

COWBOY WISDOM

"The older I get, the more important it is for me to put down in paint the places and things in the West that I have seen before they disappear."

—ARTIST TIM COX, BLOOMFIELD, NEW MEXICO, TWO-TIME WINNER OF THE EXPRESS RANCHES GREAT AMERICAN COWBOY AWARD AT PRIX DE WEST. HE WON THE 2007 AWARD WITH HIS PAINTING GOOD HORSES AND WIDE OPEN SPACES (SHOWN AT RIGHT).



COWBOY POETRY

Good Horses and Wide-Open Spaces

BY KEVIN MYERS

The high lonesome beckons to you,
Like a sailor drawn to the sea.
Come, it whispers, ride the big country,
Find what it is that you might be.

Jingle up the cavvy, you'll need a full string
In this country you'll ride.
Mind you, only saddle the good ones,
Big of heart and long of stride.

The wide-open spaces dare you,
To prove you're not among the weak.
Mother Nature herself alone will decide
The true of heart from the timid and meek.

Ride, it calls, upon the mountains,
And to the far reaches of the plains.
Ride the good horses and wide-open spaces,
As though you'll not pass this away again.

Endeavor to catch the skyline,
Show the mountains that you've got sand.
Prove to the sky and rivers
That you have the mettle to make a hand.

Wallow not in your failures,
But hold dear the hard lessons learned.
Carry with pride the scars of knowledge,
Experience having been justly earned.

Give thanks for your appointed station,
Borrowed time only, but yours all along.
Each trotting footfall carrying you farther,
Yet somehow closer to home.

Ride, it dares you from the cold of night,
Through the burning heat of the day.
Ride the good horses and wide-open spaces,
Lest your spirit be let to fade away.

Kevin Myers works on Wyoming's Wagon-hound Ranch and was featured in Tim Cox's award-winning painting Good Horses and Wide Open Spaces, which sold for \$101,000 at the 2007 Prix de West.

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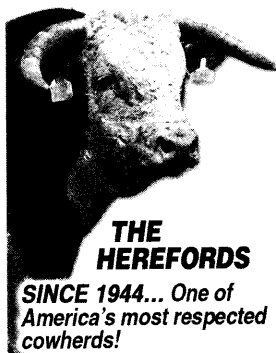
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