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THE 20TH ANNUAL
COLORADO
COWBOY
POETRY
GATHERING

Wednesday through Sunday
January 14-18, 2009

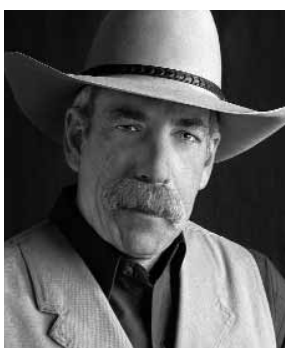
PERFORMERS'
BIOGRAPHIES

Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities
6901 Wadsworth Boulevard
Arvada, Colorado 80003
720-898-7200
www.arvadacenter.org



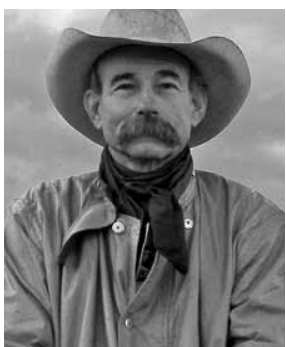
ELI BARSİ of Rockaway Beach, Missouri, is a full time musical cowgirl, growing up on a ranch and once living the western life, she now travels internationally singing and writing about this lifestyle. She is an award winning recording artist originally from the prairies of Saskatchewan Canada now based out of the Ozarks of Missouri. She has recorded ten CDs, released numerous charting radio hits, and had three videos on

CMT. Her show is lively family fun, a true western experience - with smooth vocals, great yodeling, strong musicianship, compelling originals, and tasteful standards all paying tribute to our Western Heritage.



BILL BARWICK of Denver, Colorado, is hailed as a cowboy's cowboy-song singer, and accompanied by superb guitar work, Bill's singing, songwriting and storytelling are a performance not to be missed. Nominated 2008 Western Music Male Vocalist of the Year, by both the Academy of Western Artists and the Western Music Association. Bill appears regularly at Denver's historic Buckhorn Exchange. You might

also recognize him as the on-air spokesperson for Encore television's Westerns Channel, or the numerous radio and TV ads he's done. An award-winning entertainer and songwriter, Bill's albums all feature great western music and that deep, rich voice.



BAXTER BLACK of Benson, Arizona, can shoe a horse, string a bob wire fence and bang out a Bob Wills classic on his flat top guitar. Cowboy poet, and former large animal veterinarian, he was raised in New Mexico, spent his workin' life in the mountain west tormenting cows, now he travels the country tormenting cowboys. He still doesn't own a television

or a cell phone, and his idea of a modern convenience is Velcro chaps. Since 1982, Baxter Black has been rhyming his way into the national spotlight. He's written several books, recorded over a dozen audio and video tapes, CDs and DVDs, and has achieved notoriety as a syndicated columnist, radio commentator, and more recently with his TV program *Out There* on RFD-TV. From the *Tonight Show* and PBS to NPR and the NFR, Baxter's wacko verse has been seen and heard by millions. He can be followed nationwide through his column, National Public Radio, public appearances, television and also through his books, CDs, videos and website, www.baxterblack.com.



JERRY BROOKS (Brooksie) of Sevier, Utah, still likes reciting poetry – mostly cowboy poetry! She was raised in New England where she worked on horse farms schooling green jumpers. Having the wanderlust of youth, she headed west and fell in love with the beauty of south central Utah and the Tushar Mountains. Retired after 26 years as an underground coalmine foreman, she's perfectly happy to caretake an 80-acre

stretch of Clear Creek Canyon, encourage water to run downhill, cut firewood, and shoot whistle pigs. Brooksie has been featured on compilations CDs produced by the Bar-D Ranch (CowboyPoetry.com). She's nearly finished with her first solo project, a CD called ***Shoulder to Shoulder*** – her recitations of classic western poetry which includes Buck Ramsey's masterpiece *Anthem*.



DEB CARPENTER-NOLTING of Bushnell, Nebraska, had Nebraska homesteaders for great-grandparents, and Deb was raised with a great appreciation of family history as well as the history of place. Deb, a teacher by trade, has taught in one-room schools, high school and college classes on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and composition classes at Chadron State College in Nebraska. Married to

gifted Western poet Tim Nolting, she currently teaches English and College Composition classes at Gering High School. Deb is also a freelance writer, poet, songwriter, and performing artist; a proud mother of two grown daughters, and a breast cancer survivor.



JON CHANDLER of Commerce City, Colorado, is a Spur Award-winning author and a unique singer of the West. He has performed across the country, from Washington D.C. to San Antonio, from the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko. Known as a superb wordsmith, his new CD, ***The Grand Dame of the Rockies*** was released in December to rave reviews. The

host of *America's Soul Live!*, a televised monthly concert series, he is the recipient of the 2009 Editors' Choice Best of the West Award as Best Living Solo Musician of the West from *True West Magazine*. Together with **Ernie Martinez** and **Butch Hause**, they are The Wichitones. Jon has recorded many musical albums and has authored many books.



DORIS DALEY of Turner Valley, Alberta, Canada, comes from a gene pool in Southern Alberta that includes Mounties, cowboys, desperados, fancy two-steppers, sorry team ropers, and good pie makers. She comes to the festival this year with a brand new CD, ***Beneath a Western Sky***. Play these poems to your calves

and watch them gain weight! Doris has been an emcee and featured poet at every cowboy festival in Canada and many in the United States. She is one of only three Canadian cowboy poets who has never roped a bear. Doris has many additional CDs available.



JACK DeWERFF of Mesa, Arizona, has spent his entire life around horses, cattle, and cowboys. His working days were in the farming and livestock industry and although now retired, he's still a cowboy and pursues those interests whenever possible. Jack started writing poems about his observations over the years. He has shared his observations at

most of the cowboy poetry gatherings around the country and with groups ranging from annual meetings of major corporations to private birthday parties. Some of his poems are true, some are partly true, and "them that ain't, outta be."



DUANE DICKINSON of Scobey, Montana, was born on a small ranch in the northeastern corner of that state. He began learning traditional cowboy songs and sentimental Victorian ballads from his father, and has some 350 songs in his head. His fellow performers highly respect him as one of the best sources of the old cowboy songs and many consider him

a national treasure. With song-collecting as a hobby, Duane ranched near Ryegate, Montana, until 1996, when he sold the ranch and semi-retired. He still owns an impressive fleet of antique farm implements! Duane has recorded several cassettes of both popular and obscure material and a CD, ***When the Work's All Done This Fall***.



ELIZABETH EBERT of Lemmon, South Dakota, is a retired rancher and recent widow. Her beloved husband of 63 years, SJ, passed away last summer. Elizabeth was a closet poet until 1989, and has since recited at gatherings from California to Boston and from Canada to Texas. Elizabeth work is preserved in a book entitled ***Crazy Quilt*** and a CD ***Live from Thunder Hawk***.

She also appears on several compilation CDs. Two of her poems have even been set to music! She was given the Academy of Western Artists Award for Female Poet in 2001. She was featured at the Denver Storytelling Conference. Elizabeth's new book, ***Prairie Wife*** is fresh off the press!



MIKE FLEMING of Santa Clarita, California, grew up in Colorado where he developed his performance and songwriting skills in theater and music, including several years as a Barnstormer at the Country Dinner Playhouse. He has been described by reviewers as "a creative and perceptive songwriter" whose work is "among the most innovative in Western Music." Mike has won the

Academy of Western Artists Will Rogers - Best Western Swing Song award for *Sometimes This Old Cowboy Gets the Blues*, as well as the WMA/Song of the Year and AWA Best Song with co-writer, Les Buffham, for *Below the Kinney Rim*. His band New West won the 1999 Will Rogers Award for Best Western Group.



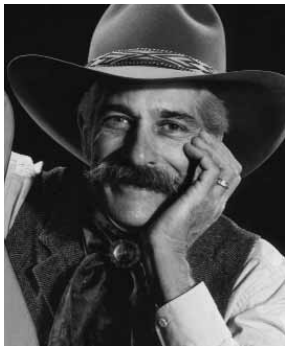
MARK GARDNER of Cascade, Colorado, and REX RIDEOUT of Conifer, Colorado, have been performing the historic music of the American West for over 25 years. They approach "cowboy" music as historians and musicologists, consulting rare diaries and journals, early sheet music,

vintage recordings, and oral sources. In their performances and recordings, they feature vintage instruments and use historic playing styles. In 2008, the New Mexico Humanities Council sent Mark & Rex on a concert tour of New Mexico in celebration of the centennial of the publication of the first book of cowboy ballads, Jack Thorp's ***Songs of the Cowboys***. Thorp's songbook was printed in Estancia, New Mexico, in 1908. The tour involved concerts in nine New Mexico communities, as well as special performances for elementary and high school students and senior citizens. When all was said and done, Mark & Rex had traveled 2,715 miles and consumed gallons of green chili.



PEGGY GODFREY of Moffat, Colorado, has been ranching for 35 years - the past twenty in the San Luis Valley of south central Colorado. Composting disasters has provided a fertile medium for sprouting poems and stories, her personal variation on value-added agriculture. For the past four years, she has worked with a local non-profit producing a ranching heritage video project featuring local ranch folks and ranching

activities season by season. During the past couple of years, she gained experiential evidence that her poetry exposing arrogance and greed does not set well with the afflicted; however, poets usually get the last word! Peggy's first performance as a cowboy poet was here at the Arvada Center.



SID HAUSMAN of Tesuque, New Mexico, writes songs of folk and Western Americana, and is a strong instrumentalist playing banjo, 12-string banjo, baritone ukulele, harmonica, and bones. He tours throughout the United States doing concerts and workshops. This troubadour has also performed five times at the Edinburgh Folk Festival in Scotland. Sid has written and illustrated two children's books

with companion CDs titled **One Bullfrog** and **Cactus Critter Bash**. His songs and stories reflect his experience with Native Americans, the influence of Hispanic culture, and the rural environment of the Southwest.



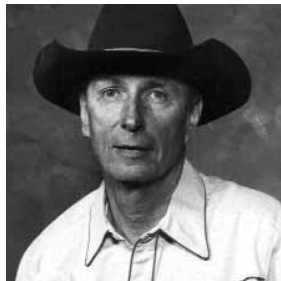
BRENN HILL of Hooper, Utah, is a singer/songwriter who creates music that not only pays homage to Western music's finest traditions, but also serves as a passport to today's Mountain West. There's a certain mystique surrounding the West that has continued to fascinate people for centuries. It's reflected in the rugged beauty of the land and the spirit of its people. It's those compelling landscapes that are

brought vividly to life in the music of Brenn Hill. Brenn does just that again on his sixth album, **What A Man's Got To Do**, a potent collection of songs filled with interesting characters and eagle-eyed observations on life, love, and the indomitable western spirit.



YVONNE HOLLENBECK of Clearfield, South Dakota, and her husband, Glen, own and operate a working cattle ranch where she actively participates in every duty involved with its operation. Her poetry is a reflection of this life, although an occasional event or memory may also stir her creativity. Yvonne is the number one award-winning cowgirl poet in America, one of the most published cowgirl poets in the West,

and is the only person to have won both the Humorous and Serious Categories in the World's Only Cowboy Poetry Rodeo. The title track of her CD, **What Would Martha Do?** was the most requested poem on radio. Yvonne and Jean Prescott have just won the Best Collaboration award from the Western Music Association.



BOB HUFF of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, was one of the poets who participated in the first Arvada Gathering twenty years ago and has returned frequently as a featured performer. His poems reflect ranch life in southwest Colorado and packing in the San Juan Mountains. Some poems are intended to be humorous while others are quite serious - he hopes

the audience can tell the difference. As the years advance, his pack trips and rides have gotten shorter. He still monitors a 30,000-acre grazing unit for the Forest Service. Days up in the forest on a good old horse by himself are still some of the best that life can provide.



LESLIE KELTNER of Cody, Wyoming, comes from a family so "cowboy" that both of her daughters were born with cowlicks! The Keltners live in the beautiful Southfork Valley near Yellowstone Park. They have lived every aspect of the western life from rodeos to ranches, farming to feedlots, mountain trails to desert pastures. Leslie is a campfire cook, a cow-

boy poet, western songstress, occasional yodeler, washtub-bass-playin' guitar-pickin' teller of tales, and keeper of history. She is a frequent featured guest performer on Cody's newly established weekly radio show **Comfort Food, Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes for Your Mind**. Leslie has performed at poetry and music gathering and ranching events throughout the West.



JILL JONES of Driftwood, Texas, grew up on a ranch in the Texas hill country where the family raised horses. Her love for horses and music combined over twenty years ago. As a solo performer or with her group, The Lone Star Chorale, she is now a veteran of cowboy gatherings across the county. Her band was featured on **A Prairie Home Companion** in 2000 and they won the 2002 Academy of

Western Artists Cowboy Group of the Year Award. Jill is also an award winning yodeler and is currently in a musical play with Ray Benson and Asleep At the Wheel called **A Ride With Bob**, a tribute to the western swing legend Bob Wills.

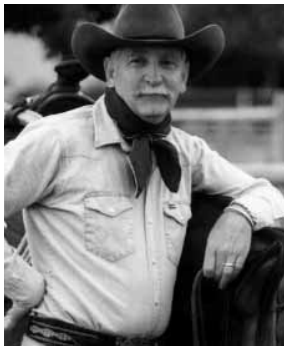


CHUCK LARSEN of Saratoga, Wyoming, grew up on a farm in South Dakota where he had ample opportunity to "do it all" when it came to working livestock. Although Chuck's day job takes up most of his time, he still lends a hand on near-by ranches. In his "spare time", he keeps busy ridin' colts, fixin' fence and packin' a string of mules into the high country. Chuck's unique style

of writing and performing his poetry will allow you to "visualize" his cowboyin' experiences. **Blue Cowboy Moon** and Chuck's latest recording **Stock Tank Reflections** are available on CD, and his book **You're Gonna Get A Kick Outta This** would be a great addition to your cowboy poetry collection.



LIZ MASTERON of Denver, Colorado, has, since 1982, been recognized as a "trail blazer" in the revival of western music. Her distinctive singing, yodeling and expertise as a Master of Ceremonies, has earned her acclaim throughout North America. In 2007, she yodeled on the Discovery Channel's *Mythbusters* in the episode on Avalanches! Liz specializes in concerts, folk festivals, agricultural events, cowboy poetry gathering cultural centers and educational programs. Past venues include the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, and the Lincoln Center in New York City. Liz toured 38 states and recorded six albums of western and swing music with the late, great Sean Blackburn. Now, on a new frontier, she has just released her seventh CD, **Roads to Colorado**, aimed at the hearts of travelers and homebodies. She performs solo, and with various musical partners.



GARY McMAHAN of Bellvue, Colorado, is known for his award-winning songs, hilarious humor, captivating stories, and national championship yodeling. Artists such as Ian Tyson, Garth Brooks, Chris LeDoux, and Riders in the Sky have recorded his songs. Gary's poetry isn't the stuff you hated in high school. On the contrary, his simple style embodies what many believe to be the heart of the new West. McMahan comes by his cowboy heritage naturally – he was born into it and has ridden, wrangled, and roped all over the West, always collecting reflections. Those reflections are the backbone of all his songs, stories, and poems. Gary was one of the driving forces involved getting our gathering started in 1990.



AL "DOC" MEHL of Boulder, Colorado, traces his family roots to central Kansas, where his grandfather raised six children on the family homestead. From the tales of his family's experiences, "Doc" Mehl weaves the history and the mystery of the West into his original poetry and music. He has performed in cowboy poetry festivals from El Paso to Cheyenne. His debut music CD is titled **Asphalt Cowboy**, a second music CD titled **I'd Rather Be...** was released in 2008, and he has also published a CD of original poetry titled **Cowboy Pottery**. His poems have been featured on the website www.CowboyPoetry.com, and his recordings are available at www.cdbaby.com.



JACKIE MORGAN of Pinedale, Wyoming, is a true westerner! When her great-grandma Maggie Duffy transplanted herself from New York to homestead just south of Denver, little did she know just how deep those Western roots would grow. Jackie's granddad broke horses for the original owner of the Highland Ranch. Her grandmother's spurs hang in her living room; her Dad rode broncs at Calgary; her brother rode in Autry's European Wild West Show. Jackie's daughters are "horse poor" and her granddaughter rodeos. Her mother wrote the family history and Jackie writes its poetry. Jackie puts an Irish Blessing on you - one and all: "May the Frost Forever Ignore your Spuds!"



ANDY NELSON of Pinedale, Wyoming, is a second-generation farrier whose experience, talents, and humor bring authenticity and entertainment to an audience. In 2006, Andy was named the Western Music Association's Male Poet of the Year. He performs frequently throughout the U.S. and has been a featured performer at many gatherings. Recently Andy has added CD Producer to his resume and has assisted "technically-challenged" western performers record their work for posterity. Andy and his brother Jim host a weekly syndicated radio show *Clear Out West (C.O.W.) Radio* and have been named DJ's of the Year by the Western Music Association and the Academy of Western Artists. Andy's new book **Jonah** combines Andy's poetry with stunning photography.



JOHN NELSON of Gunnison, Colorado, is at home on horseback leading a pack string in the Colorado wilderness or down a remote Four Corners canyon. For 30 years, John has operated the Gunnison Country Guide Service. In the early days of that career, he often worked as a ranch hand and range rider during the off-season of the outfitting business. In the late 1980s, he began writing and reciting cowboy poetry to entertain guests and wranglers in the backcountry. Since then, he has performed for numerous gatherings, other events, guest ranches, radio and TV, and has had his work published in a poetry CD and DVD, both called, **Word Wranglin' and Rhymin'**.



NEW WEST of California, is all about NEW Western music. Founded in 1995, this dynamic trio performs songs that pay tribute to the rancher, the vaquero and the men and women of the American West. The band features award winning songwriter, **Mike Fleming**, renowned lead guitarist and mandolin player, **Raul Reynoso**, and the incredibly

talented **Dave Jackson** on bass. Since their debut they have garnered three best song awards from the Academy of Western Artists and The Western Music Association and the Will Rogers Award for Best Western Group. New West toured the Midwest in 2003 and 2004 and has been a featured act at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield Kansas, The Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival in Southern California, and the Strawberry Music Festival in Northern California.



TIM NOLTING, of Bushnell, Nebraska, is a western and cowboy poet who has been a regular performer in cowboy poetry circles for over 20 years. He has become well known for his traditional cowboy poetry. Tim's poetry ranges from the wildly humorous to the quiet contemplations of a cowboy and his life. He has been a featured poet at gatherings throughout the west in Nevada,

Wyoming, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Arizona and Colorado. Tim has been honored as the 2004 Colorado State Fair Champion Cowboy Poet and as the 2005 All-Around Cowboy Entertainer in Estes Park, Colorado. Tim performed at our very first Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering.



O'BRIEN FAMILY BAND of Evergreen, Colorado, lays claim to being, "The Family that Entertains Families." Their energetic mix of Western/Cowboy, hot-pickin', yodeling, original tunes and even a little bluegrass keeps toes tapping and lips smiling. If you haven't seen the O'Brien's for a while, get ready for some changes. **Kyle** (18) is

now the tall one (6'5") with flashy mandolin, guitar, and fiddle playing. **Maura** (15) plays fiddle and banjo, sings, and delights audiences with her championship yodeling. Mom, **Janette**, sings and plays the "dog-house" bass and Dad, **Dan**, sings, plays guitar, and writes many of the band's tunes. Maura and Kyle are both Western Music Association International Youth Yodeling Champions. Having been home-schooled until recently, this is the only year they are both attending public school together - Kyle is a senior and Maura is a freshman at Evergreen High School. They are both singing and picking better than ever.



GWEN PETERSEN of Big Timber, Montana, has been dealing with the foibles of cows, sheep, pigs, and miniature horses for over 40 years. She is surprised to learn she is 80 years old! In her "dotage," she has taken up guitar pickin', singin', and writing songs and song parodies. Her advice: "Get outta the way, here she comes!" Gwen writes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays, and a weekly humor column. Her book *How to Shovel Manure and Other Life Lessons for the Country Woman* won an award from the Midwest Independent Publishers Association. Her career highlights include an appearance on the *Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson. Gwen plans to have fun until the end of the trail...and beyond!



JEAN PRESCOTT of Ovalo, Texas, is a nationally acclaimed singer/songwriter whose music is described as "the spiritual essence of the west." A multiple award-winner, she is one of the nation's top western singers. With her rich melodious voice, Jean captivates and delights her audiences with songs about the cowboys and cowgirls of the American West. Whether on a concert stage or around the campfire, folks find

themselves tapping their toes to her original and classic cowboy songs. Jean and husband, singer/songwriter Gary Prescott, carry on the ranching tradition in West Texas, raising quarter horses and several spoiled dogs and cats. She has a brand new gospel album, *Whisperings of Jesus*.



CHUCK PYLE of Palmer Lake, Colorado, is admired as a sly humorist and an innovative guitarist. He has performed for the Colorado Legislature, on Austin City Limits, and at Bill Gates' home. An accomplished songwriter, Chuck's songs have been recorded by John Denver, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Suzy Bogguss. Country fans know him best for writing, *Cadillac Cowboy*, recorded by the late Chris

LeDoux, and *Jaded Lover*, recorded by Jerry Jeff Walker. He also wrote and performed the theme song for the PBS series *Spirit of Colorado*. Pyle has ten albums to his credit, including his most recent CD, *Higher Ground - Songs of Colorado*.



RIDERS IN THE SKY of Nashville, Tennessee, are truly exceptional. By definition, empirical data, and critical acclaim, they stand "hats & shoulders" above the rest of the purveyors of C & W - "Comedy & Western!" For over thirty years, Riders In The Sky have been keepers of the flame passed on by the Sons of the Pioneers, Gene

Autry, and Roy Rogers, reviving and revitalizing Western music. And while remaining true to the integrity of the genre, they have themselves become modern-day icons by branding it with their own legendary wacky humor and way-out Western wit, and all along encouraging buckaroos and buckarettes to live life "The Cowboy Way!" Riders In The Sky are stars of the stage, screen, the Grand Ole Opry, National Public Radio, XM Satellite Radio, Saturday morning TV, and are the only exclusively Western artist to have won a Grammy Award. They truly are "America's Favorite Cowboys!"



OTTO ROSFELD of Valentine, Nebraska, was born and raised in Rushville, Nebraska, in what is known by literary people as Sandoz country. A balladeer, poet, and storyteller, Otto has a bachelor of music degree from Chadron State College with graduate hours from schools in Greeley, Colorado, and Kearney, Nebraska. After more than 30 years as a public school teacher, Otto took early retirement to pursue his love for the performing arts on a full time basis. An independent scholar and musician, he has been performing his programs since the early 1990s.



JOHN SCHAFFNER, of Wray, Colorado, was born and raised in Louisiana, and learned the art of cowboyin' from a genuine old time cowboy named Carter Wailes (born in 1882.) For many years, John has been sharing the cowboy culture with others around the country through his original cowboy poetry as well as the old classic poems that were actually written as the West was being settled. He has his own chuckwagon

from which he serves up some of the best cowboy grub in all the west. He often performs at Michael Martin Murphey's "Westfest" and various cowboy gatherings across North America. John is an auctioneer and a real estate broker licensed in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska.



GEORGIE SICKING of Kaycee, Wyoming, grew up with horses and cattle in rugged northern Arizona, and they have been her life. She drew a cowboy's pay on many big outfits, ran mustangs, ranched in several states, and reared a daughter and two sons. She's earned the Gail Gardener Working Cowboy Poet Award from Prescott, the Pioneer Woman Award from the National Cowboy Symposium, National Cowgirl Hall

of Fame induction, and the 100,000 Miles on Horseback plaque from Nevada Cattlemen's Association. In her mid-80's and legally blind, she still rides her horses. Three books and an award-winning documentary film celebrate her life.



SONS AND BROTHERS of Westcliffe, Colorado, consists of brothers **Mike, Aaron, and Joe**, and their uncle **Fred**. They recently lost their father Frank to cancer - a loss also felt by their many friends at this gathering as well as the Western and Bluegrass worlds internationally. Together they present songs of mountains and range with their string band music, powerful vocals, and a Western attitude. The band

has traveled, with great success, to concerts and festivals in numerous states over the past eight years, as well as Scotland, England and Wales. According to Dave Higgs, columnist for "Bluegrass Now" magazine, "It's not only Sons and Brothers powerful paint-peeling vocals that make them one of the most strikingly original band in Bluegrass, but it's their sound...an arresting brand of Bluegrass, flavored by the wide open spaces, grandeur and panoramic majesty of the West." Waddie Mitchell says "Seldom does such a talented group get presented to the public. Likewise, seldom does one family possess such a talent, work ethic, faith and determination as do the Wolklings, who are the Sons and Brothers!"



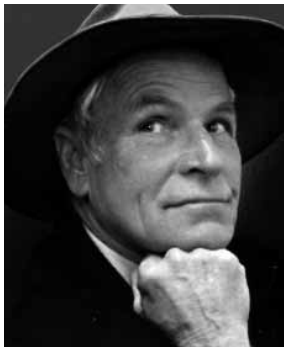
DAVE STAMEY of Nipomo, California, has been named "the Charley Russell of Western Music" by *Cowboy and Indians Magazine*. Dave has been stepped on by mules and dragged around branding pens by cattle of many sizes. He has been a cowboy, a mule packer, a dude wrangler, and is now one of the most popular Western entertainers working today. He finds he prefers this to being

stomped by angry horses. Dave has been voted Entertainer of the Year, Male Performer of the Year, and Songwriter of the Year by the Western Music Association; and Male Vocalist of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists. Dave has a number of CDs available.



SWEETHEARTS IN CARHARTTS - In 2006, **Jean Prescott** recorded a CD of songs honoring ranch wives. Most of the songs were written by ranch women, including five songs co-written by Jean and **Yvonne Hollenbeck**. D. W.

Groethe, cowboy poet/singer wrote the title cut. **Liz Masterson** sang harmony on the project and **Sweethearts in Carhartts** the CD and group came into being. Their spontaneity and camaraderie is contagious and the harmony and magic they bring to the stage is perfectly delightful! Women contributing to the project include **Doris Daley**, **Georgie Sicking**, and others. This concept project and group was born out of friendships made at cowboy poetry gatherings over the years making both a unique and complimentary mix of stories, relationships and history. **Julia Hays** will add her stunning fiddling to the Friday night concert.



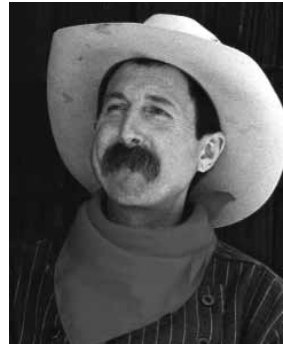
MILTON TAYLOR of Hartley, New South Wales, Australia, is "back home" again at Arvada. He brings a breath of difference with his Australian bush poetry; same language, different accent, but identical in sentiment as the local product. Multi-times winner of the Australian Bush Poetry title, he presents his own work as well as that of his contemporary colleagues, plus that of the classic writers such as Banjo Paterson.

His themes cover the complete range of emotions from the ludicrous thru to the tragic. He is very pleased to be able to offer you his latest CD ***I Love You*** at this year's gathering.



DIANE TRIBITT of Hillman, Minnesota, is a rancher, mother of four, and grandmother of four. She is also the Senior Executive Editor of *I.M. Cowgirl* magazine, runs a grain bin construction business; writes cowboy poetry, makes lariat and leather craft items, and secretaries team roping events at their ranch arena. Diane is the current Poet Lariat Laureate of CowboyPoetry.com and the Academy of Western

Artists 2008 Female Cowboy Poet of the Year. She is an artist-in-residence for the Minnesota Arts Board, and has a new CD in the hopper. Diane loves what she does, and in her spare time she tries to catch a few hours of sleep each night!



POP WAGNER of St. Paul, Minnesota, has performed in 44 states and nine countries for clubs, concerts and festivals. He is a crack fiddler-singer-songwriter-storyteller-dance caller-lariat trick artist. Raised up in Roy Rogers country in Yellow Springs, Ohio, his musical yearning and learning came from

his grandfather's banjo playing and the folk music "boom" of the '60s, and his passion for horses, cowboying and rope tricks along the way. Today, Pop keeps the folk tradition alive with his great performances, endearing recordings and his trusty lariats. He has a new CD called ***Honky Tonk Ranch*** that is receiving major airplay and glowing reviews.



ANGEL VIGIL of Denver, Colorado, is an accomplished author, performer, and teacher. He is a Colorado State Heritage Artist specializing in traditional Hispanic stories. He created an historical character performance for the Colorado Endowment of the Humanities on "Diego Martin, El Vaquero, Stories of America's First Cowboy." His awards include the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education, a

Heritage Artist Award, and a Master Artist Award from the Colorado Council on the Arts. Angel is the author of five award winning books about Hispanic and Western culture.



DICK WARWICK of Oakesdale, Washington, lives amid the Palouse Hills of eastern Washington. There are about 30 horses on his place, but that is his wife, Sue's fault. Dick, in contrast, opted into the lucrative occupation of poet and has performed his material in such diverse places as Eulo, Elko, Kinvara, Denio, Pinjara, Tekoa, Gillette, Katoomba, and Arvada. He draws inspiration from ani-

mals, nature, human interaction and a lifetime's worth of self-inflicted follies. He has produced two books and several recordings, but his best writing was on the bulk tank of a John Deere combine that, unfortunately, was dismantled and sold for scrap.