

RANGE magazine Wins Coveted Literary Honors

RANGE magazine received top honors Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, during the 2016 Will Rogers Medallion Awards in Fort Worth, Texas, for one of its most recent books, “Reflections of the West: Cowboy Painters and Poets.” The Gold Medallion was presented to RANGE in the Cowboy Poetry category.

The awards honor books that represent an Outstanding Achievement in the publishing of Western Media. RANGE also received a second Gold Medallion for the book’s Production and Printing Values.

“Your book exemplifies the combination of excellent content, high production values and honoring of the Cowboy Heritage that the award was created to acknowledge,” notes Charles E. Williams, executive director of the Will Rogers Medallion Awards Committee. “You have produced another outstanding volume, and you can be justly proud of your entry.”

When the Nevada Press Association (NPA) recognized journalistic excellence on Sept. 24, 2016, during its annual convention, it conveyed a First Place award upon RANGE in the Special Projects category, which is reserved for outside endeavors, such as books and calendars. The nominees are judged on originality, relevance to readership and quality of content. Judges chose “Reflections of the West: Cowboy Painters and Poets.”

“Brushstrokes & Balladeers”—the critically acclaimed prequel to “Reflections”—also paid tribute to painters and poets of the American West, and received the coveted Will Rogers Gold Medallion for Cowboy Poetry on Oct. 25, 2014. This was the book’s fourth literary honor that year, which included a Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Produced by Range Conservation Foundation and RANGE magazine, “Reflections of the West” and “Brushstrokes & Balladeers” are a walk through the emotion-filled world of cowboy poetry and western art—paying tribute along the way to a culture where traditions have changed little in close to 200 years.

In a hard but simpler world, cowboys trailing herds or visiting at the campfire after a hard day’s work in the high, wide and lonesome would entertain each other with stories, most often set to rhyme, about their workday experiences, and how they felt about living and working in what could be a brutal and hostile environment.

Their poetic legacy is sentimental, tough, sad and humorous, but it always offers a perspective on life. Unique insights, tenderness and shocking reality all show up in stories as honest and forthright as the American West.

“Western art and poetry is not about legend or pretend,” says editor/publisher C.J. Hadley. “Readers will discover images and words about life in the West. Vivid. Real. Painful. Touching. Inspirational.”

RANGE has been honored in the past for another hardbound book. “The M Bar,” written by Harry Webb and the sequel to “Call of the Cow Country,” was awarded a Will Rogers Gold Medallion on Oct. 24, 2015. The 120-page hardback was judged in the “Western Biographies & Memoirs” category. RANGE also received an award for “Production and Printing Values” for the same book.

The biography follows the further adventures and exploits of Harry Webb, a tall, dark, handsome cowboy who rode broncs for Buffalo Bill and looked like he stepped out of central casting during the glory days of silent movies—which he did.

The Range Conservation Foundation is a nonprofit educational foundation promoting and encouraging responsible stewardship of America’s rangelands as a multiple-use resource. It sponsors educational features in RANGE magazine plus special reports on issues affecting the West’s resource providers.