

## PAUL L. ZARZYSKI

### Resumé

**Paul Zarzyski**, the recipient of the 2005 Governor's Arts Award for Literature, has been spurring the words wild across the open range of the page and calling it *Poetry* for 33 years. In the early '70s, he heeded Horace Greeley's "go west young man, go west" advice and received his Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from The University of Montana, where he studied with Richard Hugo. In the same breath, he took up a second "lucrative" vocation--bareback bronc riding. He rode both the amateur and the ProRodeo circuits, hung his hooks up in his late 30s, then cracked back out, after turning 40, for a couple more years on the senior circuit or, as Paul prefers to call it, *The Masters*. On the lee side of his rodeo roughstock years, these days he "makes his living" (to borrow the title of a James Dickey essay) BARNSTORMING FOR POETRY.

Paul has been a featured performer at the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering for the past 20 years, has toured Australia and England, and has recited at the National Book, Folk, and Storytelling Festivals, The Santa Clarita and Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festivals, The ProRodeo Hall of Fame, The Library of Congress, and with The Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also featured, in June 1999, on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, aired from The Mother Lode Theater in Butte, Montana.

His recent publications include WOLF TRACKS ON THE WELCOME MAT (OreanaBooks, 2003), winner of The Spur Award from the Western Writers of America, BLUE-COLLAR LIGHT (Red Wing Press, 1998) and ALL THIS WAY FOR THE SHORT RIDE (Museum of New Mexico Press, 1996), which received The Western Heritage Award for Poetry from The National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. Two recordings--WORDS GROWING WILD (1998) and THE GLORIOUS COMMOTION OF IT ALL (2004)--both produced by Jim Rooney in Nashville, offer poems with accompaniment by Duane Eddy, John Hartford, Rich O'Brien, and other fine musicians.

Of his "Roughstock Sonnets" collection--ALL THIS WAY FOR THE SHORT RIDE--the March 16, 1997 New York Times Book Review proclaimed:

"Mr. Zarzyski alternates between bluster and lyricism. For the former, he uses lopingly metered stanzas and punch-drunk, self-mythologizing bravura.... But he proves equally adept at meditative free verse...."

Paul also has collaborated on song lyrics with Ian Tyson (*Rodeo Road* and *Jerry Ambler*), Tom Russell (*Bucking Horse Moon* and *All This Way For The Short Ride*), Dave Wilkie of Cowboy Celtic (*Black Upon Tan* and *Flying, Not Falling, In Love With You*), Don Edwards (*West Of The Round Corral*), Wylie Gustafson (*Saddle Broncs And Sagebrush*), and Betsy Hagar (*Hope Chest, The Christmas Saguaro Soiree, Star Light Star Bright*, and others).

Born and raised in Hurley, Wisconsin, Paul now lives west of Great Falls, Montana.

PAUL ZARZYSKI

**BOOKS**

- Wolf Tracks On The Welcome Mat.* OreanaBooks, Cedarville, CA, 2003  
(winner of The Spur Award for poetry, from the Western Writer's of America, 2004)
- Blue-Collar Light,* Red Wing Press, Sacramento, CA, 1998
- All This Way For The Short Ride.* The Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, NM, 1996  
(Western Heritage Award winner, 1996, from The National Cowboy Hall of Fame,  
Oklahoma City, OK).
- I Am Not A Cowboy.* Dry Crik Press, Lemon Cove, CA, 1995.
- The Garnet Moon.* The Black Rock Press, University of Nevada, Reno, 1990.
- Roughstock Sonnets.* The Lowell Press, Kansas City, Missouri, 1989.
- Tracks.* The Kutenai Press, Missoula, Montana, 1989.
- The Make-Up of Ice.* The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, 1984.  
(Second printing - September 1987)
- Call Me Lucky.* Confluence Press, Lewis-Clark College, Lewiston, Idaho, 1981.

**PRODUCTIONS/RECORDINGS**

- The Glorious Commotion Of It All* (CD) 21 poems/19 tracks with musical accompaniment by Pat Alger, Duane Eddy, Mike Henderson, Rich O'Brien, Pat McLaughlin, Bill Miller, Stuart Duncan, Joey Miskulin, Jim Hoke, Kenny Malone, Kirk "Jellyroll" Johnson, and others. Produced by Jim Rooney—JRP Records, 2004.
- Words Growing Wild:* (CD & cassette) 16 poems with musical accompaniment by Duane Eddy, John Hartford, Mike Henderson, Rich O'Brien, Bill Miller, and others. Produced by Jim Rooney—JRP Records, 1998.
- The Crayola Kid:* The Art of Larry Pirnie, with Rodeo Poetry by Paul Zarzyski; (exhibition), ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995.
- Small Town Triumphs & Cowboy Colors:* (second act of two act play), Great American History Theatre, St. Paul, MN, April-May 1992.
- Ain't No Life After Rodeo:* (cassette tape) Cowboy Poems & songs, with Justin Bishop and Richard Lawrence—Horse Sense band, 1992.

**LIMITED EDITION BROADSIDES**

- The Meaning of Intimacy, The Color of Trout, Playing Favorites, Manners, Tender,* and *The Garnet Moon.* With art by Theodore Waddell, Tucker Press, Hailey, Idaho, 2003-2004.
- For The Stories.* The Black Rock Press, University of Nevada, Reno, 2001.
- Words Growing Wild in the Woods.* The Black Rock Press, University of Nevada, Reno, 1995.
- The Hand.* The Black Rock Press, University of Nevada, Reno, 1990.

*Hard Red Wheat.* Two Magpie Press, Kendrick, Idaho, 1985.

PAUL ZARZYSKI

**POETRY READINGS/PERFORMANCES/WORKSHOPS**

- Aims Community College–Greeley, CO; 1991.  
 A.K. Smiley Public Library–Redlands, CA; 1998.  
 Allan Hancock College–Santa Maria, CA; 1992.  
**American Academy of Restorative Dentistry** banquet–Chicago, IL; 2002.  
**Amon Carter Museum**–Fort Worth, TX; 1998.  
**Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities**–Denver, CO; 1990.  
 Arizona Cowboy Poetry Gathering–Prescott, AZ; 1988.  
 Arizona State University–Tempe, AZ; 1989.  
 Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference (showcase sponsored by New England Foundation for the Arts–Cambridge, MA–NYC; 1992.  
**Australia Cowboy Poetry Tour** (sponsored by Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame & Outback Heritage Centre–Longreach, QLD); 1992.  
 Autry Museum of Western Heritage–Los Angeles, CA; 2002.  
 Battle Mountain, NV (Battle Mountain Arts Presenters); 1997.  
 Big Bear Lake Performing Arts Center–Big Bear Lake, CA; 1993.  
 Big Bend Community College–Moses Lake, WA; 1991, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2004.  
 Border Bookshop–Las Vegas, NV; 1995.  
 Border (Chamizal) Folk Festival–El Paso, TX; 1992.  
 Border Inn–Baker, NV; 1995.  
**Brewery Arts Center**–Carson City, NV; 1999.  
 Broschofsky Gallery–Ketchum, ID; 1991.  
 Buffalo Bill Historical Center–Cody, WY; 1989.  
**Bulleit Bourbon Roundup**–Grand Junction, CO; 2002.  
 Butler County Community College–Eldorado, KS; 1992.  
 California Cowboy Gathering and Ranch Rodeo–Dublin, CA; 1999, 2002.  
 California State University–Chico, CA; 1977, 1984, 1990, 1992.  
 California State University–Sacramento, CA; 1977, 1984.  
 Cascade High School–Everett, WA; 1987.  
**Center Arts**, Humboldt State University–Arcata, CA; 1993.  
 Central Wyoming College–Riverton, WY; 1986, 1988.  
**Charles M. Russell Museum**–Great Falls, MT; 1990, 1992, 1995, 1996.  
 Churchill Arts–Fallon, NV; 1997, 1999.  
 Clackamas Community College–Portland, OR; 1989.  
 College of Santa Fe–Santa Fe, NM; 1988.  
 Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering–Durango, CO; 1989, 1995.  
 Cowboy Classics, AZ National Livestock Show–Phoenix, AZ; 1989, 1990.  
 Cowboy Jubilee (Carson-Tahoe Hospital Auxiliary Benefit)–Carson City, NV; 1997, 1998, 2002, 2004.  
**Cowboy Revue**, Alberta Bair theater–Billings, MT; 1987, 1990.  
**Crystal Gayle Concert** (opening act)–Poway, CA; 1993.  
 Cuesta College–San Luis Obispo, CA; 1992.

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**POETRY READINGS/PERFORMANCES/WORKSHOPS** (cont'd.)

- Defenders of Wildlife Conference–Yellowstone National Park, WY; 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000-2003.  
Delta Community College–Stockton, CA; 1990.  
**Dorill B. Wright Cultural Center**–Port Hueneme, CA; 1992.  
Dull Knife Memorial College–Lame Deer, MT; 1993.  
**England Cowboy Poetry Tour**–September, 1995.  
Eureka Opera House–Eureka, NV; 1994, 1995, 2000.  
**Feather River Conference** (University of the Pacific)–1996.  
**Fort Benton High School** Commencement Address–Fort Benton, MT; 1992.  
Glen View Country Club–Golf, IL; 1998.  
**Great Basin Book Festival**–Reno, NV; 2001.  
Great Falls Book Festival–Great Falls, MT; 2004  
Great Salt Lake Book Festival–Salt Lake City, UT; 2001.  
Gogebic Community College–Ironwood, MI; 1997.  
Great Basin Arts & Entertainment (Martin Hotel)–Winnemucca, NV; 1999.  
Groton-Dunstable Performing Arts Center–Groton, MA; 1995.  
Headwaters Academy–Bozeman, MT; 1996.  
Helena High School, “Poetry and Pie”–Helena, MT; 2001, 2002, 2003.  
Helena Poetry Festival–Helena, MT; 1986.  
Hellgate Writers Assoc.–Missoula, MT, 1988; Yellow Bay Writers’ Workshop, 1990.  
Humboldt County Public Library—Winnemucca, NV; 1997.  
**International Heart Institute of Montana** banquet–Missoula, MT; 2000.  
Jefferson High School–Portland, OR; 1985.  
Lewis-Clark State College–Lewiston, ID; 1982, 1985, 1986.  
**Library of Congress**–Washington, D.C.; 1994.  
**Lincoln Center**, outdoor performance program–New York, NY; 1999.  
Livingston Main Street Show–Livingston, MT; 1995, 1997.  
**Meany Hall Theater**, University of WA–Seattle, WA; 1993.  
Montana Assoc. of Conservation Districts Conference–Great Falls, MT; 1995.  
Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering–Big Timber, MT; 1986-1990.  
Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering–Lewistown, MT; 1991-2002.  
**Montana Festival of the Book**–Missoula, MT; 2000.  
Montana Heritage Conference, Keynote Address–Missoula, MT; 1995. Helena; 2003.  
Montana League of Cities and Towns Conference banquet–Great Falls, MT; 2001.  
**Montana Natural History Center** banquet–Missoula, MT; 1996.  
**Montana Potato Growers Conference** banquet–Missoula, MT; 2001.  
**Montana Wilderness Society**–Great Falls, MT; 2000, 2002, 2003..  
**Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival**–Monterey, CA; 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004.  
Mountain View, CA; 1993.  
Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University–Bozeman, MT; 1991.  
Montana State University–Bozeman, MT; 1985, 1987.

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**POETRY READINGS/PERFORMANCES/WORKSHOPS (cont'd.):**

- National Bison Association banquet–Denver, CO; 1997.  
**National Book Festival**–Washington, D.C.; 2003.  
**National Cowboy Poetry Gathering**–Elko, NV; 1987-2004.  
**National Folk Festival**–Johnstown, PA; 1991.  
**National Public Radio**; 1985, 1989, 2004.  
**National Storytelling Festival**–Jonesborough, TN; 1999.  
 Nebraska Literature Festival–Wayne, NE; 1998.  
**Nevada Museum of Art**–Reno, NV; 1996.  
 Nebraska Wesleyan University–Lincoln, NE; 1988.  
 Northeast Technical Community College–Norfolk, NE; 1986, 1988, 1992, 1995, 1998.  
 North Dakota Cowboy Poetry Gathering–Medora, ND; 1989.  
 North Idaho College–Coeur d’Alene, ID; 1974-76, 1982, 1985-87.  
 Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Writers’ Roundtable–Carrollton, KY; 1993.  
 Orange Coast College–Costa Mesa, CA; 1992.  
 Paris Gibson Art Museum, Walter Piehl exhibition–Great Falls, MT; 2000.  
**Peoples’ Poetry Gathering**–New York, NY; 1999.  
 Pine Butte Nature Conservancy ranch–Choteau, MT; 2001  
**Poets, Politicians, & Other Storytellers** (sponsored by the National Council for the  
 Traditional Arts), George Washington University–Washington, D.C.; 1992.  
 Portland Community College–Portland, OR; 1989.  
**ProRodeo Hall of Fame**–Colorado Springs, CO; 1993, 1995.  
 Rodeo Cowboy Poetry Gathering–Las Vegas, NV; 1989, 1990.  
 Rogue River Roundup–Ashland, OR; 1996, 1997.  
 Rookie’s Sports Bar–Tonopah, NV, 1995.  
 Roswell Museum & Art Center–Roswell, NM; 1992.  
 Sacramento City College–Sacramento, CA; 2004.  
 Saint Patrick’s Day Literature Conference–Butte, MT; 1995.  
 Salina Arts and Humanities Commission–Salina, KS; 1993, 1994.  
**Santa Clarita Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival**–Santa Clarita, CA; 1996, 1999, 2002, 2004.  
 Sierra Arts Center–Reno, NV; 1999.  
 Solano Community College–Suisun City, CA; 1977, 1985, 1989, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2004.  
 South Dakota Cowboy Poetry Gathering–Rapid City, SD; 1989.  
 Sul Ross State University–Alpine, TX; 2001.  
**Sun Valley Center for the Arts and Humanities**–Sun Valley, ID; 1991, 1993, 1995, 1998.  
**Sunday Morning With Charles Kuralt, CBS**; 1994.  
 Sunset Center Theater–Carmel, CA; 1991.  
**Sutton West Gallery**–Missoula, MT; 1996.  
**The Palms**–Davis, CA; 1993.  
**The Today Show, NBC**; 1989.  
**Tonopah Senior Citizens’ Center**–Tonopah, NV; 1995.

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**POETRY READINGS/PERFORMANCES/WORKSHOPS (cont'd.):**

Trappings of the American West—Coconino Art Center, Flagstaff, AZ; 1988-1992, 1995.  
 Turtle Bay Museum—Redding, CA; 1998.  
 University of California at Davis—Davis, CA; 1989.  
 University of Montana—Missoula, MT; 1983, 1986.  
 University of Nebraska—Lincoln, NE; 1986.  
 University of Nebraska—Omaha—Omaha, NE; 1988.  
 University of Nevada—Reno—Reno, NV; 1990, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001.  
 University of the Pacific—Stockton, CA, 1990.  
 University of Redlands—Redlands, CA; 1993-2004.  
 University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee—Milwaukee, WI, 1988.  
 University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point—Stevens Point, WI; 1988.  
 Victor Valley College, Master Artists Series—Victorville, CA; 1993.  
 Virginia City, NV (Comstock Arts Council); 1997  
 Visalia Spring Round-up, College of Sequoias Theater—Visalia, CA; 1993, 1998.  
 Washington State Capital Museum, Heritage Conference—Olympia, WA, 1991.  
 Washington State University—Pullman, WA; 1987.  
 Wayne State College—Wayne, NE; 1988, 1995.  
 Willamette University—Salem, OR: 1985  
 Wyoming Cowboy Poetry Gathering—Riverton, WY; 1988, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1996.  
 Yellowstone Art Center—Billings, MT 1990.  
 Yellowstone Writer's Conference—Livingston, MT; 1998.  
 And others.

## PAUL ZARZYSKI

## COMMENTS/REVIEW EXCERPTS

1. "Though both Mr. Zarzyski and Ms. Van Cleve are from Montana, their very different styles work to capture a chorus of contradictory moods: her luminous black-and-white images seem etched from some archetypal landscape, while his verses bristle with audacity and whimsy. Mr. Zarzyski alternates between bluster and lyricism. For the former, he uses lopingly metered stanzas and punch-drunk, self-mythologizing bravura.... But he proves equally adept at meditative free verse...." (The New York Times Book Review, March 16, 1997)
2. "What better metaphor than a bronc to carry the intensity with which Paul Zarzyski lives the language? Poems and broncs are crucibles where a lifetime of yearning and passion distill into something pure. Eight seconds or twenty lines: the great rides, like the great poems, take a lifetime to create and are both ephemeral and lasting, shimmering like some eternal afterimage of sacrifice and desire on the edges of consciousness. They strike sparks off the wild soul we each still have within us and make us believe, once again, in the impossible.... *All This Way For The Short Ride* cuts to the bone and reaches the marrow of pure meaning: the good of things, the bad of things, the interior world where good and bad can't begin to describe things. This book is about rodeo. This book is about life. It will last." (Teresa Jordan—Foreword to *All This Way For The Short Ride*)
3. "Paul Zarzyski has an instantly recognizable voice, one that, once heard, you'll never forget—and that voice is present on every page of this book. As the title implies, this book is about rodeo; but that's like saying Cibo Matto's music is about food; or, as someone said, that the movie "Chinatown," is about water. Paul's poems are about rodeo, and also about love, loss and affirmation—the stuff that poetry is, and always has been made of." (Kirk Robertson—Lahontan Valley News/Fallon Eagle Standard)
4. "Any reading of Zarzyski's complex rhymed and free verse, chocked to the brim, bottom, and edges with mind-racing, overlapping images, is going to tell you that this is a cowboy poet with a whole new approach to poetry." (Dale L. Walker—The Rocky Mountain News)
5. "In the new poetry, the ballad line, if heard at all, is only one ingredient of prosody. The Montana poet and bronc-rider Paul Zarzyski's diction is as rich as his internal rhymes and alliteration are extravagant...." (Thomas West—The Washington Post, "Book World")
6. "Paul Zarzyski's burly poems are tough, tender, and true—much like the rodeo life he has so thoroughly lived and loved. Again and again we discover in his lines a continuing passion to compete, genuinely balanced by an understanding of and compassion for broncs and the men who ride them. This is Western poetry at its best, painstakingly crafted and full of heart." (Ralph Beer—Author of *The Blind Corral*)

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## COMMENTS/REVIEW EXCERPTS (cont'd.):

7. "So it seems likely that Zarzyski sees the world from atop a bucking horse, or from the cab of a pickup truck heading for Billings or Santa Fe, or from a rodeo arena, or from his knees as he storms heaven for a favor. His is a remarkable gift. When I hear him read I think he is the best poet I have ever heard, but then I think what difference does it make...it is the moment and the poem in hand and the reading thereof that matters, and I sit, sobs rising in my throat, my mind expanding to absorb what this bard meters out, and I am made new again." (Joan Hoffman–Clearwater Record-Ewing News, Clearwater, NE)
8. "The thing is, it isn't just the English teachers in Tony Lamas who like Zarzyski's unconventional verse. Even the weathered cowpokes of 60-some summers appreciate it." (Lin Anderson–Gannett News Service)
9. "If pit bulls were poets, they'd write like Paul Zarzyski. Tenacious, he shakes the hell out of personal experience and spits out bits of bone and flesh...." (Gennie Nord–The Missoulian, Missoula, MT)
10. "Zarzyski's poems cover terrains as near as the woodstove and as far away as Nazi-occupied Poland and the human steppes of modern South Africa, with no trouble feeling at either extreme." (Trudy Wischemann–South Valley Arts)
11. "Roughstock Sonnets is the best book on rodeo since the invention of horseback." (William Kittredge–Author of *Hole In The Sky*)
12. "Zarzyski's performance style comes on like a rodeo Ferlinghetti, his declamatory whiplash imagery packing in the grief of a passing life style, and lives, almost painlessly. Poem after poem deals with beat-up old riders, dying retired horses, the 8-second rides that vanish into eternity–rodeo as a metaphor for any life, cut through with intuitive folk-ideogrammic imageries and C&W rhythms. (Scott Preston–Small Press Review)
13. "In prose literature there are labels such as "Kafka-esque" and "Hemingway-esque." In cowboy poetry there is, or ought to be, "Zarzyski-esque." No other "-esques" come close." (Jesse Mullins–American Cowboy magazine)
14. "There are lots of good rodeo hands in this old world and a fair number of good poets. To find a man who is both is as rare as a wet summer in eastern Montana. Paul Zarzyski knows the jerk of the bareback riggin' and the surge and flow of classic narrative poetry in the Masfield tradition. He is a rare talent...." (Ian Tyson–Cowboy Song Writer and Singer)

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## COMMENTS/REVIEW EXCERPTS (cont'd.):

15. "Not since Richard Hugo has anyone managed to capture the sad, lonely, and beautiful landscapes of Montana with such vividness and compassion." (Thom Tammara—Library Journal)
16. "Zarzyski's first love is riding broncs. His second love is the precise use of the English language. While his poem *Ain't No Life After Rodeo* is heartfelt, his depth of respect for words is bottomless." (Jim Gransbery—The Billings Gazette, Billings, MT)
17. "Paul Zarzyski's cowboy poetry is like no other in its richness of language.... His evocations of dust and broncs and (sometimes) death are forged from the metals of fantastic humor, wrenching pathos, and clear-eyed understanding—with no slag of sentimentality in the alloy. And he smiths his "Roughstock Sonnets" (the title of this latest book) with all the vitality of his own vibrant being." (Keith Reierstad—Aims Community College, Greeley, CO)
18. "Paul Zarzyski is a man of many hats—fisherman, bronc rider, son, worker, lover. From the white heat of his rodeo arenas to the calm lakes and clear streams of all our lives, this poet captures experience the way a bear goes after salmon—with confidence and patience, with intensity and purpose. But don't be fooled. *The Make-Up Of Ice* is a celebration of men and women, a moving chronicle of the human spirit. Zarzyski is a serious poet whose unique world becomes our world. It's a good clean ride." (James Welch—Author of *Fools Crow*)
19. "If you like good food and good talk around a kitchen table (say it's Polish or Italian food, say the stories you hear take wonderful turns, bringing back people and things you almost lost—and say you fall asleep that night feeling that the world, rough as it is, is surprising and lovely), you will like very much, I think, Paul Zarzyski's poems. They don't fake anything." (Gary Gildner—Author of *The Warsaw Sparks*)
20. "Alive to all the senses, these richly textured poems pulse with a force that is at once muscular and tender, urgent and timeless. Paul Zarzyski listens to the heartbeat of creation. What he hears, in the rhythm of the land, the wonder and pain of human experience, is the 'sweet music' of all our lives. Imbued with wisdom, wit, humanity, and grace, *Wolf Tracks on the Welcome Mat* is a moving paean to 'the glorious commotion of it all.'" (Anne Heath Widmark—Author of *Between Earth & Sky, Poets of the Cowboy West*)
21. "Paul Zarzyski's poems will break your heart—and then turn right around and mend it. He looks pain squarely in the eye, takes its measure, and counters it with tenderness and wisdom, all in language that should be set to music. Books like this are the reason poetry exists." (Ed McClanahan—Author of *The Natural Man*)

**PUBLICATIONS:** Journals and Magazines:

American Cowboy Magazine, August 1995, February 1996.  
**Big Sky Journal**, Summer 1997, Winter 1997, Summer 1998, Summer 1999, Spring 2000,  
Arts Issue 2001, Arts Issue 2002, Spring 2002.  
Bloomsbury Review, June 1986.  
Chariton Review, Spring 1975, Fall 1976, Fall 1984, Fall 2001.  
Chowder Review, Fall/Winter 1979-80.  
Cream City Review, Summer 1990, Spring 1992.  
Crosswinds, September 1991, December 1991.  
CutBank, Numbers 2, 3, 13, 16, 19, 24, 27, 40.  
Dry Crik Review, Vol. I, No. I, 1991.  
Elkhorn Review, Spring 1985, Winter 1986, Spring 1987, 1988, 1989.  
**Gray's Sporting Journal**, Late Fall 1989, Spring 1991, Summer 1991.  
Guadalupe Review, October 1991.  
Hayden's Ferry Review, Spring 1989.  
Hearse, 1972  
High Plains Literary Review, Spring 1989.  
**Independent** (London), September 13, 1995.  
Idaho English Journal, Spring 1987.  
Madrona, Numbers 4 and 9.  
Mid-American Review, Spring 1985.  
Montana Magazine, September/October 1984, November/December 1984.  
Montana Outdoors, November/December 1982, May/June 1988.  
Montana Prospector, Fall 1981 and Winter 1981.  
**Northern Lights**, January/February 1987, Winter 1995.  
Ohio Review, Fall 1977.  
Permafrost, Number 10.  
**Poetry**, February 1987, January 1989, October 1990.  
Poetry Now, Issues 2, 15, 25.  
Poetry Review [London], Autumn, 1995.  
Portland Review, 1979.  
**Prairie Schooner**, Winter 1990, Fall 1993, Spring 2003.  
Quarterly West, Number 6.  
Russell's West, Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 1994; Vol.6, No.1, Spring, 1998..  
**Sky** (Delta Air Lines), August, 1998.  
Slackwater Review, Winter 1976, Spring 1981, Spring 1984.  
Suisun Valley Review, Spring 1981.  
Talking River Review, Fall 1995.  
West Branch, Fall 1987.  
Western Wildlands, Spring 1981.  
White Clouds Revue, No. 2, No. 5.  
Yarrow, Fall 1987, Fall-Winter 1991-1992.  
Yokoi, Winter 1991.  
And others.

## PAUL ZARZYSKI

**PUBLICATIONS:** Anthologies

- Between Earth and Sky:** Poets of the Cowboy West (W.W. Norton), 1994.  
 Buckaroo: Visions & Voices of the American Cowboy (Callaway Editions–Simon & Shuster), 1993.  
 Cattle, Horses, Sky, and Grass (Northland Publishing), 1994.  
 Coolin' Down: an Anthology of Contemporary Cowboy Poetry, 1992.  
**Cowboy Poetry Matters:** From Abilene to the Mainstream (Story Line Press), 2000.  
 Cowboy Poetry, The Reunion (Gibbs Smith, Publisher), 2004.  
 Crossing the River: Poets of the American West, 1987.  
 Flylines: The Best of Big Sky Journal Fishing (Bangtail Press), 2001.  
**Handspan of Red Earth:** An Anthology of American Farm Poems (University of Iowa), 1991.  
 Maverick Western Verse (Peregrine-Smith), 1994.  
 Montana Writers' Daybook, 1995, 1996.  
 New Cowboy Poetry: A Contemporary Gathering (Peregrine-Smith), 1990.  
 Night Out: Poems About Hotels, Motels, Restaurants and Bars (Milkweed Eds.), 1996.  
**Poetry of the American West** (Columbia University Press), 1996.  
 Rain In The Forest, Light In The Trees: Contemporary Poetry from the Northwest, 1983.  
 Sweet Nothings: An Anthology of Rock & Roll in American Poetry (Univ. of Indiana), 1994.  
 The Cowboy Poetry Gathering (Highlights), Rhino Records, Inc., 1993.  
**The Last Best Place** (Montana Centennial Project), 1988-1989.  
 The Logan House Anthology of 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Poetry (Logan House Press), 2001.  
 The Sporting Life: Poems about Sports, 1987.  
 Warnings: An Anthology on the Nuclear Peril (Northwest Review), 1984.  
 Where We Are: The Montana Poets Anthology, 1978.  
**Writing Montana:** Literature under the Big Sky (MT Center for the Book), 1996.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Prose–Nonfiction

- Walter Piehl, Jr., Jackson Pollock, Casey Tibbs, Charlie Russell, the Universal Crossroads Of Art, & A Round Of Brewskis at the Blue Rider Saloon. **The Walter Piehl, Jr. Retrospective*** (Plains Art Museum, 2003)
- Neon and Noise: The Paintings of Larry Pirnie* (Big Sky Journal, Summer 2000)
- Good Horse Keeping. **Horse People–Writers and Artists on the Horses They Love*** (Artisan Books, 1998), edited by Michael J. Rosen.
- The Lariati Versus/Verses the Literati: Loping Toward Dana Gioia's Dream Come Real. **Writing Montana–Literature under the Big Sky*** (Montana Center for the Book, 1996), edited by Rick Newby & Suzanne Hunger.
- Introduction. **Ridin' and Wreckin'**–rodeo images by Bob Wade (Peregrine-Smith, 1996).
- Foreward. **Open Country**–landscape photographs by Jay Dusard (Peregrine-Smith, 1994).
- Autobiographical essay. Montana Magazine, September/October 1985.
- Book Review: Witching on Hardscrabble by Walter McDonald, CutBank 27.
- Essay: *Dick Hugo, Grits Gresham, The Hamm's Bear.* CutBank 20.

**PAUL ZARZYSKI****EDUCATION**

College of Buckaroo Knowledge & Rank Roughstock Knocks  
 Montana & ProRodeo Circuits–1974-1987  
 Old-Timers' Circuit ("The Masters")–1991-1993  
 University of Montana, Missoula, Montana  
 M.F.A.–Creative Writing - Poetry–1976  
 University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin  
 B.S.–English and Biology–1973

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Folklife and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, 1993-94, Montana Arts Council.  
 Artists in Schools/Community Program, 1988-89, 1989-90, MT Arts Council.  
 Visiting Assistant Professor, 1986-87, University of Montana.  
     Taught English 202, 302, 402, 502 (undergraduate and graduate poetry workshops).  
 Visiting Lecturer, 1982-83, University of Montana, Department of English.  
     Taught English 202, 302, 402 (undergraduate and graduate poetry workshops).  
 Instructor, 1976-82, University of Montana, School of Forestry.  
     Taught Forestry 220 (Technical Writing).  
 Poet in the Community, 1977, Missoula, Montana.  
     Organized and conducted summer poetry workshops and readings with various community groups (Senior Citizens, YWCA, Children's Summer Recreation, etc.), an N.E.A. sponsored program initiated by the Montana Arts Council and coordinated with the Missoula Parks and Recreation Department.  
 Teaching Assistant, 1973-75, University of Montana, Department of English.  
     Taught freshman composition.

**EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

Poetry Judge for Western Heritage Awards, National Cowboy Hall of Fame, 1993-94.  
 Poetry Anthology, "The Day My Brother Blew Away," Montana Arts Council–Artists in the Schools/Community Program, 1988-89.  
 Poetry Anthology, "Poet In The Community Program," 1977.  
 CutBank 3, Assistant Editor, 1976.

**REFERENCES:**

Complete dossier available at:  
 Career Planning and Placement Services  
 Center for Student Development  
 University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812 (406) 243-4711

## PAUL ZARZYSKI

**PRESS RELEASE INFO/BIO SUMMARY**

1. Studied with, and fished with, renowned poet, Richard Hugo, in the early 70s at the University of Montana, where I received an M.F.A. degree in "the ring and ricochet of lingo off the stirrup bone (stapes) of the middle ear" (my personal definition of cowboy poetry). After Hugo's death, I taught for four quarters in his position.
2. Along with a number of limited edition chapbooks and broadsides, I've published four full collections of poetry: *The Make-Up Of Ice* (University of Georgia Press, 1984), *Roughstock Sonnets* (The Lowell Press, 1989), *All This Way For The Short Ride* (Museum of New Mexico Press, 1996), the latter two which are collaborations with western photographer, Barbara Van Cleve, and *Wolf Tracks On The Welcome Mat* (OreanaBooks, 2003). In 1998, renowned producer Jim Rooney (Nanci Griffith, John Prine, Iris Dement, Ian Tyson, etc.) "choreographed" 16 poems, with accompaniment by musicians, Duane Eddy, John Hartford, Rich O'Brien and others, which were recorded in Nashville, Fort Worth, and Santa Fe studios. In 2003 we recorded a second spoken-word record, *The Glorious Commotion Of It All*. In the spring of 1992, the Great American History Theatre of St. Paul, MN, arranged a selection of my poetry into the second act of a two act play called *Small Town Triumphs & Cowboy Colors*, which ran for 5 weeks.
3. Selected by the Western Folklife Center, in cooperation with The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame & Outback Heritage Centre, as one of four cowboy poet reps to tour Down Under in March, 1992.
4. Selected as one of four cowboy poets to tour England (Sept. 1995) during their "U.K. Year of Literature and Writing." We did 14 venues, which took us from Northumberland Hall in Alnwick to Swansea (Wales)—Dylan Thomas's home ground—and included the Purcell Room of Festival Hall and The Tabernacle performing arts center, both in London.
5. Have read/recited/performed poetry, my own as well as the traditional classics, from B.C. to D.C. and points south, at numerous cowboy/folk/literary festivals and fandangos in AZ, CA, CO, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WY, etc.
6. Invited to read, as one of three "cowboy poets" at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.—April 7, 1994.
7. Appeared on March 6, 1994, CBS's "Sunday Morning With Charles Kuralt"—segment on The Cowboy Poetry Gathering's 10th anniversary in Elko, Nevada. Also appeared on NBC's "Today" program—segment on the Augusta, MT rodeo, 1991.

**PAUL ZARZYSKI****PRESS RELEASE INFO/BIO SUMMARY (cont'd.)**

8. Received The Spur Award from The Western Writers of America for poetry—*Wolf Tracks On The Welcome Mat*, 2004
9. Received The Western Heritage Award (The Wrangler), from The National Cowboy Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City, for outstanding poetry book of 1996—*All This Way For The Short Ride*.
10. Appeared on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, aired from the Mother Lode Theater in Butte, MT, June 5, 1999.
11. Choreographed and performed, with singer-songwriter Tom Russell and guitarist Andrew Hardin, *All This Way For The Short Ride: An Evening of Poetry and Song*—the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Dinner Theater; Elko, NV, Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 2, 2002.

**PAUL L. ZARZYSKI**  
P.O. Box 1315  
Great Falls, MT 59403