



Cowboy Way Tribune

Preserving Cowboy Culture

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Celebrating Everything Cowboy—New & Old!

The Cowboy Way Lifestyle — Education is the Key to Preservation

*“The Cowboy Way is dead.” “Cowboys are a dying breed.”
I hear these statements every week. But I do not believe them!*

DID YOU KNOW there are over 700,000 farms, ranches, and livestock lots in the United States? 27% of the U.S. land is used for grazing livestock. 80% of these establishments are family-toperated of which 58% are being run by the third generation. And 97% (compared to 64% of the general population) vote! Nearly half are involved with FFA, 4H, or other local student activities. About 600,000 very hard working folks are feeding the entire U.S. population as well as much of the planet!

There may not be as many career opportunities in today's world of cowboys as there is in oh, say, health care, but today, cowboys are as necessary as ever; more so in my opinion. Fewer people are feeding more people. To me that sounds pretty darned 'essential.'

In the Fall of 2015, I became involved in the Gene Autry, Oklahoma Museum of local history, a niche museum dedicated to the singing cowboys of the silver screen and early television. As the Executive Director I found it necessary to learn everything I could about these actors. In turn, I learn a lot more about my own heritage (as a fourth generation Oklahoman). And I discovered something more. Many of these folks were hard-working honest folk. They came from the farms across America and brought their work ethic with them. Most




were Godly folk. People you really could admire. (Yes, yes, they had their flaws, too, don't we all?)

Today, pretty much every business pipes in music for their customers/visitors. That museum was no different. And, of course, we only played the music of those 'singing cowboys.' Do you know what I discovered? I listened to that music nine to ten hours a day every week. One of my personal favorite bands is Led Zeppelin (stay with me here!). But there

is no way I could listen to their music non-stop for an entire day, much less for months without going completely postal! However, I listened to Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Rex Allen, and more for six months before I realized this. I NEVER got agitated listening. I heard mostly the same four CDs for a year and it never bothered me to the point I wanted to turn it off. That's a big deal for me!

Why did I tell you this? Because this is where the Cowboy Way Jubilee was born. From the cowboy music. From the amazing, many barely known cowboys and cowgirls that worked Hollywood from it's birth forward. They're the stuntmen, wranglers, and trainers. Cowboys are the ones who work behind the scenes with no expectation of recognition — be it in Hollywood or a 100 acre farm in SW Pennsylvania, or Texas, or Utah, or Alabama, or

continued on the page 4



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The Cowboy Way, Cowboy Culture, Cowboy Lifestyle, whatever you choose to call it, is IMPORTANT. It is *critical* to the survival of our people. It is skill, craftsmanship, knowledge, and a moral code. It must be preserved. Cowboy isn't a just profession. There are cowboy cartoonists, cowboy dentists, cowboy wranglers, and cowboy businessmen. As I've said, it's a 'way' of life.

Look at the popularity of both RFD-TV and *The Cowboy Way Alabama* series, now in it's seventh season! That's some staying power. And the stars of this reality series aren't old foggies like me, they're young and energetic. I see a tide turning as more people are seeing the advantages of rural living – of the desire to be more in touch with nature through the outdoors, through animals, through less concrete and more greenness.

Our Cowboy Way Jubilee vision statement:

The Cowboy Way Jubilee exists to preserve and promote the cowboy way and culture. It is wholesomely family-oriented teaching the skills, and art, of the cowboys to a new generation while providing entertainment to all ages.

Thus, **EDUCATION** is an integral aspect to the Cowboy Way Jubilee. We began slowly, with the music and our bigger than life on-screen

cowboys. As we've grown we've added a bit more each year. Now we are to the point where our focus is finding a balance between Education and Entertainment.

We don't just show movies, we discuss them. We don't just play music, we involve the community, teaching them our songs. And we learn from our elders, who have 'been there, done that' to preserve the wisdom of experience, upon which you cannot put a price!

Thus, the real gist of the is article is a **Call to Participate**. Teach, demonstrate, share. We need so many workshops that one can't do everything they wish in one visit! Coming back again and again the cowboy culture wiggles under your skin. First it's a hat, then boots, then...!

SO Step Up! Hold a workshop. If you want to charge for it, you keep 100% of the fees.

If it doesn't matter, the free ones are really popular. Pass on what you know. Teach the next generation as well as the curious. Help preserve and promote our Way, the Cowboy Way! Contact Leslei Fisher, 580.768.5559 or cowboywayfest@gmail.com to discuss how you can participate! ★



Editor's Corner

HOWDY Y'ALL! Welcome to this issue of the **Cowboy Way Tribune**, the official eZine of the **Cowboy Way Jubilee**. We're a bit behind in getting this issue out (it's so-o-o 2020). We're glad you take the time to read our little eZine, thank you!

Friday, I received a study done by the State of Texas Tourism Department. It was meant to be encouraging. The fact is the Travel Industry has all but collapsed. Nationwide industry losses are pushing half a trillion dollars. This industry is always a gamble; that's the nature of the business. But we've never seen anything like this, not in a 100 years. My personal losses number in the 10s of thousands of dollars. No refunds are being offered by airlines or any business related to the travel industry. They all say, "we'll apply what you've paid to next year." And thus I must also pass that on. The nearly ten grand spent on National advertising, "poof" it's gone, non-refundable. And sponsor pools are all but dried up as well.

According the State Travel Study, of those over 55, most have *no* intentions of traveling in the next three to six months. They're – waiting – on a vaccine that should bring relief. I get their hesitation. This "virus" seems to strike with no rhyme or reason. And it is very important everyone feels safe and does what must be done to stay healthy.

There was bright spot in the Study though. Those under 55 are more than ready to travel. According to these stats, the younger crowd are likely to stay within a day's drive of home. The trend, before all this hit, was towards Agri-Tourism – where you have fun while learning something new. Part of our reasons to push for workshops.

As our core group of **Cowboy Way Jubilee** attendees are loyal and wonderful, we need to find that line between satisfying our steadfast attendees while attracting these younger folks. It's why we have always made attendance free for anyone under 18. They won't love it if they don't know it. (Bring the Grandkids!)

A truly successful event, of any kind, attracts and entertains a broad spectrum: diverse in ages and specific interest while maintaining a common overall theme (i.e., Cowboys). And successful events are very stingy with their budgets. For 2020 our projected budget was \$80k. We lost about a quarter of that. Which means 2021 requires even tighter belts. The bigger the name the better the draw and the more it costs to get them. Simple math. Finally, successful events are very well advertised. Since our advertising budget was destroyed by 2020, we're looking for more Word of Mouth. Major magazine ads start at \$1,500 for one small ad. Radio and TV generally don't reach our niche (and is still expensive).

One of the greatest things on which we all agree is how the Cowboy Community always steps up and pulls together. If I have two slices of bread and you have none, I give you one, now we each have one slice. Cowboys and cowgirls join together doing whatever it takes to get the job done. We have each others' backs.

You can help by telling everyone you know about the Cowboy Way Jubilee. Invite them to come. Send them to our website, Facebook or MeWe pages, send them the link to this newsletter. (We're waving the subscription fee for non-attendees through January 31, 2021).

Please be patient with us here at the Cowboy Way Jubilee. We're doing everything we can to make 2021 fantastic by thinking outside the box. We promise not to change things too much and we're doing all we can to get your favorite stars, musicians, and authors to appear. ★

Leslei

Leslei Fisher

Editor, Publisher, Cowboy Groupie, & Cowboy Way Jubilee Event Founder

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Bent Towards Prose,

featuring cowboy poet **Robert Beene**, Peyton, Colorado



One For Tristen

Now that's a "cowboy" I smiled
when I heard what she said
She's looking at that kid by the fence
The one with the palm leaf brim on his head

But I know more about him
Than that woman ever will
And clothes don't make a Cowboy
It's more about what you've done
and skill

See, He's never double hocked a calf
To drag to the brandin' fire
Never worked out in hundred
degree heat
To re-string busted barb wire

He's never saddled a horse in the dark
Or trotted out before the sunrise
Never push cattle up a loadin' chute,
While fighting the dust and flies

He's never had to pull a calf
In snow up to his knees
Or brought in a newborn Colt
lay'em next to a fire an hope that he won't
freeze

He's never hired out snappin' Colts
Or been given his own string
Never rode out after a fire and
thanked God
For new grass coming up green

He's never drove like a madman
Over 30 miles of rough road
To get a friend to a hospital
After a bad fall when he got throwed

He's never been thankful for rain
Or the grass that it will bring
Then curse it in the same breath for the
Rot-hoof he'll doctor all spring

So I laughed when she called him
a cowboy
'cause he's never done any of that
And it takes more to be a cowboy
Than boots and jeans and a hat

But my laughter is not out of malice
And that kid, well he's no wannabe
He's more a I ain't got there yet
see he's my son and just barely passed
three.

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Christmas Eve

It was cold that Christmas eve
I's seven miles or so from the shack.
Thinking of family, so far away
And wonderin' if I'd ever make it back.

I chose this life long ago
Though when I left my mother cried
And she still prays for my soul
That is, if she's still alive.

That storm had blown in awful fast
And snow was sure gettin' deep
I was startin' to fret some
'Cause that trail was awful steep.

So I started huntin' some shelter
Somewhere to ride out the storm
The temperature was dang sure droppin'
All I wanted was just to be warm.

I rode for a little while longer
To a spot I'd camped once or twice
Just a rock shelf that backed up to the north
Out of the wind, it'd have to suffice.

I knew it'd be a rough night
But I'd been through bad times before.
The fact that I had no coffee, or bed roll
Was what was really making me sore.

I knew I'd spend all night rustling wood
That's the only way I wouldn't freeze
And sleep was out of the question.
That night, on the mountain, in the trees.

Well I got that fire blazin' hot
unsaddled and rubbed down ole Blue
I hadn't brought any feed
So there wasn't much else I could do.

"Sorry old friend, it'll be a rough night
And I know you'd sure like some feed.
Well, in the mornin' well head to camp
And I'll give you all that you need."

That's how I spent that night
Trying to keep the fire going,
Talkin' to Blue and to myself.
An prayin' that wind would quit blowin'

Then I got to thinking
'Bout a story my mother told.
of how a baby was born
in a stable out in the cold.

That first Christmas must have been something
A heavenly choir sang in full voice
O'er the stable where Jesus was born.
While on the hillside the shepherds rejoiced.

How the Savior entered this world
Unannounced to most of mankind.
Born of a virgin in a stable
His love, he hopes we'll find.

As I sat by that fire in the snow,
Thinking to myself of Christ's birth.
The hard times I had suffered
Was nothing next to his walk on earth.

So y'all know the rest of my story
Me and Blue made it down all right.
But alone up on the mountain
I found the savior that night. ★

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A native Oklahoman, Robert Beene is a farrier, cowboy poet, author, and a singer/songwriter. But that's not all! He's a retired bull rider, former ranch hand, and biologist. (He refers to himself as a "Semi-professional bull faller-off-er".) Robert's cowboy poetry and songs are inspired by his life's events and those of friends he has met along the way. Winner of multiple awards, Robert co-wrote Once A Cowboy with friend Debra Coppinger Hill. He is a proud member of Cowboys for Christ and Academy of Western Artists. Beene volunteers his time to perform at schools, retirement homes, and libraries. He works to provide rural communities with libraries through the Cowboys for Western Literature project. Contact him via email, alwayscowboy.info@gmail.com or online at www.alwayscowboy.net/robert_beene.html

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Be A Published Author! Article submissions to the 2021 Winter Issue of the **Cowboy Way Tribune** are due no later than **February 1, 2021**. **February 15, 2021** is the submission date for the **2021 Program Guide**. Email article and any accompanying photos to: cowboy-wayfest@gmail.com. Include your name and a telephone number, in case we have any questions. Regarding any submission of photos, it is understood the photographer for all photos submitted gives permission to use the image(s) provided. Author's and any photographer's credit(s) will be published. Photos must be 2Mb or larger in size in order to properly reproduce for publication. ★

Just the Way I Told ‘em, a Cowboy Story

as told by Mike Thompson

BIG CODY O’CALLAHAN STOOD QUIETLY at the back of the little country church as the people filed in. He nervously rolled his good, wide-brimmed, gray cowboy hat between his big callused hands, nodded, smiled and spoke each of their names as they walked past him. Cody was a tall man with no extra weight on his lanky frame. His face was deeply wrinkled and tanned up to a white line just above his eyebrows that was the border where his cowboy hat had rested for many years. The penetrating lines running out from the corners of his eyes set off a mischievous twinkle and showed that he had squinted from many long hours in the sun. His eyebrows and the hair on his head were pure white, but the droopy, walrus mustache that hid his upper lip and the corners of his mouth still maintained enough of the original color to qualify as salt and pepper. He had the kind of face that cowboys referred to as “rode hard and put up wet a time or two too many.”

The people filing into the church had been standing outside in groups in the shade of the trees talking until the minister opened the doors to let them in. Most of them had the tanned skin and hard callused hands of working people and they all wore what they considered proper funeral attire in respect to a departed friend and neighbor. Saddled horses, heads hanging and tails swishing at flies, were tied to a rope picket line strung between trees in the small grove beside the church. Several wagons with teams and single horse hitches were also scattered among the trees.

“I’m sorry,” the minister apologized as he opened the doors, a sheepish smile on his face. I was busy in the back and thought they were already opened. I was wondering why no one had come in yet. I knew this funeral would draw a good crowd. Why didn’t somebody just open them up and let y’all come on in?”

“It’s nice out there in the shade, Reverend,” one of the younger cowboys answered as he pulled off his hat and motioned for a lady to go ahead of him. “Sides that, it gits a bit hot in here after a while.”

“Especially on those Sundays, Rev, when you gits to preachin’ that fire an’ brimstone of yours,” another cowboy joked as he passed.

Cody glanced out the door and smiled when he saw a big buckskin horse tied to the rope line in the trees. “Hard Times, you’re a damned good horse,” he muttered and his eyes shot upward. “Sorry, Lord, I didn’t mean to use that kinda talk in Your house. It just sorta slipped out..., but he is a damned good horse.”



The last of the people had been seated and the minister began to speak. “Friends, we are gathered here today to pay our final respects to a sometime crusty, but good and dear departed friend.”

Cody turned, stepped out of the church, pulled his hat down on his head and gave it a tug to cock it down slightly over his right eye. He always cocked his hat down over that eye because he felt it gave him a certain devil-may-care attitude appearance. He walked across the churchyard into the grove and slowly made his way down the line of horses, sliding in between them to rub their noses, run his fingers through their manes and, if he knew it, call them by name.

The sound of the people in the church singing “Rock of Ages” reached his ears and he smiled. “One of my favorites,” he thought as he rubbed the nose of a big buckskin horse.

“Well, Hard Times, you ready to make the walk to the cemetery when the service is over?” he asked. “Should be quite a parade from the looks of all the horses and wagons here today.” For the first time he could remember, the big horse showed no response to his words. He stood with his hands on his hips and studied the horse for a few minutes, then turned and walked slowly back to the church.

Cody, hat in hand, climbed the stairs to the empty balcony, walked down and sat in the front pew. He leaned forward, his hat hanging loosely from his hands draped over the railing. His eyes focused on the pair of elaborately sewn, inlaid patterned, well-polished, high-topped cowboy boots that stood in the center of the altar. Fancy tooled leather straps with large, silver, bucking horse conchos held a pair of ornate engraved silver rodeo champion spurs in place on the heel of each boot. Cody nodded and smiled. “Not exactly working gear,” he told himself, “but sure as hell fancy at a saloon or a dance.” He glanced upward quickly. “Sorry.” He looked back at the boots, nodded and grinned.

The minister’s words came into the old cowboy’s consciousness. “.... told me there wasn’t a story about the two of them that could be told in a church,” the minister said and looked up at the congregation as they all laughed softly. “He once told me he wasn’t much of a man for coming to church. He said he worshiped the Lord in his own way, at his own times and at his own places. He saw and appreciated God’s work everyplace and that’s probably what he’s doing right now.”

Cody nodded as he stood up, walked to the back of the balcony, turned and looked back down at the boots and spurs on the altar. The minister’s words were no longer clearly reaching him as he

stood lost in his own thoughts. Out of habit he pushed the edge of his mustache down into this mouth and chewed at it. Suddenly the sounds of the people singing again brought him out of his reverie. They were singing “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” “Another one of my favorites,” he told himself softly, smiled, nodded and began to sing along.

When the singing ended, Cody walked softly back downstairs and out onto the steps of the church. He pulled his hat back on and adjusted it just right as he looked out at the horses. The sounds of the people in the church singing “That Old Rugged Cross” brought a wide smile to his face. “I really like that one, too.” He looked up over the trees and chuckled. “For a man who never spent a lot of time in church, I sure got a lot of favorite hymns.”

The people began to file out of the church, each shaking the hand of the minister and speaking softly to him as they passed through the door. The men pulled on their hats, followed the women and children as they trooped to the carriages and helped them climb aboard before moving to the picket line to make last minute adjustments of their horse gear in preparation for the short ride to the small country cemetery. A young man in a faded Spanish American War army uniform walked quickly to one of the horses, untied it, stepped back, pushed aside a bugle hanging from the saddle horn, swung up into the saddle and nudged his horse into a brisk walk.

“Bennie was a dam.... danged good bugler with us down in Cuba,” Cody told himself as he saw the young man lift the bugle and look at it as he disappeared over the hill. “He called some dam... danged good charges down there when we were following Colonel Roosevelt. There ain’t gonna be a dry eye when he gets done with ‘Taps’. Especially when he blows it from the far hill and the sound echoes back across the cemetery. It’s beautiful.”

The minister and a tall, thin cowboy walked out across the grass to the grove, each carrying one of the fancy spurred boots from the altar. Another cowboy held the bridle of the dead man’s horse as the minister and the cowboy each put a boot backward into a stirrup and adjusted the spurs as two other cowboys tied them in place with a shirt leather tie. The tall cowboy walked over to a nearby horse, untied it, stepped up into a stirrup, swung his leg up over the back of the saddle and reached down to take the reins of the dead man’s horse. When everyone was satisfied, the minister walked over to one of the fancier carriages, climbed up into the back seat and motioned his hand towards the far hills. The remaining cowboys mounted their horses, wiggled in the saddles, stood in the stirrups and gave a tug or two at the saddle horn to make sure everything was ready. The tall cowboy nudged his horse into the center of the road and the dead man’s horse stepped in behind him as he moved off. The cowboys grouped in lines of four abreast and rode out into the road. The fancy carriage with the minister in the back seat followed the long parade of riders and soon all of the wheeled vehicles were moving behind them on the road.

Cody ran into the road to walk beside the dead cowboy’s horse. He hooked a finger in the chain under the horse’s jaw and matched the horse’s pace. “Well, Hard Times, I guess this’ll be our last walk together,” he said softly.

The tall cowboy and the minister untied the reversed boots from the stirrups, hooked a short, soft rope through the pull straps and the minister carried them, swinging beside him, to the grave. He set the boots on a small pile of dirt beside a hole that was only two feet across, hung the rope over them, brushed his hands together and smiled at the gathering of people as they moved closer. The men removed their hats and several of the women touched hankies to their faces.

“Well, folks, the man who wore these boots always seemed to get things done his way, one way or another. Before he died, he paid for and made the arrangements to have his body cremated in Bismarck. Then as per his instructions, his ashes and a few personal items were sealed in his best boots adorned by his flashiest championship spurs. They were all brought back out here to Glencoe for burial. He told me in the hospital that being buried in his best boots was as close as he could come to dying with his boots on because the hospital wouldn’t let him wear his boots in the hospital bed.”

Most of the people in the circle around the grave chuckled or laughed.

“And he’d like knowin’ that he got the last laugh for the whole thing,” the tall cowboy added and most of the people chuckled or laughed again.

The minister picked up the rope and lifted the boots into the air over the small hole in the ground. “Ashes to ashes,” he began as he slowly lowered the boots into the earth.

From a far hill the notes of ‘Taps’ echoed across the circle of the dead cowboy’s friends.

Big Cody O’Callahan, nodded, and smiled. “They did it all just like I told ‘em,” he said as he pulled on his best hat, tilted it just right and slowly faded into the afterlife. ☆

This was in the *Arizona Literary Magazine* for 1997: Short Story – Second Place: “Just The Way I Told ‘Em”, by Mike Thompson. ★

Mike Thompson is an award-winning writer, playwright and photographer. He retired from the government where he tested explosives and was curator of an Army museum. He is a Vietnam veteran, medic, (1966-67) with a military career spanning forty-two years, (1960-2002), including the Air Force, Army, Army Reserves and National Guard.

Mike, his wife, Ruthie, and cat Mollie, live on the Laughing Horse Ranch, Land and Cattle Company, San Angelo, Texas. He has owned several businesses, worked as an actor, carpenter, bartender, oil landman, raised horses and done other things while trying to decide what he’s going to be if he grows up. His Western, “The Turbulent Trail”, was the Arizona Authors Association 2017 #2 book of the year and his play, “Ashes Are Ashes”, was the AAA 2018 Best New Drama. His books may be found on [Amazon](#), [Mike Thompson/San Angelo Writer’s Club](#).



Bent Towards Prose, Special Edition

featuring cowboy poet Ken Howry, A Cowboy in the Kingdom



Image from Elf Pets: Santa’s Reindeer Rescue, ©2020 Scout Elf Productions, All Rights Reserved
See Elf Pets: Santa’s Reindeer Rescue on Netflix, a 2020 release

The Reindeer Roundup

(Written for our Grandkids)*

Up past the Arctic Circle
Out on the North Pole range
‘neath the Aurora Borealis
Where traditions hardly change

In the first week of December
When the roundup has commenced
They’ll be gatherin’ all the reindeer
On the frontier, that’s yet unfenced

They’ll jingle in the cavvy
Each elf will call their mount
Santa’s handy with his riata
And his houlihans all count

Each pony’s brushed and saddled
Latigos and cinches taut
Riders mounted, standing ready
They’ll be leaving in a trot

The Reindeer Boss will call the drive
From atop his big ol’ bay

He’ll lead the crew in a carol or two
Then they’ll be on their merry way

All the little reindeer wranglers
Will fall in the jigger line
They’ll be dropped off on the circle
To hunt fresh tracks and sign

Once they cut the reindeer trail
Of Rudolph and his friends
They’ll throw the herd together
And point ‘em towards the pens

Drive ‘em to the North Pole Village
Then they’ll lead ‘em ‘round the square
To joyous cheers of jubilation
From every elf that’s there

They’ll drive ‘em to the “pole” corrals
On the other side of town
There’s much to do, ‘fore they’re through
And it’s time to bed ‘em down

Saint Nick will do the countin’
As they ease ‘em through the gate
Then they’ll get to sortin’ on ‘em
Once the final tally’s straight

They’ll cut out red-nosed Rudy
Since he’s easiest to spot
Next, they’ll peel off Blixem
He’s an ornery little snot

Ol’ Dasher’s pretty speedy
So, he’ll be the next to go
They’ll sort off Comet and Dunder,
Then let their ponies blow

After they’ve caught their air
They’ll drive ol’ Dancer from the herd
Then ease out Vixen and Cupid
Without the others gettin’ stirred

They’ll cut out a couple extra
For the reindeer team, because



If one gets sick or pulls up lame
It won’t hold up Santa Claus

Their training starts the next day
Gotta get up ‘em up to speed
So, for breakfast every mornin’
it’s, Santa’s “Magic Reindeer Feed”

In no time they’ll be flyin’
Lopin’ circles through the air
Come, Christmas Eve, they’re ready
An’ each one will pull their share

When St Nick takes ahold of the reins
He’ll ask ‘em to step out
In unison, they’ll move the sleigh
An’ start their Christmas route

When the Christmas run is over
The last reindeer brushed an’ fed
Before yer eyes are widely open
an’ you’re jumpin’ out a bed

To see what Santa left ya
Underneath the Christmas tree
The herd’s headed back to pasture
Where they’ll be running wild an’ free

Until next year’s Reindeer Roundup
When Kris Kringle gives the call
To saddle up your ponies....
‘cause it’s almost Christmas y’all! ★

© 2019 Ken Howry, Sunshine Prairie Poetry
www.creationtoday.org/santa-claus-and-christian-kids-whats-a-parent-to-do/

As a cowboy preacher, poet and humorist, Ken draws on his life experiences, both good and bad, to share his faith and love for God, Country and the Cowboy lifestyle.

Ken began writing cowboy poetry in the early 1990’s and put together his first collection, Headin’ Home....A Cowboy’s Journey in 2003.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Ken, has been a cowboy all his life, working on and managing horse and cattle ranches in Oklahoma, Texas, and Florida. Being a native “Okie”, Ken also worked a lot of hours in the oil and gas industry as well.

Ken and his lovely wife Lisa live southwest of Fritch, Oklahoma in an area known as Sunshine on their Sunshine Prairie Ranch.

They are blessed with seven children and fourteen grandchildren.

You can like and follow Ken on Facebook, www.facebook.com/ACowboyinTheKingdom/, YouTube, and other social media where he shares his latest Cowboy Poetry and awareness efforts.



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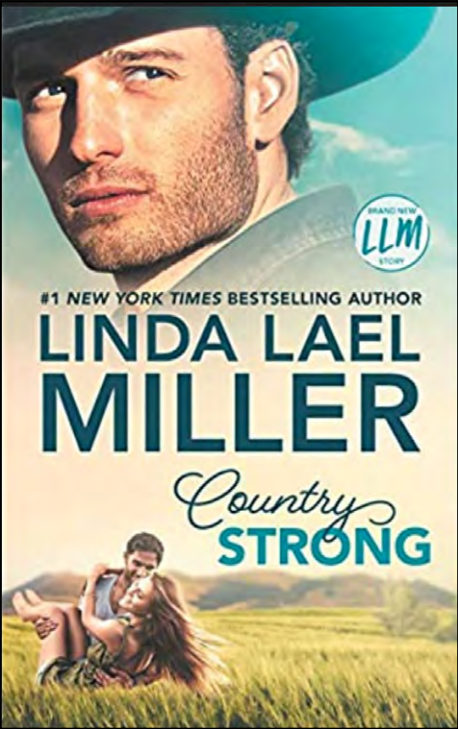
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Book Review:

Country Strong: A Painted Pony Creek Novel,

Linda Lael Miller, Author

A Book Review by Daya Bihm



BEST-SELLING *USA TODAY* NOVELIST Linda Lael Miller's latest book, *Country Strong*, is a contemporary look into family, friendship, and community. In present day Montana, the novel is as predict-

able as a Hallmark movie, but manages to shed a powerful light on themes that happen all too often in life.

Reba Shannon was Shallie Fletcher's best friend 18 years ago. No one really knew what happened to her after high school. Yet, the novel unfolds when Carly, Reba's now-teenage daughter, shows up

on a stormy night in Painted Pony Creek. J.P. McCall, Eli Garrett, and Cord Hollister were all former boyfriends of Reba, in addition to being best friends. They were betrayed by Reba in high school and almost didn't recover their friendship. Now, citizens of the community (JP is a veteran, Eli is a cop, and Cord trains troubled and prized racehorses on his grandfather's ranch) they are rushed back to the past with Carly's sudden appearance. The whole town is curious, but accepts her. Meanwhile, Shallie is pulled into her former high school crush, Cord's world, as she learns about the horses on the ranch and what they mean to Cord. She hasn't seen him in years, and yet something is pulling her toward him all this time later. Does Cord still feel something for Reba? Or is there a new beginning with Shallie? As Shallie spends more time on the ranch, she becomes a person Carly starts to confide in. Along with Tina, Cord's housekeeper, they learn a little more about the girl. One thing is that Carly has a voice like her mother and is also very fond of animals. As more secrets unfold, each character learns more about their situations in the past, while trying to help their own. Shallie was abandoned by her mother in a decrepit motel room when she was just a toddler. She was taken in by aunt and uncle, who were often drunk and ran the motel. With the help of her cousin Russ, she starts learning the truth about what happened to her own family, while also rebuilding relationships with those she thought had disappeared. Cord himself, is also trying to find out the truth about his mother, while also rallying those close to him to help Carly. Ultimately, Carly becomes a new addition to Painted Pony Creek, while getting acclimated in her new town but also hiding secrets of her own. At the end of the novel, Carly finds out what family really means, despite what the past may show. Shallie and Cord both have a happy ending too. *Country Strong* is a quick and predictable story, but powerful at heart. ★

Daya Bihm is an avid reader and writer. Although 'cowboys' aren't her usual genre, she finds she enjoys Western Fiction more than she expected.

Daya lives in the Deep South where 2 feisty kids call her "Mom," after the fact. They're preparing to leave the nest which freaks her out.

Ms. Bihm enjoys dining out, throwing back a few, and traveling with her family, when she isn't playing Uber driver, cook, and chief bottlewasher. Roles, she does with gusto and love.

When given the opportunity she can be found at the beach. Otherwise look for her in the big easy chair with a good light, a tall cool one, and a book, of course. Daya is a dear and loyal friend.



Cowboy's a State of Mind

(It's a Fine Line Between a Poem and Lyrics!)



by Mike Thompson

Well, a hundred-dollar hat don't make you
a cowboy,
Not those pearl snaps on your shirt.
Your designer jeans never sat in a saddle,
And your gator boots never walked
corral dirt.

CHORUS:

That giant store-bought buckle,
It makes a cowboy chuckle.
I'll advise you and I'm being kind,
Cowboy ain't the clothes you wear,
Cowboy's a state of mind.

Dime store cowboys are just a dime a dozen,
And ain't worth two nickels when you ride.
They won't help you in a chute when you're
working the cattle,
You can't work and just sit in a silver saddle.

CHORUS:

That giant store-bought buckle,
It makes a cowboy chuckle.
I'll advise you and I'm being kind,
Cowboy ain't the clothes you wear,
Cowboy's a state of mind.

EXTRA VERSE:

Cowboys love beer in a long
neck bottle,
Lone Star preferred or any brand
that's cold.
They'll dance a waltz and
the Cotton-Eyed Joe,
Their boots can move fast,
slide so slow.

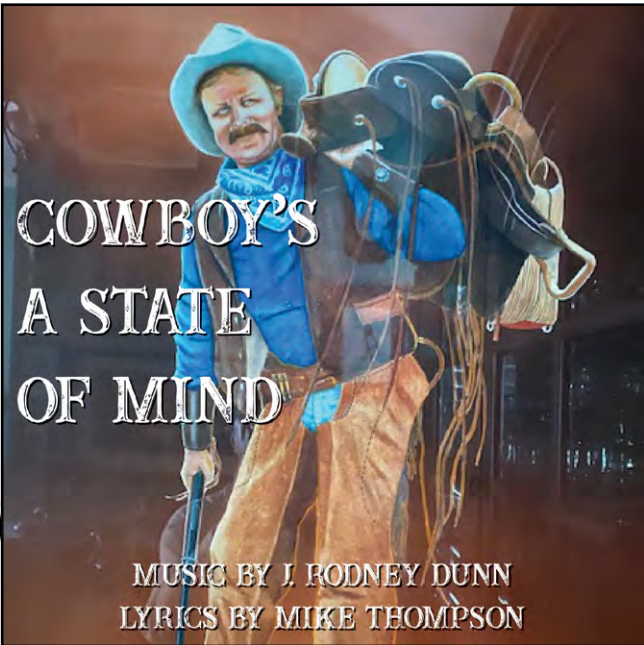
CHORUS:

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a state of
mind. ★



Lyrics by Mike Thompson, Performed by J. Rodney Dunn & The Lost Frijoles Band. CD available in January 2021, look to Cowboy Way Jubilee's Facebook page for details to order.

Photo above: Japanese Gamers in L.A. prepare for their first visit to Texas! Below: Mike Thompson's CD Cover for the lyrics, left



Performers' Spotlight

featuring **Dawn Anita Plumlee**



DAWN ANITA DIFFEE PLUMLEE, Ms. Senior Oklahoma of America in 2017, is multi-talented but music is her first love. Living outside of Alma, Oklahoma, she grew up barely a mile from where she now lives with her husband of 62 years, Jerry. They have two children Jerry Don and Priscilla "Pumpkin." When listing the loves of her life, Dawn Anita is quick to add God. Her's is a 'come full circle' story.

Both her parents were musicians and singers, so were her siblings, and extended family. Imagine what fun it was to have a musical jam session every Saturday night at your house! With Mom on the piano or guitar, Dad fiddling, and her brother along with nephew Joe* singing and playing. Dawn Anita explains she could hardly wait for her turn to sing. What a joyful sound it must have been.

* Yes, Dawn Anita's nephew was the well-known performer/musician Joe Diffie who unfortunately was an early victim of SARS-CoVid19 in March of this year. Music, especially Country Music, lost a really good one. And it was certainly a very personal loss for the Diffie family and Dawn Anita. She has seen a lot of sadness in her life. But also a lot of joy.

As a child she would ride along with her Father as he tended the live-stock. He taught her all the cowboy songs that we love to hear her perform today. And like so many she loved to go to the movies on

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Saturdays, watching the old 'oaters' with the whole family, kids and adults. Roy Rogers and Gene Autry certainly were an influence on young Dawn Anita.

Did you know Dawn Anita is also an artist? She got that from her Momma who was very talented. Perhaps she'll draw a little something for us at the 2021 Cowboy Way Jubilee! She is also a published author. *One More Last Chance* (2010) is a revealing memoir detailing her and her husband's horseback ride from Oklahoma to Nashville. Heartwarming and thrilling, you must read it for yourself!

In high school Dawn Anita joined her first band. Influenced by the great Kitty Wells, Loretta, and Patsy, she developed her style which is strongly influenced by contemporary Tammy Wynette. When asked her favorite performers she added in Lefty Frizzel, Porter Wagner and the legendary George Jones. Dawn Anita certainly has great taste, doesn't she? About her first recording the most comment was "how much [she] sounded like Loretta Lynn," very down to earth. And at that time she even looked like Loretta. Dawn Anita was fortunate to be on a back cover of a magazine with her beautiful horse. The photo had "Dawn Anita" underneath it. She had it hanging in a booth when a man came up so very excited to meet THE Loretta. He commented on how "Dawn Anita was a fine looking horse!" She tells me, "I didn't have the heart to tell him I wasn't Loretta. Thank Goodness he didn't ask for an autograph." She has lots of delightful memories like this.

In high school she joined her first band. Later, she spent five years singing with the famed Texas Playboys and has performed with artists like Red Steagall, Hank Thompson, Mel Tillis, Johnny Russell, Willie Nelson, Gene Watson, Joe Diffie (of course!), and Tanya Tucker. She has received numerous awards during her career for her singing, song writing and poetry, including "Female Vocalist & Entertainer of the Year" at the Oklahoma Opry. Self proclaimed as a singer first, musician second, Dawn Anita has performed for about 70 years now! That's an avocation not a profession. It is very clearly one of the top loves of her life. Dawn Anita loves her audience. She hopes everyone remembers the music, that they leave feeling good, happy, and perhaps even receive a positive message from the experience.

Everyone asks in interviews, "What do you love about being a singer/performer?" Well I take a different approach, it's obvious she loves singing and all aspects of performing. But what aspect of the profession does she find distasteful or a challenge? Her response was 'making sure you have the right songs' selected. "It's very important to know your audience." Of course she wants to always put on her best performance so sometimes that initial song list gets changed on the fly. When you're performing by yourself, that's easy, but with a band, you have to give them a bit of warning.

With so much experience under her belt, what is the one thing she says to up and coming artists? "Believe in yourself. Take the opportunities while you are young, you won't always be [young]. Listen to critiques but stay true to yourself." Wise words.

In wrapping up the interview, Dawn Anita was clear about this deeply held belief: "We are all placed on this earth with some purpose. Mine is to share my music, my kids. I love the music and I love people."



Dawn Anita with Tony Boy. He is half Spotted Saddle Horse and a little Mustang and Quarter Horse mixed in. "He is kin to the very first horse I had when I was 6 years old, so he's a pretty special horse".

Contact Dawn Anita via email, dawnanita@yahoo.com, through her website, www.DawnAnita.com, or on Facebook. ★

Upper Left, opposite page: Dawn Anita shortly after being crowned Ms. Senior Oklahoma of America (2017). Lower Right, opposite page: Dawn Anita with Runners Up @ Ms. Senior Oklahoma. Below: Dawn Anita in her favorite fringed jacket.





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The Streets of Laredo

by Cindy Jordan

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, the original cowboys sang of life on the trail with all the challenges, hardships, and dangers encountered while pushing cattle for miles up the trails and across the prairies. Many of the early cowboy songs written in the 1800s were actually new versions adapted from traditional folk songs from Ireland, England, and Wales. The old cowboy, Frank H. Maynard claims to be the author of the classic *Streets of Laredo* derived from the traditional folk song *The Unfortunate Rake* written in the late 18th century.

Streets of Laredo (YouTube.com)

As I walked out in the streets of Laredo
As I walked out in Laredo one day,
I spied a poor cowboy, all wrapped in white linen
All wrapped in white linen and cold as the clay.
"I see by your outfit, that you are a cowboy."
These words he did say as I slowly passed by.
"Come sit down beside me and hear my sad story,
For I'm shot in the chest, and today I must die."
"Oh once in the saddle I used to go dashing,
'Oh once in the saddle I used to go gay.
First down to Rosie's, and then to the card-house,
Got shot through the body, and now here I lay."
"Oh, beat the drum slowly and play the fife lowly,
And play the dead march as you carry me along;
Take me to the green valley, there lay the sod o'er me,
For I'm a young cowboy and I know I've done wrong."

"Get six jolly cowboys to carry my coffin,
Get six pretty maidens to bear up my pall.
Put bunches of roses all over my coffin,
Roses to deaden the clods as they fall."
"Then swing your rope slowly and rattle your spurs lowly,
And give a wild whoop as you carry me along;
And in the grave throw me and roll the sod o'er me.
For I'm a young cowboy and I know I've done wrong."

"Go bring me a cup, a cup of cold water.
To cool my parched lips", the cowboy then said.
Before I returned, his spirit had departed,
And gone to the round up – the cowboy was dead.
We beat the drum slowly and played the fife lowly,
And bitterly wept as we bore him along.
For we loved our comrade, so brave, young and handsome,
We all loved our comrade, although he'd done wrong.



Guthrie Gunfighters, ©2017, Leslei Fisher, photographer

Unfortunate Rake (YouTube.com)

As I was walking down by the "Lock",
As I was walking one morning of late,
Who did I spy but my own dear comrade,
Wrapp'd in flannel, so hard is his fate.
Chorus.
Had she but told me when she disordered me,
Had she but told me of it at the time,
I might have got salts and pills of white mercury,
But now I'm cut down in the height of my prime.
I boldly stepped up to him and kindly did ask him,
Why he was wrapp'd in flannel so white?
My body is injured and sadly disordered,
All by a young woman, my own heart's delight.

My father oft told me, and oft[ten] times chided me,
And said my wicked ways would never do,
But I never minded him, nor ever heeded him,
[I] always kept up in my wicked ways.

Get six jolly fellows to carry my coffin,
And six pretty maidens to bear up my pall,
And give to each of them bunches of roses,
That they may not smell me as they go along.

[Over my coffin put handful of lavender,
Handful of lavender on every side,
Bunches of roses all over my coffin,
Saying there goes a young man cut down in his prime.]
STREET

Muffle your drums, play your pipes merrily,
Play the death [dead] march as you go along.
And fire your guns right over my coffin,
There goes an unfortunate lad to his home. ★



The Streets of Laredo
www.franzdorfer.com

As I walked out in the streets of La - re - do As I walked out in La - re - do one
I spied a poor cow - boy wrapped up in white
li - nen wrapped in white li - nen as cold as the clay



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Poverty Row Studios

The Producers: Sigmund Neufeld

by Mike "Tadpole" Logan

THE HERO OF THE DEPRESSION ERA independent cinema owners was Sigmund Neufeld. Throughout his long film career, directing and producing, he always lobbied for the independents. They needed inexpensive budget “B” movies to film the slot before the ‘Feature’ films. Neufeld obliged. It didn’t hurt that his younger brother Sam was a director – so prolific was Sam, he used pseudonyms to make it look like PRC had more directors than they had. But I’m getting ahead of the story.

Sigmund, Sig, was a production supervisor for KBS Productions, a “B” movie producer in the early 1930s. Soon he was an associate producer as well as Secretary/Treasurer for Ambassador Pictures. In 1935, Sig became co-owner of Excelsior Pictures Corp with Leslie Simmonds. It was a low-budget production company as well. The order isn’t real clear, nor terribly important.

What we do know is that in February of 1940, Producers Distributing Corporation (PDC) imploded after only three months. In that short time the ‘powers that be’ burned through a cool one million dollars (nearly \$19 million in today’s dollars!)! Pathé, the largest film equipment company, and Neufeld were major investors. Together they stepped up and took over PDC during receivership. PRC (Producers Releasing Company) was born. Sigmund became President of the re-formed company. For the 1940–41 season, the goal was to produce 15 “B” films for the independent theatres.

Many of these were Westerns, of course. To save money and meet the demands of the customers, Producers Releasing Company, (PRC), lead by Sigmund Neufeld, used unknown, black-balled, or down on their luck actors. A typical film budget was \$10–20,000.00. For the 1941–42 season, Neufeld ramped up production to 44 films in twelve months. Feature films were made in five days and Westerns in two (on average)! They weren’t very good. To quote one biographer, “The company ground out more shoddy, ultra-cheap, third-rate material in the 1940s than any other studio in ‘Gower Gulch.’” There were sound quality problems as well. But once the technical issues were overcome, there were a few gems out of PRC; nothing Oscar worthy but hey, very watchable – *Corregidor*, *The Enchanted Forest*, and *Bluebeard* (starring John Carradine) to name a few.

Sig was a difficult task master. He was tight with money and time. If a director came in under budget and on-time, then the next film he was given less of both, not very motivational. In addition to the tight budgets and the very limited shooting time, Sig even limited the directors to 2-hours worth of film total. Not any room for mistakes if you’re trying to make a 55 to 60-minute film. So unless it was completely messed up they just kept on shooting. What was ‘in the can’ at the end wasn’t important, just that there was at least 55 minutes there. But because his tight-waddish approach, PRC was generally a success. Having been a director he understood the requirements.

According to IMDB.com, Sigmund has 12 film credits as a director and a whopping 147 as producer from 1930–1957 with one more film in 1964. (Compare that to the 277 film director credits his brother Sam racked up!)



In 1947, Eagle-Lion Films was formed and that corporation absorbed PRC. Both Sig and brother Sam left for Lippert Pictures as they were set on meeting the needs of the small independents. It’s kinda hard to believe PRC wasn’t in business even ten years. They certainly churned out a lot of films!

Researching Sigmund brings up all sorts of information about PRC and the movies he produced. However, very little is available about Sig the person. There’s no family history other than names and birth and death dates. Born May 3, 1896 Sigmund Neufeld managed to survive World War I and the international Spanish Flu Epidemic. He was 34 when the stock market crashed in 1929. I can’t tell if he was a soldier or not, he would have been 18 in 1912 so he was certainly old enough to serve. Being in the film industry was the right place to be from 1910 to 1950. Work was steady and it was nearly the only entertainment available to the masses.

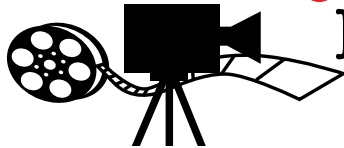
Neufeld and his brother began a legacy. Sigmund Neufeld, Jr. is a film director as was his brother Stanley. Brother Sam’s children Jacqueline ‘Jackie’ and Joel were both actors. It leaves one to wonder if the Neufeld parents, Simon and Josephine might have been involved in vaudeville. Perhaps one of you readers know the history. If you do, we’d sure like to hear it!

EDITOR’S NOTE: Give me a PRC film any day over some of the simply horrid 1970s “Westerns” IMHO. ★

Next Issue: **Winter 2021** released in
Early March 2021. Get Yours!

Hollywood Reel 2 Real Cowboys

Robert Mitchum, Those Onery Mitchums



The following is an excerpt from *Them Onery Mitchum Boys*, (1988, *Creatures at Large Press*) used with permission from Cindy Mitchum Azbill

BEFORE GRADUATING TO “A” PRODUCTIONS after World War II, Bob appeared in seven Hopalong Cassidy programmers: *Border Patrol*, *Hoppy Serves a Writ*, *The Leather Burners*, *Colt Comrades*, *Bar 20*, *False Colors* and *Riders of the Deadline*. Bob also had leading roles in four non-series Westerns: *Lone Star Trail* opposite Johnny Mack Brown, “*Beyond the Last Frontier*” with Eddie Dew, “*Nevada*” with Anne Jeffreys, and “*West of the Pecos*” with Barbara Hale.

Early in 1942, Brother Robert was finally signed by a producer, Harry Sherman, to do his first picture and went on location to Lone Pine, near Death Valley National Park, to film *Border Patrol*, a United Artists release in William Boyd’s Hopalong Cassidy series.

Border Patrol, which also featured Duncan Renaldo and George Reeves, wasn’t released until April 1943, one month after the opening of his second picture with Boyd, *Hoppy Serves a Writ*. Bob was finally getting a chance to show his stuff on a horse in these action-oriented, low-budget United Artists Westerns.

Bob had been told to wait on the corner of Cahuenga and Hollywood Boulevard for the stretch limo to take him to the Lone Pine location. Veteran actor Pierce Lyden was also waiting to be picked up on the same corner.

(Years later, remembering that meeting and first picture together, Bob penned his autograph on a photo dedicated to Pierce as the man “who witnessed my deflowering.” Lyden and I worked on many

Westerns and N-series in later years and remain in close contact. He’s authored four profusely illustrated books about movie badmen. Bob and I are well represented.)

Some dozen years later, I sat in Bill Boyd’s office and heard this from Hoppy himself. “I was watching your brother from behind a wagon when he went up to the horse he was assigned to ride. The pony still had his winter range hair on him and had already thrown the cowboy Bob was replacing. The poor ‘poke, an actor named Charlie Murphy, had been killed in the fall. We all wondered whether Bob was man enough for the job.

“Well, he mounted that pony and got thrown pretty hard. He climbed on again and hit the dirt again.

“Then he walked up to that horse, grabbed him by the bridle, and told him off. ‘You son of a bitch!’ he whispered. ‘I need this job, so it’s you or me!’”

Hoppy looked at me solemnly. “Then Bob hauled back and whipped the pony a right hand that made it roll its eyes backward. Bob climbed on him for the third time. Rode him well for the rest of the picture.”

Hoppy stopped talking to look out the window at the Western set down on the company street. “Look at that,” he cried. He pointed to a “cowboy” parading down the street, walking with happy abandon. Hoppy gritted his teeth. “That’s what casting sends you nowadays. Wouldn’t make a pimple on a real cowboy’s ass!”

Bob did an incredible amount of acting in 1943. He worked in fifteen films, a tribute to his acting ability and his stamina. Among these were *Mine-sweeper*, *The Leather Burners*, *Colt Comrades*, *Riders of the Deadline*, *The Lone Star Trail*, *Beyond the Last Frontier*, *Corvette K-225*, *Follow the Band* and *Bar 20*. And a propaganda war picture from Universal called *We’ve Never Been Licked*, which depicted how Richard Quine (an actor who later became a film director) overcame a Japanese spy ring operating in America and prevented it from stealing a secret formula.

For years, that film was run at College Station in Texas. The “Aggies” treasured it because it was their campus, Texas Agricultural, and Mechanical College [A & M], that was used for the main location. They ran that print until it was completely worn out. ★



Them Onery Mitchum Brothers,
John and Robert

Hollywood Reel 2 Real Cowgirls

Roberta Shore, aka *Betsy Garth*



BELOVED BY *THE VIRGINIAN* FANS as “Betsy Garth,” Roberta Shore is also well-known for her part as “Franceska” in *The Shaggy Dog* and “Linda,” Annette Funicello’s nemesis in the miniseries, *Annette*. But her start was several years before these! Born in Monterey Park, California, she grew up with celebrities, film, and television as neighbors, friends’ parents, and major employers. At the ripe age of ten, Miss Roberta Jymme Schourop began her singing and dancing career. By 11, she was a regular performer on *The Pinky Lee Show*, the number one children’s show at the time. The only reason she wasn’t a Mouseketter was she “towered over all the others,” she declared in a past interview. However, she did a lot of voice work for Disney in addition to her Disney appearances. IMDB lists a total of 32 film and television credits for Miss Shore. (Editor’s note: I believe the IMDB list is incomplete. For instance, the *Lawrence Welk Show* appearance is not listed in her credits.) Roberta even appeared in *The Long Shadow* with Ronald Reagan. That gave her the bragging rights for having slapped the future President; not bad for a ten-year career as a teenager! Her first on-screen kiss was with Doug McClure in *Because They Were Young*. The world watched Roberta grow up on-screen.

Singing is her first love. Si Miller (*Let There Be Peace on Earth*) was her voice coach. Doris Day and Teresa Brewer (because she squeaked) were her idols. Watching YouTube videos shows their influence. Ms. Shore is the voice of yodeler in the “It’s a Small World” exhibit at Disneyland! Blame *her* if that song gets stuck in your head. (It’s one of the Editor’s favorites, BTW). She sang “Who, Baby?” (uncredited) in *Blue Denim* and is credited with melodies in eight separate episodes of *The Virginian*, many with Randy Boone, brought in specifically to be “Betsy’s love interest.” Perhaps we can coax her into a tune or two at the Cowboy Way Jubilee.

A *Deseret News* article quotes, that Roberta’s dream of success “is to marry, have 10 children, and live the rest of my life in Utah.” Well, most of that dream came true. At the ripe age of 21, Roberta walked away from the middle of a seven-year contract and Hollywood to get married. Devout to the Latter Day Saints, she moved to Utah and has never looked back. It worked out for her. She has beautiful daughters and five grandchildren. In a 2010 interview at the Allen Public Library in Texas she said, “There’s nothing better than grandkids, they’re the best!”

So what exactly did Ms. Shore DO during all those years between Hollywood and Festival appearances? Apparently her first husband was very controlling and very jealous of her stardom. That relationship ended. Roberta and Terry Barber married in 1983 and had two lovely daughters. Unfortunately, less than five years later he died from brain cancer. He was only 45 years old. Cancer affects just about every family in the U.S. Roberta has overcome breast cancer herself. While raising their two daughters, she worked in public relations and sales.

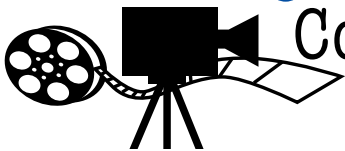
If you read the online biographies for Roberta Shore, they will tell you she was a “DJ Host” in Salt Lake City. Speaking with Ms. Shore



continued on page 30

Hollywood Reel 2 Real Cowboys

Cody Harris, *Cowboy Way Alabama*



CODY HARRIS IS A LONGTIME PRO-RODEO, calf-roping competitor, with more than a few championship buckles to his name. Two of his more prestigious awards are the Professional Cowboy Association Calf Roping Rookie of the Year in 2007 and the 2009 Calf Roping Year End Award Winner. His life is deeply rooted in rodeo. His wife, Misty, is a champion barrel racer in her own right. They met at the 2012 Rodeo Finals in Biloxi, Mississippi. “I always said when I found my best friend, I would marry her,” Harris said, “now I wake up every day next to my best friend.” Together they have one young son, Carter, a future rodeo’er perhaps?

Hailing from a long line of steer wrestlers; a bulldoggin’ injury sidelined Cody. Determined to participate in rodeos, he took up calf roping. Now retired from competition, both he and Misty keep their hands in the game as rodeo producers, including the popular, annual “Bulls on the Beach” bull riding rodeo on the Florida-Alabama border in Orange Beach, Alabama/Perdido Key, Florida.

Cody and Misty own Full Moon Farm and Fence in Roberts-dale, Alabama. A Roberts-dale native, he settled his new family near the small farm where he grew up. Specializing in building fences and raising cattle they found their niche. Cattle are a limited operation producing farm raised, grain fed, USDA approved angus beef. Supplementing their farm income are their appearances on the *Cowboy Way Alabama* television series. Having multiple income streams is important for cowboys. Some years are bountiful and some are dry, as Cody says, “it’s a rollercoaster.” His favorite quote sort of sums up farming and ranching, “Luck is where preparation meets opportunity. If you work hard, you’ll get lucky.”

Both of the Harrises come from a small town background with a strong work ethic. They built their own house after Cody sold his beloved prize show horse in order to pay for the home. It’s these sort of sacrifices that a real cowboy makes for his family. A nurse by profession, Misty sacrificed that to raise Carter and help work on and run Full Moon Farm. She is devoted to maintaining the cowboy lifestyle. And they both believe in listening to the experience of others, perhaps it will prevent a costly mistake. Great communication is key when you spend both your working and home life together.

It’s a full partnership between Misty and Cody. She says, “I am so grateful to my husband, Cody, for being my main supporter. He has never dismissed my ideas, goals, or visions despite how silly they may sometimes be.” They build each other up. As one can see on *Cowboy Way Alabama*, through thick and thin they communicate and support each other. Ranching is stressful enough but then to be filmed while working and problem-solving, well, that adds a whole new layer of stress.

Mr. Harris’ talents seem to know no bounds. He is also an author. *My Word is My Bond* was written based on the many bits



Photo caption: Cody Harris demonstrates calf roping at the Roberts-dale Rotary Club’s mini-rodeo, a preview to the 17th Annual PCA Championship Rodeo, held in March at the Baldwin County Fairgrounds Arena in Roberts-dale. Photo by John Underwood

of wisdom shared by his father throughout his life. The most important take away from the book, according to Cody is, “a cowboy isn’t something you do, it is who you are!” We here at the **Cowboy Way Tribune** agree.

Bubba Thompson was instrumental in getting Cody involved in television, first on *Sweet Home Alabama* and now *Cowboy Way Alabama*. They’re truly good friends. Bubba and Booger, his co-stars, agree when Cody says, “We didn’t agree to do this because we wanted to be famous,” Cody said. “You just can’t turn on the TV and find good, Christian, down-home Southern values anymore. I feel like God opened the door for us to do this so we could witness to people and show them how we live.” The guys and their beautiful wives hope that the *Cowboy Way Alabama* will encourage other young couples to pursue the cowboy lifestyle. Contrary to popular opinion, it is not a dying breed. Food has to be produced. Livestock must be raised. As long as these are facts, the world will always need cowboys. ★





Hollywood Reel 2 Real Cowgirls

Belle Starr, by Terry Alexander



BELLE STARR WAS BORN, Myra Maybelle Shirley on February 5th, 1848 at Carthage, Missouri. Her father was John Shirley and her mother was John’s third wife, Elizabeth Hatfield Shirley, distantly related to the Hatfields of the famous feud. She attended a prestigious girls’ academy in Missouri and learned to play the piano. Her older brother John Addison Shirley, nicknamed “Bud” taught her how to ride a horse and shoot.

When the Civil War came to Missouri the Shirley family sided with the Confederacy. Bud rode with the resistance fighters and was shot and killed at Sarcoxie, Missouri in 1864. After his death the family moved to Texas, settling in the town of Seyene, north of Dallas. Belle reconnected with Jim Reed, a member of a family the Shirley’s knew in Missouri. Myra and Jim married in 1866. Their daughter, Rosie Lee “Pearl” Reed, was born in 1868.

Jim Reed killed a man in 1869 and the family fled to California in early October. Belle’s son James “Eddie” Edwin, was born on February 22nd, 1871 while the family was in California. There are reports of another girl being born in 1870 named Elisa. If this is true, the girl died while very young. When Jim ran afoul of the law again, the family left California and returned to Texas.

Belle, tired of the outlaw life, left Jim, moving back to her parents. Jim took up with a woman named Rosa McCommas. A story circulated at the time that Jim and his brother Sol murdered an informant in Texas and cut out his tongue. John Morris shot Jim in the back for the reward money. Jim Reed died in Paris, Texas in 1874.

Belle and the children were taken in by a man named Tom Starr. He lived in the Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory. In 1880, Belle married Tom’s son, Sam, a man nine years younger than she. The couple settled in the area north of the South Canadian River, named Younger’s Bend by Tom Starr. In 1883 Belle and Sam were arrested for stealing horses and sentenced to one year at the Detroit House of Corrections. After serving nine months terms both returned to Younger’s Bend, Oklahoma.

On December 17th, 1886, Belle and Sam attended a Christmas Party at the home of Lucy Surratt in nearby Whitefield. Frank West, a Cherokee Policeman, was also in attendance. A gun fight ensued between the him and Sam. In seconds, Frank West lay dead and Sam Starr was critically wounded. He died later.

Afterwards, Belle moved Jack Spaniard into her home for a short time before he was arrested and tried in Fort Smith. He was later hanged. Sometime later the Cherokee officials informed Belle that she could no longer live on Indian land. She and Jim, an adopted son of Tom Starr, moved in July. Sam’s son was also known, as Jim July Starr. He was 24 years old, and fifteen years younger than Belle.

Belle’s children, Pearl and Eddie didn’t like Jim, even though his presence had saved their home. Pearl, who was nineteen, had expressed a desire to marry. Belle was against the idea and sent Pearl away to live with family in Missouri, convincing the suitor to move on. Pearl had an affair with a married man (possibly the same one she wanted to marry) and became pregnant. Belle told her to get an abortion or leave and she moved in with her father’s family in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Pearl subsequently had a daughter, named Flossie, born in April 1887.



Eddie Reed

Jim July began to sneak around and visit a Cherokee woman.

Eddie partnered with a half Creek named Mose Perryman in July of 1888. They stole a horse from a black settler named Jim “General”

continued on page 40

Horse Camp, TV Series



HORSE CAMP IS A TELEVISION COMEDY series that “depicts the everyday lives of the dysfunctional ranch hands that are working at a dude ranch in Cane County, Arizona.” The setting is fictional and the series tells a seldom seen American story that blends a multitude of comedic styles.

The following is a REPRINT from Prescott Living Magazine, by Blake Herzog. Used with permission.[] indicate Editor’s remarks:

Prescott film director Patrick Ball is hoping his new TV series will help to promote the city’s [Prescott, AZ] Old West vibe while giving viewers some comedic, escapist fun.

“I haven’t done a TV comedy series before, I was going to do a war film around here,” Ball says. “But I decided you know what, there’s so much drama and, you know, violence and ugliness in the world. Let me do something that’s nice. Let me do something that makes people laugh and puts a smile on people’s faces.

“So a comedy just poured out of me. I clearly had it working and bottled up subconsciously.”

The result is *Horse Camp*; [Ball] and co-writer Joseph Carver finished writing eight 30-minute episodes in about a month. It’s set on a dude ranch in fictional Cane County, Arizona, but has been filmed almost entirely in Prescott, [Arizona,] the bulk of it on a ranch in Williamson Valley.

The Prescott Kiwanis Club makes an appearance, as do Watson Lake and the Granite Dells. Production was about halfway complete before it was shut down by pandemic restrictions, during which Ball wrote Seasons 2 and 3.

Filming resumed in September [2020] beginning with some small shoots as the crew and cast worked with new guidelines being ad-

opted by the film industry. It’s scheduled to wrap up by the end of October, then goes into post-production.

Ball says he plans to license the first season to streaming platforms like Amazon Prime and Netflix for release starting January 1, 2021 and hopes to produce up to six more seasons. He’s seeking local investors and sponsorships for *Horse Camp*.

Ball, who moved to Prescott this summer after two years living outside Chino Valley, says, “Prescott’s one of the best places to make a movie. That’s why I stuck around here to do it. Working with the city’s easy. It’s insanely beautiful. This used to be the western capital of the world. Hey, I’m trying to get that back the way it used to be,” he says.

Ball has worked with horses since he was a kid, and they remain one of his two passions alongside filmmaking. His latest project brings the two together.

He said much of the material is drawn from his experiences during the five years he worked at a dude ranch. “A lot of the stuff in the script was stuff that happened to me in real life or inspired by it,” he says.

The pecking order that tends to develop among dude ranch staff inspired some of the humor, while other gags are just gags, like a turtle being outfitted with a very obvious camera to spy on a rival camp.

“It’s a goofy, silly comedy,” he says. Trailers and scenes from *Horse Camp*, some TV MA-rated, have been released on YouTube.

Horse Camp’s stars include Nicole Zuelke, who has been featured in many outdoors-oriented ad campaigns and projects, and Sean

continued on page 38

Western Art Review

The Chicken Farm Art Center, San Angelo

by Leslei Fisher, Editor

THEIR MISSION IS A SIMPLE ONE, “Encouraging and Inspiring Artists and Art Lovers.”

At The Chicken Farm Art Center, our mission is to create a safe, communal space for all kinds of artists, art lovers, and anyone who is just curious about what we do; to come together and express our creative sides and to learn a little more about each other. We believe in unlocking the creative within each and every one of us, and offer a wide range of free public events, open air concerts (during the warmer months), and some of our studios even offer a variety of classes for various ages and skill sets. Whether you're interested in learning "how it's made", wanting to purchase something to decorate your home or office space, or wanting to learn a new hobby or skill, The Chicken Farm Art Center is here to welcome you into the fold.



The Chicken Farm Art Center is made up of three main parts: The StarKeeper Gallery, The Silo House Restaurant, and The Inn at the Art Center. And it is divided physically into two sections. The StarKeeper Art Gallery is the core of the ‘front portion,’ surrounded by studios and outdoor classrooms. The ‘Back part’ is separately owned by Jerry and Susan Warnell featuring the Inn and the Restaurant. In cooperation with Pam Bladine, owner of ‘the front part,’ the entire three acres is operated as if it were one entity. *Cooperation* is a running core value of those who live and work at the Chicken Farm Art Center. As Pam put it, “Roger saw to it that everyone here is passionate about their art, cares deeply about each other, and behaves like adults.” Great concept.

Roger Hall Allen and two partners bought the land and buildings in 1971. It was originally a real working chicken farm. The buildings were sturdy but the property was a mess. Following Roger’s vision, a potters’ studio was the core of the front part and out back was the ‘hot metal’ area. ‘Hot metal’ as in melted metal to make beautiful sculptures. These were two favorite mediums of Roger’s. Studios were created out of the buildings and the artists moved in. I find it important to note, the founders choose to make the Chicken Farm Art Center a ‘for-profit’ business rather than a ‘non-profit.’ It seems they had the same attitude of ‘render unto Cesaer...’ that we have at the Cowboy Way Jubilee!

A lifelong art teacher, Roger was an integral force in making San Angelo known for it’s art seeing that art exists all around San Angelo, indoors and out. “Allen’s contributions during the ceramics

competitions and invitationals helped make San Angelo a destination city on the ceramics map of the world,” quotes Howard Taylor, his friend and current Director of the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts (SAMFA). (More on Roger next issue).

At it’s peak in the 1980s, nearly two dozen artists lived and worked at the Chicken Farm Art Center. I envision a commune but one run by sober adults, what an ideal commune ought to be. However, commune is a poor word. The Chicken Farm is a place for artists to thrive, to create, and explore their art. It provides a ‘safe space’ where they can concentrate on art and not worry so much about the mundane things of life. An artist in residence at the Chicken Farm, really *can* make a living as an artist. “It’s not a great living [meaning income] but it’s a living!,” exclaims Pam. As cowboys know, there’s more to living a useful life than monetary compensation.

The Chicken Farm Art Center has an agreement with the Art Department at Angelo State University. Every semester they host one student who studies pottery. The student learns Allen’s techniques, and hones his or her skills in the sanctuary of the Center. Artists come, live, learn, and then leave. It’s bittersweet but everyone knows up front this is the purpose of coming to the Chicken Farm. In discussing this with Pam I realized the students are serving an apprenticeship. And that is certainly the best way to learn a craftsmanship skill. They learn and perfect the skill part, and then go on to make their own way. The art part, comes from their own hearts, which must simply be bursting in the lovely community that is the Chicken Farm Art Center. (See the current artists and their studios here: www.ChickenFarmArtCenter.com/current-studios-shops)

Over time Allen found it became impossible to run both the potter’s studio and the hot metal sections. His health suffered. For a while it was feared he had cancer but fortunately he did not. Eventually his health improved. In the meantime, the ‘back’ was sold off. The Warnell’s bought it in 2000 and really embraced the concept of two separate entities run as one. It takes really special people to work together is such harmony. Pam, his significant other, acquired the front part and found it fulfills her ‘diaramist’ skill set. “I arrange



things, people, and events,” explains Pam when asked if she was an artist. She is an artist, just not the traditional sort. It’s her skill and creativity at administration that keeps the Chicken Farm Art Center running and viable.

THE STARKEEPER GALLERY is the legacy of Roger Hall Allen featuring beautiful, usable pottery. (How I would love to have a full set of dishes! *See above*) Resident artists reproduce his art which is highly collectible as well as their own creations. www.StarKeeperGallery.com/

THE SILO HOUSE RESTAURANT, (highly rated on both Yelp and TripAdvisor), specializes in, (from their website), “freshness, quality, and attention to detail are the benchmarks we use when crafting our food for you.” They create gourmet meals built from local organically raised produce and animals complimented by wine and microbrews. www.siloHouseRestaurant.com/

THE INN AT THE ART CENTER is an amusing and unusual Bed and Breakfast. Transformed from a real working chicken coop, each room at the Inn is themed – Ponderosa, Santa Fe, Country French. The courtyard is ‘sculpture-laden’ with a covered area for hot summer days. It’s a very peaceful place with a sense of community. www.InnAtTheArtCenter.com/

If you do *nothing* else while in San Angelo for the Cowboy Way Jubilee, you simply *must* visit the Chicken Farm – for a morning, an afternoon, or simply to sit outside and enjoy a beverage. It has great vibes. www.ChickenFarmArtCenter.com/ ★



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PECOS
made from Huehue, Yirgchaffe and Sumatra

SNAKEBITE
6 bean blend of Arabica and Robusta beans, it has 2X the caffeine to start the day out right.

TEXAS HEAT
the Pecos with a mixture of spices and a touch of Cayenne



Coloring Page: *Leading Ladies* ★★

LEADING LADIES OF THE WESTERNS are one of two types: damsel in distress or the wholly independent, self-sufficient pioneer who just happens to fall in love. Which would you rather emulate? Color her however you see her.

What's missing in the picture? Add it and make it your own! Snap a photo and post it in our [Facebook group, Cowboy Ways Nowadays](#), or Instagram, #CWTRibuneKidsKorner. ★



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Leading Lady line art courtesy of art station: Hardan Sanada, artist, no copyright infringement intended

Kids' Korner* — Activities Pages

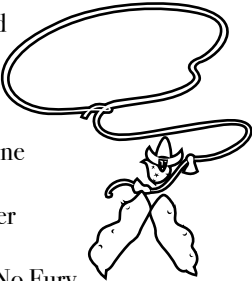
Fun for *”Kids” of All Ages

IN THE *HEROINES WORD SEARCH*, below, words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or even backwards. Snap a photo and post it on our Facebook group, *Cowboy Ways Nowadays*, or on Instagram with the tags #CWTRibune,

#CWTRibuneWordSearch. We'll gather all the posts and draw one lucky winner. Be sure we can contact you, so we can send you your winnings — five bucks. If there is just one entrant, you win \$5! ★

Heroines Word Search

- Actress
- Barmaid
- Best Friend
- Cook
- Dancer
- Distraught
- Equestrienne
- Girlfriend
- Gold Digger
- Handy
- Hell Hath No Fury
- House Maid
- Landowner
- Love Interest
- Maiden
- Marriage
- Perky
- Pioneer
- Saloon
- Sidekick
- Store Clerk
- Sureshot
- Teacher
- Troublemaker
- Wife



F	M	D	V	P	H	A	N	D	Y	Q	A	G	L	R	T	J	N	Y	F
N	C	J	Z	K	V	H	W	T	V	R	E	N	W	O	D	N	A	L	C
T	R	O	U	B	L	E	M	A	K	E	R	E	E	N	O	I	P	I	L
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H	R	K	F	S	M	R	A	B	A	R	M	A	I	D	K	V	H	N	C
C	K	F	E	S	F	Y	B	B	B	M	W	O	R	Y	O	O	F	G	R
A	F	B	J	L	Q	A	C	T	R	E	S	S	U	Y	U	L	O	W	L
E	A	G	R	R	E	G	G	I	D	D	L	O	G	V	H	H	R	C	X
T	W	I	V	B	T	O	A	C	F	G	Q	I	P	G	J	D	W	F	Q
K	G	B	Q	Q	S	I	D	E	K	I	C	K	N	V	N	J	Q	A	X
U	K	G	J	Q	L	L	T	H	G	U	A	R	T	S	I	D	K	T	R

Jubilee Scramble

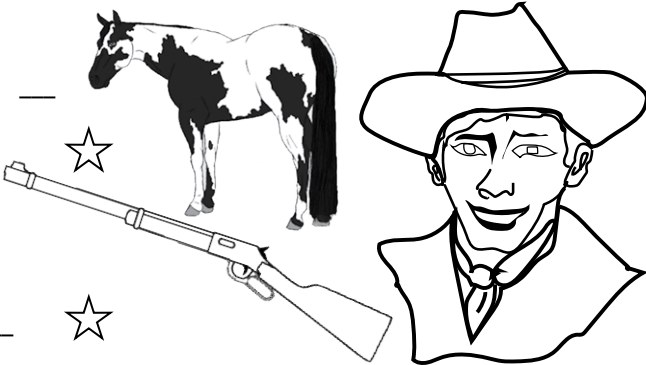
Unscramble these scrambled words. Then, draw a line from the word to the matching picture on the right. Use a different color for each line. If you like, color in the images, too! ★

HINT: What three things does a leading lady need?

AEIODPPTY

EFILR

BCCEOOTUWY




Answers: Painted Pony, Rifle, Cane Cowboy



An INSP Exclusive
THE VIRGINIAN

James Drury's Official Memorial Service
Friday April 30, 2021 7pm The Stables
Fort Concho, San Angelo, TX By Invitation
see James Drury's The Virginian Posse on Facebook for details



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Elmer Kelton Statue project 2011



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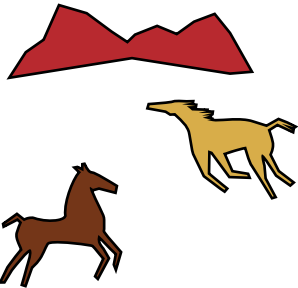
The Westerns Channel is the most definitive network dedicated to the preservation of the American Western Film. If you are a western movie fan the Westerns Channel is the place for you to watch thousands of Western Movies, TV show episodes, and more, including Western entertainment you will not see on any other network.



Last Issue's Answers

Just for Fun Quiz

- 1) B 2) B. 3) D. 4) C
- 5) D 6) C. 7) B. 8) B.
- 9) B 10) A. 11) True 12) False
- 13) D 14) False 15) B 16) B
- 17) True 18) A 19) D 20) D

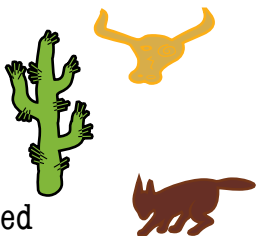


"Lone Ranger" Wordsearch Answers

X G H W J N L R J F O E E O Z J A E E Z M F E A B
E R A S S L V M K S A M T S Q D V U U H E R O F T
M I Z B Q W M B N R C N U G U Y V J M L U U I L D
O Q X E Y C R E E D O N W S O R U F S F D X J M A
S A I O H N H A R T K I P F W Y V K M Y X G L X B
A V X D T B B U T C H C A V E N D I S H Y R W W W
B T J O Y M C L A Y T O N M O O R E V I R E W H C
E X U U Z A Z B G W Z W I V E Q W H F O X V D O K
P C K T C B D A D E N I M U K G M Y B K R L E W S
Z J L L U D I E R N H O J N I A T P A C N I K A C
A R V A D Y U G H E D G J H P N B G Z R D S U S R
H J G W W L R Y A T G V T G L E X B K E I O V T E
A E N S E R E B T P E N P V U L A X N T N Y P H E
E R U T N E V D A U N V A X S S Q J O O A I S A V
H V O S G L A I C N J A R Z G S Q I O E H T B
C Q I O D N I P N K P Y K S S P X S O H B K I M L
A G O D T A S V D B S K A X M A I G O S C W H A U
N B T V E R N S I D D J X A J V X W D K Z U O S O
A O Z Z L E L X A S C L B V E F I E K I A Y I K H
M K Y E L N R K N Y Y J Z L V F S M T S O V D E M
O R W Q U D E Z S L U C E J E T C D M R W P A D H
C L A T B L E A C X G T P E C E I V O M J N R M Q
W Q H S U P V L O Z G S L E E H R E V L I S Y A J
J C M A I B E I U F M X J L N U L I S E K O G N F
O P H P Q D S U T I K Z J A E U X E Q T W W Z I V

Word Scramble

- EIOOXHSST = Six Shooter
- AEEHTFR = Feather
- STTTYDRSEEU = Trusty Steed



Just for Fun Quiz

Westerns' Leading Ladies (Film & TV)

by Mike "Tadpole" Logan

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE. Only you'll know if you cheat! Post your answers on our Facebook Group, [Cowboy Ways Nowadays](#) to see

1. Donna Martell won the Golden Boot Award for contributions to Western television and cinema in 2002.
A. True B. False
2. Who fell in love with Robert Redford in "The Evil That Men Do," *The Virginian*, Season 2 Episode 5?
A. Diane Roter C. Roberta Shore
B. Joan Crawford D. Spring Byington
3. Which striking leading lady played "Belle Starr" opposite Randolph Scott's "Sam Starr" in 1941?
A. Gene Tiernay C. Rachel Welch
B. Joan Crawford D. Maureen O'Hara
4. Who played "Barbara Meredith," the leading lady, in *Zorro's Black Whip* (Republic 1944)?
A. Claire Trevor C. Dale Evans
B. Linda Sterling D. Donna Martell
5. Who was the leading actress in Grand National presents *The Singing Cowgirl*. Bonus: How many films did she do for Grand National? _____
A. Peggy Stewart C. Linda Sterling
B. Claire Trevor D. Dorothy Page
6. Who dukes it out with Mercedes Mc Cambridge in Republics' barn burner *Johnny Guitar* (1954)? Bonus: Name *The Virginian* episode she appeared in. _____
A. Maureen O'Hara C. Gene Tiernay
B. Peggy Stewart D. Joan Crawford
7. Donna DeMario aka Donna Martell appeared with Dale Evans and Roy Rogers in this 1940s Western:
A. *Apache Rose* C. *My Pal Trigger*
B. *In Old Oklahoma* D. *Utah*
8. Yodeling is a great Western Music and Western Swing Music tradition. Carolina Cotton ended her career in a Gene Autry Columbia Western in 1952. Bonus: Name the movie. _____
A. True B. False
9. This equestrienne and Frankie Darro save "Radio Ranch" from the "Muranians" and are off, to the rescue in Gene Autry's premier appearance. Who played this equestrienne? Bonus: Name the series. _____
A. Claire Trevor C. Dorothy Page
B. Betsy King Ross D. Mary Pickford
10. "The Awakening" (Season 4 Episode 5), is Betsy's last appearance on *The Virginian*. She left the show due to a disagreement over pay.
A. True B. False
11. This beauty from the silent film days was "Juliet" to Randolph Scott's "Romeo" in the 1933 Paramount production of Zane Grey's *To the Last Man*.
A. Claire Trevor C. Ester Ralston
B. Mary Pickford D. Gene Tiernay

if your fellow fans agree! Or wait until next issue, we'll post the answers in the Winter 2021 issue of the **Cowboy Way Tribune**.

12. This cute lady songstress moved up from Republic "C" grade westerns to "B" in 1943. She has a happy trail because she liked "Dick Weston" in, *The Lights of Old Santa Fe* (1944). Name her.
A. Patsy Montana C. Judy Canova
B. Dale Evans D. Carolina Cotton
13. This Queen of the Sagebrush Saga breaks links from PRC (think *Girls in Chains*) to stardom in many beloved Republic Westerns. Who is she?
A. Maureen O'Hara C. Peggy Stewart
B. Ester Ralston D. Dorothy Page
14. Her father was an actor, her brother was an actor, too. She ended her acting career in an a Roscoe Ates oater, *The Tioga Kid*. Name her. Bonus: Name her father and brother.
A. Ethel Barrymore B. Jennifer Holt,
15. This actress was in many Gene Autry pictures. She 'hit the bullseye' with her own TV show. Name her.
A. Gail Davis C. Peggy Stewart
B. Dale Evans D. Rachel Welch
16. Who played the lead female, (a Paiute maiden), in the *Bonanza* episode, "The Toy Soldier" Season 5 Episode 5?
A. Rachel Welch C. Donna Martell
B. Roberta Shore D. Spring Byington
17. Who played the lead female in Hop-along Cassidy's *The Eagles Brood*? Bonus: what was her more common stage name?
A. Claire Trevor C. Nana Martinez
B. Dorothy Page D. Linda Sterling
18. Name this famous leading lady who appeared in three Westerns, all with the same leading man. Hint: She was born in Tokyo and died in Paris. Another Hint: She rode Golden Cloud before Roy.
A. Maureen O'Hara C. Rachel Welch
B. Joan Crawford D. Olivia de Haviland
19. This well-known leading lady did a handful of Westerns throughout her career as well as dozens of "B" movies as well as a few "A's." Her career spanned five decades. Who was she? Hint: She played 'Mike' against Glen Ford's 'Tod.'
A. Claire Trevor C. Joan Crawford
B. Olivia de Haviland D. Peggy Stewart
20. Who sang, "Who, Baby" in a duet with Warren Berlinger in *Blue Denim*, a 1959 teenage tear jerker from 20th Century?
A. Dorothy Page C. Debbie Reynolds
B. Dale Evans D. Roberta Shore



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continued from page 20, Roberta Shore, aka Betsy Garth



for this article, via phone, she said, "I have no idea where that came from – I've never been a DJ!" Not anywhere nor for anything! Of course I assured her I'd set the record straight in this article.

Dr. Ron Fredrickson was also a cancer widower. He and Roberta have the thespian spirit in common. He has a Ph.D. in Fine Art; is an actor; and, the former Professor of Theatre at Emporia State University. Ron is recipient of the 1998 Kansas Governor's Arts Educator Award, and a Kennedy Center Medallion of Excellence for 1999. In May of 2002 he was honored at the dedication of the new Ronald Q. Frederickson Theatre on the Emporia State University campus. Roberta and Ron performed together in Gary Rogers' *The Book of Mormon Movie, Volume 1: The Journey* (2003) movie. Ron played the part of *Ishmael*.

We are so honored that these two delightful professionals deem to participate in the **Cowboy Way Jubilee**. Roberta Shore, who the fans lovingly still know as "Betsy," is simply a delight! ★

Books by Matt McKenzie



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Be A Cowboy Way Workshop Leader!

Got Skills?

Teach @ the 2021 Jubilee!

OUR VISION FOR THE COWBOY WAY JUBILEE is to "preserve and promote everything cowboy." We want the Cowboy Way of Life and Cowboy Culture to live on forever. Education is a very integral part of this vision. New 2019, workshops were added to the **Cowboy Way Jubilee**. For 2021 we are looking to expand our offerings. Nearly two dozen different workshops are scheduled for 2021 but we're always on the look out for more! Over three days, and across 40 acres, we have plenty of room and times available. Following this is the list of workshops scheduled thus far for 2021. Note that insurance prevent us from knife or axe throwing or shooting workshops on-site. We're hoping in 2022 to resolve that issue.

Some ideas are leather working, quilting, tatting, crocheting, weaving, livestock care (horses, cattle, chickens, bees,...), vegetable gardens (especially in a city environment), farriera, chuck wagon cooking, well, I think you get the drift.

Any fee charged for a workshop goes directly to the instructor. You set the fee, the amount of time, and day(s) and then keep the fee. If materials are required, you may sell a 'kit' or request attendees to bring their own supplies—we just need a description/list of what's required.

If you're interested, email Leslei, right away, cowboywayfest@gmail.com. Or, give her a call, 580.768.5559. This is open to attendees with skills, too. Again, the whole point of the **Cowboy Way Jubilee** is to "preserve and promote everything cowboy."

1. **First Timer's Harmonica Instructions and History** with Dale "Sourdough" Myers; 60 mins. \$15/person (Harmonica included) OR \$35/person includes harmonica and book. Leave knowing how to play at least one song!
2. **Learn to Yodel** with National Yodeling Queen, Janet McBride; 60 mins. \$10/person, \$5/child (15 & under). Yodeling is easy and fun!
3. **Guitar Fundamentals** with Saturday & Sunday – Kristyn Harris; Friday w/Cindy Jordan; 45 mins \$10 adults, \$5 children. Finally get started playing the guitar with tips from the professionals.
4. **Songwriting** with Buck Helton; 30 mins. \$10 per person. Turn your thoughts into lyrics and lyrics into music.
5. **The McChristian Collection** with Cory Robinson, Curator, Ft. Concho; 30 mins no charge. An intimate look into a magnificent historical U.S. Calvary collection.
6. **Meet Daisy Wettermark** with Dr. Linda Thorsen Bond; 45 mins. \$10 per person, 1 performance on Sunday only. Dr. Bond brings to life the exciting story of an East Texas lady.
7. **Basic Animal Care** with Leslie Marshall, Ft. Concho Living Stables Manager; 30 mins no charge. You've always wanted to own a horse. What does it really take to care for one? Leslie tells you how.



8. **Meet the Mules** with Leslie Marshall, Ft. Concho Living Stables Manager; 30 mins no charge. Ft. Concho has 3 resident mules: Betty, Barney, & Mack used to pull wagons for re-enactments. They're so friendly (but *not* rideable).
9. **Saddle Up** with Kristyn Harris on Friday; 30 mins \$10 per person. Learn to saddle a horse and the care of tack, too.
10. **Ken Farmer's Acting Class – Creative Writing**; 30mins \$10 per person (or get a \$5 discount on either an autographed photo or purchase of one of the *Silke Justice* novels). Ken helps you get in touch with your inner muse and put it down on paper.
11. **Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Acting But Were Afraid to Ask** with Gary Clarke; 45 mins \$10 per person. Pick the brain of a successful actor, learning tips and practicing, too.
12. **Voice Overs A-B-Cs** with Kathy Garver; 30 mins \$10 per person. How do you get started, what does it entail, and is there a future career for you?
13. **How to Support Your Favorite Artist** with T.C. Miller, Author ; 30 mins \$5 per person or \$5 discount on any book by T.C. Miller. Learn to be a Number 1 Fan!
14. **Beginning Clay Sculpting** with Ann Ayres, Bronze Artist; 60 mins \$10 per person, ages 7 to adult (cost is for kit). Every bronze sculpture starts out in clay. This is a very popular class.
15. **Beading Demo** with DeAmber Barrett Hanson; No charge, at her booth. See what it takes to become adept at the art of beading. And please remember to support our vendors.
16. **MYO * Leather Key Fob** with Donna Wilmeth; 60 mins \$10 per person (includes kit). Try your hand at the craft of leatherworking – it's very addicting. *Make Your Own
17. **What Does it Take to be a Rodeo Clown?** with Daryl "Table Legs" Knight; 30 mins \$5 per adult, \$1 per child (for make-up). Meet and learn tips from a real Rodeo Clown (retired).

continued on page 38



BANG!

The Single Action Shooting Society and Cowboy Action Shooting

with Captain George Baylor, S.A.S.S. 24287.

In 1981 Harper Creigh, an avid IPSC Shooter, called his shooting buddies Gordon Davis and Bill Hahn. He presented an idea to shoot their next match using their cowboy guns.

Flash forward to 2020. The Single Action Shooting Society (S.A.S.S.) is the governing organization of Cowboy Action Shooting (C.A.S.) worldwide. Today, with over 100,000 members, S.A.S.S. is represented in all fifty states and 18 foreign countries. The organization endorses regional matches conducted by its more than 700 S.A.S.S. affiliated clubs and promulgates rules and procedures to ensure safety and consistency in C.A.S. matches. Most importantly, however, S.A.S.S. members share a common interest for preserving the history of the Old West.

CAS is action shooting, meaning shooting against the clock with movement, changing positions, and shooting 4 guns. Replicas of 19th century guns are used: two single action revolvers, from .32 to .45 caliber, with .38 Special being the most popular. Most are replicas of the Colt Single Action Army. The most popular is the Ruger Vaquero. A pistol caliber lever action or pump action rifle is used. The most popular rifles are replicas of the Winchester '73. Shotguns are used, either double barrel, with or without external hammers, or the Winchester 97 pump or replicas of it.

Two other things separate CAS from other action shooting sports. The shooters wear old west clothing, ranging from jeans and a long sleeve shirt to museum quality costumes, and they use a unique old west alias. Examples range from "Tex" and "Judge Roy Bean" to "Bull Shooter." They are unique. There can be only one "Wyatt Earp," for example.

The match is shot in stages, up to 6 a day. Shooters are in posse's, usually 15 to 20 shooters. Each shooter shoots a stage, and then the posse moves to the next stage.

The targets are steel, relatively big and relatively close, 16 x 16" steel targets at 4 to 25 yards for example. Shotguns shoot knock down targets.

To start, you might have to say a line to indicate you're ready, such as, "I'll make you famous."

A typical stage has five shots from each revolver at revolver targets. Revolvers are loaded with five shots and loaded with hammer down over an empty chamber for safety.



Ten shots, sometimes less, from the rifle at rifle targets. The shotgun shoots an average of four shots at knockdown targets. Each stage is different.

This doesn't sound hard, at and it's not, if you shoot it slowly. However, four-time world overall champion Matt Black, at End Of Trail, the World Championship, has averaged 15 seconds a stage with no misses in a total of 48 stages..

Shooters shoot in over 30 different categories based on sex, with men's and ladies', age, number of hands used to shoot the guns, one handed (duelist), or one in each hand (gunfighter). There are age categories as well from under 12 to over 80. It is a family sport. There are also categories for shooting black powder, including percussion pistols.

SASS shooters are guided by a code, "The Spirit of the Game." It means you fully participate in what the competition asks. You try your best to dress the part, use the appropriate competition tools, and respect the traditions of the Old West. Some folks would call it nothing more than good sportsmanship.

If this has gotten your attention, and you're interested in learning more about cowboy action shooting, the good news is you can find the nearest SASS club on a directory at sassnet.com. All of them welcome visitors and spectators. If you



have eye and ear protection, you're good to go to watch. Costumes not required. You will probably be shown several firearms, holsters, costumes, etc. And you probably will be invited to shoot some of those guns. Interested beginners often buy guns and equipment before they go to a match. This is a mistake. Go to the match. Ask questions. Talk to shooters. They will assist you in your quest.

There are no cash or merchandise prizes for the winner, only trophies, buckles, etc., and bragging rights. Guns and gear are awarded by drawings. People shoot because they enjoy it, and they enjoy the people.

*Come for the shooting.
Stay for the people. ★*



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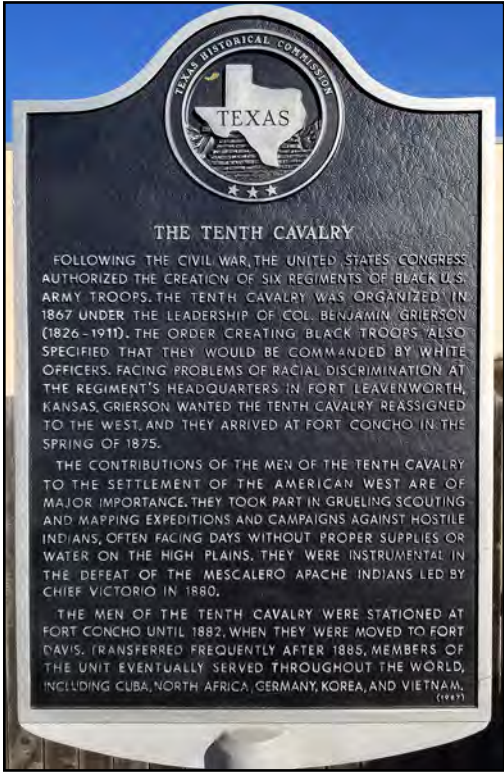


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Hot Off the Wire

with Robert Bluthardt, Manager,
Fort Concho National Historic Landmark



Like all readers of this newsletter, we were very disappointed that the 2020 Cowboy Way Jubilee was cancelled, despite our best efforts to accommodate and overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, most Fort Concho events this year fell by the wayside including our Frontier Day, Regional Cavalry Competition, and our largest extravaganza of them all, Christmas at Old

Fort Concho in early December. But, we are already scheduling, planning and expecting all these and more to return in 2021! Future attendees to the 2021 Jubilee will enjoy the buildings and grounds of one of the best preserved frontier forts west of the Mississippi. Established by the United States Army in 1867 and operated until 1889, the post was constructed of local limestone. The stability of the building material combined with the attraction of the abandoned military structures to the growing town of San Angelo quickly transformed the military post into a light commercial and residential district. By the late 1920s citizens feared the “old west” was disappearing before their eyes, so efforts led by Ginevra Wood Carson started the preservation of Fort Concho, a task we continue 90 years later! Thanks to a hard-working staff, two engaged boards, and a supportive City Council (we are owned and operated by the City of San Angelo, Texas), the fort is more than a bunch of old structures, though those old buildings represent one of the best collections of that era’s military building stock. Our library/archives has virtually quadrupled its holdings in the past fifteen years with the acquisition of several special libraries. The fort’s collections made a major acquisition in 2019 with the McChristian Collection of the Fron-



tier Soldier, a 1700-piece study collection of uniforms, equipment, photos, of the 1850-1900 era that ranks among the best of its kind. The fort also serves various community needs, offering up to five historical societies and groups monthly meetings space. The nearby Fort Concho Elementary School, partially located on the southeast corner of the historic grounds, often uses our open spaces and buildings for their programs and events. After hours, citizens exercise their dogs, walk and jog, toss a baseball, or fly kites on the Parade Ground. Other non-profits have used our rental buildings for their events, bringing several art shows and other activities to our grounds. Our mules in the Living History Stables always excite

young visitors and older guests with farming and ranching backgrounds. Our living history program often travels to other forts and communities for festivals, parades, and events. The fort’s artillery unit for the past ten years has saluted our Angelo State University’s football game scores! As we sometimes say, we are more than just a frontier fort, but we are a pretty fine fort at that. We hope you can attend and enjoy the Jubilee in 2021. We would be pleased to have you before and after the Jubilee for any of our special events and programs. Check out the web site and Facebook page at www.fortconcho.com or call us at (325) 481-2646. ★

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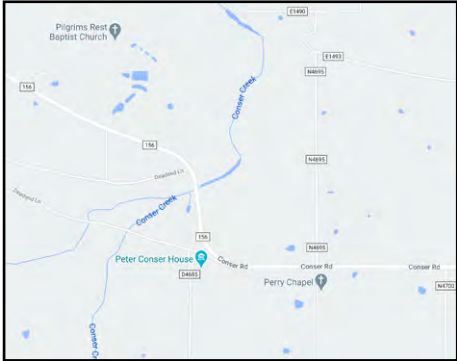
Peter Conser Homestead, Conser, OK

by Terry Alexander

PETER COINSON WAS BORN IN 1852 near Eagletown, in Indian Territory. His father T.X. Coinson, a Swiss immigrant from the Canton of Bain, married a Choctaw woman named Adeline and opened a trading business. White businessmen frequently married Indian women in order to legally open a business in Indian Territory (IT), since only Indians or family members could own land or operate a business. T. X. deserted his family and ran off to California, leaving his wife and son to fend for themselves. Adeline remarried when Peter was five. His stepfather didn't care for him and after Adeline died of smallpox, his stepfather sent him away.

For a year he lived with a man named Ainetubby, where he worked for room and board. When Ainetubby died, Peter was on his own once again. He found another home with Gilbert Perry and he stayed there until after the outbreak of the Civil War. In 1862, the Choctaw Nation officially joined the Confederacy. Union forces then invaded the Choctaw Nation and the non-combatants fled to Texas. At a mere ten years of age, Peter started the long walk to the Red River; along the way he stopped at the plantation of Robert M. Jones and was offered a job. He accepted and learned the art of farming. He later changed his last name from Coinson to Conser. Two stories have circulated as to why he changed his name, one was he wanted to break with his past and look to the future. The other was the Choctaws had a hard time pronouncing 'Coinson.'

He returned to the Jones' plantation area after the war and settled on an abandoned farm. Using the farming methods learned from Robert Jones, and with seed corn, he became a successful farmer. Conser married his first wife Amy Bacon; they had one child, named Susan. In 1877, he aligned himself with the McCurtain Brothers and was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Sugarloaf County of the Choctaw Nation. Then in 1881, Peter was appointed Captain of the Choctaw Lighthorsemen in the Moshulatubbee District. His first wife, Amy, passed on in 1879, and shortly after he married Martha Jane Smith. Together, they had eight children: four girls and four boys.



Facing Page: Barn interior; Peter Conser. This page, clockwise: Conser Homestead Front, Barn interior, Conser, Oklahoma cemetery, close up of deterioration of Homestead, Homestead chimney, Map location of Conser, OK (SSW of Poteau, OK) and Peter Coinson's Grave. Terry Alexander, photographer

During this time, Peter served on the Choctaw Council as a Representative and later a Senator. He moved and settled on a farm west of Hodgens, south of Poteau. He opened a General Store, Gristmill, Sawmill, Blacksmith Shop, and a small school. Martha Conser served as Postmistress in the General Store. Thus, the small town of Conser was born. When Conser was forty-two, he began construction of a two-story home with eight rooms. The home was finished in 1894. Martha and her son died in childbirth in the house soon after construction was completed. A special room on the second floor was fitted with a lock on the outside of the door. Conser often kept prisoners at his home en route to the Choctaw Court.

Peter married a third time. Mary Ann Holson Conser assumed the duties of Postmistress until 1920 when the General Store and Post Office were destroyed by fire. Peter and Mary Ann lived out their lives uneventfully. Peter died in 1934; he is buried in a small cemetery on the grounds. Family members continued to stay in the home for several years.

In 1967, the family donated the home, a barn, and four and a half acres to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The building became a Museum. It is a fascinating look at what life was like in the pre-Statehood days. The home holds several items of interest and the barn holds farm implements used by draft animals.

continued on page 39



Dillingham, whose credits include *Better Call Saul* and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*.

While a few of his cast and crew members came from as far away as New York, Ball says the majority are local or from Phoenix. Heather Swaim and Laine Murphy lead the list of Greater Prescott performers featured in *Horse Camp*.

Ball says Prescott Center for the Arts was a “huge help” in holding auditions to find young actors for the 10 child roles in the script.

He has spent more than a decade in the industry and through his production company, Patrick Ball Media, is getting ready to release a TV movie, *Tick Tock*, early this Fall. He also directed *C-Bar*, an hour-long outlaw-themed Western available on Amazon Prime.

Patrick Ball Media also offers video production services to outside clients.

Once *Horse Camp* is completed, Ball says he may well go back to ranching, as he often does between projects.

“You rebuild your spirit and your strength back. And in those downtimes I’ll usually do a lot of ranch work. It’s healthy. It’s fun. It’s therapeutic. You know, keeps you in shape.” ☆

Here at the **Cowboy Way Tribune**, we love this show. It’s family friendly and promotes the cowboy way — honesty, integrity, hard work, and fun. Here are some useful links:

Any one wishing to invest in a great western, be it a little or a lot, here’s the link to the [GO FUND ME \(click here\)](#)

For FACEBOOK afficionados [www.facebook.com/horsecampTV/](#)

The official IMDb.com link [www.imdb.com/title/tt11203148/?ref=nm_knf_i3](#)

And, of course, the official website for *Horse Camp*: [www.patrickballmedia.com/horse-camp](#) ★

continued from page 31, *Be A Cowboy Workshop Leader*

- 18. **Whip It Up** with Cisco Kid /Tonto (aka John Phipps); 15 mins \$10 per person, \$5 per child, permission required. If you have your own whip, bring it. Vendors will be selling whips. It is recommended beginners start with the shorter whips (6’–8’). You’ll be cracking a whip in no time. Aim, however, will take a bit more practice.
- 19. **Trick Roping Demo** with Cowboy Max (Shelby Bond); 20 mins. \$10 per person, \$5 per child, permission required. Bring your own lariat. Be amazed by the talented Cowboy Max. He shows you the ‘how to’ for basic roping tricks.
- 20. **Roping Clinic** with Booger Brown; 30 mins. \$20/person (bring your own lariat). *Cowboy Way Alabama* star Booger teaches you the very basics on how to prepare, hold, and throw a lariat. With practice you’ll hit your mark.
- 21. **Gun Safety Protocol** with Oren Truitt; 30 mins. no charge, children require signed guardian permission. Historian and gun expert Oren teaches basic gun safety (not certification).
- 22. **Historic Guns** with Oren Truitt; 45 mins. no charge. Learn about the various guns of the Old West from six-shooters to shot guns and a lot of rifles. ★

Unfortunately, the Museum is now closed, the Oklahoma State Parks withdrew the funding for the building in 2016, and the buildings and grounds reverted to the family. The family tried to keep the home open for tourists, but in 2017 the Peter Conser homestead closed to the public.

In 2018 someone broke into the home and stole several antiques. None of the stolen items have been recovered. In July of 2020, I took several pictures of the Conser home and barn. The structure needed some repairs and a coat of paint. A window was broken on the second floor. The lock on the barn was broken and several old pieces of farm equipment were still inside.

The grass is tall and thick around the house that the caretaker used to live in, a set of broken sawhorses mark the official boundary to the once fabulous home. Visitors to the site are still welcome, with restricted access. The home’s current address is 47114 Conser Creek Road in Le Flore County, Oklahoma. ★



Terry Alexander and his wife Phyllis live on a small farm near Porum, Oklahoma. They have three children, thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Terry is a member of the Western Fictioneers, Oklahoma Writers Federation, Ozark Creative Writers and The Tahlequah Writers. He has been published in various anthologies by Airship 27, Pro Se Productions, and Oghma Creative Media.



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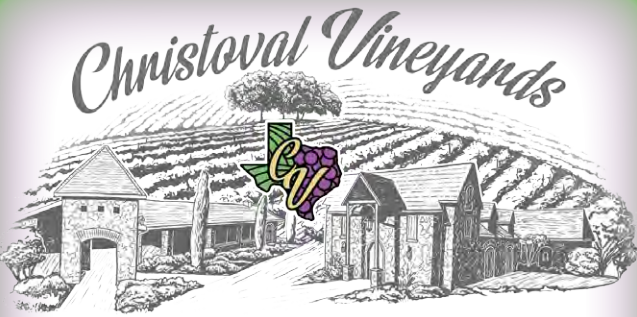
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Lewis. After the theft, Mose and Eddie camped out near the river. Perryman shot Eddie in the face. The bullet entered his face and circled below his ear. Eddie managed to get home. Belle took him in and slowly nursed him back to health.

Belle wrote a letter to Pearl telling her of her brother’s condition. Pearl left her daughter Flossie behind and came back to Indian Territory to help her mother. Belle wrote a second letter to Jim Reed’s sister and asked her to put the baby, Flossie, up for adoption. When Pearl found out what her mother had done, she was furious and never forgave her.

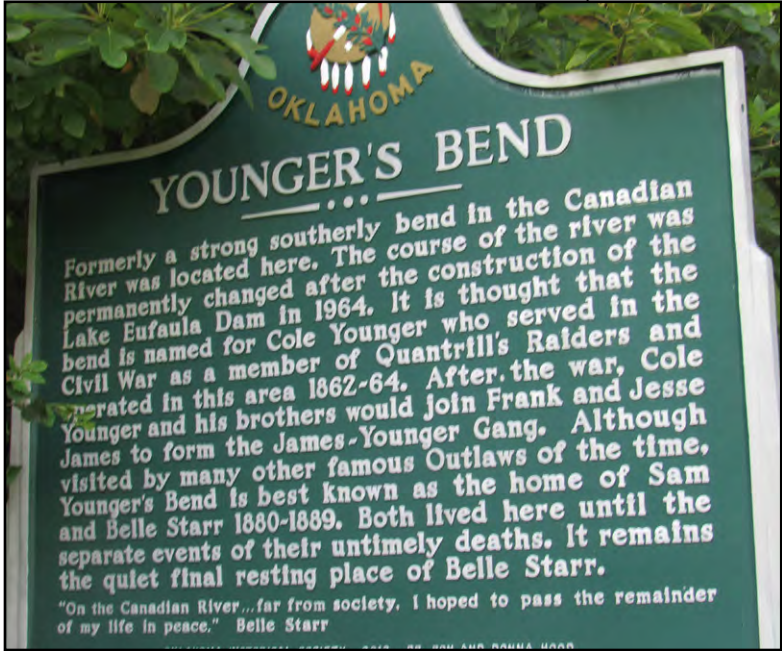
In December of 1888, after he recovered, Eddie took one of Belle’s horses without permission and raced the mare for a long distance. When Belle discovered what he had done, she beat him with a bull whip. Stories of Belle’s temper were whispered about by several people on both sides of the river. She had beaten Eddie on several occasions, both in private and in public. This beating was terribly severe considering Eddie was recently wounded. He was in bed for a prolonged stay until he recuperated. He then moved and stayed at a friend’s house. He never saw his mother alive again.

When Jim July was away from home for a short time, Belle met Edgar Watson. He and his wife had recently moved from Florida and he wanted to rent some land. Belle rented a house and a plot of land on the south side of the river, that she illegally owned in the Choctaw Nation to Watson. Belle discovered that Watson was wanted for murder in Florida and wanted him to move off her property. Watson refused, until Belle let it slip that the authorities would be interested in his current whereabouts. He left Belle’s property and moved to another location.

Two stories are told about what occurred on February 2nd, 1889. Belle and Jim July had reconciled and were back together. He was wanted in Fort Smith on a horse theft charge and Belle rode part of the way to Fort Smith with him. They spent the night together and she was returning home. She stopped in Hoyt, Oklahoma to visit with some friends. Edgar Watson was there and left after Belle arrived. He was carrying a shotgun.

The second story was that Belle left her home to attend a dance at Eufaula. Edgar Watson and Milo ‘Frog’ Hoyt were also at the dance. Edgar asked Belle to dance and she refused. Frog Hoyt had a grudge against Belle for taking advantage of him in a horse trade. Both men left the dance soon after she arrived. Belle was returning home the next morning. She stopped at Hoyt again to visit friends and eat some cornbread before she went to the ferry crossing. Watson was in Hoyt at the time and left walking toward his home, carrying a shotgun. Belle rode toward the ferry crossing at approximately four-thirty in the afternoon. At a fork in the road, she was shot from ambush. Her attacker shot her in the back with a shotgun as she rode past a thick growth of trees. After she fell to the ground, her killer advanced toward her and shot her in the face and neck from close range ending her life.

Her horse raced to the river and swam across. It ran to her cabin where Pearl was waiting for her mother. She stabled the horse and took another, riding back toward the river. On the south side of the Canadian River she found her mother lying dead on the old Briar-town/Eufaula trail and Frog Hoyt standing next to the body, holding a shotgun. Tracks at the scene went toward Watson’s home but petered out after a short distance.



Frog told Pearl that he’d heard the shots and saw the horse, Venus, jump into the river and swim across. When he got off the ferry, he rode up the trail and found her dead. Jim July’s and Eddie’s trials were postponed so they could attend the funeral. Everyone attended Belle’s funeral, including Edgar Watson. Belle was buried at Younger’s Bend. Jim July insisted that Watson killed her. Watson was arrested for Belle’s murder, but no evidence could be found to support the charge.

The five main suspects in Belles’ murder were her children, Jim July, Frog Hoyt, and Edgar Watson. Watson returned to Florida after the murder and bragged to several people that he’d killed Belle Starr. He was a vicious man. Edgar killed a man in a knife fight and was wanted for the murder when he fled Florida for the Indian Nation. Upon his return to Florida, he slit the throat of a man named Tucker and his nephew for squatting on his property. The authorities failed to gather enough evidence to charge Watson. He owned a large plantation and hired men to work the acreage for him. However, when it came time to pay his hired help, they mysteriously disappeared, and were never seen again. The local population hated and feared Watson. On October 24, 1910, a mob gathered outside the Smallwood Store and waited for Watson. When he walked outside, he drew his pistol, aimed it at the leader and squeezed the trigger. The weapon misfired. The mob shot Watson to pieces. He was shot thirty-three times. He is buried in Everglades City.

Jim July Starr accused Watson of killing Belle. Watson told a different story. He stated to the Deputy Marshals that July had approached him and wanted to borrow the shotgun to kill some wolves that were denned up nearby. He took the shotgun and some shells and returned the weapon later having used two shells. Rumors swirled that July and Watson were partners in theft and robbery and had planned the murder of Belle. July never returned to Fort Smith for trial on his horse theft charge. He was shot and killed by Bud Trainer in the Choctaw Nation.

Milo ‘Frog’ Hoyt was suspected of being the assassin. He claimed to have heard the shots from the ferry, and watched Belle’s mare, Venus, run to the river’s edge, jump in the water and swim across. He stated he galloped up the trail and found Belle lying face down in the dirt. When questioned he also stated that July had offered

Late Fall 2020

him a hundred dollars to kill Belle. Frog held a grudge against Belle for besting him in a horse trade. Plus, when Pearl saw him at the body, she thought he had a shotgun.

Son Eddie was briefly suspected. He was the only one that couldn’t have committed the crime. He had witnesses stating he was two miles away at the time of the shooting. His trial had been postponed from March of 1889 to July. At the trial, Eddie was found guilty of horse theft and received a seven-year sentence at the State Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio.

Suspicion soon fell on Pearl. Belle’s cabin was searched, but the shotgun she was known to have kept in the house was gone. Frog’s statement gave Pearl an alibi. Pearl married for a short time but left her husband in the spring of 1891. She moved to Van Buren, Arkansas and worked in a brothel to earn money for her brother’s legal fund. She changed her last name from Reed to Starr to attract more customers. Business prove Od to be so good that she soon opened her own sporting house. Within a short time she had a small string of houses in her name. By 1893, she had earned enough money to hire the lawyers to get Eddie released. Pearl ran the sporting house in Arkansas until 1916, when anti-prostitution laws put her out of business. She moved to Arizona and died in Douglas, Arizona on July 6th, 1925.

Eddie was released from prison in 1893. He married Jennie Cochran, a Cherokee schoolteacher. He became a Deputy U.S. Marshal working with Bass Reeves in 1895. Eddie was killed in Claremore by Joe Gibbs and J. N. Clark on December 14th, 1896. They shot him from ambush when he tried to arrest the pair. Ironically, he was killed by two blasts from a shotgun. He was buried south of Claremore, Oklahoma.

The murder of Belle Starr has never been solved. Her grave is approximately seven miles southwest of Porum, Oklahoma on Highway 71 and about a mile east of the Eufaula Dam. Souvenir hunters



destroyed the original tombstone, taking chips as keepsakes. The new owner has replaced the headstone and cleaned up the area around the grave. A bell, a star, and a horse are engraved on her tombstone along with this poem:

*Shed not for her the bitter tear,
Nor give the heart to vain regret
'Tis but the casket that lies here,
The gem that filled it sparkles yet*

Several people believed then that Cole Younger was Pearl’s father. The Younger family has denied this. From what I have read, Cole went to Texas and met with the Reed and Shirley families after Belle was married and expecting her first child. But Pearl was thought to have an ‘uncanny’ likeness to Cole and so we will never know for certain. Today, each must decide what to believe. ★

See the article’s author, Terry Anderson’s bio on page 38.

Photos: facing page, historical marker at Younger’s Bend, Oklahoma; Above, Belle Starr’s grave; below, her grave stone; left, Watson’s headstone.



2021 Cowboy Way Jubilee

Pertinent Travel Information



DUE TO THE CURRENT National health crisis we are very hesitant to state anything *certain*. We are not accepting new registrations until January 2021. A lot of things are in re-negotiations. We WILL do this. Our 2021 dates look good but we'll know a lot more in a few weeks. We thank you so much for your patience and support of the Cowboy Way Jubilee.

APPEARANCES. Currently we cannot guarantee any individual appearance. As health is our number one concern, it we may need to pare down from what was planned for 2020. Look towards March 2021 for solid information.

REGISTRATION. As soon as we have everything firmed up and are pretty certain our dates are a 'go' we will send out an email to all previous attendees and registrants. The website and Facebook will also be updated.

AIRLINES GROUP CODE. We are waiting until January to set up a Group Travel Code with American Airlines and Southwest Airlines. (For SW you'll change airports at D/FW to fly on into San Angelo. OR, rent a car and drive the rest of the way to San Angelo, approximately 4 hours.)

HOTELS: We are renegotiating our agreements with the area hotels. As soon as we have that information we will publish it on our website, Facebook, and send out an email. Thanks for your patience. ★

San Angelo Shopping

Unique • Clothes • Gifts • Decor

Backbeat Music

130 S Oakes St., (325) 703-1850, www.BackBeatMusicCompany.com/
Locally owned; musical instruments (new & used), lessons, repairs, and consignment. Super friendly.

Blair's Western Wear

4230 Sherwood Way, (325) 949-6287
Blair's has a wide selection of western apparel and footwear for men, women, and children. Very helpful, friendly folks.

Cactus Bookshop

4 E Concho Ave., (325) 659-3788 www.CactusBookShop.com
Specializing in Elmer Kelton, Texana, Hank the Cowdog, and Historical genres. I could spend all day there.

Carter's Sugar Shop

28 N. Chadbourne St., (325) 656-8035
Not your standard bakery! Gourmet cupcakes, unique cakes, and more. Melt in your mouth wonderful. Allow time for special orders.

Coffee 101

101 N. Main St., (325) 227-4382
Fresh roasted beans, comfy chairs and sofas, art, and chic mid-century décor; oh, and a bookstore. Think a minimalist version of the coffee shop from "Friends".

Concho Confetti Mall

42 E. Concho Ave., (325) 655-3962
Antiques, Collectibles, Gifts – a great place to treasure hunt. And the staff are very friendly and helpful.

Cowboy-Up Chocolates

2411 College Hills Blvd., (325) 949-3248
www.cowboyupchocolates.com
Texas-themed chocolates, handmade. You MUST get a concho "pearl" shell! These chocolates are simply divine.

Gypsy Chix Boutique

1016 S. Koenigheim St., (325) 481-0943, www.facebook.com/pages/Gypsy-Chix/17241191018934
OMG the cutest earrings in the world! With bracelets, clothes, and all sorts of goodies. Gifts, too. If you like bright and quirky, this is your place.

In Vino Veritas

2007 Knickerbocker Rd., (325) 223-1045
In Vino Veritas has a generous and exclusive collection of wines from all over the world. Let them suggest the right bottle for your taste and budget. Daily wine tastings with optional cheese, meats, and crackers to compliment the wine.

Legends Jewelry

18 E Concho Ave., (325) 653-0112
Home to the Concho Pearls, rare pink to lavender fresh water pearls. And to the "Lone Star Cut" Blue Topaz (State Gemstone of Texas), you must see these to really appreciate these. Legends is the steward for Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum.

M.L. Leddy's Boot and Saddlery

222 S Oakes St., (325) 653-3397
Now a fourth-generation family business, Leddy's has storefronts in the Fort Worth Stockyards and Downtown San Angelo. Step back to a time when folks went out of their way to make sure the job was done right. Watch their team of leatherworkers in real time.

Myers Drugs [and Gifts]

29 S. Chadbourne St., (325) 655-3146, www.MyersDrugs.com
Myers Drugs (it ought to say "and Gifts") is 84 years old. Everything you need medically plus cards, gifts, and foods! It's an experience in it's self.

Olive's Nursery

3402 Sherwood Way, (325) 949-3756
Third generation garden center in West Texas specializes in organic gardening, water gardening, landscape color, gifts, and a year-round Christmas shop.

Sunset Mall

4001 Sunset Dr., www.sunsetmall.com/
Not 'just a mall,' there are a lot of local only shops, too. Performances and special events, too.

What-a-Burger

N. Bryant, Sherwood Way, or S. Knickerbocker, just look for the orange & white striped roof!
A Texas tradition. Burgers taste like the ones Dad made on a grill when you were a kid – BIG, greasy, and delish. Known for particularly yummy ketchup, really. ★

Welcome Cowboy Way Jubilee Fans!

Let's Go Shopping!



Sunset Mall • 325-949-1947
4001 Sunset San Angelo, TX 76904
www.sunsetmall.com

Visit all of your favorite stores! Dillard's, Marshalls, JCPenney, Buckle, Bath & Body Works, and more!

FROM *Merry Christmas!* ...TO

ALL OF US...  ALL OF YOU



Fan Club News

Happy Holidays

Peace on Earth



Jess Harper, courtesy of Marsha Norton Gaddis ; The Virginian, courtesy of Darlene Rae McGarr

Contributions Welcome! Any Westerns related Fan Club may publish here. To Submit to “Fan Club News” email your submission to CowboyWayFest@gmail.com including your name & telephone number. Any photo submissions must be at least 1Mb in size, a photo release will be assumed for submitted images. Thanks for participating! ★



Things to Do in & Around San Angelo



UPON FIRST ARRIVAL TO SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, three things really stood out as a newbie: 1) There is Art Everywhere! 2) So much history can be found here! 3) These folks know how to have FUN! A LOT of Fun! There is so much to see and do in and around San Angelo, it would take us a day just to complete a good list. So since we’re a bit lazy, here’s some of the many links we’ve found. Click on them at your leisure. Pick and choose what you want to do when you come visit next Spring. (You’ll want to stay *at least* a week!)

- www.DiscoverSanAngelo.com/businesses/thingstosecanddo
- www.FamilyDaysOut.com/kids-things-to-do-usa/san-angelo/tx
- www.Livability.com/tx/san-angelo/experiences-adventures/fun-things-to-do-in-san-angelo-tx
- www.SanAngeloDiocese.org/news/texas-catholic-travel-tips
- www.TexasTravelTalk.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-visiting-san-angelo-texas/
- www.TourTexas.com/destinations/San-Angelo-attractions
- www.RippedJeansAndBifocals.com/reasons-to-visit-san-angelo-texasdo-in-san-angelo-texas/
- www.TripAdvisor.com/Attractions-g56609-Activities-San-Angelo-Texas.html

www.TripBuzz.com/free-things-to-do/san-angelo-tx
www.Yelp.com/search?find_desc=fun+things+to+do&find_loc=San+Angelo%2C+TX
www.YouTube.com/watch?v=44rUEz66bZc
And here are two ‘unusual’ things to do around San Angelo: (I never heard of these, gotta check ‘em out!)

www.AtlasObscura.com/things-to-do/san-angelo-texas

As if that isn’t enough to explore and enjoy, here are some cool things to do within a 30 to 45 minute drive of San Angelo. Make it an hour and a half and you could spend an entire MONTH exploring central Texas! (It really is a BIG State.)

CHRISTOVAL:

www.FamilyDaysOut.com/kids-things-to-do-usa/christoval/tx
<https://texashillcountry.com/christoval-texas-adventures/>
www.TexasHighways.com/things-to-do/on-the-water/in-the-tiny-town-of-christoval-an-amazing-west-texas-oasis-awaits-you/
www.Yelp.com/search?find_desc=things+to+do&find_loc=Christoval%2C+TX+76935

Happy Hunting! ★



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San Angelo, TX 76903



Upcoming Events

All Dates are Tentative based on Health regulations at the time of the Event.
To add an event, email details to cowboywayfest@gmail.com



Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo
January 21 – February 6, 2021
Ft. Worth, TX
www.fwssr.com/



2021 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering (VIRTUAL)
Jan. 25 – 30, 2021
Elko, NV
www.NationalCowboyPoetryGathering.org

2021 San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo
Feb. 4–21, 2021; **Rodeo:** April 9–24, 2021
San Angelo, TX
www.SanAngeloRodeo.com

2021 Cowboy Festival
TBD (April 2021?)
Santa Clarita, CA
www.CowboyFestival.org

Happy Trails Virginia Style
April 16 – 18, 2021
Roanoke, VA
<https://tinyurl.com/vylxzamd>

2021 Cowboy Way Jubilee
April 29 – May 2, 2021
Fort Concho, San Angelo, TX
www.CowboyWayJubilee.com

Wyatt Earp Days
May 21 – 23, 2021
Tombstone, AZ
Sponsored by the Tombstone Lions Club
www.TombstoneChamber.com/event/wyatt-earp-days/

MidSouth Nostalgia Festival (formerly Memphis Film Festival)
June 10 – 12, 2021
Tunica, MS
www.nationalcowboypoetrygathering.org/

Buffalo Soldier Days
TBD Summer 2021
Tombstone, AZ
www.facebook.com/BufaloSoldierDays/

The Official Roy Rogers Festival
August 4 – 7, 2021
Portsmouth, OH
www.RoyRogersFestival.com

Western Legends Round Up
August 13–15, 2021
Kanab, UT
www.KanabWesternLegends.com

Silver Spurs Awards
September 17, 2021
Studio City, CA
Sponsored by the Reel Cowboys
www.SilverSpurAwards.com

National Cowboy Symposium
September 10 – 12, 2021
Lubbock, TX
www.Cowboy.org/

San Angelo Cowboy Gathering
September 10 – 11, 2021
San Angelo, TX
www.SanAngeloCowboyGathering.com/

The Wild Bunch Film Festival
September 20 – October 3, 2021
Willcox, AZ
www.TheWildBunchFilmFestival.com

Lone Pine Film Festival
October 8–10, 2021
Bishop, CA
Sponsored by the Museum of Western Film History
www.LonePineFilmFestival.org

Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering
October 22–24, 2021
Fort Worth, TX
www.RedSteagallCowboyGathering.com

Western Heroes for Autism Rodeo,
October 8–9, 2021
Decatur, TX
www.WesternHeroesForAutism.simdif.com

Williamsburg Nostalgia Fest
TBD Fall 2021
Williamsburg, VA
www.WilliamsburgNostalgiaFest.com/

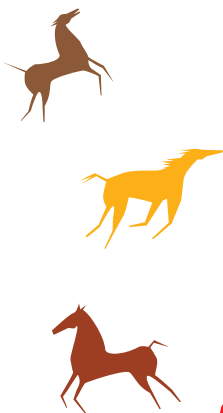
International Western Music Association 2021 Conference
TBD Fall 2021
Albuquerque, NM
www.WesternMusic.org/events

Western Swing Festival
November 11 – 13, 2021
Ft. Worth, TX
www.BirthplaceOfWesternSwing.com

San Angelo Cowboy Christmas Ball
December 3, 2021
San Angelo, TX
www.SanAngeloCowboyGathering.com/sa-cowboy-christmas-ball.html



7900 Balboa Blvd. C3 & C4 Van Nuys, CA 91406
(Entrance on, Stagg St) (818) 616-4083



Merry Christmas!

Featured Event:

San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo

Stock Show: February 4 – 21, 2021

Rodeo: April 9 – 24, 2021



THE INAUGURAL SAN ANGELO RODEO was held in 1934, three years after the first “fat” stock show. Currently held in the Foster Communications Coliseum on the San Angelo Fairgrounds, the San Angelo Rodeo Committee is offers attendees one of the best true rodeos today. San Angelo prides itself on offering a quality event from contestants, to stock, to production, and so on.

The San Angelo Rodeo is a PRCA and WPRA sanctioned event open to cowboys and cowgirls across the world that are members or permit holders of their respective organizations.

What does it mean that permit holders are allowed to participate? It means that contestants may get their first big win at this Rodeo. Many other rodeos only take the top cowboys in the world standings. Everyone starts somewhere, so why not start in San Angelo?

The Rodeo features rough stock events such as bull riding, saddle bronc riding, and bareback riding, as well as timed events like team roping, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, and Women’s barrel racing.

Another unique feature of San Angelo is the spectators. West Texans love rodeo

– they know what constitutes a good Rodeo. This is one of the only locations in the world where tie-down ropers get a louder cheer from the crowd than a bull rider. The fan base truly understands the work cowboys and cowgirls put into this career, and stand behind them completely. www.sanangelorodeo.com ★

EDITOR’S NOTE: 12/9/2020 The San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo publically announced the split of the stock show and rodeo for 2021. The Stock Show is for participants only; the Rodeo in April will be open to the public.

DISCOVER

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Opine:

Readers Speak Their Minds

THIS COLUMN IS RESERVED FOR YOU, the Readers. Wax poetically about a moment, tell us why Roy or Gene is your favorite cowboy (who ever it is), ask us – any of our columnist or Leslei questions. Submit questions, musings, or comments to cowboywayfest@gmail.com with “Opine” in the subject line.

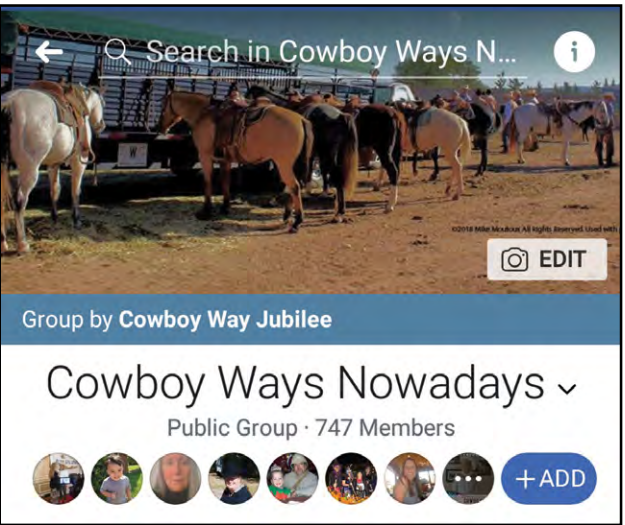
Thanks!

– The Editor

Cowboy Ways Nowadays Facebook Group

Most Popular Post Fall 2020

Border Collies are so Handsome!



Cowboy Ways Nowadays, Our Official Facebook Group

JOIN OUR OFFICIAL online community, [Cowboy Ways Nowadays](https://www.facebook.com/CowboyWaysNowadays) on Facebook and on MeWe to keep up with your fellow attendees, find current Jubilee information posted there. It’s a great place to find a hotel roommate or ride share. Use at your own risk, of course, but we do our best to make certain everyone observes the Cowboy Way. It’s also a great place to learn about concerts, western products, and what’s going on in the world of cowboys; often it’s even good for a laugh. Feel free to share on there, as well. ★



John Pryor
November 7 at 8:44 AM · 🌐

This was our Border Collie we found one Sunday morning on our way home from church about 10 years ago. She was out on highway 20 west of town about five miles, chasing cars (about a mile from our place). We brought her home with us, and our vet, whom I had called, actually owned a full brother to her and knew all about her. He told us to keep her because her owner had abused her and she had run off...so we did. We named her Sally, and she turned out to be the best cow dog ever! I would take her out with me to work the cows, and she would watch me for a moment or two to see what I was trying to do, and then she would just take over and do the job. She had the sweetest disposition, until it was time to work the cattle, and then she was all business until the job was done. We were privileged to have her in our family for three years. She was chasing our neighbor's truck one day (a habit I couldn't get out of her), and she was hit and killed by the trailer he was pulling, right in front of our house. He came and told me immediately after it happened. I ran out to the road, picked up her warm, lifeless body and carried her to our front porch, gently laid her down, buried my face in her side, and cried like a baby. I laid her to rest in a grave I dug for her in the center of a little grove of pecan trees out in our pasture. There will never be another one like our Sally, and we shall never forget her. If dogs go to heaven, and I believe they do, she is there; and we'll get to see her again one day.



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SAN ANGELO MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS



Margaret Stites, *Portrait of the Artist's Nephews*, 1951. 25" x 30". Paint on hardboard



Jimmy Don Cox (1951-2012) "Cold Jawed" Bronze. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, Gift of Gretchen Noelke



Margaret Tupper, *Untitled (Water Tower and Two Trees)* 16" x 11.75", Watercolor. Gift of Bill and Mary Cheek

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