

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the International Western Music Association

IN THE CROSSHAIRS:

R.W. HAMPTON

2011 IWMA HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE SHARES
THE ADVENTURE

PAGE 6

2021 IWMA
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES

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—•••••—
IWMA 2021
PULL-OUT SCHEDULE

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Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021

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Dinner 6:30

Show 7:15

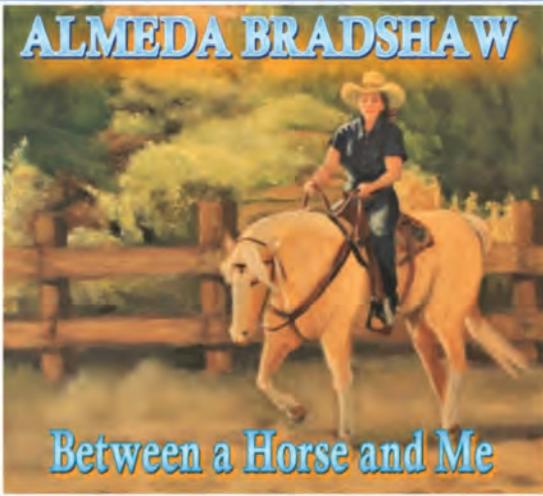


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- Cowboy Poetry Contest Saturday 10:00-11:30 am
- Guitar Workshop with Ernie Martinez
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Pre-Release Reviews

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From The President...



Robert Lorbeer
IWMA President

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

The Executive Director, the Board of Directors and countless other IWMA members are working hard to put together our Convention that will take place at Hotel Albuquerque Wednesday,

November 10 through Sunday, November 14. Yes, I assure you that we will be taking appropriate precautions regarding Covid. We are in almost daily contact with the Hotel and closely monitoring what the New Mexico Governor is doing regarding Covid in that state. Sometime before the Convention, the Board of Directors will recommend guidelines as to what each of us can do for the safety of everyone.

Hopefully, by the time November rolls around Covid will be a thing of the past or under control. But with all the uncertainty, we are preparing for what the circumstances are as of today. With that being said, we are planning for a fun, educational, safe Convention and Awards Show. We know that everyone is "chomping at the bit" to get back into a "normal" life.

If you have not signed up to attend the Convention yet and are planning to go, you can sign up online iwma.ecwid.com/IWMA-2021-MEMBER-PRICING, or call the IWMA office at **505.563.0673**.

*We hope to see you in Albuquerque
in November for IWMA2021!*

Robert Lorbeer
President, IWMA



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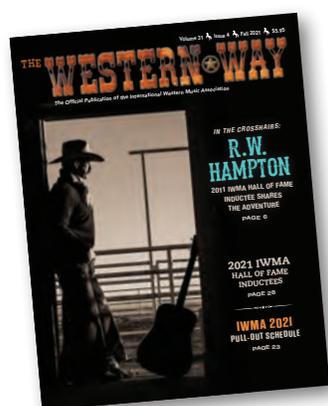
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ON THE COVER...

R.W. is known for his patriotism, his family values and his Christian beliefs. His rich baritone voice and the cowboy songs he sings make R.W. today's voice of Cowboy Music. He is pure cowboy.

Cover photo by Jaymie Dunlap/Dunlap Photography

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

Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell
Editor

A Trip Worth Taking

Like many of our readers, we were ready to get out and “hit the road” once again after the long year-and-a-half of virtually no travel. So off we went with a few points of interest to see but also free enough to leave the main highways and investigate some small towns and sights off the beaten path!

One planned destination for us was to visit the birthplace and museum for the Father of Bluegrass, Bill Monroe, in Rosine, KY. All the details of the story are too long to tell, but we did arrive in Rosine on Sunday, July 18. To our dismay, the Museum was closed. We were disappointed but took pictures outside, walked the well-manicured grounds and prepared to leave.

Other cars began to pull into the parking lot. As we talked with the new arrivals, we learned that there was to be an unveiling of an historical marker to honor Virgil Earp. Ohio County (Hartford, KY) was Virgil's birthplace on July 18, 1843. Members of the historical society, bureau of tourism, and a representative of the Ohio County Bluegrass Cowboy Fast Draw Club plus local residents (and us!) were on hand for the occasion. The great-great niece of Virgil Earp was there to unveil the marker and spoke briefly about her Earp family heritage.

As we talked and mingled, we met Jody Flener, Executive Director of the Bill Monroe Museum, who graciously offered to open the Museum and invited us to enjoy a private tour

of the facility. What a treat. After our tour she directed us to the gravesite for Bill Monroe, his homeplace, and even the homeplace for “Uncle Pen.”

An experience that looked like it would be a disappointing detour of the trip turned out to be a highlight to be remembered.

For our many readers who are travelers, I encourage you to add a stop in Rosine, KY, to your itinerary. You will learn much about Bill Monroe, the man, his music, his legacy. You can also learn a little more about the legendary Virgil Earp who is revered in Ohio County and some even think he deserves more recognition than his famous brother, Wyatt Earp. But you can decide. And, if you time it just right, you may very likely find a whole lot of great pickin' and singin' taking place at the local general store where the footprints of Bill Monroe can be found painted on the porch to show where he spent many nights playing the music he loved. And each Fall there is plenty of music to be found in the Kentucky mountains like the Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Celebration held in September. So, get off the beaten path and enjoy music wherever the road takes you!



Theresa



From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

FRUSTRATION: the feeling of being upset or annoyed, especially because of inability to change or achieve something or the prevention of the progress, success, or fulfillment of something.

As you can imagine, a lot of us are frustrated right now because we can't make any definite statements about the IWMA Convention in

November and can't always answer your questions with a firm yes or no. It WILL happen but there are a lot of things we won't know up until we walk through the door at Hotel Albuquerque. By the time you're reading this, the Board will have established the IWMA COVID Statement and sent it out to all attendees. The Board's first and foremost priority is the safety and health of all IWMA members and visitors. We hope that as we move into Fall, we'll just need to take a few precautions and have a great time together!

If you haven't bought your tickets yet, there's an order form in this issue of The Western Way or you can order tickets on the website and pay online. Don't forget that workshops are free, but we need to know which ones you will attend so we can have enough seats for everyone.

Thanks to Lu Middleton and her family, we're planning another great Western Boutique/Consignment Shop. Be sure to bring your gently used western wear to sell and pick up a few new things, too. We'll also have the usual vendors in the hallways and the CD Mercantile. You can support IWMA performing members by picking up a few CDs to take home with you.

And there's the usual great workshops, showcases and contests going on all day. Come in time for the opening lunch with Rex Allen, Jr. and stay through the Gospel Concert on Sunday. There's so much going on every hour and it's hard to be everywhere at once...but you'll hear great Western Music and Cowboy Poetry around every corner.

Be well, stay safe and see you in Albuquerque!

Marsha



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

Example of Distribution Outlets:

- Arizona Folklore Preserve – Sierra Vista, AZ
- Autry National Center – Los Angeles, CA
- Museum of Western Film History – Lone Pine, CA
- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- Friends of Marty Robbins Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
- www.westernmusic.org

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

In the **CROSSHAIRS**



R.W. Hampton, rich baritone voice and guitar, a simple combination that connects with audiences.
Photo courtesy Jaymie Dunlap

R.W. HAMPTON

Hamptons Big Adventure

A Conversation with The Western Way

Driving west along NM Highway 21 from Springer, the Sangre de Cristo mountains on the horizon rise up in front of you above a sea of grassy plains. Part of the southernmost peaks and ridges of the Rockies, they cast a dozen shades of blue across the horizon.

This beautiful country is home to deer, elk, bears, mountain lions and a variety of other wildlife, as well as International Western Music Association Hall of Fame singer, R.W. Hampton, his wife Lisa and their family.

Their place, Clearview Ranch, sits, as he says “right where the mountains and the mesas roll down into the plains.” To the west of their home is the spectacular “Tooth of Time” landmark on the Philmont Scout Ranch. To the south are a series of mesas that their home sets up against, and to the north and east is the shortgrass country he sings about, with views that stretch 100 miles or more.

It’s a cattle rancher and cowboy’s dream come true and the setting for a hundred songs R.W.’s written over the 45 years since he first visited as a Boy Scout. Everything from “Cimarron” and “Shortgrass Country,” to “Born to be a Cowboy.” So, we had to ask why he and Lisa recently bought a home and moved to Amarillo, Texas? The answer lay in his heart and values.

God, Country, Family, Then Career

“If I do this thing called life right, no matter how much of an impression I make in the entertainment world, the one that really matters is on my kids and their kids,” R.W. said. “We set the example of the principles I hope they live by. When it’s all said and done, I want



R.W. with wife and #1 fan, Lisa, on the ranch.
Photo courtesy Tycie Jackson

to be known not just for my voice but for my heart and values. Lisa and I have six kids between us – one daughter and five boys. The older ones are grown and raising families of their own from the East Coast to here in Texas and New Mexico.

“There was a point in my career after the others were in college that we were able to take our youngest two boys on the road with us,” he continued. “It came at a time where I was getting a lot more bookings and I was on the road almost every weekend and sometimes for 10-14 day runs. The only way I could give my all to my career and be the dad and husband I was called to be was for us to all go on the road together. Lisa was able to homeschool the boys and we incorporated the places we traveled through into our American History lessons, into their math, writing, science and of course art and music. Aside from the expected pitfalls of two kids in an SUV for 26,000 miles, having the boys on tour was great. They learned how to talk to adults, how to make change at the CD table, run the sound equipment, play guitar, and Calvin Danner had the opportunity to get up on stage and record in the studio with me and see what that’s all about. Plus no one could say ‘no’ to those two at the CD table, so it really boosted sales.

“Eventually we sent them both back to school in the village of Cimarron, but once Danner graduated in 2019 we realized Ethan needed a more challenging environment that would prepare him for college. Amarillo was the natural choice. I am a Texan after all, and most of our boys were born in Amarillo. Three of our older kids live within

a few hours drive, our doctors are there as well as a great airport and a community that shares our values. Lisa has enjoyed the shopping (maybe too much), and we love to have ice cream that’s still frozen or pizza delivered. Plus, it’s under 4 hours back to the ranch when we want to get away from town.”

The pandemic proved to R.W. that God’s hand was in all of it for them. “We found our place in the fall of 2019 right before Red Steagall’s annual gathering that year and started remodeling it as soon as we got back from Elko in 2020”, he said. “And then the pandemic hit. After watching the differences between the schools in Texas versus New Mexico, we are sure God blessed us with amazing timing, and Ethan has only had to do online classes for a few months before the move.”

When everything started to shut down in March 2020, R.W. had a full calendar of dates through Elko in January of 2021. Within the course of a week or two, like everyone else in the industry, his office faced massive cancellations and postponements.

“At 62 years old, to see a lifetime of work gone and your calendar empty takes your breath away,” he said. “I’m probably old-school, but I enjoy being the ‘provider’ and all of a sudden I wasn’t. Financially we knew we were going to be okay, and as my bookings disappeared, Lisa’s health and weight-loss business doubled and then quadrupled. But emotionally, it was a challenge. It was humbling, and I really had to turn to my faith and try to stay busy to get through it at the start.”



Mending fences is all in a day’s work.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7

“We had construction projects going on at two homes: one in New Mexico at the ranch and our new home in Texas. As a matter of fact, they still aren’t done. We only had one functioning bedroom at the time but our ranch became sort of an ark for several young men in the area that found themselves out of work and sent home from college with nowhere to go. So we added fencing projects and had them help with the cattle and horses.”

And then a movie came calling. Peace River started filming at the ranch in September all the way through November.

“Utilizing several of our good horses and various locations around the ranch, it was the perfect distraction.” R.W. said. “Danner, our ranch hand Bobby, and some of the guys at the ranch had parts and I was given a nice role myself.”

R.W. plays a small-town pastor who is also the local high school rodeo coach. The film is about a handsome young cowboy with a promising rodeo career who enlists as a soldier and is sent to Afghanistan. After a disastrous turn of events, he is sent home to the ranch and community where he grew up to sort it all out. In the process, he learns how important faith, grace and trust are to his healing. (Watch R.W.’s social media and website for the film’s release date.)

R.W. also filmed an episode of “West of Wall Street” with Red Steagall at the American Quarter Horse Museum in Amarillo and currently is reviewing three

other movie scripts. Known for his deep baritone voice you will hear him each year as the voice on the videos for the Wrangler Award winners in Oklahoma City, which he was recording this week as we talked. And like many other artists he has done a number of virtual concerts, several interviews for podcasts with folks like Gary Holt, Bobby Jean Bell, Andy Hedges and Warren Cole Smith and the occasional Facebook Live event. Fans can catch R.W.’s next in-person date at the 30th Annual Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering in Fort Worth, October 22-24.

“Covid and the shutdown isn’t something I would wish on anyone, but it definitely has made us appreciate all that we’ve been blessed with,” R.W. said. “We have been able to focus on family and have seen more of our older boys, Cooper and Denver, that live farther away. It’s made us take stock in our priorities and broadened my career and given me opportunities I might never have had if I was on the road every week. But I miss live dates and interacting with people who like our music. As a performer one of the biggest rewards is connecting with people. Our fans become our friends. All the social media interaction in the world doesn’t do that for me.”

So What’s Next?

“We recorded a companion album to This Cowboy called My Country, but in the years that followed it was never released. Now with everything going on, I think it’s finally time,” R.W. said. The album digs deeper into Hampton’s love for his cowboy roots, the ranchland he lives on, the people who make it up, both now and



The Hampton Family keeps growing and enjoying family time. *Photo courtesy Jaymie Dunlap.*

throughout history, and of course his patriotism. And almost every song has ties back to his family and home.

Recognizable covers include the “Yellow Rose Of Texas” as well as “Strawberry Roan” and Johnny Cash’s song “The Ballad of Ira Hayes.” Hampton has memorable duets with Mary Kaye on Les Buffum’s haunting song, “No Wilder Place” and with his son Calvin Danner on a song from Gods and Generals called “Going Home.” Both songs will leave you with a lump in your throat. The opening song, “Living Free” is an upbeat number about living life with no strings attached – ironically written by son Colter before he settled down to raising his family on the legendary 6666’s (Four Sixes) Ranch where he works as a cowboy. According to R.W., “He’s one heck of a songwriter but he’s an even better cowboy, dad and husband. This is the second song of his I’ve recorded. The first was on my album Austin to Boston, called ‘Rodeo Man.’”

Longtime Western Music fans may recognize fresh recordings of “Cimarron” and “Donnie Catch a Horse” as well as a song that Red Steagall recorded that he and R.W. wrote many years ago called “Texas Bein Texas.” It was based on a line Colter said to R.W. as they were driving home from an event one spring in Southwest plains and caprock country.

Regarding his cover of Cash’s “Ira Hayes”, R.W. said, “It’s a tip of the hat not only to my own Marine, my son Cooper, who has been on multiple deployments, but to our forgotten military and also to my daughter and her Native American family and the contribution they’ve made to keeping our country free. I find so many parallels to some of the issues our soldiers and Marines are facing now with the unaddressed homelessness and addictions. Most people aren’t aware that statistically we have lost more than double the number of veterans to suicides and overdoses than we have to conflicts since the Gulf Wars started. Johnny recorded the song to bring awareness and I’m re-recording it for the same reason.

“I hope that when people listen to this album, they will say ‘I can tell what this guy is about. He understands what it takes to be a Cowboy, he appreciates freedom, and that the life we choose comes with a price.’ I don’t want to preach my beliefs to people but I want them to know what they are - because that’s what makes me who I am.”

R.W. may be thinking about how his actions shape the lives of his kids (& grandkids), but others are recognizing what he is doing to shape the world around us. Already a member of the International Western Music Hall of Fame, Hampton was recently honored by the Boy Scouts of America as Philmont

Scout Ranch’s Distinguished Staff Alumni. The honor recognizes those whose distinguished and exceptional personal success and achievements on a national and international level bring honor and credit to the legacy of Philmont. The list of fellow recipients includes astronauts, wilderness explorers and the creator of Leave No Trace.

By the time this goes to print, R.W. will have received the Chester A. Reynolds Memorial Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. In a land full of great cowboys and men promoting the ideals and values of our Western Culture, R.W. is honored to be recognized by his peers for what he’s contributed to the positive image and promoting the western way of life.



Red Steagall and R.W. enjoy the show backstage at the Red Steagall Gathering.

R.W., Lisa and Danner have long been involved in the IWMA as Lifetime Members. R.W. has performed at the annual event many times, even as far back as when it was hosted in Tucson, Arizona. A staunch supporter of perpetuating not just the history of Western Music but also embracing new artists and materials that carry the signature Western sound and lyrics, he has always enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow performers. Unfortunately he has a previous commitment to be overseas during this year’s event and he will miss everyone coming together in Albuquerque.

At a time when many are searching for someone who has their priorities straight, their values in line with their actions, and who quietly tries to make their mark on the world, it is refreshing to find a humble working cowboy still out there getting the job done – the Western way. 🐾



WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR

2021

Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering
October 3 – Durango, CO

Heber Valley Music & Cowboy Poetry Gathering
October 13-17 – Heber City, UT

Cowboys in the Hood
October 16 – Hood River, OR

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western Swing Festival
October 22-24 – Grand Junction, CO

Western Slope Cowboy Gathering
November 5-6 – Alpine, TX

IVMA 2021
November 10-14 – Albuquerque, NM

2022

Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering
February 4-5 – Sierra Vista, AZ

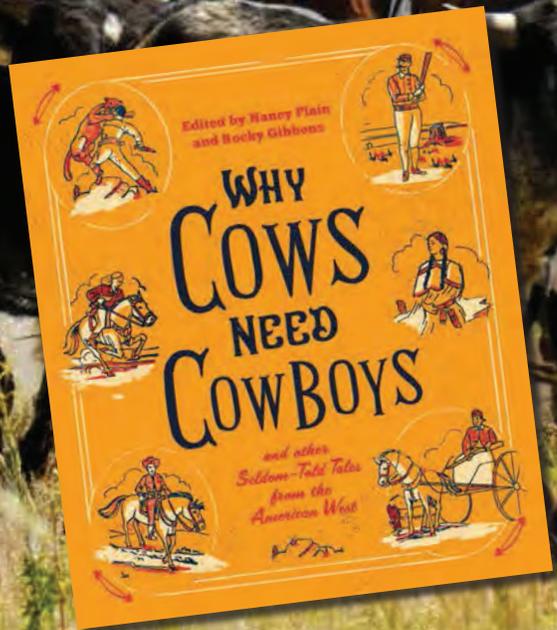
QUOTABLE COWBOYS
BY SANDSINGER



NAT LOVE
1854-1921

"LARIAT NEAR MY HAND, AND MY TRUSTY GUNS IN MY BELT AND THE BROAD PLAINS STRETCHING AWAY FOR MILES AND MILES... I FELT I COULD DEFEAT THE WORLD. WHAT MAN WITH THE FIRE OF LIFE AND YOUTH AND HEALTH IN HIS VEINS COULD NOT REJOICE IN SUCH A LIFE?"

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Penned by Lantern Light

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



TRAINED

by Duane Nelson

*When a feller's ridin' horses that ain't as trained as some,
Well, he sets down in the saddle, kinda "fishy" on his bum,
He's "hunchey" o'er the saddlehorn; his hands are light but true;
If you ain't never done it, well, I can't explain to you.
Yer settin' on a powderkeg, the doggone fuse is lit,
And it sure can blow at anytime, and you don't know a bit
Just what'll happen and just when, that colt will fool a feller,
And I tell ya true, cuz I been there, he'll bog his head and beller.
Soon or late, the trainin' pays, the colt is settlin' down,
And ya set up in the saddle like yer headin' straight to town,
No longer do ya have to ride, all "fishy" on yer kak,
And the saddle's settin lower, and the hump's gone from his back.
After miles and miles of ridin', the saddle blankets wet,
Don't blow his mind but work him hard, to a good full body sweat,
Head noddin', walking down the trail, and doin' a good day's work...
But watch it boy, cuz in the brush, the untold dangers lurk...
The ringneck pheasant bursts out hard, he's cackling, taking flight,
And the colt's eye's roll back in his head, he's got to flee or fight...
Yer nightlatch comes in handy as he bogs his head and blows,
And yer hangin' on with all you got, from hand down to yer toes.
All those days and miles of training, come undone immediately,
And you thought you was a colt trainer but you begin to see,
That yer trainin' knowledge came to naught; one fact was unexplained.....
That all it takes is one dang bird, fer that colt to come "untrained"!!!*



Duane Lee Nelson was born and raised in North Dakota, then moved to Oregon as a teenager where he now lives on a ranch near The Dalles, OR. He has been in agriculture related businesses all his life. He began writing and reciting Cowboy Poetry around 2000, and has opened for such performers as Dave Stamey, Juni Fisher, Waddie Mitchell, Brenn Hill and others. He won the Rising Star Division at the 2014 Kamloops Cowboy Festival and was one of the five finalists for the IWMA Male Poet of the Year in 2016 and 2017. Duane recites at gatherings across the country, entertaining all with his dynamic presentation. Now retired, along with his wife Lori, Duane takes care of a small cow-calf herd while cowboying for as many local ranches as possible. He and Lori have six children, six grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. So, now you know all about Duane Lee Nelson, Cowboy Poet, whom Carol Huechan, the poet laureate of Australian bush poets called "ONE OF THE VERY BEST RECITERS AROUND...". But to know the heart and soul of Duane Lee Nelson, well, you will just have to figure out a way to hear the man present his poems.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**RW Hampton** has been named the recipient of one of the highest honors in Western culture. Hampton was presented with the 2021 Chester A Reynolds Memorial Award during the 61st Annual Western Heritage Awards in September at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK. This coveted award is given to those who exemplify the ideals of individualism, honesty, humility and integrity that are closely identified with the American West. The award recognizes individuals or groups who have demonstrated unwavering commitment to Western ideals and values.

...**Carol Markstrom** hosted a "Western Music Jamboree" at Rex Allen Days in Willcox, AZ in October. Featured performers were **Jim Jones, Ted Ramirez, 43 Miles North,** and Carol. She also released a new album in the summer titled *Mile After Mile*, which includes several new original songs. The album has been featured on the Native Circles Program with One World Radio.

...During the month of October, **Andy Hedges** is doing a tour of Texas with **Ramblin' Jack Elliott**, celebrating Jack's 90th birthday. They are appearing at venues in Galveston, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Fort Worth.

...Singer/songwriter **Juni Fisher** has been reaching a new audience with her music via the soundtrack of a feature film titled *Out of the Wild*, which is currently available on Amazon Prime. She says to get a deal like this is "all about knowing what it is they need and sending them exactly what they need."

...**Almeda Bradshaw** and **Scott Tonelson** have teamed up as a duo on a couple of projects. Scott will be supporting Almeda on a 2022 promo tour of her new album *Between a Horse and Me*. Then the pair will work together to produce a Carter Family/Jimmie Rodgers/Chet Atkins program highlighting the music and history of these early country icons.

...**Anita "Neets" Crane** of Photography by Neets is planning to attend the IWMA convention in Albuquerque with her camera and looks forward to capturing all our members performing in person. She says, "It's been a long time away from being together as a group!"

...**Jean Prescott** was recently inducted into the National Multicultural Western Heritage Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas. Jean says, "It is quite an honor to be part of this elite group!"

... In June **Buffalo Bill Boycott and Dr Jo** celebrated their 27th year of performing their program "Along the Oregon Trail" at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, OR.

...**Larry Wilder** is back entertaining on American Cruise Lines! While primarily working on the 7-day Columbia educational cruises, he has gone to New England to join the Lines' newest ship, the *Constitution*. There he performed three different shows in three nights. When he and his wife Teri docked in Newport, RI, they got to meet their grandson Max for the first time along with his dad Nolan (named for Bob) and his mother Julia. Nolan is a USN Petty Officer Medic stationed in Newport.

...**Dan McCorison** has been busy writing songs with the very talented young artist Vanessa Carpenter. Plus, he had the pleasure of playing guitar for IWMA Hall of Fame member **Joni Harms** on her Arizona shows this summer.

...Santa Fe, NM songwriter **Paul Kelly** was selected to participate in the "Songwriter's Spotlight" at the International Bluegrass Music Association convention in Raleigh, NC in September. Also, he was one of three finalists at the Podunk Bluegrass Festival songwriting contest in Goshen CT for the second straight year.

...After spending the summer keeping his pastures, his spirit, and his music alive with the help of his river water, his family, and his band, **Dave Munsick** will grab his fiddle and head to Nashville this fall to play for the first time on the Grand Ole Opry stage with his son Ian.

...A poem about an actual incident on the Santa Fe Trail, titled "Sister Mary Alphonsa Thompson" and written by **Ron Wilson**, was selected for publication in *Wagon Tracks*, the quarterly magazine of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Also, Ron has been named an Official Spokesperson for

the National Day of the Cowboy. His cowboy poems were selected for third place in the Fred Olds Poetry competition of Westerners International, and he was recently selected as a Friend of Agriculture by the Kansas Farm Bureau.

...**Mike Mahaney** is working in his home studio to stream shows and record audio/video. The finishing touches for "A Homeless Meditation," a tune about the homeless crisis, have been made. Mike is also digging into the Hank Williams archive for lyric gems.

...**Dave Stamey** has just published a book of essays and stories called "Pigaroo and the Code of the West." For more information, go to www.davestamey.com.

...**Jim Winters** (3 Trails West) has released his first solo album project. The CD contains both kinds of music (Country and Western). Released in September, three of the eleven songs are originals written by Jim.

...The Academy of Western Artists has named **Lori Beth Brooke** the 2020 Western Music Female Artist of the year. She was also among the top 5 nominees for the 2020 Western Album of the Year for her CD *Texas Star* and 2020 Western Swing Song of the Year for her original song "Texas Star." Lori Beth joined **3 Trails West** in September, playing accordion for their performances at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS.

...*Reflection*, the IWMA Cowboy Poetry Book of the Year by **Tom Swearingen**, was front page news in numerous Oregon newspapers after winning the award. Tom's wife, **Carla Swearingen**, has her fourth children's book, *Flora is Curious About Cats*, with illustrations by Elizabeth Zimmerman, now available at HoofPickPress.com.

...**Riders In The Sky** appeared for the third time at Bonnaroo Music Fest in Manchester, TN, bringing The Cowboy Way to thousands of frolicking Millennials, Gen-Zers, and, yes, the odd Boomer. They continue every week at the Grand Ole Opry, having just celebrated 39 years as members.

...**Morey Sullivan**, leader of the western swing group **The Brazos Valley Boys**, has been inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame. Morey says, "It's an honor to be included in the group."

...**Barbara Nelson** has recorded a new CD titled *Swingin' Open Range*, a combination of western, blues, and swing songs. The new album is available this fall. For more information, go to nnelson@wtechlink.us or www.barbaranelsonmusic.com.

...The brand new album from **Jim Jones** is titled *Good Days Are Comin'*. The project is produced by Don Richmond. Jim also has a novella, *Scarecrows*, coming out in November as part of a four-piece anthology from Five Star Publishing entitled *Perilous Frontier: A Quartet of Crime in the Old West*.

...Cowboy poet **Francine Robison** performed at the Cowboy Way Jubilee in San Angelo, TX in October. She also recently visited with one of her cousins to help him celebrate his 100th birthday.

...In August, **Susie Knight** debuted her skills as an auctioneer at the Friends of the National Rifle Association Fundraiser for Teller County, CO. Four days later, she learned that her original song, "Turn 'em Loose," won the 2020 Academy of Western Artists' Western Song of the Year award.

...Besides playing a few shows at The Evergreen State Fair, the **Dan Canyon Band** is continuing to mix and record new material for an upcoming album. They report that they "are striving to realize their vision of what western music means to them."

...**Larry Krause** recently released a 6th album, *Warm Breeze*, with 15 tunes that he has been playing on stage for years. The album is available at www.larrykrause.ca. Larry has also become part of the cast on the Wheatland Express Excursion Train in central Saskatchewan, as well as performing and producing his *Stetsons for STARS-Firehall Concert Series*, a fundraiser for helicopter ambulances and local Fire Departments. After a two-year break, he is once again starting to produce and host his long running television series *The Timberline Music Show*, which is shown in Canada on the SHAW network.

...**Kaelan Dreyer** is working on self-producing and self-recording an album for a future release.

...**John Sidle** has resumed his dude ranch gigs around Jackson Hole, WY where the tourist trade has come roaring back after last summer's big turn-down. He says, "It has been great to be musically 'Back in the Saddle Again!'"

...**Simple Gifts** (The Sawyer Family Band) has finished recording a new album, *A Better Place*, to be released this fall. The band was awarded Blue Grass Artist of the Year

Continued on page 15

The Western World Tour



by Rick Huff

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

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

We didn't have room to feature them last time, so here's an over-sized herd of Cowboy Image ads (and more) that have shown up across the spring and summer months. Just because we didn't cover it doesn't mean they weren't doin' it! And just why they're doin' it needs to be further assessed.

Did you catch the TV ad featuring a meek fellow easily key-stroking his computer to safety with Sophus Ransomewear? As he works, an epic voice-over heralds him as being a hero for doing so and, by means of filtering, various virtual Cowboy items and props are 'popped' onto him (to his chagrin). Comedic, but it does equate "cowboy" with "hero" once again! A CanAm Off-roading spot has shots of SUVs bouncing in the rough country interspersed with ranch rodeo cowboys doing their thing, all to the strains of... "Make The World Go Away" (!!!) How 'bout the one showing outlaws boarding a Western train a'lookin' fer the gold. They find it. Since the ad is for Mike's Hard Lemonade, guess what "gold" they find! "When life hands you lemons..." Of course there's Sonic Drive-Ins' commercial for the Texas Twister Burger and Footlong Coney. Seen eating in a car are three guys who offer less than virile takes of "cowboy calls" as they chew. There's a yoo-howish "yahoo" and a wimpy "yippee." And what, pray tell, is "yee-wee!!!" Keep tryin', Ad Folks. Did you catch the Hanes Underwear ad with the long-haired European lothario astride the mechanical bull? I've heard of riding for the brand, but sheesh! And more recently Applebee's began running a "welcome back" ad that featured, among others, a cowboy... at least by the hat...doing a Wrangler butt hippy shake for the camera. "Take Me Back To My Booty And Saddles?!" Of course Lone River Ranch Water hard seltzer has been "Hard Cowboy" from image inception to its TV ads, but what's this I heard in some male urine stream enhancer ad? The thing claims instead of spending more time in the stall, Hoss, you can be (I swear) "back in the saddle again!!" Okay, enough... but what does it say about the readiness of media people to embrace a Western image? Keep reading....

On July 31 CBS This Morning Saturday offered reporter Jeff Glor visiting Wyoming's famed Snake River Ranch. The spread is the American home of Japanese Wagyu cattle, prized by chefs operating at the Wolfgang Puck level as being the supreme pinky-up gourmet beef. These bovines are pampered, never pushed, and are kept happy with all-but "filtered" water, premium feed and handlers who keep big

smiles on their faces!! Also in July the US Postal Service got into the act by issuing a series of handsome stamps that celebrate Western Wear! Artful renderings of a Cowboy hat, boots, buckle and pearl snap shirt are featured. They are "forever" stamps, so maybe that's a good Cowboy omen. Now if only enough people are still mailing things....

Most notably over on the TBS network and fresh from their successful "Modern Miracles: The Dark Ages" incarnation of their franchise, co-executive producers (and stars) Daniel "Harry Potter" Radcliffe and Steve "Sopranos"/"Big Lebowski"/"Fargo"/"Pulp Fiction" etc., etc. Buscemi along with Saturday Night Live bossman Lorne Michaels have trained their merrily bent sights on the Old West! In the grand tradition of such cowboistrous offerings as "Blazing Saddles," "F Troop," "The Shakiest Gun In The West" and others, the TBS original series "Modern Miracles: The Oregon Trail" (loosely taken from a video game) began bucking across our screens in July. Beforehand came questions. Will this equal the firsthand social observations and flights of fancy of humorist Mark Twain in his early story collection "Roughing It?" Or the physical comedy of Ken Berry and the screw-ups of "F Troop" or Don Knotts in "The Shakiest Gun In The West?" The controversy of Seth McFarland's roundly criticized poke at the 'pokes "A Million Ways To Die In The West?" Or the level of manic craziness achieved by Mel Brooks in "Blazing Saddles??" Remember, among other bits he had his heroes ride off into the sunset, pause halfway there, dismount turning over the reins of their horses to the production wrangler and climb into a chauffeured limo to finish their trip over the horizon!! Simple cell phones on a wagon train?? Been there, done WAY more than that. In short, can this new series find parity without parroting the parody? 'Couldn't resist.

It premiered. Its theme music? A clever nod to Jerome Moross' famous theme for "The Big Country!" And I was instantly struck with the visual aspect. Although I'm no item-by-item expert, it seems like an extraordinary amount of care was taken to ensure accuracy in the period props, costuming and weaponry. Likely it was done to help intentional incongruities achieve their maximum humor potential. Incongruities such as wildly contemporary lingo shots; the Reverend Ezekial (Radcliffe) performing a snake oil-fueled

“Comin’ ‘Round The Mountain” done in “Hedwig & The Angry Inch” drag; a Billy The Kid lampoon (Buscemi) named “Benny The Teen,” an outlaw with a heart of gold he would gladly pawn if he could; a young woman who spouts flower child philosophy due to getting hit in the head with a horseshoe or a bounty hunter named “Bounty Hunter With No Name.”

For me, the goofball thing has become a guilty pleasure, and apparently I’m not alone. Of course, it would have been nice to have more period (or new) Western Music included with the genuine look and feel. Maybe if the IWMA puts more concerted effort into genre visibility it might happen in the future (he said, again). Thoughts ruminate as I sip my morning Cowboy coffee. Oh, yeah... did I mention a guy in Rio Rancho, NM has launched “Cowboy Max,” a new competitor to Arbuckles? He’s moving mucho-many pounds of it online. So the Cowboy image remains usefully ensconced worldwide. Why oh why oh why isn’t Western Music as securely placed in the public consciousness? It’s time to ask that of anyone... everyone...who should have a better answer than they likely do. 🐾

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 13

by the Inspirational Country Music Association. Also, David (the younger) was awarded Young Artist of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists. In the meantime, Kathy continues to battle cancer. The family says, “Your continued prayers are so welcome.”

...**Kacey & Jenna Thunborg** did the background vocals, and Kacey was a co-writer with **Jim Jones**, on the song “In The Moment”, included on Jim’s recently released CD *Good Days Are Comin’*. Also, the girls were selected as the top performers to sing the National Anthem at the 2021 New Mexico State Fair. Kacey and Jenna are heading up the production team for the IWMA/NM Chapter Youth Showcase scheduled before the IWMA Convention in November. Any youth artists who would like to be considered for the Showcase should email kaceyandjennamusic@gmail.com.

...**Claudia Nygaard** is in pre-production for her new album *To Race The Wind*. She is looking to rope a videographer with footage of wild horses (running if possible) or the knowledge of where such can be found and a willingness to drag Claudia along for the shoot. Anyone who knows someone with such goods can contact Claudia at bettheranchrecords@gmail.com.

...The American Songwriter May/June Lyric Contest winner was **Cameron Burleson**. The Grand Prize winner is yet to be announced. Cameron is currently working with a few musicians on developing western, folk, bluegrass, and country music.

...**Brody and Mikki (Daniel) Provence** are proud to announce the birth of a little baby girl on August 13th. Her name is Slayter Creek Provence.

...Prayers are welcomed for **Peggy Malone** who is recovering from back surgery. She is in good spirits and is hoping to take a trip to Texas soon.

...**Maria McArthur** is attending Arizona Christian University in Phoenix on a music scholarship. She wishes to express her gratitude to all her IWMA friends who have given her opportunities and encouragement along the way.

...**Nolan Bruce Allen** writes: “On May 11, my right kidney was removed - cancerous. Since then, I have been under the weather big-time. To date, recovery has been painfully slow. Looking more and more like I won’t be able to make the show this year, to my regret. My best to everyone.” The Spotlight wishes NBA the best. 🐾



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Chapter Update

ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: John Paulson
johnpaulson1945@gmail.com

After an eighteen-month hiatus thanks to the pandemic, the Arizona chapter hosted the Green Valley Roundup on September 25, a showcase for chapter member musicians and poets. The event was held in Green Valley, about twenty miles south of Tucson, and featured performances by Carol Markstrom, Buffalo Bryan Marr, Igor Glenn, Dan McCorison, Ashley Westcoff, Janice Deardorff, the Cimarron Sidekicks, and the 43 Miles North Band. Cowboy poets Dan "Doc" Wilson, Gary Kirkman, and Mike Dunn also performed. On October 1-2, a "Western Music Jamboree" was held during Rex Allen Days in Willcox, Arizona. Carol Markstrom hosted and performed, along with Jim Jones, Ted Ramirez, and the 43 Miles North Band. The Wild Bunch Film Festival was held in conjunction with Rex Allen Days, and two of Carol's songs, "Dust of Paloma" and "Mile After Mile," are finalists in the Western Songwriting category. The songs are from Carol's recently released album, "Mile After Mile." Chapter members will get together on October 17 for a jam and election of officers for the coming year. The meeting will be held at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch in Tucson.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Greg Khougaz
gregkhougaz@earthlink.net

Like most, we thought we were opening but are again required to "mask up." We continue to Zoom with monthly guitar / song circles and we have converted our Virtual Jam to a monthly, Zoom Showcase

featuring three performers each month. September 17, at 7:00 PDT, we were privileged to enjoy our Western Swing Star, Grace Clark, Americana and Roots performer, Dana Duplan and Traditionalist guitar expert, Scott T in a rousing, live on Zoom presentation. Masked or not, we have scheduled the lovely and talented Juni Fisher for an October 2 house concert which Marilyn Tuttle will host. Member highlights: Larry Wilder is gigging on cruise ships and will cruise to New England to see his grandson, Nolan for the first time. Scott Tonelson, our VP, enjoyed a July music tour through California, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming, playing for friends and fans. He's been in the studio recording tracks for an album and scheduling a Summer 2022 tour. We were all saddened by the passing of founding member Jason "Buck" Corbett but honored him at the Condor Squadron facility at the Van Nuys Airport, August 28. Several of us were honored to play Buck's favorite Western Tunes and the Condor Squadron performed a fly-by in the "Missing Man" formation in Buck's honor.

COLORADO CHAPTER

President: Donna Hatton
hattondonna3@gmail.com

Our first show for the year was not cancelled, but Covid did impact attendance. The new board of officers for IWMA Colorado Chapter held the first show July 31 at the Florissant Grange during the Florissant Heritage Days. Colorado Chapter Vice President Levi Richardson of Florissant entertained the audience with his outstanding yodeling! Yodeling is a true art and he combined that with the familiar Cowboy Songs he sang during the day...I heard a little boy who was outside the Grange trying out his yodel and I asked him ..." Are you going to come yodel with us in September?" He said, "Nope! My Mom says I sort of sound like I stepped on my cat's tail." Laughter is the best medicine, but believe me, Levi is a

master of the yodel. Levi was followed by the fiddle player who opened the movie *Cowboys and Aliens*. This Western gentleman's musical knowledge of historical instruments and music serves to bring that history to life. That fiddler is Colorado Chapter member, historian, Rex Rideout! Rex gave all of us insight into what music and instruments immigrants brought to the West and how it became the music Cowboys adopted by adding verses about their own lives. Another IWMA and Colorado Chapter member was Brian Warner from Fort Collins. Brian brought a well-rounded library of Western music and an original love song he wrote. At some point most Cowboys may have experienced love gone wrong. But it was Dan Park who helped to ease the ache of the unrequited love in Brian's song with a truly Cowboy song about an Egg Sucking Dog. It brought laughter and once more showed the many sides to the cowboy. We had a four-hour show and with something for everyone at the Florissant Grange. Heritage Days honors a wide variety of nationalities and backgrounds as the Florissant area was home not only to Cowboys, Ranchers, Teachers, Goldseekers, but even here we had Irish Miners. A local Woodland Park Resident Mickie Richardson, an elementary school teacher is also owner and instructor of the Mountain Eire Traditional Irish Dance School. Mickie brought two of her students, sisters Danielle and Erica Taylor to perform with her and who delighted us all with their high stepping and energetic dancing. It is exciting to show that there are many facets to our Western Lifestyle and many ways to entertain that shows our Western Heritage. As a Chapter we will be offering them a Membership in IWMA, IWMA CO Chapter and IWMA Youth Chapter. The day was brought to a close with the group, "A Cowboys Legacy." Donna Hatton sang her original song, *Colorado Cowgirl* with granddaughter Evie Hatton Gutierrez. Dan Park has stepped into reciting and his recitation of a poem, The High

Lonesome, was accompanied by the sounds of thunder and wind on a drum, (played by Tom Hatton) and rain on a rain stick, (by Evie Hatton Gutierrez) and the haunting notes of the Native American Flute (played by Donna Hatton). Tom Hatton told of Bud a Politician, a tongue in cheek, funny, but rather pointed telling of ignorance by a citified government hack. Then Legacy finished the set with duet poetry. Tom Hatton and Dan Park and with Donna as Narrator shared the true story of X-American Prisoners of War, painting a touching reunion of two warriors of World War II, closing with God Bless America sung by Donna with members of the audience joining in.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

Columbia Chapter members in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, British Columbia, and multiple other states and provinces have continued holding monthly Zoom get-togethers and song and poem circles. Performing members are also starting to be cautiously active again with

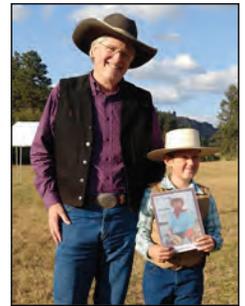


Larry Wilder sings for American Cruise Lines.

in-person shows...hopefully doing all we can to keep ourselves and others safe from the current upturn in COVID-19 spread. Oregon's Larry Wilder is back entertaining on American Cruise Lines primarily on seven-day Columbia River educational cruises plus a few nights out of New England on ACL's newest ship, the *Constitution*. Oregon poet Tom Swearingen has been tapped to perform and be the "celebrity" auctioneer for the Tualatin Historical Society annual fundraising dinner. The Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering features Tom in the Friday and Saturday night shows.

Swearingen and fellow Oregonian Joni Harms were among the featured night show performers at the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering in Prescott, AZ in mid-August. The following week they were both back in their home state and performing on the Clackamas County Fair and Rodeo main stage. A few days later Tom did a benefit concert for the equine-assisted therapy non-profit H.O.R.S.E.S. on the Ranch in Central Oregon with Joni's daughter Olivia Harms,

whose new album *Rhinestone Cowgirl* is getting a lot of well-deserved attention. At that event Tom invited young chapter member Thomas Fitzgerald up to recite a couple of poems, which he did to perfection.



Tom Swearingen smiles as Thomas Fitzgerald proudly shows off his gift from Baxter Black.

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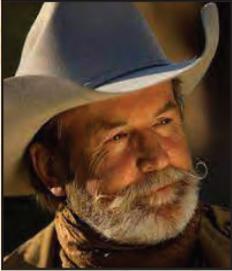
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In Memoriam

KENNETH (K.R.) WOOD (1954 – 2021)



K.R. Wood born August 26, 1954 in Pampa, Texas, died August 14, 2021 in Austin, Texas just prior to his 67th birthday. K.R. is preceded in death by his parents Wayne and Elizabeth “Betty” Wood. He is survived by wife Debbie

Mikowski, daughter Jamie Winkley (Richie), son Cody Wood, grandchildren Matthew and Kaylee Winkley, brother Wayne “Buddy” Wood (Marcie) and sister Candace Rodriguez (Jerry).

K.R. was a graduate of Electra High School, Electra, Texas and a self-educated historian, songwriter, composer, actor and musician. K.R. leaves a lifelong legacy of historical and western music accomplishments. That list of accomplishments includes recognition with other artists who recorded on his “Fathers of Texas” album by the Texas Senate Resolution 73, signed by Governor George W. Bush in 1997. His musical album, “Fathers of Texas,” was accepted by Harcourt School Publishers as addition to a Texas History textbook in 2002, giving a unique approach to teaching Texas History through original music, songs and historical narratives.

Other honors include being named an Honorary Member of the Davy Crockett family in Tennessee for his work to further promote the life and times of Davy Crockett. K.R.’s album “The Crockett Chronicles” is the only musical recording ever allowed to be recorded inside the Alamo, in a reverent midnight recording session and included instrumental recordings with Davy Crockett’s actual fiddle on loan the Alamo from the Crockett Family. K.R. was also named an Honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy.

In 2017, he received the International Western Music Association’s President’s Award for his album “The Songs and Tales of the Old Chisholm Trail.” Also, in 2017 he received The Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK for Outstanding Original Composition for his song “A Nickle a Head” from his Chisholm Trail album.

K.R.’s love for Texas History and cowboy values were his passion and included many decades of professional and volunteer work to teach these values in schools and community events across Texas. He and dedicated faculty members of the Electra ISD worked to take students to the State Capitol and the Alamo to sing his songs during Texas History month for 17 consecutive years. K.R. Wood will be missed but his work will live on in his family and friends and the many lives he touched with his recorded music. K.R. was an active member of the International Western Music Association (IWMA) and will be missed by those he “played music with” at the convention and on the road.

JASON “BUCK” CORBETT (1938 – 2020)



Jason “Buck” Corbett, long-time IWMA member and member of the IWMA California Chapter, passed away on June 14. He was born and raised in Florida and moved to California in the mid-50s. After graduating from John Burroughs High School, he attended the

USAF Pilot Training School, graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Buck was many things in life: golf pro, bartender and actor, retiring from the Screen Actor’s Guild after 30 years of working in the entertainment industry. Later in life he was involved with the Single Action Shooters Society (SASS).

During his years in the service, Buck got involved in the “Folk Scare” of the 60s and started strumming and singing during the “hootenannies” in the alert barracks. His appetite for cowboy music later returned to him. The Lost Canyon Rangers helped him make his comeback to music.

He is survived by his daughters Khirstie Kaufman Engberg (Joe), Kashia Loth (Jeff), Brandi Steen, his son Cameron Corbett and grandchildren Axia, Tara, Kevin, Jaeger, Tera, Derrick and Cahli. He is also survived by his brothers Nipper and Kenny Larson.

RICHARD "DICK" RANKIN HALL (1950 – 2021)



Richard Rankin (Hassheider) Hall, 91, passed away on August 18 at Hot Springs Health Hospital with his son by his side. He was born August 8, 1930, in Tarrant County, (Fort Worth), Texas, and was immediately adopted by J. Harry and Cora E. (Rankin) Hassheider of Shiprock, N. M.

The day after graduating from Thermopolis High School in 1948 he joined the US Navy. He spent 28 months in the Korean Theater of Operations on the aircraft carrier, USS Boxer CV-21. He was honorably discharged in 1952 as a Quartermaster Third Class.

Upon discharge he attended the University of Wyoming graduating in 1957 with a degree in journalism and a commission in the US Army Reserves. Dick spent the next years as a member of the US Army Security Agency, retiring after 22 years of total service as a Major. Several years later he took

a civilian job at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. He retired again after five years as a GS11. He then worked for Tucson Newspapers Incorporated and spent another five years there followed again by retirement. Dick often joked he would keep retiring until he got it right! Somewhere along the way, Dick found time to return to UW, obtaining a Masters in Adult Education. This followed by several years in Newcastle, Wyo., as the Community Education Director.

Dick moved back to Thermopolis in 2001 and paid his dues by serving a 4-year tour on the Thermopolis Town Council, two terms on the County Museum board, Commander of VFW Post 2281 and President of the Wyoming Chapter of the International Western Music Association, among other things. He was a member of Federated Community Church, enjoyed writing, reading poetry and being a social butterfly.

He is survived by his daughter, Susan Miller, of Casper; son, Stephen Hassheider, of Thermopolis; and step-son, William Shield, of Cheyenne. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Deborah Jean Hassheider, and son, Richard Ross Hassheider – both having succumbed to Cystic Fibrosis at an early age.

Lori Beth Brooke
TEXAS STAR

2016 IWMA Female Yodeler
Lori Beth Brooke
Texas Star

CD or download from
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or email Lori.Brooke@Yahoo.com

"What Lori does with an accordion is illegal in 7 states." - Leo Eilts, 3 Trails West

"Lori Beth Brooke's sunny voice is the Texas Star that tops the tree." - Rick Huff

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Western Music and Cowboy Poetry
THAT HONORS GOD AND COUNTRY!
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Legends Classic Country Radio Network
stations across West Texas
*8am GMT for our UK Listeners

www.AmericanCowboyRadio.com

Chapter Update

Continued from page 17



Lynn Kopelke performs at King Country WA Fair.



Jim Crofts sharing his poetry.

Knowing in advance that Thomas would be reciting Baxter's *Black's Cow Dancing*, Swearingen mentioned that to Baxter a few days before. Baxter was thrilled and sent a signed photo inscribed to Thomas which Tom surprised him with on stage to big smiles. Back to fairs...Washington's Lynn Kopelke and Oregon's Jim Crofts shared their poetry on the Country & Swing Music Stage at the King County Fair in Enumclaw, WA. They both report the fair was packed and humming. Lynn also performed at the Lost N Lava Gathering in Shoshone, ID in September. And Jim was called upon to do a poetry session at Rolling H Ranch's 3-Man Sorting event in Junction City, OR at the end of July. There were over 300 teams signed up, and with most everyone knowing about cattle and the horses that work them, it was a great crowd. Continuing with fairs (it's the season!) Oregonians Marty Davis with Daniel Hanson on bass and supporting vocals have been busy at several state and country fairs in numerous states. Scott Tonelson, from Garden Grove, CA did a July music tour through California, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming. Scott reports it was great to be on the road again playing music for friends and fans. He has also been in the studio continuing to record tracks for an upcoming album. Albertan Mike Dygert's first



Daniel Hanson and Marty Davis.

time out in a long while, other than some local jams and get-togethers, was with the Western Spirit Band (Hugh McLennan and his brother Jim) at Alberta Country Music Hall of Famer Ivan Daines' 45th Annual Country Music Pick-nic. Of note, it was the



Pictured at the Ivan Daines Country Music Pick-Nik, (l-r) Mike Dygert, Ivan Daines, emcee Mary Anne Message, Hugh McLennan and Jim McLennan.

first time all in the band played Canadian-crafted Riversong Guitars. Mike also plays with the gospel group, CrossRoads at local nursing homes. Mike also did some recording for producer Tom Cole on Terry Meriam's CD and plans to attend the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival in Stony Plain, AB, a couple of informal weekend jams as they get announced and Columbia Chapter member Ed Wahl's country music campout in Clinton, BC in the fall...so thankfully there will be some music! Carla Swearingen's final book in the four-book *Flora is Curious* series is published. *Flora is Curious About Cats* with illustrations by Elizabeth Zimmerman is available through HoofPickPress.com. The Columbia Chapter will soon announce the age-



Carla Swearingen looking forward to being entertained at the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering.



Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Contest Trophy Buckle.

group winners of our youth poetry contest and award custom trophy buckles. Fingers are crossed that we'll be able to do that in-person as planned (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) at our annual Cowboys in the Hood showcase concert at the Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River, OR.

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black
aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

Venues in our geographic area, and other parts of the country where some if us work, are widely arrayed between "open with restrictions" to "virtual" to still "fully closed" for live music. Despite this, Alice and Aspen Black brought their "Singing Cowgirls" musical and educational show for kids and families to libraries in KS and MO as part of the "Tales & Tails" animal-themed Summer Reading incentive. Alice attended the Cowtown Opry summer music camp in Weatherford, TX with several IWMA youth and IWMA adult instructors Judy James, Jean Prescott, David Sawyer, Sr., and Abby Payne. Kerry Grombacher joined Aspen and Alice for the second half of their tour and performed several concerts as a trio. Kerry and Aspen performed several duo concerts of original western songs on a tour in Sept. and October in South Dakota and Wyoming. No further plans have been reported on creating a festival in Nashville.



Performing in Covid times. Alice Black waiting in rotation at the Cowtown Opry Buckarooos as Jenna & Kacey Thunborg perform.

Continued on page 22

TALES OF THE WEST

by Jim Wilson



In the late 1930s, Oklahoma cowboy Ben Johnson (1918-1996) took a load of horses to California to be used in Howard Hughes' movie "The Outlaw." Since he could actually ride a horse, a rare thing in Hollywood, Johnson quickly found work as a western movie extra and stunt man. It probably paid better than cowboy wages, too.

After a few years, he caught the eye of director John Ford who started using him in just about all of his westerns. In fact, Ford saw in Johnson the potential to become the next great western movie star. All of that came to a crashing halt when Johnson turned down a part that Ford offered him because it interfered with Johnson's rodeo career. The director and actor were estranged for a number of years.

In 1953, Johnson put it all together and roped in the RCA World's Champion Team Roper title. And then he got busy acting again. That worked so well that, in 1971, he won an Academy Award for Best Actor in "The Last Picture Show", based on a Larry McMurtry novel by the same name.

You can talk all you want about movie cowboys, but Ben Johnson was the real deal. He was a world's champion cowboy and world's champion actor. To date, no one else has topped that record. And, while I did not know him, I am told that he remained a sincerely nice guy through it all.

In July of 1881, New Mexico Sheriff Pat Garrett (1850 - 1908) ended the life of Billy the Kid in Pete Maxwell's house at Fort Sumner. Garrett used a Colt single-action revolver, in .44/40, with a 7 1/2-inch barrel to do the deed. Sometime later, when Garrett was appointed head of Customs in El Paso, he gave/loaned the gun to Tom Powers to be displayed in Powers' saloon. In the years following Garrett's murder, the gun was returned to the Garrett family.

In the 1970's, while attending a Texas Gun Collector's Show, I was introduced to Jarvis Garrett, Pat's youngest son. During that visit, Jarvis allowed me to examine this historic Colt. It was a neat old gun with very little finish left and sporting a worn set of one-piece walnut stocks. I found out later that Jarvis Garrett was in Texas to deliver the gun to collector Jim Earle to be part of Earle's collection of historic guns.

Well, Mr. Earle passed away not long ago and that collection went on the market. And, just recently, the Garrett/Billy the Kid Colt sold at auction for \$6 million dollars. That's right - \$6,000,000.00! I believe that is a new record for historic Old West guns.

Speaking of guns, most western movie fans probably assume that most frontier Texans walked around with their trusty six-shooter strapped on the tied down. Well, such is not the case. You see, in the early 1870s, the Texas legislature passed a law forbidding ordinary citizens from wearing handguns. Oh, a fellow could wear his cartridge belt and trusty Colt while riding the frontier, but he darned sure better take it off when he got to town. Of course, a good many Texans just took off the cartridge belt and holster and stuffed Old Lucky in their pants pocket or waistband, covered by a coat or vest. This was the practice, in fact, well into the 1900s, after all, it was only a misdemeanor. And that seemed to work well with most Texas lawmen, too; it gave them something to arrest a man for if they thought they needed to and, otherwise, they just left him alone. Later, in the 1880s, the fence cutting wars got so bad that the law was amended to prohibit the carrying of wire pliers "on or about their person or saddle pockets." 🐾

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

There was a night, many years ago, when country legend Hank Snow was putting on a concert. He and his band had stayed on their bus for quite a while, waiting to go on, and there might have been a bottle of "Who Hit John" present, too. At any rate, Hank and the boys finally got on stage and were putting on a pretty good show with Chubby Wise fiddling away on one of Hank's tunes. Only trouble was that Chubby's fiddle bow got too close to the boss and deftly speared the toupee right off of Hank Snow's head. Hank Snow finished the song, toupee-less, and promptly fired his fiddle player.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 20

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen
orin@rbanjoranch.com

The Kansas Chapter continues to meet virtually, using Zoom. It has actually been a plus, as we are having more of our members attend than when we met live. For the past several years, our live meetings have been held at the Prairie Rose Ranch near Wichita, former site of the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Suppers. Though the Prairie Rose stopped doing chuckwagon suppers at the end of 2019, the ranch has reopened as a concert venue, featuring a series of



Diamond W Wranglers at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon.

shows by the Diamond W Wranglers, as well as concerts by Rusty Rierson, Barry Ward, and the Home Rangers. The Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest and the Youth Roundup are in full swing. A student intern, Zach Perez, has been hired to do the web posting and media production for the contest. The contests, which are coordinated by Ron Wilson, are being held virtually. The 49th Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas takes place September 15-19. Among the western music performers on this year's schedule are Juni Fisher, The Cowboy Way, and Kansas Chapter members, 3 Trails West.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Dennis Russell
drnpoet@gmail.com

This quarter has flown by in our part of the western world, with branding, haying, celebrating the renewing of Dennis and Beverly's marriage vows, and holding the 7th Cimarron Cowboy Music & Poetry Gathering! Barely been home long enough to get unsaddled



Dennis and Beverly Russell and Bonnie Exton (Ramblin' Rangers) at the Cimarron Gathering.

before it is time to hit the trail again! In Albuquerque on July 25, we held our first in person New Mexico chapter meeting in over a year. Sure was wonderful to see a good turn out and lots of smiling faces. Dave Levenson is heading up the open mic on the first Monday of each month and the live open mic at the Hopper (formerly the Blue Grasshopper) on the 3rd Monday of each month. The first Live Open Mic this year was held August 20. There was great participation with 10 performers and a live audience! The Cimarron Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering, August 27-29, was a great success. The new venue at the Mercantile and

Continued on page 27

It's been a long time coming...

October 2021

"YOU OUGHTA SEE WYOMING"

the new single by

MICKI FUHRMAN

From the upcoming new album

WESTBOUND

to be released January 2022



MickiFuhrmanMusic.com Facebook.com/Micki-Fuhrman-Music

PULL OUT THIS IWMA 2021 SCHEDULE INSERT TO USE AT THE EVENT!



IWMA 2021

“ALL ROADS LEAD TO ALBUQUERQUE”

NOVEMBER 10-14 ★ HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN

WEDNESDAY 13

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 10:00 AM-8:00 PM | MEMBER REGISTRATION & TICKET SALES |
| 10:00 AM-6:00 PM | PERFORMERS CD CHECK-IN |
| 12:00-1:30 PM | OPENING LUNCH CELEBRATING REX ALLEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY
Special Guest Speaker: Rex Allen, Jr. |
| 1:45-5:00 PM | SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES
Dawn Anita (A Celebration of Her Music featuring KC LaCourse, Ron Christopher, Doug Figgs & Carol Markstrom), LeeLee Robert, Gary Kirkman, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg |
| 12:00-6:00 PM | WESTERN WEAR CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE |
| 7:00-10:00 PM | SWING DANCE
Syd Masters & The Swing Riders
<i>Tonight's Swing Dance is dedicated to the memory of Ray Rutherford</i> |
- JAMMING ALL NIGHT LONG!**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:00 AM-7:00 PM

MEMBER REGISTRATION & TICKET SALES

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

WESTERN WEAR CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

CD MERCANTILE

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

VENDOR AREA

8:30 AM-5:00 PM

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

COFFEE WITH THE DJS

A time for you to get to know the DJs and learn how to present your music for maximum airplay.

20 WAYS TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET AIRPLAY

Presented by Marvin O'Dell

Why isn't your album getting more airplay? And why isn't your album rising high on the Top 30 chart? Possibly because you are making sure it doesn't!

SOCIAL MEDIA 101: BRANDING YOURSELF

Presented by Angela Meyer

This is a completely introductory course of social media. What is Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, YouTube, Fandalism, etc. etc. etc. and how we can use them to grow IWMA/cowboy poetry/western music fans.

YODELING WORKSHOP

Presented by Lori Beth Brooke, Devon Dawson & Friends!

Whether you're just beginning to yodel or you're an old hand, this workshop will get you from the basic "how to" through more advanced techniques.

ME AND BILLY

Presented by Ralph Estes

This one-hour performance tells of the actual story of Billy the Kid, not the fantasy created in the book by Sheriff Pat Garrett – the man who shot him. The show is primarily storytelling, with occasional bursts of song.

INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN SWING/JAZZ RHYTHM GUITAR

Presented by Grace Clark

Learn the fundamentals that will jump-start you with this exciting and beautiful guitar style. The course materials will allow you to continue learning at home.

10:00 AM-4:00 PM

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

Floyd Beard, John Bergstrom, Alice Black, Almeda Bradshaw, Lori Beth Brooke, Steve Cormier, Pegie Douglas, Higher Ground, Greg Khougaz, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Terry Nash

5:00-6:30 PM

IWMA RAFFLE & RECEPTION

6:30-9:00 PM

IWMA BENEFIT DINNER & CONCERT

Featuring 3 Trails West & The Trailhands Orchestra

9:30 PM

IWMA CHAPTER JAMS & SHOWCASES

STILL JAMMING ALL NIGHT LONG!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 7:30 AM-6:00 PM** **MEMBER REGISTRATION & TICKET SALES**
- 8:00 AM-6:00 PM** **WESTERN WEAR CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE**
- 8:00 AM-6:00 PM** **CD MERCANTILE OPEN**
Reopens after the Opry
- 8 :00 AM-6:00 PM** **VENDOR AREA OPEN**
- 8:00 AM-9:30 AM** **IWMA CHAPTER OFFICERS ROUNDTABLE**
- 8:30 AM-4:00 PM** **IWMA YOUTH CHAPTER MEETING & WORKSHOP**
- 9:45 AM-1:45 PM** **CAMPFIRE STAGE**
A Cowboys Legacy/Evie Gutierrez, Vic Anderson, Troy Bateson, Sherl Cederburg, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Ray Delgado, Eddy Harrison, Tom Hawk, KC LaCourse, Stan Mahler, Dean Marten, AK Moss, Claudia Nygaard, Francine Roark Robison, Lindy Simmons, Annie Tezuka, Bob Thomas, Scott Tonelson
- 2:15 PM-5:00 PM** **DEVELOPMENT STAGE**
Cooper Blakeney, Ted Hunt, Ed Meyer, Miska Paget, Judi Seger
- 10:00 AM-5:00 PM** **SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES**
3 Trails West, Terry Brown, Jon Chandler with Ernie Martinez, Ron Christopher, Patty Clayton, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Jim Jones, Steve Jones, Jo Lynne Kirkwood, Mary Kaye, Dan McCorison, Syd Masters, Mark Munzert, Claudia Nygaard, Dennis Russell
- 1:00-2:00 PM** **BEGINNING RHYTHM GUITAR WORKSHOP**
- 2:00-3:00 PM** **ADVANCED RHYTHM GUITAR WORKSHOP**
Presented by Ernie Martinez
- 3:00-4:00 PM** **THE UKULELE & WESTERN SWING**
Presented by Judy Muldawer
- 7:00-9:00 PM** **IWMA FRIDAY NIGHT WESTERN OPRY**
Hosted by: Roger & Leo Eilts
3 Trails West, Valerie Beard, Aspen Black, Micki Fuhrman, Belinda Gail, Kristyn Harris, Steve Jones, Greg Khougaz, Susie Knight, Ernie Martinez, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Dan McCorison, Angela Meyer, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, A.K. Moss, Barbara Nelson, Claudia Nygaard, LeeLee Robert, Hailey Sandoz, Tom Swearingen, Scott T, Joyce Woodson
- 9:30 PM** **IWMA CHAPTER JAMS & SHOWCASES**
- MORE JAMMING ALL NIGHT LONG!**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 7:00-8:30 AM** **VETERANS APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**
Hosted by: Jerry Hall
A Cowboys Legacy, Troy Bateson, Floyd Beard, Cooper Blakeney, Sherl Cederburg, Bill Clark, Grace Clark, Patty Clayton, Kristyn Harris, Greg Khougaz, Miska Paget, Hailey Sandoz, Annie Tezuka
- 8:45-9:45 AM** **IWMA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Open to all current and future IWMA members
- 10:00 AM-5:00 PM** **WESTERN WEAR CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE**
- 10:00 AM-5:00 PM** **CD MERCANTILE**
Will reopen after Awards Show
- 10:00 AM- 6:00 PM** **REGISTRATION & TICKET SALES**
- 10:00 AM-5:00 PM** **VENDOR AREA**
- 10:00 AM-11:30 AM** **IWMA POETRY CONTEST**
- 11:45 AM-12:45 PM** **IWMA YOUTH CHAPTER SHOWCASE**
- 1:00-5:00 PM** **PERFORMER SHOWCASES**
Kerry Grombacher, Kristyn Harris, Susie Knight, Rex Rideout, Joyce Woodson, Ramblin' Rangers
- 1:00-1:45 PM** **HARMONY CONTEST**
- 3:00-5:00 PM** **TEAM PENNING**
Songwriting teams will write songs on a specific theme given to them two months before the Convention and will present them today. New songs and lots of fun!
- 6:30-7:00 PM** **AWARDS PRE-SHOW**
- 7:00-10:00 PM** **IWMA AWARDS SHOW**
Hosted by Jon Chandler
- 10:00 PM** **IWMA CHAPTER JAMS & SHOWCASES**

JOIN US...WE'RE JAMMING UNTIL DAWN!

SUNDAY 14

- 7:00 AM-12:00 NOON** **WESTERN WEAR CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE**
- 9:00 AM-12:00 NOON** **CD MERCANTILE**
- 9:00 AM-12:00 NOON** **VENDOR AREA**
- 9:00-11:00 AM** **SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL CONCERT**
Hosted by Belinda Gail
Vic Anderson, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, John Clayton Read

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call the hotel at **866-505-7829**. To receive the group rate of \$130 per night, request a room within the **"International Western Music Association"** block of rooms or use the Block Code **21IWMA**. You may also register online using the special IWMA website: <https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=63151&Chain=17123&arrive=11/9/2021&depart=11/10/2021&adult=1&child=0&group=21IWMA>

NOTE: Reservation cut-off date is **October 19th, 2021**. After this date, any remaining rooms within the block will be on a space available basis.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 22

St. James Hotel was a great place for our family/friends reunion! There were so many talented performers at Cimarron...NM Chapter members, award-winning Ramblin' Rangers, the Russellers, and poet Rocky Sullivan brought songs and poems portraying the Spirit of the West. Kacey and Jenna Thunborg delighted the crowd with their harmony, and poets Floyd and Valerie Beard with their humor. The Saturday Night Special, featuring The Cowboy Way, was an incredible power packed show that we are all still talking about! Now, we are preparing for the IWMA Convention in Albuquerque, NM in November! After missing 2020, we will be so blessed to see our Western family at that event! Hope to see you all down the trail soon!

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Donnie Poindexter
cowboydp51@gmail.com

Donnie Poindexter's group, Steeldust, was chosen as the recipient of the 2020 Will Rogers Award in the Western Music Duo/Group category at the 25th Academy of Western Artist Awards. A Little Farther West (Susie and Robert Maxwell Case) performed in Pawnee, OK September 18 at the Pawnee Bill Ranch for Pawnee Bill's Wild West Fest. Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa is hosting a stop on Asleep At The Wheel's 50th Anniversary Tour on October 29. An interesting bit of information, Asleep At The Wheel requires "attendees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (at least two weeks after final dose, dated NO LATER than October 15, 2021) and provide proof of vaccination; i.e. original vaccination card, copy of



Steeldust Photo courtesy Rylie's Photography.

Continued on page 41

MAILBAG

**Do you have something to say? Let's hear it. Send your comments to the Editor at wweditor1@gmail.com.
Short and pithy, please!**

I made a crack about John Ford westerns and accordions. Then a few days later I found the Summer issue of *Western Way* in my mailbox and featured on the cover is Lori Beth Brooke and her accordion. Now folks are going to think that what I wrote was in response to seeing that cover and that's ok but that wasn't the case.

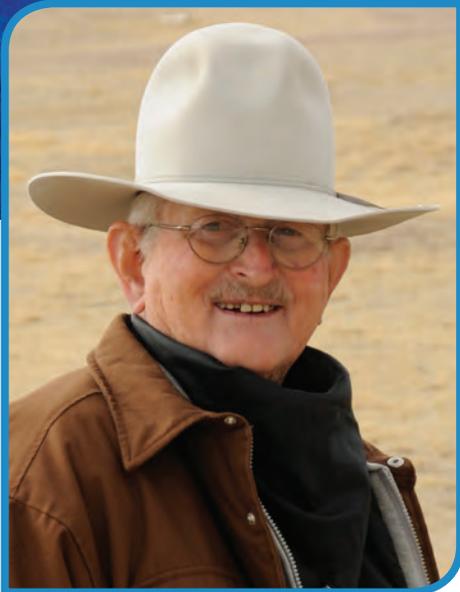
Accordions are just one of those instruments that you should joke about, the same as banjos. Both have legions of jokes written about them. The fact is I grew up hearing accordions in westerns and loved it, I still do. I've tried to take up the squeeze box myself but could never get past all those keys and 120 bass buttons. The best I can do is play the simpler button accordions and concertinas. Just listen to Joey, the *Cowpolka King of Riders in the Sky* and that accordion completes the song, any song.

One more thing going back to the classic old westerns, the film *Night Passage* stars James Stewart and Audie Murphy. You can't top that. Through the film Stewart is seen with his accordion and he actually did play it, he could play it well. Here's a photo of him playing it from a scene in *Night Passage*. So while I may tease the accordion as if it were a banjo, I do enjoy that squeezebox, especially in the westerns. Hurrah for the accordion!

~ R. RIDEOUT, CO



2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



“ Les has arguably had more of his compositions (“co-writes” as he calls them) recorded by today’s leading performers than any other contemporary western composer. ”

LES BUFFHAM

By Voleta Hummel

What does it take for a song writer/composer to be selected as an inductee in the International Western Music Association Hall of Fame? Some of the qualities of this year’s inductee, Les Buffham, include personal experience (a kid growing up on a ranch), the soul of a poet, the ability to express thoughts and emotions creating poignant stories and songs, and spontaneous humor that makes you appreciate the life of a real cowboy from a different perspective.

Les has arguably had more of his compositions (“co-writes” as he calls them) recorded by today’s leading performers than any other contemporary western composer. And they are still being recorded in 2021. He has received the International Western Music Association’s Best Song/Songwriter of the Year award with Michael Fleming for “Below the Kinney Rim,” Best Collaboration with Judy Coder for “Mourning Dove Song,” and Song of the Year with Mary Kaye for “No Wilder Place.” And once again, “Below the Kinney Rim” won the Academy of Western Artists’ prestigious Will Rogers Award for Best Song of the Year.

Although he has co-written songs with over fifty different musicians and his list of recorded co-writes seems endless, Les actually traveled throughout the West as one of the top cowboy poets and storytellers performing his original compositions at cowboy gatherings, festivals, western roundups, symposiums, chuckwagon dinner shows and any other event that welcomed western entertainers. Along the way he collected awards such as the International Western Music Association’s Male Poet of the Year for three separate years, as well as the Storyteller/Humor of the Year Will Rogers Award from the Academy of Western Artists. Other awards include the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tombstone Western Music Festival and many others.

What makes Les’ lyrics and poems stand above the crowd is not only his desire to entertain, but his belief that part of his job is to educate the listener with historically correct information and the use of the authentic “lingo” of the working cowboy. He is always willing to assist writers with correct definitions or explanations. As a result, beyond his co-writes, many of the contemporary western songs heard today reflect his influence.

Les Buffham has always been one of those rare individuals who, once you meet him, he is instantly your friend, and you will never forget him.

2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



“ Italian composer Ennio Morricone wrote the theme and soundtrack music of some of the most famous films in the post-B-Western film era. ”

ENNIO MORRICONE (Film Music Composer)

By O.J. Sikes

Italian composer Ennio Morricone wrote the theme and soundtrack music for some of the most famous films in the post-B-Western film era. Western titles include *The Good, the Bad & the Ugly*, *A Fist Full of Dollars* and *For a Few Dollars More* among others, starring Clint Eastwood, *My Name is Nobody* and *Once Upon a Time in the West* starring Henry Fonda, *Guns for San Sebastian* (Anthony Quinn & Charles Bronson), *Revenge of a Gunfighter* (Jack Palance) and *Death Rides a Horse* (Lee Van Cleef).

According to historian Larry Hopper, “The importance of Ennio Morricone is not that he presented western soundtrack music in the familiar forms of the past but that he created a new dynamic in the use of instrumentation, voice and orchestration that has come to immediately identify the genre while establishing a new milepost in film scoring. The sounds can be as gentle as a music box or a strongly cadenced accompaniment to encroaching violence, a whistled theme or an agonizing shout each indelibly marking this west, this west that never was, as a world unto itself with a life of its own yet still evocative of the mythic west we’re accustomed to.”

In the Jan/Feb 2018 issue of *Western Clippings*, film music authority David Fuller suggested that none of the many Italian composers who have written for Spaghetti westerns has done more than Ennio Morricone to establish the distinctive sound of that sub-genre. Fuller says, “His unique combination of instruments, matched with organic sounds and sterling vocalizations, lifted the entertainment value of countless motion pictures and TV programs.”

Morricone’s score for *Once Upon a Time in the West* is one of the best-selling original instrumental scores in the world today, with approximately 10 million copies sold. And *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* is in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



“ Starrett was always among the Top 10 cowboy movie stars, and holds the record for the longest career in Westerns with one movie studio, Columbia. ”

CHARLES STARRETT

By O.J. Sikes

Between 1935 and 1952, near the end of the B western film era, Charles Starrett made 115 western movies. Over 100 of them featured western music. Starrett was always among the Top 10 cowboy movie stars, and holds the record for the longest career in Westerns with one movie studio, Columbia. When Roy Rogers was still Len Slye and a member of the Sons of the Pioneers, Starrett gave the Sons of the Pioneers a prominent role in his first western movie, *Gallant Defender* (1935).

The Sons soon became featured regulars in Starrett westerns at Columbia and remained as very popular performers in those films until 1941, making the group a prominent feature in B-Western films from the mid-30s into the 1940s. Starrett made sure that their music was featured, not just used as background music with lots of dialog spoken over it. Complete songs were used whenever possible, songs composed by Nolan & Spencer that were being introduced to the public through Starrett's movies.

Starrett made his first *Durango Kid* film in 1940, and the Sons of the Pioneers played a major role in it. The film was significant because most youngsters born in the 1940s grew to know Starrett mainly for his role as “The Durango Kid.”

In 1941, The Sons of the Pioneers moved to Republic Studios where they were reunited with their old pard, Roy Rogers. Smiley Burnette, a great musician and western composer in his own right (and member of the Hall of Fame), became Starrett's co-star. Smiley brought his own music to the Starrett films, as well as facilitating the appearance of numerous musical performers in those films over the years. But it was mainly Starrett's support for the Sons of the Pioneers that gave the Pioneers (and Western music) the national exposure that was needed to ensure viability and continuity long beyond the B-Western movie era.

2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



“ Unlike his contemporaries, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, who were “singing cowboys” before they became movie stars, Fred Scott was an actor before he became a “singing cowboy.” ”

FRED SCOTT

By O.J. Sikes

Unlike his contemporaries, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, who were “singing cowboys” before they became movie stars, Fred Scott was an actor before he became a “singing cowboy.” His musical career started in vaudeville in 1919, but he moved to films the following year and landed supporting roles in Mack Sennett comedies. This gave him a chance to work with silent film greats including Al St. John, who was a star in the *Keystone Cops* film series. Scott was seeing his dream as an entertainer come true, but he was a singer, first and foremost, and silent films were not the best vehicle to showcase his main talent.

So he left the film world temporarily, to work in theatrical and radio presentations, but by 1929 he had found a role in a “talking picture,” a musical titled *Rio Rita*. Feeling movies didn’t offer enough opportunity to showcase his singing voice, in 1932, the native Californian moved North from Hollywood to star in a San Francisco Opera Company production. Musical Westerns were still a thing of the future at that point, but by mid-decade, his friend William Boyd was moving from dramatic film roles to star as Hopalong Cassidy, and soon, his enthusiasm for the B-Western rubbed off on Fred Scott.

When Gene Autry established the format for singing cowboy movies late in 1935, it paved the way for Spectrum Studios to launch a series of musical Westerns, but they needed a star. Early in 1936, Scott was given a small, singing role in RKO’s *The Last Outlaw*, starring Harry Carey and Hoot Gibson. In it, Scott sang only one song, “My Heart’s on the Trail,” composed by Nat Shilkret and Frank Luther. The Spectrum executives saw the film and, based on his performance, they chose Scott as their studio’s main cowboy actor. His first starring role was in a film titled *Romance Rides the Range* (1936).

Over the next few years, billed as “The Silvery-Voiced Buckaroo” and usually with his old friend Al “Fuzzy” St. John as his charismatic comic sidekick, Fred Scott starred in a series of B-Western “singing cowboy” films. Afterward, Scott retired from the film world and built a successful career in real estate, while St. John went on to become one of the best-known of all Western “sidekicks.”

Fred Scott was one of the most popular of the cowboys with trained voices, but strangely, his movie contract prohibited him from making commercial recordings. So the only recordings we have of his Western music are from his film soundtracks. Shortly before his death in 1991, seventeen Western songs, including “Ridin’ Down the Trail to Albuquerque” and his movie themes, “In Old Montana,” “Moonlight on the Range” and “Paradise Valley,” were taken from those soundtracks and issued on a cassette. Recently, the British Archive of Country Music included those 17 songs on a CD titled *Operatic Cowboys*, along with 12 tracks by Dick Foran and Smith Ballew, a couple of Scott’s box office competitors.

CHRONICLE OF THE OLD WEST

"The Old West Is A Time And Place Of The Heart"

TIME ZONES

BY DAKOTA LIVESAY



How often have you picked up your phone to call a business on the other side of the country only to find that it was either closed or not yet open. With four time zones, it's quite possible that your clock and the clock of the person you're calling are as much as three hours apart. Have you ever wondered how these time zones came about?

Well, back in the Old West it wasn't this way. It was actually virtually impossible to know what time it was in the next town or territory.

This is because clocks were set to the local movement of the sun. In effect, each town had its own time zone. Local times were established when the sun was at its highest point in the sky. This was known as noon, or "high noon." Since towns were some distance apart and travel between them took days or even weeks, this time difference wasn't much of a problem.

But, as railroads started crisscrossing the continent, those days and weeks between towns shrank to hours, and the time differences became a real problem. It was necessary for railroad timetables to

list dozens of arrival and departure times for the same train. And that's no way to operate a railroad.

With the railroads being extremely powerful, the American and Canadian railroads got together and decided to divide the continent into four different time zones, at the 75th, 90th, 105th and 120th meridians.

On November 18, 1883, the new time zones took effect. Because railroads were the major link for cities to the rest of the continent, most Americans and Canadians immediately accepted the new time schedules.

However, it was not until 1918 that the federal government officially adopted the time zones and placed them under the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Dakota Livesay is the host of a daily and weekly syndicated radio show with five million listeners per week. He's also the publisher of *Chronicle of the Old West*, a monthly newspaper comprised of actual 1800's newspaper articles. In addition, he writes a weekly syndicated newspaper and Internet column called This Week In The Old West.



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BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



THE A TEAM

An old high school buddy of mine told me this story and seeing as he doesn't lean toward the tellin' of tall tales like some of us, I'm inclined to believe it to be true. He works for the major contractor that gathers wild horses and burros for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in all the western states. In order to protect one of the presumed innocents in this story I'll just call him "Mack."

They were working on a burro gather near Las Vegas when the lady who bids all their jobs got a call from the BLM wanting a bid on a gather near Fort Stockton, Texas. That got her a little curious as she was pretty sure there wasn't any BLM land in Texas. When she asked him how many horses the reply was six or eight. She said, "Six or eight hundred is a lot of horses!" He said, "No, just six or eight head." Well, she was now getting real curious and asked him just where these horses were and he told her they were on a ranch northeast of the Rio Grande near Fort Stockton.

She wasn't real interested in hauling all the equipment and crew to Texas for so few horses, so she made him a ridiculously high bid of about thirty thousand dollars. After a bit he called her back and said, "You got it. When can you come?" She was a little surprised that they would pay that kind of money for so few horses. The guy sounded sorta desperate so they decided to let them Las Vegas burros rest a while. They loaded up stock trailer, helicopter, trap and crew and were GTT (Gone To Texas).

When they got there, they discovered there had been some locals trying to corral those eight head of horses with a helicopter for a couple of weeks. They were the remainder of some two hundred head or more that had been gathered there over the last two years. One BLM official told them that from what he'd seen there was no way this new crew was going to do any better. "Mack" just grinned at him and said, "We'll get 'em, The "A" team is here now."

They never got them to go in the trap but that wild and woolly crew of mustangers roped every horse and had them all in the Fort Stockton stockyards before the sun sank over West Texas. There were BLM officials from about every western state in on this deal and it was evident they didn't

want to talk about it. My old school friend overheard one of them telling another that a big shot BLM guy was funneling horses from other gathers for the last four or five years or so and putting them on his ranch for his own personal purposes. They needed these horses for evidence at Mr. Big Shot's trial.

Everyone went away happy even if this was a prime example of how some of your tax dollars are spent. Especially happy was the "A TEAM" as they ate BLM sponsored steak for supper that evening! 🐾

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A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

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

THE FORGOTTEN STARS – REMEMBERED

In the last issue, I referred to a number of the singing cowboy movie stars who were popular in the 1930s and early 40s, but who, by and large, have been forgotten over the years. This time, I'd like to single out some who even fewer people remember, and fill in a few details about them. It was not easy to do because, since they pretty much faded from sight long ago, information about them is scarce. But they were real, they were popular, at least for a time, and they're a part of our history.

Although few people remember him today, **Bob Baker** was possibly the most popular (and most authentic) of the forgotten ones. His real name was **Stanly Leland "Tumble" Weed**. He got his nickname when he herded cattle as a working cowboy in his youth. Later, he found a job singing on the National Barn Dance in Chicago, and he worked as a mounted guide at the Grand Canyon before trying his hand at acting in Hollywood. At his mother's urging, he tried out for a part at Universal, competing against **Len Slye**, among others, and Universal Studios hired him as the lead in a new B-Western series, starting in 1937. Later, he was paired with **Johnny Mack Brown** and others on screen until 1943. He never made any commercial recordings, but some of his films are still available on DVD.

Bill Boyd became a singing cowboy movie star at PRC Studios, building upon his popularity as a

Western Swing bandleader (**Bill Boyd and his Cowboy Ramblers**) based in Texas. He starred with fiddler **Art Davis** and actor **Lee Powell** (the first **Lone Ranger** in the movies), in a "trio Western" series called *Frontier Marshals*, which was moderately successful and always included music, some of which Boyd recorded commercially with his band. The series began and ended in 1942 when Powell and Davis were called into military service and Boyd went back to leading his band and making records, which he continued to do into the 1950s. Boyd's music has been preserved on a number of CDs and his films are on DVDs today.

In 1937, Grand National, and then Monogram, released a series of *Renfrew of the Royal Mounted* films starring **James Newill**. The series lasted only until 1940, although Newill had a considerable following and one of the better voices among the "forgotten" stars. Unlike several of his contemporaries, much of Newill's music has been preserved, i.e. 26 of his Western transcriptions have been transferred to CD by the British Archive of Country Music (CD # 236). After his *Renfrew* series ended, Newill was recruited by PRC in 1942 to co-star in a series of trio Westerns, but he was replaced by **Tex Ritter** in 1944, so he moved on to other musical genres, e.g. he found work on Broadway.

George Houston had a trained voice. He sang opera and on

Broadway before landing the lead role in PRC's *Lone Rider* series in 1941. Houston's comic sidekick in those films was **Al "Fuzzy" St. John**, one of the genre's most popular sidekicks. Sadly, Houston's operatic voice was not particularly well-received by young audiences, and the low production values of his films amounted to obstacles even good ol' "Fuzzy" couldn't compensate for. The studio replaced him with **Bob Livingston** (who didn't sing) and omitted music for the rest of the series. Like the films of Baker, Boyd and Newill, a number of the *Lone Rider* films with Houston are still available on DVD.

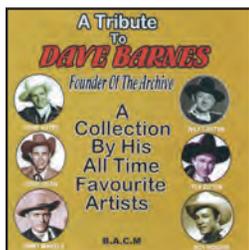
John "Dusty" King was a big band singer in the 1930s before landing in Hollywood where he secured roles in several films. Soon, Monogram Studios recruited him to sing in their *Range Busters* series, another of the trio Westerns co-starring ventriloquist **Max Terhune** and **Ray "Crash" Corrigan**. Although few may remember him, he made more movies than most of the singers in this essay, and he was very popular in Southern California due to his regular appearances on the *Hollywood Barn Dance* radio show. A few of those shows are available on CD.

For more information on these and other "obscure" singing movie cowboys, see Douglas B. Green's books, *Singing Cowboys* and *Singing in the Saddle*, and *Bob Baker: a "Real" Singing Cowboy* by Bobby Copeland and Bill Russell. 🐾

**GENE AUTRY, ROY ROGERS
TEX RITTER, EDDIE DEAN,
JIMMY WAKELY, WILF
CARTER, REX ALLEN,
JOHNNY BOND, ETC.**

“A Tribute to Dave Barnes”

BACMCDD673



When Dave Barnes, founder of the British Archive of Country Music, passed away in December

2020, Western music lost a great friend. His colleagues in England decided to cease production of new CDs. They will continue to make available the inventory they still have from years past and perhaps issue single CDs occasionally, as material becomes available, but they wanted to make one of their last releases this year a tribute to Dave. They subtitled it, “A Collection by His All Time Favourite Artists.”

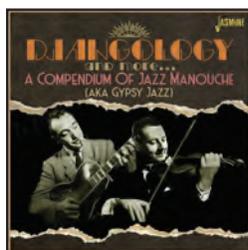
The CD contains 26 tracks that Dave’s colleagues remembered he was particularly fond of, opening with Gene Autry’s “Dust” and closing with the theme Roy Rogers & Dale Evans sang on their radio show, “Smiles are Made Out of the Sunshine.” In between, there are songs by all of your other favorite singing cowboy stars plus a little Western swing by Bob Wills (“Dusty Skies”), Milton Brown & his Musical Brownies (“I’m Talking About You”) and the Prairie Ramblers (the group that backed Patsy Montana and Rex Allen when they worked at WLS in Chicago).

It’s an excellent sampler of Western and Western Swing music from the 1930s to the ‘50s, with liner notes made-up of recollections by Dave’s friends who produced the CD. Available online from British Archive of Country Music email bacm.uk@googlemail.com.

**DJANGO REINHARDT,
STEPHANE GRAPPELLI,
THE HOT CLUB OF
FRANCE AND OTHERS**

*“Dyangoology and More – A
Compendium of Gypsy Jazz”*

BACMCDD668



Back in the early 1930s, guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli

created what came to be known as “Gypsy Jazz.” Their style of playing inspired many of the artists, including Western and Western Swing artists, who came later. You may have heard their influence reflected in the instrumental work of the Farr Brothers and others who had access to their early records. Their band, the Hot Club of France, was an inspiration for today’s superb Hot Club of Cowtown.

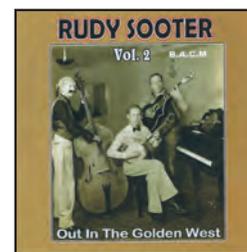
This new 2-CD set from Jasmine contains 58 tracks by their band and others in Europe that came along soon afterwards. Recently, I purchased an album of Django’s music issued by another company. Frankly, I was a little disappointed in the audio quality of the disc I bought. But the audio on these two discs is outstanding (keeping in mind the early recording dates)! If you are into early swing, or simply want to know what the “sound” that inspired so many musicians was like, this is the set to buy!

Widely available online.

RUDY SOOTER

“Out in the Golden West”

BACMCDD670



This is Volume 2 in BACM’s Sooter series, with Vol. 1 containing most of

Rudy’s commercial sides. This one consists of Standard radio transcriptions, mostly recorded in the late 30s-early 40s, but with a few recorded for the Black & White and London labels between 1947-50.

You may or may not have recognized Rudy in all the Tex Ritter, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers movies where he appeared in the 1930s, but most folks didn’t. He never became a big star, but his history is interesting, and this CD sports a photo of him from 1933 as a member of Jack LeFevre’s Texas Outlaws who, at the time, included Bob Nolan, Tim Spencer and Len Slye! The tracks here are attributed to Rudy Sooter and his Californians, his Mountain Boys and the Sierra Mountaineers.

Most tracks are vocals, but I prefer the instrumentals, especially one from late 1939, “Oklahoma Swing.” Liner notes by Kevin Coffey are detailed and interesting. This is one of the last BACM releases, as the company is planning to issue no more “new” CDs following the death of the company’s founder, Dave Barnes late in 2020. The company will remain open to accommodate customers who are interested in purchasing CDs from existing inventory. Available online at country-music-archive.com. 🐾



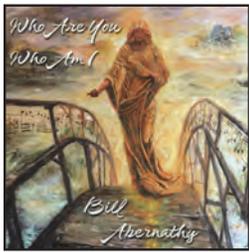
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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 signed.

BILL ABERNATHY

“Who Are You Who Am I?”



This well-done four song EP from Missouri balladeer/songwriter Bill Abernathy is being covered

here mainly for his fine cover of “A Thousand Wild Horses,” a song from the team of Gary Burr and Sam & Annie Tate. It adroitly uses stampede imagery to illustrate the idea of past misdeeds charging in to overrun the singer, and in any playlist paddock it’s a keeper.

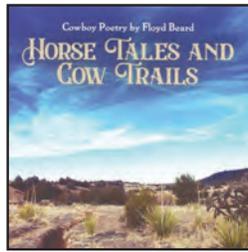
Abernathy certainly possesses plenty of Cowboy grit in his voice, which makes him naturally primed to be able to give us more Cowboy material down the trail. One of his non-Western Folk-Rock offerings here “More Than Meets The Eye” is incendiary yet general enough to be used as a rallying anthem by either side of our current political divide (although another of his songs called “World’s Foremost Authority On Everything” may hint at the artist’s own leanings). The EP closes with its title track “Who Are You Who Am I?” Well you may ask!

Bill Abernathy obviously has something good to offer. Here’s hoping he elects to offer more of it to the Western Music genre.

CD/Track Downloads: Through searching “Bill Abernathy” or perhaps “Enneagram Records.”

FLOYD BEARD

“Horse Tales & Cow Trails”



It’s no big news that Colorado’s Floyd Beard is acknowledged as being one of the present-day

grand masters of Cowboy Poetry. In a way the recorded Beard experience equates favorably with that of an engrossing audio book. He quite literally knows his subjects chapter and verse!

Each work in Beard’s newest collection of originals has a good point to make, but among the collection “picks” this time we’ll include the nicely rounded poetic education to be found in “The Carlsbad,” the first-person memory to treasure in “The Cavy,” a Beard creation that has been covered before “Harley’s Last Parade,” the tall tales “A Dry Day” and “Reindeer Wrangler” and the pure portrait “The Drifting Cowpuncher.” By performing the one cover found in the collection (the Robert W. Service classic “The Cremation Of Sam Magee”) Beard has filled a request. Who knew he accepted them??!

Beard’s rangy delivery adds the right stamp of authenticity to the proceedings. Thirteen tracks, recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Floyd Beard, PO Box 124, Kim, CO 81049

SKIP BESSONETT’S SONS OF OREGON

“Traveling Cowboy Band”



Longtime entertainer and host of Medford, Oregon’s Rogue River Bound radio show, Skip

Bessonette has a lively singing style that is a plus on this release that actually dates from a ways back. (Full disclosure...I offered to cover this CD in place of a newer one he sent that didn’t fit the column’s genre requirements).

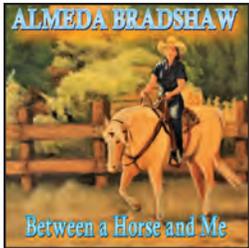
The overall effect of this quartet is congenial, acoustic and freewheeling. Picks include the title track “Traveling Cowboy Band” (although harmony on the chorus might have been preferable to unison singing), a lazy blues cover of “Along The Navajo Trail,” the Mitchell Parrish/J. Fred Coots song “When The Robin Sings His Song Again,” an interesting novelty provided by “The Happy Wanderer” and Lee ‘Lasses’ White & Jimmy Wakely’s “I’m Casting My Lasso.”

You’ll find enough here to keep your interest perked, if not the coffee!

Fourteen tracks, recommended.

CD: \$20 + \$2.89 s/h from Skip Bessonette, 2395 E. McAndrews Rd, Medford, OR 97504

ALMEDA BRADSHAW "Between A Horse And Me"



A nice variety of styles and music/lyric influences are just part of what keeps this newest

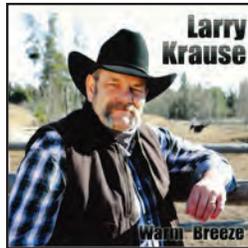
release from Montana's Almeda Bradshaw interesting. She is also manifesting a confident comfort that she generally shows onstage but that didn't always come across on some earlier recordings. This one may rank as her most artistically successful yet.

Plenty of the songs swing including picks "If I Had A Horse," "Will He Or Won't He" and the novelty "My Palomino Pony and Me." Another swinging song from earlier in her performing career "Riding Along The River" is a clever adaptation of the Gene Autry/Smiley Burnette classic "Riding Down The Canyon" and is a pick here, along with one she describes as a "stream of consciousness" called "Trusting" that was inspired by poet Henry Real Bird's style, her own musical treatment of Badger Clark's "Riding" and an Ed Nusselhof poem she also set to music called "Dances With Bulls." The only cover in the collection is a very nice one of Dave Stamey's "Buckskin Horse."

The liner notes give plenty of insight into the degree to which this album's contents were part of her personal experience. Produced by Aarom Meador & Kristyn Harris, strong session folks support her and the presence of Notable Exceptions' harmonies on some of the tracks is always a plus as well. Eleven tracks total, highly recommended.

CD: \$20 available through almedam2bmusic.com/store

LARRY KRAUSE "Warm Breeze"



Starting off to be a simple EP that would feature a few key songs, Canada's Larry Krause's "little" effort

blossomed into a full album of Western and Country originals, co-writes and covers. See what can happen when you plant the right seeds??

In this case the accomplished baritone-base has produced a congenial collection of songs including two that feature words from Canadian poet (and treasure) Mag Mawhinney ("Mending Fences" and "You're Still There"). Among the original picks are the title track "Warm Breeze," "Real Cowboy Song," "Where This Road Goes" the novelty "Sumthin' For A Buck" and the Krause/Jim Pease co-write "Let's Meet At The Table." The pick covers are Jeanine Russell's "Don't Ask" and Ian Tyson's "Til The Circle Is Through."

Among the strong players backing Krause are two of his longtime stage mates Garry Larson and Dave Sinclair, who also co-produced the album. Fifteen tracks, highly recommended.

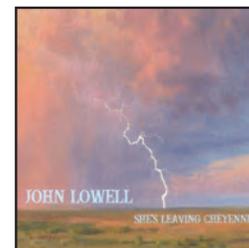
CD: \$20 (plus \$4 s/h Canadian sales) through larrykrause.com or "drop a line or text!" Larry Krause, RR1, Site 1, Comp 76, Christopher Lake, SK S0J 0N0 or phone (306) 961-4694.

A couple of the album's tracks cleverly kick off with a musical or lyrical nod to classic Cowboy songs before going in their own directions... "True Tale o' Cowboyin'" and "Blue Cowboy Waltz," both of which are CD picks. "True Tale..." could have come straight from the typewriter of Curley Fletcher! Yes, typewriter...look it up! Other picks include the swinging "Too Bad This Town Ain't Texas" (which is destined to receive covers in the future), the waltz "He Wants Her Back Again," "Navajo Silver Sunset Gold" and "Jud's Guitar." Pick covers are an interesting treatment of the authentic "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie" featuring alternating a cappella, instrumental and accompanied verses and an original spin on "Ain't Misbehavin'" over which I feel Fats Waller smiling.

Eleven tracks, highly recommended. CD ordering information not provided.



JOHN LOWELL "She's Leaving Cheyenne"



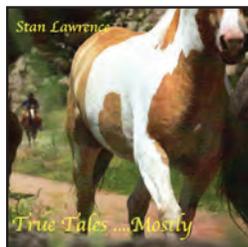
Sometimes a release comes along that makes a fellow want to plant flags and plug in spotlights. You might not

be able to see them from where you're sitting, but trust me! They're flapping and arcing for this one! From John Lowell's melodic delivery, the acoustic arrangements and its all-Western content (his first), this one is superb. Thank you, Dave Stamey, for getting him to send it.

When Lowell made his first appearance on the esteemed stage at Elko, it caused no less a personage than Waddie Mitchell to exclaim "Why don't I know you?" and "I need to know these songs!!" "These songs" on this CD include Lowell's haunting saga song "Sarah Hogan," a favorite of audiences at Les & Locke Hamilton shows (Prickly Pair). On this occasion another proponent of Lowell's poet



STAN LAWRENCE "True Tales...Mostly"



In this collection of originals and co-writes, Stan Lawrence conveys an easy comfort with his material. He's

"musical" rather than being preoccupied with "being musical," if that scans for you. Anyway it's easy to tell why he has received considerable Western airplay.

Continued on page 38

Randy Reiman gives us an elegant recited treatment. More picks ready for covering by others include the immigrant portrait "Angus MacKenzie," the swinging "Cowboy Moon," novelty saga song "The Philadelphia Lawyer," title track "She's Leaving Cheyenne" and others.

John Lowell may be better known in the Americana and Folk worlds, but any time he would care to work in Western, I say we're blessed to have him. Twelve tracks, very highly recommended.

CD: Available through johnlowell.com



CAROL MARKSTROM

"Mile After Mile"



Carol Markstrom continues to reshape her artistic parameters in her new not-all-Western

release. Listeners who may have become complacent with Markstrom's smoother ballad style from her last album may note she occasionally employs a more forceful delivery this time. For me it's reminiscent of certain protest folk from the sixties. Some complex lyric elements enhance that effect, yet a reasonable flow within the arrangements is generally maintained.

Picks include "Dust Of Palomas" (her writer's block buster inspired by a blustery day spent there), "Best Time Of The Day" (from a Tim Cox oil seen on an event poster), "Perfect" (which Markstrom calls her 'song of personal completion'), "Miner's Candle" (a co-write with Manuela Schneider) and her cover of a Joy Williams/John Paul White/Charlie Peacock song "Devil's Backbone." Top players including Jon Chandler and Cody Braun add greatly to the effort. Her growing fan base should welcome this one into the fold. Twelve tracks.

CD: Available through CarolMarkstromMusic.com

MISKA PAGET

"The Best Horses In Heaven— They Have No Tail"



Miska Paget's debut release really is an introduction to her as, track by track, we meet her, those around her and gain insight into her experiences.

Unlike the renowned Baxter Black, Paget remains a working veterinarian who reports having created more than one of her poems seated in her truck after seeing a patient. Hers is a deliberate, measured delivery of her poems, which are involving, flowing and descriptive. It's noteworthy that none of the wording comes off as being contrived to make a rhyme.

When I spotted a poem in her roster entitled "Wiley Jim," I wondered if it would be about one of the Pfeiffer Brothers (old WMA reference, don't bother yourself)! It's not. But it is an album pick, as are the title track (which means they did their jobs well enough to motivate their owners to keep a remembrance), "Barbara Bush" (no spring chicken) and "The Brand" (hopefully the "KP" doesn't also mean "kitchen police"). Eleven tracks, recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$5 s/h check or MO from Miska Paget, 15320 N. Puntenney Road, Prescott, AZ and download through amazon, iTunes, Pandora and Spotify.



GEORGE RAY RUSSELL

"Wrangler Of Rhymes: Volume 1"



George Ray Russell might be a living example of the historic Cowboy Music origin pattern,,that

being stories become verses and verses are set to music. Russell's mostly tenor-range voice is believable and sufficiently musical to put it across.

You will hear some of today's songwriters say (in seminars, usually) that sometimes when poems are set to music they may benefit from judicious removal of certain lengthy verses. After all it is said that "brevity is the soul of wit." In Russell's case, full poems are set to music, some with recitations. Your personal position on it may govern how you receive this effort and whether or not you occasionally ask, "where have I been for the last eight to twelve minutes of my life?"

To be sure, Russell offers some good stuff. Song picks include "The Blizzard," "A Cowboy And His Horse," "If I Can Rope Him" and "Extra Bonus." Picks among the poems are "Cattle Rustlin' Country," "Wild Horses" and "I'm Way Too Old." Nineteen tracks total.

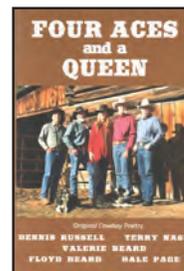
CD: \$15 + \$3 through russell30@gmail.com or download through iTunes, Spotify and bandcamp.



DENNIS RUSSELL, TERRY NASH, VALERIE & FLOYD BEARD & DALE PAGE

"Four Aces & A Queen" (Hardback Book)

ISBN 978-1-9772-2424-8



Assuming such noted Cowboy Poets as these are also adept at self-editing, for this assemblage they have chosen what they feel is some of the best from

their respective bodies of work. Let's put it this way. If it's not, it's close enough!

The poets grouped here are known to be observant, empathetic, actual livers of the life. They have that solid ability to make you smell the sage and feel the breeze. And this book's title is appropriate, in that they are at the top of the game and each a winning hand.

Each section is prefaced with biographical sketches (providing the pedigree) and at the head of each poem are notes from the author on its inspiration. You come to know many aspects of the life and the Glossary of Terms is particularly valuable even outside of the context here.

Seekers of poetic formatting variety may note that these thoughts are presented predominantly in quatrains... the Beards being the principal exceptions. But from there, the Western sky's the limit! Lavishly illustrated with photos, most historic, many in color. Seventy-six poems on 218 pages. Highly recommended.

Book: Search the sites of the authors

MARCI BROYHILL

“White Horse Dream – A True Story”
(Book)

ISBN 978-1-7333876-2-0



It was in her book “Nebraska’s Outlaw Trails” that I first came across poet/presenter/historian Marci Broyhill’s account of her state’s famous equine entertainment dynasty. I thought at the time it could be made into something bigger. Obviously Broyhill was thinking likewise. Now it’s 13” by 8 1/2”!! Seriously her decision to expand her poem into a young person’s picture book was a smart one.

From its genesis to its legacy, Broyhill tells in verse, text and historic photos the intriguing story of the White Horse Ranch and its dynamic performing troupe. Twin brothers Caleb and Hudson Thompson’s dream of owning a pure white horse was realized in 1917 with the \$300 purchase of Old King. This foundation sire enabled a remuda of more than 100 progeny to come, a trick riding team and an equestrian school for the young to emerge...every horse, ranch building and vehicle a snowy white!

Maybe this book will help to alert a new generation to a type of Western entertainment they never knew existed...and possibly, in the case of urban kids, aboard a creature they never knew existed!!!

Book: Available through marcibroyhill.com 🐾

CORRECTION

Okay, this is gettin’ ree-dickelus!! In my review of Kerry Grombacher’s CD “Range Of The Buffalo” I said it included two duets with Aspen Black that I would name as album “picks” just like I did when they appeared on an album of hers. Right and wrong. There were two duets with Kerry on her disc. They weren’t the same two, but at least I was right to name all four as “picks!!!”



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CLASSIC PROFILES

SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

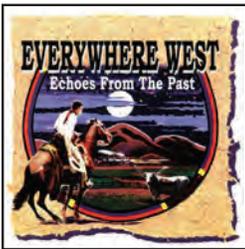
(Recordings From Our Great Western Treasury That Deserve a New Spin)

BY RICK HUFF

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

EVERYWHERE WEST

"Echoes From The Past" (2000)



The late Rex Allen said of this group "this is the best cowboy band I've ever heard!"

That, you will appreciate, is really saying something. In fact, he backed it up by recording a laudatory introduction for the guys to use on their album! Such was the quality we're talking about with the chuckwagon band Everywhere West.

Immediately their listener becomes aware of a sense of pure bubbling fun pervading the mostly classic songs on this collection. Everywhere West was made up of a fellow who became highly regarded in folk as well, Rick Martinez, on vocals and guitar. Then there was multi-time flatpick guitar champion Ryan Martin (son of longtime chuckwagon artists Jim & Jeanne Martin) who also provided vocal harmony. Next add singer/drummer Rusty Day and finally singer/fiddle/mandolin and keyboard

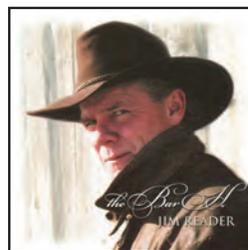
player Andrew Wilson. You can trust Rex...this band had plenty going for it!

These days it seems Ryan Martin can be found plying his awesome trade for the Cody Cattle Company band, The Triple C Cowboys. If we are following the thread correctly, Rick Martinez may have left us, and I have not traced the remaining two fellows. For a while in Wickenburg, Arizona back in 2000, superior Western Harmony rang out before Everywhere West went south. However, "Echoes From The Past" need not remain there. If the album still resides on your shelf, give it a fresh spin!



JIM READER

"The Bar H" (2003)



As one saying regarding innovation puts it, "you have to know the rules to break them."

In the case of this debut album from Canada, producer/arranger (and

cartoonist) Ben Crane knew the rules which let Jim Reader break them... both to good effect!

When this CD first appeared, Western DJs may not have quite known what to do with it. As the liner notes affirm, this music can't be pigeon-holed. But it can, and should, be revisited to see how it plays these days. Tracks include "Cowboy Time," "The Ranchin' Life's OK," "Workin' Cowhorse" and the only too true "Baler Twine." From the songs' semi-ragtime sensibilities and unusual structure to their singer's appropriately gritty vocals, this is a solid Western adventure. As they themselves put it, on a creative level collaborators Reader and Crane were "on a wave length somewhere between the ozone layer and the harvest moon!" It may be time to bring this one down off the shelves and put it back onto Earth's airwaves.

For those who are quick to pounce, many of the albums we include as Classic Profiles seem to have become available from aftermarket sources. At the time of this writing, this was one of them. 🐾

Chapter Update

Continued from page 27

vaccination card, picture of vaccination card, OR will take a COVID-19 diagnostic test (PCR or antigen ONLY) within 48 hours of this event, and will provide proof of negative result before entering the venue."

TEXAS CHAPTER

President: Cary Wiseman

Wisemanranch71@gmail.com

Hello Y'all, I hope everyone is staying safe and taking precautions again for the COVID variant. I would like to say Thank You to everyone who has been performing and spreading our music and poetry to audiences wherever it might have been. The folks in our country need to feel our cowboy culture and we need to share that culture as much as we can. I would like to send our condolences to the K.R. Wood family for their loss. He was a courageous man, a mentor, performer, and historian that we will miss greatly. We hope the Wood family is healing from their great loss, our prayers are with y'all. We are getting ready for Weatherford Goes Red. This is the Kickoff to Red Steagall's Cowboy Gathering. The cowboy gathering will bring the Fort Worth Stockyards to life. Folks from all over are getting ready to come to Cowtown, we will have an incredible time and we wish y'all can come and enjoy the gathering with us. We will have updates in the future issue. Y'all stay safe and be vigilant in the fight against this terrible COVID virus. We hope that God rides the trails with y'all. God Bless. Happy Trails.

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Mark Munzert

markmunzert@gmail.com

Many Wordsmiths will be joining the fray for the buckle. Hope to see you in Albuquerque! The Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering was a 'family' affair with many Western Wordsmiths performing including: Floyd Beard; Valerie Beard; Sam DeLeeuw; Deanna Dickinson-McCall; Gary Kirkman; Jo Lynne Kirkwood; Mark Munzert; Miska



IWMA21 Cowboy Poetry Buckle



Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering

Paget; and Tom Swearingen. The ACPG Committee and Volunteers did an incredible job with the 2021 rendition being held at the Historic Prescott Rodeo Grounds. The Grand Encampment Cowboy Gathering welcomed Wordsmiths Dennis Russell, Beverly Gray-Russell and Deanna Dickinson to their Gathering stage. The Cimarron Cowboy Music & Poetry Gathering is underway at this writing and features Western Wordsmiths: Floyd Beard; Valerie Beard; Deanna Dickinson; Terry Nash; Dale Page; Miska Paget; Beverly Gray-Russell; and Dennis Russell. Almeda Bradshaw,



Dennis Russell and Beverly Gray-Russell

fishin', travin', and battlin' a long-lasting 'crud' recently played the Cleavesfest Music Festival in Huntley, MT, and in Great Falls played for the pre-auction brunch at the CM Russell Museum. Tom Swearingen is "grateful that the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering and the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering rolled him to this year's night shows after last year's

gatherings were Covid-cancelled. He's also been busy with new gigs at fairs, community concerts, and private events. His IWMA Cowboy Poetry Book of the Year award for Reflection was front page news in numerous Oregon newspapers. Carla Swearingen's fourth children's book Flora is Curious About Cats with illustrations by Elizabeth Zimmerman is now available at HoofPickPress.com." Deanna Dickinson was featured entertainer and emcee at the Timberon Western Experience and her latest book, The Okie's Daughter, is delighting many. And, Deanna's Cowboy Cuisine: Beyond Biscuits and Beans won the Will Rogers Medallion Award in the Western Cookbook category. Miska Paget has released her The Best Horses In Heaven, They Have No Tail of eleven original compositions that bring you along her trail. Nominations for Western Wordsmith officers are fast approaching. I'm glad to spend some time to fill-in prospective officers and we are looking for your help. Kathy and I had the pleasure of hosting the beguiling age, octogenarian, strummin', yodeler Tom Hawk. Tom made the visit enroute to a family reunion in Vermont, and a stockpile run through the NY Fingerlakes wine country. Of course, we traded a few songs 'n' poems. I didn't try to yodel. 🐾



Tom Hawk

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Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews



Ollie Reed, Jr.

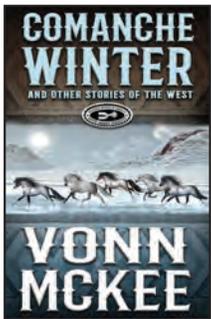
To have your book reviewed by Ollie, send a copy to: Ollie Reed, Jr., P.O. Box 2381, Corrales, N.M. 87048 or contact him at: olreed.com@gmail.com

Short stories were once a vital part of the Western fiction landscape. Whole magazines were devoted to them, and Western short stories once appeared in popular, general-interest periodicals alongside short fiction from other genres.

That's not the case these days. Times and tastes change, and the market for Western short stories is much more limited than it once was. But people still write them and, fortunately, publishers such as Wolfpack and Five Star still print them.

VONN MCKEE

"Comanche Winter and Other Stories of the West"



Vonn McKee is the pseudonym for singer-songwriter and IWMA member Micki Fuhrman. Her Western music album "Westbound" is due out early next

year, and a single, "You Oughta See Wyoming," should be out about now.

As McKee, she has been making a name for herself as a Western short story writer since 2014. "The Songbird of Seville," the tale that leads off this eight-story collection, was a finalist for the Western Writers of America Spur Award.

"Songbird" taps into Fuhrman's music background as well as into her interest in the West. It's about a haughty Spanish opera singer who is reminded of her own humble beginnings and the power of song to bring people of diverse backgrounds together after she is involved in a near-

tragic shooting incident in a small, Western town.

The story demonstrates Fuhrman's keen sense of observation, apparent in all the stories in this collection, and her sense of humor, which crops up in most of them.

But the fact she can write funny does not mean all her stories are that way. The final line in "Comanche Winter," about an Indian attack on a schoolhouse, will make you smile, but the story itself is mostly grim and suspenseful.

In "The Gunfighter's Gift," an old bounty hunter rides back into his family's life, intending to make amends for sins committed against them, but discovers that sometimes forgiveness is as difficult to win from those you love as it is from those you call enemy.

If any of these stories can be called a tearjerker, it would be "Noah Rains," which tells about the harshness of frontier ranching life and how prayers get answered even if you don't know you're saying them.

And then there's "Sheep's Clothing." One of the toughest traps to avoid in writing Western stories is predictability. Everybody knows the

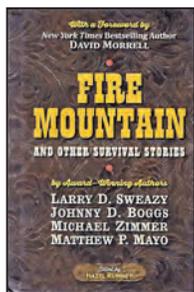
man in the white hat is going to win the gunfight and that the cavalry will come to the rescue.

Not one of the stories in this collection is that obvious, but I'm still trying to figure out how "Sheep's Clothing" ends because the protagonist, a man who takes on the identity of someone he robbed and murdered, is not sure himself when he rides out of town. Is it possible to just put your crimes behind you and start living a good life? Or must you pay for those crimes first?

But back to funny. The prize for flat-out amusing goes to "An Astonishing Host of Curiosities," which is set in Kentucky during the Civil War. It's the story of a traveling circus troupe that takes on a band of renegade raiders who have been terrorizing farm families. Guess who wins. Even white hats and cavalry troops are not much good against an elephant and a Bengal tiger.

("Comanche Winter and Other Stories of the West," 9781647343071; paperback, 143 pages; \$9.99; Wolfpack Publishing; available at wolfpackpublishing.com, amazon.com and other outlets.)

**LARRY D. SWEAZY,
JOHNNY D. BOGGS,
MICHAEL ZIMMER,
MATTHEW P. MAYO**
*“Fire Mountain and Other
Survival Stories”*



One reason for the decline in interest for the Western short story, and for Western fiction in general, is that those old white-hat and cavalry-

to-the-rescue stereotypes got worn out from overuse.

Many of today's Western writers, including the authors whose stories appear in the two books reviewed in this column, look for fresh ways to tell stories set in the West. It's not all cowpunchers, buffalo hunters and barroom girls these days.

The stories in “Fire Mountain” feature women in uncharacteristic roles, domestic abuse and the tragedy that underlines the history of American Indians.

For the sake of space, I'll just write as way of introduction that all the authors included in “Fire Mountain” are winners of WWA Spur Awards for their fiction

Larry Sweazy's “Buffalo Trace,” set in Indiana Territory in the early 1800s, is about the Indiana Rangers, a group that actually existed but were unknown to me before I read this story.

The Rangers were organized to protect travelers along Indiana's Buffalo Trace road. What makes this organization especially unusual for its time is that it was made up of men and women. They patrolled in pairs, which sometimes consisted of a man and a woman.

Hallie Mae Edson, the story's protagonist, joins the Rangers,

initially, perhaps, because she has strong feelings for one of the young men in the organization. One of the more interesting scenes in the story occurs when Hallie is teamed for patrol with the young man she fancies, and the boy's mother, during an awkward exchange with Hallie, says “I'll expect you to mind your manners is all. Am I clear?”

But this is no love story. Mostly it's about the strength and determination of this country's pioneer women. Hallie, bound to prove her worth and that of all women, makes a dangerous decision and follows it through.

“I was a Ranger, and, at that moment, that's all I ever wanted to be.”

Johnny Boggs' “Two Old Comanches” is about Flea and Skunk Bush, the two old Comanches of the title, who are imprisoned with members of their tribe and others, in a dank, Florida prison near the Atlantic Ocean.

Boggs is good at setting the scene and detailing the wretched conditions these once free people must endure in their cells. He also does a good job of showing how Comanche culture conflicts with the captives' situation. Comanches don't eat fish, but the ocean provides much of the prisoners' food.

It is humor, however, that puts the shine in this story about Flea and Skunk Bush's escape and attempt to return to their Western range.

Take for example, the scene in which Skunk Bush has the chance to take a new name. Golden opportunity for one so named, right?

“From this day forward,” (he) said, “my name is Blind Man Who Brings Excrement and Urine With Him.”

Anyone's guess what they'll call for short.

Nothing funny at all about Matthew Mayo's “Bloodline.” This story starts hard, mean and sad and

stays that way through to the end.

Set on a remote Western farm in the late 19th Century, it is about a 12-year-old boy and his mother who live with and are abused emotionally, mentally and physically by the mother's father, a brutish man named Bull Barr.

Mayo writes beautifully about an ugly set of circumstances. He can put you in a nasty pig sty with a monstrous hog or up against a tree on a cold, dark mountain.

Most impressively, he is capable of building tension to maddening levels as Barr pursues the boy, toying with him but never quitting the trail, as the kid makes a run for his life.

The most traditional of these tales is the title story, Michael Zimmer's “Fire Mountain.”

Experienced and respected muleskinner Buck McCready hires on to take a mule team loaded with supplies to a high mountain mining site in 1870s Idaho. He'll have two men helping him, China Jake, a good hand with mules, and Cam Wallis, who was as good a packer as you could find before he got hurt and old.

In order to keep the contract for supplying the mine, the store owner who hired Buck needs to get the provisions to the mine by a certain date. Trouble is the mountain is on fire and a competing businessman has set gunmen on the mule team's trail to make sure Buck and his companions don't make it to the mine. Fire in front, hot lead behind.

OK, it's white hats against the black hats, but Zimmer can pull it off. For pure fun and excitement, this is the best of the bunch in this book.

(“Fire Mountain and Other Survival Stories,” 9781432873585; hardback; 287 pages; \$25.95; available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [barnsandnoble.com](https://www.barnsandnoble.com) and other outlets.) 🐾

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Joe Angel

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

Waynetta Ausmus

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

Michael Babiarz

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

Bobbi Jean Bell

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

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky

"Rogue Valley Bound Show"
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-301-7649
www.earsradio.com
skipbessonette@gmail.com

Janice Brooks

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

Peter Bruce

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

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http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling_ all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
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Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd.
Bend, OR 97702

Doug Figgs

P. O. Box 3
Lemitar, NM 87823
505-440-0979
www.doufiggs.com
http://www.RioGrandeValleyRadio.com

Nancy Flagg

"Cowboy Tracks"
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and internet streaming (www.kdrt.org)
1623 Fifth Street
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Email: CowboyTracks2@gmail.com
Website: Facebook.com/cowboytracks

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España
miguelbilly56@gmail.com

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Old Shotton Village
Peterlee Co. Durham
SR8 2NG England
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samharris01@aol.com

Paul Hazell

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

Gary Holt

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

Judy James

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

Susie Knight

"The Western Way Hour" (poet friendly)
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303-495-4869

Al Krttil

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

Jarle Kvale

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

Eddy Leverett

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kudzucowboy@outlook.com

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

Bob O'Donnell

455 12th Avenue, Apt 130
Baldwin, WI 54002
justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

O.J. Sikes

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

Totsie Slover

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

Tommy Tucker

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

Wayne & Kathy

"Swing 'n' Country"
KBOO 90.7 FM
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wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net

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The Country Campfire

W 10 pm – 11 pm

Around the Campfire

TU 10 pm – 11 pm
TH 10 pm – 11 pm



TIMES ARE CST AND AIRTIME MAY VARY

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Me and Les – Dan McCorison
2. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
3. Devil on My Tail – Hot Texas Swing Band
4. Doin' What We Do – The Cowboy Way
5. Mile After Mile – Carol Markstrom
6. True Tales...Mostly – Stan Lawrence
7. Range of the Buffalo – Kerry Grombacher
8. Rancher's Paradise – Barry Ward
9. Ride My Pony – Chris Mortenson
10. Once Upon a Desert Night – Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade
11. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
12. The Lump of Coal (Hope's Diamond) – Steve Jones
13. New Moon – Prairie Moon
14. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
15. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
16. Frontier – Mary Kaye
17. One More River to Cross – The Ramblin' Rangers
18. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
19. Cow Pony – Ryan Fritz
20. I See You – Gabrielle Gore
21. Good Times Are Comin' – Jim Jones
22. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
23. Canyon Songs – The Dan Canyon Band
24. No Place Left to Go – Ron Christopher
25. Wild West Texas Wind – Carolyn Martin
26. Turn 'Em Loose – Susie Knight
27. The Hidden Trail – Abby Payne
28. Singing Cowgirl Rides Again – Dawn Anita
29. Doug Figs – Yellow Horse
30. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
2. Devil on My Tail – Hot Texas Swing Band
3. Harmony Grits – Ida Red
4. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
5. California Skies – Don Burnham
6. Texas Bound – Bret Raper
7. Texas Fiddler – Ridge Roberts
8. Swinging Our Way – The Brazos Valley Boys
9. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
10. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. One Way to Swing – Carlos Washington
2. Devil on My Tail – Hot Texas Swing Band
3. Ridin' the Range – Stan Lawrence
4. Devil's Backbone – Carol Markstrom
5. Lookin' for One Good Cowboy – Susie Knight
6. Navajo Silver, Sunset Gold – Stan Lawrence
7. Guys Love Chicks Who Yodel – Lori Beth Brooke
8. Range of the Buffalo – Kerry Grombacher
9. Dust of Palomas – Carol Markstrom
Miner's Candle – Carol Markstrom

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Horse Tales and Cow Trails – Floyd Beard
2. Pensive 'n' Playful – Mark Munzert
3. They Come Prancin' – A.K. Moss
4. Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg
5. Wagon Train – Colt Blankman
Language of the Land – Tom Swearingen
7. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
8. I'll Ride Thru It – Deanna Dickinson McCall
9. The Best Horses in Heaven, They Have No Tail – Miska Paget
10. The Truth – A.K. Moss
Masters, Vol. 2 – Various Artists

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

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

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

IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

Nolan Bruce Allen	Grand Island, NY	Clyde Lucas	Sylmar, CA
Rex Allen, Jr.	Nashville, TN	Mike Mahaney	Burbank, CA
Cindy Argyle	Hooper, UT	Michael P. McAleenan	Madison, MS
Cowboy Joe Babcock	Franklin, TN	Janet McBride	Rockwall, TX
Troy Bateson	Vilonia, AR	Steven "Mac" McCartney	Aurora, CO
Floyd Beard	Kim, CO	Tracy McHenry	Tucson, AZ
George & Doris Bensmiller	Armstrong, BC Canada	Gary McMahan	Bellvue, CO
Diane Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Al "Doc" Mehl	Black Diamond, AB, Canada
John Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Tree Menane	Taos, NM
Carol Bobroff	San Diego, CA	Jon Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Sherry Bond	Nashville, TN	Kathy Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Mark E. Brown	Franklin, IN	Joseph Miskulin	Kirtland, OH
Ken Bucy	Mesa, AZ	Rich O'Brien	Afton, OK
Stephen S. Burnette	Brownsville, TN	Marvin O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Mae Camp	Tucson, AZ	Theresa O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Robert Maxwell Case	Slick, OK	Darren Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Susan Booth Case	Slick, OK	Sara Lou Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Tom Chambers	Tucson, AZ	Billy Pitts	Kansas City, MO
Woody Paul Chrisman	Nashville, TN	Pamela Plaskitt	Waterloo, IA
Patty Clayton	Edgewater, CO	Rich Price	Oakdale, CA
Karen Cloutier	Conyngham, PA	Debbie Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Peggy Collins	Cordova, TN	Jeff Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Henry "Steve" Conroy	Sierra Vista, AZ	Diana Raven	Lakewood, CO
Polly Cooke	Wickenburg, AZ	Herb Remington	Ruidoso, NM
Jan Michael Corey	Mesa, AZ	Steven Rhodes	Foosland, IL
Stan Corliss	Hillsboro, OR	Victoria Rhodes	Foosland, IL
William Crowe	Van Horn, TX	Rusty Richards	Silverado, CA
Don Cusic	Nashville, TN	Don Richardson	Upland, CA
Mark & Marlene Davis	Chatsworth, CA	Barbara Richhart	Mancos, CO
David DeBolt	Nolensville, TN	Roger Ringer	Medicine Lodge, KS
Rich Dollarhide	Sierra Vista, AZ	LeeLee Robert	Paradise Valley, AZ
Arlys Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Jessie D. Robertson	Fort Worth, TX
Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
Fred Engel	Kimball Junction, UT	Elizabeth Rukavina	Arleta, CA
Robert E. Fee, Esq.	Tucson, AZ	Lori Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Juni Fisher	Franklin, TN	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Rick Flory	Paradise Valley, AZ	Ray Ryan	San Jose, CA
Robin Freerks (Ned Bodie)	Goldendale, WA	Yvonne Ryan	San Jose, CA
Norbert Gauch	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Mary M. Ryland	Albuquerque, NM
Val Geissler	Cody, WY	Suzanne Samelson	Thermopolis, WY
Dick & Dixie Goodman	Sun City West, AZ	Rudolf P. Schai	Bernhardzell, Switzerland
Fred Goodwin	Murfreesboro, TN	Jim Sharp	Nashville, TN
Douglas B. Green	Brentwood, TN	Hank Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Betsy Bell Hagar	Mill Valley, CA	Sharyn Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Jerry Hall	Porterville, CA	Lindy Simmons	Mancos, CO
Patti Hamel	Petoskey, MI	Cowboy Jerry Sooter	Apple Valley, CA
Tex Hamel	St. Ignace, MI	Julie Spencer	Pacific City, OR
Les Hamilton	Dubois, WY	Dave Stamey	Orange Cove, CA
Calvin Danner Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Cheryl Stanley	Roswell, NM
Lisa Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Bob Taylor	El Cajon, CA
RW Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Steve Taylor	Roy, UT
Joni Harms	Canby, OR	Terri Taylor	Roy, UT
Eddy Harrison	Las Cruces, NM	Ed Terry	Merritt, NC
Tom & Jane Hilderbrand	North Myrtle Beach, SC	J. R. (Ray) Threatt	Oklahoma City, OK
Randy A. Hoyt	Grand Junction, CO	Alma Tussing	Hudson, WY
Rick Huff	Albuquerque, NM	Stanley Tussing	Deming, NM
Jack Hummel	Valencia, CA	Marilyn Tuttle	San Fernando, CA
Voleta Hummel	Valencia, CA	Robert Wagoner	Bishop, CA
Charles Jennings	Rockville, MD	Harvey Walker	Anaheim, CA
Emma F. Kaenzig	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Alinka Wallace	Flatonina, TX
Paul Kelly	Santa Fe, NM	Washtub Jerry	Fort Davis, TX
Karen L. Killion	Sheridan, WY	Leonard Werner	Flemington, NJ
Fred LaBour	Ashland City, TN	Johnny Western	Mesa, AZ
Jane Leche	Edgewater, CO	Norman Winter	Mills, WY
Paul Lohr	Nashville, TN	Renee Wood	Ogden, UT
		Joyce Woodson	San Juan Capistrano, CA

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(includes workshops, showcases and all ticketed events)

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MEMBERS

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\$75/person \$85/person

\$225/person \$250/person
\$425/couple \$495/couple

\$350/person \$450/person
\$575/couple \$695/couple

WEDNESDAY

Opening Lunch with Rex Allen, Jr.

of tickets _____

\$35/person \$45/person

Swing Dance

of tickets _____

\$30/person \$40/person

THURSDAY

Workshops (included in all packages; please indicate which you will attend)

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attending _____

20 Things You Need to Know to Get Airplay

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