

OUR 53RD YEAR

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TRUE WEST

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN WEST

PURVEYORS OF THE OLD WEST

BY MEGHAN SAAR

Each issue we profile some of the finest!

BEAR VALLEY RECORDS

When your mailing address hasn't changed for 100 years, your throwing game involves dried-up meadow muffins and your childhood sweetheart is calling you by the first name of a neighbor who is known far and wide for his childish temper, you are definitely a bona fide rancher.

But Ken Overcast doesn't just live the life; he shares it through his music and stories. For instance, his latest syndicated column, "Meadow Muffins," explains exactly why his wife of nearly 40 years, Dawn, was calling him a dirty name.

They were trying to brand "one old rip," and Ken kept yellin' from the chute that Dawn was letting the honky cow get by her. Well, if Ken could do it better ... go right ahead. So he did. The result, he writes, "I got freight-trained and wound up with a perfectly

coordinated wardrobe; Cow manure on the back & cow tracks on the front."

Although he admits "stayin' married to the gal you work cows with is a challenge," without Dawn, Ken wouldn't have so much fun at their ranch on Lodge Creek in north central Montana, 15 miles from where three generations of his and his wife's families have lived before them.

Through music and writing, Ken shares the simple—and often humorous—Western lifestyle he and his family enjoy (they have a daughter Karlie, whose husband and four kids also live on the ranch).

On Bear Valley Records, he's recorded eight CDs, produced by Russ Ragsdale, whose other clients include Trisha Yearwood, Tim McGraw, Bob Dylan and the Isley Brothers. Besides his column, Ken also pens short story collections and has a one-



Ken Overcast (left) is a bona fide rancher who loves to share his lifestyle with others. His last book, *Shootin' the Breeze*, hit the streets last fall. His latest CD is *Montana in My Soul*, which came out this spring.

— CARRIE BOSS VALLEY READER —

hour weekly radio show that airs on 60 network affiliates (you can also listen to webcasts from his website).

But it's probably the "Three S.O.B. Rule" that keeps his ranching life afloat and allows him to share it with others. As a friend's wife told him, once the husband says S.O.B. three times, she's out of there.

That frustration meter is definitely good to have around a ranch.



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