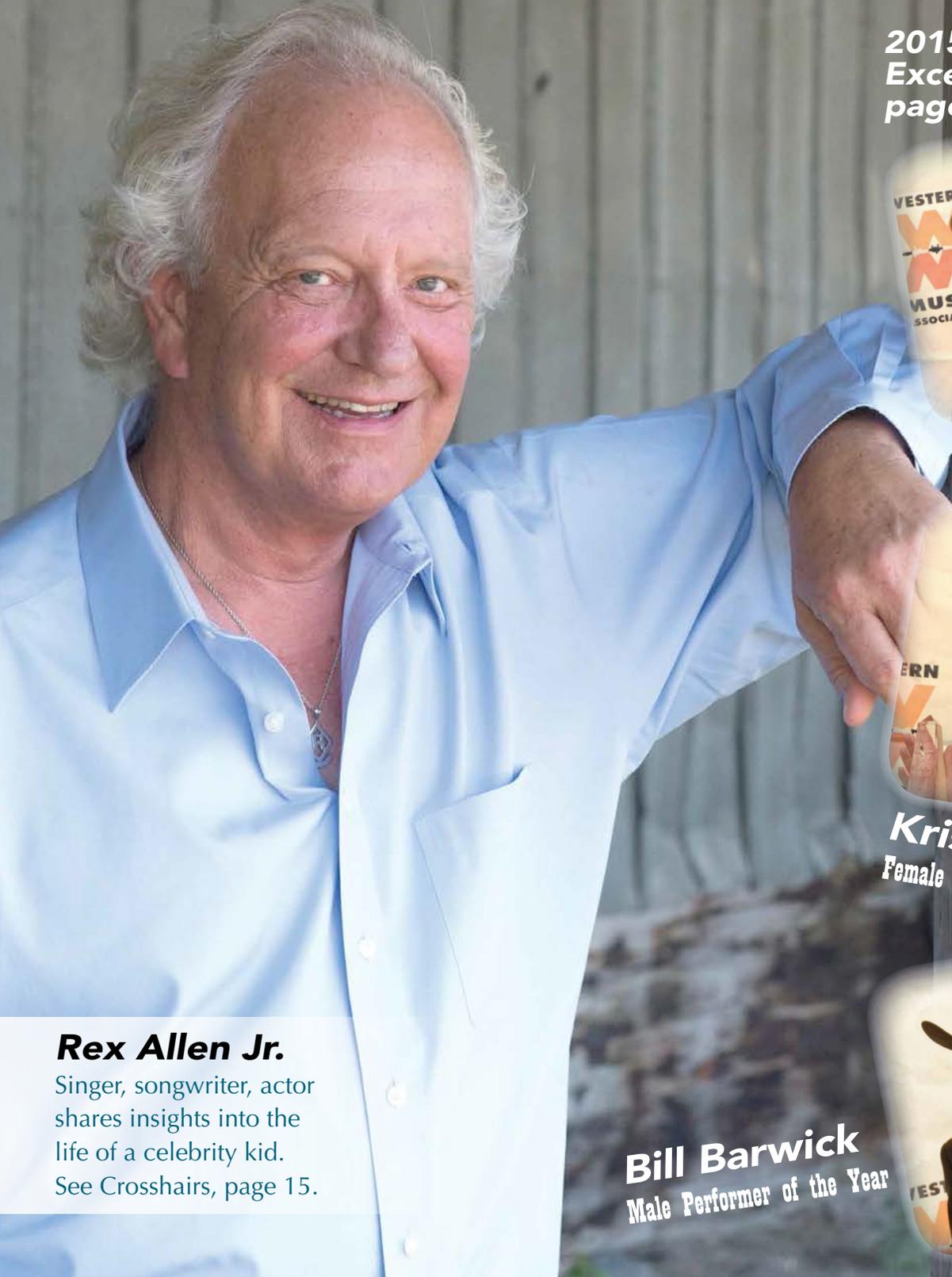


THE WESTERN WAY

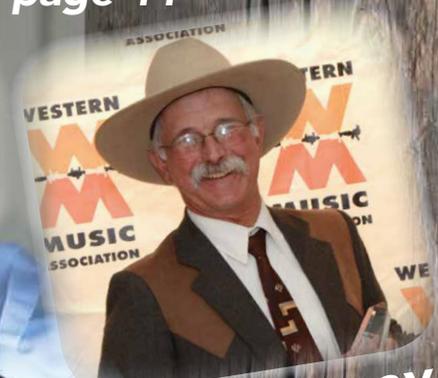
The Official Publication of the Western Music Association

2015 WMA Award of Excellence Recipients, page 11



Rex Allen Jr.

Singer, songwriter, actor shares insights into the life of a celebrity kid. See Crosshairs, page 15.



Dave Stamey
Entertainer of the Year



Kristyn Harris
Female Performer of the Year



Bill Barwick
Male Performer of the Year

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S WILD WEST HERITAGE

WHERE THE WEST CAN STILL BE WON

The Old West Comes Alive with a Membership in SASS®

Members receive a numbered shooters badge, alias registration, an annual subscription to *The Cowboy Chronicle* and much more!



SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY™

Toll Free: **877-411-SASS**

505-843-1320

www.sassnet.com

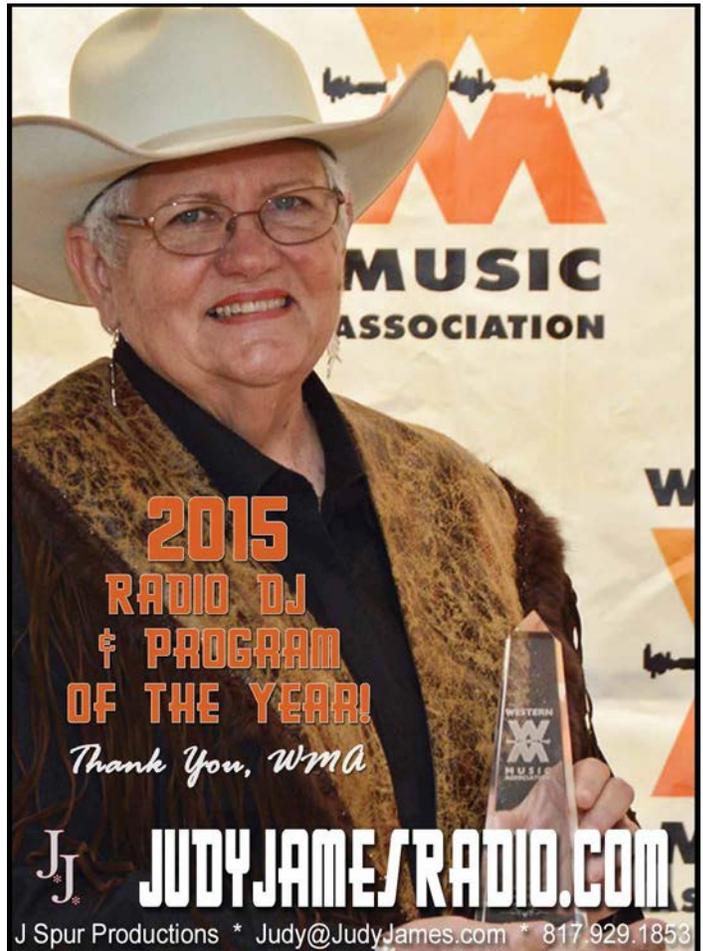
RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH
JUNCTION 5-12'S NEW CD
★★ SAN MIGUEL ★★

AVAILABLE JANUARY 2016



Order a CD, or download on CD BABY & iTunes

 Updates on Facebook, Junction 5-12



2015
RADIO DJ
& PROGRAM
OF THE YEAR!

Thank You, WMA

JJ **JUDYJAMES/RADIO.COM**

J Spur Productions * Judy@JudyJames.com * 817.929.1853

2014 WMA FEMALE POET OF THE YEAR



"Fantastic - full of Susie's personality..."

- Mark Munzert, WMA-WW 2016 Secretary

FILLIN' TANKS
A new cowboy poetry CD by
SUSIE KNIGHT

Order at cdbaby.com/cd/susieknight3
or send \$15 (pp) to Susie Knight
PO Box 76 • Conifer, CO 80433 • 303-495-4869
susieknight.com

THANK YOU, WMA MEMBERS
FOR THE AWARD & FOR
ALL YOUR SUPPORT!



BILLBARWICK.COM

From The President...



Steve Taylor
WMA President

Howdy To All:

As I write this I am like a proud papa busting my buttons. What a fantastic time the WMA Convention was. It is over now for this year and there are so many kudos to hand out. Each year we strive to up the ante from the previous year and thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, we did it again. We had to add chairs for every venue that we held. That is a good problem to have.

I am not going to put names with everything that was done because I would leave out someone. You know who you are that made this happen, and without you we would have nothing to brag about. The only person that I will name is Marsha Short, Executive Director/Festival Director/Membership Director...who puts it all together. Thank you, Marsha, for another great Convention.

Some of the highlights were all of the workshops that were presented to give you training and advice; also, the consignment shop, CD sales, Pro-Am stage and the Showcase performances. Can't forget the Pajama Jam and then talk about the vendors – they can really drain my wallet! The Chuck Wagon Extravaganza, the Friday Night Opry, and the Crisis Fund dinner with entertainment with the Mariachi Band and Dancers were all there for members and fans in attendance to enjoy. I could go on and on but if you were there, you know what I am saying and if you were not there you now know some of what you missed.

Remember, a membership to the WMA makes a great gift for your family and friends, so help us spread the word.

Stay in touch with all the information on the Web site, www.westernmusic.org and **PLEASE READ** the mail that you receive so you can stay up-to-date and informed.

Steve Taylor, President
Western Music Association



www.WesternMusic.org

Founder
Bill Wiley

Officers
Steve Taylor, President
Rick Huff, Executive V.P.
Robert Fee,
V.P. General Counsel
Diane Scott, Treasurer
Belinda Gail, Secretary

Executive Director
Marsha Short

Board of Directors

John Bergstrom
Joe Brown
Richard Dollarhide
Robert Fee
Juni Fisher
Belinda Gail
Jerry Hall
Rick Huff
Robert Lorbeer
Marvin O'Dell
Theresa O'Dell
Michael Roehm
David Rychener
Diane Scott
Steve Taylor

Board of Advisors

Rex Allen, Jr., Chairman
Hal Spencer, Co-Chairman
Cheryl Rogers Barnett
Ray Benson
Tom Chambers
Alvin G. Davis
Don Edwards
Douglas B. Green
Mike Mahaney
Suze Spencer Marshall
Gary McMahan
Jon Messenger
Michael Martin Murphey
Rusty Richards
Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr.
O.J. Sikes
Red Steagall
Steve Taylor
Marilyn Tuttle
Johnny Western
Russ Wolfe

Contributing Writers

Les Buffham, Buck Helton, Rick Huff,
Marvin O'Dell, Theresa O'Dell,
Marsha Short, O.J. Sikes, Steve Taylor

Contributing Photographers

Multiple photographers.
Images used by permission.

The Western Way

The Official Quarterly Publication of the WMA
Deadline for next issue: March 1, 2016

Managing Editor/Advertising

Theresa O'Dell
wweditor1@gmail.com; 805-551-7763

Graphic Design

PricelessDigitalMedia.com

Production Coordinator

Sharp Management
615-397-0359

Western Music Association

P.O. Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019
Cell Phone 505-563-0673
marsha@westernmusic.org
www.westernmusic.org

CONTENTS

25

14

FEATURES

8 WMA Convention
In Review

15 In the Crosshairs:
Rex Allen, Jr.

25 Prayer Request
from Rich O'Brien

ARTICLES, UPDATES, AND MORE

- 4 President's Message
- 6 Editor's Insight
- 7 Executive Director's Message
- 14 Penned by Lantern Light
- 16 In The Spotlight
- 18 Buffham's Buffoonery
- 19 In Memoriam
- 20 From the Trail
- 20 Education Corner
- 21 Chapter Update
- 26 Golden Nuggets
- 27 Western Air
- 29 A Musical Note
- 33 Best of the West Reviews
- 39 Western Charts
- 40 Playlists' Reporters
- 42 WMA Membership & Subscription Form

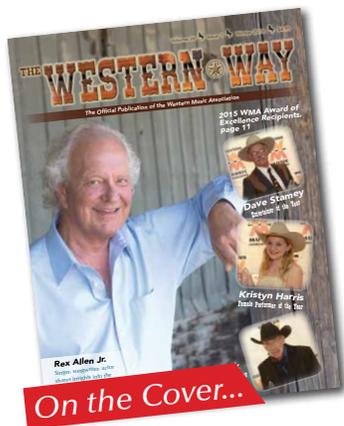


8

20

REVIEWS — CDs, DVDs, & Books

Gene Autry	32	Rod Miller (Book).....	37
The Black Ace (& Others).....	37	Linda Nadon.....	35
Almeda Bradshaw	33	Barbara Nelson.....	33
Buffalo Bill (Boycott)	38	Duane Nelson.....	34
Pipp Gillette.....	35	Notable Exceptions.....	36
Tom Hiatt	37	ÓGA.....	35
The High Country Cowboys.....	35, 38	Poppa Mac.....	36
Homer & Jethro.....	30	Prairie Moon.....	35
Allen & Jill Kirkham.....	38	Purly Gates.....	36
Susie Knight	36	Slim Randles (Book)	34
Brenda Libby.....	34	Gary Robertson (Book)	37
		Cheryl Barnett-Rogers (Book).....	31
		Rose Hill Band.....	33
		Dennis Russell.....	34
		Sons of the Pioneers.....	30
		The Victor Label	31
		Cindy Walker.....	30



Rex Allen, Jr. opens up to the Western Way and WMA top performers are recognized.

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

Editor's Insight

Christmas Tea and Good Wishes



Theresa O'Dell

As you read this, you may just be thinking ahead to the things a New Year brings---credit card bills from holiday spending, tax time looming on the horizon, plans for summer family vacations, snowstorms and blizzards yet to arrive or spring planting soon to be done. As I write this, it is a hectic time making all the holiday preparations and decorating the yard, house and Christmas tree. There's also the shopping for family and preparations for out of town guests. And, yep, there's the *Western Way!* In the midst of all the activity, there's still a magazine to get ready to send to the press. Today is the deadline, but still there are some straggler articles to get in!! Hurry, hurry everyone! As usual – it will all come down to the wire. But also as usual...it will all get done!

As I sat at the computer this morning and began editing some contributed materials and planning layout for this issue, I looked around and thought "I'm not sure it will all get done – the magazine, the decorating, the shopping, holiday entertaining, spending time with friends and making time for family." I looked out the sun room window into a beautiful crisp December morning, scooted back from the desk, went to the

kitchen and brewed a cup of Christmas tea! As the aroma of spices filled the room, I took a breath, sipped the tea and thought "I am so blessed. I am entrusted with so much – the privilege of compiling the *Western Way*, the opportunity to spend time with my family and friends, the freedom to freely celebrate Christmas

and its true Meaning, the joy of decorating my home to express my love for this season, and the opportunity to share all this with my grandchildren and other family members and good friends." So I said aloud, "Yes, it will all get done."

And so, my reader friend, if you are sitting with magazine in hand but fretting on your mind, and you are feeling the stress of the holidays just passed and the pressure of things yet to be done, think about all the good things of 2015 and plan for the many new things of 2016. Then...pause, breathe, and have a cup of Christmas tea (it's never too late!). It worked for me! Sending you good wishes...

For all things western,
Theresa



From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

The WMA Convention is over and, by the time you're reading this, Thanksgiving and Christmas are behind us and it's already 2016....how can that be? I hope that each of you had a holiday filled with family and lots of time to relax.

All of my new year's resolutions for 2015 have been broken. Getting my article to Theresa before the deadline? Haven't made it yet. Keeping up with the filing? Well, move carefully in the office because it's more of a "piling" system. Cooking more and eating out less? Yeah, right, that happened for a week.

So now it's time for 2016 resolutions. I have just one: take time to smell the roses. When you reach a certain age, time goes by quickly and leaves you in a daze. So I am resolving to do away with those things that hold me in their clutches for hours. Specifically, this means Facebook. I have spent so much time this past year looking at other people's sunrises and

sunsets that I've missed my own. I have wonderful children, incredible grandchildren and dogs that are occasionally funny. I'm going to "like" them this year and spend less time glued to the computer screen.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy and safe New Year!

Marsha



The Hanson Family light up the Convention. Photo courtesy Ev Shaw.

Did you know that B-western singing cowboy Jimmy Wakely made his silver screen debut in a Roy Rogers western, "Saga of Death Valley?"

The cover art for Dale Page's 2015 Cowboy Poetry CD. It features a photograph of Dale Page, an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a white cowboy hat and a light-colored shirt. He is holding a microphone and has his right arm raised. The text on the cover reads: "THANK YOU, WMA!!", "ONCE WE WERE KINGS", "2015 COWBOY POETRY CD of the Year", and "dalepage.com". There is a small inset image of the CD cover in the bottom left corner.

A black and white portrait of James F. Walker Nelson, an older man wearing a cowboy hat and a dark jacket. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

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

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

www.CowboyPoetry.com

2015 WMA Convention in Review

WEDNESDAY:

This was the kick-off to the 2015 WMA Convention. Following dinner, the evening, called The Chuckwagon Band Extravaganza, was filled with music, as so it should be. The featured performers this year included the Bar D Wranglers (CO), the Flying J Wranglers (NM) and the Flying W Wranglers (CO).



Other Sites from around the Convention:



All photos contributed by Jack Hummel, Lee Peters, Cindy Quigley and Ev Shaw. Used by permission.

2015 WMA Convention in Review

THURSDAY:

Registration gets underway in full swing on Thursday. It's also a busy day for the Mercantile staff as the performers check-in their CD merchandise. The WMA Consignment store was a popular place as always. The Thursday night big event, Crisis Fund Benefit dinner and entertainment this year with a Mariachi Celebration, was a "spectacular" success.



FRIDAY:

Always a day filled with seeing old friends and making new ones, shopping in the CD Mercantile and the WMA Consignment Store, Showcases and the Friday Night Opry. The second annual Midnight Pajama Jam also afforded laughs, music, sights-to-behold to those willing to stay up late and enjoy these festivities!



All photos contributed by Jack Hummel, Lee Peters, Cindy Quigley and Ev Shaw. Used by permission.

2015 WMA Convention in Review

SATURDAY:

This day is filled with Showcases but culminates with the building excitement of the Awards Show held at the lovely Kimo Theater in Downtown Albuquerque. The antics of emcees, Jim and Andy Nelson, the greeting from Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry, the special performances and the award announcements all combined to provide the backdrop for another memorable evening.



All photos contributed by Jack Hummel, Lee Peters, Cindy Quigley and Ev Shaw. Used by permission.

2015 WMA Convention in Review

2015 WMA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS



Entertainer of the Year -
Dave Stamey



Female Performer & Western Album -
Kristyn Harris



Male Performer -
Bill Barwick



Group of the Year -
Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band



Instrumentalist -
Jeanne Cahill



Crescendo Award -
Hailey Sandoz and Leah Sawyer (tie)



Swing Album -
Mikki Daniel "Cowgirl Swing"



Song of the Year and
Songwriter of the Year -
Doug Figgs



Male Poet -
Andy Nelson



Cowboy Poetry CD -
Dale Page "Once We Were Kings"



Radio DJ/Radio Program -
Judy James "Cowboy Jubilee &
Western Heritage Radio"

OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



Duo Harmony -
Notable Exceptions (Jennifer
Epps & Judy Coder)



Trio Harmony - Simple Gifts
(The Sawyer Family)



Best of the Best Harmony -
The Hanson Family



Youth Ensemble -
Leah Sawyer, Hailey Sandoz
and Kristyn Harris



The President's Award -
Robert Fee



Male Yodeler: Marty Kosel
and David Sawyer (tie)



Pioneer Trail Award -
Hal Cannon (pictured with
President Steve Taylor)



Bill Wiley Award -
Jim and Bobbi Jean Bell



Curly Musgrave Cowboy
Spirit Award - Marilyn Tuttle
(pictured with Kathy Musgrave)

NOT PICTURED: Female Poet - Sam DeLeeuw; Cowboy Poetry of the Year - Waddie Mitchell "One Hundred Poems"; Georgie Sicking Poet's Award - Mary Matli
All photos contributed by Jack Hummel, Lee Peters, Cindy Quigley and Ev Shaw. Used by permission.

Doug Figgs

**WMA 2015
Songwriter
of the Year**

Co

**Song
of the Year
"Socios"**

Co-written with Elhan Smith & Mariam
Featured on "Partners"

*Thank you WMA -
and thank you
to my Socios!*

TO ORDER, VISIT
DougFiggs.com



Also available at CDbaby & iTunes

FiggsPaintHorses2@yahoo.com • DougFiggs.com
"Like" Doug on Facebook  **PROUD MEMBER OF THE WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION**

THANK YOU, WMA!

Sam DeLeeuw

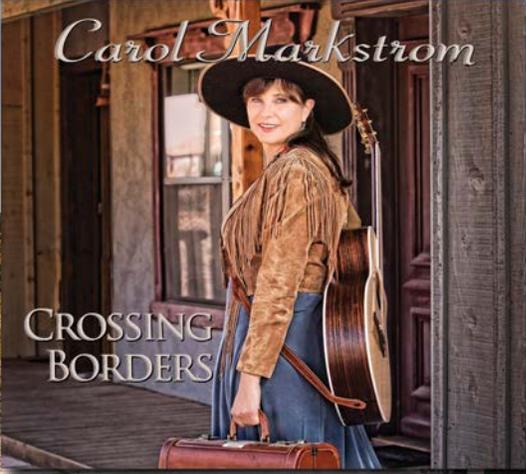
**WMA 2015
Female Poet
of the Year**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEETS.COM

435-851-0852 • CowgalPoet.com 

NEW RELEASE!

Carol Markstrom



**CROSSING
BORDERS**

"Carol Markstrom has done it right with Crossing Borders! She has some nice original songs and a fresh take on cover songs. With her clear wonderful voice and great instrumentals, you'll be entertained!"

— Totsie Slover —
2014 WMA Radio DJ/Program of the Year

AVAILABLE NOW AT
CAROLMARKSTROMMUSIC.COM 

Did you know that B-western singing cowboy Jimmy Wakely recorded seven duets with Margaret Whiting that finished no lower than #7 on the country music charts?

Margaret Whiting that finished no lower than #7 on the country music charts?

Mikki Daniel

Many Thanks, WMA!

**2015 Swing Album
of the Year**

Mikki Daniel

MIKKI DANIEL

**Cowgirl
Swing**

INFORMATION • BOOKINGS • PRODUCTS
214.532.8010 • MikkiDaniel.com 



Penned by Lantern Light

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

After the Fire

By Keith Ward, 2015

It wasn't just a barn you know,
Not just a storage bin,
Not just a place to feed the cows,
Or park the tractor in.

It wasn't just a barn you know;
When a little boy was there.
Fact is, it was never barn,
But villains best beware.

It was castle to my knighthood;
Silo turret rising high,
Where damsels could be rescued
Or I could keep a weather eye.

The milk room was my office
If I was Sherriff for the day.
It was fort when I soldiered,
Keeping enemy at bay.

It was livery for my stick horse,
Villain's stronghold when I spied.
Old hay made cushioned landing
If they got me and I died.

It wasn't just a barn you know;
Back when kids knew how to play.
It became, as if by magic
What was needed for the day.

It wasn't just a barn you know;
As I was soon to understand,
For it became a school house
For the making of a man.

Skills learned in that old school house
Would prove to serve me well,
But skill ain't all that makes a man.
My professors didn't fail.

How a boy should treat his Father,
How a Father treats his son.
Watching Dad and Granddad,
As they got the day's work done.

How a man should treat his wife,
How a man should treat his Lord,
How men should treat each other,
All these lessons we explored.

It wasn't just a barn you know;
Not just shelter from the wind.
Sometimes a place of privacy
When seeking council from a friend.

Sometimes a place of solitude,
When needing time to pray.
Sometimes a place to steal a kiss,
When she's checking on your day.

It wasn't just a barn you know;
Not just wood and tin.
Always adapting to the need
Of the work to do within.

The wooden silo log since gone;
Milk room no longer used.
Wooden stanchions hanging,
From their duties now excused.

Adapting through the years,
But still and always grand.
The memories, now awakened
Are sure to ever stand.

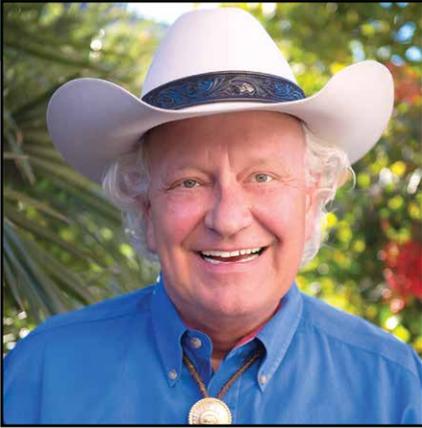
For I now see the life it gave me,
In the ash and twisted tin.
It wasn't just a barn you know,
When a little boy stepped in.



Keith Ward, Vilas, NC – I grew up on a farm in the mountains of North Carolina near Boone. We raised beef, hay, tobacco, pepper and various other vegetable crops, and also saw milled. Horses have always been a part of my life although we didn't have much time for "pleasure horses" as my Daddy called them. Just about everybody had work horses or mules used for working the crops. After I was grown and had married that pretty little red head, I quit farming and went to work in law enforcement. I kept cattle and horses as a supplement to my income (Policemen don't get paid much around here!). I quit police work after twenty years and now make my living as a "dude wrangler." I own and operate a guided trail ride business called Dutch Creek Trails. I have been writing poetry since my childhood. My background has given me lots of inspiration for my poems. Some are purely fictional and some are based on true events that have happened to me. I think I like the fictional ones best because I am always surprised by the ending.

In the **CROSSHAIRS**

Rex Allen, Jr.



Blessed with a golden voice and a true dedication to his music and career, Rex Allen Jr. is the consummate actor, singer, songwriter and entertainer. Allen grew up in a show business family. It could be said that he was destined to enter the world of entertainment. And so he did! It is a privilege for the *Western Way* to spend time chatting with Rex, Jr., and to share it with you!

The Western Way: Today *The Western Way* is honored to get to spend some time with country and western music superstar Rex Allen, Jr. Thank you for giving of your time, Rex.

Rex Allen, Jr.: It's so good to talk with you, and thank you for the compliment!

TWW: Is there an adjustment that has to be made as one grows older and realizes that he's the son of a well-known celebrity?

RA: Not really. There seem to be as many questions about my father as there always have been. I had a question on my Facebook page not long ago confusing me with my dad! I guess that's age! So far I haven't had to make any adjustments.

TWW: Of course, now you're the well-known celebrity. Have your sons experienced some of the same feelings you did as they've recognized who their father is?

RA: That's a good question! Yes all three of my boys have had that happen. My twin boys live in LA and get to hang out with the industry people out there. They have both told me stories of how people say to them "Your Dad is Rex Allen Jr.?! WOW! I love his music." Pretty cool.

TWW: When did you know that you wanted to be a full-time performer?

RA: I feel I never really had a choice as to what I have become. The story is that my parents had an argument on how to raise the first two children - me and my brother Curtis. My mom wanted us to be raised like Hollywood kids and hang with the doctors and lawyers, and my dad wanted to raise us in the entertainment business on the road. They compromised and my dad took me on the road, and brother, Curtis, stayed close to the house. I have never known anything but entertaining and have no complaints; it's been fun. I have friends all over the world.

TWW: Did you ever think you'd want to go into acting full-time - following in your father's footsteps? Like Harry Carey, Jr. did? Or the Carradines?

RA: I actually tried the acting business right after High School and for a year after I got out of the service when I was working the Country and Western Clubs in Southern California. My dad said to me "You need to be a singer first like me and go back to acting later." I moved to Nashville and never looked back. Acting may still be in my future; ya never know.

TWW: The first recording of yours that we ever came across was called "Today's Generation." It seems like it was more of a folk-styled album. Had you turned 20 yet when you recorded that?

RA: That was the first album I ever did! I was signed to Shelby Singleton's Label SSS in Nashville. My roots are western, but I sang a lot of Folk Music - had a folk group in High School called "The Townsman" and a rock band called "Saturday's Children" for which I started writing songs. SSS let me record them. Pretty immature album really! Though I was raised with the music of Stan Jones and Bob Nolan, I also was influenced by the Beatles! My writing at that time in my life was confused and lacked direction, I think. It wasn't until I moved to Nashville and began my schooling with Allen Reynolds, Jack Clement, Bob McDill, and Norro Wilson that I found out how to write a song.

TWW: How did you break in with Warner Bros. Records? We're thinking you recorded about nine albums on that label with some really excellent production of some really excellent songs from some really excellent songwriters.

RA: The time I was on Warner Brothers in Nashville was the most creative time in Country Music. Artists had complete creative control. Norro Wilson was the finest producer I had. He gave me complete freedom in the studio. He didn't even come to most of the

Continued on page 24

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**Patty Clayton** will be releasing a new single around the first of the year titled "Swingin' On A Gate." The song is a western swing number she wrote about a year ago. It will be released on her label Cimarron Wind Music and will be available in CD and download formats. Visit www.pattyclayton.com for more information.

...Canadian singer/songwriter **Ian Tyson** is recovering from open-heart surgery at his Longview, Alberta, ranch. The 82-year-old writer of hit songs like "Someday Soon," "Four Strong Winds," and "Summer Wages" plans to continue his dual career as rancher and singer.

...**Ron Christopher** will release a new album in January titled *Into the West*. It has been seven years since his last release, *Silver Screen Heroes & Other Legends*. The new album will contain eleven new original songs.

...Colorado cowboy singers and poets **Tom and Donna Hatton** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September. Eight days later, while performing at the historic Imperial Hotel Gold Bar Theater in Cripple Creek, CO their daughter invited a lot of friends to surprise them as an anniversary gift from the kids.

...2010 Grand Master Fiddle Champion **Justin Branum** has joined the **Sons of the Pioneers**. He began playing with the historic group in August for their fall touring dates.

...In November, **Jennifer Lind** released a Christmas album titled *Christmas State of Mind*. The album holds a variety of Christmas classics, western, and folk songs.

...**Gary Allegretto** was hired by Mychael Danna (Golden Globe/Oscar/Emmy award-winning music composer) to play harmonica on a track for the Disney Pixar animated movie *The Good Dinosaur*. Watch for a dinosaur playing a harmonica around a campfire in an old west scene; that's Gary's harmonica you hear in the soundtrack.

...**Chuck Cusimano** reports that he's hoping to have a new album out before the end of the year. Things have slowed the project down, but he is still optimistic that it will be finished soon.

...The Colorado Country Music Hall Of Fame honored **Peggy Malone** as their "2015 Legend Of Legends Female Vocalist Of The Year." And in October, Peggy finally got to see her

daughter, Beth, in the Tony Award-winning play "Fun Home" on Broadway.

...**Carol Markstrom** and co-author Doug Hocking had an article accepted for *Wild West* magazine titled "Certain Death in Doubtful Canyon." It describes a perilous route through late 19th Century Apache country aptly summed up in this line: "For Chiricahua country travelers, it was a reliable place to find good graze and water—the question was whether one could make it through alive."

... "Rhyming the Range," the latest poetry book from **Yvonne Hollenbeck**, won the top award for a poetry book at the recent Will Rogers Medallion Awards in Ft. Worth, TX. At the same time, her husband Glen was in Las Vegas at the National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals where he placed in every round and finished runner-up in tie-down calf roping.

...**Andy Hedges** will be releasing a new record in January just in time for the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering. The album will be titled *Cowboy Songster, Vol. 2*.

...**Ernie Sites** and **Waddie Mitchell** were among six individuals who recently received the Cowboy Keeper Award from the National Day of the Cowboy.

...Southwestern singer/songwriter **Paul Kelly** was selected to perform at the International Bluegrass Music Association's World of Bluegrass Songwriter's Showcase in Raleigh, NC in October.

...**Brenda Libby** has gone back to her country roots with her latest album *Sassfras Roots*. Sadly, Brenda reports that she lost her brother and close pal in November. Navy veteran Ray Libby lost a tough battle with colon cancer and subsequent surgeries.

...In November, **Mikki Daniel** was filmed by Ride TV, a Cable TV channel, highlighting her musical performance and horsemanship to be used as a commercial that will air sometime in 2016. Mikki was also in the top five nominations of the 2016 Ameripolitan Music Awards for Western Swing Female. Winners will be announced in February.

...**Miss Devon & the Outlaw** are working on a new cd titled *That's What I Like About Miss Devon & the Outlaw* to be released in 2016, the 10th anniversary of their beginning to sing together. Meanwhile, 2016 marks the 20th anniversary

of **Chuck** and Devon Dawson's involvement with Cowtown Opry, the non-profit Western music mentoring organization in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District. The Opry will honor **Red Steagall**, at their annual gala fundraiser in March.

...While visiting Nashville, TN, in October, husband and wife duo **The Buckaroo Balladeers** (J.C. & Sonja Needham) recorded a song at the historic Ryman Auditorium for release on a future project.

...**Cindy Smith** has authored several books including a historical account of Contention City, AZ called "Time In Contention." Her latest article about Contention City can be read in the December issue of *True West* magazine; it's titled "Tombstone's Competitor."

...**Susie Knight** has released a new CD titled *Fillin' Tanks*. It is a compilation of all-original western poetry and features guitar accompaniment by **Jimmy Lee Robbins**.

...**Doug Figgs, Mariam Funke, and Clifton Murray** performed recently for the Governor of New Mexico at the home of State Representative Don Tripp and his wife Rosie. Governor Martinez and her husband arrived by parachute for the event.

...**Allen & Jill Kirkham** have their first grandson. Solomon Augustine Brummer was born on October 24th in Rapid City, SD to their daughter Megan Brummer and son-in-law Austin Brummer.

...**Mikki Daniel** acted as ambassador for Western/Western Swing music to the National Racing Industry and the

Governor of Indiana when she performed for the Grand Opening Breakfast, the big kick-off event, for the Performance Racing Industry Trade Show in December. Approximately 3000 motorsports professionals attended the breakfast.

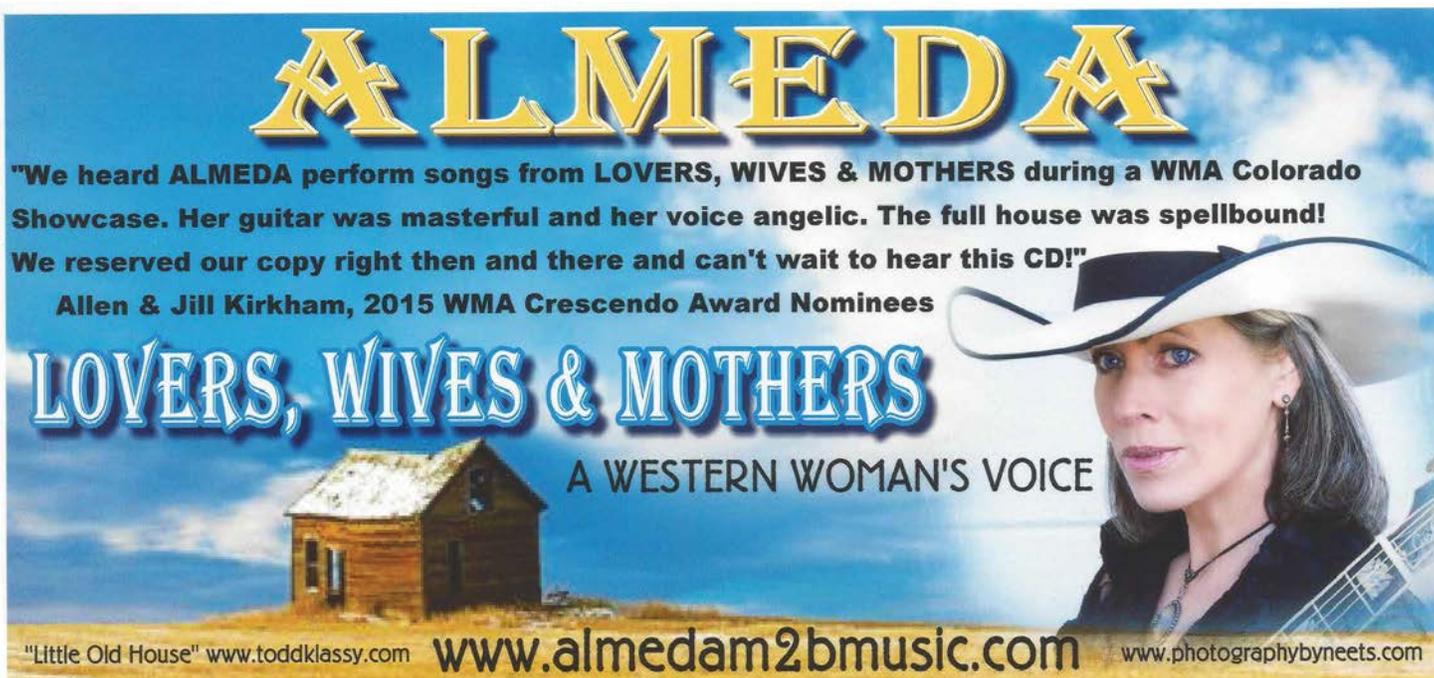
...**Janice Deardorff** was recently named director of Arts Arizona, a program committed to sharing our American western heritage with children in Tucson, AZ. This is a new program through Arts Express, a nonprofit entity committed to creating opportunities for children and adults to learn and experience the power of the arts. Arts Express is in partnership with the Arizona State Historical Society to present the Arts Arizona program for children grades 2-5 at the Arizona History Museum in February.

...The **Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers** with ventriloquist/magician Rob Watkins began their 12-week dinner show in Glendale, AZ in January. The show runs each Monday night through March 21st. For info, go to www.redhotrhythmrustlers.com.

...Singer/songwriter **Randy Huston** is featured in the current issue of the New Mexico Military Institute magazine *Sally Port*. Huston attended two years of high school and earned his two-year degree from the college which is located in Roswell, NM.

...At a CD release party at the Guitar Merchant, **Bob Thomas** released a new CD titled *A Cowboy's Revel*. The album contains eleven new original western songs.

...**Belinda Gail** and her husband **Robert Lorbeer** proudly rode with the Long Beach Mounted Police in the 127th Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena, CA. 



ALMEDA

"We heard ALMEDA perform songs from **LOVERS, WIVES & MOTHERS** during a WMA Colorado Showcase. Her guitar was masterful and her voice angelic. The full house was spellbound! We reserved our copy right then and there and can't wait to hear this CD!"

Allen & Jill Kirkham, 2015 WMA Crescendo Award Nominees

LOVERS, WIVES & MOTHERS

A WESTERN WOMAN'S VOICE

"Little Old House" www.toddklassy.com www.almedam2bmusic.com www.photographybyneets.com



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



A "RAT"ICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

A lady by name of Debbie told me this story. She said her husband's grandfather, George, owned and operated a slaughterhouse on the outskirts of a fair-sized town in central Oregon. This was big cow country and he didn't lack for carcasses to work on. It was also some time before PETA, EPA, SPCA and a lot of those other watchdog government agencies came into being, so it was alright for George's slaughterhouse to drain into the city sewer system. He had a big tallow vat where he stored his renderings until he sold and shipped them. When the vat was empty, the employee he had taking care of it kept forgetting to close the valve and rats would come up through the grate over the drain at night and invade the place.

Ol' George figured he'd found a solution to his rat problem. One day during the crews' lunch break, he dumped about five gallons of gasoline down that drain, stood back as far as he could and threw a match at it.

BOOM!!! It blew that grate about the size of a man-hole cover up to the ceil-

ing, then it clattered to the floor. It also blew out about a dozen rats with their fur on fire. Now a rat normally likes dark places but these rats were huntin' daylight. Some of them expired on the spot but the remainder made it out through the stock pens and into the neighbor's wheat field where they started a few fires. George went to squallin' for his crew, sorta interrupting their lunch. They fell onto those fires with boots, gunny sacks, cow hides and anything they could get their hands on, and managed to put 'em out. When it was all over George owed one of the hands a new Levi jumper.

A couple of days later, George ran into one of the town fathers at the coffee shop. The feller told him the city sewer system was all plugged up at the lower end and some strange and nasty goo was runnin' down the street. He said they'd checked all the drains coming in to it and his was the cleanest one they found.

Ol' George was a pretty fair poker player, ya' see, and his "poker face" stood him well that day! After that he closed the drain valve at night hisself. 



Do you have something to say?

The Western Way is always looking for your input. What about taking time to email two or three "short 'n' sweet" sentences that focus on the magazine to include in the "From the Trail" feature? Or, maybe you consider yourself a writer and have something a little more pithy to say that warrants larger space in a future issue? Send your comments/articles to weditor1@gmail.com for review and consideration. Here are some points to remember when writing:

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

Quality and Professional ALBUM PRODUCTION

MORE THAN 35 YEARS COMBINED EXPERIENCE!



MUSIKODE PRODUCTIONS

Marvin O'Dell, Producer
WRANGLER AWARD
CD PRODUCTION



Bryan Kuban
AWARD-WINNING ENGINEER
KUBE STUDIOS - MESA, AZ

- Full Service CD Production
- Customizable Packages
- Quality at Affordable Price

CONTACT Marvin
805-551-4649
musikode@aol.com



Chuck Pyle – 1945-2015

Chuck Pyle passed away November 6, 2015 of unknown causes while fly-fishing in his hometown of Palmer Lake, Colorado. He won high praise from both fans and peers alike throughout an inspired performance career of over 40 years. When reviewers first gave him the “Zen Cowboy” moniker, he decided to, as he says, “Always ride the horse in the direction it’s going,” and took the nickname to heart, shaving his head and blending his upbeat perspective with old-fashioned horse sense. He mixed infectiously hummable melodies with straight-from-the-saddle poetry, quoting bumper stickers, proverbs, world leaders and old cowboys. An accomplished songwriter, Chuck’s songs have been recorded by John Denver, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Suzy Bogguss. Country fans know him best for writing, “Cadillac Cowboy”, recorded by the late Chris LeDoux, and “Jaded Lover”, recorded by Jerry Jeff Walker. Since writing the theme-song for a PBS series called Spirit of Colorado, he attained local fame, and even sang for the opening session of the Colorado State Legislature.

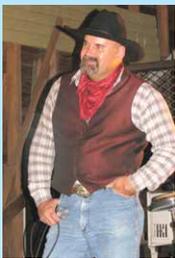


Jim Smith – 1921-2015

Jim Smith (James A. Smith of Greenfield Center, NY) passed away on April 8, 2015. He was 94. Well known in the Adirondacks, Jim enjoyed travelling with his wife Rose (and his Gibson Hummingbird) to the WMA conventions for many years. He was a regular at the evening WMA jam sessions where he made many friends.

As a Corporal in the US Marine Corps, he was a tank mechanic in the Pacific during WW II, and was busy trying to repair a tank that had lost a track during a beach landing, just as the flag was being raised on Suribachi. As an Iwo Jima survivor, Jim enjoyed telling the story about the particular flag that was raised that day in a scene that became an American icon. The men were going to use a different flag, but the skipper on one of the ships instructed that a larger flag should be used because the original one chosen for the job was too small to be seen clearly. Jim, busy on the beach with all the shelling and desperately trying to get his tank off the beach, barely had time to watch the flag go up!

For over 50 years, until a few months before his passing, he enjoyed taking his Hummingbird to nursing homes and senior centers to sing Western songs, to the delight of the seniors in the audience.



Michael A. Whitaker – 1957-2015

Michael A. Whitaker of Buckley, Washington, died at the age of 58 years on November 2, 2015 following sudden cardiac arrest. Michael was born September 27, 1957, and raised in Burnett, Washington. He attended White River High School in Buckley where he played football and was a state champion in the 4x100 relay. After graduation, Michael started his career in commercial construction. He quickly became a superintendent at Clements General Construction, where he worked for nearly forty years. Michael was also an award-winning cowboy poet and published author. As a member of the group, Rockin’ HW, Michael regularly performed throughout the Pacific Northwest with his pards, Alan Halvorson and Morry Walter.

(Adapted from News Tribune (Tacoma), Nov. 6, 2015)



Lorraine Beth Wyant – 1960-2015

Lorraine Beth Wyant, 55, Sandia Park, New Mexico passed away Monday, September 14, 2015, from injuries sustained in an auto accident.

She was born on June 10, 1960, in Anderson, Indiana to Eddie and Judith (Detienne) Wyant. She graduated salutatorian from Daleville High School in 1978 and earned an associate degree in Veterinary Technology from Purdue University. She then pursued her dream of living in the Southwest. After a few years in Midland-Odessa, Texas, she moved to the Albuquerque area and became the Land of Enchantment’s “unofficial tour guide”.

An active member of the WMA since shortly after her arrival in New Mexico, she worked extensively in merchandising with Western Music star Michael Martin Murphey and helped with his Westfest shows and others predominantly in New Mexico and Colorado. She designed and ran the websites and newsletters for him as well as Austin Music Scene legends Bill & Bonnie Hearne. A talented flute player, she also got to furnish musical support for all of them on stage on numerous occasions. She also performed those duties for the Hearne’s musician/songwriter nephew Michael and helped him found and run his highly successful Big Barndance Festivals in Taos. She was returning from having worked the September Taos show when the tragic accident occurred. For the New Mexico chapter of the WMA she created the initial website and designed the chapter logo. Over the years she had frequently set up and run the merchandise tables for WMA performers. She was also an avid horsewoman and lover of the southwest culture who will be sorely missed.



FROM the TRAIL

An Open Letter to the WMA Award Show Music Cast

I want to send heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful musicians who were a part of the WMA Awards Show House Band: **Ernie Martinez:** mandolin; **Jerome Campbell:** thumbpicking guitar; **Jon Messenger:** rhythm guitar; **Johnny Neill:** fiddle, and lead fiddle on the three-part harmony of “My Heart Lives In Old Santa Fe” and the violins on the “William Tell Overture”. Johnny worked with the *wunderkinder* fiddlers; **Leah Sawyer** and **Hailey Sandoz** (it didn’t take much work - they caught right on...you go, girls!). That extra effort made the arrangements truly impressive; **Kristyn Harris:** upright bass; **Washtub Jerry:** washtub bass.

The WMA House Band Harmony Choir (did most of their very impressive selections *a cappella*): **Judy Coder** (who also did a magnificent job of heading the group); **Jennifer Epps;** **Audrey McLaughlin;** **Gale Rogers;** **Dawn Pett;** **Judy James.**

One of the jobs of the house band and choir was to provide short musical interludes while the announced winner in each category walked to the stage to accept the award. The band and choir also backed the WMA Song Of The Year Nominees who requested our help: Mikki Daniel: “She Could Ride”, and LeeLee Robert: “Wyoming, Jewel Of The West”. The nominees as well as the band and choir did a superb job with each of the songs.

The groups who participated in the pre-show: **The Wall-Eyed Moles** (aka **Call of the West** with **Jon Messenger**); **Joyce Woodson** with **Journey West**; **3 Trails West**; **Notable Exceptions.**

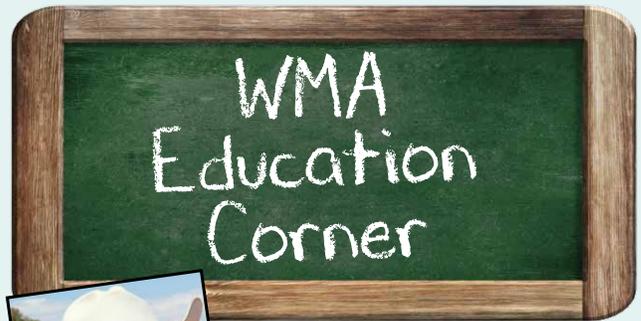


WMA House Band and Harmony Choir with special guests **James Michael, Leah Sawyer, and Hailey Sandoz.**

Every one of the musicians involved in the House Band/Choir did a magnificent job. I am

honored to have been a part of the evening. It was truly an example of Aristotle’s quote: “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”.

~ Jeanne Cahill



By Judy James

Does Presenting School Programs Really Matter?

I had the opportunity to visit with many of you at WMA this last November and share stories of education experiences.

One person I visited with was Janice Deardorff. She had an opportunity to speak for Career Days in an Arizona school district. She was assigned the Kindergarten classes and she was up to the challenge. Her complete story is on her Web site – www.janicedeardorff.com/why-do-you-sing/ – I encourage you to read it. In this article, she spoke of a little boy who asked her “Why do you sing?” She smiled and answered him – “I sing because it makes me happy to share music about the west, to share music that matters.” She went on to sing songs with them that involved them in singing and motions. Kindergarten classes can be a challenge, but Janice gets it! She sings and shares because it matters, and she makes her programs relevant to the age level.

Yes, it does matter – If we miss a generation, our history is gone. Thanks for sharing your story, Janice.

If you have a story to share, email me – judy@judyjames.com. 🐾

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

Chapter Update



ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: Yvonne Mayer
Steidl-mayer@msn.com

In October our chapter took part in Tucson Meet Yourself, an annual cultural celebration hosting over 100,000 visitors over a 3-day period. A dozen chapter members performed in our booth, while the Bill Ganz Western Band was awarded an Artistic Fellowship to perform onstage. Performers Janice Deardorff and Way Out West provided entertainment at the historic Empire Ranch located in Sonoita during the annual Round-Up held in November. Our information table was staffed by Yvonne Mayer, Ev Shaw and Glenda Larson. We have been invited to return to the Cochise Poetry and Music Gathering to be held February 5, 6 and 7. The first Gathering was held at the Apache Point Ranch in February 1993 and has been a major Sierra Vista attraction every year. Many chapter members have been invited to participate this year. On February 24, our chapter, sponsored by the Tucson Chamber of Commerce, will host a Meet and Greet at Monterey Court in Tucson. During the social hour, we will provide hors d'oeuvres and strolling musicians! Monterey Court is well-known in the Tucson area for providing live music in many genres. Following our Meet and Greet, David Rychener will provide evening entertainment. On February 25, we will take part in the Tucson Rodeo Parade. La Fiesta de los Vaqueros (the Festival of the Cowboy) is in its 91st year and is one of the top professional rodeos nationwide. Chapter members will decorate an historic wagon and sing and play while sitting on straw bales. What fun!

COLORADO CHAPTER (BRANDED WESTERN)

President : Floyd Beard
febeard@yahoo.com

The WMA Colorado Chapter attended, participated, and learned at the WMA National Convention in Albuquerque in November. Many performers and fans made the trek to the annual gathering, having a great time renewing friendships and meeting new acquaintances. Congratulations to many of the WMA Colorado Chapter members who were award recipients (learn more in the Awards Wrap-up in this issue): Dale Page, Mikki Daniels, Doug Figgs, Bill Barwick, Valerie Beard, Almeda Bradshaw, and Floyd Beard, Nicely done! Now rejuvenated, we are working on events for 2016. The WMA Colorado Chapter officer team is already gearing up to host WMA Colorado Showcases during 2016. These events showcase the WMA Colorado members with their talents, allow members to network and learn from each other, and get our members' names out to the general public. The WMA Colorado Chapter continues to honor their members who get involved with the Annual Top Hand Award. This is the member with the highest tally number of verified involvement activities promoting their Chapter and WMA as a whole. The 2015 Colorado Chapter Top Hand Award went to Valerie Beard. Congratulations Valerie and thank you for all the work you put into the WMA Colorado Chapter and to the Pikes Peak Gathering in particular. Speaking of the WMA Colorado Pikes Peak Gathering, be watching for information regarding the date, location, and other details as this exciting new event heads into its second year.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Lauralee Northcott
Lauraleenorthcott@gmail.com
The Columbia Chapter met on October 18, 2015, for their annual meeting, elections and showcase. Using a historic

theater in Bingen, Washington as the venue brought a record crowd to hear the great poets and singers of our Chapter. Duane Nelson, Jinny Cash, Lynn Kopelke, Barbara Nelson, Tom Swearingen, Panhandle Cowboys, Larry Wilder, Hanson Family Singers and Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band entertained in a rocking two hour show! New officers were pressed into service, huh....I mean



elected! The chapter made their presence felt in Albuquerque for the National Convention. Supporters and performers alike descended on the unsuspecting New Mexico hamlet and celebrated with chapter members Notable Exception, The Hanson Family Singers, and Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band all being award recipients.

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Jeff Davidson
jeffdavidso@ksu.edu

The quarterly meeting in October featured a "lunch n'learn" presentation by Ken Spurgeon, executive director of Lone Chimney Films, a film company devoted to bringing history to life through documentary films. His discussion focused on the importance of the musical score that goes with any film. Each movie or film has a certain "magic" that we see on screen, but we also hear that magic as expressed by the accompanying music. It was a great presentation. The Chapter voted to rent a portable stage from Roger Ringer when an

Continued on page 22

Chapter Update

Continued from page 21

event warrants the need for a stage. The stage will provide a performance platform for outside events. The Chapter has begun preparing an entertainment venue for communities along the historic Chisholm Trail. 2017 will recognize 150 years since cattle began trailing from Texas to Kansas. Filming has begun on the KS chapter local TV show called Cowboy Up. It will feature western entertainers, both poets and musicians, many of which will be WMA members. Orin Friesen,



chapter treasurer, was elected to the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame in the entertainer category. He currently is the bass player and manager of the Prairie Rose Ranger band, and is operations manager of the Prairie Rose. He joins Geff Dawson and Barry Ward as chapter members who have received this award.

MONTANA-DAKOTAS CHAPTER

President: Linda Hausler

openrange@wispwest.net

Exciting news from Greg Hager. Greg reports "I've received a professional endorsement with the Emerald Guitar Company in Ireland." Congratulations to Greg on his Guitar endorsement! Also, congratulations go out to chapter member, Almeda Bradshaw, for winning the Pro Division of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter Poetry Jackpot at the Convention! The WMA Montana-Dakotas Chapter sponsored a WMA Showcase during the WMA Annual Convention at Garduno's Of Mexico Restaurant & Cantina, just down the street from the convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Almeda Bradshaw planned, organized, and led the WMA

Mon-Daks Showcase on Friday, November 13th. The Showcase was well-attended throughout the afternoon by patrons of Garduno's with lots of positive feedback from the community. Performers included WMA Mon-Daks Members Almeda Bradshaw, Allen & Jill Kirkham, Tom Hawk, Miss Devon and The Outlaw, Dan White -



the "Drive-by Troubadour", along with several talented and award winning WMA artists from sister chapters from across the country. The Montana-based High Country Cowboys also



participated. The WMA Mon-Daks Chapter was well-represented at the 2015 WMA Annual Convention with members Allen & Jill Kirkham, Almeda Bradshaw, Brad & Bonnie Exton, WMA DJ Jarle Kvale, LeeLee Robert, Devon Dawson, Jessie Robertson, Dan White, and Tom Hawk in attendance.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Joe Brown

jbrown2452@yahoo.com

The fourth quarter is one our favorite times of the year. We have a concert in the plaza at Old Town Albuquerque in October during the International Balloon Fiesta. November is when we have our National WMA Convention here in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Old Town Albuquerque also always hosts some of our WMA acts during the convention and this always adds tremendous excitement within the

area. We wrap up this quarter with our Christmas Concert. Again this year we had the Flying J Wranglers doing their "White Mountain Christmas Show" for us here in Albuquerque. This also wraps up my tenure as President of the New Mexico Chapter. It has been wonderful supporting this wonderful western music family. We are looking forward with great anticipation to where our new leaders James Michael, Betty Carter, Joy Burns and Cathy Figs carry us in 2016 here in the "Land of Enchantment."

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Susie Case

susieb.case@gmail.com

First a great big "well done" to the Oklahoma chapter's own Jeanne Cahill for being voted the WMA's "2015 Instrumentalist of the Year." Jeanne and Jerome, "Call Of The West," are



spending the winter in the Southwest. If you happen to be in Mulhall, OK on a Friday night, stop by Lucille's to see if Jim Garling is "in residence." Jim also performed at Byron Berline's "Double Stop Fiddle Shop" on December 19th. Donnie Poindexter with Steeldust will be performing in Ft. Smith, AR, January 23rd at a Chili Supper Benefit to support "The Old Fort Days Dandies," a group of young horsewomen who represent (and participate each year) in the Old Fort Days Rodeo in Ft. Smith. Dandies' members are chosen for their riding skills, horsemanship, and scholastic achievement. "A Little Farther West," Robert and Susie Case, perform along historic Route 66 on Tuesdays at The Beach House restaurant in Bristow, a place Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys used to frequent. They also entertain the vets at the Claremore Veterans' Center in Claremore, OK, the second Saturday of each month.

UTAH CHAPTER

President: Chris Mortensen

cwmort61@gmail.com

The Utah Chapter of the WMA has had many members volunteering a lot of hours lately. We had a large building for Utah WMA members to perform their music during the Utah State Fair in September. From 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, we entertained hundreds of fair goers on the last day of the fair. We are picking up new members on a regular basis, and these sorts of events help to pique interest in western music fans. Many of our members performed in November, at the Wayne Nelson Memorial Cowboy Gathering in Rupert, Idaho. Wayne was a well loved singer, songwriter, and poet, who possessed an amazing talent. He was also a friend to everyone, and was a great mentor to up and coming western performers. He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten. There was a special half-hour tribute to Wayne during the Friday and Saturday night programs in Rupert. Great jam sessions afterward, but again, it wasn't quite the same without Wayne. Congrats to Sam DeLeeuw on winning yet another Female Poet of the Year!

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

Dale Page, President

okiecowboypoet@gmail.com

The WMA-WW Chapter had several members show up at the 2015 WMA Convention in Albuquerque, NM. Congratulations to Dale Page, 2014-15 WMA-WW President, winner of the 2015 WMA Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year-Once We Were Kings, and to WMA-WW Past President, Sam DeLeeuw, winner of the 2015 Female Poet of



the Year. Also, congrats to WMA-WW member, Mikki Daniel, 2015 WMA Swing Album-Cowgirl Swing. The 2nd WMA-WW Cowboy Poetry Jackpot entrants came out to represent the performers of cowboy poetry with excellence!

Congratulations to Valerie Beard, 2015 WMA-WW Jackpot- Novice Champion and Almeda Bradshaw 2015 WMA-WW Jackpot-Professional Champion. Congratulations to Floyd Beard, 2015 WMA-WW Jackpot-People's Choice



Award winner. Elections for new chapter officers took place after the Jackpot. The WMA-WW welcomes these members to serve in 2016: President: Geoff "Poppa Mac" Mackay, Vice President: Vic Anderson, Secretary: Mark Munzert,



and Treasurer: Teresa Burlison. The membership looks forward to the new ideas they'll bring to encourage the writers and performers of cowboy poetry.

YOUTH CHAPTER

Coordinator: Jane Leche

rangerjane@rocketmail.com

Congratulations to all Youth Chapter WMA Award of Excellence recipients this year! Mikki Daniel for her Western Swing Album of the Year Cowgirl Swing, Leah Sawyer for her part in the Harmony Trio and Youth Ensemble Harmony Awards, and in a tie for the Crescendo Award with Hailey Sandoz who also shared in the Harmony Youth Ensemble Award. The WMA Youth Chapter continues to do well overall. There were 14 out of the 33 Youth Chapter members, including 4 new members, in attendance at the WMA Convention this year. Kudos to Jennifer Epps, Judy Coder, Lauralee Northcott

(Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band) and Susie Knight for sharing their expertise at the youth workshops and to Kristyn Harris, recent "graduate" of the Youth Chapter, for putting together the Youth Stage performance. Thanks also to Stan and Alma Tussing for their continued support of the youth by hosting a fun pizza get together this year. Now that the Youth Chapter is well established there are some upcoming opportunities being planned to expand the program such as the Saddle Bag Program where participating Youth Chapter members can set up an account or a "virtual saddle bag" and work towards free admission or reduced costs to the annual WMA convention. Also, a performance career enhancement scholarship fund is being set up to help young applicants attend a music camp, hire a teacher or mentor, take classes at a music school or other appropriate performance career enhancement opportunities. Also, for continued outreach and growth, festival organizers are encouraged to host a youth stage or youth workshops at their festivals, and state or area Chapters are urged to Adopt-A-Youth by assisting with mentoring a local Youth Chapter member, providing performance opportunities or events for youth to participate in, and continuing to promote western music and poetry in local schools. More information on these opportunities will be posted soon on the WMA website, Youth Chapter page at: <http://www.westernmusic.org/youth-chapter>

Other Chapters Not Reporting:

California Chapter

East Coast Chapter

Wyoming Chapter

New Chapters Currently Being Formed: Missouri & Texas. If interested in more information on either of these new regional WMA chapters, contact WMA Executive Director: marsha@westernmusic.org 

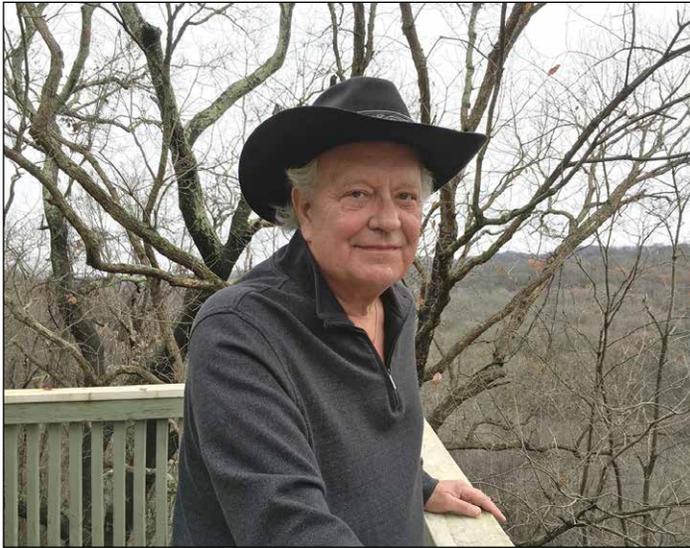
**JOIN US
ONLINE!**

www.westernmusic.org



In The Crosshairs – Rex Allen, Jr.

Continued from page 15



sessions! I would go out and find the songs and record them. I also wasn't afraid to record pop songs either. If you look at all my WB albums, you will always find a western song. Even the harmonies are like the Sons of the Pioneers. It is my heritage, and I brought it with me to Nashville and my records.

TWW: Is there a story around why Warner Bros. didn't make you part of their Warner Western label when that roster was formed?

RA: It is my understanding that Warner Western was Michael Martin Murphy's deal, and he didn't want anyone on the label that had had success in the Country field.

TWW: Is it significant in any way that the last album they did with you (*The Singing Cowboy*) was a cowboy album rather than a pure country album?

RA: There was a guy that had raised some money to do another Singing Cowboy movie and wanted me to play the lead. I wrote several songs for the film and sold the idea to Warner Bros. The film never happened, and I lost my record deal. In retrospect, though the album is one of the best I have ever done, it was a major career mistake and ended my recording career with major labels.

TWW: On that album is a song you wrote with your brother, Curt, and Denny DeMarco ("*Ride, Cowboy, Ride*") that has become a western music classic right along with songs like "*Cool Water*" and "*Tumbling Tumbleweeds*." I think we can safely say it's now one of the most-recorded cowboy songs of all time. When you hear performers do that song, realizing that the song has sealed your place in western music songwriting history, that has to feel pretty good.

RA: It's humbling really - my gift to the western music that has been a part of my whole life. You don't start out to write a classic song. It is performers and the public that make it a classic. Thank you to all who breathe life into that song.

TWW: Which one of you had the original idea for the song?

RA: I was writing songs for the ill-fated Singing Cowboy movie. I had started the song at home and took what I had to my offices in Nashville. Curt and Denny were there, and we finished it. Later I wrote two more verses and the complete version is on my album "*The New West*."

TWW: You mentioned that Warner Bros. pretty much let you pick your songs and record them, but what about creativity as your career progressed. Were there any issues between you and your producers at the label? Or did they pretty much let you take your music where you wanted it to go?

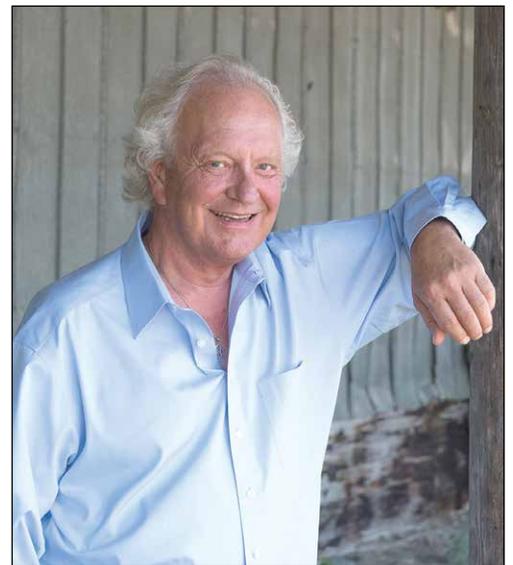
RA: I had some issues with Andy Wickum at Warner Bros. He wanted me to be more like my father, and I wanted to be me! The problem with Nashville is that the producers never went on the road to see what my audience enjoyed; so they tried to take me in directions that I didn't want to go. As an artist, we always battle for creative freedom. Some get it and most never do. When the Outlaw movement began, Stan Byrd who was head of promotion said to me, "Rex, we need to take you to West Texas and drag you behind a pickup for two days and then shoot publicity pictures." I said to him, "That wouldn't be ME, Stan! Why don't you sell ME and not someone I'm not." That was the beginning of the end for freedom in Country Music. Today they spend all their time at major labels trying to "design" artists. Sad really.

TWW: Were you still on the label when you began appearing on the "*Statler Bros. Show*"?

RA: No I was not.

TWW: And how did that come about? Did the Statlers want you in particular for their show, or was that decision made by their producers?

RA: Funny story! I had divorced, re-married, and moved to Tyler, Texas. The phone rang, and my wife said, "You should take this call. They say they are the Statler Brothers!" They offered me the slot as a regular on the show. I said, "YES!!" To this day, I have no idea how they found me!



TWW: Wow, it might be fun to find that out (laughs). Now, we're just guessing here, but we're suspecting that when *The Nashville Network* was sold, that pretty much meant that the *Statler Bros. show* would come to an end soon? Do you know? Is that what precipitated the show's demise?

Continued on page 28



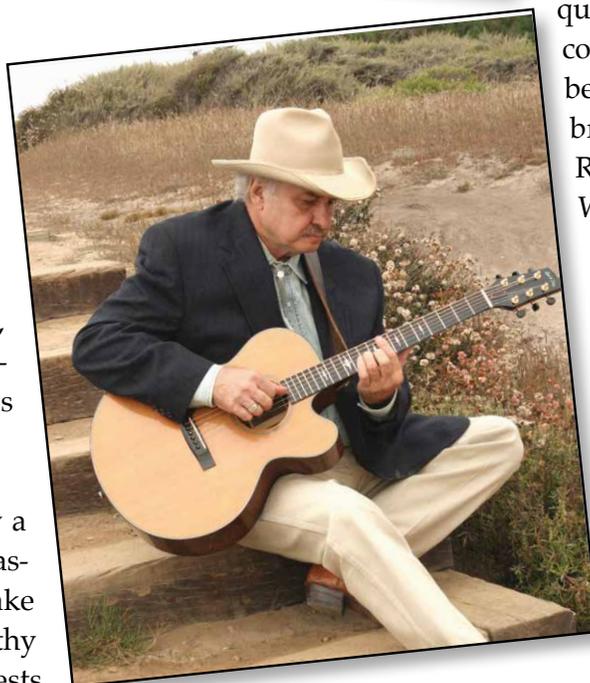
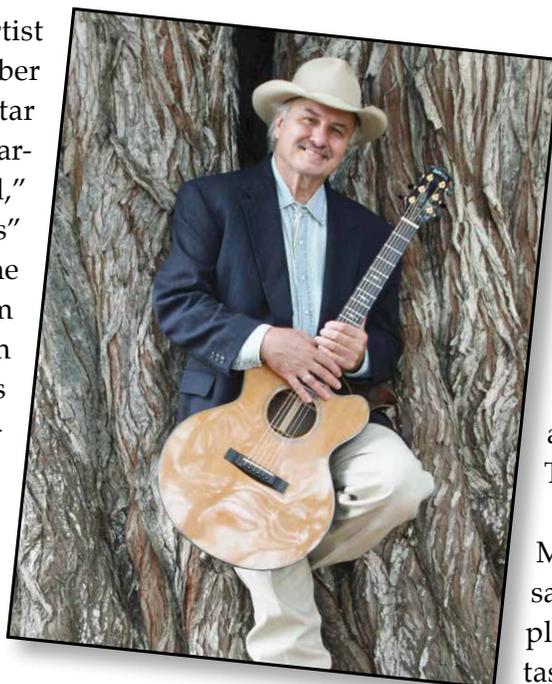
Prayer Request

from

Rich O'Brien

The multiple award winning artist and our own Hall of Fame member - Rich O'Brien, who Acoustic Guitar magazine called "The House Guitarist for the Cowboy Music revival," says "thank you, I am speechless" for the Cowboy Crisis Fund. The WMA was able to provide him temporary financial aid to see him through a difficult period in his life. Rich was suffering from severe carpal tunnel in both wrists. This fall, he had operations on his wrists, a month apart. After extensive physical therapy, he realizes, the surgeries were not successful. As such, Rich hasn't been able to perform as a featured guitarist, nor as a studio musician for some time. Being a lifelong "picker," he was dependent on the ability to play guitar. The loss of income has been significant. Rich being a frugal man, lived within his means and hasn't any debt. However, the loss of income made it impossible to cover the basic necessities of life.

Rich is going to be examined by a renown, 5-star hand specialist to assess what needs to be done to make him whole again. It will be a lengthy and costly process, however he rests



assured the Lord will provide. However, Rich would very much appreciate your prayers. Also, he remains ready, willing and available to help anyone who needs assistance in producing their next album. He is a humble man, however truth be told, he has produced or played on over 600 recordings. He can be contacted at: 4500 Country Road 805, Joshua, TX 76058.

Music historian Douglas B. Green said: "There is no one I'd rather hear play guitar than Rich O'Brien. His taste and musical sensibilities are exquisite. He has great technique, of course, but there is a vast difference between a facile technician and the brilliance and perfect feel that is Rich. He's a national treasure!" Well said Ranger Doug!

(This was submitted for print in the Western Way. Although most often help provided from the Crisis Fund is confidential, Rich O'Brien approved this write-up to convey his heartfelt "thanks." This is just one way your generosity to the Crisis Fund makes a difference. Used by permission.)



by Buck Helton

Oh, Shenandoah

Greetings all!

I'm writing this shortly after the 2015 WMA convention. If you missed it, start making your plans for the next one right now! This time out we are going to mine for golden nuggets in a river. Specifically, the Missouri. Shenandoah, or across the wide Missouri. is an extremely old folk song that has ventured far. From the canoes and flatboats of the French-Canadian Voyageurs, to the riverboats, to the great lakes. Out to sea, back to land where it became a popular ballad, doing time in both the Union and Confederate forces in the great war; and finally to become synonymous with the westward expansion.

Most musicologists agree that the Shenandoah mentioned is the famous Oneida Iroquois chief John Skenandoa, who lived from 1710 – 1816. A Christian convert, he was a friend of many of the early movers and shakers of America. Indeed, his sending of Indian corn to General Washington's troops at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777 saved many lives. President Washington is said to have named the Shenandoah River and Valley after him in gratitude.

The song, in its oldest written record (*The New Dominion Monthly* - April, 1876) tells of a canoeing voyageur, or fur trader, who had fallen in love with the chief's daughter. The chief forbids the relationship (*Chief Skenandoa supported the English over the French in the 7 years' war, and the French speaking Canadians were probably a little too close for comfort to allow for an alliance through marriage.*) And the trader leaves, heartbroken across the wide Missouri, never more to see his beloved.

Both the article and the excellent book, *Sea Songs and Shanties, collected by W.B. Whall, Master Mariner*, claims the lyrics therein reprinted were learned by the author before the Civil War. In point of fact, the earliest mention of the song (as Shenadore) though without the full lyrics mentions it as being written in 1820.

Tracing the circuitous route the tune has taken to its present status as a Western classic is beyond the scope of this small article. Though it was indeed popular during the westward expansion, it was Hollywood that sealed its association with the West forevermore. First in the soundtrack of the film *How the West was Won* in 1962, and then three years later in the 1965 Jimmy Stewart classic, *Shenandoah*, where it was used as the main theme. It was popular at the time to use older Public Domain works and repurpose them in Westerns. Probably the best example of this is the

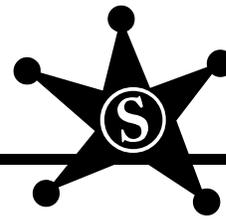
William Tell Overture, which I'm sure none of us can think of without visions of Clayton Moore's Lone Ranger running through our minds.

There are so many different adaptations of the lyrics over the years; the originals are lost to history. Below are the oldest printed lyrics from the aforementioned book by Capt. Whall:

Missouri, she's a mighty river.
Away you rolling river.
The redskins' camp, lies on its borders.
Ah-ha, I'm bound away, 'Cross the wide Missouri.
The white man loved the Indian maiden,
Away you rolling river.
With notions his canoe was laden.
Ah-ha, I'm bound away, 'Cross the wide Missouri.
"O, Shenandoah, I love your daughter,
Away you rolling river.
I'll take her 'cross yon rolling water."
Ah-ha, I'm bound away, 'Cross the wide Missouri
The chief disdained the trader's dollars:
Away you rolling river.
"My daughter never you shall follow."
Ah-ha, I'm bound away, 'Cross the wide Missouri.
At last there came a Yankee skipper.
Away you rolling river.
He winked his eye, and he tipped his flipper.
Ah-ha, I'm bound away, 'Cross the wide Missouri.
He sold the chief that fire-water,
Away you rolling river.
And 'cross the river he stole his daughter.
Ah-ha, I'm bound away, 'Cross the wide Missouri.
"O, Shenandoah, I long to hear you,
Away you rolling river.
Across that wide and rolling river."
Ah-ha, I'm bound away, 'Cross the wide Missouri.

I hope you've enjoyed this saga, and I want to thank all of those who have written, called, or stopped me at convention to say how much you enjoy this feature in *The Western Way*. Suggestions for future columns are always welcome. Your author can be reached at Buck@Buckhelton.com.

'Til next time,
Happy Trails!



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

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

Good Morning, Cicelians!

For fans of the Northern Exposure-honoring website www.KBHR.net, that means “Jeff In The Morning” is on the mic! What?? You didn’t watch the groundbreaking TV series that ushered in a totally new style of writing, acting and plotting and caused the nation virtually (before “virtual” came) to come to a standstill for an hour after it premiered in the summer of 1990 to wildly enthusiastic acclaim??!! Then WHY am I even talking to you?

Seriously, for those of us who did find ourselves glued to every word and deed coming out of the fictional town of Cicely, Alaska (that “Cicelian” reference), we understand and we remember well. And some folks continue on with it today... not just in reruns, but in one of those lovely living pockets of fandom on the internet where time stands still and the world you choose never has to end. Career radio guy Jeff Brown was one of ‘em...uh, that is...us.

“About fifteen years ago, I had launched my own online show in tribute to the radio station in Cicely,” Jeff remembers, “when I heard about some other people who were into Northern Exposure. After meeting one of the deejays on their station, I felt I should join forces with them.”

You may recall...or not, depending...that the radio station on the TV show was Free Form to the max, and seemed to be hosted day and night by the enigmatic “Chris The DJ,” played to spacey perfection by John Corbett. Chris ran an impossibly strange mix of music, read from the Bhagavad Gita, quoted writers from Keats to Kerouac, but also served as a Greek Chorus commentary on things going past. The station owner, a hawkish millionaire and ex-astronaut, never knew “what the hell Chris was talking about!” But we did, and the Cicelians who tune in to www.KBHR.net sure do, when Jeff Brown assumes the honored duties of “Chris The DJ” (if not by that name) each morning at 7AM Mountain Time and helps to paint a Cicely of the mind.

“Western Music really fits well into the format,” Jeff says enthusiastically. “We play both Classic (Sons of the Pioneers & not a week goes by without some Marty Robbins) and current artists (Don Edwards, Juni Fisher, Dave Stamey and others) along with Western Swing (Asleep At The Wheel, for example)”

And it takes someone with Jeff Brown’s musical sensibilities and masterful touch to pull off mixing it together with classic Jazz (Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbeck); Blues from the 1940s; Folk; war era Big Band; classic and contemporary Irish (anyone for some Drop Kick Murpheys?); Country; Doo Wop and whatever else it may take to fill the bill! But Cicelians the world over are really getting into it, as is evidenced by the e-chat coming back.

Jeff Brown’s own background prepared him for this new programming challenge. A veteran of the radio wars for nearly twenty-two years, he ran top rated shows on KOLT-FM in Cheyenne, Wyoming where he worked from 1996 until departing in 2012. “The idea of getting the newer Western Music on our station is exciting. There really is some fantastic stuff that is deserving of airplay...current singers and songwriters that otherwise might not get heard!” Frankly you can rest assured that Jeff’s enthusiasm for Western Music will not be allowed to slacken, either. His dad just happens to sit on the WMA board...Joe Brown!!

Another element that has always been important to Jeff to include (partly because of his own heritage) is Native American. “From the first station I started online fifteen years ago, I have made sure that Traditional and Contemporary Indian music was an element. I would run Powwow reports about events, news and public service announcements intended to be of benefit to the community.” And, as many of us have maintained for years, the Indian story is also part of the Western story.

Jeff’s first show on the Northern Exposure website www.KBHR.net premiered on October 19th, 2015, but already the fit is natural and rewarding. It’s all-volunteer radio, but sometimes there are great rewards that are banked in the soul.

To submit music or poetry for play consideration, send it to Jeff Brown, c/o 4304 Condesa Dr., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114.

Trivia bit: Did you know a real Alaskan town was the model for Northern Exposure’s Cicely? It was the very remote village of Talkeetna. The show was actually filmed in the more climatically co-operative state of Washington.



In The Crosshairs – Rex Allen, Jr.

Continued from page 24

RA: I knew the day it was announced that it was over for TNN. Gaylord was a numbers guy, as is CBS. They don't care about their audience - only numbers. TNN was in 58 million households, and that was what they bought. Today Spike TV is still not as popular as TNN was. When "The Statler Brothers Show" and "Yesteryear" were on TNN, we still hold the record for being the highest rated Cable Television Shows in Cable history.

TWW: *So did you suddenly realize, "Hey, I'm out of work?"*

RA: I had a job!! I was doing a show at The Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas – "Gone Country." In the middle of the Vegas show, I went back to Nashville to do the final season of "The Statler Brothers Show."

TWW: *There was a really fine singer on that show named Ronna Reeves. Any idea what she's doing since the show?*

RA: She was not on the show with me. I have no idea where she is.

TWW: *Of your country music hit songs, do you have one that's a favorite? Around here we especially like "Goodbye," "I'm Getting Good at Missing You (Solitaire)" and "No, No, No."*

RA: I like "It's Over" most.

TWW: *And that's another one that you wrote – a great song, by the way! We thought "Cat's in the Cradle," that so-poignant Harry Chapin song, was an interesting choice for you. Was it accepted well by country music audiences?*

RA: The entire "Cats in the Cradle" album is one of my best. It was a concept album. People request the song all the time.

TWW: *You seem to be the last connection to cowboy/western music as far as commercial music goes. Garth Brooks did a few cowboy/western songs but not to the extent that you have done. Does this mean that cowboy/western music – songs with pure cowboy or western lyrics – will probably never be heard commercially again?*

RA: I believe that music, like life, goes in circles. Western music will come again with a major artist like Garth. We have to be patient and continue to sing what is in our hearts 'til that happens again.

TWW: *We hope you're right about that. You've been at this a long time. What drives Rex Allen, Jr. to continue to produce and perform excellent music for audiences?*

RA: The music first; the people second. I have always believed that there is no such thing as a bad audience, only a bad entertainer! Music has always been my life, and I'll sing what makes me and you happy for at least another two years. My plan is to stop performing in 2017. I'll record though as long as I can sing!

TWW: *Well, there are going to be a lot of folks who won't like hearing that you plan to stop performing. What will the future hold for Rex Allen, Jr. then?*

RA: I am going to go to Ireland to explore the roots of western music. That is where "Streets of Laredo" came from!

TWW: *As you know, a lot of what we call "Hollywood Kids" get messed up in one way or another – some of which seems to be influenced by the rather unusual environment in which they grow up. How did you avoid those pitfalls and keep your feet on solid ground, thus enabling you to go on to a very productive and successful music career?*



RA: I didn't grow up in Hollywood. I grew up in the cities and towns my father performed in. I would brag to my friends that I had been to every town west of the Mississippi River before I was 16. That is where I grew up.

TWW: *Would you like to educate our readers about your own children? Their ages and what they seem to love doing these days?*

RA: My three sons are doing well! Wyatt, my oldest, is now 35, and he and his wife Rachel have given me two beautiful grandchildren. Cody and Logan, now 27, live in L.A. and are in the property management business. But that will probably change.

TWW: *Well, if you don't already know it, you are a very respected artist in the western music arena, but more than that, a very respected individual. We appreciate the work you've put into helping preserve western music and in encouraging other performers to set high standards for their work. You're admired for always performing in a highly professional manner. Thank you taking the time to answer a few questions today. We'd like to do it again as we think of some questions we forgot to ask.*

RA: I have taken western music to all parts of the world and the United States. It has been so rewarding to see the smiles on peoples' faces when western music brings back special memories. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me!

O.J. Sikes

Reviews



A Musical Note From OJ...



O.J. Sikes

In the fall issue of the *Western Way*, you may have discovered a strange typo in my review of *The Gene Autry Christmas Book*. I have no idea how it happened during the process of transferring the text between my computer, the editor, the layout people and the printer, but half of a sentence was missing from the printed version and the meaning was lost in the process, so I'd like to try again, briefly. In putting the book of Gene Autry's Christmas songs together, the editor discovered that the sheet music for many of the songs had disappeared. To deal with this problem, (and here's the way the text should have read): "...copies of 100's of broadcasts had to be found and cleaned-up so the music could be manually transcribed from Gene's performances on his *Melody Ranch* and *Sergeant Gene Autry* radio shows. The latter, his wartime show, had served as the channel through which Gene Autry's name began to be associated with Christmas music, long before 'Rudolph.'" The point the editors of the book wanted to stress was that, in the minds of his fans, **Gene Autry** had been associated with Christmas songs for many years before he recorded "Here Comes Santa Claus" and "Rudolph."

You may have seen that there's a review in this issue of a **Sons of the Pioneers** CD titled *The Lure of Tumbleweed Trails*. It's a CD I think should be in every Western music lover's collection, and there are a couple of personal stories related to one of the two LP's the CD contains that I couldn't squeeze into the review, so I wanted to tell them here:

In the summer of 1960, I saw the Sons of the Pioneers "in person" for the first time. It was near Colorado Springs in an outdoor setting, and early in the show **Pat Brady**



came driving over a hill toward the stage in his jeep, "**Nellybelle**"! Having seen the *Roy Rogers Show* on TV years before, I was impressed. But nothing was nearly as impressive as hearing the Pioneers hit the first notes of their theme song, "Tumbling Tumbleweeds." Right then and there, I became a fan!

I was working crowd control as part of an Order of the Arrow team of college boys at the National Boy Scout Jamboree in that beautiful mountain setting that evening, so there was no chance to talk with the Pioneers. But I wrote them a letter afterward, c/o RCA Victor, and they forwarded it to **Lloyd Perryman**, the group's leader. He sent a gracious reply which led to an interesting exchange of correspondence. I had no idea about their history; I just loved to hear that wonderful harmony, and I had no idea who Lloyd was. That was evident in my questions about who sang which solos on their then-new *Cool Water* LP (which I had bought as soon as I got home from Colorado).

During our exchange, I asked Lloyd if the group would consider recording a couple of songs I remembered hearing on radio or in films, "Adobe Hacienda" and "Along the Navajo Trail." Lloyd informed me that they were working on a new LP at that moment and it would include my requests! That LP was *Lure of the West*, one of the two LPs included on the new Jasmine label CD, so you can see why I was excited to see it!

Well, in my excitement, and with so much attention to detail, I ran out of space, so the second story will have to wait till the next issue. In the meantime, buy a copy of the CD and the story will mean more to you when you read it in the spring! 

To submit your CD for review, send to:

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

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

Questions? You can email O.J. at osikes@nj.rr.com

★ ★ ★

CINDY WALKER, VOL. 2: TRAIL DRIVIN'

Cindy Walker

BACM CD D 496



Most folks know that Cindy Walker was a great composer of country and Western songs. But did you know she also sang? She made a number of commercial recordings for the Decca and Jewel labels as a vocal soloist, and even more

radio transcriptions. Twenty-six of those transcriptions appear on this new BACM release.

Interestingly, she didn't write all of the songs on this disc, but she did compose quite a few (at least half) of them. It's also interesting that some of the song titles are not identical to the titles used when the same songs were recorded by others. For example, a song she wrote titled "Old Wrangler" is here, but is better known on Sons of the Pioneers transcriptions as "The Old Wrangler Dreams." And her "Song of the Cowboy," as it appears here, is known elsewhere as "Cowboy Serenade." But any confusion is easily resolved when you hear the music, as sung by Cindy Walker herself.

You'll hear her own renditions of "Hubbin' It," "Miss Molly," "Trail Drivin' (cross the Idaho plains)" & "Toodleumbo" plus quite a few you may never have heard!

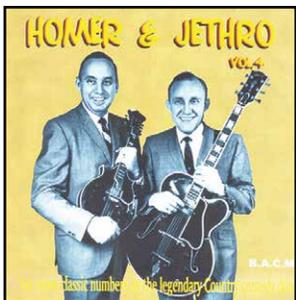
VenerableMusic.Com, phone [\(678\) 232-0268](tel:678-232-0268), or Amazon.com.

★ ★ ★

HOMER & JETHRO, VOL 4

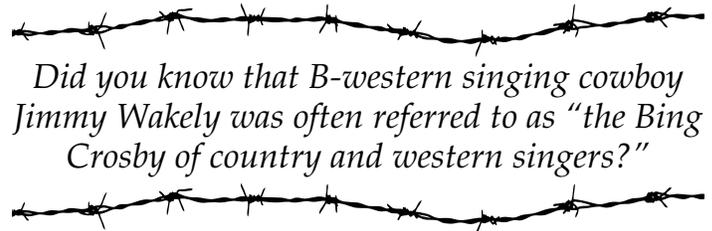
Homer & Jethro

BACM CD D 497



I wasn't aware of it and I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it, but the legendary country comedy duo, Homer & Jethro, recorded hilarious parodies of a number of Western songs for RCA Victor in 1960 and '63. The British Archive of Country Music located them and they appear on this

new CD of 28 recordings from those years. Not all are Western, six are Cy Coben compositions and there are others you'll be able to appreciate. "El Paso," "Oh Give Me a Home (where the buffalo roam, & I'll give you...)," "Down in the Alley" and many more get the Homer & Jethro treatment, and if you like to grin, this album will make it easy. Audio quality is first-rate and the



Did you know that B-western singing cowboy Jimmy Wakely was often referred to as "the Bing Crosby of country and western singers?"

musicianship is superb. Both men were accomplished musicians, and Jethro Burns has been referred to as "the Stephane Grappelli of the mandolin." Their musical talent shines on this collection, as does their wit. "Old Paint" has a surprise ending, and you can hear a bit of studio banter with producer Chet Atkins before they start "I Love Your Pizza." I was particularly interested in their take-off on "Streets of Laredo," titled "Streets of Weehawken," since Weehawken is just down the road apiece from my house, and their version is a hoot! Lots to enjoy here. Available from VenerableMusic.Com, phone [\(678\) 232-0268](tel:678-232-0268), or Amazon.com.



THE LURE OF TUMBLEWEED TRAILS

Sons of the Pioneers

JASMC D 3692



In 1960 and '61, the Sons of the Pioneers recorded the tracks that were to be used in their RCA Victor LPs, Lure of the West and Tumbleweed Trail, following on the success of their landmark LP, Cool Water and 17 Timeless Western Favorites. I had requested

that they record a couple of my favorites that had not appeared on the Cool Water album, "Adobe Hacienda" and "Along the Navajo Trail," and was delighted when I found that both were included on Lure of the West.

I was new to the music in those days, and the song selection on those two albums was magic. "Carry Me Back to the Lone Prairie," "Cimarron (Roll On)," "Silver on the Sage," "Wanderers of the Wasteland," "When the Bloom is on the Sage," "Hills of Old Wyoming," "Saddle Up!" and so much more, every one a gem! This new release contains all 24 songs from these two great albums, recorded in stereo.

The trio of Lloyd Perryman (tenor), Tommy Doss (baritone) & Dale Warren (lead) was augmented by the deep bass voice of Thurl Ravenscroft, who had recorded with the Pioneers for Walt Disney earlier and had also become the familiar voice of "Tony the Tiger" on tv commercials. These two albums were from guitarist Karl Farr's last sessions. He passed away on stage a short time later. Classic songs, masterfully done. Widely available and a "must" for every Western music fan.

★ ★ ★

THE VICTOR LABEL, VOL 2: CLASSIC OLD TIME MUSIC

Billie Maxwell, Jack Cawley's Oklahoma Ridge Runners, Big Chief Henry's Indian String Band, and others

B.A.C.M. CD D 498



When this CD dropped through the slot for review, nothing about it caught my eye. The recordings come from 1928 to 1930, and with one exception, the artists' names were not familiar. It's hard to find music from that era that is appealing (to me) or that is cleaned up enough that the

listener can actually hear it. But boy, was I pleasantly surprised! BACM has done a terrific job with this compilation of 24 songs.

As far as I know, Billie Maxwell was the first woman to record cowboy songs. Her dad was the leader of the White Mountain Orchestra and in 1929, she cut her first records a few days after the band recorded four tracks under the supervision of the legendary Ralph Peer. You can hear them all here, but Billie's vocals are not my favorite music on this disc! In those years, much of the music in that part of the country, at least

the music that led to the development of Western swing, was called string band music. There are two relatively unknown string bands on this disc that surely had an influence on what was to become Western swing, and fans of early swing are sure to enjoy their rare recordings. They are Big Chief Henry's Indian String Band (with six songs) and Jack Cawley's Oklahoma Ridge Runners (five songs).

If you like early Western swing, you'll enjoy listening to these granddaddies of the genre, and you may like some of the other old-time music here as well. VenerableMusic.Com, phone (678) 232-0268, or Amazon.com.

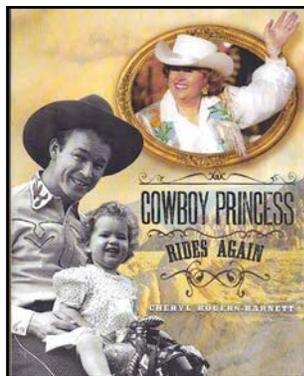
★ ★ ★

BOOK REVIEW

COWBOY PRINCESS RIDES AGAIN

Cheryl Barnett-Rogers

Riverwood Press 2015



Before I received my copy of this book, I got a call from my good friend Jerry West (from Waxahachie, Texas). He had just finished reading the book and told me it was "the most comprehensive, interesting and entertaining Roy Rogers-Dale Evans book I have ever read – and I have read them all!" Well, when Jerry West tells you something, "you can take it to the bank!" I got a copy,

read it (it was hard to put it down), and he was right!

The new book, 267 pages, in paperback, contains updated (sometimes alternate) versions of stories you may have read in Cheryl's earlier book, *Cowboy Princess*, plus lots of new stories and photos you probably haven't heard or seen before because they haven't been printed before. The style is pleasant to read as well as entertaining and informative. As Roy's first child, Cheryl was there all through the 40's and 50's, arriving before Roy Rogers became King of the Cowboys. She was also Roy's and Dale's care-giver in their last years, and encouraged by their primary care physician, she closed the book with a chapter on how they dealt with their complicated health issues in their last years (and, doubtless, prolonged their lives). It's a very valuable chapter for those of us of a certain age. Cheryl really brings all of those experiences to life in this new book.

Like Jerry West, I found lots of information I hadn't known and tons of photos I'd never seen, including stories and photos of the Sons of the Pioneers! It's fascinating and highly recommended! \$25 on Amazon.com or, if you want a signed copy, the price is \$25 plus \$5.75 for Priority Mail (insured and takes 2 to 3 days) or \$4.50 for media mail (no insurance and takes 10 to 15 days to arrive). Send your check to: Cheryl Rogers-Barnett, PO Box 577, Washington, UT 84780-0577.

Continued on page 32

YOU'RE ON THE
Road to
Success

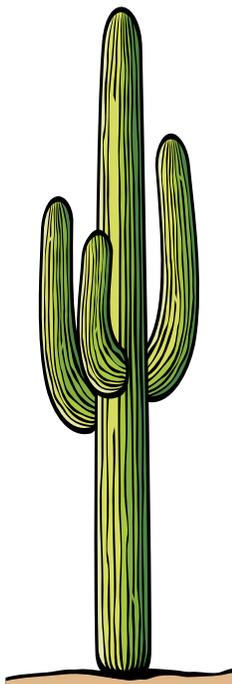
SHOW IT!
IN PRINT & ONLINE
WITH
CUSTOM
NO CANNED TEMPLATES
AFFORDABLE
YES - REALLY!
EFFECTIVE
YOU'LL GET NOTICED

Graphic & Web DESIGN

HirMon.com

Jacqueline R. Hirsch
Charles D. Montgomery
Lakewood, Colorado
HirMon.com

"You're THE musician's friend!"
- Theresa O'Dell / Musikode Productions -

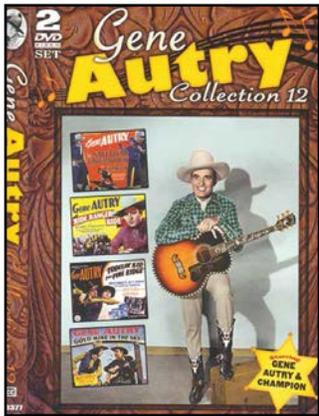


★ ★ ★ DVD REVIEW

GENE AUTRY, CHAMPION, SMILEY BURNETTE, ETC.

Gene Autry Collection No. 12

Gene Autry, Champion, Smiley Burnette, Frankie Marvin, etc.



The other day I was watching an old **Buster Crabbe/ Fuzzy St. John** movie (Devil Riders) I hadn't seen before when I noticed something very unusual about it: there were four uncredited musicians in it. The Crabbe/ St. John series of B-Westerns was not a musical series and music was usually limited to cue music, so I looked closely to see if I could recognize the

musicians. I spotted **Tex Williams & Smokey Rogers** in a quartet that was introduced as **The Big Slicker Band**. These two musicians were to be featured with **Deuce Spriggins** later in a series of short Western musical films with Tex Williams as the singing cowboy star, and you will surely remember them from the **Spade Cooley** and Tex Williams Western Swing bands.

The point of this story is that I found them, uncredited, only because I recognized them on-screen. **Gene Autry's** films didn't leave the viewers to guess; he often invited regional bands to appear in his movies, which served to bring the bands publicity back home as well as national exposure, but it also helped promote Gene's pictures all over the country. Not that they really needed it; his films were extremely popular, making Gene a super star before World War II, but his films were musical Westerns and he didn't mind giving Western musicians a boost via his films.

Texan **Art Davis** made a number of movies with Gene, and you may spot him in *The Sagebrush Troubadour* from 1935, but you'll find full bands in the other three films in this 2-DVD set. **The Tennessee Ramblers**, featuring **Cecil Campbell** and "**Fiddlin' Hank**" **Warren**, were in *Ride, Ranger, Ride* (1936) and *Yodelin' Kid* from *Pine Ridge* (1937). In spite of their name, the Tennessee Ramblers were based in Charlotte, NC on the far-reaching radio station WBT, and "**Fiddlin' Hank**" was to become a very popular staple as the comedic fiddler with the **Briarhoppers** on WBT in the 1940's. But the best known group in this set of four films is found in *Gold Mine in the Sky* (1938), **Pee Wee King & his Golden West Cowboys**. A few years later, King would have huge hits with "*Tennessee Waltz*" and "*Slowpoke*."

So with these films from the 1930's you get plenty of good music, both from Gene Autry and from his guests. Among the songs Gene sings are "*Way Out West in Texas*" & Smiley's composition "*On the Prairie*," Tim Spencer's "*Ride, Ranger, Ride*" & "*Song of the Pioneers*" plus "*Yellow Rose of Texas*," "*On the Sunset Trail*," "*Sing Me a Song of the Saddle*," "*Down in Santa Fe*," "*There's a Gold Mine in the Sky*," "*Dude Ranch Cowhands*" and "*As Long as I Have My Horse*," among others. Since Gene's Melody Ranch radio show had not started when these films were made, the bonuses on these DVDs include shows from other years, all with great music from Gene Autry and his cast of first-rate musicians. Another enjoyable bonus feature is a set of color TV wraparounds with each film, featuring Gene and **Pat Buttram** talking about old times and stories about the B-Western movie-making days.

Not only is the music in these films good, it sounds good because the Autry office has gone to great lengths to restore both the video and the audio tracks, so what you'll get on these DVDs actually looks and sounds better than it did in the theaters when it came out in the 1930's! And the price (four restored, uncut, feature length movies for less than \$17) is remarkably reasonable. To order, contact the Autry Museum Store by e-mail at mstore@theautry.org or call (323) 667-2000, ext.228. With this release, ALL of Gene Autry's 89 feature films are now on DVD! As Gene Autry DVD's and CD's grow scarce, prices tend to rise, so don't put off buying until later. And don't go for items from other outlets that look cheaper; they are usually not the restored, full-length versions you'll find at the Museum, and there's really no comparison in the quality. 🐾



Did you know that B-western singing cowboy Jimmy Wakely changed his name in 1920, dropping a second "e" in his name which was originally spelled Wakeley?





★ ★ ★ ★ ★

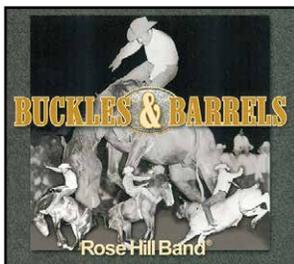
RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

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.

★ ★ ★

ROSE HILL BAND

"Buckles & Barrels"



For their fans, we can report that the newest release from the Rose Hill Band is a good representation of their live performance.

Believe it or not, that can't always be honestly said of a project.

On the recording the personnel consists of Scott Ortberg (vocals & bass); Linda Ortberg (vocals, guitar & percussion); "Rodeo Kate" Howell-Chapman (fiddle) and Mathew Walton (harmony, steel, banjo & guitar). Incidentally the all-around rodeo rider on the CD cover is the late Jack Wilkerson of El Reno, Oklahoma, a Lifetime Gold Member of the PRCA. The album is dedicated to his memory.

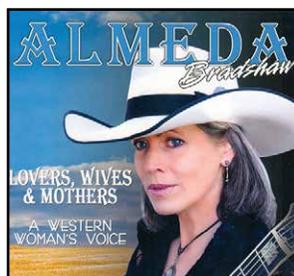
The Ortbergs are retired teachers who, in 1985, returned to their earlier profession and passion for music-making. They approach what they do with obvious enthusiasm that comes through. And if everybody's having a good time, performer and audience, that's all you can ask. Eleven tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Rose Hill Band, 262 County Road 4655, Rhome, TX 76078

★ ★ ★

ALMEDA BRADSHAW

Lovers, Wives & Mothers



Almeda Bradshaw is on a mission. All profit from this CD's sales goes to organizations that

work with victims of sex trafficking.

Featured are five Native American singers and eleven supplemental musicians, so you know immediately this release wants to say what it says in a special way. Almeda begins with a launch from a platform of safety. "Heavenly Here With You" is the song she wrote to express the love and trust she and her husband both feel. Then she plumbs deeper. This isn't to say the album's effect is a downer...anything but! It's hopeful in its reflection.

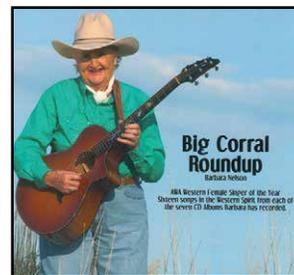
Two of Dave Stamey's probing portraits "Rosa May" and "Crazy Mary" are here and a third is answered with Almeda's "Davy Don't You Know." Some of Tom Russell's tough minded creations inspired this CD, and one of them ("Hallie Lonnegan") rests here. So does Ian Tyson's "Somewhere In The Rubies." Also Almeda's originals are top notch, so whether you measure by content or performance, this stands as her best release to date. Eleven tracks.

CD: (info through www.AlmedaM2Bmusic.com)

★ ★ ★

BARBARA NELSON

"Big Corral Roundup"



With this CD, the ever jazzy and swinging Ms. Nelson has done what other frequent releasing

artists might consider doing. She has released a CD to bring certain tracks back to the attention of DJs and fans.

Drawn from earlier releases comes this collection of predominantly swing favorites. The Western content includes "Ghost Riders In The Sky," "Ragtime Cowboy Joe," "My Little Buckaroo," "Ridin' Down The Canyon" and the curiously miscredited "Blue Shadows On The Trail" (Johnny Lange & Eliot Daniel, not Randy Newman) and "Out On The Western Plains" (Huddie Ledbetter, not Rory Gallagher)! Swingers and other standards include "Miles & Miles Of Texas," "Crazy," "St. James Infirmary" and more. "What A Wonderful World" is miscredited too, but that's somebody in another genre's job. Sixteen tracks, and a nice representative set for fans of Barbara!

CD: \$15 ppd from Barbara Nelson, 72521 Tutuilla Creek Road, Pendleton, OR 97801.

Continued on page 34



BRENDA LIBBY

Cowboy Classics II and III *"Sassafras Roots"*



According to the liner notes, this CD was inspired by remembered story fragments from (and

about) people who have gone on. Most of Brenda Libby's songs are not specifically Western by subject, but her tales of land and happenings on it can superimpose quite easily onto a Western setting or scene.

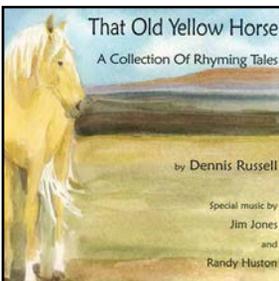
The specifically Western tracks here are "Saloon Girl's Lament" and the James Gang saga song "Sundown" (with Irl Hess as "Doc"), but others are defendable...such as "Runs Like A Scar," "Where The Dandelions Grow," "Cool" or "When May Came To Be." Libby is one of those expressive singers who can tip you to the existence of a back-story behind the words you're hearing. Also, I've said before she reminds me tonally of Belinda Gail, and that still holds true for me. Ten tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h US (info @ www.brendalibbymusic.com) from Brenda Libby, PO Box 447, Roach, MO 65787.



DENNIS RUSSELL

"That Old Yellow Horse"



"Dennis Russell" has professionally dropped the surname "Nazelrod," but rest assured. It's still him!

Most of the works included here are originals. Guest poems come from Bruce Kiskaddon ("Old Western Town"), Terry Nash & Mike Moutoux ("Cowman's Lot"), Joel

Nelson ("Inside War") and J.B. Allen ("A Better Job"). Russell's delivery occasionally runs toward a Ross Knox-style chant, and at other times is more toward the conversational.

For musical support on most of the tracks, Jim Jones provides guitar, dobro and piano and Randy Huston adds fiddle. One of the offerings is an unusual mix of recitation with singing ("I Will Ride Smokey Today") and the title track, "That Old Yellow Horse," is a sweet portrait of horse loyalty. Additional picks include "Bitter Sweet," "Just His Life" and "The Last Gather." Eleven tracks with two introductions.

CD: (info through www.cimarroncowboypoet.com)



DUANE NELSON

"Cowboy Lonesome"



This one was recorded with the continuity of a performance, which is a nice touch. Plus Nelson

has a very listenable, comfortable delivery.

The covers of other's works include Sunny Hancock's wonderful "Horse Trade," Stephen Vincent Benet's "Mountain Whippoorwill" (inspiration for "The Devil Went Down To Georgia"), Howard Norkog's "Old Campfires," Will Ogilvie's "Pearl Of Them All" and Badger Clark's "Commuting," "Glory Trail" and the famous "Annie Laurie/Bad Half Hour" with singing from Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band leader, Laura Lee Northcott. Another effective mounting is the one done for "Texas In The Spring" that is both recited and sung (by Coyote Joe Sartin & Little Joe McCutcheon).

Nelson's own works stand up admirably against the formidable competition, with "Cowboy Lonesome," "Requiem," "Softer Ground" and his first-ever poem "Shortcut" being particular standouts. Fourteen poems on twenty-three tracks.

CD: (info through calling 1 541-296-5953 or emailing shortcutpoetry@hotmail.com)

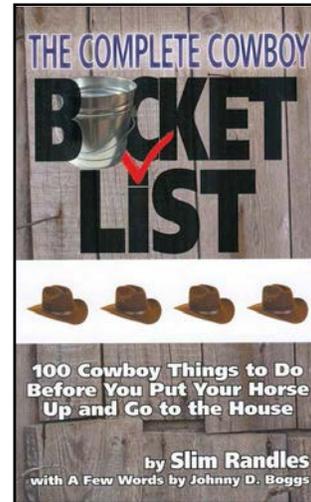


BOOK REVIEW

SLIM RANGLES

"The Complete Cowboy Bucket List"

ISBN: 978-1-936744-38-1



The author admits you'd need lots of time and a bucket suitable to feed Babe The Blue Oxtocarry the funds required, but if you visit the

Will Rogers Memorial in Barrow, Alaska and ride a Lipizzaner in Vienna, Austria...the rest are more centralized! Okay, there's also touring Iceland and Mongolia by horse of course.

The book is serious fun, and even if you can't accomplish a single one of the tasks, at least there's a quick education about them in one handy source as Slim count's 'em down. Personal anecdotes abound on everything from choosing a hat or boots, going to farrier, bull or bronc riding schools or cooking on a Dutch oven (which doesn't require a trip to Holland, tenderfoot!)

Full disclosure: Your humble servant was asked to furnish the list of Western songs for the book. Much had to be omitted, but I gave it my best shot!

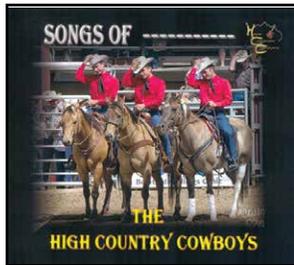
Trade Paperback Book: \$15.95 (U.S.) from Rio Grande Books (www.RioGrandeBooks.com), 925 Salamanca, NW, Los Ranchos, NM 87107-5647.



★ ★ ★

THE HIGH COUNTRY COWBOYS

“Songs of----“



This tight harmony Western trio made up of the brothers Kosel was pretty much the talk of the

2015 WMA Convention.

Very much a nod to the Sons Of The Pioneers, the High Country Cowboys now offer an album of “Yodelin’ Marty” Kosel originals. They easily could have come directly to us from the era of the B-Western singing cowboy. Most of the famous Nolan-Spencer-Carson kind of subject matter is present. In the liner notes, Kosel admits to the derivative inspiration for a number of the songs, so if they have a familiar feel, there’s the reason. It’s good to find young folks who embrace the classic harmony style, and the Kosels handle it with conviction.

A note...we’re getting close to being able to offer an entire evening made up solely of songs entitled “Stampede!” With the one here, I now count six!

CD: (info through www.thehighcountrycowboys.com)

★ ★ ★

ÓGA

“Fingerprints”



ÓGA is Hailey Sandoz (fiddle & harmony vocals) and Joseph Carmichael (guitar, Roland

V6-88, bass & bodhran). Lead vocals here are provided (when called for) by guest artists Mikki Daniel & Seth Russell (on mandolin as well). Four additional fine musicians complete the assemblage: Kendall Rogers (piano & piano-accordion), Blaine Russell (harmony vocals), Martin

McCall (drums & percussion) and Nathan Phelps (upright bass).

“Fingerprints” is a wonderfully sophisticated Gypsy Swing album... particularly for young performers (a caveat they are doubtlessly growing sick of hearing). Just let the people play, for cryin’ out loud! And, brother, how they play!!! They take Jazz, Swing & Irish/Scottish reels to new fields. It is a listening and dancing joy from stem to stern. There are only nine tracks on the album, but with the extended lengths and the sheer astronomical quality of the performances, no way will you feel cheated with this one. Highly (or “Hailey”) recommended!

CD: (info through www.oga-music.com or www.HaileySandoz.com)

★ ★ ★

PRAIRIE MOON

“Under Western Skies”



The latest from the Western harmony group features five nice originals, including two of the album’s

pick tracks “Singing My Way Down The Tucson Trail” and “Pokey.”

Picks among the collection’s cover songs include David Ball’s “Texas Echo,” Joy Gray’s “All The Old Cowboys,” the Samuels/Powell/Whitcup classic “Give Me My Boots and Saddle,” Red & Danny Steagall and Ace Ford’s “Red River Rose,” Nat Vincent & Fred Howard’s “When The Bloom Is On The Sage” and “Dear Old Western Skies” (omitting its principal writer Smiley Burnette in crediting Gene Autry). Also “Cross The Brazos At Waco” is attributed to Billy Walker, who hit with it, but it’s actually a creation of singer/songwriter Kay Arnold.

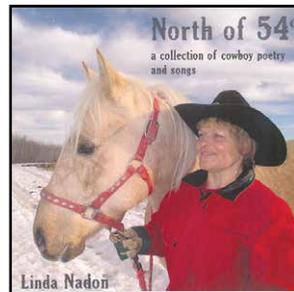
Here is a nice collection with smooth harmonies and tight production. What more do you need?! Twelve tracks.

CD: \$15 ppd from Prairie Moon, 4505 Nassau Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

★ ★ ★

LINDA NADON

“North of 54 Degrees”



I don’t recall coming away from hearing a CD by poet who focuses on family ranching with more of a clear-cut sense of

the family than this one provides. That’s a convoluted sentence, but it’s a big concept to try to put across.

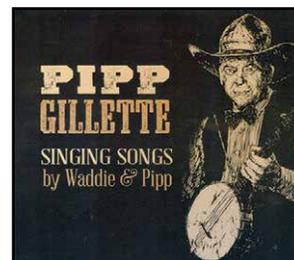
Linda Nadon pretty much writes about the kind of workaday ranching experiences that Yvonne Hollenbeck embraces. She has a feisty, credible delivery well suited to her perspectives. As we move from experience to experience and memory to memory, we get a feeling of place, neighbors and tempo. We know her husband Larry, her adult kids (who make appearances). We hear about and then meet her son “The Rodeo Man” when he chats with us and sings (well) Marty Robbins’ “Cowboy In The Continental Suit.” The music accents and live audience clips provided by brother/producer Rocky Lackner provide interesting coloration. It’s an intriguing visit. Note: The numbers don’t line up with the list on the jacket...and one poem isn’t listed there at all. Nineteen tracks.

CD: (info through l.nadon@hotmail.com or write PO Box 2521, Meadow Lake, SK, CANADA S9X 1Z6)

★ ★ ★

PIPP GILLETTE

“Sings Songs of Waddie & Pipp”



Occasionally when I’ve used the term “rustic,” I will confess it’s been a synonym for something

else. With the ol’ master Pipp Gillette, I mean it to say “true,” “authentic” and “Undisputed King Of It” to boot!

Continued on page 36

As The Gillette Brothers, Pipp and his late sibling Guy became two of the real cowboys' go-to guys for music that gave voice to their thoughts and lives. For this first solo release since Guy's passing, Pipp could not have teamed with anyone creatively better attuned than Waddie Mitchell. The effect is that Pipp was just casually recorded somewhere by a John A. Lomax type, singin' up a storm. No fuss, no muss. Picks include "It Could Have Been Worse," "Myrtis," "I'm Happy," "Middle of Nowhere," "Dogs Bark In The Night" and the spoon rhythm-accompanied "Sentimental Toast." I feel like giving one to these guys.

Ten tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$4.95 s&h (TX orders add \$1.24 state tax, please) from Big Daddy Records, 215 S. 3rd St., Crockett, TX 75835.

NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS

"New Day"



Lordy! What a fine album this one is!

It's both the range of material found here and the sheer conviction of delivery that really sets apart this debut release from the ladies known as "Notable Exceptions."

Long-time favorite Judy Coder joined Washington's Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band and, from it, has found true harmony with one of its longtime members Jennifer Epps. The result is a treasure. Friendly or forceful, joyous or cautionary...the harmonies of Coder & Epps embrace it the full gamut.

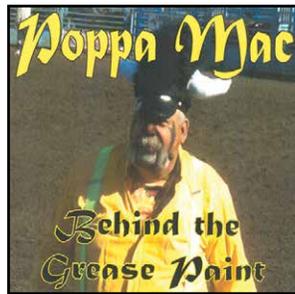
A key to the adventure is found in the liner notes for one Western warhorse they did see fit to include: "There's risk in covering such well-known material!!" When did you last hear THAT sentiment expressed around the WMA??!

Picks include Patty Clayton's marvelous "Red Buffalo," the Quantrill Raider tale "What Jacob Reilly Saw," Richard Elloyan's "The Weaver"...and basically the remainder of the CD!!

CD: (info through [www. NotableExceptions.com](http://www.NotableExceptions.com))

POPPA MAC

"Behind The Grease Paint"



Admittedly we're going back a little farther in time than usual to pick up this 2013 release for review.

Canadian poet "Poppa Mac" Mackay has been a real life rodeo clown or, more accurately, a bull-fighter or rodeo protection athlete. Called the most dangerous job in the world in the world's biggest sport on dirt, the occupation this guy chose meant he saved lives every time he worked. Even ER doctors can't make that claim.

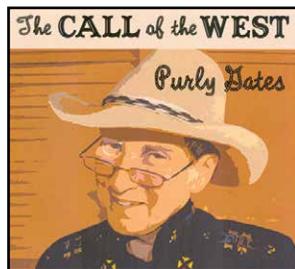
The perspectives given here were gained up close. REAL close! As is his wont, Poppa Mac most often prefers to bring chuckles or at least smiles of recognition in poems like "Cattle Baron," "Cowboy Hats" or "Old Friend." Then he gets down to business in others, such as "Crashin' The Gate," "Scars" and "Hung Up."

Fourteen tracks. The liner note numbering is off due to an introduction occupying Track One but, as they say around the ring, "don't let it throw ya!"

CD: (info through [www. poppamac.com](http://www.poppamac.com))

PURLY GATES

"The Call of the West"



Susan "Purlly" Gates has basically listed herself as "a poet." As this very pleasant little offering

attests, she is considerably more than just that! On her release "The Call Of The West" she also demonstrates her chops as an interpreter, as an obviously seasoned singer and as a multi-instrumentalist!

As a writer Gates wields a mighty pun, too. Leaning toward the comedic, she includes novelty songs like "Hippo Loose In Hutto" (wherein a lady wrangler saves the day, as inspired by an old newspaper clipping and a dose of literary license); "Roundup Time In Roswell" (ever see a little green doggie?) and poems such as "A Curious Sight" (gotta see that to believe it); "Changes At The Ranch" and the classic "Gol Durn Wheel." Her a cappella tight harmony work on "No Well" and "Way Out West In Texas" is impressive as well. It's a good 'un!!

Ten tracks total.

CD: (info through [www. purlygates.com](http://www.purlygates.com))

SUSIE KNIGHT

"Fillin' Tanks"



Knight is in her element when she's telling stories poetically, and this time around she

forsakes none of her energy by backing off in volume. This one is her best release so far.

Her well-crafted poems benefit from her delivery and some particularly artful and intuitive guitar support from Jimmy Lee Robbins. Picks include "Bein' A Neighbor," "Cliff" (as fine an elder cowboy portrait as I've heard in the last decade), the celebratory "Cookie Lockhart - Queen Of Auctioneers," "When Riders Come To Call" (a gritty story of a frontier soiled dove and my personal favorite in the collection), "Three Saddle Horses" and "Bring 'Em Home" (an unusual poem-song delivered by an outlaw's suffering wife).

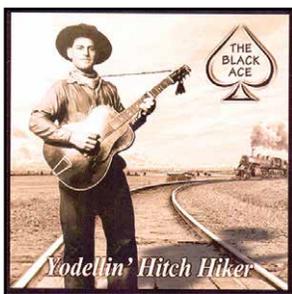
There's plenty to recommend about this release. But I'll just recommend you bring it home. Thirteen tracks total.

CD: (info through [www. susieknight.com](http://www.susieknight.com), calling 303-495-4869 or emailing lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com)

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

THE BLACK ACE (& OTHERS)

"The Black Ace Yodeling Hitch Hiker"



Allen M. Kirby travelled across western Canada... writing and playing theaters, rodeos and shows

across the course of forty-two years as "The Black Ace, Yodeling Hitch Hiker." Were it not for the dedication of his daughter Nola, his life's work would remain underappreciated to say the least.

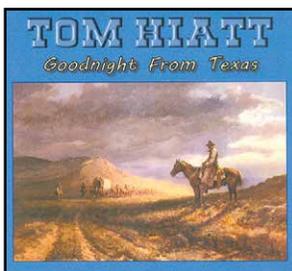
Vic Anderson's tracks "Yodelin' Hitch Hiker" and "Yodelin' Cowboy's Last Yodel," Buddy Gale's recitations of several Kirby poems and the tracks from Two Bit Cowboys ("Canyon Blues") and Dry Town Drifters (The Lonely Guitar) are welcome additions. 'Sorry, but I'm not sold on the enhancements someone applied to The Black Ace's vintage tracks. The guitar overlay seems to run despite the singer. Kirby's own instrument work is all but lost. And on "B'ar Hunt Reprise" Kirby's words are recited while he sings them...an unfortunate choice. Yes, his tracks have a public address speaker sound. But if that's all we have from him, let it stand. Still, it's an important contribution.

CD: \$25 ppd (money order or certified check only) payable to The Black Ace, Box 368, Magrath, Alberta, CA T0K 1J0. Email: theblackace@shaw.ca.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

TOM HIATT

"Goodnight From Texas"



This newest release from Tom Hiatt is in honor of the great Charlie Goodnight and those

who similarly spend their time a horse, and we see clearly that Hiatt remains one of Western

Music's very best balladeers and songwriters.

Hiatt's writes and co-writes include the title track "Goodnight From Texas," "Monte, The Night Calver" (you'll never find a better cowboy portrait), a trilogy dedicated to Nevada buckaroo & author Mackey Hedges consisting of "Last Buckaroo," "Shadow Of The Wind" and "Cow Work" finishing with the lighthearted boogie "Cowboy Up." The intelligently selected covers to go with them include "Every Horse I Ever Rode," "Dodge City," "Pretty Painted Ladies," and, on "Below the Kinney Rim," the song's co-writer Michael Fleming lends a harmony voice.

It's superior stuff all 'round, and definitely worth your investment of time and bucks. Ten tracks total. CD: (info through www.tomhiatt.net)

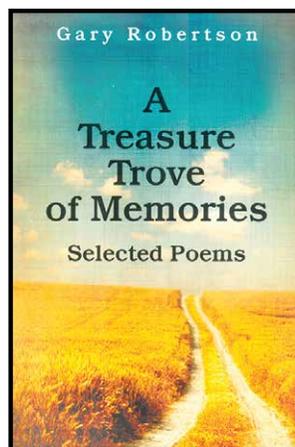


BOOK REVIEW

GARY ROBERTSON

"A Treasure Trove of Memories"

(101 pages)



Surprising to me was an information bit included in Gary Robertson's cover note accompanying his book of poetry. Apparently it's this well-

known poet's first book of all-original verse!

As I went from page to page in the volume, I began to become aware of something. Gary Robertson has the gift of knowing how to allow moments to fulfill their promise. It's a rarity that deserves celebration. He is able to magnify occurrences for closer examination that otherwise might be totally overlooked...not in any forced or overstated way...and allow them to stand with simple nobility. Works like "I Saw Him Check My Cinch" present a moment on

perceptions of aging, or "The Horseman" with its campfire conversation on the place of a cowboy, "...when you're sittin' horseback, son, you don't look up to any man." It's a fine collection with a positive tone maintained throughout.

Trade Paperback Book: (info from Gary Robertson, 1482 Hidden Valley Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91361).



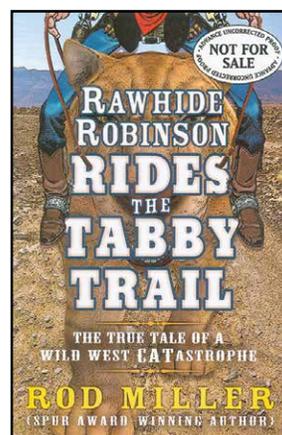
BOOK REVIEW

ROD MILLER

"Rawhide Robinson Rides

The Tabby Trail"

ISBN 13: 99781432830755



'Hooper hankerin' fer another of award-winning poet/author Rod Miller's tall tales... or should that be "tails??"

If anyone could be up to actually herdin'

cats, who better than Miller's redoubtable creation Rawhide Robinson?! Described as being not-too-tall, not-too-short, not-too-fat, not-too-thin...here Robinson is also not-too-gun-shy, not-too-allergic to take on a CAT—the drive to Tombstone to rid 'em of rodents! Along the way we get more of the kind of campfire wild ragging from Rawhide we discovered in his previous volume. He can out-run Bunyan, out-think Fink and out-everything else Pecos Bill! The plot gets deeper (well, somethin' sure does) as we pussyfoot down the trail with the crew (and one crewette).

Suffice it to say Rod Miller has again concocted a saga worthy of John Ford...who, upon reading it, doubtlessly would have proclaimed "I'll have what he's drinkin'!!"

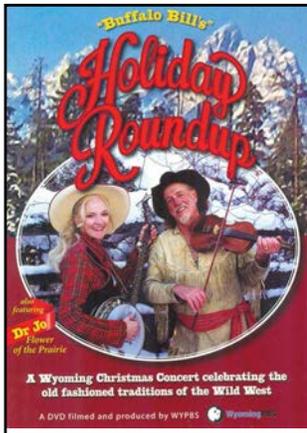
Trade Paperback Book (251 pages): \$25.95 with 48 chapters, a prologue, epilogue AND a postscript!

Continued on page 38

These missed arriving in time for Santa's Sleigh this year, but certainly worth considering for early gifting in 2016.

★ ★ ★
DVD REVIEW

BUFFALO BILL (BOYCOTT) & DR. JO
"Buffalo Bill's Holiday Roundup"



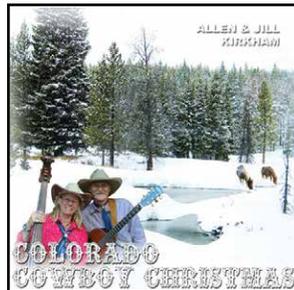
A little late is better than never, and I wouldn't want to miss reviewing something from these two!

Buffalo Bill (Boycott) and partner "Dr. Jo, Flower Of The Prairie" (a.k.a. Joanne Orr) were videoed in performance by Wyoming Public Television at the new Lander Community & Convention Center. After much negotiating, the 2014 show was finally released by the station on DVD for all to enjoy. The show captures the live concert performance of the duo admirably, and the expanded effect added by our ol' friend Les Hamilton (fiddle, harmonica & jingle bells); Joe Lefevre (stand-up bass); Tom Wilson (bodhran & penny whistle) and Willie Leclair (traditional Native American sign language) adds to the enjoyment. The songs offered are basically Christmas "light" and novelty in nature, and therefore, are more able to be enjoyed by all.

Note: There is a rocky mountain oyster song, but hey...this is Cowboy after all!!

DVD: Call or text 1-307-349-7197, email wfboycott@hotmail.com or get info through www.buffalobillboycott.com

★ ★ ★
ALLEN & JILL KIRKHAM
"Colorado Cowboy Christmas"



If it's late for the season (some-day folks will send these releases in late summer when

I can promote them in time), at least for use next year you can order this pleasantly homespun holiday album.

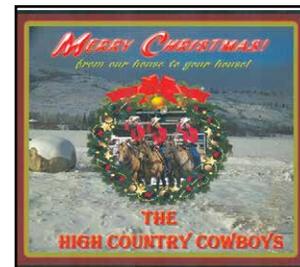
For the most part it's the selections you would expect, but there are some nice originals from the Kirkhams as well. Those are the title track "Colorado Cowboy Christmas" in two versions – a "radio mix" and the good ol' extended play version – and "Christmas Eve in Colorado." Former Flying W Wrangler Scott Vaughn's "Pot Bellied Stove" has been fired up for the occasion, and another one-time Flying Dubber Joe Stephenson is playing on the CD.

If you can't make use of the album immediately, maybe you can pop it on during all those Christmas in July sales that show up!

CD: (info through www.KirkhamMusic.com)

★ ★ ★
THE HIGH COUNTRY COWBOYS

"Merry Christmas from Our House To Yours"



If you prefer your holiday standards (and others) done in tight three-part Western

harmony, the Kosel brothers may just have what you're looking for.

In addition to the obligatory standard fare one finds on holiday releases, here we also find a few other Christmas decorations for color. "Blue Christmas," "Out Of The East," "Still" and "Christmas On The Plains" brighten things up for you. These guys made quite a favorable impression on stage at the November WMA Convention in Albuquerque, so if this CD gets you into the mood to collect The High Country Cowboys, so much the better.

I yearn for the day when I receive holiday offerings in time to actually tell you about them ahead of the season for which they are intended, but maybe that time will yet come.

CD: (info through www.thehigh-countrycowboys.com) 🐾

Western Music Association Web Site

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

www.westernmusic.org

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Ride a Wide Circle - Mary Kaye
2. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris
3. Cowboy to the Bone - R.J. Vandygriff
4. Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert
5. Crossing Borders - Carol Markstrom
6. This Cowboy - R.W. Hampton
7. Riders in the Sky Salute: Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys - Riders in the Sky
8. Cowboys and Girls - Randy Huston & Hannah Huston
9. All I Need - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
10. Race With the Wind - Jim Jones
11. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel
12. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
13. Horses That Run Far Away - Bob Marshall
14. Shadows of Time - Royal Wade Kimes
15. Night Rider - Marshall Allen Bailey & the Silver Bullets
16. Spirit Rider - Brenn Hill
17. Cowboy Songs - Rich Price
18. Gatherin' Strays - Trails & Rails
19. From the Ranch to the Rodeo - Tony Lundervold
20. Granite Mountain - Belinda Gail
21. Forty Miles of Famous - Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade
22. Riding After Midnight - Clint Bradley
23. Ridin' the Arizona Trail - The Bill Ganz Band
24. Partners - Doug Figgs
25. Trail Jazz - Cowboy Joe Babcock
26. Ride for His Pay - Robert Beene
27. Distant Furrows - Barry Ward
28. Goodnight From Texas - Tom Hiatt
Gunsmoke Trails and Other Tales - Gary Lee Tolley
30. Lonesome Country Road - Barry Ward

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Ain't Dead Yet - Hot Texas Swing Band
2. Still the King - Asleep at the Wheel
3. Trail Jazz - Cowboy Joe Babcock
4. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas - Susie Blue
5. A Platter of Brownies (The Music of Milton Brown) - Carolyn Martin
6. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris
7. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
8. All I Need - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
9. Legends - Coby Carter
10. Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert
Now Playing - Western Swing Authority

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Driftin' Cowboy - R.W. Hampton
2. She Could Ride - Mikki Daniel
3. Down the Trail to San Antone - Kristyn Harris
4. Don Edwards for President - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
5. Grit, Grace, and Balin' Twine - Mary Kaye
Ride a Wide Circle - Mary Kaye
7. Wyoming: Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert
8. Swingtime in the Rockies - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
The Night Herding Song - Mary Kaye
Cowboy to the Bone - R.J. Vandygriff
Hurricane Deck - R.J. Vandygriff

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Cowboy Poet: the Poetry of Larry McWhorter & Friends
2. Rhyming the Range - Yvonne Hollenbeck
3. Cowboy Lonesome - Duane Nelson
4. Baxter Black's NPR CD's - Baxter Black
5. One Hundred Years of Thunder - Doris Daley & Bruce Innes
6. First Time Out - Tom Kerlin
7. Once We Were Kings - Dale Page
8. Western Wordsmith - Susie Knight
9. The Bar D Roundup, 2014 - Various Artists
10. Elko: A Cowboy Gathering - Various Artists

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

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

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

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who sent their playlists this quarter:

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

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

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

Bobbi Jean Bell
OutWest
22508 6th St.
Newhall, CA 91321
"Campfire Café" w/host Gary Holt
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com
661-255-7087

Butch Martin & Skip Bessonette
"Whittler's Corner"
KRRM, Rogue River, OR
KBNH, Burns, OR
1410 Kubli Rd.
Grants Pass, OR 97527
whittlerscornershow@gmail.com
www.krrm.com
www.earsradio.com

Art Bohman
KSUU – 91.1 FM
107 N. 1150 W.
Cedar City, UT 84720
435-586-8735
raboh2003@yahoo.com

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo
Calling All Cowboys Radio
88.9 FM, KPOV FM
22470 Rickard Rd.
Bend, OR 97702
541-388-2537
http://kpvod.streamguys.us/calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio
radio.spalding-labs.com
callingallcowboys@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Steve Harrington
PO Box 803
Show Low, Az 85902
(928) 242-3367
stevetn47@gmail.com
www.mountainsaddleband.com/
old-west-chapel

Sam Harris
CVFM Country
4 Shadforth Close, Old Shotton Village
Peterlee
Co. Durham
SR8 2NG, England
www.cvvm.org.uk
samharris01@aol.com

Paul Hazell
PH Records
Royal Mail Building (PO Box 3)
Brambleside
Bellbrook Industrial Estate
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1XX, UK
"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

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

Tom Kerlin & Uncle Rich
Horsetown South Western
Music Show
120 Village Circle
Senoia, GA 30276
770-599-1923
unclerich@925fmthebear.com

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

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

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

Continues on page 41

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

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

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

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

Bob O'Donnell
 "The Western Jukebox 2"
 1028 N. Borner St. #119
 Prescott, WI 54021
 justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com
 Ph: 651-925-7429

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

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

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

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

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

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

Around the Convention





EXCELLENCE ✦ CREATIVITY ✦ PROFESSIONALISM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



WESTERNMUSIC.ORG
505-563-0673

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP

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

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

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

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

- Arizona East Coast Oklahoma
- California Kansas Texas
- Colorado Montana/Dakotas Utah
- Columbia New Mexico Wyoming

- Western Wordsmiths Chapter (poets, authors, songwriters) 
- Chapter Membership (each) Individual \$10
- Chapter Membership (each) Family* \$15
- Chapter Membership (each) Group* \$25

*One member may vote

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT **WESTERNMUSIC.ORG**

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

- Performer/Musician Songwriter Producer
- Poet/Reciter Author Publisher
- Manager/Booking Agent Fan DeeJay/Radio Station
- Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____

ZIP/Post. Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

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

- Address Yes No
- Phone Number Yes No
- Email Yes No

Payment Information

Total Due \$ _____ Check Enclosed

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

WMA
P.O. BOX 648
COPPELL, TX 75019

Please charge my credit card:

- AMEX Visa Mastercard Discover

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp.Date _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____

ZIP/Post. Code _____

Questions?

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

Who may we thank for referring you to WMA?



WESTERN
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING
MUSIC & POETRY
THE AMERICAN WEST

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

505.563.0673  WESTERNMUSIC.ORG



EXCELLENCE • CREATIVITY • PROFESSIONALISM



www.WesternMusic.org

P.O. Box 648
Coppell, TX 75019

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NASHVILLE TN
PERMIT NO. 4493

Taylor Guitars is
proud to support
the Western Music
Association.



www.taylorguitars.com