

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication
of the International
Western Music Association

ANDY HEDGES

THE COWBOY SONGSTER,
STORYTELLER & RECITER

PAGE 6

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From The President...



Robert Lorbeer
IWMA President

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

My how much of our world has been turned upside down in such a short period of time!

I want to thank the members of our Board of Directors for reaching out by calling our membership to give a "neighborly" shout out to all of you. Juni Fisher suggested that we needed to call and "check on our family." Marsha Short divided up the IWMA roster and each of our Board members started making calls.

I think all of our Board members were very much impressed with the spirit of our membership. Without exception, everyone had a can-do attitude; "yes, it's tough, but we will make it through."

Our performing members have lost a lot of gigs. I want to suggest a way how you might be able to recoup some of your lost gig revenue. An April 22, 2020, article in the Houston Chronicle headlined: "Texas issues unemployment benefit guidance to contractors, GIG (emphasis added) and self-employed workers." Hopefully this program will help with some of your lost revenue. The program is a Federal Government program, so it includes all states. Quoting further "Self-employed, contract and GIG workers who have lost work due to the COVID-19 pandemic should apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, the federal program authorized under the \$2 trillion stimulus law to expand unemployment benefits to those who do not traditionally qualify. The base benefit amount is \$207.00." I would hope that a "base benefit" for our performing members would be substantially more than \$207 per week.

Now where do we go from here? Will the annual IWMA2020 convention in Albuquerque still be held in November? We don't know yet. We do not want to put any of our members at risk. Our biggest concern is the safety and security of our membership. The Board of Directors recently had a telephone conference call Board meeting, and a major part of the meeting was discussing our Convention. Marsha Short suggested some creative ways to have a "convention" with all of our membership in their own homes. However, I want to assure you that Marsha is putting together our 2020 Convention schedule to take place in Albuquerque. So yes, we are planning on being in Albuquerque in November, but we are making backup plans as well. Be assured that we will keep everyone posted as to the final plans.

I want to give a great big shout out to our *Western Way* editor. Theresa O'Dell. Money is tight, and the Board discussed not creating/publishing this issue of *Western Way*, to save money. But Theresa came up with some creative ideas to save on costs, and publish this issue; after all, she did not want to break a 30+ year tradition of publishing 4 issues of *Western Way* every year. So, you are holding the Summer issue in your hands and the goal is to keep them coming.

We have a strong Board of Directors with IWMA and your best interests at heart. As soon as we have a decision about Albuquerque we will let everyone know. Hang in there and "Cowboy UP!"

Robert Lorbeer
President, IWMA



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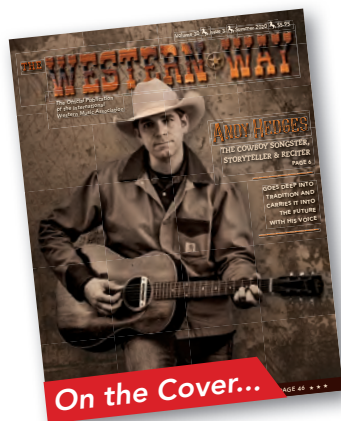
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Andy fell in love with traditional music by listening to his father's cassettes of cowboy songs. His varied repertoire includes classic cowboy poetry recitations, obscure cowboy songs, dust bowl ballads, and blues. The music and the culture of our great American West are in good hands.

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IWMA 2020

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Theresa O'Dell
Editor

While the Parenthesis is Open

I am married to a “glass is half full” kind of fella. I tend to be a “half empty” kind of gal. I like to think it is more to present options for discussion and not because I’m a negative person! Whatever the truth, I think I’m doing my best to find

reasons for optimism in today’s less-than-optimistic world.

I heard a commentator recently refer to the virus situation as a “parenthesis” in our lives. I liked that approach. So, what are you doing to fill the space between your parentheses?

I am encouraged. Despite the loss of gigs, gatherings, performances and, sadly, income for many of our IWMA members and friends, I am hearing of so much good that is happening. People are helping neighbors, making and donating masks, volunteering to deliver groceries and meals when needed, and many other genuine acts of kindness. On a personal note, a neighbor knocked on our door one day and handed us four rolls of toilet paper! This was during the early weeks when there was rarely any to be found on the shelves. She said they had more than they needed and wanted to share. An act of kindness!

For our performing members, well there has been a lot of creativity. You have used your parenthesis well! Just read the “In the Spotlight” column in this issue of the magazine. So many virtual concerts and online videos are happening, new songs are being written, poets are letting their creativity flow, and there is work in progress on manuscript for new western novels. I can hardly wait until we add a close parentheses on this unprecedented period (and we will) to see the many new CDs that get recorded, new poetry books and novels that go to press, and venues old and new are opened for business.

I want to say “thank you” to the many who wanted to ensure that *The Western Way* continues to publish during this parenthetical period. The Board was concerned about the financial feasibility of printing the magazine and discussed not publishing a summer issue. Like everything else – advertising, which pays for the magazine, was suffering. Rightly so because those who advertise are suffering. Without a lot of detail, let me say that without

a campaign or fanfare to raise additional funds, word got around. Many of YOU wanted the next issue. Anonymous gifts, donations from board members and individual members began to arrive. Some advertisers who were able to step up did so, and a generous discount offered by Modern Litho (our printer) for this issue added to the mix. Without causing undo stress on the IWMA budget, we were able to pay for and publish this issue.

And what if the parenthesis remains open – what about the next issue? Well, we will take it one issue at a time. For more than 30 years, *The Western Way* has regularly gone out to the membership in some form. The goal is to continue that tradition and with that in mind, we will press on, one issue at a time. Until better days...enjoy the glass that is half full. Enjoy your *Western Way*! 🐾

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From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

I'm sitting on the patio and enjoying the peace and quiet. We live on an approach to DFW airport and have gotten so used to the planes that we don't hear them anymore. With so many flights canceled, the silence is almost deafening. It's hard to believe there's COVID-19 and murder hornets in the world when the sky is so blue and the birds are singing in the trees.

After almost two months in our stay-at-home mode, we have discovered the following:

- ♦ **Great gas mileage – almost 2 weeks to a gallon**
- ♦ **The perfect chocolate chip cookie recipe, although we now need new summer clothes**
- ♦ **Beautiful (and fun) music and poetry by IWMA members on YouTube and Facebook**

We've also enjoyed just being together. I introduced my granddaughter to "Little Women" (the book and the movie), and she taught me how to play Pokemon. We got a subscription to Netflix. We cleaned closets and rearranged furniture.

Planning IWMA2020 during this time has been challenging to say the least. We're watching so many variables and are bombarded with "what ifs" every day. We continue to move forward, though, with plans to see everyone in Albuquerque in November.

A lot of our members are on the front lines. To them, we say a huge THANK YOU! Our weekly trip to the grocery store wouldn't be possible without the cashiers and stockers. Our doctors and nurses and the entire network of people backing them up are working horrible hours and putting their own lives at risk. Kudos to the cafeteria ladies who go in every day to put together breakfast and lunches to handout so no child goes hungry. The very least we can do for them is to stay home as much as we can and wear a mask when we do have to go out.

Be well, take care of each other, and keep November 11-15 open! 🐾

Marsha



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- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- Friends of Marty Robbins Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
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In the CROSSHAIRS



Andy Hedges (right) and Ramblin' Jack Elliott at the Newport Folk Festival 2019.

ANDY HEDGES

BY NANCY FLAGG

there were current, modern people playing old cowboy songs," Andy said. He was especially fascinated by Waddie Mitchell because it was the first time he had ever heard cowboy poems. Andy recorded the audio portions of the video on his boombox so he could listen over and over.

He started playing his dad's old Harmony Sovereign guitar in earnest and buying cowboy music cassettes at Walmart. He searched for books and collected old cowboy songs, soaking up everything he could find. Along the way, he discovered "a whole world of cowboy music and poetry" that was flowing out of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Elko, Nevada.

Within a few years he was reciting cowboy poetry for friends and family, and in 1996, when he was 16, he had his first professional gig performing at the Lubbock Cowboy Symposium. Invitations to perform at other cowboy gatherings started coming in, and he became a regular on the cowboy poetry circuit and eventually started playing music as well.

Andy says that the path he is on is a big surprise. He would not have imagined his life this way, "As a kid I was really shy, wasn't musical, and couldn't carry a tune." Yet his deep passion, near obsession, for cowboy culture, combined with a lot of hard work took him beyond his imagination. From his small town to venues far afield, he now performs alongside many of his childhood idols who have become close friends.

Songster and Reciter

Andy's early exposure to the old songs and poems set him on a lifelong quest to find even more overlooked, obscure, and little-performed material. He looks for stories that speak to him and then he interprets and arranges the material in an interesting way that will connect with people. He draws from sources more than 100 years old, such as Jack Thorp's 1908 book *Songs of the Cowboys* and John Lomax's *Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads* from 1910. He is always on the lookout for a record or book he does not yet have and says, "The hunt is quite the thrill."

Sometimes the smallest thing can unexpectedly change the course of a life. Such was the case with cowboy songster and reciter Andy Hedges. Growing up in a tiny West Texas town, Andy might have become a rancher, a preacher, a teacher. Who knows? No one will ever know because after he wandered into a local video rental store at age 13, what might have been vanished like a tumbleweed blown away by the west Texas wind, and a new direction blew in.

A New Direction

Andy's family lived in a small farmhouse in Tokio, sixty miles southwest of Lubbock. His dad was a pastor but in earlier days had been a farmer and a bull rider. Andy was steeped in his dad's love for cowboy culture. His father's stories and the music of Marty Robbins, Tex Ritter and Jimmie Rodgers filled the house. Andy was a home-schooled kid immersed in older cowboy music and western movies. "It was like I was growing up in the 1950's instead of the 1980's." His home backdrop set the stage for his interest in "all things cowboy."

On one fateful day, Andy visited the town video store and brought home a PBS documentary. The tape was an "Austin City Limits" TV episode saluting American cowboy musicians and featured Don Edwards, Waddie Mitchell, Riders in the Sky, and Sons of the San Joaquin. "I was blown away. I was really taken with the idea that

Given Andy's meticulous, historical research of western culture, it is no surprise that he is equally precise in how he defines his art. Rather than the generic labels "singer-songwriter" or "cover artist," he is drawn to the older label "songster" to define his music. A "songster" is a term that applied largely to African American artists in the 1920's who were not just blues players but who played a wide variety of styles – ballads, popular songs, and blues. "They were the jukeboxes of their day and played whatever people wanted to hear," explains Andy. Like the early songsters, Andy performs traditional music from a western perspective in a variety of styles. As an example, in a concert, he may play classic cowboy tunes, dust bowl ballads, old blues songs, and contemporary material.

In addition to writing and performing songs, Andy is also a "reciter," as distinguished from a "cowboy poet." Although he writes some poems, he says that he is mostly an interpreter of traditional material; thus, he is carrying on a long heritage of people reciting poems that have been passed down through the generations. His album *Cowboy Recitations* (2017), contains both traditional and contemporary western poems.

For Andy, traditional music and poetry are not just old songs stuck in a bygone period but are poems and songs still relevant. "Traditional music is not just focused on one era," Andy explains, "because the whole idea of being 'traditional' is that it carries on." For example, cowboy music that was alive in the 1860s, often modified from even older songs, was still alive in the 1920s, 1950s and 1960s and is even with us today.

Andy's *Shadow of a Cowboy* album offers rich material from western and folk traditions. The "Ogallala Song" is from the cowboy trail driving period of the 1860s, though its origins go further back. There is the Carter Family's "Lone Pine Special" and several contemporary collaborations. In one collaboration, Andy set music to John Dofflemeyer's "Tennis Shoe" poem. Andy and his wife Alissa wrote the music for Waddie Mitchell's poem, "Long Johns On."

Andy's recording was awarded the prestigious Best Traditional Western Album (2020) distinction by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Andy is both honored by the Museum's recognition and thrilled to be among the company of previous winners. He says that Buck Ramsey, Andy Wilkinson, and Don Edwards are a few examples of the many winners whose music has deeply influenced him. "It's surreal and exciting to be alongside my heroes and to see my own record honored in the same way."

Extraordinary Collaborations

Andy has had the opportunity to work side by side with many of his heroes. At one Elko Gathering, he performed in his "dream" show where he swapped songs

with artists who had the greatest musical influence on him: Don Edwards, Glenn Ohrlin and Ramblin' Jack Elliott. In another Elko show, organized by Wally McRae, Andy says that there was an "incredible line-up of 12 to 15 reciters" who took turns reciting the classics from the cowboy poetry canon. He recited "The Red Cow" while surrounded by many great cowboy poets he admires.

A particularly memorable collaboration was when Andy and folksinger Ramblin' Jack Elliott performed together in 2019 at the 60th Anniversary of the Newport Folk Festival. Andy had met Jack years earlier at a cowboy gathering in Texas. In the years that followed their first meeting, Andy discovered Jack's deep roots in and profound influence on American folk music - from introducing Woody Guthrie to Europe to playing with Bob Dylan, Peter Rowan, Johnny Cash and even the Rolling Stones. Andy became a huge fan of Jack and of folk music, and he saw the many threads connecting cowboy and folk music. "A light went off in my head. I couldn't believe I had met this guy before and that he is a member of our cowboy tribe."

During the years following their initial meeting, Jack and Andy shared other stages together but the mother-of-them-all was the Newport Folk Festival. The setting of their first show was the "Outside Folk" stage where legacy artists were paired with upcoming artists; in this case Jack was paired with Andy. On stage, Jack told stories about the early years of the Newport Festival and about his experience playing there with Bob Dylan in the



Hangin' backstage with some of the greats, National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Cowboy Songsters Show, Elko, NV (L-R) Don Edwards, Glenn Ohrlin (seated), Andy and Ramblin' Jack Elliott.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7



A little time with Andy Wilkinson on his 70th birthday.

1960s. Jack and Andy “swapped songs and then swapped verses.” Andy remembers feeling ecstatic to be on that stage with Jack. He also recalls having the realization that western and cowboy music was being played right then and there on the Newport stage and that it was an important moment for the western genre.

To top off the experience, Andy caught a glimpse of Judy Collins in the audience. Collins was one of his mom’s favorite singers, and he heard a lot of Collins’ music when he was growing up. “There was Judy in the balcony singing along with me and cheering me on.” The event was a peak experience for Andy. Rolling Stone magazine picked up on the special vibes as well and named the show one of the “Ten Best Things We Saw” at the 2019 festival.

On the last day of the Newport Folk Festival, Jack was the final performer and was doing a tribute show to Pete Seeger. He invited people on stage to sing “Goodnight Irene” and asked Andy to join him. Andy describes the moment: “I stood by Jack in front of 10,000 people at this beautiful site overlooking the harbor with the best-of-the-best folk/americana world there. It was amazing and I will never forget it.”

Another gratifying collaboration started after Andy heard Andy Wilkinson’s Charlie Goodnight album, an example of a modern renaissance in cowboy music. Andy listened to the recording repeatedly and eventually connected with Wilkinson who lives in Lubbock. Andy says that Wilkinson has an unparalleled depth of knowledge and insight into western culture and is one of the culture’s most important writers.

Andy found Wilkinson an invaluable mentor with a remarkable gift for offering critical analysis while still being encouraging and uplifting. In 2003, when Andy was working on his first album, he asked Wilkinson to help produce it. Wilkinson invited Andy to his house and suggested that he play one of the songs that would be on the album. After Andy complied, Wilkinson said, “Play another one.” Wilkinson kept asking for more songs until Andy had played six or seven numbers. When he was done, Wilkinson asked him to describe the kind of record he wanted to make. Andy explained that he wanted to do a folk-cowboy album - something unique and different from what everyone else was doing - something with folk sensibility. Wilkinson replied, “That’s exactly what you should do, but none of the songs you just played will work.” Andy was deflated but Wilkinson helped redirect him by listing songs of Andy’s and other artists that might perfectly fit the new album.

Andy went home and started anew on the album, eventually releasing *City Boys* (now out of print). He gives much credit to Wilkinson: “He helped me to dig deeper, be more committed to the song and lyrics, and helped me discover what I wanted to do.” Since that time, the two Andys have produced four joint albums: *Welcome to the Tribe* (2009), *Long Ways from Home*, (2010), *Mining the Motherlode*, (2011) and *The Outlands*” (2012).

Cowboy Crossroads

In Andy’s ever-expanding quest to learn about and share western culture, Andy added yet another item to his saddlebag of projects by becoming the producer and host of the Cowboy Crossroads podcast. In his show, Andy interviews many cream-of-the-crop musicians, poets, and working cowboys, such as Ian Tyson, Michael Martin Murphey, Dom Flemons, Amy Hale Auker, Tom Russell, and Dave Stamey to name a few.



Andy with Tom Russell on the Roots on the Narrow Gauge train trip.

The idea of doing a podcast came to Andy after he had been listening to folk music podcasts and was becoming familiar with the medium. He kept thinking that someone should do a podcast in the cowboy world because there are so many great storytellers and fascinating characters. Then it occurred to him; "I might be the guy who should do it."

Andy decided to pursue the idea. He realized that the podcast was just an extension of everything he was already doing with his music and poems: collecting stories, interpreting stories, and trying to save the history of cowboy culture. "It seemed natural to create podcasts, too." He now has an international following of faithful listeners.

The choice of interview subjects is partly driven by proximity; the people with whom Andy is traveling or doing a show are likely subjects. Andy also looks for the important voices in the cowboy and range culture and is especially interested in capturing the stories of the older generation. Andy has produced over 50 episodes and has no plans to stop. "There is such a long list of people I want to have on the show."

Everything Old is New Again

During the disruption of ordinary life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Andy continues to work on his podcasts, but his typically full concert schedule is on hold. He and his dad run a crop insurance business together. In addition, Andy is teaching himself 5-string banjo and predicts that listeners might hear the instrument pop up in his future performances. He continues to collect stories, songs, and poems and says that his "enthusiasm for researching, interpreting, and performing is growing stronger over time."

Andy reflects on challenging times that have faced the nation before. He says that he has long heard that when the U.S. goes through hard times, the American people turn to the cowboy and the culture that surrounds him. "They look to the cowboy as a source of inspiration, strength, and comfort," says Andy who hopes that this still holds true today.

Andy also makes a prediction about the future of western music, which he says, "Looks bright." He explains that there are younger artists who will carry the art form forward. He also believes that we are at a time in American culture where there are a lot of young people

looking for something real, something authentic. "People are growing tired of the homogenized mainstream culture they've been fed for so long."

Andy is convinced that people crave music, stories, poetry, and literature with character to it. They are drawn to regional material that helps them to make sense of their own history, identity, heritage, and place in the world. Especially for westerners, "The greatest expression of our place and culture is found in cowboy songs and poems." The music and poetry of the real working ranchers and cowboys fueled the start of the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering 35 years ago. Their offerings have a real power and depth to them that is not in danger of vanishing.



Philadelphia Folk Festival 2019 with Dom Flemons.

When Andy was a young boy, he wanted to be a working cowboy on a ranch, and some part of that lifestyle still appeals. However, he got caught up early in the music, poetry and folklore of the cowboy culture, and it seems he is doing what he was meant to do. Andy says that as a performer, it is the "ultimate thing" for him to be able to share a stage like Elko with his heroes. Sometimes people say to him that he will eventually get tired of singing "Strawberry Roan" or "Little Joe the Wrangler," and that he will have found all the songs there are to find. Andy disagrees. "That won't happen in my lifetime. Traditional music is unlimited and there are so many more songs I want to play, rocks to turn over, and things to discover." 🐾



Nancy is the producer and host of the "Cowboy Tracks" radio program at KDRT in Davis California. The show features western music, cowboy poetry, western swing, interviews, and western history and can be heard on KDRT.org, Facebook or iTunes podcasts. Nancy is a member of the IWMA California chapter and regular contributor to *The Western Way*.



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.

His Queen

by Deanna Dickinson McCall

*She's lived with manure on her kitchen floor
Calves in her bath tub, blankets for a door
In remote cow camp shacks, wind blowing thru the cracks.*

*She digs in the hard earth
Spreads water across fields, shovels for all she's worth
With strong heart and hands, betrothed to the land.*

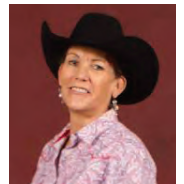
*She's often his only help when riding
Not afraid to part the brush, go after those gals hiding
With bruised and scratched skin, trails 'em to the pen.*

*She's bought her clothes second-hand
Bathed in troughs and creeks, lived ways some can't understand
Always tender, but tough when times are rough.*

*He thinks she's more beautiful than before
Decades have passed, not a young bride any more
Tiny lines etch her face, lend warmth and grace.*

*There's strands of silver in her hair
Middle age has arrived, but he doesn't care,
That woman in old jeans will always be his queen.*

Deanna has cows, horses and a love of the land bred into her, coming from a family that began ranching in Texas in the 1840's. She has ranched in several western states, including 22 years raising her family on a remote Nevada ranch without phones or electricity. She now ranches with her husband in the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico. Her writing and performances have won numerous awards: The Will Rogers Medallion Award; the Georgie Sicking Award; NM/AZ Book Awards; Women Writing the West; Western Music Assoc; The Academy of Western Artists; the Texas Poets Gathering Heritage Award; The Della Johns Scholarship; The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Wrangler Award, Wrangler Award Winner marking the first time a poetry album received this recognition. www.deannadickinsonmccall.com





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TALES OF THE WEST

by Jim Wilson



Many of you will remember the late Ed Stabler. Ed was a great guitarist, singer, and member of our International Western Music Association. Ed came from an old family and one that had many ties to the American West. One of his ancestors invented the Stabler Cut-Off for the Spencer carbine, a rifle that was developed during the War Between the States and later used on the frontier. But this is an Ed Stabler story about a saddle.

Back in the 1880s, one of Ed's ancestors ranched in what was then called Dakota Territory. One of his neighbors was a fellow from back east by the name of Theodore Roosevelt. In many ways, Roosevelt was a duck out of water, but he gained admiration for his determination and his will to learn the ways of the West. Most of us have read of Roosevelt's chasing down some thieves, in the dead of winter, and delivering them to the local sheriff. Eventually, however, Roosevelt sold out and headed back east to his destiny as President of the United States.

Roosevelt, of course, was elected Vice President on a ticket with William McKinley and, at McKinley's death, became President. When Stabler's ancestor heard this, he contacted the J.S. Collins Saddle Co. in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He ordered that the very best saddle be built, complete with flower carving and the initials "T.R." put on the back side of the cantle. When the project was completed, he shipped the saddle to Washington as a congratulatory gift to his old Dakota ranching buddy.

The years went by and finally the rancher heard that former President Roosevelt had passed away. He sent a letter of condolence to the widow. And, in the letter, he told her some stories about their days together in the West. He also told the widow that he did not have any memento of his friend from long ago. He was clear, however, that he was not asking for anything of great value; a pocketknife or fountain pen would be treasure enough, if she just had something that she would share.

The widow Roosevelt responded by returning the J.S. Collins saddle. In the accompanying letter, she further stated that it was the President's favorite saddle and the one that he always wanted put on his horse when he took guests riding about the White House grounds. Once returned, the saddle became a very special keepsake for the Stabler family.

In the 1990s, we all enjoyed the fine cowboy gathering that was hosted every year by the Cody Museum, in Cody, Wyoming. The museum really opened their arms to cowboy entertainers and went out of their way to make us feel at home. It was a special event. Naturally, no one was surprised when Ed and Mary Stabler chose that event to present the Roosevelt saddle to the museum. Ed rode his horse to the steps of the museum, stepped down, unbuckled the saddle and handed it over. President Roosevelt's beloved saddle had a home among cowboys once again.

Speaking of saddles, I always have to chuckle at the various movies that have come out over the years about the James-Younger Gang. Hollywood generally has them galloping about, robbing banks and plundering trains, mounted on western stock saddles. Now, the fact is that these guys weren't cowboys and they were plying their trade in places like Missouri, Kentucky, and Minnesota. So I have often wondered just what kind of saddles the outlaws actually rode. Most southerners of that era rode some form of a saddle that is called a "plantation" saddle. This is most similar to the common English saddle. It has no saddle horn, uses iron stirrups fastened with stirrup leathers, and has a bit higher cantle. This, or the common English saddle, makes a lot more sense than the western double-rigged stock saddle.

Of course, another choice might have been the McClellan saddle, designed by General McClellan during the Civil War era. This sturdy saddle also had no saddle horn and could best be described as a stripped-down version of the plantation saddle. The McClellan was used by our army from Civil War days all the way through World War I and possibly up until our cavalry switched from horses to tanks. 🐎

Complaining about such inaccuracies in movies is one of the reasons that history buffs may not make the best company for watching the old westerns. Some think that we point out all those mistakes a little too often and a little too loudly.

Jim Wilson is a retired peace officer, former Texas Sheriff and lifelong student of western history who lives in Alpine, Texas. He has been a member of the IWMA since the mid-90's and served on the board of directors for a number of years. He has been playing music, mostly western music, since his college days...and "it is absolutely none of your business how long ago that was."

JODELMANIA

BY REX RIDEOUT



Hotel Torbrau built in 1460.

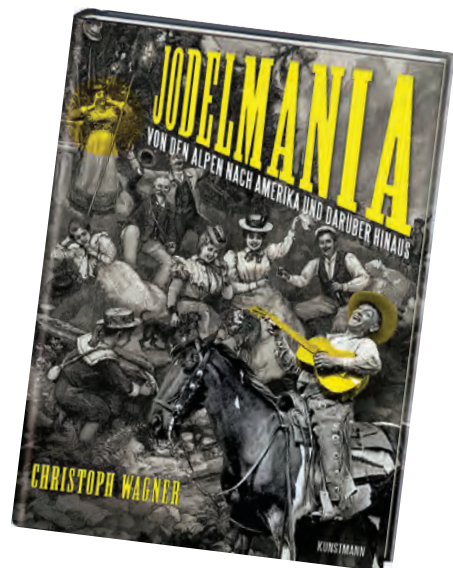


Isartor Gate built in 1337. This gate was the East entrance to the city from the Isar river.

While visiting in Munich, I became acutely aware that the concept of “ancient” is on a different level than in this country. I was staying at the Hotel Torbrau built in 1460. Directly across the street and commanding one’s attention stands the Isartor Gate built in 1337. This gate was the East entrance to the city from the Isar river.

I could see a banner within the Isartor and decided to check it out. What caught my eye was a cowboy on a horse. Printed in large letters was Jodelmania. “This is not something I would expect to find in the largest city in Bavaria. My grasp of the German language isn’t so great, but the context seemed to be about cowboys and yodeling. Being the curious sort and intrigued, I checked it out.

Within the Isartor is the Valentin Karlstadt Musäum dedicated to the acting and the antics of the comedic duo, Karl Valentin and Liesl Karlstadt who performed in the first half of the 20th Century. The banner translates to “Jodelmania - From the Alps to America” and was a temporary exhibit curated by Christoph Wagner. There were displays of yodeling performers of “Alpine Singing,” which was the first pop music in Europe in the early 1800s.



Christoph Wagner’s Jodelmania: Von den Alpen nach Amerika und darüber hinaus (*Jodelmania: From the Alps to America and Beyond*).

The display explained that by the end of that century, “Yodel Songs” as recordings and live performances were then becoming as popular in America as Vaudeville shows. By the 1920s, country singers such as Jimmie Rodgers were adding their own yodeling technique to songs and the popularity skyrocketed. Later, cowboy greats like Gene Autry and Roy Rogers would make the yodel the top request for radio and, in time, for television broadcasts as well. Tarzan also even gets a mention but until now I never thought his call was a yodel! Perhaps it is. The present day was on display as well with *Toy Story* and the singing of *RIDERS IN THE SKY*. Also on display were sheet music, posters and ephemera as well as phonograph records. The sign above that case reads “Zur aktualitat des jodelns: von Tarzan zur Toy Story” (The Actuality of Yodeling: From Tarzan to *Toy Story*).

Christoph Wagner has published a companion book featured at the exhibit that is available through Amazon. *Jodelmania: Von den Alpen nach Amerika und darüber hinaus (Yodelmania: From the Alps to America and Beyond)*. Note: it appears that an English version is not yet in print. Wagner also produced a CD in 2005 titled, *American Yodeling 1911 – 1946*. It seems this wasn’t just a fling. Munich has hosted a LautYodeln Festival since 2016. The popularity of yodeling remains strong on both sides of the Atlantic.



Jodelmania banner when entering Isator.



Rex Rideout sings of the American West from the times of the early explorers, the fur trade, the Civil War and the cattle drive era to the end of the 19th Century. Rex has performed at countless historic sites and museums across the West playing fiddle, banjo, mandolin and other instruments. His music has been featured on television and radio such as CBS Sunday Morning, museums like the Western American Art collection at the Denver Art Museum, and the soundtracks of three National Park Service visitor center films as well as the blockbuster Dreamworks film, *Cowboys & Aliens*.

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M & TU 9am – 10 am

KKRN, Redding, CA

The Country Campfire

SA 10 am – 11 am

KZNO, Santa Clarita, CA

The Country Campfire

W 10 pm – 11 pm

Around the Campfire

TU 10 pm – 11 pm
TH 10 pm – 11 pm

Times are CST
and airtime may vary

MAILBAG

A few lines to say hello and mention how good it was to receive *The Western Way* (Spring 2020) yesterday! In these days of uncertainties (i.e., virus pandemic), there's hardly anything the media can do other than expand on the daily situation coast-to-coast. *The Western Way* provided a most welcome change – providing a comprehensive cover of IWMA activities – past, present and future! It's indeed a pleasure to be a part of the IWMA family! Most sincerely,

~ Al Kritl

As you may know, the IWMA Board of Directors felt it was important to reach out to the membership during this COVID time, just to say "hey" and make that thinking-of-you connection. It seems it was appreciated by so many. These are just a couple of short notes received:

Thank you to Theresa O'Dell for the personal phone call. You guys are great!

~ A. Wilson

I understand, the IWMA Board is contacting all of its members with a "Hi! How Are You Doing?" phone call. I received my call from Juni Fisher. My sister, Teresa Kay Orr, received her phone call from LeeLee Robert. I applaud the association's thoughtful outreach.

Today, while in C-19 Isolation-al Status and a snowstorm I gave the latest *Western Way* some in depth reading. It is always eye-appealing, with interesting and educational articles.

~ M. Broyhill

I got a very nice call last week from Theresa O'Dell asking if we were all ok – which we are – and she told me the BOD members will all be calling IWMA members to check on them. That's a very nice thing to do!

~ D. Wilson



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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

Maybe we should call it the “SeqWestern World Tour” this time, huh?! Laying low out of germ’s way has given me a chance to consider things and let my mind drift. Not necessarily a good idea, in my case!

I picked up the latest issue of *Cowboys & Indians Magazine* to kill some time. They’d done a retrospective of James Stewart’s Westerns. Truly fine work. Of course, he was not a singing cowboy. His only near brush with Western Music might have been in the distinctly non-Western “It’s A Wonderful Life.” Remember when he and Donna Reed sort of harmonized on “Buffalo Gals” at one point? And there was a hit Burt Bacharach/Hal David Western song “sort of” connected to a classic Stewart western “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance.” The song wasn’t used in the movie. The director hated it. Well, its plot line had nothing to do with his plot line, so I suppose it’s understandable in the scheme of things. (sigh) Okay, I say to myself. These astute observations have taken up (consult Word Count) only 176 of the little suckers. Now what? In my thrashing around for a subject I almost degenerated into commenting on an Adam West (y’know, “west?”) “Batman” episode I caught in quarantine wherein Cliff Robertson played “Shame,” a cowboy villain (“Come Back, Shame!!”). That wasn’t the only bad pun knocking around the neighborhood. One of his trail bum henchmen who couldn’t pour a drink straight was called “Messy James,” another was “Rip Snortin’!” Aren’t you glad I never brought it up?! Happily before long my eyes landed on a promotional postcard too long not acted upon from a fellow named Ben Parks and a project called “American Cowboy Radio.” I’ll ring him up and see how this Covid-19 ambush has affected his plans. Gives me somebody to talk to. I do and get voicemail. He returns my call. He’s sitting in the cab of his locomotive atop a bridge crossing the Cimarron River outside of Waynoka, Oklahoma. Life just got interesting.

“It’s been quite a journey already and I think I’ve only just scratched the surface of what this radio station can do,” Ben Parks tells us a few days later from his home office in Amarillo. If not for the pandemic, one unique opportunity would not have come his way. When the annual Bob Wills Day in Turkey, Texas had to be scrubbed, several acts who would have been in attendance put on concerts from their respective locations. On the traditional final Saturday of April, Parks’ American Cowboy Radio joined a string

of stations to simulcast Western Swing shows from Jake Hooker, Jody Nix and, of course, Jason Roberts with Bob Wills’ Texas Playboys! Parks adds “technology being what it is, I can program the station down in Guthrie from my laptop here in Amarillo, 180 miles away!” In fact, he could even do it from the cab of his locomotive, though hardly advisable! It seems not much can stop Ben Parks in either of his engineering capacities. “My seniority (with the railroad) lets me have a regular run up from Amarillo 316 miles north to Wellington, Kansas,” Parks tells us. “Depending on the train, from twelve to fifteen feet up and twenty to seventy miles an hour I get to see golden yellow canola flowers against the deep green of the wheat fields, I see bobcats, coyotes, here and there a mountain lion!” I’ve got to say it, although some won’t get the joke. This guy comes about as close as I’ve encountered to actually being Rex Allen’s railroading “Fireman Cowboy!” Parks doesn’t call himself “cowboy,” although he has helped at the branding fire, smelled the scorched hide and has first cousins working on area ranches. And what ranches they are! “If you want to be in the Cowboy format, the ‘heritage’ ranches are here. ‘Burk’ Burnett’s legendary Four Sixes, the Tongue River, the Pitchfork...several others,” Parks muses. In that placement of his station there may be an additional benefit. Namely, helping cowfolk to see it’s Western Music that carries the real cowboy message and heritage! (Barb Richhart will do back flips!) But there is a special financial challenge, one that Ben Parks understood and accepted when he first learned that an engineer friend of his was about to let a construction permit and broadcast license in Guthrie, Texas expire. “There’s nothing there,” Parks chuckles. “The county is the second smallest population in Texas and the third smallest in the US! My broadcast license covers a potential listening audience of around 270 people plus truck drivers going up and down 83 and 62!” Of course, terrestrial broadcasting is not where the potential lies in such an endeavor. It’s the whole world online!

Beyond Ben Parks’ lifelong love of Western Music, his initial motivation to act came when he “stumbled across an online feature called ‘The Cowboy Cultural Society’ out of the San Luis Obispo/Watsonville area. There were artists I’d never heard of! Guy Clark, Tom Russell, Ramblin’ Jack Elliott. I wanted to get the music back online so people could find it!” And today’s Western Music has continued to

Continued on page 31



Chapter Update

ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: John Paulson
Johnpaulson1945@gmail.com

For the past few months, we've been self-isolating out here in Arizona just like the rest of the States, with a bad case of the lonesome "Corona Blues" (thanks, Dave Stamey). The IWMA Arizona Chapter has had to cancel plans for all meetings and showcase events for this spring and summer, and possibly beyond. At this time we're not sure when we'll be able to schedule any gatherings again, but we hope it's soon. In the meantime, some chapter members are posting songs on social media and YouTube or doing little "pop-up" shows outside in front yards or parks. We are doing our best to keep the music and poetry going through any available medium. Together or apart, we'll "cowboy up" and be back on the trail before long.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Bob Thomas
bob@bobthomasmusic.com

The CA Chapter is thinking and planning for the future! Many thanks to past President, Steve Justus for his continued guidance in difficult times. We are all looking forward to Albuquerque! What a joy it will be to hear and see all of you in person! We are doing our best to stay in touch with Orange County Parks and other concert venues to get back in the saddle once the insanity subsides.

In lieu of our now quarterly showcases at the Gene Autry Museum of the American West, we have produced a "virtual showcase" which will soon be on the Museum's website.

Several members produced original music videos for this virtual showcase / concert including, Bob Thomas, Ron Christopher, Joyce Woodson, Cisco Jim Aceves, Doug Figs and Greg Khougaz. Be sure to check out <https://theautry.org/> Members are posting songs on social media. Hopefully, you have tuned in and enjoyed their music. On Facebook, you can see Dave Stamey's Porch Music Series. Ron Christopher is regularly posting his "Man Cave Recordings." Scott T regularly produces videos of his excellent covers of western classics for his YouTube channel and Facebook. (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU-HAJxnszMcAlhVBVK_iZQ) Joyce Woodson played a neighborhood concert from the street with all participants at least 6' apart. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/joycewoodson>) Vice President, Greg Khougaz created a home audio-visual



Joyce Woodson entertains – COVID Concert Style.

studio from which he is producing videos with high fidelity audio for his YouTube channel and Facebook. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiEFXP3IH5hMeYTjfUgo5tw>) He has invited members to come over to produce their own videos. (Socially distant, of course.) Watch for them! Thank you, Greg. Yvonne Ryan from NorCal has stayed in touch and is setting up a virtual NorCal meeting to help members cope with 2020, the year that wasn't. Fingers crossed that the

3 Trails West Concerts featuring Lori Beth Wisian-Brooke set for July 25 in the Main Theater in Old Town Newhall and on July 26 at the Coffee Gallery Backstage in Altadena will proceed. We are looking forward to that and getting back to Showcases, Jams, Potlucks and LIVE WESTERN MUSIC!

COLORADO CHAPTER

President: Susie Knight
lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com

So, the Coronavirus Blues has been trying to keep the rest of the world down, but it won't stop our IWMA Colorado Chapter Members! No, Sir! See, our outstanding members are not only movers-and-shakers when it comes to western music and cowboy poetry, but they are also the first to come up with creative ways to keep our genre alive and well no matter what. For instance, Donna Hatton (Woodland Park, CO), our Chapter's Vice President, has been making custom-designed greeting cards with personalized poems for the recipient. 3 Trails West (KS) makes videos for online viewing of themselves performing songs...but their bandmates are in various locations around the USA! (How does Leo Eilts do that?) John Clayton Read (TX) is the Director of Music & Entertainment at the Chisolm Trail Outdoor Museum near Cleburne, Texas, and his team is putting the finishing touches on an enclosed, air-conditioned stage where western entertainers will be encouraged to perform. Steve Jones (Steamboat Springs, CO) is working on his new CD that will feature original and cover songs. Sherl Cederburg (SD) is finishing up her debut all-original cowboy poetry CD which will be released at any moment. And, the Ramblin' Rangers (SD) are celebrating the release of their newest CD. Patty Clayton (Edgewater, CO) has retired from her job in Hawaii and is returning to her long-time home in the Denver area, ready to start performing more and more on

the Mainland. Pegie Douglas (SD) and her Badger Sett Band has revised their CD, and it's also about ready for a release. And our ever-effervescent, Peggy Malone (Fruita, CO) has found a way to keep getting paid to perform by singing and playing her guitar outdoors with her audience gazing from their windows and sitting on decks, patios, verandas. KC LaCourse came up with a really cool idea to promote our western entertainers on Instagram. Be looking for THAT! One thing is for sure, music is good for our soul and poems make us visualize and imagine; both take us out of our current humdrum CV19 blahs. If the state of Colorado continues to reopen to social events this summer, the IWMA-CO has 3 Showcases on the calendar. All Showcases are FREE Admission (donations appreciated for the performers to split). For more information, contact Susie Knight (303) 495-4869. The photo below is from a previous chapter event and shows some of the CO performers.



Some of the Chapter Performers from a pre-COVID event.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

No surprise, musicians and poets of the Columbia Chapter have had some extra time on their hands, what with weeks and months of performances at cowboy gatherings, museums, hotels, libraries, dinner theaters, cruise ship stages, senior centers, casinos, corporate functions, private functions, weddings, benefit dinners, house concerts, recording sessions, you name it...canceled or postponed. In fact, our own Chapter Showcase Concert in Lewiston, Idaho organized by Lynn Kopelke was among the Covid-19 restriction casualties. But that doesn't mean we haven't been

productive. And...laying low has actually created new opportunities to perform and bring our music and poetry to new and existing audiences. For example, with the cancellation of the Kamloops Cowboy Festival, one of this year's featured performers, Tom Cole, organized a "Home-Bound" mini-concert that he posted on Facebook and YouTube (under Tom



Ed Wahl on Tom Cole's Home Bound concert.

Cole Music). He included Jim McLennan, Lead Guitar (brother to Hugh McLennan of Canada's Spirit of the West Radio program), Beau Hughes, Steel Guitar, and our member Mike Dygert, Bass Guitar.



Mike Dygert takes the Home Bound concert spotlight.

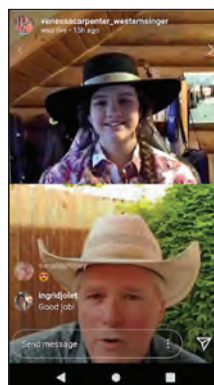
This production was notable in that while each performer was in a separate location Tom engineered a way for each part to be in sync with the others. It was a great success and received many, many comments, Likes and Shares. This became a weekly concert, with additional players (harmony singer, drummer, and piano player) and featuring a weekly guest, including

Hugh McLennan, Ryan Fritz, and Columbia Chapter member Ed Wahl playing tunes from his new CD "Keepin' On." Also going online were the Notable Exceptions (Judy Coder and Jennifer Epps) with "Covid Porch Series" concerts on Facebook that developed a good following.



Screenshot from Notable Exceptions Covid Porch Series concert.

They've also created a business selling their hand-made wire art and chain mail jewelry. Beautiful pieces! Tom Swearingen has performed several times on live Instagram "Spurs and Strings" concerts organized by Idaho singer and new IWMA youth member Venessa Carpenter. Leave it to a teenager to figure out computer stuff! Tom has also taken advantage of "downtime" to complete editing on his upcoming book of poetry, now being illustrated and designed by award-winning artist Elizabeth Zimmerman. Publication is expected later this summer. Duane Nelson, Alan Halvorson and other board members of the Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering are at work planning next February's event to take place President's Day weekend in Ellensburg, WA. The Lost in Lava Gathering in Shoshone, Idaho, September 2020 is also being planned, with the Panhandle Cowboys and Kathy Moss scheduled to perform. Jim Crofts has been putting pen to paper and reports his poem "The For Sale Sign" written as a tribute to the ranchers, farmers, and dairymen who are barely hanging on to their way of life was featured in the Summer 2020 edition of Range



Tom Swearingen (bottom) with Spurs and Strings host Venessa Carpenter (top).

Continued on page 23

In Memoriam

TERRY SEVIGNY SCOTT (1924-2020)



Terry Scott with Dale Warren of the Sons Of The Pioneers (1993 Branson, MO)

The IWMA has lost another of its charter members May 4, 2020...one who held a special place in both its history and that of Western Music at large.

Terry Sevigny Scott was in attendance at the 1988 Las Vegas weekend of concerts, set up to celebrate the Sons Of The Pioneers, that proved to be the genesis of the Western Music Association. There Terry was

saluted from the stage as being an event dignitary, having worked as Pioneers' co-founder Tim Spencer's private secretary at Republic Studios as well as having created/written the official Sons Of The Pioneers Fan Club newsletter. For Spencer, Terry also became a sounding board for new songs, including "Room Full Of Roses," which Tim wrote for her. Over the years Terry became like family to Tim's widow Velma, son Hal and his wife Julie. Eventually Terry served to handle similar fan functions for the occasional Western actor and future US President Ronald Reagan!



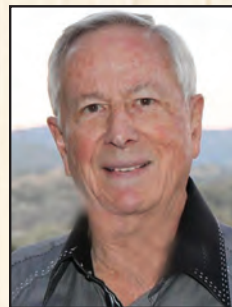
September 14, 1946 at the Ben Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia with the Sons Of The Pioneers. Clockwise from center: Hugh Farr, Pat Brady, Karl Farr, Bob Nolan, Lloyd Perryman and Terry Sevigny (Scott). Across table from left: Velma and Tim Spencer, then-president SOP Fan Club Marty Ketsch and member Emma Hackett. Terry herself would become the next national fan club president. (Photo: Dufor Studio)

Throughout the Tucson years and the first decade and a half of the WMA's time in Albuquerque, Terry was a familiar and smiling face at the annual November gatherings where, not surprisingly, she was particularly keen on seeking out performances by purveyors of tight Western harmony! Terry and her longtime friend Mary

Ryland met through their shared love of Western Music. "We were gabbing on the phone one day," Mary recalls, "when Terry happened to refer to me as her 'sidekick'." It's what gave me the idea to call my new Western Music promotions company 'Sidekick Productions!' And another of my special memories is attending Roy Rogers' memorial service in Victorville with her."

Terry's enthusiasm for Western was infectious and her memories and anecdotes were numerous. She will definitely be missed.

DON DELLEPIANE (1934-2020)



With his loving family by his side, Don Dellepiane succumbed to complications of pneumonia on March 29, 2020. He was born on March 23, 1934 in Modesto, CA, to Henry Dellepiane and Fronie Adams Dellepiane. Because his mother was quite smitten

with Donald Duck, who also came on the scene in 1934, she chose to name her newborn son, Donald. A family Bible also shows lineage back to President John Adams. Don's childhood was spent in San Francisco, CA, and later the family moved to Gustine, CA, where he graduated from Gustine High School. He interrupted his college studies at San Francisco State to enlist in the US Army during the Korean War. After discharge, he settled in the San Fernando Valley and received his electrical engineering degree from San Fernando Valley State College (CSUN). For the past 32 years, Don enjoyed a gratifying lifestyle residing in the Santa Clarita Valley. Don's career encompassed work in aerospace, hydrodynamics, and medical electronics. But he was most proud of his work in space exploration and environmental research at JPL. He also took pride in the fact that he became a self-taught computer programmer as he rounded out his career. Don's hobbies and interests included travel, photography, animals (especially dogs), nature, the arts, and enjoying food and wine with friends. He was a member of E Clampus Vitus, US Power Squadrons, LA Opera League, and the International Western Music Assoc. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 32 years, Cheryl Antonelli Dellepiane, along with son, Dan; daughter, Suzanne; stepdaughters Kristen and Katrina, 5 grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

JERRY CAMPBELL (1930-2020)



Jerry Campbell, of Greensboro, NC, died on March 15th at the age of 89. He was born in the Oakdale Community of Jamestown, Guilford County, NC on November 18, 1930, the son of the late Felix and Ruth McGehee Campbell. Jerry graduated from Jamestown High School and High

Point College (now High Point University). A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served during the Korean War. Jerry worked for General Foods and Borden Foods Company, serving as sales manager for the Greensboro District, and retired after many years in the industry. He was a member of Christ United Methodist Church.

Jerry was one of the early members of the IWMA, regularly travelling from his home in NC to Tucson to attend the first annual conventions of the then new WMA. He was a B-Western film collector and was well-known as a Gene Autry fan, although he enjoyed them all. At film and music conventions he was easy to recognize, wearing a hat that was just like his hero's. Back home, he and several friends organized a Western band called "The Rocky River Cowboys," named after a prominent river that runs through the NC Piedmont. They sang songs associated with Gene Autry, Ray Whitley and others, and were a popular attraction at NC's Western Film Fairs. Jerry could always be counted on to contribute to the success of the annual fairs that were held in Charlotte, Raleigh and elsewhere.

At the IWMA conventions, Jerry was usually accompanied by at least one of the Rocky River band members (Wil Scoten, in particular), and the highlight of the conventions for them jamming with fellow musicians in the hotel lobby! In later years, health issues made air travel difficult, but by then, Jerry had made a number of very close friends during those jam sessions. He cherished those friendships and he stayed in touch with that group of special friends until the end.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Miriam Byrd Campbell of the home; nieces, Ellen Hanner Robbins and husband Steve of Sophia, Nancy Hanner Medlin and husband John of Raleigh; great nieces and nephew; sister-in-law, Brent B. Hanner and husband James of Randleman; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Byrd of Randleman, and several loving cousins.

MICHAEL ROEHM (1946-2020)



Mike was born on September 20, 1946 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Apple Valley, CA, where Mike grew up. He graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in business and spent his professional career in California

in various management positions.

But much of how we think of Mike was influenced by his good fortune to meet and work with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans at the Apple Valley Inn, which was one of the highlights of his youth. It also set the stage for his love of the old west, western music, and the code of the cowboy.

And that was Mike—kind, funny, caring, complicated, extroverted, with deep-seated morals by which he led his life. He could sit down and get someone talking, and he'd know all about them and have a new friend in a single conversation.

After retiring, Mike moved to Albuquerque and volunteered at various places, including the Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Museum and the Albuquerque Convention and Visitor's Bureau. In early 2019, he began part-time work at the Turquoise Museum. He volunteered and worked because he loved to meet people and get to know them.

Mike was a member of and supported the mission of the International Western Music Association. He was active in the New Mexico Chapter and he served on the National board of directors from 2011-2016. He enjoyed attending the IWMA Conference every year. Although he was not a performer, he loved hearing the music, visiting with old friends, and meeting new friends.

As his son, Stephen, said, "Michael was the ultimate family man. He taught his children a love and respect for the outdoors and natural world that endures to this day. Those who met him knew a man that was genuinely kind, a quality so rare that it was occasionally mistaken as awkward, but he knew no other way than to lead with his heart."

Mike passed away suddenly on the evening of March 31, 2020, and he will be so incredibly missed. He is survived by his son, Stephen Roehm, and his daughter, Robyn Kessler, her husband Shawn and their three children, Berkeley, Wren, and Clementine, and his partner in all things for the past thirteen years, Sandy.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...To get the word out about western music, **Andria Kidd** takes copies of *The Western Way* magazine to places each quarter where folks will hopefully pick it up and read it - hair salons, barber shops, feed stores, western stores, friends, etc. With the Virus Lockdown, she decided to do something a bit different: she got on her bike and pedaled around the retirement community where she lives, leaving copies on front porches and door clips for the most at risk - the elderly residents who had been isolated for weeks. She says they loved getting the copies!

...**Jim Jones** has been doing a Facebook Live Concert each week. He also recently recorded a video for the Solid Grounds Coffeehouse virtual concert series. Jim is also working on a novella and the fourth novel in his Jared Delaney/Moon series while starting the third installation in his Tommy Stallings series.

...The yodeling brothers, **Ryan & Brad Hildebrand**, were a feature story on WSAW in Merrill, TX. Newscasters Heather Ryan and Dale Ryman introduced the feature on Channel 7. With background shots of the two yodeling, Ryan and Brad tell their story regarding how they got started, when they went professional, and audiences' responses.

...**The Cowboy Way** is working on their third album which should be out sometime this summer.

...**Joyce Woodson** performed a COVID Concert outside on a side street in San Juan Capistrano for her friend Gerta who turned 95 years old. All the neighbors came, bringing their own chairs, and everyone social distanced just fine.

...With some originals and covers, **Steve Jones** is working on a new CD that will also contain some Irish and Scottish cowboy songs. The release date is unknown for now.

...During all this "shelter at home," blessings still abound for **Belinda Gail** and **Robert Lorbeer**. Their "Live From My Music Room" Facebook Live concerts have been a huge success, and their beautiful Mini Aussie, Apache Rose, has a beautiful new litter of puppies! Mike, Lori and Ryley Rutherford's Mini Aussie Luke is the daddy.

...**Notable Exceptions** has started a COVID Porch Concert Series from their front porch. Videos can be found on their home page (<https://notableexceptions.com>) or their YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC431mwje2AEepPadESJ2lmg>).

...The "new normal" for **Almeda Bradshaw** includes enrollment in graduate school. She was recently accepted into a master's program in psychology at Montana State University with a goal of becoming a licensed mental health counselor specializing in equine assisted therapy. She is also producing a series of weekly live Facebook shows.

...**Jean Prescott** is being inducted into the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame. The ceremony and celebration are set for July 25, on the National Day of the Cowboy, in Fort Worth, Texas. She is being honored for carrying on and preserving the traditions of the west through her music. And, Jean and **Gary Prescott** are excited to become great grandparents for the fourth time.

...Working for country music legend Gene Watson has its advantages. **Glen Parker** got to perform on the Grand Ole Opry Stage with Watson recently. Glen is also busy recording a new western project in Nashville. Justin Branum is producing. Mark Abbott and John Fullerton will be helping out also.

...**Nolan Bruce Allen** has been marooned in Cebu, Philippines, since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He hopes to get a flight out soon, but currently things are day-to-day.

...**Annie Wilson and Tallgrass Express** are releasing a new all-original CD - *Peace on the Prairie* - using an updated website, their YouTube channel, and Facebook promotion. Annie (a non-techie being forced to go virtual) is working on her first YouTube slide show video of historic photos for a bio song she wrote about Margie Roberts, the great mid-20th Century trick rider, and hopes to complete other slide shows for each new song.

...**Juni Fisher** was home in early March for what was supposed to be a month of vacation and to complete stem cell and PRP therapy on her knees and back. Since the Covid-19 outbreak happened while she and her husband were in Jamaica on vacation, they rushed home and she has been home with her husband ever since.

...**The Ramblin' Rangers** have been busy sending their latest CD, *One More River to Cross* to the DJs. It's a tale of cattle drives from Texas to Montana in the 1880s, complete with narratives, quotes, and music. They are starting plans on a new CD and hope to get in the studio this summer.

...Prairie Poet & Storyteller **Marci Broyhill** has published her first book, *Nebraska's Outlaw Trails: Facts, Fiction and Lore*. Marci grew up along Nebraska's Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway HWY 12 in rural Nebraska. For more information regarding Nebraska's colorful characters and Marci's rural experiences, you can contact her via email: marcibroy@aol.com.

...*Trail Dust and Tumbleweeds* is the title of a cowboy poetry book that **Dan Wilson** has been working on while in COVID-19 shutdown. The unfinished work currently has 36 poems but will possibly have more added. Also, the folks at the Center for Western and Cowboy Poetry (cowboypoetry.com) asked that folks do something special for Cowboy Poetry Week in April. So Dan developed a web page for Cowboy Poetry Week and posted one poem for each day of the week – all this while beginning work on a new CD.

...**Ermal and Paula Erlene Williamson** are welcoming two new sibling mini doxie puppies to their quarantine. Rosie (white stripe on forehead) and Daisy (silver dapples on forehead) are making every moment a delight. The couple is quarantining in Branson, MO and writing the *History of Music in the Ozarks* to be produced into segments for KARM-TV out of Chapman, KS.

...With the cancellation of the Kamloops Cowboy Festival due to the threat of COVID-19, one of this year's feature performers, **Tom Cole**, organized a mini-concert that he posted on Facebook and YouTube. He included **Jim McLennan**, (lead guitar - brother of **Hugh McLennan** of the "Spirit of the West" radio program), **Beau Hughes**, (steel guitar and Mike Dygert (bass). It was a great success and received many, many comments, Likes and Shares. This became a weekly concert with additional players (harmony singer, drummer and piano player) and featuring a weekly guest, including Hugh McLennan and **Ryan Fritz**.

...**Jon Chandler** has also stayed busy during the COVID-19 shutdown. His virtual concerts are called "Takeout with Jon Chandler," and he has had a good following with lots of requests coming into his site.

...Making good use of their time while social distancing, **Marleen Bussma** and her husband, Vaughn, have started to produce cowboy poetry videos. They can be viewed on her website, www.marleenbussma.com.

...**Bill Clark** reports that during the shutdown, he has been working on a new album to be released soon. He has also been doing a video concert once a week on Facebook which has done real well while writing a few songs.

...*Waving of the Grass*, the latest album from **Jan Schiferl**, was named "Heritage CD of the Year" by the Rural Roots Music Association. It features a mix of originals, western and traditional country, bluegrass, and gospel. Her music on YouTube, Amazon, Spotify, Hear Now, and other online sources. Jan's website is www.schiferlswjranch.com.

...**KG & The Ranger** are working on a new recording. The theme is "Saturday Matinee" and it will be a nice mix of classics from the 30s and 40s plus a few contemporary gems. Songs tentatively slated for the project include "My Adobe Hacienda," "Empty Saddles," "Man Walks Among Us," "Jingle Bobs," "Sweet Wyoming Home," and lots more. A late fall release date is the plan.

...While hoping not too many of his scheduled gigs will be canceled, New Mexico performer **Steve Cormier** has been nominated for a New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

...**Jim Crotts** had one of his poems, "The For Sale Sign," picked up and published by *Range Magazine*. Jim wrote it as a tribute to the ranchers, farmers, and dairymen who are barely hanging on to their way of life - a life that feeds America and, for that matter, a great portion of the world. Jim says, "They are, in too many cases, the real unsung heroes of our country, and they are struggling more than we should ever let them."

...**Carol Markstrom** has a music video for the song "Bandida" from her award-winning *Desert Rose* album on YouTube now. The excellent photography and video design was done by Anita Crane. Watch at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syp9pseXd-U>

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 21

... “The Bathroom Balladeer” is the name **Peggy Malone** has gained while performing on video during the COVID-19 lockdown. She also performed a few farewell songs for 98-year-old cowboy poet **Al Albrethsen**.

...**Patty Clayton** has made her way from the beautiful state of Hawaii, where she has lived and worked over the last decade, back to her home in Colorado where she will begin an attempt to live a life of retirement from the medical profession. At some point, her goal is to get back on the road and resume performing.

...The Higley Center in Gilbert, AZ, has turned their concert hall into a TV studio creating a new streaming channel called HCTV. **LeeLee Robert** was invited to do a “Cowgirl Jazz” concert, complete with interview, on HCTV in May. You can see LeeLee’s concert and other programming by going to www.higleycenter.org and clicking on the HCTV logo which will take you to the streaming player page.

...“Cimarron Sounds” by **R.W. Hampton** has become a feature in *Cowboys & Indians* Magazine. RW’s online blog features musings on western life and music. The second installment, which is also available in audio form, is currently available at <https://www.cowboysindians.com/2020/03/cimarron-sounds-vol-2/>.

...**Mike Mahaney and Trailmix** have recorded and released on iTunes “The Walking Wounded.” The song/poem, written by Johnny Cash, is about childhood/adult trauma. The Wounded Warriors Project has included it in their efforts as have several other non-profits that deal with lifelong trauma. The song acknowledges the damage of this issue.

...**Francine Roark Robison** recently performed in Pawhuska, OK, at a Pawhuska Benefit Concert for the area school children’s lunch program. Otherwise, she is reading a lot of books and watching Hallmark movies, as well as three episodes daily of *The Virginian* while waiting out the lockdown.

...A poem **Tom Swearingen** wrote and recorded at the request of the Wallowa County Museum in Joseph, OR, will be featured in a permanent display now being constructed. Tom also recorded Charles Badger Clark’s “The Coyote” for the upcoming *Masters: Volume Four* CD produced by the Center for Western and Cowboy Poetry. Tom and his wife Carla celebrated their 42nd Anniversary in May.

...**Cisco Jim** is sharing videos of his original western music on YouTube and is broadcasting weekly *Liturgical Music and Scripture Sessions* on Facebook. In anticipation of the reopening of Roaring Camp Railroads this summer, he is training his newest horse, the Spanish Barb, Taza de Mogollon, for his mounted singing cowboy shows.

...**Sherl Cederburg** has released her first cowboy poetry album. *Born to Ponder* is a collection of 17 original poems written and performed by Sherl. Aptly titled, these poems will make you laugh, cry, or at least think a little. Background music was written and performed by **Butch Hause**. The album was produced, engineered, and mastered by Butch at Ranger Station Studio of Berthoud, CO.

...**Dawn Anita** has been nominated for two Academy of Western Artists awards. She is a Top Five finalist for “Western Female Vocalist” and “Western Swing Female Vocalist.” The awards show and dinner will hopefully be held August 13 in Ft. Worth, TX.

...*Lucky Girl*, the new Americana album by **Claudia Nygaard**, rose to #5 on the Folk Music Album of the Month chart created by Folk Alliance International. The award-winning songwriter also had three songs in the top 20 on the Folk Music Song Chart, with the title cut landing at #3. The album has garnered great reviews this year and was chosen by *Making A Scene* magazine as one of the top albums of the year.

**Due to a computer glitch, two items sent in for the Spotlight were lost. Not knowing for sure what they were, they could not be found. If you do not see your submission in this issue’s column, please resubmit it for the next issue. The Spotlight apologies for this error.*

Chapter Update

Continued from page 17

Magazine. Crotts and Swearingen also had poems selected for publication by the Center for Western and Cowboy Poetry during Cowboy Poetry Week in April. Next up for the Chapter (subject to change depending on Coronavirus developments) is our Annual Meeting and "Cowboys in the Hood" concert at the Columbia Center for the Arts in Hood River, OR in October. And ongoing is our IWMA Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Contest for students in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and BC. Details and entry (2020 deadline September 1) is at IWMAcolumbia.org.

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black
aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

The chapter covers a broad coastal expanse, so much of what is done is by the individual performers. You can say the chapter is "perpetually in isolation!" There has been very little movement by the performers. But we do want to mention a couple of special happenings that have taken place in recent weeks. Tom Hawk turned 80 on May 8. His brother arranged a Zoom Party that lasted for over an hour, and Tom was showered with over 120 cards through the mail from family, friends, and fans! Alice Black also had a birthday in isolation on April 8. She turned 15. A big birthday for this young gal and her family celebrated it Southwestern-style with a painted backdrop of Sandia Mountain and a playlist of music about New Mexico provided by Kerry Grombacher.

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen
orin@rbanjoranch.com

It appears that COVID-19 has not caused any slowdowns among the members of our Kansas Chapter. Ron Wilson, the "Poet Lariat" of Kansas has been especially busy. Largely through Ron's efforts, this year's

Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest and the new Kansas Cowboy Poetry Youth Roundup contest will take place online. For more information, email Ron at ron@ronscowboypoetry.com. To help families who couldn't get out, Ron Wilson has also been doing a series of Facebook Live programs called "Live at the Lazy T Ranch." Each program highlights animals or something else at the ranch, including some agricultural education, and a related cowboy poem by Ron. These programs are reaching nearly 5,000 people a month. The guys in 3 Trails West have also been busy making YouTube videos of western songs and posting them on Facebook. Among the songs was a "Coronavirus Edition" parody of "Don't Fence Me In." <https://youtu.be/r7dOnsDIUGI> Annie Wilson and her Tallgrass Express String Band were in the middle of a 23-song album project when the pandemic hit. Ten songs were finished so Annie is releasing those. The album is called *Peace on the Prairie*, which is Volume 4 of the group's "Songs of the Kansas Flint Hills" series.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Ralph Estes
ralph@ralphestes.com

NM Chapter members have been peripatetic – in a virtual sense. Chapter members Aspen Black (Rocky Mount, VA) and Kerry Grombacher (Nawleens) did a live video of "Wild West Mambo" in lieu of performing at the canceled New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Buffalo Bill (Boycott) and Dr. Jo (Joanne Orr) wound up their Facebook Live Outreach Series, sponsored by the Lander (WY) Community Concerts Association. Almeda Bradshaw (Huntley, Montana, and a NM chapter member) is doing weekly "Almeda in the Saddle" shows on Facebook.

Past chapter president Joe Brown has turned his talents to writing (but we won't let him forget the singing); his memoir about "Mickey Mantle and Me" has been published three times. Another memoir about his Air Force experiences during 9/11 is on the way.

So is a first novel, plus a humorous anthology called *Kale is a Four Letter Word*.

To bring attention to poets and authors during National Poetry Month, Cowboy Poetry Week and National Library Week, Bobbi Jean Bell created two daily posts each featuring a western author and a poet. Hats off to author J.R. Sanders, poet Mark Munzert, and the other featured poets for their contributions to these efforts.

Chapter vice president Bernard Carr has been back and forth to the VA hospital with a stubborn pneumonia that wants to linger. That pneumonia bug is probably picking on the wrong guy – they don't come



Bernard and Bonnie Carr

any tougher than Bernard! Steve Cormier, gazing at a calendar now filled with strikeouts, has nevertheless been nominated for the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. Still on tap are a virtual concert for the Albuquerque Folk Festival, and a gig at the Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival on Labor Day.

Chapter treasurer Margaret Crowl and boon companion Dave Levenson have been doing live "driveway concerts" for the pleasure of the neighbors, and all others who vow to keep a six-foot interval. Deanna Dickinson McCall is holed up at home in Timberon, NM (amongst the bovines and the pinons, just down the road from Weed – if there was a road). Still she signed a contract for the novel "The Okies' Daughters" out later this year, and is finishing co-authoring a cook book also coming out this year.

Doug Figgs is doing regular live Facebook videos as well as Rio Grande Valley Radio. Check his Facebook page for schedule. R.W. and

Continued on page 29



IWMA 2020

“ALL ROADS LEAD TO ABLUQUERQUE”

NOVEMBER 11-15 ★ HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:00 am-8:00 pm	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
10:00 am-6:00 pm	Performers CD Check-In
Noon-1:30 pm	Opening Lunch with Special Guest Speaker Rex Allen, Jr.
1:45 pm-4:00 pm	Performer Showcases Dawn Anita, Alice Black, Gary Kirkman, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg
Noon-6:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique accepting items to sell or donate
5:30 pm-6:30 pm	So You Think You Can't Dance? Swing Dance Workshop Jim Calvert, High Desert Dancers
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	Swing Dance & Dessert Syd Masters & The Swing Riders

JAMMING ALL NIGHT LONG!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:00 am-7:00 pm	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
8:00 am-5:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique
8:00 am-5:00 pm	CD Mercantile
8:00 am-5:00 pm	Vendor Area Set Up
8:30 am-5:00 pm	Professional Development Workshops Coffee with the DJs – Totsie Slover Writing & Reciting Poetry – Carol Heuchan 20 Things You Need to Know to Get Airplay – Marvin Juggling Priorities – LeeLee Robert Social Media 101: Branding Yourself – Angela Meyer History & Future of Western Music – Rex Allen, Jr. The Art of Using A Single Mic – Roger Eilts, Leo Eilts, Syd Masters
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Showcase Performances Floyd Beard, John Bergstrom, Lori Beth Brooke, The Cowboy Way, KG & The Ranger, Greg Khougaz, Angela Meyer, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, Terry Nash, Abby Payne, Donnie Poindexter, LeeLee Robert

6:00 pm-9:00 pm	Crisis Fund Dinner with Dave Stamey in Concert
10:00 pm-Midnight	Pajama Showcase A Cowboys Legacy, Alice Black, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Jack George, Carol Markstrom, Ramblin' Andy Miller, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Claudia Nygaard, Lindy Simmons, Annie Tezuka, Bob Thomas, Jenna & Kacey Thunborg,
6:00 pm-2:00 am	Rehearsal Room
STILL JAMMING ALL NIGHT LONG!	

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:30 am-6:00 pm	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
8:00 am-6:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique
8:00 am-6:00 pm	CD Mercantile OPEN Reopens after the Western Opry
8:00 am-6:00 pm	Vendor Area Open
8:00 am-9:30 am	IWMA Chapter Officers Breakfast & Roundtable
8:30 am-4:00 pm	IWMA Youth Chapter Meeting & Workshop
9:45 am-1:45 pm	Campfire Stage Troy Bateson, Sherl Cederburg, Cisco Jim, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Eddy Harrison, Steve Jones, Kimberly Kaye, Greg Khougaz, KC LaCourse, Geoff Mackay, Stan Mahler, Dean Marten, Ramblin' Andy Miller, AK Moss, Claudia Nygaard, Francine Roark Robison, jj steele, Annie Tezuka, Kacey & Jenna Thunborg, Scott Tonelson
2:15 pm-5:00 pm	Development Stage Cooper Blakeney, Jack George, Ted Hunt, Ed Meyer, Miska Paget, Brian Warner
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Showcase Performances 3 Trails West, Terry Brown, Jon Chandler & Ernie Martinez, Ron Christopher, Carol Heuchan, Steve Jones, Mary Kaye, Syd Masters & The Swing Riders, Dan McCorison, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Mark Munzert, Jean Prescott, Dennis Russell, Hailey Sandoz
1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Friday Afternoon Matinee Featuring the Movies of Rex Allen hosted by Rex Allen, Jr.
1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Beginning Rhythm Guitar Workshop – Ernie Martinez
2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Advanced Rhythm Guitar Workshop – Ernie Martinez
3:00 pm-4:00 pm	The Ukulele & Western Swing – Judy Muldawer
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	IWMA Friday Night Western Opry – Hosted by: Roger & Leo Eilts Featuring tribute to the music of Curly Musgrave Gary Allegretto, Aspen Black, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Belinda Gail, Kristyn Harris, Carol Heuchan, KG & The Ranger, Greg Khougaz, Susie Knight, Ernie Martinez, Dan McCorison, Angela Meyer, Glenn Moreland & Washtub Jerry, AK Moss, Barbara Nelson, Claudia Nygaard, Abby Payne, Donnie Poindexter, Jean Prescott, LeeLee Robert, Hailey Sandoz, Tom Swearingen, Scott Tonelson, Joyce Woodson
9:30 pm-Midnight	Chapter Showcases

MORE JAMMING ALL NIGHT LONG!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:00 am-8:30 am	Veterans Appreciation Breakfast – Hosted by: Jerry Hall A Cowboys Legacy, Dawn Anita, Troy Bateson, Floyd Beard, Cooper Blakeney, Sherl Cederburg, Ron Christopher, Bill Clark, Grace Clark & Swingitude, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, Kristyn Harris, Greg Khougaz, Miska Paget, Abby Payne, Hailey Sandoz, Annie Tezuka
8:45 am-9:45 am	IWMA Membership Meeting Open to all current and future IWMA members
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique
10:00 am-5:00 pm	CD Mercantile Will reopen after Awards Show
10:00 am-6:00 pm	Registration & Ticket Sales
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Vendor Area
9:45 am-10:30 am	Harmony Contest
10:30 am-11:15 am	Yodeling Contest
11:15 am-12:15 pm	Poetry Contest
12:15 pm-1:45 pm	IWMA Youth Chapter Showcase
2:00 pm-5:00 pm	Performer Showcases Gary Allegretto, Kerry Grombacher, Kristyn Harris, Susie Knight, Rex Rideout, Joyce Woodson
3:00 pm-5:00 pm	Talent Buyers Showcase 3 Trails West, Vic Anderson, Dawn Anita, Valerie Beard, Terry Brown, Jon Chandler with Ernie Martinez, Ron Christopher, Steve Jones, Carol Markstrom, Angela Meyer, A K Moss, Claudia Nygaard, LeeLee Robert
6:30 pm-7:00 pm	Awards Pre-Show
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	IWMA Awards Show
10:00 pm-Midnight	Chapter Showcases

JOIN US...WE'RE JAMMING UNTIL DAWN!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

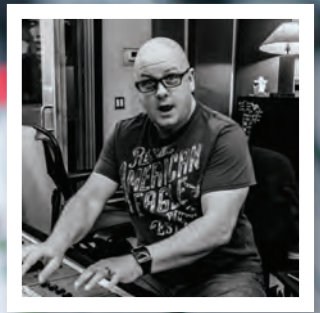
7:00 am-Noon	Western Wear Consignment Boutique
9:00 am-Noon	CD Mercantile
9:00 am-Noon	Vendor Area
9:00 am-11:00 am	Sunday Morning Gospel Concert – Hosted by Belinda Gail With Vic Anderson, Miss Devon & The Outlaw, J. Clayton Read, Geoff Mackay

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Call the Hotel Albuquerque at 505-843-6300 and ask for the IWMA rate of \$125 for single or double accommodations.

BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

with *Bryan Kuban*



"SO YA WANNA BUILD AN INEXPENSIVE HOME STUDIO, PART#2"

In the last "Behind The Studio Door," we built an affordable professional recording studio that included world class AD to DA conversion and (8) professional grade preamplifiers for approximately \$1,675.00. To summarize, components were:

- Apple 2012 Mac pro Tower 16 gb ram (\$400.00); 2 Solid State Hard drives are recommended: (1) for the operating system (250-500 GB, approximately \$80.00) and (1) for storage (1 TB approximately \$120.00)
- 32" late model Television for a monitor, works perfectly with HDMI (pawn shop price approximately \$100.00).
- Awesome Apogee Interface with 8 mic preamps: \$400.00
- ADAM Audio T5V Two-Way 5-Inch Active Nearfield Monitor approximately \$400.00 a pair (new)
- Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro approximately \$175.00 (new)

Now in this issue, we will add some necessary microphones, stands, and quality cables.

Microphones

We are on a budget and we want to start adding microphones. I will list three great mics. Let's start with the ol' faithful of microphones, the **Shure SM57**, \$99.00 (new) or used from \$60.00. An industry-standard, highly versatile cardioid dynamic microphone that can be found onstage and in studios around the world. The ideal choice for sound reinforcement and recording applications, the legendary SM57 is tuned for clean reproduction of amplified and acoustic instruments, targeting the main sound source while minimizing background noise. You can use it on any source and get a good sound if you understand proximity effect. Proximity effect is the distance from the diaphragm of the mic to the source you are recording. The SM57 can be used for Vocals (SM58 recommended for vocals, same mic with a dome screen) drums, horns, and for recording guitar amps.

The next microphone to check out is the **AKG C214** \$399.99 (new) or used from \$200.00. The C214 is a large diaphragm condenser microphone. It has the exact gold sputtered dual diaphragm as its big brother the AKG C414 which is about \$1,100.00. This microphone is a condenser microphone. Condenser microphones use 48-volt phantom power which is built into most quality preamps these days. The C214 performs well on a variety of instruments. Thanks

to its switchable 20dB attenuation pad and low-cut filter, the C214 can be used in sound fields as high as 156dB SPL – you can use it onstage or in studio to mic for close, loud applications such as drum overheads, guitar amps, or high-output brass. Whatever your needs, the C214 is an excellent mic to have on your side.

Another microphone that every studio should have is a small diaphragm pencil condenser microphone. I suggest the **sE Electronics sE7**, \$199.99 for a pair (new). I can't find a used pair...LOL. A pair of high-quality, small-diaphragm, back-electret condenser microphone is designed for a broad range of studio and live sound applications. With its optimized acoustic design, discrete Class A circuitry, versatile attenuation and high-pass switches, and a transformer-less output, the sE7 delivers clear, natural sound at all frequencies on any source. The low end is "punchy" and the high end is sweet and silky smooth. The sE7's discrete Class A signal path doesn't employ ICs or transformers, and this is key to the mic's remarkably natural performance in capturing acoustic instruments such as guitar, piano, strings, woodwinds, and percussion.

Stands

With the three microphone sets above, you will be able to do a great job recording. You will need at least three quality microphone stands. You can find some inexpensive 3-piece microphone stands from \$70.00-\$120.00 but check Craigslist before buying new. I have bought for as little as \$5.00 per stand.

Cables

You have some great microphones going into world class preamps, now you need quality cable. Budget cables are what they are, "budget." Spend a few extra bucks it will be worth it. Here are some of my recommendations based off of 20' cable lengths.

Pro Co EXM-20 Excellines Microphone Cable – 20 foot (10-pack). This is ten studio quality cables for \$259.99. That is approximately \$26.00 a cable which is a great deal.

A step up from there is the **Pro Co 20' Quad XLR**. \$59.99 each. The Pro Co 20' Quad XLR uses a unique 4-conductor configuration – two for the positive voltage and two for the negative – spiraled together and enclosed in magnetic and

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LOOKING FOR A CRYSTAL BALL

An event organizer's perspective

By Dale Major

Be careful what you wish for.

Like any good event promoter, Marsha Short, International Western Music Association Executive Director, sent out a questionnaire asking for feedback after IWMA2019. I responded, and suggested that in addition to the Talent Buyers Showcase, the convention offer event producers like myself a venue to share ideas and information that may prove beneficial to others promoting this genre. I also suggested that a feature in *Western Way* magazine might be helpful.

Well, open mouth, insert keyboard. I was invited by Theresa O'Dell to submit my "two cents' worth" as an event organizer.

Our event, the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous, at ten years old, is relatively new. I hope other, more experienced, promoters will take pen in hand and share what they've learned in future issues.

I'll start by taking an inventory of what I learned is needed to start and run a successful gathering. First, and foremost, you'd better have a supportive spouse and family, along with a good bunch of friends (and their friends as well) willing to volunteer time and effort before, during, and after the event. It doesn't hurt if you or some of those friends have some disposable income, or could maybe sell a few cows, to bankroll things to get it all started.

Early on in the process, identify your target audience and focus your plans on attracting those patrons. You can't be all things to all people, and you shouldn't try to be. Know the kind of people most likely to be interested in your event, and concentrate on communicating with those people. Never mind the rest. They won't come anyway.

Next, a healthy dose of optimism and a great deal of humility and flexibility are required as you learn to negotiate with venues, performers, sponsors, advertisers, vendors and the media. IWMA membership, as well as participation in state or local Western music and poetry organizations and arts councils are helpful as well. Get acquainted with

local media personalities, elected officials, tourism and travel council leaders, and lodging managers. And, for us, collaboration with the local school board and school administration have been critical.

Researching and applying for grants, selling program ads, securing lodging for performers, submitting press releases, negotiating advertising with print, radio, television, and social media outlets, creating and maintaining a website, and overseeing ticket sales will also be required.

Form a relationship with a graphic designer, as a professionally designed graphic identity applied to a logo, posters, programs, web site, advertisements, and other materials will help establish and maintain a consistent look. A good accountant, as well as an attorney, are necessary to keep the government happy. IRS certification as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit charitable organization is required to qualify for most grants from governmental and private foundations. (Hint: don't use the word "patriotic" when you describe any part of your event on the application. It took the IRS 19 months to approve our application because I listed our Patriotic Poetry Contest as part of our activities.)

Among the advice I'd give those aspiring to put an event together would be to start out small. Filling a small venue is better (and easier) than having a large auditorium only half full. A college professor who taught a course on community festivals told me that it would take three to five years for an event to break even. He was right.

Choosing a headliner to fill a big room is about like playing Russian Roulette. Big names don't always bring in big audiences—but they do command a bigger fee. You can negotiate a performer's fee with respect to how many seats you have available, and if you're starting out, making a deal based on a percentage of ticket sales can give you some financial peace of mind, and eliminate some of the risk involved with filling seats.

We've been awarded a grant from a private arts foundation that really helps bring quality talent to our

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Chapter Update

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Deanna Dickinson McCall

Lisa Hampton did a live, Facebook "Stayin Home Concert from the Porch" April 23rd. It's probably still up on R.W.'s Facebook page. Search posts for "Stayin Home Concert."



R. W. and Lisa Hampton

New Mexico chapter member Kristyn Harris did the "Local Yocal's Drive-In Concert" in downtown McKinney, TX – terrific idea, \$10 a car, drive-in menu, car hop service, Wagyu beef!. AND, great music.

Jim Jones continues with his Wednesday evening Facebook Live concerts (he's still refusing to do any Justin Bieber songs - sigh). He did a video for the local venue Solid Grounds Coffeehouse virtual concert series; and in the interstices finished one book manuscript while starting another. Doesn't sound like there's much time left for fly-fishing.

Syd Masters has done a marathon series of "Facebook Live Western Music" concerts – some consolation for Albuquerqueans (Albuquerque-ans? Burquans?) since the 19th Annual Cowboy Ball had to be cancelled.

Scott Wilson and Anne Carpenter didn't let cancellation of the costumed Cowboy Ball rain on their parade – they dressed in western finery anyway

and danced to Syd Masters CDs. They were joined – figuratively – by Doug and Betty Maes Carter and undoubtedly several other New Mexicans.

Michael (former chapter president) and Donna Coy have been videotaping performances from their home and posting them on Facebook. Nice work. This Covid-19 thing is terrible, but one silver lining is we get a fair number of free, live concerts – just online, not "in person." Still, we're hoping to "go live" for the Fall issue of *Western Way*.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Donnie Poindexter
cowboydp51@gmail.com

Due to the pandemic, the Oklahoma chapter has experienced the same cancellations and postponements of live performances as the rest of the nation. A few of our members have taken this time to record, do Internet and radio concerts and interviews, and plan for future appearances as a slow reopening takes place. Dawn Anita will be doing an interview with DJ Alan Reynolds on his Radio Truck Stop Show and Pure Country Radio Show on wioxradio.org at a time to be announced. She also appeared on the Hearts of the West Video Showcase of Cowboy Poetry & Western Music hosted by KC LaCourse on Tuesday June 2. She is honored to have been selected for Gary Holt's Equestrian Legacy Radio "The Living Room Sessions" which will be podcast on equestrianlegacy.net beginning June 13 at Noon CST. She plans to perform at the Cowboy Way Jubilee in San Angelo, TX scheduled for July 23–26 along with fellow performer, Francine Roark Robison. She will also be attending the AWA Awards Show in Ft. Worth, TX scheduled for August 13, where she is a Top Five finalists for two AWA awards, "Western Female Vocalist" and "Western Swing Female Vocalist." Francine Roark Robison performed at the Pawhuska,

OK Benefit Concert Saturday, May 16. She also is scheduled to perform at the Cowboy Way Jubilee mentioned above. Now is a good time to spotlight America's premier institution of Western history, art and culture: Oklahoma City's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.



National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Photo courtesy Seth Spillman, Chief Marketing Officer.

Founded in 1955, the Museum collects, preserves and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts while sponsoring dynamic educational programs to stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of the American West. More than 10 million visitors from around the world have sought out this unique museum to gain better understanding of the West: a region and a history that permeates our national culture. The Museum features a superb collection of classic and contemporary Western art, an exhibition wing housing an 1800's town and interactive history galleries, plus an authentic turn-of-the-century Western prairie town where visitors can stroll the streets. Every year, the museum awards "The Wrangler," an original bronze sculpture by artist John Free, of which many of our IWMA members in various categories have been the recipients, joining the ranks of many historical icons of the West. A visit to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum definitely belongs on the "bucket list" of anyone interested in the Western lifestyle.

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FROM THE TRAIL

Continued from page 28

event, as well as sponsor some great local talent. It helps that we've chosen education as a platform to help promote our event. Selected performers spend the week before our event visiting local schools, presenting workshops, and performing at assemblies—and promoting our event at the same time. We want to help perpetuate the Western way of life, so we target families with kids and offer events that include kids, including a cowboy family dance, a youth poetry contest, and a Kids' Corral with activities for younger patrons. Each of these events has a separate sponsor for awards and these events have grown over the years. Our open mic stage provides an opportunity for newer and aspiring performers to share their talent with a friendly audience.

One of the best parts of being an event organizer is attending other gatherings and becoming acquainted with talented performers. The worst part is having to pick and choose which and how many performers to invite, so that they all get the exposure on stage and the financial compensation they require, while staying within the limits of your venue size and checkbook balance. I really appreciated one headliner who told me how many tickets he thought he would sell—which was less than half our auditorium capacity—and priced himself accordingly. He turned out to be right about ticket sales.

And don't forget the most important factor in the equation—selecting entertainers that patrons are willing to part with their hard-earned dollars and purchase tickets to see.

Being a great singer, yodeler, picker, or poet is important, but does not automatically make you a great entertainer. Winning a Grammy® or other award does not make you a great entertainer. Telling your stories or poems, or singing your songs in a way that connects with an audience is what makes a great entertainer. Being personable, approachable, and looking like there's no place you'd rather be than right there, sharing your talent, helps make a great entertainer. Being flexible and agreeable as well as being a great entertainer will make you a promoter's dream, and a sure candidate for future invitations. And, for our event, a

willingness to visit schools and help educate students is a definite plus.

As a performer, consider the complications event producers face in promoting, billing, and publicizing talent. With multiple performers at an event, there might not be a place on the poster for everyone's pictures, or even their names. Be understanding of the limitations. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the time and effort it takes to develop the talent displayed at events such as ours, but ego kills talent every time. Something to consider.

I am constantly amazed at how many performers do not have a contract or other form of legal agreement. On the one hand, I think it speaks highly of our genre where a man's word is his bond. But what happens if something discussed is forgotten, or never discussed? This is where email or text communications become vital. But even a simple, plain-language written agreement can prevent potential misunderstandings that could prove costly to one party or both.

Most years we host a post-event dinner for volunteers, where they share their opinions about entertainers. Volunteers who coordinate stage talent, monitor crowd size, and assess audience reaction can typically tell us which entertainers are the most popular. Ticket sales for main concerts paint a pretty accurate picture as well. CD sales usually coincide with what our volunteers tell us.

Overall, I think the biggest challenge we all face is putting "butts" in the seats. Attracting an audience is the single biggest factor in the success of the event. The most important tool an organizer could have would be a crystal ball. Seeing into the future—having the ability to eliminate the guesswork and the gamble of producing an event—would save a lot of headaches, reduce the onset of ulcers, and cure insomnia. If you happen to see such a crystal ball for sale, let me know.

Thanks for listening. I hope there's something here you find helpful, and please don't hesitate to send helpful advice my way. I look forward to reading what other gatherings have to say about event promotion, financing, performer selection, and all the other aspects of hosting an event. Stay tuned. 🐾

Dale Major hosts the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous, held around the first weekend in March at Mountain Crest High School in Hyrum, Utah, in historic Cache Valley. Visit cvcowboy.org. Reach Dale at cvcowboyrendezvous@gmail.com

CHRONICLE OF THE OLD WEST

"The Old West Is A Time And Place Of The Heart"

CONSTABLE ALEXANDER

BY DAKOTA LIVESAY



In the Old West women were not to be hurt. But, what's a man to do if he's an officer of the law sent to make an arrest, and a woman confronts him with a rifle?

One of the codes of the Old West was that women were not to be hurt. In an incident that took place near

Yuma, Arizona on February 7, 1901, that code was broken.

The ownership of a ranch occupied by Joseph and Mary Burns was under dispute. Constable Marian Alexander went to the ranch to serve papers on the Burns. With Joseph Burns away, Mary Burns met Constable Alexander with a rifle. Unarmed and unprepared for a confrontation, Alexander left.

Alexander returned with two other men and a shotgun. Mrs. Burns still had her rifle. The two men stayed on their horses while Constable Alexander walked over to Mary Burns. An argument ensued and Alexander pulled the triggers on both barrels...killing Mary Burns.

The news spread across the area like wildfire. Constable Alexander surrendered and was placed in the Yuma Territorial Prison...more for his protection. The papers editorialized that

"the jail was not deemed strong enough to save the murderer from the anger of the citizens."

Mary Burns' brother, Frank King, and father, Samuel King, arrived in town. Alexander and the other two men were indicted by a grand jury, which, incidentally, contained Samuel King, Mary Burns' father. Alexander was sentenced to life in prison.

As Alexander was leaving the courthouse in the company of police, a sniper fatally shot him. The police hurried to the shooter's location and found both Frank and Samuel King nearby. Neither was armed, and no one identified them as the shooter. They were released.

For years, a rumor circulated that after the shooting of Alexander, a rifle belonging to Samuel King was found in a nearby bale of hay, but in the spirit of frontier justice, it disappeared.

Dakota Livesay is the host of a daily and weekly syndicated radio show with five million listeners per week. He's also the publisher of *Chronicle of the Old West*, a monthly newspaper comprised of actual 1800's newspaper articles. In addition, he writes a weekly syndicated newspaper and Internet column called *This Week In The Old West*.

THE WESTERN WORLD TOUR

Continued from page 15

impress, Ben affirms. "I'm just so in awe of how good the new material is! Just fantastic!!" For now, to keep the lights on Parks is approaching things the way underwriters are handled by Public Broadcasting and non-commercial frequencies..."this hour is brought to you by," or "a portion of our broadcast day is sponsored courtesy of..." Now, at about half-way through his five-year plan, Parks figures he's about on target for where he wants to wind up. But he remains philosophical. "If it blossoms into something big or if it doesn't, I've had a lot of fun with it!"

Since he wants to fortify and expand his music library, artists are encouraged to send both past and current releases to: Ben Parks, American Cowboy Radio, 3904 Danbury Drive, Amarillo, TX 79109.

And listen in at americancowboyradio.com! So, now I hear my editor saying, "wrap it up, Huff!" One sidebar, though. Remember August 8 is World Yodel Day, the mammoth celebration of the epiglottal arts coordinated annually by our friend Peter Lim out of South Korea (worldyodelday.com). Despite the Pandemic, it will go forward since it is largely an online entity anyway. Just watch! This may be the year "Zoom" becomes an official yodel syllable! Hey, change comes in different ways... 🐾



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



CRUISIN' THE COUNTRY

I took Marvin O'Dell for a ride one time and we hadn't got very far when he started in tellin' me I needed a new vehicle. Well, I knew this rig was a little beat and battered, just a big hole in the dash where the radio was suppose to be, some springs stickin' up thru the seats and I had to hold pressure on the shifter to keep it from jumping out of gear. Other than that it starts and runs fine. Might take a quart of oil every couple hundred miles but that ain't no big deal, if you're not going too far.

Then I discovered that ol' Marv had a sideline sellin' automobiles. Well, if he'd been ridin' with me the other day, I reckon he might have been willin' to just GIVE me one of them.

Here I was out crusin' the back roads of Cochise County with my windows rolled down, noting how the cottonwoods on the old river San Pedro were all leafed out. The mesquites were turnin' green and the cattle were putting on some fat.

Then one of those whirley, mini twisters (sometimes called Dust Devils) came up right in through the window and blew down the head liner that was gettin' kinda ratty. It wrapped around my head, neck and ears and totally blinded me! There I was trying to steer with one hand, get that thing off me with the other, while tryin' to remember where that line down the middle of the road was the last time I seen it. I was going purty fast too, about thirty or so. Before I got that thing tore loose from around my head, I was gettin' a little skeered. All that time I was stompin' on the brake and hollerin' "Whoa!" When I finally got her stopped, I was about half on the road and a little far to the right. I'd heard and felt a big bang underneath and thought maybe I had blown a tire; but luckily, it was just a mailbox I'd run over.

So maybe it is about time I got a newer truck, but I kinda hate to get rid of of this one cuz it's sorta like an old friend . . . maybe like one who keeps borrowing money from you and never pays it back. 🐾

BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

Continued from page 27

electrostatic shielding, which help mitigate the propagation of interference. In terms of noise-rejection, Star Quad wire outperforms standard two-core wire, particularly over long cable runs, due to the increased self-canceling effect of having opposite cores in a cross formation wired in parallel. Essentially, this reduces the impact of the proximity of an interference source on the cable because rejection is multi-directional. In live applications, this is incredibly beneficial since audio signals are often contending with a slew of electromagnetically induced noise from SCR dimmers, lighting ballasts, and AC power transformers. For applications where low-noise performance is a must, Canare Star Quad wire is an ideal choice.

If you want the best, it is going to cost you. The **Mogami Gold Stage Microphone Cable** is approximately \$79.00.

Professional engineers and musicians around the world have turned to Mogami for high-quality audio cables solution that are built to last. In fact, Mogami has invested years of research into developing some of the most transparent, "lossless" cables you can find. I have these in my studio now and I love them.

In my opinion, the **Pro Co EXM-20 Excellines Microphone Cable** – 20 foot (10-pack) would work just fine and is a great bargain at \$259.99.

Next issue we will discuss sound treatment options for your studio. We will also consider the different software recording systems.

I hope this information is helpful; any feedback is welcome. You may contact me at bryankuban@gmail.com. Until then, be safe. 🐾

IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

Nolan Bruce	Allen Grand Island, NY	Steven "Mac" McCartney	Aurora, CO
Rex Allen, Jr.	Nashville, TN	Bobbi McGavran	Newport Beach, CA
Cindy Argyle	Hooper, UT	Tracy McHenry	Tucson, AZ
Troy Bateson	Vilonia, AR	Gary McMahan	Bellvue, CO
Floyd Beard	Kim, CO	Al "Doc" Mehl	Black Diamond, AB, Canada
George & Doris Bensmiller	Armstrong, BC Canada	Tree Menane	Taos, NM
Diane Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Jon Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
John Bergstrom	Canyon Country, CA	Kathy Messenger	Sierra Vista, AZ
Carol Bobroff	San Diego, CA	Joseph Miskulin	Nashville, TN
Sherry Bond	Nashville, TN	Rich O'Brien	Joshua, TX
Mark E. Brown	Franklin, IN	Marvin O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Ken Bucy	Apache Junction, AZ	Theresa O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Stephen S. Burnette	Brownsville, TN	Darren Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Mae Camp	Tucson, AZ	Sara Lou Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Robert Maxwell Case	Slick, OK	Billy Pitts	Kansas City, MO
Susan Booth Case	Slick, OK	Pamela Plaskitt	Waterloo, IA
Tom Chambers	Tucson, AZ	Rich Price	Oakdale, CA
Woody Paul Chrisman	Nashville, TN	Debbie Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Patty Clayton	Edgewater, CO	Jeff Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Karen Cloutier	Conyngham, PA	Diana Raven	Lakewood, CO
Peggy Collins	Cordova, TN	Herb Remington	Ruidoso, NM
Henry "Steve" Conroy	Sierra Vista, AZ	Steven Rhodes	Foosland, IL
Polly Cooke	Wickenburg, AZ	Victoria Rhodes	Foosland, IL
Jan Michael Corey	Mesa, AZ	Rusty Richards	Modjeska Canyon, CA
Stan Corliss	Hillsboro, OR	Don Richardson	Upland, CA
William Crowe	Van Horn, TX	Barbara Richhart	Mancos, CO
Don Cusic	Nashville, TN	Roger Ringer	Medicine Lodge, KS
David DeBolt	Nolensville, TN	Jessie D. Robertson	Fort Worth, TX
Rich Dollarhide	Chino Valley, AZ	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
Arlys Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Elizabeth Rukavina	Arleta, CA
Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Lori Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Fred Engel	Kimball Junction, UT	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Robert E. Fee, Esq.	Tucson, AZ	Ray Ryan	San Jose, CA
Juni Fisher	Franklin, TN	Yvonne Ryan	San Jose, CA
Robin Freerks (Ned Bodie)	Goldendale, WA	Mary M. Ryland	Albuquerque, NM
Norbert Gauch	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Suzanne Samelson	Thermopolis, WY
Val Geissler	Cody, WY	Rudolf P. Schai	Bernhardzell, Switzerland
Dick & Dixie Goodman	Sun City West, AZ	Jim Sharp	Nashville, TN
Fred Goodwin	Murfreesboro, TN	Hank Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Douglas B. Green	Brentwood, TN	Sharyn Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Betsy Bell Hagar	Mill Valley, CA	Cowboy Jerry Sooter	Apple Valley, CA
Jerry Hall	Porterville, CA	Julie Spencer	Pacific City, OR
Les Hamilton	Dubois, WY	Dave Stamey	Orange Cove, CA
Calvin Danner Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Cheryl Stanley	Roswell, NM
Lisa Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Bob Taylor	El Cajon, CA
RW Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Steve Taylor	Roy, UT
Eddy Harrison	Las Cruces, NM	Terri Taylor	Roy, UT
Tom Hilderbrand	North Myrtle Beach, SC	Ed Terry Music, LLC	Merritt, NC
Randy A. Hoyt	Grand Junction, CO	J. R. (Ray) Threatt	Oklahoma City, OK
Rick Huff	Albuquerque, NM	Alma Tussing	Hudson, WY
Jack Hummel	Valencia, CA	Stanley Tussing	Deming, NM
Voleta Hummel	Valencia, CA	Marilyn Tuttle	San Fernando, CA
Charles Jennings	Rockville, MD	Robert Wagoner	Bishop, CA
Emma F. Kaenzig	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Harvey Walker	Anaheim, CA
Karen L. Killion	Casper, WY	Alinka Wallace	Flatonia, TX
Fred LaBour	Ashland City, TN	Washtub Jerry	McDonald Obs, TX
Jane Leche	Lakewood, CO	Leonard Werner	Flemington, NJ
Paul Lohr	Nashville, TN	Johnny Western	Mesa, AZ
Clyde Lucas	Sylmar, CA	Norman Winter	Mills, WY
Mike Mahaney	Burbank, CA	Joyce Woodson	San Juan Capistrano, CA
Michael P. McAleenan	Sheridan, WY		
Janet McBride	Rockwall, TX		



A MUSICAL NOTE 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 osikes@nj.rr.com

THE LOST MASTERS

Sons of the Pioneers

COUNTRY REWIND RECORDS CRR-216



Late last Winter, I heard a rumor about a mysterious new Sons of the Pioneers album containing

"lost" tracks that hadn't been heard since they were recorded. But none of the usual suspects in the world of Western CDs knew anything about it. Best kept secret in the Western world! But it's a secret no longer!

The same label that released the outstanding Rex Allen CD early this year, has released this album by the Sons of the Pioneers, with 16 rare tracks. Detailed liner notes by Dusty Rogers and John Fullerton explain, among other things, that the tracks are from three sets of recordings made for radio in 1957, 1966 and 1967. They do

not appear in chronological order on the CD, but the listener can follow the changes by reading the liner notes.

The disc opens with Ken Carson's lively composition, "Cowboy Jubilee," but it was recorded in 1966, long after Ken retired from the group. Lloyd Perryman, Dale Warren and Rusty Richards form the vocal trio, with Roy Lanham on lead guitar and Pat Brady on string bass. Track 2, a gorgeous rendition of "Blue Prairie," dates back to 1957. The trio at that point was Perryman, Warren and Tommy Doss, with the Farr Brothers and Shug Fisher providing acoustic accompaniment, and the sound is very similar to their recording of the same song for the Smokey Bear transcriptions the year before. "Open Range Ahead" is next, recorded the same year, with a vocal solo by Tommy Doss.

Track 4, "When Payday Rolls Around," is from 1967, and is the only recording I know of that has Bob Minser singing tenor (with Perryman & Warren) and Billy Armstrong playing

fiddle. The next track goes back to '57 with a beautiful acoustic rendition of "Wind." "Yippi Yi Your Troubles Away," from 1967, includes Armstrong taking a solo as part of the vocal trio as well as being the group's fiddler, and he plays on "Hold That Critter Down" and "Whoopie Ti-Yi Yo," a little later on the disc.

Rusty Richards sings tenor again on "Cimarron (Roll On)," with Perryman and Warren completing the trio. Rusty sang with the Pioneers for many years, but his work during these early years was only recorded for radio series like those issued by the US Navy, and has not been available on CD until now, making this collection extra special for Rusty's fans.

"Song of the Trail," from 1957, sounds very much like the Pioneers' RCA Victor recording from a few years later, but here, the accompaniment is acoustic, without the orchestra provided by RCA. And it's one of two selections (the other being "Chant of the Wanderer") featuring all six Pioneers, divided into two singing trios!

The trios that recorded all of these tracks were the touring group, i.e. the Pioneers we saw "in person" on the road and on TV during that time, rather than the group that was recording for RCA Victor. So if you were fortunate enough to see them "in person" during this period, this collection will have a special significance for you.

There's not a weak track on the disc. Each is a real gem! And the fidelity is awesome! The CD is available online, as is the download version, but prices vary widely, so shop around.



SAY SOMETHING

Rex Allen, Jr. & Juni Fisher

BPR RECORDS/RED GEETAR RECORDS 2020



Many Western music fans and performers have a wide range of tastes in music, and

the folk and pop genres are often high on their lists. So it wasn't strange to find Rex Allen, Jr. and Juni Fisher a while back, in Albuquerque, talking about favorite folk songs. They decided to record a well-known song called "Forever Young," and it got a lot of air play. So they explored the idea of a duet album. This is the result!

Although it's not a Western album, there are a couple of songs that have a Western flavor, "Gulf Coast Highway" and "Four Strong Winds" and they're already getting radio play. Juni loved a song called "Lonely Street," that had been very well received when Rex recorded it as a solo years ago, and their duet, beautifully done, is here, too. My favorite, "I Started a Joke," is one I'd never heard before, although the Bee Gees sang it early in their career. To my ear, the arrangement lends itself perfectly to their voices, and you hear each singer at their best.

I asked Juni about the project when it was released and she described it as "two pals having a good time singing songs nobody would have expected us to do." I'm sure you'll enjoy it too! Available as a download on Amazon.com and as a CD on Juni's website: JuniFisher.com



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SWING 1941-1954

Brad King, Bob Skyles, The Sagebrush Serenaders and Others



There are nine Western swing groups represented on this 27-track disc of music from the San

Joaquin Valley, recorded (and/or broadcast) between 1941 and 1954. For me, the most interesting were the 4 tracks credited to Brad King and his Dude Ranch Gang. King played the role of Johnny Nelson, Hopalong Cassidy's singing sidekick, in three feature films in 1941. King co-wrote all four of his songs, and Rex Allen and Patti Page recorded one of them, "Tag Along," for Mercury, in 1949, around the same time these tracks were recorded. The only Western song he does is "Cradle Land Lullaby," but two others are credible Western Swing tunes, "Who Do You Think You're Foolin'" and "You Ain't Got My Number Anymore."

There are Western songs by others on the disc, e.g. The Saddle Serenaders sing "Journey's End" and "Cowboy Bugle Boy," and Jack Thornhill & His Royal Texans sing the lively novelty, "Check Your Guns." Dusty Duncan & his Western Travellers do the Western swing standard, "Milk Cow Blues" from a 1958 session and Bob Skyles & his Skyrockets, probably the best-known of the groups represented here, lead off the disc with the earliest (1941) recording, "Goodbye Adelita, Goodbye," the famous border tune.

Others represented include Rody Erickson & his Dude Ranch Boys, Bill Choate and Orville and Rusty Newby. Kevin Coffey's liner notes fill a lot of gaps for interested readers, as always. Try calling Roots & Rhythm in California (888-ROOTS-66) as they sometimes carry BACM product, or order online directly from BACM.

COWBOY CHURCH: NARRATIONS, READING & HYMNS

Tex Ritter

JASMINE JASMCD 3754



While this album of 33 tracks isn't a Western album, most Western fans and performers

enjoy inspirational music and poetry, so we thought it appropriate to review this particular CD, featuring "America's Most Beloved Cowboy," Tex Ritter. His distinctive voice and accent lend themselves perfectly to these hymns, recitations and readings, just as they made him sound so authentic as a silver screen hero in the 1930s and 40s.

The material comes from Tex's now rare *Psalms* and *Lincoln Hymns* LPs with bonus tracks added from his *Hillbilly Heaven* album and earlier recordings. There are a few songs "everybody" knows, like "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings," recorded in 1952 with Wesley Tuttle and the Oklahoma Sweethearts, and "Rounded up in Glory" from 1946, with Merle Travis and Wesley Tuttle (guitars). And you'll remember narrations like "The Touch of the Master's Hand" and "Deck of Cards." The rest may be new to many listeners, but for some, there are probably a few long lost gems in the collection, songs you haven't heard in many years. In either case, if you enjoy inspirational readings and music, this disc is for you!

The original Lincoln LP was recorded in 1961, the centennial of the start of the civil war, as explained in the interesting liner notes penned by music historian Paul Hazell. Available online and from your favorite outlets.

Continued on page 36

TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL: SHASTA TRANSCRIPTIONS, VOL. 5

Jimmy Wakely

BACM CD D 656



Jimmy Wakely started making B-Western films in 1939 when he appeared with his trio in a

Roy Rogers film, *Saga of Death Valley*, and later in the 40s he assumed starring roles at Monogram Pictures, riding high until 1949 when the genre began to wind down. In 1940, his trio appeared regularly on Gene Autry's *Melody Ranch* radio show, giving

them national exposure. Soon, the members of the trio secured major label record contracts, each with a different label. Wakely's was with Decca, and he stayed with Decca until 1947, moving to Capitol shortly afterward.

As his film career was winding down and his recording career was picking up, Wakely began a radio show on the CBS network, and in the 50s he also had a television show. The radio show was very popular, and Jimmy kept copies of the show's transcriptions, re-issuing tracks from them later as LPs and 45rpm "singles" on his own Shasta record label, named after Lake Shasta, his favorite fishing spot. This new CD contains many of those tracks with one exception, a recording of "In

the Hills of Old Wyoming," from the Danny label.

One of the most popular of all of the LPs Shasta released was *The Singing Cowboy*, an album the Varese Sarabande label re-issued as a CD in 2002. Many of the 19 tracks from that release appear here, but this new CD contains 28 tracks! These include the themes from two of Wakely's movies, *Silver Trails* and *Saddle Pals*, as well as "Where the Mountains Meet the Sky," and Marilyn and Wesley Tuttle accompany Jimmy on a beautiful rendition of "Carry Me Back to the Lone Prairie." Not easy to find in the US but worth the effort. Try calling Roots & Rhythm in California (888-ROOTS-66) as they sometimes carry BACM product, or order online directly from BACM. 🐾

CCG

COLORADO COWBOY GATHERING

PO Box 985

Golden, CO 80402

ColoradoCowboyGathering.com

The Code of the West
says to know when to quit.

For the safety of our
performers, members,
volunteers, guests and staff,
we canceled the summer
concert. However, planning
for January is still ongoing.
See ya'll there.....maybe?

"I'VE BUILT MY LIFE AROUND
THE PRINCIPLES OF
HONESTY, REALISM
AND RESPECT..."



QUOTABLE COWBOYS
by SAWYER

BORN: JUNE 13, 1918
DIED: APRIL 8, 1996

Chapter Update

Continued from page 29

TEXAS CHAPTER

President: Cary Wiseman
Wisemanranch71@gmail.com

The Texas Chapter hopes everyone is well and continuing to be safe in any travels and at home. I am still surprised that this COVID-19 pandemic hit our country as hard and fast as it did. I know that we all have been slowed down, but we will be back to "normal life" soon. Many adjustments have been made – kids have had to learn to be homeschooled and teachers have had to learn and adapt to teaching students from their homes. This pandemic has shown how Americans will pull together when the need arises and has proven that folks still care about one another. I feel bad for all of our high school/college seniors that did not get to cross the stage and experience the graduations that they deserved. But it is still a time for thanks. I want to thank all of our frontline caregivers, doctors, nurses, EMS, firemen and policeman/troopers. I also want to thank all of our farmers and ranchers for not giving up on our lifestyles and our mission to feed and clothe the world. Thanks also go all of our distributors, drivers, and everyone stocking store shelves through this trying time. I send heartfelt prayers to those that lost family members and loved ones. We will get through this and once again we will be able to go back to our livelihoods, and our performances will be put back on the calendar. Our youth have been doing some Internet performances, and they are trying creative ways to get their music out there. Abby Payne has just completed her new CD, 12 songs that I think you will all enjoy. Congratulations to Abby Payne for her new release, "The Hidden Trail." Kudos to all our youth for working hard on their music and finding ways to perform however they can. These challenges are teaching us how to get things done on a different level. From the Texas Chapter we say "Thank

You" to all who promote our music and poetry and to all the volunteers who work behind the scenes. God Bless and Happy Trails!

WESTERN WORDSMITHS

President: Mark Munzert
markmunzert@gmail.com

At this writing most of the Western Wordsmiths are hunkered down 'social-distancing', taking care of chores, family, and many report the writing of new material. Many have said not much has changed as they are 'remotely' located to begin with and some donning a face mask for public appearances (which haven't included many 'performances') as much for safety in respect for others.

A big ol' collective tip of the brim to Bobbi Jean and Jim Bell who spent countless hours bringing our poets to the galaxy with their 'Pinch of Poetry' series. Through their website (outwestshop.com) and multiple Facebook pages, Bobbi Jean, in front of the camera, emails, phone calls, and Jim, behind the scene (camera), and in coincidence with National Poetry Month and Cowboy Poetry Week, featured WW Chapter members: Floyd Beard; Sherl Cederburg; Peter Conway; Smokey Culver; Steve Deming; Deanna Dickinson; Dennis Flynn; Joe Herrington; Susie Knight; Lynn Kopelke; K.C. LaCourse; Geoff Mackay; Danny McCurry; Kathy Moss; Mark Munzert; Terry Nash; Duane Nelson; Miska Paget; Jessie Robertson; Tom Swearingen; and Ron Wilson. Thank you to Bobbi Jean and Jim!

Western and
COWBOY POETRY music
& more
at the **BAR-D RANCH**

Another brim tip to Western Wordsmith Supporting Member Margo Metegrano whose efforts with and for the Center for Western and Cowboy Poetry (cowboy-poetry.com) accelerated greatly for Cowboy Poetry Week bringing added attention to our collective mission.

More thanks, to the collective Disc Spinners that continually put our distinctive art form in front of the masses. A newer voice to the airwaves is Ben Park and his American Cowboy Radio who broadcasts, an IWMA Show on Wednesday evenings that features many Western Wordsmith Chapter members.

With Western Wordsmiths Dennis Flynn and Daryl Knight spearheading efforts, arrangements for a performance opportunity for Cal Farley Boys Ranch participants to recite at the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering in Fort Worth in October is scheduled. Furthering our efforts to involve youth, we press forward, though we have been put on 'Covid-hold' with efforts with 4H, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Unfortunately, the same 'holds' true for in-roads we have made with Beef Producer associations.

Member News: Many Western Wordsmiths endeavors screeched to a halt with the presence of the undesirable virus. Reportedly, some are making the best use of their time:

Floyd and Valerie Beard putting ink to paper and (Floyd) voice to new poems.

Lor-Beth Brooke's musical endeavor has been delayed due to current conditions.

Sherl Cederburg released her first cowboy poetry CD titled "Born To Ponder" featuring seventeen original poems produced, engineered and mastered by Butch Hause, Ranger Station Studio. Sherl also posted an inspirational cowboy poetry video to Facebook each Sunday for nine weeks during the pandemic.

Devon Dawson and Teresa Burleson have launched a YouTube History on the Bricks (history and information about the Fort Worth Stockyards).

Sam DeLeeuw is recovering from difficult back surgeries.

Deanna Dickinson recently received a contract for her new novel, *The Okies Daughters*, which will debut this year. She is working on completing her cookbook and will be going forward with the *Timberon Western Experience* with Randy Huston, Jim Jones and Jim Wilson June 26-27. Contact Jim Jones at ajamojo@gmail.com for further information.

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

SHERL CEDERBURG

Born To Ponder



The title says it pretty well! South Dakota Cowboy Poet Sherl Cederburg is at her best

when she's pondering a moment, and emotion or something else of delicacy that likely would have been overlooked by others who are not as perceptive.

The main draw of this new release is that storytelling ability, often done here with an O Henry level of expertise in the buildup and the payoffs, but in nicely crafted verse. Some of the poems are accompanied by music beds and intros furnished by project engineer and producer, Butch Hause. Picks include two tales of poignant love "Red Rose For A Stranger" and "Diamond In The Muck," "Multi-Generational Ranchin'," "Christmas Bay," the cagey solution posed in "Lloyd's Mule" and a particularly sweet observance of two horses and an object lesson found in "A Glimpse Of Love."

Cederburg's delivery is expansive, seemingly geared to a crowd, and likely it is reflective of her live performance. In a recorded format, such a style can nearly overpower gentle imagery, but we are definitely recommending the album for the words. Seventeen tracks.

CD: \$15 + \$2 s/h through www.sherlcederburg.com

PEGIE DOUGLAS & THE BADGER SETT BAND

The Music Of Badger Clark – Volume 1 (Revisited)



Well, now I've seen everything, or at least I've stepped closer to it with this new release from Pegie

Douglas & The Badger Sett Band!

Back in the Summer of 2018 I received, loved and reviewed "The Music Of Badger Clark – Volume 2" from this band. Indeed "this band" is the operative term! At the time I remember wondering about Volume 1, and apparently so had they. With their new Volume 2 personnel and new arrangements, they actually "revisited" the first album, and here we have the result!

Beside the Clark poems "Sett" to music, we also have two songs connected to South Dakota's first Poet Laureate ("Red Wing" and "Anna Sweeney"). The album jacket shows Clark, guitar in hand, possibly picking out one of them! Plus we have adaptations done earlier by others of Clark's "A Roundup Lullabye," "A Cowboy's Prayer" and, of course, we must have the most famous one "Spanish Is The Lovin' Tongue" (also called "Border Affair" and done here in an up-tempo waltz arrangement). Newly brought to song for this collection are "The Old Prospector," "The Free Wind," "I Must Come Back" and "Cottonwood

Leaves." The band consists of Ms. Douglas (lead and harmony vocals and guitar), Ned Westphal (narrator and guitar), Cheryl Janssens (bass and hand drum), Marcia Kenobbie (lead and harmony vocals and mandolin) and Katie Lautenschlager (harmony vocals and violin). Nine tracks, highly recommended.

CD: (available through www.pegiedouglas.com)

A. K. MOSS

They Come Prancin'



With this release A. K. (Kathy) Moss delivers another winner! A published author and

lifelong participant in the Western doings she writes about, she was raised in eastern Oregon. Training horses, night calving heifers and day riding for area ranches are all in her life resume and in the poems found here. Moss adroitly deals with the larger cowboy spirit as it manifests itself in the very young, the working folks and the old. The Indian spirit is not ignored either.

On a number of the selections, we find subtle interweaving of atmospheric effects with the Michael Dowdle-composed music, including haunting Indian flute provided by the artist Kiamichi on one of the CD's pick tracks (the spoken song "Red Roan").

Other picks include "Riding Out To Meet The Day," "Rodeo Ride," "The Wager" (how to cowboy up when your leg is on fire!), "Lady Buckaroo" (with CD co-producer Brenn Hill's "Buckaroo Fringe" laid in), "Making Plans" and the CD closer "Cowhorse Prayer," which is the first time I've encountered a warning imparted to God not to fork a certain snarky, recently departed nag that He might spot in His mighty corral! Eleven tracks, recommended.

CD: (Available through akmossbooks.com)

DAVE MUNSICK

The Songteller



For his newest acoustic release, Wyoming singer/songwriter Dave Munsick

has opted to use the talents of six professional Tennessee sidemen...no doubt costlier than grabbing some of the basically able "local boys," but it sure made for a finely tuned outcome!

Tonally Munsick pretty much lives in the Dave Stamey neighborhood and, in a way, his wide variety of subject matter does as well. He's no imitation, though. Picks include a frisky English language polka called "Tequila," the Cowboy Swingers "Last Day On The Trail" and "These Old Boots" and, for some very fresh perspectives, "Buck," "The Runner" and "Staying With The Land." Some of the tracks here are in the Country genre, including the Gentle-On-My-Mind styled "I Can Fly," "Lying In Your Loving Arms Again," the honky tonker "Tell Me A Lie" and "Dreams." And speaking of perspectives, Munsick's song "Trouble" marks the only time I can recall a singer visiting it rather than the other way around! His novelty language problem song "Vaya Conmigo" puts a whole new

spin on, well...let's call it the "Gay Ranchera!!"

Very enjoyable, highly recommended. Thirteen tracks.

CD: \$20 ppd from Little Goose Music, PO Box 521, Dayton, WY 82836. Streamed on Spotify, iTunes and others. www.thestoryteller.com

THE RAMBLIN' RANGERS

One More River To Cross



It may be wise to review this release exclusively within the context of what is intended in

its creation, rather than examining specific points of "musicality." The effect is intentionally homespun and rustic in presentation. You can picture cowboys at the cook fires out on those classic Texas and New Mexico trails having pretty much produced such a sound. Adding to it, interspersed among the nine songs, there are voices embodying some of those who were really there... Bob Fudge, Teddy Blue and the last request of Oliver Loving that was famously honored by Charlie Goodnight are represented.

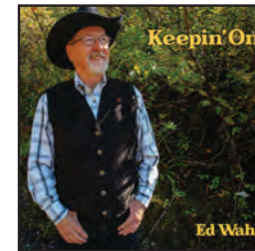
The main reason for the CD is to celebrate and accompany the modern-day campfire sessions actually done by this duo (Brett & BonneyJo Exton), enhanced with a number of acoustic players and voices. The physical package includes a capsule history of the times, a chart depicting the posted positions of cowboys with the herd, "help wanted posters" for other cattle camp jobs and a useful map of the classic trails. The release may be best appreciated if heard in sequence, but picks we might single out are Brad Exton's title track "One More River To Cross" and a cover of the Bob Boatman/Luke Reed song "Yellowstone Valley." A crediting note: while "Colorado Trail" is indeed considered "traditional,"

the song's long ignored creator is now known to be composer James A. Bliss. Nineteen tracks (actually, nine songs with cued voice tracks).

CD: \$15 +\$3 s/h from The Ramblin' Rangers, 12601 Darlene Ln., Hot Springs, SD 57747 or through [cdbaby](http://cdbaby.com) & [amazon](http://amazon.com).

ED WAHL

Keepin' On



The mellow tenor voice of Canadian singer Ed Wahl and the nice production values instilled

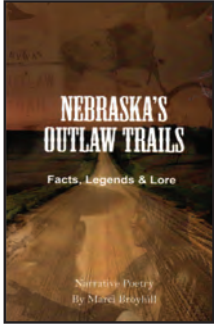
by Tom Cole boost the smooth effect of Wahl's newest release.

Our friend Canadian poet Mag Mawhinney provided the words/inspiration for one of the CD's pick tracks "Big Muddy," which Randy Smith originally put to music. In his first outing at doing so, Wahl has adapted the Mawhinney works "He's Gonna Make It" and "The Has-Been and The Wannabe." But other collection picks include covers of "In Heaven On A Horse" by Kyle Evans and the modern classic "You Just Can't See Him From The Road" by Donnie Blanz and Ed Bruce... which brings me to a crediting point. They're not. Credited, I mean. Nor are Tom Russell for "Navajo Rug," Ray Whitley for "Back In The Saddle Again" or Cole Porter and, ironically, the poet who fought Porter in court to achieve crediting, Robert Fletcher, for "Don't Fence Me In." The omissions here are irksome in that Mag, Randy and Ed all receive their due credit. I'm not begrudging them, but fair is fair. Regardless, it is a nice collection, and I am certainly recommending it to you. Twelve tracks.

CD: (available through wahlcountry@gmail.com)

Continued on page 40

MARCI BROYHILL
Nebraska's Outlaw Trails:
Fact, Legacy & Lore
(Poetry Book)



First, this ambitious, lavishly illustrated book of "narrative poetry" is commendable for exposing a not often covered part of Western and Cowboy history. It's divided into five sections ("Outlaws & The Law," "The Women's Role & Influence During The Western Movement," "The Brave & The Good," "Working The Land" and

"The Light Hearted") so obviously the collection covers a lot of terrain!

Broyhill's title poem serves as her Introduction/Preface for what's to come. You can quickly spot the effort has historical underpinnings. How many Cowboy Poetry books come with a Bibliography of Sources?!! Here you'll find tales of daring-do, frontier struggles and vigilante justice. There are epic poems methodically detailing the complete background and timelines of their subjects. Such monumental pieces can be tough going, but for them there is prominent precedent (witness The Iliad & The Odyssey)! Those works here include "Doc Middleton, Nebraska's Robin Hood," "Kid Wade," "Chief Standing Bear" and "The White Horse Dream." Full courses of ranching education can be found in "Branding" and "Range Of The Horse." And I'm fond

of Henrich Mueller, risking branding by others as "crazy" because he protects his herd by peppering it with ill-tempered bulls!

Among the most interesting and effective works come from oral histories unchanged as they were passed down the generations, such as "Answered Prayers" and "Boots" (which concerns practical payment advice to a kid of taking a calf over cash for boots: "When those boots wear out your short investment will be gone. This heifer's your chance to shoe your feet your whole life long"). The more traditional style of the genre is found in Broyhill's sections "Working The Land" and "The Light Hearted." My favorite there has to be "Cowboy Mo" about tone deaf cowfolk. Hits close to home for a reviewer! 156 pages, recommended.

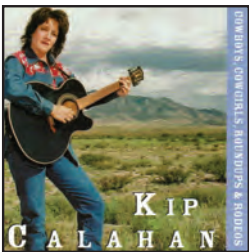
Book: Available through
www.marcibroyhill.com

CLASSIC REVIEWS

SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

During part of my time spent tucked away during the big Covid 19 retreat, I decided to revisit some recordings from our Western Music past. Doing so not only made me put renewed focus on them, it also made me want to reveal some of my freshened findings with you. It was so tough to randomly pick just a couple to share here from such a high calibre inventory. Just know that there are many, many others I might have chosen, and I might do so in the future! No, these are not recordings from Hall Of Famers. I suppose you could say they come from among our "Rank & File." Only they "rank" high on the quality chart and shouldn't just be "filed" away!

KIP CALAHAN
Cowboys, Cowgirls, Roundups
& Rodeos (2003)



From a bit more recent history comes this superb CD, a showcase of mostly acoustic instrumentation, contemporary flare and deeply relatable genuine Western messages. It is also notable for being one of the first Western packages to include its own DVD with music videos of two of the songs..."What

Cowboy Means," based on Susan Warner's poem about Kip's father-in-law (Hidalgo County Cowboy Hall Of Famer Lonnie Moore), and "Al Valle de Animas" (written by Kip for a film about the Gray Ranch, the massive spread now known as the Diamond A where her husband Richard worked as Head Cowboy and hunting guide). In addition to those great songs are four more fine Calahan originals and covers of two songs from Colleen Peterson of the Canadian group Quartette ("Cowboys & Rodeos" and "Neon Cowboy"), Judge William Parnall's "Magdalena" and Mike Beck's nicely combative "Don't Tell Me" (...that the west is dead and gone...). Through

this album folks discovered Kip's feisty novelty song "That's What You Get," the heartfelt "Wagon Widow," "Fall Works" (inspired at roundup time as she sat on the porch of the Gray Ranch bunkhouse) and "Kelly Virginia" (about her cowgirl friend Kelly Virginia Kimbro).

Eventually artistic and financial concerns moved Kip out of the Western genre, on through Country and into a fair amount of success in the Gospel arena. But, for a while at the start of the millennium, Kip Calahan provided a bright light of enthusiasm at gatherings and one of the strongest voices yet heard in Western Music.

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Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews



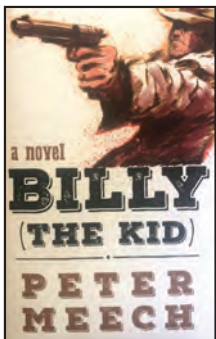
Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

I have been a newspaperman since the early '70s, so it has come to my attention that real life is often no fun. I have written about more than my share of tragedies. But as I prepare this column in late May, more than two months into the social distancing and self-isolation imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, I can truly say I do not recall ever before needing an escape from reality more than I do now. I've been searching YouTube for Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry and Three Mesquiteers B-Westerns and old "Range Rider" TV episodes. And I've been reading Western fiction – old favorites and fresh stock. I need stories I can count on to end up hopeful, if not happy. I need to see good guys riding into sunsets, loping into ranges without fences. Maybe by time you read this, we'll be back to life without hobbles. But whether we are or not, here's a couple of books that might help you make a getaway.

PETER MEECH

"Billy (The Kid)"



I get my back up when I hear folks claiming Billy the Kid was not killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in July 1881 at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, insisting

instead that the Kid actually lived to be an old codger named Roberts or Miller or whatever. I have lived in New Mexico for about 45 years, have studied and written about its history and have never discovered any reason to believe the Kid survived his encounter with Garrett. But since I'm all about escaping reality these days, I have no problem with that scenario when it is treated as fiction. In Peter Meech's novel, a man who claims to be Billy the Kid is living under the guise of

Dr. Billy McCarty, a retired dentist in his 70s, in Pueblo, Colorado, in 1932.

Dr. McCarty makes his way around town in a 1927 Model T rather than on a horse, but he keeps a pair of Colt Double Action Thunderer revolvers in his room at the Congress Hotel. The guns are not a bad idea because Pueblo is Wild West enough in 1932 due to a brash bunch of bootleggers who think nothing of shooting down people when and wherever they want to.

McCarty, when he's not working on his Billy the Kid autobiography or trading stories at the Spit 'N' Argue Club, is romancing an attractive widow and trying to keep Tommy, a pre-teen kid who lives with his father in a Pueblo trailer camp, out of trouble.

Trouble is easy enough to find because the times are tough. It's Prohibition, it's the Great Depression, it's Dust Bowl days. McCarty tries to avoid a fight, but you know there's one coming because he's Billy the

Kid, or might be, and those bad boy bootleggers have got to go.

Meech employs a curious approach in the writing of his tale. He does not use quotation marks. But that proves to be a short-lived distraction because he manages to make sure the reader knows who is saying what. And his writing, occasionally in sentences that gallop on unrestrained, is pretty good. Here he describes a dust storm in Tulsa.

"The storm was alive – it was a living sand creature, over ten thousand feet high, with a mouth as wide as the sky, and a hunger that could not be sated." Meech's novel, seasoned with period detail, an absorbing protagonist and a touch of mysticism, is sure to give you a few hours reprieve from the uncertainties haunting us all.

("Billy (The Kid)," 9781591813026; hardback, \$23; Sentient Publications; available through bookstores, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and thriftbooks.com)

Continued on page 42

ED STABLER

Long Roads, Legends & Lies (1995)



The late Ed Stabler was revered as a singer/songwriter, historian and preservationist. His penetrating baritone voice brought life to his own songs and shot new life

into old warhorses! He eventually became particularly well known for setting poems of others to music. On this release those include works of Henry Herbert Knibbs, Charles "Badger" Clark and then-editor and publisher of Cowboy Magazine Darrell Arnold. On another famous project, Ed teamed up with the legendary voice of the Colorado River Katie Lee ("Katie Lee & Ed Stabler Sing The Poems Of His Knibbs & The Badger"). That cassette release marked my own first exposure to the works of both Knibbs and Clark. (Sidebar:

Check into Katie Lee's recordings, particularly "Ten Thousand Goddam Cattle").

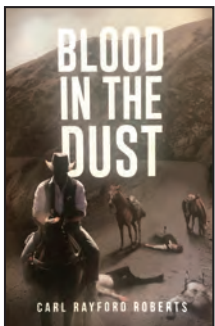
On this release the Stabler originals include the instrumental "Bull Hill Rag," "Trail Of Tears," and "The Leavin' Of Texas" with fine covers of Allen Wayne Damron & Tim Henderson's "The Gringo Pistolero," Gordon Lightfoot's "Miguel" and Bob Campbell's "Roll ON Cowboys among others. Later in life Ed's focus turned almost exclusively to railroad songs, but his Western efforts were always worthy of close attention, and still are. 🐾

REED'S READING

Continued from page 41

CARL RAYFORD ROBERTS

"Blood in the Dust"



Here's some evidence that it's a small world. Although I have lived in New Mexico for many years, I was born in Mississippi and grew up and lived the first part of my adult life in that state. Carl Roberts, the author of this collection of Western short stories, is also a Mississippian. OK, that's not so far fetched. But, tipped off by his author's bio, I did some investigating and found out we both graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1970. In fact, our pictures are on the same page of the 1969 Southern Mississippi yearbook section depicting members of the junior class for that year.

So there you go. Small world. But then again, not all that small because I don't recall having met Roberts during our years at Southern Miss.

Based on his bio, another thing Roberts and I have in common is that we both grew up reading Western comic books and novels and watching Western movies and TV shows. That early affection for the Western genre is apparent in the nine stories collected in "Blood in the Dust."

I must note that the author could have used a good copyeditor to avoid typos, omitted words and other miscues. In one story, a bank robber is referred to as Duff most of the time but as Buff some of the time. A little more research would have helped in some cases. For example, the Navajo people did not wear warbonnets. And it was not their custom to take scalps. But he is correct when he writes that the Navajo's traditional enemies included the Ute and the Comanche, and he is good on other details as well -- firearms, lay of the land, the preparation of food.

"Grewd cooked up a dozen or so pieces of hardtack and about a pound of salted bacon. Uncooked bacon was packed just in case they needed to fry up a rabbit or some other wild animal. The drippings could be used to fry or stew." That's from the story "Cattle Rustlers of Rocky Crossing," in which a couple of cowhands, alerted by a Ute man they had befriended, pursue cattle thieves.

In "Bounty Money," the book's lead story, a cowboy leaves his ranch job and sets out on a horseback journey over rough terrain and through bad weather just because he got a letter from a friend who wrote that he needed help. Never mind that the friend did not indicate what kind of help.

A cowboy mistaken for a bank robber makes a desperate attempt to elude a posse in "Desert Odyssey," a stagecoach bandit betrayed by his partners gets an unusual opportunity to even things up in "Revenge of the Outlaw" and Union and Confederate troops in Civil War-era New Mexico join forces to help a wagon train fight off Indians in "Siege at Thunder Canyon."

Most stories in this collection build slowly, coloring in background and character traits, before exploding in fast and furious climax. They remind me of those Western movies and TV shows that Roberts and I enjoyed in our youth and that I am seeking out now as I long for an escape to better days.

("Blood in the Dust," 9781640963603; paperback, \$15.95; Newman Springs Publishing; available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble and target.com) 🐾

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
2. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
3. Turn 'Em Loose – Susie Knight
4. The Hidden Trail – Abby Payne
5. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
6. Favorites – Jim Jones
7. Those Cowboys of Old – Donnie Poindexter
8. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
9. No Place Left to Go – Ron Christopher
10. Go West – The Cowboy Way
11. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
12. America's Last Singing Cowboy – Rex Allen
13. Ridin', Ropin', and Rounders – Rusted Spurs West
14. Ghost Town Holdout – Joe Lima
15. One More River to Cross – The Ramblin' Rangers
16. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
17. Saddle Sweethearts – Mike Craig
18. New Songs of the West – Jim Schafer
19. Return to El Paso – Carolyn Sill Combo
20. The Outside Circle – Mike Blakely
21. Wild West Texas Wind – Carolyn Martin
22. Hats Off to the Cowboy – Red Steagall
23. Hoofin' It – The Old West Trio
24. Saddlin' Up for God and Country – Dawn Anita
25. Beautiful Texas – Judy James
26. Rocky Mountain Drifter – Brenn Hill
27. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert
28. Colorado Trail – Quicksand Soup
29. Blues on the Trail – Gary Allegretto
30. Satisfied Hearts – Gary & Jean Prescott

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
2. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
3. Wild West Texas Wind – Carolyn Martin
4. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
5. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert
6. Ridin', Ropin', and Rounders – Rusted Spurs West
7. For the Love of Bob – The Swangers
8. Big Deal – Western Swing Authority
9. God Bless the Mighty Pickle – Rick & the All-Star Ramblers
10. Wild Blue Yonder – The Western Flyers

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
2. Cows Around – Kristyn Harris
3. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
4. Slow Falling Rain – Jon Chandler
5. The Old Horse Barn – Bob Marshall
6. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
Old Range Cowboy – Rodeo & Juliet
8. One More Circle – Ryan Fritz
Musician Standard Time – Kristyn Harris
Old Soul – Kristyn Harris

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. The Truth – A.K. Moss
2. Masters, Vol. 3 – Various Artists
3. Language of the Land – Tom Swearingen
4. Snow on the Sage – Marleen Bussma
5. West Texas Heat – Teresa Burleson
6. Masters, Vol. 2 – Various Artists
7. Once Upon the West – Doris Daley & Eli Barsi
8. Short Grass Country – Floyd Beard
Contemplating Life – Tom Kerlin
Day Workin' – Mark Munzert

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

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

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

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Joe Angel

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

Waynetta Ausmus

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

Michael Babiarz

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

Bobbi Jean Bell

"OutWest 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
skipbessonette@gmail.com

Janice Brooks

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

Peter Bruce

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

"Calling All Cowboys Radio"
88.9 FM, KPOV High Desert
Community Radio
http://www.kpov.org
http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling_ all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
e-mail: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd.
Bend, OR 97702

Doug Figgs

P. O. Box 3
Lemitar, NM 87823
(505) 440-0979
www.dougfiggs.com
http://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

KWC Ameriana Radio Station

Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez
avenida galtzaraborda n°47 2°A
20100 renteria
Guipuzcoa
España
miguelbilly56@gmail.com

Paul Hazell

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

Randy Hill

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

Gary Holt

"Campfire Cafe" and "Saddle Up America"
7040 Highway 231 N
Bethpage, TN 37022
www.equestrianlegacy.net
gih50@live.com
615-478-2138

Judy James

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

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
kudzucowboy@hotmail.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

Heartland Public Radio

c/o Rowena Muldavin
2001 Coffey Lane
Placerville, CA 95667-8718

Marvin O'Dell

"Around the Campfire"
www.defendersoffreedomradio.com
KKRN, Redding, CA
KZNQ, Santa Clarita, CA
https://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
www.musikode.com

Bob O'Donnell

455 12th Avenue Apt 130
Baldwin WI 54002.
justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

O.J. Sikes

681 Ellington Rd.
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
osikes@nj.rr.com
KKRN, Redding, CA
www.earsradio1.com

Totsie Slover

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

Tommy Tucker

"Snake River Radio Roundup"
93.1 FM/1350 AM KRLC Radio
805 Stewart Ave.
Lewiston, ID. 83501
208-743-1551
tommy@idavend.com
"Keepin' It Western"

Harvey & Me'lissa Turnbow

"Keeping Western Music Alive"
PO Box 524
Christoval, TX 76935
325-812-1358
325-716-0042
email: keepingitwestern@gmail.com
KSCK 100.5 FM
"Keeping It Western Show"
www.ksckfm.com

Wayne & Kathy

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

Chapter Update

Continued from page 37

We ask continued thoughts and prayers for Susie and David Knight as they battle Dave's war with Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

KC LaCourse is putting together a video showcase of Cowboy Poetry entitled City Greets Cowboy.

Geoff Mackay is putting the finishing touches on a new book, *Out Standing in the Field*.

Mark Munzert has been drafting and crafting new poetic parlance and continues to promote Cowboy Poetry via the Cowboy Poetry and Cowboy Poetry Gatherings Facebook pages.

Tom Swearingen has a new book in the works, a collection of 46 poems being illustrated now, with publication scheduled for late summer or fall. With 'live' cancelled or postponed performances, Tom has made good use of 'streaming' concerts via Instagram and Zoom. Tom mentions it is "strange, but in some ways, it has opened up audiences I wouldn't have otherwise reached." Tom wrote a poem at the request of the Wallowa County Museum in Joseph, Oregon, about an interesting bit of history from that area and the recording

of the poem will be featured in a permanent exhibit being built now at the museum.

Roger Ringer has submitted the third manuscript of historical stories about Kansas and Kansans called *True Tales of Kansas*. He is now attempting a book of fiction about musicians both old and young called *Three Chords and the Truth*.

Dan Wilson developed a website and posted 5 poems, one for each day of Cowboy Poetry week at: <https://mbxled.wixsite.com/mycowboypoetry>.

Ron Wilson has transitioned his Osher Lifelong Learning course, "From Spurs to Silver Screen: Kansas Cowboy Poetry and History" from an in-person course to an on-line Zoom class to be in July and August. He is also presenting a Facebook Live session each week called "Live at the Lazy T Ranch" providing agricultural and ranch life education, concluding each session with a cowboy poem. Ron reports transitioning the Kansas cowboy poetry contest and is forging forward with the Wordsmith supported Kansas Cowboy Poetry Youth Roundup 2020 for youth 18 years old and younger.

Scott Wiswell's poem "The For Sale Sign" appears in the summer edition of *Range* magazine.

YOUTH CHAPTER

President: Abby Payne

Chapter Coordinator: Jane Leche
wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com

As would be expected, travel and entertaining by our active Youth Chapter has been halted over the past months, due to COVID-19. Sadly, The Arizona Folklore Preserve Youth Chapter Showcase was cancelled. On a brighter note, it has been rescheduled for June 5-6, 2021. We can also happily report that on April 8 one of our chapter members, Alice Black, turned 15. Her family would not let a celebration of this milestone be missed, so they "partied" to a southwestern theme (see more details in the East Coast Chapter update). Abby Payne released a new CD on May 1 called "The Hidden Trail." You may want to check the SPOTLIGHT column and the individual chapter updates in this issue to see what else may be happening with the IWMA youth as they anticipate better days!!

Members are always encouraged to stay connected through our social media sites:

Facebook: westernmusicYC

Instagram: @iwmayouthchapter 🐾

IWMA 2020 TICKET PRE-ORDER & MEMBER REGISTRATION

November 11-15 – Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

Return to: IWMA | P. O. Box 648 | Coppell, TX 75019 Email Marsha@WesternMusic.org | Call 505-563-0673

Name _____

Spouse or Guest Name(s) if attending _____

Company or Group Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Email _____

IWMA MEMBERS ONLY

☐ Check if this is your first time to attend!

☐ **Basic Package**

(includes ALL workshops and daily showcases; does NOT include evening shows)

☐ **Sidekick Package**

(includes workshops, showcases and all ticketed events)

☐ **Silver Spur VIP Package**

(includes workshops, showcases and reserved seating for all ticketed events)

☐ **Golden Spur Sponsor Package**

(includes workshops, showcases, reserved seating for all ticketed events and your name listed in the program as a sponsor)

MEMBERS

NON-MEMBERS

\$75/person

\$85/person

\$175/person

\$250/person

\$325/couple

\$475/couple

\$325/person

\$425/person

\$550/couple

\$650/couple

\$600/person

\$700/person

\$900/couple

\$1,050/couple

WEDNESDAY

☐ **Opening Lunch with Rex Allen, Jr.**

of tickets _____

\$35/person

\$45/person

☐ **Swing Dance Spectacular & Dessert**

(Ticket price includes So You Think You Can't Dance? Workshop)

of tickets _____

\$30/person

\$40/person

THURSDAY

☐ **Day Pass for Showcases** (included in all packages)

of tickets _____

\$0

\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days

Workshops (Included in all packages; please indicate which you will attend)

☐ Coffee with the DJs

of tickets _____

☐ 20 Things You Need to Know to Get Airplay

of tickets _____

☐ Juggling Priorities

of tickets _____

☐ Social Media 101

of tickets _____

☐ Writing & Reciting Poetry

of tickets _____

☐ History & Future of Western Music

of tickets _____

☐ The Art of Using a Single Mic

of tickets _____

☐ **IWMA Crisis Fund Benefit Dinner & Concert**

of tickets _____

\$50/person

\$60/person

FRIDAY

☐ **Day Pass for Showcases** (included in all packages)

of tickets _____

\$0

\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days

Instrument Workshops (Included in all packages; please indicate which you will attend)

☐ Introduction to Rhythm Guitar

of tickets _____

☐ Advanced Rhythm Guitar

of tickets _____

☐ Ukulele & Swing

of tickets _____

☐ **IWMA Friday Night Western Opry**

of tickets _____

\$25/person

\$30/person

SATURDAY

☐ **Day Pass for Showcases** (included in all packages)

of tickets _____

\$0

\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days

☐ **Veterans Appreciation Breakfast & Program**

of tickets _____

\$35/person

\$45/person

☐ Check here if you would like to sponsor a veteran

of tickets _____

\$35/person

\$45/person

☐ Check here if you are a veteran....there's no charge for your ticket!

☐ **IWMA Awards Show**

of tickets _____

\$35/person

\$45/person

TOTAL DUE

\$ _____

Payment Information

☐ Check/Money Order enclosed

☐ Credit Card

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ American Express

☐ Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Some space is limited so order tickets early! Cancellations after October 31, 2020 cannot be refunded.

IWMA Awards of Excellence 2020 NOMINATIONS BALLOT

(Criteria for Awards can be found on Website: www.iwesternmusic.org)

WESTERN ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. Award for an outstanding recorded performance by an artist or artists released during the specified time period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and producer **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY SWING ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. This award is for an outstanding cowboy swing recorded performance which was either commercially released or showed significant chart action during the eligibility period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and the producer. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

SONG OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songs. This award is for any song which was released or showed significant chart action within the eligibility period. The award recognizes the songwriter(s). **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

WORKING COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songs. This award goes to a song recorded within the eligibility period that speaks expressly and clearly to real, authentic working cowboy life, historic or current. The award goes to the songwriter(s) and is based on lyrics, not performance. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songwriters. Award for outstanding songs written in the past year by a songwriter(s). Commercial release and number of songs recorded during the year are to be considered. The award recognizes the songwriter(s). **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

LIZ MASTERSON CRESCENDO AWARD Nominate up to three (3) individuals or groups. This award is for a group or individual, under 21, having made considerable advances artistically and/or commercially during the eligibility period. The band or individual should be performing under its/his/her name on a regular basis. The award recognizes the group or individual artist.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

RADIO DJ/RADIO PROGRAM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) radio DJs/radio programs. This award recognizes outstanding service to western music in the field of broadcasting. The recipient will be judged for contributions to the field western music, professionalism, work and involvement in the western music community, and promotion and fostering of the western music image. **In 2020, this is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY POETRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding achievement on writing, reciting and recording original Cowboy Poetry. The award recognizes the poet. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) books. The award recognizes the author. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

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

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

Member Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Ballot must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 5, 2020 to be counted:
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or info@westernmusic.org

7th ANNUAL
Cimarron Cowboy
Music and Poetry Gathering
August 28 and 29, 2020
at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM

Joining us will be The Broken Chair Band, The Hamptons, Kacey and Jenna Thunborg, Peggy Malone, Abby Payne, The Ramblin' Rangers with Sawyer Beverly Gray, Randy Huston, Rod Taylor, The Cowboy Way, Carol Heuchan, Deanna McCall, AK Moss, Floyd Beard, Valerie Beard, Miska Paget, Rocky Sullivan, Terry Nash, Dennis Russell and Dale Page.

Call Dennis at 719-330-1797 or Dale at 317-410-1326
For all the details check out the website,
CimarronCowboyGathering.com

We will miss you this year,
but will be back next year!

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FOR YOUR SAFETY





www.WesternMusic.org

**P.O. Box 648
Coppell, TX 75019**



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