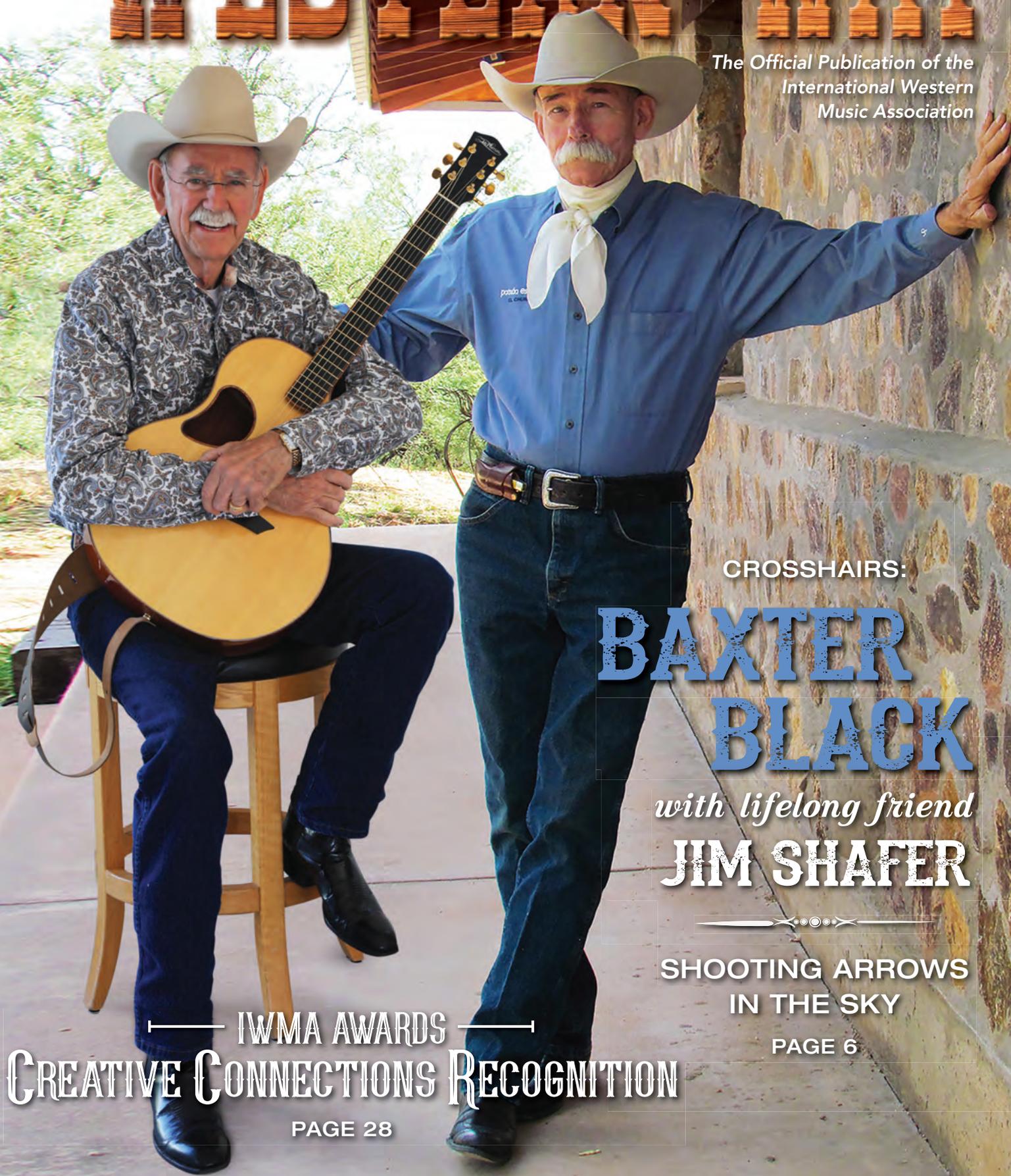


THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the
International Western
Music Association



CROSSHAIRS:

BAXTER BLACK

with lifelong friend

JIM SHAFER

SHOOTING ARROWS
IN THE SKY

PAGE 6

IWMA AWARDS
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PAGE 28

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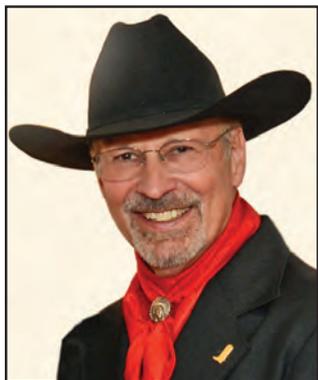
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From The President...



Robert Lorbeer
IWMA President

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

I am having had a hard time writing this message! As I write, we all should be in Albuquerque, renewing friendships, playing music, learning, listening, and having a great time. But this dawg-gone virus prevents that.

Last August our Board of Directors had a long discussion about whether or not to cancel our gathering for 2020. We ultimately voted to cancel the gathering for 2020. Did we make the right decision? Well I can tell you for sure that we did. I had a conversation with Ray and Bonnie Rutherford in early November, and they informed me that Albuquerque is locked down. The virus has raised its ugly head again and any visitors coming to the city have to quarantine for 15 days.

The Board made the right decision, but it still hurts not to be with our musical family and friends.

Last spring, when the virus first materialized and everything started shutting down, the IWMA Board members divided up our membership roster and called all of our members. Those “care calls” turned out to be a good experience for not only the members we contacted, but for the Board members as well. And we are doing it again this fall. But it occurred to me that phone calls (or even an email) can also be made by our members to other members. So I am suggesting that since you are not going to be able to visit with your IWMA family at the Albuquerque event this year, how about you pick up the phone or open up your computer and reach out to your musical family.

Due to the lack of anything being “normal,” the Board agreed to extend the terms one year for those Board members (Robert Lorbeer and Theresa O’Dell) whose terms were to expire at the end of 2020. They will be on the ballot next year when we are able to come together for an annual meeting.

Also, the Board is pleased to welcome four new Interns for 2021. They are Bobbi Jean Bell, Leo Eilts, Roger Eilts and Carol Markstrom. They each bring expertise, passion and new ideas to the board that we are sure will benefit the organization.

Be safe, take care of your family and friends, and hopefully our musical family will be back on stage soon.

Robert Lorbeer
President, IWMA



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CONTENTS

FEATURES

6 In The Crosshairs
Baxter Black

24 Echoes of
Past Conventions

28 2020 Creative
Connection Awards

ARTICLES, UPDATES & MORE

- 2** President's Message
- 4** Editor's Insight
- 5** From the Executive Director
- 11** Penned By Lantern Light
- 12** Tales of the West – Jim Wilson
- 13** The Western World Tour – Rick Huff
- 14** Ensuring The Legacy
- 15** Chapter Update
- 16** From the Trail
- 18** In Memoriam
- 20** In The Spotlight
- 30** Behind the Studio Door – Bryan Kuban
- 31** Chronicle Of The Old West – D. Livesay
- 33** Buffham's Buffoonery
- 34** O.J. Sikes Musical Note and Reviews
- 36** Huff's Best Of The West Reviews
- 38** Patron Members
- 39** Classic Reviews by Rick Huff
- 41** Music – Priceless Therapy
- 42** Reed's Reading – Book Reviews
- 44** Mailbag
- 45** Western Charts
- 46** Western Playlists – Reporters
- 48** IWMA Lifetime Membership

6



24

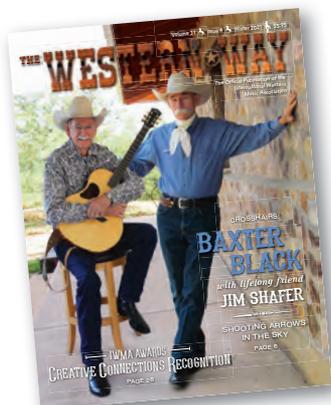


39

CLASSIC REVIEWS

REVIEWS – CDS, DVDS & BOOKS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 34 Gene Autry | 36 Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade |
| 35 Walter Brennan | 37 Tom Poley & Dharmapoke |
| 35 Clint Eastwood | 37 Prairie Moon |
| 35 Elton Britt, Sons of the Pioneers, Dale Evans, The Ames Brothers, Prairie Chiefs, Jimmy Wakely, etc. | 37 Tallgrass Express String Band |
| 36 Lori Beth Brooke | 38 Doc Mehl (Book) |
| 36 The Cowboy Way | 39 John Hargett (Classic) |
| | 39 Rod Taylor (Classic) |



ON THE COVER...

Baxter Black sometimes failed but didn't give up. From cowboy to veterinarian to poet to entertainer, his colorful journey, most often with his friend Jim Shafer at his side, has spanned decades and moved audiences from laughter to tears. Truly an iconic figure in preserving the western way of life!

Cover photo courtesy Dennis Anderson

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

Out with the Old; In with the New; Expect the Unexpected

2020...What a year!

There isn't a lot to say about it except that I am relieved that it is behind us. There

was so much uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and politics that provided an emotional and physical rollercoaster-type ride filled with sadness, anger, illness, tears, cheers, reflection, loss, elation, unemployment, financial hardships, sparks of creativity, and frustration. There were new experiences, too, like virtual learning, Zoom® meetings, wearing masks and social distancing. There was learning to stay home and stay in (a lot!) which provided both challenges and opportunities. Some had to work from home while teaching school lessons to their kids and juggle housework and meals. Others used the time to write and compose songs and poetry, or dive into those often put-off projects like clean closets, drawers, the garage, or in my case, tackle some remodel projects. And it was a good time for some to see that "honey-do" list whittled down.

But there was also a silence that was deafening. The stages in music halls, festivals, gatherings, community theaters, senior centers, restaurants, and parks were empty. Talented entertainers of all genres were sidelined. Recording studios were unused. Communities that depended on the tourism created from the attractions of live performance venues suffered economically.

Businesses closed their doors. The halls of Hotel Albuquerque went silent as IWMA2020 was cancelled.

But will 2021 be better? At this writing, it is difficult to predict, so I won't. We can have hope (and maybe, if you are so inclined, pray a little) that there will be brighter skies tomorrow. We can anticipate the return of music to our lives and the return of opportunities to experience it with our friends again. We can plan some trips and vacations for later in the year. We can look forward to spending happy hours with our extended families for birthdays, reunions, graduations, weddings, and even share sorrowful tears and hugs at funerals. We can have expectations of coming together soon.

There are those who tell us that a positive attitude is essential to good health and physical well-being. We also have been told that music heals. So, as we reflect on 2020, think of the positive and good things that may have happened. Dig deep, if you must, but acknowledge the blessings of 2020. It may seem like a short list this year, but don't be discouraged. The writer, Robert Tew, said: "The struggle you are in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow." Maybe the strength we need tomorrow will be to rebuild what we lost in 2020, to feel refreshed because the new day looks brighter, and the positive things are back...maybe it's because the music is back! Let's anticipate it. 🐾

*The struggle you are in today
is developing the strength you need for tomorrow.*

— ROBERT TEW

From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

A turkey is bought and boxes of Christmas decorations are strewn around the living room. We're trying to stay as normal (and sane) as possible, but as the months drag on it gets harder and harder. All

the "fun" has gone out of staying at home.

Talking with members around the country, we've discovered a lot of people who are not just alone right now but are incredibly lonely. Without their normal outlets (church, grocery store, etc.) it's difficult for many people, especially our older members, to stay in touch. I would encourage each of you to reach out to someone who may be alone. A simple phone call or a card in the mail would mean a lot to someone who is shut in all day.

We need to not only take care of our physical health right now, but our mental health needs to become a priority. No matter which side of the political spectrum you are on, these last few months have added an incredible amount of stress to our already stress-filled 2020. It's time for everyone to take a deep breath and relax. Turn off the television. Read a trashy novel. Start a hobby. Put together a jigsaw puzzle. Write a letter to someone you haven't talked to in a while. Take a nap.

We're still planning the Convention in Albuquerque November 10-14, 2021. Some things may be different out of necessity, but the chance to be together again will be worth any minor inconvenience. In the meantime, we send each of you a virtual hug and best wishes for a better 2021...the bar is pretty low, so it's GOT to be a better year! 🐾

Marsha



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In the CROSSHAIRS



Baxter at Greybull.

BAXTER BLACK

BY TOM SWEARINGEN

“Down to no keys.” That’s how cowboy, poet, former large-animal veterinarian, and entertainer extraordinaire Baxter Black describes his situation in the early 1980’s at the start of a four-year bad stretch involving divorce and job loss. No car, no house, not even a bus station locker downtown. No keys. He was 35 years old and faced with starting over. Thankfully, for him, and for the millions who have been entertained by him over the past decades, he did start over. Or, perhaps more accurately, according to Baxter, his life was “taken over” by the entertainment business at a time when he didn’t have the willpower to resist it.

But before we get into what happened next that made him the man the *New York Times* called “probably the most successful living poet” ...let’s go back a bit.

Black was born during WWII at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital in Brooklyn, New York thanks to his father’s Navy service, but grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico as what he describes as a typical rural ag kid. In high school, he became the Future Farmers of America (FFA) president, the senior class president, and lettered in wrestling one year (one wonders if maybe moves he learned then might have come in handy wrestling uncooperative bovines in his future career). In high school he began riding bulls in rodeos and continued riding throughout college at New Mexico State University where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in animal science (just barely according to Baxter thanks to a weightlifting class grade that elevated his GPA all the way up to 1.8). After briefly considering enlisting in the Navy he passed the physical exam and the test for Officer’s Candidate School before reconsidering his options. Deciding he wanted to be in the cattle business, but with no ranch home to return to and



Baxter roping.

with very little experience, he figured if he went to a big livestock operation to apply for a job and they asked, “What can you do?” there’d be work for him if he could answer, “I can fix your cow!” So off went his application to Colorado State University Veterinary School where we was accepted. Moving to Ft. Collins, Colorado in the fall of 1965 he began his four years in vet school.

While the demands of school made it impossible for most students, including Baxter, to hold a job, he set up various sideline enterprises to generate cash. Selling his own custom leatherwork, reselling Mexican boots, blankets, buckles and trinkets, starting a subscription coffee and laundry service, cutting fellow student’s hair with a “Quarter haircut for a dollar!” sales pitch, and other creative endeavors that paved the way to his eventual career as a self-described “self-unemployed businessman.” During that time, he also began writing songs and fronting a western dance band with friends. One, lead guitar player Jim Schafer, would become a lifelong friend who would eventually record four albums of Baxter-written songs. Baxter says, “If it wasn’t for Jim, none of my songs would have come to light.” The most recent album, “4th Time Around” was released this year and Baxter heartily recommends it, as does *The Western Way’s* own Rick Huff in his Fall 2020 *Best of the West Reviews*.

But again, we’re getting ahead of ourselves, so let’s backtrack a bit. Graduating in 1969 his fresh DVM degree launched him on a career working for large livestock companies. In all, he worked for three outfits,

including 10 years for Simplot Livestock Company headquartered in Idaho, where he was the “company veterinarian” for more than a hundred thousand cattle, horses, and sheep at feed lots and ranches spread over several Northwest states including Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, and northern California. Driving his vet truck between those operations gave him time to start making up poems and songs to entertain the cowboys with. Baxter says he’d see or hear a cowboy or animal do something amusing and make up a funny story about it to share with the next group of cowboys, and then improve on it for the group after that. He learned he could make cowboys laugh. His years with Simplot also provided him with the opportunity to learn valuable life lessons as taught through the example by John Basabe, a hardheaded, hard-working Basque that Baxter considers one of the most influential men in his life. From John he learned business done with a handshake. And he learned not to be afraid to make decisions, never doubting something could be done, and to not be restricted by “too much information.”

Ask Baxter why he left veterinary medicine to be an entertainer and the answer is, “I didn’t do it on purpose! Cowboy poetry hijacked my vet career.”



Baxter and friend.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7



NCBA National Convention interview. Pictured Kevin Oschner and Baxter.

Following Simplot, he moved to Denver to work for an animal health company. While there, his duties included veterinary consultant and speaking to producers and vets in various locations about animal health issues. While he'd been encouraged to include slides to aid in the "visual instruction" portion of his 30-minute programs, he frankly, didn't want to lug them around. So instead, he illustrated his points with humor. To say that went over well with his audiences is an understatement. As Baxter recalls, "I was more entertaining than I was informative, which made me popular." Within six months the company was receiving requests for Baxter to speak at livestock meetings and ag banquets across the country. In the two years he was with that company he did about 100 speaking engagements each year. The eventual merger of that company left Badger out of a job, but he already had several future speaking jobs booked. In the meantime, Baxter received more requests to speak. During this time Baxter had also published his first book *The Cowboy and His Dog* and started writing a weekly newspaper column. First published in the *Record Stockman*, a livestock paper in Denver, his column now appears in 100 papers. And the speaking engagements kept coming in. Ask Baxter why he left veterinary medicine to be an entertainer and the answer is, "I didn't do it on purpose! Cowboy poetry hijacked my vet career."

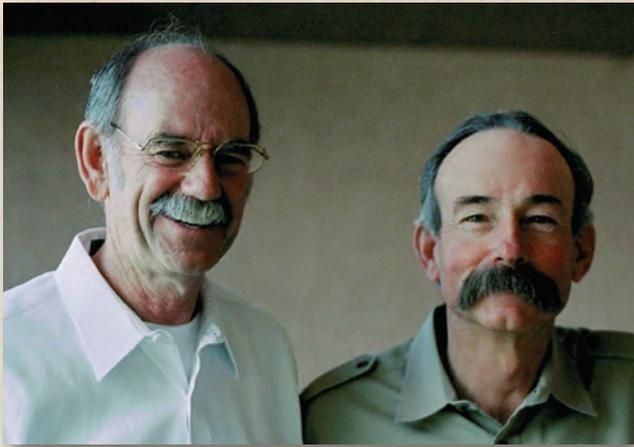
Which takes us back to the start of this story...being "down to no keys." Baxter's growing popularity as an entertainer came at the peak of a chaotic four years following divorce, job loss, and what he readily admits was a lifestyle involving "questionable unhealthy choices." How else do you explain getting arrested for molesting a stamp machine in John Wayne Airport, or walking down the center of Colorado's I-25 in the middle of night only to find himself hours later being thrown out of a biker bar by patrons not impressed with the armload of hubcaps, a South Dakota license plate, and a Frisbee with Coca-Cola on it that he'd collected on his excursion? According to Baxter, it was a "tumultuous, heartrending, head-banging, bad-bucking, blindfolded, all-night, screw-loose, jet-propelled bronc ride that took me to the edge and brought me back."

Another ingredient to his success that he is quick to point out is that when he married again, he married a woman who would stick with him through thick and thin and never once questioned how he makes a living. So how does Baxter make a living? He describes it as "shooting arrows in the sky." Which is exactly what he did when he finished his second book, a rodeo novel called *Hey Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky?* Not knowing that in the publishing world unsolicited manuscripts are

**So how does Baxter make a living?
He describes it as "shooting
arrows in the sky."**



Baxter with Sponsors at NCBA Convention.



Baxter with buddy, Jim Shafer.

generally dispatched to the trash can, he mailed copies to five big-name authors he thought would appreciate his humor. One of those arrows shot into the sky hit a target and resulted in a return letter from Tom Robbins (Author of *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*) saying, “You need an agent, take mine!” This led to Crown Publishing, a division of Random House, publishing the novel and offering to publish his poetry books and future novels.

All during this time Baxter continued to shoot more arrows in the sky by self-publishing books, CDs, and videos. Another significant “arrow in the sky” was mailing his recording of a long poem he’d written called *Range Fire* to National Public Radio in Washington, DC in 1988. Yellowstone National Park was on fire at the time and Baxter thought that they should be doing more to bring attention to the burning West. Less than a week later NPR called and asked if they could run it. And they asked if he had anything else. His response, “Does a bear live in the woods?” (or perhaps a slight variation of that) started what would be a 20-year, 250-plus commentary run on NPR.

More examples of shooting arrows in the sky include handed-off cassette tapes that somehow came into the hands of entertainers like Ed Bruce and Red Steagall, who would become lifelong friends, and who introduced him to opportunities in Nashville, television, and rodeos throughout the US and Canada including the PRCA. It was Red’s appreciation for Baxter’s poem *Legacy of a Rodeo Man* that led to Baxter being invited to perform it for big rodeos and events including several years at the PRCA awards banquet. It’s still heard at rodeo openings (with the blessing and licensing of Baxter), and was used by Dodge for years in their Ram Trucks *Guts and Glory* campaign. The poem also received wide exposure when

a shortened version was recited by Cody Lambert’s character in the Lane Frost biopic *8 Seconds*. Asked if it bothered him that people think Cody wrote the poem, Baxter just chuckles and says, “Here let me give you Cody’s phone number and you can ask him what he says about that.” Continuing his familiar laugh, he adds, “Cody has told me time and again how sick and tired he is of having to explain to people that no he didn’t write it, Baxter Black did.” No, Baxter says, it doesn’t bother him at all.

It was also Red who Baxter credits with not only being a friend and entertainment mentor but being responsible for changing the direction of his life and poetry by sharing the poems of Carlos Ashley, former Texas Poet Laureate. Reading out of Ashley’s book *The Spotted Sow and Other Texas Hill Country Ballads* opened his eyes to

Continued on page 10



Pickin and Grinin after a show.



Baxter with Musician Friends.

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 9



Baxter at WSU graduation speaking for the Veterinary Medicine graduates.

“what a poem should be like.” Most significantly, after sharing the poems, Red handed Baxter the book, which has been autographed to Red. “But we’re just friends,” Baxter protested, “I can’t accept that.” And with that Red said words that Baxter treasures to this day, “You can’t be more than friends.” Friendship is something Baxter places high value on. Asked how he wishes to be remembered he says, “As someone who doesn’t embarrass his friends.” And when asked “What did you do for a living?” he says, “Rode horses, fixed cows, and made cowboys laugh!”

Asked about other poetry that influenced his own, Baxter is quick to credit the precise rhyme and meter of Australian bush poet “Banjo” Patterson. “Everyone is good at something,” says Baxter. I’m good at mixing

up words, but they’re so much better when I do the hard work of writing words that work with rhyme and meter.” Another significant thing Baxter points to that impacted his entertainment career and popularity was when in 1985 the first of what would become the annual *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering* in Elko, Nevada brought cowboy poetry to the nation’s attention. That exposure resulted in poets including Baxter being further presented in publications and television, and perhaps most importantly, appearances on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. In all, Baxter appeared in six episodes between 1987 and 1992. Who reading this hasn’t seen, either back in the day, or archived, Baxter cracking up fellow-guest Waddie Mitchell and Johnny with *Vegetarian’s Nightmare?*” If you haven’t, let me suggest you rectify that immediately by searching on-line. Be prepared to laugh.

Retired from performing in 2015, Baxter and his wife Cindy Lou now live on their ranch in Benson, Arizona where they run a few cows, and Baxter continues to write his weekly newspaper columns and record radio programs heard in 185 markets. And as you’d expect, he has more “arrows” in the works or already fired off. His new “*Rodeo Re-Ride*” audio books presenting his three best-selling, fictional, funny, and authentic rodeo books on CD or download from his website baxterblack.com.

What a career. 2,500 appearances, 1.5 million books, audio, and DVDs sold, 100-publication weekly column, 185-market radio program, 2 TV programs, *Baxter Black From Out There* and *Baxter Black in Time* on RFD-TV and Cowboy Channel. Countless audiences moved to laughter and tears. All the result of “shooting lots of arrows into the sky.” 🐾



Screen Shot from “Is that Rural Enough for You” video shoot at Hause Studio. L-R Butch Hause, Baxter and Jim Shafer.

**And when asked
“What did you do
for a living?” he says,
“Rode horses, fixed cows,
and made cowboys laugh!”**



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.

Hay Inspectors

by Victor T. Anderson

*They are always in the lead when you're pushin' off the feed
and they never seem to stop to take a bite.
Whether cattle, horse or sheep, while you're fighting snowbanks deep
starting out the day in early morning light.*

*Whether nice or if it's storming, you find babies there a borning,
so you're watching heavies as the team goes by.
A few calves are a bawlin' and some cows are there a callin'.
As their hungry calves come runnin' on the fly.*

*First yearling to the feeder, old bent horn is still a leader.
Tho' once she was a young replacement calf.
You almost had to cull her cuz the boss thought he should sell her.
Her frame was right, it's nice getting that last laugh*

*She grew up square and fancy but was always a bit chancy.
It seemed like she was always on the prod.
But, handled slow and patient, this spring, she's nearly ancient.
And her calves are always long and tall and broad.*

*Those two cows there right beside her and seeming to help guide her
are that lop eared cow and fat old twenty one.
At every bale, fed so nice, they each pause to sniff each slice.
Then just walk by, like breakfast is said and done.*

*They are out in front each day as they pace the feeding sleigh.
I tell you boys, it's as steady as a clock.
Now and then a tongue slides out and it licks at their cold snout.
They keep their pace at a steady, easy walk.*

*Keep on walking, take a sniff, buck and snort at every drift.
Those lead cows, I tell ya, never seem to eat.
So you watch 'till all are fed, load more hay on the bobsled bed
head toward the barn. Mornings feeding is complete.*

*While you were stopped, they wandered by. Always will until they die.
Check all the hay with a sneer and jaundiced eye.
And it's not because they're picky, nor because the hay is icky,
why the three of them will always just walk by,*

*Sometimes a slice is musty, perhaps a little dusty.
You can darn sure bet that they are gonna check'er.
They are your local, special duty, watchin', lookin', seein' beauties,
makin' sure it's worth their chewin', keepin' watch on what's a brewin',
self important, every feeding, barnyard hay inspectors.*



Vic Anderson is a singer/songwriter, 3X IWMA yodeler of the year, world class melodic whistler (which he uses as a fiddle might be utilized), freelance writer, author and cowboy. Raised in Montana to a family who loved to sing, dance and have fun. He and his siblings were often lulled to sleep to honky-tonk piano music played by their Mom. Vic began entertaining professionally at age 12 and is a member of the original Lazy B Wranglers, a member of the NEW Lazy B Wranglers, performing six nights a week from mid-June through September. Off season he entertains at cowboy gatherings. Vic and Catherine make their home in Estes Park, CO. Vic is also the Vice-President of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter.

TALES OF THE WEST

by Jim Wilson



Okay, so we've all watched countless episodes of Gunsmoke with Miss Kitty, the saloon girls, and all the cowboys at the old Longbranch Saloon in Dodge City. However, like most things Hollywood, that TV saloon had very little in common with the actual frontier saloons of the Old West.

Saloons on the frontier were generally gathering places for men, and only men. Besides different kinds of booze, they often offered a free lunch and were more gentlemen's clubs than places to cut loose and howl at the moon. As a general rule, women were not allowed in them and did not work there.

The saloons as depicted in most western movies were actually bordellos. These were located "on the other side of the tracks" or "beyond the deadline," indicating the sorrier part of town. It was here that the saloon girls and "soiled doves" were found, along with dancing and gambling. The combination of booze, loose women, and gambling just might – I say, just might – have been the reason for so many shooting and fights in these frontier establishments.

By the way, it's also interesting to note that the various poker games were not very popular in these joints. Faro, 3 card monte, and a number of dice games, were the diversions most commonly found. And, poker, when it was offered was played with a 20-card deck, much different from the cards we know today. The deck of cards, as we know them today, were invented in France, about the mid-1800's, and didn't become common in this country until much later. All of which, while interesting from an historical perspective, doesn't detract one bit from Gunsmoke, the longest running show on television.

As I've mention previously, one of my favorite cowboy movie stars was known as Wild Bill Elliott. He was born as Gordon Nance (1904-1965) and was raised on his father's cattle farm in Missouri. Nance rodeoed in his youth and was one of the few western stars with an actual cowboy background.

In the late 1920's, Nance moved to Hollywood and had bit parts in a number of movies, mostly unaccredited. In 1938, he was picked to play the lead in a movie about Wild Bill Hickok and, by then, had taken the film name of Gordon Elliott. Following that success, he was always billed as Wild Bill Elliott.

However, Elliott's bit break came in the early 1940's when he was picked to play Fred Herman's Red Ryder character in 16 films. By the way, Bobby Blake, of Italian heritage, was chosen to play Little Beaver, Red Ryder's youthful sidekick.

Unlike a lot of the other B-grade western stars, Elliott did not go in for flashy outfits or silver-mounted saddles. He wore a hat that most real westerners favored, jeans, shotgun chaps, and sensible western shirts. His trademark was the nice two-gun rig made for him by Bob Brown that he wore with his gun butts forward.

JUST SO YOU'LL KNOW...

If Hollywood is any authority (and why wouldn't it be?), Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid are the most famous frontier shootists. While it's difficult to get an actual count, each of these gunmen have been portrayed, in some form or another, in over 50 movies, each. And poor old Wild Bill Hickok gets the runner-up award. Close, but no cigar!

Continued on page 14

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."

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

It's another mixed (saddle)bag for you this time...

A few columns ago we focused on clear Western imagery that had begun to show up (seemingly out of thin air) in television advertising, among other places. I can report that, for now, the trend appears to be ongoing. We have some updates for you.

Maybe you've seen the ad for Tums. It draws on the cowboy hero's "intestinal fortitude" as he takes on the heartburn baddie taunting him from the saloon's swinging doors. Apparently in a showdown with gut wrenching villainy the winner will be the antacid in the white hat! Then there's toy maker Fisher-Price. Their ad for the Walk Bounce & Ride Pony features adult drovers on the range bouncing along with kids (including a giant one) on their stuffed stallions. Of course we know real ranch youngins of that age are already forking the real deals! And Mountain Dew has gone with an ad showing two mounted cowpokes scanning the terrain. One comments on how he loves the view from there. The other wrangler tells us all what he really loves. As he pulls out the ice chest drawer from his horse's flank (!) and withdraws frosty cans, the guy says "every time this commercial runs, I get to have another Mountain Dew" and they slug them down. An inspired way to make the joke work better and better each time the thing airs. The ad guy in me stands in awe!! Nicely it's also a repeat seed being sewn for Western. Still I have to wonder where this Cowboy motivation in popular media is coming from. Or maybe I'll just be glad it's happening. At least I will be once we manage to make hay with it.

TV isn't the only range cowboys seem to be riding right now. Recently I was standing in the socially distanced checkout line at WalMart. My eyes scanned the impulse buy rack of periodicals and Bat Boy Spots Elvis tabloids. Among them sat one of those intricate color by the numbers books that have become popular pastimes for many adults. Its title fairly jumped out at me! "Mystery Colors – Wild West," published in New York by Centennial Activity, LLC. It entices you to match your colored pencils to their number codes and discover the images as you go. A reasonable thumbnail Western education is provided as well, in the

form of four and five line "Fun Facts" printed on pages opposing the images. The concise captions manage to go into surprising detail on Cowboy life, gear, work and "play;" Indian customs, art, regalia, governance and spirituality; all means of travel out west; cattle terminology and wildlife; how and when mustangs first appeared; legendary Western towns and more!

Quite an offering for \$7.99! In fact one day later and one aisle over I spotted another Centennial Media publication. "Legends Of The Wild West" (subtitled "True Tales Of Rebels & Heroes") entertains and informs in colorful prose with lavish illustrations including rare enhanced photos. It is obviously well researched and I think I may have just talked myself into devoting future space to this Western-friendly outfit Centennial Media!!

Cowboys in advertising and the publications we've profiled here are among the important and perhaps telling Western awareness indicators we are encountering. Sadly they are also transitory. But we received word of something that has a great deal more permanence.

The mailing served as a retirement announcement from the renowned Scott O'Malley, Western Music producer, manager and well-deserved recipient of the IWMA Pioneer Trail Award. It was back in the 1990s when the bold Warner Western experiment was discontinued that Scott O'Malley's Western Jubilee label provided a recording haven for the Sons Of The San Joaquin, Don Edwards, Waddie Mitchell and others. Subsequent albums and tours added immeasurably to our great Western repertoire and visibility. Happily upon stepping back, O'Malley sought to have his groundbreaking Western catalog continue on. So now it is under the Smithsonian Folkways umbrella as a permanent part of that archive, along with important recordings of Juni Fisher and Dave Stamey! This is major, Folks!!! Although it may well have been O'Malley's recordings by Folk luminary Norman Blake that initially raised Smithsonian eyebrows, this is a Size Eighteen boot in the door for establishing Western Music as an intrinsic and still-vital American genre. So, will we choose to make effective use of this one?! We'll just have to see, won't we... 🐾

TALES OF THE WEST

Continued from page 12

One of the things that always impressed me about Wild Bill Elliott was his choice of horses. In many of his movies he rode a nice bay and white paint, of quarter horse build. For the Red Ryder series, his choice was a stocky black horse that probably had a lot of Morgan blood. In some of his later films, I remember him being mounted on a good-looking gray quarter horse. In later years, I found out that he actually raised horses, so some, or all, of these could have been his personal horses instead of the rental horses that most of the stars rode. Wild Bill Elliott – his movies hold up pretty good by today's standards. Check them out when you get the chance.

The Texas Rangers, one of the oldest law enforcement groups in America, have never worn a uniform of any kind. And weren't even issued badges until about 1935 when they became a part of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Until then, Rangers were only issued a small wallet with credentials to indicate their authority.

Of course, some of the early Rangers saw the benefit of having some kind of badge to wear. These early badges were designed in whatever manner the individual Ranger thought was appropriate. Some of them copied the badges of other border lawmen that were made from the Mexican cinco peso coin and featured a 5-point star inside a circle. This actually did not become the official Texas Ranger badge until 1962, when the family of the late Captain Hardy Purvis donated enough of the cinco peso coins to outfit every Ranger working at the time. 🐾



ENSURING THE LEGACY

BUILDING ON PAST SUCCESSES BUT LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The New Mexico chapter website states: “The New Mexico Chapter is committed to providing opportunities for the expansion of Western music to a larger audience and introducing children and youth to this aspect of our Western culture... .” Since I became active in the organization, that is exactly what we have done; we have focused on youth and children as the pathway to expand Western music and poetry.

For the past several summers, we partnered with the city of Albuquerque to present a Western Youth and Family Day in Old Town, featuring Western youth musicians and poets. In 2016, our chapter added a Rising Stars Concert to the November Convention, featuring Mikki Daniel, Kristyn Harris, and Jeneve Rose Mitchell. Last November, to kick off the 2019 Convention, we produced a youth showcase at a nearby venue featuring Kacey and Jenna Thunborg, Jack George, Alice Black, Jack Spurgin, and Abby Payne.

Even though the pandemic has temporarily closed the doors on live performances, it hasn't stopped resourceful members such as Jenna and Kacey and their parents, Kimberly Linker and Jon Thunborg, from working on a plan to reach out to youth. The goal is to “introduce, encourage, and support interest in Western music among New Mexico youth.” Eventually the plan is to engage the National IWMA Youth Chapter. So far, Kimberly states, “We have talked about setting up a gathering with the youth via Zoom or another remote platform for performance, education and learning opportunities.” Anyone interested in further information or in helping can contact Kimberly Linker at: kaceyandjennamusic@gmail.com

Contributed by Michael Coy with Ralph Estes and Kimberly Linker

IWMA New Mexico Chapter



Chapter Update

ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: John Paulson
Johnpaulson1945@gmail.com

The Arizona chapter awaits the coming year with high hopes for a good vaccine, the beginning of the ending of the coronavirus pandemic, and the resumption of chapter group events. The current slate of officers (Sherry Walker, secretary; Dennis Knill, treasurer; John Paulson, president) will continue to serve for 2021. Some Arizona chapter members have been busy with new western music and poetry during this downtime, and their individual activities are reported elsewhere in *The Western Way*. See you down the trail, hopefully before too long!

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Steve Justus
sjustusca@gmail.com

Los Angeles and a lot of California have gone back into lockdown. At least in Southern California, there is no live music. So, we are enjoying memories of last year's convention and looking forward to making memories in 2021.

COLORADO CHAPTER

President: Susie Knight
lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com

Well, this will be my last Chapter Update as your IWMA Colorado Chapter President. Four years went by very quickly, and I've enjoyed serving you all so much. Your new President, Donna Hatton, will take over on January 1, 2021. She'll be assisted by your new Vice President, Levi Cody Richardson. The other Officers, Tom Hatton, Treasurer, and Dan Park, Secretary, will

remain in their respective positions. Thank you all for being such a fantastic Chapter to work with. I look forward to seeing you again down the trail. Respectfully yours, Susie Knight.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

One of the highlights Columbia Chapter members look forward to each year is our annual October meeting and "Cowboys in the Hood" concert in Hood River, OR. With an in-person event not possible this year we went to the "new-abnormal" alternative and Zoomed it. Thankfully, many members logged in. In fact, a few more than we had last year for our in-person gathering! Following a business meeting that included the enthusiastic re-election of Ned Bodie to his expiring director position, and the celebration of chapter member Joni's Harms' induction into the IWMA Hall of Fame, we continued with social time and a round-robin of poems and songs by Barbara Nelson, Kathy Moss, Ned Bodie, Jennifer Epps, Judy Coder, Ted Hunt, Judi Seger, Jim Crotts,

hasn't had opportunities to perform since the summer music series she managed for her town of Winthrop, WA was canceled due to pandemic restrictions. But that hasn't stopped her from enjoying and sharing music! She's having fun learning to play a little lead guitar and playing the baritone ukulele. And she's working with students one on one, helping young people learn about North American music. She reports that as students learn to sing and play "cowboy songs" they are learning about how the West was developed. Carla Swearingen has been hard at work on a fun project. She's pleased to announce the publication of her first children's book. What began as a simple idea for a story to share with her "socially distanced" three-year-old granddaughter has developed into a four-book series. The first book, *Flora is Curious – About Squirrels*, was released in December. The next three books are now being illustrated for publication in 2021. Look for *Flora is Curious – about Horses*, *Flora is Curious – About Chickens*, and *Flora is Curious – About Cats* at HoofPickPress.com.

Long-time supporting member Don Duncan has been learning to play his acoustic guitar, electric guitar, and beautiful autoharp. All acquired during his 83rd trip around the sun.

Poet Tom Swearingen has done several virtual shows and programs, including IWMA youth chapter member



Marv Ramsey livestreams a new song.

Marv Ramsey, and Tom Swearingen (who ventured out of his comfort zone to sing and play a song he'd written prompted by the Juni Fisher songwriting workshop he benefited from in September). Chapter members had so much fun in the virtual sharing it was decided to do another in January. Lauralee Northcott



Tom Swearingen performs for Artichoke Music Winter Concert.

Continued on page 17

FROM the TRAIL

GATHERING & EVENT ORGANIZERS WEIGH IN

A GATHERING OF A DIFFERENT SORT

By Lindy Simmons

In Durango, the first weekend in October passed without a western song, poem, or yodel to be heard. After thirty-one years of western artists and fans coming together in the southwest Colorado town for the annual western music and poetry gathering, the thirty-second had been cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus. At the time of the decision, the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko and several others had already cancelled. Many more cancellations followed.

In August of 2020, IWMA board member Dennis Russell called a ZOOM® meeting of available representatives of gatherings from all over the western U.S. to discuss how to continue to promote and preserve western music and poetry in the absence of their main venues. The meeting yielded informational sharing of reasons why gatherings were cancelled, ideas for future gatherings, and ideas to continue to further the IWMA mission.

Dennis, as well as IWMA President Robert Lorbeer, Executive Director Marsha Short and *Western Way* Editor Theresa O'Dell listened thoughtfully to participant input. The chief concern of all was the health of artists and audiences. How could we socially distance large crowds? How could we guarantee safety of performance halls, food service areas, and school venues? How could we ensure safety when fans came together from all parts of the virus-ridden country?

There were serious economic concerns as well. Boards were hesitant to ask for sponsorships, donations, and free and reduced hotel rooms when so many businesses were suffering economically. There were questions about insurance, should the virus spread during an event.

However, leave it to western folks to be positive and "keep moving forward," as Marsha Short remarked in Fall

issue of *Western Way*. The meeting revealed many ideas for alternate venues to share our craft. George Wheat of the Cochise Cowboy Poetry Gathering encouraged virtual performances. Nancy Fusco, also of the Cochise gathering, reported they were considering a "drive-in" event; yes, a drive-in theatre with featured artists' performances delivered through a speaker hung on each car! Arizona Cowboy Poetry Gathering's John Buchanan initiated discussion of using a rodeo arena as a venue, providing more seating space than our typical theatres or classrooms.

It is difficult to imagine anything good coming from Covid-19, but there are some positive outcomes from the virtual meeting forced by the virus. There was a feeling of solidarity and support in a time when cancellations had been difficult and lonely decisions. The meeting yielded a consensus that we need to communicate and share, and we committed to meeting again to discuss common concerns and insights. We may see the formation of an IWMA organization of gathering leaders. The recommendation from Theresa O'Dell was well-received to encourage gathering boards to join IWMA as "organizational members," providing a 25% "Covid" discount for a quarter page or larger ad in the *Western Way*.

Here in Durango we don't know if we will be making the decision to also cancel in 2021. There is nothing like seeing live music and poetry performances, but we may be relying, for a time, on smaller crowds and digital interactions. Robert H. Schuller said, "Tough times never last, but tough people do." We are tough and we are creative. We will find those opportunities to share western music and culture. 🐾

Lindy Simmons has been on the board of the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering for more than twenty years and currently serves as President of the board. She is known to many IWMA artists as the "Talent Wrangler" for the Durango gathering. Lindy is also a ranch wife and a cowboy poet. She has performed throughout the western U.S. and has published one book entitled "Be Careful What You Tell L," a collection of true stories of cowboys of today and yesteryear. She was recently cited as a "visionary" for her "Variety Show With a Twist" running twelve years at the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering. She has recently helped initiate the "Artists Without Borders" program in Mexico. In addition, Lindy's "day job" was as a professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango over a span of 40 years.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 15

Venessa Carpenter's *Spurs & Strings* Instagram livestream, Zoom programs for various organizations, and he was a special guest artist on Artichoke Community Music's Livestream Holiday Concert. Tom was co-presenter of "The Western Side of Folk" for the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance virtual conference along with Jim Jones, Dave and Carolyn Martin, Jennifer Epps and Judy Coder's duo *Notable Exceptions*, and session host Claudia Nygaard. Another highlight for Tom was performing a livestream benefit concert for his town's historical society annual fundraising event.



Ed Wahl sings for the 2020 Willow Creek Virtual Cowboy Gathering.

Mike Dygert and Ed Wahl have been able to camp and play for the folks at the Clinton Pines RV Park in Clinton, BC, and report it went so well they've been invited back next year. They've both also been invited to Alberta's 2021 Willow Creek Cowboy Gathering and participated in the gathering's 2020 virtual edition. Mike and his wife Gwen have also visited with talented performer and recording engineer Tom Cole and his wife in Fort St. John, BC. Mike will again play bass in Tom's Home Bound shows on YouTube, set to start up again soon now that restrictions on public functions (Alberta is now set at 15 inside) continue. Mike has also been doing shows at Seniors Homes with the country gospel group *CrossRoads*, and has recorded an Alberta musician's vocal, guitar, and bass for a 16 song CD project Tom Cole is mastering.

The Dan Canyon Band is busy in the studio recording several new original songs. Tracks include: *Ride Hard (for the hills)*, *If I Could Love A Girl (like I love my*

horse), *Strawberry Roan*, and *Guns of the Open Range*. In October, the DCB was nominated for the AWA Awards in the categories of Best Band, Best Album, and Best Songs (*Nothing's Too Good for a Cowboy* and *Six-gun Philosophy*).



Jim Crotts stretches one at the Whispering Meadows Fiesta.

Jim Crotts reports a highlight from his evening hosting a campfire poetry session at Whispering Meadows Fiesta Ranch Roping in Junction City, Oregon. The star of the evening was nine-year-old Thomas Fitzgerald who took his first turn at the microphone, reciting one of Tom Swearingen's poems followed by a Baxter Black piece. Inspired by Tom at a previous gathering, he had been memorizing and practicing in preparation for a chance at the mic. Marv reports he handled his session like a seasoned pro, and we expect to see much more of him at future events. Tom, by the way, sent him a signed copy of his book, *Reflection* and his *Language of the Land* CD, and Jim Crotts included a copy of Range Magazine's *Brushstrokes and Balladeers*.



Young poet Thomas Fitzgerald.

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

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black
aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

The last warmth of fall finally gave way to winter in the eastern US after Thanksgiving and a very different Holiday season commenced. Although live performances are still not being booked in most local places, some IWMAECC members have turned to video as a platform to keep sharing western music. Kerry Grombacher created a video for the Solid Grounds Coffeehouse Concert Series in Albuquerque and Aspen and Alice Black recorded Christmas videos for local churches, who also turned former live performances into virtual platforms. Tom Hawk reported that he continues to build his repertoire of songs and increase his guitar skills and Carol Markstrom is excited about her new role as an intern to the national IWMA Board of Directors. While we all hunker down and wait for the world of performances and travel to return, the horses have grown their winter coats, cattle shelter in the valleys from the wind, and ice coats the streams and water troughs. Hay is put up in the barn, frost laces the rooflines, and wood smoke dances on the crisp winter air. This is the beauty that remains.

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen
orin@rbanjoranch.com

The on-going pandemic has prevented most live music performances in Kansas from happening. However, there have been a few bright spots. The Diamond W Wranglers, whose members include Kansas Chapter President, Orin Friesen, and Vice President, Jim Farrell, recently did an outdoor concert for a large crowd who were ready for live music. Despite of the size of the audience, there was still room for social distancing, and many people wore masks. A bonus was having food trucks on site.

Continued on page 23

In Memoriam

VAN ALLAN CRIDDLE (1949-2020)



It is with gratitude in our hearts that we announce the passing of Van Allan Criddle on October 16, 2020. Following a short and unexpected battle with a brain tumor, “Pops”, as we boys called him, was able to peacefully, and mostly painlessly, return to his heavenly home,

where we are sure that numerous hosts eagerly awaited his return and welcomed him with open arms.

Pops was born August 16, 1949, the eldest child of Nevin Alexander Criddle and Ethel Fern Allan in Kaysville, Davis County, UT. In passing, he is reunited with his parents, his younger sister, Christine Mason, in-laws Bill and Betty Lassiter, Bill Lassiter, Jr., as well as many other loved ones. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, and 4 sons, Shane (Tara), Cameron (Lisa), Justin (Lisa), and Bill (Julie). He is also survived by his siblings Craig (JoAnn) Criddle, Cindy (Mike) Petersen, Jeff (Emmy) Criddle, Monty Criddle, and Kelly (Jerilyn) Criddle, as well as 12 grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews (too many to count), and a lifetime of friends and family from all over the country. He was beloved by all who knew him. He touched many hearts and sought to be a light to those who might be in need.

Pops loved his family, his church, the outdoors, cowboy poetry, RVing, and serving those around him. He recently finished an 18-month church mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with mom at Martin’s Cove in Wyoming. He and mom capped that off by jumping in the RV and touring the western half of the U.S. to visit friends and family that they hadn’t seen in a long time. Looking back, it was the perfect farewell tour! In the end, all dad wanted was to be surrounded by his family and to tell them how much he loved them.

Van was a longtime member of the IWMA and served as Treasurer at the National level for a period of time.

Please sign the guest book at www.registerguard.com/legacy.

DAVID KNIGHT (1949-2020)



David Wayne Knight, born August 18, 1949, was raised in Skowhegan, Maine. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after he graduated high school in 1967. He fought with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Viet Nam from January, 1968 - January, 1969. He was honorably

discharged as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army in July, 1970. He found a job as a water well driller and pump tech in Southcentral Colorado learning the trade that he would continue in for the next 47 years.

Dave and Susie first met in a grocery store in early November, 2008. The couple married on February 22, 2010. Their motto was “It’s never too late to live happily ever after.”

Dave was a Supporting Member of the IWMA from 2010 to 2020 as his wife pursued her career as a western music singer/songwriter and cowgirl poet. He enjoyed volunteering at the Information Booth at the IWMA Conventions and supporting the various IWMA Colorado Chapter events.

Dave received military honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver on 11/10/20. His ashes were interred there on 11/13/20. A Celebration of Dave’s life was held at the Maple Grove Grange in Wheat Ridge, Colorado on Veteran’s Day, 11/11/20. Numerous members of the IWMA were in attendance.

David Wayne Knight is survived by his wife, Susie, brother Donald Knight (Jill) of Litchfield, NH, stepmother, Beatrice Knight of Bangor, ME, daughter, Dawn Bilby (Rick) of Navarre, FL, stepson Michael Merrill (Kristy) of Hanover Park, IL, stepson Wade Merrill (Joanna) of Elgin, IL, grandchildren Ron Anton, Colton Merrill, Leigh Merrill, Avery Merrill, Finley Merrill, Hudson Merrill, and Anniston Merrill, and great-grandson, Lucas Anton.

ELENA C. SIKES (1927-2020)



Elena C. Sikes, of Ridgewood, formerly Leonia, daughter of L. Pacifico Camacho and Constantina Q. de Camacho, passed away on November 17th. Born to a family of 9 children, on an hacienda in a remote, lush

valley deep in the Peruvian Andes, she eventually lived in Buenos Aires, Paris, and the suburbs of New York City. She learned 4 languages, traveled to a dozen or more countries, made friends easily, participated in community life, e.g. volunteering to help small children learning English as a second language, raised 2 sons, one of whom became a successful filmmaker and the other developed effective approaches to rehabilitating mental patients. She had 4 young grandchildren who loved her dearly. In spite of her much-deteriorated health in later years, she managed to stay active in their lives. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, O.J. Sikes, III, of Ridgewood, sons O.J. Sikes, IV and John L. Sikes, daughters-in-law Leane Sikes and Michiyo O. Sikes, grandchildren O.J. Sikes, V, James G. Sikes, Kaisei O. Sikes, and Kaya O. Sikes, all of Ridgewood. Graveside services will be held at 2 pm, Friday, Nov. 20th, at George Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in Paramus.

*Gone from
our sight,
but never from
our hearts.*

HELEN DIANE WEST (1944-2020)



Helen Diane West, age 76, passed away Nov. 10, 2020, at her home in Waxahachie, Texas. She was born March 3, 1944 in Dallas, Texas. Diane and Jerry married on Feb. 17, 1967, at the First Baptist Church in Duncanville,

Texas. They celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary in 2020.

She and Jerry enjoyed membership in IWMA and traveled nationally promoting Western music as a musical genre. Through their active involvement in Western music, they became friends of the Roy Rogers family and other entertainers and enthusiasts. Diane was an experienced sewer and enjoyed quilting. She was an active member of the Farley Street Quilting Club that created quilts for shut-ins and nursing home residents.

During her retirement years, Diane and Jerry traveled frequently to many U.S. destinations including New England, Niagara Falls, the Southwest, Montana, California and Alaska. But she especially loved her Texas home where she gardened, entertained family and friends, and spoiled her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Doyle West of Waxahachie; daughter, Debbie Renee West of Arlington, Texas; son John William West, daughter-in-law Angie West, granddaughter Caroline Elizabeth West, grandson Jonathan Daniel West of Waxahachie; sister, Kathy Campbell of Dallas; and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**Lynn Belle Lewis** tells us that in October, a Washington, DC orchestra conductor put on an opera called *The Blacksmith* in Mancos, CO and included local musicians as part of the performance, including Lynn herself. Ryan Brown is a descendant of a local veterinarian, and his family has owned the Reddert Ranch through five generations. *The Blacksmith* was performed in a barn on the ranch. Professional actors and musicians performed, and the locals provided backup.

...**Tom Swearingen** will have his poem "Quiet Conversations" included in a limited-edition portfolio called *Tintype Portraits and Poems* being produced by photographer Kevin Martini-Fuller. The portfolio features poets from the 2020 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** has begun recording her *Between A Horse and Me* album project through Allegro Sound Lab, Burleson, TX, with **Aarom Meador** and **Kristyn Harris** producing. Release is projected for late spring. Almeda's husband, Merritt, contracted the Covid virus but is now on the mend. The 72 year-old cowboy survived a week on a ventilator and will soon be back at the ranch in Montana bucking out colts.

...**Dawn Anita** has been busy writing songs, working with **Mag Mawhinney** on several tunes. She plans on being in the studio in January to work on a new western album. She also will be releasing a new country album entitled *Forever Country* in January which contains twelve songs, ten of which she wrote or co-wrote.

...By doing several virtual events, **Jim Jones** has managed to stay busy musically during these strange times. He also released his first children's book titled *Bolo, the Brave*. All this while being contracted to write a novella to be included in a four-piece anthology published by Five Star Publishing, and is working on writing two new novels.

...*Doin' What We Do* is the title of a new release from **The Cowboy Way**. The group is made up of Doug Figgs, Jim Jones, and Mariam Funke.

...**Ron Christopher** has been spending time in his "man cave" writing and producing 8-15-minute videos. At this printing, he has produced over 55 different song videos. He has also been doing some co-writing with **Mag Mawhinney**.

...**Dave Munsick** has spent most of the fall getting his place ready for winter, applauding the advance of his sons' music careers and working on a new book, a collection of essays entitled *Songteller: Notes From The Road*.

...Closed out of many venues like so many other performers due to the Covid virus, **Smokey Culver** has found himself doing more virtual performances and appearing at outside venues where this is social distancing.

...**The Hot Texas Swing Band** has recorded their fifth CD, *Devil on My Tail*, with 13 tracks. Cover tunes include "Sunset on the Sage", "When the Bloom is on the Sage", and the theme from "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" to commemorate the composer, Ennio Morricone, in the year of his passing. Seven originals, including the title track, were written by bandleader Alex Dormont. The album release will be in March.

...The "Breaking Western Podcast" is being produced by **Angela Meyer** and touches on subjects of interest to followers of the western industry. Marketing, media, bead making, ranching, and rodeo are just a few of the topics covered. Check it out for yourself at: <https://anchor.fm/breakingwestern>.

...With only two songs to finish, the new **Joe Herrington** album project has been put on hold due to the Covid virus. In the meantime, he is working with Disney to create and install a new Spiderman attraction.

...**Andy Hedges** appeared on Tom Brosseau's *The Great American Folk Show* on Prairie Public Radio in December. The program was made available to stream after the broadcast. Find more info here: <https://news.prairiepublic.org/programs/great-american-folk-show>.

...**Mag Mawhinney** has been writing songs during the Covid shutdown and has posted lyrics for most of them on Facebook. **Dawn Anita** has written melodies for three of them, **Ron Christopher** has created melodies and posted videos for four, and **Bernadette Ducharme** has posted a melody for one.

...**Gary and Jean Prescott** were playing the 25th Anniversary WRCA Ranch Rodeo World Championships in Amarillo, TX in November when a mad mama cow with some impressively long and sharp horns interrupted their performance by making a serious run at Gary, narrowly missing him (thanks to the cowboy who was hot on her trail). The Prescotts report that no animals, humans, or guitars were injured in the incident!

...*Aces and Eights: Poker in the Old West* is the latest book from the pen of **Ralph Estes**; It is in production and scheduled to be out in February. Ralph's next effort, *Jack Thorp and the Development of Western Music*, is in its last rewrite. After that, a book tentatively titled *Trailing the West* (about trails all over the west, history, aesthetic, architectural) is in the research process.

...**Cisco Jim** & Los Bunkhouse Boys played a Western Halloween concert at Luz del Valle, a historic barn in Corralitos, CA. The Boys are also writing and filming faux commercials to be used in a short western movie. Cisco continues to serve as music minister at the Old Mission San Juan Bautista.

...**Juni Fisher** has taken the down time this past summer and fall to finetune her horse, Reydio Airplay, for cutting horse competitions in 2021. With approximately 1/10th of the normal gigs, she has also created a from-home business. To date, she has sewn and sold close to 600 facemasks, has sold saddles and bits on consignment, done cleaning and restoration on saddles for clients, and recently brokered a sale of a deluxe 8-horse trailer.

...**Deanna Dickinson McCall** has co-authored a cookbook with friend Gay Gardella. The book is titled *Cowboy Cuisine: Beyond Biscuits and Beans*. It is a fun book of recipes and stories with recipes from all over the West.

...*Irony* is the title of the 8th studio CD release from **Bob Thomas**. The album features ten original songs and a poem. They tell ultra-short stories of the old west put to simple and melodic melodies. The album is available on Apple and Amazon.

...With gigs in Australia being cancelled as fast as they are here in the U.S., **Carol Heuchan** has found herself tackling some different jobs to stay busy: pulling an old book cabinet, making Mediterranean shutters for the front of her house, taking on some creative sewing projects, knitting a throw rug, etc. She has also done a series of pencil sketches of the "Dances of the Decades" – from the Charleston to Rap! Best of all, she has been able to get back to training horses like she did before poetry overtook her life.

...**Dan McCorison** has been setting up a new home studio that he calls "The Salt Mine." He's been busy recording tracks for a new album to be titled *Me and Les* in honor of his good pal and sometimes writing partner **Les Buffham**. It will be available in the late winter or early spring. Dan has resumed a limited schedule of dates at the beautiful Wickenburg resort Rancho De Los Caballeros, and Dan's new band, Desert Deluxe, headlined an outdoor Christmas event for the Town of Wickenburg in December.

...**Allen & Jill Kirkham** were hired to submit music videos of their Christmas songs for streaming to seniors and shut-ins in Sioux Falls, SD. Also, **Judy James** added a weekly feature to her Sunday morning Cowboy Jubilee Gospel Hour: "Cowboy Verse in Song with Allen Kirkham." Because of the pandemic cancellations, Allen was able to have arthroplasty joint replacement surgery on his left thumb. He is healing well and playing guitar for physical therapy.

...In September, **Maria McArthur** won the state fiddle championship for Arizona. In addition to giving prize money, the winner gets her way paid to the national fiddle contest in Weiser in June of 2021.

...The pandemic has allowed **Bodie Dominguez** to get involved in something he has been interested in for some time but without the time to spend doing it. He has gotten very busy repairing instruments. He has also been very busy helping get donated instruments to veterans who suffer from PTSD. He and **Gary Eller** are also working on a book and CD project.

...**Peggy Malone** is "keeping in touch" with her "Bathroom Balladeer Shows" for her Nursing and Senior Home buddies. She also took part recently in a Buckaroo show at the Fort Worth Stock Show building while attending the wedding of **Kristyn Harris**.

Continued on page 22

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 21

...Although he's retired, **Dick Baxter** continues to contribute to the music scene. Baxter was the longtime personal manager of **Dale Evans** (and **Roy Rogers** in later years), **Stuart Hamblen**, **Dusty Rogers** and **Hi Busse** with **The Frontiersmen & Joanie** among others. He continues to be an ASCAP composer and his song "Miracle of Miracles" was a top holiday release in 2019, sending it on the trail toward becoming a seasonal standard. In January, Dick began writing his publisher-commissioned autobiography! He says all would be rosy had he not, in May of 2020, lost his rod and staff Ellie (his wife of nearly 65 years) due to a fall she suffered in the driveway of their Tehachapi, CA home.

...Because of pandemic restrictions at the Phoenix, AZ Beatitudes retirement community, **Igor the Jazz Cowboy** has assembled an informal "in-house" western swing band. Safely outdoors on Saturday afternoons, Igor plays a variety of strings joined by Bill Chase (guitar), Jim Plaster (banjo), Robert Andrews (bass), Dosia Carlson (piano), and Arnie Anderson (percussion). Songs range from saddle to railroads, riverboats, border town saloons, and tent revivals.

...**Steve Jones** is nearing completion of a new CD titled *The Lump of Coal (Hope's Diamond)*, co-written with **Sandy Reay** and based on a true story. He has put some music to an Irish cowboy poem that **Baxter Black** gifted him. In all there will be eight originals, including co-writes, plus eight covers on the CD to be released in January.

...Steve and Terri Taylor, aka **STAMPEDE!**, have been voted as the "Best Country Band" in "*The Standard Examiner* Best of the Best Northern Utah 2020 Reader's Choice Awards."

...**Peggie Douglas** participated in October in BadgerStock V sponsored by the Badger Clark Poetry Society in Sioux Falls, SD. It was an invitation only, outside, masks-required event. She also has purchased a used Kawai piano and has been learning how to play. She has progressed from an advanced beginner on the upright bass to intermediate, and is also working as a liaison between the South Dakota Poetry Society and Custer State Park to organize a poetry camp for next September as part of the SD Festival of Books.

...A new CD by **Tom Poley**, *Grand Canyon State of Mind*, was officially released in October. It features 8 new songs inspired by people or events in Arizona. The time spent sequestered at home due to the pandemic has been positive for songwriting, plus Tom and Emmy recently filmed a video for one of Emmy's newest songs.

...The beautiful great granddaughter of **Gary and Jean Prescott**, Claire Michael Head, made her debut in October and they are "over the moon in love with her." Claire's parents are Michael and Erika Head of Cleveland, TN.

...**Kristyn Harris** and **Aarom Meador** (music producer/engineer at Allegro Sound Lab) were married on October 10. Kristyn rode her mustang mare down the aisle to the twin fiddles of bridesmaids **Hailey Sandoz** and **Brook Wallace Deaton**. Other music during the wedding included special songs from **Devon Dawson**, **Belinda Gail**, **Jeff Gore**, **RW Hampton**, **Jean Prescott**, and **Dusty Deaton**.

AND FINALLY...**Riders in the Sky** has sent these pandemic updates:

Ranger Doug: working on a new book, a biography of Carson Robison, a foundation member of country and western music who is pretty much forgotten today. The Ranger has also found time to write half a dozen songs, to create and record new episodes of the award-winning Sirius/XM radio show *Classic Cowboy Corral*, to deliver meals to the homeless, and appear as The Yodeling Lifeguard at his local YMCA. Oh, yes, he got married, too.

Woody Paul: The King of the Cowboy Fiddlers has established himself as the Mole Man, the premier mole hunter of Northeast Davidson County. When not battling the subterranean rodents in his neighborhood, he's fixing lawnmowers, weed whackers, and chain saws and dreaming up new fiddle melodies.

Joey the Cowpolka King: currently keeping the surgical community in northern Ohio fully employed. Hopefully he'll be able to strap on his squeezebox in 2021 and blow us all away again with his mastery, taste, touch, and boundless good humor. He recently hosted Ranger Doug and Side Meat for three days of radio production. He also has time to enjoy his wife's chickens, the neighbor's horse, and his yapping dog.

Too Slim: one Covid blessing has been Mr. Slim's availability to spend many days shepherding his grandsons through virtual Middle and Elementary school. He also reports he's read *Ulysses*, adopted *tai chi* and *Xigong*, and accompanied Side Meat to the Polka Palace Recording Spa. He also labors on "a new joke, which I hope to roll out in 2021." 🐕

Chapter Update

Continued from page 17



Diamond W Wranglers Open Air Concert

The ever-creative Ron Wilson continues to find ways to promote western music, cowboy poetry, western lifestyle, and other cowboy news.

On Tuesdays at 1:00pm, Ron hosts a live program from his ranch near Manhattan, KS, called "Live from the Lazy T Ranch." You can find it on the Lazy T Ranch – Adventures in the Flint Hills Facebook page.

Another chapter member from the Flint Hills, Annie Wilson, enjoys writing songs, when she's not busy working cattle on her Five Oaks Ranch. She had two winning songs and one alternate in this year's song contest at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS. Though the actual 49th festival wasn't held this year, it was still done virtually as the Walnut Valley Festival 48.5. Among the festival performers doing their shows through videos were IWMA members Juni Fisher, the Cowboy Way, and KS Chapter members, 3 Trails West. All three of those acts are scheduled to perform in Winfield for the 49th festival in September of 2021.

One of the highlights of the regular IWMA-KS has been the open-mic performances by our members. Since we haven't been able to meet in person, Jeff Davidson, former IWMA-KS President, has come up with the idea to do these performances virtually. Chapter members will be invited to join a Zoom meeting and will be allowed to share a song or poem. This promises to be a fun alternative to getting together in person. Now if we can just figure out how to do all of the ranch chores online....

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Ralph Estes

ralph@ralphestes.com

After painfully closing down our brewpub open mics (which ranked just behind the Albuquerque Balloon Festival as a tourist draw), in September we couldn't resist the charm of Casa Vieja's arboreal patio, so we were back on stage. Then October came and it was time to go inside. Since the virus was still marauding, we returned to recess. But after a discussion in our chapter-wide Zoom meeting, we established a Virtual Performance Committee (Dave Levenson, Michael Roth, Steve Cormier, Judi Anderson, and Oregon's Tom Swearingen – man of many hats).



Michael Roth

The committee quickly decided on twice monthly Zoom "Song and Poetry Corral." First was pretty fine, not only in terms of performers but also for the number of "tuner-ins." Second will be December 7, and this time it will be live-streamed on Facebook - thanks to techno-magician Dave Levenson; send Dave a note if you want to perform, dave@westmark.com. Catch it then and also on January 4 and 18 at <https://www.facebook.com/WesternMusicAssociationNM>.



Dave Levenson

You've probably noticed that the never-stop Thunborg twins, Kacey and Jenna, are nearly everywhere. What a bundle of skills, knowledge, and experience. Who else could better chair our Youth Outreach Project than the whole family, with mother Kim Linker adding that hat to those she wears on the job and as a wife and mother (shades of Tom Swearingen). The 2021 board will consist of Bernard Carr, Dave Clark, Jane Jones, Dennis Russell Nazelrod, Michael Roth, and me, officers to be chosen by the board. Our national board representative slot will be handled by Bobbie Jean Bell, presently interning for the big time (but we also have Dennis Russell Nazelrod; 'fore long we should be able to take over). New blood, new ideas, new enthusiasm – look out!

NE WISCONSIN/UPPER MICHIGAN CHAPTER

President: Thomas Betts

hrambler@bayland.net

The IWMA NE Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Chapter won't have any western music shows until the health pandemic allows us to proceed. Ken Williamson joined our chapter and has his bio on the IWMA website. He started performing with the Down Homers, a Hillbilly band, when he was nine years old and wore iron braces on his legs. The band had to hold him up to the mic so he could play the harmonica. In later years, he was on crutches and was able to stand up and play his guitar and harmonica (at the same time), sing, and yodel. He also performed with them on radio station WTIC in Hartford, Connecticut for many of their weekly shows. We are so fortunate to have this professional entertainer in our chapter.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Donnie Poindexter

cowboydp51@gmail.com

Happy 2021 from Oklahoma! Election of chapter officers was held via email with the 2020 slate all returning by acclamation of chapter members. President for 2021 is

Continued on page 32

Echoes

OF PAST CONVENTIONS
2013-2019

2013



Bill Barwick



Fans enjoying themselves.



Founder's show Rusty Richards



Herb Jeffries



Youth will keep it going.



Former *Western Way*
Editor Don Cusic
is honored.

2014



Little bitty western fans.



Rob Watkins and a happy volunteer at Crisis Fund.



The Sidewinders on stage.



Award show emcees Jim & Andy Nelson.



STAMPEDE!



Youth Chapter All-stars David, Thatch, Mikki D and Maria.



President's Award – Robert Fee

2015



Jamin' fun in the hallways.



Marilyn Tuttle is recipient of Curly Musgrave Buckle Award, presented by Kathy Musgrave.



Award Night at the Kimo Theater, Albuquerque.



The Nelson Brothers entertain as Award Show Emcees.



Joyce Woodson backed-up by Dawn Pett and Gale Rogers.



Theresa Emcees a Showcase stage.



Jon Messenger with Call of the West.



Art vender



Jean Prescott and Liz Masterson – The Boss Lady.



Kristyn Harris and Dave Stamey.



Good times



Marvin O'Dell makes music in the park.



The Tall and Short of It.

2017



Friends



Peggy Malone on the Opry



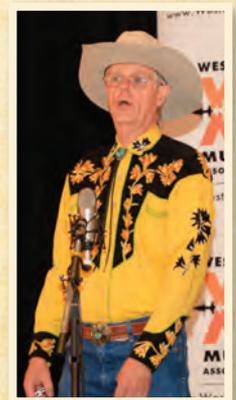
Janet McBride and Voleta Hummel.



Rex Allen, Jr. on stage.



Rick Huff



There's always time to yodel.



Liz Masterson and friends.



Makin' music in the Hallways



The Hansens can Harmonize.



Juni Fisher and Marilyn Tuttle.



Workshop attendees

2018



Miss Devon and the Outlaw.



Washtub, LeeLee and Leah.



Is that The Duke with Diana Raven?



High Country Cowboys



Yodeling times two



Talented youth with proud parents.



The Cowboy Way

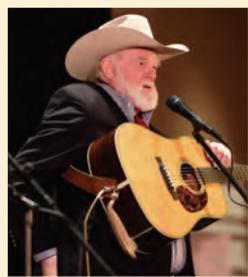
2019



Robert Lorbeer



Jean Prescott with Legendary Cowboy Joe Babcock



Classic Red Steagall.



Rusty and Amy Richards.



Always honored.



Marsha keeps it going.



Youth talent



Dawn Anita with Dan McCorison on the Opry.

INTERNATIONAL WESTERN 2020 CREATIVE CONNECTION AWARDS

BY JUNI FISHER



VANESSA CARPENTER

While the Covid-19 pandemic grounded musicians and other performers around the world from in-person appearances, music and spoken word would not be silenced. Performers began utilizing Facebook, Instagram, and other readily available platforms in order to stay connected with friends and fans, and terms like “Facebook Live” and “Instagram Live” became the catchwords for new ways of seeing performances. The International Western Music Association’s Board of Directors assigned a committee to search the plethora of presentations and find the unique and genuine jewels among the treasure chest of social media offerings. That committee compiled their lists of favorites, and painstakingly narrowed the field to three winners of the **IWMA 2020 Creative Connection Awards**.

Youth member **Venessa Carpenter** took to Instagram Live with her original format and combination talk show and variety show, “Spurs and Strings.” Her guests included singers and poets who were interviewed by Carpenter, then presented original material to viewers who soon realized they were seeing a pro who was not only wise beyond her years, but ahead of her time with her innovative format and well thought out subjects.

WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION

CONNECTION AWARDS

Texas natives turned Tennesseans turned Indianans **Dave and Carolyn Martin** took their peerless, stellar duo to their own living room for Facebook Live concerts. Carolyn's characteristic down-home charm shone through when they'd present a new song, and Carolyn dragged the ironing board in to use as a music stand. But far from being simply charming, their live shows featured Carolyn's incomparably warm and dead-on delivery of swing and old-time classics, backed by her seemingly effortless guitar chops and Dave's solid stand up and electric bass beat, plus harmonies and an occasional novelty solo by Dave.

Brothers **Leo Eilts and Roger Eilts**, two thirds of the trio 3 Trails West wanted to keep singing together as they've done for decades and were not about to let isolation and distance keep them from making music. From the safety of their individual homes, they set up microphones, video monitors, and cameras in their memento-filled music rooms, to film virtual duets, and even some one-man duets that were wonderfully effective and fun for viewers. For material, they drew on their library-level knowledge of classics and novelty songs.

The winners of the IWMA 2020 Creative Connection Awards proved that the spirit of Western Music could not be dampened. Congratulations to our 2020 winners, Venessa Carpenter, Dave and Carolyn Martin, and Leo and Roger Eilts.



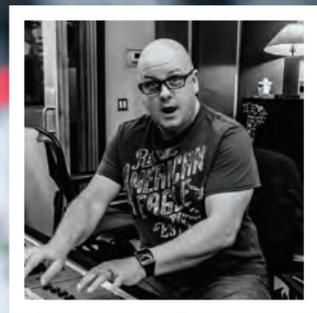
DAVE AND CAROLYN MARTIN



LEO EILTS AND ROGER EILTS

BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

with *Bryan Kuban*



“A STRANGE NEW WORLD”

Covid-19 has turned all the World upside down. Some of the hardest hit have been the entertainment and hospitality industries. I myself have lost 90% of my live show income this year, luckily my studio service business picked up a bit and covered for some of my losses.

In this article I am going to share some ideas on what we might do to share our music and art, and then ask you to weigh in on what you think might be a solution to these trying times for all of us.

“The World Wide Interweb”

Music and Art are mediums that historically have been consumed best in a live setting. Yes you can look at artwork online and listen to your favorite music on a streaming service, but the experience of being there in the moment is what really excites us. Watching your favorite musicians performing your favorite songs, or seeing the dimension and detail in handcrafted artwork is vital to the experience.

My band “**Mogollon**” has had the opportunity to play six online concerts since March 2020. We went to a sound and video studio and played to the cameras as if there was an audience right in front of us. I will let ya know that it was a bit awkward, but I am in a band of performers and we all played like there were thousands watching. The fact was that there was a large audience as people are starved for the live experience, and we, being a band for 40 years, have a large following.

We did a 90-minute set, live streamed on Facebook and Youtube, and we made an agreement with the sound and staging company to split the online tips 50/50. It was a success; we all were gifted for our efforts and we agreed to continue the shows, spaced out over weeks, in order to not over saturate the experience for the viewers. That was a great example of making things happen. Trying times bring out the creativity in all of us.

“Other Examples”

Since March, I have seen many artists performing live streams as it seems to be the new standard in Covid times. One of my favorites is **Ashley Winelan**. I promise this is not a shameless plug for one of my artists, but yes, I produce and write songs with Ashley. <https://www.facebook.com/AshleyWinelandMusic>

What I like about her broadcast is that she is in constant engagement throughout her whole performance. She chats

along with the hundreds if not thousands of people that join her every Friday night at 5 PM for her live stream. Miss Wineland takes requests from the audience and jokes along with them for the entire 60 minutes.

Ashley does not take tips on her broadcasts, her reward for her 4-year weekly 1 hour performance is 220,000 fans that like her page and the thousands of viewers each week. Through the dedication to her brand of entertainment she now has created a marketplace in which to sell her music and merch.

I have a friend, **Katy Kral**, who is an amazing speed canvas painter <https://www.kvkretail.com/>. Katy has created online events paired with fantastic musicians where she paints a picture of legendary musicians like Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers, Waylon Jennings, etc., while the musicians play a set of music by the artist. At the end of the performance she auctions off the painting for compensation for her work.

My good friends **Kit Halloff** and **Donny Grubb** from the **Donny Grubb Band** have a podcast called “**After Hours**” where they interview Musicians from across the globe. They talk about anything and everything, the funny thing is they rarely talk about music. This is a fun one to watch because you never know when it is going to go off the rails!

“Manifest Destiny”

People are stuck at home, bored, and are starving to be a part of something. The artists and personalities that are succeeding are the ones that are creating a community. These Artists have invited people to be a part of their craft, and by reaching out in a consistent manner via online events are possibly creating the future of how art and media are shared.

My challenge to all you craftsmen, artists and performers is to rise above this adversity and work together to build a strong online community through podcasts, broadcasts, and online events to support each other throughout these difficult times.

If you have a website, broadcast or podcast that you would like to share please email me at bryankuban@gmail.com. I would like to include them in my article next issue and I would love to hear your ideas and see how you are taking on this pandemic situation and moving this discussion and your art and craft forward. Until next issue be safe, Bryan Kuban. 🐕

CHRONICLE OF THE OLD WEST

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

BUMMER

BY DAKOTA LIVESAY



While much of the nation was going to the Civil War, San Francisco was going to the dogs.

For almost four years from 1861 to 1865 an ongoing story in San Francisco was not about crime, political scandals, business prosperity or any of the other typical stories of a city, but the adventures of a cur dog named Bummer and his friend Lazarus, also a dog.

In 1861 San Francisco's paper the Daily Alta reported that a poor, lean, mangy cur dog was being attacked by a much larger dog when the larger dog was sent yelping by a third dog. That third dog became a star named "Bummer." Incidentally, the name Bummer came from the fact that he was just a "bum." Bummer and the dog he saved, later named Lazarus, became a pair.

The two cur dogs were taken into the hearts of the people of San Francisco. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors even passed a law excluding the two dogs from the rules governing stray dogs.

In June of 1862, Bummer and Lazarus were instrumental in stopping a team of runaway horses, and at that point, it was declared that now the dogs could be considered in the employ of the city and therefore exempt from taxation.

Having the run of the town and the town's businesses, Bummer and Lazarus were unknowingly left in a jewelry shop when the owner closed for the night. During the night the two dogs jumped through several glass cases and caused considerable damage. Of course, they got away Scott free.

Bummer and Lazarus hit their height of popularity when they starred in the city's Metropolitan Theatre production of Life in San Francisco.

In 1863 Lazarus was found dead... Poisoned.

Two years later, in 1865, a drunk kicked Bummer, and on November 2 he died. One of San Francisco's papers wrote, "Bummer by name, bummer by nature, no more, no less."

Even Samuel Clemens, also known as Mark Twain, knew about Bummer... and he wrote that the dog departed "full of years, and honor, and disease, and fleas."

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

AROUND The CAMPFIRE

"Songs for, by and about the
Cowboys and the Western Way of Life!"

and

The COUNTRY CAMPFIRE

"Where you hear REAL Country Music!"

WITH MARVIN O'DELL
meoteo@aol.com

Earsradio.com

The Country Campfire

M 11am – 2 pm
SA 6 am – 9 am

Around the Campfire

TH 10am – 12 pm
SU 1 am – 3 am

KKRN, Redding, CA

The Country Campfire

SA 10 am – 11 am

KZNO, Santa Clarita, CA

The Country Campfire

W 10 pm – 11 pm

Around the Campfire

TU 10 pm – 11 pm
TH 10 pm – 11 pm



TIMES ARE CST AND AIRTIME MAY VARY

Chapter Update

Continued from page 23

Donnie Poindexter, Vice President is Robert Maxwell Case, and Secretary-Treasurer is Danny Williams. The board participated in November in a 2021 planning conference-call with IWMA Director Marsha Short. Ron Secoy reports the success of the cowboy poetry gathering at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, OK on November 14. A Little Farther West performed in Oologah, OK, on December 5 at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch for "Will's Country Christmas." It was the group's third time entertaining at the annual event. Donnie Poindexter has used the pandemic music hiatus to focus on his western artwork.



Sadie and Bill by Donnie Poindexter

TEXAS CHAPTER

President: Cary Wiseman
Wisemanranch71@gmail.com

Hello from the Texas Chapter. We hope y'all are staying safe and enjoying friends and family and that you were able to get together with family and visit in small groups for Thanksgiving. We have been couped up for so long now that we need to get out and visit with our loved ones. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. We would like to congratulate Aarom Meador and Kristyn Harris on their marriage in October, it was a beautiful ceremony, and the reception was classy and elegant as we would all expect from these two classy Texans! We wish Aarom and Kristyn all the best wishes this holiday season and

a wonderful future together. Thanks to Teresa Bureson, we have created a group Facebook page here for our Texas Chapter members to place their performances and a place to hopefully visit or share their songs and poetry. I would also like to thank Teresa Bureson and Nicole Foley for managing this page. We have talked about doing a virtual performance also, but we are trying to work out the kinks. We will let you know when we get it set up and would be glad to have many of y'all perform with us. It is our hope to see our Country get back to somewhat normal in 2021 with a new vaccine on the horizon. We hope to see this COVID virus be a thing of the past. Let's continue to believe that we will get past this virus and our Country will be strong again. The United States is the best place in the world! The Texas chapter wishes y'all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year that is better to us than 2020. May God Bless the trails you ride! God Bless and Happy Trails!

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Mark Munzert
markmunzert@gmail.com

Vic Anderson was affected by the fires near his home in Estes Park but after evacuating he and Catherine were able to return safely and Vic is once again yodeling from the mountaintop. He is also featured in this issue in the Penned by Lantern Light.

Ron Wilson doesn't sit still much as you can see by the photo of The Corn Maze at his Lazy T Ranch outside of Manhattan, Kansas. You can check-out the goings on at the Historic family ranch in the Flint Hills



Ron Wilson's Corn Maze

(Agritourism & Agritainment public events) at: <https://www.facebook.com/lazytranchadventures>

KC LaCourse pours her passion into her Hearts of the West Video Showcase which can be viewed on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. KC features many IWMA's artists. Sonja Oliver has written a song about our Country, "We Will Stand" and it is a song of patriotism, encouragement and hope. Check out Sonja's YouTube video at: <https://youtu.be/g4Jq-1K5v9E>. A handful of Western Wordsmiths journeyed westward to perform at Songbird Live in Cleburne, TX recently, perhaps in conjunction with the October nuptials of a certain female Entertainer of the Year and her Texan Producer...Congratulations to Kristyn Harris and Aarom Meador. Wordsmiths: Valerie & Floyd Beard, Terry Nash, and Devon Dawson, were just a few of many IWMA-ers attending.



Songbird Live Concert

Austin based wordsmith, accordionist, yodeler, singer, songwriter, Lori Beth Brooke has been busy playing some 'live' gigs and her new Texas Star CD/download yielded Academy of Western Artists Nominations for Western Swing Female; Western Swing Song – Texas Star; Instrumentalist; Western Music Female; and Western Music Album – Texas Star. <https://www.loribethbrooke.com/home>

Tom Swearingen gave a 'leg-up' and supported the IWMA with a 15% contribution of sales from his new book *Reflections* and any of his

Continued on page 40



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



A GAME OF "GOFF"

I'd like to tell you a little about my experiences with the game of goof – er – I mean golf.

It never made much sense to me. Why would a handful of guys walk for miles chasing a little white ball around a plush meadow where they could just as well stand in one place and take turns batting that little ball towards a hole in the ground. Looks to me like a great waste of good pastureland.

And them sticks they bat the ball with—they carry a bunch of them in a big bag. I reckon they must be worried about breaking them so they carry plenty just in case.

Just for a little amusement, I was watching one of them games on my brother-in-law's big screen TV in living color. I'd gone over to his house to visit with him and he was ignoring me and staying glued to that TV. I asked him why he didn't put one of those wild and woolly westerns on and he still ignored me. Kinda like I wasn't there. I decided to just shut up and watch.

It must have been a big event cuz there was hundreds of folks on the sidelines watchin' a few guys play. They was being real quiet until one of those little white balls those guys were battin' fell into one of those holes in the ground. Then the crowd would clap and holler for a while. Then they would follow that fella 'til he got ready to take a big swing at the ball again and everyone would get real quiet.

The camera panned in on a couple of guys that were announcing the deal. One of them whispered to the other, "Look, there's a shih tzu out on the green!" I thought he said "s**t-sue" and was thinkin' that fella needed his mouth washed out the soap like Mama used to do me when I said a bad word. Then the camera focused on this little dog that was trottin' around up and down on the grass out in front of all those people who were watching. There was a lady in the crowd kept hollering but the dog wasn't paying any attention to her. Folks around her were giving her looks with big frowns on their faces and telling her to "shush". Bout that time this fella who was lining up on that ball gave it a little tap with his stick and it started rollin' kinda slow towards that little round hole in the ground. That little dog seen it and made a beeline for it and snatched it up in his mouth just about the time it was to drop into the hole.

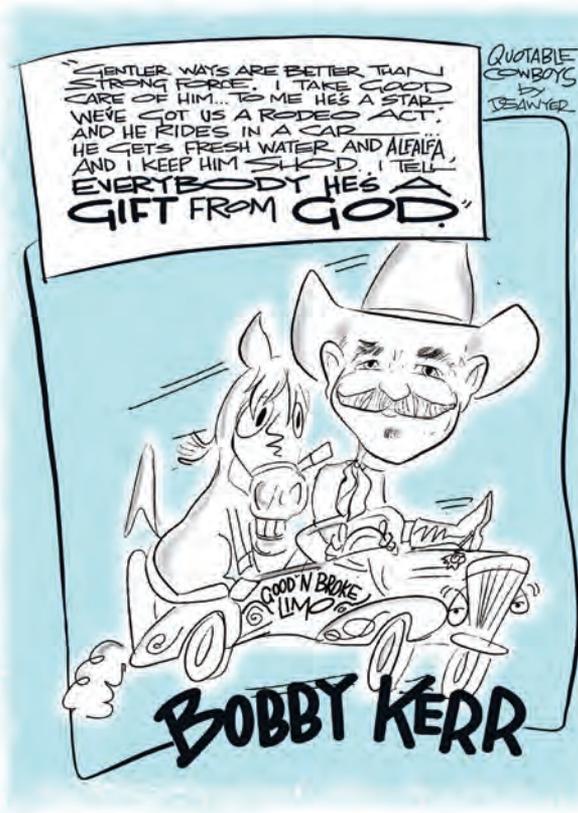
The people watching was gaspin' like they couldn't get any air and the fella with the batting stick was standin' there with his mouth open an unbelieving look on his face. That dog ran around the hole in the ground a couple of times then threw the ball in the air and caught it again in his mouth then walked over and dropped it in the hole. The crowd was oohing and awing and the lady who had been hollering at the little dog ran out and scooped him up in her arms and headed for the gate, her face as red as an apple 'bout to fall from the tree.

The fella with the stick hollered, "Somebody stop that woman!" A guy who must have been some kind of security guard with a patch on his shoulder grabbed her and was holding' on tight to her arm while she was trying to get away.

The player with the batting stick came trotting' up to her and said, "I'll give you a thousand dollars for that dog!" She just nodded her head. He reached in his pocket and pulled out a roll of bills. He counted out ten of them hundreds with a picture of old Ben Franklin on them and handed them to her. He took the dog from her arms and trotted back out to where the hole was, reached down, retrieved the ball and set it down on the grass along with the dog. The dog took one look at it, did a 180 and took off for the gate in search of his mistress.

Everyone was quiet and still. Not a sound could be heard until far off was the slamming of a car door, an engine cranking up and squealin' of tires.

Pretty neat, huh? I kinda enjoyed watchin' my first game of 'goff.' 🐾





A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

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

LIST OF FAVORITE RECORDINGS

Every now and then I run out of ideas for themes, or sub-themes, for my radio show, "Western Music Time." It's a weekly show, available online (and archived) at KKRN.ORG and elsewhere, so after doing it for nearly 20 years, coming up with something "new" can be a challenge. But a few months ago, I asked the audience to give me their lists of favorite Western recordings; not just songs, but specific recordings, and I built a show around that. As it turned out, there were so many different "favorites," I was able to keep the theme going for several weeks! And except for the Top 5, there were enough surprises that I thought you might be interested in reading what was on the minds of the listeners who responded to the informal, unscientific survey.

The first two on the list were no surprise. "Riders in the Sky (A Cowboy Legend)" by **Vaughn Monroe** (1949), was the best-selling Western recording of all time. Earlier, in 1945, Monroe also had a best-seller when he teamed up with the **Sons of the Pioneers** to record "Cool Water," but their joint effort didn't win as many votes in our survey as the Pioneers' recording of that song from the same year, which tied for 1st place in our radio poll.

There was also a tie for second place, between **Eddy Arnold's** "Cattle Call" (1960) and The Sons of the Pioneers' 1946 recording of

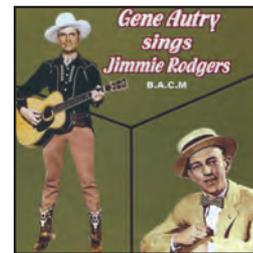
"Tumbling Tumbleweeds." "El Paso" ('59) by **Marty Robbins** came in third.

Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers' 1947 soundtrack recording of "Blue Shadows on the Trail" tied the Pioneers' "Blue Prairie" ('46) for 4th place. There was also a tie for 5th place, between **Don Edwards'** 1992 recording of "I'd Like to be in Texas (When They Roundup in the Spring)" and the relatively obscure "Song of the Rover" by the Sons of the Pioneers, a Bob Nolan composition the Pioneers never recorded commercially but it was issued on a radio transcription in the 1940s.

The Sons of the Pioneers' 1946 record of **Foy Willing's** beautiful composition, "No One to Cry To," co-written with **Sid Robin**, came in 6th. In 1946, **Gene Autry** went back into the Columbia recording studio to re-record a number of his earlier hits in the style his band leader/arranger **Carl Cotner** had been using on Gene's **Melody Ranch** radio show and on his newer Columbia records. The audience wanted to hear the old favorites done in the style they had become accustomed to hearing on the weekly radio show. So did our listeners (and frankly, so do I), and Gene's 1946 recordings of "South of the Border" and "Ridin' Down the Canyon" took 7th and 8th places, followed by "Early Autumn" by **Riders in the Sky** (1994) and "Where the Mountains Meet the Sky" by **Billy Williams** (1940).

SINGS JIMMIE RODGERS

Gene Autry
BACM CD D 665



Initially, music recorded in the 1920s and early 30s was something of an acquired taste for me. But as I heard

more of it, I began to find a few really appealing jazz/swing, country and western records from that era. A couple of those were recorded by Gene Autry. His early work began to catch the attention of the public, once he refined it enough to pass muster in the recording studio, with the help of his pals from Oklahoma, composer Johnny and steel guitarist Frankie Marvin.

Before Gene met the Marvin brothers, he was a big Jimmie Rodgers fan and he wanted desperately to sound like the famous Singing Brakeman. Before long, it became apparent to all that that was neither feasible nor desirable. After all, the music industry already had a Jimmie Rodgers, but they needed a Gene Autry. With the Marvins' coaching, we got a singing cowboy rather than another singing brakeman. The western music world has been grateful ever since!

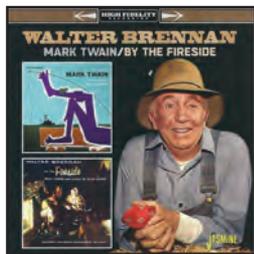
For the most part, this is a collection of Rodgers' compositions recorded between 1929, when Gene was still trying to sound like Jimmie, and 1933, when he was beginning to develop a style of his own. The change in his

"sound" is very evident in Gene's June 1933 session when he recorded two songs about Rodgers. 1933 was a pivotal point for Gene. By that year, he had become a nationally acclaimed country star, but he was also beginning to record more western material, easing into the style that would define him as a cowboy star. Available from the British Archive of Country Music website.



MARK TWAIN/BY THE FIRESIDE

Walter Brennan
JASMCD 3778



It may seem odd to see a review here of a CD recorded by Walter Brennan. He was a well-known actor,

but not a singer. On this 18-track CD comprised largely of material from 2 LPs, instead of singing, he offers some of the kinds of narrations/stories he became famous for, e.g. "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." The musical accompaniment is by Joe Leahy, his orchestra and chorus. On one of the musical tracks, you may hear the deep bass voice of Thurl Ravenscroft in the background, and Thurl is the soloist on "Cottonwood Tree," a song composed by Stan Jones.

Most of the CD comes from 2 LPs, and Stan Jones composed the music on one of them. Some songs will be familiar, but I was not aware of several, so that made this collection particularly interesting. Brennan narrates "The Searchers," "Lillies Grow High," "The Soul o' Big Jack Gunn" and another one or two. A chorus, sometimes with an unidentified male vocalist, sings the rest.

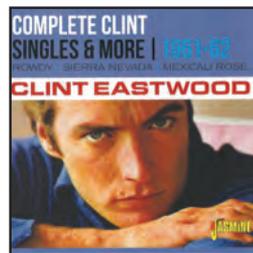
In addition to the CDs' 14 main tracks from 2 LPs (recorded in 1956 and '61), there are 4 "singles" Brennan recorded between 1960 and '62. The first is "Space Mice," a novelty composed by Billy Vaughn, followed

by "The Epic Ride of John Glenn." Brennan had a big hit with his narration, "Old Rivers." That one's missing from this collection, but you'll hear the almost forgotten flip side, "Conversations with a Mule," and the CD closes with "Henry Had a Merry Christmas," a Liberty label release from 1962. Available online or from your favorite source for CDs.



COMPLETE CLINT: SINGLES & MORE - 1961-62

Clint Eastwood



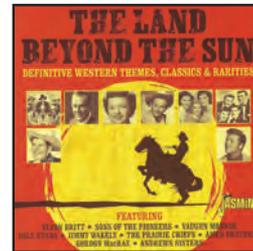
While Clint Eastwood was becoming widely known as one of the stars of the TV series *Rawhide*, he

was approached by a record company with the offer to record his singing voice. He was not a singing cowboy, but his popularity as an actor added weight to the commercial possibilities of the venture. All these years later, the idea still appeals, and we now have this disc of all of Eastwood's recordings.

Ten of the 18 songs are Western, e.g. "Twilight on the Trail," "Sierra Nevada," "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," "New San Antonio Rose," one of which was written about Eastwood's TV character, "Rowdy." In view of his status as a rising TV star at the time, record producers also had him record a number of non-western songs, hoping to appeal to a wider audience than those of us who were enjoying him in his cowboy role. One of those songs, "Are You Satisfied," was co-written by one of his co-stars, Sheb Wooley, with Homer Escamilla. Not Eastwood's best work, but this CD contains everything he ever recorded, so Eastwood fans will surely want to add it to their music collection. Widely available.

THE LAND BEYOND THE SUN - DEFINITIVE WESTERN THEMES, CLASSICS & RARITIES

Elton Britt, Sons of the Pioneers, Dale Evans, The Ames Brothers, Prairie Chiefs, Jimmy Wakely, etc.
JASMCD 3767



This disc, containing 31 tracks, is the second of two theme CDs containing both well-known and

obscure sides. The title of this one implies a religious theme, but, while there are several inspirational tracks, e.g. the Sons of the Pioneers' "How Great Thou Art" and their version of the title song, the contents are diverse.

There are rarities, like Jimmy Wakely's "Sugar Plum Kisses," a very nice Sons of the Pioneers "single" from 1955, "The Three of Us," Gordon MacRae's lovely "Green Acres and Purple Mountains," a couple of other hard-to-find Sons of the Pioneers tracks from the 50s and two relatively rare ones by Vaughn Monroe, "Westward Ho the Wagons!" and "Wriggle, Wriggle."

But in my view, the most interesting thing about this CD is that it contains four western tracks by the Ames Brothers and four by The Prairie Chiefs. The Ames Brothers are well-known as superb 4-part harmony singers, and Ed Ames later became a solo artist and actor, e.g. on the popular "Daniel Boone" TV series. Few details are available on the Prairie Chiefs, but they appear to have been a short-lived studio group that recorded several western tracks, largely TV themes, for RCA Victor in the 50s. They have a nice "sound" and it may be difficult to find other versions of some of the songs they chose to record, e.g. "Tales of Wells Fargo" and "Broken Arrow," so including them on this disc was a welcome decision. Available from your favorite CD dealer.

Continued on page 41



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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.

LORI BETH BROOKE
“Texas Star”



“Star” swing players converge on this release! Carolyn & Dave Martin are present as are Notable Exceptions’

Judy Coder & Jennifer Epps (they’re everywhere-they’re everywhere) and 3 Trails West, for starters!! And Lori Beth Brooke’s sunny voice is the Texas Star that tops the tree.

The instrumentation has beautifully recaptured that vintage combo effect employed by early swing groups along with The Sons Of The Pioneers, Hi Busse & The Frontiersmen and, in more recent decades, by Riders In The Sky.

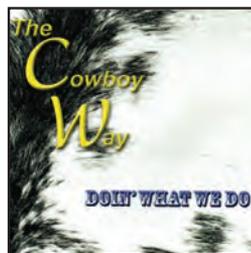
Ten of the tracks are Brooke originals including CD picks “Hang On Cowboy,” title track “Texas Star,” the nod to the Cab Calloway effect “Insomnia Swing,” “Guys Love Chicks Who Yodel” (fact checkers just hush!), “His Song,” “Bride Of The Brazos” (the recently debunked plot of which may have found its start in the novel *The Mayor Of Casterbridge*) and “What Must I Do To Be A Cowgirl.” Infrequently covered covers here include a 1945 chart hit for bandleader Les Brown and his vocalist Doris Day called “My Dreams Are Getting Better All The Time,” cowritten by Vic Mizzy (who later concocted themes for The Addams Family and Green Acres).

Good fun! Fifteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Album \$20 + s/h check or money order from Lori Beth Brooke, PO Box 341403, Austin, TX 78734 or digital download through LoriBethBrooke.com/music.



THE COWBOY WAY
“Doin’ What We Do”



Indeed Messrs. Figgs, Funke & Jones are “Doin’ What They Do” again on their newest CD.

The basic sound, subjects and level of performances will be familiar to anyone aware of The Cowboy Way. This one was recorded “pandemically,” an artist at a time. We’re told they had to scramble to learn the songs for the socially distanced CD release party!!

Firmly in the awarded trio’s mold are originals “A Cowboy Til I Die,” “Still Ridin’,” “That Night In September,” “Shiro’s Song” and “Western State Of Grace” (using words of poet Deanna Dickinson McCall). A couple of novelty covers add to the interest. Bobby Troup’s famous “Route 66” gets a slow bluesy Swing up to bopping Jazz arrangement featuring Kristyn Harris and Hailey Sandoz, and then there’s

“Ghost Riders/Pipeline.” Yep. Its “bridge” spans the surf!

CD picks include a strong cover of Rusty Young’s “Rose Of Cimarron,” the Doug Figgs/Mariam Funke original “We’re All Cowboys” (source of the CD’s title line), a Jim Jones/Funke saga song “The Legend Of El Tigre” with words from poet Floyd Beard and the Jones/Randy Huston admonition “Don’t Say Goodbye To The Cowboy Way.” Hmm. The phrase isn’t uncommon, but have these guys made a special point of working “the cowboy way” into lyric lines? Three times here. Curious reviewers want to know...

Fourteen tracks, recommended.

CD: Available through CowboyWayMusic.com



RICHARD ELLOYAN & STEVE WADE

“Once Upon A Desert Night”



Singer/songwriter Richard Elloyan and guitarist/singer/songwriter Steve Wade employ seven other

fine players to weave the all-acoustic tapestry of this album. The popular duo Notable Exceptions (Judy Coder & Jennifer Epps) adds harmonic color to the title track...an anthem that may well turn up in harmony competitions!

Session musicians include Ben Wilborn (fiddle), Glenn Bushine (bass), Michael Eardley (background strings), Dale Pouné (dobro), Michael Maddan (mandolin), Buddy Emmers (harmonica) and Corky Bennett (accordion).

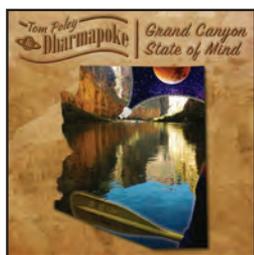
Additional album picks include "Gonna Be A Cowboy" with its jaunty part hoedown part cajun tempo, the tough-toned solo "Goodbye Dixie Valley," the Elloyan & Wade co-write "Saddle Up And Ride," a saga song "Joshua's Wedding Band," "Tank Of Gas" and a nice revisit of "Ordinary Cowboy." And I've never come across a better portrait of the musician's tummy warming refuge than "This Side Of My Guitar."

Overall, it's another worthy entry from one of Western Music's true reliables and his performance partner! Thirteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Available through richardelloyan.net and for download through cdbaby.com

TOM POLEY & DHARMAPOKE

"Grand Canyon State Of Mind"



Here's an Arizona Western band whose packaging seems to have them playing

Cowboys & East Indians! (Sorry...couldn't resist). Consider record label "Blue Bhikku" (referring to Buddhism's "conservative movement" and its inspiration) and their very name "Dharmapoke" (meaning "nature of reality.....poke")! Founder Tom Poley remains a member of the still active trio Way Out West. He just decided to form another acoustic group to stretch in some different directions.

Arizona is the inspiration for the tracks, including the tough-minded contemporary border assessment "Almost America," a Les Buffham/Poley co-write. Poley and Duncan

Stitt report on the late Ed Keylocko and doings in his town in "Blue Dog Saloon," "48" (about the state) and the song "19," the number of Hotshot firefighters taken in a vicious Arizona fire from a few seasons back. A bit of Colorado River balladeer Katy Lee is channeled in "Easy Forward." On "The Banks Of The Santa Cruz" tormented souls...including Jack Kerouac...have found respite. "End Of My Rope" sort of takes the "Sunday Morning Coming Down" idea in the Western way and "The Crew In Coveralls" drills in another direction.

Exploring historic backstories in lyrics can be fraught with peril, but Tom Poley has committed to it, forming a group to underscore the point. The result is a musically satisfying experience. Eight tracks, priced accordingly.

CD: \$10 + \$2 s/h from Blue Bhikku Records, PO Box 41521, Tucson, AZ 85717 or through tompoley.hearnow.com

PRAIRIE MOON

"New Moon"



This release is very aptly named. For The Moons, it's a new CD and a debut CD in that it's their first featuring

all-original material.

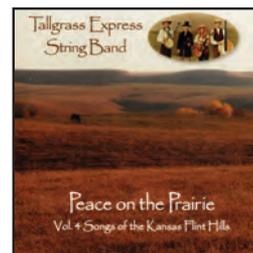
Band members Will Sullivan, David Holcomb and The Callaways (Tim, Michael and Ron) have family lineages in the Western life and music as proven in the album's vintage photos. As if the participation of Texas multi-instrumentalist extraordinaire Milo Deering (with whom I worked on jingle projects in the '70s) weren't enough to seal its artistic success, this CD showcases a fine acoustic band at its finest! There's a very honest, cozy warmth in Prairie Moon's vocal blend. Although they don't seek to imitate the Sons Of The Pioneers, it's some of those same strings of emotion they frequently manage to pluck.

Each of the songs here has merit, but particular high points for me include Tim Callaway's "Hooves Of The Longhorns," Ron Callaway's "Ridin' Along" and "Point 'Em North," Tim & Michael Callaway's "Why A Cowboy Sings" and Will Sullivan's "Hangman's Moon." And to another pick I hereby present the Huff Award for the year's longest song title: "The Ballad Of The Son Of The West As Told By Prairie Moon." (whew!) Twelve tracks, recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$2 s/h through prairiemoon.net or from Will Sullivan, 4637 Sierra Madre, Wichita Falls, TX 76310-2564.

TALLGRASS EXPRESS STRING BAND

"Peace On The Prairie" (Vol 4 – Songs Of The Kansas Flint Hills)



This was initially intended to be part of a double CD set. COVID 19 changed all that. But

Part One of Volume 4 is certainly sufficient to satisfy!

The release finds bandleader/songwriter/singer/guitarist Annie Wilson and Carl Reed (vocals/bass/harmonica) joined by newbies Brent Entz (banjo) and Derrick Doty (fiddle). While Wilson's songs are intended to be Flint Hills-specific, the picks we'll cite could work well for anyone anywhere. Those include her title track "Peace On The Prairie," "Coyote Serenade," "Land Of The Great Osage," "Healing Horizon" (w/ Carl Reed lead vocal) and the kids' song "Rusty The Trusty Lead Steer." Wilson's song "Margie Roberts – Trick Rider" introduces

Continued on page 38

RICK HUFF'S REVIEWS

Continued from page 37

us to yet another of those intrepid ladies from the early 20th Century rodeo circuit. And then there is the first example I've encountered of an invasive plant's genus/species being used in a Western song title...Wilson's "Sericea Lespedeza Blues!!"

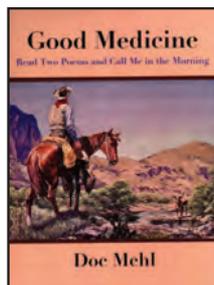
With releases from the Tallgrass Express String Band you can basically count on the level of musicianship to be high and my recommendation of their releases to follow suit! Ten tracks.

CD: \$10 + \$2.80 s/h through tallgrassexpress.com or by calling 620-794-6225 or writing Five Oaks Ranch, 338 Middlecreek Rd., Elmdale, KS 66850.

DOC MEHL

"Good Medicine"

(Book) ISBN 978-1-77-735420-6



Among Indian peoples the word "medicine" carries a special metaphysical importance. In that context the good doctor has indeed brought us "Good Medicine" in this, his first published collection.

Whether Doc Mehl's subject happens to be Cowboy or not, this is a book you'll likely return to again and again. So, despite Doc's subtitle "Read Two Poems and Call Me In The Morning," you may be sorely tempted to overdose! Doc has provided notes on the genesis of each work...an

added bonus since there is consistent originality of perspective here. Try "Closing The Loop," a portrait of natural (if seemingly destructive) progression without intervention, the observant sophistication of "The Mother," the intertwining pattern of "The Braided Country Road" and the new spin on "The Bearded Buffalo." Then there's the gut punch climax of "The Invitation," amazing storytelling in pieces like "The Old Man's Dynamite," "Fording The Platte," "The Train Back To New Orleans," the complex tear maker "I Am Your Horse," "The Music Box," "Heading Out" and others.

You'll find brilliance in these pages. And I'm not saying that because Doc saw fit to quote another review of mine in his bio! Ninety-five poems on 206 pages, very highly recommended.

BOOK: \$20 + \$5 s/h from DocMehl.com or email aldocmehl@gmail.com 🐾

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CLASSIC REVIEWS

SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

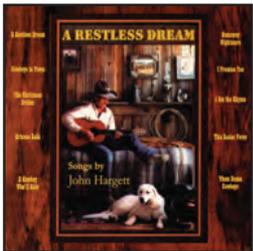
(Recordings From Our Great Western Treasury That Deserve a New Spin)

BY RICK HUFF

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

JOHN HARGETT

A Restless Dream (1998)



Original songs featuring the powerful bass-baritone voice of Arizona cowboy John Hargett

suddenly blazed across the Western Music playlists of Europe and Australia even as people were just discovering him here. Hargett had a knack for creating engaging, frisky songs like "A Restless Dream," "Cowboys In Town," "A Cowboy Who'll Ride," "This Rodeo Fever," and "Them Damn Cowboys!" Tracks from this cleverly executed Big West-style album still find their way onto Western Music shows to this day. Arranged and produced by Billy Williams (who provided guitar support as well), with Ron Livingston on keyboards and backup vocals and Rich Hightower on steel guitar.

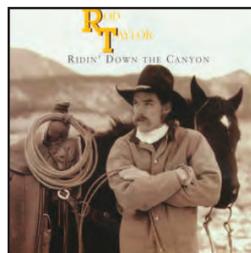
John Hargett was known as a true Western gentleman who forged his own way quite apart from the WMA. We lost him, too soon, in 2015 at the

age of 61. His recorded output was not extensive, but if you encounter a reputable aftermarket or download source for his releases...particularly this album "A Restless Dream"...with no second thoughts my advice is to get it. You won't regret it.



ROD TAYLOR

Ridin' Down The Canyon (1990)



I selected Rod Taylor's album for this group not only because of its high level of performance and produc-

tion values, but also...for what it's worth...because this release happened to be pivotal in the development of my own "career" in Western Music! And revisiting it now helps me remember how important that first contact with our genre can be for an individual.

I discovered the Rod Taylor cassette in the gift shop of the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico (Taylor was for thirty years Head Cowboy there) and bought it out of curiosity. I was already promoting classic Western and Western-in-Country music with my mentor WMA Hall Of Famer Hi Busse, but this was something new to me. Through this recording, I discovered that new Western Music was being made (such as Tish Hinojosa's "In The Real West"), and that Western could come from unexpected sources (Mama's & Papas co-founder John Philips' outlaw saga song "Me & My Uncle"). It was here that I discovered the first of 700,000 covers of Michael Burton's "Night Riders' Lament" I would eventually encounter, and the nearly as often recorded gem "Old Double Diamond" from Gary McMahan, not to mention "Border Affair" and the swinger "Milk Cow Blues!"

The collection still holds up beautifully, executed with perfect mellow honesty and thoughtful, elegant production. When we last checked in, Rod Taylor was still performing both as a solo and with the Northern New Mexico/Southern Colorado band, The Rifters. 🐾

Chapter Update

Continued from page 32

CDs for the month of November. Tom reminds that the Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Contest is up and running and taking entries through their website IWMAcolumbia.org. Tom asks that we encourage young people grades 3-12 that you know from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia to enter.

Terry Nash reported "The Western Slope Cowboy Gathering has postponed itself plumb out of 2020. We are planning our gathering for the first weekend of November, 2021. All the performers who were invited for 2020 will be asked to come to our stage November 5-6, 2021. See y'all next year."

Condolences Expounded to Susie Knight. Dave Knight (71) died peacefully in his home in Conifer, Colorado on the morning of Tuesday, October 13, 2020 with his Susie by his side. Dave succumbed to Acute Myeloid Leukemia which he valiantly fought for over eight months. David was a great supporter, not only of Susie talents, but those of our combined genres. He will be missed by many.

Deanna Dickinson with Gay Gardella recently released *Cowboy Cuisine: Beyond Biscuits & Beans*. Coming soon to a bookstore near you just in time for gift-giving. Check out the Facebook page: *Cowboy Cuisine: Beyond Biscuits & Beans*



Songbird Live Concert 2020 West End Cowboy Gathering Pictured: L-R Dale Page, Dennis Russell, Floyd Beard, Valerie Beard, and Terry Nash joined by Beverly, Peggy, and Jeneve Rose Mitchell.

Kathy Moss set a goal to write 50K words in 30 days. She came up for air long enough for a Thanksgiving Day Facebook live performance on Equestrian Legacy Radio.

Sherl Cederburg has been performing poetry by Zoom weekly for an Assisted Living facility in Colorado. (Sherl lives in South Dakota.) This is a very difficult time for the residents, and they feel forgotten. She enjoys brightening their day. Sherl also performed live for the "We the People, We the Poets" event at the Hot Springs SD library. The poets came from varied backgrounds and many different genres were showcased.



Danny McCurry at the Greenwood County KS 93rd annual banquet.

Danny McCurry lit the fuse for the Greenwood County KS 93rd annual banquet held in the heart of the Flint Hills, Cowboy Country! Mark Munzert reports he has had just six performance opportunities since March but has been slowly adding to his repertoire of poetic parlance and is headed back to the recording studio for a new CD project. The Western Wordsmiths wish you a happy and healthy Holiday Season!

WYOMING CHAPTER

President: John Sidle
johnsidle@gmail.com

Even though Ramblin' Rangers Brad & Bonnie Exton haven't had many live performances in 2020, their new CD, "One More River To Cross" has gotten good radio play during the last few months. They would like to thank the DJs that continue to play their music, and also, a big thank you to all of the great entertainers that have provided concerts on Zoom and Facebook. In the meantime, the Rangers are working on two EP projects of self-penned songs that they hope to have out in 2021 or early 2022. John Sidle played a Cowboy mini-set at the Jackson Hole Hootenanny's annual get together in November, one of his few recent performances. Rather than forego this annual live event, the JH Center



John Sidle on stage.

for the Arts pared down its usual five hundred seat audience to a handful and streamed it live. Having participated in virtual Hoots for several months, John is organizing a virtual Wyoming Chapter meeting on Zoom that will give us a chance to kibbitz and swap a few tunes! Kimberly Kaye reports on a project she is presenting to museums and other such venues, hoping to keep the West alive. She presents "A Magnificent Music Story" unveiling the world of traditional/old time country music highlighting important historical aspects and insights from 1926 to 1981. Through story and song, Kimberly takes you on a journey through mountain, hillbilly, western, cowboy, and country music. She is a funny gal on stage and off and will have you in stitches as she includes her own stories of yesteryear. She plays banjo, mandolin, and guitar! Learn more at <http://www.powerpresskits.com/PPKs/indexC.aspx?PPK=17803> Like the rest of us, "Buffalo Bill" Boycott & Joanne Orr have for the most part been sidelined, although they were featured at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon. They will be singing their Holiday Roundup show this month. This year has given new meaning to that old phrase "Who was that masked man?" The answer, "Why stranger, that was the Lone Arranger (of Cowboy songs!)"

YOUTH CHAPTER

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

Belonging to the IWMA Youth Chapter is a wonderful opportunity for young western music and poetry performers, supporters and potential artists from all over the country (and beyond) to meet new friends, get to

Continued on page 47

MUSIC

Priceless Therapy

BY RAY KRAFT

" . . . bring a tear . . . " / Cowboy in His Heart

I see music, all music, as a form of hypnosis, a form of psychotherapy...good therapy, bad therapy...music is philosophy... music is a teacher...music gets us and keeps us in touch with our innermost emotions, feelings, dreams, disappointments, sorrows and joys... if it doesn't do that it fails as music.

The best music is timeless...my first witness, La Paloma...written in 1850...it always feels fresh and new...

Good music puts us more in touch with ourselves. Good music makes us think more and feel more. Understand more. Know more.

Good music is more than just entertainment. Good music is enlightenment.

Music is as necessary to our souls as food, and water, and air... can we imagine a world without music? What a dismal place that would be!

There's a good book about this that enlightened me a lot, *The World In Six Songs*, (available on Amazon®) about how music created Civilization...it's not an amusement... it's who we are...us humans learned to sing (we learned from the birds, the wolves, the coyotes) before we learned how to speak in languages and words.

Western music, I think more than any other, helps to keep us connected to the natural world from which we came, the land, the plants, the animals, the work, the seasons and weather...the human bonds that keep us alive...

Music keeps us sane. Music reminds us that we aren't the stuff we own, we are the dreams we dream.

A little about Ray Kraft: I've been out of all the loops for 20+ years so most of the people in the IWMA now have never heard of me, but that's okay. I wrote "Silver Spurs," a lot of people assume Jack Hannah wrote it, he heard me do it at open mic in Elko in January 1990, just after I wrote it, he liked it, I sent him the words and the Sons of the San Joaquin did it every concert for 25 years.

I've been driving truck for 20+ years, not much time for anything else, plan to retire in 2023 and sail away to Santa Fe and "come out" of the closet as a cowboy jazz singer-songwriter-poet, my new career. I'll be taking the stage name Tom Pain, it's a bit more "punchy." Chose it for all the same reasons that Leonard Slye became Roy Rogers, and, it gives a quiet nod to Thomas Paine, the philosopher of the American Revolution (Common Sense, The Rights of Man).

O.J. SIKES REVIEWS

Continued from page 35

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!: DEFINITIVE WESTERN THEMES, CLASSIC & RARITIES

Sons of the Pioneers, Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, The Andrews Sisters, Tex Ritter, etc.

JASMCD 3766



This is the first in a series of "Definitive Western Themes..." CDs featuring both classic recordings and

rare ones you may not have heard, like Gordon MacRae's "The Prairie is Still," "Lock, Stock, and Barrell" by Dale Evans, Tex Ritter's "The Last Wagon," along with classics like "Happy Trails" and "Home in Oklahoma." There are 29 tracks and for me, the most interesting are the rare ones.

These include "My Secret Wish" and "Lonesome" by the Sons of the Pioneers, and two Western swing tracks recorded by Patti Page with Al Clauser's band in 1944 when she was still in high school, years before she landed a contract with Mercury Records. The Andrews Sisters are featured on tracks with Bing Crosby ("Go West, Young Man") and Dick Haymes (including "Mule Train" and "Riders in the Sky") and the sisters sing a rare novelty tune the Pioneers had recorded in 1941, "My Love Went Without Water." Haymes solos on "Home," beautifully done.

Although Dale Evans often sang songs that didn't do her voice justice, on this CD she offers a lovely rendition of a rare one titled "Last Night My Heart Crossed the Ocean." Her favorite Western singers, the Sons of the Pioneers, recorded several film and TV themes that are included on this disc, the hardest-to-find probably being "The Last Frontier" from 1955. Available from your favorite online source. 🐾

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews



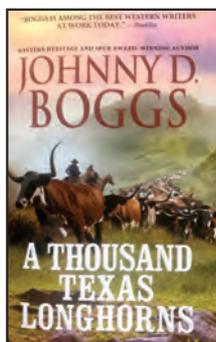
Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

For authors who love and respect the history of the American West, research plays a vital role in writing fiction and nonfiction. The authors of the books reviewed in this month's column are excellent examples of writers who do their homework -- delving into memoirs, military records, oral histories, accounts in vintage newspapers, reports to Congress, etc, -- but who are also not afraid to do road work. For his novel based on Nelson Story's 1866 cattle drive from Texas to Montana, Johnny D. Boggs drove the route most historians believe Story used to get his herd to Virginia City, Montana. W. Michael Farmer resides now in Smithfield, Virginia, but he lived for nearly 15 years in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and he returned to the Southwest to do on-the-ground research for his nonfiction book about the 23 years that Apache warrior, Geronimo, lived in captivity.

JOHNNY D. BOGGS

"A Thousand Texas Longhorns"



Boggs, a former newspaperman, writes both nonfiction and fiction but it is his fiction that has won him a record eight Spur Awards, presented by the Western

Writers of America for excellence in writing about the American West. The runner-up to Boggs in the Spur-collecting department is the late and highly esteemed Elmer Kelton, author of novels such as "The Time It Never Rained" and "The Day the Cowboys Quit." Kelton won seven Spurs.

Earlier this year, the WWA presented Boggs the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature, an honor that also earned Boggs a place in the WWA Hall of Fame along with the likes of

Kelton; Zane Grey; Louis L'Amour; Tony Hillerman; Max Evans; Dorothy M. Johnson, who wrote the story "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance"; and "Shane" author Jack Schaefer, among others.

Boggs has written more than 60 books, but he is still in his 50s, so you can bet he's not done with lifetime achievements. He is not afraid to tackle unconventional Westerns, the narrator of Boggs' 2002 Spur-winning short story "A Piano at Dead Man's Crossing" is an upright piano. I'm not kidding. And his Spur-winning 2006 novel "Camp Ford" is about a baseball game between Union prisoners and their Confederate guards at a Civil War prison camp in Texas.

However, "A Thousand Texas Longhorns," as distinctive as it is due to Boggs' diligent research and creative ability, is about as conventional in theme and action as westerns get. That's a good thing because it means we get a fast-moving tale of cowboys,

cattle, shootouts with Indians and rustlers, rain-swollen rivers and rattlesnakes along with rich details from life in the American West in the middle of the 19th Century.

Boggs' colorful cast of characters include such real-life figures as hard case businessman and fledgling cattleman Nelson Story and his wife, Ellen, as well as fictional creations such as Mason Boone, who deserts a lost cause to go looking for an even chance, and cattle-drive cook Jose Pablo Tsoyio, whose cooking can be as deadly as his stiletto. Boggs does an admirable job braiding separate stories into a stout line that pulls along the main plot, Story's single-minded determination in 1866 to get a mixed herd of a thousand Texas cattle to Virginia City, Montana, where he has left his pregnant wife.

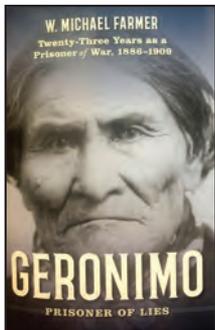
The novel shifts most often between Ellen Story's experiences in Virginia City and wherever her husband's herd happens to be on the trail. Perhaps Boggs' biggest challenge is to inject

some humanity into Nelson Story, whom, Boggs informs us in an author's note, "could be a downright nasty man." But, during the course of this engaging novel, Boggs manages even that.

“A Thousand Texas Longhorns,”
9780786046218; paperback, 512
pages; \$8.99; Kensington
Publishing; available at
kensingtonbooks.com, Amazon,
Target, Barnes & Noble and other
bookstores.)

W. MICHAEL FARMER

“Geronimo: Prisoner of Lies”



Farmer is a retired Ph.D physicist but his passion is the frontier history and stories of the American Southwest. Like Boggs, he is a writer of both

fiction and nonfiction. Farmer's "Hombrecito's War" was a WWA Spur finalist for best first novel in 2006 and subsequent novels have been honored with Will Rogers Medallion Awards and New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. His 2018 nonfiction work "Apacheria: True Stories of Apache Culture 1860-1920," was recognized as New Mexico book of the year during the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards dinner.

"Geronimo: Prisoner of Lies," like "Apacheria" is a collection of history essays by Farmer. It covers the years from 1886 when Apache war leader Geronimo and his small band surrendered to U.S. General Nelson Miles, until 1909 when Geronimo, still a prisoner of war, died at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. The book draws its subtitle from the fact that most of the

promises Miles made to Geronimo during surrender negotiations were lies. Or at least they were promises not lived up to.

Farmer divides his book into four sections. The essays in the first part deal with the factors leading up to Geronimo's surrender to Miles and the people, such as Army Lt. Charles B. Gatewood, white interpreter George Wratten and Apache scouts Kayihtah and Martine, who risked their lives to convince Geronimo to talk terms.

Part two is about the imprisonment of Chiricahua Apaches at Fort Pickens in Pensacola, Florida, and at Fort Marion in Saint Augustine, Florida, and the Apache children who were sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania.

The third part deals with the Chiricahuas' time as prisoners at Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama, and the final section is about their years as captives at Fort Sill and Geronimo's death.

Details about people such as Gatewood, denied by Army politics of the honor that was his due, and the brave Apache warrior Fun, who took his own life while at Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama, make for fascinating reading.

But, of course, Geronimo is the main player in these essays. Farmer paints a picture of Geronimo as a man fighting to hold on to some of the power he had known as a warrior during his declining years as a prisoner, but also as a man who loved his family as much as he hated the Americans and Mexicans he battled with hard-eyed ferocity. In fact, the love of family shared by all the Chiricahuas shines through in this book. It is perhaps the only thing that made them fall for the lies of their enemy.

“Geronimo: Prisoner of Lies,”
9781493042005; hardback, 220
pages; \$26.95; TwoDot; available at
Amazon, Target, Barnes & Noble and
other bookstores.) 🐾



MAILBAG

Just got and thumbed through the new WW. I like how you have made this a magazine that helps keep folks connected. Really nice issue, and the cover and feature with Susie were perfectly timed. What better person to bring us all a huge smile?

~ J. Fisher, TN

I really enjoyed the latest issue of *Western Way*... Especially O.J.'s Reviews. I was really impressed with the article on Charles Starrett. Keep up the good work!

~ J. Sharp, TN

I just set down the Fall Issue of *Western Way* and feel better for it. The word from our President, Editor and Executive Director is cowboy up, each of us need to find our way through this pandemic and the resulting shutdown. I am relieved that Marvin and Theresa have gotten through their ordeal with the Corona virus. The featured performer honored In the Crosshairs is our own Susie Knight. Having just learned that her dear husband David has died following a long fight against leukemia, I am hoping this honor will provide her a bit of solace... The other featured article is from Syd Masters, Guitars For Vets (G4V) providing instruments and how to play them for veterans. The healing power of music is proven here. How good it is to find out what is happening with all our chapters across the country and the performers there... [the] *Western Way* joins us together. O.J. Sikes and Rick Huff offer reviews of new material from our members and the old classics. I will be tracking down that Merle Travis Singles Collection! Lastly, in Jim Wilson's Tales of the West, he puts forth a question to all of us with a discussion about who gets credit for the first rodeo. Is it Pecos, Texas in 1883 or Prescott Arizona in 1888? Ahem, the first rodeo was in Deer Trail, Colorado on Independence Day in 1869. Well Jim, you did ask!

~ R. Rideout, CO

The Fall issue arrived last week. I had been looking forward to receiving it as I was aware that Susie Knight was the 'cover girl'. Susie was in the audience when I first took to the open mic stage to read a few poems I had written, and she was very encouraging. Nancy Flagg's Crosshair feature was beautifully written, and I hope that the presentation will be used in future rather than the 'interview' format. Like you [Theresa] and Marvin, I also have good memories of Ray Amerine. I first met him at Albuquerque in 2006 and he was so welcoming. We subsequently corresponded for a number of years and he often illustrated his letters with little cartoons of his ranch and farm work. Last but not least, it was good to hear that you and Marvin survived your brush with Covid-19.

Best wishes,
~ C. Thursby, UK

I hope you don't mind if I briefly express my personal perspective on the subject of 'youth' verses 'not-so-young'. My concern for the IWMA (and for a couple of other organizations where I am a member) at this juncture is that they are still being mostly run by the founding generation. I can't imagine the amount of work and energy (mental and otherwise) that is required from the few of you who do most of the work just to keep the ball rolling. I heartily thank you and your team for enduring and excelling in what you do!! It seems there is a middle generation (from fortyish to fiftyish) who aren't much on board like us older folks and some sharp up and coming youth. I sure hope a few more from that middle generation will step up and take an active role. I don't suppose there is a way to reach out to them specifically.

~ M. Coy, NM

Can you complete the title of these Western Classic Songs?

By David Veal

1. Back in the _____ again | 2. Call of the _____ | 3. Cool _____ | 4. Down _____ Way
 5. Don't _____ me in | 6. Yellow Rose of _____ | 7. El Rancho _____ | 8. Goodnight _____
 9. Home on the _____ | 10. I'm an Old _____

.....
 Choices

- A. Canyon B. Grande C. Irene D. Cowhand E. Water F. Mexico G. Fence H. Saddle I. Range J. Texas

1. H, 2. A, 3. E, 4. F, 5. G, 6. J, 7. B, 8. C, 9. I, 10. D
 Western Song Answers

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

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

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
2. California Skies – Don Burnham
3. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
4. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
5. Rockets, Romance, and the Rhythm of the Road – The Cornell Hurd Band
6. Bye Bye Blues – Susie Blue
7. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
8. Texas Bound – Bret Raper
9. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
10. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. They Come Prancin' – A.K. Moss
2. Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg
3. Language of the Land – Tom Swearingen
4. Snow on the Sage – Marleen Bussma
5. The Truth – A.K. Moss
6. Short Grass Country – Floyd Beard
7. Day Workin' – Mark Munzert
8. Various Artists – Masters, Vol. 3
9. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
- Various Artists – Masters, Vol. 2

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJs

1. Cows Around – Kristyn Harris
Point 'Em North – Prairie Moon
3. Insomnia Swing – Lori Beth Brooke
4. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
5. A Cowboy Til I Die – The Cowboy Way
Jingle Bob Music – Abby Payne
7. Guys Love Chicks Who Yodel – Lori Beth Brooke
8. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
Rose of Cimarron – The Cowboy Way
Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
Hooves of the Longhorns – Prairie Moon

***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
jangedj@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

Jim Farrell

"Full Gallop"
PO Box 444
Towanda, KS 67144
Email: TJimFullGallop@gmail.com
Phone: 316-536-6007

Doug Figgs

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

Nancy Flagg

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

KWC Ameriana Radio Station

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

Paul Hazell

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

Randy Hill

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

Gary Holt

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

Judy James

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

Jarle Kvale

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

Eddy Leverett

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

Butch and Christina Martin

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

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

Bob O'Donnell

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

O.J. Sikes

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

Totsie Slover*"Real West From The Old West"*

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

JJ Steele*"JJ's Cowboy Corral"*

KLZR
 103 S. 2nd St., Westcliffe, CO 81252
 Email: bonerpoteet@aol.com
 (Does not use mp3s)

Tommy Tucker*"Snake River Radio Roundup"*

93.1 FM/1350 AM KRLC Radio
 (Does Not Use MP3s)
 805 Stewart Ave.
 Lewiston, ID. 83501
 208-743-1551
 tommy@idavend.com
"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

Wayne & Kathy*"Swing 'n' Country"*

KBOO 90.7 FM
 20 SE 8th Ave., Portland, OR 97214
 wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net

Chapter Update

Continued from page 40

know and learn from each other and enjoy performing together. Every year at the IWMA convention I try to encourage state chapters to invest in their local young people and help grow the IWMA (and ultimately secure its future) by:

- Developing their own youth programs
- Designating a chapter Youth Liaison to share with me their local youth activities and opportunities
- Providing opportunities for young performers to take a stage at local western music and poetry festivals (or on livestream)
- Offering workshops, camps or mentorship programs to help young people establish and improve their performance skills

The expectation would be to have local youth performers and others who are interested, join the IWMA Youth Chapter and continue to build a solid IWMA youth program, chapter and future.

Some examples are: thanks to Tom Swearingen and the Columbia Chapter, we already know they have launched an annual Youth Poetry Contest to engage young people, from the states they represent, in cowboy poetry and performance. In New Mexico, Youth Chapter members Kacey and Jenna Thunborg, with the help of their mom and members of the New Mexico Chapter, are exploring ideas on how to develop a collaborative outreach effort to the youth of New Mexico (and potentially beyond) with the goal of introducing, encouraging and supporting an interest in Western Music. Their brainstorm sessions include, but are not limited to, setting up a gathering with the youth via Zoom or other remote platform for performance, education and learning opportunities. Anyone interested in more information or offering assistance with this effort can send an email to: kaceyandjennamusic@gmail.com.



Maria McArthur wins AZ State Fiddle Championship.

In other Youth Chapter news, congratulations to Maria McArthur (AZ), long time Youth Chapter member, for winning the Arizona Fiddle State Championship as Grand Champion and in the Twin Fiddlers and Young Adult Divisions last September. This honor enables her to go on to the National Fiddle Championships in Weiser, ID in June 2021. We are so proud of Maria and her many accomplishments and contributions to the IWMA and Youth Chapter as a young performer! 🐾

IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

Nolan Bruce Allen	Grand Island, NY	Mike Mahaney	Burbank, CA
Rex Allen, Jr.	Nashville, TN	Michael P. McAleenan	Madison, MS
Cindy Argyle	Hooper, UT	Janet McBride	Rockwall, TX
Cowboy Joe Babcock	Franklin, TN	Steven "Mac" McCartney	Aurora, CO
Troy Bateson	Vilonia, AR	Tracy McHenry	Tucson, AZ
Floyd Beard	Kim, CO	Gary McMahan	Bellvue, CO
George & Doris Bensmiller	Armstrong, BC Canada	Al "Doc" Mehl	Black Diamond, AB, Canada
Diane Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Tree Menace	Taos, NM
John Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Jon Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Carol Bobroff	San Diego, CA	Kathy Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Sherry Bond	Nashville, TN	Joseph Miskulin	Kirtland, OH
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Ken Bucy	Apache Junction, AZ	Marvin O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Stephen S. Burnette	Brownsville, TN	Theresa O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Mae Camp	Tucson, AZ	Darren Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Robert Maxwell Case	Slick, OK	Sara Lou Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Susan Booth Case	Slick, OK	Billy Pitts	Kansas City, MO
Tom Chambers	Tucson, AZ	Pamela Plaskitt	Waterloo, IA
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Patty Clayton	Edgewater, CO	Debbie Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Karen Cloutier	Conyngham, PA	Jeff Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Peggy Collins	Cordova, TN	Diana Raven	Lakewood, CO
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Jan Michael Corey	Mesa, AZ	Victoria Rhodes	Foosland, IL
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Rich Dollarhide	Chino Valley, AZ	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
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Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Lori Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Fred Engel	Kimball Junction, UT	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
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Val Geissler	Cody, WY	Rudolf P. Schai	Bernhardzell, Switzerland
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Betsy Bell Hagar	Mill Valley, CA	Cowboy Jerry Sooter	Apple Valley, CA
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Lisa Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Terri Taylor	Roy, UT
RW Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Ed Terry	Merritt, NC
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Voleta Hummel	Valencia, CA	Harvey Walker	Anaheim, CA
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