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APRIL/MAY 2017

**Legacy of an Oklahoma Oil Man:  
J. Steve Anderson, Co-founder of  
Anderson Prichard Oil Corporation**

**Creative Oklahoma honors  
2017 Ambassadors**

**Star Splangled Air Show as Tinker  
celebrates 75th Anniversary**

**2017 Festival of the Arts  
OKC's Rite of Spring**

**Leadership Oklahoma  
Annual Awards Ceremony**

*Lifestyle ... Culture ... Entertainment*

## Honorees Star at Western Heritage Awards

BY M. J. VAN DEVENTER

**M**ovie stars and western notables were abundant when the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum hosted its annual Western Heritage Awards program during the weekend of April 21-22.

Bruce Boxleitner, a notable actor and writer, who is no stranger to the Museum stage, served as master of ceremonies this year. The event celebrates the legacy of those whose works in film, music, television and literature reflect the significant stories of the Western genre.

The black tie ceremony takes its celebratory cues from the annual Oscar Awards in Hollywood. The event is often called "The Oscars of the West." The winners of five different categories represent the highest echelon for Western songwriters, authors, entertainers, artists and promoters.

Gary Moore, the Museum's chief financial officer and interim president/CEO said, "Each honoree embraces elements that embody the Western character, helping to make the region vastly dynamic and part of our national and, in fact, continental character."

Each award winner receives The Wrangler, an impressive bronze sculpture of a cowboy on horseback. That notable work of art was created by Harold T. Holden who was among the 2017 winners, with his induction into the Hall of Great Westerners. (*See related story in this issue.*)

### Award Recipients

**Hall of Great Westerners Inductees** — Harold T. Holden and the late Raymond E. Adams Jr.

**Hall of Great Western Performers** — Patrick Wayne and the late Alan Ladd.

**Chester A Reynolds Award** — Johnny Trotter. The award honors the Museum's founder.



Susan Hallsten McGarry

### Film & Television Awards

**Theatrical Motion Picture** — *Hell or High Water*, produced by Film, 44, OddLot Entertainment and Sidney Kimmel Entertainment.

**Fictional Drama** — *Chrysalis*, Longmore, produced by Two Boomerang, The Shephard/Robin Company and Warner Horizon Television.

**Documentary** — *What Was Ours*, produced by Alpheus Media, Inc.

**Western Lifestyle Program** — *Red Steagall is Somewhere West of Wall Street*, produced by West of Wall Street Company

## Literary Awards

**Magazine Article** — “*Warriors to Ride the River With*” — by Gabriella Schiavino, published by American Cowboy Magazine.

**Poetry Book** — *The Woman Who Married A Bear: Poems* by Tiffany Midge, published by the University of New Mexico Press.

**Western Novel** — Robert B. Parker’s *Blackjack* by Robert Knott, published by G. P. Putnam’s Sons.

The Pure Quill book award was particularly special for Barbara Van Cleve.

“My father would be proud,” she said.

Her father, Paul “Spike” Van Cleve won a Wrangler Award and a video documentary award for his book, *40 Years Gatherin’s* in the mid 1970s.

She and her co-author, McGarry, have another reason to be proud of this beautiful coffee table book. In addition to the Wrangler Award, it was named Best Adult Book and Best Art Book in November 2016 by the New Mexico/Arizona Book

Awards program.

In April, the Independent Book Publishers gave *Pure Quill* the Bronze Medal in the Photography Book category.

## Music Awards

**New Horizons** — Trinity Seely. Original Western Composition — “Keeper of the West” by Ryan Fritz, produced by Eli Barsi and John Cunningham.

Traditional Western Album — “The Cowboy Way” produced by Mariam Funke.

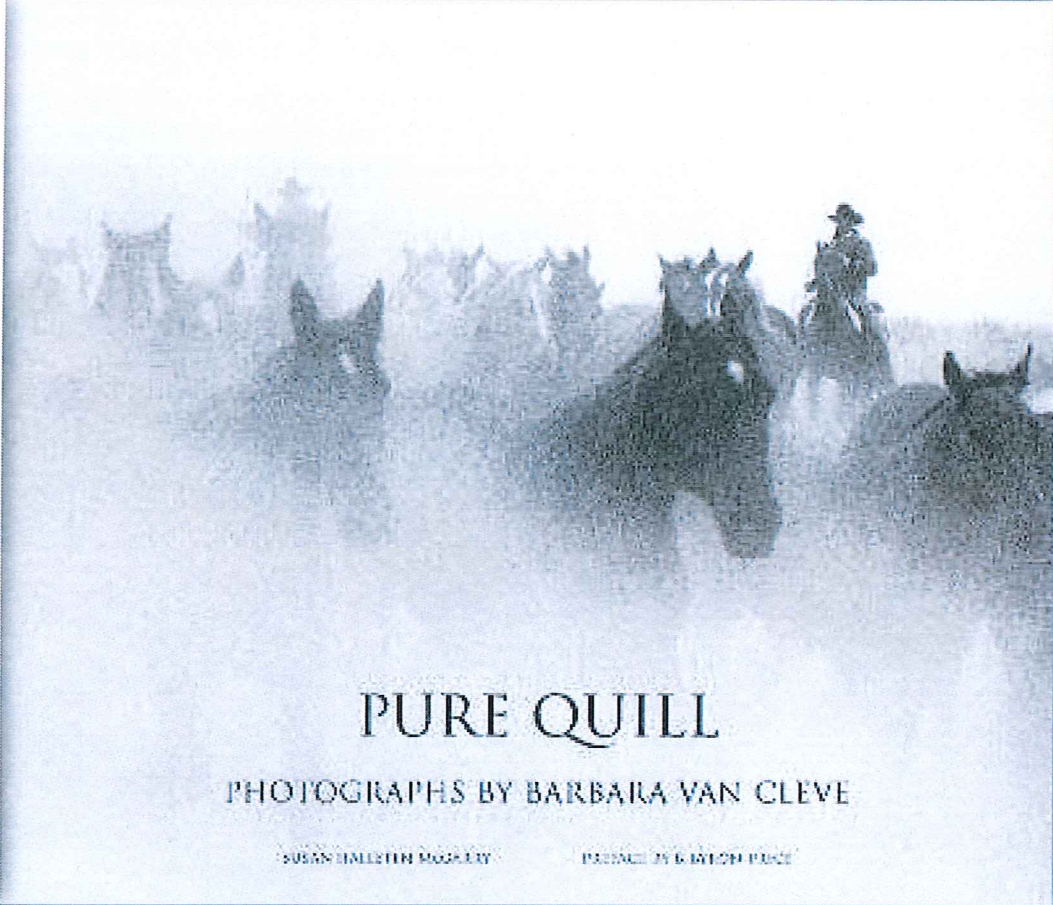
New this year was the Western Heritage Awards Workshop featuring Amy Shepherd, vice president of John Wayne Enterprises and executive director of the John R. Hamilton Archives and Laurie Kratochvil, photograph dealer and appraiser.

Sponsors for the event were Ann and David Brown, Wrangler, Museum Partners and the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau. ■

**Nonfiction Book** — *American Serengeti: The Last Big Animals of the Great Plains* by Dan Flores, published by the University Press of Kansas.

**Art/Photography Book** — *Pure Quill: Photography* by Barbara Van Cleve by Susan Hallsten McGarry, published by SF Design, LLC/Fresco Books.

**Juvenile Book** — *The Green Colt* by S. J. Dahlstrom, published by Paul Dry Books.



# PURE QUILL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARBARA VAN CLEVE

SUSAN HALLSTEN MCGARRY

DESIGNED BY GARY ONI PACE

## Just call him 'H'

### Cowboy Artist Inducted Into Hall of Great Westerners

BY M.J. VAN DEVENTER

**Y**ou might call Harold Holden “The Quiet Man” of Western art. He doesn’t talk much, although when he does, folks listen. He’s just never been a chatty type of guy.

That’s probably because he’s a great listener and an astute observer of life ~ especially the western way of life. Those observations and experiences involving the cowboy lifestyle have been the foundation for an impressive art career that now spans half a century.

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum honored Holden for his legendary achievements April 22 during its annual Western Heritage Awards program. The event is a glitzy, glamorous gala that draws a wide spectrum of western enthusiasts, celebrities and movie stars, like Bruce Boxleitner, who was this year’s Master of Ceremonies.

Holden was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners, along with the late Raymond E. Adams Jr. This is the highest honor the Museum bestows on an individual whose life reflects the best of western American values.

Typically, Holden’s acceptance speech was marked with brevity, just as his speech was when he was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in

2014, sharing the stage with such notables as Blake Shelton and Wanda Jackson.

Chuck Schroeder, former president of the National Cowboy Museum and a good friend of Holden's, presented the prestigious Hall of Fame medallion to Holden. Holden delivered his acceptance speech with his slow, Oklahoma drawl, laced with his gentle wit.

Holden, or "H" as he is affectionately known to his family and close friends, graduated from Enid High School and attended Oklahoma State University for a while, then moved to Texas, graduating from the Texas Academy of Art in Houston.

He served with the U. S. Navy aboard the USS Rainier, then began his art career in the commercial art field, eventually serving as the art director for Horseman Magazine. After six years, he tired of "the rat race," packed up and went home to Enid. Honoring a child-hood dream to be an artist, he began to devote his life to painting western art themes.

"There weren't many people making a living painting cowboys then," Holden recalled in a western publication article. "I was pretty poor there for a while. I got one monument done and then I started getting some commission work and some bigger artwork and finally had some money coming in."

#### THE DIMES TURNED TO DOLLARS.

Today "H" and his wife, Edna Mae, an attorney, live on a ranch in Kremlin, eight miles north of Enid.



Edna Mae's office is also a public art gallery, filled with Holden's paintings and sculptures.

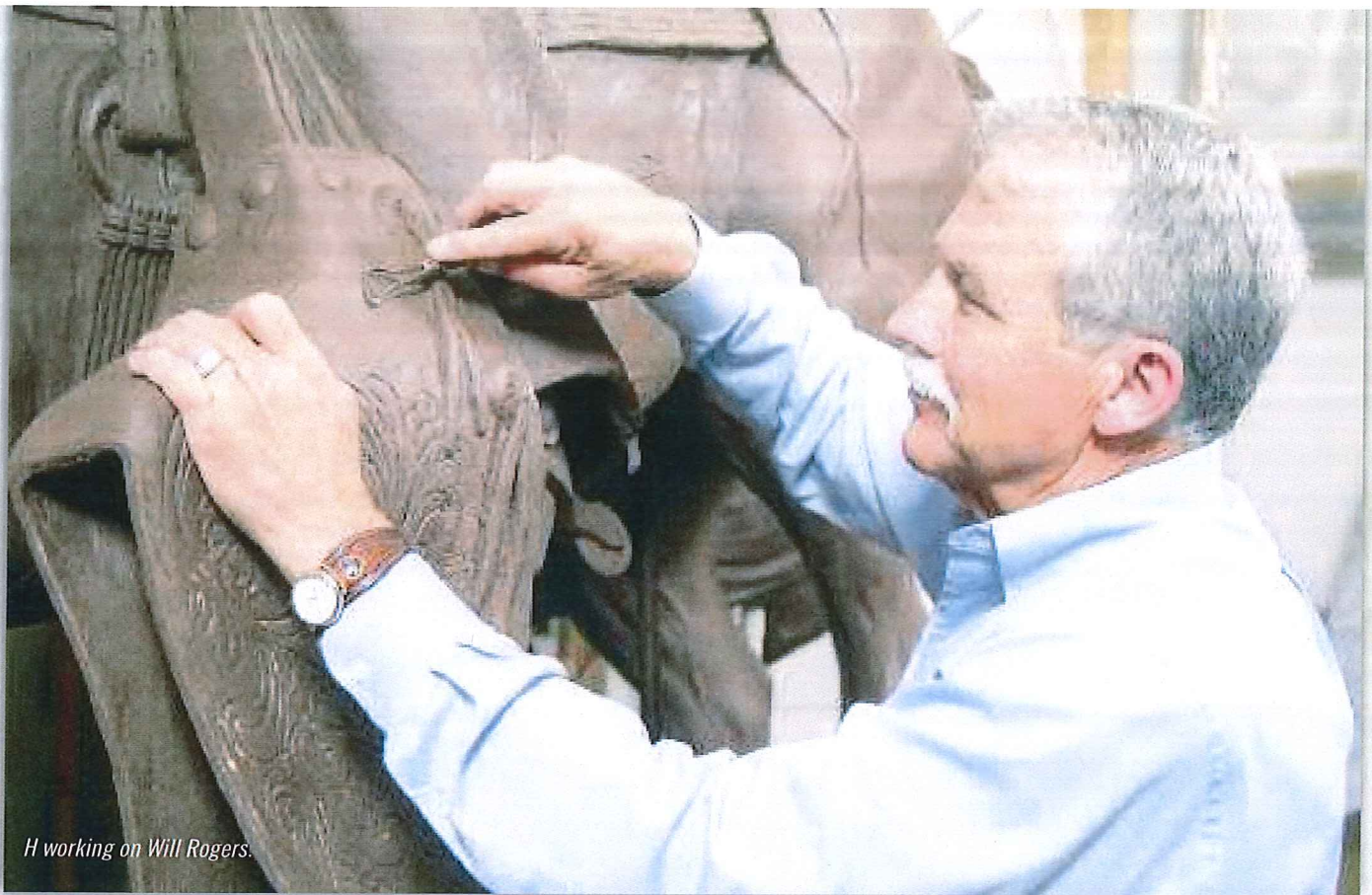
Holden's inspiration has always been the historical and contemporary west.

"All I ever wanted to do was cowboy art," Holden says.

Even in elementary school, he was sketching horses and cowboys in his textbooks.

"I had horses growing up and that was kind of why I became an artist. The bulk of my work is cowboy; that's what I know," he says.

He credits his father, a horseman, for his love of the West and his great grandfather, George E. Failing, inventor of the bottle cap, for encouraging his fine art career. He also was inspired by his grandfather, oil pioneer George Failing, who



*H working on Will Rogers.*

invented the first portable drilling rig, and also urged him to become an artist.

Holden's artistic inspiration has always been the historical and contemporary west.

"All I ever wanted to do was cowboy art," Holden says.

He surpassed his childhood dream, several decades ago.

His art is noted for its authenticity, whether he's painting the Gloss Mountains of Oklahoma or capturing

the essence of an early day western lawman on horseback. His work reflects his attention to detail and his vast knowledge of western lifestyles and traditions. His paintings and sculptures also reflect his personal knowledge of his experiences as a roper and an astute observer of the ever-changing American West.

VISITORS TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL enjoy studying his oil painting of western Oklahoma. Additional works are featured at the Will Rogers World Airport, University of Central Oklahoma, United States Postal Service, the Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds and the Oklahoma History Center. A total of 22 monumental Holden sculptures are on view in public places throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and Arkansas.

His life-size sculptures now embellish prominent venues on college campuses and main streets in those four states. His art also has been commissioned to serve as a memorial to tragic events, such as the emotionally moving sculpture at OSU, "We Will Remember,"



*Rope for Hire.*

*Edna Mae and H Holden with Mike and Martha Larsen at the 2015 Oklahoma Hall of Fame.*

honoring the 10 deceased members of its basketball team who were killed in a tragic plane crash in Colorado.

Equally as poignant is the life-size sculpture of a cowboy thanking God for the gift of extended life. That sculpture, located at the entrances to Emanuel Baptist Church in Enid and the Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Center in Oklahoma City, was Holden's public thank you for the gift of a new lung from a deceased 48-year-old man. The transplant, performed



seven years ago, was a life-saving procedure for this prolific artist.

Presenting Holden's Hall of Great Westerners Award were Wyatt McCrea and R. W. Hampton. Gary Moore, interim president of the National Cowboy Museum, said, "It's an honor to recognize such a remarkable Oklahoman and pioneer of the West at the Western Heritage Awards. Harold's tremendous contributions to our Western heritage will leave a legacy for generations to come."

The symbol of this award is quite meaningful to Holden. It is an iconic bronze sculpture of an authentic cowboy on horseback — a sculpture he designed. Named "The Wrangler," this award went home that night with all 18 recipients of various top honors at this year's version of the Western Heritage Awards. The memories of the 2017 gala might fade. Those heavy Wranglers — the "Oscar" of the Western lifestyle — will continue to grace many mantles across the West. ■

*Swallowing His Head.*