

St. Charles City-County Library District

Your Answer Place



"...singing and yodeling with all the smoothness of a stretch of open road at dawn."

Cliff Radel - Cincinnati Enquirer

Cowboy music, folklore, legends & history
plus rope tricks by

Randy Erwin

the voice of Alameda Slim
on Disney's *Home on the Range!*

Learn about the origins of the cowboy culture: how they lived, worked, and spun their tall tales.

Learn about the animals they worked with, and the animals they fought against on a daily basis.

Learn about the physics of trick-roping and how to do it yourself.

Hear — and participate in — music that has made the cowboy such a special part of American history.

By the end of his show, he will have the children mooing like cows, howling like coyotes and standing inside twirling lassos.

Live Performance Highlights: Carnegie Hall, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wembley Arena, The Library of Congress, and other concert venues and music festivals all over the United States, Canada, and Great Britain

Films: An on camera appearance in David Byrne's "True Stories" and as the yodeling voice of Alameda Slim in Walt Disney's animated film "Home on the Range"

Broadcast Appearances: National Public Radio, the ABC radio network, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television, and BBC radio and television

"...that wild voice, sounding like a combination of Tarzan, a trickling brook and Comanche war yelp, will knock your socks off." Cammy Blackstone, **San Francisco Weekly**

All Ages

Families Welcome

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Registration begins Monday, September 12

Spencer Road Branch **9:30 AM**
Opening Act: Catherine Bowler, teen yodeler
Call 447-2320 Limit 100

Middendorf-Kredell Branch **12 Noon**
Opening Act: Catherine Bowler, teen yodeler
Call 978-7926. Limit 100

Kathryn Linnemann Branch **3:00 PM**
Opening Act: Catherine Bowler, teen yodeler
Call 723-0232. Limit 65

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Registration begins Wednesday, October 26

Kisker Road Branch **10:00 AM**
Call 926-READ. Limit 75

Corporate Parkway Branch **1:00 PM**
Call 327-4010. Limit 60

Deer Run Branch **4:00 PM**
Call 978-3261. Limit 75

Catherine Bowler

The opening act at the Spencer Road, Middendorf-Kredell and Kathryn Linnemann Branches will be Catherine Bowler, a local teen yodeler from St. Peters who not only yodels but also writes songs and plays guitar. Catherine recently won the Silver Medal at the Patsy Montana International Yodel Competition. She yodels for veteran's groups, schools, retirement centers, and talent contests. Catherine describes her style as "folksy country western with yodeling thrown in." She's a student at FHC and a regular library customer that we enjoy seeing!



LEARN MORE ABOUT...

RANDY ERWIN

Raised on the flat, humid, boring plains of the Texas Gulf Coast, Randy was told to “get out there and start plowing” (on his father’s rice farm) before he was old enough to know how to object. But he soon rebelled and was memorizing Beethoven symphonies for ten hours a day using a dilapidated mono record player with bad needles. This form of semi-autism would serve him well in his later life.

However, during his forced labor on the farm, he sang continuously, loudly, and badly for twelve hours a day. Eventually, he had to get better at it, and did in fact develop a strange, yet powerful vocal technique.

After a dozen years of classical piano and several more of trumpet instruction, he gave up the constrictive classical environment for the more fertile ground of a local polka band led by a former, rather deaf, big-band trumpet player.

This later metamorphosed into a bad country-western cover band, and with this group, at the tender age of thirteen, Randy received his first professional payment in the form of a case of Grape Nehi Soda.

Payment never seemed to get any better, but he persevered and also managed to graduate second in his class from the film school of The University of Texas at Austin, even while causing nothing but heartache and ulcers for his parents and teachers.

Again, fate took a hand, and after a late-night encounter between his Triumph Spitfire convertible and a huge opossum, which caused an uncontrolled tailspin and landed him squarely behind a stubborn tree, he found that his mental screws had been knocked loose. His

stage-fright had been obliterated with one brain-damaging blow, and so he decided to sing for a living.

Moving to Dallas, Texas he became the toast of a decidedly odd western swing yodeling clique, and from there he expanded his cult status to the rest of America (and even to Great Britain, Australia, and Japan) with two CD’s, television commercials, and a cameo in David Byrne’s movie, “True Stories.”

Soon he was making a living trick roping, yodeling, and touring the U.S. and abroad. He even played Queen Elizabeth Hall and Wembley Arena while in London.

For some inexplicable reason he immediately uprooted himself and moved north. Way, way, north. After a few years spent skipping happily across the Alaskan tundra near Anchorage and performing at coffee houses in Seattle, the Eskimo Olympics in Canada, on the CBC, and on Tom Bodett’s ABC radio show near Homer, he returned to Texas to record two more CDs, showcase at Carnegie Hall, play at some music festivals, write and/or perform in a couple of film scores, perform on NPR a few times, yodel in Walt Disney’s “Home on the Range,” and put together shows for adults, their children, and adults who think that they are children.

He moved to Illinois where he performs at places like the Illinois State Fair or the Library of Congress and yodels when and where he can, under the delusion that he is something more than that small boy who used to labor in his father’s rice fields. However, he is still one of the best rice combine harvester operators in the world - a talent he can always fall back upon should the music thing not work out.