interesting-looking songs I'd never heard, so I thought I'd try it out. There were a couple of real "finds" I wasn't expecting. One of those was a 1937 recording of "On a Little Dream Ranch," sung by **Mert Curtis**. Although Curtis was far from my favorite big band singer, the song was special because it was written by the legendary Western composer **Billy Hill**, and I didn't know it existed! That track and some of the other "lost" items, especially "Tidal Wave" from 1935, made the CD worth the price of admission, but the big disappointment with the 50 song set was that the audio varied from excellent to poor, and that was an unpleasant surprise.

**Sharon Lee Willing** has made some corrections and updated some of the information in her biography of **Foy Willing**, *No One to Cry To*, now sporting a nice, new cover. It's available on Kindle and in paperback from Amazon. The original went out-of-print rather quickly. The revised edition leaves the basic story intact, but new, rare photos have been added, a few typos have been corrected, and it's worth a re-read.

The late **Hal Spencer**, whose father **Tim Spencer** was one of the original members of the **Sons of the Pioneers**, owned a number of 16" radio transcription discs containing the Pioneers' radio shows from the 1940s. Hal and some friends arranged for much of the music from those shows to be re-issued on LPs back in the 1970s, and additional music was released on CDs about 20 years ago. Now, Hal's office is looking for a home for the original discs, and the office even has Hal's special record player, made exclusively for transcription discs, to sell as well. In addition, Tim's

old upright piano, the one he used to compose many of his songs, is also up for sale. See the ad in this issue of the *Western Way*.

Our friend **Paul Hazell**, well-known British broadcaster who, among other things, compiled the Jasmine boxed set, *A Cowboy's Life Is Good Enough For Me* in 2004, has long been a fan and collector of country and cowboy/drover music from Australia and New Zealand. This year, he has compiled a couple of CDs for Jasmine that celebrate, principally, the country recordings of rich-voiced yodeler **Tex Morton** and the bushranger ballads of **Smoky Dawson**: *The Legendary Tex Morton Sings the Hits Of Country Music's Yesteryear* and *Smoky Dawson Sings and Tells of Bushrangers, The Outback And Famous Country Songs*. The Morton disc contains songs like "Old Man Duff" that go way back (you may remember **Frankie Marvin**'s recording of that novelty from the 1920s), and one of **Billy Hill**'s earliest compositions, "They Cut Down the Old Pine Tree," is included as well. The Dawson release is reviewed in this issue.

Western performers and fans tend to like **Elton Britt**'s recordings, whether he yodels or not, and whether he sings Western songs or not, so I thought you might like to know about the new BACM release, *Elton Britt, VOL. 4 1944-55 – St. Louis Blues Yodel (BACM CD D 628)*. It's comprised of 26 tracks, none of which are Western and it's not a "yodel" collection, but hey, it's Elton! You can find it at [VenerableMusic.com](http://VenerableMusic.com), phone (678) 232- 0268. 🐎

### To submit your CD for review, send to:

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

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

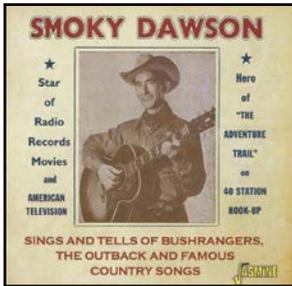
Questions? You can email O.J. at [osikes@nj.rr.com](mailto:osikes@nj.rr.com)

★ ★ ★

## SMOKY DAWSON SINGS AND TELLS OF BUSHRANGERS, THE OUTBACK AND FAMOUS COUNTRY SONGS

*Smoky Dawson*

JASMCD 3715



This new release is comprised of two very rare Australian LPs. The first, from 1961, is Bushranger Ballads, which tells of life in the outback and on cattle stations, outlaws and rodeos, etc. On this one, Dawson tells about places and characters, then sings the song. The

second LP, from 1962, is The Smoky Dawson Story. It features the legendary steel guitarist Speedy West, and Smoky talks about his tours in the USA in the 1950s in-between his performances of American C&W songs. Both LPs are very rare, so we are fortunate indeed to have them preserved through the efforts of British broadcaster and music authority Paul Hazell, who put this project together, and the Jasmine label in England.

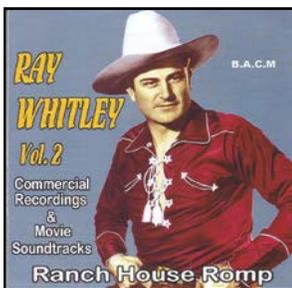
Smoky Dawson was a revered figure in Australia, with a long-running Western adventure show on radio (1952-62), his own comic book, his horse Flash, and very popular personal appearances that included his skills with a rope, a stockwhip and sharpshooting, as well as his music. You'll miss seeing the whip and shooting on this CD, but you're likely to enjoy his stories and his music, especially if you enjoy traditional Australian outback tales and songs. Widely available.

★ ★ ★

## RAY WHITLEY VOL 2: RANCH HOUSE ROMP

*Ray Whitley*

BACM CD D 631



Although Ray Whitley is best-known as the composer of "Back in the Saddle Again," he wrote a lot of other very enjoyable music for movies and he made a number of good studio recordings as well. Both commercial recordings and soundtrack music are on this CD! Since

so much of his movie music has been waiting for many decades to be transferred from soundtracks to CD, this album is a real treasure. It's already become one of my all-time favorites!

One of the commercial gems is his composition, "On the Painted Desert," a song few of us knew he recorded anywhere other than on a movie soundtrack (Jill Jones heard the soundtrack version and recorded it on one of her CDs in 2004) but now, the original commercial recording is here, and the audio quality on this and most of the other tracks is remarkably good.

There are 38 tracks on the CD, largely from Tim Holt movie soundtracks, but a considerable number of hard-to-find commercial sides are here as well, along with very informative liner notes by Kevin Coffey. This CD is a real winner! Highly recommended! Contact VenerableMusic.com or phone (678) 232-0268. 🐾



IN MEMORIAM *Continued from page 34*

## Russell Marshall Wolfe (1925 – 2019)



Former IWMA Advisory Board Member Russ Wolfe passed peacefully Friday, March 29. Russ co-founded the Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Suppers and Original Western Stage Show with his wife Marian. The Flying W Ranch kept the Old West alive and served over 7 million people from its inception in

1953 until it burned in the Waldo Canyon fire in June 2012. Russ was the founder of the Chuckwagons of the West Association which represents Chuckwagon businesses that were patterned after the Flying W Ranch. With his wife, Russ contributed the land and resources and helped start the Wilson United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs and also helped establish the Church on the Ranch, which is now located in Colorado Springs. Russ was a First Lieutenant in the Navy during World War II, serving in the Pacific theatre. He received the American Theatre Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Ribbon. He served as second-in-command on the Allied Warship USS YMS-298 Mine Sweeper and was based in Hiroshima. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marian L. Wolfe. He is survived by his sister, Rosemary June Emerick and her husband, Jack Kenny Emerick; his daughter Terry Camille Wolfe; his daughter Sunny Lea Baber, and her husband, Richard Baber; his daughter Leigh Ann Thurston and her husband Gerald H. Thurston; grandsons Jason Russell Wolfe and his wife Tara Marie Wolfe, and Gerald H. Thurston, III; granddaughter Ruth Russell Thurston; great-granddaughter, Emerson Marie Wolfe; and many nephews and nieces. 🐾

instrument is extremely beneficial for children (and adults).

Beginning in the adolescent years we almost always see our youth go through times when self-esteem is fragile. Pre-teens and teenagers often have a difficult time figuring out who they really are and making MUSIC is an outstanding way to boost their self-esteem. My husband and I have seen our daughter go from an extremely shy child to a pre-teen and now teen who has achieved a high level of self-esteem because of her music involvement singing and playing the guitar.

I encourage everyone to get out there and help our youth of today make music. Through music education we can see our youth become better people and enjoy music on a wide variety of levels. Thank you to the IWMA and the IWMA Youth Chapter for fostering and growing music education. 

*Dawn Wiseman earned her Bachelors of Science Degrees from Sam Houston State University in 1987. She is a public school teacher teaching Family & Consumer Science Courses at Montgomery High School in Montgomery, Texas. Dawn is the mother of IWMA Youth Chapter Officer, Caroline Grace Wiseman, and the wife of IWMA Texas Chapter President, Cary Wiseman. Dawn has three daughters ranging in age from 35-14 years, and she is Nonnie to two grandson's and one granddaughter. The Wiseman's live in rural Leon County Texas where they raise Angus and Longhorn Cattle and enjoy good ranch horses.*

**Answers to Quiz on page 32**

**COWBOY STEEDS QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Lone Ranger –E. Silver
2. Tonto –F. Scout
3. Roy Rogers – H. Trigger
4. Gene Autry –G. Champion
5. Tom Mix –B. Tony
6. Dale Evans –C. Buttermilk
7. Hopalong Cassidy –A. Topper
8. Ken Maynard –D. Tarzan
9. John Wayne –J. Duke
10. Wild Bill Elliott –I. Sunny

*Continued from page 15*

...The Sawyer Family has a new television show: “The Simple Gifts Show.” It’s a show created to celebrate the talents and gifts people use to bless others. It’s ordinary people (musicians, cowboys, gardeners, store owners) being used in extraordinary ways, plus the music of **Simple Gifts - The Sawyer Family Band**. Original episodes air every other Saturday night at 8 pm on the UA Network on [www.uanetwork.tv](http://www.uanetwork.tv). Previously aired episodes are always available on the YouTube Channel “The Simple Gifts Show - Sawyer” or on [www.uanetwork.tv](http://www.uanetwork.tv) on demand. **Kristyn Harris** was a recent guest.

...**Johnny Minick and The Stewart Brothers** (JMSB) released a new CD recently titled *Sagebrush Symphony*. They also won a Favorite Gospel Country Artist Award in April for their album *Absolutely Gospel*.

...In April, **Floyd Beard** performed cowboy poetry for the Colorado State House of Representatives at the State Capitol in Denver (CO) in honor of National Cowboy Poetry Week, presenting from a balcony above the House floor. Floyd presented “Ain’t a Hermit” about riding in the canyons of Southeastern Colorado. The Speaker of the House then asked if he would do another one, so he presented James Barton Adams’ “Bill’s in Trouble,” which was received with great laughter and applause. Floyd and Valerie were then invited onto the House floor to meet many of the legislators.

...**The Gypsy Cowbelle** has been working to create a school outreach program for the Dakota Western Heritage Festival with co-founder Gary Heintz. She and poet **Bonnie Krogman** brought western music and poetry to hundreds of students throughout central South Dakota this spring. Miss “V” was also the keynote speaker at the Wyoming Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities Annual Luncheon, bringing dozens of audience members on stage to play along on homemade instruments for a grand finale.

...**Linda Nadon** will be performing at the “Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth” in July. She will do two performances at The Calgary Stampede Window on the West Stage.

...**Dave Munsick** will be recording his eighth album in Nashville in June. The album will be titled *Dave Munsick: Songteller*. Dave expects the album to be released at about the same time as his second grandchild arrives.

...**Gary & Jean Prescott** are the proud grandparents of Jerrod Beck who just graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with his Bachelor’s Degree in *Early Childhood Development*. He leaves for Spain in July to spend a year in an exchange program. Completing that, he will return to the US to begin his Master’s program. Jerrod is also a very talented musician and singer/songwriter.

...**Peggy Malone** and family boarded their daughter’s RV and traveled to Massachusetts in May to be with her sister, Dolly, for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. They traveled through the Black Hills with the intention of visiting the Crazy Horse sculpture. Bad weather made it impossible to make the stop, however, prompting Peggy to say, “We felt like the Griswolds in the movie *Vacation!*”

...**Leah Sawyer** graduated from high school in May with a 3.8 GPA and a Senior Performance that featured the music she has studied her entire life. She is now headed to Oklahoma Wesleyan University to pursue a degree in Music Business. She wants to understand how to make a living as a performing musician! 



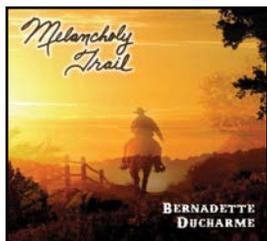
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**RICK HUFF'S**  
**BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS**

TIPS? COMMENTS? IDEAS FOR THE COLUMN, SEND TO: RICK HUFF, P.O. BOX 8442, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87198-8442 OR BESTOFTHEWEST@SWCP.COM

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

**BERNADETTE  
DUCHARME**  
“Melancholy Trail”



From Canada comes balladeer/songwriter Bernadette Ducharme, a . k . a .

2019’s recipient of the Keeper Of The West Award from the Kamloops Cowboy Festival! She specializes in working with respected wordsmiths. This pleasant collection includes nine songs boasting the cowboy-true words and images of the renowned poet, Mag Mawhinney. Ducharme’s vocal presentation leans toward, but does not imitate, that of Joan Baez, and her support musicians’ acoustic accompaniment is folksy yet tight.

This particular album marks a first for me. It contains the only six-page internal booklet I’ve ever come across dedicated solely to acknowledging her co-writers and project participants! One of these was the organizer of the Kamloops Cowboy Festival, Bud Webb. Sadly he passed away not long after laying down harmonies and guitar tracks for the album.

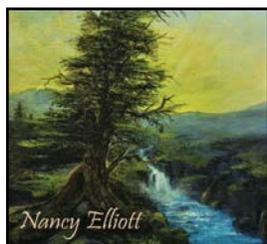
As CD picks I’ll name the title track “Melancholy Trail,” “I Fell In Love With Wyoming,” “Katie,” “Makin’ Tracks,” Frank Gleeson’s novelty poem set to

music “The Brand Inspector,” “This Is My Town,” “Ducharme’s collaboration with Jay Snider “Burning Daylight” and “Western Spirit.” This collection is warm and Western as a fleece-lined denim jacket. Thirteen tracks, recommended.

CD: (recommend Googling the artist by name)



**NANCY ELLIOTT**  
“Tall Tree”



Not that she didn’t do so before now but, since going solo, Arizona’s Nancy

Elliott has produced some especially interesting music. You’ll find more of it here. Also, you’ll discover effective use of World Music elements in the arrangements...including udu, conga and tumba as well as bone, Pan and Native flutes!

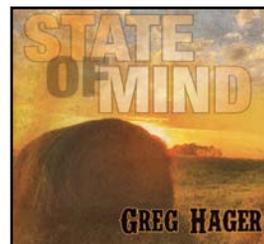
Western picks include Elliott originals “Thirty Miles,” “A Crazy Horse,” the swinging “Starlight Ballroom,” “Horseman’s Hands” (a co-write with Stewart MacDougall), “Gypsy Heart” and a latter day Blaine McIntyre/Ian Tyson collaboration “Desert Motel.” Among the seventeen

participating players on the tracks you’ll see some old friends from various Western and Bluegrass groups including Benny Young, Bruce Huntington, Walt Michael and Stewart MacDougall, among others. The sound they all make is full and satisfying. This album is enjoyable on a number of different levels. Eleven tracks, highly recommended.

CD: (available throughwww.NancyElliottMusic.com)



**GREG HAGER**  
“State Of Mind”



Singer/songwriter Greg Hager covers all directions: he creates music of the West in Southeast

North Dakota! ‘Sorry. ‘Had to get it out of my system...

Hager is the Pro Rodeo Cowboy Country Artist Association’s Entertainer Of The Year for 2018. And they actually managed to fit that on a belt buckle that’s smaller than a hubcap! In his latest release, he presents us with a new collection of his originals. It’s equally divided up in its Western to Country ratio. There are six of each!

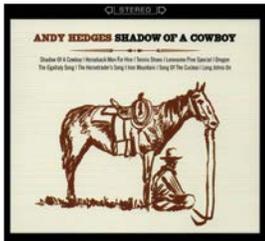
This album strikes me as being less aggressively beat-propelled than some earlier Hager releases. All of this CD's Western tracks are picks: "Cowboy Hall Of Fame," the funky swinger "Cowboy Wrap," "Drover," the dual entendre "Fast Is Slow," the title track "State Of Mind" and "Wants To Be." Country picks include "All Those Years Ago," "Daymare" and "Long Line." Hager has always presented CDs that are tightly produced and professionally performed throughout. That is certainly true this go 'round as well. Twelve tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$2 s/h through [www.greghager.com](http://www.greghager.com)



## ANDY HEDGES

### "Shadow Of A Cowboy"



As has usually been the case with his projects, poet/singer/musicologist Andy

Hedges' new release is wonderfully unprocessed and messed-around-with...so much so that this CD might just seem like it's a personal house concert being performed right there in your stereo!

Hedges' wife Alissa provides sweetly homespun harmonies on several of the songs. All are worthy of a spin, but particular picks include the title track "Shadow Of A Cowboy" and "Oregon" (both by Tucker Zimmerman), Joel Nelson's "Horseback Man," the traditional "Ogallaly Song," "The Horsetrader's Song" (Jimmy Driftwood) and Waddie Mitchell's thoroughly wacky "Long Johns On," recorded live at Elko.

Other stars of the collection include the stringed instruments featured such as a rebuilt 1940s Gene Autry Guitar, a 1943 Gibson and a guitar handmade by Billy Faier used on a piece by

him ("Song Of The Cuckoo"). Ten tracks, highly recommended. PS: You will also want to check out Andy's Cowboy Crossroads Podcast as well. It's available free of charge in the iTunes Store.

CD: (available through [www.andyhedges.com](http://www.andyhedges.com))



## MASTERS VOLUME THREE - COWBOY POETRY OF BRUCE KISKADDON



We are so very fortunate that the Center For Western & Cowboy Poetry/ CowboyPoetry.com even exists, but particularly because they/"she" annually issue(s) performances of the most revered classic Cowboy Poetry as part of their "Masters" series, making them available to libraries and learning institutions.

Staring out from the cover of Masters Volume Three is the strikingly handsome face of the young Bruce Kiskaddon, one of the most personally accomplished, admired and often performed Cowboy Poets of all time. Here you have three CDs packed with fifty-eight Kiskaddons they somehow culled from among his nearly five hundred poems. Most of the fine reciters chosen for the release are recognized poets in the own rights from current times and the past. As always, great consideration has been given to the flow from work to work on the CDs, making the collection all the more enjoyable. If you are not already Kiskaddon-oriented, let this opportunity immerse you in what it really is to be...and see through the eyes and feel with the heart of...a cowboy. Highly recommended.

CD set: \$35 ppd credit, PayPal or by mail: [CowboyPoetry.com](http://CowboyPoetry.com), Box 1107, Lexington, VA 24450

## DONNIE POINDEXTER

### "Those Cowboys Of Old"



On his newest release, Donnie Poindexter has teamed up with Donnie Poindexter.

No, it's not schizophrenia. It's DNA. That's "Darn Nice Album" from a father and son combo!

Donnie The Dad provides the pleasant lead vocals with sort of a Bluegrass type of intonation. Son Donnie A. Poindexter provides solid harmony vocals, lead and rhythm guitar, bass, banjo and mandolin with Curtis Krigbaum furnish lead guitar to two of the songs. Picks from among the Poindexter originals include the title track "Those Cowboys Of Old," "Dust On The Barbed Wire" and the saga song "Full House." Cover picks are "Roundup In The Spring" and one of the more interesting treatments of the James A. Bliss classic "Colorado Trail."

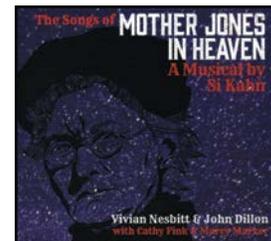
Donnie Poindexter's album provides an opportunity to mention a particular positive that may not be pointed out often enough. There is a definite art...in fact the entire profession of A&R (Artist & Repertoire)...in matching a performer's delivery to the material selected for him or her. In this particular case, it was done to perfection. Twelve tracks, highly recommended.

CD: [www.DonniePoindexter.com](http://www.DonniePoindexter.com).



## VIVIAN NESBITT & JOHN DILLON

### "Mother Jones In Heaven" (soundtrack)



Si Kahn's award-winning musical reflects on the life and accomplishments of the "radical" Mary Harris (Mother) Jones,

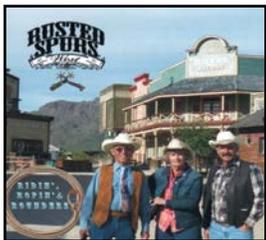
Continued on page 42

who took under her wing the put-upon workers and exploited children of early Twentieth Century America. To portray the famous human rights agitator, Vivian Nesbitt has styled her versatile voice to project the suitable force and determination, and the instrumental backing (including occasional Salvation Army brass and hubby John Dillon on guitar) paints the picture well. While not specifically Western by subject or intention, the score nonetheless includes song lyrics that reflect tasks, events, conditions and origins that can easily be overlaid onto the frontier west. Titles among them include "The Whiskey Ring and the Railroad Trust," "I Had Left Ireland Behind Me," "Houses On The Hill," "Stitch and Sew," "Tarpaper Shacks," and "Mothers." Incidentally Nesbitt & Dillon also happen to be the creator/hosts and producers of the syndicated Public Radio program Art Of The Song. Their guests have included Ian Tyson and other performers of the Western Music genre as well. Ten tracks, highly recommended.

CD & Show Tour information available through [MotherJonesInHeaven.com](http://MotherJonesInHeaven.com) or [info@reelmuzikwerks.com](mailto:info@reelmuzikwerks.com)



**RUSTED SPURS WEST**  
**"Ridin' Ropin' & Rounders"**



I may have drawn this comparison at least one other time. If so, here I go again! From the accordion to the harmonies of this trio (plus two), Rusted Spurs West reminds me of my mentor in Western Music, Hi Busse, and that incarnation of his group known as The Frontiersmen & Joanie. Also at times an echo or two of Dave & Patti Bourne's Lobo Rangers drifts by me as I listen.

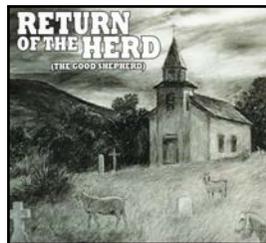
These are positive comparisons, I assure you! Anyway, on this release the group once again provides a sweetly familiar vintage Western sound that we can legitimately claim as being exclusive to our genre.

Picks include Leon McAuliffe's "Plain Talkin' Man From The West," the swinging Thomas Porter piece "Belt Buckle Polishing Song," Tim Stafford & Robert G. Starnes' "My Ropin' Days Are Done" and there are plenty of classics to go around including "Along The Navajo Trail," "Sugar Moon," "Pecos Bill," "Detour" and others. But every one Rusted Spurs West mounts, they ride well. So my suggestion is for you to ride it on home! Fourteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD \$15+ \$2 s/h from Bob "Slim" Denoncourt. (contact [dvdob@denonco.net](mailto:dvdbob@denonco.net))



**K. R. WOOD & FRIENDS**  
**"Return Of The Herd"**



This time around the prolific Texas producer/folklorist/celebrant and per-

former K. R. Wood has ambled West across the Texas line into New Mexico's Hondo Valley. It's the area that inspired resident Louise Massey to create "In My Adobe Hacienda." But Wood has come to honor the artist and musician Peter Hurd, wife Henriette, and to celebrate a remarkable occurrence witnessed by Hurd and related afterward to his son Michael. Hurd was attending the interment of a picturesque shepherd he had painted by the name of Don Patricio Trujillo. The man had been found, with his sheep, where he'd fallen...some twelve miles distant at the far end of the valley. Mourners were astounded when the old man's flock of sheep and goats arrived at the service,

having traveled there unattended, to file slowly past the open grave to bid their friend farewell. In framing his subject, Wood has captured much of the area's contributing influences and culture. Despite the obvious Good Shepherd context, most should find the album's overall effect more than palatable as Wood generally refrains from overt proselytizing.

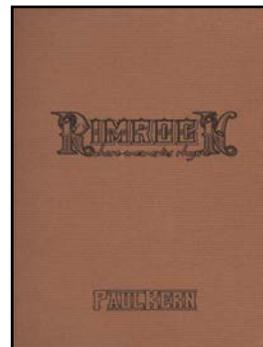
Picks include the classic "Down In The Valley," Wood's originals "Take Me Back To The Hondo Valley," "Shepherd's Lullabye" and "La Chupacabra" (featuring the chilling instrument known as the Aztec Death Whistle). Instrumentals include "Flower Of The Flocks," "Jessie's Polka (Jesusita en Chihuahua)" and "Laughing Waters" (the theme for a planned documentary). In what you could call a "Return Of The Hurd," the late artist himself is featured on two tracks from a 1973 album "Peter Hurd Sings Ranchera." Eighteen tracks, recommended.

CD: (available through [www.texanarecords.com](http://www.texanarecords.com))



**BOOK REVIEWS**

**PAUL KERN**  
**"Rimrock - Where Memories Rhyme"**  
 (Self-published)



Here is the published and expanded companion volume to Utah poet Paul Kern's CD release from a little while back

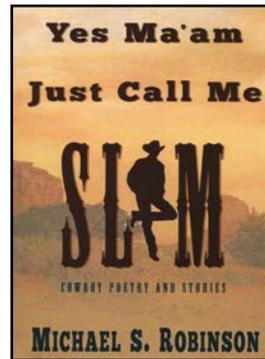
that bears the same name. Rimrock, as defined by Kern in his book's introduction, is outcroppings found "along the upper reaches of the canyon and valley walls (watching over) the passage of time below." Aside from the book's unusual pack up (hard-

bound with a cloth bookmark and resting in its own custom padded, elastic banded box), certain of its contents are pretty remarkable as well. Luckily, enough of Kern's and his wife's ancestors put pen to paper or parchment in journals, letters or diaries to transcribe their experiences on the frontier. This provides wondrous and vivid snapshots of a bygone era. The essays, related verses and vintage-feel photographs are grouped into sections entitled "Rimrock - Let's Ride Up Again," "Where Warmth Means Wood," "When The Coyote Calls Down Moonlit Dreams," "Tell Me It Ain't So," "Only A Cattleman Knows," "Indian Affairs" and "He Was Watching Over Me." A number of the poems are pastoral and descriptive with a specific occurrence or encounter tucked within. Others are memories and reflections of times past and occasionally gentle humor pops up, such as in "Aroma Therapy," "Privileged Fun," or the payoff of "If He Nickers AtYer Comin'." And then there's the picture put forth in "Sunday Drivers" ...but I'll let you discover that for yourself! 137 pages, recommended... in large part for the true sketches from family members.

Hardbound book: (available through [www.paulkern.com](http://www.paulkern.com))



**MICHAEL S. ROBINSON**  
**"Yes Ma'am Just Call Me Slim"**  
**ISBN-13: 9781 7221 1055 01**  
**ISBN-10: 1722 1055 0X**



It's pretty safe to say Michael S. Robinson has brought us something unique here! The book's back cover notes

will introduce you to the "Slim" of the title as being Mickey "Slim" Robbins, Sr., "a successful New Mexico rancher who developed his Rockin' Robbin Ranch into the largest in the state."

In a truly unusual mounting for a poetry collection, the works are said to have been written by Slim at various points in his winding life. There are exotically detailed mini-essays about his adventures with commentary from Robinson on both essay and

verse. Since grandson Mickey Robbins III saved and annotated Slim's poems, what would that make Robinson in the flow of things...the editor? It may also align Michael Robinson with Rod Miller's fanciful creation "Rawhide Robinson" since the whole thing is a creation of one fertile imagination! It makes for a good yarn but, lest you be strung along, yarn it is! However, the details of the cowboying life as depicted are real and accurate, and the poems and lyrics themselves are particularly well crafted...thoughtful, expansive and poignant. In the final analysis, the book comes off as being a very literate combination of verse and short story. And in a way doesn't all fiction purport at some level to be fact, if only to further engage its reader? As Slim often does, I'll use a double-edged pun to sum it up: It's a "novel" approach....and I'll recommend it highly. 398 pages.

Softbound book: available through [www.broncojockeybooks.com](http://www.broncojockeybooks.com) or by mail from Bronco Jockey Books, P.O. Box 592, Draper, UT 84020 phone (801) 403-6450. 

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## TALES OF THE WEST

*Continued from page 11*

about this story is that it happened in 1924! Yes, you read that right...1924! In fact, hostile Apaches were known to live in the Sierra Madres of northern Mexico as late as the 1930s. So much for those who claim that the frontier era was over by the 1890s.

Most of us remember our childhood and watching Hugh O'Brien portraying Wyatt Earp and wielding his Buntline Special as he brought law and order to the West. Unfortunately, while there certainly was a Wyatt Earp, and there certainly was a Hugh O'Brian, there probably wasn't a Buntline Special. The long-barreled Colt revolver was first mentioned by Stuart N. Lake in his 1931 biography of the western lawman. Lake claimed that, in 1876, the western novelist Ned Buntline presented five Colts with 12-inch barrels to Kansas lawmen Bat Masterson, Bill Tilghman, Charlie Bassett, Neal Brown, and Wyatt Earp. Lake further claimed that this big six-gun was Earp's favorite revolver for the rest of his career. Most modern-day historians will tell you that Lake's biography of Earp has been proven to be mostly fiction. And, while Colt made guns with extra-long barrels on special order, there is no record of them ever filling such an order for Ned Buntline. There is also no independent record of Buntline making such a presentation to Wyatt Earp, or any other lawmen, ever. And, finally, none of these guns has ever been discovered. But, heck, it sure was an entertaining TV show, wasn't it? 

Jim Wilson is a retired peace officer, former Texas Sheriff and lifelong student of western history who lives in Alpine, Texas. He has been a member of the IWMA since the mid-90's and served on the board of directors for a number of years. He has been playing music, mostly western music, since his college days...and "it is absolutely none of your business how long ago that was."

# 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

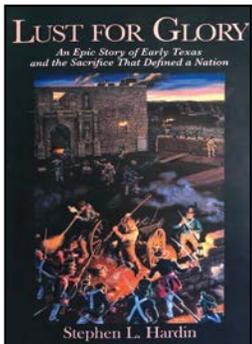
*Buffalo and the fight for Texas independence have inspired more than their share of Western songs. There are, for example, Mike Blakely's "The Last Wild White Buffalo," Carol Markstrom's "Spirit Buffalo" and, of course, "Home on the Range," "where the buffaloes roam," for the former and Marvin O'Dell's "Keep a Candle in the Window" and Jim Jones' "The Fires of Goliad" for the latter.*

*Two new books dive into these iconic Western topics. One covers everything you have ever wondered about buffalo plus some things you have never wondered but will be glad to learn, and the other gives you a fast-reading and wide-ranging look at the struggle to wrest Texas from Mexico.*

*Francie M. Berg's "Buffalo Heartbeats Across the Plains" is the winner of this year's Western Writers of America Spur Award for best juvenile nonfiction and Stephen L. Hardin's "Lust for Glory" is a Spur finalist in the same category. But don't let that shy you away. Both books are valuable additions to the collections of readers of any age who are interested in the history of the West.*

### STEPHEN L. HARDIN

*"Lust for Glory: An Epic Story of Early Texas and the Sacrifice That Defined a Nation"*



Hardin, a professor at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, opens with the immediate aftermath

of the fall of the Alamo on March 6, 1836, including this eye-witness account by Susanna Dickinson, whose husband was killed while defending the Alamo.

"As we passed through the enclosed ground in front of the church,' Mrs. Dickinson later testified, 'I saw heaps of dead and dying.' Amid the turmoil, one of those bodies demanded her

special attention. 'I recognized Col. Crockett lying dead and mutilated between the church and the two-story barrack building and even remembered seeing his peculiar cap lying by his side.'" But this book goes way beyond that battle, the massacre of Texas prisoners at Goliad and the Texas victory at San Jacinto. It envelopes the story of Texas from 1821, when Mexico got its independence from Spain, to 1846, after the United States annexed Texas. Hardin intended this book for the general reader and students grades 7 through 12, so he kept the chapters short, easy to understand and compelling. We learn about the political plotting that built up to the fight for Texas independence, the hostilities that continued between the forces for independence and Mexican

troops after San Jacinto, bloody conflicts with Comanches, the organization of the Texas Rangers and the challenges of carving a life out of a severe and perilous land.

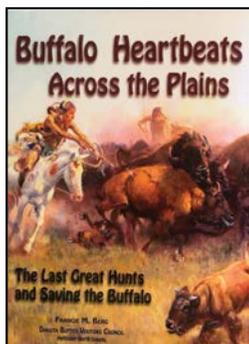
Texans who had fled toward Louisiana after the fall of the Alamo started back to their homes after the Mexican defeat at San Jacinto but found the journey taxing and hazardous. Some fell victim to fever and all had to contend with nature -- swamps, quicksand and worse. Hardin presents a 12-year-old witness' account of what happened to one homeward-bound man. "He had gotten nearly across, when a large alligator appeared. Mrs. King saw it first above the water and screamed. The alligator struck her husband with its tail and he went under water. There were several men present, and they fired their

guns at the animal, but it did no good. It was not in their power to rescue Mr. King." Hard times but fascinating reading.

**("Lust for Glory," 9781933337753; paperback, \$39.95; State House Press; available through [tamupress.com](http://tamupress.com))**

## FRANCIE M. BERG

*"Buffalo Heartbeats Across the Plains: The Last Great Hunts and Saving the Buffalo"*



A magnificent effort, "Buffalo Heartbeats ..." touches on everything from the development stages of a buffalo bull's horn to how a buffalo bull would make out in a showdown with Mexican fighting bulls. There was a contest, we find out here, between a buffalo bull and fighting bulls in January 1907 in a Juarez, Mexico, bullring. Berg's book opens with chronicles of the last great buffalo hunts on the northern plains, including a hunt in June 1882 at Hiddenwood Creek on the Standing Rock Reservation in what is now

the state of North Dakota. Imagine the surprise of the Lakota hunters when they ride up on a hill and see a herd of 50,000 buffalo on grasslands where there had been no buffalo for 15 years. "Pte (the buffalo), finding himself near to extinction at the hands of the white pot-hunters, sought out the reservation that he might, in the end, fulfill his mission to die to provide walls for the tepee, robes for the couch, sinews for the bows and meat for the store of the sons of the Lakota," said a Lakota elder, as quoted by Standing Rock agent James McLaughlin. Some 5,000 buffalo were killed during this hunt, ended when the Lakota had taken all the animals they required. In the section on buffalo tradition and lore, we learn buffalo can jump six feet straight up and that scientists estimate there were about 30 million buffalo on North American grasslands when Europeans first got here. A detailed chart shows how native peoples used the many parts and byproducts of buffalo. You would not be surprised that buffalo dung was used for fuel, but I'd bet most of you didn't know it was also used as a diaper powder. The final section is about rescuing the buffalo from

extinction. Berg writes about the people -- Samuel Walking Coyote, James "Tonka Jim" McKay, C.J. "Buffalo" Jones, the Dupree family, Texas ranchers Charles and Molly Goodnight and others -- instrumental in the effort to save the buffalo, which has been relatively successful. There's nowhere near 30 million buffalo around these days, but, according to a chart in the book, the North American buffalo population grew from 1,300 in 1888 to more than 391,000 in 2016.

Buffalo ranching across America is also covered and another chart shows the nutritional value of buffalo meat compared to beef, pork, chicken and salmon. Of those, buffalo meat is the lowest in fat and calories. To top it off, the book is as beautifully illustrated -- with reproductions of paintings by Charlie Russell and George Catlin and historic and contemporary photographs -- as it is enriched with information.

**("Buffalo Heartbeats Across the Plains," ISBN 9780918532862 hardback, \$34.95; ISBN 9780918532886 e-book, \$19.99; Dakota Buttes Visitors Council; available through [hettingernd.com](http://hettingernd.com). Click on "Tourism and Recreation" and then on "Buffalo Trails.")** 

## Do You Have Something to Say?

*The Western Way* is always looking for your input. What about taking time to email a few "short 'n' sweet" sentences that focus on the magazine or the IWMA to include in the "The Mailbag" feature? Or, maybe you consider yourself a writer and have something a little more pithy to say that would warrant space as an article in a future issue? Send your comments/articles to [wweditor1@gmail.com](mailto:wweditor1@gmail.com) for review and consideration. Here are some points to remember when writing:

(1) There is no financial remuneration for contributed materials; (2) The *WW* reserves the right to edit as needed; (3) Articles must be G-rated and content must be considered appropriate for the western readership; (4) Length should not exceed 400 words -- shorter is just fine! We make no promises about publication, but every submission will be given consideration. You will be notified if your article is selected for a future issue. Look forward to hearing from you!

# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Those Cowboys of Old - Donnie Poindexter
2. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills -  
Miss Devon & the Outlaw
3. Go West - The Cowboy Way
4. Swing Set - LeeLee Robert
5. Soul of the West - Clint Bradley
6. State of Mind - Greg Hager
7. Rocky Mountain Drifter - Brenn Hill
8. Lucky 13 - Joni Harms
9. Wild West Texas Wind - Carolyn Martin
10. Blues on the Trail - Gary Allegretto
11. The Country in Me - Dawn Anita
12. The Outside Circle - Mike Blakely
13. Friends Become Family - Olivia Morgayne
14. Sunset on the Rio Grande Revisited - Syd Masters
15. Shadow of a Cowboy - Andy Hedges
16. Great American Cowboy - High Country Cowboys
17. Coyotes & Cattle - Barry Ward
18. Legacy of Wyoming - Buffalo Bill Boycott & Dr. Jo
19. 40 Years the Cowboy Way - Riders in the Sky
20. Beautiful Texas - Judy James
21. Rerides - Brenn Hill
22. Satisfied Hearts - Gary & Jean Prescott
23. Off Their Rockers - Many Strings
24. Runaway Remuda - Ryan Fritz  
Allen & Jill Cowboy Classics - Allen & Jill Kirkham
26. Stockyards Serenade -  
Cowntown Opry Buckaroos
27. Cowboy Life - Donnie Poindexter
28. Tumbleweeds and Old Horses - Rusted Spurs West
29. Silent Trails - 3 Trails West
30. Desert Rose - Carol Markstrom

## TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills -  
Miss Devon & the Outlaw
2. Swing Set - LeeLee Robert
3. Wild West Texas Wind - Carolyn Martin
4. For the Love of Bob - The Swangers
5. Big Deal - Western Swing Authority
6. Swingtown - Cowboy Joe Babcock
7. Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend -  
Tommy Thomson
8. Swing Time, Baby - Steel Horse Swing
9. Off the Beaten Trail - Hot Texas Swing Band
10. Lonestar Dust - Jimmy Burson

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. State of Mind - Greg Hager
2. Soul of the West - Clint Bradley  
Those Cowboys of Old - Donnie Poindexter
4. Blue Bonnet Breeze - LeeLee Robert
5. Cowboy Hall of Fame - Greg Hager
6. Blues on the Trail - Gary Allegretto
7. Pliny Jane - Miss Devon & the Outlaw  
Echoes of the Trail - Donnie Poindexter
9. It's a Cowboy I Will Be - The Cowboy Way
10. Horse Sense - Joni Harms

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Language of the Land - Tom Swearingen
2. The Truth - A.K. Moss
3. Masters, Vol. 3 - Various Artists
4. Masters, Vol. 2 - Various Artists
5. Day Workin' - Mark Munzert
6. I'll Ride Thru It - Deanna Dickinson McCall
7. Cowboy Seasons - Sam DeLeeuw
8. Tales From the Road - Aspen Black  
Saddle Up for Cowboy Poetry - Marleen Bussma  
My Grandfather's Pocket Watch - Alan Chenworth  
Cowboy Recitations - Andy Hedges

\*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](mailto: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:

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

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

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

Janice Brooks  
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Busgaljb@gmail.com

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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](http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3)  
e-mail: [callingallcowboys@hotmail.com](mailto:callingallcowboys@hotmail.com)  
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/  
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show  
[radio.spalding-labs.com](http://radio.spalding-labs.com)  
22470 Rickard Rd., Bend, OR 97702  
541-388-2537

Doug Figgs  
P. O. Box 3, Lemitar, NM 87823  
(505) 440-0979  
[www.dougfiggs.com](http://www.dougfiggs.com)  
<http://www.RioGrandeRadio.com>

Nancy Flagg  
"Cowboy Tracks"  
KDRT 95.7 FM live radio  
and Internet streaming ([www.kdrt.org](http://www.kdrt.org))  
1623 Fifth Street, Davis, CA 95616  
Email: [CowboyTracks2@gmail.com](mailto:CowboyTracks2@gmail.com)  
Website: [Facebook.com/cowboytracks](https://www.facebook.com/cowboytracks)

KWC Ameriana Radio Station  
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez  
avenidagaltzaraborda nº47 2ªA  
20100 renteria  
Guipuzcoa, España  
[miguelbilly56@gmail.com](mailto:miguelbilly56@gmail.com)

Mike Gross  
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Manchester, CT 06040  
"Swingin' West"  
[mike@swinginwest.com](mailto:mike@swinginwest.com)  
[www.swinginwest.com](http://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](http://www.uckfieldfm.co.uk)  
Uckfield FM (in the UK)  
[paul.hazell@uckfieldfm.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:westernswingtime@gmail.com)  
[www.westernswingtime.com](http://www.westernswingtime.com)

Gary Holt  
Campfire Cafe and Saddle Up America  
7040 Highway 231 N  
Bethpage, TN 37022  
[www.equestrianlegacy.net](http://www.equestrianlegacy.net)  
[gih50@live.com](mailto:gih50@live.com)  
615-478-2138

Judy James  
Cowboy Jubilee with Judy James and  
Western Heritage Radio  
PO Box 953  
Weatherford, Texas 76086  
[judy@judyjames.com](mailto:judy@judyjames.com)

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

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KEYA Public Radio  
PO Box 190  
Belcourt, ND 58316  
[jkkeya@utma.com](mailto:jkkeya@utma.com)

Eddy Leverett  
c/o Campfire Productions  
1623 Co. Rd. 820  
Cullman, AL 35057  
Around the Campfire  
WKUL  
[www.wkul.com](http://www.wkul.com)  
[kudzucowboy@hotmail.com](mailto:kudzucowboy@hotmail.com)

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

Butch and Christina Martin  
"Whittler's Corner Show"  
1410 Kubli Road  
Grants Pass, OR 97527  
[Earsradio.com](http://Earsradio.com)  
KSKO Ashland, OR  
[www.KSKQ.org](http://www.KSKQ.org)  
The Dalles, OR, Y102  
KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY  
KSHD 93.4 Shady Cove, OR  
KORV 93.5 Ladeview, OR  
[www.ButchMartinMusic.com](http://www.ButchMartinMusic.com)  
[www.romancingthewest.org](http://www.romancingthewest.org)  
(541) 218-2477

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

Marvin O'Dell  
"Around the Campfire"  
[www.defendersoffreedomradio.com](http://www.defendersoffreedomradio.com)  
KKRN, Redding, CA  
KZNQ, Santa Clarita, CA  
<https://tunein.com/radio/KZNQ-Q-Country-1015-s264146/>  
[www.earsradio.com](http://www.earsradio.com)  
meoteo@aol.com  
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Cell: 970-739-8408  
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KKRN, Redding, CA  
[www.earsradio1.com](http://www.earsradio1.com)

Totsie Slover  
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220 S. Gold Ave.  
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[www.realwestoldwest.com](http://www.realwestoldwest.com)  
[www.demingradio.com](http://www.demingradio.com)  
[Facebook/totsieslover](https://www.facebook.com/totsieslover)

Tommy Tucker  
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93.1 FM/1350 AM KRRC Radio  
805 Stewart Ave.  
Lewiston, ID. 83501  
208-743-1551

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Harvey & Me'lissa Turnbow  
"Keeping Western Music Alive"  
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Christoval, TX 76935  
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325-716-0042  
email: [keepingitwestern@gmail.com](mailto:keepingitwestern@gmail.com)  
KSKC 100.5 FM  
Keeping It Western Show  
[www.sterlingcitycountry.com](http://www.sterlingcitycountry.com)

Wayne & Kathy  
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20 SE 8th Ave., Portland, OR 97214  
[wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net](mailto:wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net)

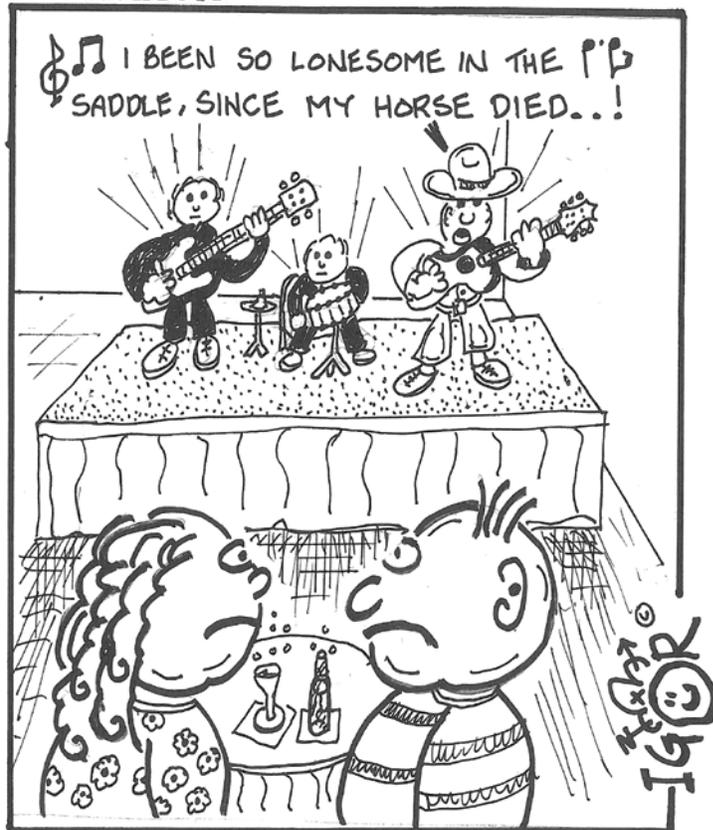
Leonard Werner  
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## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 35*

performance opportunity at the Arizona Folklore Preserve (AFP) near Sierra Vista, AZ. At past annual meetings, Youth members had expressed the desire for more opportunities to connect with each other at other venues besides the annual convention in Albuquerque and to have more opportunities to perform so organizers at the AFP stepped up and created an *IWMA Youth Chapter Showcase* held on June 8-9, 2019. All interested performers had to be a Youth Chapter member in good standing and submit an application package in order to be considered. Performers for this first showcase were Caroline Wiseman (TX), Kacey and Jenna Thunborg (NM), Abby Payne (TX) and Venessa Carpenter (ID). The AFP and Youth Chapter hope this will become an annual event for Youth Chapter members and that more members will be interested in participating in the future. For more information on this showcase go to: <http://arizonafolklore.com/events.php> For more information on the *IWMA Youth Chapter*, please contact Jane Leche, Youth Chapter Coordinator at: [wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com) Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/iwmayouthchapter/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westernmusicYC/>. 🐾

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