

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the International Western Music Association

Crosshairs: Sons of the Pioneers

A NEW Line-up with the OLD Musical Mastery



**HALL of FAME
Inductees**

PAGE 16

New!
Behind the
Studio Door

PAGE 11

New!
Tales of the West

PAGE 6

2018 CONVENTION BROCHURE INSIDE!

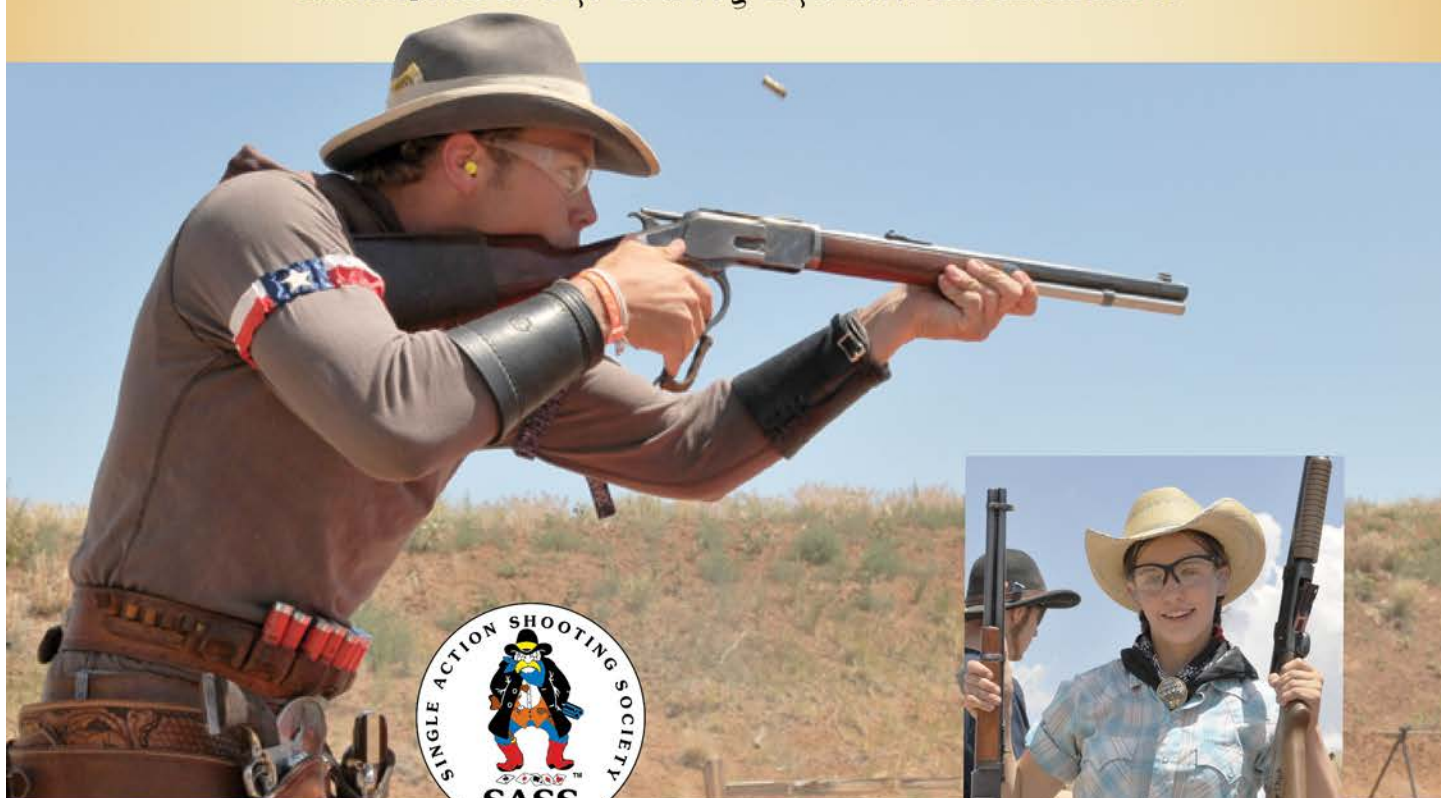
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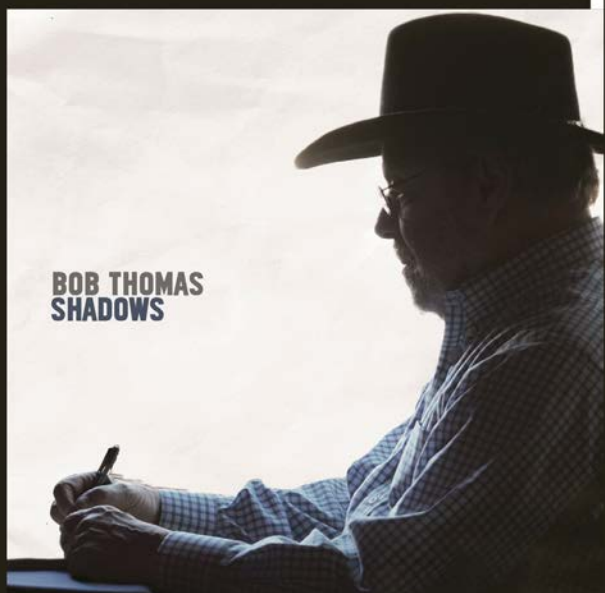


An on-going gathering, updated continually with news; event listings; cowboy poems and songs; and more.

Pictured: Design by Chris Kirby for *MASTERS: Volume Two*, a double CD of the poetry S. Omar Barker with over 60 recitations, introduced by Andy Hedges.


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From The President...



Marvin O'Dell
IWMA President

Someone told me recently that they don't join or get involved with the IWMA because the same people win the awards year after year. It's not the first time I've heard this, but I thought this time I would check to see if that is, in fact, true. Here's what I discovered (you can see these same results at the IWMA Web site):

In the Male Performer of the Year category, there have been six different winners in the last ten years; the female counterpart in that category has had six different winners in the last eleven years. Ok, there's a little room to gripe there, but not much. It's certainly not the same winner every year.

In the Songwriter of the Year category there have been eight different winners in the last ten years, and the Song of the Year category shows 14 different winners in the last 16 years.

The Traditional Duo/Group category has had 10 different winners in the last eleven years.

Western Swing Album of the Year? Nine different winners in the past ten years. Instrumentalist of the Year? Eight different players have taken home the award in the past 10 years.

And in the Traditional Western Album of the Year category? *Thirteen* different winners in the last *thirteen* years!

Now, we have to realize that there will be repeat winners. Some performers, artists, and songwriters have a standard of excellence that they achieve very successfully; others are not as successful. That's why the Entertainer of the Year category boasts only five different winners in the past ten years. But I think it's time we threw out the argument that the same people win the same awards every year.

November is fast approaching. Let's all get together in Albuquerque and see who this year's award recipients will be. 🐾

Marvin O'Dell
President, IWMA

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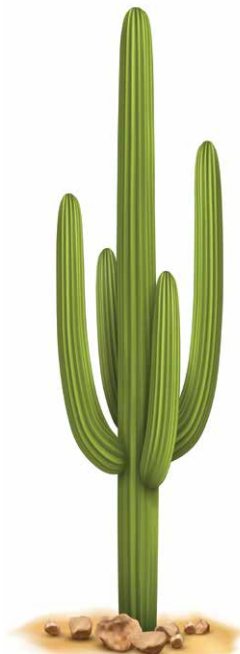
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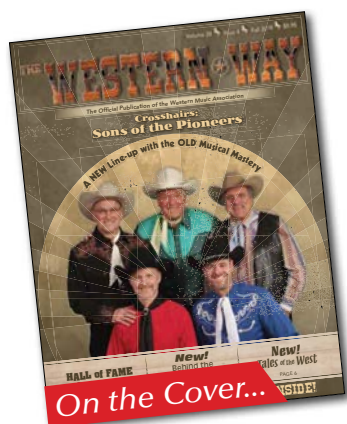
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New names, new faces, new voices but the same unmistakable harmonies – The Sons of the Pioneers continue the legacy! Cover photo courtesy J.R. Rayburn. Used by permission.

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

IT TAKES A TEAM!

I recently traveled with my husband to Nashville, TN. We had been there years ago, so I was anxious to return. It was great to take in the sights and sounds of that City, although I must admit that Music Row was a disappointment. There was a cacophony of oftentimes indistinguishable sound filling the streets from the open-air bars. But the music of Nashville wasn't the purpose of our trip. The purpose was to connect with the team who bring you this magazine you hold in your hand each quarter! Yep, it isn't "just me" folks! It takes a team of people to compile the *Western Way*.


We were met first by Jim and Rita Sharp. Jim Sharp (Sharp Management) has been a large part of producing the *Western Way* since its early days. Jim worked closely with Don Cusic and brought together the production team with the printing house of Ambrose Printing Company. Jim and Rita spent a full day with us, showing us the sights and arranged for our visit to Ambrose Printing.

Part of Jim's team is the graphics person who does the extraordinary job of magazine layout for each issue, Julie Price of Priceless Digital Media. Julie works diligently on each issue to bring you the beautiful *Western Way*! It has been a delight to work with her for the past 5+ years. She brings creativity and takes my esoteric ideas of what I "see in my head" and puts them on the pages, plus adds so many design touches on her own to each issue. I am always excited to review page proofs to see the fresh layout she surprises me with over and over again.

Ambrose Printing is a large printing house and we were greeted there by the owner, John Ambrose. John is capably caring for the business begun by his great-grandfather in 1865. John introduced us to Brandon Robertson who receives the magazine files we upload and oversees the entire process of getting the magazine to press. Together, John and Brandon provided us with a detailed tour of the plant, introduced us to many of the staff who do binding and folding and other parts of the process, and they showed us the progression of the *Western Way* from the time it arrives in electronic files, goes on the presses, stacked on pallets in the warehouse, moved to the loading dock where it is sent on its way to the mailers (Southern Post) who prepare it with address labels and delivers it to the US Post Office where it finds its way to your mailbox.

The tour concluded with a "staff" meeting where I sat with Jim, Julie, John and Brandon and discussed what we could do to expedite the process from start to finish. Over the next weeks, we worked together long-distance to revise the schedule and will hopefully be getting the *Western Way* into your hands in an even more timely manner! (Remember, we cannot control the USPS!!)

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the very important part of the TEAM is the contributors who provide the content in the *Western Way*. Their work begins long before it reaches Nashville. Each one – from opinion writers, to reviewers, to chapter presidents, to regular featured articles and the occasional special contributors – are diligent in providing the quality information you are used to reading in each issue. They meet deadlines and volunteer many hours of their time to make the *Western Way* a magazine that is representative of the IWMA.

I am pleased to be the Editor of this publication. I am proud of all those who work so hard to bring each issue to the readers. I hope you look forward to receiving, reading and sharing it with your friends. 



Ambrose Printing – L to R: Brandon Robertson, Theresa, Jim Sharp, Julie Price, John Ambrose



Team Meeting at Ambrose – L to R: Jim Sharp, Marvin O'Dell, Theresa, Julie Price, John Ambrose, Brandon Robertson



Jim and Rita Sharp – Sharp Management, Nashville



Part of the Process for the *Western Way*



In the Plant, Ambrose Printing



Theresa, Jim Sharp and Julie Price at Ambrose Printing, Nashville

From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

Ever since I let Jeff Goins practically write my article in the last issue, I've "friended" him and have been waiting for him to inspire me again. So yesterday, there it was: The Paradox of Generosity. His premise is that the more you give, the more you get, but we've all heard that before. So many IWMA members

give hours of their time to promote Western Music and Poetry (almost 6,000 reported hours in the first half of 2018), and I wondered what they got in return. So I asked a few. The most common answer was "meeting the most amazing people."

If you want to meet amazing people, how about giving some time during the IWMA Convention in November. We need volunteers to help set up the Western Consignment Boutique and CD Mercantile on Tuesday and work a few hours each day. We need volunteers to take tickets, help with registration, and help monitor workshops. Volunteer today and maybe you'll be that amazing person someone meets!

Volunteering doesn't stop after the Convention. We have 15 chapters that work all year round putting on workshops and gatherings that could use your help. Tired of seeing the same people doing all the work? I'll bet they are, too! Offer to help sell CDs, sit at the membership table, set up chairs...there's always lots to be done. To Do List:

- TELL someone how much they mean to you
- INVITE a friend (especially a young friend) to a gathering or chapter meeting
- CHECK in on someone you haven't heard from in a while, just to say "hi"
- ASK people you do business with to advertise in *The Western Way*
- ADD the IWMA logo to your CDs, book jackets, business cards or Websites
- COME to the IWMA Convention in November - it's THE place to be!



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AND REACH THE PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW!

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Quarter Page	\$400	\$325
Sixth Page	\$300	\$275
1/12th Page (Logo with text only)	\$135	\$125
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INCLUDE THE WESTERN WAY IN YOUR MARKETING PLAN

Multiple copies are placed in strategic locations throughout the US and distributed internationally through our broad global membership outreach. As a quarterly publication with a dynamic online digital presence, your ad continues to work for you into the future. The Western Way readership is "mobile and on the go" ... shouldn't they know your business is where they are going to be?

Example of Distribution Outlets:

- Arizona Folklore Preserve – Sierra Vista, AZ
- Autry National Center – Los Angeles, CA
- Prairie Rose Chuckwagon – Benton, KS
- Doss Heritage & Culture Center – Weatherford, TX
- Museum of Western Film History – Lone Pine, CA
- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- Friends of Marty Robbins Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
- www.westernmusic.org

The Western Way is the official magazine of the International Western Music Association, a non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation, and is supported through paid advertising.

TALES OF THE WEST



by Jim Wilson

Welcome, my friends. Each issue I will be posting stories and tidbits about all things western...western music, western history, and western humor. Hopefully, you'll learn a thing or two that you didn't know and have a chuckle, or two, along the way.

In the midst of the Great Depression, the Martin Guitar Company decided to bring out a new guitar, the largest one that they had built so far. They called it the Dreadnought and it continues to be one of their best-selling guitars all these years later. The various models, D-18, D-28, etc., denoted the types of wood used and the degree of ornamentation. About 1933, Martin decided that they would build a top-of-the-line D-series guitar and call it the D-45. Crafted with Brazilian rosewood back and sides, and lots of abalone and mother-of-pearl trim, this was and is the fanciest guitar that Martin has ever offered.

The first Martin D-45 was custom made for none other than Gene Autry (1907-1998). Gene featured the guitar in quite a number of his movies and personal appearances over the years. Legend has it that, not long before his death, Mr. Autry turned down a \$1 million dollar offer for the guitar. You can see the first Martin D-45 guitar on display at the Autry Museum in Los Angeles, California.

Competition being good for business, the Gibson Guitar Company decided to get into the cowboy guitar niche as well. Cowboy singer and actor Ray Whitley (1901-1979) worked with Gibson to design the Jumbo 200 guitar, later simply called the J-200. The Gibson J-200 could be had with all sorts of fancy trim, special woods, and the performer's name printed out on the guitar neck. Ray Whitley got the first J-200, but it wasn't long before Roy Rogers had one, along with a number of the other singing cowboys. And, not to be outdone, Gene Autry also ordered one and it was one of the fanciest J-200's that Gibson ever built. Oh, yes, and you might recognize Ray Whitley's name. He wrote a little song called, "Back In The Saddle Again."

Oh, and speaking of Ray Whitley (well, we were just a minute ago), he wrote "Back In The Saddle Again" about 1937. The song was first sung by Whitley in a George O'Brian western in 1938. In 1939, Gene Autry recorded the song. He later used it in at least two of his movies and it was also the theme song for his popular radio show. Of all of the songs that Autry performed throughout his long career, "Back In The Saddle Again" is the one most closely associated with this singing cowboy. About the time that Gene recorded the song, he was also shown as a co-writer of the song. We don't know if Autry actually had a hand in writing the song, or not. You see, back in those days, it was not uncommon for a songwriter to list a big-name performer as a co-writer in order to get them to record the tune, allowing them to share in the royalties. Gene Autry did it, Eddy Arnold did it, and even Elvis Presley did it.

Back in the 1950's Mae Axton (Hoyt Axton's mother) and her songwriting partner wrote a little ditty called "Heartbreak Hotel." Mrs. Axton pitched the song to Col. Tom Parker in hopes that he would have Elvis record the tune. Parker agreed but insisted that Elvis be given co-writer credit.

Mae's partner didn't like the idea at all. But Mae swung him over by explaining to him that "One third of a million dollars was better than one half of nothing!"

Regardless of how/why Gene Autry was listed as co-writer of "Back In The Saddle Again," there is no record of Ray Whitley ever complaining about the arrangement. The two men remained close, personal friends until Whitley's death. Until next time, Good-bye, Good luck, and may the Good Lord take a likin' to ya! 🐾

KEEPING HISTORY IN PERSPECTIVE

Did you know that the first telephone installed in Tombstone, Arizona Territory, was hooked up in March of 1881? Yep! Some eight months prior to the Gunfight At The OK Corral, they had telephone service in this Arizona boomtown. The line ran from the mining depot to various mines in the immediate area.

Jus' Sayin'

A journalist once asked Bob Wills if his band members, The Texas Playboys, could read music. Bob's answer was, "A little bit, but not enough that it hurts their playing."

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."



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.

Pancho and the Sand

By Aspen Black

*He stares down at the desert draw
Reins slacking by his side
and pulls a pale hand from his glove
Pond'ring life and love*

*A young boy in the ocean air
Now drifting on the breeze
A life that always loved the sand
trapped now in this land*

*While cowboys ran through canyons in
This movie set he dreamed
That spring horse 'neath his boyhood tree
Grew to set him free*

*In dreams, then real, he rode the range
With Pancho 'tween his knees
They both were paints and long in stride
Steady steeds to ride*

*The turquoise sky embraced his heart,
Lent balance to his soul
The even fall of hoofbeats brought
peace he always sought*

*His songs to soothe a lonely mind
The trails - a gypsy quest*

*The wind, a wand'ring heart's lament
Flames to warm the spent*

*But love's a touch he strains to feel
And days stretch on for years
He weeps at life's uncertainty
Hearts that wouldn't be*

*You think he'd give it up by now
His beard a salty white
At very least, he'd ride away
Let the lost dreams stay*

*In youth, nobody understood
He fears now no one can
None love the man, nor loved the boy
Save, that spring horse toy.*

*And once a girl with long brown hair
And that old boyhood beach
But neither one was his to own
So he rides alone.*

*He'll leave this draw a steely twist
To search for cows and peace
His only friends both close at hand
Pancho and the sand.*



ABOUT ASPEN BLACK

Aspen Black is a multi-talented singer/songwriter, cowgirl poet, nationally-awarded horse woman and a founding member of the IWMA Western Wordsmiths. As a poet, she was a top-five finalist in 2015 for the IWMA Female Poet of the Year, and a top-five nominee in 2016 for the same award. In 2015 she was a top-five finalist for the IWMA Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year and in 2016, a top-five nominee for the same award. In 2016 she was also a top-five nominee for the IWMA Poetry Book of the Year award. Aspen hails from Rocky Mount, VA.

In the CROSSHAIRS

SONS OF THE PIONEERS . . . AND THE LEGEND GOES ON

By Suze Spencer with Kristy Bruce*

(All photographs provided by and are the copyrighted property of The Sons of the Pioneers.)



Chisholm Trail 150th Anniversary, Abilene, KS.

Photo courtesy Nolen Berry.

Salt Lake City ... early evening in May. The crowd of over 3,000 were on their feet, roaring as a dozen huge Texas longhorns came thundering into the Days of '47 Arena at a dead run, heading straight toward the Sons Of The Pioneers who were playing "Ghost Riders In The Sky" onstage, just inches on the other side of the fence. As the fiddlers leaned into their bows, music filled the speakers. The mounted cowboys raced around the arena to save the day. All of a sudden the bulls came screeching to a halt, and as the dust began to settle, every one of those bulls stood drop-dead still, staring at the Pioneers and poking their noses through the fence, sniffing their pants and watching as the Pioneers played on. The Pioneers ... didn't miss a beat.

Paul Elliott - "We were halfway through the tune when they let the longhorns in, and they came charging a hundred yards down to the other end of the arena where we were singing. And they just hung out, sticking their noses through the fence and milling around. I think that was as close as I've ever been to a longhorn before!"

Tommy Nallie - "That's the first time we've ever played "Ghost Riders" to a herd of live bulls. It was exciting for us and exciting for the people too because that is the vision the song creates when you hear it ... bulls running wild across the sky. But you know, it was funny ... they came right up to our pants and one stuck his nose right in there—I'm not kidding you, I said, 'Hey Buddy,' and he just looked at me, pawed his hoof and had his little visit. The buffalo came real close to us too. It was

like being in a live video happening right in front of us. The whole show was a thrill."

After the show, Suze Spencer noticed a family waiting patiently to visit with the Pioneers. "We began a conversation. As their story unraveled, I marveled at eighteen-year-old Kristy's knowledge about the Pioneers. She bubbled with enthusiasm as she shared her deep interest in the group, their music and the joy she felt having just seeing them live. I asked her, "What is it about the Pioneers music that draws you in?"

Kristy explained, "At first their lyrics drew me in—lyrics that are like poetry, capturing the spirit of things this world can't afford to lose. Then I began to notice the music: unique harmonies, beautiful, complicated arrangements. I started reading more about the Pioneers and the more I read, the more I wanted to know. Since then their music has become a huge part of my life. For a long time I'd been hoping to see them perform live, and then in April my parents surprised me with tickets to their show in Utah! They gave up their wedding anniversary trip to take me over eight hundred miles to Salt Lake City. It worked out to be a graduation trip for me."

Suze wanted to know specifically what Kristy thought about the show. She said, "I couldn't have enjoyed the show more, and it left me with a good feeling for days afterward—maybe it hasn't even gone away! The Pioneers' performance blended wonderfully with the Great American Wild West Show, as they sang songs like 'Way Out There,' 'Cimarron, Roll On,' and 'Tumbling Tumbleweeds.' You could feel the excitement and admiration in the crowd, as people of all ages watched. My parents, my sister, and I had so much fun."

Another memorable event occurred at the concert they played last March in Yuma, Arizona. It was the first show that Dusty Rogers, John Fullerton, and Paul Elliott performed as Pioneers, having just joined the group a couple months before.

"I had gone to Branson about three days before the show and we rehearsed intensely six hours a day," says Paul Elliott, who lives in Washington State and is the group's new fiddle player. "That was the first chance I was able to rehearse with them."

"Everybody knew their parts, and everybody enjoys working with each other. We were just excited to get together," says Tommy Nallie, who has been a Pioneer beginning in 1983.

Ken Lattimore agrees; "I feel like we clicked well together and quickly."

"It had an amazing energy level that I cannot put into words," says John Fullerton about that first show with the new line-up.

"I was standing by the soundboard during that first



L to R: Tommy, Paul and Dusty "Cleanin' Up."
Photo courtesy Suze Spencer.

soundcheck when they all walked on stage in Yuma," says Suze Spencer. "As we moved the sliders up to a point where the voices were balanced and blended, the color and tone of their voices and their phrasing were exceptional. They matched their breathing patterns, rising and falling as if they were connected to one another. I walked to the rear of the theater to take it all in. It was emotional for me, quite moving as I recalled my early childhood when I would stand in the very back row and listen to their soundchecks. At five years of age, I remember feeling incredibly privileged to be listening to the masters of Western song. I knew they were that good then. Half a century later I'm still moved to tears at the mastery of the music."

"And of course, the audience that night was totally aware of the historic significance of it all," says John. "It was total happiness all the way around."

The Pioneers tour extensively throughout the United States and Canada. Most recently they've played to full theater audiences in Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arizona, Utah, Texas, Colorado, and Manitoba and Saskatchewan. This fall they will be in California, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Each of their performances are unique and memorable. "You know, we have fun onstage," says Tommy. "And when we have fun, the audience picks up on that, and then they have a good time too. We're really sincere about enjoying what we do and I know the audience notices that, as it's the first thing they tell us after every show."

"The people are very enthusiastic wherever we go," says Ken Lattimore, who has been a member of the group for over twenty years. "They love to hear us singing, and they always tell us so. You meet a lot of really nice people. We're spreading Western music around the country, and the people just love it everywhere we go!"

Each Pioneer has their own story about how they became a part of the group.

Tommy Nallie's two brothers were members before he was, so he knew the music well. One night the Pioneers were doing a show in Nashville and needed a stand-in, and Tommy went

along. "When it was time to go home they said, 'Wait a minute,' and they all went in this other room and had a little meeting, left me alone. They came back out and said, 'You want a job?' And I said, 'Yeah!' I was thrilled! I couldn't believe it. I never did go back home. I called and quit my other job and just stayed on right there." Tommy is only the fourth "Trail Boss" the Pioneers have ever had. Tommy's job is to ensure the true "Pioneer sound." He sings, yodels and currently plays bass although he can also play lead guitar and fiddle.

Ken Lattimore had been working as a music teacher in Texas for several years in 1997 when he decided to take a trip up to Branson to see the Pioneers. While there, wearing his best cowboy outfit, he gave a demo CD of his singing to Dale Warren, the "Trail Boss" of the Pioneers at the time. He got a call back the next day. "Oh, it was very exciting," he says. "I mean, I hit the floor and thanked the Lord and prayed for guidance." After spending the following months completing the school season and learning the Pioneers' songs, Lattimore played his first show with the Pioneers on May 16, 1998. Ken sings tenor and plays second fiddle.

Having grown up with this music, Roy 'Dusty' Rogers is well educated as to the various components that make the Pioneers so popular. In 1982, he launched his own successful career singing in concert halls throughout the USA and Canada. In 2004 he had the esteemed honor of performing on stage at Carnegie Hall in New York. "When I received the call asking me to join the Sons, I was truly honored! I was excited about the possibilities. It was almost too good to comprehend. I was also a little intimidated and I knew it would be a huge responsibility. But how could I say NO! It took only the time to talk with my wonderful wife, as this was absolutely a family decision." Dusty



L to R: Ken, John, Tommy, Dusty, Paul in Old Tucson.
Photo courtesy Nolen Berry.

lends his rich vocals (upper baritone range) singing lead and harmony. He also provides a little yodeling and acts as Emcee.

John Fullerton has been a devout fan of the Sons of The Pioneers since he was seven years old. Ever since then John has been studying and professionally performing western music. He is widely considered an expert on anything Sons of The Pioneers. When he got the phone call asking if he wanted to be a member, he says, "It did not take me any time to decide. I

Continued on page 20

2016 Winner
WMA Crescendo Award
& Top 14 Finalist
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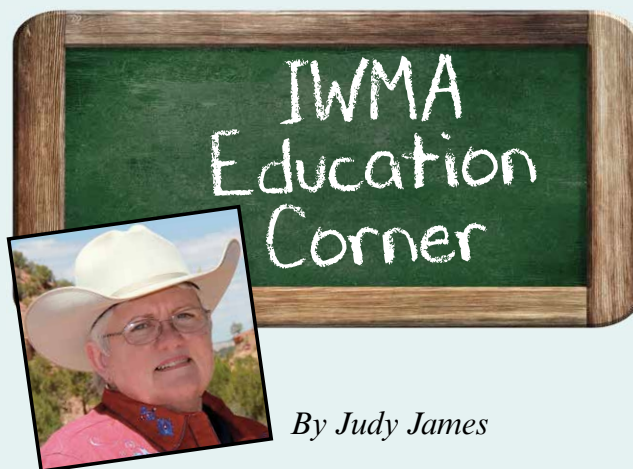
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Quotable Cowboys by DAVID SHIRER



By Judy James

News Blast!! Announcing!! IWMA Youth Camp Dates for 2019 are June 24-27 at Weatherford College Alkek Fine Arts Center. Mark your calendar.

Summer of 2018 will be remembered by our IWMA youth as a busy time of learning and improving their craft. The IWMA Youth Performance Camp, sponsored by the IWMA Education Committee, was a tremendous success with the youth getting instruction in voice, guitar, fiddle, trumpet and harmony, as well as music theory and part writing. The IWMA Youth Performance Camp 2018 says "Thank You" to Weatherford College, Cowtown Opry, Cowboy Heritage Foundation, as well as other individuals for sponsoring and partnering with us to produce the camp. (Look for Greg Bade's in-depth article and pictures elsewhere in this magazine).

IWMA is planning the Third Annual Camp June 24 - 27, 2019! Mark your calendars for the very best in Western Music and Cowboy Poetry instruction and join us next June. More details will follow. Music camps are held in many different areas of the country and if our youth are playing their instruments and/or singing, this practice and instruction can serve as an excellent method of learning. The IWMA Education Committee is very grateful to the many people who generously give so much so that these young people and others have the opportunity to attend the camps. Those awarded an IWMA Youth Scholarship this year and the camps they attended are:

Jenna Thunborg and Kacey Thunborg - 18th Annual New Mexico Youth Harmony Camp; Caroline Grace Wiseman - Circle Bar Music Camp; Leddy Bragg and Jazmine Saldivar - Bobby Flores Summer Music Camp; Maria McArthur - Hot Club Dream Camp; and Jazmine Saldivar - IWMA Youth Performance Camp.

Judy James is an award-winning educator who retired after 30 years in the classroom. She has been touring her education programs in public schools, home school organizations, and other educational organizations since 1994. She is also a singer/song writer/guitarist/author/radio DJ. Email judy@judyjames.com. Address: PO Box 953, Weatherford, TX 76086

BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

with Bryan Kuban



So You Want To Record Your Music

Most performers/songwriters at some point decide to record their material. Here are a few points to think about when you decide to record your material professionally:

LET'S GET PREPARED

Getting your arrangements ready

- Chords: Make sure you know the names of the chords in your song and what key you are playing in.
- Lead Sheet: A lead sheet consists of the lyrics combined with the chords written above the lyrics where the chord change is to take place. Having a working lead sheet is essential to ensure that the other musicians can quickly lock in with your ideas and arrangement. Space is usually left on the top of the sheet for the introduction chords.
- Detailed Lead Sheet: A more elaborate version would be scored to the measures of the song with a written melody line in the staff. A properly prepared lead sheet helps other studio musicians who may be unfamiliar with the song to understand the arrangement of the song more clearly.

Understanding the exact tempo at which that the song should be performed

- Determine the song tempo. Every song has one!
- Play along with a metronome (a device designed to mark exact time by a regularly repeated tick) and really discover the accurate tempo of your songs. If you need one, there are many free phone apps for download that have metronomes.
- Write the song tempo on the top of your lead sheet.

Considering the time signature

Is the song in 4/4, 3/4, 6/8, etc.? I find that Western music loves the sneaky 2/4 measure from time to time. If you are not sure, talk to a friend or a percussionist who understands time signatures or go on Youtube®. There is a tutorial for everything on Youtube®!

Understanding your melody

Having a true understanding of the melody can be an issue that is often overlooked. I have had singers sing the same lyrics with the melody slightly changing on each pass of the recording. This is okay when you are really stylizing in a performance, but it becomes a mess in the studio when harmony singers are brought in to match the melody. One way to understand the melody completely and more effectively is to play the melody

on a piano or guitar and sing along with it as you play it. This will ensure that you are really singing those notes accurately and in the right cadence. If you have never tried this method, I encourage you to do so. You will be enlightened on how you are really singing the song and aware where significant pitch problems may lie. Understanding these simple but important tips will improve your song significantly.

KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS

Many artist/songwriters go into a recording project feeling that they should perform as much of the material as possible. What I mean is that many times the individual feels that he/she can perform many of the vocal and instrumental parts. This is understandable and acceptable if the artist/songwriter is proficient on many instruments and is well rehearsed on and capable of singing harmony parts. There are times, however, that the individual does not realize that their skill level is not at the level of a professional instrumentalist and/or background singer. The result is extra hours of time-consuming editing that costs many hours of engineer and studio time. These types of issues will quickly drain the project budget. When in doubt, hire a recommended session player. And, hire a qualified project Producer. (We will discuss the role of the Producer in a future article.)

If you are a vocal ensemble, record your practices on a simple recording app on your phone or tablet and listen back to your rehearsal as a group, identifying pitch problems together. Work through them with a positive attitude and you will get great results.

Understanding these important tips and planning for your recording session in advance will improve your personal musicianship and your songwriting/arranging significantly, you will maximize the budget for your project, and you will end up with a professional recording that you will be proud to distribute and your fans will be pleased to pay for and play over and over again!

In future articles, we will discuss the advantages and role of hiring a qualified Producer, factors to consider in a budget, and breakdown all the steps in taking your great song from draft to a recorded product. If you have any questions or comments about the article or seek advice regarding recording music, feel free to contact me, bryankuban@gmail.com. 🐾

About the author: Bryan Kuban, Producer/Audio Engineer/Mentor/Bass player, lives in Mesa, AZ. Bryan is the owner of Kubemusic Recording Studio (1996-present) and bassist for the "Mogollon" band (2002-present). "Growing up as a bass player I have learned to listen. This skill has helped me to hear the whole song and not just my part. This skill has evolved, giving me the skills to arrange and produce recordings. I enjoy helping musical artists realize their potential one note at a time." Western Music Credits: Mikki Daniel / "Gotta Be A Cowgirl" / Audio Engineer and Bass; Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers / "Breakin' Out" and "Too Hot to Handle" / Audio Engineer and Bass; Leelee Robert / "Jewel of the West" and "Swingset" / Audio Engineer and Bass; High Country Cowboys / "Cowboy" / Audio Engineer and Bass.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**Ridge Roberts** and **Leah Sawyer** captured the 2018 National Twin Fiddle championship in Weiser, ID. They were accompanied by **Joey McKenzie**, **Katie Glassman**, and **Jeff White** (of the bluegrass band The Earls of Leicester). With Joey's help, Ridge and Leah are doing their best to promote traditional twin fiddling. Also, The Indiana State Fair Fiddle Contest awarded top prizes to three IWMA members. Leah Sawyer and her brother, **David Sawyer**, took first and second respectively in the 17 and under age division. Their dad, **David Sawyer**, took best Old-Time Fiddler.

...In June the Western Writers of America presented **Marleen Bussma** with their Spur Award for Best Western Poem. The title of the award-winning piece is "She Saddles Her Own Horse."

...**Judy Coder** (Notable Exceptions) is composing a complete folk opera with a western theme. The Corral Chorale will perform the opening chorus as part of their showcase at the IWMA convention in Albuquerque this November.

... Oregon cowboy poet **Tom Swearingen** and a new poem he wrote titled "St. Paul Rodeo" were featured on the Wrangler Network and Pro Rodeo News recently. The poem will be found on a new album by Tom later this year. Tom also was guest host on KBOO-FM radio's 'Swing 'n' Country' show recently and introduced new music by several IWMA members.

...**Joni Harms** spent a busy week in Nashville recently that included a performance with the Grammy Award-winning **Time Jumpers** and **Vince Gill** and the hosting of a songwriters round at the legendary Douglas Corner with noted songwriters **Bobby Marquez** and **Wood Newton**. A song from her just-released album *Lucky 13* that pays tribute to her musical hero, simply titled "Merle," debuted on WSM Radio. Journalist Bob Paxman is producing a feature story for Nashville Sports and Entertainment. Harms travelled to Ireland, the UK, Scotland and Ireland in September and then on to Australia in October.

...**Bob Thomas** is excited about a new album he has released titled *Shadows*. This is Bob's seventh CD release.

...**Roger Ringer** of Medicine Lodge, KS has a new book out titled *Kansas Oddities*. Published by Arcadia/History Press, the book is filled with little-known stories of Kansas history including the story of Tennessee Jim Farrell of the **Diamond W Wranglers**, Mossman Guitars, Joe Walsh, and the group Kansas.

...After studying under several notable instructors, including Dick Gimble, son of legendary western swing fiddler Johnny Gimble, **Mikki Daniel** has graduated from McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas with a degree of Associate

in Applied Science, Music Industry Careers-Performance. Gloria Miers, founder and producer of the historic Legends of Western Swing Music Festival, hired Mikki and her band Texas Wildfire as the first female-led western swing band to play the event in 31 years!

...**Terry Brown** released a new CD recently titled *Teardrop, Texas*, featuring 10 original Cowboy Country songs. He has also been nominated for Male Vocalist of the Year for the second year in a row by the Pro Cowboy Country Artists Association. Terry was also recently featured in *Oklahoma Today* magazine's August/September edition.

...**Chuck Cusimano** will be releasing a 24 track CD soon. It will be titled *The Collection, Vol. 2*. This will be Chuck's eleventh album release.

...On the heels of her appearance on the popular TV show *American Idol*, **Kristyn Harris** has been nominated for the 2018 Pro Cowboy Country Artist Awards Entertainer of the Year and Female Vocalist of the Year awards. She returned recently from her fourth performing trip to Europe.

...**The Blazin M Cowboys (Jim & Jeanne Martin and Bill Bassett)** were inducted into the Greater Arizona Country Music Hall of Fame in September in Prescott, AZ.

...On August 9, **Johnny Western** was inducted into the Colorado Country Music Association Hall of Fame. Johnny has played hundreds of shows in the state through the years. This is his 16th Hall of Fame induction. Yes, you read that correctly – 16th!

...Lots of nice family news from **Peggy Malone** and her husband, Billy. Their daughter, Beth, finished her run on Broadway and treated her parents to a trip to Ireland where Billy got to stand on his grandpa Malone's land and pick some shamrocks in what was a very emotional experience. The Malone's granddaughter, Jessica, earned her BS in graphic art. And their son, Brian recently received four Emmys for the PBS documentary *Beyond Standing Rock* – two of which were for Best Documentary Film and for Best Original Music.

...**Donnie Poindexter** has received a top five nomination by the Pro Cowboy Country Artist Association for Songwriter of the Year. The awards show and banquet take place in October. Donnie is currently working on a new CD to be released in early 2019.

...**The Cowboy Way** trio is releasing their second album this fall, titled *Go West*. Also, they have been chosen to perform a formal showcase at the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance Conference in Austin, TX in September.

...The Rural Roots Music Commission awarded **Barry Ward** their Classic Cowboy CD of the Year award for his latest album *Coyotes and Cattle*. Barry is also nominated in three categories with the Pro Cowboy Country Music Association: Entertainer of the Year; Male Vocalist of the Year; and Song of the Year for "That Old Barn." All three of the Ward's grown children will attend that event.

...**Les Buffham** reports that **Maria McArthur** recently won the banjo contest at Weiser, ID and finished eleventh in the national fiddle contest.

...**Dawn Anita** has been nominated by the Pro Cowboy Country Music Association (where she will be performing) for a Female Vocalist award and her album *Down on Wildhorse Creek* for Album of the Year. The Academy of Western Artists has granted her the same nominations along with nominations for Western Swing Artist and Songwriter of the Year. Topping it off, her song "Down on Wildhorse Creek" has an AWA nomination for Song of the Year.

...As a member of the ICMA (Inspirational Country Music Association), **Almeda Bradshaw** participated in a regional ICMA Nashville Talent Search in Yuba City, CA in August, where she presented an original song and networked with leaders in the genre. Almeda has established a mentor relationship with award-winning inspirational singer songwriter Jeff Bates.


...Due to the death of his mother, there will be a slight delay in the release of the new album from **Clint Bradley**. By the time mixing and mastering is done, the project is expected to release in January. The album will be released on CD, 12" vinyl, and digitally.

...After being sidelined for several months with a pinched nerve in his back, **Les Gilliam**, "The Oklahoma Balladeer," is back performing again. He will open a show for the **Sons of the Pioneers** in November.

...**Tom Swearingen** helped celebrate his grandchild Flora's first birthday recently.

...**Scott Glenn Lambertson** and his wife Elayne celebrated their 32nd anniversary in August.

...**Mikki Daniel** became an aunt for the fifth time when her niece, Maive Marie, was born on May 17.

...Lisa Hanson Rivera (**The Hanson Family**) and her husband Roberto welcomed a handsome baby boy into their family recently. Dominic Jose weighted 7 lbs., 14 oz. Both mama and baby are happy and healthy, and Lisa has resumed her role of fiddler and singer with the trio after being on a short maternity leave. 



2017 WMA Album of the Year!

THE HIGH COUNTRY COWBOYS

3 Time Yodeler of the year!
2017 WMA Album of the Year!
2017 PCCAA Group of the Year!

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George Stuart Benford (1925-2018)



George Stuart Benford, Jr. passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, June 25.

He was born in Flint, Michigan on November 29, 1925. During his senior year in high school he joined the U.S. Army. After basic training in Texas, he was stationed in Santa Maria and fell in love with the area and Dorothy (Dee Dee) Wood. After returning from his service in Japan, they settled down in Santa Maria

and he went to work for Union Sugar Company. He later received a BSME from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and moved his family to Ogden, Utah where he worked for Amalgamated Sugar Company for many years in Ogden and later in Nampa, Idaho. After retiring in 1983, George and Dorothy moved back to Santa Maria.

They were both active in the Santa Maria Seniors Club and traveled extensively. He fulfilled his bucket list by seeing the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore and the Panama Canal. He was a 20-year member of Elks Lodge 1538 and a member of the International Western Music Association and the IWMA California Chapter since 2006. He was a huge fan of IWMA singer/songwriter, Dave Stamey and poet Sam DeLeeuw.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dorothy and his sister Marjorie of Farmington Hills, Michigan. He was preceded in death by one daughter Julie Anne Webb. Other survivors are his children, Marsha Short, Lewisville, Texas; George S. (Sabra) Benford, III, Perry, Utah; Terri (Steve) Taylor, West Haven, Utah; Paula (Jim) Elkins, Santa Maria, California; Kathy LeDoux, Santa Maria, California, 12 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and his great friends, Sean and Anne Prosser of Santa Maria.

John A (Buck) Ryberg – "Desert Sons" (1939-2018)



The Western Music 'family' recently lost a wonderful friend, supporter, and longtime active contributor to the genre through both his songwriting and performances – John 'Buck' Ryberg of Tucson, Arizona. John was a founding member, lead singer, and leader of the western vocal harmony group, the Desert Sons, for 25 years.

Buck was born in Geneva, Illinois in 1939 and passed away at the family home in Prescott, Arizona on July 4, 2018 after a brief struggle with cancer – which he had successfully fought off twice previously. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Linda; two granddaughters, Carissa and Bethany Henning and other family. He touched many lives through both his music and pastoral ministries.

Although he was born in the mid-west and also spent early years in northern Wisconsin, John lived the vast majority of his life in Tucson, Arizona. He was a graduate of Amphitheatre High School (1957) and the University of Arizona where he earned a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Geological Engineering, and he served three years in the United States Air Force following college. In the mid-60's, John felt called into ministry and enrolled at Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he received a Masters of Divinity degree in 1970.

His first love and principal passion was for the Lord; however, Buck always also loved music – listening, presenting, and writing songs. Eventually, in the late 80's, he founded a traditional and contemporary western music group, the "Desert Sons" (along with Darrel Yarbrough and Benny Young). Their specialty was music from the 'Silver Screen' era of the singing cowboys, with 3-part close vocal harmony.

The "Desert Sons" were active in the [International] Western Music Association from its inception in 1989 into the early 2000's. In the mid-90's, Skelly Boyd and Slim Tighe joined the group (after Darrel left to pursue other business interests). That became the most familiar configuration for the group through their 'retirement' in 2012. They regularly appeared at Cowboy Poetry and Music Gatherings in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Texas. Buck's mellifluous and powerful baritone voice was the anchor for their vocal harmonies. His original songs consistently recognized and celebrated the work of the 'Maker of Heaven and Earth', reflecting his deep faith.

Raymond Gene Walker (1944-2018)

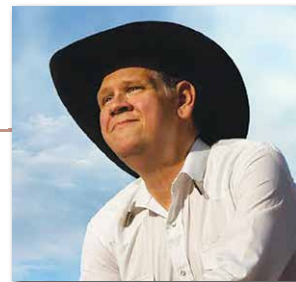


Green Valley, Arizona resident Raymond Walker, 74, died June 28, 2018 at a Tucson hospital after a short illness.

Ray was born and raised in Burns, Oregon where he enjoyed fishing and hunting. He loved to tell stories of his youth, recalling antics and hijinks with his friends and family. He attended Oregon State University for two years and graduated from University of Oregon with a master's degree, choosing education as his career. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Mu Epsilon (for his superior achievement in the field of mathematics.) He wore the green and gold every chance he got and was rarely seen without a U of O hat.

Ray was a member of the Green Valley Poker Club where he spent most afternoons playing cards with his friends. He was also involved in the shuffleboard club and won awards for his court play. Many of his stories related to the seven years he and his wife spent full-time RVing, seeing the country and making many friends along the way. Ray was a very enthusiastic fan of his wife's band, "43 Miles North," and spent countless hours over the years cheering the band on. Band members will miss his assistance loading, unloading, carrying, setting up, doing sound and driving the band and equipment to gigs. He never missed a performance. Ray was a member of the International Western Music Association, supporting songs of the west.

Continued on page 37



by Buck Helton

Ghost Riders in the Sky

Howdy friends and neighbors!

We've had an awful lot of fun meandering up the trail and down by the river, but just like the days of '49 it looks like it's time for a change. As the *Western Way* continues to evolve to meet the needs of the readership, the Golden Nugget file will be closed, making way for new content. I wanted to take the time to thank all of my loyal readers for the last 7 ½ years of being able to share my love of history with you, and I hope you'll continue to work it into your performances to enhance the music and stories. For the final Golden Nugget column, you'll find the story of the most recorded Western song of all time. This is the one time in this column I'll stray from the tunes popular in the Working Cowboy era, and instead, bring you the history of ... Ghost Riders in the Sky (A Cowboy Legend).

To begin our story, we have to go back to the tiny town of Douglas, AZ, (about halfway between Tucson, and Wilcox) where in 1914 Stan Jones took his first breath. His father was a local doctor and one of the first settlers in Cochise County. Young Stan took to the cowboy way of life like a duck to water. He loved riding through the Sonoran Desert and listening to the tales of the pioneers. Here he picked up much that he would use later in his life, including the story that would become our featured song. After his father's death, his mother moved the family to Los Angeles, CA. Stan, wanting to further his education, enrolled at Berkley where he obtained a Masters Degree in Zoology, rodeoing on the weekends to help raise money for his tuition. Before he could get his Doctorate, however, he left school to join the Navy. After his discharge he remained an avid outdoorsman and found work as a Miner, a Fire-Fighter, and the position that would inadvertently lead him to fame and fortune, a Park Ranger at the Death Valley National Monument. It was there in 1947 that Stan, whiling away his off hours on the front porch of his cabin, remembered a story he had heard from his childhood friend "Cap" Watts.

Cap was a local character who was befriended by young Stan. Most folks around Douglas did not want to get near him as Cap had an aversion to bathing. Stan did not care. As a young boy he had something of the same attitude but his parents made him bathe anyway. He could care less what Cap smelled like! One afternoon during mid-summer they were riding in the Chiricahua Mountains trailing some half wild cattle when suddenly as often happens during that time of year, one of Arizona's legendary Monsoon storms blew in. For those who have never seen one, these storms are what produce

the famed "flash-floods" in the desert dumping tens of thousands of gallons down the dry creeks and washes in mere minutes, accompanied by black thunderheads, heat lightning, and a roaring noise like all the hounds of hell were nipping at your heels. Well, with all of that lightning, and he and his horse the tallest things in the area, Stan was getting understandably nervous. Cap just looked over at his young protégé, chuckled and said "Don't worry, son. That's just the Ghost Riders rounding up the clouds!"

This memory came back to Stan on that porch in 1947 and strumming his Martin 4-string Tenor Guitar he wrote Ghost Riders in less than a half hour. A few months later some Hollywood scouts were out in Death Valley searching for locations for a new John Ford Western, *The Walking Hills*. They saw his guitar and asked for a sample of campfire music. Stan sang Ghost Riders to them. Stan was hired by John Ford as a Technical Advisor for the film, and the two became friends. That was his introduction to Hollywood.

Stan went on to write and have recorded over 100 Western songs, including Cowpoke, Cheyenne, The Searchers, Rio Grande and others including the themes for a couple of Walt Disney Westerns. In the spring of 1949 Burl Ives recorded Ghost Riders, just his vocal and his 12-string Guitar (still one of my personal favorites of the many renditions). He would be followed a few months later by The Vaughn Monroe Orchestra who had the first monster hit with it. The song has been recorded by a hugely diverse group of artists, numbering over 1,000 including Elvis Presley, Bing Crosby, The Sons of the Pioneers, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash and the group that took their name from the tune, Riders in the Sky.

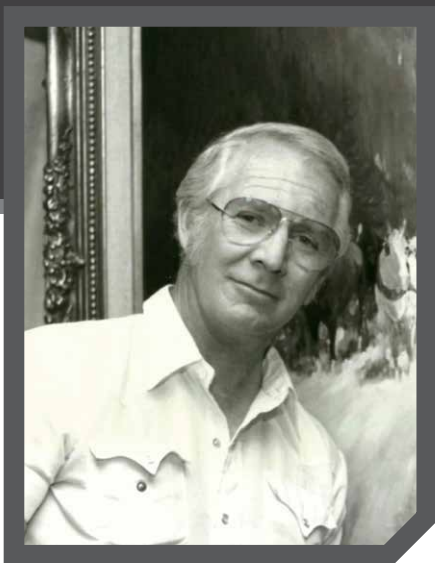
Stan had found his calling and remained in the entertainment industry until his death in 1963. He is buried in Julia Page Memorial Park in his hometown of Douglas, AZ. Three of his songs are listed in the Western Writers of America top 100 Western Songs of all time.

And so friends and neighbors, as we put away our picks, pans and shovels, we bid a fond farewell to those musical days of yesteryear. I however, being a musical packrat can't stop myself, and invite you to order my new book "Westward Ho, The Songs!" which will be out around Memorial Day 2019. As always, correspondence is welcomed. Buck@buckhelton.com.

Until we meet again, may God and a good song be ever in your heart.



2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



ROBERT WAGONER

by Dick Goodman

The great Bob Nolan, once wrote a song called *"The West is in my Soul."*

The lyrics of that tune might very well apply to the life of Robert Wagoner who, at a very early age, became enamored with the vast beauty and lore of the American West. Without a doubt, the West is certainly in Robert Wagoner's soul.

As a young boy, Robert realized he had a knack for drawing. In his late teens, his artistic talent had expanded into oil painting and it wasn't long before he was transferring his images of the West on to canvas. A self-made artist, inspired by Remington, Russell and contemporary Western artist and friend, Olaf Wieghorst, Robert Wagoner went on to establish a very successful career in the field of Western art. His paintings have been shown in galleries all over the West and the Leaning Tree greeting card company in Colorado has featured several of his works down through the years.

But Bob's unique talent capabilities didn't end there. During his youth and early adult life, Robert Wagoner also became an accomplished musician and an outstanding singer with a vocal range of over three octaves. He had also written and arranged some fine Western songs, his classic *"High Country"* and *"Wild Mustang"* to name a few.

In the early years, Robert worked with both Tommy Duncan and Billy Armstrong in the field of Western Swing music. Later, he performed on occasion with Western singing groups such as the Reinsmen, Rusty Richards & The American Cowboys, and Hi Busse's fine group, the Frontiersmen & Joanie.

Musically, his first love had always been songs about the West and his favorite Western musical act was, of course, the legendary Sons of the Pioneers. He was once invited by Dale Warren to become a member of the Pioneers but had to decline because the traveling would have conflicted with his art career.

But one of his most rewarding achievements in the field of Western music was a project he undertook during the early 1980s. Concerned with the fact that far too many of the great Western songs he had grown up with were no longer being sung in the beautiful harmony styles of Western music's heyday, Wagoner decided to try something new and very unique. He installed a multi-track home recording studio in one corner of his art studio and immediately began arranging and recording some of these "dormant" Western classics. Utilizing up to 24 tracks, Robert, (with his three octave vocal range) commenced recording the different harmony parts and background instrumentation until he had a song put together the way he felt it should sound. This took incredible talent, effort, and dedication on his part to achieve such a goal. He finally ended up with a library of nearly 200 songs. The end results were some absolutely great sounding original arrangements with Wagoner singing all the parts and playing all the instruments. Soon he was being asked for CDs of his project. Since then, Bob has released several outstanding albums, each with a replica of one of his oil paintings on the cover.

In 1997, the Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City awarded Robert Wagoner the Western Heritage Wrangler Award for his "Outstanding Traditional Western Music album," *The Wonder of it All*.

Today, at 90, Robert Wagoner still has the "West in his soul" and a "song in his heart." And, his unique combination of exceptional musical talent and inspiring artwork will always be an everlasting tribute to our great American West. 🐾

2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



THE GIRLS OF THE GOLDEN WEST

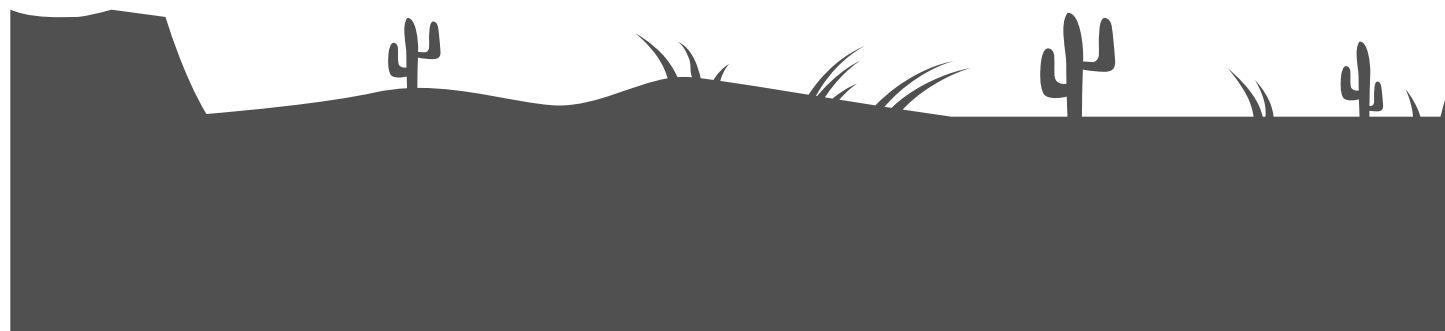
by OJ Sikes

The Girls of the Golden West (Millie & Dolly Good) were very successful/popular Western artists, especially on radio, from the 1930s to the 1960s, largely in the mid-west but with national recognition. They started in Texas on border radio, but in 1933, moved to the WLS National Barn Dance in Chicago where they were a big hit, especially with their “twin” yodeling and renditions of old cowboy songs in two-part harmony. WLS was a clear channel station, serving millions of listeners throughout the Mid-West, so The Girls had a large fan base. Gene Autry, Patsy Montana, Red Foley and later, Rex Allen became nationally prominent, thanks, in large part, to the extensive reach of WLS.

As is often the case in the entertainment business, a certain amount of hype accompanied them in their career. For example, while they decided to use Good as their last name, their real family name was Goad. And because they first gained popularity in Texas, and their attire and repertoire were Western, the publicity people at WLS declared that they were from Muleshoe, Texas. Actually, they were from Carmel, Illinois.

The Girls of the Golden West began recording for Victor’s Bluebird label in 1933, and some of their earliest recordings were covers of songs introduced by their colleague at WLS, Gene Autry, e.g. “That Silver Haired Daddy of Mine” was recorded on their first session, and Smiley Burnette’s composition, “Roundup in Cheyenne” was recorded a few years later. When Autry’s record came out, he sang “Silver Haired Daddy...” every chance he got, and he sold a million records, so it was natural for The Girls to record their version early-on, to the delight of their fans.

In 1937, they moved to WLW in Cincinnati, then to the hugely popular Renfro Valley Barn Dance and later to the Boone County Jamboree and the Midwestern Hayride. After limiting their work in the 50s, in 1963 they recorded six LPs for the Blue Bonnet label, but the revival of their career was cut short by the premature death of one of the sisters. The British Archive of Country Music has issued three CDs of their recordings. In 1981, the Old Homestead label issued an LP of their music and the Bronco Buster label has issued several of their recordings on anthologies. 🐾





TUNE YOURSELF

Temporomandibular Joint Disorder Part 2

Samantha Meyer Gallegos

The human body is a fantastic thing, but what's also amazing is how dysfunction in even the smallest joint can create far-reaching issues—issues that can even affect our music.

We highlighted temporomandibular joint disorder, or TMD, in our previous article, as well as the symptoms and possible causes. As a quick review, TMD happens in the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), the hinging and gliding joint of the jaw that helps you eat and talk. The TMJ is made up of two parts: the condyle, or the movable portion of the joint, and the articular fossa, or the socket. A disk of cartilage between the two acts as a cushion that also allows the condyle to move correctly and smoothly. When any part of the joint works poorly, it's called TMD. TMD can manifest in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) jaw pain and tightness, headaches, ringing in the ear, clicking, and limited or incorrect jaw movement.

Because muscles and joints in our body don't work in isolation, TMJ dysfunction can affect your shoulders, neck, and even the muscles of your throat. You may not be able to open your mouth wide enough to sing correctly, your voice may be breathy and restricted due to throat strain, and you may feel pain when something like a fiddle sits between your jaw and your shoulder. The good news is, you can often relieve TMD symptoms with simple therapy exercises.

Exercises You Can Do at Home

The following exercises are simple but help strengthen the temporomandibular joint. They should be done six times per day with six repetitions per set. When doing these exercises, make sure you are relaxed, and there is no tension in your face, jaw, neck, or shoulders. Your teeth should be slightly apart with your tongue resting gently on the roof of your mouth just behind your upper front teeth. Your posture should be upright (head pulled back and neutral, chin not raised but not tucked). And remember to breathe from your diaphragm. As with all exercises, they should be done just until the point of pain, but not past it:

1. **Tongue Reset:** With teeth slightly apart and tongue resting on the roof of your mouth, make a clicking sound.
2. **Controlled Opening:** With the tongue resting on the roof of the mouth, place your fingers over the temporomandibular joints. Open your mouth as far as possible without the tongue leaving its position. As above, watch in a mirror to ensure the jaw moves up and down and not side to side.
3. **Isometric Stabilization:** Place your tongue in the resting position. Place a finger on one side of your jaw and apply gentle pressure. Resist the pressure and do not allow your finger to move your jaw over. Repeat on the other side of the jaw and the chin,

holding the resistance for 5 seconds each time.

4. **Isotonic Stabilization:** With your tongue in the resting position and your fist applying gentle resistance underneath your chin, open the mouth as far as you can without the tongue leaving the roof of your mouth. Make sure there is no movement to either side when lowering your jaw.
5. **Head Flexion and Neck Extension:** Interlock your fingers behind your neck. Keeping your neck as upright as possible, tilt your head forward, tucking your chin.
6. **Mouth Opening:** Place the nail of your index finger in the space between your top and bottom front teeth. Gently separate upper and lower teeth in a scissor-like motion.

While you should always consult your doctor or care provider before starting any exercise or treatment regiment, it is important to reiterate that the first treatment explored for TMD should be conservative and non-invasive.

A 2010 randomized clinical study conducted at Tokyo Medical and Dental University found that over an 8-week period, participants following a regimen of exercises saw just as significant a reduction in pain as those participants using a splint (no participants had reduced cartilage, and both groups were given non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). However, the participants who used the exercises found they could open their jaw wider than the participants who had used the splints. In this study, at least, exercises were just as effective, if not more effective, than treatments such as splints. Additional studies have found that outcomes from more invasive options available for TMD, such as injections and surgery, were not especially compelling.

Additional Treatments and the Role of Relaxation

Aside from exercises, you can also do other at-home treatments to help ease TMD symptoms and discomfort (we covered several in our last

article, but it never hurts to restate):

- Moist heat, like that from a hot water bottle or heat pack
- Ice pack wrapped in a towel (do not use ice for more than 10 to 15 minutes at a time)
- Anti-inflammatory medicines, such as Tylenol® or Motrin
- Side-sleeping with a pillow between your head and neck to provide support

You should also try to:

- Avoid foods that require you to open your mouth too wide or foods that are difficult to chew
- Avoid chewing gum
- Avoid cradling something between your jaw and your shoulder, like a phone
- Practice good posture

We understand some of these aren't feasible (sorry, fiddle players!), but do as many as you can to help relieve and prevent wear, tear, and pain.

Relaxation is a significant part of treating TMD. Clenching your jaw and shoulders and poor posture can all make TMD worse. You can practice physical and mental relaxation techniques, including yoga, deep breathing, meditation, and a hot bath or shower. Exercise can help release tension as well. Pay attention to whether you are clenching your jaw, and try to keep your teeth apart at all times (except when chewing or talking, of course).

Again, we can't stress enough how important it is to consult a doctor, therapist, or other caregiver before doing any of these exercises or taking any medications. None of the information in this article should be construed as medical advice. You can do more harm than good, and the last thing you want is more problems than you have.

Most importantly, you don't have to put up with the pain, tightness, and strain to your voice. Give these exercises a try for a reasonable amount of time—the study featured above went eight weeks—and help yourself feel better!



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actually froze for a couple seconds, and I felt that old lump in the throat and tears in my eyes. In my mind I was thinking, 'Wow, this is really happening.' It took some time to sink in." John sings baritone and currently drives the rhythm guitar in the group.

Paul Elliott grew up in a musical family, holds a degree in music and studied in London at the Royal Academy of Music. Playing professionally since the age of nineteen, with a long list of recording credits that span film, television, radio and CDs, it was Paul's mastery of original Pioneer fiddler, Hugh Farr's style that caught the attention of Trail Boss, Tommy Nallie. Paul was shocked when he got the call. "Well, I couldn't believe they were asking me to join them! I had no idea they were considering me. It really took a few days to settle in and longer to decide. It's a huge commitment to be ready to go whenever the band is going and being away from home. I'm both honored and thrilled to be the fiddle player for the Pioneers."

Of course, the Pioneers wouldn't get very far without the people behind the scenes; Nolen Berry and Suze Spencer keep the Pioneers' "wagon rolling."

Suze Spencer comes from a long line of master musicians including Tim Spencer, co-founder of the Sons of The Pioneers, and grandfather 'Jack' Spencer, who encouraged her to learn the Pioneers' songs. "Being immersed in the music was wonderful, I rarely missed an opportunity to learn from many of the Pioneers over the years." In her teens, Suze worked as a wrangler on a horse ranch in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, often guiding Hollywood guests on overnight pack trips. She has working experience in music retail, music publishing, the recording industry, music education and is a published author. She has toured with her own big band and continues to hone her musical crafts. Suze is delighted to be carrying on her family legacy by working with the Sons of The Pioneers.

Nolen Berry had a prestigious career in entertainment law before becoming the Pioneers' fulltime business manager and attorney. He has accompanied the group to shows in Idaho, Regina, Winnipeg, Arizona, Nebraska, New Mexico and all over the mid-west as they do what they have done for decades: creating memories, making fans and motivating others to play and enjoy the music. "Everywhere is the same," he says. "Lifetime fans fill the theaters bringing their treasured memories



and hoping to hear the same songs and harmony that endeared

Dusty (standing) and Tommy (seated) and others at Old Tucson Studios.

Photo courtesy Denis Regal.

them to the music. They are not disappointed. Some are brought by a child wanting to share an experience with their parent. Others bring grandchildren to expose them to the grandparent's beloved music. At intermission they tell me how excited they are that this group nails the trademark harmonies and demonstrates such amazing musicianship."

Nolen continues, "My favorite part is visiting with the folks in the lobby after the show. It's clear they have had a happy and emotional experience, some with tears in their eyes, while others are excitedly reliving parts of the concert. In the autograph line, fans express their thanks for keeping the music going and want to know how soon the Pioneers will return. At a show in Edmonton, Alberta, there was a mother and her teenage son and daughter who had started their own Western music group. They traveled all the way from their home in Alaska to see the show. They were so buzzed up, they traveled on to Lloydminster, Saskatchewan for the show the next night. Especially meaningful was the warm greeting the guys received when they played the Grand Ole Opry last fall and were invited back."



John, Ken, Suze Spencer at Old Tucson Studios. Photo courtesy Nolen Berry.

Everyone involved with the Sons of The Pioneers—whether you're talking about managers, fans, venues, or the actual band—shares deep appreciation for the music and where it comes from. Disc jockey and Pioneer fan OJ Sikes says, "I think the music draws listeners to the western environment, the natural environment that is still preserved today in national parks and range land that stretches for miles; the Rockies, canyons, mesas, redwoods, deserts, etc. All this is as relevant today as it has ever been. Even for those of us who live far from



Hanging out with Riders in the Sky / Dressing room at the Grand Ole Opry.



Chapter Update

Arizona Chapter

President: Yvonne Mayer
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Our Chapter does not hold meetings during the summer months, allowing for families to travel and entertainers to attend gatherings and festivals. Janice Deardorff has taken advantage of this opportunity to attend events across the Northwest. Her original song "All Aboard" was featured in the documentary film, *Voices of Vail*. This film is a history of Vail, AZ and the Empire Ranch and was presented at the Fox Theater in Tucson on August 12. Gail Gifford and Ray St. Clair hosted a house concert on Sunday August 19 with Buck Helton performing. On September 29, Buck performed at a celebration of Gene Autry's 111th birthday held at the Gate Cowboy Church in Marana, AZ, and will play the part of "Ranger Wolf" in the Western horror film, "A Cry in the Night" produced by Dark Legends Production. Filming will begin in late October with showings beginning in the spring 2019. Buck says all decapitations are special effects only! Johnny Bencomo was the featured Western artist on *Voices of the West*, (<http://voicesofthewest.net/>) on August 11. The program airs each Saturday from 4-5 PM and features some aspect of Western culture, including history, music, poetry and old movies. On September 8, featured guest was Tucson's Bill Ganz. Use the link above to access the live program or view the archived podcasts. Performers interested in taking part in the program, please contact Chapter president, Yvonne Mayer. The chapter hosted an information table at the Prescott Cowboy Poetry Gathering held August 9, 10 and 11. Congratulations to Don Fernwalt on being presented with the Gail I. Gardner Award that

honors an Arizona poet who continues to pass along the cultural background and heritage of cowboy poetry. A memorial service was held in honor of Buck Ryberg, former lead singer of the Desert Sons. Members Bill Ronstadt, Benny Young and Slim Tighe performed. The chapter held its first chapter meeting of the season on September 16 and will then host an information table at the Empire Ranch Roundup on November 3.

California Chapter

President: Steve Justus
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Hello to all. Hope you have had a wonderful summer and have been spared from record heat and fires. We continued our drive to expand our presence into all of the varied regions in California. We reported earlier that we had added Regional Representative positions to our Board and that move is really paying off. **Carolyn Sills**, Northern California, has identified several important festivals and new venues and has made contact with organizers from Monterey, Paso Robles, and Central Valley. **Sharone Rosen**, Orange County, is developing a performance showcase in Laguna Hills that we hope will be a recurring event for our performers and the



Sharone Rosen with David Volk and Greg Khougaz
 Photo courtesy Jack Hummel

IWMACC. **Darlene Wilcox**, San Diego, has identified the San Diego Folk Heritage that regularly books Western Music, and we will alert our Performer group. She is also contacting other venues. Part of our Chapter vision is to develop areas where there is a stronger agricultural influence without backing away from our traditional base. We are expanding our social media presence

and have added a new Instagram account. We have a call out for a media person (volunteer) that can help us integrate the use of these platforms and we hope to gain more insight from other chapters when we attend the Convention. It has been a quiet season for performances but a bang-up season for our Monthly Showcase at the Autry Museum. The Autry gave us permission to supplement sound and we purchased a special mic for a Bose system loaned to us by member Greg Khougaz. What a difference! In addition, the performers have offered up exhilarating performances. The



Award-winning, Ron Christopher

audiences are enthusiastic and the number of attendees is increasing. At our last Showcase, we heard calls for "encore"! We tip our hat and offer our thanks to our performers! Please join us on the 3rd Sunday of every month if you are in town.

Colorado Chapter

President: Susie Knight
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Our "year" has been busy! Four showcases in and around our great State took place from Evans to Steamboat Springs, and from Denver to Florissant. Thanks to ALL



Heritage Day Festival Performers
 Photo courtesy Bill Patterson.

Chapter Update

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supporting and performing members that participated in making these showcases a success! Our last Showcase of the year was held in Florissant during their annual Heritage Day Festival on July 28, 2018. Each year (since 2015), our IWMA-CO Chapter has awarded the one member that has gone above and beyond in efforts to accomplish our goals of spreading awareness around Colorado that western music and cowboy poetry exists, and it can be found within the IWMA and the Colorado Chapter – “Branded



Top Hand buckle Photo courtesy Susie Knight

Western"! We honor this one individual each year with the TOP HAND AWARD: a custom-made trophy buckle. This year, the recipient is Randy Hoyt from Grand Junction, CO. Randy will receive this award in Craig, Colorado during the IWMA-CO Show on the evening of September 8 at the Luttrell Barn Cultural Center Fundraiser. This fundraiser show will feature Randy Hoyt (who secured this event for us), Dennis Russell, Tom & Donna Hatton, and Susie Knight. Our Chapter is seeking out locations for 2019 Showcases. If you know of a location (library, theater, Grange Hall, Community Center, etc.) in your area of Colorado where a Showcase could be held, contact Susie Knight, and she'll do the legwork to try to make the connection!



Randy Hoyt Photo courtesy Bill Patterson

Columbia Chapter

President: Duane Nelson

shortcutpoetry@hotmail.com

So, greeting and a great big Howdy" from the fabulous Northwest!! Not a big report this time; everyone seems to be awfully busy touring, performing, and writing books! Coyote Joe Sartin is all over the map of Oregon, Idaho, and Washington,

both as a single singer and as a member of the duo, Prairie Wind; poet Tom Swearingen continues to break new ground in finding performance venues for Cowboy Poets and Western singers in the Portland, Oregon area; Notable Exceptions are heading out for their annual six month tour (after gutting the kitchen in their house and doing a TOTAL remodel!). Poet AK (Kathy) Moss has completed her book trilogy, "Unspoken," "Finding Home," and "From The Heart," and has kept busy reciting her poetry on the road. Lynn Kopelke, The Cowboy Comic of the Cumberland, is also a wonderful painter and has had many one-man shows in western Washington, all the while regaling the crowds with his own brand of cowboy poetry. Meanwhile, the Hanson Family is proud to announce the birth of Dominic Jose Rivera on August 10 to Lisa Hanson Rivera and husband Roberto. While Lisa was on maternity leave, the Hansons were scheduled to perform for three days at the Clackamas County Fair in Canby, Oregon, so they flew Hailey Sandoz up from Texas to cover on fiddle, and they say the audience LOVED hearing some "swingin' Texas fiddle! The Hanson Family also had a five-day run at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO, and will be back at Branson for 25 days all through the month of October. Duane Nelson had his right hip replaced, and, noticing what a wasteland TV is and not being able to get horseback, he has spent a lot of time writing new poetry and thanking the Big Boss in the Sky that the wildfires didn't get any closer than they did. By the time you read this, the Columbia Chapter IWMA will have held their Annual Meeting and Showcase Performance (Oct 13 at the Columbia Center For The Arts in Hood River, Oregon). A new slate of officers will be elected, and performers will include Ted Hunt, Lauralee Northcott, Coyote Joe, Barb Nelson, Alan Halvorson, the Panhandle Cowboys, Chinook Wind, and Tim Jenkins; and poets Tom Swearingen, Kathy Moss, Lynn Kopelke and Duane Nelson. Well, aint got much else to say, so that's two wraps and a hooley on that! Remember...Cowboy Up, Get Big, and Never Weaken!!!

East Coast Chapter

President: Aspen Black

Aspenblackcowgirl.com

ECC members have been busy taking western music and poetry to audiences across the country. Carol Markstrom and Tom Hawk, both recently won CD of the Year awards from the RRMCC for their CDs, "Desert Rose" (Carol) and "Earning My Spurs" (Tom). Board members, Kerry



Carol Markstrom receives the RRMCC Country and Western CD of the Year for Desert Rose



Tom Hawk receives the RRMCC Western Yodeling CD of the Year for Earning My Spurs

Grombacher and Aspen Black, were in attendance to support the IWMAECC winners and to perform as a duo at the NTCMA in LeMars, IA, as a kickoff for their fall tour of NE, SD, and WY. Previous to that, Aspen Black and her daughter, Alice, age 13, completed a 54-show summer tour performing western music to over 3,000 children and their families in five states. Carol Markstrom also completed a successful summer tour in WY and surrounding states. Kerry Grombacher has recorded a new CD that is set to be released in January of 2019. It contains 11 original songs, two of which are duets with Aspen Black. Youth member, Alice Black, is in the process of recording a CD single for her song "The Town of Bodie", also set to be released in January 2019.

Kansas Chapter

President: Orin Friesen

orin@rbanjoranch.com

Due largely to the efforts of IWMA Kansas Chapter member, Geff Dawson, and his wife, Dawn, the 2018 National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo was a big success. The event, held on the first weekend of August in the "mother of all cowtowns," Abilene, KS, drew competitors from as far away

as Montana, Arizona, and even New York. Jake Riley of Kearney, NE "cleaned up," winning six of the ten awards, including Best of the West and Shootout Champion. A couple of IWMA Kansas members also did well. Tim Keane won the award for Serious Recitation and Danny McCurry won for Humorous Poem. The other two major awards were won by Rocky Sullivan of Sedona, AZ and Mark Munzert of Nassau, NY. Another of our chapter members, Ron Wilson, also received a 2nd Place award in his category. Del Shields from RFD-TV's *Best of America by Horseback* has begun presenting western music concerts on his ranch near Humbolt, KS. The featured guest performer in August was Eli Barsi. Roger Ringer, former vice president of the Kansas Chapter has released a new book called *Kansas Oddities*. It is available from Amazon.com and many bookstores.



John Cunningham, Eli Barsi, Del Shields. Photo submitted.

On November 3, 3 Trails West will be performing at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper near Benton, KS. On November 24, the Diamond W Wranglers, along with their Chisholm Trail Orchestra, will bring their Christmas show to the Prairie Rose.

Montana-Dakotas Chapter **President: Almeda Bradshaw** **almedam2b@gmail.com**

The Mon-Daks Chapter has been buzzing quietly up here on the northern ranges as members go about their musical lives. No regional members (Montana, North and South Dakota) have reported any official chapter events, but each is busy spreading the message in the music, singing their songs along the western trail. As I write, plans are underway for the chapter's annual meeting and Cowboy Code Gathering which will take place October 19-20 during the N.I.L.E. in Billings, MT.

New Mexico Chapter **President: Joe Brown** **jbrown2452@yahoo.com**

The chapter has spent the Summer putting our efforts into our annual Youth

Concert in Old Town Albuquerque, supporting house concerts of our entertainers traveling through New Mexico, an additional concert in Old Town and having a presence at a legendary festival with our chapter booth. The Youth Concert in Old Town Albuquerque was wonderful as always with a very large crowd made mostly of non-IWMA folks totally enjoying the program. Our performers this year were; Thatch Elmer, Jack George, Nolan King, Kacey and Jenna Thunborg, and Genevieve Rose Mitchell. They all did themselves and the IMWA proud. We had partners beyond the City of Albuquerque including ABQ Leather Guild, New Mexico Gunfighters, and several local arts and crafts organizations sharing their



Genevieve Rose Mitchell
Photo submitted



Jack George Photo submitted



Nolan King Photo submitted

piece of the old west. The additional concert in Old Town was The Cowboy Way playing to a very enthusiastic weekend crowd. The House Concerts provided venues for Jim Wilson, Carolyn Sills, Miss Devon and the Outlaw, Alan Chapman with Rodeo Kate and the Hot Texas Swing Band. One of our members is also and member of Opera Southwest and our chapter members assisted in

putting on a benefit concert with OSW and The Cowboy Way was asked to play by OSW. The chapter took our "booth/table" with fliers, brochures and other handouts to the Bosque Farms, NM Festival. This festival dates to before World War II and we had a lot of fun there meeting new people. One was a young fiddle player and her family who really seemed excited about finding the IWMA. We are looking forward to the Convention coming to Albuquerque again and seeing our friends from around the IWMA world.

Oklahoma Chapter **President: Donnie Poindexter** **cowboydp51@gmail.com**

Donnie Poindexter and Robert Beene performed at the National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration in Lubbock, TX on September 7-9. The NCSC celebrated its 30th Annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering. Donnie also was named as a top five nominee for Songwriter of the Year in the Pro Cowboy Country Artist Association. He will be attending the PCCAA 2018 Awards Show and Banquet on October 12-13 in Fort Smith, AR. This show will be recorded and aired on the RFD TV Cowboy Channel at a later date. Chapter members Robert Maxwell Case, Susie Case, Daryl Knight, Bill Poindexter, Donnie Poindexter, Dawn Anita Plumlee, and Jerry Plumlee plan to attend the IWMA Convention in November. IWMAOK vice president Ron Secoy announces that The Chisholm Trail Cowboy Poetry Gathering, now in its fourth year, is adding a new event. Held November 16 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan, OK, the gathering debuts the first annual Chisholm Trail Cowboy Poetry Contest at the community building of the Duncan Public Library earlier that day.



Dawn Anita Plumlee Photo submitted

Chapter Update

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Silver belt buckles, gift certificates, and trophies are awarded for the top six places. The contest will be judged by nationally-known cowboy poet Jay Snider, George Rhoades (winner of the prestigious Will Rogers Award) and Ken Jones, a thespian and regular performer at Duncan Little Theatre. The competition is read or recited cowboy poetry with emphasis on delivery, style, subject matter and overall performance. The gathering this year features Robert Beene, Smokey Culver, Daryl Knight and Curtis Krigbaum. As an added feature, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is conducting a youth cowboy poetry contest of written original works. The entries will be pre-judged by Rhoades and Snider, with the top six being awarded a trophy and certificate with an opportunity to read at the gathering. Our chapter participated in the July 28 Day of the Cowboy festivities by providing entertainment at the OK Wildfire Relief Gathering which raised over \$5,000 for wildfire victims and the local fire department. Most of the chapter was involved including: Ron Secoy, Donnie Poindexter, Curtis Krigbaum, Robert Beene, Bill Poindexter, Jim Poindexter, Francine Roark Robinson, Jan Hicks Carroll, Roy Madden, Dawn Anita Plumlee, Danny Carl Williams, Don Williams, and Dove Schmidt. Dawn Anita Plumlee modeled, sang, and recited a Cowboy poem at the Ms Senior Oklahoma Style Show on September 15 at The Grand Tapestry in Oklahoma City, OK. Anita will perform at the Pro Cowboy Country Artist Association's (PCCAA) Awards Show in Ft. Smith, AR in October, where she's a top five nominee for Female Vocalist of the Year and for Album of the Year.

Texas Chapter

President: Greg Bade
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Only meetings, meetings and more meetings, this go-round, but there are some exciting things about to blossom. We will have a fully-stocked table at the IWMA Convention this year complete with information about the Texas Chapter, and we hope to have a live body there during working hours. Come see us. Our first IWMA event of 2019 will be "Music and Poetry of the

West," held at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo the end of January. What will make this event extra special this year is that the youth fiddle contest, which debuted last year, has been expanded to include two categories, youth (ages 6 to 13) and senior youth (ages 14 to 17). The Stock Show directors have graciously announced that they will award scholarships to the winners of the senior youth division. Also, at the Stock Show, this year we will introduce a poetry and song "team penning" competition. Details are still being worked out, but part of the contest will include a pairing of a youth writer with an experienced adult writer. They will be given a topic and will have an allotted time to create a poem or song. The youth member of the team will present the results at the January 30 evening performance. Chapter elections were held in June, and two new offices were created: Social Media Director (Teresa Burleson) and Event Coordinator (Nicole Foley). Neither of these two ladies are strangers to the IWMA. The remaining officers are Greg Bade (President), Cary Wiseman (Vice-President), Waynetta Ausmus (Secretary), and Kittie Bade (Treasurer). This new board has already met and is ready to carry the chapter into 2019. We certainly look forward to seeing y'all in Albuquerque.

Upper Michigan/N.E. Wisconsin

President: Thomas Betts
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As a fairly new and young chapter of the IWMA, I am very impressed by the activities I hear about in the other Chapters. Our first start of the year was a Labor Day Celebration. We are being sponsored by the Green Bay Federation of Musicians. Labor Day is a big day in Titledown, home of the Green Bay Packers. The Greater Green Bay Labor Council - 40 plus unions - puts this celebration on at the Bay Beach Amusement Park. It includes Roller Coaster, Ferris wheel, Bumper cars, the works. Several hundred to a few thousand enjoy and partake in this event. Every dime collected goes to the local food pantries and homeless shelters. Every penny, expenses are paid by the various unions. The I.W.M.A. kicked off the festivities from 10:30-11:30, then the Presenting of Colors was provided by the Military Guard representing every service group. The Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force

and Coast Guard. We are proud to be front and center. Our goal is to get out information about the I.W.M.A. at the event. The event is covered by the four TV Stations and one always films the "Singing Cowboys." On the business side we are very happy that we have a general legal counsel. We will be asking for copies of the U.S. copyright act. There are exceptions to the law. We will pay the cost of the paperwork. Our Chapter will then make copies for all the various parties that help our Chapter complete our mission. Happy Trails!

Utah Chapter

President: Brad Elmer
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CHANGE! A word that sometimes creates terror in the hearts of men and women!! Yep, just tell someone that you are changing that thing they are now used to! See the panic in their eyes, the sweat above their lip and the wringing of the hands before those hands are thrown into the air! Well, change is inevitable as years wear on! The Utah Chapter will have all new officers as of the October meeting. Thankyou go to outgoing officers, President Brad Elmer, Vice-President David Anderson and Secretary Sam DeLeeuw. This was announced at the Chapter Jam in August and sent a waive of panic through those in attendance! CHANGE! Each looked at one another with mouths agape and eyes searching the room, looking for the next volunteer to be an officer! It is OK! Whomever is elected in October will receive all our support and tutoring. We will show how to update the membership list each quarter, send in the *Western Way* Chapter reports, bring the paper plates, water and utensils to the jams, send out notices to Chapter members and to the Friends List! We'll tell you what to do with the box of the *Western Way* sent to you each quarter and when to unfurl the IWMA/Utah Chapter banner! You've watched us conduct meetings, entertain new ideas and run the meetings as close to Parliamentary Procedure as a bunch of cowboy poets and musicians can do it. Meanwhile, we look forward to the next IWMA Convention in November! A new year in 2019 will bring more jams, socials, meetings and more events to organize and pull off! Utah Chapter members are among the best and so talented. Wherever they perform and entertain, they receive accolades. From our youth performers to our more

"mature" members, the continued future of cowboy poetry and music is in good hands.

Western Wordsmiths Chapter
President: Dan "Doc" Wilson
wwpres2018@gmail.com

The summer has been a bit slow for us at the Wordsmiths Bunkhouse, but back-room planning goes on. A few of the items we've been pursuing were mentioned in the last report, so here's a brief update. Poetry Friendly Radio Stations – This list, as compiled in September 2017, was distributed to Wordsmith members several months ago, but we still get requests for those who missed the distribution. So, to make retrieving a copy easier, the list will appear on the new chapter Website. We need updates! If you know of a radio station that devotes air time to cowboy poetry, let us know and we'll add it to the list. Ditto for those who no longer offer cowboy poetry – they need to be deleted. 2018 Convention – This is shaping up nicely, and the preliminary program is now available on the IWMA Website. As mentioned in the last chapter report, the Western Wordsmiths Chapter will be sponsoring workshops 1) "What is a Poetry P.H.D.," led by Sam DeLeeuw, 2) "Telling Your Story in Song," led by Jim Jones, and 3) a Western Prose writers workshop led by Western Wordsmiths VP, Vic Anderson. Be sure to sign up! Poetry Contest – Again, the poetry contest will be comprised of three divisions: Open Division, Intermediate Division and Youth Division. Trophy buckles will be offered to winners of each division, and Secretary Mark Munzert is coordinating this effort. Be sure to give him an "attaboy." Story-Tellers – Last report we asked story-tellers to contact us, but to date we've had no feedback. If you're a story-teller, or know one, we'd like to hear from you. We're looking for ways to support the efforts of story-tellers, and your ideas will help. Songwriters – A songwriters' showcase will be offered for the first time this year in Albuquerque. Songwriters will have the opportunity to perform their new original songs. If you write song lyrics, this is for you. As you may see in the Preliminary Program, the showcase is limited to just 25 minutes, so the format will be a round-robin with one song per writer. That will give us

4 to 5 songs. If we have time left over, we'll have a second round. Penned by Lantern Light – Featured in this issue is a poem by Wordsmith member, Aspen Black. The poem published last issue by Vic Anderson featured a strong ranching element, while this month's selection takes a different slant and reflects on the memories of a cowboy who spends a lifetime on the lonely trail. Website – By the time you read this, the new Chapter Website will have been released, although parts are still under construction. Development is still under way and should be available this summer. If you have items you would like to see on the Website, let us know. Keep us posted and keep your cinch tight!

Wyoming Chapter
President: Jerry Bell
cowboypoetbell@wyoming.com

Celebrating the National Day of the American Cowboy, the Wyoming Chapter hosted a grand Showcase concert on July 28th at the Museum of the American West in Lander, WY. Eight performers from three states played a two-hour concert to a full house in the heart of the Cowboy State. Bill Boycott and Joanne Orr served as gracious organizers and emcees, as well as hosting an awesome wrap party after the show. Not to mention, adding their musical virtuosity to the concert! So, we all tip our hats in gratitude to Buffalo Bill and Dr. Jo for doing such a great job bringing the show to fruition!! Over a hundred patrons filled the historic livery stable at the museum where the concert was held and our new President, John Sidle, did a spectacular job providing the sound, as well as adding his musical contributions. Our dear friend and fiddling legend, Les Hamilton, came down from Dubois to grace the stage throughout the night and local washtub bass player, Nick Schaeffer, also offered accompaniment. Out of state performers included Carol Markstrom from Arizona and the Ramblin' Rangers from South Dakota. "V"~



Chapter Showcase Performers
Photo submitted

The Gypsy Cowbelle and Jerry Bell rounded out the show, which included a healthy mix of traditional and original

Western music, poetry, humor, history and Cowboy lore. Vice President Karen Killion and lifetime members Stan and Alma Tussing were invaluable contributors as well, manning the merc table, refreshment booth and the IWMA information table. As another exciting coincidence, Buffalo Bill, "V", Carol, the Ramblin' Rangers and Jerry all released new CDs this year, so the material was fresh and the energy bright! The showcase concert was deemed a great success by performers and fans alike, and certainly did the Wyoming chapter and the Day of the Cowboy proud! Thanks to all those who made it happen!

Youth Chapter
Coordinator: Jane Leche
wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com

Many IWMA Youth Chapter members attended music camps this summer proving how continued learning and honing performance skills are important to them. One particular camp has been created by the IWMA Education Committee chaired by Judy James to help young performers succeed in Western Music and Poetry. Kudos to the Committee for their hard work in creating a valuable camp for IWMA Youth members! *"The 2018 IWMA Youth Performance Camp was held in Weatherford, Texas at Weatherford College on June 18th-21st. I was one of six youth chapter members who attended the camp to acquire music knowledge and develop performance skills. We all, as individuals, learned many different things as we were ranging in age from 9 to 16. Jeanne Cahill, Brooke Wallace-Deaton, Jerome Campbell and Judy James are the great musicians, teachers and mentors who filled our brains full! We had Rich O'Brien speak to us about how to be a "sideman" and respect the way the music flowed. The next day, Teresa Burleson came in and gave us tips on songwriting and how to find more interesting words to make our music rhyme! They worked us diligently, and at the end of the day, I left this camp fatigued but also full of new information and new ideas to help make myself a better musician and performer. I can honestly say that I don't always feel that way leaving other music camps!"* – Abby Payne, Youth Chapter Officer For more information on the IWMA Youth Chapter, please contact Jane Leche, Youth Chapter Coordinator at wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com or go to www.westernmusic.org and click on the Youth tab. 🐾

that environment, we recognize cowboys are still around and are still iconic."

"The Pioneers today have a great responsibility, i.e. to carry on the tradition," Sikes continues. "That doesn't mean they have to sound exactly like their predecessors; all of their predecessors didn't sound exactly alike but they all worked hard to perfect their performances. Tradition also means keeping the old songs alive and delivering them, to the extent possible, the way the very first Pioneers intended. In many cases, especially where an outstanding instrumental solo is needed, or where a harmony passage is something very special, the hair on the back of the listeners neck will stand up. Casey Anderson once phrased it a different way. He said about their live performances, 'The Sons of



The Pioneers in concert, Yuma, AZ.
L to R: Ken, John, Dusty, Tommy,
Paul. Photo courtesy Denis Regal.

The Pioneers will goose-bump you!"

Don and Sharon Endsley produce huge arena shows as the Great American Wild West Show (think Buffalo Bill). Don fulfilled one of his dreams this past May with

a joint show with the Pioneers.

Don said, "For many years I have dreamed of having the Pioneers as a featured part of our shows, just like I remember them as that wide-eyed kid years ago. I remember like it was yesterday; seeing the Sons Of The Pioneers with Roy Rogers as a kid in their movies and what a thrill it was to finally see them in person in the '60s at my State Fair in Little Rock ... They are the most famous western group in the world. No other group has the history and perfect harmony they have. It's a natural fit and we finally made it happen back in May in Salt Lake City. The audience, young and old, just loved it. I knew they would. When I hear them, I turn into that little kid of long ago, and it has the same effect on audiences today. The Pioneers, like the Great American Wild West Show, provide wholesome family entertainment, representing happy times when our heroes wore white hats and the good guys always prevailed. The Sons of The Pioneers are still my heroes and always will be. I can't wait to have them in my shows again soon."

We asked Tommy Nallie and Nolen Berry what the future looks like for the group. Tommy related, "It really looks good. Suze Spencer books for us, and we've got Nolen Berry who's our business manager. We've got a lot of jobs lined up. There

are still people who want to play this music and people that want to listen to it. Next year's our eighty-fifth year, and I can't wait for our hundredth, and who knows, our hundred-and-fiftieth and two-hundredth! And wouldn't that be nice!" Nolen said, "I am excited. I think the current composition presents a lot of promise. All the guys are very enthusiastic and willing to do whatever it takes to be successful, and that's



Great American Wild West Show, Salt Lake City, UT.
L to R: Dusty, Paul, Ken, John, Tommy. Photo courtesy Suze Spencer.

a good combination. More and more venues recognize their popularity. The audiences are terrific. They turn out audiences everywhere they go that are energetic and emotional about the music. So, I think the future bodes well for them."

Where will we see the Pioneers in coming months?

The last three months of 2018 will keep them busy. September and October had them in Branson for a seven-week run at Shepherd of The Hills. Next, it's Victorville, California for a benefit for Roy and Dale's Happy Trails Children's Foundation on November 3. They will be in Great Bend, Kansas, on November 8, Ponca City, Oklahoma on November 9, and Appleton, Wisconsin on November 25.

2019 is looking like a banner year for the Pioneers. It's our 85th Anniversary year and we'll be celebrating all year. We're especially honored to have been invited to Bellevue, Washington for the world-renowned Wintergrass Music Festival, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, February 20-24. We start the year in early January with a tour through Arizona, Colorado and Kansas. Then we return to Arizona again in March for a weekend of shows at one of our favorite venues, Old Tucson Studios and then it's on to Coolidge, Phoenix and end up on the Old Chisholm Trail at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon in Benton, Kansas. You'll find our current tour schedule on our Website: www.sonsofthepioneers.org.



We'd like to acknowledge our most sincere appreciation to Nolen Berry for his unfaltering leadership, dedication, support and genuine admiration for all that is Sons Of The Pioneers. And, special thanks to those others who have graciously given their collaborative time, talent, wisdom and heartfelt contributions in the development of this article

*Tommy Nallie | Ken Lattimore | Dusty Rogers | John Fullerton
Paul Elliott | Don Endsley | Sharon Endsley | OJ Sikes*

** Kristy Bruce is a young woman living in Oregon who loves people and their stories. She writes about Western films and "the spirit of the Old West" on her blog, The Reservoir.*



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



TROPHY TRIP

I'd like to apologize for my last column if any of you dear readers may have been eating at the time you read it, but it was a true story (most of it) and I thought it needed tellin'.

On one of my trips to Montana to see kids I stopped in the great state of Idaho to visit my brother who was a permanent resident there.

We hobnobbed a while and 'fore long the conversation came around to hunting as that was one of his favorite pastimes along with fishing.


He told me about a friend of his whose father had been a professional hunter. I never heard of such a thing but he called him up and got us an invite out to his place.

When we arrived this old boy showed us around his late father's home that had one of the most extensive trophy rooms I had ever seen. It was bigger than any barn I had ever been in and must have had at least a hunnerd trophy heads attached to the walls. We walked around, and he told us all about each one of them. There were animals there I never even heard of. I began to reckon his daddy might have been a professional hunter after all.

He stopped at a big oak table that was covered with old photo albums

from his daddy's huntin' days and told us to look thru them while he went to get us an iced tea. I took right to one of those photo albums and it was real interesting, as there were pitchers there from all over the world. I turned a page and here was his daddy standin' alongside of some sorta cowboy lookin' feller wearin' boots and a white cowboy hat holdin' a big mean lookin' rifle. He looked kind of familiar and once I got past those Africanner britches with all the pockets everywhere, I figgered out who he was but didn't believe it until I read the caption. It was his daddy's name along with Roy Rogers! That sorta made my day.

When our host returned we continued our tour and he pointed out a huge water buffalo and said it had killed his uncle. I said, "Wow! Was that in Africa?" He said "No, it was right over there. It fell off the wall on him."


Brother and I finished the tour, walking a wide birth around the rest of those heads. 

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WRAPPIN' IT UP

IN THE BOOKS

Article & Photos by Greg Bade

The second annual IWMA Youth Performance Camp was held on the campus of Weatherford College at the Alkek Fine Arts Center in Weatherford, Texas this past June. The four-day camp concluded with a rousing evening concert at nearby Doss Heritage and Culture Center. Judy James, an experienced educator, voice instructor and four-time DJ of the year and Pam Tarpley, experienced camp director, coordinated the camp. The award-winning staff for this year's camp included Jeanne Cahill, three-time IWMA Instrumentalist of the Year, renowned fiddle player Brook Wallace-Deaton, and guitarist Jerome Campbell. Each camper was asked to bring a new song



Final Performance



(L-R Jerome Campbell, Brooke Wallace-Deaton, Jeanne Cahill, Judy James)

they wanted to work on and include in the final concert. The areas of study included guitar, fiddle and mandolin as well as trumpet, voice, harmony and stage presence. The instructors then helped to prepare them for the culminating concert. During the week the campers prepared

their solos, as well as group songs. This allowed them to have individual instruction with a solo as well as group work. Evening activities included rehearsals and jam sessions. Also included in the week were presentations on music theory and song writing. A history presentation of each genre was given and the participants were encouraged to study each area in which they perform to become familiar with yesterday and today.

Special guest speakers this year were nationally



(L-R) Wyatt Payne, Jeanne Cahill, David Sawyer, Teresa Burleson, Kay Lea Sanford, Caroline Grace Wiseman, Judy James, Jazmine Saldivar, Abby Payne, Jerome Campbell.

acclaimed guitarist and IWMA Hall of Famer, Rich O'Brien, and Teresa Burleson, 2017 IWMA Female Poet of the Year. Rich's instruction for the students was from the point of view of an accompanying musician. "You are there to enhance the lead singer, not to

distract." His advice was "always know your music; if you don't know a song, don't play." He encouraged the campers to have a passion for their music and practice



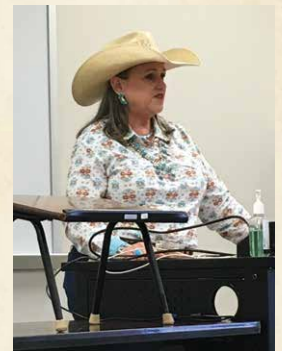
Rich O'Brien

daily. Teresa's instruction was pointing out similarities between songs and poetry. She talked about meter and rhyme and had the students take a few minutes to write a short verse. At the end of her class, she challenged them to try to put the lyrics to music. The highlight of the camp came on the final evening with a public concert. Each camper performed the song he or she had worked on during the week, and they also performed as a group. Then they had the opportunity to accompany their fellow musicians instrumentally as well as with vocal harmony. The instructors also had their turn at performing. Each one had an opportunity to highlight his or her talent, thus showing why they were selected to participate in this camp.

This camp could not have been held without the sponsorship of Weatherford College, Cowboy Heritage Foundation, Cowtown Opry, and other individuals who donated money and time to make this camp a success. The dates for next year's camp have been set as June 24 - 27, again at Weatherford College in Weatherford. Watch for more details soon and make plans to be there!



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O.J. Sikes

O.J. Sikes Reviews



A Musical Note From OJ...

Recently a friend called to tell me about a problem he had experienced when trying to play an old CD in his collection. Unfortunately, CDs sometimes deteriorate and, after a period of time, they are no longer playable. This used to happen with small labels that used less expensive materials when manufacturing their products, but now the problem has started appearing in CDs coming from larger labels as well.

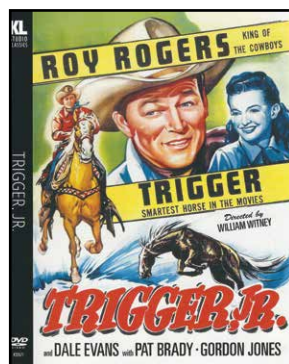
Lots of us have built our collections around CDs, and much of the music we love is not readily available in other formats. I try not to think about new cars that don't have CD players, but since I can't afford a new car, and am getting old fast, I'm not overly worried about that. But back to the subject, I have a suggestion that will help alleviate the problem to a certain extent, even though it might not solve it completely.

You can use your computer to make copies of the most prized CDs in your collection, especially those that are getting old and might be difficult to replace. It's not hard to do, but if you have doubts about how to go about it, simply ask one of your younger neighbors or grandkids to assist in the operation. Blank CDs are not very expensive, and using them to protect your prized possessions will be well worth the effort! **WARNING:** Do Not Copy your prized CDs to give to friends! That can get you into trouble! Use copying only to preserve your special CDs that would be hard or impossible to replace, should they deteriorate over time.

One of the benefits of modern technology has been the restoration of old B-Western films to the point that they are either now in High Definition or very close to that level of perfection. All of the **Gene Autry** films and TV shows are now available

in perfect or near-perfect condition, if you purchase the DVDs from the Autry Museum or GeneAutry.com, and Warner Brothers Archives has issued a number of **Jimmy Wakely** films in its Monogram Cowboy Collection. These are in excellent shape and well worth the investment, but it's important to note that the Monogram discs are not playable on computers.

Last year, the Trucolor **Roy Rogers** film, *Sunset in the West*, was restored and issued on DVD in High Definition. It was the only High Definition Roy Rogers disc up to that point, but this year another Roy Rogers color film has been restored and released in High Definition, in collaboration with Paramount Pictures Archives. It's



Trigger, Jr., from 1950, starring Roy and Dale Evans with **Foy Willing and the Riders of the Purple Sage**, **Pat Brady** and **Gordon Jones**, and of course, **Trigger** and **Trigger, Jr.** This one's distributed by Kino Lorber and is widely available. Let's hope more are on the way!



To submit your CD for review, send to:

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

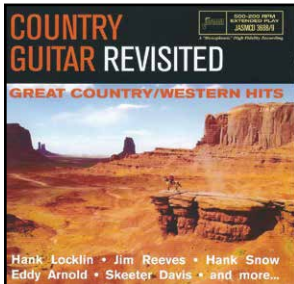
Required: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone
Number

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

COUNTRY GUITAR REVISITED (GREAT COUNTRY/WESTERN HITS)

*Various artists, incl. Sons of the Pioneers,
Gail Davis, Eddy Arnold, Hank Snow, Porter
Wagoner, Jim Reeves, The Browns, etc.*

Jasmine JASMCD3688/9



If you lived in the United Kingdom in the late 1950s, the title of this compilation makes perfect sense to you. If you were living elsewhere at that time, it probably doesn't. Why? Because it's not a collection of guitar highlights or instrumental soloists. But it has interesting roots and is of relevance for many of our readers.

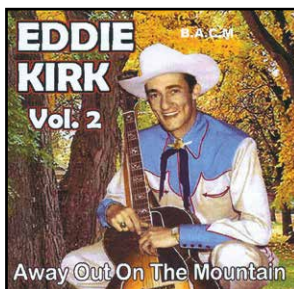
The concept originated as an attempt to market RCA products in England, by issuing a series of Extended Play 45rpm record albums, and the generic term decided upon for the series was "Country Guitar." It caught on and helped promote the careers of a number of RCA Victor's artists, growing their UK audiences.

For Western music fans, the highlight of this 25 track sampler collection is likely to be "A Fiddle, A Rifle, an Axe and a Bible," a 1958 "single" record most folks probably haven't heard. It was the first RCA Victor recording Dale Warren sang on with the Pioneers, and the last one with Hugh Farr. Jimmie Driftwood sings his original "Battle of New Orleans" and Gail Davis, TV's Annie Oakley, sings "Wabash Cannonball." Eddy Arnold's "Sittin' by Sittin' Bull" and Porter Wagoner's "The Battle of the Little Big Horn," both from 1959 complete the list of the titles that come closest to being called Western music, but the CD is chock full of solid country music, some quite rare, from that era. Widely available online.

AWAY OUT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Eddie Kirk, Vol. 2

Eddie Kirk BACM CD D 602



The photo on the back of this new release may be more interesting to movie fans than the front cover! It's a still from the 1946 Charles Starrett/Durango Kid film, Landrush. Eddie Kirk is pictured with Starrett, Smiley Burnette and others appearing in the movie.

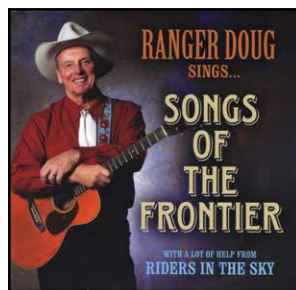
His name may not be familiar to many fans today, but he recorded for Capitol Records as a solo artist in the late 1940s and early 50s, the period reflected on this new CD. He also worked on the Town Hall Party in the 1950s.

The bulk of the 28 recordings on this CD are of country songs, but there are two western songs on the disc and one of them, the title song from 1950, showcases Kirk's yodeling ability. The other, from 1951, is the better-known "Driftin' Sand," a Buster Coward composition. This CD may be of particular interest if you remember the California country & western scene from the late 40s and early 50s. Contact VenerableMusic.com or phone (678) 232- 0268.

RANGER DOUG SINGS... SONGS OF THE FRONTIER

Ranger Doug with a lot of help from Riders in the Sky

Rural Rhythm Records RUR-1146



Ranger Doug is widely recognized as one of the great composers and performers of Western music and, with Riders in the Sky, he is a member of the Western Music Hall of Fame. As Douglas B. Green, he has also been a noted historian of Western music for decades. On this new CD, he combines all of these talents, selecting and performing music of historical significance, some of which dates from the early 1800s.

My favorite among the 11 songs on this disc is "The Hunters of Kentucky" from 1821, one of the first songs ever written about the West. It celebrates Jackson's victory in the War of 1812. Other songs ("Yellow Rose of Texas" and "Green Grow the Lilacs") date from the Texas War of Independence. "The Blue Juniata," from 1844, was the first commercially successful song composed by a woman and the first with a specifically western theme. Other selections, from later years, were popular among the first cowboys and frontier settlers.

Riders in the Sky back the Ranger on these selections and you're sure to enjoy each one. This album was first released in 2013, but it became so popular with fans, the Rural Rhythm Records label picked it up this year and has re-issued it. Available on iTunes, Amazon, Rural Rhythm Records (P.O. Box 750, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121) and Too Slim's Mercantile on the RidersInTheSky.com web site.

Continued on page 38

The Western World Tour



by Rick Huff

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

In life, how often do we get to have our dream come true? The fellow we're profiling in the column this time had a beaut!! His dream, if realized, was to have been "KYRN 102.1 FM Western-Country Radio in Socorro, New Mexico!!" I say "was to have been" but, with luck, it still will be, come March of next year! But to be successful a "gentleman's agreement"...y'know, as in the Cowboy Code and all... requires that both participants be "gentlemen." The dude our dreamer now has to face in legal proceedings appears to be neither "Gentleman" nor "Cowboy."

Picture a kid in southern Arizona...soaking up and deeply loving all the ranching and multi-cultural influences around him. Picture him growing up listening to the culturally inclusive sound of KNIX Radio, and then discovering later that his favorite "Country" songs are actually "Western" ones coming from folks like Marty Robbins. You're picturing Reese Janca. "Western connects me to where I grew up!" he enthusiastically remembers. "The land, its history, the way of life!" And radio was conveying it for him in song... up to a point. For this was the start of the homogenization of Country subject matter. Intuitively he began to rebel, believing somehow there's more to life than just drinking, who you want and who you're cheating on.

Career-wise, Janca gravitated toward the technical aspect of things, as he told us. "I was a radio engineer with IBM, and I worked with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory." Yet he remained starry-eyed about the broadcast side. "Working on the plane is one thing," he laughs, "but I wanted to fly it!!" And he figured he saw his chance to take to the air (literally) when an ad appeared in the Socorro Defensor Chieftain newspaper. The owner of Socorro's only radio station wrote to say he'd accepted a post as Athletic Director at (wouldn't you know) a Bible college and soon would be outta here! The station was for sale!!! Janca picks up the story. "I wrote and asked 'how much' and he quoted it. My partner and I said 'that's the price of a truck!!' I can do this! I'm a radio engineer, I can keep up the technical side, I already have all the personal licenses I need and I can program it! As a one-man band I can make it affordable!!!"

Janca set out to create KYRN 102.1 FM Western-Country Radio!! "My first name for it was 'Western Enchantment Radio'" Janca recalls, "because it would be about the land and the life here!" With enthusiasm that absolutely bubbles along the phone line, Janca elaborates on his vision. "Certain things were missing in mainstream radio, and it always surprised me there wasn't more music out here that gave a sense of place and history of the West! I can't say I wasn't blessed to find (IWMA Award-Winner) Doug Figgs right here in Lemitar (north of Socorro)! When I heard his bilingual Las Ladrones, I said 'my gosh, this is Marty Robbins! This is the stuff I loved as a kid!!'" The big picture for his station includes hefty

doses of Western and other under-served musical genres of a compatible nature. "There's so much good music out there! That was the joy of buying a Country station and making it Western-Country! You can learn more from a Western song than from a lecture. It grabs our attention, our imagination and emotion, then secretly it grabs our memory! It reflects the Western people, not Johnson's Quarter, Kentucky!" Janca found his first and (so far) only naysayer in the departing station owner. "He said 'you gotta play the top Country hits or you're gonna fail your station!' I said 'no I'm not! Leave me alone!!' That's why I couldn't go to work for other broadcasters! I know me!! I'm your rebel Cowboy and I know what needs to get done!!" We might (and, therefore, will) insert here a reminder that Waylon and Willie bucked established Country and wound up with the genre called "Outlaw Country," with some of the biggest hits for both of them being Western. And our history certainly holds enough "outlaws" for anybody!! But back to Janca's station and what he believed he and the owner had...a "gentleman's agreement" with contracts to back it up.

The FCC requires transfer of a broadcast license be accomplished within forty-five days of the publication of a sale. With no transfer in sight, the owner began nickel and diming Janca and his partner... "nickel" meaning five thousand, "diming" meaning ten thousand, "quarter" meaning...you get the drift. Now, with the full purchase price paid and held in escrow, more money is being extorted and it's gone to court. Without a clear license holder, on-air operations had to be suspended, although an online presence continues at riograndevalleyradio.com. Reese Janca, as ever, remains optimistic. "Doug Figgs is doing a Western show for us on Wednesdays and we're still operating. But with attorney fees and other expenses, we've really been hit hard. We want to get on with serving this central hub city of Socorro! Being the only station here, we're the source for emergency announcements and information the people need along with the music they've already told us they like!!" Janca does worry about the ticking clock, saying "This has to be resolved by next March, or the license goes away! The frequency would be picked up by another cookie-cutter format broadcast chain. They pick up stations like trinkets and do the same old thing. Where has our freedom of expression gone then...our freedom to discover something new instead of being spoon fed?! When a Cowboy singer we're playing sings to you about the Rio Grande...it's one mile from here!!!"

Recently, The Cowboy Way band held a fundraiser concert to help Janca with his mounting legal fees. Feel free to contact me if you would like to know more. Also, artists are encouraged to send current and past CDs to Reese Janca, Rio Grande Valley Radio, PO Box 949, Socorro, NM 87801.





RICK HUFF'S BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

TIPS? COMMENTS? IDEAS FOR THE COLUMN, SEND TO: RICK HUFF, P.O. BOX 8442, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87198-8442 OR BESTOFTHEWEST@SWCP.COM

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.

A LITTLE FARTHER WEST "Christmas On The Line"



The big West-big reverb twang guitar (and vocals) of Robert Maxwell Case (with Susie Case on or-

gan) are plied to the holidays in this seasonal release from A Little Farther West. Picks include "Two Step Around The Christmas Tree" (co-written and first recorded by Susie Bogguss, probably as a demand for equal dance time!), "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" (in an arrangement that's close to suitable for a Bond or police film...maybe "arrest ye merry gentlemen?"), "Here Comes Santa Claus," "Do You Hear What I Hear" and that oddly pensive piece "Christmas Time Is Here" from the first Charlie Brown animated TV special...made even more pensive by the arrangement offered here! By and large this is the holiday collection A Little Father West's fans would be looking for and, owing to that twang guitar, it's one I suspect might even make Duane Eddy fans nostalgic. Maybe it's wishing all of them "Eddy Christmas!" Too much? Twelve tracks.

CD: \$12 ppd through www.alittlefartherwest.com or through amazon.com

GARY ALLEGRETTO "Blues On The Trail"

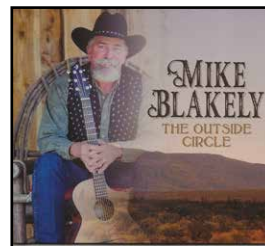


It's very true that Blues songs and singing were regular saddle parads of Irish-based and va-

quero-inspired Cowboy songs. Very happily we have Gary Allegretto, performer/songwriter and Harmonikids founder, to help champion that truth and expand upon it! Gary's Blues styles here range from fun-lovin' to deep 'n' darkly primitive and back up through great driving Blues boogie that would have made a band like Canned Heat proud. Most of the songs are co-writes with...or solo writes by...multi-instrumentalist and singer Ian Espinosa. Often you'll hear nice turns of phrase in this collection's pick tracks: "Every Silver Lining" ("...has its cloud"), "No Place Like Home" ("...and that's why I love the road"), "Another Mule" ("...has been kickin' in your stall") and the like. More picks include the title track "Blues On The Trail" (as supposedly sung by The Sundance Kid), "Cowboys Gotta Be Free," "A Horse Called The Bluesman" and the gentle ballad "Wherever I Roam." A nice and timely cover of Steve Earle's "The Firebreak Line" is also a welcome addition. Allegretto & Espinosa are joined by Paul Eckman (upright bass), Steve Mugalian (drums) and Tom Corbett (mandolin). Twelve tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$5 s/h from Gary Allegretto, 2144 Beech Knoll Road, Los Angeles, CA or through cdbaby.com.

MIKE BLAKELY "The Outside Circle"



Most welcome is this all-Western release from singer-songwriter and Western novelist

Mike Blakely...his first in quite a few years. Fifteen superior studio musicians drift in and out of the various tracks, acoustic at their core. Any of the songs could be dubbed "picks," but of special note are three co-writes of his with Damon Rogers. They are "The Outside Circle" (a nice tutorial about working cowboy hierarchy), "Bronc Man" (equating heartbreak and rough rides) and "Don't Ever Sell Your Saddle" (a fresh turn on a familiar theme). Additional picks include "The Hat" (a sound wrist slap about pre-distressing), the astounding saga song "Ballad Of Josiah Willbarger" and one of the best versions of "Colorado Trail" since Robert Wagoner's virtuoso deep harmony take on it from

Continued on page 34

thirty years ago! Just giving credits where credits are due...that song is thought of as "traditional" and so it has become. But it's writer was revealed to have been James A. Bliss who, in 1923, published it as "A Cowboy Song." Details are in Jim Bob Tinsley's landmark book "He Was Singin' This Song." Ten tracks, highly recommended.

CD: (available through www.mikeblakely.com)

BUFFALO BILL BOYCOTT & Dr. JO

"Legacy Of Wyoming (including Along The Oregon Trail)"



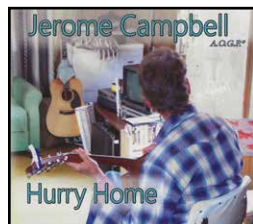
Literally two albums in one, this double CD package has a lot to offer. It's done in tribute to Wyoming, obviously. "Buffalo Bill" Boycott has culled and recut songs from his past releases and added new material, and it's all interspersed with period classics from the wild 'n' wooly days. He and Dr. Jo offer spirited vocals delivered with conviction. The pair is joined by eight support musicians on various tracks plus Sonny Shoyo and the Highwind Singers from the Eastern Band of Shoshone Nation to enhance the effect of the song "Before The Whiteman." Boycott correctly allows the four passes of the Indian song, honoring the four directions as is the custom, rather than treating it as a sound effect. To get his point across, Boycott isn't shy about adapting songs to strengthen their relevance to his subject..in this case, Wyoming and journeys on the Oregon Trail from, through and near Wyoming! There are plenty of tracks we could choose as "picks," but one Boycott *a capella* tour de force with sound effects ("The Donner Party") is particularly strong. Thirty-three

tracks total, nicely annotated. Recommended.

CD: \$10 + \$5 s/h (Continental US) from Bear Paw Records, PO Box 497, Lander, WY 82526.

JEROME CAMPBELL

"Hurry Home"



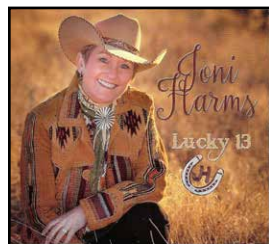
Jerome Campbell, A.O.G.P. ("Another Oklahoma Guitar Picker") is a one-guy tour de force on

this collection. You could pretty much dedicate it to happy chord progressions and those who were there for the progress. Campbell performs with the vocal honesty of a Misterogers. They're fun, cozy works and his performances are not unlike some of the ragtime vocals of olde. Picks include "Chili Pepper Pete" (with a surprise ending, which could be said of hot peppers themselves), "Cowboy Blues," "Colorado Home" (which is about Nome, Alaska...naturally...and took twenty years to finish. Hey, I had one that took forty!), and the old-time filtered vocal track of "Desert Blues" appeals to me, as does its bouncing, off the wall set of lyrics. Except for some occasional thinkin' he'd like you to engage in, it's mostly intended for fun and it gets the job done. What more could you ask?? Fifteen tracks and two "mood markers." Get the album...you'll see. Recommended.

CD: \$14 through cdbaby or by check from Jerome Campbell, 8022 N. 445, Strang, OK 74367.

JONI HARMS

"Lucky 13"



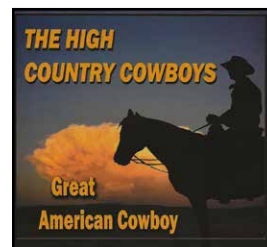
For her album "Lucky 13" Joni Harms is once again calling on the luck of the

Irish, recording while on tour in the Emerald Isle with the richly talented Sheerin Family, providers of five of the CD's nine support musicians! Actually "13" is a big part of Joni's mojo. As she writes: "My dad was discharged from WWII at Dock 13 on November 13th. My daughter Olivia was born on June 13th in Room 13 at 1:13 PM (13:13 in military time)!!" It's album #13 for Joni so, yes...the CD has thirteen tracks on it. Don't put her in any hotel that skips that floor!! The songs are a Western and Country mix. The Western-ish tracks are picks, including the Jim Varsos co-writes with Joni "Bless The Farmer" and "Sweet Summer Hay" and her own songs "The Loop," "Tofu," "Cowgirl Tuff" and the heartfelt "American Dream." Include in there the Wood Newton/Joni Harms songs "Horse Sense" and "Bob Tail Bob." Tech note: On the Country tracks I'm acutely aware of electronic pitch assistance being used. I guess that audience has be come so steeped in that tepid tonal tea that it must be poured on. Unless something has changed radically, Joni Harms has never needed it! Highly recommended.

CD: (available through www.joniharms.com)

HIGH COUNTRY COWBOYS

"Great American Cowboy"



Western Music's award-winning and phenomenally popular newcomers the

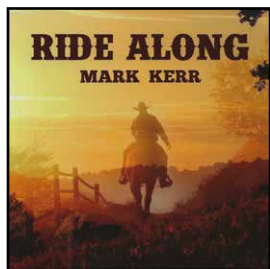
High Country Cowboys are, in case you've been in space, leading contemporary proponents of Sons Of The Pioneers (or San Joaquin) tight harmony. On their new one, the Kosel brothers Marty, John and Joe offer a fine sampler of mostly covers, with two Marty Kosel originals (the showpiece "Mountain Man Yodel" and "Land Of The Free") being among the album's picks. Others include a very interesting fully-sung version of the normally

narrated "Ringo." Its writers, Don Robertson and Hal Blair, would have loved this as the song was originally intended for a Sons Of The Pioneers project before Lorne Greene's producer latched onto it! Also, a pick is the first cover version I've come across of Syd Masters' "Under New Mexico Skies," the official State Cowboy Song. A nice nod south comes in the Kossel's "Mexicali Medley" (two of the four songs in it are from up north, but who's counting?!!) A crediting point: "Don't Tell Me" was written by Mike Beck, not R.W. Hampton as shown. Also, the full name of the Silvano Ramos classic is "Alla en el Rancho Grande." This self-produced CD is confident, yet comfortable, proving the 'boys have hit their stride.' Twelve tracks. Highly recommended.

CD: \$20 ppd from High Country Cowboys, 978 Redodge Creek Road, Red Lodge, MT 59068 or through www.highcountrycowboys.com

MARK KERR

"Ride Along"



Gentle grit in the voice of Utah balladeer Mark Kerr provides a pleasant authenticity to his new release "Ride Along." Kerr is nicely supported acoustically by a multi-tracked Ryan Tilby (guitar, banjo, mando, bass-o... whoops, 'got carried away), John Houston (accordion), Dave Tate (harmony vocals) and, on two separate tracks, fiddle by Steven Burwell and Drew Williams. It's a collection of classics, old and newer. One pick is Mike Beck's "Don't Tell Me" ("...that the West is dead and gone..."). Another is "Ranger Doug" Green's "Blue Montana Skies." Solid covers of "There's A Goldmine In The Sky," "Along The Navajo Trail" and "Blue Shadows On The Trail" are adapted with intelligence for Kerr's predominantly tenor vocal

range. Four Kerr originals are included: the title track "Ride Along," "Those Cowboy Songs," "Bloom In Spring" and "Poor Boy." It's a nice little collection that should satisfy his fans. Ten tracks.

CD: \$15 ppd from Mark Kerr, 760 N. Sky Mountain Blvd., Hurricane, UT 84737 or through cd-baby, spotify, iTunes, AppleMusic and Pandora.

MANY STRINGS & CO.

"Off Their Rockers"

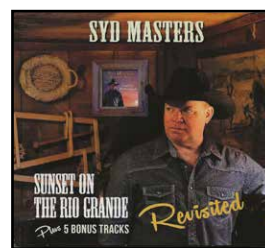


Tony and Carol Messerly write that they finally got "Off Their Rockers" putting out an album for the first time in three years...which can be taken at least three more ways than one! Their fine harmonies and comfortably engaging Blues-rag arrangements are intact, so they haven't been totally idle during the hiatus! Pick covers in the set include Penny Wigley and Rich Wilbur's hopelessly clever "Wantcha To," Al "Doc" Mehl's haunting yet logical "I'd Rather Be" and Dave Stamey's tough to handle "Black Jack." On Messerly releases there's generally an example or two of what I'd call good-natured ne'er-do-wellness ("Fishing From The Saddle" and "Gonna Get A Buck") and some off-their-rockers craziness (Carol's "Colonoscopy" and the ultimate yodel answer song "I Can't Find My Epiglottis" along with Tony's "Bovine Love"). Even when the message is serious or thoughtful, I still kinda feel the music's mouth would show the upturned corners of a grin. I'll admit to being an unabashed fan of Many Strings & Co. They'd have to do something awfully wrong to get a negative write-up from me, and the Messerlys simply don't do Awfully Wrong. Or windows. Fourteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$15 ppd through www.manystrings.net or from Tony Messerly, Many Strings & Co., 470 S.300 W, Salem, UT 84653.

SYD MASTERS

"Sunset On The Rio Grande Revisited"



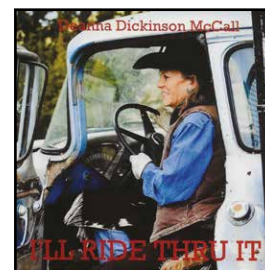
On the 20th anniversary of Syd Masters & The Swing Riders' debut, using that name

comes Re-Release Plus 5 of their debut album. More accurately, it's a remastered and fussed over (I know Syd) production that features the group's original personnel: Syd (lead vocals & rhythm guitar), "Shotgun Dan" Spanogle (harmony and upright bass) and Jimmy Reed, Jr. (harmony and lead guitar). And what an auspicious and ambitious debut it was!! The album features tasty contributions on various tracks including a Rich O'Brien guitar intro for Syd's stellar *a capella* song "La Veta," a classical string quartet backing "Cottonwood Snow," John Truett's jazzy clarinet work on "When I Camped Under The Stars" and the renowned Wayne Shrubsall's banjo enhances "Rodear." They're all strong, airworthy songs and most are Cowboy Swing! Syd's five bonus tracks were recorded in a live pass with his current band mates "Uncle Bob" Goldstein (steel string acoustic guitars) and Gary Roller (acoustic bass). The twenty-year span between tracks ten and eleven on the CD only goes to show the Masters vocal instrument remains Masterful. Fifteen tracks. Highly recommended.

CD: (available by emailing Syd Masters for information: cowboysyd@gmail.com)

DEANNA DICKINSON McCALL

"T'll Ride Thru It"



With a bevy of brief works, poet Deanna Dickinson McCall rides in and "thru it." She's in

Continued on page 36

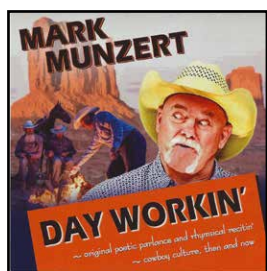
and out with what she has to put across, rather like the late Georgie Sicking would do. And McCall's droll, weather beaten delivery lends itself purt-near perfect to her poetic material. In her efforts this time she's backed up by music buddies Jim Jones (guitar and mandolin) and Randy Huston (guitar, mandolin and fiddle). Picks on this CD include "5 O' Clock Somewhere" (horse happy hour at the stock tank...which wouldn't be a bad name for a cowboy bar, come to think of it!), "Cowgirl Pride" (what she will and won't do...but maybe should have...), her title track "I'll Ride Thru It," "His Queen," "Mrs. Thomas" and "MacGregor" (an old town site on a southern New Mexico roadway that I've wondered about myself). Thoughtful and concise. When this lady poet leaves her "McCalling card," there's bound to be a good reason for you to pick it up. Fourteen tracks. Recommended.

CD: \$15 ppd through deannadickinsonmccall.com or from her at PO Box 376, Timberon, NM 88350.



MARK MUNZERT

"Day Workin'"



In his release "Day Workin'" New York cowboy poet Mark Munzert takes you through various possible

events that might occur during the cowboy's day, so the trappings are basically in the familiar territory of Cowboy Arts & Sciences. But the works are written convincingly and, due to Munzert's vocal flexibility, the delivery's better than is sometimes the case. Able musical support comes from our old buddy Ernie Sites along with Patrick Stanfield Jones and Max Munzert. Picks include "Cowpokes In A Heap," "Wind Pumps On The

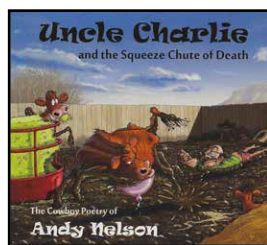
Mesa," "Round Pen Blues" (a lot said with an economy of words... very cowboy, that!), "I Should, I Could, If Only," the autobiographically true "Good Hand," "Bonded" (with its O. Henry style ending), "Roadmap's Merry'd Christmas," "Influence" (with its tone of acceptance) and "First Ride" (another autobiographical poem embellished only in the truest Cowboy sense to fortify the yarn)! Seventeen tracks. Recommended.

CD: \$15 ppd (US) from Mark Munzert, 20 Westbrook Drive, Nassau, NY 12123 or contact markmunzert@gmail.com for other info.



ANDY NELSON

"Uncle Charlie (and The Squeeze Chute Of Death)"



It's not actually Andy's Uncle Charlie, but Andy "owns" this anyway! Yes, it's another romp through

the muck of life from the master of common sense, common scents and nonsense, Andy Nelson! This latest collection of works is produced by (and frequently features accompaniments by) Brenn Hill. On most of the tracks, Andy's voice is filtered in a way that sorta makes 'em feel like ruminations (I hear Pepto Bismol works on that). Some nuggets this time around include "The Day The Dogs Took Over The Ranch," "Roy and Benny" (deaf-initely deserves hearing), "Help Wanted," "Scatter My Ashes" (...and watch me go!), and, from the thoughtful side, "Don't Call Me Cowboy," "Waiting," "What Are We Going To Do Now" and "The Cowboy I Never Knew." And you can add to those picks Andy's rendering of Don Kennington's "The Last Nail." While not written by Andy, I'm sure it strikes a personal clang for him. It closes the album officially. Unofficially the closer is the hidden track of

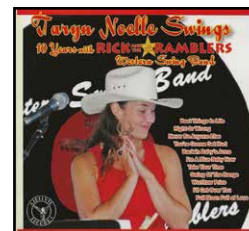
brother Jim Nelson's wacko take of "I'm Too Sexy," but we won't go there. I probably shouldn't have the first time! Fifteen "official" tracks. Recommended.

CD: www.cowpokepoet.com



RICK & THE ALLSTAR RAMBLERS WESTERN SWING BAND

"Taryn Noelle Swings"

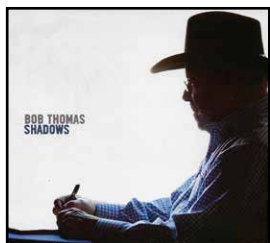


Rick (Norcross) and the Allstar Ramblers salute a successful decade of performances

with their lead lady vocalist by issuing this very tightly arranged (by their keyboard and steel man Charlie MacFadden) and rendered compilation of recordings showcasing the award-winning Taryn Noelle. Mostly swing covers, the album boasts two Norcross originals that stack up neatly beside the others ("You're Gonna Get Hurt" and "Take Your Time"). Other picks include the curiously named "Wurlitzer Prize" (??), "Swing Of The Range," "I'll Get Over You" and "Full Moon Of Love." But all of the tracks are winners! It occurs to me that this band's instrumentation, which includes twin fiddles and steel but no brass, might actually preclude it receiving invitations to play at certain of the more stringent Western Swing festivals. Some set out to specifically honor the tradition and legacy of the Bob Wills/Spade Cooley/Milton Brown effect and go no deeper into it. It's all the more reason the IWMA needs to embrace groups who swing hard but maybe do it more acoustically, under the accurate banner of Cowboy Swing. Eleven tracks. Highly recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$3.50 s/h from Airflyte Records, 216 Battery St., Burlington, VT 05401 or through rickandtheramblers.com, cdbaby and i2iRecords.com.

BOB THOMAS "Shadows"



You won't find many vocalists who carry more gravel in the voice than Bob Thomas.

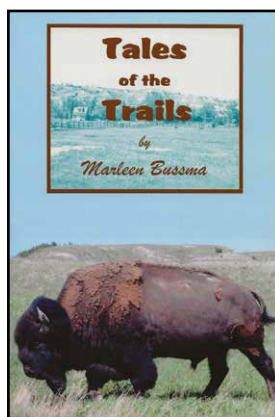
Much more and you'd be in a rock quarry. If that translates to you as "authenticity," then here's another very authentic Bob Thomas release for you! In truth, it's a vocal effect that has doubtlessly been present at many a campfire throughout cowpuncher history... just not on that many CDs. For his seventh album, Thomas has connected with some solid folks to back him. They include Gary Allegretto (!!) on harmonica, Gawain Mathews (fiddle), mix master Ben Bernstein (2nd lead guitar) and the enigmatic "HYIM" returns on organ and background vocals and to co-write the track entitled "The Meaning." Hey, I'd just go for the meaning of "HYIM!" Thomas' daughter, Erinn Rachele, joins her dad on two tracks. Rather than delve into specifics, I'll just say Bob Thomas' people know who he is and what he does, and they go with it. As picks within the confines of his particular style, I'll name "End Of A Long Hard Day" and maybe "Oregon," because I

can picture that voice being that guy! For reasons known only to him (and maybe "HYIM"), there is a hidden thirteenth track of Bob doing roughly ten seconds of "Row Row Row Your Boat." Oh well... swiftly down the stream...

CD: www.bobthomasmusic.com




BOOK REVIEW MARLEEN BUSSMA "Tales From The Trail"



who knows the life and brings it to life. Some of the poems here repeat the common themes of cowboy grit vs. the elements and long years in the saddle. Perhaps not surprising, but to me the Bussma works that contain the most forward momentum are those based on historic occurrences or tales, and yet there can certainly be a full story in an event. Bussma The Storyteller is formidable, but Bussma the Por-

Here for your shelf (but preferably your hands, eyes and heart) is the latest printed collection of works from poet Marleen Bussma, a lady

trait Painter In Words is no slouch. "Firedance" is as apt a relating of the prelude to a stampede, its course and aftermath as ever I've read. Or "Rattlesnake Kate" which is, in quatrains, a short story with a punchline end (Kate's, in fact!). Or "Dime Novel Demise" about the ignominious end of Russian Bill and Sandy King. There's "Sentimental Journey," the sweet longings of an 1880s Longhorn bull, and the many clear scenes conveyed in "The Apron." Much to discover in thirty-eight works on seventy pages.

Trade Paperback: \$14 ppd from Marleen Bussma, 1094 Homestead Dr., E., Dameron Valley, UT 84783 or through www.marleenbussma.com. ISBN 978-0-9970716-1-0 

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In Memoriam Continued from page 14

Ruby Riedel (1923-2018)



Ruby Helene Ida Riedel, 95, of Centralia, Missouri died April 28, 2018 at SSM St. Mary's Audrain Hospital in Mexico. Ruby married John Riedel on May 8, 1943, and he preceded her in death on April 29, 2005. She really loved to watch the

Olympics, Blues Hockey and St. Louis Cardinals Baseball. Ruby especially loved Polka Dancing, and the Waltz. She and John joined the Western Music Association in 1989 and were active members for many years. Ruby is survived by four children, Gary Riedel (Carol) of Centralia, Judy Maseman (Henry) of Centralia, Ronald Riedel (Julie) of Loveland, CO, Joanne Mitchell (Mike) of Lindsborg, KS, 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

SWING YOUR PARTNERS SQUARE DANCES FROM THE 1940S

Cliffie Stone, Carson Jay Robison,
Lawrence V. Loy

Jasmine JASMC D 3703



If you're into square dancing, this new CD is a must! If you're into collecting rare recordings by pioneers of country and western music, you'll probably want to add this to your collection. If neither of these descriptions fits you, you may

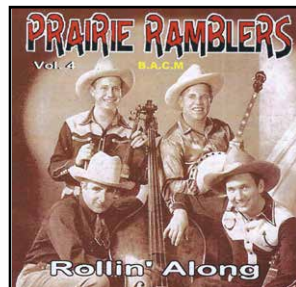
want to pass, if only because you may find that the square dance calls interfere with the enjoyment of the superb instrumental music being played by the two great bands featured here.

The leaders of those bands are legendary figures. Cliffie Stone was a prominent fixture in music on the West coast, and is credited with discovering Tennessee Ernie Ford, Mollie Bee and Hank Thompson, among others. He recorded a trio he called Cliffie Stone's Country Hombres (Dale Warren, Rusty Richards and Billy Armstrong) and his Granite record label recorded the Sons of the Pioneers in the 70s when they were no longer under contract to RCA Victor. The band he leads on this CD includes Jimmy Bryant, Billy Strange, Merle Travis, Billy Liebert and Speedy West!

Carson Jay Robison is a member of the International Western Music Hall of Fame, having recorded with Frank Luther and Vernon Dalhart in the 1920s. Later, he carried his band (and western music) to England in the 1930s where they were very popular on radio and in personal appearances. His compositions included "Carry Me Back to the Lone Prairie," "Little Green Valley," "Sleepy Rio Grande" and "Goin' Back to Texas," among others. None of them are featured here; just his band from the late 1940s – early 1950s, The Pleasant Valley Boys, backing a square dance caller, Lawrence V. Loy. Stone's band is featured on 8 tracks from 1947, and Robison's band is on the remaining 14 tracks from 1949-51. The songs are mostly traditional square dance tunes, but you'll find these remarkable bands' treatment of them most interesting. Widely available online.

PRAIRIE RAMBLERS VOL. 4 - ROLLIN' ALONG

The Prairie Ramblers



The Prairie Ramblers were the back-up band for Patsy Montana and Rex Allen, although they were called the Arizona Wranglers for Rex's transcription sessions. But they were also popular in their own right, and neither Patsy nor Rex appears on these 26 tracks from 1935-47. BACM doesn't issue "greatest hits" CDs. Instead, they attempt to locate and re-issue the rare material that didn't make it to the "best of" category. For this reason, and because this is volume 4, collectors may find this disc a real treasure while those looking for the most popular recordings, especially those with high fidelity, aren't as likely to enjoy it as much.

The CD's 26 tracks range from 1935 to 1947, and feature members fans will recognize from different periods in the band's history, like Tex Atchison, Ken Houchins, Chick Hurt, Salty Holmes, Jack Taylor, Alan Crockett, Gale Ryan and Rusty Gill (who often recorded with the Ramblers as his back-up band, calling them the "Westernaires"). My favorite selections were the title song, which they recorded in 1941 for the Okeh label, and an instrumental, "Farewell Blues," from 1945. Their 1938 Vocalion recording of Smiley Burnette's composition, "Fetch Me Down My Trusty 45," one Gene Autry was fond of, is also included. Contact VenerableMusic.com or phone (678) 232-0268. 🐾



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Available at: BobMarshallBand.com, facebook.com/BobMarshallBand/, CDBaby.com

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews

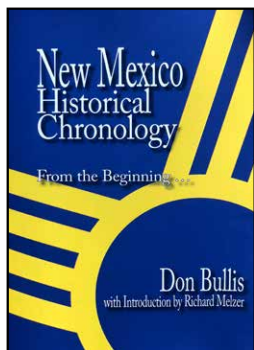


Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

DON BULLIS

"New Mexico Historical Chronology: From the Beginning"



Bullis, who lives in Rio Rancho, N.M., is an IWMA member who, like me, is not a musician, a singer or a songwriter but a lover and supporter of Western

music. A native of Ohio, he has lived in New Mexico since the '60s and has worked in the state as a journalist and in law enforcement. He is recognized as one of New Mexico's most accomplished writers of popular history and has at least 10 books of nonfiction to his credit.

This hefty volume, 1,028 pages, serves as a complement to two of his previous works --

"New Mexico Historical Biographies" and "New Mexico Historical Encyclopedia." This latest book tells the story of the state through significant events and people in chronological order from 200 million years ago through 2017. Two hundred million years ago may not be the beginning, as the subtitle claims, but I'm thinking it's close. The book's initial entry refers to the finding of an ancient dinosaur vertebra in 2004 at Hayden Quarry at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico's Rio Arriba County. The quarry is estimated to be 215 million years old and the vertebra led to the discovery of a new species of dinosaur.

The final entry, dated 2017, reports the death, at age 94, of New Mexico State Legislator Murray Ryan, one of the longest serving Republican's in the state House of Representatives. In between, you can find references to what I imagine is every person and incident of note in New Mexico.

Everything you'd expect to find is here -- the start of Kit Carson's campaign against the Navajo in 1863, Pat Garrett's killing of Billy the Kid in 1881, Elfego Baca's 1884 shootout with 80 Texas cowboys (or maybe only 12 to 18, according to one source) in what is now Reserve, N.M., and the shooting death of Garrett near Las Cruces in 1908.

No one, as Bullis reports, was ever convicted for killing Garrett, although, as he notes, one of the chief suspects, "Killin' Jim" Miller was lynched in Ada, OK in 1909 for the ambush murder of Gus Bobbitt, a rancher and former lawman.

One of the more extensive entries is about the so-called Roswell Incident of 1947, in which something -- some say it was an alien craft, others a balloon used in a top-secret U.S. project -- crashed in a pasture, which actually is much closer to the New Mexico town of Corona than to Roswell. You'd have to be from another universe yourself not to heard about this never-ending story.

It's the things you don't expect to find, maybe never had heard of, that makes this book the treasure it is. For example, Socorro newspaper editor A.M. Conklin was shot to death in 1880 as he left church on Christmas

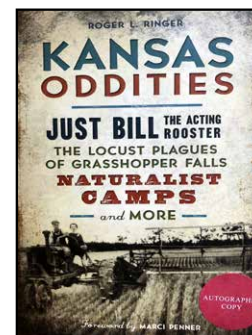
Eve. One of those accused of his murder was killed in a gunfight with a deputy sheriff and another lynched, prompting an Albuquerque newspaper to write, "'Tis a bad thing to assassinate editors in New Mexico."

"New Mexico Historical Chronology" is a reference book well worth picking up. Just remember to bend your knees when lifting.

("New Mexico Historical Chronology: From the Beginning," ISBN 9781943681419, hardback; ISBN 9781943681211, paperback; \$68.95 hardback; \$58.95 paperback; Rio Grand Books; 2018; available in bookstores and through amazon.com)

ROGER L. RINGER

"Kansas Oddities: Just Bill the Acting Rooster, the Locust Plagues of Grasshopper Falls, Naturalist Camps and More"



Ringer, a vocalist who is not performing on stage these days, is a former vice president of IWMA Kansas Chapter. He turned his

love for stories about Kansas into this book, which I consider more

Continued on page 41

The WESTERN WAY

a collection of odds and ends than oddities.

Ringer doesn't write about UFOs, Bigfoot or two-headed calves. He does write about the grasshopper infestations that plagued the aptly named Grasshopper Falls, KS, several years during the 19th century and the toad invasions of McPherson, KS, one of which occurred in June 1901. "According to many accounts, it was not possible to walk after dark without stepping on a toad with every step." Bet that kept the kids in the house.

Ringer tells us the story of Just Bill, the Hollywood-handsome White Plymouth Rock rooster of Stafford County, KS, who got a movie job worth crowing about, and he reveals how a Kansas airstrip came to be called Dead Cow International. I'm probably not giving anything away by observing it wasn't good for the cow.

Much of the book is devoted to Kansas businesses and the folks who owned and operated them. You can

find out all you need to know about the Ellers Motor Car Company, Richardson Manufacturing, Buller Manufacturing and Cero's Candy. Did you know that the bulldozer was invented in Kansas? According to Ringer, that's a fact – in Morrowville, KS., to be precise.


Nudity. They have that in Kansas, too. Ringer notes that, much to the concern of many good citizens, several "naturalist camps" are in operation around the state. "With the exception of some drumming that may be heard late at night, there seems to be no impact on the surrounding community," Ringer writes.

Kansas personalities get their due. The book introduces us to William "Buffalo Bill" Mathewson, a hunter, trapper and trader who was known as Buffalo Bill before that Cody character; Charles J. "Buffalo" Jones, credited with being among those who saved the buffalo from extinction; Charles Curtis, a man of mixed Indian and white blood who served as President Herbert Hoover's

vice president; Wantha Davis, a successful woman jockey; Orville Brown, a champion wrestler; and a bunch more.

The book, which is illustrated with photos and includes an impressive list of sources, is likely of most interest to people who live or have lived in Kansas.

Ringer occasionally forgets that some of his readers may not be as familiar with Kansas as he is. For example, he writes that a pasture owned by Buffalo Bill Mathewson became the first location for Joyland. I had to go to Google to find out that Joyland was a Wichita amusement park. I thought it might be one of those naturalist camps.

("Kansas Oddities: Just Bill the Acting Rooster, the Locust Plagues of Grasshopper Falls, Naturalist Camps and More," ISBN 9781467139229, paperback, \$21.99, The History Press, 2018, available through amazon.com, eBay, Barnes & Noble, Costco and Sam's Club) 

IWMA Western Consignment Shop 2018

By Jean Prescott

This year has gone by like a fast freight train and the IWMA Convention is coming up soon! Once again, it is time to start looking through our closets for gently worn high quality western stage wear, as well as western jewelry and accessories to consign to the IWMA Western Consignment Boutique. It is also time to think about which of those extra musical instruments might need a new home. I trust those of you who made purchases in 2017 have enjoyed your wonderful finds and those who received a nice check for the items you sold enjoyed the extra money, too.

I am excited to announce that the Consignment Boutique will have twice the room this year! Again, we will be located across from the registration desk and will also take in the area that was the green room last year. We will have two dressing rooms and much more room to display your wonderful items!

As you all know our lovely songbird Liz Masterson left this earth for her heavenly home almost a year ago. This year we will have a special section of items from her estate, including LPs, some signed by Patsy Montana, collectible books, CDs and other items. We will also have more items available from the Ed Stabler estate.


The 2017 IWMA Consignment Boutique maintained the same high sales volume as in the previous years, thanks to all of you! This year the IWMA will receive 15% of all sales making it a win-win situation for everyone. We continue to learn what works and what doesn't, so be sure to check out the Consignment Boutique Guidelines on the Website for any changes that have been made. Please take the time to carefully read the information. We want you be sure your consignment items are all clean, pressed, on

hangers and properly tagged before you arrive at the consignment boutique with them. Stained, dirty or wrinkled clothing will not be accepted. Regarding boots, please stuff them with paper or plastic bags to keep them standing up for display.

All items must be tagged before they are brought in to consign and you must be checked in by a consignment boutique team member. Please do not use straight pins to attach your tags. If the tag comes off of an item, we cannot sell it. You may use your business card or download tags from the Website: <http://www.westernmsic.org/userfiles/Consignment%20Tags%29.pdf>.

This year we need a couple of gentlemen with a pick-up truck to load and bring our racks, etc. to the hotel. More volunteers are needed to assist with setting up the room Tuesday afternoon, checking in clothes and putting them on the racks Wednesday, plus general help all week. One of the perks of being a volunteer is that you get to see everything first! Drop me an email, if you would like to be a member of our fun crew! jeanprescott@taylorlortel.net.

Again, please review the Consignment Guidelines, paying close attention to items NOT to bring. I will mention a few here. We will not be accepting home décor, tee-shirts, sweat shirts, shoes, baby or toddler clothing, heavy coats, down vests, music or books, other than instruction books for instruments. Please do not bring these items in hope that you can consign them. We will not accept them. Keep in mind that everything must be western and "gently" worn. If you have any questions feel free to email me at jeanprescott@taylorlortel.net.

Remember: "All roads will lead to Albuquerque." I wish you safe travels. See you there! 

Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lucky 13 - Joni Harms2. Off Their Rockers - Many Strings3. 40 Years the Cowboy Way - Riders in the Sky4. Coyotes and Cattle - Barry Ward5. On the Loose and Headed Your Way - Lauralee Northcott6. Stockyards Serenade - The Cowtown Opry Buckaroos7. ...Thinkin' of You - Doug Figgs & Mikki Daniel8. Tumbleweeds and Old Horses - Rusted Spurs West9. Satisfied Hearts - Gary & Jean Prescott10. Great American Cowboy - High Country Cowboys11. Silent Trails - 3 Trails West12. Desert Rose - Carol Markstrom13. Rerides - Brenn Hill14. Down on Wildhorse Creek - Dawn Anita15. Blues on the Trail - Gary Allegretto Wild West Texas Wind - Carolyn Martin | <ol style="list-style-type: none">17. 2000 Miles From Nashville - Wylie & the Wild West18. Songs and Tales of the Old Chisholm Trail - K.R. Wood & Friends19. Sunrise on the Prairie - Allen & Jill Kirkham20. Screen Door - Bob Marshall21. Forever in the West - Paula Erlene22. Cowboy Life - Donnie Poindexter23. Souvenir - Notable Exceptions24. Cowboy - High Country Cowboys25. A Kansas Souvenir - Diamond W Wranglers26. I'll Ropy You the Sunset - Chris Mortenson27. Up for Adoption - Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade28. Tribal Pilgrim - V-the Gypsy Cowbelle29. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris30. Montana Moon - Dan McCorison |
|--|--|

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Off the Beaten Trail - Hot Texas Swing Band
2. Swing Time, Baby - Steel Horse Swing
3. Wild Blue Yonder - The Western Flyers
4. Susie Blue - Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas
5. Swingin' Through the Years - Chuck Cusimano
6. This is Tommy Duncan, Vol. 3 - Billy Mata
7. Taryn Noelle Swings - Taryn Noelle
8. Paul Schlesinger & His Knights of Texas Swing - Paul Schlesinger
9. Somewhere There's Music - The Swing Sisters
10. The Time Jumpers - Kid Sister

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Horse Sense - Joni Harms
2. Bless the Farmer - Joni Harms
3. The Old Chisholm Trail - The Cowtown Opry Buckaroos
- Hot Rod Yodel - Wylie & the Wild West
5. Sweet Summer Hay - Joni Harms
6. Texas Bluebonnets - Rusted Spurs West
- Fishing From the Saddle - Many Strings
8. Cowgirl Tuff - Joni Harms
9. Ridin' by the Light of the Moon - Many Strings
- Too Bad This Town Ain't in Texas - Carol Markstrom
- Molly Terry - Lauralee Northcott
- Keep a Candle in the Window - Barry Ward

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. Masters, Vol. 2 - Various Artists
2. Once Upon the West - Doris Daley & Eli Barsi
3. The Western Man - Alan Chenworth
4. Tales From the Road - Aspen Black
5. I'll Ride Thru It - Deanna Dickinson McCall
6. Uncle Charlie & the Squeeze Chute of Death - Andy Nelson
7. A Good Ride - Terry Nash
8. Cowboy Seasons - Sam Deleeuw
9. Saddle Up for Cowboy Poetry - Marleen Bussma
10. Rhyme "em, Cowboy - Tom Swearingen

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

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

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

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

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
8201 Golf Course Rd NW
Ste D3, #189
Albuquerque, NM 87120
"Campfire Café" w/host Gary Holt
bobbijeanbell@gmail.com
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.dougfiggs.com
http://www.RioGrandeRadio.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

Mike Gross
15 Nina's Way
Manchester, CT 06040
"Swingin' West"
mike@swinginwest.com
www.swinginwest.com
(plays primarily western swing and more
band-oriented western material.)

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

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

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

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

Eddy Leverett
c/o Campfire Productions
1623 Co. Rd. 820
Cullman, AL 35057
Around the Campfire
WKUL
www.wkul.com
kudzucowboy@hotmail.com
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"
1410 Kubli Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
Earsradio.com
Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org
The Dalles, OR, Y102
KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY
www.ButchMartinMusic.com
www.romancingthewest.org
(541) 218-2477

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

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

Bob O'Donnell
2091 Park Ave W #320
Riverton, UT 84065
justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

Barbara Richhart
Western Belle of KSJD
CowTrails Show
32229 Road P
Mancos, CO 81328
Studio: Sundays 12:00-2: PM
Studio: 970-564-0808
Home: 970-882-1413
Cell: 970-739-8408
Streaming www.ksjd.org
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"
KRLC Radio
805 Stewart Ave.
Lewiston, ID. 83501
208-743-1551
tommy@idavend.com
"Keepin' It Western"

Harvey & Me'lissa Turnbow
CLOUD 1610-AM
"High Mountain Community Radio"
PO Box 524

Christoval, TX 76935
325-812-1358
325-716-0042
325-896-4433
FM106.9@yahoo.com
"Keeping Western Music Alive"

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

Leonard Werner
Country Routes
WDVR FM 89.7 & 91.9
PO Box 191
Sergeantsville, NJ 08557
609-397-1620
www.wdvrfm.org
Leonardwerner44@comcast.net



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Artist Contact:

Mike Rutherford
mike@rdiinc.us

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November 7-11
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, November 7

12:00 noon-6:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique accepting items to sell or donate
3:00-6:00 pm	Performers CD Check-In
3:00-6:00 pm	Vendor Set Up
3:00-7:00 p.m.	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
5:30-6:30 pm	So You Think You Can't Dance? Swing Dance Workshop Instructor: Jim Calvert, High Desert Dancers
7:00-10:00 pm	Swing Dance Spectacular & Dessert Featuring: Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing, Alex Dormont & The Hot Texas Swing Band, 3 Trails West

THURSDAY, November 8

7:00-10:00 am	Vendor Set Up
8:00 am-7:00 pm	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
8:00 am-12:00 noon	Western Wear Consignment Boutique accepting items to sell or donate
8:00 am-5:00 pm	Performers CD Check-In
8:30 am -5:00 pm	Professional Development Workshops
8:30-9:45 am	Coffee with the DJs Facilitated by Marvin O'Dell
10:00 am-11:00 am	Rivers, Trails and Public Lands of the American West: It's All Yours! Presented by Jane Leche
11:15 am-12:30 pm	The Business of Music Presented by Lynn Marie Rusaw
1:00-2:30 pm	Telling Your Story in Song- Sponsored by the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Facilitated by Jim Jones
1:00-2:30 pm	Prose Workshop-Sponsored by the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Facilitated by Vic Anderson
2:45-4:00 pm	Focus on House Concerts! Facilitated by Joy Burns
2:45-3:45 pm	Harmony Workshop Presented by Judy James & Jeanne Cahill
4:00-5:00 pm	What Is A Poetry P.H.D.?- Sponsored by the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Presented by Sam DeLeeuw
4:00-5:00 pm	National Day of the Cowboy Panel Discussion Facilitated by Bethany Braley, Executive Director-National Day of the Cowboy
12:00 noon-5:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN
12:00 noon-5:00 pm	CD Mercantile OPEN
12:00 noon-5:00 pm	Vendor Area Open
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Showcase Performances
6:00-9:00 pm	Crisis Fund Dinner & Concert Entertainment by Dry Branch Fire Squad Featured Jon Chandler & Friends, featuring Ernie Martinez & Johnny Neill
10:00 pm-12:00 midnight	Midnight Pajama Showcase

FRIDAY, November 9

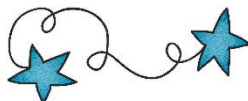
8:00 am-6:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN and accepting items to sell or donate
8:00 am-6:00 pm	CD Mercantile OPEN (reopens after the Western Opry)
7:30 am-6:00 pm	Member Registration & Ticket Sales
8:00-9:30 am	IWMA Chapter Officers Roundtable & Breakfast
8:30 am-4:00 pm	IWMA Youth Chapter Meeting, Workshop & Rehearsal Time
9:45 am-1:45 pm	Campfire Stage
2:15 pm-5:00 pm	Development Stage
10:00 am – 5:00 pm	Showcase Performances
12:00 noon-6:00 pm	Vendor Area Open
1:00-1:45 pm	Banjo Workshop with Miss V & Karen Gogolick
2:00-2:45 pm	Harmonica Workshop with Jennifer Epps & Judy Coder
3:00-3:45 pm	Rhythm Guitar Workshop instructor with Ernie Martinez
7:00-9:00 pm	IWMA Friday Night Western Opry
	Hosted by Judy James

SATURDAY, November 10

7:00-8:30 am	Veterans Appreciation Breakfast & Show
	Hosted by Jerry Hall
8:45-10:00 am	IWMA Membership Meeting
	Open to all current and future WMA members
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN and accepting items to sell or donate
10:00 am-5:00 pm	CD Mercantile OPEN (will reopen after Awards Show)
10:00 am- 6:00 pm	Registration & Ticket Sales
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Vendor Area OPEN
10:15-11:15 am	Harmony Contest
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Yodeling Contest
12:45-1:45 pm	Poetry Contest
1:45-3:00 pm	IWMA Youth Chapter Showcase
3:00-5:00 pm	Showcases
3:00-3:25 pm	Corral Chorale
3:30-3:55 pm	Songwriters Showcase sponsored by IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter
4:00-4:45 pm	Cowtown Opry's Buckaroos Showcase & Workshop
4:15-5:30 pm	IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter Meeting
7:00-10:00 pm	IWMA Awards Show
6:30 pm	Pre-Show featuring Alex Dormont & The Hot Texas Swing Band

SUNDAY, November 11

7:00 am-12:00 noon	Western Wear Consignment Boutique OPEN
9:00 am-12:00 noon	CD Mercantile OPEN
9:00 am-12:00 noon	Vendor Area Closed
9:00-11:00 am	Sunday Morning Gospel Concert
	With Vic Anderson, Mikki Daniel, Belinda Gail, Judy James & Barry Ward



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Company or Group Name (if applicable) _____

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City/State/ZIP _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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		Members	Non-Members
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<input type="checkbox"/> Sidekick Package (includes workshops, showcases and evening shows)		\$175/person \$325/couple	\$250/person \$475/couple
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Spur VIP Package (includes workshops, showcases and reserved seating for all evening shows)		\$275/person \$450/couple	\$325/person \$550/couple
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Spur Sponsor Package (includes workshops, showcases, reserved seating for all evening shows and your name listed in the program as a sponsor)		\$550/person \$900/couple	\$675/person \$1,050/couple
WEDNESDAY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Swing Dance Spectacular & Dessert (Ticket price includes So You Think You Can't Dance? Workshop)	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person
THURSDAY (If you purchase a package, PLEASE indicate which workshops you will attend)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Pass for Showcases	# of tickets _____	\$0	\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days
Workshops			
<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee with the DJs	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Rivers, Trails & Public Lands of the American West	# of tickets _____	No Charge	No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/> The Business of Music	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Telling Your Story in Song	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus on House Concerts!	# of tickets _____	No Charge	No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmony	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Prose Panel Discussion	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> What Is A Poetry P.H.D.?	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> National Day of the Cowboy Panel Discussion	# of tickets _____	No Charge	No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Crisis Fund Benefit Dinner & Concert	# of tickets _____	\$50/person	\$60/person
FRIDAY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Pass for Showcases	# of tickets _____	\$0	\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days
Workshops			
<input type="checkbox"/> Banjo	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmonica	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm Guitar	# of tickets _____	\$15/person	\$20/person
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Friday Night Western Opry	# of tickets _____	\$25/person	\$30/person
SATURDAY			
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Pass for Showcases	# of tickets _____	\$0	\$10/person/\$25 for 3 days
<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Appreciation Breakfast & Program	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you would like to sponsor a veteran	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you are a veteran....there's no charge for your ticket!			
<input type="checkbox"/> IWMA Awards Show	# of tickets _____	\$35/person	\$45/person
TOTAL DUE		\$ _____	
Payment Information			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check/Money Order enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
		<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover
Credit Card Number _____	Expiration Date _____		
Name on Credit Card _____			

Some space is limited so order tickets early! Cancellations after October 31, 2018 cannot be refunded.



EXCELLENCE ✧ CREATIVITY ✧ PROFESSIONALISM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



WESTERNMUSIC.ORG
505-563-0673

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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

- ☐ Individual Professional Membership \$50
- ☐ Individual Youth Membership (21 and under) \$10
- ☐ Small Music/Performing Group (2-3 members)* \$75
- ☐ Medium Music/Performing Group (4-6 members)* \$110
- ☐ Large Music/Performing Group (7+ members)* \$150
- ☐ Patron Membership \$100
- ☐ Business Professional Membership \$110
- ☐ Individual Professional Life Membership \$600

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP


Not a Music or Media Professional but want to take part? Choose your level of supporting membership below:

- ☐ Individual Supporting Membership \$40
- ☐ Individual Youth Membership (21 and under) \$10
- ☐ Family Supporting Membership* \$65
- ☐ Patron Membership \$100
- ☐ Business Supporting Membership \$100
- ☐ Individual Supporting Life Membership \$600
- ☐ Sponsor Supporting Membership \$1,000

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

In addition to your Professional or Supporting Membership, you may also support your local chapter of IWMA by adding a Chapter Membership. Check the chapter(s) you wish to join and add the related charge for each chapter.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Michigan/ | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado | NE Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana/Dakotas | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Coast | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico | |

- ☐ Western Wordsmiths Chapter (poets, authors, songwriters) 
- ☐ Chapter Membership (each) Individual \$10
- ☐ Chapter Membership (each) Family* \$15
- ☐ Chapter Membership (each) Group* \$25

*One member may vote

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT **WESTERNMUSIC.ORG**

Please tell us about your involvement in Western Music. Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performer/Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Songwriter | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poet/Reciter | <input type="checkbox"/> Author | <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manager/Booking Agent | <input type="checkbox"/> Fan | <input type="checkbox"/> DeeJay/Radio Station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____

ZIP/Post. Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

It's OK to list my information in the printed IWMA Membership Directory. _____ (Initials)

Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Phone Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Payment Information

Total Due \$ _____ ☐ Check Enclosed

Please make check payable (U.S. Dollars) & send to:

IWMA
P.O. BOX 648
COPPELL, TX 75019

Please charge my credit card:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa | <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard | <input type="checkbox"/> Discover |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp.Date _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Country _____

ZIP/Post. Code _____

Questions?

Email marsha@westernmusic.org or call 505-563-0673.

Who may we thank for referring you to IWMA?



www.WesternMusic.org

**P.O. Box 648
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The International Western Music Association
is an organization that encourages and supports
the preservation, performance and composition of
historic traditional and contemporary music
and poetry of The West.



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