

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the  
International Western Music Association

IN THE CROSSHAIRS:

## K.R. WOOD

PRESERVING HISTORY  
THROUGH COWBOY MUSIC

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GATHERINGS  
GATHERING AGAIN  
A POSITIVE LOOK

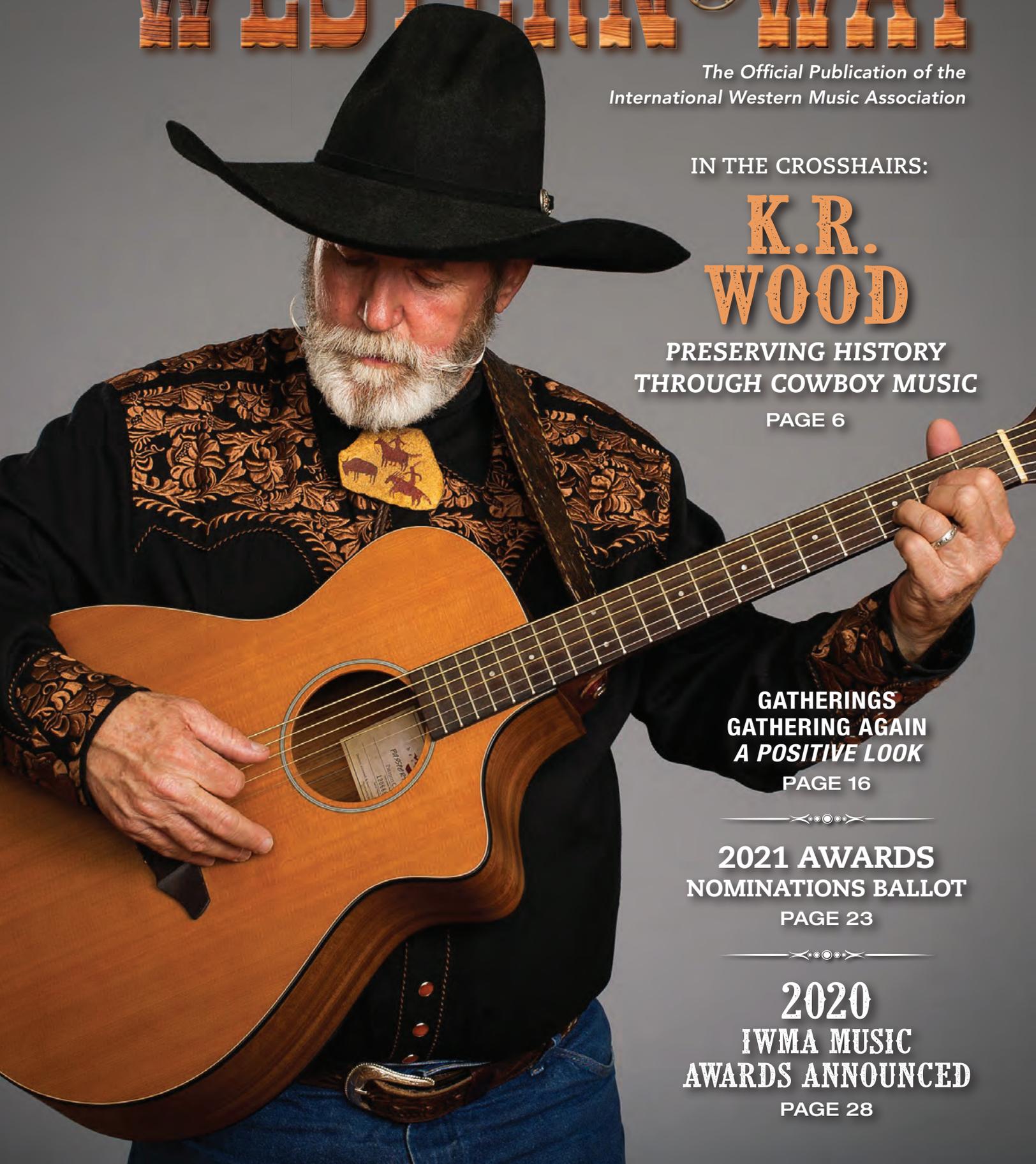
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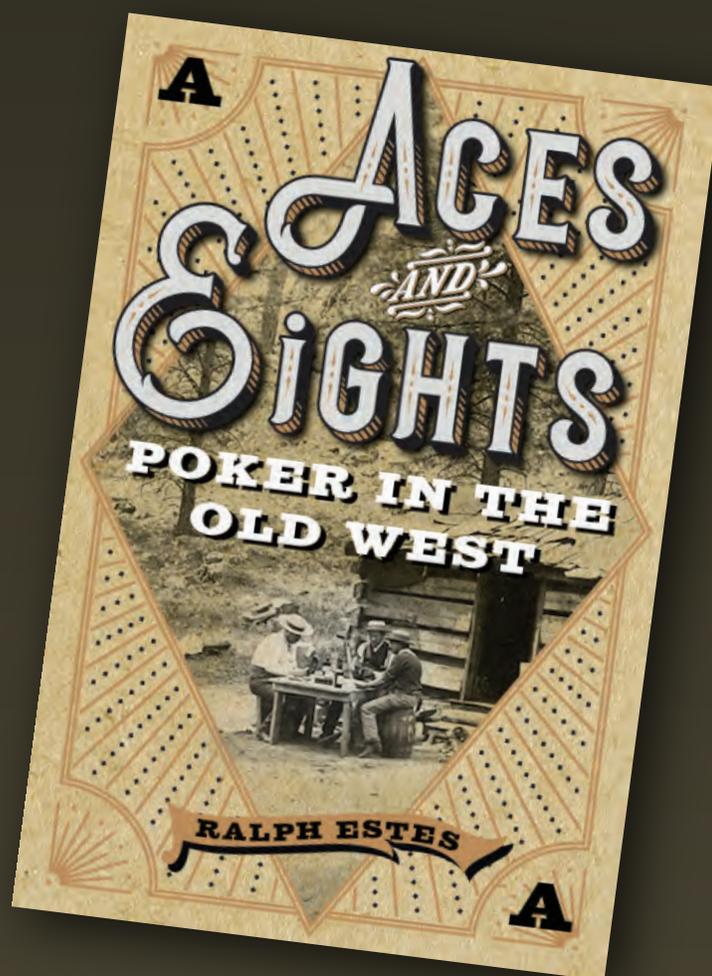


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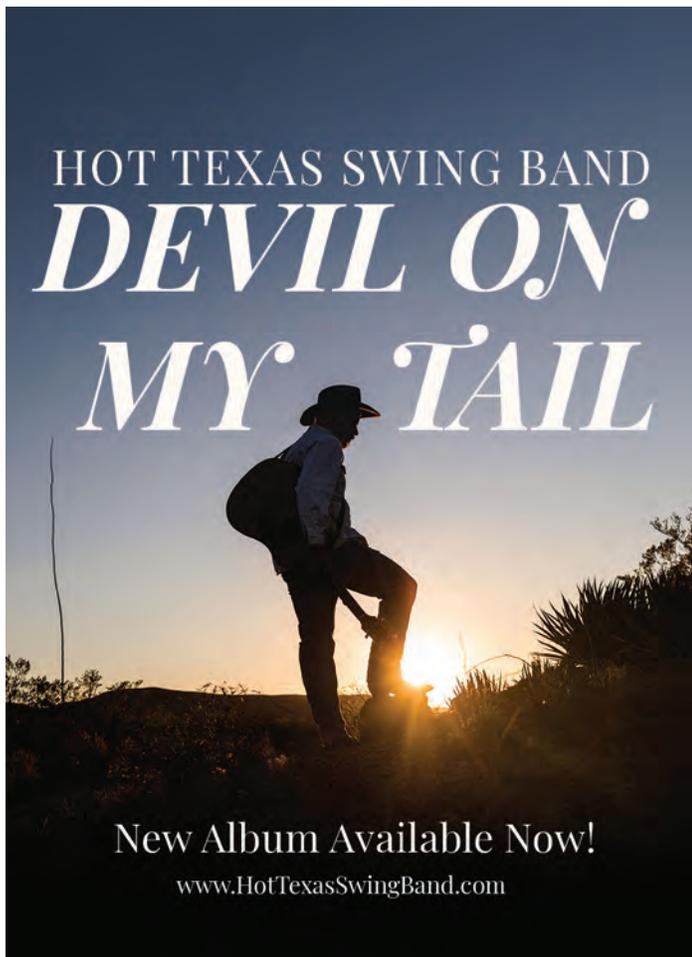
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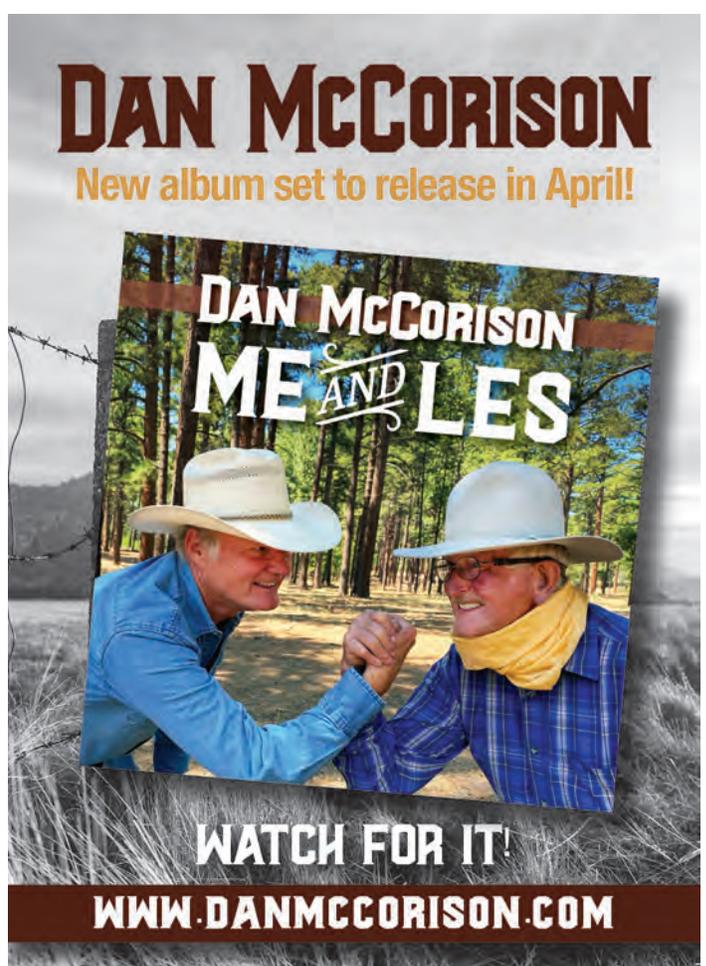
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## From The President...



Robert Lorbeer  
IWMA President

## ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

FINALLY!!!! Things are starting to loosen up; some events are changing their venues so they can proceed, i.e., Prescott, AZ, is moving their event from indoors to the Prescott Rodeo grounds. Other events are having a small,

limited number of fans on site, and large, paid audiences on the Internet. I am impressed with various members' creative ways of keeping our music alive and in front of fans. If you are stuck on ideas for getting your music "out there," I encourage you to contact others who are doing more, such as board members Juni Fisher, Belinda Gail, and others. Now is a great time for getting back into the "swing of things."

Many, many organizations are using ZOOM® calls to hold meetings and host events. The Board has been utilizing this medium for conducting IWMA board meetings since last Spring and it is working well to conduct the business of our organization. We can actually stay "more" connected with "less travel and expense" and, of course, less exposure during the virus pandemic.

And a shout out to our Editor of *Western Way*, Theresa O'Dell! Theresa ensures that *Western Way* goes to the printer and out for distribution to our membership and sponsors each quarter and works to provide content supportive to the mission of the IWMA in every issue. The magazine is an excellent publication that portrays who we are; it can proudly be used as a key marketing tool for our organization. If you are interested in writing something to be considered for publication, contact Theresa to discuss your ideas. We will always consider relevant items of interest for our readership.

I want to assure everyone that IWMA is moving forward to host the annual convention in November in Albuquerque, NM. The Executive Director is working closely with Hotel Albuquerque to make this happen. Hopefully by November this pandemic will have run its course, but if not, there will be protocols in place to keep everyone safe.

Happy Trails, and as Roy Rogers used to say, "May the Good Lord take a liking to you."

Robert Lorbeer  
President, IWMA



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### THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Quarterly Publication of the IWMA  
Deadline for next issue: June 1, 2021

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Modern Litho, Jefferson City, MO

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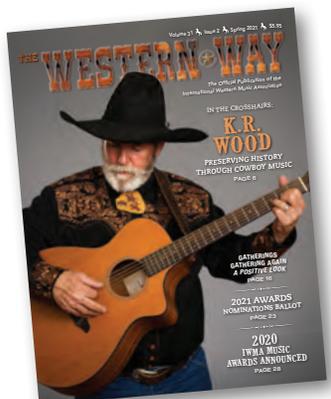
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### ON THE COVER...

Historian, camp cookie, storyteller and more, K.R. Wood wears many hats, but his heart has been captured by a love for Texas history. He has found his own way of preserving it through cowboy music, and he does it well!

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



Theresa O'Dell  
Editor

# Welcoming Spring and More!

I know it isn't this way in all parts of the country just yet, but here in the Arizona desert the weather is quite Spring-like. There are lots of bright floral colors, sunny skies, warming temperatures, and soft breezes. The streets and paths accommodate many bicyclists and the mornings and evenings find the sidewalks filled with walkers, either exercising themselves or their dogs, or maybe both! Folks can even be seen sitting on front patios and visiting with neighbors...yes, actually interacting with others (at safe distances). It is real, normal Spring-like stuff!

Conversations overheard in stores, restaurant patios, parking lots, while in Zoom® meetings or in the neighborhoods seem to be filled with less negativity and more, well...can it be...hope? "We got our first 'shots' today." "We just had our second vaccination with no adverse effects." Or, "We have appointments scheduled soon." Despite anyone's personal ideology regarding the Covid-19 vaccine, its very presence has seemed to offer a promise of better days. After the months of negativity and anger, the change in the tenor of conversations is welcomed to this writer's ears.

Do you know what else is welcomed? As I began to gather content for this issue of *The Western Way*, it was uplifting to see the

appearance of performance dates coming back. IWMA Chapters are beginning to report a few planned events, individual performers are noting recent and future gigs appearing back on their schedules, some 'tours' are either happening now or are planned, new CDs and books are in the works and some of the Gatherings are making plans for their events in 2021 or early 2022.

Although generally not viewed as a "Pollyanna-type", I am enjoying the difference in the tone of a lot of conversations in recent days. It is as refreshing as Spring after a long, cold winter (not necessarily an Arizona winter, but hopefully you get the analogy!) I want to see our performers' performing again, our merchants' businesses thriving again, and venues reopening to crowds who have been thirsty for the music and poetry they love again. I want the IWMA2021 to be a destination point for November again.

Optimism from your editor? Yes. At least for today, and for the IWMA performers, fans, businesses and other supporters in 2021. If it doesn't happen, then we will keep moving forward and dreaming more dreams for 2022 and beyond. Above all, I want you to know the IWMA is here, staying and growing and preserving the music and stories of the West. ✨

*Theresa*

## From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short  
Executive Director

I've spent the last month or so talking to members who aren't renewing. The most common answer among Supporting Members is that they'll renew when the festivals and gatherings are back. Even though there are so many performers on Facebook and YouTube and radio programs streaming, they say it's not the same.

The disturbing response, though, came from Professional Members. Several told me that they had been told they weren't "Western enough" to be IWMA members. What the heck does that mean?

The IWMA Hall of Fame includes Bing Crosby, Vaughn Monroe, Johnny Cash and Dimitri Tiomkin. Are they "Western enough" to be in there?

Our Professional Members come from backgrounds in swing, bluegrass, folk, jazz, rock 'n' roll, and (gasp) country. They include these songs in their shows and on their CDs. I don't hear audiences booing or walking out because they sang something that wasn't "Western enough."

Cowboy Poets write about their experiences with the land, farming, raising cattle, sleeping under the stars. But now we're starting to see poetry come out that reflects the life of the cowboy today. You write what you know from the heart. Is that not "Western enough?"

If we open our doors to all types of music, will it taint our music and poetry, or will it possibly encourage other genres to include some Western Music and Cowboy Poetry in their shows? When Willie Nelson sings "Stardust" is it still a big band classic or is it a country song?

IWMA's mission is to promote the music, poetry, literature, culture, and history of the West. We do this by promoting all Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Festivals, providing workshops both at the annual convention and through chapters, and having informative and educational articles in *The Western Way*. We need to do more. We need to think outside the box. We need to grow or we will die. 🐾

*Marsha*



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# In the CROSSHAIRS

## K.R. WOOD

BY MIKKI DANIEL

When asked why cowboy and Texas music has been a driving inspiration throughout his entire career, cowboy historian, actor and singer/songwriter K.R. Wood solemnly answered, “My heart has been captured by Texas music. To me, history is something that needs to be preserved. The thing about cowboy music is...it’s real, and true; the stories are the best. If you listen, you can learn something. That is what captured my heart! Lyrics changed as the western movement changed, but the penmanship and accounts deserve to be remembered. It’s our job.” And preserved it has been. In fact, his *Fathers of Texas* album was adopted by the State of Texas as an approved Texas History School Curriculum, and his documentary (of the same name) was recognized by both the House of Representatives and the Senate with a commendation for his work. In today’s world where communication via text message and email has become the new norm, history is frowned upon as “boring” and “uninteresting,” and once-eloquent penmanship—written mostly in letter form—has been all but lost, cowboy singer/songwriters are not only keeping the tradition and cowboy heritage alive, but also bringing the penmanship and passionate illustration back to life. And, who better to embody this lifestyle than a genuine, good natured man with rural roots, an incredible chuck-wagon repertoire, and, (let’s face it), an excellent mustache!

As it turns out, K.R. has spent his entire life in the pursuit of historical education and preservation. After being “hatched out in Pampa, Texas”, (which is also the home of Woody Guthrie!), he first felt “captured by the spirit of the cowboy” when he accompanied his father as a child on drill-bit deliveries to ranches in west Texas. He recalls the magic felt as a boy after being invited to join the cowboys eating around the chuck-wagon on the Wagner Ranch while on a drill-bit delivery with



K.R. Wood, the Mountain Man. One of his many hats!



K.R. Wood. Artist rendering by Ann Kraft Walker.

his father. This experience inspired a wild imagination and excitement that drove him toward learning all he could find about the great cattle drives and people who made them. It wasn't much later that he learned of his great-great grandfather, Alvin McEndree. Alvin worked for Charles Goodnight on the JA Ranch in the 1800s, breaking horses, and later died on the Chisholm Trail in an unmarked grave. The Wood family has searched in the hopes of finding this grave but to no avail—although the hope has not been lost. This family history later compounded K.R.'s interest and he developed a full-fledged western variety show called "The Old Chisholm Trail" (more on this later), followed by the recording of an album titled "Songs and Tales of the Old Chisholm Trail", with an all-star guest-cast (including his good friends Red Steagall, Michael Martin Murphey, Gary P. Nunn, and others). Ah, but back to the story.

While still in middle school, K.R.'s family moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, and the memories made there will last K.R. his lifetime. There was much humor to be heard in his voice as he recalled learning to water ski in the Wichita Falls irrigation ditches by being pulled behind his father's pickup. He has a special fondness for a memory of moving steers with his dad in Grandfather's old, shop-made stock trailer. The steers were of a wild nature and rode violently in the trailer until it, (hitched to the pickup by way of a bolt and nut), came loose and passed them on the wrong side of the road. This escapade ended with the trailer smashing into a small bridge, which sent both steers and steel flying in all directions! (No animals were harmed and with the help of a neighbor, they finally made it to the sale barn before sundown). K.R. laughed again and admitted that his first real job was hauling hay for five cents a bale. "That was the itchiest job in the world...you have to haul a whole lotta bales to make ya any money,"

he chuckled, before adding, "it was about that time when I started my interest in music". He remembers being a country bumpkin in a small country school, starting his musical pursuit thanks to Ms. Teafateller's guitar class. He proudly attended with a cowboy-decaled Stella guitar that he recollects "needed vice grips to get the strings down to play it, the action was so bad!"

"We'd sit around and the first song we learned was Down in the Valley," K.R. reminisced. "And she must've loved valleys because the next one she taught us was Red River Valley. It was Valley Time with Ms. Teafateller! And you can imagine...ten boys, all off key, and guitars not tuned right... we only played three concerts. I bet we tortured some ears!"

K.R. and his sister, Candy Wood, developed a duo singing at family functions, where K.R. learned he had a passion for songs that told a story. It wasn't long before he joined several bands in Wichita Falls, Electra, and Vernon, Texas, which kept him busy playing venues he wasn't quite old enough to get into. He'll never forget his first gig: bandmates smuggled K.R. into the "Talk of the Town" bar, and he remembered it being a bit rowdy. Rowdy enough

***"My heart has been captured by Texas music. To me, history is something that needs to be preserved. The thing about cowboy music is...it's real, and true; the stories are the best."***



K.R. on stage

*Continued on page 8*

## IN THE CROSSHAIRS

*Continued from page 7*



K.R. and friends celebrating Davy Crockett's birthday at the Alamo.

in fact to warrant a full separation of bar from stage with enough chicken wire to keep a grown man—or hurled bottle—out. “There were a few times that night when I was sure glad the chicken wire was there,” he laughed. As we all know, everyone has to ‘earn their dues’, and it seems young K.R. Wood certainly was no exception.

Around this same time, K.R.'s brother, Buddy, added drama department to his High School electives and showed promise of being a natural born actor, as well as being on the rodeo team. In 1969, it became known that *The Last Picture Show*, (a 1971 coming of age film by Columbia Pictures, directed by Peter Bogdanovich), was going to be filmed near his Wichita Falls home, in Archer City, Texas. It was the talk of the town! Half of the local population boycotted the movie due to unorthodox content, and the other half were cast in it. Anyhow, K.R.'s brother, Buddy, went in for an audition. They loved him, but asked if he had siblings as they were writing brothers into the script. He quickly assured them he did, hurried home to scoop up K.R., and returned to the audition department to find they both got the parts—making a whopping \$1200.00 a week... apiece! They spent the next three months following the oh-so-familiar “hurry up and wait” policy, which gave them the chance to make a few lasting friendships. And, thus began the acting career of K.R. Wood. When asked why he didn't pursue a future in acting, K.R. said, “I loved the music too much to follow the Hollywood call.” He did, however, find he immensely enjoyed the experience, and this opportunity scored him parts in many television shows and movies later on, (including *Urban Cowboy*, *Hotwired*, *On the Road*-with Willie Nelson, and others), also allowing him to become friends with many renowned actors and directors.

In 1982 he ran a bar on the outskirts of Wichita Falls called The Velvet Barn, (known for being covered in Ace Reid cartoon murals), where he had begun bringing in Austin musical talent. His first artist to bring to The Velvet Barn was Gary P. Nunn, and little did he know their friendship would be lifelong and Gary would become one of his biggest encouragers.

Fast forward to 1985; K.R. then had a family, and his music aspirations had been put on hold for quite some time. Gary P. Nunn reached out to K.R. and suggested that he move from Wichita Falls to Austin and follow his dream of playing music in the “granola bar of Texas”. So, he “rolled the dice and took a chance on music”, and made the three-hundred mile move with three children in tow, and, while working full time, began his first true solo project called “The Fathers of Texas”—an album themed around the Texas Revolution. This album consisted of fifteen songs written by legends (some of whom also guested on the album) such as Red Steagall, Gary P. Nunn, Townes Van Zandt, and others, and K.R. credits this project as the one that really got him started in the music biz. “It was a real blessing,” he said, “when an angel investor and my brother offered to put up the money for this recording.” The *Fathers of Texas* album went on to become recognized by the 75th Texas Legislature (in 1997) for keeping Texas History alive and opened the door for a new chapter in K.R.'s life as a cowboy and Texas historian. It wasn't long after the album was released before K.R. was asked by Houghton Mifflin

***K.R.'s development of historical-music school programs opened the door for schools across the country to embrace cowboy and heritage music as an in-house historical field trip.***



K.R. as Camp Cookie with a few little friends.



K.R. with Sam Elliott and wife, Katherine Ross after receiving a Wrangler Award.

Harcourt (HMH—a global leader in Pre-K through 12th educational content and services) to be a keynote speaker on how to utilize Texas History music and songs to teach Texas History to youth struggling in their typical history classes. This new approach got the kids' attention, and helped them learn the material without even trying. "It's always been my favorite subject," K.R. admitted, "and I wanted it to be theirs, too." His development of historical-music school programs opened the door for schools across the country to embrace cowboy and heritage music as an in-house historical field trip.

This educational drift segued into a desire to share a more interactive cowboy history with the public, and opened the door for K.R. to develop a new venture called "Camp Cookieville," which offers authentic chuck-wagon catering, traditional cowboy music, and cowboy storytelling around a campfire setting. This grew in popularity until K.R. (now also becoming known as 'Camp Cookie') realized it might be time to take the show on the road. He sat down and created an idea for a traveling chuck-wagon theatrical show, called "The Old Chisholm Trail." Tailored for families, cooperate events and cowboy music and poetry gatherings alike, the show featured his real, vintage chuck-wagon, a full cast of stunt performers (including some animals) and a live band to exhibit a more 'show and tell' approach towards educating the public on the trials and tales from the most exciting times the west ever knew.

In 2019, after a slew of days where he was not feeling well, K.R. made an appointment with his doctor to run some tests in effort to diagnose the problem. A few routine tests quickly turned into an M.R.I., where it was discovered that there was a cancerous spot found on his liver. His doctor

ultimately suggested he be placed on the liver transplant list, where he still currently awaits the right match. He hasn't let it slow him down (or at least not much!), and loves to play music and share the gift of classic cowboy crooning any chance he can. In the last few years some of his favorite gigs have been at cowboy churches, where the encouragement, prayer warriors, and support have been truly inspirational, but he is grateful for every gig, friend, fan, and kind soul who has helped contribute to his support page and in person. Sadly, like many other fellow entertainers, K.R.'s gig schedule fell prey to 2020's ruthless attack, but he says this year will be a much better one.

This musician, entrepreneur, songwriter, actor, hay-bale-hauler, bar-runner and cowboy historian says that cowboy music is in essence the "true Americana, American made music." He says he feels blessed to have made all the incredible friends he's made along the way, and will continue to dedicate his life to historical preservation.



K.R. and his buddies (LtoR Wayne Wood Jr. a.k.a. Buddy (brother), Buckhorn Taylor, Wyatt McRae, K.R., R.W. Hampton, Waddie Mitchell).

After receiving the President's Award by the International Western Music Association in ABQ, NM in 2017, and then also being gifted with Best Cowboy Composition (for original song 'Nickel A Head') by the Western Heritage Awards in OKC, OK in 2018, he states: "Well. I've been blessed a-plenty, but I'd like to remind you that all that matters in life is that we go to heaven...the rest is just filler. Stay true to the brand, God, country, yourself...and start reading your history books!"

Don't just take other people's word for something, read it yourself. Better advice has never been given. 🐎

**Mikki Daniel** is a multi-award-winning singer, songwriter, published author, rancher, and horse trainer whose everyday life revolves around the subjects she loves. She and her husband, Brody, live off-the-grid in rural New Mexico and spend their days working cattle horseback (mostly on colts), and often ends a day sitting around a wood burning stove with a guitar and a home-grown meal. She travels regularly for performances and can be found most places that serve up traditional western music.

# ENSURING THE LEGACY

## YOUTH PERFORMER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**A**ny IWMA Youth Chapter member seeking to improve their performance skills, is a member-in-good-standing and who has been a member for over a year, is eligible to apply for a Young Performer Education Scholarship! Every year, these scholarships are awarded to Youth Chapter members who want to excel in performing western music or poetry. The scholarship can be used for registration or tuition fees for a music camp, private instruction or class instruction at a music school.

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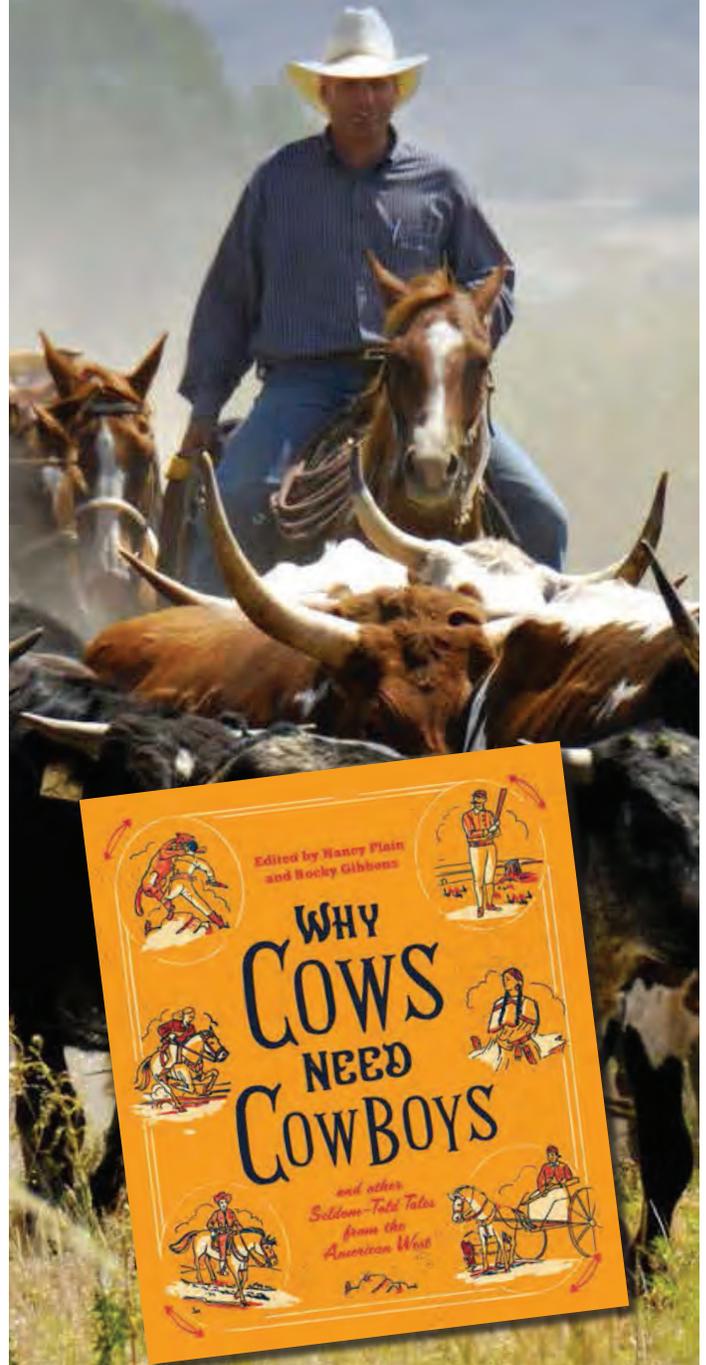
Go to IWMA website [iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org); Click on Membership tab; then Youth Chapter in the dropdown menu and follow the instructions.

- Applications must be submitted 4-6 weeks prior to the camp or instruction session registration deadline.
- Only one application per person per year will be accepted.
- Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the camp, private instructor or music school.

For more information, contact Marsha Short [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org). For more information on the IWMA Youth Chapter contact Jane Leche, Youth Chapter Coordinator at [wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com).

**A HUGE thank you to all donors to this scholarship fund. Your generous donations are a solid investment in the future and sustainability of western music and poetry.**

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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.

---

## The Mighty MC

by A.K. Moss

---

*Within the wind a whisper. Can you hear the cattle bawl?  
Can you hear the cavvy coming? The cowboys' yips and call?  
Of history in the desert, a million acre spread.  
Nineteen thousand head of cattle with one iron, it's been said  
They were hands of twisted fate, in lonesome company.  
They have stood here at the gate of the mighty MC.*

*Cowboys rode her country, the gunzle and buckaroo,  
The vaquero, the misfits, and the top hands in the crew,  
Such as Cahill, Betsinger, Hill, Gooch and Black,  
Names now forgotten, empty saddles on the rack.  
Ole Dixon, Nicol, Gunderson, Rupp, and Read,  
The last who tell the stories of the hide and tallow breed.  
Of the vastness, the hardship, of boys turned to men,  
Of the ghosts and legends, stories told without a pen.  
They rode on big boned broncs and snorty horses on the bit,  
Pulling leather, horn and rawhide, all made of desert grit.*

*I feel the sand bite as it whips across my face,  
I hear them riding in as they quietly take their place.  
I stand within its boundaries, where cattle came to drink,  
The skeleton of ribbed rails make me stop and think,  
While in the distance I hear the haunting cattle bawl.  
I hear the cavvy coming, the cowboys yips and call  
As they gather in my heart, no place I'd rather be.  
I bare witness in the corrals at the mighty MC.*

*Most carried a snaffle or bosal, others finished in the spade  
Big circles that they traveled, no tougher horse made.  
From a hand, the twist of the wrist, with the silence of a stocker  
They cast a Houlihan, the Scoop Trap, or they toss Johnny Blocker,  
A school house of tradition, where no walls or books explain  
The art of feel and timing, beyond singed hair, hoof and mane.*

*In Oregon history, in the sea of sage and sand,  
No trace just mystery, no scars upon the land,  
Of characters who rode before, just stories now told,  
Of the horses and the legacy all prior to being sold.  
Within the wind a whisper. Can you hear the cattle bawl?  
Can you hear the cavvy coming? The cowboys yips and call?  
Of history in the desert, a million acres spread.*

*Nineteen thousand head of cattle with one iron, it's been said.  
They were hands of twisted fate, in lonesome company.  
They have stood here at the gate of the mighty MC.*



**AK (Kathy) Moss** Kathy Moss, aka A.K. Moss is an authentic western woman who can ride cutting horses, train wild mustangs and write the experiences of those around her. She has cowboied in the Oregon desert of Southern Oregon, calved cows in Eastern Oregon. And dedicated her life to understanding horse communication. Painting a picture and capturing emotion through the words, Kathy writes what she sees creating a vision for those who read or listen to her. From her poetry to her novels she captures the American west in a contemporary style, with the respect of western living and awareness of horse communication.

# MAILBAG

I really enjoyed Tom's article about Baxter Black and your quote by Robert Tew in the Winter issue.

~ M. Munzert, NY

I've received our chapter's supply of *Western Way* Winter '21. Congratulations! Another really good looking and thoughtful issue. And I agree that the cover photo supplied by Baxter works real well. I'm glad that worked out. I talked with him today and complimented him. The IWMA is fortunate to have you as editor. Well done!

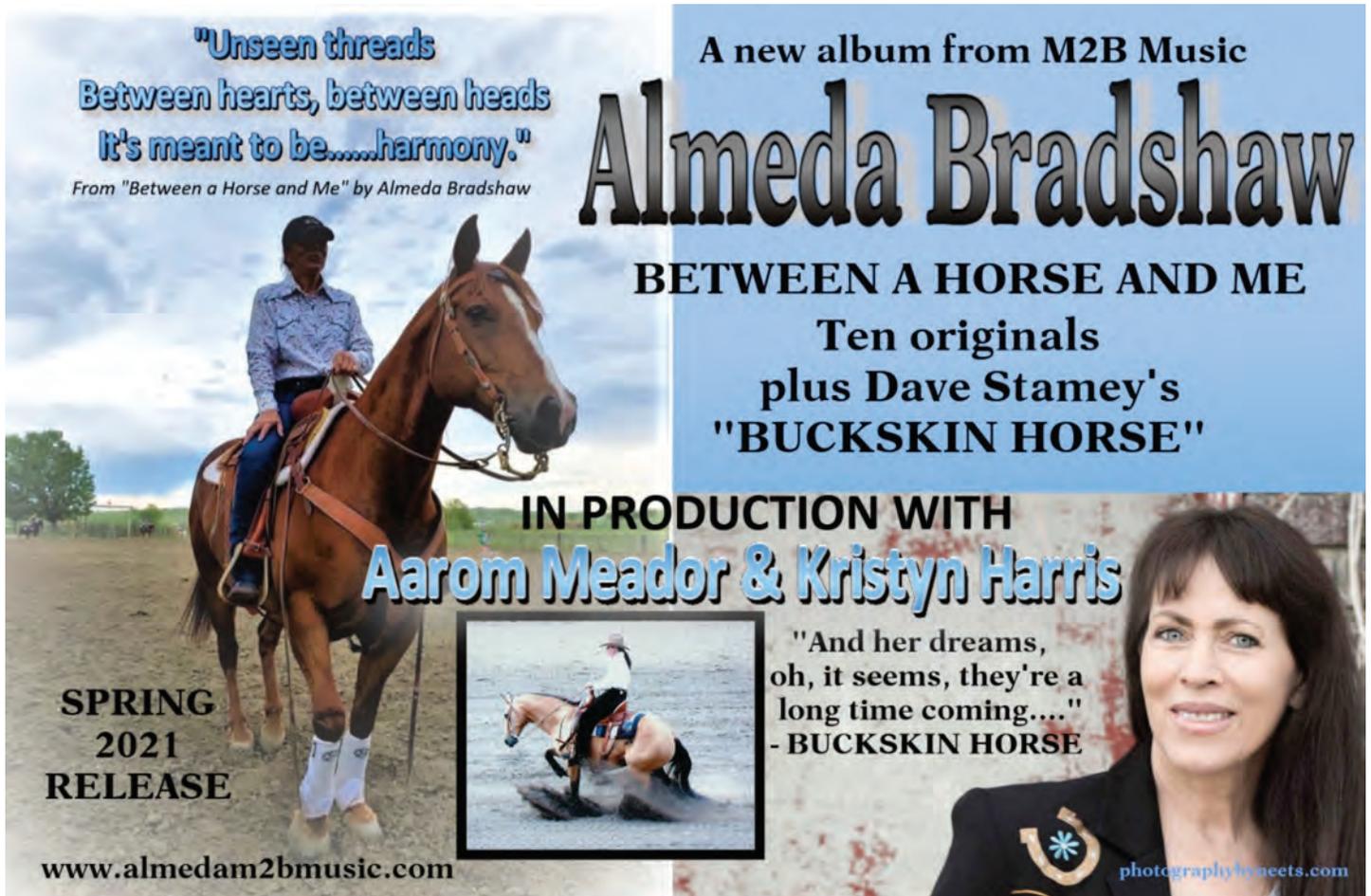
~ T. Swearingen, OR

I love getting the *Western Way* Mag and reading it Cover-to-Cover! You guys are doing a Great Job... Just keep it up.

~ J. Sharp, TN

I enjoyed looking through the *Western Way* Echoes Of Past Convention pictures [Winter 2021]. It took me down a wonderful journey of the convention. I hope we can all get together this fall and make more music and memories that will transform into a well-deserved feeling of satisfaction.

~ C. Wiseman, TX



**"Unseen threads  
Between hearts, between heads  
It's meant to be.....harmony."  
From "Between a Horse and Me" by Almeda Bradshaw**

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**"And her dreams,  
oh, it seems, they're a  
long time coming...."  
- BUCKSKIN HORSE**

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# 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](mailto:bestofthewest@swcp.com)

‘Time to ask the question again. What is...or is not...“Cowboy??” Here are some of my “is’s” and “aint’s” this time.

On the comparatively innocent side, a recent ad for Arm & Hammer kitty litter has, uh, litter-ally placed pussies in boots! Computer generated cats appear in full cowboy gear populating a classic Western saloon and equating the scent of the place to a used litter box. Historically that’s probably more accurate than not! An ad for the scent Sauvage By Dior features a fierce looking Johnny Depp standing out among the Mojave’s native Joshua trees and...buffaloes?? “Oh give me cologne where the buffaloes roam...” On the political front, the cover of media magazine *The Week* for February 26, 2021 shows a cartooned Mitch McConnell as a cowboy trying to make eight aboard a wildly bucking bull elephant! Yeehaw. Recent activities in Washington have granted media pundits license to describe political actions as showing “cowboy thinking,” “cowboy attitudes,” “acting like cowboys” and doing things “wild west style.”

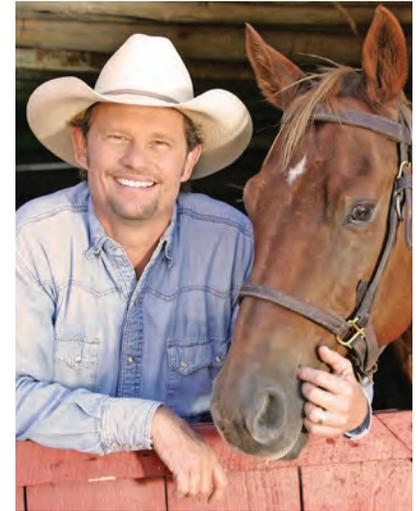
Are we okay with that media portrayal or not? Well, I for one began to feel the definite need to talk with a representative of the traditional Cowboy image! One I figured is not out to push some other agenda. One I happened to stumble across months ago while channel surfing on my TV. I called up Cowboy Dan!

“I’ve got my political views, and of course they’re better than everybody else’s,” Dan jokes over the phone, “but I do believe American farmers and ranchers literally feed and clothe the world. If that’s a soapbox, then I stand on that one!” For around a decade and a half now West Texas-born singer & songwriter Dan Harrell has explored positive life lessons of all kinds and the many ways agricultural people get things done for us on his syndicated 30-minute show “Cowboy Dan’s Frontier.” Often aboard his trusty horse Biscuit, Dan takes field trips over to meet his guests, loping along to his theme song’s lyrics “life is for learning and learning for life!”

“I think of it as Roy Rogers Meets Mr. Rogers,” says Dan with a grin that feels as wide as the Western horizon.

Wording found on the show’s website invites us to “join Dan and his trusty horse Biscuit as they sing, laugh and learn!” Yes, it’s perfectly reasonable to believe Biscuit does all of that too. We knew Trigger could, didn’t we?? And in each episode we see Dan’s own wonder mount “whisper” the Fun Word Of The Day to him! Solid cowboy stuff like “holler” and “hunker” and “mighty” and “cotton!” Dan The Realist explains, “While it teaches, if it’s not fun then I’ve missed the mark. I’ve just flat-out missed the mark!!” Hm. “Flat-out!” That’s a good ‘n’ too.

“Cowboy Dan” first got that identity almost by accident. Harrell, whose college degree is in agriculture, moved to Music City from Austin in 1996 with wife Lyndee and two young daughters in tow, writing songs for a publishing company and working with Tennessee Ag groups to flesh out his wallet. “My daughters were in our church youth group, so I sang there...“the stars at night were big and bright clap-clap-clap-clap”...stuff like that. It was the kids who started calling me “Cowboy Dan!” And it was the Tennessee Beef Industry Council’s call for an educational school assembly show that placed Cowboy Dan before much larger audiences. In fact, all the way up to the Houston Stock Show! But personal tragedy suddenly struck in 2000...a situation Dan would later share with his TV Friends On The Frontier in a deeply personal song. Lyndee, his wife of fourteen years, suffered a fatal heart attack. It left Dan a single parent of three daughters and a nine-day old son. Eventually a kindly blend of faith and time began to reveal his trail past the trial. In about 2005, he was given the chance to develop a televised series.



“Cowboy Dan” Harrell

*Continued on page 31*



# Chapter Update

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

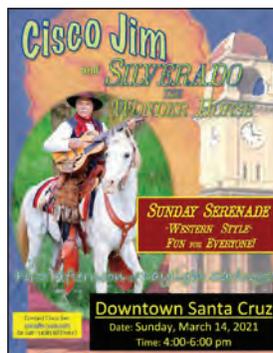
**President: John Paulson**  
**Johnpaulson1945@gmail.com**

The Arizona chapter has not scheduled any meetings or activities for over a year now, but we are hopeful that improving conditions will permit us to safely gather this fall to share some music and poetry. Individual chapter members continue to create new material for virtual performances and future shows while we wait for the times to get better. Our goal is to be back in the saddle by the IWMA annual convention in Albuquerque in November!

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

**President: Greg Khougaz**  
**GregKhougaz@earthlink.net**

The CA Chapter congratulates all the IWMA music award nominees! Ron Christopher is among those up for songwriter of the year.



Cisco Jim gig.

We're trying to gig! Cisco Jim will be in Downtown Santa Cruz for a Western Serenade and he also volunteers at Roaring Camp Railroads. Mark Bedor is promoting his "Today's Wild West," a documentary-style TV series on all things Western. It will air on PBS and The Heartland TV Network! Larry Wilder is performing outside for

seniors' villages. Folks listen through their windows! Mike Mahaney has an upcoming EP entitled "Soul Soil of the West" and he can also be found producing live solo shows of *Trailmix* from his studio via the Internet. Scott T, our chapter vice-president, has become our Internet sound engineer and Zoom® tutor. He's recording his new album, *Prairie Moon* and heading north in June for a Western USA tour. In December, notwithstanding the shutdown, Bob Thomas released his 8th CD, "Irony." The Chapter hosts



Virtual Jam flyer.

monthly, Virtual "V-Jams" and Guitar Circles via Zoom. Sitting in this month was 3 Trails West with their Kansas harmonies and Kerry Grombacher from New Orleans participated in Mardi Gras style. Grace Clark premiered her Hawaiian Cowboy song, "Paniolo's Girl" and Juni Fisher, just in from the barn, sang about a horse named "Fillynick." There were 42 Zoom attendees - a big success. A video of the performances can be viewed using the following link: [https://zoom.us/rec/share/8BfXGshbhx8YFjv83jX5F6LIM4BKOU\\_atNd bUmRsraSKV6Syy24JVicuS0wkXaq.DiXUcxb6g-RYTTKp](https://zoom.us/rec/share/8BfXGshbhx8YFjv83jX5F6LIM4BKOU_atNd bUmRsraSKV6Syy24JVicuS0wkXaq.DiXUcxb6g-RYTTKp) Passcode: qUT01D.\*

## COLORADO CHAPTER

**President: Donna Hatton**  
**tomhatton@aol.com**

Greetings, we are the officers for the IWMA Colorado Chapter 2021... President Donna Hatton, Vice President Levi Richardson, Secretary Daniel Park and Treasurer Tom Hatton. Before any further news we want to

thank the previous President, Susan Knight, for her years of service to the IWMA Colorado Chapter and to Secretary, Sonja Oliver. Many of our members participated in Showcases President Knight created, as well as being honored with the Top Hand Belt Buckle she also created for the extra efforts of individual members. We thank both of these officers for their leadership and wish them well in the coming year. In the year just past, we found ourselves facing a pandemic, an illness that has kept us confined and trying to find ways to survive, to overcome and to create. We are all ready to move forward to put this last year behind us.

As your officers we are here to work for and with you and to come together to share ideas for the coming year. A couple of ideas on the table are activities and shows upcoming in the next few weeks offering the chance to jump on the "COWBOY WAGON TRAIN of FREEDOM" for a rip-roaring western experience, greeted with a HOWDY YA'LL and ending with the iconic western goodbye...HAPPY TRAILS...the song authored by the Queen of the Cowgirls Dale Evans and Cowboy Hero Roy Rogers. The song was sung at the end of every show with the audience often joining in with the beloved husband and wife team, even in a movie theater!

From past history to the present we strive to involve our membership and our community by sharing the music and stories from those movies remembered by our grandparents, our parents and It was later that night after prayers were said and lights turned out that we dreamt of riding across prairies filled with Purple Sage and falling in love with...a Golden Horse named Trigger.

Our officers are really excited about the plans for putting together Campfire Gatherings for Chapter members, and Get acquainted Jams for local bands, writers, vocalists as an introduction to IWMA and an invitation to join us, not only as performers, but

open to folks who want to be fans and supporters. We need you! If you need more information on membership, please call Marsha Short, Executive Director, and the applications will magically appear in short order!

One of our chief concerns is to find ways to promote our western heritage, especially bringing the excitement of that era into the classroom. For the past five years a teacher from one of our local Elementary Schools, Cathy Davidson, and I created an interactive history program presenting a journey based on the Hatton and Colbrun family history. Now, due to Covid we are not allowed to go into the schools to take the young pioneers on a journey called "On the Trail to Colorado." It is a story with a trip back in time beginning in 1862 as a Pioneer originally from Ireland, Sarah Jane Colbrun, comes to take second grade students on a journey to open the west. The students learned the hardships and perils of traveling with a wagon train during the United States Civil War and meet two cowboys on a cattle drive who end up helping the pioneers along the trail.

The students have enjoyed learning about the history of The United States

during the Civil War and how The American cowboy and cattle were instrumental to a nation's growth. The project has been well received and the students were upset that due to Covid we couldn't present the program. But, as of this past week we have been asked to produce a video to continue the program that has become a tradition and that students have heard about from students from previous years. Students and teachers enjoy becoming the characters, the characters they bring to life. This is not just entertainment! It is a lesson and students receive credit as they learn the history of a nation, of the indigenous people who roamed these Lands a story which includes History of the United States, a cattle drive from Texas to Colorado, geography, language arts and math. The students, teachers and parents alike have enjoyed learning how to make butter, Fly Bread, (not fry bread) the Native American trail mix called Pemmican, and last as they made their own leather Spirit pouch in which to keep a memento of their Journey ...a marble used to create extra agitation in the making of the butter...for some reason the students love that marble best! So, we send a bag of marbles

so each student can be given one for their keepsake and the hope we will return again and again to help keep alive our Western Heritage. (I have met students who saw shows in schools many years ago who still have their marble and tell me what it meant to them. I usually say, "Well, it's good to know you still have all your marbles." Needless to say that always gets a "Oh, Mrs. Hatton, you are sooooo ummmm, funny!"

The students of Mrs. Davidson's class have been chosen to name the IWMA Colorado Chapter show planned for September and Mrs. Davidson, the students, parent helpers and Columbine Elementary School will receive recognition for their support of this program from the IWMA Colorado Chapter.

On September 3, the start of Labor Day weekend, the IWMA Colorado Chapter will have a show featuring Lon Hannah formerly of the award-winning Sons of the San Joaquin. The show will be hosted by "A Cowboys Legacy" with a lineup of awesome talent representing the IWMA and IWMA Colorado Chapter. The yet to be named show will be held in Woodland Park, Colorado in the Cultural Center that faces on to the North Slope of America's mountain, PIKES PEAK.

*Continued on page 17*

**NOW AVAILABLE. CARLA SWEARINGEN'S CHILDREN'S BOOKS. AND TOM'S NEW BOOK.**



Flora's adventures with Grandma and Papa feature full-color illustrations by award-winning artist Elizabeth Zimmerman.

**2019 IWMA Male Poet of the Year**  
Tom's CDs and downloads available at:

**HoofPickPress.com** **OregonCowboyPoet.com**

# FROM the TRAIL

## GATHERING & EVENT ORGANIZERS WEIGH IN

### GATHERINGS GATHERING!

*By Dennis Russell*

I've always envisioned a Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering as a few folks spinnin' some yarns, reciting poems, or singing and playing music of the trail, just talking about the history and humor of the western lifestyle while the rest of their pards' sit around a campfire listening to them.

Gathering: An assembly or meeting, especially a social or festive one, or one held for a specific purpose; a cowboy gathering, a music gathering, a poetry gathering, and a family gathering. We are blessed to have found all four of the above examples in our lives. At least until March of 2020 when all our social gatherings came to an unpredicted screeching halt because of a worldwide pandemic like we have never seen before. These are the same gatherings that most of us find missing from our lives today... but not from our hearts.

While we are waiting and hoping to get out of this Virtual Jail Cell the internet performances have been quite entertaining. They are either live, taped, or both as in Leo Eilt's Solo Duo Series. I still grin at the thought of him/them playing and singing and sometimes arguing with themselves. Maybe Leo should have called the series 'Dueling Selfies'.

We have learned a lot from standing in front of a camera and microphone trying to perform our flawless recitations or sing our covers and originals. This will go down in our history as, as, as, well, a darn good try in most cases. Nevertheless, we all have taken something away from this year and the last. It might just take a few more years to figure out exactly what.

I know many of us have lost friends and family due to the pandemic. Some of us contracted this virus and it put us on our backs like something we had not seen before. Some of us contracted it but were able to keep on going because the cows and kids all had to be fed. Some of us were quite fortunate and did not contract it all. One thing for sure, it is still a threat today and I bid you to have respect for those who are concerned about it or vulnerable to it.

Most Cowboy Music and Poetry Gatherings were cancelled or postponed in 2020. So far, all the gatherings through February in 2021 have been canceled, at least in the format in which we knew them. The countrywide quarantine was set in place about two weeks after the Lone Star Cowboy

Poetry Gathering in 2020 finished up. There were a few local events for a week or two and after that, then that was all. Many producers, in fact almost all, including myself did not want to cancel gatherings until the last possible minute to make sure that it was truly necessary. Last year Jim Buchanan of the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering shared some insight with me. Jim pointed out it that it was more of a financial burden to cancel a gathering than to have a gathering because of the deposits that were made on food, lodging, printing, and the travel plans that were made in advance. If it had to be canceled too close to the startup date a large percentage of investment was lost with absolutely no income to balance it out. To their credit, the ACPG did recognize the severity the pandemic and canceled the event. They could not risk the safety of all those in attendance. Jim shared with me when I talked to him earlier this week that they would hold the Arizona Gathering in Prescott on August 12-14, 2021 at the Prescott rodeo ground facilities with the invited and featured performers from the canceled 2020 event.

Moving forward on the calendar into 2021 producers were pulling ideas out of their hats to schedule events. The Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering was the first (that I know of) to announce a gathering in 2021. This was done with the guidelines of social distancing. Ron Hinkle invited their artists to send in performance videos. Poets and songsters from all over the country made and sent these in. Some were done by professionals; some were done by millennial nieces and nephews. Some were filmed, and re-filmed (you get the idea) by the artists themselves. Some in living rooms and some outdoors on the ranch with the cows bawlin' and the wind blowing. Needless to say, we learned and are still learning much about producing videos. Cochise actually brought the featured artists to town for Friday and Saturday night performances at the Arizona Folklore Preserve. Live shows were held and limited live audiences were able to attend, clap, laugh and sing along. This eliminated the need for the cardboard figures that we see in other events (you know the ones with the waving arms and

*Continued on page 19*

# Chapter Update

*Continued from page 15*

We will be posting more information on IWMA FACEBOOK and IWMA Colorado Chapter Facebook about Lon Hannah and the lineup of the supporting cast of guest performers and a visit from Little Sure Shot, Annie Oakley and many more surprises.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

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

Greetings from Columbia Chapter members in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, British Columbia, and farther afield. With recent and near-future physical Chapter get-togethers and performing events still not possible (although we're full steam ahead with planning for our annual October meeting and Cowboys in the Hood concert in Hood River, OR) we've been meeting monthly via Zoom to catch up and share songs and poems. Our most recent allowed us to enjoy the talents of Scott Tonelson, Lynn Kopelke, Larry Wilder, Venessa Carpenter, Ned Bodie, Jim Crofts, Marv Ramsey, Barbara Nelson, Ted Hunt, Judi Seger,

Veronica Manis, Lauralee Northcott, Tom Swearingen, and new IWMA and Columba Chapter member Brian Goldhammer. Welcome Brian! We were also pleased to have several other members and friends looking on.

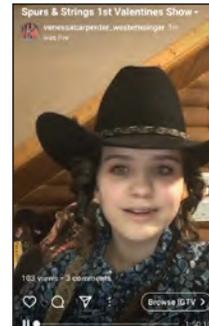
Sam Mattise is preparing to give lectures at Boise State University: "Cowboy Poetry and Western Music: Today and Yesterday." Sam is also the proud owner of a new custom guitar made by luthier Mike Giltzow of Boise, the 9th Giltzow built for Sam over the years.



*Bassist Mike Dygert is also handy with a 6-string.*

From Cold Lake, Alberta comes word from bassist Mike Dygert that lockdown continues for both inside and outside gatherings. But as Mike says, "At -30 to -40 degrees who would want to be outside!" Luckily, Mike has had three projects to keep him busy: The relaunch of Tom Cole's HomeBound Concert series on YouTube and Facebook, work on a CD of 16 songs for Cold Lake entertainer Terry Meriam

and working with Canadian gospel group CrossRoads for the day when it's again allowed to entertain at Seniors Homes. He's also been able to make visits to his nonagenarian parents (that's "90s" in both US and Canadian years) and reports they're doing well, and happy to recall stories of their life and Mike's (I'll bet they've got good ones about Mike's earlier years.)



*Venessa Carpenter host of Spurs & Strings*

Young Idaho singer/songwriter Venessa Carpenter continues her weekly *Spurs and Strings* Instagram Livestream with invited guests. And she celebrated a birthday with an enthusiastic but chaotic and discordant (due to Zoom time delays) "Happy Birthday" serenade by Chapter members during our monthly poem and song share in February. I'm not sure what key were in, but it sounded like "L."

*Continued on page 26*

**COMING THIS SPRING TO YOUR RADIO!**

American Cowboy Radio is pleased to introduce our **BRAND NEW 3 hr Inspirational Western Music and Poetry show** featuring DJs **Allen & Jill (Kirkham)** Sundays 10am Central

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

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"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

# In Memoriam

## PAM TARPLEY (1944 – 2021)



Pam Tarpley, aged 76, of Weatherford, Texas, passed away peacefully on January 17, due to complications from Covid, with her family by her side. Graveside services were held at the East Greenwood Cemetery on January 26, 2021.

Pam was a long time IWMA member and her greatest passion was working with young people to encourage them. She also participated in many summer music camps, the last of which is the Cowntown Opry Music Camp. Although much of her work was behind the scenes, the young people knew that she was an encourager for them.

Born in Denver, Colorado, on November 13, 1944, Pam got to Texas as fast as she could, where she remained a proud Texan. She was the daughter of Margot Clay Moseley and Winfred Brannan Brown. Pam graduated from Weatherford High School and attended Weatherford College and the University of North Texas in Denton. Girl Scouting was a major part of her High School and college life, as her keen desire was to help young people strive for their best. Her passions also included history and traveling. She married Bob Tarpley in June, 1963. To them one son, Clay Tarpley, was born.

She worked at M&F Bank, First National Bank, and Texas Bank. After retiring, she worked at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford. While there, she and Judy James developed summer history camps and wrote the curriculum for four camps. She also was a co author, *Parker County Legends, Trail Bosses and Wild Hosses: The History of Oliver Loving and Charles Goodnight*.

For many years she assisted with Cowboy Jubilee radio show as computer engineer. Other organizations she was an active member and board member of include Bush Legacy Republican Women, Downtown Business Association, and Beta Sigma Phi, Longhorn Council of Girl Scouting, and National Chianina Association.

She will be missed by her many close friends including her sister friends, Judy James and Bo O'Rourke.

## ROY MADDEN (1947 – 2021)



Roy Edward Madden, a resident of Weleetka, passed away Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021 in Weleetka, OK at the age of 73. He was born September 15, 1947 in Holdenville, OK to Leonard Ray Madden & Hazel Jean (Mangrum) Clark. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Roy Madden was born and raised in the heart of cowboy country in Holdenville, Ok. He lived life to the fullest with so many achievements and accolades it's impossible to list them all. After high school he joined the U.S.A.F after which he went to work for the Dept of Defense and relocated to 29 Palms, California in the middle of the Mojave Desert. This is where he started another chapter in a storied life; this is where he found the love of his life, his cowgirl mermaid and his loving wife of over 40 years, Lisa Madden. During his time in 29 Palms, Roy became involved in military rodeo and developed a base rodeo team and was responsible for the 1st rodeo on the military base, He worked with others to cofound the Military Rodeo Association. Along with doing this he was also involved with the local chamber and community helping to organize the local rodeo. His other activities included training horses, giving riding/roping lessons, being a farrier, participating member of the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Posse, serving as a reserve Sheriff, and hitting every rodeo and team roping competition possible.

Roy knew he always wanted to retire in Oklahoma. Upon moving to Weleetka, OK, Roy began chasing his other dreams – performing his cowboy poetry, and writing and performing his brand of western/cowboy music. He was a member of the IWMA for a period of time and became very active in the IWMAOK Chapter for several years. He worked locally to revitalize the local rodeo scene with some of the biggest rodeos the area had seen in quite some time. He was involved with creating an equine therapy program for people in for recovery, always having a passion to help both human and horse. Roy was inducted into the Military Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame. His life was cut short but he lived it to its fullest chasing every dream he could and living his life by the cowboy code.

## LUTHER A. NALLIE (1934 – 2021)



Luther Nallie, 86, of Hollister, passed away January 12, 2021 at the Cox Hospital, Branson, Missouri.

Luther Anthony Nallie was born October 23, 1934, in Beaumont, Texas. He was the son of Joe and Virginia (Perricone) Nallie. Luther was a well-known

musician and long-standing member of The Sons of the Pioneers, becoming the Trail Boss in 2008. Luther was an accomplished and well-respected musician playing a variety of instruments and served as a member for generations of upcoming musicians. As a member of the Sons of the Pioneers, he was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame and designated a National Treasure by the Smithsonian. He performed internationally and at such well-known venues as The Grand Ol' Opry. He was well-loved by both family and friends.

*The Sons of the Pioneers had this to say about Luther on their Website:*

REST IN PEACE, LUTHER NALLIE Luther Nallie, the third-longest tenured member of the Sons of the Pioneers and the group's third trail boss, passed away at age 86 in Branson, Mo.

Luther participated in many of the group's biggest moments including induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame, Western Music Hall of Fame, and the Cowboy Hall of Fame. His beautiful voice can be heard on the group's recordings as far back as the 1960s and he appeared with them on several national television shows. He was beloved by past and current Pioneers, who describe him as genial, generous, and hugely talented, yet he always modestly deflected praise for his accomplishments and never tired of the music. "People say, 'Don't you get tired of singing "Tumbling Tumbleweeds"?' Not as long as those people are out there smiling and clapping their hands. I'll do it all night long."

## FROM THE TRAIL *Continued from page 16*

the recorded cheers?). The performances were also streamed live and for the most part went very smoothly according to George Wheat. He also was very happy to share dates for the 30th Annual 2022 CCPMG of February 4-5, 2022.

The Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering produced a working cowboy video. Filmmakers John and Erika Moore traveled to ranches in West Texas and New Mexico to film long time cowboy poet Joel Nelson and musicians RW Hampton and Rod Taylor, just to mention a few in their natural environments. Kay Nowell says the video is still available for viewing online through the end of March. I would recommend watching it. Kay also said they plan on having an in person gathering in 2022; check the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry web site for details.

Hot off the Press! This just in from Dale Major is the date for the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous. March 12-14, 2021. Covid Can't Cancel Cowboys!!

In talking to Terry Nash, he seemed quite confident that they were going forward in 2021 after canceling in 2020. We can look for the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering in Grand Junction, CO. November 5-6, 2021.

Look for the Cimarron Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering in Cimarron, New Mexico August 27-28, 2021 with a new venue. The St. James Hotel and the newly remodeled Cimarron Mercantile will provide stages and most accommodations for the 7th Annual Gathering this year.

These are just a few of the updates from the gatherings that are supporting the IWMA and the performing artists. We would like to have more updates so we can post and support the International Cowboy Gatherings.

*Please go to*

**IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG for current updates  
or contact Dennis Russell [drnpoet@gmail.com](mailto:drnpoet@gmail.com)  
IWMA Gathering Committee**



*Continued on page 27*

# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**Notable Exceptions** loaded up their rolling quarantine machine for a 3-month Coast-to-Coast Quarantine Tour. Before the snow melted, western music's dynamic duo hit the trail. Flash-mob-style shows are spontaneous outdoor mini-concerts. Instead of scheduled formal events, these random acts of music are serving as entertainment for their audiences. Fans are traveling along virtually via Facebook, with online content and prizes for paid subscribers through their website [www.NotableExceptions.com](http://www.NotableExceptions.com).

...Cowboy Poet **KC LaCourse** has been producing and hosting a video showcase called "Hearts of the West" where your favorite western poets and musicians are featured each Tuesday. You can check out the site on Facebook where all episodes are archived.

...**Dawn Anita** is working on a new western album. So far, she has recorded six songs, two of which are co-writes with Carol Markstrom and Mag Mawhinney. Inclement weather has slowed things down, but hopefully production will begin again soon. In January, Dawn released a pure country album of songs she has recorded through the years; it came in at No. 2 on the Airplay Express country music chart.

...Cowboy poet **A.K. Moss** is in final first edits of her latest novel *Red Roan*. Taking a break from travels and performances during the pandemic has given her a chance to work with young writers, helping them find their voice and share the value of western living and history. Join her on Facebook for some readings...A K Moss books.

...**Peter McLaughlin and Chris Brashear** have a new album being released soon entitled *Desert Heart Mountain Soul*. Also, they report that their (Museum of Northern Arizona) San Juan River Music Venture Trip is sold out; however, future trips are in the works. Check out the trips: <https://musnaz.org/ventures/sj-river-music/>.

...Promoting outside concerts has kept **Larry Wilder** busy. He has filmed one at the Nutz and Boltz Theater in Boring, OR, in April after performing one at the town's Courtyard Pavilion Senior Village.

...Totally immersed in her life of retirement and loving every minute of being home in Colorado, **Patty Clayton** has ramped up mass production of her line of beaded earrings, composed a few new songs, started taking on-line guitar/music theory lessons, and walking the neighborhood and around the local lake 1-2 hours a day.

...Based on the success of the songwriting class **Juni Fisher** taught last year for the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS via ZOOM, the WV staff has contracted her to teach a second class via ZOOM this year. Juni has also signed a publishing contract with Bedazzled Ink for her second novel titled *Indelible Link*. She is currently working on a project with *True West* magazine publisher Bob Boze Bell to write the story for one of his colorful cartoon characters for a novel and screenplay set in Bell's native Arizona.

...The music video released last summer by Indie musician Perfume Genius, in which **Annie Tezuka** was cast in a solo role, was selected by *Vogue* editors as one of 2020's Best Songs and featured on their website along with other top picks.

...New IWMA member **John Lowell** of Livingston, MT is finishing up the recording of his new release *She's Leaving Cheyenne*, featuring 11 western songs – three old familiar chestnuts, four originals, and four from friends/acquaintances. The release is set for this summer. John was awarded the Grand Prize in the Hazel Dickens Songwriting Contest in February (a nationwide contest with hundreds of entries) for his song "Richmond."

...**Dan McCorison** and **Maria MacArthur** are performing together at the Tucson Folk Festival in April. Dan will have a new album released soon with songs written by him and **Les Buffham**. The album will be titled "Me and Les." Dan also opened for **Dave Stamey** in concert in Wickenburg, AZ in March.

...**Cisco Jim** & Silverado the Wonder Horse raised holiday spirits during the height of the December pandemic shutdown. Cisco, decked in Christmas Cowboy attire, and Silverado, wearing holiday tack with flashing lights and big

brass bells, roved the streets of Downtown Santa Cruz, CA. Cisco entertained with a constant parade of Cowboy Christmas Carols while Silverado danced and jingled merrily among holiday traffic.

...*Snow on the Sage*, the latest album from **Marleen Bussma**, recently received a gold Will Rogers Medallion Award at a ceremony in Ft. Worth postponed from last October. She and her husband continue to produce poetry videos using photos and her recorded poems. They are posted on her website, [www.marleenbussma.com](http://www.marleenbussma.com).

...**Gary and Jean Prescott** survived the 2021 Texas Winter Vortex aka 2021 Valentine's Day White Out "with flying colors." They only lost one cow and had one water pipe break – and had one new calf born! Jean is leading praise and worship at the Robert Lee Cowboy Church these days to get her music in.

...**Clint Bradley** has been in talks with a Nashville-based producer regarding his next album. They are discussing the possibilities of recording some of Clint's next project there. The effects of the pandemic have messed with planning, so things are currently a little hazy. Right now, post-Brexit complications are making it difficult for getting visas to tour throughout Europe. Clint hopes compromises can be reached soon.

...**Glenn Moreland** and **Washtub Jerry** performed a song written by Glenn for the **Michael Martin Murphey** podcast to benefit K.R. Wood that aired in February. The song was titled "Stampede." Glenn will have a recipe in the June issue of *Western Horseman* magazine chuck wagon cooking section. He also sang "The Colorado Trail" for their virtual magazine.

...The latest album from **Kristyn Harris**, *A Place to Land*, produced by Aarom Meador and herself, has won the 2021 Western Heritage Wrangler Award for Traditional Western Album from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK. The Awards Show will take place at the Museum on September 17. The song "El Caballo del Fuego", written by **Doug Figgs, Floyd Beard**, and **Mariam Funke** from the latest album by The Cowboy Way, *Doin' What We Do*, won the Western Heritage Wrangler Award for outstanding composition.

...“Finally got back home to good old USA after months and months of Covid-related flight delays in The Philippines.

Can you believe 11 flight cancellations? Got out on February 12.” These words come from **Nolan Bruce Allen** who flew out of the country just a day or two before Covid restrictions interfered with people's travel plans. He has been trying to get back home for months. The Spotlight is happy he finally made it.

...Recently a Talent Agency put out a call for aspiring actors/actresses to audition. **Evie Anne Hatton Gutierrez**, 11-year-old granddaughter to **Tom and Donna Hatton** and member of IWMA and IWMA Youth Chapter, auditioned and made the cut for a call back out of 481 applicants. The IWMA Colorado Chapter congratulates Evie and wishes her success as she follows her dream.

...**Susie Knight** has been in the studio this winter recording a song written by **Baxter Black** titled "Lookin' for One Good Cowboy." At Baxter's request, Susie has put together supporting musicians with her as the vocalist. A Spring 2021 release is in the works. She is also preparing to join the ranks of the IWMA Disc Jockeys soon by hosting a western music/cowboy poetry radio show on an Internet radio station in her area.

...Work has begun on a first-time gospel project from **Miss Devon & the Outlaw**. The project is being produced by Aarom Meador at his award-winning Burseson, TX studio, Allegro Sound Lab.

...**Peggy Malone** will be performing at the Gateway Merry Mixers 4-H Club fund raiser again this year after missing last year due to the Covid virus. We do have a wonderful event planned April 24, for the Gateway Merry Mixers 4-H Club fund raiser. This will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> year for this event.

...**The Ramblin' Rangers** have been keeping the rust off their strings by participating in New Mexico and Wyoming chapter gatherings. They are also performing a number of live practices at their ranch in addition to working on some new self-penned tunes. The four CDs they have released are now available for digital download on Amazon, iTunes, etc.

...**Allen & Jill Kirkham** have signed a new contract with Diamond Tours Bus Company to perform their Diamond Tours Dinner Show in Rapid City, SD for both the 2021 and 2022 seasons. They have also been named South Dakota 2021 Humanities Scholars performing "A History of Traditional Western Music" throughout the state.

*Continued on page 22*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 21*

...**Dave Munsick** has just published a book of essays that connect his life as a traveling musician with the people and places he has met along the way. *Songteller: Notes From The Road* is available at [thesongteller.com](http://thesongteller.com); e-reader copies can be found on Amazon Kindle.

...In spite of the cancelling of events due to the Covid, **The Dan Canyon Band** continues to record new tracks at Seattle's Studio B/R. All cancelled 2020 gigs have been rescheduled for 2021.

...**Tom Swearingen** has been awarded a grant by the Oregon Arts Commission in support of his "Professional Artistic Practice" in the field of folk and traditional arts. He's also kept busy performing via video for a variety of audiences including the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering and was the guest on LA Talk Radio's *The Writer's Block* in February discussing his writing process and new book *Reflection*.

...**Carla Swearingen** reports that her new children's book, *Flora is Curious About Horses*, is now available at [HoofPickPress.com](http://HoofPickPress.com). It's the second in her four-book *Flora is Curious...* series.

...**Sherl Cederburg** recited poetry for the Hill City (South Dakota) Arts Council's Valentine's dinner and dance in February.

...*Almeda in the Saddle*, a Facebook live show presented every Monday at 7:00 PM Montana time, as well as various Zoom IWMA chapter showcases and jams, is keeping **Almeda Bradshaw** busy. Also, Almeda recently received certification in Horse Powered Reading, an EAGALA-based literacy program, and is currently enrolled in certification as an Equine Specialist Mental Health & Learning through PATH as she moves forward with her M2B Ranch Equine Learning Center venture.

...From September 24 through October 1, **Andy Hedges** will be joining **Dave Stamey**, **Dom Flemons**, and **Brigid & Johnny Reedy** to perform on a "Cowboy Train" trip across Colorado and New Mexico, a solid week of vintage trains, cowboy music concerts, workshops along the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies and the stunning San Juan mountains of New Mexico. More info is available at [www.rootsontherails.com/](http://www.rootsontherails.com/).

...The Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering will hold their event August 12-14 this year at a different location, the Prescott (AZ) Rodeo Grounds. For more info, go to [www.azcowboypoets.org](http://www.azcowboypoets.org).

...**Kacey and Jenna Thunborg** participated in the virtual 2021 Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering "Ride Cowboy Ride." They were also virtual performers at the first ever 2021 "WomenFest" sponsored by the New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series. To keep busy between online school and speech and debate tournaments, Kacey and Jenna have been collaborating with fellow performers on several songwriting endeavors.

...We will soon be seeing a new cowboy poetry CD from **Floyd Beard**. *Horse Tales and Cattle Trails* is set to release this Spring. Floyd has included frequently requested poems as well as some new ones.

...When the pandemic hit, **Grace Clark** was close to completing a studio album called *Dancin' with Swingitude*. The recording is now on hold, so Grace has been spending a lot of time writing songs and practicing in the woodshed. She has also been performing as part of the IWMA California Chapter Guitar Circle and V-Jam Zoom sessions.

...**Miss V (The Gypsy Cowbelle)** has been selected to participate in a Wyoming statewide initiative focused on building new creative skills and increasing social engagement for elders. Through a partnership between the Wyoming Arts Council, the state library system, and national Lifetime Arts organization, Miss V will undergo training qualifying her as a teaching artist to conduct sequential online programs for the enrichment of Wyoming's senior community.

...Mr. and Mrs. **Larry Wilder** have announced that their son Nolan (named after **Bob Nolan**) is soon to be promoted by the US Navy to E6 as a Medic/Hospitalman. He and his wife, Julia, recently presented the Wilders with their first grandchild, Max Alden Bronson. Nolan will be stationed for the next three years at Newport, RI.

...Casey, the youngest son of Dan Canyon (**The Dan Canyon Band**), has taken over the position of Interline Baggage Manager at LAX International Airport. This is a huge promotion for a 22-year-old who loves to travel.

...**Kacey and Jenna Thunborg** became aunts for the second time in December. Their brother Trey and his wife Brandy became proud parents to baby Sig. The new baby boy was welcomed by big sister Ivy. 🐾



# 2021

## IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MUSIC AWARDS:

- Albums can be self-nominated. IF YOU ARE SELF-NOMINATING, please provide the following: A copy of the nominated album must accompany the Western Album or Cowboy/Western Swing of the Year nomination, a copy of the album containing a nominated song, or an album containing only the nominated song must accompany the Song of the Year nomination. Song nomination albums must be accompanied by either album artwork or a photocopy of the artwork showing the release date.
- In the case of Western Album of the Year and Cowboy/Western Swing Album of the Year, 75% of the music on the album must be of Western in content, lyrically or musically. Country Music content does not count as Western Music.
- Albums must have a release date and bar code.
- Any individual whose body of work meets criteria may be nominated for IWMA awards. Forms are made available to all members and may be provided to non-members by request. Current IWMA membership is required for voting.
- Albums and songs will all have a "birth" date of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year and one subsequent year (January 1, 2020 through September 1, 2021).

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POETRY AWARDS:

#### COWBOY POETRY CD OF THE YEAR

##### REQUIREMENTS

- Albums may be self-nominated. If you are self-nominating, a copy of the nominated album must be submitted with the nomination.
- Albums must have a release date.
- Albums must have a bar code.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- All albums will have a "birth date" of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year plus one subsequent year (Example: January 1, 2020 through September 1, 2021).
- Poems written in free verse or blank verse are not eligible.
- 75% of the album tracks must be Cowboy Poetry, written and recited by a single person; the reciter must be the principal author of the poetry. The poetry must be the original work of the reciter, written in rhythm, rhyme and meter.

- 25% of the album tracks may contain other material including:
  - Western Music, pre-recorded or live,
  - Prose, including short stories or spoken introductions,
  - Material written by someone other than the collaborators,
  - Poetry recited by someone other than the principal author, including poetry written by the principal author.
- Collaboration in writing is permitted. In the event a poem is written by the collaboration of two or more persons, one of the collaborators must be named as the "principal" author. The other collaborators will be regarded as co-authors. Editors are considered collaborators.
- Collaboration in reciting is not eligible. Any poetry tracks that are recited by other than the principal author, regardless of authorship of the poem, will not count toward the 75% Cowboy Poetry requirement.

#### BACKGROUND MUSIC

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

#### COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR

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

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

# 2021

## IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS BALLOTS

**WESTERN ALBUM OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) albums. Award for an outstanding recorded performance by an artist or artists released during the specified time period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and producer **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

**COWBOY SWING ALBUM OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) albums. This award is for an outstanding cowboy swing recorded performance which was either commercially released or showed significant chart action during the eligibility period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and the producer. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

**SONG OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) songs. This award is for any song which was released or showed significant chart action within the eligibility period. The award recognizes the songwriter(s). **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WORKING COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) songs. This award goes to a song recorded within the eligibility period that speaks expressly and clearly to real, authentic working cowboy life, historic or current. The award goes to the songwriter(s) and is based on lyrics, not performance. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) songwriters. Award for outstanding songs written in the past year by a songwriter(s). Commercial release and number of songs recorded during the year are to be considered. The award recognizes the songwriter(s). **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

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

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

**RADIO DJ/RADIO PROGRAM OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) radio DJs/radio programs. This award recognizes outstanding service to western music in the field of broadcasting. The recipient will be judged for contributions to the field western music, professionalism, work and involvement in the western music community, and promotion and fostering of the western music image. **Beginning in 2020, this will be a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

**COWBOY POETRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) albums. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding achievement on writing, reciting and recording original Cowboy Poetry. The award recognizes the poet. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

**COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) books. The award recognizes the author. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

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

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

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

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

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

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ballot must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 5, 2021 to be counted:  
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or [info@westernmusic.org](mailto:info@westernmusic.org)**

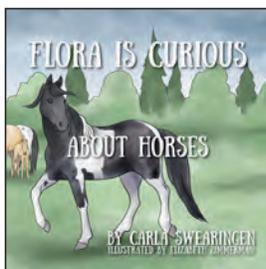
# Chapter Update

Continued from page 17



Tom Swearingen performs online for the Cochise Gathering.

Tom Swearingen has been awarded a grant by the Oregon Arts Commission in support of his "Professional Artistic Practice" in the field of folk and traditional arts. While looking forward to post-pandemic live shows, he's kept busy performing via video for a variety of audiences including the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering and was the guest on LA Talk Radio's "The Writer's Block" show in February discussing his writing process and new book *Reflection*. One of Tom's shows at the 36th National Cowboy Gathering in Elko was featured by the Western Folklife Center as a Member's Benefit video. In May Tom, the Judi Coder and Jennifer Epps duo *Notable Exceptions*, and IWMA Hall of Famer Joni Harms are the featured entertainers for West Fest, an online concert supporting children's charities. Tom is also looking forward to live appearances at the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering and the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering.



Carla Swearingen's latest hot off the presses.

Carla Swearingen reports that her new children's book *Flora is Curious About Horses* is now available at HoofPickPress.com. It's the second in her four-book series. It follows *Flora is Curious About Squirrels* that was released in December. Look for *Flora is Curious About Chickens* and *Flora is*

*Curious About Cats* later in 2021. Flora is Carla and Tom's granddaughter.

Young Central Oregon poet and reciter Thomas Fitzgerald is excited to start his first year in 4-H with a sheep market project. He is also busy reading and learning poems from *Brushstrokes and Balladeers* gifted to him by poet Jim Crotts. The current selection is "The Cook's Revenge" which he's eager to share at our chapter's March Zoom meeting.



Thomas Fitzgerald spins a rope as well as a tale.

Speaking of Jim Crotts, he's working on pulling together a Western Oregon Showcase Event for friends and co-conspirators of the IWMA Columbia Chapter. He's got the venue, the perfect setting, and an anticipatory audience. All that's needed now is a date when we can be allowed to safely gather. Jim is also moving ahead with planning for a Campfire/Poetry session at next year's Fiesta Ranch Roping in Junction City, OR. Won't that be wonderful to watch some first-rate cowboys doctor and brand during the day and then retire to a quiet campfire with stories and songs of the West we love?

The next time Marv Ramsey shares his beautiful voice, guitar, and songwriting skills on our Zoom meetings it will likely be from new digs in Klamath Falls, OR. He and his lady have purchased a home, complete with a shop and four-stall barn. Marv is pretty-well healed up from his horse wreck last autumn (or should I say "fall?") and is making noises about getting another horse – or two.

From Enumclaw, WA, "Gateway to Mt. Rainier" and home to Lynn Kopelke's "Museum of Large Hats" comes word that the poet and artist will be supporting the cowboy poetry of Colorado cowboy Terry Nash with two paintings and a new illustration in Terry's up-coming book.

Larry Wilder has taken part in some virtual shows and has also managed to find "Covid-Safe" live audience opportunities including a senior center courtyard show residents were able to enjoy through their open windows. He also did two concerts at the Nutz & Boltz Theater in Boring, OR. You can be sure that the town name is not descriptive of his talent.

The Notable Exceptions are currently on a 3-month Coast-to-Coast Quarantine Tour stopping along the way for "random acts of music" flash-mob-style spontaneous outdoor mini-concerts. Fans can travel along virtually, with exclusive online travel and performance content available to subscribers via their website.

And lastly, a reminder that our Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Contest is up and running and taking entries through our website at IWMAcolumbia.org. Check it out. And please encourage young people that you know from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia to enter.

## KANSAS CHAPTER

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

Member of the Kansas Chapter are saddened at the loss of one of our own. Ron Hutchison passed away on February 27 at the age of 64, following a brief battle with cancer. Ron loved music. Several years ago, he purchased an old church and turned it into Ron's Man Cave, where he hosted regular jam sessions. When Ron came to our IWMA meetings, he always brought his harmonicas to play behind his friend, Ed LeValley, and others. Ed LeValley also had recent health issues. He had a pacemaker installed, following a stroke. He is recovering nicely and hopes to be ready to go once the Kansas Chapter is back doing live music.



Ed LeValley (left) & Ron Hutchison (right).

Continued on page 32

## IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 19

### BOBBI MCGAVRAN (1946 – 2020)



Lead Female Vocalist of Bobbi & Clyde for 49 years. House Band for Knott's Berry Farm's Calico Barn Dance and TV commercials. 15 years Musical Performer/Director at The Golden Boot Awards benefiting the Motion Picture & Television Fund. Masters

of Ceremonies Doug McClure and Dale Robertson. Open the Crazy Horse Saloon, Newport Beach Awarded best Country Night Club by the CMA. Band members included J. Scott Hendrickson (Barbi Benton), Ed Black (Linda Ronstadt), Bill Cunningham (Hoyt Axton), Duncan Cameron (Sawyer Brown), Rob Smith and Harvey Walker (Knott's Berry Farm, Chaparral). Her many friends included Carroll Baker (Cheyenne Autumn) and Harry Carey Jr. (She Wore A Yellow Ribbon). Co-writer John Ford's Valley recorded by Charley Pride. Featured in People Magazine, Hal Needham and Dani Janssen wedding at Universal Studios. Performer at the Hoedown for Yakima Canutt featuring Pat Buttram and Hank Worden (Ol Mose Harper The Searchers). Her Family, The Maljans, was the largest Produce Farmers in California for the Nation. Lifetime Member of the IWMA. Survived by her son, Richard Toehill and Brother Tom Bennett. Saddle up Bobbi, you are Ridin' in the Sky. Loved and missed Clyde Lucas.

Donations in Bobbi's memory can be made to the IWMA Crisis Fund, PO Box 648, Coppel, TX 75019.

### MIMI ROGERS SWIFT (1940 – 2021)



*Prepared by Joel Dortch,  
Happy Trails Children's  
Foundation*

It is with profound regret that I announce the passing of Mimi Rogers Swift on January 25.

Mimi was the foster daughter of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Mimi was born in an air-raid shelter at the beginning of World War II in Edinburg, Scotland.

Raised in a series of orphanages, she met Roy and Dale in 1954 when they were at the height of their popularity and on tour in Scotland. They visited her orphanage where she sang a song for them. They invited her to visit them at their ranch in California where she found her "forever" home.

She returned to Scotland on visits in later years including 2019. Mimi was a great lady, loved by everyone who knew her. In addition to being President of the Board of Directors for the Happy Trails Children's Foundation, she was a dear friend, generous supporter, and always in attendance at our fundraising events.

She will genuinely be missed! RIP Mimi.

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# 2020 IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

## JURIED AWARD RECIPIENTS

You read that heading correctly! After much discussion, the IWMA Board of Directors, after stating that last year's award winners would be announced along with this year's award winners in November, decided to move forward and announce the juried music awards for 2020. The awards had already been determined, and when queried, a few performers stated that they would rather know now if they won rather than have to wait until the 2021 awards were announced. So, the IWMA awards committee, after considering everything that they knew would be eligible this year, is announcing these winners in the juried music categories.



**The Ramblin' Rangers**

### WORKING COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR

*The nominees were:*

**No Place Left to Go** – Written by Ron Christopher

**One More River to Cross** – Written by Brad Exton

**Turn 'Em Loose** – Written by Susie Knight

**Hats Off to the Cowboy** – Written by Red Steagall  
& Joe Merrick

**I Won't Have Far to Go** – Written by Trent Willmon

*And the winner is:*

**ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS – WRITTEN BY  
BRAD EXTON AND RECORDED BY  
THE RAMBLIN' RANGERS**

### TRADITIONAL WESTERN SONG OF THE YEAR

*The nominees were:*

**Soul of the West** – Written by Clint Bradley

**Old Range Cowboy** – Written by Christopher Harris,  
Jim Weber & Steve Thomas

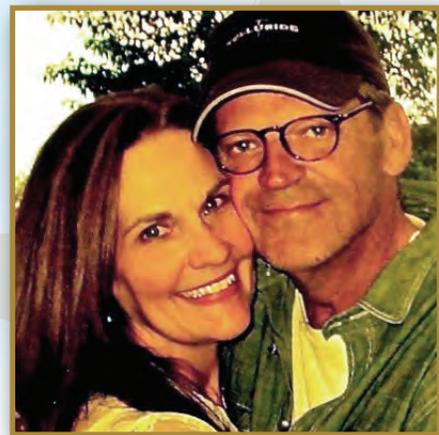
**Cows Around** – Written by Corb Lund

**Welcome to Wickenburg** – Written by Dan McCorison  
& Les Buffham

**Hats Off to the Cowboy** – Written by Red Steagall  
& Joe Merrick

*And the winner is:*

**OLD RANGE COWBOY – WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER  
HARRIS, JIM WEBER & STEVE THOMAS AND  
RECORDED BY RODEO & JULIET**



**Rodeo & Juliet**

## COWBOY/WESTERN SWING ALBUM OF THE YEAR

*The nominees were:*

**Texas Star** – Lori Beth Brooke

**California Skies** – Don Burnham

**Rhythm Rides Again** – The Hanson Family

**Ridin', Ropers, and Rounders** – Rusted Spurs West

**Little Bit of Texas** – Carlos Washington

*And the winner is:*

**TEXAS STAR – LORI BETH BROOKE**



**Lori Beth Brooke**

## TRADITIONAL WESTERN ALBUM OF THE YEAR

*The nominees were:*

**Rhythm Rides Again** – The Hanson Family

**Turn 'Em Loose** – Susie Knight

**One More River to Cross** – The Ramblin' Rangers

**New Songs of the West** – Jim Schafer

**Hats Off to the Cowboy** – Red Steagall

*And the winner is:*

**RHYTHM RIDES AGAIN – THE HANSON FAMILY**



**The Hanson Family**

## SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

*The nominees were:*

**Dawn Anita**

**Ron Christopher**

**Kristyn Harris**

**Susie Knight**

**Red Steagall**

*And the winner is:*

**RON CHRISTOPHER**



**Ron Christopher**

# CHRONICLE OF THE OLD WEST

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

## COWBOYS GO ON STRIKE

BY DAKOTA LIVESAY



In the late 1860s and the 1870s a cattle rancher's life was simple. He lived in a small cabin, and worked along side the cowboys. A cowboy respected his boss, and he would give his life for the rancher and his cattle. As they phrased it, "They rode for the brand."

By the 1880s things were changing. Ranch owners were now living in large homes or were often Eastern, British or Scottish investors. They had ranch foremen to work with the cowboys. When these "foreign" owners did come out west, they brought with them customs unfamiliar to the cowboys. The gap between the cowboy and the owner became wider and wider.

During the spring of 1833, the cowboys from three Texas ranches were rounding up strays together. And, one evening while setting around a campfire, the cowboys were griping about working conditions, when they decided to do something about it...to go on strike.

Their demands were simple. Among them, a cowboy's income would increase from \$30 to \$50 per month. A cook would get \$50 per month. And the head of an outfit would get \$75 per month.

Unfortunately, for the cowboys, they quickly drank and gambled away their strike fund. And the area was full of drifters looking for a job. So the strike didn't last more than a couple of weeks. Some of the cowboys went back to work. Others left the area.

This strike ended up being just one more nail in the coffin of the Old West cowboy, as ranchers set up rules to confine even more their traditional activities.

**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.

### AROUND The CAMPFIRE

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Cowboys and the Western Way of Life!"

and

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SA 6 am - 9 am

##### Around the Campfire

TH 10am - 12 pm

SU 1 am - 3 am

#### KKRN, Redding, CA

##### The Country Campfire

SA 10 am - 11 am

#### KZNO, Santa Clarita, CA

##### 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

## THE WESTERN WORLD TOUR

*Continued from page 13*

“At first I couldn’t get my arms around the concept,” Dan remembers, “because I got too much into John Wayne, John Ford, wagon trains and cattle drives and whatnot. But I feel like we stand on the shoulders of giants. I borrowed from the image of Roy Rogers, and I think Fred Rogers was a genius. He didn’t have a kid audience on the show, but he’d have his guests say ‘hi’ to his ‘neighbors.’ Every child watching became part of the show! So everywhere I go I tell my guests to say ‘hi’ to my Friends On The Frontier.” Additionally, he induces his friends in another way: “If you see a farmer or rancher, don’t forget to say ‘Thank You!’” And Dan does as he says, asking me to add here “the farm bureau folks have been very supportive of what I do, particularly here in Tennessee. But they’ve done such great work in education across the country and I’m very much indebted to them!” BTW, Dan is the Agricultural Extension Agent for the state... ‘got a dot gov email and everything.

At this point I decide to reveal to Dan my concerns over some uses of “Cowboy” and also that I am aware of his episode entitled “Talk Nice” wherein he answers a kid’s email question “if you’re a cowboy, where are your guns?” He does so with a song. “Cowboys Don’t Need Guns To Have Fun!”

I tell him in so many ways, his show seems to embody the Cowboy Code. “I couldn’t agree more, but I grew up with that,” Dan admits. “My grandfather, my father and his brothers...nobody said ‘this is the Cowboy Code.’ Treating people right, keeping your word, having respect for women...it’s all part of it. I try to instill it and I frame it around the American farmer and rancher. People who have that code for living. I want to be around that kind of people. I want my kids around those people.”

So, what would we have that word “Cowboy” come to represent in popular media as it shapes the thinking of coming generations? It’s worth some thought, don’t you think? In Cowboy Dan’s case, he has hit a milestone. As “The Rogers Boys” did before him, he has now been offering positive life and valuable How-To lessons long enough to have influenced and entire generation of kids. So, I think I found an answer.

“Cowboy Dan’s Frontier” streams on YouTube and airs on the Daystar Network, TBN, GLC, GCN, the TCT Network and others. 🐾



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**ORIN FRIESEN**  
Diamond W Wranglers  
IWMA Kansas President

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 26*

This year is the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail, and many of the members of Kansas Chapter will be involved in various celebratory events. The Diamond W Wranglers and 3 Trails West will be headlining the entertainment for Gunfight on the Santa Fe Trail on July 16-17.

Credit is due the IWMA for the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Youth Roundup in 2020. Kansas Chapter members, Martha Farrell, Jeff Davidson, Brad Hamilton and Orin Friesen, along with committee chair, Ron Wilson, conducted the contest entirely online, by having the contestants post videos of their original poems on YouTube. The general public was invited to vote for their favorites, along with a panel of judges that included Mark Munzert of Western Wordsmiths, along with IWMA-KS president, Orin Friesen, and chapter treasurer, Roy Pethtel. Winners received a trophy buckle, college scholarships, a certificate signed by the Governor of Kansas, and a membership to the IWMA. The winning poets were: 1st – Katrina Turner, 2nd – Hannah Foster, 3rd – Hadley Graves, 4th – SaKya Milburn.

Kansas Poet Lariat, Ron Wilson continues to do his Facebook Live program, *Live from the Lazy T Ranch*, every Tuesday at 1:00pm Central. He also has begun hosting a new monthly program on YouTube called *Cattle Trails Showcase*. He highlights communities, western history, museums, and other attractions along the historic Chisholm and Western cattle trails.

The popular Internet channel, TruckersRadioUSA.com is programmed by Western Music Hall of Fame member, Rex Allen Jr., along with Jim and Martha Farrell. Several programs on TRUSA are hosted by IWMA-KS members. They include Tennessee Jim Farrell's *Full Gallop*, the *Americana Road Show* by the Derrieres, who are Leo and Roger Eilts of 3 Trails West, and *Bluegrass from the Rocking Banjo Ranch* by Orin Friesen. Dodge City Marshall Allen Bailey and Cowgirl

Janey also do a program called *Western Swing & Other Things*. All of the programs air several times each week and have regular listeners around the world.

### NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

**President: Dennis Russell**  
**drnpoet@gmail.com**

The newly elected officers in the New Mexico Chapter began their term at the beginning of 2021. After a hard fight while pulling out all the stops, winning unanimously were; Dennis Russell, president, Bernard Car, vice president, David Clark, secretary, and treasurer Kimberly Linker. Also serving on the board are Michael Rothe, Jane Jones, and Bobbi Jean Bell. A heartfelt thanks to the chapter officers and board members of 2020. We appreciate all the work you put in to keep our chapter alive and well during the challenging 2020 year.

As we head into spring, we are seeing and hearing some exciting new ways to approach performing by filling the void left by the lack of live performances. Dave Levensen has done a great job with the twice monthly Zoom® meetup "New Mexico Song and Poetry Corral." This has had great participation and offers opportunities for our members to perform. This open mic venue will now be a part in developing a chapter showcase which will feature invited performers from the New Mexico Chapter. We will keep you posted as we work out the details.

In June 2020, New Mexico Chapter member KC LaCourse, created a great virtual venue and added a ton of hard work to provide our entertainers a place to showcase their talent called "Hearts of the West." Poet, planner, and producer of the weekly showcase, she has already managed to give well over 70 entertainers a place to perform, and has months planned in advance. Entertainers include many of our New Mexico Chapter members: Carol Markstrom, Donnie Poindexter, Doug Figgs, Kristyn Harris, Hailey Sandoz, Floyd and Valerie Beard, Alameda Bradshaw, Purlly Gates, Miska Carlberg Paget, Scott Tonelson, Marilyn Tuttle, Jenna and Kacey Thunborg, Jim Jones, The Ramblin' Rangers (Brad and Bonnie

Jo Exton), Aspen Black, and The Russellers, (Dennis and Beverly Russell). We applaud you, KC, for "Hearts of the West" and your vision!

We also received some exciting news this week that the song "El Caballo del Fuego" from The Cowboy Way trio's latest album "Doin' What We Do", (co-written by Doug Figgs, Floyd Beard, and Mariam Funke) won the Western Heritage Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for Outstanding Original Western Composition! Congratulations to you all!

Several other NM IWMA members have been nominated for upcoming awards. It is such an honor to have you in our chapter, and we will be cheering you on! Best of luck to each of you.

This pandemic era has presented many challenges and cancelled performances, but our Western Music and Poetry community has a hardy base of talented folks and faithful listeners who are finding new ways to participate in what they love. Encouragement, innovation, and tenacity are essential. We'd love to hear what ways you are finding to share your craft. Keep healthy, safe, and we look forward to seeing you on this Cowboy Trail soon!

### OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

**President: Donnie Poindexter**  
**cowboydp51@gmail.com**

To say that the Oklahoma Chapter activity has been in hiatus would probably be an understatement. I know that no explanation is necessary for what this pandemic has done to the arts in general. Some of our members are still performing and there have been lots of virtual events available. In Oklahoma we just want to be able to attend gatherings and share our music and poetry and more than that, visit with our friends. We will never take shaking hands and hugging necks for granted again! Devon Dawson and Jesse Roberts, "Devon and the Outlaw", along with great cowgirl poet Teresa Bursleson entertained on Saturday at the 10th Annual Cowboy True Exhibit at the JS Bridwell Ag Center in Wichita Falls, TX held on March 19-20. This great event featured some 40 western artists including

*Continued on page 39*



# BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



## GALL STONES

One of my sisters-in-law who lived in Southern California worked at one of the major hospitals in the San Fernando Valley as a phlebotomist. (I always thought that was somebody with fleas in their britches.) I share one of her stories.

In addition to her regular duties, she sometimes acted as a "gofer" for the doctors. In one particular instance she was asked to deliver a small vial containing a patient's recently removed gall stones to the patient's room. For whatever reason, the patient had requested that he be allowed to have them. The doctor reluctantly consented. Normally he returned such specimens to the lab for study.

This patient was newly immigrated from the Mideast and spoke very little English. My sister-in-law approached the

patient's bedside in her normal cheerful manner, rattled the stones around in the vial and set them on the tray table. The man eyed them somewhat suspiciously and spoke to her in his own language of which she did not understand a word. She nodded, smiled and left the room.

Later in passing this same room she encountered a group of nurses and other hospital staff gathered in the nearby hall, engaged in excited conversation about something. She was approached by one of the orderlies who asked her, "Do you know what the fellow in this room said to you when you delivered his bottle of gall stones?" When she replied she was unable to understand his language, the orderly said, "He asked you, 'Do I take these with water?'" 🐾

## International Western Music Association PATRON\* MEMBERS

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

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# 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 [ojisikes@gmail.com](mailto:ojisikes@gmail.com)

## POP GOES THE WESTERN

**D**uring the era of B-Western singing cowboy movies, from the mid-1930s to the early 50s, the music from those films was recorded not only by the silver screen's singing cowboys, but by others as well. Radio cowboys, who were mostly local, also helped bring the music to new audiences and kept it playing on radio long after the movies had left the community. Their local efforts were supplemented by nationally distributed radio transcriptions and by commercial recordings of Western songs by swing bands and popular singing stars.

The connection, or cross-fertilization if you will, with the pop field made sense. It facilitated the exposure and spread of Western music. You saw it in instances like the appearance of the **Sons of the Pioneers** in **Bing Crosby's** 1936 movie, *Rhythm on the Range*, where they sang "I'm an Old Cowhand," written by popular composer, **Johnny Mercer**. Both Bing and the Pioneers sold recordings of the new song. A few years later, Mercer would recruit **Tex Ritter** as Capitol Records' first Western star.

Earlier in the 30s, just before the singing movie cowboy era began, Crosby had been the first artist to record a song that was to become a

Western classic, "The Last Roundup," composed by **Billy Hill**, who also wrote other classics including "Empty Saddles" and "Call of the Canyon," as well as successful pop songs, "The Glory of Love" and "Chapel in the Moonlight."

The bulk of Western songs were composed by songwriters who specialized in Western music, like **Bob Nolan, Tim & Glenn Spencer, Stan Jones, Smiley Burnette, Foy Willing, Fleming Allan** and **Eddie Cherkose**. But some of our best-known songs came from the pens of popular composers who crossed over to the Western field now and then. The team of **Jay Livingston** and **Ray Evans** wrote the theme for *Bonanza* and the very popular "Buttons and Bows," "California Rose" and "Brave Man," among others. **Charles** and **Nick Kenny** wrote "Leanin' on the Old Top Rail," "A Cowboy's Serenade" and "There's a Goldmine in the Sky."

**Jimmy Kennedy** wrote "Isle of Capri," "Red Sails in the Sunset," "Harbor Lights," "The Teddy Bears' Picnic" and "My Prayer," among others, but with **Michael Carr**, he wrote the classic, "South of the Border" and the less well-known "Sunset Trail." Carr collaborated with others on a number of Western songs

like "Ole Faithful" and "The Wheel of the Wagon is Broken."

**Leo Robin** and **Ralph Rainger** were an interesting songwriting team, with Western gems like "Hills of Old Wyoming," "Silver on the Sage" and the often overlooked "Funny Old Hills" to their credit. But they are best-known for "Thanks for the Memory," **Bob Hope's** theme song, and "June in January," made famous by Bing Crosby. After Rainger's untimely death in 1942, Robin collaborated with others on songs like "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend," "Beyond the Blue Horizon," "Prisoner of Love" and "Blue Hawaii."

Even one of America's most famous songwriters, **Hoagy Carmichael**, composer of "Stardust," made a contribution to the Western genre. Did you know that he wrote the music for the title song to a **Roy Rogers** movie? It was *Hands Across the Border!* And **Irving Berlin** composed a song that became the title of a Sons of the Pioneers album, *Let's Go West Again*. So we can see that many great composers of popular songs enjoyed, and contributed to, the Western genre as well. And they contributed to its acceptance and spread among new audiences, far beyond the Saturday matinees.

## DON'T FENCE ME IN – THE EARLY RECORDINGS: 1956-1960

Dick Curless

JASMCD3769



Dick Curless is best known as a country singer, with hits like "Tombstone Every Mile,"

but he was also a remarkably good singer of Western songs, especially in his early years. 17 of the 28 tracks on this disc are Western, ranging from traditional songs like "Red River Valley," "The Old Chisholm Trail" and "Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie" to movie songs like "High Noon" and the title song. His pleasant, deep voice sounds a little like Rex Allen's on "Careless Love" and there are hints of Tex Williams' sound on "Buffalo Gal." It's also nice to hear him introduce "Cowboy Jack," "Whoopie Ti-Yi-Yo," "Home on the Range" and another track or two before he sings them.

"Big Rock Candy Mountain" is one of the several folk songs Curless sings here. It's a song attributed to folk singer Harry McIntock, but is closely associated with Burl Ives, who brought it to national prominence. Ives used to tell the story about visiting the actual mountain in Utah. Upon arrival at the base of the mountain, he saw a group of tourists looking at a sign by the trail, so he went over to see what they were reading so intently. The sign said, "Big Rock Candy Mountain, discovered by Burl Ives in 1700." Widely available.

## PEE WEE KING COLLECTION 1946-58

Pee Wee King & His Golden West Cowboys

ACTRCD9100



I've been looking for a good set of Pee Wee King's music for a long time and this new 3-CD set

on the Acrobat label fills the bill, at last! The first disc gets off to a slow start with a couple of King's early (1946), little-known sides, but by the time "Tennessee Central #9," "Steel Guitar Rag," "Tennessee Polka," "Bonaparte's Retreat," and the band's huge hit, "Tennessee Waltz" come up, the band is cookin'! RCA Victor's Steve Sholes had taken charge of production by 1947, and his hand is evident.

Disc 2 opens in 1949 with a set of square dance tunes but soon moves into waltzes and Western swing with King's versions of standards like "My Adobe Hacienda," "Spanish Two-Step," his second recording of "Steel Guitar Rag" (from 1952, featuring guitarist Bobby Koefler and vocalist Redd Stewart), and a vocal version of "River Road Two-Step." Disc 2 also contains King's hits from 1949-52, "Changing Partners," "Bimbo," "Backward, Turn Backward," "Slow Poke" and "Silver & Gold."

Disc 3 features songs from the 50s, including the band's covers of several pop hits like "Tweedle Dee" and swing tunes, e.g. "Woodchopper's Ball" and "Seven Come Eleven," an appealing novelty or two, e.g. "You Can't Hardly Get Them No More" (with a bit of clowning by King himself), but near the end of the disc the music winds down a bit, following the changing tastes of the industry in the 50s and the elusive search for repeats of earlier hits. Still, between discs 1 & 3 there are some very enjoyable tracks. Available from your preferred source of CDs.

## THE SONGS OF THE WEST

Tex Ritter

CRR-218



Late in 2020, the new Country Rewind label, a division of Hindsight Records, Inc., completed

work on a collection of recordings by Tex Ritter, initially made for radio. The original recordings were rescued from oblivion by the label's president, Thomas Gramuglia. And engineer/musician Jim Farrell brought in his Diamond W Wranglers pard, Stu Stuart, to assist in bringing them up to today's audio standards. In my view, they did a remarkable job!

In the 1950s, Tex worked with friends Joe & Rose Lee Maphis, "Fiddlin' Kate" (Margie Warren), Wesley & Marilyn Tuttle, Johnny Bond and many others on the tremendously popular Town Hall Party show in California and on tour. While most of the songs on this CD may be familiar, little is known about the actual recordings, e.g., who plays on them, other than Tex, of course. But looking at the song titles, the latest of which were composed in the 1950s, and hearing Tex call out "Joe" during a banjo solo (Joe Maphis could play anything with strings and often did), leads me to believe that there's a strong likelihood that these recordings were made around the time Tex was working with the Town Hall gang. So, it's possible that "Fiddlin' Kate" plays the fiddle solo on "Beaumont Rag" (an appropriate instrumental since Tex grew up near Beaumont, TX), and that Joe Maphis plays tenor banjo on a couple of tracks. Let me know what you think!

A fine selection of 14 songs, most of which you will recognize, but you've probably not heard these versions before. Available from your favorite CD source.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

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

**HOT TEXAS SWING BAND**

*“Devil On My Tail”*



On the Hot Texas Swing Band's fifth Western Swing release, Alex Dormant's players show again they

know what they're doing and trying to accomplish!

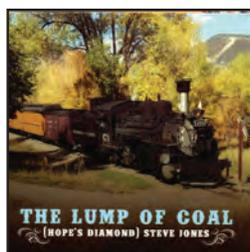
The group uses classic swing instrumentation, but it's anything but a classic swing imitation. They frequently explore adventurous melodic lines that may require multiple hearings for the ear to fully take in, but the feet should have no issue with the beat. Dancemakers in attendance here are Alex Dormant (vocals, bass & whistling); Selena Rosanbahr & Liz Morphis (vocals); Cat Clemons (guitars); Ryan Neubauer (drums & percussion); Joey Colarusso (sax & flute); Steven Vague (sax); Jimmy Shortell (trumpet & flugelhorn) and a guest guitar on one track, Rick McRae.

Picks include the different spin title track “Devil On My Tail,” “Hill Country Texas,” “My Heart Will Always Be In San Antonio,” “Morning Green,” “Undecided” and a fun cover of “The Good The Bad & The Ugly.” Note: None of the collection's mix of originals and covers are credited, which may prove problematical in the year's various album judgments. Thirteen tracks, recommended.

CD: Available through [HotTexasSwingBand.com](http://HotTexasSwingBand.com)

**STEVE JONES**

*“The Lump Of Coal (Hope's Diamond)”*



Colorado artist Steve Jones' renowned strong tenor voice and fine acoustic playing are

features of his newest release. Among the ten musicians involved, the appearance of Jones' former Yampa Valley Boys partner John Fisher on bodhran is also noted.

I must confess I tend to lean toward the more uptempo tracks Jones offers. Picks this time from among his original co-writes with others are “In The Middle Of Nowhere” (using a Baxter Black poem), “New Home On The Range” with Doc Stovall (which first appeared on a Yampa CD, not counting Doc's own version), “Coyotes Of Copper Ridge” and “Last Campfire” both with Randy Huston. Pick covers include Steve Spurgin's “If I Never See Ireland Again,” Jim Jones' “It's A Cowboy I Will Be,” Randy Huston & Paul Harris' “Loving Today In The Land Of Tomorrow,” “Too Many Fences” from Jim Young and David (Cowboy Celtic) Wilkie's treatment of “The Road To Amulree.”

‘Sorry to turn ‘techy’ on you, but as I'd indicated in my review of Jones' first post-Yampa release, I'm not totally sold on the mix. In my view Jones isn't shown to best advantage by it. As a

former sound guy myself, I would like to hear what judiciously applied reverb and backing off Jones' volume a couple of clicks in the mix might achieve. But that's me. It's still good stuff, and recommended. Sixteen tracks.

CD: \$20 from Steve Jones, PO Box 773611, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 or through [irishcoyotemusic.com](http://irishcoyotemusic.com).

Downloads: [stevejones2.hearnow.com](http://stevejones2.hearnow.com)



**RANDY LEE RIVIERE**

*“Wyoming”*



The format of Randy Lee Riviere's “Wyoming” is pure contemporary Country Rock/Folk

Rock, but the lyrics are those of a visionary poet.

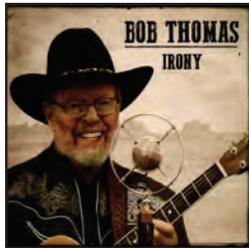
Musically it's very solid with a driving mix of guitars, drums, bass, piano, organ, pedal steel and fiddle. As a performer, Riviere (“re-VEER”) comes with sort of a Willie Nelson tone and, in more ways than one, a Bob Dylan cutting edge. His title track is an instrumental, the album's closer, with influences of Native American, Country, Rock and other meldings suggesting its own message of current and past

realities. The darkness of the cover image matches the intention of the songs, to be sure. Tough minded assessments like "Dependence Day" and "Red Rain." If we use the latter song as a passport into the vision, the songs carry questions of acculturation, boyhood, supposed urban renewal, opportunity denied and equating overrunning of people and land to a rolling prairie fire. "Keep Your Eyes On Your Station" becomes an admonition to know your place. And the lead song "Lots To Say" gives you fair warning you're about to get deep messages if you use your inner ear.

I could see it being quite possible for some to blithely overlook the content. It doesn't hit you instantly without knowing the Native American context, but discovery brings on the clouts. Happily the lyrics are printed out for deeper consideration. Thirteen tracks, recommended for fans of a beat and those who appreciate a good treasure hunt.

CD: Available through [randyleeriviere.com](http://randyleeriviere.com)

## BOB THOMAS "Irony"



One observer of the scene has called Bob Thomas "The Bob Dylan of Western Music."

Depending on what you think of B.D., B.T. could come close.

Thomas has served as the IWMA's California Chapter President, and this release is his eighth. Vocally Thomas and Sourdough Slim share some tonal similarities in their higher registers, although their performance styles are very different. In the lower range, well, it's every man for himself! On this release the comparison comes closest on one pick track –

the Ry Cooder arranged classic "Cowboy Blues."

Thomas employs a rustic style of songwriting with certain lyrics that could have stepped out of some Lomax song grouping...words that match his workaday campfire delivery.

With all that in mind, we'll name as picks the aforementioned "Cowboy Blues" plus originals "Gone," a duet done with daughter Erinn Rachele called "Reality" and a poem entitled "The Ute." As Thomas has done at least once before (his 2018 CD "Shadows"), at the end of that closing track he allows several seconds of silence to elapse before giving out with a spontaneous verse of "Row Row Row Your Boat!" A hidden Thomas trademark, perhaps?? Eleven tracks.

CD: Available through [bobthomasmusic.com](http://bobthomasmusic.com)

### CORRECTION

I don't know how to break it to you, but I've finally made a mistake! :-). I suffered a brain-skip in a CD review in the Winter issue. In the write-up on The Cowboy Way's "Doin' What We Do," two points: Deanna Dickinson and Jim Jones *both* wrote the words for the song "Western State Of Grace," and I erroneously placed Floyd Beard's co-writing credit on "The Legend Of El Tigre" instead of "El Caballo del Fuego!" *Permiso, por favor!!*

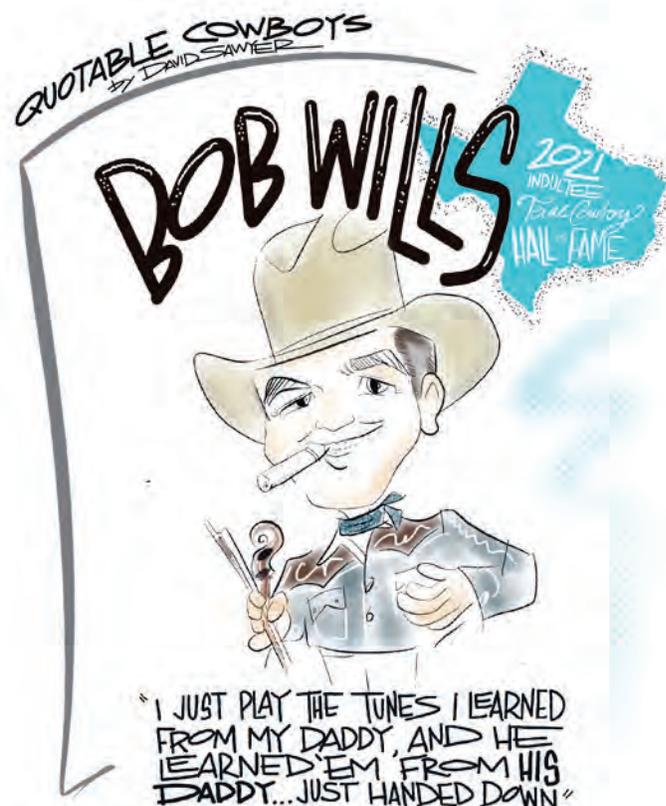
*Continued on page 38*

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[marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org)  
505.563.0673  
[iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org)



# 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.

### "COWBOYS 'ROUND THE CAMPFIRE"

Music & Poetry of the American West (Late 1990s)



Since collections are put together to showcase particular artists' performances, that generally marks

them as being a cut-above. "Cowboys 'Round The Campfire (assembled by Bob Sigmund) was a notably strong example. Rather than single tracks, the segments feel like sets in a concert...a dream Western show on your player! These artists are among the best in their respective styles.

IWMA Hall Of Famer Dave Stamey leads off with four of his finest ("Buckaroo Man," "It's The West," "Mountains Of The Heart" and "Montana"). Poet/reciter/historian Larry Maurice follows. He gained fame both for his acted-out, believable interpretations of his works and those of others ("Cowcamp Symphony," "The Journey," "Purt Near," "Ridin'," "The Legacy" and "Campfire Ashes"). The wildly entertaining Sourdough Slim next

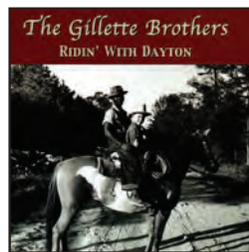
takes the mic and covers it in Ragtime enthusiasm ("When The Works All Done," "Ridin' Out On The Old Lonely," "Rock & Rye" and "Take My Boots Off"). And the concert of the mind perfectly wraps with arguably the most prolific poet/song collaborator of them all, Les Buffham ("Below The Kinney Rim," "Belle Of The Ball," "Fascination," "The Auction Fly," "Flowers In The Snow," "Montana Lullabye" and "Cowboy Blessing").

Taking in how this grouping represents who we are in Western and what we seek to convey, as a collection, "Cowboys 'Round The Campfire" was a classic standout!



### The Gillette Brothers

"Ridin' With Dayton" (2003)



esteemed offerings. Over the years many laudatory remarks have been offered about Guy and Pipp...the

foremost being they were a team the cowboys respected. The passing of Guy Gillette in 2013 left a hole in the hearts of traditionalists, but the Gillettes left us a superb, recorded treasury of unvarnished, pure roots and roots-inspired music tied to their backgrounds, those of kin and their own kinship with Western Americana at large. Happily, Pipp Gillette has continued to perform and record with various friends.

The "Dayton" of the CD title was Dayton Owens, one of those black cowboys we're embarrassingly late in celebrating. He was a major influence on Guy as a child. Multiple liner photos show the two, the boy soaking up the skills and values of the cowboy way.

As performers, the Gillettes were masterful living extensions of the Jimmie Rodgers legacy, and their nicely annotated albums brought their legion of fans front and center with the importance of each song they opted to include. If you place roots music as being integral to your appreciation of our Western genre, then this...and they...are for you. 🐾

# Chapter Update

*Continued from page 32*

Oklahoma's own Donnie Poindexter. This event was sponsored by the Arts Council Wichita Falls as a way to support The Forum Wichita Falls and Whispers of Hope Horse Farm. Our friends at HX Chuckwagon were on hand serving their wonderful chicken fried steak dinners with all the fixings.

## TEXAS CHAPTER

**President: Cary Wiseman**  
**Wisemanranch71@gmail.com**

Hello from Texas y'all, I hope everyone is hanging in there and starting to feel better about our country kind of getting back to normal – somewhat! I am glad that us Texans just got through a week of treacherous winter weather that we are not used to. I don't remember minus degree temperatures here ever, but we woke up one morning to -3 or -4 degrees!!!! We are not accustomed to our highs being just 19 degrees down here. But, one week later we are back in the mid 70's thankfully. February has been a roller coaster.

I want to send out our condolences to the Tarpley family, Judy James, and all of Pam's numerous friends throughout the Western music industry. We lost a great ambassador of the Western music and Western history culture, and we miss her dearly. Pam was a tremendous supporter of our youth music camp at the Weatherford College, and at The Cowtown Opry the Cowtown Opry Buckaroos always came first. Pam loved The IWMA Youth Program and all of us with youth in the that program say thanks and will remember her for years of support.

The future looks a little better with some vaccines out there and folks are going and doing a little more now. I hope we can see light at the end of the tunnel and can get back to some performance shows soon. I enjoyed looking through the *Western Way* Echoes Of Past Convention pictures. It took me down a wonderful journey of the convention. I hope we can all get together this fall and make more music and memories that will transform into

a well-deserved feeling of satisfaction. I just listened to a Red Steagall song today and it reminded me that the Cowboy can't always be seen from the road, but he's still riding for the brand. I think our Western music is like that. We just need to strive to keep our Cowboy lifestyle alive and our music and poetry true to the brand. We thank y'all for doing what y'all do for our music and poetry. Stay safe and remember, let's continue riding for the brand! God Bless the Trails You Ride!

## WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

**President: Mark Munzert**  
**markmunzert@gmail.com**



*Floyd and Valerie Beard*



*Miss Devon and the Outlaw*



*Kathy Moss*



*Miska Paget*



*Dennis Russell Nazelrod*

Virtually there. February's COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC GATHERING was available to watch via the internet as a live streaming broadcast from the Arizona Folklore Preserve with a lineup that included Western Wordsmiths: Floyd Beard; Valerie Beard; Devon Dawson; Kathy Moss; Mark Munzert; Terry Nash; Miska Paget\*; Jesse Robertson;

Dennis Russell Nazelrod (live broadcast); and Tom Swearingen. (\*Miska was overjoyed to report that she and hubby Keith will be Grandparents to a little cowboy by the name of Braxton James in June).



*Tom Swearingen*

Poet Tom Swearingen has been awarded a grant by the Oregon Arts Commission in support of his "Professional Artistic Practice" in the field of folk and traditional arts. While looking forward to post-pandemic live shows, he's kept busy performing via video for a variety of audiences including the Cochise Gathering, and was the subject on LA Talk Radio's "The Writer's Block" show in February. Co-hosts Jim Christina and Bobbi Bell interviewed Tom regarding his writing process, and his new book "Reflection."



*Poppa Mac*

Geoff Mackay, aka Poppa Mac, has another book of Cowboy Poetry pert' near ready to hit the presses...it's been almost three years since his first books came out. Poppa Mac's newest addition has both traditional Cowboy Poetry and Christian Cowboy Poetry included and from his kitchen, a second Cowboy Cookbook is close to hitting the presses as well.

The Fort Worth Stockshow virtual video showcase included Western Wordsmiths: Smokey Culver; Geoff 'Poppa Mac' Mackay, KC LaCourse; and other IWMA'ers are in their showcase. KC continues into her six-month of producing her weekly 'Hearts of the West' featuring many IWMA performers and can be viewed on multiple social media platforms and on YouTube too Welcome, to new IWMA Western Wordsmith member John Lowell from

*Continued on page 40*

# Chapter Update

Continued from page 39



John Lowell

Big Windy Livingston, MT. John has been writing and playing western and cowboy songs for many years. The professional, touring musician performs throughout the western US, Canada, Europe and the UK as well as teaching at music camps. Originally, a bluegrass guitar player and flatpicker, he has transitioned into more singer/songwriter music. He is looking forward to meeting a lot of the folks involved with cowboy music once this virus is whipped and we can all gather. He has spent some of the time during this pandemic in his recording studio and recently finished two collaborations of original music for potential soundtrack use in British movies. He also has been busy recording a new release called "She's Leaving Cheyenne." Four originals, three are old familiar chestnuts, and the others are contemporary songs written by other folks like Dave Stamey, Jim Schulz and Mike Hurwitz. "One of the original songs is one that I wrote in 1997 called Sarah Hogan that is recited by Randy Rieman as a poem, with a music bed of guitar behind it. Another person that you'd likely recognize playing on the recording is Joey Miskulin from Riders In The Sky. The target date for releasing this CD is June 1 on Beartooth Records," reports John.



Sherl Cederburg

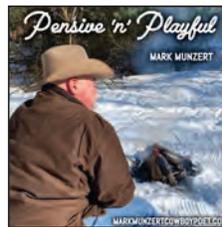
Sherl Cederburg's poem "First Day" has been accepted for publication in the Spring 2021 edition of Pasque Petals. This is a publication by the South Dakota Poetry Society.



Smokey Culver

Smokey Culver reports that he has been blessed with opportunities to perform cowboy poetry and western music at local nursing homes for the past several years. Then the pandemic brought things to an abrupt halt. Although missing contact with many friends, technology has allowed for virtual presentations. There have also been some outdoor shows allowing social distancing. Where there's a will there's a way!

Yours truly, Mark Munzert, was featured in the March edition of Western Horseman magazine and also released his second CD of cowboy poetry entitled *Pensive 'n' Playful* indicative of the poems contained. "I'm quite honored to follow the other poets that have been spotlighted in and represent Cowboy Poetry by way of Western Horseman magazine, and in this piece, by writer Katie Navarra Bradley." Currently, packing my saddle bags for the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous. Thanks for riding along. Mark



Mark's CD cover *Pensive 'n' Playful*

## WYOMING CHAPTER

**President: John Sidle**  
[johnsidle@gmail.com](mailto:johnsidle@gmail.com)

The Ramblin' Rangers are currently in southern New Mexico for their winter gig, which unfortunately has been cancelled until the state decides to relax some of their restrictions. In the meantime, they are doing a weekly "live practice" on their deck for the enjoyment of anyone that happens to come by. They are also participating in Zoom open mics for the NM and WY Chapters and have even been able to land a few performance dates for later in the year.

Karen Killion has moved from Casper to Sheridan and states "we don't miss

the wind! We built a stall onto our house for my horse. Loving that! Besides hanging out with my husband, kitty and horse, we've been laying low because of Covid... Hoping to plan a gathering in Sheridan for this summer. I am feeling very blessed to enjoy the Zoom Cowboy music and poetry and great friendships with the extraordinary, talented members of the Wyoming Chapter."



Karen Killion

It looks like dude ranches will be back up and running this summer, so John Sidle has been beating the bushes for 'round the campfire gigs. Along with s'mores and hot branding of belts and boots, cowboy music makes us feel one with the world.



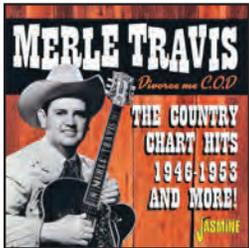
*Ramblin' Rangers Chuckwagon howlin'!*

The Wyoming Chapter has held two virtual get-togethers this winter and even though Covid keeps us physically apart, we will continue to host these monthly Zoom sessions to preview new songs and stay in touch. Recently, we have welcomed Ricardo Jacome into our fold. He is a friend of Ramblin' Rangers, Brad & Bonnie Exton, and a fine reciter of classic Western poetry and we hope to see him at some real world gatherings in the future.

While weathering the Covid freeze, Miss V has kept warm and busy with one of her "other occupations," laying down miles of chinking in a log mansion in the Wyoming wilderness. She commutes to work by ski, enjoying -20 degree mornings and starlit evening treks. "V" has also been selected by a statewide initiative to teach creative skills to Wyoming's elders via sequential online courses throughout the coming year. 🐾

## THE COUNTRY CHART HITS 1946-1953 AND MORE!

Merle Travis  
JASDCD 3751



The only explanation I can come up with for the large number of Merle Travis releases on

different labels at the same time, i.e. over the past few months, is that it was sheer coincidence. But Merle deserved it! And they're not all alike. For example, the Travis CD Rex Allen, Jr. produced recently drew its contents from radio discs and songs were selected to reflect the range of Merle's talents. But these commercial tracks chosen by the Jasmine label are the original recordings of the hits he scored during his most productive period. And the audio is remarkably good.

It's a single disc album with 28 tracks from 1946-53. Most are chart hits, so if you are a Travis fan, you'll recognize all of the titles, unlike the larger (3 disc) set of 84 "singles" from 1946-56 released by the Acrobat label late last year. In addition to the hits, this CD includes Merle's complete 78rpm album from 1947, Folk Songs from the Hills, with "16 Tons," "Dark as a Dungeon," "Nine Pound Hammer," and other classics. Widely available.

O.J. Sikes is a DJ, historian and nationally syndicated reviewer of Western music. His articles on Western music and its history and other Western topics have been published in "Under Western Skies" (a film magazine), "Song of the West," "Cowboy," "The Western Way," "American Cowboy" and "Classic Country & Western" magazines. O.J. is an active member of the International Western Music Association where he currently serves on the Board of Advisors and the Hall of Fame induction committee.

## SIXTEEN TONS – THE KENTUCKY LEGEND

Merle Travis  
CRR-219



Thanks to Executive Producer Tom Gramuglia, the recordings you'll hear on this CD were rescued

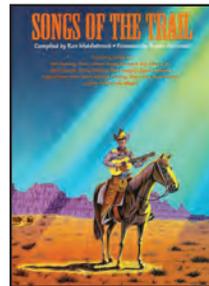
before they disintegrated, but that's not all. Little is known about them, but it's immediately clear that they came from a time when Merle Travis was in top form. As a major league composer, a guitarist who invented his own, universally recognizable style, and a singer whose voice captivated audiences, he was a force to be reckoned with in American music.

Producer Rex Allen, Jr. saw to it that Merle's originals on this disc were remastered to highlight their best qualities, and he brought in Thom Bresh, Merle's son, an internationally known guitarist himself, to accompany his late dad in the studio while keeping Merle in the spotlight. When Rex was a boy in California, he had known Merle as one of his dad's friends, so he had a personal interest in keeping Travis's wonderful music alive. This collection does just that, and more, because these recordings don't exist elsewhere.

Merle composed most of the songs on this 15-track CD, but you might not have heard all of them; definitely not these versions. A collection of Merle at his best! Available from your favorite source.

## (Book) SONGS OF THE TRAIL

Ron Middlebrook  
CENTERSTREAM PUBLICATION, 1992



Recently, a listener to my radio show asked me where he could find the lyrics to Rusty Richards' "Ghost of Serrano Ridge." The question reminded me

that I'd never reviewed this collection of wonderful songs, largely from the 1980s and early 90s, representing a remarkable revival in Western music. It was remarkable because the last singing cowboy film had been released in 1954! But the revival gave Ron Middlebrook the idea for this book.

Rusty Richards wrote the foreword, and there are historical photos, e.g. Tom Mix, Badger Clark, Jack Thorp, and essays on Spanish influences on cowboy life, Western movie titles, Black cowboys, etc. But the heart of the book is its sheet music. Three of Rusty's songs are here, as are "Song for New Mexico" by James Hobbs, "So Long Saddle Pals," "Blue Bonnet Lady" and "Cowboy Song" by Woody Paul, "A Cowboy's Got to Ride" by Chris LeDoux, "Idaho Winds" and "Trailin' Back to Old Mexico" by Ernie Sites and Dusty Rogers' "King of the Cowboys."

Michael Fleming's collaboration with Patty Bourne, "The Last Cattle Drive," Jack Hannah's "Great American Cowboy," Frank Fara's "Tips for Stagecoach Travelers" and Doc Denning's "Sentimental Trails" and "Mail Order Bride" are also among the titles, as are songs by Red Steagall and Marty Robbins. But there are classics as well, e.g. "Twilight on the Trail" and I'd Like to be in Texas" and two of Andy Parker's greatest, "Trail Dust" and "Call of the Rollin' Plains."

Available (or can be ordered) from local music stores (\$14.95), or from Ron Middlebrook, Centerstream Publishing, PO Box 17878, Anaheim, CA 92817-7878. Or e-mail: Centerstrm@aol.com 🐾

# Reed's Reading

## Recommendations & Book Reviews



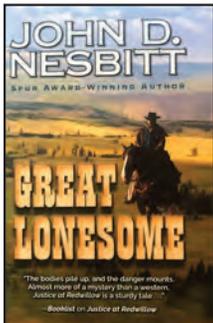
Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

This issue's column looks at three books of different sorts. One is a Western mystery novel, one a collection of essays and one a children's book set on the Texas plains in the 1870s. The thing the books have in common is that they were all written by IWMA members.

### JOHN D. NESBITT

#### "Great Lonesome"



Nesbitt is a California native who has made his home in Wyoming for many years, working as a teacher of English and Spanish at Eastern Wyoming

College, whose staff he joined in 1981. He is the author of more than 40 books and the recipient of four Western Writer of America Spur Awards, two for novels and one each for short story and poem. But he is a songwriter, too. The 2018 CD, *In a Large and Lonesome Land*, contains 11 songs written by Nesbitt and arranged and performed by W.C. Jameson.

Nesbitt's fiction includes traditional Westerns, contemporary Westerns, retro noir and novels that are a blend of Western and mystery. "Great Lonesome" fits into that last category.

The novel is set in Wyoming during the summer of 1904, a period during which the state is still very much a

part of the Wild West. Just the year before, cowboy, range detective and hired gun Tom Horn had been hanged in Cheyenne following his conviction for murdering the 14-year-old son of a sheepman.

As the book opens, Reese Hartley, a man of about 30 who has moved from Ohio to Wyoming to get away from systems and machines, is working as a cowhand for the Pick Ranch. The Homestead Act is very much in effect in Wyoming, and big ranchers, such as Reese's boss, and rival farmers use it to add to their holdings.

Reese himself has plans to save up enough money to stake a homestead claim and have a place of his own. But then he finds out the rancher he works for expects his punchers to file homestead claims and sell the land to him. When Reese balks at that deal, he loses his job.

On his own and looking for work, Reese meets Muriel Dulse, a widow from Missouri who is living alone in a shanty on land owned by her farmer cousins. As his visits to Muriel become more frequent, Reese meets with hostility from her cousins, who think he is a spy for ranching interests, and

his former cowboy colleagues get testy because they think he is cozying up to the sodbusters.

When three people – two Pick cowboys and a 17-year-old girl from a farming clan – are murdered, both sides suspect Reese for little better reason than they don't like him. Reese decides to find the killer, not just to clear himself but because he thinks someone should. "I believe in being a good citizen and doing my part," he tells Muriel.

Nesbitt's writing is blessed with the kind of detail that puts his readers into the story. When he writes about the Wyoming rangeland or the town of Jennet, it is as if he is unfolding a map. His male characters are introduced by the shape and color of the horses they are riding and by the brims and dents of the hats they are wearing. He even takes care to describe the workings of machines – threshers, steam-driven saws, rock crushers – that Reese hates.

More importantly, Nesbitt's characters are not formula Western stock players. They are more complex than that. Some are conformists, adhering to the way things have always been and going along with the powers that be and what's easiest. Others, such

as Muriel and Reese, despite his dislike of machines, and the town marshal are more modern in their outlook. During the climatic chase scene, the marshal chides a posse member for littering when the man discards a tomato can. "I'd just as soon you picked it up," the marshal says. "Leave the place clean for whoever comes next."

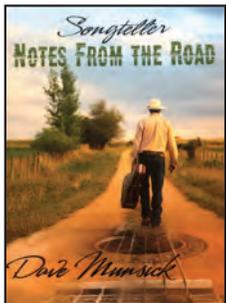
Reese is a man with the courage of his conviction, but he is no stereotypical B-Western superhero. He gets a nervous stomach and a dry mouth as situations turn edgy. When an antagonist slugs him down in the middle of the town street, Reese needs help to regain his feet, and then he staggers off to his boarding house room to recover from his drubbing. Even so, there's no doubt Reese will be there for the final showdown. Almost from the start, people have been telling him to get out of the territory, but he hangs tough. Nesbitt's vivid writing and gripping story kept me there to the end as well.

**("Great Lonesome," 9781432868321; hardback, 246 pages; \$25.95; Five Star; available at Amazon, Target, Barnes & Noble and other bookstores.)**

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## DAVE MUNSICK

*"Songteller: Notes From the Road"*



Singer-songwriter Munsick grew up in New Mexico and is a former New Mexico state fiddle champion. But soon after graduating from

high school in Albuquerque, he hit the road and, like Nesbitt, ended up settling in Wyoming. Munsick and his wife,

Trudy, live in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains. He has a half dozen solo CDs to his credit and a couple done with his three musician sons.

This collection of essays, which includes illustrations by Joel Ostlind, grew out of a series of articles Munsick was recruited to write for the Sheridan (Wyoming) Press newspaper. Like the songs he has written, the essays draw on his life as a rancher and musician, his keen sense of observation and his agility with words. Here he is in the piece titled "Ruby With the Red Shoes On" describing the weekend cowboy crowd he often entertains with his music. "Odd-looking off-the-shelf hats were rolled up at extreme angles on top of forced smiles. Expensive dress boots showed too much fancy top and not enough working bottom. I thought what a great job these folks had done insulating themselves from the reality they were trying so hard to be part of."

In these essays, Munsick chases wolf songs in a Wyoming canyon and eavesdrops on a ranchera tune in an Arizona border town cemetery. But his stories are not confined to the West or to this country. Munsick finds friendship that defies language barriers in a small French restaurant, a kindred spirit in the Scottish Highlands and in Havana, Cuba, he is impressed and humbled by a young man playing rhythm guitar with enthusiasm and skill despite the fact he is missing part of his left arm.

Munsick writes as passionately about guitars as anything else because more than anything else, except his family, guitars have been integral to his life. In the essay titled "My Last," he reveals how his first guitar, "a nylon-stringed, made-in-Japan Yamaha" borrowed from his dad, saved his life by pinning him in

the car in which he was a passenger as it plunged into a New Mexico canyon. His friends were ejected from the vehicle and killed. In "The Standing Ovation," he writes lovingly about the first guitar he purchased, an Ovation Balladeer he named Jezebel, due, no doubt, to her seductive qualities. "I'd never seen anything like her before; I was instantly smitten by her long lean body, her teak-colored skin, and the exotic material she was dressed in. The plain ivory-colored wall she leaned against accentuated her natural beauty and, no matter how hard I tried to be polite, I couldn't quite keep my eyes off her."

Like the best songs, Munsick's essays make you feel things down deep.

In "Horses are Faster," I teared up as I read how Munsick drove northwest from his Wyoming home to a hospital in Billings, Montana, to sing one song to a little girl who had been in a bad horse wreck because her family believed the song's lyrics could pull her out of a coma. But "The Black-Tie Affair" made me laugh out loud as Munsick describes how he and his wife tried in vain to find a nice restaurant open in San Francisco on Thanksgiving Day before settling for a bar serving Thanksgiving dinner for eighty bucks a plate. "Great! Perfect! We'll take a couple of those," I smiled to the barmaid and then turned to Trudy. "See? Eighty dollars a plate. This has got to be a pretty nice place." That's not the funniest part of that story. But I bet you'll want to read it to find out what is.

**("Songteller: Notes From the Road," 9780578241760; paperback, 112 pages; \$18; Little Goose Publications; available at [www.thesongteller.com](http://www.thesongteller.com).)**

*Continued on page 47*



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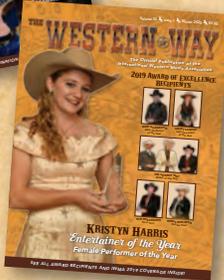
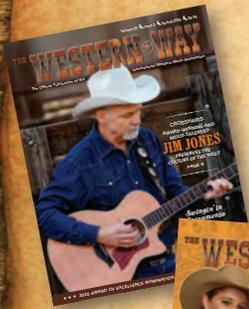


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# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Doin' What We Do – The Cowboy Way
2. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
3. Devil on My Tail – Hot Texas Swing Band
4. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
5. New Moon – Prairie Moon
6. California Skies – Don Burnham
7. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
8. True Tales...Mostly – Stan Lawrence
9. The Hidden Trail – Abby Payne
10. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
11. One More River to Cross – The Ramblin' Rangers
12. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
13. Frontier – Mary Kaye
14. Once Upon a Desert Night – Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade
15. Turn 'Em Loose – Susie Knight
16. Keepin' On – Ed Wahl
17. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
18. The Lump of Coal (Hope's Diamond) – Steve Jones
19. Those Cowboys of Old – Donnie Poindexter
20. Grand Canyon State of Mind – Tom Poley
21. No Place Left to Go – Ron Christopher
22. America's Last Singing Cowboy – Rex Allen
23. Wild West Texas Wind – Carolyn Martin
24. Hats Off to the Cowboy – Red Steagall
25. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
26. Hoopin' It – The Old West Trio
27. Saddlin' Up for God and Country – Dawn Anita
28. Beautiful Texas – Judy James
29. Cowboy Boots – Mike Craig
30. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert

## TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
2. Devil on My Tail – The Hot Texas Swing Band
3. California Skies – Don Burnham
4. Texas Bound – Bret Raper
5. Rockets, Romance, and the Rhythm of the Road – The Cornell Hurd Band
6. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
7. Bye, Bye, Blues – Susie Blue
8. Steve & Kristi Nebel – A Cowgirl's Dream
9. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
10. Home Again – Steve Markwardt

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Devil on My Tail – Hot Texas Swing Band
2. The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly – Hot Texas Swing Band
3. Guys Love Chicks Who Yodel – Lori Beth Brooke
4. Cow Cow Boogie – The Farmer & Adele
5. Frontier – Mary Kaye
6. Rose of Cimarron – The Cowboy Way
7. The Heart Behind the Badge – Joni Harms
8. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
9. One More River to Cross – The Ramblin' Rangers
10. Cows Around – Kristyn Harris

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. They Come Prancin' – A.K. Moss
2. Masters, Vol. 3 – Various Artists
3. Language of the Land – Tom Swearingen
4. Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg  
Masters, Vol. 2 – Various Artists
6. Day Workin' – Mark Munzert
7. Baxter Black's NPR CDs – Baxter Black  
The Truth – A.K. Moss
9. Short Grass Country – Floyd Beard  
Rhyme 'em, Cowboy – Tom Swearingen

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

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

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

# Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

**Joe Angel**

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

**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**

*"Calling All Cowboys Radio"*  
88.9 FM, KPOV High Desert  
Community Radio  
http://www.kpov.org  
http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling\_all\_cowboys\_new\_56k.mp3  
e-mail: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com  
Station NFLY - No Fly Internet Radio/  
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show  
radio.spalding-labs.com  
22470 Rickard Rd.  
Bend, OR 97702

**Doug Figgs**

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

**Nancy Flagg**

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

**KWC Ameriana Radio Station**

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

**Paul Hazell**

PH Records  
Royal Mail Building (PO Box 3)  
Brambleside  
Bellbrook Industrial Estate  
Uckfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 1XX United Kingdom  
*"Paul Hazell's World Of Country"*  
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"*  
7040 Highway 231 N  
Bethpage, TN 37022  
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

**Jarle Kvale**

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

**Eddy Leverett**

c/o Campfire Productions  
1623 Co. Rd. 820  
Cullman, AL 35057  
*WKUL "Around the Campfire"*  
www.wkul.com  
kudzu cowboy@outlook.com

**Butch and Christina Martin**

*"Whittler's Corner Show"*  
1410 Kubli Road  
Grants Pass, OR 97527  
Earsradio.com  
KSKO Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org  
The Dalles, OR, Y102  
KKTU, 100.1, Douglas, WY  
KSHD 93.4 Shady Cove, OR  
KORV 93.5 Ladeview, OR  
www.ButchMartinMusic.com  
www.romancingthewest.org  
541-218-2477

**Heartland Public Radio**

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

**Marvin O'Dell**

*"Around the Campfire"*  
www.defendersoffreedomradio.com  
KKRN, Redding, CA  
KZLNQ, Santa Clarita, CA  
https://tunein.com/radio/KZLNQ-Q-  
Country-1015-s264146/  
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

**Ben Parks**

Music Wrangler  
American Cowboy Radio  
3904 Danbury Drive  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
806-676-9500 (cell)  
ben@rt66.media

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

**O.J. Sikes**  
681 Ellington Rd.  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
[ojisikes@gmail.com](mailto:ojisikes@gmail.com)  
KKRN, Redding, CA  
[www.earsradio1.com](http://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](mailto:realwestoldwest@live.com)  
[www.realwestoldwest.com](http://www.realwestoldwest.com)  
[www.demingradio.com](http://www.demingradio.com)  
Facebook/totsieslover

**JJ Steele**  
"JJ's Cowboy Corral"  
KLZR  
103 S. 2nd St., Westcliffe, CO 81252  
Email: [bonerpoteet@aol.com](mailto:bonerpoteet@aol.com)  
(Does not use mp3s)

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

**Harvey & Me'lissa Turnbow**  
"Keeping Western Music Alive"  
PO Box 524  
Christoval, TX 76935  
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## REED'S READING

*Continued from page 43*

## JIM JONES

### "Bolo the Brave"



Western musician Jones, a native of Texas, has lived in or near Albuquerque, New Mexico, for 30 years. He really needs no introduction to the IWMA

faithful. Jones is a winner of IWMA's song of the year award for "It's a Cowboy I Will Be," has been honored by the organization as the male performer of the year and, Cowboy Way, the trio he is part of, has been recognized three consecutive years as the association's group of the year. He also has to his credit two Western Writers of America Spur Awards for songwriting. In addition, Jones

has written five Western novels and a collection of essays. But "Bolo the Brave" is his first attempt at writing fiction for children.

Graced by Kamee Young's endearing illustrations, this story was inspired by Colter, a crooked-nosed dog that Jones loved and shared his life with until Colter's death in 2019. It's about 10-year-old Charlie, whose parents both died of pneumonia when he was 9. It starts in 1878 in a remote area of the Texas Plains, as Charlie and his Grandpa Will await the arrival of a wagon train Will has contracted with to serve as cook. But the wagons are way overdue, and each day Grandpa Will rides in search of them, even though he is reluctant to leave Charlie alone in a camp vulnerable to the elements, hostile Indians and predatory wildlife.

Charlie cherishes the love and comforting nature of his good-hearted grandfather, but it is the grief and loneliness caused by the loss of his parents that haunts him most when Will is away from camp. That changes when a twisted-nose dog eager for companionship shows

up at the camp carrying a stick in its mouth. An emptiness in both the boy and the dog is filled during the ensuing game of throw and fetch.

When grandpa returns and finds the dog, who Charlie has named Bolo, he asks his grandson what the dog has done to deserve the scraps the boy is feeding it. "He makes me happy, Grandpa," Charlie says. "We have fun together." The dog stays. Even though Bolo later proves his courage and loyalty in a perilous encounter with a mountain lion, Jones' message in this story is that the dog's love for its young human friend is its most treasured asset. It is something that all of us who, like Jones, have been fortunate to have one or more special dogs in our lives already know. But it's a story that never grows old – especially for kids.

**("Bolo the Brave," 9798561833175; paperback, 35 pages; \$13.95 print, \$3.99 e-book; self-published; available through [www.jimjoneswestern.com](http://www.jimjoneswestern.com) and Amazon.)** 🐾

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