

“The 2nd Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote” Liner Notes

1. Hardwick 1961 (3:11)

(From The Album “Welcome To Our Vermont” - 2017)

Here’s a detailed and factual snapshot of the town of Hardwick, Vermont introducing local people, places and things, just as they appeared back in 1961 with the Bob Wills fiddle tune, “Take Me Back To Tulsa.” The Bob Wills’ 1941 recording is one of eight country music performances selected for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s “500 Songs That Shaped Rock & Roll.” “Hardwick 1961” has Ramblers Rick, Taryn, Dave and Julia Shannon-Grillo taking descriptive verses along with special guest Jamie Lee Thurston.



Hardwick's Swinging Bridge

2. Walking Around Money (2:57)

(From The Album “Riding My Guitar” - 2013)

Following the Great Depression, the amount of money a man had in his pockets gave him confidence and swagger. I remember hearing the old timers talk about “Walking Around Money” and how it registered on the social scale. Rambler Dave Rowell renders this heartfelt song, fraught with bragadocio.



Dave Rowell & Rick

3. I'm Gonna Take It With Me When I Go (3:23)

(From The Album “Green Mountain Standard Time” - 2016)

The ultimate answer for those who amass and collect and what could become of those treasures.

4. Here's Yer Hat, What's Yer Hurry (4:04)

(From The Album “Green Mountain Standard Time” - 2016)

This was one of my mother’s favorite sayings from back in the ‘50s that she frequently inflicted upon my little friends when one of them got on her nerves. Her biggest complaint? “That kid is too boring!”

5. I Love Western Swing (3:39)

(From The Album “Green Mountain Standard Time” - 2016)

This song documents the history of Western Swing music and it honors the founding fathers of Western Swing music as originated in Fort Worth, Texas in the early 1930s. It has been adopted as the “Exclusive Theme Song” of the Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing Festival held annually in Fort Worth. How did a kid from East Hardwick, Vermont fall in Love with Western Swing? I had the pleasure of playing on a package



show with two former Light Crust Doughboys, stars of 1939, Knocky Parker and Smokey Montgomery, for Easter Week on Daytona Beach in 1965 & 1966. What a fantastic introduction to Western Swing music for me! What A Crowd!

6. Yer Gonna Get Hurt (3:03)

(From The Album "I Rode The Ti" - 2008)

"You're Gonna Get Hurt" is just another country love song delivered with a universal warning.

7. Welcome To Our Vermont (3:46)

(From The Album "Welcome To Our Vermont" - 2014)

Here's a Northeast Kingdom invitation for tourists to experience a no-frills "Real Vermont," just the way it is.

8. You're In Heaven (2:48)

(From The Album "I Rode The Ti" - 2008)

"You're in Heaven" is a take off of the 1946 Nat King Cole hit "Route 66" with a Vermont twist honoring Vermont's beloved Route 7, the major thoroughfare (mostly two lanes) that runs from the north to south of Vermont on the west side of the state.

9. Shelburne Yesterday (4:39)

(From The Album "Green Mountain Standard Time" - 2016)

Here's another stumble through Vermont history, this time chronicling the town of Shelburne as seen through the eyes of a young boy. It's a sharply focused, accurate in every description, snapshot of a small Vermont town in the 1950s. This visit recalls many of the same experiences and memories shared by any small town resident during that time in America. While commenting that Shelburne today "is not that bad, it's just the memories I've had." This song tells listeners to hold those experiences close to their heart.

10. I Don't Want To Play With You Anymore (3:10)

(From The Album "Riding My Guitar" - 2013)

In March of 2013, Congress shut down & stopped doing the business of the People. This song puts the situation into proper perspective, presented in playground language and performed by 10-year old Julia Shannon-Grillo, a vocalist with Rick & The All-Star Ramblers Western Swing Band. "I Don't Want To Play With You Anymore" was written on April Fool's Day and recorded in mid-April of 2013. This song was a big hit with audiences every time Julia performed it on Ramblers shows. As heard October 5th, 2013 on WDEV's "Music To Go To The Dump By" and the following week on WOKO, WVMT, WLVB & VERMONT PUBLIC RADIO.

11. Riding My Guitar (5:33)

(From The Album "Riding My Guitar" - 2013)

"Riding My Guitar" is the perfect song to close out this album and to close out a 61 year career writing and singing my own songs. From my first guitar lessons from Harold Patch in East Hardwick, Vermont, to playing in Florida and performing all over England, as the chorus says,

*"Who'd Have Ever Thought That It Would Go This Long or Far?
I've Had Such A Good Time Riding My Guitar."*

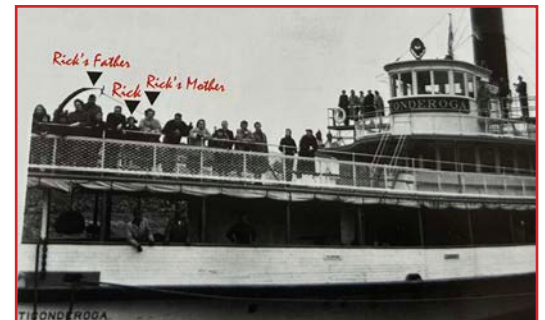
"Riding My Guitar" is the title track of the album released in partnership with the publishing of my biography, by noted Vermont author Stephen Russell Payne and the "Riding My Guitar 50th Anniversary Tour of Vermont."



Easter Week, Daytona Beach 1965 & 1966



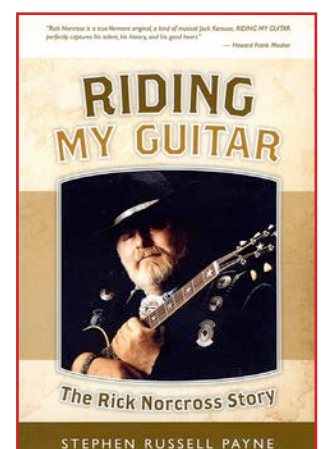
Rick, Jamie Lee Thurston & Lane Gibson



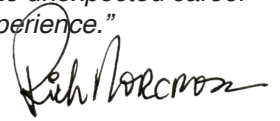
The Last Voyage of The Ticonderoga 1954



Julia Shannon-Grillo



"When Vermont author Stephen Russell Payne approached me 15 years ago to ask if he could write a story about me for Vermont Life Magazine, I readily agreed. After a couple of interviews, he expressed interest in writing my biography. I was flattered that he saw me as the subject of a book. Together we embarked on a journey that took me back to my very roots and reminded me why I was so committed to music. His book opened up a whole new audience for my music and gave me renewed focus to reach into myself, encouraging me to greater heights and since, to realize unexpected career success. Thank You for "Riding My Guitar," Stephen Russell Payne. I am forever grateful for the experience."



Riding My Guitar - The Rick Norcross Story

"As a Vermont author I am always looking for iconic figures about whom I can write a new story. In the summer of 2010 I had the good fortune to meet Rick Norcross, one of Vermont's best known musicians and was delighted to learn that no one had truly chronicled his far-flung and intriguing life. Luckily for me, Rick agreed to let me research and write his biography and what a wild ride it has been! Over the past three years, Rick and I have spent hundreds of hours together. He has generously shared his extensive personal and professional archives with me.

In addition, I have done interviews with people from all over the world who have known and worked with Rick over the past fifty years. From his roots in the tiny granite town of Hardwick, to his years living inside the Shelburne Museum during which he fell in love with the great steamboat Ticonderoga, Rick is as iconic Vermont as you can get. His career as an entertainer has ranged from performing at the Hardwick Tulip Festival, to premier folk clubs in England with the likes of Paul Simon and Diz Disley, to sharing the bill with some of the biggest acts in the country including Dave Mason, Billy Preston, Hank Williams Drifting Cowboys, Brad Paisley and John Anderson, to name just a few.

Founder of two respected coffee houses in Florida during his college years, "The Other Room" in Lakeland and "The 18th String" in Tampa, Rick continued to write and perform his unique style of folk music while working as a music journalist at The Tampa Times from 1969 to 1974. There he interviewed and photographed the most famous artists of the century including Elvis, Janis Joplin, Led Zeppelin, Johnny Cash, Elton John, The Grateful Dead, Merle Haggard, The Rolling Stones and hundreds of others.



Rick & Stephen Russell Payne

Throughout his life, Rick has always kept his deep ties to Vermont and thankfully moved home permanently in the mid 1980's when he founded the extremely popular Green Mountain Chew Chew Food & Music Festival which ran for 24 years in downtown Burlington. He also formed New England's premier western swing band, Rick & The All-Star Ramblers Western Swing Band. Rick has been entertaining Vermonters for over fifty years.

The Rick Norcross Story is a fascinating and funny story filled with poignant and personal moments from a remarkable man's life. Confronted with difficult challenges from an early age, Rick is a person who learned how to survive by creatively turning all kinds of lemons into lemonade. The book with the accompanying album, was published in May of 2013 to help celebrate Rick's fiftieth anniversary as a professional musician.

In addition to his own music gigs, Rick and I have already been asked to make joint appearances to promote the book and his upcoming fiftieth anniversary CD. It has been an honor and a privilege to write this book and I think it will find a wide and enthusiastic audience. As a follow up to the successful release of my first novel, Cliff Walking, last year, I am really looking forward to the publication of Riding My Guitar - The Rick Norcross Story in 2013."

-- Stephen Russell Payne, Author Riding My Guitar - The Rick Norcross Story

"Rick Norcross is a true Vermont original, a kind of musical Jack Kerouac. Stephen Russell Payne's new book, Riding My Guitar - The Rick Norcross Story perfectly captures his talent, his history and his good heart."

-- Howard Frank Mosher, Award-Winning Vermont Author

"Riding My Guitar is the entertaining story of a true Vermont original. Rick Norcross's amazing journey has taken him throughout the US and to Europe, but at heart he remains a friendly, modest and very talented Vermonter. In telling this story of the irrepressible Norcross, Stephen Russell Payne also gives us a vivid picture of rural Vermont in the 1950's and '60's. It's a fun read!"

-- Tom Slayton, Editor Emeritus Vermont Life Magazine

"Rick Norcross is a self made man hewn out of all that makes Vermont so unique. Somehow over the decades he has carved out a music career which stays close to its roots in the music he composes, sings and plays. So often his work provides a sense of where he's from and what he has picked up traveling his own path, always bringing it back to the home place. You hear it whether on a recording, or a concert or just a kitchen tunk over at the neighbors. Good on yah' Rick, Good on yah."



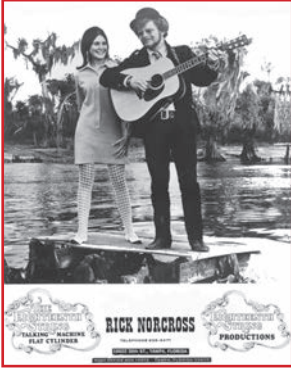
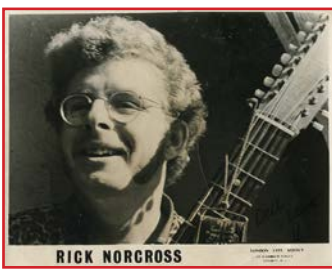
-- Kenley Dean Squier, Owner, The Radio Vermont Group

"What I respect most about Rick is his strong sense of community and music's role in bringing people together. He cares deeply about his fellow musicians and about each and every person sitting in the audience. I've taken many a ride on Rick's bus to gigs, and he's full of stories, which find their way into his songs. Anyone who listens to our new CD will immediately appreciate how Rick can tell a funny story about a place like Hardwick, while at the same time expressing his true love for the town and its people."

-- Charlie MacFadyen, Rambler Arranger & Keyboard Player



FOLK MUSIC
 AT IT'S BEST
 TOURING FROM VERMONT
 Bud Boydston
 Rick Norcross
 Tom Azarian
 Banjo - Guitar - Mandolin
 Fiddle - Autoharp
 NOVEMBER 7 7 to 9 P. M.
 Annie Pfeiffer Chapel
 TICKETS \$1.00
 PRESENTED BY FRESHMAN CLASS



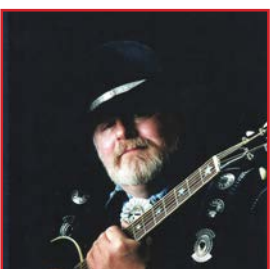
vermont
Rick & the Ramblers win national award



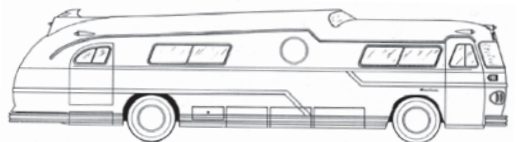
vermont
 Rick & the Ramblers, a local Western swing band, and their star called The Pick.



RICK & THE ALL-STAR RAMBLERS
 Western Swing Band



www.rickandtheallstarramblers.com
GET YOU ONE NOW!



RICK AND THE ALL-STAR RAMBLERS
 Western Swing Band

THE BESTEST EVER RAMBLER FAMILY

RICK & THE ALL-STAR RAMBLERS - Rick Norcross - Vocals & Rhythm Guitar • Taryn Noelle - Vocals • Charlie MacFadyen - Piano, Accordion, Lap Steel • Dono Schabner - Lead & Rhythm Guitars • Doug Reid - Fiddle • Dave Rowell - Vocals & Bass • Ian Koeller - Drums

March 23, 2025. Today is my Birthday and today I am 80 Years Old. I have focused my life on making music since I was 16. It took me a very long time to get off the runway as I wasn't very good for a very long time. Today, releasing my 16th album, I am introducing to you my Rambler Family to gratefully honor them for all they have done to allow me to follow my muse. Every one of this treasured list has befriended me, encouraged me, sponsored me or mentored me along the way so that I could do what I love to do - Make Music. I Thank You All from the Bottom of My Heart.

ALL SONGS WRITTEN BY Rick Norcross • Except "You're In Heaven" - Music by Bobby Troup • Words by Rick Norcross • Co-Produced by Rick Norcross, Charlie MacFadyen & Lane Gibson • Graphic Design by Rick Norcross • Front Cover Photo Courtesy The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization, East Hardwick Grange Hall, Sold-Out Benefit, 2018 • Back Cover Photo by Bruce Montgomery • Photo for a Tampa Tribune Feature Story, 1974 • All Songs Arranged by Charlie MacFadyen • All Songs Recorded Between 2008 & 2023 at Lane Gibson Recording & Mastering, Charlotte, Vermont • All Songs Recorded, Engineered & Mastered by Lane Gibson

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Harold Patch | Peter & Betsy Clavelle | Lane Gibson | Taryn Noelle |
| Bud Boydston | Bobby & Holly Miller | Chuck Eller | Charlie MacFadyen |
| Tom Azarian | Lois McClure | Ken Grillo | Dono Schabner |
| Carolyn Hester | Rob Marchner | Joan Shannon | Doug Reid |
| Knocky Parker | Governor Phil Scott | Becky Cassidy | Dave Rowell |
| Smokey Montgomery | Anson Tebbetts | Cheryl & Gary Michaels | Ian Koeller |
| Derek Sarjeant | Bobby Starr | Harry Atkinson | Amber deLaurentis |
| Cathy Wellings Gillespie | Julie Longfellow | Lisa Marchetti | Juliet McVicker |
| Hugh & Nancy Aldous | Tom Terri | Don & Marty Dewees | Jonathan Edwards |
| Bill Utzig | Scott Milne | Airbrush Ron Hernandez | Banjo Dan Lindner |
| Kate Butler | Gary "Bear" Bessette | Diana Doll | Jamie Lee Thurston |
| Charles Fuller | The Hotel Vermont | Hans & Kathy Heikel | Andy Dubenetsky |
| Pete Yorkunas | Joe Carton | Tom Anderson | Kacey Ober |
| Ronny Elliott | Jay Canning | Ivor & Brenda Hughes | Jim Pitman |
| Bob Rippy | Mimi Overman | Boo Kealing | Coco Kallis |
| Paul Buskirk | Dan Dubonnet | Billy Bowles | Jon Gaimor |
| Rick & Karen Mena Garner | Alice Dubenetsky | Dena Wood | Tom Buckley |
| Junior Barber | Creighton Smith | Bobby Newton | |
| H. Doyle Harvill | The Mighty Pickle | The Academy of Western Artists | |
| Leo Roy | Dave & Boots Wright | Mike Markwart | |
| Leroy Preston | Marty Stuart | Rosie Flores | |
| Tony Washburn | Doreen Kraft | Barb Heller | |
| Dan "Panama Red" Finley | Barbara Barden | Radio Bob Sauter | |
| Captain Lewis | Nancy Bove | Kenley Dean Squier | |
| Little Joyce Cooper | Elaine & Gary Russell | Jack Donovan | |
| Dana LaVigne | Larry & Connie Simino | Joel Najman | |
| Nancy Johnson | Ed Bousquet | Farmer Dave Graves | |
| Rod & Julie Durrell | Bret Corbin | Hook Greger | |
| Steve Frederick | Stephen Russell Payne | Brad Ferland | |
| Cousin Cathy Pepper | Cindy & Dave Bovat | Roland Lajoie | |
| Peggen Mulhern | Carole & Norm LaVigne | Charlie Papilio | |
| Doug Gresson | Ethel & Phil Brousseau | Grant Heywood | |
| Frank Ross | Don Doubleday | Julia Shannon-Grillo | |

WE PAY TRIBUTE TO Lane Gibson who Masterfully Recorded & Engineered all 13 of our Airflyte Album projects since 2008. We Honor Lane Gibson for all he taught us & all he brought us to help us grow and improve with each successive album project he recorded and co-produced - All with Endless Patience & Good Humor



visit www.rickandtheallstarramblers.com
 All Songs © 2025 Airflyte Music • Unauthorized Duplication is Cursed
 Airflyte Records • 216 Battery Street • Burlington, Vermont 05401

