



THE SADDLE STRINGS AT GOLD RUSH 2010

“So, in our own little way, we are keeping the west alive.” *Dave White of The Saddle Strings.*

Marv: I was privileged to visit with The Saddle Strings band at Gold Rush Days 2010 in Buena Vista, Colorado. The group performs at Bandera’s Bunkhouse, which offers several activities including the Cowboy Dinner Show, at Howard, Colorado.

Marv: Thanks so much for visiting with me. Please introduce yourselves and share a little information about The Saddle Strings and Bandera’s Bunkhouse.

Teresa & Dave: Hi, I am Teresa White. I am Dave, the lead singer and rhythm guitarist. Teresa and I are the owners of Bandera’s Bunkhouse Resort, in Howard, Colorado, where we do our dinner shows. We have a motel and an RV sites, at the resort. We also do wagon and carriage rides.

Don & Debby: Hi, my name is Don and this is my wife Debby. I am Debby and I sing and dance with Teresa. We teach line dancing and we perform line dancing at the show.

Don: Debby and I retired to Colorado eight years ago and have not looked back yet. We were lucky enough to find Dave and Teresa and have been playing music with them for the past six or seven years.

Marv: What was a former life for you folks?

Don: Ah...I can’t remember. Actually, I was an agent of the U.S. Secret Service for thirty four years and Debby was a teacher. Dave was the real cowboy.

Dave: I cowboied most of my life. I just wanted to mention that we got the name Bandera from my best horse...one of the great horses in the west. I’ve had Bandera for a long time and he’s my favorite horse. We named our business after him.

Teresa: I came from Michigan where I was in real estate and the building industry back there. I have always dreamed of the mountains and coming out and riding the horses. It's so beautiful here.

Marv: Thanks, I really enjoyed your show today. How often do you perform at Bandera's Bunkhouse?

Dave: Two or three times a week.

Marv: Today you sang some great cowboy songs. Opening with "Born to be a Cowboy," followed by a lot of cowboy favorites and ending with "Happy Trails." Personally, there is something about the wide open spaces that has a spiritual effect on me. So many of your songs impart that feeling.

Marv: There was an introduction that struck my interest; you fellows mentioned Saddle Strings but also Saddle Bags, when you introduced the ladies, would you like to talk just a little bit about what you mean by that.

Don: Absolutely not! I may look dumb but actually, when it comes down to it, I'm not that dumb.

Don: One thing I would like to mention is that we spend our winters in the Apache Junction/Mesa, Arizona. We do shows down there at the Mammoth Steak House and at the RV parks in the area. We also have a website, www.thesaddlestrings.com.

Marv: I was mentioning to Debby that we have only been to Arizona a couple of winters but there are a lot of cowboys in Arizona.

Marv: Let me ask a final question that relates to the West; why do you choose to perform western music? I know it's fun and perhaps it generates a little income but you're doing it for another reason, I'm sure.

Dave: I know for myself, I've spent a good portion of my life horseback and especially the older cowboy songs mean a lot to me. I've been fortunate enough to experience a lot of different things in the west; working on ranches in Texas, Colorado and Wyoming so this has always been a part of me. I grew up listening to western music. When The Beatles were first coming in I was listening to the Sons of The Pioneers. So, in our own little way, we are keeping the west alive.

Marv: You truly are communicating that message and feeling.

Marv: Well, it's been wonderful visiting with The Saddle Strings but they need to be heading back to Howard, Colorado and the Bandera's Bunkhouse. Look for them at www.thesaddlestrings.com. Thanks for coming to Gold Rush Days.

