

Volume 27  Issue 4  Fall 2017  \$5.95

# THE WESTERN WAY

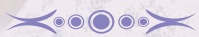


The Official Publication of the Western Music Association

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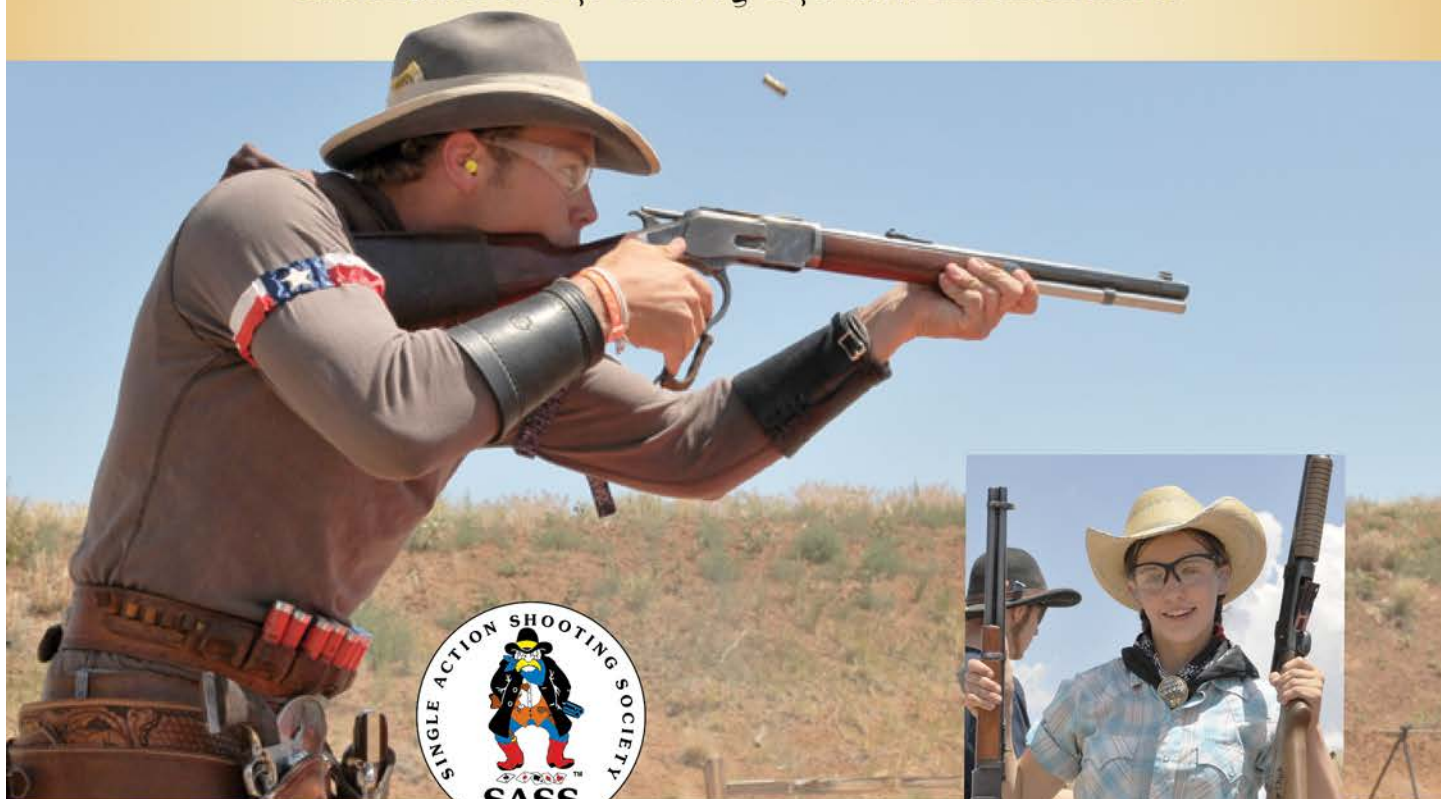
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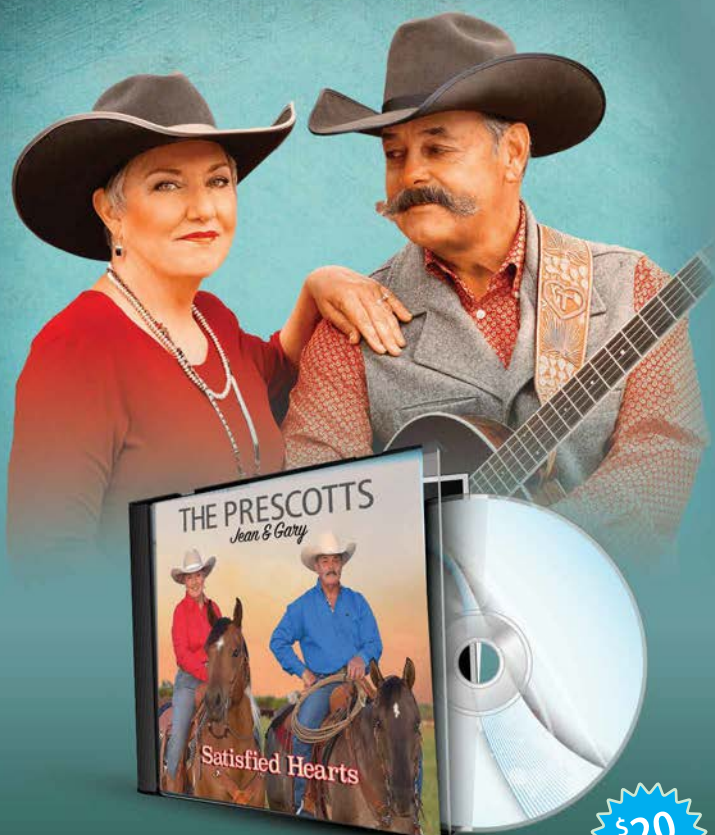


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## From The President...



Marvin O'Dell  
WMA President

When someone joins a charitable organization, it's supposed to be because they believe in the mission and goals of that particular charity. And believing in what the organization wants to accomplish, they join with likeminded people to support the organization's efforts by rallying together as a group periodically and also supporting the organization financially. It's odd to me that a lot of people don't understand that.

It seems that some folks are only asking, "What will the organization do for me?" – which makes no sense, because the very nature of a charitable organization is that it does something for folks outside of the organization. It's about being a part of something bigger than ourselves to help or give something beneficial to others. Members of the Red Cross don't join so they can get free first aid kits. People don't join churches because they want the other members to give them money – do they? People don't become members of Habitat for Humanity so someone will build them a house.

When it comes to the WMA, it's things like, "Will I get to perform on an evening show?" or "Will I win an award?" or "Will I get a showcase?" I've had people tell me they're not coming to the WMA until they are promised a performance opportunity. What does that have to do with the mission of the WMA? (Notice how many "I's" there are in those questions.)

Better questions would be, "If I join, will I get to help young performers hone their craft?" or "Will I have an opportunity to help another performer who might be in need?" or "Will I have an opportunity to make new friends that I can encourage about continuing to write and perform western music?" or "Is there something I can do to help enhance the awareness and visibility of our music?"

Believe it or not, there is great joy to be found in turning one's eyes away from one's self. The WMA week is an opportunity for every member to give back to the music that they love to perform or listen to. We could actually have a good Convention if everyone left their guitars and other instruments at home that week. I'm not advocating that because we all love the music; I'm just saying if we just came together to encourage one another, it would be a great week. If all we did was honor veterans, it would be a great week. If all we did was raise money for our Crisis Fund, it would be an outstanding week. If we only attended helpful seminars, the week wouldn't be lost.

I'll say a personal thank you to those who DO come to the WMA Convention with a desire to help. The Convention could not go on if it were not for a handful of volunteers who work tirelessly so that everyone will have a great time when they attend. Many of them don't perform at all – they just come to help. There are even those who have asked that their performance time be given to others so someone else can be heard.

The WMA can only be as great as its members' attitudes. Maybe it's time to check yours.

Marvin O'Dell  
President, WMA



www.WesternMusic.org

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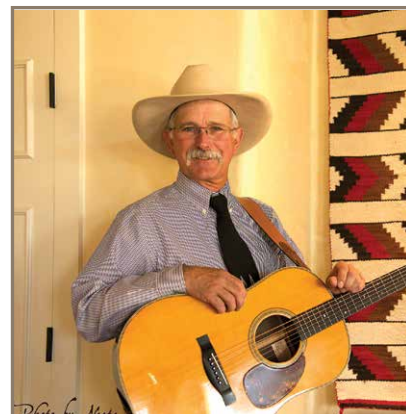
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Mikki Daniel is "Texas  
cowgirl" through and through.  
However, here her gray is not  
to be upstaged by Mikki's  
wholesome beauty!  
Photos © Walter Workman, 2017.

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Theresa O'Dell

# SINGING COWBOYS...

*We Have the Real Deal!*



West continues today through the songs of real working cowboys.

The WMA is an organization filled with "singing cowboys and cowgirls." Many are people who love the music and verse that preserves the legacy of the days of the 'wild West.' But there are also many within the organization who are the real deal...true cowboys who maintain ranches and "make their livin' with a rope" as singer/songwriter Donnie Blanz once wrote. And, you don't have to go too far to find these hard-working cowboys. Just naming a few, Wyoming boasts of singer/songwriter Daron Little. It was said of Daron by fellow songwriter Juni Fisher, "If Bob Dylan decided he wanted to be a cowboy and write songs about his lifestyle, one would wonder if he'd seek out Daron Little to show him the way." Out Texas-way you will come upon husband/wife duo, Jean and Gary Prescott, working ranchers. They both write about the cowboy way of life from experience and present their music from the heart. Scoot on over to New Mexico and you'll find Mike Moutoux, known as "New Mexico's Enchanting Cowboy" or Doug Figgs, farrier, cowboy, and western music singer/songwriter. Go up North into Canada and see the West painted in song through the eyes of cowboy Ryan Fritz, or drop into Montana and listen to the original and soulful songs of ranch wife Trinity Seely. These are only a few of those folks who live and love the West and preserve it lyrically as a part of their daily lives. Yes, my friends, the real Singing Cowboy is still alive and well.

I am proud to be a part of an Organization whose mission is to preserve and promote this rich western heritage and cowboy way of life. The Western Music Association (WMA) is a 501c3 organization that has been in existence promoting the music and poetry of the American West for more than 25 years and has as its purpose "to encourage and support the preservation, performance, and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West." Its membership is comprised of professional and amateur musicians and supporting members (FANS!). The WMA is actively involved in youth programs, music camps, training, and overall education programs designed to promote and preserve the culture of the West through the next generations. Today's audiences who love this music are encouraged to learn more about joining the WMA at [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org) and uniting with the WMA for the preservation of the lyrics and lore of the Singing Cowboys of yesterday and today.

Check out what the WMA is all about – come to Albuquerque, NM November 8-12, 2017 for the 2017 Annual WMA Convention. Walk the halls with the cowboys and cowgirls; mingle with the fans, shop the wares of the vendors, and enjoy fun-filled days of music and poetry. We WANT to see you there.



## From The Executive Director...



**Marsha Short**  
Executive Director

One of my guilty pleasures is bad disaster movies (volcanoes blowing up Los Angeles, ice storms destroying New York City, sharknadoes), but if this last week was a SyFy movie, I'd have turned it off for being just too much disaster for one movie. Only I couldn't turn it off. It was happening just a few hours south of us. I read today that one in nine people nationwide knows someone who has been affected by Hurricane Harvey. Those numbers change dramatically for those of us lucky enough to live in Texas. Watching people

come from all over to help in the rescue efforts has renewed everyone's faith in our ability to come together and be there for each other. Hug your loved ones a little closer and remember your extended family in Texas and Louisiana in your prayers.


When you're reading this, we'll be just about a month from the Convention. Our vendor area is sold out this year! You can check out the list on our Website. There are links to the vendor Website so you can do some "window shopping" beforehand. Remember that each vendor donates 10% of their sales back to WMA. This year we'll also have several authors as well as representatives from other gatherings and festivals.

One of WMA's great programs is our Youth Scholarship Fund. Since starting this fund, we've been able to help Youth Chapter members attend several music camps. The scholarships are funded by donations from our members. This year, Eddy Harrison has donated one of his custom-made guitars to be raffled to benefit the Youth Scholarships. Tickets will be available at the registration desk for \$25 each. This is a wonderful way to support our youth members and have a chance to win one of Eddy's beautiful guitars (he's bringing three and you can take your choice!). We're also grateful to Ed Stabler's family for donating so many items to be sold to support the fund. Check in the WMA Consignment Shop.

We'd also like to thank Jon Harnum who will give a workshop on "The Practice of Practice" for our Youth Chapter on Friday morning. Jon has donated his time and books to present this important session for our Youth Members. He'll repeat the workshop on Friday afternoon for all registered Convention attendees. Time is still to be determined.

Also new on the schedule is a panel on the National Day of the Cowboy. Bethany Braley, National Day of the Cowboy Executive Director, will facilitate a panel on the status of this campaign and how you can be involved.

Two new WMA Chapters will be with us this year: WMA Texas Chapter, President Johnie Terry and WMA Upper Michigan/NE Wisconsin Chapter, President Tom Betts. It's so exciting to watch WMA grow and continue to follow our mission statement "to preserve and promote" the music, poetry and heritage of the West.

And there's so much more! If ever we needed a time to be together and just breathe, this is it. We hope to see you there! 



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

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- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Friends of Marty Robbins Museum - Willcox, AZ
- The Rex Allen Museum - Willcox, AZ
- WMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals across the country
- [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org) – 365 days a year!

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# *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.

## **A Few Lines For Oregon From A Grateful Native Son**

by Tom Swearingen

*I've roamed all corners of this state  
At lope, or trot, or walking gait.  
From vantage point of horse's back  
On vast wide range and single track.*

*Smelled the air of sage scent mesas.  
Followed ruts and ancient traces  
Of nomads, beasts, and those who came  
To stake their claim and bring my name.*

*Watched desert devils spin and dance,  
Their dust trails haze the far expanse.  
Then fade and lift to leave behind  
My outlook clear with inspired mind.*

*Cut the tracks of wild Mustang bands.  
Packed deep in cool of timber stands.  
Spent 'nuff time around city walls  
To know I prefer coyote's calls.*

*Circled herds on high graze grasses.  
Trailed them down steep switchback passes.  
Spent lots of nights with stars my lamp,  
Bedded down in a remote camp.*

*Picked way cross rivers snaking down  
From mountain range and hilltop crown.  
Seen life they bring to valley floor,  
Then fresh the salt at ocean shore.*

*I've come to love this diverse land,  
Where creative fires can be fanned.  
Six decades here have made it clear  
I'm glad my roots were planted here.*

*Oregon is a sacred ground  
Where coiled up thoughts can be unwound,  
Then strung in lines to then be sung  
With passionate voice and angel's tongue.*

*So now my plan's for me to stay  
Until my final earthly day.  
If that works out, then I'll be blessed  
To ride my days out in the West.*

© 2017, Tom Swearingen



### **TOM SWEARINGEN**

Tom Swearingen is an Oregon horseman whose original cowboy poetry is often inspired by his own experiences and observations from the saddle. Tom brings his stories to life with rhythm and rhyme and a style that makes him a popular performer not only at cowboy gatherings and horse camps, but wherever else you find folks who appreciate the heritage of the West. Two-time winner of the National Finals Rodeo Cowboy Poetry Contest and 2015 and 2016 finalist for Western Music Association Male Poet of the Year, Tom's poems have been published by the Center for Western and Cowboy Poetry, featured in *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*, and recognized by such organizations as the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame.

Tom's *Horses and Happiness* CD was a two-time finalist for WMA Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year. His newest CD *Rhyme 'Em Cowboy!* was a 2016 finalist for WMA Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year. For more on Tom visit [oreguncowboypoet.com](http://oreguncowboypoet.com).



*By Jean Prescott*

## WMA Consignment Shop Returns to 2017 Convention

The WMA Convention is right around the corner and it is time, once again, to start looking through our closets for gently worn, high-quality western stage wear to consign to the WMA Western Consignment Shop. It is also time to think about which of those extra guitars, mandolins, fiddles or banjos might need a new home. I hope those of you who made purchases in 2016 have enjoyed your wonderful finds and those who received a nice check for the items you sold enjoyed the extra money, too.

I am excited to announce that the Consignment Shop will be located in the Alvarado B Room this year, which I understand is right across from the registration desk. How convenient is that? We have a bit more room this year and have decided to have a section for high quality western jewelry. A volunteer will be at the jewelry display at all times to assist potential buyers. All jewelry pieces must be clean, polished if necessary and tagged.

This year we have a special section thanks to the generosity of the family of the late Ed Stabler, former WMA board member. Ed's CDs and CD collection, books, music accessories, boots and some wonderful artwork have been donated to the WMA Youth Scholarship Fund. One hundred percent, yes, I said 100%, of the proceeds of the sale of these items will go into the scholarship fund to further the musical education of our WMA youth.

The 2016 WMA Consignment Shop maintained the same high volume sales as in the previous year, thanks to all of you! The WMA received 10% of all sales making it a win-win situation for everyone. We continue to learn what works and what doesn't, so be sure to check out the Consignment Shop Guidelines on the WMA Website and take the time to print and read carefully all the information. By doing so, you will have plenty of time to be sure your consignment items are all clean, pressed, on hangers and properly

tagged when you arrive at the consignment shop with them. Being prepared will help us get your items on the rack and ready for purchase quickly, giving you the opportunity to make those early sales. In regard to boots, please stuff them with paper or plastic bags to keep them standing up for display. Also, concerning your musical instruments, please bring a stand for them. We will have a volunteer at the instrument table to assist prospective buyers.

All items must be tagged before they are brought in to consign and you must be checked in by a consignment shop team member. Please use safety pins or something other than straight pins to attach your tags. If the tag comes off of an item we cannot sell it. You may use your business card or you may download tags from the WMA website at:

<http://www.westernmsic.org/userfiles/Consignment%20Tags%29.pdf>.

Once again this year I have a great team of volunteers including sisters Lu Middleton, Ida Wheat and Yvonne Creamer. They had so much fun last year that another of their sisters will be coming along to get in on the fun this year, as well as two handsome grandsons who are our go-to guys to set up our display racks.

Again, please review the Consignment Guidelines, paying close attention to items NOT to bring. I will mention a few here. We will not be accepting home décor, tee-shirts, sweat shirts, shoes, baby or toddler clothing, heavy coats, down vests, music or books, other than instruction books for instruments. Keep in mind that everything must be western and "gently" worn. If you have any questions feel free to email me at [jeanprescott@taylortel.net](mailto:jeanprescott@taylortel.net).

November will be here before we know it and all roads will lead to Albuquerque. I wish you safe travels. See you there!



# Historic Old Town Albuquerque, NM

By Ollie Reed Jr.  
Photos courtesy Douglas Carter.

[Note: Hotel Albuquerque, in the heart of historic Old Town Albuquerque, is the home of the 2017 WMA Convention, November 8-12, 2017. You are invited to attend and enjoy the history, beauty, and culture of this grand ol' city, as well as the music and poetry of the West throughout the Convention. For more information: [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org).]



These larger-than-life images are part of an installation titled "La Jornada" by artists Reynaldo "Sonny" Rivera and Betty Sabo. The installation stands outside the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History at Old Town.

Soldier and explorer Zebulon Pike passed through here, the oldest structures in Albuquerque stand here and the charm, art and culture of the city's Spanish heritage are as vibrant as ever here.

This is Old Town, just a few minutes walk from the back door of Hotel Albuquerque, the 2017 WMA convention headquarters. Old Town is filled with adventures for WMA conventioners.

There's shopping in the numerous quaint stores and galleries, exploring in museums and around the centuries-old plaza and food ranging from the most imaginative takes on Southwestern fare to the finest American-style cooking.

There's even opportunity for WMA musicians to perform in Old Town. During convention week, the city of Albuquerque is making the gazebo on the Old Town plaza available to WMA artists and allowing busking in the plaza area. Some Old Town businesses are open to music by WMA performers. To find out more about that, reach out to WMA New Mexico Chapter member Betty Carter at [bettymaes@hotmail.com](mailto:bettymaes@hotmail.com).

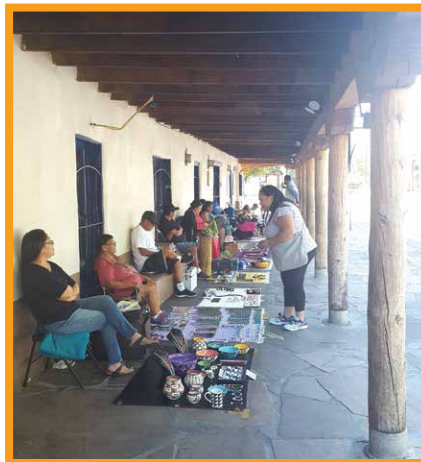
## History

Albuquerque started in Old Town when the Spanish founded a village here in 1706. San Felipe de Neri, the Catholic church on the north side of Old Town Plaza, is probably the oldest structure in Albuquerque. The parish dates back to 1706, but this church building was constructed later in the 18th century. It's usually open to



Old Town cacti, plants and flowers were looking robust and beautiful late in August.

visitors. The rectory east of the church is historic, as is the convent, built in the early 1880s, west of the church. U.S. Army officer Pike, of Pikes Peak fame, stayed briefly in the San Felipe de Neri Church complex after being arrested in February 1807 for intruding into Spanish territory during his Southwest explorations. Pike and his Spanish captors stopped in Albuquerque on their way to Old Mexico. By all accounts, Pike enjoyed his visit in Old Town.



Vendors sell Southwestern jewelry just east of the Old Town plaza.

## Museums

The Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, 2000 Mountain Road N.W., borders Old Town to the north. It has an expansive collection of American Southwest art and impressive and interactive history displays that tell the story of Albuquerque and the central Rio Grande valley.

Admission is free from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays and \$2-\$3 other times. But you don't even have to go inside to enjoy the museum's spectacular sculpture garden

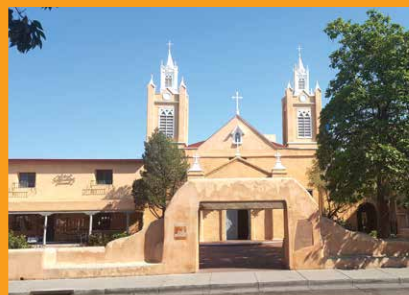
Just east of Old Town, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road N.W., features exhibits ranging from dinosaur fossils to a replica of a Mars Rover. Admission is \$5-\$8. For steely nerved visitors, there's the American International Rattlesnake Museum, 202 San Felipe N.W., in Old Town, which claims the largest living collection of different rattlesnake species. Admission, \$3-\$5.

## Shopping

Vendors, many of them Native American, sell Southwestern jewelry – silver, turquoise and more – east of Old Town Plaza.



Church Street, just north of Old Town's San Felipe de Neri Church, boasts the Church Street Café, a good place to eat, and Vintage Cowgirl, a fun place to shop.



Old Town's San Felipe de Neri Catholic Church, which dates back to the 18th century, is probably Albuquerque's oldest building.



This outdoor fireplace is at the Plaza Hacienda, an Old Town shopping mall.



"Wind and Rain," a bronze by the late Albuquerque artist William Moyers, is part of the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History's sculpture garden.



WMA musicians are welcome to perform on the Old Town gazebo during convention week.

## Eating

The Church Street Cafe, 2111 Church St. N.W., serves up chile rellenos, carne adovada and other Southwest favorites in a building dating back to the 18th century. There's even a ghost story at no



The Old Town Basket and Rug Shop on the west side of Old Town Plaza is a great place to buy Southwest souvenirs.

extra charge. They will make guacamole at your table at the Back Street Grill, 1919 Old Town Road N.W. Menu items include delicacies such as duck tacos and the popular Old Town street tacos. If you are craving flavorful and creative American-style cooking, go to Seasons Rotisserie & Grill, 2031 Mountain Road N.W. Seasons is also prized for its cocktails, and there's usually live music on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

## Getting There

To get to Old Town, walk down the Hotel Albuquerque corridor to your left as you leave the hotel's Garduno's restaurant. Take the south-door exit and continue south past Seasons, across Mountain Road into Old Town. You can't miss it. And you shouldn't.



Fanciful mariachi figures "make music" atop the Church Street Café.

The Old Town Basket and Rug Shop, 301 Romero N.W., is a splendid choice for rugs, tiles, tin artwork, Southwest souvenirs and jars of salsa and green chile. Check out Treasure House Books & Gifts, 2012 S. Plaza N.W., for books about New Mexico history and travel, Native Americans, the Old West, regional cooking and also Southwest mystery fiction.

For fashion-minded females, there's Vintage Cowgirl, 3 Church St. N.W., offering unique dresses, skirts, top and accessories with a stylish Western flair.

# In the CROSSHAIRS



Mikki

**The Western Way:** *This issue we're visiting with one of the bright young performers of western music, Mikki Daniel. Mikki, we know that you are a very busy gal these days, so we appreciate you taking the time for a little interview.*

**Mikki:** Thank you for inviting me to join you!

**TWW:** *So tell us how a young girl like you, who is supposed to be into rock music or heavy metal or hip-hop or something similar wound up taking an interest in cowboy and western music?*

**Mikki:** [laughs] It's all in the way I was raised. My parents raised us kids without modern media or entertainment whatsoever. Sunday nights on the ranch after we got all our chores done, we were allowed to watch a B-Western film or TV show episode. I adored Roy Rogers; so when it was my turn to pick what we watched, I always chose the Roy Rogers Show or a Roy Rogers movie. It wasn't hard to fall in love with the western music when that's all you watch and your hero sings it!

**TWW:** *What are your favorites of the old classic western tunes?*

**Mikki:** [smiles] I have more favorites than I can count, but I have always been extra partial to "Don't Fence Me In."

**TWW:** *And your favorite old-time cowboy singer would be...?*

**Mikki:** [laughs] Bet you can't guess who it would be...Roy Rogers, of course!

**TWW:** *Do you think you'd ever want to record an album of classic cowboy songs? Or would you rather just stick with your songs and more modern material?*

**Mikki:** [sighs and smiles] You know, I would. Cowboy music is where I got started, and it holds a very dear place in my heart. Someday, I might do just that. I love to write music, too, but it's

## Mikki Daniel

(Photos submitted by Mikki Daniel, except as noted.)

all influenced by the folks I admire. And most of them are either from that era, or pattern their music after the era of cowboy music.

**TWW:** *You are quite an accomplished songwriter. Tell us about the first song you ever wrote.*

**Mikki:** [laughs] I don't actually remember what the first song I wrote was, or even what it was about. But, knowing me, I'm sure it was about my gelding of the time, Texas. He was a bit of a scoundrel and, although I loved him dearly, he gave me many adventures that I wrote about. Some of them rhymed and some of them didn't. [smiles] But that's what is fun about writing songs: you get to share your adventures with others. The first song I remember writing that people took interest in is actually a tune I began writing at age eleven, and eventually recorded on my first album, *Gotta Be a Cowgirl*. The song is called "Texas Kerosene," and it wound up being a sort of Texan's explanation of Texas to non-Texans. It turned out cuter than I ever dreamed it would!



Texas Wildfire rehearsal

**TWW:** *That is a very cleverly written song. It's hard to believe someone could be that creative at such an early age. If you weren't a singer and a songwriter, what would you want to do with your life?*

**Mikki:** I would absolutely train horses and day work for ranches and eventually wind up packing mules in the mountains for guided hunts, private ranches, or whatever I could find.

**TWW:** *You're going to college right now, we understand. Where are you going, and what is your major?*

**Mikki:** Yessir! [smiles] I am attending McLennan Community College, and I am in the Commercial Music Program with a focus/major in "Guitar."

**TWW:** *You are also quite a horseman – or is it "horsemoman?"*

**Mikki:** [laughs and smiles] Ah, it is an age-old question! Thank



*Waco Hippodrome, Waco, TX*

you for the compliment. I certainly have a love for helping horses find their confidence and teaching them how to think through exciting situations.

**TWW:** *Is this what breaking a horse is all about? Breaking broncs conjures up a picture of a cowboy on the back of a bucking bronc, but that's not how you do it, right?*

**Mikki:** [laughs] This is mostly true! [smiles] "Breaking" horses is a term I prefer not to use, since it implies that I am breaking something...their spirit, perhaps. This is certainly not true! I simply help them find confidence in their abilities to think through scary situations. With that all said, [laugh] I do begin their saddle-training process by riding them bareback! If I do my job correctly from the beginning, the horse and I both find comfort and balance in the contact we both have with each other. And, as the saying goes, if you can "easily guide a 1200 lb. animal with four fingers and your rear end" barebacked...when you climb on with a saddle and a bridle, they will already have the confidence in you that is necessary in the partnership found between horse and rider.

**TWW:** *Let's talk about your Dave Alexander-produced album, Cowgirl Swing, which spent nine weeks at the #1 spot on The Western Way Cowboy & Western Music chart. You had a lot of wonderful talent on that project. Do you prefer working and performing with a larger group as opposed to just you and your guitar?*

**Mikki:** I have been extremely blessed to have those folks on *Cowgirl Swing*. It's not every day - for most people, anyways - that I get to play with such truly incredible, talented, and knowledgeable musicians. I always enjoy getting to play/perform/record with people I admire, and this project was certainly no different. Of course, there is a freedom when it's only you and your own guitar...you don't have to fit your songs into any specific "boxes" or endings or any sort of rules, because it's just you. But I would never trade the opportunity to record or perform with musicians such as these. There was an energy and passion for the music when we recorded those songs that I cannot describe. Few words were spoken, but there was an understanding and a jive. It just grooved! It's hard to beat that energy when you're playing solo.

**TWW:** *You've been awarded by the Western Music Association, the Academy of Western Artists, and the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, or as we often refer to it, the Cowboy*

*Hall of Fame, among others for your work. That's a lot of recognition at a young age. How do you put that into perspective as far as Mikki Daniel's life is concerned? I guess what we're asking is: where do those awards rank in importance at this point in your life?*

**Mikki:** [shrug] It's incredible, and I often have to remind myself that each of them are blessings. I am honored to have been chosen for each of them, but oftentimes I forget I have them. Awards are not important to me. [smiles] Many people do not understand me, I suppose. [small frown] I do not play music and share my love for history and story via song to win an award. So, while they are prestigious and humbling, they are not truly very important to me. [shrugs again and smiles] But I do recognize how incredible it is to be chosen for one, and I am thankful that I would even be considered next to so many wonderful artists I admire.



*Field of Texas Bluebonnets*

others do not seem to appreciate your art, do it anyways. If you can't support yourself, it's okay. Someday, you will. Do it anyway. Dream big and never, EVER stop believing that you have what it takes, because you do.

**TWW:** *What advice would you have for other young performers who hope to have a musical career, whether it's in western music or another form of music?*

**Mikki:** No matter how clichéd it sounds, I would want them to know that other people cannot define you. You choose how far you go, where you go, why you do what you do, and how long you do it for. If you love music, sing it. Play it. Even if

**TWW:** *How important has the Western Music Association been in terms of your development as a performer?*

**Mikki:** The WMA has played a huge part in who I am today. I have met nearly all of my "western music family" at the Convention, learned so much about playing by ear, honed my performances, been encouraged (and sometimes criticized) by people I admire, and had my first gig offer from the Convention. I am thankful for everything and everyone that being a member of the WMA has blessed me with.



*Standing tall...sort of!*

**TWW:** *Tell us about your family. Have they played a role in your success, or have they just let you figure it all out on your own?*

**Mikki:** [laughs] Without my family, I am nothing. My parents have given their all for my dream. Mom is my manager and roadie, and

*Continued to page 36*



by Buck Helton

## The Roving Gambler

Howdy pards!

My, how time does fly. Once again it's off to the placer and sluice to bust loose another Golden Nugget of musical history. Our focus this go-round will be an old chestnut known as The Roving Gambler, aka A Lovers Hand in Hearts. As is quite common with early Western Music, this song has Irish roots. It follows the basic form of the True Born Irishman, and also shares commonalities with the Civil War ditty The Texas Volunteer, aka The Soldier Boy. The tune tells the story of a professional gambler who in his travels meets a young and lovely lass who decides that he's the man for her, and follows wherever he goes.

In some variations they are wed and live happily ever after off his winnings; in others he is shot dead at a card table, or shoots another who was cheating, and winds up in prison. (In any variation on an Irish theme there is going to be at least one version that ends in death or disaster.) Still others are open-ended, and simply have the lead character and his gal riding off into the sunset to who knows what adventures. The first mention of the tune in its present form was in 1915 as The Journeyman; however, it was already in wide circulation then. The oral tradition of folk music progression at the time was usually at least a decade ahead

of print, if not more.

The oldest recording I have been able to track down is a 1925 Edison record (51584) by Vernon Dalhart. Vernon also had a huge hit that same year with The Prisoner's Song, selling over 1.3 million copies for Victor. It's been covered by a whole passel of great artists in the Cowboy, Country, and Western Swing genres, including Rambling Jack Elliot, Kelly Harrell, Gil Tanner and his Skillet Lickers, and Hank Thompson. The original author is lost to history alas, and sadly I'm unable to credit him or her. The song, in various configurations and melodies has been featured in many songbooks down through the years by such luminaries as Lomax, Darling, Hodgson, Brown and others.

This tune is usually sung in a sprightly and good natured swaggering kind of way. My personal favorite version was that of Mr. Honky Tonk, Hank Thompson. Hank always finished the tune with the verse about a lovers hand in hearts, and let the audience paint their own favorite ending. Almost any arrangement works with this tune, from a single acoustic guitar all the way up to a 9-piece Swing band. I'm sure it will be a valued piece of musical history in any setting you find yourself in.

### ROVING GAMBLER

*I am a roving gambler, I gamble all around  
Whenever I meet with a deck of cards I lay my money down.*

*I've gambled down in Washington, I've gambled over in Spain  
I'm goin' down to Georgia to gamble my last game.*

*I had not been in Washington not many more weeks than three  
When I fell in love with a pretty little gal, she fell in love with me.*

*She took me to her parlor, she cooled me with her fan  
She whispered low in her mother's ear, "I love that gambling man."*

*"Oh daughter, Oh dear daughter, how can you treat me so?  
To leave your dear old mother, and with a gambler go?"*

*"Oh mother, Oh dear mother, you know I love you well  
But the love I have for this gambling man, no human tongue  
can tell."*

*"I would not marry a farmer, he's always in the dirt  
The man I want is a gambling man who wears a silken shirt."*

*"I would not marry a railroad man, I'll tell you the reason why  
I never knew a railroad man wouldn't tell his wife a lie."*

*"I would not marry a cowboy, he's always in the rain  
The man I want is a gambling man who wears a golden chain."*

*"I hear that train a-coming, it's a-coming 'round the curve  
A-whistling and a-blowing and a-straining every nerve."*

*"Oh mother, Oh dear mother, I'll tell you if I can  
If you ever see me back again, it'll be with that gambling man."  
And Hank's ending...*

*"Now, shuffle up the cards boys, and deal me just five cards  
And I'll show you five-cent gamblers, a lovers hand in hearts"*

I hope you've enjoyed our little prospecting trip over the river and down the creek. I'll be back next time with another fascinating bit of musical lore from times gone by. As always, your comments, suggestions and feedback are valued and welcome. I hope to see you at convention shortly after this comes out. Don't be shy, come hug my neck...or email me at [Buck@buckhelton.com](mailto:Buck@buckhelton.com)



# Chapter Update



## ARIZONA CHAPTER

**President: Yvonne Mayer**  
**Steidl-mayer@msn.com**



Mike Dunn, Cowboy Poet  
Photo courtesy Yvonne Mayer

Mae Camp and her late husband, Chuck, have been inducted into the Tucson Musicians Museum. This is the first time a Western entertainer has been inducted. Mae and Chuck Camp were founding members of the Western Music Association and Chuck was one of the first directors. They owned and operated the Triple C Chuckwagon for many years, with the entire family cooking, serving and entertaining. The Arizona Chapter provided an information table at the Prescott Cowboy Poetry Gathering and made many great contacts. Western Music Night planning continues, with a composite CD prepared for presentation. Our first meeting of the season was held at The Beatitudes in Glendale with a record attendance.



Cimarron Sidekicks (Bob, Paul, Dan and Curt) with Mark Munzert Photo courtesy Yvonne Mayer

We will hold elections at our next meeting on October 15.

## California Chapter

**President: Jack Hummel**  
**westmusc@ix.netcom.com**

Hello to everyone. The California Chapter is excited to report on several

great events and we have even more planned for the future! We continued our co-sponsorship of the Out West Concert Series beginning with a red hot, packed-house, crazy good performance in June by the *Hot Texas Swing Band*. After being riveted by their performance in Albuquerque, we knew we had to figure out a way to get them for the Concert Series, and they did not disappoint! That was followed by a great July performance by a special lady, California Chapter's own award-winning singer-songwriter *Joyce Woodson*. We barely caught our breath, and then Jim and Bobbie Jean Bell booked *John Zipperer and the Current Band*. We were promised great music and a joyous performance and it was wonderful. We thank all of these artists for simply extraordinary performances. You can catch all of the programs at [www.sctvoutwest.com](http://www.sctvoutwest.com)



Jim & Bobbi Jean Bell with John Zipperer & the Current Band

But that is not all. In October, we are looking forward to another Outwest Concert. Coming to us all the way from Montana, *An Evening with Almeda Bradshaw*. The Chapter will be hosting two additional concerts. The first will be Dave Stamey in January 2018 and then we will present Michael Fleming and New West (Michael Fleming, Raul Reynoso, David Jackson) in February. WMACC member Diane Humml has set up house concerts from time to time,



Ron Christopher Joins Miss Devon & the Outlaw

and in August she landed *Miss Devon and the Outlaw*. Diane already has another concert slated for January. She has always shown us great hospitality and has been very generous with good food and beverages. Thank you, Diane! We report regularly about our monthly Showcase Series at the Autry Museum of the American West in Burbank, California. Such a venue is a continued blessing. Our performers have practiced and worked diligently and draw great crowds. Recently we changed the seating, pulling the audience closer to the performer, moving the on-deck performers to the side, and setting the performer center stage. In addition, Greg Khougaz became the Showcase Emcee and has done a spectacular job. All these



Greg Khougaz performs at the Autry Showcase

changes and the quality performances have earned rave reviews. The Showcase is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, from 12noon to 3pm. Please join us if you can! CONGRATULATIONS go out to youth member, Kadin Hernandez for his CD release party held at Buck Owens' Crystal Palace on August 29. Last quarter Kadin performed on RFD Television and we all look forward to witnessing his growth and success. If your chapter would like to share success stories and ideas regarding youth outreach, or if you have questions, please contact us. We appreciate any and all input. The best to you all and see you down the trail!

## Columbia Chapter

**President: Lynn Kopelke**  
**lynnkopelke@yahoo.com**

Howdy, folks. It's been a busy summer for chapter performers. They've been to the Great Lakes, Colorado, and even further afield, but on July 8 the Chapter came together in Lewiston,

*Continued on page 14*

## Chapter Update

Continued from page 13



Ted Hunt  
Photo courtesy Carla Swearingen

Idaho. Lewiston was the home of The Lee Earl Memorial Gathering for years. They were sure ready for the return of some western and cowboy entertainment and boy did they get it! Steve and Terri Taylor aka Stampede! came all the way up from Utah to join Lauralee Northcott, Tom Swearingen, The Notable Exceptions (Judy Coder and Jennifer Epps), Duane Nelson, The Panhandle Cowboys (Farmer Dave Fulfs and JB Barber), Lynn Kopelke, Barbara Nelson, former and founding member Dallas McCord, and supporting member Ted Hunt, who showed off some serious chops with a set of classic cowboy tunes. There was a pretty darn good crowd at the Elk's Club. Special shout out to Toe Tappin' Tommy Tucker for getting the word out on his Snake River Round Up radio show on KRLC radio. After this great weekend, everybody has scattered to the four winds but we will get together again for our annual showcase and business meeting in Bingen, Washington, in October. For now, "A Dios!" and happy trails.



Tommy Tucker and Lauralee Northcott, Photo courtesy Lynn Kopelke

### Kansas Chapter

**President: Orin Friesen**  
**Orin@rbanjoranch.com**

The members of the Kansas Chapter spent much of the summer involved with events surrounding the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. WMA singers and poets performed at several events along the Chisholm Trail, including the towns of Abilene, Caldwell, Ellsworth, Wellington, and Wichita. Perhaps the largest of those celebrations was the Trails, Rails & Tales festival in the famous cowtown

of Abilene, Kansas. A majority of WMA-KS members performed at this event along with national cowboy performers Michael Martin Murphey, Red Steagall, and the Sons of the Pioneers. One Chisholm Trail event still to come is a special Joseph McCoy "memorial service" on Oct. 22 at McCoy's gravesite in Wichita. Thanks to WMA-KS member Ron Wilson, there is a new TV show in Kansas that features performances by many of the chapter members. The show, called *Cowboy Up*, began airing on Cox Cable TV in August. It can be seen in over 150 Kansas towns, including major cities like Topeka, Manhattan, Salina, Garden City, Dodge City, and Wichita. It has also been announced that Rocking M Radio, which has a chain of radio stations in Kansas, will soon begin airing a program called Kansas Radio Theater. It is expected that a number of WMA-KS performers will be involved.

**Colorado Chapter**  
**President: Susie Knight**  
**lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com**

The members of the WMA Colorado Chapter "Branded Western" are steadily making a tidal wave sweep throughout Colorado with showcases, shows, and the Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering! In June, the Chief Theater in Steamboat Springs presented the F.M. Light Western Night starring Peggy Malone, Terry Nash, Dennis Russell, Susie Knight, and the Yampa Valley Boys (Steve Jones and John Fisher). In July, the El Paso County Fair in Peyton, Colorado celebrated our Western Heritage with performances by JJ Steele, Susie Knight, and Jimmy Lee Robbins, followed by the ever-fabulous



Performers

Flying W Wranglers. In August, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual WMA-CO Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering was held at the Florissant Grange. The day opened with the WMA-CO Branded Western Showcase featuring the Ramblin' Rangers, Terry Nash, Bruce Neumann, Dennis Russell,

Carrie Brown, Lynn Kopelke, and Sonja Oliver (accompanied by Jimmy Lee Robbins). That evening, the Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering Dinner/Show starred Tom and Donna Hatton, Floyd Beard, Susie Knight, and Peggy Malone.



Tom & Donna Hatton, Susie Knight, Peggy Malone

The sold-out audience said they hadn't laughed so hard and enjoyed themselves more in ages! A very special thanks goes out to WMA-CO member, Sid Kramer, for providing footlights for the PPCG Show. (Anyone that has ever worn a cowboy hat on stage knows their face is shadowed by the hat.) The final WMA-CO Showcase for 2017 was Saturday, September 16 at the Cortez Cultural Center in Cortez, Colorado. The 2-hour showcase was hosted by WMA-CO Secretary, James Michael, and performers included Tom & Donna Hatton, Tim Krebs, Lynne Belle Lewis, Terry Nash, and Mark Baker. After this



Performers

showcase, the Top Hand Awards tallies were finalized for 2017 and the 2017 Top Hand Award winner will be announced before the 2017 WMA Convention via email from Susie Knight, WMA-CO President. To gain points and become eligible for this Colorado chapter award, join the Chapter, attend chapter events, bring your whole family and neighbors along, help out in every way possible, and spread the word online. The award will be presented to the winner at the Convention (or...if the recipient is not present, it will be mailed). Good luck to all WMA Colorado Chapter members! In my book, you're all TOP HANDS!

**Montana-Dakotas Chapter**  
**President: Almeda Bradshaw**  
**almedam2b@gmail.com**

The far-flung members of the Mon-Daks Chapter, which covers a mighty wide open space of land, have been setting up camp in two major regional hubs, Billings, MT and the Black Hills area of South Dakota. Each of these locations has a surrounding nucleus of members, so each has been riding herd on their area's available populations of tourists and locals, hoping to wrangle them into chapter events and create awareness in the WMA. Allen and Jill Kirkham worked with the Southern Hills Music Festival in Custer SD to produce a Western Stage featuring WMA members August 18-19. This new event was attended by six MDC members: Allen & Jill, Open Range, Almeda Bradshaw, Paul Larson and Pegie Douglas, as well



*Almeda Bradshaw at Southern Hills Music Festival  
Photo courtesy Allen Kirkham*

as WMA members Susie Knight and Janice Deardoff. Brad and Bonnie Jo Exton, known as Ramblin' Rangers, are producing the Badger Clark Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering in their hometown of Hot Springs, SD. This event took place September 22-23 and featured MDC members Paul Larson, Ramblin' Rangers and Pegie Douglas with Susie Knight from the Colorado Chapter. Almeda Bradshaw is heading up a Mon-Daks Chapter Showcase during the NILE October 20-21. MDC members, High Country Cowboys, Open Range, Almeda Bradshaw, Allen & Jill, Miss



*Paul Larson at Southern Hills Music Festival  
Photo courtesy Susie Knight*



*Pegie Douglas at Southern Hills Music Festival  
Photo courtesy Susie Knight*

V, Paul Larson, Pegie Douglas and the Panhandle Cowboys from Idaho, are slated to appear on the Western Expo Stage. So it's looking like late summer and fall are a good time

to hit the trail north for Mon-Daks Chapter showcase events. Make plans for 2018!

**New Mexico Chapter**  
**President: James Michael**  
**mhosea@zianet.com**

Since our last update, the WMA-New Mexico Chapter (WMA-NM) has been very busy. On July 16, WMA-NM produced the fourth annual Western Youth Day Concert on the Plaza in Old Town, Albuquerque. This year's show featured Leah and David Sawyer, Hailey Sandoz, Devon Dawson, Purly Gates and Kacey and Jenna Thunborg who provided an afternoon of outstanding entertainment for an audience of approximately 500 people. Also included in the program were two loud and exciting Western shoot outs staged by the New Mexico Gunfighters Association. As always, several of our hard-working chapter members were on hand to help make the show a success. Our liaisons to the city of Albuquerque (Betty Carter and Bernard Carr) did a first-rate job of coordinating logistics. The chapter's sound system was expertly manned by Scott Wilson with top-notch assistance from our VP, Michael Coy. Our Secretary, Joy Burns, did an excellent job of providing young attendees with the opportunity to craft their own mementos of the event. All in all, it was a grand afternoon.

Our Summer Concert Series at the Rio Bravo Brewing Company in Albuquerque featured performances in July and August which included the 5<sup>th</sup> annual benefit concert for Horses for Heroes. Special thanks to The Tumbleweeds, Cowboy Way and Calvin and RW Hampton for donating their time to perform at this event. The chapter was able to donate more than \$1,000 to this very worthy cause. The final concert of our Summer Series took place at the RBBC and featured Cowboy Way (Jim Jones, Doug Figgs and Mariam Funke) who have become the most popular Western music trio in New Mexico. We would also like to take this opportunity to once again give special thanks to Marion Rutherford who has done an excellent job as WMA-NM's Events Coordinator for both 2016 and 2017. In response to a request from the City of Albuquerque, WMA-NM also provided some Western music for the

city's Summer Concert Series on the Plaza in Old Town on August 5. James Michael and Call of the West provided an evening of outstanding Western music for an appreciative audience of approximately 70 people. The City of Albuquerque sponsors these events through its Cultural Services Department. We would also like to thank Kathi Margard and Joe and Linda Brown for manning the chapter table at this event. Even though we have had a busy summer, we are still anticipating a few additional events before the end of the year. In late September, WMA-NM sent a select group of its members to participate in the 2017 edition of the Southwest Folk Alliance in Austin, TX. Our participation allowed us to showcase Western music to an entirely new group of venues and promoters from all over the southwestern United States. We are also making preparations to participate in the upcoming WMA Convention at the Hotel Albuquerque in November. In addition to our usual activities, we are planning to include two special performance opportunities for our fellow WMA members. First, we will be arranging opportunities for WMA members to perform at various locations in Old Town, which is located just one block South of the Hotel Albuquerque. Thanks to the city of Albuquerque, these will be paid performances. For more information on Old Town, please check out the article by Ollie Reed in this edition of *Western Way*. We are also planning to hold our second annual Rising Stars Showcase during the convention. The showcase will once again take place Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm and will feature some of the best young performers in the WMA. Watch for Rising Stars posters during the Convention and please plan to stay and take in the show. In addition, we will be holding our fourth annual Western Music Christmas Concert on December 7, once again featuring The Flying J Wranglers from Ruidoso, New Mexico. This year, we will offer a matinee performance as well as an evening performance so some of our senior fans will have a better opportunity to attend. On a final and personal note, I would like to thank all the wonderful people who have made my tenure as

*Continued on page 24*

# WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR\*

## 2017

### **Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

October 5-8 – Durango, Colorado

### **Lone Pine Film Festival**

October 6-8 – Lone Pine, California

### **Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium**

October 13-15 – Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico

### **Red Steagall Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

October 27-29 – Ft. Worth, Texas

### **The Western Slope Cowboy Gathering**

November 3-4 – Grand Junction, Colorado

### **George West Storyfest & Johnny Campbell Cowboy Gathering**

November 3-5 – George West, Texas

### **WMA Annual Convention**

November 8-12 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

### **Campfires, Cattle & Cowboys Gathering**

November 17 – Duncan, Oklahoma

### **Wild West Victorian Fest**

December 15-17 – Kerrville, Texas

## 2018

### **Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo**

January 12-February 3 – Fort Worth, Texas

### **Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

January 19-21 – Golden, Colorado

### **National Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

January 29-February 3 – Elko, Nevada

### **Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering**

February 16-18 – Ellensburg, Washington

### **32nd Annual Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

March 2-3 – Alpine, Texas



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# LACK OF DIRECTION

By Dave Stamey

(From his forthcoming book, "The First Twenty Years.")  
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I was giving my wife directions how to get someplace the other day. By way of illustration I waved vaguely to my left and said, "First you go north five or six miles---"

"Wait a minute," she said, and whirled around until she was facing due north. Which, as it turned out, wasn't the way I'd pointed. "Okay," she said, "go ahead."

I hate it when she does that.

I know, mostly, where north is. I have to think about it for a second, but I can find it. Okay, maybe it takes a couple seconds. First, you have to find west, which means remembering what direction the sun comes up, and that's east, and you have to reverse that for west, which is the direction the sun sets in. I can recall this from a radio commercial for a shoe store in Billings when I was a kid. A shrill and irritating chorus of little children would chant, "The sun rises in the east and sets in the west, and Schobers' are the shoes we love the best." Then, once you have the east-west thing down, you have to think about how stuff looks on a map: if the west is on your left and the east, of course, is on your right, then north should be straight ahead. Usually. And south is back there where you sit down.

The tragic thing is, I'm a licensed guide. Really.

Twenty-five years ago, some bureaucrat in a cubicle somewhere decided that all mule packers working in the National Forest needed to be licensed guides. All of us. Even me. The boss brought the paperwork from town and we filled it out, name and age and eye color, but I don't remember taking any test to determine what quality of guide I might be, or having to prove I knew north from south, or my right from my left, for that matter, or what shoe store was my favorite. Nobody came to take our pictures. I do remember it cost nine dollars to apply. The boss took the paperwork and the money and turned it all in, and was informed the licenses would issue in a few weeks. They never did. Time trudged along, the season ended and everybody forgot about it. But the fact remains that I applied. I paid my money. And I never received notice of having been rejected. As far as I'm concerned I'm still a licensed guide.

Which is ridiculous.

Everybody I ever worked with had a better sense of direction than me. My friend John Summers, with whom I have ridden literally hundreds of miles, has a spatial sense that's uncanny. No matter what piece of geography he finds himself in, he always knows exactly where he is, how the country lays, how the canyons fit between the mountains, where they open up and where they pinch together; he can tell you the instant a trail veers from the south to the southwest, and can do all this without breaking a sweat. Or frowning. My father-in-law was the same way, which

is where my wife gets it. I worked with cowboys who couldn't tie a shoelace or recite the alphabet, but by God they knew what way to point when telling people where to go. If you say, "We're heading east up this hill," I'm the guy with the haunted look in his eyes who says, "You bet."

Don't get me wrong, I was never lost. Hardly ever, anyway. I knew where the trails went, where they forked and what branch to take depending on where you were headed, but I knew these things because I memorized them. My sense of direction has always been intellectual rather than visceral. Even in country I knew well, throwing a compass point at me could bring my forward momentum to a complete halt.

"When you get to the far end of the Middle Pasture, take that gate on the west side and it'll drop you into Bobcat Canyon."

Okay. Let's see... The sun rises in the east, but it's the afternoon, so if I put my back to the sun and my left hand... Oh. That gate.

I'll get there. It just takes a little longer.

With the job I have now, driving up and down the road playing music, this inadequacy is not as big an issue as it once was. But it's still there, and can complicate life in many small ways. Put me in a super market and whatever sense of direction I have is cut immediately in half. The search for a gallon of milk can go on for quite some time. Put me in a big hotel and I'm completely lost. I'll step out of our room and start down the hall, and my wife will say, "Where are you going?"

"To the elevator."

"It's this way."

"Really? I thought---"

"Nope. Over here."

And of course she's right, and I will follow sheepishly as she sets off in the proper direction and, presto, there are the elevators, right where she said they'd be, right where we left them, and the next time we step out of our room the same thing will happen.

I realize there must be a gene missing in my DNA, probably the one right next to the gene that makes it hard for us guys to stop and ask directions. (And that's not because we think we know where we're going. We don't. We just don't want to look stupid in front of strangers. We're afraid the person we ask will sneer, "What's wrong with you? Everybody knows how to get there.") I deal with it the best I can. For years I simply wandered around and hoped for the best, a strategy that, surprisingly enough, worked out okay. Mostly. Nowadays I have a GPS unit. Thank heavens for that little piece of technology. I'd be lost without it.

And don't ask me to fold a road map, either





# TUNE YOURSELF

## The Importance of Proper Posture

Samantha Meyer Gallegos

From dancers to performers to young ladies with books on their heads, conventional wisdom says about proper posture: stand up straight, keep your shoulders back, your chest out, tailbone tucked. And that's precisely what I believed. A desire to elongate my short frame along with years of training in classical dance, voice, and performance helped this posture become second nature to me. I thought I was doing everything correctly—until I had to go to a series of physical therapy appointments.

That was where I was told that I had been wrong all along. I was surprised and a little dubious, but I dutifully practiced the way the physical therapist instructed. And even as I practiced, this “new” posture began to pop up around me. A long-time family friend suffering from debilitating back pain after an active life went the non-surgery route and found this posture through a special program—and his back pain disappeared. My vocal coach came to this posture through Tai Chi to help ease her rheumatoid arthritis and found it also helped her breath support. She enthusiastically passed the information on to her students. I, myself, found that it helped ease the pain in my upper and lower back and shoulder blades.

So, you may be wondering, what is this posture and why is it better than the posture of more conventional wisdom?

### Why Posture Matters

Good posture allows your body to work more efficiently with less strain. It is important for balance and helps keep our bones and muscles properly aligned. Poorly aligned muscles may cause abnormal wear and tear of joints, which can result in pain and even degenerative arthritis. It helps prevent muscle fatigue and muscle strain, especially when we stand—or perform—for long periods of time. Good posture can even help us breathe more effectively when singing.

Consider the traditional way of thinking about posture: shoulders thrust back, chin up, tailbone tucked. This stance pulls your body out of its proper alignment, causing excess pressure where there shouldn't be any. It also flattens your diaphragm, inhibiting its full expansion. All this causes other muscles, such as your hip flexors and lower back muscles, to either overstretch or overcompensate. The strain causes them to tighten, hindering movement.

According to the Southern California Orthopedic Institute, when a physical therapist looks at your posture, they look to see that the weight-bearing joints are in alignment. You should have a straight line from the top of your head to your feet to ensure balance. The line should run from your head,

through a line that touches the tip of the shoulders, the center of the hip joint, the back of the knee joint, and the ankle joint. No part of you should be sticking out, jutting forward, or thrust back. Standing like this ensures pressure is evenly distributed on your intervertebral discs and helps you avoid excess stress on your ligaments and muscles.

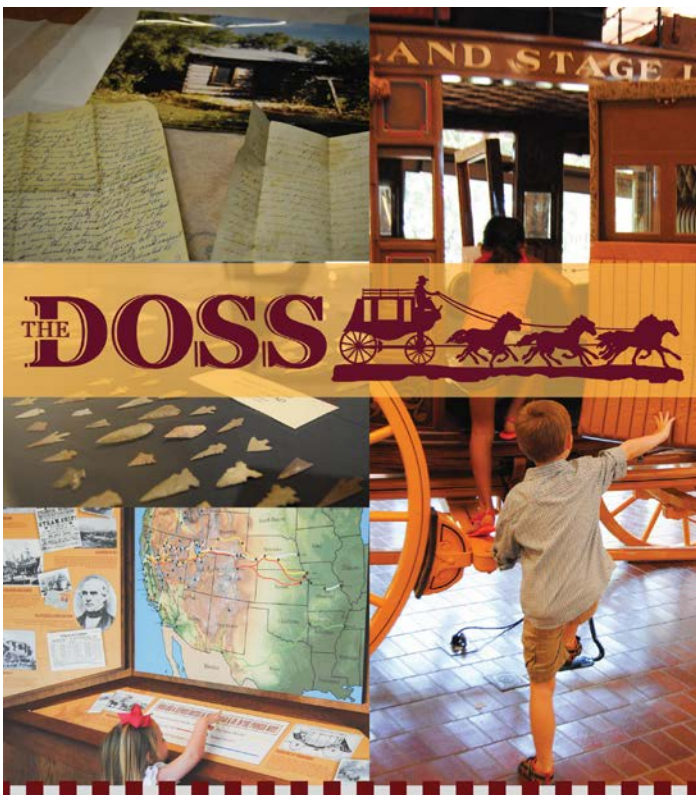
### The Posture

The physical therapist with whom I worked and Healthbeat, the publication of Harvard's medical school, have a few rules to remember when practicing good posture (and yes, as with everything, you do have to practice to make it a habit):

- First Rule: Engage your core. You may remember a few articles ago the idea of keeping your stomach muscles pulled in, or “engaged,” while you sat. Use the same idea here. Keep your entire core engaged while you stand and walk.
- Second Rule: Stand up straight and tall, as though a string is pulling you up from the top of your head. Engaging your core, pulling in and up, will help with this.
- Third Rule: Keep your chin parallel to the floor, not up and not down.
- Fourth Rule: Keep your shoulders neutral. Make sure they aren't hunched but don't thrust them back, either. Roll your shoulders a few times then let them settle into their natural position.
- Fifth Rule: Keep your spine and pelvis neutral. Don't tuck your tailbone too much or overemphasize the curve in your spine. You can check whether your spine and pelvis are neutral by placing your hands on the front of your hip bones. You want those bones to be in line with the top of your pubic bone, not in front of or behind it.
- Sixth Rule: Lean forward slightly. This may sound odd, and it will feel odd for a time, but if you lean forward just slightly, you are distributing your weight more evenly. Most of us, myself included, tend to lean back and lock our knees without even knowing it. Leaning ever-so-slightly forward counteracts this motion and helps us remember to keep our knees “soft,” or unlocked.

It may seem like a lot to remember at first and may feel unnatural for a while, but I can tell you from personal experience that it becomes second nature and, for many, makes a difference. Standing and walking with the above posture is a simple way to ease pain in the short term and the long term. Better breath support and the ability to perform for longer periods of time is just an added bonus!






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By David Sawyer

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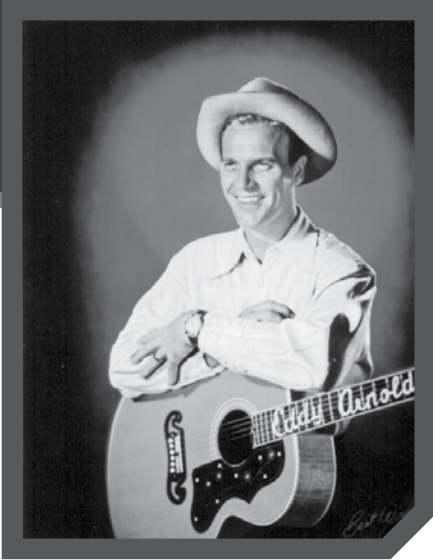
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# 2017 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



## EDDY ARNOLD

*by Don Cusic*

On Eddy Arnold's first recording session for RCA Victor, in December, 1944, he recorded "Cattle Call," which became his lifelong theme song. Eddy Arnold recorded "Cattle Call" four times and his recording of the song in 1955 with the Hugo Winterhalter Orchestra reached number one on the Billboard country chart and remained in that position for two weeks.

Eddy Arnold was the best-selling country artist during the late 1940s and early 1950s, outselling the entire pop division of RCA in 1948. During his radio and TV shows and in his concert appearances, "Cattle Call" was prominently featured.

The song was written by Tex Owens, who recorded the original version but Fred Rose re-wrote the song—uncredited—which made it more commercial.

Young Eddy Arnold's hero was Gene Autry; he remembered walking to town to watch Autry in the 12-part serial, Phantom Empire. Arnold sang songs by Autry when he was in his first group, led by Bill Westbrook. When Arnold joined Pee Wee King's Golden West Cowboys in 1940 he often sang Sons of the Pioneers songs with Pee Wee King, Milton Estes and Curley Rhodes. Later, Arnold was thrilled to meet the Autry when they were both on a train traveling to Chicago and they became lifelong friends.

In August, 1964 Arnold released an album, Cattle Call, that featured only western songs. Songs on that album included the title track, Bob Nolan's "Cool Water" and "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," the Stan Jones classic "Cowpoke," "Old Faithful," "Sierra Sue," Carry Me Back to the Lone Prairie" and "The Streets of Laredo."

Eddy Arnold is one of the top selling acts in the history of country music. His influences go deep into western music with the songs of Gene Autry and the Sons of the Pioneers and he appeared in two western films, Feudin' Rhythm and Hoedown. But Eddy Arnold never really liked Hollywood; he preferred to sing and sing he did, selling millions of records during his career.

Eddy Arnold had a remarkable career that began with a western song, "Cattle Call" and, when his career ended, that was the song that came to mind when people remembered Eddy Arnold.





# 2017 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

## SLIM DUSTY

- Australia's Premier Purveyor of "Western" Music

*by O J Sikes with Paul Hazell and Rick Huff*

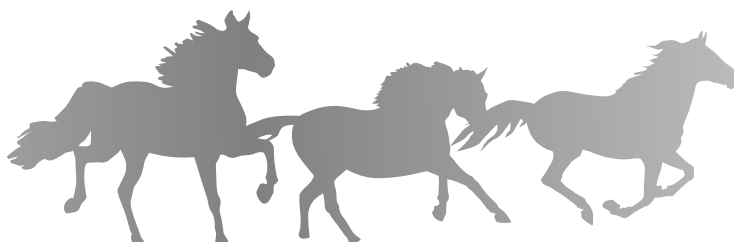
Slim Dusty is widely known as Australia's King of Country Music, but he is also that country's premier purveyor of its "Western" music, i.e. an Australian genre called Bush Ballads, which encompasses any subject matter concerning rural Australia. Slim composed and recorded a huge number of songs about Australia's outback and life in that part of the country. Specifically, he recorded 12 or more cowboy/drover/stockman albums and included 2 or 3 "Western" songs on most of the other 94 albums he made.

The "Western" terms used in Australia that might find equivalents in the American West include Stockmen (ranchers), Outback (the range), Bush (prairie), Drover (cowboy), Brumbies (wild horses), Scrubbers (stray cattle), Station (ranch), Boundary Rider (fence rider), Jackaroo or Jillaroo (trainee cowboy or cowgirl) and there's a long list of others you'll hear in Australian songs that illustrate the similarities between the American West and rural Australia.

The son of David "Noisy Dan" Kirkpatrick, a cattle rancher in New South Wales, Slim Dusty was able to call on his early life experiences when composing his songs about the bush, cattle and drovers, even though, at an early age, he began a life-long career in music. As a singer, he and his entourage travelled thousands of miles every year, performing in the most remote regions and country towns, mingling with the local residents, learning about their lives, their issues and the characters who lived there. This rich mixture of culture and characters is reflected in Slim's songs, and his way of life was vividly illustrated in the full-length feature film, *The Slim Dusty Movie*, which included some live footage of his shows.

Slim Dusty was the first Australian to receive a Gold Record, and over the course of his career, he recorded more gold and platinum albums than any other Australian artist. He was also the first artist in the world to record 100 albums for the same label and he was one of the first inductees in the Roll of Renown, Australia's Country Music Hall of Fame. The Royal Australian Mint issued a commemorative Slim Dusty coin and his image appeared on an Australian postage stamp.

At the time of his death in 2003, he had written, co-written and/or recorded approximately 100 songs about the Australian bush, stockmen, rodeos and stations, including "Cattlemen From The High Plains," "When The Scrubbers Break," "Sat' Day In The Saddle," "Plains of Peppimenarti," "How a Cowboy Dies," "Old Time Drover's Lament," "Shearing Shed Blues," "The Saddle is His Home," "Just an Old Cattle Dog," "Things are Not the Same on the Land," "Campfire Yarn," "Bushland Boogie," "When the Sun Goes Down Outback," "Mareeba's Rodeo Song," "Happy Drover" and "A Word To Texas Jack," an amusing tongue-in-cheek challenge to a Texan who told him everything was bigger in Texas. Slim Dusty was, without a doubt, Australia's greatest contribution to Western music.



# 2017 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



## JOHNNY MARVIN & FRED ROSE

- Composers

*by O.J. Sikes*

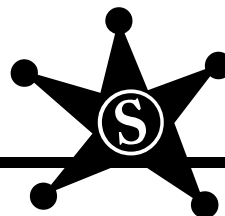
In the 1920's and 30's, Johnny Marvin was one of the most important figures in Gene Autry's career. With his brother Frankie, Johnny befriended young Gene and shepherded him through the maze of New York's recording studios in the dead of winter in 1927. The Marvin brothers were established in show business and had the contacts that helped Gene launch his recording career. Eventually, they followed him to Hollywood, where Frankie appeared in most of Gene's movies and as the steel guitarist on almost all of his recordings. Johnny excelled at songwriting, and, often with Fred Rose, composed a large number of songs for Gene Autry to record and to sing in his movies.

Johnny had been a famous vaudeville singer, and he continued to sing into the late 30's and early 1940's. Marvin was Gene Autry's mentor, probably the model for Gene's later "sound" as Autry's singing style evolved from that of a Jimmie Rodgers sound-alike to a more mellow one as the 30's progressed. Too old for active duty during the war, Marvin died from a heart attack in 1943, at 46 years of age, weakened by dengue fever, contracted while entertaining the troops in the South Pacific.

Fred Rose worked closely with his friend Ray Whitley in Hollywood, and while there, made his mark as a composer. Eventually, he moved to Nashville where he and Roy Acuff established the Acuff-Rose music publishing company. There, he continued to compose, focusing on country songs, many of which became classics. He had written some of Gene Autry's most popular ballads, like "Lonely River," which he co-wrote with Ray Whitley, and he composed numerous Western songs for Autry and others, like "Home in San Antone," "Under Fiesta Stars," "There's a Rainbow on the Rio Colorado," "Rose of Old Pawnee," & "I'm a Cowpoke Pokin' Along."

Johnny Marvin's Western compositions included "I'm Gonna Roundup My Blues," "Dust" which became a hit for Gene Autry and was recorded by Roy Rogers, who performed it in his first starring feature film, *Under Western Stars*, where it was nominated for an Academy Award, "Gone with the West," "Down Texas Way," "Listen to the Rhythm of the Range," "Keep Rollin', Lazy Longhorns," "There'll Never Be Another Pal Like You," "When the Cactus Blooms Again," "On the Range" & "Old November Moon." Marvin also wrote several Western songs with Harry Tobias, e.g. "Swing of the Range," "Headin' for the Wide Open Spaces" & "A Song at Sunset," all recorded by Gene Autry and/or used in his films or on radio, except for "Swing of the Range," which was sung by Mary Lee in an Autry film.

Marvin & Rose co-wrote "Rhythm of the Hoofbeats," "The Old Trail," "A Goldmine in Your Heart," "The Dude Ranch Cowhands," "As Long as I've Got My Horse," "Panhandle Pete," "Neath the Blue Montana Sky," "Merry-go-Roundup," "There's a Little Deserted Town on the Prairie," "Goodbye Pinto," "Somewhere on the Lone Prairie (Where the West Begins)" & "Little Pardner," plus a number of popular ballads for Gene Autry to record and/or sing in his movies, e.g. "I'm Beginning to Care" & "I Just Want You." Other artists, e.g. Roy Rogers, Jimmy Wakely & Eddie Dean also recorded some of the titles.



***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.*

We have a two-part exploration for you this time. It's on a theme we have sung before in this column. Namely...the potential for Western artists booking and even touring outside of the restrictive boundaries of the United States. It should come as no surprise to you we're referring to the marketing and awareness boundaries that, unfortunately, dominate in our country. But I did say "two-part." The second half of the column may prove even more exciting: world awareness of and active participation in the cowboy culture!!

The latest Western performers we have been alerted to have found fresh successes in Europe. We hear (but have not positively had it confirmed) that Trinity Seeley was recently very well received (surprise, surprise) in Germany. But one fellow we did speak with provided us with firsthand reportage on his discoveries. That would be Pinedale, Wyoming's own Jarod Rogerson, with whom we spoke by phone.

"The way the shows happened was some German tourists saw me perform in Wyoming and really loved it. They wanted me to come and appear in Germany," Rogerson enthusiastically says. "I'll play there in March of this coming year. And now there may be an Argentine deal as well!" He was aware that his music had seen chart action in England and Ireland. In fact he had made the U.K. Top 10! Also Norway was hearing him and liking what it heard. And France put it into motion! "I was amazed to discover a French video of people who created a line dance to 'Peace Love & Horses' from my first CD!! And 'Life's Too Short Not To Rodeo' (another Rogerson original) was on Eagle Country in France for weeks!"

Young Kristyn Harris is another of our artists reporting European activity. She played last summer in Italy and France and was met with rock star level enthusiasm for her music. "I played with a full backup band of French musicians who had learned my swing and Western material and played it to perfection. It was a Country music fest with a rodeo!" That blend won't come as a surprise to anyone who remembers what Mariam Funke told us in our last column. To Europeans, Country and Western are American Cowboy as far as they are concerned. Kristyn was also surprised and delighted to slip into a random Paris hotel along the street for a break and find one of her songs playing in the lobby! But artists have to have the professional wherewithal to get it done. "So many DJs in the world are looking for our music," Kristyn affirms.

So it should be known that there is a market for Western and Western/Cowboy Swing that can be more than tickled to open up to Western and to the Cowboy message we carry. For fun, google Japan Cowboy Dude Ranches. Internet searching is how I uncovered most of the music you will hear...you WILL hear it, won't you?...during our show at the November convention entitled "The Western World Tour." You will hear the startling,

thrilling proof that we need to expand our definition of "Western" to be more inclusive. I have done context-correct translations for songs from the world's cattle, herding and horse cultures and songs celebrating our own. Our performers will give you music from England, Scotland, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy/France, China, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, The Philippines, Mexico, Canada, plus Hawaiian paniolo, American Indian and Florida Cracker culture. I believe you will come to feel, as I do, that we have been far too limited in casting our net. Simply, Western is bigger than just Coosie's biscuits and beans! And there I hope we haven't hit a wall that I, for one, never saw coming.

You have noticed, or you will, that one of our inductees into the Western Music Hall Of Fame this year is the astoundingly prolific Slim Dusty. He's not a household name in many parts of the world outside of Australia, but there he is considered to be a national treasure, having written hundreds of ballads about the horse, cow and herding culture of his homeland. Statues have been erected to him. A film of his life (in which he co-starred) was made, and recently a tribute CD to him was done by various Australian Country performers...including our old WMA friend Wayne Horsborough. This induction is a first step toward opening up the WMA's recognition and acknowledgement of reality. But there is a mood in our country currently that may stifle our pursuing what the world knows, wants or believes. It is the ugly prevailing drive toward nationalism, and I sincerely hope this doesn't bleed over into our previously inclusive spirit as Western people. It wouldn't be the Cowboy Way, that's for sure! 'Care to see how it can get in our way? Things are chilling with Russia, right? Did you know there is a burgeoning beef industry in Russia? Were you aware it comes with Russian buckaroos in full cowboy gear?? In the truest spirit of the West, cowboys helped them with it, not unlike the way Mexican caballeros helped Americans learn skills and Argentine gauchos helped the Hawaiian paniolo. Google it if you don't believe it. There are rodeos featuring oddly shaggy bulls you will find being held in the south of France! Google it! There is a music publishing company in Nairobi, Kenya called "African Cowboy! Why?? There is a complete Western Wear store with boots, hats, jeans, shirts and all the rest...sitting within view of The Vatican in Rome! There's a hat-bedecked singer who bills himself as "The Roumanian Cowboy! There is a song that is used on a wild west-style video game done by a group called "Vitamin." Its name is "Turkish Kovboyilar," meaning "Turkish Cowboys!" It's musical; bridge is a bellydance! Google it and you will find it near a section of Turkish-made western movies available on Blu Ray! Folks, it's all out there...that and more. As we've told you and told you...the world "gets it." We would be wise to get into it. We can, if certain views (both internal with the WMA and external with the nation) don't prevail to hold us back. It's up to the membership. It's in your hands.

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 15*

President of WMA-NM such a truly enjoyable and satisfying experience. It has been a pleasure serving as your President but unfortunately, due to family obligations and business commitments, I will not be able to serve in 2018. I am sure, however, that with your help WMA-NM will continue to be one of the most productive and successful chapters in the WMA.

### Oklahoma Chapter

**President: Donnie Poindexter**  
**cowboydp51@gmail.com**

Cowboy Jim Garling continued his annual September appearances: from September 1-3 in Grove, OK at the Jana Jae Fiddle Camp and from September 14-24 in Oklahoma City at The Great State Fair of Oklahoma's "Frontier Experience." Donnie Poindexter, Robert Beene, Daryl Knight and Francine Roark Robison performed at the "29th Annual National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration" in Lubbock, TX, September 8-10. WMA Oklahoma Chapter members participated in "Country and Western Days" at Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, OK on September 16. Members performing were Donnie Poindexter, Bill Poindexter, & Jim Poindexter (Steeldust), Susie Case & Robert Maxwell Case (A Little Farther West), Curtis Krigbaum, Roy Madden, Daryl Knight, Ron Secoy, Danny Carl Williams, Leigh Ann Matthews, Jim Crouch, and Ken Howry. Our chapter's Annual Meeting & Election of Officers was held in conjunction with the event. Steeldust band appeared as opening act in concert with Royal Wade Kimes at "Music on the Mountain" in Chester, AR on September 30. Also September 30, A Little Farther West celebrated Gene Autry's birthday in Ardmore, OK with a breakfast fundraiser show benefitting the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum. A big shout out to our vice president, Ron Secoy, for working behind the scenes in cooperation with the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, OK. Ron is coordinating performers for the 3rd Annual Campfire, Cattle and Cowboys Gathering to be held on November 17. He has rounded up featured entertainers Jay Snider, Cowboy Jim Garling, Susanne Woolley, Donnie Poindexter, Danny Carl

Williams, and Francine Roark Robison for the event. On October 21, Ron will be a part of the 7th Annual Duncan Public Library's Author Day and Reading Down the Plains, reading from his latest book of cowboy poetry, "Cowboy at Heart". A number of our chapter members are planning to attend the WMA National Convention November 8-12 in Albuquerque, NM. We're hoping for our chapter's best representation



Danny Carl Williams  
Photo courtesy Danny Carl Williams

in years. Some December events in Oklahoma City include Riders In The Sky performing December 12 at the OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center and Michael Martin Murphey appearing December 15 at the "23rd Annual Cowboy Christmas Ball" at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

### Texas Chapter **NEW!**

**President: Johnie Terry**  
**Wildwesttoys1@aol.com**

Howdy everyone! We are very excited about our Texas Chapter's first year and we are very thankful for everyone who worked and gave their time and talents to make our Texas chapter a success! The Texas Chapter's second event was held on the National Day of the American Cowboy in July at the Fort Worth Stockyards. The event was a free, come-and-go affair, open to the public, and featured a number of WMA entertainers from noon to 4pm, including Mark Staggs, Miss Devon and the Outlaw, Bob and Johnie Terry and Brandon and Jennifer Ford. After the daily cattle drive at 4:00, the final hour and a half was reserved for the soiree, called dancing in Victorian style to the melodies of Buttermilk Junction. Throughout the day about 200 people enjoyed the entertainment, and nearly twenty stayed for the dancing and music. The event was a success, and there are plans to have it again next year. Another tradition begins! We have exciting news for 2018! Western Music Association Texas Chapter is

teaming up with Cowboy Campfire Tales at The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, January 22-24, 2018!! We are changing the name to Western Music and Cowboy Poetry sponsored by The Western Music Association Texas Chapter. The Fort Worth Stock Show is very excited to welcome the WMA. We will be performing western music and cowboy poetry in the James and Eunice West Arena from 12pm-6pm each day. We would love to see everyone there! If there are lots of performers then we will extend the number of days next year, so all Texas Chapter members, even if you don't live in Texas, please contact me and let me know if you would like to perform. We need to know no later than December 1. Please ask to join our Facebook page "Western Music Association Members Event Information Group" for information on our chapter's activities. Also like our Facebook page "Western Music Association Texas Chapter." You can also email me at Wildwesttoys1@aol.com. Thank you, we look forward to seeing everyone in Texas!

### Upper Michigan/NE Wisconsin Chapter **NEW!**

**President: Tom Betts**  
**hrambler@bayland.net**

The very first event for this brand new WMA chapter was the annual Labor Day Green Bay Labor Council Celebration. Our group had three members and we added two. The Labor Day event is at the Bay Beach Amusement Park. Up to 2,000 people usually attend made up of forty separate unions and their families and friends. There was western music performances plus the opportunity to hand out the WMA mission statement and introduce our chapter territory to the WMA. This is our first effort. Stay tuned to Chapter updates and chart our progress. The Chapter hasn't even started yet and we went from three to five members. Yippee!!

### Utah Chapter

**President: Brad Elmer**  
**hollowstar.ent@gmail.com**

GREETINGS FROM UTAH!!! Our State is comprised of a blend of red cliffs, blue lakes and streams, vibrant deserts teeming with desert plants and

*Continued on page 38*



## BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



# TRIPPIN' WITH GRANPA

A friend of mine (let's just call him Jim) has a small place up in Wyoming where he runs a few cows and raises grain and hay. Just enough to keep him broke and wonderin' but he loves the life and he and his wife keep on hangin' on.

Jim was going over to one of the neighbor states to look at a piece of farm equipment he'd seen advertised in one of the livestock journals. He called his granpa who lived in town alone and asked him if he'd like to go along. The old man who was pushin' ninety, said he sure would as he hadn't been out in quite a spell.

When Jim went by to pick him up he was standin' out by the street with a five gallon can of gas by his side. Jim asked him, "What's the gas for, Granpa?" The old man grunted and said "You never know." Jim humored him and loaded up the can of gas in the back of his old

pickup and away they went. When they got where they were going Jim looked the piece of equipment over and told the feller sellin' he would have to get back to him after he talked it over with his banker and his wife.

On the way home they were passing through the Indian reservation. Gas was a little cheaper there than it was at home so he pulled in to one of the casinos to fill 'er up. Jim went in to prepay and when he came back out Granpa was up in the back of the pickup pourin' the can of gas in the big spare tank. Jim hollered at him, "What are you doin', Granpa!?" The old man answered without lookin' up, "I'm gettin' rid of this high priced gas so I can get some of this cheap stuff."

Jim just shrugged, grinned, humored him again and drove on down the road.

*(Check next issue to find out what happened on the way home.)* 🐾



*Kristyn Harris spent several weeks in concerts in Europe this summer. It wasn't all work and no play! Here is Kristyn enjoying Venice.*

*(Submitted photo used by permission.)*

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# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

... During the Fort Worth (TX) Stockyards Celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy, **Janet McBride** received an Honors Award for her "Over 50 Years of Dedication and Promoting of Western Heritage and Western Music." Twenty of those 50 years were spent by Janet appearing once a month in the Stockyards with the Cowtown Opry and their Buckaroo's program.

...*Crossing Borders*, the latest album from **Carol Markstrom**, has been selected the Rural Roots Music Commission's 2017 Original Classic Western CD of the Year. Carol accepted the award and performed at the Old-Time Music Festival in LeMars, IA on Labor Day weekend.

...**Jeneve Rose Mitchell**, aka "The Rocky Mountain Hillbilly Girl", one of the top 14 finalists on the final season of American Idol, has released an EP titled *Off the Grid*. It was produced and recorded in Nashville, TN. **Riders in the Sky** backed her up on one song. Jeneve also attended her first CMA festival in Nashville where she performed a concert with "New Women of Country Music." She also auditioned to perform at Dollywood next year.

...The Rural Roots Music Commission will be awarding **Marty Davis** their Western Music CD of the Year award for his CD *Legends & Choices* on the main stage during the 42nd annual National Old Time Music Festival in LeMars, Iowa, Aug. 28-Sept. 3.

...In September, **T.J. Casey** was inducted into the National Traditional Country Music Association Hall of Fame in LeMars, Iowa. The induction took place during the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Old Time Music Festival in LeMars.

...**The Broken Chair Band** (Todd, Melinda, and Danielle Carter) has been nominated for a Group of the Year award by the Pro Country Cowboy Artist Association. They will travel to Ft. Smith, AR in October for the televised awards show. Then in late October, they will travel to Ireland to perform.

...**Eddy Harrison** has very generously donated one of his new guitars to be given away in a raffle at the November WMA convention. The monies received in the raffle will go to benefit the WMA Youth Chapter. Hopefully everyone will purchase a ticket if for no other reason than to show Eddy our appreciation.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** has started pre-production of her next project, a gospel album tentatively titled *Western Faith*. The collection of original and traditional songs will have standard string band instrumentation with the goal of producing a broad appeal across the Christian, Americana, western, and bluegrass genres. A fall 2018 release is projected.

...A digital single by **Ron Christopher**, titled "May You Always find a Way to be a Cowboy", was released in August on CDBaby. The song is from an album to be released in October titled *Outside the Fence*.

...*Pale Moon on the Prairie* is the new CD release from **Rick Pickren**. It contains nine original songs, including three written with lyricist Dennis Goodwin. Also featured is the classic "My Rifle, My Pony and Me", two Jimmie Driftwood songs, and "A Cowboy Needs a Horse", originally sung by Roy Rogers in a 1956 Disney cartoon.

...**The Cimarron Sidekicks** have begun work on their first album. No release date is set at this time.

...On the heels of the success of their debut self-titled CD, **The Wall-Eyed Moles** (Jeanne Cahill, Jerome Campbell, and Jon Messenger) released a new album at the end of August titled *A Strong Heart Flows Over*.

...After performing together for 17 years, the **Yampa Valley Boys** (Steve Jones and John Fisher) are no more. Steve is continuing with a solo act consisting of western and Irish music (with a new CD coming this Fall), while John is planning to focus more on local music projects and spending more time with his family.

...**The Cowboy Way** (Jim Jones, Doug Figgs, Mariam Funke) will perform on a formal showcase at the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance Conference in Austin, TX in September. The WMA/ New Mexico Chapter will be hosting an in-room showcase for a wide variety of musicians, including a number of WMA members who are attending. In addition, the WMA will have several members participating in a panel discussion entitled "Common Roots, Common Threads: Western and Folk Music."

...**Brenda Libby** has her latest book, *Old Crow*, being edited and getting ready for publication. It should be released early in the Fall.

...**Gary & Jean Prescott** released a new album in July titled *Satisfied Hearts*. It's their first dual release in 20 years. Jean performs eight songs, and Gary performs seven of the 15 tunes on the album. Jean has fully recovered from an August horse wreck and is appreciative of all the concern, comments, and prayers for her.

...*Swingin' Through the Years* is the title of the new release from **Chuck Cusimono**. The album contains 25 original western swing tunes recorded over the past ten years. In October, Chuck will be inducted into the Sacramento (CA) Western Swing Society Hall of Fame.

...Cowboy poet **Terry Nash** has just finished recording 14 tracks to be included on his latest CD project, *A Good Ride*. The album, recorded at AspenLeaf Recording studio in Grand Junction, CO, will be released this fall.

...**Bob Marshall** has also released his long-awaited new album. The CD is titled *Screen Door*.

...Taking the official music of Texas international, **Hailey Sandoz, Kristyn Harris, and Leslie Tom** recently performed overseas at the Equiblues Festival in France. Earlier this year, Hailey performed with Bobby Flores on his RFD-TV Tru-Country taping which will air in the Fall.

...The first annual Cowboy Country Artist Music awards show will be held in Fort Smith, AR, October 14. The show will be recorded live to tape and will air on RFD-TV's Cowboys Channel. **Kristyn Harris, Terry Brown, LeeLee Robert** and other Cowboy Country stars will perform.

...**A Little Farther West** (Susie and Robert Maxwell Case) have been in the studio recording their first gospel album, *God Must Be A Cowboy*.

...British cowboy singer **Clint Bradley** informs us that while touring the UK and Scandinavia the last few months, he has been strongly promoting the WMA and giving out the web site address so that hopefully his audiences will take a deeper look inside the world of western music. Clint also hopes to begin a new recording project soon.

...**LeeLee Robert** has received a nomination for Best Female Western Vocalist of the Year by the Pro Cowboy Country Artist Association.

... In August, **Buck Helton** was inducted into the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame in LeMars, Iowa.

...**Joyce Woodson** had two more songs of hers recorded by other artists this year, making it a whopping total of 28! **Gary Prescott** recently recorded "Cheyenne" on his and Jean's new CD *Satisfied Hearts* while Jerome Campbell and the **Wall-Eyed Moles** recorded "The Question" on their upcoming second album.

...Cowboy poet **Duane Nelson** is working on his third CD, *Early Mornin' Rising*, due for release in November. The album will contain ten of Duane's original poems and four recitations of old classics. He also reports that, except for "day-work cowboyin'", he is retired from the workforce and ready to hit the Cowboy Poetry Trail.

...**Miss Devon & the Outlaw** were busy on the decks of the Holland America Nieuw Amsterdam cruise ship during **Judy James'** Cowboy Jubilee 20th Anniversary Alaskan cruise recently. They gave performances 5 out of the 7 days, two planned and three on demand from passengers and crew.

...Equestrian Legacy Radio held its 2017 Rendezvous at Loretta Lynn's Ranch in TN. Cowboy poet **Mark Munzert** reports that he shared the stage at the event with **Del Shields, Mikki Daniel, Leah Sawyer, Stephanie Layne, Mike & Doris Merritt, Fred Woehl, and Eli Barsi & John Cunningham**. **Gary Holt** hosted the event.

...**Mikki Daniel** and **Doug Figgs** have joined up to record an album they have scheduled for release in November. The project will be called *Thinking of You*. **Mariam Funke** is the producer.

...**Butch and Christina Martin** took their documentary concert "Romancing the West" on tour again this fall. They also hosted the wedding of their daughter Melody to Jake Anderson in September at their Cougar Mountain Ranch in southern Oregon. In November, they plan to release Christina's seventh CD.

...*An Evening With Skip Bessonette* is the new live album from Oregon's **Skip Bessonette**. The album contains lots of new songs and some covers.

...**Leah Sawyer** and **David Sawyer** won first and second place respectively in the 12- to 17-year-old age division at the Indiana State Fair Fiddle Contest in August.

...**Olivia Hobbs** is in the process of recording her first album. She has included a duet with **Mikki Daniel** and another tune in which Mikki and **Jeneve Rose Mitchell** perform with her.


...McLennan College recently awarded **Mikki Daniel** the Music Faculty Award AND the Johnny Gimble Award Scholarships. She was also selected by the Mustang Makeover Finals competition in Ft. Worth (TX) to perform western music and sing the National Anthem from the back of a mustang.

...Cowboy poet and singer **Jerry Bell** released a new album in August. The CD is titled *Idaho Ed*.

...In September, Lisa Rose Hanson (**The Hanson Family**) was married to the love of her life. Daniel Hanson says that Roberto is a great guy and a talented performer and musician who grew up in Mexico playing Mariachi and Haupango music and that there's a possibility that the Hanson Family will be adding a fourth performing member in the future.

...**Dave and Susie Knight** proudly announce the birth of their fourth grandchild, Hudson J. Merrill, born July 9th, 2017.

...**Allen Kirkham** officiated at the marriage of his daughter recently just before her husband deployed to the Middle East. Also, in August Allen was named band leader for the Fall 2017 season of the Custer Grand Jamboree Show, a Branson-style variety show in Custer, SD.

...Oregon poet **Tom Swearingen** and his wife Carla are proud grandparents of Flora Elizabeth Black, born in August to their daughter Nicole and son-in-law Adrian Black. Tom reports their first grandchild is too beautiful for words. 

## In Memoriam

### Max "Doc" Denning (1921 – 2017)



Max "Doc" Denning, long-time fiddler with the Reinsmen, passed away at the age of 96 on July 29, 2017. In April, the local news media in Klamath Falls, OR, covered his 96th birthday celebration in print and on video, with interviews exploring his fascinating life. As a member of the Reinsmen, he had been a founding member of the WMA and was in the Western Music Hall of Fame.

Doc got his nickname, early on, because of his initials, M.D. He was interested in music from childhood, and could play a number of instruments, but his "first love" was guitar. In 1937, he was featured with "The Rhythm Ranch Kids" on KGER in his home town, Long Beach, CA, and he took his guitar to the South Pacific with the Army Air Force, where he and a band he formed there entertained the troops. After the war, he landed a solo contract with Four-Star Records and recorded several of his own Western and Western swing compositions with a Western swing studio group headed by fiddler, Billy Hill. The band included members of the Spade Cooley & Tex Williams bands! Soon, Hill suggested to Tim Spencer that he might want to look into hiring Doc to fill Tim's vacancy with the Sons of the Pioneers. Tim called, but Doc was in Chicago and couldn't get to the audition. The Pioneers hired Ken Curtis, instead!

Doc continued his musical endeavors while working in other fields, and his musical interests branched out, as he led a combo playing lounge music in the smooth styles of George Shearing, Page Cavanaugh, etc., 1960-62. In 1978, Doc joined the Reinsmen as the group's fiddler, and he sang solos on a number of their recordings as well. He took leave in 1981 to tour with the Sons of the Pioneers, but returned to the Reinsmen afterwards and stayed with the group until Nov., 1993. His compositions, "Arizona Sunset," "Sentimental Trails" and "Mail Order Bride" became staples in the Reinsmen's repertoire, and his vocal solos on numerous other recordings were superb examples of the Reinsmen at their best.

Through the years, he helped coach then-new performers, e.g. Rydin' High and Sons of the San Joaquin, and played on some of their early recordings. He continued to record in

retirement, using over-dubbing, multi-tracking techniques that allowed him to play all of the instruments and sing all of the parts, releasing one commercial CD and recording others for close friends, well into his 90's, "just for fun." Doc was a true Western gentleman who made a great contribution to the world of Western music and he hoped that, in the end, it would be said of him that "he rode for the brand." He did, indeed!

### Fiddlin' Doc Gonzales (1936 – 2017)



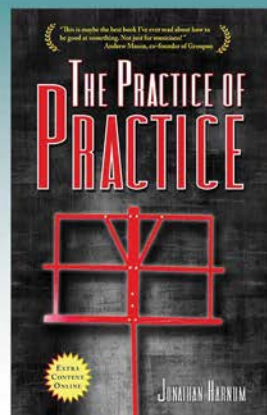
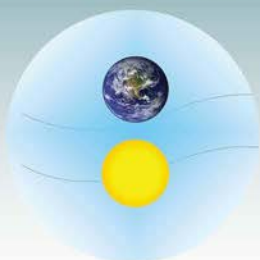
New Mexico's master Western Swing fiddler Elmer E. "Doc" Gonzales was called home in August of this year, leaving his wife, family, and a legion of mourning fans. Early in his career, Doc and his musician brother Eloy worked important dates in Texas and the Western Swing belt. They opened twice for Bob Will's Texas Playboys and, at various times, backed such greats as Faron Young,

Jack Green, Patsy Cline and even (briefly) Elvis Presley! But Doc tired of the road. Finally turning down a lucrative offer to join Ray Price's band, Doc returned to New Mexico to become a "doc"...a chiropractor...confining his music making to the weekends. He fronted his own group for many years in which he showcased his fiery triple hokum fiddling style, an effect that made him a virtual one-man twin fiddles-plus one! Happily, as he was an expert in both fields, an important interview with Doc Gonzales on Western Swing and Spanish fiddle music traditions was conducted for Baylor University's archives by Dr. Jean Boyd. It is available to the public with a simple internet search. For the past thirteen years he also played with New Mexico's Western Swing Band the Curio Cowboys. Founder John Feldman said of Doc: "Because he was a gifted bandleader, he made my job easier. I often introduced a solo by Doc by saying he was a national treasure and I flat out meant it. Big name musicians kept trying to recruit him because he could have elevated their sound like few others. And he would establish an instant rapport with people. He loved to talk about music or anything else with old or new fans." During many a set break, after speaking with someone, Doc would joke "I'm glad you met me!" No joke, Doc. We truly are.

*Continued on page 32*

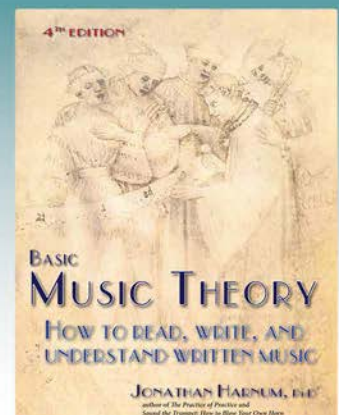
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O.J. Sikes

# O.J. Sikes Reviews



## A Musical Note From OJ...

A few years ago, **Doc Denning** and his good friend **Tommy Doss** had a little contest going to see who would survive to celebrate their 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Doc outlived Tommy and made it to the age of 96. We lost him this past July. He was one of the few letter writers left, and he used an old manual typewriter rather than an electric or a computer, but his letters were always full of wit and wisdom, plus loads of music history. I learned a lot from him.

Doc came from a different age, and so did I, albeit to a lesser extent. He lived through most of one century and well into the next. I was reminded of that when reading **Rick Huff**'s last column about the 2017 WMA Convention's interest in highlighting the growth of Western music internationally. There's an interest in cowboys in many parts of the globe, today. Sometimes the cowboys are native to lands that, geographically, are far from the American West, e.g. Australia's drovers and Argentina's gauchos. One of Australia's finest "Western" performers is being honored at the festival in Albuquerque this year!

That phenomenon may seem strange to some, but it's not new, nor is the spread of interest in the American West. Back in the days of B-Westerns on the silver screen, American movie studios and comic book publishers were very conscious of their audiences in theaters located South of the border. Actors from Mexico and other Spanish-speaking neighbors were included in the casts, specifically to appeal to these audiences. Sometimes, as with "**The Cisco Kid**," they took on the role of hero. Our leading actors, like **Hopalong Cassidy**, **Roy Rogers** and **Gene Autry** often spoke a few words of Spanish on screen &/or introduced Spanish lyrics in their songs. **Tex Ritter** signed his autographs, "**A Mi Amigo**," and **Duncan Renaldo**, who played "**The Cisco Kid**," helped Roy Rogers with his Spanish. Gene Autry toured in Latin America, and cowboy heroes had fan clubs (and hit records) in the UK, as well.

The world has changed in many ways since Doc Denning watched his first Western movies in the late 1920's and 30's. Among other things, it's gotten smaller and much more mobile, and ease of communication has improved considerably. That reality hit home for me this past Summer, when I started counting the number of countries represented by foreign-born American medical and nursing personnel who took care of me while I was in the hospital for emergency surgery. The admitting neurologist was from China, my surgeon was from Egypt, nurses in the recovery room were from Korea and the Philippines, the doctor who discharged me was from Iraq, other personnel I remember had come from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, India, Pakistan, Armenia, Peru, Ireland, Poland, Colombia and Brazil. These highly skilled professionals reflect a world that is different from what I knew as a child. Sometimes, different is good. They saved my life!

Western music performed in other parts of the world may sound a little "different," as well, but that's as it's supposed to be, i.e. it reflects the local "cowboy" life. In Australia, we hear references to "drovers" instead of "cowboys" and "stations" rather than "ranches," because those are the correct names for them in Australia. It's easy to enjoy listening to songs that use terminology we may not be used to, as long as it's good music, right? After all, Western music in the US incorporated Latin rhythms and border flavors in many of the classic and contemporary songs that were written in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as did cowboy life itself, and we can appreciate music across borders as well. There's a lot out there to enjoy! 🐾

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

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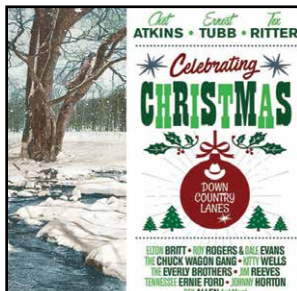
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Usually, about this time of year you might be looking for the Winter 2017 issue to see what Christmas albums you missed last year because they were reviewed too late to be purchased before Santa arrived. Well, you're still welcome to do that (Gene Autry's A Melody Ranch Christmas is still available, by

the way). But since the Jasmine label released a double CD of holiday music in September this year, we scrambled to get some information to you so you can decide whether to add this one to your collection. My guess is, if you order this one now, you'll be glad you did.

There are 62 tracks on the 2 CDs and many of them feature Country artists with recordings from the 50s and 60s. But there are quite a few Western artists as well, many with songs you might not have seen re-issued elsewhere. The songs range from sacred to secular, and not all are specific to Christmas nor are they all Country or Western, but the thread throughout the set is clear. The Chuck Wagon Gang's entire Christmas album is included, as are the Mellomen's "Twas the Night Before Christmas," Rex Allen's "Where Did My Snowman Go?", Roy & Dale's "Happy Birthday Gentle Savior" (one of seven by Roy and/or Dale; Dale sings "Ave Maria" as a solo) and Cliffie Stone's "Here Comes Santa Claus," to mention just a few. The Pinetoppers sing "Jingle Bell Polka" and they back Elton Britt on "Christmas in November," Tex Williams sings "The Winter Song," Jim Reeves sings "The Night Watch," Bill Boyd and his Cowboy Ramblers do two Christmas classics, Tennessee Ernie Ford sings eight songs, Tex Ritter has two and there are plenty of others to bring holiday cheer to your bunkhouse. Widely available.

## THE MELOTONE LABEL

*Elton Britt, Patsy Montana & the Prairie Ramblers, Louise Massey & the Westerners, Tex Ritter, The Frank Luther Trio, Bill Carlisle, etc.*

BACM CD D 563



The Melotone record label was small, and only in existence between 1930 - 38. It had a complicated history and it included recordings by performers you may have known from larger labels. Fortunately, historian Kevin Coffey, who

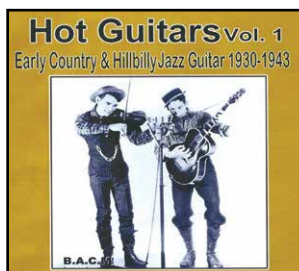
wrote the liner notes for this CD, clarifies what would have otherwise been a very confusing story. Many of the 25 recordings on this CD are by obscure artists, but there are some gems by better-known performers as well.

For example, country legend Bill Carlisle does a couple of surprisingly catchy tunes from 1935. Western fans will be happy to find three gems by Patsy Montana and the Prairie Ramblers, including "The Gold Coast Express" and "Wild and Reckless Cowboy," Elton Britt's very rare 1936 recording of "Twilight on the Trail," Louise Massey & the Westerners' "Riding Down that Old Texas Trail," Tex Ritter's "Every Day in the Saddle" (1933), "The Oregon Trail" by Eddie and Jimmie Dean (1935) and a song or two by the Frank Luther Trio and by Al Dexter and his Troopers ("New Jelly Roll Blues") as well. Less widely-known artists include The Callaghan Bros., Buck Turner, Bill Cox, Cliff Hobbs, and Cody Fox & the Yellow Jackets. Contact VenerableMusic.com, phone (678) 232- 0268.

## HOT GUITARS VOL. 1

*Les Paul, Karl Farr, Ken Carson, Herb Kratoska, Curley Hoag, etc.*

BACM CD D 554



The sub-title of this 34 song anthology is Early Country & Hillbilly Jazz Guitar 1930-1943. While much of it may be perceived as "rustic," you'll find pioneering guitar styles that helped set the standards for rural jazz guitar. The tracks are not the genre's first recorded work, but the two blues cuts from 1930 by Jack Cawley's Oklahoma Ridge Runners, recall a style found on early Western swing that would come into prominence a few years later.

Some of the artists, e.g. Karl Farr, who, with Curley Hoag, backs Gene Autry on two songs, "As Long as I've Got My Horse" and "Dude Ranch Cowhands" in 1938, had no need to "evolve." Les Paul would become a legend in smooth jazz and popular guitar, selling millions of records. Here, he's featured with his Les Paul Trio from 1939, and the basic elements of his very recognizable style come out clearly on these early records, although he plays acoustic guitar on these sides. His trio's smooth vocalist was Chet Atkins' half-brother, Jimmy.

Paul's mentor, Joe Wolverton, solos on eight tracks, a real treat for Les Paul fans, and the very talented Herb Kratoska is featured with the Texas Rangers on five tracks. Harold Maus plays on a couple of early tracks. Maus was a member of the Novelty Aces, a group that, among other things, worked on a radio show hosted by Ken Curtis the year before Curtis joined the Sons of the Pioneers. And Ken "Shorty" Carson plays lead guitar with Shug Fisher on a tune from 1934 titled, "Shorty & Shug's Guitar Blues." There's much more, and Kevin Coffey's detailed liner notes offer valuable insight on the featured artists. Contact VenerableMusic.com, phone (678) 232- 0268. 🐾

## Lisa Hamblen Jaserie (1938 – 2017)



SANTA CLARITA, CA – July 31, 2017–Lisa Hamblen Jaserie, CEO of Hamblen Music Company, singer/songwriter, Peruvian Paso horse owner, Friends of Hart Park board member, and a former Top 10 recording artist, died at her home in Santa Clarita, CA on Tuesday morning, surrounded by members of her family. She was 79. A lifelong resident of the Los Angeles area, and well-known throughout the Santa

Clarita Valley community, Lisa lost a battle with pulmonary fibrosis, according to her son, Bill Lindsay.

Born Obee Jane Hamblen, January 1, 1938 in Los Angeles, to Stuart and Suzy Hamblen, she was a member of the Hollywood Presbyterian Church from childhood throughout most of her life. Even from the early age of six, she was a featured singer on her father's radio shows, "Stuart Hamblen and His Lucky Stars," "Covered Wagon Jubilee" and "The Cowboy Church of the Air," which aired over the years on most major stations on the west coast, including KFWB, KNX, and KCLA.

Obee, her sister Veeva, and mother, Suzy Hamblen, have the distinction of being the very first artists to sing and record the world renowned hit song, "It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)," a song written by her father, Stuart Hamblen. Obee and Veeva's recording of "Open Up Your Heart (And Let the Sun Shine In)" reached No. 7 on the Billboard top 100 singles chart in 1955, when both girls were in their late teens. Stuart produced the track and wanted children's voices, so he recorded his daughters singing slowly at 33 rpm, then sped up the playback to 45 rpm for the single release. It was the first time sped-up voices were used in a pop recording, and that in turn was an inspiration for The Chipmunks' sound and run of hits in the late '50s and '60s.

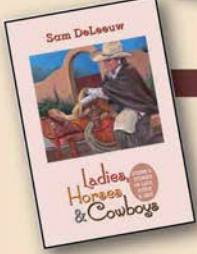
Obee graduated from Hollywood High School in 1955, and attended UCLA, where she majored in interior decorating and was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. In 1959, she met and married her first husband, William Walter Lindsay, and adopted the first name of "Lisa". After marrying, Lisa worked as a Kelly Girl with the renowned temp employment agency, and from that was hired as Administrator to the Senior Vice

President of Hyatt Hotels in Los Angeles where she worked for many years. She also worked with her parents at the Hamblen Music Company, initially based in Hollywood. The company relocated its headquarters to Santa Clarita in 1974 where she took on the role of treasurer for the company, and in 2008 became the music company's CEO. Back in May of 1966, Lisa remarried, to Joseph Jaserie. She also raised champion Peruvian Paso horses on her parents' ranch in Santa Clarita, and rode in the Rose Parade for more than 25 years.

Lisa also appeared in several of Bill Gaither's Homecoming videos, but the one she treasured the most was the one taped on the grounds of the Billy Graham Library, "The Old Rugged Cross". Her son Bill recalls this trip as "quite the whirlwind adventure" as the two of them not only spent time in the recording, but Lisa was able to also spend time catching up with old friends at the Billy Graham Evangelical Association, including Cliff Barrows, George Beverly Shea, and Franklin Graham. For the last decade, instead of retiring, Lisa served as Hamblen Music Company's CEO, and devoted most of her free time to family and activities boosting William S. Hart Park. "The Bible never talked of retirement, so she was under the impression that there was always something to do," Bill Lindsay said. "That's one of the reasons she was the boss of a music company when most other people would have retired." Hamblen Music Company remains family-owned, with Bill Lindsay now assuming its leadership.

Lisa Hamblen Jaserie was preceded in death by her second husband Joe Jaserie, August 2012, and son Chris Jaserie, October 2016. She is survived by her sons Bill Lindsay, Tampa, FL; and Bob Lindsay, Edmonton, AB, Canada; daughter Kim Jaserie, Santa Clarita, CA; daughters-in-law Michelle Lindsay, Tampa; and Rhea Lynn Jaserie, Las Vegas, NV; 11 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

Memorial Services were held at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, in the "Church of the Hills" on Saturday, August 12. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made "In Memory of Lisa Hamblen Jaserie" to the Billy Graham Evangelical Association by phone at 877-247 2426, online: <https://billygraham.org/checkout/give-honor-memorial.php> or by mail at 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28201. Contact: Bill 🐾



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Photograph by Mary Ann



## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

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

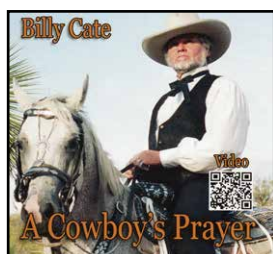
To submit items for review, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442. Include: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number. We also recommend you furnish a land source (Address or PO Box) as well as Online sources for obtaining product.

*Submitting a CD or Book for review does not guarantee that it will be reviewed or that a review will be published.*

Finalized CD or book cover art must accompany the work and be unsigned.

### BILLY CATE

#### "A Cowboy's Prayer"



As a practice, I generally avoid reviewing religious material. What's to be said of content...

her praise is better than his praise? But more than that, I simply don't respect the genre. The principal reason is that Gospel has long been known as the great repository for so-called "artists" who couldn't make it anywhere else. But the powerful baritone of Billy Cate doesn't fit into that dubious company, so I'm making an exception here.

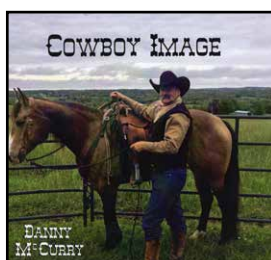
A number of these tracks are even palatable to me, due to subject treatment and catchy arrangements. Those specific tracks are Stan Corliss' "Every Cowboy Knows There's A God Above," Bob Nolan's "The Touch Of God's Hand," Cindy Walker' "Christian Cowboy" and Dan Seals' "God Must Be A Cowboy At Heart."

An interesting choice for inclusion is the poem "Little Lady" by Gene Howard, which Cates delivers a la John Wayne. For the remaining tracks....although they are well produced and very well performed, you are on your own! Ten tracks total with a QR Code app scan for video on the cover.

CD: Available through [www.billycate.com](http://www.billycate.com), cdbaby and other online stores.

### DANNY MCCURRY

#### "Cowboy Image"



In 2016 Danny McCurry took Best of the Best at the 19th National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo and followed

it up by winning top honors in the "Serious" division of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest (June of this year). So one immediately suspects he may have something to offer!

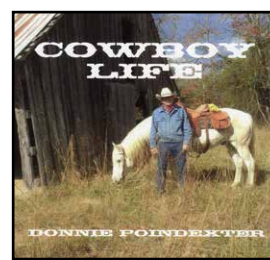
McCurry writes from a very knowledgeable position in works like "Cowboy Banker," "Dual Purpose Bull," "Little Black & Blue" or "PHD In Wild Bovine Extraction." Some of my own picks in the collection include "Cowboy Image," "Tradition," the tall tale "Brag On Missouri Cowboys," "That Boy" (with its cute payoff) and "Cowboy Valentine."

For my ear, McCurry occasionally oversells his "comic" delivery... "The Hitch" and "Dual Purpose Bull" being examples. But it shouldn't distract you too much. It's a nice CD and should be well received by the Cowboy Poetry audience.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Danny McCurry, 8525 N FR 21, Ash Grove, MO 65604 or email him at [dannyjmccurry@gmail.com](mailto:dannyjmccurry@gmail.com). Office: 417-862-4797.

### DONNIE POINDEXTER

#### "Cowboy Life"



In his sound, Donnie Poindexter is kind of a Dan Seals with a bit of grit in the voice to cowboy things

up! He's also an accomplished songwriter.

The Poindexter originals are all CD picks: the saga song "Another Day," the title track "Cowboy Life," "Makes Me Want To Dance" (co-written with Royal Wade Kimes) and "Dust Bowl Days." Add to those picks his cover version of "Buffalo Grass." Also included in the collection are honest covers of Utah Philips' "Goodnight Loving Trail," Tom Russell & Ian Tyson's "Rose of San Joaquin," "Sonora's Death Row" and others.

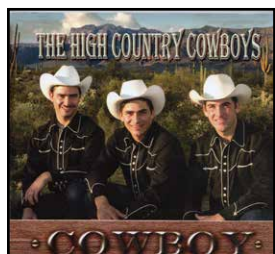
Poindexter is also a multi-instrumentalist, but the strong acoustic support musicians with him, who include Clint Bray (fiddle & dobro), Wendell Giles (bass), and Debra Poindexter and Emily Philpot (harmony vocals) help to make this one worth your time and investment, so I will recommend it. Twelve tracks total.

CD: \$15 + \$2.70 s/h check or M.O. to Donnie Poindexter, 469914 E 980 Rd., Sallisaw, OK 74955. Ordering info at [www.donniepoindexter.com](http://www.donniepoindexter.com).

*Continued on page 34*

## HIGH COUNTRY COWBOYS

### "Cowboy"



I used to wonder why no artist in our genre had picked up the old Eddie Arnold single "Cowboy" to include in their repertoire. Trust these guys to track it down!!

The High Country Cowboys, the new pre-eminent faces and voices of the Sons of the Pioneers harmonic legacy, didn't self-produce their new CD. That have now tied down the last loose string in their act. It's a world apart! Thanks to Marvin O'Dell, we now hear Marty, John & Joe Kosel the way they really sound.

Of the lesser-performed covers, the Ron Fraser & Harry Shannon title track shines brightly, as do Cindy Walker's saga song "Gringo Guitar" and Bob Nolan's "Montana." Marty Kosel's originals here are "Trail's End," "Old Cowboy," "Cowboy's Life" and "Home of Champions." All four are Pioneers-worthy!

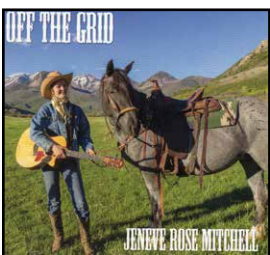
Top support musicians employed here are Tom Boyer (lead guitar); Matt Roland (fiddle); Kit Halloff (drums); Bryan Kuban (bass) and Jeanne Cahill (dobro, concertina, mandolin & harmonica).

One point: In Michael Burton's "Night Riders Lament" the correct lyric payoff is for the grinning cowboy to ask "why do they ride for their money...they ain't gettin' nowhere!" Common mistake. Twelve tracks. Highly recommended!

CD: Available through [www.thehighcountrycowboys.com](http://www.thehighcountrycowboys.com)

## JENEVE ROSE MITCHELL

### "Off The Grid"



Here is one seven-song ET that certainly speaks of things to come. Very big things!!

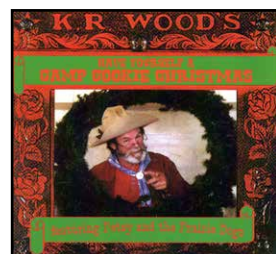
Hearing it

I am reminded of my early impressions of (believe it or not) Garth Brooks, in that his first chart hit "The Dream" struck me as being nice enough, but showing us he could handle material like "Friends In Low Places" said he would be a superstar. Same thing here. Jeneve leads off with a fine anthem called "I Will," and follows it up with superior sass in another original "Deck 'Em!" But then comes a wonderfully startling arrangement: a slow, harp and string-backed cover of Johnny Cash's hit "Ring Of Fire!" Sarah MacLachlan's "Angel" is "heavenly" and Ranger Doug (Green) and Fred (Too Slim) LaBour join Jeneve on Cisco Houston & Lee Hays' "Bad Man's Blunder." The novelty original "Ragtime Granny" lets her flex her yodel muscles, and she closes with "Colorado Skies," a subject she knows intimately. Jeneve's little offering packs a colossal load of fun. Highly Recommended!

ET: \$10 \$2 s/h from Jeneve Rose Mitchell, PO Box 104, Crawford, CO 81415. Also through iTunes, AppleMusic, amazon, GooglePlay, Spotify...

## K. R. WOOD (FEATURING PETEY & THE PRAIRIE DOGS)

### "Have Yourself a Camp Cookie Christmas"



For those who may find the standard holiday albums a bit too Santa Claustrophobic comes a rowdy howdy,

ya'll from the wacky pack around Camp Cookie's fire! It's a goofy chow-down for the little pards and pardettes (with a thing or two that zip through to the older folks).

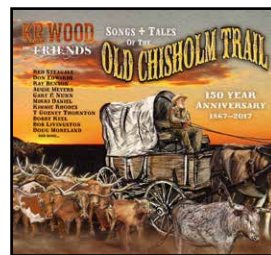
The songs are many of the ones you might expect to find, but you won't find them done this way elsewhere! "Feliz Navidad," "Christmas Time's A' Comin'," "Let It Snow/Winter Wonderland," Twelve Days of Christmas" and others less known get "the treatment" from the gang.

The Prairie Dogs would, I suppose, be the estranged relatives of another troupe of high-voiced rodents, but if you're out West Petey and pups are easier to understand (in more ways than one)! Technically, this CD was actually issued at the start of the decade, but it has been re-issued this year, so as K.R. (Camp Cookie) Wood puts it..."guess what Tex Kringle left for you 'neath the Christmas tree!!" It's a nutty, funny mix of novelty, sentiment, traditional and you name it. Name it yours, why doncha??

CD: \$12 ppd through [www.texannarecords.com](http://www.texannarecords.com)

## K. R. WOOD & FRIENDS

### "Songs & Tales of the Old Chisholm Trail"



Aligned with the 150 year anniversary of the first drive up the famous road to the railhead comes a two-

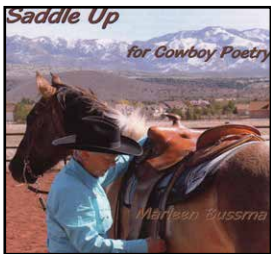
CD mega release from entertainer and historian K. R. Wood. For those not familiar with his past releases, I will say Wood most closely relates to a documentarian. He's the Ken Burns of CDs!! His cause is Texas History, and if every Western state had him...wow! Would we be blessed (and informed)!

For this thirty-four track release, Wood has amassed related recordings from such greats as Red Steagall, Don Edwards, Ray Benson, Augie Meyers, Gary P. Nunn, Mikki Daniel, and a couple a dozen others. Adding some of his own works, he then artfully laced then together the way he does with strings of lively commentary. The result is hugely entertaining...as always with his releases. The set comes with additional notes in a booklet and truly is a don't-miss for Western history buffs! While you're at it, you might look into his other efforts which are still available. They, too, are little wonders!

2-CD set: \$30 ppd through [www.texannarecords.com](http://www.texannarecords.com)

## MARLENE BUSSMA

### "Saddle Up For Cowboy Poetry"



More literate than some Cowboy Poetry offered these days, many of Marlene Bussma's works,

with their artful turns of phrase, compare favorably with those of the genre's classic notables. Her awards attest to that as well.

In her newest collection, Bussma again presents vivid historic portraits like "Stagecoach Mary," "Three Toes" and "Bull's Eye" (about Comanche Jack Stillwell). In various works we gain insight and viewpoint from current, soon-to-be or potential ranch wives and other women of the West. Bussma's delivery is rhythmic, but never sing-song. It still lives within conversational parameters.

Picks include "Country Melody," "A Spotted Past" (appaloosa history), "A Sunset Earned" and a fun tribute to TV Westerns called "Rewind." Bussma is enjoyable through the many scenes and moods she conveys. Fourteen tracks total. Recommended.

CD: \$13 ppd from Marlene Bussma, 1094 Homestead Dr. E, Dammeron Valley, UT 84783 and through [www.marlenebussma.com](http://www.marlenebussma.com)

## "PEN & INK, VOICE & STRINGS ECHOES FROM THE NEW FRONTIER"

(various artists)



In 2008 the Western Writers of America expanded their annual Spur Awards for literary excellence to

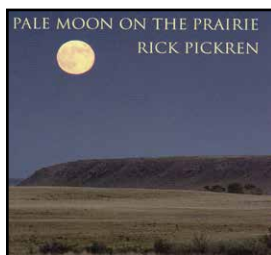
embrace a category for Best Song (focusing on those with recognized literary merit in the lyrics). This CD presents winners and finalists

in the prestigious judging. In order of presentation, the songs and singers are: "Still There" (Juni Fisher), "The Last Wild White Buffalo" (Mike Blakely), "The Vaquero Song" (Dave Stamey), "Texas Is Burnin'" (Jim Jones), "Colorado" (Chuck Pyle), "Morning Star Moon" (Jon Chandler), "The Old Double Diamond" (Gary McMahan), "Hang 'n' Rattle" (Wylie & The Wild West), "Sky Rock" (Carol Markstrom), "Ain't No Quit" (Bill Barwick), "Any Name Will Do" (Mary Kaye), "Lost Time On The Old Highway" (Mark Jackson Band), "Charlie & Evangeline" (Doug Figgs) and one well-earned newly recorded salute from Bill Groneman called "Western Writers of America." As you may be able to tell, the artists are their own review. Extraordinary collection! Fourteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$20 through [www.western-writers.org](http://www.western-writers.org)

## RICK PICKREN

### "Pale Moon On The Prairie"



In his melodies and arrangements, you'll find Pickren executes some unique (yet ear-catching)

twists and turns. I lean toward believing that gives the songs a longer shelf life! He swings through "Swingin' Through the Sagebrush." In the modulation-rich title track, Pickren offers musical nods to Bob Nolan, Richard Rodgers AND Cole Porter!! There are novel covers of lesser known works of Bob Nolan ("Cody Of The Pony Express"), Jimmie Driftwood ("Shoot The Buffalo") and "Song Of The Pioneer") and a Howard & Mills song called "A Cowboy Needs A Horse" that could have inspired Dave Stamey's "If I Only Had A Hat!" Also there are two instrumental romps ("A Prairie Prelude" and "Run Through The Mustard").

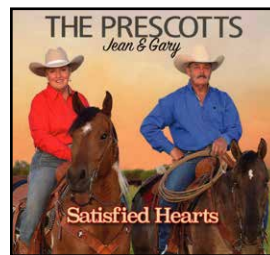
There's a lot to take in here, and it may take more than one lis-

ten. That's why you'd better have it on hand! Fourteen tracks. Recommended.

CD: \$15 ppd from Big Strike Music, 122 Ashland Ave., River Forest, Illinois 60305. [www.bigstrikemusic.com](http://www.bigstrikemusic.com), amazon, iTunes, cdbaby.com

## THE PRESCOTTS

### "Satisfied Hearts"



Well!!! Gary finally came in from that offshore drilling rig! So here it is...the first release from The

Prescotts ...Jean & Gary...in more than twenty years!! But if you're expecting an album of duets, expect again. Their release from two decades back wasn't about that, and neither is this. Although both Jean and Gary write (well), they didn't co-write here either. But, man can they sing!

Once more they are working with Milo Deering, and why not?? He only brings to the proceedings bass, acoustic, lead and rhythm guitars; mandolin, Dobro, harmonica, cello and percussion. Gee!

On Jean's six tracks she sets to music the words of Deanna Dickinson McCall, Chris Issacs, Darrell Arnold, Pat Richardson, Debra Coppinger Hill and Randy Huston. Gary's six are faves of his including "Old Man," "The Pitchfork Grays," "Where The Ponies Come To Drink" (the Knibbs poem set to music years ago by the late Ed Stabler), Joyce Woodson's haunting "Cheyenne," "Beyond The Rain" and one of his own "I Once Rode With the Best." He with her, she with him...riding with the best is what they're doing.

Fifteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$20 available (for now, Jean says) by contacting Jean Prescott Music on Facebook or calling 325-583-2553.

Continued on page 44

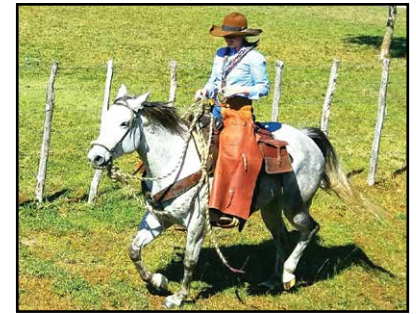


In Ft. Worth, TX

Dad is my biggest fan and Webmaster. They have both worked tirelessly to get me where I am, and the neat part is, it wouldn't matter what my dream was. Whatever I have showed interest in, they have made it a reality. I am incredibly blessed to have a family like that. Not many people in my circumstances do.

**TWW:** Mikki, thank you for letting us bother you for this interview; it's been sweet of you to take the time. We want to congratulate you on your success, and wish you many successful days in the future as you continue to pursue your career in music.

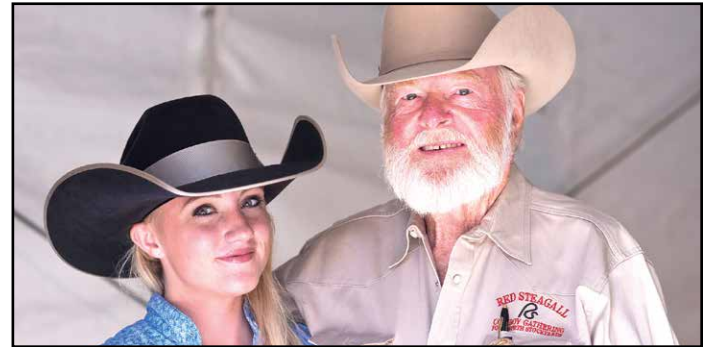
**Mikki:** Again, thank you,



Out for a ride.



Running free



Mikki and Red Steagall

Photos © Walter Workman, 2017

so much, for inviting me to be a part of today. It is definitely no bother! Thank you for your support and encouragement and good wishes. I appreciate each and every one of them! As my hero, Roy, would say... "Happy trails, and may the Good Lord take a likin' to ya."



On Stage at the PRI Breakfast

**TWW:** One more thing: how can fans follow you on the Internet?

**Mikki:** My Website, of course...www.MikkiDaniel.com. I am also on Facebook and Instagram.



**WELCOME  
TO NEW  
Western Way  
READER**



The Western Way would like to welcome Elena Avigail Gallegos, born June 1, weighing in at 4 lbs. 13 oz and standing 17 inches tall! Elena is the beautiful new daughter of WW Contributing Writer, Samantha Gallegos (TUNE YOURSELF! feature) and Rojerio (Roger) Gallegos. She is a beauty, Samantha and Roger. Congratulations!

# WMA Education Corner



By Judy James

## WOW!! What a SUMMER!

(All photos submitted and used by permission.)



David Sawyer



Jasmine Saldivar

The First ANNUAL Western Music Association Youth Music Camp was held in Weatherford, Texas, at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center on June 21st and 22nd. Eight quality young musicians from eleven to fifteen years of age with varying skills and abilities participated.

On Wednesday evening the workshop began with a get acquainted time which included a round robin playing time.

Thursday's sessions included a class in performance and vocal techniques, Western history, as well as rehearsals on the three group songs. Special classes were taught on microphone care, type, and usage; as well as public relations and branding. To complement the training, each youth was invited to participate in the Cowboy Jubilee Radio with Judy James Live Radio Broadcast the following Saturday.

The growth of EACH participant from beginning to end was amazing! This growth was because of each individual's commitment as well as the outstanding leadership of Jeanne Cahill, Kathy Sawyer, Pam Tarpley, Judy James, Johnie Terry, Marsha Short and Craig Swancy.

Mark your calendars for the SECOND ANNUAL WMA YOUTH MUSIC CAMP – June 18 – 21, 2018 in Weatherford at Weatherford College and the Doss Heritage and Culture Center, expanded to three and one-half days. Come work with additional outstanding staff members. Further information will be available soon!

Keep Western Music Alive!! Western Music lovers can Sponsor or Co-Sponsor a young musician to go to camp!!

**YOU, TOO, CAN HOST A ONE AND ONE-HALF DAY WORKSHOP IN YOUR AREA. ASK US HOW!**



Ava Boyles



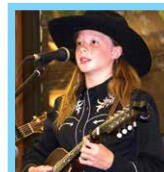
Caroline Grace



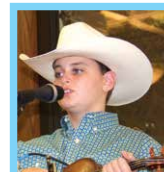
Finale with the entire cast



Vocal techniques with Judy James



Alice Black



Jack Phillips



Jack Spurgin



Abby Payne



Group rehearsal with Kathy Sawyer and Johnie Terry



One on one with Caroline Grace and Jeanne Cahill



On Stage



On the air!! Caroline Grace, Alice Black, and David Sawyer with Judy James



Touring the Doss Museum

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/ songwriter/guitarist/author/radio DJ. Email [judy@judyjames.com](mailto:judy@judyjames.com). Address: PO Box 953, Weatherford, TX 76086

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 24*

critters, high mountains full of hidden lakes, ponds and an abundance of wildlife. If you want a specific vista, you can and will find it in Utah. So, it is understandable, if you are looking for a unique type of entertainment you will also find that in Utah or the WMA/Utah Chapter. We have the best poets and musicians found in a single Chapter. We are proud of the accomplishments each and every member exhibits. They are professional and represent our Chapter well, showing the best



*Thatch Elmer Antelope Island Gathering*

in talent and their abilities to reach audiences. As we showcase our talents, we are not only representing ourselves but our Chapter and our genre. We believe, here in Utah, that we exceed this expectation in our members. Over Memorial Day weekend, the Chapter co-sponsored the Antelope Island's Cowboy Legends Gathering, along with Antelope State Park and FRIENDS of Antelope Island. Over the four days, this effort raised money for Huntsman Cancer Institute, in joint effort with Paul Bliss and Western Heritage Foundation. Through auctions, General Store Sales and donation jars, we raised around \$4000.00 for FRIENDS, an organization that supports activities on the Island. They receive only grants and donations to keep youth educational programs functioning. We are proud to be a part of this effort. Over 31 performers, the majority WMA/Utah Chapter members, donated their time and talent during the four-day event. Our committee is comprised of 16 Chapter members, along with Park Rangers



*Colt Blankman Antelope Island Gathering*

and spouses of the committee. Many of our committee are non-performers, who set up tables, chairs, tents, banners, stages and man the General Store in shifts and sell product for those who are performers. Dozens of park volunteers, along with our own volunteers accumulated 1000's of hours preparing for and putting on this event. We can't do anything of this magnitude without our volunteers! Utah chapter members are traveling around the West all year. Youth poets are being featured at Gatherings, organizational award dinners, State and National 4-H events and at Abravental Hall in Salt Lake, for the Days of '47 Pops Concert. Our Chapter is doing and well, and we continue to grow in memberships! Gotta love it!

### **Western Wordsmiths Chapter**

**President: Geoff "Poppa**

**Mac" Mackay**

**e-mail: [poppamac@hotmail.com](mailto:poppamac@hotmail.com)**

The Western Wordsmiths Chapter is here to: "To produce, promote and preserve the Tales, Stories, and Poems of Western Culture in Written or oral form." Fall is in the air (or at least up here in Canada it is) but that hasn't slowed down the Cowboy Gathering season. It was wonderful to see how many members were competing in the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo in Kansas, Congratulations to all. I'm encouraged by how many of our members are represented as invited and featured performers around the country and at the National Convention. A reminder that the Wordsmiths will have a Chapter meeting at the convention Saturday from 10am-11am in the Turquoise room where elections will take place.

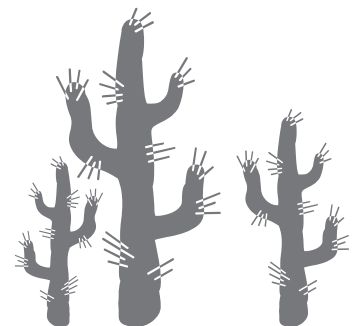
The meeting agenda is currently open. If you have something you'd like discussed please forward to one of the executive so it can be added. If you cannot attend you can still have your vote count. You can sign your proxy over to another member who is attending. If you are interested in having your name considered for any of the Executive Committee, get involved in the chapter. All positions are available and your involvement is welcomed.

### **Youth Chapter**

**Coordinator: Jane Leche**

**[wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com)**

Young members of the WMA are encouraged to attend the annual convention in Albuquerque this year. Youth Chapter members can attend the all members' workshops on Thursday, November 9 (Youth Chapter members get in free), and then youth specific activities such as the Youth Chapter breakfast, annual meeting and workshops on Friday, and the Youth Stage on Saturday. This year's special Youth Chapter workshop will be on *The Practice of Practice* led by author Jonathan Harnum at the invitation of Youth Chapter Program Director, Leah Sawyer. Mr. Harnum has graciously offered a copy of his book by the same name to each Youth Chapter member and we sincerely appreciate his generosity and look forward to having him join us at the convention. The convention is also the best place for all Youth Chapter members to get reacquainted with old friends and make new ones, improve their western music or cowboy poetry skills, learn something new or just enjoy being a member of the WMA! We hope to see you there! For more information on the WMA Youth Chapter, please contact Jane Leche, Youth Chapter Coordinator at [wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com). 🐾



# KR WOOD

• Singer, Songwriter, Musician, Historian •

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2017 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail (1867-2017). This CD commemorates this enduring part of history and recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who made those historic journeys.

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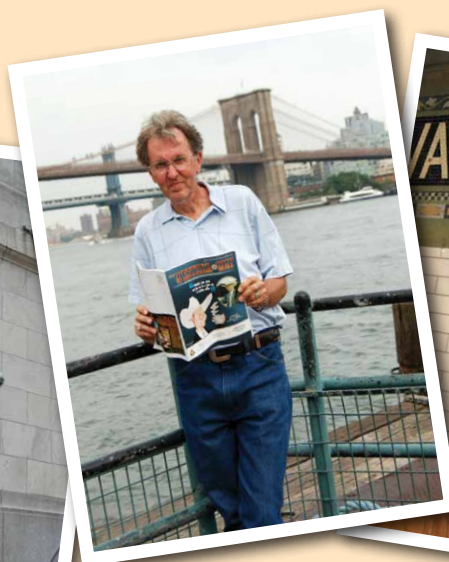
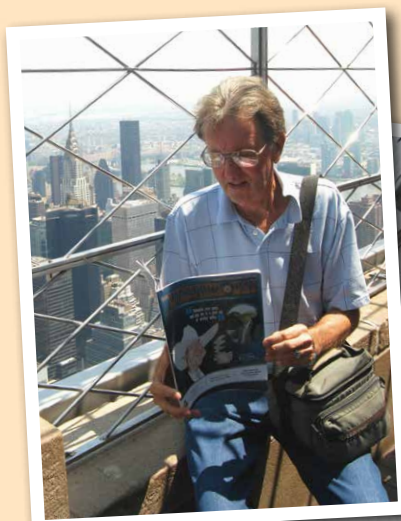
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<https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/songsandtalesoftheoldchisholmtrail>

## The Western Way in "the Big Apple"



WMA member Greg Bade (TX) was sure to have his copy of the Western Way with him on his recent trip to NY. Whether it is atop the Empire State Building, near the Brooklyn Bridge or waiting for a ride at the Wall Street Subway Station, the Western Way is for everyone! Where will you take yours? (Photos courtesy Greg Bade. Used by permission.)

# Western Music Association

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Rex Allen, Jr. - Nashville, TN  
 Cindy Argyle - Hooper, UT  
 Troy Bateson - Vilonia, AR  
 George & Doris Bensmiller Armstrong, BC - Canada  
 Jerry & Carol Bobroff - San Diego, CA  
 Mark E. Brown - Franklin, IN  
 Ken Bucy - Mesa, AZ  
 Mae Camp - Tucson, AZ  
 Woody Paul Chrisman - Nashville, TN  
 Patty Clayton - Edgewater, CO  
 Karen Cloutier - Conyngham, PA  
 Peggy Collins - Cordova, TN  
 Henry "Steve" Conroy - Sierra Vista, AZ  
 Polly Cooke - Wickenburg, AZ  
 Jan Michael Corey - Mesa, AZ  
 Stan Corliss - Hillsboro, OR  
 William Crowe - Van Horn, TX  
 Don Cusic - Nashville, TN  
 David DeBolt - Nolensville, TN  
 Arlys Eaton - Scottsdale, AZ  
 Dave Eaton - Scottsdale, AZ  
 Fred Engel - Kimball Junction, UT  
 Robert Fee - Tucson, AZ  
 Juni Fisher - Franklin, TN  
 Norbert Gauch - Walzenhausen Switzerland  
 Val Geissler - Cody, WY  
 Dick & Dixie Goodman - Sun City West, AZ  
 Fred Goodwin - Murfreesboro, TN  
 Douglas B. Green - Brentwood, TN  
 Betsy Bell Hagar - Mill Valley, CA  
 Jerry Hall - Porterville, CA  
 Les Hamilton - Dubois, WY  
 Calvin Danner Hampton - Cimarron, NM  
 Lisa Hampton - Cimarron, NM  
 RW Hampton - Cimarron, NM  
 Eddy Harrison - Las Cruces, NM  
 Tom Hilderbrand - North Myrtle Beach, SC  
 Randy A. Hoyt - Craig, CO  
 Rick Huff - Albuquerque, NM  
 Jack Hummel - Valencia, CA  
 Voleta Hummel - Valencia, CA  
 Charles Jennings - Rockville, MD  
 Emma F. Kaenzig - Walzenhausen - Switzerland  
 Karen L. Killion - Casper, WY  
 Fred LaBour - Ashland City, TN  
 Pete Laumbach - Smyer, TX  
 Jane Leche - Lakewood, CO  
 Paul Lohr - Nashville, TN  
 Mike Mahaney - Burbank, CA -  
 Liz Masterson - Denver, CO  
 Michael P. McAleenan - Sheridan, WY  
 Janet McBride - Mesquite, TX

Tracy McHenry - Tucson, AZ  
 Gary McMahan - Bellvue, CO  
 Al "Doc" Mehl - Black Diamond, AB - Canada  
 Tree Menane - Taos, NM  
 Jon Messenger - Sierra Vista, AZ  
 Kathy Messenger - Sierra Vista, AZ  
 Joseph Miskulin - Nashville, TN  
 Marvin O'Dell - Sun City, AZ  
 Billy Pitts - Kansas City, MO  
 Debbie Pundt - Tucson, AZ  
 Jeff Pundt - Tucson, AZ  
 Diana Raven - Lakewood, CO  
 Herb Remington - Houston, TX  
 Steven Rhodes - Foosland, IL  
 Victoria Rhodes - Foosland, IL  
 Carolyn Richardson - Decatur, AL  
 Don Richardson - Upland, CA  
 Barbara Richhart - Mancos, CO  
 Roger Ringer - Medicine Lodge, KS  
 Jessie D. Robertson - Fort Worth, TX  
 Patricia Robinson - Tucson, AZ  
 Lori Rutherford - Sierra Vista, AZ  
 Mike Rutherford - Sierra Vista, AZ  
 Ray Ryan - San Jose, CA  
 Yvonne Ryan - San Jose, CA  
 Mary M. Ryland - Albuquerque, NM  
 Rudolf P. Schai - Bernhardtzell - Switzerland  
 Jim Sharp - Nashville, TN -  
 Hank Sheffer - Apache Junction, AZ  
 Sharyn Sheffer - Apache Junction, AZ  
 Cowboy Jerry Sooter - Apple Valley, CA  
 Hal Spencer - Pacific City, OR  
 Julie Spencer - Pacific City, OR  
 Cheryl Stanley - Roswell, NM  
 Bob Taylor - El Cajon, CA  
 Steve Taylor - West Haven, UT  
 Terri Taylor - West Haven, UT  
 Ed Terry Music, LLC - Merritt, NC  
 J. R. (Ray) Threath - Arlington, TX  
 Alma Tussing - Hudson, WY  
 Stanley Tussing - Hudson, WY  
 Marilyn Tuttle - San Fernando, CA  
 Robert Wagoner - Bishop, CA  
 Harvey Walker - Anaheim, CA  
 Alinka Wallace - Flatonia, TX  
 Washtub Jerry - McDonald Obs, TX  
 Leonard Werner - Flemington, NJ  
 Johnny Western - Mesa, AZ  
 Norman Winter - Dubois, WY  
 Joyce Woodson - San Juan Capistrano, CA

# Reed's Reading

## Recommendations & Book Reviews

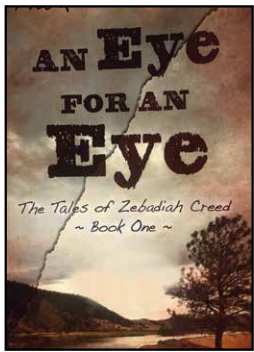


Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

### MARK C. JACKSON

#### "An Eye for An Eye: The Tales of Zebadiah Creed, Book One"



As the title would suggest, this novel, the first by Jackson, a songwriter, performer and poet, is a tale of vengeance.

Set in 1835, it begins as brothers Zebadiah and Jonathan Creed, white men captured as children by the Lakota and raised as members of that tribe, are taking the pelts of beaver they trapped down the Missouri River by keelboat to sell in St. Louis.

Early on, they are ambushed, Jonathan killed and the pelts stolen. Zebadiah survives but abandons the comfortable, desirable life offered him by his saviors, a Quaker doctor and his lovely daughter, to pursue the thieves who murdered his brother.

Jackson sets a runaway-horse pace, taking us on a wild and bloody ride on down the Missouri, onto the Mississippi, into St. Louis, through Natchez, MS., and finally to New Orleans and the swamps nearby.

Along the way, we meet a colorful and bizarre collection of characters -- a Brit whom Zebadiah is not sure he can trust, a pirate in exile, the sensuous madam of a New Orleans brothel, the murderous rogues behind Jonathan's death, even a couple of wolverines.

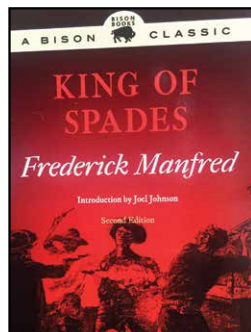
Zebadiah himself is as outrageous as anyone he encounters. No sane man would have left that Quaker girl. But he is driven by the need to seek retribution for the loss of a brother he loved, and, a product of his upbringing, he has no qualms about taking scalps along the way.

The plot, which starts out as grounded as any historical Western, spins away into the kind of over-the-top adventure you'd expect from a Quentin Tarantino screenplay. But it is as difficult to put down Jackson's novel as it is to look away from a Tarantino movie. Like a rider on a runaway horse, I was afraid to let go. I read it hard and fast to the finish.

**("An Eye for an Eye," ISBN 9781432832971, hardcover, \$25.95, Five Star, 2017, available in bookstores or through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).)**

### FREDERICK MANFRED

#### "Lord Grizzly" - "Riders of Judgment" - "Conquering Horse" - "Scarlet Plume" - "King of Spades"



In his novels of the West, Minnesota author Manfred (1912-1994) tackled some of the themes -- revenge, the American

fur trade, captivity among the Indians, violent frontier life -- that

Mark Jackson deals with in "Eye for An Eye."

He is best known for "Lord Grizzly," a finalist for the 1954 National Book Award. The book is Manfred's fictional retelling of the Hugh Glass saga, the true story of a mountain man mauled by a grizzly bear and left to die by his companions. The Glass story is also the inspiration for "The Revenant," the 2015 movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

In Manfred's novel, Glass crawls 200 miles across dangerous ground to take revenge on those who abandoned him. "Lord Grizzly" is one of five Manfred novels, unrelated except for their Old West setting, that are known collectively as the Buckskin Man Tales.

At the Western Writers of America convention in June in Kansas City, MO, I stopped by the University of Nebraska Press table and discovered that between 2011 and 2014 the Nebraska Press had reissued all of the Buckskin Man Tales under its Bison Books imprint. They are still available in handsome trade paperback editions. Besides "Lord Grizzly," these include: "Riders of Judgment" (1957), based on Wyoming's Johnson County range wars, tells the story of Cain Hammett, a small rancher who wants a peaceful life but is forced to take a stand against the ruthless tactics of cattle barons; "Conquering Horse" (1959), set in the late 18th Century, recounts the adventures of a young Sioux man seeking his identity, his purpose and his destiny; "Scarlet Plume" (1964), rooted in the 1862 Sioux

Continued on page 44

# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cowboy - The High Country Cowboys</li><li>2. Wall-Eyed Moles - The Wall-Eyed Moles</li><li>3. Montana Moon - Dan McCorison</li><li>4. The Cowboy Way - The Cowboy Way</li><li>5. Somewhere There's Music - The Swing Sisters</li><li>6. Cowboy Life - Donnie Poindexter</li><li>7. Lovin' the West - Aspen Black</li><li>8. This is the Last Cowboy Song - Rex Allen, Jr.</li><li>9. One More Ride - Sons of the San Joaquin</li><li>10. Western Stories - Dave Stamey</li><li>11. Home on the Range Soundtrack - Various Artists</li><li>12. Living the Western Dream - Joyce Woodson</li><li>13. Off the Grid - Jeneve Rose Mitchell</li><li>14. Ride a Wide Circle - Mary Kaye</li><li>15. Shadow Dust - Sam Matisse</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>16. Take Me Back to Texas - Mary Kaye</li><li>17. A Family Affair - The Andersons</li><li>18. Welcome Home - Barry Ward</li><li>19. Live - Leah Sawyer</li><li>20. The Gift - Barbara Nelson</li><li>21. Linger Awhile - Liz Masterson</li><li>22. A Cowboy's Prayer - Billy Cate</li><li>23. Cohorts and Collaborators - Various Artists</li><li>24. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel</li><li>25. Keeper of the West - Ed Wahl</li><li>26. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers</li><li>27. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris</li><li>28. Across the Brazos - Paul Erlene</li><li>29. Cowboy to the Bone - R.J. Vandygriff</li><li>30. Western and Country - Dennis Jay</li></ol> |
|--|---|

## TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Ain't Dead Yet - Hot Texas Swing Band
2. Somewhere There's Music - The Swing Sisters
3. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas - Susie Blue
4. Trail Jazz - Cowboy Joe Babcock
5. Dancing on Daddy's Boots - Kim Blakey
6. Wild Blue Yonder - The Western Flyers
7. Green Mountain Standard Time - Rick & the All-Star Ramblers
8. Jack Phillips - Jack Phillips
9. Dime Stories, Vol. 2 - Carolyn Sills Combo
10. Now Playing - Western Swing Authority

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Cowboy Seasons - Sam DeLeeuw
2. Fillin' Tanks - Susie Knight
3. Saddle Up for Cowboy Poetry - Marleen Bussma
4. Short Grass Country - Floyd Beard
5. Cowboy Recitations - Andy Hedges
6. Cowboy Image - Danny McCurry
7. Masters - Various Artists
8. The Calf Book - Teresa Burleson
9. Cowboy Poetry Classics - Various Artists
10. Rhyming the Range - Yvonne Hollenbeck

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Bad Man's Blunder - Jeneve Rose Mitchell
2. Call of the West - The Wall-Eyed Moles
3. Colorado Horses - Dan McCorison
4. Hidey-Ho Montana - Rodeo & Juliet
5. Cowboy Swing - Leah Sawyer
6. Along the Santa Fe Trail - The Swing Sisters
7. Rose of San Joaquin - Donnie Poindexter
8. Call of the Canyon - Rex Allen, Jr.
9. Lovin' the West - Aspen Black
- Tularosa Rose - The Cowboy Way
- Old Cowboy - The High Country Cowboys

\*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 submitted 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

Bobbi Jean Bell  
OutWest  
16654 Soledad Canyon Rd #148  
Santa Clarita, CA 91387  
"Campfire Café" w/host Gary Holt  
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com  
661-347-9700 or toll free 877-340-9378

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky  
Rogue Valley Bound Show  
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.  
Medford, Oregon 97504  
541-301-7649  
www.earsradio.com  
skipbessonette@gmail.com

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

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo  
Calling All Cowboys Radio  
88.9 FM, KPOV High Desert  
Community Radio  
http://www.kpov.org  
http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling\_ all\_cowboys\_new\_56k.mp3  
e-mail: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com  
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/  
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show  
radio.spalding-labs.com  
22470 Rickard Rd.  
Bend, OR 97702  
541-388-2537

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

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

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

Greg Harness  
KRBX Radio Boise  
1020 W Main St #50  
Boise ID 83702  
greg@gregharness.com  
"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  
http://www.mountainsaddleband.com/old- west-chapel

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

Randy Hill  
Western Swing Time Radio Show  
KMUZ-FM  
P.O. Box 17264  
Salem, OR 97305  
(Plays only western swing)  
westernswingtime@gmail.com  
www.westernswingtime.com

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

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

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

Butch and Christina Martin  
"Whittler's Corner Show"  
1410 Kubli Road  
Grants Pass, OR 97527  
Earsradio.com

*Continued on page 44*

Ashland, OR, [www.KSKQ.org](http://www.KSKQ.org)  
 The Dalles, OR, Y102  
 KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY  
[www.ButchMartinMusic.com](http://www.ButchMartinMusic.com)  
[www.romancingthewest.org](http://www.romancingthewest.org)  
 (541) 218-2477

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

Bob O'Donnell  
 355 N. 7th St.  
 Apt. 526  
 Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
[justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com](mailto:justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com)

Barbara Richhart  
 Western Belle of KSJD  
 CowTrails Show  
 32229 Road P  
 Mancos, CO 81328  
 Studio: Sundays 12:00-2: PM

Studio: 970-564-0808  
 Home: 970-882-1413  
 Cell: 970-739-8408  
[Streaming www.ksjd.org](http://Streaming www.ksjd.org)  
[bfboston@fone.net](mailto:bfboston@fone.net)  
[www.cowtrails.com](http://www.cowtrails.com)

O.J. Sikes  
 327 Westview Ave.  
 Leonia, NJ 07605  
[osikes@nj.rr.com](mailto:osikes@nj.rr.com)  
 KKRN, Redding, CA  
[www.earsradio.com](http://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](mailto:realwestoldwest@live.com)  
[www.realwestoldwest.com](http://www.realwestoldwest.com)  
[www.demingradio.com](http://www.demingradio.com)  
 Facebook/totsieslover

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

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

Bill Walton  
 KZNQ – Q Country  
 22450 Claremont Dr.  
 Santa Clarita, CA 91350  
 e-mail: [kznqfm@gmail.com](mailto:kznqfm@gmail.com)

Wayne & Kathy  
 Swing 'n' Country  
 KBOO 90.7 FM  
 20 SE 8th, Portland, OR 97214  
[wkswingandcountry@comcast.net](mailto:wkswingandcountry@comcast.net)

Leonard Werner  
 Country Routes  
 WDVR FM 89.7 & 91.9  
 PO Box 191  
 Sergeantsville, NJ 08557  
 609-397-1620  
[www.wdvrfm.org](http://www.wdvrfm.org)  
[Leonardwerner44@comcast.net](mailto:Leonardwerner44@comcast.net)



*Reading, Continued from page 41*

uprising in southern Minnesota, is about a young woman who is taken captive by the rebellious Sioux after her husband is killed, and is also about the wise Sioux warrior Scarlet Plume who knows his people are engaged in a fight they cannot win; and, "King of Spades" (1965), certainly the most unusual of Manfred's novels. It is his take on the Greek myth of Oedipus, the man who kills his father and marries his mother, replayed on the plains of Iowa, Wyoming and South Dakota.

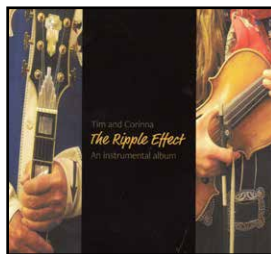
Manfred wrote Westerns that can boast of literary merit. If that means anything to you, you'll want to read the Buckskin Man Tales.

**("Lord Grizzly," ISBN 978-0-8032-3523-6, \$18.95; "Riders of Judgment," ISBN 978-0-8032-4881-6, \$21.95; "Conquering Horse," ISBN 978-0-8032-4524-2, \$24.95; "Scarlet Plume," ISBN 978-0-8032-4364-4, \$21.95; "King of Spades," ISBN 978-0-8032-4882-3; all available as trade paperbacks through [bisonbooks.com](http://bisonbooks.com).)**



*Continued from page 35*

## TIM & CORINNA "The Ripple Effect"



One of the very welcome occurrences during the Flying J Wrangler Chuckwagon shows in

Alto, New Mexico happens when the group's fiery fiddler Corinna Ripple and marvelous banjo/guitar/bass/steel man Tim ("Stinkbug") McCasland get to howl! On this instrumental release, they sure do. Ahhh-OOOOO!!!

Tim has invited seven guest instruments (with names and birth years)! They are "Arnold" (his Martin D-18 guitar, b: 2016); "Vicenzo" (a D' Angelo guitar, b: 2014); "Darrell" (his dear Deering banjo, b: 2016); "Dushante" (a

Carter D-10 pedal steel. B: 2010); "Frank" (a Framus red arch top guitar); "Virgil" (a.k.a. Dobro guitar, b: 1972) and "Rusty" (P-Bass, b: 1988)! Corinna fiddles with only two friends here..."Melanie" (her Czech Republic violin, b: 2005) and "Cordell" (a late 19th Century violin of unknown parentage)!! Sitting in on the session were CD producers "Cindy" (the champion yodeler with birthdate not revealed) and husband "James" Hobbs (and he ain't talkin' either)! Check out the clarinet part that Cindy yodels on "Clarinet Polka!"

Each track is better than the one that precedes it...and Track One is superb! Recommended big time!

CD: Available through [www.flyingjrange.com](http://www.flyingjrange.com)



# 2017 WMA Annual Convention Schedule

## WEDNESDAY, November 8

12:00 noon-6:00 pm

### WMA Western Consignment accepting items to sell or donate

This is an excellent opportunity to purchase great finds and help the WMA, 10% percent of all consignment sales go directly to the WMA. Better yet is the opportunity to make some money by selling your new or gently worn Western items!

3:00-6:00 pm

### Performers CD Check-In

You must be a registered for the Convention to sell your CDs in the Mercantile.

7:00-9:00 pm

### Swing Dance Spectacular & Dessert

Syd Masters & The Swing Riders, The Swing Sisters, 3 TRAILS WEST

## THURSDAY, November 9

8:00 am-7:00 pm

### Member Registration & Ticket Sales

8:00 am-12:00 noon

### WMA Western Consignment accepting items to sell or donate

8:00 am-5:00 pm

### Performers CD Check-In

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

8:30-9:45 am

### Coffee with the DJs

### Facilitated by Marvin O'Dell

*A time for you to visit with the DJs to learn how to present your music for maximum airplay.*

10:00 am-11:15 am

### Music Business Basics for the Indie Artist

### Presented by Lynne Marie Rusaw

*We will discuss definition of terms, music sales in the digital marketplace, publishing, copyright procedures, basic business affairs, promotion, advertising, booking agents, artist management, and concert production, merchandise, P.R.O.s-ASCAP, SESAC & BMI.*

11:30 am-12:30 pm

### Country vs. Western

### Presented by Marvin O'Dell & Jerry Hall

*What is country music? What is western music? Is there a difference? An intriguing and fun discussion of the two forms of music that were, at one time, considered one and the same.*

1:30-2:30 pm

### Vocal Health

### Presented by Judy James

*How do I keep my voice healthy? How do I improve my singing AND speaking voice? How do I sing through the ages? How do I make my voice sound more mature? These are just a few of the topics that will be covered in this workshop for singers, speakers, poets, and anyone else who uses their voice!*

2:45-3:45 pm

### Let's Get You on Stage!

### Presented by Juni Fisher & Belinda Gail

*Veteran entertainers Belinda Gail and Juni Fisher are opening their bag of tricks and trade secrets to show you how to best use your time getting from through the maze of how to arrive at a performance, how to navigate the green room, the sound check, and how to take command of any stage to present your best performance. Bring your instrument, and your cord, if your instrument plugs in, because there will be some hands-on work. You won't be performing, so no worries...but you will be learning some important steps in making your performances smooth and professional.*

4:00-5:00 pm

### National Day of the Cowboy Panel Discussion - Facilitated by Bethany Braley, Executive Director

*Panelists Richard Beal (New Mexico), Kraig Sundberg (Idaho), Tom Hawk (Maryland), Barb Richhart (Colorado), and Brent Slutsky (California) will discuss the status of the National Day of the Cowboy campaign, what each of the campaign volunteers experienced in the effort to get the bill passed in their states, how people can get involved and how they can support our work. They will also answer any questions you might have about what this effort entails.*

12:00 noon-5:00 pm

### WMA Western Consignment OPEN

12:00 noon-5:00 pm	<b>WMA Mercantile &amp; Vendor Area</b>
12:00-3:30 pm	<b>WMA Showcase Performances</b> Featuring: 3 TRAILS WEST, Dennis Jay, LeeLee Robert, James Michael, Miss V, Duane Nelson, Hailey Sandoz
6:00-9:00 pm	<b>Crisis Fund Dinner &amp; Concert</b> <i>The WMA Crisis Fund is used to help members in times of genuine crisis. We are asking you to consider making a generous donation to this fund. Tonight, <b>Rex Allen, Jr.</b> gives an encore performance of his Sunrise to Sunset Farewell Tour. Rex has donated his time and talent for this worthy cause.</i>
10:00 pm-12:00 midnight	<b>Midnight Pajama Showcase</b> <i>Hosted by Kerry Grombacher &amp; Aspen Black. Wear your pajamas and join us for refreshments, a pajama contest, music, and fun!</i> Featuring: Floyd Beard, John Bergstrom, Alice Black, Lori Brooke, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Pegie Douglas, Paula Erlene, Carol Markstrom, Miss V, Duane Nelson, Claudia Nygaard, Bob Thomas, Wall-Eyed Moles  <b>Jamming All Night Long</b>
<b>FRIDAY, November 10</b>	
7:00 am-6:00 pm	<b>WMA Western Consignment OPEN and accepting items to sell or donate</b>
7:30 am-6:00 pm	<b>Member Registration &amp; Ticket Sales</b>
7:00 am-8:30 am	<b>WMA Chapter Officers Roundtable &amp; Breakfast</b>
8:30 am-12:00 noon	<b>WMA Youth Chapter Meeting &amp; Workshops</b>
12:00 noon-6:00 pm	<b>WMA Mercantile &amp; Vendor Area</b>
10:00 am-5:00 pm	<b>WMA Development Stage</b> Featuring: 43 Miles North, Alice Black, Lori Beth Brooke, Pegie Douglas, Nolan King, Scott Glen Lambertsen, Sonja Oliver & Jimmy Lee Robbins, David Sawyer, Catherine Thompson  <b>WMA Campfire Stage</b> Featuring: Troy Bateson, John Bergstrom, Ned Bodie, Grace Clark & Swingitude, The Hattons, Tom Hawk, Mikah Johnson, KG & The Ranger, Donnie Poindexter, Dennis Russell, Del Shields, jj steele, Bob Thomas
10:00 am-5:00pm	<b>WMA Showcase Performances</b> Featuring: Sam DeLeeuw, Doug Figgs, The Hanson Family, Kristyn Harris, Sid Hausman & Washtub Jerry, The High Country Cowboys, Carol Markstrom, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Mountain Saddle Band, Claudia Nygaard, The Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers, San Luis Valley Co-Op, Simple Gifts
1:00-1:45 pm	<b>Fiddle Workshop</b> with Johnny Neill
2:00-2:45 pm	<b>Upright Bass Workshop</b> with Leo Eilts
3:00-3:45 pm	<b>Mandolin Workshop</b> with Ernie Martinez
7:00-10:00 pm	<b>Friday Night Opry</b> Hosted by Judy James Featuring: 3 TRAILS WEST, Back in the Saddle, Floyd Beard, Aspen Black, Almeda Bradshaw, Les Buffham, Sam DeLeeuw, Paula Erlene, Doug Figgs, Kerry Grombacher, The Hanson Family, Kristyn Harris, Sid Hausman & Washtub Jerry, Joe Herrington, The High Country Cowboys, Steve Jones, Junction 5-12, KG & The Ranger, Susie Knight, Carol Markstrom, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Jeneve Rose Mitchell, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Barbara Nelson, Notable Exceptions, Poppa Mac, The Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers, Hailey Sandoz, Coyote Joe Sartin, Del Shields & Stephanie Layne, Simple Gifts, Royce Smithey, Wall-Eyed Moles, Joyce Woodson...and always some surprises!
	<b>More Jamming All Night Long</b>

**SATURDAY, November 11**

7:30-9:00 am

**Veterans Day Breakfast & Program**  
Hosted by Jerry Hall

9:00-10:00 am

**WMA Membership Meeting**  
Open to all current and future WMA members.

8:00 am-5:00 pm

**WMA Western Consignment OPEN and accepting items to sell or donate**

10:00 am- 6:00 pm

**Registration & Ticket Sales**

10:00 am-5:00 pm

**WMA Mercantile & Vendor Area**

10:15-11:15 am

WMA Harmony Contest

11:30 am-12:30 pm

WMA Yodeling Contest

12:45-1:45 pm

WMA Poetry Contest

1:45-3:15 pm

WMA Youth Chapter Showcase

3:00-5:00 pm

**WMA Showcase: Western World Tour!**

Featuring: Cowboy Way, Michael & Donna Coy, Judy James, Jerry Hall & Trick Shot, The High Country Cowboys, Dan McCorison, James Michael,

7:00-9:00 pm

**WMA Awards Show**  
Hosted by Sam DeLeeuw

**SUNDAY, November 12**

7:00 am-12:00 noon

**WMA Western Consignment OPEN, check out/pick up unsold items**

9:00-11:00 am

**Cowboy Church**  
With Poppa Mac

Featuring: Troy Bateson, Alice Black, Aspen Black, Ned Bodie, Almeda Bradshaw, The Carr Family Cowboy Band, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Pegie Douglas, Igor "The Jazz Cowboy", Kerry Grombacher, The Hanson Family, Tom & Donna Hatton, Judy James, Stephanie Layne, LeeLee Robert, Carol Markstrom, Olivia Morgayne, Mountain Saddle Band, Duane Nelson, Sonja Oliver & Jimmy Lee Robbins, Royce Smithey

9:00 am-12:00 noon

**Mercantile & Vendor Area**

5:00 pm

**Survivors' Dinner**

*NOTE: Schedule and performers are subject to change. Please check [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org) for updates.*

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**WESTERNMUSIC.ORG**  
**505-563-0673**

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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

### SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP


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

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

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

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

- |                                     |  |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona    | <input type="checkbox"/> East Coast      | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas          | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado   | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana/Dakotas | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia   | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming  |

- ☐ Western Wordsmiths Chapter (poets, authors, songwriters) 

- ☐ Chapter Membership (each) Individual ..... \$10
- ☐ Chapter Membership (each) Family\* ..... \$15
- ☐ Chapter Membership (each) Group\* ..... \$25

\*One member may vote

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT **WESTERNMUSIC.ORG**

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

- |  |                                     |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performer/Musician    | <input type="checkbox"/> Songwriter | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poet/Reciter          | <input type="checkbox"/> Author     | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manager/Booking Agent | <input type="checkbox"/> Fan        | <input type="checkbox"/> DeeJay/Radio Station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____           |                                     |   |

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/Post. Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address ☐ Yes ☐ No

Phone Number ☐ Yes ☐ No

Email ☐ Yes ☐ No

### Payment Information

Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Check Enclosed

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

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**P.O. BOX 648**  
**COPPELL, TX 75019**

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### Questions?

Email [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org) or call 505-563-0673.

Who may we thank for referring you to WMA?

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