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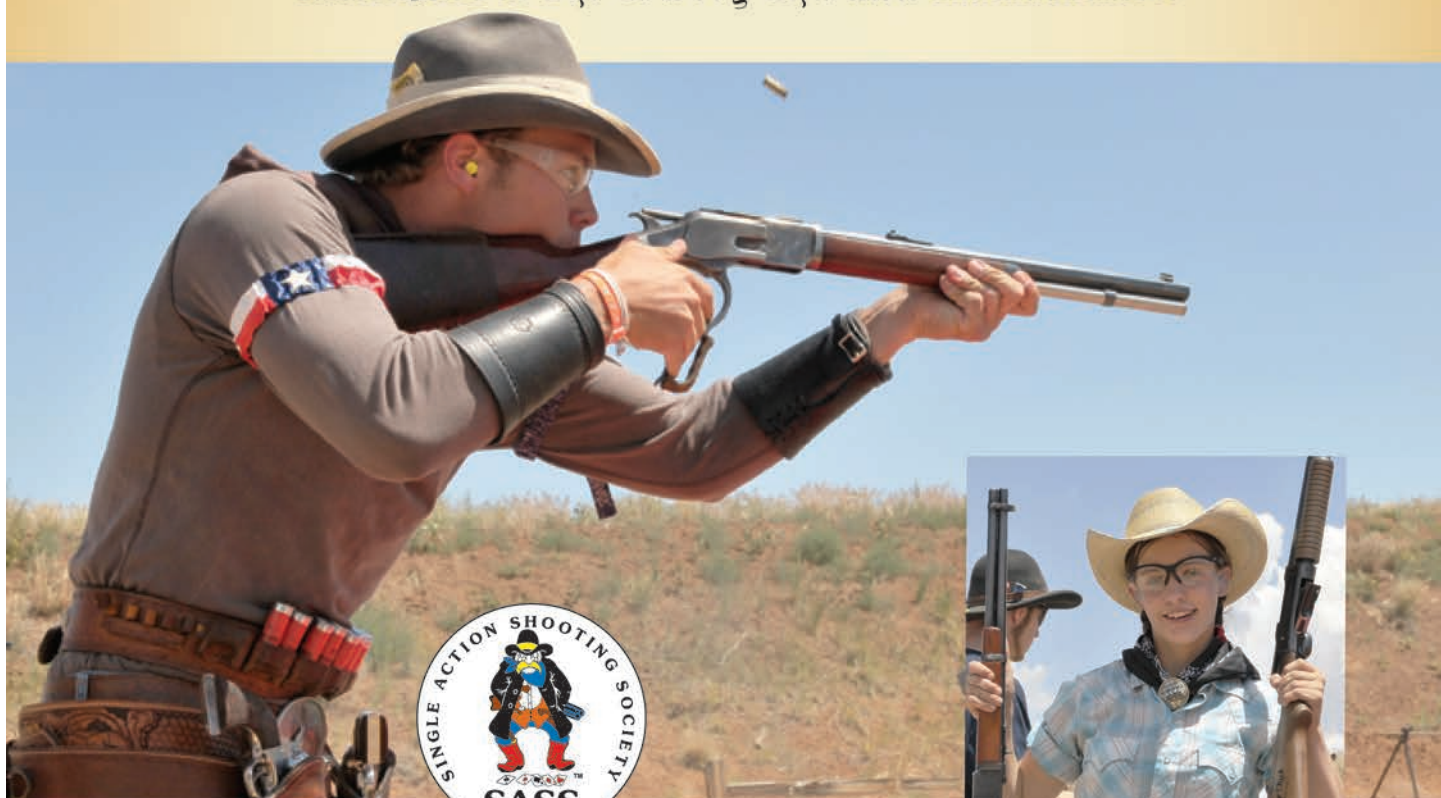
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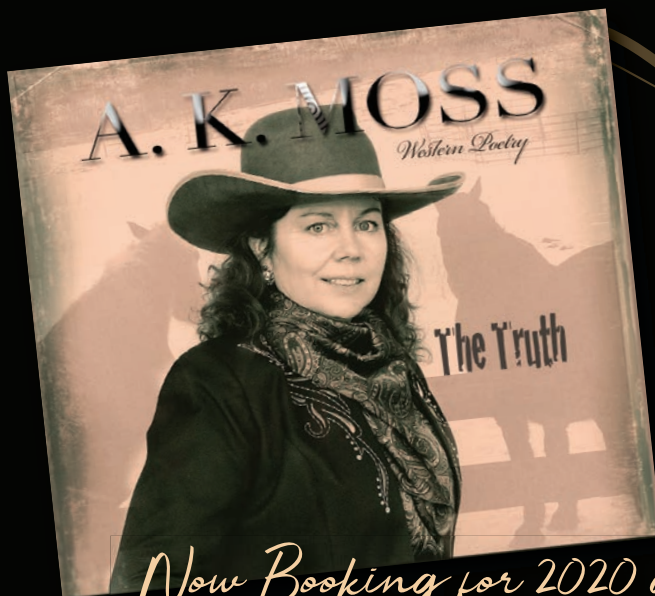


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From The President...



Robert Lorbeer
IWMA President

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

I am deeply honored to be selected by the Board of Directors as the IWMA President for 2020. I would like to use this first message to introduce myself.

I was born and raised in Western Kansas; my father was a schoolteacher and a coach. I graduated from Hays High School in 1961. (I know, Hays doesn't mean much to most,

but 3 Trails West know exactly where that is). I enlisted in the Army in 1962 and received an appointment to West Point in 1964. I graduated in 1968. After Airborne and Ranger schools, my first assignment was to Berlin, Germany, when the Cold War was hot and the Berlin wall was a cold, dangerous place. A very exciting time! My next assignment was to Vietnam where I commanded an Infantry Rifle Company in the 101st Airborne Division.

When I returned to the US, I was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia, as a Ranger Instructor. I was then selected by the Pentagon to attend graduate school at Tulane University in New Orleans where I received an MBA. After graduation, I was assigned to Washington, DC.

I met and married shortly after I returned from Vietnam, and we had a daughter. Unfortunately, that marriage didn't work out. I decided to get out of the Army to raise my daughter, and she and I moved to California. I did stay in the Army Reserves. While in the Army Reserves, I worked in the healthcare field, and attended night law school. The year before I graduated, I received an urgent message from the Army, "Get here immediately." I was soon back on active duty for Desert Shield/Desert Storm, 1990-1991. After returning from Desert Storm, I attended a parade and was impressed with two entries. I told myself that I was either going to march with a bag-pipers group or ride a horse in that parade the next year. I didn't think that I would look good in a kilt, so I started riding.

From that time on I have been active in equestrian activities. I was Captain of the Sacramento Sheriff's Posse for 20 years, President of the Sacramento Horsemen's Association for 8 years, President of Long Beach Mounted Police for 8 years, and rode in the Rose Parade for 20 years. And, I continue to judge horse shows all over the US.

In 2003, I was finally mustered out of the Army after 41 years of Active Duty and Reserve service.

So, wait a minute, you say! Where does Western Music come in? When I was practicing law, I had a physician client that was highly interested in Country music and Western music. He helped several up and coming musical groups



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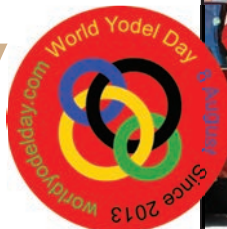
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IWMA 2019 is past. In addition to lots of music and poetry, jammin' and camaraderie, Awards of Excellence were presented to many deserving recipients – recognition for years of persistence in honing their craft.

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



Theresa O'Dell
Editor

Thanks for Lunch, *Hee-Haw*®!

I was uniquely privileged during IWMA 2019 to spend time with 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee, “Cowboy” Joe Babcock and his traveling companion, Jimmy Adkins. What a fun experience and lasting memory!

Marvin picked up the fellas at the airport and brought them to the hotel.

It was lunchtime, so I was asked to join them for lunch. Both Joe and Jimmy were delightful company and kept us entertained with stories of all the Music City heroes they have had the opportunity to know personally and work with professionally through a more than 50-year music career. Joe, who was a regular on the “*Hee-Haw*” television show for over 25 years, shared many insightful stories of the show’s cast regulars. By the time lunch was over, I felt as though I had been there backstage myself!



What a classy but down-to-earth guy Cowboy Joe is. I was amused all week long as I walked through the halls and would see him sitting in a showcase watching other performers or talking animatedly with musicians and fans in the hallway. So unpretentious. But it brought the biggest smile to see (and hear) him in front of the big fireplace in the main lobby, late at night, jamming with 3 Trails West and many other of the talented performers who attended IWMA 2019. But Joe (somewhere north of 80 years now) stood with those musicians and sang HIS songs; songs he had written through

the years; songs recorded by many greats like Marty Robbins (“Ghost Train,” “Doggone Cowboy” and numerous others.) Then others like Don Edwards, Rex Allen, Wylie Gustafson to name a few have recorded Joe’s songs. Even Elvis charted with “I Washed My Hands in Muddy Water,” a Joe Babcock song. There is just a really long list of Babcock hits!

I was in the presence of true greatness wrapped in genuine southern genteel. On the final day, Marvin and I were going to take Joe and Jimmy to the airport. But first Joe wanted to go to the hospital to see his friend, longtime IWMA member and DJ, Al Krtil who had fallen during the week at the convention and fractured a hip. Al was scheduled to do the induction honors for Cowboy Joe into the IWMA Hall of Fame. We got to see Al just before he was taken in for surgery that day and he seemed so humbled that Joe and the rest of us came to see him. Then it was time to head to the airport, but not without eating first! Joe does love to eat – and he stays so thin! We enjoyed the opportunity to break bread one more time with this giant of a man. When the check came, Cowboy Joe was quick on the draw to retrieve it. When Marvin put up his “polite protest,” Joe calmly drawled, “No, my friends. This one is compliments of *Hee-Haw*®!” He explained that the show has been in syndication for the last 25 years (making it on TV for about 50 years now!), and yep, he is still getting that royalty check!! So, thanks for lunch, *Hee Haw*®!”



Well, even if *Hee-Haw*® hadn’t bought our lunch, spending the time with “Cowboy” Joe Babcock will remain a highlight of my trip to IWMA 2019. You should come, next year. You just never know who you may get to rub shoulders with. 🐾

From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

Counting our blessings. It's probably something we don't spend enough time doing and yet it's incredibly important to let those who affect our lives know how much we appreciate them.

IWMA is thankful for the myriad of volunteers who work tirelessly, not just in November but all year long to keep Western Music and Cowboy Poetry alive. Without your efforts, we wouldn't exist.

IWMA is thankful for an active and involved Board of Directors. These people oversee the daily operations of the association and are dedicated to moving it forward. They attend Board meetings at their own expense and spend hours working to implement the IWMA Strategic Plan.

And IWMA is thankful for you, our members, who support and promote Western Music and Cowboy Poetry in a hundred different ways whether it's hosting house concerts, buying CDs, or telling a friend about us.

There were so many magic moments during IWMA2019, from Red Steagall's "keynote" presentation to Rusty Richards' heartfelt songs during the Gospel Concert to Cowboy Joe Babcock's performance of "I Washed My Hands in Muddy Waters" during the Awards Show (and again during the Fireplace Jam with 3 Trails West). Moments like these can't be re-created... you had to be there. So put November 11-15 on your calendar and plan to be with us to find the magic for yourself.

Of course, by the time you're reading this, Thanksgiving is over, presents are opened, and New Year's resolutions have been made (some probably already broken). It's time to take a deep breath and jump into 2020, ready or not.

With the new year, we have new people on the Board. We're looking forward to working with Robert Lorbeer, IWMA President for 2020, and Tom Swearingen who is beginning his term as a director. New Board interns this year are LeeLee Robert and Dennis Russell. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact any Board member or me. We are a member-driven organization, and what you think makes a difference.

Check out the new website at www.iwesternmusic.org. It's still a work in progress, and we owe many thanks to John Seger for all the hours of work he's put into this project.

Our new year's wish for you is that you find peace, happiness and more time to be with friends and family. 🐾



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In the CROSSHAIRS



Rusty Richards

In the last issue (Fall 2019), we began our interview with the legendary Rusty Richards. Due to the length, space would not allow us to print it in its entirety. So, we are pleased to bring Part II of the story behind the iconic Western cowboy, horse-trainer singer, songwriter, and family man. Enjoy as we wrap up his eventful journey here...

TWW: We understand that you had a radio show when you were 13 years old. That's a pretty gutsy thing to take on at age 13. What was the format of the program, and how long were you with the show?

RR: Although I did quite a few radio shows live at that age, it's my TV show that you're thinking of. I was 16 when I did that. It was called "Song Trails with Rusty Richards." It was a 15-minute show once a week. My theme song was a Little Jimmy Dickens' song called "Plain Old Country Boy." I did the show every week until my 17th birthday. I don't remember how many weeks it ran, but it ran until five days before my 17th birthday when I joined the Marines. The Korean War was in full swing; my brother was already a Marine and in Korea.

RUSTY RICHARDS PART II

All photos submitted and used by permission.

My dad was a hero in WWI; all my uncles on my mother's side were wounded in WWI. I knew I had to serve. I was plenty scared, but I figured the best way to handle it was to jump in with both feet, so I did my last show, and two days later I was in boot camp. I did three years.

TWW: When did you decide you wanted to be a musician? How did you get started?

RR: My Mother, Ann Richards, was a singer, and she entertained the troops in Europe during WWI. She taught me my first cowboy songs by playing the melodies for me on the piano from a small book of cowboy songs that both the Sons of the Pioneers and The Frontiersmen and Joanie said was the "Bible" for them and all the other western groups in those days. I first learned guitar when I was about 13.

TWW: You told us once how you met Dick Goodman of the Reinsmen. Can you relate that story for our readers?

RR: Back when I was rodeoing, some of my cowboy friends told me about a western group at the Wagon Camp at Knott's Berry Farm. They were called The Wagonmasters, and when I heard them, I couldn't believe how great they were. After the show we all went down to their dressing room, and one of the cowboys told Dick, "One of our guys sings really good." Dick handed me his guitar and I sang, "The Cattle Call." I thought about them so many times and wished I could sing with them. Time went by and as luck would have it, I wound up with the Sons of the Pioneers. When we appeared on Gene Autry's Melody Ranch TV show, I was introduced as Rusty Richards from Orange County California.

The next day my phone rung and Dick's voice said, "You won't remember me," and as soon as



Rusty's first ride. He was destined to be around horses.

I heard his voice, I knew who it was. He told me later about how many times that he and the Wagonmasters had said, "Don't you wish we had gotten the name of that cowboy?"

TWW: You recorded an album of songs for Jimmy Wakely's Shasta label some years ago. Most of those songs are folk songs from that time. Was there a time when you preferred folk music for performing as opposed to western music?

RR: No. It wasn't that I preferred Folk music; it's just the way that Jimmy decided to record me. Folk music hadn't really kicked in yet, and KFOX in Long Beach, CA was a country music station. One of their late-night DJs was Hugh Cherry, and he would play some really interesting folk songs from the early days of country with Bradley Kincaid and others. Hugh was really knowledgeable and would tell interesting stories, but the station got on him because he was playing stuff that was mostly acoustic instruments. The management was thinking of canceling him. Hugh gave that album credit for helping to keep him on the air, because it had some electric instruments, and it was right then that the folk music craze began to kick in. And it took off like a rocket with the great Kingston trio, etc.

TWW: You are also an author besides being a singer and songwriter. What prompted you to write the story of "CASEY TIBBS: Born to Ride?"

RR: When I was overseas in the Marine Corps, my mother would send me *Hoofs and Horns* and *Western Horseman*, and they were full of pictures of Casey Tibbs – as well as lots of other national magazines; they all carried pictorial articles on Casey. He even had a full front cover of *Life* magazine.

That really beefed up my desire to try my hand at rodeo. Casey just became a hero to me. I would have loved to have just gotten a peek at him through a knothole in a fence. I could not have imagined then that one day he would become my closest friend.

I met him in the motion picture business, and we really hit it off. He would brag on me, telling others, "You ought to see this guy ride bulls" and stuff like that which was all nonsense. I did get by a few pretty good bulls, but it was nothing compared to Casey. He was a Superstar.

I was going to do a show with the Sons of the Pioneers up in Minot, ND, and when Casey found out that Amy and I were driving, he insisted we stop and visit his family in Fort Pierre, SD. While visiting with Casey's sister Katie Tibbs Hannum, I asked her if there was anything left of the old homestead. At first she said, "No." But when I pressed her she said, "Oh, it's still there; it's fallen in, though. Would you like to see it?"

We stayed that night at Katie's and slept under a patchwork quilt made by their mom, Florence Tibbs. We rolled out about four o'clock the



Rusty aboard the famous Bluebelle Wrangler Bull.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7

next morning and drove to Casey's nephew Fio Tibbs' place and had coffee. Fio then drove us out through a couple of gates until we ran out of road, and we ploughed through some grass and brush for quite a while until we looked down off a ridge and Fio said, "There it is." WOW!!!! What an experience! There was the old barn, the corrals, the old house where Casey was born, and even an old wagon with the harness still in the seat where Casey's brother, Short Log, had unhitched the team for the last time.

We had to drive to Durango CO the next day for the Louis L'Amour annual picnic. I kept saying to Amy, "Someone has got to write Casey Tibbs' story! You could end it before he entered his first rodeo and still have a great story." Amy said, "Yes! And you're just the one to write it! It has to be written by a cowboy, and you know a lot of the people that Casey does; from the movie business to the ranching business, and the rodeo business, these folks won't talk to everybody...but they will all talk to you."

Anyway, that's how it came about. It was a labor of love. It took me ten years to write it and another ten years to get it published. It was number one on Amazon for two years in sports biographies, but on the downside, I didn't write a single song during that period.

TWW: You have a granddaughter who is making her own way in music as a singer/songwriter, right?

RR: Yes. Our granddaughter, Amanda Richards, is a singer and songwriter. She has a band called "The Good Long Whiles," and she has written a play that was a hit in Oregon. It will be made into a movie this year (they are in production right now). I haven't seen it, and I don't know the name of it. Those who have seen it say that the language is pretty strong, but they also say that they have never laughed so hard in their lives. Amanda and her group perform one Bob Nolan song in their shows (I think it's "Way Out There"), and it always brings the house down.

We have another granddaughter; Becky Sanders, who is a singer and a very good improv comedienne and a talented playwright. She just entered a contest called "48 Hours." Each group is given a subject for their seven-minute film, and one

line and one character that must be in the film; then they have to write it, cast it, film it, edit it, and turn it in within 48 hours. They recently ran it in a theater in L.A., and we just found out it is a finalist. I was the narrator and did one of my original songs in it, and they filmed it here on our ranch.

TWW: While we're talking about family, tell our readers about your family: how long you've been married, kids, grandkids, etc.

RR: Our son, Jason Richards, sang with me for many years. We did a lot of concerts and Trail Rides, and I loved doing the harmonies with him. He has a terrific voice. He is recently married, and his wife is having a bit of a struggle health-wise right now. Jason did have a band called "Silverado," and they were nominated as the best non-touring band in the United States.

Our daughter, Amy Jo Ellis, who is a fine singer and songwriter, has become famous. She wrote a booklet called *The Court of Atonement*. It is now being sold in over a hundred countries and is in six languages. She is helping a lot of people.

Our daughter, Molly Babb (Becky's mother), lives near us. She has a wonderful voice, but she has never wanted to sing; however, she is pure joy as a daughter and friend.

In 2005, we lost our beautiful first born daughter, Jenny Richards, to cancer at age 46. Some members of the IWMA will remember her and her beautiful voice and great guitar work and her songs. We had also lost a baby son, Matthew Richards, back in December of 1965. So we, too, have had our share of heartbreaks.



Rusty and Amy Richards

On the bright side, we have eight biological grandchildren and three step grandsons; we are proud of them all. Now we have four great grandchildren that we love with all our hearts, and one is in the oven!

And, of course, there is my wife Amy, who is my love, my soul mate and best friend for the last 61 years. I could not have done it without her. Thank you again, Amy!

TWW: What a great family, Rusty. You are obviously proud of every one of them. You've been involved for some years – it seems you told us over 30 years – with an organization called the Forgotten Children's Fund. Would you like to tell us about the organization's purpose and to what extent you are involved?

RR: It started with a little boy's heartbreaking letter to Santa Claus that went through the post office in Freeland, WA, which is on Whidbey Island. It was a touching and heart-rending letter. Some of my friends were just so determined to find him and help him, they even used connections they had with the FBI and other law enforcement groups and did their best (without success) to locate him! They could not find and help him, but they decided to find and help others...because of him. Through the M-C Ranch Ride and other donations, they raise enough money so that each Christmas, they can dress up as Santa and deliver Christmas dinner to the most needy families in the greater Seattle area. Each family member gets a warm coat, and last year they delivered 750 brand new bicycles.

I fly up every year for them and sing and do a horse training demonstration to contribute to the fun of their great fund-raising Trail Ride. I am very proud to know these wonderful men.

TWW: Rusty, we sure appreciate your time for this interview. We admire your success and your work ethic over the years. You're an inspiration to all of us, and we know our readers will enjoy learning more about Rusty Richards.

RR: Thanks so much to *The Western Way*. I hope it didn't sound too much like boasting. I feel so lucky to have had such an amazing life. I don't usually talk about it so openly, but I hope our many friends at IWMA enjoy it. Oh, I should

mention that I am currently writing my life story...which I was reluctant to do, wondering who would ever want to read it. But Amy said, "Hey, you have great grandkids that will like to know what you did!" So, I'll be sure to let you know when I get it finished. Thank you again; I sure enjoyed chatting with you. 🐾



(L to R) Barry Corbin, actor, Jason Richards and Rusty Richards

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TALES OF THE WEST

by Jim Wilson



“Strawberry Roan” was the classic cowboy song written by Curley Fletcher (Carmen William Fletcher 1892-1954). However, some years ago, a western writer came up with the story behind the song, which is nearly as good as the song.

It seems that Curley was working on a Nevada ranch and they were in need of someone to ride the rough stock for them. One day while Curley was in town, he stopped into a store and saw one of the employees who sure looked and acted like a cowboy, even though he was wearing town clothes and had pale skin. Curley visited with him and found that he was a cowboy who had just gotten out of prison (something to do with the ownership of cattle) and the store job was all the work he could find. When Curley offered him a job of riding broncs at the ranch, the cowboy jumped at the chance.

This particular bunch of horses were a mixed lot. Some of them were young and unbroken while others were older and had been spoiled. The worst of the spoiled horses was a big strawberry roan and the newly hired bronc rider saved him for last. As expected, that old roan turned our cowboy ever-which-way-but-loose and bunged him up pretty bad.

The kicker to this story is that the bronc rider was named Will James. And he was the same Will James who went on to write those great cowboy stories and draw the great pictures that we have all enjoyed for so many years.

Exhibition Shooting was a very popular sport in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Buffalo Bill would often go galloping into the arena while shooting his Winchester rifle and busting small glass balls that were thrown by an assistant. In later years, both Gene Autry and Roy Rogers would often shoot aerial targets as part of their shows. I can remember seeing Gene Autry shooting aerial targets at the San Antonio rodeo. What was the shocker, though, was that I could hear birdshot hitting the ceiling of the coliseum. You see, those performers would take the solid lead bullets out of those cartridges and replace them with birdshot like shotguns use – made it a whole lot easier to hit a thrown target. And, of course, the birdshot was much safer, should it fall on the audience, and it didn’t poke holes in the ceiling like a lead bullet would. Still, as a kid, it took me a while to forgive old Gene for cheating.

Continued on page 44

KEEPING HISTORY IN PERSPECTIVE

If you get your history from western novels, you recall how the women of the community would be appalled when the heroine would come riding into town sitting her horse astride – the way men ride. There would be remarks made that a decent woman certainly always rode side-saddle. Well, come to find out, the earliest split riding garments for women were designed in France...in the 17th Century! They called it the devantiere. Now most women rode side-saddle when they were pleasure riding, but they wore some sort of split garment when riding at a gallop or jumping fences on a fox hunt. You can just imagine trying to jump a fence while riding side-saddle. At any rate, the divided riding skirt was not only popular but accepted in the American West. I just knew you were dying to know!

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

WRAPPIN' IT UP

A Word from IWMA Past President

Editor's Note: Each year the Board elects its President for the coming year. This past year, Judy James served the organization well. The Board and the IWMA thank you for your leadership, Judy! As 2019 "wraps up," here are reflections from Judy.



As you read this, 2019 will have come to an end, as well as my time as president of the International Western Music Association. It has been an honor and privilege to serve an organization of which I have been a member for over 20 years. As we look back over the year, I believe that together we have

made strides as an organization. Many activities and events were new for this year.

1. Phone conferences with the chapter presidents following the quarterly IWMA board meetings were very well attended. Thank you presidents for participating and following up with your members.
2. The IWMA board held a listening session in connection with our meetings in both New Mexico and Kansas. Thanks to both of these chapters for providing time for us to meet and share.
3. National Day of the Cowboy was held on Facebook over the weekend of the last Saturday in July. Thanks to all who posted videos and to all of you who viewed them. Social media is here and we are using it to promote our music and poetry.



4. The long-awaited Website is about to be active! You can preview it now on our current Website.
5. For the first time, we had an opening address and luncheon for IWMA 2019. What an inspiration Red Steagall was to all of us and very deserving of the Pioneer Trail Award.
6. The Talent Buyers Showcase provided a place for venues and talent to have one forum.
7. A Youth reception for youth chapter members was held for the youth to meet and solidify plans for the week. By all reports, the young people said that they enjoyed their time and it was a nice icebreaker. Thank you to all who served on committees this year, contributing their time and ideas to strengthen our organization. I have always been told to leave something better than I found it and I believe that for 2019, we can say just that.

Keeping Our Western Heritage ALIVE!

Judy James

2019 IWMA President

Western WRITERS of AMERICA

2020

WESTERN WRITERS OF AMERICA CONVENTION

June 17-20, 2020
Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
Rapid City, SD

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PROGRAMMING ON LAKOTA CULTURE
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WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR

2020

Colorado Cowboy Gathering

January 16-19 – Golden, CO

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering

January 27- February 1 – Elko, Nevada

Cochise Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering

February 7-8 – Sierra Vista, Arizona

Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering

February 14-16 – Ellensburg, Washington

Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering

February 21-22 – Alpine, Texas

San Angelo Cowboy Gathering

September 11-12 – San Angelo, Texas

Western Slope Cowboy Gathering

November 6-7 – Grand Junction, Colorado

IWMA 2020

November 11-15 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2

with their music, and it got me interested. I was so interested that he introduced me to his friends in Nashville and helped me set up appointments for jobs in Nashville. I went to Nashville, made the rounds and finally came to the conclusion that Joyce Woodson so beautifully wrote in her song, "If I hadn't seen the West." Nashville was not for me! I was a voting member of CMA for many, many years, and finally dropped my membership when the music was no longer Country music. I joined IWMA in 2010, and have been a Board member since 2012. And the rest of the story! I love to dance; I love to attend concerts. One of the events that I attended numerous times was "Happy Trails Children's Foundation Cowboy Christmas Ball." That is the event that Roy Rogers and Dale Evans created to help fund their Foundation that takes care of young children. Curly Musgrave and Belinda Gail took over hosting the event in Victorville, California, after the Roy Rogers, Dale Evans museum moved to Branson. And that's where I first met Belinda. After Belinda was widowed, a granddaughter of Roy and Dale's appointed herself a match maker for Belinda and me; and, we were married on October 10, 2010. The rest is history, so they say! 🐾

Robert Lorbeer
President, IWMA

P.S. It is rumored that Marilyn Tuttle once said, "If you are not going to marry Robert Lorbeer, I am!" And that's my story and I'm sticking to it!



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Penned by Lantern Light

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

From “Jeremiah Johnson” 1997 movie with Robert Redford

Del Gue: “Maybe you’d best go down to a city, Jeremiah.”

Jeremiah Johnson: “I’ve been to a city, Del...”

Siren Song of the City

by Duane Nelson 2018

*I live in time with the rhyme of the range
The canyons and mountains and plains,
With horses and cattle, and men of the saddle,
The wind and the snow and the rains.*

*No city has ever yet drawn me to live,
Where people exist side by side
Where all around fusses, the cars, trucks and busses;
Mechanical monsters they ride.*

*There’s good folks that live in the city of course,
But I’m guessing they really don’t know
How life can be bettered, by living unfettered,
Out here where most people don’t go.*

*Oh they all live in time, with the tick of the clock
The smog and the air that’s all gritty.
Yes, they’re good people all, but they’re caught in the thrall,
Of the siren song of the city.*

*The city itself is all concrete and steel,
has absolutely no soul
There’s no good solution, for noise and pollution,
But onward and onward they roll.*

*Yes, they all live in time with the tick of the clock,
Not the sun or the moon or the stars.
In condos and high-rise, apartments of small size,
In the clubs and the theaters and bars.*

*They’re all on a schedule, in their concrete world,
And leisure is something that’s rare.
Folks hurry and scurry, and all the time worry,
they’re not gonna get their fair share.*

*They’re all of a kind, but they’re not all that bad.
And I’m sure they don’t want my pity.
Yes, they’re good people all, but they’re caught in the thrall,
Of the siren song of the city.*



Duane Lee Nelson was born and raised in North Dakota, then moved to Oregon as a teen-ager where he now lives on a ranch near The Dalles, Oregon. He has been in agriculture related businesses all his life. He began writing and reciting Cowboy Poetry around 2000, and has opened for such performers as Dave Stamey, Juni Fisher, and Waddie Mitchell. He won the Rising Star Division at the 2014 Kamloops Cowboy Festival, and was one of the five finalists for the IWMA Male Poet of the Year in 2016 and 2017. Duane’s CD Cowboy Lonesome was nominated for the IWMA Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year in 2016. Duane recites at Gatherings across the country, entertaining all with his dynamic presentation. Now retired, Duane lives on a ranch near The Dalles, Oregon with his wife Lori and takes care of a small cow-calf herd while cowboying for as many local ranches as possible. Duane and Lori have six children and six grandchildren.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...The next **Almeda Bradshaw** album project, *Between a Horse and Me*, is simmering on the back burner while she starts up her current business venture, the M2B Ranch Equine Learning Center. She and her husband Merritt will be working with veterans, first responders, and others who deal with trauma-based issues by providing an equine assisted learning program called Herd 2 Human. In 2020, Almeda and the M2B Ranch are producing a series of concert events to raise awareness and funds for Horse Power Inc., the 501(c)3 non-profit that supports Herd 2 Human programs in Montana. These events will feature Almeda working with Montana's much-loved Gairrett Brothers Band. Jim Bob Gairrett is well-known in Nashville for his steel guitar work, having played for Doug Kershaw, Kenny Chesney, Sammy Kershaw, and others.

...The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which offers informal, non-credit classes for seniors across the nation, brought in **Ron Wilson** to Manhattan, KS for a two-hour class in October. The class, titled "From Spurs to Silver Screen: Kansas Cowboy Poetry and History" traces the history of the cowboy through time, complete with original cowboy poetry along the way. The class was full, with 52 participants.

...Western and country music disc jockey **Graham Lees** has just published his autobiography titled *My Life Has Been A Pleasure*. His work is on Amazon Books and is available in paperback and a Kindle e-book.

...New Mexico performer/songwriter **RW Hampton** is a 2019 Rounders Award recipient. The award is named after *The Rounders*, a classic western novel written by New Mexican Max Evans, which later became a movie. Created in 1990 by former Agriculture Secretary Frank DuBois, the purpose of the award is to honor those who live, promote, and articulate the western way of life.

...In November, **Susie Knight** released her fourth album, *Turn 'em Loose*, during the IWMA annual event in Albuquerque, NM. Best known as a Cowgirl Poet, Susie has been singing and writing cowboy songs since her teen years. Numerous IWMA award winners are involved

including **Juni Fisher** (Vocal Producer and harmony), **Ernie Martinez** (rhythm guitar), **3 Trails West** (harmony), **Jimmy Lee Robbins** (finger-style guitar) and IWMA Supporting Member, **Dave Knight**, who makes his recording debut in the closing song of the album.

...**Bob Marshall**, 2019 CMA of Texas award winner for Western Album of the Year and AWA Male Vocalist of the Year, has released his new album. *That's the Way It Should Be* will be available in February at BobMarshallBand.com and other online sites. The project features a wealth of very talented musicians including multi-Grammy winner John McEuen (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band), Merel Bregante (Loggins and Messina, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Sunshine Company), Cody Braun (Reckless Kelly, Muzzie Braun and the Boys) and a host of others.

...**Chris Brashear** and **Peter McLaughlin** are recording songs for their next duet project which will include both originals and standards. Tentative release is for May 2020.

...For those who asked how the Scotland trip went for **The Cowboy Way**, the guys report that it was amazing. In answer to those who asked if the documentary was done, "No. It's an incredibly complex process (who knew?) but we're plugging away. We should have it done in the first half of 2020 and we're very excited about it."

...**Glenn Parker** is working on his first western recordings with the help of **Mark Abbott**, a former member of the **Sons of the Pioneers**. Glenn currently works for country music legend **Gene Watson**. He is hoping for a late spring or early summer release date.

...In September, IWMA Youth Chapter member **Maria McArthur** played at the Station Inn in Nashville, TN, with **Ricky Skaggs**. Also, a band she is in called Copper Wren won the band contest at "Pickin' in the Pines" in Flagstaff, AZ, earning them a paid performance slot for fall 2020. In November, Maria won the state mandolin contest at the Wickenburg Bluegrass Festival and placed second in fiddle and second in band contests at that event. Next up: Carnegie Hall in March with her high school orchestra.

...**Syd Masters** recently made an agreement with Sony Music Entertainment and McGraw Hill Publishing for them to use his song "Under New Mexico Skies" in a nationwide education curriculum for public and private schools. The program is titled "Spotlight on Music" and will be taught in both the USA and Canada.

...In its November edition, *True West* magazine published a full-page review of the latest novel by **Mike Blakely**, winner of the IWMA's 2019 Working Cowboy Song of the Year along with **Damon Rogers**. Blakely's *A Sinister Splendor* is a novel of the Mexican War.

...**Dawn Anita** and her son, Jerry, aka "Dawn Anita and Jerry Don," have released a new CD with 5 songs called *Raisin' Hell In Heaven* that will be released in January 2020.

...The artwork for the poster for the 2020 Spirit of the West Gathering in Ellensburg, WA is a painting by poet **Lynn Kopelke** titled "So, There I Was..."

...**Miss V, The Gypsy Cowgirl** (Wyoming) and **Lindy Simmons** (Colorado) are making plans for a second "Artists Without Borders" concert in Kino Bay, Sonora, Mexico in March. Several musicians and poets have expressed interest in the trip.

...**Kristyn Harris** released a new album in December. Titled *A Place to Land*, it is a mixture of her originals and some classic western and western swing tunes. Kristyn co-produced the album with **Aarom Meador**.

...**Jerry Bell** has released a new Christmas CD titled *Cowboy Christmas*. He is currently working on a new CD project to be recorded in early May.

...The latest poetry book by **Marleen Bussma**, *Tales of the Trails*, won the gold Will Rogers Medallion Award for excellence in Western literature. The ceremony was held in Ft. Worth, TX, in October.

...Youth Chapter member **Kaylea Stafford**, a member of the Cowtown Opry Buckaroo's Fort Worth chapter, performed with several of her inspirations in Branson, MO in November. She played with Wayne Massangal and Larry Allred from the Missouri Plowboys at the Bucket List along with special guest Rex Wiseman from the Oak Ridge Boys. She also performed for Massangal and Melody Hart (Kaylea's first inspiration for playing the fiddle) from Branson Country USA.

...**Devon Dawson** and **Teresa Burleson** have released a joint CD project titled *My Story, My Song*. The album includes seven original poems, seven original songs, and one duet. This is a Christian, faith-based project designed to "bless the longing heart."

...**Tom Swearingen** is editing a book of his poetry for publication in 2020. He has also been selected as a presenter of "History Pub" programs sponsored by McMenamins Pubs and Historic Hotels in Oregon and Washington in co-operation with libraries and historical societies.

...**Greg Hager** will perform daily at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. He will be part of an outreach and ministry team where he will use his original western and gospel songs to share values of life, living, love, family, and faith to the visiting athletes and the Japanese people. This will be Greg's fourth concert tour in Japan.

...Produced by John Macy, **Jon Chandler** has a new recording of ten cover songs, titled *Homage*, that will drop in February. Also, Jon has been tapped to join a group of prominent writers from Western Writers of America to create an exhibit at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, MT titled "Storykeepers." Jon will help write, score, and produce music for the project, which will be unveiled in June 2022.

...**The Sons of the Pioneers** continued their 85th anniversary celebration by performing in October on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry to a standing room only crowd. The audience was very enthusiastic. The Pioneers been there on several previous occasions and are always invited back when in the area.

...**The Ramblin' Rangers** (Brad & BonnieJo Exton) recently received the 2019 Classic Western CD of the Year award from the Rural Roots Music Commission for their *High Hopes & Hard-Luck Trails* CD. The Rangers newest release, *Retrospective ~ the first ten years...*, was released in August, and they are currently working on another CD about historical cattle drives of the Old West to be released in 2020.

...*Trail Back to You*, the third album from **Cisco Jim**, officially released the week before Thanksgiving. This western odyssey of original music brings the listener along a trail of cowboys and cowgirls, of love and loss. It is the experience of a California cowboy: gold rush desperadoes, redwood forests, beaches, surfers, and lots of horses. CDs are available directly from Cisco Jim or by download on Bandcamp.com.

Continued on page 16

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 15

Dave Munsick released a new album at the end of the year titled *THE SONGTELLER*. He made the project compiling what he feels is his best recent material. He used Nashville pickers to create the sound he wanted to get and legendary horseman Buck Brannaman picked up one of the songs, "Buck," to use on his upcoming DVD horse training series.

Riders In The Sky, having celebrated 42 years together in November, are hitting the trail for concerts in theaters and performing arts centers across the U.S. in 2020. Tour dates are listed at RidersInTheSky.com. You can catch

Ranger Doug in the recent Ken Burns mini-series (PBS) *COUNTRY MUSIC*, and Riders In The Sky are back in the studio creating new episodes of "Classic Cowboy Corral" for Sirius-XM.

...After attending his first IWMA event and becoming a new member, **Nolan Bruce Allen** (NBA) took off on a trip to the Philippines. He will spend a month "where it's warm."

...The Spotlight, per Orin Friesen of the **Prairie Rose Wranglers**, is saddened to report that after 21 years, the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper near Wichita, Kansas, has come to an end. The future of the 77-acre ranch has yet to be determined.

...**Juni Fisher** and husband Rusty Bane became grandparents November 16, 2019 to Scarlet Gloria Bane. When asked if she's started knitting and being grandmotherly, Juni replied "You're kidding, right?"

...**Floyd and Valerie Beard** are overjoyed to announce the addition of a budding new cowboy poet, Audy Case Everett. His proud parents are Casey and Laneha (Beard) Everett. He arrived on November 13, 2019, and they are thinking it won't be long until he's horseback. 🐾



EDUCATION! EDUCATION! EDUCATION!

*What a wonderful year
for IWMA Education*

By Pam Tarpley

IWMA had a terrific Youth Camp in June 2019 with thirteen kids from several states at Weatherford College in Weatherford, TX. A special thank you goes to Cowboy Heritage Foundation, Weatherford College and Cowtown Opry for their sponsorship. Also, thank you to Camp Directors Judy James and Jeanne Cahill for their planning and instruction. Thanks to our very talented instructors Jerome Campbell, Jean Prescott, Brook Wallace Deaton, David Sawyer, Teresa Burleson and Dawn Wiseman for their professional instruction. Teaching and learning were intense; and at the end of camp, the Youth performed a concert that any professional entertainer would be proud of.

Education then moved on to planning the workshops for IWMA 2019. There were new ideas for workshops and new presenters. All of the evaluations gave glowing reports of both the instructors' knowledge and presentations. Thank you to Totsie Slover, Mary Kaye, Judy Coder, Juni Fisher, Dave Martin, Lauralee Northcott, Jim Jones, Deanna Dickinson McCall, Claudia Nygaard, Doug Figgs and Mariam Funke for a fine job presenting professional workshops. A new feature this year was adding a Facilitator to each workshop to introduce the presenter and take charge of the room. Thanks to Facilitators Nicole Foley, Dawn Wiseman, Betty Richardson, Kim Linker, A.K. Moss, Nancy Flagg and Jim Jones. Also, the Youth helped in each workshop and a big thank you goes to Abby Payne, Hailey Sandoz, Caroline Wiseman, Jenna Thunborg, Alice Black, and Kacey Thunborg.

The Education Committee would like to congratulate Alice Black, one of the youth camp attendees and an IWMA Youth officer, on winning the Liz Masterson Crescendo Award at IWMA 2019.

We had an amazing year with new ideas coming from you, the members of IWMA. Keep the ideas flowing to your Board of Directors. Let them know what workshops you want at IWMA 2020. Communication is the key to learning. 🐾

Thanks to all of you,
Pam Tarpley
IWMA Education Chair 2019



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

So what's up in our wacky world? Well, let's see. All the usual, of course. Conflict and disharmony, conspiracy theories and covert activities, suspicion and mistrust abounding. And then there's yodeling. Worldwide!!! In fact, as many of us learned for the first time through its founder's attendance at IWMA 2019 in Albuquerque, there actually is a World Yodel Day! Each August 8th, thousands and thousands of people around the globe stop all those other fun activities they're into... and yodel. The day has gained sufficient strength that a commemorative postage stamp was able to be issued in its nation of origin. That nation is South Korea!!!

Since 2013, World Yodel Day's fervently dedicated founder and Yodeler-In-Chief Peter Lim has literally traveled the world to promote the event...posting videos and photos as he goes and handing out buttons bearing the venture's distinctive interlocking 8s. Why 8?? "The 8 is the shape of the yodel," Lim will tell you, grinning. "In and around and back again!!" Laid on its side, the 8 also conveniently becomes the infinity symbol...a detail also not lost on Peter Lim. As far as he is concerned, the yodel's possibilities are infinite...and never has there been a more unique and focused ambassador for the epiglottal arts!! Following his November visit to Albuquerque, Lim turned up in the Fort Worth, Texas Stockyards...and back online.

"We had fun testing Peter's theory that yodeling is a universal language," writes Jeff Prince, host of the Toast & Jam webcast. At Peter's request, Prince had come up with "The World Yodel," a song to go with the existing "World Yodel Day Song," written in 2015 by the Korean artist known as "Excellent Soo!" Prince and Lim were set to premiere the new song live on the webcast when yodelay-ee-who should spontaneously appear but Devon Dawson! (Cast a yodel into the air and ya never can tell!) Miss Devon conjured up a standing bass for Prince and joined the jam herself. View the results on YouTube. Well you know how the Internet can be. Subsequent online versions of that one appear, translated into various languages, as had happened with the earlier song...and it's off and running.

For his World Yodel Day in 2019, Peter encouraged increased participation from the yodel-bedazzled populations of Southeast Asia. And on August 8th, 2019, there erupted



the biggest WYD online event yet, spanning time zones and language "barriers." And, ever the proper host, Peter made sure that everyone was notified when the final molecule of August 8th's light had flickered out in the last Earth time zone, calling the event to an official close!

I'm serious! You have to google this stuff! You won't believe your eyes and ears!

When Peter journeyed the amazing 6800 miles from his home to join the IWMA in its November celebrations, we were treated not only to his own yodeling skills in competition, but also a "handheld tour" of World Yodel Day thanks to his ever-ready Smartphone. Posted examples include citizens of every continent save the penguins, all smiling and yodeling away and sending their loving greetings! Also on Lim's site we found such wonders as "You Are My Sunshine" done with voice, alpenhorn, pan flute, guitar, mandolin and bass, "I Want To Be A Cowboy's Sweetheart" and "Lovesick Blues" as sung in Slavic by Sofia Shkidchenko and "Back In The Saddle Again" performed in Korean by Lee Jea-dong (vocal/guitar), Kim Woo-jin (bass), Kim Eun-jeong (accordion) and Lee Chang-dae (drums)! There's much, much more.

In preparation for the coming WYD in 2020, Peter Lim has launched a bold, new initiative. In short, participants will start a yodel song with one verse, perform it, pass it on for the next verse to be added or start a new song, pass it on...and on...and on... By August 9th, 2020, the world just might find itself the proud (if befuddled) recipient of hundreds of yodel songs sung in umpteen different languages!! It will all finally be coordinated through videos sent to peter@yodeler.net!!



So what, you may well ask, is ultimately accomplished by something called "World Yodel Day?" Oh, how 'bout one more proof being officially registered that there exists an international language...or two? And perhaps there really may be some justification for a column bearing the name "Western World Tour?" And maybe that, like love itself, the yodel needs no translation? Or maybe even...for those who read between the lines...with the right ambassadors saddled up, the same kind of awareness can be made to happen for "Western??!!" 🐾

CHARLES THOMAS LESUEUR (1951 – 2019)



Charles Thomas LeSueur was welcomed to the stage January 22, 1951 and made his final curtain call Sunday, November 10, 2019 at the age of 68. Charlie was a Mesa, Arizona native born from a long lineage of Pioneers to Mesa, Arizona. His rich family

history began his love of the Superstition Legend that even a near death experience there could not keep him away. He devoted his life to his family, music, theater, and most notable his love of the silver screen.

When it was time to set out into the world, Charlie made his way to Hollywood joining the improv troupe Off the Wall. Eventually he joined the television show “Hotel Balderdash” in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he played the infamous character Raymond. The show surpassed many expectations and Charlie was a beloved adversary. Children would line up around the block to see the villain they secretly loved.

While doing a play in Salt Lake City, Charlie met his amazing and beautiful soulmate, Dawn Morris, and made her take the last name of LeSueur. They were gifted with seven beautiful children who they shared their love of music, theater, and of course the movies.

Charlie’s passion for theater led him to have a very successful career in advertising, community theater, as a teacher, and in radio. Starting with the Festival of the West in the early nineties, Charlie learned all he could eventually establishing himself as a notable writer and earning himself the title of Arizona’s Film Historian. He loved meeting everyone he could and learning from them, encouraging them, and sharing with them the amazing world of the Classic Silver Screen. Charles was preceded in death by his father Ned, and his mother Wilma. He is survived by his wife Dawn and his seven children Jennifer, Jennette, Amber, Kira, Cami, Tyler, and Taylor and his siblings Ben, Lisa and their spouses Louisa and Anthony. He has nineteen beautiful grandchildren, Zachary, Emily, Alex, Marisa, Ryan, Garrett, Noah, Kayden, KD, Gavin, Ian, Nolin, Eric, Regan, Lily, Eli, Caleb,

Deegin, and Henry. To Charlie the above blessings he felt honored happened because of his children’s spouses Rick, Marc, David, Tim, Mike, and Rachel. Anyone who had the honor of brushing shoulders with Charlie knew that he was kind, loving, and genuinely cared about each person’s well-being. He wanted people to laugh and to have a good time.

BILLY G. (BILL) POINDEXTER (1949 – 2019)



Billy G. (Bill) Poindexter, 70, was born on May 12, 1949 in the Northview Community north of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, the son of William Roy Poindexter and Jean Asbill Poindexter. He passed away on Thursday, October 10, 2019 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Billy was a member of IWMA and

both the Oklahoma and Texas Chapters. He attended the Convention for several years with his brother, Donnie.

Bill retired after working at many occupations throughout his life, from truck driver, construction worker, security guard, county foreman to ranch hand. From an early age he wanted to be a cowboy and he certainly attained that goal. There was not much in life that he liked better than riding a good horse and working cattle with his brothers and friends, unless it was playing cowboy music.

He was survived by his children, Shanda Coppedge and her husband Troy of Kansas, OK; Candy Gowen and her husband Daniel of Gatesville, TX; William Poindexter and his wife Jennifer of Sallisaw, OK; grandchildren, Stacy Sanders and Brandon Coppedge, Dakota, Amie and Ty Gowen, Hunter and Abby Hutchinson; great-grandchildren, Kiera and Kyle Sanders; brothers, Jim Poindexter and wife Anita from Hiwassee, AR, Donnie Poindexter and wife Debra from Sallisaw, OK, Ernie Poindexter and wife Rena from Sallisaw, OK, Rick D. Poindexter and wife Lori from Sallisaw, OK; several nieces, nephews, and cousins, as well as countless friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and one infant daughter, Jennifer Kay Poindexter.



Chapter Update

ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: John Paulson
johnpaulson1945@gmail.com

At the October meeting at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch in Tucson, the current slate of officers was re-elected for 2020. Sherry Walker will be serving as secretary. Dennis Knill will be the chapter's treasurer. John Paulson will serve as president. The office of vice-president will be vacant. The Arizona chapter was well represented at IWMA 2019 in Albuquerque in November, with 39 in-state members attending and several chapter members and groups performing at the events and competitions. Hosted by Igor Glenn and Bob Sampson, the December chapter meeting was held at the Beatitudes campus in Phoenix. A showcase featuring cowboy Christmas music was performed by several chapter members for the campus residents.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Steve Justus
sjustusCA@gmail.com

Changes. Songs have been written, consultants help steer organizations to and through them. Changes need to happen to drive improvement. The California Chapter is excited with its new Board lineup. Their enthusiasm will carry our existing initiatives forward into 2020 and develop new ones. With the changes come new members and a great team of

Regional representatives: Yvonne Ryan for NorCal, and Sharone Rosen for Orange and San Diego counties. Joining them are new volunteers for Members-at-Large: Scott Tonelson, Joe Lima, Buffalo Brian Marr, and Nancy Flagg. What a difference new volunteers can make! Just take a step, no matter whether you perceive it as small or large; it can help change the dynamic in your organization. Three volunteers have taken on Facebook, and already the activity level has really increased. Scott T. posts for SoCal, Nancy Flagg has been posting her performance database and other items for NorCal, and, of course, Bobbi Jean Bell keeps us all up to date on many happenings. Thank you all.

Northern California Report: A lot is happening, especially on the award and house concert front. The Carolyn Sills Trio and Miss Devon and the Outlaw were inducted into the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame in Sacramento. Congratulations! Joyce Woodson performed at the home of Ray and Yvonne Ryan in San Jose, and The Heifer Belles performed at the home of Pam and Rich Smith in Folsom. Dave Stamey will perform again at the



Heifer Belles Concert

Smith home on March 14, 2020. Please remember to contact Nancy Flagg at cowboytracks2@gmail.com to post an event. Visit our Facebook page to discover the many opportunities to enjoy live Western music in NorCal. Like us and forward to others, please! More than 30 California Chapter members traveled to the 2019 convention. Here are a few that we were able to round up for a photo.



Chapter Members travel to IWMA 2019.

Congratulations to all of the award winners! We are especially pleased that P.W. Conway won the poetry competition, and Gary Allegretto was honored as Male Performer of the Year. Both are regulars at the Autry Showcase and you might catch them on your next visit. Throw in congrats to Bobbi Jean Bell's much-deserved awards for her radio and DJ work!

Southern California Report: most of our activity has been centered on activities at the Autry Museum of the American West. We have been performing Western music at the Autry for almost 30 years and all agree it has been a blessing. We owe many early members such as Mike Mahaney our thanks for the work that went into developing this venue. Please join us on every third Sunday from 12noon to 3p.m. The very talented lineup of regular performers coupled with the great emcee work by Greg Khougaz,

makes the show truly extraordinary. Contact the chapter if you wish to perform. We were pleased to participate in an important fund raising event with our colleagues, the Cowboy Social Club. We hope more collaboration with this great organization is in our future. Best wishes to you all.

COLORADO CHAPTER
President: Susie Knight
LassotheCowgirl@yahoo.com

The IWMA Colorado Chapter extends congratulations to all the 2019 IWMA Award Nominees and Winners. Many members of our Chapter rose to the top again this year. If you've never made the trek to this annual event in Albuquerque, you may want to consider putting it on your calendar for next year. Lots of fantastic western entertainers for you to meet and visit with, jam sessions galore, and the ability to expand your own involvement in this one-of-a-kind organization whether it be a volunteer or as a performer. You want to get heard? You want to rise to the next level as a writer/performer/artist? Invest in yourself by planning to attend IWMA 2020. One of our IWMA Colorado Chapter members that has caught on to the importance of being involved is Cowgirl Poet, Sherl Cederburg (Erie, CO). She has attended and volunteered in various capacities at our IWMA Colorado Showcases this year. Her sacrifice,



Sherl Cederburg, Erie, CO

devotion, and service added up the most TOP HAND AWARD points this year. She attended our IWMA Colorado Chapter Sharing Session at the IWMA 2019 where she was presented with the 2019 TOP HAND AWARD buckle. Congratulations, Sherl! Wear that buckle proudly and often! Speaking of the Sharing Session, many of our Chapter's Supporting and Performing Members showed up on Friday evening after the



Youth in action

Western Opry. It was a chance for members to experience who sings, who is a poet, and simply get better acquainted with each other. I, for one, was surprised with several of the talented members that I had never seen LIVE before. WOW! So much talent in one room! I'm hoping that 2020 opens up more performance venues in Colorado, especially in the Western Slope and the Eastern areas. Another plan is for our Chapter to host a quality show in Teller County (the middle of the state) for a western fest with Pikes Peak in the background. The people of that area want us to keep western music and cowboy poetry going there. I need a team to make this happen. Contact me with your ideas and/or want to volunteer help make this a reality.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER
President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

Columbia Chapter membership now exceeds sixty with the

addition of Mike Dygert, Larry and Susie Carpenter, Geoff "Poppa Mac" Mackay, Julie Spencer, and Maile Samek since last reporting. While our "official" geographic area is Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia, we welcome members from all areas.



Cowboy Poet Duane Nelson accompanied by Lauralee Northcott

Come join us! Our annual October meeting in Hood River, OR, was well attended. The meeting saw the election of Carla Swearingen, Secretary and John Seger, Webmaster replacing Judy Cody and Jennifer Epps, whose terms expire. Also added as Directors were Ed Wahl, Mike Dygert, and Duane Nelson. Continuing are Tom Swearingen, President, Kathy Moss, VP, Nels Nelson, Treasurer, and Ned Bodie, Director. Another highlight of the meeting was the approval of our Youth Program Committee's proposed plan and budget for a new IWMA Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Round-Up contest. Speaking of our Youth Program...member Ted Hunt made a generous "challenge donation" that was later met by donations from more than a dozen chapter members, adding stability to our program going forward. The meeting was followed by our 2nd Annual "Cowboys in the Hood" concert at the Columbia Center for the Arts. Performing were Notable Exceptions, Ed Wahl, Kathy Moss, Lauralee Northcott, Ted Hunt,



Barbara Nelson performs at Cowboys in the Hood.



Tom Swearingen and Kathy Moss visit with Red Steagall at IWMA 2019.

Jim Crotts, Barbara Nelson, Duane Nelson, Tim Jenkins, Coyote Joe Sartin, and Tom Swearingen. Our 3rd Annual is set for next October 17, 2020 in the same location. We've also scheduled a chapter concert for April 25 in Lewiston, ID with other chapter concerts in the planning stages. Several Columbia Chapter performers have kept busy with tours and appearances, including Lauralee Northcott who has been working with the Methow Valley Interpretive Center in Twisp, WA. Their mission, in part, is to foster meaningful relationships with local native people. In November, Lauralee was a featured performer at their first ever Gala Celebration, and one of her award-winning pine needle baskets was donated and auctioned for the continued work of the center. The Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering invited Columbia members Almeda Bradshaw, Kathy Moss,

and Tom Swearingen to their 32nd Annual Celebration in October. The chapter will also be well represented at the upcoming 28th Cochise Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering with featured artists The Hanson Family, and Tom Swearingen, Notable Exceptions, and Devon and the Outlaw also



Notable Exceptions (Jennifer Epps and Judy Coder)

performing. Columbia Chapter was also well represented at IWMA 2019 in Albuquerque with several members attending and performing. Our members were



(L-R) Nels and Barbara Nelson, Carla and Tom Swearingen, John Seger, and Ted Hunt catch a breather at IWMA 2019.

recognized with 14 Awards for Excellence finalist nominations (Kathy Moss 2X, Duane Nelson, Notable Exceptions, Miss Devon and the Outlaw 2X, Joni Harms 3X, Tommy Tucker, Judy James, Hanson Family, and Tom Swearingen 2X) with Kathy Moss winning Poetry CD of the Year for her "The Truth", and Tom Swearingen named Male Poet of the Year.

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black
aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

The IWMAECC made a great showing at the IWMA convention in Albuquerque. It is an approximate 2,000 mile trek for many chapter members who reside in the eastern US. Mark Munzert, Tom Hawk, Micki Furman, Carol Markstrom, Kerry Grombacher, Alice Black, and Aspen Black were in attendance.



Tom Hawk on the Campfire Stage



Kerry Grombacher and Alica Black on the Campfire Stage.

Each performed at the convention, some multiple times. And, Alice Black took home the 2019 IWMA Crescendo Award! Way to go, Alice!



Alice Black wins 2019 Liz Masterson Crescendo Award and receives a Liz Masterson Guitar.

Continued on page 29

IWMA 2019 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY JACK HUMMEL AND LEE PETERS. USED BY PERMISSION.

MUSIC AWARDS



Kristyn Harris

Entertainer of the Year and Female Performer of the Year



Gary Allegretto

Male Performer of the Year



The Cowboy Way – Group of the Year

The Cowboy Way “Go West” – Traditional Western Album



Hailey Sandoz

Instrumentalist of the Year



Alice Black

Liz Masterson Crescendo Award



LeeLee Robert

Songwriter of the Year



Jim Jones

*“It’s a Cowboy I Will Be”
Song of the Year*



Miss Devon and the Outlaw

*“Plains, Trains and Also Bob Wills”
(Not pictured: The Outlaw.
Standing in is Chuck Dawson)
Cowboy Swing Album*

**Mike Blakely &
Damon Rogers**
*“The Outside Circle”
Working Cowboy Song
(Not pictured)*

POETRY AWARDS



Tom Swearingen
Male Poet of the Year



Teresa Burleson
Female Poet of the Year



A. K. Moss
"The Truth" Poetry CD of the Year

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Gary Holt (*Not pictured*)
& Bobbi Jean Bell
"Campfire Cafe" DJ/Radio Program



Syd Masters
President's Award



Marty Kosel
Janet McBride Yodeling Award



P. W. Conway
Poetry Contest



Kacey & Jenna Thunborg
Harmony Youth Award



Miss Devon & The Outlaw
Harmony General Award
(*Not pictured: The Outlaw. Standing in is Chuck Dawson*)



Peggy Malone
Curly Musgrave
Silver Buckle Award



Ann Saunders
Bill Wiley Award
(*Not pictured*)

Red Steagall
Pioneer Award
(*Not pictured*)

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Lynn Anderson



"Cowboy" Joe Babcock

IWMA 2019 IN REVIEW

★ ★ ★ WEDNESDAY ★ ★ ★

The activities of this day kicked off IWMA 2019 and included the opening lunch with featured speaker, Red Steagall. After lunch the day was filled with workshops, the hustle and bustle of vendors in the hallways and an evening filled with music and a great Swing Dance featuring 3 Trails West with guest, LeeLee Robert.

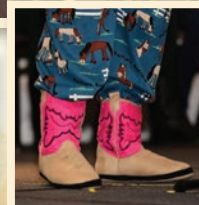
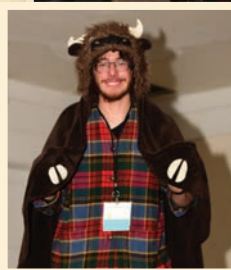


IWMA 2019 IN REVIEW

★ ★ ★ THURSDAY ★ ★ ★



If music wasn't your thing but self-improvement was, then Thursday was your day! Workshops and more workshops were happening everywhere. The evening benefit Crisis Fund Dinner allowed time to give of your bounty to those less fortunate, and the late night Pajama Jam provided an outlet for any pent-up silliness!



IWMA 2019 IN REVIEW

★ ★ ★ FRIDAY ★ ★ ★



Music! Music! Poetry! Poetry! That is what filled the day at Hotel Albuquerque in every room, hallway and nook-and-cranny! And if that wasn't enough...it filled the night, too! The Western Opry showcased more than 35 performers! And, jammin' happened into the night!



IWMA 2019 IN REVIEW

★ ★ ★ SATURDAY ★ ★ ★



So much activity everywhere on Saturday with the special Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast, contests, vendors, the Youth – always a crowd pleaser – and other showcases during the day. And, the long-awaited Awards Show in the evening! There was nothing to disappoint on this last full day of IWMA 2019.



IWMA 2019 IN REVIEW

★ ★ ★ SUNDAY AND OTHER SCENES ★ ★ ★

The Sunday Gospel Concert is always a grand finale for these days of music, poetry and camaraderie. Here, we look back at scenes from Sunday and the week in review, and then we smile because we know we can look forward to more great times coming with IWMA 2020!



Chapter Update

Continued from page 21

The Rocky River Cowboys (IWMA members Jerry Campbell and Wil Scotten) performed their western Christmas show, along with Aspen and Alice Black, at Charlie's Music Barn in Siler City, NC in December.



Wil Scotten and Jerry Campbell at Charlie's Music Barn

While age has made it difficult for several IWMAECC members to make the long trip to Albuquerque, it does not prevent them from keeping western music alive back home!

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen
orin@rbanjoranch.com

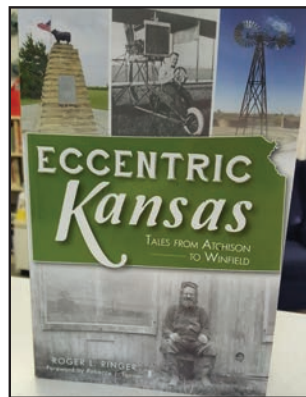
Kansas has recently become the headquarters for Truckers Radio USA, and two of our IWMA Kansas officers now have weekly shows



Truckers Radio USA

that are being heard all over the world. TRUSA is an Internet radio station owned by Rex Allen Jr., Jim and Martha Farrell, and Ron Tyler. It is available through streaming

apps like TuneIn and Simple Radio, and through the website, www.TruckersRadioUSA.com. "Full Gallop," hosted by Tennessee Jim Farrell, IWMA Kansas Vice-President, rides through decades of great western music each week and prides itself on featuring New West songwriters. Our IWMA Kansas President Orin Friesen is host of "Bluegrass from the Rocking Banjo Ranch," a radio show Orin has hosted for 44 years. Rex Allen Jr. has a weekly show featuring traditional country and western music, along with many of his stories about the performers. The three shows are programmed as a block on Saturdays and Wednesdays, with additional airings from Jim and Orin on Sundays. We're hoping these efforts will grow the international audience for Western music, as well as bluegrass and traditional country. Kansas Chapter member,



Eccentric Kansas

Roger Ringer, has released a new book entitled *Eccentric Kansas*. It is available from Amazon and other online booksellers. For the past few years, the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper, near Wichita, has been the home of the IWMA Kansas Chapter. After 21 years of operation, the Prairie Rose has closed. The future of the venue has yet to be determined. Plans call for the chapter meetings to be held at various locations around the state.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: Michael Coy
mmcoy3@msn.com

It's all about the youth! The New Mexico chapter hosted our final Showcase of the year at Best Western Rio Grande. The show featured youth performers from around the country to a packed room. The performances were stellar. Award-winning radio host, Bobbi Jean Bell served us well as the emcee for the evening.



Showcase emcee, Bobbi Jean Bell



Kacey and Jenna Thunborg, NM



Jack George, NM

The show opened with Kacey and Jenna Thunborg and poet Jack George from New Mexico. Next Alice Black made Virginia proud. The second half of the show was all about Texas. Jack Spurgin and Abby Payne delighted the crowd.

Continued on page 31



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT

A few years ago an older lady gave me these lyrics and asked me if I would record the parody as a song. These words are an adaptation of the song by the same title written by American songwriter/lyricist, Roy Turk. This lady wanted it for her 40th high school reunion. I did record it and she told me later they had a lot of fun with it. I imagine many of my faithful readers will relate to it. I hope it brings a smile!

*Are you lonesome tonight
Does your tummy feel tight
Did you bring your Mylanta and Tums
Does your memory stray
To a bright summer day
When you had all your teeth and your gums*

*Is your hairline receding
Your eyes growing dim
Hysterectomy for her
And it's prostate for him
Does your back give you pain
Do your knees predict rain
Tell me Dear are you lonesome tonight*

*Is your blood pressure up
And good cholesterol down
Are you eating your low fat cuisine
All that oatmeal and fruit
Metamucil to boot
Helps you run like
A well oiled machine*

*If it's football or baseball
He sure knows the score
Yes he knows where it's at
But forgot what it's for
Now your gallbladder's gone
But your gout lingers on
Tell me Dear are you lonesome tonight
When your hungry he's not
When you're cold he is hot
Then you start that old thermostat war
When you turn out the light
He turns left you go right
Then you hear his great symphonic snore*

*He was once so romantic
So witty and smart
How did he turn out to be
Such a cranky old fellow
So don't take any bets
It's as good as it gets
Tell me Dear are you lonesome tonight*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Elvis has left the building!



PUTTING "INTERNATIONAL" IN IWMA

It was a special treat to meet Peter Lim (Lim Choong Hyon), Korean yodeler. Peter traveled from Korea to be a part of IWMA 2019 and to observe the yodeling contest. He delighted the crowd with his yodeling as well. Peter is making it his mission to unite yodelers around the world including Argentina, Malaysia, China, Japan, USA, UK and all of Europe. He has created 'World Yodel Day' which is August 8th every year (read more about this event in Huff's Western World Tour, page 17). When he learned about IWMA, well, he had to come see for himself. Peter could be found everywhere during the event, sporting his "cowboy hat"...videoing, smiling, chatting and yes, yodeling! IWMA recognized him with a Special Recognition Award during the Awards show; Peter graciously addressed the audience with his appreciation.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 29



Alice Black, VA



Jack Spurgin, TX



Abby Payne, TX

We were proud to host this event which kicked off IWMA 2019 for our chapter. We once again felt like hosts for all the activities and were glad to answer questions and sign up new members at our table. We look forward to 2020 with a new slate of officers with new and fresh ideas and energy. Watch us at www.westernmusicnm.com.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Donnie Poindexter
cowboydp51@gmail.com

IWMA Oklahoma Chapter members attending the annual convention in Albuquerque were Aspen Black, Jeanne Cahill, Jerome Campbell, Devon Dawson, Kerry Grombacher, Judy James, Nolan King, Daryl Knight, Carol Markstrom, Abby Payne, Dawn Anita Plumlee, Gerald Plumlee, Donnie Poindexter, John Clayton Read, Jessie Robertson, and Francine Robison. A Little Farther West performed December 6 at The Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah, OK, for the annual Will's Country Christmas. Additional Christmas 2019 performances featured two IWMA Hall of Fame members: Riders In The Sky (with the Quebe Sisters) at Oklahoma City's Tower Theater on December 15 and Michael Martin Murphey at Oklahoma City's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum on December 22. Donnie Poindexter and Daryl Knight will be performing at the Fort Worth Stock Show in Fort Worth, TX, on January 27 and 28 and at the Cowboy Way Jubilee in San Angelo, TX, on May 1 and 2.

TEXAS CHAPTER

President: Cary Wiseman
wisemanranch71@gmail.com

The IWMA Texas Chapter has a wonderful time at Albuquerque for our 2019 convention. We got to visit with so many old friends and make many new friends. The Texas Chapter, Oklahoma Chapter, and Kansas Chapter discussed having a combined event possibly in Oklahoma, we have to get a date and venue, then gather the performers. I look forward to working with both chapters to see what we can put together. We wanted to thank all of the nominees and award winners from the 2019 year, and all of the volunteers that make our convention successful each year. The Texas Chapter thanks all the parents that haul their youth so many miles to rehearsals, practice

and performances for the youth to perform and keep our western music and cowboy poetry alive. The youth did a wonderful job at their showcases and group performances this year, thanks to everyone that worked so hard for our youth to be spot on and as prepared as they are for each performance. The Texas Chapter would like to congratulate all the winners again and wish everyone a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

UTAH CHAPTER

President: Brian Arnold
saddlestrings@live.com

Fall was a busy time for Utah Chapter members. Many performed at the Heber Valley Cowboy Gathering and also at the Cedar City Livestock Show. These events were simultaneously occurring the last weekend of October. The Cowboy Poets of Idaho hosted the Wayne Nelson Cowboy Gathering on the second weekend of November. Many of those performing there were Utah Chapter IWMA members. Wayne Nelson was a beloved and very skilled poet and musician. It was a great honor for those of us who participated to be part of anything that remembers and honors Wayne. Lots of Christmas gigs for IWMA performers filled the month of December. On a sad note, our good friend, Scott Bodell, passed recently. He was a huge supporter of western music and cowboy poetry. He and Debbie were mainstays at all of the local gatherings and performances. Utah Chapter members were well represented in the musical and poetic performances at his funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie and her family. On a brighter note, Teri Arnold continues to recover and improve. She and Brian danced at Cedar City! She has spent time recently astride her mule! She is frustrated at times but has the indomitable spirit of a winner. Kudos to Brian and Teri and the brave way they have both handled this curve ball that life threw at them! Merry Christmas to everyone!

Continued on page 33

DJ BEHIND THE MIC

By Nancy Flagg



In "DJ Behind the Mic," Nancy shares the life stories and musical insights of the deejays who broadcast Western music and cowboy poetry to the world.



MIKE GROSS

For anyone wanting an introduction to western swing, they could find no better resource than Mike Gross. Mike produced his "Swingin' West" radio shows for 30 years, was named DJ of the year and was inducted into four Halls of Fame by

major western swing societies. He emceed shows at the Lincoln Center in New York City that included famous western swing artists, such as Leon Rausch and the Texas Playboys. As the saying goes, "what he don't know, ain't worth knowing."

Western Swing Starter Kit

Mike first fell in love with western music through the singing cowboys Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Jimmy Wakely, but it was the 1940 film "Take Me Back to Oklahoma," starring Tex Ritter and Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, that opened his heart to western swing. In 1980, Mike fulfilled his dream of hosting a western music radio program when he started his "Swingin' West" show on WSHU-FM, a National Public Radio-affiliated station serving Connecticut and Long Island. He describes his show as "everything western," from Bob Wills to the western-style tunes of Glenn Miller to contemporary western swing and he always includes at least one traditional cowboy song in each show.

Driven to promote and educate people about the world of western swing, Mike publishes a website (swinginwest.com) that is a fount of useful information. The "Top 10 List" is his own monthly ranking of the

best western swing songs and albums. He also reviews recently released western swing albums and maintains a list of western swing artists.

For neophytes wanting to learn about the genre, Mike suggests that their starter kit include music from the pioneers: Bob Wills, Spade Cooley, Johnnie Lee Wills and Milton Brown. He also recommends listening to recent albums from artists such as Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing, the Curio Cowboys, Jimmy Burson and the Sactown Playboys.

Western Swing Presence

Mike says that western swing music is "scattered around the world." His show is picked up by the "When the Cowboy Sings" Website run by Miguel Diaz in Spain, but the hotbeds of the genre are Texas, Oklahoma, Sacramento-California, Kansas and Seattle-Washington where there are western swing societies that keep it alive. Although the music is not as widespread as it was in Bob Wills' day, interest ebbs and flows. Mike takes faith in something that Bob Wills said about the music, "It'll come back. It may be different, but it'll always be there."

How to hear Mike behind the mic:

Mike is no longer producing new shows but replays of older "Swingin' West" programs can be found at:

- KSEY-FM, Seymour, Texas, Sunday 3PM CST
- Mike's website: "SwinginWest.com"
- EarsRadio1.com. Mon 5PM EST, Wed 9AM EST, Thurs 1PM EST
- WhentheCowboySings.com

About Nancy Flagg

Nancy is the producer and host of the "Cowboy Tracks" radio program on KDRT in Davis California. The show features Western music, cowboy poetry, interviews and Western history. The show can be found at KDRT.org, Facebook or iTunes. Nancy is a member of the California chapter of the IWMA. She is a retired University financial administrator and freelance writer. Nancy performs in amateur bands of many genres, but surprisingly none are Western.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 31

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Dan "Doc" Wilson

wwpres1234@gmail.com

Our Mission: To produce, promote and preserve the tales, stories and poems of the Western culture in written or oral form.

Elections for 2020 – By the time you read this, Chapter elections will have been held via email and we will have a new board of directors. Since this will be my last activities report as president of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter, I'd like to thank you all for your support these past two years and am confident you'll continue to support the incoming Board as well.

Ideas Needed – My focus for these past two years has been on trying to promote the state of the art in cowboy poetry, western prose and storytelling, and the Western Wordsmiths Website was a major means of communicating with you. Much is still on the table to be considered by the new Board, including a nation-wide cowboy poetry contest and how best to support individual members. Since we don't meet as chapters, I've found this to be a challenge. If you have thoughts about what might be done in the future, please let us know.

Songwriters – As I said in the Chapter Activities Report for the Summer issue of *The Western Way*, we've learned that some Wordsmiths members are also songwriters who write lyrics as well as compose their own melodies. There's no provision in the Wordsmiths charter to address the music composition side of things, but there may be things we can do with the lyrics side. In the old days, they wrote new lyrics to tunes of the day, which were in public domain. Why not do that again? After IWMA 2019, a tab will be added to our Website for items of interest to our songwriters. Check it out in December!

WYOMING CHAPTER

President: John Sidle

johnsidle@gmail.com

While a bomb cyclone rocks the country, it's just another day in the life in the Cowboy State. We pull on our long handles, stoke stoves, give thanks for firewood and 4x4s and accept mandated moments of repose that the season affords. In one of these moments, the Wyoming Chapter reflects upon some recent highlights... Most important, we would like to welcome our newest members: Suzanne Samelson (Thermopolis, WY), Kimberly Kaye (Belle Fourche, SD), George Ray Russell (Boulder, CO) and David Wayne (Virginia). It is great to see our chapter grow both within our state's borders and nationally! Once again, we were well represented at IWMA 2019 in Albuquerque and several members were recognized at the awards ceremony.



Chapter VP Karen Killion with Red Steagall

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Wyoming chapter members: LeeLee Robert (Songwriter of the year); Miss Devon and The Outlaw (Swing Album of the year, *Planes, Trains and Bob Wills*); the singular Miss Devon and Jesse also won the harmony contest with their outstanding performance and Susie Knight was nominated for female poet of the year. Also, a special thanks to Michael and Donna Coy for their efforts organizing the Youth Chapter Showcase at the Best Western hotel. We are honored and appreciative to have such talent supporting our chapter!!



Karen Killion, LeeLee Robert, Alma and Stan Tussing at IWMA 2019

We'd also like to send a special congratulation out to the Ramblin' Rangers who received the Classic Western CD of the Year from the Rural Roots Music Commission at the Old Time Music Festival in Fremont, NE in October. Brad and Bonnie Jo Exton are doing a fabulous job of uniting Wyoming performers with their neighbors to the East. It is great to see their musical talents duly recognized.

As we peer through the Fool's Hole in the dense cumulous clouds of winter, catching a momentary glimpse of sunshine, we see a few noteworthy events on the horizon... The WY Chapter set a goal to present at least three showcases next year. Plans have been initiated for a music festival in Chugwater, WY at the Stampede Saloon and Eatery, hosted by our new members Mer and Margie Nilson. The event is scheduled for August 14-15 and will feature a variety of music genres. We are delighted the Nilson's will be including Western music on their stage! October 17 will see a WY Chapter Showcase at the prestigious DeSmet House Concert series in Hot Springs, SD. Colorado Chapter president and performer extraordinaire, Susie Knight, is working on creating an additional showcase in SE WY, and we all know Susie is a gal that can make things happen, so we look forward to sharing details on that event soon. We've got some additional plans in the works, so now is a great time to join the Wyoming Chapter to keep up to date on next year's events!

Like tumbleweeds, we grow where we are planted; sometimes uprooted to drift with the wind, fostering roots in new environs when the warm winds blow. It is little wonder that our membership reaches far and wide, for we are all drifters at heart in the Cowboy State. 🐾



O.J. Sikes Reviews

A Musical Note From OJ...

In recent months, several CDs of vintage material have been issued that may be of interest to Western music lovers, although only some of the music on those CDs is Western. The first is from the B.A.C.M. label and is titled *Rusty Draper, Vol. 2 – A Little Bit of Western Style* (BACM CD D 642) by **Rusty Draper**. One of the interesting things about the album is that, in spite of appearances, the title song isn't Western! But there are others on the 29 track disc that definitely meet the criteria, like Draper's million-selling "Shifting, Whispering Sands," as well as "Riders in the Sky" and "Giant." Draper was a cross-over artist who was popular in the country and pop fields, and these genres are well represented on this disc. Available from VenerableMusic.com or phone Venerable Music, (678) 232-0268.



Another CD issued by the same label, *Remember the Alamo* (BACM CD D 636) by **Carl Butler**, is one I found even more enjoyable for a couple of reasons. First, the title song is a well-known Western song and the rendition featured here is first-rate. Second, I used to enjoy Carl & Pearl Butler's live performances in Nashville back when their smash hit, "Don't Let Me Cross Over," was topping the charts. But perhaps my primary reason for enjoying this collection is that several of the recordings

(which are from the duo's Columbia years) come from the Texas shuffle-beat tradition, e.g. "Honky Tonkitus," and I'd wager the fiddle player who kicks them off is **Tommy Jackson**, the same fellow who introduced that style of fiddling with Ray Price in the 1950s. Available from VenerableMusic.com or phone Venerable Music, (678) 232-0268.

And in November 2019, the Jasmine label issued a CD of recordings by **Bonnie Guitar**, *Singles As & Bs, 1956-1962 and More*. Most folks remember Bonnie Guitar for her huge hit, "Dark Moon," not exactly a Western song, but a very nice one and a best-seller, too. But she also recorded some great Western songs as well, like "Moonlight on the Colorado," "Roll Along Prairie Moon," & "Rocky Mountain Moon" and they're included on this new 2 CD set of 56 tracks (her complete recorded work from this period). Widely available online. 🐾



To submit your CD for review, send to:

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

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

Questions? You can email O.J. at osikes@nj.rr.com

SPADE COOLEY COLLECTION 1945-52

Spade Cooley & His Orchestra

Acrobat ADDCD3308



Recent Spade Cooley releases I've seen tend to duplicate each other to a great extent, but this 2 CD set contains roughly half (54 sides) of Cooley's recordings made between 1945 and 1952. So while there are songs you may have heard before, you'll also

find tracks that may be new to you.

There are plenty of vocals by Tex Williams, but you'll also hear Smokey Rogers (aka "Oakie"), Deuce Spriggins (aka "Arkie"), Red Egner, Ginny Jackson, the Sons of the Pioneers and others. One track, "Heartaches, Sadness & Tears," which may be the rarest in this set, features Dinah Shore! Both Joaquin Murphey and Noel Boggs can be heard on steel at different times, and Joaquin's version of "Steel Guitar Rag" was selected for this set.

Some listeners will find it interesting to compare Cooley's style with that of his principal competitor, Bob Wills. One way to do that might be to listen to Cooley's band playing songs that were closely associated with Bob Wills in the minds of the public, e.g. "Texas Playboy Rag," "Spanish Fandango" and "Ida Red," all of which are included in this set. Widely available online or from your favorite mail order sources.

RED EGNER & OTHERS

Red Egner

B.A.C.M. CD D 643



When Tex Williams left Spade Cooley over a salary dispute in 1946, Columbia Records had just finished recording a number of sides by the band featuring Tex's vocals. Shortly afterwards, Cooley changed record labels, moving to RCA Victor, so Columbia

released those 1946 sides slowly, over the next couple of years. In the meantime, Tex Williams formed his own band, but Cooley needed to replace Tex and the band members who went with him. He chose a talented guitarist and fiddler named Red Egner.

Egner didn't sound at all like Tex, but he had been working with a group called the Saddle Pals and had

recently recorded with some of Cooley's sidemen, e.g. Tex Atchison and Noel Boggs, so Spade hired him. The sides Red cut with the Saddle Pals and the all-star group in 1946 make up the first 12 tracks on this CD. The next 8 are from 1946-47, recorded for small labels under Red's own name. To close the collection, there's a live performance from an AFRS Melody Roundup broadcast featuring Spade Cooley's band with Red from the Fall of 1946.

Detailed liner notes by historian Kevin Coffey fill lots of gaps for fans who might know Egner's name but might not be familiar with his story. Available online and from VenerableMusic.com or phone (678) 232-0268.

THE JIMMY WAKELY COLLECTION 1940-53

Jimmy Wakely, The Rough Riders, Margaret Whiting

Acrobat ACTRCD9083



Rex Allen used to say that, in his opinion, Jimmy Wakely was the most underrated singer in Hollywood. You can hear the reasons Rex held Wakely in such high regard in this collection of 84 recordings, including all of his 24 hits and a variety of music (he

was popular in the pop field as well as in the western and country genres). His Number 1 hits with Margaret Whiting are here, as are songs from his movie days, beginning with his 1940 recording of "Cimarron (Roll On)" with the Jimmy Wakely Trio, i.e. Dick Reinhart and Johnny Bond, who often called themselves the Rough Riders. The set includes movie song titles "Moon Over Montana," "Oklahoma Blues" and "Song of the Sierras" (which was Jimmy's personal favorite Wakely film and one Wesley Tuttle co-starred in), and an all-time favorite of many, composed by Smiley Burnette, "On the Strings of My Lonesome Guitar."

Wakely had several radio shows and used more than one theme song for them. Smiley's composition was used for a while, as were "At the Close of a Long, Long Day" and "Tellin' My Troubles to My Old Guitar." All these are here, as is some of Wakely's fine Western swing as well as the Western and pop ballads he was so well-known for. In addition, there's some seasonal material and lots of the outstanding recordings he made with Margaret Whiting, not only the No. 1 hits. Highly recommended! Widely available online or from your favorite mail order sources.

Continued on page 36

★ ★ ★

HATS OFF TO THE COWBOY

Red Steagall



Red Steagall has "done it all," with tremendous successes in television, radio, music & poetry recordings, songwriting, motion pictures, writing and "live" performances. And his talent has been widely recognized, resulting in

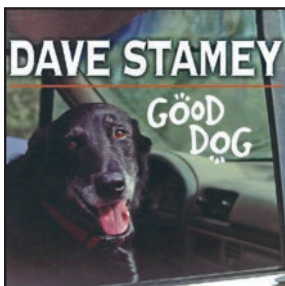
winning every award you can think of. In 2019, he released this ten track CD comprised of eight songs and two poems.

You'll hear a religious influence in some of the songs, e.g. "I Ride for the Brand of the Man with the Nail Scarred Hands" and "When He's Gathered Up the Strays." Actually, one of my favorites falls into that category: "I Won't Have Far to Go," a commentary on living in a part of the country that's so picturesque that, when it's time for the rider to leave this earth, he won't have far to go to get to heaven. My other favorite is a delightful, up-tempo tune titled "Young Flankers are Hard to Come By," but in this instance, it's not fair to limit favorites to just two (and frankly, I can't). Chalk up another "winner" for Red Steagall! Available from orders@redsteagall.com or (817) 444-0976. Highly recommended!

★ ★ ★

GOOD DOG

Dave Stamey



Dave Stamey was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame in 2016 after many years of winning numerous awards for his outstanding work, both as an entertainer and as a composer of Western music. Along the way, his fans found favorite songs among his

vast repertoire and recently, they began asking when he was going to record one called "Good Dog," a song he'd been doing in concerts across the country.

He figured now's the time, so this favorite of so many became the title song for this CD.

The album has 12 tracks and each song will have its own admirers. The title song is #2. The lead-off song is one of my favorites, in part because of the Western movie & TV references. The title is "Andy Devine." One of these days I want to hear the story of how it came about, but for now, that will have to wait. I'm happy just to listen to it and let it bring back memories.

You'll find your own favorites in this set of music performed by Dave with his guitar and some sometimes understated but always beautiful harmony from Annie Lydon. Available from DaveStamey.com (or you can call 805-705-1329). 🐾

★ ★ ★

An on-going gathering, updated continually with news; event listings; cowboy poems and songs; and more.

Pictured: Design by Chris Kirby for *MASTERS: Volume Three*, a 3-CD set of the poetry of Bruce Kiskaddon.

COWBOYPOETRY.COM

CHRONICLE OF THE OLD WEST

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

DR. GEORGE GOODFELLOW

BY DAKOTA LIVESAY



In July of 1881, President Garfield was shot. He suffered for two months and died. Had President Garfield been shot in Tombstone, Arizona, he very well could have survived.

Born on December 23, 1855 in California, at the age of 16 George Goodfellow got an appointment to Annapolis. But, he was kicked out for beating up a bully. From there he entered medical school, and graduated with honors. Dr. Goodfellow wrote several

papers proposing a number of revolutionary surgical practices. Dr. Goodfellow ended up in a town more suited for this gun-toting, hard-drinking, champion boxer...Tombstone, Arizona.

As anyone who has watched a western movie knows, if a man is gut-shot with a 45, there's nothing that can be done for him. And, this is one place where western movies were correct.

While Dr. Goodfellow was in Tombstone, he treated gun shot wounds on people, including Virgil and Morgan Earp, and Doc Holliday. His sense of humor came out when he did autopsies. Like the time he found a corpse "rich in led, but not too badly punctured to hold whiskey." Or the time he wrote the cause of death of a lynched man as "coming to his death from emphysema of the lungs which might have been caused by strangulation, self-inflicted or otherwise."

When President Garfield was assassinated, eastern doctors didn't cut people open when gut-shot. As a result, the President died two months after being shot of infection and a ruptured artery.

At virtually the same time as the shooting of the President, a miner in Tombstone was shot, ending up with a perforated small intestine, large intestine and bowel. Dr. Goodfellow operated on the miner. Unlike the President, the miner survived. 🐾



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

Dakota has written a book entitled *Living The Code*, explaining how we're a great country because of the traditional values developed on our frontier, and how we can continue our greatness by maintaining those values.

In his personal appearances, Dakota tells stories about Old West characters and events in a way that keeps the audience riveted to his every word. He also delivers talks, based on his book *Living The Code*, motivating people to a higher standard of living.

Although Dakota doesn't consider himself an expert – just an enthusiast – through print, Internet, radio, TV, CDs and personal appearances, he gives people a taste of the real Old West.

Dubbed "the radio voice of the Old West" Dakota has won the coveted National Day of the Cowboy, Cowboy Keeper Award, Spirit of the Old West Alive Award and the Straight Shooter Award.



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

CAROL HEUCHAN

"Both Sides of...Carol Heuchan"



On stage Australia's (but rapidly also becoming "our") Carol Heuchan is a stellar

example of what's possible in the performance of Cowboy Poetry... if you happen to be blessed with her level of moxie, that is! (moxie: American term denoting feisty energy and grit). We defined that in a salute to the extensive glossary of Aussie terms Heuchan has furnished with her new double CD release. "Both Sides..." refers to the mix of Bush Poetry and Cowboy Poetry served up in generous slices.

In tone, the works range from the hilarious to the deeply heartfelt, and her acting ability draws you in.

Each poem included has its own reason to command our attention, but some that definitely will be her renderings of A. B. "Banjo" Paterson's "Man From Snowy River," Will Ogilvie's "Hoofs Of The Horses" and Henry Lawson's "Ballad Of The Drover." Picks from among her fine originals include the two-part, two-view "Sunset Cattle Drive," "Good Show," "The Dude Ranch Horse," "Rosie" and "Droving Miss Daisy."

One additional cover she offers... Les Barker's daffy "One Legged Horse" ...prompts one to pose the Zen question "what is the sound of one horse clipping?" (No clop, you know.) Twenty-four tracks, highly recommended.

CD: available through carolpoet.com



CAROLYN SILLS COMBO

"Return To El Paso"



Here's a 5-song EP that's quite different in concept. It's offerings are done in celebration

of a "sixth" song...for the 60th (wow...really??!) Anniversary of the all-time Marty Robbins classic "El Paso!" Rather than featuring yet another version of the song itself, the versatile Carolyn Sills Combo has posed plot extensions and backstories for its principal characters and others who contributed to them being where they were on that storied night.

In "Feleena" we encounter another jealous lover of hers, very possibly female, who nearly intercedes by threatening the "Handsome Young Stranger." In the

mostly instrumental song of that name, another interloper learns of that fellow's existence in the fickle girl's life. "The Ranger" is among those chasing the murderer. In "Hold Your Horses" the man who tied up the "good one that could run" outside Rosa's tells his own tale. As to exactly who sings "I'm Not Crying, I've Just Rubbed Jalapenos In My Eyes," your guess is as good as mine. Still it's a neat little song!

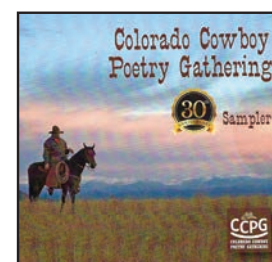
The Carolyn Sills Combo is expert in whatever they take on musically, and this is no exception as they gallop, saunter, waltz, swing and two-step their way through "the town of El Paso..." Five songs, recommended.

CD: Visit carolynsills.com



COLORADO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

"30th Anniversary Sampler"



Celebrating three decades of Western excellence, the organizers of this

highly respected event have issued a collection of performances from people whose very names constitute the stamp of quality.

They are Kristyn Harris with Hailey Sandoz, co-founder Gary McMahan, Jon Chandler, historian/performer Rex Rideout ("Ride Out To The West"), New West, Jean Prescott, Barry Ward and the late Liz Masterson along with others you need to know if you don't: Connie Dover ("I'm Going To The West") and instrumentalist Mark Gardner ("Shoal Creek"). Equally noted poets/reciters in the group include Chuck Larson, Jerry "Brooksie" Brooks, Yvonne Hollenbeck, John Nelson, Dick Warwick and Pop Wagner.

Overall the collection is beyond superb. It passes well-nigh to thrilling territory! Kudos to all concerned. Eighteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Available from Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering, PO Box 985, Golden, CO 80402 or through coloradocowboygathering.com

DAWN ANITA

"Saddlin' Up For God Country & Cowboys"



Oklahoma cowgirl songstress Dawn Anita Plumlee, the 2018 Academy of Western

Artists Female Singer of the Year, has teamed again with noted multi-instrumentalist Milo Deering for her newest release. Also on board are Tom Smith (piano/bass/drums), Kevin Bailey (harmonica) and she gets added harmony support from Nikki Sanford and Kenneth Bolin.

Especially in her upper vocal register, some will likely find Dawn Anita's styling reminiscent of the latter-day Dale Evans. CD picks include her cover of Woody & Jerry

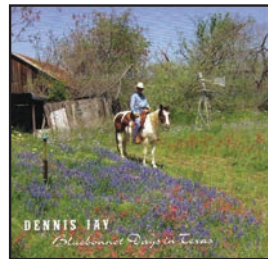
L. Guthrie's "Oklahoma Hills" and her swinging co-write with Ronnie Bishop called "Stand Up I'm Talkin' About Texas," but we don't say that just to give the neighboring state equal time!

As far as the CD content goes, the title of it pretty much says it all, and her fans should take to this newest release of hers just fine. Eleven tracks.

CD: Available through www.dawn-anita.com or through Free Country Records,

DENNIS JAY

"Bluebonnet Days In Texas"



In about as mixed a bag as a four-song EP can be, singer/songwriter Dennis

Jay offers an up-swing ("The Words I Don't Love You Anymore" done with Lisa Gamache sharing lead vocal), a slow-swing ("I Opened Your Letter"), the title tune ("Bluebonnet Days In Texas" which could have stepped straight out of Jimmie Rodgers' song bag) and an instrumental tribute to two of his horses gone on ("Run Buddy Run... Adios Soltero Adios").

Jay's sidemen Dennis Ludiker, Bob Stafford and producer/musician (and living legend) Lloyd Maines contribute guitar, dobro, bass, percussion, trombone, steel and fiddle to various tracks, all showcasing Jay's bluesy, swooping vocals and, of course, the songs... any of which might be "coverable" by others...particularly the title track. As we said, four songs, and it's recommended.

CD or downloads available through dennisjay.com

JIM JONES

"Favorites"



Jones says in his notes that the particular songs he has chosen for this CD are not necessarily

audience picks, but they are his own favorites to perform. When you stop to consider the fact that to promote the collection, Jones will need to perform...and perform...and perform them, it appears there may be a practical point to this exercise as well!

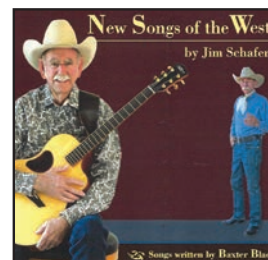
The song group includes Allan Chapman co-writes "These Cowboy Boots," "Skeleton Canyon," "Smoke Of The Brandin' Fire" and "Halfway Down The Devil's Road." Bruce Huntington collaborations are "Race With The Wind." "Man Of The Mountains" and "The Fires Of Goliad." Despite his notes on the subject, at least one of Jones' self-penned selected favorites is indeed a proven crowd fave... "Long May You Ride." And if we're counting correctly, this marks Jones' fourth time recording it. Nicely mastered by his Cowboy Way band mate Mariam Funke. Fourteen tracks, recommended.

CD: available through jimjoneswestern.com or contact ajamojo@gmail.com

JIM SCHAFER

"New Songs Of The West"

(Songs Written by Baxter Black)



One of Baxter Black's favorite interpreters of his material returns with another collection of

works that warrant (and, in some cases, have already received) close attention.

Continued on page 40

HUFF REVIEWS

Continued from page 39

Jim Schafer is an accomplished balladeer who knows how to showcase material in the intended manner. As is ideal in a good collection, each of the songs presented has its own individual character. Some have been covered by others... "Last Of The Singing Cowboys," "Running Out Of Sunsets" (not the Jack Hannah song) and "Colorado Cowboy," for example. Other picks include "Bruneau Stallion," "Write Me A Letter," "One Kansas Night" (interesting chord progression). "Rose Of Coahuila," "Chasin' The Moon By The Tail," the swinger "Ship My Body Back To Texas" and "Some Men Are Eagles."

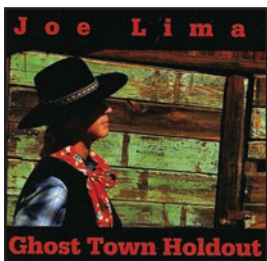
We could refer to this Schafer collection of Baxter Black songs as being "Volume Two," except that "Volume One" was issued more than twenty years ago! Didn't think I'd remember, huh?!!

Thirteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Available through Coyote Cowboy Company, PO Box 2190, Benson, AZ 85602. (800) 654-2550).

JOE LIMA

"Ghost Town Holdout"



On this album, whose singer was apparently "nudged" into recording

by our beloved Marilyn Tuttle, Joe Lima hits the vocals with enthusiasm. He has a more original style than is employed by some, and he is seemingly out to forge his own effect...although there does

seem to be a bit of early Bobby Bare in there.

Because we're about to tie into the production here, let's name some Lima-written picks right up front: "The Trail Back To You," "Bury Me Inside My Goldmine," and the uptempo swinging take of the Gene Autry/Johnny Marvin song "Dust" caught my attention. The original as sung by Roy Rogers was premiered in live performance (1938) at the Capitol Theater in Dallas with my Western Music mentor, Hi Busse & The Frontiersmen. But back to the subject at hand. The task with this artist may prove to be the matching of material to style. "My Rifle My Pony & Me" as featured here may not be a successful example of that. Gary Allegretto's masterful harmonica work heightens the effect of the bluesier tracks in particular, but in general the musical accompaniment is mixed too far back, leaving Lima hitting hard against padding that doesn't justify the power.

Joe Lima is what I think of as a recording work in progress. We'll hope the next pass better showcases his obvious abilities. Ten tracks.

CD: Available through joelima.com

JOHN LANG

"Steel Highway"



More and more fine Western Swing seems to pouring forth from Eastern sources. But

it's not all that new a phenomenon, it seems. During IWMA 2019 in Albuquerque, we were alerted to an amazing example from a while back (2013) that definitely should not be overlooked. For the CD "Steel

Highway," steel man John Lang assembled sixteen top players in a tribute to the Swing greats. With nine of those musicians handling lead and harmony vocal duties, this release becomes a supershow!!!

Many of the expected Swing titles are present, including "Roly Poly," "Miles & Miles Of Texas," "Take Me Back To Tulsa" and "Route 66." Some of the more outside-the-norm offerings might include "T-U-L-S-A Straight Ahead," "I Wonder," "Bring It On Down To My House," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "My Baby Thinks He's A Train" and "Old Fashioned Love."

If you're a Western Swing fan, get this sucker before it slips out of print! Eleven tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Available through johnlangmusic.com

JON CHANDLER

"Homage"



The new CD from Colorado's award-winning baritone singer/songwriter/

author Jon Chandler is just what its title says of it...namely, an homage to songwriters he honors here by singing his favorites from among their works. Predominantly the songs are ballads he has "opened up and allowed to breathe," as he puts it.

Several of the songs are unarguably Western, and others are interesting when they are considered in a Western context. Of the latter, an example is the Jerry Jeff Walker-inspired arrangement of the old Kahn/Donaldson chestnut "My Buddy." The same can be said for Tony Joe White's "Billy" and

for the same reason. Among the specifically Western picks we have Mike Blakely's "Slow Falling Rain," Stan Jones' famous "Ride Away" (Theme from The Searchers), Paul Seibel's "Spanish Johnny" (drawn from Willa Cather's poem) and Greg Brown's "Early."

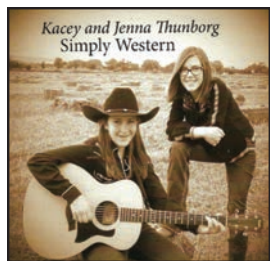
The public release date for this collection is mid-February, so get ready! Ten tracks, recommended.

CD: Available through coastalbendmusic.com



KACEY & JENNA THUNBORG

"Simply Western"



So is this an album or is it an EP?? At seven songs in length, using appropriate

Western imagery, you could say it "straddles the fence!"

Whatever you want to call it, this release does provide a nice introduction to two young up'n'comers. Coming on strong in the Western and Western Swing arenas are the Thunborg Sisters. Winners of the IWMA 2019 Youth Harmony Award, they've been guided by their music teacher... none other than Cowboy Way singer/multi-instrumentalist Mariam Funke, who recorded and produced this effort at his Socorro, New Mexico studio.

On this release, the girls have smartly chosen to include three more infrequently heard tunes among the classics ("The Yellow Bandana," "Whispering Pines" and "Rockin' Over"). Otherwise we (again) have "Ragtime Cowboy Joe," "San Antonio Rose," "Along The Navajo Trail" and "Back In

The Saddle Again." Overall it's a nice how-dee-doo to two talented IWMA Youth Chapter standouts! Seven songs, recommended.

CD: (Suggest you google the artists or Mariam Funke and GMF Recording Studios for info)



NATALIE MACMASTER

"Sketches"



In Canada Natalie MacMaster is hailed as "Queen Of The Fiddle." Whether or not you

are aware of her, upon hearing this CD (her first solo effort in eight years), you will find no reason at all to doubt that billing! We sought to include this wonderful release in keeping with the increasing focus on and celebration of our genre's deep Celtic connection.

As if MacMaster's astounding virtuosity didn't accomplish the task on its own, the arrangements help kick the total effect into high gear. Tempo variations range from bouncing to serene and deeply heartfelt. Most of the tracks are medleys of melodies in a mix of classics and some more recently birthed. All are nicely annotated in the CD jacket. Every track here is a winner, but picks would have to include "Three Reels," a MacMaster original called "Patricia Kelso's," "Fill 'Er Up For A Set," and MacMaster closes the album with an instrumental take of Bonnie Raitt's "I Can't Make You Love Me," simply because the spirit moved! Yours will likely be moved as well. Twelve tracks, highly recommended for fiddle and Celtic fans.

CD: Available through nataliemacmaster.com

OLD WEST TRIO

"Hoofin' It"



The effect of the Old West Trio is melodic, harmonic and gentle. You could say...in a

positive way...they're nuthin' that'll spook the herd!

The group's use of electrified guitar actually gives their renderings a slightly "jazzier" feel. For the second time in as many sets of reviews, among their goodies we come across the fully sung version of Don Robertson & Hal Blair's famous "Ringo," which had originally been intended for a Sons Of The Pioneers project, by the way. I guess when the time is right...

The trio's favorites are those of most: "Ghost Riders In The Sky," "I'm An Old Cowhand," "They Call The Wind Maria," a significantly different treatment of "My Rifle My Pony & Me" and our new IWMA Hall Of Fame inductee Joe Babcock's "Doggone Cowboy" certainly now deserves to be in that company. The new "star" track to emerge from the collection may be Steve Johnson's novelty rap original "Homie On The Range," both for the concept and the execution of it! OWT consists of Steve Johnson (lead guitar & vocals) and the Ides (Steve, rhythm guitar/harmonica/vocals and Leslie, upright bass/harmony). In her liner notes, Leslie writes "playing music is fun, recording music is not... let's stick to the fun part!" Noting it's been a while since their last album, you maaaay just wanta move on this one!! Ten tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$10 + s/h from Old West Trio, P{O Box 666, Garden City, CA 95633 or through oldwesttrio.com, iTunes, cdbaby & amazon.

Continued on page 43

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews



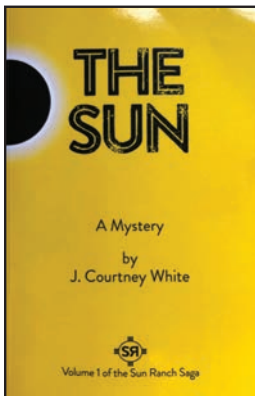
Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

This month's column offers up a couple of mystery novels for consideration. Both are set in New Mexico, my home for more than 40 years. One takes place in Old West New Mexico and is intended for readers 8 to 12 years old. The other, written for adult readers, tells a story about New Mexico in the New West. And just to show you some things haven't changed, the main locale for both books is a cattle ranch.

J. COURTNEY WHITE

"The Sun"



Bryce Miller is a Boston oncologist specializing in the treatment of children with cancer.

It's important work that makes for an extremely

busy but satisfying life. When she does manage to find a little time for herself, she goes surfing. Her challenging and well-ordered routine is upended, however, when she inherits The Sun, a 140,000-acre cattle ranch in northern New Mexico, from an uncle she barely knew. And she knows nothing at all about cattle and ranching.

The year is 2008 and as the novel opens, Bryce finds herself making wrong turns on ranch roads a couple thousand miles from the familiar corridors of her Massachusetts hospital. She is trying to find the house of her late uncle's foreman. The man had called her before she left Boston, telling her it was urgent that he talk

to her as soon as she arrived at The Sun. All Bryce wants to do is sell the ranch as quickly as she can and get back to caring for young cancer patients. It does not appear that will be a problem. She is still attempting to locate the foreman when she is tracked down by representatives of a resort developer who wants to build golf courses, an oil and gas company that believes the ranch is ripe for fracking, a conservation organization that doesn't like cattle and an extremely wealthy and terrifying tycoon who wants the ranch for purposes he will not disclose.

All are willing to pay staggering prices for the property, so it seems as if Bryce will be on a return flight to Boston in no time. But not so fast. Selling the ranch to the kind of people who want to buy it makes Bryce's stomach turn. Besides, she finds herself drawn to the rugged beauty of The Sun and discovers, much to her surprise, that she even likes cows. And then there's the fact that the foreman who was so eager to talk to her is found murdered, his body floating in a cattle tank. That'll complicate your plans. Before she and the local police can figure out who killed the foreman and why, someone is taking shots at Bryce.

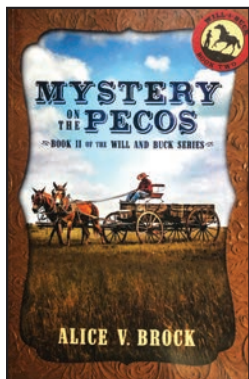
She'll never get back to Boston if she is shot dead in New Mexico.

Author White, a Santa Fe resident, is the cofounder of The Quivira Coalition, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating alliances between ranchers, environmentalists, scientists and others for the ecological and economic good of the land. He knows the environment, the people, the politics and the stakes in the land-use debate, and that comes through in this novel, especially in the conversations between Bryce and her older rancher neighbor, Earl. If some of his characters seem at times stereotypical, you figure that's because they are composites of people he has met and dealt with over the years. What is apparent, however, is that White has the knack for creating and sustaining suspense, and that's what makes reading *The Sun* a treat. Readers will find out who killed the foreman and why and also what Bryce decides to do with the ranch. But since this book is touted as "Volume 1 of the Sun Ranch Saga," it leaves some mysteries hanging out there, waiting to be solved down the line.

("The Sun," 9781732756106; paperback, \$12.99; Early Hour Press; available through Amazon and jcourtneywhite.com)

ALICE V. BROCK

"Mystery on the Pecos"



In this novel for younger readers, the time is the 1860s when the Navajo people were confined at the Bosque Redondo reservation near Fort Sumner, N.M.

Will Whitaker, 12, and his slightly older adopted brother Two Feathers, who is half Comanche, live and work with their father, Dan Whitaker, on their ranch, located on the Pecos River in east-central New Mexico.

The book is a sequel to Brock's 2016 novel "The River of Cattle" (available from Pen-L Publishing, Amazon and Barnes & Noble for \$13.97), which recounts the adventures of Will, Two Feathers and Dan Whitaker during

a cattle drive in Texas and New Mexico with famed cattleman Charlie Goodnight. Another major character in both books is Buck, Will's big buckskin stallion.

As this novel gets underway, Will and Two Feathers are rounding up a couple of stray heifers when they find a cave in which is hidden crates of U.S. Army supplies intended for the Navajo on the reservation. The grave of a soldier is discovered near the cave.

The mystery on the Pecos is who is stealing Army supplies and who killed the soldier. But there is much more going on in this story than finding that out.

Here Brock describes the difficulties of making a ranch on the beautiful but harsh New Mexico landscape; how Will, Two Feathers and Dan work with their Hispanic neighbors to build a house and work cattle; and also the plight of the Navajo as they struggle to survive on bitter ground far from their homeland.

We visit not only Fort Sumner but also Santa Fe and Las Vegas, N.M. and fight off raids led by the fierce Comanche Yellow Hawk, another character who returns from the first novel.

We follow Two Feathers, who is torn between the contrasting heritages of his white and Comanche blood, as he goes on a grueling vision quest to become a man in the Comanche way.

Brock excels at showing both the distrust and hate and the compassion and cooperation that can exist between people of different ethnicities and experiences. And she does so without pulling any punches. "Mystery on the Pecos" is an exciting novel but a sad and tragic one as well.

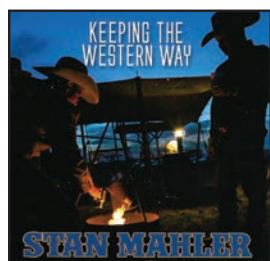
("Mystery on the Pecos," 9781683131816; paperback, \$13.97; Pen-L Publishing; available at Pen-L.Com, Amazon and Barnes & Noble) 🐾

HUFF REVIEWS

Continued from page 41

STAN MAHLER

"Keeping The Western Way"



No, the title doesn't refer to hoarding your IWMA magazines... although you should!

First released in 2016, this CD and its creator Stan Mahler first came to our attention at

this past year's IWMA event in Albuquerque. Both CD and artist are worth your current consideration! Vocally, Mahler definitely resides in the Rusty Richards neighborhood, or maybe you will say he's like a higher and tonally lighter Don Edwards. It's particularly apparent on Bob McDill's "Coyotes" or Kevin "Blackie" Farrell's "Sonora's Death Row," which are both featured here. Other interesting inclusions are Roy Rogers' yodeler "Cowboy Night Herd Song," Richard Alan Jones & Luke Reed's "Every

Horse I Ever Rode," James Hobbs' "Song For New Mexico" and a pair from R. W. Hampton "Born To Be A Cowboy" and "Sunset Trail."

Behind Mahler's lead we have Aarom Meador & Jack Warren (harmony), Rich O'Brien (rhythm & lead guitar), Hank Singer (fiddle) and Russ Rand (upright bass). With Meador and O'Brien co-producing, how can it be anything but top-flight?! Ten tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Contact stanmahler@hotmail.com or directly at Stan Mahler, 7229 FM 210, Olney, Tx 76374.

Continued on page 44

SCOTT T. (Self-titled EP)



On Scott (Tonelson's) nice little four-song recording, it's just him and his guitar,

which, in his case, is absolutely all that is needed! How often can that truly be said?

Tonelson gives us very polished renderings of Merle Travis' "Sixteen Tons," Kent Lewis' wistful "Song Of Wyoming," an uptempo take of Jimmie Rodgers & Elsie McWilliams' "In The Jailhouse Now" and 'Banjo' Paterson's "Waltzing Matilda" complete with an unusual, semi-yodeled syllable employed in the chorus ("...Ma-tiddle-da")! Obviously it's done intentionally, as he pronounces it in the customary way elsewhere in the song.

Mr. T's warmly engaging vocal style and talent for nicely "working" the words make for a very satisfying effect, but I'll go ahead and start the chant: "We want more! We want more! We want..." Only four songs, as we said. Highly recommended.

CD: Contact scott.tonelson@gmail.com. (714) 260-7932.

SUSIE KNIGHT "Turn 'Em Loose"



At her most projected level, poet/singer/songwriter Susie Knight's

Ado Annie-exuberant style would likely never be considered, shall we say, restfully melodic? But it really is fun if you just run with it. In this newest release, though, you will also find a sweetly approachable aspect lurking in a number of our pick tracks, such as "The Windmill Sound" with Juni Fisher providing some harmony (and she's also credited as "vocal producer" for parts of the project. Hmmm...). Other picks include the title track "Turn 'Em Loose" (making effective use of the 3 Trails West guys), "Headin' Home," "Cowboy Ride On Over" and "Hoedown Tonight."

This is a pleasing collection of songs, nicely produced and musically supported. Eleven tracks, recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$5 s/h (outside US \$10 s/h) from Susie Knight, PO Bx 76, Conifer, CO 80433, through susieknight.com or download through cdbaby, iTunes, amazon or Spotify.

TERESA BURLESON "West Texas Heat"



One of the better known voices presenting the Cowboy perspective

returns with more thoughts on the subject and the overall agricultural experience. Teresa Burleson knows the life and lives it. As she says of her works in the album notes "each one was inspired by a situation or person in my life."

Among the Burleson originals we will name as picks are "The Preacher" (her horse can teach 'er) and "Udder Wimmen" (about the sharing of her cowboy husband's affections). The Burleson covers we feel are picks this go 'round: Elizabeth Elder's "Cowboy Courtin' Time" and Jerry Warren's "Something To Think About."

Teresa Burleson is a Cowboy Poet who can capture simple moments or daily realities in ways that can make them noteworthy, ironic or dramatic. Her fans will find what they look for here. Twelve tracks.

CD available through teresaburlesoncowgirlpoet.com or contact texascowgirlpoet.com. 🐾

TALES OF THE WEST

Continued from page 10

Mexican vaqueros have been good teachers and I have often wondered where American cowboys would be if we hadn't had them to learn from. Even today, most of the successful techniques for working cattle horseback came to us from the vaquero. For example, our cowboys quickly learned that chasing cows in the Texas brush and cactus was awfully hard on pants. A fellow might start out wearing a new pair of pants in the morning and come in plumb embarrassed by the afternoon – mainly because the brush and cactus had left him pant-less.

Our term "chaps" comes from the Mexican word chaparreras. For American cowboys, the earliest chaps were what we now call shotgun chaps, and these came into general use by the late 1870s. I was surprised to learn that batwing chaps – popular when I was a kid – were of later origin, coming into popularity in the 1890's. And then there are the woolies – made from fleece or mohair – that gained popularity in the northern cow ranges for their warmth, a product of the late 1880s. 🐾

FROM the TRAIL

THE REAL COWBOY'S FAVORITE INSTRUMENT

By Ralph Estes

Here's the true story of how autoharps came to be.

Angels in heaven got tired of playing big ol' heavy harps, and the angels' union demanded change. The angels were no spring chickens, and it was tough to carry the big harps. Caused back problems, couldn't fly without adding bulky auxiliary wings. Sometimes earthlings had put rollers on harps, but the wheels were no good in the clouds. Then one musically endowed angel went to work and came up with the autoharp, "designed by angels for heavenly music."

This celestial invention was a boon to cowboys. Oh, I know the flicks showed Gene and Roy and Dale playing guitars, but that was just for show. In real life the cowboy who wanted to carry a guitar on a cattle drive soon discovered that the cocinero was not his friend (who ever thought he was?). Guitar in the chuck wagon, cookie flops a bag of beans on it, guitar is kindling. But hey, guitars in the 1870s-80s were delicate, fragile things with strings made from animal intestines, and cowboy work was hard and sometimes dangerous and punchers needed an instrument that would stand up. And they found the autoharp.

On cattle drives anything going into the chuck wagon had to be either soft and flexible, like slickers and blankets, or tough enough to stand up to a rough ride for a month or three. A guitar didn't have a chance - but the autoharp did. In fact, there were reports that the cook took to the music of the autoharp and actually welcomed it as a chuck wagon passenger. The cowpuncher/autoharpist would bring it out around the campfire in the evening and eureka! Blessed relief from the monotonous wail of the French harp. Gave new life (ahem) to "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie."

You could actually carry the autoharp around horseback, strumming as you go. Unlike a guitar, there is no long skinny neck sticking out to get snagged or broken. Shove the harp into a saddlebag (size XL) or strap it on your back or, if you're been able to find a pony with a flattened croup, just strap 'er back there (they started breeding them that way to accommodate riders with autoharps - watch for one).

Not only could the autoharp stand up to a bag of beans, it was indispensable in a saloon fight. Okay, so you drift into the Long Branch in Dodge as a brawl breaks out. Fella with a guitar gets one swing, then kindling. But the cowpoke

packing that big old chunk of wood can settle things quickly with about three well-directed swings - and still sit down and play a tune. You know, during manufacturing workers test autoharps by slamming them on a concrete floor. 'S true.

And tuning! You never see an autoharper with one of those little round tuning thingies sticking up, like guitar players have. Tuning a harp is a snap. Just start with the lowest string, the big fat wound one. Tighten until it doesn't rattle. Then tune the next one a little higher, and the next more higher, and so on. Shoot, you got thirty-six strings, some of 'em have to be in tune.

Broken strings were rare problems, but when one snapped a cowboy could get along without it. He just paid attention to the chords that included that note...and avoided them - or at least tried to. For instance, if a C string broke, he could still play the A, Bb, B, D, E, and G chords. A little tricky, but if he messed up most people wouldn't know anyway. Like they say, "It's close enough for an autoharp."

If the puncher was a purist and insisted on replacing a broken string, fence wire was a possibility. And, of course, "bob ware" became rampant in the 70s and 80s, thus providing a steady autoharp string supply (on the other hand, it did hasten the demise of the open range). All that was needed was a pair of pliers - also adaptable, more or less, as a substitute for a lost tuning wrench - to undo the barbs.

On the trail, autoharps were just plain invaluable. Turn one over and you had a flat table for your grub, also for writing letters, playing poker, etc. After - or during - a rain you could turn one flat side up and sit on it, although

Continued on page 47



(Ramblin') Ralph Estes, New Mexico State Chautauqua Troubadour, is author of *My Own Story: The Autobiography of Billy the Kid* and a member of Western Writers of America and the International Western Music Association. Learn more at www.ralphestes.com.

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Joe Angel

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

Waynetta Ausmus

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

Michael Babiarz

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

Bobbi Jean Bell

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

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky

"Rogue Valley Bound Show"
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-301-7649
www.earsradio.com
skipbessonette@gmail.com

Janice Brooks

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

Peter Bruce

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

"Calling All Cowboys Radio"
88.9 FM, KPOV High Desert
Community Radio
http://www.kpov.org
http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/calling_ all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
e-mail: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd.
Bend, OR 97702
541-388-2537

Doug Figgs

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

Nancy Flagg

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

KWC Ameriana Radio Station

Miguel A. Diaz Gonzalez
avenida galtzaraborda nº47 2ºA
20100 renteria
Guipuzcoa
España
miguelbilly56@gmail.com

Paul Hazell

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

Randy Hill

"Western Swing Time Radio Show"
KMUZ-FM
P.O. Box 17264
Salem, OR 97305
(Plays only western swing)
westernswingtime@gmail.com
www.westernswingtime.com

Gary Holt

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

Judy James

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

Jarle Kvale

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

Eddy Leverett

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

Wyn Machon

5 Lowther Street
Oamaru 9400
New Zealand
"New Zealand Country Music Radio"
FM 107.3 (NZCMR)
wynmachon39@gmail.com

Butch and Christina Martin

"Whittler's Corner Show"
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Earsradio.com
KSKO Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org
The Dalles, OR, Y102
KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY
KSHD 93.4 Shady Cove, OR
KORV 93.5 Ladeview, OR
www.ButchMartinMusic.com
www.romancingthewest.org
(541) 218-2477

Heartland Public Radio

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

Marvin O'Dell*"Around the Campfire"*

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

Bob O'Donnell

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

Ben Parks*"Music Wrangler"*

American Cowboy Radio
 3904 Danbury Drive
 Amarillo, TX 79109
 (806) 676-9500 (cell)
 ben@rt66.media

Barbara Richhart

Western Belle of KSJD

"CowTrails Show"

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 Mancos, CO 81328
 Studio: Sundays 12:00-2:00 PM
 Studio: 970-564-0808
 Home: 970-882-1413
 Cell: 970-739-8408
 Streaming www.ksjd.org
barb@cowtrails.com
www.cowtrails.com

O.J. Sikes

327 Westview Ave.
 Leonia, NJ 07605
osikes@nj.rr.com
 KKRN, Redding, CA
www.earsradio1.com

Totsie Slover*"Real West From The Old West"*

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

Tommy Tucker*"Snake River Radio Roundup"*

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

Harvey & Me'lissa Turnbow*"Keeping Western Music Alive"*

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

Dave Watkins*"The Country Mile"*

<http://www.mtri.co.uk>
 51 Courts Barton, Frome, Somerset,
 BA11 4QA, England
thecountrymileuk@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/thecountrymile

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

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



Quotable Cowboys

FROM THE TRAIL*Continued from page 45*

the mud tended to make "Red River Valley" sound a little grungy. (Four verses of "Ghost Riders" should knock the strings clean.)

Can't find a sledgehammer for tent pegs? Use the harp. Need to quieten an unruly calf for branding or dosing. Whap it with a harp – but be a little careful around full-grown mama cows, and especially with papa cows. (Before somebody yells, of course papa cows don't exist. Actually, they could, but I guess it wouldn't be proper nomenclature. And cowboys were purists on nomenclature.) Like they say, "If it's good enough for the Long Branch, it's good enough for the branding pen."

Some find the shape – um – strange. But that shape is what made autoharps so loved – and lovable. You hold the harp upright, against your chest – right over your heart, which can sense every note. That not only promotes a healthy heart but also a happy one. Maybe that's why Kentucky preachers like my granddaddy really took to the autoharp, calling it a "mountain piano."

And why it was the cowboy's favorite instrument.

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
2. Those Cowboys of Old – Donnie Poindexter
3. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
4. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
5. Go West – The Cowboy Way
6. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
7. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert
8. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
9. Allen & Jill Cowboy Classics – Allen & Jill Kirkham
10. Ridin', Ropin, and Rounders – Rusted Spurs West
11. Return to El Paso – The Carolyn Sills Combo
12. Blues on the Trail – Gary Allegretto
13. Beautiful Texas – Judy James
14. Lucky 13 – Joni Harms
15. Rocky Mountain Drifter – Brenn Hill
16. Melancholy Trail – Bernadette Ducharme
17. Old Time Cowboy Songs – Sourdough Slim
18. Camp to Camp – Trinity Seely
19. The Outside Circle – Mike Blakely
20. Wild West Texas Wind – Carolyn Martin
21. State of Mind – Greg Hager
22. Satisfied Hearts – Gary & Jean Prescott
23. Friends Become Family – Olivia Morgayne & Friends
24. Great American Cowboy – High Country Cowboys
25. Sunset on the Rio Gande Revisited – Syd Masters
26. 85 Years of Harmony – Sons of the Pioneers
27. Branch of the Tree – Jared Rogerson
28. Shadow of a Cowboy – Andy Hedges
29. 40 Years the Cowboy Way – Riders in the Sky
30. Runaway Remuda – Ryan Fritz

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
2. Swing Set – LeeLee Robert
3. Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend – Tommy Thomsen
4. For the Love of Bob – The Swangers
5. Plains, Trains, and Also Bob Wills – Miss Devon & the Outlaw
6. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
7. Ridin', Ropin', and Rounders – Rusted Spurs West
8. Swingtown – Cowboy Joe Babcock
9. Big Deal – Western Swing Authority
10. Wild Blue Yonder – The Western Flyers

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. What's a Cowgirl Supposed to Do – Kristyn Harris
2. Stand Up, I'm Talking About Texas – Dawn Anita
3. Good Dog – Dave Stamey
4. Soul of the West – Clint Bradley
Feleena – The Carolyn Sills Combo
6. It's a Cowboy I Will Be – The Cowboy Way
Finger Lickin' Music – LeeLee Robert
8. Welcome to Wickenburg – Dan McCorison
9. Those Cowboys of Old – Donnie Poindexter
10. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. The Truth – A.K. Moss
2. Language of the Land – Tom Swearingen
3. New Mexico Stray – Dennis Russell
4. Snow on the Sage – Marleen Bussma
5. Masters, Vol. 3 – Various Artists
6. West Texas Heat – Teresa Burleson
7. Early Morning Rising – Duane Nelson
Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
9. Day Workin' – Mark Munzert
10. Masters, Vol. 2 – Various Artists

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

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

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

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