

# THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the  
International Western Music Association



## KG & The Ranger

KEEPING WESTERN MUSIC  
ALIVE IS THE FOUNDATION  
OF THEIR LIFE-LONG JOURNEY

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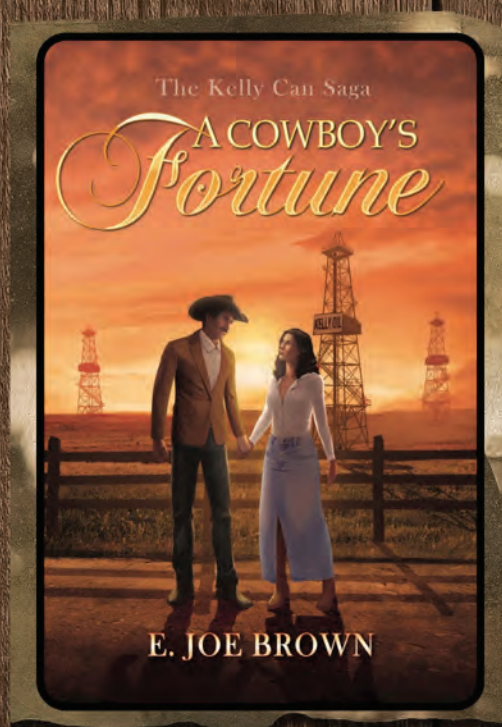
2024  
SONGWRITING  
CONTEST

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# THE KELLY CAN SAGA

BOOK #2



"The cutthroat world of big oil is very different from the life of a humble cowboy, but if anyone can succeed among all the treachery and danger, KELLY CAN!"

~ E. JOE BROWN

Award-Winning Author



BOOK #1



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KEVIN TUCKFIELD



WITH PAUL MILNER

WITH CARL HARRIS

## KINGDOM DOMAIN

Hey folks I'm "Tuck", a new DJ on AR (KWMVradio.com) with "Cowboy Radio Ride".

I will be playing IWMA music and Cowboy Western Country Gospel.

I am an artist myself and had a new gospel CD "Kingdom Domain" released in March.

Allen & Jill have my songs on "Circuit Rider Round-up." Allen said to say "Tuck sounds like Michael Martin Murphey's brother, if he had one."

Well... I'm honored to be adopted in the Western Family. ~ Tuck

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## From The President...



MARVIN O'DELL  
IWMA President

## AWARDS?

For as long as I can remember, society has recognized different individuals for certain acts or successes. We have the prestigious Medal of Honor for acts of heroism and bravery during military service in combat. We have the Medal of Freedom for those who are recognized as having made great personal contributions toward the strengthening of our country. We have Employee of the Year awards, Salesman of the Year, Mother of the Year, the Grammys, the Oscars, and on and on it goes.

In November each year, we have the IWMA awards on Saturday night at our annual convention. It is always a wonderful time with a wonderful program that I think most of our members look forward to with anticipation – especially those who have been nominated for an award. Unfortunately for each award that is given, there can only be one winner. And this is where the rub is.

Someone suggested some years ago that the IWMA should never give awards. They said that it would create problems within the organization that we may not ever want to have to deal with. And there is some merit to that. Awards within any organization can be divisive and can provoke envy.

I, for one, like the fact that we give awards for excellence each year at our convention. I believe that it speaks to our credibility as a music association. Every music association I know of awards its “best” each year. Of course, there is always controversy involved with the giving of those awards; but there is also recognition of excellence that, I believe, should be noted.

Last November, I was confronted in a hallway by an individual who wanted to know why he wasn't nominated in a certain category. I didn't know why – he just wasn't. An individual who was nominated for an award and failed to win took out his anger on Marsha Short, our Executive Director. He got very loud and profanely and verbally abusive, and he created a very frightening situation for her. He later even threatened to bring a lawsuit against the IWMA because he didn't win the

*Continued on page 7*



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#### ON THE COVER...

Whether singing, rehearsing, creating new arrangements for cover songs, finding new ways to communicate the message of the West, or just having fun with family and friends, KG & The Ranger are the picture of consistency. They have not wavered from their mission to support the culture of the West through music or to herald the mission of the IWMA. This duo epitomizes western entertainment – 35 years and still going strong.

Cover photography courtesy Karl Lang.

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





Theresa O'Dell  
Editor

# The Family Reunion

Do you ever see something in an ad and immediately know the product or person it represents? The colors, shape or even the sound has consistently been associated with that person or product. It is their "brand."

In our western genre, it might be "the hat." Some performers always wear the same style hat, and it identifies them. For instance, Mary Kaye wears the bolero (gambler) style hat. I don't know that I've ever seen her in a different style. This is just Mary Kaye! Or, Belinda Gail in the Gus hat with colored trim to match her outfits. It is "so Belinda." You can pick out both women in a crowd. It's their brand.

Some people are branded by their instrument. Who carries around a washtub? Why, Washtub Jerry, of course. There's the accordion-totin' Lori Beth Brooke or Mr. Harmonica Gary Allegretto.

There are those whose style of dress sets them apart, always the bright colors, classy jackets and skirts, some retro dresses, and layers of silver and turquoise jewelry so well put together they could be fashion models. Immediately my mind projects an image. It's Bobbi Jean Bell or Miss Devon Dawson. Or, of the male persuasion we have the Western GQ-look for Dave Stamey or Kerry Grombacher with button-down shirt, necktie, and a gentleman's hat.

For some, it might be an actual uniquely designed logo that is their brand. You'll find it on all of their promotional materials, on social media accounts, and album or book covers. Fans get used to seeing it and look for it on products by their favorite performers.

The branding I've mentioned here are just a few ways to set yourself apart from the herd. An event promoter might not catch your name when they see you perform, but if you have an identifiable brand they remember, you will be much easier to find and to book for their gig.

Is branding really important to do? I think it is, especially if you are wanting to expand and grow your performance schedule and if you plan to be around a long

time. A brand should be something that when people see it, they think of you. This is especially true in creating a logo. Your logo might be modified over the years, but the basic infrastructure should remain the same – look at Coke™ and Pepsi™. They've made changes in recent years, but the basic brand has remained the same.

You may be creative and talented enough to "brand yourself," or maybe you need help. It might be a look or a logo, but it could be the edge that when combined with real talent, will take you to the next level. There are talented people who make it their business to help you make a statement that says "Look, this is me!" If being a performer is the life you want, then invest in yourself. If you want to shake-up your town, state, region or take your poetry or music across the country or the ocean, and if you've developed your craft to a high level, then begin now branding who you are so the world will know not only are you talented, you are uniquely YOU!

*Theresa*

The album cover for 'The Real West' by Patty Clayton. It features a woman in a cowboy hat standing in a field with a covered wagon in the background under a dramatic sky. The title 'THE REAL WEST' is at the top, and 'PATTY CLAYTON' is at the bottom.

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Patty Clayton

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This Flat Land  
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One Lone Man  
The Lilacs & The Roses  
Buffalo Chips  
Before the Prairie Met the Plow

IWMA Album of the Year Finalist in 2022, WWA Spur Finalist in 2023 for original song *Prairie Passages*, Red Carpet Awards in Europe Finalist in 2023 for three songs on this album, and IWMA Western Music Charts top 10 most played album for over a year!

Purchase your CD or digital download now from [www.pattyclayton.com](http://www.pattyclayton.com)



## From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short  
Executive Director

During the weeks before this article is due, I start putting random thoughts down on paper. Then I pull it out and try to turn these thoughts into some sort of cohesive message. Sometimes, though, the cohesiveness just doesn't get there. Maybe I'm running out of things to say...Could we put this paragraph in 24-point type to take up the space?

I found a post about "27 Useless Skills Baby Boomers Have." These included driving a stick shift, reading a map, balancing a checkbook, ironing and darning socks. My parents told me I needed to know all of those things to get by in life. And some I even learned in Home Living...which I'm sure isn't even a class anymore. Then I found "43 Decorating Mistakes Baby Boomers Make." I've made 42 of them and if I can find my lava lamp, I'll have a perfect 43! And why are these numbers like this? Why not 25 or 50? Sounds like a bunch of people got together, made a list, couldn't think of anything else so that was the number. I need to stop surfing the net (is that still what they call it?).

February 2: Groundhog Day. Thousands of people gathered in Gobbler's Knob at 3am in the freezing cold for music, fireworks and to see poor Phil pulled out of his warm home to look for his shadow. If a group of men is willing to dress up in top hats and tuxedos and carry on this tradition, there may be hope for all of us yet. Have you seen the movie? How long did he have to relive that day to learn to play the piano that well?

I had a handyman come out the other day to adjust my gate so it would latch. When I asked him how much, he told me he enjoyed doing it, and there was no charge. I had to give my speech that I give to performers about undervaluing your talent and then wrote him a check. Today pest control came out to give me an estimate to get the squirrels out of my attic and fill in the spaces where they were getting in. It was \$11,000...I don't have a speech about overvaluing your talent.

We're starting to put together the 2024 IWMA Convention November 13-17 at our favorite venue The Hotel Albuquerque. You can make reservations now by calling 505-843-6300 and using code 2411IWMAG or use the link on the IWMA website. And don't forget (how could you!?) that this is an election year, so be sure to vote early! Tickets will go on sale in May. See you there!

*Marsha*



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- Tigard Public Library, Tigard, OR
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
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*The Western Way is the official magazine of the International Western Music Association, a non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation, and is supported through paid advertising.*



# WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR

FOR DETAILS GO TO  
[IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG/EVENTS](http://IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG/EVENTS)

## 2024

**WAXAHACHIE COWBOY GATHERING**  
APR 13 – WAXAHACHIE, TX

**SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL**  
APR 20-21 – SANTA CLARITA, CA

**SALADO COWBOY POETRY &  
MUSIC GATHERING**  
MAY 3-5 – SALADO, TX

**WESTERN HERITAGE CLASSIC**  
MAY 9-12 – ABILENE, TX

**PICKIN' ON THE PLAINS**  
MAY 31-JUN 2 – COLBY, KS

**YOUTH WESTERN MUSIC &  
POETRY CAMP**  
JUN 16-20 – WEATHERFORD, TX

**MONTANA COWBOY POETRY  
GATHERING & WESTERN MUSIC**  
AUG 8-11 – LEWISTON, TX

**DURANGO COWBOY GATHERING**  
OCT 3-6 – DURANGO, CO

**WESTERN SLOPE COWBOY GATHERING**  
NOV 1-2 – GRAND JUNCTION, CO

**2024 IWMA CONVENTION**  
NOV 13-17 – ALBUQUERQUE, NM



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*Continued from page 2*

award in the category for which he was nominated. No, this is not a joke. And, yes, this is an exception and thankfully not the rule.

Now, I know the awards are important to those who want to win them and those who do. But no award is that important. Maybe it would be a good idea for all who are nominated for an award to lower their expectations. Maybe it would be a good idea for each nominee to wish good luck to the other nominees – and really mean it. I saw a performer one year who was nominated for an award go up to the individual who wound up winning the award and give that person a big, long, meaningful hug. I loved seeing that. We often talk of the IWMA as one big family, and that's the kind of thing members of a healthy family do. They hurt with one another and they celebrate with one another.

If the IWMA becomes only about awards, we lose sight of our mission. Our association is supposed to be about “encouraging and supporting the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West” – not about winning awards. That is first and foremost what the IWMA is about and what its founders intended for its mission to be.

This November there will be another awards show at our November convention. Knowing that only one nominee will win in each category, I hope everyone can approach the show with grace and encouragement and well-wishes for the other nominees. After all, this is not life or death. There are a lot worse things that can happen to one in this world than not winning an award.

MARVIN O'DELL  
*President IWMA*





# In the CROSSHAIRS



Karen Gogolick and Rick Roltgen

***Karen Gogolick and Rick Roltgen have it all: passionate hearts, talent and skill, plus many thousands of hours poured into a remarkable thirty-five years of western entertainment as the duo, "KG & The Ranger."***

## KG & The Ranger

BY A.B. SHAW

Some say the line between talent and skill is fine. Both involve an aptitude with "talent" being natural and "skill" developed. Malcolm Gladwell in his book "Outliers: The Story of Success" refers to the "10,000-hour rule" and makes the case that getting good at anything is a matter of practice, albeit correctly, for at least 10,000 hours. Then, once the skill is mastered, the casual observer can't really know whether to say the person is talented or skilled. Hence, the fine line.

Does it matter? How many of us know a talented person who has let his gift go to waste? And conversely, do we know someone who has worked long and hard to master what they love? Maybe what matters is motivation, a desire of the heart driving a person to do something well? Regardless, there's little doubt Karen Gogolick and Rick Roltgen have it all: passionate hearts, talent and skill, plus many thousands of hours poured into a remarkable thirty-five years of western entertainment as the duo, "KG & The Ranger."





Rick and his brother Joe with Doc and Flossie.

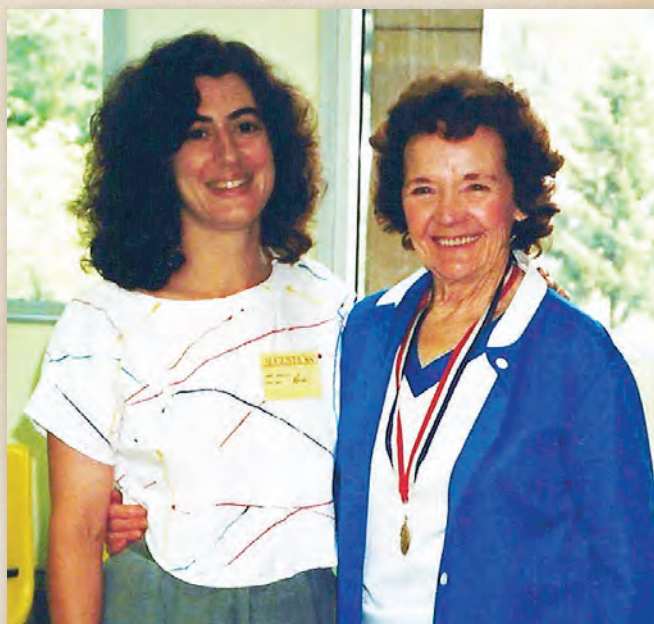
In their classic 1940s-style western outfits, Rick and Karen remind me of the early 20th Century husband/wife duos like Powder River Jack, Lulu Belle and Scotty, and of course, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Their traditional style is an outward reflection of the love and respect they hold in their hearts for classic Western music and their six album projects are a fine testimony to the purpose behind their long career, i.e. to preserve western music for generations to come.

**KAREN:** *"I grew up with a classical-music-piano-playing mom and older sister, so I gravitated to folk music and guitar just to be different. I was about 14 when I got my first guitar and taught myself the chords for the songs I wanted to sing. Because I had piano lessons, I could read music, but I never had guitar lessons."*

Music took a back seat in Karen's life until her late twenties when she started hanging out with musicians in a coffee house in Madison, Wisconsin, and learned to play the banjo and bass, honing her licks in pick-up bands for dances sponsored by the coffee house. However, shoulder problems led Karen to stop playing bass, banjo, and guitar.



Karen at 21-years-old



Karen with Patsy Montana in 1988

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## IN THE CROSSHAIRS

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Karen Gogolick and Rick Roltgen in 1990.

**KAREN:** *"That's when I picked up the harmonica, which didn't stress my shoulders and was a perfect match for the cowboy music Rick and I were starting to play. Funny how things happen. I almost gave up on music at that time, but Rick convinced me to stay in the band as a singer even if I couldn't play an instrument. That was when I discovered I could yodel. My voice broke easily, and I considered it a flaw that I should fix. Then I heard Patsy Montana's music and thought 'I bet I could do that'. So, I set about teaching myself how to yodel."*

When I asked Rick about his start in music, I discovered singing had always been The Ranger's forte.

**RICK:** *"In both grade school and high school, choir was my favorite class. I was active in church choir, and I was often around the piano at home singing songs and harmonizing with my siblings as mom or my sisters played."*

On his 21st birthday, Rick's folks bought him his first acoustic guitar. It was a Harmony.

**RICK:** *"I guess they thought I was ready to advance in my musical career. Soon after, I joined a local Barbershop Chorus where I learned good harmony singing the bass part. Some Barbershop Chorus friends and I formed a comedy quartet we called the 'Colonels of Korn.' Yes, we were corny. I sang lead and played guitar and it was in this group that I got my taste and desire to entertain in front of people."*

At thirty-eight, a job transfer moved Rick to Madison, WI, where he joined a church group called "Mending Strings." Here Rick started learning to play the upright bass.

**RICK:** *"At twenty-six, I bought an acoustic/electric guitar, an Eko Ranger. I took six lessons and was introduced to 'bar chords' which was a great foundation for Western Music. I also bought a Suzuki Upright Bass which I didn't play until years later. I didn't know then what a very important part that bass would play in my life."*



Rick Roltgen's family homestead.



It started with Rick and Karen both showing up with their basses to play in a pick-up band for a square dance. That night, Rick let Karen know that he “liked her bass” and a musical friendship formed. Karen invited Rick to play in her band “Stone Soup” through which the two discovered a shared love of old cowboy songs and their mutual passion for the music blossomed into marriage. “KG & The Ranger” was born.

**KAREN:** *“Doing what you love, with the person you love - it doesn’t get much better than that! We kind of complete each other, musically and in life. My strong suit is the business/communication side of things. Rick’s is often the creative spark and the quiet hilarious humor that comes through on stage. I’m the “trail boss” planning and organizing. He’s the “ranch boss” that keeps everything running smoothly.”*

**RICK:** *“The wagon pulls best when the team is hitched. That old saying, “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts?” It really fits us. Even vocally. Neither one of us solo is the most compelling singer, but together some magic happens. The joy and love we share shines through. People notice that and respond to it.”*



Karen and Rick with The Riders & Rodeo Kate in 1998.

In 1989, the two were working day jobs: Karen as a successful jewelry store owner and Rick in a credit union where he was known as “The Loan Arranger.” In 2000, they took the plunge into full-time performing and they are still going strong with music, their full-time occupation and passion.

**KAREN:** *“When we first got married, we spent hours and hours brainstorming, trying to find a business we could run together and be independent. We never dreamed music would end up being that business! We were a little afraid that it would become “work” and lose its joy. But by the time we were doing over 100 shows a year and still trying to have “day jobs” it dawned on us that we had to give it a try. It took off and we never looked back (and we’ve never lost the joy of doing this). It’s almost impossible to believe we’ve made a living this way and had so much fun doing it.”*

Having fun seems to be a hallmark for KG & The Ranger. From rope tricks to stilts to a covered wagon pulled by an armadillo, the duo’s sense of humor and creative ingenuity make for a fun act.

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## IN THE CROSSHAIRS

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Karen and Rick at NFDL

**RICK:** *"In 1992, we saw Liz Masterson & Sean Blackburn at a Folk Fest in Rockford, IL. Sean held a rope-spinning workshop. That's when I first got hooked on spinning a rope! Then we played in Las Vegas for the Wild West Arts Club. There I saw a roper on stilts. We'd already introduced rope spinning in our kids' shows and I got the idea that it would be fun to be up on stilts doing rope tricks. So, I built some and added a rope-spinning routine on stilts for the kids in 2001. I'd also warm up an audience before a concert by appearing on stilts and spinning a rope around people. It turned out adults liked it as much as kids did!"*

Rick developed his knack for design and building from an early age.

**RICK:** *"Growing up on the farm required repairing and building things, which I mostly learned from my dad. I was in 5th grade when I built my one and only Soap Box Derby car. I called it the "Red Bird." I painted it red, of course."*

In high school, Rick began wood carving.

**RICK:** *"In 1979, in an attempt to be self-employed, I started doing three-dimensional decorative wood carvings. About a year later, in 1980, I got a regular job as a loan officer at a credit union, but I kept on making things in wood. Around 2004 I built an armadillo out of chicken wire, papier mâché and cloth. The armadillo "pulls" a mini-Conestoga wagon which Karen drives in parades. I walk on my stilts or ride my stick horse "Timber," which I also made. That was fun to build."*



The "tall and short" of entertainment.



*Western music has brought so much into our lives – we can't even imagine where we'd be without it.*



Karen and Rick having a good time.



Karen and Rick with Rusty Richards in 2010.

Indeed! But along with Rick and Karen's fun-filled playful entertainment that captures the joy of audiences young and old, there's a serious, less visible side to their act.

**KAREN:** *"Rick has written a handful of terrific songs, but we really don't consider ourselves songwriters. Instead, our creativity shines through in what we do with other people's songs. We always make unique arrangements and modify songs to work for us. While preserving the original feeling of the song, we give a nod to the past at the same time as making the old songs sound new."*

Preservation is the essence of KG & The Ranger's passionate hearts for western music. Karen made known in our interview that keeping western music alive is the foundation of their life-long journey.

**KAREN:** *"Western music has brought so much into our lives – we can't even imagine where we'd be without it. The friendships we've made, the lives our music has touched, the places we've seen, plus we always get to dress like cowboys!"*

**RICK:** *"Living in the Midwest as we do, attending the IWMA conventions is our annual pilgrimage out west. We go to recharge our batteries, hear great music, get our taste of the west, spend time with our family of western music friends. The IWMA and western music have been our ongoing source of inspiration, information, and affirmation."*

Thank you, KG & The Ranger, for your lifetime of ambassadorship as International Western Music Association entertainers! 🐾



Marilyn Tuttle hands Karen and Rick the Harmony Award.





## Coffee AND CONVERSATION BY PETER BRUCE



**A**s I sip my daily dose of inspiration in the form of a cup of coffee, I'm reminded of being invited to join the IWMA by Marvin O'Dell. At his suggestion, I was encouraged to participate in a session at the annual convention titled: "Coffee with the DJs." Coffee? One of my favorite beverages. And I'm a DJ too. Brilliant! After attending many of these events, I eventually hosted one of the meetings. It's always a spirited session surrounding ways to get exposure for Western music; as well as finding effective means to get our music on the air. At one of these round tables, there was a coffee delivery issue. And while there wasn't an insurrection, there was definitely a grumbling concern over the lack of morning brew. Once the coffee arrived, there was almost an epiphany. Thoughts, ideas and conversations sparked, and the brainstorming was on. While not classified by the government as a controlled substance, coffee (and the caffeine contained therein) is a powerful, performance-enhancing substance integrally tied into Western culture. When you think about cowboys sitting around

the campfire, it's hard to imagine the scene without a pot of coffee. Cowpokes on a cattle drive drinking coffee into the night is the stuff of legend, inspiring songs, poems and stories. Which leads to contemporary musicians and their quest to share their music, words and lyrics. It's a formidable challenge: promoting oneself while trying to book a venue and finding a place to perform. Would you rather play at a bar or a coffee house? Or would you be more comfortable at someone's home in a house concert setting? Festivals and gatherings are key components of the music performance business too. Back to the American inclination to use coffee not only as a health drink, but also as a tool. Can you envision a start to your day without that cup of optimism? Or trying to drive eight hours to get to a gig with out a coffee thermos by your side? As consumers of caffeine, those involved with Western music continue a cowboy tradition. And that is, utilizing one of the world's favorite beverages to spread the message. Whether it's 'Cowboy Up', the Cowboy Code or the Cowboy Way, coffee and its traditions are here to stay. 🐾

**PETER BRUCE** is an announcer, producer, engineer and emcee with 40 years of experience in broadcasting, music and radio. In addition to his love of music, Peter is an avid outdoorsman. Favored activities include hunting, cycling, swimming, hiking and exploring the great American Southwest.

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# Penned by Lantern Light

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



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## LIFE

by Scott L. Wiswell

---

*Shadows danced around the campfire 'neath the sounds of wildlife  
As the cowboys tried to comprehend the mystery of life.  
Their voices tinged with sorrow from the passing of a friend,  
They struggled with the meaning from their birth until the end.  
The boys turned to the old man who was carvin' on a stick,  
"Hoot tell us how to deal with death, we'd like to know your trick."  
The old man put his knife away, threw the stick into the fire,  
"Boys don't loiter 'mongst the thoughts of death, make life your soul's desire.  
See life is like a vapor, as the Good Book rightly said,  
It's a stage stop 'tween eternities, not a home for fear and dread.  
It's really just a short stay where we graze on faith and hope,  
As we spur towards greener pastures and a glory for to rope.  
It's the dash that's on the headstone where we learned about God's love,  
And the sacrifice that paid our debts to that Trail Boss up above.  
See life is not biology where death's the final end,  
It's a trail we ride where we decide where eternity we'll spend.  
We can sit and stew and waste our time ruminatin' fear and death,  
Or we can climb down in the chute of life and live out every breath.  
God has given us eight seconds for a ride of life awestruck,  
So my advice, pull your hat down tight, keep your mind in the middle,  
nod your head and let'er buck.*



**SCOTT WISWELL** lives outside of Valley Center, Kansas in rural Sedgwick County. He retired as a police detective after 33 years of service with the Wichita Police Department. Scott grew up riding and working cattle as a boy and has always maintained his love for the West and cowboy poetry. Scott won the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest in 2019 & 2022 (Serious Category) and has published two cowboy poetry books: *When The Stars Sang* and *Hoot Tales*. *When The Stars Sang* was nominated for Cowboy Poetry Book of the Year in 2022 by the IWMA.



# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**Juni Fisher** has announced her retirement from touring after twenty years on the road. Last year, between a few select concerts however, she was on the road showing her horse Kitty's Blu Boon at National Cutting Horse Association-sanctioned cutting horse shows where the pair qualified for the Northern California and Nevada Circuit finals in two divisions. Juni and her horse Diamond showed for three grueling days at the finals and came out the Circuit Champion in one division and third place in the other, winning a championship buckle and her second special achievement buckle with the NCHA for surpassing another earnings mark. When the national standings for each of the country's circuits were tallied for year-end awards, Juni and Diamond won the high point for the year in one division and were in the top five (third place) for the other, resulting in two more silver buckle awards. These spots earned them the right to travel to Fort Worth in April to compete in the National Finals for prize money and a custom saddle.

...Award-winning poet **KC LaCourse** has created a non-profit called "Find Your Journey", thus creating a platform to share her challenges and to inspire teens to see their value and never give up. Everyone has a journey, challenges, etc. to face and sometimes overcome. KC has found hers with cowboy poetry. Performing her original poetry has taken her around the world, performing at festivals in Australia, Holland, and here in the states. With the support of the IWMA and DJs across the world and in the states, her journey will take her to even more adventures sharing spoken word and positivity.

...In January, **Jim Jones** released a new album titled *Storyteller: Tales From the West* on the Texas label Berkalin Records. The record was released both in the US and in Europe. Also, the fourth book in his Jared Delaney Western novel series is being released this Spring in the trade paperback format, and he signed a contract for the fifth book in the series, *Hunter's Moon*, which will come out in 2025. The third book in his Western series for children, *Bolo the Brave: Outcast*, should be out in late Spring.

...**Andy Hedges** will be doing a performance of his *Roll On, Cowboys* album at Carnegie Hall in New York City on March 22. Billed as Andy Hedges and Friends, the lineup includes **Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Dom Flemons, Pipp Gillette, Maggie Rose Hedges, Brenn Hill, Corb Lund, Waddie Mitchell, Brigid Reedy, Tom Russell, Rod Taylor, and Andy Wilkinson.**

...A new recording is in the works from **Dave Stamey**. He is currently tidying up the last few tracks, a 14-song full production album of new material. Look for it to be released this summer. Dave also reports that he already has enough material for another project, which will be underway as soon as he finishes up this one.

...*Cowboy Tuesday* continues every other Tuesday at the Strater Hotel in Durango, CO. **Lindy Simmons** and the **Timberline Cowboys** have been regular performers. Along with several other local poets, musicians, and storytellers, they share western lore with the Durango community.

...A number of original songs by **Patty Clayton** have been nominated by the Fair Play Country Music Red Carpet Awards in Europe, including "Red Buffalo", "Prairie Passages", "Swingin' On A Gate", "Heartland Express", and a cover of Paul Schoenlaub's "One Lone Man." These Independent Artist awards will be presented virtually sometime in September or October. Patty has also been keeping herself busy performing at multiple Assisted Living and Memory Care Centers in the greater Denver metro area since early January.

...**Mike Mahaney** is just now recovering from his accident last May and is putting the finishing touches on a new album titled *Osage Rain*, inspired by the book and movie *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Mike has found time to go back in his archives and bring back some material from his past. He is looking forward to getting "Back in The Saddle Again."

...**The Panhandle Cowboys** will release their fifth CD, titled *Jukebox and Blue Jeans*, this spring.



...**Allen & Jill Kirkham** welcomed grandson Ezra Allen Williams into the world in February! Ezra Allen is their second grandson and sixth grandchild. Allen & Jill also celebrated the 3rd Anniversary of IWMA Award-Winning Circuit Rider Roundup on American Cowboy Radio on May 1.

...The Singing Sierran, **Rich Price**, is now seen weekly on RFD-TV on the Perley Curtis show. Every Saturday evening the show features one of Rich's western music videos, including his self-penned songs "Canyon Grand", "Bronc Bustin' Fun Lovin Waltzing Cowboy", and "Mr. Moon Over Texas."

...**Bobby Marquez** kicked off his "Kick Up Some Dust" Tour in March. Besides his tour dates, Bobby is hosting his 10th annual Country With Heart benefit for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on June 8th in Nashville. The show will feature legendary hit celebrity songwriters along with a buffet dinner and auction. All proceeds go directly to St. Jude. For upcoming lineup announcements and ticket information, visit [facebook.com/bobbymarquezmusic](https://facebook.com/bobbymarquezmusic).

...*Nebraska* is the title of the new album from **Cowboy Joe Babcock**. The project is a tribute to Joe's home state. He also has a new single coming out of that album called "Until That Time."

...**Almeda Bradshaw** is spending more time these days in the realm of worship music and teaching a "Song Study" class at the Montana Rescue Mission. She continues to make progress on her youth recruitment projects with an after-school extracurricular Songwriting Club in Billings' high schools.

...**Juni Fisher** has landed four original songs in another film soundtrack as well as a cameo appearance in the film as herself. The film, titled *Hidden Creek*, premiered at a sold-out gala at Hearst Castle near Cambria, CA in January. The film is now making the film festival rounds, and the producers are negotiating with streaming platforms for its release to the public.

...**John Lowell** is in the mixing phase of a new recording entitled *Snow on the Wineglass* to be released this summer. It's a collection of 12 songs, and with the exception of one song, all were written or co-written by John. In most cases, the co-writers are featured on the songs they collaborated on. John and his wife Joanne left the frozen north of Montana for a couple of months and spent the winter in Fredericksburg, TX where they both worked on creative pursuits before John left on a short musical tour of England.

...The Hermit Of La Cueva Festival at The Rio Grande Theater in Las Cruces, NM in February was co-produced by **Dan Crow**. Included was a concert featuring the duo **Crow & Karla** with Sweet Mary of Austin's legendary Greezy Wheels Band. Featured songs were about legendary western figures like Pat Garrett and The Kid, Bass Reeves, Stagecoach Mary Fields, and more.

...Riding his Spanish Barb, Taza de Mogollon, **Cisco Jim** will be playing canciones, songs of the vaqueros from early Spanish California, for the Mission Days event at Mission San Antonio de Padua in Jolon, CA April 6. He then returns to the IWMAACC Showcase Stage at the Autry Museum in Los Angeles on April 28. Look for this singing cowboy and Taza back in the saddle again serenading fairgoers with western songs at the Santa Cruz County Fair in September.

...**Carol Markstrom** has received a Will Rogers Medallion Award in the Western Film-Drama category for songwriting in the film "Miner's Candle." Also receiving silver awards for the film were filmmaker Manuela Schneider for writing and producing and cinematographer Christian Meza (Exothermic Films) for producing.

...From the Cribworks Studio, **Merel Bregante** reports that the new **Jim Jones** album has been released to great reviews. The new **Sarah Pierce** CD is soon to be mastered. **Joel White** has been in to record some new singles. And **Carol Markstrom** has begun work on a new project.

*Continued on page 18*



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 17*

...The first solo CD/album from **Harlan Allen**, containing eleven original songs, is almost finished. The recordings are done and mastered, and the cover art done. The album just needs to be pressed and released. Harlan plans to get right back in the studio and record a second album soon. This one will have a couple of his original songs, and the rest will be classic old cowboy and western songs.

...**The Dan Canyon Band** has recently signed with Columbia Plateau Records and Viation Sound Productions. Both companies will help them see the completion of their next album. Recording of the album is now well under way.

...In February, **George Ray Russell & Bruce Johnson** were selected to perform at the "Highlights of the Open Mic" show at the 39th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, NV. Following three days of Open Mic sessions (both music and poetry), six performers were selected for the show by popular vote. The 90-minute show was held on Saturday night at the G Three Bar Theater in the Western Folklife Center in downtown Elko. George and Bruce were chosen to close the show to an enthusiastic capacity audience.

...IWMA members **David Nidel** (marching snare drum) and **Tom Farrell** (marching bass drum) have been performing with **Mac~Tíre of Skye Pipes & Drums**. In January they performed at Two Fool's Tavern in Albuquerque to help them celebrate their 18th anniversary in business and Robbie Burns' birthday. In February they performed at the Central Community College of NM to celebrate the graduation of cadets for Bernalillo County Fire & Rescue. Mac~Tíre of Skye Pipes & Drums is a non-profit organization that provides entertainment, education on Celtic culture, free music lessons to students learning how to play bagpipes and drums, and scholarships to band camps in Arizona and California for learning and performing bagpipes and drums.

...In April, **Sarah Pierce** will be releasing her much-anticipated new album on CD titled *I Wanna Go Home*.

...Geary Parsons and J. Michael Mullins, aka **The Timberline Cowboys**, are back in the studio recording their third CD in as many years. The yet to be named album will be 12 or 13 tracks of mostly original songs. Release date should be late spring. Both are busy also as members of the board of directors for the 2024 Durango Cowboy Gathering taking place October 2-6. Geary continues his work as newly-elected President of the Colorado chapter of the IWMA.

...**Dave Munsick** is getting his boots back under him after traveling to Africa where he had the opportunity to see gorillas, track leopards, play songs around the fire with a maasai warrior, walk across deserts, and climb up the sides of mountains. On the way home he stopped at Cheyenne, WY, for a ceremony where he and his family received the Governor's Arts Award for their long time musical commitment to the state of Wyoming.

...**Claudia Nygaard** has just finished preproduction on her new western album *To Race The Wind* and will be going into the studio soon to lay down tracks. Additionally, she has plans to record an album of the songs in her children's musical, which made its premier last fall at a theater in Massachusetts. Then, time permitting, she will begin work on a long-promised Christmas album. The latter will not be released in its entirety until December of 2025, but "If the creek don't rise", radio may expect a single from it in November of this year.

...It's going to be a busy May for **Harlan and Brenda Allen**. They have a grandson, a niece, and a nephew all graduating from high school.

...For the first time, **The Dan Canyon Band** is sponsoring a local Little League Baseball team. "The Dan Canyon Band" will be seen on all the uniforms. They are look forward to a winning season for their "Ponies." 🐾

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# The Western World Tour



by Rick Huff

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

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

If using the phrase isn't already passe...it's 'been a minute' since we acknowledged Western appearances in TV commercials and other outlets. We've built up quite a few!

There was the frequently aired ad for Ancestry.com involving a family's multi-generation Cowboy and ranching heritage....a black family's history. Bravo to all concerned! The historical fact of there having been black cowboys was further saluted with the appearance of the Paramount TV series *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*. The remarkable Reeves was said to have been George W. Trendle's inspiration for "The Lone Ranger." You could tell the series had grabbed the cultural spotlight when it became a *Jeopardy* answer in mid-December, as did its co-Executive Producer Taylor Sheridan on January 10<sup>th</sup>! More on him later, but back to the ads. Boot Barn used Western subject matter for their Xmas push, but they chose genuine cow camp and range imagery with an artful narrative rather than opting for the dance floor faux-boy & buckle bunny scene. Frito-Lay rode back ninety-three years to show the cocinero kineses of their famous corn chip. And in a weird TV ad for the streaming service Tubi some hat & fringe-clad dancers with digitally elongated arms and legs were seen demonstrating something or other. I have no idea what they were trying to say. Hopefully it wasn't "Cowboy is a stretch!" And did you notice there seemed to be more than the usual Western presence in the Rose Parade this year? Beyond the Budweiser Clydesdales coach came the Norcross Cowgirls, Spirit Of The West Riders, Hopi Butterfly Dancers, Los Manos Vihuelas, the Rough & Tumble Horsemen, the Western States Mounted Association, the RFD and Westerns Channel people...there were even cowfolk riding with Smoky Bear on his float!



For me there is an identifiable stimulus for folks looking westward again at this time. Mass market publishing giant A360media recognized it. They kicked off the year by issuing one of their glossy pop culture Collectors' Editions: "Yellowstone – The Complete Story." Page by profusely illustrated page, the elements of all three TV series and the entwining story lines and family tree are chronicled or, as the tickler on its cover proclaims, "bullets, bombs, pain, power and revenge." Sound familiar? What's different this time is the winding melodramatics of the weekly series plot lines are displayed

in a meticulously accurate Western framing. Franchise co-creator Taylor Sheridan was famously determined to have that be the case. The A360media publication goes behind the scenes and salutes the actual Montana ranches with working cowboys who participate in "keeping it real!" The fanzine closes out with a look at two musicians who appear on-camera. Country star Lainey Wilson and Hobbs, New Mexico-raised Ryan Bingham, who you may recall galloped into the national arena by roping Golden Globe and Oscar Awards in 2010 for Top Song ("The Weary Kind" from 2009's *Crazy Heart*). Bingham is a former bull rider, by the way!

No doubt Taylor Sheridan's mega-series *Yellowstone* and its prequels *1883* and *1923* have played a significant role in bringing a full century and a half of cowboy culture back to contemporary top of mind. Sheridan's thought on his mission? "With all my series I've looked at a forgotten part of the American experience." Their success in attracting the attention of a desirable spending demographic spawns emulators of all kinds. Sheridan's inspiration was rooted in his own history. Growing up in a ranching and horse

*Continued on page 23*



## BILLY GASHADE AND 'THE BALLAD OF JESSE JAMES'

*Poor Jesse had a wife to mourn for his life,  
Three children, they were brave.  
But that dirty little coward that shot Mr. Howard  
Has laid poor Jesse in his grave.*

### A LITTLE BIT of HISTORY

By Johnny D. Boggs

**T**hat's the refrain (well, one version, anyway) to the song, commonly called "The Ballad of Jesse James," that was being sung shortly after Robert Ford shot and killed Jesse James in St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 3, 1882. Bentley Ball (1919) and Vernon Dalhart (1925) are among the earliest singers known to have recorded the song, and just about everyone in the music business – Eddy Arnold, Chris Barber, Johnny Cash, Ry Cooder, The Country Gentlemen, Lonnie Donegan, The Kingston Trio, Van Morrison (my favorite), Michael Martin Murphy, Pete Seeger, Bob Seger, Bruce Springsteen ... – have covered the song.

The mystery, though, is the credited songwriter, who promoted himself in the song's last verse:

*This song was made by Billy Gashade,  
As soon as the news did arrive.  
He said there was no man with the law in his hand  
Who could take Jesse James when alive.*

Who was Billy Gashade?

"It seems to me Billy was a 19th-century troubadour: one of those traveling minstrels who made his living moving from one place to the next, singing for his supper," says Loren D. Estleman, author of the critically acclaimed 1997 novel *Billy Gashade*.

Of course, as a novelist, Estleman got to make things up: "I even got [Gashade] to introduce 'The Garryowen' to George Armstrong Custer."

Gashade was a perfect character to write about in a novel that moves from the Civil War to early Hollywood. "Since

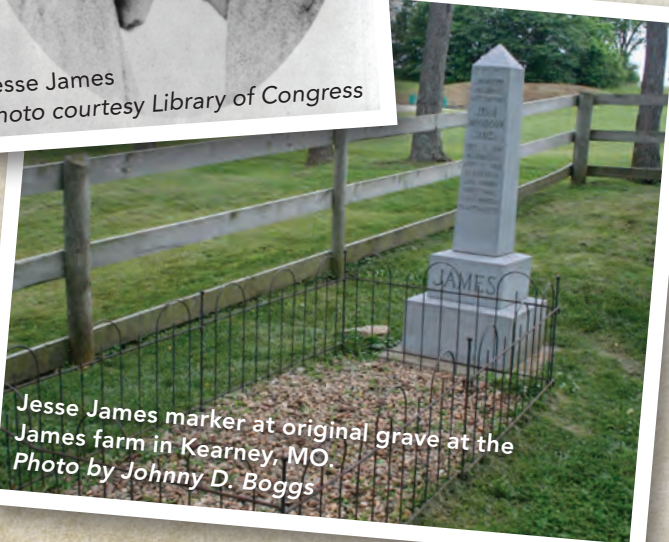
music is a constant throughout the period, the man we know only as Billy Gashade came to mind," Estleman says. "The fact that almost nothing is known about him was a major plus; it allowed me to make up everything that would tie him to all the high points of the period."

Bliss Perry wrote in his 1920 book *A Study of Poetry*: "[W]e don't know what 'Billy Gashade' it was who first made rhymes about Robin Hood or Johnny Armstrong, or just how much help he had from the crowd in composing them."

Gashade even appeared as a character in E.B. Ginty's 1938 Broadway play *Missouri Legend*. Jose Ferrer played Gashade, who sings the song in the last act. The play closed after 48 performances.



Jesse James  
Photo courtesy Library of Congress



Jesse James marker at original grave at the  
James farm in Kearney, MO.  
Photo by Johnny D. Boggs



Almost nothing is known about Gashade today.

Possibly because it's hard to find anyone with the surname Gashade other than Billy. In his 1949 book *Jesse James Was My Neighbor*, Homer Croy wrote that Gashade "lived in what was called the 'Crackerneck' section of Clay County, a few miles from where Frank and Jesse were born." Alas, Croy didn't cite his sources and wasn't that accurate of a historian, either. Jesse's neighbor? Jesse was killed almost a year before Croy was born. In a 1973 *Real West* magazine article, Marion Thede and Harold Preece wrote: "Some scholars, maybe talking from the top of their academic hats, claim that the ballad was composed by [an unnamed] 'Missouri Negro convict,'" but they don't cite sources, either.

Others have suggested Gashade was a typo and the author's surname was Goshade or LaShade, surnames that are, at least, slightly more common.

Complicating matters, the University of Tennessee's Betsey B. Creekmore Special Collections and University Archives claims J.T. Hill of Twinville, Tennessee, as the song's author and has seven hand-written verses, front and back on a piece of paper, dated September 11 and September 13, 1898. Alas, for J.T. Hill, "Jesse James" lyrics were published at least 12 years earlier – in Nebraska City's *Daily Nebraska Press* in 1886, in which the final verse begins:

*This song was made  
By old Bob Slade,*

Bob Slade seems to have known Jesse better than Billy Gashade, because Slade wrote:

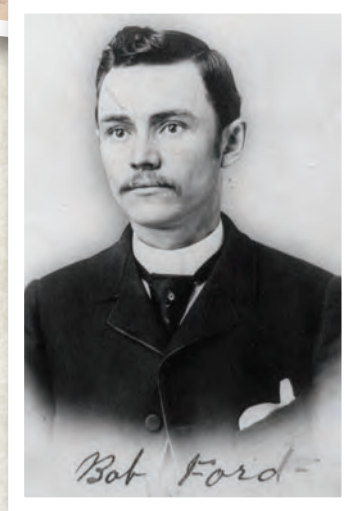
*Now Jesse James had a wife  
To mourn for his life,  
And children that were brave ...*

Gashade's line, Three children, they were brave, wasn't accurate. Zerelda Mimms James, Jesse's widow (and his first cousin), had only two children.

But, hey, it's only a song. And a pretty good one – no matter who wrote it. 🐾



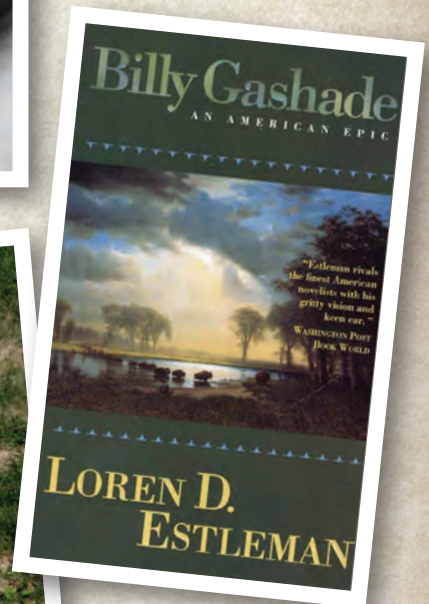
1882 lithograph after Jess's Death.  
Photo courtesy Library of Congress



Robert Ford  
Photo courtesy Library of Congress



Jesse James grave in Kearney, Mo.  
Photo by Johnny D. Boggs



**JOHNNY D. BOGGS**, a native of South Carolina and former newspaper journalist, is a Western novelist/historian, film scholar, photographer and sometimes lyricist who lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He has won a record nine Spur Awards from Western Writers of America for his fiction and writes for several magazines. His website is [www.JohnnyDBoggs.com](http://www.JohnnyDBoggs.com).





# Chapter Update

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

**President: Gary Kirkman**  
**eskirkman@hotmail.com**

We had our first meeting this month Feb. 24th in Green valley in conjunction with the Green Valley Roundup. It was very well attended and was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Sherry Walker and John Paulson. The performers (pictured) were at their best and the crowd was very attentive. Some of our members performed in Sierra Vista and Huachuca City on night shows in Feb. also. We will have a meeting and performance in June in Show Low. We are working on the exact date depending on the availability of the arts center. Details to follow. Thanks to all who work and help make this Arizona chapter successful.



*Performers at the Green Valley Roundup in February.*

## BLACK HILLS & BEYOND CHAPTER

**President: Brad Exton**  
**ramblinrangers@yahoo.com**

Winter is still hanging on up north, but the Ramblin' Rangers, in sunny southern NM have been busy playing their regular shows at Hidden Valley Ranch and performing



*Allen Kirkham at Hill City Music Series.*



*Sherl Cederburg and Paul Larsen*

at other venues in NM and nearby, Arizona. When they leave in April, they will head to Texas to participate in the Waxahatchie Cowboy Gathering and a house concert at Jean and Gary Prescott's before heading north for a busy summer. Harland Allen has a new website up, [harlandallenmusic.com](http://harlandallenmusic.com). His first solo CD is almost done and will be out soon. He was a big help at the Black Hills Stock Show, along with Sherl Cederburg, Paul Larson, Bohdi Linde, Pegie Douglas, and Dean Bruce). He plans on attending the newly reorganized Valentine, NE Cowboy Gathering and will start his second season at the Kara Creek Guest Ranch in Sundance, WY. Allen Kirkham had his first live performance since his motorcycle accident in May, 2023. He played at the Hill City, "Live On Stage" Series. Sherl Cederburg and Pegie Douglas also performed. John Lowell is working on his new recording, "Snow On the Wineglass", which is due out sometime in June. Carson

Houser attended the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko as the recipient of the Rod McQuery and Sue Wallis Scholarship. He also started a new podcast, "Cowpunchers Chronicles: A Cowboy Poetry Podcast. Best of luck with that, Carson. Tami Hughson is hosting a monthly open-mic session at the Longhorn Saloon in Harrison, NE, while continuing to head up the Cheyenne River Cowboy Church in Edgemont, SD. Dean Bruce was a big help at the Rapid City Stock Show. We'll be hearing more from Dean in the future. Sherl Cederburg has kept busy all winter at the RC Stock Show, the Colorado Cowboy Gathering (along with Paul Larson), and with a writing workshop hosted at her home. Sherl, Tami and Richard Cederburg attended and came away with a new song: "Cowboy, Come In From the Cold". Can't wait to hear it. We encourage other IWMA members to come north this summer and take in some of the sights and sounds we have up here. You won't regret it.

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

**President: Greg Khougaz**  
**gregkhougaz@earthlink.net**

All is well here in California. With the abundance of rain storms; everything is green and the wildflowers are blooming in the western hills. We had a great show Feb 18 at the Autry Museum of the American West. We were honored with two special performing guests Mark Bedor (Today's Wild West), and Mike Fleming.

*Continued on page 24*

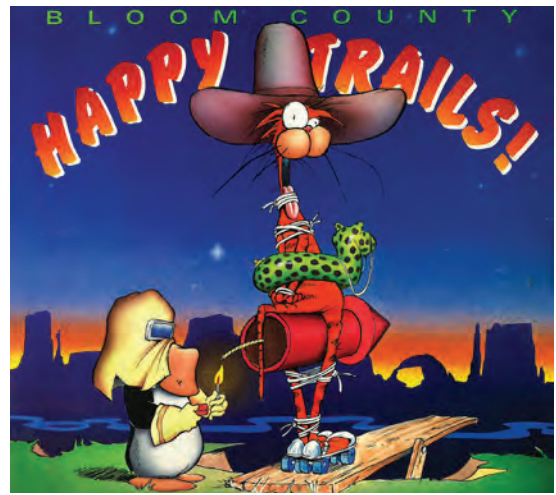


## WESTERN WORLD TOUR

Continued from page 19

environment, some of Sheridan's first forays onto the national screens were as an actor in Western series such as *Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman* and *Walker Texas Ranger*. When he turned to screenwriting he followed the authors' Prime Directive of "writing what you know." Sheridan turned out the scripts for *Wind River* (the name taken from Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation, to draw attention to the plight of raped and murdered indigenous women) and the border drug running drama *Sicario* (described as "the first installment of a neo-Western trilogy"). And, as previously mentioned, he co-executive produces *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*. Taylor Sheridan's lifelong focus on the real West gained him an induction into the Texas Cowboy Hall Of Fame.

Seeing repeated successes of outright Western projects and products is comforting. It's knowing that The Cowboy, despite periodic claims to the contrary, remains a desirable icon, a beacon, a lynch pin around which our aspirations can revolve. Likely nothing is going to dethrone him from the public's collective heart. Now to ensconce the music there!



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We'll end this with a final (if belated) Western Sighting. When Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Berke Breathed closed out his popular strip *Bloom County* in the late 1980s, the bound farewell collection of his work bore a very familiar Western title! It was released in time for Roy & Dale to have been aware of it although I was not. I recently spotted it in a Savers used book section. Rest assured the book went straight into Mary Ryland's renowned "Happy Trails" collection! 🐾

## Make plans to attend the WWA CONVENTION

June 19-24, 2024 | Tulsa, Oklahoma

Hyatt Regency Tulsa Downtown

Western Writers of America was founded in 1953 to promote the literature of the American West and bestow Spur Awards for distinguished writing in the Western field.

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# Chapter Update

*Continued from page 22*



*Mark Bedor (left) and Mike Fleming (right) performing at the Autry Event in February.*

A very good turnout of friends, families and fans, including our friends at the Cowboy Social Club. Our next shows at the Autry will be April 28, June 16 (Father's Day special show), August 18, October 20 and December 15 (Christmas Show). We are also in the planning for a special show for the Day of the Cowboy on July 27 to be held either in the Los Angeles Orange County areas. We are working on setting up open mic show afternoons in the Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego County, and Northern California areas for our members and to help recruit new members. Buffalo Bryan Marr and our chapter VP Scott T attended and performed at the Arizona Chapter's Green Valley Round. We invited our Arizona musician friends to visit us and perform at the Autry anytime they are in the So Cal area. Pictures are included from the Feb 18 Show including our group performer picture, Mark Bedor and Mike Fleming.



*Performers at the Autry event Feb 18.*

## COLORADO CHAPTER President: Geary Parsons [gearyparsons@outlook.com](mailto:gearyparsons@outlook.com)

Well, it is a new year 2024! As the newly elected President of the IWMA Colorado Chapter, I find myself pondering whether this role is a blessing or a curse – but let's lean towards the former, shall we? Embarking on this two-year journey, I am determined to uphold our mission of preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Western life. First and foremost, I extend hearty congratulations to Dennis Knill from Lamar, our newly appointed Vice-President, and to Susie Knight from Conifer, who continues to serve as our dedicated Secretary/Treasurer. Our esteemed Advisory Board comprises Dennis Russell from Redwing, Steve Jones from Steamboat Springs, Valerie Beard from Kim, and our esteemed Past President, Sonja Oliver from Cripple Creek. With Cowboy Gatherings and Showcases dotting our beautiful state, I am eagerly looking forward to attending as many as possible. Unfortunately, I missed the Colorado Gathering in January due to inclement weather but mark your calendars for the upcoming Durango Cowboy Gathering on October 3-6, 2024, and the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering on November 1-2, 2024. We recently held our inaugural Zoom board meeting where we brainstormed ideas to make 2024 a year filled with exciting Western entertainment. We invite you to join us in shaping the future of our chapter – your input and collaboration are invaluable. Reach out to Susie Knight or me for any thoughts or suggestions you may have. Susie is our showcase liaison. [lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com) or [gearyparsons@outlook.com](mailto:gearyparsons@outlook.com). Your engagement is vital to our success. Please don't hesitate

to share your questions, ideas, or concerns regarding our Chapter's mission to promote awareness of Western music, cowboy poetry, and storytelling here in Colorado. Your involvement enriches our community, and we warmly welcome it. On a side note, Susie recently spent some time soaking up the sun in Mexico with friends while we felt the chill of winter – we're all a tad envious, aren't we?



*Susie Knight, Lynne Belle Lewis and Lindy Simmons enjoy some travel and touring fun.*

Our chapter members, Lindy Simmons, Lynne Belle Lewis and Susie Knight traveled to Bahia the Kino in the state of Sonora, Mexico in February. Lindy sang with the norteno band at the La Bahai Restaurant in Old Kino. Susie sang a capella at the Martin Restaurant in Old Kino and she recited cowboy poetry at the Casa Blanca Restaurant in New Kino. On their trek back, they toured Tombstone for two days; Susie performed at the Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering at the K Palace Theater in Haachuca City, AZ. Our member, Randy Hoyt, and the Eagle Country Historical Society will host the first ever Eagle County Cowboy Poetry Gathering. It will take place on Saturday, May 11, at the 4 Eagle Ranch, Wolcott, CO. Performers will be Many Strings (Tony and Carol Messerly), Susie Knight, Floyd Beard., Valerie Beard and Randy Hoyt.

*Continued on page 28*





## STORIES AND TALL TALES

BY VICTOR T. ANDERSON

### A HUNDRED TEAMS OF HORSES

I've been pretty lucky all my life. I was raised in a little town in Montana that was about as good a place to be raised as can be imagined. Had a great Mom and Dad that raised me well and brothers and sisters that I played, argued, giggled, and fought with. One of the luckier I things encountered was being able to watch teams of horses driven by my dad's haying crew. He contracted the haying for a large rancher and had a hundred teams plus a few spares and saddle horses all available to put up a huge amount of hay. He needed and found enough teamsters to have two stacking crews working simultaneously.

His crew was pretty big. There were two men on each haystack, with a team, controlled by vocal commands from the men on the stack, which pulled a cable that lifted the fork up and dropped the hay on top of the stack. The team simply walked ahead, stopped, then backed up all day long. I started sitting on those broad backs when I was two or three years old. Don't remember their names, but they were gray. I was positive I was driving them, even though I often fell asleep on them, riding behind the Hames.

The lead mower laid out the lands to be cut for both stacker crews, and four or five mower teams. The mower teams were changed four times a day because of the torque on the horse collars. That torque could, and frequently did, cause the muscles in the

shoulder to "Sweeny," a wasting away of muscles caused by nerve damage. Four dump rakes dumped the hay into windrows and a scatter rake picked up hay that was missed. With a light, straight pull, these teams were only changed at noon. After windrowing the hay, the rakers would then rake the hay into bunches.

The two horse powered bull rakes were also changed once before noon, at noon and once again in the afternoon. They gathered bunches into bigger bunches and often pushed hay onto the overshot hay stacker. My dad built truck powered bull rakes for each crew. Mostly I remember they were run by young men, a couple of cousins of mine, and the radiators were always boiling over as they loaded the stacker fork. An older fellow sharpened sickles, cut and shaped teeth for the bull and buck rakes, and a mounted horseman watched for runaways was also the cooks helper.

The teamsters working for my dad taught me to drive when I was real little, and I've driven a single horse, a span or team of two, three abreast, two span, also called four up, and got to handle the lines of a six up for a short spell. If you can, learn to drive a team or a single horse, perhaps your own. Give it a try.

RIDE EASY PARDS.....Vic

**VIC ANDERSON** of Estes Park, CO, is a Singer/Songwriter, 3-time IWMA champion yodeler, virtuoso melodic whistler, poet, author, columnist and voice over narrator. As Vice-president of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the IWMA, Vic has long been an advocate for writing short stories as another way of presenting tales of the West.



# In Memoriam

## LESLIE DON GILLAM (1934 – 2023)



Leslie Don Gilliam was born October 18, 1934 in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on November 19, 2023. Les grew up in Gene Autry (Berwyn) and graduated from Ardmore High. He attended Murray State College

where he played baseball and football, before moving on to Oklahoma A&M. Les Gilliam and the Western Rhythm Kings played many dates in and around Stillwater. He graduated in 1956 with a degree in Mathematics. While at Oklahoma A&M, he met the love of his life, Martha Jane, and they were married on August 31, 1956. They soon had three children, Dan Leslie, Julie Ann and Cynthia Alice. Les worked as a computer programmer for Chance Vought in Grand Prairie, Texas, before moving to Ponca City, Oklahoma, to join the new Computer Department at Continental Oil. He excelled at programming and quickly moved into planning and managerial roles. He left Conoco in the early 1980's and started his own consulting practice using his extensive computer knowledge and planning skills. Les loved country and western music and performed many times on the Big D Jamboree in the late 1950's, playing shows with Johnny Cash, Sonny James and Mel Tillis. In 1998, he was named the Oklahoma Balladeer by the Oklahoma State Legislature. Les and Martha traveled all over the country, and even to Austria, sharing his songs and stories. In 2005, Les received the most prestigious award in western music, the coveted Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Les Gilliam and the Silverlake Band played many shows and dances, even playing at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO for almost 20 years. Many of the same fans would come each year to hear Les and the band and twirl around the dance floor. Les recorded 18 albums, including 3 gospel records, and won numerous awards. He was very proud that he was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 2010. Over the years, Les shared the stage and became friends with Riders in the Sky, Johnny Western, Rhonda Vincent, Connie Smith, Buck Taylor, Robert Fuller, James Drury, Monty Hale and many others. Les had met Gene Autry as a

youngster and was so proud to represent the Autry Family when Mr. Autry was inducted in the inaugural class of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. He and Martha became good friends with Mrs. Autry and the staff at Mr. Autry's museum in California. Les was a member of the First Baptist Church in Ponca City. He served many years as a Sunday School teacher, deacon and trustee. He chaired numerous committees and spent hours on the phone checking on his Sunday School class members. Les was also an active member of the Lions Club. He was honored to have received the Melvin Jones award. Most importantly, Les loved his family. He was a great son, brother, husband, father, uncle, granddad and great-granddad. He will be greatly missed. Les was preceded in death by his parents, Don Lacy and Anna Corinne Gilliam, and his sisters, Florine, Winnie and Margaret, and brother J.O. (Jake). He is survived by his wife, Martha, and their children, Dan and Nancy Gilliam, Julie Gilliam and Cynthia and David Nolen, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. A private family service was held to celebrate his life. Condolences may be left at [www.griffinhillcrest.com](http://www.griffinhillcrest.com).

## ALMA E. TUSSING (1930 – 2024)



Alma E. Tussing, 93, a kind and loving individual who was an inspiration in the lives she touched, passed away on January 17, 2024.

Alma was born on April 22, 1930, to Irvin O'Connor and Margaret (Morton) O'Connor Bade. Growing up alongside her twin

brothers John and James, Alma was raised on a ranch that instilled in her a good work ethic, a life lived with integrity, and dedicated sense of family values that would shape her life's path.

Alma was born and raised in Cheyenne, WY. She lived the last 55 years just outside of Hudson, WY. She recently moved back to Cheyenne upon the death of her spouse. In her early years, Alma married, Clarence "Mac" McNair. They were married 49 years. Their life together blessed them with two cherished children: Linda McNair and Ed McNair.



# In Memoriam

She is survived by James O'Connor (brother), Ed McNair (son), 2 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by Irvin O'Connor (father), Margaret O'Connor Bade (mother), Linda McNair (daughter), Clarence "Mac" McNair (spouse of 49 years), Stan Tussing (spouse of 27 years), John O'Connor (brother), Penny McNair (daughter-in-law).

Alma and her husband Stan were active members of the Western Music Association (WMA), immersing themselves in the vibrant music scene. Their passion for music led them to attend numerous concerts and support talented performers from near and far. One of Alma's proudest accomplishments was providing camp scholarships to aspiring youth musicians. Recognizing the importance of nurturing young talents and helping them expand their skills, she ensured that these young artists could embark on fulfilling musical journeys. In Lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the WMA by visiting: International Western Music Association ([iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org))

Alma Elizabeth Tussing will be in eternal peace as she joins the angels above—her spirit forever guiding her loved ones from the heavens.

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## ROBERT WAGONER (1928 – 2024)



By O.J. Sikes

Preceded in death by his wife, Nora Jean, Bob Wagoner was considered by many to be one of the greatest painters of Western scenery in the last half of the 20th century, and into the 21st. Numerous reproductions of his works have appeared on Leanin' Tree greeting cards and one original hung on the walls of Bob Nolan's living room.

He was also a founding member of the IWMA (he designed the organization's logo), and a pioneer in the use of multi-tracking, which enabled him to accompany himself on a number of instruments while he sang

three and four-part Western harmony with himself, creating wonderful new arrangements of Western songs, many of which had been forgotten by most of us. His music made such an impression that one radio listener in Japan who fell in love with Bob's music, ordered copies of all 5 of the CDs Bob had released at that point!

Bob lived high in the Rockies, in Bishop, CA, where he had easy access to beautiful scenery. Bob Nolan and the Reinsmen enjoyed visiting, reminiscing and playing Western music, just for fun. But the remoteness of the location meant that, in order to record his music, he had to "do it all" himself. So he mastered the art of multi-tracking. At least one of his CDs, TRAIL OF MEMORIES, was nominated for IWMA Album of the Year (2008), and for that project he was joined by Tammy Kilpatrick. Most who heard it considered that CD a Western masterpiece. Earlier (in 1997), The National Cowboy Hall of Fame had presented him with their Wrangler Award for his album, "THE WONDER OF IT ALL."

As a boy in Long Beach, CA, he loved seeing Roy Rogers & the Sons of the Pioneers in the movies, and he decided that he wanted to meet Roy and see how those movies were made. So he placed a call to Republic Studios, actually spoke with Roy, and got an invitation to pay Roy a visit at the Studio! Bob hopped on a street car and made the trip to Republic, whereupon Roy himself came out to usher Bob in! He remained friends with Roy and the Sons of the Pioneers for the rest of their lives.

As a teenager, he formed a musical group with friends Billy Strange, Billy Armstrong and Don Hoag, and then joined Tommy Duncan's band, where he made his first commercial recording. In 1951, Foy Willing invited him to join the Riders of the Purple Sage, but he was unable to accept so Foy hired Dale Warren.

Later in the 50s, he spent time in the desert, mining and developing his skills as a painter. And in the late 60s, he met, joined and recorded with the Reinsmen, before returning to his home in Bishop to concentrate on his painting and, much later, his music. With the formation of the IWMA, he devoted more time to perfecting his recording techniques, and today, his CDs are considered treasures by Western music enthusiasts. 🐾



# Chapter Update

*Continued from page 24*

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

**President: Tom Swearingen**  
**tomswearingen@gmail.com**

Columbia Chapter members from British Columbia, Alberta, Montana, Oregon, and Washington are looking forward to taking to the George Preston Event Centre stage in Langley, BC for two shows May 4. Spearheaded by Ed Wahl and wife Diane, the Vancouver, Canada area will see two shows by Ed and Mike Dygert's duo Border Crossing, Barbara Nelson, Notable Exceptions, Duane Nelson, Rik "Yonder" Goodell, Larry Wilder, and Tom Swearingen. The idea for the show sprung from the chapter's successful annual show in The Dalles, OR that brought chapter performers from several states and provinces. "Since members come from distance to perform here, what do you think of doing a show up north?" asked Diane. Thanks to the Wahl's efforts in surveying interest and finding a good venue we're pleased to underscore the International in IWMA. And speaking of the annual show in The Dalles, OR, we'll be back in The Granada Theatre September 21. Additional regional shows are



*The Notable Exceptions and Tom Swearingen are leaving the country.*



*Border Crossing...Mike Dygert and Ed Wahl.*

desired, with a couple being worked on. Entries are starting to come in for our 4th annual youth poetry contest. The deadline is September 1 and is open to 3-12 grade students in OR, WA, ID, BC. Details and online entry at [iwmacolumbia.org](http://iwmacolumbia.org).



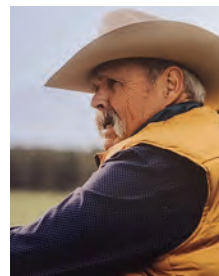
*Barbara Nelson*



*Duane Nelson*



*Larry Wilder*



*Rik "Yonder" Goodell*

## KANSAS CHAPTER

**President: Martha Farrell**  
**Wmakansas@gmail.com**

Kansas became a state on January 29, 1861 so January is always full of fun events for our IWMA members. From Ron Wilson sharing western history and cowboy poetry with 200 third graders in Junction City... to Orin Friesen (Diamond W Wranglers) and cowboy poet Scott Wiswell performing to a packed house at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, there were a number of Kansas Day activities around the state that involved our members. Ron Wilson has also been representing us in western heritage projects like the 150th Anniversary of the Western Cattle Trail, which was recently recognized at the Kansas Legislature. Because we have been doing our Kansas chapter meetings on zoom, we are able to have guests from out of state AND record the meetings



*Western Trail Resolution on House Floor.*



*Kansas Day 2024 at Wichita Museum.*

for easy review and sharing. Our January chapter meeting included a "Lunch & Learn" discussion about music distribution, which Gary Holt, President of the Tennessee Chapter contributed to. We were also pleased to have Mark Munzert, President of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter, join us for the whole meeting. He loved our new "Mini Grant" program which we approved at the meeting. IWMA Kansas is committing to a 3-year program of small grants designed to encourage Kansas venues to book Western Music and Cowboy Poetry performers. We will provide \$300 to a public or corporate venue that books one of our members for a public performance. We will help fund 4 events a year, and use the grant program to help raise public awareness of IWMA & our Kansas Chapter.

Congratulations to our official "Flint Hills Balladeer" Annie Wilson and her band Tallgrass Express, who have just released an epic 2-CD (32 songs) project called "Out

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# IWMA 2024 SONGWRITING CONTEST!

The third IWMA Songwriting Contest begins May 1. Anyone who writes songs is encouraged to enter. There is a nominal entry fee shown below in the rules and rewards section. Let's make this another great event for the IWMA this year. We hope you will get excited and will enter a song from your own pen.

1. There will only be one category this year since there were not enough entries into the gospel category last year. The category is: cowboy/western song.
2. Fee is \$25 a song or three (3) songs for \$50.
3. There can be more than one songwriter for a song, the prize to be divided between them as they see fit.
4. A lyric sheet must be provided for each song.
5. Judges will be music business professionals.
6. Grand prize will be \$1000 and a Silver Spur package for this year's convention.
7. Grand prize winner will get to perform the song on this year's Saturday night Awards Show in a featured slot where the \$1,000 prize will be presented.
8. Second Place prize is \$300 and an opportunity to perform the song on this year's Friday Night Opry and the prize will be presented during the Saturday night Awards Show.
9. Third Place prize is \$150. The prize will be presented during the Saturday night Awards Show.
10. Contest dates are May 1-July 31. Entries may be received before this window but not later than July 31. Send to: IWMA Songwriting Contest, P.O. Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019
11. Winner will be announced in *The Western Way* magazine and will be notified ahead of time but will not receive his/her award until the convention.
12. Songs must be ones that have not been previously released in a recording.
13. Songs must fall lyrically into the cowboy/western genre. *Song may be written to fit any musical style – rock 'n' roll, folk, Celtic, easy listening, etc. – but must speak to the life, work, nature, history, landscape, romance, etc., of life in the west past or present or to life lived in the west outside the city.*
14. Songs must be submitted by mp3 or on CD disc ONLY. *Songs do not have to be recorded in a professional studio. Song may be simply performed and recorded with a home device.*
15. Songs must be submitted with no more than two (2) instruments. *Judges will be considering lyrics and melodies, not performance of the song.*
16. Each entrant must be submitted with the full name(s) of each songwriter.

**For more information contact:**  
**[marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org)**

## SONGWRITING CONTEST 2024 ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Song Title(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Information ☐ Check/Money Order enclosed ☐ Credit Card ☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover  
(\$25 per song entry/\$50 for 3 songs)

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**INFO CONTACT: Marsha (505) 563-0673 | [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org)**





# A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

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

## IWMA – Down Memory Trail

**B**efore memories fade completely, I thought it might be fun to read about some of the events and personalities who founded and shaped the IWMA as it grew through the 1990s. The history is a long one, so we will have to carry-over some of it to the next issue to complete the story. Even then, I'm sure there will be gaps. But you may enjoy reading about some of the genre's legendary figures and learning about others who are new to you, but who played a role in forming and maintaining the Association in the early years. Those years were fun, and they led to fun years that were to come!

Back in the 1970s, **Ken & Nora Griffis** started documenting the history of the **Sons of the Pioneers**. Nora was a big Pioneers fan who had significant documentation skills, and while Ken had been a big fan of Western Swing, she converted him, broadening his horizons and making him the major chronicler of Sons of the Pioneers' history in a book titled *Hear My Song*. They took note of the customers who bought the first editions of their book, and those customers formed a group of fans & musicians who started communicating with each other via Ken's informal newsletter. We enjoyed sharing memories and opinions this way, but we thought it would be even more fun to meet "in person," and to invite former members of the Pioneers to join us.

**Bill Wiley** spearheaded the get-together, held in Las Vegas in 1988. Unfortunately, his health prevented him from participating in-person, but he called me (and others) frequently, to discuss details, once preparations got underway. His involvement was so important, the Association decided to name the prestigious Bill Wiley Award in his honor.

I had been a **Rex Allen** fan since the early 1950s when I watched his movies as a boy. And in later years, I collected a number of his publicity photos. Rex and the Pioneers had worked together on radio in the early 50s, and knowing he would be at the get-together in Las Vegas, I took those photos with me, planning to ask him to autograph them. I was hesitant to interrupt while he was seated at a table with a group of his friends, but having brought the photos all the way from the East coast, I walked over to his table and asked if he would mind signing them. "Sure!" he said, and he started signing them. But halfway through, I thought I was going to have a heart attack when he suddenly turned one of them upside down and signed his name! Looking at those signatures today, I cannot tell you which one he signed upside down! It came out perfectly!

As you know, the WMA was formed at that get-together, and Rex attended each convention until his death, over a decade later. **Wade Ray**, who had toured with Rex and had appeared in a number of his movies, got out of his sick bed to be in Vegas when he heard

that Rex was going to be there. Wade had also worked with the Sons of the Pioneers in 1962. Other former Pioneers, like **Roy Lanham**, **Doc Denning** and **Rusty Richards** were there as well, as was **Luke Wills**, Bob's brother. **Karl Farr, Jr.** made videos of the event and brought his dad's guitar for all of us to see "up close."

The **Reinsmen**, **Bob Wagoner**, **Lon Hannah** (of the **Sons of the San Joaquin**) and **Riders in the Sky** were not only there, they performed for us! **Bob Nolan's** widow ("**P-Nuts**") and daughter (**Bobbie**) and **Tim Spencer's** widow (**Velma**) and son (**Hal**), were also there, and Bobbie, Velma and Hal continued to come to the conventions in the 90s, as long as their health permitted.

Lots of other musicians attended, as did a handful of fans, like **Dr. Bill Nelson** (the man who became a major force in rescuing the recordings of the **Jimmy Wakely Trio** from oblivion). **Bill Jacobson & Mary Rogers** volunteered to start a Western music magazine to spread the word that Western music was still "alive and well," and to help all of us stay in touch with each other. I agreed to write reviews for the magazine.

Once the Assn. was formed, we held annual conventions in Tucson in the early years, and there are stories to tell about those years when legendary steel guitarist **Bud Isaacs**, **Don Edwards**, **Patsy Montana**, **Hi Busse**, **Rex Allen, Jr.**, **Dusty Rogers**, and many others attended, but we'll do that in the next issue.



## COWBOY JOE & THE BABCOCKS

### "Nebraska"

CHIMNEY ROCK RECORDS



In the Spring of 2024, Western Music Hall of Fame member Cowboy Joe Babcock released a

remarkably enjoyable CD with 15 tracks saluting his native state, closing with a catchy autobiographical tune. Several of the titles, e.g. "Prairie Fire" and "Up in Cherry County," will be familiar to Joe's fans from previous releases and Marty Robbins' recordings, but the rest are new entries and all are terrific!

My tastes usually run to up-tempo tunes, and there are some real winners here, including those mentioned above and the title song, "I'm a Cowboy," "Ain't No Sundays West of Omaha," "Way Out in Nebraska," and there are others as well; not a weak one in the bunch. One, "Until that Time," is a sentimental ballad, also being released as a "single," taking the listener down memory trail. Don't miss this CD! It's outstanding!

Available online, probably Spotify and your other favorite sources.



## STU DAVIS

### "Red River Jamboree!"



The 27 tracks on this new disc come from two Stu Davis LPs issued in 1956 & 57, and they provide an

excellent sampling of his work. Davis had a very listenable voice, and it's unfortunate that his recordings have

not received wider recognition. This new CD will help remedy that! The selections in this package include Bob Nolan's "Nee Ha Nee," Johnny Marvin's "Dust," Bergman's "The Legend of the White Buffalo," David-Livingston's "The Hangin' Tree," Staas's "Land, Sky & Water" and a catchy novelty tune made popular by Gene Autry, "I Tipped My Hat and Slowly Rode Away."

But there's plenty more to enjoy, some of which, like Tim Spencer's "Waltz of the Roses," was performed earlier by The Sons of the Pioneers, and other songs were associated with Eddy Arnold, Patti Page and Red River Dave, for example. A most enjoyable album! Available from your favorite CD sources.



## THE SUNSHINE BOYS

### "Gonna Get Tight"

BACMCDD715



If you're from Texas and if you have any interest in Western Swing and its history, you've

heard of The Shelton Bros. Actually, you don't have to be from Texas (but they say it helps). The performers on this CD are members of the band that backed the Shelton Brothers, so you know right off the bat that you're in for some good, old-time Western swing!

The tracks on this disc were recorded in 1940-42, except for the last two tracks, which came from 1946. For those last tracks, the band used the name "Louisiana Haymakers." For the 2 tracks cut in 1942, they called themselves Slim Harbert's Okeh Boys. Those 2 recordings, "Brown Bottle Blues" and "Fruit Wagon Blues," are

real "finds" because they were "unissued."

Kevin Coffey, one of the most knowledgeable Western swing historians around, wrote detailed and very informative liner notes for this project, offering insight into record label personnel, e.g. Uncle Art Satherley, and band personnel as it changed over time, emphasizing the importance of fiddler Jimmy Thomason and vocalist Slim Harbert. Available from your usual source for BACM product or via the British Archive of Country Music's new website: [country-music-archive.com/](http://country-music-archive.com/)



## HANK PENNY

### "Cowboy Swing, Vol 2 (Early Recordings)"

BACMCDD716



The 26 Western swing recordings Hank Penny's band plays on this disc are from 1938-40.

Penny was

known for catchy tunes and lyrics (often novelty songs, sometimes bordering on the risqué) and he hired first-class musicians for his band. They did quite a bit of radio work and, at times, his band was called "The Radio Cowboys." Penny, himself, did most of the vocals.

The band relied heavily on the talent of legendary steel guitarist, Noel Boggs. Sidemen aren't listed in the liner notes for this CD, but Hank calls out the nickname, "Pee Wee," when introducing some of the steel guitar solos, leaving the mistaken impression that he might be referring to someone else (years later, there was another famous steel guitarist whose nickname was "Pee Wee," but he worked with

*Continued on page 33*



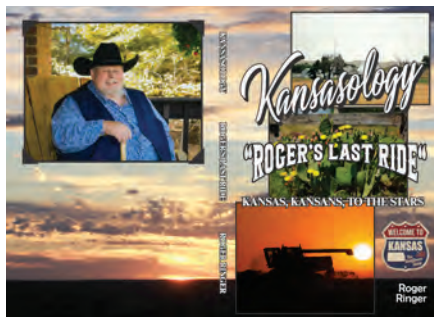
# Chapter Update

Continued from page 28



Annie Wilson – The Flint Hills Balladeer

on the Tallgrass Prairie". It celebrates both the natural wonders of the prairie and the fascinating stories of its people. Many of you know Roger Ringer, one of the founders of our Kansas Chapter. Roger passed away last year just as he was getting his latest book ready for the publisher. We're so pleased that his family was able to get it finished. "Kansasology: Roger's Last Ride" is now available. Message our IWMA Kansas Chapter Facebook page if you'd like more information.



Roger Ringer's book cover

## NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

**President: David Nidel**  
**david.nidel@gmail.com**

The New Mexico chapter is off to a great start of the year! We are continuing the monthly Song & Poetry Corral nights, virtually online on the 1st Monday of the month and live at the Hops & Dough Tap Room on the 3rd Monday of the month. We are grateful that Dave Levenson continues to provide the organization, PA setup and audio engineering for these events and more for the chapter. These monthly



Jerry Lee from Milan, NM performing at one of our live Song & Poetry Corral nights.

events continue to be a great tool for membership recruitment and retention as well as provide opportunities for chapter members and prospective members to perform. Plans for a Youth Concert on Sunday July 21, our National Day of the Cowboy event on Saturday July 27, and a Winter Holiday Season concert in December are in the works. The chapter will have a booth at the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival May 4 and 5 to provide information about the IWMA and the New Mexico chapter to encourage membership. I wish to thank all of our chapter members who are helping to organize these activities and events. Additionally, on behalf of the chapter I salute the efforts of our chapter members that are hosting house concerts, radio talk shows, performing on the road, and writing and promoting books that create awareness and promote the culture and heritage of the American West.

## OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

**President: Robert Maxwell Case**  
**robert@robertmaxwellcase.com**

One time member of Steeldust and Western Way chart-topping soloist Donnie Poindexter now is an award-winning Western artist, working in the mediums of graphite, charcoal, and pastels. Our former Oklahoma chapter board member has had exhibitions of his work in Fort Smith and has participated in a number of competitions in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. Congratulations Donnie on your new career. The Bob Wills' Texas



"Gearing Up", Charcoal on canvas by Donnie Poindexter.



Jason Roberts, bandleader  
Bob Wills Texas Playboys.

Playboys under the direction of Jason Roberts returned to the Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa March 2nd & 3rd to perform for the Bob Wills Birthday Bash weekend. The same venue has announced an April 12th show by Western swing stalwarts Asleep At The Wheel headed up by Ray Benson. A shout out to two small town venues going great guns in Oklahoma. Blake Shelton's Ole Red restaurant & bar and The Doghouse performance hall in Shelton's hometown of Tishomingo is the flagship of his five national properties in partnership with Nashville's Ryman Hospitality. The others are in Gatlinburg, Orlando,



Reba McEntire courtesy  
Reba's Place



Nashville, and Las Vegas. Reba McIntire's Reba's Place restaurant & bar in Atoka has been open just over a year. Constructed in a century-old Masonic Temple, the location features two stories of dining space that open to a central stage which regularly hosts live music performances. McIntire grew up in the nearby town of Chockie.

## TENNESSEE CHAPTER

**President: Gary Holt**  
**Gih50@live.com**

Greetings all, from the IWMA Tennessee Chapter!!! The spell of Winter has broken and we are gearing up for a fantastic Spring and Summer season!!! IWMA-TN has had a busy 1st quarter and it looks like the 2nd quarter is going to be awesome! Here are a few highlights. IWMA-TN's SURRENDER HILL, Robin Dean & Afton Seekins Salmon's current album is JUST ANOTHER HONKY TONK IN A QUIET WESTERN TOWN and is an absolute must have. Check out their YouTube video of "Quiet Western Town," one of the great songs from their album. But wait! There's more!!! A new album is on the way from this



Robin Dean & Afton Seekins Salmon

talented couple! Surrender Hill/ At 92 years young, IWMA-TN's Hall of Fame Member Cowboy Joe Babcock has a brand new album out now and it's a good one! NEBRASKA is the album and you'll want to add it to your collection! There's just no stopping this talented young lady and the

*Continued on page 37*

## O.J. SIKES REVIEWS

*Continued from page 31*

Hank Thompson). In this instance, Penny was referring to a very young Noel Boggs. At the time, that was his nickname, and these are his first recordings!

At any rate, the songs in this collection are early, but typical Penny, and if you're a Western Swing fan who enjoys a bit of 30s-40s comedy, you're likely to enjoy this CD. Song titles include "Flamin' Mamie," "Sweet Talkin' Mama," "Hesitation Blues," "I Like Molasses," "Cowboy Swing" and "Steel Guitar Hula," among others. Available from your usual source for BACM product or via the British Archive of Country Music's new website, [country-music-archive.com](http://country-music-archive.com).

## GRADY MARTIN (WITH MARTY ROBBINS, BUDDY HOLLY, PATSY CLINE, TEX WILLIAMS, ETC.)

*"Grady Martin In Session – Hillbilly, Rockabilly and Beyond"*

JASCD1195



guitarists. As the liner notes for this 32 track CD point out, instead of having one recognizable style, Martin could play anything. That being said, his accompaniment on Marty's "El Paso" is instantly recognizable, as is the "fuzzy" guitar solo (the result of an equipment malfunction) on his "Don't Worry." Very different styles, on recordings that became Western and country music "classics."

This collection draws largely from Martin's rockabilly sides, a little too

much for my tastes, but the performers are musical icons and many of the tracks are rare. They are from the likes of Don Gibson, Stonewall Jackson, Brenda Lee, Hank Locklin, Red Foley and a long list of others, so fans, guitarists and collectors alike will want to add this disc to their collections. Available from your usual source.

## VARIOUS ARTISTS

*"Old Time Tunes & Songs, Vol. 7"*

BACMCDD717



This new British Archive release is not strictly Western, except for Bob McGimsey's "Lonesome

Cowboy" from 1931, but it does contain a good amount of Western roots music. There are several square dance tunes and a waltz or two, e.g. "Ozark Waltz" from 1930, by the Morrison Twin Brothers String Band.

There are several good, old time instrumentals with banjos, fiddles and guitars, and one track in particular, that may appeal to fans of Gene Autry's early work. Gene doesn't sing, and documentation of this assumption is scarce, but he is said to have been the guitarist who backs-up a very young George Gobel on little Georgie's vocal solo on "Berry Picking Time" (1933).

What really stood out to me is the beautifully restored audio, throughout. Usually, on projects of this nature, the audio is scratchy, with hiss, etc. Some folks like that "bacon sizzling in the pan" sound, but I'm not one of them. This CD contains old music (90+ years) that sounds almost new! Available from your usual source for BACM product or via the British Archive of Country Music's new website: [country-music-archive.com/](http://country-music-archive.com/) (where you can hear a few notes for yourself). 🐾

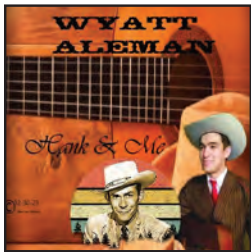




To submit items for review, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442.  
Submitting a CD or Book for review does not guarantee that it will be reviewed or that a review will be published.  
Finalized CD or book cover art must accompany the work and be unsigned.

## WYATT ALEMAN

### "Hank And Me"



Nineteen-year old fiddler/singer Wyatt Aleman is being mentored by Richard Helsley and

has been featured onstage with that fiddling master's band Billy Mata & Texas Tradition, proving beyond any doubt Aleman is a talented up-&-comer. In 2022 the (then) 17-year-old portrayed Hank Williams for the Fayette County Opry's annual tribute. Aleman's release is a worthy, self-produced and recorded reproduction of the Country grand master's effect. From the voice to the arrangements, it's just about dead on. That's no small achievement. But, career-wise, hopefully the choice to issue it now...as his introduction to a wider audience...won't prove to have been a tactical miscalculation.

An endorsement from Billy Mata indicates Aleman is a fiddle phenom. The vintage arrangements on this album don't really give him a chance to show that. Hearing the vocals, folks will likely say "yep, he really sounds like Hank" when it might be more important now for him to sound like Wyatt Aleman. That being

said, perhaps his first goal is to be a Williams tribute act. Regardless, the release is a top quality Classic Country effort. Since we review Western Swing, the tracks we'll pick are from that genre: "Just Don't Like This Kind Of Livin'," "Moanin' The Blues," "Take These Chains From My Heart" and "Why Don't You Love Me." Ten tracks total, recommended.



## DIAMOND W WRANGLERS

### "Exploring Our Country Side"



Following the sad passing of the great Jim Farrell, fellow Truckers Radio USA show host

and Roots musician Orin Friesen has returned to his roots, in a way. Friesen was part of the original Prairie Rose Wranglers. That group provided the "roots" for the blossoming of the Diamond W Wranglers. Now the new trio has returned to using "Wranglers" with "Diamond W." Joining Stu Stuart, Friesen brought his son, multi-instrumentalist and recording engineer Jesse with him. Their extraordinary musicianship and melodious harmonies remain intact.

In exploring their Country side the "Diamond Dubs" haven't ignored their Western one. On this release there are two Stu Stuart originals ("Carolina" and "I Knew You") and a cover of Ian Tyson's "The Gift," all of which are CD picks. Country tracks we'll name are a cover of Gene & Paul Nelson's "Eighteen Miles and a Dozen Roses," Metraca Berg & Gary Harrison's "Strawberry Wine," Alan Reynolds' "Ready For The Times To Get Better" and Stuart originals "Walkin' On The Moon" and his novelty "Honky Tonk U."

Various tracks are supplemented with the musical gifts of Rob Loren (formerly of Ray Price's Cherokee Cowboys), Joel Day (from Hank Thompson's Brazos Valley Boys) and Michael Martin Murphey player Paul Piper. Fourteen tracks, highly recommended.



## HOT TEXAS SWING BAND

### "Gotta Move"



Indeed they are "Hot," they're definitely a "Band," they certainly are from "Texas," but know ye

that with this release (their sixth studio album) they prove "Swing" can also mean "swing in other directions!"



The promotional material lets us know the collection called "Gotta Move" was partly inspired by leader Alex Dormant's two years of medical convalescence and rehab. A well-played mixed bag of styles has resulted. Some Dormant originals (with highly original lyrics) are Tejano derivatives ("Tex Mex Song," "Rio Grande"), there's Latin Jazz/Samba ("Yes Yes Yes"), Jazz/Blues ("Dog Eat Dog"), a knock or two on Johnny Cash's door ("Upon This Land," "I'm A Runnin'"), there is some Honky Tonk/Western Swing ("Full Moon Full Heart & A Song," "I Tell Ya," "Yet To Come"), the title track "Gotta Move" boogies with the best and Johnny Gimbel's languid instrumental "Gardenia Waltz" is nestled in among them!

Anyone making the mistake of trying to pigeonhole this release by genre will find it has more twists and turns than the Rio Grande. We'll recommend it for the musically adventurous in particular, but even so you've "Gotta Move" any preconceived notions you may hold. Fourteen tracks total.



## JIM JONES

*"Storyteller: Tales From The West"*



For this release the much-awarded singer/songwriter/author Jim Jones has teamed

up with the much-awarded Texas producer/singer/musician Merel Brigante. The result just might be... well, award-winning!

More than has been the case with any Jones release to date, this one draws on specific historical fact. And he has worked with more co-writers than usual on this project.

More back-up musicians, too, which enables richer production values, and I seem to get a sense here... even beyond just honoring the words...that the origins and histories themselves were shown a certain reverence in performance and restrained arrangement. Remarkable!

Picks include two Allan Chapman collaborations "Learning To Let Go" and "Rocking Chair," "Mustanger" (co-written with Mariam Funke about the inter-species communication talents of freed slave Bob Lemmons), "Ride For The Brand" (based on an RG Yoho poem and bearing a message one hopes more will take to heart than might seem ready to at present), the sad "The Queen Is Dead (The Last Grizzly)" cowritten with Randy Brown and "They Dance," the personal tribute to his (and our) friends Doug and Betty Jo Carter. How they danced!! Ten tracks total, highly recommended.



## PAUL LARSON

*"Cowboys & Pearls"*



What have we here?! Another little gem from South Dakota's Paul Larson!

As we've

mentioned before, to our ear Larson exhibits a touch of Rex Allen Jr. in his vocal tone, but his very melodic delivery is his own. His newest release features embracing arrangements and sterling musicianship throughout. Special kudos to the tasty background vocals variously provided by Boyd Bristow, Chet Murray and Jami Lynn Olson.

The songs Larson has chosen to cover this time come from some of Western's best. Picks from among

this group include two from Jesse Ballantyne ("Sunlight On Silver" & "Aspen Leaves"), Richard Elloyan's ghoulish novelty entree "Coyotes Love My Cats," the Toby Covet/Chris LeDoux cowrite "Rodeo Moon" and Wylie Gustafson's "Good One." The release also features some Larson originals. Of special note among them are one cowritten with Robert Dennis "Spring Dance" and "Will I Ever," which Larson confesses in the notes was partly rewritten during the recording session!

Speaking of the notes, we'll have to point out a crediting error in these. The Chuck Pyle classic covered (beautifully) is "The Other Side Of The Hill," not "Cadillac Cowboy" as cited. Twelve tracks total, very highly recommended.

CD: Available through  
PaulLarsonCowboyMusic.com



## PEGGY MALONE

*"This Ol' Guitar & Me"*



After a mere quarter century, we have a new release in from Fruita, Colorado's performing

fireball Peggy Malone! And, we're happy to announce, the years have not diminished her flame.

Malone's ol' guitar...a 1957 Gibson Epiphone...bears performance wear marks of not quite the profundity found on Willie's "Trigger," but give her time! This new collection of mostly originals and some cowrites with Doug Figgs, LeeLee Robert and Les (one"s," Peg) Buffham is a crowd-pleaser. Her expressive spoken/sung style of delivery makes her as much Storyteller as she is Singer.

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## RICK HUFF'S REVIEWS

*Continued from page 35*

Picks include "Women Of The West," the saga song "Black Baldy," the novelty "Do You Think They Yodel In Heaven," her Figgs collaboration "Charlie Was His Name," the biographical songs "Blanche" and "Tom Winn," the Buffham team-up "Yodel Therapy" and her cover of the classic "Wayfaring Stranger." BTW she is effectively accompanied on the release by Kurt Baumer (fiddle) and Al Albrethsen (harmonia), if we're deciphering the microscopic print of the crediting correctly! Some of these really test the ol' eyes!

Eleven tracks total, highly recommended.

CD: Through [pikinpeggy@aol.com](mailto:pikinpeggy@aol.com) or [facebook.com/peggy.malone.7](https://www.facebook.com/peggy.malone.7)

## MOUNTAIN SADDLE BAND

*"Heart Of A Cowboy"*



The full name of the group may be Steve (or Stephen) Harrington (&) The Mountain Saddle Band.

Various sources haven't made up their minds, apparently. It even took some detective work to discover the album name!

The harmony produced by this acoustic Western trio is warm and embracing. For those who seek it, on this CD there are three overtly religious tracks...musically the pick among them being "Mendin' Fences." Otherwise the album picks we'll name are the opening poem set to music "Cowboy Dreams," "Homestead That My Grandpa Used To Own," "He's An Old Cowboy"

with modulations that make it particularly interesting melodically, and covers of "The Last Cattle Drive" and the Michael Burton's old faithful, frequently-rendered "Night Rider's Lament."

The effect here is a classic one and there's comfort in knowing some artists are out to carry on the tradition.. After all the Western harmony group is a mainstay of the genre hearkening back to the Pioneer Trio, naturally. These guys aren't trying for that level of interweaving vocal intricacy, but what they produce is certainly satisfying and almost certainly this release is an accurate representation of their onstage effect. Eleven tracks, recommended.

## JARED ROGERSON

*"Where I Can Be Me"*



With Jared Rogerson's "Where I Can Be Me" he's where he can be him, and it's nice to have

him back again! Make no mistake, Rogerson's 'Western' comes with teeth. Lyrically, in songs such as "Cadillac Cowboy," sharp ones.

That particular CD pick was co-written with Nate Curry, BTW.

Rogerson is no acoustic cowboy. His styling is Hot Country but, for my ear, the rockier elements are used in a way that promotes emotion and momentum without ruling the day. Other picks among his originals are his 'trapped-in-the-city-&-dreaming-of-out-there' title track and two cowrites with Venessa Carpenter "Time Spent In The Saddle" and "Busy Breakin' Bones." Picks among the covers include Brenn Hill's song of differing addictions "Drinkin' The Hard Stuff Again" and John Griffin & Parker Kuhn's "Sorry For This Goodbye." There's not a single specific Western reference in that one, but you would be hard-pressed to find a more heart-rending result of a cowboy's unfathomable need to move on.

High production values and, of course, Jared Rogerson's consistent professionalism make this one a winner for fans of the Country with Western mix. Twelve tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Available through [jaredrogerson.com](http://jaredrogerson.com) or Roughstock Records, PO Box 2071, Pinedale, WY 82941

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS...

Well, in the case of the Merna Lewis CD reviewed last time, I guess too many dates were thrown at me! The notes said it was a re-release first recorded when she was twelve. Although the fine print mentioned 1992 and 1994, I only managed to see the 2020 part. She's not 15! In fact she appears with Mary Kaye Holt, Micki Fuhrman & Tacia McKenna as a member of the new female power group Gone with the West! Had I realized that, it might have clued me in. Or *not!!*



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** It is not often that a gospel CD comes in for review so rarely are they included in our review section. IWMA DJ and member, Kevin Tuckfield, requested a review of his new gospel CD. In an effort to be inclusive as an organization but in the absence of a qualified reviewer of gospel CDs on the *Western Way* staff, we asked resident DJ Marvin O'Dell to give a listen and provide a brief synopsis on this release. A full-blown critique it is not; an honest thought or two, it is.

## KEVIN TUCKFIELD

*"Kingdom Domain"*



One of our IWMA western music DJs, Kevin Tuckfield,

has put together here a fun-filled set of mostly classic gospel music. Simply put, this album is filled with "good ol' bluegrass gospel." If you like your gospel music with a lot of banjo, dobro, guitar, and mandolin and with a down home, back porch feel to it, this album is for you. Kevin's smooth singing style highlights this CD. Frankly, I would have liked the project better if he had done all the lead vocals. For his voice to disappear on a few cuts takes something away from the solidity of the overall production. That said, anyone who likes their gospel music simply produced, uplifting, and with a toe-tapping tempo will find this an enjoyable listen.

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 33*



*Cowboy Joe Babcock*



*Phoebe White with Cowboy Joe Babcock.*

accolades just continue for Phoebe White! In addition Phoebe is back in the studio and looking for a spring release for a brand new album! Phoebe White and Cowboy Joe Babcock performed at Nashville's Troubadour! The gal's of "Gone With the West", Merna Lewis, Micki Fuhrman, Mary Kaye Holt and Tecia McKenna are busy planning their late summer-fall tour and are getting ready to release a brand new single for airplay! NEW SOMEDAY is one to watch to hit the Western charts! IWMA-TN's Shantell Ogden has a great new EP, LOVE ALL IN. Be sure to check out her YouTube video for



*Gone with the West*



*Shantell Ogden*

"How to Make A Cowgirl," one of the songs from the EP! Our Tennessee members are busy recording new music, performing and planning their tours for the rest of 2024! It's shaping up to be an Awesome year for the Tennessee Chapter. So, saddle up, hold on, and stay tuned!!! It's going to be an Epic ride!!!

### TEXAS CHAPTER

**President: Cary Wiseman**  
**Wisemanranch71@gmail.com**

Hello Y'all, I hope all of you are having a wonderful year. The Texas Chapter hosted a wonderful event at Jasper County Cowboy Church in January and we would like to thank everyone who came out that weekend. We have posted pictures from the event on our Facebook if y'all would like to see what all went on! We are looking to have some more events this year so stay tuned and go follow the Facebook page to stay up to date on things that we will be having. Thank y'all for all the support for this wonderful chapter and the amazing members that we have involved. See y'all soon and Happy Trails!!

### UTAH CHAPTER

**President: Dale Major**  
**cvcowboyrendezvous@gmail.com**

Greetings to our IWMA friends and family! Utah wants to happily announce that we are alive and thriving, as evidenced by our Tribute to our Veterans show in Payson, Utah on February 10th. This was our first official get-together since our resurrection, and it's quite clear we have both the necessary

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## Sampling The Singles

BY RICK HUFF

Old reliable **Bob Marshall** continues releasing nice single after nice single. First up this cycle we have a feisty little two-step about another "old reliable." **52 Ford Lady** is his happy paean to a working tractor that's still working hard. "She proves at times the best in life is tattered, torn and old," he sings. She "looks well past her prime" but "she was somethin' in her time!" Weren't we all?! Then right on the heels (or hooves?) of it came two more! **Bessy's Song** is a masterfully constructed Western portrait of what approximately half of us must someday face...trying to live and breathe after losing a soulmate. Fences need mending and cattle need tending, but the focus stays elsewhere. Then Marshall brings us back with a frisky romp **Cowboy Blessing**, one that's suitable for framing and adroitly framed here with uptempo acoustic instrumentation.



Singer **EV Mae** put out **New Lyric** but it's not "the same old song" the lyrics mention. "Mama" may warn "don't believe a thing from a man wearin' Wranglers with a Copenhagen ring" and, yeah, "from the start" he's "breakin' horses and (her) heart," but the rascal does "ride the range" and flash his "Chris LaDoux smile" in a freshly winning, pop Country (and Western) way. Dang them Country cowboys!



In her release **Peggy Haverly** also knows "he's only good at breakin' **Horses & Hearts**" as soon as she talks with the rodeo cowboy, but she marries the louse anyway! She pretty much has to hitch up with him or the song wouldn't have a plot. What you should know is soon as you hear the song you will have found a nice little Western Swinger. And it's another winner from Matador Legacy Records.



**Stephen Pride**, brother of Charley, has released a nice version of the 1967 "Charley" hit **Crystal Chandeliers**. Originally written by Ted Harris as the singular "Crystal Chandelier," the singular sound of Charley Pride's voice is present in

brother Stephen's as well, but he has his own delivery. The track doesn't have the full Western Swing arrangement, but the steel is here and the dancers will move to it.

At present she may be a beauty salon owner from Broken Bow, Oklahoma, but that may not be true for long! **Felicia DeRamus-Paul's** take of Roger Miller's **Invitation To The Blues** is a great showcase for the singer and the players involved. The quintessential Western Swinger from Miller's library has been a guaranteed audience mover for quite a few artists and here the old workhorse works its magic again.

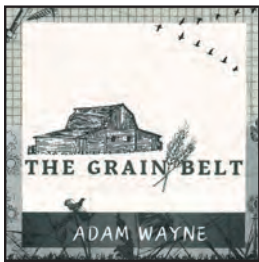


Arriving again on the "singles scene" is **Steve Markwardt**. Now he has prowled through the classic American Pop repertoire and come up with **L-O-V-E**, the early '60s jazz-swing from Milt Gabler & Bert Kaempfert that provided Nat King Cole with a

solid hit. Now it Western Swings all the way! The twin fiddle & steel sound makes one ask why it wasn't done this way done earlier. Or was it??

The styling of **Need You To Go** from award-winning Indigenous artist **Teagan Littlechief** is beat heavy Hot Country, but the 'Indian' story is definitely part of the 'Western' story. The woman's voice here comes from within the sad Rez experience of abuse, but is inspirational in her finally taking action to find personal triumph on the far side of it, for her own good and that of her son. Strong and worthy.





By subject it's not the ranch but it's the farm next door in the new single from singer/songwriter/actor **Adam Wayne** called **The Grain Belt**. Leisurely as a country summer day, the song affirms a sure-nuff ranching belief. "There's

nothing more exciting than a newborn calf!" It's a story of family lineage and justifiable pride in what has been done on the land. If that sounds comfortably familiar, it should!

They are alive & swingin' in the Emerald Isles, begorrah! The young artist **David James** saw fit to record his take of the old Charley Pride hit **Happy**

**Street** in a staggeringly experimental new way. He and the band were all playing at the same time. What a concept!!! Everything old is new again. He says "When I first heard this song I knew it would make a great modern day jive!" "Hot-chah-chah!!"

And we'll wrap with one I never saw coming.

**Beyonce!** Yes, **Beyonce!!!** Or haven't you heard she has inspired a bevy of new Cowboy dances with her chart topping Country release **Texas Hold 'Em**, featuring mentions of "cards," "hoedown" and "spurs," and her companion release **16 Carriages** with its back beat that has been described as "a broad slap on a horse's flank!!" Wonders will never cease.

## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 37*

talents and fan base here in the Beehive State to keep us strong and active. Back in the pre-Covid days our Veterans Concert was an annual event, but since we haven't produced the show since 2019 it was both humbling and rewarding to witness the enthusiastic responses from our veterans and from the larger audience. Even though veterans are given free admittance to this event, we still collected enough from our ticket sales to share a sizable donation to the Central Utah Veterans' Home, which is always our goal for the concert. Our next scheduled Utah show will be a special performance from our members at the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous, (CVCR) which is an IWMA event in Logan, Utah March 14-17th. The Logan gathering (CVCR) is growing, and has become better and bigger each year. We are danged proud of the accomplishments of the Major family and of all the IWMA members who share their skills to make that event the outstanding festival it is. There will be poets and musicians in the schools all week, with after-hour venues featuring selected

performers streamed live Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. The gathering itself will feature headliner Ned LeDoux, with Trinity Seely and Mark Munzert on Thursday evening; a Family Dance with the Sagwitch Basin Boys Band on Friday Night; Wylie Gustafson with Many Strings and the Harwood Family Poets as a Saturday Matinee Concert; and Dave Stamey with SaddleStrings and Jo Lynne Kirkwood as the Saturday Night Headliner Event. Many other well-known and favorite performers are included in the lineup on two other stages throughout the weekend, with an open mic stage as well. The event culminates with Cowboy Church at 9:30 am. The (CVCR) Logan Gathering will be quickly followed by the Juab Cowboy Poetry Gathering March 22nd and 23rd, which is a weekend of concerts including Dave Stamey, Randy Rieman, Carin Mari, Mark Munzert, Darrell Holden, Matt Robertson, and Dakota Holdaway. This Juab Gathering is still in its early stages, but it is growing and gaining steam, and we do surely welcome it to our calendar of Western Music and Cowboy Poetry events. Utah does have big plans for a solid schedule of music and poetry activities throughout 2024, including our

annual Heritage Dinner and Awards in April during National Poetry Month – and we'd love to have everyone join us in Utah for these events. We will keep you posted!

### WESTERN WORDSMITH CHAPTER

**President: Mark Munzert**

**markmunzert@gmail.com**

2024 kicked off with this scribe in Golden, CO for the Colorado Cowboy Gathering ably organized by a grand group of volunteers including Wordsmiths: Vic Anderson; Susie Knight; and Dennis Russell. Wordsmith performers included: Vic; Lori Beth Brooke; Sherl Cederburg; Miss Devon (Dawson) & The Outlaw (Jessie Robertson); Mark Munzert; Duane Nelson; Dale Page; and Miska Paget. In the open mic segment: Danny McCurry; Terry Nash; George Ray Russell; and The



*Lori Beth Brooke*

*Continued on page 40*

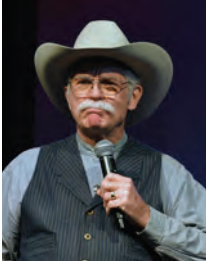


# Chapter Update

Continued from page 39



Valerie Beard and Kathy Moss at Elko.



Dale Page



Dennis Russell

Russelleers (Beverly and Dennis) kept the crowds' rapt attention. All in all, the audiences, including IWMA performer Patty Clayton; IWMA Treasurer Diana Raven; musical marvel Ernie Martinez; and Wordsmith supporter Connie Harrell were among the folks that enjoyed the robust entertainment and camaraderie. Not enough can be said about the many volunteers that pulled together to make this event fantastic. A big THANK YOU to the volunteers of the CCG... and also to the many other volunteers helping to provide a platform for our crafts and messages. Speaking of volunteers that make things happen, congratulations to and thank you to those that made the return of the 31st Cochise Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering possible. Wordsmiths Susie Knight and Miska Paget graced the stage at the K Palace Theater in Huachuca City. Glad to see 'Cochise' back in action! It might as well be called Elko as it is referred to more often than the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. 'Elko' welcomed Wordsmiths: Valerie and Floyd Beard; Carson Houser; Kathy Moss; Terry Nash; Duane Nelson; Tom Swearingen; and ol'



Miska Paget

Pard Ernie Sites welcomed a few to his stage at the Stockmen's Casino. After six surgeries, a literal 'screw-up', the surgeon put one (screw) right through a nerve, Sam DeLeeuw is back in action adding to the pre-Juab Cowboy Poetry Gathering 'Cowboys & Coffee' series. She'll also be at the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous where rendezvous with Jo Kirkwood and yours truly are among the Wordsmiths KC LaCourse reports she has created a nonprofit to share her challenges and motivate teens. Speaking to three classes of senior students at Clark High School recently, KC shared her journey through trying times that also included her passion for cowboy poetry. KC has found her journey, motivating students to never give up, and to inspire them that they have value and to keep punchin'!

Spreading the wordsmiths, Smokey Culver and Geoff 'Poppa Mac' Mackay were part of the



Vic Anderson



Susie Knight and friends.

entertainment at the Fort Worth Stock Show. Also, 'Poppa Mac', along with Doug Monson just released their collaboration (poetry and art respectively) Into The West. Contact Geoff for yours. Rik 'Yonder' Goodell and better half Audrey made their way out of Montana to spend some time around Mesa, AZ, where Rik, surprise, was drawn to a mic at the Monte Vista Resort. Jeff Davidson entertained for the Toronto Methodist Church in a combined Kansas/Valentine Day celebration. Jeff states 'good food, good folks' and of course celebrating the Chiefs Super Bowl win. Wordies' Gary Kirkman and Scott Tonelson added to the festivities at the 3rd Annual Green Valley Round-Up. That's All Folks!

## YOUTH CHAPTER

### Board Committee

**Belinda Gail**

**belindagail@protonmail.com**

**LeeLee Robert**

**lee@leeleemusic.com**

**Marsha Short**

**marsha@westernmusic.org**

The IWMA Youth Chapter held their first Zoom Workshop on "Jamming Etiquette" on February 21. Roger and Leo Eilts led the group discussion on the difference between song circles and jams and good jamming etiquette. The Chapter is planning another workshop in May. The IWMA Youth Showcase will be June 22-23 at the Arizona Folklore Preserve in Sierra Vista, AZ. Featured performers are Jack George, Bodhi Linde, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg, and Phoebe White. Check [arizonafolklore.com](http://arizonafolklore.com) for reservations and tickets. A reminder to all Youth Chapter members to send in your applications for scholarships to summer music camps. Email Marsha Short for more information and to receive an application. We're looking for more members in our chapter and are encouraging all chapters to reach out to young performers and fans in their areas. 🐾

# CLASSIC PROFILES

## SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

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

BY RICK HUFF

We're proud to say that more artists are creating and performing Western Music these days than at any time in its long, illustrious history. Its legacy includes others who have helped to fortify the trail that Western artists of today continue to ride. The work of these trailblazers should continue to be celebrated, heard and enjoyed.

### LES BUFFHAM AND FRIENDS

*"Writes & Co-Writes Volume 2"*



Our late friend Les appears only twice on this release, but his words are Center Stage throughout.

There obviously was a "Volume 1" and there also is a "Volume 3." We'll use the middle one as an example of the set!

For those who are unaware, this prolific and skilled Cowboy Poet made a practice of contacting his favorite artists to collaborate or set his verse to music. Over the years he did this dozens and dozens of times. It brought his words forward and hauled those artists there with them as they collectively contributed in a big way to our contemporary Western Music repertoire. Years ago I posed to him that a compendium of his works should be issued. I was glad when he began to pursue it.

Artists/composers represented in this volume include Marvin O'Dell,

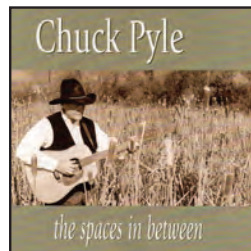
Sid Hausman, Judy Coder, Cody Bryant and Walt Richards (Trails & Rails), Linda Kirkpatrick, the late Paul Hendel, Tanya Rose, Dave Stamey, Nancy Ruybal (Katy Creek), David Anderson, Pat Meade, the late Bill Barwick and Bill Snow. He famously also worked with such Western talents as Michael Fleming, Mary Kaye and many others.

It's not just that his thoughts are cogent and his words to enliven them are eloquent. The Cowboy of it is all real. Les Buffham was there and he did it.



### CHUCK PYLE

*"The Spaces In Between" (2010)*



Intensely respected by professionals and "those in the know," the late and undeniably great singer/

songwriter Chuck Pyle was never in better voice with better original

material than he was with this album. His imprint ("label," if you will) was called "Zen Cowboy Records." His words reflect that. This CD's production (by John McVey) and arrangements reaffirm it as well.

Songs like "Beckoning Sky," "Yellowstone," the free spirit of "Wide Open," the sweetly funky novelty "Pickin' Out My Outfit" and even the one called "Surfin'" take you to a very original place in your head. To hear Pyle weave his spell is to become addicted to him, as many can attest. As much as any Western/Americana artist you're apt to find, Chuck Pyle was one of a kind. His was certainly the ability to transfix audiences from house concert size to a house of thousands. His legacy is to have provided us with a treasure chest full of songs that are little worlds to fall into. Happily, more and more of them (beyond just the frequently selected "Far Side Of The Hill") are being covered by others these days, which is as it should be. 🐾





# Book Nook Reviews & More

BY KAREN CAMPBELL



If you would like to have your western fiction, nonfiction or poetry book reviewed, send a copy to:  
Karen Campbell, 1762 County Road 121, Gainesville, TX 76240. Submissions will not be returned.

## What Tongue Twisters, Green Knights, and Cowboy Writing Have in Common

**R**emember practicing tongue twisters when you were growing up like: She sells seashells by the seashore and Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. If you do remember trying to say these challenging phrases quickly and articulately, you also probably remember how fun they were. What you likely don't know about these tongue twisters is that the common feature that makes them so challenging (and gives them a certain kind of rhythm) is also the true heart of poetry written in English. What do I mean by that? Both phrases quoted above (and many other familiar tongue twisters) depend on alliteration, or the repetition of initial sounds.

In the history of English language and literature, early English poetry and songs, before history added a lot of French and Latin words around 1066 CE and after, did not rhyme! English is a language with few shared word endings or 'rhyming pairs' historically. The original structure of the language creates meaning based on where you put the word in the sentence (or syntax) rather than what ending you slap on a word like Latin, Spanish and French do. What English did have was a broad vocabulary that could be played with in a lot of ways based on the order of the words. Thus truly English poetry, and Old English and Middle English poetry, developed rhythm and beauty not through rhyme but through alliteration, by repeating initial word sounds.

One of the most well known and beautiful alliterative poems in English poetry is Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Look at some of the opening lines in the Middle English version below (see how many words you can make out on your own) and the translation following to see how the rhythm of this poem depends on alliteration:

**þis kyng lay at camylot vpon kryst masse  
with mony luflych lorde ledez of þe best  
rekenly of þe rounde table alle þo rich breþer  
with ryche reuel ory3t and rechles merþes  
þer tournayed tulkes by tyme3 ful mony  
justed ful jolile þise gentyle kni3tes**

**[This king lay at Camelot upon Christmas  
With many lovely lords led of the best  
Readily of the Round Table all those rich brothers  
With rich revel aright and reckless mirth  
They tourneyed there by times full many;  
These gentle knights joust-ed full jollily.]**

Notice how in the translation there are usually three words or more that start with the same initial sound. Again, this might take us back to the tongue twisters we mentioned at the beginning, but it should also show us the natural rhythm of English poetry. These lines do have a certain rhythm. The heart of English poetry likes rhythms depending on a rich use of a varied vocabulary, alluring alliteration, and word order over rhyme (you see what I did there).

Modern writers still rely on alliteration, usually with a lighter hand than was used in the medieval period, but consider these opening lines from the popular song Johnny Horton's "Battle of New Orleans" (one of my Dad's favorite songs):

**In 1814 we took a little trip,  
along with Colonel Jackson  
down the mighty Mississippi.  
We took a little bacon and  
we took a little beans and  
we caught the bloody British  
In a town called New Orleans.**

This song is known for its particularly memorable rhythm, and while some of its rhythm is definitely from the tune, some of it is also caused by the strong alliteration. We can see repetition here of t sounds, m sounds, w sounds, and b sounds at the beginning of words most clearly. Perhaps one of the reasons Horton's song won a Grammy award for best Country & Western Performance in 1959 was because this song hearkens back to the heart of English rhythms so strongly through alliteration.

In poetry, consider Bruce Kiskaddon's "The Bronco Twister's Prayer" and these lines:

**And beside them stood their women;  
faded wives with toil worn hands.**

Here we see the use of w at least three times in two lines. Consider these later lines in the same poem using the h sound repeatedly:

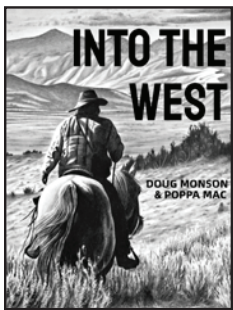
**He had helped to build the coffin,  
he had helped to dig the grave;  
And his instinct seemed to teach him  
how he really should behave.**

This particular poem emphasizes grief, and perhaps the w sound mimics the sound of weeping or wailing that might happen in such a context while the h sounds mimic the sighs of the mourners. The sounds chosen for alliteration can definitely lend a particular effect to the writing, almost like 'special effects' in a movie.

Examples of alliteration from both Horton's song and Kiskaddon's poem demonstrate a more modern and moderate approach to alliteration than is seen in the medieval poem. But the alliteration still shapes the rhythm and beauty of these works. You may have used alliteration in your own poetry before, but have you ever considered writing in the style of original English poetry with strong alliteration and no rhyme? Alliteration gives writing a rhythm and meter every bit as strong as other methods and one most natural to English. Perhaps stretch your writing muscles and try it out for yourself. You might be surprised at the results.

## **POPPA MAC ILLUSTRATED BY DOUG MONSON**

***"Into the West," 2020***



Poppa Mac's collection *Into the West*, consisting of thirty-three poems paired with pencil drawings from Doug Monson, makes for a

pleasing coffee table style book to be causally enjoyed by a multitude of readers. The collection begins with an acknowledgments page, brief introduction from Donnie Poindexter, and table of contents. The arrangement of illustrations and poems is such that the illustration can be found on the left page and the poem on the right page as you move through the collection, an occasional bible verse also present before or after the poem. The poems themselves are ordered alphabetically

by title. The work concludes with a biography page of both contributors and the back cover has reviews from Evelyn Roper and Lynn Kopelke.

The illustrations in this work are high quality and amazingly life-like. Readers are as likely to spend time just flipping through the book often to enjoy these illustrations. While the choice of a hard cover format for this book is best due to the inclusion of illustrations and the paper quality is high, the matte format does not always complement the images as well as a glossier page choice might and layout choices to have the images take up a larger portion of the page. This is particularly evident with images on page 28, 42, and 56 where the subject's faces suffer a bit in detail from the paper choice. As a reader who spent quite some time admiring the wonderful images, particularly those on pages 6, 16, 20, 24, 46, 50, 52, 66, it did make me wish for a slightly more appropriate paper type to showcase certain images.

The poems paired with the illustrations generally appear to respond to the subject matter of the illustrations. Most of the poems contain shorter lines,

quatrains, and use the common abcb rhyme scheme common to a general host of cowboy poems. The meter is not always regular though the word choice is often engaging, which may make them more of a challenge for recitation. All the poems lack punctuation, so readers may also need to use their own sense of language to get a feel for the ends of sentences or phrases. This is not generally too difficult though as the phrasing and subject matter is frequently familiar and clear enough to do so. Poems that stood out to me frequently focused on one image or subject and were "Courage," "Into the West," "Lamb Kisses," "Old Hands and Rope," "Spirits of My Ancestors," and "Tatonka." These also seemed most responsive to accompanying illustrations.

All poems and illustrations in this collection are appropriate for any age reader and can be casually enjoyed by any who might like to spend time reflecting on cowboy ways.

**Poppa Mac Inc, hardcover, \$30 on Amazon, 71 pgs.**

**KAREN GRACE BROWN CAMPBELL** has been writing, reading, and performing primarily western and Christian poetry for over 25 years. She is also a wife and a mother of a wonderful little girl. She breeds horses and runs barrels as well as serving as an Associate Dean and English Professor at Grayson College and has taught at other colleges and universities. She has her PhD from Texas Tech and an MA from Baylor University in Literature, specifically medieval literature (cowboys and knights have a lot in common). You may contact Karen at [CampbellK@grayson.edu](mailto:CampbellK@grayson.edu).



# Western Playlists – Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

**Joe Angel**

KEOS  
PO Box 1085  
Del Valle, TX 78617  
jangeljdj@arhaven.com

**Marshal Allen Bailey**

*"Trucker's Radio USA"*  
909 First St.  
Windom, KS 67491  
www.truckersradiousa.com

**Bobbi Jean Bell**

*"OutWest Hour"*  
KUPR, www.kupr.org  
Out West, 8201 Golf Course Rd NW  
Ste D3, #189  
Albuquerque, NM 87120  
*"Campfire Café" & "Saddle Up, America"*  
Equestrian Legacy Radio Network  
Co-host with Gary Holt  
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com  
www.equestrianlegacy.net  
661-714-0045

**Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky**

*"Rogue Valley Bound Show"*  
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.  
Medford, Oregon 97504  
541-301-7649  
www.earsradio.com  
New Zealand Public Radio  
KSHD, Shady Cove, OR  
skipbessonette@gmail.com

**Janice Brooks**

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

**Peter Bruce**

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

**Chuckaroo the Buckaroo**

*"Calling All Cowboys Radio"*  
88.9 FM, KPOV High Desert  
Community Radio  
www.kpov.org  
kpov.od.streamguys.us/  
calling\_all\_cowboys\_new\_56k.mp3  
Email: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com  
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/  
*"The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show"*  
radio.spalding-labs.com  
22470 Rickard Rd., Bend, OR 97702

**Roger & Leo Eilts**

2821 W 75th Street, Prairie Village, KS 66208  
*"The Americana Road Show"*  
www.truckersradiousa.com  
roger@thederrieres.com  
816-769-4041  
leo@thederrieres.com  
913-226-3637  
www.thederrieres.com

**Doug Figgs**

P. O. Box 3, Lemitar, NM 87823  
505-440-0979  
www.dougfiggs.com  
www.RioGrandeValleyRadio.com

**Nancy Flagg**

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

**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"*  
Big River FM (NZ) and others and  
several other stations around the world  
Paulhazellsworldofcountry@gmail.com  
Telephone: +44 7775 545 902

**Randy Hill**

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

**Gary Holt**

*"Campfire Cafe and Saddle Up America"*  
5005 Sunset Way  
Hermitage, TN 37076  
www.equestrianlegacy.net  
gih50@live.com  
615-478-2138

**Allen & Jill Kirkham**

*"Circuit Rider Roundup" on  
"American Cowboy Radio"*  
KJAG FM 107.7 Guthrie, TX  
www.americancowboyradio.com  
25353 S. Lightning Creek Road  
Custer, SD 57730  
(Plays Western Gospel music and  
cowboy poetry)  
Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm (CST)  
Monday 8:00 pm (CST)  
KirkhamMusic@icloud.com  
605-440-7338

**Susie Knight**

*"The Western Way Hour"*  
www.mixcloud.com/SusieKnight  
PO Box 76  
Conifer, CO 80433  
(303) 495-4869

**Jarle Kvale**

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

**Eddy Leverett**

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

**Butch and Christina Martin***"Whittler's Corner Show"*

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

**Marvin O'Dell***"Around the Campfire"*

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

**O.J. Sikes**

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

**JJ Steele***"Cowboy Corral"*

c/o JJ Steele  
 KLZR  
 103 South 2nd Street  
 Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

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

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

**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.

## International Western Music Association

### PATRON\* MEMBERS

Nolan Bruce Allen	Grand Island, NY	Chuck & Cindy Learn	Calimesa, CA
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Dr. Ted Coffman	Albuquerque, NM	Scott & Diana Overcash	Santo, TX
Frank M. Gregg	Edgemont, SD	Ben Parks	Amarillo, TX
Connie Harrell	Tulsa, OK	American Cowboy Radio	
Bob Harris	Aurora, OH	Fred & Dianne Powell	Denver, CO
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\*The Patron Member group in the IWMA is comprised of an elite group of people who pay \$100 annually for IWMA membership. For their generosity, they get nothing more than general members and they expect nothing in return. They simply believe in the cause and the mission of IWMA and go a little above in supporting it. They are unsung, behind the scene folks. We sincerely appreciate their support and take this time to say a public "Thank You!" for your unwavering support. You, too, can be a Patron Member with your \$100+ donation. Contact Marsha Short, marsha@westernmusic.org

*Become a PATRON MEMBER today!*



# Western Charts

**Attention Musicians and Poets!** 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 in this issue.

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Storyteller: Tales of the West – Jim Jones           | 17. Born to be a Cowgirl – Aspen Black               |
| 2. Throw a Saddle on a Star – Riders in the Sky         | 18. American Outlaw II – Chris Guenther              |
| 3. The Hot Texas Swing Band – Gotta Move                | 19. Times Like These – Randy Huston                  |
| 4. Once I Was a Cowboy – Joel White                     | 20. The Real West – Patty Clayton                    |
| 5. A Little Western, A Little Swing – Carlos Washington | 21. The Carolyn Sills Combo – On the Draw            |
| 6. One More Ride – Doug Figgs                           | 22. Arizona Stars – Rusted Spurs West                |
| 7. Ranchfolk at Large – Ryan Fritz                      | 23. Corral Dust and Crosses – The Timberline Cowboys |
| 8. Cowgirls Ride – Sarah Pierce                         | 24. Saturday Matinee – KG & the Ranger               |
| 9. Just Passin' Through – The Fall River Boys           | 25. Bunchgrass – Wylie & the Wild West               |
| 10. Roll On, Cowboys – Andy Hedges                      | 26. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris                 |
| 11. We Were Cowboys – R.J. Vandygriff                   | 27. Westbound – Micki Fuhrman                        |
| 12. 5 From the Heart of a Cowboy – Tom Hiatt            | 28. UnXpected – Phoebe White                         |
| 13. Cabin Songs – Syd Masters                           | 29. Me and Les – Dan McCorison                       |
| 14. Way Out West – Mark Kerr                            | 30. Cowboy Serenade – Ed Meyer                       |
| 15. Nebraska – Cowboy Joe Babcock                       |  |
| This Ol' Guitar and Me – Peggy Malone                   |  |

## 10 MOST PLAYED WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Gotta Move – The Hot Texas Swing Band
2. A Little Western, A Little Swing – Carlos Washington
3. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
4. Billy Mata's Timeless Treasures – Billy Mata
5. 12-6 Central – The Western Swing Authority
6. God Bless the Mighty Pickle – Rick & The All-Star Ramblers
7. Arizona Stars – Rusted Spurs West
- On the Draw – The Carolyn Sills Combo
9. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
10. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington

## 12 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Little Bit of Western, Little Bit of Swing – Carlos Washington
2. Once I Was a Cowboy – Joel White
3. Throw a Saddle on a Star – Riders in the Sky
4. Rooster – Joel White
5. Cowboy Heart – Jim Jones
- They Dance – Jim Jones
- Tough Enough – Jim Jones
8. In the Pines – Mark Kerr
9. My Wild Norwegian Rose – The Fall River Boys
- Ian and Charlie – Tom Hiatt
- Tex-Mex – The Hot Texas Swing Band
- Mustanger – Jim Jones
- Desert Skies – Carlos Washington

## 12 MOST PLAYED COWBOY POETRY ALBUMS

1. Four Aces and a Queen – Dennis Russell, Terry Nash, Valerie Beard, Floyd Beard & Dale Page
- Traveling Through Time – K.C. LaCourse
3. Provin' Up Wise – Rik "Yonder" Goodell
4. A Cowboy Remembers – Mike Booth
5. Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg
6. More Rhyme for No Reason – JJ Steele
7. The Girl in the Yellow Checked Dress – Duane Nelson
8. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
9. Short Grass – Floyd Beard
- Upon My Horse's Back – Chris Mortensen
- The Best Horses in Heaven They Have No Tails – Miska Paget
- Rhyme 'em, Cowboy – Tom Swearingen

**\*A MISSING NUMBER IN THE LIST  
REPRESENTS A TIE FOR THAT SPOT.**

# IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

Lonesome Ron Affolter	Mankato, MN	Jane Leche	Westcliffe, CO
Nolan Bruce Allen	Grand Island, NY	Paul Lohr	Nashville, TN
Rex Allen, Jr.	Nashville, TN	Clyde Lucas	Sylmar, CA
Judi Anderson	Albuquerque, NM	Mike Mahaney	Burbank, CA
Cindy Argyle	Hooper, UT	Michael P. McAleenan	Madison, MS
Cowboy Joe Babcock	Franklin, TN	Janet McBride	Rockwall, TX
Troy Bateson	Vilonia, AR	Steven "Mac" McCartney	Aurora, CO
Floyd Beard	Kim, CO	Tracy McHenry	Tucson, AZ
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Brandt Buffham	Saugus, CA	Marvin O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
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Susan Booth Case	Slick, OK	Darren Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Woody Paul Chrisman	Nashville, TN	Sara Lou Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Patty Clayton	Edgewater, CO	Billy Pitts	Kansas City, MO
Karen Cloutier	Conyngham, PA	Pamela Plaskitt	Waterloo, IA
Peggy Collins	Livermore, CA	Rich Price	Oakdale, CA
Henry "Steve" Conroy	Sierra Vista, AZ	Jeff Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Polly Cooke	Wickenburg, AZ	Diana Raven	Lakewood, CO
Jan Michael Corey	Mesa, AZ	Herb Remington	Ruidoso, NM
Stan Corliss	Hillsboro, OR	Steven Rhodes	Foosland, IL
William Crowe	Van Horn, TX	Victoria Rhodes	Foosland, IL
Don Cusic	Nashville, TN	Don Richardson	Upland, CA
Mark & Marlene Davis	Chatsworth, CA	Barbara Richhart	Mancos, CO
David DeBolt	Nolensville, TN	LeeLee Robert	Paradise Valley, AZ
Rich Dollarhide	Sierra Vista, AZ	Jessie D. Robertson	Fort Worth, TX
Arlys Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr.	Reeds Spring, MO
Fred Engel	Kimball Junction, UT	Cheryl Rogers-Barnett	Washington, UT
Bonnie Exton	Deming, NM	Elizabeth Rukavina	Arleta, CA
Brad Exton	Deming, NM	Lori Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Robert E. Fee, Esq.	Tucson, AZ	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Juni Fisher	Strathmore, CA	Ray Ryan	San Jose, CA
Rick Flory	Paradise Valley, AZ	Yvonne Ryan	San Jose, CA
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Dick & Dixie Goodman	Sun City West, AZ	Suzanne Samelson	Thermopolis, WY
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Jerry Hall	Porterville, CA	Sharyn Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Patti Hamel	Petoskey, MI	O.J. Sikes	Ridgewood, NJ
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Lon Hannah	Visalia, CA	Bob Taylor	El Cajon, CA
Joni Harms	Canby, OR	Steve Taylor	Roy, UT
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Rick Huff	Albuquerque, NM	Marilyn Tuttle	San Fernando, CA
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Emma F. Kaenzig	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Washtub Jerry	Fort Davis, TX
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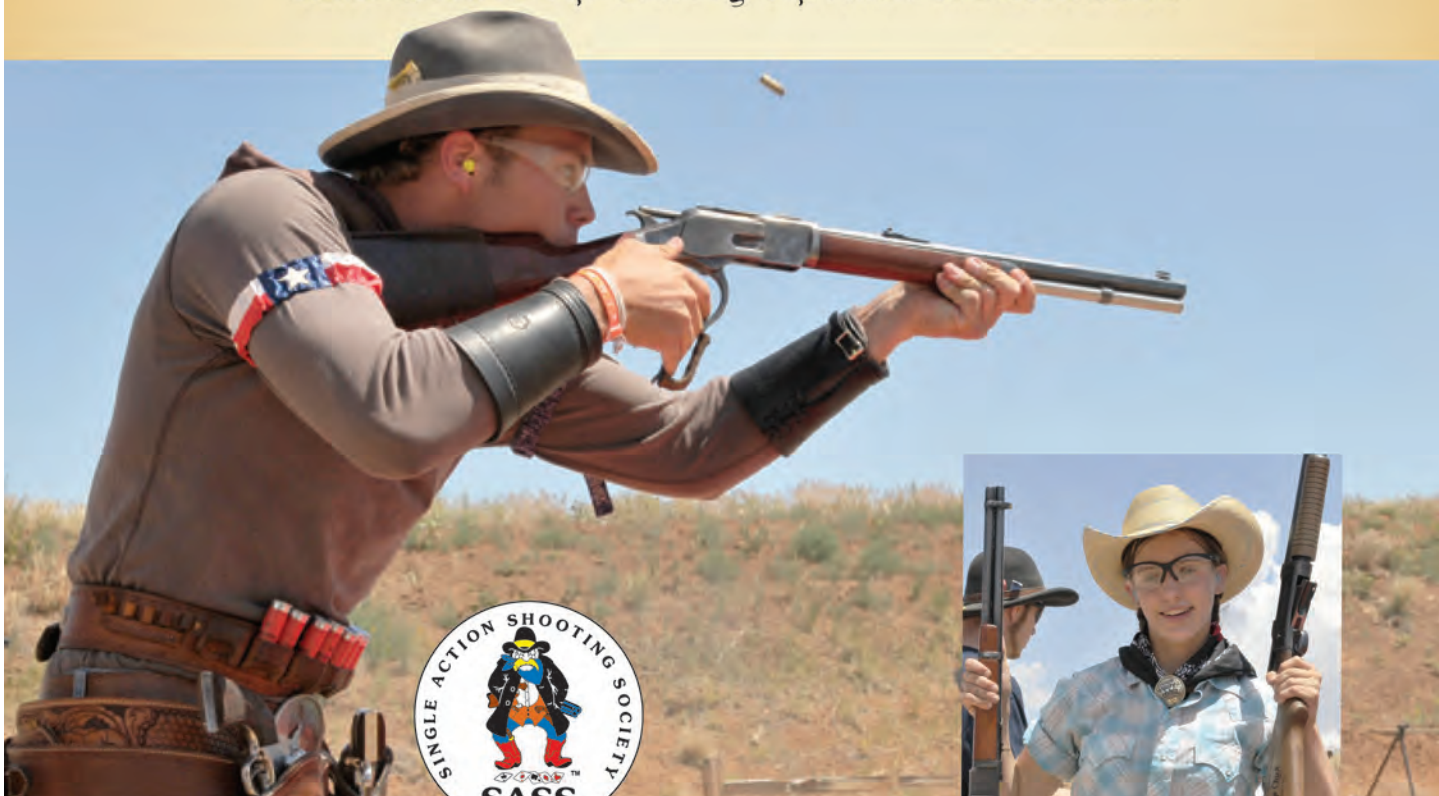
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