

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the

International Western Music Association



—••••—
CROSSHAIRS:
AWARD-WINNING AND
MULTI-TALENTED
JIM JONES

PRESERVES THE
CULTURE OF THE WEST

PAGE 6

—••••—
*Swingin' in
Sacramento*

PAGE 10

—••~••—
**LEGACY OF
JACK THORPE**

PAGE 12

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S WILD WEST HERITAGE

WHERE THE WEST CAN STILL BE WON

The Old West Comes Alive with a Membership in SASS®

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



SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY™

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

505-843-1320

www.sassnet.com

New Songs of the West
by Jim Schafer

Songs written by Baxter Black

A collection of original songs covering the vast world of cowpunchers from the Alberta Highline to the Mexican border, the waves of Wyoming to the Kansas plain, from the Colorado Rockies to the Alamo, from the big high and jonesome where the Glory of the West was born AND **STILL LIVES ON!**
Jim sings, Baxter writes.
\$15.95 + postage, 800-654-2550

2019 Instrumentalist of the Year

Thank you IWMA for your love & support of my music!
HaileySandoz.com

9th Annual Bobby Flores
SUMMER MUSIC
CAMP RETREAT

July 19 - 23, 2020

★ **Guitar** ★ **Fiddle** ★
★ **Voice** ★ **Pedal Steel** ★

Buggy Barn Museum
Blanco, TX

For More Info: 682-429-8881

Western WRITERS of AMERICA

2020
WESTERN WRITERS OF AMERICA
CONVENTION

June 17-20, 2020
Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
Rapid City, SD

Tour to Spearfish and Deadwood
PROGRAMMING ON LAKOTA CULTURE
FEATURED SPEAKER
Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

SESSIONS ON:
Marketing, Editors and Agents, Fiction, Nonfiction,
Old West Legends, Woman Suffrage and more.

Visit www.westernwriters.org or contact
wwa.moulton@gmail.com for more info

From The President...



Robert Lorbeer
IWMA President

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

IWMA Board of Directors, herein after BOD, meets several times each year; our Bylaws specify that the BOD has to meet face to face for not less than 3 meetings each year.

The first meeting is usually in the late January/early February time frame, and this year we met on February 4 and 5 in Sierra Vista, AZ. We chose that date and place because we had several Board

members who also were performing at the Sierra Vista Cowboy Gathering that weekend. Our second BOD meeting will be at the Hotel Albuquerque, on May 4 and 5.

Our contract with Hotel Albuquerque expires after our Convention in 2020. IWMA has retained a specialist, who has been investigating several other hotels in Albuquerque for the best deal for our membership for the next few years. I am pleased to announce that after reviewing all of the various hotel proposals, IWMA will renew the contract with Hotel Albuquerque for a few more years.

The BOD's 3rd meeting will be a conference call meeting in August, and our 4th, 5th, and perhaps 6th BOD meetings will be at the Convention in November.

The BOD is pleased to welcome two new interns for the year, LeeLee Robert and Dennis Russell. Interns openly participate in our meetings but they are not allowed to vote on any issue. There are a few occasions that the interns are asked to step out of the room so that the BOD can discuss confidential information. Since interns are not official members of the BOD, they must be excluded from those conversations. Interns generally serve with the BOD for one year and then at a meeting at the Convention the BOD will vote as to whether or not to invite the intern to become a full fledged member of the BOD. There could be an occasion when an Intern would be ask to serve as an Intern for an additional year.

If you have an interest in being a member of the IWMA Board of Directors, please get in touch with Marsha Short. She will provide you with an application form.

All Board meetings are open to IWMA members, and you are welcome to join us to observe our meetings. If you would like to do so, please email or call Marsha Short so there can be ample seating provided. And if you have something that you would like to bring to the BOD's attention, please discuss that with Marsha so it can be added to the meeting agenda.

In addition to attending Board meetings, all of our Board members also serve on committees and oversee additional assignments to support IWMA. IWMA Board members do not get paid for attending meetings or for mileage or meals; all board members pay out-of-pocket expenses incurred to attend meetings.

I want to thank all of our highly capable and dedicated Board of Directors for their participation in keeping IWMA a viable and thriving organization. Our Board members are: Jerry Hall, Belinda Gail, Diana Raven, Marvin O'Dell, Tom Swearingen, Theresa O'Dell, Rich Dollarhide, and Juni Fisher.

Robert Lorbeer
President, IWMA



FOUNDER
Bill Wiley

OFFICERS
Robert Lorbeer, President
Jerry Hall, Executive V.P.
Marvin O'Dell, V.P.
Belinda Gail, Secretary
Diana Raven, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Marsha Short

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Dollarhide
Juni Fisher
Belinda Gail
Jerry Hall
Robert Lorbeer
Marvin O'Dell
Theresa O'Dell
Diana Raven
Tom Swearingen

2020 BOARD INTERNS

LeeLee Robert
Dennis Russell

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Rex Allen, Jr., Chairman
Cheryl Rogers Barnett
Ray Benson
Tom Chambers
Don Edwards
Robert E. Fee, Esq.
Douglas B. Green
Mike Mahaney
Suze Spencer Marshall
Gary McMahan
Michael Martin Murphey
Rusty Richards
Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr.
O.J. Sikes
Red Steagall
Steve Taylor
Marilyn Tuttle
Johnny Western

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Les Buffham, Nancy Flagg,
Samantha Meyer Gallegos, Rick Huff,
Bryan Kuban, Dakota Livesay,
Marvin O'Dell, Theresa O'Dell,
Ollie Reed, Jr., Marsha Short,
O.J. Sikes, Jim Wilson

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Quarterly Publication of the IWMA
Deadline for next issue: June 1, 2020

MANAGING EDITOR/ADVERTISING

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Kim Tappan/Tappan Design
tappandesign@hughes.net

PRINTING

Modern Litho, Jefferson City, MO

INTERNATIONAL WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION

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

CONTENTS

FEATURES

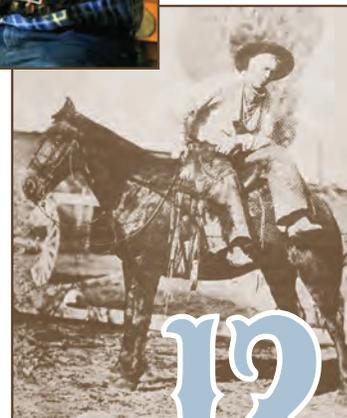
6 In the Crosshairs
Jim Jones

10 Keepers of the Flame
Nancy Flagg

12 The Legacy of Jack Thorpe
Rex Rideout

ARTICLES, UPDATES & MORE

- 2** President's Message
- 4** Editor's Insight
- 5** From the Executive Director
- 11** Penned By Lantern Light
- 16** Western Event Calendar
- 17** Tales of the West
- 18** Exploration
- 20** In The Spotlight
- 22** In Memoriam
- 22** IWMA Patron Members
- 23** The Western World Tour
- 25** Chapter Update
- 28** Behind the Studio Door
- 30** Buffham's Buffoonery
- 32** DJ Behind The Mic
- 33** Chronicle Of The Old West
- 34** Reviews From O.J. Sikes
- 34** IWMA Lifetime Members
- 38** Huff's Best Of The West Reviews
- 41** Reed's Reading Book Reviews
- 43** Western Charts
- 44** Western Playlists' Reporters
- 46** Awards of Excellence Nominations



REVIEWS – CDS, DVDS & BOOKS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 34 Carolina Cotton | 38 Ron Christopher |
| 34 Rex Allen | 38 Mike Craig |
| 34 Rex Allen, Jr. | 38 Kristyn Harris |
| 35 Herb Remington | 39 Jo Lynn Kirkwood |
| 35 Tex Ritter | 39 Bob Marshall |
| 35 Tex Williams | 39 Sandy Reay & Friends |
| 36 Otago Rambler | 40 Jan Schiferl |
| 36 Showtime USA, Vol. 1 (DVD) | 40 Chris Mortensen (Poetry Book) |
| 36 My Heart's Across the Border – Various | 41 Dave Stamey (Book) |
| | 41 Nicholas Clapp (Book) |



A long-standing member of IWMA, Jim Jones' fingers reach into many facets of the western music pie! Talented singer, songwriter, performer, and gifted novelist, but he isn't always found centerstage. Jim is a "go-to-guy" for a sound man, back-up instrumentalist for other performers, and a record producer. You might also find him setting up or breaking down a stage. Jim may just be anywhere, but always promoting the story of the West. Photography by Lori Faith

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

even when life throws a curve and our best laid plans fall apart. I am no different from each of you – my life can get pretty unpredictable at times! But I thought to myself, “I’m so glad I don’t have to do this alone. I don’t have to write all the articles, take all the pictures, do all the layout work, solicit all the advertisers, send out invoicing, and create all the pieces to complete this 52-page publication each quarter.” Yes, I do have to create the content map for each issue. I do have to plan and coordinate and prod a few and remind others. I do have to stay on top of stuff! I do have to meet all the deadlines. But for the most part, I rely on the hard work of a plethora of people who write articles, chart playlists, report on chapter events, interview folks, review CDs and books, submit story ideas, solicit advertising and contribute hours to providing content for each issue of *The Western Way*. These terrific folks are called “volunteers!”

“Act as if what you do makes a difference...It does.”

– WILLIAM JAMES

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the TIME; they just have the HEART.”

– ELIZABETH ANDREW

Thankful for Volunteers

The work of volunteers extends beyond the pages of *The Western Way*. You find the halls in Hotel Albuquerque lined with them at each convention. You find them busy at work at many regional chapter events – setting up stages, selling artists’ CDs, working a table at a concert or festival telling folks about the IWMA and encouraging membership; or, you see them hosting house concerts so performers have a place to play their music and recite their poetry! Many are DJs who give their time so there is an avenue on the airways to keep alive western music and poetry. Many are festival and venue organizers who devote hours throughout the year to provide a place where western music and poetry can be performed. These aren’t paid employees; these are volunteers!

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”

– SHERRY ANDERSON

But, since it is closest to my heart, I want to pause and say a sincere “thank you” to all those volunteers who contribute so much to *The Western Way* each quarter. You know who you are; I know who you are. I could not pull together this publication without you. I am privileged to work alongside of you as together we further the mission of the International Western Music Association, ... an organization that encourages and supports the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West. 🐾

Thank You

From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

It's that time of year again: performer applications are in the mail and the Awards Nomination Form is included in this issue. Didn't we just do this?

I've been talking to a lot of our members over the last couple of months about a variety of things but most of the conversations end up with the same comment: I don't know where the time is going. Everyone is busy being sure that every detail in life is

taken care of before crawling into bed at night where you probably can't sleep thinking of everything that has to be done tomorrow.

I have a favorite Ralph Waldo Emerson quote on my desk:

***"Finish each day and be done with it...
you have done what you could;
Some blunders and absurdities no doubt
crept in; forget them as soon as you can.
Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin
it well and serenely."***

Imagine beginning a day "well and serenely," enjoying the sunrise, sipping (instead of gulping) your favorite breakfast drink, listening to the birds sing...

Let's all make plans to get together in Albuquerque and for just a few days relax, watch the sunrise or sunset, spend time with friends, listen to some great music and poetry and ignore all those blunders and absurdities that are no doubt going to try to creep in on us. Let's let ourselves go and enjoy the moments we have together, cheer each other on, and make some memories.

This year we'll be celebrating Rex Allen's 100th Birthday! Rex Allen, Jr. will be with us to share his memories and music during the Opening Luncheon on Wednesday as well as hosting some of his favorite classic Westerns starring his Dad. On Wednesday night, come dance with Syd Masters & The Swing Riders. Think you can't dance? Then come to the workshop beforehand and learn some fancy moves. And Thursday night the Crisis Fund Dinner will feature IWMA Hall of Fame Member Dave Stamey in concert.

All this plus the Friday Night Western Opry, showcases, workshops, CD mercantile, the Western Boutique, vendors and more!

IWMA2020 – November 11-15 – Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. Watch for details at iwesternmusic.org and in the next *Western Way*. Make the time to be there! 🐾



ADVERTISE IN THE WESTERN WAY

AND REACH THE PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW!

**DON'T
WAIT**

**RESERVE YOUR
SPACE TODAY!**

	Rate/Issue B&W or Color	4X Rate/Issue B&W or Color
Full Page	\$800	\$750
Full Page Inside Cover	\$900	\$850
Back 3/4 Page Color	\$900	\$850
Half Page	\$500	\$450
Third Page	\$450	\$400
Quarter Page	\$400	\$325
Sixth Page	\$300	\$275
1/12th Page (Logo with text only)	\$135	\$125
Classified ads	\$20 for the first 10 words, then 10¢ per word	

INCLUDE THE WESTERN WAY IN YOUR MARKETING PLAN

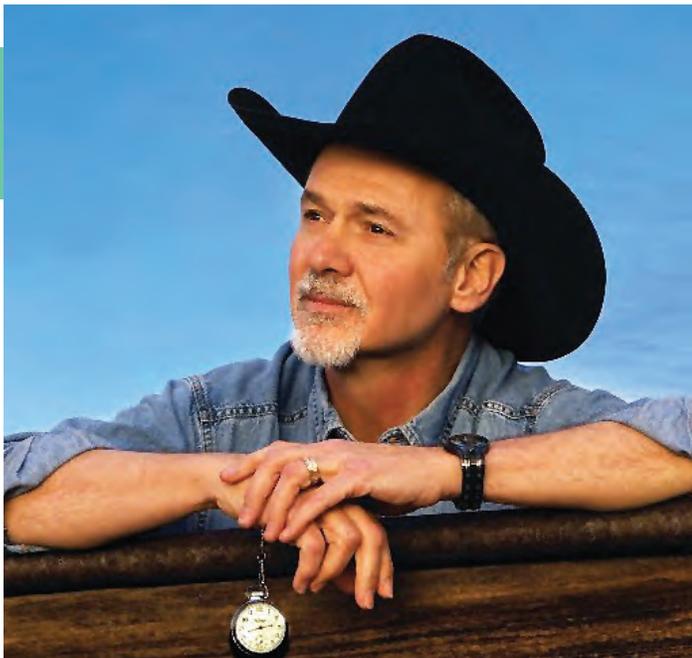
Multiple copies are placed in strategic locations throughout the US and distributed internationally through our broad global membership outreach. As a quarterly publication with a dynamic online digital presence, your ad continues to work for you into the future. The *Western Way* readership is "mobile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

Example of Distribution Outlets:

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

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

In the **CROSSHAIRS**



Jim Jones Photography by Lori Faith

JIM JONES

All photos submitted and used by permission.

TWW: How long have you been playing guitar and singing?

JJ: Do I have to answer (*laughs*)? I got my first guitar the summer after I graduated from high school, which was a LONG time ago. After my freshman year in college, I transferred to the University of Texas in Austin just in time to see and hear some of the greatest singer/songwriters who ever lived.

TWW: And how long have you been a professional performer?

JJ: I had my first professional gig in 1970 in a little bar in Austin called the One Knite. The front door was shaped like a coffin. By the end of the gig, I was so depressed that nobody was listening that I really thought I would never do it again. On the way out, a guy at the bar said, "Loved your tunes", and here I am all these years later still plugging away. Obviously it doesn't take much encouragement to keep me going (*laughs*). Shows you how delusional we songwriters can be.

TWW: (laughs) There may be a lot of truth to that! Is there anyone in particular who strongly encouraged you to step out and begin performing on stage? Most performers seem to be hesitant about making the leap until someone pushes them off the ledge.

JJ: I was terrified, but I was also in love with the idea of being a singer/songwriter. On an almost nightly basis, when I should have been studying, I would go see Texas greats like Guy Clark, Townes Van Zandt, Michael Martin Murphy when he was still Michael Murphy (*laughs*) and Steve Fromholz. I thought that was about the coolest thing in the world a person could do...I still

THE WESTERN WAY: We are sitting down today to talk with one of the International Western Music Association's (IWMA) long-standing members, Jim Jones. Jim, we appreciate you taking the time to visit with us.

JIM JONES: My pleasure.

TWW: How long have you been a member of the IWMA?

JJ: I joined in 2003 and attended my first convention in Wichita, KS in November of that year.

TWW: You seem to believe that being a member of a music association that promotes a particular genre is of value to a performer within that genre. How so?

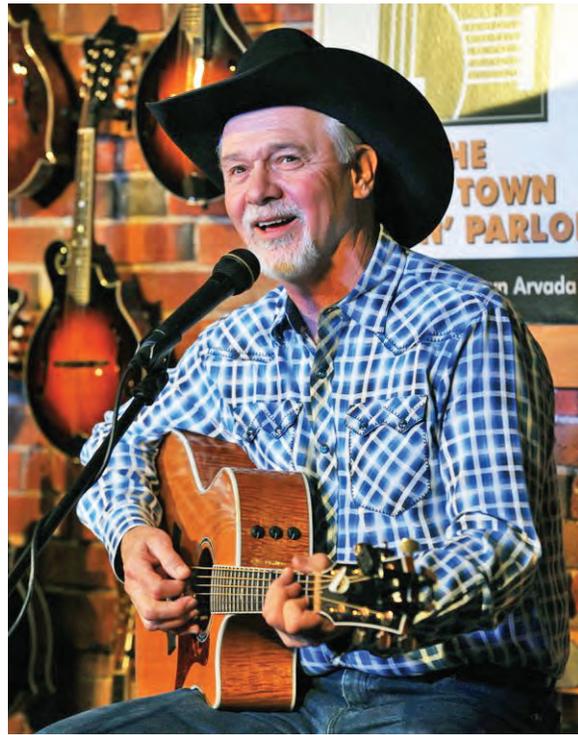
JJ: Absolutely, for several reasons. First off, you get to rub elbows with a whole lot of extremely talented folks and have the opportunity to learn a great deal. Also, there are lots of chances to network with people, and if you're looking to establish a career, you just have to meet a whole lot of folks. And most importantly, you get to make some of the best friends you'll ever have in your life.

believe that...so I just sucked it up and started doing it. One of the things I learned from that was to not let fear of failure stop me from trying new or different things. The only way to grow is to stretch yourself. Sometimes you'll fall flat but sometimes you'll succeed beyond your wildest dreams.

TWW: Was your first love western music, cowboy songs, or did you start with another style of song?

JJ: I've always had very eclectic tastes in music, including Cowboy songs. Roy Rogers was my hero, and I was a huge fan of the Sons of the Pioneers, but when I was growing up, radio wasn't so compartmentalized. I could hear a Sons song, a Johnny Horton song, a Roger Miller song and then Elvis and later, the Beatles. And hearing all those great Texas songwriters when I was just starting out, I was tremendously influenced by the way they wove the whole Texas experience, which is VERY Western, into their stories.

TWW: You have recorded several western albums, but you also have recorded an excellent traditional country music album titled "Different State of Mind." Was that something you had on a bucket list—to get a country album recorded? Or did you have in mind at the time to maybe "go country", as they say?



The man and his guitar.

JJ: Nah, I've always been tremendously non-commercial, and recording a country album when I was sort of established as a Western performer was just one more example of my unerring terrible instincts. (laughs)

TWW: Who would you list among your influences?

JJ: Absolutely the Texas songwriters I mentioned...Guy Clark, Townes Van Zandt, Steve Fromholz, Murph. Don Williams and his primary songwriter, Bob McDill, who is from my hometown of Beaumont, Texas. Ian Tyson is way up toward the top of the list; also, Gordon Lightfoot. And if you grew up in my era and weren't influenced by the Beatles, you were probably in a coma.

TWW: You have your own unique singing style. Do you even know how that developed? Or did it just come naturally?

JJ: I do? (laughs). The style, whatever the heck it is, is something that probably just came naturally. Over the years, I've tried to study what makes someone a "good singer." I think phrasing and expression are extremely important when you're trying to tell a story and convey emotions. There are people who have good voices who aren't great



A time to reflect during a road trip.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7



Jim with Washtub Jerry and Randy Huston on stage.

singers and people, like Guy Clark for example, who don't really have especially good voices but are outstanding singers. You have to sell the story.

TWW: You are also part of a very successful and award-winning western group called *The Cowboy Way* with Doug Figs and Mariam Funke. How did that come about?

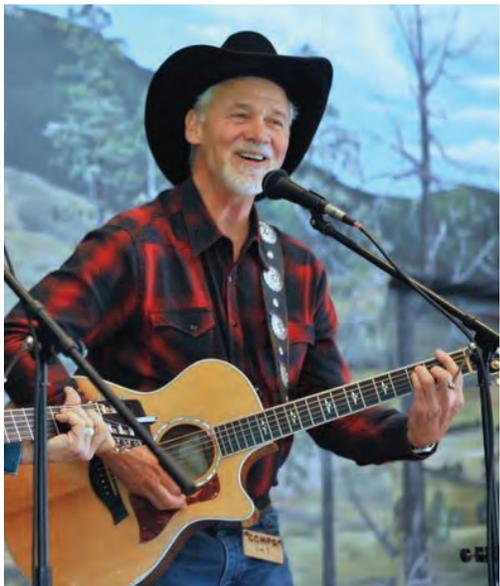
JJ: Who? (*laughs*). I could say it came about "organically" which is just a fancy way of saying we had no plan. I met Doug, we got to be friends,

he introduced me to Mariam, who by the way seemed very dour and grumpy at the time, but he warmed up eventually (*laughs*). We started singing together occasionally and really felt like our talents complemented each other. Eventually, we got a bit more organized and became *The Cowboy Way*.

TWW: Anyone who has worked with a group knows that there are particular hazards involved that, if not handled correctly, can lead to disharmony among the members and even the breaking up of long-time friendships. Did you guys address that before forming a group, and if so, how did you approach that concern?

JJ: Like I said, we never have really had much of a plan. I don't think we addressed any of those concerns directly, but it's helped that we all have a great deal of respect for one another. Those are two of the most talented people I've ever worked with, and I've had the privilege of working with some good folks over the years.

TWW: Well, congratulations on the great success the group has had. And while we're congratulating, we will also applaud you for winning the Song of the Year award at the IWMA last November for your song "It's a Cowboy I Will Be." I don't know if you know it or not, but that song received more airplay from western music DJ's who report to our magazine than any other song BY FAR.



On stage



Randy Huston and Jim

JJ: I didn't know that and I'm honored. That song means a great deal to me. I don't know how many times I've sung it now, but there are lines in it where I still tend to get choked up a little. I think that's one of those songs that just comes from a magical place and you don't get credit for much other than having the good sense to write down what the muse is telling you...although I'm not giving the award back! *(Laughs)*

TWW: You are more than a songwriter/singer/musician/performer, you are also an awarded novelist. How did that come about? Any new book projects in the works?

JJ: *(Laughs)* I wish I had a grander strategy to tell you about with that, too. At some point in the past fifteen to twenty years, I thought to myself, "I've never written a book before. How hard could it be?" Turns out it's REALLY hard, but by the time I figured that out, it was too late. That seems to be happening again as we embark on our careers as documentary filmmakers with the story of the Scottish Drovers. And I have another book and a novella that will be part of an anthology in the works.

TWW: OK, tough question. If you could only be one thing, which would it be: musician, singer, novelist, or songwriter? I guess the question is: which is your favorite; which would you choose if that's all you could do for the rest of your life?

JJ: That IS a tough question because I have to consider both what my heart and my head tell me, and it's not quite the same thing. My first love, without a doubt, is songwriting. In the long haul though...well, to the extent that whatever is left of my life could be considered a "long haul" *(laughs)*, I can sit at my computer and write novels for a lot longer than I can burn up the highway and play music. So, my "favorite" is songwriting but what I would do for the rest of my life if I could only do one thing is write novels.

TWW: What was your life's work before becoming a full-time musician?

JJ: Some folks in my family would tell you I've always been a full-time musician but my other career for many years was as a psychotherapist with children and families. I have a master's degree in Clinical Social work and worked for a lot of years with kids, mostly teenagers.

TWW: Any advice for young up-and-coming musicians who want to learn to play guitar as well as Jim Jones does?

JJ: *(Laughs)* Yeah, aim higher! Learn to play like Mariah or Ernie Martinez. Also, take lessons if you can, practice until your fingers bleed, listen closely to everyone you admire and "borrow" whatever you can. I've stolen every lick I could from our New Mexico treasure, Bill Hearne, but there's a whole lot of his stuff that I just can't do.



Jim with just a few of his music friends.

Also, if you can figure it out, don't just strum but learn how to "color" your guitar playing with tasteful licks that add feeling, emphasis, or excitement to what you're doing.

TWW: Thank you, Jim, for giving up some of your valuable time to answer a few questions for us. You are very highly respected within the membership of the IWMA, not only as a performer, but as a talented individual who is always willing to give of your time to help and support other members. We wish you continued success.

JJ: Thanks a whole bunch for talking with me. I appreciate what you do with *The Western Way*, and I really do appreciate all the wonderful things the IWMA is working to accomplish on behalf of Western music. 🐎

Keepers of the Flame

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

By Nancy Flagg

This year marks the 74th anniversary of when Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys moved to Sacramento, California and brought with them a fiery-hot western swing culture that is still stoked today by the Western Swing Society of Sacramento. Wills, the “King of Western Swing” opened the Wills Point nightclub on the north side of the city. Talented western swing musicians from other states followed him there, like fireflies drawn to bright light. Thousands of local fans flocked nightly to the dance hall and Wills regularly broadcast his music on KFBK-AM, a local station with a 50,000-watt transmitter that could reach the entire western half of the U.S. at night. Western swing spread like wildfire.

The roster of western swing musicians who were drawn to Sacramento to gig or to stay included such greats as Bob’s brother Billy Jack Wills, Hank Williams and the Cowboy Band, Skeeter Elkin, Vance Terry, Truitt Cunningham and Tiny Moore (who later managed the club with Billy Jack after Bob returned to Texas). Local musicians began playing with the transplanted musicians and the music took deep root in the City.

Years after the nightclub closed, many of the original Playboys and the local musicians who had become deeply steeped in western swing traditions, still lived in the area. Loyd Jones and his son Perry were two of these local musicians who wanted to ensure that the tradition continued. They started the Western Swing Society of Sacramento in 1981 for the “preservation, promotion and enjoyment of the American art form known as Western Swing music.”

The Society hosts monthly dances for the community. Many of the musicians who perform are direct descendants from the Wills’ years. One of these musicians, Olen Dillingham, says, “It’s a musician’s kind of music. If you want to play, you really get to blow your axe. You’re not in a box and you get to improvise. It’s always new.”

Dillingham is a member of the Society’s Hall of Fame. Every year, artists who have made

outstanding contributions to the field of western music are honored by induction into the Hall of Fame. Over its 39-year history, hundreds of individuals have been added to the roster. The induction ceremony is preceded by a long weekend during which many of the inductees give a performance. In the most recent celebration in October 2019, some of the artists included Elana James of the Hot Club of Cowtown, Devon Dawson of Miss Devon & the Outlaw, Carolyn Sills and Gerard Egan, and Duncan Elledge.

The Society’s monthly events draw listeners and dancers of many types. “People come to have a good time and find it a friendly place with a big dance floor. How well they dance or what they dance is not important...they come for the excellent music,” says Society President Rex Barnes. Despite the positive experiences, Barnes adds that the level of interest in western swing and the club waxes and wanes. “Most social clubs are struggling to maintain members. Younger people have other interests and electronic media that compete for their attention.” He says that the Society is continually adjusting their outreach efforts to keep the club growing. They offer scholarships to help youth learn to play western swing music, have boosted their social media presence and have recently been reaching out to younger people who are members of local swing dance groups. Their efforts have resulted in a recent upswing in participation.

Bob Wills would undoubtedly be pleased to know that Sacramento is keeping the flame burning for western swing music three-quarters of a century after he brought it to town.





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.

My Cowgirl

by P.W. Conway

Let me tell you 'bout my cowgirl,
She's the light within my life.
She's more than just my saddle pal,
She's my trail mate, she's my wife.

She's the flower in my desert.
She's the island in my sea.
She's the best part of this cowboy's life,
She's everything to me.

Our world changed a few years back,
That day our time stood still.
We were holding hands,
When Doc said to me, you're ill.

We sat there trying to understand,
Just what we'd been told.
Did I have time to play my hand,
Or was he saying I should fold?

She said 'You can hang your spurs up
And put your saddle on the shelf.
Or you can start to cowboy up,
And not feel sorry for yourself'.

She said, "You've been fight'n all your life
It ain't in you to run and hide.
So drop them heels and grab those reins,
It's time for us to ride".

I asked her, "How'd you ever get so tough?
In a kind and loving way?"
She said, "I married a cowboy,
And that's all I need to say".

So we'll cherish every moment,
Just as long as we're together.
No matter what life throws our way,
Our love will last forever.

And when you come to your last trail,
She said, "I'll be here by your side.
I'll help you saddle up your horse,
To take that final ride.

And when you get to end of trail,
Just know I'll be there too.
I'll be the glow within your heart,
That will carry me to you".

Of all the blessings in my life.
Sent from the Lord above.
The greatest is this cowgirl,
With her tough and tender love.

She's made me a better man,
Than I'd ever hoped to be.
This kind and loving cowgirl,
Brought the cowboy out in me.

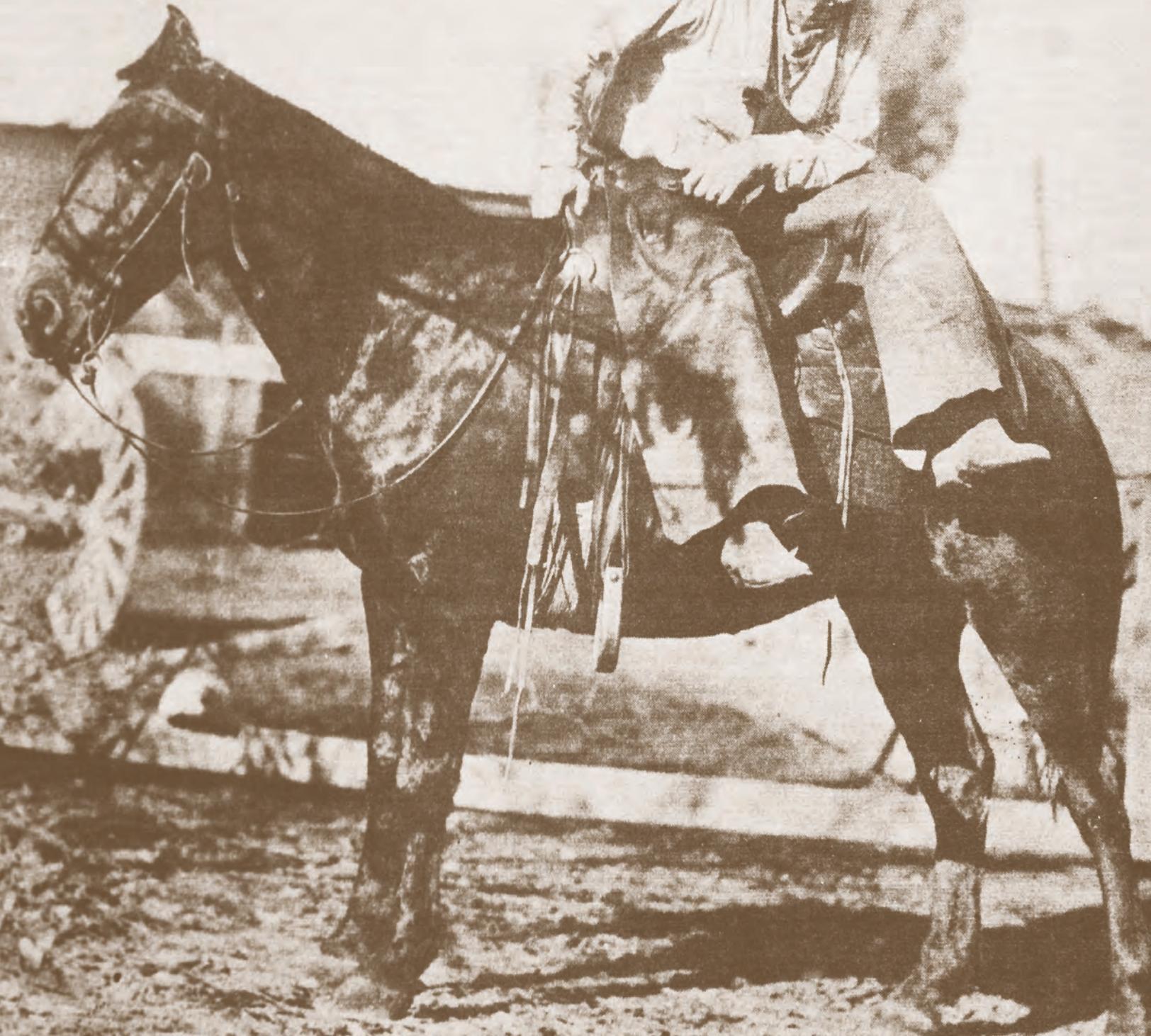
P.W. Conway ©2016



P.W. Conway is an award-winning cowboy poet and western entertainer. He has written and published two cowboy poetry books. "Buckaroo Poetry, Cowboy Poems For Young and Old" and "Buckaroo Poetry, Welcome To My Campfire." Both books have been recipients of the Will Rogers Medallion Award. In 2017, P.W. performed at: the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo in Abilene, KS; The Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering in Fort Worth, TX; The Willow Creek Cowboy Gathering in Staveland, AB, Canada; the Empty Saddle Club's annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering in Rolling Hills, CA, the Autry Museum of Western Heritage; and hosts an annual Cowboy Poetry contest at the Ventura County Fair. "My Cowgirl" was written for his wife, six years after he had been diagnosed with a terminal illness. In 2018 he was also diagnosed with throat and neck cancer and was treated for that.

THE LEGACY OF
JACK THORP

BY REX RIDEOUT



It was in the Spring of 1889. A rider for the Bar W Ranch is in search of stray horses. He is riding along the Pecos River not far from Roswell. While not yet twenty-two years of age, apart from his mount, Gray Dog and his pack horse, Ample, he is alone. Twilight is falling and it is time for him to see about making a camp for the night when off in the distance, he sees a light. A campfire. He reasons that camping with anyone is better than alone, so he heads toward that camp. That lone rider was Nathan Howard “Jack Thorp.”

At the fire Jack finds cowboys from the LFD (Littlefield Freight Drivers) Ranch scattered around a chuckwagon. He tends to his horses and is given a plate of hot chuck to enjoy by the fire. While Jack is eating, he tells his new companions that he heard someone singing and playing a banjo as he neared them. The singer is pointed out and asked to sing again. The song was Dodgin’ Joe, a song about a cutting horse – “None could cut out a cow, from corral or herd as fast as my little horse Joe...” The singer knows only two verses. Jack sings some songs, others join in. Jack is hearing songs he never heard before and it comes to him that if he doesn’t do something to save them, they will vanish like the buffalo. Thus, begins his “song-hunt.”

The Range Boss assures him the horses he was looking for when he arrived are secure in their remuda. They will keep them for when the Bar W can come get them. Jack writes a letter to the Bar W foreman telling where the strays are and letting him know that now one of his own cowhands [himself] was a stray.

In over a year Jack rode over 1500 miles, mostly over parts of Texas and New Mexico. He found cowboy songs sure enough, but just as often he found railroad songs, river songs, grainger songs and what he referred to as cotton-picking songs. Jack was focused on cowboy songs only and some historians today fault him for leaving out others. The first songs he collected into his notebook were Jesse James and Sam Bass. Sam Bass would go into his songbook. Jesse James would not. Why? *Quien Sabe?* Maybe it was that the tale of Sam Bass was set in Texas, the tale of Jesse was from Missouri, a bit too far outside his western view. The songs Jack saved were not from Tin Pan Alley; they were songs written in the saddle.

Jack writes in his autobiography, *Pardner of the Wind*, that he was on a cattle drive in 1898 from Chimney Lake New Mexico to Higgins, Texas. One of their young men was killed in a stampede and the loss was keenly felt by him and his comrades. One evening Jack was inspired to write some verses on a paper bag by the fire. He sang the song for his friends and it was warmly received. Later Jack sang it to the public for the first time at Uncle Johnny Root’s Saloon in Weed, New Mexico. This song was his famed Little Joe

the Wrangler that would later become a standard of cowboy songs, recorded by many and included in every cowboy songbook. I was near Weed this Spring and asked my friends if we might visit the birthplace of Jack’s song. I took up a little banjo and sang “Little Joe” in front of the Weed Cafe for my friends and about a half dozen horses that were wandering loose in the town. No one else heard me sing. It is quiet in Weed these days!

Jack writes in *Pardner of the Wind*, “About the only unusual item in my outfit was my mandolin-banjo in a heavy leather case, which I stuffed into one maleta and roped over with the tarp.” Mark Lee Gardner and I have learned that this mandolin-banjo was made by the S. S. Stewart Co. in Philadelphia and would later be sold as a piccolo banjo for the banjo orchestras. It was a half sized, five-string banjo that Jack took on his “song-hunt.”

Time passed and Jack met Annette. They were married in 1903, the same year that P.A. Speckman moved his family into Estancia and created the News Print Shop, “Doers of Things in Ink on Paper.” “Good Printing Always and All Ways,” “Translations made from English to Spanish or vice versa,” “The Estancia News – Oldest & Best Newspaper in

Continued on page 14



Rex Rideout playing in front of Weed Cafe in Weed, New Mexico.

THE LEGACY OF JACK THORP

Continued from page 13



Jack Thorp's original 1908 edition of *Jack Thorp's Songs of the Cowboys*.

the Estancia Valley." Five years later Jack stepped into the News Print Shop and asked Speckman to print two thousand copies of his songbook, *Songs of the Cowboys*. He paid \$156.50 for the job or about eight cents each. Today that would be equivalent to over \$4,000. This was a serious endeavor. There were 23 songs, five he claimed he had written himself. The success of this book led Jack to publish a second

edition in 1921, this time through Houghton Mifflin. Within were 101 songs, about 25 he had written. He had also sent about 40 or 50 additional songs, but the publisher left them out, wanting a "smallish" book. Jack was dismayed by this omission. Among those discarded was *Home on the Range* that Jack would later see become famed in popular music.

The Press at the Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, NM, created a celebration of Jack's first book in 2005 in time for its centennial. It was published by the Museum of New Mexico Press and titled *Jack Thorp's Songs of the Cowboys*. The book had selections from Thorp's first and second editions with a CD recording of selected songs. The Palace Press would later release a hand-made, limited edition of this book in the Summer of 2013. All who were involved in the 2005 edition were there for its release. Santa Fe artist Ron Kil who provided all the illustrations was there, and Mark and I

were there playing banjos. Carol Rifkin of WNCW in North Carolina came in for the day and joined us on fiddle. At one point, Tom Leech was running the actual press that printed Thorp's original 1908 book and we were playing to its beat. Then Tom began leafing through the limited edition book and called out songs. We played every song in the book and I have never felt closer to Jack Thorp than right then. The rest of *Dodgin' Joe* has never been found but someone may yet find more verses to this song. And, the hunt for cowboy songs continues. As Thorp said, "A song-hunter had to pick up his gold in small hunks where he found it."

Jack's original 1908 edition is on display at The Press at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. You can also see the 1907 Chandler & Price plate press that printed it. Jack Thorp lies alongside Annette at Fairview Cemetery, also in Santa Fe. Jack's elder brother, Charles, lies nearby.



On display at The Press at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe is the 1907 Chandler & Price plate press that printed Jack Thorp's original book.



Rex travels extensively for research and to conduct workshops, as shown here in Albuquerque at IWMA2019.

Here is a poem Jack wrote and is found in his
Songs of the Cowboys, Second Edition, Houghton Mifflin, 1921.

WHAT'S BECOME OF THE PUNCHERS?

BY N. HOWARD THORP

*What's become of the punchers we rode with long ago?
The hundreds and hundreds of cowboys we all of us used to know?
Sure some were killed by lightning, some when the cattle run,
Others were killed by horses and some with the old six-gun.*

*Those that worked on the round-up, those of the branding-pen,
Those who went out on the long trail drive, and never returned again,
We know of some who have prospered, we hear of some who are broke,
My old pardner made millions in Tampa, while I've got my saddle in soak!*

*Sleeping and working together, eatin' old "Cussie's good chuck,"
Riding in all kinds of weather, playing in all kinds of luck,
Bragging about our top-hosses, each puncher ready to bet,*

*His horse could outrun the boss's, or any old horse you could get!
Scot lies in Tullarosa, Elmer Price lies near Santa Fe,
While Randolph sits here by the fireside, with a "flat-face" on his knee.
'Gene Rhodes is among the highbrows, a-writing up the west,
But I know of a lot of doin's that he never has confessed..!*

*He used to ride 'em keerless in the good old days,
When we both worked together in the San Andres!
Building big loops we called "blockers", spinning the rope in the air,
Never a cent in our pockets, but what did a cow-puncher care?*

*I'm tired of riding this trail boys, dead tired of riding alone—
B'leave I'll head old Button for Texas, toward my old Palo Pinto home.*



Rex Rideout is also a long-time student of the music and songs of the 19th-Century American West. As the proprietor of Time Travel Music, Rex has performed at countless historic sites and museums across the West. His music has also been featured on television and radio. Rex plays many musical instruments, including mandolin, fiddle, guitar, banjo, and tin whistle, to name just a few. He usually joins historian Mark Gardner for Venues of the early West. How 19th-Century Americans obtained their food, shelter, and entertainment is a fascinating study, and Rex eagerly shares his findings during his living-history engagements. When he is not performing, or swinging an axe or hammer, Rex works in research for laboratories at the Colorado School of Mines.

WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR

2020

Columbia Chapter Concert
April 25 – Lewiston, Idaho

Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering
August 6-9 – Prescott, Arizona

San Angelo Cowboy Gathering
September 11-12 – San Angelo, Texas

Cowboys in the Hood
October 17 – Hood River, Oregon

Western Slope Cowboy Gathering
November 6-7 – Grand Junction, Colorado

IWMA 2020
All Roads Lead Back to Albuquerque!
November 11-15 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

INSTRUMENTS

AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNING MUSICIANS

- Yamaha F310 Dreadnaught /cardboard case
- Harmony Sovereign Dreadnaught (Hog/Spruce) Hard case
- Yamaha Classical CG-201S nice case
- Washburn Millenium Dreadnaught nice case
- Ovation Acoustic/Ovation case
- Alvarez Acoustic 12 String MD80/12 (Hog/Sitka Spruce) Foam reinforced case w/humidity meter
- Yamaha Classical G-150 black label, Cedar top
- Sovereign Banjo (Harmony knockoff)
- Anterez A Mandolin AMD29A
- Student Model Lewis Violin w/student bow
- Fender Elec Mandolin FM52E SB (did not check electronics)
- Dixon Baritone Ukulele (needs bridge re-glue, and has heel separation) poor condition
- Buescher Aristocrat Saxophone Good Condition
- Music books
- Misc strings, guitar stands, tuners

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS HAVE BEEN DONATED FOR LOAN TO IWMA BEGINNING MUSICIANS

Contact Marsha Short for terms and availability,
or if you have an instrument you would like to donate.

marsha@westernmusic.org
or 505-563-0673

Consider a
Legacy Gift

The International
Western Music Association
a 501(c)3 nonprofit

An end of life donation to the International Western Music Association will live into perpetuity. Please consider a donation to the IWMA Endowment Fund. Consult with your financial planner. Contact Marsha Short for more information on the Endowment Fund.

marsha@westernmusic.org
505.563.0673
iwesternmusic.org



AUGUST
6·7·8

Yavapai College
Performing Arts Center
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

For more information, visit
AZCowboyPoets.org

TALES OF THE WEST

by Jim Wilson



Too often, when we think about the American West, our thoughts focus on the cowboys, the outlaws, and the gunfighters. We don't spend nearly enough time reflecting on the enormous contributions made by frontier women. When you read the journals, memoirs, and real histories of the West, you begin to understand that most of it wouldn't have happened without the frontier women.

The ladies helped run the ranch, or farm, fought Indians & outlaws, and many could shoot just as well as their husbands. In their spare time, they kept the house, raised the kids, and put food on the table, washed clothes, cut firewood, and slopped the hogs. Joking aside, frontier life for women was rough – there weren't many who lived past the age of 50.

And, a lot of that time, women weren't allowed to have a say in their government. Wyoming Territory passed the first law allowing women to vote in 1869, but that was only in state and local elections. It wasn't until 1920 that women could legally vote in national elections. And Texas, bringing up the rear, didn't allow women to serve on juries until 1954. I think that may have been the reason that women spearheaded the move towards national prohibition of alcohol – they were just trying to get even!

To make it worse, much of early America was effected by old English law which provided that a woman, once she married, could not legally hold property separate from her husband. The gals actually got a better shake from early Spanish-Mexican law which allowed them to maintain control of their property after marriage and guaranteed them one-half interest in all community property shared with their husband.

If all of that is not bleak enough, the gals couldn't even go down to the saloon and have a drink at the end of a long day. Nope, decent saloons were off limits to the ladies – despite what you saw on Gunsmoke. It was only the bordellos, on the other side of the tracks, that allowed women. However, my guess is that few them were ladies.

One of the most interesting of the frontier ladies was Annie Oakley (1860-1926). As a child she was allowed to develop her shooting skills and quickly showed a natural aptitude for it. It wasn't long before she was actually helping to support her mother from the cash prizes she was winning at shooting matches, mostly against grown men. She went on to tour for several years with the highly popular Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

My favorite Annie Oakley story happened when she was 15 years old, shooting a shotgun in a clay target match in Ohio. I don't recall the number of thrown clay targets that she broke at that match, but it was enough to beat the favored marksman (Frank Butler) by one target. Butler even lost the \$100 bet that he had posted – and, in 1875, \$100 bucks was a lot of money. Butler, not being entirely stupid, married Annie Oakley the following year.

Another of my favorite Annie Oakley stories involves the actress Gail Davis (1925-1997). Gail played the female interest in a lot of western movies and became a special favorite of Gene Autry. In 1954, Autry's Flying A Productions starred Gail in the Annie Oakley TV show which ran from 1954 to 1957. The best I can find out, this was the very first TV show, of any kind, to feature a woman as the lead character. My friend Jim Jones tells me that, as a child, he had his photo made with Gail Davis during the Houston rodeo. Jones said it was love at first sight – at least on his part.

You might be interested to know that one of the last stagecoach robberies in the West was committed by a woman. Pearl Hart (1876-1955), along with her male partner, Joe Boot, stuck up a stage near Globe, Arizona Territory in 1899. The pair were quickly caught but an Arizona jury found them Not Guilty. Upon being re-arrested for federal charges of robbing the mail, Pearl was sentenced to five years in the Yuma prison. Pearl, however, got an early release – some say because she was a model prisoner and other suggest it was because the warden had taken a special liking to her. The warden had no comment. 🐾

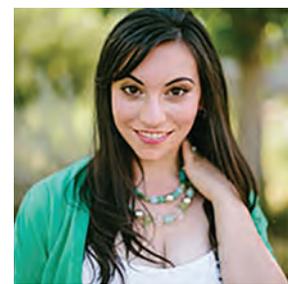
Jim Wilson is a retired peace officer, former Texas Sheriff and lifelong student of western history who lives in Alpine, Texas. He has been a member of the IWMA since the mid-90's and served on the board of directors for a number of years. He has been playing music, mostly western music, since his college days...and "it is absolutely none of your business how long ago that was."



EXPLORATION

Places, People and Things

By Samantha Gallegos



THE COWBOYS TO THE NORTH: ALBERTA'S "GENTLEMEN"

When people the world over think cowboy, they think the rough and ready men of the American West and Southwest, epitomized in movies, TV shows, dime novels, and books. Little thought is given to their counterparts to the north.

In *Cowboys of the Americas*, Richard Slatta writes that the significance of the cowboy to the United States is national, as in Argentina and Uruguay. But in a 1998 article in *Legacy Magazine*, historical consultant Ken Tingley postulates that the importance of the cowboy in Canada is more regional, especially in Alberta, with a character in many ways distinct from that of the rough-and-wild character American cowboy. He even includes a quote from the *Calgary Herald* from 1884, which describes the Canadian Cowboy "as one who was 'a gentleman and shunned bravado.'"

So, who was, and is, the cowboy of Alberta? And where can you still seek a piece of that different, but not entirely separate, cowboy culture?

Cowboys in Alberta

The golden age of ranching and cowboys in the Canadian prairie of what would become Alberta ran from roughly 1880 to 1906-7. Just as the earliest American cowboys learned their trade from the Mexican vaqueros, ranching in Canada began with American ranchers and cowboys crossing the border north and mixing with the small ranching tradition there that was just beginning to blossom.

According to the Heritage Community Foundation, Methodist missionary John McDougall and his brother David brought eleven cows and one bull to southern Alberta in 1873. A year later, the North-West Mounted Police brought 235 head of cattle with them from Manitoba. Many early cowboys in Alberta were, in fact, former Mounted Police who began ranching when their three-year service terms ended.

The growth of ranching in Alberta coincided with its decline south of the border. As in Texas before them, Wyoming and Montana were overgrazed and overpopulated, and barbed wire had started to take over the once open range. Drought and the winter of 1886-87, known as the "death knell on the range," helped burst the "beef burst." By 1888, the loss of stock and land led ranchers and cowboys of the northern American range to look for greener pastures.

The wild land that would become Alberta was open, pristine, and, more importantly, well-suited to ranching

cattle. While Alberta experienced hard winters, warming Chinook winds from the Pacific, most pronounced in southwestern Alberta, blew down often enough that it periodically cleared the snow for winter grazing. And stands of timber provided cattle protection from the worst of the elements. At the same time, indigenous populations that called the area home had been moved to reservations, leaving their former lands open to settlement.

The cowboys and ranch owners on the frontier of Alberta were an eclectic lot: cowboys from the United States, Englishmen, Irish- and Scotsmen, former slaves and Buffalo soldiers, aboriginal cowboys. English businessmen and members of the British peerage sought business and investment opportunities in the ranching industry. The British government, sending people to settle the area, also looked to raise horses and beef to ship back to England for military purposes and to support the English need for beef. (England's farms could not meet the demand from a rapidly industrializing society, thanks, in part, to several epidemics of foot-and-mouth disease.)

The Canadian government was also eager to establish sovereignty in the West and head off any northern expansion of the American Great Plains and Manifest Destiny. The creation of cattle ranches in the area played a vital role in this endeavor. As historian Simon Evans explained to Cheryl Croucher on Heritage Trails, ranches such as the Bar U played an essential part in the area's economic development and settlement. The expansion and promotion of the Canadian Pacific Railway also helped to boost the Canadian cattle boom. It allowed the ranches at the time to ship cattle from the interior of the country to the coast and from there to England.

By 1882, 9,000 head of cattle grazed on the grass of the North West Territories, and by 1886, an estimated 100,000 head grazed east of the Rocky Mountains. Between 1897 and 1911, Canada sent an average of 130,000 head of cattle to England annually.

But Alberta's golden age of ranching came to an end for many of the same reasons it had in Montana and Wyoming. By 1911, farming was of growing importance to the area; many ranchers sold their stock and switched to crops. In May and June of that year, notes the Heritage Community Foundation, cattle were shipped into Alberta from eastern provinces. That same year, the North-West Mounted Police superintendent "referred to 'ranching as being a thing of

the past," and he was not alone in his sentiment. And this was after the "dreadful winter of 1906-07" that had wiped out a large percentage of Alberta's herds, much as it had in Montana twenty years earlier.

Today, the cowboy tradition continues in Alberta in the form of mostly small, family-run ranches. Descendants of the original ranchers and cowboys who came to Alberta during the first cattle boom run many of them.

Cowboys Principals and Famous Cowboys

Alberta saw its share of cattle rustlers and outlaws, Harry Longabaugh among them. Better known as the Sundance Kid, Longabaugh found honest work at the Bar U and other ranches. It wasn't until he returned to the United States that he began the most famous leg of his outlaw life.

But while their cowpunching traditions remained similar to those of their American counterparts, many sources, including Hugh A. Dempsey, author of *The Golden Age of the Canadian Cowboy: An Illustrated History*, point to the difference in character and temperament of the Alberta cowboy. (In his book, Mr. Dempsey makes a point to note cowboys in British Columbia were a different story, shaped as they were by their geography and circumstances.) As a character, cowboys in Alberta were quieter and more law-abiding. There wasn't the same feeling of lawlessness in their frontier towns as there was further south across the border. The presence of the Canadian Mounted Police, who had patrolled the area since before the cattle boom, worked to enforce the law, often to more effect than their neighbors to the south.

Many brave men—and women—put their mark on the wild land of Alberta in its founding years. There are a few, however, who truly stand out, including Everett Cyril Johnson and John Ware.

Everett Cyril (Ebb) Johnson was a cowboy who seemed larger than life. Born in Virginia in 1860, Johnson worked on ranches in the West and witnessed the boom and bust of the ranching industry there. Seeing the writing on the wall for the cattle business in Montana, the Powder River Cattle Company tasked Johnson with riding ahead of the herd to Alberta to feel out the trail and get the lay of the land. He returned to Montana for a time, but by 1890, had made Alberta his permanent home. There, he would work for one of the biggest ranches of the area at the time: the Bar U, southwest of Calgary. It was there that he met his wife, Mary Bigland. They were married in November of 1891, and Johnson's choice for his best man was none



Harry "Sundance Kid" Longabaugh and wife Mary

other than Harry Longabaugh, the Sundance Kid. Their decedents still ranch in the area today.

Johnson is also the subject of research and a book, *The Cowboy Legend: Owen Wister's Virginian and the Canadian-American Frontier* by John Jennings. In it, Jennings lays out what he feels is strong evidence that Johnson was the inspiration for Owen Wister's groundbreaking 1902 novel *The Virginian*. Jennings proposes that during the summer of 1885, Wister, in Montana to restore his health, came into contact with Johnson. As he writes "(Wister) spent the whole summer at the particular ranch and Everett Johnson was told by his boss that he was in charge of this greenhorn and to keep him out of trouble." Jennings also argues that, though young, Johnson had a great deal of experience and stories to go along with it, stories that "Wister just sopped up." It is these tales that Wister used as the basis of the novel that would change the way the world saw cowboys.

Johnson worked for several ranches in the area over the years of his life. He came in contact with other well-known cowboys and ranchers of the time, including African American cowboy, farmer, and rancher John Ware.

As Kelly Cryderman writes in "Seeking Truth in the Legends of John Ware" in *The Globe and Mail*, "John Ware arrived in Canada as the Prairies were being dotted with homesteads, when Calgary was a collection of tents and clapboard buildings without a rail station, a mayor or even 500 people." John Ware became an integral part of the all-white ranching community that would shape what would become Alberta, a process in which he played a vital role himself.

John Ware was born a slave somewhere between 1845 and 1850, and many debate his place of origin (some sources name an area near Georgetown, South Carolina, while others, such as the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* name somewhere in northern Texas). Freed after the Civil War, he ranched in Texas, then moved on to Idaho, then up to Canada driving cattle across the border.

Mr. Ware was known as an exceptional cowboy, even better neighbor, and a leader. Despite the difficulties of the time and racist sentiments towards him, he became a respected member of the ranching community. He was one of the first ranchers in the area to develop irrigation and was an early adopter of dipping cattle in a parasitic to prevent mange.

A 1956 interview with his daughter revealed that "her father 'loved people, to talk, to dance and to play tricks. He was afraid of nothing but snakes.'" And when he died suddenly in a riding accident, John Ware's funeral, held two weeks after Alberta became a province, was "reported as the largest gathering in Calgary to that point."



John Ware, Legendary Cowboy

Continued on page 24

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...The Flying W Chuckwagon in Colorado Springs, CO is being rebuilt and will reopen on May 21 of this year. Readers will recall that the Flying W burned to the ground in the Waldo Canyon wildfire of 2012. The owner, Russ Wolfe, passed away in May of 2019, but his daughter Leigh Ann has taken over. The **Flying W Wranglers** are still led by former member of the Sons of the Pioneers, David Bradley. Other Wranglers are Aaron Weil, Seth Weil, Ross Huskinson, and Jesse Friesen. The Weil brothers performed as part of the Bar G Wranglers. Jesse Friesen was a Prairie Rose Ranger from 2009 until the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon closed this past New Year's Eve. The news of the reopening of the Flying W is big news for Colorado Springs. When the first tickets went on sale recently, 600 were sold in the first 30 minutes. For more info, go to www.flyingw.com.

...R.W. Hampton now has a blog titled "Cimarron Sounds" in Cowboys & Indians Magazine Online. To listen, go to: www.cowboysindians.com/2020/01/cimarron-sounds/. His first blog is titled "Western Music – Is It Still Relevant?"

..."Lucky Girl," an Americana project by **Claudia Nygaard**, was included in the 2019 Top Albums of the Year list by *Making A Scene*, an independent Music Magazine. She is now doing pre-production for a western music album to be released in early 2021 called *To Race The Wind*.

...*Homage*, the first album from **Jon Chandler** in four years, was released in March with a CD release concert at the prestigious Swallow Hill Music in Denver. This is Jon's first collection of covers, and features ten of his favorite songs, traversing a century of American music. Produced by John Macy, the project's first release is *Slow Falling Rain*, written by **Mike Blakely**. Jon will be the keynote speaker/performer for Friends of the Plains at Emporia State University in Emporia, KS on April 24.

...Over 30 years ago, **Vic Anderson** wrote a song simply titled "Fly." He has rarely performed the song, but it was recently submitted to an Internet music website called NumberOneMusic. Within a month, the song was #1 and stayed there for five weeks in the acoustic/Americana classification. "Fly" will be heard on Vic's soon-to-be-released CD of the same title.

...**Lori Beth Brooke** has been in the studio in March and April recording her debut western album. It will feature originals, accordion, and yodeling.

...The State of Oregon's folk and traditional arts program, Oregon Folklife Network, has invited poet **Tom Swearingen** to join its roster of Oregon Culture Keepers, a juried selection of artists and cultural experts. Those included preserve and present Oregon's diverse heritage for a variety of audiences.

...Watch for **Allen and Jill Kirkham** in the soon-to-be-released western thriller movie titled *The Black Wood*, filmed on location in Custer, SD! Allen plays a gambler gunfighter and Jill plays a Calamity Jane type character.

...IWMA Male Performer of the Year **Gary Allegretto** is known for his performances, but he is also an award-winning educator whose unique programs have helped to keep western music alive. Through his "Harmonicowboy in the Schools" program and his nonprofit organization "Harmonikids" (for special needs kids) he "rides for the brand" by teaching thousands of kids every year to accurately and instantly play western songs on harmonicas that they get to keep. In March alone, while performing at the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous, Gary taught 842 kids at Title 1 schools in the area.

...**Rex Allen, Jr.** and **Juni Fisher** have recorded a duet album titled *Say Something* which is now available. Also, Juni has been doing final edits for her next novel; the working title is "Indelible Link." She will pitch it to agents for representation this spring.

...**Dan McCorison** was recently informed by the Town of Wickenburg, AZ that a CD copy of his song "Welcome to Wickenburg" was placed into a time capsule to be opened in 2061. Dan figures people will probably look at the CD and wonder "What the heck is this thing, and what do you do with it??"

...Canadian singer, **Ed Wahl**, released his new western CD, *Keepin' On*, at the end of February. Three original songs on the album were written by poet/songwriter, **Mag Mawhinney**.

...**Annie Tezuka** was asked to perform one of her original western songs at the annual Spark of Love Holiday Show in Hollywood, CA over the Christmas holidays. The Spark of Love program collects toys and sporting goods for children and young adults in need in the surrounding counties and is supported by a major local TV station, the Los Angeles County and Southern California Firefighters, and other organizations.

... Three talented ladies have joined together to bring western music and cowboy poetry to audiences near and far. Kimberly Kaye (musician), Pegie Douglas (musician), and Sherl Cederburg (cowgirl poet) are now members of **The Wildflowers**. Be on the lookout for this energetic and entertaining group.

...Cowboy poet **A.K. Moss** released her new album in April. The new project is titled *They Come Prancin'*.

...**Ron Christopher** released a new CD in January titled *No Place Left To Go*. The album is a mix of country, cowboy, and Americana with a splash of rockabilly.

...The Cowtown Society of Western Music (CSWM) has voted to induct **Devon Dawson** as a "CSWM Hero of Western Music." The 2020 induction ceremonies will take place in Mineral Wells, TX on Saturday, May 2.

...**Bonifacio Dominguez** reminds us that award-winning Disc Jockey **Tommy Tucker** celebrates 21 years of promoting western music and cowboy poetry on KRLC in Lewiston, ID this year. And our editor, **Theresa O'Dell**, informs us that **Marvin O'Dell** celebrates 22 years of broadcasting cowboy music, country music, and bluegrass music this year.

...**Peggy Malone** wants to make sure our readers know how appreciative she is of receiving the Curly Musgrave Award at the IWMA in November. She states that she was very surprised and touched by the gesture. Peggy's daughter has the lead in the play *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* in New York City.

...**Dan Del Fiorentino** is the Music Historian for NAMM (the National Association of Music Merchants). He is the head of NAMM's Oral History program which holds over 4,000 video-recorded interviews. He recently interviewed Rusty Richards and plans to interview Cowboy Joe Babcock in June. He is seeking others in the Western Music world to include in this important collection.

...**Carol Markstrom** has received the 2020 Silver Arrow Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Native American Music Industry from Spirit Wind Records. Also, Carol recently brought some of her new original western songs to Nashville where she appeared on the Songwriter Showcase at the Commodore Holiday Inn.

...*Soul of the West*, the latest album from **Clint Bradley**, was named number one critic's choice for 2019 by two separate journalists in the January 2020 edition of *Country Music People*. It also appeared on three other lists. The title cut was number one in the British & Irish Hotdisc Country chart for the year of 2019. Clint embarked on a Scandinavian theater tour at the end of February and then moved on to Holland and Germany. In April he will be attending the Academy of Western Artists awards in Fort Worth, TX.

..."Bring 'Em Home" is the title of the latest project from **Sandy Reay**. The album features co-writes with **Terry Nash, Floyd Bead, and Ernie Martinez**. Ernie also contributed stellar instrumentals. **Steve Jones** and Ernie helped with the vocals, and Terry contributed the photos for the artwork.

...**Deanna Dickinson McCall** and **Jon Chandler** were chosen to be part of the Western Writers of America Storyteller Team for a new exhibit at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Fall, MT.

...**The Ramblin' Rangers** have released a new album titled *One More River To Cross... Cattle Drives of the Old West*. It contains a collection of songs, narratives, and cowboy quotes depicting the Texas to Montana cattle drives of the 1880's. The CD accompanies an historical program that the Rangers perform with historian and chuck wagon builder extraordinaire, Rick Kaan.

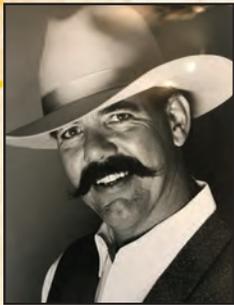
...*True West Magazine* named **Mike Blakely** and his latest book, *A Sinister Splendor*, "Best Historical Novelist and Novel" in its January 2020 issue. Blakely is a member of the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter.

...**Bob Thomas** is in the studio recording his eighth studio CD. The album will feature eleven new original songs. He hopes to release it the middle of this year.

Continued on page 24

In Memoriam

DENNIS GAINES (1954-2019)



Cowboy, poet, and popular entertainer Dennis Gaines left this world on December 26, 2019. Known for his stage antics and humorous windies, he will be greatly missed by friends and family. Dennis was born in Mountain Home, Idaho, to an Air Force father

and native Texan mother. The family was stationed at bases in Texas, Louisiana, Okinawa, and Germany. He worked on drilling rigs and then cowboeyed at the historic Matador Cattle Company and was the foreman of a ranch near Somerville, Texas, when he got sick. He was featured on stages from the Western Folklife Center's National Cowboy Poetry Gathering to the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration, and many in between. He was a champion pie maker and loved a piece of good pie. He was a member of IWMA and the Texas Chapter. Dennis requested that there be no formal service after his passing. He asked that his body and organs be donated to A&M for research but did not meet the criteria because he was too tall. He will be cremated; on Memorial Day his ashes will be spread over the family property near Buffalo Gap, Texas, where his mother's ashes were spread. Friends are invited to attend. Donations in Dennis' memory can be made to the IWMA Crisis Fund, PO Box 648, Coppel, TX 75019.

JANE AMBROSE MORTON (1931-2020)



We're sad to report the death of popular poet Jane Morton, a friend to many, a former IWMA member and a part of Cowbopoetry.com from its earliest days. Jane Morton was born to Eva and William Ambrose in Colorado Springs, and her family owned and operated a cattle ranch near Fort Morgan. She

graduated from Fort Morgan High School and Colorado State College of Education in Greeley. In 1953, Jane married Richard "Dick" Morton. The couple raised three children and lived in Denver, Englewood, Breckenridge, and Colorado Springs. For more than twenty-five years they spent winters in Mesa, Arizona and also enjoyed their little house in Creede, CO, in summertime. In addition to teaching school, Jane was a writer – publishing more than ten books including novels for young readers, picture books, and a Father Dyer church history. She wrote and performed cowboy poetry for twenty years, telling stories of ranch life, people, and western history. Honored with many national awards, her poetry continues to be featured on www.cowbopoetry.com. Jane said, "Someone asked me how long it took to write a poem. I thought a moment, and then I knew. 'All my life.'" Her books of poetry include "Turning to Face the Wind" and "In this Land of Little Rain." She is survived by her husband, Dick; children, John (Kasia) Morton, Lizabeth (John) Duckworth and Mary (James) Crawford. Her five grandchildren are James (Alison) Crawford, Rich Crawford, Heather (Matt) Dane, Chris (Siana) Duckworth and Jon Duckworth. She is also survived by five great-grandchildren.

IWMA PATRON* MEMBERS

Nolan Bruce Allen	Grand Island, NY	Dennis Heinzig	Whitefish, MT	Melissa & Michael Murphy	Albuquerque, NM
Baxter Black	Benson, AZ	Mary Hoover	Tucson, AZ	Scott & Diana Overcash	Santo, TX
Skip Carney	Mesa, AZ	Judy James	Weatherford, TX	Bruce L. Roberts	Biloxi, MS
Steve & Debbie Delmore	Philomath, OR	Donna King	Granbury, TX	Johnny Minick	Murfreesboro, TN
Bob & Toni Harris	Aurora, OH	Valerie Lassiter	Kingman, AZ	Jerry & Diane West	Waxahachie, TX

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

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

Don't look now, but ---! What am I saying?!! Of course I want you to look!! In case you haven't noticed, all kinds of Western imagery have been showing up in TV advertising, in programming, even in one case as part of a game show! In late 2019 on a Wheel Of Fortune broadcast, one puzzle clue was "phrase" and the answer for it was "Happy Trails!" Of course the first contestant's incorrect stab at it was "happy trains," but that's our same old bugaboo showing up. Most of the time the actual Western associations being made seem to not be hit-or-miss at all but, instead, would appear to indicate something profound.

Momentarily putting on the professional ad making hat I have sported for half a century now, I can assure you that commercial image alliances are not chosen willy nilly. Particularly not on the national level. Being in charge of huge client advertising budgets, agencies deeply research and test the effects certain pictures will have or characters and actions will represent. They choose to use them depending on the impression the client wants or needs to impart. Either these ad folks are suddenly tapping into a subterranean stream they've ignored for a while, or they have divined something that is commercially advantageous with which to affiliate. In short, their clients have okayed becoming saddled to Cowboy stuff!! Examples? Doritos Cool Ranch chips just rode in with Lil Nas X and his record-breaking Western-themed hit "Old Town Road" (which we told you about two columns ago). He is seen in a good-natured wild west showdown of cool moves with Sam Elliott! To promote Dish TV, one ad shows a pair of rough looking cowboys revealed to be watching a cooking show about cupcakes. In ads for Experian credit monitoring, wrestler/actor John Cena is found in the midst of a cattle gather, astride a rearing steer, Lone Ranger style! And for another ad he speaks seated in a ranch house den chair as a steer bursts through a picture frame over the hearth. There's the campaign for Progressive Motorcycle Insurance featuring the half-man half-cycle critter called the "Motaur," but set in a Western desert and backed by spaghetti western-style music. Quick pops of cowboys grace a Toyota Highlander ad (one sits among the folks 'rescued from Mondays' by the mom driving the car) and in the Facebook Groups' "I Wanta Rock" ad a row of guys rocking on a veranda features a cowboy. Walmart has recently featured yodeling in some ads. Maybe that connection isn't so tough to explain since they have given shelf space to Wylie & The Wild West product and they enjoyed a

PR boost in embracing 10-year old Mason Ramsey, videoed yodeling "Lovesick Blues" on a southern Illinois Walmart doorstep. Speaking of Wylie Gustafson, remember the ripples of excitement that ran through the Western Music community when he became the yodeling logo voice of Yahoo??

Once upon a time, things were different. Back in the day of ads featuring The Marlboro Man, the reasoning behind a cowboy product association was obvious. The square-jawed smoke poke was literally surrounded by TV Westerns, the most popular programming genre in America at that time. Wikipedia lists 191 different Western series debuting between 1950 and the early 2000s...the vast majority having appeared in the hot zone for the so-called "shoot-em-ups" ending in the mid-1970s.

That was then. What is propelling this current Cowboys In Advertising re-emergence, if that's what it is? The arrival of all those new channels and streaming options may provide part of the answer. Amazon Prime, Hulu, Disney+, Netflix and others seem to be in the process of re-evaluating The Western in their search for original content. Several are also running classic Western films and TV series as well. And then there's the rapidly rising popularity of a reality show called "The Cowboy Way." Now on 2800 cable systems along with Amazon Prime and DirecTV, it was renewed for a seventh season even before its current sixth premiered! The INSP Network original series follows three actual southern cowboys and their families, their interactions and their individual trails as they pursue their livelihoods. The "reality" here is the educational component for the public on how every part of the contemporary cowboy business works. The hidden reality, of course, is that for this trio there really isn't the financial pressure of staying ahead of the bills that most cowboys and ranchers face. Bubba Thompson, Cody Harris and Chris "Booger" Brown (billed respectively as "The Serious One," "The Driven One" and "The Funny One") are required to have joined the performers union to be doing the show at all and are paid in compliance with SAG/AFTRA contracts. They are also credited as consulting producers of the series, which is a whole 'nuther financial "reality." All that aside, suffice it to say currently there are strong Western awareness forces at work in mass media that could...COULD...benefit the cause of Western Music. But it's not going to happen automatically.

Continued on page 31

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 21

...**Pegie Douglas and the Badger Sett Band** were featured in the January/February issue of *South Dakota* magazine. The article was titled "Music from the Badger Hole."

...**Kerry Grombacher** is booked to perform a solo set at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival on Saturday, May 2. This will be Kerry's sixth appearance at Jazz Fest, a prestigious eight-day festival that highlights the music and the culture of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana, from jazz and blues, to Cajun and Zydeco, and to both country and western music.

...**The Buckaroo Balladeers** of Utah have begun work on a live album project. It will feature recordings from some of their performances from 2019 and 2020. They plan to release the album in the fall.

...Meet **Brian Warner**, a new cowboy singer on the scene from northern Colorado. He introduces himself to our readers and members as a father of three, grandfather of two, and husband of Julie Ann. Watch for him and welcome him into the western music scene if you run across him at a western event. We're always happy to have new members helping us preserve western music.

...**Allen and Jill Kirkham** are proud new grandparents of granddaughters Ella and Paige.

...Theresa Hanson of **The Hanson Family** married Bernard Untalan in January at St. Mary Catholic Church in downtown Eugene, OR. Bernard is the Superintendent of Religious Affairs for the entire Oregon National Guard and currently serves in the US Air Force. He is also a woodlands firefighter.

...Lisa Hanson Rivera of **The Hanson Family** is expecting baby number two in mid-June.

...Cowboy poet **Duane Nelson** and his wife Lori are expecting their first great-granddaughter in June.

...**Kristyn Harris** has announced her engagement to musician and music producer **Aarom Meador**. No wedding date has been announced yet. 🐾

EXPLORATION

Continued from page 19

Today's Cowboys in Alberta

Alberta's ranching industry never recovered to their levels prior to 1912. The ranches that did survive survived as small family ranches, according to D. Lorraine Andrews in *Ranching Under the Arch: Stories from the Southern Alberta Rangelands*. And Alberta has never forgotten its roots.



Perhaps the most well-known tribute is the Calgary Stampede, held every July in Calgary. This combined rodeo-festival-exhibition receives over a million visitors a year over its 10-day run. Since its first successful event in 1923 (there were several other attempts to create an annual event, but none took), the Calgary Stampede has become part of Calgary's national and international identity.

Events at the Stampede include the world-renown rodeo, one of the largest of its kind in the world; the Rangeland Derby, a chuckwagon race; exhibitions; a midway that includes a concert area where some of the biggest names in country music have performed; and a market. You can find more about the Calgary Stampede, tickets, events, and other information on the Calgary Stampede website (www.calgarystampede.com). The site also includes an extensive collection of historical images from the Stampede's storied past.

If you're interested in viewing Alberta's ranching present and past and following some of the same trails as the cowboys, you can drive The Cowboy Trail. The Trail runs along the Rocky Mountains, from Cardston in the south to Mayerthorpe in the north. You'll find camping, local cuisine, tours, trail rides, and ranching experiences. Visit historic ranches, enjoy a ride through the wild Rocky Mountain to take in the vistas, or stay at a guest- or working ranch. To learn more about destinations, events, and maps along The Cowboy Trail, you can visit the website at www.thecowboytrail.com.

Whether you drive along The Cowboy Trail, attend the Calgary Stampede, or find yourself looking out at the wild, rolling grasslands and the Rocky Mountains from the steps of a working ranch, you'll find a rich cowboy tradition in Alberta, Canada. 🐾



Chapter Update

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER President Bob Thomas bob@bobthomasmusic.com

Changes were a key topic in our last *Western Way* report and we have more changes here. The glass is not half empty, it is more than half full and getting fuller! Important initiatives begun previously have gained more momentum. A change in our scheduling at the Autry was balanced by important openings at its Wells Fargo Theater. Regional initiatives have produced terrific opportunities for performers in Southern California. You will read about lots of activity in Northern California and be reminded of a great resource produced by Nancy Flagg that makes Western Music performances more visible and accessible.

Northern California Report:

Western music is more than alive and well, it is roaring! In just March/April, there are over 36 shows in various venues. Several are home concerts such as Dave Stamey's performance at the home of Rich Smith in Folsom. That first date was a sellout so another was quickly added the next day. The Carolyn Sills Combo performed just recently with Riders



Carolyn Sills Combo with RIDERS IN THE SKY.

in the Sky. We won't attempt to list them all but you luckily have a wonderful resource: "Nancy's NorCal Events List: Western Music, Cowboy Poetry, Old West Heritage". You will find that list posted in the Cal Chapter Facebook pages. Remember, you can post upcoming events by contacting Nancy Flagg at cowboytracks2@gmail.com .

Southern California Report: We have had a change in scheduling for our free Western Music Showcase at the Autry. The monthly schedule on the typically the third Sunday in most months has changed to quarterly. Please join us on March 15, June 21, September 20, and December 6. In return we have been given two dates for the Wells Fargo Theater for full concerts. Watch for announcements by email and in chapter Facebook postings. We are booking the acts for April 26 and August 1. We are back at The Main Theater in Old Town Newhall for another live concert on Friday, July 24. The regional initiative for OC and San Diego headed by Sharone Rosen has landed us two large performances with the Historical Division of the Orange County Parks department: April 11 at the Orange County Jamboree and May 2 at Rancho Days Fiesta. These are very large and highly publicized events. That glass is more than half full! On February 22, the Chapter held its annual "Spring into Spring" Party. We were thrilled to have participation of a large group from



Members of IWMACC and Cowboy Social Club. (Photo courtesy Jack Hummel)



Headliner Jerry Hall and Trickshot (Photo courtesy Jack Hummel)



The New Trio, Greg Khougaz, Scott Tonnelson, Joe Lima. (Photo courtesy Jack Hummel)

the Cowboy Social Club. By popular demand, our headliner was again Jerry Hall and Trickshot. Other great performances were provided by the new trio of Joe Lima, Greg Khougaz, and Scott Tonnelson. Sharone Rosen, John Bergstrom, Bob Thomas, and Vicki Hill provided other excellent entertainment. Check out our website and Facebook pages for people and performers you may know. We hope to do more joint programs with Cowboy Social Club in the future. Best wishes to you all!



President Bob Thomas



John Bergstrom singing to the large crowd. (Photo courtesy Jack Hummel)

COLORADO CHAPTER

President: Susie Knight
lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com

The New Year started off with a showcase in Golden on the Sunday morning of the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Our hosts were



Donna Hatton, Chapter Treasurer (Photo courtesy Bill Patterson)

Tom and Donna Hatton from Woodland Park. They are our Chapter's Treasurer and Vice President, respectively. Performers were:

Lynne Belle

Lewis, (Mancos, CO), Steve Jones (Steamboat Springs, CO), Levi Cody (Florissant, CO), Randy Hoyt (Grand Junction, CO), Valerie Beard (Kim, CO), and

Jimmy Lee Robbins (Colorado Springs, CO). The audience was full that morning! Thank you to all the performers for traveling so far to participate,

and for all the Chapter Members that came out to watch our show and help out! Several of our Chapter Members were invited performers at the 2020 Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering including Vic Anderson, Floyd Beard,



The not-so-subtle tip jar for performance venues. (Photo courtesy Bill Patterson)



Some of the Colorado Chapter members. (Photo courtesy Bill Patterson)

Patty Clayton, Peggy Malone, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Terry Nash, Lindy Simmons, and Carlos Washington. FYI: The Colorado Cowboy Gathering is a Business Member of our Chapter and vice versa. We are delighted to be "family." So, to where should we take a showcase this year? We can work on one for Steamboat Springs. The Library there really loves having us, and it doesn't cost our Chapter a penny to rent the space. What about the eastern part of our state? We've never been there! Burlington would be a good spot. Any other suggestions? Please contact me with any suggestions ASAP so we can check out the possibilities.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

While our "official" geographic area is Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia, we boast members from 14 states and provinces and welcome members from all areas. Come join us! Chapter members

Duane Nelson and Alan Halvorson are part of the newly reorganized Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering held annually Presidents Day weekend in Ellensburg, WA. Thanks for doing that guys! In addition to their work



Duane Nelson, organizer and performer



Barbara Nelson wows them at Spirit of the West.

If you were in Elko, NV for the 36th Annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering you might have caught Tom Swearingen on stage as a



Tom Swearingen in Elko. (Photo courtesy Linda Nadon)

featured poet. Duane Nelson, Kathy Moss, the Panhandle Cowboys, and Coyote Joe Sartin were also part of the fun and could be found on the "Anything Goes" music and poetry stages or other stages in town. The week after Elko our chapter was represented at the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering in Sierra Vista, AZ with Devon and the Outlaw, the Notable Exceptions, Tom Swearingen, and the Hanson Family performing. The Lane County, OR Livestock Association Annual Dinner was entertained by Jim Crotts and Marv Ramsey. The pair, joined by singer Rachel Wilson, is set to perform "A Night with the Cowboys" an evening of cowboy poetry, music, and dinner in Roy, WA. The March 2020 Kamloops B.C. Cowboy Festival will feature members Ed Wahl, Mike Dygert, Geoff Mackay, Kathy Moss, and Lauralee Northcott. Also in March, Tom Swearingen and the Notable Exceptions are teaming up for a "West Fest" dinner concert to benefit the charitable programs of the Foundation of the Rotary Club of East Portland, OR. Our spring chapter concert will be held April 25 at the Elks Lodge in Lewiston, ID. Being organized by Lynn Kopelke, the event will include an afternoon show, dinner option, and evening "Opry Style" show. Performers expected are Chinook Winds, Tim Jenkins, Sam Mattise, Alan Halvorson, Jan Williams, Coyote Joe Sartin, Lynn Kopelke, Barbara Nelson, Jim Aasen, Dick Warwick, and Ed Wahl. In May, Joni Harms headlines the Portland Folk Music Society monthly concert. After months of work by

our youth program committee we are excited to announce the IWMA Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Round-Up contest is off and running with our first winners expected to be introduced at our October 17 annual meeting and "Cowboys in the Hood" showcase concert in Hood River, OR.

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black

Aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

The IWMA East Coast Chapter had no events or activities during the past quarter. Many of the chapter members had trekked to the annual convention in Albuquerque in November and then took time to enjoy the holidays through unpredictable weather for the next months. Now, plans are being made for the second annual IWMAECC Concert in Cumberland, MD that will take place in August of 2020. More information will be forthcoming on that event.

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen

orin@rbanjoranch.com

A new initiative is being launched by the Kansas chapter in conjunction with the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest, as encouraged by IWMA's emphasis on engaging young people. The 2020 Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest will include a Youth Roundup for kids, high school age and younger. The youth will post videos of their recitations or original poems online and be evaluated to choose a winner. Also, the more "likes" their video receives, the higher will be that portion of the ranking. The winner receives a beautiful trophy buckle and travel expenses for the winner and his or her family to attend the state finals of the adult cowboy poetry contest. IWMA-Kansas will also be working with a proposed new Folk Art initiative in the state. The chapter is also supporting proposed federal legislation that would designate the Chisholm and Western Trails as National Historic Trails from Texas to Nebraska. Several members of the Kansas chapter are involved in

the planning of events to celebrate the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail in 2021. A joint project among the chapter members is also being discussed.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Ralph Estes

ralph@ralphestes.com

The year opened with all new chapter officers trying to fill the ample boots of the old. Fortunately they had them polished and resoled – and



Jim Jones and Claudia Nygaard enjoying their showcase.

they are Luccheses. Showcases with national professional performers were continued immediately, Claudia Nygaard and Jim Jones for the first – full house, Doug Figgs and Floyd Beard scheduled for April 13.



Floyd Beard on horseback.

The chapter along with the City of Albuquerque will sponsor Jim Jones in concert on the Old Plaza July 25, plus a Youth Concert in November and a fund-raising Christmas Concert in December. The Blue Grasshopper Brewpub Open Mics continue twice a month. Each session provides an opportunity for the "amateurs" among us to get some stage time; and lately they've been nicely



Doug Figgs without his guitar.

interspersed with national level performers like Buffalo Bill (Boycott – formerly with the New Christy Minstrels) and Dr. Jo (Orr), Jenna and Kacey Thunborg (2019 Youth Harmony Award winners), Holy Water and Whiskey, Stan Lawrence, Rob Roman (direct – more or less – from Nashville) who doubles as an ace sound guy. Jim Jones sometimes solos, recently doing IWMA Song of the Year, "It's a Cowboy I Will Be," with the surprise walk-on of Tom Farrell pounding the bass drum. And sometimes Jim's joined by "The Cowboy Way" (Traditional Western Album and Duo/Group of the Year awards) partner Doug Figgs, who has also been known to drop in (I tried to list Doug's awards but Theresa said *there IS a space limit!*). And they're all sometimes emceed by Radio DJ/Radio Program of the Year co-winner Bobbie Jean Bell. Probably a brewpub first: on-stage performance of the Melody Time/Pecos Bill melodrama with recitation by Martha Burk and chapter VP (and the chapter's Poet Laureate) Bernard Carr, backed by past president Michael Coy and Donna Coy. And then there are monthly chapter birthday celebrations with cake, and sometimes Mary Ann Bedwell does a cowboy trivia quiz with Mardi Gras beads flying everywhere for right answers. First Chapter Gathering on March 1, with pot-luck, informal meeting, and open jam. Next Gathering will be with the membership of CHAMPs – Corrales Horse and Mule People. Purpose is to socialize (pot-luck, jam) and ponder how the two organizations might

Continued on page 29

BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

with *Bryan Kuban*



"SO YA WANNA BUILD AN INEXPENSIVE HOME STUDIO"

Here is a simple guide to build an inexpensive home studio with quality used gear!

Many of my clients ask me what to buy for their personal home studio. The first thing I say to them is "Do you have a Fire Station or police station next door to your home?" All kidding aside, it is very important that if you are going to purchase home studio gear, you will need a quiet sound treated environment to track in. If you live in a typical neighborhood there is a good chance that you can achieve your goal with a few mattresses and some throw rugs. There are many great videos on YouTube® on how to treat a space for sound.

The Bare Bones

Now that you have figured out a good workspace, let's start with the essentials to build a small but quality tracking system. So, what are the essentials for a simple home recording setup?

- The First thing you will need is a decent dedicated computer: I recommend whatever you use that it is dedicated solely to music and no other applications other than email and Internet. Whether you are a PC or Mac person you can find a reliable used laptop or desktop with enough power to record for under \$500.00. I recommend a mac pro tower 2012. You can find these online used between \$400-\$600. Macs tend to be easier to use as they are plug and play which means almost everything you plug into them connects without having to update drivers.
- Make sure the computer has at least (2-4) USB 2.0 or 3.0 ports and possibly (2) Firewire 400-800 ports.
- The Computer will also require a minimum of 16 gigs of ram to operate smoothly.
- 2 Solid State Hard drives are recommended: (1) for the operating system (250-500 GB) and (1) for storage (1 TB) (around \$120.00).
- 32" late model television for a monitor, works perfectly with HDMI (Pawn shop price around \$100.00).

Total Computer cost with Monitor and SSD hard drives is approximately \$850.00. Not bad considering a 24-track tape machine went for around \$25,000 back in the day.

You Will Need is an Audio Interface

The audio interface is the link between the microphone and the computer. What it does is turn Analog Signal into Digital Signal which is referred as **AD**, and it then reconverts the output of your mix back to analog again which is called **DA**. The more expensive the audio interface, the more accurate and better sounding the AD DA converters will be in the interface. I recommend for someone building a small home studio to get Apogee Ensemble ver 1 which is top shelf AD DA and includes 8 pristine microphone preamps. You can find used ones on www.reverb.com for approximately \$400.00. These same units were \$2000.00 5 years ago and they were in many top notch studios across the World. There are many options including: Focusrite, Presonus, and Motu to name a few, but for my money the Apogee is the best. If you are using a PC, think about UA audio products as they also include high resolution converters. However, you will need Thunderbolt for the UA Audio products and that raises the price of the computer a bit.

- **Computer and monitor: \$850.00**
- **Awesome Apogee Interface with 8 mic preamps: \$400.00**

So, approximately \$1,250.00 for a powerful tracking computer and (8) world class microphone preamps with pristine AD DA conversion.

Good Quality Used Reference Monitors and Headphones

When buying reference monitors, the key is for speakers that do not color the sound. If the sound is being enhanced with a bigger low end or a crispier high end of a budget consumer monitor, your recordings will sound dull and empty. But worry not my friends because there are quality monitors available at a decent price that will give you a nice flat-mirrored response. I would start with the **Focal Alpha 50 5" Powered Studio Monitor**, approximately \$300.00 each.

This company makes some of the most expensive near field monitors in the business. The good thing about that is that even their baseline entry model speakers sound amazingly accurate. So, for \$600.00 you can have a quality near field monitor with a very trustworthy audio image.

Continued on page 30

Chapter Update

Continued from page 27

work together on a joint event or events, featuring horses, western songs and poems, and those of us who love them. Corrales has facilities that *could* host something good, and the Mayor Jo Anne Roake – a fine lady – is enthusiastic. Come see us – open mics, Showcases, pot-lucks, jams, good people, good hospitality (even if you're from Texas).

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Donnie Poindexter
cowboydp51@gmail.com

Dawn Anita is a top five finalist in two categories of the Academy of Western Artists: "Female Western Swing Artist" and "Western Female Artist." She performs at the Western Pre-Jam Show at the Radisson Hotel in Ft. Worth, TX on April 8, at the Pre-Jam Show at the Stagecoach Ballroom in Ft. Worth on that date and will be attending the awards show on April 9. She performs with Carol Markstrom at Blake Shelton's Ole Red's in Tishomingo, OK on April 11. Dawn Anita also appears at the 2020 Cowboy Way Jubilee in San Angelo, TX on May 1 and 2. Cowboy Jim Garling performs at the Full Circle Bookstore in Oklahoma



Gateway to Pawnee Bill Ranch (Photo courtesy Ronny Brown, Director, Pawnee Bill Ranch)

City on April 24, at OKC's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for their Chuck Wagon Gathering on May 23 and 24, and at the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show in Pawnee, OK on

June 5 and 6. On June 26 he returns to the historic St. James Hotel patio in Cimarron, NM. The 5th Annual "Crossroads Cowboy Poetry Gatherin'" takes place this year on April 24 and 25. A number of our chapter's poets and musicians are participating at Crossroads Ranch and Crossroads Community Church / Corner Post Cowboy Church near Yale, OK. Music and poetry workshops, open mic and campfire fellowship the first day are followed the next day with a cowboy poetry competition, ranch rodeo and ranch horse competition, chuckwagon lunch, and cowboy trade show on the grounds. Buckles and trophies go to the winning poets. More info at 918-939-9085 or dove.morgan@yahoo.com. A Little Farther West performs at Pawnee Bill's Ranch for their 32nd Annual Wild West Show in Pawnee, OK on June 5 and 6, and at Beggs (OK) Frontier Days on June 13. Daryl Knight and Donnie Poindexter appear at the 2020 Cowboy Way Festival in San Angelo, TX on May 1 and 2. Choregus Productions brings the western swing of Hot Club of Cowtown to Tulsa, OK on May 8.

TEXAS CHAPTER

President: Cary Wiseman
Wisemanranch71@gmail.com

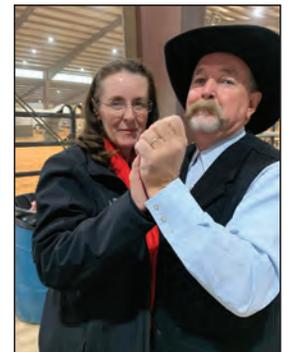
The IWMA Texas Chapter had a great time at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. We had three Sundays to share our Western Swing and Cowboy Poetry with folks that may have never heard of our kind of music. We had time to visit and share our way of life with people that don't get to enjoy lives like ours. Thanks to all of the entertainers and families that made our first San Antonio performances a great success. We are working on some future performance venues, we still have to nail down some dates and we will pass them on to everyone. The IWMA Texas Chapter is looking forward to hosting some summer performances and we hope to see y'all down the road. God Bless and Happy Trails!

UTAH CHAPTER

President: Brian Arnold
saddlestrings@live.com

Utah Chapter members have been busy performing western music and cowboy poetry all over the Intermountain West. Many miles logged, many hours spent rehearsing and performing, and many new fans of cowboy poetry and western music made along the way. As I write this, the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous is less than a week away. We are welcoming our current male and female Performers of the Year, Gary Allegretto and Kristyn Harris. Top shelf lineup for this event will be headliners Dave Stamey and Trinity Seely, plus Andy Nelson, Ernie Sites, the High Country Cowboys, Mark Munzert, and many of our Utah Chapter members. We will also stay busy for the next few months with the following regional gatherings:

The Iron Door Gathering in Malad, Idaho; St. Anthony, Idaho Cowboy Gathering; several venues for Cowboy Poetry Week in April; and Cowboy Legends at Antelope Island during the Memorial Day weekend. Also, happy to report that Teri Price Arnold continues on her road to recovery with strength and determination. She and Brian wish to thank all of their IWMA friends and family for the thoughts, prayers, and support on this difficult journey. On we go. Happy trails.



Teri Price Arnold dancing with her husband, Brian Arnold. Brian is Utah Chapter president.

Continued on page 31



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



CHOCOLATE

When I was just a button, maybe three or four, my folks would sometimes leave me with my grandmother when they went into town to take care of grown up business.

Granny was a rather large lady and always fighting her weight. That was purty much a lose'n battle 'cause she had a dire desire for sweets. I'd heard my folks talk about her candy stash she thought no one knew about but most everybody did.

One day I was hangin' out with Granny and havin' a fine old time lookin' at the old calender she kept. It had all the little chicks in it that were celebrating the seasons. Then came the part I didn't like. Nap time.

She put me down on the couch, threw a blanket over me then retired to her bedroom where she immediatly started to snore. I never was much for naps and I decided as long as Granny was sawin' them logs I might as well get a little exploring done.

I went lookin' for her candy stash and figgered I'd found it when using her step stool I got into a cupboard over the

kitchen sink. It was a lone Hershey bar that had been opened and a couple of squares were missing off the end of it. I took a couple squares off and figgered she wouldn't miss 'em. I gobbled 'em down and put everything back just the way I found it. That Hershey bar had some writin' on I didn't understand. It said "X-LAX"!

Now a lot of health advocates today recommend a total body cleanse from time to time and lemme tell you I fell right in with their program. Granny had an outdoor outhouse and I sure was glad it wasn't winter cause I spent the better part of the afternoon out there. When Mom came to pick me up, Grandma told her she didn't know what was the matter with me.

On the way home I was feelin' kinda peaked and I sure was thirsty. When I asked mom, "What is x-lax"? she got to smilin'.

I reckon she had it figgered out. 🐾

BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

Continued from page 28

Another quality, less expensive option is the **ADAM Audio T5V Two-Way 5-Inch Active Nearfield Monitor**, approximately \$200.00 each. Adam has been long respected as one of the leading builders of high-quality, flat frequency response reference monitors and again prices up to thousands of dollars for their top end products.

When it comes to headphones, coloration is a big issue. You will have to spend a few bucks to get some great flat response headphones. For a great starter set I recommend the **Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro**, approximately \$175.00. I find these headphones to be the most accurate at this price point. You would have to spend twice this amount to find a better, more true sounding headset.

So, let's do a talley:

- ♦ **Apple 2012 Mac pro Tower 16 gb ram (\$400.00)**
- ♦ **2 Solid State Hard drives are recommended: (1) for the operating system (250-500 GB approximately \$80.00) and (1) for storage (1 TB around \$120.00)**

- ♦ **32" late model television for a monitor, works perfectly with HDMI (pawn shop price around (\$100.00))**
- ♦ **Awesome Apogee Interface with 8 mic preamps (\$400.00)**
- ♦ **ADAM Audio T5V Two-Way 5-Inch Active Nearfield Monitor (approximately \$400.00/pair)**
- ♦ **Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro approximately (\$175.00 new)**

All this not including cabling and software (to be continued – Part II in next issue) \$1,675.00. Wow, that is a lot of great gear for very little money! Next issue we are going to put some software, cabling and microphones with our awesome system.....Thanks for tuning in.

I hope this information is helpful; any feedback is welcome. I want your home studio to be the best sound at the best price. You may contact me at bryankuban@gmail.com. 🐾

Chapter Update

Continued from page 29

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Mark Munzert
markmunzert@gmail.com

Much thanks to past-President Dan 'Doc' Wilson for his efforts and involvement during his tenure. Our new Western Wordsmiths Chapter 'bored of festers', err, ah, Board of Directors has been trotting along, opening gates, and jumping cattle-guards. The Cal Farley Boys Ranch youth initiative has: Dennis Flynn, Daryl Knight, J.J. Steele, Floyd and Valerie Beard as volunteers. Cal Farley Boys Ranch (not just for boys) has a windswept trail with Cowboy Poetry and we are aiming to expound upon the events at Cal Farley and encourage further youth involvement. Cal Farley brought youth poet reciters to the IWMA 'fest-vention' in Albuquerque whereupon we introduced, encouraged, and offered support. Already in our Chapter's midst were poetically reclined, err, inclined folks familiar with, involved, and interested in offering a leg-up and that trail is being further established. So too, the Western Wordsmiths broke open the piggy bank to lend a little support to the IWMA Kansas Chapter and their youth poetry contest which was brought to our 'Lantern Light' by Secretary Ron Wilson. And, speaking of Lantern Light, in this edition of *Western Way*, Penned by Lantern Light features the ol' rascal P.W. Conway and his poem 'My Cowgirl'...both, Poetry Contest winners at the aforementioned IWMA 'con-estival'. This marks a return to tradition (though we didn't intend to part with it) of using the winning

poem for Penned by Lantern Light in the *Western Way* issue following the IWMA 'fest-con-ival-ention'. Chapter officers have contacted and are building relationships with genre related magazines that we believe endorse our mission 'to promote and preserve'. We recently submitted sixteen Chapter Member' poems and six MP3s to Working Ranch Magazine for publication and 'air' (podcast) play. We are aiming to have the Western Wordsmiths' short bio, contact information, and the IWMA logo and website address included with each poem published. Similar inroads are being planked with with other notable magazines. We have contacted more than a handful of national bodies: cattlemen's associations; equine organizations; and 'senior' living organizations to encourage performance poetry at their events. The Chapter has begun to disseminate information for purposeful marketing of member's talents. We are hopeful for additional Member input, contribution, and ideas. We are further hopeful that we can utilize this information and encourage Member performances at rural libraries in collaboration with the Center for Western and Cowboy Poetry's Rural Outreach Program and Cowboy Poetry Week, (April 19-25), and its' Director and Western Wordsmith Chapter Member Margo Metragano. In the 'too many to mention' category'... thank you to all of the promoters, sponsors, Gathering committees, fans, friends, and family that have brought the 'too many to mention' Western Wordsmiths to your events. We appreciate your support and efforts to keep Cowboy Poetry, America's Poetry.

YOUTH CHAPTER

President: Abby Payne
Youth Chapter Coordinator: Jane Leche
wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com

New Youth Chapter officers (YCOs) were elected during the 2019 IWMA Annual Convention in Albuquerque, NM. YCOs for 2020 are: President-Abby Payne, TX; Vice President-Jenna Thunborg, NM; Secretary-Andi Wood, TX; Program Manager-Caroline Grace Wiseman, TX; and Social Media Chair-Alice Black, VA. The Youth Chapter also sends a special heartfelt thank you to Hailey Sandoz for her dedication as Youth Chapter Secretary over the past couple of years. Hailey started with the youth chapter when she was a young teenager and is now "aging out." Her sparkle, helpfulness, and positive attitude will be greatly missed by the Youth Chapter, but we wish her well as a young adult and award-winning performer. Thank you, Hailey!

2020 Arizona Folklore Preserve Youth Chapter Showcase

Opportunity – Last year the Arizona Folklore Preserve near Sierra Vista, AZ, hosted the first IWMA Youth Chapter Showcase and have offered the opportunity again this year. The dates for the showcase are June 6 and 7, 2020. All Youth Chapter members in good standing who are interested in performing in this showcase can find more information by going to the IWMA website iwesternmusic.org and clicking on *Membership*, then *Youth Chapter* to apply. All applications must be submitted by March 31, 2020. Contact Jane Leche, Youth Chapter Coordinator at wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com for more information. 🐾

THE WESTERN WORLD TOUR

Continued from page 23

Now is the time to examine, plan, create and act. Find partners, prospects, opportunities and move on all of them! Exactly what is happening needs to be understood by those who want to forward Western Music. Is it all just a temporary trend? I've long cited the legendary Western director John Ford's response when asked his key to success: "First I spot a trend, and then I run like hell from it!" In this case, however, I suspect his view on it would run toward "new thinking" rather than ignoring the

obvious. When you have no funding to back up an awareness campaign, it may be necessary to coattail where possible. It's no secret that, after thirty years, the IWMA remains a high-minded entity with a hip-pocket treasury. I wish I could say that a growing awareness of Western Music had helped to propel the new Western media awareness. But if we were to ask what's been done or is being done now to take advantage of it? Facing the question squarely, I hope we'll soon have a different answer. 🐾

DJ BEHIND THE MIC

By Nancy Flagg



In "DJ Behind the Mic," Nancy shares the life stories and musical insights of the deejays who broadcast Western music and cowboy poetry to the world.

TOTSIE SLOVER

The Real West from the Old West



Who could have guessed that the small town of Deming, New Mexico, just 33 miles from the Mexican border, would be a hotspot on the western music concert scene? Thanks to the foresight of Totsie Slover, DJ of The Real West from the Old West radio show, performers and audiences gather

in Deming to bask in the southwestern desert warmth and be serenaded by western singers.

From DJ to Concert Promoter

Totsie took over her husband Howard's western music radio show in 2009, a little over a year after he passed. She had debated with herself about doing the show because Howard had a very animated style that didn't fit her. On a long drive to Albuquerque, she made up her mind that she would host the show, albeit in the quieter Totsie-style. Not only did she successfully assume the DJ mantle, but along the way found herself becoming a concert promoter.

On her annual treks to the International Western Music Association's convention in Albuquerque, Totsie would meet the performers and add their new works to her radio show playlists. Before long she started thinking about how she could do more by hosting concerts in Deming. In a perceptive analysis of her location, perhaps honed over her 36 years as a realtor, she realized that Deming provided the perfect triumvirate of conditions: 1) a ranching community predisposed to resonating to western music and poetry, 2) a large "snowbird" population of visitors who wintered in Deming and "want to be entertained" and 3) a favorable geographic location smack dab on Interstate 10 that leads directly east and west to larger concert venues.

Totsie contacted Luna Rossa winery in Deming and arranged to host concerts in their tasting room. The winery owners, Paolo and Sylvia D'Andrea, generously donate the space and snacks. Entertainers contact Totsie

when they are going to be in the area. "Artists who are driving to a big show on Friday or Saturday, find it advantageous to stop-over in Deming, pick up a Thursday night gig, and earn a little cash for gas," Totsie explains.

Western Music Heritage and Future

Totsie first fell in love with western music when her husband started collecting western CDs for his radio show. She was drawn to the music because it is "very simple, uses few instruments, sometimes just a singer and guitar, and tells a story about the West." The stories bring back memories from her days growing up on a ranch where she jokes that "I was my daddy's only son." She rode on the backs of horses with a bunch of cows in front, vaccinated, pushed calves in the squeeze chute, pulled calves and branded alongside her father.

Totsie worries about the future of western music because the western way of life is dissolving, except in small places that have farmers and ranchers. Her own kids don't like western music and few people understand the genre. However, she takes comfort in the rise of talented young performers, such as, Kristyn Harris, Haley Sandoz, Mikki Daniel, Leah and David Sawyer, Brooke Wallace and many more. She also sees the internet as an important vehicle for western music and suggests that more artists be on YouTube.

In the meantime, Totsie finds great satisfaction sitting at the radio microphone, airing her custom 50/50 blend of western music and western swing (plus poetry) and later going to the store where a Deming resident says to her, "I never miss a show!"

How to follow the radio show:

- Live on Wednesdays 10 AM-12 noon, 1230 KOTS-AM radio in Deming
- Demingradio.com/programs for recent show archives
- RealWestOldWest.com for playlists and concert schedules
- "The Real West from the Old West" Facebook page for playlists. 🐾

CHRONICLE OF THE OLD WEST

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

THE GREAT CAMEL EXPERIMENT

BY DAKOTA LIVESAY



People use horses and mules to pack provisions into the wilderness... However, were it not for a twist of fate that took place back in the Old West, today many packers could quite possibly be using camels.

Because of the problem horses and mules had in traveling the southwest deserts, as far back as 1836 Army Major George H. Crossman recommended the military experiment with the use of camels. In their natural desert environment camels could move faster, carry more weight and required less water and food than horses or mules.

Eventually the idea reached the desk of Secretary of War Jefferson

Davis. He liked the idea, because he was aware that Napoleon had successfully used camels.

So, on March 3, 1855 Jefferson Davis got Congress to approve \$30,000 for checking out the possibility of using camels as pack animals.

In addition, with the problems the government was having with the southwest Indians, it may just solve that problem as well.

The government felt since the habits of the Indians resembled those of the nomadic Arabs; the introduction of the camel would change their life as much as the horse had done. They felt the camel could make the Indian civilized, by his being able to raise them and sell the wool, hide and meat...especially since the buffalo was gone.

About 50 camels, along with 10 handlers were imported into Southern Texas. One of the officers involved in the camel unit was Lt. Colonel Robert E. Lee.

Even though local citizens didn't like the camels because they smelled awful, and horses were scared to death of them, Robert E. Lee was very impressed with their performance.

In addition, one camel could do the work of two horses in less time.

Two years after the approval of funding by Congress, a caravan of 25 camels headed from Southern Texas to California. It arrived four months later with many of the soldiers crediting their survival to the camel's ability to carry extra water. The men in the field praised the experiment as a success.

This is where a twist of fate enters the picture. During this period of time the southern states began succeeding from the Union. Both Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee left the army to become a part of the Confederacy. Their replacements were not fans of the camels, and then along came the Civil War and the army's attention was directed elsewhere. And what was called "the great camel experiment," became a thing of the past.

Some of the camels were later used to transport goods in the Los Angeles harbor area. But several of them got loose and started wandering around.

You know, even today people visiting the southwest deserts report hearing strange and eerie sounds and ghosts in the image of camels.

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

Dakota has written a book entitled *Living The Code*, explaining how we're a great country because of the traditional values developed on our frontier, and how we can continue our greatness by maintaining those values.

In his personal appearances, Dakota tells stories about Old West characters and events in a way that keeps the audience riveted to his every word. He also delivers talks, based on his book *Living The Code*, motivating people to a higher standard of living.

Although Dakota doesn't consider himself an expert – just an enthusiast – through print, Internet, radio, TV, CDs and personal appearances, he gives people a taste of the real Old West.

Dubbed "the radio voice of the Old West" Dakota has won the coveted National Day of the Cowboy, Cowboy Keeper Award, Spirit of the Old West Alive Award and the Straight Shooter Award.

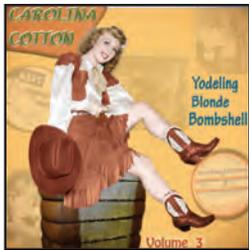


A MUSICAL NOTE REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

To submit your CD for review, send to: O.J. Sikes, 327 Westview Avenue, Leonia, NJ 07605-1811
Required: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number | Questions? You can email O.J. at osikes@nj.rr.com

YODELING BLONDE BOMBSHELL, VOL. 3

Carolina Cotton



For Volume 3 in this series of albums, 22 tracks have been collected, the last of which is a complete

Carolina Cotton Calls radio show. But the album is not available on CD. In line with more modern marketing strategies, this one is only available as a download, but there are several sources for it. You can learn more by visiting Carolina's website, CarolinaCotton.Org or you may purchase the music from CDBaby, iTunes or Amazon.

The tracks come from Carolina's radio performances in the 1940's and 50's, and over that time, several musical groups backed her. She worked with Deuce Spriggs' band in 1945-46, and the album opens with a couple of their songs, e.g. "When Payday Rolls Around," and Foy Wiling & the Riders of the Purple Sage accompany her on several others, e.g. "Happy on the Prairie," while Andy Parker & the Plainsmen, who had worked with Deuce Spriggs earlier, provided instrumental backing on "The Cowboy's Life."

Track 22, the complete radio show, was aired by the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) in the early 50's, and it had in its cast an array of some of the best western sidemen around, including, among others, a group called The Rhythm Riders. There

were at least three groups that used a variation of that name around the same time (The Republic Rhythm Riders & The Roy Rogers Riders) and there were several musicians who belonged to all three groups, e.g. George Bamby, Darol Rice and Mike Barton. Joe Maphis was featured on guitar with the Riders who worked with Carolina on her AFRS shows.

In sum, the fidelity of the recordings is great, and with such stellar musicians making the music, the collection is delightful, especially if you're a yodel fan.



AMERICA'S LAST SINGING COWBOY

Rex Allen

Country Rewind Records CRR-214



Just when we thought there were no more treasures to discover from our Western music heritage, Rex

Allen, Jr. found 15 of his dad's old, in some cases "lost," recordings, largely done for radio back in the 50s when he was at the peak of his popularity as a singing movie cowboy. At least 4 were recorded with the Sons of the Pioneers when they appeared together on shows for the U.S. Navy, and one of those, "Blue Dream," is one of my all-time Rex Allen favorites. He also recorded it commercially, but in my view, this version is far superior to the commercial record. You may recognize the Farr

brothers on this one and "There's a Blue Sky Way Out Yonder," "All Cried Out" and "Money, Marbles and Chalk."

The album opens with a superb rendition of "Texas Plains," which includes an amazing fiddle solo, probably by Wade Ray, who worked with Rex in movies and on the road for many years. Other songs include titles Rex also recorded commercially for Decca, Buena Vista and Mercury in the 50s and early 60s, but frankly, I prefer these versions, including a wonderful rendition of "Cowboy's Lament." It's also good to hear several songs Rex used as his theme songs over the years.

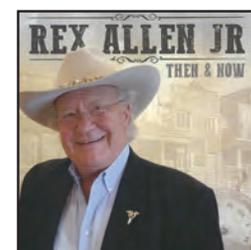
In many cases, the source recordings contained background/surface noise, but all of these tracks have been carefully cleaned up, using the most modern equipment, and the audio is fantastic. This CD is, indeed, a real treasure. As Rex Jr. says, "The world needs to hear these songs." Available from countryrewind.com



THEN & NOW

Rex Allen, Jr.

Country Rewind Records CRR-215



In the 1970s and 80s, every "single" Rex Allen, Jr. recorded (over 50 of them) made the charts.

As he looks back on those years, his memories are fond ones, and, as he was selecting the 16 songs for this

new CD, he decided to divide the songs between then and now, thus, the album's title. The first eight tracks represent for Rex, the end of an era in country music. After those songs came out, the music changed. The second half of the album represents the trail Rex has followed since then, going back to his roots and what he calls "modern Western music."

The liner notes include interesting stories about several of the songs from each era. I was particularly impressed with the renditions of "Deep in the West," "Dream on Texas Ladies," "Lonesome Town," "Bullets in the Gun" and "Where are the Heroes," and he teams up with Juni Fisher to close the album with a beautiful rendition of Dylan's "Forever Young." This is not a "Greatest Hits" collection, so you may find some good music you haven't heard before, in addition to a few old favorites, newly produced. Available online at countryrewind.com and Amazon.com.



JEAN STREET SWING 1951-1962

Herb Remington
BACM CD D 652



If you're into Western Swing, you probably know the name, Herb Remington. You've heard

Bob Wills call out "Herby," referring to a steel guitar solo by Remington, on numerous recordings made when Herb was one of Bob's Texas Playboys, 1946-1949. The recordings on this new release, all but 2 of which are instrumentals, were made between 1951 and 1962, after Remington left the Wills band, but they offer the opportunity to hear Herb's versatility.

Several of Remington's most famous compositions are included, e.g. "Remington Ride," "Station Break" and "Boot Heel Drag," but

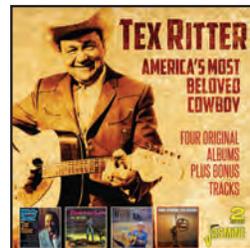
the real attraction is the large number of songs that might be new to you, and with 31 tracks in all, there's lots of variety to enjoy. Steel guitar fans will be able to add some fine, rare tracks to your collection.

Historian Kevin Coffey, always a great source of information, provided extensive liner notes on Herb's career and the musicians on these sessions. Available online at <http://country-music-archive.com>



AMERICA'S MOST BELOVED COWBOY

Tex Ritter
Jasmine CD 3730/1



Tex Ritter's earliest recordings were probably no more numerous than those of his contemporaries, but in his later years, after the B-Western film days were over, his recording output was astounding. Interestingly, in recent years, much of that work has been easier to find overseas than in the US, and with this release, the Jasmine label has combined 4 of Tex's LPs plus bonus tracks, in one 2 disc CD package.

Two of the LPs represented here, HILLBILLY HEAVEN and BLOOD ON THE SADDLE, were readily available in the US for a long time, but the other two, SONGS FROM THE WESTERN SCREEN and STAN KENTON! TEX RITTER!, were not as easy to find. As far as I know, complete versions of none of them were available on CD.

Three of the 4 original LPs were recorded in stereo, and the best available sources were used as masters for these CDs, so audiophiles will be pleased. And the 5 bonus tracks include several of Tex's recordings from the 1940s, both

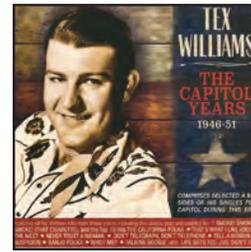
country, e.g. "You Two-timed Me One Time Too Often" and Western, e.g. "Bad Brahma Bull." In addition, three versions of "High Noon (Do Not Forsake Me)" are included.

Widely available.



TEX WILLIAMS: THE CAPITOL YEARS 1946-51

Tex Williams



Late in 2019, hot on the heels of its Spade Cooley and Jimmy Wakely CD sets, the Acrobat label released a 2 CD

set of the "singles" (both A and B sides) Tex Williams recorded for the Capitol label between 1946 and 1951. The collection includes all of the 13 hits Tex recorded for Capitol during this period, including "Smoke! Smoke! Smoke! (That Cigarette)," but if you're a dyed-in-the-wool Tex Williams fan, you'll be particularly interested in the other sides, i.e. those less well-known and harder to find.

After parting company with Spade Cooley in 1946, Tex's big break came with the introduction of his talking blues style in 1947. But he was doing quite well, right out of the chutes, with "The California Polka" (Capitol released a 78rpm album of his polkas), "I Got Texas in My Soul" and "Leaf of Love." At the same time, Cooley's record label held onto sides that had been recorded when Tex was still Cooley's featured vocalist, and released them after Tex had formed his own band. So, for a while, Tex was competing with himself on two different record labels!

The 23 page booklet accompanying this 54 song collection includes information on the recording sessions and a lengthy narrative by Paul Watts regarding Tex's career. While all of his "top 15" hits during this period are included, the set doesn't include all of his recordings, but there's plenty to enjoy. Widely available online or from your favorite mail order sources.

Continued on page 36

THE OTAGO RAMBLER SINGS & YODELS COUNTRY AND TRAIL SONGS

Les Wilson (The Otago Rambler & Jean Calder)

Jasmine JASMC D 3761 (Mono)



Les Wilson was from New Zealand, and his Western-type trail songs and country recordings were popular

in both New Zealand and Australia from the time they were recorded in the 1940s and 50s until today. His wife, Jean Calder, accompanies him on a number of these tracks, all of which were recorded for the HMV label. Many of them were his own compositions, e.g. "Rollin' Wagons," "Silver Wings" (not the song associated with Merle Haggard), "Drifting Along," "Lost Cowboy," "Roundup Time," "Rockonover River" and others.

This last one, in particular, will be of interest to many listeners because it's one the Hays County Gals & Pals recorded and performed for enthusiastic audiences in 1996 (they had recorded his "Roundup Time" two years earlier). Back then, "no one" knew who the composer of either song was (Les's recordings had been out-of-print for years) and no one knew the correct spelling of the river's name, or that the river in the title was an imaginary one!

In his extensive liner notes, historian/broadcaster Paul Hazell describes Les's yodels as "Carter-styled" and refers to his voice as "gritty, western-styled," complemented nicely by Jean's "sweet, melodic voice." Their sound became quite popular, well into the latter half of the 1900s, even though they retired in the 1960s.

The single disc contains 27 tracks and is widely available online. I found it to be an enjoyable collection of The Otago Rambler's work.

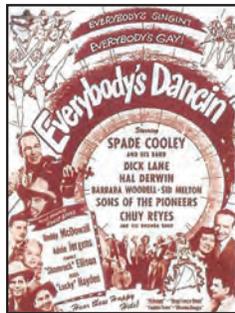
SHOWTIME USA, VOL. 1

Everybody's Dancin'

featuring Spade Cooley & the Sons of the Pioneers (1950)

Varieties on Parade

featuring Eddie Dean, Lyle Talbot, etc. (1951) DVD



For years, Sons of the Pioneers fans have looked for copies of a movie titled EVERYBODY'S DANCIN' which the Pioneers appeared in

with Spade Cooley around the time they recorded a couple of sides with Cooley's band, but for some reason it's been very hard-to-find. Apparently, the company (VCI) that re-issued it on DVD didn't bother to promote it when they released it in 2007 and they no longer list it on their web site. But you can find it on Amazon.com and it's well worth looking for!

Although the Pioneers (Lloyd Perryman, Tommy Doss, Ken Curtis, The Farr Bros. & Shug Fisher) only do two songs, the images are crystal clear (Jerry West, who told me about it, said "you can see the freckles on Ken Curtis's face!" in the close-ups) and their performance is worth the price of admission, although the film itself is fun, if you like the light, period humor. They sing "Room Full of Roses" and for me, it was fun to see Hugh Farr playing his fiddle in close-up shots. When they sing "Cowboy Camp Meetin'," Ken Curtis takes the tenor part that Ken Carson sang on the original recording. He does it beautifully!

Cooley's Western swing band is in fine form and it was great to see Noel Boggs and Les "Carrot Top" Anderson in action. Interestingly, vocalist Ginny Jackson offers a beautiful rendition of "Foolish Tears," a Tex Williams "hit" from a few years earlier.

The DVD is a "double feature," with a vaudeville-type film, VARIETIES ON PARADE, being the second show. Eddie Garr and Jackie Coogan MC the

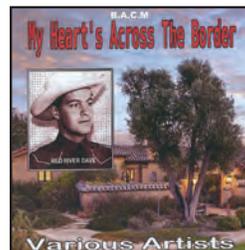
"show" and Eddie Dean is one of the acts, performing 2 songs he apparently never recorded. One was a beautiful ballad, "Lazy Moon" and the other was "Where Oh Where is My Darlin'," a novelty tune.



MY HEART'S ACROSS THE BORDER

Various (Rex Allen, Tex Ritter, Tune Wranglers, Ole Rasmussen, Tommy Duncan, Sons of the West, etc.)

BACM CD D 655



As radio host and music historian Paul Hazell says in his liner notes, this CD "is not only very entertaining to

listen to, it also rescues from obscurity a whole set of wonderful recordings that almost certainly would otherwise not ever have seen the light of day again. Furthermore, it shows the link between the music of the cowboy, the Texas dance hall music known as Western Swing and the Spanish-influenced music of Mexico, tipping its hat to the polka along the way!" That's it in a nutshell!

This CD contains 27 tracks, most quite rare, and all reflect the album's border music theme. The opener, by Don Pauli, is the title song and, while I'd never heard of the singer, I became a fan on the spot! Surprises like this abound, e.g., I don't recall ever hearing Tex Ritter's "Lo Que Digo" or the Tune Wranglers' "Cielito Lindo." Tommy Duncan's band reprises his old boss's signature song, "San Antonio Rose," the Coffman Sisters sing "Rancho Pillow" (an old Gene Autry favorite), Red River Dave sings "Fiesta in Old San Antone" and there are three songs about New Mexico. An enjoyable album of rare, vintage material! Available from British Archive of Country Music online or you may want to call Roots & Rhythm in California (888-ROOTS-66) as they sometimes carry BACM product. 🐾

IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

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

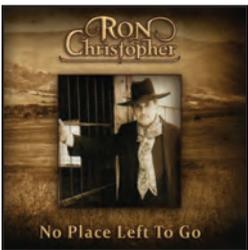


★ ★ ★ ★ ★

RICK HUFF'S
BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

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

RON CHRISTOPHER
"No Place Left To Go"



In general, the production on Ron Christopher's newest release is done with more restraint

and the resulting effect is definitely a positive one. This collection of Christopher originals shows well.

The musical genres are Western and Country in a mix, and there's a lot to like in both. On the Western side we have the title track "No Place Left To Go," "You Survived," the swinger "Tequila Texas Night," "Rosita's Tangled Tango" (owing a debt plot-wise to both "El Paso" and "Come A Little Bit Closer") and "Sweet Maria Elena" with its O Henry twist ending. In the Country With A Western Nod column would come "When Monica Danced," "Soiled Dove" and "Cocaine Cowboys" (a very different view). And we can't overlook the deeply personal vision of "Hey Cowgirl."

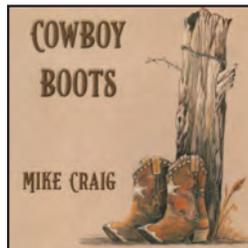
The single cover song in the collection is Ian Tyson's "La Primera," which receives an original treatment and a tempo change. Closing out the album is a tough toned and, in this day and time, certainly courageous anthem entitled "My Beautiful Lady" (referring to Lady

Liberty). I suspect it was deliberately placed at the end to leave us thinking. It did, Ron. Fourteen tracks, recommended.

CD: Available through www.RonChristopherMusic.com



MIKE CRAIG
"Cowboy Boots"



Mike Craig's jocular style, his sense of melody and his arrangements all remind me of the late

Nancy Thorwardson's preferred effect. This is particularly true of some of this CD's pick tracks including "Saddle Sweetheart," "Downtown Cowboy Ball," "Elixir," "Sierra Sunset" and "Cactus Candy."

Craig is supported very nicely by his Trails & Rails bandmates. Of special note is guitarist Jim Soldi. In the liner notes we are told that in support of Craig's historical poem "Train Beyond The Veil" Soldi improvised an accompaniment in one take, creating what I would easily name the most successful such enhancement I've ever heard, and I do mean "ever!!" It's an absolute

tour de force of appropriateness, if that makes any sense at all!

Additional CD picks include "Wonder" (a different spin on the city dweller's ache for the open and vice versa with the cowboy), the title track "Cowboy Boots," "Another" (a non-repetitive song about repetition of pattern), "Making A List" and "All They Ever Say" (is 'moo!'). Fourteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Mike Craig, PO Box 3507, Ramona, CA 92065 or through the usual...cdbaby, iTunes, amazon...



KRISTYN HARRIS
"A Place To Land"



The many, many-times-over award-winning Kristyn Harris has a new release, so obviously the

rush will be on to get it!

Always surrounded nowadays with top players, Ms. H's retinue this time includes such luminaries as Devon Dawson, Haley Sandoz, Jason Roberts, Floyd Domino and Rich O'Brien to name(drop) a few!

The theme of this collection circles around the concept of returning

to recharge in comfortable places before venturing forth renewed. "Comfortable Places" can be found in certain obligatory swingers and standards included ("Roly Poly," "Along The Navajo Trail" and her yodel showpiece this time "Texas Plains"). All get top treatments. CD picks include Kristyn's swinging original title track "Place To Land," Canadian Corb Lund's "Cows Around," her take on Michael Martin Murphey's "Wildfire" and her own "Tail To The Wind."

Kristyn Harris is one of the performers who can be relied upon to deliver the goods, and she does it here in spades. Twelve tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$20 + \$3.50 s/h through www.kristynharris.com or from Kristyn Harris, PO Box 823092, North Richland Hills, TX 76182

JO LYNN KIRKWOOD

"Stories In Rhyme"



Poet/performer Jo Lynn Kirkwood's delivery is conversational and credible, empathetic

when appropriate ("Old Stories") or salty when that seasoning is needed. ("Sitting Around," "Hay, Girl").

It's just the poet and the words here, no gussying up anything...and that works just fine in her case.

Down the road it might be fun to hear an audience's reaction to the works. Just a thought...

In this latest recorded collection, her poems are nicely constructed and literate. Each has a good reason for being, but particular picks include "Amazing Grace" (to undergo what ranching life can throw at you), "Boneyard," "Ida's Bread" (a metaphor

for molding character), "Pearl Was Always Waiting" and "Pilgrim."

Jo Lynn Kirkwood's release "Stories In Rhyme" is pretty much guaranteed to bring those knowing nods, smiles and outright laughs born of solid recognition and sudden, unexpected truths that make for good commentary, comedy and satire. Twelve tracks, recommended.

CD: Available through www.jokirkwood.com

BOB MARSHALL

"That's The Way It Should Be"



For this one, a gentle Contemporary Country mounting is handled by top players,

and it makes for a top drawer project from Bob Marshall and friends.

The collection is a mix of Western and Country with some strictly for dance like "I Can Love You Like That" (swing) or "She Loves To Dance" (Bossa Nova!), and Marshall's resonant baritone/bass voice sells it all well.

The Western picks from the group include "The Old Horse Barn," "Caught Me Lookin'" (watch it - the signals are flashing), "I Got My Life Again" (cowboy bounce-back), the mythic-feeling "Ride On" and the interesting final request perspective of "That Old Bull." But fans of either genre will find plenty to like in this album. The variety makes it a good one to just slip on and allow to track.

Bob Marshall is a proven entity (2017 AWA Vocalist of The Year) who can be counted on to offer only superior products. Twelve tracks, recommended.

CD Available through www.BobMarshallBand.com

SANDY REAY & FRIENDS

"Bring 'Em Home"



The releases of Sandy Reay could easily be thought of as Variety Shows! Half the time

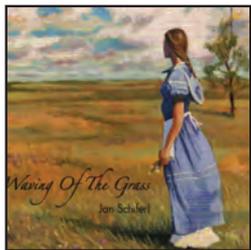
she turns the lead vocals over to her guest artists or shares the task with them. This time out six of the tracks find Dave Schaper, Ernie Martinez, Tom Munch, Doc Mehl or Steve Jones of the late lamented Yampa Valley Boys in that lead vocal capacity.

Some poetry shows up as well ("Black Day," "Stitches," "Spitting Seeds" and "Another Horse To Saddle"). Picks include the title track, which is the Terry Nash/Sandy Reay/Dave Schaper co-write "Bring 'Em Home," Tom Munch & Reay's "Glue-lot Cowboy," a Floyd Beard/Munch/Reay/Schaper saga song "Diamonds & Gold" and the non-Western but hilarious Doc Mehl/Reay song "Wish You Were Here."

Sandy Reay's own vocals possess a plaintive, almost near-tears quality that also worked for Melanie Safka and the young Emmylou Harris among others. The overall effect of this release is a pleasing one. Such collaborations can prove costly, but hopefully we won't have to wait another ten years for Installment Three! Twelve tracks, recommended.

CD: \$9.99 (with .99 individual song downloads) through www.BringEmHomeCD.com

JAN SCHIFERL "Waving Of The Grass"



Here we find a blend of particularly nice, primarily acoustic arrangements gracing balladeer Jan

Schiferl's new album.

Both of her original songs, "Freedom For The Cowgirl" and the title track "Waving Of The Grass," are CD picks. The latter of those songs is a poignant portrait of her grandmother's private yearning, and it serves as a reminder that not all Western immigrants from across the pond were Irish!

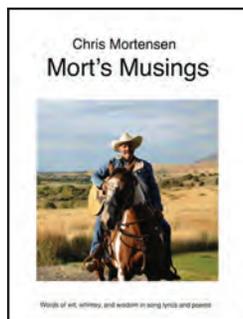
The tempo revisions on the pop covers chosen for the CD work well. Songs like "Sea Of Heartbreak" and "Today I Started Loving You Again" get fresh coats of musical paint. Additional pick covers include Gretchen Peters' "If Wishes Were Horses" and a very nice "San Antonio Rose." In fact, the entire effect of the release can be placed in that "very nice" bin. It's balanced, diverse in

subject matter and Schiferl's mellow folk vocal style is a perfect cherry on the sundae! Ten tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$15 +\$3 s/h from Jan Schiferl, 55659 892 Road, Fordyce, NE 68736 or through www.schiferlswjranch.com, cdbaby, amazon, spotify & iTunes



CHRIS MORTENSEN "Mort's Musings" (Poetry Book)



A self-described "weekend cowboy," Chris Mortensen evolved from a rock band musician into a Western performer,

poet and a president of the IWMA Utah Chapter!

This self-published, photographically illustrated collection opens with as sweetly relatable a man and horse

tale as ever I've come across ("Upon My Horse's Back"). He follows it up with "Jagged Kidney Stone," also drawn from personal experience wherein he suggests it as a means of information extraction from truculent terrorists!! Just an example of the sudden turns with little signaling you'll encounter here. Many of the inclusions are song lyrics replete with refrains.

Mortensen writes unselfconsciously in particularly effective works about love and family ("Bear Lake Is Still Blue," "The Knot" & "The Right Man"). And then there's "The Competition," where he and his horses find their second, third and fourth winds, shall we say??

Whether or not this book becomes an award winner, I'm tempted to award some of my own. For titling: "The Older I Get (The Better I Was)," for Descriptions of Mixing Concrete: "Concrete" and for Best Use of Interwoven Glenn Frey Song Titles To Memorialize Glenn Frey: "Missing Glenn Frey." It's a very mixed bag, but it's diverting to rummage through! Recommended.

Book: \$20 ppd from Chris Mortensen, PO Box 405, Paradise, UT 84328 🐎

Latest CD from
Lonesome Ron
"King of the Valley Yodelers"

**Songs of the
Great American Cattle Trails**

www.LonesomeRon.com
707 N Broad
Mankato, MN 56001

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews

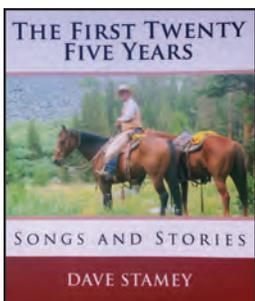


Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

DAVE STAMEY

"The First Twenty Five Years: Songs and Stories"



Along with this book, which was published in 2018, Dave Stamey sent me a card in which he writes that he's

sorry to have taken so long getting the book to me. But heck, I'm just happy I've got it now. For that matter, I'm happy to have a card signed by Dave Stamey. Stamey is one of my favorite Western singer-songwriters. I admire his performing style – both on recordings and in live shows. A year or so ago, I saw him singing in the Historic Old Church in Corrales, NM., which happens to be where I live. {In Corrales, not the Old Church.} The Old Church was packed that evening and Stamey delivered... entertaining folks not only with his songs but also with the stories he told in between his singing. That's pretty much what this book is about as well. It includes the lyrics of more than 70 songs, most of them written by Stamey and a handful written by Stamey and someone else – Les Buffham or Liz Anderson or Ken Graydon. What makes this book a treasure is that each song is preceded by Stamey's account of what inspired that song or some other item of interest related to the song. I love this kind of stuff.

For example, Stamey writes that "McGee Creek (The Packer's Song)" was the first song he wrote horseback. He was also leading a string of mules up or down a mountain over the couple of weeks it took him to get the song to his liking. Since he didn't have anything to write with, Stamey had to sing the song over and over to get it perfected and memorized. He notes that Banner, the Morgan gelding he was riding, did not appreciate his incessant crooning. "As soon as I opened my mouth, he would pin his ears back, and toss his head, and wring his tail, telling me just how far out of line I was." Stamey allows, however, that the mules did not seem to mind his singing all that much.

I respect Stamey's songwriting even more than I enjoy his performing because Stamey stretches the boundaries in Western music. His 2015 CD "Western Stories" is among my favorite all-time Western albums. In the songs on that CD, Stamey sings about cowboys, outlaws, lawmen, homesteaders and George Custer. But he also has songs about a truck stop, a small-town California auto repair shop, a motel just off the interstate, trying to find your way back from a lifetime of wrong turns, telling yourself you won't make that mistake "Again" and fence-building. Yeah, I know you build fences on ranches, but any cowboy will tell you it's not punchy. Neither is pulling wrenches, which is what the subject of Stamey's "Orange Cove Auto Repair and Smog" does. In his book, Stamey explains he has a soft spot for small

auto repair shops because his father ran one to help keep the family ranch going. And I guarantee you will not find a more poignant anthem to America's working people than this song.

*"There's grease in the creases of my skin
Sometimes I want to pack it all in
I'm ASC certified, and I work
just like a dog
At the Orange Cove Auto Repair
and Smog"*

Even when Stamey writes about topics considered true West, he puts a distinctive twist into it. His song "Custer's Ghost" is about Custer's spirit stumbling over the Little Big Horn battlefield looking for his wife, Libby.

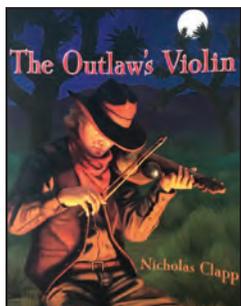
*"It wasn't for the honor or the glory
For the pipers and the
drummers playing loud
These were just the trappings of the story
All he ever wanted was to make
his Libby proud"*

That song always puts a lump in my throat. But apparently it put burrs under the saddles of other listeners. Stamey writes that people attacked him for penning a sympathetic song about a man they considered an arrogant, ambitious, mass murderer. Stamey just wrote about a man who loved his wife.

("The First Twenty Five Years: Songs and Stories," 97817191836315; paperback, \$20; CreateSpace Publishing; available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and hitchingpostsupply.com)

Continued on page 42

NICHOLAS CLAPP "The Outlaw's Violin, or Farewell, Old West"



Nicholas Clapp has a track record as a filmmaker, working for the likes of National Geographic, and as an author. His previous books include "Gold and Silver in the Mojave: Images of the Last Frontier," "Old Magic: Lives of the Desert Shamans," "Virginia City: To Dance With the Devil" and "Sheba: Through the Desert in Search of the Legendary Queen." He also has a rep as an amateur archaeologist.

So, Clapp has been around. But "The Outlaw's Violin" is a curiosity of a book. I'm just not sure what the author was going for here. My best guess is he wanted to write a biography of William Henry "Billy" Fraser, a miner, prospector and fiddler in the American West of the early 20th Century. Or maybe the book was intended to be a history of the boom-and-bust mining towns in California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and Montana, using the ramblings of Fraser, his father, brother and sister as connective tissue.

But this book does not have enough detail or substantiated fact to qualify as biography or history. Clapp cites census reports, mining claims and "two striking first-hand accounts" as sources. But he does not note who gave those first-hand accounts or where they fit into his story, so I was left wondering what actually happened, what was just something Clapp thought might have happened or should have happened. Did Billy Fraser really meet Wild Bunch outlaw, Kid Curry? And even though Billy Fraser and his family were actual people, the author concedes in his acknowledgements that the Billy he

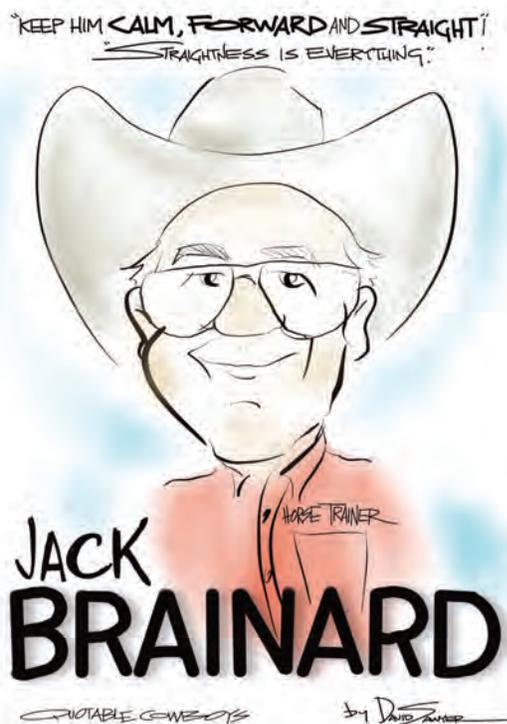
writes about is based on the personalities of a half dozen prospectors, miners and storytellers he has met and talked to over the years. That suggests that Clapp did not discover enough about Billy to flesh him out with his own character and motivations. One thing that seems certain is that the book was sparked by the discovery of a beat up and very unusual homemade violin at a Mojave Desert swap meet. Some of the instrument was fashioned out of scrap lumber, and the sound box was a hollowed-out coyote melon. There was writing on the violin and drawings of a rabbit, a burro and a coyote. A bicycle bell was added to it at some point to kick up the sound. The writing on the violin includes lines of verse such as How shall We know that the Songs are Sweet? How shall we know They are Friends we Meet?, the words Montana Outlaw and the signature Very Truly W.H. Fraser.

You can imagine how a slapped-together fiddle, illustrated and written on would fire up the imagination of someone such as Clapp who has a passion for the past. In one part of the book, he describes prospector Billy Fraser, then about 30, making the violin while taking shelter in a crumbling

adobe in the Mojave Desert as a fierce thunderstorm whoops-it-up outside. I enjoyed reading that bit. It crackles with atmosphere. But did it really happen, or is it a product of Clapp's creativity? Clapp would wonder, of course, what that "Montana Outlaw" inscription was all about. But did he discover anything to support the story he tells about Billy Fraser dreaming of being a Wild West desperado? I'd like to know.

The 152-page book is liberally illustrated with black and white reproductions of maps, some diagrams, historic photos and detailed pictures of that very peculiar violin. That's all good. Also, we get to meet colorful characters such as La Violetta, a performer who entertained on high wires in Western towns. and Clarence Eddy, the Poet Prospector who died in a Utah insane asylum. According to Clapp, Billy Fraser died on April 23, 1954, in Eureka, Nevada. That, at least, appears to be a fact. I only wish I had come away from this book more sure about how Billy lived.

("The Outlaw's Violin, or Farewell, Old West," 9781941384498; paperback, \$16.95; Sunbelt Publications; available through Amazon, eBay and sunbeltpublications.com)



Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
2. Turn 'Em Loose – Susie Knight
3. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
4. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
5. Go West – The Cowboy Way
6. Ghost Town Holdout – Joe Lima
7. Those Cowboys of Old – Donnie Poindexter
8. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
9. Hats Off to the Cowboy - Red Steagall
10. Saddlin' Up for God and Country – Dawn Anita
11. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
12. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
13. Ridin' Ropers, and Rounders – Rusted Spurs West
14. America's Last Singing Cowboy – Rex Allen
15. Rocky Mountain Drifter – Brenn Hill
16. Return to El Paso – Carolyn Sills Combo
17. Ladies & Outlaws – Teresa Kay Orr
18. Sad Songs – J. Clayton Read
19. The Outside Circle – Mike Blakely
20. Wild West Texas Wind – Carolyn Martin
21. New Songs of the West – Jim Schafer
22. Hoofin' It – The Old West Trio
23. Favorites – Jim Jones
24. Allen & Jill Cowboy Classics – Allen & Jill Kirkham
25. Beautiful Texas – Judy James
26. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert
27. Retrospective – The Ramblin' Rangers
28. Blues on the Trail – Gary Allegretto
29. State of Mind – Greg Hager
30. Satisfied Hearts – Gary & Jean Prescott

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
2. For the Love of Bob – The Swangers
3. Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend – Tommy Thomsen
4. Wild West Texas Wind – Carolyn Martin
5. Ridin', Ropers, and Rounders – Rusted Spurs West
6. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
7. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert
- Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
9. Big Deal – Western Swing Authority
10. Swingtown – Cowboy Joe Babcock

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Wand'rin' Star – Kristyn Harris
2. Welcome to Wickenburg – Dan McCorison
3. What's a Cowgirl Supposed to Do – Kristyn Harris
4. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
5. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
6. You Don't Know Me – Hailey Sandoz
7. The Ballad of Sontag and Evans – Lon Hannah & Larry Bastian
- Ride This Trail With Me – Joe Lima
- Diego and the Broken Spur – Ryan Murphey
10. Hats Off to the Cowboy – Red Steagall

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Dear Charlie – A.K. Moss
2. Both Sides of Carol Heuchan
Language of the Land – Tom Swearingen
4. Snow on the Sage – Marleen Bussma
5. A Good Ride – Terry Nash
6. New Mexico Stray – Dennis Russell
7. Short Grass Country – Floyd Beard
The Fall River Boys – Mark E. Seeley & Scott Glen Lambertson
Masters, Vol. 3 – Various Artists
10. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight

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

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

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

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Joe Angel

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

Waynetta Ausmus

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

Michael Babiarz

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

Bobbi Jean Bell

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

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky

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

Janice Brooks

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

Peter Bruce

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

"Calling All Cowboys Radio"
88.9 FM, KPOV High Desert
Community Radio
http://www.kpov.org
http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling_ all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
e-mail: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd.
Bend, OR 97702

Doug Figgs

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

Nancy Flagg

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

KWC Ameriana Radio Station

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

Greg Harness

"Rambler's Retreat"
KRBX Radio Boise
1020 W Main St #50
Boise ID 83702
gharness@gmail.com
radiofreeamerica.com/dj/greg-harness

Paul Hazell

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

Randy Hill

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

Gary Holt

"Campfire Cafe" and "Saddle Up America"
7040 Highway 231 N
Bethpage, TN 37022
www.equestrianlegacy.net
gih50@live.com
615-478-2138

Judy James

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

Jarle Kvale

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

Eddy Leverett

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

Wyn Machon

5 Lowther Street
Oamaru 9400
New Zealand
"New Zealand Country Music Radio"
FM 107.3 (NZCMR)
wynmachon39@gmail.com

Butch and Christina Martin

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

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

Marvin O'Dell
"Around the Campfire"
www.defendersoffreedomradio.com
KKRN, Redding, CA
KZNS, Santa Clarita, CA
https://tunein.com/radio/KZNS-Q-
Country-1015-s264146/
www.earsradio.com
meoteo@aol.com
10430 W. Loma Blanca Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351
805-551-4649
www.musikode.com

Bob O'Donnell
455 12th Avenue Apt 130
Baldwin WI 54002.
justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

O.J. Sikes
327 Westview Ave.
Leonia, NJ 07605
osikes@nj.rr.com
KKRN, Redding, CA
www.earsradio1.com

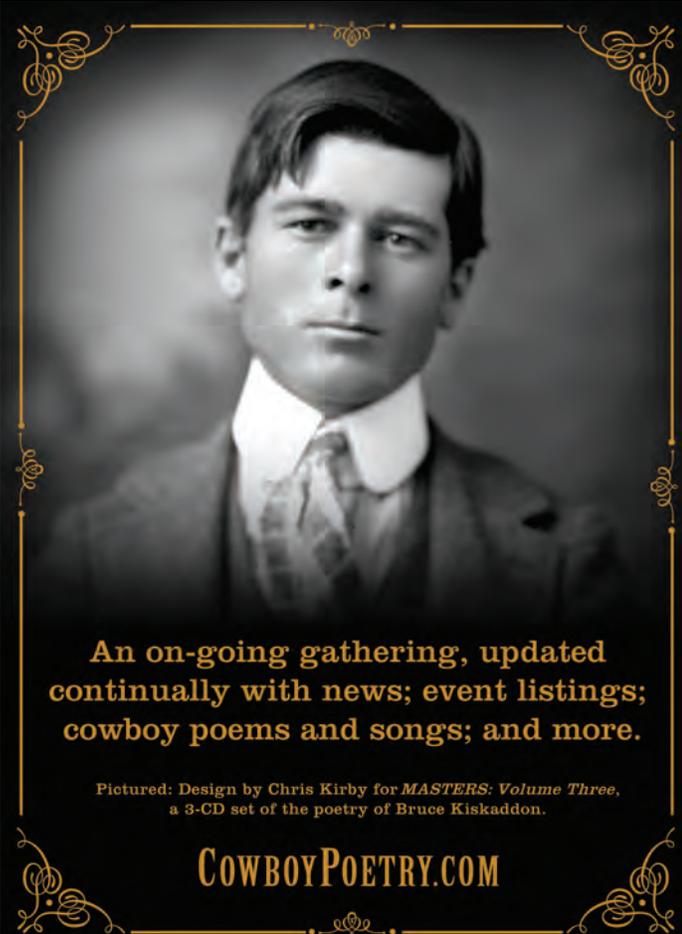
Totsie Slover
"Real West From The Old West"
AM 1230 KOTS Radio
220 S. Gold Ave.
Deming, NM 88030
575-494-0899
realwestoldwest@live.com
www.realwestoldwest.com
www.demingradio.com
Facebook/totsieslover

Tommy Tucker
"Snake River Radio Roundup"
93.1 FM/1350 AM KRLC Radio
805 Stewart Ave.
Lewiston, ID. 83501
208-743-1551
tommy@idavend.com
"Keepin' It Western"

Harvey & Me'lissa Turnbow
"Keeping Western Music Alive"
PO Box 524
Christoval, TX 76935
325-812-1358
325-716-0042
email: keepingitwestern@gmail.com
KSCK 100.5 FM
"Keeping It Western Show"
www.ksckfm.com

Dave Watkins
"The Country Mile"
http://www.mtri.co.uk
51 Courts Barton, Frome, Somerset, BA11
4QA, England
thecountrymileuk@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/thecountrymile

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



An on-going gathering, updated continually with news; event listings; cowboy poems and songs; and more.

Pictured: Design by Chris Kirby for *MASTERS: Volume Three*, a 3-CD set of the poetry of Bruce Kiskaddon.

COWBOYPOETRY.COM

Relax before the show on the deck, listen to the stream and maybe catch the wildlife passing through.

The BEST Western and Acoustic Entertainment Center in the Southwest

ARIZONA FOLKLORE PRESERVE

Shows on **Saturdays and Sundays**
2PM throughout the year!
(Doors open at 1PM)

For **Reservations**
Call: (520) 378-6165
Ticket price \$15 for adult and \$6 for 17 and under

Address:
56 East Folklore Trail - Hereford, AZ
In Ramsey Canyon - Just 6 Miles South of Sierra Vista
(Highways 90 & 92 intersection)

Mailing Address: PO Box 235, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

Artist Contact
Mike Rutherford
mike@rdiinc.us



Arizona Folklore Preserve (AFP) is a non-profit organization where Arizona's songs, legends, poetry and myths are collected, presented for audiences of today, and preserved for the enrichment of future generations. Member of the Western Music Association.

2020 IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MUSIC AWARDS:

- Albums can be self-nominated. IF YOU ARE SELF-NOMINATING, please provide the following: A copy of the nominated album must accompany the Western Album or Cowboy/Western Swing of the Year nomination, a copy of the album containing a nominated song, or an album containing only the nominated song must accompany the Song of the Year nomination. Song nomination albums must be accompanied by either album artwork or a photocopy of the artwork showing the release date.
- In the case of Western Album of the Year and Cowboy/Western Swing Album of the Year, 75% of the music on the album must be of Western in content, lyrically or musically. Country Music content does not count as Western Music.
- Albums must have a release date and bar code.
- Any individual whose body of work meets criteria may be nominated for IWMA awards. Forms are made available to all members and may be provided to non-members by request. Current IWMA membership is required for voting.
- Albums and songs will all have a "birth" date of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year and one subsequent year (January 1, 2019 through September 1, 2020).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POETRY AWARDS:

COWBOY POETRY CD OF THE YEAR

REQUIREMENTS

- Albums may be self-nominated. If you are self-nominating, a copy of the nominated album must be submitted with the nomination.
- Albums must have a release date.
- Albums must have a bar code.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- All albums will have a "birth date" of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year plus one subsequent year (Example: January 1, 2019 through September 1, 2020).
- Poems written in free verse or blank verse are not eligible.
- 75% of the album tracks must be Cowboy Poetry, written and recited by a single person; the reciter must be the principal author of the poetry. The poetry must be the original work of the reciter, written in rhythm, rhyme and meter.

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

BACKGROUND MUSIC

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

COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR

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

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

IWMA Awards of Excellence

2020 NOMINATIONS BALLOT

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

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

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

Member Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

**Ballot must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 5, 2020 to be counted:
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or info@westernmusic.org**



INTERNATIONAL
WESTERN
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING
MUSIC & POETRY
 AMERICAN WEST

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

505.563.0673  WESTERNMUSIC.ORG



EXCELLENCE • CREATIVITY • PROFESSIONALISM



www.WesternMusic.org

P.O. Box 648
Coppell, TX 75019



**SUBSCRIBE
TODAY**

THE WESTERN WAY

Official Quarterly Publication of
the International Western Music Association



1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS
\$22.00	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$75.00



JOIN THE IWMA AND RECEIVE
THE WESTERN WAY MAGAZINE

FREE!

CONTACT THE IWMA:

505-563-0673 • marsha@westernmusic.org

www.westernmusic.org