



Penned by Lantern Light

This column will spotlight members of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the International 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.

Pancho and the Sand

By Aspen Black

*He stares down at the desert draw
Reins slacking by his side
and pulls a pale hand from his glove
Pond'ring life and love*

*A young boy in the ocean air
Now drifting on the breeze
A life that always loved the sand
trapped now in this land*

*While cowboys ran through canyons in
This movie set he dreamed
That spring horse 'neath his boyhood tree
Grew to set him free*

*In dreams, then real, he rode the range
With Pancho 'tween his knees
They both were paints and long in stride
Steady steeds to ride*

*The turquoise sky embraced his heart,
Lent balance to his soul
The even fall of hoofbeats brought
peace he always sought*

*His songs to soothe a lonely mind
The trails - a gypsy quest*

*The wind, a wand'ring heart's lament
Flames to warm the spent*

*But love's a touch he strains to feel
And days stretch on for years
He weeps at life's uncertainty
Hearts that wouldn't be*

*You think he'd give it up by now
His beard a salty white
At very least, he'd ride away
Let the lost dreams stay*

*In youth, nobody understood
He fears now no one can
None love the man, nor loved the boy
Save, that spring horse toy.*

*And once a girl with long brown hair
And that old boyhood beach
But neither one was his to own
So he rides alone.*

*He'll leave this draw a steely twist
To search for cows and peace
His only friends both close at hand
Pancho and the sand.*



ABOUT ASPEN BLACK

Aspen Black is a multi-talented singer/songwriter, cowgirl poet, nationally-awarded horse woman and a founding member of the IWMA Western Wordsmiths. As a poet, she was a top-five finalist in 2015 for the IWMA Female Poet of the Year, and a top-five nominee in 2016 for the same award. In 2015 she was a top-five finalist for the IWMA Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year and in 2016, a top-five nominee for the same award. In 2016 she was also a top-five nominee for the IWMA Poetry Book of the Year award. Aspen hails from Rocky Mount, VA.