



Penned by Lantern Light

~ Diane Tribitt

This column will spotlight members of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the Western Music Association. It will highlight an invited poet guest with possible short biographical information of his/her works. If a member of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter and if interested in submitting one piece of original work for publication, please contact the Western Wordsmiths chapter president.

A Cowboy Farewell

by Diane Tribitt



Artist: Tim Cox Used by permission.

The mountains are covered in blankets of snow
Don't reckon I'll be 'round to see you this spring
The echoes have fallen of the lone hoot owl callin'
Now he sits by my window and I know what he brings

My cowboyin' days, they were truly amazing
Found life before death in the clear mountain air
Now I'm ready to wander new pastures up yonder
And I'm ready to ride the four winds that blow there

I've rode all the rank ones – down to my last run
I've bulldogged the devil in three seconds flat
My years have been many. True love's found me plenty
Ain't a cowboy on earth who could want more than that

Instead of a halo I'd like a gold buckle
Some jingle-bob spurs with my brand on each side
A riggin' bag waitin' at those pearly gates, where
there's bulls, bares and broncs for us cowboys to ride

Adios, mi compadres. Farewell, Corazon.
Goodbye to Chinook winds that sing soft and low
Don't wanna be late when my pals are all waitin'
for me, and my spirit is restless to go

I'll soon walk the Red Road, and join the great circle
To sing cowboy songs from the sweet bye-and-bye
Till we meet there at Jesus' feet
I'll be ridin' that heavenly ranch in the sky

Diane Tribitt is a remarkably gifted woman with roots that run deep in the soil of her Minnesota ranch. She is equally devoted to her family and the land that nurtures her soul. She brings that rich heritage, a wealth of knowledge, and a profound spirituality that comes from ranching on a daily basis, to her poetry and stories. More often than not her award winning poetry and stories are true, either experienced by Diane herself or someone close to her. About this poem, Diane writes: This is the last project Curly [Musgrave] worked on. He did leave a recording of his guitar and his own vocals on the computer so Kathy [Curly's wife] had RW and Belinda add their voices and it was released the following year. If it weren't for Curly I would have never have gotten involved in the WMA. He inspired and pushed me to keep writing and performing.

