

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the Western Music Association

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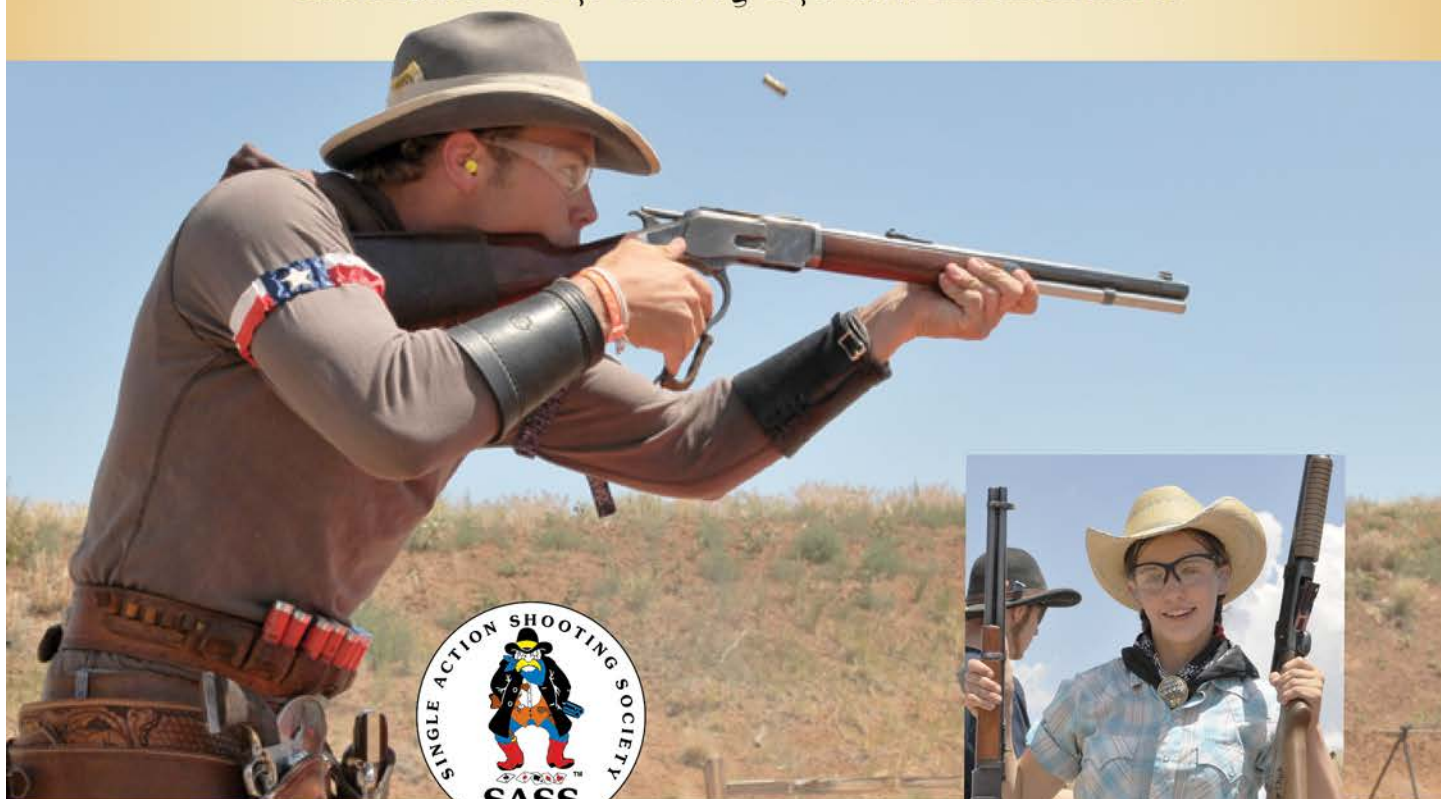
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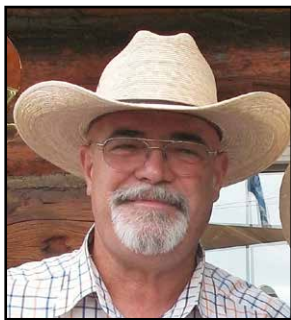
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# From The President...



**Steve Taylor**  
WMA President

Howdy All:

I have been wondering what to write about for you all in my President's letter to get some true meaning out of it. And, with a little help from my friends, I have decide to call it **AMBASSADORS**. The question that I have for you is this, "Are You an Ambassador for the WMA?" Maybe you would ask, "How can I do that, I don't perform?" Or maybe you may ask, "I perform, but how exactly can I do it?"

For the non-performers/fans of WMA:

- If you live in an area where there is a chapter, you can support your local chapter by attending chapter meetings.

- Attend venues that are in your area and support WMA performers.
- Have WMA brochures & applications with you at all times. Your voice concerning the WMA is the most powerful tool that there is.
- Request some complimentary copies of the *Western Way* magazine and put them in places that you frequent, like hair salons, doctors' offices etc...

For the those who are WMA performers:

- Do all of the above plus...
- Point out from the stage that you and whoever else may be there are proud performers/members of the WMA.
- Make sure that you know the Web site [www.westernmusic.org](http://www.westernmusic.org) and share the information.
- Support the other performers that may be at the same venue as you by listening to them. You may pick something up from them that you like or they may ask you for help in an area.
- On your CD/Book table or a central point, place WMA brochures and applications and extra copies of the *Western Way*.

If we all will do this, we can continue to help the WMA grow by leaps and bounds. One easy trick is this...if you are looking for a great Christmas or birthday present or gift for any special occasion, give the gift of a year's subscription to the *Western Way* magazine.

Thank you all for your continued support and remember to mark your calendar for 2015 WMA convention - November 11-15 in Albuquerque.

Hope to see you there.

Steve Taylor, President  
Western Music Association



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The international outreach of the WMA is well represented by Clint Bradley in the British Isles.

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.






Theresa O'Dell

History records a story of German and British soldiers from World War I on Christmas Eve about 1914, each huddling from the damp cold in their respective trenches on a battle field. As usual, as sunset drew near the machine gun fire slackened due to the lack of visible targets, and the war quieted. It was then the Brits heard an unusual sound. It was music! They strained their ears to hear unfamiliar words being sung to a familiar tune, O Tannenbaum. The German soldiers in their trenches only 40 yards away were caroling Christmas. Slowly, the Brits joined in with words they knew. The story relates how eventually, cautiously, the troops from both camps came out of their trenches, began to share small token gifts with each other and even joined in a game of football together. An unscheduled Christmas truce took place during the ravages of war because of a song.

I've read similar stories from other wars and conflicts, possibly less well documented. It's told of an incident

during the Civil War where a Union officer shot and mortally wounded a Confederate Captain. The Union officer stayed with the dying man, holding his head in his lap and singing hymns to him to ease his final moments. Before the Confederate officer died, he asked his slayer to please take his sword and meager personal belongings to his family. As the story goes, the Union officer did honor the man's request at the end of the war.

Why can these stories be told? Because of the music! I imagine many of our readers have stories to tell about how music has made the difference on occasions, though maybe not as dramatic as these. For me, to read these historical accounts has reinforced how far-reaching and powerful this business of "preserving western music" really is. I love that our music stretches from New York City to Seattle and then from above the Canadian border to the tip of Texas into Mexico. I love that we are international – the music we love goes beyond our boundaries and across oceans. I love that we have western musicians like Clint Bradley (*featured in "Crosshairs," this issue*) sharing the same songs in England that many of you sing in festivals and venues here.

Think about it. Where there's singing, there's room for little else, especially negativity. I just like to think that where music lives...there is also peace. Keep singing. Not only to preserve the heritage, but maybe for a far greater cause. The world needs your song! 

### Western Music Association

Founded in 1988 by western music performers and fans, the WMA supports and promotes the historic, traditional and contemporary music of the American West and the American Cowboy. A non-profit organization, the Western Music Association strives to bring ideals embodied in the "Code of the West" to everyone living in today's society. The American Cowboy represents honor, integrity, respect and a love for mankind and the world in which he lives and works.

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## From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short  
Executive Director

What is WMA doing for you? It's a tough question to answer without asking another question: What are you doing for WMA? Sometimes, when the going gets tough, it's time for the tough to get back to basics.... the fundamental reason for having a Western Music Association.

An association is meant to serve its members and to do as a whole what the members can't do individually. Whether it's looking for a permanent home, working to get a Grammy category or promoting Western Music and Poetry internationally, WMA is working behind the scenes to get it done. It takes a village to raise a child but it takes an entire association, working together, to raise a musical genre to new heights.

Fans and performers are invited every year to attend the WMA Annual Convention in Albuquerque. This is meant to be an opportunity for everyone to come together to get to know each other and have a good time. It's not a gath-

ering or a festival. We don't pay "big names" to come and entertain. It's a family reunion – a chance to be together to celebrate the music and poetry that bind us together. When one Convention ends, another one begins. Committees work tirelessly all year long to be sure that the workshops and performance stages are the best that WMA has to offer. Some committees work anonymously, putting in hours reviewing performer applications and CDs. Other committees are on the front line, organizing all the volunteers that are needed to keep the week running smoothly. This year's Convention is November 11-15 at the Marriott Albuquerque. We hope to see you there!



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# *Penned by Lantern Light*

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

---

## Let This Be My Heaven

By Dan Wilson  
24 December 2014

I've often heard the story told  
Of the pearly gates on high,  
Of golden streets and jasper walls  
In the sweet, sweet, bye and bye,

But where in Heaven can I find  
A lone dusty trail in spring  
Where poppies dot the desert hills  
'Neath an eagle on the wing?

And where's the mighty anthem now  
To the clean, crisp, mountain airs,  
Or songs to match the yodeling  
Of coyotes at their prayers?

They never speak of cottonwoods  
Or the mourning doves at night,  
So, I can't picture heaven's scene  
'Cuz the landscape's just not right.

I've roamed this western land for years  
And I never wanted much  
'Cept just a mount and trails to ride  
Lined with purple sage and such.

So let there be a sacred place  
Like this western land I love  
With canyons for cathedral walls,  
And a cloudless sky above.

Let desert trails and mountain streams  
Winding through the timberline  
Join with the sage and tumbleweeds  
To complete the grand design.

And when my time is runnin' low  
And the roll is called on high,  
Just tell St. Pete I've made my choice  
For the sweet, sweet, bye and bye.

Just leave my spirit here somewhere  
In a stand of pinyon pine,  
And let this be my Heaven, Lord,  
This rough western land of mine.



**Dan "Doc" Wilson** is a singer, songwriter, cowboy poet, performer, retired educator, and a long-time resident of Scottsdale, Arizona. He has sung and played in various groups since his high school years, including folk, jazz and western music. He is a long-time barbershop harmony enthusiast, and has written award winning songs and vocal arrangements for both competing quartets and choruses. He enjoys writing lyrics, cowboy poetry and western history. He is currently playing bass and singing with the Phoenix-based western music group, Cimarron.



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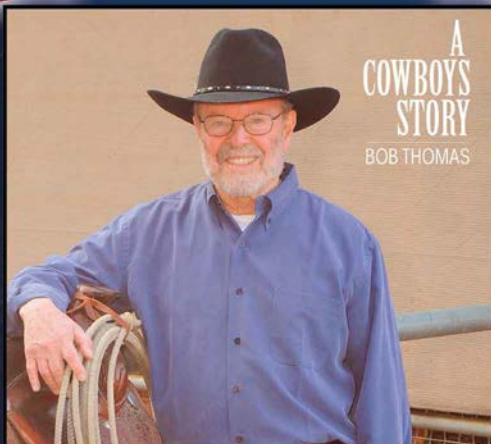
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# In the CROSSHAIRS

## Clint Bradley



***The Western Way: Mr. Clint Bradley – what fun it is to get to talk western music with a guy who is about as far from the American West as you can get. First of all, congratulations on the great success of your album “Riding After Midnight.”***

Clint Bradley: Thank you very much! I am over the moon with the way the album has been received. Yes, I suppose I am a bit far off the range down here in the Shire. A friend of mine in the States once said to me, “Fate dealt you a cruel card when the Stork got lost in the fog and dropped you off on that Island instead of out West.....”

***TWW: Were you interested in the American West as a child, or did that interest develop later in life?***

C.B.: It was there from the beginning, as far as my memory goes back, the American West has always been my passion. I’m the product of rainy Sunday afternoons watching endless old Westerns on the TV, and from there developing a love for the music, literature, the whole genre.

***TWW: And when did the cowboy music or western music strike you as something you would enjoy singing?***

C.B.: From the first chord I learnt on the old guitar my Dad brought home from work for me one day. I recorded my uncle’s copy of “Marty Robbins Gun Fighter Ballads” onto

an old cassette player and sat there for hours in my bedroom with a chord book on the bed and the cassette playing. Once I’d learnt how to play the songs I started to sing along. I also used to sit by the TV with my trusty old cassette player; whenever a western was on I’d record each piece of music. My first introduction to “The Sons of the Pioneers” was through the John Ford Westerns.

***TWW: Can you fill in our readers on the career of Clint Bradley? Because it’s not the only music you’ve sung. In fact, we think in England, you would be better known for singing another kind of music, are we right?***

C.B.: Well it’s very hard to condense this one down, but briefly. When I was around 15 – 16 I tried very hard to form a band playing pure Western music, but at that time it was like asking other kids to come on a trip to Mars. Soon after, I became a member of a Neo-Rockabilly band called “The Blue Cats.” Rather than play covers, I started to write my own songs that combined Rockabilly with other contemporary music that

was going on around us at the time, such as “New Wave.” The fusion that we created hit a nerve and the whole thing exploded. We took to the road and played across Europe, Scandinavia, Japan, everywhere; we built up a large following very quickly. We had a lot of media attention, radio, press and TV; our feet didn’t touch the ground for a few years, quite an adventure for a group of teenagers. The whole thing culminated in a major label deal with Sony, but then all the usual boundaries of being signed to a major label began to close in and the whole thing lost its magic.

We recently did a reunion tour and album that was a great success. Around 1995, after spending some time in the North West U.S., I returned to the UK with a collection of very western-orientated songs that I’d been writing on my travels. I recorded a demo, and through a chance encounter with an old contact from Sony, my demo





was passed to a new BMG affiliated label called M&G. The younger element at the label loved what I was doing and I got signed. It was around this time that “the Mavericks” were starting to have success in Europe so that probably helped my cause a bit. But no sooner had I signed on the dotted line, the directive came down from the top saying “This is not to be a cowboy album.” Needless to say I hit the roof! From there the writing was on the wall, the album got made, but with massive compromises. The label, however, ceased to exist not long after I completed the album, but not before a promo of one song “Guilty Heart” went out to radio. This song created a whole other audience for me, a much more easy listening kind of following. The initial pressing of the album sold out very quickly in Europe, before the label shut down. There’s a



substantial gap of time and events between then and now and finally making the record I always wanted to make (*Riding after Midnight*). But I’m afraid it would turn into a bit of a novel if I continued.

**TWW:** Obviously your song selection for “*Riding After Midnight*” was influenced by your attraction to the music of Marty Robbins. And you wrote several of the other tunes on your CD. We’re especially fond of “We Are Shane” because the film “Shane” with Alan Ladd was such a great picture. Are you right now full of ideas for future western songs that you might write?

C.B.: I’m so pleased to hear that you are enjoying “We Are Shane.” I am a self-confessed Western movie fanatic! Because I didn’t have the advantage of being born in America, the films and literature were all I had to go on in my early years, until I was able to see the real West firsthand with my own eyes. I’m fully aware that the old west portrayed in the classic films is a far cry from how it really was, but I think we need to look at the films as an art form in themselves and appreciate the genre they created. The landscape of the west itself has been another major influence on me; you have to understand the impact it made when I saw it for the first time, the space, the grandeur, and, yes, the pure freedom. From a romantic point of view, a bit like the impact it must have had on the first im-

migrants. In answer to your question, I am brimming with ideas for new songs, with many already written.

**TWW:** Any plans for recording another cowboy music album in the near future?

C.B.: Yes, there’s no doubt of that. It’s taken me a while to get started down the right trail, but now I’m on it. I intend to concentrate all my efforts into writing, recording and performing the music I’m passionate about.

**TWW:** How have the hardcore Clint Bradley fans responded to your venture into western music?

C.B.: Very well. Many have emailed me and told me so. In fact, some have said it has stirred their interest to look further into western music. Now they realize how different it is from the modern Nashville pop country that gets most of the mainstream media attention.

**TWW:** What other primarily western artists besides Marty have you been attracted to over the years?

C.B.: ‘The Sons of the Pioneers’ and the genius of Bob Nolan’s writing and I also love the period that Ken Curtis sang with them. His voice is just pure magic. Gene Autry, Andy Parker & the Plainsmen, Johnny Western, Eddie Dean, Tompall & The Glaser Brothers, Frankie Laine and Dean Martin’s forays into the western genre. I’m a great collector of western movie soundtracks. In recent years I’ve, of course, discovered the superb work of the likes of Dave Stamey, Don Edwards, and Gary McMahan, and I’m a huge fan of Waddie Mitchell’s poetry. I could listen to him all night long. Since becoming a member of the WMA, I’ve begun to discover the amazing movement of new Western artists such as the excellent Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers, Juni Fisher, and Belinda Gail and so on. My record collection has increased tenfold in recent years. The network of excellent Western Music radio stations that is available on the Internet is so important for western music fans outside the U.S. to discover and follow new talent.



*Continued on page 14*



*Editor's Note: Dave Bourne was very important in the early days of the Western Music Association and founded "The WMA Newsletter." He then edited and contributed to it in its first two years. The Newsletter is, of course, what became "The Roundup," "The Advocate" and finally "The Western Way Magazine" that you hold in your hand today. The Western Music Association and the western music genre will miss the pen, the playing and the influence of this iconic man.*



*In Memoriam . . . A Tribute*

# DAVID E. BOURNE

*Written by Gary E. Brown Memory of a Gifted Man and a Dear Friend*



## The Piano at Reds

*Charles "Badger" Clark*

*'Twas a hole called Red's Saloon  
in La Vaca Town;*

*'Twas an old piano there,  
Blistered, marred and brown.  
And a man more battered still,  
Takin drinks for fees,  
Played all night from memory  
On the yellow keys.  
(Opening stanza)*

Those attending the 2015 Elko Poetry Cowboy Gathering were looking forward to listening once again to Professor Dave Bourne play the upright piano at the Pioneer Saloon. A great place to greet old friends, have a toddy or two and listen to the maestro perform a song from the 19th century, such as Stephen Foster's Beautiful Dreamer or La Golondrina, which was featured in the western film version of a Greek Tragedy - The Wild Bunch. The piano is still there, however the one who brought it to life every January, crossed over the Jordan that same week - Friday, January 30.

David E. Bourne was born in Santa Maria, CA on September 20, 1939 to Ted and Jean Bourne. The family resided in unincorporated Orcutt, South of Santa Maria. Ted Bourne relocated the family to Anaheim in 1942, as he had found employment as a music instructor with the Anaheim School District. David began piano lessons at age 6. Eventually he would go on to play the cornet, alto horn, tenor horn, sousaphone, guitar, bass guitar and banjo. Dave's high school years in Anaheim were filled with music. He graduated in the class of '57, immortalized in song by the Statler Brothers.

*And the class of '57 had its dreams  
But living life day to day is never  
like it seems  
Things get complicated when you  
get past eighteen  
But the class of '57 had its dreams...  
(repeat verse)*

Dave went to USC on a scholarship where he obtained a degree in Music Education. He was also a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity. Beginning in 1958, while going to USC, Dave worked at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park. He began as a bus boy and soon became a host in Mrs. Knott's famous fried chicken restaurant. With concern about his musical background, he was told not to go to the Wagon Camp, where they featured western music. They evidently didn't want him hanging around the musicians. . . . were they nefarious characters like Gypsies? However, he wasn't told he couldn't go to the Calico Saloon. There, Dave began playing the piano two hours a day prior to working a shift in one of Knott's two popular restaurants. The first piano player at Knott's was Les Jones. Dave said he learned a lot about playing saloon piano from observing Les.



*"It's a wonderful life to get paid for what you enjoy doing. It's been a great run."*

DAVE BOURNE

It didn't take long until Dave left the dining room and began playing with The Wagonmasters in the outdoor Wagon Camp, which seated approximately 800. Dave said there was a full house almost every evening. He played bass and some guitar as well as provided vocal background. The Wagonmasters played at Knott's from 1955 to 1968. In 2011, The Wagonmasters were honored with the presentation of the "Pioneer Trail" award by the Western Music Association (WMA) for the contribution they had made in paving the way for other Western musical entertainers. Dave, along with three other members of The Wagonmasters, was there to receive the award. Dave's appreciation for his valued experience at Knott's led him to publish a book - Knott's Berry Farm's Ghost Town, a true labor of love. Dave talks about his experience at Knott's Berry Farm on YouTube, entitled - Knott's Berry Farm: The Good Old Days, in 3 parts. Dave later remarked: "I have often said that Knott's was the best job I ever had. That still rings true with me even today."

Dave joined the US Marines shortly after graduating from college. The fighting leatherneck was such a squared away Devil Dog, that he was selected as the Honor Guard for his platoon. Stationed at Los Alamitos, his duty was Recruitment, which only the sharp-

time later, Dave formed The Californians, during the "folk scare" era of the 60s. The group included the lovely singer "Patty" who Dave became smitten with in short order. The Californians toured the Southwest as part of the "Hootenanny" folk music scene. Dave and Patty were married on June 20, 1964. They were blessed by the union with two wonderful children - Rachel and Jason. They are both accomplished musicians like their parents and as such are carrying on The Bourne Legacy....purely coincidental as to the character CIA operative Jason Bourne, created by author Robert Ludlum. The life-



long devoted couple celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2014.

Dave began playing piano at the Hock Shop Bar on Sunset Boulevard in 1967. The owner Spencer Quinn, a master banjo player, served as a musical mentor to Dave. During this same time period, he formed the Maple Leaf Club, which was dedicated to preserving classic ragtime piano. At about that time, he began a 48 year relationship as a featured pianist with the popular Magic Castle, Academy of Magical Arts in Hollywood, which showcased the skills of talented magicians. Dave remained with the Magic Castle until recently, when his declining health forced him to graciously step aside and exit stage left.

Dave or "Fess" for Professor, which he was called by his many friends due to his

vast musical knowledge, led the Resurrection Brass Band, a 20 piece marching band ala New Orleans dirge playing musicians. When the band halted, Dave formed the Dawn of the Century Ragtime Orchestra. In the late 60s and 70s, Fess was entertaining folks at Casey's Bar in downtown L.A. That engagement lasted 17 years, even though the Magic Castle was his primary gig. The Casey's Bar experience led to the creation of the 6th and Grand Band. Dave and other members of the band remained lifelong friends and jam session participants. In 1989, Fess formed his own western music group, The Lobos Rangers, which performed until 2005. The group consisted of four of The Wagonmasters - Dave, Don Richardson, Billy and Bobby Beeman plus Mike Fleming.

Fess would play music on the historic Rancho Vistadores horseback ride in Santa Barbara County for many years. It's an annual get together for grown men, many of them professionals, celebrities or politicians, to become boys once again for the week, without their wives being present, and play being "cowboys". Fess also was featured at many cowboy festivals from Santa Clarita and Elko to Bangor, Maine and Almeria, Spain. He also performed his own show "Saloon Piano of the 19th

*"The piano keys are silent now, but the music will never leave me."*

PATTY BOURNE



est Marines were assigned. As such, Dave was able to remain in Southern California and play music with his friends. A short

Century" throughout the West. Fess was cast as the Saloon Player in the Gem Saloon in HBO's, provocative series Deadwood. He also played background music and had a few acting parts. Fess, being the Professor, was not afraid to challenge the Producer when he wanted to use a particular song that was not composed until many years after the period of time they were supposed to be portraying in a particular episode. He also

*Continued on page 26*





# FROM the TRAIL

"I wanted to let you know that I'm loving the Western Way more and more. As I told you in Albuquerque -- I am soooooo glad you are on the job."

*Voleta H., CA*

"I just received my Western Way magazine yesterday...up until then, I wasn't sure if this might be some cruel Facebook hoax! I appreciate having the honor of being on the cover although I must say, Kristyn is the one who really dresses it up (stating the obvious!). Is it possible to get some extra copies? I know my mother and my kids want one and a couple of other non-WMA friends have asked about it."

*Jim J., NM*

"To the Editor:

I am not a performer but I am a member of the WMA and I wanted to take a few moments to share my thoughts about The Western Way magazine. Over the past year there have been noticeable changes to the magazine, all being for the positive. The advertising layouts appear to be of better quality both in content and placement on the pages. The articles are more interesting and I enjoyed the Golden Nuggets written by Buck Helton in the winter edition about Billy the Kid. The Performers Perspective gives an interesting twist to articles normally written by seasoned writers. To sum it up, the magazine has a nice new look and the Editor's Insight always give us 'food for thought'. Thank you for the changes and keep up the good work."

*Sarah D., AZ*

## In the Crosshairs

*Continued from page 11*

**TWW: Is there any chance you'll bring your music stateside any time in the near future? We'd love to see you in concert.**

C.B.: I certainly hope it won't be too long before that becomes a reality. I've been talking to Bobbie Jean & Jim Bell at "Outwest" for a while now about ways to make that happen. They have been an invaluable help in introducing me to the many aspects of the western music scene in the U.S. For me to perform the music that has inspired me since childhood, to an audience who enjoys and appreciates it as much as I do, in the country that inspired and created everything I am passionate about, well, that would simply be a dream come true!



**TWW: How did you hear about the Western Music Association?**

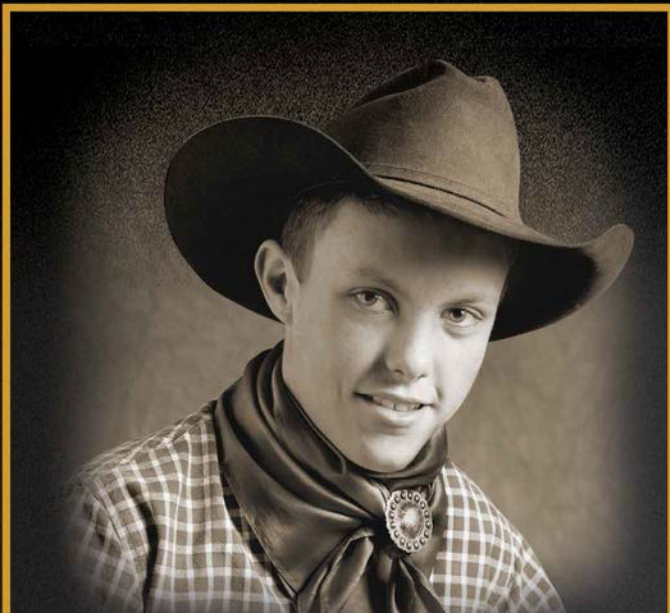
C.B.: I think it must be about four years ago no., I simply came across the Web site. As you can imagine, I must have typed Western music this, or Western music that, into the Google search box on umpteenth occasions. Then all of a sudden there it was! The WMA! Needless to say, I sent an email there and then and became a member immediately. I've said this before, but it really and truly was like a huge doorway opening for me. All of a sudden I became aware that there was a thriving, living and breathing scene out there. My first copy of "The Western Way" was a revelation! I read it front to back, back to front. I can't stress enough the importance of the WMA for Western music fans outside the States; it's a lifeline!

**TWW: Well, we hope it won't be long until we'll see you at the Western Music Association Convention. We're sure our members would all like to meet you. Thank you so much for taking the time to visit with us today.**

C.B.: Thank you! It's been an absolute pleasure for me to do this! There's nothing I would like better than to make it to the Convention and meet other members of the Western music family firsthand. I have November and Albuquerque in my sights!







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

Pictured: Rusty McCall, 1986-2013, poet, reciter, and sixth-generation cowboy, son of Dave and Deanna McCall. This image is selected as the 2014 cover art for The BAR-D Roundup: Volume 9 cowboy poetry compilation CD (Fall, 2014). Photo by Kevin Martini-Fuller, kevinmartinfuller.com.

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*Did you know that cowboy singing star Tex Ritter, 12 days after the deaths of Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, and Hawkshaw Hawkins, led a tribute to the three country music stars in Kansas City, MO, and sang a revised version of his hit song "Hillbilly Heaven," inserting their names?*

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# Cowboy Thatch – The Bear River Buckaroo

*Written by June Johnston, Freelance Writer.*

*Reprinted from The Wyoming Lifestyle Magazine. Used by Permission.*

*Photos courtesy Thatch Elmer.*

“Courage is being scared to death – and saddling up anyway.” That is Thatch Elmer’s favorite saying by John Wayne. He says it’s what he lives his life by.

I had the distinct honor of interviewing this eleven-year-old cowboy poet recently. He was polite, courteous, respectful, and appreciative. I knew he would be because “it’s the cowboy way” and, after all, he is Cowboy Thatch – The Bear River Buckaroo!

This young man started reciting cowboy poetry around the age of five and life hasn’t been the same for any of his family since! Thatch tells me his dad, Brad Elmer, used to write cowboy poetry when he was younger. Thatch loved it so he took it and went with it. He now writes much of his own poetry but loves to recite the classics such as Bruce Kiskaddon, S. Omar Barker, and Larry McWhorter.

In the past six years he has performed in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Arizona. He now has so many bookings that it interferes with regular school, so he will be doing homeschooling this year as he enters the fifth grade.

Inquiring about his rodeo connection, I learned that he rides miniature bulls and does break-a-way and team roping, but the participation has become less since his cowboy poetry has increased so much. He told me about a time he was to ride a miniature bull. He did not like the bull. Stretching both arms out full length he stated the bull had horns about that wide! He looked the bull in the eye, knew he was mean, and didn’t want to ride him. He was going to back out but his parents encouraged him not to do that. It was one of those times he had to live by his motto and “saddled up anyway.”

In 2013 Thatch qualified for the National Miniature Bull Riding finals in Helena, Montana – quite an achievement in itself. Then he was asked to perform at the Heber Cowboy Poetry Gathering which he was quite excited about, but to his dismay, it was scheduled on the same weekend in November, 2013 as

the Montana event. Kim Elmer, Thatch’s mother, said they like to let their children make their own decisions as much as possible so “We sat Thatch down and said this is the situation and you’re going to have to decide what you want to do. He said ‘There will always be another bull to ride so I think I’m going to do the poetry.’ And that’s how it started - his decision at that point in time. It just went crazy from there.”



She goes on to explain that while they were in Heber Andy Nelson of the Clear Out West (COW) broadcast from Pinedale, WY, introduced himself. Nelson was Cowboy Poet of the Year in 2013. Thatch recited a poem for him and Andy said he was going on stage in a couple of hours and invited Thatch to perform with him. Cowboy Thatch didn’t refuse!

On another morning in Heber they were waiting in the hall when Waddie Mitchell walked by. He exchanged the usual pleasantries and continued on, turned around, came back and asked, “Are you the one they call Thatch?” “Yes, Sir,” he replied, “I’m Cowboy Thatch – The Bear River Buckaroo and a Cowboy Poet” Waddie introduced himself, added that he was a cowboy poet as well and asked Thatch to recite a poem for him at that time.



Kim says her son is not the least bit shy when it comes to walking up to the celebrities, introducing himself, shaking hands, and inviting them to come and watch his performance, which they usually do. The Western poetry and music world completely embraces this young man and encourages him in his efforts. This affords him the opportunity to hang out with the big names and learn from listening to them. Sometimes they give him treasured advice. He can now count as his friends such personalities as Baxter Black, Waddie Mitchell, Andy Nelson, and he is particularly fond of award winning, Sam (Brenda) DeLeeuw, named Female Poet of the Year twice by the Utah chapter of the WMA. Kim states that the Western

*Continued on page 28*



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

## 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.

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# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

... Selected to be played concurrently with an Indian Rodeo Exhibit that opened in February at the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson is a song written by **Carol Markstrom** titled "Roger Dale." The song celebrates the life and accomplishments of Roger Dale, a San Carlos Apache well-known for his team roping. Carol also has an article appearing in the April issue of *True West* magazine titled "Geronimo's Arizona." Readers are taken on a tour of southeast Arizona following Geronimo's footsteps with highlights of significant events and places relative to the Apache Wars of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

... **Mike Gross**, who hosts the radio program "Swingin' West," posted his Top 10 "Swingin' West" songs of 2014 in late December. Western music made the list twice: **Jean Prescott** had the #4 song with her tune "Smack Dab," and the **Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers** held down the #5 spot with their song "Don Edwards for President."

... Kansas cowboy poet **Ron Wilson** of the WMA Kansas chapter presented an original cowboy poem as part of Gov. Sam Brownback's inauguration in January. The ceremony was held on the south steps of the State Capitol Building in Topeka. Wilson wrote the poem for the inauguration, and it was his first performance of the piece.

...**Susie** and **Dave Knight**, volunteers with the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave's booth at the annual National Western Livestock Show have been extras in the Wild West Shows there since 2009. In January, the producer of the show took one look at Dave in his old west attire and featured him in both Wild West Show performances as "Wyatt Earp."

...As a musical companion to her children's books, *Cowboy World - You're Never Too Old to Believe* and *Cowboy World - Crickets on the Moon*, **Cindy Smith** has recorded a CD released in April titled "Crickets on The Moon - Songs from Cowboy World." The album consists of fun songs for buckaroos and buckarettes of all ages. Award-winning Nashville songwriter Charlie May and **Dennis Knill** are also featured.

...**Ken & Jan Harms** have received a grant to host the second annual Pagosa Peak Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Pagosa Springs, CO, August 15, at the Pagosa Springs Vista Clubhouse. The theme is "Legends, Lives & Legacies" and will feature **Vic Anderson**, two-time WMA yodeling champ. Pagosa pro rodeo bareback rider Forest Bramwell and his wife, Jaclyn, will emcee. For more info: [www.pagosacowboygathering.org](http://www.pagosacowboygathering.org)

...**Bill McCallie** attended the Missouri Auction School in January and received 80 credit hours in Auctioneering. In

February, he passed his Tennessee Apprentice Auctioneer test and worked his first auction gig with Potts Brothers Land and Auction Company. Bill hosts the Cowboy Jubilee Radio Show out of Chattanooga, TN.

...**Larry W Jones**, aka Kingwood Kowboy, has completed 7,000 song lyrics. His "Real Country Lyrics" series includes many Cowboy & Western songs. You can check him out at [http://www.kingwoodkowboy.com/kk\\_realcountrylyrics1.html](http://www.kingwoodkowboy.com/kk_realcountrylyrics1.html).

...**Aspen Black** has released a new poetry CD, titled "Invisibility", containing twelve original poems. She has also released a book, *Empowered Riding: The Recreational Rider's Guide*, based on 26 years of experience as a riding instructor and horse trainer. The book, introducing a series, teaches recreational riders how to choose the correct horse for their needs and to build a foundation of skills for local showing and trail riding.

...**Ray Doyle** and his wife, Barbara, are moving from California to Nashville, TN, where Barbara will be joining the faculty of Belmont University. She will become Chairman of the Film Department at the school.

...A new CD from **R.J. Vandygriff** is due out this summer. R.J. is working with **Rich O'Brien** on this one, which will be titled "Yeehaw, it's a cowboy thang!" He will also be doing six shows with the San Antonio Symphony in May.

...The **Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers** moved their Silver Screen Cowboy Project Show from Palm Springs, CA, to Glendale, AZ, (a Phoenix suburb) this year. Ownership haggles forced a shutdown of the Palm Springs venue.

...After a year off, Kim Coslett has rejoined the **Prairie Rose Rangers** as vocalist and guitarist. The group is also working on their fourth album which will have appearances by several guest performers. In other Ranger news, Stan Greer recently won the Kansas State Mandolin Championship.

...**Mark Baker** is in the studio working on a new album with **Gary Cook, Donny Johnson** and **John Moore**. Titled "Home Free," the album features six new songs Mark has co-written with his wife, Rozanne, along with some traditional cowboy songs.

... **Dave Stamey** is in the studio working on a new project to be titled "Western Stories." The album will feature 14 new songs from Dave.

...**Judy Coder**, of **Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band**, is featured on the cover of a new book entitled *Kansas Music: Stories of a Rich Tradition*. Kansas author Deb Bisel highlights Judy's career in



Western music along with other Kansas musicians ranging from Count Basie to the Topeka-based rock band, Kansas. The book is available at Amazon.com.

...In January, **Andy Hedges** was filmed for a documentary series called "Somewhere On Earth" for French Television. He was followed around while traveling to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Some performances and interviews were filmed with Andy, **Waddie Mitchell**, and **Ramblin' Jack Elliott** to air on French TV in August.

...**Almeda** is releasing her third album, titled "LOVERS, WIVES & MOTHERS: A Western Woman's Voice," in early summer. Her daughter #1, Linda, and fiancé, Dan, are getting married in July. Daughter #2, Gwyneth, has announced that the guy in her life is "the one!" And daughter #3, Gaylen, and husband Patrick are expecting a baby in June.

...In an effort to promote direct flights to Steamboat Springs, CO, for the ski season, the Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation signed the **Yampa Valley Boys** to play western music in Dallas, TX, Tyson Corners, VA (D.C. area), and Seattle, WA.

...In February, **Richard Martin** released his fifth CD titled "Old Houses." The album contains twelve original songs.

...In January, **Tony Lundervold** released his debut album, "From the Ranch to the Rodeo." A long-time rodeo competitor as a professional saddle bronc rider and 2009 champion of the Northwest, Tony brings his life experiences into his music. The album is a collection of songs about the rodeo lifestyle and western living.

...In March, **Stephanie Davis** hit the open seas to perform on the annual "A Prairie Home Companion Cruise." For more info about the cruise, you can go to: <http://prairiehome.org/features/cruise/2015-aphc-at-sea/>.

...Dodge City's **Marshal Allen Bailey and the Silver Bullets** have released a new CD titled "Night Rider," containing 15 traditional western music tunes. The Silver Bullets are Brandon McLemore, Blake McLemore, and Cowgirl Janey, along with Shelby Eicher and Jake and Rebekah Workman.

... **Dick Warwick** appeared at Australia's National Folk Festival in Canberra over Easter weekend. He did some solo sessions, participated in the "Poets' Breakfast" and was part of the Yarnspinning competition.

... Whit Smith and Elana James from the **Hot Club of Cowtown** both have new CDs released. Elana's project is called "Black Beauty" while Whit's new effort is titled "On the Nature of Strings." Both are available at [www.hotclubofcowtown.com](http://www.hotclubofcowtown.com). Also, in February, the Hot Club of Cowtown was named Best Western Swing Band 2015 at the second annual Ameripolitan Awards at the Paramount Theater in Austin, TX. Elana won Best Western Swing Female 2015.

...Dedicated to America's farmers and ranchers, the latest release by **Barry Ward**, "Distant Furrows," features 17 original songs about farming, family, and faith in God, plus a bonus track of "How Great Thou Art." Also included is the song "Harvest in the Fall," a song featured in the documentary *The Great American Wheat Harvest*.

...**Royal Wade Kimes**, the Gentleman Outlaw, released a new album in March titled "Shadows of Time." Distributed by Select-O-Hits of Memphis, part of the Sun Records Group, the project is a strong cowboy western project built to attract all age groups.

...The new release by **Rick Pickren** is titled "Liberty: Songs of America." The album, released in April, features 13 of America's most popular patriotic songs. Musical guests include Tom Boyd of Dry Branch Fire Squad and Drew Carson of Special Consensus.

...Congratulations to Western Music Association members **Don & Lois Schrader** who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on March 13<sup>th</sup>. They are members of the Utah Chapter of the WMA.

... "Party on The Prairie," the latest album from **Terry Brown**, topped out at #2 on the Roots Music Report True Country Album Chart. It also yielded two Top 5 singles: "Old Coyote" at #1 and "Party on the Prairie" at #3 on the Report's Singles Chart. The CD also made the Top 100 True Country Albums of The Year Chart for 2014 at the #12 slot.

...**Bob Marshall** released his new album, "Horses That Run Far Away," in January, and it has been making a mark on the Internet – in particular, the tune "Cowboy Way." In just over a month on Reverbnation.com and SoundCloud.com, it has received nearly 20,000 plays.

...The third album from **Randy Huston**, titled "Cowboys and Girls," was recognized in April by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum as the Outstanding Traditional Western Album. Randy's daughter **Hannah Huston** was presented with the New Horizon Award. Hannah has four solos on the new project, including "Guardian Angel" – a song about a girl grieving the loss of her horse.

...**The Buckaroo Balladeers** (JC & Sonja Needham) have released a new EP titled "Between Elko & Heaven." The project includes 3 originals and 7 tracks total. In December, they performed for a group of Ukrainians who were delegates of Friendship Force International, an international cultural exchange program.

...**Kristyn Harris** was featured in a new Australian Radio documentary called "Texas Cowboy Songsters," produced by Hal Cannon and Sherre Delys and starring Don Edwards and Andy Hedges. Kristyn will also be a 2015 inductee into the Cowtown Society of Western Music on May 2<sup>nd</sup> as a Rising Star of the Year.

*Continued on page 22*





by Buck Helton

## GOLDEN NUGGETS



Howdy, Pard!

Once again it's time to mine the legends and lore of our great Western songbook and discover some golden nuggets. This time around we are going to pan out the story behind one of the Western Writers of America's picks for the 100 greatest Western songs of all time, Buffalo Gals.

Like many classic folk songs, this one has its roots in the old world, in this case, Germany. *Im Grunewald, im Grunewald ist Holzauktion* is an old German Music Hall song, and is the basis for the tune we know today. It migrated over to this side of the pond sometime in the early years of the 19th Century. The first printed form of the tune we know, although without any lyrics, is found in an 1839 publication of dance tunes, *Virginia Reels*, Selected and Arranged for the Piano Forte, by G.P. Knauff with the title "*Midnight Serenade*." Oral tradition tells us that it was being performed in Minstrel shows by 1840 as "*Round-Town Gals*" and in 1844 John Hodges, a famous blackface performer under the stage name of Cool White, first published it as "*Lubly Fan*." It contains such lyrics as "*Her lips are like de oyster plant, De oyster plant, De oyster plant, I try to kiss dem but I cant, Dey am so berry large*."

Very few people would think of singing those lyrics today, as even by the most liberal standards they would be seen as insulting to those of African descent. As it was even in the 1840's, there was soon a shift away from *Lubly Fan* to a version based upon whatever place the Minstrel troupe was performing at the time. The most popular of which, due to the large number of workers on the Erie Canal seeking to enjoy an evening of light entertainment, was that of Buffalo Gals, with the location being Buffalo, New York. It was also known as Charleston Gals, Alabama Gals, Mobile Gals, etc.

You might be wondering how such a decidedly Eastern phenomenon as a Minstrel show tune came to be regarded as a Western classic. Well, here's where the vein takes a sunset turn...

In the fall of 1866, for the first time in the history of the United States, an all-Black military regiment was formed during peacetime. This was the 10th Cavalry. Subsequently, the regiments became the 9th and 10th Cavalry, and the 24th and 25th Infantry (Colored). Though initially based out of Ft. Leavenworth in Kansas, the most well known of their headquarters were Ft. Sill in Oklahoma and Ft. Huachuca in Arizona. (The latter being only about 45 miles from your author's home in Tucson)

These units served in the Southwest with distinction in the Indian Wars and they were called Buffalo Soldiers by the native tribes in reference to their tight curly hair, and skin color resembling those of the Bison. While they were courageous and fearsome warriors on the battlefield, their youthful exuberance frequently made them have the typical uncivilized behaviors young bachelors are wont to display. And so it was decided that what was needed to housebreak them was the gentle hand and

civilizing influence of women. The Fort commanders sent back East for ladies of color with quality and breeding to come west.

Well, the plan worked better than anyone could have imagined. In order to court your sweetheart, you could not be on report all week. You had to take a bath on Saturday night, whether you needed one or not. Then, with her permission, after Church on Sunday you could court the lady of your choice. These lovely ladies became famed as the Buffalo Gals. The soldiers, with something near and dear to protect and inspire them to safely return home, became even more heroic on the battlefield. Soon they wove their way into history.

The song went on, with slight changes in the lyrics, to be recorded by The Andrews Sisters and Bing Crosby as "*Dancing With a Dolly*" and in its most well-known form was featured in Frank Capra's 1946 Holiday classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Here are the most common lyrics to the song:

### Buffalo Gals

#### CHORUS:

Buffalo gals won't you come out tonight  
Come out tonight, come out tonight  
Buffalo gals won't you come out tonight  
And dance by the light of the moon

#### VERSES:

As I was walking down the street  
Down the street, down the street  
A pretty little gal I chanced to meet  
Oh, she was fair to view

#### (CHORUS)

She was the prettiest gal I've seen in my life  
In my life, in my life  
And I wished to the Lord she'd be my wife  
Then we would part no more

#### (CHORUS)

Oh, yes, dear boy, I'm coming out tonight  
Coming out tonight, coming out tonight  
Oh, yes, dear boy, I'm coming out tonight  
And we'll dance by the light of the moon

#### (CHORUS)

I danced with that gal with a hole in her stocking  
And her heels kept a-rockin' and her knees kept a-knockin'  
I danced with that gal with a hole in her stocking  
And we danced by the light of the moon

#### (CHORUS)

That's the end of the trail this time. Join us once again in the next issue and send suggestions for future columns to Buck@Buckhelton.com

Happy Trails!  
Buck





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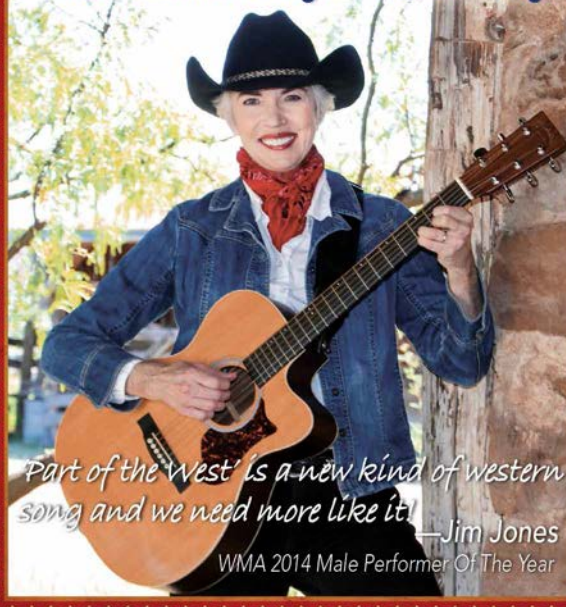


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By Judy James

## The School Program

Are you preparing to present a school program but are not sure what to include?

A committee of educators in the fields of Music, Language Arts, Social Studies as well as Administrators who are also WMA members, has been established.

They have been consulted as to what they wish to see in their schools. These points include:

All programs should include some of the individual State Standards for education in their particular discipline, i.e. a history program with music should include information included in the state standards for history/social studies and music. Select several objectives that will be the focus of the presentation.

2) All programs should have a clearly defined objective.

3) Programs should be of educational value and not "just a concert."

4) All presenters should be professional and dress accordingly.

5) All presenters should have knowledge of classroom control. If you aren't sure how to handle a classroom, talk with educators.

6) All presenters should incorporate multi-sensory activities.

7) All programs should be interactive.

8) Create questions that can be asked of the students within the presentation to enlist audience participation and to also check for understanding.

9) All programs should support and encourage Western Music/Cowboy Poetry.

10) Remember, you are not only educating the students on history, etc., but you are educating them on what Western Music and Cowboy Poetry truly are.

*Continued on page 23*

## In The Spotlight

*Continued from page 19*

...The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Cowboy Poetry Week takes place April 19-25, 2015. This year's poster, by Don Dane, depicts popular Kansas cowboy, ranch manager, and poet **Jack "Trey" Allen**. For more info, go to [www.CowboyPoetry.com](http://www.CowboyPoetry.com).

... In December, **Cimarron**, a newly-formed group from Phoenix, performed with the Spirit of Phoenix Barbershop Chorus on two of their annual Christmas shows. They have also worked with them twice this spring. The group has been performing in the Phoenix area since last summer singing old western standards as well as their own compositions.

...**Trails & Rails** feels very fortunate to have worked with **Bruce Huntington** as song-writing bass player for two years (2006-2009). Now Mike Craig is doing the same! You can hear Mike's seven original western songs on the group's latest release, "Gatherin' Strays."

...**Mountain Saddle Band** has added new member Ken Bucy to the band. Ken joined the band in April and is playing bass and singing. He has played with **Cowboy Legends**, **Journey West**, and **Prickly Pear**, just to name a few.

...**Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band** has hooked up with cowboy poet **Tom Swearingen**. They are performing together in the Pacific Northwest in 2015. Dave McClure, cowboy poet and long-time collaborator with Horse Crazy, will also be working with them from time to time.

...A song by **Janice Deardorf**, "Running the Race of Your Life," is used in the two-DVD program *Whispers from the Wild Ones* by international equine behaviorist and natural horsemanship clinician, Anna Twinney. The program shares what the American mustang can teach us about true, trust-based horsemanship.

...**Rodger Maxwell**, after nearly two years away from performing regularly, is back. Physical therapy, acupuncture, and mind over matter, plus smaller guitars have made it possible for Rodger to put his back into performing and playing again.

...In April, **Mikki Daniel** appeared on the Penny Gilley Show on RFD-TV. She performed three songs accompanied by the Texas All Star Band. The show is a weekly country music variety show taped at the historic Palace Theater in Grapevine, Texas.

...SCVTV Presents *The OutWest Concert Series* kicked off 2015 with **Tumbleweed Rob & Southwest Junction**. Hosted by Jim and Bobbi Jean Bell of OutWest and filmed by SCVTV (Santa Clarita, CA), concerts include performances by **Kristyn Harris & Jim Jones**, **Miss Devon & The Outlaw**, **Dave Stamey**, **Sidewinder**, and **Adrian**. For the complete schedule: <http://www.outwestmktg.com/events/live-music.cfm>.

...**Bobbi Jean Bell** is back on the air. Tune into "Campfire Café" every Thursday from 12-1pm (CST). Join hosts Gary Holt and Bobbi Jean for an hour of music and lively conversation. Listen at [www.equestrianlegacy.net](http://www.equestrianlegacy.net). Also, episode 12 of "Storage Wars: How the West Was Unlocked," featured **Bobbi Jean Bell**, as their art expert. Take a look at <http://www.aetv.com/storage-wars/video/a-huge-western-art-payday>.



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## Education Corner

*Continued from page 22*

Additionally -

1) If you are singing with elementary age children and want them to sing along and be successful, be sure the song is pitched neither too high nor too low for their voices.

2) Keep the audience under control. This can be done in many ways that will not stifle participation. If you aren't sure, ask an educator.

3) All pictures and videos should be age appropriate.

4) If these guidelines are followed, presenters should be compensated for their efforts and talents, even for schools.

For additional information about these guidelines and how to present a program, or workshop, contact 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*

*Did you know that cowboy singing star Tex Ritter was married to actress Dorothy Fay Southworth for 33 years and made four films with her?*



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# Subject: A Peroration

*By Rod Miller*

Seldom have I attended a conclave of cowboy poets and musicians where there wasn't a lot of hand-wringing about keeping our craft alive. We wonder how to involve young people. We worry about interesting and involving others outside our shrinking circles of friends and fans. We whine that we don't get the respect we deserve from those uppity academic and civic types. Those are all legitimate concerns. And we need to seek out ways to address them. Here's one.

As many of you know, the people at the University of Utah Division of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning contacted me some time ago (why me, I have no idea) and asked if I would be interested in putting together a course on writing cowboy poetry. I thought it might be fun. And I thought it was a step toward spreading interest in our art, which is something we would all like to do – something we need to do. So I said yes, and have since been at work putting together a once-a-week, six-week stretch of two-hour non-credit classes that cover the basics of understanding, appreciating, writing, reciting, and enjoying cowboy poetry. I built a series of Power Point presentations, assembled a passel of essays into a textbook, and pulled a couple of dozen collections of cowboy poetry off my bookshelves to provide examples and inspiration. The class started March 25th and continues for five more Wednesdays at the Utah campus in Sandy. Brenn Hill, one of the best of us, offered to come one evening and talk about the relationship between poetry and song lyrics, introduce us to the mechanics of songwriting, and maybe sing us a song or two. He'll be there April 9th.

To finally get to the point, here we have a major university taking cowboy poetry seriously enough to offer a class. They're actually quite excited about the prospect. And they're promoting the class wherever they can, including in some radio spots I've heard recently. So, how will the cowboy poetry and music community respond? I have no idea. But I hope we'll step up and support the University – and cowboy poetry. Talk it up. Enroll. Send a friend. Invite a neighbor. Your presence can help make the course more enjoyable, informative, and entertaining for all. And, if nothing else, it will help wave the cowboy poetry flag and let the world know we're alive and well and still at it.

I've said my piece and I thank you for listening. Now it's up to you. You can find all the details here: <https://continue.utah.edu/lifelong>. 




## *In Memoriam*

### Glenn Ohrlin



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of cowboy singer/poet/storyteller Glenn Ohrlin. The National Endowment for the Arts says of Ohrlin, "He was born in Minneapolis in 1926 and had been a cowboy virtually all of his life. Glenn was 14 when his family moved to California. At age 16, he left home to become a rodeo bronc rider in Nevada. He worked as a ranch hand and rode the rodeo circuit for a number of years. Prior to his death, he was ranching and running a cow outfit in the Ozark hills near Mountain View, AR. Glenn was best known as a collector and performer of cowboy songs, range ballads, stories, and poems. Named a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow in 1985, Glenn had a mesmerizing style that is understated, powerful, and hilarious."

Ohrlin began singing cowboy songs at the age of five and continued the tradition to the present day, most recently performing at the 32nd National Poetry Gathering in Elko, NV just two weeks before his passing. The Hell-Bound Train was the title of a book published of Ohrlin's 100 favorite cowboy songs and poems. He also produced an album of the same name that consists of cowboy lore and songs. 



*Did you know  
that cowboy  
singing star  
Tex Ritter's hit  
song "Hillbilly  
Heaven" had  
actually been  
released six years  
earlier by another  
cowboy singing  
star: Eddie Dean?*

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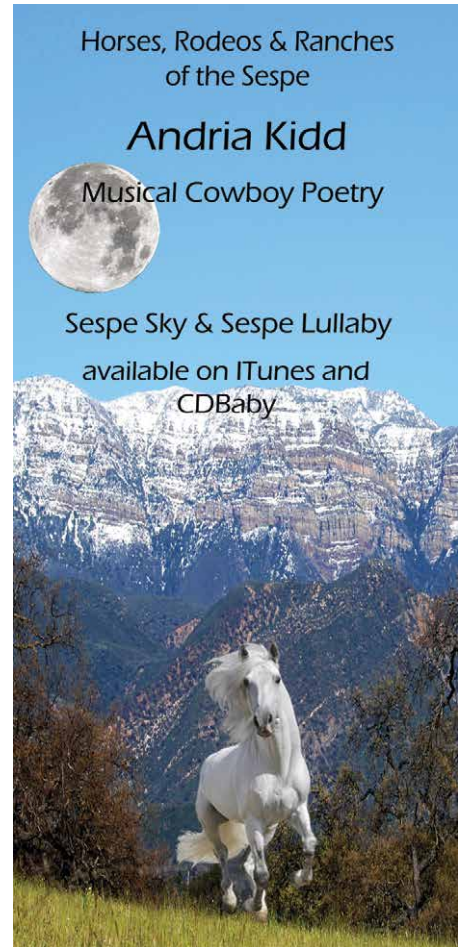
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## David Bourne

*Continued from page 13*

thought they swore too much which would turn off many people, which it did. Dave was also in The History's Channel "Wild West Tech", in the episodes Revenge and Western Town Tech. He played a piano player (type casting), in a Disney Webisode Solution St. Production; a banjo player in the History Channel's The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth and The Hunt for Wyatt Earp; a saloon player in Warner Brothers feature film Jonah Hex and a cowboy/wolf hunter in an independent film Woltown and was a part of the new TV series in development - Westworld, based on the 1973 Sci-fi western starring Yul Brynner.

Fess and Patty were active in many pastimes. There was the SASS Mounted Shooting events where Fess competed on his trusty steed Boston; Wild West shows; visiting the Trolley Museum; the Sycamore Canyon Family Camp-Outs; the Strawberry Music Festival in Yosemite, Elko and Marolyn's parties, among others.

A Memorial for Professor Dave Bourne is scheduled for March 15 at the famous Paramount Movie Ranch in Agoura Hills. It will be part jam session and part Irish wake. Musician friends of Dave's will be there to play and entertain the folks who come to the open air picnic. A Grand Piano will even be there (player piano) which will play Fess's own music. In essence, Dave always the showman, will be performing at his own memorial service. That is a unique way for the maestro to say Adios y Vaya con Dios to his many companeros, fellow musicians and loved ones.

***The following are remembrances of Dave Bourne by a few of his many friends and musical colleagues. They were edited due to space:***

We "will assemble in March to play a musical tribute to a very prolific, talented, gentle, musical soul." "The center of his life was his family. He was so proud of them and loved them unconditionally. He had no regrets. He lived a very full, fun loving musical life on his own terms. Upon his passing, Patty said, 'The piano keys are silent now, but the music will never leave me.'" J.C. MOORE

"You could always spot Dave, across the room or at the end of a dusty street at Melody Ranch. He had a regal bearing. He was tall, with silver hair and beard. He looked every part the 19th century saloon piano player, cowboy entertainer. He also had a distinctly scholarly air which he backed up with a wide musical knowledge." RAY DOYLE

"Dave will probably be most remembered for being a nice guy with an immense love for his lifelong partner - his sweet wife Patty. When they sang the old Western music it was magic." "I hope you know how many people loved having you around - you made all our lives better and richer for sharing so much of you with us." JOHN McKUEN

"Dave was a good friend, a great musician and a walking encyclo-

pedia on traditional and old-time music. We shared this love of the Old West, it's songs and stories for many years and it ain't gonna be the same without him. A fan and a friend." DON EDWARDS

"Everywhere the Prof went he brought warm and good feelings to everyone he touched. An 'Outstanding' personality is gone forever and there won't be another." JIM and ANDREA ECKER

"I admired him for his fine musicianship and knowledge and hard love for the popular music of the 19th and early 20th century. I've never heard anyone else who could play that music on the saloon piano like Dave and probably never will. He was simply the best. A good hearted, honest man and a good friend. I will surely miss him." RICK CROWDER aka Sourdough Slim

"Besides the fact that I'm still in shock at losing a friend and fellow musician, I will always remember Dave as being encouraging and inclusive as well as knowing the origins of every song ever written....I will miss him very much." DAVE PEARLMAN

"I first met Dave Bourne....around 1972, but it wasn't until he started playing at the "Saratoga" on Sunset Blvd. circa 1993 that

we began to bond in both music and friendship." "...we played most Thursday and Friday nights with Ron Shane on banjo and wife Patty and Laura Middleton on backup vocals.... Great fun." "Once at a party David said, 'Gary White played with me for 8 years at the Saratoga for free, and we never even bought him a beer.' I remember that. Miss you brother." GARY B. WHITE

"Dave enjoyed talking to my late husband, Daniel Dixon, son of the Western artist Maynard Dixon, a hero of Dave's. When Daniel finished the text for his book Ukulele: The World's Friendliest Instrument, he passed away four days later....It left me to provide the graphics. Remembering

Dave had a wonderful collection of old and rare ukes, I asked if I could come and photograph them to help illustrate the book. Dave agreed and I was able to get what I needed for the book. My other favorite memory is of Dave and Patty, many years ago in an all-night jam session in Elko, singing a beautiful haunting melody that I fell in love with Call of the Canyon. Later, Dave and Patty recorded the song and sent it to me. It remains one of my favorites today and I sing it whenever the opportunity arises." DIXIE M. DIXON

"Dave Bourne's live performances made a man swagger and stomp for joy. Sadly, we won't hear him tickling the ivories in a public house bustling with jaunty comrades again." His "lively presence will be missed, but his spirit lives in his legacy of recordings that carry you into Old West saloons crowded with roustabouts, ranahans and femme-fatales. His mighty piano renditions of Barrelhouse Ballads, Rug-cutter Ragtime, Victorian Music Hall Songbird Melodies and Tin-Pan Alley Tunes are an American Treasure." MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY

"I had the wonderful gift of David's friendship, which goes back many years. David treated my original music and songs with the same

*Continued on page 42*





# WE ROCKED!

By Sandy Reay from [AcousticByLines.com](http://AcousticByLines.com)

Reprinted by permission.

We played there and rocked! We were great! Not as great as we would have been if we'd had our regular drummer. And bass player. But we still rocked!

And they didn't call us back for another gig. Why?

I guess I forgot to get them the promo material and info they wanted ahead of time. Hey, I was busy working and rehearsing and playing other gigs.

Well, yeah, not too many of our fans were there, but it was a long way for our fans to go. The club is supposed to have their regulars there. They'll become our fans.

OK. So the folks who were there didn't get into our music. They just haven't come on board yet. They will, if we play there enough.

Alright. They told us to turn down the volume. Three times. But that's the way we play. The management is just a bunch of old fogeys who don't like music.

Oh, right. There was a lot of hassle with the date. We had it booked then had to change it because we got a better gig. But it only happened twice.

So we were late. It was no big deal. We have day jobs and had to load up and race down there and traffic was really bad and we got lost once. You see, it really wasn't our fault we were late.

Do you believe they wouldn't feed us? Or give us more than 1 drink per set? Do they think we can live on air? It takes energy to perform like we do. And we came there straight from work, so how do they expect us to play on an empty stomach? It wouldn't have cost them anything to feed us.

And they expected us to keep our breaks to 15 minutes. How can we go out and buy food and eat it in only 15 minutes?



And back to the regulars. They expected us to take requests. We don't do requests. We have set lists. We like to do our originals, not those old songs that everyone's heard forever.

So we spent our breaks in the green room. No point in going out and talking to those losers. Plus we had to teach the bass player the chords for some of our songs.



We set out a tip jar and mentioned it between every song, but we didn't get tips. So we told the manager that we needed to get more money than we agreed to because there were no tips. And, I wasn't yelling. I just project my voice really well.

We kinda left a mess on the stage and in the green room when they wouldn't cough up more money. We're

not going to play for peanuts then clean the place for them. It's okay. They've got people there who get paid to clean up.

I just don't understand why they didn't call us back for another gig. We rocked!

(You can read more of Sandy's musings by visiting her Web site, [acousticbyline.com](http://acousticbyline.com).)



## Thatch

*Continued from page 16*

Music Association is a small but very close knit family. They all understand that the future of Western music and cowboy poetry lies with the youth. If they don't love it and carry it forward it will die out. None of us want that!

Thatch has no stage fright but one of his scariest moment came when he opened for Suzy Bogguss last February in Logan, Utah. They were at the Cache Valley Rendezvous and fellow performer, Trinity Seeley requested Thatch's poem, Mornings. It was the second poem Thatch had written, he had been practicing and it was fresh in his mind – until it was time to recite it - then he couldn't remember the words! He said, "That one's gone. Let's go on to the next one," and he did, handling it just like a pro would. As he walked off the stage the words came to him. Of course!

Thatch has also opened for Dave Stamey and performed with Andy Nelson, Trinity Seeley, Susie Knight, Sam DeLeeuw, Bill Barwick, Saddle Strings and many others. His first solo performance was in January at Tooele, Utah at the Singer and Song Writer series. He was ten years old and received his first standing ovation of around 300 people.

This past Memorial Day weekend was spent in Utah with his family for "The Legend of Antelope Island and Cowboy Poetry Gathering. He and his family camped for four days and he performed nine times. He said that was "one of the funnest times he's had," which included being taught to drive a wagon team by fellow cowboy poet, Paul Bliss. The spotlight that weekend was shared with the celebration of his sister, Austin's, graduation from Evanston High School.

In June they had their First Annual Southwest Wyoming Cowboy Poetry and Western Music Festival at the wonderful Historic Evanston Railyard and Roundhouse. It was organized by Thatch and his family to raise money for the Evanston Rodeo Series. Twenty-one performers participated and the second annual event is in the works for next year. Perhaps you'd like to include it in your schedule.

In 2014 Thatch debuted his first CD, *The First Go Round*, available on his website. Some of his poems were published this year in *Cowboy Rhymes – N – Dreams of Other Times* and *CowboyPoetry.com*.

The family has a busy schedule ahead of them. Kim states that, "Thatch will be performing at the Durango Gathering, opening the Heber Valley Cowboy Poetry Gathering with Andy Nelson, Sour Dough Slim, and

Micky Daniels at the kickoff dinner, and he has been asked to be a featured performer in Elko, Nevada at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering there as well, participating in a classics session of the classic Cowboy Poet S. Omar Barker."

Making the decision to go to the Heber Cowboy Poetry Gathering was the turning point for Thatch and he hasn't regretted it one bit!



As I interviewed Thatch I noticed the care that he took to make sure his answers were honest and accurate – a tribute to his upbringing. Much to my delight, he recited "Mornings" for me, complete with all the mannerisms and that cute grin of his.

### "Mornings"

I'll admit this ain't no secret, and if you ask me I won't deny,

When it comes to rising early I am definitely NOT a morning guy!

I have a normal bedtime, and for most, it ain't that late, but when it comes to getting up that's a task I really hate!

My sister will not argue, and my mom she will agree, that when time comes to "Rise and Shine" both of them are just like me!

And Dad is just peculiar, he likes an early morn. It's not something he is forced to do, I am sure it's how he was born.

At first I just won't listen when that alarm clock starts to chime, I will just roll over and hit the snooze another time.

Holler out "Good Morning" and rouse me with a shake, cuz that's just how and what you do to get my eyes awake.

But once I finally shed the sheets and my feet touch solid floor, I hear my horses whinny, now it's time to do the chores.

I'll mumble and I'll grumble as I rise to face the day, and you best not try conversin' for I got nothin' much to say!

But the day is now before me and I'll face what lies ahead, my dad says sleep's a waste of time, you can rest when you are dead!



©Thatch Elmer

*Cowboy Thatch – The Cowboy Buckaroo  
Writer – Reciter – Cowboy Delighter*

*This was Thatch's first interview for a magazine article. It was an honor for me to do it. You can follow him at these sites: [www.cowboythatch.com](http://www.cowboythatch.com); [www.facebook.com/thatch.elmer](https://www.facebook.com/thatch.elmer), [www.facebook.com/BeatRiverBuckaroo](https://www.facebook.com/BeatRiverBuckaroo)*





# Chapter Update

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: Yvonne Mayer  
steidl-mayer@msn.com

The Arizona chapter hosted an information table at the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering in Sierra Vista, AZ, in February. It was well received with an unscheduled "mini-concert" having couples dancing in the hallway! Youth Chapter member Maria McArthur entered the Old Time Fiddlers competition in Safford on February 14th and 15th and won first place in her age group. The Bill Ganz Western Band performed with the Tucson Symphony on February 14th and performed at the Elgin Community Club on February 21st. Also in February, the Chapter provided WMA information tables at the Bill Ganz concert



*AZ Chapter Information Table. Carolyn McArthur, Yvonne Mayer, Janice Deardorff. Photo by Ev Shaw.*

and the Dave Stamey Concert in Sonoita and again at the Tucson Ballet Fundraiser on March 1st. The fundraiser this year has a western theme with both the Bill Ganz Western Band and Janice Deardorff performing. Janice also recently presented a Western Heritage Music Program at Hermosa Montessori School. Lee Lee Robert presented a seminar entitled "Branding: Promoting Yourself and the WMA" for Chapter members prior to the February meeting and on in March the Arizona Chapter joined with Old Tucson (Studios) in a weekend of "Cowboy Arts and Music." The April meeting will be held at the Blazing M

Ranch in Cottonwood with Jim and Jeanne Martin hosting. Vice-president Dennis Knill recently hosted a house concert in Apache Junction featuring Alameda Bradshaw. In



*Dennis Knill and Charlie Russell Mural at house concert. Photo by Carilyn Knill.*

the following months, he will host Juni Fisher, Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band, Eddie Harrison, and Kristin Harris with Brook Wallace. (quickdrw1@aol.com) Other House concerts include Sherry Walker hosting Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band in Green Valley (wanderingsherry@hotmail.com) and Jane Bischoff in Palominas hosting Hank Cramer and Mountain Saddle Band. (jcbischoff@aol.com) The Arizona Chapter has joined the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce and is looking forward to participating in community events.

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Gency Brown  
gncbrown2009@live.com

January saw two chapter meetings in separate parts of our large state to enable more members to attend. San Jose and Burbank provided venues for discussions, planning and just having fun together. More will be planned for future dates. The SCVTV Presents the OutWest Concert series hosted Tumbleweed Rob and the Southwest Junction while S.T.A.G.E. presented Carolyn Martin in Oroville. Carolyn then thrilled the audience at a house concert in Santa Clarita. February brought changes to our monthly events previously presented as jams. They will now be named 'Western Music Showcases' as we endeavor to present better quality in everything we do. The first of these in February were well received by performers and audiences. March has the first of our showcases at Cody's Viva Cantina with Deputy Dave Volk. S.T.A.G.E. will present Lacy J. Dalton in Oroville. Katy Moffett is the next installment of The SCVTV Presents the OutWest Concert Series in Newhall.

## COLORADO CHAPTER

President: Floyd Beard  
febeard@yahoo.com

2015 promises more opportunities for members to perform western music and cowboy poetry around our state. The first Showcase/Jam will be in Greeley, Colorado on Saturday, April 18th. Next, the Florissant Grange has invited us back on Saturday, August 8th. This year, due to the growing interest from participants within our chapter, only WMA-CO Chapter members are eligible to participate. So, WMA members who live in Colorado... join us! STOP THE PRESSES!!! NEWSFLASH! Your WMA-Colorado Chapter has created a BRAND NEW COWBOY GATHERING in the state of Colorado! The 2015 WMA-CO Pikes Peak Cowboy Gathering will take place on Thursday (yes, you read that right), July 9th from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Why Thursday? Records show that during the week of the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, the ProRodeo Hall of Fame (which attracts tourists from all over the world) gets the most visitors on the Thursday prior to the weekend's rodeo. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page: Western Music Association - Colorado Chapter. CO Chapter Treasurer, Sandy Reay, is donating her services to be the webmaster for our very own Web site, too....so be looking for more information about this gathering there! Contact us with your ideas, suggestions, or to simply shoot the breeze: President, Floyd Beard febeard@yahoo.com, Vice President, James "Mike" Michael mhosea@zianet.com, Treasurer, Sandy Reay slreay@comcast.net, or Secretary, Susie Knight lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com.

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Lauralee Northcott  
lauraleenorthcott@gmail.com

Many Columbia Chapter WMA members got together in February in Ellensburg, Washington, during the Spirit of the West Celebration. Idaho, Oregon, and Washington members played music and visited at the 2-day event. Chapter members hosted the open mic and some sold their unique western art as well. The next Columbia WMA chapter gathering will be in Winthrop, Washington, Saturday, May 9th, as we host an open mic downtown in the town

*Continued on page 30*



# Chapter Update

Continued from page 29



Horse Crazy

park. This event features a 49er parade and Packer Rendezvous. Our poets and singers will be providing entertainment from 12-5 PM. Any WMA members in the



Rodeo Princesses

area are invited to join us! Another exciting development is that one of our members, Honky Tonk piano player and WMA member Jinny Cash, is once again producing the Happy Trails newspaper. The online edition at [www.ReadHappyTrails.com](http://www.ReadHappyTrails.com) promotes Western events and cowboy entertainment on a global scale. Email promotions to publisher, Jinny Cash, who says, "the best things about publishing online is that every day is press day and there's no page limit!"

## EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black

[aspen@empoweredriding.com](mailto:aspen@empoweredriding.com)

Following the annual meeting at the WMA Convention, WMAECC president, Aspen Black, has been in contact with five venues/coordinators, so far, about possible chapter performance opportunities. Members have been asked to submit photos and bios. The balance of travel fees vs income, lack of name and genre recognition, and performer schedules continue to be our greatest hurdles. A chapter meeting and jam is planned in October. Individually, chapter members continue to be busy creating and promoting western music and poetry. Noteworthy, but not all-inclusive: Carol Markstrom has been recording a new CD, Kerry Grombacher and Carol Markstrom

were invited performers at the Cochise Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Arizona in February (Tom Hawk also attended), Aspen Black released a new cowgirl poetry CD, Invisibility, and a book, Empowered Riding: The Recreational Rider's Guide, Olivia Hobbs (youth) played her first house concert, Alice Black (youth) and Aspen Black are first-time



Cindy Smith in NC

invited performers to the 2015 Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and Cindy Smith has been writing a new book as well as working with Rawhide Ministries to organize the 2nd Annual GA Cowboy Gathering and Western Festival. Just staying busy out here on the East Coast.

## KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Jeff Davidson

[jeff@jeffdavidsonmusic.com](mailto:jeff@jeffdavidsonmusic.com)

This quarter saw a number of "Kansas Day" celebrations in which WMA members were featured as entertainers as Kansas celebrated its statehood (January 29, 1861). During Governor Sam Brownback's inauguration, WMA member Ron Wilson recited an original cowboy poem about the history of Kansas and the legacy of its pioneers. Brownback has been supportive of efforts to promote and preserve western culture in Kansas. The quarterly meeting of



Sharon Chesmore

the Chapter at the Prairie Rose featured a "lunch & learn" presentation by Joe Morales of Creative Oasis. He focused on how to structure the production of a major event, and how to estimate cost and revenue in comparison to a communities' population base. WMA members Brad Hamilton, Ron



Orin Friesen, Jeff Davidson

Wilson and Jeff Davidson were joined by cowboy poets Don Welborn and Kathryn Gardner for a western history presentation with songs and poems for the Topeka libraries Big Read event which featured the book True Grit. All four Chapter officers, Sharon Chesmore, Orin Friesen, Roger Ringer and Jeff Davidson attended the annual meeting of the Kansas Bed & Breakfast Association. They presented the idea of B&B facilities hosting "house concerts" featuring WMA artists. Some pictures illustrate the WMA KS chapter presence at this event. The Kansas chapter is staying busy and invites others to join in the fun!

## MONTANA-DAKOTAS CHAPTER

President: Linda Hausler

[openrange@wispswest.net](mailto:openrange@wispswest.net)

The Mon-Daks chapter members have been busy performing throughout the winter. We're in the planning stages of putting together a chapter showcase in Billings in May before all of our busy summers start up. Be sure to visit our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WesternMusicAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/WesternMusicAssociation) MonDaksChapter to see how things are shaping up.

## NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Joe Brown

[jbrown2452@yahoo.com](mailto:jbrown2452@yahoo.com)

The first quarter each year always is used to lay the groundwork for the upcoming year, and this year is no different. Much of the chapter leaders' time has been used in brainstorming for ideas of what new things we can do in 2015 and deciding on what to continue doing from our past years. We will continue working with the City of Albuquerque in Old Town and at the South Broadway Cultural Center; the City has requested we produce another concert in Old Town featuring our very talented WMA youth; we will continue to create outdoor concerts in Placitas at the Arte de Placitas

Continued on page 31



## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 30*

Gallery and we are in talks with staff in Lea County NM government about creating a festival in Hobbs, NM later this year. The staff of the New Mexico State Fair has recently discussed chapter participation in the State Fair beyond what has been done in the past. The newest creation began in February with the inaugural "Jam Session" at the Blue Grasshopper Brew Pub in Rio Rancho, NM. The initial group to provide music for the audience was Buffalo Bill Boycott and Dr. Jo, Joe Brown, Scott Wilson and Ralph Estes (who created this opportunity). The group played for about two hours and the pub owner was so pleased he asked us back to play weekly. Plans are to play about every other week. This quarter we scheduled two house concerts. Kerry and we are working requests for more house concerts later in the year. The quarter wraps up with the first event this year at the South Broadway Cultural Center featuring actor Rudy Ramos who will perform his one person play "Geronimo, Life on the Reservation." Rudy's first break in Hollywood came in the early 70's when he was cast as "Wind" in the western television series "The High Chaparral" and he has gone on the do over 45 movies and television shows since then. 2015 looks like it can be another wonderful year enjoying all things western in the "Land of Enchantment."

### OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Susie Case  
susieb.case@gmail.com



*Cowboy Jim Garling, Photo Courtesy Doris Garling.*

Howdy from Oklahoma. We have had an exciting winter but now we're ready for spring! I'm proud to welcome new members to the Oklahoma Chapter, Mike & Doris Merritt (aka Merritt Cowboy Ministries) of Hugo, OK. I met the Merritts last September when Doris guested onstage in Bristow,



*National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, used by permission.*

OK and visited with them a second time in Oklahoma City at the National Cowboy Museum's 20th Annual Cowboy Christmas Ball. Mike and Doris have a new CD release, "Detours," and are touring OK and TX to support it. Oklahoma has some fine western music events this spring. Nashville's Riders in the Sky mosey into the Pioneer Performing Arts Center, Elk City, OK for a concert April 11th. Riders were 1993 inductees into the WMA Hall of Fame and their accordionist Joey "The Cowpolka King" Miskulin was inducted last year. April 17th & 18th, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's annual Western Heritage Awards will be held in Oklahoma City. The awards honor individuals who tell the stories of the American West through literature, music, film or television. There's more information on the museum's Web site. (I just can't seem to stay away from their gift shop.) Colorado's Barry Ward, WMA's 2013 Male Vocalist of the Year, will be swinging through Oklahoma to promote his new album, "Distant Furrows." The "Distant Furrows Tour" crisscrosses our state from May 1st through the 10th. El Paso's Tom Russell will be appearing May 12th at the Blue Door in Oklahoma City. He's sure to be performing songs from his "The Rose Of Rosecrade" double CD and book to be released in April. WMA Hall of Fame member Don Edwards is scheduled to perform at the Chuck Wagon Gathering and Children's Cowboy Festival on May 30th. To round things up, Oklahoma's Cowboy Jim Garling will perform at Pawnee Bill's

Wild West Show at the Pawnee Bill Ranch on June 12th & 13th. Jim will be singing at the dinner show, as well as doing some guitar strumming/ strolling/ singing on the grounds during the afternoon. Well, that's some of the great things we have to look forward to this spring. I am still looking for recruits and members to be on our Board here in Oklahoma. If any of our state members have ideas for meeting places in your area, or have dates and times for performances, please contact me at the email address above.

### WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

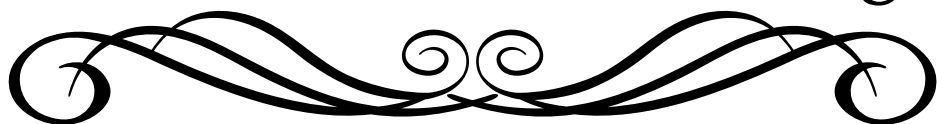
President: Dale Page

okiecowboypoet@gmail.com

The WMA-Western Wordsmiths Chapter is making strides in keeping our members up to speed on cowboy poetry events! Thanks to Sandy Reay, our chapter's webmaster, for all she does to keep the Web site current and cost-free! Visit [www.westernwordsmiths.com](http://www.westernwordsmiths.com). If your information has changed, email Sandy at [sleay@comcast.net](mailto:sleay@comcast.net) to keep everything current. The Web site will be a resource for you to locate upcoming cowboy poetry and music gatherings and festivals including the contact info you'll need to inquire about entries. The Web site also plans to include educational pages in the near future with tips on writing rhyme-and-meter cowboy poetry, entertaining children, and more. The National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo has found a new home! It has moved to Abilene, KS and will be held 7/30/15 - 8/1/15. Here's a chance for competitive cowboy poets to compete for a trophy buckle! It's also been known for giving excellent feedback on your poetry and performance so good poets can work toward becoming GREAT poets. For more information, contact Geff Dawson at [geff@ranchcowboy.com](mailto:geff@ranchcowboy.com) or (785) 765-2357. Plan to participate in the 2015 WMA-WW Cowboy Poetry Jackpot at the WMA Convention this year for your chance to win a custom-made trophy buckle! More information regarding entry fees, deadlines, rules, and more will be on this chapter's Web site soon. Questions now? Email Susie Knight, WMA-WW Secretary: [lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com). 

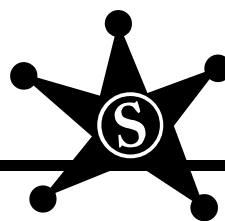
## JOIN US ONLINE!

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





# Western Air



by Rick Huff

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

**G**ee! If I'd known earlier I could get people talking like this, I would have written last Issue's column long ago!! People have expressed basic agreement and offered very valuable thoughts on the subject(s), so here we go with Round Two!

For those of you who haven't seen the column (go back and read it!), I posed an "elevator speech" definition of Western Music and invited comment, editing, rebukes, whatever you were of a mind to offer. The idea was to create a reasonably concise and simple statement for folks to have on hand when people ask those big questions "what is Western Music" and "how is Western different from Country?!" The wording I put forth for your consideration was: "Musically Western is most often acoustic at its core. Western's lyrics deal with the lives, loves, lore, locale and legacy of Cowboying." Great comments came in!! Most feel we're getting very close with this wording, but a good many felt "Cowboying"...while descriptive of the activity...is not sufficiently all-encompassing to cover the broader subject. Their points are well taken. I'll cite a couple of examples, if I may.

The wonderful Canadian poet, lyricist and writer Mag Mawhinney wrote: "Speaking for myself, I know I like to step outside the box when I write in order to encompass all those who blazed the trails into the west, such as homesteaders, loggers, native peoples, etc. That's why I call myself a 'western roots poet.'" She goes on to say "I've heard many song lyrics in the Western genre that have nothing to do with cowboys, horses, cow dogs, ranching etc., but there are lots about bandits, rodeo cowboys (which some say aren't real cowboys), old saloons, and basically the flora and fauna of the west." And singer/songwriter & poet Almeda Bradshaw weighed in with "the only word I would change in your elevator speech is 'cowboy.'" I would change it to read 'the westerner' because I think Western and the music we sing goes way beyond the life, history and experience of cowboys and ranching. It includes all people.... white, black, Native, Oriental, etc., .... and all vocations.... miners, homesteaders, merchants, etc., .... that came west in search of a new life." She cites Dave Stamey's body of work, Juni Fisher's CD "Listen" and back to classics such as Ian Tyson & Tom Russell's "Navajo Rug," Russell's "Hallie Lonnigan and (good grief!) even Bob Nolan's "Tumbling Tumbleweeds!!" She's right, of course... absolutely no "cowboy" in sight...just a drifter driftin'.

It's important that we all remember (as we attempt to go about the corraling of our subject) we certainly do NOT want to label or categorize performers' creativity in any way. It's not critical for anyone to decide what "THEY are" while trying to pigeonhole what "IT is!"

O.J. Sikes also wrote with his concern that the majesty and

feel of the Western landscape, so inherent in the early to mid 20th Century form of our music, may tend to get lost. He knows brevity is key, but worries about reducing things to slogans. He cites a lengthy Larry Hopper attempt at defining our music dating from 15 or 20 years back: "Western music may be defined as any song thematically linked to the land and the life of the American West. This would include songs contemporary with the settlement of the Western U.S. and Canada, as well as modern compositions, early compositions by working cowboys, Western themes from 'Tin Pan Alley,' traditional ballads and songs written for the 'silver screen.' These would be about ranches, railroads through the West, riverboats, rodeos, round-ups, stampedes, pioneering, settling of the West, Western mountains, plains, deserts and the flora and fauna that are found there, as well as Native Americans, ranch wives, cowgirls, outlaws, sheepherders, and water (or scarcity of it), wind and weather in a Western setting." Whew!!!

In Hopper's effort I would argue the "riverboats" and giving "railroads" a blank check doesn't set well with me, but it was a noble try. Obviously the need for a definition fitting Western Music has been constant and the way to arrive at it has proven to be elusive. The first WMA Board wrestled with it in their inaugural Tucson meeting and basically came away frustrated. But, I must say your recent comments have spurred me on to present a revised version of that "elevator speech" to you. Please read it over, live with it, sleep on it, chew it over and see how it tastes...and by all means, send in your thoughts. Here 'goes:

"Musically Western is most often acoustic at its core. Western's lyrics deal with the lives, loves, lore, locale and legacy of westerners, the West or Cowboying worldwide."

The use of "or" sets those lyrics apart from those that are not "cowboy" and the use of "worldwide" allows for Cowboying in Australia, England, Ireland or Tuva!! (And incidentally, let's not forget the Florida Cracker culture! They're still trail driving, for Pete's sake!! With "Cowboying worldwide" we can scoop them up, as we should have long ago!) Wherever the culture exists and the work is done, we can celebrate it. Here's our opportunity for that international relevance I and various members of our esteemed WMA Board of Advisors have been urging the organization to pursue!

Please add your voice and your thoughts to the discussion. We may be getting very close to finally having our music captured in a way that will allow new folks to really "get it!" And that kind of "getting it" can really get us places!





# BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



## THERE I GOT ONE ★ ★ ★ TWO ★ ★ ★ THREE ★ ★ ★

A while back I moseyed down to a little southern Arizona town where they were advertizin' a show that was featuring two of my favorite western acts. The venue was in a high school auditorium with great acoustics, sound and seating. I got a little mixed up on my dates as I sometimes do and got there a day early so I got to sleep out an extra night under the stars. Better than bein' late.

The show started off with the two acts I came to see and they performed to their usual greatness. I even got to hear a song I had written with one of the band members. They were well received by an audience that nearly filled the place.

Then the show went country with two aging used-to-be's that were good enough in their own right but they went on and on and on. The thing had gone on for three hours without an intermission. I got tired and a little bored so I said goodbye to all my friends and I left.

The next mornin' I headed home by way of one of those border towns where I could get my slow leaking tire fixed for free at a Walmart.

The way there was by back-road country two lane, which was fine with me. The speed limit was mostly 65 but I was duffin' along about 40 lookin' at the country and makin' an extra two miles per gallon on my old truck when I noticed a few big grasshoppers crossin' the road. There must have been one about every 40 feet. I slowed down and



bein' the civic minded sort I am, I went to helping out those local farmers by runnin' over and smashing as many of those big bugs as I could. The more I ran over the better I was getting' at it. I was getting' 'em lined up so I could whack two at a time. There was very little traffic and I was really starting to have fun with

my process of elimination when I looked in my mirror and there was a red light flashin'. I pulled off like a good citizen to let it pass but it didn't. It pulled right in behind me. I didn't want to take a chance on getting' shot by a nervous cop so I checked to see if my seat belt was on and just sat there with both hands on the wheel in plain sight. That Arizona Highway Patrol walked up and politely asked for my driver's license, reg-ist-er-ation and insurance papers which he carefully scrutinized then leaned in real close while handin' 'em back and said, "Your eyes are sure red. Have you been drinkin'?" I said, "No sir, officer." (I thought to myself, "Your eyes are sorta glazed. Have you been eatin' doughnuts?" but had just enough smarts to not say it out loud.)

Well, I passed the breathalyzer test and walked that line purty good too.

After I explained to him why I was weavin' around trying to exterminate as many of those big grass-chompers as I could, he turned me loose with a verbal warning. "Keep it on your side of the road and see if you can go a little faster." I think he was grinnin' a little as he walked back to his car.

Go figger.







## Performer's Perspective

# Tomorrow's West

By Jim Jones (from Blog, 11/18/14 [jimjonesmusic.com](http://jimjonesmusic.com)). Reprinted by permission.

All too often, I hear people complain about “kids today.” Seems like most of them are lazy, apathetic, lacking direction and on occasion, violent. It must be true because we see and hear about it in the news all the time. Well, I’m here to tell you that if we broaden our focus a bit, we’ll see a very different picture. I’m going to focus on the recent Western Music Association Convention in Albuquerque but I’ll bet you could look all over this country and find similar examples.

The WMA has long expressed a desire to involve young people in the organization. It’s only in the last four to five years that this goal has become a reality. Through the efforts of co-chairs Jane Leche and James Michael along with a number of other folks, more and more young people have been recruited and have begun attending the annual conference. What they’ve found is an environment in which they have the opportunity to learn skills such as how to sing and play their instruments, how to dress professionally, how to write songs and how to work together as an ensemble to put on a good show. Their parents have found people willing to help them try to figure out the intricacies of the business such as how to package yourself to get booked, how to do a CD project and many other things. Occasionally, the organization falls short in giving these young performers and their parents the resources and support they need but for the most part, the WMA has really stepped up.

Miss Kristyn Harris, who at age 20 is most likely the youngest person ever to win the WMA’s Performer of the Year award, is still a member of the Youth Chapter until next summer. She remembers when she and Naomi Bristow were the only people under forty at the convention (by the way, Kristyn, what’s wrong with being “over forty”??!!). That was six years ago. This year, there were kids everywhere! We’ve come a long way. Where once the performances of most of the young people involved in the chapter were “cute” (kind of like when your child stumbles his or her way through their part in the school play), now they are often jaw-droppingly good. Like twelve year old Olivia Hobbs singing “Shenandoah” while modulating...THREE TIMES!!...with one of the purest, richest voices you’ll hear anywhere from a performer of any age. Or Jeneve Rose Mitchell not only playing multiple instruments but playing them on the same song. Or Mikki Daniel and Hailey Sandoz knocking your socks off with their

great Cowboy swing tunes that belong not just on the youth stage but on any stage, anywhere, any time. Or young Thatch Elmer reciting his own original poetry with the aplomb of a Waddie Mitchell or Baxter Black, confident and in command. I could go on but you get the picture. These kids are good!

All of the above stuff is pretty impressive. Let me tell you now what impresses me the most. Behind the scenes, you see these kids helping and supporting each other in so many ways. They get together to work out their arrangements and rehearse. The older ones mentor the younger ones. They see each other doing things and it inspires each of them to learn something new and different. And most importantly, I see them becoming

great friends. Many of these kids are now part of the circuit of cowboy gatherings and music festivals that occur throughout the West so they see each other fairly often. Kathy Sawyer, mother of Leah and David (two young and extremely talented young folks from Texas) described it as “finding their tribe.” When she said it, my jaw dropped. Not too long ago, I used the same phrase about myself and others who have found kindred spirits in this particular slice of the music world. It hadn’t occurred to me that the same would be true for these young people but it makes

perfect sense. These associations make you want to be better...a better singer, songwriter and musician but more importantly, a better person.

In my “other life” where I worked for many years helping young people get their lives on track, I came to believe that one of the most important things children need in addition to family stability is an opportunity to become passionately involved in activities which give their lives meaning and purpose. Before I ever became involved with music, sports provided that for me when I was a teen-ager. We see “aimless” kids in our society because we fail to give them something to aim for. How dare we sit back then and criticize them when they behave badly when it is our failure to give them what they need. I’m proud that the Western Music Association is doing its part to give young people and their families an opportunity to pursue their passion in such a productive way. I know organizations of different types all over the country do the same thing on a daily basis. We need to tell those stories to each other to remind ourselves that there are things we can do to really make a difference.

“The WMA has long expressed a desire to involve young people in the organization.”



O.J. Sikes

O.J. Sikes

# Reviews



## A Musical Note From OJ...

### *Thoughts on a strategy for growing our base*

Over the years we've talked periodically about losing our audience, but less about how to grow our base. We're losing audience members due to "natural" attrition we can't do anything about. I think we need to give serious and sustained thought to the development of a strategy for growing the base. It's something we *can* do. This might call for a committee approach rather than an annual convention or infrequent Board meeting. But, in the meantime, without really going into it in great detail, I'd suggest that the strategy have the following three prongs (other aspects may need to be brought in, but this is where members of a committee and individuals with ideas will be able to play a key role in forming the framework and putting it into action):

1) If radio play is the main goal, or one of the main goals, we'll have to focus on going where stations are able and willing to make their own programming decisions. If we can build a big enough niche with that base, moving to more lucrative outlets might be considerably easier. Get played on every college station & independent Internet station in the country; you'll build a younger audience while reaching an older one as well! And don't shy away from stations or DJs that also have country shows. If they're willing to play a good Western song, that's progress, especially if they have a large audience!


Trying to beat down commercial doors that have been built to withstand pressure and whose aim is to protect a central programming unit in some distant location, will only result in sore fists. Today, people listen to radio on their cell phones and other devices I can't even name, and they can choose what to hear from a variety of sources from just down the block to distant continents, so commercial radio is not the only player on the field. If a spot opens up on commercial radio, go for it, but don't limit yourself.

2) I've been appealing to members for years to approach rodeos with a view to providing musical entertainment *in lieu of*, or to complement, the country acts that get paid big bucks to perform at these events. The response I've had has been muted and pretty much limited to very weak reasons why "we can't do that."

3) I've also appealed to the performing members to

look for conservation &/or parks events such as Earth Day or the celebration of the 4th of July, Arbor Day, etc., in a state or national park, forest, recreational area, etc. The reason for this particular group or related groups is that the lyrics to much of what we call Western music relate to the beauty of the Western environment, the Redwood trees, the snow-capped mountains, the waterfalls, the plains, deserts, Western wildlife, desert sunsets, old historic trails, etc. that are being preserved by the parks and celebrated by conservationists. Some of those sites and celebrations are "made for" Western music as part of the entertainment. Exposing the people who are visiting these places because they are attracted to them for their natural beauty or historical significance, giving them the opportunity to hear musicians who can put what they're seeing to music – is a perfect fit.

Getting gigs for the summer months to entertain park visitors is something folk musicians do in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Why can't Western performers do the same thing in the Rockies and other areas that attract tourists looking for the beauty and grandeur of the west? Some do, and for those who do, they might be advised to actively recruit audiences to look for the music on radio/Internet, look for Western concerts and add Western CDs and downloads to their music collection. But coming back to conservationists, we need to court them because of our common interests. Can you name a Western musician who doesn't want to see the beauty of the West preserved?

Item 3 needs to be divided into courting a specific, new audience (conservationists) that can grow our base, and finding new venues (parks/events) for reaching a less specific audience (tourists who enjoy the out-of-doors) that can also become part of our Western music fan base. I'm convinced it can have an impact, but it's up to *you*, the musician, to carry the ball. 

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

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

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

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

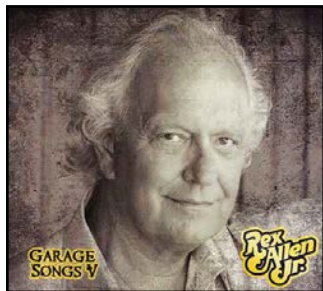


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## REX ALLEN JR

### *Garage Songs V*

BPR Records



A few years ago, Rex Allen Jr. started recording a series of albums called *Garage Songs*. This is the 5th entry in that series, a 6th has been completed and two more are “in the works.” Looking back on the project, Rex says that the songs in this series are the songs of his life. Some also

reflect his philosophy.

The material comes from more than one genre. In this new album, there are 12 selections, four of which are well-known Western songs. Rex gives each his own interpretation, with sparse accompaniment in most instances, and background vocals provided by Saturday's Children. When I heard his recording of “There's a Blue Sky Way Out Yonder,” I immediately remembered his dad singing it to open so many of his shows, years ago.

Most of the non-Western material was new to me, but there is one non-Western chestnut that steals the show (for me). It's “I Really Don't Want to Know.” What a treasure! All of Rex's product is available from CDBaby.com. Volume VI, which will be reviewed later, is a collection of love songs and it promises to be a major success. It's available now on iTunes. No need to wait for a review. The songs are ballads you always wished Rex would record. Now, he has.

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## LES “CARROT TOP” ANDERSON

### *My Baby Buckaroo*

B.A.C.M. CD D 470



Unfortunately, I never met Les Anderson but I did know his widow Betty, who used to come to WMA conventions in Albuquerque. When she offered to send me some of her late husband's old cassettes, I had visions of rare treasures, because finding Les Anderson's

recordings wasn't easy. When I opened the box that soon arrived in the mail, I was disappointed. There were lots of tapes that had belonged to Les, but they were cassettes he had taped from radio broadcasts and old LPs, apparently with an old hand-held recorder. They weren't things he had sung or played on, just things by others that he liked!

This new CD released by BACM fills a big gap, not only for me but for others who remember him from his work as a vocalist and steel guitarist with Bob Wills and many others, his time as a star on the Town Hall

Party and his own TV show, as well as his work with his own band, the Melody Wranglers. This disc focuses on the early years of his recording career (1945-51) with numerous Anderson vocals and with other steel guitarists, e.g., Noel Boggs accompanying him, in addition to some of his fine steel playing.

The songs here are a mix of western swing and country, and the title song, a vocal, has become one of my Les Anderson favorites. A re-recording of his steel composition, “This is Southland” is here, and Kevin Coffey's excellent notes relate the story of Anderson's work with Spade Cooley, among other things. Contact VenerableMusic.com, phone 678-232-0268.

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## ROY ROGERS, GENE AUTRY, REX ALLEN, ELTON BRITT, SONS OF THE PIONEERS, WILF CARTER, SAGEBRUSH SAM, TEX MORTON, ETC.

### *Old Faithful: Songs from the Saddle*

Jasmine JASMCD 3586



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

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

U.S. cowboys are well represented on this disc of 27 songs. Roy Rogers sings two, one of which is a very rare recording of “A Cowboy Needs a Horse,” restored from a 1950's Golden Records disc. Elton Britt sings “Give Me a Pinto Pal,” and Gene Autry's original recording of “Take Me Back to My Boots & Saddle” is here, as are Rex's “Old Faithful” & his less well known, “Albino, Pink-Eyed Stallion.” In addition to the better-known stars, we find rarely heard Americans like Texas Jim Robertson (singing “My Pony's Hair Turned Grey”), Carson Jay Robison (“There's a Bridle Hanging on the Wall”) & Bob Atcher (“Strawberry Roan”). Canadians Wilf Carter and Omar Blondhal (aka “Sagebrush Sam”) sing four songs each, Hank Snow sings his early “Ridin' Along, Singing a Song” and the UK is represented by The Hillbillies with “Yip Neddy.” Featured Australian singers include Tex Morton (with four tunes), The Tumbleweeds, Buddy Williams, June Holmes, Les Wilson & Smokey Dawson.

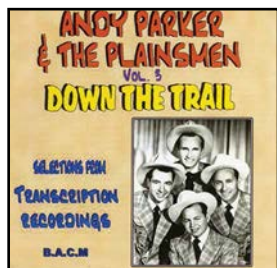
Paul Hazell's liner notes offer insight into the songs and their singers, a big help to the listener who may not be familiar with the wide range of material found on this excellent disc. Available from Amazon.com.

Continued on page 37

## ANDY PARKER & THE PLAINSMEN

*Vol. 3 Down The Trail*

B.A.C.M.



There's a story about Andy Parker & the Plainsmen that has become a part of Western music lore. Over 60 years ago, Lloyd Perryman of the Sons of the Pioneers, went with a friend to a Plainsmen concert. After it was over, Lloyd was overheard telling his friend, "I've got to go back and light a fire under my boys. These guys are GOOD!" Lloyd became one

of the Plainsmen's biggest fans. The selections on this new release illustrate why.

Twenty years ago it was almost impossible to find the Plainsmen's music. Most of the members of the group had passed o, and there was a serious risk that they would be forgotten. But Andy Parker's son, Joe, had a collection of his dad's records and transcriptions, and since that time he has been able to restore them and put them on CDs. The Audio-phonc Company and the British Archive of Country Music (BACM) have released a number of albums of this talented group's work. This is the third Plainsmen release by BACM, and it may well be the best yet!

The group's members included the legendary steel guitarist Joaquin Murphy, an amazing fiddler named Harry Sims, accordionist George Bamby and others, and they played both hot Western swing and smooth Western harmony tunes with equal ease. You'll hear 30 such songs on this CD, including Andy Parker's introduction and exit over their theme, "Call of the Rollin' Plains." Some of the titles will be familiar, others will become instant favorites. There's good variety and there are no weak selections in the bunch. This project is a masterpiece! Available from VenerableMusic. Com, phone 678-232-0268 or Amazon.com.

## FLYING W WRANGLERS

*Back On Track*



The Flying W Wranglers were inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame in 2009. Their current leader, David Bradley, became a member of the Hall of Fame in 1989 when he was a member of the Sons of the Pioneers (he was the featured yodeler with the Pioneers for 5 years in the 1980's - 90's). The Flying W

Chuckwagon was hit by a terribly destructive forest fire a few years ago, but David has taken over the musical chores and has put together a musical group that now rivals any in the country. This, the new group's first CD is a fine example of their work, although nothing can substitute for seeing them "in-person." They are amazing!

This 11 song CD opens with a rousing rendition of Rex Allen's yodeling showcase composition, "Queen of the Rodeo," featuring David and some superb fiddling by Luke Tripp. Then, the group harmonizes beautifully on the intro to a great rendition of "Ghost Riders in the Sky." At the Albuquerque convention, David introduced the next song, "Along the Navajo Trail," as one Roy Rogers once told him was one of his top four favorite songs. "She Taught Me to Yodel" is here, as are several Western swing tunes (one of which is an instrumental and gives the boys & their instruments a chance to shine) and three more Western classics, with all of the band members pitching in. This one's a winner!

Phone 719-244-2528 for purchase info.

## RED STEAGALL

*Classic Red Steagall*

Bunkhouse Press - 2 CD Set



There's a sub-title inside the cover of this 2-CD, 36-song set: *Red Steagall's 70's & 80's Honky Tonk & Western Swing*. That doesn't quite "say it all," but it'll give you a pretty fair idea of what's in store when you put these CDs in your player. In 2006, Red was named the Poet Laureate

of Texas, and over the years he has become a legend in Western music as well.

Decades ago, he wrote three #1 country hits and a Grammy winner before he became very active in Western swing and Western music, although that music had been a part of his life from the very beginning. The three top hits are included

in this set, as is the song, recorded by Ray Charles & Norah Jones, that won a Grammy. And there are plenty of really outstanding swing tunes that will surely set your toes to tapping, e.g., "Bob's Got a Swing Band in Heaven," "Texas Red," "The Fiddle Man," "Under the X in Texas," "Back in the Swing of Things," "Miles & Miles of Texas," "Till There's Not a Cow in Texas," "Truck Drivin' Man" and, of course, "Lone Star Beer & Bob Wills Music."

Red composed many of the great songs in this set, and while they were recorded decades ago, they remain as fresh and appealing today as they were back then. If you're a fan, you may have been searching for some of the recordings in this set for some time. Now, your search is over. Don't miss this one!

Call 800-457-7966 or RedSteagall.com.

Continued on page 38



## ★ ★ ★

## DVD REVIEW

### GENE AUTRY, CHAMPION, & SMILEY BURNETTE

*Gene Autry Collection No. 9*



Spring is finally here and with it comes another DVD release of four of Gene Autry's most enjoyable movies, fully restored and uncut. This time, all four of the features date from the 1930s, when the original Champion was still riding with Gene, Smiley Burnette was at his side and Frankie Marvin could be found somewhere in every film, but not always playing his steel guitar. The earliest film in this set is *Comin' 'Round the Mountain*, from 1936. Gene's movies from this decade included lots of music and this

one features Gene singing "Chiquita" & "When the Campfire is Low on the Prairie" plus the title song, and trick roper Monte Montana makes an appearance, but Champion almost steals the show. Gene's leading lady from the film, Ann Rutherford, guests on the DVD wraparound and tells fascinating stories about David Selznick and Clark Gable, and Gene recalls in detail Yakima Canutt's amazing stunt work on the picture.

The second film is *Git Along Little Dogies* (1937), and you can enjoy Gene in a musical clip from it ("If You Want to be a Cowboy," a Fleming Allan composition) on the GeneAutry.com web site. In his outstanding reference book, *Gene Autry Westerns*, Boyd Magers cites this as one of Gene's best-loved

films. The lovely Judith Allen is Gene's leading lady and the film establishes something of a pattern, in terms of plot and interaction between the cowboy and the lady, that is to recur in subsequent Autry features. The third film is *Man from Music Mountain* (1938), and it finds Gene singing several Johnny Marvin-Fred Rose compositions, e.g. the beautiful "I'm Beginning to Care" and "Goodbye Pinto." The 1939 release in this package is *Mountain Rhythm*. In it, Gene introduces his hit, "It Makes No Difference Now," and sings "Gold Mine in Your Heart" and "Highways are Happy Ways," among others. If you look closely, you may be able to identify Spade Cooley among the musicians, from before he became famous as a Western swing band leader.

One of the great things about all of these Gene Autry films, in addition to the superb restoration, is that they include music Gene didn't record commercially, so the viewer gets to hear songs you might never have heard before. And of course, each disc has bonus features, like full broadcasts from the Melody Ranch radio show (in this instance, with songs from the mid-1940's, re-mastered with excellent fidelity, like Gene's "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," "San Fernando Valley," "Dude Ranch Cowhands," "My Little Buckaroo," "The Singing Hills," "Hills of Old Wyomin'," and the Cass County Boys sing "Gal in Calico," "Down the Trail to San Antone" & "Why, Oh Why Did I Ever Leave Wyoming?"), plus rare movie stills & "fun facts" from the films. Color wraparounds from Gene's Melody Ranch Theater feature Gene in his later years, exchanging fond memories and amusing stories with Pat Buttram & guests George Sherman and Roy & Dale. Just hearing the fascinating stories from these cinematic legends is worth the price of admission! Available at a very reasonable \$16.98 from the Museum of the American West Store via GeneAutry.com or call 323-667-2000.

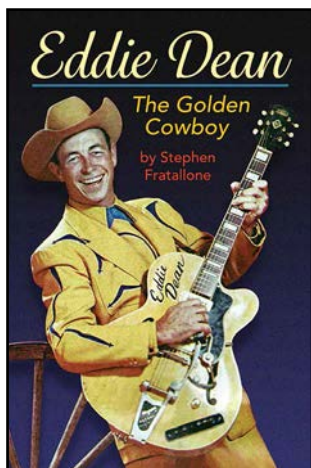
## ★ ★ ★

## BOOK REVIEW

### STEPHEN FRATALLONE

*Eddie Dean - The Golden Cowboy*

BearManor Media (Paperback)



Since this is the most comprehensive book (464 pages) on Eddie Dean ever written, it will be a "must" for every fan. Other readers who are interested in Western films and music, even if not very familiar with Dean's career, will also find it interesting because so much of the film world and music business came into play in Dean's long career. A filmography and a discography are included, and the former reveals, among other things, that Eddie appeared in 36 films, mostly B-Westerns starring William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy), Gene Autry, The Three Mesquiteers, Roy Rogers, Tex Ritter, The Range Busters, Bob Steele, Ken Maynard and others, before he became a singing cowboy movie star. Between 1945 and 1948, he starred in 20 films,

six of which featured one of the most talented of all Western groups, Andy Parker & the Plainsmen, as his musical side-kicks. His films also introduced "Lash" LaRue to the world of the B-Western!

While he had wagon loads of movie fans, Eddie is probably best remembered as a singer-songwriter. In this thorough biography, the author tells behind-the-scenes stories of how some of his most famous songs were written and recorded. The way Tex Ritter came to record "I Dreamed of a Hillbilly Heaven" is fascinating, as are the events leading to the song's composition, with the involvement of Hi Busse, whose Frontiersmen had backed Eddie on his first big hit, "One Has My Name, the Other Has My Heart." The detailed account of the latter is even better, and the book is filled with other interesting stories!

The award-winning author's extensive experience in the music business allows him to introduce anecdotes and details that might have escaped other writers, and they help to hold the reader's attention all the way through. The 139 pages of movie stills, lobby cards and other photographs illustrate the text effectively, including facets of Dean's life of which few fans were aware. Some typos got past the proofreader, but if you can overlook that you'll really enjoy the book. Highly recommended! Contact BearManorMedia.com or call 443-903-9899 to order.



## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

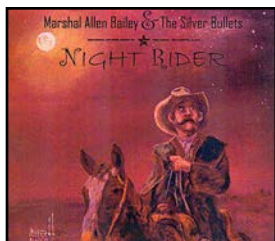
To submit items for review, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442. Include: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number. We also recommend you furnish a land source (Address or PO Box) as well as Online sources for obtaining product. Submitting a CD or Book for review does not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

**A Big OOPS!!!** A huge mistake on my part appeared in the Curio Cowboys CD review in the Winter Issue of The Western Way. I sincerely apologize for what is likely my biggest boo-boo yet! In speaking with the band's leader John Feldman, I somehow "heard" that it was his fiddler who had passed away before the release of the band's CD entitled "Sunburst Saga." I mistakenly named that fiddler (Joe Carter) in the review as having passed away, when in fact it was the band's trumpeter/trombonist Brian Finigan who had unfortunately left us. I have no idea how I managed to go so far south on that one, but again, I offer my profound apologies to all concerned!!!

## ★ ★ ★

### MARSHALL ALLEN BAILEY & THE SILVER BULLETS

*Night Rider*



Yep! The "groups of olde" have some strong-blooded descendants, and here's your proof positive!

Plus Bill Barwick likes 'em, so you know they've got something to offer!!

Strong harmony and variety are hallmarks of this Kansas assemblage. That wonderful, lonesome Western fiddle (from Rebekah Workman and former Roy Clark fiddler Shelby Eicher) also swings, and to good advantage on this CD. Featured are strong original compositions that stand well beside the classic covers...and those aren't your usual "classic covers" either! Doug Green's "Desert Serenade," Hal Blair & Don Robertson's "When It's Autumn On The Trail" and Ernest Blumen-schein & Bert Phillips' "The Wheel Of The Wagon Is Broken" are examples. And the swing they do is Cowboy Swing, folks...Cowboy! One thoroughly crazed bonus track is present as well.

I wasn't familiar with this group, so for me this was a particularly nice

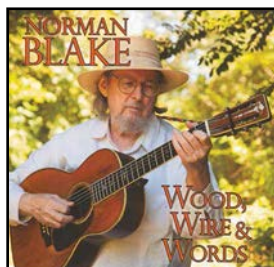
surprise. Very strong, and strongly recommended. Fifteen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$5.50 s/h from Allen D. Bailey, Box 1244, Meade, KS 67864 or through [www.cdbaby.com/cd/marshallbaileyandthesilve](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/marshallbaileyandthesilve).

## ★ ★ ★

### NORMAN BLAKE

*Wood, Wire & Words*



While not specifically a "Western" CD, this one from Folk icon Norman Blake would nest comfortably beside any that are!

"Wood, Wire & Words" marks the first release of all-original Blake creations in thirty years. One ("There's A One Way Road To Glory") is a co-write and co-sing with Nancy Blake. The album is being released on Scott "Western Jubilee" O'Malley's Plectraphone Records label, which is dedicated to the preservation and resurrection of the old, OLD time Country effect. When you get songs called "Grady Forester's Store & Cotton Gin," "The Keeper Of The Government Light On The River" and "Joseph Thompson Hare On The Old Natchez Trace," it's a fair bet that's what you're getting!

Norman Blake's "Wood, Wire &

Words" is raw, gravelly, gut stuff...just what the uber-traditionalists ordered!! Twelve tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h (Order #31) from Western Jubilee Recording Company, PO Box 9187, Colorado Springs, CO 80932 or through [www.westernjubilee.com](http://www.westernjubilee.com).

## ★ ★ ★

### THE BUCKAROO BALLADEERS

*Between Elko And Heaven*



The Buckaroo Balladeers from Utah have issued what is actually a seven-track EP, which is reflected in the price.

Much of the acoustic instrumentation (guitar, banjitar, fiddle and mandolin) is set in the treble timbre, and this may account for what is, to my ear, an effect of having the instruments too far back in the mix. It may just be that they are very "light" against the heavier aspects of the vocals. The tracks are good representations, though, of what you get in the live performances from the husband/wife team of J.C. and Sonja Needham.

*Continued on page 40*

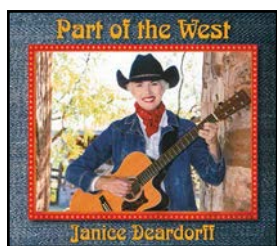


Of the covers I pick Bob McDill's "Coyotes" as the standout. A nice choice was made in giving the verses to J.C. and the "yips" to Sonja, and then they sing together after "another coyote was heard." Other picks include Ian Tyson's "Roll On Owyhee" and Dave Stamey's "The Bandit Joaquin." Seven tracks.

EP: \$10.99 + \$3 s/h from The Buckaroo Balladeers, PO Box 108, Stockton, UT 84071 or through [www.cdbaby.com/cd/thebuckarooballadeers](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/thebuckarooballadeers).

## JANICE DEARDORFF

### Part Of The West



If we were to describe her style, Arizona's Janice Deardorff is not a copy of anyone. She manages to vary her delivery from song to song, which seemingly depends on her feelings about each. Occasionally that delivery could be called "eccentric" but just as often a true, deep balladeering timbre comes forth.

I feel she does tend to write successfully for her unusual voice, or perhaps we could say the delivery works best on her originals. Those picks on her newest release include "If The Fields Could Speak," "Didn't Know," "That's The Way I Feel About You" and "All Aboard." For my ear, the most successful of the covers on the album is Steve Fromholz', "Man In The Big Hat."

From what I'm hearing, Deardorff is getting known on the rounds of Western fests and plenty of people are responding to her different approach. Check it out for yourself! Twelve tracks total.

CD: \$18 ppd from Janice Deardorff, 7155 E. Luana Pl, Tucson, AZ 85710 or through [www.janicedeardorff.com](http://www.janicedeardorff.com).



## BILL GANZ WESTERN BAND

### (with the Arizona Symphonic Strings)

#### Ridin' The Arizona Range



This pleasing release was based on a live collaboration originally done with the Tucson Symphony and narrated

live by Bob Fee (who provides liner notes here). Although not recorded at the time, much of the effect has been captured here for posterity.

This collection hearkens back to a time when orchestral scoring from Victor Fleming, Tutti Camarata and others rode the musical trails with Rex Allen, Roy & Dale and others. Mostly the songs are classics from film and radio with Arizona connections or imagery. One Ganz original ("Smoke Of A Thousand Campfires") is present, too. Others include Bob Nolan's "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" & "Cool Water," Tombstone area resident Michael Burton's "Night Rider's Lament," Rex Allen's "Arizona Waltz," Arizonan Badger Clark's "A Border Affair" and Stan Jones' "Riders In The Sky (A Cowboy Legend)," all with lush scoring from Rob Boone.

Eleven tracks. Recommended.

CD: \$20 through [www.ganzmusic.com](http://www.ganzmusic.com) or from Bill Ganz, 6641 N Camino Abbey, Tucson AZ 85718.

## HORSE CRAZY COWGIRL BAND

### All I Need



Occasionally on CDs the technique and details are so stringently hammered the fun seems to

have been chased away. No worries about that here...at all!!!

Every bit of this new release is inspired. At points along the way it even hits "thrilling!" Dang, ladies...ya brought tears! Wonderful little touches

in the instrumental accents and performances with genuine flair make this CD something special. Songs include Ric Steinke's "Swingtime In The Rockies," Nancy Thorwardson's "Paint The Town" and it was nice to see Ken Graydon's, "Three Quarter Time" covered. I spotted and responded to their adept political correction of the "warpaint" verse in "Pecos Bill" and enjoyed the variety of lead vocal work throughout. Hats off to their newest band mate, Judy Coder, for her handling of superb harmony arrangements and arranging for those eight wonderful support musicians. Twelve tracks total.

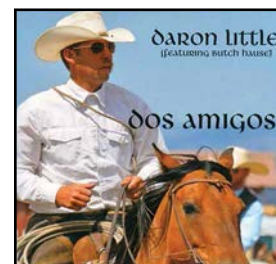
This one is wholeheartedly, enthusiastically and did I mention 100% recommended!!

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band, PO Box 276, Winthrop, WA 98862 or through [www.horsecrazycowgirlband.com](http://www.horsecrazycowgirlband.com).

## DARON LITTLE

### (with Butch Hause)

#### Dos Amigos



In his cover letter, Daron Little says he was aiming at a full album, then fussed and fretted over the tracks, and

then realized most CDs only have six or so tracks that "measure up" anyway, so he took the ones he felt did, did 'em with guitar and voice (and Butch Hause filling in some good, subtle stuff), and here you are!

This release of original songs includes "The Outside Circle" (my personal favorite), "Cowboy Standard Time," "Dos Amigos," "Where The Sagebrush Touches The Sky," "Good Case Of Gone" and "This Old Horse." All could be classified as CD "picks" under normal circumstances. I'm also inclined to name "Cowboy Standard Time," "Good Case Of Gone" and "This Old Horse" as particular "picks."

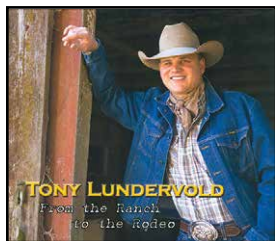
What we find here is a perfect example of the adage less is more...when "less" is done this well. Total of six culled, fretted over, fussed with and non-fluff tracks!

CD: \$10 + 4 s/h through [www.ranchcowboymusic.com](http://www.ranchcowboymusic.com), iTunes, Amazon or [www.cdbaby.com/cd/daronlittle](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/daronlittle).

Continued on page 41

## TONY LUNDERVOLD

### *From The Ranch To The Rodeo*



Tony Lunder vold was crowned the 2009 North-west Profes-sional Rodeo Association's Saddle Bronc Riding Cham-

pion. The following year he broke his neck and that ended that. Fortunately, coming from a musical family, he was also given a gentle, softly confident tenor voice in that neck!

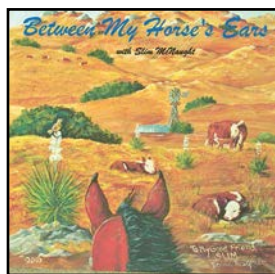
On his debut CD, Lunder vold per-forms his solidly Western lyrics to the accompaniment of a solid Country-styled combo. Ten tight musicians participate. All but two of the tracks were written or co-written by him. Five are co-writes with Joni Harms! In somewhat the same manner as we find on Brenn Hill-produced albums, the outer tracks lean more toward seeking "commercial" acceptance. The inner tracks tend toward more conventional Western instrumentation. Some of the CD picks include "Greener Pastures," "The Cowboy Way" and "Somebody To Me." I also like his autobiographical "Young Cowboy."

Give him a try! Eleven tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$5 s/h (\$10 s/h interna-tional) from Tony Lunder vold, PO Box 62, Sublimity, OR 97385.

## SLIM MCNAUGHT

### *Between My Horse's Ears*



Slim Mc-Naught is one of the "real" ones...with sand in the voice earned the authen-tic way. It's nothin' fancy or in your

face. It's just a straight and direct pre-sentation of memories, stories, family happenings and the solid cowboy life.

Frequently you get views you won't have had, such as in "The Night Latch."

Other picks include the title poem "Between My Horse's Ears," "The Wran-gler," "Huggin' The Mare," "Grandpa's Boot Print," "It's Fall Again" and "Barb Wire."

The CD's cover is a painting that the artist, Bonnie Krogman, was moved to render upon hearing this collection's title poem. Generally it's said when art inspires art, it's the ultimate com-plement.

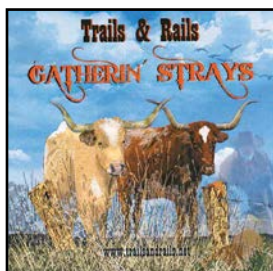
Slim McNaught's "Between My Horse's Ears" is a very good example of the Cowboy Poetry genre. If you've not partaken...what's holdin' you up??

Seventeen tracks.

CD: \$12 ppd from Slim's Leather & Publishing, 110 S. Madison Ave., New Underwood, SD 57761 or through [www.cdbaby.com/cd/slimmcnaught](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/slimmcnaught).

## TRAILS & RAILS

### *Gatherin' Strays*



Trails & Rails have long been known and valued for their vintage effect...some say "retro" these days... but whatever

you call it, they are good ambassadors for it. And their newest release is pre-dominantly Western to boot!

Their sound is early folk tinged, sort of hill country, sort of front porch gather-ing...and fun. The acoustic structure of what they do is always thought out and appropriate. Longtime leaders Paula Strong and Walt Richards have welcomed a new addition (I mean, a songwriting band member!) in bass player/singer Mike Craig. He gets off some good turns-of phrase in his origi-nals, such as in "He's A Cowboy" ("he's a really good example of a really bad example of the way most people tend to lead their lives...").

Folks familiar with Trails & Rails know what to expect in releases from the group, and maybe some nice discoveries await the rest of you, too! Seventeen tracks.

CD: \$18 ppd from Trails & Rails, 5750 Amaya Dr. 9, La Mesa, CA 91942, through [www.cdbaby.com/cd/trail-sandrails](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/trail-sandrails) or iTunes.

## BARRY WARD

### *Distant Furrows*



Many of the tracks on "The Bear's" newest al-bum are fresh acoustic ren-ditions of fa-vorites from his first four

CDs, which have been retired.

Because of the production elements and attention paid to every detail, a Barry Ward release always merits our attention, and this one is no different. Ten top session musicians participated including folks like Ernie Martinez, Jim Farrell, Stu Stuart and Joe Stephenson.

Ward's songs are most often con-nected to personal family history, expe-rience and beliefs. For that last reason, much of the album is religious. Among the secular picks are "My Blood Is On This Land" and "When I Grow Up." His new track "Farming Sun Blues" has the old Slim Harpo blues feel found on recordings from the 1960s era Excello label. That effect was quite a memory flogger for me!

Barry Ward's fans will love this one and new folks shouldn't have too hard a time with it either! Eighteen tracks.

CD: (order through [www.BarryWard-Music](http://www.BarryWard-Music), or call 303-243-1978).

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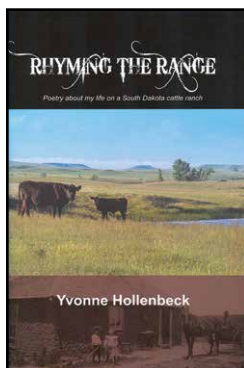
*Did you know that cowboy singing star Tex Ritter's first commercial release on Columbia Records was the song "Goodbye, Old Paint?"*



## BOOK REVIEWS

### YVONNE HOLLENBECK

*Rhyming The Range (CD and Book)*



One way to appreciate the difference between "Cowboy Mythos" and "Cowboy Reality" is to contemplate the distance between Roy & Dale's movie "The Cowboy & The Señorita" and Yvonne Hollenbeck's "The Truth About Cowboy Laundry!!"

Sudden unexpected truth is the core of humor, but among ranching folks listening, Hollenbeck also gets the nodding recognition of "oh boy here it comes!" It comes from her ratio of comic to serious, even in a comic piece. As she puts it, "it wasn't so funny at the time!" And

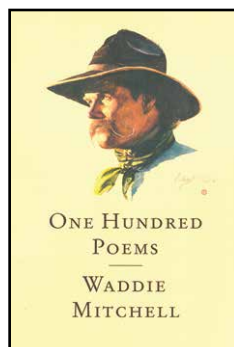
she can really get to the gut of it. From Hometown Shopping: "Do you know who you are buying from when you shop cyberspace? When your little league needs sponsors can you call upon their place?" Or from Rancher Wannabe: "...to just become a rancher is a challenge as we know it, but you can pretend you are one and become a cowboy poet!"

The book features 72 poems, the CD has 22 of them, with fine guitar stagings from Butch Hause.

CD: \$15 ppd and Book (hardcover): \$25 (both for \$35 ppd) from Yvonne Hollenbeck, 30549 291 St., Clearfield, SD 57580-6205.

### WADDIE MITCHELL

*One Hundred Poems*



So here's a collection of one hundred poems of Waddie Mitchell to peruse and peruse again. And you will. Indeed you will.

These days there are wonderful, intriguing poems being written by stars and rising stars of the Cowboy Poetry genre. But returning when you get a chance...like you will with this volume... suddenly it hits you. Nobody does what Waddie Mitchell does. Whether it's a little thought or a grand concept, a humor hit or a sucker punch...the ol'

bard can handle it all as he glides from tried and true poetic forms to wonderfully new structure, and does it perfectly and appropriately for the subjects at hand. Check out "Who But The Horse" along with "Bill Maupin" for range of observation. Try his Spur Award winning "Still There" beside "The Gift" for span of concept and thought.

This volume simply has to be on the shelves of all who value Cowboy Poetry. Or any poetry. Period. Two hundred fifteen pages.

Book (softcover): \$24.95 + \$5 s/h (Order #23) from Western Jubilee Recording Company, PO Box 9187, Colorado Springs, CO 80932 or through [www.westernjubilee.com](http://www.westernjubilee.com).



*Did you know that cowboy singing star Tex Ritter ran for the Senate in 1970 but lost soundly to Republican Representative Bill Brock?*

### David Bourne

*Continued from page 26*

respect as he did the classics and took the time to arrange all of my music....and then gave me a copy of the arrangements and charts for my future use and library...what a treasure. Dave was a pro and perfectionist in every way and in everything he did. He was then and always will be a folk hero to me. God bless." ERNIE SITES

"As for Dave....He was 'The Leader of the Band'. He was the reason I got back into music when he invited me join The Lobo Rangers in 1990 and it opened a whole new world for my wife and I. But my fondest recollections of "The Fess" are how much he loved the rehearsal process, building the harmonies and arrangements, and crafting the sound. He also loved to perform, but, honestly, his favorite thing was the late night hotel jam sessions in Elko, or Tucson, or wherever we might be. Even better for him was if it all took place around a campfire. For him, that was returning to the roots of music and its purpose. God bless him. I miss him." MIKE FLEMING

### Leader of the Band

*By Dan Fogelberg*

#### Chorus:

The leader of the band  
Is tired and his eyes are growing old  
But his blood runs thru' my instrument  
And his song is in my soul  
My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man  
I'm just a living legacy  
To the leader of the band

If you want to obtain CDs of Dave Bourne's Saloon Piano Volumes or his pictorial book on Knott's Berry Farm GHOST TOWN 1940-1968, go to [www.SaloonPiano.com](http://www.SaloonPiano.com)

\* A special thanks to Margo Montegrano from CowboyPoetry.com for the poem - The Piano at Reds by Badger Clark and Mike Fleming for the song - The Leader of the Band by Dan Fogelberg.



# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel
2. Horses That Run Far Away - Bob Marshall
3. This Cowboy - R.W. Hampton
4. Night Rider - Marshal Allen Bailey & the Silver Bullets
5. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
6. Granite Mountain - Belinda Gail
7. All I Need - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
8. Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert
9. Riding After Midnight - Clint Bradley
10. Partners - Doug Figgs
11. Forty Miles of Famous - Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade
12. Selections - Nancy Elliott
13. Badger & the Belles - Devon Dawson, Kristyn Harris, Rich O'Brien
14. From Oregon to Ireland - Joni Harms
15. Ghost Towns - Allen & Jill Kirkham
16. Ode to Selway - Brenn Hill
17. Rope That Rhythm - The Hanson Family
18. What's Left of the West - Old West Trio
19. Party on the Prairie - Terry Brown
20. From the Ranch to the Rodeo - Tony Lundervold
21. Trail Dust and Teardrops - Eddy Harrison
22. Blue Horizon - Sid Hausman & Washtub Jerry
23. Old Poly Rope - Trinity Seely
24. Listen...to the Horse - Juni Fisher
25. Allegretto/Espinoza - Gary Allegretto & Ian Espinoza
26. Let Me Ride - Kristyn Harris
27. Moonlight Trails - KG & the Ranger
28. Traditions - Jean Prescott
29. Lonesome County Road - Barry Ward
30. Out of the Chute - Belinda Gail & Diane Tribitt

## TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel
2. A Platter of Brownies - Carolyn Martin
3. Too Hot to Handle - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
4. The Carolyn Sills Combo - Carolyn Sills Combo
5. Jewel of the West - LeeLee Robert
6. Legends - Coby Carter
7. All I Need - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
8. All Dolled Up - Western Swing Authority
9. Blue Horizon - Sid Hausman & Washtub Jerry
10. That's My Home - Jason Roberts

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. She Could Ride - Mikki Daniel
2. Driftin' Cowboy - R.W. Hampton
3. A Cowboy Hat - Trinity Seely
4. Don Edwards for President - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
5. Horses That Run Far Away - Bob Marshall
6. Swingtime in the Rockies - Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band
7. Cowboy Blessing - Bob Marshall
8. Granite Mountain - Belinda Gail
9. Swingtime Rocking Chair - Mikki Daniel
10. Cowboy Man - LeeLee Robert & Marvin O'Dell

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Elko: A Cowboy Gathering - Various Artists
2. The Bar D Roundup, 2014 - Various Artists
3. One Hundred Years of Thunder - Doris Daley & Bruce Innes - Cowboy Poetry Classics - Various Artists
5. Rhyming the Range - Yvonne Hollenbeck
6. Sweat Equity - Waddie Mitchell
7. The Bar D Roundup, 2011 - Various Artists
8. The Bar D Roundup, 2010 - Various Artists
9. Pull My Finger - Pat Richardson
10. Live at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko, NV - 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 sent their playlists this quarter:

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

Michael Babiarz  
KVMR Community Radio  
89.5FM  
401 Spring Street  
Nevada City, Ca 95959  
530-265-9073  
916-233-6203  
www.kvmr.org  
e-mail: back40radio@kvmr.org

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

Bobbie Jean Bell  
OutWest  
22508 6th St.  
Newhall, CA 91321  
e-mail: bobbiejeanbell@gmail.com  
661-255-7087

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

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

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo  
KPOV Radio, 106.7 FM  
22470 Rickard Rd.  
Bend, OR 97702  
541-388-2537  
www.kpov.org  
e-mail: housetopranch@bendbroadband.com

Rockin' Therapy Radio  
Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez  
avenida galtzaraborda nº47 2ºA  
20100 renteria  
Guipuzcoa  
España  
e-mail: miguelbilly56@gmail.com  
www.rockintherapyradio.com

Mike Gross  
15 Nina's Way  
Manchester, CT 06040  
"Swingin' West"  
e-mail: 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

Sam Harris  
CVFM Country  
4 Shadforth Close  
Old Shotton Village  
Peterlee  
Co. Durham  
SR8 2NG

England  
www.cvfm.org.uk  
e-mail: samharris01@aol.com

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

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

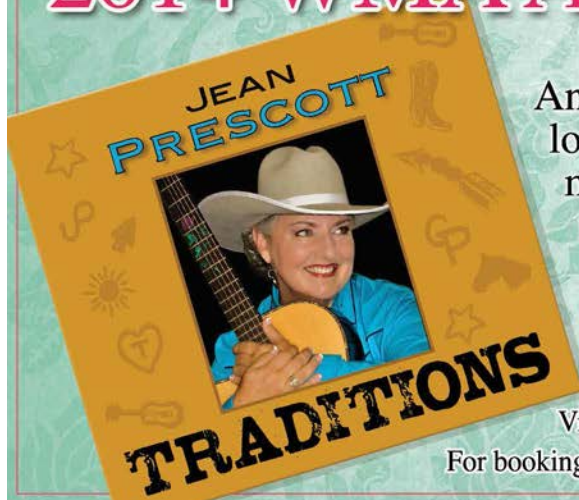
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«Early Morning Trails»  
225 West 7th Street,  
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008-4637  
(609) 361-8277  
alkrtil@yahoo.com  
www.sudzincountry.com

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

Graham Lees  
Radio HWD  
13 Overthorpe Ave.  
Dewsbury, West Yorkshire  
WF120DS  
UK  
e-mail: graham@noshowjones.plus.com

*Continues on page 45*

# Congratulations to all the 2014 WMA Award Winners!



And a big thank you to all of my loyal fans and DJ's who helped to make "Traditions" one of the top 5 albums of 2014! Together we are keeping the Western Heritage alive and well.

Visit [www.JeanPrescott.com](http://www.JeanPrescott.com) to order your copy  
Visit [www.facebook.com/jeanprescottmusic](http://www.facebook.com/jeanprescottmusic)

For booking information call 325-583-2553 or email to [jpTexas49@gmail.com](mailto:jpTexas49@gmail.com)



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c/o Campfire Productions  
1623 Co. Rd. 820  
Cullman, AL 35057  
Around the Campfire  
WKUL  
[www.wkul.com](http://www.wkul.com)  
e-mail: [kudzu cowboy@hotmail.com](mailto:kudzu cowboy@hotmail.com)

Wyn Machon  
5 Lowther Street  
Oamaru 9400  
New Zealand  
New Zealand Country Music  
Radio  
FM 107.3 (NZCMR)  
e-mail: [whitestone.music@inbox.com](mailto:whitestone.music@inbox.com)

Dallas & P.J. McCord  
30 Village Dr.  
Creswell, OR 97426  
KNND 1400AM Sunday's 1PM to 4PM  
Cowboy Culture Corner  
e-mail: [dallasmccord@yahoo.com](mailto:dallasmccord@yahoo.com)

Marvin O'Dell  
"Around the Campfire"  
[www.defendersoffreedomradio.com](http://www.defendersoffreedomradio.com)  
KKRN (Redding, CA)  
[www.earsradio.com](http://www.earsradio.com)  
e-mail: [meoteo@aol.com](mailto:meoteo@aol.com)  
3714 Eldorado Blvd.  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
805-551-4649  
[www.musikode.com](http://www.musikode.com)

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

Barbara Richhart  
Western Belle of KSJD  
CowTrails Show  
32229 CO RD P  
Mancos, CO 81328  
Studio: Sundays 12:00-2: PM  
Studio 970-564-0808  
Home: 970-882-1413  
Cell: 970-739-8408  
Streaming [www.ksjd.org](http://www.ksjd.org)  
[bfboston@fone.net](mailto:bfboston@fone.net)

O.J. Sikes  
327 Westview Ave.  
Leon, NJ 07605  
e-mail: [osikes@nj.rr.com](mailto:osikes@nj.rr.com)  
KKRN, Redding, CA  
[www.earsradio.com](http://www.earsradio.com)

Totsie Slover  
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e-mail: [realwestoldwest@live.com](mailto:realwestoldwest@live.com)  
[www.realwestoldwest.com](http://www.realwestoldwest.com)  
[www.demingradio.com](http://www.demingradio.com)  
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"Snake River Radio Roundup"  
KRLC Radio  
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208-743-1551  
[tommy@idavend.com](mailto:tommy@idavend.com)

"Keepin' It Western"  
Leonard Werner  
Country Routes  
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PO Box 191  
Sergeantsville, NJ 08557  
609-397-1620  
[www.wdvr fm.org](http://www.wdvr fm.org)  
e-mail: [Leonardwerner44@comcast.net](mailto:Leonardwerner44@comcast.net)







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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Supporting Membership             | \$100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Supporting Life Membership      | \$600   |
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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.

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- |                                                               |      |
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Coppell, TX 75019

## Questions?

Please email us at [westerngroupie@aol.com](mailto:westerngroupie@aol.com) or call 505-563-0673.

Who can we thank for referring you to WMA?

\_\_\_\_\_

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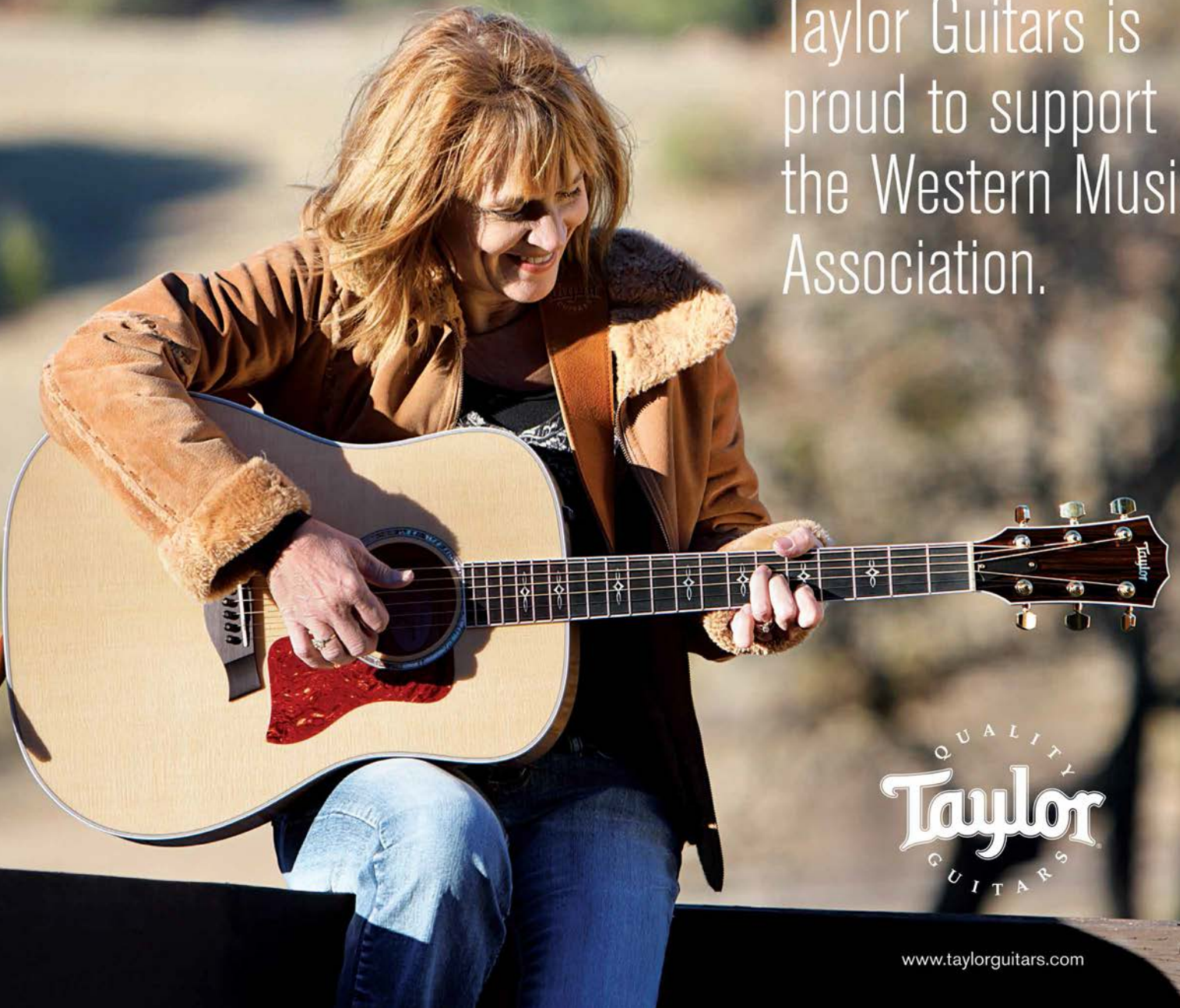


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