

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the Western Music Association

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and join me in a good cup  
of cowboy coffee.”



Drawing by Neil  
London, UK



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Radio Personality & Music Historian  
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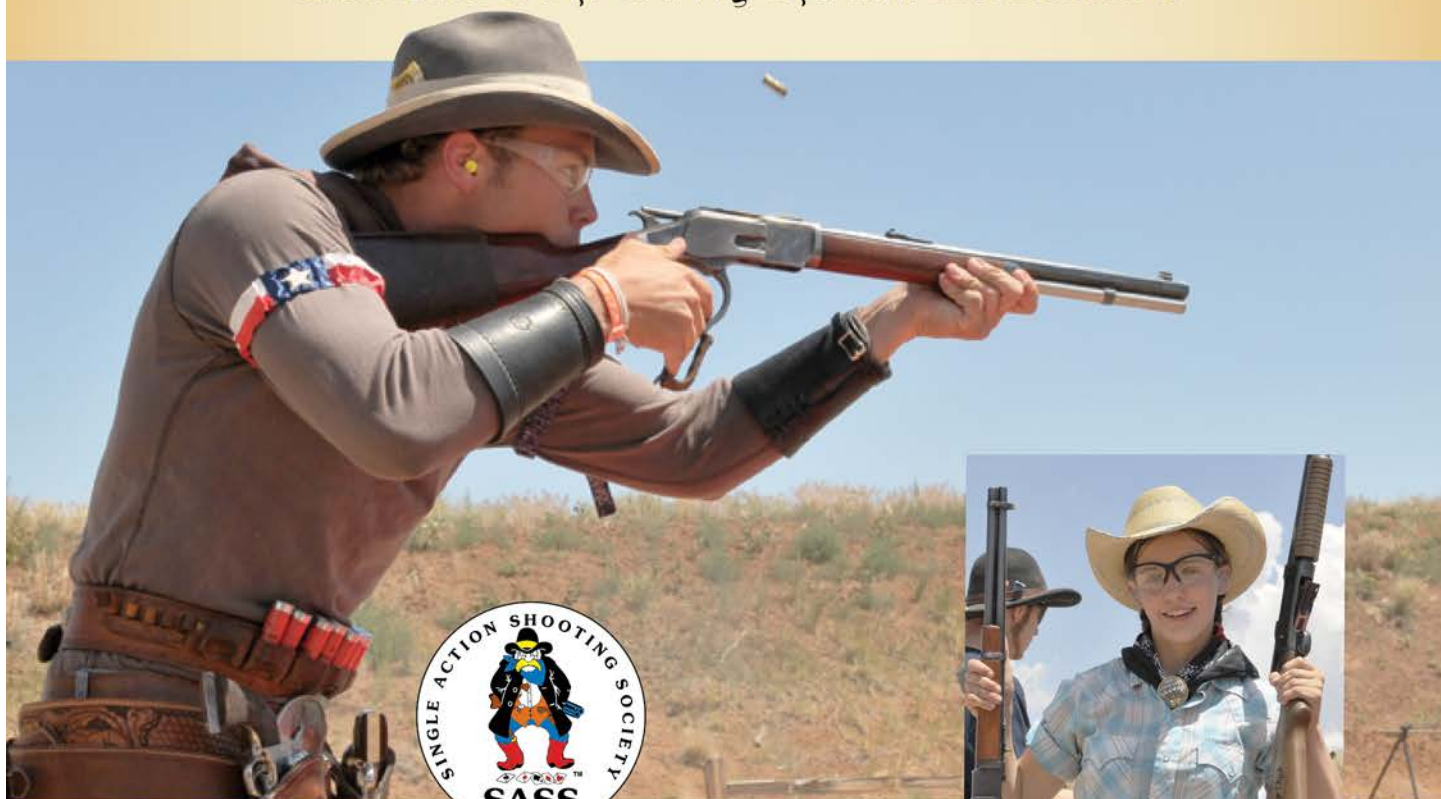
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## From The President...



Marvin O'Dell  
WMA President

Arizona has seen the summer arrive. And when we say summer, we mean SUMMER!

Last year, temperatures reached into the 120's in Phoenix. Hopefully, things will remain at a much cooler 115 this year.

The nicest thing about summer is that when it's over here, it's almost time for the WMA Convention in Albuquerque. Since the convention only takes place once a year, I've been sure to get there each year since joining the WMA. I hope you look at it that way, too. Because if you miss one year, I may not get to see you for TWO years! And that's just plain wrong.

The nice thing about hanging out with nice people who have a common interest is that it's always a nice time. There's always lots of laughter, good memories to share, and, of course, in our common interest, good music and poetry to share.

It would be nice if we could convene twice a year, but right now that's not practical – unless we want to literally work Marsha Short to death. But who knows? Maybe the time will come when we have enough volunteers and organized people to put together a min-convention somewhere in, say...well...anywhere but Phoenix in the summer!

Marvin O'Dell  
President, WMA



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The radio show of O.J. Sikes reaches around the globe. This caricature was created and sent to him by a listener in London who is part of the BBC. It immortalizes the opening remarks O.J. uses to open every show.

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

## Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell

# So You Want Your Work Reviewed?



In an ongoing effort to provide meaningful content to this magazine for all readers and to provide helpful resource material for performing members, we are pleased to announce the addition of another professional reviewer. As you are aware, in each issue we publish CD reviews by two qualified reviewers, Rick Huff and OJ Sikes. Rick focuses on reviews of contemporary projects in an effort to highlight the key features of each CD, while OJ reviews CDs of primarily historical content as well as CDs from WMA Hall of Famers. Along the way, each of these gentlemen have reviewed a book or two. As a new addition to the *Western Way*, we are pleased to add Ollie Reed, Jr. as the new book reviewer. He will review novels, fiction, nonfiction and historical content books. He will not be reviewing poetry books, however, due to the exacting specialty and subjectivity of those writings. Elsewhere in this issue you can read about Ollie and the expertise he brings to the review process.

To clarify on the purpose of reviews of any kind, I would like to mention a few things about official reviews and some points to remember when a project is submitted for review, whether music or written word:

1. Reviews are subjective and the reader/reviewer is giving their best analyzed opinion of the work.
2. By submitting a project for review, the owner is saying "I would like an honest critique of my work because I have invested time and resources to develop it. I want to continually improve, so your forthright input is what is being sought."
3. Publishable space in the magazine is limited, therefore each reviewer is limited on the number of words they can submit. Reviews may seem to lack detail. In those instances, the owner of the work is encouraged to contact the reviewer privately for additional input, clarification and suggestions.
4. Any work sent to a *Western Way* reviewer is scheduled to publish in a future issue. If you do NOT want the review published, please state that when submitting your work to the reviewer.

The review process is another tool made available to WMA members and friends designed to provide candid input to artists and writers on their work, assistance to readers about what they may expect if/when they purchase this product, and commendation where appropriate to those who have invested so much to develop a quality product for distribution.

We are constantly looking for ways to improve the *Western Way* for our readership and we welcome your feedback. Because this is the official magazine of the Western Music Association, we also are interested in your input about WMA. The column *From the Trail* is a place we will publish and, when appropriate, respond to your comments. Other readers may like to hear what you have to say. Send your comments to [wweditor1@gmail.com](mailto:wweditor1@gmail.com), subject: Opinion. I look forward to hearing from you.



## From The Executive Director...



**Marsha Short**  
Executive Director

Sometimes in life, there's nothing left to say. Over the course of many years, I've been tongue-tied, talked until I'm blue in the face, talked to the hand, and apparently, according to younger versions of my children, talked in a language that none of them understood. I talk to my dog...he's deaf but still hangs on my every word. It gives me a sense (probably a false one) that maybe I do have something to say.

And so I ramble:

I just turned off the "breaking news alerts" on my computer and phone. A lot of what I got I didn't consider worth interrupting my day for and what was truly "breaking" usually just depressed me. I've been a news junkie for years, but I think I'm going to turn it off for a while. I'll probably sleep better at night.

Here is happy breaking news: My granddaughter Carly graduated from Lewisville High School (Go Farmers!) this week. She's headed to the University of North Texas to study history and anthropology. My other granddaughter Chelsea leaves in the fall to start working on her PhD in Ancient Cultures at the University of Glasgow. And my sweet grandson Kristian turns three in July. All new starts for new generations. Wouldn't it be nice to have all those opportunities in front of you? *Carpe diem!*

This morning at the grocery store I found strawberries that were grown in my hometown of Santa Maria, California. So I bought five quarts. Now with an abundance of strawberries and memories of home, I'd like to encourage you all to "come home" to the WMA Convention this year...it really is a family reunion. You never know who you'll see jamming in the hallways in the middle of the night. Invite some friends and plan to be with your WMA family in November.

Which reminds me that the 2017 Awards of Excellence Nominations Ballot is included in this issue. Please take a moment to recognize your favorite performers and albums by nominating them. Ballots need to be postmarked or emailed by September 10. The final ballot will be mailed or emailed to you about September 15.

Speaking of albums and strawberry fields, the Beatles released Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band 50 years ago. How did that happen?

I wish all of you a happy summer full of whatever it is you want, excitement or relaxation. Be safe and take care of our world....it's the only one we get.



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

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

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





# *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.

---

## **Ain't a Hermit**

by Floyd Beard

Well now I ain't no real recluse,  
hermit ain't my real excuse,  
but neighbors they are sparse where I come from.  
I often sit and talk a spell  
but a poet said it well.  
I like folks best when they are scattered some.

So let my story now unwind,  
build a picture in your mind  
of canyon land, that's rugged, vast and free.  
Where broken canyons braid for miles,  
mountain peaks stack up in piles;  
A torn and arid range is what you'll see.

There I awake and stretch and yawn  
and I ride out on the dawn  
where prairies melt into the canyons deep.  
A bunch of cattle I find there  
in the cool crisp morning air,  
On gramma grass around a canyon seep.

Melodic spurs, steel shoes on rock  
softly sing out as we walk  
'Neath sandstone cliffs that beetle way up high.  
The prickly pear are in full bloom  
where the ponderosa loom,  
In stark contrast against an azure sky.

Near noon I pass a basin pool  
of fresh water clear and cool.  
'Neath pines the cattle shade up from the sun.

I sit and lean against a tree,  
pony hobbled grazing free.  
My canyon cafe's charm is next to none.  
I catch my pony, cinch my kack,  
settle down upon his back.  
My circle still has lots of miles to go.  
Around a bend I stop and see  
a big mulie watching me.  
He bounces off a makin' quite a show.

Through rocks and brush on trail so dim,  
upward to the canyon rim,  
My pony and a good dog by my side.  
We pause atop the sandstone cliffs  
and enjoy the fragrant whiffs  
of sagebrush as we gaze on vistas wide.

Now cross't the mesa I ride out,  
Salt and water on my route.  
The grass is green, the mill is pumping free.  
Shore, we could use a soaking rain.  
But you won't hear me complain,  
With grass and water, I'll just leter be.

A large crevasse defines the trail,  
down through boulders, brush and shale  
We wind our way back to the canyon floor.  
Passed by an old homesteader's shack,  
weathered walls now sag and crack;  
A vestige of their dreams  
held long before.



I rein my pony toward home,  
 turning loose my thoughts to roam  
 O're morning trails and canyon coves of rest.  
 Storm clouds build high o're canyon brow  
 so we hit a long trot now,  
 To hustle to the barn shore might be best.  
 Back on my ranch house porch I stand  
 cup of coffee in my hand.  
 I'm lost in thought and thunder from above.  
 My collie cowers 'neath my feet,  
 rain washed breezes smell so sweet;

Revival to the country that I love.  
 Well like I said back at the start, ain't a hermit in my heart  
 though I live out where the land is vast and free.  
 I love my friends and all their ways  
 but I'm most at home those days  
 in the saddle, just my pony, dog and me.  
*Floyd E. Beard 2016*  
*Published Aug. 2016, Track 6, Short Grass Country*  
*Acknowledgement/Credit: Reference to Badger Clark's,*  
*The Old Cowman*



#### FLOYD BEARD

Floyd Beard and his wife Valerie are ranchers in the canyons of Southeastern Colorado near Kim, Colorado. Floyd writes down his experiences and observations while in the saddle working cattle, turning these thoughts into stories and songs. Floyd has been writing for over 30 years and has been presenting Cowboy Poetry from the Mexico border to Stony Plains, Alberta, Canada. Floyd's stories are inter-woven with his western code of high ethics and integrity and are richly sprinkled with humor. His philosophy is simple: "Life is a journey not a destination, and is best viewed from atop a good horse." Floyd was honored to be named the Western Music Association's 2016 Male Poet of the Year. His poem, "Ain't a Hermit," won

the Spur Award for the 2016 Best Western Poem by the Western Writers of America.  
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# FROM the TRAIL

## Cowboy Up!

*By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat, Kansas*

### Ridin' and Rhymin'

Jeff Davidson is a man of many hats. Jeff is a cowboy, musician, poet, historian, watershed specialist, rangeland plant identification expert, and a former Extension educator. Another hat which he wore as a volunteer is that of former President of the Kansas Chapter of the Western Music Association.

The Western Music Association is an organization that "encourages and supports the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West." Note that this is different from country-western music. As Nashville became more "Hollywood" in nature, the "western" was dropped and its music became simply "country." While I love country music, I also love the classic cowboy and western songs which are an important part of our history.

WMA strives to honor and preserve the classic spirit of the west through contemporary performers. The national WMA was founded in 1988. In 2009, a Kansas chapter got organized through the leadership of Ray Amerine and others. Jeff Davidson of Eureka was the president. He was another great choice. Jeff is an excellent musician, poet and songwriter, and is very knowledgeable of the history of Kansas and the west. The chapter continues to grow and be active under the leadership of the current president, Orin Friesen.

I was invited to be a part of the Kansas Chapter of the WMA, but there was one problem: I don't do music. The only musical instrument that I play is the radio!

Both Jeff and Ray encouraged me to consider membership in WMA anyway. They explained that a person doesn't have to be a musician to join WMA. In fact, the organization is open to both performers and fans, or anyone who wants to support western music. Furthermore, the national WMA

was making an effort to include and engage cowboy poets as well as musicians.

I decided to give it a try. I've been a WMA member ever since! I was afraid I might be the only Smith at a convention of Joneses, but other poets have joined as well. Some entertainers do both poetry and music. When the Kansas Chapter of the WMA put together a special CD with performances from its members, both music and poetry were included.

Then the national WMA took another positive step. In addition to the various state chapters affiliated with WMA, a new national chapter was formed in 2011 specifically for writers and poets. This chapter was named Western Wordsmiths.

It was great to find this group for cowboy poets all across the nation. For more information on these various groups, go to [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org), [www.westernwordsmiths.com](http://www.westernwordsmiths.com), or [www.kansaswma.com](http://www.kansaswma.com).

The WMA national convention is held every November in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The annual showcase and business meeting now includes a meeting of the Western Wordsmiths chapter as well.

I had never been to the national WMA meeting but decided to go in 2014. I participated in the Western Wordsmiths meeting and in a jackpot competition which I didn't win, but I also took part in a cowboy poetry workshop which was excellent. It encouraged all of us cowboy poets to seek a higher standard of quality – much needed, in my case.

It was quite a sight seeing this collection of cowboys and cowgirls gathered in one room, talking about cowboy poetry and how to make it better. Thank you, Jeff Davidson and Ray Amerine, for getting me involved. As cowboys, we love to rope and ride – and rhyme.

## WESTERN WORDSMITHS

*By Ron Wilson, Poet Lariat*

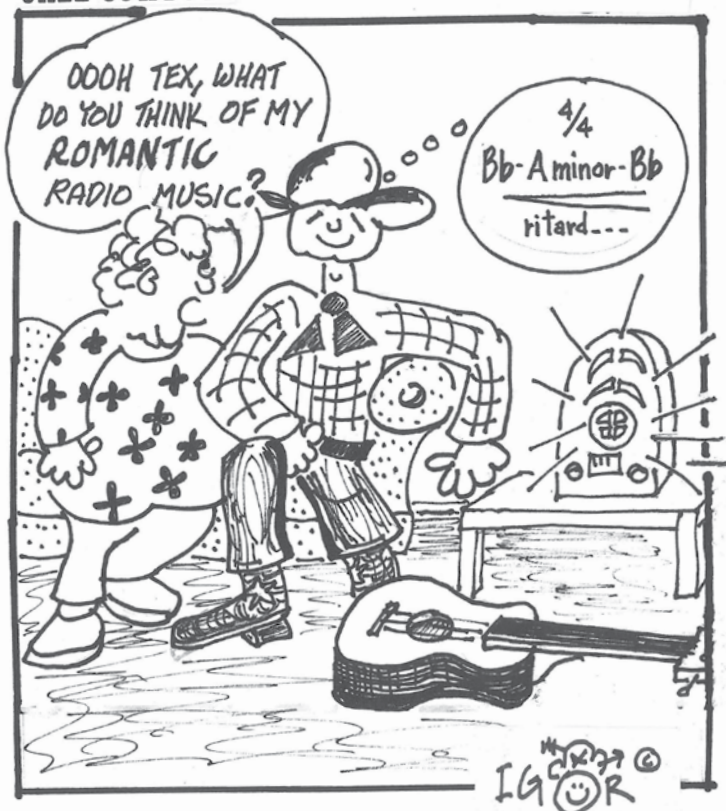
The cowboys came together. We all gathered `round,  
Like old time punchers at a campfire, a'sittin' on the ground.  
But it wasn't chuck or branding for which we gathered at this time:  
Instead we met to see how we could each improve our rhyme.  
We call it Western Wordsmiths, this gathering of writers,  
In hopes our poetry will get more colorful and brighter.  
We had a friendly competition and some workshop education,  
With leading cowboy poets gathered from across the nation.  
We spoke of rhyme and meter and the lifestyle of the west,  
And the need to raise our standards so our writing is the best.  
So at this cowboy gathering, we weren't hollerin' or braggin',  
And we weren't tellin' tales around the old chuckwagon.  
For some cowboys rope and brand. Some wrangle cattle herds,  
But I salute the Western Wordsmiths because they can wrangle words.

*- Ron W., KS Chapter Member*





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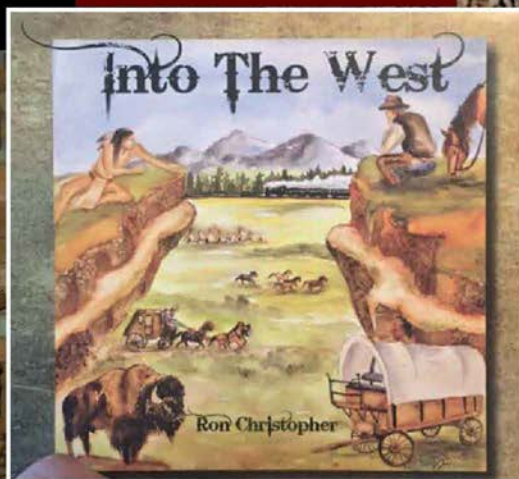
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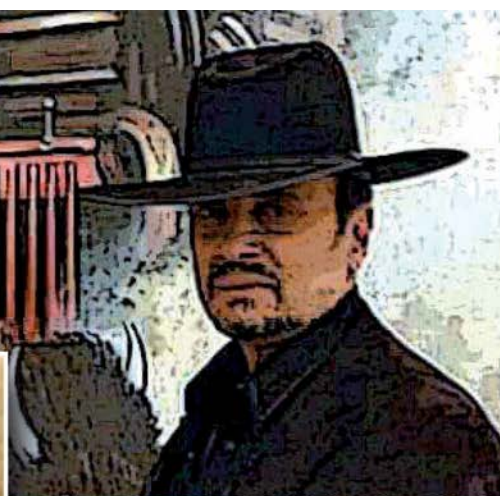


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# In the CROSSHAIRS



O.J. Sikes

***The Western Way: Today we're visiting with music historian and nationally syndicated reviewer of western music, O.J. Sikes. O.J., we appreciate you taking the time to talk to The Western Way.***

**O.J. Sikes:** It's a pleasure.

***TWW: So...how did you – an easterner – manage to fall so in love with western music? (O.J. lives in New Jersey)***

**O.J.:** As a boy in North Carolina, I enjoyed both country and western music on the radio and in B-Western movies, those Saturday matinees we kids tried never to miss. Later, in 1961-63, I was in college in Nashville where, on a regular basis, I was able to see stars who became legends, e.g. Marty Robbins, Jim Reeves, Patsy Cline, Hank Snow, etc. So I had the opportunity to learn things about country music I had missed as a teenager listening to rock 'n roll in the 50's. But the big event came when, in the summer of 1960, I was working on security detail at the National BSA Jamboree in Colorado Springs. The Sons of the Pioneers gave a concert out-of-doors. And when they hit the opening notes of their theme song, "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," with that impeccable Western harmony, I became a fan on-the-spot. I followed up with a letter to Lloyd Perryman, their leader, asking for information on the group - not its history but who was singing the parts and solos on their current recordings. He sent me handwritten notes answering my questions, and I was hooked for life!

***TWW: Western music is not your only interest though, right?***

**O.J.:** Right! I'm also a fan of big band music and vintage Bluegrass, having seen Don Reno as a boy and Bill Monroe and Flatt & Scruggs frequently while in Nashville. One of my oldest friends is Larry O'Brien, the trombonist who directed the Glenn Miller Orchestra longer than anyone in the band's history. We met when I was in

## O.J. Sikes

high school and he was the solo trombonist with Sammy Kaye's Orchestra when they had a weekly TV show. We've stayed in touch all these years through various career changes and into retirement.

***TWW: You produce and DJ an internationally-syndicated radio show called Western Music Time, and you spin some western music from some very interesting sources. How did you get started collecting these western songs from artists and performers who are not recognized as western music performers?***

**O.J.:** It happened gradually. Some are things I remember hearing on the radio as a boy, but the old, rustic Western songs from the 30's are things I learned about in the 1980's from a DJ in New York who had a western/western swing show. At first, I didn't like the rustic sound, but it grew on me. He helped me find a few rare items and my collection started to grow. And as a reviewer for various publications, companies kept me supplied with their re-issues. Also, from friends in the big band world, I learned what was being produced in other genres.



O.J. in 2011

***TWW: How many songs would you say you have at your fingertips that you can play on your show?***

**O.J.:** A two-hour show may have as many as 40 songs, but my library must have 1000's to draw from. For the most part, I play vintage material "from the Days of the Silver Screen Cowboys", but I also try to play recent releases that I feel will appeal to my audience.



**TWW:** *You obviously spend a lot of time on this, because sometimes you play tunes that come directly from western movie soundtracks. As we both know, oftentimes those songs were sung over horses' hooves, gunfire, barroom fights, bad guys plotting out behind a barn, etc. Do you have a way of cleaning those up for play, or do you just stick with the songs that are fairly pure?*

**O.J.:** Efforts to clean up old tracks can only go so far, so we sometimes have to listen to a little cowboy bacon sizzling in the pan in order to fully appreciate the original recording, i.e., not lose some of the vital elements in a performance. But yes, when there are too many interruptions from background noise on film soundtracks, I may have to clip those few seconds out or not use the track. Fortunately, the Gene Autry folks have issued a number of CDs using soundtracks as the major source, and they were able to overcome the background noise issue. Doc Denning told me recently that, while he wasn't positive, it was his understanding that Tim Spencer insisted that the Pioneers' contract with Columbia Pictures specify that their songs were not to be interrupted.



*O.J. with Grandson James, 2014*

**TWW:** *Do you spend much time watching B-westerns today?*

**O.J.:** I'd love to but, unfortunately, I don't!

**TWW:** *Do you have favorites among the B-western stars?*

**O.J.:** I enjoyed all of those I watched at those Saturday matinees and later on TV. It would be hard to pick a favorite.

**TWW:** *Who would you say is the most overlooked or underrated as a singer in B-westerns?*

**O.J.:** Rex Allen used to say he thought Jimmy Wakely was the most underrated. I wouldn't disagree. Both Wakely and Eddie Dean worked with film distributors that didn't serve our area well; so, while we knew who they were, our exposure to them was limited. Happily, I've made up for that early omission in recent years.

**TWW:** *Who do you especially like as a singer of western songs who is not known for singing western or country music? Like a pop star or novelty singer or orchestra performer?*

**O.J.:** Bing Crosby and Vaughn Monroe. Crosby recorded over 40 western songs, starred in a movie with the Sons of the Pioneers, was the Honorary Mayor of Elko, NV, and as one of the most

popular entertainers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, played an important role in bringing western music to new audiences. Monroe recorded the best-selling western song of all-time (Ed. note: [Ghost] Riders in the Sky) and over 40 more, and he starred in two Western movies; yet most people don't recognize him or Bing as Western singers. The reason is that they were so popular in other genres they weren't singled out as Western performers.

**TWW:** *If you were president of, say, Bear Family Records or the British Archive of Country Music, what singing western movie star's songs would you insist your staff begin gathering for your next project?*

**O.J.:** That's a tough question because those two companies have done so much to collect and preserve the recordings of the singing cowboys and western swing bands. But every time I think there's nothing left to re-issue, one of those labels comes out with something nobody knew existed!

**TWW:** *So what does O.J. Sikes do in real life? Are you retired from employment?*

**O.J.:** I started my show the month I retired in 2001 following a 30-year career in the United Nations. That's how I wound up in NJ, across the river from the UN. I preferred the commute from the Garden State rather than living in Manhattan, in large part because we were raising two young sons. For the first 12 years after I retired, I did some consulting for my old organization, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund, formerly United Nations Fund for Population Activities), but now I'm fully retired and loving it! Having worked in over 55 countries, there are a lot of good memories; but I'm happy not to spend so much time on planes and dealing with jet-lag.

**TWW:** *Can you expand a little on what you did in your career with the UN (or, would you have to "kill us" if you divulge)? [laughs]*

**O.J.:** After serving in the US Peace Corps in Peru in the early 60's, then with the US Public Health Service in SC, followed by graduate school at UNC, my first job as a public health behavior specialist was directing an experimental health project in a rural community in NC. That job allowed me to develop new ways of addressing health issues in a small community. One of those ways was through the school system. The issue was "population change" and it happened that the UN, specifically UNESCO, was starting

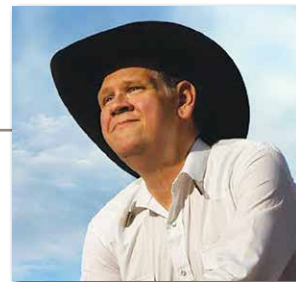


*O.J. Sikes*

a global program in this area, but they were having a hard time finding staff with experience who also spoke a second language. The man at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, who was looking for someone to fill the positions, somehow found a copy of a little book I had written as a resource guide for teachers in our small community. Since I spoke Spanish, he



## GOLDEN NUGGETS



by Buck Helton

# I dream of Jeanie with the light brown hair

Howdy pards!

Once again it's time to shoulder our picks, grab our pans and head off to the stream of musical history and tease out a golden nugget. This edition's nugget, like the one from our last go-round has an Old Tucson connection. It was repeatedly featured in the 1940 Columbia film *Arizona*, for which the studio was originally built in 1939. The song in question is Stephen Foster's classic *I dream of Jeanie with the light brown hair*.

Stephen Foster wrote the tune in 1854, and the Jeanie in the title is Mr. Foster's estranged wife Jane Foster. (Jeanie was her childhood nickname, and as often happens, stuck with her throughout her life.) Jane had trouble coping with Foster's well known love of drink, and left him three times over his alcoholic tendencies, the third time for good. Foster acknowledged his shortcomings and battle with demon rum in such tunes as "Comrades, fill no glass for me" while at the same time celebrating such revels in "My wife is a knowing woman" and "When the bowl comes around." Mr. Foster had a short, but interesting life, dying of exsanguination (bleeding to death) at the age of 37 caused by an accidental fall which sliced open one

of the major vessels in his neck. In his career, which lasted only 20 years, he published more than 200 songs. Many of which remain popular even today, more than 150 years after his death. He was the premier songwriter of the 19th Century, and was America's first full time professional songwriter.

In *Jeanie*, Foster nostalgically recalls a treasured love, which sadly has moved beyond him, and remains irretrievably in his past. "Come with thy sweet voice again" written the same year also has a similar melancholy air, and a not dissimilar melody. Both of these were first published in N.Y. by Firth, Pond & Co. *Jeanie* was not met with great popularity at the time, and earned Foster only \$200 in royalties. It has been used in many films as it has been in the public domain since 1923, and was introduced to a nationwide audience during the ASCAP disputes of 1941. During this period, due to a lawsuit over licensing fees, virtually no new music could be played on the air. Therefore public domain tunes, such as those of Foster were widely broadcast. In the film *Arizona*, it is used as a love theme between William Holden's character Peter Muncie and Jean Arthur's character Phoebe Titus.

*I dream of Jeanie with the light brown hair,  
Borne, like a vapor, on the summer air;  
I see her tripping where the bright streams play,  
Happy as the daisies that dance on her way.  
Many were the wild notes her merry voice  
would pour.*

*Many were the blithe birds that warbled  
them o'er:*

*Oh! I dream of Jeanie with the light brown hair,  
Floating, like a vapor, on the soft summer air.*

*I long for Jeanie with the daydawn smile,  
Radiant in gladness, warm with winning guile;  
I hear her melodies, like joys gone by,  
Sighing round my heart o'er the fond hopes  
that die:—*

*Sighing like the night wind and sobbing  
like the rain,—*

*Wailing for the lost one that comes not again:  
Oh! I long for Jeanie, and my heart bows low,  
Never more to find her where the bright  
waters flow.*

*I sigh for Jeanie, but her light form strayed  
Far from the fond hearts round her native glade;  
Her smiles have vanished and her sweet  
songs flown,  
Flitting like the dreams that have cheered  
us and gone.*

*Now the nodding wild flowers may wither  
on the shore*

*While her gentle fingers will cull them  
no more:*

*Oh! I sigh for Jeanie with the light brown hair,  
Floating, like a vapor, on the soft summer  
air.*



*Jeanie with the  
Light Brown Hair*

Well friends and neighbors, that's about all the color we have room for this time out. As always thanks to those who have called and written saying you enjoy the column, and offering suggestions for future use. They are sincerely appreciated. If you'd like to drop a line, my email address is [Buck@buckhelton.com](mailto:Buck@buckhelton.com). 'til next time, Happy Trails!







# Chapter Update

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



*Story Tellers Bunker deFrance and Buck Helton.  
 Photo courtesy Jennie Dodd.*

The Western Music Festival held at Old Tucson (Studios) on April 1 and 2 was a huge success! With eight performers/groups on three stages, the turn-out was great and CD sales were brisk. We are actively planning for next year. On April 5, Vice-President Dennis Knill opened his home and patio for a concert performance by The Cowboy Way, Doug Figgs and Jim Jones. Our chapter meets on the third Sunday of every month at Old Tucson (Studios), beginning with a jam session followed by a business meeting. We do not meet during the summer months, as Old Tucson (Studios) is closed due to the heat. (But it's a dry heat!) Our last meeting of the season was held on May 21. Our next meeting will be held in Glendale on September 24. Although we do not meet during the summer months, we were assigned homework! Our task is to find venues throughout the state for a monthly Western Music Night. We invite members from Kingman to Douglas and the Four Corners to Yuma to search out likely stages. Performers are asked to submit a CD so that we may make a demo CD to present to owners/managers of cafes, restaurants and other likely venues. We are asking our poets and story-tellers to join us by

acting as emcees for these events. The first planning meeting will be held in Tucson on June 5, with Gene Crandall as chairman. We are looking forward to attending the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering to be held Aug 10-12. This is always a top quality event. Volunteers are needed to help at our information table.



*Bunker deFrance and Mae Camp  
 Photo courtesy Jennie Dodd.*

**California Chapter**  
**President: Jack Hummel**  
**westmuscc@ix.netcom.com**

Hello to you all. The California Chapter continued great events and of course, the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival, which you can read about in a separate report herein. In March we continued our sponsorship of the Out West Concert Series with an exciting performance of *An Evening with Walden Dahl* on March 24. We were honored to kick off the Santa Clarita Cowboy festival with a very special sellout performance program with *Mary Kaye and Joe Herrington*. No one wanted to go home after that one! You can catch all of the programs at [www.sctvoutwest.com](http://www.sctvoutwest.com). We write regularly about our monthly Showcase Series at the Autry Museum of the American West in Burbank, California. We are blessed to have such a venue and our performers have practiced and worked diligently to earn a continuing place in the Autry's schedule. Even on slow Museum days, the Showcase draws significant interest with large audiences.



*Ron Christopher and Showcase Performers  
 Photo submitted.*

In April, with the Easter holiday and several large competing events at the L.A. Zoo and Griffith Park, we had to cancel the Showcase for the *first time in 15 years!* In May, we were back with 14 performers and a large, appreciative audience. The Showcase is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, from 12noon to 3pm. The California Chapter,



*Igor at the Autry Fresh from Appearance on the New Gong Show Photo submitted.*

like most chapters, has a goal to pull more interest from the youth audiences. We are pleased to spotlight our newest youth member, Kadin Hernandez, who recently taped a performance on RFD TV on the Penney Gilley Show! Check out our posts on the WMAcc Facebook pages and congratulations to Kadin! 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. All the best to you all!

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

YEE-HAAAAW! The WMA Colorado Chapter "Branded Western" is growing and going strong! 2017 is off and running with our WMA-CO Showcases! The first showcase was held in the SW corner of the state in Lewis-Arriola. Western singer/yodeler, Tim Krebs, did an outstanding job as emcee. Peggy Malone, Lindy Simmons, Mark Baker, Dennis Russell, Richard Martin, Nolan King, and the Ramblin' Rangers wowed the crowd that day. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Showcase was held at the National Western Events Center in Denver during the Colorado Classic Horse Show. Performers included Vic Anderson, Richard Martin, Ray Delgado, Art Collins, Sonja Oliver,

# Chapter Update

Continued from page 13

Jimmy Lee Robbins, and Susie Knight (host). We performed at this event last year, and they wanted us to return. Our member, Becky Murr, is a coordinator of this Horse Show, and she's a huge fan of our western music and cowboy poetry. Becky's energy has her leading in the race for the annual Top Hand Award that our chapter awards to the member (performing or supporting) that is most involved and actively supports the chapter and our shows. There's still time for anyone to win the



2017 TOP HAND AWARD

Top Hand Award. So, get involved! Attend a showcase! Help with the set-up, bring a dessert, bring several friends, and watch the points add up! The next Showcase is the afternoon of August 8 at the Florissant Grange. Performers are Mark Baker, Lynn Kopelke, Terry Nash, Dennis Russell, Bruce Neumann, The Ramblin' Rangers, and Sonja Oliver. That same evening, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual WMA-CO Pike's Peak Cowboy Gathering will take place as a Dinner/Show at the Florissant Grange. Co-coordinators, Tom & Donna Hatton, will host and perform along with Peggy Malone, Floyd Beard, and Susie Knight. Tickets for this Dinner/Show must be purchased in advance by calling Renee at (719) 510-2325. The final Showcase is on September 16 at the Cortez Cultural Center. Our Chapter's Secretary, James Michael, will host and perform with Terry Nash, Lindy Simmons, Mark Baker, Lynne Belle Lewis, and our Treasurer, Tom Hatton, with his bride, Donna. A WMA-CO Show hosted by Dennis Russell who will be joined by The Yampa Valley Boys, Terry Nash, Peggy Malone, and Susie Knight, is scheduled in scenic getaway, Steamboat Springs, on Saturday, June 24. Past-President, Floyd Beard, coordinated this show due

to popular demand in that area. Floyd would have joined this show, but he will be in Kansas receiving his award from the Western Writers of America for his original poem, "Not a Hermit". Congratulations Floyd! Members, remember to check us out on Facebook at WMA Colorado Chapter – Branded Western. Lots of chapter updates, and it's your opportunity to post your doin's, info, and news to the WORLD!

## Columbia Chapter

**President: Duane Nelson**

**shortcutpoetry@hotmail.com**

*Spring has sprung!* Columbia Chapter members continue to spread the stories of the west throughout the land. For the sixth year in a row, May found members joining the band, Pack String, for an afternoon of true "country/western" entertainment



Lauralee in Winthrop  
Photo courtesy Lynn Kopelke

at Winthrop, Washington's historic 49<sup>er</sup> Days celebration. Western Music and Cowboy Poetry returns to Lewiston, Idaho! Thanks largely to the efforts of founding member Lauralee Northcott, more than a dozen chapter members, led by award winning poet and chapter president Duane Nelson, will gather at the Elks for a full day of Western songs and stories on July 8. There's more but we'd best get back to work. We've got a lot of ground to cover. Keep a deep seat.

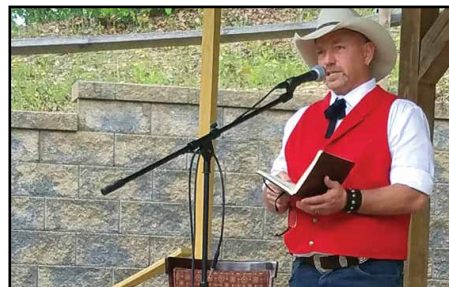


President Duane Nelson  
Photo courtesy Lynn Kopelke

## East Coast Chapter

**President: Aspen Black**

**aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com**



Cameron Burleson, WMA Member NC  
Photo courtesy Phil Mills

The WMAECC hosted their first chapter-sponsored Western Music and Poetry Gathering, in conjunction with the Pine Mountain Gold Museum, in Villa Rica, GA on May 13, 2017. Seven chapter members from six different states performed throughout the day. Gunfighters and old west reenactors rounded out the entertainment. An expanded "2nd Annual" event is planned



Tom Hawk, WMA Member MD  
Photo courtesy Phil Mills

for next spring at the same location. The chapter also plans to celebrate the National Day of the Cowboy with an event on July 15 in Cumberland, MD. Contact us for more information on any event.

## Kansas Chapter

**President: Orin Friesen**

**orin@rbanjoranch.com**

The Kansas Chapter met on April 23. Prior to the meeting, the members had a private showing of the new movie, *Home on the Range*. Several WMA members are included in the soundtrack. Many of the Kansas Chapter members have also done video performances, which will be featured on a new TV program called *Cowboy Up*, produced by WMA-KS member, Ron Wilson. The program will air on cable TV in Kansas. Many of the upcoming WMA-KS activities will be centered around the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. They include Ellsworth's Cowtown Days on August 18 & 19, "Trails, Rails & Tales" in Abilene, September 1-3, the Delano Fall Festival in Wichita, October 7-8, and Chisholm Trail Days in Abilene on October 8. The Diamond W Wranglers are returning to Wichita's Old Cowtown Museum for several performances throughout the summer.

## New Mexico Chapter

**President: Michael Hosea**

**mhosea@zianet.com**

Since our last update, the WMA-New Mexico Chapter (WMA-NM) has been doing its best to bring Western music and cowboy poetry to the citizens of New Mexico. As part of that effort, a group of our chapter members represented the WMA at the Rawhide Days celebration in Tucumcari, NM on



May 5 and 6. Manning the booth were Michael Coy, Scott and Anne Wilson, Joy Burns, Susan Buescher and Barbara Alt. In late September, WMA-NM will be



*Chapter Members in Rawhide Days, Tucumcari Submitted Photo used by permission.*

sending a select group of its members to participate in the 2017 edition of the Southwest Folk Alliance in Austin, TX. Our participation in this event will allow us to showcase Western music to an entirely new group of venues and promoters from all over the Southwestern United States. Our Summer Concert Series at the Rio Bravo Brewing Company (RBBC) began May 20. The concert featured the fabulous Syd Masters and the Swing Riders. About 40 fans were in attendance and everyone had a good time. Our next concert at the RBBC will take place July 22 when we hold our 5<sup>th</sup> annual benefit concert for Horses for Heroes. WMA-NM sponsors this concert each year in support of a great organization that provides opportunities for wounded and disabled U. S. Veterans to experience the healing benefit of direct interaction with horses. If you plan to be in Albuquerque that evening, please be sure to come out and support this noble cause. The third concert of the Summer Series will take place at the RBBC on August 12. This show will feature Cowboy Way who recently won the coveted Wrangler Award for Western Album of the Year for their recently released CD. We would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Marion Rutherford who has been our man in charge at the RBBC for both 2016 and 2017. The City of Albuquerque has once again asked WMA-NM to produce the Western Youth Day Concert on the Plaza in Old Town. The 2017 edition will be the fourth for this event and will take place on July 16. This year's show will feature Leah and David Sawyer, Hailey Sandoz, Devon Dawson, Purlly Gates and Kacey and Jenna Thunborg.

We are anticipating a first rate show this year, featuring some of the best young talent in the WMA. The City of Albuquerque has also asked WMA-NM to provide some Western music for its Summer Concert Series on the Plaza in Old Town. James Michael and Call of the West will be providing an evening of Western music at the gazebo on the Plaza on August 5. The City of Albuquerque sponsors these events which means admission is free, so come on by and bring the whole family. We continue to host our open mic sessions at The Blue Grasshopper in Rio Rancho (near Albuquerque) every first and third Monday of each month. These open mic events are a lot of fun and the pizza is great, so please stop by The Blue Grasshopper if you are in town. Details concerning all our events can be found on our Web site, [westernmusicnm.com](http://westernmusicnm.com) or on the WMA-New Mexico Facebook page.

**Montana-Dakota Chapter**  
**President: Almeda Bradshaw**  
**[almedam2b@gmail.com](mailto:almedam2b@gmail.com)**

MON-DAKS Chapter elections were held in the final chapter meeting of 2016, and on January 1, 2017 outgoing president Linda Hausler, who did a fine job of holding the chapter in pasture the past couple years, handed the reins back to newly elected president, Almeda Bradshaw. Out-going Vice President, Allen Kirkham, handed his duties over to the chapter's new VP, JB Barber. Linda Hausler stepped up as treasurer and Miss "V" remains our trusty secretary. The chapter was pleased to begin 2017 with twelve regional members and fifteen more from across the nation for a total of 27 members! Almeda went to work riding herd on an Alberta Bair Theater showcase, membership drive and fundraiser for the chapter. After an initial assessment of the job at hand, the chapter made the decision to postpone the April showcase until 2018 and focus instead on a chapter presence during the N.I.L.E. in Billings October 19-21, 2017. This chapter event will be a resurrection of the former COWBOY CODE GATHERING (2008-2014) and will be a part of the NILE's 50th ANNIVERSARY. The chapter voted to join the Billings Chamber of Commerce which gives a very generous first-time

member advertising package to new business entities. This combined print, radio and TV package will serve as a huge boost to raising awareness of upcoming chapter events. The chapter also approved developing a monthly Community 7 TV program that will air regularly throughout southeast Montana. Almeda will be writing, producing and hosting this show that will include western music history and feature interviews with WMA members. Besides these efforts to boost awareness of the WMA, the chapter is looking at options to raise funds through sponsorships and memberships. The MON-DAKS CHAPTER is excited to be out of the chute once more!! Won't you please consider joining us as we throw a wide loop 'round the states of Montana, North and South Dakota? It's gonna be a good ride!!

**Oklahoma Chapter**  
**President: Donnie Poindexter**  
**[cowboydp51@gmail.com](mailto:cowboydp51@gmail.com)**

The 2017 Green Country Ranch Rodeo Finals showcased our chapter's music and poetry on Saturday, April 29 at the Claremore Expo Center, Claremore, OK. Performers included Curtis Krigbaum, A Little Farther West (Robert and Susie Case), Daryl Knight, Steeldust (Donnie Poindexter and Bill Poindexter), and Roy Madden. We hope to make this an annual event, The first annual "Cowboy Way Fest" in May at the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum, Gene Autry, OK, was very well-attended. Our Oklahoma chapter co-sponsored the three-day event and presented a Saturday mid-day showcase featuring Robert Beene,



*L to R: Ken Lattimore, Randy Rudd, and Justin Branum of Sons Of The Pioneers at sound check at Cowboy Way Festival. Photo courtesy Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum.*



# WRAPPIN' IT UP

## COCHISE POETRY AND COWBOY GATHERING

Sierra Vista, AZ

by Les Buffham • Photos courtesy Paulene Fredricks

The 2017 Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering started its 25th anniversary show with the theme, "Silver Screen Cowboys." In a manner most fitting, a performance by Marvin O Dell and the Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers of their well-renown, "Silver Screen Cowboy Project" was presented at the Cochise College student union community room.

Thursday evening, "Big Nosed Kate's" saloon in the neighboring town of Tombstone hosted stage performances by performers who were participating in the local schools program to enlighten students about cowboy poetry and music. Once again co-chairs George Wheat and Nancy Fusco backed by a small army of volunteers pulled off a great gathering at the Buena Performing Arts Center.

Friday evening's headline performances were especially enjoyable. Opening the show was "Arvel Bird," fascinating the audience with songs of Celtic and Native American traditions.



*Sons Of the Pioneers*

A stellar presentation by Carol Heuchan, a poet all the way from Australia, and highly acclaimed Western music performer Juni Fisher followed. The poems written by the winners of the student poetry contest which were selected from more than two thousand entries of original poems were recited.

Other headline performers for the three-day show included Mikki Daniel, the Desert Sons, Sue Harris, Susie Knight, Jon Messenger, Dale Page, Rena Randall and the Due West Trio, Saddle Strings and Jay Snyder. Sunday we were blessed with an entire show by the legendary Sons of the Pioneers.

A great gathering of invited performers displaying a wide array of excellent talent were featured in multiple venues throughout the weekend as well as many open mic sessions.

Put this one down on your calendar for next year! You won't want to miss it. Details can be found at <http://www.cowboypoets.com>.



*Co-Chairs George Wheat and Nancy Fusco*

## SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL

Santa Clarita, CA

by Voleta Hummel • Photos courtesy Jack Hummel

The City of Santa Clarita closed out their Cowboy Festival the third week in April in fine style, with another excellent list of performers on the stages in the William S. Hart Park, the two theaters in Old Town Newhall, and benefit performances at the Rancho Camulos Adobe Museum and the William S. Hart Mansion.

In addition to the entertainment starring some of the best in Western music and cowboy poetry, there was also folk, Americana, bluegrass, rockabilly and dixieland for everyone's listening pleasure. Western history was represented by the Native American Lodge, Cowboy Trail Camp, the Wild Horse Dancers, Ballet Folklorico, and gold panning. Fun for the kids (and the kids in all of us) included (safe) knife throwing, archery, laser quick draw, rodeo roper, mechanical bull riding, giant horseshoes and a stagecoach bounce house. Of course there was an entire row of vendors and OutWest's Bobbi Jean and Jim Bell hosted the popular Buckaroo Bookstore once again, with authors and performers on hand to meet everyone and



*Dave Stamey and Diamond Farnsworth*

autograph their works. And never fear the famous cowboy dutch oven peach cobbler was available. After all, what's a Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival without that peach cobbler?

The WMA was well represented throughout the entire five day festival. SCVTV Presents The OutWest Concert Series opened the festival on Wednesday evening with the "The Queen of the West and The Sage of the Prairie" show featuring Mary Kaye and Joe Harrington. The biggest problem festival goers faced was how to get around to all the stages to hear everyone. There was Don Edwards, Sons of the San Joaquin, Kristyn Harris, Dave Stamey, Gary Robertson, Syd Masters & the Swing Riders, Jerry Hall & Trick Shot, John Bergstrom, Almeda Bradshaw, Andrea Kidd, P.W. Conway, and New West. More Western music could be heard from John Chandler & Ernie Martinez, Sourdough Slim, Andy Hedges, Tom Corbett and Bill Knoph, Carin Mari, and Rosie Flores.

So much could be written about each of these exceptional musicians, poets, and storytellers that it would fill up a book. Hopefully, you already know much of it and if you don't look up their websites, find them on Facebook and better yet, come to the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival next year in April. Check it out at [cowboyfestival.org](http://cowboyfestival.org).



## Bob James (1954-2017)



Bob James, aged 62, of Justin, Texas, was welcomed into the arms of his Savior on Monday, April 10, 2017, surrounded by his loving family. His life was celebrated on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at First Baptist Church Justin, Texas. Interment followed at Long Cemetery in Powderly, Texas.

As an accomplished trumpeter and singer, Bob loved performing. He was a supporter of Western music and Western musicians, and he sang on the album, *My God and I*, with his sister Judy James, along with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Bob was born September 24, 1954, in Roswell, NM, to Joseph Virgil and Mary Louise (Murphree) James. He was a 1973 graduate of Hamilton High School in Hamilton, Texas, and attended Howard Payne University. Most of his life, he worked in the concrete industry. At the time of his death, he worked as a project manager in the construction industry.

Bob was an accomplished Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow; he was a Rotarian and recipient of the Paul Harris Award, as well as a member of First Baptist Church Justin where he served with great joy in the Men's, Music and Usher Ministries. Music was a big part of his life. However, the greatest joys for Bob and his wife Melissa, came from spending time with family and being "Mimi and Papa" to their grands. Together they enjoyed serving others in their church and community. Bob set the bar high as a husband, father, papa, and brother, but set it even higher as a man of God.

He is survived by his wife, Melissa; daughters Jeannie Nicole Johnson and husband Nathan of Keller, Texas; Christy Annette Taylor and husband Chris of Thorndale, Texas; son, Carter Evan James of Justin, Texas; sister Judy James of Weatherford, Texas, and grandchildren, Makenna, Kynlee, Bryce and Kamryn Johnson, Maegan, Timothy, Collin and Carson Taylor, and numerous dearly loved friends. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Lou James, and grandmother, Sara James.

## John E. Payne (1935-2017)



John Edwin Payne of Tucson, AZ died Thursday, April 27, 2017. He was born December 30, 1935 in Longworth, TX, the son of John H. Payne and Winnie Pauline Harvey. He did not spend much time in Longworth as his parents followed other Payne family members to Arizona. His very young years were in Amado, AZ and then his family moved to Marana where the Payne

family had already established several farms.

John graduated from Florence High School in 1953 and then attended the University of Arizona where he received a Bachelor degree in Education. John, with the help of his uncle, started a 640 acre farm in Florence which was in the family until 1978. He then relocated his family to Cochise, AZ where he farmed and was involved with the Cochise school board, including serving as President of the school board. He was also involved in 4-H including being a 4-H leader. In 1972, he moved his family to Marana, AZ. The Payne family had a part in the Marana farming community from the early 1940s to 1980 when John decided that he needed to follow other family members into the real estate market.

His years in the farming and ranching business gave rise to his heightened interest in cowboy music. He originally became involved in the Western Music Association and later helped organize the Arizona Cowboy Symposium where he held the office of President. He had the opportunity to meet legends like Gene Autry, Marty Robbins, Waylon Jennings and Bob Wills over the years. He was held in high regard by the musicians and artists whose lives he touched.

He is survived by 4 sons, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and his loving partner and best friend, Judy. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Arizona Cowboy Symposium Association scholarship fund, 1410 S Corsica Pl. Tucson, AZ 85748-7615 may be considered.

## Mary Rose Merten (1925-2017)



Mary Rose was born in rural North Dakota December 15, 1925 to John and Theresa (Reisner) Pühr. She attended a rural school through the 8th grade, graduating from Fingal High School in 1943. During her early years she learned to play the organ and accordion, often accompanying herself in a fine alto voice. Throughout her life she enjoyed music.

After graduation, she migrated to California, where she soon met the love of her life, George Merten. She and George raised six children and she became a master housewife, cooking, canning and preserving as well as sewing. She found joy in baking. One of her kitchen walls was filled with shelves of cookbooks. Mary Rose welcomed visitors with a great cup of coffee, something from the oven and her warm hospitality.

In her later years she enjoyed traveling throughout the US and Europe. She attended the Western Music Association Convention as well as regional cowboy music and poetry gatherings for many years and looked forward to seeing her friends every year. Her face would light up when she recognized a friend, and she would sing along with performers. The drive home from the convention was flavored with songs and verses of poetry. We will miss her.

She passed peacefully in her home on April 9, 2017

*Continued on page 28*



# KRISTYN HARRIS

## *At Home on the Ranch*

By Greg Bade

Storm clouds had been threatening most of the early morning, but as I entered the curved, gravel drive toward the sprawling two story ranch house to interview Kristyn Harris, WMA Entertainer of the Year for 2016, I put my worries aside: How could a day with Kristyn be anything but wonderful!

She greeted me at the door dressed in a casual, sleeveless, blue-jean top and jeans with square toed cowgirl boots made by Luskey's in Fort Worth. The first thing I noticed after opening the partially screened front door was the impressive array of awards on the wooden table, an assortment of nick-nack memorabilia, and a verse written in cursive script titled "On a Velvet Sunrise."

After exchanging greetings she gave a quick tour of the house. With no preconceived plan for the day, we had agreed to mostly just "wing" it, but it didn't take long for things to come together. After a leisurely walk through the back pasture with Velvet (her favorite mustang mare) and Roy (a mustang gelding), we made our way through the house, up the stairs through her office to the balcony porch. From here we had a bird's eye view of the southern ten acres in the front of the house, including several freshly plowed fields belonging to her neighbor. There are fourteen windows on this upstairs porch, another

eight elsewhere on the second floor and another seventeen on the first floor. I was immediately reminded of her song, "My Window Faces the South."

Settling back in the porch swing, we began to talk. After spending her first few years in a private school, Kristyn



when Kristyn was just six. The country lifestyle would eventually include a milk cow or two, dairy goats, some cattle, chickens and freshly grown vegetables. She took a liking to this farm-style of living and at age eleven, joined the Lone Star 4-H club where she eventually became president. It is safe to say that Kristyn is a driven over-achiever.

Also at the age of eleven, she got her first horse, a Quarter Horse gelding named Bit, but comments, "I have always loved animals and wanted a horse way before that." At fourteen she would buy her beloved Velvet, a BLM wild mustang mare that she would work with and train. She is now able to ride her without a saddle or a bridle, so she is obviously doing something right. A year and a half ago she got the horse bug again, and this time she

was home schooled. She grew up in Allen, Texas in a suburban neighborhood, but her parents wanted a more healthful environment to raise her and her older sister, so they found this property and built the spacious two-story home







purchased another wild mustang, Roy, a four year old gelding that she admits is only green-broke at the moment, due mostly to the fact that she is on the road about two thirds of the year.

Part of the day was reserved for promo shots, so our talks moved outside along with her newest guitar. One might think it a little unusual to find a young lady practicing outside in a freshly plowed field or singing sweet songs of flowers in the middle of a field of bluebonnets, but it all seemed very natural for Kristyn. Her surroundings inspired her, and her dog Mitzi certainly enjoyed the outing. These things are what keep her grounded and keep her focused. She doesn't just sing about bluebonnets; she sits in them, appreciates them, absorbs their beauty and essence, and embraces the moment. When these things are done, the music flows.



After the outdoor photographs, we were hungry and agreed that a fresh bowl of guacamole and chips would be a good way to end the afternoon. As the slicing and dicing began, like any good Texas woman, she did not use a recipe.

A little of this and a little of that – “I think it needs a little more salt,” and “I grate the onions because I don’t like onion chunks in the dip.” In less than ten minutes we were snacking on a truly outstanding bowl of Texas guacamole. As the afternoon drew to a close, we joked a little about a song that she had written a few weeks earlier about how good it is to be home after being on the road. She wrote it around the time I had asked for this meeting, and I wondered if there might have been a connection. She said none that she was aware of unless it had been subliminal, but after spending these hours with Kristyn, I have a much better understanding of what she is



singing about in this song, and I know what pulls her home after being away doing what she loves. At this writing she is flying off again, singing in another state, but when the gigin’ is finished, her survival instincts will kick-in and she will return home because “even birds need a place to land.”

Kristyn has recorded “A Place to Land” and put it on Youtube especially for Western Way readers. You can listen to it at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3NdZP\\_hud](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3NdZP_hud) 🐾





# TUNE YOURSELF

## Strengthening Your Core

Samantha Meyer Gallegos

As performers, whether we sing or play an instrument like the guitar, fiddle, keyboard or bass, we understand what it is to be on our feet for extended periods of time—and the pain that can follow. So what can we do? We can help ensure our core is strong and stable enough to support us when we're up on that stage. To get the most supportive core possible, however, you have to exercise correctly.

### The Importance of a Strong Core

Your core muscles are the link between the upper and lower halves of your body that help stabilize you so you can maintain your balance and move, bend, and twist freely. That's why, when your core muscles are weak and tight, you may find your movements hindered. You may even experience pain elsewhere in the body, such as your hips, knees, and lower and upper back, as other muscles work to try to compensate.

It's important to realize that when we talk about core, we're not just talking about the "six-pack" abdominal muscles so many fitness magazines want to help you "define." Your core is made up of the transversus abdominis, which create a kind of corset around your middle, rectus abdominis, which are the "six pack" muscles, the external obliques on each side of the rectus abdominis, and the internal obliques, located just inside the hip bones. Each relies on the others to help them move correctly. With so many muscles working together in your core, you can see why focusing exercise on one particular group—such as the rectus abdominis—can cause problems.

### Not All Core Exercise Regimes are Equal

The fact that your core muscles don't work in isolation is the reason not all core exercise regimens are equal. Many you'll see in fitness magazines focus solely on the rectus abdominis muscles. While those exercises might give you a good-looking, flat stomach, it will do very little to stabilize your core fully and may even cause those painful problems talked about above. A very tight "six pack" may also inhibit your ability to take a deep, proper breath when singing.

The best exercise regimens focus on many, if not all, of the core muscles. They will help stabilize and strengthen your entire core, helping improve your posture and your ability to hold yourself up for long periods of time without pain and stiffness. Your posture will improve, creating room to take a deeper breath, and a strong core will help you with breath support and control.

### The Exercises

The following are basic core strengthening activities along with a few stretches to help counteract any resulting tightness—you may even recognize some yoga poses!

#### 1. Active Sitting

Active sitting may sound like an oxymoron, but it's one of the best ways to help stabilize your core. You can sit actively while eating dinner, watching a movie, or even waiting at a red light.

Sit at the edge of your seat on your sit bones, feet flat on the floor, back straight, and chest pulled up. Make sure your shoulders aren't pulled back too much, your tailbone remains untucked, and you are not collapsing your spine. Sit with your stomach/abdominals "engaged," or pulled in.

At first, you may be unable to sit in this position for longer than five minutes or so without pain. When this happens, scoot back in your chair until your entire back is resting on the chair back. (If you have lumbar support of some sort, all the better.) Again, make sure you are sitting on your sit bones, not slumped, and that your abdominals are engaged. The back support will help you sit actively without the pain. With practice, you will be able to sit actively without support for longer and longer periods of time.

#### 2. Bridge

Lie on your back with your knees bent 90 degrees, feet flat on the floor, arms at your sides and palms down. Drawing in and holding your abdominal muscles taut, raise your bottom and hips off of the floor until they are as high as you can go, using your glutes and hamstrings to provide stability. Your back and legs should form a straight line down to the floor. Hold for 3 to 5 seconds, repeating 10 to 20 times.

#### 3. Bird Dog

Start on all fours, hands under your shoulders and knees below your hips, head in line with your spine and gaze on the floor. Keeping your back straight and your core engaged and pulled in, lift your left leg straight behind you, foot flexed, while simultaneously lifting your right arm straight in front of you. Place your hand and knee back down and reverse, lifting your right leg and left arm. Repeat each side 10 times.



#### 4. Abdominal Draw In

Lie on your back, knees up, feet flat on the floor. Pull your abdominal muscles in as though you are trying to pull your stomach to your spine. Repeat 20 times. Once that becomes easier, you can do the same exercise, but with an additional movement: keeping your foot on the floor, slide the heel of one foot back towards your buttocks while maintaining the abdominal draw in, then return to your starting position, alternating legs. The final progression is bringing both knees to your chest at the same time, then down, maintaining the abdominal draw in throughout the exercise. Repeat both progressions 10 to 20 times.

#### 5. Cobra

Lie on your stomach, arms back and against your side, palms facing up. Holding your core and buttock muscles tight and squeezing your shoulder blades together, lift your head and chest off the floor as far as you can. Hold briefly, then return to your starting position. Repeat 10 to 20 times.

#### 6. Side Plank (or Side Bridge)

Lie on your side, legs and feet stacked on top of each

other, and position your elbow underneath your shoulder with your arm out for stability. Rise so that you are resting on your elbow, hips above the ground, making a straight line from shoulders to feet. Hold for 15 seconds, repeating 5 to 10 times on each side. As the exercise gets progressively easier, you can increase up to a 1 minute hold time in increments of 15 seconds.

#### 7. Prayer, Cat, Cow

Begin on all fours, hands under your shoulders with fingers spread wide and knees beneath your hips, hip-distance apart. Exhale and sit back onto your heels, forehead touching the floor if possible, arms stretched in front of you. Inhale and come back to all fours, arching your back up and tucking your pelvis and chin, hollowing out your abdominals. Exhale and lower your abdominals, reaching your buttocks and chin towards the ceiling. Repeat 5 times.


As always, the exercises in this article are suggestions only and should not be considered medical advice. Consult a physician before starting any exercise routine, for further exercises or rehabilitation, or for continuing pain.

References: "The Real-World Benefits of Strengthening Your Core" Harvard Healthbeat, "Lumbar/Core Strength and Stability Exercises" Princeton University Athletic Medicine, TheTummyTeam.com, "Breathing Between the Lines" Classical Singer Magazine



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# WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR\*

2017

**Grand Teton Music Festival**

July 3 - August 20 - Jackson Hole, Wyoming

**Grand Encampment Cowboy Gathering**

July 13-16 - Encampment, Wyoming

**WMA Colorado Chapter Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering**

August 5 - Florissant, Colorado

**Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering**

August 10-12 - Prescott, Arizona

**Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

August 17-20 - Lewiston, Montana

**Texas Ranch Roundup**

August 18-19 - Wichita Falls, Texas

**Stony Plain Cowboy Festival**

August 18-20 - Stony Plain, Alberta, CAN

**Custer County Cowboy Gathering**

August 19-20 - Westcliffe, Colorado

**Cimarron Cowboy Music & Poetry Gathering**

August 25-27 - Cimarron, New Mexico

**Celebrate Bandera**

September 1-3 - Bandera, Texas

**Fort Bridger Rendezvous**

September 1-4 - Fort Bridger, Wyoming

**Abilene Trails, Rails & Tales**

September 2-3 - Abilene, Kansas

**San Angelo Cowboy Gathering**

September 8-9 - San Angelo, Texas

**National Cowboy Symposium**

September 8-10 - Lubbock, Texas

**Lost N Lava Cowboy Gathering**

September 14-17 - Shoshone, Idaho

**Dakota Western Heritage Festival**

September 17-18 - Pierre, South Dakota

**Badger Clark Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering**

September 22-23 - Hot Springs, South Dakota

**The Nara Visa Gathering**

September 23-25 - Nara Visa, New Mexico

**27th Annual Old West Days & Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

September 28-October 1 - Valentine, Nebraska

**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**

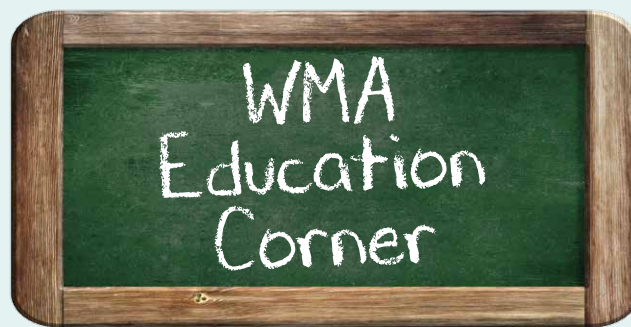
November 3-5 - George West, Texas

**WMA Annual Convention**

November 8-12 - Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Campfires, Cattle & Cowboys Gathering**

November 17 - Duncan, Oklahoma



*By Judy James*

As I write this, plans are made and young people are planning to attend the Western Music Association Youth Music Workshop which will be held in connection with the Fort Worth Cowntown Opry Buckaroo program and the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford, Texas. The workshop will be held at the Doss Center in June which is prior to the publication date of this magazine. However, it brings to mind the point that our youth ARE the future of WMA and many of our members are actively mentoring the under 21 members of WMA and providing for scholarships so that they will have the opportunities to grow in this music and poetry that we all love.

Next year, we plan to increase this workshop from one and one-half days to three or more. We also plan to increase the areas of study. If you would like to help, let us know.

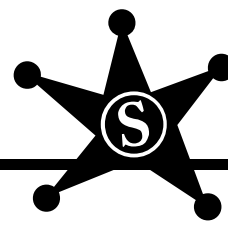
Judy James

[judy@judyjames.com](mailto:judy@judyjames.com)



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





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

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

Cowboys gathered around the campfire...guitars in hand... voices joined in song...the smoke curling up through the trees...of the Black Forest...in Germany!! Such scenes have occurred there time and time again, due to the German love of the romantic cowboy image and life as portrayed in the writings of Karl May (Deutschland's "Zane Grey") and popular electronic media. One particular German cowboy wish-to-be from Cologne made his Western dream a reality, and he's bringing a gift of Western song from Germany to share. You'll hear that song during the Western World Tour show at November's WMA Convention, premiered in its first known English/German arrangement, as Mariam Funke performs it and other songs with his Wrangler Award-winning Cowboy Way band mates. As we chatted recently in his comfortable Spanish Colonial style home and studio in Socorro, New Mexico, Mariam gave us terrific insight into the cowboy influence and popularity in Germany and his own revitalizing, joyous journey into the real American West.

"Germany saw American movie and TV cowboys. A friend once told me he had no idea Hoss Cartwright was so fluent in German," Mariam laughs. "They were dubbed, of course, and some of the images were unrealistic...but we got an idea of cattle drives and branding and such." But it was a while before he could bring his love of the West and his career in music together. He started as a teen in the tight structure of Classical but pretty quickly moved to guitar. He puts it simply. "It's hard to carry a piano on your back!" Inspired by another American influence, Mariam had in mind retiring early and rich as a rock star! "I still had hair," he says, "but it didn't work out." He formed a band and learned the need to have different programs for different audiences. "The Germans wanted their polkas, waltzes and even cha-chas. Then we'd go over to the English barracks and crank the amps up to eleven doing Chuck Berry and others...but they also loved Country!" And before long the young musician saw that his career in music meant session work, becoming what you could call one of the Musicians of Bremen, in a busy Bremen recording studio. It was owned by a very prominent singer/songwriter of German Country known professionally simply as "Ronny"...Wolfgang Roloff. Mariam still credits Roloff as giving him the insight to look for the feeling of a song. It's one of his famous songs

that Cowboy Way will "debut" with us in November, in a way allowing Mariam Funke to bring his Western love full circle.

Session work paid the bills, but after years the grind of it was totally depleting to Funke. "It was very stressful. It meant working at night, never seeing the sun, no stage work, arranging and playing parts over and over! 'Play that chorus again!!' 'Play that solo again!' 'Give me a lick there!' 'Rewind, rewind!!' I was growing unhealthy!! Years later I found I had trouble remembering songs all the way through from all that time playing in pieces! I finally decided I needed to take a year off to redefine myself!" Funke left it all...guitars, friends, homeland... and headed off toward that Western star. "I travelled half way around the world and landed in Australia. I loved the wide open Outback. Then made it to New Mexico, and liked it better! I had a sponsor in Santa Fe who let me work on her Arabian horse ranch. After work the hands would get together and...oh no...they're pulling out the instruments! This is what I ran away from!!" But he found a new way of looking at the music and why you make it. "The West and getting to finally work with horses absolutely saved my life!" Even in Germany Funke had sought out horses. "But they have dressage there and you ride in a circle with a riding instructor yelling at you! 'No, no, NO!' I thought, 'This isn't what I want!'" he chuckles. In the West he also found himself invited onto cattle roundups, and he went enthusiastically. But he noticed the missing fingers of the guys who did it for real. The latent musician in him intervened.

Now Funke is gloriously happy, deep in his American West, performing, producing and teaching. And he has noticed something. "As I teach a young person, they may want to play something popular that only has the effect it does because of the production. When it's reduced to chords, it falls apart and it frustrates them. When I introduce them to "Ghost Riders In The Sky" or another Western song, every kid loves this! There's something universal that appeals to them!"

"Something universal" will appeal to you, the WMA Convention attendee, when you see Mariam and Cowboy Way, the High Country Cowboys, Jerry Hall & Trick Shot, Juni Fisher, Judy James, James Michael, Red River West, Michael & Donna Coy and Dan McCorison as they all perform in the Western World Tour show, Saturday November 11. With any luck, the Western World will be yours, and you will find every reason to reach out to it as well!



hired me to do a consultancy in three Central American countries. Soon afterwards, in Jan. 1972, we moved from a rural NC town with 1000 residents to Paris where I joined UNESCO HQ. My job was to help developing countries that were trying to set-up national school programs so that children could study population issues.

We loved Paris and the people there were very helpful and nice to us, but my young family was eager to get back to the US, closer to grandparents, etc. So four years later, when a job offer came from UN HQ in NY, I accepted. With two very young boys, the prospect of life in Manhattan wasn't appealing, so we decided to live in NJ, just across the river, but out-of-sight of the skyscrapers. We still have deer, raccoons, skunks and lots of birds in the yard, and no noisy taxis, etc. passing by, so it was a good choice. So that's the story of how we got to NJ.

In NY, I worked for UNFPA (the UN Fund for Population Activities), as head of their education office. In the mid-90's, once the population studies program took hold in a large number of countries, the emphasis shifted to promoting girls' education, and that was my most rewarding endeavor. We could see the strong community support for girls' education when an attempt was made to silence Malala in Pakistan a few years ago. In 1994, I had met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the directors of UNICEF and UNESCO to encourage her to support girls' education, still controversial at the time. She agreed and the program took off, in spite of opposition (a few years later, she was assassinated).

Over the years, I was fortunate to work in many fascinating places, some dangerous, some scenic and some both. I once led an international team of specialists to Peru during a cholera epidemic with national strikes and guerrillas active in many parts of the country, an example of an experience that's interesting to remember but not something I would want to repeat, now!

**TWW:** *You are also a member of the WMA Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Can you explain to our readers the qualifications for induction into the Hall of Fame?*

**O.J.:** We have specific criteria and we have published the criteria in the past. It may be time to do that again, but in a nutshell, induction

depends on the degree of influence a person or band has had in the spread and preservation of western music. It may involve writing songs that become classics, recording successfully for a major label, being a "first," the first person to publish a collection of western songs, etc.

**TWW:** *How important is the Western Music Association to western music lovers?*

**O.J.:** For anyone who feels the preservation of western music is important, I'd say it's vital.

**TWW:** *Do you think there will ever again be a "good" western movie made with a singing cowboy star?*

**O.J.:** We can always hope, but I doubt it. Music in the B-Westerns was part of a package that included childhood heroes. The movie heroes are gone now. Today's generation of youngsters has nothing comparable, as far as I know. People who were not part of that era will find the impact of B-Westerns on American culture hard to understand; it's almost inconceivable when you think of those stars, the merchandising, their recordings, radio and TV performances and the fact that millions of youngsters held them in awe.



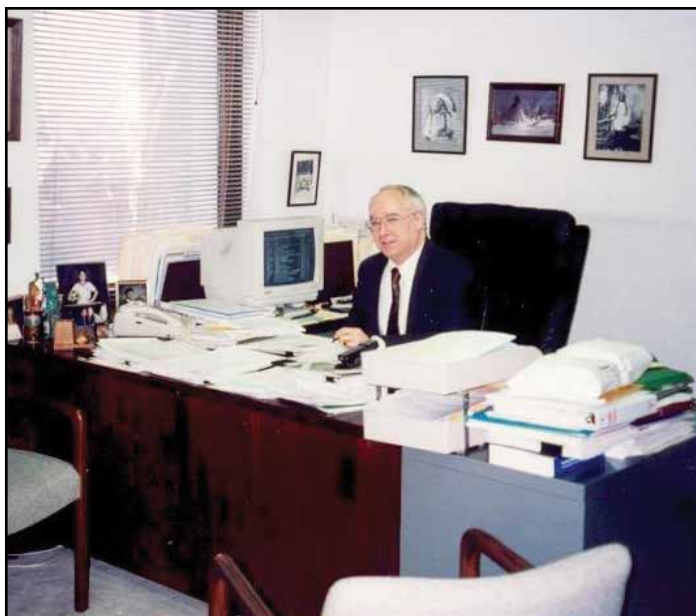
*O.J. with cowboy singer, Wesley Tuttle (in cap)*

**TWW:** *If they did make one, who would you recommend they get to be the singing cowboy? Someone like Rex Allen, Jr. or Dusty Rogers? Of course, we're probably fantasizing here (laughs).*

**O.J.:** They would have been good ones. It would take a young guy. Rex Sr. once said if he were to do any of those fight scenes again, he'd probably break every bone in his body.

**TWW:** *Tell us how folks can find your radio show so they can listen in.*

**O.J.:** It's on EarsRadio.com Wednesdays at 7pm Eastern, Friday at 5pm, Saturday at 8am and again at midnight. The one-hour version is broadcast weekly on KKRN.org at 2pm Pacific and archived on the KKRN.org Web site. The longer show is also aired at different hours on GermanCountryRadio and NewZealandCountryRadio, and there's a podcast with links on our Facebook page, Western Music Time.



*At Work*





## BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham




### Hot Pockets

I was in the Seattle area a few years back visiting with my brother who lived out on one of the islands. While there he took me on a tour and we wound up near Bremerton. One place where the highway was near the water we pulled off 'cause I wanted to take a "pitcher" with my brand new point and shoot camera so I could prove to folks that I had been there. I noticed this massive wood beam that was stickin' out over the water that looked like someone had started to build a pier then gave up on it. I walked out on it where I had a good view to take a picture or two.

I hung my camera around my neck and stuffed an extra set of batteries in my pocket. Like Bill Barwick says, "Just in case." The beam I walked out on was only about a foot wide so I was bein' kinda careful where I was puttin' my feet. I was almost to the end of that beam about sixty feet out over the water when I began to notice an unexpected warmth in the pocket where I had put the batteries. This was way back before the general public was havin' problems with cell phones blowin' up and catchin' fire but I was thinking I had a similar situation.

That warm feeling in my pocket went from warm to hot. Very hot! I forgot about takin' pictures. This was real close to a busy highway and I being very modest and shy didn't want to drop my drawers right there for all the world to see so I started hot footin' it (there's a pun there) to shore where there were some bushes I could get behind. I was doin' a fair representation of the watusi and I don't even dance!

I was pinchin' my britches with one hand trying to hold that pocket away from my leg and balancing with the other. My camera, hanging around my neck was hittin' me under the chin about every second step. I finally made it to shore and a patch of bushes where I got that pocket away from my scorched hide. That's when I heard my brother on the other side of them bushes laughin' his head off. I failed to see a lot of humor in the situation at the time and would have thrown a rock at him but they were all too big to pick up.


The moral to this story is, batteries and pocket change don't mix. I guess all them pennies I'd been savin' shorted them out. 

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# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...Western Music Hall of Famer **Rex Allen Jr.** strapped on an apron and served as a celebrity waiter for the 8th Annual Murfreesboro (TN) Exchange Club's Celebrity Waiter Dinner in April. The event brings together stars of the music community who not only serve up some delicious food but plenty of laughter and stories along with a song or two. Rex joined Grand Ole Opry stars **Jan Howard, Ronnie McDowell, Deborah Allen, Paulette Carlson, Becky Hobbs, Rhonda Vincent, Charlene Tilton, Stella Parton, Lulu Roman, Hawkshaw Hawkins Jr.,** and **Melissa Luman.** All proceeds from the evening will benefit The Family Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect with locations in Murfreesboro and Nashville.

...More **Rex Allen, Jr.:** Ron Tyler of the Oasis-HD Radio Network has broadcast an interview with Rex highlighting his career, latest music, and current farewell Sunrise to Sunset Tour. He has received 175,000 requests from fans to hear the show again. The show has aired to 681 million listeners in 34 countries. His current single, "Call of the Canyon," has been Pick of the Week for three weeks running on Oasis-HD with 80,000 requests. Rex will also take his Sunrise to Sunset Tour to country music's biggest fan fest, the 2017 CMA Music Festival. He will perform multiple stages during the run of the event June 8-11 in Nashville, TN.

...**Leah Sawyer** was crowned Texas State Fiddle Champion (Freshman division) at the Texas State Fiddle Contest in April. She also won the junior division at the Fiddler's Frolic in Llano, TX. The Bob Wills Day Festival, held annually in Bob Wills' birthplace (Turkey, TX) also hosts a fiddle contest. Leah took 1st place in the 13 to 21 age division with her brother **David Sawyer** winning second place. Each went on to play in the Championship Round with Leah winning Grand Champion and David winning Reserve Grand. Leah arranged a twin fiddle tune for the two to play in the twin fiddle competition which rounded out the day – and they won that one, too!

...**Mikki Daniel** has completed her first year at McLennen Community College in the music program under Dick Gimble with a 4.0 GPA. Her youngest brother was recently accepted into Baylor University. The Academy of Western Artists just named Mikki AWA 2017 Western Female Artist of the Year. She was also chosen to be one of the artists (along with **Red Steagall, Don Edwards, Ray Benson,** and **Michael Martin Murphy**) to record for KR Woods' latest CD project commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. Also, she and **Doug Figgs** are working on a joint CD project with several co-written songs and duets to be released later this year.

...UK disc jockey and WMA member **Graham Lees** will be inducted into the NorthWest Western Swing Music Society's Hall

of Fame at the 28th Annual Music Festival to be held August 10-13. The four-day event will be held at the historic Field House at the Enumclaw Expo Center in Enumclaw, WA. Lees will be recognized for his "outstanding contributions to the preservation and promotion of western swing music."

...In April, **Kristyn Harris** had the opportunity to open for the legendary **Roy Clark** in Greenville, TX. Roy turned 84 years old the next day. Despite his age, Kristyn says he was still one of the most masterful entertainers she's ever met and, also, one of the nicest.

...**Red Steagall** was presented with the Western Lifestyle Programming award by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City for his television show on RFD, "Red Steagall is Somewhere West of Wall Street." The award honors Steagall's legacy for his work in television as he continues to spread the word about the western culture that exists throughout the United States.

...The **Diamond W Wranglers** have announced that band member Chip Worthington, bass player and tenor singer since January 2009 for the group, will be leaving the show after this summer's concert series. Chip and his wife are moving out of state.

..."Halfway Down the Devil's Road," a **Jim Jones/Allan Chapman** composition, has been named the Western Writers of America's Best Western Song of 2017. Jim and Allan will pick up their Spur Award on June 24 in Kansas City, MO.

...**Bob Thomas** has two CDs in production. The first, *Bob Thomas Sings the Love Songs of Hoyt Axton*, is due out this summer and will contain ten cover songs of Hoyt Axton that deal with his perspective of love. A yet-untitled album with 12 original songs will be released later in the year.

...**The Sons of the Pioneers** are taking western music to both sides of Canada in recent concerts. April found them in Eastern Canada at the Confederation Center in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and at the Imperial Theater in St. John, New Brunswick [very near the boyhood home of Bob Nolan]. In June they did six theater concerts in British Columbia on the Western side of Canada.

...**Aspen Black** released a new album in June titled *Lovin' the West*. It features ten original, road-tested western songs.

...**Jim & Jeanne Martin** have announced that their son, Ryan was married to Billie Jean Doehrling in May. According to mom and dad, Ryan and Billie Jo are "perfect together," and the Martins are "so very happy for them!"



...The Academy of Western Artists honored **Ron Christopher** with the Western Album of the Year award for his latest release *Into the West*. Ron hopes to release a new project by November that will be titled *Outside the Fence*. It will contain 14 new original songs.

...Oregon poet **Tom Swearingen** has written a poem at the request of the University of Oregon School of Journalism to be featured in their capstone publication *Flux Magazine* and a related film. Tom has also been bestowed an Honorary Knighthood by the Royal Rosarians, Portland's official ambassadors, in recognition of his community service and cultural contribution through his poetry.

... **Gary and Jean Prescott** will be releasing a new CD very soon. It has been 15 years since they have done one together. The Spotlight agrees with the Prescotts when they say, "It's about time!"

...**Juni Fisher** welcomed a new daughter-in-law to the family when stepson Andrew Bane was married in Lexington, KY in April. Juni and her husband, Rusty, went early to catch the last weekend of racing for 2017 at the historic Keeneland Race track. Juni hauls a three-year-old filly, Reydio Airplay, who is her 2017 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity prospect to cow horse shows over the spring and summer to be ready for the big event in October in Fort Worth, TX. She is the only person involved in any part of the music industry who is showing reined cow horses, which she equates to "Flying fighter jets around cattle, with no seat belt."

...The **Wall-Eyed Moles** (Jon Messenger, Jerome Campbell, Jeannie Cahill) have released their first album eponymously titled "Wall-Eyed Moles." The group is excited about their upcoming first ever appearance at the 2017 Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS in September.

... In Fort Worth, TX in March, **Mary Kaye** was honored by the Academy of Western Artists with a 2017 Will Rogers Award for Western Music Song of the Year for her original composition "Grit, Grace, and Balin' Twine."

...**Miss Devon & the Outlaw** are releasing an original song written in anticipation of the Great American Solar Eclipse crossing the nation on Monday, August 21. The two got lots of "geeky help" on the scientific details from Devon's twin sons, Ryan and Martin Dawson. Download "Unshine" from their website at [www.missdevonandtheoutlaw.com](http://www.missdevonandtheoutlaw.com).

...**Kristyn Harris** will be returning to Europe soon to perform at festivals in France and Italy. **Hailey Sandoz** will be joining her on fiddle at the festival in France. In May, Kristyn made her debut trick riding performance at the Fort Worth Stockyard's Wild West Show. She also took part in two different benefits to help the ranchers affected by the recent wildfires that swept across the West. Kristyn became an aunt this year for the second time with the birth of her nephew Daniel.

...In April, **Ermal** (as John Wayne) and **Paula Williamson** performed in Las Vegas for 460 Super Sabre Jet Pilots from

the Vietnam era. Last Fall Paula was hired to yodel for Casino Arizona in a commercial where she's seen yodeling and winning at late-night bingo. She is now seen on a billboard on the parking garage by Chase Field where the Arizona Diamondbacks play. Go to [www.yodel lady.com](http://www.yodel lady.com), to view the commercial.

...Santa Fe (NM) songwriter **Paul Kelly** won first prize in the Gospel/Inspirational Category in the Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at Merlefest this year. The April festival draws 80,000 people, and the contest gets nearly 1000 entries.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** has established a monthly "Almeda in the Saddle" Facebook live video show. She is also expanding into television this summer, hosting a bi-weekly Community 7 TV program in Billings, MT, featuring the MON-DAKS chapter of the WMA.

...The film *Everything in the Song is True* has been accepted into the indie cork festival in Ireland (<http://indiecork.com>). It also received the World Cinematography Prize in Amsterdam, plus several "audience favorite" awards at film festivals in the US. The documentary features **Gary McMahan, Jeff Nourse, Yvonne Hollenbeck, and Brice Champion**. (<http://everythinginthesongistrue.com>)

...At the 2017 Columbia River Cowboy Gathering's Cowboy Idol Poetry & Music Contest in Kennewick, WA, **Linda Nadon** of Saskatchewan, Canada was runner-up in the Idol Poet contest. The gathering is hosted and produced by **Smoke Wade**.

...WMA youth chapter member **Alice Black**, 12, was a Top-Three Finalist in the youth category of the Richard Leigh Songwriting Competition. She performed her song "The Yodelin' Mule" in May at a festival that featured five Nashville songwriters with multiple major label hits.

...**The Sisters of the Silver Sage** have been "retired" due to Rhonda's throat cancer; however, they are back now with a niece, Nikki Edwards, singing lead in Rhonda's place. The sisters are thrilled to have a trio again. Nikki's debut with The Sisters will be in June at The Vienna Coffee House in Maryville, TN.

...**L.K. Potts** moved to Nashville in July of 2015 and married Jeanene McCormack on August 9 of that same year. They moved back to Auburn, CA in July of 2016. He is currently recording and assembling his fifth album of original music.

...Winners at the New Mexico Music Awards in May were **Doug Figgs** and **Mariam Funke** for Best Western Song, **Michael Coy** for Best Children's Song, and John T. Feldman (**the Curio Cowboys**) for Best Instrumental Performance.

...**Cheryl Rogers Barnett** has a new Web site where you can watch western movies, celebrity interviews, and some stuff you won't see anywhere else. Go to [www.westernstarstheater.com](http://www.westernstarstheater.com) and enjoy. You can comment on the site and/or ask questions. Cheryl says she's "trying my best to keep the Westerns alive!"

... "Oklahoma Rain," a poem by **Ron Secoy**, is featured in the anthology *Unbridled III*, published by Cowboy Poetry Press and edited by Red Dashboard.

## In Memoriam

### Nancy Thorwardson (1955-2017)



The world of western music lost one of its finest songwriters with the passing of Nancy Thorwardson on April 11, 2017, at the age of 62. She lived in a picturesque bunkhouse on the ranch of her dear friends outside of Lyons, Colorado. Nancy left behind a wonderful collection of songs to be enjoyed by her many friends and fans. Her recordings will be treasured by serious western music collectors

around the world for many years to come. Her first recording, *Sidesaddle Swing* was released as a cassette in 1991 but given new life as a CD in 2017. This project really expresses her love of western music. Her ability to use words to paint a landscape as well as capture the sights, sounds, and fragrances of the West was uncanny. She had a special connection to coyotes and moons, which forms a thread that runs through her music.

Born in Cavalier, North Dakota on March 2, 1955, Nancy later moved to Minnesota for high school and college. She earned a master's degree in geography from Oklahoma State University, where she made time to savor the western swing music and she loved to dance! Nancy spent sixteen years as a cartographer with the National Park Service in Denver, was a Web builder in Port Townsend, Washington, and came back to Colorado in 2003. From 2005 through early 2017, she worked as a professional research assistant and information specialist in the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado Boulder. She always managed to have jobs that allowed her to attend festivals and teach at music camps. She was highly revered as a swing guitarist, ukulele player, singer and an essential band member. Her repertoire was immense and her stamina seemed endless.

Nancy wrote songs and performed them for over 35 years. They spanned a variety of formats that showed off her versatility as a songwriter. In 1984, she was a founding member of the Denver-based western swing band, the Cactus Crooners, and several of her songs were on their regular set list. Nancy became a member of the Western Music Association in the early 1990s, attended many festivals and was always among the last few standing after an all-night jam session. The WMA remained an important part of her life.

Many singer-songwriters spend their entire career telling stories of their experiences through their music, but few artists feel they can take one of those songs and "make it their own." Not the case with Nancy Thorwardson. In 1988, Liz Masterson and Sean Blackburn were the first to record

Nancy's beautiful song, "My Prairie Home" and later it was covered by several other artists. In 1996, Rounder Records asked Douglas B. Green of Riders in the Sky to compile a list of songs representing 70 years of cowboy music. It was released as a four CD Box Set, and Liz and Sean's version of "My Prairie Home" was selected for the disc entitled "Cowboy Renaissance."

Her musical peers have always shown the utmost respect and admiration for Nancy and her music. Several of her songs have been recorded by some of the best award-winning singers and bands in the western music scene, such as Prickly Pair, Patty Clayton, Jill Jones, The Hays County Gals, One Lucky Guy, The Blue Mountain Ranch Hands, Liz Masterson and Sean Blackburn and Grammy award-winning performers, Cathy Fink and Marcie Marxer.

Shortly after Nancy was first diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in November of 2016, a concert was planned for April 30, and the purpose to have her friends and bandmates perform her music. The Tribute Concert was over three hours of "Nancy tunes" and only a portion of her more than 100 compositions were covered. A similar concert was held the same day in Vancouver, BC, which shows the immense span of her music. Both were happy parties that she would have loved.

Her songs are her legacy, and those who were lucky enough to know her will always remember her big smile that could light up a room, her collection of "cowboy kitch," vivid and cheerful costumes, always with the perfect accessories. She could have been a model for eyeglasses and had a pair in several bright colors! Nancy was kind, thoughtful, and a prolific gift-giver. Not only was she a clever wordsmith, but she was hilariously funny. Her passing came way too soon, for all of us who loved her

Two of her songs that were especially poignant at her memorial service were "Heaven on Horseback" and "Gospel Wagon Train."

*SIDESADDLE SWING* was only the beginning of a long career of writing, performing, recording and teaching for Nancy. She went on to become a well-known ukulele player, and performed in a variety of bands, such as "Swing Chicks, GadZukes!, Swing State, Ginger Root, Tupalo Honey, the Quarry Gals, and with her dear friends and neighbors as the Blue Mountain Ranch Hands. Her only neighbors were her dear friends and fellow bandmates, Zeke and Jani Little.

For more information about this fine western artist, go to [NancyThorwardson.com](http://NancyThorwardson.com). Her CDs are available on CD Baby. I urge you to get them all. You'll be glad you did. Contributions in memory of Nancy can be made to the Western Music Association.



*Did you know that the real name of Dale Evans,  
Queen of the Cowgirls, was Francis Octavia Smith?*





O.J. Sikes

# O.J. Sikes Reviews



## A Musical Note From OJ...

Unless you're a died-in-the-wool **Rex Allen** fan, this column may seem a little esoteric to you. But if you loved his movies as a child (or if you do now, for that matter), or if you're a fan of his music, or if you're a collector and just like to see the pieces of historical puzzles fall into place, you may find something of interest here, even if only as a reference tool.

When I first started to work on this column, it was for my own reference, because I had not been able to find a complete list of the music from Rex Allen's movies anywhere. **Boyd Magers** wrote a huge book on **Gene Autry's** movies, including the songs performed on screen. **Eric van Hamersveld** wrote a book and issued a CD set of soundtrack recordings of the music from all of the films of **Roy Rogers and Dale Evans**. But there was nothing comparable on Rex, which meant that anyone talking about, or researching, the music in Rex Allen's films was handicapped.

Not long after I had started double-checking and filling blanks in my information, I thought to ask long-time friend and Western music researcher, **Larry Hopper**, if he had any relevant information on this topic. Fortunately, he did, and I borrowed from what he had collected in

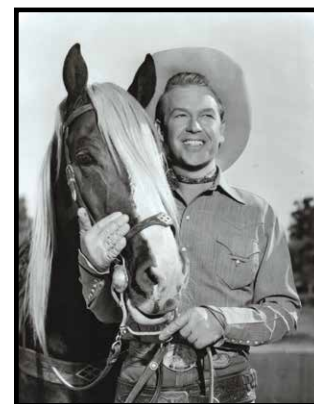
order to complete the "project" that follows. However, I take full responsibility for any errors in the list.

In addition to the films Rex Allen starred in, he sang the Title Songs in 3 Western movies he didn't appear in: *Laramie* (the title song from the film *Rails into Laramie* '54), *Rock Island Trail* (title song) and *Westward Ho the Wagons* (title song).



### Music in Rex Allen's Movies

- **The Arizona Cowboy (1950)** – "(Arizona Cowboy) Too Lee Roll Um," "Dreaming of the Western Plains" (partial, i.e. yodel only), "Arizona Waltz," "Red River Valley" (sung by Gordon Jones) and a parody of "The Old Chisholm Trail."
- **Hills of Oklahoma ('50)** – "Cindy" (with Wade Ray), "Cowboy's Meditation" and "Curtains of Night."
- **Redwood Forest Trail ('50)** – "On Top of Old Smoky," "Sourwood Mountain" and "America the Beautiful."
- **Under Mexicali Stars ('50)** – "Old Black Mountain Trail," "Railroad Corral" and "Born to the Saddle."
- **Silver City Bonanza (1951)** – "I Ride an Old Paint" (a.k.a. "Rarin' to Go"), "Lollipop Lane," "Happy Birthday" and "Skip to my Lou" (instrumentals), "Sweet Evalina" and "Too Lee Roll Um."
- **Thunder in God's Country ('51)** – "Too Lee Roll Um," "John Henry," "Mollie Darling" (with Wade Ray), "Camptown Races" & "Maggie" (instrumentals) and "Melody of the Plains."
- **Rodeo King and the Senorita ('51)** – "Too Lee Roll Um" (sung over opening credits), "Windy Bill," "Strawberry Roan" and "Juanita."



*Continued on page 30*

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

O.J. Sikes, 327 Westview Avenue,  
Leonia, NJ 07605-1811  
Required: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number  
Questions? You can email O.J. at [osikes@nj.rr.com](mailto:osikes@nj.rr.com)

- **Utah Wagon Train ('51)** – “Too Lee Roll Um” (sung over opening credits), “The Big Corral,” “Streets of Laredo” and “The Colorado Trail.”
- **Colorado Sundown (1952)** – “Down by the Riverside,” “Pine Valley Stage” (adapted from “New River Train”) and “Under Colorado Stars” (adapted from “Under California Stars,” composed by Jack Elliott), with the Republic Rhythm Riders.
- **The Last Musketeer ('52)** – “I Still Love the West” (played over opening credits, sung later), “Aura Lee,” “Taskerville (aka Birmingham) Jail,” with the Republic Rhythm Riders.
- **Border Saddlemates ('52)** – “Wait for the Wagon,” “Old Ark’s a-Moverin’,” “Roll On Border Moon” (adapted from Jack Elliott’s composition, “Roll on Texas Moon”), with the Republic Rhythm Riders.
- **Old Oklahoma Plains ('52)** – “Dese Bones,” “Ezekiel Saw the Wheel,” “Old Chisholm Trail” and “Lonesome Road,” with the Republic Rhythm Riders.
- **South Pacific Trail ('52)** – “Railroad Corral,” “Throw Your Saddle on a Silver Star (and Ride Your Blues Away),” “I’ll Sing a Love Song,” (duet: Estelita Rodriguez & Rex), with the Republic Rhythm Riders.
- **Old Overland Trail (1953)** – “Just a Wanderin’ Buckaroo” (Rex with Slim Pickens), “Work for the Night is Coming,” “A Cowboy’s Dream of Heaven,” with the Republic Rhythm Riders.
- **Iron Mountain Trail ('53)** – no songs
- **Down Laredo Way ('53)** – no songs
- **Shadows of Tombstone ('53)** – “Too Lee Roll Um” (sung over opening credits).
- **Red River Shore ('53)** – “Red River Valley” (sung over opening credits).
- **Phantom Stallion (1954)** – “Born to the Saddle” (sung over opening credits). This was the last of all the musical B-Western movies. 🐾

## Western Music Association Web Site

You can now view The Western Way  
as well as the Festival and  
Events Calendar on our Web site!

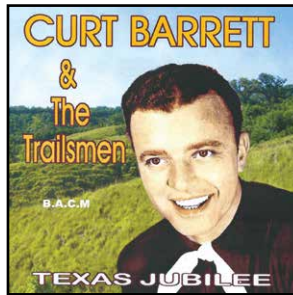
Visit often to keep up with what’s going  
on in our Western Music family.

**www.westernmusic.org**

## TEXAS JUBILEE

### Curt Barrett & the Trailsmen

BACM CD D 55



In the B-Western movie years, there was a considerable amount of emphasis on Western music, especially after the arrival of Gene Autry and the Sons of the Pioneers in Hollywood. Gene’s popularity and Nolan & Spencer’s compositions, plus the Pioneers’ harmony, introduced an era of musical B-Westerns in

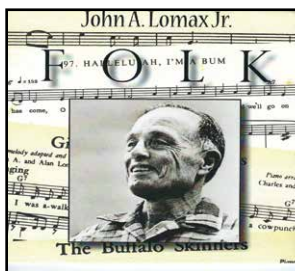
the mid-1930’s, that lasted until Republic released Rex Allen’s last film in 1954. Even many of the stars who didn’t sing, like William Boyd (as “Hopalong Cassidy”) and Charles Starrett, invited guest musicians to perform in their films.

Boyd was not fond of music, but he had excellent musicians in several of his films. Starrett liked music and worked well on-screen with Bob Nolan and the Sons of the Pioneers for 7 years, leading to the appearance of numerous artists/bands in his later films. Johnny Mack Brown had bands like Curt Barrett & the Trailsmen in one or more of his films at Monogram. With one exception, the title song from the soundtrack of *My Darling Clementine*, the music on this new Curt Barrett CD is from his commercial recordings, mostly from the mid-1940’s.

His record labels were small; he never made it to the big-time, in spite of his pleasant voice and listenable arrangements. For his movie appearances and recordings, he used outstanding musicians, e.g. Bud Dooley, and recorded some better-than-fair Western swing. He also composed a number of songs, some of which are performed on this CD, and one, “You Should Know,” gave his career a boost when Roy Rogers recorded it with Spade Cooley’s band in 1945. Excellent liner notes by Kevin Coffey trace Barrett’s fascinating history. Contact VenerableMusic.com, phone (678) 232-0268.

## THE BUFFALO SKINNERS

### John A. Lomax Jr.



If you’ve ever heard “field recordings” of Western songs, you may have found them less than engaging. That was my experience initially, although some people love them. The name Lomax may imply to some readers that that’s what’s in store for them here. It’s not! I’ll explain, but first, a bit of

background. John A. Lomax Jr.’s father was the man responsible for collecting so many of the cowboy ballads and trail songs from the 1800’s and publishing them,



preserving them for future generations. The senior Lomax had travelled West in a covered wagon in 1869, and he learned the songs as a boy, listening to cowboys sing them by the campfire and on night guard.

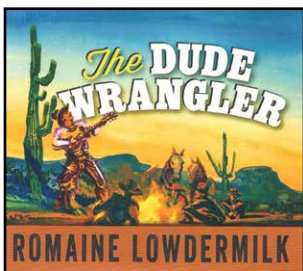
His son, John Jr., grew up listening to the songs his dad had collected, and he wanted to make sure they were preserved. So in 1969, he recorded a number of them onto cassettes, singing them *a cappella*, the way he had learned them. While he did not have a trained voice, his renditions, 16 of which, with his spoken intros, are on this CD, are easy to listen to, unlike many of the more rustic field recordings from earlier years available elsewhere.

John Jr.'s son, John M. Lomax, who put this CD together, wrote fascinating notes about the history of the project and about each of the songs he chose to include. The elder Lomax was a folklorist who did not limit his work to cowboy songs, so you'll find a variety of folk music on the CD, in addition to "The Buffalo Skinners," "Git Along Little Dogies" and "The Alamo Song." Available thru lomax3.com or Amazon. Also in all digital stores.

## THE DUDE WRANGLER

Romaine Lowdermilk

Ramco Records True West 101



Today, Romaine Lowdermilk is probably best known as the composer of what many people long assumed was a traditional cowboy song, "The Big Corral." He wrote the song in 1922 as a joke, with a theme about heaven and a cow camp cook. But

when he performed it later that year on stage in Wickenburg, AZ, the audience took him seriously and the song lived on for 2 decades until it was mistakenly included in a published collection of songs that were supposed to represent authentic, traditional music.

Early in life, Lowdermilk had worked as a cowboy and later, as a rancher. He converted his ranch into what was to become the first dude ranch in AZ, and he enjoyed entertaining his guests with his guitar, singing the old cowboy songs of his youth and a few of his own compositions as well. For two years in the late 1920's, Lowdermilk was a member of the popular band, "The Arizona Wranglers." In the 30's, he performed on the WLS National Barn Dance in Chicago, singing the old songs and giving some of their history to the audience.

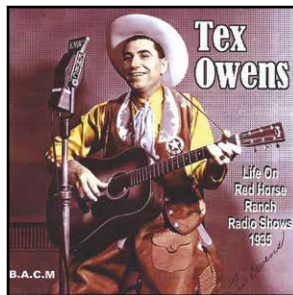
He never made any commercial recordings, but in 1951 and '55, he made his own tapes of the cowboy songs he had been singing for so many years. In the Dec. 2016 issue of TRUE WEST magazine, a fascinating article by Marshall Trimble told Romaine Lowdermilk's history, and the magazine decided to offer new subscribers a free copy of a CD containing 18 of Lowdermilk's recordings from those 1950's tapes. As of this writing, that offer still stands, but don't delay, contact TrueWestMagazine.com or ph. 888-687-1881.

The WESTERN WAY

## LIFE ON RED HORSE RANCH, 1935

Tex Owens

BACM CD D 551



Most Western music fans know Tex Owens as the composer of "Cattle Call," a song made famous by Eddy Arnold, who used it as his theme song throughout his career. But Tex was also the older brother of Texas Ruby (whose husband was fiddler Curly Fox) and he was a very popular singer on radio in the mid-1930's, the

period represented in the radio broadcasts you'll hear on this new disc.

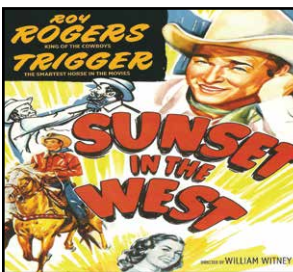
I had never paid much attention to his voice, so I was pleasantly surprised to find that these nicely cleaned-up tracks provide an enjoyable listening experience. The 40 tracks are representative of the era, and include traditional songs plus a few of his own compositions, e.g. excellent renditions of his "Cattle Call." Several were composed by Jimmie Rodgers and a couple of early ones were written by Gene Autry. All come from the Life on the Red Horse Ranch radio shows, recorded in the Spring of 1935. If you are interested in Western music from this era, this CD is an excellent example of the music performed by a solo artist with his guitar. Very informative liner notes by noted historian Kevin Coffey. Contact VenerableMusic.com, phone (678) 232-0268.

## SUNSET IN THE WEST

(IN TRUCOLOR & HIGH DEFINITION)

Roy Rogers, Foy Willing & the Riders of the Purple Sage, Estelita Rodriguez, Penny Edwards

Studio Classic



For years, Roy Rogers fans have hoped someone would release Roy's films, especially those in color, in high definition. With this release, it has finally happened! This DVD, featuring Roy, with his fancy outfits and his golden palomino, Trigger, is as colorful as it gets! And in HD, it's sure to captivate viewers

both new and old.

Grandkids who are uncomfortable with b&w and fuzzy images, will be able to enjoy an action-packed, suspense-filled, yet musical, B-Western, starring the King of the Cowboys, with special bonus features as well. Until now, only the Gene Autry films have been available in re-mastered form. They are treasures, for sure, but now, there's at least one Roy Rogers film that should be

Continued on page 32

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enthusiastically received by today's demanding audiences. And old fans will be delighted!

The original film was released in 1950, after Foy Willing and the Riders of the Purple Sage replaced the Sons of the Pioneers in Roy's films, when the vivacious Estelita Rodriguez was making well-received appearances in Roy's movies and the very talented Penny Edwards was co-starring in the temporary absence of Dale Evans. Widely available and highly recommended.

## THE SHELTON BROTHERS

### Volume 3

BACM CD D 562



This third volume of recordings by the Texas string band, the Shelton Brothers, spans their career from 1935 to 1960. My favorite Shelton Bros. record, "Rompin' & Stompin' Around," can be found on Vol 1. Here, my favorite is the classic, "Four or Five Times," from 1935.

One of the reasons is the amazing swing fiddle work of the legendary Curly Fox. Fans of vintage Western Swing will love it!

But there's much more! There are several of the brothers' own fine compositions, e.g. "I'm Driftin' and Shiftn' My Gears," as well as the classics "Ida Red" and "South," all recorded in 1941, and a reprise of one they recorded years before, "Johnson's Old Grey Mule," from a 1947 session, as well as a few other novelties like "These Shoes are Killing Me." Extensive liner notes by historian Kevin Coffey provide solid perspective. Contact VenerableMusic.com, phone (678) 232-0268. 🐾



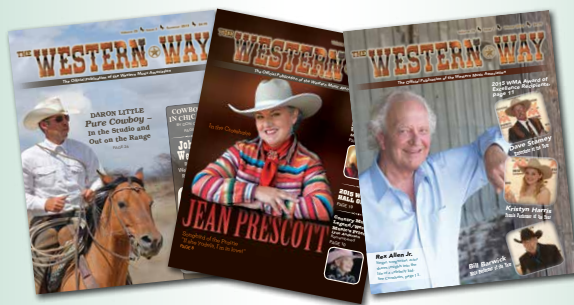
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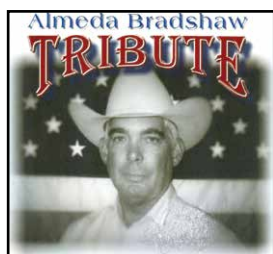
## RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

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

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

### ALMEDA BRADSHAW

#### Tribute



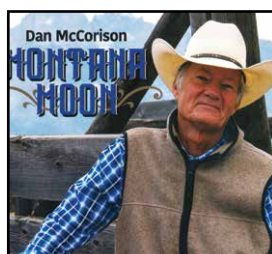
Almeda Bradshaw won kudos across Cochise County in Arizona for her tribute song to

slain sheriff (and cowboy) Larry Dever called "Larry Dever Did." She was inspired to create it after reading a book on the subject of his death that asked if it was accidental or murder. Almeda fell into the category that believed the latter was true, and has now released the song for its eager fans to own. Also on the ET is the poem "Cowboy" (by John Antrobus) which she adapted slightly in setting it to music. Both songs feature sterling production values and performances from Almeda and players Lance Bendiksen (keyboards, accordion, harmonica, harmony vocals); Ernie Martinez (banjo, dobro); Johnny Neil & Nancy Steinburger (fiddles); Dave Janssen (bass guitar) and Christian Teele (percussion). Both of these "tribute" songs are worth your time and money to download.

(Song downloads available through [www.almedam2bmusic.com/tribute](http://www.almedam2bmusic.com/tribute))

### DAN MCCORISON

#### "Mountain Moon"



Dan McCorison's voice is somewhat on the order of R.J. Vandygriff who, judging by his cover photo, he also seems to

slightly resemble. Separated at birth??

McCorison's CD is a good mix of originals, covers and classics with superior production values...no fancy, just fine. We're happy to report it's getting good airplay across the Western and Americana spectrum, and also that he is the newest member of the Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers! All four of his original songs included are CD picks: "I'd Rather Have You," "Montana Moon," "I Hope The Band Plays Forever" and his co-write with Les Buffham and Bob Strickland "Our Colorado Home." It's obvious he is comfortable writing in varying styles. Also CD picks are the cover songs "Colorado Horses" (Will Dudley) and "Coyotes" (Bob McDill). But his take on classics "Cattle Call," "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," "Cool Water," "Streets of Laredo" and "Along The Navajo Trail" are excellent as well.

Whether your choice would run toward the traditional, the less-covered or new discoveries, this one holds something for you. Recommended! Twelve tracks.

CD: (info not furnished. Google by artist name)

### HOME ON THE RANGE (SOUNDTRACK ALBUM)

#### Various Artists



Here is the kind of film and soundtrack people keep hoping will appear...a movie about

a Western subject that actually uses Western Music! Of course the subject actually is a Western song, but that wouldn't stop some people from using Hip Hop!

The song in the spotlight appears a number of times, reasonably. Film actor Mathew Greer, Michael Martin Murphey and Sons Of The Pioneers versions of it are present, plus a finale featuring an "ensemble" of Mr. Murphey; Barry Ward; Rex Allen, Jr.; Hot Rize; Riders In The Sky; Cherokee Maidens; Uche; Bobby J. Edwards and Jesse Friesen... and KANSAS! The original song "Western Home" from Noah Trammell and Elena Henry should be lauded, and other notable contributors include the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's John McEuen. Individual tracks of interest include Connie Dover's "I Am Going To The West," Skip Gorman's "When The Work's All Done This Fall," "Prairie Home Lullabye" from the outstanding harmony group

Continued on page 34

Cherokee Maidens, the Diamond W Wranglers' "Rolling Kansas Plains" and a rare home recording of "Zebra Dun" from one of radio's early singing cowboys, Roy Faulkner.

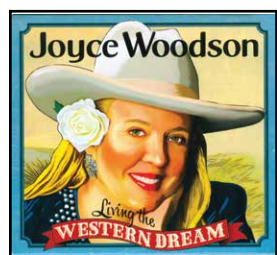
It's a monumental achievement, done in tribute to what is arguably the most important cowboy song of them all. Proceeds help support the maintenance of the original "Home On The Range" cabin in Smith County, Kansas. Fifteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Lone Chimney Films, 7511 E. 26th Ct. N, Wichita, KS 67226



## JOYCE WOODSON

### *Living The Cowboy Dream*



Once again Joyce Woodson "smooths" you along the trails of her own personal Western dream!

One of the consistently interesting aspects of Woodson's releases is her ability to expand the territory covered by Western...not through experimentation, just following natural rivulets. Examples here are "Don & Diane," "Souvenir," "Girl On A Pony," "Thank Jack," "She's In Love With Her Horse" and "You Couldn't Buy That View." And watch how many of these you will wind up hearing done by others!

For those who want to watch for Woodson to issue more songs for like "If I Hadn't Seen The West," check out "The Hidden Trail." And two of her newer "most-requesteds" are here ("He Sang For Me" about Roy Rogers coming to see a kid in the hospital...something Roy touring with Hi Busse and the Frontiersmen managed to do at nearly every booking, and "That's What A Pal Would Do"). Plus you'll find some fresh views of classic Western scenes in "A Cowboy Far From Home" and the title track "Living The Western Dream." Her many fans will eat it up. Recommended, as always! Twelve tracks.

CD:

## MARY KAYE

### *Take Me Back To Texas*



The title track is not the "Take Me Back To Texas" you might be thinking it is. This one is Mary Kaye's all the

way. Of course she makes "Streets Of Laredo," "Leavin' Cheyenne" and "Git Along Little Dogies" hers as well... just as much as she does her musical adaptation of Frank Deprez's "Lasca."

If all of that seems to have a familiar ring to it, it could be because this collection "takes you back" to releases from Mary Kaye's earlier albums... some tried and true tracks with the main emphasis being on danceability, be it Swing, Waltz, Two-Step or You-Name-It. It will be particularly appreciated by late-comers to the powerful performance skills of Mary Kaye. She uses the word "sass" to describe her attitude songs. I've used it as well. That term works big-time to impart the effect of "Fringe," "Girl Meets West" or "Grit Grace & Balin' Twine"...not to mention her early career song "The Real Thing" and even "The Prairie Preacher."

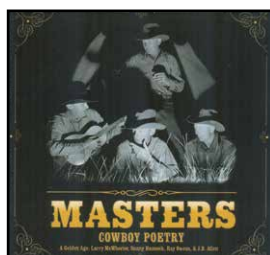
Whether "Take Me Back To Texas" marks a re-visit for you or a new discovery, this Mary Kaye replay will be welcome. And...surprise, surprise...I'm recommending it! Fourteen tracks.

CD: \$17 + \$3 s/h (US) through [www.mary-kaye.com](http://www.mary-kaye.com) and all major digital music stores, or from Mary Kaye, 1410 S. Jefferson St., Salt Lake City, UT 84115.



## MASTERS

### *Larry McWhorter, Sunny Hancock, Ray Owens & J.B. Allen*



In reviewing some releases, you really feel you should write a book! This is one of them.

This mas-

terful (no pun intended) collection demonstrates not only the cowboy savvy and writing skill of this quartette, but also consummate storytelling ability in the delivery of their words and those of others. Here's Larry McWhorter taking your emotions on a tearful trip with "Black Draught" and your face in a broad grin with "The Red Cow." Plus his "Waitin' On The Drive" and "Advice To The Traveler" are here and he closes with H.H. Knibbs' "Where The Horses Come To Drink!" Then Sunny Hancock feeds you his magic with "The Horse Trade," "A Bear Tale" and "The High Steppin' Kind" with dessert being S. Omar Barker's "The Cowboy's Heaven!" While (by his own admission) Ray Owens might not have had quite the prowess of delivery his album mates possessed, his wonderful, often-covered words live on as his strength in "Color Blind," "Tracks That Won't Blow Out" and "The Saddle His Granddaddy Rode" and he earnestly recites J.B. Allen's "A Rare Treat" (which this collection surely is). And Allen himself closes the collection with "The Medicine Keepers," "Reasons For Stayin'," "Kindred Spirits" and Buck Ramsey's "Anthem." For many, each of these is a poet's poet. Listen and you'll know it! Seventeen works.

CD: \$20 ppd from CowboyPoetry.com, Box 1107, Lexington, VA 24450.



## PANHANDLE COWBOYS

### *Cows, Horses & Cowgirls*



After a three-year hiatus (at least from recording), the duo known as the Panhandle Cowboys has returned.

Better engineered and mastered this time around, this album pretty much lets them be them.

Farmer Dave Fulfs is an accomplished Burl Ives-type singer on these original tracks. J.B. Barber contributes poetic narrations



on eight of them, with nice support from Bodie Dominguez (guitar, bass & harmonica) and Elliott Marks (fiddle). The traditional style songwriting here strikes me as being particularly intelligent and suits Fulfs' delivery well. One technical puzzlement: I don't fully understand why Barber's EQ (tone on his voice) and presence varies from one track to the next, but... whatever.

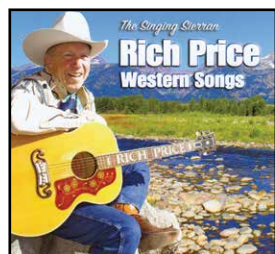
Picks include "Prairie Waltz," "Coyote Swing," "Blackfoot Joe," "Cowboy Trail," "The New Outfit," "Thirty & Found" and "A Place Called Idaho." It's a nice little collection, and should find favor with the folks who take their Western Americana straight. Sixteen tracks.

CD: \$15 ppd through farmer-dave@turbonet.com or by calling for arrangements (509) 336-1616 and downloads are available through cdbaby.com



## **RICH PRICE**

### *Western Songs*



Here is the newest collection of big production writes and co-writes by "The Singing Sieran" Rich Price. Once again Price is shored up by an executive cadre of veteran performers the likes of which you will seldom see! Former members of Elvis Presley's legendary back-up singers, The Jordanaires, bring rich harmony to the plate, Joey "The Cowpolka King" Miskulin has brought his considerable talents to it, harmonica legend Charlie McCoy, longtime player and producer Jimmy Capps with Harold Bradley, Brad Alpin, Andy Reiss and Bob Mater round it out. The mind boggles!

The "Big West" feel pervades, even on some decidedly non-Western tracks on this CD entitled "Western Songs," such as "Nash-

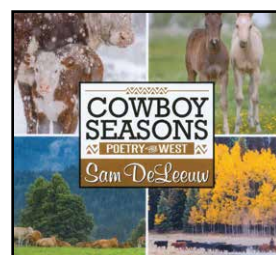
ville Tennessee" and "Blue Caribbean." At least cowboys are in attendance lyrically on tracks like "Fast Lane" and "Baby's Love." More in line thematically are the CD's pick tracks "Santa Fe Special" and "Lone Star Over Texas." Vocally Price drifts leisurely onto and around the pitch, but his folks... both players and buyers... appear to be used to it. Twelve tracks.

CD: (Info not furnished. Google artist by name)



## **SAM DELEEUEW**

### *Cowboy Seasons*



On this, Ms. D's third release, some tracks are cowboy season-specific, some are all-season...but all of these poetic portions are seasoned to the cow culture taste.

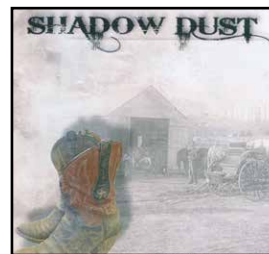
Album picks include the cowboy lack-of awareness poem "Waitin'" and what could be the other side of it ("Cussed Old Cowboy") or its all-too-plausible companion work "Dear John!" Also pick-worthy are the title track "Cowboy Seasons" and the sweet verse about girl and horse called "Jack." Appropriate and pleasant guitar support for a number of the tracks is provided by David Anderson.

DeLeeuw takes serious turns in "The Rancher" (watching his life be auctioned away), "The Long Haul" (about commitment to the ranching life for better or worse) and "Prairie Phantom" with its sound effects of storm and stampede. You'll find interesting perspectives in works like "Smell Of Horse" and a couple of tall tales (a lady Pecos Bill stars in "Hilda & The Tornado" and you'll meet a giggling, hiccupping cow in "Big Windy"). And there's a true O.Henry ending waiting in "Blue-Eyed Stranger." A confession: I'm partial to Sam DeLeeuw's cow noises. Twenty-one tracks.

CD: \$15 + s/h from Sam DeLeeuw, 5579 S. 2800 W #B, Roy, UT 84067

## **SAM MATTISE**

### *Shadow Dust*



In his note accompanying the CD, singer/songwriter/poet Sam Mattise (rhymes with "ice")

said "it's a little different from most albums you hear and you may not care for it." Trust me, Sam. I care for it...a whole bunch!

Vocally, Mattise is somewhat reminiscent of Cat Stevens. He and his fellow musicians have proffered New Orleans style blues in Idaho for seventeen years under the name The Bitterbrush Blues Band, and the influences are brought to their Western material. It's a great effect! 'Gotta say just hearing the swinging funky opening notes of the album's first song "All Strung Out" brought a smile to my jaded face! All of the collection's Western tracks (ten of the sixteen) I would call "picks," but some I would elevate to "superb." They are "Drover's Camp" and "They Come Prancin'" (both written with A.K. Moss), "Grandpa's Saddle" (written with Tony Reed), "Echoes" and the spoken "Dreamin'" (both written with Charlie Camden). The other two co-writers on the CD are Mike Rupert and Gordon Peterson.

At least by subject content, some of the tracks would fall more into the Americana slot. Some of the picks there include the previously mentioned "All Strung Out," "El Niño Blues" and "Me & Jack." If Western is to grow, it will happen partly through other elements being brought intelligently and carefully into it. I hope we get to hear much more of this! Highly recommended!

CD: \$15 ppd from Sam Mattise, 9545 Bat Stream, Boise, ID 83714 or through [www.sammattise.com](http://www.sammattise.com)



*Continued on page 37*



"Granddaddy" with his boys, 2014.

**TWW:** How long do you think you'll stay with the collecting and broadcasting of western music?

**O.J.:** I have no plans to retire (again) at the moment, but we'll have to see how long there's a market for Internet broadcasting and community radio.

**TWW:** On a final and personal note, we see pictures here with two of your grandsons. Can you tell us a little about your family?

**O.J.:** My wife is from Peru and we've been married 52 years. Our older son is a mental health worker whose wife is an award-winning 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher. Our younger son is a health behavior specialist and partner in a film/video production company in NY, and his wife works with her sisters as owners of a hair care products company (Beauty Tribe). Our grandsons are ages 7, 6 and 2.

**TWW:** O.J., it's been a delight visiting with you. Someone should probably write your story and catalogue all of the music you've collected over the years. I hope we can visit again sometime soon.

**O.J.:** Many thanks! Me too!

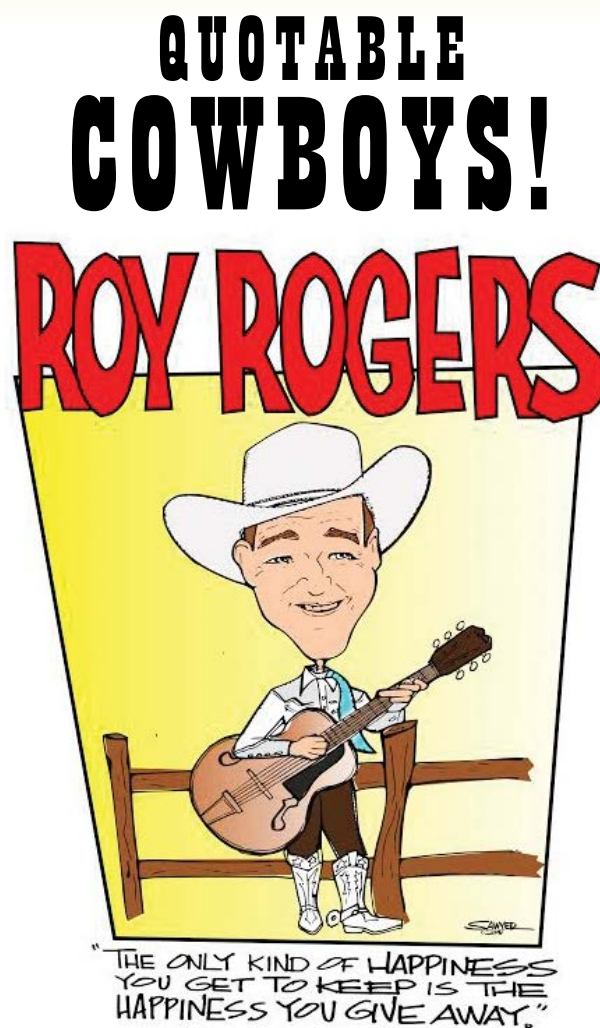


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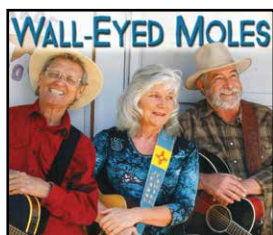
Created by David Sawyer.

Used by permission.



## WALL-EYED MOLES

self-titled



In truth the musical collaboration of these folks predates their name by about a decade and a

half! But enter now the Wall-Eyed Moles!

Like all good moles, they've given themselves names. Jeanne Cahill is "Victor Mole," Jerome Campbell is "Vance Mole" and Jon Messenger is... (whoa, horsey)... "Vivian Mole(??)" So fitting. And then they get down to serious music making! In fact, this represents some of the absolute best work yet captured on a recording by Jon "Vivian" Messenger!! The rowdy attitude that marks The Moles (is there a "Mark" Mole too?) is all over Tom Russell's "Tonight We Ride" in lingo and delivery...and I swear Messenger's delivery of Russell's "The Sky Above & The Mud Below" rivals, if not surpasses, Russell's original.

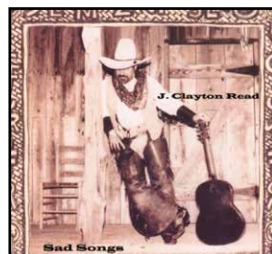
There is a thoroughly cool *a capella* version of Tim Spencer's

"Over Nevada." Some of the more familiar songs covered are provided with fresh coats, but most intriguing is the inclusion of songs not commonly thought of as Western. Cases in point: Steve Earle's "Me & The Eagle," Van Morrison's "Moondance" or opening and closing "Ghost Riders In The Sky" with part of Led Zepplin's "Stairway To Heaven!"

The CD closes with Messenger's heartfelt recitation to music of Buck Ramsey's "Anthem." Its line "we'll be good and we'll be free" could stand as a Mole Mission Statement. Recommended all over the place! Thirteen tracks.

CD: (info not furnished...google group by name)

## J. CLAYTON READ "Sad Songs"




In his liner notes, J. Clayton Read reports that this collection was first released (apparently

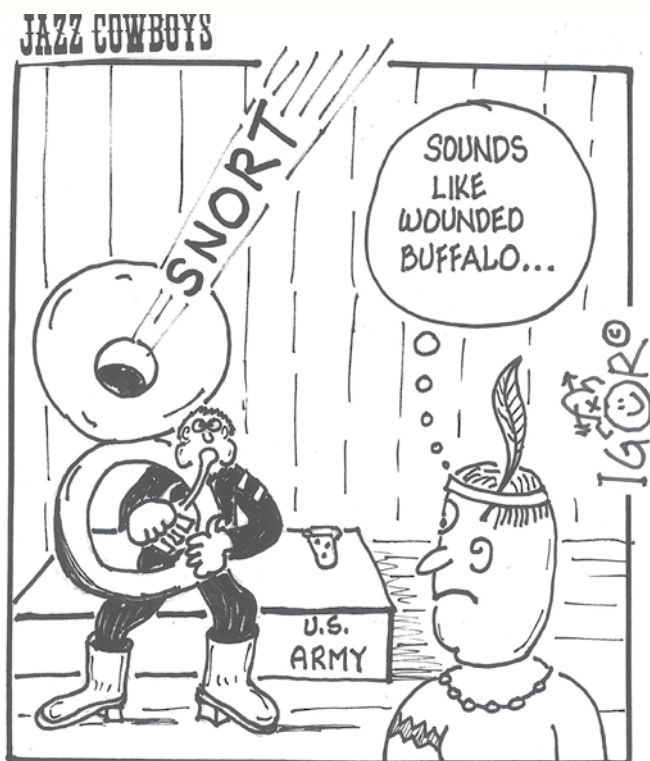
in 1995) under the title "Public Domain," but is reissued now as "Sad Songs" with four license holders getting paid. Bravo, Cowboy!!!

Read has the sand in the voice that sand-in-the-voice fans seek out, plus he possesses the musical skills and studio musicians supporting him here to make this a superior collection of classics. He puts real spirit into "Strawberry Roan," "Streets of Laredo," "Cowboy Jack," "Mustang Gray" and others. His take of "Blue Mountain" is terrific, and there's a nice arrangement pairing "Whoopi Ti Yi Yo" with its progenitor "Old Man's Lament." And who should argue with "Birmingham Jail" being here, done by cowboys as it often was?!!

Through his heartfelt style of delivery and strong production values, J. Clayton Read makes "Sad Songs" enjoyable and lively. Neat trick! Highly recommended. Eleven tracks.

CD: (info not furnished. Google artist name) 

*Did you know  
that Dale Evans,  
Queen of the  
Cowgirls,  
was Roy Rogers'  
third wife and  
that he was her  
second marriage?*



## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 15*

Curtis Krigbaum, Daryl Knight, Danny Williams, Francine Roark Robison, and Call of the West (Jerome and Jeanne). The Friday night concert featured Sons of the Pioneers, Ain't Misbehavin' Swing Band, and A Little Farther West. Saturday night starred Rex Allen, Jr., Les Gilliam, and Miss Devon & the Outlaw and the Sunday afternoon show presented Kristyn Harris. Notable performances by Steeldust, Three Trails West, and Susie Knight rounded out the event, which will be held again in 2018 on the first weekend of May. ([geneautryokmuseum.org](http://geneautryokmuseum.org)) The Quebe Sisters Band appeared in concert at the Sperry, OK, Old West Fest on June 3. Michael Martin Murphey performed with the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, June 8 for the OK Mozart Festival at the Bartlesville Community Center, Bartlesville, OK. Aspen Black visited Oklahoma on June 8 and performed for a Western Spirit event in Checotah, OK and a Songwriting Workshop & Concert with Kerry Grombacher in Muskogee, OK. A Little Farther West will appear July 22 for a "National Day of the Cowboy" show at the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum. Museum Director Leslei Fisher has announced the annual "Gene Autry Birthday Party" event to take place Saturday, September 23, featuring an Ice Cream Freeze-Off and a Battle of the Bands (bands may register at 1-580-768-5559). Our chapter has hit 20 Oklahoma-based members and continues to grow.



Oklahoma chapter secretary Robert Maxwell Case welcomes new member Roy Madden. Photo courtesy Susie Case.

### Texas Chapter

**President: Johnnie Terry**

**Wildwesttoys1@aol.com**

About thirty-five folks met at the Russell Farm Art Center on March 19 in Burseson to form the Texas Chapter of the Western Music Association. The meeting was

conducted by National WMA Executive Director, Marsha Short. Officers were elected. The newly elected officers are (L-R) Karol Johnson – Treasurer



New Officers (L-R) Karol Johnson – Treas., Johnnie Terry – Pres., Greg Bade – VP, Kathy Sawyer, Sec.

(McKinney), Johnnie Terry – President (Azle), Greg Bade – Vice President (Poolville), Kathy Sawyer – Secretary (Weatherford). The first chapter event was a three-day affair that began on June 22 with a music camp at the Doss Heritage Center in Weatherford for members of the Cowtown Opry Buckaroos, members of the WMA Youth Chapter, and any young person between the ages of ten and eighteen. Sponsors of the event were the WMA and the Cowtown Opry. Special guest artist was Jeanne Cahill and the event organizers were Judy James and Pam Tarpley. On June 23 the activities moved to the historic Ft. Worth Stock Yards and was hosted by Judy James and WMA Texas Chapter president, Johnnie Terry. The fun began with lunch in the back room of Risky's BBQ, followed by a tour of the Stock Yards and the cattle drive and concluded later that evening in Azle with a jam session. On June 24 the venue moved to Red's Floating Restaurant on Eagle Mountain Lake. WMA members were the featured entertainment in this family friendly eatery. More information about the chapter can be found on its Facebook Page at Western Music Association Texas Chapter.

### Western Wordsmiths Chapter

**President: Geoff "Poppa Mac" Mackay**  
**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." Summer has crept up on us once again, and the Cowboy gathering season is in full swing. It was great to see many our members out performing and promoting cowboy poetry during

this year's Cowboy Poetry week. A reminder that the application form for the poetry contest came out end of March with the performer package. If you did not receive this information contact Marsha to ensure your contact information is correct. If you are looking to compete, get your application in fast as we filled up last year. It is once again taking place Saturday morning on the main stage. A reminder that Chapter elections will take place at the convention in November. 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 running for office please contact one of the Executive Committee so we can include your name on ballot. I encourage all Members to get involved in the National Day of the Cowboy. This is an important event for our unique way of life. *Reminder:* If Western Wordsmiths Chapter members want to perform at the Convention in November, please get your applications filled out and returned ASAP.

### Youth Chapter

**Coordinator: Jane Leche**

**President: Mikah Johnson**

**wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com**

The Youth Chapter is entering a new phase by getting members more involved in the planning of activities and doing Chapter business. Meet our new chapter President: *My name is Mikah Johnson and I am the Youth Chapter President for this season. I live in the McKinney, Texas area and started in western music when I was a little girl. This music was very popular within my family and with that it sprouted a two-man band which included my older sister and me. I play the keyboard, swing guitar, sing and yodel. The Western world is very close to my heart and as the YC President I hope to bring the youth together to form closer friendships and plant a passion for western music. Thanks, Mikah Johnson •Proverbs 1:7* For more information on the WMA Youth Chapter go to the Website: [www.westernmusic.org/youth-chapter](http://www.westernmusic.org/youth-chapter) or contact Youth Chapter Coordinator, Jane Leche at [wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com)





# Reed's Reading

## Recommendations & Book Reviews



Ollie Reed, Jr.

I'm new to this column, but right out of the chute I'm writing about books that were published in the past but have been recently released in new editions. If you missed them the first time around, I think you'll be glad for the chance to get into them now. And remember, if you've got books, fiction or nonfiction, you want me to take a run at, just send them my way.

But first, a little about Ollie...

Ollie Reed Jr., a native of Natchez, Miss., moved to New Mexico in 1976 and has worked in that state as a newspaperman and freelance writer for more than 40 years. He was a reporter, editor and columnist with The Albuquerque Tribune from October 1976 until that paper's demise in February 2008 and is now a staff writer for the Albuquerque Journal. Reed has written extensively about western history and popular culture -- especially the history and cowboy culture of New Mexico -- for the Tribune, the Journal and True West magazine. In 2016, he received The Rounders Award, presented by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to people who "live, promote and articulate the western way of life." Reed is a member of the New Mexico Chapter of the Western Music Association and also a member of the Western Writers of America. He writes the Western Music column for Roundup, the WWA magazine, and he won WWA's 2014 Stirrup Award for an article about the making of the Longmire TV series in New Mexico.

### JACK SCHAEFER

*"First Blood and Other Stories"*

*"The Big Range" "The Pioneers"*

Most people who love the West and the literature, music and movies that it has inspired know Schaefer because of his novels "Shane" and "Monte Walsh," or through the movies made out of them -- the former, starring Alan Ladd, in 1953, and the latter, with

Lee Marvin, in 1970. Tom Selleck played the title role in a 2003 TV movie version of "Monte Walsh."

But Schaefer's body of work includes a lot more than those two novels and many of his titles have been difficult to find lately.

The University of New Mexico Press is remedying that situation by republishing a dozen of Schaefer's books, including "Shane" and "Monte Walsh" but also lesser known books such as "Company of Cowards," "Mavericks," "Old Ramon" and "Stubby Pringle's Christmas."

Perhaps the best news is that the books being republished include four collections of short stories -- "First Blood and Other Stories," "The Big Range," "The Pioneers" and "The Kean Land and Other Stories."

At this writing, only the first three collections had been released by UNM Press, but by the time you read this "The Kean Land ..." may also be in book stores.

At least one award-winning Western writer I know believes Schaefer's short stories are his best work, and I have to concede my author friend has good reason for that opinion. Schaefer does not require a lot of room to write poignant stories that get to the heart of the Old West and the people who lived there. The stories don't require much time to read but they stick with you a long spell.

Take, for example, the story "Jacob" in "First Blood and Other Stories." Set in a Montana railroad town in the late 1870s, it's about a kid who dreams about growing up to be a Indian fighter. But that's before a train carrying

captive Indian warriors and their families stops in his town and he encounters the chief who the white men call Jacob. Shooting stick guns at imaginary Indians is one thing, but looking into the sad eyes of a brave but defeated man is a different deal.

And then there is the story "Sergeant Houck" in "The Big Range." The life of a hardened, Army veteran is changed when he is assigned to take a white woman, who had been captured by Indians, and her half-Indian son back to her white husband.

"Hugo Kertchak, Builder," one of the stories in "The Pioneers," is a powerful reminder that the western frontier was populated by more than cowboys, Indians, buffalo hunters and cavalry troops. It's also a reminder that courage and toughness take many forms.

If you don't know Schaefer, you should. And if you haven't read his short stories, you're missing out.

**("First Blood and Other Stories," ISBN 978-0-8263-5843-1; "The Big Range," ISBN 978-0-8263-5845-5; "The Pioneers," ISBN 978-0-8263-5847-9: Trade paperbacks, each \$19.95, available in bookstores or through University of New Mexico Press, [unmpress.com](http://unmpress.com))**

### GLENN OHRLIN

*"The Hell-Bound Train: A Cowboy Songbook"*

First published in 1973 as part of the University of Illinois Music in America series, this book is

*Continued on page 44*

## Performer's Perspective

# A Grumpy Old CD Player!

*Contributed from CD Players Everywhere*

You went to that western festival last week and bought five CD's to stick in me. A couple of them were very good. The other three...well...let me put it this way: you wasted \$15 each on them. What I don't understand is why you tortured me with the three bad ones. What did I ever do to you? I'm always here at your disposal, ready to listen to the music you insert into me. I rarely break down. So why would you subject me to off-pitch singing, out-of-tune guitars and fiddles, and poorly mixed music?

What?! The artists told you they didn't want to over-produce because they want to sound just like what they sound like on stage? Pardon my directness here, but if that's what they sound like on stage, they shouldn't BE on stage! And I'll bet they sound better on stage. Because on stage, their out-of-tune notes pass by so quickly, they're not as noticeable. But when you play them repeatedly in me, I wince every time I hear them. Haven't they ever heard of pitch correction? They didn't want to use it, huh? Overproduction, they say? Well, obviously they don't plan on listening to their album over and over. And you know what? I DON'T EITHER! Who wants to listen to off-pitch singing all day?

And why did the two CD's that were very good cost the same amount of money as the other three? I hate to tell you this, but you just got ripped off times three. Come on – even YOU know that you're not going to listen to those CD's ever again. You'll

get them to a Thrift Store bin faster than you can say "Goodwill." Then some poor fool can purchase them for \$1. At least, that person will feel like he got what he paid for.

When you buy a CD to insert into my play slot, I expect it to be a good listening experience. When you spend \$15 dollars a CD, you should expect that, too. Let's see...\$15 times five...well, I'm not that good at math (I play music), but you get what I'm saying. Maybe before buying another CD, you should ask someone if they've heard it, and if it sounds professional. Heck, ask the performer. On second thought, if he'd

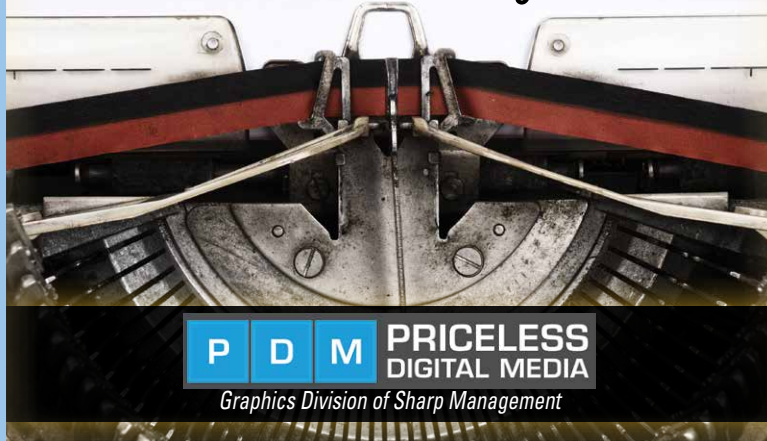
rip you off for \$15, he probably wouldn't be honest about the quality of the album either (sigh).

You say, "To be fair, maybe those performers didn't have enough money to record a quality album"? THEN THEY SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL THEY DID! I know they want something to sell to help them with their on-the-road expenses. I understand that. But at the expense of ripping YOU off? I'm sorry – I don't mean to get so upset. After all, it's not my money; it's yours. But I like you. And I love it when you put really nice music into me. And I'll play it over and over until you eject the CD. But if you're going to keep feeding me those cheap, homemade CD's, I'm going to ask for an eject button that I can work from the inside!

Just sayin'!

*Hi! I'm your  
CD player.  
And I have a  
bone to pick  
with you.*

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# NO SECRET

*By Elliot Johnson*

Stuart Hamblen called himself “the original juvenile delinquent.” From 1931 to 1951, he was the #1 radio personality on the west coast. But he was also known for his barroom fights, gambling, and hard drinking. One of radio’s first singing cowboys, Hamblen was often jailed for public brawling. He appeared in films with Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and John Wayne. One of his songs said, “I won’t go huntin’ with you, Jake, but I’ll go chasin’ women.” The song was a big hit for country music star Jimmy Dean.

Stuart’s wife Susie attended a Henrietta Mears’ Bible study and then convinced Stuart to attend. At the study, he met Billy Graham who was just beginning a series of meetings in Los Angeles. The two men “hit it off” immediately. Billy appeared on Hamblen’s radio show, and the evangelist invited Stuart to his meetings. As grandson Bill Lindsay recalls, Hamblen attended but became increasingly “fidgety.” After the October 17, 1949, meeting, he went to a bar. He later described the evening as “his worst night ever, with bad drinks and bad

music.” Hamblen went home in a disgusted state of mind.

Stuart Hamblen called Billy Graham at 3:45 a.m. and said, “I want to accept the Lord.” Graham said, “No, I need to see you in person.” Hamblen and his wife went to Graham’s hotel room in the middle of the night. They discussed receiving Christ as Savior. Billy said Stuart must give up his sins when he accepted Christ, but Hamblen kept hanging on to certain ones! Finally, he said, “I give up. I’ll give them all up.”

Hamblen’s became the first publicized conversion of the crusade, which was expanded to eight weeks. With the help of William Hearst’s newspapers, people came by the thousands to hear what was happening!

Six months later, Hamblen attended a party at the home of his friend John Wayne, who had just finished filming “The Sands of Iwo Jima.” Clark Gable, Roy Rogers, and Gene Autry were present. Someone asked Stuart how he could refrain from alcohol. “It is no secret what God can do,” he replied. As “The Duke” walked Stuart

to the door, he remarked how the line sounded like a song and suggested he write one. When Hamblen walked into his own front door, the clock struck twelve midnight. He took pencil and paper and wrote the song, “It is No Secret” in seventeen minutes! The song became #1 in the gospel, country, and pop categories. The original manuscript is buried in the cornerstone of a Library of Congress’ copyright building.

While hunting with a friend, Stuart came upon an abandoned shack. Inside they found the dead body of an elderly man. Hamblen wrote the lyrics of “This Ole House” on the spot on the backside of his lunch bag. He composed the melody within one week and it became “Song of the Year” in 1955! He also wrote numerous other Christian songs.

Stuart Hamblen’s life was changed. He was fired from his radio job for refusing to advertise alcohol. For many years, Stuart broadcast “The Cowboy Church of the Air.” His family often rode their Peruvian Paso horses in the Rose Parade.

Hamblen died of brain cancer in 1989 in Santa Monica, California. 🐾

Dr. Elliot Johnson coached for 40 years and is a member of three Halls of Fame, including the American Baseball Coaches’ Association Hall of Fame. His college baseball teams won over 900 games and twelve conference, district, or national championships. Coach Johnson was named “Coach of the Year” eight times and has written over 30 athletic-related devotional books. Since retiring from coaching, he has published Trail Ride, a devotional Bible study directed to those who love the old west and the cowboy lifestyle. He also teaches horsemanship and firearm safety. Coach speaks around the country, using stories of the old west to communicate truth. Currently, seven publications of Trail Ride are available. Five are recorded as books on tape (CDs). For booking, call 405-323-7893. More information is available at the Winning Run Foundation Website ([winrun.org](http://winrun.org))

# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. This is the Last Cowboy Song – Rex Allen, Jr.
2. Somewhere There's Music – The Swing Sisters
3. The Cowboy Way – The Cowboy Way
4. Cohorts and Collaborators – Various Artists
5. A Family Affair – Various Artists
6. Across the Brazos – Paula Erlene
7. Living the Western Dream – Joyce Woodson
8. Montana Moon – Dan McCorison
9. One More Ride – Sons of the San Joaquin
10. Western Stories – Dave Stamey
11. Welcome Home – Barry Ward
12. How You Heal – Brenn Hill
13. Home on the Range – Various Artists
14. Ride a Wide Circle – Mary Kaye
15. The Gift – Barbara Nelson
16. Live – Leah Sawyer
17. City of Dreams – Devon Dawson
18. Western and Country – Dennis Jay
19. Linger Awhile – Liz Masterson
20. A Cowboy Like Me – Doug Figgs
21. Cows, Horses, and Cowgirls – Panhandle Cowboy Band
22. Wanted – Del Shields
23. Cowgirl Swing – Mikki Daniel
24. Second Chances – Broken Chair
25. Keeping the West Alive – Ed Wahl
26. Too Hot to Handle – Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
27. Down the Trail – Kristyn Harris
28. This Cowboy – R.W. Hampton
29. Cowboy to the Bone – R.J. Vandygriff
30. Key of Joy – Cowboy Celtic

## 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. Wild Blue Yonder - The Western Flyers
6. Green Mountain Standard Time - Rick & the All-Star Ramblers
7. Now Playing - Western Swing Authority
8. Kid Sister - The Time Jumpers
9. Dime Stories, Vol. 2 - Carolyn Sills Combo
10. Dancing on Daddy's Boots - Kim Blakey

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Call of the Canyon - Rex Allen, Jr.
2. Cowboy - Almeda Bradshaw
3. Western Skies - Leah Sawyer
4. Larry Dever Did - Almeda Bradshaw
5. Grit, Grace, and Balin' Twine - Mary Kaye
6. Colorado Horses - Dan McCorison
7. Across the Brazos - Paula Erlene
8. Cowboy Swing - Leah Sawyer
9. Arizona Cowboy - Rex Allen, Jr.
10. The Gift - Barbara Nelson

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Masters - Larry McWhorter, Sunny Hancock, Ray Owens, & J.B. Allen
  2. Cowboy Recitations - Andy Hedges
  3. Fillin' Tanks - Susie Knight
  4. The Calf Book - Teresa Burleson
  5. Cowboy Poet: the Poetry of Larry McWhorter - Various Artists
  6. Short Grass Country - Floyd Beard
  7. Rhyme 'em, Cowboy - Tom Swearingen
  8. Rhyming the Range - Yvonne Hollenbeck
  9. Passin' it On - Mag MaWhinney
  10. Sweat Equity - Waddie Mitchell
- Cowboy Poetry Classics - Various Artists

\*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 Flagg & Doug Lawson  
"Cowboy Tracks"  
KDRT 95.7 FM live radio  
and internet streaming (www.kdrt.org)  
1623 Fifth Street  
Davis, CA 95616  
Email: CowboyTracks2@gmail.com

KWC Ameriana Radio Station  
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez  
avenidagaltzaraborda nº47 2ºA  
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.)

Steve Harrington  
PO Box 803  
Show Low, Az 85902  
(928) 242-3367  
steve47@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  
Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org  
The Dalles, OR, Y102  
KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY  
www.ButchMartinMusic.com  
www.romancingthewest.org  
(541) 218-2477

Marvin O'Dell  
"Around the Campfire"  
www.defendersoffreedomradio.com  
KKRN (Redding, CA)  
www.earsradio.com

*Continued on page 44*

meoteo@aol.com  
10430 W. Loma Blanca Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
805-551-4649  
www.musikode.com

Bob O'Donnell  
355 N. 7th St.  
Apt. 526, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
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  
bfbboston@fone.net  
www.cowtrails.com

Del Shields  
DelShieldsWesternWorld.com  
On Betterhorsesnetwork.com  
2475 90th Rd.  
Humboldt, KS 66748  
620-433-1819  
Singingpoet\_1@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

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



*Reading, Continued from page 39*

Ohrlin's collection of 100 of his favorite songs. Ohrlin, 1926-2015, worked as a cowboy, put in some time on and off rodeo rough stock and was a regular and popular performer at cowboy poetry gatherings and Western music festivals. Songs here range from "A Tale of the Trail" to "Zebra Dun" and include personal favorites of mine such as "Strawberry Roan," "Windy Billy" and "The SierryPetes." Ohrlin found some of them at cow camps and behind rodeo chutes and heard others on old-time Western music radio shows, such as the one George B. German broadcast out of Yankton, S.D., starting in 1928.

The book gets its title from a song that tells of a Texas cowboy lying on a barroom floor and dreaming about just where his life might be headed. Ohrlin noted that the song was good at quieting down rip-roaring parties -- if only for a few minutes.

This new edition, published last year by Texas Tech University Press, is a real treat for Western music fans who missed the book when it first came out. Like the original, it contains lyrics for the songs and a sample of the sheet music.

What I like best are Ohrlin's stories accompanying most of the songs. Sometimes they trace the origins of the songs, often they explain the lyrics (What is a zebra dun, or a Sam Stack tree?), but best of all they introduce the reader to the colorful cast of characters and wild times Ohrlin encountered in his travels throughout the West.

I love looking back into that dusty past through passages such as, "At a Yankton, South Dakota, rodeo in '49 or '50, where I was entered in the bareback and saddle bronc riding, I heard the old champion steer roper Ike Rude recite 'Windy Bill' for a bunch of the boys."

Or how about this. "One night at the Post (a Burbank, Calif., cowboy bar), I'd finished a song, and four strangers walked over to me and said they'd kill me if my singing didn't improve. Fortunately, some friends of mine threw them out."

This book is great fun -- for the songs and for the journey back into a fascinating time that was the not-so-Old West.

**(ISBN 978-0-89672-962-9: Trade paperback, \$24.95, at bookstores or through Texas Tech University Press, ttup@ttu.edu or www.ttup.ttu.edu) 🐾**

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musikode@aol.com



# 2017 WMA Awards of Excellence Nominations

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MUSIC AWARDS:

- CDs can be self-nominated. IF YOU ARE SELF-NOMINATING, please provide the following: A copy of the nominated CD must accompany the Western Album or Cowboy/Western Swing of the Year nomination, a copy of the CD containing a nominated song, or a CD containing only the nominated song must accompany the Song of the Year nomination. Song nomination CDs must be accompanied by either CD artwork, or a photo copy of the artwork, showing the release date.
- In the case of Western Album of the Year and Cowboy/Western Swing Album of the Year, majority of the music on the CD must be of Western content, lyrically or musically. Country Music content does not count as Western Music.
- CDs must have a copyright date and bar code.
- CDs and individual songs, if the nominated songs are not released on an eligible album, must be registered on the WMA CD Registry before the Nominations Committee can consider them (forms can be downloaded at [www.westernmusic.org/cd-registry](http://www.westernmusic.org/cd-registry))
- Non-WMA members may be nominated. If a CD released by a non-WMA member is eligible, or if a non-WMA member is nominated for a performance award, the nominee will be notified of the nomination and given the opportunity to join WMA. They can decide to become a member of WMA or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POETRY AWARDS:

### COWBOY POETRY CD of THE YEAR

- 75% of the CD must be "poetry" with rhyme and meter, and must be original work written by the author of the CD. CDs must be produced by one author only.
- Background music is allowed, but points will not be added or subtracted unless the music distracts from (or overpowers) the spoken word.
- 25% of the CD can contain other material, including (a) music if written or co-written by the same author as named on the CD, (b) prose, (c) material written by someone other than the author as named on the CD, and (d) poetry spoken in the voice of someone other than the author of the CD, even if it is original work of the author of the CD.
- CDs must have a Bar Code and copyright date and must be registered with the WMA when released (online form on the WMA site)
- CD tracks must be listed on the jacket, along with length of each track.
- All CDs will have a "birth" date of January 1 of the copyright year. Eligibility is for that year, plus two subsequent years.
- Non-WMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member, or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.

### COWBOY POETRY BOOK of THE YEAR

*As the Western Wordsmiths are a subchapter of the Western Music Association, poetry is hereby defined as works containing rhyme and meter. Although the book's content may include short prose and free verse, the poetry alone will be judged in meeting criteria for eligibility. Anything that is not "poetry" as hereby described, including free verse, will be classified as "prose."*

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

Ballot may be mailed or emailed to:

**WMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppel, TX 75019** or [info@westernmusic.org](mailto:info@westernmusic.org)

**Ballots must be postmarked or emailed by September 10, 2017 to be counted.**

# NOMINATIONS BALLOT

**WESTERN ALBUM of THE YEAR** (Release date: March 1, 2016 through September 1, 2017) Nominate up to three (3) albums. Award for an outstanding recorded performance by an artist or artists released during the specified time period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and producer. It is a juried award.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**COWBOY SWING ALBUM of THE YEAR** (Release date: March 1, 2016 through September 1, 2017) Nominate up to three (3) albums. This award is for an outstanding cowboy swing recorded performance which was either commercially released or showed significant chart action during the eligibility period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and the producer. It is a juried award.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**SONG of THE YEAR** (Release date: March 1, 2016 through September 1, 2017) Nominate up to three (3) songs. Award for any song recorded within the last 18 months which was released or showed significant chart action within the eligibility period. Any song which has been nominated for this award in previous years or has been recorded in previous years is ineligible. **The award recognizes the songwriter.**

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**PURE COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR** (Release date: March 1, 2016 through September 1, 2017) Nominate up to three (3) songs. This award goes to a song recorded within the eligibility period that speaks expressly and clearly to real, authentic working cowboy life, historic or current. The award goes to the songwriter(s).

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by: \_\_\_\_\_ Performed by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_



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

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**SONGWRITER of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) songwriters. *Award for outstanding songs written in the past year by a songwriter(s). Commercial release and number of songs recorded during the year are to be considered. The award recognizes the songwriter(s) and is a juried award.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRESCENDO AWARD** Nominate up to three (3) individuals or groups. *This award is for a group or individual, new to the national or international Western scene, having made considerable advances artistically and/or commercially during the eligibility period. The band or individual should be performing under its/his/her name on a regular basis and not have more than two previous finalist nominations for this award. The award recognizes the group or individual artist.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**RADIO DJ/RADIO PROGRAM of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) radio DJs/radio programs. *This award recognizes outstanding service to western music in the field of broadcasting. The recipient will be judged for contributions to the field western music, professionalism, work and involvement in the western music community, and promotion and fostering of the western music image.*

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**COWBOY POETRY CD of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) CDs

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**COWBOY POETRY BOOK of THE YEAR** Nominate up to three (3) books.

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR E-MAILED BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 TO BE COUNTED**



EXCELLENCE ✖ CREATIVITY ✖ PROFESSIONALISM

## 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 _____           |                                     |   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**

Please charge my credit card:

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Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### 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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