

## **RANGE magazine RECEIVES TWO COVETED WILL ROGERS MEDALLION AWARDS**

**“Cowboys & Critters” honored for outstanding achievement in photography.**

On Oct. 28, 2017, **RANGE** magazine received two major literary awards for its book, “**Cowboys & Critters: Symbiosis in the American West**,” a photographic tribute to the isolation and beauty, wildlife and people on the range. The Will Rogers Gold Medallion in the Photographic Essays category was presented during the annual awards banquet held in the Fort Worth’s Stockyards. The magazine received a second award for Outstanding Merit/Excellence in Printing and Publication.

Less than a month ago, on Sept. 30, 2017, “**Critters**” was honored during the Nevada Press Association’s (NPA) annual journalism competition when the book received First Place for Best Special Project. “**Critters**” drew high praise from NPA judges who remarked, “**RANGE** magazine’s, ‘**Cowboys & Critters**,’ is the clear first place winner in Best Special Project. The writing is phenomenal, some humorous, but all factual and interesting. The photographs are some of the best I have seen capturing the Old West experience.” The Utah Press Association judged the competition.

Weathered hands and drawn faces may symbolize the tough, difficult life of ranchers and farmers. Days off are infrequent, but there is joy in long hours with little pay. The joy is captured in the 160-page coffee-table edition that contains 186 wildlife and candid ranch photos by 65 extraordinary photographers, and essays on the symbiotic relationship between ranchers, farmers and wildlife by 11 writers, who can also claim a string of awards and accomplishments.

“**Cowboys & Critters**” will take the reader beyond the corrals and the beloved horses and the assortment of herding and protective working dogs, to the critters that share a rancher’s world. These creatures wander through ranchers’ lives—ranchers who are the lucky ones.

The collection is intended to reflect a unique way of life.

To meet demand, a second printing of “**Critters**” was ordered and will coincide with the launch of **RANGE**’s 14th hardbound book, “The Good, the Bad & the Bovine.”

**RANGE** is devoted to finding commonsense solutions to problems facing the people who help feed more than 300 million Americans. The publication is also recipient of five consecutive Freedom of the Press awards.

“**Cowboys & Critters**” is the 13th major book by **RANGE** publisher/editor C.J. Hadley, who has also produced 101 quarterly issues of the award-winning magazine, and 13 other “good news” hardback books on cowboys and ranching.

Three of Hadley’s most recent books have received literary acclaim. “**Reflections of the West: Cowboy painters and poets**,” released in November 2015, is a 160-page hardcover volume that is a sequel to 2013’s “**Brushstrokes & Balladeers: Painters and poets of the American West**.”

In September 2016, “**Reflections**” was awarded First Place in the Best Special Projects category from the NPA journalism competition. The nominees are judged on originality, relevance to readership and quality of content. “**Reflections**” also won a 2016 Will Rogers Gold

Medallion Award in the Cowboy/Western Poetry category.

**RANGE** and cowboy poet Joel Nelson, whose work appeared in **RANGE**'s bestselling "Reflections," was named a finalist for the Western Writers of America 2016 Spur Award in the Best Western Poem category.

The 144-page hardcover "**Brushstrokes & Balladeers**," released in November 2014, was awarded the prestigious Wrangler award from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, two Will Rogers Gold Medallion awards, and a special-projects recognition from the NPA in 2015.

Recently, "**The M Bar**" (a sequel to "**Call of the Cow Country**," which follows the further adventures of Harry Webb), received two Will Rogers Gold Medallions. Webb was a miner's son who became a cowboy, movie actor, government trapper and horse trainer. A prolific storyteller, he recalled in expressive detail his life as a bronc rider with the international phenomenon Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West Show. He also penned the novel, "**Nuthin'**," which Walt Disney made into a film starring a young Ron Howard. Webb wrote more than a hundred stories about his experiences, which he called "good, bad, and plain hell."

All 14 books are published by **RANGE** magazine and the Range Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit educational entity that promotes and encourages responsible stewardship of America's rangelands as a multiple-use resource. It sponsors educational features in **RANGE** plus special reports on issues affecting the people who live and work on the land.

"**Cowboys & Critters**" is a deserving tribute devoted to America's history and traditions, and the relationship between ranchers and wildlife in a photographic form. The images are vivid, real, touching and inspirational.