

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the Western Music Association



In the Crosshairs

# JEAN PRESCOTT

Songbird of the Prairie  
"If she yodels, I'm in love!"

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Celebrating 90 Years  
WMA's Own First Lady,  
Marilyn Tuttle

PAGE 18



2015 WMA  
HALL OF FAME

PAGE 19

Country Music  
Legend/Western  
Music's Friend

Lynn Anderson  
Remembered

PAGE 10



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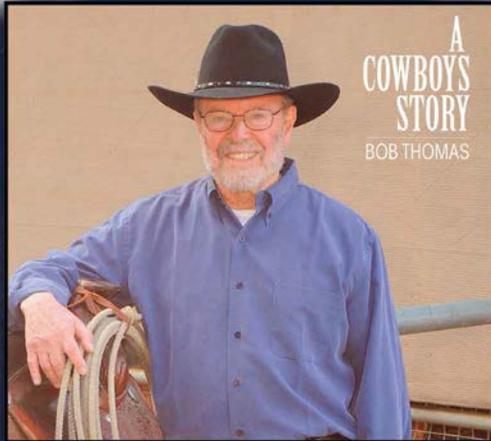
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## From The President...



**Steve Taylor**  
WMA President

Howdy Folks:

As we are closing in on the Convention, November 11th-15th in Albuquerque, I am reflecting on the behind the scenes involvement that all of you as members and participants never see take place. I will not list all the prep activities because I will leave someone out and then be I would be in trouble.

Let me suggest, though, as you go around the convention this year, look at the week through a different set of eyes. Think about the effort that is put into the displays, mercantile, CD sales, the Chapter tables and the vendors that are coming in and everything that is visible. Think about the organizing of all the events and music. Now go

behind the scenes in your mind and try to envision the process that it takes to get to this week. The convention is the culmination of an entire year of effort.

All that I can say as your President is a great big "THANK YOU" to all involved for the whole effort.

To your Board of Directors, also a hardy "THANK YOU" for your dedication and commitment.

To Marsha Short, our Executive Director and Convention coordinator, "THANK YOU" for the day-to-day operations and the endless effort that you contribute.

Hope to see you in Albuquerque! 

Steve Taylor, President  
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Texas ranch wife, mother and grandmother, award-winning songwriter and performer... Jean Prescott is the authentic western package.

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

## Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell

In my rather moderately long life, I have watched performers in many genres come on to the scene and fade off again. Many have won awards and sold lots of products. I've watched as they've made their millions (not in Western music, of course!) and lost it to careless lifestyles and bad

## Some Say...

Some say it's about the lyrics; some, it's about the rhyme. Some say it's about the organization; some, about the mission. Some say it's about the number of gigs; some, about the locations. Some say it's about the professional performance; some, about just getting on stage. Some say it's about the fee; some, just give the show away. Some say it's about the awards; some, it's the memories.

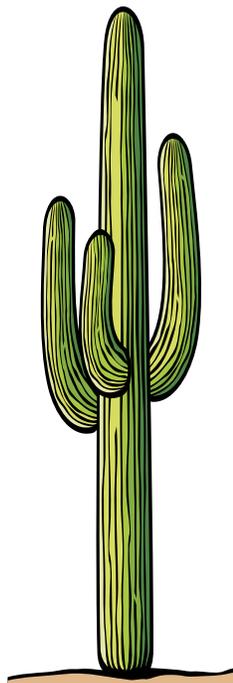
choices. I've watched their popularity come and then go as soon as the next flash hit the pan! I've watched as the cute, beautiful or dashing handsome have aged and though they may still have talent, they've lost their appeal. It's the cycle and it's alive and well in the western music genre, too.

Rethink it. Why is it, again, that you do what you do? Is the prize worth the price? Some say..., well, what do YOU say? 

For all things western,  
Theresa



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## From The Executive Director...



**Marsha Short**  
Executive Director

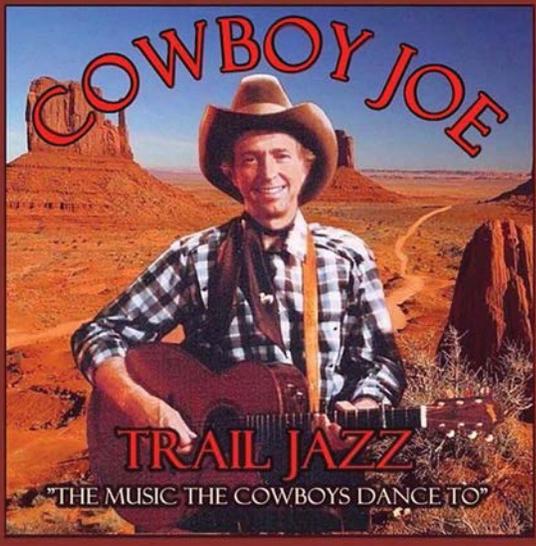
All families are different.... some traditional, some dysfunctional, some just barely holding on. We don't know what each person's family is going through on a daily basis. But the WMA family is one that we all share in common.

This has been an up and down year for our family. We've lost some long-time members and others are battling illness or injuries. Others have had new babies, awards and accolades. The WMA family has reached out to each other through the good and bad times. There have been tears, laughter, hugs and prayers. And that's what family is all about.

A lot has been said through social media about how much people who have passed have meant to us. And it's made me wonder: did those people know that they made a difference? Did anyone tell them how much a handshake or a few minutes of their time meant? Make a point today to tell someone what they mean to you. Call someone just to say "hi, I'm glad you're my friend." Drop a note into the mail just to say "I thought

about you today." Sometimes just an unexpected kind word can change someone's day.

It's time for the WMA family to get together again for our Annual Convention. Does everyone get to perform in a showcase or night show? Does everyone get an award? Certainly not....but everyone has the chance to spend some time with our extended family to catch up on what's happening, hear some great music and poetry, laugh together (cry together) and celebrate just BEING together. All performers have donated their time and talent to make this year's Convention truly memorable. Mail in your registration form today and make plans to join the family in Albuquerque! 



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# In the CROSSHAIRS

## Jean Prescott



Photo courtesy Jess Shockey.

*Jean was born, raised and lives in Texas. The recipient of the American Cowboy Culture Award for Western Music as well as many other awards, and she shares her love of the western lifestyle and its traditions through songs about the real west of yesterday and today. With twelve CDs to her credit, her songs are sometimes described as Western Americana. She covers cowboy and western, gospel, western swing and patriotic genres with her vast discography of songs. It has been said that Jean Prescott belongs to the land and its people and upholds the heritage, traditions and values of the western lifestyle. And, for twenty five years she has entertained folks from the concert stage, around campfires and in churches to intimate living room concerts all across the country. With a voice and a heart as big as Texas her songs are sure to go straight to the heart and her music is always toe-tapping good!*

**The Western Way:** We're very pleased, Jean, that you would take time to sit down and answer some questions for our readers. Can you tell us, first of all, how long you've been performing western music?

Jean Prescott: *(Smile)* First, let me say that I am honored and excited to sit down and visit with you about cowboy and western music and how it has impacted my life and taken me on the ride of a lifetime! I have wonderful memories of my grandfather in his easy chair and me sitting in his lap singing along with his radio with Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Frankie Lane. Then, as a teenager I would practice songs like "Red River Valley" while learning to play the guitar. Then, I would play and sing along with songs on the radio sung by Loretta Lynn, Merle Haggard, Marty Robbins and other country/western singers. In 1989, I attended my first cowboy poetry gathering in Alpine, TX, and by 1991 I was playing and singing at cowboy poetry gatherings. Then, in 1993 at the encouragement of my then fiancée Gary Prescott, I began seriously focusing on my singing career, performing full-time and I have never looked back!

**TWW:** And how much writing have you done?

JP: *(Laugh)* Oh, my goodness, that question might be hard to answer. I do know that the first song I ever co-wrote was "Shootin' the Gap," written with my husband Gary. The first song I wrote on my own is about my dad, called "Just Doing What Was Right." However, I have 59 songs registered with BMI and a whole notebook of others that are not registered, yet. It has also been such a blessing to co-write with so many great writers and as many folks know, one of those writers is Yvonne Hollenbeck. We have such a great time writing together and have even won two WMA awards for our songs. I have also co-written songs with other amazing writers, including Doris Daley, Joyce Woodson, Jim Wilson, Randy Huston, Deanna McCall, Les Buffham, Chris Isaacs, Darrell Arnold and, of course my husband, Gary Prescott.

**TWW:** What got you started in western music?

JP: You know, I always loved ballad songs like those of Johnny Horton and Marty Robbins as well as the beautiful harmony songs of the Sons of the Pioneers and Roy Rogers. And, I played in country and western bands for many years. However, in 1989 when I walked into my first session of cowboy songs in Alpine, it was like coming home. I heard the



Photo courtesy Roxy Jordet.

ballads and songs about the way of life I loved and my heart said, "Those are the songs I want to sing!" Then, in 1990, I met Buck Ramsey who invited me to jam at the West Texas Rehab Chuck Wagon during the Stamford Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo, and I was hooked. It's pretty much all Buck's fault. *(Chuckle)*

**TWW:** Were you especially inspired or influenced by anyone in particular?

JP: As I look back, I realize that Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Patsy Montana planted the seeds of western music way back in my childhood. I learned to yodel while washing dishes and singing along with Patsy Montana on the radio. Then, during my country music years, those ballad songs by Emmy

Lou Harris, Marty Robbins, Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard were my favorites. But, those who inspired and influenced my style of cowboy music were Buck Ramsey, Red Steagall and Don Edwards. They were singing about real working cowboys and their experiences, and I just couldn't get enough of their songs! Several years ago someone called me the female version of Don Edwards. *(Laugh)* That's quite a statement and I'm not sure about it, but it did make me feel like I might be headed in the right direction.

**TWW:** Now, you and your husband, Gary, are both entertainers. Do you do more shows together or as solo acts.

JP: During the years he was working offshore, Gary and I would do two or three shows a year together. However, since he retired in 2013 from working full-time as a directional drilling supervisor in the Gulf

*Continued on page 30*





*In Memoriam . . . A Tribute*

# LYNN ANDERSON

*By Don Cusic*

Lynn Anderson was a ball of fire with western roots all the way down to the toes of her boots. Her death snuffed the fire of a free, open range spirit.

Lynn did more than just say, “I love western music.” She proved it by coming to the Western Music Association’s festival in Albuquerque in 2006 and 2007. She performed and everyone who saw her knew she was not only a massive talent but also a class act. “I Never Promised You a Rose Garden” fits cowboys as well as city folks. And when her partner of many years, Mentor Williams, sang his classic, “Drift Away,” every cowboy and cowgirl there felt the honor of hearing “give me the beat boys, and free my soul, I wanna get lost in your rock’n’roll and drift away” by the man who wrote it.



*Lynn Anderson with mother, Liz Anderson in 1967.*

Cowboys and cowboy music shouldn’t have fences; it didn’t that night.

The basics: Lynn Anderson was

born on September 26, 1947 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Her parents, Casey and Liz Anderson moved to San Jose, California when Lynn was a young girl, then to Sacramento where Lynn received her first horse, Apache, and learned to ride on their two-acre “ranch.”

Lynn won second price in the Western Horsemanship Championship when she was 12 and, as she went through high school, worked with a series of horses she named after western TV shows, Cheyenne, Sugarfoot and Maverick.

Lynn’s mom, Liz Anderson was an exemplary songwriter; she wrote two of Merle Haggard’s earliest hits, “The Fugitive” and “[All of My Friends Are



*Young Lynn Anderson*

Gonna Be] Strangers,” and her songwriting is what brought the family to Nashville. Lynn’s first single, “Ride, Ride, Ride” was written by Liz, who

wrote a number of other songs that Lynn recorded. Liz had 19 charts singles as an artist on RCA. Lynn signed with Chart Records after Liz signed as a songwriter with Slim Williamson’s publishing company; Slim also owned the label. She had a series of releases for Chart, but was always “covered” by an established act with a major label. Along the way she became a regular on The Lawrence Welk Show (1967-1968).



*Lynn Anderson with Mentor Williams and Dobie Gray*

Her breakthrough single was “Rocky Top,” the bluegrass flavored team written by Felice and Boudleaux Bryant, who also wrote “Bye, Bye, Love,” “Wake Up, Little Susie,” “Love Hurts” and numerous other songs. That led to her signing with Epic, a label owned by CBS. At Epic, her producer was Glenn Sutton and she soon married him, which led to a string of

*Continued on page 13*

# Throwing Your Hat into the Ring

by Gary E. Brown

*(All photos submitted by Gary Brown, taken over the years at the Monterey Festival and used by permission.)*

Aspiring Western performers often wonder what they need to do to be invited to a Cowboy Music and Poetry Festival. The following is a list of suggested "Dos and Don'ts."

**WHY DO IT?** You must first do a self-assessment regarding your talent capabilities. How good am I really, or is my mother just being a mother? Seek feedback from those who will be totally honest. Take singing and guitar lessons. Sing at every opportunity.

**CAN I BE A GENUINE WESTERN SONGWRITER?** One of the biggest traps is after attending a gathering, someone thinks I can do that. Even those with songwriting talent most often fail the test of authenticity. Not having been raised on a ranch, a cow puncher or broke horses, may prevent you writing the next, great cowboy song. Those lacking real life experience often are found out quickly. There are exceptions, however, very few. But, if you can carry a tune, have a pleasing voice, and can dress the part, you too might become be a cowboy singer. It might be best to stick with traditional bunkhouse standards or songs written by others.

**ROPE A MENTOR** – Everyone successful in cowboy music can remember someone who helped them along the

*Continued on page 24*



*"More fun than puttin' socks on a rooster..."*

*Photography by Neets*

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*Thanks WMA Members for the 2015 Crescendo Award nomination!*

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# WRAPPIN' IT UP

## THE PIKES PEAK COWBOY GATHERING

by Sandy Reay

I can't picture a better place for listening to Cowboy music and poetry than the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs. On July 9, amid sculptures of cowboys and critters, flowers and fountains, mountain scenery and stock pens, fourteen musicians and poets entertained the regular visitors to the ProRodeo Hall of Fame as well as friends and fans. It was a great way to restart the Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering.

Scheduled performers included Floyd Beard, Ray Delgado, Susie Knight, Richard Martin, Ernie Martinez, James Michael, Dale Page, Sandy Reay, Jimmie Lee Robbins, and Dennis Russell. The Maverick Open Mic Stage drew Dick and Jane Morton, Sonja Oliver, and Lee Patterson. Volunteers Valerie Beard, Glenn Martin, and Brian Roach made sure that the two stages and the silent auction ran smoothly. The ProRodeo Hall of Fame made us feel welcome, not just this year, but in the future as well.

Watch for the Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering next year as it grows and gets even better.

Thanks to Valerie Beard for her superb photography. All photos used by permission. [www.floydbeardcowboy.com/Valerie\\_gallery.html](http://www.floydbeardcowboy.com/Valerie_gallery.html)



Lee Patterson, Ernie Martinez, Jimmie Lee Robbins



Rodeo Rider Statue, ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Colorado Springs, CO.

Sonja Oliver and Jimmie Lee Robbins



Susie Knight



Ray Delgado

## ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING, PRESCOTT, AZ

by Yvonne Mayer

The 28th annual Cowboy Poets Gathering was held in beautiful Prescott, Arizona on August 6, 7 and 8, 2015. This is the oldest cowboy poetry event in Arizona. The City of Prescott welcomes entertainers and guests with sponsorships and supporting events. Daytime events were held at seven locations on the campus of Yavapai College, with evening performances in the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center. Over 40 artists from nine states and Canada came together to celebrate cowboy lore in poetry and music.

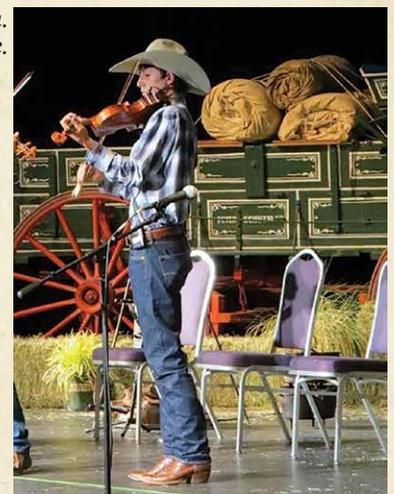
Evening headline performers included WMA members Don Edwards (Thursday evening) Belinda Gail (Friday evening) and Trinity Seely (Saturday evening).

A hallmark of the Prescott Gathering is the school program. Each year entertainers visit 4th grade classrooms in the area, both entertaining students and teaching western history, encouraging the students to write western poetry. Poems are judged, and first place winners are brought to the stage to perform their poems at the evening performances.

One highlight of this year's event was performances by the Generation Youth Group. The seven members of this band perform in several genres. These teenagers provide harmony and enthusiasm and were crowd pleasers. Another young performer to note is fiddler Jordan Brambila, who has won two years in a row at the twin fiddle contest at the Bob Wills Days Festival in Texas. And he's barely 18!

Western poetry and music is alive and well in Prescott, Arizona, and with young people such as these, it will be with us for some time!

Jordan Brambila.  
Photo courtesy Kyra Pease.



Doris Daly.  
Photo courtesy Kyra Pease.

## In Memoriam – Lynn Anderson

*Continued from page 10*

hits, which included “Rose Garden.” Lynn won a Grammy for her recording of that song.

Lynn had a string of hits for Epic: “You’re My Man,” “How Can I Unlove You,” “What a Man, My Man Is,” “Listen to a Country Song” and “Top of the World” but she and Sutton divorced in 1977 and in 1980 Lynn married Harold “Spook” Stream, moved to Louisiana and announced that she had quit the music business. She wasn’t allowed to do that, so she did some recordings but did not return to Nashville even after she and Stream divorced.

Lynn later admitted that walking away from CBS was a major mistake but what was done was done. She met Mentor Williams and, after a few years in Nashville, they moved to Taos, New Mexico. The move re-connected Lynn to her western roots; she wore western clothing and rode horses. She also began to record western songs, many written by her Mom, Liz.

Few singers reach the top of monster hit records and big awards and nobody stays on top forever. Lynn’s Mom died, but Lynn continued to record and had recorded a gospel album before she died.

The end came on July 30, 2015. Lynn had returned from a trip to Italy and entered a Nashville hospital with pneumonia; while in the hospital she suffered a fatal heart attack. A service was held for her in Nashville on August 5, 2015.



*Lynn Anderson’s family members release dove at Memorial Service for Lynn.*

**NOTE:** Below is a *Western Way* photo tribute to Lynn Anderson, member of the Western Music Association, former member of the WMA Board of Advisors, country music legend and western music’s friend. She touched many lives both on and off the stage and made lasting friendships within the WMA, the CMA and beyond. Lynn is survived by her father, three children—Lisa Sutton, Melissa Hempel and Gray Stream—four grandchildren and her partner Mentor Williams.



**LYNN  
ANDERSON**  
1947-2015

**ALWAYS A SMILE...  
ALWAYS A SONG**



**Peaceful Trails and many Rose  
Gardens, Ms. Lynn.**

## Dear Friends and members of the WMA,

I wrote this poem knowing that there must be quite a few folks who have wondered what it was like for me to catch up with and sing for all those years, with the legendary Sons of the Pioneers. When Lloyd Perryman first said to an audience, “Thank you folks for your nice welcome, we are the Sons of the Pioneers, and we’ve got some songs to sing,” just before we launched into our first song, I remember looking across the stage and thinking, “Wow! They really are the Sons of the Pioneers.” It took a while for it to sink in that I was one of the Sons of the Pioneers, also. As the last surviving member of the group as it was when I joined them, I look back on that time with deepest gratitude, and feelings of love for my old friends. The poem is just a sampling of what it was like. I hope you enjoy it.

Rusty

### Performer’s Perspective

# Just A Few Memories

By Rusty Richards



In my early years with the pioneers  
We traveled without our wives  
In a dodge motor home without much chrome  
And that’s where we spent much of our lives.

Most of our shows were at rodeos  
And sometimes a county fair.  
Just the five of us in that crowded bus  
And we drove it most everywhere.

We actually got along pretty well  
For as much time as we spent together,  
Packed in there with all of our gear  
And we traveled in all kinds of weather.

Like that time just outside Minneapolis  
We were shocked when the weatherman said,  
“It was fifty below just a short time ago  
But now my thermometer’s dead.”

At other times when the air wasn’t working,  
And it never was half of the time,  
Or a sign told us to shut it off  
If we had some mountain to climb.

It would get so hot you could fry an egg  
On the sidewalk somebody said.  
We didn’t try that, but we did soak towels  
To put on the drivers head.

some folks think pickin’ and singin’ is easy  
and sometimes that might be true.  
except when you’re doin’ a show in the sun  
and the temp is a hundred and two.

Or when you are catchin’ a red eye flight  
And your room won’t be ready ‘till three,  
And the show’s gonna start at six o clock  
And you’re doin’ the show for free.

There were times when our plane couldn’t even take off  
Because of the snow or the fog,  
Or times when you stood there singin’ and smilin’  
While feelin’ as sick as a dog.

My hat’s off to Margie, Fayette and Buddy,  
Mariane and my Amy, of course.  
For it sure takes a special woman who’ll stay  
And take care of your kids and your horse.

Once we were crossing the Alberta plains  
While I was asleep in my bed.  
When the rig shut down and the lights went out  
And Lloyd hollered at me and said,

“Rusty, come see the northern lights!”  
And we all began to unload.  
We hadn’t seen a car for over an hour  
So we laid right down in the road.

It was one of those times I will never forget  
And I’ve thought about that one for years,  
Watchin’ the northern lights from the road  
With ‘the sons of the pioneers’.

Pat Brady fixed us all hamburgers once  
As we burned up the miles headin’ east.  
It doesn’t get much better than that,  
And just one of them was a feast.

I remember the times when we’d gather and sing  
At the front of the bus as we rolled.  
Just singin’ for fun with a single guitar  
And those old songs to us were pure gold.

There were nights when I sat there just holdin’ the wheel  
And watchin’ the darkness flow past  
Then staring into a sunrise or sunset  
‘till we got to a fairgrounds at last.

I remember us standing in front of the mikes  
While lightning was dancing around,  
Singing ‘cool water’ “the show must go on”  
But the rain just came pouring down.

Believe it or not, this really happened  
And several times, by the way.  
I’d start singin’ “water,” and down it would come  
With a thunder and lightning display.

The friendships I made, especially in rodeo  
Are special in so many ways,  
And it’s good to think that some of those friends  
Might still think of me from those days.

I remember the thrill of seeing an audience  
Coming at us like a wall,  
Standing and cheering in thunderous applause  
As we took off our hats and stood tall.



We sang in the Far East and Europe  
Went down in old Mexico too,  
All over the us and Canada  
And we kept those great harmonies true.

All those times that we sang with Roy Rogers,  
Who to us was just like a brother.  
And Dale was so special and we loved them both  
And the way that they both loved each other.

I miss those old days and if there was a way  
I could call them all back I'd sure do it.  
I was living a dream that was not just mine  
But other guys too, and I knew it.

And I miss Lloyd and Dale and Pat and Roy  
And hope someday to see them again.  
What an honor to travel and sing with them all  
They were legends and mighty fine men.

I'm grateful to all of the talented men  
Who came along after that time,  
And of course all of those who had come before me  
With their melodies stories and rhyme.

To Bob Nolan and Roy Rogers  
Hugh and Carl Farr  
And Tim Spencer, may God bless you all  
In Heaven where you are.

Your music brought me happiness  
And still does to this day  
I hold a debt of gratitude  
I never can repay.

But thank you Bob and Roy  
And Carl and Tim and Hugh  
For the life that i was blessed to live  
Was all because of you.

All the live shows down in Nashville  
As well as on TV  
Ralph Emery, Nashville Palace  
And the Grand ole' Opry.

We have a star in the sidewalk  
In the Hollywood walk of fame,  
Our hands and boots in concrete  
Where they had me write my name.

All the TV on the West coast  
And everywhere else 'cross the nation,  
We sang on every small or big  
TV or radio station.

We played every major venue  
Brush track or pumpkin roller.  
Our audiences ran from the old folks  
To a baby in its stroller.

Merv Griffin and Mike Douglas  
Johnny Carson and the rest  
Were wonderful and it was great  
To be on their shows as a guest.

The Smithsonian made us welcome  
With good food and for good measure  
We sang and someone there declared us all  
A national treasure.

From the western music, country music,  
Cowboy halls of fame  
Along with many others  
Too numerous to name.

We received so many honors  
I could never list them all  
But every 'pioneer' deserves to be  
In every single hall.

There are hundreds of other great memories  
That took place in those wonderful years,  
But I hope you've enjoyed these from my early days  
With the Sons of the Pioneers.



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## Thank You, WMA, for the honor of your nominations!

2015 Female Performer of the Year & 2015 Entertainer of the Year

JUST RELEASED!

RIDE A WIDE CIRCLE | MARY KAYE



"Western music is the  
sound track of my life  
in the west, and the  
Western Music Association  
is my musical family.  
Thanks for all you do."

*Mary Kaye*

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# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...In August, Ric Steinke of **Open Range** had an accident at home with a table saw. It resulted in him losing the pinky finger on his left hand, a slashed and fractured index finger, and the other fingers and thumb all cut and slashed and requiring stitches. He has since gotten the stitches out and is wearing a splint on the index finger. He will probably lose that nail. Luckily he does have most of the feeling and movement (although stiff & limited) in all of the remaining fingers, and the tendons are all OK. He is seeing a hand therapist once a week. We were so thankful that it wasn't worse.

Linda Steinke writes, "We are fortunate that Xanterra, the Yellowstone Park company that Ric has worked for the past 20 years with the chuckwagon cookout, agreed to hire me on so I could either finish out the season for him or with him for his two days a week. As it turns out, he is able to play harmonica while I play guitar, and we both sing for the hour long show."

Because of uncertainty surrounding the condition of Ric's hand, Open Range has had to cancel most of their other jobs, including their fall southwest tour which always enabled them to attend the WMA convention in Albuquerque. "We want to thank our friends and fans for all of their kind words, encouragement, and prayers during this time" they write. "We will certainly miss seeing everyone in Albuquerque in November and will shoot for our next tour to be in the spring. For any updated news on Ric's progress, please visit our Web site blog at [www.openrangeband.com](http://www.openrangeband.com)."

...**R.J. Vandygriff** has released what he is calling his last recording: *Cowboy to the Bone*. When asked why his last CD, R.J. says he will continue to perform but has no plans to record anymore. He wants to focus on writing another play which has been on the back burner for several years. He will continue to perform "The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet!" and cowboy concerts across the country.

...Cowboy Keeper Awards have been given to **Waddie Mitchell** and to **Ernie Sites**. The awards are given annually by the National Day of the Cowboy organization to those who make a significant contribution to the preservation of cowboy culture and pioneer heritage.

...Technology Entertainment Design (TED) held their annual speaker's platform in Reno, NV this year. Cowboy Poet **Larry Maurice** was one of their key speakers. TED is a non-profit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California 26 years ago,

TED has grown to support those world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. Previous speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Benoit Mandelbrot, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. This year's theme is Reno's Resurgence.

...A celebrity roast was held in August for **Orin Friesen** in honor of his 50 years in broadcasting. **Michael Martin Murphey** was part of the panel, and video presentations were sent by **Johnny Western, Baxter Black, Red Steagall, and Riders in the Sky. Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr.** also sent congratulations. The event was held at the Prairie Rose Ranch as a benefit for Crosswalk on the Prairie, a place where young adult males ages 18-24 can begin their journey of safe passage from where they are now to becoming an adult who is living responsibly.

... **Allen & Jill Kirkham** have released their *Colorado Cowboy Christmas* CD featuring Allen's original title song written about their late friend and Elbert, CO Cowboy, Richard Tift. Also, Allen played mandolin with country music star Rick Monroe at Sturgis Bike Week's 75th Anniversary Rally at the Indian Motorcycles Stage. An estimated 1.8 million bikers were in attendance.

...**Susie Knight** has begun work on a new cowboy poetry CD that will include her newest poems. **Jimmy Lee Robbins** is providing guitar accompaniment for the project.

...Mixing and mastering has been completed on *Western Stories*, the soon-to-be-released new album from **Dave Stamey**. Fourteen brand new songs are included along with a full-blown studio effort that included David Jackson on accordion and Patrick D'Arcy on Irish whistle and Annie Lydon on harmony vocals.

...The Spotlight doesn't have any of the pertinent information (place, date, etc.), but we have been informed that **Diane Tribitt** is now Diane Scott. She was recently married to Sam Scott. The Spotlight wishes them many years of happiness together.

...The Second Annual Cimarron Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering was held August 21-22 in Cimarron, NM. **Jim Jones, Doug Figgs, Susie Knight, Floyd Beard, Tom Swearingen, Peggy Malone, RJ Vandygriff, Doc Mehl, Deanna McCall, Washtub Jerry, Dennis Russell, Janice Deardorff, and Dale Page** were just a few of those who performed.

...Green Valley, AZ band, 43 Miles North, has a new bass player. **Chris Heckler** joins singing partners **Sherry Walker** and **John Paulson** as they entertain throughout southern Arizona.

... **ALMEDA** was recently picked up by Nashville talent agent Liz Gregory and is featured as a new artist on Liz's Web site, [www.lizgregorytalentandproductions.com](http://www.lizgregorytalentandproductions.com). She is continuing work on the production, *Lovers, Wives, & Mothers: A Western Woman's Voice*, with a projected album release date in early October.

...**Mary Kaye** released her fourth solo western album, *Ride A Wide Circle*, on August 25th. Check it out at [www.mary-kaye.com/music-store](http://www.mary-kaye.com/music-store).

...After putting off a new music album to focus on her book release, **Brenda Libby** has joined forces with widely acclaimed musician and producer, Tim Crouch, to begin work on a new CD. Libby says the new album of earthy originals should be out soon.

...The Rural Roots Commission has awarded *Cowgirl Swing* by **Mikki Daniel** the 2015 Western Swing Album of the Year. The award ceremony took place at their festival in LeMars, IA in September. Also, Mikki's book, *Girls and Gunsmoke*, is a finalist for a 2015 Will Rogers Medallion Award in the Inspirational Fiction category. The winner will be announced in October.

...**Cowboy Joe Babcock** has released a new western swing album titled *Trail Jazz*. It's his first new release in quite some time.

...**Nancy Elliott**, Southwestern Americana artist and seamstress for many Western Music performers, has moved her sewing shop to a storefront location. As of September 1st, Katy's Cache` is located at Monterey Court, a re-purposed 1930's motor inn on Miracle Mile in Tucson. She welcomes all to stop by and say "hello."

...**Rosehill Band** released a new CD in August titled *Buckles & Barrels*. The album consists of all original music and lyrics with a rodeo theme. The CD is available at [Rosehillband.com](http://Rosehillband.com), iTunes, and Amazon.com.

...A new single titled *The Spirit of Casey Tibbs* is being released by **Del Shields**. The song is a top contender to go into a new movie being filmed about rodeo legend, Casey Tibbs.

...Boise State University, Ana Maria Schachtell, Juan Manuel Barco, **Bonifacio (Bodie) Dominguez**, and a number of songwriters have released *The Corrido Project*, 150 years of Latino History in Idaho. A copy is available by writing [bdominguez2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bdominguez2001@yahoo.com) or to Twin River Recording, 1021 15th Street, Clarkston, WA 99403.

... The fourth Western novel from **Jim Jones**, *The Big Empty*, will be published by Five Star Publishing in the second half of 2016.

...**Alex Dormont and the Hot Texas Swing Band** have released their third CD. Titled *Ain't Dead Yet*, it has thirteen tracks of eclectic, hard-driving Western Swing including "Along the Navajo Trail," a Cindy Walker song, a Johnny Gimble tune, and seven originals written by Alex. You can listen at [www.HotTexasSwingBand.com](http://www.HotTexasSwingBand.com).

...**Cindy Smith** hopes to entertain a new generation of youngsters while educating them about the B-Western Cowboys and Cowgirls. The third installment in her Children's Book series, *Cowboy World 3 - The Adventure Continues*, will be released in October. Through Cindy's presentations with Cowboy World Atlanta, she shares the books and performs accompanying western songs for children's programs, festivals, and parties.

...Sue Matley of **Nevada Slim & Cimmaron Sue** has a new sci-fi novella, *Small-g City*, that is available at Amazon.com in both print and Kindle formats. She writes under the name S.D. Matley.

...For the third time, **Eli Barsi** was invited by The Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville to present her Yodelling & Western Music seminar. To date it has been the most attended "Sunday Special" presentation in the series. Her and her husband John Cunningham's daughter, Katy, married Brenden Syrota in August. The couple moved to St. John's Newfoundland to pursue jobs in Insurance (Brenden) and Film Making (Katy).

... "Fun Home," starring Beth Malone, the daughter of **Peggy Malone**, recently won a Tony Award for Best Musical on Broadway. Beth also won the Denver Henry Award for Best Leading Actress in a musical for her role in "The Unsinkable Molly Brown." And Peggy herself has been nominated for Colorado Country Music Legend of Legends 2015 Entertainer of the Year and Female Vocalist of the Year.

...**Chuck Cusimano** has a new album being released this fall. The 15-song CD is titled *Cold in Colorado*. You can check out song snippets at [www.i2irecords.com](http://www.i2irecords.com).

...Cowboy Poet **Deanna Dickinson McCall** has a new book out titled, *Rough Patches*. It's a collection of short stories centered on women in the historical and contemporary American West.

...**Vic Anderson** is entertaining at the Pleasant Valley Roosevelt Lodge Cookout Location in Yellowstone Park for the remainder of the season. He is the main performer five nights a week.

*Continued on page 18*

## In the Spotlight

Continued from page 17



## Celebrating WMA Icon Marilyn Tuttle At 90

How do you thank someone who has touched so many? Early in 2015 members of her California Chapter began discussing options of how to best honor Pioneer Trail Award winner, Marilyn Tuttle, on her 90th birthday. It was clear there should be friends, family, breaking of bread together and, of course, music.

Invitations went out and the responses came pouring in with a resounding “Yes, I’ll be there!” And come they did from AZ, TX, TN, OR, NC and all parts of CA. Her sons, Wesley, Jr. and Matt were in attendance and brought Marilyn’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Friends from WMA, her radio and TV days and many of her church family also filled the large banquet hall.

Each musical performer had a heart-felt story of their connection to Marilyn. Belinda Gail asked Marilyn to join her in song and their harmonies were wonderful. Bobby Charles Griggs, Joyce Woodson, Larry Wilder, Jerry Hall & Trick Shot, Mikki Daniel, John Bergstrom and Juni Fisher all offered their special songs and tributes. Larry Wilder arranged to have birthday wishes from former First Ladies Barbara Bush and Nancy Reagan read and presented to Marilyn by emcee and New Mexico Chapter President, Joe Brown. A memory book which will include pictures and notes written by each attendee is being created



to commemorate the day. Numerous pictures and memorabilia such as magazines, record albums and sheet music from her performance history were on display around the room. One thing is for sure, though it was a beautiful event, one afternoon simply isn't enough to honor a lady who is loved and who means so much to so many. We'll just start planning for her 100th!

... **Junction 5-12** (Ernie Martinez and Mary Gifford) is releasing a CD this winter of originals about living life in the west both today (“Come on Rain”) and some years ago (“Rough and Tumbling Creek”). The oldie “Blue Shadows on the Trail” is also included. You can get a taste of their music on Facebook at “Junction 5-12.”

... When they're not performing with **Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band**, Judy Coder and Jennifer Epps are touring as a duo known as **Notable Exceptions**. Their first album, *New Day*, will be released in October. They plan a 4-month winter tour in the southwest and are looking forward to three weeks performing in Europe next May.

... **One Hundred Poems**, the latest book from Waddie Mitchell, is now available in “eBookaroo” format on both Amazon Kindle and as an eBook on iTunes. Watch for more info in the Western Jubilee Recording Company 2016 catalog regarding a special limited edition. Go to [www.onthetrail@westernjubileecom](http://www.onthetrail@westernjubileecom) for more information.

... **Clint Bradley** is talking with a record label regarding his next Western album. Hopes are for an autumn 2016 release. Clint is also putting together an extensive diary of live dates for his western band across England, Ireland, mainland Europe, and Scandinavia. He also hopes to announce some live U.S. dates before too long.

... **Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band** finished a three-state summer tour featuring a performance at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City, NV.

... The loud speaker announced “Here is the President of the Western Music Association California Chapter, **Gency Brown**, to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.” Gency, **Joe and Linda Brown** and **John and Diane Bergstrom** cheered on the Lancaster Jethawks minor league baseball team as they clenched a spot in the California League playoffs in August.

... **KG & The Ranger** performed for a fundraiser benefiting the Executive Residence Foundation (that's the Governor's Mansion!) in Madison, WI in September. This continues their new trend of performing as a four-piece band with their daughter, Angie Otte, and her husband, Tom.

... For the second consecutive year, **Barry Ward** has won the “Western CD of the Year” award (*Distant Furrows*) by the Rural Roots Music Commission. And... **Victoria Ward** is now a published author. Her book *Prune Pie and Other Moving Stories* came out in September. The book is a collection of true stories of her and Barry's life experiences. Also, the Wards have relocated from a ranch in Colorado overlooking the Rocky Mountains to a ranch in the Flint Hills of Kansas.



# 2015 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

## BOB ATCHER

*By Doug Green*



Bob Atcher, b. May 11, 1914 – d. October 31, 1993, dubbed the Dean of America's Cowboy Singers, was the face of western music in Chicago and the upper Midwest for decades, both on television and on the National Barn Dance from 1949-1971. His recording career began in 1939 and spanned a score of years, on labels such as Vocalion, Okeh, Capitol, Columbia, and Kapp. His most popular recordings, "I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes" and "Christmas Island" were novelties, but a large percentage were western, including one of Columbia's first long play albums, HL-9013 - Songs of the Saddle: traditional Cowboy Songs, issued in 1949. The album, like the other albums in that first series, was a 10" LP containing eight songs: "Home on the Range," "Red River Valley," "The Strawberry Roan" "Little Joe the Wrangler," "Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie," "The Cowboy's Dream," "I've Got no Use for the Women" and "The Old Chisolm Trail."

Atcher was host of numerous network broadcasts out of Chicago, a long running children's show ("Meadow Gold Ranch") and was host of the National Barn Dance during its television years. As his performing career wound down, he became mayor of the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg from 1959-1979.

## CHRIS LEDOUX

*By Don Cusic*



No one can dispute the bona fides of Chris LeDoux for the Western Music Hall of Fame. He was the real deal; a real cowboy and a great singer-songwriter of western songs.

The singer songwriter was a rodeo champ – he won the Little Britches Rider Bareback World Champion in 1964, the Wyoming State High School Bareback Bronc Champion in 1967, the National Intercollegiate Bareback Riding Championship in 1969 and the Bareback Bronc Championship in 1976 before he turned his full-time attention to singing western songs.

Chris recorded four songs in Nashville, then four songs in Wyoming and that was his first album. His father, a bomber pilot during World War II, had settled in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, just outside of Nashville, organized a record label, a publishing company and began promoting Chris's recordings, which soon became favorites with rodeo cowboys.

Chris dived into music in a big way when he almost lost his ranch in Kaycee, Wyoming. In 1978, interest rates went sky high so the mortgage payments increased to the point it was hard to meet them; Chris managed to make more money performing which helped save the ranch.

Chris recorded a string of albums of cowboy songs but his big break came when Garth Brooks recorded the song, "Much Too Young To Feel This Damn Old." That song had the line, "a worn out tape of Chris LeDoux, lonely women and bad news" and suddenly everybody knew the name "Chris LeDoux."

Chris LeDoux was born on October 2, 1948 in Biloxi, Mississippi, son of a career Air Force pilot. During his career, he recorded 36 albums which sold over six million copies. His biggest single hit was "Whatcha Gonna Do With a Cowboy," which was a duet with Garth Brooks.

LeDoux contracted a rare cancer and received a liver transplant in 2000; however, the cancer came back and he died on March 9, 2005 in Casper, Wyoming. That same year he received the Pioneer Award from the Academy of Country Music and was inducted into the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame

# FROM the TRAIL

All Photographs Courtesy Lee Peters. Used by permission.

## SECOND ANNUAL WESTERN MUSIC AND COWBOY POETRY YOUTH CONCERT

by Betty Jo Maes de Carter and James Michael



Austin Van, Mikki Daniel,  
Calvin Hampton, Westy Oliver



Calvin Hampton, James  
Michael, Austin Van



Scott Wilson, Westy Oliver



Calvin and RW Hampton



Westy Oliver, Max Cook,  
Mikki Daniel

Our second annual Western Youth Day Concert took place on July 5, 2015 on the plaza in Old Town, Albuquerque. The event was sanctioned by the New Mexico Chapter of the WMA and sponsored by the Cultural Services Department of the City of Albuquerque. Planning for the concert began in July 2014, just after the first-ever Western music and cowboy poetry concert was held on the plaza in Old Town. Immediately following the 2014 concert, Chuy Martinez and James de Champlon (both of the Albuquerque Cultural Services Department), having just witnessed the tremendous amount of talent displayed by our young entertainers, asked if we would be willing to do it again. We (of course) decided not to turn them down and started making plans for 2015.

The line-up for the concert included some of the best young talent in the WMA. Performers included fiddler, cowboy poet and Western humorist Julian “Westy” Oliver, up-and-coming New Mexico Western male vocalist Calvin Hampton, New Mexico’s own sensational young talent Austin Van and the star of the show, 2014 Wrangler New Horizons Award winner and multiple WMA award winner, Mikki Daniel. New Mexico Chapter Vice-President James Michael provided his services as master of ceremonies and to round out the event, Bob Wills Youth Champion Fiddler Max Cook made a special guest appearance. In addition, Joy Burns and a group of volunteers from the New Mexico Chapter set up a craft table where young fans could make their own Western souvenirs from the show.

Westy Oliver got the show off to a great start with some excellent fiddle playing, singing, story-telling and cowboy poetry. Westy is a terrific Western humorist. He enjoys reading about the history of the West and seems to have been inspired by Will Rogers somewhere along the way. Westy was then joined by champion fiddler Max Cook for some crowd-pleasing twin fiddle action. Next up was Calvin Hampton. Calvin provided excellent interpretations of some Western classics, accompanied on guitar by his father, R.W. Hampton. Right at the end of his performance, Calvin was joined on stage by

Austin Van for an outstanding duet on the old Merle Haggard tune “Big City.” Then Austin took the audience on a high-energy ride through some classic country and Western tunes made famous by artists such as Marty Robbins, George Strait and Hank Williams. Austin’s dynamic style, combined with his excellent vocals and outstanding guitar had the crowd completely energized and ready for Mikki Daniel who took them away with her stunning blend of Western classics, Western swing and original cowboy songs that she delivers with so much heart and soul. Mikki was joined by Max Cook for a couple Western swing classics and in a surprise appearance, Doug Figgs joined Mikki on stage to perform Doug’s great composition “Dancing With Matilda.” Mikki then closed the show with a song from her new CD “Cowgirl Swing.”

Every person in the audience of approximately 500 appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed the show. Once again, Chuy Martinez told us “You guys have to do this again next year.”

The WMA New Mexico Chapter is very pleased with the wonderful show our young members provided this year in Albuquerque. Even though these folks had never performed together prior to this concert, they were able to incorporate each other into their individual performances and make the show better than it would have been otherwise. That is the hallmark of true professionals. Every member of the WMA should be very proud of our young WMA performers. We believe this second annual Western Youth Day Concert will be followed by a third in 2016 and by many more in years to come. These young performers are our ambassadors to the future and want to encourage all our other state chapters to start their own annual Western music and cowboy poetry youth events.

We would like to thank the members of the New Mexico Chapter who gave so much of their time and energy and provided accommodations to make this concert possible. We would like to especially thank Doug and Cathy Figgs, Joe and Linda Brown, Ann Morrow, Anne Carpenter, Loretta Cantu, Kathy Margard, Joyce and Marion Rutherford and Scott Wilson.



# HAPPY TRAILS TO BROADWAY

*By Boyd Magers*

**H**appy Trails”, a musical about the life of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, took a giant step toward Broadway in mid-February with the announcement the musical with a score by Tony and Academy Award winning composer Alan Menken and his Tony-nominated collaborator Glenn Slater is riding for the Great White Way sometime in 2016. The musical was first revealed in development in WESTERN CLIPPINGS #116 (November 2013). Academy Award winner Marshall Brickman (“Annie Hall”, “Manhattan”, “Jersey Boys”) has written the original book for the musical which traces the lives and careers of Roy and Dale. Tony Award winner Des McAnuff (“Jersey Boys”, “Tommy”) will direct. Alan Menken’s musicals include “Aladdin”, “Beauty and the Beast”, “Newsies”, “Little Mermaid” and others. Lyricist Slater has collaborated with Menken on “Leap of Faith”, “Sister Act” and others. He will pen the original music that will go along with existing Rogers’ tunes. “I’ve been a huge fan of Roy Rogers since I was a kid, so working on this show is a dream come true,”

Menken said. “Roy and Dale were consummate, one-of-a-kind entertainers and I’m extremely excited to create a period-specific score that celebrates their legacy.” “The story of Roy and Dale is deeply emotional with all kinds of surprising twists and turns,” McAnuff added. “It’s an inspirational part of American history that is ideally suited to the times we live in as an elixir for all that ails us. It dusts off old fashioned kindness and human decency in a way that I believe audiences will find magnetically compelling.

It’s also a great vehicle for a Broadway production as it has the spectacle of a Hollywood western along with a brainy German Shepherd and the smartest horse in the world. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to stage this extraordinary musical and partner with this all-star team of creators.” Producer Larry G. Spangler of the Spangler Group has set a high bar for the production which he envisions as a large-scale attraction for family audiences of all ages. Capitalization for the show could reach as high as \$20 million—high by Broadway standards—although Spangler hopes to get it down to somewhere between \$14 and \$18 million. Spangler, a colorful character who makes no secret of his Broadway ambitions, plans to turn heads in New York with a major publicity push for “Happy Trails”—including a cattle drive down Broadway and four music albums to be released in advance of the Broadway opening. Among the new recordings on his to-do list are a collection of country-music stars covering Rogers tunes, an original cast recording for the musical, and a duets album.

The producer estimates it will cost \$2 million just to pull together the production’s cast of animals, including a dozen different horses to play Rogers’ trusty steed Trigger and six dogs to portray Bullet. Full details of the Broadway theatre, exact dates and casting are still to be nailed down for the first half of 2016. As Dusty Rogers told WC, “Dad always said anything worthwhile doing is worth waiting for. Mom and Dad’s story is really coming together.” 

(Reprinted by permission of Boyd Magers, WESTERN CLIPPINGS, Mar/Apr ‘15.)



# Penned by Lantern Light

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

## One To Ride The River With (For Trey Allen)

By Tom Swearingen

That cowboy on the paint horse  
A pretty darn good pard  
He's been there, seen it, done it  
Through times both good and hard

He's been at it some time now  
A good long stretch of years  
Roundin' up calves and mommas  
And turnin' bulls to steers

He's worked on some big outfits  
Been boss on one or two  
Taught a lot of other hands  
A bunch of what he knew

And man, have we learned plenty  
'Bout punchin', and much more  
Get'n advice a wise man  
Be best to not ignore

'Bout the things that make a man  
A worthy friend and hand  
'Bout love and work and honor  
And how to treat the land

Told us, "Don't just do a job  
But give it all you got  
'Cause you only go round once  
So life's worth your best shot"

He's shown us the importance  
Of keeping our word true  
That if we make a promise  
Do what we say we'll do

We've watched him facing hardship  
With determination  
And no matter the outcome  
Show appreciation



For the folks that stand by you  
That come along aside  
While you're riding through the humps  
And cheer ya' through the ride

"One to ride the river with"  
That's his reputation  
The kind you want beside you  
In that situation

I have had the good fortune  
Of knowing some good men  
The kind you can look up to  
And hope to see again

Not just for their achievements  
Although they're worth remark  
But for how they live their lives  
And how they give a spark

Kindling others around 'em  
To glow and grow and give  
Make the world a better place  
And show us how to live

I ask please for more friends Lord  
Like the one thought of now  
Grant me Lord more just like him  
And please if you'll allow

Many more years for my friend  
So he can show us more  
What it means to live with grace  
Before the other shore



**Tom Swearingen** of Tualatin, Oregon is a popular performer at cowboy gatherings, horse camps, and wherever else you find folks who live and appreciate Western heritage and lifestyle. Two-time winner of the National Finals Rodeo Cowboy Poetry Week Contest, Tom's original poetry is often based on his own experiences, many of which occur as he and his wife Carla ride their horses in Oregon's backcountry. Tom's "Horses and Happiness" CD was a 2014 Western Music Association "Poetry CD of the Year" finalist, and he is a 2015 WMA "Male Poet of the Year" finalist.



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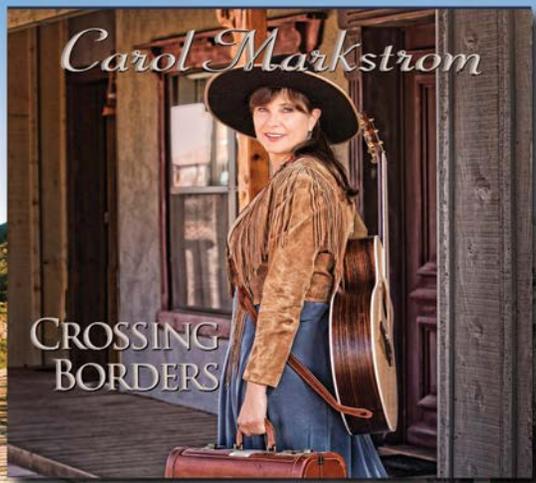
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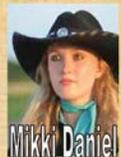
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## BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



# UNCLE BOYD AND THE HIPPIE

It must have been in the sixties while the hippie movement was in full swing. My Uncle Boyd Walker had a few ranches he was running in northwest Colorado where I grew up in an area known as Brown's Park. It was pretty isolated, being 60 or 70 miles from any town.

A long haired hippie lookin' feller came walking in to Uncle Boyd's lower ranch on Vermillion Creek one day in early winter looking for work. Uncle thought about it as that feller sat down and ate about everything on the table. Then Boyd told him he might have something he ought to be able to do. There were some bulls in a pasture at one of the old homesteads at the foot of Douglas Mountain that he was going to have to start feeding any time now and was thinkin' if this guy could stay there through the winter and throw out a few bales to them every day it would save him a whole lot of drivin'.

The next morning after breakfast he hauled the guy up there and showed him around. The old house had a wood cook stove and a kerosene lantern. There was a spring box out front where you hauled your water in a bucket. No phone, no electric. There was a good pile of wood and an axe. Boyd told him to be careful with that axe and not break the handle out of it or he would probably freeze to death. He pointed out a fair stock of canned goods, showed him how to feed the bulls then drove off leaving the hippie there.

Uncle went back in a few days with a quarter of beef for his new hired hand who seemed to be doin' ok. It was about three weeks later while ridin' the cows in a winter pasture not too far from there that he decided to ride on over to check on things.

He was about a quarter mile from the

house when that hippie stepped out of the bushes in front of him causing the old horse he was ridin' to blow his nose and have a runnin' backwards equine fit. Boyd couldn't figure out what was wrong with the horse. He gathered him up and spurred him ahead. That horse had his ears pointed straight ahead, big rollers in his nose and sure wasn't wanting to get to close to that hippie. Then Boyd got a whiff of the guy and knew the reason why. That feller had dirty hair hangin' down to his waist, had grown a scruffy beard, was wearin' a dirty old shirt and jeans and had a dead rabbit hangin' off of his belt. Boyd said there was some powerful stink waves coming toward him. He finally got his horse settled down a little and asked the guy if he needed anything. The feller said he sure would like some fresh green vegetables and could Uncle take him somewhere to get a shower. Boyd told him he reckoned he could use a shower alright but there wasn't one anywhere in the country; and, he was going to have to make do with canned vegetables.

The next day my uncle drove up there with some more groceries, then pointed out the galvanized tub hangin' on the front porch and said "There's your bath." He paid the guy for the time he'd been there and left.

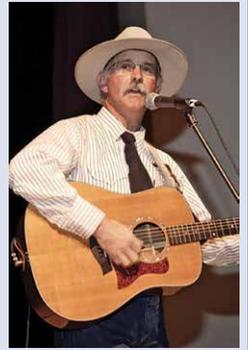
A couple days later he went to check on the feller again, but the only things he found were an empty wood box and some hungry bulls. The guy was no where to be found. He discovered later that feller had hitched a ride to town with the mailman who told Boyd that he liked to froze cause he had to make the whole trip with his windows down.

Uncle Boyd never hired any more hippies. 

## Throwing Your Hat into the Ring

Continued from page 11

way! They may help you avoid making mistakes that they did; advise what you need to do to hone your craft; and may put in a good word to a cowboy festival producer about you. Join the WMA, become involved, and after you've become successful, be a mentor to others.



Dave Stamey

**JUMP RIGHT IN** – After you've tried your talent on others and they like it, get out on the trail. Attend festivals, sign up for Open Mic, join in the jam sessions, and be a volunteer. At one of the first Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festivals, a man asked to be considered for next year's event. I suggested he sign up for Open Mic. After he was through, I told him he'd never have to do an Open Mic again...he was the late, great Curly Musgrave!

**THROW YOUR HAT IN THE RING** – Submit a request to be considered at the various gatherings. You need at least one professionally produced CD; a bio with the places



Juni Fisher and Belinda Gail

you've played and references, testimonials and music reviews. If invited, show up early, be on time for sound check; select material that fits the audience...most are older, conservative (Mount on the left and Vote on the Right), ag involved and/or grew up on cowboy movies; never make political comments or jokes (on stage or off), however, don't be PC; never go over your allotted time; don't make the sound man mad; treat volunteers as family and be willing to help them break down when the event is over. 



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**Do you have something to say?** *The Western Way* is always looking for your input. What about taking time to email two or three "short 'n' sweet" sentences that focus on the magazine to include in the "From the Trail" feature? Or, maybe you consider yourself a writer and have something a little more pithy to say that warrants larger space in a future issue? Send your comments/articles to [wweditor1@gmail.com](mailto:wweditor1@gmail.com) for review and consideration. Here are some points to remember when writing: (1) There is no financial remuneration for contributed materials; (2) The *WW* reserves the right to edit as needed; (3) Articles must be G-rated and content must be considered appropriate for the western readership; (4) Length should not exceed 400 words – shorter is just fine! We make no promises about publication, but every submission will be given consideration. You will be notified if your article is selected for a future issue. Look forward to hearing from you!

# ALMEDA

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

Allen & Jill Kirkham, 2015 WMA Crescendo Award Nominees

## LOVERS, WIVES & MOTHERS

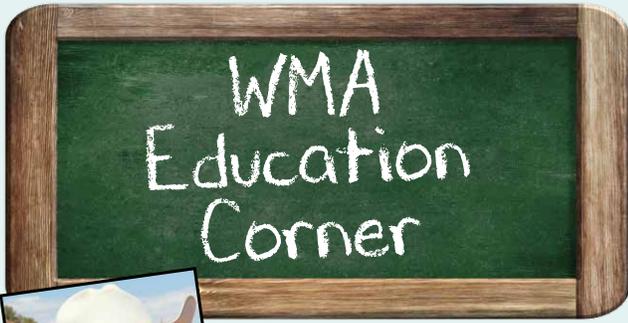
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By Judy James

School bells are ringing across the nation and many Western singers and Cowboy poets are entering the classrooms this fall to share their knowledge and expertise with young people. Engage the educators in YOUR community to include your program. You have a particular passion which is infectious to young listeners.

As you present these programs, don't forget to invite your listeners - young and not so young - to join and attend WMA. We are all ambassadors for our history, our music, our poetry, and the Western lifestyle.

If you are presenting school programs, let us know so we can make your information available. If I, or any of our committee can be of help to you, let me know.

Remember: If we miss a generation, our Western History is gone! 

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

## In Memoriam

### Carroll "Wayne" Nelson



Carroll "Wayne" Nelson, 71, of American Falls, Idaho passed away suddenly at his home on Saturday, August 8, 2015.

He was born in the spring of 1944 in Pocatello, Idaho to

Carroll Wendal Nelson and Helen Ruth Shaw. When Wayne was still young, they moved to a small, cattle ranch on the Snake River in Blackfoot, Idaho. It was there he became attracted to the cowboy way of life with its rich history and colorful characters. Wayne joined the military, as did many during the Vietnam War, and served in the Air Force for three years.

Upon his return to Blackfoot, Wayne married his first wife, Cecily Salinas in 1965 and were soon blessed with four children. Wayne married Becky Lewis in 1980, and they would have celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on the day of his passing.

Wayne played guitar and wrote music and songs for most of his life. He played in a few bands but enjoyed creating his own music and had a very successful solo career. He spent his retirement traveling all over the West including Elko, Nevada and Kamloops, British Columbia, doing what he loved most, playing music and entertaining. He was well-known in the world of Cowboy Poetry, where he was known as "Snake River Wayne." He was honored with the prestigious Silver Quill and Golden Note Awards. His famous poem, "Snowville," was a crowd favorite and known to many. His presence at cowboy gatherings will surely be missed.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Becky; sister, Rosie Stech, Boise; brother, LaVal Nelson, Hardin, Montana; children, Abigail (Robert) Toland, Scappoose, Oregon; Mercy Nelson, Pocatello; Wayne (Tanya) Nelson, Pocatello; and Erik Nelson, Big Sky, Montana; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren. 



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# Chapter Update



## ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: Yvonne Mayer  
steidl-mayer@msn.com

Although we have not held meeting during the summer months, we have been busy performing and planning! We hosted an information table at the Prescott Cowboy Poets Gathering Aug 6-8. Many Chapter members participated at this event. The Arizona Chapter will participate in the Tucson Meet Yourself folk life festival to be held October 9-11. This is an annual celebration of the living traditional arts of Southern Arizona's and Northern Mexico's diverse ethnic and folk communities and has been held in Tucson for 41 years. Over 100,000 people are expected to attend over the 3-day event, and this is the first year the Western Music Association has had a presence! Chapter performers will entertain throughout the event at our booth, while our premier Western band, the Bill Ganz Western Band, has been selected to receive an Artistic Fellowship. They will give two performances relating the history of western music in the Southwest. Our first Chapter meeting of the season will be held on September 20 at Old Tucson (Studios) beginning with a jam at 1:30pm. We have invited several special guests to join us.

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Gency Brown  
Gncbrown2009@live.com

The summer and early fall find us busy with our regular showcases at The Autry National Center and El Trocadero Mexican Steakhouse where the audiences continue to grow. The SCVTV Presents the OutWest Concert Series featured Devon and the Outlaw with Kristyn Harris and Brook Wallace, Sidewinder, Dave Stamey and Tracy Newman and the Reinforcements. WMACC presented Walt Richards and Paula Strong of Trails and Rails as they delivered an expose titled 'The Music of the Civil War and How It Moved West' at the Autry National Center classrooms. We were pleased to honor Marilyn Tuttle on the occasion of her 90th

birthday with a luncheon and an afternoon of family, friends and music. Plans have begun for our annual Christmas gathering on December 19th!



Marilyn with WMACC gift. Photo courtesy Jack Hummel.

## COLORADO CHAPTER (Branded Western)

President: Floyd Beard  
febeard@yahoo.com

The WMA-CO is growing and gaining momentum! This year we hosted showcases in four regions of our state: Greeley (in the north-central), Mancos (in the southwest), Steamboat Springs (in the northwest), and Florissant (smack dab in the middle). Many chapter members volunteered their time and skills to help promote the events. The chapter members that participated the day of the events (both supporting members and performing members) recognize that the purpose for these showcases is threefold: to network your talents with fellow WMA-CO members, to build your fan base, and to build awareness of western entertainment to the general public while welcoming them to be part of the WMA! The Colorado Cowboy Gathering has become a corporate member of our chapter, and has opened a showcase stage for our chapter's members during the gathering in Golden on January 22-23, 2016. The Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering at the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs this past July went well. Be watching



Members at recent gathering. Photo contributed by Susie Knight.

for plans for next year by visiting [www.pikespeakcowboygathering.com](http://www.pikespeakcowboygathering.com) There's still time to earn points toward the 2015 Top Hand Award! The custom-made trophy buckle will go to the person who has done the most for this chapter this year (excluding the WMA-CO Officers) until November 1, 2015. Visit the WMA-CO website [www.wmacolorado.org](http://www.wmacolorado.org) to check out the Top Hand Award tallies and follow all the current information this chapter is up to. There will be a full office election for the 2016 WMA-CO Officers' team and the chapter is excited to be moving the WMA-CO forward. Send nominations for 2016 Officers to Susie Knight at [lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com). Elections will be held after the WMA Convention, so be watching your emails for that information.



2015 Top Hand Award Buckle. Photo contributed by Susie Knight.

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Lauralee Northcott  
lauraleenorthcott@gmail.com

Columbia Chapter Western Music Association members are gathering for their annual meeting and showcase, October 18, 2015 at the historic Bingen Theater in Bingen, Washington. It will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with musical friends and showcase our talent in a lovely setting. For more information check out our website:



L to R: Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band, Jennifer Epps, Laurelee Northcott, Jody Coder.

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 27*

www.Columbiawma.org. It has been a very tough summer for many members as much of our area has been engulfed in huge wildfires. Still, there is always time for a little fun, so please check out individual member websites and see where they are performing. Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band had the privilege of playing at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City, NV in August on a summer tour!

### EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black

aspen@cowgirlstothehorse.com

The WMAECC has been busy following up on a lead from the Trailblazers Band, colleagues of The Rocky River Cowboys. Talks with Tim Marsh of Circle M City, in Sanford, NC, have been very promising in laying the groundwork for a major WMAECC-sponsored western festival in the east. In individual member news, chapter president, Aspen Black, is the first member in the history of the chapter to be a top-five nominee for the WMA Awards of Excellence. She is nominated for Female Poet of the Year and her CD, *Invisibility*, is a first-round nominee for Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year. She also just received the 2015 Rural Roots Music Commission's Female Country-Western CD of the Year award for her CD, *Eastern Western Cowgirl*. Carol Markstrom performed across several states, from Alaska to Georgia, and Kerry Grombacher is finishing up a tour that took him in a circle around the country from the plains, to Wyoming and South Dakota, down the eastern seaboard, across the south, and ending in Arizona and New Mexico. Cindy Smith was a key organizer of the 2nd Annual GA Cowboy and Western Festival: Cowboys vs Zombies. Tom Hawk has applied to serve on the WMA National board. Youth members, 13-year-old Olivia Morgayne was recently featured on Good Morning Virginia, and 10-year-old Alice Black was an invited performer in her first major western festival, the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering. If you are a fan or performer living east of the Mississippi and are not yet a member of the WMAECC, please consider joining this trail-blazing bunch dedicated to making western music and poetry more visible in the east.

### KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Jeff Davidson

Jdavidso@ksu.edu

Floyd Beard of Ramah, CO claimed first place honors in both the serious and humorous divisions of the WMA-KS Chapter Cowboy Poetry contest finals. After winning the contest, he graciously joined Geff Dawson, Annie Wilson and Jeff Davidson to perform

at the story hour portion of the Symphony in the Flint Hills. This event attracts thousands, and the story hour attracts hundreds after the symphonic portion concludes. The July quarterly chapter meeting and jam session featured "Lunch N Learn" by Jim Farrell. His presentation was of the music and recording business. He focused on making a song stand out among all other songs. Jim stated there is a certain power in western music – the cowboy way of doing the right thing when nobody's looking. He stated western music should "lead" society by inspiring people, not reflecting societal ills found in today's music. Geff and Dawn Dawson



Roy Pethtel Roger Ringer Ron Wilson. Photo Courtesy Sharon Chesmore.

brought the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo to Abilene Kansas this summer. On July 31-August 1, poets from around the nation gathered in Abilene. It was just like a rodeo should be: Lots of fun, but tough western competition. Many chapter members attended the celebration of Orin Friesen's 50 years in radio. Orin is one of the founding members of the chapter and serves as treasurer. He was "roasted" by several in the radio business, but also by musical friends such as Jim Farrell, Michael Martin Murphey, Johnny Western, Red Steagall, John McEuen, Riders in the Sky and Baxter Black. Orin's radio career has contributed to the preservation of western, bluegrass and old-time country music. Chapter members who performed at the Walnut Valley Festival in September included Orin Friesen's Prairie Rose Rangers and Barry Ward. This was the 44th year of this prestigious folk music event.

### MONTANA-DAKOTAS CHAPTER

President: Linda Hausler

openrange@wispwest.net

The WMA Mon-Daks Chapter would like to welcome their newest members, John Bacon of Dillon, MT, and Dan White of Driggs, ID. Congratulations to a couple of chapter members. Greg Hager whose latest album, "In the Valley Below," was named the CD of the Year by the Rural Roots Music Commission. He said the album award "was a complete surprise." Also, GT Hurlley's song, "Boots On The Ground" from his War Horse CD made it to #1 on the Roots Rock Singles Charts on the July 1st Roots Music Report! Also noteworthy, Allen & Jill Kirkham had

their grand opening as Owner-Partners of their 1890s authentic "Beaver Lake



Chuckwagon" Supper and Western Music Show in Custer, South Dakota this July.

The opening featured Dutch oven cooking by their partner and Custer Buffalo Roundup cowboy, Phill Randall, as well as traditional western music from the Kirkham's CD, "Ghost Towns." The Kirkham's will also release a new CD, "COLORADO COWBOY CHRISTMAS," in November, just in time for the Christmas season! It will be available at the WMA Convention. Almeda Bradshaw has been busy working on production for *LOVERS, WIVES & MOTHERS: A WESTERN WOMAN'S VOICE*. Most of her songs are in the final mixing stage with Snake Reynolds in Nashville. The CD will include such notables as Bluegrass picker Pete Wernick of the legendary band Hotrize on banjo along with Ernie Martinez on mandolin. WMA member Jane Leche will be adding harmony vocals to *DADDY'S BELLS*. The CD is scheduled for release in October. Congratulations to our Montana-Dakotas Chapter Members 2015 WMA Award Top 5 Nominees, Allen & Jill Kirkham and Miss Devon and the Outlaw (Devon Dawson and Jessie Robertson)

### NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Joe Brown

Jbrown2451@yahoo.com

The third quarter is typically our busiest time period each year. This is when we have more dates from our "Summer Concert Series" at the Arte de Placitas Gallery in Placitas, NM. We also usually have a few concerts in the homes of our chapter members and at Old Town Albuquerque. July 5th was our Youth Western Day in Old Town Albuquerque. Read more about it in the article written by the event producer, James Michael, in this issue. July 24th through 26th was the Wildlife West Music Festival in Edgewood, NM. The chapter was a major sponsor this year and the performers included Dave Stamey, The Quebe Sisters, The Anslover Family, Holy Water and Whiskey, The Tumbleweeds and Higher Ground. On the evening of July

*Continued on page 29*

# Chapter Update

Continued from page 28

26th we hosted at Placitas, NM the Second Annual Horses for Heroes (H4H) Benefit Concert. Performing at the event was Dave Stamey, Randy Huston and The Cowboy Way (Jim Jones, Doug Figgs and Mariam). Rick Iannucci from H4H represented the event on television during the week leading up to the concert by appearing on 2KASA Style in Albuquerque. Both of these events were very successful and some new WMA members were added. During the summer we also had six evenings of music at the Blue Grasshopper Pub put on by chapter members. Chapter president met with another business owner who is interested in providing another western music venue. We are excited to add a location here in New Mexico where we can share western music. The quarter wrapped up with two concerts at Arte de Placitas with a night of music from JeeZ La WeeZ and the Buckarettes, followed later by the Watermelon Mountain Jug Band. We look forward to seeing all of you here at the Convention in November in the "Land of Enchantment".

## OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Susie Case

[susieb.case@gmail.com](mailto:susieb.case@gmail.com)

Special thanks to Benton, KS's Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper owner, JW Johnson and music trail boss, Orin Friesen for the western hospitality when Robert and Susie Case attended Michael Martin Murphey's show there August 15th. Kudos to Mike and Doris Merritt for receiving a Gold Cross Award at the International Country Gospel Music Association convention for "Duo of the Year." A Little Farther West performed at the reopening of Autry, Oklahoma's, Gene Autry Museum September 26th. The



*Riders In The Sky with A Little Farther West. Photo Courtesy Susie Case*

chapter sends best wishes for the Museum's successful future to Autry Mayor, Kyle Lawson and Gene Autry Historical Society President, Bobby Newton. A lot of the chapter members have had a very busy summer! The 2015 music festival season

is wrapping up but October was filled with chapter member performances. Jim Garling and Suzy Bogguss were at Guthrie, OK's Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival at Cottonwood Flats campground. The National Harvest & Cowboy Festival at Silver Dollar City (Branson) theme park featured the Home Rangers and also Kristyn Harris. Oklahoma's Call Of The West, Jeanne Cahill & Jerome Campbell, will be showcasing at the WMA's convention this year. Notable upcoming Oklahoma western music concerts include Riders In The Sky in Oklahoma City at First Christian Church on October 25th and Michael Martin Murphey's annual Cowboy Christmas Ball shows at two locations: Newkirk, OK's Stagecoach BBQ on December 2nd and at OKC's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum on December 18th. The cowboy museum also hosts its annual Annie Oakley Society luncheon on November 12th and, for the kids, "Old Fashioned Ornament Making" on December 5th.



*Call of the West Photo Courtesy Garden Images, Vinita.*

## WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Dale Page

[okiecowboypoet@gmail.com](mailto:okiecowboypoet@gmail.com)

The WMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter is receiving applications now for the 2015 WMA-WW Cowboy Poetry Jackpot Contest that will be held Saturday, 11/14/15 in Albuquerque, NM, during the WMA Convention. Thanks to excellent suggestions by our WMA-WW members, there have been a few changes to the Rules as well as the Entry Fee info. You can visit [www.westernwordsmiths.com](http://www.westernwordsmiths.com) and click on "Cowboy Poetry Jackpot" to locate the Rules and the Application which will include these revisions. Thanks to WMA-WW member, Almeda Bradshaw, for her excellent suggestion for a "People's Choice Award" given for one performer from both divisions (Novice and Professional) selected by the audience. The WMA-WW Board of Directors voted to approve this suggestion, and the 2015 WMA-WW Cowboy Poetry Jackpot People's Choice Award winner will be announced within a few minutes of the end of the Jackpot. The winner will receive in the

mail a certificate suitable for framing within 2 weeks of the WMA Convention and possibly an additional prize (TBD). The winner will be announced at the WMA Awards Show at the Kimo Theater in Albuquerque that evening, and if present, will be asked to come into the stage to take a bow. Want to enter? Have questions? Contact Susie Knight, WMA-WW Secretary, at [lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com) or (303) 495-4869. WMA-WW members are encouraged to consider entering the 2015 National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo that has moved to its new home in Abilene, KS. This year's contest takes place 7/30/15-8/1/15. Contact Geff Dawson at [geff@ranchcowboy.com](mailto:geff@ranchcowboy.com) or (785) 765-2357 to learn more and enter.

## YOUTH CHAPTER

Coordinator: Jane Leche

[rangerjane@rocketmail.com](mailto:rangerjane@rocketmail.com)

Youth Chapter members have been very active this year performing at cowboy gatherings, charity events, church services, banquets, fairs and festivals. Some have songs topping the charts on western music radio (thank you DJs!) and others are releasing new albums. Singer/songwriter Mikki Daniel was featured on the Penny Gilley Show (RFD-TV) and Cowboy poet Thatch Elmer was found in Western Horseman Magazine! Thank you WMA members and Chapters, festival organizers, parents and fans for your generous support of our young performers. Be sure to catch them this November at the 2015 WMA Convention Youth Stage, the Friday Night Opry and in individual showcases. The Awards night promises to be an exciting one as four of our young members have been nominated. Congratulations to all! As always, any young person with an interest in western music or poetry is encouraged to join the WMA Youth Chapter! For more information on how to do that, contact Jane Leche. 🐾



**JOIN US ONLINE!**

[www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org)



## In The Crosshairs – Jean Prescott

Continued from page 8



Photo courtesy Roxy Jordet.

of Mexico, we have had the opportunity to work together as a duo more often. I still travel and perform more as a solo act, though, because Gary is so involved in and enjoying farming and ranching. And, in 2014 he started his own oilfield consulting business which also takes some of his time. Gary is a great songwriter in his own right and a very good singer. But, he missed so many years of gatherings because of his line of work that a lot of folks don't know him as well. However, in the last year we have actually been booked the same weekends at different cities, *(Laugh)* and that has been interesting!

**TWW: You also seem to enjoy collaborating with other artists. You've done recordings with Belinda Gail, Yvonne Hollenbeck, Sky Shivers, Jill Jones and others. Is this something you find especially fulfilling?**

JP: I love working with other artists! I so enjoy singing harmony and co-writing with other artists as well as just being part of special projects with my friends. Co-writing is something that I find especially fulfilling because of the opportunity to learn from other writers and at the same time create great songs. I have always considered my fellow artists as part of my extended family and some of my fondest memories have been made when working with friends on special projects.

Let me share my favorite memory of this with you. Sky Shivers, the late Buck Ramsey, Chris Isaacs, Rich O'Brien and I all teamed up to do a Christmas album. It was July 1997, in Lubbock, Texas, and hotter than blue blazes! We throttled the air down to 65 degrees in the studio and proceeded to record "Merry Christmas From Our Camp to Yours." Everyone was ready with their best poems, stories and songs and the guys kept us all laughing trying to one-up each other with stories and jokes. Sky had us rolling on the floor with laughter at his story about his children and



Photo courtesy Roxy Jordet.

the Christmas Pageant, and Buck was beyond excited because he had wanted to record with Rich for a very long time. Let me tell you, he and Rich put together the most beautiful rendition of "Silent Night" I believe I have ever heard. Our darling Buck crossed the river just a few months later. I will always cherish those special memories we made with Buck and his last recording in Lubbock, Texas, that summer of 1997.

**TWW: You're also a full-time ranch woman. How do you find time to keep up a music career and keep up the ranch requirements at the same time?**

JP: *(Laugh)* Well, it's kind of like herding cats, sometimes! And, I could not keep up with either of them if weren't for wonderful family and friends who have helped over the years with everything from putting out hay in the winter or fixing broken water pipes to getting an animal to the vet for me when I'm on the road.



Photo used by permission.

One time many years ago, I went out to feed before leaving for Alpine and the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering. The barn door was open and one of our saddles was lying right in the door and another one was on the floor behind it. I remembered the night before when the dogs started barking, I had stepped out on the porch with the flashlight to check things out and I apparently scared some thieves off! So, I called the sheriff's office and reported the attempted theft, then, threw all of the good tack and saddles in the pick-up (just in case they came back) and headed west to Alpine.

Another time, I had to put my favorite mare down and two hours later boarded a plane for Wyoming to play music for two days. *(Sigh, shaking head)* THAT was a tough weekend.

I could tell you so many more stories like these that have happened over the years. It hasn't always been easy and there are always a lot of emotional highs and lows. But, that's all part of this life I love and live, and I can't imagine it any other way. Of course, now, with Gary retired it is much easier for me to focus on my music and leave more of the ranching to him. So my main focus now is music, grandkids and my horses. And believe me, all that keeps me on my toes!



Photo courtesy Deborah Prescott.

**TWW: Jean, you told us a little about being a ranch woman, and I notice you "slipped in" a mention of the grandkids. It took restraint, I know, not to elaborate on the family! So, will you tell us a little more about the Prescott family? Inquiring minds want to know.**

Continued on page 34



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

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

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



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**NEW RELEASE!**



## GOLDEN NUGGETS



by **Buck Helton**

# Sweet Betsey from Pike

Howdy pards!

Once again it's time to go in search of musical treasure, and this time our vein leads us to an old tune of the Westward migration, Sweet Betsey from Pike. The earliest printed form of the song comes from a songbook published in 1858 called Put's Golden Songster. "Old Put" was the pseudonym of John A. Stone, a San Francisco-based entertainer who wrote, performed, adapted, collected, and published songs for and about gold miners. Like so many songs of the period, the melody was borrowed from an old Irish tune. In this case, one called Villikins and his Dinah.

Stone was originally from Pike County, Missouri and traveled west in a wagon train in the Gold Rush of 1849, and many believe that the song is biographical in nature. Others believe that the Betsey mentioned was originally a rifle (ala Davy Crocket's Ol' Betsey) characterized as a settler's faithful, if sometimes fiery companion, and the song morphed into a tribute to an actual woman over the years. I personally believe there is more historical evidence to support the former theory. Mr. Stone had a small band of singers named The Sierra Nevada Rangers who toured the camps entertaining the miners, and that seems to be the only significant amount of gold he ever found anywhere near Placerville! John Stone died in 1864 and is buried in Greenwood, California, about 25 miles from Placerville.

The song became enormously popular almost at once and has been widely circulated ever since, with new verses being added over the years. Apparently the citizens of Pike County had a bad habit of overestimating their capabilities, and were well known as Pikers. To be called a "Piker" was to be called a fool, a buffoon, a "pilgrim in the John Wayne sense of the word," or total "greenhorn;" hence the common expression still used today is: "He is NO Piker" or "I am NO Piker." The earliest recording of the song I've been able to find is by Crockett's Kentucky Mountaineers for the Crown label in 1931 (Crown 3121) Burl Ives included it on his debut recording Wayfaring Stranger for Okeh. It was covered by Harry "Mac" McClintock and countless others.

Below are the original Public Domain lyrics for the song, reprinted from Put's Golden Songster, 1858 edition.

### SWEET BETSEY FROM PIKE

(John A. Stone, 1858)

Oh, don't you remember sweet Betsey from Pike,  
Who crossed the big mountain with her lover Ike,  
With two yoke of cattle, a large yellow dog,  
A tall Shanghai rooster and one spotted hog.

Chorus:

Tooral lal looral lal looral lal la.

One evening quite early they camped on the Platte,  
'Twas near the road on a green shady flat,

Where Betsey, sore-footed, lay down to repose-  
With wonder Ike gazed on that Pike County rose.

Their wagons broke down with a terrible crash,  
And out on the prairie rolled all kinds of trash;  
A few little baby clothes done up with care-  
'Twas rather suspicious, though all on the square.

The shanghai ran off, and their cattle all died;  
That morning the last piece of bacon was fried;  
Poor Ike was discouraged, and Betsey got mad,  
The dog drooped his tail and looked wondrously sad.

They stopped at Salt Lake to inquire the way,  
When Brigham declared that sweet Betsey should stay;  
But Betsey got frightened and ran like a deer,  
While Brigham stood pawing the ground like a steer.

They soon reached the desert, where Betsey gave out,  
And down in the sand she lay rolling about;  
While Ike, half distracted, looked on with surprise,  
Saying, "Betsey, get up, you'll get sand in your eyes."

Sweet Betsey got up in a great deal of pain,  
Declared she'd go back to Pike County again;  
But Ike gave a sigh, and they fondly embraced,  
And they traveled along with his arm round her waist.

They suddenly stopped on a very high hill,  
With wonder looked down on old Placerville;  
Ike sighed when he said, and he cast his eyes down,  
"Sweet Betsey, my darling, we've got to Hangtown."

Long Ike and sweet Betsey attended a dance;  
Ike wore a pair of his Pike County pants;  
Sweet Betsey was covered with ribbons and rings;  
Says Ike, "You're an angel, but where are your wings?"

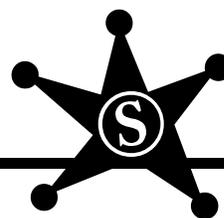
A miner said, "Betsey, will you dance with me?"  
"I will that, old hoss, if you don't make too free;  
But don't dance me hard; do you want to know why?  
Doggone you! I'm chock full of strong alkali!"

This Pike County couple got married of course,  
And Ike became jealous - obtained a divorce;  
Sweet Betsey, well-satisfied, said with a shout,  
"Good bye, you big lummo, I'm glad you backed out!"

There are many more verses added (several not suitable for polite company) which speak of Indian raids, public drunkenness, nudity and other such, for the time, taboo subjects. I heartily encourage you to dust off this old chestnut and add it to your sets, and be sure to tell the story as well. As you read this, your author is recovering from major spinal surgery, but I'll be back in the saddle by next issue, no worries.

Join us next time as we delve into another Missouri themed song, Shenandoah, or across the wide Missouri.  
'Til then, Happy Trails!





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

Tips? Comments? Ideas for the column, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442 or [bestofthewestswcp.com](mailto:bestofthewestswcp.com)  
Finalized CD or book cover art must accompany the work and be signed.

It's nice to hear from Western Music radio hosts and "e-casters" we've profiled in this column over the years. I just heard from Bobbi Jean Bell, for example. BOY did I hear from her!!! In her message she more than strongly suggested that a piece should be done on a fellow she identified as "Gary Holt, founder of Equestrian Legacy Radio!" Her enthusiasm fairly shot out of her email. You don't shoot down enthusiasm. I figured I'd better go seek out "Gary Holt, founder of Equestrian Legacy Radio" and be quick about it.

"Nothing is better than horses," says Gary (enthusiastically) by phone from Tennessee. "Anything better we shouldn't talk about!" He obviously also rates Western Music pretty highly, as it is a major part of his on-line presentations concerning the Western lifestyle and horse culture. As he puts it, "we've been able to introduce Western Music to so many people around the world who've since become fans of it! Now my goal is to introduce more people east of the Mississippi to Western!!" To be sure they would be a tougher sell than the remainder of the world (!), but I sure love that kind of talk.

Gary Holt began in radio the way quite a few of us did. He basically fell into it. "About 1966 a guy in my home town had a station," Holt remembers, "and one day he called me and said 'wanna be a DJ?' I thought 'girls like DJs' so I went on the air!" Later he moved to a bigger station when they lost their principal air personality, and finally in college he landed a job with WDKA running the all-night show. "That killed my interest in radio," Holt says. If I may paraphrase John Wayne in True Grit, "by God he reminds me of me!" I spent two and a half years doing an all night show. But I'm a slow learner.

When the Internet changed all life as we know it, Gary says he began to see new opportunities. "Some friends talked about (doing shows) online but it didn't go anywhere, so in 2013 I went solo!" He has definitely made up for lost time. Gary Holt personally produces three different shows each week. By that I mean three separate and distinct hour-long weekly shows!!!

One of them, called "Campfire Cafe," is heard each Thursday. The music is Western with "some" Country. On this show our friend Bobbi Jean Bell co-hosts with Holt as she has done since January of 2015. As she describes it "the first half-hour consists a live interview with a performer and features their music, and the second half hour an equestrian expert is the focus and the music is well-chosen to support it." Guests have included Juni Fisher, Joni Hall, Belinda Gail, Mary Kaye, RW Hampton, Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers, Clint Bradley, Aspen Black, Kristyn Harris, "Miss Devon" Dawson, Carolyn Martin, John Bergstrom, Jim Jones, Almeda Bradshaw, LeeLee Robert, Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band, Bill Barwick, Don Edwards and

the list goes on from there. When we spoke to Gary he was bemoaning his first-ever computer "e-spllosion" which caused a planned show with Sourdough Slim to be cancelled. I apologized since it was surely because I, renowned carrier of a thirty-year computer pox, was thinking about him.

The second of Gary's shows resulted from a conversation with Belinda Gail, during which she mentioned having an interest in doing a show featuring life stories and faith-based music. He laughs, "she pretty much found out she was doing the show when we announced its debut!!" "Blessed Trails with Belinda Gail" steams on Sundays. His third show ("Saddle Up America") runs on Tuesdays and features experts on horse trips, dude ranches, chuckwagon cooking and more. Its co-host is Tina Mae Weber. Again Western music is featured. And, believe it or not, Holt is actually batting around ideas for a fourth program. It would be done in his copious spare time, of course. Did we mention Holt also co-ordinates and leads a major fundraiser for the Fiona Rose Murphey Foundation, named for Michael Martin Murphey's granddaughter who suffers from brittle bone disease?!! That event is on the verge of becoming a full-fledged Western festival, so popular are its various components!

If it seems one would have to be truly organized to manage all of this, Holt confirms the truth of it. "Thirty years in management and owning my own insurance agency has allowed me to do it." To that we would add the analytics he runs on his shows (which reveal to sponsors just who is out there) and making sure his Web site for hosting shows is mobile-friendly. Yes, Gary Holt does more than his share to promote Western artists' music, but he would like to be able to take an additional step: linking to artists' videos as he interviews them. There's the rub. "For that to happen," he sighs, "Western performers need to focus on quality video. They are seriously behind the game on that." He adds that the WMA should have its own YouTube channel, but the artists need to have done their part first.

In her message that alerted me to this guy, Bobbi Jean Bell wrote: "Gary Holt just may be someone whose expertise, contacts and love for the equestrian and Western lifestyle would provide a much needed voice within the WMA!!"

Who's arguing?!!

*SIDEBAR: Many thanks to all the WMA people who have contributed their thoughts in creating the finalized Western Music definition we are featuring at the top of this column. I say it is the most accurately encompassing yet concise depiction of our music ever proposed. Congratulations!!* 

## In The Crosshairs – Jean Prescott

Continued from page 30

JP: I met Gary at the 1993 Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, Texas. His exact words to our friend who introduced us that day were “If she yodels I’m in love!” I did...and the rest is history! When Gary and I married I already had four grandchildren. So, not only did he become an instant grandpa, he became the best grandpa ever! In fact, we had four of them in our wedding along with Gary’s nephew and two nieces, all under the age of ten. Needless to say, it was a memorable wedding. Over the years, there have been treasure hunts in the pasture, lots of horseback riding adventures, hours of swimming in the pond, hay forts and tree climbing in the summer time. We’ve topped out with seven grandchildren, the youngest being eleven, and two great grandchildren. With two high school seniors this year, our lives are full of school sports activities and summer baseball games. Our son and his family live about six miles from us and our daughter and her family are about an hour and a half west of us. Two of our grandsons play the guitar, and one is a singer/songwriter in the Oklahoma City area and is doing quite well with his musical career. So, when the family gets together, well...there is always music involved.



Jean, Gary, and youngest grandson, Creed.

**TWW: What do you think western music artists have to do to interest younger fans in our music?**

JP: I am so glad you mentioned younger fans. For me, it is a thin line between keeping things traditional and making them more contemporary in order to bring in the younger fans. I see many of our artists adding more contemporary songs to their repertoire to entice a broader audience and that is good. We all need to be thinking of ways to bring younger fans along. Gary and I were thrilled beyond words to see so many young fresh faces on stages everywhere at the WMA Convention last year! We just couldn’t stop smiling! *(Laugh)* If those of us who are seasoned entertainers and writers will step alongside these talented youngsters to help them grow to their greatest potential, THAT is what will draw the younger fans. Also, I must take this opportunity to say a word of thanks to Janet McBride and Devon Dawson with the Cowtown Opry in Fort Worth, Texas. If it weren’t for these two ladies who, for years have worked with, probably hundreds of youngsters and adults, we would not be seeing as many young fresh faces in western music today, and... we might not have ever heard Leeann Rimes yodel! Thank you, Ladies!

**TWW: You have recently stepped into the role of producing with Robert Beene’s new album. Is this something of which you would like to do more?**

JP: Well, it all started when Robert wanted to record a CD, but didn’t have the money to get it produced and didn’t have a clue how to do it himself. It just so happened that I had a three-year-old filly that I needed someone to break to ride and Robert is a pretty good hand with a young horse. Sooooo, it just seemed like a good swap to both

of us. I would produce his CD and he would start my filly. Now, as you probably know, my latest CD, “Traditions” is self-produced, so I had just barely gotten my feet wet in that particular arena of the music industry. So, fortunately for Robert, it was not totally uncharted territory for me. We had a great time in the studio and Robert came out with a very nice first CD, which I might add is getting some nice airplay from our WMA radio DJs. “Thanks, you guys!” Producing is another path of creativity in music which is very exciting to me. So, yes, this is something I enjoy and I would certainly consider producing more projects if the opportunity presents itself.

**TWW: Do you have a special memory that stands out when you look back over your performing career?**

JP: Oh, my goodness, there are so many special memories and special people from all the years I’ve been singing. If I have to pick one, hands down it would be the evening in Tucson back in the 1990s when Roy and Dale and the Sons of the Pioneers were all on stage together and Roy invited all of the WMA members to come up on stage or stand in front of the stage to sing “Happy Trails” with them. Let me tell you, I was like an Olympic sprinter heading down to the stage. It was the highlight of my career to stand ON the same stage with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans singing

“Happy Trails” at the top of my lungs! *(Laugh)* I don’t think I slept for a week. My second most memorable moment was getting to have a nice long visit with Patsy Montana in Lubbock and then her playing my guitar on the show that evening. I still have that guitar whose name, by the way, is “Patsy Rosetta.”

**TWW: Thank you again for giving of your time to help our readers get to know Jean Prescott a little better. It’s been fun visiting with you.**

JP: Well, it has certainly been my pleasure. *(Smile)* You know, I always look forward to my issue of *The Western Way* and I am so proud of how far the Western Music Association has come. It’s about the music, but even more about the close friends who become family along the way.

And, speaking of friends who have become family, I want to mention some special people who have been a huge part of my career. First of all, Rich O’Brien. I met Rich in 1993 when I was looking for someone to help me put out my first “cassette tape.” In the process of co-producing so many of my albums, Rich became a precious brother to me and I owe a tremendous amount of my success to him and his incredible gift of musical expertise that he has willingly shared with me over the years. Also, my friend forever, Tena Jeffries Foster, who traveled thousands of miles with me and sang beautiful harmony for me. And, oh, the memories we made! Well, that could be a whole ‘nuther article. *(Laugh)* My dear husband Gary, who was the one who said “You can do this.” Well, I couldn’t have done it without him! And, now, I must give my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the glory for giving me the voice He gave me and then taking me on this incredible journey that continues until only He knows when. 🐾



Some of the Prescott family.



O.J. Sikes

# Reviews



## A Musical Note From OJ...

O.J. Sikes

The news of **Lynn Anderson**'s death came as a shock to many of us in the WMA. Each of us has our own special memories of her. I first met her in Tucson in the 1990's when her parents, **Liz and Casey Anderson**, introduced us. Liz and Casey were well-known songwriters who had taken an interest in Western music earlier and had started participating in the WMA's conventions years before.

As you probably know, Liz wrote **Merle Haggard**'s first top 10 "single" and he named his band after that song. Liz was an amazing lyricist and you can hear that in the songs she wrote for Lynn to sing, as well. Of course, Lynn was a country music super star and one of her albums had the honor of being the best-selling country album of all-time, by a female artist. It was the best-seller from 1971-1997 when it was edged out of that spot by **Shania Twain**. But her stardom didn't interfere with making friends in Western circles. During a WMA convention, it was not at all unusual to find her in the hotel lobby late at night, jamming with friends old and new. And you could see her in the audience during morning workshops and enjoying (and encouraging) a newcomer's performance later in the day.

I didn't see anything about her Western side in the national and international obituaries I read the morning after she died. So, for anyone who might not know, she, Casey and Liz shared a love of things Western, and Lynn became an expert rider early on, winning 16 National Championships and 4 World Championships. Her daughter, **Lisa Sutton**, is a talented graphics designer who has assembled numerous Western projects over the years. And the songs Liz wrote for Lynn to sing on her Western CDs are outstanding! A favorite of mine is "I Rode in as a Stranger (I'm Leaving as a Friend)." From what I observed in the personalities of both mother and daughter over two decades, that song title reflects their philosophy. We miss them both and we send our deepest sympathy to their family.

While most of the media seem to have concentrated on Lynn's career in country music, with accolades she

certainly deserved, Western DJ's had an abundance of her Western material to share with audiences around the world. We did, and we're still doing it! Listening opportunities for Western music have expanded, even since my recent column on how to find DJs who play Western music on the Internet. For example, **Miguel Diaz** in Spain, has offered to make my 2-hour EarsRadio shows, and those of **Marvin O'Dell**, available as podcasts, so listeners can tune in at any time they wish.

Apparently, archiving our shows on the EarsRadio.com Web site wasn't feasible, but by making the shows available for listeners to tune in via podcasts, at their convenience, Miguel has solved a problem for many listeners. **Mike Gross** has been doing this with his shows for some time now. And you can find the names of the DJ's who play Western music, and their stations/sites, on the list in the back of this magazine. As I pointed out in an earlier issue, it is now possible to listen to Western music on the Internet every day of the week. The information on my shows is a little skimpy (there's only so much room for details on a long list of DJ's), but if you'll send me an e-mail message (see my address below) I'll be glad to send you the various options available for listening to my *Western Music Time* shows, which are now being broadcast from the USA, Europe and New Zealand. We're all doing our best to keep the music from the Golden Age alive and to promote the best of the new music coming out these days, and there's plenty of it to enjoy!

By the way, if you're still wondering what you might do to expand the WMA's membership, invite a friend to the convention in Albuquerque in November! 

**To submit your CD for review, send to:**

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

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

Questions? You can email O.J. at [osikes@nj.rr.com](mailto:osikes@nj.rr.com)

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★ ★ ★

## LEON CHAPPELEAR

### *Leon's Lone Star Cowboys : 1932-1937*

BACM CD D 478



If you are a fan of vintage Western Swing, you may already have Cary Ginell's excellent *Origin Jazz Library* series CD of Leon Chappelle's music. The selections on this new CD do not duplicate those on the earlier release. In fact, this new disc contains a large

number of previously unreleased tracks, so get ready to add it to your collection!

Leon started out as a singing cowboy in the style of Jimmie Rodgers, and the first two songs on this new disc are from that era (1932). They are two of his very first recordings, unreleased until now. They're not my cup of tea, but the rest of the disc (with a total of 28 songs) is dedicated to his work with his Lone Star Cowboys swing band and they're well worth a listen. A number of those are from a series of what historian Kevin Coffey calls "fantastic" sessions from August 1935. Some of these are also previously unreleased, so will be treasured by collectors.

Leon was critically injured on Friday, September 13, 1935, when a drunk driver ran into the band's vehicle. The damage to his brain affected his memory, his personality and his musical ability, and eventually led to suicide. But the change was gradual and the band was able to record additional sides for the Decca label in '36 & '37, and many of them can be heard on this disc. Available from [VenerableMusic.com](http://VenerableMusic.com), phone (678) 232-0268.

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★ ★ ★

## TOMMY GARRETT

### *The Best of the 50 Guitars of Tommy Garrett, Vols 1 & 2*

Varese Sarabande 302 067 332 8 & 302 067 337 8



Beginning in 1961, over the next 12 years, Tommy Garrett produced some 24 "50 Guitars" instrumental LPs! The popular concept was his own and he included a large number of Western and border tunes in those albums, many of which, especially the border standards, have found their way onto these two new CDs. The volumes are issued separately, but if you're already a fan, you may as well go ahead and buy both! The first album contains 12 songs, including very popular versions of "Maria Elena," "The Good,

the Bad & the Ugly" & "Spanish Eyes." Volume Two has 22 tracks with a broader selection of pop tunes, but songs like "My Adobe Hacienda," "South of the Border," "The Lonely Bull" & "Adios" are there as well.

Garrett is best known to Western music fans as "Snuff," friend of Rex Allen and Roy Rogers, and producer of some of their albums and many others. For his first two "50 Guitars" LPs, "Snuff" hired the legendary Laurindo Almeida to play lead guitar. After that, Tommy Tedesco played lead on most of the subsequent projects, but what you'll hear is a veritable orchestra of acoustic guitars. Obviously, it became a very popular "sound," one which is still very enjoyable in the 21st century. Informative notes by Western music historian, Laurence Zwisohn, are included. Widely available online.

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★ ★ ★

## OLD FAITHFUL: SONGS FROM THE SADDLE

### *Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Rex Allen, etc.*

JASMCD 3586



Jasmine is one of the few remaining record labels that still releases vintage Western music. Paul Hazell, who compiled the collection on this disc, has been a Jasmine contributor for years, playing an important role in keeping Jasmine in the forefront of the re-issue market. Jasmine

CDs are widely available in the US, but the label is based in the UK; Paul's interest in Western music extends not only to the US, but includes Canada, the UK and especially Australia.

U.S. cowboys are well represented on this disc of 27 songs. Roy Rogers sings two, one of which is a very rare recording of "A Cowboy Needs a Horse," restored from a 1950's Golden Records disc. Elton Britt sings "Give Me a Pinto Pal," and Gene Autry's original recording of "Take Me Back to My Boots & Saddle" is here, as are Rex's "Old Faithful" & his less well-known "Albino, Pink-Eyed Stallion." In addition to the better-known stars, we find rarely heard Americans like Texas Jim Robertson (singing "My Pony's Hair Turned Grey"), Carson Jay Robison ("There's a Bridle Hanging on the Wall") & 2015 Hall of Fame inductee, Bob Atcher ("Strawberry Roan"). Canadians Wilf Carter and Omar Blondhal (aka "Sagebrush Sam") sing four songs each, Hank Snow sings his early "Ridin' Along, Singing a Song" and the UK is represented by The Hillbillies with "Yip Neddy." Featured Australian singers include Tex Morton (with four tunes), The Tumbleweeds, Buddy Williams, June Holmes, Les Wilson & Smokey Dawson. Paul Hazell's liner notes offer insight into the songs and their singers, a big help to the listener who may not be familiar with the wide range of material found on this excellent disc. Available from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

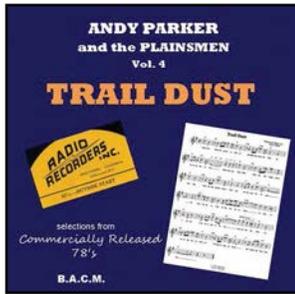
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★ ★ ★

## ANDY PARKER

### Trail Dust, Vol 4

B.A.C.M. CD D 495



This 4th release of material by Andy Parker & the Plainsmen, plus a few famous guests, comes from commercial 78rpm records (23 sides) made between 1947 and 1951. There's one exception, a demo titled "Gallop in' to Glory," a Fleming Allen composition featuring Charlie Morgan.

The audio quality has been perfected to make them sound "like new," and the music you'll hear is fantastic! The Plainsmen were clearly one of the most talented groups of the Golden Era of Western music, and, once you hear this disc, you'll understand why they were so highly regarded by other musicians.

Here they accompany Betsy Gay on "I Didn't Know the Gun was Loaded" and the Zeke Manners novelty, "Cigars, Cigarettes, Souvenirs," Tex Ritter as he sings a delightful version of "Pecos Bill" and Gordon McRae on "Dear Hearts & Gentle People." But most of the rest of the songs (23 in all) feature The Plainsmen doing some of their finest work, e.g. "Trail Dust," "Wailin' West Wind," "Wagon Wheels," "The Rangers Ride Again," "Ridin' Down the Canyon," "An Old Cameo" (a Charlie Morgan vocal solo with group harmony & beautiful solos by steel guitarist Joaquin Murphey and fiddler Harry Sims), "Whippoorwill Waltz," the rare "Hangman's Guns" (with Andy singing the solo) and the previously unissued "Gallop in' to Glory," featuring Charlie Morgan, to name just a few. According to Andy Parker's diary, two of the songs were recorded with, and in the home of, the legendary musician/producer Buddy Cole.

Andy Parker's son Joe provided the liner notes and photos of all of the performers and tried to make sure the audio was as good as it gets. He succeeded! Highly recommended! Available from VenerableMusic.Com, phone (678) 232-0268 or Amazon.com.

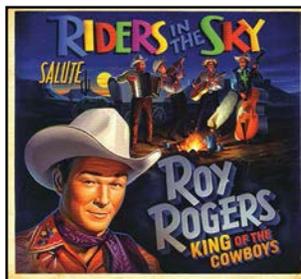
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★ ★ ★

## RIDERS IN THE SKY

### Riders In The Sky Salute Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys

Riders Radio Records RRR1005



The first song on this 2015 release is "A Gay Ranchero," a reworking of a Mexican folk song. When you hear Too Slim count it off in French, you know you're in for a fun ride, as only the Riders can provide! The Riders had the opportunity to work with Roy Rogers on several occasions, and photos from those days

illustrate the CD's liner. They were eager to put together this special salute to him. Their friend, Roy Rogers, Jr. ("Dusty"), joined them on the album's last song, "Happy Trails" (of course).

The music selected for this project was associated with Roy's long career, starting with "Hadie Brown (My Little Lady)," the song Roy sang when auditioning for a position as a singing cowboy movie star with Republic Studios in 1937. It's a yodel showpiece, and Woody Paul does a fine job on the solo, his first recorded solo yodel in 37 years! Each of the Riders solo on more than one of the songs, e.g. Joey on "Roll on Texas Moon" & "Yellow Rose of Texas," Woody on "Don't Fence Me In," Ranger Doug on "My Adobe Hacienda" & "Along the Navajo Trail" and Too Slim on "Hawaiian Cowboy" and, as "Side Meat, the Sidekick's Sidekick," he recites his own, "Let Us Now Praise Gabby Hayes."

There's more, 14 entries in all, with lots of beautiful Western harmony and interesting liner notes and illustrations. Another Riders album that should be in everyone's musical library! Contact RidersInTheSky.com, or if there's a concert coming up in your area soon, purchase a copy when you see them "in person."

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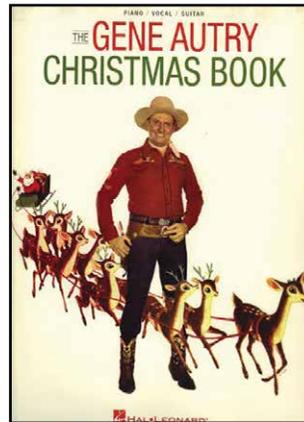
★ ★ ★

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE GENE AUTRY CHRISTMAS BOOK

#### A songbook for Piano, Voice & Guitar

Hal - Leonard Corporation, 2014



It took seven years of hard work to produce this songbook. Why? Because the sheet music for eight of the twenty-five titles in the book had not been preserved after it was originally performed. It was lost, so copies of 100's of broadcasts had to be found and cleaned-up in order for the music to be manually transcribed from Gene's performances on his Melody Ranch and Sergeant Gene Autry radio shows. The latter, his wartime show, had served

as the channel through which Gene Autry's name began to be associated with In the absence of sheet music, the most time-consuming challenge was to actually find the songs as performed on the air. The aim was to collect the 25 Christmas songs Gene most liked to sing and those that were his audience's favorites. At the outset, no one knew which songs those were and eventually, over 45 songs were located on transcription discs and rare records! But the discs they came from were not stored in the same place, were not stored in chronological order and were not being re-mastered in chronological order. Only once those jobs were done and the pieces of the musical puzzle had fallen into place did it become evident that Gene Autry had been singing Christmas songs, and that he and his vast audience had specific favorites, from very early in the 40's.

Gene Autry Entertainment President, Karla

Continued on page 38

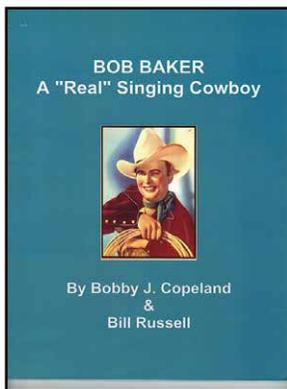
Buhlman, explains in the book's introduction that Gene sang "White Christmas" on his radio show in December 1942, and continued to perform it every Christmas until "Melody Ranch" ended in the mid-1950s. She also explains how Autry got the idea for another Christmas classic, "Here Comes Santa Claus (Right Down Santa Claus Lane)," and of course there's the story of his biggest Christmas hit, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," from 1949.

"Rudolph" was recorded as a "single" with another new Christmas song, "If it Doesn't Snow on Christmas," on the flipside. The sheet music to that song was lost over the years, but you'll find it in this songbook. The book contains full lyrics and sheet music for piano and guitar for all 25 songs, many not available elsewhere! Beautifully illustrated with period photographs and artwork that you, your family and friends can enjoy for years to come! It's a Christmas music treasure! Available from the Autry Museum Store and elsewhere (see GeneAutry.com).

## BOOK REVIEW

### BOBBY J. COPELAND & BILL RUSSELL

#### Bob Baker: A "Real" Singing Cowboy



Bob Baker was a singing cowboy movie star in the 1930's. Born in Iowa, he grew up in Colorado and worked as a ranch hand and rodeo performer in Arizona before landing a job on the National Barn Dance at WLS in Chicago. There, Baker shared the stage with Patsy Montana and Pat Buttram and became friends with Max Terhune, who later was to help him prepare for his screen test when he moved to Hollywood and became a movie star for Universal.

For some unknown reason, Baker never recorded commercially, although his fans enjoyed his singing and, in his pictures, he sang a number of solid Western songs composed by Fleming Allan. His films were popular. His sidekicks included Fuzzy Knight and Hank Worden and his leading ladies included Dorothy Fay & Fay McKenzie, but his career as a star was cut short after only 12 movies, when he suffered an accident doing one of his own stunts. He recovered and was able to complete the film, but Universal, in an unrelated decision, chose to discontinue his starring roles and instead, paired him with Johnny Mack Brown, giving Johnny Mack the lead. After a total of 31 films, Baker left Hollywood.

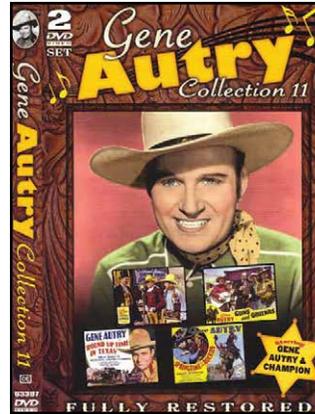
Eight pages of this new 131-page book contain Baker's story, *in his own words*. This is followed by comments about him by former friends and colleagues, loads of great photos, a full chapter on the music in his films and a synopsis of each of his films. \$23.95 from Bobby Copeland, 104 Claremont Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

## DVD REVIEW

### GENE AUTRY, CHAMPION, SMILEY BURNETTE, ETC.

#### Gene Autry Collection No. 11

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



When Johnny Western was 5 years old, he saw his first Gene Autry-Smiley Burnette movie, *Guns and Guitars*. From then on, Johnny wanted to be a singing cowboy. Years ago, noted Western music historian, the late Jon Guyot Smith, told me much the same thing happened to him. This was in 1936, just as singing cowboy movies were getting started. The

movies in this collection helped pave the way for a film genre that influenced the lives of millions of youngsters in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. These movies are still entertaining today, not for their novelty in the 21st century, but because they're just plain fun!

All four films in this new 2-DVD release from Autry Entertainment are from the 1930's. Like *Guns and Guitars*, they're all enjoyable, and you may find a new favorite of your own here! The first is *The Singing Cowboy* (1936), the title of which reflects the early days of a trend in Western movie marketing, since Gene Autry had made the very first musical Western feature film only a few months before in 1935. The music in this one includes "True Blue Bill," a catchy song composed by Frankie Marvin and one Gene had recorded in 1931, just two weeks after Frankie had recorded his own version for another record company. Frankie appears in this and the other films in this collection, and his long association with Autry continued until he retired in the 50's. There's plenty of other good music in this movie, including "There's an Empty Cot in the Bunkhouse" (another Marvin composition), the beautiful "Rainbow Trail," "My Old Saddle Pal" and more, with Frankie and Smiley also singing some of their novelty compositions.

The title song for *Guns and Guitars* was composed by prolific Western script writer and producer Oliver Drake, but the most enduring song in that film was "Ridin' All Day," composed by Smiley Burnette and performed, of course, by Gene Autry. There was less music in *Guns and Guitars* than in some of the others, but it introduced Gene Autry to a lot of youngsters who became fans on the spot.

The next film, *Roundup Time in Texas* (1937), is full of music, including "When the Bloom is on the Sage," "Old Chisolm Trail" and "Prairie Rose," among others, but it's the most unusual film Gene Autry ever made.



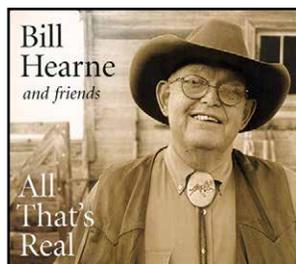
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## 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.

★ ★ ★

### BILL HEARNE (AND FRIENDS) *All That's Real*



It's done by "Bill Hearne and friends." That's an understatement. The musicians, the songwriters

and one can even envision the songs themselves are all Bill's friends. Bill and Bonnie Hearne were Austin Music Scene founders. Many songwriter/performers were given an early leg up by the Hearnese. Those here are Jerry Jeff Walker ("Dust On My Boots"), Delbert McLinton ("Real Good Itch" & "Ruby Louise"), Lyle Lovett ("Truck Song"), Guy Clark ("Rita Ballou") and others. Jerry Jeff drifts by on his song.

Few artists in Americana are gifted with a more original, expressive voice than Bill Hearne's. Absolutely none in Country are. And the arrangements and performances enfold Hearne's delivery like a comfortable, protective glad rag.

Western makes up only part of the Hearne repertoire but, to his credit, in concert he always names genres. "Here's some Bluegrass," he'll say, or "now a great Western song" or "here's a Country favorite." Maybe that fixation on defining genres is lunar. He and I were born on the same day, same year! Fourteen tracks total.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h through [www.billhearne.com](http://www.billhearne.com)

★ ★ ★

### CAROL MARKSTROM *Crossing Borders*



Carol Markstrom's vocal delivery toughens and softens as necessary. In her performance I

hear echoes of the original Protest Rockers or indignant Folk singers or the early sixties....particularly when she's expressing passion for her subject (American Indian, Mexico & the desert Southwest), such as in "Modoc Up" and "Crossing Borders."

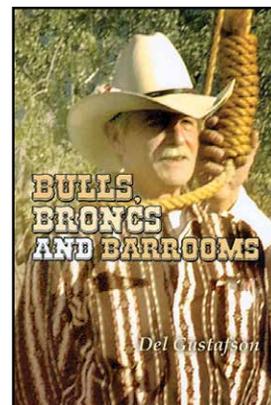
Strong musicians supporting Markstrom in the effort include Jim Jones (harmony & dobro); engineer Seth Maynard (guitars, strings & percussion); Chris Newsome (drums); Jon Chandler (vocals, harmony & harmonica); Ernie Martinez (mandolin); Dave Martin (upright bass); Greg Thompson (fiddle) and, on "Modoc Up," noted flutist Arvel Bird and native vocalists Cheewa James (co-writer & drummer), Natalie Ball and Taylor David.

Original picks include "East To El Paso" done with Jon Chandler and "Land of Nod." Cover picks include a wistful "Pancho & Lefty," "Route 66" and a nod goes to her for using the correct, less employed melody for "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie." Thirteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + s/h through [www.carolmarkstrommusic.com](http://www.carolmarkstrommusic.com)

★ ★ ★

### BOOK REVIEW DEL GUSTAFSON *Bulls, Broncs and Barrooms* ISBN 978-1-5056-2661-2



In fine style, longtime Cowboy Poet Del Gustafson offers remembrances one might expect. He gives us horse chases and catches, moments of awe and beauty, friends gone and admirable cowboy traits.

But he is not afraid to depart from that norm.

Sometimes Gustafson's cowboy protagonists are not all that admirable. Sometimes they're caught, sometimes not. And, to the possible chagrin of plaster saint fans, Gustafson freely admits with the cowboy it ain't all cattle. He also responds to that lonesome carnal call! His cowboy appreciates good bodies, sneaks peeks, has one-night stands and sometimes there's a cash transaction. In Gustafson's poem "Rodeo Romance" the cowboy digs into his jeans to see if he "can pay the entry fee"...double entendre intended. In "The Buckle Bunny" she says "you can bet your hide your wildest ride will be the night you spent with me!" On the subject, Gustafson's tactful, but frontal.

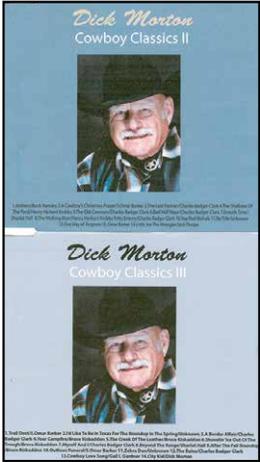
This collection is highly recommended to all but the lily-livered.

Contact Del Gustafson, 30504 NE Big Rock Rd., Duvall, WA 98019-7313 or email [delgustaf@gmail.com](mailto:delgustaf@gmail.com)

*Continued on page 40*

## DICK MORTON

### Cowboy Classics II and III



**Reciter**  
Dick Morton has released two CDs of his (and just about everybody's) favorite Cowboy Poetry classics including many of our cherished Barker, Knibbs, Clark and Kiskaddon works.

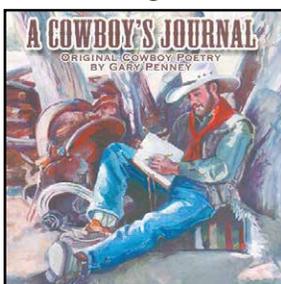
Musical support comes from Rex Rideout and Mark L. Gardner. Morton adapts his delivery as the material demands...from a cowboy's private reflections in Badger Clark's "Lost Partner" to the hypnotic chant of Buck Ramsey's "Anthem." Also present are such gems as Sharlot Hall's "Drout (sic) Time," and "Beyond The Range," Rod Nichols' "Yep" (possibly the ultimate illustration of less-is-more), interestingly Gail Gardner's "Cowboy Love Song" (rather than the beat to death "Tyin' Knots...") and an effective recitation (as would have been the original form) of Jack Thorp's "Little Joe The Wrangler."

There's much to recommend about these releases! Thirteen tracks total on Volume II and fourteen on Volume III counting one of Morton's own, "City Kid."

CDs: \$10 ea + \$2 s/h ea from Dick Morton, 12710 Abert Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80908

## GARY PENNEY

### A Cowboy's Journal



This CD offers effects by Arom Meador and incidental music on guitar, fiddle, mandolin and

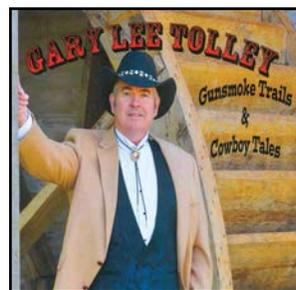
accordion performed by Rich O'Brien...so Cowboy Poet Gary Penney is halfway home already! But he also is possessed of a very solid delivery and command of his medium.

Some of the highpoints include "Rose and Dolly" (a sweet remembrance of two donkey playmates from his childhood), "Beneath The Midnight Dome" (the nighttime symphony of the desert and cowboy snores can be part of it) and "Beer Stains In The Wood" (the scientific explanation of what turns a violin into a proper fiddle). Penney offers a profile of the mighty buckler "Steamboat" and the ride that became immortalized on every Wyoming license plate, "Reflections" on the past and some dog-to-cowboy "Talkin' Eye To Eye." "The New Hand" made me think of Georgie Sicking, for one...and "Muley Cow" shows certain cantankerousness is genetic. "A Handshake Is Enough," of course, says it all. Sixteen tracks, four are religious.

CD: \$15 + \$2.50 s/h from Gary Penney, 398 Bullhide Trail, Lorena, TX 76655

## GARY LEE TOLLEY

### Gunsmoke Trails & Cowboy Tales



When it comes to Gary Lee Tolley's takes of Western songs some take as "bible," they'll recognize the genesis but possibly not the revelations!

He does it well and I find it refreshing, but on this release baritone singer Tolley definitely takes liberties with melodies. Closest to the original is his version of "El Paso." For "Ghost Riders In The Sky" he does run the original line in the base guitar as harmony under his last chorus. "Blue Prairie," "South Of The Border" and "This Cowboy's Hat" are markedly changed. And getting into an area where changes may be fighting words, "My Rifle, My Pony and Me" and the much-loved "Gunsmoke Trails" move off on other trails. "Bury

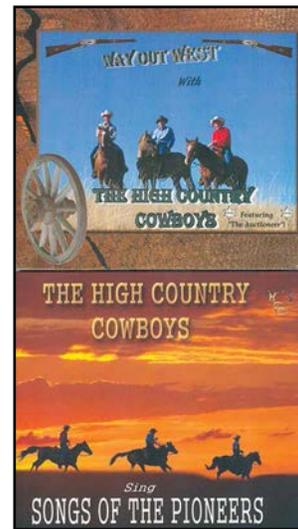
Me Not On The Lone Prairie" is also given a Tolley facelift, but hey! Most people put the wrong melody on that one anyway!

For the most part I enjoy his "variations on a theme," shall we say. But if you take your warhorses uncurried, you've been forewarned.

Available at iTunes, Amazon, cdbaby and other online stores.

## HIGH COUNTRY COWBOYS

### Way Out West & Songs Of The Pioneers



John, Joe and Marty Kossel's close harmony resides tonally in the neighborhood of the latter day Sons Of The Pioneers, with the blend being a bit different from them. Obviously

a trio will sound different than a sextet.

Their earlier CD of the two, "Way Out West," consists mostly of covers. Their "Sierra Nevada" is a keeper and they do credible versions of such favorites as "Ramblin' Rose" "Rockin' Over," "Whispering Pines" and others. Apparently their version of "The Auctioneer," which climaxes in a particularly tongue wrenching speed up, is a band showpiece as it is featured on the cover. Fifteen tracks total.

The second CD, "Songs Of The Pioneers," is what the title indicates...a tribute to the creations of Bob Nolan, Tim Spencer and Ken Carson. These famous standards are faithfully rendered, and they also handle the trio yodeling tasks with aplomb. Again fifteen tracks total on this second CD.

CDs \$20 ea ppd from High Country Cowboys, 978 Red Lodge Creek Road, Red Lodge, MT 59068.

★ ★ ★

## HOT TEXAS SWING BAND

### *Aint' Dead Yet*



From the first track's opening notes, I was aware of a different sound coming from this tight swing as-

semblage. Maddeningly I couldn't put my finger on it. Then I ran it past other ears. It's the handling of the brass!

Frequently when trumpet and saxophone elements are used in Western Swing, they don't go for the big brass blare utilized by the 40s Big Bands and Latin groups. Here the Hot Texas Swing Band flouts it proudly and successfully. They are also not afraid to stretch, as they do in bandleader Alex Dormont's track called "Castle Walls." In it they feature archaic thee-thy-thou wording and pop over to a fuzz rock guitar bridge just to keep you alert!

Some picks include the title track, "Back In My Texas Home," "Along The Navajo Trail," "Bang Bang" and "You Don't Know Me" but it's all good, as the saying goes. Thirteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Alex Dormont, 501 Spring Creek Rd., Dripping Springs, TX 78620.

★ ★ ★

## IAN TYSON

### *Carnero Vaquero*



The Ol' Master's new est was mostly recorded in the 100-year-old stone r a n c h

building he works in every day when not on the road. Ian says "I think the ghosts of all the songs I've written here approve of the new ones!" Well if they're good enough for them...!!!

One song here is, in fact, one of "them"...a new spin on Ian's popular "Will James." He goes back further to pick up the Ian & Sylvia stocker

"Darcy Farrow." He covers Will Dudley's "Colorado Horses," a song definitely from the Tyson mold, and herein he's done for "Doney Gal" what he did years ago for "I Ride An Old Paint!" The remainder of the release consists of Tyson writes ("Shawnee," "Chantell" & "Cottonwood Canyon"), a co-write with Tom Russell ("Wolves No Longer Sing") and two with Calgary's Kris Demeanor ("Jughound Ronnie" & "The Flood").

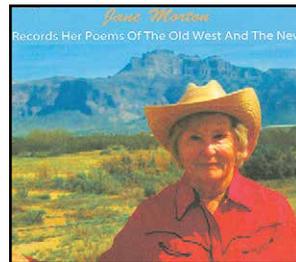
Carnero is Spanish for "ram." The CD is dedicated to the Canadian bighorn that possessed the world's biggest curl, killed by a vehicle, March 2015.

CD: (for ordering info email info@stonyplainrecords.com or try the online stores).

★ ★ ★

## JANE MORTON

### *Jane Morton Records Her Poems Of The Old West And The New*



A biographical lineage threadruns through Jane Morton's work on this CD release. You'd best

listen from beginning to end as I did.

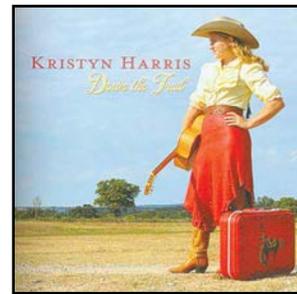
Her first two poems deal with her Arizona friend Rusty Calhoun and the gift from her horses. Then we go to the historic family ranch, now gone, and how you are "Grounded" by place. Moving on the sense of place ran to the community around it. Her grandfather Harry Ambrose, the "Trail Driver," would have spun in his grave to know the place had been sold...as would her father, "Connected" as he was...but "What Would I Have Done," Jane asks in verse, had the decision been hers. She poetically covers that her family was made up of savers, and lauds one final gift of canning. And later comes her admonition to get "Memories" down in words lest they be lost too. It's effective and quietly moving. Fifteen tracks total.

CD \$13 ppd from Jane Morton, 12710 Abert Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80908.

★ ★ ★

## KRISTYN HARRIS

### *Down The Trail*



Kristyn's originals on this fine, highly danceable release include "The Mustang Waltz," "Acres Of Nowhere" (a pick), "Diesel & Dust," "Guitar Man" (a pick), a bonus track "Yodelin' Fever" (a pick) and a Randy Huston co-write "Texas & You" (a pick)!

Covers on Ms. Harris' newest include "Thank Heavens For Dale Evans," a creation from the earliest incarnation of The Dixie Chicks. The performances of the nine support musicians are of the high caliber you've come to expect from the team of Rich O'Brien and Arom Meador. All in all this one provides more justification for the lauds and applause that have been coming Kristyn's way in recent years.

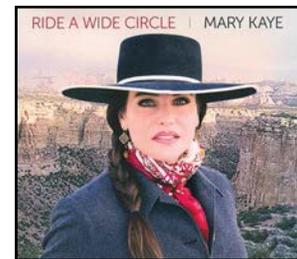
As is my pattern, I need to point out a crediting error in the liner notes, especially since it does involve a WMA Hall of Famer. "When The Bloom Is On The Sage" was written (during a live radio broadcast) by The Happy Chappies Nat (not "Matt") Vincent and Fred Howard. Thirteen tracks including two bonus tracks.

CD available through [www.kristynharris.com](http://www.kristynharris.com).

★ ★ ★

## MARY KAYE

### *Ride A Wide Circle*



Here we have arguably the strongest release yet from the award-winning Mary Kaye. For those un-

aware (somehow), Mary Kaye's voice ranges from expressively plaintive to all-out gut powerful. You will find that nobody from our genre... male or female...handles romping, bluesy attitude material any better than this lady.

Know that everything about the CD is top notch, but it's nice to see

*Continued on page 42*

Continued from page 41

"Buckskin Joe" rescued from an earlier album. Other picks include her title track, the bilingual "Que Vaquero," "The Wild Of The West" (a showpiece of contemporary Western Music concepting), "Big Enough," the swing novelty "Horse Lover," "A Cowboy's Soul" and the swinging, quasi-autobiographical "Girl Meets West."

There are also some Western classics covered, and they include the *a cappella* opener (Harry Stephens' 1909 "Night Herding Song," "Leavin' Cheyenne" and Kent Lewis' beautiful "Song Of Wyoming." Highly recommended. Sixteen tracks total.

CD: \$17 + \$3 s/h US through all major online stores & from Mary Kaye Knaphus, 1410 S. Jefferson St., Salt Lake City, UT 84115.



## ROYAL WADE KIMES

### Shadows of Time



One thing is a given. Kimes & Company know how to put out a quality album. The production and the performances are top notch. That makes "Shadows of Time" that much more gratifying, since this one is the long-awaited all-Western release!

Most of the songs are Kimes' originals. There are some of the expected contemporary-styled explorations ("I'm A Hand," "Come Here Boy" and the Jerry Lee-like boogie "Making Hay"). The song "Turn Back" could be an alternate universe follow-up to "The Cowboy Rides Away!" There is a good strong saga song in "Back In Tombstone" and his superb cover of the Herb Newman/Stam Lebowitz classic "Wayward Wind" not only gets the big west treatment...it also features a Kimes vocal treatment that puts the very howl of that wind into the phrasing of the lyrics. Superior thinking went into it.

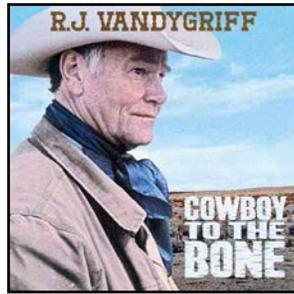
Enjoyable and contemporary. This one deserves and should get plenty of air time! Twelve tracks total. CD ordering information

through [www.royalwadekimes.com](http://www.royalwadekimes.com) or [www.wondermentrecords.com](http://www.wondermentrecords.com).



## R.J. VANDYGRIFF

### Cowboy To The Bone



Presenting yet another winner done with the production ear of the renowned Rich O'Brien! The Cowboy-Ain't-

Dead-Yet vet R.J. Vandygriff proves here that he ain't either!

Personally, I have always thought of R.J. as Western Music's Kenny Rogers. One major difference is the fact that R.J. can wonderfully originate his music as well as sing it to perfection. From his originals our picks include "Mr. Jimmy Busard," a good new Billy The Kid song "William Bonney," "Ain't Dead Yet" and "Chasing Rainbows" (R.J.'s story of pursuing the music business dream). Related to that are two "bonus tracks." They are R.J.'s first two recordings done forty-five years ago!

R.J. has also covered a pair from Randy Huston ("Hurricane Deck" and "Way Of The Cowboy"), the title track "Cowboy To The Bone," the contemplative "What A Cowboy Was" and, for good measure, "The Auctioneer." You'll like it! Twelve tracks plus two spoken intros.

CD available through [www.cowboyaintdeadyet.com](http://www.cowboyaintdeadyet.com).



## SARAH PIERCE

### Barbed Wire



Vocally a little reminiscent of Joni Harms, ranch-raised Sarah Pierce's style is firmly in the Americana genre. But she brings plenty of ranching influence and Western imagery into her beat-driven, acoustic originals.

In her song "Small Town" she finds the value of neighbors who have your back, cowboy style. In her CD's title

track "Barbed Wire" she relates her toughness to its characteristics. In a third song she thanks "Wild Ones," Annie Oakley and Mary Jane Coulter, for paving the way for taking things further. And in "I'm The Daughter Of A Cowboy's Wife," it's the wife who kept and ran the ranch after her husband, the ne'er do well cowboy of the title, had to be shuttled off for the good of the family. Sarah's own hubby, album co-producer and musician Merel Brigante, is obviously more supportive!

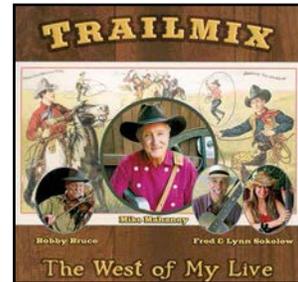
Those who recall Muzzie Braun & The Boys from the WMA's earlier days will be interested to know Willie & Cody Braun, currently of the hit band Reckless Kelly, perform on this recording with nine other musicians. Recommended! Thirteen tracks total.

CD available through most online music stores.



## TRAILMIX

### The West Of My Live



It's a "live" recording, hence the title pun. Say it fast. You'll get it.

Also known as "Mike Mahaney & Trailmix," the band here is made up of Mike, Fred & Lynn Sokolow (names familiar to many an album credit watcher) and Bobby Bruce, the National Fiddlers Hall of Fame member whose performing history dates back to Leon McAuliffe and the original "Panhandle Rag." He repeats that draggin' the bow number for this occasion!

Mahaney and Trailmix have been fixtures since the earliest days of the Western Music Association. Mahaney sits on the WMA Board of Advisors and is an esteemed elder statesman of the organization.

Their new recording has a friendly casual jam feel and is best experienced when taken *in toto*, with Mike's chatting between the numbers. The songs are very much the standards of Western... "Back In The Saddle Again," "Cool Water," "Red River Valley," "Don't Fence Me In" and so on. But it has a homespun personality of its own, and that is a less common ingredient. Fourteen tracks and three "Trail Talk" intros.

# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris
2. Riders in the Sky Salute Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys - Riders in the Sky
3. Spirit Rider - Brenn Hill
4. This Cowboy - R.W. Hampton
5. Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert
6. Cowboys and Girl - Randy Huston & Hannah Huston
7. Race With the Wind - Jim Jones
8. Shadows of Time - Royal Wade Kimes
9. All I Need - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
10. Cowboy to the Bone - R.J. Vandygriff
11. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel
12. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
13. Horses That Run Far Away - Bob Marshall
14. Ridin' the Arizona Trail - Bill Ganz Western Band
15. Night Rider - Marshal Allen Bailey & the Silver Bullets
16. Forty Miles of Famous - Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade
17. Gatherin' Strays - Trails & Rails
18. From the Ranch to the Rodeo - Tony Lundervold
19. Granite Mountain - Belinda Gail
20. Cowboy Songs - Rich Price
21. Ride for His Pay - Robert Beene
22. Riding After Midnight - Clint Bradley
23. Distant Furrows - Barry Ward
24. Partners - Doug Figgs
25. Part of the West - Janice Deardorf
26. Selections - Nancy Elliott
27. Ghost Towns - Allen & Jill Kirkham
28. Let Me Ride - Kristyn Harris
29. Traditions - Jean Prescott
30. Lonesome County Road - Barry Ward

## TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Ain't Dead Yet - Hot Texas Swing Band
2. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel
3. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
4. Still the King - Asleep at the Wheel
5. A Platter of Brownies - Carolyn Martin
6. Legends - Coby Carter
7. All I Need - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
8. Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert
9. New Pictures in an Old Frame - Brady Bowen
10. Now Playing - Western Swing Authority

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Don Edwards for President - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
2. Driftin' Cowboy - R. W. Hampton
3. Down the Trail to San Antone - Kristyn Harris
4. Spirit Rider - Brenn Hill
5. Thank Heavens for Dale Evans - Kristyn Harris
6. She Could Ride - Mikki Daniel
7. Diesel and Dust - Kristyn Harris
8. The Wayward Wind - Royal Wade Kimes
9. (Ghost) Riders in the Sky - Brenn Hill
10. Wyoming: Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

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

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

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

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

# Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who sent their playlists this quarter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo  
Calling All Cowboys Radio  
88.9 FM, KPOV FM  
22470 Rickard Rd.  
Bend, OR 97702  
541-388-2537  
[http://kпов-od.streamguys.us/calling\\_all\\_cowboys\\_new\\_56k.mp3](http://kпов-od.streamguys.us/calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3)  
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show  
NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio  
radio.spalding-labs.com  
(prefers music be sent digitally)

Rockin' Therapy Radio  
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez  
avenida galtzaraborda nº47 2ªA  
20100 renteria  
Guipuzcoa  
España  
miguelbilly56@gmail.com  
www.rockintherapyradio.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Continues on page 45*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Becca Salamone  
Alabama Horse Talk Radio  
PMB 144  
60 Chelsea Corners  
Chelsea, Alabama 35043  
alabamahorsetalk@gmail.com phone:  
205-677-6070  
<http://alabamahorsetalk.com/radio> face-  
book: Alabama Horse Talk, <https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaHorseTalk>

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

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

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

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

## GENE AUTRY DVD REVIEW

*Continued from page 38*

Smiley and Frankie are in it, as had become customary by then, and you may recognize the names of a few other Western performers who have roles in this film, like Ray "Crash" Corrigan, Rudy Sooter, Art Davis and Earle Hodgins.

*Springtime in the Rockies* (1937) took its name from a popular song title which sold well for Gene and others for decades. Gene sings it on screen, along with another hit, "You're the Only Star in My Blue Heaven," a favorite of Gene's first wife, Ina. And guests, Jimmy Lafevre's Saddle Pals, sing a couple. This was Gene's last film in 1937, and it confirmed that he had become the #1 cowboy in Hollywood. His walkout at Republic over a salary dispute would soon follow.

The bonus features on these DVDs draw from *Melody Ranch* radio shows recorded years later, since the weekly radio show didn't start until the

next decade, and the features include more great music. Interestingly, the first one, from January 5, 1941, opens with Gene's temporary theme song, "Sing Me a Song of the Saddle," followed by "Ridin' Down the Canyon." Another interesting bonus is the TV wraparound feature for each film from the *Melody Ranch Theater* which aired in 1987, with Gene and Pat Buttram telling behind-the-scenes stories about these films and other tales from Hollywood. In this instance, their stories about Smiley Burnette and some memorable stunts were most interesting.

This set will bring viewers hours of listening and viewing pleasure. To order, contact the Museum Store by e-mail at [mstore@theautry.org](mailto:mstore@theautry.org) or call (323) 667-2000, ext. 228. And do it in time for Christmas! You'll be glad you did!



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