Western Writers Live On
AUGUST 6, 2015 - AUGUST 27, 2015

Second Year of Collaboration Brings More WWA Members and Great Discussion Topics

LIVING A RICHER LIFE ~ Life Changing Talk Radio has teamed again this year with the Western Writers of America, Inc. (WWA) to produce and broadcast four very special episodes during the month of August.

The year's series is titled, Western Writers Live On. Each episode will include interviews with members of the WWA who will be interviewed and will discuss interesting and enlightening aspects of Western literature on the "live" and nationally broadcasted radio talk show.

About the Western Writers of America

The Western Writers of America or WWA was incorporated in 1953 to promote the literature of the American West. Like the Western landscape itself, WWA and the books, songs, and stories produced by its members have evolved immensely. There are no longer just traditional Western fiction authors. WWA boasts historians, nonfiction authors, young adult, romance writers, songwriters, poets, and screenwriters for film and television. They all have one thing in common—Their work in every medium is set in the ever-changing American West. Today the WWA has more than 650 members who have garnered awards and made The New York Times best-sellers list. Members include C.J. Box, Anne Hillerman, Craig Johnson, Mark Hall-Patton, Thomas Cobb, Chris Enss, Kat Martin, Kirk Ellis, Lucia St. Clair Robson, Paul Andrew Hutton and David Morrell.

Thursday - AUGUST 6, 2015
"The Traditional Western - Still a Good Read"
Interview Guest: Candy Moulton, Monty McCord, Phil Mills

Thursday - AUGUST 13, 2015
"The New Western and Westerns in Film and Television"
Interview Guest: Kirk Ellis, Anne Hillerman

Thursday - AUGUST 20, 2015
"The Western Trails - Legend, Facts and Great Stories"
Interview Guest: Will Bagley, Melody Groves

Thursday - AUGUST 27, 2015
"Contemporary Western Music and the Publishing of Westerns in Today’s Market"
Interview Guest: Jim Jones, Carol Markstrom, Tiffany Scofield, Bob Clark

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2015 WWA LIVING A RICHER LIFE ~ Life Changing Talk Radio Interview Guests

Candy Moulton
Candy is a Wyoming native and has written thirteen Western history books, co-edited a collection of short fiction and written, produced, and been a re-enactor in several documentary films. She is a two-time Western Writers of America Spur Award winner, an Oregon Heritage and Silver Remi Award winner and as well as a Finalist at the International Family Film Festival in Hollywood. Candy’s newest books are “Forts, Fights & Frontier Sites: Wyoming’s Historic Places” and “Valentine T. McGillycuddy: Army Surgeon, Agent to the Sioux”.

Monty McCord
Like many youngsters growing up in the 1950s and 60s, Monty McCord caught the western bug early. Hopalong Cassidy and Roy Rogers were fun to watch, but when TV programs like Gunsmoke, Lawman, and The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp appeared, a lifetime interest in the Old West and lawmen was born. His experience with horses, since he was 7 years old, helped further an interest in the Old West. Programs like Dragnet, Highway Patrol and The Untouchables, extended his interest of lawmen into the 20th century. Not surprisingly, he began a career in law enforcement in 1974, graduating from the famed FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia in 1993. In 2009, his first work of fiction was published in audio book form with Books-In-Motion of Spokane, Washington. A traditional western, Mundy’s Law won a 2010 Spur Finalist Award for Best Western Audio Book from the Western Writers of America. McCord serves as President of the Adams County Historical Society. He is a proud member of the Western Writers of America, and the Nebraska Writers Guild.

Phil Mills, Jr.
In 1965 Phil Mills, Jr. had a spiritual and emotional awakening...one that would forever changed his life. After seeing the distant Western Colorado horizon, resting just above the late summer prairie grasses and Yucca plants what seemed like white puffy clouds gradually gave way to the rugged, snow-capped Rocky Mountains, the country boy from Missouri would never be the same again. Those mountains and the vast prairies before them would burn a love of the American West deeply into his heart and soul. Phil’s first novel, “Where a Good Wind Blows” won a Finalist Award for Best 2010 Western Audio book from the Western Writers of America in the WWA’s Annual Spur Awards Competition. Phil has traveled to different parts of the world. But he keeps coming back to the American West. And while he has a collection of more than 3,000 hardback western books... the birthplace of his greatest stories are those that come directly from his heart.

Kirk Ellis
Kirk Ellis is a screenwriter and producer. Kirk won two Emmys and the Humanitas Prize for his work on John Adams, a seven-part HBO miniseries based on David McCullough’s Pulitzer Prize–winning biography. Starring Paul Giamatti and Laura Linney, the miniseries earned 13 Emmys and four Golden Globe awards. Ellis also received both the Writers Guild of America Award and the Humanitas Prize for the script. Previously, Ellis won an Emmy, the Writers Guild of America Award and a Humanitas Prize for the ABC miniseries Anne Frank: The Whole Story, which he wrote and co-produced. “Hell on Wheels,” his episode of the TNT miniseries Into the West (filmed in Santa Fe), earned the Western Writers of America’s Spur Award for Best Drama Script, as well as a Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. His current projects include a feature film based on the life of the Marquis de Lafayette and an HBO film about the Fatty Arbuckle scandal of the 1920s.
Anne Hillerman
Anne Hillerman’s debut novel, Spider Woman’s Daughter, is a mystery set in the Southwest, including the Navajo Nation and Santa Fe. The book follows the further adventures of the characters Tony Hillerman made famous: Jim Chee, Joe Leaphorn and Bernadette Manuelito. The novel, released by HarperCollins, received the Spur Award from Western Writers of America for the Best First Novel of 2013. Anne also is the author of the award-winning Tony Hillerman’s Landscape: On the Road with Chee and Leaphorn and eight other books. The Santa Fe–based has published eight non-fiction books and won award for nearly all of them. A longtime journalist, Anne writes weekly restaurant reviews for the Albuquerque Journal. She is one of the mavens behind Wordharvest writers workshops.

Will Bagley
Will Bagley has written and edited more than twenty books on overland emigration, frontier violence, railroads, mining, the creation of computer search technology, and the Mormons. Some love him, some hate him, but his work has won every major prize in Western History—an Old Joe, the Spur, the Wrangler, the Caroline Bancroft, the John W. Caughey Prize for the year’s most distinguished book on the history of the American West, and the Merrill J. Mattes Award for Excellence in Writing. He is not "anti" anything: he simply tries to tell the stories and find the truth of what happened.

Melody Groves
Growing up in southern New Mexico, Melody Groves’ mind raced with characters from the Old West—gunfighters were my favorite. Her novels reflect her fascination—and ties—with that era. As a New Mexico Gunfighter re-enactor, Groves entertain visitors at Albuquerque’s Old Town, allowing them a glimpse into earlier times. Her books reflect her passion for rodeo and appreciation of historic wooden bars. Yes bars—the front and back wooden structures. According to Melody "They are amazing—just like the rodeo performers."

Jim Jones
Jim Jones a native Texan who moved a little farther West so he could enjoy the beauties of New Mexico. He sings songs about the West...cowboys, horses & cattle, cattle rustlers, the coming of the train. He also sings songs about the people and the land, the rivers and the mountains, the beauty of the Western sky. The 2012 release of “Borrowed Time,” won the 2013 Western Writers of America Spur Award for Western Song of the Year for “Texas is Burnin’.” According to Jim, "My award-winning novels, the Jared Delaney Trilogy: Rustler’s Moon, Colorado Moon and Waning Moon, set in northern New Mexico, are loosely based in fact...basically, a pack of lies I made up.” His books have educated, informed and entertained readers around the world.

Carol Markstrom
Carol Markstrom is a singer/songwriter who plays acoustic guitar and performs Western, folk, and Americana. She was raised in Minnesota and has lived in several Western states and Canada, and now divides her time between Arizona and West Virginia performing in both sides of the country. Some of her songs are of Native American history and culture; she also sings of cowboys and the West. She is also a non-fiction writer and has numerous published works connected to her research program at West Virginia University. She has a recently published children’s book. Carol is a member of the Western Music Association (WMA), Secretary of the East Coast Chapter of WMA, a member of the Academy of Western Artists, and a member of the Western Writers of America.

Tiffany Schofield
Tiffany Schofield, a University of Maine graduate, joined Five Star Publishing in 1999. She currently manages the Five Star Publishing imprint, as well as the western fiction large print lists for Thorndike Press and Wheeler Publishing, imprints Gale/Cengage Learning.

Bob Clark
Bob Clark is Editor-in-Chief of Washington State University Press in Pullman, Washington. Bob directs acquisitions, production, and publication program for Washington State University. He is a past Assistant Director/Publisher at the University of Oklahoma, in Norman. Bob is also the past President and Owner of Arthur H. Clark Company. Since 1902 the Clark Company was a family owned publishing and bookselling firm specializing in Western Americana. In 2006 it merged with the University of Oklahoma Press, and its rare book department spun off as “Clark Rare Books."