

The Official Publication of the International Western Music Association

IN THE CROSSHAIRS:

DAN McCORISON

FROM DIVING BOARD
TO MUSIC AWARDS

PAGE 6

International Western Music Association Presents

Awards of Excellence
Albuquerque, NM

SEE RESULTS INSIDE PAGE 23



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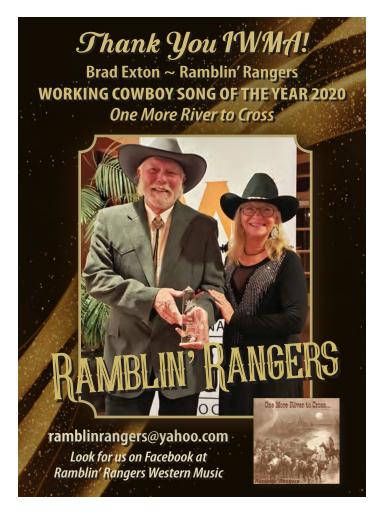
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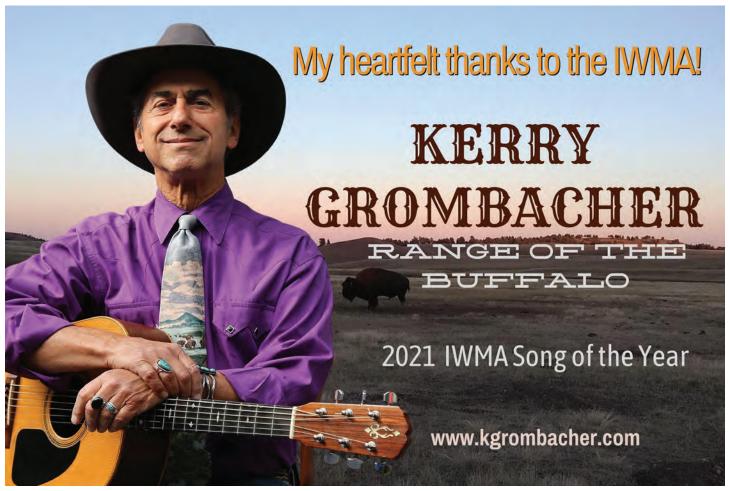
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From The President...



Robert Lorbeer IWMA President

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

WOW!!!! What a wonderful IWMA convention we had in November! Yes, the convention attendance numbers were down from previous conventions, but I assure

you that the members who attended had a grand time. As best we could, attendees made an effort to maintain distances and wear masks.

The 2020/2021 convention challenged us and created extra work to coordinate all of the plans for a "double convention," such as planning for double the number of awards. Yes, some things had to be scaled back or eliminated, but by-and-large, the convention was a replica of previous conventions with modifications. Although we were unable to host a convention in 2020, we were able to recognize 2020 award recipients at the awards show in 2021. And, the showcases were filled with a variety of performers.

So, what will the convention in 2022 look like? The question cannot be definitely answered today, but I know the IWMA Board of Directors will work with our Executive Director to create and maintain a very professional event. Planning has already begun!

Best wishes to you and yours in 2022.

Robert Lorbeer

President IWMA





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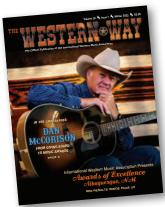
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ON THE COVER...

From Denver to Detroit to North Carolina to Nashville, awarded singer-songwriter Dan McCorison performs his own brand of western music that has its roots deeply entrenched in America's historical soil. Whether co-writing or placing pen-to-paper alone, he has a story to tell...and he does it well.

(Cover photography by Nancy Hagen)

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

Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell Editor

A Smiles Super Spreader Event

IWMA 2021 is now a sweet memory for Board members and all those who attended. As preparations led up to the event, there was uncertainty about various aspects almost

daily. Adjustments were made on-the-fly to showcases, performances, presenters, and even locations. There were many "what ifs" and "how do we handles..." up to and including Tuesday when the Board members arrived to meet and finalize details. And even then, more changes!

I venture to say that each member of the IWMA board and each event participant traveled to Albuquerque wondering what to expect. The Board met on Tuesday and yes, there was some hesitancy and even a little tension in the room – you could feel it! We knew the attendance was down. To be expected. Adjustments to schedules and events would need to be made. There were volunteer shortages. We, the Board, would need to step-up and fill some holes. Had to be done. I can happily report that we left that meeting united and

determined that the "show will go on" with no less fervor than in years past. And so, it did!

Attendance exceeded expectations with last minute registrations. Volunteers stepped up to ensure the CD mercantile was staffed (thank you Diana Raven and many others!). A well-organized Boutique once again opened its doors with "goodies galore" (thank you Judi Anderson and a multitude of friends!). A new Fundraising Opportunity event took place raising nearly \$1,800 for IWMA (thank you LeeLee Robert and helpers!) and the Thursday Night

Fundraiser event for IWMA exceeded the generosity of some past years (even with about one-half the usual crowd attending) with more than \$8,500 in donations.

All three stages were busy each day; the opening lunch was full, and the Albuquerque Mayor



was there to welcome us; the workshops were well-attended and instructive; emotion and patriotism permeated the Veterans Breakfast, more so than usual if that is even possible; the Awards Show was exciting and brought some surprises; and, there was jamming! Western music and poetry were alive! And you could feel it in the hallways.

People were happy to be together again. They wanted to be at Hotel Albuquerque and attitudes reflected it. Smiles abounded! It was good to be together.

This Board moved forward under difficult circumstances, adhering to the mandates of our host State and hotel, but respecting the individuality and choices of our members and guests. It was at times a tightrope, but IWMA2021 truly culminated as a SMILES Super Spreader event. If you weren't there, you were missed. Now we look forward to 2022 and better days to come.



Theresa

From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

Last year about this time, I said 2021 was bound to be a better year because 2020 had set a pretty low bar. So now the bar is at rock bottom and we've nowhere to go but up!

One of the shining stars of 2021 was the IWMA Convention in Albuquerque! It was small (only about half of the regular attendance) but everyone had a great

time. There was dancing, there was jamming, and there was plenty of great conversation! As always, there were volunteers pitching in every day to make sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you to everyone who came to Albuquerque as a fan, performer, and/or volunteer.

After spending the last few years in a "survival mode," the Board is dusting off the IWMA Three-Year Plan and getting ready to move forward. One new initiative is to have monthly meetings (Zoom) with one topic per meeting. The first meeting was held December 7 to discuss the Convention. Thanks to all the attendees who took a few minutes to return the evaluation. There were some excellent comments and suggestions and several of them will show up right away.

The Board is happy to welcome last year's interns as Directors for three-year terms. They are Bobbi Jean Bell, Leo Eilts, Roger Eilts and Carol Markstrom. The intern for 2022 is Dave Martin. These new additions to the Board bring a fresh perspective and lots of new ideas...and ways to implement those ideas.

Thank you to our Chapters who worked so hard to keep the music and poetry alive through workshops and jams on Zoom and Facebook. It's paid off in not only keeping people in touch within the chapters but also bringing in a newer (and sometimes younger) audience.

We wish everyone in the IWMA family a peaceful and prosperous 2022 and a year without surprises or incidents. A year that will end with us coming together in Albuquerque in November to celebrate Western Music and Cowboy Poetry!

Marsha



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In the CROSSHAIRS



Dan with CD producer and friend, Scott Neubert (Nashville, TN) who came to the Convention to participate and support his friend onstage.

DAN McCORISON

By Happy Anderson

Driving west along NM Highway 21 from Springer, the Western singer/songwriter/musician Dan McCorison was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. Music has always been a part of his life in one form or another. When he was six years old, he wanted to become a drummer and march in a drum and bugle corps that was being sponsored by a local children's TV program. His parents bought him a pair of drum sticks and a practice pad. The drum set was to come later. After a few weeks of practicing, his parents were starting to become annoyed. One evening in the middle of a practice session, they came to his room, sat him down and said, "Dan, if you'll give up learning to play drums, we'll buy you a new bicycle!" It worked. The next day he had a new bike...but it was too late. Dan was already hooked on music.

Dan's parents divorced when he was in the third grade. His mother was left to raise four young children on her own. Some of Dan's fondest childhood memories include spending summer days at his grandparents' cabin in the mountains west of Denver. He describes these special times in the first few lines of one of his more recent songs, "The Cabin."

Saturday morning we'd load up the car
Grandpa's old Plymouth sure smelled like cigars
But we didn't care 'cause it faithfully made
up the rocks and the ruts of that steep final grade
to a little brown cabin that sets in the shade
of a big strand of Aspens that I wouldn't trade
anything in this world for those magical days
At the Cabin.



Enjoying the Arizona outdoors, Dan sits with his biggest fans, Daisy (the dog) and his lovely wife June.

As he got older, Dan became interested in swimming and diving. During the summer months, he spent much of his time at a local swimming pool in Denver. "The cost of a day pass was only 15 cents so I would spend all day practicing my diving skills," Dan recalls. All this practice would pay off in years to come.

At the age of 14, Dan's grandfather bought him a guitar. He started hanging out at the Denver Folklore Center where he became interested in authentic folk music. He formed his first band in Jr. High and began performing.

His mother remarried when he was 15. The family relocated to Detroit where Dan started soaking up the roots of music. He also got involved in diving competitions, taking 2nd place in the City of Detroit and 8th place in the state. A year later the family settled in Winston Salem, North Carolina, where Dan continued his diving competitions, winning the North Carolina state championship.

Now living in an area steeped in Bluegrass music, Dan was able to explore the history of American roots music firsthand. Sometimes on weekends his mother would drop him off at a highway entrance ramp where he would hitchhike to Bluegrass festivals. He always managed to find a ride home. It was at a regional folk festival that he met Doc Watson, the master of flatpicking guitar. Up until then, Dan had only played fingerstyle. He asked Doc to show him how to hold a flat pick. Doc kindly obliged and picked a tune for him. Dan likes to brag that Doc Watson got him started on flatpicking, but he's first to admit he'll never come close to Doc's playing.

Following high school, Dan attended East Carolina University and Richmond Professional Institute in Richmond, VA. He ended up working at a TV station to help pay for his school bills. One of the engineers at the station convinced him that he should move to Boulder, CO because "that's where your people are."

Dan took the fellow's advice and moved back to his home state of Colorado in 1971. He settled in Boulder to be near the thriving local music scene. Soon he and a couple of friends, Steve Swensen and Don DeBacker, formed a band called Dusty Drapes and the Dusters. They started playing Western Swing and Classic Country music and became quite popular with the college crowd. They created a large following of fans and were soon playing for packed houses.

Eventually, the Dusters were picked up by Los Angeles manager, Peter Rachtman, who lined up tours for them throughout the western states and Canada. The band began fronting shows for major acts such as Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Marty Robbins and Linda Ronstadt. They recorded an album for Columbia Records which was never released. Dan later left the band to go solo.

In 1975 he met June, the love of his life. They were married in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve, 1977. June has been the inspiration for a few of Dan's best original songs. He tells a humorous story about their wedding night. After arriving in Las Vegas, they found a coupon for the Lucky Wedding Chapel. Wedding pictures were included in the wedding package. When the ceremony was over, they inquired about the pictures. The person conducting the ceremony handed Dan a coupon and directed them down the street to a certain casino where



Dan with the Willing Heart Worship Band that he traveled with in the '80s. Dan's the young guy in the front.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7



Doug McKee and Dan play music together regularly at Rancho Caballeros in Wickenburg, AZ.

they were to show the coupon to the bouncer out front. The bouncer handed Dan a dollar slug and pointed down a hallway to a do-it-yourself photo booth. After 44 years of marriage, Dan and June still laugh about, and treasure, that strip of wedding pictures.

Back in Boulder, Dan was discovered by Chris Hillman of the Byrds and Flying Burrito Brothers. Chris managed to get him signed to MCA Records in Los Angeles and produced an album for him, self-titled Dan McCorison, backed by Emmylou Harris' Hot Band. "I got red carpet treatment!" says Dan. "They gave me full page ads in the major music trade magazines, Billboard and Cashbox. An album release party was held at the famous Palomino Club in North Hollywood. The walls were covered with my new album covers. They even had a search light welcoming fans and music industry personnel to the big event." Dan reports that he and Chris have remained friends through the years.

The first single from the album "That's the Way My Woman Loves Me" was promoted to country radio stations across the nation. It did well for Dan's first outing, reaching #67 on the Billboard charts. He received extensive airplay and great reviews from stations around the country.

A major tour was promised by the record label which never occurred. Dan was scheduled to open shows for a young upstart artist by the name of Jimmy Buffet. During this time, the management company was beginning to experience internal problems and Dan was caught in the crossfire. Being the only country artist on the manager's roster, he was competing with major pop artists Elton John and Queen for attention. Dan was soon left in the dust. This was a heart-breaking experience and he felt like giving up the music business altogether. However, he continued to play around California and Colorado. He also worked singing demos for MCA Publishing,

Following this turn of events, Dan was befriended by Fred Walecki, owner of a well-known music store in West LA. One day, Fred invited Dan and June to attend the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Santa Monica. They soon became committed Christians. "This is what we needed" explains Dan. "I will always be grateful to Fred."

It wasn't long before Dan was invited to join the worship team and later became a church staff member. He spent the next six years as the church worship leader. During those years Dan was featured on numerous albums for Maranatha Records and traveled to Australia and Japan, spreading the Gospel through music.

As time went on, Dan got the urge to try something different. Aside from his music, he had always loved carpentry and architecture. He had dreams of becoming a homebuilder. In 1985, he formed his first licensed construction company and built a successful business remodeling homes in California.

In 1993, Dan and June decided to move to Nashville where Dan went to work as superintendent for a custom home builder. He eventually formed his own Tennessee licensed construction company and began building custom homes and recording studios in and around Nashville. One of Dan's jobs included designing (along with John Carter Cash) and building the Cash Cabin Studio for Johnny Cash. Later in 2010 he won an award from the Historical Commission of Nashville for the best restoration of a historic home.

While juggling his construction work, Dan started hosting a radio show, the J. Gregory Jamboree, on weekends in Bell Buckle, TN. In the process, he met producer Scott Neubert and they became instant friends. In 2001, Dan recorded his first Nashville album Diamond for Your Heart with Scott as producer. This was a turning point in Dan's music career. "Not only is Scott a great producer and songwriter in his own right, he's also a gifted musician, playing multiple instruments and even providing vocal harmonies. Most of all, he's a great guy," said Dan. "He has pulled the best out of me." Dan continues to record with Scott as producer in everything he does.

Scott's wife, Nancy Hagen, a skilled horsewoman, is also a talented graphic artist who has worked for several



Mentoring young talent has been a passion for Dan. Here he is with Venessa Carpenter after writing a song together and submitting it to the Team Penning Competition at IWMA2021 where they took First Place!

major publications and corporate media. She designed all the artwork on Dan's Nashville albums.

During his 20 years in Music City, Dan wrote with some of Nashville's top songwriters and performed numerous times at the popular Bluebird Café. One evening at a little coffee house, Dan and June heard Joyce Woodson sing her new song "If I Hadn't Seen the West." This made such an impression on them, they started dreaming about living out West again.

They had already visited friends in Arizona and were beginning to miss the mountain scenery, the vastness of the land and the western culture. In 2013, they packed up and left Nashville, heading for Arizona where Dan started a new contracting business of remodeling and flipping homes.

The music still tugged at Dan's heartstrings. He began playing regularly with guitarist Doug McKee at the Rancho de Los Caballeros guest ranch in Wickenburg, AZ. They're now in their 9th season at the ranch. In 2014, Dan was hired to play lead guitar for Marvin O'Dell's Western group, the Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers. He made his first trip to the Western Music Association Convention that same year.

Dan recorded his Montana Moon album in 2017 with Nashville producer, Scott Neubert at the helm. This album was named "Western Music Album of the Year" by the Academy of Western Artists in Ft. Worth, Texas.

In 2018, Dan left his contracting business behind to focus totally on his music. In the meantime, he and June adopted Daisy Mae, the rescued slick-backed collie mix who now plays an important role in their Sun City, AZ home.

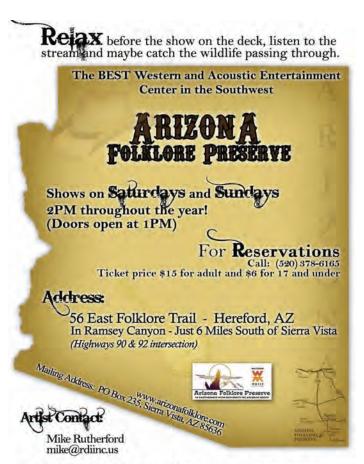
In the spring of 2021, Dan released his latest album, Me and Les, also produced by Scott Neubert. The CD is dedicated to his good friend and writing partner, cowboy poet Les Buffham. This album was recently named "Traditional Western Album of the Year" at the 2021 IWMA Convention and Awards Show in Albuquerque, NM. Dan also brought home the "Songwriter of the Year" award from that event. Additionally, he and Venessa Carpenter took top honors in IWMA's new "Team Penning" competition. Dan was humbled to be honored in such great company at the convention and wishes to thank everyone who voted for him.

No one knows what the future holds for Dan McCorison. But if it's anything like this past year...it'll be quite a ride!!



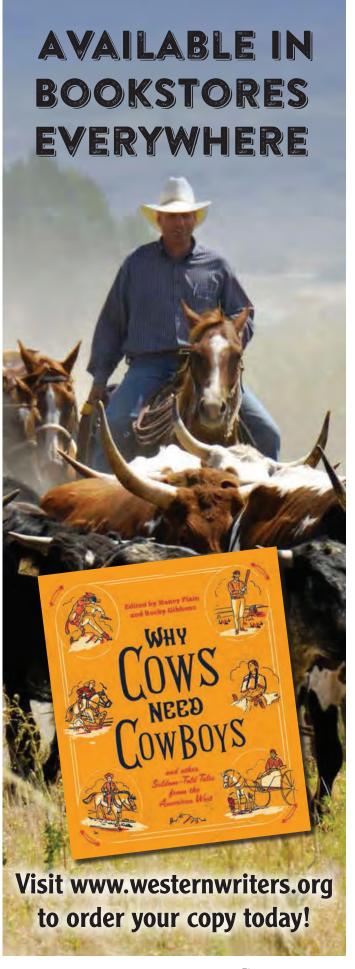
Takin' a break but always ready to play!

Happy Anderson's music background began in the early 1970s when she was hired as a copywriter for a country radio station in Billings, Montana and was soon promoted to Assistant Program Director, reporting the station's weekly top 10 playlist to Billboard Magazine. In 1981 she moved to Salt Lake City where she organized the Utah Songwriter's Association and five years later moved to Nashville where Happy started her own publicity agency and artist development company. She and her husband, Gene, worked with several Grand Ole Opry stars who fronted talent shows at the Opry house and Ryman Auditorium. Many years later they retired to Arizona and helped establish the West Valley Country Music Association. Gene passed away in 2018. Happy has continued to stay busy organizing WVCMA music events.



Arizona Folklore Preserve (AFP) is a non-profit organization where Arizona's songs, legends, poetry and myths are collected, presented for audiences of today, and preserved for the enrichment of future generations. Member of the Western Music Association.





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.



HIGH COUNTRY LINE CAMP

by Jo Lynne Kirkwood

In those long hollow days of late autumn when the cold is gathering strength like a lariat coiled 'round the horn of a saddle suppressing the power of its length,

Then you pull down your hat 'gainst the chillin', hunch your shoulders to ward off the wind and wrap up in lonesome, 'cause you'll face this alone, lock up your dreams, burrow in,

> to wait out the long cold winter. You'll tell time by the length of the day: the duration needed for a piñon elbow to burn to a powdery gray.

And you'll store up the things that you'll ponder, sift the chaff and tune your heart strings, sort out the worthy, discard the waste, and make room for significant things

To hold on to, mull over, sustain you, give repose through the long winter day, A core to come home to, an essence to trust when you're lonely, and long miles away

From the peg where your hat finds a welcome, the hearth where your boots long to stand, That place you will go when the winter and snow have drawn back from this high country land.



Jo Lynne Kirkwood was born in the small northern Arizona town of Fredonia. Her great-grandfather was an original settler of the area, and her family has worked with livestock for generations. Jo's poems reflect her intimate relationship with the land and people of the Arizona Strip country, as well as an often tongue-in-cheek appreciation for daily agricultural life in central Utah, where she and her husband Michael now live. Jo is Lariat Laureate on Cowboy Poetry.com and has been named Female Poet of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists. Her poetry has received numerous awards and has been published in multiple western magazines and anthologies. www.jokirkwood.com

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

... A video is now available of five IWMA acts performing western music and poetry and chatting about it during a panel called "Western Music - the Cowboy Side of Folk." It was recorded during the virtual Southwest Regional Folk Alliance conference. Participants included Jim Jones who addressed the topic "What is Western music, and What is a Cowboy Gathering?"; Tom Swearingen who shared his thoughts on "Cowboy Poetry - Keeping the Old West Alive and Rhyming"; Notable Exceptions who gave the audience insight into "Harmony - a Big Part of the Western Sound"; Carolyn & Dave Martin who performed a great example of "Western swing and Cowboy Jazz" while also discussing the genre itself; and Claudia Nygaard who spoke about "Ranch Roots Storytelling in Song" and the importance western imagery plays in the storytelling that brings a western song to life. The video can be viewed on YouTube: https://youtu.be/xqKgufVxNrU

...The Arizona Chapter of the IWMA held the Green Valley Roundup in Green Valley, AZ, southwest of Tucson in October. It was well attended with performers including **Dan "Doc" Wilson, Carol Markstrom, Dan McCorison, Buffalo Bryan Marr, Janice Deardorff, Igor Glenn, Ashley Westcott, The Cimarron Sidekicks** with new bassman **Dar May, 43 Miles North**, and poets **Mike Dunn**, and **Gary Kirkman**.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** is working with John Chisum and Robert Till of Nashville Christian Songwriters on preproduction of her next recording project, an album of gospel bluegrass originals slated for 2023.

...Dave Munsick has been running a wild race to keep up with his sons, playing fiddle for them in Nashville, Las Vegas, North Dakota, and Sheridan, Wyoming this season.

...In a Letter of Proclamation from the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and Museum, **Dawn Anita** was proclaimed a "Friend of Oklahoma Music." The letter proclaimed that Dawn was a "larger than life performer...a legend...and an Oklahoma treasure."

... Maria MacArthur recently won several competitions at the Wickenburg music festival. She placed first in Specialty Instruments (played tenor guitar tuned like a cello), first in banjo, first in mandolin, and second in guitar. She was not allowed to compete on fiddle since she won last year.

...Plans are underway for the Stony Plain's Cowboy Gathering in Stony Plain, Alberta, just West of Edmonton. The 30th Stony Plain Cowboy Gathering is tentatively scheduled for August 12-14, 2022. **Linda Nadon** will be one of the many performers who is happy to see the gatherings return north of the border.

...Kimberly Kaye just released her latest original song "I Can Hear You Smile" – a tribute to the perseverance of long-lasting love. In October, she attended the Valentine NE Old West Days for the first time and was selected to open for the Saturday night headliners, **Yvonne Hollenbeck** and the **Bar J Wranglers**. www.kimberlykayebachman.com

...In October, **Igor, the Jazz Cowboy**, performed a 2-hour solo concert in an antique theater next door to the Rex Allen Museum in Wilcox, AZ. In May, he embarked on a four-state tour of the deep south, performing story songs of the Wild West and those of the deep south.

...Cisco Jim has landed a perfect fit! He has created Western Wednesdays at The Cowboy Bar & Grill in Felton, CA – a western show in a family-friendly venue nestled under towering redwood trees. His 21st annual performance of "Christmas on the Range" was held at the CB&G. Cisco and his horse Taza are often seen playing their trade along the avenues of downtown Santa Cruz.

...The **Marty Davis** Show, "Legend of the Pioneers", has grown. In addition to Marty on vocals and rhythm guitar, and **Daniel Hanson** on bass and vocals, **Lindy Rasmusson** has joined the group on lead guitar and vocals.

...IWMA Circuit Rider Roundup DJs and performing artists Allen and Jill Kirkham are pleased to announce the birth of their 5th grandchild, Zoe, born October 22 to their daughter and Air Force son-in-law. Allen and Jill just signed a new contract to continue their Diamond Tours Cowboy Music Dinner Show for May-October 2022.





Most everyone knows that Audie Murphy (1925-1971) was the most decorated soldier in World War II. And he went on, in the post-war era, to make some mighty good western movies. What you may not know is that the second most decorated soldier in WWII was Neville Brand (1920-1992).

Like Murphy, Brand swapped his soldier's uniform for various acting costumes and enjoyed a long career in Hollywood. He played cowboys, outlaws, and tough guys – heck, he even portrayed Al Capone in one

drama. But he is probably best known as the Texas Ranger who just wouldn't take life seriously in the hit TV show Laredo. I miss those days when our actors were folks who were proud of this country and honored to serve it.

One might say that a cowboy hat is any hat that a real cowboy chooses to wear and, in the early days of the American frontier that was quite true. However, the first hat that really caught on with cowboys and became their recognizable trademark was one called "The Boss of the Plains", built by John B. Stetson, first offered in 1865. This hat featured a high crown and a wide brim that particularly suited those who spent most of their time in the outdoors. The tall crown provided insulation to the wearer's head and the wide brim protected him from the sun and rain. In addition, Stetson crafted the hat from beaver fur because that fur was quite water repellent and he used 42 beaver pelts in the building of each hat. Thanks to Mr. Stetson, good hats became a trademark for real cowboys that continues today.

The early cowboys called these big head pieces "10-gallon hats." Some jokingly claim that it was because they were so big that they could hold 10 gallons of water. A more realistic explanation is that the term was borrowed from the Mexican vaqueros. Some allege that "galon" means hatband and a good, tall-crowned hat would hold 10 hatbands. Others maintain that it comes from "tan galon" which would translate to "very gallant." Looks to me like either one could be true.

Just in case you were wondering, the first cowboy movie star was named Maxwell Henry Aronson (1880-1971), but we knew him as Bronco Billy Anderson. Bronco Billy starred in the very first western movie, "The Great Train Robbery", in 1903.

KEEPING HISTORY IN PERSPECTIVE

Lots of tourists come each year to my home area, the Big Bend country of far west Texas. Most of them come to visit Big Bend National Park. As an aside, many of them turn west on state highway 170 to visit the villages of Terlingua, Study Butte, and Lajitas. Lajitas sits right on the banks of the Rio Grande, near a low water crossing into Mexico. What most of these tourists don't know is that that particular low-water crossing was one of the routes that the Comanche Indians took when making their raids into Old Mexico. In the Fall of the year, they would leave their homeland of the Llano Estacado (now the Texas Panhandle and eastern New Mexico) to do their pillaging. Most folks call the full moon in the Fall of the year "The Harvest Moon", while down here we still call it "The Comanche Moon."

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The Western World Tour



by Rick Huff

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

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

Across from me at IWMA 2021's Rex Allen 100th Birthday luncheon sat the answer to a quest I had undertaken....that being to find an undeniably positive Cowboy landmark to write about this time. It came in the person of the publisher of a new online venture called "Cowboy Poetry News." A man named Bob Saul. To counter some thoughts that had been chewing on me as I chewed food, I realized whenever I could next get set up to record him, I had 'better call Saul!' My original concern? In my opinion, some misappropriations of the word "Cowboy" have been occurring. To me, Cowboy denotes something special and very specific. Consider cowboys themselves and their selectivity in awarding the designation "Top Hand." That's a term of honor born of experience and is never tossed around by them. When certain uses of "Cowboy" cause the word to appear in print and on camera as a negative adjective, it gets my Irish up...and my Native American, my German and whatever else I bring to it. Therefore, I would call Bob Saul about Cowboy Poetry News! Perfect!!! I figured misusers and abusers of "Cowboy" would likely never issue poetry about it.

"In the large sense," Bob Saul told us by phone from Fort Worth, "we're trying to promote Cowboy Poetry by helping people understand what it is....a historical treasure for not only Texas but for all of the states of the West and even the East!" Saul knows its value up close, being a producer of meaningful events such as the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, Texas. Saul's Executive Editor and her husband are that event's co-chairs. She is the respected Cowboy Poet Kay Kelley Nowell who, happily, was also able to join us on the call. "Cowboy Poetry News," she says, "will focus on current affairs...what's going on right now around the country. What Bob has planned for it is really exciting!" Part of that plan is to have Cowboy Poetry News truly act as a daily newspaper for the genre. Bob Saul says proudly, "our goal is to eventually offer three new stories per day about gatherings, performers, human interest stories around them and we also want stories after each gathering, at least from its news release if we haven't had a reporter able to go cover it. We intend (through ad sales) to pay writers and reporters!" That clear picture began to answer another question before I asked. How will Cowboy Poetry News compare to or differ from Margo Metegrano's herculean single-handed creation, the late-lamented cowboypoetry.com? It's Kay who affirms

"nobody can replace it." "We knew and loved Margo and spoke with her when she decided to retire," says Bob. "We did everything we could to buy cowboypoetry.com, but we understand why she wanted to retire it to the Internet archives. We won't be publishing (examples of) Cowboy Poetry, but we're putting together a sister site that should premiere next year."

At present the updating of their comprehensive event list is paramount to being current. "Before the shutdown," Bob reveals, "we had a list of 152 Cowboy Poetry events!" One-hundred fifty two, people!!! (Sound of jaw hitting the floor, hard)!!! Now they must determine which of these have had to pull the plug for keeps. But Saul and Nowell remain confident that the demand for it will pull most through. For Kay, a veteran performer of events across the nation, that "tug" was personal. As she recalls, "my first husband was the late Cowboy Poet Jack Sanderson. I got to attend the very first Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering (and) now I'm on the Board Of Trustees of the Western Folklife Center. I started writing because I just wanted to hang with those people! But at gatherings, I had my butt in the seats listening. I came to know them, to know who worked well with whom, stories behind the scenes." Bob confirms it. "To me," he says, "Kay understands more about Cowboy Poetry than anyone I've ever met. I saw that the first time I ever saw her perform!"

In closing here, I'll tell you that during our phone chat Bob Saul proved to me he can really deliver a Cowboy Poetry Newsflash when he happened to answer a nagging but unasked question I'd privately held for years. Why poetry?? Campfire stories told time after time...why did they convert to rhyme?!!

Bob revealed to me that many of the immigrant cowboys-to-be from The British Isles were educated people. "Many times," he told me, "they carried two books with them on the trail...their bible and the Works Of Shakespeare! At night contests would develop among them on who could memorize and quote more Shakespeare!!" Omigawd!! Shakespeare sonnets!! What a perfect model for creating their own works! So, about the poetry I can now say things went from Bard to verse! Or should I keep my nagging questions to myself...Thanks, Bob & Kay! Check things out as they progress at CowboyPoetryNews.com!

TALES OF THE WEST

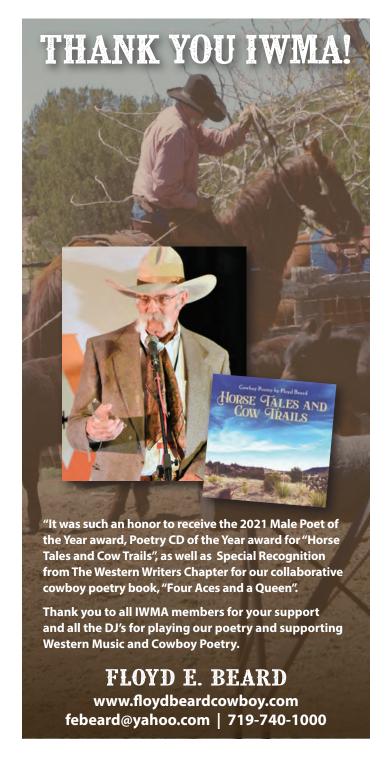
Continued from page 13

Born in Arkansas and raised in New York, Anderson had a pretty good idea that movies were a coming form of entertainment. He went on to form Essanay Studios and ended up starring in nearly 150 silent westerns. But he also produced and directed many other films of that era. In fact, he was the first one to put Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy together in a picture. He is also one of the first to see the value of sunny California, with its pleasant climate, as a film location. Anderson's vision paved the way for William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and John Wayne...just to mention a few.

The iconic bucking horse and rider on the Wyoming license plate has not only become a symbol for that state but for most of the western states as well. Most agree that it is a representation of the great bucking horse Steamboat. Steamboat was a black gelding that was born in 1896 near Chugwater, Wyoming. Once the horse's gymnastic skills became obvious, he was sold to a rodeo company and became famous as "the horse that couldn't be ridden." By the way, he got the name "Steamboat" because he made a whistling sound when he bucked, due to a nose injury as a colt.

Very few cowboys ever made a qualified ride on Steamboat. The picture on the license plate is supposed to be of Clayton Danks, making a qualified ride on the bronc in 1909. But that will still start an argument among Wyoming natives since there were a few others who got the judges' nod.

Regardless, Steamboat had to be put down in 1914 due to a serious infection. He is buried at the rodeo grounds in Cheyenne...a fitting tribute to an equine athlete.









ARIZONA CHAPTER President: John Paulson Johnpaulson1945@gmail.com

Arizona chapter members were saddened to learn of the passing of Mae Camp, long-time IWMA Arizona chapter member, performer, and supporter of western music. More about Mae's amazing life during the early years will be included in the next Western Way.

Congratulations to Arizona chapter member Dan McCorison, who received awards for the 2021 traditional western album of the year, the 2021 team penning contest, and the 2021 songwriter of the year at the recent annual convention in Albuquerque.

The persistence of the coronavirus pandemic continues to complicate the planning of future chapter gatherings and events, but the recent success of the Green Valley Roundup, a showcasestyle performance opportunity for chapter member poets and musicians, has generated interest in having similar events in the Phoenix area and in the Pinal County/Central Arizona area. The addition of Dan "Doc" Wilson as vice president of the chapter provides a Phoenix-area representative on the executive committee, which always welcomes ideas (and volunteers!) for upcoming chapter activities.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER President: Greg Khougaz gregkhougaz@earthlink.net

In the surreal state of California, we continue to Zoom with monthly guitar/song circles and enjoy the success of our monthly Showcase featuring three performers each month. December 17, at 7:00 PST, featured Joyce Woodson, Mike Mahaney and Cisco Jim Aceves.

Tune in:https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8961 8685177?pwd=U0JRb2JHbDEwaFhwQ WV4aFBvQzhSZz09. Member highlights: September 26, the Cowboy Social Club celebrated all the birthdays with which Covid had interfered. We were privileged to provide entertainment for a great party. October 2, we enjoyed Juni Fisher's show at Marilyn Tuttle's home. Scott T and Greg Khougaz opened and a good time was had by all. November 6, Scott T performed at the Historic George Key ranch, Placentia. Hosted by Orange County Parks. Bob Thomas sat in. Members who made it to Albuquerque returned with glowing reports of

COLUMBIA CHAPTER President: Tom Swearingen tomswearingen@gmail.com

Greetings to all!

good times and great music! Season's

Columbia Chapter members in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, British Columbia, and multiple other states and provinces are slowly but surely becoming more active with live performances as venues re-open and gatherings and other events move toward "normal." One live event that was not able to take place was our chapter's annual "Cowboys in the Hood" showcase concert in Hood River, OR. Two years in a row COVID-19 restrictions and concerns for safely put the brakes on that one, so we rolled it into one of our monthly Zoom song and poem circles. In that Zoom we announced the winners of the first annual Columbia Chapter Youth Poetry Contest and heard the winners recite their original poems. Thomas Fitzgerald and Venessa Carpenter won the grade school and



Venessa Carpenter shows off Youth Poetry Contest buckle.

high school divisions respectively. Each were mailed trophy buckles and travel stipends that will hopefully allow them to take the stage with us when we are finally back together for a live chapter show. We are crossing our fingers that those can resume in the spring with a show in Lewiston, ID being organized by Lynn Kopelke. The Zoom also included our annual meeting, highlighted by the election of directors and officers. Officers for 2022 are Tom Swearingen- President, John Seger-Vice President, Nels Nelson-Treasurer, and Carla Swearingen-Secretary. Directors at Large are Mike Dygert, Ed Wahl, Ned Bodie, and Duane Nelson. We also were pleased to announce that our Youth Poetry Contest is now open for 2022 entries in three categories: grade school, middle, and high school. Details and online entry can be found on our Columbia Chapter website iwmacolumbia.org. Mike Dygert reports that it continues to be "no-fly-no play" time in Alberta. Finally, however COVID cases have begun to decrease as a majority of Albertans become vaccinated. As Mike suggests...likely motivated by the fact that 80%+ of those in the hospital are unvaccinated. In Washington state, IWMA Group of the Year and Entertainer of the Year nominees Notable Exceptions hosted another Porch Concert Series



Notable Exceptions Front Porch Concert.

this fall, singing from their front porch to neighbors on their front porches. Judy Coder and Jennifer Epps will take the joyous Notable Exceptions on tour through Arizona in January and February. Columbia Chapter and IWMA

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

LAST CONFEDERATE GENERAL SURRENDERS

BY DAKOTA LIVESAY



On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered at Appomattox. During the next two months various commanders and their units surrendered. And finally, after maintaining Lee's surrender was a hoax, on June 23, 1865, the last Confederate General rode into Doaksville near Fort Towson and surrendered. We can picture a dignified, elderly southern plantation gentleman with white beard turning over his sword to a

union officer. Great visuals. But we would be wrong.

The last Confederate General to surrender was Brigadier General Stand Watie. Stand Watie was a Cherokee Indian. That's right, a Cherokee Indian. General Watie, a chief of the Cherokee Nation, was the only Indian to achieve that rank on either side.

Stand Watie was born near Rome, Georgia. A well educated man, early on he became a tribal leader. Just prior to the Civil War he became the spokesperson for the Cherokee.

When the Civil War broke out he and many other Cherokee Indians sided with the south. Stand Watie was made the commander of the Cherokee Mounted Rifles, which was also comprised of Creek, Seminole and Osage Indians. Under Watie's leadership, they did so well that he was commissioned a Brigadier General. Most of the battles and

skirmishes that the Cherokee Mounted Rifles engaged in were along the eastern part of the Indian Territory, southeastern Kansas and western Arkansas. Watie and his troops participated in eighteen battles and major skirmishes. His actions tied up thousands of Union troops needed elsewhere.

At one time his men raided a Federal supply train containing union military uniforms. His wife wrote him, "I thought I would send you some clothes, but I hear that you have done better by not waiting on me."

While serving in the Civil War Stand Watie was elected the principal chief of the Southern Band of Cherokee.

Following the Civil War General Stand Watie returned to the western reservation where his tribe had been moved, and lived as just another Indian.

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

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

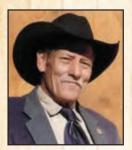
In his personal appearances, Dakota tells stories about Old West characters and events in a way that keeps the audience riveted to his every word. He also delivers talks, based on his book *Living The Code*, motivating people to a higher standard of living.

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

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

In Memoriam

JOE EARL BAKER (1952-2021)



Late word has come of the passing of promoter/host Joe Baker in May of last year. Behind Joe's affable demeanor, laconic Southern drawl and big bull mustache lay an agile promoting and marketing mind....one that seldom missed

an opportunity when presented with it. He was a longtime disc jockey and member of the Cowtown Society of Western Music.

Like certain luminaries of the music business such as Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and David Allan Coe, at one point Joe Baker was admittedly "not unknown to The Law!" But after a start in Mineral Wells and being given a leg up with a slot on Ruidoso, New Mexico station KWES, Joe never looked back. Using his Backforty Bunkhouse show platform (clips of which can still be viewed online), he got the ball rolling and soon affiliated with the annual Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium among others to help spread the influence of Western and Western Swing music. Through his widely circulated newsletter, he also alerted the listening public to events, other Western Deejays' show reports and playlists and rising artists.

In 2006 Joe was nominated for and served on the (then) Western Music Association Board of Directors. Eventually Joe and his project partners built his Backforty Bunkhouse brand into an online storefront for artists and even more of a showcase for the music he loved, including issuing "Roundup" CD compilations of tracks that were sent out gratis to eager Western-friendly stations.

For his efforts in broadcasting, hosting and promoting, Joe was recognized with accolades, awards and inclusion into the Halls Of Fame of a number of Western Swing societies across the country. Joe Baker will likely be remembered by those who came to know him as a dedicated Western promoter as well as a genuine "character" of the genre. Surely the corners of his mustache would curl up in a grin at that part!

MAE J. CAMP (1927-2021)



Mae J Camp, age 94, of Tucson, Arizona passed away on Monday, November 22, 2021. She was born January 22, 1927 in Oak Park, Ill., before moving to Colorado where she grew up loving western music. When she

was young, she would sing to her horse while riding. After graduating high school, she met her future husband, Chuck Camp, at a Saturday night Square Dance. They were married on December 27, 1954.

Chuck was a schoolteacher and entertainer at the "Flying W Chuckwagon Suppers".

Chuck and Mae, along with their four children, Marie, Bill, Cathy and Jim, moved to Tucson in 1969 to establish the "Triple C Chuckwagon Suppers". Their children also learned to sing and play guitar, entertaining along with Chuck and Mae. They retired in 1990, with their son, Bill, taking over ownership and managing the "Triple C" until closing the doors in 2003. They had many wonderful guests, some very famous, such as Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Rex Allen, The Reinsmen, and Riders In The Sky. When Chuck passed away in 2003, Mae continued to sing her favorite western songs and attended the IWMA Convention nearly every year with her group of friends. Mae and her late husband, Chuck, are charter members of IWMA and The Arizona Ranch Hands.

A funeral service was held December 22 at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Tucson.



Buffham's Buffoonery

by Les Buffham



TEAMWORK

It was back in '54 or '55, we were kids growin' up on our hardscrabble 200 head cow outfit on the Vermillion Creek in NW Colorado. It was the time of year that I most dreaded, when we put up our hay.

My sister just older than me was the hay raker on our outfit and I was the flunky. Then unexpected circumstances got me promoted to her level, which caused me to go up one notch in hat size and her a lot of headaches and consternation.

Here's how it happened:

This sister that I refer to generally as "Sary" which is not her name but one an uncle of ours hung on her (seems to fit), had quite a reputation as a hay raker and was in real demand on the neighboring ranches as well as ours when it came hayin' time. We didn't put up much hay so she worked out a lot. Of course Dad had priorities and one was to get our little dab up first. He had most of the hay moved and that's when disaster struck. One of our work horses came down with sleeping sickness and Dad had to shoot him. That horse was half of Sary's rake team and she was out of business so Dad went looking to beg, borrow, buy, or

steal a replacement but everyone was haying and there were none to be found except for a couple of four-year-olds that weren't broke yet.

Then our nearest neighbor who lived four or five miles away and was a little more modern than we were came to rescue by offering the use of his tractor. They talked it over and Dad decided to give it a try.

That tractor was one of those little bitty farmall cubs, had front wheels 'bout the size of a dinner plate, but to me, bein' sorta small myself, it looked kinda big. I was elected to go to the neighbors and drive it home and by the time I got back I had it all figured out. I could drop the throttle and change gears on the go and never rake a tooth. We cut the tongue out of the dump rake and bolted a couple chunks of scrap iron to the stump for a hitch and away we went, only now this was a two-man (kid) operation. So much for modern machinery versus the unemployment rate.

I was assigned the job of holding down the hay rake teeth by standing on the foot lever while holding on to that iron seat with both hands so's I wouldn't get thrown off when Sis would drop a wheel over a ditch bank or hub

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Chapter Update

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John Seger's IWMA Benefit grand prize raffle win.

webmaster John Seger reports he had a great time in Albuquerque at the convention. He put his photography and video skills to good use by capturing much of the action and has created a IWMA 2021 Vimeo showcase at https://vimeo.com/showcase/ iwma2021 featuring the awards show and several showcases and other performances. In addition to being entertained throughout the convention a highlight for John was winning the authenticated and autographed Roy Rogers & Trigger, Dale Evans, Roy Jr. metal sculpture grand prize in the benefit dinner raffle. Other chapter members attending the convention included Garry and Kathy Carpenter, Tommy Tucker, Grace Clark, Almeda Bradshaw, Aspen Black, Carla Swearingen, and Ted Hunt. And Columbia Chapter members were



Ted Hunt on stage in Albuquerque.

well represented in the list of winners announced on stage. The Hanson Family, Tom Swearingen, Kathy Moss, Venessa Carpenter, Kerry Grombacher, and Joni Harms were winners in various categories. In addition to her Entertainer of the Year Award, Joni was also inducted into the Hall of Fame! Joni's daughter Olivia has been getting a lot of radio play for her latest album and took to the road for "The



Olivia Harms on The Trailer Tour.

Trailer Tour" taking her from Oregon to Texas and back performing 20-some shows in several states in October and November. While on the tour Olivia learned that Cowgirl Magazine has named her to their "Cowgirl 30 Under 30 Class of 2022." Fellow Oregonian Tom Swearingen followed up his Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering performances with Friday and Saturday night shows at the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering and for the second year in a row was asked to be part of Artichoke Music's



Joni Harms and Tom Swearingen

Holiday Show, adding his poetry to a concert of folk, blues, roots, and soul. He's also joined Joni Harms at some of her Oregon appearances, and they're doing some songwriting together. Kate Davis' book Legendary Singing Cowboys of the Saturday Matinee is nearing completion and will be available soon. Husband Marty Davis has been busy performing his "The Legend of the Pioneers" show at fairs and conventions with fellow Columbia Chapter member Daniel Hanson joining him on bass and



Kate Davis' new book.



Duane Nelson at the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering.

harmonies. And continuing the Oregon theme...poet Duane Nelson trekked to Colorado to perform in the Western Slope Cowboy Gathering. And Barbara Nelson has released *Swingin' Open Range*...her tenth album! It's real good. Congratulations Barbara!



Barbara Nelson's latest CD

EAST COAST CHAPTER President: Aspen Black aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

The IWMAECC was well represented at the IWMA Convention, with all board members present. Big congratulations to Kerry Grombacher, our chapter Vice President, for winning the 2021 IWMA Song of the Year! As for 2022, chapter members continue to persevere in procuring paid bookings in the slowly re-emerging world of live music, often bringing western music and poetry to many new audiences.

KANSAS CHAPTER President: Orin Friesen orin@rbanjoranch.com

Western Wordsmiths chapter secretary and IWMA-Kansas member Ron Wilson testified before Congress on November 9. Wilson presented a statement for the International Chisholm Trail Association and Western Cattle Trail Association to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands in support of

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BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

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post or tree, which happened kind of regular. You see, it seems she could put that hay rake anywhere she wanted with a team of horses but manipulating that tractor was a different deal. Wasn't long 'til she offered to swap jobs with me and boy, I was in hog heaven there for about ten minutes or so until she started gettin'on me for goin' the wrong way or turning too soon or some other thing. I was finding out there was a whole lot more to this rakin' hay than meets the eye. My eye anyway! Well, I wasn't catching on very fast and of course being just a little on the hardheaded side I wasn't listening to all of the instructions she was giving me, and she was getting' madder by the minute. We were burnin' up a lot of gas but we weren't getting much hay raked.

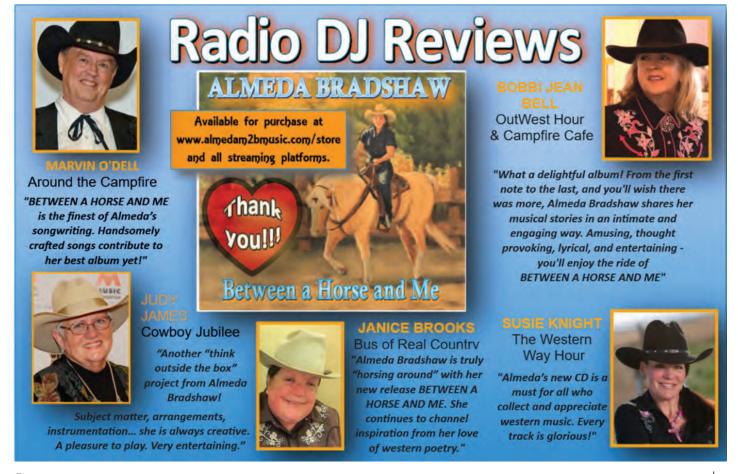
We went to the house for dinner and I gave her a lot of room. I might have been hardheaded but I wasn't stupid. After dinner we were moseyin' back out to our implement of torture and I noticed sister Sary had developed a whole new attitude. She had a kind of a bright look in her eye and her mouth wasn't saggin' at the corners like it was when we came in; I knew something was up. Got to wondering if she had a plan to drown me in the irrigation ditch or something, then she began to unfold her newly arrived idea and it really didn't sound too bad.

She went and pulled the drivin' lines off of the harness that went with the team, of which one half was now deceased, and came a draggin' them with her out to our hay rakin' rig. She had me get up on that tractor seat, then she snapped the lines together at the bridle end, draped them around the back of my neck, over both shoulders and under each of my arms. Then she climbed up on that hay rake and said, "Alright, let's go", and we went to rakin' hay.

It went real smooth too, and I'll tell you one thing, I developed a real respect for a horse's mouth out of that deal. We were havin' a lot of fun and getting the job done too. One time she got to clowning around when Dad came by and was makin' like she was jerkin' one of the lines off the rear end of her "team" and she got a little close and like to have popped my ear off. It sure did smart for a while.

I guess it was the second or third day we looked up and saw the tractor owner's pickup parked at the end of the field and he was out rolling around in the hay. We thought he was having a heart attack or something so we rushed right over there. He was okay, just had big horse apple tears running down his face and was laughing so hard he couldn't stand or get his air. We were the object of all that laughter! We never even thought about it lookin' funny.

Just a little teamwork in action. 🖈



Chapter Update

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Ron Wilson testifying before Congress.

legislation which would designate the Chisholm and Western cattle trails as national historic trails while protecting private property rights of adjoining landowners. In 2019, after conducting an extensive study as directed by Congress, the U.S. Department of the Interior reported that the trails meet the criteria for designation. Only Congress can designate a national historic trail. Wilson, who lives on the historic family ranch near Manhattan, Kansas, is the volunteer legislative chair for the International Chisholm Trail Association. Kansas Chapter member, Roger Ringer recently received the 2021 Martin History Book Award from the Kansas Authors Club for his book, True Tales of Kansas. This book is Roger's third in the series of books about Kansas history. The other two are Kansas Oddities and Eccentric Kansas. Throughout 2021, cowboy singer, Jeff Davidson has been traveling around Kansas, doing a program of Santa Fe Trail songs, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the famous trail. The program has become so popular, that it is likely that Jeff will continue doing it in 2022. At our final meeting of the year, Annie Wilson was elected as treasurer, replacing Roy Pethtel, who is moving to Texas. President, Orin Friesen, Vice-President, Jim Farrell, and Secretary, Sharon Chesmore, were unanimously chosen to continue their offices in 2022.

NEW MEXICO President: Dennis Russell

We are looking forward to a, hopefully, all new 2022. One of the highlights of 2021 was the IWMA Convention in Albuquerque, NM. Thank you to all the volunteers for your hard work. We

were so pleased that many of our own New Mexico Chapter members were recognized in the awards ceremony!

NM Chapter members won the following awards:

2021 Male Poet of The Year – Floyd Beard

2021 Cowboy Poetry Album of The Year – Horses Tails and Cow Trails –
Floyd Beard

2020 Cowboy Poetry Book of The Year – *Reflection* - Tom Swearingen

2021 Western Wordsmith's Special Achievement Award – Four Aces and a Queen. Original cowboy poetry in hard cover. Aces Terry Nash, Dale Page, Dennis Russell, Floyd Beard, and Queen Valerie Beard



Recipients for 4 Aces and a Queen (missing from photo, Terry Nash).

2021 Curly Musgrave Silver Buckle Award – Susie Knight

2020 Working Cowboy Song of The Year – One More River to Cross – written by Brad Exton – recorded by Ramblin' Rangers



Brad and Bonnie Exton, Ramblin Rangers winners of Working Cowboy song and newly elected Vice President of the New Mexico Chapter.

2021 Liz Masterson Crsecendo Award– Kacey & Jenna Thunborg

2021 Poetry Contest Award Presentations – Lindy Simmons

2021 Duo or Group of The Year – The Cowboy Way Doug Figgs Jim Jones Mariam Funke

2021 Song of The Year – Range of the Buffalo – written by Kerry Grombacher

2021 Female Performer of The Year – Kristyn Harris

2021 Male Performer of The Year – Doug Figgs

2021 Bill Wiley Award – Bernard Carr – Outgoing New Mexico Chapter Vice President. Thank you, Bernard, for holding our chapter together during the last two years of the unpredictable covid virus lockdowns.

A special thanks to Marsha Short for being the backbone to the IWMA. A well-deserved 2021 President's Award – Marsha Short – Executive Director IWMA. The newly added Team Penning event was a huge success. A poet and a songwriter made up each team. My congratulations to Dan and Venessa for clearly winning this event. Although, I will say, Doug and Floyd, Jim and Rick, and Beverly and I all made a good showing with our songs. 2021 NM Chapter officers are Dennis Russell, president, Brad Exton, vice president, Kim Linker, treasurer, and David Clark, secretary. Directors, Jane Jones, Bobbie Jean Belle, liaison. Special Thanks to Joy Allen, Judi Anderson Bonnie Rutherford for being there when we need them.

Jim Jones and his planning committee have booked Kristyn Harris for the 'Day of the Cowboy' event this coming July 23, 2022. More details to come. Dave Levenson is still hosting our open Mics two Mondays a month. Go to our newly 'revamped' website for more details on all the performers and upcoming events.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER President: Robert Maxwell Case robert@robertmaxwellcase.com

On October 21, The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in Muskogee issued a proclamation posthumously naming Dawn Anita Plumlee as a "Friend in Oklahoma Music". Director Amy Love



Dawn Anita

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IWMA 2020 and 2021 Awards

Due to damage to the disk containing photographs of the award winners at the event, pictures of the recipients are not available. We offer our sincere regrets for this unfortunate mishap.

POETRY AWARDS:

2021 Male Poet of The Year - Floyd Beard

2021 Female Poet of The Year – A.K. Moss (Kathy)

2020 Cowboy Poetry Album of The Year – They Come Prancin' – A.K. Moss (Kathy)

2021 Cowboy Poetry Album of The Year – Horses Tails and Cow Trails – Floyd Beard

2020 Cowboy Poetry Book of The Year (Two Winners) – *Reflection* – Tom Swearingen; *Good Medicine* – *Read Two Poems and Call Me In The Morning* – Al "Doc" Mehl

MUSIC AWARDS:

2020 Cowboy Western Swing Album of The Year – Texas Star - Lori Beth Brooke

2021 Cowboy Western Swing Album of The Year - Devil On My Tail - The Hot Texas Swing Band

2020 Traditional Western Album of The Year – *Rhythm Rides Again* – The Hanson Family

2021 Traditional Western Album of The Year – *Me and Les* – Dan McCorison

2021 Instrumentalist of The Year – Hailey Sandoz

2021 Radio DJ/Radio Program of The Year – Peter Bruce – *Under Western Skies*

2020 Working Cowboy Song of The Year – *One More River to Cross* – Written by Brad Exton – recorded by Ramblin' Rangers

2021 Working Cowboy Song of The Year – *Riding Night Hawk* – Written by Tim Callaway, performed by Prairie Moon

2021 Duo or Group of The Year – *The Cowboy Way* – Doug Figgs, Jim Jones, Mariam Funke

2020 Songwriter of The Year – Ron Christopher

2021 Songwriter of The Year – Dan McCorison

2020 Song of The Year – *Old Range Cowboy* – Written by Christopher Dwight Harris, Jim Weber & Steve Thomas (recorded by Rodeo & Juliet)

2021 Song of The Year – Range of the Buffalo – Written by Kerry Grombacher

2021 Female Performer of The Year – Kristyn Harris

2021 Male Performer of The Year – Doug Figgs

2021 Entertainer of The Year - Joni Harms

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Curly Musgrave Silver Buckle Award - Susie Knight

2021 President's Award – Marsha Short – Executive Director

Western Wordsmith's Special Achievement Award – Floyd & Valerie Beard, Dennis Russell, Terry Nash & Dale Page – Book – *Four Aces And A Queen*

2021 Liz Masterson Crescendo Award – Kacey & Jenna Thunborg

2021 Bill Wiley Award - Bernard Carr - New Mexico Chapter Vice President

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:

2020 Hall of Fame Inductees – Joni Harms, The Ranch Boys, Fred Howard & Nat Vincent (composers), Nathan Howard "Jack" Thorp

2021 Hall of Fame Inductees – Les Buffham, Ennio Morricone, Fred Scott, Charles Starrett

1WMA 2021: Music,

Photography courtesy of Jack Hummel, Pamela Musgrave, Lee Peters





"Great showcases. I liked the new team penning contest. That should continue... always enjoy the swing and Opry."







"There was a great variety of performers. We love the youth show."



"THE RAFFLE WAS A NICE ADDITION TO THURSDAY EVENING, AND I RECOMMEND THAT IT CONTINUES."



Poetry, Friends and Smiles







"I always look forward to reconnecting with friends and peers."





"IT REALLY WAS A **FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE!"**













"...attended gospel cowboy church. Fabulous."



"I thought it (convention) was well done. not knowing how Covid would impact things..."





1WMA 2021: Music,











"I enjoyed the raffle...as a fundraiser, this should continue and advertise more in advance, so folks are prepared to pull out their wallets."











"What I liked best was the 'reunion' with old friends and new..."





"I enjoyed both the consignment and CD/book stores – it was fun shopping."

Poetry, Friends and Smiles

"We thought the Veterans program was awesome (food & service good also)."









"Keep having the opportunities as the development stage and campfire stage."



"The jam with the **Three Trails West guys** was the absolute best!"





for people of all levels to perform. The showcases were great as well





"As a newcomer, I have to share that I felt so very welcomed."





"Love Albuquerque in November and the Hotel is fabulous!"

How to Write Songs

by Dave Stamey

I have on my desk here a letter sent by Mr. Roscoe Dimmler from Squirrel Foot, Idaho. It appears that Mr. Dimmler lives in a sheep camp up there in the flat part of the state. It's difficult to make out just what he wants, as the letter looks as if it were scrawled with a sharp stick dipped in charcoal, but in the lines I can read he's asking about how songs get written, and in particular how I go about writing mine.

He says:

"Dear Mister Stamler, cud you tell me how you rite yer songs. I have seed you many times and herd you, and I think if you can do it probly anybody can."

The rest of the letter drifts off into a description of how many sheep he runs on his place, and some trouble he's having with a pesky neighbor. After that it gets smeary and unreadable. As I, proudly, know nothing about sheep, and have never met his neighbor, I can't help him with those issues, so I will limit myself to his question about songwriting—though I know nothing about that, either.

I wish I did know. I pretend that I do, but that's just empty posturing, easily seen through. I've written and recorded a bunch of them, somewhere around a hundred, I would guess, but that doesn't mean I know how to do it.

There is a story that Irving Berlin, even in his nineties, would write a song every night before going to bed. Every night. A whole song. Every goddamn night. I imagine him there, sitting at his little desk with a pencil, lamplight shining off his old bald head, humming and scribbling, humming and scribbling. Churning out these glittering lyrical jewels as easily as swatting a fly, and I kind of hate him for it. It seems wrong to hate the man who wrote "White Christmas," something you might even go to hell for, but I can't help myself. Irving wasn't all that great as a musician, by the way. Allow me to point that out with only a smidgen of snarkiness. He played piano, but just barely. He could play in only one key—I think it was B-flat—and yet there he sat, every night, popping out a finished song before shuffling down the hall to brush his teeth. If he still had any. I've heard no stories about his teeth, but that's not important. Even letting him have a weekend off every now and again, that's still over three hundred songs a year, just in the evenings, let alone what he might accomplish during daylight hours. Such a

massive output almost shames me. I'm lucky if I get ten or fifteen songs in a whole year, and some years it's as few as five or six.

The nerve of the guy. I mean, really.

Diane Warren, who has written, I believe, a gazillion songs, most of them hits, and won Grammys and Tonys and Emmys and every other award ever dreamed up, says that she works at songwriting twelve hours a day, every day. She has a room she works in, like a little nest, and she claims it's never been cleaned. That's a bit scary, but not as scary as working for twelve hours, no matter what room you find yourself in. I can't think of anything I'm capable of doing for that long. Once in a while I can run a weed eater for two or three hours, but then I have to quit and drink a Fresca. I've never met Ms. Warren, and while I'm sure she's a very nice lady and I like some of her songs, twelve hours of anything is too much, I don't care what it is. Twelve hours of trying to write a song will just make you nuts.

Writers like Irving and Diane have their tried and true methods, their routines. It's called process. Writers talk about their process a lot. It's what writers do, often instead of actually writing something, when they're not being petty and resentful of other writer's successes. They fixate on it, and worry about it, and obsess over it, and brag to their friends how faithful they are to the process, how well it works for them—and fret and fume when the process stops working for them, and must tinker with it and bang on it until the process starts working again. It consumes writers, much the way our medical conditions and digestion consume us when they don't work properly. You have to trust the process, they say.

The word process indicates a series of actions, all pointed toward a specific goal. To even write a sentence like that makes me tired, and I want to find a dark room somewhere and lie down. I don't seem to have a process. I have a goal, but no specific actions—not even one, let alone a series of them. What I do is sit around and hope a song arrives sooner or later, and you can't call that a process because it's too gradual. Almost glacial. At the end of the week I find I've written a total of two lines, neither of which seems to belong to the same song.

All that being said, for those who insist on learning the craft, and sowing discord and tension into your family life, along with financial uncertainty and general

depression, here are a few tips I've picked up over the years, tricks of the trade I'm happy to pass along:

Always begin your song with "Well..." as in, "Well, here I sit," or, "Well, I ain't never," or, "Well, she was a large woman ..." It's effective if you can drag it out for several measures, and even more effective if you shout it—the louder the better. This is the equivalent of tapping your baton against the lectern, or clearing your throat, or throwing something, a way to capture your audience's attention and let them know they're about to have a song inflicted upon them. If you can't get their attention they'll never stop chatting and ordering drinks and smoking cigarettes, and you'll have to abandon your dream of a life behind the footlights and go back to your dreary job in the toy factory.

Long, smooth vowels are preferred, as opposed to short, sputtery ones. Avoid consonants, if at all possible. Never use words with the letter K in them, or P. "Oooh," is a fine choice for a vowel, the favorite of many songwriters, and the longer you stretch it out the finer it is. Some songs have nothing but "oooh" in them, though I don't advise going down that road. It grows tedious and people stop listening, or get the feeling they've stumbled into an elevator. "Oh" is also a good vowel, and can be used interchangeably with "well" to begin a song, as in, "Oh, my my," and, "Oh, say can you see." "Ah," however, is not recommended, as it makes people think there is a doctor with a wooden stick looking at your tonsils.

Use the word "baby" every chance you get. Do not hesitate. Throw it in there willy-nilly, like seasoning in a meatloaf. It can't be used too often—in fact, every hit song that ever rocketed up the charts contains the word "baby," as in, "Baby, I miss you," and, "Baby, come home," and, "Baby, don't take the television." Combine it with one of the longer vowels and you now have the recipe for a million seller, and can start thinking about paving the driveway. "Oooh, baby," and "Oh, baby," are timeless lines that echo throughout history. Elizabethan minstrels and troubadours used them, Druids chanted them under the trees, Australian aborigines employed them in their ceremonies, and I believe they can even be found in the Talmud.

It's a good idea to come up with a melody for your song people can hum, a catchy tune that gets into their heads and stays there for days and drives them crazy, like "The Flintstones," or, "Gilligan's Island." The official songwriting term for such a melody is ear worm, and an ear worm is always a good thing to have. Make sure you get one. I don't know how. If you can cobble together a rousing chorus that everyone wants to sing along with, that's

another big plus, as long as you avoid making it a singing-in-the-round chorus, such as "Frere Jacques," or, "Row, Row Your Boat." This would be a mistake. Round singing has been declared illegal in every nation of the world, except France. They still like it over there, but they also like to eat snails and horse meat.

I'll bring this discussion to a close with a few frequently asked questions:

Q: What comes first, the words or the music?

A: Yes.

Q: I've written a song. What do I do now?

A: I have no idea. Be happy about it, I guess. Some people keep them in a drawer.

Q: What's the proper way to pitch a song?

A: I've found the best way to pitch one is to make sure it's wadded up into a very tight ball. That way it won't come uncrumpled and lose velocity on the way to the trash can.

Q: Do you have a list of publishers looking for material?

A: I suppose there are publishers out there looking for new songs, but they certainly haven't been looking for mine. Maybe you'll have better luck.

Q: How do I get my songs to Garth Brooks or Snoop Dog?

A: I don't have a clue.

Q: Should I get an agent?

A: This is not a "should" question. It's a "can you?" question, and the answer is no. Agents are interested in making money, and as a species they gave up on songwriters early in the last century.

Q: How do I get a record contract?

A: The Columbia Record Company used to have a deal where you paid full price for the first album and got the second one for a penny. You might call them and see if they're still offering that.

I hope all of this has been of some help. My plan is to stick it into an envelope and send it to Mr. Dimmler and his sheep up there in Idaho, and hope it satisfies them. If any of you have further questions, I suggest they be sent to the estate of Irving Berlin. Or, if you can find an address for Diane Warren, perhaps she can help you. Personally, I intend to get out of this songwriting racket and start playing clawhammer banjo instead. It's more socially acceptable.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 22

stated that Dawn Anita was a "larger than life performer, a legend, and an Oklahoma treasure." Dawn Anita lost her battle with cancer on April 21. Last issue's account of Donnie Poindexter's former group "Steeldust" being named as the 2020 Duo/Group of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists omitted the names of the founding members. They included: Donnie Poindexter, Jim Poindexter, Bill Poindexter and Donnie A. Poindexter. On December 4, A Little Farther West (Susie and Robert Maxwell Case) performed at Will's Country Christmas at the Will Rogers' Birthplace Ranch. On December 17, IWMA Hall of Fame member Michael Martin Murphey performed his Cowboy Christmas Ball at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Chapter officers for 2022 are: President, Robert Maxwell Case; Vice President, Donnie Poindexter; and Secretary-Treasurer, Danny Williams.

TEXAS CHAPTER President: Cary Wiseman Wisemanranch71@gmail.com

Hello from Texas, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and blessed holiday. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and was safe while traveling. We had a very good time at Weatherford Goes Red. This was the kickoff to the 30th Anniversary of The Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering. The Fort Worth Stockyards was a very busy place and everyone looked like everyone was having a great time. The weather was good, we had lots of fun, and we are ready for the gathering next year. I am sad that we couldn't make it to Albuquerque this year but there was so much going on. I am sure a good time was had by all; we sure hope we can get together next year. Albuquerque is the time we all get to visit and catch up with one another. It's our one time of the year to see so many performers and enjoy the entertainment we enjoy so much. Winter is here. December meant that cooler weather, north wind, and cooler temperatures assures that winter is near.

The Texas chapter hopes that ya'll had a very Merry Christmas and the prospects of Happy New Year filled with joy and love. And now, we hope God rides your trails with you and His blessings are numerous. Happy Trails and God Bless.

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER President: Mark Munzert markmunzert@gmail.com

We are kinda proud how the Western Wordsmiths were represented at the 2021 IWMA Convention:

Heartfelt condolences to 2021 Female Poet of the Year Kathy Moss on the passing of husband, Tracy. Thoughts and prayers were in abundance at the IWMA Convention and continue for healing and comfort.



Kathy Moss

Floyd Beard, 2021 Male Poet of the Year. Floyd, along with 'songstar' Doug Figgs also garnered a Western Heritage Composer Award in September.

2021 IWMA Award Category WESTERN WORDSMITH Chapter nominees/(winner):

2021 Male Poet of the Year: FLOYD BEARD (winner); Mark Munzert; Terry Nash; Dennis Russell; Tom Swearingen.

2021 Female Poet of the Year: Valerie Beard; Sherl Cederburg; Susie Knight; Kathy Moss (winner)

2021 Female Performer of the Year and 2021 Instrumentalist of the Year: Lori Beth Brooke

2021 Working Cowboy Song of the **Year:** Susie Knight

2021 Song of the Year: Kerry Grombacher (winner)

2020 Cowboy Poetry Book of the Year: Reflection by Tom Swearingen

2021 Curly Musgrave Award

presented by Kathleen Musgrave and Curly's two sisters to Susie Knight. Susie, "I never won a trophy buckle before!", was quite pleased, surprised, and proud to wear it!

IWMA Western Wordsmith Performances:

Development Stage: Sherl Ceredrburg; Miska Paget

Campfire Stage: Sherl Cederburg; Thomas Hawk; KC LaCourse; Francine Roark Roboinson: Annie Tezuka.

Performer Showcase: Floyd Beard; Alice Black; Almeda Bradshaw; Lorri Beth Brooke; Micki Fuhrman; Kerry Grombacher; Gary Kirkman; Jo Lynne Kirkwood; Susie Knight; Mark Munzert; Dennis (with Beverly) Russell; Tom Swearingen.

IWMA Friday Night Western Opry:

Valerie Beard; Aspen Black; Micki Fuhrman; Susie Knight; Tom Swearingen.

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast: Floyd Beard; Sherl Cederburg; Miska Paget

Youth: Alice Black

The IWMA Cowboy Poetry Contest featured a very competitive line-up with but one point separating the top finishers. Western Wordsmith Chapter entrants: Floyd Beard; Almeda Bradshaw; Sherl Cederburg; Susie Knight; KC LaCourse; Miska Paget; and George Ray Russell were joined by: Colt Blankman; Venessa Carpenter; Richard Elloyan; Kay Nowell; and 'Winner' Lindy Simmons. This was a tightly contested affair, ably judged by Western Wordsmiths: Dale Page; Jo Lynne Kirkwood; and Tom Swearingen. Scores were tabulated by: Dennis Russell and Thomas Hawk. Thank you to all the participants, judges, and tabulators.

A Special Achievement Award was presented to: Floyd Beard; Valerie Beard; Terry Nash; Dale Page and Dennis Russell for their collaborative effort in producing "Four Aces and a Queen". "The award-winning authors have corralled their verses here in the hope that the tales will give you a look into the lives and minds of the American cowboy. They've been gathered here to take you back to times when life was simpler." Contact any one of the authors to secure your copy.

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COWBOY UP: HOW TO PUT ON A GATHERIN' DURING COVID

By Lindy Simmons - Durango Cowboy Gathering

The 2020 Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering didn't happen. As with many gatherings, the threat of coronavirus closed down the auditoriums and stages.

When 2021 rolled around, the danger seemed less, and western heritage buffs were ready to sing, recite, and enjoy. When the Durango board of directors decided to offer the gathering, every plan was tempered with caution. The biggest shows were planned for the college community concert hall to give crowds the opportunity to spread out in the 600-seat facility. Masks were welcomed. Hand-sanitizer was everywhere.

Almost immediately challenges arose. The Durango community has always generously offered comped hotel and motel rooms for all entertainers. However, Covid had hit hard; hoteliers had suffered a year of reduced business. Economically, their only choice was to take advantage of the increased travel of 2021. They filled their rooms and had nothing to offer the gathering. If the gathering had to pay for rooms, the cost would have been more than the budget could afford. Who Cowboyed Up? The Durango residents who offered home stays for every artist.

That is not to say it was easy. Homestays were offered, then some withdrawn as Covid was spreading again. We had to double check that all entertainers were vaccinated or had antibodies, or we had to make other plans. One night show was moved to a new venue when vaccinations became an issue.

Speaking of venues, the supposedly flawless plan for using the college concert hall met with a flaw. It is a state facility. State Covid restrictions were tightened. Patrons and performers could not get in the door without proof of

vaccination, doctor's note for antibodies, or a recent negative test. The audience was cut by at least one-third.

Late in summer Covid itself raised its prickly head. A Canadian performer (let's call him A) called with an apology. He could come south across the border and perform in Durango, but it looked like he wouldn't be able to get back home without being quarantined for fourteen days. "I have cows to feed," he said. "I can't leave them for that long." We understood, of course. But it became the epitome of Cowboying Up! Another performer, closer to home (let's call him B) was found to replace A. Well, then B contracted Covid and had to be replaced with C. Meanwhile, B had been traveling with another invited performer D who was quarantined, then had Covid. A new performer E was found to replace D, but she became ill and was replaced with F at the very last moment. We had a full contingent just as the gathering was about to begin.

In the interim, as fall rolled around, the schools were open again, but in late September it was announced schools would not be open to visitors from the outside. All shows planned for local schools were cancelled, bar one at the little Juniper School; the show could be held outside. Well, that's a good idea! thought a veteran board member with lots of show-planning experience. We will use our now showless performers for outdoor concerts. All the artists Cowboyed Up, played and sang out-of-doors at the Silverton Train Station and an atrium at a local winery.

Of course, it rained.

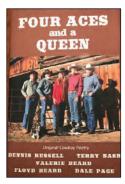
Here's to the Durango homestay hosts! Here's to the pinchhitting replacement performers! Here's to the gathering board of directors. No-one gave up. Everyone Cowboyed Up.

* * * * * * *

Keep tuned in to the Western Way for information on other gatherings!

Chapter Update

Continued from page 30



4 Aces and a Queen

Terry Nash and Peggy Malone announce, the 5th annual Western Slope Cowboy Gathering held November 5-6, was a rollicking success! The event, put together with help from partners-incommittee, Floyd Beard, Valerie Beard and Nona Kelley Carver hosted notables such as Dale Page, The Russellers, JoLynne Kirkwood, Duane Nelson, Evelyn Roper and Caitlyn Taussig. Headlined by The Cowboy Way trio, the audience enjoyed their favorites and a heap of entertainment new to them. We're already planning our 6th!

New releases from Western Wordsmiths:

Taylor Arizona ranchman Gary Kirkman has a new CD out of the chute, True Stories of the Ranch Volume 2. If you know Gary, you know this Cd is pure cowboy.



Gary Kirkman

P.W. Conway has a new cowboy poetry book. "Buckaroo Poetry, Spirit Of The West." It is available on Amazon. It features original poems, such as Spirit Of The West, Walking The Streets Of Tombstone, Cookies Chili, Thank You to Our Veterans, The Old Rodeo Grounds and Truly Blessed. P.W. also included a few of his favorite western movie quotes.

KC LaCourse recently released *The Journey...of life thru Western Poetry* CD including nineteen tracks and a Bonus Track of Oklahoma Strong by dearly departed Dawn Anita. KC spearheaded a special tribute to Dawn Anita at the IWMA Convention.

Livingston Montana is home to John Lowell, a well-respected singer songwriter with a history in Bluegrass and Americana music. His love affair with the American West - its history, its topography, its culture and its people are captured in his recently released She's Leaving Cheyenne. John has been writing and singing Western and Cowboy songs for many years but never really considered making a recording of them until the pandemic struck and energized his creative western side. Five are originals, three classics (including a Dave Stamey song) and some he found 'that just seemed to fit.' Influencers to the CD include Randy Reiman; Waddie Mitchell; and Dave Stamey. John dedicated this record "to anyone who has ever watched the moon come up over a mountain in the American West, while listening to a coyote sing." John Lowell's CDs are available at Cactus Records, or on his website at www.johnlowell.com.

Wordsmith's Secretary Ron Wilson reports he had to miss the IWMA Convention because he was "helping with a Celebrate Ag event at a Kansas State football game on Nov 13 where 40,000 plus people were in attendance." He has also been busy with "fall festival activities plus his weekly Live at the Lazy T Ranch sessions". Ron was recently featured in the Kansas Tourism department promo video on Cowboy Culture and a column and poem he wrote about rural electrification was the cover story for the Kansas electric co-ops statewide magazine. Our Chapter secretary and IWMA-Kansas member testified before Congress on November 9 to present a statement for the International Chisholm Trail Association and Western Cattle

Trail Association to the House Subcommittee on National Parks. Forests and Public Lands in support of legislation which would designate the Chisholm and Western cattle trails as national historic trails while protecting private property rights of adjoining landowners. "The diverse cowboys and drovers who rode these trails became enduring icons of courage, grit, and adventure," stated Wilson in the testimony. "As a symbol of the west, these trails and their legacy vividly remain." In 2019, after conducting an extensive study as directed by Congress, the U.S. Department of the Interior reported that the trails meet the criteria for designation. Only Congress can designate a national historic trail. Wilson, who lives on the historic family ranch near Manhattan, Kansas, is the volunteer legislative chair for the International Chisholm Trail Association. "We hope this national recognition will create additional visibility and opportunity for western performers," Wilson said.

Welcome aboard to new Western Wordsmith Rik Yonder Goodell. You can find some of this Whitefish Montana resident's poetry at: Yonderin'Tales.com Wordsmith singer-songwriter Aspen Black with the aid of Kerry Grombacher ran a very smoothly operated Campfire Stage at the Convention. Aspen and daughter Alice, earlier in the fall, played a blend of original Christian songs and old-time Gospel favorites at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle VA.

Western Wordsmiths chapter was happy to host the Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Cowboy Poets at the IWMA Convention. Under the direction of Danyel Parkhurst and Mike Pacino, Cowboy Poets: age 7, Tamzyn Dabbling; Lillian McMahon; Kelly Wright; Amiilya Lee; age 11, Camden Yarbrough; age 12, Abby Sprock; age 17: Gaby Leming; and Ann Marie Counts. WW is taking up a collection of Cowboy Poetry books to be donated to Boys Ranch. Some of the above listed poets recited the works of poets Sam Deleeuw; Yvonne Hollenbeck;

Continued on page 41



NO NEED TO "FRET" ABOUT IT!

Instrument maintenance prior to a recording session is essential. No matter what instrument you play, you will need to have it serviced before you use it in a recording situation.

About 20 years back I had a client come into the studio to track some Country/Folk songs. He brought in a beautiful vintage Martin D-28 to track with. He had asked if he could use his onboard pickup that he had installed for his live shows. I politely let him know that the microphones that I use will be a much richer sound especially with his quality of instrument.

When he pulled the guitar out of the case, I noticed that the wound strings looked a bit dirty and discolored. I asked my client if he had changed his strings and had his guitar set up. He then told me that he preferred the "old string sound" and that he had had those strings on his guitar for a few years.

Well, I went ahead and recorded his guitar on the first song but asked him to try my Martin D-16 on another take. He finally begrudgingly agreed and took another pass with my studio guitar. When we compared the two recordings, and after hearing how my Martin D-16 just sounded superior to his Martin D-28, the client immediately realized how important guitar maintenance was.

Now for you not familiar with Martin guitars, a D-16 is a fine guitar but about a third of the price of his D-28, which is considered a studio workhorse in the Martin line of guitars. We also noticed that his guitar buzzed a lot in certain chord shapes. After looking over his guitar, I had noticed that the neck tension was loose and needed a truss rod adjustment.

"MAKING LEMONADE OUT OF LEMONS"

I know my client really loved his guitar and would ultimately be a bit disappointed if all these songs were tracked with my guitar. I truly believe to get the best out of an artist, you have to create a situation in which the artist is completely comfortable and relaxed. Using my guitar to complete the session would have resulted in a less than perfect scenario for my client. I always have a few fresh packs of Martin Guitar strings on hand in the studio as I buy them in 5 packs so I offered to restring, adjust the truss rod, and clean up his fretboard on his D-28 if he would compensate me at my hourly studio rate. The client agreed and after approximately one hour of work we were back on track, using his D-28 to record his songs. The guitar sounded rich and powerful, and by not settling for less than great, we had some fantastic recordings of my clients Martin D-28 for his songs. I was happy, my client was happy, and his D-28 was happy!

Here are some other instrument maintenance considerations:

- Drumheads and tuning of drumheads (correct type of heads based on genre)
- Tightening drum lugs of any loose hardware that may rattle
- Pads on woodwinds are a big deal for quality tone
- Bass strings (roundwound, tape wound, metal flatwounds)
- Strings Maintenance on wooden tuning pegs, choosing the correct strings for your instrument based on composition style

I hope this information is helpful; any feedback is welcome. You may contact me at bryankuban@gmail. com. **



REVIEWS

FROM O.J. SIKES

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

FREE TIME? NO TIME? ALWAYS TIME FOR A WESTERN MOVIE!

I've never had a lot of "free time." And now, at my age, I don't have much time at all! But once in a while I like to take a break and watch a good B-Western DVD. The problem is, especially as my eyes get older, it's really frustrating to turn on the machine and find that the movie I want to watch is blurred, not because I'm losing my vision, but because the film hasn't been restored. That was a major issue for years, but now, the situation is starting to change.

Actually, the change began long ago, when the **Gene Autry** office restored all of Gene's movies, from his Phantom Empire serial to his feature-length films, including his 2 color films, and all of his tv shows. These are jewels in the B-Western movie crown, but buyers must be careful. Some manufacturers have issued Autry DVDs that have not been restored. Avoid them like the plague! Instead, go to the GeneAutry.com website where youll find, among other things, a link to the Autry Museum Gift Shop which still has many of the DVDs for sale, along with some of Gene's CDs and other items. Sadly, some items are now out-of-print, but those that are still available are not-to-be-missed!

And many are available via streaming. A visit to the website is well worthwhile.

More recently, Warner Archives has released a large number of movies in their Monogram Studios series. While these have not been restored, the video quality is outstanding. The series includes a lot of films, like those made by Johnny Mack Brown, Whip Wilson and Rod Cameron, that were not musical Westerns, but Jimmy Wakely worked at Monogram and a large number of his films are available. Heretofore, it has been remarkably difficult to find good copies of Wakely's films, so this series is a real treasure. And many or most of the Tim Holt films that feature Ray Whitley are available as well.

More recently still, the Film Detective company has restored Roy Rogers' Lights of Old Santa Fe (in color), with the **Sons of the Pioneers**, and Kino Lorber has restored and released at least 2 of Roy's other color films with **Foy Willing & the Riders of the Purple Sage**.

All of these items are available online, probably from your favorite source. If you have questions, feel free to send me an email message.

GENE AUTRY

"Guns & Guitars & Other Classics"
Recorded 1936-1947, Vol. 9
BACMCDD681





Just when we thought all of Gene Autry's records had been re-issued, the staff at BACM has located

24 Columbia sides recorded by Gene Autry, some of which have been hard-to-find. Over the years, Columbia Records was reluctant to re-issue many of Gene's records, for reasons I find hard to understand. They had outstanding engineers and you won't find better-sounding discs than those supervised by Nick Shaffran during his tenure with Columbia. But the titles were limited to the same few sides that had already been re-issued, sometimes multiple times.

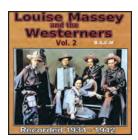
The supply of "new" sides for re-issue by Columbia was limited. There are rumors as to the cause, but whatever the reason, BACM used their own collection of originals to put together this disc containing 24 tracks, starting with "The Singing Hills" and ending with "You'll be Sorry." The first of these was re-mastered for a Sony project in 2000, but my ear tells me that that particular re-mastered version wasn't used on this new BACM disc. Apparently, the original 78s or LPs were used for all of the entries on this project, "cleaned-up" by BACM.

As far as I know, these songs have not appeared on BACM discs until now. However, a number of them have been re-issued elsewhere, so you may want to go online to check the contents list to make sure you don't already have them. See https://country-music-archive.com/.

LOUISE MASSEY

"Louise Massey & the Westerners" Vol. 2

BACMCDD679



This second BACM volume of tracks from one of the most famous and most versatile of America's

Western swing bands includes a number of their hit recordings as well as material that provides a good illustration of their versatility. They began as a family band, and they welcomed Louise's husband, Milt Mabie, as their bass player when they married. But with subsequent personnel changes, the Massey Family Band became Louise Massey & the Westerners. They developed a large following with their varied repertoire and polished musicianship, with fans from New Mexico to New York and then to Chicago's WLS.

Most of these 24 commercial recordings from 1934-42 are wellknown, but these renditions will give you a good idea of why this group was so popular. Louise has several vocal solos, but she shares the spotlight with her brothers, and you'll hear Curt Massey's muted trumpet, and possibly fiddle and vocal solos as well (soloists aren't identified). Curt later recorded songs on his own and he composed the theme for the TV series, "Petticoat Junction." The group's biggest hit, "My Adobe Hacienda," is not here, but others like "The Honey Song," "Ridin' Down that Old Texas Trail," "Carry Me Over the Warm Desert Sands" and "A Gay Ranchero" are. There's a lot to enjoy from this legendary group. Available online from https://country-musicarchive.com/.

CARSON ROBISON, THE CARSON J. ROBISON TRIO AND FRANK LUTHER

"Smokey Mountain Bill"
BACMCDD676



As you know, Carson Jay Robison was a legendary figure in the early history of both country and

western music. And he played an important role in carrying the music to enthusiastic audiences in England. While previous releases from BACM have featured other aspects of Robison's career, e.g., his radio show, this one is especially interesting because it also devotes attention to his sidekick, Frank Luther, another legendary figure as a soloist and in duets with Robison, and as a member of the Carson Robison Trio, the third member of which was Frank's brother. Phil.

The 22 tracks on this CD were recorded between 1928-33, with roughly half coming from 1930. Soon, Robison would form his own band, but the vintage music here illustrates why both of these men established such a respected reputation. The titles include well-known songs, e.g., "Red River Valley, "Moonlight on the Colorado" and "Jesse James" and more obscure titles like "Down in the Hills," "When the Roses Bloom for the Bootlegger" and "Little Sweetheart of the Mountains." But I was especially pleased to see a rare duet representing the Great Northwest, "Little Cabin in the Cascade Mountains." Available online from https://country-musicarchive.com/.

Continued on page 41



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.

MARLEEN BUSSMA

"Deep Tracks"



"Deep Tracks" has two (or more) meanings here. Here you will hear a Cowboy Poet who 'gets'

the art of conversational storytelling. If you appreciate that too, Marleen Bussma is for you. We could make her a study in it! When the poem is a portrayal of something deceptively simple yet worthy (the title track, "For Better Or Worse," "She's Married To The Job"), her tone reflects it. When the subject is serious, wondrous or mythic ("Hunter's Moon," "They Call It Dead Horse Point," "Shadows And Dust"), she ladles just enough wonder over it, never slopping over the edge. Like I say, it's an art.

Then come Bussma's words. The aforementioned "They Call It Dead Horse Point" may just haunt me for life! But her "Hoofbeats With A Heart" struck home in a different way. Her superimposing of the B-Western and Being Western ideas brought back a vision of me as a kid, having just thrilled to one of Roy & Dale's concocted musical roundups of bad guys. Sighing, I said to my mother "gee I wish we lived out west." She laughed, saying "Honey, we do! This is New Mexico!!" A different

one from Bussma's, but a jolting awakening to the real nonetheless.

My advice is to let Marleen Bussma open your eyes to the real. She's so good at it. Eighteen tracks. Highly recommended.

CD: \$18 ppd from Marleen Bussma, 1094 Homestead Dr. E., Dameron Valley, UT 84783 or though marleenbussma.com



GRACE CLARK

"Dancin' With Swingitude" (4-song EP)



Grace Clark's distinctive contralto voice anchors the Swingitude vocal harmonies into the mellow

lower registers of the scale. It's one of those effects you may come to be able to recognize each time you encounter it.

On this four-song EP, Clark & company offer pleasant combo swing takes of two Cindy Walker songs "Take Me In Your Arms And Hold Me" and the more frequently covered "It's All Your Fault," wherein Joyce Woodson's harmony is also heard. The IWMA charter founder also appears on the band's title song "Dancin' With

Swingitude." The fourth track offered is here is the beloved Johnny Mercer classic "I'm An Old Cowhand." Other players on the project include Lisa Burns (bass fiddle), Dave Reitz (fiddle), Jimmy Speco (lead guitar), Billy Wilson (pedal steel & guitar) and Grace's son Scott Clark (drums). A liner note quote from Grace sums it up: "It takes a lotta years to figure out just who you are and not what other people tell you you oughta be." In other words...she's showing swingitude!

Recommended for her fans.

CD/downloads: GraceClarkMusic. com or call (925) 443-5217.



JANICE DEARDORFF

"Sarah's Quilt"



The original songs created and the covers chosen for Janice Deardorff's six-song EP were inspired

by events in the Sarah Agnes Prine book series. They are the creation of Arizona author Nancy E. Turner and tell the stories of her pioneering great grandmother.

While the songs are solidly meaningful within the context of the release, the content of most of them

might not be immediately identified as "Western," but picks among them include the title track "Sarah's Quilt," a cover-worthy co-write by Deardorff with book series author Nancy Turner called "You're Not So Alone" and the wistful treatments of "Streets Of Laredo" and "Red River Valley"...both of which have special relevance here.

Elegant acoustic support for Deardorff and her guitar comes from Bill Ganz (bass guitar), Al & Ava Adleman (vocal harmonies), Nick Coventry (fiddle), Michael G. Ronstadt (cello) and CD co-producer Duncan Stitt (banjo & accordion). All in all, we'll name this one as Janice Deardorff's best effort to date. Recommended.

EP: \$10 + \$5 s/h through janicedeardorff.com



DOUG FIGGS

"Yellow Horse"



For his newest mellow acoustic release, Doug Figgs headed for Colorado to work with such talents

as Butch Hause, Ernie Martinez, Gordon Burt and others. Likely no other Western songwriter has ever won the top writing award from three separate organizations with three different songs in the same year! That achievement gave Figgs his first IWMA Songwriter Of The Year Award, and there have been many awards since. But for all his songwriting and performance prowess, for my money he's never better than when he writes about horses.

A professional farrier, trainer, breeder and observer, he knows the noble quadrupeds inside and out and conveys his appreciation with approachable clarity. Figgs' title track is a stellar example. The focused sentryship (if you will) and the glint of sunlight off the hide of "The Yellow Horse" becomes a magical, near

mythic event. Other picks include the frisky Figgs/Deanna McCall co-writes "Sacramentos" and the bilingual "Ways Of Another Time," the perceptive "40 Acres And A Mule," "The Grulla (groo-yah) Mare" and the Figgs/Mariam (The Cowboy Way) Funke song "You're The One" with strong harmony work provided by Andi Weber.

Twelve tracks, highly recommended. CD: Available through DougFiggs.com



MARY LOU FULTON

"We'll Tell Stories"



In a smoky, expressive voice balladeer/ songwriter Mary Lou Fulton tells her quietly powerful stories in

song. Family experience, feelings and a combative stance on the current unhealthy rise of authoritarianism are all on raw display.

In CD pick "The Red White & Blue" she laments on "waving the flag just like a gun." In the pick "Not Going Back" she addresses unreasoning fear of border 'invaders' in telling us "they're talking about my mama - been here since she was nine – proudly waves the flag on the Fourth of July." In "Hammer & A Gun" she sings of her (paternal?) grandfather, born in Oregon, who eventually carves out a life and history in Arizona. And in "Ballad Of Suagui" she paints a sad/sweet picture of the Mexican government's likely graft-laden 1964 decision to flood her mother's ancestral pueblo to create a dam and lake for power.

In no uncertain terms Mary Lou Fulton predicts that "We'll Tell Stories" later of these days of discord. Although they may not be positive stories, they and these songs are important to be heard. Ten tracks, recommended.

CD: Info at MaryLouFulton.com

JIM JONES

"Good Days Are Comin"



This solo release from Jim (The Cowboy Way) Jones is another of those that shouldn't be

called a "solo!" He has assembled an exceptional support team, and this CD's content justifies that effort.

Multi-instrumentalist and fellow Cowboy Way member Mariam Funke and multi-multi-multi-multiinstrumentalist Don Richmond are valuable participants. The highly adept mixing and mastering chops of Santa Fe's Bill Palmer must be acknowledged as well. They all help put this one over the top. Picks include the optimistic title track, the collection's two Jim Jones/Andi Renfree co-writes "Ride The River" and "Hours and Miles Away From Home," the Jones/Deanna & Dave McCall collaboration "Old Horses & Old Men," the Palo Duro "generated" but not specifically Western "This Too Shall Pass" and the Facebunk-inspired novelty "I'm Right And You're Wrong." And I would have included "In The Moment" but I'm not convinced the vocal apportionment makes standalone musical sense. Fine covers of Mickey Newberry's "Why You Been Gone So Long" and the Andi Renfree/ Clay Canfield/Wille McCulloch song "The Buffalo Grass" round things out. Thirteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$18 ppd or download through jimjonesmusic.com

Continued on page 38

Learn more about the International Western Music Association at iwesternmusic.org

RICK HUFF'S REVIEWS Continued from page 37

K. C. LACOURSE

"The Journey (of life thru western poetry)"



K. C. LaCourse possesses an animated, rangy delivery that works well to put across

her words, and they are words that have a dang good reason to be in the order LaCourse has placed them! Her works in this collection are inspired by attributes of friends, history, rodeo and more. And in a move I have not encountered before, she has provided photographic illustrations of each inspiration beside the notes for its poem.

The musical bridges chosen are effective elements, provided by Brooks Wallace Deaton (fiddle) and Lioncio Saenz (trumpet on "The Alamo"). They were likely overseen by skilled producer Aarom Meador. Picks: the portrait of loving dedication "A Remarkable Pair" about Annie Oakley and Frank Butler, the truth of "Born Too Late," the surprise of "Legend Of The Blue & Gold Bandana," the awardwinning "Riders Draw," a revealing account "Truth v Myth," "The Last Stand" and "The Wait." LaCourse closes with an alternate mix of one poem about her friend Dawn Anita. In its second appearance, "Oklahoma Strong" is mastered with the late singer's familiar voice underneath.

Twenty-one tracks, recommended.
CD: Contact kclacourse@gmail.com

BARBARA NELSON

"Swingin' Open Range"



On Album #10 from the swingin' Oregonian Barbara Nelson, her distinctive, rich lady-bass vocals and

gentle combo style backup are featured again and, as always, both serve her needs well.

CD picks that fall (or arguably fall) into the Western half of Western Swing include "Night Time In Nevada," "Pecos Bill" and "They Call The Wind Mariah." Others that you may never have thought of in a Western context are Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies" and Hank Williams' "I'm So Lonely I Could Cry" (whippoorwills are out west too, right?). Put those two songs in the mouth of a solitary cowboy out on night guard and there you are! A cute take of "Blueberry Hill" features mellow sax and an arrangement nod to its fame from Pop. That sax support also shows up in her treatment of "What The World Needs Now."

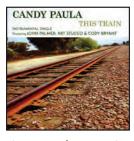
Besides those we've mentioned, maybe we should have just said all the album's tracks are picks! When Barbara Nelson does them, they're worth your ears. Thirteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Barbara Nelson, 72521 Tutulla Creek Rd., Pendleton, OR 97801.



CANDY PAULA

"This Train" (Single)



Californian Candy Paula is a burgeoning Western performer who primarily bills herself as a "Folk guitarist,

singer and songwriter."

This instrumental treatment of the old Folk classic "This Train" is a

friendly, loose limbed jam session clapalong that features a Folk/Blues harmonica lead provided by John Palmer. The remainder of the assembled quartet consists of Candy Paula (acoustic guitar), session recording engineer Art Stucco (bass & electric guitar) and Cody Bryant of Riders Of The Purple Sage (banjo).

With Candy Paul's newly found interest in Western, it will be interesting to see what comes next from her, although (full disclosure) a possible seed on that has already been planted by your humble reviewer. In the meantime, this instrumental single is congenial fun and is available with other material for download.

Inquiries: candypaulamusic.com



CARLOS WASHINGTON'S STEEL HORSE SWING

"Party On Piedre Lumbre" (Single)



In song we've heard about fanciful hoedowns conducted under desert stars (and tucked away

from prying eyes) by everything from critters to cactus! In Carlos Washington's swinging creation, it's spirits who are getting spirited high atop a storied New Mexico mesa.

Well known in the Land Of Enchantment is the longtime spiritual retreat Ghost Ranch. Its greatest fame may have come due to the prominent residency of artist Georgia O'Keefe who lived and painted nearby. Its light hasn't diminished from legendary actress and seeker Shirley Maclaine having looked down upon it from her hillside estate! A feature of the dramatic mountain bluff that shelters it is the Piedre Lumbre (or "shining rock").

The song is wonderfully put together by vocalist/executive

producer/arranger/former rodeo rider Washington, producer Ernie Martinez and nine other top players including Hailey Sandoz (fiddle) and Tom Broderick (steel). Definitely recommended! You won't have more fun playing in your "swing" than this!!

Downloads through steelhorseswing.com



JIM WINTERS

"Yearnin"



Like Riders In The Sky's Ranger Doug Green has done previously, the smooth lead vocalist

of the renowned Kansas band 3 Trails West has momentarily stepped away from those duties in a starring effort. A bunch of Jim's Winters' talented friends including bandmates are along for the ride, and a fine ride it is!

Winters' title track "Yearnin'" is a true swinging amalgam of Western and Country elements with Honky Tonk and Blues. Thoughtfully laid out for variety, the album's songs showcase everyone's abilities well. And it's so danceable!

Harmonies on various tracks come from 3 Trails West's Roger & Leo Eilts and Notable Exceptions (Judy Coder & Jennifer Epps). Wait 'til you hear the ladies' work on "Shenandoah!" Carolyn Martin sings on Winters' "Sittin' In A Honky Tonk" and hubby Dave's sophisticated Swing sensibilities pervade the collection. Maybe you can tell I'm going to name every track as a "pick" in its genre. The singing, the playing, the production...this one is exceptional. Eleven tracks, very highly recommended.

CD: Available through JimWintersMusic.com







SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

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

BY RICK HUFF

We're proud to say that more artists are creating and performing Western Music these days than at any other time in its long and illustrious history. Its legacy includes others who have helped to fortify the trail that Western artists of today continue to ride. So that they might be properly saluted, let's take a fond look back at some of those Western performers and albums from the past. It could be said these people are from our rank and file, but their work ranks high and shouldn't remain filed away. In some cases, you might find their releases available from aftermarket or collector sources. Others might now have been prepared for download through sites. In every case you will find the work should continue to be celebrated, heard and enjoyed.

JOE MERRICK

"New Bad Habits" (2000)



Here's
a singer/
songwriter
who was
known well
to those who
knew best.
Joe Merrick's

expressive tenor voice conveys true enthusiasm for the medium and the message, for he wrote what he knew.

The Merrick family name is forever in lockstep with horse breeding and racing. Joe's dad Walter Merrick is enshrined in Oklahoma's Hall Of Great Westerners and he was one of the founding members of the American Quarter Horse Association. But through releases like this one, Joe has galloped into a different spotlight.

Eleven of the fourteen songs in this group are straight Western, and the remainder contain plenty of Cowboy attitude. Performed by spoton session folks, the contemporary arrangements hold up with anything that might be offered today, whether it's Country Rocking or Western
Swinging its way into your head.
Here we find the swinging (if dour)
"Crime & Ranchin'," the epic and
eerie "La Vibarron," "Eat Too Much,"
"Never Enough," a saga song "Jake's
Revenge" and much more. This
album, as well as the others from
Joe Merrick, deserve your renewed
attention. Most remain available
online for purchase or download.



KATY MOFFATT

"Cowboy Girl" (2001)



When the esteemed folk artist Katy Moffatt chose to take this marvelous foray into Western, happily it was

with the production genius of David (Cowboy Celtic) Wilkie and Scott (Western Jubilee) O'Malley. She could not have been in better hands.

Those who arch eyebrows at the prospect of certain genre crossovers could take heart in the liner notes from two fellows who had been in a similar show me state over it. Don Edwards and Paul Zarzyski both came to believe Moffatt had truly honored the title "Cowboy Girl" with this offering. That term was the original way of referring to working female cowboys, in whose boot steps the Georgie Sickings of later times would stride. Moffatt strode new ground in the material she presented...as varied as the Leadbelly classic "When I Was A Cowboy," "The Brazos" and Wilf Carter's "Midnight The Unconquered Outlaw" to John Phillips' "Me And My Uncle," Joe Ely's "Indian Cowboy" and her own "Black-Eyed Caballero."

Happily the retiring (but never shy) Scott O'Malley has tucked his Shanachie/Western Jubilee catalog (including this album) under the protective and accessible wing of the Smithsonian Institution. So you have no excuse!

O.J. SIKES REVIEWS

Continued from page 35

MARC WILLIAMS: THE COWBOY CROONER

"Little Joe the Wrangler"
BACMCDD669



I'm not a fan of the earliest recordings of cowboy music. The earliest songs were

not as melodic as those composed by Nolan, Spencer and others that came later, and the voices of most early singers were, for the most part, not as easy to listen to as those of subsequent performers like Gene, Roy, Rex, Wakely and the Sons of the Pioneers, at least in my view. But those early songs were the foundation of Western music's history, even though they, themselves, usually had antecedents in "the old country," across the Atlantic. So, there's something to be said for their preservation.

Contemporary artists Don Edwards, Skip Gorman and Sourdough Slim, although their styles are very different from each other, are among the few musicians in the latter part of the 20th Century and the early part of this one, who have devoted much of their careers to the preservation of the earliest songs, and making them appeal to modern audiences who enjoy voices that are pleasing to the ear. Marc Williams, who recorded the 26 sides on this CD between 1928 and 1936, was one

of the better traditional cowboy singers from the early years, although listeners will note the improvement in his voice over time.

Williams was a Texan who appreciated the early music and began singing it professionally soon after his graduation from college in 1924. While in my opinion his voice doesn't hold up to that of Don Edwards or Michael Martin Murphey, for example, he does offer versions of a number of songs that are hard to find today, and you may hear verses in some selections that vou haven't heard before. If vou enjoy the earliest recorded cowboy music, this CD will be an important addition to your collection. Available online from the British Archive of Country Music. *

Chapter Update

Continued from page 32

Tom Swearingen; Chris Issacs, and S. Omar Barker. Please mail your donation (book) to chapter president (Mark Munzert) for forwarding. Preconvention, 'yours truly' was hired by TBK Bank, traveled 3300 miles round-trip in two days, to lend some Cowboy Poetry to their Board of Directors Retreat at an Athens, Texas ranch. Hats off to American Cowboy Radio and Ben Parks for the airplay and impetus for TBK representatives to search me out. I am pretty sure the cows and horses enjoyed it as much as the bankers!

YOUTH CHAPTER

Coordinator: Jane Leche President: Jenna Thunborg wmayouthcoordinator@gmail.com

It was an exciting time at the IWMA Convention for Youth Chapter (YC) members participating this year. Congratulations to twins Kacey and

Jenna Thunborg for winning the Liz Masterson Crescendo Award and accepting it from fellow Youth Chapter member and 2019 winner, Alice Black. New to the convention this year was Venessa Carpenter who teamed up with Dan McCorison for the Team Penning contest and happily took home the award. The Saturday Youth Chapter Showcase was a hit this year with poems by two up and coming cowboy poets, Jack George and three-time award nominee, Colton Blankman; some original songs by Youth Chapter performers; and a group finale called "Sisters of the West" inspired by Venessa Carpenter and written by Venessa, Alice Black and Kacey and Jenna Thunborg. Also, this was the last showcase for members Kaelan Dreyer and Leah Sawyer who have "aged out" of the Youth Chapter. Leah's last performance was accompanied by her brother and YC member David Sawyer, and her dad, David Sawyer, Sr. During the evening Awards Show the youth ensemble honored Hall of Fame inductee, Les Buffham, with their

own rendition of Buffham's "Below The Kinney Rim" - arranged by Jane Leche and performed as a mix of cowboy poetry and song. Highlights from the Youth Chapter meeting: New Officers are President-Jenna Thunborg, Vice President-Venessa Carpenter and Secretary-Alice Black. One order of new business was to revisit social media sites and to set up the IWMA Youth Chapter Music & Poetry YouTube channel. All YC members are encouraged to upload their professional video performances and all IWMA members are encouraged to "Like", subscribe, and share this channel. Also, other Youth Chapter social media accounts need to be used and kept up-to-date to encourage more participation and connection among members and to inspire new membership.

Facebook: @westernmusicYC
Instagram: iwmayouthchapter
Value of the common of the commo

YouTube: IWMA Youth Chapter Music

& Poetry

For more information contact:

Jane Leche



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

Crime fiction with a Western setting is a fixture in today's popular literature. I think you can trace that back to 1970 when "The Blessing Way," the first of author Tony Hillerman's bestselling series of Navajo Tribal Police mysteries, was published.

The books reviewed in this month's column – one a novel, the other a collection of long stories – are examples of a Western whodunit genre that is alive and thriving.

J.R. SANDERS

Stardust Trail



I got the feeling the author had taken my order and written this book just for me. I'm a big fan of those hardboiled, wise-cracking private detectives made popular

by Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler back in the 1930s and '40s. I love B Western films starring the likes of Bob Steele, Tim McCoy, Sunset Carson and Johnny Mack Brown. And, of course, I'm big time into Western music. This novel, a finalist for the Western Writers of America 2021 Spur Award for historical novel, has all of that.

Nate Ross is a private detective in 1938 Los Angeles. He used to be with the sheriff's department, but he got run out of there because he testified against crooked deputies, betrayed the brotherhood. Most cops don't like him for that, but he don't like them right back. He's tough, and he talks and thinks in Sam Spade parlance without making it sound like parody. "I knew places like this, and the people who lived in them. Nothing in common but water-stained ceilings and broken dreams."

Early on, Ross rescues and returns a "kidnapped" dummy that belongs to ventriloquist and Western movie comic sidekick Max Terhune, earning him points with Republic Pictures. Soon Republic hires him to find out who is trying to sabotage the filming of a Western titled "Stardust Trail."

Next thing you know he is involved in murder, a decades-old train robbery and the life of Val, the prettiest part of a Western music trio called The Cady Sisters. The Cady Sisters perform at the Hackamore Club, where a lot of the cowboys who work as wranglers, stuntmen and extras on B Westerns hang out. John Wayne hangs out there, too. He's still making "Three Mesquiteers" movies but is about to get his big break in John Ford's "Stagecoach."

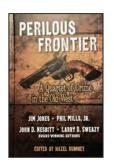
Wayne also happens to be an old high school buddy of Ross and becomes a major player in this novel, riding to the rescue at one point.

The plot has more twists than a snorty bronc, taking you through the world of low-budget Westerns and lowlife hoods, down mean streets and into rugged canyons. It's a wild ride but a fun one all the way.

("Stardust Trail," 9781947915503; paperback, 208 pages; \$16.95; Level Best Books; available at amazon.com, Walmart.com, bookshop.org, Barnes & Noble and other bookstores.)

JIM JONES PHIL MILLS JR. JOHN D. NESBITT LARRY D. SWEAZY

Perilous Frontier: A Quartet of Crime In the Old West



Kicking off this quartet of crime is "Double Deceit" by John D. Nesbitt, an author I have written about in this column before. Nesbitt lives on the plains of Wyoming, and

I admire the way he writes about that country, its people and horses.

"The sweep of the land behind him, as it sloped up toward the breaks and the gap, was a vast carpet of white. For a moment, I had the fancy that the man was riding out of a mass of snow, as if he had come down with the storm." That's young Katie Moran making those observations. Katie has come from an orphanage in Pennsylvania to live with her grandfather, Will Cooper, on his Wyoming ranch. She narrates this story. The man she watches riding across that snowy landscape, a packhorse in tow, is Dunbar. He's headed for the nearby town of Perse but is looking for a place to put up for a couple of days and work for his keep.

Katie tells us that Dunbar has dark eyes, dark hair and a bushy dark mustache and that he sits tall in the saddle with his shoulders squared. He is riding a blue roan and leading a buckskin.

"He did not wear conchos or beaded cuffs or any of the similar adornments I had seen on some men since I came to Wyoming," Katie informs us.

It's late in October, likely at the near end of the 19th Century. Dunbar is a cowboy, and he settles in at Cooper's place to work for a spell. Katie's grandfather has a busted leg, so the help is needed. But it soon becomes apparent that Dunbar has come on a mission. He takes a serious interest in reports of people who have disappeared from Perse and starts questioning people about that, leading Cooper to ask him if he is a Pinkerton man or a range detective. "I work on my own," Dunbar says. "I'm a cowpuncher with curiosity."

Up until this point, I found Nesbitt's story intriguing and entertaining. But then it jumps track into a tangled tale of false identity, blackmail and murder that comes to a head with town folks gathered in the dining area of a hotel in Perse. It reminded me of how those goldenage detectives, or the movie's Charlie Chan, used to assemble suspects in a country house sitting room to reveal the killer among them. The trouble here is that this is still the wild West and a lot of people in that hotel are toting guns. Lucky no innocents died in the ensuing gunplay. It was a close thing.

And here's another thing that bothered me. Those attending that hotel meeting included a storekeeper, a barber, a postman, a Methodist preacher, several women with an air of civic responsibility, ranchers and other assorted businessmen. But no lawmen. In fact, I don't recall a lawman in the whole story. Good thing a cowpuncher with curiosity rode in to get things sorted out.

Most people who read this magazine know Jim Jones as a talented

musician, a gifted singer-songwriter and IWMA's 2014 Male Performer of the year. But Jones writes fiction, too, and has to his credit five novels set in northern New Mexico in the late 1800s. "Scarecrows," his story in this collection, features Tommy Stallings, a character born in one of those novels. In October 1886, Tommy resigns his job as acting sheriff of Colfax County, New Mexico, to ride with his cousin Rusty into Texas. Rusty's parents, Tommy's Uncle Joe and Aunt Martha, are among the Texas ranchers whose cattle are being stolen by rustlers disguised with sacks over their heads that make them look like scarecrows. Tommy teams up with Rusty and Bill Slaughter, a hair-trigger-tempered stockman association's agent, to stop the thieving scarecrow scalawags.

Jones' story is character-driven and infused with good-natured bickering between Tommy and Rusty, so, despite the rustlers' eerie masks, "Scarecrows" is marked more by humor than by mystery or suspense.

There is nothing lighthearted about Phil Mills Jr.'s story, as the title, "Cold the Bitter Heart," suggests.
Set in Wyoming back in the day when animosity between cattlemen and sheepmen ran deep and before barbed wire had become the bane of the open range, this is a tragic tale of Shakespearian proportions. It's got greed, lust, twisted families, infidelity and, of course, murder.

It's difficult to find more than a few characters to like, but there's no trouble discovering the blackest heart in the bunch. That belongs to Robert Baxter, owner of the T Bar 7 Ranch. He's cruel to the core, nasty mean to sheepmen, fellow cattlemen and to his wife and teenaged daughters. He is murdered, and none too soon, to my way of thinking.

Rancher Jake Summers and Sheriff Tom Scott, among this story's rare good-guys, investigate Baxter's death, leading to one of the strangest climatic gunfights I've come across in Westerns. Even when the smoke clears, all the lies that have been stacked-up keep things hazy. Who did what to whom? You think you know, but ..."I wonder," Jake says as he walks off the last page into a warm afternoon sun.

Larry D. Sweazy closes out the collection with "Wind in His Face," the story of Robert Earl "Scrap" Elliott, a Texas Ranger happy to be on a courier mission that takes him out of Austin and onto the open road.

"I don't know how folks tolerate city life, all packed together so close," he muses as he lopes north to Garland, Texas, 200 miles away.

Things would have worked out way better if Scrap had not stopped in Waco for the night. While waiting for dinner in a hotel restaurant, Mavis, a girl Scrap once courted, joins him at his table. Despite the image a name like Mavis might conjure up, she is stunningly beautiful. I don't care for some of Sweazy's folksy analogies, but he gets in some decent lines, too, as in the way Scrap describes how Mavis has changed. "Whatever innocence she'd had about her had fallen off her like dried-up old skin. She had the eyes of an ambitious cat instead of the doe-eyed girl I once knowed."

Turns out Mavis has married into money. She has just introduced her husband when the man drops dead on the restaurant floor, and she runs away. Scrap, thinking Mavis is distraught with grief, chases after her. He should have stayed for dessert. Trying to find and help a woman he once cared about, gets Scrap muddied, battered, almost arrested and just about shot. He's mired in a murder mystery that will keep the reader guessing most of the way.

("Perilous Frontier: A Quartet of Crime in the Old West," 9781432886462; hardback, 294 pages; \$25.95; Five Star; available at gale.orders@cengage.com, bookshop.org, Walmart.com, thriftbooks.com, Barnes & Noble and other bookstores.)

✓

Western Playlists - Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Joe Angel

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

Waynetta Ausmus

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

Michael Babiarz

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

Bobbi Jean Bell

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

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky

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

Janice Brooks

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

Peter Bruce

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

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

"Calling All Cowboys Radio"

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

Doug Figgs

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

Nancy Flagg

"Cowboy Tracks"

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

KWC Ameriana Radio Station

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

Sam Harris

CVFM Country 4 Shadforth Close Old Shotton Village Peterlee Co. Durham SR8 2NG England www.cvfm.org.uk samharris01@aol.com

Paul Hazell

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

Randy Hill

"Western Swing Time Radio Show" 5114 Balcones Woods Dr. Suite 307-387 Austin, TX 78759 (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

Susie Knight

"The Western Way Hour" (poet friendly) http://www.coniferradio.com PO Box 76 Conifer, CO 80433 303-495-4869

Al Krtil

225 W. 7th St. Ship Bottom, NJ 08008 alkrtil@yahoo.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@outlook.com

Butch and Christina Martin

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

Marvin O'Dell

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

Bob O'Donnell

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

O.J. Sikes

681 Ellington Rd. Ridgewood, NJ 07450 ojsikes@gmail.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

JJ Steele

"Cowboy Corral"

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

Tommy Tucker

"Snake River Radio Roundup" 93.1 FM/1350 AM KRLC Radio (Does Not Use MP3s) 805 Stewart Ave. Lewiston, ID. 83501 208-743-1551 tommy@idavend.com "Keepin' It Western"

Wayne & Kathy

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

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Western Charts

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

- 1. Yellow Horse Doug Figgs
- 2. Good Days Are Comin' Jim Jones
- 3. Me and Les Dan McCorison
- 4. Range of the Buffalo Kerry Grombacher
- 5. Devil on My Tail The Hot Texas Swing Band
- 6. She's Leaving Cheyenne John Lowell
- 7. True Tales...Mostly Stan Lawrence
- 8. Once Upon a Desert Night Richard Elloyan & Steve Wade
- 9. Mile After Mile Carol Markstrom
- 10. Texas Star Lori Beth Brooke
- 11. Doin' What We Do The Cowboy Way
- 12. A Place to Land Kristyn Harris
- 13. Between a Horse and Me Almeda Bradshaw
- 14. Rancher's Paradise Barry Ward
- 15. The Lump of Coal (Hope's Diamond) Steve Jones

- 16. Frontier Mary Kaye
- 17. Ride My Pony Chris Mortensen
- 18. New Moon Prairie Moon
- 19. Little Bit of Texas Carlos Washington
- 20. I See You Gabrielle Gore
- 21. Good Dog Dave Stamey
- 22. Rhythm Rides Again The Hanson Family
- 23. Canyon Songs The Dan Canyon Band
- 24. No Place Left to Go Ron Christopher
- 25. Sarah's Quilt Janice Deardorff
- 26. Turn 'Em Loose Susie Knight
- 27. Soul of the West Clint Bradley
- 28. Singing Cowgirl Rides Again Dawn Anita
- 29. One More River to Cross The Ramblin' Rangers
- 30. Warm Breeze Larry Krause

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

- 1. Devil on My Tail The Hot Texas Swing Band
- 2. Texas Star Lori Beth Brooke
- 3. A Place to Land Kristyn Harris
- 4. Harmony Grits Ida Red
- 5. Little Bit of Texas Carlos Washington
- 6. Yearnin' Jim Winters
- 7. Rhythm Rides Again The Hanson Family
- 8. Texas Fiddler Ridge Roberts
- 9. California Skies Don Burnham Home Again – Steve Markwardt

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

- 1. Horse Tales and Cow Trails Floyd Beard
- 2. The Best Horses in Heaven, They Have No Tail Miska Paget
- 3. Pensive 'n' Playful Mark Munzert
- 4. They Come Prancin' A.K. Moss
- 5. Wagon Train Colt Blankman
- 6. The Truth A.K. Moss
- 7. Born to Ponder Sherl Cederburg Masters, Vol. 3 Various Artists
- Short Grass Floyd Beard
 Western Wordsmith Susie Knight
 New Mexico Stray Dennis Russell

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

- 1. Range of the Buffalo Kerry Grombacher
- 2. Welcome to Wickenburg Dan McCorison
- 3. Devil on My Tail The Hot Texas Swing Band
- 4. Yellow Horse Doug Figgs
- 5. Frontier Mary Kaye
- 6. The Lonesome Western Trail John Lowell
- 7. Sacramentos Doug Figgs
- 8. A Cowboy 'Til I Die The Cowboy Way Blue Cowboy Waltz – Stan Lawrence
- 10. If I Had a Horse Almeda Bradshaw The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly – The Hot Texas Swing Band

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

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

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

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Polly Cooke	Wickenburg, AZ	Jeff Pundt	Lakeside, AZ
Jan Michael Corey	Mesa, AZ	Diana Raven	Lakewood, CO
Stan Corliss	Hillsboro, OR	Herb Remington	Ruidoso, NM
William Crowe	Van Horn, TX	Steven Rhodes	Foosland, IL
Don Cusic	Nashville, TN	Victoria Rhodes	Foosland, IL Silverado, CA
Mark & Marlene Davis	Chatsworth, CA	Rusty Richards Don Richardson	
David DeBolt	Nolensville, TN	Barbara Richhart	Upland, CA Mancos, CO
Rich Dollarhide	Sierra Vista, AZ	Roger Ringer	Medicine Lodge, KS
Arlys Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	LeeLee Robert	Paradise Valley, AZ
Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Jessie D. Robertson	Fort Worth, TX
Fred Engel	Kimball Junction, UT	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
Robert E. Fee, Esq.	Tucson, AZ	Elizabeth Rukavina	Arleta, CA
Juni Fisher	Franklin, TN	Lori Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Rick Flory	Paradise Valley, AZ	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Robin Freerks (Ned Bodie)	Goldendale, WA	Ray Ryan	San Jose, CA
Norbert Gauch	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Yvonne Ryan	San Jose, CA
Val Geissler Dick & Dixie Goodman	Cody, WY	Mary M. Ryland	Albuquerque, NM
	Sun City West, AZ	Suzanne Samelson	Thermopolis, WY
Fred Goodwin Douglas B. Green	Murfreesboro, TN	Rudolf P. Schai	Bernhardzell, Switzerland
Betsy Bell Hagar	Brentwood, TN Mill Valley, CA	Jim Sharp	Nashville, TN
Jerry Hall	Porterville, CA	Hank Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Patti Hamel	Petoskey, MI	Sharyn Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Tex Hamel	St. Ignace, MI	Lindy Simmons	Mancos, CO
Les Hamilton	Dubois, WY	Cowboy Jerry Sooter	Apple Valley, CA
Calvin Danner Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Julie Spencer	Pacific City, OR
Lisa Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Dave Stamey Cheryl Stanley	Orange Cove, CA Roswell, NM
RW Hampton	Cimarron, NM	Bob Taylor	El Cajon, CA
Jack Hannah	Fresno, CA	Steve Taylor	Roy, UT
Joe Hannah	Visalia, CA	Terri Taylor	Roy, UT
Lon Hannah	Visalia, CA	Ed Terry	Merritt, NC
Joni Harms	Canby, OR	J. R. (Ray) Threatt	Oklahoma City, OK
Eddy Harrison	Las Cruces, NM	Alma Tussing	Hudson, WY
Tom & Jane Hilderbrand	North Myrtle Beach, SC	Stanley Tussing	Deming, NM
Randy A. Hoyt	Grand Junction, CO	Marilyn Tuttle	San Fernando, CA
Rick Huff	Albuquerque, NM	Robert Wagoner	Bishop, CA
Jack Hummel	Valencia, CA	Harvey Walker	Anaheim, CA
Voleta Hummel	Valencia, CA	Washtub Jerry	Fort Davis, TX
Charles Jennings	Rockville, MD	Leonard Werner	Flemington, NJ
Emma F. Kaenzig	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Johnny Western	Mesa, AZ
Paul Kelly	Santa Fe, NM	Norman Winter	Mills, WY
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