



Barbwire Dispatch

April, 2015 Newsletter

**A round up of announcements and news from the Alberta Cowboy Poetry Association. Submissions from: all of you. Edited by Judy Dalglish, 1141 Hunterston Hill NW, Calgary, AB T2K 4P1
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SADDLE

Spring is sprung,
The grass is rize
And shows me where
The horse trails is.

I extend warm greetings to all of you as we look towards a new season of warm breezes, sunny days and lots of western entertainment. There are a good number of cowboy poetry gatherings waiting down the trail this year and I am hoping to cross paths with many of you at some of these events.

I have had a visit with Nancy Erickson today and she is with Rod as he fights the big fight against Cancer. He has a large tumor that cannot be removed by surgery due to the presence of excessive bleeding. It has left him unable to communicate and in bed for the most part but they are hopeful that better days are ahead. Your prayers are certainly welcome.

It was my intention when I took over the President's saddle to determine whether it was best for the ACPA to become more professional in its presentation of western entertainment or maintain an amateur stance, inclusive of everyone interested, professional or otherwise. I think I have been in touch with most all of you over the past couple of years and although not all of you are anxious to enter the debate, I have concluded that the vast majority are not in favour of the professional shows. While I do not share this point of view, I do respect it. You will note this year, the Trail's End show will be operated on a much smaller budget and ticket prices reduced substantially. The day shows on Friday and Saturday are free. Just the same, the venue is first class and there is every reason to believe that a great time will be enjoyed. Perry Jacobson has been instrumental in seeking out a grant for advertising and allows us to promote the weekend as much as ever.

I am very proud of the ACPA web site and grateful to Mark McMillan for his direction. It is not something he is compensated for and therefore it is most important that submissions for editing or new entries be forwarded ready for publication. I have acted as an intermediary but am not always able to get the t's crossed and i's dotted. In any event, if you need something fixed, added or whatever to the web site, I am the best one to contact for now.

When I conclude my second term as your President this fall, I have decided that I will not continue as a member of the Executive. I have not put a loop on anyone willing to step up to the task and am very hopeful that between now and Trail's End, Oct 2nd to 4th next, someone will nod their head. It is an honour to represent our Association as its President and I am very grateful to you for the opportunities I have enjoyed. Adios!

Bj Smith, ACPA President



MEMBERSHIP REPORT from Harold Webber, Chairperson



As at the end of March, 2015, there are a total of 191 members in the Alberta Cowboy Poetry Association.

ACPA runs from January to December, so dues are payable in Jan. We are thankful for the renewals we have received. If you are not sure if you are up to date, please contact us, phone 403-638-5125 or email: hywebber@telus.net. We are presently removing Members names from the active list who have not paid for 2014, which means those people will no longer receive the Barbwire Dispatch, updates via email, as well as bio and product will be removed if on the Entertainer's Page on the website.



TREASURER'S REPORT from Linda Colt



ACPA for JANUARY 1, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

Our book bank balance at December 31, 2014 was	\$11,557.35
ACPA General Income Jan.1-Dec.31, 2014	\$1,654.15
ACPA General Expenses Jan.1-Dec 31, 2014	\$976.77
ACPA Net Income General Jan.1-Dec 31, 2014	\$677.38
Trail's End Income Jan.1-Dec.31, 2014	\$7,966.08
Trail's End Expenses Jan.1-Dec.31, 2014	\$10,525.16

Trails End Hall Rental paid in 2013	\$ 2,551.50
Trail's End Net Income Jan.1-Dec.31, 2014	(\$5,110.58) LOSS
Total Income for the period Jan 1-Dec 31, 2014	\$9,620.20
Total Expenses for the period Jan 1-Dec 31, 2014	\$11,501.93
ACPA Total Net Loss	(\$1,881.73)

If anyone would like a copy of detailed Balance Sheet or the Profit and Loss Statement or has any questions, please contact Linda Colt, Treasurer
linda@santafefurnishings.com



EVENTS, SHOWS & GATHERINGS:

Taber Country Jamboree (18th Annual) March 21, 2015, Taber Community Center, 11:30 – 5:00. Tickets available at the door or at the Museum. \$10/Adult, \$5/child (age 6-12), \$25/Family. NC under age 6. Cowboy lunch and desserts available. Entertainment includes Bill Lawson, Teri Valgardson & Gloria Cyr, Los Gringos, **Harry & Jen Zollner**, Bud Stewart, **Jim Peace**, Dean Osen, **Bj Smith, Larry Krause** and Dusty Road. Contact Karen Ingram, phone 403-223-5708, Email: timchim@telusplanet.net

Yodelfest 2015 – 11th Annual – May 9, 2015 @ 1:30 pm, Town & Country Centre, 275 Jensen Drive, Airdrie, AB “Tribute to members of RCMP who have lost their lives while on active duty”. For tickets and info, contact Miriam Dreher at Miriam’s Music, phone 403-928-1961 or Email: yodelgirl@telus.net Features Calgary Swiss Yodel Club, Calgary Swiss dancers, Rising Star – 15-year old Susanne Heysteck from Rocky Mountain House, outstanding fiddle player, Erie Crawford, Vic Nicolls on guitar with Chet Atkins styling, **Robbie Robertson, The Mountie Cowboy Poet**. Multi-award winning **Miriam Dreher** and the Mountaineers close out the show, which has been sold out in previous years. Get tickets early! Advance \$33. At Door \$35, Seniors (Groups of 12) \$30, Children under ten – No Charge.

Alberta’s Men & Women of Country Music May 9, 2015, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Hoadley Community Hall, corner of Highway # 20 & 611, Hoadley, AB
Tickets \$25 in advance to May 12th and \$30 at the door. Concessions available
Contact Shirley at (403) 843-6004, Tickets at Stationery, Stories & Sound, Rimbey, AB
Supper \$13.50/plate – please RESERVE in advance. Great Mother’s Day Event
AWOCM Lifetime Achievement Award – **Alice Sinclair** (ACPA Member)
AMOCM Lifetime Achievement Award – Lou Paul
Special Guest, Cowboy Poet Doris Daley. Line-up also includes Award Winners, **Charlie Ewing** and others

Canadian Rockies Cowboy Festival (10th Annual) – May 22-24th, David Thompson Resort, Nordegg, AB MC **Bj Smith**, Featuring: **Eli Barsi**, Tim Hus, Hanson Family, Pernel Reichert Band, Danny & Susan Gibson, Dwain Sank, Joni Harms. Headliner: Marty Haggard. Evening Dances with 3 Musty Steers. Tickets – Full Weekend with Sat, BBQ (Includes Sunday Show & Dinner) \$200/person; Full Weekend with Sat BBQ (No Sunday show or dinner) \$160/person; Full Weekend (No Sat BBQ or Sunday show or dinner) \$125/person, Kids 6-12 \$50 per person for weekend, Kids under 6 are free. Contact: 1-888-810-2103, 403-721-2103 or www.davidthompsonresort.com

Willow Creek Cowboy Gathering (15th Annual) – July 10-12, 2015, Stavelly Arena, Stavelly, AB Live Cowboy Music & Poetry featuring 11 musicians & 6 poets. Tickets: Weekend Pass \$50, Fri or Sat day pass \$30, Evening only \$20. Free admission for kids 16 and under. Free onsite dry camping; Trade Show, Kids Activities. Entertainers: **Jim Hamilton, Phyllis Rathwell**, Lyn Melanchenko, Morley Thorpe, **Mag Mawhinney, Ed Brown, Abe Zacharias, Larry Krause**, Victor Anderson, Divine Bovines, Bob Peterman, **Sue Harris, Jim Beaudoin, Charlie Ewing, Hugh Kelly**, and **Noel Burles**. Contact Cliff and Audrey Egger, phone 403-549-2453, Email: eggerclaud@gmail.com

Vilna Cowboy Fest (5th Annual) – July 17 – 19th, Vilna Culture Center, 5431 – 50 (Main) Street, Vilna, AB Theme is “Celebrating the Cowgirl” All indoor show, concessions, meals available. Cowboy poetry and music, stagecoach rides outdoors. Featuring: **Eli Barsi, Doris Daley, Bj Smith**, Dennis Landry, Bob Glidden, The Carolines, Adele Johnson, The Command Sisters, Bryn Thiessen. Contact 780-260-0222, www.VilnaAgSociety.com

Stony Plain Cowboy Music & Cowboy Poetry Festival (23rd Annual) August 21-23, 2015, Stony Plain Heritage Park, 5100 – 41 Avenue, Stony Plain, AB Free Camping, Two Show Stages, Concessions, Reining Demos. Featuring: **Gary Fjellgaard, Doris Daley, Bj Smith**, Ol’ Ugly, Allen Christie Band, **Jackson MacKenzie**, The Carolines, Cary Treasure, Russ Graff, Bob Glidden, The Command Sisters. Tickets: Weekend \$55, Friday \$15, Saturday \$40, Sunday \$10. Contact: www.StonyPlainCowboyPoetry.com, phone 780-963-6092

Maple Creek 26th Cowboy Poetry Gathering & Western Art and Cowboy Gear Show, September 18-20th, Maple Creek, SK. Tickets available at Jasper Center Phone 306-662-2434 to reserve your weekend pass, www.maplecreekcowboypoetry.com For other info, contact Eleanor Bowie, 306-558-4428.

ACPA Trail’s End 2015 Cowboy Poetry Gathering – October 2-4, 2015, Full Gospel Church, High River, AB Friday evening \$15, Sat evening \$15, Weekend Pass \$25, Sat evening dinner (Beef Stew & Biscuits) \$20. Note: Day performances are free. Ticket info: 403-946-5482 or 403-652-2761. To pay by Visa, MC or debit, call 403-652-7156 Friday Senior Group ordering: 403-440-9714, Info: acpatrailsend@gmail.com



ACROSS THE CORRALS:



Trail's End Gathering – 10th Annual August 22-24, 2014

Review by Phyllis Rathwell

The Highwood Memorial Center in High River Alberta was once again the site on August 22, 23, 24, 2014, for the APCA's Trail's End Gathering. From the moment Harold Webber capably opened the weekend on Friday as MC, until the last open mike participant finished on Sunday afternoon, audiences were treated to great entertainment. Day sessions were well attended, and featured 90 minute sets of music and poetry that reflected the western way of life. Friday evening saw Robbie Robertson capably handling MC duties as he introduced Fred and Shirley Dobirstein, Mag Mawhinney, Margaret Wilhelm, Ed Brown Bj Smith and High River's own Lewis Peterson. Bj took the reins on Saturday night, capably wrangling Rod Erikson, Phyllis Rathwell, Charlie Ewing and Jim Hamilton before presenting Ed Peekeekoot. Cowboy church was held at the Cultural Centre on Sunday morning, followed by an open mike session at the bandstand in the park. The audience was great, the performers on fire, and the weekend one of the best demonstrations of Cowboy Culture to be had!!

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Just a note to let you know what a wonderful time Fred and I experienced performing and visiting with so many Friends and meeting new ones at the Gathering in High River last weekend. Big THANK YOU to the Executive and the Volunteers for the excellent job you all did with arranging and conducting the whole weekend's activities. Things went so smoothly and was such good entertainment. Good to see High River getting on its feet again after last years problems.

Well done everybody!!

Sincerely, **Fred and Shirley Doberstein**



KAMLOOPS COWBOY FESTIVAL (19th Annual) March 12-15th, 2015

Review by Mark McMillan

Another awesome weekend in Kamloops has come and gone and many folks left with a smile on their face and a "see you next year" as they waved good bye ... after pre-booking their hotel room for next year.

The only negative comments we received were about the buffet food on two of the three nights (those that ate at all three had to compare Friday and Sunday night's meal to a super roast beef dinner Saturday night). We have already addressed this issue and the caterers have assured us they will change things for next year - for the better - beef all three nights (with better variety of side dishes and still with a choice for non beef eaters)!

Entertainment ... wow!! The talent that performed over the four days was amazing! A lot of past year's favourites and a lot of new faces combined to put on a great show and the feedback from the audience was all very positive.

The Art of the West Show and Sale and the Festival Trade Show were two other areas that seemed to ooze with talent. Terrific art entries in sculpture, flat work and photography were displayed all weekend. The Festival Trade Show had booths there celebrating their 19th year as an exhibitor and others were there for the first time - all seemed happy with the results which showed that the public was happy with the products.

We were thrilled to once again have the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia open the show Friday night at the Calvary Church. Her Honour also congratulated the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame inductees and posed with them for a photo at the induction ceremony.

Now on to 20th Anniversary!! Will there be anything special? Hard to say at this point in time other than the fact that we will be bringing back some of the original performers and some of past year's favorites ... and a couple of new faces, too! Keep an eye on www.bcchs.com for updates as we get closer to March of 2016 and you can find a link here to some of the 2015 photos by Donna Smith.

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Fan Report: We took the weekend off and went out to Kamloops for the festival. I think it was really great, ACPA performers and top hands from south of the medicine line, fiddle player from northern Canada, an outstanding harmonica music maker that tore the house down. Even good poetry from Australia, long but very interesting stories. Poetry and song competition had some good material written and song or cited to be judged.

Artists and crafts on display, again the best and a lot for the lady folk, saddles and gear for every grade of horse wrangler and cowman. Lots of old friends to visit and lots of new friends to make. A time well spent, well worth the drive, if the weather and roads are good! (My view) thanks!

If the roads and weather are good next spring, we just may go again; some ACPA fans were there as well and should be praised also. (**Harold & Yvonne Webber**)



Taber Country Jamboree (18th Annual) March 23, 2015 -

Report by Karen Ingram

Fog at 5:00a.m., crisp and clear by 7:00a.m. March 23rd, Saturday morning was made for our Country Jamboree. The Board members and volunteers from the Taber & District Museum Society had worked hard Friday afternoon and had the Community Centre all

decked out. A country kitchen, complete with a cowboy in the bathtub and bubbles galore could be found at the bottom of the stairs.

Vendors arrived bright and early to set up their wares, selling everything from jewellery, leather items, barn wood frames and decors, denim slippers, purses and clothing as well as rag rugs and books. I had all my money spent before the entertainment even started.

A visitor to Taber for a Bowling Tournament wandered in and asked if he could entertain. Not having an open mike session planned he was originally told no, he persevered and ended up on stage with a borrowed guitar, performing on his own as well as with some of the other performers.

Music, Cowboy Poetry, Story Telling, a Cowboy lunch of Stew or Chili and an assortment of desserts as well as shopping - what more could a person ask for? The answer to that question might be Door Prizes, a Raffle and a 50/50 draw. Rest assured those were all available at this Jamboree. A full day of entertainment, food and fun for a mere \$10.00. Money going to help support the Taber Museum.

Come again next year!



Editor's Note: It's been awhile since our last Barbwire Dispatch, so we've tried to bring you up to date on some important issues in this edition, as well as current news

GO-INGS ON:



Pincher Creek Event has Ended

Press Release December 10, 2014

Best of the West Weekend – formerly Pincher Creek's Cowboy Poetry Gathering - closes its doors for the last time. The Best of the West Weekend – formerly Pincher Creek's Cowboy Poetry Gathering – has been forced to close its doors because there are too few volunteers to keep the event going. Several ways have been tried to increase the volunteer base for this popular event, but none of them yielded anywhere near the number of volunteers needed to mount an event of this sort. The decision was reached very reluctantly after a great deal of heart searching, but the organizing committee felt that they had no choice. Last year's successful Best of the West Weekend event was put on by a tiny crew of volunteers, who went above and beyond the call of duty to live up to

their commitment to put on the event, and who ended up close to exhaustion at the event's close after Cowboy Church on the Sunday morning. And there was still the take down of the stage, lights, scenery, audience seating and all the rest of it to do. Unsurprisingly, this tiny corps of volunteers felt unable to take on quite so much again. Many of them had been there at the very start almost 30 years ago, and have found it very hard to let go: hopes were high that after the success of BOTWW 2014 more volunteers would come forward, but it was not to be.

The Pincher Creek Cowboy Poetry Gathering was the first of its kind in Canada, in the early 1980s. It became incredibly successful, and was much imitated. Pincher Creek helped to give a start to entertainers such as Corb Lund and other currently well-known names. In recent years there had been a downturn in attendance, and BOTWW 2014 was the first in what was hoped would be a series of increasingly successful events with a new look, following on from the previous success. The plan was to reach a new and younger audience to ensure the future of a Western entertainment event for Pincher Creek.

BOTWW 2014 was a success, showing a financial profit and a pleasing number of new and younger attendees, including children for whom had been laid on pony rides, face painting and wagon rides. As well as some old favourites, some new-to-Pincher Creek performers were showcased; some young, some in their prime, who were very well received by the audience. Change can be scary for some people, but overall, the comments that were received by word of mouth from both audience and performers, in the Press (including the Toronto Star) and on the web were extremely favourable: all of which was very encouraging to the organizers. It is very sad to see this historic and successful event being shut down because there is not enough local support to keep it going.

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Contact: Janet Barkwith

Email: bestofthewestweekend@yahoo.com

The Ponoka Legion Cowboy Poetry and Music Event, which was held in June at the Royal Canadian Legion, and a great kick off to the legendary Ponoka Stampede and Chuckwagon races has also been cancelled. This is a shame, as this event always featured ACPA members. Committee member, **Reg Rust**, said there were no new volunteers to help set up the venue, and age of the previous volunteers was catching up. They couldn't do it without an infusion of new blood willing to help.

Friends, we are saddened to see any of these events not proceed due to a lack of willing volunteers. Hopefully, some of you will be inspired to step up and contribute to keep such events going in the future. The same volunteers each and every time eventually do get worn out, and need your help! And a great big "thanks" to those who have kept things going at other venues.

Editor's Note: Since our last newsletter, we are pleased to congratulate several of our members for recognition in their respective fields:

Congratulations to **Alice Sinclair** who will receive a lifetime achievement award from the Alberta Women of Country Music event on May 9th at the Hoadley Community Hall. Details on the event are in the Events section of the newsletter

In September, **Miriam Dreher** announced that she had just released my latest CD "The Best of Yodels" with some traditional and some originals dedicated to my son that passed away with a massive heart attack in his sleep on May 1st at the age of 55. The CD consists of 15 songs, including "The Songbirds Are Singing in Heaven", composed two days after his passing and is becoming very popular. All proceeds will be directed to a music scholarship in memory of him. Anyone wanting this CD can contact Miriam at (403) 948-1961 or yodelgirl@telus.net. Cost of CD \$20.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and packaging

Congratulations to ACPA Member **Jim Green** -

One of Jim Green's northern stories, "Prince of the Buffalo Hunters", has been made into an animated film. The world premier was held at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre in Yellowknife on October 3rd. Running time was 6 minutes, filmed at Fort Smith, NT and was made possible through a grant from the Western Arctic Moving Pictures Program (WAMP), Yellowknife, NWT. Below is a quote from the publicity machine:

"Jim Green is a celebrated storyteller, poet, writer, broadcaster, and entertainer who has been living in the Northwest Territories for more than forty years. He's a gyrating old counter-culture buzzard with a keen wit, sharp tongue, twinkling eye, and an infectious sense of wonder at this life. From Fort Smith, NWT, Jim is a jack-of-all-trades; adventurer, survivor and consummate bullshooter. His performances have been called entertaining, provocative and just a tad outrageous. Jim has published several CDs of his stories. Prince of the Buffalo Hunters is an excerpt from: The Owl and the Teacup: Dog River Tales"

Robbie Robertson was asked by the Claresholm Museum & Public Library to participate in the Rancher Speaker Series on the evening of Wednesday October 29th. He spoke on "How the Canadian West Was Won", which included the beginnings of the NWMP and their involvement in the settling of western Canada. And, of course he included a few of his poems in his talk. The topic is one that Robbie knows well, and you can be assured it was an entertaining evening.

In November, **Doris Daley** was one of 12 Canadians invited to give a Ted Talk at the TEDx chapter in Calgary. My invitation was twofold: come and entertain, and (because the theme this year was TRUTH), tell us where Doris Daley finds her truth. Inspired by the west, trying to make a living in the arts, travelling the gravel roads and jet streams of life, in love with the English language...what are my truths? And do all of the above in 14 minutes. To view this talk, just google “Doris Daley Western Poetry Ted Talk”.

(Your editor did and really enjoyed this. Doris joins a wide variety of celebrated speakers and subjects in the Ted Talk series, available on YouTube.)

Mag Mawhinney has lots of great things happening for her:

“A few interesting things have happened since your last Dispatch. I was honoured with a Top Five nomination for Cowgirl Poet of the Year with the WMA Award Show, held in Albuquerque NM last November. I didn't win, but it was great to reacquaint myself with some American performers I'd met at the Kamloops Cowboy Festival and to finally meet some Facebook friends who I'd chatted with for a long time. Even though I didn't enter, I was asked to recite a poem while the judges were marking their ballots at the Western Wordsmith Chapter Cowboy Poetry Jackpot event. Vern and I had a wonderful time and we were very impressed with the WMA organization.

Mark McMillan asked me to join him for an interview on the CFJC TV 7 "Mid Day Show" to promote the Kamloops festival in March. Gary Brace, a reciter from Ontario has recorded two of my poems on his YouTube channel and has asked for more. He has a unique speaking voice and I'm thrilled that he wants to work with my poems/songs. I did a CD exchange with a singer from the Rising Star segment in Kamloops and she wants to create melodies for some of my poems too. I was also asked to write a poem for a friend's son who is graduating from university in June. This will be a challenge because this young man has fought an aggressive form of cancer and last summer celebrated five years cancer free.”

Bryce Burnett's recently published book, Homegrown and other poems has met with great success. He says:” I got a good review on my book, so thought I'd share it with you before my head swells up too much. My publisher entered the book in the Great Mid West Book Festival in Chicago. We just received news that it received an Honourable Mention award in the poetry section of the Awards so that was pretty exciting.”

The glowing review is lengthy, addressing all the poems, but some of it is reproduced below:

“In Bryce Burnett’s collection of cowboy poetry, *Homegrown*, readers will discover lively and intelligent poems that reminisce on country life from the turn-of-the-century to the present day. Bryce Burnett demonstrates that he is a master raconteur, spinning narratives of wit and turning conventional wisdom on its head.

What may be most remarkable about this collection are the multitudes of occasions of life to which Burnett plies his natured sensibility and mastery of the form. The cowboy poem provides a pattern that is surprisingly versatile for exploring the full spectrum of country life

Bryce Burnett’s collection of cowboy poetry stands out due to its breadth of themes, its light-hearted perspective, its crafty and witty use of narrative, its sense of character and personality, and its embrace of the ethos and attitudes that make the cowboy perspective so interesting. Readers new to cowboy poetry will find no better introduction than this collection, while readers already familiar with the genre will find more than a few original insights and witty turns on convention.”

The book is getting lots of attention in Saskatchewan – *Leader- Post* and *Star-Phoenix*, And in the Saskatchewan Publishers Group “Read Saskatchewan” brochure inserted into the *Western Producer* included reference to Bryce’s book. Good on ya, Bryce!



September, 2014 found **Larry Krause** heading to the East Coast on his 'Western Range Tour'. He did a series of one man shows, bouncing between New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, singing Cowboy and Western songs, telling stories and giving the Folks out there a taste of what it's like to sit around the fire after a day on the range.

Continuing his support of STARS, Larry Krause was once again on tour with the "Back to Our Roots-Tour for STARS" in October. The 3 performer Roots Music tour travelled through southern and central Saskatchewan and held concerts in 7 towns in 7 days. All proceeds from the tour go to support STARS, and as Larry says: “As Folks that spend a whole lot of time in the middle of no where, we all can appreciate the lifesaving service they provide.”



Curtis Anderson’s Courage Canada Trail Ride 2014 was on May 31st, 2014. Curtis reports there were blue skies and sunshine for 130 riders on horseback, 12 wagons with every wagon full, and 340 at supper. Over the past nine years, the Courage Canada Trail Ride has raised \$100,000 to help Brain Injury Survivors and their families as well as the Canadian Pro Rodeo Sports Medicine Team. Eli Barsi entertained the crowd with her original Cowboy songs. The Courage Canada Trail Ride is held the last Saturday in May

– **May 30, 2015 is the next one.** Anyone interested is asked to contact Curtis Anderson at 780-581-4802. The ride is held in the Minburn-Innisfree area.

Bradley Bischoff of the **Banff Wardens** reports: the Wardens are off to the races this summer. We have about 25 gigs on the books, most as a result of Alberta Showcase in Red Deer last October. We are off to Revelstoke and we play in Kelowna following that.

Brad reports a very successful B.C. Showcase on April 10th in Burnaby a huge opportunity to open some doors for them in B.C. “We'll be performing at Window on the West at Calgary Stampede in July. Shall be heading back to the studio in the fall to record our third album. We are opening for Canada's premier country/blues band on Sunday July 05 at The Banff Centre”. Full details on upcoming shows at www.BanffWardens.com

Abe Zacharias will be at the Calgary Stampede again on the stage of the Window on the West on Thursday July 9th at 4:30 PM. Then I'll be at the Willow Creek Cowboy Gathering on July 10, 11 and 12.

Bud Edgar will have public performances on July 1st, Canada Day at Heritage Park, seventh year in a row, and September 13th at the United Way Plane Pull, Calgary Airport, 3rd time in a row.

On October 19th, was pleased to receive the following email from **Dave Dance**:

Howdy All! Well, a very pleasant surprise! Arrived home after 10 days in hospital to find a plaque of appreciation from the ACPA on the table. It is greatly appreciated. Many, many thanks from Viv and me. I would really enjoy seeing a bunch one day again, however this old body is starting to pay me back for the abuse I gave it the last 81 years, The good Lord still has me on the lead rope, We never know what the future may hold and

I just one day may make it back up on the platform. Again thanks to all.

Grumpy (Dave) and Viv Dance.

(The ACPA sincerely thanks Dave and Viv for their many years of dedicated service to our Association! Unfortunately, Dave could not be present at the 2014 Trail's End to receive this award in person. We wish you all the best!)

I spoke to Terri Mason on April 8th – she was diagnosed this past winter with bacterial meningitis, a serious illness, and is still recovering at home. She still is editor of Canadian Cowboy Country Magazine, but, of course, has not returned to work. Terri still has a ways to get back to recovery – she is getting a little better every day, but requires a lot of sleep and rest and still suffering some effects. She thanks everyone for all the prayers, and says she literally felt them while in a coma. Terri was released February 13th from the Foothills Hospital in Calgary, but faced six weeks of IV antibiotics twice a day, being driven to the Maple Creek Hospital. Terry thanks all who visited her, but honestly can't remember who visited her in the first week and a half that she was in the Foothills. But, Thanks to all, and to all the friends that are offering support and prayers. Terri asks that you email her at terri.mason@sasktel.net

She can then reply to you when she is up to it. This lady has been through a heck of a ride, and has a ways to go yet. So, we wish you well, and keep on getting better!

Thanks to **Doris Bircham** who let us know about Terri's condition initially.

Doc Hayes called me the other day to ask me to tell his friends that his computer has crashed and has been out of commission for awhile and he doesn't know when it will be repaired. So, if you would like to contact him, you can phone at [204-725-0758](tel:204-725-0758) or by snail mail at: #101 – 440 – 13 Street, Brandon, MB R7A 4R1

Doc sounded in good spirits, but he had just got out of a seven week stay in hospital, and is to be on five to seven weeks of severely limited rest at home. "Whatever that means", he said. He fell downstairs at home at night, and had suffered two broken hands. His granddaughter had just been in a serious quad accident as well. Doc says she has come out of surgery well. I am sure he would like to hear from his friends.

Thanks to **Buddy Gale** for letting us know this sad news regarding **Rod Erickson**:

Rod and Nancy's son, Chris Erickson, said Doctors have discovered a tumor in Rod's brain. He has had a surgery to install a shunt in his skull to keep pressure from building on his brain and he will be getting radiation and chemo.

Rod is awake and responding but doesn't know what year it is, where he is or where he lives. His concentration and short-term memory seems to be most affected.

The following message is from Rod & Nancy's son, Christopher. Please read should you wish to reach out to them:

“Dad isn't communicating very well and isn't really prepared to talk to anyone on the telephone. Mom's hands are full and long telephone calls simply add to her burden. The best thing is to send emails, cards and letters. Mom might not be able to answer everyone right away, so be warned. Thanks to everyone for prayers and kind words! Christopher Erickson”

Their mailing address is:

Rod & Nancy Erickson
PO Box
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

(Editor's Note: I'm sure they would welcome all thoughts and prayers at this time.)



We were saddened to hear of the passing of ACPA member, **Babetta Moncrieff** suddenly at her home in Cayley, AB on August 4, 2014 at the age of 74 years.

Babetta is survived by her husband, Clayton; her children Delbert (Linda), Mary, Loretta (Lyle) and Lorne (Darlene); 7 grandchildren, several siblings and many nieces and nephews. Babetta was born in High River and completed her schooling there. She married Clayton in 1960 and after working in several Alberta locations, they made their home in Cayley for the past 30 years.

A Funeral Service was held on Saturday, August 9th, 2014 in High River. Condolences may be sent directly to Clayton at Box 88, Cayley, AB T0L 0P0.

The Moncrieffs performed as a popular old time musical duo, with Clayton and Babetta sometimes including son, Lorne who was also an entertainer in his own right.

Our sympathies go out to the Moncrieff family at this sad time.



I am sad to have to tell you of the passing of ACPA Member and Poet, **Chuck Darbyshire** who passed away on October 2nd, 2014. The Celebration of Life Gathering was held [October 8th](#) at the Golden Senior Center in Creston, BC.

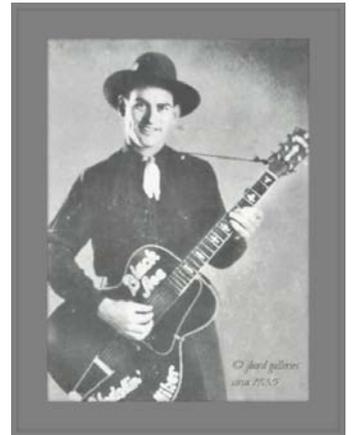
Condolences may be sent to his wife/family, c/o Mrs. Darbyshire, 1921 Birch Street, Creston, BC V0B 1G5



**Western Roots –
Saluting Allan Michael Kirby
May 10, 1914 – May 27, 1972
Story submitted by his daughter, Nola Kirby**

Ed. Note:

“Nola Kirby, the daughter of The Black Ace Yodellin’ Hitch Hiker is working on a special project to honour her father. She is preparing a Tribute CD from several of his unpublished lyrics from the 1930’s to 1970’s from this singer, songwriter, radio personality and performer. The ultimate goal is for this CD to be accepted in museums, school systems of Alberta and Music History Archives in Canada and the USA. She is looking for Cowboy Poets to narrate poems, and Cowboy Singers and Yodellers that want to play a part in this undertaking. If you are interested, or curious to know more, please contact Nola at: theblackace@shaw.ca or phone 403-455-7526 in Calgary.”



Allan Michael Kirby was a yodeler, singer, songwriter, radio personality, and performer known as "The Black Ace—Yodellin' Hitch Hiker."

Allan M. Kirby of Richdale, Alberta was the son of homesteaders James & Ethel that came from Ireland & England to start a life in Canada. Allan began his career in the 1930s, travelling throughout Western Canada, with his guitar, harmonica, mouth harp, and autoharp—singing and playing at rodeos, Theatres, the Great Canadian Barn Dance, western events, and at the Calgary Stampede.

He also broadcasted his talents on these radio stations: CFCN, CFAC, and CJCJ in Calgary, Alberta. His fan mail came from all over the world, ladies who wanted a photograph, men who enjoyed his stories by song, and children who wanted to ride the rails. Allan, also known as "Mick," "Blackie," or "Ace" by his friends and co-workers, enjoyed the wide variety of friends that he had the pleasure of knowing: Guy Weadick, Dick Cosgrave, Ernie McCulloch, Will Taylor, and Herman and Warner Linder to name a few. Allan very much enjoyed spending his weekends with the families of the Chuckwagon community. He was also a devoted son, father, and husband.

Allan performed at the Calgary Stampede—each year singing and playing his instruments for all to hear—from the CFAC tower to the free pancake breakfasts around town to the square dancing on Main Street. His music and talents were appreciated by all those that visited Calgary just to be a part of the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth—The Calgary Stampede. On May 26th, 1939 "The Black Ace Yodellin' Hitch Hiker " had the honour of performing for the King and Queen during their royal tour visit to the Calgary Stampede. He continued to be a part of “The Greatest Outdoor Show On Earth” up to his untimely death in 1972.