This collaboration has been a long time dream and a long time comin’. In the many years I’ve worked with Don Edwards, I’ve come to realize what a real feel and love he has for the tradition of Cowboy Poetry, the professionalism to pick material and place it into a set, and the ear to add appropriate music. Those are necessary traits, but possibly the most important element he brought to the project was the knowledge to put together the perfect team. Rich O’Brien is not only a genius talent but possesses those same traits. His input to the project has been invaluable. Norman Blake brought a lifetime of knowledge and an inexhaustible well of music to the album. I feel so privileged to work with such talent and will never be able to express the appreciation I have for their efforts. The team also includes my close friends and business partners at Western Jubilee Recording Company. I sincerely thank and appreciate them for the work and support they’ve given. The cover painting for this recording was done by my old compadre, William Matthews. He has been a fine example of what friendship means. Willy has been painting my mug since the days I was still a wage drawing cowboy and he always adds class. To all involved I sincerely “Thank you kindly.”

— Waddie
When my friend Waddie Mitchell asked me to produce his next poetry recording, I was quite reluctant. Even though Waddie and I have performed together for nearly twelve years I was in no way qualified as a producer and by no means an authority on poetry.

For as long as I can remember Waddie would always be telling me how he never liked poetry records, including his own. He never believed the true meaning and spirit could be captured on a recording, but he did believe that music and poetry were close kin. I agreed, after all it worked for Jack Kerouac and David Amram. So why not Waddie Mitchell and put him with two of my all-time favorite and legendary players – Rich O’Brien and Norman Blake? Cool!... What a great idea!... Three brilliant artists together for the first time. Put them on stage in the wonderfully funky and neat Warehouse Theatre in Colorado Springs, Colorado, mix in two-hundred or so fun-lovin’ fans, put my “Producer Hat” in my lap, sit back and let the magic happen!

Don Edwards

2. Typical By Waddie Mitchell for Waddie’s Words Publishing/BMI

   (Bull Run Picnic - Norman Blake - mandolin, Rich O’Brien - guitar/banjo)

4. The Old Nighthawk By Bruce Kiskaddon
   (Miss Forbes Farewell - Norman Blake: mandolin, Rich O’Brien: guitar)

   (Music Rich O’Brien and Norman Blake)

6. Sentence By Waddie Mitchell for Waddie’s Words Publishing/BMI


8. The Owl Critic By James T. Fields

9. The Sounds A Cowboy Hears By Waddie Mitchell & Jana Lee Martin for Waddie’s
   Words Publishing/BMI (Music-verse “Prairie Wind” by Norman Blake for Blake and
   Blake Music, chorus sung by Don Edwards, Norman Blake: mandolin,

10. Cross-eyed Bull By “Blue The Shearer”

11. The Walkin’ Man By Henry Herbert Knibbs (Rag Baby Jig - Norman Blake: guitar)

12. “Red River Valley” Traditional

13. Piddlin’ Pete Anonymous (G-Nerik Rag by Norman Blake for Blake and Blake Music

14. “Swedish Waltz” Traditional/P.D.
    (Instrumental Rich O’Brien and Norman Blake: guitars)

15. No Second Chance By Waddie Mitchell for Waddie’s Words Publishing/BMI
    (Grandfather’s Clock - Norman Blake: guitar, Rich O’Brien: guitar)
Recorded live at the Warehouse Theatre, Colorado Springs, CO Sept. 10 & 11, 1997
Scott O'Malley: Host and Proprietor
Anti-Produced by Don Edwards (take the best of the best, put them together in the same
room, sit back and let it happen!)
Engineered by Butch Hause
Post Production Supervision by Rich O'Brien
Mixed by Bob Sullivan at Broadway Recording Studio, Garland, TX
Edited by Pam Irwin at Summit Burnet Studios, Dallas, TX
All music traditional except G-Nerik Rag and Prairie Wind written by Norman Blake.
All music arranged, adapted and played by Rich O'Brien and Norman Blake
Thanks to John Ramsey & The Folklore Center, Colorado Springs

Instruments:
1929 12-Fret Gibson Nick Lucas Guitar
1995 14-Fret Martin M36 Guitar
1994 12-Fret Martin 000-42 Custom Guitar
1921 Gibson GB Guitar-Banjo
1926 Gibson Mastertone Guitar-Banjo
1947 Style A Martin Mandolin
1907 Homemade fiddle marked E.O. Dennis D.D.S.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MICHAEL AND VICKIE STEVENS
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Made in USA 824761-11652-3
1. “The Old Spinning Wheel”
2. Typical
3. Goat On A Rope
4. The Old Nighthawk
5. Blood, Sweat and Steers
6. Sentence
7. “Bill Cheatam”
8. The Owl Critic
9. The Sounds A Cowboy Hears
10. Cross-eyed Bull
11. The Walkin’ Man
12. “Red River Valley”
13. Piddlin’ Pete
14. “Swedish Waltz”
15. No Second Chance
Waddie Mitchell, renowned cowboy poet is joined here by musicians Norman Blake, Don Edwards and Rich O’Brien to produce a musical/poetry tapestry.

(l to r) Don Edwards, Waddie Mitchell, Norman Blake, Rich O’Brien

1. “THE OLD SPANNING WHEEL” • 2. TYPICAL • 3. GOAT ON A ROPE
4. THE OLD NIGHTHAWK • 5. BLOOD, SWEAT AND STEERS • 6. SENTENCE
7. “BILL CHEATAM” • 8. THE OWL CRITIC • 9. THE SOUNDS A COWBOY HEARS
10. CROSS-EYED BULL • 11. THE WALKIN’ MAN • 12. “RED RIVER VALLEY”
13. PIDDLIN’ PETE • 14. “SWEDISH WALTZ” • 15. NO SECOND CHANCE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:
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“He is the quintessential cowboy poet...”
— THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

“Waddie Mitchell is one of the best practitioners of the growing art of ‘cowboy poetry.’”
— BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

“Waddie Mitchell is probably the most recognized real cowboy in the world today.”
— WESTERN HORSEMAN