

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the International Western Music Association

**WESTERN MUSIC
HALL OF FAME
IS SILENT**

PAGE 10

**OLD TOWN
ALBUQUERQUE**

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FOR IWMA2024**

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**LEAVE A
*Legacy Gift***

PAGE 19



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From The President...



MARVIN O'DELL
IWMA President

How NOT to Attend the Convention

The 2024 IWMA convention was a wonderful time for all who attended. At least, that's what I heard.

I began coming down with "something" on Wednesday afternoon. I coughed and sniffled my way through the rest of that day and all of Thursday, so I got to see a few showcases and was able to attend the Thursday evening fundraiser show with the Kristyn Harris Band. And, oh, what a wonderful show they put on. It was fantastic! And how great was it to watch graduates of our IWMA Youth Chapter perform so wonderfully and professionally? Makes you feel proud to be a member and supporter of the IWMA.

By Friday morning I was experiencing a full-blown head cold. All the symptoms were there – the coughing, runny nose, stuffy head, losing my voice almost, man-complaining and looking for sympathy – all of it. Theresa was so worried about my condition that she stayed out of the room most of the day leaving me with absolutely no one from whom to get that sympathy.

I slept most of Friday (missing the Opry) and almost all of Saturday (thus missing the Awards Show as well). By the time I woke up feeling pretty chipper on Sunday, almost everyone I had hoped to visit with this year was gone, not to be seen for another year! I did get to enjoy the Sunday morning gospel concert. I counted 112 who attended that show with a few in and out but most sitting through the entire concert. That count was up about 30 from last year. Each performer helped make it a great place to gather on a Sunday morning.

I didn't bother to see a doctor. There's a reason most men don't like to go to the doctor. We figure in a day or two, whatever's wrong will disappear anyway. So why waste the time? Or – although most men won't admit it – we don't want to go because we might be told something we don't want to hear, the most feared being, "You need to diet and exercise more." Doctors charge an exorbitant fee to tell us things we already know and that our wives have already told us anyway.

Continued on page 7



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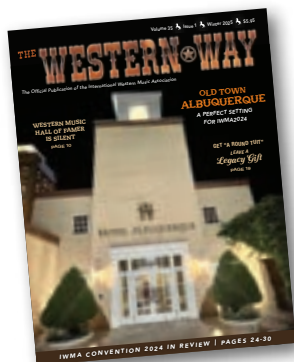


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ON THE COVER...

Featured on the cover is the beautiful Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town Albuquerque, NM. This location with its amazing southwestern decor is the perfect host for the Annual IWMA convention each November. For 5 days the rooms ring with music and poetry and the halls are filled with fans and performers sporting western attire. This event should be on the bucket list of every western music and poetry lover.
Photo courtesy Theresa O'Dell

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

Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell
Editor

IT'S TIME TO ACT

IWMA 2024 was a success. What more can we say that has not already been said in Marsha's article, a little in the President's article (although he did run "down a rabbit hole" a bit), and then as seen in the pictorial layout in this issue?

The 2024 IWMA Convention was an extraordinary success! If you ask me why, I will simply say "there was a spirit – the cowboy spirit? – that exceeded even years past." It truly was a week that brought new fans, new performers and new excitement to the event.

Marsha announced at the Chapter Officers' breakfast that the theme for IWMA for 2025 is Planning THE Future. It isn't planning FOR the future; it is planning THE future. What might that mean? Well, in this writer's eyes, it might mean we have spent lots of time in the past years to plan for the future with processes, protocols and procedures. These are in place – now we must move beyond it.

Now we will plan the future because the future looks bright and promising for this organization. One big step in planning the IWMA future is strengthening and expanding the leadership team in key areas so we can continue growth. We know if we add more people, people who are willing to work alongside the current team and are prepared to take over when called on, it is wise stewardship of the processes already in place. The current Board and leaders know this is what we must do.

To do this, we are seeking volunteer support from members who may have skill and desire, but do not know how or where to jump-in and get involved. The areas like support for the Executive Director and the many duties she currently operates is a great place to start. This magazine in your hands is a vital piece of IWMA. You may have some skills needed in the facets of publishing it. What about social media? This is an area we could definitely expand – Instagram, twitter, etc. – if those in the know would share their time and expertise. These are just a few areas we could bolster. The boundaries are only limited by our willingness to get involved.

Please check out the JOIN THE TEAM call-to-action on page 48 of this issue. If you love what the Convention provides each fall and if you applaud the mission and vision of IWMA, and if you want to see it continue beyond who and what we are now, then consider how you might get involved. Whatever your age, whether fan or performer, what are you willing to do? The IWMA needs you to be a part as we Plan The Future.

Theresa



*Special thanks to the IWMA
for your continued support!
I am honored to have been
included in the Hall of Fame.
It's been a great ride.
Much love to you all. – Janet*

From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

"The proof is in the pudding." I have no idea what that means but when it comes to this year's Convention, the proof was certainly in the numbers. We had 451 attendees who purchased tickets or packages (compared to 375 last year) and 233 voting members (compared to 214 last year). Last year, seven

Youth Chapter Members attended...this year there were 18! Last year we had no international attendees, and this year Poppa Mac came down from Canada and Life Member Ruedi Schai came all the way from Switzerland.

This didn't happen by accident. Members worked hard promoting the Convention everywhere they went, whether it was a big gathering or a house concert. IWMA banners and tables were visible around the country. Let's keep this trend going to grow attendance and membership!

The Convention wouldn't work without volunteers, and we certainly had them this year. Thank you to Fred and Dianne Powell (first-time attendees) who took over coordination of the Mercantile this year with the help of the Colorado Chapter and the many others who volunteered. And thank you to Judi Anderson and her army of volunteers in the Western Boutique. They worked tirelessly from set-up Wednesday to tear-down on Sunday.

And, of course, Ed Hughes and Randy Fowler who are always at the registration desk. And when it closed, they just moved everything to the will-call table at the ballroom doors. Well done, guys!

Thank you to Syd Masters and Diana Burt for not only the sound and lighting but all the little "extras" that get thrown at them from the second they walk in the door. They made it all look so easy.

To all the performers who gave their time and talent to make this Convention a success, to the stage hosts (many of whom were recruited at the last minute), to the workshop presenters who spent hours putting together great information and entertaining presentations, and to all of you who attended...THANK YOU!

See you next year, November 12-16 at the Hotel Albuquerque!

Marsha



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Coffee AND CONVERSATION BY PETER BRUCE



In November's celebration of excellence in Albuquerque, the IWMA once again brought together an outstanding gathering of talent. It was a thrill to witness the work of those who have strived to truly shine at their art. The musicians and poets who performed at the showcases, Opry, workshops, Awards Show and jam sessions gave us their best. And I was honored to witness it. Live music gives us an experience that is so integral to the human condition. In the presence of performing artists, we, the audience, engage our hearts and minds in the story, song or poem as it unfolds. We are present in the moment, and as a bonus, get to relive what happened through the magic of memory. It's an absolutely sublime scenario. So thank you to all who performed. Also, recognition for the board, volunteers and behind-the-scenes folks who really make it all happen. (Marsha's awesome award; so cool!) For me, it was an enriching and educational week. There was a lot to learn and I took in as much as I could. I remember a phrase from a long time ago: Stop, Look, Listen. And listen we did! On that topic, listening, in my eyes, is becoming a lost art. Our attention is being robbed by so many visual, video and electronically driven methods and devices. It's imperative to slow down, maybe even stop. Then have a look around and

soak in your surroundings, or look at the person across the table from you. And, listen. To what somebody else has to say, to a new song you've never heard before. Listening to each other is as important as ever. I'd like to recognize some cross collaboration ideas that surfaced during the 2024 convention. One outfit that has members in common with IWMA is Folk Alliance International. For more info, www.folk.org. As always, there's the Western Writers of America or WWA: westernwriters.org. And the International Bluegrass Music Association or IBMA: ibma.org. I spoke with various individuals during my days at the Hotel Albuquerque who are actively involved in crossing and mixing genres. Others disagree with that concept. All I can say is, from classical to jazz, from rock to bluegrass, I love it all! Music is my life blood: the energy that fuels my existence. Live music still matters. We are all enriched by the shows and performances. That's why another wildly successful IWMA Convention and Awards was such a pleasure to attend. Thanks to everyone. And concerning coffee, the hotel did a great job. However, the best coffee experience to be found was across the street at the Sawmill at the little Mediterranean place with the exquisite Turkish coffee. \$5.75 per cup and worth every penny. 🐾

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Continued from page 2

I went to the doctor one day feeling fine and woke up the next day with a tube down my throat not knowing where I was. The doc had decided that I needed open heart surgery and that I needed it NOW! No debate or argument was even allowed. No time to research whom I might want to perform this surgery. When I woke up, I didn't even know if a surgeon performed the work on my heart or one of the cooks from the hospital kitchen. It's fortunate that I had been getting along pretty good with Theresa at the time, because she was the one making those decisions.

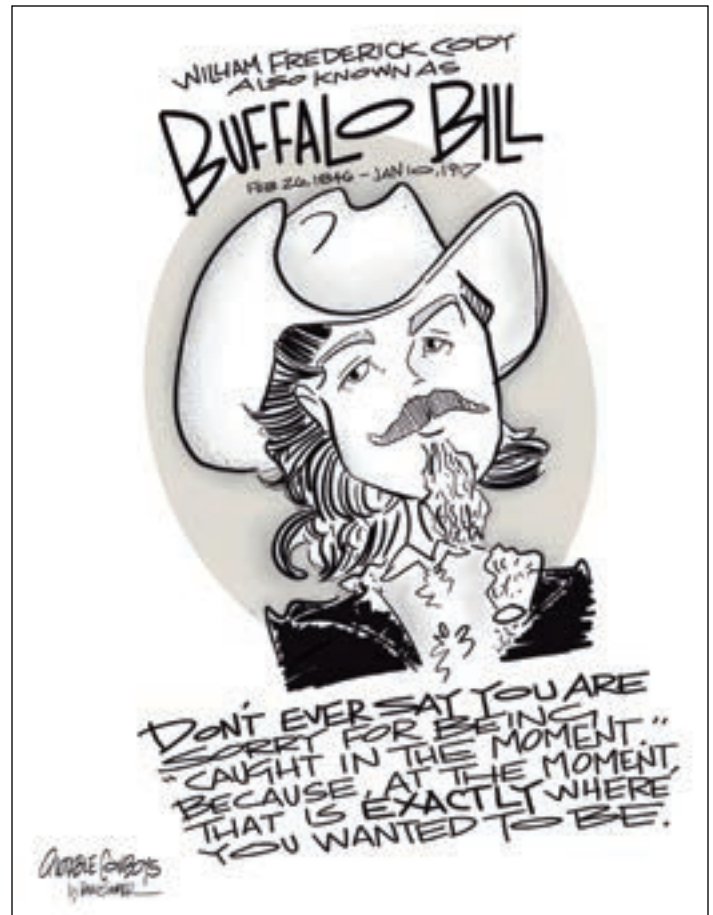
When I awoke, there were tubes everywhere. If they couldn't find a hole in my body in which to stick a tube, they just made a new one. The biggest tube was in my throat; it made it very difficult to breathe. I tried to reach and pull it out, but apparently, I had been mistaken for some notorious criminal because they had my hands tied to the bed. Someone in the ICU must have noticed that I was struggling because a nurse and some guy came in. I heard her dispassionately say, "Looks like he wants the tube out" to which he replied, "Just put him back to sleep." And just like that, I was gone again.

One thing they don't tell you when they release you to go home to recover is that you would be better off becoming a hardcore drug addict than to not take your pain pills every three hours. Me, not wanting to become hooked on said pills, waited WAY too long and ended up enjoying pain that would delight the most dedicated masochist. By not taking my pills when I should have, it felt like there was a miniature team of lilliputians inside my chest pulling me apart from the inside. After a day of this, I was promising Theresa she would never again have to do a household chore; I would do all of them for the rest of my life if she would quickly get my pills.

And the dang surgery messes with your emotions. I was recovering while watching the Winter Olympics, and every time a skater fell or a skier went off their track, I broke down racked with sobs. After all, they had worked so hard to get there! How could my wife sit there so cold-hearted, not shedding a single tear?

Well, I apologize for getting off-track here myself. Anyway, as I was saying (wasn't I?), rumor has it that this year's IWMA convention was something really special. I hope next year I get to experience it first-hand.

MARVIN O'DELL
President IWMA



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In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...Eight Western artists and professionals won Fair Play Country Music Media Awards from the Red Carpet Award Show in Europe: **Kristyn Harris, Carol Markstrom, Gary Allegretto, KC LaCourse, Carlos Washington, Rik Yonder Goodell, Patty Clayton, and Aarom Meador.** The nominees were from 38 countries and judged by international teams of industry professionals.

...**Annie Wilson** and her **Tallgrass Express String Band** just wrapped up a busy year. The group released *Out on the Tallgrass Prairie* – a double CD with 32 of Annie's original songs and the fourth album in her *Songs of the Flint Hills* series on that ranching region of Kansas. Along with a busy performance schedule, the band also celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a barbeque & concert at Pioneer Bluffs. Finally, Annie received awards for two songs, "Rusty, the Trusty Lead Steer" and "Working Flint Hills Cowboy," in the Walnut Valley Festival National Songwriting Contest – her 11th year of winning songs.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** has stayed busy the past quarter with her grand-girls and family life, Skyview Highschool Song Club students, teaching ukulele and developing a Hallelu-kulele Orchestra with church youth, performing another holiday season of *An Acoustic Christmas*, and working on a public relations program called "Building Bridges Over Abortion: Creating Conversations that Connect." Coming up, she has her series of "Women in Country Music" programs on tap in March, Women's History month, at the Babcock Theater in Billings (MT).

...In November, the Fair Play Country Music Media, based in Holland, announced that **Patty Clayton** was named the winner of the Red Carpet Award in Europe for her Folk Cover Recording of Paul Schoenlaub's haunting ballad "One Lone Man." FPCM Media writes about and celebrates independent artists and music-related professionals from all over the world.

...**Carol Markstrom** received the 2024 Best Music Video Award for "Jeffords' Secret" from the Wild Bunch Film Festival. The video's filmmaker, Michael Foster, received a

Best Director award. Carol also received a FairPlay Country Music Media Award for 2024 Best Musician from the Red Carpet Award Show in Europe. She recently released a new album titled *Seekers* - 12 original songs all on aspects of Native American history and culture. Co-produced and engineered by **Merel Bregante**, the album includes some western musicians and several native american artists. A new single, "Out Here in the Sticks," has also been released recently.

...After attending the IWMA convention for the first time **The Arizona Wildflowers** sent this note to the Spotlight: "We were greatly honored to be one of the nominees for the Liz Masterson Crescendo Award and loved seeing everyone in Albuquerque. We love the IWMA family and feel right at home here! In December we played Christmas concerts at various churches throughout Arizona. We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and we wish a Happy New Year to all."

...And after being inducted into the IWMA Western Music Hall of Fame, **Janet McBride** sent this note to the Spotlight: "I am trying to get a big THANK YOU to all my friends for the 'International Western Music Hall of Fame honor.' I am thrilled. It's hard to imagine how that sound I first heard at age 8 years old in 1942 would have led me to Cowboy and Western music even through today at now age 90. That music took over my life, and I spread 'yodel seeds' worldwide to every kid who wanted to yodel. THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

...**Red Steagall** has just released his autobiography published by Texas Tech University Press. You can check out how to order a copy by going online to www.redsteagall.com. Red will personally autograph the book for you.

...**E. Joe Brown** was part of three events recently: The 2024 San Angelo, Texas Cowboy Gathering, his book signing at the Fort Sumner, New Mexico library, and his book signing at Page One Books in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is now working with his publisher to complete revisions to his third novel in the *Kelly Can Saga* Series that will launch in 2025.

...**Peggy Malone** reports that the 9th Annual Western Slopes Cowboy Gathering was a great success in Grand Junction, Co this year. She also wants to thank all the western DJs who have been playing from her new CD that was released in 2024.

...*A Western Tale to Tell* is the title of a new CD released in November by **Marvin O'Dell**. Produced by **Dan McCorison**, the album contains 11 original songs written by Marvin and one co-written with Dan. There is also one duet by the two. This is Marvin's first solo studio recording since 2006.

...The 12th recording by Colorado's **Jon Chandler**, *Ghost Smoke*, was recently released by Denver-based Raven Records to great reviews. **Ernie Martinez** and Ghost Smoke producer **Jim Ratts** joined Jon in late November for an overflow CD release event in Lakewood, CO. Both will help Jon support the recording in shows throughout the winter and spring. Jon, Ernie, and six of their pickin' pals celebrated the 26th season of their holiday acoustic band, The Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers, with sold-out shows at the Lakewood Cultural Center and the iconic Swallow Hill Music venue.

...New singles from **Sarah Pierce**, **Joel Alden White**, and **Randy Palmer** will be coming soon, all produced by **Merel Bregante** out of Liberty Hill, TX.

...**John Lowell** was awarded the Montana Governor's Arts Award in a ceremony at the Montana State Capital in December. Given every two years, it is the highest honor that Montana bestows upon artists working in the literary, visual, or performing arts. John will also be performing at the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, TX February 20-22. After that John and his wife Joanne will be in Fredericksburg, TX for six weeks playing as much music as possible.

...Cowboy Poet **Tom Swearingen** and children's book author **Carla Swearingen** continue to fit travel into their schedules, this time fulfilling Tom's father's 95th birthday wish by taking him and his girlfriend to a Mismaloya, Mexico, resort for a week.

...**KG & The Ranger** want to thank everyone who made their daughter Angie feel so welcomed and appreciated at the IWMA convention this year. They write, "It was a joy to sing as a trio and introduce her to our Western Music 'family'. She has performed and recorded with us for many years, but this was her first IWMA convention. She is already talking about a return trip next year, and we truly hope this will be possible."

...**Clint Bradley** reports that he has had a "very busy year on the road with the 'Clint Bradley Band'. They have performed across the UK, Europe, and Scandinavia, playing at Country Festivals, Rock Festivals, "in fact every kind of festival really," introducing people to real western music and hopefully making the genre more visible in places you wouldn't expect to find it. Both of Clint's albums, *Riding After Midnight* and *Soul of the West*, are now on their third pressing, both on CD and vinyl. He has now begun pre-production on his next western album which has a working title of *Walk Softly on The Wind*.

...**Kacey and Jenna Thunborg** have released their second CD, *Confessions of a Ghost Town*. The album features 12 songs, including four originals, with a mix of new selections and older classics. **Mariam Funke** served as engineer, mix master and musical accompaniment on the project. In 2025 Kacey and Jenna are looking forward to participating in the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Wyoming Grand Encampment Cowboy Gathering.

...In October, **Austin Van** won Songwriter of the Year at the Josie Music Awards held at the Grand Ole Opry. This is Austin's second JMA. The first was in 2022 for Single of the Year.

...**Cowboy Joe & the Babcocks** have a new single that is doing well. It's called "Until That Time", and it entered the country/gospel charts in December.

...**The Timberline Cowboys** (J. Michael Mullins & Geary Parsons) are getting back into the studio to produce their new single "Watercolor Skies," which they debuted at the IWMA in November. Once it's released, they'll begin work on recording their fourth CD in as many years. 🐾

In the **CROSSHAIRS**



Dick Goodman

***The Western music “world”
is indebted to Dick Goodman,
Feb. 8, 1932 – Nov. 7, 2024.***

DICK GOODMAN

BY OJ SIKES

Dick Goodman, born in California in 1932, was a son of the West whose grandparents had travelled West by train and stagecoach to Utah in 1906. As a young child, Dick had only a passing interest in music. But his mother encouraged him to learn to play an instrument, and that opened the door to a world that would have a major influence on his life. He would become an important figure in the promotion and continuation of Western music.

At first, Dick wasn't enthusiastic about performing in public, but he had fun learning about vocal harmony in his high school chorus. As he was learning about (and singing) harmony, he was also learning to appreciate the importance of meaningful lyrics. When he first saw the Grand Canyon and the majestic Rocky Mountains, he was inspired to write Western songs that celebrated those wonders of the American West. His award-winning composition, “Call of the Canyon,” recorded by Rex Allen, Jr., was the IWMA's 2017 Song of the Year. It had been recorded first by the Reinsmen in 1992, with a vocal solo by Doc Denning, and it recalls Goodman's early memories of the Grand Canyon, as well as of other canyons visited over his



lifetime. He also loved the majestic Rocky Mountains, and his “Trail of the Murmuring Pines,” is a fan favorite, with beautiful imagery as well. He composed that one for Dixie, his bride-to-be. Their marriage lasted 69 years!

In 1948, while still in high school, Dick heard the Sons of the Pioneers’ 1946 recording of “Tumbling Tumbleweeds,” and that cemented his fascination with the Pioneers and their music, especially the compositions of Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer. In later years, he and Nolan became good friends. But before that happened, Dick Goodman pursued his musical dreams by participating in, and/or forming, several Western bands, including the Wagonmasters (the house band at Knotts Berry Farm) leading up to the Reinsmen and their work with Rex Allen, Rex Allen, Jr. and Don Edwards, in addition to their own classic performances of numerous Western songs.

From the late 1930s, Lloyd Perryman had arranged the music of the Sons of the Pioneers. Lloyd introduced stacked harmony to the group, something that really set them apart. Dick’s long-time friendship with Perryman in the 1950s-60s led, among other things, to a thorough understanding of that concept. In workshops during the IWMA’s early conventions, Dick was able to teach the concept to aspiring musicians, helping ensure the continuity of that special harmony “sound” in Western music.

Inspired by the Pioneers, Andy Parker & the Plainsmen and Foy Willing & the Riders of the Purple Sage, Dick formed a group in 1948, comprised of high

school buddies. They worked hard and became good enough to perform locally, moving to a regular gig at Knotts Berry Farm until graduation broke up the band in 1951. The breakup didn’t deter Dick Goodman! He was having entirely too much fun! So he recruited two other singers to form a trio, plus a young fiddler named Harvey Walker (who later became a charter member of the IWMA) and a couple of other musicians who continued to entertain visitors to Knott’s Berry Farm. The Korean War interrupted Dick’s musical activities

for a while, but afterwards, he was invited back to Knott’s Berry Farm to lead the Wagonmasters (Billy & Bobby Beeman, Rachel Cadwallader, Harvey Walker, Vern Jackson, Dee Woolem, Eldon Eklund, and soon Dave Bourne and Don Richardson).



Continued on page 12

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 11



In 1960, Dick left the music world for the business world, and Billy Beeman took over the Wagonmasters, but leaving music wasn't all that easy, and by 1963, he had formed the Reinsmen trio with Don Richardson and Jerry Compton. In 1967, Hi Busse asked Dick to go on tour with his group, The Frontiersmen & Joanie, and Rusty Richards, backing Ken "Festus" Curtis, Milburn "Doc" Stone and others in a series of "Gunsmoke" – themed personal appearances. During the tour, he developed a lasting friendship with Rusty Richards. Many years later, they and Bob Wagoner formed a group called "Rusty Richards & the American Cowboys." They performed at the first get-together in Las Vegas where the Western Music Assn. was formed.

In the 70's, Rex Allen hired the Reinsmen to back him on personal appearances. He was highly complimentary when he introduced them at the 1976 KLAC tribute to the Sons of the Pioneers on the occasion of the Pioneers' star being added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame. There may be online videos of the Reinsmen with Rex Allen on Nashville Now or

other appearances. After Doc Denning joined, the Bear Family label in Germany issued a DVD of the Reinsmen performing in an outdoor setting. The DVD included several guest stars, but the real gems among the video recordings are of the Reinsmen themselves: Dick Goodman, Don Richardson, Jerry Compton, Bob Wagoner and Doc Denning.

Unfortunately, the Reinsmen's "library" of recorded work is small, i.e. much of it was released on cassettes, not transferred to CD, and has gone out-of-print. The Audiophonic label transferred 35 of the group's tracks for a double CD which was issued in 2008, shortly before the label's owner passed away, so only a few copies were actually issued, but they are treasured by Reinsmen fans who were lucky enough to obtain them. In spite of these limitations, those of us who play Western music on the radio will continue to play the music of the Reinsmen for as long as we can. Personally, I have already programmed a tribute to Dick Goodman on KKRN.org, and I plan to program another Reinsmen tribute ASAP! The Western music "world" is indebted to Dick Goodman, Feb. 8, 1932 – Nov. 7, 2024. 🐾



RIDE EASY, PARD!

STORIES AND TALL TALES

BY VICTOR T. ANDERSON

RULES TAUGHT BY OUR CHILDHOOD HEROES

Well, here we are, the IWMA Awards have been presented, we spent time with old friends in Albuquerque at the convention, found new ones and the curtain has come down on another year. I like the idea that we try to exemplify what our childhood cowboy heroes taught us. Some of those heroes gave us some simple rules to live by.

ROY ROGERS

RANGE RIDERS CLUB RULES;

- Be neat and clean
- Be courteous and polite
- Always obey your parents
- Protect the weak and help them
- Be brave but never take chances
- Study hard and learn all you can
- Be kind to animals and take care of them
- Eat all your food and don't waste any
- Love God and go to Sunday School regular
- Always respect our flag and our country

GENE AUTRY'S COWBOY CODE THE COWBOY...

- must never shoot first, hit a smaller man or take unfair advantage
- must never go back on his word or a trust confided in him
- must always tell the truth
- must always be gentle with children, the elderly and animals
- must not advocate or possess racial or religious intolerant ideas
- must help people in distress
- must be a good worker
- must keep himself clean in thought, speech, action and personal habits
- must respect women, parents and his nations laws is a patriot.

RIDE EASY PARD.....Vic

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

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

Let's corral a bunch of 'Western Sightings!' During NBC's Olympics coverage, a thoroughly Western ad premiered for Salesforce AI. In it a stalwart Cowboy hero (Matthew McConaughey) foils a band of AI train robbers hellbent on stealing passengers' personal data! Y'know, that classic Western scene!! Then came a saloon version of the same idea with the baddies being blasted through the swinging doors. Yeehah!! More Western imagery appeared in TV ads for Sling, with cowboys on rocking horses (??) saying "we only want to pay for what we want" or something like that. Then there's a PayPal ad showing Will Ferrell out in the desert on a horse and holding a braying mule, apparently to show he can get his money from PayPal in tough coverage areas. I could demand equal time on that subject, but that's another story. Have you caught the ad with Sam Elliott telling us cowboys work hard and deserve to eat well? It's for Fritos!! In a solidly Western ad for Benchmade Knives cowboys are movin' fast and we imagine calves standing with their legs crossed. Yes, it's that time in the old corral! In another ad we learn a Nissan Rogue Rock Creek is needed to lead cattle into an appreciative cowboy's pen!! The single-panel "Bizarro" cartoon from 8-12-24 shows a cowboy-type singer seated with his acoustic guitar propped up against his chair as he consults with his note-taking analyst. He's asking her "Can you help me overcome depression except when I'm writing songs?" She's surely writing a prescription for an IWMA membership!! The series "Yellowstone" continues to be represented in product branding. There's Yellowstone Brand angus chili, mac & cheese, brisket, bacon, jerky, baked beans, coffee and more. Might cologne be next? "Yellowstogne??" Another notable Western sighting came on the final day of August, when CBS Saturday Morning elected to profile the venerable Cowtown Rodeo of Pilestown, New Jersey. Founded in 1929 and run since 1978 by Grant & Betsy Harris, the rodeo's summer season brings in a total attendance of around 4000!

In September columnist Charles Apple of Spokane, Washington's Spokesman-Review elected to reflect on "Bonanza!" His column "Further Review" appears in more than 200 papers. He tells us "it was the 65th anniversary of the show's debut on NBC, September 12, 1959. Most of my pages are based on an anniversary of some sort. I remember watching 'Bonanza' when I was a kid. I also did the 'Lone Ranger' TV show, which debuted on ABC on Sept. 15, 1949. So I was in Western Heaven there for a couple of weeks!"

Apple's syndicated profile of "Bonanza," entitled "Hangin' With The Cartwrights," touches on behind the scenes life and the resident cast breakdown by season. We learn Lorne Greene

remained nervous around horses, Dan Blocker was Bowie, Texas' biggest baby at 14 pounds and Blocker's 600 restaurant Bonanza Sirloin Pit chain was eventually bought out by the Canadian chain Ponderosa! And Apple mentions the cast members could sing. My Western Music mentor and IWMA Hall of Famer Hi Busse certainly had stories about that. Hi and his group the Frontiersmen & Joanie provided the musical accompaniment for all of the "Bonanza" and "Gunsmoke" casts' rodeo appearances. Hi recalled Greene was rough to deal with on the road and Michael Landon was particularly accommodating. On one occasion Landon elected to laud the work of Hi and the band, directing his thoughts to a stadium full of fans. He held up a copy of the Frontiersmen & Joanie's album that was for sale at the event, telling the crowd "this is their new one, it's incredible, you can't go home without a copy of it." Every album the band had brought for the tour was sold that night! Dozens of 'em! And remember, this wasn't a CD you could slip into a purse or pack. This was a 33-and-a-third RPM record people had to lug around!! The hold our cowboy heroes had on us is one aspect of Western Music history we cannot hope to convey to young folks coming aboard. Be they silver screen or small screen, those Western gods were our guides into an innocent fantasy world of Good vs. Evil with Good always winning. White hats vs. black hats, when ideological hats didn't come in other colors. Maybe our parents had no more understanding of our fascination with that time and place than we have with things that captivate young folks now. Maybe our love for it was partly based in our childish unawareness of what our parents were facing then. The media of the time placed us there. Where is media placing young people now? Many shudder to think. 🐾



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.



A DRY DAY

by Floyd Beard

*I was riding along one morning,
up northern "Arizony" way,
Weren't nothing but a sagebrush sea,
sun was bakin' down that day.
It sure enough was a dry one,
the heat was just the worst,
Not a drop of water anywhere,
and I had a powerful thirst.*

*I spies one ole' cow,
out in that sagebrush sea.
She sure 'nough was a tough one,
Corriente she looked to be.
She sure was a thin one,
just ribs 'n bone 'n hide.
When I stared at her rib cage,
I saw trees on the other side.*

*She was built just like a rail now,
had no front and not much rear,
Fattened on sage and sandstone,
'n' not much sage that was clear.*

*From her hooks to her pin bones,
was sure a steep ole' slope.
And to get a loop around her horns,
you'd sure need a long ole' rope.*

*I stared at her, she stared me,
then I begins to think,
This ole' Jessie's now my milk cow,
I'm gonna' get some milk to drink.
I built myself a big ole' loop,
her horns that loop did meet.
Flipped the twine o're her off hip,
over she went nice and neat.*

*I got the piggen' on her,
'n' tied 'er feet up snug.
Then I dug down in my cantle bag,
'and fetched my ole' tin mug.*

*She sure didn't have much for handles,
but she stripped out smooth as silk.
But I'll be doggone and if that ole cow
didn't give nothing but powdered milk!*



FLOYD BEARD and wife, Valerie, ranch in the canyons near Kim, Colorado where they run a cow/calf operation. Floyd who has a gift to put words together that build a vivid picture in the reader/listeners' minds has been writing and rhyming for over 40 years and is the 2016, 2017, 2021, and 2023, International Music Association's Male Poet of the Year. His most recent CD, "Horse Tales and Cow Trails" won the IWMA's 2021 Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year. For more information go to: www.floydbeardcowboy.com or email him at febeard@yahoo.com.

In Memoriam

RICHARD "DICK" GOODMAN (1932 – 2024)



Richard "Dick" passed away comfortably at his home in Sun City West, AZ on November 7th, 2024, with family around him. He was "92 years" of age.

Dick was born February 8th, 1932 in Long Beach, Ca. to Leo "Jerry" and Nellie Goodman. He was raised with his younger

brother, William "Bill" Goodman in Wilmington, Ca. along with many other family members. In 1950, Dick started the singing group "Singing Sons" with his brother and high school classmates.

In 1952 Dick was called to service in the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. After his discharge in 1954 he went to work at Knott's Berry Farm in Southern Ca. In 1955 he married Dixie Dell Stamper in Wilmington Ca. and had two sons, William, "Bill" and Robert "Bob". Dick was a loving husband and father.

Upon retirement in 1989 Dick and Dixie moved from Ca. to Sun City West, AZ. He is survived by his wife Dixie Goodman, oldest son, Bill Goodman and wife Barbara Goodman, his younger brother Bill Goodman and wife Vicki Goodman, nieces Cathy Corkhill, Karen Herrera and their families. Dick and Dixie Goodman were married 69 years. A "celebration of life" is to be held Feb. 8, 2025, at their home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a contribution be made to the "Wounded Warriors Foundation" or a charity of your choice. [Read more about Dick's life in CROSSHAIRS in this issue.]

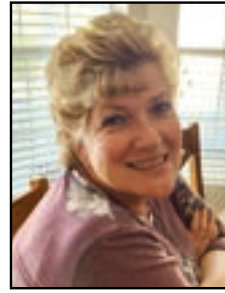
JIM BROOKS (1942 – 2024)



Jim Brooks, cowboy and IWMA member, worked on ranches across the West and in Canada and Mexico. An artist who wrote many books, he had his own fan club and wrote his own songs, produced CDs, and created a DVD on throwing horse loops. He worked in movies, produced

rodeos, participated in cutting-horse shows and cowboy schools. He broke and trained horses for riding and driving in the movies. Jim traveled west, working local and state fairs, music festivals and school assemblies, demonstrating roping and horse loops. He produced rodeo schools with rodeo champions for cowboys and cowgirls. He was always willing to help anyone wanting to learn the art of cowboying. He was a proud member of the Professional Cowboy Association and earned his Gold Card from it. Jim is survived by his wife Connie, his dog Jack Brooks, brother Samuel Brooks and numerous nieces and nephews.

CINDY LEARN (1958 – 2024)



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Cindy Learn, who went home to be with the Lord on October 20, 2024, at the age of 66 following a rare diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. She was surrounded by family and passed away peacefully at

home in Calimesa, California. Cindy Learn was born on May 17, 1958, in Alhambra, California, to Mona McKeon and Loman Luther Elliott. She was an IWMA Patron Member.

Cindy treasured her family. She was a devoted wife, a loving mom, and proud grandma and great grandma. Among the many cherished memories include the yearly family tradition of camping at Yosemite National Park, Cindy's delicious pot roast dinner with homemade gravy and pavlova dessert, time spent at the pool, and just her contagious smile and laughter in general. Cindy Learn was truly a beautiful woman inside and out and exuded numerous outstanding qualities to include a stellar work ethic. She worked many jobs and owned her own successful daycare business and later medical transcription business and officially retired in June 2024 from the Redlands Unified School District as a Data Control Clerk II. Throughout her life, Cindy Learn was known for her deep faith, kindness, and commitment to serving others. She was an active member of Bryant Street Baptist Church in Yucaipa, California, and shared the love of Christ with everyone around her. She was a mentor and volunteered as a leader for GriefShare and served on the worship team and at the monthly hymn sing at Bryant Street Baptist Church, always reflecting her faith in both words and actions.

Cindy is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, Charles Learn; Christine Learn Wetmore (daughter), Stephenie Seavey (daughter), Jacob Learn (son), and Daniel Learn (son); David Wetmore (grandson), Kimberly Wetmore (granddaughter), Sierra Castle (granddaughter), Jack Learn (grandson), Aiden Learn (grandson), and Brooklyn Learn (granddaughter); Joyce Wetmore (great-granddaughter) and Slater Wetmore (great-grandson); Loren Elliott (brother), David Elliott (brother), and Dianne Gonzalez (sister); and many other dear family members and friends. She is predeceased by her father, Loman Elliott, and her mother, Mona Elliott-Sweger. She will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know her.

A celebration of Cindy Learn's life was held on December 14, 2024. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Cindy Learn's memory to Bryant Street Baptist Church (13456 Bryant Street, Yucaipa, California 92399).

OLLIE REED, JR. (1948 – 2024)



Ollie Reed Jr - beloved brother, friend and reporter passed away at his home in Corrales on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at the age of 76. He is survived by younger siblings, his sister, Patricia Yost and brother, Rick Reed. He was born in Natchez,

Mississippi on July 5, 1948, to Ollie Reed Sr. and Mary Ann Reed as the oldest of three siblings. Ollie Jr. would spend time in Natchez, enjoying his grandfather's cattle farm where he would fish, ride horses out in the fields of Mississippi and read Western comic books at the dinner table.

As a child, Ollie Jr. knew he wanted to become a journalist and was known for his huge imagination and love of storytelling. After receiving his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Southern Mississippi and working towards a master's degree from top journalism school University of Missouri, Ollie Jr's career began at the Natchez Democrat in 1973, before he traveled West and began working at the Albuquerque Tribune in 1976, where he worked until the newsroom closed in 2008. During his time, Ollie Jr. would cover everything from sports, arts, courts and more. Ollie Jr. would take a break from newspapers until 2017, where he would work at the Albuquerque Journal. He would spend his remaining time diligently following the trials and tribulations of New Mexicans, providing mentorship to other reporters and passionately sharing stories.

Ollie Jr. would join the Western Writers of America group in 2008 and would later be recognized with the Homestead Honoree Award for his support for the organization. Ollie Jr. would receive other awards like 1st place at the New Mexico Press Association for feature writing, 2nd place in the regional Top of the Rockies journalism contest for arts and entertainment features and 3rd in health features.

In 2014, Ollie Jr. would publish "Max Evans & a Few Friends", a book following a Western fiction writer through his life, with two others. He was involved with the International Music Association and was a contributing writer/book reviewer for the *Western Way* magazine for a number of years.

A Rosary was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at San Ysidro Catholic Church Corrales, NM.

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Chapter Update

BLACK HILLS & BEYOND CHAPTER **Brad Exton – President** **ramblinrangers@yahoo.com**

Winter is settling in here in the north country but that doesn't mean that music and poetry activities have stopped. Now that our members are back from a very successful Convention in ABQ, they've settled in to a busy schedule of entertainment. Rik "Yonder" Goodell recently received the Will Rogers Gold Medallion Award for recorded Cowboy Poetry. His producer, Aaron Meador also received the same award for producing the CD, "Provin' Up Wise". After that, he attended and performed at Red Stegall's Cowboy Gathering in Forth Worth. And to top it off, his new CD, "Cowboyin' With God" was released in time for the Christmas holiday. Paul Larson also attended and performed at Red Stegall's Cowboy Gathering in addition to all of his entertainment activities around the Black Hills, which have included two Cowboy Christmas shows, headlining at Chute Roosters, and being involved with a songwriting workshop in Rapid City. Sherl Cederburg has been busy performing at various programs such as the Woman's Gala, Christmas programs, the annual Historical Conference, and the library in Rapid City. She will be joined there by Chapter member, Pegie Douglas. In March, she will headline at Chute Roosters in Hill City. John Lowell is busy filling up 2025 with shows, camps, and festivals. He and wife Joanne will play two shows at the Key West Theatre in January. February finds him at the Lone Star Cowboy Gathering. Later in the year he will

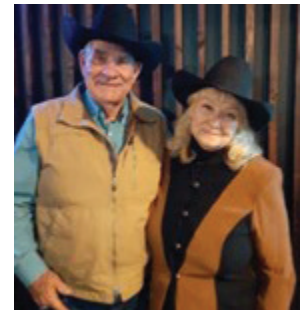
be teaching guitar at the Montana Fiddle Camp and songwriting at the Targhee Music Camp. Somewhere in his busy schedule he'll be touring/playing in England and Germany too. The Ramblin' Rangers headed south for their winter gigs in southern NM. These include shows in Deming, Columbus, Silver City, Las Cruces and a few in southern AZ. Upon leaving in the spring they will travel to Texas to play at the Waxahatchie Cowboy Gathering and to perform a house concert at Jean and Gary Prescott's place. We'd like to wish all of you a safe and blessed New Year. Hope to see you down the trail.

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

Howdy from the CA Chapter! CA is bracing for another *frigid* Winter! Thanksgiving Day, it was 75 degrees on Santa Monica Beach. Northern CA has been hit with several winter storms, however and empathizes with the rest of the country. North and South CA members, including new President ScottT, Yvonne and Ray Ryan, Cisco Jim, Keith O'Hara, Ron Christopher, Dana Duplan lauded the great times in Albuquerque. Scott has officially joined the international Board as an intern. We are all wishing Ron Christopher a speedy recovery from his accident on his way home. We also mourn the passing of Michael Siwala who with his wife, Nancy, were longtime supporters of the IWMA. He will be missed. Our Chapter's "home base," the Wells Fargo Theatre at the Autry Museum will undergo extensive remodeling throughout 2025. We thus will treasure our Cowboy Christmas Show set for December 15, but we have already scheduled an April 13 show at the Main Theatre in Newhall as part of the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival

and an April 26 show at Vasquez Rocks State Park. Last August the Vasquez show drew over 400. ScottT and yours truly with Earnie Neagle will be spreading Christmas cheer at the annual Long Beach Mounted Police Christmas Party. We expect several shows at the Autry in 2025 and hope to renew our regular schedule in 2026.

COLORADO CHAPTER **President: Geary Parsons** **gearyparsons@outlook.com**



Lindy and Eldon Simmons Grand Marshals at the 2024 Cowboy Parade.

As fall fades and winter begins to settle in for 2024-25, our chapter remains as active as ever. The Durango Cowboy Gathering, held during the first weekend of October, kicked off the season with an impressive all-star lineup of entertainment. The 2024 Cowboy Parade honored Lindy and Eldon Simmons as Grand Marshals. Sherl Cederburg and Lindy Simmons took part in the Cowboy and Creator presentation at the Florida Mesa Church during the gathering. In early November, I attended the West Slope Cowboy Gathering, which featured excellent poetry and music. Terry Nash and Peggy Malone truly know how to host a top-notch event. The 2024 IWMA Convention was a blast for me, at least until I got sick. Unfortunately, I had to miss the awards ceremony



Lindy Simmons at the Cowboy and Creator presentation.



Sherl Cederburg at the Cowboy and Creator presentation.

on Saturday night and was unable to participate in the Team Penning contest—apologies, Lindy. This year's Colorado winners included Mike Mullins for Working Cowboy Song of the Year, a well-deserved honor for the Timberline Cowboys, Floyd Beard for the Poetry Contest, Patty Clayton for Female Performer of the Year, and Gary McMahan, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Timberline Cowboys also hosted a very successful Colorado Friday night circle. We're excited to welcome Diana Raven as our new Colorado Treasurer and Valerie Beard as Secretary. A special thank you goes out to Suzie Knight for her dedicated service, handling both the Secretary and Treasurer roles for the past few years.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

We were well represented at the convention in Albuquerque with several member nominees, award winners, performers, and workshop presenters. The chapter was pleased to sponsor the Liz Masterson Crescendo Award recognizing talented young performers. Our annual meeting

Continued on page 31



PART TWO

By LeeLee Robert

Congratulations! You are reading the second part of the article on getting A ROUND TUIT – getting around to the idea of taking care of something that is going to make you proud to shake the hand of your future self; and to celebrate and leave a legacy for the things that are important to you.

Planning for the future and creating the legacy you wish to leave is one of the most effective ways to ensure a lasting impact. Making a gift can guarantee that your legacy endures. Your gift may be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all other provisions are specified. In as little as one sentence, you can complete your gift. Our federal tax ID number is 74-2533412.

Below is suggested language to use when drafting your gift. As stated in the previous article, you will want your legal advisor to supervise this process:

SAMPLE LANGUAGE for an unrestricted gift that allows the IWMA to determine how to use the funds based on the most pressing needs, use the following language:

"I give to the International Western Music Association (IWMA), a nonprofit corporation currently located at P.O. Box 648 Coppell, TX 75019, or its successor thereto, _____ (**written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property**) for its unrestricted charitable use and purpose."

SAMPLE LANGUAGE to designate your provision for a particular purpose:

"I give to the International Western Music Association (IWMA), a nonprofit corporation currently located at P.O. Box 648 Coppell, TX 75019, or its successor thereto, _____ (written amount or percentage of the estate or description). This gift should be used for (**state purpose**) if and so long as the IWMA determines that the need exists. If the IWMA shall determine at the outset or at a later time that the need does not exist, or no longer exists, or for some reason it is not possible (or prudent) to administer my gift as originally intended, then the IWMA may, in its discretion, direct the use of my gift for a purpose related as closely as possible to that stated above."

If you have already made a gift to the IWMA in your will or living trust please let us know by contacting Marsha Short at (505) 563-0673. We would like to thank you and welcome you into the IWMA Legacy Circle. We can keep your name anonymous if you prefer. We look forward to helping you get "A ROUND TUIT" and shaking hands with your proud future self. 🐾

A LITTLE BIT of HISTORY

By Johnny D. Boggs

BILLY THE KID

*I'll tell you the story of Billy the Kid,
And I'll tell of the things that
this young outlaw did*

What Woody Guthrie – and everyone else who has written about New Mexico's favorite outlaw – couldn't tell us with all certainty is where Billy was born.

It's fairly easy to track down most of Billy's movements after he turned up in Lincoln County, New Mexico Territory, in the 1870s and to his death by Pat Garrett (unless you buy into conspiracy theories) in Pete Maxwell's bedroom in Fort Sumner on July 14, 1881. But his birthplace? That's a different story.

Most historians guess that he was born in New York City, probably around 1859. We know his mother was a widower named Catherine McCarty, because that's what she told Indianapolis City Directory folks in 1868. But some say Billy was a Hoosier.

On the other hand, Billy told a census taker in Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, in June 1880 that he was born in Missouri, that his parents were native Missourians, and that he was 25 years old. As the late Jon Tuska wrote in *Billy the Kid: His Life and Legend*: "Except for those enamored of his legend, there does not seem to have been any credible reason for him to have lied about either his place of birth or his age."

But Billy lied to census taker Lorenzo Labate because he gave his name as Wm Bonny. (It was Antrim, after his widowed mother remarried; he'd even called himself Kid Antrim for a while). Or Labate goofed. Or it wasn't Billy who talked to Labate. Besides, some of my answers to census questions have been best guesses.

Billy gave his occupation as "work in cattle." Yeah, often not his cattle. But wouldn't he have picked a safer alias, since William Bonny/Bonney was wanted



The one documented photo of Billy the Kid, a tintype taken in Fort Sumner, New Mexico Territory, in 1880.

for various crimes, including the murder of Sheriff William Brady during the Lincoln County War?

Billy told reporters that he was born in New York City, and Garrett and ghostwriter Ash Upson used that in the first Billy bio, *The Authentic Life of Billy, the Kid, the Noted Desperado of the Southwest, Whose Deeds of Daring and Blood Made His Name a Terror in New Mexico, Arizona and Northern Mexico* (1882). Since then, most historians have picked the Big Apple over Indiana ... Ohio ... Missouri ... Kansas ... New Mexico.

The most recent Billy Birthplace is Utica, New York. Researchers Susan Stevenson and Gary Jones found one Catherine McCarty, a 30-year-old servant, in the 1860 census. Catherine gave her birthplace as Ireland. Some Bonneys were living nearby, as was a one-year-old boy named William McCarty.

The McCartys wound up in Anderson, Indiana, in mid-1868. By 1870, they were in Kansas. Catherine and sons Billy and Joseph likely followed William Antrim to Denver and then to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she married Antrim in the First Presbyterian Church on March 1, 1873. After that, Billy's path is fairly easy to follow.

Oh, yeah, in 1950, Audie Murphy played Billy the Kid in a movie called *The Kid from Texas*. But, so far, only Hollywood has put Billy's birthplace in Texas. 🐾



JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Billy the Kid was buried in Fort Sumner with his companions Tom Folliard (commonly misnamed O'Folliard) and Charlie Bowdre.



JOHNNY D. BOGGS

The Lincoln County (New Mexico) Courthouse, where Billy the Kid made his escape while awaiting execution for the murder of Lincoln County Sheriff William Brady.



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

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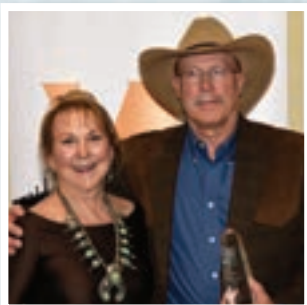
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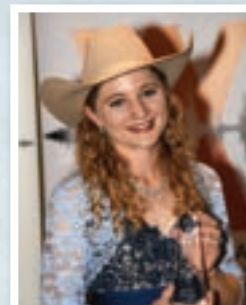
IWMA 2024 MUSIC AWARDS



WESTERN ALBUM OF THE YEAR
Snow on the Wineglass
AND SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR
John Lowell with
Presenter LeeLee Robert



**WESTERN SWING ALBUM
OF THE YEAR**
Gotta Move
Hot Texas Swing Band



ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
Kristyn Harris



**MALE PERFORMER
OF THE YEAR**
Syd Masters



**FEMALE PERFORMER
OF THE YEAR**
Patty Clayton



SONG OF THE YEAR
Ian and Charlie
Written by Darrell Arnold
& Tom Hiatt (Not Pictured)



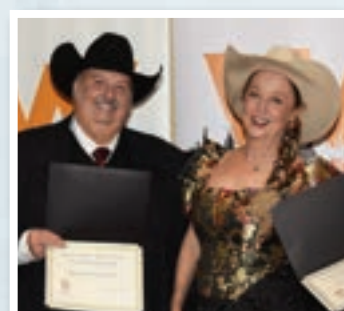
**INSTRUMENTALIST
OF THE YEAR**
Hailey Sandoz



GROUP OF THE YEAR
3 Trails West
Leo Eilts, Jim Winters, Roger Eilts



WORKING COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR
Drivin' This Herd to the Rail
Written by J. Michael Mullins with
Presenters Theresa O'Dell and Mary Kay Holt



HARMONY CONTEST AWARD
Miss Devon & The Outlaw

IWMA 2024 POETRY AWARDS



MALE POET OF THE YEAR
Mark Munzert



**FEMALE POET OF THE YEAR AND
COWBOY POETRY ALBUM
OF THE YEAR**
Real Hands & Treasured Friends
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POETRY CONTEST
Floyd Beard



COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR
Into the West
Poppa Mac & Doug Monson (*Not Pictured*)
with Presenter Mark Munzert

IWMA 2024 SPECIAL RECOGNITION



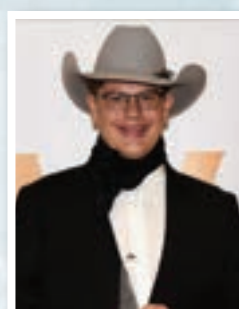
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES
Janet McBride &
Gary McMahan (*Not pictured*)
with Presenter Rick Huff



BILL WILEY AWARD
Phil Willig with
Presenter Brad Exton



SONGWRITING CONTEST
AWARD-WINNING SONG – FIRST PLACE
Mary Kaye Holt, Tecia McKenna,
Micki Fuhrman and Myrna Lewis (*Not Pictured*)
with Presenter Aspen Black



**LIZ MASTERSON
CRESCENDO AWARD**
Bodhi Linde



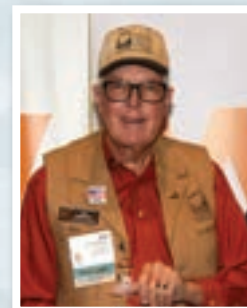
**CURLY MUSGRAVE
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It's a Crazy Thing
Randy Palmer & Tom Swearingen



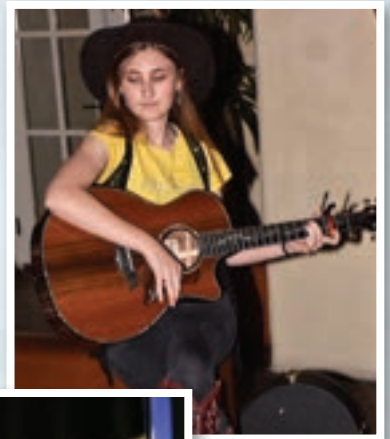
RADIO DJ/PROGRAM OF THE YEAR
Keepers of the West
Doug Figgs & Reese Janca (*Not Pictured*)
with Presenters Allen & Jill Kirkham



PIONEER TRAIL AWARD
Jim Buchanan

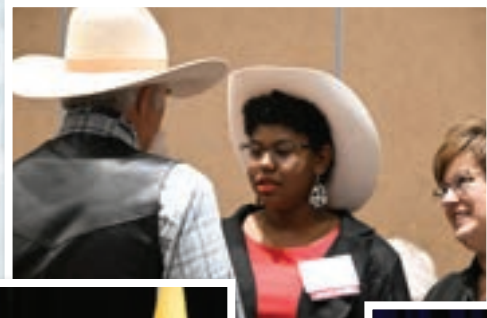
WEDNESDAY

The Opening Day of IWMA2024 was when the excitement began. Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town was welcoming. Seeing old and new faces, the Opening Day lunch featuring an interview with Washtub Jerry conducted by Tom Swearingen, and showcases combined to create a great beginning that culminated with the Annual Swing Dance with Syd Masters and the Swing Riders followed by After Hours jamming.



THURSDAY

Let the music and poetry continue! Showcases and workshops in the morning and afternoon, the always anticipated Benefit Dinner in the evening featuring the Kristyn Harris Band, and After Hours jamming into the night. This day is the best!



FRIDAY

Oh, no! We are half way through the event! That can't be. But still the music and poetry go on, workshops continue and the fun of the Friday Night Opry brings another day to a close. But wait...there is still jamming and mingling, eating and merriment into the night.



SATURDAY

Definitely a highlight – The Veterans Tribute Breakfast that takes place each year. The love and patriotism for our country exhibited by the attendees and performers epitomizes the heart of the organization. Even our international guests feel our pride as in their hearts they celebrate their love for their native countries. In God's eyes, we are one. After the emotion of the breakfast performances, everyone moves to another day filled with music and poetry as excitement builds for the 2024 AWARDS SHOW. Awardees were honored; but every finalist is to be congratulated.



SUNDAY

The Sunday morning Gospel Concert brings the convention to a close. The inspirational music and poetry energizes even the weariest of performers and fans. It's been a long week; it's been a great week; it's been a record-setting week for the organization; it's been IWMA2024!

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
AGAIN NEXT YEAR.**



Chapter Update

Continued from page 19



Venessa Carpenter

and concert featured Duane Nelson, Sam Mattise, Barbara Nelson, Venessa Carpenter, Rik "Yonder" Goodell, Larry Wilder, and Kerry Grombacher, with Tom Swearingen as MC. Officers reelected for 2025 are Tom Swearingen, President, John Seger, VP, Nels Nelson, Treasurer, and Carla Swearingen, Secretary. Board members at large continuing or re-elected are Ed Wahl, Ned Bodie, and Duane Nelson. Singer



Tom Swearingen introducing poetry contest winners Sydney Pierce, Erin Grace Grinwis, and Thomas Fitzgerald

songwriter Venessa Carpenter (one of our past Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Contest winners) was elected to the board as well. Speaking of the contest, our 2024 winners are Erin Grace Grinwis (grade school), Thomas Fitzgerald (middle school), and Sydney Pierce (high school). Each recited their winning poems at our annual concert and received cash and trophy buckle prizes, as well as membership in the IWMA. Sydney also shared her fiddle skills, taking the stage with brother and friend. In its fifth year, our 2025 youth



Erin Grace and brother John Emmett Grinwis sharing original poem



Sydney Pierce joined by brother and Scheeli Collins

cowboy poetry contest is now taking entries online at iwmacolumbia.org. Plans continue to be made for various regional chapter concerts.

Continued on page 40

COWTOWN OPRY congratulates
Janet McBride
as a new member of the IWMA Hall of Fame!



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Cowtown Opry performs Sunday afternoons on the grounds of the Exchange Building in the Fort Worth Stockyards
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A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

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

Western Music Around the Globe

The first time I travelled to Latin America, a dozen years after the last singing cowboy movie was made, I was surprised to learn that lots of folks there not only knew who Roy, Gene and Rex were; they had favorites, as well. More surprising still was the availability of their comic books on newsstands – in Spanish, of course. That interest continued for decades, long after the English language editions of those comics had disappeared from newsstands in the US.



A few years ago, I was talking with Bob Wagoner and he mentioned that one of my “Western Music Time” radio listeners in Japan had ordered copies of ALL of Bob’s CDs! I had no idea that I had listeners in Japan! But that being said, the show is carried as a regular feature on New Zealand Country Radio, and I know I have regular listeners in Brazil, Canada, Spain, Ireland, France,



England, Germany and elsewhere. About 20 years ago, when the show was still new, I was doing a consultancy in Papua New Guinea. As I was closing down the computer for the day in the office there, I thought it might be fun to check to see if the show really was getting out as far as I’d been told (and I couldn’t get much farther away from home than Papua, New Guinea). So, I went online, and the show came through “loud and clear.”

At one point, early on, I received an email message from a listener in the UK who was an artist with the BBC in London. He attached a caricature he had drawn from a photo he had seen somewhere – perhaps in the *Western Way* – with a caption based on the wording I use to introduce each show. He gave me permission to use it, and I’ve done so ever since.

Unfortunately, none of the outlets for my show make it easy for listeners to

communicate with me, now. Otherwise, I’m sure I’d have plenty of stories to share with you. In the first few years, the show’s only outlet was online, and the station/website owner made sure it was easy for listeners to get messages to DJs. I really appreciated that feature!

In the early years I got messages from “wranglers in the bunkhouse” who were sitting around the boss’s computer after hours, listening to the show. Truck drivers would write to tell me they had rigged-up a way to tune-in on their long hauls, and I even had a group of listeners during the Iraq war made-up of older air force pilots who flew reconnaissance missions while based in the Middle East. They had my show playing on the loud-speaker system on their base. The leader told me (via email) that some of the guys had painted Western images on their planes and called themselves the “Ghost Riders in the Sky.” He said once he thought they were going to get into trouble when the top brass came around for inspection and looked into the showers while the show was playing over the loudspeaker system there, but there were no complaints from the brass. These particular pilots were a little older than most of the regular troops and they knew the music, so I guess it was a morale builder.

So maybe those of us who play or just enjoy listening to Western music may feel like we occupy a small niche, but it’s becoming increasingly obvious that it covers a whole lot of territory!

CARL T. SPRAGUE

"The Original Singing Cowboy"

BACMCDD729



I don't know who the "original singing cowboy" was, but I reckon Carl T. Sprague,

with his first recording session dating back to 1925, deserves the title as much as anyone. The most important record coming out of Sprague's 1925 session was "When the Work's All Done This Fall." It sold a huge number of copies (nearly a million, by some accounts - an astronomical figure for the times), and put Sprague on the map. That recording is among the 24 included on this new BACM disc. And there are 23 others, all from the 1920s, so the "sound" is decidedly "rustic".

Sprague learned cowboy songs from early cowboys, as a boy, while sitting around campfires at night on the prairie. The songs had been handed down from working cowboys who had sung them for their own amusement for years. He is credited with composing many of the songs on this disc, and he may well have composed a few. But largely, they were collected by historian John Lomax and by Sprague, himself, with no information as to the original composer. In this connection, researchers may want to look at one entry, in particular, that attributes "Rounded Up in Glory" to Lomax and Sprague. But Lomax was a collector who learned cowboy songs by listening to (and actually recording) working cowboys singing the songs they had learned from each other, for generations. I've always seen it attributed to Oscar J. Fox, Tex Ritter's mentor, together with Lomax. It seems likely that

Lomax heard the song by a campfire and shared it with both Fox and Sprague, each of whom made minor modifications in the original.

At any rate, if you are "into" early cowboy music and you don't already have a good Carl T. Sprague collection, you may be interested in this new release. You can order copies of the CD and you can hear clips from all of the tracks on the BACM website: country-music-archive.com/



Smoke Along the Track

BACMCDD727



This collection of 28 vintage tracks includes 6 by Western swing bands, 5 of which

were recorded in the 1930s. Others are country music entries from fiddler Benny Martin ("Midnight Flyer" 1951), Jimmie Davis ("When the Train Comes Rollin' In" '52), a couple from the early '30s by Uncle Dave Macon & Sam McGee and a

number of others from the genre. But those of greatest interest to followers of Western music will be the 6 swing tunes.

These tracks include "Brownie Special" by Milton Brown and his Musical Brownies ('35), "I'm Bound to Ride" by "Fiddlin'" Arthur Smith's Trio (this one's more country than Western but you may remember Smith from Jimmy Wakely's movies), "Raggin' the Rails (Wreck of the Old '97 & Casey Jones)" by the Swift Jewel Cowboys ('37), the rarely heard "I'm Gonna Hop Off the Train" by Bill Boyd & his Cowboy Ramblers ('34), the 1947 recording of "Freight Train Boogie" by Johnny Tyler's Riders of the Rio Grande, and Cliff Brunner's Texas Wanderers' 1937 Decca recording of "Dream Train."

There's also a country song that may be of special interest, because 1) it was composed by Tex Atchison, 2) it was recorded for the Columbia label by Western Music Hall of Fame member Johnny Bond, and 3) it was unissued. The title is "The Son of Casey Jones."

You can order copies of the CD and you can hear clips from all of the tracks on the BACM website: country-music-archive.com/ 🐾

Plan to Attend the 15th Annual

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Susy Boggess Bar D Whanglers Paul Overstreet

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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.

THE ARIZONA WILDFLOWERS

"A Little Bit Country"



Fine, tight trio harmony of the "talented sibling" variety and exceptional playing are

hallmarks of this young group from guess-what-state!

In the Dietrich sisters we have the strong feeling we are witnessing the emergence of another Nickel Creek, the Braun Brothers (originally "Muzzie Braun & The Boys") or maybe one or more Kacey Musgraves...all IWMA alums! Secular picks from this collection include originals "Small Town Girls," the novelty "Tough" and "A Good Man" (done in tribute to their granddad) along with covers "Red River Valley" and the instrumental showpieces "Panhandle Rag" and "Washington County." The remaining four tracks are religious which otherwise might exempt the CD from my review, but talent and skill of this level really can't be pushed to the side.

By instrument, the Arizona Wildflowers are Ranelle Dietrich (vocals/mandolin/fiddle), Brie Dietrich (vocals/guitar) and

Aspen Dietrich (vocals/fiddle) and producer Darin Aldrich rounded out the effect (guitar/bass/mandolin/banjo). Ten tracks total, recommended.



MIKE BOOTH

"Lonesome Cowboy"



The title track of Mike Booth's "Lonesome Cowboy" fronts a cluster of otherwise

classic Western tracks. Some of the most popular, most frequently recorded songs in the catalog are represented.

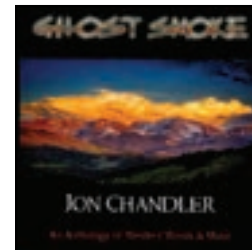
Although the CD jacket contains no crediting, the song "Lonesome Cowboy" may be an original. At least I don't recall encountering it before. The (possibly reissued?) tracks feature strong, lusty vocals from Booth augmented by big production values and thoughtful arrangements. Some of the offerings are "Cool Water," "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," "Twilight On The Trail," "Ghostriders," "Big Iron," "Streets Of Laredo"...you know, the classic group. For the most part, if you like the old song, you'll likely like Booth's take on it.

The effect of a couple of tracks nearer the end of the album suggests they may have been recorded at another time. Some minor points: The name of the town in "Big Iron" is altered for whatever reason and, at two different points in the proceedings, Booth uses the dreaded "doggies" pronunciation. Be that as it may, we'll still highly recommend it. Fourteen tracks total.



JON CHANDLER

"Ghost Smoke"



Most of the tracks on this new release are ghosts from previous albums, but make no mistake Jon

Chandler's "ghosts" are "smokin'" indeed!!

The re-releases are nice revisits that can serve as excellent introductions to Chandler if there could possibly be avid Western Music fans who are unaware of one of the foremost practitioners of the genre!

This is one of those recorded experiences that lets you travel...deeply...into its subjects. Chandler has chosen carefully from seven

of his previous collections and presents us with an album of crème de la crème winners. Among the new ones "El Poso Creek" snaps along joyfully. "Never" contains a line that really resonates: "I never met my heroes, it's probably for the best. I don't handle disappointment well." But he got to know the man they should have met (a renowned ferrier). "On Peg Leg's Trail" shows saga songs can be frisky too! And "Song For Julia" is a beautiful tribute to his Irish great grandmother's life journey into Nebraska. Intelligently plied moments of narration blended with song, all richly arranged and performed to perfection.

"Ghost Smoke" reminds us there is an astonishing body of work from Jon Chandler. Very highly recommended, nineteen tracks total.



RON CHRISTOPHER

"Dust Of Los Angeles"



Ron Christopher's new release is a nicely arranged, well-produced collection

of reflections. Whether those are resignations or regrets, the sense is what is just is.

The Dan McCorrison-created title track "Dust Of Los Angeles" is LA literally from start to finish, with a note on where to find the last faint heartbeat of the West there (it's not Rodeo Drive). In the Christopher original "He Always Rode For The Brand" the old working cowboy, despite holding a degree, achieved the full degree of personal satisfaction in freedom. "Los Diablos Tejanos" is how the Texas Rangers were viewed by their adversaries. Christopher's

Pony Express saga song "Billy Tate" profiles a young Ruby Mountain Trail rider cut down too early. Mag Mawhinney's words set to Christopher's music has its protagonist nearing the end but doing it "On A Fast Horse." And the complex plotline of Richard Elloyan's "Letter To Ramona" has its singer writing the final note to his pregnant wife (who begged him to not ride that night) as he lies dying from the bullet he was always destined to take.

Some non-Western tracks include "All About The Song" (when "Country" meant that), a pandemic song "The Whole World Cried" and one about an old rocker whose rock-around-the-clock stopped ("Forever 1956"). Recommended, but you may want to pop a happy pill! Fourteen tracks total.



COWBOY JAZZ

"Folkways"



To be precise, this may be more of a review of Tom Swearingen than it is any serious

analysis of the performance of Cowboy Jazz. In the past, various groups have used Western Music or Cowboy content as a some manner of lynch pin for their Jazz journeys. Frankly we don't specifically recall Country ever having had that honor. It's usually an interesting artistic spin that results, and it is in this case.

Cowboy Poet Tom Swearingen reports he was contacted by this group to obtain permission to use two of his verses as part of their vision. Swearingen's resonant delivery graces the tracks "The Dying Cowboy" (including

new verses of his own) and "Reflection." In the case of the former, it's an interpretive Jazz variation on "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie" that showcases Swearingen's work. Not sure on the latter, musically at least, but it's framed around the original poem of the same name. The other adaptations are from Folk sources, such as "Shortnin' Bread," "Pretty Peggy O" and "Miss Monaghan's Reel." An interesting and adventurous effort. Thirteen tracks.



BODHI LINDE

"Outlaw Bodhi Linde"



He writes, he records, he plays nearly every instrument you can name, he is (as of

this writing) 15 years old. Bodhi Linde (pronounced "lindee," by the way) made smoke come out of the ears of many veteran guitar pickers at the IWMA 2024 meet in Albuquerque!

This nice little collection of his efforts to-date showcases a bit of where he's 'at' developmentally speaking. He plays all instruments heard on it, including cello! One of the songs was created in tribute to the much awarded Doug Figgs, a musical inspiration of Bodhi's. Its title "Ferrier Figgs" makes the professional horse shoer grin sheepishly.

As Bodhi's singing chops sharpen, it would be interesting to see what sort of product would come from a production collaboration with the likes of

Continued on page 36

RICK HUFF'S REVIEWS

Continued from page 35

an Aarom Meador, a Merel Bregante or a Don Richmond. Meanwhile, some early picks we'll site are "Boomtown," "I-25 Cattle Drive," "Limestone Ridge" and "Dancing." We would have included "Mountains Are Calling My Name" in the picks except for the vocal mix being too low. Thirteen tracks total.



CAROL MARKSTROM

"Seekers"



Arizona's Carol Markstrom has long championed the vision and wisdom inherent in

the other half of the Western story. Namely, histories from and stories inspired by the Indigenous people of North America.

Elements of this phenomenal project were recorded across the years 2012 through 2024. A number of the participants are no longer with us. As you will see when reading the fully annotated album jacket, each song has a specific reason for being. I can assure you every song presented is a "pick," but among them special acknowledgment needs to go to the title track "Seekers," "Modoc Up," Jeffords' Secret" and "Roger Dale." The assembled collection of new and previously released material was sensitively produced by Markstrom and the amazing Merel Bregante.

To everyone's credit, there is no attempt made to reproduce the "Indian" effect with non-native

players. The traditional elements and words are rendered by those who should handle the tasks, and then it's all brought forth into new creations. With Markstrom's appropriately impassioned delivery, the ultimate effect is astonishing and important. And, need I say, we'll very highly recommend it to you. Twelve tracks total.



MARVIN O'DELL

"A Western Tale To Tell"



The first release from Marvin O'Dell in more than a decade is a most welcome arrival. This

often-covered artist has delivered gritty goodies in it I suspect we will hear from other singers' mouths as well. Clarification for the record: Marvin O'Dell is one helluva songsmith!

The saga songs offered here are remarkable, quite original in their plot lines. The rendering of them is all-acoustic, nicely produced by Dan McCorison, who also provided rhythm guitar backing and one duet (the pick track "Something Warm and Soft"). Other players are Scott Neubert (lead guitar/dobro/steel/mandolin/background vocals), Rob Price (upright bass) and Eamon McLoughlin (fiddle). Other picks include "Saddle Off The Wall," the grim yet spritely "I Don't Think I Want To Know The Rest," a McCorison co-write "Winds Of Texas," "The Rain Just Keeps On Comin,'" the novelty "I Can't Come Home To You Maria" and "The Drifter."

Twelve tracks, very highly recommended.

GEORGE RAY RUSSELL

"Wrangler Of Rhymes – Vol. Three"



Cowboy Poet George Ray Russell's previous collections have been mixes

of Western subject material along with general observations and thoughts. This third in the series is no exception, but the tracks we'll name as picks predominantly come from the Cowboy genre.

"Gunfighter's Lament," "A Chill In The Colorado Sky" and "Gunplay In The Morning" (nice surprise ending) are quite exceptional. Another pick with a twist from outside the Western arena is "Living Will." Other picks include the only-too-relatable "Golden Years" and "Procrastination." And we'll add a thoughtful but admittedly non-Cowboy poem "Putting The World Back Together."

Russell has again set some of his verse to music and sings them with a voice tinged with smoky grit. A pick we will name from among these is the nice (if brief) "With Love." Judging from the effect of it during Russell's live performance at the recent IWMA conference in Albuquerque, audiences seem to warm to his "Crazy Song" as well. A massive twenty-six tracks total, recommended.

TALLGRASS EXPRESS STRING BAND

*"Out On The Tallgrass Prairie –
Volumes 5 & 6" (2 CD Set)*



Prolific
Kansas
songwriter/
performer
Annie
Wilson
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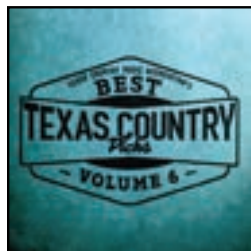
of celebrating and exploring all aspects of her beloved Flint Hills. If every section of our country had such a chronicler, we'd be smarter!

Maybe it's unjustified, but it sometimes seems certain tracks on CDs exist only as fillers or place holders. Decidedly that is not the case with Wilson-penned originals. Not only are they musically sound, but also cleverly instructive ("Cows don't let diets get 'em flummoxed, that's because they've got four stomachs"). Even the ones styled for kids adults can appreciate, such as "Turkey Buzzard Bob" or "Prairie Chicken Pete" or "Don't Be A Cowbird." Some are gripes or protests ("Stop Those Cedar Trees"). Picks that can work out of context include "Ride With Me," title track "Out On The Tallgrass Prairie (w/Carl Reed, vocal)," "Prairie Mamas," the wonderfully poetic "Last Ridge Of Hills," "Special Art Of Ranching" and the list could go on.

Remarkably enjoyable in both creation and rendering by Wilson (vocals/guitar), Carl Reed (vocals/guitar/bass/harmonica) and Derrick Doty (fiddle/mandolin/banjo). Thirty-two tracks, very highly recommended.

TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

*"Best Texas Country Picks
Volume Six" (2 CD Set)*



Out
of thirty
superior
songs
in this
double CD
collection,
nine are

unarguably Western or Western Swing tracks! And a herd of others can cozy up to the Western borders due to their Texas orientation.

Some of the offerings are from the Hot Country genre, but most are more in the Americana and even acoustic ballpark. But all are worth the price of admission. The Western picks they have chosen are picks I will choose as well: Maddox Ross's "Horses And Heartaches," Katie Beth Mihm's "Texas Sky," "Cowboy's Church" from Megan Barker w/Zane Williams, "Rodeo Queen" from KC Johns and (hooray) Miss Devon & The Outlaw's "Where In The Dickens RU?" Western Swing, Cowboy Swing and Honky Tonk Swing goodies include Garth Lagrone's "Fort Worth Moon," Jonathan Thompson's "Broken Man" and Cactus Country's "Little Country Dance Hall."

This huge compendium is just what its title says it is. Some of the best of the best. And you'd best pick up a copy. Recommended, thirty tracks total.

TEXAS STAR

"Kickin' Up Dust"



Deeply
satisfying
harmonies
sweetly
reminiscent
of such
bands as
the Oak

Ridge Boys and The Gatlins are a hallmark of the Texas Star sound. On this release that latter comparison is particularly appropriate since the feisty old master himself Larry Gatlin joins band members Jeremie Hudson, J.D. Meeker, Matt Felts and Justin Terry on their cover of his swinging hit "Houston."

This release's title track "Kickin' Up Dust" is one of the specifically Western songs they offer. That dust comes from the rodeo arena as does the gritty protagonist of another one called "The Cowboy Way." "Get Your Texas On" is Cowboy line dance-ready. Other tracks that certainly capture the Cowboy feeling are "Blessings In Stone" and "Call Me Old Fashioned," both of which could be lifted from the scripture of The Cowboy Code. One of the Country tracks "Victim Of A Romantic Crime" uses a bit of Western imagery in its refrain: "He's the worst kind of outlaw, he's stealin' me blind, somebody's stealin' me out of her mind." Some gospel is along for the ride.

Texas Star's "Kickin' Up Dust" is a very listenable and danceable goodie. Twelve tracks, highly recommended.

Continued on page 38

KACEY & JENNA

"Confessions Of A Ghost Town"



In this release we are presented with an interesting, very pleasing and

beautifully executed showcase for the massive talents of the Thunborg sisters. Apparently professionally shucking their surname, here "Kacey & Jenna" are able to display their songwriting talents along with their performing ability.

Among the original picks are the CD's slow Swing title track, an exceptionally clever song that equates an abandoned settlement with a faded and betrayed woman lost to history. Other picks among their originals include "Silly Way Of Showing (A Horse's Tale)" and "Has There Ever Been A Sunny Day In Tennessee." Picks among the intelligently selected covers include David Ball's "Texas Echo" and Molly Tuttle/Golden Highway's "Crooked Tree." I would include their version of Dave Stamey's "Vaquero Song" in there, but for my ear that's a lot of song for a gentle, harmonic rendering.

Kacey & Jenna benefit from Mariam (Cowboy Way) Funke's producing, engineering, mixing & mastering and, oh-yes, a good deal of playing (accordion, dobro, drums, mandolin & guitars). And Verity Gray managed to slip in on fiddle, too! Twelve tracks, very highly recommended.

AUSTIN VAN

"Music RD."



For this six-song ET New Mexico-bred phenom Austin Van benefited

from both the production savvy and musicianship of the late legend Bobby Flores. The musical backup provided is exactly what is needed to complete the effect in support of his strong vocals.

For years Austin Van has specialized in faithful renderings of classic Country songs and the Western Swing of Bob Wills, predominantly. And for as many years I have wanted him to move into broader territory. My vote was for Country-charted Western classics, of course, but it appears Mr. Flores did at least transplant him onto some less often ridden terrain. Twin fiddles run through most of the selections. Swinging nicely is the lead track "Driving Me Out Of Your Mind" and the closer "Let's Start All Over Again." The remaining tracks are all enjoyably danceable. They include a Western rodeo track "Head Over Heels," "Falling Again," "What I Heard" and, okay, one Country classic "I Loved 'Em Every One" made famous by T.G. Sheppard.

I still think there's room for Austin Van to cover some of the more than 100 Western songs that have charted on the Country side, but until some of that comes along, this will do nicely! Recommended.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Giving Back"



This two-disc compendium was assembled a while back by Montana's

TJ Casey for the Giving Back Foundation, established "In Support of Farmers & Ranchers Affected by the Ravages of Nature." Quite a few of the artists featured we have not encountered in a number of years, so it's a fine trip down memory lane in addition to going for a good cause.

Sisters Of The Silver Sage ("Cowboy") and Palo Duro ("The Old Shallow Crossing") are here. So are Ken Overcast ("Cold Broke & Hungry"), Open Range ("Blue & Lonesome"), Ringling 5 ("Fencin' Blues") and Donnie Blanz ("Paint Her Real"). Poets are included as well. Rhonda Sedgwick Stearns' "The Rain," Rusty Feather's [sic] with "200 Years," the late Mike Puhallo's "Jose Tresierra" and Jay Snider's "Of Horses and Men," for example. And then we have Eli Barsi & Doris Daley ("Just Call Him Cowboy"), R.W. Hampton ("Born To Be A Cowboy"), RJ Vandygriff ("A Cowboy's Promise"), Del Shields ("Old Cowboys"), Barry Ward ("Brave & The Free"), TJ Casey himself (It's Just The Way I Am") and the list goes on...and on! Twenty-five tracks, very highly recommended for both content and purpose. 🐾

Sampling The Singles

BY RICK HUFF

Our **Micki Fuhrman** has teamed with our **Ranger Doug Green** in co-writing and performing the new Western Swing single **Swing On By**. It's from an upcoming 2025 album and it certainly heralds great things to come. The lyric line invites the listener to "swing on by" for all kinds of things. You can fill in the blank! It should go without saying the performances are top drawer, but we'll say it anyway.

Singer/songwriter **Sarah Pierce** has released a single that represents a full cowboy or cowgirl primer on life "out there" aboard a horse. Much of what you should do, watch for or expect is laid out in a most pleasing all-acoustic audio manual. **There's Some Things a Cowgirl Just Knows** is a co-write with her friend Sissy Camacho and was co-produced with her award-winning husband Merel Brigante.

Shane Guse arrives (a bit late for timely publication) with a frisky, extraordinarily clever Xmas Western Swing arrangement of Dr. John's famous **Such A Night**. Guse's **Western Swing Authority** delivers the classic song in high style. It's clever from a couple of different standpoints. It has a spoken parody intro of "The Night Before Xmas" that can be dropped to let the track live on in post-holiday seasons.

In his newest release Aussie **Gene Bradley Fisk** shoots holes in the self-styled buckaroo image of a **Weekend Cowboy**. "He's a city slicker, can't hold his liquor, he likes to think he can, a real sharp dude, lookin' real cool and he thinks he's a ladies' man." Where have we met *him* before??? Maybe we shouldn't be scoffing at such a question, or so say those working cowboys who hang around Elko!

Melbourne-born **Aaron D'Arcy** says of his chugging new single **Borrowed Ground**: "I wanted to make it an Old School Western feel...about a hunted man on the run from place to place making his home wherever his boots are found." The "sheriff," the "Rio Grande," the "pistol" saving his life more than once and the "shifting sands" all make guest appearances, affirming the song's Western lineage.

Ireland's **Niall Patterson** salutes sun, moon, stars, stones and sky in the single **You Made It Right**. My mentor in the genre Hi Busse would argue that makes the song Western, so I guess I'll allow it as well! He long maintained the classic "That Lucky Old Sun" could legitimately be called "Western" for the same reason. Do we need a category called "Western Universal" (many things to many people)??

Okay, here comes a classic Cowboy song from an Irish source. **Eamon McCann** has chosen one of Woody Guthrie's few specifically Western creations, arguably the least known. The plotline of **The Philadelphia Lawyer** features the title barrister, a Hollywood starlet he courts and a gun totin' wild 'n' wooly cowboy who's branded her as his. Spoiler alert: "There's one less Philadelphia Lawyer" now.

Irish balladeer **Camillus Egerton** has offered us a faithful rendering of Gene Autry's **Silver Haired Daddy Of Mine!!** Obviously based on the melody of "Red River Valley," the vintage song gets the vintage treatment. You could easily picture the Cass County Boys sitting in here. Maybe the ghosts of those famed Autry players and his arranger Carl Cottner were smiling over these musicians' shoulders.

And the mini-tour of the Emerald Isles wraps with a self-penned swinger from **Paddy Connery** called **Get Up And Dance**. In his notes Connery writes he hopes it will help dancers in particular "get out and enjoy everything that is Music and Dance" (his capitalization)! We find no reason to argue. He was inspired by youthful nights of debauchery he assures us were all 'pre-wife.' He's stickin' to that.

Our Western Music emissary **Bob Marshall** has released a truly fine treatment of Donnie Blanz & Ed Bruce's **You Just Can't See Him From The Road**. Most fans of our genre will be immediately familiar with the song, having heard *somebody's* version of the often-covered classic, but Bob's is certainly worth your time. And no better depiction of modern cowboying has ever been devised!

New Mexico singer **Taylor Sheahan** has released **The Sand Winds Of Rio Rancho**, a single about her home town from an album about her home state. Full of classic Western imagery performed in a gentle Contemporary Country style, it's a crowdpleaser. Since it's done in tribute, I have to say some of the scenic choices for the music video are a bit odd, but that's between her and the Chamber of Commerce.

Singer **Taylor Marie Wagner** sings "you never go wrong puttin' a little more Country **In a Country Song**." As we've mentioned before, it strikes us as truly amazing how much Western seems to be needed to illustrate Country. Here the elements being requested include "cowboy boots, twin fiddles and steel guitar" to make it more "Country." So what do you think they actually need to have added?!! 🐾

Chapter Update

Continued from page 31

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black

Aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

The IWMAECC held a meeting in Albuquerque to decide the future of the chapter. After long and thoughtful deliberation, a unanimous decision was made by the members in attendance to close the chapter. The chapter held a place in the eastern US for several years, but distance between members and lack of participation, especially post-pandemic, proved to be challenges we were unable to overcome. A few years ago, the TN Chapter formed in part of our original territory and has much more ability to thrive due to the closer geographical location of many of the members. It was with sadness that the founding members at the final meeting in Albuquerque decided that the chapter was no longer viable and could not be restored without increased participation and leadership from members-at-large to be in compliance with the IWMA bylaws. The chapter funds are currently being held by the IWMA board. We encourage all IWMAECC members to join the IWMATN Chapter, which has agreed to welcome former IWMAECC members with open arms.

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Martha Farrell

marthasfarrell@gmail.com

Hello Friends – I attended my first IWMA convention in the fall and wow, it lived up to the billing. It was great to meet so many of you in person and get a much better feel for how our chapters should relate to the main organization. It was also exciting to see Kansas' own 3 Trails West win Group of the Year. Congratulations Leo, Roger, Jim and Lori Beth! After a flurry of holiday performances our members are heading into Kansas Day celebrations at the end of January. Kansas history gets much more attention in January, and



Annie Wilson



Annie Wilson in the Flint Hills

many of our crew are involved in the classroom and in community celebrations. We'd like to share one of the ways a member is increasing the visibility of western music. Our treasurer Annie Wilson was named "The Flint Hills Balladeer" by the Governor in 2013. Just over a year ago she had the idea of publishing her song lyrics as poems in several local Kansas newspapers. The weekly column is entitled *Songs of the Flint Hills* and includes a link to the music as well. The newspapers are happy to have local content, and it's a great promotion for her Tallgrass Express String Band.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: David Nidel

david.nidel@gmail.com

Our New Mexico Chapter tradition of scheduling a Pre-Convention Reception on Tuesday November 12 took place at the Best Western – Rio Grande Inn. Joining me as co-hosts were Brad and Bonnie Exton, President and Secretary, respectively from the Black Hills & Beyond Chapter. Everyone had a marvelous time. Special thanks go to the performers that provided the entertainment: Carol Markstrom, Ramblin Rangers Brad & Bonnie, Kerry Grombacher, PJ Ross, Patty Clayton, Randy

Palmer, Tony Duarte, Michael Coy, Scott T, and Tom Hawk. Sound was expertly provided by Dave Levenson. Photos provided courtesy of Lee Peters. We had a wonderful IWMA Annual Convention this year. I want to thank all of our chapter members for being the ideal hosts to our fellow visiting attendees as well as providing the volunteer hours to set up and break down this amazing event. Congratulations to all of the award winners and those honorably nominated for our IWMA Awards Night. We recognize all of these artists for their talent, hard work, and goodwill they bring forth that benefits our organization. On a sad note, a couple days following the end of our convention, we lost a dear member for many years. Mr. Ollie Reed, Jr. passed away. He always manned a table for Western Writers of America at our annual gatherings. Often before the convention he would use his talents to write an article for our Albuquerque Journal to bring attention of his readers to our upcoming events, including our conventions, National Day of the Cowboy, NM State Fair & NM Chapter sponsored Western Heritage Days and many others. He wrote for our local newspapers and others for over 50 years. Often, his articles on Western music and culture featured a star performer or writing member of our association. He was such a major inspiration for writers, poets, and authors in our chapter, across the entire IWMA, and beyond. He is greatly missed. Our Fall chapter update was accidentally omitted. I want to acknowledge our Youth Concert and National Day of the Cowboy events here...

Youth Concert

Our Youth Concert took place on Sunday July 21 at the Vineyard 55+ Community Clubhouse. The event featured the talents of Cowboy Poet Jack George and Musicians Kasey and Jenna Thunborg. Jack presented some great poems and

stories as well as shared stories of his ranch life in Quemado, NM. Kasey and Jenna performed a wide range of Western and Popular music. Judi Anderson, Betty Carter, and Kathy Margard organized this event with a potluck dinner. A great time was had by all. Photos provided courtesy of Lee Peters.



Jenna & Kacey Thunborg



Jack George In July

20th Anniversary of National Day of the Cowboy The NM Chapter sponsored the 20th Anniversary of National Day of the Cowboy with a daylong event that took place Saturday July 27 that went from 11am – 5pm at Sandoval County's El Zocalo Event Center in Bernalillo, NM. The event was free to the public. IWMA featured artists included Cowboy Poets Bernard Carr, Dr. Ted Coffman, and PJ Ross as well as musicians The Peralta Playboys from Peralta, NM, Jerry Lee from Milan, NM, Steve Cormier from Sandia Park, NM. They opened for the headlining act, Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing. Included with multiple music award winner Carlos Washington in Steel Horse Swing were award winning musicians Scott Tonelson on acoustic guitar and Ernie Martinez on pedal steel. The event also had arts and crafts vendors and food trucks.



Jerry Lee in July

A special thanks goes out to our event sponsors First Financial Credit Union, McDade-Woodcock Electrical Contractors, Range Café Restaurants, Sandoval County, and the Town of Bernalillo Lodgers Tax Board and personal contributions from many of our chapter members for helping to make this event possible. Photos provided courtesy of Lee Peters. Our November events that followed the convention included hosting a House Concert for Mary Kay Holt and our live Song & Poetry Corral at the Hops & Dough Tap Room. Since our Covid 19 pandemic has dissipated to the point that folks are getting out more we will soon be ending our virtual Song & Poetry Corral on Zoom through our Facebook Page. Starting in January, we will be moving our live Song & Poetry Corral from the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Hops & Dough Tap Room back to the 3rd Monday of the month at the Best Western – Rio Grande Hotel on Rio Grande Blvd. On December 15, at The Vineyard Clubhouse in Albuquerque we proudly hosted a Winter Holiday Concert featuring 2024 IWMA Male Performer of the Year Syd Masters. At the end of the year, my term as President of the NM Chapter ended. It has been an honor to serve. My support for our chapter and the IWMA will carry on. I thank our board Vice President & Past President Dennis Russell, Treasurer Kim Linker, Secretary & Past President Joe Brown, Directors Jane Jones, Judi Anderson, and Past Vice President Bernard Carr as well as all of our chapter members for your support over the past two years. The New Mexico chapter is



Carlos Washington in July

in good hands with a strong cast of characters to serve as our incoming officers. Please join me in welcoming elected President Judi Anderson, Vice President Scott Wilson, Co-Treasurers, Betty Carter and Jane Aubol, Co-Secretaries Lee Peters and Bonnie Rutherford. I am optimistic that our members will step up to work with this new team of officers to help guide and support their actions to create great programs and events in the months to come. "L'hitraot! (Until we meet again!)"

Continued on page 45





Book Nook Reviews & More

BY KAREN CAMPBELL



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

Fleas, Figurin', and Figurative Language

One of the most powerful tools of any form or writing involves figurative language, where what is meant is not what is said in a literal sense. Similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, allusions, and idioms are common examples. Similes and metaphors and idioms are often the easiest to recognize and adopt in cowboy writing.

Common cowboy idioms might include references to an 'ace in the hole' (or a concealed weapon), to 'clean your plow' (or get beat up), or 'that dog won't hunt' (or that idea isn't believable or valuable). Use of such terms gives a certain flair and character to cowboy writing. However, its a bit like pepper on your hash, a little goes a long way. Overuse of such idioms, or of cowboy 'jargon' and slang in general, especially ones that have become 'cliche' or overused in cowboy writing, can make the writing seem overdone, 'trying too hard,' or even cheesy. So, pick a few colorful and less often used ones and spice up your writing a bit.

More powerful and creative figurative language often involves similes and metaphors, often involving an analogy, or comparison of two things. With similes, that comparison is made using like or as, to be 'pretty as a peach' for instance. With metaphors the comparison is made directly, 'She's a peach' for instance. Some of the most powerful forms of figurative language involve metaphors.

John Donne, an English poet writing in the late 1500s and early 1600s, has a poem written entirely around a powerful metaphor. It's called "The Flea." In this poem he compares marriage and the Holy Trinity to a Flea that has bitten both himself and the woman he is courting: "three lives in one flea spare, where we almost, nay more than married are." The three lives of the flea, himself, and the lady are now carried in the flea's body (like the Trinity)

and marriage itself involves a blending of two lives into a new one in the same way their blood blends inside the flea. He creates a highly unique and unexpected metaphor in this example. Who would ever think to compare a small blood sucking insect to ideas that seem more dignified like marriage and the Trinity? Such a metaphor encourages us to be similarly creative. What things could we compare that at first may seem totally unrelated but create surprise, delight, or recognition in our readers?

A great example of this in cowboy poetry (and cowboy music) is Curly Fletcher's 1915 poem "The Outlaw Broncho" or more often recognized as "The Strawberry Roan." Consider the line "He went up in the east and came down to the west" that compares the bucking horse to the rising and setting sun. Fletcher describes him as "frog walkin" in respect to how high he hops or bucks, another powerful comparison. A good example of idiom, metaphor, and simile can be found in the twelfth stanza of the poem:

He was the worse bronco I've seen on the range.

He could turn on a nickel and leave you some change (idiom).

While he was buckin' he squalled like a shoat (simile).

I tell you that outlaw, he sure got my goat (metaphor, idiom).

Powerful and effective cowboy writing is often shaped by original and creative use of figurative language like those above. While I avoid quoting much from my own writing and try to give classical and easily recognized examples for the most part, one poem I particularly enjoyed writing involved trying to write a poem about love (a very typical topic for poetry) but using unexpected similes and metaphors to help anchor a different understanding of love in general. A few lines from that poem read:

Real love soars higher than bucked hay and bucking horses
(metaphor).

Yet sits stiller than the mountain cat before she springs
(metaphor).

For love has a power that always guides but never forces
Like a good colt breaker and the houlahan he swings
(simile).

Love is hay caught in some flannel shirt's sleeve wrinkles
That scratches your sides raw until every movement stings
(metaphor).

But love quenches faster than dry land when it sprinkles (metaphor).
For like that love, our hearts are homes for growing things (simile).

So, try stretching yourself similarly in terms of figurative language. Pick some type of analogy or comparison that's unexpected and original and write an entire poem or song about it, similar to "The Flea," or string a few together like Curly Fletcher or I have done in our use of idiom, simile, and metaphor. You may discover the power of unique and creative images on your audience in this way.

MARCI BROYHILL

"Tangled Trails: Family, Friends and Folly," 2024



Marci Broyhill's third poetic collection *Tangled Trails: Family, Friends and Folly* contains

6 different sections: Family & Friends; Chicken, Trees & Weeds; Holiday Blessings; Pushing Your Leg; Reflections; and a Bibliography. There are a total of 25 poetic pieces, ranging from historical/narrative poetry to more philosophical reflections. Ms. Broyhill includes numerous photographs and other images as illustration for her poetry and cites some of these sources in her Bibliography or provides credit in her acknowledgments section. These

photographs are generally smaller in size at the beginning or end of poems and are printed in black and white.

Broyhill's poetic style will be familiar to many readers, generally relying on four-line stanzas that rhyme every other line (abcb). Ms. Broyhill frequently adopts half rhyme in her longer poems and abandons it in a few stanzas of these more narrative poems. Other shorter poems within the collection are more likely to use matched rhymes and regular meter. The length of the poem seems to govern these choices. Ms. Broyhill effectively uses basic punctuation to break up all her poems for easier reading.

Ms. Broyhill relies on the stories of John Jackson Cozad and his son Robert Henri (a painter) to begin her collection and also includes poems that impart the stories of Lori Jensen, Dohl Dwyer, and Janet Chobar, all of them being people of some interest.

The poems that stand out in the collection include "An Apron Full of Rocks," "Mulberry Tree," "The Wind Witch," "Together is All We Need" and "The Kitchen Table." In general, Broyhill's poems speaking to the struggle and joys of her female characters and family interactions, including herself, seem particularly genuine and inspiring.

The book is available on Ms. Broyhill's personal website via request (marcibroyhill.com). \$15 for paperback and \$25 for hard bound. The book itself is made relatively well and should hold up to regular reference. Readers looking for a brief collection of poems of varying western subject matters and real human experience will likely enjoy this collection.

Prairie Poet Press. \$15 soft bound on marcibroyhill.com, hard copy, 179 pgs. 🐾

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

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

Marshal Allen Bailey

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

Bobbi Jean Bell

"OutWest Hour"
7819 Chaco Mesa Loop NW
Albuquerque NM 87114
818-384-4315
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com
KUPR 99.9 FM
Low Power Community Radio
www.KUPR.org
Placitas, New Mexico
Follow on Mixcloud:
www.mixcloud.com/DJBobbijeanBell
Plays Western, Western Swing,
Cowboy Country, Poetry, and
whatever strikes her fancy!

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky

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

Janice Brooks

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

Peter Bruce

"Under Western Skies"
Kaff News Radio
93.5/AM 930
Sundays 7-8 am & 7-8 pm
1117 W. Route 66, Flagstaff AZ 86001
kaffnewsradio.com
peter.bruce@kaff.com
928-556-2650

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

"Calling All Cowboys Radio"
88.9 FM, KPOV
High Desert Community Radio
www.kpov.org
kpov.od.streamguys.us/
calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
Email: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd., Bend, OR 97702

Roger & Leo Eilts

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

Doug Figgs

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

Nancy Flagg

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

Paul Hazell

PH Records
Royal Mail Building (PO Box 3)
Brambleside
Bellbrook Industrial Estate
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1XX United Kingdom
"Paul Hazell's World Of Country"
Big River FM (NZ) and others and
several other stations around the world
Paulhazellsworldofcountry@gmail.com
Telephone: +44 7775 545 902

Gary Holt

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

Allen & Jill Kirkham

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

Susie Knight

"The Western Way Hour"
28751 Doe Valley Dr., Conifer, CO 80433
(303) 495-4869
lassothecowgirl@yahoo.com
Follow on:
www.mixcloud.com/SusieKnight

Jarle Kvale

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

Eddy Leverett

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

Butch and Christina Martin

"Whittler's Corner Show"
1410 Kubli Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527
Earsradio.com
KSKO Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org
The Dalles, OR, Y102
KKTU, 100.1, Douglas, WY
KSHD 93.4 Shady Cove, OR
KORV 93.5 Laderview, OR
www.ButchMartinMusic.com
www.romancingthewest.org
541-218-2477

Hugh McLennan

McLennan Ranch
2520 Hvas Lake Rd.
Pinantan, BC, Canada V0E 3E1
mclennan_ranch@xplornet.com
www.hugh-mclennan.com

Marvin O'Dell

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

O.J. Sikes

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

JJ Steele

"Cowboy Corral"
c/o JJ Steele
KLZR
103 South 2nd St.
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Kevin Tuckfield

PO Box 10217, Russellville, AR 72812
Arkansas Cowboy Radio Ride
KWMV 88.5 FM
Mountain View, AR
kevintuckfield@gmail.com
479-264-9281

Wayne & Kathy

"Swing 'n' Country"
KBOO 90.7 FM
20 SE 8th Ave., Portland, OR 97214
wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net
jamie_h54@msn.com

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.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 41

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Robert Maxwell Case
robert@robertmaxwellcase.com

On Saturday, October 26 our Oklahoma Chapter annual get-together and meeting was held at C&J's Kountry Fixin's restaurant in Bristow. At the meeting of the attending members and the executive board, Leigh Ann Matthews was elected vice president to replace Donnie Poindexter. Robert Beene was elected secretary-treasurer to replace Danny Williams. Superb cowboy music and poetry performances were provided by Francine Roark Robison, Robert Beene, Danny Williams, Leigh Ann and Scott



Danny Williams

Matthews, Robert Maxwell Case (A Little Farther West minus one), and new attendee Scott (Scooter) Davis. New vice president Leigh Ann and husband Scott soon after headed to Albuquerque to participate in the national convention. Our new executive board has great expectations for 2025 as we endeavor to bring western music and poetry to a wider audience in the state of Oklahoma. Happy New Year!

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

President: Gary Holt
gih50@live.com

It has been my honor to have established the IWMA TN Chapter and to have served as its first President for these past three years! As we ring in 2025 I'm pleased to introduce a New Slate of officers for the Tennessee Chapter taking the

reins in January! President Bobby Marquez, Vice President Tecia McKenna, Secretary Aspen Black and Treasurer Diana Raven. I look forward to watching and contributing to the continued growth of this talented organization! Continuing to entertain audiences on both sides of the Mississippi, Gone With the West



Chapter officers for 2025



Annual get-together at C&J's on Route 66 in Bristow.



Gone with the West Merna Lewis, Mary Kaye Holt, Tecia McKenna and Micki Fuhrman perform at Mustang Heritage Hall of Fame Gala Nashville.

Continued on page 47

Western Charts

Attention Musicians and Poets! Various DJ friends have reported their playlists for the last quarter, thus helping us compile these charts reflecting which CDs are being played the most on their radio shows. You will find a listing of those reporting DJs in this issue.

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. On the Trail with the Lonesome Pines – Hilary Gardner
2. Blessed by the West – Sarah Pierce
3. Cowgirl's Delight – Phoebe White
4. Light of the Moon – Lori Beth Brooke
5. Snow on the Wineglass – John Lowell
6. Big Medicine Moon – Tris Munsick
7. Trackin' On – The Russellers
8. Gotta Move – The Hot Texas Swing Band
9. From the Saddle to Symphony Hall – Dave Alexander
10. Ghost Smoke – Jon Chandler
11. Nebraska – Cowboy Joe Babcock
12. They Ride – Ed Meyer
13. A Little Western, A Little Swing – Carlos Washington
14. Seekers – Carol Markstrom
15. Storyteller: Tales of the West – Jim Jones
16. Singing to Cows – Chris Guenther
17. Cabin Songs – Syd Masters
18. This Ol' Guitar and Me – Peggy Malone
19. One More Ride – Doug Figgs
20. Once I Was a Cowboy – Joel White
21. Ranchfolk at Large – Ryan Fritz
22. A Little Past Our Prime – Hugh McClennan
23. Rough Stock – Ryan Fritz
24. Roll On, Cowboys – Andy Hedges
25. The Real West – Patty Clayton
26. Throw a Saddle on a Star – Riders in the Sky
27. Born to be a Cowgirl – Aspen Black
28. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
29. Horses of War – Brenn Hill
30. The Old Ways – The Timberline Cowboys

10 MOST PLAYED WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Light of the Moon – Lori Beth Brooke
2. Gotta Move – The Hot Texas Swing Band
3. From the Saddle to Symphony Hall – Dave Alexander
4. A Little Western, A Little Swing – Carlos Washington
5. 12-9 Central – The Western Swing Authority
6. Somewhere North of San Antone – Oklahoma Swing
7. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
8. All of Me – Eric Diamond
9. Billy Mata's Timeless Treasures – Billy Mata
10. Yearnin' – Jim Winters

12 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. A New Someday – Gone With the West
2. Cowgirl From Illinois – Doug Figgs
3. A Wandering Stray – John Lowell
4. Blessed by the West – Sarah Pierce
5. The Tex-Mex Song – The Hot Texas Swing Band
6. Darcy Farrow – Doug Figgs
7. Ride Along With Me – Phoebe White & Suzy Bogguss
8. Song of the Sierras – Hilary Gardner
9. Western Boogie – Dave Alexander
- Along the Navajo Trail – Hilary Gardner
- Big Medicine Moon – Tris Munsick
- There's Some Things a Cowgirl Just Knows – Sarah Pierce

12 MOST PLAYED COWBOY POETRY ALBUMS

1. Real Hands & Treasured Friends – Miska Paget
2. The Girl in the Yellow Checked Dress – Duane Nelson
3. Provin' Up Wise – Rik "Yonder" Goodell
- Traveling Through Time – K.C. LaCourse
- Old West Memories – Rocky Sullivan
6. Wisdom in the Wind – Sherl Cederburg
7. Pensive 'n' Playful – Mark Munzert
8. No Better Life – Valerie Beard
- Between the Sun and the Moon – Teresa Burleson
- Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg
- New Mexico Stray – Dennis Russell
12. Come Sit a Spell – Woody Woodruff

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

Chapter Update

Continued from page 45

provided the entertainment for the Inaugural Mustang Heritage Hall of Fame Gala held in Nashville. In addition, they've recently released their first two singles to Western Radio! New music continued to be thing in the 4th quarter as evidenced by Carol Markstrom, Micki Fuhrman and Phoebe White! Order their music from their website and streaming. IWMA-TN members could be seen in Writer's Rounds in Nashville and performances across the United States! Shown here performing at the World Famous Commodore Inn in Nashville are Shantell Ogden, Mary Kaye Holt, Claudia Nygaard and Bobby Marquez. "Exciting" is the word for 2025 as it's all ready shaping up for new music, new recordings, new shows and new tours for the talented members of the International Western Music Association Tennessee Chapter! Wishing you all a great 2025 from the Tennessee Chapter!

TEXAS CHAPTER

President: Gary Wiseman
Wisemanranch71@gmail.com

The IWMA Chapter has been active in recent months. First of all, we are proud to congratulate nine chapter members who were honored at the recent IWMA Convention held in Albuquerque, NM. We held our annual East TX event in Jasper, TX which was well attended. We look forward to future events in the coming months. Watch our Facebook page for more information.



Pictured are Judy James – Chapter Vice President, Marsha Short – IWMA Executive Director, Wesley Stafford – Treasurer and Charlet Meyer – Secretary

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Mark Munzert
markmunzert@gmail.com

Big news from Albuquerque and I'm certain it is covered in this issue so I will not elaborate too much. Thirty-three Wordsmiths had a great time. The Poetry Contest featured: Floyd Beard; Mike Booth; Marci Broyhill; TJ Casey; Jeff Davidson; Sawyer Dietrich; Rik Goodell; Randy Hoyt; Geoff (Poppa Mac) Mackay; PJ Ross; George Ray Russell; Lindy Simmons; and Scott Wiswell. Emcee Tom Swearingen switched out his brim for a jester's cap and Sherl Cederburg; Jo Lynne Kirkwood; Vic Anderson; Dale Page; and Terry Nash had the harsh task of trying to score the event. Congratulations to all. Every award in the poetry category went home with a Wordsmith: Poetry: Contest, Floyd Beard; Book of the Year, Poppa Mac Geoff Mackay; CD and Female Poet of the Year, Miska Paget; Male Poet of the Year, Mark Munzert and Western Album of the Year & Songwriter of the Year to John Lowell. TJ Casey has three major songwriting contests coming up in 2025: Yuma, CO; Lovell, WY; and Colville, WA. He has been sponsored by Montana Silversmiths... TJ added that the contests are for western/cowboy songs. Rik "Yonder" Goodell is releasing his fourth CD, "Cowboyin' With God". This is a collection of original, God-honoring poems. There is even one track on the CD that is spoken from a woman's perspective, "God's Time, Not Mine" and performed by IWMA member, Audrey Goodell. The new cabinet of Western Wordsmiths will be taking the reins on January 1st. They have been quite busy already: In November, Western Wordsmiths President Elect, Ron Wilson performed at the 50th anniversary convention of American Agri-Women in Fond du Lac, WI. That meeting also featured a video of an anniversary song composed and performed by WW Secretary Elect, Jeff Davidson. Earlier in the month, Ron and WW VP Elect Tom Hawk performed at the Western Cattle Trail Association conference



Poetry Contestants

in Dodge City and the induction ceremony at the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame. In December, Jeff performed at Cowboy Christmas at the Lazy T Ranch near Manhattan, KS. This scribe wishes the new cabinet well as I step aside. Thanks to the Wordsmiths for your support during my terms.

YOUTH CHAPTER

Board Committee

Belinda Gail

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LeeLee Robert

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Marsha Short

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The Youth Chapter had a great turnout at the 2024 IWMA Convention in Albuquerque. Eighteen members participated in the Friday morning workshop, the Saturday showcase and the Awards Show on Saturday night. This was the largest number of chapter members to ever attend the Convention! Kerry Grombacher presented a workshop on "Stage Craft" with information that everyone could use immediately. Friday afternoon, Kristyn Harris and Hailey Sandoz came into the meeting to work with everyone on the Saturday night tribute to Janet McBride who was inducted into the IWMA Hall of Fame that night. Chapter members are looking forward to starting up the 2025 Zoom Workshops in February. All chapters are encouraged to reach out to young performers and fans in their area to include the Youth members in their programming and leadership. They are the future of IWMA! 🐾

JOIN THE TEAM – PLANNING THE FUTURE

*The 2025 theme for IWMA is “**Planning the Future.**” Not planning FOR the future – plan THE future of our Organization. To do this, it will necessitate expanding our core team of volunteers in vital areas. It means we need the talents and dedication of more IWMA members. YOU can apprentice and work alongside the current leaders to help as the IWMA continues to grow.*

Areas of expertise needed and highlights of skill level and involvement:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Someone to apprentice Executive Director to learn procedures and protocol - Requires organizational skills, experience in general corporate functions, dedication to the IWMA, and patience.

Sub-Positions Available:

- a. **Event Coordinator** – organizes and oversees annual convention; includes compiling Convention program and scheduling
- b. **Data Entry** – maintains membership lists and mailing database
- c. **Admin Assistant** – supports Executive Director with correspondence, electronic dissemination of information to board and membership as needed
- d. **Treasurer Assistant** – supports the Treasurer by providing information for financial reporting to the Board, members and IRS

WESTERN WAY MANAGING EDITOR – Someone to apprentice Managing Editor to learn procedures and protocol – Requires organizational skills, managing deadlines, experience in writing, copyediting, proofreading, working with designers, production and printing vendors, dedication to the IWMA, and patience.

Sub-Positions Available:

- a. **Editorial Assistant** – available to assist in all phases of each issue as needed, light copyediting
- b. **Proofreader** – assist Editor with content material and layout uniformity

SOCIAL MEDIA – Someone to maintain the Website and create/oversee a presence on all Social Media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

- a. **Webmaster** – to administer and maintain the current Website, familiar with cpanel, php 8 and MySQL; monitor domain for security updates and renew/apply SSL certificates on the custom created site
- b. **Other social media** – person(s) willing to develop and maintain an online presence

GRAPHICS DESIGN – Someone skilled in magazine layout and design, ad layout, brochures and miscellaneous design projects who is knowledgeable in project prep for and interaction with professional printing vendors, working in online platforms.

The IWMA is looking for more members to volunteer, gain understanding of the underlying operation of your organization, and make a difference. We need you as we continue to grow and add to sustainability for the IWMA. For more information and Job Descriptions, contact marsha@westernmusic.org or 505-563-0673.

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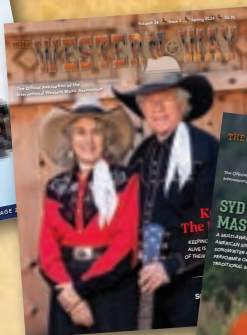
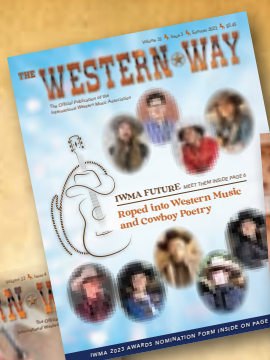
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