

# The Cowboy Way

SPRING 2010

The Nunn Family  
Seven Generations of Ranching

A Humble Man  
Judge William Clark

Spring Branding  
A Mary Williams Hyde Portfolio

The Living Words of the Constitution  
Part 10

[www.paragonfoundation.org](http://www.paragonfoundation.org)

\$5.95 US



The Journal of the PARAGON Foundation, Inc.

## OUR MISSION

---

The PARAGON Foundation provides for education, research and the exchange of ideas in an effort to promote and support Constitutional principles, individual freedoms, private property rights and the continuation of rural customs and culture – all with the intent of celebrating and continuing our Founding Fathers vision for America.

The PARAGON Foundation, Inc. • To Educate and Empower  
We invite you to join us. [www.paragonfoundation.org](http://www.paragonfoundation.org)

Photo by Mary Williams Hyde

Martin Black, often a visitor at the Alvord Ranch just up the road, was helping with branding at the Kueny Ranch this day in the vast Great Basin desert of eastern Oregon. A day or so after this photo was taken, he got into a horrific tangle with a big range bull and a fence while horseback and was severely injured. The spiral fracture to his leg has taken months to heal. Black is a well-known vaquero-style horseman and ranch roping clinician.



**Arnold R. Rojas**  
1896 - 1988

For many years, the writing of Arnold Rojas was the benchmark for information on the ways of the vaquero. Out of print for many years, Alamar Media, in conjunction with Rojas' family, is reissuing "Chief" Rojas' many books, starting with his collected works, *These Were the Vaqueros*. It will be available in June and 10% of the sale price will go to support the PARAGON Foundation. Call 575.434.8998 for ordering information.



# The Cowboy Way

SPRING 2010 VOLUME 6 No. 1

William C. Reynolds  
EDITOR

Nicole Krebs  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marilyn Fisher  
SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR

Robin Ireland  
ART DIRECTOR

Mary Williams Hyde  
FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

Darrell Arnold Julie Chase Baldocchi Myron Beck  
Mark Bedor Robert Dawson Guy de Galard  
Jay Dusard Dan Gagliasso Heather Hafleigh  
Adam Jahiel Jim Keen Thea Marx  
CONTRIBUTORS

## THE PARAGON FOUNDATION

GB Oliver  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

Don "Bebo" Lee  
VICE PRESIDENT

Stella Montoya  
SECRETARY / TREASURER

Alice Eppers  
Bobby Jones  
Daniel Martinez  
Jonna Lou Schafer  
DIRECTORS

For sponsorship inquiries, contact Nicole Krebs – 575.434.8998 at the PARAGON Foundation, Inc. office, 1209 Michigan Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310. To join or renew your membership or sponsorship, call toll free 877.847.3443. *The Cowboy Way* is published quarterly by the PARAGON Foundation, Inc. Memberships are \$50.00 per year. The PARAGON Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3. *Postmaster:* Send address changes to the PARAGON Foundation, Inc. 1209 Michigan Avenue, Alamogordo, NM 88310

# IN THIS ISSUE

---

8

## Of Note

Current Events and Culture from  
Out West

24

## The Value of a Cowboy's Way

The Barrett Ranch  
By Darrell Arnold

29

## R-CALF USA

Special Section

36

## The Living Words of the Constitution

By Nicole Krebs

39

## The Cowboy Way Profile

Bill Clark: Cold War Patriot

By Marilyn Fisher

45

## Your Rights

Otis McDonald v. City of  
Chicago

By GB Oliver

50

## Going to Elko

The National Cowboy Poetry

Gathering Hits 26

By Guy de Galard

55

## FFA

Special Section

60

## Modern Ranching

Oregon's 6 Ranch

By Darrell Arnold

64

## Ranch Living

Life on the Ranch with Thea Marx

69

## Horse Soldiers

The Cavalry Heads for  
Afghanistan

By Mark Bedor

75

## Spring Branding

A Mary Williams Hyde Portfolio

88

## Tell Him Junior Sent You

The Making of *Junior Bonner*

By Dan Gagliasso

94

## Recommended Reading

Old and New Books

Worthy of Your Nightstand

96

## The Nunn Ranches

Seven Generations Strong

By Thea Marx

100

## Range Writing

Cowboy Poetry from

All Over the West

102

## PARAGON Memorials

104

## Out There

---



The neighbors came from far and wide to help the morning of the branding at Warren Johnson's ranch near Adin, CA. Just as the half dozen stock trailers full of saddled and ready to go horses pulled up, a blinding snow storm came out of nowhere and raged through the area. Undaunted, Luke Davies and the others gathered the cows and calves quickly and the branding went ahead as scheduled. Though wet conditions can affect making a clean brand, this day there wasn't any trouble.

Celebrate and help protect  
the horse and cow culture of the West  
with PARAGON



Your donation to PARAGON helps further our efforts to educate and empower every American citizen of their Constitutional rights. As our thank you, for a \$250 donation, you will receive this signed, limited edition print by the reknowned artist, Shannon Lawlor. Call 575.434.8998 and join or upgrade your membership today.



WILLIAM C. REYNOLDS

## Enlisting Civilians

Here's a little story for you. Imagine the pristine vistas of Pennsylvania's Amish country – barns, silos and even a buggy traveling silently down a snow-covered road. Then imagine this bucolic picture changed by a line of government vehicles pulling into the yard of one of these picturesque, Amish farms. The cars unload and a federal official strides up to the side door of the farmhouse. He politely tells the inhabitants that they have been one of the area's 24 randomly selected properties slated for inspection by the EPA. That, because of the geography of their land – adjacent to a tributary leading, ultimately, into the Chesapeake Bay – they have been chosen for inspection by the use of "tax maps." Why? Well, because they live in one of three agricultural areas where runoff of pollutants, such as nitrogen, into the bay tributaries is most "dire." Then imagine this EPA official demanding to inspect the property – without any notice, for no reason other than geography. Hard to believe? Maybe, but it happened; and what's worse, it is continuing to happen. According to a recent story in *USA Today*, federal and state environmental officials are working within specific Pennsylvania counties to stop cow manure from draining during rainstorms into nearby streams – this as part of the current administration's efforts to introduce – and enforce – tougher consequences for polluters. Polluters? Hmm. Consider the social and cultural implications of that word. What comes to mind? I don't quite know if an Amish family farm fits our society's image of a first tier, industrial polluter but there is a larger issue here and it involves the nanosecond those federal officials started looking at tax maps. What jurisdiction would allow the EPA to use tax documents to speculate on *any* activity within a sovereign state? Without looking too hard, the Supreme Court ruled on this kind of activity way back in 1992.

*"The Federal Government may not compel the States to enact or administer a federal regulatory program."* **New York v. United States**, 505 U.S. 144 (1992), at 188.

The United States Supreme Court has been very clear as to the limited authority of the United States and its agencies within the boundaries of a sovereign State. Federal directives and standards have no authority within the state of Pennsylvania, except those lands which have been ceded to the Federal Government by the legislature of the State of Pennsylvania. Those who would indicate that the Supremacy Clause in the United States Constitution gives those Federal agencies absolute authority over the State of Pennsylvania are either juristically illiterate or deliberately committing fraud upon the citizens of Pennsylvania.

**The Supremacy Clause** is very specific: *"This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof, and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land, and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding."* (Article VI of the United States Constitution. Emphasis added.)

To obtain a clear understanding of what this means, one should refer to *Webster's Dictionary*, 1828, which defines *notwithstanding* as "the participle of **witstand**, with **not** prefixed, and signifying not opposing; nevertheless." It retains in all cases its participial signification.

*"To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding 10 Miles square) as may by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards and other needful Buildings..."* (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution.)

*"The exclusive jurisdiction which the United States have in forts and dock-yards ceded to them, is derived from the express assent of the states by whom the cessions are made. It could be derived in no other manner; because without it, the authority of the state would be supreme and exclusive therein,"* 3 *Wheat.*, at 350, 351. [**U.S. v. Bevans**, 16 U.S. 336 (1818), reaff. 19 U.S.C.A., section 1401(h).]

IX Amendment: *"The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."*

X Amendment: *"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."*

The point here is that the EPA is acting as an agenda-based bully, hoping these 24 families would not question the jurisdiction of the officials standing in their yard, let alone as to how they came to be there in the first place. Granted, it is very difficult in the face of "logo-covered" vehicles for an individual to ask the simple question, "By what authority and jurisdiction, does a federal official have to trespass and arbitrarily 'inspect' a private property in the sovereign state of Pennsylvania?" Understandable, but a little education can prepare all of us for this kind of unconstitutional behavior.

5



*photo by Mary Williams Hyde*

Chet Randall came from his home base, the Kings River Ranch, to help at Poncho Mcerquiaga's branding in this huge hidden valley over the hill from Orovada, Nevada. First photographed by Hyde in the mid-90s when he worked at Oregon's massive ZX Ranch, Randall is a traditional buckaroo through and through, following cowboy etiquette without fail.



**Front Cover Photo:**

Photo by Mary Williams Hyde  
Randi Johnson, 13-years-old at the time this photo was taken, is the daughter of long-time Adin, California ranchers Warren and Sherri Johnson. Typical of ranch raised kids, she has been expected to help out since she could crawl on a horse.



This is the kind of story PARAGON Foundation hears everyday – stories from citizens fearfully dealing with potentially unconstitutional demands because they simply don't know the right questions to ask. That's what PARAGON is all about – helping each and every citizen step up to an even playing field. Education and empowerment, that's prime directive.

This issue of *The Cowboy Way* further illustrates this mission with a complete copy of the *amicus curiae* brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court in the **Otis McDonald v. City of Chicago** case – a further test of the Second and Fourteenth Amendment regarding citizens' right to bear arms. It is a most important piece in this issue and has far-reaching effects, no matter what side of the gun issue you stand. Simply put, it is a further attempt by forces to degrade our rights under the U.S. Constitution. Please read the brief and consider its far-reaching meaning in the big picture of the United States.



photo courtesy R. Slaughter

Our Marilyn Fisher has a wonderful story on “citizen rancher” Judge William Clark. Judge Clark was one of Ronald Reagan's most important advisors and was most instrumental in the bringing down of the Berlin Wall. Bill Clark is a significant Westerner and a fine and humble man. Mark Bedor brings us the story of the horse soldiers in Afghanistan – our troops, horseback, after the Taliban. What a story.

It's spring and it's branding time. We are honored to feature the photography of Mary Williams Hyde and some superb moments during spring branding – even when it's snowing. Guy de Galard has gone deep to give us a look at the “daddy of 'em all” when it comes to cowboy poetry with a look at the history of Elko's gift to cowboy verse. Darrell Arnold did double duty this issue with a profile of Billy Jack Barrett – the man behind last issue's “Horseback to Health” program – and a visit with the Nichols family. Thea Marx gives us a look at another multi-generational ranching family – seven generations to be exact – with the Nunn family of New Mexico along with her every-issue section “Ranch Living.” Our own Nicole Krebs keeps up her take on the Constitution with a look at the Third Amendment. Our stalwart cowboy Western expert, Dan Gagliasso, looks at a moment in time with the making of *Junior Bonner*, featuring the late Steve McQueen and the legendary director Sam Peckinpaw, as they made what is still considered by many to be the greatest rodeo film ever made.

In addition, in this issue we say farewell to one of the founders of PARAGON Foundation, Bob Jones. He helped shape the mission and for over ten years helped in its execution. Bob was a throwback to a time when just a handshake was all that mattered. He is part of the 20<sup>TH</sup> century's greatest generation in ranching. He will be missed by more than we can count.

We continue in this issue with information from R-CALF USA and the FFA. We want readers to understand the critical importance of agriculture and ranching for the safety of our nation both today – and in the case of the FFA – and in the future. To that end, I would like to share comments I recently came upon in the *Wall Street Journal*. In a story on Health and Wellness, *WSJ* writer Laura Landro discussed concerns that many foods available today in U.S supermarkets are being found to be “riskier” for America's consumers. Landro writes, “While

the U.S. food supply is still among the safest in the world, there are many gaps in our country's food safety net that could result in serious adverse public health consequences,” says Michael Doyle, director of the University of Georgia's Center for Food Safety. ‘Among the most serious concerns: a rise in imports to meet consumer demand for year-round fresh produce and fish, among other items. The FDA currently lacks oversight of food from countries that don't have the

same level of sanitary practices as required in the U.S.,” Dr. Doyle says. ‘That's one reason why disease outbreaks have been linked to imported green onions and jalapeno peppers from Mexico, white pepper from Southeast Asia and dried vegetable powder from China used on potato chips.’”

As you read through the information provided by R-CALF USA in this issue, we hope you will keep in mind, whether you are a beefeater or a vegetarian, that what R-CALF USA represents is a group of local, family food producers in the United States who care about the health and safety of our nation's food source. They are acting locally to produce a safe, wholesome protein supply. They are, as are the many local farmers' markets held every week all over the country show, providing safe and secure food from family ranches. Please support them.

I close with a thank you – which I do every issue – thanking you for your continued support, but this one really makes me smile. The photo in this letter was sent to me by a publishing friend who took the picture in a Barnes & Noble in the heart of Dallas, congratulating us on “killer placement” – something that's very important in the publishing business on newsstands. I don't quite know why we are placed between *Vanity Fair* and *GQ* but I guess the store detailer thought Will James looked pretty attractive. Whatever the reason, I hope that the placement enabled us to be picked up by a “civilian” who we can enlist in this grand adventure of protecting America for all of its citizens while celebrating the wonder and grace of the people of the American West.

Have a wonderful spring and I wish you many great shots in the branding pen.

7

# NOTE

## Riding into the Future in a Yellow Convertible

In 1965, cowboy legend Roy Rogers bought a used 1964 Lincoln Continental Convertible – baby blue, white top and interior, suicide doors. He decided to have it painted pale gold, the color of his horse Trigger. His son, Dusty Rogers (Roy Rogers, Jr.) tells a great story of the ensuing paint job, the bottom line of which is that the



photos courtesy Brian Lebel's Old West Show & Auction

Roy's 1964 Lincoln Continental Convertible in the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum, Branson, MO

car, with the help of Roy's colorblind friend Pete, is painted a gleaming, canary yellow. Roy must not have minded too much though, the car is still that same color today, 45 years and nearly 100,000 miles later.

Roy Rogers' Lincoln will be sold at auction this June at Brian Lebel's 21<sup>ST</sup> annual Old West Show & Auction in Denver, Colorado. Except for the paint job and mechanical maintenance, the car is nearly all original and has spent the past 30-plus years in the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum, which closed this past December for economic reasons. The Old West Auction is one of three selected by the family to sell the bulk of the Museum's extensive collection. Along with the car, Lebel's auction will be



Dale Evans & Roy Rogers

offering Roy's personal firearms and hunting collection – including famous film and television guns and rigs – along with other items from the Museum.

This year's auction will also feature other fine Western art and collectibles, and is just one part of a larger, weekend-long event. Those who know it, know it as the Cody Old West Show & Auction, or the "Cody Show," or, if you're really in-the-know and the context is right, simply, "Cody." Held for 19 consecutive years in the classic Wyoming town, the show outgrew two Cody venues before moving in 2009 to another iconic Western locale: Denver, Colorado.

Brian Lebel started the Cody Show as nothing but a small group of like-minded people passionate about the trappings of the



The Cody Old West Show in the early days



The Cody Old West Show, circa 2000

American West. They gathered together to buy, sell and trade merchandise, share knowledge and enjoy each other's company. But Brian believed the historic and beautiful art and antiques of the Cowboys and Indians would appeal to a much broader public if only people knew what was out there. So he decided bring it to them, and has been working tirelessly at that goal ever since.

Now held in the Expo Building of the Denver Merchandise Mart, the three-day show boasts over 200 dealers, and the Saturday night auction is a highly anticipated, award-winning event. But Brian never stops searching for ways to get the message out to more people, to bring new life into the community. He knows that the business of collecting and selling Western arts and artifacts must evolve. But evolution is sometimes difficult in an industry that prides itself on

And you can bet that reaching these future generations will require new ways of thinking. "We've always counted on museums to be the keepers of our American culture," Brian says. "But it's clear that, for right now anyway, museums are in big trouble. We need to fix that in the long term, but, in the meantime, we need to pick up the slack."

Brian hopes that the sale of the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans collection will help to bring attention to the fact that we, the people, may have to step up and become the guardians of our past. To do that though, we must value our shared American culture (young as it is) and vow not to let it disappear. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans – for many, many reasons – had an enormous impact on that culture and Brian is humbled by the opportunity to be part of this historic sale. "I am honored and proud to have been entrusted by the Rogers family to share their legacy," he says. "Like Dusty, and many of Roy and Dale's fans, I am saddened by the loss of the Museum, but hope the auction will benefit the collecting audience – both individuals and institutions – and especially the Rogers family."

To order a full-color auction catalog, or for more information about Brian Lebel's Old West Show & Auction, the sale of the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum collection and the arts & artifacts of the American West, please visit [www.denveroldwest.com](http://www.denveroldwest.com) (or still at [www.codyoldwest.com](http://www.codyoldwest.com) for you purists). Better yet, plan to attend this year's festivities in scenic and historic Denver, Colorado, June 25 -27, 2010.



The Old West Show & Auction – Denver, 2009

historical authenticity, which sometimes breeds a fear of change.

Brian, however, doesn't see progress as a threat. Though the objects may be old, the interest in them must remain fresh and new, and must be nurtured in subsequent generations.



Artist Dave Powell is a frequent exhibitor at the Old West Show

**Editor's Note:** One of our tasks with *The Cowboy Way* is to not only enlighten, educate and entertain readers with new things happening in the West, but to make sure the works of great Westerners of the past who contributed to the culture are not forgotten. One of the great state of Texas' most respected writers was J. Evetts Haley. Haley was a Texas-born political activist and historian who wrote multiple works on the American West, including an enduring biography of legendary cattleman Charles Goodnight. What follows is a classic piece of Haley's writing printed in *Nature Magazine* in 1930.

## Longhorn, Lasso and Latigo

By J. Evetts Haley

From the time the *conquistadores* of New Spain first gazed upon the broad ranges of the Tejas, and claimed them for the bounty of the King, and the glory of God, Texas was destined to be grazed by vast herds of cattle and of horses. Wherever they



photos by Dunc Coolidge

The late Charles Goodnight, pioneer and Texas-builder with one of his buffalo bulls. (Caption by the author)

trampled their trails into the sod, which was across the face of the Western World, Texas steers stirred the imaginations of men, even as their flinty hoofs stirred to high heaven the dusts of the trail. And to this day where "Texas" is spoken, cattle are thought of, and the head of the longhorn is as much an emblem of Texas as the lone star.

The story of Texas ranches begins almost two and a half centuries ago. With the early Spaniards, the most tireless explorers of the Southwest as well as the most zealous seekers after treasure, trailed herds of Mexican cattle, dependable commissaries "upon the hoof." Spaniards brought the first cattle to eastern Texas in 1690, when they established the mission San Francisco, and began Christianizing the Indians. But the Tejas proved incorrigible, and preferred stealing the *padres'* cattle to chanting *Ave Marias*; within three years the mission was abandoned. Spain forgot the land for twenty more. But her frontiersmen left cattle and horses ranging across the sandy, red hills of East Texas. The state has never been without them since. They figure largely in her economics and her history; in her songs and in her stories.

Because of its extreme mobility ranching has always been a pioneer pursuit. The Texas industry dates from the establishment of the San Antonio and Bahia missions in the first fourth of the eighteenth century. For a hundred from the South watched their cattle grow to great herds, while they themselves extended the far-flung frontiers of Spain. During the century following the founding of Bexar, scattering *ranchos* or *haciendas* spotted the country between there and the Rio Grande. Anglo-American settlers, coming into the state, had discovered the ease with which cattle grew, and Texas had one hundred thousand head by 1830.

Then came the war with Mexico. Range men from "the states" fell upon the more swarthy, easy-going riders from below the Rio Bravo, and Texas trails were blazed with blood. Mexican *rancheros* fled from their ranges, leaving their cattle to become spoils of war. Adventurous Texans rounded up these herds and drove them to their own ranges or to Louisiana to market. Vicious battles were fought, rider less horses drifted back to jackal doors, and the results passed into the unrecorded history of "the bloody border."

While Texas was yet a republic, cattlemen began trailing their cattle to market. Early American settlers had trailed small bunches to the Atlantic; the Spaniards had trailed many to new ranges throughout the Southwest; but the Texans advanced trail work to a science, and gave history the most stirring, remarkable epic of range life the world has ever seen. Before the Civil War Texas cowboys trailed small herds to New Orleans, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, and other markets. With the discovery of gold in California, they trailed lanky, long horned steers two thousand miles and delivered them as beef at hungry mining camps. The war broke, markets disappeared, trails faded beneath growing grass, while Texas ranges teemed with three and a half million cattle.

Reconstruction found Texas bankrupt, through an estimated six million cattle grazed her open ranges. Everywhere men began driving herds to Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, New Mexico, California – anywhere that men would pay a pittance in gold. Upon the ranges they were hanging cow thieves and shooting outlaws; upon the southwest border battling Mexicans; upon the trail clashing with renegade Jayhawkers, and almost everywhere fighting elusive Indians. But the cowboys were used to strife and feud, and the trail quickly became an institution of the cow country. It closed in the middle nineties after an

estimated ten million head of cattle and a million horses had streamed out of the state along its various ramifications. Cowboys rode proudly, buoyantly, recklessly upon the trail, carrying not only cattle, but the methods of handling them – the technique of the range – to the cow country from Chihuahua to Saskatchewan. Texas had become the cradle of the cattle industry of the Western World. In addition to this vast movement of cattle to the north, there was, with the close of the Civil War, an immense expansion of Texas ranches. Only half the state was occupied. To the west of the Cross Timbers, that belt of post oak that almost cuts the state in two, the mighty roaming warriors of the Comanche and Kiowa still lived upon the meat of the buffalo. Into this wide stretch of prairie country that gently rolled away to the rim-rock of the *Llano Estacado*, ranchmen trailed and located herds. Everywhere lines of settlement were expanding westward, and in less than twenty years the pastoral frontier had doubled the settled area of the state.

Cowmen on public domain arbitrarily divided the land between themselves, recognizing natural or imaginary boundaries, along which cowboys “rode line” to keep their particular brands from straying beyond prescribed ranges. In those days of free grass and water, each cowman recognized the other’s rights, and, biding by the system of unwritten law, lived in perfect harmony.

Then in the early eighties came barbed wire to revolutionize the West. With wire came ownership of lands, improved herds, the end of the trail, the end of free range, and more strife and feud. The Fence Cutters’ War, which spread from Red River to the Rio Grande, pursued mainly by renegades who were fighting for free grass and water, is a bitter chapter in the chronicles of Texas cattle. But fences rapidly stretched their prickly lines wherever good grass grew, men rode these lines with rifles upon their saddles, and the Legislature declared fence cutting a felony. Wire had come to stay. Except for the eternal struggle with cattle rustlers, this was the last serious warfare among Texas man who ride in the dust of cattle. Along with the many changes wrought by barbed wire, came the Texas ranch much as it exists today, the product of a fascinating evolution.

It is always under fence. It may consist of a few thousand acres; it may embrace a million. Usually its ranges are fairly blocked together, fenced around, and sub-divided into as many pastures as the owner desires. Near the headquarters of any ranch of size is a horse pasture, where the saddle horses, or remuda, may be kept. Nearby is usually an enclosure of only a few acres, called a “trap,” where a rustling horse is kept over night for the purpose of driving in the remuda of a morning. Out over the range graze the owner’s cattle, horses, sheep, or goats. Today, there are comparatively few horse ranches. Goats, or sheep, and cattle are sometimes ranged upon the same ranch, though usually in separate pastures. In great sections of

the state where there is much brush, ranches once devoted wholly to the raising of cattle have been fenced with wolf-proof wire, and given over to sheep and goats. Mexican hands, called *pastores*, seem to make the best herders, while a Texan usually superintends the work.

Water is the first consideration of any ranch. Once springs and streams were absolute necessities of the range. Then, in the eighties, windmills came into general use, wells were dug, tanks were built, and grasslands devoid of lice water quickly filled with thousands of cattle. Upon most of the ranches west of the ninety-eighth meridian, wells and windmills are necessities. Water ranges in depth from a few feet to several hundred, but almost always there is sufficient wind to lift it to the surface, where it pours into earthen tanks. Cattle water daily at these tanks, during hot weather; perhaps every other day during cold, and range back away from the waterings several miles after the best grass.

Many small ranches are operated entirely from the sections of their ranges where are kept cowboys who daily ride their rounds looking after the cattle, inspecting the waterings, and riding fence. These cowboys are sometimes married men; more often they are single. The majority range in age from eighteen to forty – the life is hard on old men. Almost all are rough and ready cooks, but most of all, expert horsemen. Ranch life today demands a wider range of activity than that of forty years ago. Men work upon the ground more; consequently there are fewer fine cow horses, fewer expert bronc riders and finished ropers.



The Chuck-Wagon cook was the boss of his skillets, pots and pans, while the rest of the crew ride the range – a scene from the JA ranch. (Caption by the author)

To name a few of the most prominent Texas ranches, O’Conner’s, Rancho de la Parta, Kings, Spurs, 6666, Figure 2’s, Matadors, and the JA’s, is almost to indicate the geographical extent of the western half of Texas. There, as well as in the

Coastal Plains country, the Texas cowboy did not pass with the mustang and the longhorn, and will not pass so long as climate and topography govern the pursuits of men. The chuck wagon with its bed rolls, the cook mixing his sour dough, the wrangler with his remuda, the cowboy – in his shop-made boots and jingling spurs – flanking calves or tailing-up creepy cattle – all this is still a part of the ranch life of Texas.

West of a line drawn through Fort Worth and Austin, and from Red River to the Gulf of Mexico, lies in the main the present ranch country of Texas. There is much grass to the east, but agricultural lands predominate. To the west, particularly in the brush of the border, the high, rough lands of the Trans-Pecos, the picturesque Hills, the Edwards Plateau, the Staked Plains, and in the canyons of the Panhandle, Texas cowboys will long ride with the ease of natural horsemen.

Throughout this territory land is still measured by the section, and fifty square miles is not a “big” ranch. The Nueces, or Brush Country, with its tangles of mesquite, *huajilla*, and coma, has always been grazed by herds of cattle. With the Coastal Plains, it is still the supreme breeding section of the state. Between Corpus Christi and Brownsville lies the Rancho de la Parra of four hundred thousand acres, furnishing range for twenty-five thousand cattle, unnumbered droves of turkeys, hundreds of havalinas, and large herds of deer. Thousands of water-fowl, both resident and migratory, find shelter upon its ranges during the winter, and it is the habitat of a varied bird population during the summer. Adjoining it to the west, and almost spanning the distance from the Nueces to the Rio Bravo, lies the King Ranch of well over a million acres, now the largest range in Texas and the sanctuary of many traditions of the West now calmed and peaceful.

Stretching westward to the upper reaches of the Nueces, through the Devils River region, and on to the lower waters of the Pecos there is a great country once grazed by cattle and horses, but now in part by sheep. The Trans-Pecos, from the Big Bend to the Guadalupe, rock-bound, mountainous, and dry, covered with nutritious grama grasses, is a vast pastureland that will always be ranged by meat-producing animals.

Bounding this region on the east is the sinuous and salty Pecos, twisting and bending in endless convulsions through three hundred miles of Texas rock, alkali and sand, draining a great scope of country that must long remain, by geographical decree, a land of cattle and of horses. Its valley, strongly impregnated with salt and gypsum, is matted with bluish brakes of salt cedar, which, laden with dew, switch the rider in the face with stinging brine to chap and crack the skin.

In “the heart of Texas”, the region lying west of Austin and Waco, between San Angelo and San Antonio, is the scenic hill country. Once its cedar and oak-covered hills were full of cattle, but, being a land for browsing, it is now the center of the sheep and goat business of the state. Around the heads of the Concho there are many cattle, too, though San Angelo lays claim to the title of the “largest mohair market of the world.” From the

Monahans Sand Hills and the southern limits of the Staked Plains, north of the land is still, as the cowboys say, “best side up.”

The Staked Plains, constituting a great plateau, are among the distinctive features of Texas topography. Out of them the Concho, Colorado, Brazos, and Red River take their sources. They are bounded on the eastern edges by a ragged cap rock or escarpment, ranging from a hundred to several hundred feet in height, breaking away into gullies and canyons and rough country known as the “breaks.” The breaks are the home of the Matadors, the last of the foreign companies that launched into the business in the early eighties, the Spurs, the Pitchforks, and a score of other famous brands.

It was upon the High Plains that the XIT, or Capitol Syndicate, perhaps the largest fenced range that the world has ever seen, came into existence in the eighties when the state traded three million acres of land, in the western Panhandle, to a Chicago syndicate for the present state capitol. This land, in one block over two hundred miles long, was enclosed and subdivided into pastures with one thousand five hundred miles of barbed wire fence. It was watered with over six hundred windmills, and stocked with some one hundred and fifty thousand head of cattle. Every year its herds of steers were trailed a thousand miles to another great XIT range in Montana. Now the Capitol Lands are cut into hundreds of farms and small ranches.

But the first, and still the most representative, of the Plains ranches is the JA, its course, and pushed out his ranges in the breaks, and upon the Plains until they embraced nearly a million acres, and almost a hundred thousand cattle. There he preserved from extinction the buffalo of the Southern Plains, and, through years of patient experimentation, crossed them with Polled Angus cattle to produce the first herd of cattalo. The JA’s yet graze almost four hundred thousand acres of grassy lands; its cowboys still ride herd upon from twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand head of JA Hereford cattle.

Though generally wide have been the encroachments of the agricultural frontier, wide still spread the ranges of Texas grass. For many years to come each fall will see again the gathering of beef and the loading of long trains of cattle. Each winter will find many cowboys wondering where “their summer wages have gone.” But each spring’s new grass will see remudas gathered into the horse pastures, chuck wagons loaded, and round-ups begun. Thousands of cowboys will again be riding the one hundred and twenty million acres of Texas grass, for it is still a land of beef.



(Originally printed in *Nature Magazine*, December, 1930, Vol. 16, No. 6. For more information on the writings of J. Evetts Haley – an important volume of work about Texas and the West – please visit and support The Haley Memorial Library and History Center in Midland, Texas. [www.haleylibrary.com](http://www.haleylibrary.com))



## High Noon Auction Celebrates 20 Years

By Dan Gagliasso

Joe and Linda Sherwood's High Noon Cowboy and Western Americana Show and Auction celebrated their twentieth successful year on January 31, 2010 as the premier venue for top-grade cowboy, Indian, Wild West Show and Western movie antiques and collectibles. The move back to their Mesa Convention Center location was hailed a success by attendees and buyers alike with an intimate and friendly feel to the old home location.

One of the big highlights of this year's auction was Emperor Maximilian I incredible 1860s Imperial Mexican saddle that brought \$200,000 plus the fifteen percent buyer's premium. The piece is of high historic interest because the French installed Austrian prince Maximilian as emperor of Mexico when they invaded that country during our Civil War in 1863. Four years later, a peasant army, under Mexican patriot Benito Juarez, partially armed and supported by the United States, defeated the French and executed Maximilian.

The other big news at High Noon was the sale of a number of top items from the Roy Rogers Museum in Branson, Missouri. It was an event that was tinged with not a little sadness. Roy and Dale's son Dusty fought back tears as he told the spellbound Saturday night audience of the closing of the museum. The highlight of the Rogers items was the "King of the Cowboys" personal Bohlin Diamond Special saddle that brought \$95,000 and Roy's Bohlin made double-holster gun holster rig and pair of Colt single action revolvers that brought \$60,000. Bohlin authority and museum director James Nottage quoted Johnny Cash with nostalgia in his catalog description of this historic Hollywood rig, "When I saw the man in the white hat on the palomino, I knew the bad guys were gonna get it. Every day we need Roy Rogers for something."



Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico's stunning Imperial saddle sold for \$230,000. The saddle was estimated at \$100,000 to 150,000.



Roy Rogers' personal Edward H. Bohlin gun rig with Colts sold for an astounding \$74,750 (estimate \$20,000 - \$30,000).



Roy Rogers' spectacular Diamond Special Bohlin saddle estimated at \$50,000 to \$100,000 sold for \$103,000.

Other highly sought after High Noon items this year included a Clayton Moore *Lone Ranger* Bohlin gun rig and Colt revolvers from the 1980s, a number of cowboy star and Gene Autry intimate Monte Hale's items and several Gene Autry pieces. A select number of beautiful Traditional Cowboy Artist's



The auction included important artifacts from our Silver Screen heroes (including Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Monte Hale)

spurs, bits and braided items also sold, as well as a rare pair of 1915 J. Tapia made spurs, several other Bohlin parade saddles and a well preserved 1880s F. A. Meanea Territorial saddle.

For information on next year's High Noon auction, please visit [www.highnoon.com](http://www.highnoon.com).



Part of an important selection of fine Western art, *The Herder* by Olaf Wieghorst sold for \$43,000 (estimate \$25,000 - \$35,000)



## Tom Hirt: Hat Maker for the Movies



Tom Hirt works out of a small shop on his Penrose ranch and calls Colorado home, but he has cowboied on several ranches throughout Colorado and the Southwest. As a hat maker, Hirt considers himself part of a dying breed and

estimates there are less than 50 custom hat makers left in the United States that know the skills of hat making by hand.

Each of Tom Hirt's hats are handmade from start to finish. All crowns are hand-formed over time-tested wooden blocks – some dating back over 100 years. Hat brims are flanged, sanded, pounced and finished by hand. "It is a long process from



Richard Farnsworth and Tom Hirt



Sam Elliott in *Conagher*

the raw felt body to the finished hat that can be worn and worn hard, but then quality is not a commodity that can be produced quickly," Hirt says. Hirt has worked in films for many years – even doubling for the late actor Richard Farnsworth. [www.tomhirt.com](http://www.tomhirt.com)



Lance Henriksen in *The Quick and the Dead*

*Editor's Note: In the Winter 2009 issue, we did a story on Ritch Rand of Rand's Custom Hats. We mistakenly captioned a photo from the movie **Tombstone**. Tom Hirt actually made the hat for the film and Ritch Rand and we wanted to make sure that the proper credit was given to Tom.*





## New Music and Some Classics

### Kate and Anna McGarrigle

www.rhino.com

*Kate & Anna McGarrigle* is the self-titled 1975 debut album by Kate and Anna McGarrigle. It contains “Heart like a Wheel,” the McGarrigles’ most famous song, which was first released by Linda Ronstadt in 1974. That song has subsequently been covered by several other artists including Billy Bragg and The Corrs. Ronstadt also covered “Talk to Me of Mendocino” on her 1982 album *Get Closer*. The British pop singer Kirsty



MacColl also covered “Complainte pour Ste-Catherine” in 1989, and “Go Leave” was covered by Anne Sofie von Otter with Elvis Costello. This record is a classic of the folk-rock period that started to decline in the late 1970s. Guest musicians on the album include Lowell George, Bobby Keys and Anna McGarrigle’s husband, Dane Lanken.



### Mike Beck

“Feel”

www.mikebeck.com

At age 13, Mike Beck, born and raised in Monterey County, California, went to the Monterey Pop Festival and liked what he heard. He picked up a guitar and never looked back. Since that time, he has been composing and performing a wide array of folk, rock and Americana music. Mike’s songs reflect his life as a professional musician and a working cowboy in Montana and Carmel Valley near Big Sur.



According to Ramblin’ Jack Elliot, “Mike Beck plays the guitar like a Byrd. His strings do things that mine could never do. They obey the slightest finger-touch commands like a fine Reining Horse.”

“Feel” is a compilation of some of Mike’s most requested songs. Among the classic cuts is “Patrick” – a song about the late Bill Dorrance’s favorite bridle horse. “Amanda Come Home” tells the story of a parent’s love and worry for a daughter who has chosen to serve her country in Iraq. Beck writes from the heart and the experience of a horseman. His love of the ways of the vaquero and the Pacific Slope region of the West comes through his songs and superb guitar work.



### iCitizen

Salted throughout the magazine, we’ll occasionally drop a few constitutional kernels from our “house scholar” Danny Martinez. Keep your eyes open for them, as they can be a source of great inspiration and learning.

“Government is founded, not in the virtues, but in the vices of mankind; not in their knowledge and wisdom, but in their ignorance and folly. Its object is to protect the weak, to restrain the violent, to punish the vicious, and to compel all to the performance of the duty which man owes to man in a social state. It is not a self-acting machine, which will go on and perform its work without human agency; it cannot be separated from the human beings who fill its places, set in motion, and regulate and direct its operations. So long as these are liable to err in judgment, or to fail in virtue, so long will government be liable to run into abuses. Until all men shall become so perfect as not to require to be ruled, all governments professing to be free will require to be watched, guarded, checked and controlled. To do this effectually requires more than we generally find of public virtue and public intelligence. A great majority of mankind are much more sensible to their interests than to their rights. Whenever the people can be persuaded that it is their greatest interest to maintain their rights, then and then only, will free government be safe from abuses.” Judge Joseph Story quoting from *The True Nature and Character of Our Federal Government – A Critical Review of Joseph Story’s Commentaries on the Constitution* by Abel P. Upshur, 1868.



# V6 RANCH CATTLE DRIVES



**\$750 PER PERSON**

**2010 DATES**

**APRIL 16-19**

**MAY 7-10**

**MAY 21-24**

**OCTOBER 8-11**

**HOMECOOKED GRUB**

FRIDAY DINNER - MONDAY LUNCH

**GATHERING CATTLE**

**RIDING THE RANCH**

HORSES INSTEAD OF CARS

**CAMP FACILITIES**

FRESH AIR INSTEAD OF SMOG

**PLENTY OF SCENERY**

GRASSES & FLOWERS INSTEAD OF CONCRETE

**SUNDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT**

CRICKETS & COYOTES INSTEAD OF HORNS & SIRENS

**CAMPFIRE CONVERSATION**

THE PERFECT RESPITE AWAY FROM THE BIG CITY

**EMAIL:**

**BARBARA@PARKFIELD.COM**

**CALL 805.463.2371 OR 805.463.2493**

**JACK & ZEE VARIAN  
66450 PARKFIELD ROAD  
PARKFIELD, CA 93451**

**WWW.V6RANCH.COM**



# REMEMBERING BOB JONES

By GB Oliver



1930 - 2009

December 10, 2009 saw the passing of one of PARAGON's founders, but, more importantly, our friend, Bob Jones. Bob was a lifer, ranching in the country he loved where he was raised and where he raised his family. For someone who worked on the land his entire life, it is hard to imagine the number of lives he touched, in so many ways, in his 80 years. His steadfast love of the West and its culture can only be measured in the sacrifices he made to preserve both.

It was only through the creditability of Bob Jones and two of his friends – significant Westerners themselves – Charlie Lee and Tom Linebery, carried in themselves, that PARAGON

Foundation found its way into existence. Until the day of his sudden passing, Bob served as PARAGON's Board President and presided over every Board meeting the Foundation had since its founding. It was through his example – his vision and his values – that we found our strengths. But above all, Bob was a cowboy and as good a one as God ever put horseback.

The battles he fought for the things he believed in, and his time spent away from his beloved family and ranch, were not of his choosing, but came from a drive within his heart that demanded he help to protect the ranching industry from disappearing – however he could.



Bob and I spent a great deal of time together, some of it horseback, so, if you will permit me a moment – a little story. Bob raised and loved good horses, many weren't gentle by any measure, but all were horses with exceptional athletic ability. On one particular morning several years ago, Bob was cutting the dry cows out of the pairs before one of his brandings. He had brought together a varied crew of family, friends and neighbors for the branding and we were there holding the herd. The wind was blowing, the dust so thick you couldn't see across the corral, and the cattle weren't having any of it. Bob was riding a roan horse and the horse

was showing his stuff – every cow cut out of the herd had to be headed six or eight times before she could see the gate, and, through it all, not a cow got by that roan horse. He was never out of position, and when the horse would turn back, it would look as if Bob's stirrups were dragging the ground. When the sorting was over, I rode up beside a friend and neighbor of Bob's. The fellow had just lit a cigarette and I said, "I didn't think that the Good Lord could make a cow that could get by that roan horse of Bob's." The fellow took a long drag on his smoke and said, "Nope... but then again, nobody but Bob Jones could saddle that grass eaten S.O.B."

Bob seemed to know what a horse or a cow was thinking even before they did. As the great artist and writer, Charles M. Russell once wrote about Westerners of Bob's ilk, "They know what the cow says to her calf." For Bob, that gift of



Bob and Elizabeth Jones





jaw and the look in his gaze told more about his convictions than words could ever have. He was, as they say, a throwback to a time when a man's word was his bond. His view of the world was measured not in legalities, but in the simple truths of right and wrong.

Bob's greatest admiration was reserved for those who lived on – and worked – the land. He was quick to point out that their contributions to this Nation far exceeded that of any elected official and no sacrifice was too great when it came to their defense. There is not a family ranch anywhere in the West today that doesn't owe at least part of their existence to the efforts of Bob Jones and the battles he fought on their behalf over these many years.

Bob was one of the visionaries who brought together the "Sage Brush Rebellion," a movement that united the ranching, logging and mining industries in the western United States to reclaim their sovereignty over lands within their borders. When the environmental movement started a campaign to convince the Nation that ranching was destroying the land, Bob was a key player in creating the Range Improvement Task Force at New Mexico State University, bringing creditable science into the debate and the courtroom.

In the last conversation I had with PARAGON's late founding benefactor Tom Linebery, we spoke of the path Tom hoped the Foundation would follow under Bob's leadership. He concluded by saying, "Bob Jones has the biggest heart of any man I ever knew and I trust and love him like I love my own family."

Bob Jones was a giver, not a taker, and, through his dedication, he contributed to the lives and livelihoods of countless people and families throughout the West and this nation. He was a fine and honorable man and, in him, we have not only lost a great American, but a true friend.

insight in his beloved horse and cow culture extended to people as well. He could sit down in a room full of people and in fifteen minutes tell you where everyone stood on an issue, when most had not uttered a word.

Bob was a purest in his beliefs and principals; in his mind, they were etched in granite and non-negotiable. The set of his



Bob's service was held on the family ranch. The petroglyph, at left, is one of many near the site.

## The Art of the Western Saddle



Ute Chieftain Saddle

The Western saddle is one of the great executions of form and function, merging into a third greater thing – art. Its design is built around use, lightness, durability and fit to give the rider the ability to stay on board while at the same time not getting in the way of the horse.

But more than a tool, Western saddles are iconic representations of the work of an indigenous root-based culture in America. As much a part of the cowboy way as a hat and a pair of boots, saddles spoke of work in a unique vocation. Work performed by man and animal together, a task that remains remarkably unchanged due to the nature of the work itself – the moving and caring of livestock.

Like any tool, the saddle became an extension of those who used it and, because of that, became subject to personalization. That unique personalization and embellishment – call it character – is the basis for a new exhibition that opened this past January at the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum. “The Art of the Western Saddle” will feature 16 glorious examples of the saddle maker’s art from the last 100 years. The collection will display the saddles’ unique design, craftsmanship and graceful merging of silver, gold and leather. Many of the saddles have never been exhibited in public, and the exhibition will be a unique opportunity to see the pinnacle of craftsmanship, embellishing the primary tool of the American cowboy. The exhibit will continue through July 31, 2010 at the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum in Amarillo, Texas. For more information, visit [www.aqhhalloffame.com](http://www.aqhhalloffame.com).



Half-Size Vaquero Saddle by Don Butler



The “Mission Saddle” by Edward H. Bohlin



Doug Cox Silver Mounted Saddle

photos courtesy American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and Museum

## Design America



There's a growing renaissance in this country being fueled by the re-discovered appreciation for designs created by independent, entrepreneurial artisans working in the traditions of American craftsmen from centuries past. And now, a new organization has formed to showcase these Western-American inspired "High Designs" showcased outside of the western U.S.

On Thursday evening, October 14, 2010, the doors to Skylight West in New York City will open and DesignAmerica-NYC 2010 will present 65 of America's premier artisans and artists. From Western High Couture to Furniture as Art to Jewelry Artists working in sterling and precious gems, these museum quality designs will take the breath away of all of New York.

The event premieres with a preview gala and fashion event and then on Friday and Saturday, October 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup>, DesignAmerica-NYC 2010 will be open to the public.

DesignAmerica-NYC 2010 is produced by DesignAmerica, a new organization dedicated to the promotion and support of the finest American independent artisans and their work. For more information, visit [www.designamerica-nyc.com](http://www.designamerica-nyc.com) or email [info@designamerica-nyc.com](mailto:info@designamerica-nyc.com).



Vest by Denice Langley

photo courtesy DesignAmerica



Jewelry by Susan Adams

photo courtesy DesignAmerica



Executive briefcase by Howard Knight

photo courtesy Howard Knight

## iCitizen

With the exception of a Constitution amendment, the federal government cannot oppose (except perhaps rhetorically) a state's decision to nullify an unconstitutional federal law without resorting to extra-legal measures.





## iCitizen

Title 5 of the U.S. Code §556(d) states: “When jurisdiction is challenged the burden of proof is on the government.”

“When a judge knows that he lacks jurisdiction, or acts in the face of clearly valid statutes expressly depriving him of jurisdiction, judicial immunity is lost.” **Rankin v. Howard**, (1980) 633 F.2d 844, cert. den. **Zeller v. Rankin**, 101 S.Ct. 2020, 451 U.S. 939, 68 L.Ed 2d 326.

“A judge must be acting within his jurisdiction as to subject matter and person, to be entitled to immunity from civil action for his acts.” **Davis v. Burris**, 51 Ariz. 220, 75 P.2d 689 (1938).



## More Will James

Our story in the last issue about Will James brought us these two wonderful photos from reader Bill Woodard from Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He writes that his father and grandfather knew James’ friend, artist Joe De Yong. The photo of De Yong and Will James was in his father’s collection and was shot in Montana, probably on James’ ranch near Billings in 1937.

“There is no question that Joe was authentic as both cowboy and artist of the old school. I have read that Joe turned to art because he couldn’t make it as a cowboy. I think the attached picture of Joe on *Bootlegger* speaks against that. From what I know, his illness (Meningitis) and his resulting deafness caused him to worry that perhaps he couldn’t hold his end up as he once did on the ranch. My wife, who is a musician and much wiser than I, tells me that, if you have artist in your soul, you have little



Joe De Yong and Will James in Montana, circa 1937



Joe De Yong with Bill Woodard's father and “Bootlegger,” circa 1936

choice but to use the gift God has given you. Joe’s illness seems to have been the catalyst to push him toward using his gift as an artist. But God had certainly put cowboy in his soul also. So he was both – cowboy and artist – throughout his life.

“Mom and Dad were married. She thought it was in 1936, which has me thinking the horse in the photograph is likely *Bootlegger*. My family were friends of the Rogers family.

“*Bootlegger* was a gift to Joe De Yong from Will Rogers, and my grandmother and Will Rogers’ sister were close friends. *Bootlegger* was a small horse from what I have read and, from other pictures, did not appear to have visible markings. Both features would appear to fit the horse in the photo. And it would make sense for both Dad and Joe to want to have a picture taken to show friends and family back home. Especially my grandfather, who died in 1948 and never learned to drive but rode a horse all his life.”





A Completely Gratuitous Jeff Bridges Photo, Way Before He Won Best Actor for *Crazy Heart*



Original Press Kit Photo

Jeff Bridges has won the Academy Award for Best Actor with his superb performance as the broke-down boozier, country singer, Bad Blake in *Crazy Heart*. And while we feel he should have already received a golden statue for his portrayal of “The Dude” in *The Big Lebowski*, we didn’t want anyone to forget his Western roots in the 1975, all-shot-near-Bozeman-Montana-classic, *Rancho Deluxe*. It’s a film that has always been close to Bridges’ heart as he met his wife Susan while filming. In this classic PR shot from the film, Bridges, at left, is shown with his co-star, Sam Waterston, long before Waterston’s *Law and Order* days. The Dude abides.





photos courtesy the Barrett Family

# THE VALUE OF A COWBOY'S WAY

*How a simple cowboy lifestyle and strong values led to marriage,  
multiple adoptions and a brand new home,  
with a little celebrity thrown in*

24

BY DARRELL ARNOLD

In the Winter 2009 issue of *The Cowboy Way*, we told the story ("Horseback to Health") of Billy Jack Barrett and the Warrior Wellness Program he initiated at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. But, Billy Jack's story is much bigger than that. Billy Jack and his wife Anne have become nationally known for adopting troubled children and turning their lives around with a solid work ethic and the common sense values of their cowboy lifestyle.

Back in July of 2005, the popular NBC television series *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* rewarded the Barrett's good works by building them a brand new house on their property near Peyton, Colorado. The network broadcast the building of that home the following October. Since then, that television episode has been nationally re-broadcast many times on CMT.

Billy Jack Barrett was born in 1945 in Graham, Texas. Born to a Baptist minister father, Billy Jack is the descendent

of ranchers and livestock men.

Billy Jack's father was known all over West Texas as the cowboys' preacher and Billy Jack grew up around cowboys and horsemen.

The family moved many times due to Rev. Barrett's calling and, one year, his new "flock" was a church in Dallas. Wherever they went, Billy Jack always found his way to horses and racing. During Billy Jack's high school years, he loved being at the track and meeting such legendary Quarter Horse breeders as Jake Cascio and Walter Merrick.



Billy Jack Barrett, Tien Merrick and Walter Merrick

Billy Jack later attended Decatur Junior College and was racing a Thoroughbred mare at match races on weekends to supplement his income.

"I got called in a time or two to the Dean's office because of that. Those staunch Southern Baptists frowned upon my endeavors."

Barrett married in 1965 and was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1966. He was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he became the Army's horse buyer for the mounted color guard of the Fourth and Twelfth Cavalry in 1967 and 1968.

After his discharge in 1968, Barrett returned briefly to Texas to gather up his string of race horses and took them back to Colorado where he started racing them at state fairs and match races. "I was in my early 20s and looked like I was 17," says Barrett. "I owned a real good son of Three Bars and other nice horses, as my passion was fast horses. I got an owner/trainer license and ran horses for a living for about ten years."

It was in 1980 that the United States Air Force Academy lured a divorced Barrett away from racing horses and hired him as the manager of the Academy Riding Stable horse program, a position Barrett still holds today. It has been a great life as it led him to meet his second wife, Anne.

Anne MacClanahan was raised in Alaska and was a horse crazy girl. In 1973, she completed the nine-month equine science program at Meredith Manor in Waverly, West

Virginia. After graduation, she was asked to join the staff at Meredith Manor and she eventually was placed in charge of all the horses at the school.

Anne competed in dressage until 1986 when she was hired by Cyrus Rickles as a dressage trainer at Bara Farms, a riding facility south of Colorado Springs, Colorado. She and her first husband divorced, but Anne stayed on with her two small daughters.

In 1988, while Billy Jack was visiting Bara Farms for a business meeting with Cyrus Rickles, he met Anne. "I kinda took a shine to her, and, after we started dating, she told me she had been at Meredith Manor. Then she looked at me and said, 'You were, too, at two o'clock in the morning. You and some cowboy dropped off a horse.'

"She was right," laughs Barrett. "Back in 1979, Wes Steigan and I had delivered a horse to Meredith Manor. We pulled in there late one night and there was a pregnant woman doing the barn check. After we unloaded the horse, she showed me around a little bit and I thanked her for her time and got back in the truck.

"I told Wes, 'That is a nice gal. If she wasn't pregnant and so busy, I'd take her back to Colorado.' We laughed and that was the end of the story until 1988."

Billy Jack did return and he and Anne got married in 1988. Anne's daughters, Krista and Rachael, were eight and six at the time, and the couple had two more children together, Rebecca and Clara. They thought that was enough and didn't plan on having any more. But then the good Lord took a hand.



Anne Barrett competing in the 1980s

"We'd leased a pasture from Dr. George Cresswell, who worked at what is now the Cedar Springs Mental Health Facility," says Billy Jack. "He called me at work one day and said, 'I have a 9-year-old boy who needs a roll model and a mentor.'

"I said, 'Well, I'll help you watch for one,' though I really knew that wasn't what Dr. Cresswell had in mind. I went



The old homestead



Ty Pennington on the porch of the new house

down to the facility and met the youngster. His name was Dusty and, to make a long story short, Anne and I ended up adopting him and his sister, Daphne, in 1997.”

Dr. Cresswell started a child placement agency after that called Hope and Home, and Anne went to work for him. “I worked with Catholic Charities, Lutheran Family Services and El Paso County Department of Human Services teaching the foster/adopt classes,” she said. “I knew, first hand, what those people would be going through.”

Later, the Barretts adopted two more children, A.J. and Jennifer. They were eventually asked to adopt even more children and help them grow up in the healthy, nurturing, Western lifestyle the Barretts enjoyed.

“But this little old ranch house was just too small,” says Billy Jack. “We couldn’t do it.” Enter *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*.

“I’d seen the television show,” says Anne. “I wasn’t quite sure it was believable. My dad was a contractor. I was skeptical that they could build a house in a week, but I liked the concept that they were helping people. The kids and I got to talking about how nice it would be if we could have a house built like that. We’d bought this new ranch property with the old ranch house in September of 2004, and the application for the show was due on October 10<sup>TH</sup>.”

Billy Jack says, “I agreed that the family could go ahead and call *Extreme* and ask them if they’d like to make over this place.” Anne and the kids sent off the application and forgot all about it.

Then in March 2005, *Extreme Makeover* called the Barretts. The family was told they had made the list of the top 100 candidates and that their application would be sent on to the next committee which would whittle the list down to the top five.

“They were going to send a producer out to see us,” says Anne. “They mailed us a 35-page application with all kinds of questions and contracts we had to sign.” Billy Jack marvels, “I was screened more closely for that show than I had



The makeover



The Barrett family

been for top secret clearance at the Air Force Academy.”

The final selection day was July 10, 2005 and each of the five contending families had to have all their affairs in order in case they were selected.

As it turned out, the Barretts were selected, and the whole family was whisked off to Hawaii that very day. While they were gone, their friends and neighbors came in with horses and teams and tore down their old ranch house the old-fashioned way.

“The crew with *Extreme* said this was one of their favorite builds, ever, and that stemmed from the outpouring of support from the entire community. Keller Homes had 6,000 people who volunteered to help.”

The fame the Barretts gained as a result of their appearance on *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* has given them a lofty platform from which they can talk about adoption issues, especially awareness of adopting older children.

“Once a child is two-years-old or older,” Anne explains,

“it is much harder to adopt out. And the older they are, the more they blow out of foster care because of the love and trauma issues.” The Barretts continue to put action behind their words. In 2006, they adopted another daughter, Jenn.

Billy Jack says, “Every time they re-broadcast that show on Country Music Television, we get phone calls and letters from all over the country. One night I had a phone call from a 72-year-old man from Montana. He and his wife had long ago raised their own family but, after they saw the show, they were inspired to take in a pair of sibling brothers who were 14 and 15 years of age. He felt he had ten good years to give that he could use to help those boys get a jump-start on their lives. He said, ‘I just thought I’d call and tell you.’ He hung up before I could get his name.”

The Barretts are proud of being part of a long tradition of ranching families that take in orphaned children. Whatever the Barrett’s family formula is, it clearly works. “I guess what it all means,” says Billy Jack, “is that the good Lord has demonstrated that if he can use me, he can use anybody.”

# Born In The West Worn For A Lifetime



Proud to sponsor  
the efforts of the  
**PARAGON**  
Foundation.



**SCHAEFER**  
RANCHWEAR  
EST. 1989



To view our entire line of American made  
Ranchwear visit: [SchaeferRanchwear.com](http://SchaeferRanchwear.com)

For Our Free Award Winning Catalog Call  
Toll-Free 800-476-2074

Mesilla Park, New Mexico  
Made In USA



Photo courtesy R-CALF USA member, Debra Cockrell

### **R-CALF USA**

works to ensure that  
our children,  
their children,  
and their children's children  
retain the opportunity  
to remain independent and profitable  
U.S. stockgrowers,  
providing safe and plentiful protein  
to a hungry nation.

Please join.  
[www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com)

---

# Why America is Losing Its Ranchers And, what we as a nation can do about it

Bill Bullard, CEO, R-CALF USA



It was not long ago that the American landscape, from ocean-to-ocean and border-to-border, was dotted with cattle owned and cared for by U.S. farmers and ranchers. Their ranching operations were perhaps the most common of small businesses in America, and a blind throw of a dart at a United States map was as likely as not to hit upon a U.S. ranching operation.

As recently as 1980, there were well over a million such ranching operations dispersed across every state of the Union. America's appetite for safe, wholesome beef supported these ranches. Agricultural crops such as corn, wheat or barley can be used as both human food and animal food, yet cattle are raised almost exclusively to feed our human population. These food-producing cattle ranches were, and still are, an important economic engine that combines sunlight, grass, air and water with human labor and one of God's creatures to produce new, renewable wealth each year. This renewable wealth breathes economic life into rural communities all across America.

Fifty billion dollars is about what U.S. cattle ranches have generated during each of the past five years in cash receipts from the sale of their cattle, which makes the cattle industry the largest of all food-producing sectors in the United States. In addition to ranchers' envious opportunity to live and work in nature's backyard, we might think that, because of their ownership of cattle and often expansive landholdings, they are a rich, wealthy lot. Although there are exceptions to nearly every rule, such a blanket conclusion is wrong – very wrong.

The men and women who care for our nation's air, land and water while raising the safest, healthiest cattle in the world, have been plagued with a marketplace that persistently produces prices below the cost of production. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the average annual returns to U.S. ranchers over the 14-year period from 1996-2008 was -\$14.96 per bred cow per year. That means a rancher that raises calves from his or her 300-cow herd (which would necessitate a ranch consisting of 6,000 or more acres in many parts of the West) has lost more than \$62,000 over this period while he/she has been providing you and your family with healthy, U.S.-raised beef. In 2007 and 2008, these ranchers lost much more than the average. They lost \$46.25 and \$117.35 per bred cow, respectively. Can this possibly be right?

Unfortunately, it is even worse as this per-head loss is based only on annual operating costs, not on the additional costs of taxes, insurance, general overhead and hired labor. This lack of profitability in the U.S. cattle industry explains why America is losing its ranchers at an alarming rate. Just since 1980, over half a million ranching operations have been eliminated from America's landscape, representing a decline of 41 percent. Beginning in 1996, the rate-of-loss of U.S. ranchers accelerated, and we have been losing about 12,000 ranching operations each year ever since. To put this in perspective, the U.S. is losing more ranching operations each year than there are in California, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota. The sizeable financial losses experienced during the past two years (2009 data is not yet available, but will certainly be worse) suggests this alarming decline will not end soon.

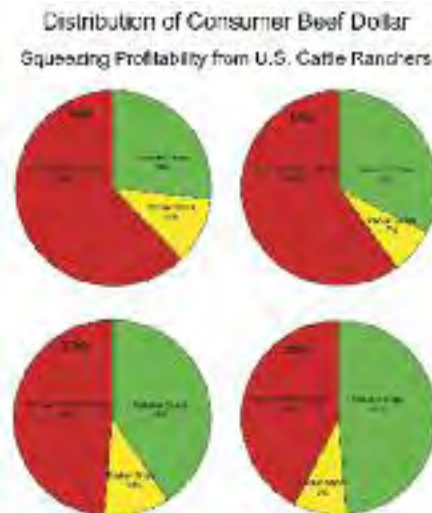
## Two Primary Reasons Why the Marketplace Returns Below Cost-of-Production to Ranchers

As we all know, the price of beef in our grocery stores jumped to an all time high in 2008 and remains at near record levels today. This certainly does not square with the assertion that cattle prices are seriously depressed. And, **Reason No. 1 why ranchers receive below cost-of-production prices from the marketplace is that grocery store beef prices have become disconnected from ranchers' cattle prices.**

While the remaining U.S. ranching operations are still widely dispersed across America, their markets are not. Cattle raised by ranchers are eventually sold to meatpackers that convert the cattle into edible beef. The meatpackers are the market, and the meatpacking industry is among the most highly concentrated in the United States (four packers control approximately 88 percent of the primary cattle market). The highly concentrated meatpackers, in turn, market their beef to retailers, which also have become highly concentrated (four firms now control over 50 percent of the retail beef market). The retailers then sell their beef to you and me.

The substantial market shares of the meatpackers and retailers give them considerable economic power in the marketplace, enough power to interfere with competition. The exercise of this market power enables the meatpackers and retailers to capture a huge chunk of the profits that a competitive marketplace should be allocating to ranchers, but is not. The following pie charts show that meatpackers and retailers have captured, over a very short period, a full 20 percent of the share of each consumer's beef dollar away from the U.S. rancher. These charts depict the progressive reduction in the amount of each consumer's beef dollar that actually reaches the rancher. In 1980, the rancher received 63 cents of every dollar

you spent on beef. By 2009, the rancher received less than 43 cents – a 20 percent reduction.





them to both acquire and exercise anticompetitive and monopoly-like market power. Further, America needs proper enforcement of what is known as the Packers and Stockyards Act, the act that prohibits meatpackers from engaging in anticompetitive behavior to the detriment of U.S. ranchers. Unfortunately, this Act and our antitrust laws have been collecting dust while on the shelves of Washington regulators.

Market power held by meatpackers gives them considerable leverage over the prices U.S. ranchers receive for their cattle. But, that is a rather abstract concept. To actually exercise their leverage, meatpackers need favorable circumstances with which to actually apply such leverage. One such favorable circumstance leads us to **Reason No. 2 as to why ranchers receive below cost-of-production prices from the marketplace - the ongoing, global trade deficit in cattle and beef is draining billions of dollars from our ranching economy each year.**

Although news reports claim that U.S. agriculture maintains a global trade surplus, this certainly is not true for the largest sector of U.S. agriculture – the U.S. cattle industry. Over the past two decades, the U.S. enjoyed only one year when we sold more cattle and beef than was purchased (creating a trade surplus that benefits the U.S.). That was 14 years ago, in 1996. Since then, our nation’s meatpackers and retailers have purchased far more cattle and beef abroad than was sold abroad (creating a trade deficit that forces our nation to either increase borrowing from foreign countries or liquidate assets to maintain balance).

This drain on our economy has been considerable, averaging about \$3 billion during each of the past five years (2004-2008). Our cattle and beef trade deficit with Canada and Mexico alone averaged over \$1.3 billion during this period. To put this into perspective, for each head of cattle we exported over the past three years, we imported more than two. Below is a chart that shows we have drained over \$25 billion from our U.S. economy over the past 10 years (1989-2008). Not only is this situation unsustainable, it is flooding the U.S. market with cheap imports that are not produced under health and safety standards identical to the United States. The trade deficit, which increases the volume of cheaper imports in the U.S. market, is a favorable circumstance that meatpackers and retailers use to leverage prices paid to U.S. ranchers below their cost of production.



The solution to this economy-draining trade deficit is to encourage our U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to reverse

current trade policies that: 1) make the U.S. the most easily accessible market in the world; 2) allow imports of beef and cattle from foreign countries that do not enforce the same health and safety standards that are enforced in the U.S.; and, 3) do not recognize that our national security depends on our ability to maintain a viable food production system within our own borders.

American consumers also have a unique opportunity to influence the volume of food imports – as consumers, you can exercise your power in the marketplace by choosing to buy food that is born, raised and slaughtered in the U.S. (meats) or grown and produced in the U.S. (fruits, vegetables and nuts) for your families. This is now possible because R-CALF USA helped pass the new country-of-origin labeling (COOL) law that requires food sold at grocery stores to be labeled with its country of origin.

### **Buying USA food is something every consumer can now do to support U.S. ranchers!**

The size of the U.S. cattle herd is now the smallest in more than 50 years. The numbers of ranchers are also the fewest and ranchers are exiting this industry at an alarming rate. While writing this article, a rancher from the Southern Plains called me and said he was a fifth-generation rancher and would probably be the last. He said he’s on the way out. “I’m not interested in staying in business just to go backward,” he said, adding that he was worried that there may not be enough time to turn things around.

It’s up to each and every one of us. If we want to preserve for ourselves and our grandchildren a safe, secure food supply in this country, which equates also to maintaining our national security, we must “turn things around.”

Every American can help every single day by seeking out USA-grown food in their grocery store. Every American also can send a letter to the address below stating who you are and what you do and urging our federal government to put an immediate halt to the anticompetitive practices of the meatpackers and retailers that are disrupting market competition and forcing the exodus of hundreds of thousands of our U.S. ranchers from our American landscape.

A letter to your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative urging an end to the untenable trade deficit in cattle and beef, and an end to allowing imported food to enter this country without meeting health and safety standards that are at least equal to our own, also would distinguish you as an American willing to stand up for a better, safer future.

#### **To urge an end to anticompetitive practices, write to:**

Legal Policy Section  
 Antitrust Division  
 U.S. Department of Justice  
 450 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 11700  
 Washington, DC 20001  
 Or e-mail: [agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov](mailto:agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov)

#### **To urge reforms to failed trade policies, write to:**

The Honorable (Full Name)  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable (Full Name)  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

## We are R-CALF USA – Jay Platt

Before R-CALF was formed, Jay Platt had been a member of other national agricultural organizations. Over the years, he became disappointed, as they took positions not representative of cow-calf producers – like supporting free trade agreements. “We unilaterally open our borders, destroying domestic industries, while allowing other countries to protect their industries,” he said. “I became increasingly alarmed over the concentration at both the meat packing and retail levels, which again were issues where the ‘old’ trade organizations were not supportive of producers.”

Platt, who ranches near St. Johns, Arizona, believes R-CALF is the only national trade organization addressing industry concentration, open borders with their propensity to import livestock disease and beef safety issues such as E. coli and the HACCP rules. (Every operation serving or selling food needs to have a food safety system in place that is designed specifically to guarantee the food being served is safe to eat. This specific food safety system is called HACCP for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point.)

“R-CALF has also been at the forefront on issues of great importance to producers – supporting COOL [Country of Origin Labeling] and defeating NAIS [National Animal Identification System],” said Platt. “The cattle ‘industry’ is not a single industry but rather an amalgamation of segmented parts whose interests are often diametrically opposed. As a cow-calf producer, my interest is in selling my calves for the highest price possible. Conversely, the purchaser of my calves is interested in paying the lowest price he can. The packer’s interest is in paying the lowest possible price to the feeder whose interest is in obtaining the highest price he can,” Platt said.

It boils down to bargaining power. “The cow-calf producer is at the bottom of the heap while the packer is on top. The packer in turn is pressured by very large and powerful retailers,” Platt said. “It is important that both cattle producers and consumers belong to R-CALF USA. But, if producers do not survive, food production will be outsourced similar to energy and manufacturing. The notion that a nation can survive by offering services while outsourcing production is pretty tough.”

Platt said consumers are feeling the effects of energy outsourcing in the cost of virtually everything. Domestic food production is even more critical than energy due to cultural differences in sanitary standards throughout the world, coupled with the fact that production is a matter of national security.

“It is in the consumer’s best interest to see this nation become self-sufficient in all of its agriculture. The consequences of our continued path of

outsourcing are too terrible to contemplate,” Platt added. “We hear a lot about ‘open space’ and ‘wildlife habitat.’ If these are values consumers wish to maintain, then it is critical that livestock producers remain on the land.”

In areas throughout the west, for example, where cattle have been removed from federal lands, water facilities deteriorate rapidly. Platt hopes to preserve for his sons the opportunity to produce cattle in an economically viable industry. For consumers, he seeks to preserve a clean, wholesome product.

“This is a pivotal time in both the history of our nation and the state of the beef industry for cattle producers and R-CALF has a vital role to play,” concluded Platt.



Kelly Young and Trey Platt roping calves



Spence Platt branding



Trey pulling calves on Lefty



Hayes and Chase Platt

## An American Way Worth Fighting For

Ours is the greatest nation on Earth. We're blessed with abundant resources, particularly food. Our Constitution guarantees us individual rights and recognizes we have unalienable rights. We can influence our political system. We couldn't be more content!

But, like all others, ours is a nation of competing interests. Competition for resources and power is as fierce here as anywhere. The outcome of this competition produces winners and losers from within, but it bolsters the overall strength of our nation. This competition fuels our nation's evolution.

Sometimes an important competition is waged without any opponents – where no players enter the field for the other side. The outcome is obvious. About a decade ago, one such competition created R-CALF USA (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America). This particular competition was over the control of our food supply – its production, safety and security. Yes, just a decade ago we were all so content, so certain that our abundance of safe, affordable food was forever secure within our great nation that we simply didn't show up for the game.

We goofed.

We should've fought for U.S. consumers when multinational meatpackers and their closely aligned trade associations sent droves of lobbyists to Washington to tell Congress that the U.S. didn't need so many ranchers and so many cattle to continue producing "enough" wholesome beef for American consumers.

We should've fought when these corporate lobbyists convinced Washington that we should import even more beef and cattle and grow even more dependent on foreign countries that can produce cheaper beef to meet America's protein needs.

We should've fought when these same corporate lobbyists persuaded Washington to rely on lax international health standards – rather than on our own higher standards – so our country would be assured of unfettered access to questionable foreign beef and cattle.

We should've fought to protect our individual ranchers from the multinational meatpackers who were, and still are, running roughshod over their ability to maintain economically viable cattle operations.

We should've stopped them from jeopardizing our nation's food supply and food security. But, we weren't there, and so we didn't.

Our great nation, however, was built with grit and determination, characteristics that are still with us today. Undeterred by being late to step onto the field, folks from across the U.S. formed R-CALF USA to undo the damage done to the United States' ranching heritage by the multinational meatpackers. This damage includes massive

recalls of tainted beef and increased beef prices for consumers while meatpackers employ monopolistic practices that drive cattle prices below the ranchers' cost of production, forcing literally hundreds of thousands of our nation's food producers out of business.

These folks vowed to put the United States first – both U.S. ranchers *and* U.S. consumers – by restoring the Western heritage that, above the self interests of corporate conglomerates, values individualism, hard work, fairness, food safety and food security. The folks who formed R-CALF USA set out to protect, for every American citizen, the right to forever rely on a safe, abundant food supply grown, raised and produced right here in the United States of America.

- We fought for and passed country-of-origin labeling (COOL), a law that gives U.S. consumers the right to know from what country the beef, pork, chicken, fruits and vegetables came from when they purchase these foods for their families in U.S. grocery stores.
- R-CALF USA members delayed the corporate lobbyists' efforts to immediately resume imports of high-risk Canadian cattle after mad cow disease was detected in Canada. We derailed these lobbyists' efforts to put costly electronic tracking chips in all domestic horses and cattle. We led the fight that blocked the purchase of the fourth largest U.S. beef packer by a multinational Brazil-based meatpacker. And, we are fighting to force Congress to take a more critical look at free trade agreements that have fostered the outsourcing of domestic jobs, domestic food production, and domestic manufacturing.
- Just as our great nation affords R-CALF USA the opportunity to reverse initiatives that threaten our food safety and food security, so too does it afford the corporate lobbyists the opportunity to try and undo our recent accomplishments. Already the meatpackers' largest trade association, the American Meat Institute (AMI), and one of its largest allied organizations, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), have begun campaigns to undermine COOL, to adopt weaker, international health and safety standards, and to support free trade agreements that will only worsen our already untenable trade deficit.

R-CALF USA is now fully engaged and the final outcome of whether we will preserve our ability to achieve lasting food safety and maintain domestic food security will be determined by the number of people who support our efforts. This effort, this fight, is all about the power of the individual citizen (consumer) to exert individual sovereignty under the law of the land – our U.S. Constitution. That's what R-CALF USA is about and that's certainly what the PARAGON Foundation is about. We urge your support. This is something worth fighting for.

## A Few Words from Louis Day

Louis Day and his wife Pam have two son's, Sam, 18 and Zach, 13. Louis and Pam grew up on ranches in the Nebraska sand hills and, until recently, relied on a cow calf operation to provide for their family.

Currently they live near Valentine, Nebraska, where Pam has a full-time job along with several part-time jobs allowing Louis the opportunity to work with R-CALF USA, a grassroots organization where stock producers and consumers can unite to empower themselves using facts about issues affecting their lives and futures.

### Using the Freedom to Ask Why

In order to make a difference for our families, communities, cattle industry and nation, we must have the freedom, information and opportunity to be profitable. The prayer and goal for this column is to provide information and facts so producers and the economies dependent on them can use their freedom and information to explore their opportunities to be profitable. United States producers cannot be the cheapest source of cattle for the beef industry as our land, taxes, operating and living expenses will not allow us to be.

Some key facts I want you to consider is that almost every animal we produce goes through an hour glass-shaped industry, with the narrowest part being that of four firms controlling nearly 90% of the cattle flow on its way to our consumer as beef. These same firms are profitable for their investors and their business model includes buying their raw product (our cattle) as cheaply as possible and marketing their product (beef) for as much as possible to the end user, the consumer.

It also is a fact that as recently as 1980, cattle producers received about 63 cents from each dollar that consumers paid for beef. This share not only provided producers with an opportunity to earn a profit in their cattle businesses, but it also allowed them to support their main street businesses, such as the local bank, insurance company, equipment and auto dealer, feed store, restaurant and the like. However, by 2009, the producers' share of each consumer dollar spent on beef fell to less than 43 cents, a historical low, and this share doesn't even cover the cost of producing cattle. Cattle producers would not be losing their share of each consumer dollar if our cattle markets were not unduly controlled by the dominant meatpacking firms in our industry. And, it is not just producers who are being harmed. For example, for the past two years consumers have paid well above the five-year average price for retail beef while the price cattle producers received for their calves fell below the five-year average over 18 months ago. If cattle producers had received the same share of the consumers' beef dollar in 2009 that they did in 1980, they would have earned about \$450 more from each slaughter-ready animal that they sold, and this is without changing the price that consumers paid for beef. Imagine the positive effect this additional money would have had on the profitability of cattle businesses and main street businesses all across America. A properly functioning, competitive marketplace would not have deprived our economy of these essential profits.

Until our next R-CALF member moment together, are we as cattle producers being allowed the freedom, information and opportunity to be profitable? You can help by joining both R-CALF USA and the PARAGON Foundation.

For more information about R-CALF USA call 406-252-2516 or go to [www.r-calfusa.com](http://www.r-calfusa.com). By the way, whose beef are we having for dinner???



## FOR SALE FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

- ⊙ 40 stalls in 4 barns-with 24 runs
- ⊙ 4 Bedroom/4 Bath home
- ⊙ 70' x 120' Indoor insulated arena
- ⊙ Laundry/Pantry and separate Sunroom/BBQ area
- ⊙ 150' x 300' Outdoor sand arena
- ⊙ Hot Tub
- ⊙ 6 miles from CSU, 2miles from Wal Mart
- ⊙ Separate Caretakers Apt with own laundry
- ⊙ Round Corral / Hay Barn / Shavings Pit
- ⊙ 2 car garage with detached 3 car garage / shop
- ⊙ Automatic heated waters throughout
- ⊙ City water, separate livestock well and irrigation water rights
- ⊙ 11 separate turn outs
- ⊙ 35 acres with own water pond stocked with fish



### PRIVATE TREATY

Contact via email for colored brochure  
 Skip Schuman-Owner 808-927-3470  
 email [sschuman@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:sschuman@hawaii.rr.com)  
 2950 South County Road 5, Fort Collins, Colorado



EL PASO, TEXAS | 915 599-1551 | [JBHILLTEXAS.COM](http://JBHILLTEXAS.COM)

# THE LIVING WORDS of the CONSTITUTION

## PART 10

NICOLE KREBS

### AMENDMENT III

As we get close to a magazine deadline, I walk over to the shelf where I keep all of my reference books and gently take down my favorite, *Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis & Interpretation*. I tenderly put the book on my desk and just lay my hand on it. I love to open up the delicate pages and turn to the particular article or amendment that I am working on and see the vast amount of information available. I love this book.

I turned the pages until I had passed Amendment I and then Amendment II until, at last, I came to Amendment III. WHAT? This is what I was eagerly awaiting?

#### “QUARTERING SOLDIERS THIRD AMENDMENT

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

#### IN GENERAL

There has been no Supreme Court explication of this Amendment, which was obviously one guarantee of the preference for the civilian over the military.”

In addition, there is a footnote: “In fact, save for the curious case of *Engblom v. Carey*, 677 F. 2d 957 (2d Cir. 1982), on remand, 572 F. Supp. 44 (S.D.N.Y.), aff’d. per curiam, 724 F.2d 28 (2d Cir. 1983), there has been no judicial explication at all.”

Ok, so let’s go to the next book, *The Heritage Guide to the Constitution*. Andrew P. Morris, who wrote this section of the book, says that, “The Third Amendment combines a straightforward ban on nonconsensual, peacetime quartering

of soldiers in citizens’ houses with a requirement that wartime quartering be done by means approved by the legislature. The brief congressional debates on the text make clear that the amendment reflects an effort to balance private property rights and the potential wartime need for military quarters.”

According to W. Cleon Skousen in *The Making of America*, “In

1765 King George tried to quarter troops in the homes of the people of Massachusetts in connection with the enforcement of the Stamp Act. The people were ordered not only to quarter the troops in their homes, but to provide ‘fire, candles, vinegar and salt, bedding, utensils for dressing their victuals ... without paying anything for the same.’ The people of Massachusetts flatly refused to obey the order.” In addition, I’m sure you can all imagine the other kinds of horrors that might become the inhabitants of the household...

Morris explains, “Although there were numerous conflicts over quartering in both Britain and America before the 1770s, the most significant episodes concerned the British quartering of soldiers in private homes to punish the people of Boston under the Intolerable Acts of 1774.”

The Founding Fathers learned from those early episodes and included this amendment to prevent these types of situations in our new nation. Today, communities are paid to host military bases.





—  —  
Available at a  
fine retailer near you



Miller - authentic western clothing from Denver, Colorado since 1918.  
Quality ranch wear, styled in the west for those who appreciate the proud heritage  
of the American West and the rugged western lifestyle.  
Constructed of the finest materials, Miller Ranch™ provides the functionality, durability,  
and comfort required for long days on the range.

[millerranch1918.com](http://millerranch1918.com)

# Join The Cowboy Way



Kate Neubert

Photography by Julie Glaser Baldacci

Help us empower every American citizen.  
Join the PARAGON Foundation  
and receive four issues of *The Cowboy Way*.

[www.paragonfoundation.org](http://www.paragonfoundation.org)





photos courtesy Young America's Foundation

William P. Clark conferring with President Reagan

## VISITING “THE JUDGE” BILL CLARK: COLD WAR PATRIOT

BY MARILYN FISHER

*“The U.S. Constitution was basic to the principles of our founding fathers. I hope it will continue to be a guiding light for our country and to those in charge.”*

*– Judge Bill Clark, January 2010*

---

*I*n the course of preserving Ronald Reagan’s ranch, I’ve had the honor of crossing paths with rare individuals who served Reagan both in Sacramento and Washington. Of these Reagan associates, Judge William “Bill” Clark, Jr. strikes me as a Westerner you ought to know more about. In sincere humility he asks everyone to please call him “Bill,” to which I always reply with the highest respect, “Sir, I can’t do that – you are The Judge.” Often humbly referring to himself as a FIP

(formerly important person) rather than a VIP, William P. Clark served honorably as advisor to Reagan from the 1960s through the 1980s. Many agree he was Reagan’s closest advisor and friend – his partner in devising an end to Soviet communism – working tirelessly with his Governor-President in the White House during the height of the Cold War era. Though Clark spent less than four years in Washington, he accomplished what many said were impossible tasks. As

## Chapel Hill

*Climbing the many steps that lead up to the Chapel gave me time to wonder what had been the inspiration to build a sanctuary on the top of this lonely windswept hill. Gleaming white in the sun, the tiny Spanish mission-style building drew me in like a wandering pilgrim. As I approached the tall wooden doors, a figure was sweeping the steps and tending the sanctuary in a brown sweater vest, Judge Clark. He set aside his broom, welcoming me to enter. As we talked, I learned that he had built "Chapel Hill" as a measure of giving thanks to his Lord.*



photos courtesy Kristin Reynolds

In 1988, Judge Clark had an airplane accident that inspired him to construct the sanctuary called "Chapel Hill" on a hill very near to Heaven at the entrance to his ranch. As the story goes, Judge Clark was piloting his Super Cub on his ranch runway when, upon take-off, he was caught in a crosswind, his plane crashing into a nearby building. Miraculously, he survived despite being

knocked unconscious and drenched in blood and fuel. A ranch hand happened upon the isolated scene and rescued him. In keeping with his strong belief in a Divine Plan, Clark determined that it was Divine Providence and "God's wake-up call" – a sign from God that saved him. He has since then committed his time and efforts to building and tending Chapel Hill. In constructing the chapel building, he utilized surplus stone materials from the nearby estate of William Randolph Hearst at San Simeon. As part of the interior design, the Clarks have included sacred artifacts from their many travels to 14<sup>TH</sup>-17<sup>TH</sup> Century European monasteries.

The Judge can sometimes be found at the Chapel, carefully sweeping the floors and tending the Sacrament. Now in his late seventies, he proudly bears his Parkinson's disease with humility. To quote him, "God gave Parkinson's to such saints as John Paul II and my father, and now he has gotten around to the sinners, such as myself." Chapel Hill is his way of offering something beautiful in service to God, and, on its hilltop perch, it is the pride of that ranching community.



*Note: Chapel Hill welcomes the faithful of all faiths for Sunday Mass and for moments of quiet reflection.*

*Reagan's National Security Advisor, he helped lay the foundation for the Reagan Administration to win the Cold War by securing crucial relations between the Vatican, Poland and the White House, and by waging economic warfare with the Soviets. According to **TIME Magazine**, "Next to Reagan, Clark was the most powerful man in the White House ... so close to Reagan and so loyal and trusted..." Though initially ridiculed and doubted in Washington, he persevered and triumphed for the cause of freedom. He is the selfless partner who'd rather not talk about himself and his accomplishments – such as helping to free millions worldwide from Soviet bondage. Instead, he lets his actions speak louder than any words ever could. We salute Judge Clark as a Cold War patriot and exemplary Westerner who champions "the cowboy way."*

According to *The Judge*, the biography of William P. Clark, Jr. written by Paul Kengor and Patricia Clark Doerner, throughout his youth, Bill, Jr. forged permanent bonds with the men in the extended Clark clan – Westerners all, soft-spoken but tough and quick to act, devout subscribers to TR's (Teddy Roosevelt's) speak-softly-and-always-be-prepared philosophy. Integrity was never spoken. It was universally assumed. Born a fourth generation Californian in 1931, Bill, Jr. spent his early years on the Chismahoo Ranch near Ventura, California. His ranch upbringing during the lean years of the Great Depression was like that of many ranching families who worked and shared what they had. For the Clark children, their book-learning was a small local schoolhouse. Kengor writes, "Young Bill went to first grade in the two-room schoolhouse his father had attended ... staffed by the school marm who had taught Clark's father, aunts and uncles. Bill, Jr. rode 'Dynamite,' the first horse of

his own, to school and back.” For Bill, Jr. one of his first experiences away from the ranch was a class field trip to Sacramento where he met the executive secretary to Governor Olson, a position that ironically Bill would hold with Governor Reagan some thirty years later.

Clark’s family ran cattle on the Chismahoo and the adjoining National Forest land until the 1940s when the government reclaimed the land for its water conservation purposes. The family picked up and moved to the 60,000-acre Battle Creek Ranch near Red Bluff, California. Bill, Jr. helped out by working the summer range of federal land that his father leased for three cents per acre, herding cattle and sheep on horseback. It was the ranching life – honesty and hard work – that molded Clark’s ethical principles. To quote Judge Clark, “We all worked hard, there was no play time. There was no such thing as vacation. Everyone was expected to work at least six days a week, dawn to dusk on most days, with morning and evening chores even on school days.” Though the hours of seasonal ranch work instilled in Bill a keen work ethic, he would need to buckle down on his studies during his last two years of high school. So, if he wanted to attend college, he needed to leave the ranch.

Moving to Ojai, California, he attended Villanova Prep School where he worked in the kitchen to help offset the

steep tuition. While at Villanova, he read the works of religious writers such as Fulton Sheen, who focused on the destructive nature of communism – fueling his personal quest to defeat it. He graduated in 1949 with his first and only degree and continued on to Stanford University. Torn between ranching, law studies and a possible seminary life,



Young Billy Clark conferring with Tom Mix, circa 1938

his desire to join the priesthood won out and he left Stanford without finishing his law degree, enrolling in an Augustinian Seminary back East. After a year of intense contemplation and prayer, Clark left the seminary. His cousin Pat Doerner wrote of his decision, “He said he felt he could fight communist oppression better as a layman.”

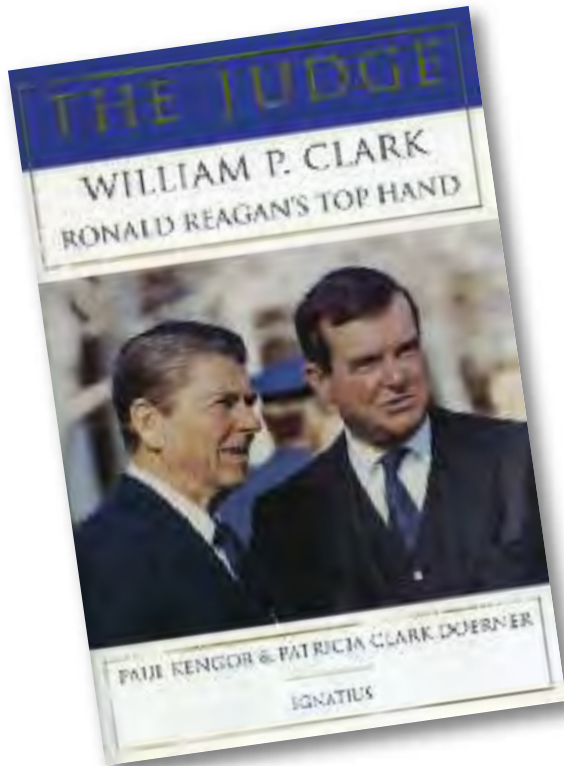
In the 1950s Clark served in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps in Europe as a plain clothes agent running security reviews of Army posts. Special Agent Clark spoke fluent German and blended in well in Germany keeping an eye on KGB agents, communist sympathizers and working with several Polish refugees who aided the American military by monitoring subversive communist activities along the borders of the Iron Curtain. In later years, Clark helped several of these same refugees who had helped him to gather intelligence to come to America. He was destined to help the Polish people on a massive scale in the 1980s when his work with Reagan resulted in freeing millions of Poles and other Eastern Europeans from communist oppression. Even into the 1990s when Polish patriot Lech Walesa sought a visa to visit the U.S., Judge Clark helped make it happen.

Clark and Reagan were a team from their first meeting in



Bill Clark riding Macaroni, ZX Ranch, 1949

photos courtesy William P. Clark



Published in 2007, *The Judge: William P. Clark, Ronald Reagan's Top Hand*, (Ignacious Press, San Francisco) is a loving and comprehensive look at the 40<sup>th</sup> President's indispensable man. If the cover looks a little scuffed, it is. It is actually our dear editor's copy and he says he refers to it often.

1965 when gubernatorial candidate Reagan asked him to serve as his Ventura County campaign chairman. Clark asked Reagan to join him for a trail ride at his ranch in Ventura to talk over strategy. During the course of the ride, the two Westerners – the “cow town lawyer-rancher” as Clark has called himself and the rising anti-communist and soon to be governor, Reagan – found they had a lot in common, including their hatred of communism. During the radical 1960s, Clark served as Chief of Staff for Governor Reagan who often received death threats for his stand on communism. These threats only made the two men more resolved to defeat it.

At one point, Clark saw his work in Sacramento complete and he returned home to his ranch life. But he was not gone long as Governor Reagan appointed him first to a seat on the Superior Court (1969-1971), then to the California Court of Appeal and ultimately to California Supreme Court Justice (1973-1981). While serving on the California Supreme Court, his opinions often counter-balanced the activist judges who held the majority. A strict conservative constructionist, he believed in interpreting and enforcing the written law – not legislating from the bench and, in California Courts, this usually placed him in the minority. Judge Clark worked to protect individual

constitutional rights from government overreach, respecting the rights of the property owner. The 1973 case **San Diego Coast Regional Com. v. See the See, Limited** was a classic example of government encroachment over the constitutional rights of a private developer (*LCE, Summer Issue, 2008*), but private property rights won the round as Judge Clark found in favor of the private developer. There were other cases where Clark's opinions argued for private property owners to gain compensation where government actions had destroyed the value of their land. While serving as Judge, he maintained his life with his family on the ranch by commuting from his Shandon ranch to his work in the Courts. He alternated driving himself to work at the Courthouse in Los Angeles and flying his Cessna 206 to the Courthouses in San Francisco and Sacramento.

The ideological similarities between Reagan and Clark were notable in their shared adherence to basic time-tested principles of honesty, fairness, a strong belief in the U.S. Constitution and thus agreed on most issues from Sacramento to Washington. According to Peter Robinson's book, *How Reagan Changed My Life*, Reagan reminded Clark of his own father, Bill, Sr. who he helped to work the horses on the family ranch. Clark recalled, “I'd be in the corral. My father would open a gate to let a horse in, and somehow just from the look on my father's face I'd know how he'd want me to work that horse. That's the way it was with Ronald Reagan. Not a lot of words. Just glances and



Bill Clark as Secretary of the Department of Interior, 1983 – 1985

gestures. Somehow we just seemed to read each other.”

During his brief years in service to the President, Judge Clark was a key figure in achieving Cold War victory. Always declining power and recognition, he served first as Deputy Secretary of State (1981-1982), then National Security Advisor (1982-1983) and finally Secretary of the Interior (1983-1985). He knew how to work behind the scenes and saw no need to take credit or leak a story to the press and, subscribing to one of Reagan’s favorite sayings, “You can accomplish much if you don’t care who gets the credit.” He and Reagan were equally yoked in their efforts and Reagan said of Clark, “No one has given me more faithful service above and beyond the call of duty.”

Both men had made a personal commitment to demolish Soviet communism – Reagan during his college days and Clark at seminary where he realized, “I knew that communism lived a lie ... it had to be defeated – and its 300,000,000 slaves (in Eastern Europe and Russia) set free.” Reagan’s early strategy for bringing down the Soviets had five pillars: economic, political, military, ideological and moral. Clark was placed in charge of the economic aspect of ramping up pressure on the Soviets by destabilizing the fragile Soviet economy, clamping down on their exports and accelerating the arms race until they went bust. Advisor Clark created a battle plan and tooled a series of National Security Decision Directives (NSDDs), or policy directives. These tools helped Reagan to effectively organize, take the reins and control the path of the Soviet demise – another example of Clark’s “Let Reagan be Reagan” approach to White House foreign policy making. The Directives were a blueprint for winning the Cold War by reversing the expansion of

## “Fair Play Bob” Robert Emmett Clark – The Last of the Frontier Marshals

(With excerpts from the book titled *The Judge*, by Paul Kengor and Patricia Clark Doerner)

Bill Clark, Jr. was close with his grandfather, Ventura County’s well-known Sheriff Robert “Bob” Emmett Clark. Bob Clark was himself a public servant – a cattleman, stagecoach driver, Federal Ranger, County Sheriff and U.S. Marshal who was known for his honesty and fairness. In his twenties he drove the stagecoach team “six-in-hand” over the treacherous mountain pass between Ojai and Santa Barbara carrying both passengers and the U.S. Mail. “Fair Play Bob,” as he was known, became one of the first U.S. Forest Rangers under “Rough Rider” President Teddy Roosevelt working mostly in Southern California. During their service, Rangers were expected to defend law and order as Bob famously did during the historic deadly Jenkins-Chormicle feud. In appreciation for his work in suspending that feud, Roosevelt gifted Clark with a pearl-handle Colt .45 revolver called a “Peacemaker.” The legendary story of how Bob Clark ended the feud without firing a shot left a lasting impression of “peace through strength” for grandson Bill – a tack he and Reagan later took regarding U.S. policy and international relations.



Bill Clark’s parents, Bernice and Bill, Sr., December 1986. Also, shown is King Louis with Bernice and Cissy with Bill.

In 1896, Bob Clark headed to Globe, AZ with his brother Hugh, and cowboied for a short while, returning to California in 1898. Upon his return, he went back to stagecoach driving and married. He entered the U.S. Forest Service at the request of his new wife who considered stage coaching “too dangerous a profession.” After suspending the infamous feud, Clark tried a profession that promised the tranquility his wife was looking for: running cattle on Casitas Ranch, but it was not long before he was called into service again. After the Ventura County Sheriff had been shot dead, Bob stepped up and won the election filling the vacancy. Armed with his pearl-handled revolver, Sheriff Bob cleaned up the streets of Oxnard during the rowdy years of Prohibition, when bootleggers and murderers ran wild. He became legendary and, in 1933, was tapped by Franklin Delano Roosevelt to become the U.S. Marshal for the district of Southern California, which he carried out with dignity while busting mobsters and murderers. Bob Clark served as U.S. Marshal until 1948 then retired to his Santa Paula ranch. He has been called the “last of the frontier marshals” by the U.S. Marshals Service. In the Clark family tradition of keeping the peace, Bob’s son, William Clark, Sr. (Bill’s father) served as Chief of Police in Oxnard, CA and Undersheriff in Ventura, CA. The Clarks did their part to bring law to the West, generation by generation. It is a remarkable legacy. As writer Kengor explains, “The Clark tale is quintessentially American: a son of ranchers, sheriffs and pioneering Irish immigrants who went as far west as they could go rising through honest hard work to walk the halls of national power...”

Soviet influence worldwide. It called for, among other things, aid to Solidarity in Poland and tighter sanctions against the Soviets – Directives viewed by many as impossible tasks. Clark didn't think so and went on to achieve them within the two years that he was Reagan's National Security Advisor. Kengor writes, "Clark was the guy at the head of the Reagan railroad who laid the track to Cold War victory, and then silently rode off into the sunset and didn't talk about what he did." The plan to economically bankrupt the Soviets was carried out by Clark through careful, steady steps to victory.

Reagan and Clark shared a strong abiding faith. Kengor writes that Clark described Reagan as a man of prayer, "I could usually tell when he was in communication with our Lord." Reagan prayed often – even during government meetings he might offer a brief, silent prayer – for strength and wisdom. Upon the death of Leonid Brezhnev, the President and Clark paid their respects at the Soviet Embassy in Washington. While there, the President asked Clark, "Do you think they'd mind if we just said a little prayer for the man?" They then bowed their heads and Reagan asked the blessings of God on the deceased leader of a nation devoted to atheism. Reagan also enjoyed the outdoors as a setting for prayer. To quote Clark, "Reagan referred to his own Ranch as an 'Open Cathedral' with oak trees for walls – sometimes he would look around and say, 'What a wonderful place for prayer.'"

As the major influence in the recognition of the Vatican State by the Reagan Administration, Clark laid the way for crucial communications between the Vatican and the Oval Office. The President and the Pope confided with one another the belief that God had spared them both from attempted assassinations on their lives for the purpose of bringing down Soviet communism, beginning with Poland – the key to the destruction of the Communist Bloc. Clark often met quietly with the Vatican envoy to share information about the critical activities going on around the world and especially in Poland.

Clark facilitated President Reagan to act on his own good instincts at a crucial time in world history. After Washington, Judge Clark returned quietly to private life at his California ranch, continuing his relationship with Reagan as an envoy of foreign affairs. He was again near his family and ranching life – giving his time to many projects and favorite associations such as the rancher-founded *Rancheros*



From left: Three generations of Clarks – Bill, Sr., Bill, Jr. and Pete Clark on the annual Rancheros Visitadores Ride, early 1980s

*Visitadores* riding group, where he is still a member – as was Reagan. Each May, Judge Clark is called upon to give eulogies for departed fellow *Rancheros* in the tradition of *enramada*. In the book *Riding with Reagan*, John Barletta describes the tradition this way, "There is a ceremony during which Bill Clark, who is the chair, gives the eulogy. With soft guitar music playing in the background, someone reads a poem about the death of a cowboy. Next ... the best friend or possibly son of the departed member brings the deceased's cowboy hat to the altar on which there is a plain wooden cross ... until there is one on the altar for each *Ranchero* who has died during the year." This tradition of eulogizing saddle partners is an honor that Judge Clark takes seriously. In 2005, he had the bittersweet privilege of delivering a eulogy at *enramada* for Ronald Reagan.

The name "Judge" suits Clark – that fair and decisive, self-described "cow town lawyer" who helped bring the massive Soviet Union to its knees yet wanted no credit for his efforts. In true Western style, he finished the job quietly, saddled up and rode off into the sunset. *Vaya con dios*.

#### References

- The Judge: William P. Clark, Ronald Reagan's Top Hand*, by Paul Kengor and Pat Clark Doerner, Ignatius, 2007  
*How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life*, by Peter Robinson, 2003  
*Riding with Reagan*, by John R. Barletta and Rochelle Schweizer, 2005  
 United States Marshals Service, [www.usmarshals.gov](http://www.usmarshals.gov)



# OTIS McDONALD V. THE CITY OF CHICAGO

BY GB OLIVER, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF PARAGON FOUNDATION

A resident of Chicago since 1952, Otis McDonald is a 76-year-old retired maintenance engineer who worked at the University of Chicago. The son of a Louisiana sharecropper, at the age of 17, he borrowed \$18 from his mother and set out for the Windy City. In the 1960s, this Army veteran, who served in Germany, came home to raise eight children and become a pillar in the Morgan Park neighborhood.

The years have brought change to Otis McDonald's neighborhood, the kind of change that comes when Government oversteps the bounds of the Constitution in order to "protect its citizens." The City of Chicago passed the most restrictive handgun law in the nation, thereby disarming its law-abiding citizens and giving advantage to the thugs who care neither for the law or those who abide by it. Otis McDonald saw his community depreciate, his neighbors move away and the streets where he raised his family become a war zone. The McDonald home has been burglarized repeatedly, their home broken into three times in the last 20 years, many believe because McDonald chose not to run but rather stay and try to take back the neighborhood for the few law-abiding citizens who remained. In fact, police reports show that five years ago, three armed men surrounded McDonald's car and threatened to "off him" for his efforts. The City of Chicago, through their handgun restrictions, has created an environment where every gang member and drug dealer is armed to the teeth, but law-abiding citizens are left defenseless. Mrs. McDonald would like to move, but Otis refuses to be intimidated.

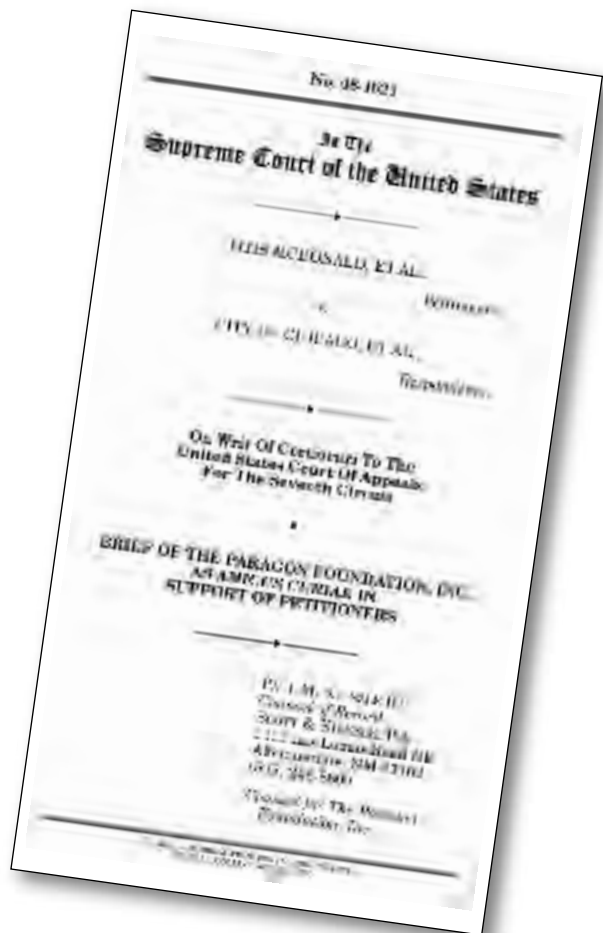
All Otis McDonald requests is the right to have a handgun in his home for self-protection, but the statutes in

Chicago forbid him that right. Otis McDonald has challenged that statute and, on March 2<sup>ND</sup>, the United States Supreme Court heard the oral argument on **Otis McDonald v. The City of Chicago**.

PARAGON Foundation was proud to submit an Amicus Curiae Brief (its entire language follows this introduction) to the United States Supreme Court in support of Otis McDonald, as we did in the **Heller v. DC** case. The brief was written by Paul Kienzle, who so eloquently stated in the writing, "The government is not the fount from which the Second Amendment flows. The Second Amendment functions as a means to preserve the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms. Heller lifts the Second Amendment to its appropriate place on par with the other Amendments in the Bill of Rights. It would be Orwellian to relegate the Second Amendment to a lower tier of the constitutional value that is not worthy of incorporation, i.e., all fundamental constitutional rights are equal but some rights are more equal than others."



GB Oliver, at left, with Otis McDonald at the U.S. Supreme Court, March 2, 2010



# YOUR RIGHTS

i

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	i
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES.....	ii
INTEREST OF <i>AMICUS CURIAE</i> .....	1
SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT.....	1
ARGUMENT .....	1
I. THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, PRESERVED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT, IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT .....	1
II. ENGAGING IN THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT INQUIRY PRESCRIBED BY <i>HELLER</i> LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS IS INCORPORATED AS AGAINST THE STATES BY THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT'S DUE PROCESS CLAUSE.....	3
III. RELIANCE ON FEDERALISM TO VALIDATE LOCAL HANDGUN BANS IS MISPLACED .....	3
CONCLUSION .....	3

ii

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

	Page
CASES	
<i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> , 128 S. Ct. 2783 (2008)..... <i>passim</i>	
<i>Duncan v. Louisiana</i> , 391 U.S. 145 (1968).....	6, 7, 18
<i>Elk Grove Unified School Dist. v. Newdow</i> , 542 U.S. 1 (2004) ....	9
<i>Planned Parenthood v. Casey</i> , 505 U.S. 833 (1992) .....	6
<i>Robertson v. Baldwin</i> , 165 U.S. 275 (1897).....	3, 4
<i>Valley Forge Christian College v. Americans United for Separation of Church &amp; State, Inc.</i> , 454 U.S. 464 (1982)....	5
<i>Washington v. Glucksberg</i> , 521 U.S. 702 (1997).....	7, 8
<i>Whitney v. California</i> , 274 U.S. 357 (1927) .....	9
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS	
U.S. Const., Amend. II .....	<i>passim</i>
U.S. Const., Amend. XIV .....	<i>passim</i>
OTHER AUTHORITIES	
Declaration of Independence.....	2
House of Representatives, Debates, June 8, 1789, reprinted in David E. Young, <i>The Origin of the Second Amendment: a Documentary History of the Bill of Rights 1787-1792</i> (2nd Ed. 2001) .....	3
James Madison, Notes for Speech In Congress Supporting Amendments (June 8, 1789), imaged at <a href="http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/madison/images/vc11.jpg">http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/madison/images/vc11.jpg</a> ..	3

## RULES

S. Ct. R. 37.3(a).....	1
S. Ct. R. 37.6 .....	1

1

## INTEREST OF *AMICUS CURIAE*

The Paragon Foundation, Inc. is a New Mexico 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to support and advance the fundamental principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States of America.<sup>1</sup> The Paragon Foundation, Inc. advocates for individual freedom, private property rights, and limited government controlled by the consent of people. The Paragon Foundation, Inc. provides for education, research and the exchange of ideas in an effort to promote and support constitutional principles, individual freedoms, private property rights and the continuation of rural customs and culture, all with the intent of celebrating and continuing the Founding Fathers' vision for America. The Paragon Foundation, Inc. has several thousand current or former members nationwide; its constituents include ranchers and rural landowners. Consistent with its mission, *amicus curiae* is well positioned to bring to the Court's attention relevant material that will assist in the disposition of this case.

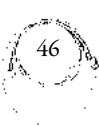
## SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The court of appeals' judgment should be reversed because the Second Amendment embodies a pre-existing, fundamental right to keep and bears arms. As such, that right is incorporated as against the States by the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause. As an individual right rather than a collective one, the right to keep and bear arms is not subject to attack on federalism grounds.

## ARGUMENT

### I. THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, PRESERVED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT, IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT.

The Declaration of Independence, stating that “[w]e hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” is the finest example of natural rights theory applied to public policy. Every individual has “unalienable Rights” that exist not because of government but spring wholly from the human condition itself. It is our humanity that is the fountainhead of those natural rights. As the founders of this country moved from the Declaration of Independence to other formal organizing documents, numerous natural rights were carried forward and enshrined in the Bill of Rights.





# YOUR RIGHTS

---

2

At a speech given on June 8, 1789, James Madison proposed certain amendments to the Constitution that would later become the Bill of Rights.<sup>2</sup> His speech and notes from that speech reflect that the proposed amendments preserved and protected certain natural rights and retained the same for individuals.<sup>3</sup> Among those natural rights was a right to keep and bear arms that is substantively similar to the present Second Amendment.<sup>4</sup>

In accord with the natural rights theory, the Court in *Robertson v. Baldwin*, 165 U.S. 275, 281-82 (1897) stated that:

The law is perfectly well settled that the first 10 amendments to the constitution, commonly known as the 'Bill of Rights,' were not intended to lay down any novel principles of government, but simply to embody certain guaranties and immunities which we had inherited from our English ancestors, and which had, from time immemorial, been subject to certain well-recognized exceptions, arising from the necessities of the case. In incorporating these principles into the fundamental law, there was no intention of disregarding the exceptions, which continued to be recognized as if they had been formally expressed. Thus, the freedom of speech and of the press (article 1) does not permit the publication of libels, blasphemous or indecent articles, or other publications injurious to public morals or private reputation; the right of the people to keep and bear arms (article 2) is not infringed by laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons; the provision that no person shall be twice put in jeopardy (article 5) does not prevent a second trial, if upon the first trial the jury failed to agree, or if the verdict was set aside upon the defendant's motion...

The Court pointed out that the Second Amendment is among those individual rights that Americans "inherited from our English ancestors" and that the Bill of Rights is not a collection of "novel principles of government" but something personal and individual. The individual right of the people to keep and bear arms was thus incorporated into what the *Robertson* Court called "the fundamental law." *Id.* The Second Amendment does not lay down the right of the people to keep and bear arms as a matter of positive law but reflects that the right is more fundamental. The government is not the fount from which the Second Amendment flows. The Second Amendment functions as a means to preserve the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms.

In accord, in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 128 S. Ct.

2783 (2008), the Court all but declared the right to keep and bear arms a "fundamental right." The *Heller* Court at 2798 stated that "[b]y the time of the founding, the right to have arms had become *fundamental* for English subjects . . . Blackstone, whose works, we have said, 'constituted the preeminent authority on English law for the founding generation,' . . . cited the arms provision of the Bill of Rights as one of the *fundamental* rights of Englishmen." (emphasis added, internal citations omitted). *Heller* speaks in the constitutional language of fundamental rights.

Moving from there, the *Heller* Court at 2799 stated that "[t]here seems to us no doubt, on the basis of both text and history, that the Second Amendment conferred an individual right to keep and bear arms," and formally held at 2821-22 that a "ban on handgun possession in the home violates the Second Amendment, as does its prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for the purpose of immediate self-defense." *Heller* lifts the Second Amendment to its appropriate place on par with the other Amendments in the Bill of Rights.

It would be Orwellian to relegate the Second Amendment to a lower tier of constitutional value that is not worthy of incorporation, i.e. all fundamental constitutional rights are equal but some rights are more equal than others. This Court has not embraced such a hierarchy. *Valley Forge Christian College v. Americans United for Separation of Church & State, Inc.*, 454 U.S. 464, 484 (1982). In simplest terms, "[t]he most familiar of the substantive liberties protected by the Fourteenth Amendment are those recognized by the Bill of Rights." *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 847 (1992).

The fundamental character of an enumerated right hinges on whether it is "necessary to an Anglo-American regime of ordered liberty." *Duncan v. Louisiana*, 391 U.S. 145, 149-50, n. 14 (1968). *Heller* is instructive on the issue of "ordered liberty." *Heller* describes formulations of the right to keep and bear arms in English history and at the founding of this country. Those formulations include the "right to enable individuals to defend themselves" and "an individual right protecting against both public and private violence." *Heller* at 2798-99. Those formulations represent a "regime of ordered liberty" contemplated by *Duncan*. "Ordered liberty," at times, may very well hinge on the individual right to keep and bear arms; it is that right that may secure all others.

Coupling *Heller* with recognized, long-standing jurisprudence on fundamental rights confirms that there is no doubt that the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right.

# YOUR RIGHTS

3

## II. ENGAGING IN THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT INQUIRY PRESCRIBED BY *HELLER*<sup>3</sup> LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS IS INCORPORATED AS AGAINST THE STATES BY THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT'S DUE PROCESS CLAUSE.

This Court begins “in all due process cases, by examining our Nation’s history, legal traditions, and practices.” *Washington v. Glucksberg*, 521 U.S. 702, 710 (1997) (citations omitted) (recognizing enumerated and unenumerated rights); *accord*, *Duncan* (recognizing enumerated rights). For an exhaustive examination of the right to keep and bear arms of the sort prescribed by *Glucksberg* and *Duncan*, this Court need look no further than its recent opinion in *Heller*. The *Heller* examination squarely places the individual right to keep and bear arms in the fundamental class, worthy of incorporation.

The specific freedom – the individual right to keep and bear arms – recognized by *Heller* is also entitled to the special protection afforded by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by virtue of its place in the Bill of Rights.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms, preserved by the Second Amendment, must be incorporated against the States by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

To be sure, the Court carefully restrains itself when deciding in favor of incorporating a previously unincorporated fundamental right. *Glucksberg* at 721. However, here, the Court does not run afoul of its avowed restraint because the individual right to keep and bear arms is clearly enumerated in the Bill of Rights. As a constituent

member of the Bill of Rights and a fundamental right, the Second Amendment is properly incorporated against the States by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. *See, e.g., Duncan* (right to criminal jury).

## III. RELIANCE ON FEDERALISM TO VALIDATE LOCAL HANDGUN BANS IS MISPLACED.

Federalism is central to this Republic and dearly important to *amicus curiae*. However, federalism is a shield for States against the federal government, not a sword for States against fundamental, individual rights. States cannot sacrifice those rights on the altar of federalism.

The argument that federalism validates local ordinances banning handguns is spurious in light of *Heller*. *Heller* made clear that the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right, not a collective, State right. As such, federalism does not come into play.<sup>7</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The Court should reverse the judgment of the court of appeals.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL M. KIENZLE III  
*Counsel of Record*  
SCOTT & KIENZLE, P.A.  
1011 Las Lomas Road NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
(505) 246-8600

*Counsel for The Paragon Foundation, Inc.*



<sup>1</sup> This brief is submitted and filed with the consent of the parties via blanket consents on file pursuant to S. Ct. R. 37.3(a). Counsel of record for all parties received notice at least ten (10) days prior to the due date of the *amicus curiae*'s intention to file this brief. Pursuant to S. Ct. R. 37.6, no counsel for a party authored this brief in whole or in part, and no counsel or party made a monetary contribution intended to fund the preparation or submission of this brief. No person other than *amicus curiae*, its members, or its counsel made a monetary contribution to its preparation or submission.

<sup>2</sup> House of Representatives, Debates, June 8, 1789, reprinted in David E. Young, *The Origin of the Second Amendment: a Documentary History of the Bill of Rights 1787-1792* at 651-663, 654 (2nd Ed. 2001).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*; <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/madison/images/vc11.jpg>.

<sup>4</sup> *Supra* at n. 2.

<sup>5</sup> The inquiry, as formulated by *Heller*, is “[w]ith respect to *Cruikshank*'s continuing validity on incorporation . . . we note that *Cruikshank* also said that the First Amendment did not apply against the States and did not engage in the sort of Fourteenth Amendment inquiry required by our later cases.” *Heller* at 2812, n. 23.

<sup>6</sup> *See, Glucksberg* at 719 (“[i]n a long line of cases, we have held that, in addition to the specific freedoms protected by the Bill of Rights, the ‘liberty’ specially protected by the Due Process Clause includes . . .” other unenumerated liberties).

<sup>7</sup> *See, Elk Grove Unified School Dist. v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004) (Thomas, J., concurring) (“ . . . Free Exercise Clause, which clearly protects an individual right, applies against the States through the Fourteenth Amendment . . . the Establishment Clause is another matter. The text and history of the Establishment Clause strongly suggest that it is a federalism provision intended to prevent Congress from interfering with state establishments.”) (citations omitted) and *Whitney v. California*, 274 U.S. 357, 373 (1927), *overruled by Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969) (Brandeis, J. and Holmes, J. (joining), concurring opinion) (“ . . . it is settled that the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment applies to matters of substantive law as well as to matters of procedure. Thus all fundamental rights comprised within the term liberty are protected by the Federal Constitution from invasion by the States.”).



**RAND'S**  
Custom Hats

**Billings, Montana**

[www.randhats.com](http://www.randhats.com)



photo by Charlie Ekberg

# GOING TO ELKO

Cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell visits with an attentive Elko crowd

*Born 26 years ago, The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering has become the “daddy of ’em all” in ranch poetry and cowboy music*

BY GUY DE GALARD

50

Cowboys have always been poets. No other occupation in American history has inspired as much poetry as has cowboying. According to historians, cowboy poetry finds its roots in the British Isles. Most of this nation’s cowboys from the 1870s and 1880s hailed from Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Gaelic roots. Lured by the West, some of these adventurers, coming from all walks of life, became cowboys and started putting into verse their own true-life experiences on the range. Singing to the cattle on night guard caught the imagination of readers of Western novels, and ballad singing was what folklorists from 100 years ago were looking for. If cowboy songs became an important part of our Western heritage, recitations were, on the other hand,

largely unheard of. Some of our richest cowboy lore, however, was produced around crackling campfires after a long day in the saddle. But what gave the poems their zing was the lingo, mostly borrowed from the Spanish, a constant reminder that the forebears of the American cowboy were the Mexican vaqueros and their ancestors, the horsemen of Spain and the Moors of North Africa.

Let’s fast forward to 1983: Hal Cannon, a folklorist from Utah, attended a folk festival fair in Elko, Nevada. There he met Waddie Mitchell, a Nevada buckaroo who had come to the fair to demonstrate rawhide braiding. A tent was set up nearby for the old-timers to tell stories. Sarah Sweetwater, the event’s organizer, asked Mitchell to

recite poetry. Impressed and intrigued by this working cowboy who was reciting poetry while living the life, Cannon called Mitchell two weeks later to ask if he'd be interested in putting on a festival to celebrate cowboy poetry. "There was a lot of creativity bubbling up but there wasn't much consciousness about cowboys outside of working cowboys. I felt that this was a part of American culture that needed to be shared," recalls Cannon. The first "Gathering" took place in Elko in 1985, giving this American art form the outlet it deserved. "We flew people to Salt Lake City and had a party. There were about 12 of us. Then, 'well lubricated,' we got on a train at 12:00 am and arrived in Elko at 5:00 am," Cannon explains. "There were 'closet poets' all over the country. People recited poetry but didn't talk about it. They did it just because they loved it," says Mitchell. Most of the 20 performers who came the first year didn't know each other. Their names included Baxter Black, Ross Knox, Ian Tyson, Glenn Ohrlin, Larry Shutte and Wallace McCrae.



photo by Charlie Ekburg

Clash of the cowboy culture titans – at left, artist William Matthews and Gathering founder and folklorist Hal Cannon warm up the crowd

the rural West. "One reason we chose Elko for the first event is because cowboys didn't want to come to a big city or a resort town. The town's history as being a ranching community goes back a century and it was a place where cowboy poetry was not unheard of," explains Hall Cannon, Founding Director of the event.

But it's not just cowboy poetry in this old railroad and mining town set against a backdrop of the snowcapped Ruby Mountains. The event also features music, films, educational and hands-on workshops, ranching issues panel discussions, gear exhibits and art shows. Sometimes the audience has to make hard choices about what to attend. The Ranch Tour is a favorite among attendees who visit some of Elko County ranches while engaging in conversations with local ranchers about ranch life, including wintertime care of livestock, training horses and the challenges of modern-day ranching. Visitors can also attend



photo by Jessica Liffland

The Elko Poetry Gathering has come a long way since it's start in 1985

"They shared the same passion but didn't know that other people had that same creative bind for words," adds Cannon. Not expecting a large crowd, 200 chairs were set up in the Convention Center but, by the end of the weekend, over 1,000 people had come to that first event.

Over the years, the inspired idea has grown into America's quintessential cowboy culture festival and the event has become an annual ritual. Today, over 60 poets and musicians participate in the week-long celebration held in January, a time when ranch work is normally at its lowest. For the 26<sup>TH</sup> time this year, 8,000 people from around the world made the pilgrimage in the dead of winter to the magical mecca that the Gathering has become to immerse themselves in a celebration of life in



photo by Charlie Ekburg

Part of the Gatherings charm is its openness and inclusive desire to help people take ownership and enjoy this root-based, cultural event



photo by Jessica Lijland

a photography workshop conducted by experts in cowboy images such as Jay Dusard, Adam Jahiel or Kurt Markus. Over the years, the cooking classes have given participants the opportunity to share the kitchen with experienced cooks and savor traditional dishes from Mexico, Mongolia, Argentina, Provence or the Basque Country. Whether you choose to spend your day improving your Two Step footwork at a dance workshop, attending a horsemanship demonstration, polishing your own songwriting with Ian Tyson or learning how to make a bosal under the guidance of expert rawhide braider Doug Groves, the place to be once the sun settles behind the snow-covered ridges is the Western Folklife Center's historic Pioneer Saloon. While Dave Bourne plays old-time tunes on the piano, an eclectic crowd of enthusiasts from every corner of the planet belly up to the 42-foot long mahogany bar to sip on a local Buckaroo Brew. Some indulge in shopping by visiting the nearby gift shop to buy the latest CD by R.W. Hampton, Red Steagall or Don Edwards. The Western Folklife Center is the gathering place at the Gathering. In a friendly and unpretentious atmosphere, CEOs and city folk wearing their finest Western threads rub elbows with mustached buckaroos, artists, poets and ranchers. All share the same passion for the American West and the ranching lifestyle. Year after year, people return to the Gathering to reconnect with the friends they have made, and to connect with people they would never meet anywhere else. "Elko is unique because it attracts people from all over the world," says Waddie Mitchell. "It's almost a cult thing to come here



Artist William Matthews, hailed by *Forbes Magazine* as "the new Remington in American painting," is a story in himself. Born in New York, grew up in San Francisco; he had a hugely successful career in LA as a graphic designer – famously creating many of the wonderful packages for Celestial Seasoning teas. Today, the watercolorist's work is shown and collected worldwide.

in the middle of nowhere during the winter. Some of the coolest people show up." Lorraine Rawls, a songwriter and singer from Oregon who has performed in Elko on and off for the past 14 years, adds, "The audience that comes to Elko is curious and open to new things. There is an acceptance for all kinds of art forms and music."

Since its official founding in 1980, the Western Folklife Center, the driving force behind the Gathering, has followed its mission to enhance the vitality and quality of

American life and to celebrate and preserve the heritage and contemporary folk traditions of the people of the West. In 1990, the Western Folklife Center initiated a cultural exchange program with the horse and ranching cultures of the world. Mongolian herdsmen, Australian stockmen, Argentine gauchos, Mexican vaqueros, Hawaiian paniolos and Camargue French gardians have been invited to Elko to share their ranching lifestyle, music and poetry. In the Wiegand Gallery adjacent to the saloon, artful exhibits have, over the years, brought a deeper understanding of such horse cultures through a unique collection of artifacts and photography. "This allows our audience to embrace other herding cultures of the world and to be exposed to other parts of the world they wouldn't know about. That's very unique and that's what sets Elko apart from other cowboy poetry gatherings," comments Charlie Seemann, the Western Folklife Center's Executive Director. "There is no other cowboy poetry gathering that reaches out to the other horsemen of the world," adds Cannon.

But the night is still young in Elko. Around dinner time, the cowboy cocktail hour comes to an end and the crowd dwindles down in the Pioneer Saloon. Plans for the rest of the evening usually involve dining at one of the town's delicious Basque restaurants before dancing the night away to the lively music of Wylie and the Wild West or some



photo by Charlie Ekburg

For many, Waddie Mitchell is the face of cowboy poetry. The real deal, he grew up on the remote Nevada ranches where his father worked. "We didn't have electricity out there and that meant we didn't have TV," he says. "We had darn poor radio too. So that meant we did the strangest things at night... we talked to each other!"



photo by Rosoff

Rodeo poet Paul Zarzyski received a Western Writers of America Spur award for his 2004 book of poems, *Wolf Tracks on the Welcome Mat*

other ethnic band invited to perform and provide their unique brand of dancing fun. The late-night jam sessions in the Pioneer Saloon or the upstairs of the Stockmen's Casino and Hotel give amateur musicians the opportunity to play alongside featured performers in a fun and spontaneous atmosphere while enjoying the camaraderie and kinship of like-minded artists.

In 2000, the Elko gathering was renamed the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering by an act of Congress, recognizing its cultural value and its role spawning hundreds of events each year in small towns around the West. The event continues to be an enormous success but the crowd has changed. The audiences at the first gatherings were primarily cowboys and ranch families. Today most attendees are Western enthusiasts from all walks of life with discretionary time and money. Although the tradition of reciting and writing poetry has always been the focus of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, it remains a constant challenge to convince young people that there is something for them at the Gathering, and to help keep the cowboy lifestyle as an option for young folks. "Part of our job is to listen to what younger people want," conveys Hal Cannon. Regardless, the event has reinvigorated a tradition that has never ceased to be a part of the life of cowboys and ranchers and continues to encourage a better understanding of horse cultures and the land that nurtures this way of life.





## TAKE A BROWNFIELD BREAK WITH DERRY

---



### EVERY DAY!

---

Become a part of the Common Sense Coalition. Tune in daily at 10:00 AM (CST) via radio, the Internet and short wave. Visit us at [www.derrybrownfield.com](http://www.derrybrownfield.com) for stations and streaming.

To subscribe to Derry's monthly newsletter, "**The Common Sense Chronicle**" write us at the address below.

#### THE DERRY BROWNFIELD SHOW

*"Broadcasting with a country flair and some common sense points of view."*

PO Box 79  
Centertown, MO 65023  
573.796.2036

Derry proudly supports the work of the **PARAGON Foundation**.





**The National FFA Organization**, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988 in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81<sup>ST</sup> Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

## FFA: Living to Serve

Since 1928, when 33 farm boys met in Kansas City, Mo., to establish the Future Farmers of America, FFA members across the country have not only enriched their lives through agricultural education, but they have also benefited from the FFA mission of developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Equally important is the organization's concise motto that all FFA members live by:

Learning to Do,  
Doing to Learn,  
Earning to Live,  
**Living to Serve.**

Every day, FFA members make a difference in their communities, in their states and in our nation by following these 12 simple yet powerful words. And it is the last line, Living to Serve, that epitomizes the heart of every FFA member who collects cans of food to stamp out hunger, restores an old family barn to preserve cherished traditions, trains guide dogs to lead the blind or plants a vegetable garden at an elementary school to inspire the next generation of informed citizens. The words "Living to Serve" provide the motivation for FFA members to give of themselves for every dollar raised at a pancake breakfast, every mouth fed at a soup kitchen, every minute spent mentoring a child.

The next time you see an FFA member wearing a blue corduroy jacket, ask what Living to Serve means to them. You'll be amazed. What follows is a photographic explanation of just what FFA is all about.

---

### Barn Restoration

FFA teamed up with Campbell Soup Company to help support the future of American agriculture with the campaign "Help Grow Your Soup." FFA members and alumni came out in full force to help restore five barns across the country.





### Planting Gardens

FFA members once again joined forces with Campbell to plant five community gardens in New York City, Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago and Camden, NJ. FFA members were paired with elementary students for the day and explained to their young charges how food grows.



### Days of Service

Another highlight of the national convention is the National Days of Service. FFA members can sign up to volunteer at partner sites around the host city in order to make an impact. Last year in Indianapolis, the host city for the 82nd national convention, some of the service sites included food banks, farms, Habitat for Humanity, parks and nature trails. Similar days of service are incorporated into some of the other leadership conferences the organization sponsors each year.

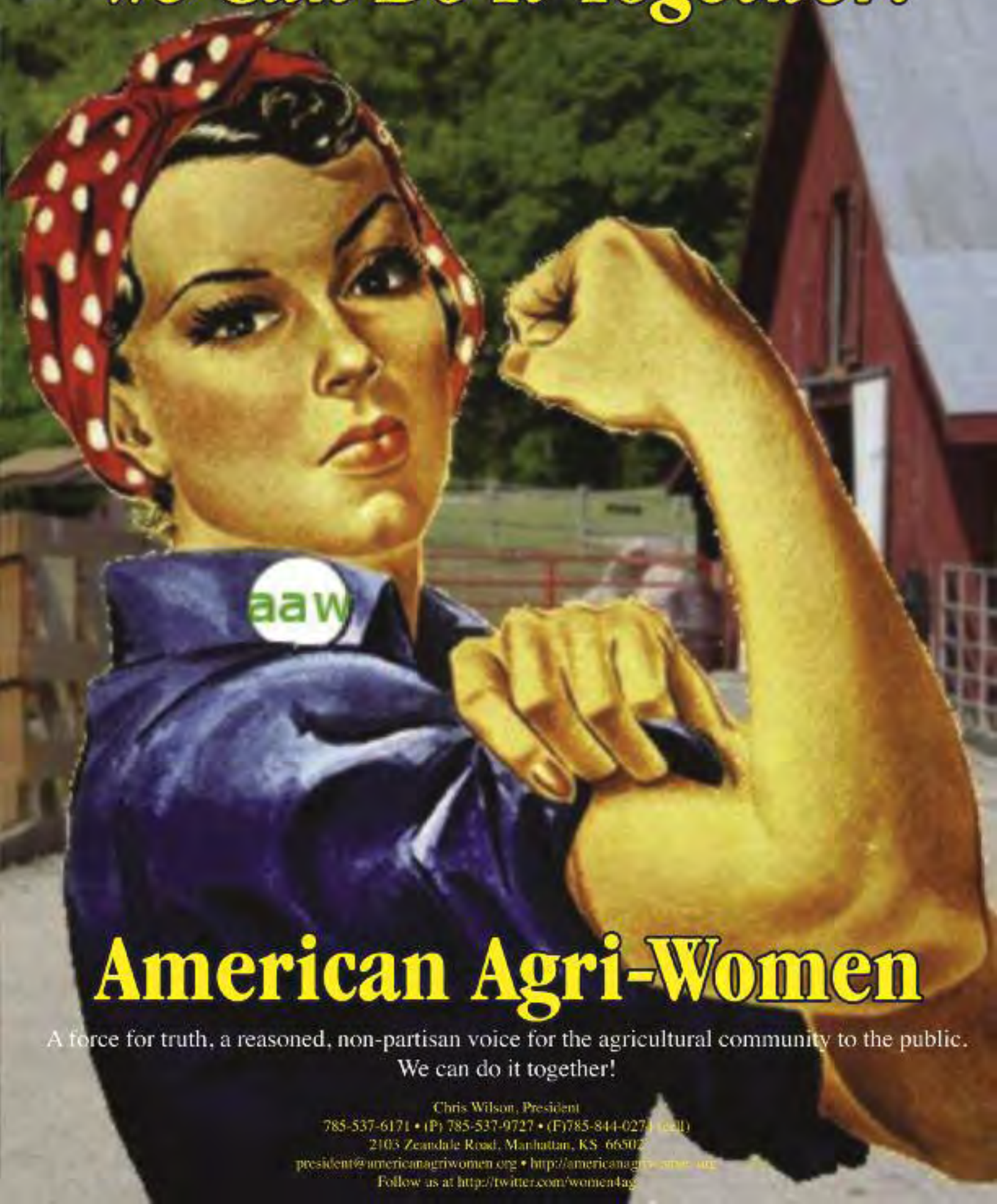


### Convention

The national FFA convention has evolved into the organization's most-anticipated premier leadership event. More than 50,000 FFA members are presented with a motivating lineup of competitions, award presentations, and workshops, some of which focus on the organization's commitment to Living to Serve. In the Floriculture Career Development Event, for example, FFA members put their skills to the test in arranging, propagation and merchandising flowers and foliage. After the event, all arrangements are gifted to an area hospital to pass out to their patients.



***“We Can Do It Together!”***



# **American Agri-Women**

A force for truth, a reasoned, non-partisan voice for the agricultural community to the public.

**We can do it together!**

Chris Wilson, President

785-537-6171 • (P) 785-537-9727 • (F) 785-844-0274 (cell)

2103 Zeandale Road, Manhattan, KS 66502

president@americanagriwomen.org • <http://americanagriwomen.org>

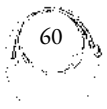
Follow us at <http://twitter.com/women4ag>



# MODERN RANCHING REQUIRES MODERN THINKING

## *Oregon's 6 Ranch and its steward/owners look to the future*

BY DARRELL ARNOLD



Twenty years ago, Craig and Liza Jane Nichols got the chance to revive and operate the old 6 Ranch in northeast Oregon. The ranch was established along the Willowa River back in 1884 by Liza Jane's great grandparents Jim and Belle McAlister. The Nicholsons bought out Liza Jane's mother and brothers, who had inherited the property, and undertook to make the scenic acreage provide a traditional ranchers' living for the family.

Though Oregon has a long and storied ranching tradition, the state is also famous for being a leader in the modern environmental movement. As ranching people are well aware, environmentalists have not always been the ranchers' best friends.

During the last presidential election, all the rural areas of Oregon voted Republican, but the state's electoral votes went Democratic because of the overwhelming numbers of urban voters in Portland and other large Oregon cities. The "green" movement in Oregon has never been more powerful.

Liza Jane says, "You don't have to get in bed with the enemy, but you do have to sit down at the table with them. Even though it makes us uncomfortable, and is often frustrating, I think we have to do what we can to become viable and real in those people's eyes. We want them to understand us and not advocate for uprooting ranchers from the land." To that end, the Nicholsons have made strong

photos courtesy Liza Jane Nichols



Craig Nichols

moves that have put them in good stead with Oregon's environmental community.

In recent years, there has been a widespread effort to restore natural salmon fisheries along the Columbia River and its tributaries. It so happens that the Willowa River is a tributary of the Grande Ronde River, which is tributary to the Snake, which, in turn, empties into the Columbia. Further, in the 1920s or '30s, the Willowa, in the area of the 6 Ranch and adjacent ranches, was channel-ized straight through the valley in order to protect the newly constructed railroad and Highway 82 from the whimsical meanderings of the river.

Given that, several years ago, the Nicholoses decided they wanted to cut down some spruce trees that were trying to survive in a wetland area but which were dying of root rot. Craig says, "We wanted to get them out of there before they ended up getting blown down by the wind in a big tangle."

"The trouble was," says Liza Jane, "when I went down to the state forester's office to get a permit for cutting the trees, his map showed our little ranch to have every color on the map's color key – wetlands, salmon fishery, eagle nesting area, wildlife habitat, the works. The state guy told us we couldn't touch that piece of property that our family had been managing for more than a hundred years. We could not get a permit. I was so mad I went home and started throwing rocks at bald eagles. I was going to write letters to President Clinton. It was ridiculous."

After Liza Jane got past her anger, she resorted to what she calls "plan B." "I called the state forester, the fisheries guy and the wildlife biologist and asked them all to meet us on site, but I didn't tell any of them that the others had been invited. Evidently they never had talked to each other before because, by the end of the day, they all agreed that our little forestry project would be good for the habitat and they were trying to talk us into cutting down twice as many trees as we wanted. While they were there, we discussed restoring the Willowa to its original wandering channel through this riparian habitat. We were told the likelihood of getting permits and the cost of such a project would be an

insurmountable task. We just kind of put that idea aside and went back to ranching."

A few years ago, a ranching neighbor, Doug McDaniels, who lives downstream from 6 Ranch, decided to put the river back in the old channel on his property. He was in a better position and had the passion, tenacity and pioneering spirit to make it all happen.

Liza Jane says, "He fought some major battles with the government, but he got it done."

The long and the short of it all was that, after McDaniels' project was completed, the tribal people noticed that salmon had started spawning there, and the various agencies started encouraging McDaniels to do another similar project. McDaniels suggested 6 Ranch to the powers that be.

Craig recalls, "They came up and had a look and asked us, 'Would you be willing to do a river restoration and re-meander?' We said, 'Yes.' They said, 'Don't you want to think about it first?' We said, 'We've been thinking about it for more than 15 years, but we're not wealthy people and we don't have the resources or the time. But we'd be willing to do whatever we could.'"

"We didn't have to do another thing," says Liza Jane. "We didn't have to apply for a grant, we didn't have to put up a dime, we didn't have to get a permit, we didn't have to talk to a bureaucrat. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed, a local non-profit that orchestrated the entire \$800,000 project, secured the permits and funding and danced through all the government hoops, which let us keep tending to our lives and ranch. They turned eight tenths of a mile of river into a meandering mile-and-a-third. They put in huge rocks, created pools for the fish and planted the whole place with willows, shrubs and native grasses. It's a happy piece of river now. It's beautiful. And there's evidence that the salmon are coming back. The only stipulation we had to agree to was that we wouldn't graze cattle along that stretch of river for ten years."



Restoring the Willowa River



The Wallowa River restoration project on the 6 Ranch has put the Nicholse in good stead with the environmentalist community in Oregon. The river bottom through the ranch has become even more of a wildlife area, with eagle habitat, whitetail and mule deer fawning areas, nesting areas for ducks and geese and the improved fishery. The only downside has been that some of the public got the idea that the newly rejuvenated stretch of the Wallowa is now accessible to everyone.

“This ranch,” says Liza Jane, “is 1,000 percent NOT public. By improving the habitat, we’ve improved things for nature, livestock and humans alike. People will have to benefit from it in that way. But they don’t get to come fish, and they don’t get to come picnic without our permission. We would never give up the privacy rights we have on our land.”

There are more nearby stretches of the Wallowa that would benefit from similar projects, but some of the Nicholse’s neighbors fear that by letting government pay for projects on their land, they may be setting themselves up for eventual government takeover of their property.

“There is nothing in the contract that gives them any rights like that,” says Craig. “Of course, there is never a guarantee about the government not taking your property. They won’t get this place without a good fight.”

Liza Jane echoes that sentiment. “I’m committed to the idea that nobody is going to take my land away from me. I’ll

go to my grave defending my place.” One of the best ways for ranchers to win over the hearts of the environmentalists is the preservation of open space, and the Nicholse have done that quite well. But Liza Jane has found an additional way to carry that good will even further.

“We all eat, and our mutual interest in food is a great way for us to communicate with [the environmentalists] as to who we are and what we do. When we show them directly what our values are, and we can show them where their food really comes from, they’ll realize we ranchers are actually the best people to provide it to them. Remember that most people nowadays are not from agriculture. We agriculturalists make up less than one percent of the U.S. population. We have to make some friends.”

The way the Nicholse are doing that is through direct sales of beef cattle, surprisingly, Corriente beef cattle. Corrientes are small, athletic cattle that are used primarily as sports cattle, cattle used for roping and steer wrestling in rodeos. Back in 1989 or 1990, Craig and Liza Jane bought some of these cattle as a supplement to the traditional beef cattle they were raising on the ranch.

“We bought a few just to have some roping cattle,” says Craig, “and we thought we could use them to work some of these side hills that they used to run sheep on that our beef cattle wouldn’t touch. After about four years, Liza and I decided that, on this ranch, these cattle were a better economic investment than our beef cows, so we got out of the beef business and jumped solidly into the Corrientes.”

But, recently, as the economy has deteriorated, the market for roping cattle and for purebred Corriente



Liza Jane Nichols



breeding stock has taken a sharp hit. The Nicholoses were in a situation where they needed to find a way to make money off their cattle or else.

"We've always eaten Corriente beef," says Craig, "and we like it, and we've tried some out on some of our friends, and they like it, too. It's got incredible flavor. So Liza sent some of this meat off to have it tested. The tests surprised us because the calories, fatty acids and cholesterol all ranked lower than chicken and salmon."

The Nicholoses started promoting it on their website, [www.6ranch.com](http://www.6ranch.com), as healthy, grass-fattened beef, and the response was remarkable. Craig says, "We really realized how good it was when I had some undesirable cows and decided to haul them to the sale. There were 12 of them. Had I done that, I would have gotten about 30 cents a pound. They're not big cattle so it would have been maybe \$150 a head.

"But instead of doing that, we turned them out on grass for the summer while Liza started marketing them. In the fall we had them custom killed, custom cut-and-wrapped, and we delivered the beef directly to our customers, and those \$150 cattle netted us between \$900 and \$1,100 apiece." To make Craig's story even better, those customers called back and ordered more and they spread the word to their friends.

"We went from those 12 cows that first year to 20 the next year," says Craig, "and it looks like we'll sell 40 or 50 of them this year as beef animals. That's about as big as we can get on this ranch right now, but it has really paid off."

So now, instead of selling their roping steers, the Nicholoses are leasing them out. When the steers come back, they will feed them out on grass. "Come next summer," says Craig, "we'll have a bunch of 26- to 28-month old steers that will be primo for the plate." The 6 Ranch is providing beef for people all over

the western side of Oregon, primarily in the Portland area. Says Liza Jane, "I really like selling directly to people because

they look me in the eye and they appreciate us. They say, 'Thank you for raising this beef.' I never thought that would ever happen. These are people who were originally against us. They don't like feedlot cattle, but they love our grass-fed beef."

Craig and Liza Jane Nichol have taken a very practical approach in finding ways to help the 6 Ranch survive. They are now contemplating taking things a step further. Liza Jane says, "We're going to create a bed and breakfast on our place in our old century farmhouse that sits out by the highway. My daughter went to culinary school and we're going to make it into an inn and cook great Corriente beef. It's always been my goal to pass this on to our kids. I thought all I had to do was to take care of the land and make wise decisions. But I learned pretty early that if I don't create an opportunity for urban people to understand what we as ranchers really do, they'll take it away from us. The message for those people is: we value our land. That's why we graze it carefully and protect it. This open space, and the beauty that a million people see as they drive through this place, are here because we are here, working to keep it that way. We're not subdividing it. We're not building condos. We are taking care of the land for the grass, our cattle and for the wildlife. This is where your food comes from, and we are the people who are preserving this beautiful open space. If we're not here, it will go away."

Liza Jane also has a message for her fellow ranchers. "The resistance to talk to the people whose perceptions are against us

will take us down. If ranching is to survive, we have to get over that and make friends with them and communicate who we really are."



photo by Robert Dutton



The Nichol children are the fifth generation on the ranch. Above, daughter Adelle, a recent graduate of the Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute. Below, son James, currently at Officer Candidate School, United States Marine Corp.



# RANCH LIVING

WITH THE A M A R X

Ranch Living is always a joy for me to write. It helps me keep one foot planted firmly in the two worlds that I enjoy immensely: design and ranching. I know they don't exactly go together, but both are built on intrepid spirit and neither is predictable. Ranch Living products are tried and true by me, the artists I embrace and the recipes make for happy times in the kitchen.

Happy spring ladies and gentlemen, enjoy!



photo by Dewey Vanderhoff

Walks in Two Worlds

## PRETTY WINE VINES

Hand forged ironwork usually means gates, fireplace screens and big creations. Even though Buffalo, Wyoming blacksmith David Osmundsen is a master of big creations, he enjoys creating beautiful functional pieces for the home, like this elegant wine rack. Pure granite from Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains serves as the base for the twisting wrought iron vines that hold bottles and glasses securely in place. Don't be afraid to ask David to customize your wine rack or make you a set of kitchen utensils. His work is heritage quality. Arrowhead Forge [www.arrowhead-forge.com](http://www.arrowhead-forge.com) or 307-684-2338



## SAVE YOUR HAT!!



Have you ever opened the pick-up door to be beaten to the seat by four dogs and two kids just dying to see where you are going, even if all you were after was the checkbook? That kind of gusto for road trips means you've probably experienced your favorite hat being smashed into something that looks like you were gored by the herd bull. There have been few options that really keep your hat from being trampled, sat on or packed into a tight space without partially destroying your vehicle. Now, Heath Ruddick has created a simple keeper that requires no drilling, no permanence and it is pleasant to look at. It is called the Hat Lasso. The concept is simply strong

line housed on a retractable spool with a good sturdy set of pins on both ends. "What?" you say as you scratch your head. Yes, it's hard to explain. It's best if you investigate it for yourself at [www.hatlasso.com](http://www.hatlasso.com) or call Heath at 620-515-0013. It works. Trust me. Since the Hat Lasso was put to use in my family there are no more 200-mile stints in silence because Dad's silver belly was sat on.

## FINDING INCREDIBLE BOOTS IN THE MOST UNLIKELY PLACE!

From a unique boutique boot company out of New York City comes the most surprising and proven bootwear of the New Year! delaCav Handcrafted Bootwear Company, founded by a south Texas girl named Christine de la Garza, is not only innovative but also brilliant in its use of leather, exotics, texture, color and shape. Christine has taken the traditional and functional cowboy boot and given it a fashion-forward makeover that exudes confidence. Couture cowgirls everywhere will appreciate the upgrade! Although her debut “Frontera Collection” steps outside the box with directional styles – many expressed with a very pointed, renegade “imperio” toe – it’s important to note that you can also customize your orders with a handful of other more modest toe and heel options and you can order tall top boot shafts that accommodate a more voluptuous calf. Can someone say hallelujah?! Not every boot delaCav produces



is exotic or outfitted with the ultra chic pointed toe... she has crepe and lug-soled work boots and other styles with *practical* written all over them. I always gravitate toward boots that are unique, so I have a pair of her uber chic, pointy-toe Rioja Cowboy boots made of dark cherry eel skin and black Buffalo calfskin tops with hand-turned stitching. They are my Wyoming answer to the very fashionable trend of ultra pointed pumps. They look incredible with jeans and short skirts alike. I have walked miles in these boots at concrete exhibition halls looking to stand out in the crowd, but, honestly, they’re an easy choice as well because they are so comfortable! If you’re looking for a Western boot that makes a statement and is functionally fashionable, you can bet that delaCav boots will offer all of that and comfort to boot! Visit [www.delacav.com](http://www.delacav.com) or call 877-DELACAV.

## MUSIC TO OUR EARS



a tremendous songwriter, a self-taught musician who fetes audiences worldwide with her heartfelt and authentic Western music. Recently, she took the time out of her busy schedule to stop by and play some songs for my 93-year-old grandmother who was recovering from a tough operation. My grandmother is still all smiles when Joni’s name comes up. Joni not only writes and sings about it, she lives the lifestyle full of joy, hope and goodness. Her latest album, *Let’s Put the Western Back in the Country* is priceless for anyone who danced with her daddy at the community dances, has a family ranch background or just appreciates good Western music. Go to [www.joniharms.com](http://www.joniharms.com) to buy her music. Promise me, if she is playing live anywhere near you that you will go, take your family, invite your neighbors. She is solid gold.

She is a daughter of the ranching lifestyle with a passion for the West so big it nearly fills the sky. I am sure you’ve heard her name. Have you listened to her music? No, I don’t just mean in passing, but really listened to the words, the stories, the emotion? Joni is

## BIG GIRL TREASURE BOX

Every cowgirl needs a spot for treasures: special photos, love notes, jewelry from that special man in her life, mane wrapped in ribbon from her first horse and a poem she wrote about that special 4-H steer that she just didn’t want to sell. My little girl calls pretty rocks, horsehair and dried leaves treasures. My treasures tend to be more about those I hold close to my heart. Whatever those treasures may be, the Cowgirl Treasure Box, made by Linda Schaut with a high relief cowgirl carved by Kevin Showell, is perfect for any girl – big or small. Linda created the box from reclaimed barn wood with redwood from an old stock tank and the hardware is also reclaimed, some of it from old ski boot lacings. Kevin’s carving skills have been featured at Cody High Style and in the Western Design Conference. This gorgeous piece of art can also be hung on the wall for an eye-catching cabinet. Make sure this big girl treasure box doesn’t get away from you. Call Kevin at 612-229-0787 or see more of his work at [www.qarmabuilding.com](http://www.qarmabuilding.com).



## FROM THEA'S KITCHEN

I love to entertain. Be warned, when you are invited to my house for dinner, you probably won't be served the old standby that I have made many times before. It will be something new that I am dying to try out and you just happen to be the guinea pig.

This is one such recipe that I tried out on a group of folks. Thankfully, they loved it and it has since been entered into my permanent recipe collection. I am sure it will find a home in yours, too.

## Tangy London Broil and Vegetables

4 Tbsp. Butter, melted  
2 ½ Tbsp. Soy Sauce  
1 ¼ tsp. Wasabi Powder  
1 lime, zested and juiced  
1-pound London Broil

Heat broiler or grill. In a small bowl, stir together melted butter, soy sauce, wasabi powder, 2 tsp lime zest and 1 Tbsp. lime juice. Season steak with salt and pepper to taste, brush London broil with 1 Tbsp. butter mixture. Broil or grill steak 12 minutes, turning once, brush other side with mixture. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing into thin strips diagonally across the grain. Drizzle remaining butter mixture over steak.

Vegetables  
2 small zucchini  
2 medium carrots  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped  
2 tsp. chopped rosemary  
2 Tbsp. olive oil

Using vegetable peeler, slice zucchini and carrots lengthwise. In large skillet, over medium heat, sauté garlic and rosemary in hot oil for 1 minute or until fragrant. Stir in squash and carrots. Cook 4 minutes or until vegetables just begin to soften. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add to the platter you are using to serve the London Broil. The intermingling of flavors and colors is delightful.

## SOPHISTICATED T

In a world of burnout t-shirts with skulls and cross bones, Couture Cowgirl has created a shirt that is styled with sophistication. It doesn't cling to every curve or put you into an age class below your well-earned birthday. The designs are originally hand painted, then created in silkscreen. You can choose elegant black with copper and turquoise, hand dyed blue on white or brown with copper. Each one has a classy cowgirl feel that goes perfectly with jeans and boots or leggings and heels, however you choose to express yourself. For more information, visit [www.cowgirlcouture.com](http://www.cowgirlcouture.com) or call 913-886-2247.



photo by Dewey Vanderhoff

## DESIGNING THE WEST

March 2010 means three years of profiling the best up and coming craftspeople and designers in the industry for [contemporarywesterndesign.com](http://contemporarywesterndesign.com). It's been a labor of love, trust me, but my passion for promoting artists, craftspeople and designers, especially those who are seeking a foothold, drives me forward. When you see the site, don't expect to see the same things you see everywhere else, these are unique pieces, handcrafted one at a time out of beautiful materials.

Spend time and peruse the whole site. Meet the artists,

tour the homes, get recipes for dinner and enjoy the blogs. You will also have the chance to meet someone new in the industry through our [WesternDesign.tv](http://WesternDesign.tv) series. It might be the CEO of Stetson or the sisters behind Double D Ranchwear, or you can take a look at what happens behind the scenes at one of our fashion shoots. Make sure you sign up for headline reminders or find us on Facebook or Twitter and we'll let you know what is happening on [www.contemporarywesterndesign.com](http://www.contemporarywesterndesign.com), 307-587-8008.

Contemporary Western Design

WITH THEA MARX

## ARTIST PROFILE

**Diane Ross**

**Cowgirl Furniture Maker**

With Diane Ross's adept hands and keen sense of balance and design, old barns become charming cabinets and standing birch trees a bed gracing magazine pages worldwide. This extraordinary furniture maker is one of the few women in the business and she has established a niche with her elegant rustic furniture that doesn't need a log home for comfort, it's perfectly at ease in nearly every environment, including ultra contemporary.

For thirty years, her intrepid spirit has wandered the West in search of inspiration and materials. Her experiences in the Southwest and on Montana ranches driving her practical but creative process to pieces that always pay homage to her first, a bent willow chair. A furniture maker she was sure she would never be growing up. Her father was a cabinetmaker, but wouldn't let her in the shop – she was a girl.

As a young, single mother she struck out to follow her dreams which meant studying Range Management and Soil Science at Montana State University in Bozeman. On the way, she found herself living in a tent with her two children in West Yellowstone, Montana waiting tables to pay the bills and save for college. Her need to be close to her children drove her to search for ways they could be together more than not. She turned down a coveted job in favor of making a chair she saw on the cover of a magazine. The idea of making furniture meant they could be together gathering willows, searching the area for materials and creating collectively. One chair led to many and many led to a following.

From a willow chair to elaborate cabinets is not easy for someone who has not been trained as a cabinetmaker, but,



true to her spirit, she taught herself. "People would say 'I like this. Can you do it?'" says Diane. "I would research it, figure it out and make it. That is how I learned." Eventually her father came to help her in her shop in Willow Creek, Montana, acknowledging what she was doing was "real" woodworking. He enjoyed his time with his daughter as she created influential pieces in the world of Western furniture.

On the river bottom where Lewis and Clark camped and where bears, moose, elk and coyotes are prevalent, Diane creates pieces like the Cowgirl Cupboard: pretty on the outside, practical on the inside. The simple cabinet is hand rubbed with a red patina, carved willow designs and hand forged horse head draw pulls. She created this piece

for herself when she was working cows everyday and rising at 4 am. She wanted something that would hold everything she needed for the day in one place so she could roll out of bed, dress and still have time for coffee.



The piece even has a place for her halter, chinks, hat and a grate to place her boots on. Then there are pieces with names like The Gypsy Queen Goes to Cody – an exquisitely, edgy piece out of reclaimed oak, fused glass doors with interior lighting, glass



shelves and secret velvet lined drawer.

Unique or deadily practical, this cowgirl furniture maker has a way of making the pieces strikingly beautiful, all the while evoking the natural and that universal yearning to have nature a part of one's living spaces. To learn more about Diane and see her pieces, visit [www.rusticfurniture.net](http://www.rusticfurniture.net) or call 406-285-6882.

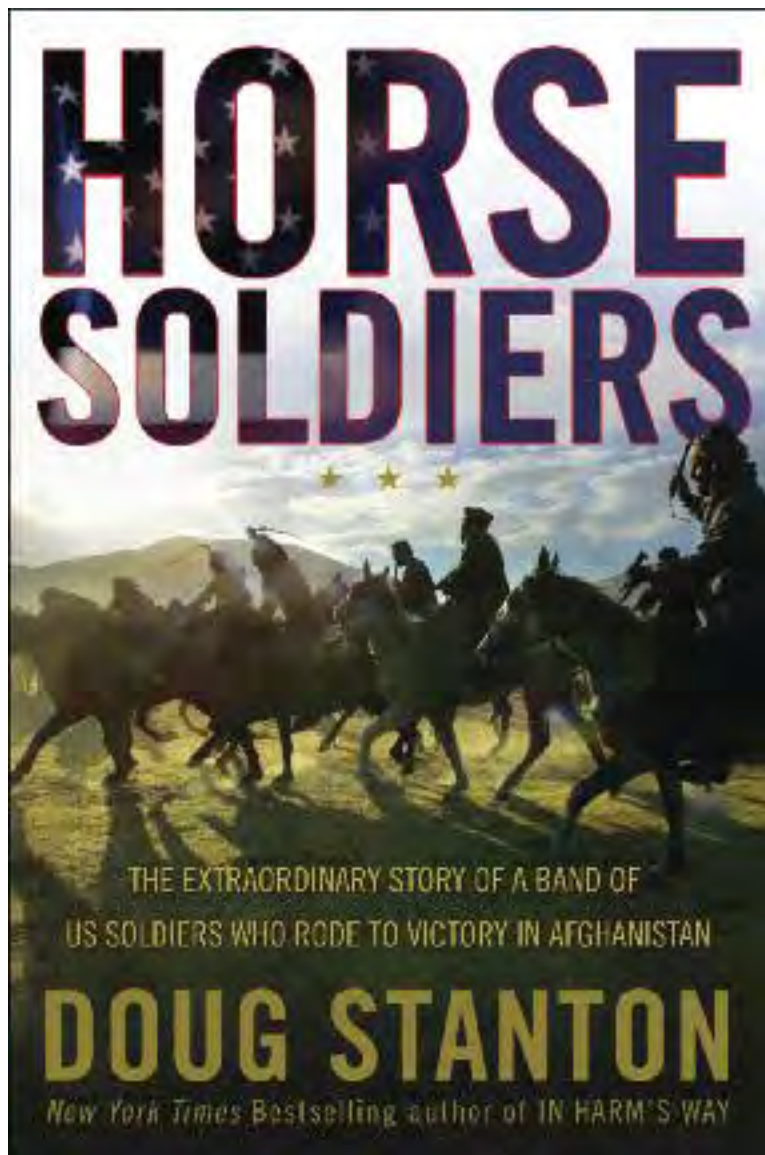


# SOUTH DAKOTA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION



The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association  
is proud to support the efforts  
of the PARAGON Foundation.

To learn more about the SDSGA,  
visit [www.southdakotastockgrowers.org](http://www.southdakotastockgrowers.org)



## Author Doug Stanton celebrates a tactical return to cavalry in Afghanistan

BY MARK BEDOR

It's like some kind of bizarre blend of a Western, a World War Two movie and *Star Wars*. Horseback cavalry charges into machine gun fire and tanks, and yet prevails in battle thanks to both courageous warriors and precision guided bombs dropped by U.S. air support, tens

of thousands of feet in the sky. It actually happened, in the very early days of the war in Afghanistan, just weeks after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. A handful of U.S. Special Forces soldiers and paramilitary C.I.A. operatives teamed up with the brave Afghans of the Northern Alliance to

overthrow the entrenched and brutal rule of the Taliban. And they did it from the back of a horse. This amazing story is told in compelling fashion in Doug Stanton's new book, aptly titled: *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of U.S. Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*.

Stanton's tenacious, thorough and globetrotting journalism is as extraordinary as the events he portrays. The final chapter of acknowledgments reveals the herculean effort it took to not only research this incredible chapter of history, but to also gain the trust of a community of secretive warriors not known for embracing journalists. "One of the soldiers in the room stepped forward and asked what I wanted. He looked at me suspiciously," Stanton writes on the last page.

"I'm working on a book,' I said.

"Blank stare.

"Then I threw a Hail Mary: I told him I wanted to know what it was like to wake in the predawn hours ... in the middle of America and leave for war... Children's toys fill the cracked driveways of the neighbor's houses up and down the street...

"A man steps outside, walks to his car, and turns for a last

look. He may not see this place again.

"This was the face I wanted to see, I said to the soldier – the face of that man, in those private hours.

"He held out his hand. 'I'm Mark House,' he said.

"He smiled. 'You found him.'"

Stanton writes poignant scenes of young children being tucked in bed, and emotional goodbyes with the women who don't even know where their clandestine warriors are going. Stanton makes it painfully clear just what these volunteers of the American military are sacrificing when they choose to step up and serve. And you could not dream up a mission more challenging or a country as harsh as the one the Horse Soldiers will endure.

It is hard to imagine that the life and land that is present day Afghanistan still exists in the 21<sup>ST</sup> century. Stanton portrays it as something like a Stone Age version of the Old West. There are towering mountains, vast deserts and small settlements of adobe-like buildings, with hitching rails for the horses that are virtually the only way to get around. But turbans are worn instead of Stetsons, the weapon of choice is not a Winchester, but an AK-47, and personal hygiene is practically non-existent.



Commander Dostrum and U.S. soldiers on horseback in the Darya Suf Valley. They would soon encounter stiff Taliban resistance as Northern Alliance horsemen charged the enemy's trenches.





Flying into remote Afghanistan locations required the 160<sup>TH</sup> SOAR pilots of Chinook helicopters to operate in strange weather conditions that presented enormous dangers. Threading the aircraft through the 14,000-foot-plus mountains, the pilots had never attempted such a daring mission.

The mission, of course, has been forced by the horrific attacks of September Eleventh and the evil ideology that motivated that atrocity, and which holds the Afghan nation by its throat. Through Stanton we see the nightmare that life in Afghanistan became. Women are stoned to death. Hands are chopped off as a prelude to a soccer game. Anyone who dares to question the cruelty of the regime risks getting the same treatment.

It was this snake pit that welcomed the vipers who concocted the butchery of 9/11. And so, just weeks after that attack, the Special Forces head out to fight the devil on his own turf. But first they must survive the helicopter ride to get there. Stanton puts you on a harrowing night flight into enemy occupied territory, where if the ground fire doesn't kill you, the mountains just might. On top of that, the pilots are forced to fly through a hazardous and terrifying Afghan atmosphere that can sometimes be a foggy mixture of sand and snow, completely blinding a modern American Chinook chopper.

"Pull up! Pull up! Damn it!" reads the book. "They had been seconds from hitting it head on at 90 mph ... They turned so sharply that the helo's (helicopter's) tires hit the mountain wall ... Gibson leveled the helicopter out. It was shaking violently."

Finally safe on the ground, our guys step out of the aircraft and into the 14<sup>TH</sup> century where they meet Afghan "allies" who may put a bullet in their back at any time. Sleeping with one eye always open, the Americans must improvise a battle plan on the run with people they're not sure they can trust.

"They were told very little about their mission," Stanton says in an interview.

"They were told that they had to attack the Taliban and Al Qaeda camps that sponsored 9/11. And what they weren't told was you'd probably have to ride a horse to do this."

It's an animal the intense Special Forces training never taught these guys how to ride. But, they'll learn on the fly, and do it in ill-fitting saddles as they ride through mountain terrain so dangerous it might make an experienced Rocky Mountain outfitter go wobbly. Not to mention the fact there's an enemy trying to kill you. There were a few incidents. "At a sharp turn, Docks' horse slipped and sent him tumbling from the saddle, and off the edge of the cliff. The horse regained its footing and galloped ahead. Mitchell shook his head, horrified: We'll never even find his body. He peered over the edge, expecting the worst. He saw Docks lying on a narrow ledge a few feet down from the trail. Docks was white as a sheet. Mitchell laughed as they pulled him back up to the trail. And then the situation worsened..."

And that was when no one was shooting at you! Imagine trying to hold on to your well-trained quarter horse in your comfortable saddle with exploding rockets going off all around you and bullets flying by your head. Or, spurring your beloved animal in a flat out charge into machine gun fire, galloping alongside Afghan fighters, while braving the booming gun of a tank. "Imagine thousands of these horses pounding across the Afghan plain charging at the Taliban line, firing over the heads of the horses," says Stanton.

“The Taliban now open fire back. These guys are being yanked out of the saddle ... They fall to the ground, another horseman comes by and sweeps ‘em up on the back of the horse ... And they keep charging ... and soon the Taliban line breaks ... much like in the (American) Civil War.”

And yet *Horse Soldiers* reveals that bravery under fire is just one element of the special skill of the Special Forces, men who often speak several languages. “They’re really part diplomat, full-time soldier, part anthropologist,” describes the writer. “And they’re trained to really blend into a community and make things happen from its middle. If they have to, they’re able to apply real force to that situation. But they get a real kick out of actually just trying to make things happen ... almost like a Jedi Knight ... without really even having to put a finger to a trigger.”

But even for these elite warriors, things don’t always go as planned. As the remarkable men we grow to know so well in this book are on the verge of victory, the mass surrender of hundreds of Taliban terrorists suddenly morphs into the bloodiest battle of the entire war. And some of the good guys are caught in the middle. “At some point I wanted you to forget that you were reading about war,” shares Stanton. “But you’re really reading about guys trying to survive a harrowing situation.”



The Special Forces were able to airdrop two Gator vehicles into the fighting zone. They were used to ferry people, food, weapons, ammunition and medical supplies.

Mission accomplished, Doug! As was the mission of those Americans who wound up riding in those unlikely 21<sup>ST</sup> century cavalry charges and toppled the Taliban regime in a matter of weeks. Unfortunately, backsliding Afghanistan remains a war torn country to this very day. And there still appears to be no real end in sight to the war on terrorism.

But Stanton believes the work of the men he calls Horse Soldiers may serve as a blueprint for future conflicts against the determined enemy we face, the enemy that has no country, wears no uniform and has no qualms about targeting airline passengers on Christmas. “We learned that really small, wise, discreet teams of people that are trained and aware and sensitive to what the locals want ... and listen to that ... and don’t give up, and are adaptable ... that when they are used, they can actually have the force of a huge army.”

True enough. But along with the geopolitical lessons it may contain, *Horse Soldiers* is an action read. Heroic men on horseback, charging tanks and machine guns. Fighting for freedom. It should be a great film as Hollywood action film producer Jerry Bruckheimer has bought the film rights.



Staff Sergeant Brett Walden, 36, from Florida, as he rode into Mazar-i-Sharif. Walden, as did all of the Special Forces, took great care to recognize the customs and culture of local Afghan citizens. He would survive the conflict in Afghanistan to be later tragically killed in Iraq.

---

## A Visit with Doug Stanton

**TCW:** *How did our military view this group?*

**DS:** They (the Special Forces) thought of their story in some ways as a kind of Western, but instead of six shooters, everyone had laser designators.

**TCW:** *Did any of the Special Forces soldiers take up riding? Or did they never want to see a horse again?*

**DS:** The general perception I got was that they didn't really have any plans to get back on horses, the guys that weren't really into it to begin with. But it set with their mindset. They train to be adaptable so they did it like they would maybe learn how to fly a hang glider if they had to. They all agreed that the horse was the best way to get around because the Taliban had the trucks and the tanks. But where the story picks up, in October of 2001, the Northern Alliance has been pushed south, up into the rocks, into the rough country. You can't really maneuver in there with motorized vehicles and you find that the horses are being used by the underdogs, in this case.

They (the Americans) were using an ancient form of transportation coupled with this 21<sup>ST</sup> century high-tech stuff. It showed that the horse was actually able to outmaneuver and, in many cases, overwhelm the mechanized vehicle. So the horse is really at the center of this story of adaptability... in kind of facing down these huge odds. If you picture the Afghans, sitting in the saddle and firing their weapon over the horse's head as they charge this line of Taliban guns... it's pretty hard to believe.

One of the Special Forces soldiers asked one of the Afghan generals if the horses wouldn't be scared of the sound of explosions. And his humorous reply was "No, because they know that those would be the sounds of American bombs." But the horses apparently didn't flinch. I don't know how you do that.

**TCW:** *What about the Afghan horses?*

**DS:** They're smaller horses with a saddle that's more like three boards with a carpet over it, and then iron rings for stirrups... and no horn.

Theses horses are built for walking trails in mountains. A lot of the horses the guys had were stallions. They were always fighting with each other. And these Americans, who had very little experience riding, had to contend with the fact that the horses were fighting, which made it even harrier walking those mountain trails at night... which might only be three feet wide.

The Afghans play a game called buzkashi. It's really a form of early polo. They cut the head off of a goat or a calf and that's the football. Basically the guys fight for this thing on horseback in the field. They have to run behind like an end zone line and then they score. And that game is violent, because they use the horses to rear up and aim its hooves at the other guy ahead of you.

**TCW:** *The Afghans must be incredible horse people.*

**DS:** They really are. The funny thing about the country is that in Kabul (and other cities), it's an urban community. But once you move beyond the city limits, you're in country that looks like Nebraska, with the Rockies in the distance. You'll have rolling plains and short grasslands and then you'll see these huge mountains in the distance, which are the Himalayas. And there's a lot of water... river washes and valleys. So a lot of it really looks like the American West.

**TCW:** *Are you hopeful about Afghanistan today?*

**DS:** I am hopeful. When I was there, I saw many of them (fighters portrayed in the book) in the Presidential Palace. And they had positions in the government and *they* were very hopeful. Just imagine, growing up in the saddle, fighting... and you finally take the brass ring and end up in the Palace. There's a sense they really did want to make things work.



photo courtesy Doug Stanton

Doug Stanton



Contributors 



**Mark Bedor** (*The Horse Soldiers*) writes from his home in Los Angeles. His work has appeared in *Western Horseman*, *Cowboys & Indians*, *Persimmon Hill*, *American Cowboy*, among others.

Since childhood, **Guy de Galard** (*Going to Elko*) has had a passion for horses and the American West. Born in Paris, France, Guy began riding at age 6. Guy first heard about Wyoming while reading *My Friend Flicka*, at age 10. A self-taught photographer, Guy first took up photography while attending business school in Paris. After his move to the United States 23 years ago, Guy started to portray what naturally inspired him the most: horses and cowboys. Guy's writings and images have appeared in *Western Horseman*, *Cowboys & Indians*, *Range*, *The American Quarter Horse Journal*, as well as French and Italian Western lifestyle magazines.



**Dan Gagliasso** (*Tell Him Junior Sent You*) is an award winning documentary film director/ producer and screenwriter. He recently optioned his true-life adventure script, *Lawyers; Guns & Money*, to New York City based producers, No Ego Production. A past recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award, he rode bulls on the amateur rodeo circuit during his college years.

Long time western writer **Darrell Arnold** (*The Value of a Cowboy's Way*, *Modern Ranching*) published *Cowboy* magazine for fifteen years from his home ranch in La Veta, Colorado. Before that he spent five years as the Associate Editor at *Western Horseman*. Darrell has written several books including *Tales From Cowboy Country* and *Cowboy Kind*.



photo courtesy Darrell Arnold



**Thea Marx** (*Ranch Living*, *The Nunn Ranches*) is fifth generation born and ranch raised on the Wind River Indian Reservation near Kinnear, Wyoming. Much of her career, including her book and website, *Contemporary Western Design.com*, has been dedicated to Western style, but her heart will always be on the ranch.

**Nicole Krebs** (*The Living Words of the Constitution, Part 10 – The 3<sup>RD</sup> Amendment*) is the Associate Editor of *The Cowboy Way* – as well as being the friendly voice whenever anyone calls the PARAGON office. She is married to Anthony Krebs, a sergeant in the United States Air Force, and they have a beautiful daughter, Brittany. Nicole has a rich history working with non-profits, and her list of awards is without peer. Somehow she also finds time to edit the PARAGON newsletter, *In The Loop*.



**Marilyn Fisher** (*Bill Clark: Cold War Patriot*) is Curator of Collections for the Reagan Ranch and Reagan Ranch Center in Santa Barbara, California. The Reagan Ranch is owned and preserved by Young America's Foundation, who stepped forward in 1998 to save the ranch retreat of Ronald Reagan, the 40<sup>TH</sup> President of the United States. Young America's Foundation is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) that provides student outreach to college students throughout the country. For more information go to YAF.org, or phone 1 (800) USA-1776.



# Spring Branding: A Mary Williams Hyde Portfolio

---



Willie Stoddart is a familiar face at ranch bronc riding events in eastern Oregon and northern Nevada, but his daily life is buckarooing for ranches throughout the region. Here he is helping at a Kueny Ranch, branding in the shadow of the mighty Steens Mountains. The vast Alvord desert country of far eastern Oregon is the home base of this huge outfit owned by members of the Davis family. His brother Dave and wife Tami live on the family ranch not too far away, as the crow flies.



Mat Carter is a Seneca, Oregon rancher who is one of the men and women Hyde has photographed who proudly adhere to the strictest of the old buckaroo traditions. He is shown here helping Glen Shelley at his Rattlesnake Creek Ranch branding. Last summer, she traveled to his home ranch to photograph a branding, which was done old-time rodeo style wa-y-y out in the middle of NOWHERE. He and Glen both use 60-85' rawhide reatas to rope with most of the time.



The face of Glen Shelley, long-time manager of the Rattlesnake Creek Ranch near Burns, Oregon, shows the strain of bending over calves all day while still recovering from a shattered pelvis, the result of a huge horse wreck a few months before. Typical of the hardy folks who make their living buckarooing in this unforgiving part of the country, he was horseback months before the doctor would have approved. Glen runs the ranch and supplies some of the rankest bucking horses you've ever seen for ranch rodeos throughout the region.



Mat Carter's horse sports a buckaroo "war knot" also known as a "mustache knot." There are some other variations of knots, including some known as "mud knots," but this one is the most traditional. Custom is that it must be undone at the end of the day.







Visit eastern Oregon's historic Adel Store and you'll often find Boone Campbell and other day workers waiting for the call to man branding and cattle drive crews at various Warner Valley ranches. This area was the home base of the mighty MC Ranch. In fact, Boone helps brand calves this day at the old MC Ranch headquarters in the Buck Shack corral, which should bring back memories for old-timers of brandings long ago. While recovering from a shattered leg 2-3 years ago, Campbell apprenticed under renowned rawhide braider Bill Black and learned to make gorgeous hand braided rawhide romal reins. He has been working as a buckaroo since he was a teenager and travels around a lot as is typical of these guys in their early 20s and 30s. Not sure where he is today.





Bill Wilson is a regular at Warren Johnson brandings near Adin, California. He is an 8th generation California rancher with 1,700 mother cows of his own which he runs on a ranch southeast of Alturas. He runs his cattle on 110,000 acres of outside permits. His mother, brother and sister still live on the original land grant in Carmel Valley, California where he was raised.



Seneca, Oregon rancher Mat Carter again. This photo captures some of the excitement of being around folks who keep the old traditions of gear and vaquero style horsemanship.





Mike Smit, foreground, has not strayed far in his years of working for ranches in the vast eastern Oregon desert country running from east of the Steens Mountains, west to the old Roaring Springs Ranch and even further to the MC in the Warner Valley. But, the ownership of the ranches he's worked for have changed several times. This photo was taken at the Kueny Ranch, owned now by the Davis family, on the Alvord desert 35 miles north of the Nevada border. Mike has been cow boss there for 22 years. Pictured throwing the beautiful long loop in the background is John Malcy, the cow boss of the Mann Lake Ranch up the road. The Steens Mountains are in the background. Mike says, "I'm doing what I love to do in a beautiful place."



Ten thousand pairs of cows and calves are gathered each spring at the million-acre ZX Ranch headquartered in Paisley, Oregon. Crews riding circles out on the range look for distinguished looking marker cows to help them know whether they've missed any cattle. Half-wild mother cows tend to run like the wind when they see someone horseback.



---

## MARY WILLIAMS HYDE, PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Williams Hyde comes from a family that has been ranching in the Klamath Basin of southeastern Oregon for ninety-nine years. She grew up near Bly, Oregon on one of three ranches that were part of Yamsay Land & Cattle Company. After three years at the University of Nevada in Reno, she married and quickly divorced. With three little children under the age of two, she never lived on a ranch again. She moved to town and supported the children for the next twenty years as an advertising sales rep at the local paper. When her children were college-age, she returned to college, living in a dorm, and eventually completed a multi-disciplinary master's degree in art, communication and psychology. In January of 1990, she began her own graphic design, marketing and advertising business. To this day, though she has always had horses in her life, she feels an overwhelming loss that she didn't spend all her life on a ranch as she had expected.

She took her first Great Basin buckaroo photos in the early 1990s in northern California and Nevada desert country. In 1992, she was present at the dispersal sale of the MC Ranch horse cavy. The sadness she felt at the closing of such an important chapter of the history of this region had a long lasting effect. A need to record the lifestyle she grew up with and loved began with that event.

By nature, she is shy and reclusive, but she finally forced herself out the door in 2005 to a ranch rodeo in Paisley, Oregon. She showed up, with all she could afford at the time, knowing no one. Soon she knew she needed better equipment and purchased the first of several professional Nikon cameras. For two or three years, she traveled spring, summer and fall to events in eastern Oregon, northern Nevada and northern California, enduring the suspicions of locals worried that she might be an animal rights spy. Gradually, as folks began seeing printouts of her photos that she prepared for display at ranch rodeo events, it got easier and more welcoming. She also created a website, [www.buckarooountry.com](http://www.buckarooountry.com), where all her photos were posted after editing and color correcting. Now there are about 170,000 photos for folks to see on the website along with an events calendar for the Great Basin region, links to dozens of resources for those who live the buckaroo lifestyle, in-depth information on traditional vaquero horsemanship and several pages of emails from all over the world encouraging and supporting her work. She processes photos and manages her website every day that she is not traveling. Her "day job," her busy one-person graphic design business, has expanded to include web design, and she specializes in advertising and marketing for equine and ag businesses. She has clients all over the west.

Now 64, Hyde's goal is to photograph as many people who live the buckaroo traditions as she can in the remaining years of her life. Most of the people she photographs are still riding horses every day, all day, and tending cattle on the vast Great Basin deserts like others have done before them for more than a century. She now has many opportunities to travel deep into working ranch country, and is excited, as these are, of course, her very best photos. As long as she is able, she will continue taking around 100,000 photos a year, which she edits to about 60,000. Her dream is to eventually publish the best of her photos in a series of coffee table books. She is a direct descendant of a person who came over on the Mayflower and family members were involved in the shaping of the new United States of America, including the creation of the Constitution.



Photo by Yvonne Gettman McDonald

Mary and her horse Rio. Rio is from her uncle Dayton O. Hyde's wild horse sanctuary in South Dakota. His dam was a blue roan mustang captured off the desert in Nevada, and his sire was half Sugar Bars quarter horse and half a direct descendant of Northern Dancer, the famous thoroughbred racehorse. Northern Dancer's best season came at three when he won the Flamingo, Florida Derby, Blue Grass Stakes, Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Canada's prestigious Queen's Plate. He was also named Champion 3-year-old of 1964.

Hyde has brought Rio, pictured here in a hackamore, along very slowly, through all the different sizes of bosals and weights of meccates from largest and heaviest to lightest and smallest. He has been in a full spade bit for almost two years and is beginning the transition to straight up in the bridle. He's a big horse who is quick and sure with his feet, as befits his mustang heritage. "Too bad he's afraid of cows," says Hyde of the stampede mode he gets into when he sees them, "that's been quite a problem but he's doing better."



# “Tell Him Junior Sent You”



photo courtesy Photofest

Actor Steve McQueen in the title role as Junior Bonner. McQueen was one of Hollywood's biggest during the 1970s.

## The Making of *Junior Bonner*

BY DAN GAGLIASSO

*“Amarillo by morning, up from San Antone.  
Everything that I’ve got is just what I’ve got on.  
When the sun is high in that Texas sky  
I’ll be bucking at the county fair.  
Amarillo by morning, Amarillo I’ll be there.”*

— George Strait

It was 1972 and Hollywood had rediscovered the world of rodeo. Larry “Bull” Mahan had won five consecutive World’s Champion All-Around Cowboy buckles, he would win a sixth a few years later, and had captured the imaginations of *Sports Illustrated* readers and the viewers of *Wide World of Sports*, establishing the rodeo cowboy as a world-class athlete in the modern public’s mind.

In the 1950s, Hollywood had covered rodeo inspired by the colorful South Dakota saddle bronc rider Casey Tibbs and the record setting “Iron Man” of rodeo, Jim Shoulders. Tibbs eventually found himself immortalized on television screens by Jack Lord as the fictional Stoney Burke on ABC, though without his trademark purple chaps, purple shirts and wild ways. Occasional films like *Bronco Buster*, *The Lusty Men* and *Arena* tried to capture 1950s rodeo, but in the end were too filtered through “Hollywood” eyes and sensibilities.

All of that changed in 1972 when two of the best rodeo movies ever were released, Cliff Robertson’s heartfelt *J. W. Coop*, which he co-wrote, produced, directed and starred in, and director Sam Peckinpah’s evocative *Junior Bonner*, starring superstar Steve McQueen. As a suburban kid in northern California who’d spent time around ranch and country folks, I loved both films. But it was Steve McQueen as Junior Bonner that finally inspired me to join the California Cowboy’s and International Rodeo Association circuits, where I was bucked off of way too many bulls.

McQueen was the standard bearer of “cool” back then and playing a laconic, iconoclast bull rider who has to “go down his own road” made him all the more so.

*Junior Bonner’s* crazed but brilliant director, Sam Peckinpah, was better known for bloody body counts in films that grabbed audience by the guts, like *The Wild Bunch*, *Major Dundee* and *Straw Dogs*. Yet this almost gentle character story of an aging bull rider who returns home to true-to-life family conflicts and his hometown rodeo struck a cord with both McQueen and Peckinpah. The usually head-butting director knew these kinds of people; he’d



photo courtesy Photofest

For many, Steve McQueen created the ultimate, iconic figure of a rodeo cowboy.

grown up around Fresno and Coarsegold, California where, as one of his best character actor and former rodeo bullfighter Slim Pickens once recounted, “It was a damn rough place, more like the turn of the century than the twenties or thirties. There were a lot of tough old characters up there; you had to live through it to understand what it was really like. But it was a hell of a good old time.”

If Sam didn’t know modern rodeo, he’d at least tried his hand at it at the Pines Junior Rodeo back in 1938. Telling writer Garner Simmons, “I rode this one bull calf who dumped me on my ass but good. And I was just bullheaded enough to try another. Well, that son of a bitch turned right around and did the same thing to me.” Young Sam got the message, but it also gave him a healthy respect for rodeo hands in general.

Screenwriter Jeb Rosebrook had spent summers in Prescott as a teenager and had attended the Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo, back then the oldest continuing rodeo in the world. His original screenplay was conceived as a study of a conflicted Western family set against the background of the changing West in modern America. Traditionalist dreamers like Junior and his dad Ace, wonderfully played by Robert Preston, verses the modern commercialism that younger brother Curly zealously



photo courtesy Katy Haber Collection

McQueen tried to do many of his own stunts, notice the position of the flank strap and the bronc’s halter here. Moments earlier this bronc had blown up in the chute under the actor.

pursues like a junior executive. At one point, Curly tells big brother Junior, "I'm working on my first million. You're still working on eight seconds."

Though filmed and set in the early 1970s, *Junior Bonner* is in many ways more of a 1950s rodeo movie. Robertson's *J. W. Coop* showed the culture clash of rodeo hotshots like Larry Mahan who only worked one end of the arena, flew their own planes, wore their hair stylishly long and had their own stockbrokers. In *Junior Bonner*, McQueen and his friend and fellow top competitor Red Terrwilliger, played by Bill McKinny, work rough stock events and the steer wrestling. They haul their bulldogging horses down the road behind big ol' Cadillacs and have the time to hang out, brawl and gamble instead of juggling good draws and hitting half a dozen other big Fourth of July rodeos on what is known in the rodeo world as "Cowboy's Christmas." The lack of rodeo authenticity really didn't matter, since the film was more about families and the end of an era. It was the people who came off totally believable.

Peckinpah's personal assistant and girlfriend at the time, Katy Haber, recently told me "*Junior Bonner* was really about Sam's relationship with his father. If you look closely, all of his films had that theme somewhere in them." It was most obvious in *Junior Bonner*, though Robert Preston's Ace Powell was far more of a charming rogue than the director's father, who was a respected lawyer and Superior Court judge.

As depicted in the film, Ace Bonner is a former rodeo

champion himself, a glad-handing rounder of a dreamer who has chased everything from silver mines and the friendly ladies of Nevada brothels to mountain lions. Now in his sixties, he wants to go off to the last frontier of Australia for a new wild goose chase, but entrepreneur son Curly, played by Joe Don Baker, who has sold off the family ranch to finance his own success, won't send him. McQueen's Junior always seems to be in his father's shadow, but doesn't mind at all. To Junior he is always Ace, more of a best friend and wayward big brother than a father. Junior Bonner, the quite dignity of a simple, decent man almost at the end of his rope, still digs down one more time for one last ounce of "Cowboy Try."

One of the most effecting scenes in the film is when Junior has entered him and his dad in the wild cow milking, a usually raucous and unofficial rodeo event that mainly involved local entries. Except for the interference of Ace's dog, the father and son team almost win. Father Ace looks confused as Junior downs the half-full Coke bottle of milk ending any chance of winning. "We could've won!" Ace starts to scold his son, but Junior smiles and places his arm around his dad's shoulders, "We did, Ace."

Academy Award winner Ben Johnson, who came from a family of World's Champion ropers, played stock contractor Buck Roan. In 1953, Johnson won the PRCA World's Championship in Team Roping. He always liked to reminisce that it was movie money he made working for



McQueen in a scene with Robert Preston. Preston co-starred as McQueen's father, Ace Bonner.



photo courtesy Photofest

McQueen horseback. From his role as Josh Randall in the 1958 television series, *Wanted: Dead Or Alive* to his big screen role in *The Magnificent Seven*, McQueen was quite at home horseback.

John Ford on classics like *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949) and *Wagonmaster* (1950) that gave him the funds to pursue that World's Champion buckle.

Later in life, Johnson remembered, "I never had the money to buy all the equipment: trailers, car, good horses and what have you. So, when I got in that position, I quit everything, the picture business and everything else – and went rodeoin'. I made quite a bit of money that year, but you have to help your friends along sometimes to get on to the next show. So, consequentially, at the end of the year, all I had was a broke down car, a mad wife and no money, but I'd won that World's Championship."

Johnson knew that earlier rodeo world like the back of his hand, and Casey Tibbs was also along to coordinate the film's rodeo scenes. If you look closely, you'll notice that the trophy buckle McQueen wears in the film is the 1953 Rodeo Cowboys Association World's Champion Team Roper buckle. Ben Johnson loaned that buckle to McQueen. Today the film's costume designer would commission a top silversmith to make several buckles for the lead character, but this was a film made almost on the fly, which is what makes it feel so real.

GB Oliver's (*The Cowboy Way's* publisher) cousin Jim Nichols was a local disc jockey at KNOT in Prescott back in 1971 during the filming. "I watched a lot of the filming. Peckinpah shot it all very real. I remember watching Ben Johnson and McQueen doing a shot walking by the Buckley O'Neill statue downtown in front of the courthouse."

The whole town of Prescott seemed to jump in to help out, from the rodeo committee to the merchants and just regular folks. The annual rodeo parade was a centerpiece of the story where Junior and Ace reunite and it was all filmed during the actual parade. "Peckinpah shot it with multiple cameras all around," remembers Nichols. "He was really a hard working director and got a full days work out of every day I watched them."

Screenwriter Rosebrook told me that locals played some of the most memorable roles in the film. "There was a fill-in bouncer named Jim at Matt's Bar, right next door to the Palace where we filmed the big fight scene. Sam decided that he was 'the guy' and just went over and got him and told him this is what I want you to do," chuckles Rosebrook. Big Jim, who towered over everyone in the bar fight, uses cowboy logic to break up the big brawl. He slugs his way up



photo courtesy Photofest

In 1972s *Junior Bonner*, Steve McQueen played a rodeo hand returning to his hometown rodeo to keep his competing years alive just a little longer.

to the stage, takes off his hat and, over the noise, announces to the band leader, “I think it’s time to play something patriotic, fellas.” Rosebrook had spent enough time around cowboys to know that there never was a cowboy fight that couldn’t be broken up by the “Star Spangle Banner.”

The two barrel racers who travel with Junior’s friendly nemesis Red, one of which seems to have romantic history with Junior, were played by fifth generation Arizona rancher Roxanne Knight and local horsewoman Sandra Pew. She and her husband Galyn were recently named the 2010 Ranchers of the Year by the Arizona Farm Bureau.

Local singer Rod Hart and the Bob Cox Band wound up doing two great original songs, “Rodeo Man” and “Arizona Morning,” for the film. They beat out nationally known Buck Owens and his band for the privilege. “Arizona Morning” is used to great effect in the beginning of the film as Peckinpah utilizes split screens of Junior driving and thinking back to the previous night’s buck off of top bull Sunshine.

If you look closely during the rodeo grounds scene when McQueen waits to see if Ben Johnson’s stock contractor has rigged the draw allowing him one more shot at the unriden bull Sunshine, you’ll see 1972 World’s Champion Steer Roper Allen Keller in the background. The always rough and ready Keller became a stuntman as well as a close friend and sometimes bodyguard to director Peckinpah.

It was local businessman, Frontier Days’ Rodeo chairman and Arizona Film Commission member William Pierce who was the glue that held everything together. He recently told me, “They were looking to film in New Mexico so I asked what they needed and then showed them that I could find whatever they wanted around Prescott.” Pierce found locations, made arrangements and did whatever it took to help the filmmakers. He even played himself taking Junior’s entry fees in the rodeo sequences. “I got a call from casting at midnight telling me I was doing a scene with Steve McQueen the next morning. I’m no actor but a movie like that was real good for the community so I did it and it worked out fine.”

Though McQueen liked to do a lot of his own stunts, stunt coordinator Mickey Gilbert and professional bull rider Frank Kelly doubled for McQueen in many of the bull riding scenes. Some of the most bone jarring scenes where Junior hangs up in his rope on Sunshine were captured with Pierce’s son-in-law, a former top American Junior Rodeo Association bull rider, as the actor’s stunt double. “He took a suicide hitch when he took his wrap. So hanging up was a good possibility. Once he hung up, Peckinpah kept hollering to keep the cameras rolling,” says Pierce who saw the action up close doubling as one of the rodeo clowns.

In 1974, Casey Tibbs remembered that, “Steve damn sure did do some of his own stunts. He wanted to do a bunch of them.” For obvious reasons, film insurance restrictions dictate that stars can’t do their own stunt work since, if the star gets hurt or worse, the production would be over for good, potentially costing millions of dollars, but



photo courtesy Katy Haber Collection

The wild cow-milking event at the Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo became key part of the story line.



Controversial director Sam Peckinpah looks relaxed in this scene with McQueen and Robert Preston. Sandra Pew and Roxanne Knight on horseback played the barrel racing Twine sisters.

McQueen was an exception. There was no way he could put on a world's champion class bronc or bull ride so McQueen's bull riding close-ups were filmed on a mechanical bull, which upset the star to no end. Yet Tibbs recounted, "He did get on this one bull and insisted on coming out of the chute on him."

Bill Pierce remembers that Tibbs entered the bronc riding, "He wound up getting hurt pretty good and we had to haul him to the hospital, all the time with ol' Casey hollering 'I'm alright, I tell you!'"

There's another great scene that has McQueen actually getting down on a saddle bronc in the chute. As can happen, "Steve accidentally spurred that bronc in the chute," reminisced Jeb Rosebrook. The bronc blows up under him for real and several of the cowboys jerk the actor up out of harms way. McQueen stays completely in character and reacts with an underplayed cowboy shout.

Unlike most Peckinpah films where there was always a hard surface tension everyday on the set, Katy Haber remembers, "It was the most relaxed film I ever saw Sam work on." Though at one point during the filming of some of the rodeo scenes, director Peckinpah lost his cool with the cowboys working the cattle pens and chutes, cussing them out in a blue-worded storm. Out of nowhere, one of the bulls suddenly charged out of the holding pens, sending Peckinpah scrambling and crashing over one of the film's big Panavision cameras. Years later, one of McQueen's rodeo doubles told Rosebrook casually about the incident, "You don't cuss a cowboy."

Rosebrook generously acknowledges that it was Ben Johnson who came up with one of the best lines in the film. At one point, in the Palace Bar, Robert Preston's Ace asked the question, "If this world is all about winners, then what's

for the losers?" McQueen looked to Rosebrook, since there was no retort in the script, but Johnson just grinned and gave them the more than appropriate words, "Well, somebody's got to hold the horses."

*Junior Bonner* eventually made \$4,650,000 at the box office, though it cost approximately \$3,500,000 to make. Early 1970s audiences were far more accustomed to seeing McQueen racing cars and motorcycles and shooting guns, yet its wonderful themes and beautiful characterizations have made it a film that has lived on in people's minds and hearts. Jeb Rosebrook still receives appreciative comments from numerous fans of the film and is often asked to speak about it at both writer's conferences and film gatherings. As a young actor, Bruce Boxleitner, star of the film *Tron* and television's *How the West Was Won* and *Babylon Five*, was so influenced by the film that he strongly considered changing his professional last name to Bonner. Steve McQueen considered it his best role and his favorite of the twenty-nine feature films he starred in.

Today, the great Western novelist and New Mexico cowboy Max Evans of *The Hi-Lo Country* and *The Rounders*, who was a close friend and fellow carouser of Sam Peckinpah's, says that, "*Junior Bonner* is the greatest rodeo movie ever made."

At the end of the film, Junior proves himself to himself one more time and becomes the first bull rider to top Sunshine for eight seconds. After dropping the film's romantic interest Barbara Leigh, McQueen's real-life girlfriend at the time, at the airport, Junior walks into a downtown travel agency. "How much for a man and a dog to Sydney, Australia, one way?" he asks the agent. And then, with the better part of his winnings from the bull riding, he buys a first-class ticket telling the agent that she can have it delivered to Mr. Ace Bonner at the Palace Bar. A little confused, she asked who she should say the ticket is from. To which McQueen smiles slowly and says, "Tell him Junior sent you."



McQueen with a lingering look from his role in *The Thomas Crown Affair* three years earlier.

# RECOMMENDED READING

*Here are some great reads to add to your nightstand.  
Some of the books are brand new; some are older releases but are worth a look.*

## Cowboys Who Rode Proudly

Compiled by Evetts Haley, Jr.  
The Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library

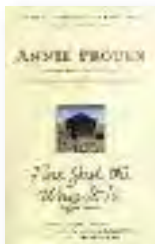


Besides about a billion pump jacks, Midland, Texas is the home of the Haley Library. The library was founded by J. Evetts Haley in 1961 to preserve the history, traditions and ideals of early Texas and the Southwest. It provides and promotes continuous research on this unique period in American history. Dedicated to the memory of his late wife

Nita Haley, the facility opened its doors in 1976. The site also houses Mr. Haley's extensive library and writings. This book, written by fifteen contributors and illustrated by eleven artists, was compiled and edited by Evetts Haley. It celebrates the lives of some twenty-eight cowboys and Westerners who left their mark on the West. Mostly, they all lived in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, although their exploits were felt throughout the stockman's West. This book is very tough to find, but is an absolute treasure. If you're a Texan, I believe, like a handgun, you must have a copy of it in your possession.

## Fine Just the Way It Is

Annie Proulx  
Somonandschuster.com

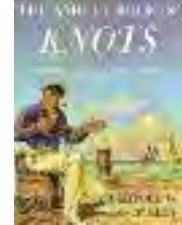


Annie Proulx is one of today's most gifted writers and she does no harm to that praise in her third book. This book of short stories is focused around the lives, landscape and language of contemporary Wyoming. The beauty of Ms. Proulx's writing is that she seems to be able to craft effortless prose that takes

the reader from one place to another, and one time to another – one story in 1885, then back to the future of today. Her people are those we know. And, while they may harbor some scary scripts inside, we still bump into them at Wal-Mart. It may appear seemingly easy for a writer to “go back to the same well” – such as the state of Wyoming – as Ms. Proulx does, but this, her third visit to the Cowboy State, only fuels the fire in wanting more from this gifted author about her spot in the West.

## The Ashley Book of Knots

Clifford W. Ashley  
Doubleday



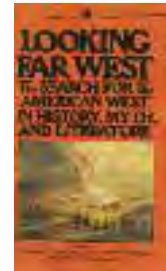
What would a stockman do if he couldn't tie a bowline or a Becket Hitch or a Double Harness Loop? Over 3,900 knots await you when you open this classic Ashley work on knots. Mr. Ashley has given us a look at a lifetime of the craft and the many useful and whimsical knots illustrated throughout this volume. Written during a simpler time – even the cover illustration reminds us of the past – the book asks us to sit, and tie knots. Knots are a necessity whenever man and livestock come together and, while there are many other books on knots, this book still wears the crown. It has wonderful illustrations of all varieties of shipboard knots as well as those used by butchers, steeplejacks, electric linesmen, knitters, cobblers, surgeons, poachers and, of course, cowboys. This book, originally published back in 1944, is still in print today.

## Looking Far West

The Search for the American West in History, Myth  
and Literature  
Frank Bergon and Zeese Papanikolas  
Mentor Books

First published in 1978, Bergon and Papanikolas' book looks into the myth of the classic cowboy West – as was so popular during the 1970s with the country crawling away from the “question everything” 1960s. As the introduction of the book describes, “More than any other American regions, the West eludes

definition because it is as much a dream as a fact, and its locale was never solely geographical. Before it was a place, it was a conception. Its characteristics were invented as well as discovered, and its history cannot be separated from its myths. Because the West has become so overlaid with legend, it is popularly assumed that a stripping of its mythic veneer would reveal the ‘real’ West.”





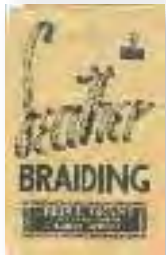
## RECOMMENDED READING

The authors' approach is quite interesting as nothing is off the table. The two try, with some success, to peel back that veneer of the popularized West. Papanikolas and Bergon were both Stegner Fellows in Creative Writing at Stanford. The two writers' depth of research is apparent – as they bring into the discussion the works of everyone from Joan Didion, Oscar Wilde, John Steinbeck and Owen Wister.

### How to Make Cowboy Horse Gear

#### Leather Braiding

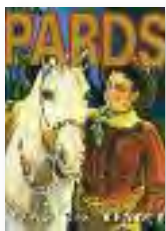
Bruce Grant  
Cornell Maritime Press



As we visited simpler times with the knot book discussed earlier – we continue in that vein with a couple of books that, as the knot book, are still in print years after introduction in the early 1950s – testament to their validity of importance. Newspaper reporter Bruce Grant grew up on a Texas ranch and was exposed to braiding early in his life. Braiding soon became an important hobby in young Grant's life and these two books are the result of what today we would call an obsession. Back in the late 40s, it was simply a hobby – ah, simpler times. Both books take the reader into the world of “yes, we can” – Do It Yourself. Need a saddle? Build it. Need some reins? Braid 'em. And, if one absorbed these two books, one could. The books also keep history in the limelight reminding readers that braiding and leatherwork had their origins back to 2500 B.C. Both books are classics and there are many versions, the earlier the better. The mystery of the Alamar knot unfolded for me, courtesy of Mr. Grant's “obsession.”

### PARDS

Texas Bix Bender  
Gibbs Smith Publisher



Texas Bix Bender, while not a household name, is a major Western writer, having written the classic, *Don't Squat with Your Spurs On*. *PARDS* is a little book with big thoughts. In the West, in your life, let's face it, what's more important than your pard? In this natty little volume, you will be treated to game-changing concepts like: “Only a buzzard feeds on his friends,” “Rocking horse to

rocking chair, good pards ride together” and the ever popular, “Never ask a pard the size of his spread.” This book is filled with a day's first thoughts that will remind you how important your pards are in your life. Great friends shine more than gold.

### Angle of Repose

Wallace Stegner  
Penguin

This is Wallace Stegner's Pulitzer Prize winning work of discovery. The main character, Lyman Ward, a retired historian who is confined to a wheelchair, sets out to research and write the story of his pioneer grandparents. Published in 1971, Stegner's writing takes us on a trail of exploration where we learn more about Ward's life along the way. Stegner sought the truth; he never felt the myth of the West did it justice. The West of the Imagination was not Stegner's world, his was a real place of real people and, in this book, we learn of two stories, two sets of lives and how they were intertwined. The book, at 570 pages, is a long road – but the journey is well worth the effort.



### Woolaroc

The Frank Phillips Foundation  
Woolaroc, Bartlesville, OK

The museum business is a tough, cash intensive enterprise. Not a place for sissies. Frank Phillips had a passion for the West. My late father had a great view of passion and always told me, “Kid, remember, passion is the woody putty of life.” Amen. Frank Phillips passion for the West, while significant, was also supported by all that oil money (Phillips started Phillips Petroleum). As stated by the Frank Phillips Foundation, “Hidden away in the rugged Osage Hills of Northeastern Oklahoma, Woolaroc was established in 1925 as the ranch retreat of oilman Frank Phillips. The ranch is a 3,700 acre wildlife preserve, home to many species of native and exotic wildlife, such as buffalo, elk and longhorn cattle. Woolaroc is also a museum with an outstanding collection of Western art and artifacts, Native American material, one of the finest collections of Colt firearms in the world, and so much more.” They might understate the place. We've all been to Western themed museums, but I guarantee you quite a treat when visiting Woolaroc. This superb volume is just enough to wet your appetite.



# THE NUNN RANCHES



photos courtesy the Nunn Family

From left: Michele, Kelsey, Tristin and Justin Nunn; Lauren and Joe Bill Nunn; friend Jerry Wooten; Eunice and Smokey Nunn; Tami Jo, Starlyn, Phil and Shandi Treadwell; friends Linda and Kyle Reid

## SEVEN GENERATIONS OF SUBTLE BUT REWARDING RETURNS FROM THE LAND

THEA MARX

In the upper Chihuahuun Desert, where it's dry, hot and windy, sits the headquarters to a ranch that carries seven generations of ranching history to its name. The Nunn family has persevered through droughts and rains, outlaws, odd government policies, predators and the steady passing parade of illegal aliens to pursue what the family knows and loves: ranching. It hasn't been easy, as this part of the country



Smokey and Joe Bill Nunn

is tough. "You learn to make a living on the kind of country you have," says Joe Bill Nunn. It's worked. For over 120 years, the cattle on this desert country have carried Nunn family brands: the Lightning Bar, the Heart L and Steeple A. These brands are familiar to those who run in the country northeast of Deming and in the shadow of the Cook's Mountain Range and as far north as the New Mexico cow town of Magdalena.

The start of 2010 blessed this dry New Mexico landscape with moisture that was long overdue; the last significant snow or rain came in August 2008. In between, springs dried up, tanks filled with dust and grass was all but a memory. Most of the rainfall in the region arrives as thunderstorms and showers from July to September. Winter can bring snowfall, but not much and it doesn't stay long. Spring just brings back the winds and summer temperatures reach over 100 but at 4,000 feet, it's at least comfortable. This year is a better a start according to Joe Bill Nunn, the current Nunn family member who oversees the family ranching operation. "The moisture and grass dictate where our cows run and how long we keep the calves," he says.

The Nunn herd still shows the Hereford influence of Joe Bill's parent's ranching days with their bald faces, though today most of the Hereford blood is gone as they now run mostly blacks and baldies with Angus bulls. Proven over time as hardy genetics that do well in the desert climate, Joe Bill goes to great lengths to preserve his best cows. So, to survive those years of drought without having to cull too deeply into



Joe Bill branding, Justin helping Tristan with ground crew duties.

his herd, Joe Bill depends on grassier leases, sometimes far from home.

Given that, one of the most important components of the Nunn Ranches operations is its caring for the natural resources the ranch depends on. Whether it is just out their back door or 500 miles north on a lease, they are stewards of the land, keeping a constant eye on the grass, making sure it is not overgrazed and monitoring riparian areas so they are not damaged – two things that keep Joe Bill and his family busy. "Ranchers take care of our nation's natural resources at a true zero cost to urban dwellers," he says. "We watch over the public lands that we lease, as well as our own. We don't just care for our livestock, but for the native wildlife and its habitat as well. I believe it is our responsibility." He looks out over a line of fence, "It's what ranchers do

who believe in stewardship."

Joe Bill Nunn has long been an outspoken proponent of the value of ranching in and near public lands. He is on the phone with legislators on a daily basis and every year appears before the state legislature in Santa Fe. A pillar of quiet strength in the ranching community in New Mexico, Joe



Joe Bill Nunn checking summer grass yearlings in NE New Mexico



The Nunn Brothers  
From left: Emmett Milton Nunn, Edward William Nunn  
and James Pryor Nunn

Bill serves on the State Land Advisory Board, Southwest Grazing Association and New Mexico Public Lands Council, and he is not afraid to take on Washington or the Chicago Board of Trade when issues arise beyond New Mexico's borders that need his attention.

Beside Joe Bill stands his wife Lauren and their children, Justin and Tami Jo, and their families – all of them involved in the Nunn family operation. Ranching is a family tradition with the Nunns going back to great grandparents in 1881. Joe Bill's great grandfather came to the area to homestead, and, after fighting hostile Indians and trying his hand at silver mining, he started the ranch. Joe Bill's father Smokey took over part of the original ranch from his father, keeping the outfit going. In those early days, Smokey's wife Eunice put food on the table with supplies she brought back from town by train. It was too far by horse and trucks were too expensive for the young family. But the family has "stay" and today, at 87, Smokey is



Photo of the 1942 NMSU Rodeo Team  
Smokey Nunn, top, far right

still an integral part of the ranch, although he hasn't ridden for a couple of years. Joe Bill and Lauren are respectful of Smokey's experience and keep him involved, even though he recently moved to town in Las Cruces. This is a family operation with each family member carrying their own brands, for now and the future – even the great grandchildren.

Family is key in the Nunn operation and everyone is ready to help. A recent medical scare proved that as young Justin was called upon to keep all the pieces working when his father was diagnosed with cancer. All through the cancer surgery and his father's recovery, Justin ran the day-to-day. He is the epitome of the next generation in ranching – eager, enthusiastic and focused, never missing the morning meetings that prepare the family for daily decisions on the ranch. As dedicated to ranching as his father and grandfather, Justin has made a hand. "He was the real lifesaver," smiles Joe



The Nunn cattle



The Nunn's Steeple A and Spear B ranches

Bill. "He was our kingpin. He showed us what families do – stand by each other, no matter what the battle or issue." Health issues aside, weather, water and land issues have tested this multi-generational ranching family as well. Over the years, they fought their way through all of it.

Today, they are in a different kind of fight, this time to preserve the ranching industry.

To that end, the family dedicates time to organizations that further the ranching tradition beyond just their ranch.

Lauren is involved in the New Mexico CowBelles and Joe Bill is very involved in FFA and 4-H and credits his FFA advisor and high school Vocational-Ag teacher with having a significant influence on his life. To this day, he never hesitates to set up judging classes for the local judging teams or assist anyway he can.

Justin Nunn and his wife Michelle have two children, Kelsey, 17 and Tristan, 8. Kelsey is a superior hand and can run every piece of ranch equipment

from the backhoe to a semi and she also judges livestock for her local FFA chapter and team ropes. Tristan is his grandpa's helper and is very involved in 4-H shooting sports. Tami Jo and her husband Phil Treadwell not only have a ranch of their own, they work with Tami Jo's cattle on her parent's ranch. Their children, Starlyn and Shandi, are all around cowgirls and their cowgirl smarts extend beyond the arena and on to the ranch as well.

The legacy of family ranching runs deep in the marrow of the Nunn family. When in town on business one day, Joe

Bill was asked by someone why he ranches when it's such a tough way to make a living. Joe Bill Nunn looked out at the warm New Mexico sunshine and the cobalt blue sky and, without hesitation, said, "We don't make much monetary profit, that's true, but our real profit is being able to work outside with our family on a pretty day like this." For the Nunn family, it's the subtle returns that make the difference.



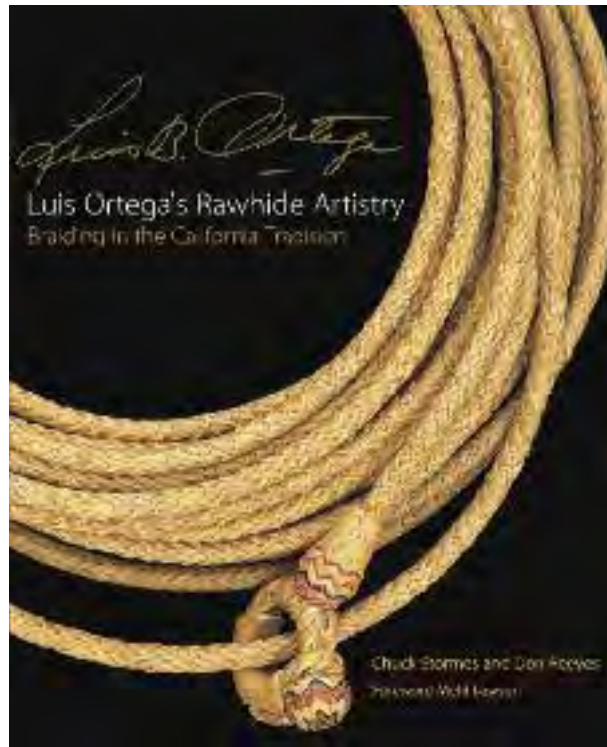
From left: Justin and Michele Nunn; Tami Jo and Phil Treadwell



## RANGE WRITING

---

*Some cowboy poems and writings that have come our way*



“The best Reatero of them all.” – Ed Borein

A beautiful new book has been released by the University of Oklahoma Press on the life and works of Luis Ortega (1897-1995). *Luis Ortega's Rawhide Artistry* was written by saddle maker Chuck Stormes and Don Reeves of The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. The book brings together items and photographs from the permanent collection of the NC&WHM (Cowboy Hall of Fame – I still call it that), as well as from various private collections and institutions, and wraps it all with the story of this uniquely talented craftsman. If you love great rawhide artistry and great vaquero history and culture – this is the book for you. I suggest you get two copies – one to look at and drip coffee on and one to keep for the next generation. It is that good. [www.oupres.com](http://www.oupres.com) (While you're at it, you can buy the book through the NC&WHM website and join the Museum at the same time. These kinds of books on the West don't come easy and we all need to support institutions that help us carry on the legacy of the American West.)

Luis Ortega wrote two very important books about his approach to horsemanship: *California Hackamore: An Authentic Story and Use of the Hackamore* in 1948 and *California Stock Horse* in 1949. These two volumes are long out of print and are highly sought after by collectors. In 2000, B. Byron Price wrote the catalog to a unique exhibit of Ortega's work in Santa Barbara, California. The show, “Luis Ortega, Master Rawhide Artisan,” was staged a stone's throw from the actual studio space Ortega shared with artist Edward Borein. The catalog was published through “Dos Lindas” – a publishing partnership of two very important “Lindas” in the Western art and collectable world – Linda Sherwood (High Noon Western Americana) and Linda Grimm (The Museum of the Cowboy). I say this, as the following piece of commentary is an unpublished piece about the sport of Rodeo, circa 1950s, by Luis Ortega and is courtesy of the permanent collection of Jim and Linda Grimm's Museum of the Cowboy in Santa Ynez, California.

## The World of Rodeo

Every year thousands of New Yorkers flock to Madison Square Garden to the annual rodeo held there in October. They go to enjoy the thrill of watching the best of the cowboys and cowgirls in the country try to ride the toughest of the bucking horses picked from the ranges of the west. The riders are the finest of the crack performers from all over the western part of the United States, starting in Montana and going all the way down to Texas, then over to the Pacific Coast, and including Calgary and Alberta, in Canada.

It may surprise people who are not familiar with western bucking horses to know that these “outlaws” are not of a sour disposition. They can be handled easily. But they are independent and don’t intend to be ridden. Contrary to widespread belief, they are not trained to buck. They buck as naturally as they eat, for it is natural for any horse, whether broke, gentle to the saddle, or running wild, to buck. Turn the gentlest horse loose with a bunch of his kind and he will buck, twist and go through all kinds of maneuvers while on the grazing range. But these rodeo buckers put everything they have (and they have plenty) into throwing the person who is trying to ride them.

The best buckers are not wild horses, but mostly big, rangy cow horses that come from the “rough strings” of the big cow outfits throughout the west—that is, the cow country of the west, for there are parts of the west that hardly know a horse. Usually a representative of some show outfit is sent out, accompanied by a good rider, and the pair of them scout the country looking for high-powered buckers. Often a good bucking horse will bring from \$500 to \$1000. The horses are well cared for and make all the good shows—meaning rodeos.

Spain is due the credit for introducing the horse to the New World, for Spanish horses came long before English or French settlements were made. And to Spain must go the credit also for the importation of cattle and sheep.

In the early days of the southwest, the Spanish held, for their own and their neighbors’ amusement - usually on their fiestas or feast days - bucking horse and roping contests. These Spanish riders rode from their infancy and the rope or reata was constantly with them, to be utilized in half a dozen ways. So it was only natural for them to try out their skill and see who was the most adept. It was from these friendly, neighborhood performances that the American cowboy got the idea. He first copied the style and then kept on adding features to the show, making rodeo what it is today.

Luis Ortega  
Santa Barbara, CA



Museum of the Cowboy still has some copies of the show catalog, “Luis Ortega, Master Rawhide Braider,” available. For more information, email them at [bookends@hwy246.net](mailto:bookends@hwy246.net).

# PARAGON FOUNDATION MEMORIALS

---

## **In Memory of Grubbs Munson**

From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

## **In Memory of June McCain**

From Jane & Jonna Lou Schafer of Dell City, TX

## **In Memory of Martha Jones of Dell City, Texas**

From Jane & Jonna Lou Schafer of Dell City, TX

From the Bennett Family of Dell City, TX

From Jim & Martha Coody of Barry, TX

From Jarrold & Debi Rupe of La Luz, NM

From Yvonne Oliver of La Luz, NM

From Jim & Barbara Wagner of La Luz, NM

From Nora Lea Lewis of Dell City, TX

## **In Memory of Bill Stephenson**

### **of Carrizozo, New Mexico**

From Jean, Bebo, Maddy and Linda Lee of Alamogordo, NM

From James & Freddie Everage of Dell City, TX

From Yvonne Oliver of La Luz, NM

From Rick & Kim Lessentine of Tularosa, NM

## **In Memory of Bob Jones of Dell City, Texas**

From Carl Lane Johnson of Tatum, NM

From Barbara Springer of Cloudcroft, NM

From Rick & Belinda Wilson of Lancaster, CA

From Mr. & Mrs. Walter Greeman of Tishomingo, OK

From Don & Abby Hofman of Tucumcari, NM

From Stanley & Nelda Mayfield of Sonora, TX

From Stella Montoya of La Plata, NM

From Derry Brownfield Show of Centertown, MO

From Staff & Trustees of Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library of Midland, TX

From Mark & JoAnn Wilkinson of Sonora, TX

From Robert Homer & Associates of Albuquerque, NM

From Jimmy Bason of Hillsboro, NM

From Bill & Carol Humphries of Tucumcari, NM

From Thomas & Ann Mobley of Dona Ana, NM

From Joe Max & Mary Walker of Albany, TX

From Mike & Diann Lee of Azle, TX

From Jarrold & Debi Rupe of La Luz, NM

From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

From Eduardo & Barbara Barraza of Tularosa, NM

From Yvonne Oliver of La Luz, NM

From James Ray & Freddie Everage of Dell City, TX

From the Pruiett Family of Alamogordo, NM

From Caren Cowen of Albuquerque, NM

From New Mexico Cattle Growers of Albuquerque, NM

From Jim & Barbara Wagner of La Luz, NM

From Mr. & Mrs. John Anderson of Gail, TX

From Jim & Martha Coody of Barry, TX

From Virginia Brownfield of El Paso, TX

From Lauren Nunn of Deming, NM

From Nora Lea Lewis of Dell City, TX

From David Coody of Hewitt, TX

From Ramona Morrison of Sparks, NV

From Jane & Jonna Lou Schafer of Dell City, TX

From Buddy Bennett & Family of Dell City, TX

## **In Memory of Fritz Jones of Dell City, Texas**

From Barbara Springer of Cloudcroft, NM

From Joe Max & Mary Walker of Albany, TX

From Jarrold & Debi Rupe of La Luz, NM

From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

From Yvonne Oliver of La Luz, NM

From James Ray & Freddie Everage of Dell City, TX

From Jim & Barbara Wagner of La Luz, NM

From Jim & Martha Coody of Barry, TX

From Virginia Brownfield of El Paso, TX

From Nora Lea Lewis of Dell City, TX



# PARAGON FOUNDATION MEMORIALS

---

From David Coody of Hewitt, TX  
From Jane & Jonna Lou Schafer of Dell City, TX  
From Buddy Bennett & Family of Dell City, TX

**In Memory of John and Jane Reynolds  
of Santa Barbara , California**  
From Bill Reynolds of Solvang, CA

**In Memory of Dorothy Jennings  
of La Plata, New Mexico**  
From Robert Jennings of La Plata, NM  
From Stella Montoya of La Plata, NM

**In Memory of Charles Devine of Artesia, New Mexico**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Frank Devine of Artesia, New Mexico**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Andy Lewis**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM  
From Virginia Brownfield of El Paso, TX

**In Memory of Lavade Dean Lewis**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Hugh Kincaid of Carlsbad, New Mexico**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Lucille Marr of Tularosa, New Mexico**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Lincoln & Tempie Cox  
of Hope, New Mexico**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Ernest Harwell Sr. of Pinon, New Mexico**  
From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Ernest Harwell Jr. of Pinon, New Mexico**

From Slim & Alvaree Stewart of Weed, NM

**In Memory of Linda Parker of Beaver, Oklahoma**  
From Steve Parker of Beaver, OK  
From Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Parker of Shawnee, OK  
From Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Scott of Seminole, OK  
From Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Parker of Keller, TX  
From Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Hettich of Granger, WA

**In Memory of Wayne and Helen Hage**  
From Maxine Korman of Hinsdale, MT

**In Memory of Charles Fielding Cleve**  
From Virginia Brownfield of El Paso, TX

**In Memory of Regis McSherry of Deming, New Mexico**  
From Lauren Nunn of Deming, NM

**In Memory of Margerite Benedict  
of Deming, New Mexico**  
From Lauren Nunn of Deming, NM

**In Memory of Dick Carver of Tonapah, Nevada**  
From Duane Sandin of Yakima, WA

**In Memory of Col. GB West**  
From Sue Foxwell of Cambridge, MD

**In Memory of Major Grover Brown**  
From Sue Foxwell of Cambridge, MD

**In Memory of Bobby Sunratt of Clint, Texas**  
From Gary Crossland of El Paso, TX

**In Honor of Orpha Miller Wingfield**  
From Jane & Jonna Lou Schafer of Dell City, TX

**In Honor of Richard Lewis**  
From Jane & Jonna Lou Schafer of Dell City, TX



# OUT THERE

---



*photo by William Reynolds*

Road trip! Our own Marilyn Fisher entertained the PARAGON troops with a visit to the incredible Reagan Ranch above Santa Barbara. From left: Ramona Morrison and young Paul, Associate Editor Nicole Krebs, Kristin Morrison, Stephany and Daniel Martinez and GB Oliver.

# RIDING FOR THE PARAGON BRAND

[www.paragonfoundation.org](http://www.paragonfoundation.org)



**Join Team PARAGON  
and ride for the brand!**



The New Team PARAGON Shirts are 100% made in America – down to the thread and the buttons. Available in cobalt blue, white and sandstone.

**S M L XL - \$75.00**





**BOHLIN**

SINCE 1920

(800) 823-8340 • [WWW.BOHLINMADE.COM](http://WWW.BOHLINMADE.COM)

SWISS MADE, HAND ENGRAVED, STAINLESS STEEL, DIAMOND DIAL

SADDLEMAKERS  
&  
SILVERSMITHS