



Penned by Lantern Light

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.

The Investment

by Teresa Bureson

He's a rowdy 6 year old and his mama's pride and joy.
He looks like his daddy did when he was a little boy.

His hat sits low, atop his ears and the brims a little bent.
Beneath it are brown eyes, freckled face and a nose that is skint.

His shirt is buttoned to the top like his daddy does.
There's a trophy buckle at his waist and a pair of leather gloves.

He wears hand-me-down boots with tall tops that are blue.
His jeans are tucked inside 'em like the other punchers do.

He sure looks like a cowboy and that's what he wants to be.
But there's much more to him than the clothes that you see.

He's already learning honor and treats his elders with respect.

It's a pride in what he stands for and just what mom expects.

He's not impressed by celebrities who have fortune and fame.
His daddy is his hero and he proudly shares his name.

He helps with the spring works and again at the fall gather.
He looks forward to the fun and he's learnin' what matters.

When he's bigger he'll flank 'em, stretch 'em out when they brand.
For now, he will do what he can and he'll try to make a hand.

Growing up a ranch kid teaches the value of work and play.


His parents watch with pride as he takes up the cowboy way.

They know you have to let 'em try and let 'em have a turn,
And if you don't take 'em with you they will never learn.

He is cherished with a gentle love that is kind and firm,
And when needed, disciplined with a hand that is stern.

This little boy is an investment in a heritage and tradition.
To teach a child the way to go is a God-given commission.

Now, he may choose a different path than the one his parents sought,
But he'll always have the ethics and the values he's been taught.

Right now, he is only 6 years old but one day he'll understand,
It's aint about being a cowboy, it's about being a good man. 



Teresa Bureson is an award winning cowgirl poet whose poems are inspired by her personal experiences, her heritage and the Western way of life. She has an appreciation for the agricultural industries and the people who make their lives in it. Teresa's zest for life is evident in her poetry as well as her ability to make people laugh and touch their lives. With a clear, soft Texas drawl and a voice that Waddie Mitchell once declared was "like silk", her poetry is beautiful, soulful and aimed straight for the western heart or the funny bone, as she tells of drought, rain, faith, legacy, horses, calving, and all the joys and hazards in life. Teresa and her husband Bobby, a bit and spur maker, live on a small ranch outside of Weatherford, Texas. She released her third CD, *The Calf Book* in July 2016 and nominated for Female Poet of the Year with the Western Music Association (WMA) in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013. In 2010 she was awarded the Cowgirl Poet of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists.