



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.

In the Middle of Nowhere

by Dale Page

I woke in the middle of nowhere
And there's nowhere that I'd rather be.
I don't give two bits for a city;
I would rather be here and be free.

I know why the birds sing each morning,
And where elk go to hide in the day.
This life is the one I have chosen,
But I see it is fading away.

I understand screaming bald eagles
And I savvy the coyote's sad tune.
They're going the way of the bison,
And the stench of the towns will come soon.

The campfires I shared with amigos
Have burned out like the fire of my youth.
Most all of my friends have crossed over
And I'm gettin' quite long in the tooth.

The serpents of progress keep coming;
Though I'm faster, I know I can't hide.
But they'll only see dust on my back trail
When I finally top the divide.

Good riddance to motors and gadgets!
Adios to the clock; I'll be free!
I'll leave all the noise and the hustle
And go back to how things used to be.

Don't grieve when my journey is ended.
My life's just not the same any more.
I reckon I won't miss this world here
When I see what the next has in store.

I wonder each night if the sunset
Is the last one I'll lay my eyes on.
If so, plant me right where you find me.
It won't matter, 'cause I will be gone.

Dale E. Page - Copyright Jan. 2014

Dale Page is the new President of the Western Music Association Wordsmiths Chapter. While attending Oklahoma State University he worked as a horse shoer, bull rider, stable manager, dude wrangler, and on the movie set of "The Cheyenne Social Club." Page majored in English and after graduation in 1970, worked as the farm and ranch reporter for the Amarillo Globe News. Combining his learned appreciation of poetry with his experiences riding and packing in New Mexico, he began writing cowboy poetry in the mid 1970s. Page was named Best Performer in 2008 at the Oklahoma Cowboy Poetry and Songs event at OSU. In 2010, he won first place in Serious Poetry, Rising Star Division, at the National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo in Montrose, CO.

