

# RANGE

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PUBLISHER/EDITOR: *Caroline Joy "CJ" Hadley*

ASST. TO PUBLISHER: *Ann Galli*

DESIGN CONSULTANT: *John Bardwell*

CUSTOMER SERVICE: *Deborah Bentley*

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS: *Joani Haws*

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**775-884-2200**

FAX: 775-884-2213

**1-800-RANGE-4-U** (credit card orders)

Publisher/Editor: [cj@rangemagazine.com](mailto:cj@rangemagazine.com)

Advertising: [ads@rangemagazine.com](mailto:ads@rangemagazine.com)

Customer Svc: [info@rangemagazine.com](mailto:info@rangemagazine.com)

Business: [admin@rangemagazine.com](mailto:admin@rangemagazine.com)

Freelancers: [edit@rangemagazine.com](mailto:edit@rangemagazine.com)

Website: [www.rangemagazine.com](http://www.rangemagazine.com)

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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

*The Wrangler. Who? Me?*  
By C.J. Hadley

Thanks to 51 poets, 29 painters, John Bardwell, Carolyn Dufurrena and Terry Sullivan, RANGE has won another award. This time the much-coveted Wrangler from the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, aka the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Our last book, "Brushstrokes & Balladeers: Painters and poets of the American West," was voted Outstanding Poetry Book of 2013.

I was at the Hall in 1983 when Harry Webb received a Wrangler for his lifetime contribution to western heritage. Harry was born in 1887, used to ride broncs for Buffalo Bill, trained horses for moving picture shows, and trapped predators and trained horses for the U.S. government during World War I. And then he started a Nevada ranch.

Harry and I hung out for the last seven years of his life. We went to Cody, Wyo., for the 100th anniversary of Buffalo Bill's first show. In Hollywood, Disney Studios gave us a private showing of "A Boy Called Nuthin'" starring Forrest Tucker and Little Ronnie Howard, based on Harry's only novel. Harry taught me about real cowboys, about how to spot a dude from 50 yards, and asked me not to wear my black hats "because bad guys wear those." He wrote dozens of short stories about life as a cowboy, a life he called "good, bad and plain hell." I published many in a book entitled "Call of the Cow Country," and now I am working on Harry's Book Number Two.

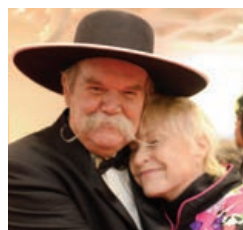
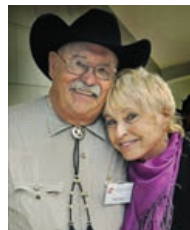
Harry wouldn't let anyone else introduce him, so the Hall let me present his Wrangler as Kirk Douglas and Dennis Weaver looked on. Burl Ives was in the audience. After 20 minutes onstage, 95-year-old Harry got a standing ovation. Burl headed for me, took my face in his hands, kissed me on the lips, and said, "You know what you are doing."

Well, the Hall just agreed with Burl and gave me a Wrangler of a bronze cowboy

horseback, much like Harry's. "Brushstrokes & Balladeers" was a treat to work on. It is something to cuddle. Much like Burl Ives. But also much like Barry Corbin and Lynn Anderson, who presented my prize.

It's not possible for me to equal Harry in the cowboy world, but he would be pleased that I've spent the last 25 years on RANGE as an advocate for good cowboys. He would be pleased that I take on the black hats and kick butts all the way to God.

Harry was thrilled in 1983 when he got his Wrangler. It's more than a thrill for this factory-working Brit. This award is an honor. I am just flat happy. And you can bet your butts that so are Harry and Burl. ■



FROM TOP: Singer Lynn Anderson, writer/poet Carolyn Dufurrena, CJ. > Suzie and "Brushstrokes & Balladeers" artist Tim Cox, CJ. > Board members Gerald Timmerman and Wyatt McCrea (Joel's grandson). > CJ enters stage right to be greeted by Barry Corbin and Lynn Anderson. > CJ's favorite character actor, Barry Corbin, on Jingle Mingle night. > CJ's cover boy for "Brushstrokes & Balladeers," Waddie Mitchell. > Toby Keith was MC. The Hall sure knows how to rock!

PHOTOS BY GWEN BARRETT, CAROLYN DUFURRENA & CHARLIE WATKINS