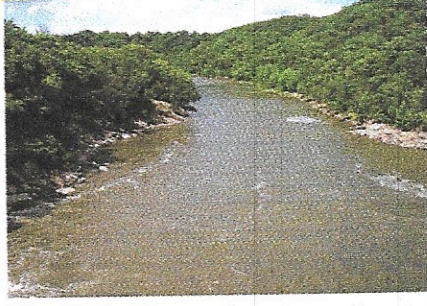
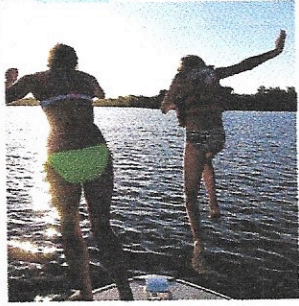


RIVER VALLEY
extravaganza!

SUMMER 2014



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RIVER VALLEY extravaganza!

A specialty publication from *River Valley Woman*



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Lisa Murphy lives it and sings it

Singing Cowgirl

entertains all audiences

Story and photo by Ruth Klossner

Whether it's country, easy listening, or 50's that audiences want, Lisa Murphy can tailor her music to fit. Of it all, "The Singing Cowgirl" has a favorite...the music of John Denver.

Music has been a lifelong thing for Murphy, going back to when she was 11 years old.

She explained, "My idol was John Denver. I told myself, 'If John Denver can play a guitar, so can I!' After many hours of intense prac-

ting (even though my fingers were killing me), I finally learned to master the guitar. I think singing along to all those John Denver albums made my vocal cords pretty strong, too. I do have an "ear for music," and discovered I could play songs just by listening to them, picking out the keys in my head."

John Denver was not only Murphy's idol, but also a family friend and someone who inspired her to keep going through sore fingers and all.

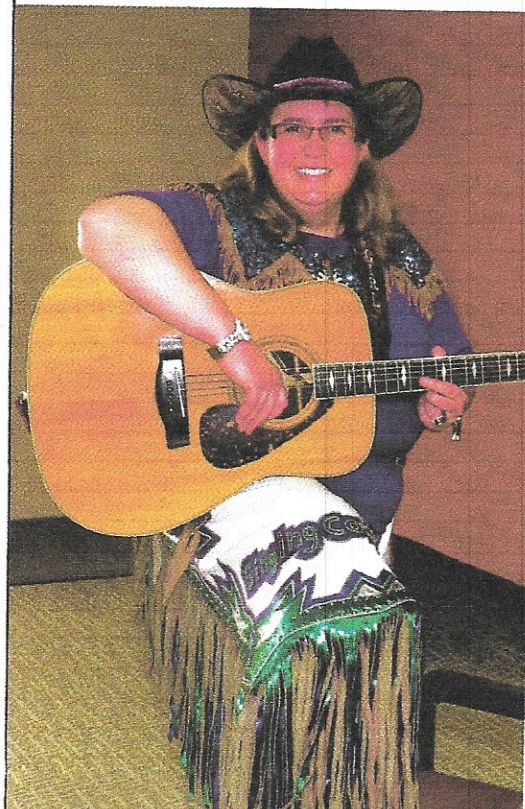
Although she's been performing for more than three decades, it's only the last six or seven years that Lisa took her music to the "second level," working to make it full time. As she does that, she's fortunate to have an understanding employer who'll allow her to work around her music schedule. She's a part-time custodian at TBEI (formerly Crysteel) and also does some dental assisting work, the career she was trained for.

A flexible schedule is necessary as Murphy performed 176 shows last year—from Sioux Falls to the Winona area. Although she hasn't done a lot of jobs in the metro area yet, she's had some in the south metro area, and is looking to pursue more there.

"I call myself a variety singer. I cater to every age group," Murphy said. "I give very family-oriented shows."

Murphy performs at assisted living and senior centers, county fairs, private parties, weddings...pretty much any venue. Shows at the senior centers are usually 45 minutes. At county fairs, she usually does two one-hour shows.

"Private parties are one of my favorites. I do an interactive show. I get people involved. It's so much fun and so personal," Lisa said. "Anybody can step up the microphone. How you entertain people determines



whether you'll be successful or not."

Murphy also does an annual John Denver tribute concert every year.

Since a friend moved to Georgia a number of years ago, Lisa goes there every year and does shows at senior living communities. At one show this year, she brought a 95-year-old woman on stage and had her dancing to "Rock Around the Clock."

"I enjoy getting people involved," she said. "I can play for a few people or thousands—I've been doing this way too many years to be freaking out."

Before being considered a professional, Murphy took part in the Minnesota State Fair Amateur Talent Contest and sang in front of an audience of 6,000. That only inspired her, not intimidated her.

To learn more about Murphy and her

music, go to www.singingcowgirl.com.

A Mankato native and graduate of Mankato East High School, Lisa went on to Mankato State University. She now lives on a small ranch between Mankato and Rapidan.

"I have a horse and a ranch," she said. "My goal was to have a hobby farm before I was 30. I bought my ranch when I was 28. I've

got three acres in the most beautiful area around Mankato. You never know what kind of wildlife will run through the yard!"

Lisa's horse is now 25 years old—and she's had it since it was four years old.

Of her passion for music, Murphy said, "Music keeps me going. It's what makes me tick. I'm totally dedicated to it. God put me ▶

"I call myself a variety singer. I cater to every age group..."

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here to entertain people. I love people. I love entertaining. I love to make them laugh and smile. It's my niche in life."

Among Murphy's long list of performances this year, here are a few in our area—

- Friday August 1, Blue Earth County Fair, 12:30 p.m.

- Thursday, August 7, Brown County Fair, New Ulm, 11:45 a.m. & 1:45 p.m.

- Monday, August 11, Concert in German Park, New Ulm, 7 p.m.

- Friday, August 15, Steele County Fair, Owatonna, 12:00 & 4:00 p.m. ■

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