

Gale Patzlaff

Gale Patzlaff was born in and has lived his entire life in the Fulton, South Dakota area. He has always been a horse lover and still does as much as possible on horseback. His heroes were always cowboys. After winning a local radio contest at age 9, Gale met Gene Autry at the Corn Palace. This meeting only reinforced Gale's appreciation of the "cowboy code".

The purpose of his poems is to tell a story, which is the way cowboy poetry started out. Writing cowboy poetry helps keep the cowboy heritage and traditions alive.

Gale has been reciting cowboy poetry at various events and gatherings since 1996. He has been on stage several times at the Badger Clark Poetry Gathering in Hot Springs, South Dakota. He has also shared his writings at the annual Cowboy Poetry Festival at Devils Tower, Wyoming, The Spirit of the West event in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Dakota Western Heritage Festival in Pierre, South Dakota, Old West Days in Valentine, Nebraska, and numerous other gatherings throughout the Midwest.

When he can find the time, Gale enjoys pencil sketching scenes of cowboy life. Gale and his wife, Geri, run a cow/calf operation east of Fulton, South Dakota. They are the parents of three grown children and the proud grandparents of three grandchildren.