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RANGE is an award-winning quarterly devoted to the issues that threaten the West, its people, lifestyles, lands and wildlife. No stranger to controversy, RANGE is a leading forum for opposing viewpoints in the search for solutions that will halt the depletion of a national resource—the American cowboy.

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Up Front

A new kind of cowboy.
By C.J. Hadley

The Republican convention is energetic, at times conflicted, and there is one day down, three to go. It is early July 19, 2016, and even with all the chaos and noise, I have to watch. And I try to catch the truth as it flits by. Unfortunately, the Democrats, my party, don't meet until next week, after we go to press, but I will also listen to all they have to offer. And I hope someone in either party will own up to the real costs to the dwindling taxpayers for all the promises.

A lot of the issues are dear to me. The rule of law is diminishing and open-hearted America is slipping away. I am an immigrant who came to this country with the skills of an adequate shorthand typist. I got jobs because I had an English accent, not because I was particularly bright. In America, people were offered chances that were not available in Europe—at least not for the likes of me a decade after the big war.

After I crossed the Atlantic, I learned a new word—"opportunity"—which was unfamiliar in England. And for someone who works hard and is willing to sweat—mentally, emotionally or physically—and perhaps take a few risks, that word offers more than possibility. Most ranchers know that.

What a revelation America was. I found massive, extraordinary, unadulterated beauty. I discovered a powerful work ethic and abiding faith, just like that of the Founding Fathers.

Life should be forever learning. It is seldom easy. It is listening, watching, flexing, compassioning and hopefully mind-altering when new facts hit the light. All of us start life knowing nothing. Some of us end that way. But, with the right leaders, America's promise could still be honored: "Come here, work hard, and you will be rewarded."

I seldom stop working, I am a citizen, I have been rewarded, and I have a dream. I believe it's possible that our next president will immediately bestow a presidential pardon on Westerners who have worked hard and done less wrong than most politicians and bureaucrats. The next president might

get Dwight and Steven Hammond out of federal prison for burning a bit of grass and brush on federal range and send them home to their ranch. The next president might allow Cliven Bundy and his family and followers a fair shot and start to treat them with respect in the womb of the courts and on the open ranges of the American West. The next president might pay the \$14 million awarded many years ago by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims to the Hage family by the federal government for a taking of their private property and ranch. (Check these stories under "Tyranny" at rangemagazine.com.)

One of the speakers at the convention last night was Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke. A registered Democrat born in Milwaukee, Clarke became a conservative



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VIA INTERNET

ABOVE: My pacifiers, from left: Cache Drogan (2), Belle Starr the Beauty (10), and Strider King of Gondor (3). LEFT: Another pacifier (who would probably like RANGE), Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke.

darling when he announced on public radio ads in 2013 that citizens could no longer rely on the police for timely protection and should arm themselves and be trained properly. The NRA loves him. And so do Americans who believe in a civil society and the First and Second Amendments.

When Sheriff Clarke entered the arena in Cleveland, he received a standing ovation from the mostly white crowd. The next morning, during an interview with Bill Hemmer on FOX News, the urban sheriff was asked, "What's with the hat?"

"I'm a cowboy at heart," he said with a big smile. "I have my own horse." ■