

Don Edwards

SADDLE SONGS



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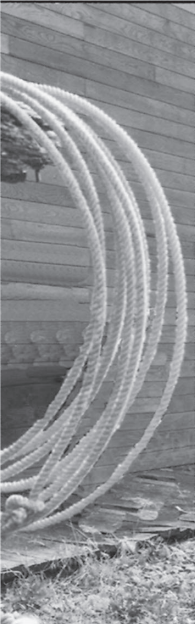
CLASSIC

32

SONGS



WESTERN JUBILEE



The American cowboy became the most colorful and legendary character to ever ride across the pages of history. For over one hundred years he has remained America's foremost symbol of self-reliance and independence. In reality, legend and myth he gloriously stands alone as the greatest folk-hero the world has ever known. Since childhood, I have been totally obsessed and fascinated with cowboy songs and stories. I have collected everything and anything I could get my hands on, but in time I began to realize that to best tell the cowboy's story was to sing his songs. As a life long close observer of cowboy life I can attest to the historical importance of these songs. His life is our heritage, his song is our inheritance so as you listen to the music I will tell you his story as best I can.

Feliz Senderos
Amigos,

Don Edwards
Sevenshoux Ranch
Parker County, Texas

This two volume CD set was originally published as two book/tape sets, "SONGS OF THE COWBOYS" and "GUITARS AND SADDLE SONGS". This recording contains some selections previously unreleased. Many of these songs, complete with words and music can be found in my song book, "CLASSIC COWBOY SONGS" available at most book stores or by mail order from us here at Sevenshoux Enterprises at 271 Jupiter Trail, Weatherford, Texas 76088.

All songs copyright by Night Horse Songs/BMI except: "Miss Aledo" written Ray Reed and "The Master's Call" written by Marty Robbins copyright Mariposa Music Inc./EMI, Unichappell Music Inc./EMI • Recorded at Eagle Audio, Forth Worth, Texas - Mike Talmadge engineer

Instruments played on this recording were a 1921 Martin 00-45, a 1907 Martin 0-28, and a recent custom Martin 000-42. A 1926 Gibson Mastertone guitar-banjo was used on "Zebra Dun" and "'Longside The Santa Fe Trail" and an old Stella six-string was used for slide guitar on "Doney Gal." Photos by Donald Kallaus except where noted. Art Direction by Joan Pelosi

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DON EDWARDS

SADDLE SONGS

Vol. 1

THE BALLAD OF JACK THORP

Don Edwards

3:29

I wrote this song as a tribute to Nathan Howard 'Jack' Thorp. Jack was not only a sure-nuff cowboy, he was the first to systematically collect and publish a book of cowboy songs. (Songs of The Cowboys 1908). Another larger edition was published in 1921.

THE OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL

Trad. Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards

2:23

The Chisholm Trail was named after the man who originally blazed it while freighting from San Antonio, Texas to Wichita, Kansas between the years 1864 - 1866. The cattle herds later followed the trail and the cowboys named it after its originator, Jesse Chisholm. The trail was later extended to Abilene, Kansas by Joseph McCoy who brought together the railroad and the trail herd to create a major shipping point for Texas trail herds in 1867.

The song is probably the oldest and most authentic of all cowboy songs and was said to have a verse for every mile of the trail.

WHOOPIE TI YI YO

(Get Along Little Dogies)

Trad. Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards

2:38

A *dogie* (long C) is a motherless calf. The name comes from feeding on grass and water only, resulting in bloated stomachs that looked like a sack of sourdough. The cowboys called them dough-guts or dough-bellies, later shortened to *dogie*. There's an old saying that goes: "A *dogie*'s a calf with no family or friends, it's fat in the middle and poor at both ends." The song is a perfect example of a popular cowboy song and its origin, probably "The Old Man's Lament" an Irish lullabye dating back to 1860. The unique and interesting parallel of motherless calves and a fatherless child.



THE PECOS RIVER QUEEN

Jack Thorp/Music & Arr. by D.Edwards

2:28

Not far from Langtry, Texas, is the Comstock Railroad trestle, said to have been the highest in the West. The famous Judge Roy Bean told Thorp a story about how a pretty Texas cowgirl by the name of Patty Moorhead rode her horse across the trestle. Jack wrote the song from the story Bean had told him and made Patty "The Pecos River Queen".

COWBOY JACK

Trad. Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards

3:07

This is a great old song and a much requested one. You can find the words and music to it in my song book "Classic Cowboy Songs" as well in my friend Jim Bob Tinsley's wonderful cowboy song book "He Was Singin' This Song"

CHOPPO

Jack Thorp/Arr. & Adapt. by D.Edwards

2:31

Jack Thorp wrote this song while traveling down around Devil's River, Texas in 1901. Jack said that Chopo was the best little night horse he ever had. Chopo was a little coal black horse that had saved Jack's life more than once. His daddy was a Morgan stud shipped from back East and his mother was a mustang Arabian.

ZEBRA DUN

Trad. Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards

3:22

The "Educated Feller" or "Zebra Dun" was first collected by cow-puncher and ballad hunter, Nathan Howard 'Jack Thorp. He had heard it sung one night in a New Mexico cow camp around 1890. In 1908, Thorp published the poem in his book "Songs Of The Cowboys".

PATCNIO

Trad. Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards

3:18

For a song as popular as this there is little known of its origin.

SAM BASS
Trad. Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
4:51

There's been volumes written about the life and times of Sam Bass. There's also as many variations of the song. Jack Thorp credits a man by the name of John Denton with the writing of the song. All I can tell you for sure is that Sam was born in Indiana in 1869 and came to Texas to become a cowboy. He loved horses especially fast ones, Horse racing was his favorite pastime next to robbing trains. He became a Robin Hood type folk hero and once robbed a stage coach not far from my home place here in Weatherford, Texas.

THE STREETS OF LAREDO
Francis Henry Maynard/ Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
3:10

Jack Thorp claims the song was written by Francis Henry Maynard in 1876. Its origin is based on the Irish ballad "The Unfortunate Rake" and the melody coming from another Irish song "The Bard Of Armagh".

NIGHT HERDING SONG
Harry Stephens/ Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
2:43

Texas cowpuncher Harry Stephens composed this song in 1909 at the age of twenty-one. Though one of the few old time cowboy songs to have a known author it still finds its way into song collections as an anonymous contribution to western folklore.

LITTLE JOE THE WRANGLER
Jack Thorp/Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
4:13

This is one of the most popular cowboy songs ever written. Thorp composed it in 1898. He had written it from a true life experience, but not on the same trail drive it happened on. Jack was trailing cattle from Chimney Lake, New Mexico to Higgins, Texas when he wrote the song on a paper sack one night in camp. On the return trip, he sang it at Uncle Johnny Root's Store and Saloon in Weed, New Mexico. The song has since become a classic.

LITTLE JOE THE WRANGLER'S SISTER WELL
Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
4:19

Cowboys had a liking to sad songs and this is one of the saddest. It was said to have been written by 'Jack' Thorp, but he never claimed it. There's been much controversy over its authorship, but I don't think anyone really knows for sure who wrote it.

RAILROAD CORRAL

Joseph Mills Hanson/ Arr./Adapt by D.Edwards
2:50

The original title of the song was simply "Cowboy Song" and was written by Joseph Mills Hanson of Yankton, South Dakota in 1904. The song was most likely based on the Scottish ballad "Bonnie Dundee". The title was changed to the "Railroad Corral" and passed into oral folk song tradition a mere six years after it was written.

THE PECOS STREAM

Trad./Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
3:21

Jack Thorp first published the song in 1908. The song is most widely known as "The Cowboy Life" or "The Dreary Life" coming from a Maine woodsman's lament around 1850 called "The Shantyman's Life."

WHAT'S BECOME OF THE PUNCHERS

Jack Thorp/ Music & Arr. by D.Edwards
2:56


Not much is known about this song except that Thorp wrote it and it's most likely dedicated to his good friend, author and cowboy, Eugene Manlove Rhodes. I thought it a fitting end to this volume of songs so I put a little tune to it and here it is.

Total Time Vol. 1

52:51



Photo by: Scott O'Malley



DON EDWARDS
SADDLE SONGS
VOL. 2

MINSTREL OF THE RANGE
Don Edwards
2:22

I wanted to write a song that paid tribute to the cowboy minstrels of the range. I didn't have the foggiest idea how or what I was going to write with the title I had dreamed up, until one day I was reading some of William Wordsworth's poetry and came across a poem called "The Solitary Reaper". As I read and reread the poem, The "Solitary Reaper" became a "Solitary Cowboy".

THE LONG ROAD WEST
Henry Herbert Knibbs
Music written and arranged by Don Edwards
4:06

Although Knibb's poetry hasn't been set to music as often as that of Charles Badger Clark, he is still one of the West's greatest poets.

MISS ALEDO
Ray Reed
2:39

As with many of the old songs, the authors are pretty hard to find especially when you come on to a song with no credit. I met Ray several years ago in Lubbock, Texas and he told me he had written this song. Ray is a New Mexico cowboy and singer who had worked for the World Champion cowboy Bob Crosby on Crosby's Cross B ranch near Roswell, New Mexico. Bob was the owner of Miss Aledo and Powderhorn, two of the greatest cutting horses of all time. Ray Reed is in his 80's now and still a fine singer, guitar picker and one hell of a cowboy. I feel better knowing that credit for this song is finally where it's due.

RIDIN'
Charles Badger Clark
Music & Arr. by Don Edwards
2:48

This was Badger Clark's first published poem. Its original title was "In Arizony" and appeared in the August, 1906 issue of Pacific Monthly magazine. The poem has been set to music many times, but this is my version the way I've always sung it.

'LONGSIDE THE SANTA FE TRAIL
James Grafton Rogers/ Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
2:55

This song was written in 1911 by James Grafton Rogers of Denver, Colorado. The earliest recording I know of was by Jules Verne Allen, but my favorite rendition is by my cowboy friend Glenn Ohrlin.

WANDERIN' COWBOY
Trad./Arr. / Adapt. by D.Edwards
1:59

I've got a record of this song by Patt Patterson. Other than that I know very little about this song or its origin.

THE STRAWBERRY ROAN
Curley Fletcher/ Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
4:33

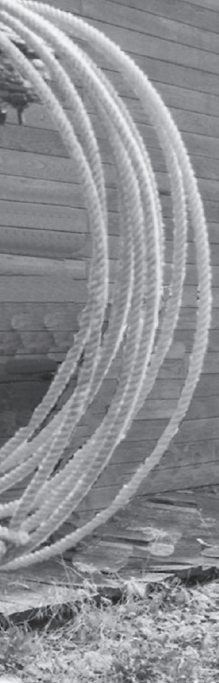
This has got to be one of the best horse songs ever written. Curley Fletcher of Bishop, California wrote it in 1915. Curley was a working cowboy, rodeo cowboy, author, musician and script writer of Hollywood Westerns. Curly credits entertainer Romaine Lowdermilk from Arizona with the tune as we know it today. In 1931, the song appeared in the Broadway play "Green Grow The Lilacs" which would later become the famous play and motion picture "Oklahoma". No credit was given to its writer. That same year Nat Vincent and Fred Howard stole the song and copyrighted it with a silly little chorus to make the song more appealing to the mainstream. The version you hear on this recording is the way Curley wrote it.

THE GLORY TRAIL
Charles Badger Clark/Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
2:56

This Badger Clark poem is more commonly known as "High Chin Bob" and has been sung to the same tune for almost ninety years.

I'D LIKE TO BE IN TEXAS
Trad. Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
3:31

This song was more likely written by an old-time cowboy and not by the modern-day writers who put their names on it. I'm inclined to believe this because two stanzas of the song were found in an unpublished play written by Andy Adams author of the classic book "The Log Of A Cowboy". The song was first recorded by Vernon Dalhart in 1926. The last verse on this recording came to me from Australia's legendary singer, Tex Merton. Adding yet another stanza to an already classic yet controversial song. Long live the folk tradition!



DONEY GAL

Trad. Arr./Adapt by D.Edwards
4:50

Most sources agree that Doney-gal is an old Southern mountain term meaning "sweetheart." I have also heard it was an American pronunciation of the Irish Donagal. In any case it's a great song about a cowboy and his trusty night horse.

STOMPEDE!

Arr./Adapt by D.Edwards

"Chant Of The Night Songs" / Words & Music by Don Edwards
"The Master's Call" / Words & Music by

Marty Robbins

8:11

"Stompede" is an old-time cowboy term for "stampede" a dreaded reality of the early trail driving days.

AFTER THE ROUNDUP

D.J. O'Malley / Arr./Adapt. by D.Edwards
4:40

D.J. O'Malley was born in New York in 1867 and cowboied all his life, mostly in Montana where he wrote this poem in 1893. It was first published in the Stock Growers Journal on October 6th 1893 with the title "After The Round-up" and sung to the tune of America's first hit song, "After The Ball".

In 1925 the title and tune were changed when cowboy singer Carl T. Sprague recorded it for RCA Victor under the title "When The Work's All Done This Fall". The record sold over 900,000 copies making it the first recorded hit of a genuine cowboy song.

ROUNDED UP IN GLORY

Trad./Arr./Adapt by D.Edwards
3:36

A true gospel cowboy hymn. I have no idea who wrote the song, but the best recorded version I'm aware of was by Tex Ritter.

PHILOSOPHICAL COWBOY

Traditional/ Music by Don Edwards
2:49

This is a cowboy version of what was originally a freighting song called "Root Hog Or Die" meaning take responsibility for yourself and your actions or pay the consequence. The cowboy philosophy here can pertain to any walk of life. quite a virtae in this modern, whos-is-me-it's-not-my-fault-blame-it-on-somebody-else society.

THE OLD COW MAN

Charles Badger Clark/Music by Don Edwards

4:24

"The Old Cow Man is as timely now as when it was written. I've always loved this poem and would recite it from time to time until one night a tune for the poem came to me in my sleep. I couldn't believe it! It's never happened before or since.

Total: 62:29

Total Time for both volumes: 1:50:22

Produced by Don Edwards for Sevenshoux Ent.

SCOTT O'MALLEY & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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DISC #1

1. BALLAD OF JACK THORP 3:29
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Total Time 52:51



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DON EDWARDS SADDLE SONGS

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"Don Edwards' warm and wonderful voice could make "Chicago" sound like a cowboy song."

— **Billboard**

"Edwards treats these timeless songs with the proper lonesome feeling, respectfully nostalgic yet never overly romanticized."

— **The Houston Chronicle**



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DON EDWARDS

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