

MEDICINE HAT COWBOY POETRY FOUNDATION



Howdy!

Once a year we have a gathering of western musicians and cowboy poets in an effort to keep this unique genre alive. We are thankful the cowhands started it during the trail drives from the 1860's to the early 1900's. Their stories were put into rhyme and song while on the boring all-day ride and also during the long nights when they were on cattle watch. During the drives (that could take as long as three months) they entertained their fellow cowhands in the evening. MHCP's mission is to keep that history alive.

We're thankful to all of you that support our effort by attending our event, by supporting us in various ways and by engaging in what we offer in our newsletter. To those of you who tell your friends about our event (and website) and pass our newsletter around, thanks so much. There is much to be thankful for as we behold the beauty of nature around us and appreciate the freedom and peace that people in other countries don't have. From an aboriginal source, "If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies in yourself."

- Western Music - Cowboy Poetry - Rural Lifestyle -
Medicine Hat Cowboy Poetry Foundation
 - Proudly Presents -

WESTERN MUSIC & POETRY ROUND-UP

OCTOBER 16, 17 & 18

Friday at the Moose
 12:00 Performances, \$15
 7:30 Open Mike, Free

Victory Lutheran Church
 Saturday: 12:00 Performances, \$15
 5:30 Supper, \$25, preorder
 7:30 Headliner, \$25
 Sunday: 10:30 Cowboy Church

Weekend Pass \$50

Headliner
Ben Crane

Other Performers
 Bill Skene
 Bryce Burnett
 Del Pratt
 Lorna Williams
 Morley Thorpe
 Poppa Mac
 & seven more

Tickets Available at Hale Hearing or phone 403-529-6384
 E-transfer: MHCowboyLife@gmail.com
 www.MHCowboyLife.com

Tickets:

- at Hale Hearing across the hall from the 13th Ave Co-op OR
- by phoning 403-529-6384 to have Jen set them aside for you
- \$50 weekend pass, Friday & Saturday afternoon, plus Saturday night's headliner
- supper not included, there is an afternoon canteen
 - \$25 beef-on-a-bun supper, preorder
 - \$25 Saturday night headliner, Ben Crane



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 2026
at the Moose Lodge, 901 8th St SW

Friday's Western Music and Poetry Round-Up

- at the Moose Lodge, 901 8th St SW
- \$15 at the door
- 14 musicians and poets, almost 5 solid hours of entertainment
- Open Mike is free
- Hazel Rust Memorial Certificate to juniors that preregister, 403-529-6384

12:00 – 5:30 AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE

Harv Speers -MC, Noel Burles -Backstage Manager, Jim Koch -Soundman

Session One (Performer Registration, upon arrival)

- 12:00 Al Young, M
- 12:20 Delbert Pratt, P
- 12:40 Jack Humeny, M
- 1:00 Lorna Williams, P
- 1:20 Miles Tornberg, M

1:40 – 2:00 BREAK (Performer Membership Purchase/Renewal, 2027)

Session Two, Round Robin

- Bryce Burnett, P
- Emily Faye, M
- Brian Anderson, P
- Harv Speers, P

3:20 – 3:40 BREAK (Performer Membership Purchase/Renewal, 2027)

Session Three

- 3:40 Dave Loree, M
- 4:00 Morley Thorpe, P+
- 4:20 Robbie Shields, M
- 4:40 Bill W C Skene, P
- 5:00 Noel Burles, M/P and Jen Zollner, P/M

5:30 - SUPPER order off the menu (Membership Purchase/Renewal for 2027)

6:00 – 7:00, post your name for Open Mic

7:00 - OPEN MIC -hosted by Jen

NOTE: M means they do Music, P means they are Poets

Saturday's Round-Up Has it All

-at Victory Lutheran Church
- 2793 Southview Dr SE
-\$15 at the door
-Western music, stories and poetry all afternoon
-you'll also be greeted by Betsy and Bob, our mascots

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 2026
at Victory Lutheran Church, 2793 Southview Dr. SE

12:00 - AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE,
MC-Harv Speers, Backstage Mgr-Noel Burles, Sound/Light Technician-Myron Wenzel

Session One

12:00 Jack Humeny, M
12:20 Brian Anderson, P
12:40 Emily Faye, M
1:00 Bryce Burnett, P
1:20 Harv Speers, City & County Reps
1:40 – 2:00 **BREAK** (*Membership Purchase/Renewal for 2027*)

Session Two, Round Robin

Bill W C Skene, P
Miles Tornberg, M
Morley Thorpe, P+
Al Young, M
(David Woodruff)
3:20 – 3:40 **BREAK** (*Membership Purchase/Renewal for 2027*)

Session Three

3:40 Lorna Williams, P
4:00 Dave Loree, M
4:20 Delbert Pratt, P
4:40 Noel Burles, M/P
5:00 Jen Zollner, Introducing Ben Crane

5:30 – BEEF SUPPER, preorder (*Membership Purchase/Renewal for 2027*)
-beef on a bun, three salads, dessert, coffee, tea

7:30 – EVENING CEREMONY
-processional (*harmonica leading, Royalty, Board Members, Volunteers*)
-Burning of the Brand, Introductions, O Canada, Rodeo Queen Presentation

7:50 – HEADLINER, Ben Crane

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th, 2026

10:30 – WORSHIP with a Western Flair

Round-Up Raffle

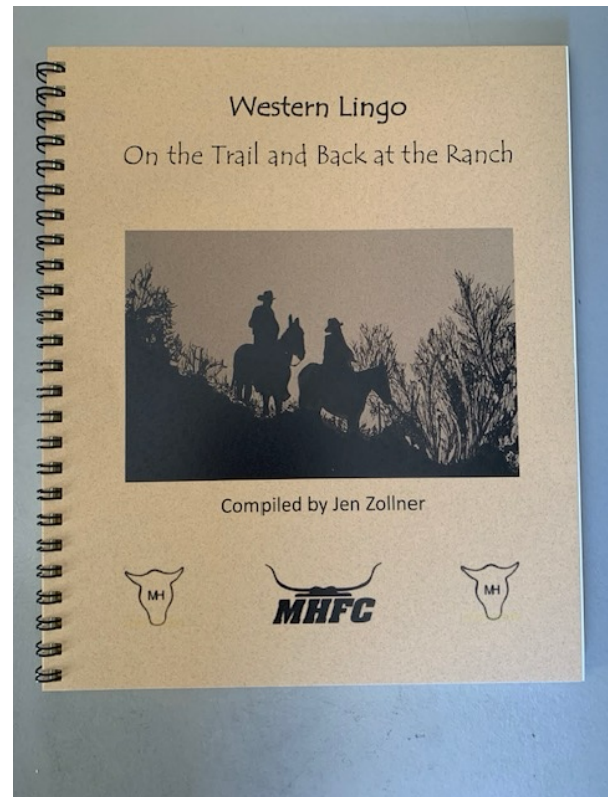
-gives you a chance to win items like a hand-carved tree spirit, a fancy western jacket, an artist's tray with horses, scented candles, the list goes on.



Merchandise

-performer CDs and books are available for purchase. It's win-win when you support them and you take their talent home to enjoy over and over.

-MHCP has books for sale, offering limited copies published in former years. The latest publication is "Western Wisdom, On the Trail and Back at the Ranch". Be sure to get your MHCP membership, too. (\$25 plus a bonus coaster)



Ben Crane Stuff

-He also has CDs (including gospel themed CDs that hard to find). Ben Crane's cartoon-like cards and posters are a treat.

Take some of his humour home with you to share with others. The prices are reasonable. You know how much the Leaning Tree cards cost in the store? Well, his bundle of cards comes to about \$1 each. What a good way to have birthday/anniversary/get well cards on hand.

Kabakula Catering

-has cinnamon buns that are to die for and she makes cowboy cookies, too. Before dessert you might want Chili on a baked potato or Smokies on a homemade bun.

Chuckwagon Supper

-JF Catering has always had great food so we booked him early: beef-on-a-bun, Caesar Salad and Coleslaw. Homemade can't be beat, especially pies (\$25 preorder)

Burning of the Brand

The harmonica leads the evening ceremony. It was the most common instrument on the cattle drives. Medicine Hat Rodeo Queen, Grace Sippola will be carrying the MHCP branding iron and will do the honors of Burning our Brand onto Chester, the Longhorn steer on stage. Following them will be The Dunmore Equestrian Sweetheart and Miss, the MHCP Board and all the volunteers. You can meet and greet Royalty before the ceremony when they'll be on hand.



Royal Treat

MHCP is a firm supporter of the competition for Rodeo Queen in Medicine Hat.

In the arena, the horsemanship of these young women is impressive as they go through the various stations and events. And it's free.

We also attend the Speech and Fashion Show components. Grace Sippola's speech at this year's competition was outstanding; the message was one we thought all of you would want to hear.



The Ben Crane Show

He's not just a singer, songwriter and instrumentalist. He's a comedian and cartoonist.

He's also a guy that can make you want to hear a sermon, as those of us that were at the Caroline Cowboy Gathering last month can attest to. He's making good use of the screen as part of his show.

He tells us he's got a full meal deal for us. Click the link for a sample of his music:

Worship With a Western Flair

Feel the Western Spirit at Sunday's worship service (before the service begins and during Communion). You'll hear Ben Crane and maybe some other performers.

Thanks to the Sponsors

Unfortunately, we've NOT been successful in receiving any government grants this year.

Thanks to these community sponsors that came forward so far:

- Town Place Suites, 2 nights complimentary for the headliner
- Wyndham Garden, group rates and 2 free nights if we get 10 bookings by Oct 1.
- Save-on-Foods, most of the food for the Green Room
 - snacks, sandwiches and drinks for the performers and volunteers
- Blaine Kunz at National Bank Financial, a cash donation
- Superstore, a gift card
- London Drugs, a gift card

Cowboy Gatherings

Elko, Nevada has a gathering that is the granddaddy of them all, a whole week of poetry & music, storytelling & dancing, workshops and exhibitions. They've been doing it every January since 1985. We all say, "Gotta get to that some day!!"

Caroline, our own Elko-kind-of gathering is right here in Alberta. It's a 2-day event the second weekend in September, and is growing by leaps and bounds. And this was only their 4th year. Each of their performers is

of headliner calibre, 20 of them, one of which was Ben Crane. People from far and wide camped there, 40 units on the grounds and another 20 or so at the organizer's place (Darl Charlton).

Trail's End at High River has had a 2-day gathering for many years, the first weekend in September this year. They are the home of the Alberta Cowboy Poetry Association. The membership is free the first year a person performs. In subsequent years, stage time is scheduled if the member wants to perform.

Remembering Louise Maier

She was the chief decorator for our MHCP events. It was her that named Chester as he came into being a little over a year ago when we needed a steerhead for our "Burning of the Brand" ceremony. She was a respected artist in this area, especially known for her pottery.

A platter made by her is one of the raffle items. Play by play she told about making it, where to place the horse heads, how to indicate there are horses in the distance and her struggle to make them look "good". Victory Lutheran Church is blessed to display the Memorial Tree she created.

The bark looks real; each leaf was moulded by her artistic hand.



Chester, the Judas Steer

The name was coined after Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus. Chester, like other Judas steers, led the cattle in his herd into the slaughter house. If the steer was a good Judas, he was spared the meat hook and used again. "How Chester Became a Judas Steer" is in our September, 2025 issue of "Keeping You in the Loop".

Link:

<https://www.mhcowboylife.com/keeping-you-in-the-loop-mhcp-newsletter-september-2025-edition/>

Cowboy Lingo

converter/ sin buster – preacher

doxology works/gospel mill – church

Bible puncher – man who quotes the Bible

gospel sharp – a preacher (opposite of a card shark)

stump orator – man who preaches from the stump of a tree or other elevation

circuit rider – a preacher who ministers the gospel in multiple locations such as ranches and cow camps

Cowboy Commandments

1. Jest one God on the range
2. Don't go worshipping no cows
3. Watch yer tongue
4. Rest yer hide on Sundays
5. Mind yer ma 'n pa
6. No killin' folks
7. Don't mess with another feller's gal
8. So swipin'
9. No gossipin'
10. Quit hankerin' fer yer buddy's stuff

Introducing Lorna Williams

We're lucky that Lorna recently decided to move to Medicine Hat. She's a breath of fresh air with the poems she writes and her delivery of them. The bundle of energy she is, she's been pitching right in to help MHCP.

She helped design the framed "posters" that include the CavanRanch History. They'll be on display at the event.

Music and poetry have always been a part of Lorna's life thanks to the influence of her mom, but it's only more recently that she's been more public with the poetry. Her

favourite instrument is the keyboard but she has played a host of other instruments including the gut bucket. She has been in choirs and sung solos, been with a bluegrass band and was part of a barbershop quartet. She writes and performs monologs based on women in the Bible.

Well rounded and with lots personal experience, her insightful observations come through her lines of rhyme.

Welcome to Medicine Hat, Lorna.



"Autumn"

The leaves are turning yellow
Now that autumn's in the air.
It doesn't matter where you look -
You'll see God's handwork there.

The grain fields that were once so green
Are now a shimmering gold.
The summer blooms, once young and
fresh,
Are withering and old.

Sometimes I almost think we see it
Change before our eyes;
A kaleidoscope of colours
Beneath the autumn skies.

The grasses are now fading
And starting to turn brown.
All around we see shades
Of God's glory coming down

In riotous conclusions of
Burnt oranges, rusts and red,
Preparing us for winter when
All nature goes to bed.

A symphony of colour
Orchestrated by God's hand
As He blesses us with autumn and
His glory floods our land.

by Lorna Williams

Crow Tribal Quote:

"Man's law changes with his understanding
of man. Only the laws of the
spirit remain the same."

(thewildwest.org)

Happy Trails,

Jen