

# TAKE ME BACK TO THE RANGE

Selections From  
Western Jubilee Recording  
Company



WJRC 19876

© © 2020 Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, originally released on Western Jubilee Record Company

# TAKE ME BACK TO THE RANGE

## Selections From Western Jubilee Recording Company

### 1. **PETER ROWAN & DON EDWARDS**

*Take Me Back to the Range* 4:12

(Alton Delmore-Rabon Delmore/Warner Bros. Music  
o/b/o Warnersongs, Inc., ASCAP)

### 2. **NORMAN BLAKE & NANCY BLAKE**

*The Sunny Side of Life* 3:19

(Bill Bolick-Earl Bolick/Venus Music Corp.  
o/b/o Berwick Music Corp., BMI)

### 3. **WYLIE & THE WILD WEST**

*Where Horses Are Heroes* 3:19

(Wylie Gustafson/Two Medicine Music, BMI)

### 4. **WADDIE MITCHELL**

*Typical* 1:11

(Waddie Mitchell/Waddie's Word Publishing, BMI)

### 5. **DON EDWARDS, WADDIE MITCHELL, AND THE FORT WORTH**

#### **SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

*Annie Laurie / Bad Half Hour* 5:45

(Annie Laurie: William Douglas-Alicia Scott / Bad Half Hour:  
lyrics by Badger Clark / adapted by Don Edwards / arranged  
by Dave Hanson)

### 6. **KATY MOFFATT**

*Hallie Lonigan* 4:31

(Tom Russell/BMG Bumblebee o/b/o Frontera Music, BMI)

### 7. **RICH O'BRIEN**

*Santa Rosa Serenade* 4:00

(Rich O'Brien/Texas Starway Song Publishers, BMI)

### 8. **GEORGIE SICKING**

*Rooster Poem* 0:45

(Georgie Sicking)

### 9. **DAVID WILKIE AND COWBOY CELTIC**

*Bonnie Dundee / Fareweel Tae Tarwathie /*

*The Railroad Corral* 3:25

(Fareweel Tae Tarwathie: lyrics by George Scroggie / The Railroad  
Corral: lyrics by Joseph Mills Hanson / arranged by David Wilkie/  
Ghostwriters in Disguise, SOCAN)

### 10. **NORMAN BLAKE & RICH O'BRIEN**

*Flop-Eared Mule* 4:05

### 11. **DON EDWARDS**

*Coyotes* 4:31

(Bob McDill/Universal-Polygram International Publishing, Inc.,  
ASCAP)

### 12. **WADDIE MITCHELL**

*Waddie-ism-8* 0:18

(Waddie Mitchell/Waddie's Word Publishing, BMI)

### 13. **MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY**

*Summer Ranges* 3:33

(Michael Martin Murphey/Rocking 3M Music, BMI)

### 14. **COWBOY NATION**

*Two Miles to Town* 4:12

(Chip Kinman-Tony Kinman/BMG Bumblebee o/b/o Black Impala  
Music, BMI)

### 15. **TOM MORRELL**

*Lupus #1* 2:54

(Sid Garris-Sy Oliver/Three Wise Boys Music, BMI)

### 16. **WADDIE MITCHELL**

*Harsh Words* 0:58

(Waddie Mitchell/Waddie's Word Publishing, BMI)

### 17. **NORMAN BLAKE**

*Cloverdale Plantation March* 4:30

(Norman Blake/Blake & Blake Music, BMI)

### 18. **SONS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN**

*From Whence Came the Cowboy* 4:22

(Jack Hannah/Great American Cowboy Music, BMI)

# INTRODUCTION

BY JEFF PLACE

Western Jubilee is an amazing little record company located in the old Santa Fe Railroad company warehouse in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is very much a reflection of its founder and owner, Scott O'Malley—a collector with a capital C. The building has many rooms, all filled with various parts of Scott's collections. There are baseball cards, catcher's mitts, telephones, cameras, various old musical instruments, records, and song folios. Scott says he has more checklists in his wallet than money. It's a world of wonder. And in the middle of it all is a musical theater, which is an acoustic marvel. The walls are covered with posters from yesteryear and dozens of stringed instruments. Concerts are held occasionally over the course of the year for friends and invitees (some from the mailing list). A restaurant owner down the street referred to it as the place with the secret concerts.

Scott O'Malley grew up in Indianapolis. He caught the collecting bug early with baseball cards and began to collect cowboy and Western material along the way. He thinks his mother, who was an antique dealer, might be responsible for his lifelong obsession.

He started out as a musician playing in bands; early on it was a folk revival group, the Bardsmen, who released an album in 1965. He then started the Buffalo Brothers Wild West Show, a traveling band. After a number of years, the three singers in the group signed to a talent agency, Stone County, in Denver, and moved to Colorado in 1975. They got some major label contract offers but declined them, because the labels expected the group to go in a different musical direction. Scott decided to stay in Denver and built a house there. Eventually Stone County owner Keith Case moved to Nashville and Scott decided to open his own agency, ultimately moving to Colorado Springs in 1985.

He acquired the empty warehouse in 1990, which he has succeeded in filling up in a myriad of ways. The theater, in addition to shows, is used for recording. He recorded live shows and some of the Western Jubilee releases there, and had recording engineer Butch Hause do much of the rest over the years. He began to represent artists, presenting many of them in the theater. In the '90s, he attended a show in Santa Rosa, California, of Don Edwards, Waddie Mitchell, and the Sons of the San Joaquin and was enamored. He invited them to come see his cowboy and Western collection, and lifelong friendships



were formed.

He was also involved in various music festivals and even started a rodeo, where he'd have Don, Waddie, and the Sons perform. He acquired an old 1940s pickup truck from the Gene Autry Melody Ranch and used the bed as a stage.

In the mid-'90s, he worked with the Warner Western subsidiary of Warner Records, which released albums by his three main artists, Waddie, Don, and the Sons, as well as a big seller by Michael Martin Murphey. However, Warner lost interest in short order. In 1996 Western Jubilee issued its first release, *Gospel Trails*, by the Sons of the San Joaquin. "People thought we were a gospel label," Scott remembered.

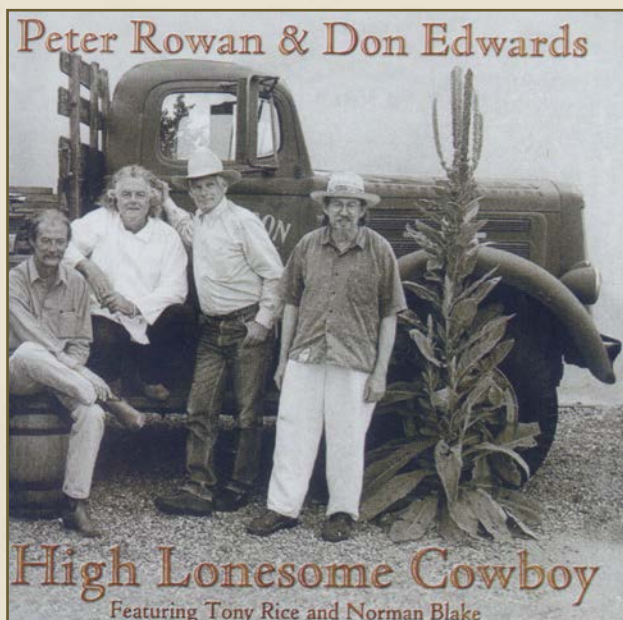
The great guitar player, Norman Blake, who had also been on the artist roster at Stone County, started recording for Scott. Norman and his wife Nancy often used Colorado Springs as a home away from home. Scott's three core artists continued to provide new music (and poems) for years. Looking at the artists on this set, you can see the breadth of the work that was done by the label.

Western Jubilee sold song and poetry books in addition to compact discs

(and some cassettes and DVDs). You could find their wares at museum shops, festivals, record stores, and on sale on the road by the artists.

As Scott entered his 70s, he sought to find a home for the label that would carry on his work and make it available to others. In 2020, the Smithsonian acquired Western Jubilee and will keep the recordings Scott released alive for all who want them.

(Much of this information comes from an interview with Scott O'Malley, February 21, 2020, Western Jubilee Warehouse)



## 1. PETER ROWAN & DON EDWARDS

### *Take Me Back to the Range*

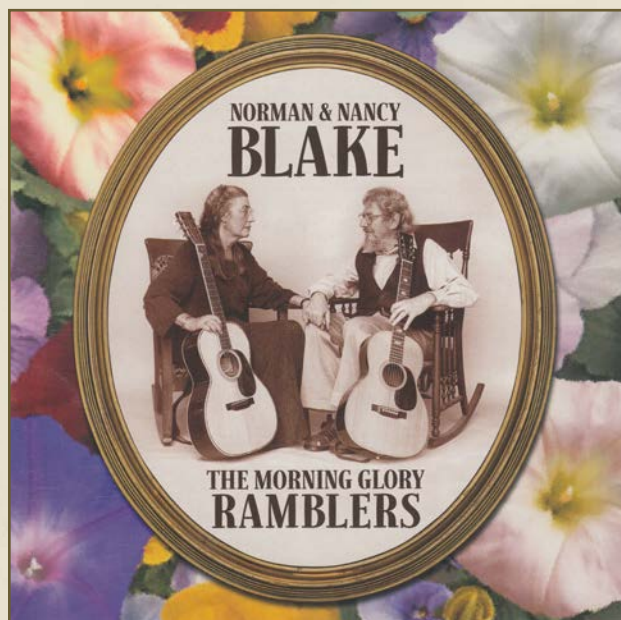
Don Edwards, guitar, vocal; Peter Rowan, guitar, vocal; Norman Blake, guitar; Tony Rice, guitar; Billy Bright, mandolin; Bryn Bright, bass

From *High Lonesome Cowboy*, WJRC117520, September 9, 2002

This song comes from the great Alabama duet, The Delmore Brothers (Alton and Rabon). It was recorded at the Western Jubilee Warehouse and features a collaboration between Peter Rowan and Don Edwards, with the added pleasure of guitarists Norman Blake and Tony Rice.

Peter Rowan has had a long and varied career. In addition to his own string of solo records, he was a member of the rock bands Earth Opera and Seatrain, a one-time member of Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys, and a collaborator with Jerry Garcia in the band Old and in the Way and the bluegrass band Muleskinner.

For information on Don Edwards see track 11.



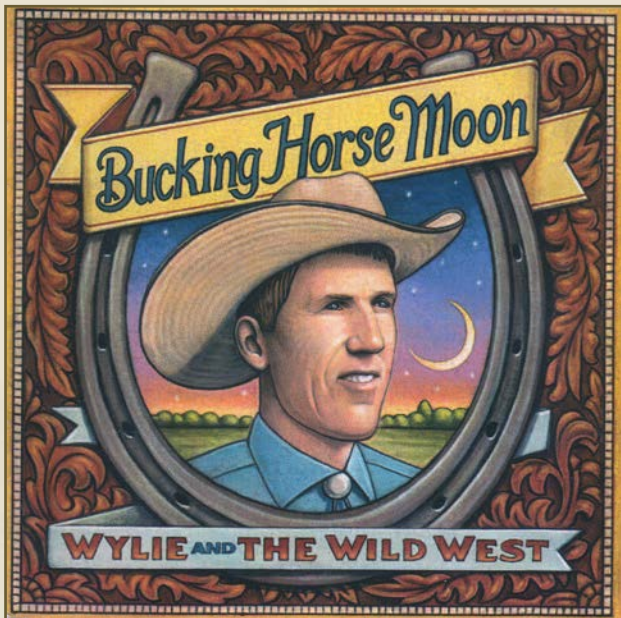
## 2. NORMAN BLAKE & NANCY BLAKE

### *The Sunny Side of Life*

Norman Blake, guitar, vocal; Nancy Blake, guitar, vocal

From *The Morning Glory Ramblers*, PLECT116028, April 15, 2004

Norman Blake met his longtime partner and wife, Nancy, in the early 1960s, and the two have performed together ever since. Blake, who is known for his stellar flatpicking, was a member of Johnny Cash's band for many years and a much-in-demand studio musician in Nashville. Among his credits were Bob Dylan's *Nashville Skyline*, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*, and the award-winning soundtrack to the film *Oh, Brother Where Art Thou?* The Blakes have lived for many years in Sulphur Springs, Alabama. They learned this song from the recording by the Blue Sky Boys.



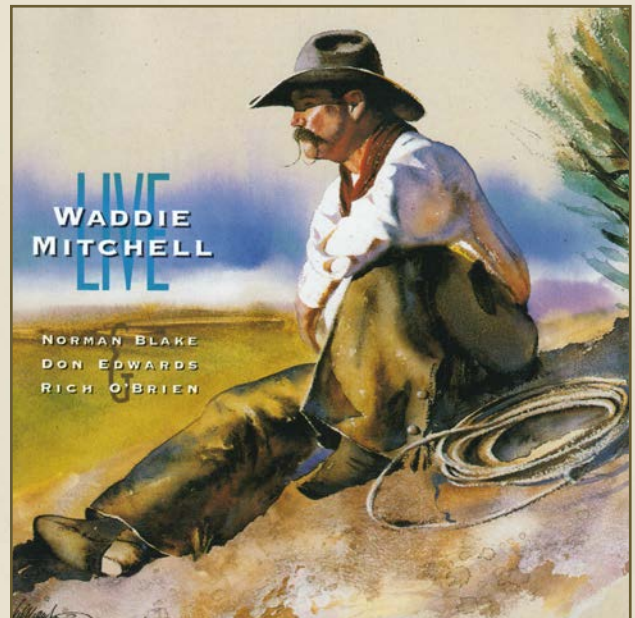
### 3. WYLIE & THE WILD WEST

*Where Horses Are Heroes*

Wylie Gustafson, guitar, vocal; Ray Doyle, guitar, vocal; Billy Linneman, bass; Hot Hester, fiddle, mandolin

From *Bucking Horse Moon*, WJRC125921, February 20, 2007

Wylie Gustafson was raised in Montana and learned cowboy songs as a child from his father. Wylie and the Wild West began in Los Angeles playing the Palomino Club. In 1995, he bought a ranch in Washington State, where he took up breeding and training cow horses. He continues both careers, moving back to Montana in 2009 (Western Jubilee website). He is a frequent performer at the Western Jubilee Warehouse.



### 4. WADDIE MITCHELL

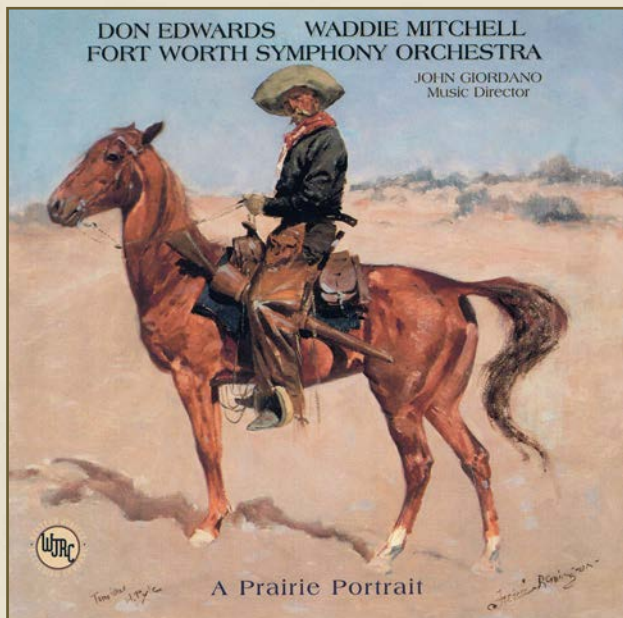
*Typical*

Waddie Mitchell, vocal

From *Waddie Mitchell Live*, WJRC116523, March 17, 1998

Waddie Mitchell, the "Buckaroo Poet," is one of the central artists on the Western Jubilee label. Mitchell grew up on a Nevada ranch where his father worked, surrounded by cowboy storytelling traditions. Eventually managing a 36,000-acre ranch in Nevada, he began to spend more time on his poetry and became one of the founders of the Elko Poetry Gathering. He has made eight albums and written four books.





**5. DON EDWARDS, WADDIE MITCHELL, AND THE FORT WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

*Annie Laurie / Bad Half Hour*

Don Edwards, guitar, vocal; Waddie Mitchell, vocal

From *A Prairie Portrait*, WJRC117421, November 12, 1999

Don Edwards and Waddie Mitchell paired up for this performance with the Fort Worth Symphony. It follows their successful album, *The Bard and the Balladeer* for the Warner Western label in 1994, and makes for a great mix of Waddie’s poetry and Don’s ballads.

“Annie Laurie” is a Scottish poem often thought to have been written by William Douglas about his romance with Annie Laurie (1682-1764) and put to music by Alicia Scott in the 1830s (Wikipedia). It continues to be a popular folk song. Waddie follows with a poem by poet Badger Clark (1883-1957) that references the song. The song “Spanish Is the Loving Tongue” is based on a Clark poem, “The Border Affair.”



**6. KATY MOFFATT**

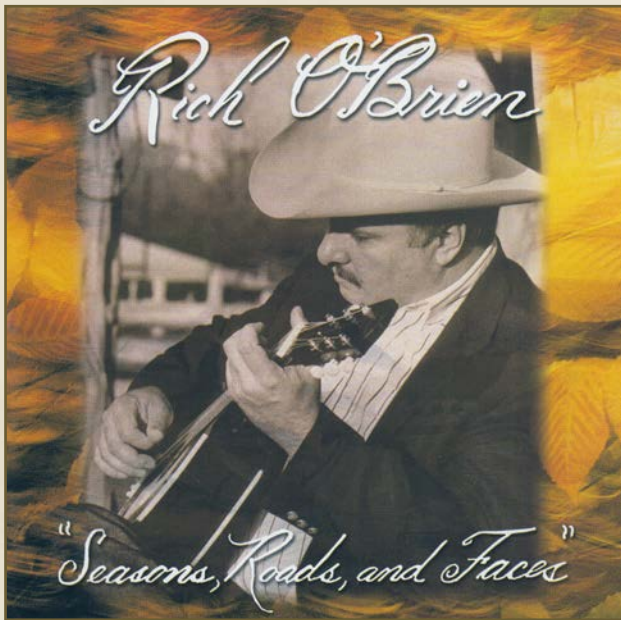
*Hallie Lonigan*

Katy Moffatt, guitar, vocal; David Wilkie, vocal, mandolin; Rich O’Brien, guitar; Mary Stribling, bass

From *Cowboy Girl*, WJRC118022, September 11, 2001

Katy Moffatt has had a long career as a country and blues recording artist. Her debut album in 1976 was *Katy* for Columbia Records. She has since recorded numerous albums solo, and one with her brother, singer-songwriter Hugh. Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, she was exposed to Western music when young; she had horses and was part of the culture. She recorded *Cowboy Girl* for Western Jubilee. It was originally released by Shanachie.

Tom Russell, who wrote the song, has become important to the Western music scene. He has had an amazing career writing dozens and dozens of songs that tell spellbinding stories. He is responsible for the remarkable song “Gallo Del Cielo.”



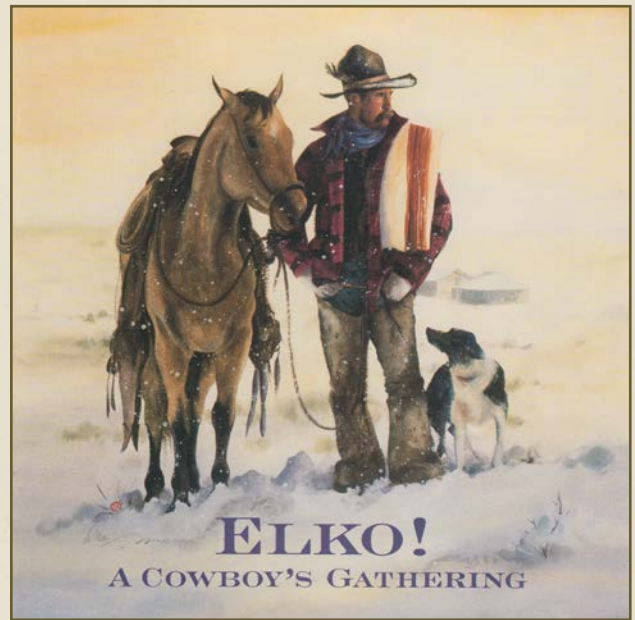
## 7. RICH O'BRIEN

### *Santa Rosa Serenade*

Rich O'Brien, guitar, marimba; Tom Morrell, dobro; Stuffy Elmore, guitar, fiddle; Mark Abbott, bass; Joey McKenzie, fiddle; Greg Hardy, drums, percussion; Billy English, percussion

From *Seasons, Roads, and Faces*, WJRC118329, October 21, 1997

The magazine *Acoustic Guitar* referred to Rich O'Brien as "the house guitarist for the cowboy music revival." A versatile guitarist, O'Brien has produced over 600 albums from a variety of artists, including many of the Western Jubilee releases. Scott remembered that Rich met Norman Blake on a Wednesday night, and the two had already recorded an album by Friday.



## 8. GEORGIE SICKING

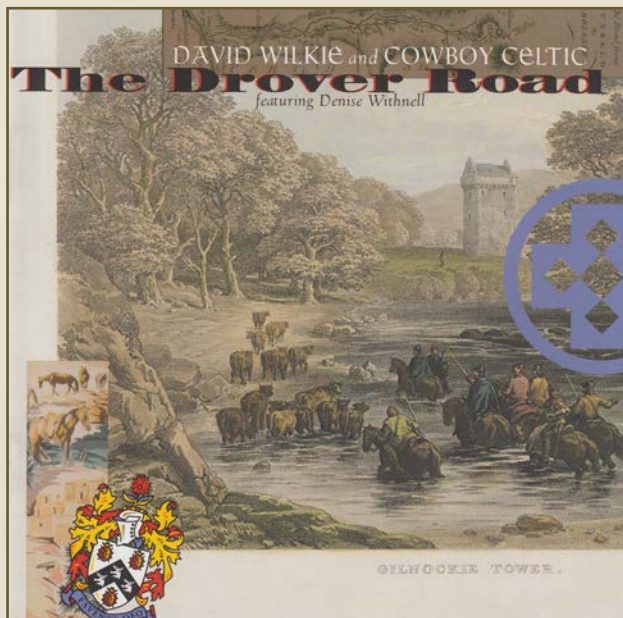
### *Rooster Poem*

Georgie Sicking, vocal

From *Elko! A Cowboy's Gathering*, WJRC118428, January 25, 2005

Georgie Sticking (1921–2016) was a rancher and cowboy poet. A participant in the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering from the inaugural event, she was inducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame to honor her poetry. She is also the subject of a biography, *A Mare among the Geldings*, by Glorianne Wiegand.





## 9. DAVID WILKIE AND COWBOY CELTIC

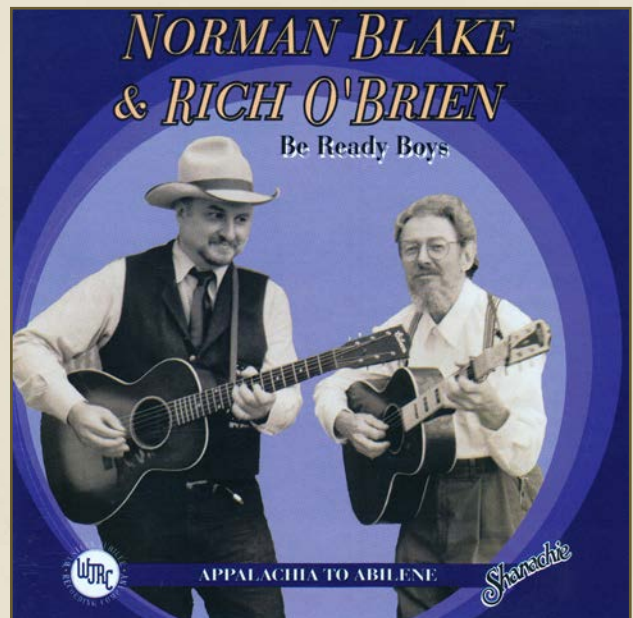
*Bonnie Dundee / Fareweel Tae Tarwathie /  
The Railroad Corral*

David Wilkie, guitar, mandolin, vocal; John Hyde, bass; Keri Zwicker, harp; Scott Ring, whistles; Fiona Call, fiddle; Matt Woodward, fiddle; Christine Hanson, cello; Nathan McCavana, bodhran

From *The Drover Road*, WJRC117926,  
September 11, 2001

From Alberta, Canada, David Wilkie and Cowboy Celtic have been tracing the roots of cowboy music back to its early days among the cattlemen in the British Isles. Their music is a fusion of both traditions. Scott O'Malley met them at the Westcliffe Festival in Colorado and decided he needed to record them.

"Bonnie Dundee" is a Scottish poem written by Sir Walter Scott in homage to John Graham, a Jacobite hero. "Farewell to Tarwathie" is an old Scottish whaling song. "The Railroad Corral" is a 1904 cowboy song by Joseph Mills Hanson, published in his 1910 book *Frontier Ballads*.



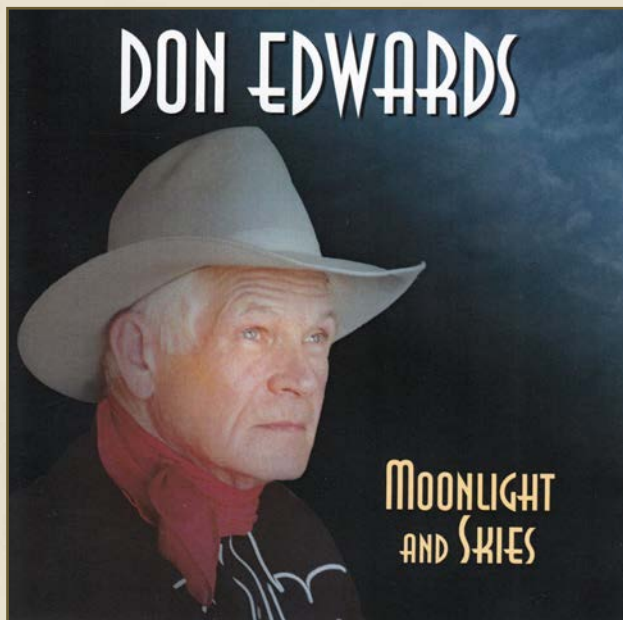
## 10. NORMAN BLAKE & RICH O'BRIEN

*Flop-Eared Mule*

Norman Blake, guitar; Rich O'Brien, guitar; Don Edwards, guitar

From *Be Ready Boys*, WJRC118220,  
June 22, 1999

This is a popular fiddle tune. Guthrie Meade's massive discography on pre-World War II country music 78s lists 40 recordings of the song.



### 11. DON EDWARDS

*Coyotes*

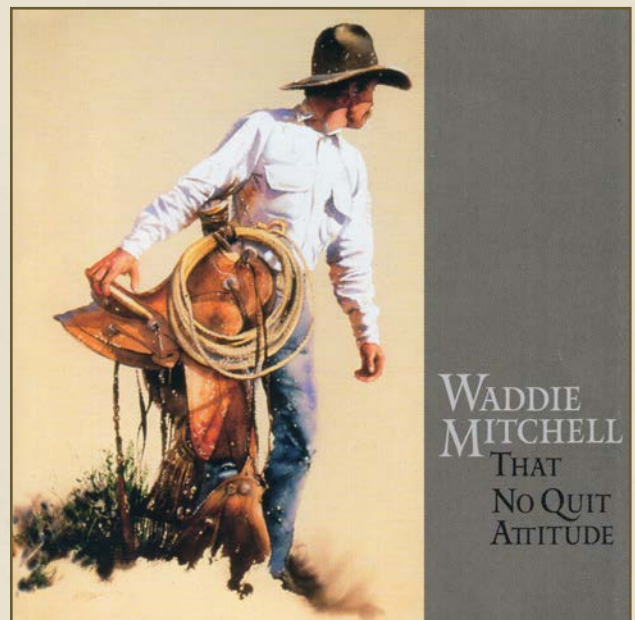
Don Edwards, guitar, vocal; Norman Blake, fiddle; Nancy Blake, cello; Butch Hause, bass; Jon Chandler, harmonica; Hannah Akire, cello

From *Moonlight and Skies*, WJRC121428, March 14, 2006

Singer Don Edwards is a central figure in the history of the Western Jubilee Recording Company. He has the most titles on the label and recorded many of them there at the Warehouse theater.

Edwards left home while young to move to Texas, working in the oil fields. He began performing in 1961 in Texas; he also appeared as an actor in the film *The Horse Whisperer*. Edwards' version of this song, "Coyotes," was featured on the soundtrack of the film *Grizzly Man*.

The song was written by country music songwriter Bob McDill and is particularly identified with Don. McGill wrote songs recorded by such artists as Crystal Gayle, Juice Newton, Mel McDaniel, Keith Whitley, Bobby Bare, Alan Jackson, and others.



### 12. WADDIE MITCHELL

*Waddie-ism-8*

From *That No Quit Attitude*, WJRC116820, October 8, 2002

Performers at the Western Jubilee theater often told stories and jokes between songs—especially the remarkable poet and storyteller Waddie Mitchell. This interlude is an example of the types of poems Waddie is best known for, which extol the virtues of life on the range.



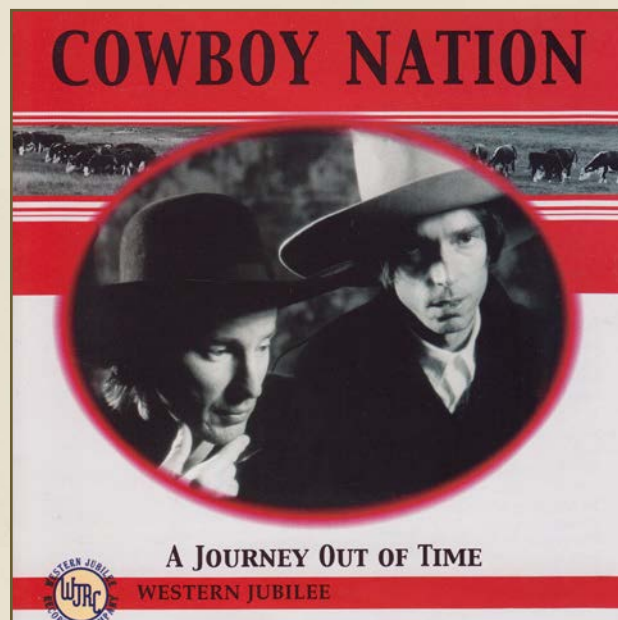
### 13. MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY

*Summer Ranges*

Michael Martin Murphey, guitar, vocal

From *Lone Cowboy*, WJRC365129,  
January 19, 2020

Michael Martin Murphey has had a long recording career singing cowboy and Western songs. He first emerged in the 1970s as part of a crop of new singer-songwriters, penning such popular hits as "Wildfire" and "Geronimo's Cadillac." One album was released on the short-lived Warner Western label. He made two albums for Western Jubilee, *Lone Cowboy* and *Campfire on the Road*, his only solo albums, both recorded in the Western Jubilee Warehouse. Scott met Michael at Murphey's American West Fest in New Mexico, where Murphey had booked some acts on Western Jubilee.



### 14. COWBOY NATION

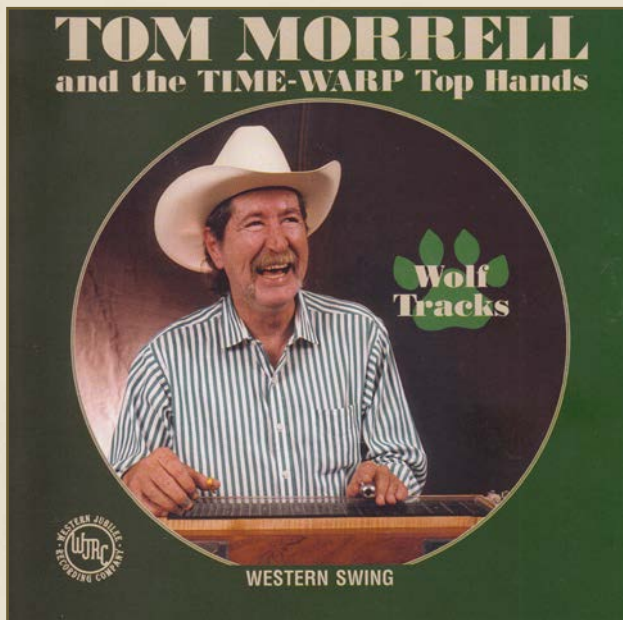
*Two Miles to Town*

Tony Kinman, guitar, vocal; Chip Kinman, guitar, vocal

From *A Journey Out of Time*, WJRC604822,  
June 13, 2000

"Cowboy Nation" was composed in 1996 by Chip and Tony Kinman after the breakup of their important Austin band, Rank and File. The duo combined older cowboy songs with some of their own; this one is a case in point. Western Jubilee released one album by the band. Tony Kinman passed away in 2018.





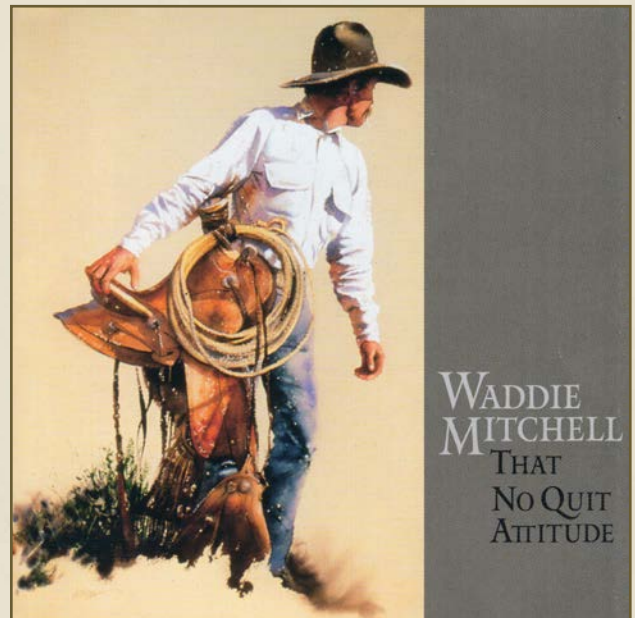
**15. TOM MORRELL**

*Lupus #1*

Tom Morrell, steel guitar; Rich O'Brien, guitar; Johnny Case, piano; Howard MacRae, bass; Banks Dimon, drums; Randy Elmore, fiddle, mandolin

From *Wolf Tracks*, WJRC118121,  
November 16, 1999

Tom Morell was a major figure in Western swing music, playing on numerous albums and with some of the best in the business: Ray Price, Tex Williams, the Texas Playboys, Willie Nelson, and Asleep at the Wheel, to name a few. Along with his group the Timewarp Tophands he recorded the album *Wolf Tracks* in 1999. Morell passed away in 2007.



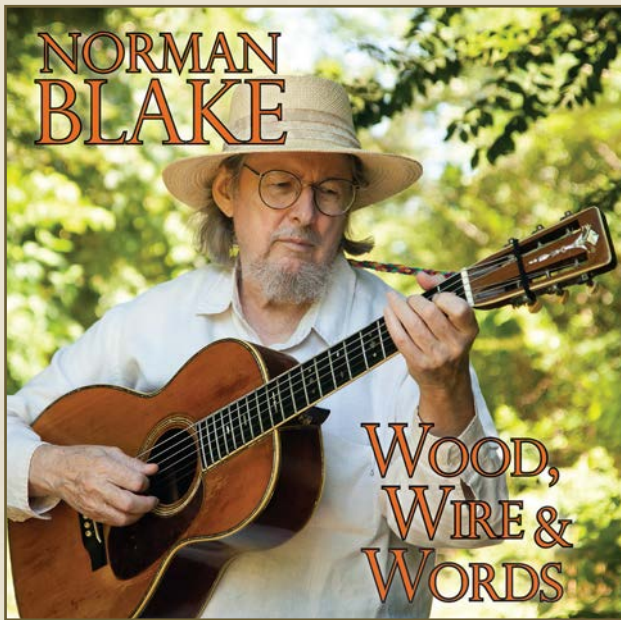
**16. WADDIE MITCHELL**

*Harsh Words*

Waddie Mitchell, vocal

From *That No Quit Attitude*, WJRC116820,  
October 8, 2002

For information on Waddie Mitchell see  
track 4.



**17. NORMAN BLAKE**

*Cloverdale Plantation March*

Norman Blake, guitar

From *Wood, Wire & Words*, PLECT144762,  
January 20, 2015

For information on Norman Blake see track 2.



**18. SONS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN**

*From Whence Came the Cowboy*

Jack Hannah, vocals; Joe Hannah, vocals; John Laufenberger, bass; Richard Chon, fiddle; Rich O'Brien, guitar; Dennis Mack, accordion; Ray Appleton, tambourine, harmonica

From *15 Years: A Retrospective*, WJRC117124,  
October 8, 2002

The Sons of the San Joaquin are one of the three core groups that made up the Western Jubilee label. The group consists of the Hannah family, Joe, Lon, and Jack, a fine songwriter who writes in the great tradition of cowboy song. Their wonderful vocal work evokes the sound of classic cowboy singing groups, especially the Sons of the Pioneers.

# CREDITS

Compiled by Fred Knittel and

Scott O'Malley

Annotated by Jeff Place

Mastered by Pete Reiniger

Cover Illustrations by – William Mathews  
and Bob Moline

Executive Producers – Huib Schippers  
and John Smith

Production Manager – Mary Monseur

Editorial Assistance by Carla Borden

Design by Darryl Norsen, D.Norsen Design

## **SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS IS:**

Cecille Chen, Director of Business Affairs and Royalties; Logan Clark, Executive Assistant; Toby Dodds, Director of Web and IT; Beshou Gedamu, Marketing Specialist; Will Griffin, Licensing Manager; Kate Harrington, Production Assistant; Madison Hart, Royalty Assistant; Fred Knittel, Marketing Specialist; Seth Langer, Licensing and Marketing Assistant; Helen Lindsay, Customer Service; Mary Monseur, Production Manager; Jeff Place, Curator and Senior Archivist; Huib Schippers, Curator and Director; Sayem Sharif, Director Of Financial Operations; Ronnie Simpkins, Audio Specialist; John Smith, Associate Director; Jonathan Williger, Marketing Manager; Brian Zimmerman, Sales Representative And Fulfillment.

## **SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS RECORDINGS**

is the nonprofit record label of the Smithsonian Institution, the national museum of the United States. Our mission is to document music, spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world. In this way, we continue the legacy of Moses Asch, who founded Folkways Records in 1948. The Smithsonian acquired Folkways from the Asch estate in 1987, and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings has continued the Folkways tradition by supporting the work of traditional artists and expressing a commitment to cultural diversity, education, and increased understanding among peoples through the production, documentation, preservation, and dissemination of sound.

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, Folkways, Arhoolie, A.R.C.E., Blue Ridge Institute, Bobby Susser Songs for Children, Collector, Cook, Dyer-Bennet, Fast Folk, Folk-Legacy, Mickey Hart Collection, Monitor, M.O.R.E., Paredon, and UNESCO recordings are all available through:

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings Mail Order  
Washington, DC 20560-0520

PHONE: (800) 410-9815 or  
888-FOLKWAYS (orders only)  
FAX: (800) 853-9511 (orders only)

To purchase online, or for further information about Smithsonian Folkways Recordings go to: **[www.folkways.si.edu](http://www.folkways.si.edu)**.

Please send comments and questions to **[smithsonianfolkways@si.edu](mailto:smithsonianfolkways@si.edu)**.