

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the International Western Music Association



IN THE CROSSHAIRS:

IAN DAWSON TYSON

1933 – 2022

THE OVERVIEW
THE EPIPHANY
THE PRIVATE MAN

PAGE 6



*Four strong winds that blow lonely
Seven seas that run high
All those things that don't change
come what may...*

~ FOUR STRONG WINDS (IAN TYSON)

*Called by some the unofficial
national anthem of Canada*



INTERNATIONAL
WESTERN
MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING
MUSIC & POETRY
 AMERICAN WEST

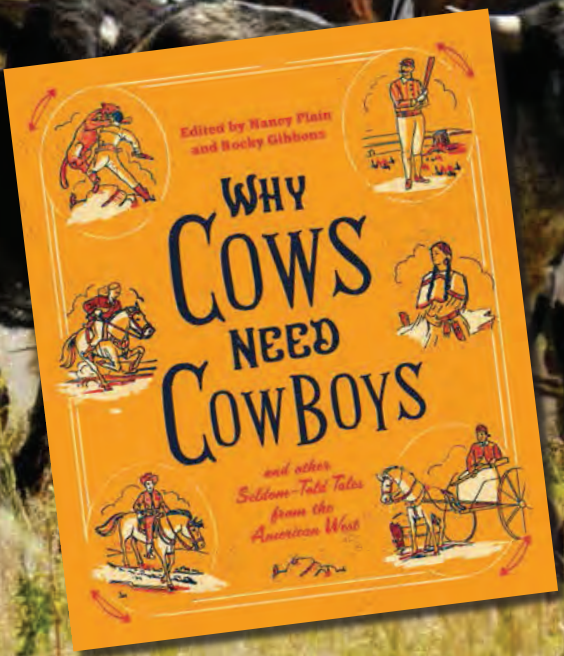
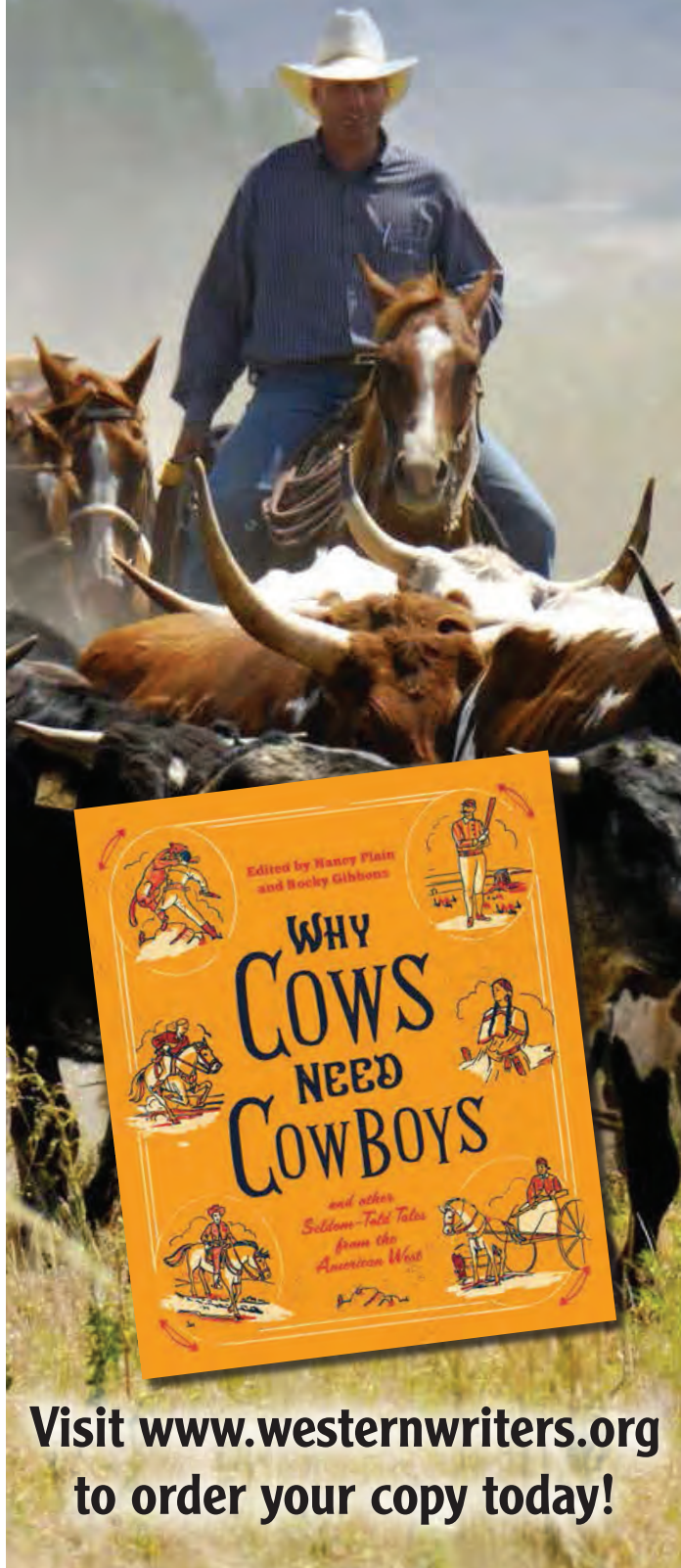
The International Western Music Association is an organization that encourages and supports the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West.

505.563.0673  WESTERNMUSIC.ORG



EXCELLENCE • CREATIVITY • PROFESSIONALISM

**AVAILABLE IN
BOOKSTORES
EVERYWHERE**



**Visit www.westernwriters.org
to order your copy today!**

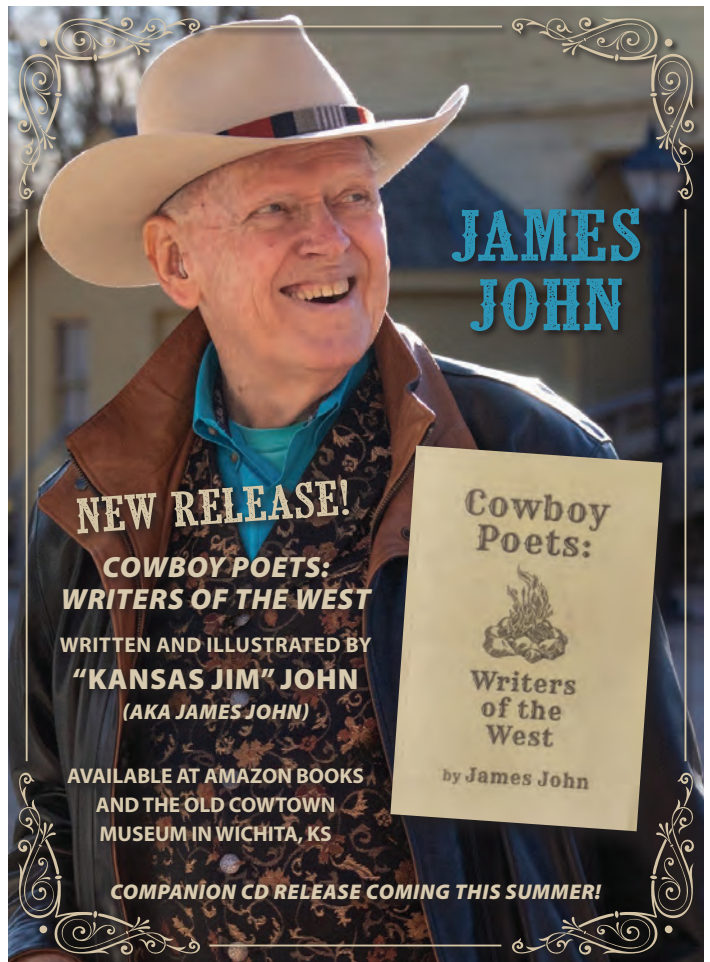
**MEREL
BREGANTE**

*Honoring the past.
Living in the present.
Looking to the future.
Bringing traditional
and contemporary
Western and Cowboy
music together.*



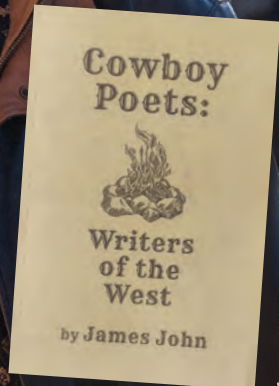
**THE CRIBWORKS
DIGITAL AUDIO**

Liberty Hill, TX
512-567-4320
mbregante@aol.com
cribworksdigitalaudio.com



**JAMES
JOHN**

NEW RELEASE!
**COWBOY POETS:
WRITERS OF THE WEST**
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
"KANSAS JIM" JOHN
(AKA JAMES JOHN)



AVAILABLE AT AMAZON BOOKS
AND THE OLD COWTOWN
MUSEUM IN WICHITA, KS

COMPANION CD RELEASE COMING THIS SUMMER!

From The President...



MARVIN O'DELL
IWMA President

As I see it from my limited experience...

...Although normally what goes around comes around, I don't see the B-western with the singing cowboy hero ever returning to the big screen.

...Modern-day film makers of westerns that hit the big screen seem to be totally ignorant of anything called "The Cowboy Code."

...There's not a lot of money to be made in music these days. As one popular and very good singer told me recently, "In the 90's, I could play anywhere for \$100. Now I can play anywhere for...\$100."

...The most talented and professional musicians I know are usually very humble; the most cocky and arrogant musicians I've met are not near as talented as they think they are.

...Most songwriters within the IWMA are far more creative than today's contemporary country music writers.

...Allan Chapman is a very under-rated songwriter. If I could write half as skillfully...

...Losing Jack Hannah, Don Edwards, and Ian Tyson in one year has left some big holes in the western music scene.

...Western festival organizers and talent buyers need to start looking at some of the very fine young talent that is available today. They might not have been around for 50 years, but that doesn't mean they can't put on wonderful and enthusiastic performances.

...Festival organizers should hire fewer performers and pay them more.

...No one seems to care about hi-fidelity anymore. I don't want to listen to music on my phone. I still want to hear it through a quality sound system. May the vinyl LP and the CD live forever.

...It bothers me that the fans of western music are more likely to keep their IWMA memberships active than some performers are. There are performers who only activate their membership when they think they are eligible for an award. You would think they would keep their membership current just to support the IWMA's efforts to preserve the music with which they are attempting to make their living.

...If you come to the IWMA convention looking for something that isn't being done right, you will be sure to find it. There's one thing you can count on: there will always be more complaints than compliments.

...The folks who work the awards show are very under-appreciated. It's all pre-show and backstage work, so no one sees them. At the same time, those same people never get to see the show.

...I miss Jon Messenger and Steve & Terri Taylor.

...I also miss gospel singer Tracy Dartt and his family. Tracy is the one who first told me about the then-WMA. He encouraged me to join, and I did. Tracy went home to glory last year. He was a wonderful singer and songwriter who won several Dove awards during his career. When Jim Reeves died tragically, Cliffie Stone approached Tracy about signing with RCA Records as the voice that would replace the silky sound of Reeves. Tracy turned it down, preferring to stay in the gospel field. RCA signed Stu Phillips instead. Tracy was a friend to many, and his concerts were always a lot of fun. He is missed by far more folks than me.

MARVIN O'DELL
President IWMA



FOUNDER
Bill Wiley

OFFICERS

Marvin O'Dell, President
Jerry Hall, Executive V.P.
Tom Swearingen, V.P.
Belinda Gail, Secretary
Diana Raven, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Marsha Short

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bobbi Jean Bell | Dave Martin |
| Leo Eilts | Marvin O'Dell |
| Roger Eilts | Theresa O'Dell |
| Belinda Gail | Diana Raven |
| Jerry Hall | LeeLee Robert |
| Robert Lorbeer | Dennis Russell |
| Carol Markstrom | Tom Swearingen |

2023 BOARD INTERN

Mark Munzert

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Rex Allen, Jr.
Cheryl Rogers Barnett
Ray Benson
Robert E. Fee, Esq.
Douglas B. Green
Mike Mahaney
Suze Spencer Marshall
Gary McMahan
Michael Martin Murphey
Rusty Richards
Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr.
O.J. Sikes
Red Steagall
Steve Taylor
Marilyn Tuttle
Johnny Western

STAFF WRITERS

Rick Huff, Marvin O'Dell, Theresa O'Dell,
Ollie Reed, Jr., Marsha Short, O.J. Sikes

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Les Buffham, Peter Bruce, A.B. Shaw

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Quarterly Publication of the IWMA
Deadline for next issue: June 1, 2023

MANAGING EDITOR/ADVERTISING

Theresa O'Dell
wweditor1@gmail.com; 805-551-7763

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Kim Tappan/Tappan Design
tappandesign@gmail.com

PRINTING

Modern Litho, Jefferson City, MO

INTERNATIONAL WESTERN MUSIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019
Cell Phone 505-563-0673
marsha@westernmusic.org
www.westernmusic.org

CONTENTS



FEATURES

- 6** In the Crosshairs: IAN TYSON: The Trilogy
The Overview: A Life with Many Influencers
By O.J. Sikes with Hugh McLennan
- The Epiphany: The Winding Road Back Home
By Don Cusic
- The Private Man: Personal Stories
By Rick Huff with Mary Ryland

18



ARTICLES, UPDATES & MORE

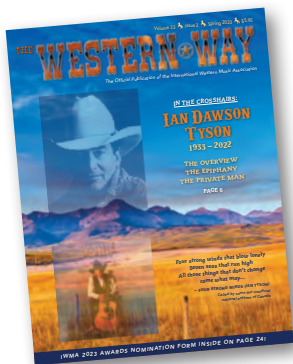
- 2** President's Message
- 4** Editor's Insight
- 5** From the Executive Director
- 13** Penned by Lantern Light
- 14** In The Spotlight
- 16** Western Events Calendar
- 16** Quotable Cowboy
- 18** Coffee and Conversation – Peter Bruce
- 19** The Western World Tour – Rick Huff
- 20** Chapter Update
- 21** Two-Cents of Songwriter Savvy – A.B. Shaw
- 23** 2023 Awards of Excellence Criteria
- 24** 2023 Awards of Excellence Nominations Ballots
- 27** Buffham's Buffoonery
- 28** In Memoriam
- 29** 2023 Songwriting Contest
- 32** O.J. Sikes Musical Note and Reviews
- 36** Huff's Best Of The West Reviews
- 41** Classic Profiles – Rick Huff
- 42** Reed's Reading – Book Reviews
- 44** Western Playlists – Reporters
- 45** Patron Members
- 46** Western Charts
- 48** Lifetime Members

42

 Recommendations & Book Reviews

REVIEWS – CDS, DVDS & BOOKS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 33 Gene Autry | 38 Johnny Nicholas |
| 33 Carolina Cotton, Rosalie Allen, Girls of the Golden West, Rose Maddox and Chickie Williams | 38 Jody Miller |
| 33 Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Tex Ritter, Jimmy Wakely, Eddie Dean and Rex Allen | 38 Wylie & The Wild West |
| 35 Hoosier Hot Shots | 39 Lonnie Bartmess |
| 35 Johnny Crawford | 39 Paul Alan Coons |
| 35 Howard Keel | 39 Claude Gray & Bobby Mackey |
| 36 Valerie Beard | 39 Bob Marshall |
| 36 The Dan Canyon Band | 39 Jasmine McDonald |
| 36 Chris Guenther | 40 Austin McKedy |
| 37 "Cowboy Dan" Harrell | 40 Josh Ryle |
| 37 Andy Hedges | 40 Daryn Wright |
| 37 Kimberly Kaye | 41 G. W. Julian & The Santa Fe Cowboy Band |
| | 41 Tom Russell |
| | 42 Dave Stamey (Book) |
| | 43 Kate Davis (Book) |



ON THE COVER...

Ian Tyson was a waymaker as he "stumbled" through a life that formed who he was to become. Reading about cowboys, studying art, playing guitar, songwriting and ranching turned a shifting man who wanted to be good at whatever he did into an iconic folk and cowboy music legend. Ultimately, he was a cowboy at heart.

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



Theresa O'Dell
Editor

The Brand

Do you ever see something in an ad and immediately know the product or person it represents? The colors, shape or even the sound has consistently been associated with that person or product. It is their “brand.”

In our western genre, it might be “the hat.” Some performers always wear the same style hat, and it identifies them. For instance, Mary Kaye wears the bolero (gambler) style hat. I don’t know that I’ve ever seen her in a different style. This is just Mary Kaye! Or, Belinda Gail in the Gus hat with colored trim to match her outfits. It is “so Belinda.” You can pick out both women in a crowd. It’s their brand.

Some people are branded by their instrument. Who carries around a washtub? Why, Washtub Jerry, of course. There’s the accordion-totin’ Lori Beth Brooke or Mr. Harmonica Gary Allegretto.

There are those whose style of dress sets them apart, always the bright colors, classy jackets and skirts, some retro dresses, and layers of silver and turquoise jewelry so well put together they could be fashion models. Immediately my mind projects an image. It’s Bobbi Jean Bell or Miss Devon Dawson. Or, of the male persuasion we have the Western GQ-look for Dave Stamey or Kerry Grombacher with button-down shirt, necktie, and a gentleman’s hat.

For some, it might be an actual uniquely designed logo that is their brand. You’ll find it on all of their promotional materials, on social media accounts, and album or book covers. Fans get used to seeing it and look for it on products by their favorite performers.

The branding I’ve mentioned here are just a few ways to set yourself apart from the herd. An event promoter might not catch your name when they see you perform, but if you have an identifiable brand they remember, you will be much easier to find and to book for their gig.

Is branding really important to do? I think it is, especially if you are wanting to expand and grow your

performance schedule and if you plan to be around a long time. A brand should be something that when people see it, they think of you. This is especially true in creating a logo. Your logo might be modified over the years, but the basic infrastructure should remain the same – look at Coke™ and Pepsi™. They’ve made changes in recent years, but the basic brand has remained the same.

You may be creative and talented enough to “brand yourself,” or maybe you need help. It might be a look or a logo, but it could be the edge that when combined with real talent, will take you to the next level. There are talented people who make it their business to help you make a statement that says “Look, this is me!” If being a performer is the life you want, then invest in yourself. If you want to shake-up your town, state, region or take your poetry or music across the country or the ocean, and if you’ve developed your craft to a high level, then begin now branding who you are so the world will know not only are you talented, you are uniquely YOU!

Theresa



From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

I usually keep a lot of balls in the air...the queen of multi-tasking. Sometimes things get finished, other times balls just hang there like they're filled with helium. Then I read an article that said that people who say they are

multi-tasking actually just have very short attention spans, and it could take longer for them to finish individual tasks.

I've been writing that first paragraph for a week. Too many things have come between me and the second paragraph: phone calls, emails, dogs to be let out and back in (and then back out and back in). Was it a short attention span that caused it to be a lonely paragraph for so long? I wish it was that simple. I think it's just life in general that causes us to move from one thing to another.

One thing that is finished is the nominations ballot for the 2023 IWMA Awards of Excellence included in this issue. Take a moment to look at the ballot and nominate your favorite performers, albums and songs. **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

The preliminary Convention Schedule is on the website now and will be published in the Summer issue of *The Western Way*. We're excited to have Gary McMahan as our opening luncheon speaker! Watch the website for additional information as it becomes available.

Performer applications have been sent to all Professional Members through MailChimp (if you didn't get it, call or email me, and we'll get it to you). It was my first time to use this service, and it was really stressful pushing the send button. If I did it right, we'll use it to communicate more with everyone in addition to the website and FaceBook.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful Spring!

Marsha



ADVERTISE IN THE WESTERN WAY

AND REACH THE PEOPLE
YOU NEED TO KNOW!

DON'T
WAIT

RESERVE YOUR
SPACE TODAY!

| | Rate/Issue B&W or Color | 4X Rate/Issue B&W or Color |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Full Page | \$700 | \$650 |
| Full Page Inside Cover | \$800 | \$750 |
| Back 3/4 Page Color | \$650 | \$600 |
| Half Page | \$450 | \$400 |
| Third Page | \$375 | \$325 |
| Quarter Page | \$300 | \$250 |
| Sixth Page | \$250 | \$200 |
| 1/12th Page (Logo with text only) | \$125 | \$100 |
| Classified ads | \$20 for the first 10 words, then 10¢ per word | |

INCLUDE THE WESTERN WAY IN YOUR MARKETING PLAN

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

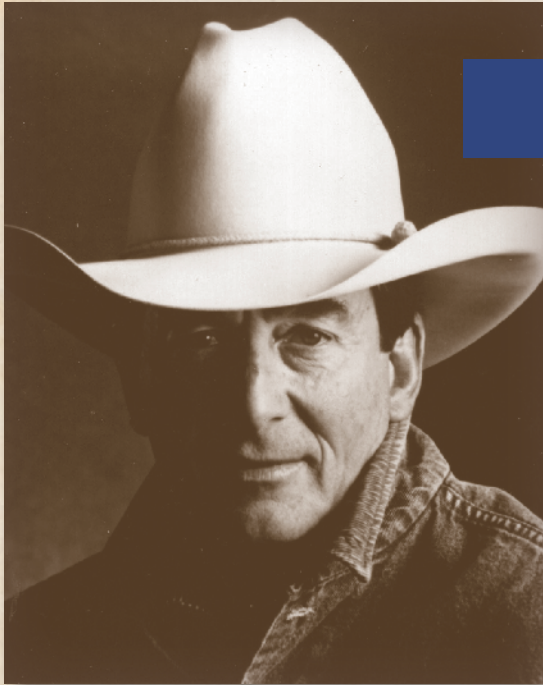
Example of Distribution Outlets:

- Arizona Folklore Preserve – Sierra Vista, AZ
- Autry National Center – Los Angeles, CA
- Museum of Western Film History – Lone Pine, CA
- Booth Western Art Museum – Cartersville, GA
- Stockyards Museum – Ft. Worth, TX
- Tigard Public Library, Tigard, OR
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
- iwesternmusic.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 505-563-0673

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

In the **CROSSHAIRS**



Ian Tyson Photo by Mascioli Entertainment.
Submitted.

*...Cowboy music is much freer
than the folk stuff. You're not
expected to do a certain song
a certain way every night.
There are no rules like that.
It's just 'Tell me a story.*

~ IAN TYSON

IAN DAWSON TYSON

THE TRILOGY

PART I

Overview – A Life with Many Influencers

By O.J. Sikes with Hugh McLennan

Ian Tyson was born in 1933 in Victoria, B.C., in Western Canada. His father, George, was a polo enthusiast and that inspired young Ian to learn to ride. He grew up reading Will James novels about the West and he developed rodeo skills in high school.

At the age of 19, he was riding bareback in a rodeo when the horse bucked him off and the hard landing broke his ankle. His hospital stay in a ward with several other injured riders gave him unanticipated time to learn to play the guitar. That, along with his early farm and ranch work, served him well later.

He first gained fame during the folk music craze of the 1960s, teaming up with Sylvia Fricker in 1959, and calling themselves Ian and Sylvia. They moved to the US in the early 1960s and started recording for the Vanguard label, focusing on traditional folk music, some of which had cowboy origins. Their first album was recorded in the Masonic Temple in Brooklyn, NY! Ian's composition, "Four Strong Winds," was a hit for other artists, and it was big enough to support the couple's other musical endeavors. Another early composition, the Western-themed "Someday Soon," became a hit for Judy Collins, and continued to be recorded by others, e.g., Suzy Boggus, Lynn Anderson, for decades.



Ian with Mary Ryland, Ruidoso, NM., mid-1900s.
Photo by Paul Mascioli. Submitted.

Ian and Sylvia married in 1964 and had a son, Clay, two years later. The couple separated in 1975, after years of fruitless searching for success in the country music field. All the while, Ian kept returning to his Western roots for inspiration, and then a hand-up came from an unexpected source: the hugely popular Canadian singer, Neil Young, recorded Ian's composition, "Four Strong Winds." The royalties made it possible for Ian to return to his Western roots and buy a ranch in the Alberta Rockies, where he could work with his horses and further develop his Western music. Since he didn't grow up with silver screen cowboys as his heroes, he didn't sing their Western songs, focusing instead on his own compositions and traditional cowboy ballads, some of which, e.g., "Leavin' Cheyenne," "Whoopie Ti-Yi-Yo," he included in his repertoire for the rest of his career.

When he returned to performing in Alberta, he found that his Western songs were enthusiastically received. Alberta became the base from which he recorded his "cowboy culture" albums, the first of which, *Old Corrals and Sagebrush* (which was actually recorded in his bunkhouse), and *Cowboyography*, became Western music classics. Songs like "The Gift," "Will James" and "Navajo Rug" came from this setting.

In the early years of the annual Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering, he brought his songs south to Elko, NV where he became a major musical attraction, with fans coming from all over the country to hear his music. In later years, Tyson developed a reputation for being somewhat cantankerous, but that didn't

interfere with his ability to entertain crowds. Fans loved him (the YouTube video of one of his Elko concerts is highly recommended).

Late in his career Ian lost his voice due to a virus. In 2008, he attempted to record again, in spite of this disability, but his attempts were disappointing. Fortunately, a difficult surgical procedure restored his voice and Tyson was able to continue to sing for years, in Elko and elsewhere. He wrote and sang about the West he knew and loved, as he trained cutting horses and enjoyed watching the sun set on his beloved Alberta Plains, where he passed away at his ranch on December 29, 2022, at the age of 89.

NOTE: *With special thanks to Mary Rogers and the late Guy Logsdon and Bill Jacobson. Ian Tyson was a great supporter of his friend Hugh McLennan's weekly "Spirit of the West" radio show <http://www.hugh-mclennan.com>.*

PART II

The Epiphany – The Winding Road That Led Back Home

By Don Cusic

(Excerpted from article "Ian Tyson")

When he was in his 40s, Ian Tyson fell in love with the English language. He read a lot and wrote a lot and out of that has come his western songs. Those songs happened at the right time because it was during that period when The Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering began, and that brought to light the cowboy culture that has blossomed into a genre that had been forgotten: western music.

The early years were years of stumbling for Tyson. He stumbled into being a musician, to his success in folk music, then stumbled out of the folk era, out of his marriage to singing partner Sylvia, and then stumbled into the West. But, as Tyson notes, "when you stumble into something, you have to do something about it." Tyson did that, developing a strong career on the folk circuit for about ten years before hosting a popular TV show in Toronto, then moving to Alberta where he found a home in western music...

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7

The folk craze hit America in 1958 when The Kingston Trio's "Tom Dooley" reached number one on the pop charts. Soon, almost everyone was playing a guitar and singing folk songs and Tyson joined the crowd. He formed a duet with Don Francks and quickly established himself on the Toronto folk music scene... In 1959 he met Sylvia Fricker while he was still working with the ad agency. She sang to him over the phone, wanting help to break into the folk circles in Toronto, and they met soon afterwards. Sylvia, from Chatham, Ontario, about 30 miles east of Detroit, was seven years younger than Tyson and came from a musical family.

Ian and Sylvia began performing together in 1959 after she had moved to Toronto in the fall of that year. They put together an impressive repertoire of blues, spirituals, English and Scottish ballads and American folk songs and practiced their act. In the summer of 1961, they performed at the first Mariposa Folk Festival and acquired a manager, Edgar Cowan, who was involved with Mariposa.

Ian & Sylvia had gone as far as they could go in Toronto, so they set their sights on New York, the mecca for folk singers. Cowan sent letters to a number of agents and set up a few appointments in New York. Joe Taylor, a newspaperman, drove them down and they went to Gerde's Folk City, where they performed. This caught the ear of legendary manager Albert Grossman, who was managing Odetta at the time and was putting together the group that would become Peter, Paul and Mary.

Grossman signed them to a management contract, got them a record contract with Vanguard, and booked them into the Gate O'Horn in Chicago for six weeks... In 1961 they had a real breakthrough when they performed on the main stage at the Newport Folk Festival and their performance was reviewed by Robert Shelton in the New York Times. Soon afterward, they played a concert at Town Hall in New York and that show was also reviewed by the New York Times.

Ian & Sylvia recorded their first two albums, Northern Journey and Early Morning Rain. At this point, Ian Tyson had all but forgotten

about his love for the West and cowboys. He was a successful folk singer, making good money and performing in concert; Ian & Sylvia sold out Carnegie Hall twice.

Inspired by Bob Dylan, who had begun writing songs, Ian tried his hand at writing and his first attempt produced the classic "Four Strong Winds," which they recorded on their second album.

The song came easily to Ian on a rainy fall day as he sat in Albert Grossman's New York apartment. It was an autobiographical song, written about that Greek girlfriend from his art school days, although Tyson later admitted he "didn't know what the four strong winds were."

A later song, "Someday Soon," which was originally a big hit for Judy Collins "was completely made up. I don't know where it came from, but I made it up," said Tyson...



Backstage, Ian's guitar and set list. Ruidoso, NM., mid-1990s. Photo by Paul Mascioli. Submitted.

When Ian got his first big check for “Four Strong Winds” in 1963, he bought a cattle farm in Newtonville, Ontario, east of Toronto. Then, in 1969, when the big check came from Judy Collins’ version of his song, “Someday Soon,” he bought the adjoining farm and stocked it with Hereford cattle and started breeding quarter horses. Sylvia was not interested in life on the farm; she was made for the city.

The best years for Ian & Sylvia were from mid-1962 until mid-1964, when they toured heavily and sold a good amount of albums for Vanguard. But in 1964 the Beatles hit and began the era of the British Invasion.

“The Beatles shut us down,” said Tyson in his biography, *I Never Sold My Saddle*. “It was over. OVER! We didn’t know how to play with electric instruments. We didn’t know how to use drums. We didn’t know how to EQ. Then California guys like Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead came up and they had several months on us. They’d been playing badly with amps, but at least they’d been doing it. All us folkies were just standing there with egg on our faces. The only one who had the guts to challenge the rock’n’roll guys on their own terms was Dylan. He just jumped in.”

... Ian & Sylvia tried to join the folk-rock movement with a country-rock band, *The Great Speckled Bird*, named after the Roy Acuff song that got him on the Grand Ole Opry in 1938. The folk music world had shunned country music during the 1960s because country music represented the conservative movement in America while the folkies were liberals. Ian Tyson had grown up loving country music in Canada and did not have that prejudice; Roy Acuff’s song “Wreck on the Highway” was a song he’d heard in his youth and always remembered. So the group went to Nashville and recorded Nashville, their last album for Vanguard.

Still, the duo had to contend with audiences who came to see and hear the Ian & Sylvia of old, not a re-invented country-rock group. Success had trapped them and they felt locked in, unable to change.

“We should have changed our music,” said Tyson. “But we still had one foot in the Ian & Sylvia thing. We got what we deserved, I guess, which was nothing.”

... Ian Tyson then became host of “Nashville North” in 1969; the following season it became “The Ian Tyson Show.” This was broadcast on CFTO, Toronto’s



Ian in Ruidoso, NM., mid-1990s.
Photo by Paul Mascioli. Submitted.

flagship station on the Canadian Television Network, CTV. Sylvia only appeared on half of the shows; this was Ian’s show and he performed Nashville-style country music. His rival was “The Tommy Hunter Show,” a popular program on the CBC network.

Tyson was, by his own admission, “pretty messed up during that time,” smoking a lot of marijuana, and frustrated with the demands of stardom and the music industry. Whenever possible, he slipped away from Toronto and headed out to his 300-acre farm.

Beginning with the TV show, Ian became a solo act and was doing quite well when suddenly, in 1975, he quit the show, recorded an album for A&M, *Ol’ Eon*, and headed out as a solo act. Things did not go well and by the Fall of 1976 his life was falling apart, both personally and professionally.

At the Ranchman’s, Tyson met a teenage waitress, Twylla Biblow, who helped him at the ranch. Their daughter was born at the beginning of 1986; in July, the couple wed.

Shortly after the birth of his daughter, Ian Tyson went to Elko, Nevada to perform at the “Cowboy Poetry Gathering.” This event, started in 1984 by folklorist Hal

Continued on page 10

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 9

Cannon and cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell, would be a seminal event in the resurgence of “cowboy culture” in the United States.

In 1983, Ian had released *Old Corrals and Sagebrush*, an album of western songs for Columbia Records. The album was recorded in his home and was inspired by an old friend who shod horses and encouraged Tyson to sing some old songs with just his guitar. That led to him writing songs and recording the album. That album led to Tyson’s appearance at the first Elko gathering.

“There’s no way to minimize the power of Elko to our sub-culture,” said Tyson. “Waddie Mitchell and Hal Cannon didn’t know it when they started it, but it was something that was waiting to happen. It created a small industry.”

It was through recording this album, and then his appearance at Elko, that Ian Tyson finally found his voice. “It’s like it was preordained,” he said. “It’s like I was selected by something, somebody to do this. I know how changeable and difficult the journey was. When I finally got here, it was like waking up and realizing that this was the work I was always meant to do. It’s scary, but it’s also wonderful. Cowboy music is much freer than the folk stuff. You’re not expected to do a certain song a certain way every night. There are no rules like that. It’s just “Tell me a story.””

The performance at Elko was an epiphany for Ian Tyson. Here, he connected with the audience, and the audience connected with him. The heart and soul of cowboy life was gathered at Elko for the Poetry Gathering and Tyson’s songs were a communal experience for those gathered there. This is the kind of experience that most performers only dream about... Tyson’s next album, *Ian Tyson*, was also on Columbia, but did not sell well and he left the label. Then he was back on TV, co-hosting a show with Dick Caldwell in Edmonton, “Sun Country.” A new album was being born, but Tyson did not have the money, or label support, to record it... He contacted car dealer Einar Brasso and rancher Dan Lifkin, who bankrolled the album for \$37,000...

Cowboyography was pressed up on Eastern Slope Records, Ian’s own label, with the Edmonton-based Stony Plain label handling Canadian distribution. A song on that album, “Navajo Rug,” a song Tyson co-wrote with Tom Russell, was a hit on radio, gaining considerable airplay.

But it was the album that established Ian Tyson as a voice for the West. Some of the songs on the album were old ones; “Old Cheyenne” came from the *You Were On My Mind* album in 1972 and “Summer Wages” was on two Ian & Sylvia albums, *So Much for Dreaming* in 1967 and *Ian and Sylvia* in 1971. The album sold over 100,000 copies and led to Tyson receiving his first awards.

“I’m singing subculture music for an audience that’s gotten much bigger than the subculture,” said Tyson. “I just wanted to be the voice of the cowboys, the working cowboys, because those guys can’t relate to the Nashville urban cowboys. I just wanted to speak for them. I didn’t know it was going to get out-of-hand.”

In 1988, Tyson released *I Outgrew the Wagon*, then five more albums followed: *And Stood There Amazed* (1991), *Eighteen Inches of Rain* (1994), *All the Good’uns* (1996), *Lost Herd* (1999) and *Live at Longview* (2002). Each of these albums solidified Tyson’s reputation as a voice of the West, from the West, for the West.

In November 2003, Ian Tyson went into a studio in Toronto and recorded *Songs From the Gravel Road*. The title comes from a gravel road, about a mile long, that Tyson walks to get to his cabin, where he writes songs. He recorded with studio musicians who were not “country” or “western.”

... Ian Tyson is unique among western singers because he wasn’t strongly influenced by the singing cowboys, like Gene Autry and Roy Rogers “although I went to those movies. And I distinctly remember seeing Tex Ritter and the Sons of the Pioneers perform when I was a kid.”... “I’m a rancher,” said Tyson. “Music has given me an opportunity to have a ranch. I never thought about doing music at this point in my life when I was younger and, in fact, I tried to quit several times. But I always came back to it.”

NOTE: *Quotes for this article came from: Tyson, Ian. Phone interview with author, March 2, 2005. For further reading: Tyson, Ian with Colin Escott. I Never Sold My Saddle. Vancouver, B.C.: Douglas*



Hiland Theater Marquee, Albuquerque, NM., mid-1990s.
Photo courtesy of Mary Ryland.

PART III

The Private Man – Personal Stories

By Rick Huff with Mary Ryland

Offering a reminiscence about our friend Ian Tyson has perils that include getting it right, trying for the honesty Ian would value, risking leaving out something crucial and, of course, having to choose from among the many goodies residing in that basket!!

Some descriptions? Brilliant, rambunctious, feisty, hilarious, eccentric, private, public, maddening, rollicking, contrary, focused, original. Ian could be expansive while playing cards close to the vest. He could be a barn burner and, yes, occasionally a bridge burner causing on-again off-again then mostly on-again-again relationships. All contingent on who, what, when and where. The “why” of it was most often left to the Ian enigma. Those he allowed into his inner circle achieved that once Ian confirmed their personal truth. Mary Ryland and I managed to make the cut. Mary was granted Ian’s personal phone number and “the secret” of raising him on it. Call after 6 PM and, if home, Ian would pick up.

If you were in his circle, Ian would circle you. He was an interesting cat. Occasionally friends of a cat find themselves becoming willing staff. This was doubtlessly because we knew from the outset Ian could swoop in and wing us away into some unexpected escapade or just suddenly blow through town and call you for breakfast. One morning in the early 2000s our phone rang. Ian and wife Twylla

were motoring into Albuquerque to catch a plane and would like us to join them for breakfast in Old Town. We met at Little Anita’s and had a high old time. In fact Old Town Albuquerque was where I first met Ian. We had dinner with him at the High Noon Restaurant. As it happened, we ordered three separate hors d’oeuvres. Upon telling Ian it’s a Southwestern custom for all at the table to sample each, he plunged in. He stood and magnanimously sliced up servings of brie cheese for each of us.

Nothing I ever could have pictured!

Through her Sidekick Productions, in 1999 Mary booked Ian into Albuquerque’s Hiland Theater, but her relationship with him dated from nearly a decade earlier. In the early 90s Mary once found herself tasked with driving Ian and then-manager Paul Mascioli to an event at Ruidoso, New Mexico’s Museum Of The Horse. When she accidentally passed the turn-in for it, she tried to cover with “here we need to make a U-turn.” A pause. Then Ian erupted with laughter. “Here we need to make a U-turn???” Mary, you missed the damned street, didn’t you??!! ‘Here we need to make a U-turn,’ she says!!!” Mary always knew how to take Ian. Over the

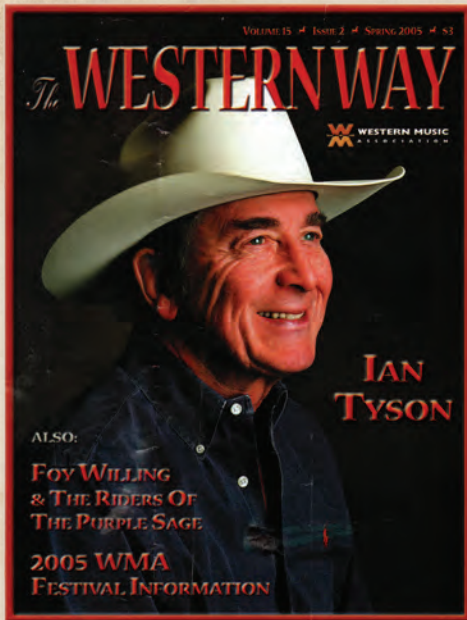


Ian signs “Lost Herd” poster for a fan in Albuquerque, NM, August 1999. Photo courtesy of Mary Ryland.

Continued on page 12

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 11



Ian on the cover of *Western Way* in Spring 2005 issue

years, she would needle him to write a song about New Mexico. “You’re here so much!” she’d say. Finally he told her he’d filled her request (“Road To Las Cruces” on the album “Songs From The Gravel Road”). When she heard it, she playfully advised him “you can’t actually see the lights of El Paso from Raton.” “Mary,” Ian replied with mock exasperation, “I’ve written the (expletive) song, not drawn the (expletive) map!”

Ian seemed to genuinely enjoy Mary, who he called “The Poster Queen” because of the number of them she’d had him sign for her. One year we attended a show of Ian’s at Elko’s Red Lion Inn. Afterwards Mary was standing at the back of the room talking with Hal Cannon. When Ian came out front, I watched him sidle into and out of quick encounters, moving around the perimeter until he quietly landed beside her, basically unobserved. Offstage that was the state he sought.

That same year in Elko found Ian in his street disguise (ball cap, sweats and shades) standing at the back of the school house stage on the hill listening to a Kip Calahan/Tom Russell set. I saw Ian, who mimed a “sh” with finger to lips. But Tom Russell spotted him and devilishly goaded him up onto the stage for a jam that eventually included Ramblin’ Jack Elliott. Such is the spontaneous magic of Elko!

My own moment of highest service to Mr. T came after his distress call on Thanksgiving Day of 2009 or 10, I’m thinking. Ian was stranded at Albuquerque’s International Sunport, the victim of a flight connection error. Facing being caught with a frozen truck and having to camp out overnight in his tiny regional Canadian airport, Ian had gone to the airline desk to argue the point. There he learned of another possible connection to be made through Arizona, but the flight was departing Albuquerque in just an hour! Could I get him back to his La Quinta Motel room on the north side to retrieve his luggage?! Certainly! I roar to the rescue, grab Ian, scream up I-25 to his room! As Ian stands on the second-floor landing pitching suitcase, duffel bag and more down into my (hopefully) ready arms, I javelin things into the open car and we’re off, running stoplights all the way!!! “I hoped you would do that!” Ian sighed with relief. We howled into the Sunport, mere minutes to spare, and Ian made it home that night! This was back when that scenario could actually work. But, there’s more to the story.

In his haste at the motel, Ian missed packing a cherished pair of work boots. Did he want them sent? No, he’d be back in a few months and he’d get them then. Roll the calendar forward a couple of years! Ian calls. “Are you coming to Elko?” “Yes.” “Bring them with you!” Cut to the lobby of the big Elko concert hall. It’s just after a show of Ian’s and he’s sitting at the table signing CDs. He spies Mary and me sitting at some distance across the hall, slams both hands on the table, rises and stalks directly over to us, mock-gruffly bellowing “Mary Ryland!!! Where’s my damned boots??!!” Leaving the amazed fans standing at the autograph table, Ian accompanied me out to our rental car to retrieve his beloved footwear!!

There’s plenty more to be told, but I want to gather the multitude of stories from his other buds in a book I’m intending to call “Bein’ With Ian!” Ian’s departure from us, his circle, has left a unique kind of void. The new adventures are over, but hopefully we will always think of him with a certain wag of the head and the special club grin. Ian would approve of that. 🐾

In Memory of
Canadian Country-Folk Icon,
IAN TYSON 1933 – 2022

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.



THE ENCOUNTER

by Jennifer Epps

*I'm a herd dog from down under, 'fraid of
Little, save for thunder, and of
Fire, since it burned my forest down. Most days are*

*Boring, free from battle. I herd
Cats instead of cattle, in a*

*Cozy little cottage close to town. I wear a
Coat, I love it coolish, but my
People act most foolish. When the
Leaves begin to turn, they pack and run. With*

*Guitars and flutes and singing, and our
Gear a-jing-a-linging, we
Journey south to catch some desert sun. I pause at*

*Each and ev'ry tree, wond'ring
Who stopped here to pee. I love
Adventures with my fav'rite human friend. I'd sniffed strange*

*Breeds of squirrel & rabbit.
Curiosity was a habit, 'til last
Night. I thought I'd finally met my end. We camped*

*Beside a sandy wash. In
Desert terms, by gosh, it was a
Green and lovely spot we could explore. That*

*Afternoon, I'd followed scent, but couldn't
Find just where things went. What looked like
Deer tracks smelled like something much, much more. 'Twas the*

*Last pee of the night. I knew that
Somethin' just weren't right. I could
Smell it in the air, to be precise. My human*

*Clearly couldn't smell it. She was
Clueless; you could tell it. She just
Stood there, and she stared at her device. I did my*

*Business. It was out there. Near the
Cactus. Right about there. Something
Close. So I sounded the alarm. We had*

*Neighbors, so she shushed me, then that
Hairy beast ambushed me! I
Shuddered. I was sure it meant me harm. Like a*

*Pig, but much more hairy, it was
Dark, and it was scary! I
Looked around, and gave one final call. Then I*

*Dove under our rig to
Escape that hairy pig. Yes, I
Left my human there to take the fall. It*

*Charged. She gave a holler, but that
Beast, it didn't foller. What she
Said to it, I really couldn't say. But I*

*Know, because I smelled it, that
When my person yelled it, she
Used her pee to scare that beast away. Now, it*

*Ain't my style, a-marking, but I'm
Tellin' ya, if parking near a
Desert wash or such becomes a habit, I'll pee a*

*Circle while it's light before I
Step into the night, so the
Biggest beast I meet will be a rabbit!*



JENNIFER EPPS sings with the award-winning duo Notable Exceptions, and she sure knows how to tell a good story. Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, she worked for 18 years in the Cascade Mountains as a cowboy-for-hire with a local cow/calf operation, and wrangled dudes on pack trips into the Pasayten Wilderness. Jennifer was born to be a performer. An extroverted introvert, she enjoys telling tales (as long as they rhyme) to anyone who might listen. Her cat is bored with her, but her Australian Shepherd, Wyatt Ann, loves to hear songs and stories about anything at all (especially herself). This is a true story about the night Jennifer and Wyatt Ann encountered a javelina in the Sonoran desert.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**Ashley Westcott** and the Cowgirls Historical Foundation worked the "Childhelp Drive the Dream Gala" in Phoenix, AZ in February. The Cowgirl Historical Foundation preserves the western way of life by wearing vintage cowgirl attire from the 1930's-80's. Many of these outfits were worn by **Dale Evans** herself. The outfit Ashley wore was a Nudie Cohn who made the same outfits for Elvis, Loretta Lynn, Porter Wagoner, Roy Rogers, John Wayne, and Glen Campbell, and was worth over \$10,000! While at the gala, Ashley was able to visit with **Red Steagall** and talk about cowboy poetry and keeping the western way of living alive. Red performed cowboy poetry and sang "Preacher and the Bear" along with "Ol' North Star." Ashley was able to visit with **Reba McEntire** that evening as well. Reba won the Woman of the Year Award and was very kind to Ashley and the rest of the girls in the Cowgirls Historical Foundation. Reba loved their outfits!

...**Legend of the Pioneers** (Marty Davis, Daniel Hanson, and Lindy Rasmusson) will be performing on the American Cruise Lines Sacramento River cruises and Columbia River cruises in 2023 in addition to their regular fair and arts council gigs. In August, they will be the opening act for the country group Sawyer Brown. At the same time, the book written by Kate Davis, *Legendary Singing Cowboys of the Saturday Matinee*, is doing well as is a book written by their son, Bret Davis, titled *The Started Colt*.

...**Larry Krause** is producing the LIVE@Broda Lounge Concert Series in Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan through May. While the ten-concert series reflects a broad range of musical styles, he is also focusing on some concerts that feature Western Roots and Western Music. Larry has also partnered with Wheatland Express Railway Excursions, based out of Wakaw, Saskatchewan, as the pre-boarding concert entertainment for patrons of the excursions through the summer.

...Over the past year, **Jon Chandler** has written a manuscript about the history of Hole in the Wall Gang, a western heritage organization that celebrated its 45th

annual Trail Ride in Wyoming last September. On January 27, Jon and several representatives of the Gang presented the manuscript, ancillary historical documents/photos/videos, and several artifacts (including Jon's *The Gang* CD) at a formal ceremony for permanent inclusion in the Colorado History Museum's collection. Also, Jon will be the keynote speaker at Between the Pages Writer's Conference in Springfield, MO in June.

...The Fruita Fall Festival gave **Peggy Malone** the honor of being their Grand Marshal this year. She got to ride in the prestigious horse-drawn coach. Bill and Linda Patterson, Peggy's husband Billy, and their daughter Beth joined her on this ride. Billy waved his cowboy hat at everyone while Peggy sang and played guitar along the parade route.

...**Dave Munsick** was invited by the Governor of Wyoming to perform his song "Forever West" for the 2023 inauguration. Afterward, he played fiddle with one of his sons' band for the inaugural ball. He has also just released a new record titled *Backtracks*.

...Freelance writing in February took **Almeda Bradshaw** to the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, TX. In March, she played the James Memorial Art Center and gave flat pick guitar workshops in Williston, ND. April saw Almeda back in Texas covering the Andy Hedges CD release show in Lubbock for Bob Saul of My Comancheria Institute.

...In April, Oregon poet **Tom Swearingen** served for the second time as judge for the Tualatin Historical Society's Arbor Day Poetry Contest.

...**Jean Prescott** has released a new gospel CD simply titled *Joy*. Her CD Release Party at Salt Branch Cowboy Church was a huge success.

...**Greg Hager** will be making his fourth concert tour to Japan in May. He is also currently recording his 10th album which should be out of production by early summer.

...**Dan Robert Crow** is the 2023 recipient of the Pasajero Del Camino Real Award from the Dona Ana Historical Society in Las Cruces, NM. The award is given to the author of a significant historical publication about events, places or issues in Southwest lore. It honors his album of original western songs, *Sidekicks and Saddle Pals*.

...A new trio called **The Outlaw Firm** has been formed with **Mike Blakely, John Arthur Martinez, and John M. Greenberg**. The group has already begun recording its first album as an official trio. These three Texas-based songwriters have been collaborating on recordings and live shows for over 25 years and have performed in many states and foreign countries before forming this new band.

...*Purple Sage (And other Tales from the Plateau)* is the title of latest album release by the **Dan Canyon Band**. The Waterville Plateau in central Washington is approximately 40 x 40 miles and sits in the crook of the Big Bend of the Columbia River, 2000 feet above. It is thinly populated and one of the last "wide open spaces" in the state. It was an inspiration for some of the new songs. The band is now writing songs for a third album.

...After releasing her *Flower Songs in Sagebrush Town* album in 2020, **Tracy Morrison** found herself with no place to play because of the pandemic. So she moved back to rural country life and purchased a stagecoach station built in 1862 and began renovating it. Her outside living in a tipi during this time has inspired her to write several new western songs. We hope to hear some of them at the IWMA soon.

...**Kristyn Harris** was the 2022 recipient of the Country Music Association of Texas' "Cowboy Western Entertainer of the Year" Award, presented in Lubbock, TX in October. She also won "Female Country Cover Song of the Year" at the International Red Carpet Awards in Holland for her recording of Corb Lund's "Cows Around." This is a juried award with juries from countries all over the world as well as nominees from all over the world. She will be returning to Europe for the 5th time on tour this coming fall, performing at several large venues and backed by a band of French musicians.

...In January, Amazon released the book of poetry titled *Cowboy Poets: Writers Of The West*, written and illustrated by "**Kansas Jim**" **John** under John's given name, James John. Kansas Jim is currently working with RedCat Recording Studio on a follow-up CD to accompany the book. It will be available shortly.

...**The Timberline Cowboys** are currently recording their next CD, *Corral Dust & Crosses*, due to be released during the Spring thaw. All but one of the songs will be original. A single from the CD, "The Cross Upon the Hill," debuted on the Circuit Rider Roundup in February. They are also in the planning stages of the 2023 Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, as both of them are members of the DCPG board of directors.

...After 6 1/2 years of working in the Sweetwater Studios as a producer, engineer, and musician, **Dave Martin** has resigned and has rejoined the world of free-lance work. He will still be helping people make records wherever there are professional studios and great musicians.

...**The Carolyn Martin Swing Band** will be performing in Penticton, BC September 8-10 with all 6 members - Carolyn and **Dave Martin** with Rory Hoffman on accordion, guitar, and clarinet, Paul Kramer playing fiddle, steel guitarist Eddie Lange, and drummer Ray Von Rotz.

...**Tommy Tucker**, KRLC radio, and **Bodie Dominguez** are working on organizing a cowboy gathering in cooperation with the Columbia Chapter of the IWMA for spring of 2023 at the Elks lodge in Lewiston, ID. They are currently working on funding for the project. More information will follow as progress is made.

...**Bob Thomas** will be releasing his tenth studio CD in August or September (depending on how things go). The untitled CD will feature ten original new songs.

...In March, Unity Church and **Larry Wilder** partnered in fundraising for Raphael House, an organization which provides life-saving services to adults and children fleeing abuse while working to prevent future violence through community education and advocacy. A one-hour concert was held for the raising of funds.

Continued on page 17

WESTERN EVENTS CALENDAR

2023

SALADO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

MAY 5-7 – Salado, TX

COWBOY SWING!

JUNE 17 – Cleburne, TX

GRAND ENCAMPMENT COWBOY GATHERING

JUL 14-16 – Encampment, WY

ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING

AUG 10-13 – Prescott, AZ

MONTANA COWBOY POETRY GATHERING AND WESTERN MUSIC RENDEZVOUS

AUG 10-13 – Lewistown, MT

SAN ANGELO COWBOY GATHERING

SEP 8-9 – San Angelo, TX

WALNUT VALLEY FESTIVAL

SEP 13-17 – Winfield, KS

DURANGO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

SEP 28-OCT 1 – Durango, CO

WINNSBORO COWBOY MUSIC & POETRY GATHERING

SEP 30 – Winnsboro, TX

WAXAHACHIE CHAUTAUQUA COWBOY POET GATHERING

SEP 30 – Waxahachie, TX

Relax before the show on the deck, listen to the stream and maybe catch the wildlife passing through.

The BEST Western and Acoustic Entertainment Center in the Southwest

ARIZONA FOLKLORE PRESERVE

Shows on **Saturdays** and **Sundays**
2PM throughout the year!
(Doors open at 1PM)

For **Reservations**

Call: (520) 378-6165

Ticket price \$15 for adult and \$6 for 17 and under

Address:

56 East Folklore Trail - Hereford, AZ
In Ramsey Canyon - Just 6 Miles South of Sierra Vista
(Highways 90 & 92 intersection)

Mailing Address: PO Box 235, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636
www.arizonafolklore.com



Artist Contact:

Mike Rutherford
mike@rdiinc.us

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.



QUOTABLE COWBOYS
BY DAVID SAWYER

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 15

...On behalf of the Durango Cowboy poetry gathering, poet **Lindy Simmons** will be making presentations in area elementary schools this spring, guiding youth in writing cowboy poetry. The gathering is gearing up for a young folks' poetry contest as part of their youth program. Lindy was recently selected to be featured in the Durango Women's Resource Center's "Women Who Tell Stories" public display, celebrating those who have dedicated their time and talent to storytelling.

...**Joe Brown**, writing as E. Joe Brown, was live on YouTube on the national program *Author Talk* in January. The manuscript for his second novel in the *Kelly Can Saga* series is at the publisher. In March, Joe gave a workshop on creating book tours to the "SouthWest Writers" in Albuquerque, NM. His fourth book tour began in March and included stops in Tulsa, OK, Ft. Smith and Fayetteville, AR, and Oklahoma City and Enid, OK. For more info, go to ejoebrown.com.

...Given to cowboy poet **Bob Upchurch** by a family member was a book of cowboy poetry and cowboy stories written by Lysius Gough (L. Gough) in the 1880's. L. Gough cowboied for the T-Anchor Ranch in the Palo Duro area of Texas. The name of the book is *Spur Jingles and Saddle Songs*. The book provides some very interesting reading. If anyone has any history of the T-Anchor Ranch, Bob would appreciate making contact.

...**Merel Bregante** reports that work on a new **Jim Jones** recording is moving right along. There's no release date yet, but it should be coming soon. Merel also tells us that his wife, **Sarah Pierce**, has just released a new album called *Cowgirl's Ride* that contains 15 songs dedicated to "the life" she was born and raised within. A new album from Sarah, tentatively titled *I Want To Go Home*, is scheduled for a summer/early fall release.

...**Lori Beth Brooke** presented a series of accordion Western Swing workshops for the National Accordion Association convention in Dallas, TX in March. This included a couple of hour-long Western Swing Techniques sessions, and a one-hour jam session. As a workshop presenter, Lori also performed a Western Swing segment on the Saturday evening show.

...Jessie Robertson, popularly known as **The Outlaw Jessie Del**, will be inducted into the Cowtown Society of Western

Swing Music as a "Western Music Hero" on Saturday, May 6, in Mineral Wells, TX. The organization has recognized performers in western and western swing music since 1999.

...**Miss Devon and The Outlaw** have a show twist for the younger set. Devon has appeared as Jessie, The Yodelin' Cowgirl since she recorded with the **Riders In The Sky** on the Toy Story 2 Disney CD back in the year 2000. But now, Jessie Del Robertson is appearing by her side as "Smelly Del, Stinky Pete's cousin" - a good thing to know when planning upbeat western music kids shows.

...After spending the winter on the beaches of the Riviera Nayarit, Mexico, **A Little Farther West** (Susie and Robert Maxwell Case) is back in Oklahoma beginning to record their sixth album. Tentatively titled *Western Electric*, the duo is anticipating a release date of October 1 of this year.

...On Super Bowl Sunday, eight-year-old **Reagan Chandler**, grand-daughter of **Jon Chandler**, joined her Denver-based cheer team, the Little Coconuts, who won their first national championship at the Spirit Sports Cheer and Dance competition in Kansas City.

...**Jordan Raschke**, grandson of **Gary & Jean Prescott**, was selected to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes 2023 All-Star Basketball Team. The game will be played in June at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX. Jordan will attend McMurry University in Abilene, TX in the fall on athletic and academic scholarships. Also, the Prescott's attended the wedding of their grandson, **Atley Beck**, in April. And a third grandson, **Jerrod Beck**, has begun a master's program in early child development in Portland, OR.

...Following in his dad's footsteps, **Casey Canyon**, son of Dan Canyon of the **Dan Canyon Band**, has taken a new job with United Airlines. He is excited to be part of one of the legacy airlines.

...**Gary and Louanne Kirkman** were blessed with a 6 lb. 11 oz. great-grandson, Hayes Thomas Heap, born on Feb. 8 in Anchorage, AK. That makes number eight for them.

...**Marvin and Theresa O'Dell** became first-time great-grandparents on January 31 when 7 lb. 3 oz. Owen Arellano successfully made his grand entrance. 🐾



Coffee AND CONVERSATION

BY PETER BRUCE



Every November, many of the readers of this magazine gather in Albuquerque for an annual celebration of music, education and the Western lifestyle. One component of the IWMA gathering is a small meeting of producers, promoters and musicians: Coffee With the DJs. As a participant, and more recently, a host of this roundtable discussion, I was pleasantly surprised (actually kind of shocked) at the robust attendance. From poets to pickers, studio engineers to announcers, a huge cross section of Western music aficionados was represented.

The aim: how to get exposure and airplay for our songs and poems? This is particularly challenging in this day and age. The struggles of small-town radio stations are a problem. Faced with conglomeration and tight budgets, programmers are up against competition from different angles. However, as with any quandary, there is also opportunity. The Internet is a prime example, with chances to present Western music worldwide. Podcasting is another way to expose audiences not necessarily familiar with what we're attempting to achieve. As with any idea, sometimes technology can be an issue. For those not initiated with 'new tech', the challenges can seem insurmountable. But with guidance and patience, those struggles can be overcome.

We're all lifelong learners and we should embrace new ways of doing things. The phrase, 'broadening our horizons', applies here. In a dynamic meeting of the minds, I was truly impressed with the suggestions, observations and input offered at the Coffee event. A chief topic discussed was the usage of CDs versus mp3s. Everyone has their own opinion on this. Personally,

I prefer a disc with artwork, liner notes and musician credits. One noted producer and engineer also spoke to the superior sound quality of CDs. From the other side was the performer's lament; in that it is so expensive to produce and distribute CD 'albums'. Other artists have gone to CD singles in an effort to trim costs. From the poet's or musician's perspective too, is the question: "Will my music ever get in the right hands, i.e., get airplay?"

Here is a list of possible options for Western music artists to consider, as far as getting your music out there: social media (love it or hate it) is a great resource. You Tube is a great way to share. Also, there is a service out of Nashville called Airplay Direct. Sirius-XM, Spotify and Yardstream each have their advantages and limitations. And since the beginning of Covid, the Zoom platform has been and continues to be a very user-friendly way to engage with others and brainstorm concepts and strategies. Reaching your fan base is key to success for any performer. Sponsorships are great: just ask someone for help. Live concerts are coming back. Those are so useful in a music career (and fun!) Finally, connection to the rural lifestyle is something not to be neglected. Sure, lots of us live in cities and present our music there. But, I believe in an increasingly complicated, modern world, folks are clamoring for a more simple attitude about life. And that is integral to the themes and concepts contained in Western music. Let's keep it rolling. I am always ready to listen and learn and share what I know. Contact; peter.bruce@kaff.com, or Peter Bruce, c/o KAFF, 1117 W. Route 66, Flagstaff AZ, 86001. 🐾

PETER BRUCE is an announcer, producer, engineer and emcee with 40 years of experience in broadcasting, music and radio. In addition to his love of music, Peter is an avid outdoorsman. His hobbies include cycling, skiing, kayaking, hiking and swimming. Arizona is home most of the time when he's not roaming the planet.



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

Western and Cowboy sightings continue in all sorts of media. Somebody knows something! Yes, there was the Otezla commercial that featured a family in a Western tourist town, and yes, there was the lady tossing that giant lasso around for Intuit Turbo Tax and some cowboy folks bedded down on a Serta mattress in yet another TV commercial. Of course, the “Yellowstone”/“1883”/“1923” juggernaut gallops onward. But recently there has been some really specific stuff!

On January 21, 2023, I was idly looking over the comic strips in the Albuquerque Journal when I landed on “Pickles,” the popular syndicated strip by Brian Crane, and my eyes locked there in near disbelief!!!



Reprinted by permission

How did this come about??! Cartoonist Crane tells us. “Like most little boys growing up in the 50’s I dreamed of being a cowboy. My heroes were Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry and Lone Ranger. But growing up in a California suburb I didn’t know what real cowboys were like. Later, as a grown up, I worked at an ad agency in Idaho with Rod Miller, who grew up around horses and all things cowboy. He rode bulls in the rodeo and now is a writer of western novels. He more or less introduced me to cowboy poetry. A couple of years ago I attended the Cowboy Poetry gathering in Elko, NV with him. I have since done several series of my comic strip where Earl tries his hand at cowboy poems. They always seem to get a good reaction from my readers.”

I have encountered general Western and Cowboy nods before in daily strips. For example, occasionally Dennis The Menace trailed along in giddy-up garb and stick horse. But I dare say Brian Crane’s very mention of “Cowboy Poetry”

may send some people looking for the subject online, which might alert them to our Western Wordsmiths Chapter and maybe the International Western Music Association in turn. But it’s nice to have friends in high visibility places. “Pickles” runs in nearly 1000 papers worldwide!

In another sighting, an amazingly thorough Western “go see it do it and be it” publication showed up on the magazine racks during the first three months of 2023. Entitled “The Best Of The West” (hm...familiar ring...), its subtitle was “Your Guide to Where the Wild West Lives On.” Its publisher is 360Media, the hugely successful and savvy group that arose from the embattled National Enquirer. Such operations

don’t wildly throw at the wall to see what sticks. Their guide is divided into sections entitled “Welcome To The West,” “West World” (sights to behold), “How The West Is Done” (what to experience and how), “The Epic West” (movie locales to visit), “Still Standing” (frontier ghost towns),

“First Among Us” (Native American cultural sites and events), “The 21st Century Cowboy” (he’s still out there...), “Express Route” (touring the Pony Express sites), “Wild Bill Imbided Here” (where icons stayed & played), “Made In The West” (custom hats, boots, booze and more) and “Homes On The Range” (overnight mega-rentals)! Mixed in are concise but scholarly profiles of “The Legends” (Wyatt Earp, Billy The Kid, Sitting Bull, Belle Starr, Elfege Baca, Bass Reeves, Butch Cassidy, Stagecoach Mary and Geronimo). Taken page by page, it’s quite a trip!

What’s to be gleaned here? Same as always. Momentum is a valuable thing that shouldn’t be wasted. The market keeps offering us tickets in. So when will we attend the show?!! 🐾





Chapter Update

ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: Gary Kirkman
eskirkman@hotmail.com

We had a successful roundup in Green Valley, AZ on February 25. Eleven artists performed and the attendance was exceptional. John Paulson and Sherry Walker formally resigned as officers at the AZ meeting held at the Green Valley event, with Gary Kirkman President and Ashley Westcott sec/treasurer being voted in. We have an active membership with excellent talent, and we are looking forward to an exciting year.

BLACK HILLS & BEYOND CHAPTER

President: Brad Exton
ramblinrangers@yahoo.com

Greetings from the northern tier of the U.S. IWMA's newest chapter is working hard to get new members and fill committee and board positions. In the meantime, our members have had numerous performance opportunities. Pegie Douglas put together a very talented lineup to perform at the Rapid City, SD Stock Show in January. The lineup included Pegie, Paul Larson, the Kirkhams, (Allen and Jill), Bhodi Linde, and Sherl Cederburg. The show was a great success and we hope to see it take place again at next year's stock show. The Ramblin' Rangers, (Brad and Bonnie Jo Exton) spent their ninth season in southern New Mexico, playing a regular show at Hidden Valley



2023 Black Hills Stock Show performers



Brad and Bonnie Jo Exton spending time in New Mexico and Arizona.

Ranch, along with other venues in New Mexico and Arizona. The highlight of their season was playing three performances in Columbus, New Mexico at the 25th Annual Cabalgata Binacional and Fiesta de Amistad, during the annual Pancho Villa Days. Our young, talented poet from North Dakota, Carson Houser, performed at the Lonestar Cowboy Gathering in Alpine, Texas, and to his surprise, came home with the Buck Ramsey Award. Every year the Lonestar Gathering, Board of Directors, solicits nominations in Buck's memory for individuals who demonstrate significant promise in contributing to the "cowboy tribe" through their poetry, music, and story. We are extremely proud of his accomplishment. John Lowell from Montana will journey to England this spring to teach songwriting at the Sore Fingers Music School in Cotswold. This is the eighth time John has traveled there to teach songwriting, guitar playing, and singing. He will also get to

see his first grandchild who was born in England this past January. Another North Dakotan, Greg Hager is currently in the studio, working on his tenth album. This will be a country/gospel CD and will hopefully be out by early summer. Greg will also be making his fourth musical tour in Japan in May. They love his music over there. Kimberly Kaye Bachman was a featured performer on KC LaCourse's, "Hearts of the West" program, while also performing at the High Country Guest Ranch in the Black Hills this spring. Almeda Bradshaw was featured by DMJ Productions in concert at the James Memorial Art Center in Williston, ND. She also presented several workshops to a number of flat picking guitar enthusiasts. Buffalo Bill and Dr. Jo helped out the New Mexico Chapter by performing at the Best Western in Albuquerque in March. Hope to see them back in Wyoming soon. As a new chapter, we are full of ideas and enthusiasm for the future of our group. We currently are working on two showcases for this spring and summer in the Black Hills, and hope to explore opportunities for others in the surrounding states. We hope to continue with our growth and encourage all of you to become members of this exciting, new chapter.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Greg Khougaz
Gregkhougaz@earthlink.net

Greetings from Rainy/Snowy California! With the most rain and snow in years, we are enjoying end-of-drought parties. More importantly, with live events finally permitted again, we are back at

Continued on page 26

Two-Cents of Songwriter Savvy

BY A.B. SHAW



In the winter issue installment of my “Two Cents of Songwriter Savvy,” I talked about using an existing song as a melodic template and I ended with a tongue in cheek call to worry about your song’s total originality once the royalty checks started pouring in. As songwriters in a world that glorifies the popular performing artists, we all have the grandiose dream of making it big lurking within us. We’re not fooled by the façade of the humble creator who crafts purely for the love of music and art and refuses to be tainted by something so crass as money. Money?!! Who needs THAT?

I always thought it strange when I told other players that I was working my music as a business, and they would make some stupid remark about how they’d never do that, no, because once you do it for money, it loses all its fun. I didn’t tell them, of course, but I thought they were nuts. I was working at what I loved to do, and I was getting paid for it and I was enjoying the heck out of myself. I wonder perhaps if their dismissal of my choice to be a working musician was a cover for the fact that they either couldn’t do what I was doing or chose not to, for whatever reason. Granted, they were making better money as a plumber or accountant than I was as a performer, but I was being “true to myself.”

So, have I made any money as a singer songwriter? Yes, I have. Not a lot and I mostly hover around the break even point which, in a not-so-lucrative line of work, is a good place to be. I realized early on, after I produced my first CD, I had to become the Fuller Brush Lady of my product. I wasn’t selling door-to-door, but I was selling senior community to tavern to gathering to library and more. The travel was fun. The equipment wrangling was part of my fitness program, and I was paid to bring pleasure to a lot of people. By “singing for my supper,” I followed in the footsteps of the ancient troubadour, the wandering minstrel, with my talent for telling stories and singing ballads. When a minstrel plied his trade in a tavern, he was paid for his trouble with a meal, or his supper. I wasn’t always fed, but I was paid for my performance, the

compensation that kept me in the black. Problem is, I continued to write songs and produce CDs, which hurt my bottom line.

The fact is, songs are a dime a dozen, meaning they are “common and mostly worthless.” This idiom has been around since at least the early 1600s, and probably longer. It’s found in William Shakespeare’s “All’s Well That Ends Well.” Around this time, people would sing on the street for pennies.

Interestingly, that’s what songs are still worth. The going mechanical rate is 9.1 cents per recording. The trick is first having someone record one of those hundreds of great songs you’ve written and press a minimum of 1,000 copies to earn \$91.00 to pay for a tank of gas. Or you can spend thousands of dollars to record it yourself and have digital platforms pay you fractions of pennies for any tracks that are played or purchased. No matter what, songs are still a dime a dozen.

When someone tells me they’ve written some ridiculously high number of songs, I smile and say, “Good for you!” I don’t ask them how many are worth listening to or if they’ve put any food on the table. Please excuse my cynicism, but unless they’re another Fanny Crosby, I don’t get too excited about quantity. It usually takes that many to produce one song of quality.

On the brighter side, there are more reasons than money to pen words to music. Songs are therapy. Good mental exercise. Self-expression. Storytelling. A record of history. In 2012, I wrote a song for the 100th anniversary of our family’s North Idaho property. I performed it for the fourth, fifth and sixth generations of family and friends attending the celebration. It tells the story of how my great grandfather bought a quarter section of land from the original homesteader, Davey

Continued on page 22

Almeda Bradshaw comes from a long line of writers. Her bookshelves hold a treasure of family journals, diaries, books and manuscripts dating back to the late 1800s. Almeda feels privileged to be carrying on that tradition through her own life of journaling, essays, poetry, songwriting and, under the pen name **A.B. Shaw**, her work as a free-lance writer and future novelist.

TWO-CENTS OF SONGWRITER SAVVY

Continued from page 21

Robinson, and Robinson Lake became a part of our history. No one is going to get excited about this song except the people who know and have a relationship to the place. It's not a top ten hit. It's not going to make a million. But it wasn't meant to.

So, until you are faced with the dilemma of dividing royalties with a composer whose melody you used, I say relax. Enjoy the process of songwriting. Don't worry about borrowing a well-loved melody to provide a framework for your lyrics. Go ahead! Let it kick-start the process of applying your words to music. Then, if you're bound and determined to see that amazingly great piece on the charts, simply tweak the melody line here and there and maybe throw in a different chord for some contrasting sound color and voila!! Just like that, you have your very own original top-ten hit!

I listened to some great recording projects on my way home from the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering back in February. One of the tracks on Andy Hedges' "Roll On, Cowboy" had him singing a duet with Ramblin' Jack Elliot called "Railroad Bill" which first emerged in 1895. As I drove the long straight stretch of Hwy 285 north of Pecos, gazing at the endless hell-cat landscape of the Texas oil industry, the melody of the song began to register and I said to myself, "Hey! That's the Carter Family's "Cannonball Blues!" Maybelle Carter had learned "Cannonball Blues," also known as "Whitehouse Blues," from "Eslie" Riddle, a black man who traveled with AP Carter on his song searches. Woodie Guthrie sang the song as "Baltimore to Washington" and as "Solid Gone." The melody of all these songs is the same, but the stories changed.

The other amazing masterpiece I listened to, both at the LSCPG in a live production and again on a compact disc while traveling home, was Andy Wilkinson's Wrangler Award-winning "Charlie Goodnight: His Life in Poetry and Song." In his collection of original songs, even Andy utilized snippets of melodies that were recognizable enough to make a person wonder if they'd heard that lilting string of notes somewhere some other time. Simple song structure and basic chord choices lend themselves to sounding like another song. That's the nature of the beast, this thing called folk music. The tradition of songs being borrowed from and passed on through the years, evolving, blending, transmuting, and translating to tell a new story, has been with mankind for centuries. Guess what? It continues today. That's why I don't get too hung up on working with an existing tune as a template for my songwriting.

Another interesting practice of borrowing melodies is in the tradition of church hymns. The writers of the melodies are often as well-known as the writers of the lyrics. William Batchelder Bradbury, William H. Doane and William James Kirkpatrick are a few who primarily composed the music for hymns. Their melodies were utilized by more than one hymn lyricist. In fact, hymnals have metrical indexes to facilitate the swapping of melodies.

"Maybe the hymn you want to sing has an unfamiliar tune, or one that is more difficult to sing. By knowing the meter, you may be able to make a switch. Or what if you discover some great lines of poetry that have no tune at all, but you think the poem might work as a hymn? With the metrical Index you may be able to find a tune that fits."
Robert Cottrill <https://wordwisehymns.com/2010/02/27/about-that-metrical-index/>

Then after you find and borrow a melody from a composer, give credit to him or her for it. And if you plan on making a mega hit out of the new song, get a lawyer and write up a royalty contract with the composer and you can both legally and happily pocket the dough!

If you've read this far, you will now learn this is my last submission of "Two Cents of Songwriter Savvy" for the Western Way. Thank you to editor, Theresa O'Dell, for allowing me the space to express myself and I thank those of you who read my column and responded for the past year. I've enjoyed sharing my two cents with you. 🐾



The Real West
Patty Clayton

- Prairie Passages
- Long Gone Out West Blues
- A Call For Brides
- This Flat Land
- Red Buffalo
- Prairie Dog Blues
- Wagonhound
- One Lone Man
- The Lilacs & The Roses
- Buffalo Chips
- Before the Prairie Met the Plow

New CD by Patty Clayton!
Thank you DJ's for making this #1 in the 2022 summer and winter quarters!
CD or download now from www.pattyclayton.com



2023 IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MUSIC AWARDS:

- Albums can be self-nominated. IF YOU ARE SELF-NOMINATING, please provide the following: A copy of the nominated album must accompany the Western Album or Cowboy/Western Swing of the Year nomination, a copy of the album containing a nominated song, or an album containing only the nominated song must accompany the Song of the Year nomination. Song nomination albums must be accompanied by either album artwork or a photocopy of the artwork showing the release date.
- In the case of Western Album of the Year and Cowboy/Western Swing Album of the Year, 75% of the music on the album must be of Western in content, lyrically or musically. Country Music content does not count as Western Music.
- Albums must have a release date and bar code.
- Any individual whose body of work meets criteria may be nominated for IWMA awards. Forms are made available to all members and may be provided to non-members by request. Current IWMA membership is required for voting.
- Albums and songs will all have a "birth" date of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year and one subsequent year (January 1, 2022 through September 1, 2023).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POETRY AWARDS:

COWBOY POETRY CD OF THE YEAR

REQUIREMENTS

- Albums may be self-nominated. If you are self-nominating, a copy of the nominated album must be submitted with the nomination.
- Albums must have a release date.
- Albums must have a bar code.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- All albums will have a "birth date" of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year plus one subsequent year (Example: January 1, 2022 through September 1, 2023).
- Poems written in free verse or blank verse are not eligible.
- 75% of the album tracks must be Cowboy Poetry, written and recited by a single person; the reciter must be the principal author of the poetry. The poetry must be the original work of the reciter, written in rhythm, rhyme and meter.

- 25% of the album tracks may contain other material including:
 - Western Music, pre-recorded or live,
 - Prose, including short stories or spoken introductions,
 - Material written by someone other than the collaborators,
 - Poetry recited by someone other than the principal author, including poetry written by the principal author.
- Collaboration in writing is permitted. In the event a poem is written by the collaboration of two or more persons, one of the collaborators must be named as the "principal" author. The other collaborators will be regarded as co-authors. Editors are considered collaborators.
- Collaboration in reciting is not eligible. Any poetry tracks that are recited by other than the principal author, regardless of authorship of the poem, will not count toward the 75% Cowboy Poetry requirement.

BACKGROUND MUSIC

- Background music performed for the poetry album is permitted. Music need not be original.
- Background music must be Western.
- Background music imported from an external source (CD, radio, etc.) is permitted. Such music must be properly licensed for inclusion in the poetry album.

COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR

Poetry is defined as works containing rhyme and meter. Although the book's content may include short prose and free verse, the poetry alone will be judged in meeting criteria for eligibility. Anything that is not poetry as hereby described, including free verse, will be classified as prose.

- 50% of the book must be "poetry" with rhyme and meter and must be original work written by the author of the book.
- 50% of those poems (criteria #1) must be 20 lines or more in length.
- Credits for poems used as a "cover" and poems written by someone other than the author of the book (including anonymous works) must be given. Poems not written by the author of the book will be considered "prose" and will not qualify for the 50% eligibility criteria as described above.
- Books written by multiple authors are not eligible.
- All books will have a "birth" date of January 1 of the copyright year. Eligibility is for that year, plus two subsequent years.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- A reprint of a book published in a previous award year is not eligible.

2023

IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS BALLOTS

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

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

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

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

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

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

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

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Member Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

**Ballot must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 5, 2023 to be counted:
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or info@westernmusic.org**

Chapter Update

Continued from page 20

the Autry Museum of the West with our first show, March 12 at High Noon! Our artists are getting busy, Ron Christopher, Bob Thomas and Scott T are releasing new albums, Cisco Jim is performing all over the Monterey area. Jerry Hall and Trick Shot even made the front page! We are looking forward to springing ahead to a live Western Music Year!



Cisco Jim



Ron Christopher



Jerry Hall and Trick Shot in the news

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

Columbia Chapter members are increasingly out and about working solo appearances and with fellow chapter members. Upcoming 2023 examples of the later known about at this time are Mike Dygert and



Mike Dygert and Ed Wahl



Tom Swearingen and Joni Harms



Venessa Carpenter



Bodie Dominguez

Ed Wahl at the Williams Lake Rodeo, and a week at the Calgary Stampede. Joni Harms and Tom Swearingen will share the stage at spring and summer shows in Oregon and Washington, with Venessa Carpenter and Bodie Dominguez joining for an Idaho show benefiting the chapter's youth program. Speaking of that... entries are being taken through September 1 for our 2023 Youth Cowboy Poetry Contest open to 3-12 grade students in OR, WA, ID, and BC. Find details and online entry on our chapter website iwmacolumbia.org. Plans are in development for chapter concerts we hope to hold in the spring and summer. One in Lewiston, ID and the other in The Dalles, OR. Lots to work out there and fingers crossed that they'll come together. Members are also being encouraged to suggest other regional get togethers so we can round out our year with

additional opportunities to perform and enjoy each other's company. We also continue our monthly "Third Monday" Zoom chats with song and poem sharing.

EAST COAST CHAPTER

President: Aspen Black
aspen@aspenblackcowgirl.com

IWMAECC members continue to perform in their home areas as well as cross paths with other IWMA'ers in following their musical pursuits. Tom Hawk recently performed a benefit concert for a displaced Ukrainian family. Kerry Grombacher and Aspen Black met up with IWMA – TN Chapter members Gary Holt, Mary Kaye Holt, Andi & Ren Renfree, and Mike Cullison & wife at an in-the-round performance they did in Nashville. The duo was in town putting vocals on Aspen's new CD. Aspen also participated in the NM Chapter's February Online Open Mic. Aspen and Kerry will be performing for the NM Chapter meeting/potluck and NM Chapter Day of the Cowboy events in July.



Kerry Grombacher, Mary Kaye Holt, Aspen Black

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen
orin@rbanjoranch.com

Jeff Davidson has begun a series of concerts focusing on the history of cowboy music. After a couple of years focusing on songs about the Santa Fe Trail, Jeff is now singing classic cowboy songs and sharing the stories behind those songs. Prior to our quarterly meeting in January, our "Lunch & Learn" program featured Rex Allen Jr and Martha Farrell, owners of Truckers >>



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

By Les Buffham



WATCH FOR KIDS

A friend of mine's grandpa was driving through a school zone. One of those with the 15 mph speed limit posted on a sign that also said "stop when children are in crosswalk." Grandpa was vigilant. He was 85 years old and didn't see too good or hear either. He'd slowed down to about 5 mph and there were cars pilin' up behind him. He didn't pay any attention to them, he was lookin' for kids. He checked out both right and left sides through his old rumeey eyes.

That's when he ran over the sign in the middle of the road. OMG!!! He thought he'd hit a kid! He locked his car and jumped (read 'crawled' here) out to see if he'd killed someone. He was mighty relieved when he saw the legs sticking out from under the front were the ones that had been holding up the sign. By then another motorist had arrived on the scene and tried to help Grandpa drag the thing out but it was stuck under there pretty good. The motorist told Grandpa to try to back off of the sign while he held on to it. Grandpa did as told.

In the meantime, the cars behind had started going around the scene laffin' and shaking their heads. Grandpa was getting a little nervous, wasn't thinkin' too straight and when he put his car in reverse he gunned it a little too hard. When it came off of the sign he slammed into the vehicle behind him, barely missing the guy holding the sign who was also the owner of the truck.

It was a pickup with one of those cow catchers on the front and didn't hurt it at all, but it caved in the bumper and the trunk on Grandpa's old car. The guy dragged the bent up sign off to the side of the road and checked under Grandpa's car for damage. The oil pan was caved in some but not enough that it was leaking oil or the piston rods were hittin' it. He shook hands with Grandpa and they went on their way. Nobody even called the cops.

Now Grandpa has figgered him a long way around all the school zones. He don't take any chances on hittin' kids or signs. Since I'm fast approaching Grandpa's age, I can certainly relate to that. 🐾

Chapter Update

Continued from page 26



Jeff Davidson

Radio USA. TRUSA is an internet station dedicated to traditional country music, western music, bluegrass and Americana. The hosts include our IWMA chapter members Orin Friesen and Leo

& Roger Eilts. Rex shared the story of how the radio station got started. Martha was excited to announce that TRUSA has added eleven hours a week of Western Music programming. It's called "Cowboy Country", and can be heard weekdays at 6 pm and midnight Central Time, plus midnight on Sundays, at www.TruckersRadioUSA.com. Martha has uploaded hundreds of western music cuts from classic to New West, and is continually adding more. Each hour also features cowboy poetry. IWMA members can message her through the website to get involved.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: David Nidel

david.nidel@gmail.com

We started out the year with new officers and board members:

President: David Nidel

Vice President: Dennis Russell

Treasurer: Kim Linker

Secretary: Joe Brown

Board Members: Jane Jones, Judi Anderson, and Bernard Carr

Dave Levenson has continued to manage our Song and Poetry Corral. The first Monday of the month is virtual and may be viewed on our Facebook page. What's great is

Continued on page 30

In Memoriam

P. W. CONWAY (1945 – 2023)



HE LIVED THE COWBOY WAY

A Tribute to P. W. Conway, the Buckaroo Poet

You'd always find a smile behind that cowboy's big mustache
A ray of sunshine in a cowboy hat
And you would love P-Dubya if you ever crossed his path
Now, you can bet you Ariats on that!
A cowboy poet, he could bring a smile to every face
Or make a grown man cry with rhyming words
He wrote about our people to preserve our way of life
From branding calves to watching o'er the herd
He stepped out on the stage with head held high because he knew
His words were going to touch the entire crowd
But he was always humble, and he knew that he was blessed
Every time that he would take a bow
His life was not as easy as he'd want you to believe
And there was quite a cross he had to bear
But taking everything in stride was just P-Dubya's way
And we all know this life ain't always fair
Then in his later years, it seemed he started to decline
And gettin' round was harder every day
But he just dusted off his pants, got back on that ol' hoss
And that's because he lived the cowboy way
Then as his ride got closer to the end of that old trail
He knew that he was headed somewhere grand
Where cowboy angels gather round to open up the gate
And welcome folks to ride for Heaven's brand
He'll save us all a front row seat; we'll see him there in time
When life for us has turned its final page
Where he'll be standing tall and proud behind the microphone
In Heaven on the greatest cowboy stage...

~ SMOKEY CULVER

DAN "DOC" WILSON (– 2023)



Dan Wilson passed away in February following a short illness. We have all lost a good friend. Dan was a gifted composer, arranger, and poet; a keen-minded, dedicated performer, teacher, and

co-conspirator; one who inspired those around him; and yet a kind and very private individual. We are all better for knowing him. Dan was an active member of the International Western Music Association, a past-president of the IWMA Western Wordsmiths Chapter and past-president of the IWMA-AZ Chapter. His family has asked that his privacy be respected. No services are planned. Happy trails, Dan Wilson!

IWMA 2023 SONGWRITING CONTEST!

The second IWMA Songwriting Contest begins May 1. Anyone who writes songs is encouraged to enter. There is a nominal entry fee shown below in the rules and rewards section. Last year's winner was a lady who had only written two songs in her life; second place went to a professional songwriter. It just shows that anyone can win. Let's make this another great event for the IWMA this year. We hope you will get excited and will enter a song from your own pen.

1. There are two categories for the contest this year: secular cowboy/western song & cowboy gospel song.
2. Fee is \$25 a song or three (3) songs for \$50.
3. There can be more than one songwriter for a song, the prize to be divided between them as they see fit.
4. A lyric sheet must be provided for each song.
5. Judges will be music business professionals.
6. Grand prize will be \$1000, a free half-page ad in *The Western Way*, and a free Silver Spur Package for this year's IWMA convention.
7. Grand prize winner will get to perform the song on this year's Convention Friday Night Opry in a featured slot where the \$1,000 prize will be presented.
8. Second Place prize is \$200 and an opportunity to perform the song on this year's Convention Friday Night Opry where the prize will be presented.
9. Contest dates are May 1-July 31. Entries may be received before this window but not later than July 31. Send to: meoteo@aol.com; or, IWMA Contest, 10430 W. Loma Blanca Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351
10. Winner will be notified ahead of time but will not receive his/her award until the convention.
11. Songs must be ones that have not been previously released in a recording.
12. Songs must fall lyrically into the cowboy/western genre. *Song may be written to fit any musical style – rock 'n' roll, folk, celtic, easy listening, etc. – but must speak to the life, work, nature, history, landscape, romance, etc., of life in the west past or present or to life lived in the west outside the city. Cowboy gospel songs must reference the cowboy or the west as in the style of Bob Nolan.*
13. Songs must be submitted by mp3 or on disc. *Songs do not have to be recorded in a professional studio. Song may be simply performed and recorded with a home device.*
14. Songs must be submitted with no more than two (2) instruments. *Judges will be considering lyrics and melodies, not performance of the song.*
15. Each entrant must be submitted with the full name(s) of each songwriter.

For more information contact:
marsha@westernmusic.org or meoteo@aol.com

Name _____

Phone Number () _____

Email _____

Song Title(s) _____

Email _____

Category: Traditional Gospel
(\$25 per song entry/\$50 for 3 songs)

Payment Information Check/Money Order enclosed

Credit Card Visa MasterCard

American Express Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Billing Address _____

INFO CONTACT: Marsha (505) 563-0673 | marsha@westernmusic.org | meoteo@aol.com

Chapter Update

Continued from page 27

performers and viewers from near and far can participate! Please join us at: <https://www.facebook.com/WesternMusicAssociationNM>. Our live Song and Poetry Corral is held on the third Monday of the Month at The Hopper restaurant. Both events take place from 7pm-9pm. It's hard to keep up with performers and schedules. February, The Cowboy Way (Jim Jones, Doug Figgs, Mariam Funke) did a great show at The Range in Bernalillo, NM. Jim and Doug have been on the road quite a bit as well. Doug is back working with Reese Janca hosting the *Keepers of the West* radio show. Doug has lined up performances as well. Jim has launched the latest season of shows at the Best Western Rio Grande Hotel. Jim and Randy Palmer performed a concert there in early February. Buffalo Bill and Dr. Jo are performing March 16. April 6 he is hosting a Western's Best at the Best Western concert. Jim along with Mariam Funke, will be doing a big celebratory send-off for Kacey and Jenna Thunborg, who are graduating from high school and heading off to college in the fall. We'll do a retrospective of their music from their early years up to the present and we'll throw in some of Jim's music as well. The first weekend in May, Jim will be performing at the Salado Cowboy Gathering in Salado, Texas. Jim is still working on a new album with Merel Bregante in Liberty Hill, Texas which he is hoping will be released mid-summer. Steve Cormier has shows coming up in NM, OK, and NC this Spring. Dave Levenson and Margaret Crowl have continued their series of hosting Rio Rancho House Concerts. Joe Brown is hosting a *Creating a Book Tour* workshop in March followed by a book signing tour to promote his book *A Cowboy's Destiny*. Joe always brings

a guitar to sing a couple songs at his book signings. March 17, St. Patrick's Day, will be a busy day for Tom Farrell and I, performing with Mac-Tirè of Skye Pipes & Drums. We have over 10 performances at several venues all over Albuquerque. The chapter has initiated using Zoom for monthly meetings to encourage attendance from our out-of-town members and those local who are unable to physically attend. We are already working on planning National Day of the Cowboy, our 2nd year hosting Western Heritage Day at the New Mexico State Fair, and other events in the months to come!

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Robert Maxwell Case
robert@robertmaxwellcase.com

Our chapter officers are beginning to plan our annual get-together scheduled for this October. Okemah's Hen House event center seems to be a centrally located venue, but we are open to other choices. Recently (March 4) Jason Roberts brought Bob Wills' Texas Playboys into Tulsa's Cain's Ballroom for their annual Bob Wills Birthday show. Cowboy Jim Garling has some shows at Guthrie's Double Stop Fiddle Shop on April 8, May 13, and June 17. He is also appearing at the Annual Chuck Wagon Festival at Oklahoma City's National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum on May 27 & 28 and at Pawnee's Pawnee Bill Museum on June 10. Our out-of-state members Miss Devon and The Outlaw are heading from Texas



Miss Devon and The Outlaw Jesse

to Albuquerque, New Mexico's Levenson House Concert Series on April 22 and Durango, Colorado's Debra & Jeff May's Party Barn on April 23. Remembering when: Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame inductees Otto Gray and his Oklahoma Cowboys were the first nationally famous cowboy/western music band in the United States, and the first cowboy band to appear on the cover of *Billboard* (June 6, 1931). Formed in Ripley in the early 1920s, the band members were authentic cowboys from ranches in and around the Ripley area.



Otto Gray and the OK Cowboys

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

President: Gary Holt
Gih50@live.com

Greetings from the IWMA Tennessee Chapter! Spring came early for us this year and we are grateful to have had a relatively mild winter!!!! Our prayers go out to all the folks that have endured such a harsh one in other parts of our beautiful land. Once again, our chapter hit the ground at a gallop comin' right out of the gates, and folks, y'all better hold on! We started the year with the IWMA TN Chapter Potluck N Pickin' gathering hosted by Mike & Diana Cullison. Some of the Chapters finest gathered for an evening of food, fellowship, sharing visions for 2023, and jamming with each other to an awesome array of tunes! Thank you Mike and Diana for opening your beautiful home! Some of the Chapters finest gathered for an evening of food, fellowship, sharing visions for 2023,

Chapter Members



Gary and Mary Kaye Holt

and jamming with each other to an awesome array of tunes! A wonderful time was had by all! Our very own President and award winning radio host, Gary Holt has also been very busy, not only hosting his award winning *Equestrian Legacy Campfire Cafe and Saddle Up America* show, which airs every Thursday, along with his co-host Bobbi Jean Bell, he has also been hosting *Live From Nashville* along with his beautiful wife Mary Kaye, which airs on Saturdays!!! Tune in to experience Nashville's finest in an intimate look into these amazing artist's lives and their music! Check it out at EquestrianLegacy.net. Earlier this year, IWMA TN Chapter was invited to the Writers Round at the Millinenum Maxwell House Hotel featuring Mike Cullison, The Renfrees (Andi & Ren) and Mary Kaye Holt. Kerry Grombacher and Aspen Black who were recording in Nashville stopped by to listen and visit! We are so very excited to have our very own, 2-time Wrangler Award Winner Mary Kaye Holt



Chapter Members

return to Oklahoma City for The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Awards April 14-15. For the 2nd consecutive year, she'll be a celebrity presenter at the prestigious annual event. We are also elated to announce and give A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our friend and International Western Music Association-Tennessee Secretary/Treasurer Micki Fuhrman on her WRANGLER AWARD for Outstanding Traditional Western Album from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum! The award will be presented Saturday April 15 at the Annual Gala and Awards Show in Oklahoma City! Everyone join us in a BIG WOOP WOOP! Way to go Micki! Coming in June, the Extreme Mustang Makeover is coming to Franklin, TN! Be sure to join us for this amazing event, and YES! There will be music and a chance to visit with TN Chapter members!!!! I also know, there will be some surprises! Make your plans now! All this and so much more coming later this Spring and summer, so please follow our journey with our social media pages, EquestrianLegacy.net, and our IWMA TN Chapter website!!! Ya'll ready? Saddle up and God bless!



Extreme Mustang Makeover

TEXAS CHAPTER

President: Cary Wiseman
Wisemanranch71@gmail.com

Hello Y'all, I want to say thank you for all the performers that came to the Jasper County Cowboy Church Event in Jasper, Texas. I would like to say thank you to everyone

Continued on page 34



A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

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

The Day I Met Roy Rogers

If I remember correctly, it was way back in 1991, when the then new Western Music Association was about to launch its annual convention at a hotel in Tucson. Some of us had arrived early, and others were still in the process of checking in, when I left my room on the 2nd floor and walked to the stairway leading down into the hotel lobby. I stopped on the landing for a moment to survey the large lobby, looking to see who had arrived and might be interested in going out to dinner. I saw a few familiar faces and started to proceed down the staircase when my eye caught a glimpse of a man who looked strangely familiar, but unlike all the rest, he was standing alone in the center of the lobby, not talking to anyone.

He wasn't "dressed Western" like the others. Instead, he was wearing a baseball cap, a dark bowling jacket and neatly pressed navy blue slacks covering his black cowboy boots. No white hat. No fringe or sequins on his shirt, but it was Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys! No doubt about it!

But no one was even acknowledging his presence! Thinking that this was a rather awkward situation, I continued down the stairs, walked over to him and introduced myself, welcoming him. I started talking to him about his new CD, and soon, a couple of friends saw me and, still not recognizing Roy Rogers standing with me, came over, interrupting our conversation to ask if I had plans for dinner! I politely declined and turned back to Roy, asking if he was going to perform with his son, Dusty, who was scheduled to come in for the Saturday evening show out at Old Tucson. "No!" he said. "Dusty's going to be here? I didn't know that! I can't keep up with that boy."

"But aren't you here for the Western Music convention?" I asked. "No!" he replied. "We've just been over in New Mexico and are driving back home. Dale's out in the car. We're tired and are just looking for a place to spend the night."

"You don't have a room? I'm sure the manager can do something about that," I said, as I turned around and went



Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys

to the area of the front desk away from the end where disgruntled tourists were haggling over prices or availability or something, and I caught the eye of a fellow behind the desk. "Can you please ask the manager if he can find a room for Roy Rogers & Dale Evans?" I whispered (loudly). "Roy Rogers?!" the fellow replied. "Where is he?"

"He's standing right behind me! Please ask the manager..." I said, and he was off like a shot. I turned back around to wait for the reply with Roy, but saw that, by then, others in the crowd had recognized him. Women were swooning (someone shouted, "I just saw Roy Rogers! Now, I can die and go to heaven!"). And Roy was heading for the door! At that point, the young fellow behind the desk came back, saying "Tell Mr. Rogers we have a special room for them!"

But it was too late. Roy was out the door and walking across the parking lot where Dale was sitting in their car, patiently waiting. She saw me running out the door behind him and waved, smiling as I called to Roy with the news, but he turned back, saying, "Tell them no thanks! We couldn't get any rest here, anyway." I was disappointed that they didn't stay, but glad Roy wasn't wearing his six-shooters!

When Dusty came onstage to begin his concert at Old Tucson a few days later, he opened with a message from his parents who, he said, were up in Montana by then, still looking for a room! 🐾

GENE AUTRY

“Gene Autry Vol. 10: The Dude Ranch Cowhands”

BACMCDD697



Over the years, the major label Gene Autry recorded for had little interest in releasing a

variety of his recordings on CD, preferring instead to keep re-issuing the same tracks, year after year. Finally, they stopped coming out with re-issues altogether! But the British Archive of Country Music (BACM) has continued to issue sides that have been collected over the years, largely on old 78rpm discs. They became the sources for the 25 tracks on this new release.

There are some rare tracks here, including beautiful renditions of “Dear Old Dad of Mine” and “What’s Gonna Happen to Me,” and re-recordings of two 1930s hits, “Mississippi Valley Blues” (a duet, re-recorded in 1950 with tenor, Bert Dodson, of the Cass County Boys) and “Silver Haired Daddy of Mine” (a 1949 duet with Dodson). Merle Travis’s guitar is easy to recognize on a couple of tracks. The commercial recording of “Sierra Sue” included here, has been hard-to-find until now. Fortunately, the Gene Autry office was able to locate and salvage a large number of radio sound-checks, so most of these songs were not lost, but the commercial recordings, with modified arrangements, would have disappeared without the efforts of collectors like the BACM.

This CD should be available from your regular sources, and online, directly from the British Archive of Country Music in England. As of this writing, BACM is looking into

making their releases available as digital downloads, to avoid the expensive, time consuming complications of shipping, so check on that possibility before placing an order.



CAROLINA COTTON, ROSALIE ALLEN, GIRLS OF THE GOLDEN WEST, ROSE MADDOX AND CHICKIE WILLIAMS

“Country Music Ladies, Vol. 4”

BACMCDD698



Three of the 5 artists in this new volume (# 4 in a series) were at least as well-known by Western

and Western swing enthusiasts as they were by country music fans, although, at the time, few made distinctions between the genres. All three are members of the Western Music Hall of Fame! Each is allotted 5 tracks, and Carolina Cotton kicks it off with her signature song, “Three Miles South of Cash (in Arkansas),” her original tribute to her hometown, and there are 2 tracks on which Bob Wills & his Texas Playboys accompany her.

Rosalie Allen’s Western swing entry is Cindy Walker’s lively composition, “On Silver Wings to San Antone.” On it, she’s accompanied by the Black River Riders.

Chickie Williams wasn’t considered a Western artist, but her lead-off song, “This Little Rosary,” a Cindy Walker composition with an early reference to Mexico, moves easily into the Western genre. She’s accompanied by Doc Williams

and the Border Riders on all of her tracks.

The Maddox Brothers & Rose featured their little sister Rose Maddox as the soloist on most of their recordings. The songs included here represent their country and country-rock material from the early-to-mid-50s.

The vocal harmonies of the Girls of the Golden West are featured on their 5 songs from 1934-38, with titles that include “On the Sunny Side of the Rockies,” “We’ll Meet at the End of the Trail” (an original composition), “Ragtime Cowboy Joe” and one of their most popular tunes, “I Want to be a Real Cowboy Girl.”

Check the British Archive of Country Music website for ordering info, including the possibility of downloads.



GENE AUTRY, ROY ROGERS, TEX RITTER, JIMMY WAKELY, EDDIE DEAN AND REX ALLEN

“The Singing Cowboys Ride Again”

BACMCDD696



Looking for a good “singing cowboy” sampler from the B-Western movies

years? You may want to consider this new BACM release. Each of the cowboy stars listed above has 4 songs on this CD, most of which are Western, but each of these artists recorded good country music as well, and that genre makes up a considerable portion of the disc.

Continued on page 35

Chapter Update

Continued from page 31

that helped me get this event lined out. I believe that our first IWMA Texas Chapter event was a success and the folks in East Texas are talking about adding a chuckwagon cooking to this event next year. So if you couldn't make this past one well next year should be a whopper. I would like to thank the performers; we had a great set of singers and poets, we started out the excellent talent of Mr. Kerry Grombacher, The Deaton Family and Mr. Stan Mahler. The next set of performers were fabulous Miss Devon and The Outlaw with Chuck Dawson, The Cowtown Buckaroos, Kaylea Stafford, Mr. Smoky Culver, Mr. Ed Meyer, Caroline Grace Wiseman and our Cowboy Poetry was recited by Mr. Bob Upchurch and Mr. David Smith. I hope y'all have a wonderful Spring and hope to see y'all soon, this has been wonderful getting our first event together and I hope everyone stays safe on the road and has a great time at all the gigs and upcoming gatherings. God Bless and Happy Trails

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Mark Munzert
markmunzert@gmail.com

The Western Wordsmiths lost two fine fellows, poets, and ambassadors. Past President Dan "Doc" Wilson and word artist



Dan "Doc" Wilson



P. W. Conway

P. W. Conway went to meet their Maker as February closed. Both men were proud promoters of the western arts and held strong affinity for memorializing the cowboy cultures' past all the while leaning in to encourage others to pursue and propagate the arts' future. Sherl Cederburg and Pegie Douglas had so much fun performing in the Team Penning in Albuquerque that they decided to intertwine their talents and perform as a poet-musician duo. They are giving their audience the "best of both worlds" in Western entertainment. We are happy to welcome folk singer and songwriter Tracy Morrison to our Chapter. Tracy was raised in a musical family, is known for writing powerful laments and story songs, and has been performing for thirty years. She has been a featured artist at the Montana Folk Festival and the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Western Wordsmith officers welcome your input. Thank you.



Sheryl Cederburg and Pegie Douglas

YOUTH CHAPTER

Coordinator: Almeda Bradshaw
Almedam2b@gmail.com

The IWMA Youth Chapter members have started the new year with meetings, music and poetry! President Jenna Thornburg, Vice-president Venessa Carpenter and Secretary/Treasurer Alice Black are hard at work on social media updates, a newsletter, and organizing for the Arizona Folklore Preserve showcase in June. Performance wise, duo Jenna and Kacey Thunborg played at the New Mexico state capitol as part of New Mexico tourism day. They also performed



Jenna and Kacey Thunborg

with the Cowtown Opry Buckaroos at the Alpine Cowboy Poetry Gathering in February and in April, they did a show with Jim Jones at the Best Western in Albuquerque. Cowboy poets, Carson Houser of North Dakota and Jack George



Carson Houser

Continued on page 40

O.J. SIKES REVIEWS

Continued from page 33

Rex Allen's great rendition of "Foggy River" is here, and I don't recall seeing his "Why, My Darlin', Why?" elsewhere. Eddie Dean's selections include a Western song, "'Neath Texas Skies," I hadn't heard him sing before, and Jimmy Wakely has both Western swing (from Decca) and a Western classic, "Cool Water," which came from his Sterling Records sessions in 1947.

The Gene Autry set opens the CD, with 3 songs from the 1930's and a beautiful song from 1941 we don't hear often, "Purple Sage in the Twilight." Roy Rogers sings "Ridin' Ropin'," and 3 more from early in his career, and Tex Ritter's four songs all came from 1936, starting with "Arizona Days," a movie title song. Available from the British Archive of Country Music website.

HOOSIER HOT SHOTS

"Hoosier Hot Shots Vol. 2 – Rural Jazz"

BACMCDD694



The Hoosier Hot Shots were a very popular novelty band that gained national fame while

in Chicago where all of the sides on this disc were recorded (1934-41). Their popularity spread via radio station WLS, where they also established contact with a number of Hollywood entertainers. In the mid-40s, the Hot Shots moved to Hollywood to appear in films with

Gene Autry, Ken Curtis, Jimmy Wakely and others.

Several compilations of their music have been issued on other labels in years past, and this is the second volume released by BACM. But you may find titles you haven't heard among the 23 tracks here, like "Blues (My Naughty Sweetie Gives to Me)," Gene Autry's "Merry-go-Roundup," "The Martins and the Coys" and "Noah's Wife (Lived a Wonderful Life)," along with the better-known "Rural Rhythm," "Goofus," "Tiger Rag," "Limehouse Blues" and more. Available from The British Archive of Country Music website.

JOHNNY CRAWFORD

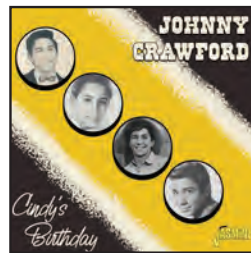
"Cindy's Birthday"

JASMCD2757

HOWARD KEEL

"Rarities – 1947-1961"

JASMCD2761



The Jasmine company has just released two CDs that, while not entirely Western,

feature performers who were well-known to Western movie and TV fans. The first CD, *Cindy's Birthday*, features Johnny Crawford, a young actor who recorded music for teenagers in the 1960s, but whose claim to fame was his role as the son of Chuck Connors in the popular TV series, *The Rifleman*. The CD contains pop music, rather than Western songs, recorded for Crawford's young music fans, and much of it has been hard-to-find until now.



But the second release, *Rarities – 1947-1961*, contains several songs fans will remember from Howard Keel's

A-Western movie days. It opens with "Oklahoma!," a song that became closely associated with Keel from his stage and screen performances, and fans may remember "Whoa, Emma," "Deep in the Heart of Texas," "(My Love is) Higher than a Hawk," "The Girl that I Marry," and many more of the songs Keel sang in big, Technicolor productions long ago. The CD also includes several rarities. Anyone who remembers Keel's performances from back then, or who enjoys the music of what we have come to call "operatic cowboys," will enjoy this rare collection. Available from your usual sources. 🐾

35th ARIZONA
**COWBOY
POETS
GATHERING**
MUSIC · POETRY · STORIES

MUSIC
POETRY
STORIES
ARIZONA
COWBOY POETS GATHERING

August 10, 11, 12, 2023
Yavapai College Performing Arts Center
Prescott, Arizona

AZCowboyPoets.org

CITY OF PRESCOTT
Landscape in Motion

ALBUQUERQUE
ARTS CENTER

yupac
YAVAPAI COLLEGE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

RICK HUFF'S
BEST OF THE WEST REVIEWS

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 signed.

VALERIE BEARD

“No Better Life”



Not just the soulmate of poet Floyd Beard, Valerie Beard has quickly become recognized

in her own right as a keen observer of Western life and thinking. Her album notes detail the inspirations for the works, helping budding creators realize...if they are open... ideas can pop up anywhere.

Jean Prescott journeyed to Colorado to produce the project and Beard writes of her involvement the album “changed from a poetry CD to a work of art.” Adding to that art are the sensitive musical pads from Dale Burson. Some pick tracks include a hybrid on which Prescott sings and Beard recites “The Ridge/The Reunion,” “The Guardians of the Gate,” title track “No Better Life,” another Prescott guesting on “Welcome Home Girls,” “Up In Flames” and Beard’s covers of Knibbs’ “Where The Ponies Come To Drink (w/hubby Floyd),” Kiskaddon’s “To Those Who’ve Come Before” (w/Burson’s vocal) and Al Albrethson’s nutty “The Service Station.”

For my ear, had Beard’s delivery been just a hair more one-to-one

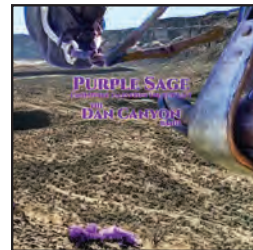
(less projected) the effect would have been heightened that much more. But her verse is the real star. To paraphrase the old tongue twister, her words were worth what Wordsworth’s words were worth!!

Twelve tracks total, highly recommended.



THE DAN CANYON BAND

“Purple Sage (And Other Tales From The Plateau)”



Admitted outriders of the Western genre, the Dan Canyon Band continues to follow their

avowed mission to push things further along, musically speaking.

The band’s album offering from last year gave us a look into where they want to go, and the new one once again features thoughtful lyrics and colorful Western imagery from songwriter Dennis Coile placed in somewhat “Rockier” terrain than some Western purists might be expecting. Overall, I’m along for the ride. The beat I buy, the fuzz guitar I buy. For my ear, though, the jury is still out on the preferred vocal filtering used on many of the tracks. It strikes me as

not taking the material anywhere but...“there.” Pick tracks include “Dreams Out Here Are Never Wasted,” a saga song with a surprise ending “Ride Hard (For The Hills,” “Strawberry Roan” (not the Fletcher classic) and “If I Could Love A Girl” (with its poetic recitation). I would add the good retro-style Fred Moore co-write “Ridin’ The Range Tonight” except for that filtering!

For the value of the words in particular, I do recommend it! Eight tracks total.



CHRIS GUENTHER

“American Outlaw – Volume 2”



For his eighth studio album, Washington state’s singing songwriter multi-instrumentalist

Chris Guenther has continued the thinking and level of performance that sent his “Vol. 1” onto charts in 2022. It’s tastefully produced (including subtle sound texturing) and beautifully ‘executed’ (an apt term to use, considering the material)! And the participation of champion fiddler Katie Keller McManus is certainly a plus, as in “A+!!”

Guenther's lyrics and poems are firmly rooted in what is known or claimed about his true west subjects, i.e., "Who Shot Johnny Ringo," "The Life & Death of Elmer McCurdy," "Harvey Logan" and "Tom Horn's Epilogue"). Other picks include "Vigilante Code [3777]," "Let 'R' Rip" (about the psychotic Jim 'Killer' Miller) and the very chart-ready "Ode To The Cowtowns."

Ten tracks total, very highly recommended.

CD: Available through www.chrisguenthermusic.com & other online sources)



"COWBOY DAN" HARRELL "Seasons"



In a past Western World Tour column, we profiled "Cowboy Dan's Frontier," the

syndicated kids' TV show and its congenial host Dan Harrell. Here, directly from the ranch in Do Wah Diddy, are some of the most popular songs this singing cowboy offers to make his points to the youngsters.

On his show, Cowboy Dan occasionally sings Western classics. For the most part, the subjects of Dan Harrell's original songs aren't specifically Western. But, episode by episode and song by song, he puts across elements of what we recognize as The Cowboy Code (or Golden Rule, if you prefer). He is a veteran of both the Texas and Nashville music scenes, so he knows how to create catchy, hook-laden songs to carry the how-to messages.

All are very well delivered and co-produced with Pat Flynn, but

transcendent picks (life even beyond the kids context) include "Diggin' In The Dirt," "Hard Work," "Talk Like You're From The South," "Not Today" and "Marry Me." Highly recommended. Or, as Cowboy Dan would put it, "can I get a 'yeeeeee-haaaa?!!!" Twelve tracks total.

CD: Check availability through googling Cowboy Dan's Frontier or Dan Harrell.



ANDY HEDGES "Roll On Cowboys" (2-CD Set)



In truth this one should be captioned "Andy Hedges & Friends." Get a load of his "friends,"

friends!! Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Dom Flemons, Pipp Gillette, Brenn Hill, Waddie Mitchell, Michael Martin Murphey, Brigid Reedy, Randy Rieman, Tom Russell, Rod Taylor and Andy Wilkinson!! It's like a dream Elko Who's Who!

Like his late friend Don Edwards, Andy Hedges is a preservationist when it comes to origins of Western Music and Cowboy culture. His releases are important and noteworthy for their quality. But this one may go all the way to "Landmark!" Drawn from episodes of Hedges' increasingly popular podcast "Cowboy Crossroads," the people guesting here share his zeal for keeping the past alive and relevant. An exceptional, annotated booklet is included that not only offers histories of these songs, but also histories of some of the specific instruments used to render them! Finally we get to hear an expanded treatment of "Dodgin' Joe," the song fragment that first

sent Jack Thorp on his collecting quest! We experience vintage treatments of the real stuff, about as "campfire" as it gets. Words fail!!

Beyond very highly recommended, this double CD set is a must-own!! Twenty-two amazing tracks.

CD: Google by artist



KIMBERLY KAYE "Circle Back"



Here is a Country & Western songwriter and performer who had focused on poetry earlier on and wisely

decided to give her lines fresh airings following a trip to the 2021 Old West Days in Valentine, Nebraska. See how that stuff happens??

Listening to Kimberly Kaye deliver her verse on this album is easy on the ears. By that we mean she has either a practiced or an instinctive understanding that she is working in a one-to-one medium.

Picks in this collection include the near mystical "Dog Grazin'," sublime justice soon to be dealt in "Unwanted Advice," "The Boss When The Boss Is Gone," a life lesson that can be applied to many situations "Incessant Chatter Matters," "Enchanted Grove," "The Bull Heeler Waltz" and "That Paint Colt."

As a poet Kaye's style seems to be to get in and get out. Most of the works in this collection are brief, clear ventures into a vision resulting in a worthwhile point getting made before we exit. What more can be asked?! Fourteen tracks, recommended.

CD: Information not immediately available, but an expanded print version is offered on Amazon.

Continued on page 38

JOHNNY NICHOLAS PRESENTS MOON & STARS (A Tribute to Moon Mullican) Vols. 1 & 2 (Various Artists)



"Moon" Mullican was a seminal influence on more music genres than just about anyone you could name. Jerry Lee Lewis freely admitted to being shaped by him. The popular

Honky Tonk Swing and Western Swingers of the 50s and 60s onward owe him a serious debt of gratitude. Even Hot Country artists bear Mullican's stamp more than they may realize. Mullican described his style being enough to "bounce the goddam beer bottles off the tables!" Colorful, and so true.

Acknowledging it is the veteran performer Johnny Nicholas. He decided to assemble living luminaries of the art form in tribute to the Moon man. In two packed CDs Nicholas and company have put together fresh recordings of the most famous hits and some lesser-known discoveries unearthed from Mullican's deep catalog. Fans should experience a good feeling of wistful nostalgia at hearing these songs again, or it may send them running in search of the originals!! All of it is valid.

Many of these folks have been at it for decades. Some voices reflect that time more than others do, but there is a lot to like in this

pair of discs. Collectors specifically seeking the Swing tempo should be advised there is a bit more of it in Vol. #1 than Vol #2. Ten tracks each disc, both discs recommended.

CDs: Google by title



JODY MILLER "Wayfaring Stranger" (The Final Recordings)



GRAMMY winner Jody Miller had been working on a farewell album with Tracy Pitcox & friends at

his Heart of Texas studios in Brady, Tx. and the talents of the folks assembled for the purpose enabled Miller's still-vibrant voice to shine.

Passing away in October 2022 at the age of eighty, Jody Miller showed no signs of vocal deterioration as she rendered personal favorites for her project. Her producer was the renowned Justin Trevino. His keen steel & fiddle sensitivities are evident throughout. Two of the tracks are waltzes, two others specifically Western Swing. They include a sweet Swing treatment of title track "Wayfaring Stranger." And who more appropriate to render the swinging "Your Exes," the 'answer song' from those Exes in Texas, than the lady who answered "King Of The Road" with her own 1965 hit "Queen Of The House" (freshly re-imagined for this project)!

At six songs, this one is technically an EP, but it stands nicely in final tribute to its famous singer. Recommended.

CD: Available through heartoftexascountry.com

WYLIE & THE WILD WEST "Bunchgrass"



If we're counting correctly, this marks the twenty-second album for this near legendary

assemblage. And it's one in which the Yahoo Yodeler omits something notable. Yodeling!! Not that most will miss it. There's a lot more than that to like and to recommend here as Wylie & The Wild West continue their fight against the corporate Country norm.

Anything Wylie Galt Gustafsen elects to record is a potential pick in an album, but we'll name some despite that! From his originals... the swinging "Straight Up Country Music," the pumping "Girlfriend Is A Barrel Racer" (... "I'm a' chasin' her and she's chasin' cans"), the advice given in "Don't Say Whoa" (pronounced here "ho," by the way), "Birch Creek" with its Dallas Frazier-style catchy rhythm and Wylie's treatment of the classic "Cowboy Soliloquy." Cover picks are Gordon Lightfoot's "Ribbon Of Darkness" (the CD's first designated "Radio Single"), H. Myles' "Rum & Rodeo," Butch Hancock's "Dry Land Farm" and Townes van Zandt's poetic ballad "At My Window." Fourteen tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Google by artist name 🐾

NOTICE:
The following pages contain reviews of some single releases. Published reviews of single releases will be only on space availability at the discretion of *The Western Way*.

LONNIE BARTMESS

“I Love It When She’s Leaving”
(Single)

The sound of Lonnie Bartmess’ “I Love It When She’s Leaving” (“... clothes upon the floor”) literally transports the big Bob Wills effect into the 21st Century! And it’s done with high style.

The brass, fiddles and steel atop a reinforced beat all sweetly propel this romping Western Swing single from Clarksville Creative Sound. Bartmess caps the sundae with the cherry of a strong, resonant vocal. The lyrics are frisky, engaging and (believe it or not) positive in “nature,” if you’ll pardon the double entendre! Highly recommended for download.

PAUL ALAN COONS

“I’ll Take A Chance”
(Single)

With extensive performing credits in Nashville, Paul Alan Coons has had a solid following in Europe, particularly Germany, where he was awarded International Country Artist of the Year honors in 2002. In 1989, he made Country charts’ Top Twenty with his song “Just A Phone Call Away.” He remains a bastion of the original Country sound in a time of little substance and lots of ball caps!

With “I’ll Take A Chance” Coons offers up easy Swing for consideration, and shows himself to be a veteran performer who “still has it.” His sonorous baritone/ bass voice nicely carries the I-may-have-blown-it-but-I’m-hopeful lyrics of this Western Swing single. It’s comforting to know there are such artists working to keep the sound pure. Highly recommended.

CLAUDE GRAY & BOBBY MACKEY

“Eyes As Big As Dallas”
“The Girl Who Made This Cowboy Cry”
(Singles)

“The Tall Texan” Claude Gray (6’5”) has a recording history dating from 1959 that features chart successes, most notably the Roger Miller-penned “My Ears Should Burn (When Fools Are Talked About)” which hit #3 in 1961/62. Bobby Mackey has well chronicled musical accomplishments and has appeared on programs like “Ghost Hunters” and “Ghost Adventures” as owner of Bobby Mackey’s Music World in (ironically) Wilder, KY...called “one of the ten most haunted places in America!” In these releases the duo has conjured up spirited singles that deserve many spins and downloads! Scary good!

Gary McCray’s “Eyes As Big As Dallas” was originally a moderate chart hit back in 1978 for Wynn Stewart, but it has been rediscovered. “The Girl Who Made This Cowboy Cry” is gently Country flavored, but Western-worded all the way!! “Music” sweetly swings and settles the “argument” that music truly does it for us! All highly recommended.

BOB MARSHALL

“The Winning Of The Race”
(Single)

Our friend Bob Marshall has issued a meaningful uptempo song about winning of different kinds. It follows a promising horse, blessed with heart and gentle eye, into the beginning of his glory days and

what could have been his end. When he can no longer run, he helps others win the race of their lives.

The positive feeling of the lyrics falls in line with what seems to be a healing trend in certain genres of music right now. Feeling good about outcomes and ourselves can’t hurt in turning us away from whatever precipice we could be nearing.

Bob Marshall deserves a wider audience for his musical abilities and messaging. Hopefully this one can break through strongly onto the Americana and Alt-Country charts. Highly recommended.

JASMINE MCDONALD

“Autumn Moon”
(Single)

By tempo and by lyric content, Jasmine McDonald’s “Autumn Moon” could easily be painting a scene of stepping outside from the dance for a private moment, out into the cool night air, amid the flowers, under the romantic “Autumn Moon!” McDonald’s ultra-mellow vocal delivery is very right for this particular song. Love is in the air, and easy Western Swing is a nice medium to convey it.

This single is another high-quality release from the increasingly interesting Clarksville Creative Sound. Headquartered in Ft. Worth with ‘feelers’ in Clarksville, TN., Steve Markwardt & Curt Ryle’s company launched in June of last year and is quickly building a rep as “a force to be reckoned with!”

Continued on page 40

AUSTIN MCKEDY

"Breaking Horses & Hearts" (Single)

Here is a C&W release that could actually be labeled a "W&C!" Chronologically, it's right there in the title!

Austin McKedy's "Breaking Horses & Hearts" is uptempo and infectious, the lyrics are 100% Western, the accompaniment not overpowering Country. We join the cowboy in his childhood aboard a stick horse emulating his hero dad, and learn in the refrain "from the git-go he was born to ride, livin' life eight seconds at a time...just a cowboy from the start, breakin' horses & hearts."

McKedy is a steady, confident vocalist and his musical support is suitably sound. This one doesn't "rock out," which hopefully doesn't work against it with programmers. It's truly sad that ever has to be a consideration. Highly recommended. Google by artist name.

JOSH RYLE

"Another Jesse James" (Single)

Singer & guitarist Josh Ryle's father is the prominent Nashville performer/producer and songwriter Curt Ryle. Dad has come up with a song for his son that neatly uses Western imagery to put across a Hot Country message.

Its lyrics state "if loving you was against the law I'd probably be another Jesse James...I'd be stealing kisses instead of shootin' folks and robbing trains!" It isn't breaking new ground to use such Western imagery. Folks like the Ryles recognize a good thing when they see it. The arrangement helps make it ready to live alongside the more pounding chartmates it would have if picked up by programmers. And "picked up" it should be! The production and musical support, including another Ryle... brother Brandon...is top drawer. Highly recommended!

DARYN WRIGHT

"The World I'm Living In" (Single)

Here ya go! Some more new Western Swing with steel and fiddle intact and boot scootin' dance-ability! Something must be right with the world!

Country and by extension Western Swing is said to be "three chords and the truth," but if that is true of the accompaniment here, it takes a good deal more vocal prowess to handle this song's melody line (an octave +)!! Daryn Wright has the necessary chops in spades. The I-done-her-wrong lyrics line it up with the majority of Swing sentiments expressed through the ages,

Wright seems to have a good deal to offer as a performer, and we'll watch for his future output of a Western Swing nature. Recommended. 🐎

Chapter Update

Continued from page 34



Jack George

of New Mexico were both invited performers at the Lone Star Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering in February. Jack is also staying busy feeding cows and playing



Phoebe White

varsity basketball. Phoebe White of Tennessee recently performed on "Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour" and "The Best of the Bluegrass". She's writing new music and will be featured at the 2023 Master Musicians Festival on the young songwriters' panel. She also

received a much-appreciated packet of CDs and note from Janet McBride. Bodhi Linde in South Dakota is working hard on some new songs. He's been playing around the Black Hills area and is busy booking shows for the summer. 🐎



Bodhi Linde

CLASSIC PROFILES

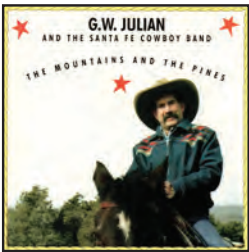
SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

(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 time in its long, illustrious history. Its legacy includes others who have helped to fortify the trail that Western artists of today continue to ride. The work of these trailblazers should continue to be celebrated, heard and enjoyed.

G. W. JULIAN & THE SANTA FE COWBOY BAND "The Mountains and The Pines" (1997)



Fairly early in the contemporary Western Music reawakening came this fine Bluegrass-

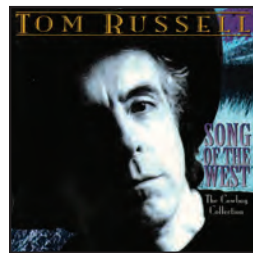
tinged release. It eventually garnered a Will Rogers Award nomination and considerable airplay overseas, appearing on the charts of fifteen different nations!

G. W. Julian is a superior singer-songwriter-guitar picker and yodeler who wisely assembled (with engineer/mixer Tim Stroh) some of the Southwest's top session folks as "the band." The result is a standout collection of standards ("When The Work's All Done This Fall" and "A Cowboy's Love Song"), covers (Ian Tyson & Tom Russell's "Navajo Rug" and Michael Martin Murphey's "Lost River") along with solid Julian originals including title track "The Mountains and The Pines," "Holy Ghost Canyon," "Golden Leaves," "The Plains of St. Augustin" and others.

The album is a rarity. If you find it, get it. If you have it, play it. For those who don't, through his representation's site kellypro.com/musicians/WesternSingerGWJulian.htm you can hear brief samples. Through it we learned for some time he has appeared "by popular demand" twice weekly at the exclusive Cow Creek Ranch resort in Pecos NM, when he isn't in his cabin, still writing songs at over 8000 ft. elevation, surrounded by horses, critters and (of course) "the mountains and the pines!"



TOM RUSSELL "Song Of The West – The Cowboy Collection" (1997)



Tom Russell, that well-known confrere of the Ramblin' Jacks, Paul Zarzyskis and Mike

Becks of our world (as if there were multiples of those) delivered a power punch of an album near the close of the last century. It might be overstatement to say it started

everything, but it did start a lot! At least we were alerted to a lot of great stuff.

Although the Tom Russell/Ian Tyson co-writes here were premiered and made popular by Ian, each reflects a creator's take. They are "Navajo Rug," "Claude Dallas" and "Banks Of The Musselshell." Then there are the debuts of Russell originals that are essentially considered to be contemporary classics, including "The Sky Above The Mud Below," "Gallo del Cielo," "Rayburn Crane" and his musical adaptation of "El Llano Estacado." This album marked one of the first times I had heard novelist Lillian Bos Ross' "South Coast" and it was my introduction to Mary McCaslin's "Prairie In The Sky." We were fortunate to have hosted a house concert once for McCaslin, the artist Ian Tyson cites as having rekindled his interest in Western music!

Tom Russell is a spellbinder. For decades he has entranced audiences of all sizes across the globe and has become a prime musical spokesman for the culture of the Border Southwest. On "Song Of The West" he demonstrated his power in spades. 🐾

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews



Ollie Reed, Jr.

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

DAVE STAMEY

Pigaroo and the Code of the West



Y'all know Dave Stamey. He is the many times over recipient of IWMA's Entertainer of the Year, Male Performer of the Year and Songwriter of

the Year awards and a member of the Western Music Hall of Fame.

His 2015 CD "Western Stories" is one of my favorite Western music albums, and I very much admired his 2018 book "The First Twenty Five Years: Songs and Stories," in which he tells the tales behind songs he has written.

So, I was more than pleased when I saw him at the IWMA convention in Albuquerque in November and he handed me "Pigaroo and the Code of the West," a collection of stories and essays.

Intrigued by the title, I started by reading the final piece, which is the

one from which the book gets its name. I don't want to give too much away, so I'll just say the story involves pot-bellied pigs named Charles and Princess Diana and affirms the easy, natural humor I have come to associate with Stamey's writing.

Here he is describing the handle-bar mustache sported by a giant of a horseshoer.

"When he waxed the points of that mustache, which he did for formal occasions like funerals, barbecues and livestock auctions, they stood nearly shoulder width."

There are 18 pieces in the book, and, although Stamey's got a style of his own, some of the writing may remind you of the late Baxter Black. Not all of it is straight-out funny, however. Some of it might give you chills.

In "The Ghost Hunters," he writes about how he always avoided anything to do with specters or hauntings of any kind -- until that night in a cabin at a guest ranch north of Tucson when he couldn't.

"Then I heard footsteps on the floor -- my floor, right there -- coming across the room."

And then there's "Deputy McGrew," in which the most honorable of intentions spin out of control in the most horrible and unimaginable ways. There are sirens and red, rotating lights.

In "Fixing the Water Trough," a simple repair job devolves into a sodden nightmare.

"I drove the shovel into the mud. And immediately felt the sharp snap as the riser broke loose from whatever it had been attached to down there. I won't tell you what I said. But it was colorful."

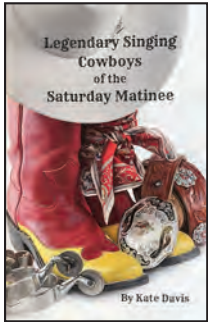
Since Stamey is the song-spinner he is, I can't close this review without addressing the essay "How to Write Songs." Here's some advice from a master.

"Use the word 'baby,' every chance you get. Do not hesitate. Throw it in there willy-nilly, like seasoning in a meatloaf."

("Pigaroo and the Code of the West," 9781098384654; paperback, 174 pages, \$20; HorseCamp Books; available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [booksamillion.com](https://www.booksamillion.com), [walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com) and other outlets.)

KATE DAVIS

Legendary Singing Cowboys of the Saturday Matinee



Kate Davis is married to Marty Davis, a Western musician and a member of IWMA's Columbia Chapter.

Marty does a show called The Legend of the

Pioneers, in which he pays tribute to silver-screen serenaders such as Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Tex Ritter, Rex Allen and so on. Over the years, Kate dug up a lot of information about singing cowboys to help Marty prepare for his performances, and she decided to put it in a book.

"Legendary Singing Cowboys of the Saturday Matinee" packs a lot of detail about the performing and personal lives of its subjects into its pages, which also include a bibliography that's a good guide for those who want to read more.

I was especially impressed by the way in which she untangles the rather complicated history of the Sons of the Pioneers, a group whose name and

membership underwent many changes over the years. I learned that the name that finally stuck was not even the group's idea. They were performing as the Pioneer Trio when an announcer took it upon himself to rechristen them the Sons of the Pioneers during a radio broadcast.

The Pioneers get a lot of ink in this book. Kate has a chapter about the group as a whole and chapters devoted to individuals – Rogers, Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer – who were among its more prominent members.

However, she starts the book with a chapter on Autry, whom she points out was not the first movie cowboy to sing on screen, but the first who was really a singer. Western movie warblers who preceded him included Warner Baxter, Buck Jones and Bob Steele.

Autry made his movie debut as part of a singing cowboy quartet in the 1934 Ken Maynard movie "In Old Santa Fe," and Kate writes that Autry went on to make nearly 100 movies and 600 recordings.

Starting in 1950, Autry's own Flying A Productions also made 91 half-hour TV episodes for "The Gene Autry Show," starring Autry and Pat Buttram. Kate notes that unlike other TV westerns, Autry's show featured music, making him series TV's only singing cowboy.

Other major chapters in the book delve into the lives and careers of Ritter, Allen and Marty Robbins. There are briefer looks at Maynard, Eddie Dean, Dick Foran, Herb Jeffries, Jimmy Wakely, Stan Jones, Ken Curtis, Tex Williams, Monte Hale and Singin' Sandy, the latter a role played by John Wayne.

According to Kate, Wayne made seven Singin' Sandy Saunders movies in the early 1930s, but, likely to the relief of Wayne and others, his singing voice was dubbed.

I should point out that the book suffers from some glitches – words omitted or words that should have been omitted, words that run together, etc. But these miscues do not detract from the telling of the book's story.

"Legendary Singing Cowboys of the Saturday Matinee" is a handy and entertaining guide to performers who helped shape the love many of us have for all things Western.

("Legendary Singing Cowboys of the Saturday Matinee," 9781737050001; paperback, 204 pages, \$22.95; Bear Creek Productions; available at amazon.com or through Bear Creek Productions, 1320 Honeysuckle Ave., Medford, Ore. 97504.) 🐾

AROUND The CAMPFIRE

*"Songs for, by and about the
Cowboys and the Western Way of Life!"*

and

The COUNTRY CAMPFIRE

"Where you hear REAL Country Music!"

WITH MARVIN O'DELL
meoteo@aol.com

Earsradio.com

The Country Campfire

M 11am – 2 pm

SA 6 am – 9 am

Around the Campfire

TH 10am – 12 pm

SU 1 am – 3 am

KKRN, Redding, CA

The Country Campfire

SA 10 am – 11 am

KZNQ, Santa Clarita, CA

The Country Campfire

W 10 pm – 11 pm

Around the Campfire

TU 10 pm – 11 pm

TH 10 pm – 11 pm



TIMES ARE CST AND AIRTIME MAY VARY

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

Marshal Allen Bailey

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

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
bobbijanbell@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
New Zealand Public Radio
KSHD, Shady Cove, OR
skipbessonette@gmail.com

Janice Brooks

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

Peter Bruce

"Under Western Skies"
KAFF 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
Email: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd., Bend, OR 97702

Roger & Leo Eilts

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

Doug Figgs

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

Nancy Flagg

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

Paul Hazell

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

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

Allen & Jill Kirkham

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

Jarle Kvale

KEYA Public Radio
PO Box 190, Belcourt, ND 58316
jkkkeya@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"
1410 Kubli Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
Earsradio.com
KSKO Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org
The Dalles, OR, Y102
KKTY, 100.1, Douglas, WY
KSHD 93.4 Shady Cove, OR
KORV 93.5 Ladeview, OR
www.ButchMartinMusic.com
www.romancingthewest.org
541-218-2477

Marvin O'Dell

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

O.J. Sikes

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

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
 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

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.

International Western Music Association PATRON* MEMBERS

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Nolan Bruce Allen | Grand Island, NY | Chuck & Cindy Learn | Calimesa, CA |
| Dorothy C. Beard | Perkinston, MS | Melissa & Michael Murphy | Albuquerque, NM |
| Ken Bucy | Mesa, AZ | Scott & Diana Overcash | Santo, TX |
| Larry & Susie Carpenter | Culver, OR | Fred & Dianne Powell | Denver, CO |
| Dr. Ted Coffman | Albuquerque, NM | Diana Raven | Lakewood, CO |
| Bob Harris | Aurora, OH | Bruce L. Roberts | Biloxi, MS |
| Dennis Heinzig | Whitefish, MT | Judi Lynn Seger | Bend, OR |
| W. F. "Bubba" Holder, II | Perkinston, MS | Scott Tonelson | Garden Grove, CA |
| James H. John (Kansas Jim) | Wichita, KS | Jerry West | Waxahachie, TX |
| Donna King | Granbury, TX | Larry Wildeboer | Shell Rock, IA |
| Valerie Lassiter | Kingman, AZ | Katherine Zellerbach | Hereford, AZ |

*The Patron Member group in the IWMA is comprised of an elite group of people who pay \$100 annually for IWMA membership. For their generosity, they get nothing more than general members and they expect nothing in return. They simply believe in the cause and the mission of IWMA and go a little above in supporting it. They are unsung, behind the scene folks. We sincerely appreciate their support and take this time to say a public "Thank You!" for your unwavering support. You, too, can be a Patron Member with your \$100+ donation. Contact Marsha Short, marsha@westernmusic.org

Become a PATRON MEMBER today!

Western Charts

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

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. Bunchgrass – Wylie & the Wild West
2. The Real West – Patty Clayton
3. Westbound – Micki Fuhrman
4. Times Like These – Randy Huston
5. Cowboy Serenade – Ed Meyer
6. Arizona Stars – Rusted Spurs West
7. Which Way'd They Go – KG & the Ranger
 UneXpected – Phoebe White
9. The Yellow Horse – Doug Figgs
10. Roll On, Cowboys – Andy Hedges
11. The Last Best West – Jim Reader
12. Me and Les – Dan McCorison
13. She's Leaving Cheyenne – John Lowell
14. Old West Requests – Pioneer Pepper
15. Sugarfoot – Paul Kelly
16. Doin' What We Do – The Cowboy Way
17. Between a Horse and Me – Almeda Bradshaw
18. Travelin' West – Allan Chapman & Rodeo Kate
19. Sidekicks and Saddle Pals – Dan Robert Crow
20. American Outlaw – Chris Guenther
21. Straight From the Heart – Cyndi K. Austin &
 Suzi Killman
22. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
23. Good Days Are Comin' – Jim Jones
24. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
25. Range of the Buffalo – Kerry Grombacher
26. Purple Sage (And Other Tales From the Plateau) –
 Dan Canyon Band
 97 Acres – The Renfrees
28. Turn 'Em Loose – Susie Knight
29. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
30. One More River to Cross – The Ramblin' Rangers

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Arizona Stars – Rusted Spurs West
2. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
3. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
 Yearnin' – Jim Winters
5. This is Swing Country – Steve Markwardt
6. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
7. Devil on My Tail – Hot Texas Swing Band
8. Dancin' With Swingitude – Grace Clark
9. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
 Swingin' Open Range – Barbara Nelson
 Lone Star Fiddler – Ridge Roberts

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Ribbon of Darkness – Wylie & the Wild West
2. Long Gone Out West Blues – Patty Clayton
3. What a Moon – Micki Fuhrman
4. Everything I Hold Dear – Clint Bradley
5. Cowboy Serenade – Ed Meyer
6. Girlfriend is a Barrel Racer – Wylie & the Wild West
7. Welcome to Wickenburg – Dan McCorison
8. Sacramentos – Doug Figgs
 Desert Skies – Carlos Washington
10. Red Buffalo – Patty Clayton
 Where the Storms Go to Die – Randy Huston
 Boo Hoo Blues – Phoebe White

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. No Better Life – Valerie Beard
2. Drovers, Tributes, and Heartbreaks – K.C. LaCourse
3. The Best Horses in Heaven They Have no Tails –
 Miska Paget
4. Why We Cowboy – Rick "Yonder" Goodell
5. Between the Sun and the Moon – Teresa Burleson
 Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg
 Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
8. Saddle-Borne Lessons – Rick "Yonder" Goodell
9. Horse Tales and Cow Trails – Floyd Beard
 The Truth – A.K. Moss
 Language of the Land – Tom Swearingen

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

IWMA LIFETIME MEMBERS

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nolan Bruce Allen | Grand Island, NY | Michael P. McAleenan | Madison, MS |
| Rex Allen, Jr. | Nashville, TN | Janet McBride | Rockwall, TX |
| Judi Anderson | Albuquerque, NM | Steven "Mac" McCartney | Aurora, CO |
| Cindy Argyle | Hooper, UT | Tracy McHenry | Tucson, AZ |
| Cowboy Joe Babcock | Franklin, TN | Gary McMahan | Laporte, CO |
| Troy Bateson | Vilonia, AR | Al "Doc" Mehl | Black Diamond, AB, Canada |
| Floyd Beard | Kim, CO | Tree Menane | Taos, NM |
| George & Doris Bensmiller | Armstrong, BC, Canada | Jon Messenger | Sierra Vista, AZ |
| John Bergstrom | Northridge, CA | Kathy Messenger | Sierra Vista, AZ |
| Carol Bobroff | San Diego, CA | Joseph Miskulin | Kirtland, OH |
| Robin Freerks (Ned Bodie) | Goldendale, WA | Michael Martin Murphey | Nashville, TN |
| Sherry Bond | Nashville, TN | Rich O'Brien | Afton, OK |
| Mark E. Brown | Franklin, IN | Marvin O'Dell | Sun City, AZ |
| Ken Bucy | Mesa, AZ | Theresa O'Dell | Sun City, AZ |
| Les Buffham | Saugus, CA | Tom O'Malley | Harvard, ID |
| Stephen S. Burnette | Brownsville, TN | Darren Oliver | Castle Rock, CO |
| Robert Maxwell Case | Slick, OK | Sara Lou Oliver | Castle Rock, CO |
| Susan Booth Case | Slick, OK | Billy Pitts | Kansas City, MO |
| Woody Paul Chrisman | Nashville, TN | Pamela Plaskitt | Waterloo, IA |
| Patty Clayton | Edgewater, CO | Rich Price | Oakdale, CA |
| Karen Cloutier | Conyngham, PA | Jeff Pundt | Lakeside, AZ |
| Peggy Collins | Cordova, TN | Diana Raven | Lakewood, CO |
| Henry "Steve" Conroy | Sierra Vista, AZ | Herb Remington | Ruidoso, NM |
| Polly Cooke | Wickenburg, AZ | Steven Rhodes | Foosland, IL |
| Jan Michael Corey | Mesa, AZ | Victoria Rhodes | Foosland, IL |
| Stan Corliss | Hillsboro, OR | Rusty Richards | Silverado, CA |
| William Crowe | Van Horn, TX | Don Richardson | Upland, CA |
| Don Cusic | Nashville, TN | Barbara Richhart | Mancos, CO |
| Mark & Marlene Davis | Chatsworth, CA | Roger Ringer | Medicine Lodge, KS |
| David DeBolt | Nolensville, TN | LeeLee Robert | Paradise Valley, AZ |
| Rich Dollarhide | Sierra Vista, AZ | Jessie D. Robertson | Fort Worth, TX |
| Arlys Eaton | Scottsdale, AZ | Patricia Robinson | Tucson, AZ |
| Dave Eaton | Scottsdale, AZ | Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr. | Lampe, MO |
| Fred Engel | Kimball Junction, UT | Elizabeth Rukavina | Arleta, CA |
| Brad & Bonnie Exton | Hot Springs, SD | Lori Rutherford | Sierra Vista, AZ |
| Robert E. Fee, Esq. | Tucson, AZ | Mike Rutherford | Sierra Vista, AZ |
| Juni Fisher | Franklin, TN | Ray Ryan | San Jose, CA |
| Rick Flory | Paradise Valley, AZ | Yvonne Ryan | San Jose, CA |
| Norbert Gauch | Walzenhausen, Switzerland | Mary M. Ryland | Albuquerque, NM |
| Dick & Dixie Goodman | Sun City West, AZ | Suzanne Samelson | Thermopolis, WY |
| Fred Goodwin | Murfreesboro, TN | Rudolf P. Schai | Bernhardzell, Switzerland |
| Douglas B. Green | Brentwood, TN | Jim Sharp | Nashville, TN |
| Betsy Bell Hagar | Mill Valley, CA | Hank Sheffer | Apache Junction, AZ |
| Jerry Hall | Porterville, CA | Sharyn Sheffer | Apache Junction, AZ |
| Patti Hamel | Petoskey, MI | O.J. Sikes | Ridgewood, NJ |
| Tex Hamel | St. Ignace, MI | Lindy Simmons | Mancos, CO |
| Les Hamilton | Dubois, WY | Cowboy Jerry Sooter | Apple Valley, CA |
| Calvin Danner Hampton | Amarillo, NM | Julie Spencer | Pacific City, OR |
| Lisa Hampton | Amarillo, NM | Dave Stamey | Orange Cove, CA |
| RW Hampton | Amarillo, NM | Cheryl Stanley | Roswell, NM |
| Joe Hannah | Visalia, CA | Red Steagall | Fort Worth, TX |
| Lon Hannah | Visalia, CA | Bob Taylor | El Cajon, CA |
| Joni Harms | Canby, OR | Steve Taylor | Roy, UT |
| Eddy Harrison | Las Cruces, NM | Terri Taylor | Roy, UT |
| Tom & Jane Hilderbrand | Little River, SC | Ed Terry | Merritt, NC |
| Randy A. Hoyt | Grand Junction, CO | J. R. (Ray) Threatt | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Rick Huff | Albuquerque, NM | Alma Tussing | Hudson, WY |
| Voleta Hummel | Sierra Vista, AZ | Stanley Tussing | Deming, NM |
| Charles Jennings | Rockville, MD | Marilyn Tuttle | San Fernando, CA |
| Emma F. Kaenzig | Walzenhausen, Switzerland | Robert Wagoner | Bishop, CA |
| Paul Kelly | Santa Fe, NM | Harvey Walker | Anaheim, CA |
| Karen L. Killion | Forney, TX | Carlos Washington | Youngstown, NM |
| Ray Kraft | Loomis, CA | Washtub Jerry | Fort Davis, TX |
| Fred LaBour | Ashland City, TN | Leonard Werner | Flemington, NJ |
| Jane Leche | Westcliffe, CO | Johnny Western | Mesa, AZ |
| Paul Lohr | Nashville, TN | Norman Winter | Mills, WY |
| Clyde Lucas | Sylmar, CA | Renee Wood | Ogden, UT |
| Mike Mahaney | Burbank, CA | Joyce Woodson | San Juan Capistrano, CA |



❧ PRESERVING WESTERN ❧
MUSIC, POETRY & HERITAGE
OF THE AMERICAN WEST
FOR 35 YEARS
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

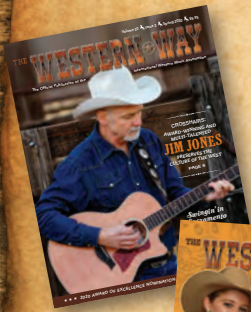


RECEIVE

THE **WESTERN WAY**

Official Quarterly Publication of the
International Western Music Association

FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP
OR SUBSCRIBE FOR **ONLY \$22**



CONTACT THE IWMA FOR INFORMATION ON
HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER AND SUBSCRIBE TO WESTERN WAY

505.563.0673 • MARSHA@WESTERNMUSIC.ORG
IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG •  [WESTERNMUSICASSOCIATION](https://www.facebook.com/WESTERNMUSICASSOCIATION)

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S WILD WEST HERITAGE

WHERE THE WEST CAN STILL BE WON

The Old West Comes Alive with a Membership in SASS®

Members receive a numbered shooters badge, alias registration, an annual subscription to *The Cowboy Chronicle* and much more!



SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY™

Toll Free: **877-411-SASS**

505-843-1320

www.sassnet.com



IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG
 P.O. BOX 648
 COPPELL, TX 75019

NON-PROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 JEFFERSON CITY, MO
 PERMIT# 210

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

THE WESTERN WAY

Official Quarterly Publication of the International Western Music Association

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 YEAR | 2 YEARS | 3 YEARS | 4 YEARS |
| \$22.00 | \$40.00 | \$60.00 | \$75.00 |

JOIN THE IWMA AND RECEIVE THE WESTERN WAY MAGAZINE
FREE

CONTACT THE IWMA

505.563.0673 • MARSHA@WESTERNMUSIC.ORG • IWESTERNMUSIC.ORG