

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the Western Music Association



**Crosshairs:**  
*WMA—THE EARLY YEARS*  
**LIZ MASTERSON**

Two Inducted into the  
**WMA Hall of Fame**  
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**2016 WMA CONVENTION  
FULL BROCHURE INSIDE**

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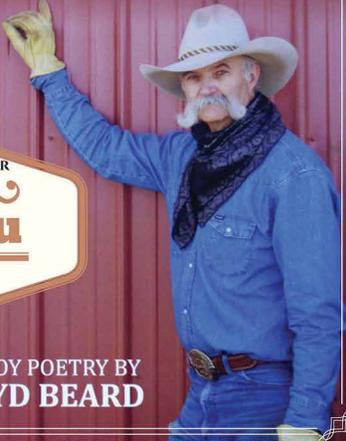
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## From The President...



**Marvin O'Dell**  
WMA Interim President

Somewhere around 15 years ago, a friend told me about the Western Music Association. I thought it was pretty cool at the time that a few folks were joining up for the purpose of preserving cowboy and western music. What I didn't realize at the time was that the membership of the WMA was well over 1,000 members. More than just a few!

I checked into how to join the organization, because I wanted to be a part of this great effort. After all, I grew up listening to Roy Rogers, Rex Allen, Gene Autry, the Sons of the Pioneers, Bob Baker, George Houston, Tex Ritter, and others singing cowboy and western songs

in their films. I don't know why I was so attracted to it - I just was.

Call me naive, but I feel that if young people were brought up today watching the kinds of movies I watched when I was a kid, we would have a much more moral and sound society. The values taught in those films are greatly lacking in today's world and certainly in today's movies. It's as though Roy, Gene, and Hoppy and the others had teamed up with our parents to help them turn out the best future generation that they possibly could.

I am happy to fill in as president of the WMA until a new one can be elected. Steve Taylor and Jon Messenger and those who have served before them have done such wonderful jobs that it will be difficult for the next president to uphold their standards of excellence when it comes to serving. But in the interim that I will be in the president's seat, I will simply be happy to know that, for a short time, I had the privilege of serving the music, the fans, a future generation of young people, and the memory of those who have brought this wonderful music to us over the years. I hope to see you all in November at the Convention in Albuquerque.

**Marvin O'Dell**  
Interim President, WMA



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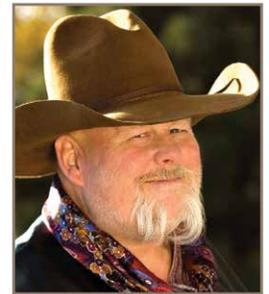
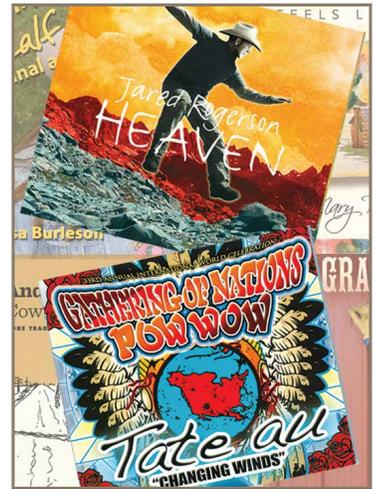
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One of the original founders of the WMA, Liz Masterson, tells her story of song and struggle.

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

## Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell

evaluate their circumstance, their own belief in the mission and purpose, and themselves; they tried to determine whether they should continue on, or was it folly? At the end of that first year, one of the husband's sisters gave the couple a small gift. It was a simple wooden plaque with five words: "The world needs your song." She had no idea the couple was trying to chart a future path, but the little gift helped them make the decision to continue. By year two the schedule was full and continued to remain constant for six years, four LPs and over 100,000 miles.

Once upon a time, long ago and far away, a young couple and their infant son ventured out on a gospel music and speaking journey. Loading their Dodge maxi-van with their worldly goods, their baby, and a Shure sound system, off they went! The first year was a little "rocky" and gigs were scarce on the road. At the end of year one, the couple sat together to

It is no secret we live in uncertain times. Not only are we in the throes of a horrific national election, but there is civil, social and economic unrest in our country and around the world. Trusts have been broken and rights violated. What can we do as individuals? I am only one. Voting is our inalienable right and should be exercised. Reaching out to our neighbors in need and being charitable will always be a way to help. Continuing to write, compose, sing, recite and share our music and verse is calming to both the performer and the listener. Supporting your Western Music Association's mission is positive and never negative. Participating in the annual Convention in just a few short weeks will not only enrich your life through the interaction with friends, but will also be an encouragement to those who come to listen and support what you do. When things become too chaotic, the universal language of music can bring together even the most polar perspectives. It's difficult to speak unkind words when singing or reciting a beautiful song or poem. One great reason that truly "The world [DOES] need your song."

*Postscript: the little plaque continued with the couple for the next 45 years, always finding a place wherever they called home. Only now, in a final move, has the little sign been misplaced. Hopefully, when all the stored boxes have been unpacked, it will resurface and again find its place on the wall. For now, it forever resides in their hearts.* 🐾



## From The Executive Director...



**Marsha Short**  
Executive Director

It's almost time to pack up and head to Albuquerque for the Annual WMA Convention! In this issue, you'll see the full schedule and ticket order/registration form. The Program Committee has selected a great group of entertainers this year, and there will be a few surprises, too. Plan to arrive in time for the Swing Spectacular on Wednesday

night and stay through Cowboy Church Sunday morning... and since you've made it that far, then stay a while longer and join us for the Survivors' Dinner!

None of the performers during the Convention are compensated in any way. This is their opportunity to give back to WMA and the fans who support them all year long. Please be sure you visit the WMA Mercantile and take home a lot of CDs with you. They make great stocking stuffers, gifts for teachers, the mailman, etc. And this is the perfect time to get them autographed to make them even more special!

As always, we're looking for volunteers to donate a couple of hours during the Convention. Volunteers are always needed to take tickets, help attendees find their seats at various events, work in the Mercantile or Consignment Shop or assist at the Registration Desk. If you'd like to help out, you can call or email me and we'll be happy to give you a task!

### WHAT'S WMA DONE FOR ME TODAY?

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

# 2016 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



## **PAT BRADY**

*By Rusty Richards*

I first met Pat Brady while working on a western. He and two other guys were playing “heavies” and they came busting into town on their horses; they were all pretty good horsemen. One of the other guys was Harry Carey Jr. Both Pat and Harry Carey Jr. would one day become my very close friends.

I have so many great memories with Pat. We became close as we traveled all over the U.S., Canada, the Far East and Europe. The fact that Roy Rogers wanted Pat Brady to replace him in the Sons of the Pioneers speaks well of Pat’s talent as a musician and singer, as well as his comedy.

As far as I know, neither Bob Nolan nor Tim Spencer had written any Western comedy songs until after Pat joined the group, but when they saw his great talent, they began writing some wonderful songs specifically for him, and he performed them so very well! World War II took Pat Brady away. He later found himself in the first tank behind General George Patton. He showed me some great pictures that he took of Patton from the turret of his tank. Under heavy fire, that same turret was blown off of Pat’s tank as he served with valor. He wore a scar right up the middle of his forehead for the rest of his life. Pat received citations including the Bronze star and two Purple Hearts while serving in General Patton’s Third Army.

We all remember him, of course, for his comedy. He certainly was a funny guy, but his contributions go way beyond comedy. He had a good voice, and was a stickler for pitch. Fortunately I have been blessed with a good ear for pitch, but when I began with the Sons of the Pioneers I had never sung harmony before and it was Pat who helped me to achieve the skills required to perfect the sound that worked so well with the group. I recall Pat holding his thumb and index finger tightly together and saying; “You’re hearing that note about this much flat.” Since there was no space between his thumb and finger, I was pretty much dead on, but Pat said, “When you hit that note, imagine that you’re standing on a thin piece of paper and it will be perfection.”

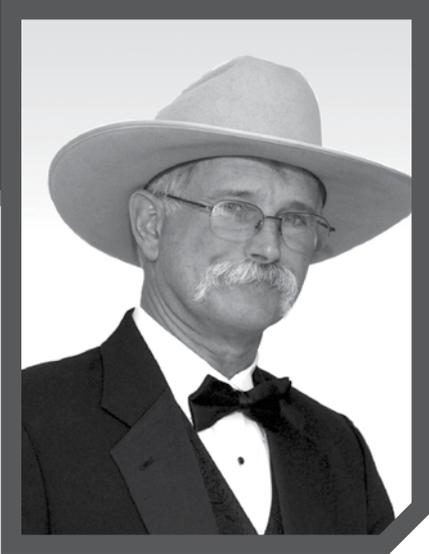
Pat was not only an actor and performer, he was also a cowboy. He rode bareback broncs for a while and, like me, he loved the sport of rodeo. He was really proud of my cowboy background, and of me. Sometimes when I was being featured he would come up to the mic and put his arm on my shoulder and say to the audience, “This is my young’un.” Some people took him seriously and I would occasionally be asked, “Aren’t you Pat Brady’s son?” It felt good that he liked me so much; the feeling was mutual.

Pat played great bass and had a wonderful repertoire of songs that fit his comedy so well. They included such songs as ‘It’s a lie,’ ‘No Good Son Of A Gun,’ ‘Don Juan,’ ‘It Had To Be You,’ ‘Biscuit Blues,’ ‘Bunkhouse Bugle Boy’ and so many others. It was always fun to perform them with him.

It was Dick Goodman (a Western music legend in his own right) and the remarkable, O.J. Sikes, who pointed out to me that the genre is overdue in honoring Pat Brady. Thanks to them and all of you who do so much in this regard, I am grateful. Honoring Pat Brady is a great call. He more than deserves it!



# 2016 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



## DAVE STAMEY

*By Don Cusic*

Dave Stamey has lived the life he sings about. His bio lists cowboy, mule packer and dude wrangler as jobs in his past but singers sing, writers write and entertainers entertain. From his early years, Dave yearned to sing, write and entertain.

Dave was born in Montana and spent his early years on a small ranch (westerners would never call it a farm even when the term “ranch” stretches beyond the acreage) in Shepherd, then moved with his family to central California. California never left Dave so he never left California; he still lives there.

It seems that most western singers who came of age during the 1960s and 1970s have roots planted in rock’n’roll and country music. Dave is no different. In high school and after he had a rock’n’roll band that played a lot of bars. The band added a steel guitar but, like rock and country during that period, covered the spectrum from “Your Cheatin’ Heart” to “Proud Mary.” They covered what was most popular on the radio and what the beer drinking crowds at those little bars wanted to hear while they were dancing.

Those were rough and rowdy places but Dave Stamey is not the rough and rowdy type; there’s too much poetry in his soul. In those little bars, when you don’t like the music, or somebody or nothing in particular, you start a fight. During a gig at an Elks Club one night, a customer pinned Dave to the wall in the bathroom and told him he didn’t like the song selection.

Dave went home, put down his guitar, and didn’t take it up again for ten years. Writers write; that’s just what they do, so that decade was spent writing novels but no publisher was found in the Big Apple.

To be a successful entertainer you either need a great manager or a great wife. Both is preferable but down the road during those ten years Dave married a great wife, Melissa. Dave was leading a group of weekend cowboys on a trail ride into the Sierras when Melissa told him he should take his guitar along. It had been ten years; there no calluses on his fingers. Melissa insisted. Dave took the guitar.

During that trip, Dave sang some songs around the campfire and it struck a light. There would be no more ten year gaps with that guitar. Dave started singing locally, started writing songs and the subjects were western. You write what you know, as they say, and that’s what Dave knew.

You really can’t imagine the future. No cowboy in the 1880s ever imagined driving an air-conditioned pickup truck over to the next ranch while listening to the radio. Sitting around that campfire in the Sierras Dave Stamey never imagined that in the coming years the Western Music Association would name him Entertainer of the Year six times, Male Performer six times, Songwriter of the Year five times or that he would win Will Rogers Awards from the Academy of Western Artists or that True West Magazine would name him “Best Living Western Solo Musician” three times.

Writing songs is like having children; you give it your best shot but they turn how they want to, not necessarily how you thought they should. Dave has been fortunate with his song children; one of his songs, “The Vaquero Song” has been voted one of the greatest western songs of all time by Western Horseman Magazine.

You never get from here to there by a straight line if there’s a long ride in between. Dave has ridden that long, winding trail to the greatest honor a western artists can receive, induction into the Western Music Hall of Fame.





# Penned by Lantern Light

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

## The Investment

by Teresa Burleson

He's a rowdy 6 year old and his mama's pride and joy.  
He looks like his daddy did when he was a little boy.

His hat sits low, atop his ears and the brims a little bent.  
Beneath it are brown eyes, freckled face and a nose that is skint.

His shirt is buttoned to the top like his daddy does.  
There's a trophy buckle at his waist and a pair of leather gloves.

He wears hand-me-down boots with tall tops that are blue.  
His jeans are tucked inside 'em like the other punchers do.

He sure looks like a cowboy and that's what he wants to be.  
But there's much more to him than the clothes that you see.

He's already learning honor and treats his elders with respect.

It's a pride in what he stands for and just what mom expects.

He's not impressed by celebrities who have fortune and fame.  
His daddy is his hero and he proudly shares his name.

He helps with the spring works and again at the fall gather.  
He looks forward to the fun and he's learnin' what matters.

When he's bigger he'll flank 'em, stretch 'em out when they brand.  
For now, he will do what he can and he'll try to make a hand.

Growing up a ranch kid teaches the value of work and play.

His parents watch with pride as he takes up the cowboy way.

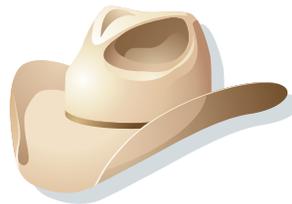
They know you have to let 'em try and let 'em have a turn,  
And if you don't take 'em with you they will never learn.

He is cherished with a gentle love that is kind and firm,  
And when needed, disciplined with a hand that is stern.

This little boy is an investment in a heritage and tradition.  
To teach a child the way to go is a God-given commission.

Now, he may choose a different path than the one his parents sought,  
But he'll always have the ethics and the values he's been taught.

Right now, he is only 6 years old but one day he'll understand,  
It's aint about being a cowboy, it's about being a good man. 



Teresa Burleson is an award winning cowgirl poet whose poems are inspired by her personal experiences, her heritage and the Western way of life. She has an appreciation for the agricultural industries and the people who make their lives in it. Teresa's zest for life is evident in her poetry as well as her ability to make people laugh and touch their lives. With a clear, soft Texas drawl and a voice that Waddie Mitchell once declared was "like silk", her poetry is beautiful, soulful and aimed straight for the western heart or the funny bone, as she tells of drought, rain, faith, legacy, horses, calving, and all the joys and hazards in life. Teresa and her husband Bobby, a bit and spur maker, live on a small ranch outside of Weatherford, Texas. She released her third CD, *The Calf Book* in July 2016 and nominated for Female Poet of the Year with the Western Music Association (WMA) in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013. In 2010 she was awarded the Cowgirl Poet of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists.

# In the **CROSSHAIRS**

## Liz Masterson



interested people! I served on the Board for six years, and it was quite a time!

**TWW: You would encourage western music performers and songwriters to join the WMA for what reason or reasons?**

Liz: The friendships that I've made in the WMA have been among my greatest treasures. I've done collaborations and/or gigs with so many fine performers I've met in the WMA. We share ideas about songs, venues, music business and so on. Not to mention, have a lot of good times, too!

**TWW: Do you mind telling us about your years of performing with Sean Blackburn? What made him so comfortable and enjoyable to work with?**

Liz: Sean Blackburn and I met in 1988 when I was just beginning my first album, *Swingtime Cowgirl*. I was in search of a guitarist and producer. He had just moved to Colorado and was looking for projects. I already had one of his vinyl albums and loved his voice, and approach to music. The chemistry between us was very powerful, the timber of our voices created a unique blend. Trading lead and harmony parts was fun. He was a master swing guitarist, and one of the most soulful players I've ever known. His comedic timing was uncanny, and I became the "straight man" which gave us an interesting dynamic. He joked that our comedy routines were inspired by "Lucy and Desi", but he was LUCY! Plus, his skill as a trick roper, combined with hilarious patter, made him a very versatile partner. But we could also pull at the heartstrings and bring grown men to tears with ballads. And we both loved so many kinds of great

**The Western Way: We are visiting today with one of the founders of the Western Music Association, Ms. Liz Masterson. Liz you are practically an icon in western music. We appreciate you taking the time to talk with us.**

Liz: My pleasure!

**TWW: So - could you tell our readers what got you interested in western music?**

Liz: I grew up in Colorado and Texas, and my grandparents were from Wyoming. I've loved Western music since I was a kid. When I was in music class in Jr. High, and was called on to choose a song, I remember my classmates groan, as I ALWAYS chose "Streets of Laredo." I didn't care then if I wasn't following the trend and still I don't!

**TWW: And how did it come about that you were a part of the WMA at the very beginning?**

Liz: In early summer of 1988, I got a call from Bill Wiley who said he was trying to round up as many western performers as possible. His plan was for all of us to meet up in Las Vegas (on our own nickel) and see what would happen. When I heard Riders in the Sky and Rex Allen Sr. would be there, I rescheduled a week long gig and headed west! We all had so much fun playing together that weekend that by Sunday, the die-hards like me, sat down and decided to try to form an association! The decision to head to Tucson was easy because the Chuckwagon Association had their annual convention there in November and we would already have a bunch of

*Continued on page 34*



# FROM the TRAIL

## EASY MARKETING OPPORTUNITY

BY ROGER RINGER – WMA KANSAS VP



As an artist you know that the fundamentals of your performance and presentation are what builds your immediate fan base. The fact that in our music there is no ‘label’ support or marketing. leaves you wearing all the hats. If,

like me, you find yourself in a position of not being able to book dates and take the stage should not deter you from still marketing the music. Also if a fan and you want to share the great people and music with others, there are ways of participating in making Western and Cowboy music and poetry better known.

The simple thing that all of us can do no matter what the circumstance, is to distribute *the Western Way* every place we go. I find myself in a lot of waiting rooms and all have piles of magazines laying there for people to read while spending time “waiting.” You will find some offices that put out their own magazines and reading materials, but many are put there by patrons of that particular business.

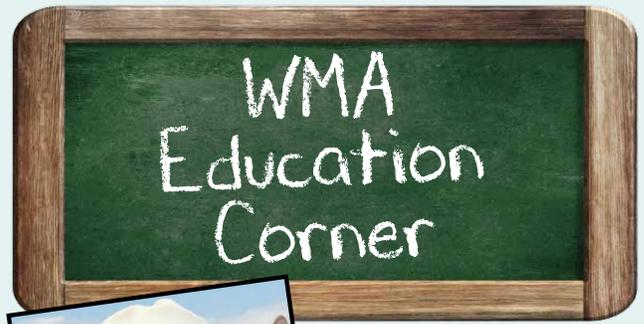
Marsha Short, Executive Director, sends me a box of *The Western Way* on each issue when published. When I am in waiting rooms I leave at least three or four copies. This can be the doctors, dentist, clinic, car service department, or any place that has reading material. I also take several copies to the feed store in town for customers to take home a copy.

As Marsha stated to me, “we have found that complimentary issues are a great way to increase our fan base and often get new subscribers to the magazine who may not even know about the WMA.” *The Western Way* is not only a great vehicle to others in the industry, but a great way to reach out to that new audience that does not get exposure from standard TV and radio.

I have found very few artists who have not had the experience, at almost every show, of meeting someone there who is not familiar with our style; they discover that they love it. Many older fans tell me that this is the music “I always loved but have forgotten,” because they are told that something else is their favorite.

Wearing all the hats of music selection, practice, scheduling, travel, clothing, and the list goes on, is difficult. That is why the big acts in other genre have support behind them. Carrying and giving *The Western Way* is an easy, almost unconscious, way to promote yourself and the style of entertainment we love.

Contact Marsha Short and have her get you on the list to receive a box of *Western Ways* with each issue. This is a way that everyone can do their part to further the WMA mission whether artist, supporter, or fan. 🐾



By Judy James

## Teaching Moments!

Performers: How did you learn your craft? Are you “self-taught;” did you attend music classes; did you take private lessons; or attend a summer camp or workshop? Most can answer yes to all or some of those questions. What opportunities are available to the youth of today? By the time you get the next edition of the *Western Way*, it will be time to start planning your summer. I encourage each of us to look at the opportunities available for our youth. Are there camps or workshops in your area? These are costly, although well worth the money. How can you help? The answer is obvious, to me – identify young people who want to improve and help them with a full or partial scholarship. There are state WMA chapters and many other organizations that offer these. If your area or chapter doesn’t have a similar program, I encourage you to seek these out, work together to provide an opportunity for the next generation of Western performers. Remember the first line of the WMA Purpose – “The Western Music Association and its chapters foster the professional growth of individual performing members.”

See you in Albuquerque!

Judy — Keeping Our Western Heritage ALIVE! 🐾

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

# Chapter Update



## ARIZONA CHAPTER

**President: Yvonne Mayer**  
**steidl-mayer@msn.com**

The Arizona Chapter does not hold meetings during the summer, but we have been busy! This chapter, along with Monterey Court, has featured a fund-raising Western Music Night the last Wednesday of every month. Audiences have been growing, and we will continue the event throughout the coming year. A special thank you to Glenda Larson and Gene and Nan Crandall who helped at the information table at the Prescott Cowboy Poets Gathering August 11-13. Not only did we hear stellar entertainment, but enjoyed meeting fans of Western music and providing them with information about the WMA and its mission. The Café in Sonoita was the scene for a farewell to Joel Eliot on August 24. Joel is moving to Hawaii, where he will wrangle horses at a beach ranch/resort. A hui hou, Joel! Bill Ganz will perform at a chapter fund-raiser at the



American Legion in Green Valley on Oct 2, beginning at 3 PM. The chapter participated in the annual Tucson Meet Yourself, a 3-day celebration of the Tucson community held Oct. 7-9, and hosted a series of Western performers. Johnny Bencomo has been selected to perform on the Presidio Park Stage on Oct 9. Then on October 18, performers Carol Markstrom, Sherry Walker, Janice

Deardorff and Nancy Elliott will present "Songs of the West by Today's Women of the West." The event will be held at Monterey Court, Tucson, and will feature the stories of western women, told in music.

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

**Vice-President: Steve Justus**  
**sjustusCA@gmail.com**

Howdy to all from way out West in California! We are lucky to have Bobbi Jean and Jim Bell and their OutWest Concert Series right in our backyard! The Concert Series is co-sponsored by the WMACC. Since our last update we have been entertained by Tom Hiatt, Jerry Hall and Trickshot (Jerry Hall, Ed Hughes, Randy Fowler), and for the month of August, The Storyteller concerts with Joe Herrington and Juni Fisher. You can watch and enjoy any of these great programs as well at [www.scvtvoutwest.com](http://www.scvtvoutwest.com). Our monthly Western Music Showcase series at the Autry Museum of the American West continues to grow. The Museum has supported the WMACC with advertising in its publications as well as signage on the day of the Showcase and we appreciate that support very much. In August we moved to the Wells Fargo Theater for a day and what a special time that created. We had 21 performers and at one point over 80 folks in the audience. If you would like to join us, the Showcase is scheduled for the third Sunday of each month. Our members Joe Herrington and Cindy Quigley were recently honored with a Creed Award from the OutWest Boutique and Cultural Center. Congratulations to both! A recent event was truly special for all of us in the Chapter. On Saturday, August 27, the Chapter held a going away party for our President, Gency Brown. As many of you know, Gency will be relocating to Albuquerque, NM. There is no way we could let her go without a sendoff where we could express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her accomplishments as well as her dedication to the Chapter and goals of the WMA. Gency has served as our

President for the last 5 years and 1 year as our Vice President. We also wanted to celebrate her new opportunities and the new chapters in her life and we did so with lots of music. John Bergstrom emceed the program that included



performances by Tom Corbett, Joyce Woodson, Igor Glenn from Arizona, John Bergstrom, Sharone Rosen, Megan Taylor, Rev Lee Poepping, Buck Corbett, VenitaKorda, Roxanne Cole, John Keller, Ron Christensen, and, of course, Gency. David Anderson, President of the Cowboy Social Club, made a donation to the Chapter in Gency's name. We hope to use those funds to further our efforts in programs that are special to Gency. Jack Hummel presented the plaque of our appreciation and John Bergstrom presented the gift



from the Chapter. On a more personal note, we will miss regularly hearing her wonderful voice whether it be solo or harmonizing with other performers. We wish her

all the best going forward!

## COLORADO CHAPTER

**President: Floyd Beard**  
**febeard@yahoo.com**

The Colorado Chapter has enjoyed a very busy summer so far. For the second year in a row, WMA-CO has been holding a series of showcases where our chapter members have the opportunity to show the public our brand of Western music and cowboy poetry. As reported in our last update, our first showcase for 2016 was held in April in

*Continued on page 14*

# Chapter Update

Continued from page 13

cooperation with The Colorado Classic Horse Show at the Events Center of the National Western Complex in Denver and the second showcase took place at the Chief Theater in Steamboat Springs in July. The third showcase was held at the Grange Hall in Florissant in August. Guest performers included our hosts at the Grange, Alan and Renee Caldwell and WMA member Mae Camp. This was our second year at the Grange Hall and we hope there will be many more to come. The Colorado Chapter held its second annual Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering (PPCG) this year in Cripple Creek in September. Performers for the PPCG included Floyd Beard, Tom and Donna Hatton, Susie Knight, Doc Mehl, Mike Moutoux, Terry Nash, Dale Page, Jimmy Lee Robbins, Dennis Russell, J. J. Steele and The Yampa Valley Boys. The Colorado Chapter presented its second annual Top Hand Award at the PPCG. On a somewhat sad note, we regret to report that our Chapter President, Floyd Beard has decided not to serve as a chapter officer in 2017. We are sad to see Floyd leave office, but he and his wife Valerie have taken on some very demanding work responsibilities of late and no longer have the luxury of donating so much time to our organization. We are, however, very proud of the progress that the Colorado Chapter has made during Floyd's tenure as President. We wish Floyd and Valerie all the best and look forward to their continued participation as chapter members in WMA-CO.

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

**President: Lauralee Northcott**

**[lauralee@horsecrazycowgirlband.com](mailto:lauralee@horsecrazycowgirlband.com)**

Columbia chapter members are scattered far and wide bringing "The Western Way" in poetry and music to anyone who will listen. From Lisa Hanson of The Hanson Family's new video "Star Spangled Courage" to Tom Swearingen's Playa Fellowship Poetry Residency, not to mention all the crazy touring going on, there is just too much to report. So, here are a couple of highlights. President Lauralee Northcott brought the message to scenic Winthrop, Washington in May



Lauralee Northcott photobombs The Panhandle Cowboys aka Dave Fuls and JB Barber. '49er Days, Winthrop, Washington. Photo by Lynn Kopelke

when she and other chapter members performed for the annual '49er Days celebration. In July, National Day of the Cowboy found members circling the wagons around Vice President Duane Nelson at a celebration in The Dalles, Oregon. The aforementioned



Duane Nelson and his hat at The Dalles, Oregon Coastal Farm and Ranch store, National Day of the Cowboy. Photo by Lynn Kopelke

Mr. Swearingen also hosted a chapter event just up the Columbia River in the Portland, Oregon area. Well folks, we'd



Tom Swearingen surrounded by "Notable Exceptions" Jennifer Epps and Judy Coder. Photo by Mary Gruen

best get back to it. Keep a deep seat and hope to see you down the trail!

## EAST COAST CHAPTER

**President: Aspen Black**

**[aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com](mailto:aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com)**

The WMAECC is still busy looking into options for a chapter sponsored event or festival. Currently on the table is a venue in Cumberland, MD, with negotiations spearheaded by Tom Hawk, and the possibility of teaming with a startup festival in GA, introduced to us by Cindy Smith, with production efforts led by Kerry Grombacher. Tentatively, one of these events will take place in

the summer of 2017. Otherwise, chapter members have been busy, individually bringing western music and poetry in front of new audiences. Carol Markstrom along with Jim Jones and Doug Figgs recently completed a music tour in Alaska under the name Western Attitude. Their Western tunes were enjoyed by audiences from Homer to Kenai to Seward. Rob McNurlin was the Guest Master Artist at the Augusta Heritage Country Music Week at Davis Elkins College in Elkins WV. Aspen Black



Doug Figgs, Carol Markstrom, Jim Jones in Alaska

received three finalist nominations for 2016 WMA Female Poet, Poetry CD, and Poetry Book of the Year, and Cindy Smith's production company began negotiations with a movie company for an upcoming western film. Things are happening and western music is alive in the East.

## KANSAS CHAPTER

**President: Jeff Davidson**

**[jdavidso@KSU.edu](mailto:jdavidso@KSU.edu)**

For the second year, WMA-KS led the "Western Night Jam" at the Emma Chase Friday night jam session in Cottonwood Falls. The Friday night jam session meets each Friday night, and normally rotates between bluegrass, gospel, country and old time rock and roll music. But when there is a fifth Friday in the month, other genres are featured and in July it was Western Music. A good crowd filled the main



Performers at Cottonwood Falls

## Chapter Update

Continued from page 14



street of Cottonwood Falls to hear many western standards as well as some new music. Members attending included: Ed LeValley, Ron Hutchison, Orin Friesen, Ranger Stan Greer, Ron Wilson, Jim Farrell, Sharon and Chester Chesmore, Annie Wilson, Roy Pethel, George Erwin and Jeff Davidson. Chapter members have been rehearsing as they will be participating in the *Trails, Rails and Tales* event at Abilene during the Labor Day weekend. Abilene was the first of the destination cowtowns at the end of the Chisholm Trail. Cattle began coming up the trail in 1867, and this event kicks off a year of celebrating as Abilene commemorates 150 years since the Chisholm Trail began taking cattle to Kansas railheads, and ultimately, to consumers in the East. WMA-KS performers will entertain with both individual sets and also as a group with a Saturday evening performance. Members involved with the two-day event include Three Trails West, Diamond W, Ron Wilson, David Smart, Barry Ward, Del Shields, Geff Dawson, Ed Levalley, Annie Wilson, Sharon and Chester Chesmore and Jeff Davidson.

### NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

**President: James Michael**  
**mhosea@zianet.com**

The New Mexico Chapter has been very busy this year bringing Western music and cowboy poetry to New Mexicans. As reported in the previous edition of *Western Way*, we held our first concert of the 2016 New Mexico Summer Concert Series in May at the Rio Bravo Brewing Company (RBBC) in Albuquerque. The second concert in the series, featuring NM Chapter member and multiple WMA award winner Mikki Daniel, was held at the RBBC in June.

Mikki put on a great show, much to the delight of all in attendance. Our third show in the series was the third-annual Horses for Heroes benefit concert. It was held at the RBBC in July and featured R. W. Hampton, Randy Huston, Cowboy Way (Jim Jones, Doug Figgs and Mariam Funke) and Tumbleweeds (Byron Ripley). Horses For Heroes is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for veterans of the United States military to adjust to life at home after experiencing the trauma of war, and the NM Chapter is proud to be able to donate our efforts to such a noble and worthwhile cause. Our fourth concert in the series was held in August at the RBBC. This concert featured NM Chapter members, Cowboy Way who put on an excellent performance. The weather was uncooperative but the fine folks at the RBBC allowed us to use their indoor venue and the resulting performance was outstanding. The September concert was the first of our Summer Series to take place outside the Albuquerque area. It was held at McGee Park in Farmington, NM in September and featured NM Chapter members James Michael and Call of the West (Jeanne Cahill and Jerome Campbell). In June, the third annual Western Youth Day Concert was held on the Plaza in Old Town, Albuquerque. The concert featured The Anslovers (NM State Champion Fiddler Emily, bassist Jamie and guitarist John); 2015 NMFFA Entertainer of the Year, Austin Van; 2015 WMA Crescendo Award winner Hailey Sandoz and multiple WMA and AWA award winner Mikki Daniel. These young entertainers did an outstanding job of keeping the audience of about 500 listening, dancing, tapping their toes and singing along for the entire afternoon. Chapter Secretary, Joy Burns, organized an activities tent for kids where they were able to make their own Western souvenirs of the event. There were also leather crafters, spinners and weavers and a New Mexico author who provided displays and added to the festivities. In addition, the New Mexico Gunfighters Association thrilled the audience with a mock gun fight. It was truly a spectacular affair. As always, our chapter continues to hold an open-mic/jam session at The Blue Grasshopper (our first official WMA-NM venue) on the first and third

Mondays of each month. If you happen to be in Albuquerque on one of those Mondays, please be sure to stop by the Blue Grasshopper for some fine Western entertainment. Naming them all would require more space than available, but I would like to close by thanking all the hard-working members of the New Mexico Chapter who have made these wonderful events possible.

### OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

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

The annual National Harvest & Cowboy Festival at Branson, MO's Silver Dollar City featured Kristyn Harris and the Swing Sisters (Brook Wallace and Oklahoma's Jeanne Cahill) again this year. The Oklahoma Chapter held its first annual "It's not Country ... it's Western" gathering in Pryor, OK, in July ... performers included Francine Roark Robison, Jerome Campbell of Call of the West, Donnie Poindexter & Steeldust, A Little Farther West, and Scott & Leigh Ann Matthews. Scott & Leigh Ann

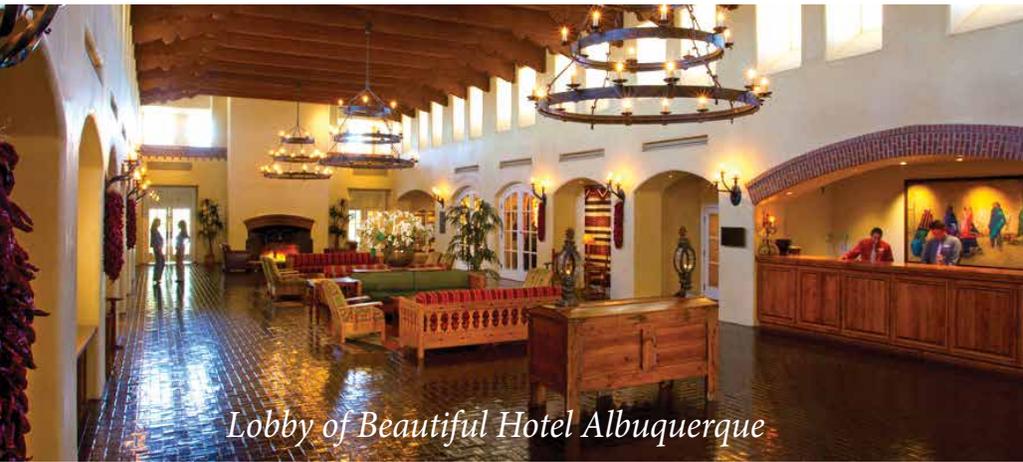


also appeared in July at Cheyenne (WY) Frontier Days at the new Sidewinder Saloon outdoor stage hosted by Michael Martin Murphey. They teamed up with their daughter Lindsey Matthews Ison and Scott's brother Tim to present the National Anthem at the annual Dirteater's PBR Team Roping in August at Inola, benefitting Make-A-Wish and the Cowboy Crisis Fund. Claremore, OK's Will Rogers Downs held their Swing Festival in September. Hot Club of Cowtown appeared at Guthrie, OK's 20th Annual Oklahoma International

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# CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

By Samantha Meyer Gallegos



Lobby of Beautiful Hotel Albuquerque

It's nearly that time again—time for music, poetry, fun, and even more music! The 2016 Western Music Association Convention is so close we can hear the guitars tuning now. This year promises to be a special one—we have quite a lineup of workshops with the most relevant information presented by some of our most well-known and well-respected members, exciting evenings featuring spectacular performers, and of course, our star-studded awards ceremony!

Here are the workshops we're looking forward to this year:

- **Write Better, Write Well**

Whether writing music or writing prose, tapping into your creativity and producing a piece of which you are proud can be difficult—it's something every writer faces. In this workshop, Jim Jones and Kerry Grombacher share experience gained over many years to help you through the process of creation. Jim Jones is a multi-award winning songwriter, performer, and author of multiple novels, the latest of which will be published at the end of November. Kerry Grombacher, a prolific songwriter and performer, has been an editor and first reader for many years. He and Jim will guide you through the creative and brainstorming processes and show you how to separate them from the editing process so you don't create road blocks that bring your creativity to a standstill. They will also include tips on creating and developing your ideas into something unique, even if the topic seems exhausted.

This workshop is perfect for anyone new to the creative process, whether songwriting or creative writing, but even experienced hands can, as Jim Jones puts it, "get some little pearls of wisdom out of it as well."

- **BMI, ASCAP & YOU: Performers' Rights Organizations**

In this workshop, Kerry Grombacher once again shares his knowledge, this time with members who want to know about their rights as performers, about the Performing Rights Organizations (PROs), and how the rights and organizations interact with the Western Music genre. This workshop will be a panel discussion featuring representatives from BMI and ASCAP, the International Folk Alliance, and the Western Music Association. Topics covered will include licensing fees for venues and festivals as well as the importance of the fees and where the money goes. Also covered will be the blanket fees the WMA pays to ASCAP for national and chapter events and Folk Alliance's successful negotiations with both PROs to exempt house

concerts from PRO scrutiny. A Q&A session will follow with the panel.

In Kerry Grombacher's words, "this workshop is a must for every songwriter and for every concert and festival promoter".

- **Music Arranging**

To compose and arrange music, you need to know the nuts and bolts. Premier Western Swing artist Alex Dormont of the Hot Texas Swing Band, our own "hero of Western Swing", will cover all the basics of arranging music. Skills to be covered include song form structures such as verses and bridges, harmonizing choices for vocals and instruments including two part and three part, and creating chord charts and music notation charts by hand and digitally.

If you write music, whether you're new to arranging or just want a refresher on the basics, this workshop is perfect for you.

- **Coffee with the DJs**

Do you have burning questions about getting your music on the radio? What makes your album more likely to be played? Is it packaging? Sound? Production? Song length? You can ask these, and other questions, at the workshop "Coffee with the DJs", facilitated by our very own interim president, DJ, recording artist and *The Western Way* contributor Marvin O'Dell. The workshop panel will include well-known DJs Tommy Tucker, Barbara Richhart, Judy James, Totsie Slover, Jarle Kvale, Peter Bruce, and others.

If you have recorded an album this past year, or are planning to release one soon, this helpful workshop is for you!

You can visit the Western Music Association website at [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org) for more information and to reserve your space in our workshops!

### Spectacular Shows for Special Evenings

In addition to our wonderful workshops, we have two spectacular dinner shows planned. Our annual Crisis Fund Dinner to raise money to help WMA members in times of genuine crisis will feature Joni Harms, who is graciously donating her time and talent for this worthy cause.

2016 is the inaugural year for our Swing Spectacular Dance and Dessert which takes the place of the Chuck Wagon Dinner. Our incredible performers will include 3 TRAILS WEST, Syd Masters & the Swing Riders, and The Hot Texas Swing Band. With such an incredible line up, you won't be able to help but have a wonderful time!

## Something New: A Change in Venue and Fun to be Had

We've also had a change in venue—this year, the 2016 Western Music Association Convention will be held at the beautiful Hotel Albuquerque! Decorated gracefully in colonial New Mexican style, Hotel Albuquerque is located on Rio Grande Avenue, just off I-40, and steps away from historic Old Town Albuquerque.

While you'll no doubt have a very full schedule during the Convention, should you want to venture into the Duke City or beyond, Hotel Albuquerque is only a block away from Old Town—no car required. The ABQ Trolley Company's brand new tour, Not Your Father's Santa Fe Tour, also leaves directly from Hotel Albuquerque. Full of fun, this all-inclusive excursion leaves for a full-day trip to lesser-known destinations in Santa Fe. Many of the Trolley Company's other fantastic tours of Albuquerque (including their well-known Breaking Bad tour) are full of interesting facts and fun and leave from the Old Town plaza.

The Hotel Albuquerque itself offers a number of special activities and amenities you'll only find in the Land of Enchantment,

including well-loved New Mexican restaurant Garduños. Hotel Albuquerque is also home to an authentic flamenco tablao where you can take in professional flamenco shows presented by the National Institute of Flamenco while dining on authentic Sevilla tapas created by the world-renowned chef behind Santa Fe's Coyote Café.

For more information or for reservations, you can contact Hotel Albuquerque at 505.843.6300 or visit their website at [www.hotelabq.com](http://www.hotelabq.com). Be sure to ask for our WMA Convention 2016 rate of \$109!

For more information on Old Town Albuquerque or The ABQ Trolley Company, visit their websites at <http://www.albuquerqueoldtown.com/> and <http://www.abqtrolley.com/>.

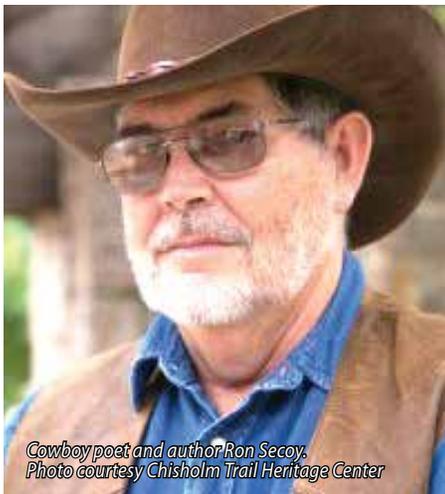
Now is the time to get your tickets for the Convention workshops and dinners on our website, [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org)—we sold out last year, so don't wait!

We can't wait to see you at this year's Western Music Association Convention! 

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 15*

Bluegrass Festival at Cottonwood Flats (Sep 30-Oct 1) campground where OK Chapter's own Cowboy Jim Garling also performed throughout the festival week. Jim is slated to perform at Ponca City, OK's Gospel Jubilee on Oct. 22. Cowboy poet and author Ron Secoy released his third book of cowboy poetry in October, "Cowboy at Heart/ Tales of the Trail." Ron appears Oct. 8 at Cache, OK's Fall Fest and Nov. 18 at the annual "Campfire, Cattle, and Cowboys



*Cowboy poet and author Ron Secoy.  
Photo courtesy Chisholm Trail Heritage Center*

Gathering" in Duncan, OK. Francine Roark Robison performed at the National Cowboy Symposium in Lubbock, TX Sept. 9-10 and will also appear at the Chisholm Trail Festival in Duncan on November 18. The Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum (Ardmore, OK area)

celebrated Gene Autry's 109th Birthday Party on Sept. 25. The OK Chapter provided the afternoon cowboy music and poetry entertainment and also held our 2016 Annual Meeting following the event. Featured performers included Donnie Poindexter & Steeldust, Ron Secoy, Scott & Leigh Ann Matthews, Ken Howry, Francine Roark Robison, Dan Williams, and A Little Farther West. Mountain View, AR's Ozark Folk Center features Suzy Bogguss on Oct. 1 and Don Edwards on Oct. 8. Oklahoma City, OK's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum presents Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas show on Dec. 16.

### YOUTH CHAPTER

**Youth Coordinator: Jane Leche,**  
[rangerjane@rocketmail.com](mailto:rangerjane@rocketmail.com)

The Youth Chapter welcomed several new members this year and we hope to have a big turnout of young people at the 2016 WMA convention in November. Youth Chapter member and American Idol contestant, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, promises to be at the Convention over the weekend and we look forward to seeing her again and hearing first hand about her adventures in Hollywood! Also, congratulations to Abigayle Payne for receiving the first Young Performers Education Scholarship to help her continue her education in performance and playing the bass. Interested in learning more about the WMA Youth Chapter? More information can be found at [westernmusic.org/youth-chapter](http://westernmusic.org/youth-chapter) or by contacting

Jane Leche, Youth Chapter Coordinator, at [rangerjane@rocketmail.com](mailto:rangerjane@rocketmail.com). Happy trails!

### WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER President: Geoff "Poppa Mac" Mackay [poppamac@hotmail.com](mailto:poppamac@hotmail.com)

The Western Wordsmiths Chapter is here to: "To produce, promote and preserve the Tales, Stories, and Poems of Western Culture in Written or oral form." We want to start off by congratulating all the members who are nominated for WMA awards. Good luck to each of you. Well it's almost the fall season, even though the temperatures in many places may say otherwise. Been great to see so many WMA members, especially Wordsmiths members, performing at the wide variety of events and gatherings. That being said remember the National Convention in Albuquerque is coming up fast. I suggest if you're planning on attending, make your reservations now. With the Convention comes Chapter elections. For anyone interested in serving as an officer in the Chapter, please forward your name and a little of your political platform to me as soon as possible. Proxy forms will be sent out in October. We will include instructions with the forms. For questions, contact Geoff Mackay at the above email. Once again, I ask that if any Wordsmith member would like their poem considered for publication in the "Penned By Lantern Light" column in the *Western Way*, please send your poem, a picture and bio to me. "Rhyme iffen you can't reason." 

# WRAPPIN' IT UP

## ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING, PRESCOTT, AZ

by Yvonne Mayer

"A window into the world of the working cowboy" announced Gathering President, Joe Konkell, describing the Gathering's purpose in promoting western culture in poetry, music and art. The opening ceremonies ushered in the 29th year of the Gathering; the 3-day event was held on the Yavapai College Campus.

Evening performance entertainers featured multi-award winners Jim Jones, (Thursday) Mary Kay, (Friday) and R.W. Hampton (Saturday). Over 84 day-time performances were scheduled throughout the campus. Many fans attend year after year, looking forward to hearing their favorite entertainers and meeting new ones. This year the audience was treated to several new acts, featuring young performers. The Fiddling Duo (Jordan Brambila and Bix Glidden) were a crowd favorite at all three evening performances. They have won the Bob Wills Twin Fiddle Contest for the past

three years. R.W. Hampton's son, Calvin performed at daytime sessions with R.W. and Mary Kay's daughters, Sophia and Emelia performed with her.

For several years Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering has featured a local ranch family, presenting their history. This year's honorees were the Neshem Family. The Neshams have been ranching in Arizona since 1962. The Gail I. Gardner Award for cowboy poetry was presented to Gary Kirkman. Gail Gardner was a local cowboy poet, best remembered for his "The Sierr Petes (or 'Tyin Knots in the Devil's Tail'). Each year 4th grade students from area schools are invited to write a cowboy poem and winners present their poems on stage during the evening performances.

Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering is an event to look forward to each year, and next year, will celebrate its 30th year!



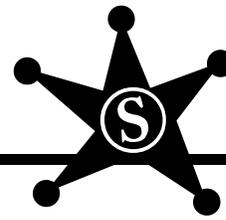
## FEELS LIKE HOME

a new EP from *Mary Beth Cross*

MARY BETH CROSS BAND

providing Acoustic Americana Music for all occasions

[www.marybethcross.com](http://www.marybethcross.com)



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

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

Something may be creeping up on us that is giving some of us the creeps. It's on our WMA stages and it seems to have happened in stages. But enough cute turns of phrase. As the jeweler said of the broken watch "we've got a problem on our hands." Okay, that's the last.

Some years ago I spoke with Don Edwards on the subject of Country Music and Western Music and the differences between them. At the time he said "It always used to be 'Country/Western.' There's no reason you can't like both!" He's right, of course. But the statement does make the assumption that a listener will know the difference between the two genres, or be shown it.

Back when Michael Martin Murphey was holding his Westfest shows, Don Edwards was one of the acts he loved to feature. But Murph purposely would have him open for a prominent Country act. In one case I recall it was Alan Jackson. As Murphey explained it, the thinking was to get a bigger crowd for Don to play for (and sell merchandise to). Don was never happier to oblige. But being the historian and preservationist that Don is, into the chatter he would always work the story, the differences and the significance of the material he did. There's no argument there. But word is coming to us, and I have personally observed it happening, that some of our WMA stages are letting other musical genres appear without clarification for the audience. For those of us who have worked long and hard to establish the Western identity for the two generations that have come up since Western was a household word, it's a seriously damaging setback.

Look at the top of this column, if you will. You may recall a while back we sought to establish, through trial and error, a definition that can provide the answer for people who ask "what is Western" or "what's the difference between Western and Country." Please remember the WMA mission statement clearly charges us with promoting the music, literature, the history of the culture and values of the Cowboy. While we certainly want to encourage other artists to come and experience our music genre, we have an active obligation to see to it that it is announced to audiences when the song is Country, or Blues, or Folk...and that the songs that fit those genres are the exception to what is played, not the rule. Other artists need to be playing more of our music on our stages!!

Recently there was a young fellow on one WMA sanctioned stage who was encouraged to come and perform due to his obvious talent and enthusiasm. We want to encourage such participation. But his entire song list is Classic Country. There has been no substantive attempt that I am aware of to get him to work up appropriate material, nor has there been a significant effort to clarify for the audiences that his repertoire is not our repertoire. I attempted to furnish for him a song list that I will share with you later in this column, and was met with resistance. Apparently there are those among us who see no problem. I see a major one.

Until such time as the public can discern as easily what is Western as they currently do Rock, Country, Folk, Blues, Jazz, Classical, Dixieland, Soul...you name it...we have work to do that is being harmed by casual attitudes toward "purity" of Western on our

stages. Someone even said to me "Western can't hold an audience on its own!!!" If that's true, why are we even bothering? How could rodeos have featured only Western music at one time? Back in Rex Allen's day, a performer would have been lynched trying a genre other than Western at a rodeo!!

I'm going to offer a list of songs for new recruits from Country into Western to consider. Each one of them was a Country chart hit, but all can be defended as having Western content or imagery:

Amarillo By Morning - George Strait  
Desperado - The Eagles (and others)  
Cross The Brazos At Waco - Billy Walker  
This Cowboy's Hat - Porter Wagoner  
Bandy The Rodeo Clown - Moe Bandy  
Whatcha Gonna Do With A Cowboy -  
Garth Brooks & Chris LeDoux  
El Paso - Marty Robbins  
Ace In The Hole - George Strait (Western Swing by genre)  
The Gambler - Kenny Rogers  
Poncho & Lefty - Willy Nelson  
Red Headed Stranger - Willy Nelson  
Let The Cowboy Dance - Michael Martin Murphey  
The Cowboy Rides Away - George Strait  
Tall Dark Stranger - Buck Owens  
Desperados Waiting For A Train - Guy Clark  
Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys -  
Ed Bruce, Willie Nelson (and others)  
My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys - Willie Nelson,  
Waylon Jennings (& others)  
Rhinestone Cowboy - Glen Campbell (and others)  
Y'all Come Back Saloon - Oak Ridge Boys  
The Last Cowboy Song - Ed Bruce, Waylon, Willie & Billy Joe Shaver  
Big Iron - Marty Robbins  
Everything That Glitters (Is Not Gold) - Dan Seals  
Drifter - Sylvia  
Tumbleweed - Sylvia (adaptable to male vocal)  
Rodeo - Garth Brooks  
The Man In The Big Hat - Jerry Jeff Walker  
Ponies - Michael Johnson  
God Must Be A Cowboy At Heart - Dan Seals  
Desperado Love - Conway Twitty  
That's The Way A Cowboy Rocks & Rolls - Jacky Ward  
The Last Gunfighter Ballad - Johnny Cash  
She Came From Fort Worth - Kathy Mattea  
Cowtown - Webb Pierce  
Western Girls - Marty Stuart  
(I Thought) He Walked On Water - Randy Travis  
Girls Ride Horses Too - Judy Rodman (adaptable to male vocal)  
Much Too Young (To Feel This Damn Old) - Garth Brooks  
Cowboy Bill - Garth Brooks  
Ride 'Em Cowboy - Paul Davis (and others)

Continued on page 20

# WESTERN

# CONSIGNMENT SHOP



The WMA Convention is right around the corner and it is time, once again, to start looking through our closets for gently worn items to consign to the 2016 WMA Western Consignment Shop. I hope those of you who made purchases at the 2015 WMA Western Consignment Shop have enjoyed your wonderful finds and those who received a nice check for the items you sold enjoyed the extra money, too.

The Western Way Consignment Shop had the highest sales ever recorded last year with 10% of all sales going directly to the WMA. It was a win-win situation for everyone. With that said, we learned a lot of things to do and not to do last year. The new consignment store guidelines will be posted on the Website soon. Please take time to print out the information and read it carefully. I want to give you plenty of time to be sure your consignment items are clean, pressed, on hangers if applicable, and properly tagged when you arrive at the consignment shop with them. Being prepared will help you get your items on the rack and ready for purchase much quicker, giving you the opportunity to make those early sales. If this year is anything like last year, there will be crowds of eager shoppers waiting for the doors to open.

This year all items must be tagged before they are brought in to consign and you must be checked in by a consignment shop team member. Please use safety pins or something other than straight pins to attach your tags. If the tag comes off of an item, we cannot sell it. You may use your business card or you may download the tags from the WMA website at: <http://www.westernmusic.org/userfiles/Consignment%20Tags%281%29.pdf>.

Members brought in very high quality western stage wear and the sales of these items helped pay travel expenses for many. On the other side, the shop was filled everyday with shoppers searching for and finding treasures in just the right size and color. I anticipate that this year will be even bigger and better!

I was blessed to have a great team working with me last year. This year Lu Middleton and Ida Wheat are returning and have recruited their sister Yvonne Creamer! I am so grateful for these hard working, fun loving gals. Contact me at [jeanprescott@taylortel.net](mailto:jeanprescott@taylortel.net), if you would like to join this awesome team.

Again, please review the Consignment Guidelines paying especially close attention to items NOT to bring. I will mention a few here. Do not bring jewelry, home décor, tee-shirts, sweat shirts, shoes, baby or toddler clothing, heavy coats and down vests, music or books, other than instruction books for instruments. Keep in mind that everything must be western and "gently" worn.

November will be here before we know it and we will all be headed to Albuquerque! I wish you safe travels.

See you there!



## WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR\*

2016

### The Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Poetry Gathering

October 26-30 - Heber, Utah

[www.hebervalleycowboypoetry.com](http://www.hebervalleycowboypoetry.com)

### WMA Annual Convention

November 9-13 - Albuquerque, New Mexico

[www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org)

### Campfires, Cattle & Cowboys Gathering

November 18 - Duncan, Oklahoma

<http://onthechisholmtrail.com/events/>

### Monterey Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival

November 18-20 - Monterey, CA

[www.montereycowboy.org](http://www.montereycowboy.org)

2017

### Cochise Cowboy Poet and Music Gathering

February 3-5 - Sierra Vista, AZ

[www.cowboypoets.com](http://www.cowboypoets.com)

### Cowboy Poetry Week

April 16-22, 2017 - National Event

*\*(Not intended to be an all-inclusive list. To submit an event for the calendar, send the event name, date(s), Web site and City/State to: [wweditor1@gmail.com](mailto:wweditor1@gmail.com).*



## Western Air

*Continued from page 19*

San Antonio Rose - Bob Willis

Ride, Ride, Ride - Brenda Lee, Lynn Anderson

(adaptable to male vocal)

Old Coyote Town - Don Gibson

Don't Take Your Guns To Town - Johnny Cash

Bull Rider - Johnny Cash

Wildfire - Michael Martin Murphey

Oklahoma Hills - T. Texas Tyler

Seven Spanish Angels - Willie Nelson & Ray Charles

Indian Reservation - Mark Lindsay, John D. Loudermilk (and others)

Apache - Sonny James

Desert Pete - The Kingston Trio

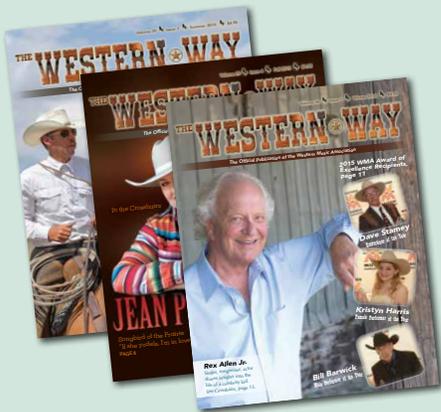
The Blizzard - Jim Reeves

Rainbow Rider - Tanya Tucker (adaptable to male vocal)

Complete sets could be devised from among these tracks, and they would help to point out that Western has had a place in Country. But regardless, when featuring artists who do not hold exclusively to a Western format, stating which genre of music people are hearing only makes sense, and to leave that unattended to is nothing less than a stab in the WMA's collective back!



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Questions? Email Marsha, [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org)

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# COWBOY PRINCESS RIDES AGAIN

by Cheryl Rogers-Barnett

(Riverwood Press, Nashville, TN)

## BOOK REVIEW

By Don Cusic

Cheryl Rogers-Barnett wrote a book, "The Cowboy Princess" that was published 15 years ago. Since that time she's learned a lot more about her famous parents, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, so this book is, in many ways, a re-write of her earlier book as well as an update; both her parents have died since her first book was published.

During their lifetimes, the story of Roy and Dale was well-known; Dale, especially, appeared regularly on Christian TV and wrote a number of books. Roy was active with his museum in Apple Valley.

It's an old cliché—fame is fleeting—that sounds shallow and trite but holds a deep, timeless message. Today's young people did not grow up with Roy and Dale so how do you keep that legacy alive? This book is a step in that direction.

"The Cowboy Princess Rides Again" has some historical background but is primarily a memoir of Cheryl's life growing up with Dale and Roy. And, oh, the stories she tells! She tells about Dad's love of cars and speed, about Roy and Dale's engagement when one gossip columnist took revenge for not getting "the scoop," about her Mom, Arline, about life behind the scenes at Republic Studios, about getting a new Mom when Roy married Dale, about life at home with two famous people who were simply "Mom" and "Dad" and then there's—well, it goes on and on.

There's the stories of Roy and Dale's final years and of Cheryl's family today. There's lot of pictures that give insight into the life Cheryl led as well as Roy and Dale both on screen and off.

"The Cowboy Princess Rides Again" is a fun book; the stories are fascinating and you don't want to put it down. In fact, it's hard to put it down.

For those who grew up with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans it's a trip down memory lane that will make you smile. For those who didn't grow up with Roy and Dale, it's a great introduction to a wonderful time when cowboys were wholesome, clean-cut heroes on the silver screen. The book is especially good if you take a break now and then and watch one of Roy and Dale's old movies—or old TV shows—on DVD. Be sure to pop some popcorn when you do.

A copy of Cheryl's book can be ordered at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or for an autographed copy, visit her Web site, [cherylrogers.com](http://cherylrogers.com). 🐾

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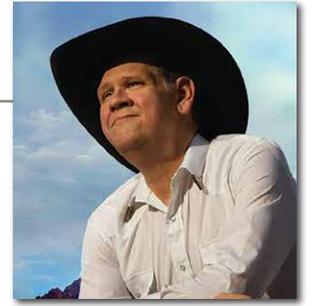
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## GOLDEN NUGGETS

# I Ride An Old Paint



by **Buck Helton**

Howdy friends and neighbors,

Once again it's time to head down to the musical stream and sluice out some golden nuggets. This go-round we are going to hunt up the origin of the classic "I Ride An Old Paint." Most musicologists are in agreement that it is an offshoot of the earlier tune, Goodbye Old Paint. It first appeared in print in 1927 in *The American Songbag* by Carl Sandburg. (Pg 12 - 13) The earliest recording I've been able to locate was Tex Ritter's 1933 rendition for *Conqueror*. It was his first recording also. It was done in an authentic Cowboy style as opposed to the later Swing influenced style of Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. The parent song Goodbye Old Paint was first printed in Jack Thorp's 1921 edition of *Songs of the Cowboy*. Credit is given generally to Charley Willis, a black Cowboy from Texas. Supposedly he wrote the tune in the 1870's.

The lyrics are colorful, and filled with old time Cowboy lingo. Often misunderstood and misquoted. Virtually all of my readers will know what a paint horse is. (For those few who might not, it's a horse with a solid background color with splotches of white scattered around. Looking like the solid colored animal was daubed with whitewash.) There exists some controversy over old Dan. Some feel it is a corruption of Dun which is a color of horse, some think it is Dam, in which case the pack animal would be the paint horse's mother. Most commonly accepted is that Dan is a pack mule. Based on my research this was, and in many areas remains a popular name for mules. Bob Nolan used it in his classic *Cool Water* to refer to the

prospector's pack animal.

The singer is heading for Montana on a roundup, and is most likely a reatta man, or professional roper. This is indicated by his mentioning that he is going to throw the houlian. The houlian (also spelled sometimes as houlihan) is a type of backhanded throw made with minimal motion. The loop flips over in flight and is already beginning to tighten as it lands on its target. The song mentions both coulees, and draws which are geographic features where water can sometimes be found. The second verse mentions someone he knows named Bill Jones. One of his kids went to Denver, the other became a soiled dove. Bill's wife was killed in an altercation in a billiard parlor, and he sings this song to himself at all hours to keep loneliness at bay. The chorus mentions the animals being fiery and snuffy. Fiery refers to just looking for an excuse to run/stampede. Snuffy means easily spooked, a critter that will draw up at its own shadow, snorting and dancing away. The final verse tells of the singers last request. He asks that when he dies that his bones be tied to his horses saddle, their faces turned toward the west and this way he and his beloved mount can roam the prairies they so love.

I hope you've had a good time with this song, and that you work some of the history into your sets. If you find yourself near Tucson this Summer, I invite you to stop by Old Tucson studios some weekend between now and Labor Day weekend and stop in for a visit. 'Till next time, May God and a good song be ever in your heart!

Buck Helton



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CONVENTION  
NOVEMBER 9-13, 2016**

*New 2016 Venue!*

**HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE  
AT OLD TOWN**

# 2016 WMA ANNUAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Check [westernmusic.org](http://westernmusic.org) regularly for updates!

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

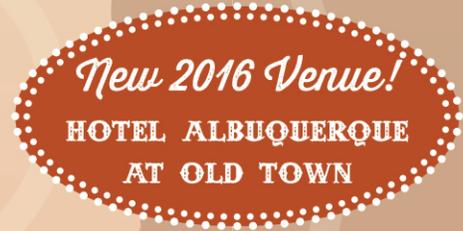
- Noon-6:00 pm **WMA Western Consignment** accepting items to sell or donate. (*Download consignment tags on the WMA website*) This is an excellent opportunity to purchase great finds and help the WMA, 10% percent of all consignment sales go directly to the WMA. Better yet is the opportunity to make some money by selling your new or gently worn Western items!
- 3:00-6:00 pm **Performers CD Check-In — The Mercantile opens Thursday at noon**
- 7:00-9:00 pm **Swing Spectacular & Dessert**  
3 Trails West, Syd Masters & The Swing Riders, Hot Texas Swing Band

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- 8:00 am-7:00 pm **Member Registration & Ticket Sales**
- 8:00 am-12:00 noon **WMA Western Consignment** accepting items to sell or donate
- 8:00 am-5:00 pm Performers CD Check-In

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

- 8:30-9:45 am **Coffee with the DJs — Facilitated by Marvin O'Dell**  
A time for you to visit with radio disc jockeys in order to get answers you may need regarding how to present your music for maximum airplay.
- 10:00 am-Noon **Write Better, Right Now — Presented by Kerry Grombacher & Jim Jones**  
Well-respected writer Jim Jones teams up with self-proclaimed know-it-all Kerry Grombacher to talk about the craft of writing in the Western genre. Whether you write songs, poems, or prose, you'll find benefits in their discussion of how to improve the poetry of your descriptions, the depths of your stories, and the development of your characters.
- 1:30-2:30 pm **Music Arranging — Presented by Alex Dormont**  
This workshop will explore all aspects of music arranging including Song Form Structures (intros, verses, choruses, bridges, solos, tags, etc.); Harmonizing Choices for Vocals and Instruments (two part: 3rd above/below, 6th above/below and three part: over-under, stacked, melody on top; Creating Chord Charts and Music Notation Charts by hand or digitally.
- 2:45-3:45 pm **BMI, ASCAP & YOU: Performers' Right Organizations — Facilitated by Kerry Grombacher**  
What does a PRO do? How are license fees for venues calculated? Can fees be so onerous that a venue closes? Is there an exemption if you only present works in the public domain or if performers only play their own material and no covers? What happens to the fees that the PROs collect? What are the details of the BMI and ASCAP programs that reward performing songwriters who play their own material at licensed venues and events? What is the relationship between WMA and each PRO vis-a-vis sponsored events? Do those events qualify for the performing songwriter programs?
- Noon-5:00 pm **WMA Western Consignment OPEN**
- Noon-5:00 pm **WMA Mercantile & Vendor Area**
- Noon-3:30 pm **WMA Showcase Performances**  
*Featuring Vic Anderson, Cisco Jim, Belinda Gail, Gareth, Dennis Jay, Miss V The Gypsy Cowbelle, Joyce Woodson*
- 6:00-9:00 pm **Crisis Fund Dinner & Entertainment**  
The WMA Crisis Fund is used to help members in times of genuine crisis. We are asking you to consider making a generous donation to this fund. Entertainment for this evening is Joni Harms. Joni has donated her time and talent for this worthy cause.
- 10:00 pm-Midnight **Midnight Pajama Showcase**  
*Hosted by Kerry Grombacher & Aspen Black and in the house band Jim Jones, Hailey Sandoz and Kerry Grombacher. Wear your pajamas and join us for refreshments, a pajama contest, music, and fun!*  
*Featuring Ain't Misbehavin' Swing Band, Janet Bailey, John Bergstrom, Alice Black, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Pegie Douglas, Doug Figgs, The Kaye Sisters, LeeLee & The Hot Club, Carol Markstrom, Miss V-The Gypsy Cowbelle, Notable Exceptions, Claudia Nygaard, Simple Gifts, Mark Smith, Wall-Eyed Moles*
- Jamming All Night Long**



**NOTE: Schedule and performers are subject to change. Please check [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org) for updates.**



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

- 7:00 am-6:00 pm **WMA Western Consignment OPEN** and accepting items to sell or donate
- 7:30 am-6:00 pm **Member Registration & Ticket Sales**
- 7:30-9:00 am **Veterans Day Breakfast & Program**
- 8:30 am-Noon **WMA Youth Chapter**
- Noon-6:00 pm **WMA Mercantile & Vendor Area**
- 10:00 am-5:00 pm **WMA Development Stage**  
*Featuring Alice Black, Lloyd Dolen, Mikah Johnson, The Kaye Sisters, Poppa Mac, Mark Smith*
- WMA Campfire Stage**  
*Featuring Janet Bailey, Troy Bateson, John Bergstrom, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Pegie Douglas, Doug Figgs, Tom Hawk, Carol Huechen, KG & The Ranger, Carol Markstrom, Miss V-The Gypsy Cowbelle, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Claudia Nygaard, Dennis Russell, Tom Swearingen, Bob Thomas*
- 10:00 am – 5:00pm **WMA Showcase Performances**  
*Featuring 3 Trails West, Ain't Misbehavin' Swing Band, Floyd Beard, Call of the West, The Cowboy Way, Kerry Grombacher, The High Country Cowboys, KG & The Ranger, Mary Kaye, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers, Simple Gifts, Barry Ward, Yampa Valley Boys*
- 7:00-10:00 pm **Friday Night Opry — Hosted by Poppa Mac**  
*Featuring 3 Trails West, Cowboy Joe Babcock, Janet Bailey, Floyd Beard, Aspen Black, Almeda Bradshaw, Les Buffham, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Mikki Daniel, Richard Elloyan, Doug Figgs, Belinda Gail, Kerry Grombacher, Kristyn Harris, The High Country Cowboys, Hot Texas Swing Band, Igor the Jazz Cowboy, Judy James, Mary Kaye, James Michael, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers, Royce Smithey, Tom Swearingen, Trick Shot with Notable Exceptions, Wall-Eyed Moles, Barry Ward, Joyce Woodson, Yampa Valley Boys*
- 10:00 pm-?? **Friday Night Swing Dance** featuring *Ain't Misbehavin' Swing Band*
- More Jamming All Night Long**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

- 8:00-9:30 am **WMA Membership Meeting & Breakfast —**  
Open to all current and future WMA members.
- 8:00 am-5:00 pm **WMA Western Consignment OPEN** and accepting items to sell or donate
- 10:00 am- 6:00 pm **Registration & Ticket Sales**
- 10:00 am-5:00 pm **WMA Mercantile & Vendor Area**
- 10:00-11:00 am **WMA Harmony Contest**
- 11:15 am-12:15 pm **WMA Yodeling Contest**
- 12:30-1:30 pm **WMA Poetry Jackpot**
- 1:30-2:55 pm **WMA Youth Chapter Showcase**
- 3:00-5:00 pm **WMA Showcase**  
*Featuring Allan Chapman & Rodeo Kate, Richard Elloyan, Joe Herrington, Notable Exceptions*
- 7:00-9:00 pm **WMA Awards Show (Historic KiMo Theatre) —**  
*Hosted by Sam DeLeeuw*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

- 7:00 am-Noon **WMA Western Consignment OPEN**  
Check out/pick up unsold items
- 9:00-11:00 am **Cowboy Church — With Jerry Hall & Ed Hughes**  
*Featuring Ain't Misbehavin' Swing Band, Troy Bateson, Floyd Beard, Aspen Black, Almeda Bradshaw, Call of the West, Carr Family Cowboy Band, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Lloyd Dolen, Pegie Douglas, Doug Figgs, Belinda Gail, Kerry Grombacher, Carol Heuchan, Mary Kaye & The Kaye Sisters, LeeLee & Hot Club of Cowgirl Jazz, Poppa Mac, Carol Markstrom, Claudia Nygaard, Hailey Sandoz, Leah Sawyer with Simple Gifts, Mark Smith, Royce Smithey, Tom Swearingen, Wall-Eyed Moles, Barry Ward*
- 9:00 am-Noon **Mercantile & Vendor Area**
- 5:00 pm **Survivors' Dinner**



# 2016 WMA CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 9-13 📍 HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN

## TICKET ORDERS & MEMBER REGISTRATION

Return form with payment to: WMA 📧 P.O. Box 648 ✉ Coppel, TX 75019 or email to marsha@westernmusic.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company or Group Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_





**WMA MEMBERS ONLY**

Check if this is your first time to attend!

*All WMA Members will receive name badges; please list others in your family or group who will need badges. These badges will be included in your packet at the WMA Registration Desk at the Marriott.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CONTACT MARSHA SHORT AT MARSHA@WESTERNMUSIC.ORG FOR ANY SPECIAL DIETARY OR HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE NEEDS.

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	AMOUNT
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SILVER SPUR VIP PACKAGE</b> <i>(includes workshops, reserved seating for ALL activities &amp; bus ticket to KiMo Theatre)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275/person <input type="checkbox"/> \$450/couple	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325/person <input type="checkbox"/> \$550/couple	\$ _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SIDEKICK PACKAGE</b> <i>(includes workshops, evening shows &amp; bus ticket to KiMo Theatre)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145/person <input type="checkbox"/> \$250/couple	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175/person <input type="checkbox"/> \$325/couple	\$ _____ \$ _____

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**Swing Spectacular & Dessert** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$35/person \$45/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 *(If you purchase a package, please indicate which workshops you will attend)*

#### WORKSHOPS

**Coffee with the DJs** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/person \$20/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Write Better, Right Now** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/person \$20/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Music Arranging Workshop** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/person \$20/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BMI, ASCAP & YOU** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/person \$20/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**WMA Crisis Fund Benefit Dinner & Show** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$40/person \$50/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**WMA Veterans Appreciation Breakfast Program** # of people \_\_\_\_\_ \$35/person \$45/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you are a veteran — there's no charge for your ticket!

**WMA Friday Night Opry & Swing Dance** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$25/person \$30/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**WMA Awards Show** (KiMo Theatre) # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$35/person \$45/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Reserved tickets for the Awards Show must be ordered before Nov. 1)*

**Round trip bus ticket from hotel to KiMo Theatre** # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$10/person \$10/person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Tickets are not mailed. They will be available at the WMA Desk at the Marriott beginning at 2:00pm Wednesday, November 11**

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

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

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_



WESTERNMUSIC.ORG

**SOME SPACE IS LIMITED SO ORDER TICKETS EARLY! CANCELLATIONS AFTER OCT. 31, 2016 CANNOT BE REFUNDED.**

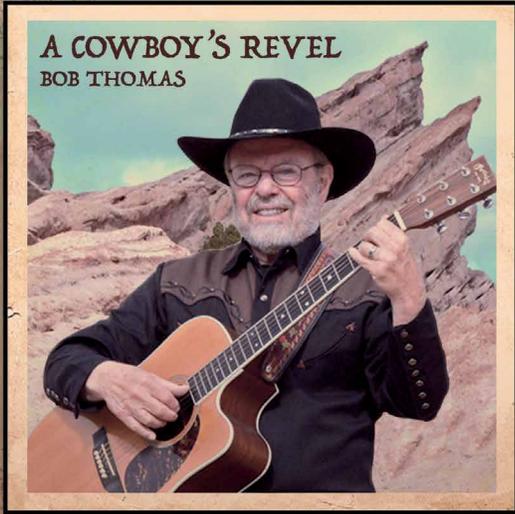
**QUESTIONS? CONTACT MARSHA SHORT 📧 505-563-0673 ✉ MARSHA@WESTERNMUSIC.ORG**

For Hotel Reservations, call the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, 866-505-7829. Ask for the WMA rate of \$109 for single or double accommodations



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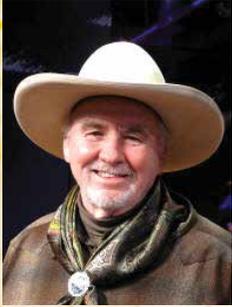


1:00PM-1:25PM

## In Memoriam

Special thanks to CowboyPoetry.Com for allowing adaptation and reprint of several of the poet obituaries on that Website. Used by permission.

### Gary Brown, 1939 – 2016



With much sadness, we've learned of the death of Gary E. Brown on March 16, 2016. Gary was an avid horseman, founder of the Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival, and friend to so many cowboy poets, Western musicians, and artists. He built a widely respected gathering.

After retiring from involvement for a few years, he worked tirelessly on the 2015 show and on planning the 2016 show. He helped to save the event and bring back the quality for which it is known. Gary counted musicians and poets among his close friends. Those traveling through Visalia, California, where Gary lived, were often invited to his home. Many performed at his son's coffee house, Mavericks, known for its intimate concerts with performers such as R.W. Hampton, Don Edwards, Dave Stamey, Ian Tyson, Sons of the San Joaquin, Belinda Gail, and many, many others. Gary was also known for his generosity, often helping out his cowboy poetry and music friends through hard times.

Gary was also an expert on the subject of early Western cinema and a collector of cinema art and memorabilia. Gary had a distinguished career in law enforcement; he served as Monterey Police Chief from 1997-2001 and was also Chief in Chowchilla, South Pasadena, San Clemente and Ashland, Oregon.

He is survived by his wife, Sherrill, three sons, and seven grandchildren. [2009 photo by Jeri Dobrowski]

### James Stauffer, 1940 – 2016



James Stauffer, a WMA Supporting Member since 2007, passed away Thursday, June 23, 2016 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was born in Geneva, Nebraska on January 26, 1940, to Walter James and Myrtis Maxine (Myers) Stauffer. He graduated from Bonneville High School and worked for Vulcan Material Co. for

25 years. He was also a devoted member of the St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He was a fan of Western Music

and Poetry and attended the WMA Convention regularly. James is survived by wife of 23 years, Bernie (Castillo) Stauffer; brother, Jerry LeRoy Stauffer; sister, Judy Ann (Stauffer) and her husband Thomas M. Dodds; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren and extended family members.

### Pat Richardson, 1934 – 2016



It is with great sadness that we report that top cowboy poet Pat Richardson passed away. He is mourned by countless friends and fans. Pat's life was a testament to the human spirit. He raised himself from a hardscrabble and difficult life, overcame the challenge of polio, and led an early, colorful cowboying

and rodeo life. He was an artist and cartoonist. His deadpan humor, which often pushed the boundaries of political correctness, delighted a legion of fans.

Pat was fiercely loyal to his friends and family and was a quietly devout and generous man. His passing, and the recent losses of his friends Glenn Ohrlin and Walt LaRue, mark the end of an era. Their stories will live on.

An obituary reports "...Pat was well-known as fair in business, a hard worker and quick and creative thinker, and above all as an honest man. Pat's true gift was his artistic ability, mainly cowboy poetry; his ability to interject his own experience, wit and wisdom into his art left him in a class all his own." He will be greatly missed.

### Trey Allen, 1971 – 2016



Popular cowboy, ranch manager, and poet Trey Allen died July 7, 2016 after a long, brave battle with multiple myeloma. His many, many friends and loving family know that Trey, in the words of his wife, Janice Hannagan-Allen, was "a true cowboy, thru and true all the way." Janice commented

*Continued to page 30*

# PUNNE YOURSELF

## Motion is the Lotion

It's quite simple really- we are built to move. Therefore, movement can be healing, when it is done right.

As a musician, when your muscles get tight and achy, you might think mainly about rest or even stretching. These are very good activities and can be quite helpful. What I am suggesting is going in a completely different direction. Let's look at motion first, then examine rest and stretching.

When a cat or a dog hurts their paw, what is the first thing they do? Walk it off. They create motion using slow and easy effort. This gets the blood and other fluids flowing to the area. It can also move out the bad stuff, too!

Inside our bodies we have fluids in addition to blood. Interstitial fluid would be the main one, but there are also lymph and joint fluids. Interstitial fluid is what fills individual cells and what also surrounds them. While blood has the heart to mainly move things around, these other fluids depend on motion to create movement flow. (In reality, even the blood needs motion to successfully fight gravity and get the red and white cells back uphill to the heart.)

All of this need for motion is why the simple act of walking is one of the greatest things you can do to increase your overall health and strongly decrease your chances of getting a baddie disease.

As a musician you do much holding with your instrument. For a guitarist- the fret hand holds the strings still. For a trombonist (that's me in the near future), the slide arm moves mucho but the other hand is stabilizing, holding and tends to get stiff and tired. While a drummer's arms and feet are moving constantly, their pelvis and back need to be at least somewhat still to allow all that motion.

Therapeutic motion is gentle and slow. Think *thai chi*. We need it to be gentle so that it does not stress already stressed muscles and joints. Slowness is helpful to encourage the gentleness. Understand that fluids don't move superfast. Thus, easy does it – literally.

All this motion actually also helps to lubricate your



joints. Additionally, it increases your joint fluid that keeps your joints happy and well prepared.

Better living through chemistry; that is, increased cell nutrition, increased effectiveness in waste removal. All due to improved fluid efficiency.

When should this motion happen? Excellent before you play and excellent afterwards! Heck, even during, when you are on a break. It is the perfect addition to your warm up. Try it and see how much better it makes you feel in your body.

Rest is important. But rest does not increase fluid movement. Oh yes, it is vital, but has its limits.

Maybe you have been told that what you need to do is stretch and all will be solved. I love the idea of this. Too bad it doesn't work out this way. If it solved everything, you wouldn't be reading this.

I am suggesting that you experiment with doing gentle slow movements.

---

Christopher Sovereign, LMT was recently named the #1 massage therapist in Albuquerque by the Albuquerque Journal's Readers Choice Awards. He has helped thousands of people since 1983 in both the Duke & Capital Cities at Albuquerque & Santa Fe Medical Massage. Hurting? Give him a call at 505-363-9004.



## In Memoriam

Special thanks to CowboyPoetry.Com for allowing adaptation and reprint of several of the poet obituaries on that Website. Used by permission.

Continued from page 28

that Trey was, "A man that has touched a million lives, not just as a poet but as a friend to all of us .... He loved you all as much as you loved him .... Your love and prayers for our family are much appreciated ..."

In a recent article in Western Horseman by Senior Editor Jennifer Denison, his friend, poet Jay Snider, is quoted, "Trey is one of those guys that lives every day by the same code of ethics as the old-timers. It means something to him that your word is your bond and that you do what you say you're going to do."

### Duane Dickinson, 1931 – 2016



Liz Masterson announced the death of her longtime friend and popular Montana cowboy singer Duane Dickinson on May 18, 2016, age 85.

Liz says this about Duane Dickinson, "Duane Dickinson has been associated with cowboys and ranching for most of his life. A native

Montanan, he was born on a small ranch in the northeastern part of the state. Duane began learning traditional cowboy songs from his father who also taught him many of the sentimental 19th Century ballads. Duane ranched at Ryegate, Montana, until 1996 when he sold the ranch and semi-retired."

### Jim Gough, 1931 – 2016



With sadness, we learned of the death of Jim Gough, "Mr. Texas," in Austin, June 7, 2016. He had a long successful career as an actor, radio personality, and musician. He was known for his voiceovers and commercials and appearances in many films and television productions,

including JFK, Urban Cowboy, Places in the Heart, Dallas, and Walker Texas Ranger.

Jim Gough's grandfather was Judge Lysius Gough, who published the first book of cowboy poetry in 1886.

### Randol "Randy" Hamill 1941 – 2016



Randol C. Hamill (Randy) Hamill, 74, of Visalia died July 25, 2016 from complications following surgery. A dearly loved member of the cowboy cooks from Visalia Cowboy Cultural Committee, Randy Hamill was known by so many Western singers and poets alike. He had an infectious laugh and a velvet voice like no other

In his later years, Randy refined his love for Cowboy Poetry and Music. A charter member of the Cowboy Cultural Committee/Chuckwagon Cooks, he enjoyed countless hours cooking Dutch Oven Cobbler throughout the State and volunteered to entertain at various venues reading his own poetry and entertaining with the musical members of the CCC.. His cowboy poetry was honest and from the heart and his cowboy spirit will live on in memory. Beloved husband, dad, gramps, brother, and loyal friend.

### Jack Walther, 1919 – 2016



We were sad to learn of the death of poet, cowboy and rancher Jack Walther on April 10, 2016. He was a long-time participant and part of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

An obituary in the Elko Daily Free Press tells that Jack grew up on the family ranch, attended and graduated from Elko High School, and studied

Agriculture at Utah State University. He married Irene Behn, who, for 61 years has shared his interest in cattle, horses, and ranching. He worked for many years as a ranch manager for the Seventy One Ranch and "retired" to his life's work, pure breeding red Angus cattle, Morgan saddle horses and Suffolk Punch draft horses with Irene on their ranch in the Lamoille Valley.

Jack's poetry about ranching life is enjoyed by people from around the world. He appeared for many years at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Continued to page 42



## BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



# My Buddy Fred

Fred and I were pretty good buds growing up and attending the Browns Park School. Like most ranch raised kids we were pretty good at figuring out our own entertainment. One event that has stuck with me over the years occurred when Fred was in eighth grade and I was in seventh.

We had an hour off for lunch and just foolin' around. This was a mid-winter day and kinda cool as I remember. Fred and I had taken a hike around this big old marsh that was a little ways off from the school. We were probably lookin' for a muskrat or some new species of winter frog. It must have been interesting cause time got away from us and when Fred looked at his watch we had about five minutes to get back to class.

We decided to take a shortcut across that frozen over marsh. We were makin' pretty good time until we came to a little stream of open water about in the middle of that marsh. We pulled up and looked it over. If we went back around we would be late for sure. Fred said, "Let's jump it." He took a run at it and made a pretty good leap for a feller that was wearing boot overshoes and landed in a clearing

where there weren't any cattails. One foot broke through the ice and went in clear over that overshoe. He pulled it out and turned around and looked at that hole and said a word that I won't repeat here. Then that ice gave way and he went down to his chin in that murky water and started pawin' and clawin' his way to the far side. He got to where he could get a hold on some of those cattails and pulled himself up and out. He never looked back, just struck a high lope for the school, jumped in their old pickup and headed for his house which fortunately was only three or four miles away.

Our teacher wasn't too upset when I told her what happened. Fred showed back up in a while wearing a set of dry clothes. His teeth were still chattering and when he backed up to the coal stove he smelled a little like a swamp.

The next day we were messin' around out in the school yard when I called him "Swampy." I outran him that time but never called him that again.

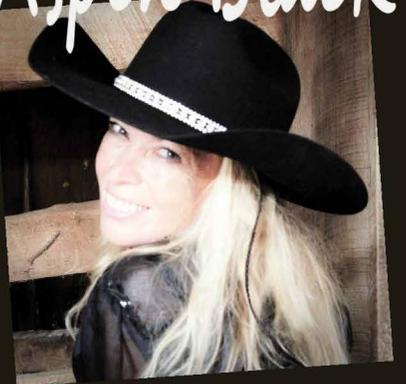
That was my old buddy, Fred.

*(My friend Fred recently passed away. His sister asked me to write something about him for the graveside service.)*

# Thanks For the Nominations!

- \* 2016 Female Poet of the Year
- \* 2016 Poetry CD of the Year
- \* 2016 Poetry Book of the Year

## Aspen Black



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# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...Lisa Rose Hanson (**The Hanson Family**) released an original patriotic single titled "Star Spangled Courage" in June, just in time for July 4th. Vocals and rhythm acoustic guitar were done by Lisa Rose while Daniel Hanson played bass and produced the song. Lead and rhythm electric guitar, drums, piano, and percussion were played by guest musicians. Daniel also produced a feature video for the song that can be viewed at [video.starspangledcourage.com](http://video.starspangledcourage.com) or searching YouTube for "Star Spangled Courage." The video received 121,000 views in three weeks! Daniel says that the song reminds us that "freedom is not free." Also – the Hansons' 18<sup>th</sup> grandbaby, Leia Rey, arrived this summer born to Christa Hanson. And more good news – a new CD will be released soon by the Hanson Family.

...**Cindy Smith** is working on a Public Service Announcement for television for the National Veterans Memorial. James Henager and WMA supporter, Jim Derr, are board members at the NVM. Cindy is also working with Victory Television to promote a new faith-based Western movie titled "Grace" set for filming in 2017, and with organizing a western-themed fundraiser to benefit the coal mining community of War, WV.

...**The Quebe Sisters** appeared on the Grand Ole Opry in August. In addition to performing at the Opry on back-to-back nights, they opened their brand new Quebe Sisters Online Store.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** is once again working with Bendiksen Productions on a recording project titled "Tribute." This two-song CD pays tribute to our great Western icon, the American cowboy, and to a much-loved Arizona lawman, the late Sheriff Larry Dever. Look for this release at the upcoming WMA convention.

...In July, **Allan Chapman and Rodeo Kate** performed Allan's award-winning festival song "Watchman" and other songs at the annual Woody Guthrie Woodyfest night show in Okemah, OK.

...*Rough Patches*, the latest book from **Deanna Dickinson McCall**, was a finalist for both Women Writing the West's Willa Award and for the Will Rogers Medallion Award. Both ceremonies will be held in October. A soon-to-be-released

book titled *Split Reins*, will be a corroboration of McCall's poetry with NM artist JaNeil Anderson's paintings.

...**Ken Stevens & Jerje Lee**, from the Utah chapter, were one of the featured opening acts for country music star **Billy Dean** in July in Payson, Utah.

...**Aspen Black** released her "Peek-A-Boo, Buckaroo!" poetry CD in September, as both a stand-alone work and companion to her book of the same name. In other news, Aspen's husband, James retired after a long tenure as Pharmacist-In-Charge at Carilion Clinic and accepted the Pharmacist-In-Charge/Pharmacy Director position at the Bradley Free Clinic, serving the working poor.

...**Juni Fisher** and **Waddie Mitchell** have original compositions as part of a new project being released by Western Jubilee Recording Company. The CD will feature Mitchell's co-writes with some of western music's finest writers – also including **Dave Stamey, Brenn Hill, Pipp Gillette**, and others. The working title for the project is "Cohorts."

...The Gentleman Outlaw **Royal Wade Kimes** is finishing up a new CD; the release date still to be determined. This will be his 14th album recorded in the old Jim Reeves House in Nashville, the same place he and **Garth Brooks** recorded "Night Birds." He has also added a new agency for his bookings for 2017 – Jppromotions out of Oklahoma.

...**The Cowboy Way** (Doug Figgs, Jim Jones and Mariam) are working on their first album as a trio. The album should be released near the end of the year.

...The Inaugural Gala and Awards Ceremony for the Nationwide Western Saddle Club Association was held at the Booth Western Art Museum in August in Cartersville, GA. Cowboy Poet and DJ **Tom Kerlin** was the Master of Ceremonies and part of the entertainment.

...In LaMars, IA in August, **Mary Kaye's** latest album "Ride a Wide Circle" was awarded "Pure Country & Western CD of the Year" by the Rural Roots Music Commission.

...After a 5-year recording hiatus, **Teresa Burleson** released a new CD in July titled "The Calf Book."

...In August, **Riders in the Sky** launched a second serial on their Riders Radio Theater podcast called *Mystery of the Lost Ozone*. More info can be found at the podcast website: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/riders-radio-theater/id909752433?mt=2>.

...**Bob Marshall** is beginning work on his next album, "Screen Door." Bob's producer will once again be Merel Bregante, formerly of The Sunshine Company, Loggins and Messina, and The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. "I have already heard some of the new songs," Bregante says. "Know that you are in for a most pleasant surprise."

... "Songs of the West by Today's Women of the West" will be held in October at the Monterey Court Café & Galleries in Tucson, AZ. Performers will be **Carol Markstrom, Nancy Elliott, Sherry Walker** and **Janice Deardorff**.

...In January, **Ron Christopher** released a new album titled "Into the West," a compilation of great stories told in the musical style of western artists like Marty Robbins and Billy Walker. The wonderful cover art was done by DeVye Burton.

...**Brenda Libby** is collaborating with many of the folks who were involved with the J Bar H Rodeo of Camdenton, MO on the Lake of the Ozarks over the years. **Rex Allen** was a long-time friend of the owners of the rodeo and a performer at the event, even emceeing on occasion. Interviews with pertinent personnel will lead to a book by Brenda with stories, gossip, and lots of other fun stuff.

...It might just be another fish tale, but **Jim Jones** claims that **Doug Figgs, Carol Markstrom**, and he set a record for the most fish (by weight) caught during one nine-day music tour of Alaska. They also played seven gigs in those nine days. Also – Jim's daughter, Adrienne Morrow-Jones, is on her second tour performing on a cruise ship, this time with Norwegian Cruise Lines.

...Arizona cowboy poet **Gary Kirkman** has been presented with the Gail I Gardner award at the Prescott (AZ) Cowboy Poetry Gathering in August. The purpose of this award is to honor a poet who has Arizona Connections and continues to pass along the cultural background and heritage of cowboy poetry.

...**Cheryl Rogers-Barnett** has written another terrific book (*Cowboy Princess Rides Again*) about growing up as the daughter of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. (Read a review of this book by Don Cusic on page 21.) While finalizing the manuscript, she asked **Joyce Woodson** for permission to insert the lyrics to her song "He Sang for Me." You'll find those words on page 131 of the book. Joyce's version of the song is heard on her new album "Living the Western Dream."

...Award-winning singer-songwriter, **LeeLee Robert** (Jewel of the West) released a new all-jazz CD in October. Titled "Let Me Be the One," this tribute to love's many moods, was inspired by Ella Fitzgerald and Joe Pass and their legendary guitar/vocal collaboration.

... "Riding After Midnight," a video featuring British western singer **Clint Bradley** and titled after Clint's latest release, was featured on Sky TV's "Country Hot 20" in August. Clint is currently trying to piece together some gigs for a tour in the U.S. Dave Luke, formerly with country music star Gail Davies, has joined Clint's band on lead guitar.

...It's a new great grand-daughter for **Gary and Jean Prescott**. Copelyn is the daughter of proud parents Michael and Erika Head. Erika is the Prescott's granddaughter.

...**Barry Ward** has a new CD out called "Welcome Home." The album contains several patriotic songs in honor of our veterans. The title cut honors our Vietnam Veterans, and there is an accompanying video of the song with the same name on YouTube and also on Barry's Web site and Facebook page.

...**Mikki Daniel** will be featured in *Western Horseman* magazine for her music and horsemanship in the December 2016 issue. She has also been hired by RIDE TV to hostess a new children's show that is currently in the writing phase.

...**Del Shields** reports that he will be launching a new digital radio show on Star Worldwide Network called [DelShieldsWesternWorld.com](http://DelShieldsWesternWorld.com). The program will begin airing the first Saturday of October and will feature western music and poetry promoting folks who live the western way of life. Watch for more details at a later date.

The Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame named **Peggy Malone** their Female Vocalist of 2016. At the award ceremony, they requested that Peggy do a Patsy Cline song. She obliged by performing "Crazy." 

Continued from page 11

music. We also really enjoyed traveling to 38 states and Canada. It was once in a lifetime musical partnership that lasted almost 18 years.

**TWW: Sometimes creative people like musicians can be a little temperamental. How did you two manage to keep from getting on one another's nerves all those years?**

Liz: Oh, we did get on each other's nerves sometimes. But the music was always the bond. We remained very close friends until the end.

**TWW: When you were preparing for a show, which one of you put the set lists together?**

Liz: We designed our basic set "template" together, with equal input. This was the flow of tempos, moods, etc. We had our standard "go to" favorites, but wrote a separate set list for each show, and always tried to put in material that was specific or meaningful to each audience. I usually designed the actual set while he was setting up sound. Then he'd put them in beautiful readable handwritten printing while I got dressed. He was also a pretty good graphic artist. A man of many talents, for sure.

**TWW: We hear so much about duos and bands that break up over little differences. What advice would you have for those who are trying to hold a group together? What's the key to it?**

Liz: The duo or group has to really LOVE the music, 'cause we can't be in it for the money! You have to check your ego at the door and strive for creating the BEST sound and show possible. Make sure each band member gets to shine. Divide up the work load, so one person doesn't burn out!



**TWW: We know that Sean was greatly respected and loved in western music circles. If it's o.k. to ask, was your relationship with him deeper than just musical partner?**

Liz: Yes, he was dearly loved, by many fans and friends alike. I was fortunate to get to know him as well as anyone could. He was the great love of my life.

**TWW: Let's move on to something else. You just released a brand new album titled "Mood Swings," and it's a wonderful project. What was your thinking behind the assembling of this not-completely-western album?**



Liz: I grew up listening to a wide variety of music, and have an appreciation for most kinds of "roots music" and 1930's big band swing. Western swing, blues, Celtic and folk. For me, singing only ONE type of music, is like painting with just one color. I had recorded these 11 tracks a few years ago, before my cancer diagnosis, and they got "left in the can." When my prognosis was grim in the fall of 2015, I really wanted to finish this project and leave another album behind. The process turned out to be very therapeutic as well.

**TWW: Any plans for recording again any time soon?**

Liz: Absolutely! My dear friends, Mike and Jan Dowling, produced a wonderful album that just came out! It's called Linger a While, and Mike picked all the songs, some of which I'd never heard. It includes two obscure Cindy Walker tunes, as well as some chestnuts I've always loved like, "Dream" and "Along the Santa Fe Trail." I'm working on some other tracks with friends, including "Hawaiian Cowboy" which I learned from Rex Allen, Sr. Small world.

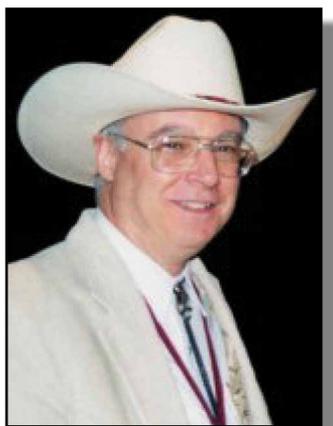
**TWW: If you would rather not talk about your health right now, we understand. But we think our readers and your fans would like to know how you're doing. Do you want to say anything about how you're doing these days?**

Liz: First of all, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been praying for me, and offering support. I've been battling advanced Ovarian Cancer since Sept. 2012. Last fall, I was put on oxygen, as the cancer had moved to my lungs. Then I got tested for the BRCA gene mutation and have it!! That kicked open one last treatment option. I'm happy to say I've had a fantastic response to this new chemo. After eight months, I was able to get off the oxygen tanks in April, and now my tumor marker is "nearly normal." I don't know how long this wonderful response will last, so I try to make the most of every day, and I keep singing! I'm also very active in Ovarian Cancer Awareness programs.

**TWW: Is there anything you'd like to say that might be an encouragement to your fans who might go through similar trials?**

Liz: I found my support group to be extremely helpful. Meditation, prayer and positive thinking have been

Continued on page 45



O.J. Sikes

# Reviews



## A Musical Note From OJ...

O.J. Sikes

Over the years, I've observed that many people listen to music in one of two ways: 1) they focus on the lyrics or, 2) they focus on the melody, instrumentation and arrangement. Everyone hears both, but listeners seem to differ when it comes to their focus. My guess is that many, perhaps most, people fall into the first category, i.e. they are first drawn to the lyrics. Personally, I automatically focus on the melody, instruments and arrangement. I enjoy good lyrics, but if they don't fit the musical construction, I'd just as soon hear fingernails on a blackboard (well, maybe not quite that extreme, but for me, the lyrics need to fit the melody and meter or the song is lost).

Given my interest in musicianship and arrangements, I've always wanted to know who is playing the music, who's playing a particular solo or a particular instrument on a recording. You may recall that **Bob Willis** wisely introduced his soloists from the stage and on records. **Lawrence Welk** made his TV audience familiar with the names of his musicians, not just the vocalists. Sadly, most major record labels and producers had no interest in letting listeners know who was making the music during the era of the LP. There were a few exceptions, e.g. when RCA's Bluebird label began re-issuing old jazz recordings, but the situation really began to improve with the advent of re-issues on CD, and names of sidemen began to appear, some with great frequency.

Few of those great musical figures who played on so many Western recordings, some of them classics, are still with us, but some of the artists who worked with them are, so in an effort to learn more about them while we still can, I asked a couple of friends for information. These were folks who worked with and/or knew some of these outstanding musicians who were such a vital part of our recorded heritage.

**Doc Denning**, now age 95, was one of those who worked with some of these talented musicians. Doc recorded for the 4-Star and Superior labels in the mid-to-late 1940's and a fiddler named **Billy Hill** (not the

legendary composer) played on Doc's first sessions in 1946. Hill played on **Bill "Cowboy Rambler" Boyd's** band, **Hank Penny's** band and on both the **Spade Cooley** and **Tex Williams** bands, and Doc credits Hill with suggesting that **Tim Spencer** ask Doc to try-out for the position as Tim's replacement with the **Sons of the Pioneers** when Tim retired (Doc couldn't get to the try-outs and **Ken Curtis** was awarded the vacant slot). Hill had led at least one recording session for **The Sons of the Pioneers**, so was very familiar with their work. **Billy Hill** was also the leader of the *Town Hall Party* show's band and he had perfect pitch, which came in handy in that role. He recorded with **Roy Rogers**, e.g. "Happy Trails," "California Rose," "Cowboy Heaven," **Country Washburn**, **Andy Parker & the Plainsmen** and others. When he retired, Hill became a park ranger in Northern California.

Before **Doc Denning** joined the **Reinsmen**, fiddler **Harold Hensley** recorded with them, as well as with **Wesley Tuttle**, **Tennessee Ernie Ford** (he directed the band on Ernie's TV show), **Tex Ritter**, **Tommy Duncan**, **Hank Penny** and "almost everyone in the So. Cal. area, in all venues." Doc recalled that, when Hensley retired, he and his wife decided to move to the small town of Paradise in Northern California. As she was driving, Harold had a fatal heart attack and "died on the way to Paradise." Bassist **Buddy Dooley** recorded with **Ken Curtis** (as one of the **Ranch Hands** on Ken's radio show), **Wesley & Marilyn Tuttle**, e.g. "I Wonder Where You Are Tonight," **Dale Evans** and was one of the **Roy Rogers Riders** who recorded with Roy, e.g. "Daddy's

*Continued on page 36*

### 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)

Little Cowboy." He was also a member of the **Republic Rhythm Riders**, appearing in six of **Rex Allen's** films and he recorded with the **Sons of the Pioneers**, e.g. "Ballad of Davy Crockett," "Hasta la Vista," the full **Fred Rose** LP and the 1957 TV themes. Accordionist and pianist **Paul Sells** recorded with **Gene Autry**, e.g. "Call of the Canyon," "You Are My Sunshine," "Under Fiesta Stars," "Deep in the Heart of Texas," "Rainbow on the Rio Colorado," **Roy Rogers & Dale Evans**, e.g. "Happy Trails," "Hazy Mountains," **Tex Ritter**, e.g. "Green Grow the Lilacs," "Rounded up in Glory," (as well as leading some of Tex's recording sessions), **Eddie Dean** and **Wesley Tuttle**, e.g. "Detour."

**Hank Garland** is probably best-known as the composer of "Sugarfoot Rag," but he was an outstanding guitarist and, as it turns out, it was Hank who accompanied **Rex Allen** on his *Mister Cowboy* LP for the Decca label in 1958 (he's not listed on the LP jacket so his identity remained a mystery to most of us until recently). He also recorded Western music with **Johnny Western** on the Columbia label in 1959-60.

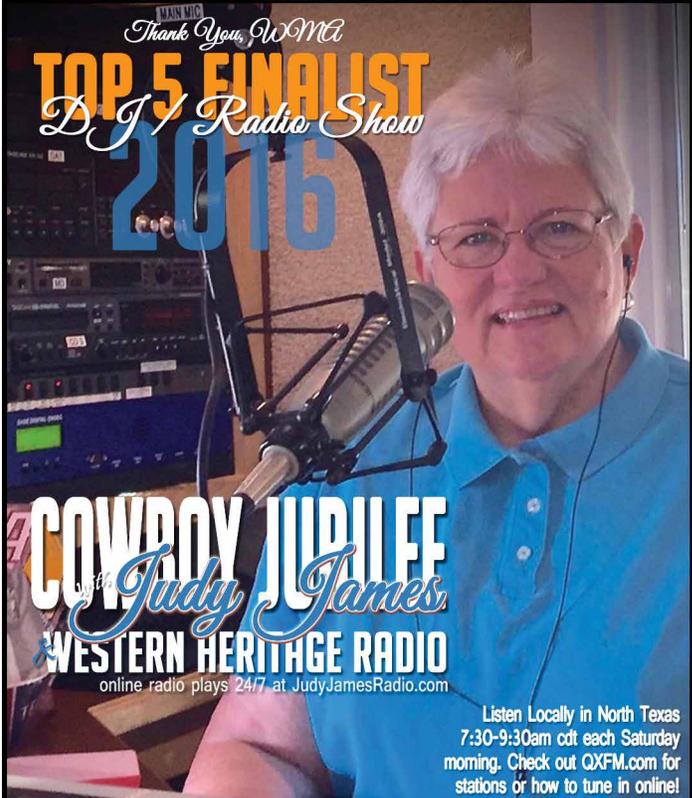
Steel guitarist **Joaquin Murphy** recorded with **Andy Parker & the Plainsmen**, **Roy Rogers**, e.g. "May the Good Lord Take a Likin' to Ya'," **Wesley Tuttle**, **The Sons of the Pioneers**, e.g., "Riders in the Sky," "No Rodeo Dough," "Room Full of Roses," "Let's Go West Again," etc., **Spade Cooley**, **Tex Williams** and according to **Paul Aaron**, a number of other Western Swing bands. The Reinsmen's **Jerry Compton** was one of Joaquin's closest friends and Jerry tuned his steel guitar the way Joaquin did. Legend has it that Joaquin was very secretive about his steel guitar tuning and once, when asked about it, his reply was, "I just get all the wires tight."

Today, **Harry Sims** is best-known as the fiddler with **Andy Parker & the Plainsmen**, e.g. "Texas Plains," "The West is as Wild as Ever," but he also played on recordings with **Tex Ritter**, **Roy Rogers**, e.g. "May the Good Lord Take a Likin' to Ya'," and at least one session with the **Sons of the Pioneers**. He recorded western swing music with **Bill "Cowboy Rambler" Boyd** and, according to **Andy Parker's** son Joe, it's Harry's hot fiddle solo you'll hear on the **Tex Williams** No. 1 hit, "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke That Cigarette!" from 1947. Sims had worked with **Spade Cooley** and he also worked with **Hank Penny & his Radio Cowboys**. In the early 50's, Harry was the Plainsmen's musical director for **Leo Carrillo's** *Dude Ranch Varieties* TV show. Originally from Chicago, Harry played in the Chicago Symphony early on, but in 1936-37 he worked with **Red Foley & the WLS Rangers** on station WLS in Chicago.

In 1926, **Kay Kyser**, who was to become one of the country's most popular big band leaders, recruited his friend, **Milton "Muddy" Berry**, to become his first band's drummer. Years later, Berry was to record on all

but one of the **Sons of the Pioneers'** sessions in 1957 and on their sessions with **Johnny Western** in 1961. Prominent on the West Coast scene after retiring from the **Kyser** and **Jan Garber** big bands, in the 40's and early 50's he was a member of the **Tommy Duncan**, **Spade Cooley & Tex Williams** bands, making numerous recordings with each, and he recorded with **Roy Rogers**, e.g. "Cowboy Heaven" (1950), "There's a Cloud in My Valley of Sunshine," "A Four-legged Friend" and **Tex Ritter** as well.

Steel guitarist **Noel Boggs** also did a great deal of radio work with **The Plainsmen** (and) recorded with **Jimmy Wakely**, **Spade Cooley**, **Bob Wills**, **Bill Boyd**, **Hank Penny**, the **Cass County Boys**, the **Sons of the Pioneers**, e.g. "Santa Fe New Mexico," "Down Where the Rio Flows," "Red River Valley," "Teardrops in My Heart," "Will There be Sagebrush in Heaven," "My Best to You," "Let's Pretend," "Empty Saddles," "There's a Gold Mine in the Sky," "Old Pioneer," "Home on the Range," "Land Beyond the Sun" (and led at least one Pioneers session), and others. He is probably better-known than most of the sidemen in this group. There are others, to be sure, but these may well be the cream of the crop of the most frequently recorded (but least widely-known) musicians who played such an important role in making much of the best Western music in the 20th century. 



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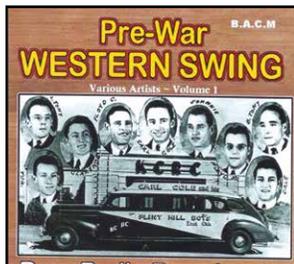
J Spur Productions \* [Judy@JudyJames.com](mailto:Judy@JudyJames.com) \* 817.929.1853

★ ★ ★

## PRE-WAR WESTERN SWING: RARE RADIO BROADCASTS 1937-1943

*Various Artists - Vol 1*

BACM CD D 527



This is one of the most interesting Western Swing anthologies I've seen in years. Although many of the bands represented on the 29 tracks on this CD are obscure, there are some interesting exceptions. But more importantly, regardless of the extent of the bands' fame, a large number of the recordings are first-rate vintage Western swing.

Among the bands who are easily recognizable to fans of music from this era you'll find W. Lee O'Daniel's Hillbilly Boys with vocals by Leon Huff from 1937, Curt Massey with Louise Massey & the Westerners (with a great 1943 rendition of "Sweet Georgia Brown"), Jimmy's Saddle Pals (aka Jimmy LeFevre and his Saddle Pals), Curly Williams and his Georgia Peach Pickers and Jesse Ashlock with Ezra & his Beverly Hillbillies. But the better-known bands don't dominate; some of the others do more than hold their own. "Carnival in Cotton Town" by Dave Edwards & His Alabama Boys (from KTUL in Tulsa) became a favorite right away, as did "Estalee" & "Jig in G" by the Swift-Jewel Cowboys (at WREC in Memphis), and Carl Cole & His Flint Hill Boys (from 1940 in Ponca City, OK) chalked up some good covers of popular big band tunes like "Jumpin' Jive." Many of the titles are well-known but these renditions will be new unless you grew up listening to one of these bands on the radio. Available from VenerableMusic.com, phone (678) 232-0268.

★ ★ ★

## NEVADA SLIM SINGING SONGS OF THE WILD WEST: 25 COWBOY CLASSICS

*Dallas Turner*

Rural Rhythm Records RUR-1144



For 30 years, Dallas Turner was one of Border Radio's most popular "pitchmen" as well as being a very popular singer, especially of old cowboy songs. As a teenager in 1946, he left home to look for work on Border Radio, where his idol, Cowboy Slim Rinehart, took him under

his wing and gave him his big break.

Some 20 years later, the Rural Rhythm record label issued 8 LPs of Turner's recordings. Now, for the first time on CD, the label has issued 25 Western tracks from those LPs. Many of the titles will be familiar to you, e.g. "Sam Hall," "Little Joe the Wrangler," "(Alongside the) Santa Fe Trail," & "The Big Corral," but several are less

well-known, which enhances the CD's attractiveness to collectors of older cowboy & Western music. Those include "Lone Driftin' Rider," "The Legend of Judge Roy Bean" and "Old Black Steer," the last of which is one of several that have alternate titles and a few changes in lyrics from what you may be accustomed to. That's because the lyrics and melodies of traditional songs often changed as they were handed down, before we had recordings to preserve particular versions. "Riding Down the Trail" may well have been a Turner composition, since the lyrics situate it in Elko, NV, where I first met him over 25 years ago. But the melody is from "Going Down the Road Feeling Bad."

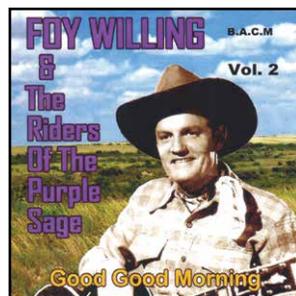
In Elko, he gave me a tape with what soon became my favorite Nevada Slim recording, "The Cowboy & the Lion," taken from his first LP on the Rural Rhythm label. Unfortunately, it's not in this collection, but you'll find favorites of your own on this CD. Amazon.com or call (615) 470-5451 ext. 222

★ ★ ★

## FOY WILLING & THE RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE VOL 2

*Good Good Morning*

BACM CD D 533



With this August 2016 release, the British Archive of Country Music (BACM) has issued another CD I think should be in every Western music lover's collection! This group's recordings have been re-issued by a number of companies over the years, but this release is a little different in one very

important respect. Most of the group's output was on radio transcriptions and air checks, but the audio on the first releases of this material on CD often had little depth because of surface noise or background noise stemming from inferior recording equipment. There have been several exceptions, but the point here is that much of this new set of 32 recordings sounds better than many of the group's previous releases! You can really appreciate the musicians as well as the vocalists!

The collection of 32 tracks includes a rare Capitol recording of "Riders in the Sky" but most are from Associated and AFRS transcriptions. Most are Western and country ballads, done in the Sagers' unique style, of course, but there are several fine up-tempo tunes as well, like "Tweedle O'Twill," "Good Good Morning" which they sang in Susana Pass, one of their Republic films with Roy Rogers, and "Ridin' Down to Santa Fe," one of the few selections you might find elsewhere. One of the rarities is a ballad you'll enjoy titled "Paradise Trail" which, I believe, was composed by Western screen play writer, director and producer, Oliver Drake, for a James Newill movie.

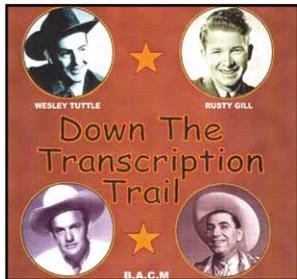
Kevin Coffey wrote extensive notes on the group's history. Highly recommended! Available from VenerableMusic.com, phone (678) 232-0268

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## DOWN THE TRANSCRIPTION TRAIL

*Various artists: Jack Rivers, The Westerners, Foy Willing & the Riders of the Purple Sage, the Ranch Boys, Tex Owens, Texas Ruby, etc.*

BACM CD D 425



In the 1930's and 40's artists recorded songs on large discs, exclusively for the use of radio stations across the country. It was a way to broaden the artists' exposure while giving local stations material for eager audiences. Recording these discs was a challenge, because all of the

songs on each side had to be recorded back-to-back, with no mistakes allowed. So the artists really had to be in top form during the sessions.

This collection of 26 tracks from 16" transcription discs, opens the door to a variety of talent, with songs they didn't always record commercially, so this may be the first time most of us have heard these renditions. The Down Homers sing the Oliver Drake composition, "Guns and Guitars," which was also the title of a 1936 Gene Autry film. [Drake wrote songs and screen plays and produced and directed numerous Western films but, interestingly, was not involved in this particular film]. Jack Rivers and his swing band do "Liza Jane," The Sunshine Girls sing "Dusty Skies," James Newill sings "Sleepy Hollow," Red Foley's wife, Judy Martin, does a fine job on "Give Me a Home in Montana," Russ Brown & the Cadets sing Smiley Burnette's "Dear Old Western Skies," with a "sound" that evokes B-Western films from the 1930's, Tex Owens (Texas Ruby's father and composer of "Cattle Call") sings "Rustler's Warning" and Jimmie Dean & the Trail Riders (including Wesley Tuttle) do a great, clear rendition of "Song of the Steamboat." Unfortunately, the audio on the rare "Will O' the Wisp" is not as clean as one might have wished, but it's quite good, nonetheless. And there's a surprise rendition of "Little Sweetheart of the Prairie" by the Ranch Boys!

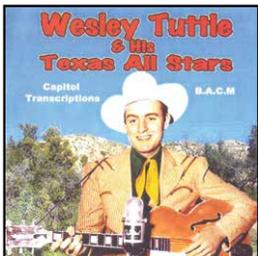
These examples should give you an idea of the cream of the crop, but there's much more and this CD is highly recommended! Contact [VenerableMusic.com](http://VenerableMusic.com), phone (678) 232-0268.

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## WESLEY TUTTLE & HIS TEXAS STARS

*Capitol Transcriptions*

B.A.C.M. CD D 528



The folks at the British Archive of Country Music spend their days searching for hard-to-find recordings that might otherwise be lost forever if not for their willingness to collect them and convert the old records to CDs for modern audiences to enjoy. They were so excited to locate the Wesley

Tuttle tracks on this new CD they rushed as quickly as

possible to get them to you. In their haste, they made a few typos in the notes and art work that probably should be explained, for the record, so to speak.

The name of Wesley's band was The Texas Stars, not All-Stars as depicted on the cover. And during the process of re-typing the liner notes for the layout, part of a sentence was inadvertently dropped. It referred to the uniqueness of Wesley's recording of a wonderful song composed by Smiley Burnette, "On the Strings of My Lonesome Guitar." The version on this CD is the only recording of that song I know of, that includes the verse. But the liner notes say it's the only recording of that song, period. It's not.

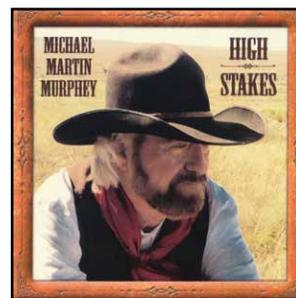
With that out of the way, let me say that this is one CD every Wesley Tuttle fan should have in their collection. The music, which includes Western, Western swing and smooth country ballads, with 5 instrumentals among the 26 tracks, is fantastic. In addition to a number of standards, there are some rarely heard gems, and Wesley's beautiful voice can be especially appreciated on some of them like "Just a Baby's Prayer at Twilight", "When I was a Boy from the Mountains" and Jenny Lou Carson's "Many Tears Ago." Some of the great Western songs we don't hear much anymore include "I Got to See Texas (just once more)," "I Long for the Hills of Wyoming" (which Wes may have learned when he was working with Stuart Hamblen) and the great Tim Spencer composition, "He's Gone Up the Trail." There's plenty to enjoy! Available from [VenerableMusic.com](http://VenerableMusic.com), phone (678) 232-0268 or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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## HIGH STAKES: COWBOY SONGS VII

*Michael Martin Murphey*

MMM-CD-001



For decades, Michael Martin Murphey has done more than his share to keep the culture of the cowboy and the West alive through his music. I'm not talking only about the effort it has required - I'm referring to results that take the form of memorable recordings that have found a place in the hearts

of Westerners and others alike all over the world.

After all these years, you might wonder how he was able to come out with a Volume VII in his series of cowboy albums, but in this collection of 11, you'll find a cross-section of old and new that is sure to have broad appeal. The lyrics, some his own, some by others, convey the issues facing the cowboy, both today and in the past. Two of the songs, "Running Gun" and "The Master's Call," were first recorded by Marty Robbins over 50 years ago, yet Murph's renditions sound as fresh today as when they were first recorded. Marty would be pleased, I'm sure. Others, composed more recently, have a newer "sound," which is sure to have a special appeal to folks who came along more recently than some of us old-timers. In sum, you get a well-rounded package, and it's all good! Contact [MichaelMartinMurphey.com](http://MichaelMartinMurphey.com).



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

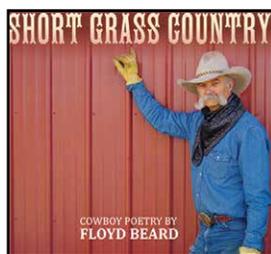
## RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

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

★ ★ ★

### FLOYD BEARD

#### "Short Grass Country"



A fine writer and reciter, Floyd Beard offers us another collection of top drawer cowboy

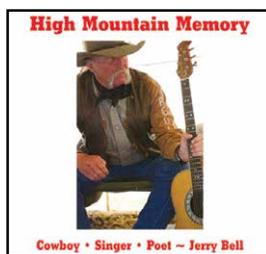
thoughts and delivery. "If I've got any pull I'll pray that old bull will throw calves of 'The Buyer's Type,'" Beard writes in the poem bearing that title. With equally apt turns of phrase, (and with considerable bravery...considering...), he brings us "One Size Fits All," an account of his wife's, er, adventures getting' dressed to go dancin'! With a different kind of "bravery" he engages in Spanish dialect humor in the novelty "Papa Noel." I'll let that one sit with you where it will. A nice appreciation of the solitary cowboy life can be found in "Ain't A Hermit" and the flip side of it is illustrated in "A Cowboy's Life Is The Easy Life" (as in "ya gotta be freakin' kiddin' me")!! Butch Hause also provides sensitive guitar support, making this a well produced package. Covers of others' works include Luther Lawhon's "The Good Old Cowboy Days," E.A. Brininstool's "Where The Sagebrush Billows Roll," Sunny Hancock's "The Bear Tale" and Banjo Patterson's "Man From Snowy River." Nice collection! Eighteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Short Grass Studios, PO Box 124, Kim, CO 81049.

★ ★ ★

### JERRY BELL

#### "High Mountain Memory"



The newest release from Jerry Bell should again find an appreciative audience, and once

again I'm putting in my request for his studio guy to mix Bell's vocal singing performances more in the forefront! Bell is a vivid reciter, authentic in tone and content. Works of Colen Sweeten, Pat Richardson, S. Omar Barker, Sunny Hancock (rather than the "Sony Handcok" credited here) and Bruce Kiskaddon are always welcome. Among the songs covered are Tom Russell & Ian Tyson's "Rose of San Joaquin," Larry Bastian & Ernest Berghoff's "Cowboy Bill," Marty Robbins' "Old Red," Ernest & James Schaper and Bill Barwick's "Don't Know Much About Waltzin" and Lucky Whipple's "Bucking Horse Ballet." Two worthy Bell originals round it out (Ride 'Em Cowboy" and the title track "High Mountain Memory"). Fourteen tracks. I do like Jerry Bell's style of delivery in both his spoken and singing modes. Now if we can just get his "mixologist" to let us fully hear him sing...

CD: \$15 + s/h from Jerry Bell, 20 Foxtail Lane, Riverton, WY 82501.

★ ★ ★

### MARY BETH CROSS BAND

#### "Feels Like Home"



A fine, mellow Bluegrass/Americana performer is Colorado's Mary Beth Cross, a per-

sistent and solid presence at music events and venues in the Rocky Mountain area. Her newest release is a six-track ET that touches all around feelings and life of the West without being specifically "Western." Her writing is inspired, say the promotional notes, by stories of her family and the forests and farms of her Wisconsin upbringing and, of course, that Colorado effect! The closest to the Western genre would be "Cottonwood Creek" and "Threshing Time," a lively trip onto her grandparents' 1940s era dairy farm. Covers of Paul Simon's "Kathy's Song," Doc Watson's classic "Shady Grove" (on which her band mates get to fly in solos), Gary White's hit "Long Long Time" and a lengthy but interesting medley that takes "Summertime" by the Gershwins & Dubose Heyward and melds it with Van McCoy's "Moondance" and an original of hers (done in English and French versions) called "Pas de Deux." Cross' very tight band consists of co-producer Chris Pandolfi (banjo), Jeremy Garrett

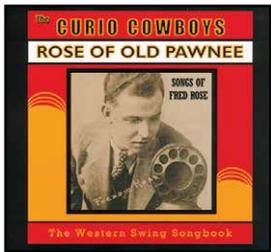
*Continued on page 40*

(fiddle/mandolin/harmony), Tyler Grant (guitar/harmony) and Adrian Engfer (bass/harmony). Enjoyable on many levels.

CD: (available through HYPERLINK "http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/marybethcross6" www.cdbaby.com/cd/marybethcross6 or iTunes.apple.com/us/album/feels-like-home-ep/

## CURIO COWBOYS

### "Rose Of Old Pawnee"



This group has a unique and ongoing preservationist mission. That would be to bring the earliest style of

Western Swing forward, with all its quaintly rowdy and somewhat disjointed quirkiness. So here, straight from what could have been an Edison cylinder or pancake-thick 78 rpm recording, is the newest recording from the Curio Cowboys!

The collection celebrates some of the many early Fred Rose songs, including some from the period he used the pseudonym "Floyd Jenkins." Rose became known later to another generation for such standards as "Kaw-liga," "Roly Poly," "Take These Chains From My Heart" and "Blue Eyes Cryin' In The Rain." He also was responsible for the now standardized arrangement of "Cattle Call."

Pick tracks in the style include "Rootie Tootie," "Low & Lonely," "I Can't Go On This Way," "Home In San Antone," "Deed I Do," "Blues In My Mind" and the instrumental "Deep Henderson." Jordan Ripley's vocal on "Deed I Do" is a nice plus and she and husband Byron (from The Tumbleweeds) do the honors on "Texarkana Baby" to its benefit.

When approaching this style, just set your tuning fork aside and relax! Eighteen tracks.

CD: \$15 from amazon, cdbaby and "wherever Western Music is sold!"

## GATHERING OF NATIONS

### "Tate au - Changing Winds"



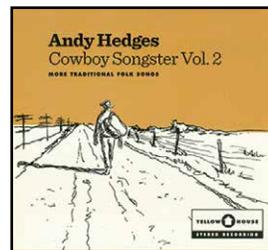
Gathering of Nations founder (and album producer) Derek Matthews states in the liner notes "for the best

listening experience play this recording loudly from beginning to end!" I would add "over big speakers and with piñon incense burning!" You'll be transported! The CD was recorded live during the dance contests at the 2016 mounting of the World's Biggest Powwow, and it makes a strong entry into the library of Gathering recordings (which already includes two GRAMMY® winners)! Arena announcers Vince Beyl, Dennis Bowen and Ruben Littlehead escort you along the trail. Repeated playings will let the listener begin to appreciate the amazing intricacies of these songs, as complex in structure as some classical compositions. Included here are 20 from the 31 top drum and singing groups who performed. Here are two points: traditional songs are designed to be sung through four times, honoring the directions. And the higher the voices, the more Northern is the influence. Welcome it in, as the Indian story most assuredly is part of the Western story! In full disclosure, I've had the high honor of working closely with The Gathering since its founding in 1983. Twenty-four tracks. Recommended!

CD: available through www.gatheringofnations.com

## ANDY HEDGES

### "Cowboy Songster Vol. 2"



Although not strictly a Western CD by "definition," all of the songs and recitations (set to

Hedges' often spellbinding guitar treatments) are authentic ones used by cowcamp entertainers. Or at least they were songs that coulda-woulda-shoulda been so-used! It's interesting to note how easily Bob Dylan's "Walkin' Down The Line" slips right into place beside "Ragged But Right" or D. J. O'Malley's "Charlie Rutledge." S. Omar Barker's "Into The West" is set to music here and works well. In the notes Don Edwards says these cowcamp entertainers were variously known as "musicianers" or "songsters" and maintained "an intensely pure relationship" with their audiences. That effect is nicely achieved in the recording of this collection. Here you will find that simple, wholesome clarity that comes with well thought out voice and guitar work...heart to hand and voice to ear. To good effect for the recording Hedges used his dad's vintage Harmony Sovereign h1260 guitar, rebuilt with a "harmony conversion." Andy Hedges is onto something fresh with this approach and I applaud it! Eleven tracks.

CD: www.andyhedges.com.

## JARED ROGERSON

### "Heaven"



Rogerson's fourth CD release continues to justify his slogan "Cowboy Music From The New

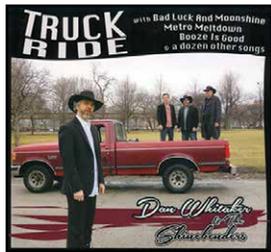
West," and he is living proof that our definition of Western Music must hinge on lyric content rather than instrumentation or style. His "Life's Too Short Not To Rodeo" is Country Rock musically and it includes the classic Western theme of the city-bound guy opting for the "gentle" bucking arts! "When It's Rainin' Cowboys" describes a tough night at the rodeo. Tracks that fall squarely into the contemporary Americana category are also present. Most of the songs

are Rogerson writes and co-writes, with covers of two songs written by CD co-producer Brenn Hill ("Pictures In The Fire" and "Cowboy Singer Too," a valid comment on certain Western festivals' bars for qualifying. "Why Wyoming" is a wonderfully eerie sung conversation/duet with Devin Rae about a spiritual need to relocate. It's an effect I tried for producing a Jim Jones song back in 2004, but the other singer wouldn't cooperate! Jared Rogerson represents the new "Western." Whether you would call his output by that name or not, you need to come to terms with it one way or the other. Twelve tracks. Recommended.

CD: \$18 + \$2 s/h through HYPERLINK "http://www.jaredrogerson.com/"www.jaredrogerson.com, downloads through most online sources or mail order from Roughstock Records, PO Box 2071, Riverdale, WY 82941.

## DAN WHITAKER & THE SHINEBENDERS

### "Truck Ride"



Retro style Western Swing mixed in with Honky Tonk that would be at home in the finer chicken wire

barrier roadhouses you'll come across! Where else could these boys hail from but Chicago??! Dan Whitaker has ridden the waves of musical genres in The Windy City since the 1980s so he's got the credentials and the chops. The Western Swing tracks are primarily the collection's instrumentals such as "Stony Island Stomp," "Clipper Time," "Metro Meltdown," "Cottage Grove Cruise" but also the vocal "Jukin'." Slow shuffles include "Only Illusion" and "Hangin' On A Limb." And there are some flat-out "Old School" Country tracks to keep the pot simmering. Band mates include Earl Power (bass); Tom Mioducki (harmony

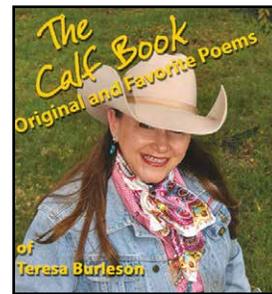
vocal, acoustic guitar & electric piano); Eric Niffenegger (drums/percussion) and alternating steel players Gabriel Stutz, Dennis Andreatta and Herbie Green. Hey, they're tight, they're danceable... in other words, they're everything a body's feet could want! Recommended. Sixteen tracks.

CD: available through www.danwhitaker.com.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### TERESA BURLESON

#### "The Calf Book"



Poet Teresa Burleson is no stranger to either the Western life or to Western audiences. Her newest release offers more of her views of the former to the latter.

In "Cowgirl Way" she clearly states and demonstrates that strength comes in different dressing, but also she affirms making a hand doesn't mean she hands off her feminine side. The title track "The Calf Book" illustrates it all comes out in the wash, and that is the problem, unfortunately! In "The Message" she arguably equates the shameful Indian betrayal with loss of rights today. And a particular turn of phrase from "Gettin' Lucky" caught my ear: "Visions of cowboys two-stepped in their heads." Covers include Luke Reed's "One-Eyed Jack," Larry McWhorter's brief but dead-on "Therapy" and on Daron Little's "The Bell Song" the CD engineer happened to record Burleson singing part of the words she intended to only recite and blended singing with recitation together in post. Good capture!

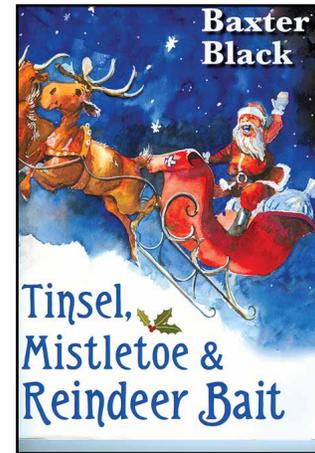
Some friends help on the album with music intros and outros. They include Aarom Meador (guitar/mandolin/Native flute), Devon Dawson (drum/Scottish bodran) and Kristyn Harris (fiddle). Eleven tracks.

CD: info not furnished.

## BAXTER BLACK

### "Tinsel, Mistletoe & Reindeer Bait"

ISBN 978-0-939343-62-1



The ever clever Mr. Black is back for the holidays, with a mixed bag of goodies! Broken into two sections labeled

(accurately) "Fun" and "Faith," the book contains a number of fan favorites from both categories.

In one piece Baxter asks the burning question "What's Christmas To A Cow?" Who else would envision bovines choosing whether to believe in Santa Claus or Santa Gertrudis? Or try "How The Angel Got On Top Of The Tree" with its profoundly painful mental picture conjured up of the angel asking 'Santy' the wrong thing at the precisely the wrong time! There's a nutty "Christmas Gift Exchange on The Farm" that will make you wonder if that desert air Baxter breaths is full of "provocatives!" The "Fun" section is chock full of Santy tails for the kidder in all of us. On Christmas Eve, put the wee ones to bed, then pull this out...and try not to wake everybody up giggling and snorting.

In Part Two (the "Faith" part), the content is obvious and specific.

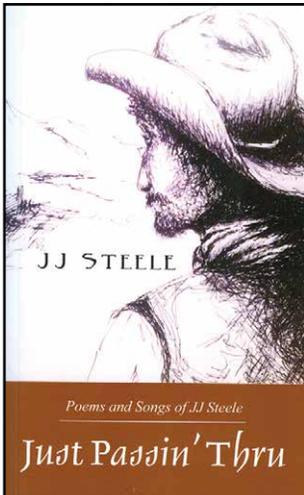
The book is "gleefully illustrated" (the publisher's words but I concur) by Wally Badgett, Bob Black, Don Gill, Dave Holl, Charlie Marsh, Herb Mignery and Bill Patterson. Fifty-six pages. Recommended! Hardcover Book: \$21.95 + s/h through www.baxterblack.com or call 1-800-654-2550.

Continued on page 42

**J.J. STEELE**

**“Just Passin’ Thru”**

ISBN 978-1-4787-7220-0



J.J. Steele is one of those cow-poets the fans want to hear from because he has definitely been there - do - ne - that! In his introduction, Steele admits “I might just break meter in mid-poem cause that’s the way I tell it best.” But it’s real, and that would be the point of the

exercise, right? Alluding to stages of life, Steele clusters his verse into the categories “Summer Range,” “Winter Stubble” and “Home Pasture.” From Steele’s poem “Frosty” comes the following vivid description: “ One day this horse kicked Frosty right smack in the face...and where his nose, it used to be, it left him just a place!” Ouch. And Steele also knows from whence came dinner in another verse: “When I eat my steak, I knew it came hard” and that means “tippin’ my hat to ‘The Crew In The Yard!’” His verse “Mr. Bud Pie” is a nice horse tale, and you’ll find others that will speak directly to you, particularly if you are from the horse and cow culture. The collection isn’t Earth-shattering, nor is it intended to be. It’s just an honest portrayal of some more pieces of the West of today and of times not long passed. I guess you could say it deals with “the moments and the momentous.” Sixty-five pages. Trade Paperback – US \$14.95 [www.outskirtspress.com](http://www.outskirtspress.com) and available through [www.jjsteele.com](http://www.jjsteele.com).

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

[www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org)



*In Memoriam*

Continued from page 30

Special thanks to CowboyPoetry.Com for allowing adaptation and reprint of several of the poet obituaries on that Website. Used by permission.

**Jess Howard, 1936 – 2016**



With great sadness, we learned of the death of poet and 1970 NRCA Saddle Bronc champion Jess Howard on February 22, 2016. Jess was a popular performer at Western events. A great friendly guy with a wry sense of humor, he and his brother Pat Richardson often wrote together and recited each others’ poems. They each would call the other the “best brother ever.”

Jess was born on October 3, 1936 in Merced, California to Edmund and Violette (Jones) Howard. After growing up and graduating in California, he joined the Army before he turned eighteen and spent the next two years stationed in Hawaii. Jess worked odd jobs and rodeoed with many great friends, including his brother Pat, over the next several years...In 1970, Jess became the NRCA Championship Saddle Bronc Rider, winning a saddle and his favorite buckle. In 1971, Jess began an almost thirty-five year horseshoeing career. In 1975, they moved to Fallon, Nevada where he shod horses. In 1994, Jess and Judy moved closer to family in Montana and North Dakota. Jess began to overcome his lifelong stage fright in order to share his cowboy poetry, singing and guitar skills. Many more great friendships were created during these travels and gatherings. [photo by Jeri Dobrowski]

An on-going gathering, updated continually with news; event listings; cowboy poems and songs; features about cowboy poets, musicians, publications, radio; and more.

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

[www.CowboyPoetry.com](http://www.CowboyPoetry.com)

# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. How You Heal - Brenn Hill
2. Mood Swings - Liz Masterson
3. Ride a Wide Circle - Mary Kaye
4. Western Stories - Dave Stamey
5. A Cowboy Like Me - Doug Figgs
6. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris
7. Living the Western Dream - Joyce Woodson
8. Heaven - Jared Rogerson
9. One Boot in the Stirrup - Bernadette Ducharme
10. Lovers, Wives, and Mothers - Almeda Bradshaw
11. Songs of...The High Country Cowboys - High Country Cowboys
12. Cowboy to the Bone - R.J. Vandygriff
13. Crossing Borders - Carol Markstrom
14. Meadowlark - James Michael
15. He's Just a Cowboy - Les Frick
16. This Cowboy - R.W. Hampton
17. Songs for the Ride Home - Mark Baker
18. Cowboy's Wage - Trinity Seely
19. Cowboy Songster 2 - Andy Hedges
20. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel
21. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
22. All I Need - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
23. Under Blue Skies - Allan Chapman & Rodeo Kate
24. Big Corral Roundup - Barbara Nelson
25. Best Western - Sourdough Slim & Robert Armstrong
26. Keeper of the West - Ryan Fritz
27. Into the West - Ron Christopher
28. Race With the Wind - Jim Jones
29. Cowboys and Girls - Randy Huston & Hannah Huston
30. Granite Mountain - Belinda Gail

## TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Dime Stories, Vol. 2 - Carolyn Sills Combo
2. Trail Jazz - Cowboy Joe Babcock
3. Ain't Dead Yet - Hot Texas Swing Band
4. Wild Blue Yonder - The Western Flyers
5. A Platter of Brownies (The Music of Milton Brown) - Carolyn Martin
6. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas - Susie Blue
7. Old Pictures in a New Frame - Brady Bowen
8. Legends - Coby Carter
9. Still the King - Asleep at the Wheel
10. Now Playing - The Western Swing Authority

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. How You Heal - Brenn Hill
2. A Cowboy Like Me - Doug Figgs
3. Living the Western Dream - Joyce Woodson
4. By a Campfire on the Trail - Liz Masterson
5. Twenty and Cowboy - Brenn Hill
6. An Old Water Mill by a Waterfall - Liz Masterson
7. Fairweather Cowboy - Brenn Hill
8. Driftin' Cowboy - R.W. Hampton
9. Custer's Ghost - Dave Stamey
10. Thank Heavens for Dale Evans - Kristyn Harris

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Fillin' Tanks - Susie Knight
2. Passin' it On - Mag Mawhinney
3. Rhyming the Range - Yvonne Hollenbeck
4. Cowboy Lonesome - Duane Nelson
5. The Bar D Roundup, 2014 - Various Artists
6. Rhyme 'em, Cowboy - Tom Swearingen
7. Cowboy Poet: the Poetry of Larry McWhorter - Various Artists
8. Amongst Friends - Baxter Black
9. Baxter Black's NPR CD - Baxter Black
10. Sweat Equity - Waddie Mitchell  
December Stragglers - Terry Nash  
Cowboy Poetry Classics - Various Artists

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo  
Calling All Cowboys Radio  
88.9 FM, KPOV FM  
22470 Rickard Rd.  
Bend, OR 97702  
541-388-2537  
[http://kpov-od.streamguys.us/calling\\_all\\_cowboys\\_new\\_56k.mp3](http://kpov-od.streamguys.us/calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3)  
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show  
NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio  
radio.spalding-labs.com  
callingallcowboys@hotmail.com  
(prefers music be sent digitally)

KWC Ameriana Radio Station  
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez  
avenidagaltzaraborda nº47 2ªA  
20100 renteria  
Guipuzcoa  
España  
miguelbilly56@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

Tom Kerlin & Uncle Rich  
Horsetown South Western Music Show  
WEKS  
120 Village Circle  
Senoia, GA 30276  
770-599-1923  
cutnfool@bellsouth.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Continued on page 45*

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

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

Bob O'Donnell  
2091 Park Ave  
#320  
Riverton UT 84065  
justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

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

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

TotsieSlover  
Real West From The Old West  
AM 1230 KOTS Radio  
220 S. Gold Ave.  
Deming, NM 88030  
575-494-0899  
realwestoldwest@live.com

www.realwestoldwest.com  
www.demingradio.com  
Facebook/totsieslover

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

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

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

*Continued from page 34*

essential to my survival. I'm not in remission, per se, but every day I stay alive is a step closer. All of us are facing mortality, so do things that feed your soul, while you can.

**TWW: Who are some of your musical heroes?**

Liz: So many! Of course, Patsy Montana and Rex Allen, Sr. Some early ones were Kingston Trio, Judy Collins, Ian and Sylvia, Peter, Paul and Mary. Then there's Louis and Ella, Jo Stafford, Mills Brothers, Ink Spots, Merle Haggard, Nat "King" Cole, Riders in the Sky, Bob Wills, Beatles, Kate Wolf, Dave Stamey... and I just discovered the Mavericks.

**TWW: O.K. – let's get silly for a minute. What's your favorite pie?**

Liz: So hard to pick one. Lemon Meringue, Peach and Boysenberry. Just a sliver of each, please!

**TWW: Favorite color?**

Liz: Turquoise (my birthstone), often known as Teal, which is easier to spell. And as Pink is the color for Breast Cancer, Teal is the color for Ovarian. How lucky is that?

**TWW: Favorite country music singer?**

Liz: Merle, Willie, George Jones, Randy Travis, Dolly, Linda Ronstadt, Alice Gerrard and many more.

**TWW: Do you eat Brussel Sprouts?**

Liz: Absolutely! They are great roasted or raw, combined with

Kale. I'm into super foods!

**TWW: Can you name a songwriter whose work you love whom you don't feel is getting the recognition he/she deserves?**

Liz: Randy Houston and Elliot Rogers come to mind. Also, Ranger Rick Roltgen and Jill Jones have written some beautiful songs. Joyce Woodson is truly amazing to me!

**TWW: How much room is there in western music for creativity? By that, we mean: is it o.k. to drift from a traditional sound as long as the lyrics are western? Do you have any thoughts on that?**

Liz: I might not be the one to ask about that. I'm a purist when it comes to doing the classic westerns. I don't like people changing too much, but want them to make it their own. I was knocked out by the Hanson Family 2 years ago. Might have been "Navajo Trail," but it was that perfect blend of tradition and creative interpretation. As far as contemporary songs, just keep me away from any "synthesized music"

**TWW: Liz, thank you for subjecting yourself to our sometimes-silly questions. You're a great sport, and your enthusiasm and sense of humor has always been so infectious for those who are around you. We'll see you in November at the Western Music Association Convention in Albuquerque.**

Liz: My pleasure, and thanks for the chance to expound. Really looking forward to another great time at WMA. It is always full of great music and wonderful friends. 



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### Questions?

Email [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org) or call 505-563-0673.

Who may we thank for referring you to WMA?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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The Western Music Association is an organization that encourages and supports the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West.

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