

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the  
International Western Music Association

## SYD MASTERS

A MULTI-AWARDED  
AMERICAN SINGER,  
SONGWRITER AND  
PERFORMER OF  
TRADITIONAL MUSIC



2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FEATURED | PAGES 16-17

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Dinner 6:30  
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The Kristyn Harris Band



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Washtub Jerry

(\$50 Member/\$60 Non-Member)

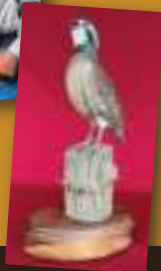


Washtub Jerry

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Blessed by the West



Sarah Pierce

*My sincere thanks to  
my WMA family.  
My music has found a home.*

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## From The President...



MARVIN O'DELL  
IWMA President

## Things that are hard to explain...

...The difference between country music and western music. Just try to explain it to someone who doesn't know the difference. And when you think you have made it completely clear, hear them say, "Well my favorite western singer is Keith Urban."

...Why someone like Jim Jones or John Lowell can pick up a guitar and play it with ease while others (like me) can't even use a pick properly.

...How Marsha Short even comes CLOSE to getting everything done that she does.

...Why "read" as in, "I read that book and enjoyed it" and "read" as in "You should read more books", are the SAME WORD! No wonder foreigners say the English language is very hard to learn.

...Why a young musician with a dream will work for hours leaning to play his/her instrument until his/her fingers bleed and then become a success in their field only to then begin undoing it all with drugs or alcohol. I don't get it.

...Why Pete Rose is not in the baseball Hall of Fame and the overtly racist Ty Cobb is.

...Why Liz Anderson, an original member of the Country Music Songwriter's Hall of Fame, has not been inducted into the Hall herself.

...Why Syd Masters has never won an Entertainer of the Year award.

...How Belinda Gail always looks like she's 16-years-old.

...Why Sourdough Slim has never won an Entertainer of the Year award.

...Why so many musicians ask, "What in it for me?" when you encourage them to join the IWMA – the organization that does more to support their work than any other. It's a question fans never ask before joining.

*Continued on page 7*



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**THE WESTERN WAY**  
The Official Quarterly Publication of the IWMA  
Deadline for next issue: December 1, 2024

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# CONTENTS

# 18



# 23



# 32

## FEATURE

**8** In the Crosshairs  
Syd Masters

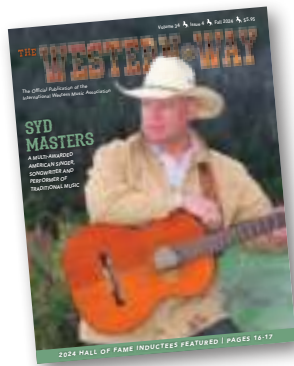
**16** 2024 Hall of Fame  
Inductees

## ARTICLES, UPDATES & MORE

- 2** President's Message
- 4** Editor's Insight
- 5** From the Executive Director
- 6** Western Events Calendar
- 6** Quotable Cowboy – David Sawyer
- 12** In The Spotlight – Marvin O'Dell
- 14** On The Road With IWMA
- 15** Penned by Lantern Light – Dan McCurry
- 18** Ride Easy, Pard! – Victor T. Anderson
- 19** The Western World Tour – Rick Huff
- 20** A Little Bit of History – Johnny D. Boggs
- 22** Chapter Update
- 23** Round TUIT – LeeLee Robert
- 24** Coffee and Conversation – Peter Bruce
- 26** In Memoriam
- 27** 2024 Songwriting Contest Winners!
- 29** From the Trail – Rik 'Yonder' Goodell
- 32** O.J. Sikes Musical Note and Reviews
- 34** Huff's Best Of The West Reviews
- 37** In the Mailbag
- 38** Single Releases Reviews – Rick Huff
- 39** Classic Profiles – Rick Huff
- 42** Book Nook – Karen Campbell
- 44** Western Playlists – Reporters
- 45** Patron Members
- 46** Western Charts
- 47** Lifetime Members
- 48** Membership Form

## REVIEWS – CDS, DVDS & BOOKS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>33</b> Robert Streepy                                 | <b>36</b> Carrie Romero                            |
| <b>33</b> Wilf Carter, Roy Acuff,<br>Delmore Bros, etc.  | <b>36</b> The Russellers                           |
| <b>34</b> Tony Allen                                     | <b>36</b> Rick & The All Star Ramblers             |
| <b>34</b> Lori Beth Brooke                               | <b>37</b> Lance Shaw & The 419<br>Swing Band       |
| <b>34</b> KC LaCourse                                    | <b>37</b> Phoebe White                             |
| <b>35</b> Chris Guenther                                 | <b>39</b> Kenn Lee                                 |
| <b>35</b> Tom Hiatt                                      | <b>39</b> Tommy Morrell &<br>The Timewarp Tophands |
| <b>35</b> Hugh McLennan & The<br>The Western Spirit Band | <b>43</b> Rik 'Yonder' Goodell (Book)              |
| <b>36</b> Miska Paget                                    |  |



### ON THE COVER...

From the woods and water country of rural Wisconsin to the Rocky Mountains of Northern New Mexico, Syd Masters has developed his own style of Western and Swing music that captivates audiences and sets him apart. Singer, songwriter and entertainer extraordinaire, Syd provides a highly talented, thoroughly entertaining, good time cowboy show!

Photography courtesy Carl Brown, Southern Exposure, Red River, NM

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



Theresa O'Dell  
Editor

# Each One Add One

As I thought about the International Western Music Association and what we are and do, I wondered why our membership isn't over several thousand! I was made even more aware of the benefits of the IWMA as I

read the short article written by one of our members (see *From the Trail*, page 29) in this issue. This performing member celebrates being an IWMA member for the networking he has been able to do that has resulted in new gigs, new friends, and more exposure. While we represented the organization recently at the Prescott, AZ gathering, we heard from so many of their board members how thankful they were that the AZ Gathering had joined the IWMA and what a help the organization had been to them in a financial way. It got me to thinking...

If each one of our current members (individuals and organizations) made it a mission to influence just one other person to join the IWMA in 2024, our membership would be nearly doubled in 2025! What a great marketing strategy to carry into the new year.

**Performers:** Whether full-time professional or part-time singer/poet, you meet other performers at your gigs all the time. Some may be only regional performers who don't travel far from home, but they could still benefit from becoming an IWMA member, and the IWMA could benefit from their membership. Why not talk to them about the organization and encourage them to seek more information, visit the website, or join you in Albuquerque in November?

**Gatherings/Venues:** The IWMA provides you with music licensing for your venues when your organization is hosting an IWMA sponsored event. They provide notices on IWMA website, social media notices, magazine calendar of events, and opportunities to preview performers on stage in Convention showcases. They send literature and banners for display at your event. You event organizers, you know other venues who should be

encouraged to be a part of this organization. Why not talk to them about it? And why not encourage each of your individual board members to join the IWMA themselves and become a part of the supporting fan base.

**Fans:** We need our fan base. If you say "Oh, I am not a performer; I don't need to join the IWMA." Please reconsider! Without you, we would have no audiences or outlets for our music and poetry. Without you, one day this genre could be lost forever. You love coming to Albuquerque and having access to non-stop music, poetry and jamming. You love checking out the vendors or shopping in the Western Boutique or Mercantile. You love all things western – why not tell your neighbors and friends? Your minimal annual membership brings you the *Western Way* magazine each quarter, and it helps to keep the IWMA solvent and continuing its mission to sustain and advance the Western culture and way of life. Talk it up – tell your friends!

**Board Members:** The IWMA board is made up of members who want to do more than just sit on the sidelines; we serve on the board because we believe in the organization, its mission, and its potential for providing sustainability to our genre. We work to ensure it is a business of integrity. But are we telling others about the benefits of becoming a performing or supporting member? We have the inside track; we know it is a good place to network, to collaborate on projects, and to expand our circle of friends with really fine people. But are you/we doing all we can in the organization's expansion?

There is a place for everyone in the IWMA membership. As members you are helping to support the Organization that believes in the music, poetry and culture of the West and wants to preserve it for generations to come, just like you.

Help IWMA help you! Each-one-add-one! Watch us grow.

*Theresa*

## From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short  
Executive Director

In June, I attended the Western Writers of America Annual Convention in Tulsa where I had the honor of accepting, on behalf of IWMA, the WWA Lariat Award. The Lariat Award was created in 2006 and recognizes a company or individual who has shown exceptional support for

WWA and for the literature of the American West. Whether you're a performer or a fan, a working cowboy or a cowboy at heart, YOU ARE IWMA, so this award belongs to you. Congratulations! We'll have the award on display at the Convention in November, so come by to see it and maybe have a photo taken with YOUR award!

An interesting collaboration was presented to us several months ago, and we've decided to pursue it. The National Accordion Association has asked IWMA to collaborate with them on their 2025 Convention (March 13-15 in Lewisville, Texas) to combine both groups musical expertise. We are fortunate to have two IWMA members who are also NAA members, Lori Beth Brook and Hall of Fame member Joey Miskulin (Riders In The Sky). Our message will be to "Put a little Western in your Accordion!!" Mark your calendars and make plans to be in Texas in March. There will be some great workshops as well as one evening of Western Music and Cowboy Poetry. Watch this space!

We've added two new Thursday workshops to the Convention schedule: "The Roots of Western Music" will be a panel discussion with Jim Jones, Allan Chapman and Patty Clayton and "Getting Your Songs Into Film & TV" presented by Shantell Ogden. Look for descriptions as well as other details on the Convention schedule on our website.

As Summer turns to Fall and temperatures start to come down to a reasonable level, we hope that you're planning to be with us in Albuquerque for the IWMA Convention. It's always great fun and full of surprises! Looking forward to seeing you there.

*Marsha*



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

#### Example of Distribution Outlets:

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- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
- Tigard Public Library, Tigard, OR
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION: 505-563-0673**

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

# WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR

FOR DETAILS GO TO  
[IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG/EVENTS](http://IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG/EVENTS)

## 2024

IWMA CONVENTION  
NOVEMBER 13-17 – ALBUQUERQUE, NM

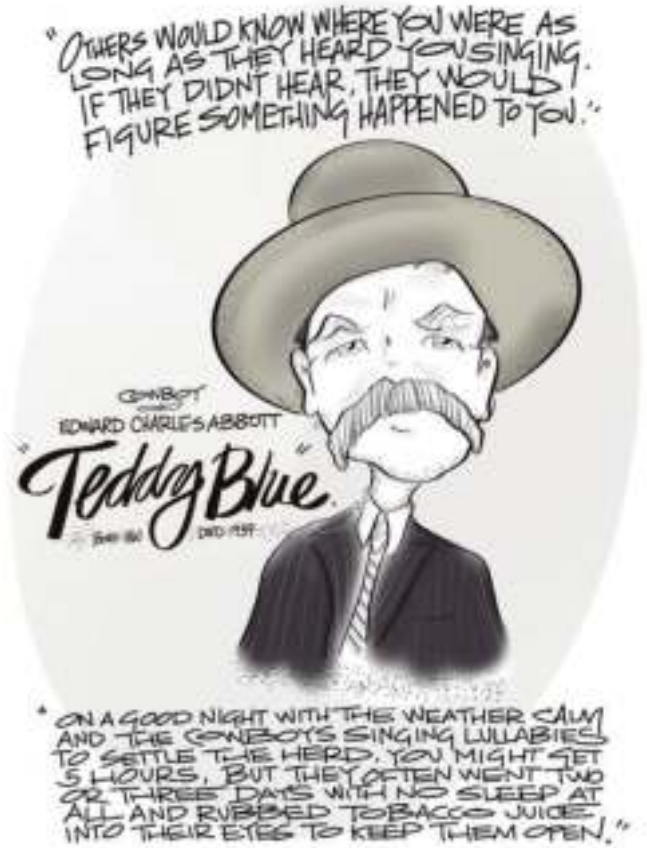
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*Hope to see you there!!*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*Continued from page 2*

...How Peggy Malone manages to always look like the happiest person in the world.

...What Doug Figgs would do if he ever lost his sure-enough-hit songwriter's pen.

...How a songwriter can write one mega-hit song and 100 terrible songs.

...How another songwriter can write 100 big hits and rarely ever write a bad one.

...Why the singing cowboy hero had to disappear from the silver screen.

...Why Rex Allen, Jr. and Doug Green, after all their success, still have the time and desire to support the IWMA when so many others have lost interest in the organization, feeling it doesn't do enough for them.

...How some people can be so funny without trying and some can be not funny at all when they ARE trying.

...Why so many folks love to tell you all about them and their family but will never ask about you and yours.

...Why anyone would want to serve on any Board of Directors for any organization. Talk about self-inflicted punishment...

...Why Jack Randall is not recognized as one of the greatest cowboy singers from the B-western era.

...How Rex Rideout got so dang smart!

...Why Washtub Jerry doesn't play a regular bass guitar so he wouldn't risk falling and breaking his neck when he performs.

...Why western music has never been recognized as a pure genre and considered for a Grammy.

...Why anyone would still get on a horse after the age of 75 (for Jerry Hall).

...Why every member of the IWMA doesn't make plans to attend the convention in November.

...Why my wife still loves me after all these years.

MARVIN O'DELL  
*President IWMA*



The poster features a dark brown background with silhouettes of a cowboy and a cowgirl on horseback. The title "4th Annual WAXAHACHIE COWBOY GATHERING" is written in a stylized, orange and white font. Below the title, the date "Saturday, April 5, 2025" is written in a cursive font. A central photograph shows a group of women in western attire standing in a field. A dark brown box at the bottom contains the text "ELLIS COUNTY WOMAN'S BUILDING IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WAXAHACHIE". To the left of this box is a red ribbon graphic with the word "FREE" in white. To the right is the text "LIVE ENTERTAINMENT" in red, followed by a list of performers: "BUFFALO THE STEER • FRANCINE ROBISON GRACE PARTRIDGE • DENNIS & BEVERLY RUSSELL LORI BETH BROOKE • MISS DEVON AND THE OUTLAW RAMBLIN' RANGERS • TERESA BURLESON • WASHTUB JERRY COWBOY POETS: DAVID HANSFORD, JIM CATHEY, & DAVID SMITH". Below this list is the text "COWBOY MUSIC AND POETRY, KIDS CORRAL AND MORE!". At the bottom left, there is a QR code with the text "Schedule of Events" and an arrow pointing to it. At the bottom right, there is a call to action: "JOIN US AS WE PUT AN EMPHASIS ON COWGIRL PERFORMERS TO CELEBRATE THE ELLIS COUNTY WOMAN'S BUILDING'S 100TH BIRTHDAY IN DOWNTOWN WAXAHACHIE!". The website "WWW.WAXAHACHIECOWBOY.COM" is at the bottom.

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IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WAXAHACHIE**

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RAMBLIN' RANGERS • TERESA BURLESON • WASHTUB JERRY  
COWBOY POETS: DAVID HANSFORD, JIM CATHEY, & DAVID SMITH

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Schedule of Events

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# In the **CROSSHAIRS**



Syd Masters – A success at his musical craft but always a student of lifelong learning.

***“I’ve been in the music business my whole life and there’s a lot of not-so-great people. But in our western music industry I find a bunch of really good people. I’ve made good friends and made a lot of good acquaintances, and that’s a big reward. I feel very fortunate that this turned out to be my life. I’m a very lucky man.”***

## **SYD MASTERS**

BY TOM SWEARINGEN

One might imagine that the composer and recording artist responsible for the Official State Cowboy Song of New Mexico, “Under New Mexico Skies,” would be a lifelong resident of the Land of Enchantment. But, while Syd Masters has lived in the state since his teens, he was born and raised in the woods and water country of northern Wisconsin. Being 60 feet from the lake shoreline one direction and 80 feet the other direction from Nicolet National Forest was a great place for a kid to grow up and introduced him to fishing, hunting, and other outdoor pursuits he enjoys to this day. And those years also introduced him to music. Growing up the youngest of four children in a musical family, he was surrounded by music. With dad playing the accordion, a classically trained vocalist mom, and three older sisters playing guitar or piano, music was a constant in the cabin. Especially during the long winters.

With the saxophone as his first instrument and playing mostly jazz and classical music, Syd realized around the age of 14 that he could sing, and purely for the self-centered reasons of a teenaged boy, that, “The chicks would dig it better if I played guitar and sang.” So, he started playing his sister’s guitar. Within two or three years he was playing nightclubs in variety bands (one of the guys in the band signing a document that he was his guardian so Syd could play in the bars). New Mexico came into Syd’s life during his high school senior year when his dad took a job in Albuquerque. All through high school and college Syd played on weekends or free weeknights, even as a



One of Syd's many awards "Best Original Western Song" from New Mexico Music Awards.

three-sport (baseball, basketball, football) high school athlete and college football player at Cal Berkeley.

Asked if he went to Cal because he was smart...Syd laughs. "I don't know about that, but I was very fast and could catch things thrown at me." Recruited as a wide receiver, Syd majored in math. Did he use his math education in a career, perhaps becoming a math teacher? "Absolutely not. The only way I thought I might use my math knowledge was working in a lab somewhere making things that blow up."

So, what did Syd do after college? It was off to Hawaii for almost a year living a block or so off Waikiki Beach playing in a country western band pretty much every day. They kept the party going in clubs, and on boats. "Booze cruises," Syd explains. "Pack a boat full of tourists, bounce them around on the waves for an hour and let them drink non-stop. A bad idea." Reflecting on the experience, he's glad he did it. And feels fortunate to have continued to play in variety bands in Albuquerque. "Playing with fabulous musicians five or six nights a week for 14 or more years. All the different songs I had to learn, all the different styles, and my growing up playing jazz and classical all comes together when I write songs now."

So, what brought Syd to focus on western music? "From my teens through maybe 30 I played music I could get paid for. Country is where I leaned. And if I wasn't in a pure country band but more of a variety band, I was always the guy that sang the country tunes. The cowboy music is from when I was a kid. That's an influence from my grandpa who was everything western. Working as a cowboy, reading westerns, working out west, living out west, coming

to visit us. That influence was always there when I was a kid, and growing up, it was secretly the music I wanted to play."

The opportunity to play what he wanted came in the 1990s when he sold the Creamland Dairies independent distributorship he owned. Syd's territory controlled thirty some percent of Albuquerque's gas stations, schools, mom and pop groceries, and even home delivery. When the parent company doubled Syd's distribution overnight, he saw the opportunity to sell at a good profit (the math brain at work). With that he decided, "I've got some money I can live off, so I'm playing the music I like the best. Traditional western music."

Syd made a band, a trio, and went to some cowboy gatherings and noticed there were lots of solo artists, but not many bands. "I thought they could use more bands. I saw New West way back then and they were great. Mike Fleming was frontman. Raul Reynoso was a picker. And David Jackson. I thought I'll get a bass player and one of those picker guys and I'll make a band and go to all these clubs where I played in all these variety bands and say I've got this cowboy trio with no drummer and people are going to come and they're going to dance. And they all laughed at me. So, I really had to fight my way in but as soon as we started playing places dancers showed up in droves because they wanted to dance to that style of music. And that's how my Swing Riders band got started."



Syd and BB

*Continued on page 10*

## IN THE CROSSHAIRS

*Continued from page 9*



Syd performs at Cottonwood Tamaya

By selecting good musicians, and especially good people, there have been only four or five band members in nearly 30 years. Original Swing Riders Uncle Bob and Jared “Slim J” Putnam still play often, with bass player Gary Roller joining in 2006. Lonnie O (Syd explains his last name is very long and difficult and he got tired of explaining how to spell it, so Lonnie just goes by O) brought his guitar talent for a decade or more before relocating to Washington state. Craig Rivera rounded out the remaining years on lead guitar.

Recognized as a vocalist and recording artist, with such awards as Academy of Western Artists Will Rogers Award for “Male Vocalist” of the Year (twice), New Mexico Music Industry “Vocalist of the Year” (also twice), and Western Heritage Wrangler Award for Outstanding Traditional Western Music CD for “Sunset on the Rio Grande Revisited,” Syd is also an accomplished multi award-winning songwriter. Having written since he was in his teens it was often a point of contention with the club bands and variety bands he played with. “There’s a thousand people doing a good version of ‘Silver Wings’, and no one cares. I felt we should also be writing and doing original songs. But they were working, and we were making money so that was hard to impress on

people back then. I was always writing and recording and keeping it on the shelf. When I went exclusively to the western genre is when I flourished.” Now having recorded and released 50-60 of his own songs and written a couple hundred more, Syd has also been called on to compose music for documentaries and films. One such film, “Paul” starring Seth Rogen and other notables, even features Syd in an acting role. So how did that come about? New Mexico has a vibrant film industry, much of it based out of Santa Fe where Syd is well known. “So, when someone says, ‘we need someone to compose a western swing version of the cantina band song from Star Wars...I’m the name that comes up,” Syd offers.

Making his home in Edgewood, east of Albuquerque, Syd spends summers in the mountains of Red River, New Mexico where he does 30 “Cowboy Evenings” steak dinner shows at Bobcat Pass Wilderness Adventures. Even with half a dozen additional regional concerts and events scheduled in between those shows, Syd makes time to saddle up and head out into the area’s national forest.

Saddling up is what he did a lot in the 13 or 14 years he owned a ranch in southern Colorado on La Veta Pass and ran Black Baldy cattle with his neighbor. “It was a great experience, and we were so successful that we actually broke even,” Syd chuckles. Another experience from those years was building a cabin



Syd on Civic Plaza steps with Swing Rider buddies, Uncle Bob and Gary Roller



The Swing Riders live on stage, Lonnie, Syd and Gary

using trees off the land. Growing up in the Wisconsin woods where most people built their log cabins from trees on their property, he had some experience with that. “I wouldn’t hire me to do it, but I know enough to build a square and put a roof on it,” Syd shares with his seemingly ever-present smile.

Speaking of cabins...Syd’s love of the outdoors and the mountains also came into play in the creation of his latest album “Cabin Songs,” the CD containing both 1st and 2nd place 2024 Western Writers of America Spur Awards for Best Western Song for “High Country Trail” and “Cowboy Afterlife.” In a remote cabin at 11,000 feet in the Pecos Wilderness in February with no cell service, landline, TV, or internet, he isolated himself from the outside world with just he and his guitar specifically to write songs. He left a week later with nine new songs that along with other old cowboy tunes, became “Cabin Songs.” “It was cool to do. And it was cold!” Syd recalls.

Syd’s future plans include an album he’ll likely record this winter. With the working title “Frontier Campfire” it will be just what the title suggests. He and Swing Rider bandmates sitting and singing live the classic cowboy songs they love. Syd explains, “We’ve gone to quite a few trail rides around the West the last 25 years and even if they have stages and sound systems, we always end up sitting around the campfire playing music for the riders who stay up late and it’s the best part of any gigs I ever do anywhere. I’ve played for a hundred thousand people, and I’d rather play for 50 westerners sitting around the campfire who understand what my music is about.” This will be his 10th album.



Syd with Diana, his invaluable life’s partner

By his side for more than 20 years has been Diana. “There’s a million ways I could describe how great she is. She’s a big help in my music career. And in my personal life she’s even greater. A good mother to her children, and a fine mother to me when I need it. I’m a fortunate man to have such a good partner in life.”

Syd also feels fortunate that with all the music he grew up with and all the styles that he’s played he’s ended up playing western music. Because he loves the music, but mostly he says, because of all the great people. “I’ve been in the music business my whole life and there’s a lot of not-so-great people. But in our western music industry I find a bunch of really good people. I’ve made good friends and made a lot of good acquaintances, and that’s a big reward. I feel very fortunate that this turned out to be my life. I’m a very lucky man.” 🐾

**Tom Swearingen** is an Oregon horseman whose original cowboy poetry is often inspired by his own experiences and observations from the saddle. 2022 and 2019 IWMA Male Poet of the Year, Tom brings his stories to life with rhythm and rhyme and a style that makes him a popular performer. Tom’s book *Reflection* was named 2020 IWMA Cowboy Poetry Book of the Year. For more on Tom visit [oregoncowboypoet.com](http://oregoncowboypoet.com).

# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...In August, the California Chapter brought western music and the singing cowboy back to Vasquez Rocks County Park. The last western music presentation there was *Riders In The Sky* in 1993. Before Vasquez Rocks became a county park, it was a bustling western movie site dating back to the 1920's. Everyone who was anybody filmed a western movie or western TV show there. **Buddy Greenbloom, Mark Bedor, Greg Kougaz, Bob Thomas and Buffalo Bryan Marr** crooned to an enthusiastic audience. The Western Music Festival was branded "a success beyond expectations," by the parks superintendent who said, "We'd like to do this at least 3 times next year!" The event also generated quite a bit of media coverage for the IWMA-CC.

...An original instrumental by **Patty Clayton** titled "Wagonhound", from her CD *The Real West*, has been included in a new documentary series, *Ramblin' Bart Along the Oregon Trail*, just released on YouTube. This is a 7-episode series from Bart Smith, a professional photographer from the state of Washington, who walked the entire Oregon trail from Missouri to Oregon back in 2012. Each one-hour episode includes video footage and narrative of the significant landmarks along the trail and Bart's personal reflections of his own experiences on his epic journey, capped with a 3-minute slideshow of still photos and clips of videos set to Patty's song.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** spent the summer developing an outdoor venue at the M2B Ranch in Huntley, MT with monthly benefit house concerts supporting La Vie Health. Her shows, featuring herself and a guest artist, will continue monthly throughout the year in a Billings indoor venue. She's taken on a leadership role with the Billings Singer Songwriter Association and is busy with her weekly Songwriting Club at Skyview High School.

...Dan Crow and Karla Steen as **Crow & Karla** performed four "Sing the Legends" concerts at Old Lincoln Days in August as part of the "Billy the Kid Pageant" in Lincoln, NM. Also, the duo performed as part of the Fountain Trial Re-enactment event in Hillsboro, NM.

... Geary Parsons and J. Michael Mullins, aka **The Timberline Cowboys** are wrapping up a very busy summer. While Geary was crisscrossing the state of Colorado in his capacity as president of the IWMA Colorado chapter, Michael got the chance to travel to El Paso to see the last of his grandchildren graduate high school. The boys are busy promoting their new CD, *The Old Ways*, while they perform and raise money for Durango area causes, including the Durango Cowboy Gathering, slated for October 2-6.

...**Ron Christopher** has a new album out titled *Dust of Los Angeles*. He will have it available at the November IWMA convention.

...**The Mountain Saddle Band** is close to finishing its new album, *Arizona Skies*. The album will contain five original songs never recorded and covers of classic songs from Chris Ledoux, John Denver, Bob Nolan, Michael Martin Murphy, Johnny Lange, and Arizona's own Marty Robbins. In addition, it will premiere a song written by little-known artist Tim Gentle from Mississippi.

...**Phoebe White** has released a new album titled *Cowgirl's Delight* featuring **Suzy Bogguss, Riders In The Sky**, and the **McLain Family Band**. Phoebe composed over half the songs herself along with her mother, Tiffany White, and Nashville-based songwriter Corey Lee Barker. Other songs on the album were written by Rosalie Allen, Ranger Doug Green, and one written specifically for Phoebe by Janis Ian at the request of Woody Paul. The album, arranged and produced by Michael Johnathon, is receiving glowing praise from artists such as Kristyn Harris and Michael Martin Murphey who stated "Phoebe's songs are remarkable, her voice exquisite, and her yodeling will make you see stars!"

...The Will Rogers Medallion Award for Recorded Cowboy Poetry has been given to **Rik "Yonder" Goodell** this year for his latest poetry album *Proven Up Wise*. The actual presentation will be made in October in Fort Worth, TX.

...**Dave Munsick** says he has "been balancing life on and off the stage by playing some fine shows, riding some fine country,

and fishing some fine water. Highlights of the summer have been playing at a sold-out Red Rocks show where his son was adopted into the Crow Tribe, riding the upper Tongue drainage in the Big Horn Mountains when the flowers were still showing, and fishing a 60-mile wilderness stretch of the Smith River in Montana from a good boat with even better people.”

... Poet **Tom Swearingen** is featured on Cowboy Jazz’s new album *Folkways*. The Portland, OR folk and country-inspired jazz quartet invited Tom to collaborate on tracks featuring his poetry and his additional lyrics to rearranged traditional American folk music. Tom performed with the group at the album release concert and there are plans for future collaboration. Tom and wife Carla enjoyed a cruise to New England and Canadian ports, followed a couple weeks later with a Panama Canal cruise taking them from British Columbia to Florida.

...Her new album *Blessed by the West* will be officially released by **Sarah Pierce** on 9/13/2024! A CD release party was held on 10/27/2024 at Gruene Hall in New Braunfels, TX. She would love for any IWMA members who are in the area to attend.

...**KG & The Ranger** are announcing that their daughter, Angela Roltgen, will be coming to the IWMA convention this year for the first time to add her wonderful harmonies to their show. She has been on three of their recordings but doesn’t have a lot of time for live shows with them at home. They are very excited to have her sing with them, meet everyone, and be part of it all.

...Past Arizona Chapter President and Secretary, **John Paulson** and **Sherry Walker**, exchanged wedding vows on July 12th in Green Valley, AZ. Their love of music and each other is evident as they continue to harmonize into the future. John was named one of the Most Influential People by Green Valley News for his leadership of the Silver City JamBand, a Friday Night community music program in Green Valley. John has kept the all-volunteer group of musicians together for over a dozen years, drawing large crowds of music lovers.

...**Jim Jones** had a short story, titled *Go On*, included in the anthology *Through Western Storms*, edited by Richard Prosch, published on August 6, 2024. Jim and **Allan Chapman**, released a single in August, a duet version of their co-write “Smoke of the Brandin’ Fire.” You can check out Jim’s website under the link “A Holler for a Dollar” for more info.

...**Grace Clark** has been elected to the Western Swing Hall of Fame by The Western Swing Society, Sacramento, CA. The induction ceremony is on October 5, 2024. In addition, Grace is working in the studio on a new album of original songs.

...“Born to be a Cowgirl”, written and recorded by **Aspen Black**, won a Western Writers of America Spur finalist award for Best Western Song of 2024, and her album of the same title is an International Singer Songwriters Association finalist for Female Album of the Year.

...**Claudia Nygaard** has recently been included in a compilation album of women Americana artists called *Women on a Mission*. The project was created by Penny Jo Pullus, a DJ at KOOP Radio in Austin, TX and is the outgrowth of Penny’s organization TeXchromosome. The recording features 25 original songs by as many women songwriters. Nygaard is also recording a new album herself, titled *To Race The Wind*, for release in late spring of 2025. She heads west in late September for a four-week tour through five states.

...**Bodhi Linde** recently played for eight straight hours from noon to 8:00 p.m. in the South Dakota summer heat. In doing so, he raised \$2,200 to purchase snacks for his high school. He had friends stop by and play a few songs with him throughout the day. He had some great media coverage from local news stations as well. It was an empowering day, and he feels that next year he will set his goal at \$5,000.

...Look for a new album from **Carol Markstrom** titled *Seekers*. The CD encompasses 12 original songs all dealing with aspects of Native American history and cultures. Final mix by **Merel Bregante** at Cribworks Digital Audio and musical contributions from some of your favorite Western and Native American artists. 🐾

# ON THE ROAD WITH IWMA

## THE ARIZONA COWBOY POETRY AND MUSIC GATHERING, PRESCOTT, AZ

The Gathering was well-attended and filled with excitement. A wonderful variety of IWMA poets and musicians graced the stages along with local area performers unfamiliar with the IWMA. After visiting the IWMA information table manned by Marvin and Theresa O'Dell, several performers and area fans expressed interest in the mission of the IWMA. Membership forms and 2024 Convention schedules were distributed. Hopefully this will lead to new faces and participants in Albuquerque.



Marvin talks with visitors at the AZ Gathering.

## MONTANA GATHERING

IWMA member Phil Willig and the **IWMA Black Hills & Beyond Chapter** set up a table at the Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering October 8-11 in Lewistown, MT. All the Western Ways and membership applications were handed out and lots of questions were answered. IWMA Hall of Fame Member R.W. Hampton was the featured performer Saturday night.



Brad and Bonnie Exton with RW Hampton at the MT Gathering.



Phil Willig in Hot Springs, SD



Phil Willig in Sidney, NE

**Phil Willig, Nebraska State Representative for the Black Hills & Beyond Chapter, is setting up IWMA information tables everywhere he goes. Watch for him at a gathering near you! Way to go, Phil!**



# Penned by Lantern Light

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



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## WAITIN' ON DAYLIGHT

by Danny McCurry

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Already settin' in the saddle  
Some are still pullin' cinches tight  
We've all shook hands and said mornin'  
Now we're just waitin' on daylight

Trucks and trailers are parked in a line  
Everyone adds to the wing  
No instructions had to be given  
It's just a common cowboy thing

There's smiles on every face  
Joe must a told another joke  
Nobody acts tired or grumpy  
They're a tough bunch and happy folk

Lightning flashes off to the west  
Just drizzle, but it's gonna rain  
The boss says, "let's get 'em in boys",  
Hits a trot and we all do the same

Steers go by in the distance,  
Silhouettes contrast against the sky  
There's the sound of gravel and splash  
behind us  
Catchin' up the rear, we scoot and let 'em by

Top of the hill there's a bunch of quitters  
They get turned and pushed with the rest  
There's no substitute for good cowboys  
and horses  
And right here are some of the best

The pen is now full of yearlins'  
Semi's are lined up the road  
Opinions on weight are asked and floated  
It's fun guessin' how much they grewed

Trucks are all loaded and gone  
Breakfast, thanks to the owners' wife  
I may need an afternoon nap  
But boy, Do I love this life!

Takin' a bit of a rest,  
Settin' in my easy chair  
There's a feelin' that comes over me  
And gives me a pretty bad scare

Thinkin' about bein' the oldest one there  
It gives me a terrible fright  
Dreamed I was stuck in a rest home,  
Starin' out the window, waitin' on daylight

But then the truth flashes in my eyes  
It's the horse that makes us even  
As long as he and I are in tune  
I'm good to go and quit this grievin'

His strength, his heart, his spirit  
We share through the reins in my hand  
The speed, endurance and agility  
Make a cowboy king of the land

Beneath my saddle is a gift from God,  
He elevates me, make me daring  
and bold  
And this life I've lived I would never trade  
The horse is worth more than fortune  
and gold

So I'm gonna remember today  
The fun we had, I'll sure try  
The cowboys, horses and cattle  
And a good rain here in July



**DANNY MCCURRY** (Aldrich, MO) is a working cowboy. He grazes around 2000 steers and runs a few stock cows. He works for other ranchers 2-3 days most weeks where he may rope and catch rogue bulls and wild cattle. Awarded for his exceptional cowboy poetry, Danny won first place honors at the Kansas State Competition in 2017, 2018, and 2019, the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's first National Cowboy Poetry Contest in 2018. Reciting all original material, Danny's stories are 100% true (except the parts he makes up).

# 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



“ McMahan has recorded six albums and written over 300 songs and poems and is highly respected for his work as a songwriter, champion yodeler and cowboy entertainer. ”

## Gary McMahan

By O.J. Sikes

Singer-songwriter Gary McMahan has been a prominent performer of Western music for over 50 years. He has appeared at the internationally known Elko Poetry Gathering in Nevada for decades, and at most other large festivals and poetry gatherings throughout the West as well.

McMahan has recorded six albums and written over 300 songs and poems and is highly respected for his work as a songwriter, champion yodeler and cowboy entertainer, having been featured in numerous Western publications for more than 35 years. Chris LeDoux called McMahan “The Cowboy Bob Dylan.” His song “The Old Double Diamond” was chosen by the Western Writers of America as one of the Top 100 Western songs of all time. It has been recorded by Ian Tyson, Dave Stamey, Tom Russell, Chris LeDoux and others. His composition, “The First Cowboy Song,” co-written with Douglas B. Green, won a National Cowboy Hall of Fame award for best original cowboy song of 1992. Riders In The Sky recorded his “Ol’ Cowpoke” on their 2023 album, *Throw a Saddle on a Star*, and his award-winning “The First Cowboy Song” was included on their CD, *Always Drink Upstream from the Herd* in 1995. Juni Fisher’s recording of McMahan’s “Waitin’ for Spring” was awarded the 2008 Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

# 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



## Janet McBride

*By O.J. Sikes*

Janet McBride became fascinated with the art of yodeling when she was a child, growing up in Maine. Years of practice led to remarkable proficiency, and after singing at clubs as she got older, and with encouragement from country music star, Wynn Stewart, in 1960, she made a record with Stewart's band in California.

Over the next few years, she appeared on several television shows in Southern California and she and Skeets McDonald were chosen to record parts of the soundtrack for the major motion picture, "Hud." In 1965, she moved to Dallas and landed a recording contract with the Longhorn label. One of those records (a duet with Vern Stovall of "Long Black Limousine" fame) made the Country charts, but perhaps more importantly, she began to make regular appearances at the Longhorn Ballroom and on the Big D Jamboree. Her popularity made it possible to tour with some of the Grand Ole Opry stars from Nashville when they were travelling in the Midwest.

In 1981, she recorded with Tommy Allsup, and soon, Janet and her husband, John Ingram, purchased an old theater in downtown Mesquite, TX and started "The Mesquite Opry," featuring Saturday night shows. This popular "live" music activity continued until 1995, and during that time, Janet was asked by Cattle Records in Germany to record two albums with their artist, Dexter Johnson.

In 1989, while the Opry was still active, a 7-year-old girl named Leann Rimes asked Janet to teach her how to do the yodel for the song, "I Want to be a Cowboy's Sweetheart." A few years later, Rimes recorded a song titled "Blue," that was built around a slow yodel, and it became a huge hit. It wasn't long before other youngsters began asking Janet for guidance, and another of those youngsters, Kacey Musgraves, also eventually became a super-star! So, one might say that, in later years, Janet McBride found her calling as a mentor. Not only did she help a couple of future stars, but she has also been a critical element in the effort to keep Western and country music alive among talented young folks.

“ In 1981, she recorded with Tommy Allsup, and soon, Janet and her husband, John Ingram, purchased an old theater in downtown Mesquite, TX and started “The Mesquite Opry,” featuring Saturday night shows. ”



# RIDE EASY, PARD!

## STORIES AND TALL TALES

BY VICTOR T. ANDERSON

### DAN AND THE MOUNTAIN LION

**D**an and I spent part of the summer haying on the hay ranch. He was one of those guys who went full steam ahead, but seldom looked at what was ahead. We called him “Dangerous Dan.”

He went to the main ranch while Lad and I finished up the haying and fall chores. The next spring I was hired back to the home place. Dan came to work a few weeks later.

One of the local bars did some remodeling and a stuffed mountain lion that sat on a shelf was given to Tom, one of the older ranch hands. It was kept in the hayloft of the barn. He gave it to me. I and some of the hands used it as a roping dummy. It stayed in the hayloft.

Dan and I went to the barn to feed the horses after supper. It was getting pretty dark. I started graining the horses and Dan said he would climb to the loft to throw down some hay. It was the first time he had been in the barn.

It was the typical ladder to the hayloft. As you got to the top of the ladder, you climbed through a square hole in the hay loft floor. Stepping to either of the two sides not adjacent to the wall got your feet solidly

on the floor. The lights for the hayloft were easily reached above the top of the ladder. I told Dan where the switch was and went on graining the horses.

The hay loft was full of hay and the stuffed mountain lion was standing there, only his head exposed as if it was looking toward the ladder.

Dan stepped off the ladder, switched on the light, turned toward the hay and saw the lion.

I heard him yell and a commotion. He jumped down through the square hole to get away.

He caught his chin on the edge of the floor, his feet swung back and forth for a moment and down he came, landing on the floor next to where I was standing.

For a moment I thought he was dead. Then he started cussing. That’s when I started laughing and told him the lion was stuffed. It took a minute, but Dan started laughing too.

**RIDE EASY PARD.....Vic**

**VIC ANDERSON** of Estes Park, CO, is a Singer/Songwriter, 3-time IWMA champion yodeler, virtuoso melodic whistler, poet, author, columnist and voice over narrator. As Vice-president of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the IWMA, Vic has long been an advocate for writing short stories as another way of presenting tales of the West.

# The Western World Tour



by Rick Huff

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

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

Since cowboys ride in from all directions and this column is called “The Western World Tour,” it’s high time we took one! Here’s a Whitman’s Sampler of international Cowboy eye-openers (musical and otherwise) ranging from the revealing, revolutionary and ridiculous to the wondrous, wild and weird. These and others came to light during a recreational computer surfing session googling “cowboy songs (name country).” Type in the prompts I’ll furnish in CAPS for clarity, then kick back and revel in each discovery (skipping ads). Let’s play!

## NORWAY

Google BO OUTLAW NORWEGIAN COUNTRY ARTIST RHINESTONE COWBOY for a striking cover of Larry Weiss’ creation done in tribute. (Yeah, I know. Bo Outlaw?)

## THE PHILIPPINES

You’ll find songs of the late Cowboy/Country singer Fred Panopio. Google ANG KAWAWANG COWBOY (it’s the preceding song done in his Tagalog language) and PITONG GATANG BY FRED PANOPIO LYRICS for a faithfully transcribed yodel!!

## CANADA

Google THE FRANTICS DUTCH COWBOYS YOUTUBE. You’re not hallucinating. Then GARY FJELLGAARD YOUTUBE for real.

## MEXICO/TEXAS

JAVIER MOLINA & ELDORADO COWBOY CUMBIA [BILINGUAL MIX] for a fresh line dance to consider.

## MONGOLIA

Google MONGOLIAN COWBOY STUNS FAITH HILL ENKH ERDENE. Apparently the young fellow doesn’t speak English at all. Stunner!

## ISRAEL

Enter FIRST ISRAELI HEBREW COWBOYS MOVIE RED RIVER VALLEY for a wacky 51 minute musical oater you have see to believe. If knishes were horses!! From the ridiculous to the sublime, next try SONG OF A JEWISH COWBOY SCOTT GERBER YOUTUBE.

## IRELAND

We’ve covered Emerald Isle recordings, but CLIONA HAGAN COWBOY YODEL wasn’t among them!

## SWEDEN

If ABBA’d had Stetsons! Try MATZ BLADHS LANDSVAGENS COWBOY. “Cowboy Of The Road.”

## CHINA

Google JAY CHOU COWBOY ON THE RUN YOUTUBE. One video offers English captions, but it’s not “Buffalaxed Chinese Cowboy.” You’re warned. For another interesting vid try I’M A CHINESE COWBOY WITH A SOUTHERN ACCENT.

## ITALY

Look up MARY LEE & CAESAR’S COWBOYS. Italian Western Swing preservationists!!

## FRANCE

Oh, LUCKY LUKE, of course! Its theme song, and PAT WOODS I’M A POOR LONESOME COWBOY.

## UKRAINE

Okay....Texas by way of California with leanings toward Ukraine. For a truly strange Cowpunk video commentary on geopolitics, try JOSIE COTTON UKRANIAN COWBOY. It predates the war.

## ENGLAND

Our IWMA ambassador!! THE CLINT BRADLEY BAND RIDING AFTER MIDNIGHT YOUTUBE.

## JAPAN

HANK SASAKI [COWBOY FROM JAPAN] has a familiar sound. And if the horns on my head were sharper I’d have you google **ライブ・スケジュール!!!** But I won’t. Instead try it with TEXAS COMPANY J.T. KANEHIRA.

## GREECE

Type MADE IN GREECE [COWBOY]. What the heck’s going on there?? I have no freakin’ idea!

*Continued on page 23*

## A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING AT THE O.K. CORRAL

### A LITTLE BIT of HISTORY

By Johnny D. Boggs  
Photography by  
Johnny D. Boggs

For an event that lasted roughly half a minute, the gunfight that wasn't even at the O.K. Corral has garnered lots of attention.

Historians and novelists keep writing about it, and while there hasn't been an O.K. Corral movie in years, don't be surprised when another one shows up.

The first movie specifically about Wyatt Earp and the gunfight that made him famous, *Frontier Marshal* (1939), had a handsome Virginian (Randolph Scott) heroically playing an Illinois native. Of course, it's easy to buy Scott as any Western hero, but Cesar Romero as Doc Holliday? *Tombstone: The Town Too Tough to Die* (1942) had another Western star, Richard Dix, playing Wyatt in a film that at least understood that the story of the O.K. Corral didn't stop with that one gunfight.

I love making *True West* magazine editor Bob Boze Bell mad by saying that the best O.K. Corral movie is John Ford's *My Darling Clementine* (1946), which doesn't get any facts (including the year) right other than there was a man named Wyatt Earp and there was – and still is – an Arizona town called Tombstone. But as a film, it's poetry. Wyatt: "Mac, you ever been in love?" Mac: "No, I've been a bartender all me life."

*Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* (1957) had a catchy theme song, written by Dimitri Tiomkin and Ned Washington and sung by Frankie Lane – and even whistled by Kirk Douglas's Doc in one scene. Did Kirk actually whistle? For that, I turned to filmmaker and film historian C. Courtney Joyner.

"I looked to another Tiomkin score for a possible answer," Joyner told me. That score was for *The High and the Mighty*, director William A. Wellman's 1954 hit starring John Wayne as the whistling copilot who slaps some nerve back into pilot Robert Stack.

*The High and the Mighty* whistling "was dubbed by Muzzy Marcelino, who did quite a lot of that work and often with Tiomkin," Joyner said. "My guess is that Muzzy did the same duty for Kirk that he did for Duke."

*Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* also elongates that gunfight to, oh, five to seven-plus minutes depending on where you start and end.

Most historians say James Garner played the most authentic Wyatt in *Hour of the Gun* (1967), which opens with the gunfight and is almost a sequel to *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* (John Sturges directed both films). *Doc* (1971) had the not-so-good Earp brothers and Doc cutting down the Clantons



Western historian/artist Bob Boze Bell.



Boot Hill in Tombstone, Arizona, where the victims of the O.K. Corral gunfight were buried.

and McLaurys with double-barrel shotguns. Well, *Doc* was really a statement about civil unrest and Vietnam, not Western history.

*Tombstone* (1993), a cult favorite, had cool hats and authentic wardrobe, and Val Kilmer gave one of his most popular performances. But, as Kilmer once told me, “I think I got nine or 10 shots out of my six-gun.”

Kilmer’s Doc whistles while walking to the O.K. Corral, perhaps a homage to Douglas/Marcelino, but I’ve found no documentation that the real Doc whistled.

*Wyatt Earp* (1994) tried for a more balanced account of the legendary lawman-gambler and his brothers, all of whom, as Bell has written, “were known as the ‘fighting pimps’” when the Earps were in Kansas. But most critics called the movie boring.

To me, the best O.K. Corral movies, other than *My Darling Clementine*, are those that took the idea but didn’t name names: *Law and Order* (1932), based on W.S. Burnett’s novel *Saint Johnson*, and *Warlock* (1959), adapted from Oakley Hall’s novel of the same name.

So what was the gunfight – which should have been called the Gunfight in a Vacant Lot Next to C.S. Fly’s Boarding House Near the O.K. Corral – really about?

While there were plenty of personality conflicts between the Earp-Holliday and Clanton-McLaury clubs, on October 26, 1881, Tombstone city marshal Virgil Earp took his pseudo-deputies (brothers Morgan and Wyatt; and dentist-gambler Doc) to arrest some fellows for violating Ordinance No. 9, which, passed in April, prohibited the carrying of deadly weapons in the city without a permit.

The arrest turned bad. Three men were killed and three wounded. The two principals (Ike Clanton and Wyatt), ironically, weren’t injured.

Why did it happen? Bell summed it up: “Never take a drunken dentist to make a misdemeanor arrest.”

The aftermath would lead to more shootings (including the maiming of Virgil Earp and the murder of Morgan Earp), which, in turn, led to Wyatt’s bloody “Vendetta Ride,” in which Frank Stilwell and many others were killed.

And an American legend was born. 🐾



Director John Ford’s *My Darling Clementine* starred Henry Fonda as a down-home Wyatt Earp and Victor Mature as Doctor (not Dentist) John “Doc” Holliday.



Hollywood loves a “Walk To The Gunfight” scene. Morgan Earp (Sam Melville), Virgil Earp (Frank Converse), Doc Holliday (Jason Robards) and Wyatt Earp (James Garner) head to the O.K. Corral in the opening of *Hour of the Gun*.



The O.K. Corral remains a popular tourist attraction in Tombstone, Arizona.



**JOHNNY D. BOGGS**, a native of South Carolina and former newspaper journalist, is a Western novelist/historian, film scholar, photographer and sometimes lyricist who lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He has won a record nine Spur Awards from Western Writers of America for his fiction and writes for several magazines. His website is [www.JohnnyDBoggs.com](http://www.JohnnyDBoggs.com).



# Chapter Update

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

**President: Gary Kirkman**  
[eskirkman@hotmail.com](mailto:eskirkman@hotmail.com)

Greetings to all Arizona chapter members. Our busy summer is gone. The Arizona Cowboy poetry gathering in Prescott was a huge success and it was great to see and listen to all the performers, many of which were our chapter members. Our third annual Show Low IWMA gathering is already scheduled for June 2025 and we are looking forward to that. We are contemplating having a cowboy Christmas program here in the Snowflake Taylor area sometime in December. We will post details as we get them worked out. Thanks to all who support and work to help keep our chapter a success.

## BLACK HILLS & BEYOND CHAPTER

**President: Brad Exton**  
[ramblinrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:ramblinrangers@yahoo.com)

Summer has flown by up here in the northern tier. Before long we'll see frost on the pumpkin, but in the meantime, our Chapter members have been busy performing their best music and poetry. John Lowell received the prestigious Governor's Art Award from Montana. This is the highest award that Montana bestows on those working in the arts. He will be presented his award on December 5 at the State Capital in Helena. Congrats to John on this achievement. He is also producing a songwriter's festival in Livingston, MT and will be touring/performing in Germany and Switzerland this fall.

Allen and Jill Kirkham performed for the National Day of the Cowboy at the High Plains Western Heritage Center for a busy audience of bus tour participants. Dean Bruce is busy with his poetry, having recited many poems during the Montana Cowboy Poetry and Western Music Rendezvous. Bodhi Linde, our 15-year master instrumentalist, has been all over the U.S. playing in places like Ohio, Kansas City, St. Louis, Charleston, SC, Nashville, Colorado, and the Black Hills. He will be performing in Durango and Walnut Valley this fall and Memphis in January. He placed 2nd at the National Assemblies of God, fine arts competition for folk music, playing the octave Mandolin. Congratulations, Bodhi. Greg Hager will be heading out for his fifth musical tour in Japan this coming October. After he returns, he will head for the studio to start on a new CD that should come out next year. Harland Allen took time out from his busy schedule playing at the Kara Creek Saloon to attend and perform at the Montana Cowboy Gathering in Lewistown. Not sure when he finds time to eat and sleep with his busy schedule. Paul Larson, like Harland, has a full-time job playing for the chuckwagon at the Palmer Gulch KOA, but he and



*BH&B Chapter members Paul Larson and poet Ken Cook at Day of the Cowboy.*



*BH&B Sherl Cederburg and Pegie Douglas at 1880 Town.*



*BH&B Ramblin' Rangers and Nancy Ayers at 1880 Town.*

poet Ken Cook took part in a Day of the Cowboy show at the High Plains Western Heritage Center in Spearfish, SD. Sherl Cederburg will be performed at the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering in October. She will perform at a school, the Durango/Silverthorn train, and several events, including the unveiling of a painting by Tim Cox. She also performed at a Cowboy Church on Sunday. The Ramblin' Rangers continue to put miles on their truck and nights in their camper while they play in places like Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska. September found them heading to places like the Durango Gathering, the West Texas Trail Museum in WY, and the Empire Ranch in Arizona.

*Continued on page 28*



## WESTERN WORLD TOUR

*Continued from page 19*

### HUNGARY

This one yielded a rich cowboy history predating America's! Save for their garb and the skyward turn of the cattle horns, you could be anywhere out west. For some music of the Hungarian cowboys who are called "Csikos" (chee-kohsh) try CSIKOS FINGERSTYLE ENYED SANDOR. Explore the adjacent listings.

### BHUTAN

Here's as pure a correlation with our American Western tradition as you'll find! Google OMO OMO MANI PEDME HUNG COWBOY BHUTAN and witness a cowboy singing to soothe his herd. Near the video's end, he pivots the camera to show the docile cattle grazing. He and his herd receive spiritual blessings from the folk song.

### TURKEY

Google GRUP VITAMIN & ATA DEMIRER TURKISH COWBOYS [OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO] and, for the translation of their totally tongue-in-cheek song, it's GRUP VITAMIN TORKIS KOVBOYLAR [TURKISH COWBOYS] ENGLISH.

### GERMANY

This one deserves an entire column. I wasn't familiar with the artist when I landed on BRUCE LOW GERMAN COWBOY SONGS 1949-1954. What I (and you, if you're playing along) discover is a deep-voiced interpreter of mostly original Cowboy material in the B-Western mold. The Wikipedia bio on the Holland-born Low is extensive. It's intriguing that he would have been releasing such American-inspired tracks in Germany so soon after the war. Next google THOMMIE BAYER BAND DER LIETZE COWBOY KOMMT AUS GUTERSLOH. A later CD was "Cowboys und Indianer."

### ICELAND

The singer's name is Spilverk Þjóðanna. Unless you're more gifted than I am with international fonts, it's far easier to google him with ICELANDIC COWBOY. You'll not only turn up his goofy little novelty, but another interesting entry called "Nacht Alleine In der Prarie" (Nights Alone On The Prairie) from Reverend Jurgen & Igor. Ist Deutsch??

### CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY (?)

"International" only if you're across the ocean from Camden, New Jersey, but I couldn't resist THE COWBOY SONG BY RUTH WALLIS ON 1953 WALLIS ORIGINAL 78. I just report 'em, folks. 🐾



## PART ONE OF THREE

**W**hat if you had the opportunity to walk through a door and shake the hand of the person you are going to be 5, 10 or even 20 years from now? Will you thank that person for laying a foundation of security for your loved ones and for supporting causes that reflect your values? Or will you twist your pearl buttons, adjust your cowboy hat, and dig your boots into the dirt because that person had been negligent in planning ahead? Will you be red-faced because you were "always-about-to beginplanning-pretty soon-before long" to getting *A ROUND TUIT*, but you just never seemed to find the right time? Well, our goal is not only to give you a "nudge," but also to provide information that might just help you get a *ROUND TUIT*. We want you to feel proud to shake the hand of your future self, and celebrate the legacy you have left in writing!

This is the first in a 3-part series of a *ROUND TUIT*.

Did you know that in as little as one sentence you can ensure your legacy gift to the IWMA? A donation in any amount in your will or living trust helps to further fulfill the IWMA mission – *encourages and supports the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West* – for years to come. With your designated gift, you will have joined the IWMA Legacy Circle and have guaranteed that your legacy endures.

Although not intended to be legal advice, in this "A Round Tuit" series we will provide some suggested language in a sentence or two that may assist you. Watch for Part II in the next *Western Way* issue. Always consult an Attorney or Estate Planner to ensure that your wishes are accurately recorded. We look forward to helping you get "A Round Tuit" and feeling good about shaking hands with your proud future self.

If you have already designated a gift to the IWMA in your will or living trust, please let us know by contacting Marsha Short at (505) 563-0673. Add your name with other likeminded patrons to the IWMA Legacy Circle. Or choose to be listed as an anonymous partner if you prefer. Together we are the IWMA. 🐾



**“W**e come here quite often and listen to music . . .” The words of Willie Nelson provide anticipation and inspiration in advance of the IWMA annual gathering. Although once a year isn’t exactly ‘quite often’, you catch my drift. In sharing music and spoken word, we connect on a level that is both mystical and magical. The combined talent of our association is immense and diverse. That’s why it’s so much fun to get together every November; to sip, sample and savor the various poetic and musical offerings. Although this publication is aimed primarily at the membership, it’s important to note that we are always looking to grow the organization. Community outreach, word of mouth, work within the individual chapters and the yearly convention are ways to spread the word. The IWMA convention is November 13-17 this year at the Hotel Albuquerque. On Thursday, November 14th at 8 am, you’re invited to a workshop that will focus on radio and other audio platforms, while offering suggestions and ideas on how to present and distribute music and poetry. It will be a lively 90 minutes of discussing and brainstorming ways to let our voices be heard;

not only on air, but online, as well as on location at music performances. I’ll do my best to orchestrate this meeting, as it’s a very talkative and energetic group that normally attends. And the folks attending are passionate about getting their music and words out there. I hope you will attend. Life is full of change and sometimes it’s difficult to adapt. However, as humans we are resilient and are capable of more than we sometimes realize. My program, Under Western Skies, is now in its 30th year. It even survived a format flip recently. What was once a Classic Country station is now News/Sports/Community. But through advocacy and determination, the show survived. I even got bonused with a repeat broadcast. It’s on 7-8 am and 7-8 pm (MST) Sundays on kaffnewsradio.com. And of course, on air: Kaff News Radio, 93.5/AM 930. It stands as an example of rolling with the flow, sticking to your guns and getting back in the saddle. (Or insert your own inspirational phrase/metaphor here.) Back to Albuquerque: the convention is a highlight of the year for so many of us. Let’s get together and listen to music, as well as one another. It’s a grand opportunity to expand our consciousness, share ideas and to embody the ideals the IWMA is based on. 🐾

**PETER BRUCE** is an announcer, producer, engineer and emcee with 40 years of experience in broadcasting, music and radio. In addition to his love of music, Peter is an avid outdoorsman. Favored activities include hunting, cycling, swimming, hiking and exploring the great American Southwest.

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# A CAREER THAT SPANS 60 YEARS AND STILL 'A-GOIN'

## CURRENT SUCCESSES:

- ★ Song "Until That Time" advanced to No. 24 in the *Cross Country* magazine
- ★ CD "Nebraska" topped IWMA charts at #1 and song "Up In Cherry County" climbed to #4 in the *Western Way* magazine charts

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Hit Songwriter
- ★ Vocalist with the Glaser Brothers and Marty Robbin
- ★ Co-Founder of "The Nashville Edition" Session Vocal Group (second only to "The Jordanares" for number of Nashville HIT Recordings Performed On)
- ★ Castmember of "Hee Haw" for 25 Years
- ★ Leader of the HEE HAW Gospel Quartet and Member of the HEE HAW Cowboy Quartet
- ★ Hall of Fame Inductee – International Western Music Association



## THOMAS H. LASSITER (1942 – 2004)



Tom Lassiter was born in Antioch, CA in 1942. He graduated from Antioch High School in 1960 and began a career with US Steel which lasted for over 40 years. Soon after school, he also joined the US National

Guard, rising to the rank of sergeant.

Tom and his wife, Valerie, were married in 1970, and raised a family (2 sons, followed by 6 grandchildren with a great granddaughter expected this Fall), moving to Kingman, AZ in 2004 when Tom retired from USSPOSCO. Along the way, while still in California, they “discovered” Western music. A friend suggested that they visit the Mid-State Fair in California, especially to see Riders In The Sky. That led to an introduction to Ken & Nora Griffis, resulting in a long friendship and an introduction to the Western Music Assn., especially, the then-new Sons of the San Joaquin!

They were so taken with the Sons and their music that they attended as many of their shows as they possibly could, and Valerie, with Tom at her side, offered to form a Sons of the San Joaquin fan club, which lasted until the group retired.

Memorial services were held for Tom in Antioch, CA in June, 2024



Valerie and Tom with the Sons.

## DONNIE WINTERS (1950 – 2004)



IWMA National and Tennessee Chapter member Donnie Winters passed on to his eternal home on Sunday, August 18th, one day shy of his 74th birthday, on his family farm in Nashville, Tennessee due to complications resulting from a 2021 case of COVID pneumonia.

Donnie Winters was best known as a co-founder and one half of the popular Winters Brothers Band with his brother Dennis, touring with the Marshall Tucker Band and performing shows with the legendary Charlie Daniels.

Born into a musical family, Donnie’s grandfather “Pop” Winters began the “picking” tradition. His band “The Southern Strollers,” performed and recorded in the late 40’s. Donnie’s father, Don Winters Sr., aka The Yodeling King, carried on the tradition with a successful career of his own with recordings on RCA and DECA Records. Don Sr. was also a part of The Marty Robbins Show. During his 23 years with Marty, he was part of the band, the trio, and a featured solo artist. Growing up, Marty was like an uncle to Donnie and Dennis. Marty even recorded 10 of the brother’s songs. Donnie Winters was most proud of his cut with Marty titled, “Shotgun Rider.”

Donnie’s own musical legacy extended from southern rock to country and to cowboy/western music. Notably, Donnie’s recording of a song he wrote titled, “Rosita,” showcases his amazing yodeling talent in tribute to his father.

Over the past 25 years, Donnie immersed himself in the Nashville songwriting community, performing and engineering at Nashville’s famous listening rooms, The Sutler and Douglas Corner, Lee Rascone’s Millennium Maxwell House Hotel Songwriter Rounds and Debi Champion’s writer’s night at the Commodore Grille.

Donnie Winters will be remembered as a great, versatile musical talent, but more importantly, as a generous, kind, loving man and a friend to many.

He is survived by Paula, his wife of 44 years, son Derek (DeRivanique), granddaughters Niylah and Jade and the light of his life, grandson Dougie, brother Dennis Winters (Lynda), sister Jackie Williams (Randy) and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by son Ryan, parents Joyce and Don Winters, and sister June Edwards.

Donations can be made in Donnie Winters name to MusiCares.

# SONGWRITING CONTEST WINNERS!

The 2024 IWMA Songwriting Contest has ended and has been judged. All four judges are or have been professional musicians in one capacity or another. Here are this year's winners:

**FIRST PLACE:** "Heartbreak Moon" written by Tecia McKenna, Micki Fuhrman, Mary Kaye Holt, & Merna Lewis (Gone With the West). One judge wrote, "I don't know what else you could want in a cowboy song. Just about perfect."

**SECOND PLACE:** "I'll Rope the Blue Moon" written by Jim Jones & Betty Lynne McCarthy

**THIRD PLACE:** "Half Broke Cavvy (Of the ZX Range)" written by Darrell Arnold & Tom Hiatt

**HONORABLE MENTION** goes to these writers who had songs that finished in the Top 10 by the judges: James Cantwell, Doug Figgs, Patty Clayton & Sam DeLeeuw, Kevin Neil, Jay Veach, Randy Huston & Kristyn Harris, Brett Frame, and Larry Wilder.

Thank you to all who participated. The songs submitted this year were very good. Each judge commented on how great the songs were and how hard it was to select the best. We appreciate the judges for the hours they spent listening to and analyzing each submission.

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# Chapter Update

*Continued from page 22*

## COLORADO CHAPTER

**President: Geary Parsons**  
**Gearyparsons@outlook.com**

As summer winds down and fall quickly approaches, the IWMA-Colorado chapter continues to thrive. I've been on the road, traveling across the state whenever there's a showcase or gathering to attend. On June 29, I had the pleasure of judging the Talent Round-Up again this year. Congratulations to Jimmy Cantwell for taking first place, Jill Smith for earning second, and JJ Steele and Vic Anderson for tying for third. I also attended the National Day of the Cowboy celebration in Westcliffe, Colorado. What an incredible show! We enjoyed performances from Doug Figgs, Valerie Beard, Terry Nash, the Thunborg Twins, and Gone with the West. In Buena Vista on August 11, Terry Nash, Patty Clayton, and Susie Knight gave a wonderful performance at The Hideout at the Dalton Gang Lodge. Bill Patterson captured some great photos of the



*Geary Parsons*



*Terry Nash, Susie Knight and Patty Clayton at The Hideout.*



*Performers at National Day of the Cowboy*

event. The Timberline Cowboys performed at the 36th Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering from August 8-10. It was a fantastic time, filled with amazing poetry and camaraderie. Looking ahead, here are some upcoming events:

**West End Cowboy Gathering** – September 7 in Nucla, featuring Floyd & Valerie Beard, Terry Nash, Doug Figgs, Cora Rose Wood, and Darrell Holden.

**4th Annual Cowboy Gathering on the Mountain** – September 28 in Meeker, featuring Doug Figgs, Daron Little, Terry Nash, Claudia Nygard, and Caitlyn Taussing.

**Western Slope Cowboy Gathering** – November 1-2 in Grand Junction, featuring Jon Chandler, Ernie Martinez, Kristyn Harris, Hailey Sandoz, Floyd & Valerie Beard, Nona Kelley Carver, Bill Clark, Mike Dunn, Allen & Jill Kirkham, Peggy Malone, Terry Nash, Dale Page, Miska Paget, The Russellers, and Rocky Sullivan. Wishing everyone a fantastic start to fall!

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

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

The Columbia Chapter hosted a very successful first-ever open mic stage in Prineville, OR in conjunction with the Crooked River Roundup PRCA Rodeo. We've been invited to do that again next year and look forward to making it even bigger. Our own youth member poet Thomas Fitzgerald was a standout performer, with the audience requesting him to take



*Kerry Grombacher*



*Sam Mattise*



*Larry Wilder*

the stage for an encore. Chapter directors Tom Swearingen, John Seger, and Carla Swearingen acted as hosts and "judges' choice" award panel. Following the success of our early summer concerts in British Columbia the chapter is looking forward to our annual late fall showcase concert set to feature Duane Nelson, Sam Mattise, Barbara Nelson, Venessa Carpenter, Rik "Yonder" Goodell, Larry Wilder, and Kerry Grombacher, with Tom Swearingen as MC. Invitations will also go to our chapter's youth cowboy poetry contest winners with hope they can use the travel stipend we provide as part of their prize and be with us in person to accept their trophy

*Continued on page 30*

# FROM the TRAIL

## WHY I BELIEVE EVERY WESTERN PERFORMER NEEDS TO JOIN IWMA?

*Rik 'Yonder' Goodell*

Audrey and I were visiting with Marvin and Theresa at the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering. They had set up a table there to encourage folks to join IWMA. When I told Theresa that I thought membership was essential for entertainers in the western genre, she suggested I document my reasons. Here they are:

I'm a Cowboy Poet with an intention to expand my audience and opportunities to perform. I live in northwest Montana. The nearest annual gathering to me is six hours away. My resources, both time and money, are finite. I need to spread my beans around and invest them where I can expect the best return. So why has IWMA been a good investment for me? My desired outcome is to spread my poetry far and wide and record it, publish it and perform it as much as my budget allows.

Joining IWMA has given me a direct, automatic networking opportunity through which I have met many

wonderful western poets and musicians; some have become close friends. I have been invited to several gatherings in the last few years since I joined IWMA, and I can trace the source of those invitations directly to IWMA. More specifically, the big gatherings I have been invited to were a direct result of being scouted at the annual conference in Albuquerque.

This would never have happened for me if I hadn't joined IWMA. I would have never met so many wonderful people (performers, and others) and I could have never been discovered by the scouts and invited to the big gatherings where I've been blessed to perform.

Lastly, maybe you are established in your performance world. Join anyway. It helps support our cause, to preserve and perpetuate western culture, and allows The International Western Music Association to continue to promote its mission and its values. 🐾

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# Chapter Update

Continued from page 28



Rik 'Yonder' Goodell



Thomas Fitzgerald



Venessa Carpenter

buckles and share their winning poems as part of the show. A post-concert open mic will provide stage time for more performers. The event will take place at the historic Granada Theatre in The Dalles, OR. Speaking of our youth poetry contest, we'll do it again in 2025 (our 4th annual!). Info is on our website iwmacolumbia.org. Tom Swearingen and Joni Harms headlined the annual Riverbend Live cowboy music and poetry concert in Winston, OR. The Lakeview, OR Cowboy Poetry and Western Art and Gear show will feature Duane Nelson, Olivia Harms, and Joni Harms as performers and MCs.

As a reminder, while our chapter geographically represents OR, ID, WA, and BC we welcome members from all areas and are pleased that our members currently represent eleven states and provinces.

## KANSAS CHAPTER

**President: Martha Farrell**  
**marthasfarrell@gmail.com**

Our Kansas Chapter has announced its first round of "mini grant" awards. The \$300 grants are designed to encourage venues to book our



KS Cowboy Poetry finalists 2024



Scott Wiswell's book

Western performers and to help spread the word about IWMA. By the end of the year the grants will help fund the 20th Anniversary celebration of Annie Wilson and the Tallgrass Express at Pioneer Bluffs; a whole season of Christmas shows at the Prairie Rose Ranch with the Diamond W Wranglers; and a "Cowboy Christmas" at the Lazy T Ranch, featuring Jeff Davidson. As word of the program spreads, we hope to engage historic theatres and festivals around Kansas in booking

**THANK YOU!**

The New Mexico Chapter's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Day of the Cowboy event would not have been a great success without the support of:

- Sandoval County**
- First Financial Credit Union**
- McDade-Woodcock, Inc. Electrical Contractors**
- Range Cafe**
- Bernalillo Lodgers Tax Board**

As well as the personal contributions of Lee Peters, Michael & Donna Coy, Tony & Janet Duarte, Louis Blackwell, Jane Anhol, Rick Huff, Tom Farrell, Judi Anderson, Bonnie Rutherford, Donna Bauer, Jane Jones, Chuck Roberts, Bernard Carr, Scott Wilson, Jerry Lee, Joe & Linda Brown, Mary Ryland, and David Nifel





Leo and Roger with Beppe Gambetta during a sunrise in Italy.

our western talent more often. The Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest is a major project of our chapter, with two preliminary rounds and the state finals at the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan in June. More than 90 people attended the finals, which had contestants from 3 states. Betty Burlingham took first place in both the Serious and Humorous Poetry divisions. Ron Wilson, the Poet Lariat of Kansas, chairs this event each year

and does a fantastic job. Special congrats to our members – Scott Wiswell has published a new book of poetry called “A Cowpuncher’s Christmas.” Roger and Leo Eilts (3 Trails West) made a memorable trip to Italy in August where they joined renowned guitarist Beppe Gambetta at his annual Guitar Summit in Santa Margherita Ligure. Beppe has brought his remarkable music to the US for many years, and it was a treat for the guys to take Cowboy Music to the Old Country for Beppe.

**OKLAHOMA CHAPTER**  
**President: Robert Maxwell Case**  
**robert@robertmaxwellcase.com**

Our Oklahoma Chapter annual get-together and meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, October 26. The free event is open to the public and will take place in Bristow, OK at C&J’s Kountry Fixin’s restaurant on Route 66 from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. As



CJs on Route 66 in Bristow

in previous years, we are expecting lots of great cowboy music and poetry performances. We also will have a brief meeting of the attending members and the executive board. Located at 36921 W Highway 66, Bristow, OK 74010, the venue offers great Oklahoma style vittles and libations served all day. So, arrive early for lunch or stay for supper and enjoy our state’s finest western acts. For more information, email robert@robertmaxwellcase.com

*Continued on page 40*

## Western Writers of America Congratulates the



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Lariat Award Recipient**

## LARIAT AWARD

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# A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

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

## Cindy Walker: Talented, Determined and a Legend

A few months ago, a friend in Hawaii told me about a very popular singer there whose name was IZ. Most of his music was pop, but he also recorded Cindy Walker's composition, "You Don't Know Me." Of course, Cindy Walker wrote a lot of songs that became hits for Bob Wills, Eddy Arnold and others, but I never expected her songs to be recorded by a legendary Hawaiian singer!

Then, another friend sent me a YouTube story about Cindy Walker's house. You may have seen it but check YouTube if you haven't. It's fascinating, but sad. The house is in disrepair, and, since it is the place where she wrote so many classic songs, it's a shame to see it go unattended. It really needs to be preserved.

I didn't know Cindy. I never met her, but we had a couple of mutual friends. Jerry West from Waxahachie, TX told me about going to Cindy's house, long ago, with Gene Davenport, and how Cindy graciously received them, showed them around and politely, but firmly, ended the visit! But they became good friends and talked by phone frequently. Jerry even accompanied her to various awards presentations, e.g. the dedication of the Jim Reeves monument.

Cindy Walker sold her first composition, "Lone Star Trail," at the



Cindy Walker

age of 16! As the story goes, she was visiting Hollywood with her parents, driving down a famous street, seeing the sights, when she spotted Bing Crosby's office. She told her dad to stop the car; she wanted to pitch her newest song to Bing! She went in and met Bing's brother. He liked the song and showed it to Bing later, and Bing recorded it! She continued to compose, and a number of her songs became million-sellers for Eddy Arnold, Jim Reeves and others.

Legend has it that Cindy had a crush on Bob Wills, which may have been why she wrote a lot of songs for him. The songs were successful and made a lot of money for both of them.

She composed her songs at home and her mother played them on their piano to make demos on a little home recorder, to pitch to different artists and/or producers. When her mother died, she asked Rich O'Brien to help her transcribe the new music she composed.

While I never met Ms. Walker, I did have the opportunity to talk with her by phone, an opportunity that took me completely by surprise! Years ago, I reviewed a release that featured radio transcriptions recorded by Eddie Dean. I noted that one of the songs was "Taos," and it was credited to Cindy Walker, so I mentioned her name in the review. Soon after the magazine carrying the review came out, when I got home from work one afternoon, my son Jay told me a woman named Cindy Walker had phoned, saying she wanted to talk with me and that she would call back. I was puzzled. I was sure young Jay had no idea who Cindy Walker was, and I certainly had no idea why she would be calling me, because we had never met!

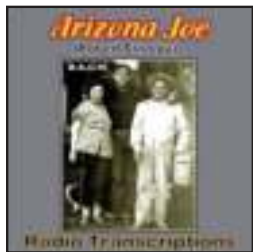
She actually did call back, to tell me that she had read my review and that she couldn't have written the song I mentioned, because her song with that title hadn't been recorded by anyone but Rich O'Brien and that was only on her home tape recorder. "Would you like to hear it?" she asked. Of course, I did, so she said, "Just a minute, honey. Rich O'Brien made a tape of it and I'll bring my tape machine over closer to the phone and I'll call you right back." She did!

She must have been quite a lady! I hope the local efforts to preserve her house succeed. 🐾

## ROBERT STREEPY (A.K.A. ARIZONA JOE)

*"Arizona Joe"*

BACMCD522



Noted Western music historian, Kevin Coffey, wrote the liner notes for this CD. His work is always very

informative, due to his remarkable ability to find the needle in the proverbial haystack and come out sewing an interesting tale. In this case, in spite of the colorful name, which, I must admit, does reflect the contents of this CD, "Arizona Joe" (a.k.a. Robert Streepy) was not from Arizona. Instead of being from the Southwest, he was from the Northwest! And that's where he was best known.

But the song selection (27 of them!) will be very familiar to all fans of Western music. For example, his theme song is "When the Bloom is on the Sage." Streepy has a pleasing voice, a bit reminiscent of Burl Ives'. But his meter is much like Tex Ritter's – even more so. The

tracks are from radio transcriptions and will be familiar to fans who were in the listening audience when his performances were carried on local radio in the Seattle and Carbonado area in the 1940s.

Check your usual source or go online (now with downloads available) at [country-music-archive.com](http://country-music-archive.com).



## VARIOUS ARTISTS (WILF CARTER, ROY ACUFF, DELMORE BROS, ETC.)

*"Old Time Country Radio, Vol. 2"*

BACM721



This new release from the British Archive of Country Music (BACM) may be of marginal interest to

many Western music fans, but to some, it will be a goldmine! As the title implies, the focus is on old-time country music, but the performers from that era (1930's & 40's) enjoyed singing Western tunes

now and then (which is why they used to lump everything under the umbrella, "Country & Western") and folks seemed to have no problem with that.

The CD contains 5 brief radio shows, including one segment of the Grand Ole Opry featuring Roy Acuff & his Smoky Mountain Boys and others who play "Redwing," for example, and Sam & Kirk McGee, who play "Corrina," among others. A second show, sponsored by the Texas Road Safety Dept., features the Delmore Bros., who sing "Goin' Back to Texas". The third show includes fiddle instrumentals by the Crazy Hillbillies, and you'll also hear a musical saw and some harmonica work by the boys in the band. The fourth show is hosted by Asher Sizemore & "Little Jimmy," but the fifth show may be of greatest interest to Western fans because it features Wilf Carter, a.k.a. "Montana Slim," who sings a surprisingly long string of traditional songs plus "Rootin' Tootin' Cowboy," complete with his famous yodel.

Check your usual source or go online (now with downloads available) at [country-music-archive.com](http://country-music-archive.com). 🐾

**Death Valley '49ers**  
75th Anniversary Encampment  
November 6th – 10th, 2024  
[deathvalley49ers.org](http://deathvalley49ers.org)

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NEW SINGLE BY PATTY CLAYTON  
WOLF MOON  
PATTY CLAYTON

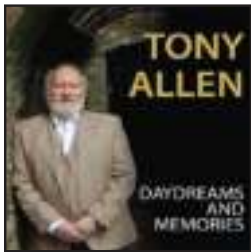
WOLVES RUN TOGETHER IT IS SAID BY THE SPOCK  
WOLVES RUN TOGETHER 'NEAR THE JANUARY MOON'  
SINGLE DIGITAL DOWNLOAD AVAILABLE NOW AT [PATTYCLAYTON.COM](http://PATTYCLAYTON.COM)



To submit items for review, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442.  
 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.

## TONY ALLEN

### *“Daydreams and Memories”*



Along with offering fine songs from his fellow Irishmen, for this release mellow balladeer

Tony Allen has chosen Country classics from Harlan Howard (“I Don’t Know A Thing About Love”), Johnny Cash (“Flesh & Blood”), John Denver (a version of “Annie’s Song” I personally prefer to the original) and others. Two we’ll mention are famous Western standards! And several of the Irish songs could be viewed through a Western lens (“Maria,” “Town Of Athlone,” “Good Hearts Get Lost”).

For his cover of Ian Tyson’s “Four Strong Winds,” Allen effectively pairs with famed singer Philomena Begley and seems to make it a song about an Irishman having to seek his family’s salvation (“I think I’ll go out to Alberta....”). In his duet with Hugo Duncan on “Ghost Riders In The Sky” I find additional charm in Duncan’s brogue intoning “troyin’ to cahtch the devil’s haired,” realizing that actual vocal effect would have been ‘haired’ around campfires out west!

Able musical (and songwriting) support comes from the wonderful Sheerin Brothers, who backed Joni Harms on her Irish release from some years back. Good stuff this, and its recommended! Sixteen tracks total.



## LORI BETH BROOKE

### *“Light Of The Moon”*



The accordion virtuosity of Lori Beth Brooke is in the arena with Stomach Steinway

masters such as Joey “The Cowpolka King” Miskulin of Riders In The Sky and my mentor the late Hi Busse, founder of The Frontiersmen. And then come her yodeling and songwriting strengths! She gets the chance to flex all those musical muscles here.

Ten of the fifteen tracks are originals. One of them (a CD pick) is a glorious co-write and co-sing with Devon Dawson “Call Of The Hualapai” created for an IWMA Team Penning contest. Cover picks include her swinging take of Cindy Walker’s “I Hear Ya Talkin,’” nice renderings of 1916’s “Jessie Polka” and Louise Massey & Lee Penny’s

“My Adobe Hacienda.” Picks among the novelty tracks are “Cell Phone Slinger” (“fastest texting thumbs in the West”), Paul Barton’s 1948 “If I Could Only Learn To Yodel” which Brooks certainly proves she has done, there and in “Yodel Challenge” (dukin’ it out with Kristyn Harris).

Thoroughly annotated, this release will provide pleasure with knowledge. That combination isn’t the easiest to find! Fifteen tracks, highly recommended.



## KC LACOURSE

### *“The Last Sunset”*



In what is arguably her most literate release yet, prolific Cowboy Poet KC LaCourse offers a

collection subtitled “Poetry Of The Old American West.” Despite that a bit of Aussie ground is covered as well!

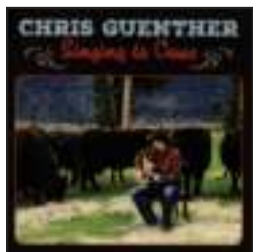
Finality, loss, struggles and cowboying onward are recurrent themes in CD picks such as “I Am A Pioneer,” “Fiddle & Bow,” “Pioneer Woman,” “The Final Call” “Bodhi,” and title track “The Last Sunset.” In a way the poem “Elusive Cowboy”

partners with the song "Red Headed Stranger" in its leave him alone with his sorrow feel. Another pick ("Kitty Leroy") really feels like KC could be profiling her own wild and woolly Old West great grandma! Throughout, the historically inspired images offered are vivid and the mountings with musical intros sprinkled in are effective. LaCourse's delivery is appropriately straightforward and unadorned.

This release is another superior production job from the talented Aarom Meador, who also personally handles a good deal of the musical duties. Nineteen tracks, highly recommended.



**CHRIS GUENTHER**  
*"Singing To Cows"*



High production values and thoughtful (if bleak) subjects and lyrics mark this follow-

up to Chris Guenther's "American Outlaw" albums. This one finds the expressively gritty-voiced singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist once again operating largely from the outlaw's point of view. One exception to that is the title track!

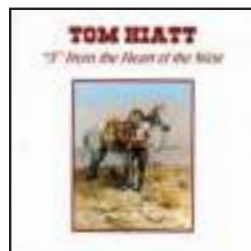
Many of the songs in the all-original collection are dramatically mounted with atmospheric effects. Also several of them seem to be based on specific events from history. The pick track "Long & Bitter Chill" is an example of that. Often Guenther leaves a bit of mystery as to motivations and outcomes of the scenes he paints. Some of those picks include "Vendetta Ride," "Whiskey Head Ryan" and the poem "Changing Of The Guard." Another pick is

"Singing To Cows" (nice and slow so as not to spook'em...but oh lordy, he doesn't say "doggies," does he??). And we'll include the spiritually toned "Traces Of You," which could become a standard of "spiritually toned" Cowboy events. The two instrumentals also rank ("Arango" and "One Trick Horse"). Both could come from a film score.

Ten tracks total, and we'll highly recommend it.



**TOM HIATT**  
*"5 From The Heart Of The West"*  
 (EP)



This EP of five songs from the minds of prolific poet Darrell Arnold and singer/

songwriter Tom Hiatt was missed at the time of its first release. It shouldn't be missed at all.

Since the 1990s various Western luminaries have put Arnold's good words to music, including the late Jack Hannah and Ed Stabler, Jean Prescott and others. In his adaptations Hiatt holds to the truth of the works and makes them easily approachable musically. Alright, we'll use that term "catchy."

The quintet consists of "Ian and Charlie" (showing one cowboy finds Tyson & Russell to be the perfect team even if a century apart), a Western rum running epic "The Taos Lightnin' Trail," a past winner of the Working Cowboy Song Of The Year award "Never Cuss The Rain," "The Legacy Of Louis L'Amour" (about guess who) and the saga song "Tom Tobin (and the Bloody Espinosas)" (originally written as

just "Tom Tobin and The Espinozas" but such is Tom Hiatt's enthusiasm!)

This is a terrific little set from guys who know how it's to be done. What's not to highly recommend??



**HUGH MCLENNAN & THE WESTERN SPIRIT BAND**  
*"A Little Past Our Prime"*



Don't get any preconceived notions. Hugh's title track here is about him and his horse!

The dean of the Western Music radio hosts Hugh McLennan has stepped before his microphone this time to issue some nice musical notes. The solid voice of Canada's venerable "Spirit Of The West" broadcasts, Hugh is also a poet/singer/songwriter. With friends and collaborators Tom Cole (vocal harmonies, rhythm guitar & accordion) and Mike Dygert (bass), he goes about proving that. Guest musicians on this project are Hugh's brother Jim McLennan (lead guitar), Beau Hughes (dobro & steel), Rachele Willms & Dave Glowaski (fiddle) and Clint Geisbrecht (additional vocal harmony).

To be sure, our leads here are senior statesmen in the Western arena who come from genuine ranching backgrounds. On the subject of faux cowboys, poking a stick with a CD pick like "Cowboy Card" from Randy Huston is fair game. Other picks include Dave Stamey's insider view of a dreaded task "Fence Building Blues," Cindy Walker's vocally challenging "Dusty Skies," a gently 'Canadianated' take

*Continued on page 36*

## RICK HUFF'S REVIEWS

Continued from page 35

of "Ol' Paint" (aka "Goodbye Old Paint") and a sensitive recitation of Darrell Arnold's "Devil's Pride" set to guitar from brother Jim. Twelve tracks total, recommended!



## MISKA PAGET

*"Real Hands & Treasured Friends"*



The collection cover bears the caption "Cowboy Poetry about the folks and critters who

touch my soul." Dr. Miska Paget, Cowboy Poet & Large Animal Vet, is not the first person to be doubly-engaged in such a manner. She was preceded by the late Baxter Black and likely some others unknown to me. But she brings a special perspective and her words here are well chosen.

As I'd said regarding Paget's previous release, I prefer to have a click or two more space allowed between works to let each set and settle. Some smaller players may actually clip off the ends of tightly packed tracks. Picks include "Don't Sell The Horses" (a plaintive plea and picture of a ranch's final generation), "Let 'Em In" (offering the alternate view of continuance), "Max's Poem" (the horse has more story to tell), "Someone's Dream" (now a rickety ghost) and "Old Bay Mare" (final days of an old friend).

Paget maintains a chipper delivery even on some of the sadder passages, which may help you to not need tissues nearby...but you may want them close anyway. Twelve tracks, recommended.

## CARRIE ROMERO

*"One Of A Kind"*



In a mix of (a) Western song, four Western/Honky Tonk Swing tracks and several listenable

Country offerings, with her newest release mellow-voiced artist Carrie Romero stakes her pleasant claim on the listeners' ears.

The Western track states it plainly enough. "I Love Cowboys," it says! If it's not those hat, boots & jeans-wearing, cattle-wrangling guys who embody all those traits we most admire and sing about, to whom might she be referring?! Moving on to the less obvious, the Western Swing tracks come with the traditional 3-note ignition that lets the dancers they're in the right place. Those tracks include Western Swingers "I Walk On Faith" and "A Wall The Size Of Texas" with Honky Ton Swingers "One Of A Kind Love" and "Don't Even Think About It." And we'll name all five of the above as album "picks."

The collection is tastefully produced and varied enough to sustain multiple plays over time. And that, for many of us, is the highest praise of all! Fourteen tracks, recommended.



## THE RUSSELLERS

*"Trackin' On"*



Homespun and easygoing, The Russell's' new release is a portrait of their comfortable, congenial

effect. They are nicely showcased by co-producer Don Richmond of

Alamosa's Howlin' Dog Studios. Richmond not only has an infallible ear for how to best show off his artists, but he also brings the musical talents of "The Don Richmond Howlin' Dog Studio Band" (consisting of himself, himself, himself and himself)!

This husband & wife duo consists of singer/songwriter & Cowboy Poet Dennis Russell (Nazelrod) and Beverly Gray Russell. Those who prize authenticity will appreciate knowing they are the real deal... ranchers first, entertainers second. It has been a number of decades since I've encountered the haunting wail of the musical saw figuring prominently in a release. The last time may have been Fee Waybill occasionally choosing the instrument to back her husband, the late Ken Graydon.

Album picks include title track "Trackin' On," a cover of Rod Taylor's "I Can Live With That," originals "Journey To Winter," "Saddle Up & Go" and "Allison" (a saga song about gunfighter and generally disreputable legend Clay Allison). Recommended, twelve tracks total.



## RICK & THE ALL STAR RAMBLERS

*"The Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote"*



An album offering Rick Norcross' "bestest" songs deserves a 'goder' review. So, here she goes!

The original writes and co-writes on this farewell collection were literally voted on by 250 fans, DJs, sponsors and sundry Swingers to gain inclusion. That pretty much

guarantees all tracks are “picks.” Oooo, sneaky!! Culled from eight Rambler albums issued across their 60 year journey, this offering of favorites is the grand finale.

Many of Norcross’ lyrics could be called “Vermont-centric” by those who call things stuff, but hey! The beat still swings. “Green Mountain Standard Time,” “You Can’t Make It Up,” “My Kissing Days Are Over,” “God Bless The Mighty Pickle,” “What Goes Around Comes Around” and others fly The Freedom & Unity State flag. Some more I would have voted for (so I will) include “Don’t Do Me Like That With Your Cowboy Hat” (the idea brims over), “Don’t Make Me Beg” (w/vocalist Dave Rowell), “Out In The Cold,” “Take Your Time” and “Lost In Austin.” Fifteen tracks, but far more memories than that for the band’s fans. Highly recommended for others, too.



## LANCE SHAW & THE 419 SWING BAND

### “Gone Too Soon”



With what is apparently a slightly altered name for the band (their 2022 CD had them as “Lance Shaw

& 419 Swing”), here comes the third offering from this congenial Western Swing troupe....whatever they prefer to be called!

Once again the friendly sense of being your local bar band is maintained in this, the third release from Lance Shaw and “the guys.” For feet awaiting a good excuse to move, a dance-ready sequence of ballads, waltzes, a Latin-tinged track and (but of course) Swing awaits!

Among the latter are CD picks “Bull Buck Me Money” (there’s a cowboy’s fervent wish), “Headed Home” (an uptempo swinger), “Me Crown & 7” (the Country holy trinity) and “There’s Nothing Like An Old Honky Tonk” (obviously it’s not anti-establishment)!

Judging from the pictures of the project’s participants, we would seem to have Lance Shaw (lead vocals/guitar), Rex Mayfield & Shelly Wallace (harmony vocals), CD co-producer Steven ‘Buttermilk’ Myers (guitar), Brian Fowler (fiddle), Eli Chavez (bass) and Kyle Herrley (drums). The title track and the CD dedication refer to two young lives “Gone Too Soon.” Ten tracks total, recommended.



## PHOEBE WHITE

### “Cowgirl Delight”



So exactly why (asks the accompanying promotional material for phenom Phoebe White’s new release)

would folks like Suzy Bogguss, Riders In The Sky, The McLain Family Band, icon Janis Ian and others work on an album with a 14-year old?? Likely that’s because they sense something big is in the works. They’re right.

Phoebe White has blown away Western audiences with her natural yodeling ability. Her second album release finds her songwriting skills are coming right along, as shepherded in part by award-winning Nashville songwriter and author Corey Lee Barker. White is able to handle some vocal gymnastics that should be far beyond her chronological years, but it’s gratifying to find her less projected vocal interpretive skills are developing very nicely as well.

Picks include title track “Cowgirl’s Delight,” “Nevada Skies” and “Just An Old Grey Mare” (all White co-writes with Barker and her mom/manager Tiffany Ledford White) and a poignant, courageous, non-Western song created for this project by Janis Ian called “Color Of Me.” The album is skillfully arranged and produced by Michael Johnathan. Ten tracks, highly recommended.



## MAILBAG

Received *Western Way* [Summer 2024] this afternoon and as always one ‘great’ issue! All credit goes to you for endless effort and quality of material. With great respect,  
– Bill Strickler

I received my *Western Way* [Summer 2024] and I want to compliment you on your choice of LeeLee for the cover and for the In the Crosshairs interview. Top shelf!! Theresa, your efforts on *The Western Way* are very much appreciated. It is one of my favorite pieces of our organization. Just so you know, I appreciate you and your great work on all our behalf. Have yourself a great day! You deserve it.  
– F. Beard

...the latest issue of the *Western Way* [Summer 2024] arrived and I read every page, all good news, cover to cover! This helps [to keep] me up-to-date on everything IWMA! Don’t know if Fran and I will ever get to a Convention again – please tell everyone they’re always in my thoughts and prayers. Oh, and tell Lori Brooke I received her CD...the contents brought back “yodeling memories from 50s and 60s...NJ/NY radio! Thanks! – A. Krtil

## Sampling The Singles

BY RICK HUFF

Just when we least expected it and maybe most needed it, here comes a waltzing single from the agile minds and lofty talents of **Lon Hannah** (Sons Of The San Joaquin) and poet/writer/editor/performer **Darrell Arnold**. It's **The Highly Exalted**, in tribute to The Cowboy. The song is very much in the mold of Lon's late uncle Jack Hannah in its literacy and engaging structure. A classic in the making.

Our old friend **T.J. Casey** has reworked a pair from his and Jim Reader's 2010 CD "RNDNMUP" **Swingin' My Way Home To You** and **Shine On Moon (Harvest Moon)**. The former is a prime example of Cowboy Swing (the beat but with Cowboy lyrics and acoustic instrumentation). The latter is straight-up Cowboy. On this three-song EP the pair escort a freshly recorded religious song.

Major excitement ran through our veins when we learned that Mary Kaye Holt, Micki Fuhrman, Tecia McKenna and Merna Lewis had teamed as **gone with the west** (do they use Caps or not?). Their first recorded releases have now appeared! The Cowboy Swing song **A New Someday** and the Western mythic ballad **Colorado Cowboy** will get you goin' too. Marvels of musicianship! Keep 'em comin'!!

Balladeer **Harleydale Brown** has issued a pair of Western saga songs with complex plots. **Ballad of Young Marty** creates a prequel for "El Paso" wherein outlaw Marty meets, marries and loses (from a bullet meant for him) Consuelo, the sister of Felina! In **The Last Rodeo** a retiring cowboy's call to Mom proves true when he draws the bull "Gone To Heaven" and, when thrown, goes there. Whew!!

**R.J. Vandygriff** dusted off and reworked what Mickey Newberry originally assembled as "An American Trilogy" calling his **Texas Trilogy**. Actually it contains four songs, but everything's bigger in Texas, right??! No big 'Elvisy' brass arrangement here, just a heartfelt rendering of the components "Dixie," "Battle Hymn Of The Republic," "America The Beautiful" & "This Land Is Your Land."

Newly released by the much-awarded **Doug Figgs** are a cover of the Steve Gillette/Tom Campbell standard **Darcy Farrow** (famously written to fudge an assignment in a music appreciation class) and a co-write with Andi Renfree **Cowgirl From Illinois** (everybody's from somewhere)! It follows the girl's conscious trek to becoming the real deal with no looking back. Carve another notch in his belt!

Longtime collaborators **Allan Chapman** and **Jim Jones** have done a duet version of their co-write from some years back **Smoke Of The Brandin' Fire**. A mellow acoustic guitar accompaniment escorts their mellow, intimate delivery of the cowboy's 'letter to a girlfriend back home.' You don't hear this pair harmonizing that often, but they can, and do. And perhaps they will do so more often!

Clarksville Creative Sound artist **Lonnie Bartmess** is very sure of what he wants. Of all the things he could see and do, he'd "rather be **Ridin' Fences** with you," girl! Or so says the Gary Coffee-penned song from 2015, freshly recorded. His other frisky and very dancer-friendly release is **I'll Hang Up My Spurs For You**. That swinger claims at least one cowboy would sell his saddle to win a woman.

Veteran Australian performer and radio host **Gene Bradley Fisk** has long studied and celebrated the indigenous cultures of his home, notably the Gulidjan and Wadawurrung Nations. In his single release **Blackhawk** he invites you to walk with and learn from The Spirits. Now in his 89th year, in a way Fisk is an elder of the very type he salutes. Here's your invitation to honor your ancestors, whoever you are.

Guess what oldie came bouncing up the charts for some good reason back in June! **Garth Brooks'** 1997 "Live In Germany" recording of the Larry Bastian-penned hit **Rodeo**!! I remember talking with Bastian about its genesis. He'd spent a good deal of time around the very California rodeo the IWMA's own Jerry Hall helped shepherd. Hearing those cowboys grouse about the addiction birthed a megahit!

Irishman **Gavin Gribben** has released a fabulous spirited version of **Waxies Dargel**. What, you say?? Melodically it's the ancient Irish folk source for the oldest Cowboy song of all "The Gal I Left Behind Me." To be sure other lyrics have been put to the melody at different times throughout its history, but likely as not it was one of those storied Irish immigrant cowboys who knew it and turned it Western.

The Western aspect of one single release from Ireland's **Effie Neill** lies in the instrumentation and style of the accompaniment. **Dance Like There's Nobody Watching** is a sweet waltz done with as perfect a Western combo sound as you'd ever find. Fiddle, steel, guitar, drum and nobody playing like they're trying to be watched either! This one is ripe for being covered by other Western dance assemblages.



# CLASSIC PROFILES

## SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

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

BY RICK HUFF

We're proud to say that more artists are creating and performing Western Music these days than at any time in its long, illustrious history. Its legacy includes others who have helped to fortify the trail that Western artists of today continue to ride. The work of these trailblazers should continue to be celebrated, heard and enjoyed.

### KENN LEE

*"Dally The Bluestem Grass"*  
(1996)



Near the end of the last century along came as pristine an acoustic album as you will

likely find anywhere. Produced by Lanny Fiel, fiddler extraordinaire Joe Stephenson and the artist Kenn Lee, "Dally The Bluestem Grass" introduced most folks to this Colorado singer/songwriter. His James Taylor or Michael Martin Murphey-type vocals had a familiar and comfortable ring, but it was his songwriting that helped to establish him with his fans as being a keen observer of the Western scene. In a most convincing manner he paints word portraits of ranches and people, horses they have and horses they've lost.

Lee is among the artists handpicked by the Elko powers to receive the invitation to appear there. If memory serves, Elko's Western Heritage Center mercantile is where I acquired

this album. On it he is masterfully supported by Mr. Fiel (acoustic guitar, mandolin, dobro and banjo) and Mr. Stephenson (fiddle, acoustic guitar leads and upright bass on some tracks) and Donna Stephenson (upright bass on others)!

As of his 2022 postings Kenn Lee had remained in fine voice, but if you can have or find this one, you hold a gentle gem!



### TOMMY MORRELL & THE TIMEWARP TOPHANDS

*"How The West Was Swung – Volume One"* (1990, remastered 1999)



Why 'Volume One,' you ask? You mean beyond the fact that this album launched the wondrous

series of twelve cherished Western Swing volumes in the How The West Was Swung series? You mean in addition to it being remastered nine years after its initial release to

satisfy the chanting demand for a CD version of it?? You mean the fact that it was the first album to bring together such a stellar rotating crew of players from the leading swing sources of this or any other day: Tom Morrell, Don Edwards, Lanny Long, Rodney Booth, Randy Lee, Rich O'Brien, Leon Rausch, Leon Chambers, Bob Boatright, Tommy Perkins, Dean Reynolds, Benny Garcia and Johnny Case ?? You mean that this will never be replicated because so many of those geniuses have since left us??? The resounding answer to all of the above is...YES!!!

The first cognoscenti to hear such an assemblage were treated to an eclectic mix of swing including familiar fare (such as "Can't Go On This Way," "Honeysuckle Rose," "Hang Your Head In Shame" and "Roundup Time In Texas") and then some unexpected material ("Lonesome Coyotes," "New Jersey Coyotes," "Mr. Steel Guitar" and "Stellin' Home," for instance). And, of course, it all holds up like it was recorded yesterday.

Find it, play it, treasure it...and then go find the other albums in the set and do likewise!!!

# Chapter Update

Continued from page 31



Red Steagall

or call (918) 939-9517. On December 8, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in OKC presents "Deck The Hall" featuring Red Steagall and the Boys in the Bunkhouse. "Saddle up for an evening brimming with joyful Western melodies. As the winter chill sweeps across the plains, grab your hat, polish those boots, and get ready for a night of festive tunes, great food, family fun and Christmas cheer, cowboy style." The event kicks off at 4:30 p.m.

## TENNESSEE CHAPTER

**President: Gary Holt**  
**Gih50@live.com**

Greetings from the Tennessee Chapter. It's been a super busy quarter with increased touring, new music and great new members joining our Western Family! Known for giving back, members are donating their time to deserving causes. IWMA Hall of Fame Member



Members



Gone with the West



Riders In The Sky

Ranger Doug Green is found lending his talents to other members as they develop new projects. It's an exciting time as new music is being created and shared to old and new audiences. Riders In The Sky have long been an influence in the world of Western Music and continue to encourage rising stars like Gone With the West. We're pleased to announce Rex Allen Jr.'s continued good news as he overcomes cancer. His latest scans were clear. Please keep him in your prayers. It is with deep sadness we share the news of the sudden loss of our friend Donnie Winters. Please keep his wife Paula and family in your prayers. The Tennessee Chapter is looking forward to this year's Convention. Watch for a few new faces this year in Albuquerque. We look forward to seeing you there!

## UTAH CHAPTER

**President: Dale Major**  
**cvcowboyrendezvous@gmail.com**

Greetings from the Beehive State and the Crossroads of the West! Our Chapter is re-emerging and we're grateful to those who have chosen to join our IWMA Chapter here in Utah. Our veteran members have had a busy summer performing at various fairs and festivals and sharing

and promoting our western heritage with others. Newer performers are beginning to establish themselves as well. We've managed to meet several times as a chapter in spite of the distance required to travel for some of our members. Our website is beginning to take shape and should be a real asset to our chapter and especially to members seeking new performance opportunities. Thanks to Kathy Smith for ram-rodding this project. We're looking forward to the launch and invite all Utah chapter members to forward their bio/performance information so that it can be included. We'd invite all to add the Utah Chapter to their IWMA membership and be included in our website. The Utah Chapter will also be hosting a Jam Session Thursday night at the IWMA convention and would invite all to stop by and share your talent with us. Should be a fun time. Some specific Utah performance activities by our membership this quarter include Sam DeLeeuw and other Utah Cowboy Poets who were featured at the Western Legends Roundup in Kanab the weekend of August 24. Years back *Western Legends* was a GO TO Destination for Cowboy Poets from across the country, and Utah is delighted that Kanab is bringing poets back again to their festival. The Cedar City Livestock Festival October 25-27 will include IWMA Utah members Sam DeLeeuw, Brian Arnold (Saddle Strings), Dave & Jenny Anderson, and Jo Kirkwood, as well as other Utah Poets and Musicians in the Arena. This is a fun event with lots of authentic western activities. Our IWMA Utah Chapter/Cowboy Poets of Utah Fall Jam will be November 2 in the Ivins (St. George) area. Members are invited to bring friends and family, and the community is encouraged to attend and join in. And looking farther ahead, our annual Veterans Show and Winter Business Meeting in Payson is scheduled for January. More news as the date draws near. Future performance opportunities for our members include The Cache Valley

Cowboy Rendezvous which will happen the week of March 3-9, 2025. We'd love to have you come to Cache Valley in Northern Utah and enjoy some of the best western entertainment around, but if you can't make it, we will be streaming a program each evening and also during the festival hours. More details will be coming.

## WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

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

The sponsorship of Western Wordsmiths helped make the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest a success again this year, with the Governor of Kansas signing the award certificates for the champion poets. Congrats to WW member Betty Burlingham who swept the awards for both serious and humorous poetry. WW secretary Ron Wilson continues to host Cattle Trails Showcase, a monthly zoom call highlighting museums, historical elements, communities and other attractions along the historic Chisholm and Western cattle trails. He also shares his poetry on the weekly Live at the Lazy T Ranch video on Facebook and most recently at the Circle M City recreated western village in North Carolina. He celebrated the National Day of the Cowboy by presenting his poem at the Kaw Valley Rodeo. Ron is especially pleased that he has been asked to share his original poems as part of the opening of the Western Cattle Trail exhibit in September in Oklahoma City at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Almeda Bradshaw may be off the road but she ain't off the map. Almeda has been "Kickin' It with Leif"



Almeda Bradshaw



Danny McCurry

98.5 The Wolf!!, talkin' up her benefit concert in support of LA VIE HEALTH, she entertained for the Montana Special Forces Chapter 28 Respite in Red Lodge, and brought some Classic Old-Time Country Western Americana Cowboy music to the Yeehaw Heehaw Western Days Festival. Poet Danny McCurry left the ranch for seventeen days, (that's a ranching record). Danny's round trip took him to Chris Cox's Triangle C Ranch in Dubois WY and then he and better half Teresa trekked to the Montana Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering. In both locales Danny added to the fun spouting his poetic verse. Miska Paget has just published her first poetry book, Ranch Call. Reading it will shed light to Miska's non-stop nature and efforts for her clients, her patients, her tribe, her life, and all that she loves. At last check-in Miska was ready to toss the walker as she recovers from a recent surgery. Terry Nash was the invited Cowboy Poet at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs CO for their 45th anniversary celebration, bringing an appreciation of Cowboy Poetry to many 'new' ears. Then on Sunday August 11, Nash met up with Susie Knight and Patty Clayton at a cool venue in Buena Vista, CO for a Colorado chapter showcase, which was also met with good appreciation by the nice folks there. Rik Goodell reports that he and Audrey will be going to Fort Worth in October to receive a Will Roger's Medallion Award for Recorded Cowboy Poetry for his latest CD, "Provin Up Wise". He's stayed busy with a couple of house concerts in July and the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering in August. Portland, OR: Jazz

quartet, Cowboy Jazz, has released a new album titled Folkways featuring their collaboration with poet Tom Swearingen. The quartet invited Tom to record on tracks featuring his poetry and additional lyrics to re-arranged traditional American folk music. The group plans to compose more tunes around Tom's poems. Sherl Cederburg, at a performance dedicated to poets and poetry, recited at Custer State Park and also published her poetry book, Beauty in Black in White, available on Amazon. Yours truly, Mark, spent some dog days of summer counting ceiling tiles at St Peter's Hospital and managed to recover enough to provide poetic parlance at a handful of performances.

## YOUTH CHAPTER

**Board Committee**  
**Belinda Gail**  
**belindagail@protonmail.com**  
**LeeLee Robert**  
**lee@leeleemusic.com**  
**Marsha Short**  
**marsha@westernmusic.org**

The IWMA Youth Chapter held their final Zoom Workshop for 2024 on August 27. LeeLee Robert presented an exciting workshop on "Songwriting 101." She sang a few songs and gave good, basic information on copyrighting the easy way and introduced the group to the Harry Fox Agency. We're all looking forward to the annual meeting and workshop during the IWMA Convention in Albuquerque. This year's workshop will be presented by Kerry Grombacher on "Stagecraft." Kerry will talk about the stage, checking sound, tuning or switching instruments, and, most importantly, how to introduce a song or poem. Remember, it doesn't cost Youth Chapter members anything to attend the Convention so we're hoping to see everyone there. We're also still looking for more members in our chapter and are encouraging all chapters to reach out to young performers and fans in their areas, as well as encouraging them to include the Youth members in their programming and leadership. 🐾



# Book Nook Reviews & More

BY KAREN CAMPBELL



If you would like to have your western fiction, nonfiction or poetry book reviewed, send a copy to:  
Karen Campbell, 1762 County Road 121, Gainesville, TX 76240. Submissions will not be returned.

## Sense and Syllables

**H**istorically, one of the most reliable ways to remember a song or poem or even historical information is to memorize its rhythm as much as remembering the words or story. Think for instance of highly memorable music or a chorus that sticks in the mind and replays over and over. A good example is “The Gambler” written by Don Schlitz and sung by Kenny Rogers (“You gotta know when to hold ‘em / Know when to fold ‘em / Know when to walk away / Know when to run”). I don’t often remember the verse stanzas of this song, but the chorus plays in my head constantly. It’s that memorable. A huge part of that rhythm can be found in the beats of the music or in the meter of poetry.

In high school, when I was just beginning my writing journey and starting to read more poetry as well, my high school teacher told me I could find the rhythm of a piece starting with the syllables of the word. All I had to do was put my hand under my chin when I was saying a word. Every time my hand dropped with my chin, that was one syllable. I just needed to count that. The beginning for me in writing poetry was making sure that most lines had a consistent number of syllables. But that’s only the beginning of shaping rhythm.

The rhythm of those syllables, which ones are emphasized and which ones are quieter, helps form the overall meter or beat of a song or poem. And there are specific patterns. The most common pattern in spoken English, poetry, and certainly cowboy writing is an iambic rhythm, a pattern of syllables that follow an unstressed/stressed (- ^) beat. MOST cowboy poetry is written in iambic meter. The number of syllables will determine the length of the line. Iambic

trimeter for instance has 3 iambic feet of - ^ syllables (or 6 total syllables). If it’s 4 feet of - ^ syllables then its tetrameter, 5 for pentameter, 6 for hexameter, 7 for heptameter, 8 for octameter, 9 for nonameter, 10 for decameter (most lines won’t go beyond 20 syllables).

A good example for classic cowboy poetry of iambic pentameter is one of my favorite poems, Henry Herbert Knibbs’ “Make Me No Grave.” Count the number of syllables (averaging 10/pentameter) and where every other syllable receives a slight emphasis or ‘stress.’

Make me no grave within that quiet place  
Where friends shall sadly view the grassy mound,  
Politely solemn for a little space,  
As though the spirit slept beneath the ground.

Count the number of syllables and where every other syllable receives a slight emphasis (^) or ‘stress.’ Say every second syllable slightly louder and you can start to ‘feel’ and ‘hear’ the rhythm of this classic poem. If you put your hand below your chin again, your chin should drop slightly harder on the ‘stressed’ second syllable (with the ^) as you count and listen. An advantage of gaining an ear for rhythm patterns and meter is that poets and songwriters can shape and even affect the sense and memorable nature of what they are writing.

While iambic rhythm is by far the most common rhythm of English and of cowboy writing in general, two of my favorite rhythms are actually anapestic rhythm which is a three beat pattern (similar to a horse loping) of unstressed, unstressed, stressed syllables (- - ^), similar to an - a - pest, or more of a gallop in dactylic of stressed, unstressed, unstressed (^ - -), similar to dac-tyl-ic . A famous example of a

dactylic poem is Alfred, Lord Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade." The poem's entire 'sense' is affected by the rhythm of horses running and charging like a cavalry.

Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.  
"Forward, the Light Brigade!  
Charge for the guns!" he said.  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

The meter is not exact as some iambic patterns and trochaic (stressed/unstressed, ^-) creep into the lines. But you can feel and hear the sound of horses running contributing to the 'rush' of the of the poem's meter as most of it is clearly dactylic.

Have you ever tried 'measuring' a line's meter, sort of like a measure in music? Pick out your favorite poem or song, count the syllables, see if you can feel a consistent pattern of stresses. It will give you a feel for the 'music' of writing, become aware of the 'sound effects' hidden in the sense of writing, and help you write more memorable lines as well.

## RIK 'YONDER' GOODELL *"Yonderin' Tales: Western Poetry from a Cowboy Heart," 2024*



Rik Goodell presents over 50 cowboy poems in his newest publication *Yonderin' Tales*. Goodell begins the work with a foreword by Kristyn

Harris that particularly praises her husband's experience with Goodell in the recording studio. As far as the organization of the collection goes, Goodell divides his work into topic areas including Cowboys, Wimmenfolk, Dogs, Dads and Granddads, Young 'uns, America, Rodeo, Faith, Cowboyin' and such, and biographical poems. There are a range from 3 and up to 12 poems per topic area. Most poems start with an artwork and the occasional poem has

a short explanation before the actual piece. One particularly appreciated inclusion in the collection includes acknowledgment of copyright and permission for images included before some of the poems as well as some of the artists/sources.

Goodell's poetic style will be familiar to many readers, generally relying on four line stanzas that rhyme every line (abcb) and mainly iambic meter, though uneven lines certainly appear upon occasion. This style will suit those wishing to learn some short and easy to memorize poems. Because of this style and a lack of punctuation, these poems work better read aloud than read in print, echoing the Foreword's compliment on Goodell's recording/audio style. The lack of punctuation is not likely to bother listeners but may bother or confuse some readers looking for clear endings to sentences.

Poems that stand out in the collection include "Hearing Gratitude," "Seeing Gratitude," "Daddy's Blessings,"

"Campfire Schoolin'," "Filly Catchin'," and "Gift from a Lusty Holstein" It should be noted that most of the poems in the collection are lengthy and narrative style, ranging from 2-3 pages in print. The collection lacks lyrical style poems, which readers should be prepared for.

The book itself is currently only available in paperback. It is well made for a paperback, and the pages are of good quality that will stand up to some use. I recommend the author look into ebook publication as well to broaden his reach and make it easier for potential readers/reciters to quickly reference on a mobile device.

Readers looking for a collection to memorize and present for local gatherings or looking for narrative style poems with traditional forms and considerable length will likely appreciate this collection.

**Yonderin Tales Press. \$25 on Amazon, hard copy, 167 pgs.**

**KAREN GRACE BROWN CAMPBELL** has been writing, reading, and performing primarily western and Christian poetry for over 25 years. She is also a wife and a mother of a wonderful little girl. She breeds horses and runs barrels as well as serving as an Associate Dean and English Professor at Grayson College and has taught at other colleges and universities. She has her PhD from Texas Tech and an MA from Baylor University in Literature, specifically medieval literature (cowboys and knights have a lot in common). You may contact Karen at [CampbellK@grayson.edu](mailto:CampbellK@grayson.edu).

# Western Playlists – Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

**Joe Angel**

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

**Marshal Allen Bailey**

*"Trucker's Radio USA"*  
909 First St.  
Windom, KS 67491  
www.truckersradiousa.com

**Bobbi Jean Bell**

*"OutWest Hour"*  
7819 Chaco Mesa Loop NW  
Albuquerque NM 87114  
818-384-4315  
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com  
KUPR 99.9 FM  
Low Power Community Radio  
www.KUPR.org  
Placitas, New Mexico  
Follow on Mixcloud:  
www.mixcloud.com/DJBobbiJeanBell  
Plays Western, Western Swing,  
Cowboy Country, Poetry, and  
whatever strikes her fancy!

**Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky**

*"Rogue Valley Bound Show"*  
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.  
Medford, Oregon 97504  
541-301-7649  
www.earsradio.com  
New Zealand Public Radio  
KSHD, Shady Cove, OR  
skipbessonette@gmail.com

**Janice Brooks**

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

**Peter Bruce**

*"Under Western Skies"*  
KAFF News Radio  
FM 93.5/AM 930  
Sundays 7-8 am & 7-8 pm  
Mountain Standard Time  
kaffnewsradio.com  
peter.bruce@kaff.com  
928-556-2650

**Chuckaroo the Buckaroo**

*"Calling All Cowboys Radio"*  
88.9 FM, KPOV  
High Desert Community Radio  
www.kpov.org  
kpov.od.streamguys.us/  
calling\_all\_cowboys\_new\_56k.mp3  
Email: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com  
22470 Rickard Rd., Bend, OR 97702

**Roger & Leo Eilts**

2821 W 75th Street  
Prairie Village, KS 66208  
*"The Americana Road Show"*  
www.truckersradiousa.com  
roger@thederrrieres.com  
816-769-4041  
leo@thederrrieres.com  
913-226-3637  
www.thederrrieres.com

**Doug Figgs**

P. O. Box 3  
Lemitar, NM 87823  
505-440-0979  
www.dougfiggs.com  
www.RioGrandeValleyRadio.com

**Nancy Flagg**

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

**Paul Hazell**

PH Records  
Royal Mail Building (PO Box 3)  
Brambleside  
Bellbrook Industrial Estate  
Uckfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 1XX United Kingdom  
*"Paul Hazell's World Of Country"*  
Big River FM (NZ) and others and  
several other stations around the world  
Paulhazellsworldofcountry@gmail.com  
Telephone: +44 7775 545 902

**Randy Hill**

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

**Gary Holt**

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

**Judy James**

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

**Allen & Jill Kirkham**

*"Circuit Rider Roundup"* on  
*"American Cowboy Radio"*  
KJAG FM 107.7 Guthrie, TX  
www.americancowboyradio.com  
25353 S. Lightning Creek Road  
Custer, SD 57730  
(Plays Western Gospel music and  
cowboy poetry)  
Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm (CST)  
Monday 8:00 pm (CST)  
KirkhamMusic@icloud.com  
605-440-7338

**Susie Knight**

*"The Western Way Hour"*  
28751 Doe Valley Dr.  
Conifer, CO 80433

**Jarle Kvale**

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

**Eddy Leverett**

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

**Butch and Christina Martin***"Whittler's Corner Show"*

1410 Kubli Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527  
 Earsradio.com  
 KSKO Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org  
 The Dalles, OR, Y102  
 KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY  
 KSHD 93.4 Shady Cove, OR  
 KORV 93.5 Ladeview, OR  
 www.ButchMartinMusic.com  
 www.romancingthewest.org  
 541-218-2477

**Hugh McLennan**

McLennan Ranch  
 2520 Hvas Lake Rd.  
 Pinantan, BC, Canada VOE 3E1  
 mclennan\_ranch@explornet.com  
 www.hugh-mclennan.com

**Marvin O'Dell***"Around the Campfire"*

KKRN, Redding, CA  
 KZNQ, Santa Clarita, CA  
 tunein.com/radio/KZNQ-Q-  
 Country-1015-s264146/  
 www.earsradio.com  
 meoteo@aol.com  
 10430 W. Loma Blanca Dr.  
 Sun City, AZ 85351  
 805-551-4649

**O.J. Sikes**

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

**JJ Steele***"Cowboy Corral"*

c/o JJ Steele  
 KLZR  
 103 South 2nd St., Westcliffe, CO 81252

**Kevin Tuckfield**

PO Box 10217, Russellville, AR 72812  
 Arkansas Cowboy Radio Ride  
 KWMV 88.5 FM  
 Mountain View, AR  
 kevinTuckfield@gmail.com  
 479-264-9281

**Wayne & Kathy**

*"Swing 'n' Country"*  
 KBOO 90.7 FM  
 20 SE 8th Ave., Portland, OR 97214  
 wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net

**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.

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# Western Charts

**Attention Musicians and Poets!** 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 in this issue.

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Blessed by the West – Sarah Pierce
2. Light of the Moon – Lori Beth Brooke
3. Snow on the Wineglass – John Lowell
4. Trackin' On – The Russellers
5. From the Saddle to Symphony Hall – Dave Alexander
6. Storyteller: Tales of the West – Jim Jones
7. They Ride – Ed Meyer
8. Gotta Move – The Hot Texas Swing Band
9. Nebraska – Cowboy Joe Babcock
10. A Little Western, A Little Swing – Carlos Washington
11. This Ol' Guitar and Me – Peggy Malone
12. One More Ride – Doug Figgs
13. We Were Cowboys – R.J. Vandygriff
14. Ranchfolk at Large – Ryan Fritz
15. Cabin Songs – Syd Masters
16. On the Trail With the Lonesome Pines – Hilary Gardner
17. Throw a Saddle on a Star – Riders In The Sky
18. Once I Was a Cowboy – Joel White
19. Singing to Cows – Chris Guenther
20. Cowgirl's Delight – Phoebe White
21. The Old Ways – The Timberline Cowboys
22. Born to be a Cowgirl – Aspen Black
23. Roll On, Cowboys – Andy Hedges
24. Times Like These – Randy Huston
25. The Real West – Patty Clayton
26. Cowboys and Pearls – Paul Larson
27. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
28. Westbound – Mikki Fuhrman
29. Horses of War – Brenn Hill
30. Dan McCorison – Me and Les

## 10 MOST PLAYED WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Light of the Moon – Lori Beth Brooke
2. From the Saddle to Symphony Hall – Dave Alexander
3. Gotta Move – The Hot Texas Swing Band
4. A Little Western, A Little Swing – Carlos Washington
5. 12-6 Central – The Western Swing Authority
6. Somewhere North of San Antone – Oklahoma Swing
7. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
8. All of Me – Eric Diamond
9. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
10. Billy Mata's Timeless Treasures – Billy Mata

## 12 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJs

1. Blessed by the West – Sara Pierce
2. Cowboy Way (Tied to the Ride) – Sarah Pierce
3. When the Grass Was Still Deep – Joel White
4. A New Someday – Gone With the West
5. A Wandering Stray – John Lowell
- Charlie Was His Name – Peggy Malone
- Desert Skies – Carlos Washington
8. When the Bloom is on the Sage – Dave Alexander
9. If I Could Only Learn to Yodel – Lori Beth Brooke
10. Ride for the Brand – Jim Jones
- High Country Trail – Syd Masters
- All I Ever Wanted to be (Was a Cowboy) – Paul Overstreet

## 12 MOST PLAYED COWBOY POETRY ALBUMS

1. Real Hands & Treasured Friends – Miska Paget
2. Come Sit a Spell – Woody Woodruff
3. Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg
- Pensive & Playful – Mark Munzert
- The Girl in the Yellow Checked Dress – Duane Nelson
- Four Aces and a Queen – Dennis Russell, Terry Nash, Valerie Beard, Floyd Beard & Dale Page
7. Old West Memories – Rocky Sullivan
8. No Better Life – Valerie Beard
9. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
10. Proven Up Wise – Rik "Yonder" Goodell
- The Last Sunset – K.C. LaCourse
12. Wisdom in the Wind – Sherl Cederburg
- A Good Ride – Terry Nash

**\*A MISSING NUMBER IN THE LIST  
REPRESENTS A TIE FOR THAT SPOT.**



# IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

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Cowboy Joe Babcock	Franklin, TN	Clyde Lucas	Sylmar, CA
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Sherry Bond	Nashville, TN	Al "Doc" Mehl	Turner Valley, AB Canada
Mark E. Brown	Franklin, IN	Tree Menane	Taos, NM
Ken Bucy	Mesa, AZ	Kathy Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Brandt Buffham	Saugus, CA	Jon Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Stephen S. Burnette	Brownsville, TN	Joseph Miskulin	Kirtland, OH
Robert Maxwell Case	Slick, OK	Michael Martin Murphey	Nashville, TN
Susan Booth Case	Slick, OK	Marvin O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Alan Chenworth	Edwards, CA	Theresa O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Woody Paul Chrisman	Nashville, TN	Tom O'Malley	Harvard, ID
Patty Clayton	Edgewater, CO	Darren Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Karen Cloutier	Conyngham, PA	Sara Lou Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Peggy Collins	Livermore, CA	Billy Pitts	Kansas City, MO
Henry "Steve" Conroy	Sierra Vista, AZ	Pamela Plaskitt	Waterloo, IA
Polly Cooke	Wickenburg, AZ	Rich Price	Oakdale, CA
Jan Michael Corey	Mesa, AZ	Jeff Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Stan Corliss	Hillsboro, OR	Diana Raven	Lakewood, CO
William Crowe	Van Horn, TX	Herb Remington	Ruidoso, NM
Don Cusic	Nashville, TN	Steven Rhodes	Foosland, IL
Mark & Marlene Davis	Chatsworth, CA	Victoria Rhodes	Foosland, IL
David DeBolt	Nolensville, TN	Don Richardson	Upland, CA
Rich Dollarhide	Sierra Vista, AZ	Barbara Richhart	Mancos, CO
Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	LeeLee Robert	Jackson, WY
Arlys Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Jessie D. Robertson	Fort Worth, TX
Fred Engel Kimball	Junction, UT	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
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Brad Exton	Hot Springs, SD	Cheryl Rogers-Barnett	Washington, UT
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Rick Flory	Jackson, WY	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
David A. Fulfs	Moscow, ID	Ray Ryan	San Jose, CA
Norbert Gauch	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Yvonne Ryan	San Jose, CA
Dick & Dixie Goodman	Sun City West, AZ	Mary M. Ryland	Albuquerque, NM
Douglas B. Green	Brentwood, TN	Suzanne Samelson	Thermopolis, WY
Betsy Bell Hagar	Mill Valley, CA	Rudolf P. Schai	Bernhardzell, Switzerland
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Patti Hamel	Tucson, AZ	Lindy Simmons	Mancos, CO
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Les Hamilton	Dubois, WY	Dave Stamey	Orange Cove, CA
Calvin Danner Hampton	Amarillo, TX	Cheryl Stanley	Roswell, NM
Lisa Hampton	Amarillo, TX	Red Steagall	Fort Worth, TX
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Joe Hannah	Visalia, CA	Steve Taylor	Roy, UT
Lon Hannah	Visalia, CA	Terri Taylor	Roy, UT
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Rick Huff	Albuquerque, NM	Carlos Washington	Youngsville, NM
Voleta Hummel	Sierra Vista, AZ	Washtub Jerry	Fort Davis, TX
Charles Jennings	Rockville, MD	Leonard Werner	Flemington, NJ
Emma F. Kaenzig	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Johnny Western	Mesa, AZ
Paul Kelly	Santa Fe, NM	Norman Winter	Mills, WY
		Joyce Woodson	San Juan Capistrano, CA



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*(high school graduation thru 21)*
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- Individual Supporting Membership.....\$50
- Individual Youth Membership.....\$15  
*(thru high school graduation)*
- Individual Youth Membership.....\$25  
*(high school graduation thru 21)*
- Family Membership (one vote per family).....\$75
- Patron Membership.....\$100  
*Includes sponsorship of the Patron Stage at Convention*
- Individual Life Membership.....\$1,000

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

In addition to your National Membership, you may also want to support local chapters by adding individual Chapter Memberships.

- Arizona
- California
- Columbia
- Kansas
- Oklahoma
- Texas
- Western Wordsmiths
- Black Hills & Beyond
- Colorado
- East Coast
- New Mexico
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Youth

- Chapter Individual Membership (each chapter).....\$15
- Chapter Family Membership (each chapter).....\$25

It's OK to include my information in the IWMA Membership Directory (printed annually and distributed during the IWMA Annual Meeting).

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

Tell us a little about yourself (check all that apply):

- Singer  Instrumentalist  Songwriter  Poet
- Storyteller  Author  Manager/Booking Agent
- Publisher  Producer  DJ/Radio Station
- Fan  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed (payable to IWMA)
- Charge my credit card  
*(American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Discover)*

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return application to:

**IWMA**  
**P. O. Box 648**  
**Coppell, TX 75019**

Who can we thank for referring you to IWMA?

\_\_\_\_\_

For more details or questions

Email: [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org)

Phone: 505-563-0673

Website: [iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org)

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