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## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR...

# Welcome to Fall!

From our *Home*™ to yours!

## Welcome!

Faithful readers of **HOME** may have noticed KUSH did not publish a summer issue. A plan was in place, but I simply couldn't execute it. In early June, it became apparent that my mother's time with us was quickly coming to an end. My focus had to shift to what was most important - to spend as much time with her as I could. Those of you with a similar experience will understand; and those who have not, most likely will at some point. I want to thank everyone who reached out to me and my family during this time and after her passing in August. Your love for us and our Ma was felt and we are grateful for it.

I'm dedicating this issue of **HOME** to my mom (aka Ma), the one who was the heart of our home - even after we had left hers. She loved getting each new issue! She was my champion and biggest fan. I'm really going to miss that...I already do.

I hope you will find the heart in the personal stories told in this issue. Our stories are important - and we all have one. It is my continued goal to inspire others to share their stories, especially with those they love and who love them.

*"A house is made with walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams."* ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Enjoy! Molly*

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# At HOME with Charlie Hickman

## RED DIRT, ROCK AND A LOTTA SOUL



PHOTO by JAKE REEVES

by MOLLY PAYNE

Charlie Hickman is probably one of the nicest young men you could hope to meet. His boyish charm and good looks draw you in like soda in a straw. It's refreshing to find his outward appearance is a mere reflection of his kind heart.

I first met Charlie when he was Andrew – Andrew Hickman, starter for the Cushing Tigers football team. Back then, the morning show included Tiger Time on Fridays during the football season. Members of the team would come in for an impromptu interview by one of the KUSH Girls. My knowledge of the game was pretty scant and the fellas often had to endure more of the “Mom” kind of questions or comments, such as “Do you have a girlfriend?” “Doesn't it hurt when you get knocked down like that?” “Is the coach being mean to you?”

Yes. I was that good. *(Insert laugh)*

Even then, Andrew stood out to me as a good kid with a great sense of humor.

Fast forward to August of 2016 when I saw “Charlie Hickman Band” on my interview schedule. I knew the band was local, but since I hadn't been the one doing the scheduling, I didn't have a clue who this new, talented singer/songwriter with a band was. That morning he walked through the door, guitar in hand, only to be greeted with – “You're not Charlie! You're Andrew!”

*(Momma KUSH strikes again!)*

Charlie explained that his full name is Charles Andrew Hickman. Throughout his school years in Cushing he was called Andrew, but when he enrolled in college, it was easier to go by his first name. He said, “My Grandpa's name was

“My Grandpa's name was Charlie and that's who I was named after, so I decided to start going by Charlie when I started gigging.”

## Music has been a constant in Charlie's life. His mother Christi Hickman is a music teacher at Cushing Public Schools and his father Ralph Hickman was a church Minister of Music for many years.

Charlie and that's who I was named after, so I decided to start going by Charlie when I started gigging."

A short time later I was given the opportunity to introduce the Charlie Hickman Band at the Cushing Chamber of Commerce BBQ & Blues private event. Leave it to Charlie to remind me to please introduce him as "Charlie" and not "Andrew." I can't recall whether or not I heeded his instructions exactly, or if I felt compelled to tease him by correcting myself on stage. I tend to think it was the latter. Whatever the case, it may have taken me a while to get used to calling him Charlie, but now it seems most fitting! The Charlie Hickman Band rocked the stage that evening, putting smiles on faces in the crowd.

Music has been a constant in Charlie's life. His mother Christi Hickman is a music teacher at Cushing Public Schools and his father Ralph Hickman was a church Minister of Music for many years. From Motown soul to Gospel, Charlie's parents' musical and spiritual influences have helped mold Charlie into the artist and man he is today.

Charlie cut his musical teeth on stage. At his parents' urging he was singing in front of congregations at four years old. When he was a young teen, his dad brought a guy in from out of town to teach some guitar basics to the youth of the church. That was a life changer for Charlie. He picked up a guitar and hasn't put one down since.

His songwriting also began about the same time – first poetry, followed by full-blown lyrics and music. "I can hear a melody in my head," Charlie said about his songwriting process. "Then the lyrics start coming."

As he got older, Charlie discovered "Red Dirt" songwriters like Randy Rogers, John Moreland, Evan Felker and John Fullbright and Alternate music such as Nine Inch Nails and Chris Cornell. Red dirt and rock, combined with a little soul, are all influences you can hear in Charlie's music today.

After graduating high school, Charlie went on to college – first at NOC/Stillwater and then to OBU in Shawnee. He'd felt a call to the ministry when he was about 16 and thought it was something he would pursue. But college just wasn't for Charlie. However, he did meet a girl named Britten at OBU, who has since become his wife and mother of their six year old daughter Kimber.

As for the ministry, Charlie acknowledges that as a teen, he didn't really know what his ministry looked like.

"I thought it would be more traditional, like my dad," he said. Now he realizes ministries come in all different forms – including performing his own original music on stage.

He also admits there was a time in his early adult life when he wasn't adhering to his spiritual beliefs. "You get out of high school and get your first taste of the real world – and lots of stuff happens," Charlie recalled. "I stopped tending my relationship with the Lord." But like the prodigal son, he has returned to tending that relationship. "I pray a LOT," he said with a laugh.

Faith and family are extremely important to Charlie. He is not afraid to share that with others. "On the road...at shows...I have had more opportunities to tell people – ones who would never step into a church," Charlie said.

Finding himself as an artist has also been a journey. "I'm not really what is known as Red Dirt – other than location," Charlie said. "Although I like Red Dirt music, it's certainly influenced me. I just want to be as original as I can be." Like so many singer/songwriters Charlie started off by emulating the influences he liked. "When I heard my first EP, Coming Home, I thought – 'that's not me.' Something sonically wasn't right." He changed things up – cranking out the tunes – his way with his own sound. He released a second EP, Trouble. This EP, with its groovy guitar licks and rock and roll vibe, has an edgier quality to it, and yet lyrically still speaks to the heart. .



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Like a haunting confessional, his song *Falling Like Flying* captures the melancholy depth of the angsty 90s. "Burning in my memory, things I wish I had not done...sorry that I let you down and took off on the run," Charlie sings, in his distinguished Oklahoma twang. "Is anybody out there...won't you tell me I'm not alone...falling feels like flying and I'm sinking like a stone."

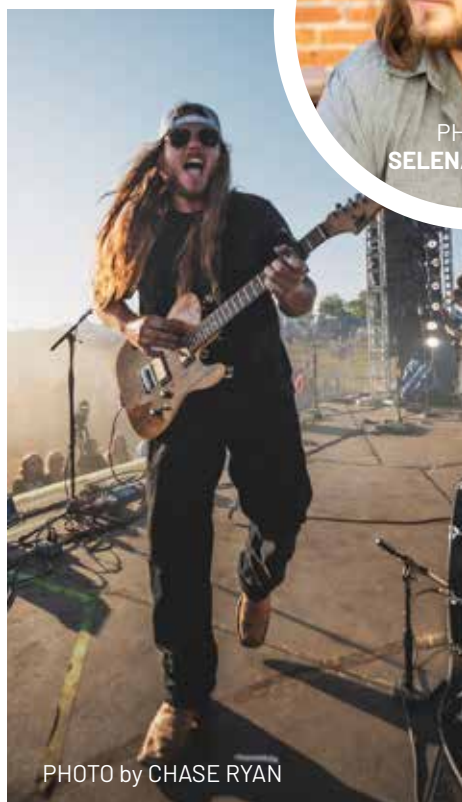
Recently, Charlie had one of his dreams fulfilled – playing the main

stage at The Tumbleweed Calf Fry. "It was awesome," he said happily. "I love being there; they are a good bunch of folks." He will return to play acoustic at Calf Fry Christmas in early December.

At 28, Charlie is continuing to follow his dream of one day being able to support his family solely through music. But for now it's a bit of a juggling act, finding the balance between work, home and gigs. "It's not easy. I have fun playing, but it's work," Charlie admits. "You just have to spend the time where you can, when you can."

What other dreams are in Charlie's head? "I'd love to open for Cody Canada one day," Charlie said with a grin.

Follow Charlie Hickman Band on Facebook for upcoming shows and new releases. CHB music can be found on streaming links and YouTube. 







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# Grandpa Dale

by RHIANNON DENNIS

**My family's Cushing roots go back over a century. My Grandpa Dale's mother, Allie King Gillespie, was born near Cushing in 1895. Her parents had come out for the land run in 1891 and laid down roots.**

**M**y only living grandparent, Loren Dale Gillespie, was a man of few words when I was growing up. I remember my brother and oldest cousin heading out across the pasture for the pond, fishing gear in tow. I remember Grandpa watching TV while eating his dinner while I played with toys on the living room floor and giggling with my middle cousin, who was the only other girl out of my cousins on that side of the family. I never

thought about it much, it's just how it was. Then something changed as I grew up. Once I was an adult, Grandpa began telling me stories of his life in the service when stationed at Pearl Harbor. He would talk about his classic cars and the various people that have sought him out and interviewed him because of his Studebaker collection. His cars have been the backdrop for photo shoots. Many people know of my Grandpa Dale because of his car collection, most nota-



**Grandpa Dale gifted me a book about the raid on Pearl Harbor during WWII and he included a personal hand-written account about some of his experiences while stationed at Pearl Harbor.**

bly his Studebakers.

My family's Cushing roots go back over a century. My Grandpa Dale's mother, Allie King Gillespie, was born near Cushing in 1895. Her parents had come out for the land run in 1891 and laid down roots. She lived to be 105, so I expect my 98 year old grandfather to last at least that long! Grandpa Dale still drives himself to town for biscuits and gravy and to get in some visiting at the Senior Citizen Center.

Just two months after graduating from Cushing High School in 1943, my Grandpa Dale accompanied a friend to Oklahoma City where they were both to be drafted. Grandpa requested to go into the Air Force, but he was informed he would be going into the Navy. Having spent his youth shooting jackrabbits in the family farm's wheat fields, he made Marksman his first time shooting at boot camp.

Grandpa Dale gifted me a book about the raid on Pearl Harbor during WWII and he included a personal hand-written account about some of his experiences while stationed at Pearl Harbor. At his post on a gate vessel, he operated the huge, submerged cable



Grandpa at 21 on his horse Queen

nets meant to keep out enemy submarines. Sailors would fish for Red Mullet with a rod and reel and some of the sailors would take out a dingy boat to spear larger fish. Grandpa remembers when one sailor speared a stingray that towed his dingy about two miles out to sea before he was rescued.

The day came that Grandpa Dale was to be transferred to a tug boat. The cook on the tugboat had been stationed there for a long time and requested a post change. The captain agreed to allow the cook to trade posts with Grandpa. The cook's first day at his new post, one of the tug boats exploded which caused a chain reaction of 22 vessels to explode. The cook was badly injured and later died. To think, if that post change had happened one day later, my grandfather may never have lived to meet my grandmother and my mom and aunt would never have been born.


There was another chilling incident when Grandpa Dale was stationed at Pearl Harbor. Grandpa awoke with a blade on his throat. From the description Grandpa Dale gave me, it appeared that one of the sailors was experiencing a substance induced psychotic episode and had become disoriented and agitated. Two sailors happened to come in just in time to talk the man down and he was later sent to prison and dishonorably discharged. I cannot imagine waking up like that! Yet another moment in time, that if it had gone differently, my family would never have existed.

Fast forward back to my childhood and I have many fond memories of riding in various parades in Cushing. My brother, cousins, and I would toss candy from the back of Grandpa Dale's red Studebaker pickup truck. All of us kids felt so special getting to be in the parade! My great-grandma, Grandpa Dale's

mother, would usually ride in front while Grandpa drove. For a long time, Great-grandma had the distinction of being Cushing's oldest citizen. Of all Grandpa's classic vehicles, that Studebaker pickup was my favorite. Perhaps it was my favorite because it was attached to so many fun memories.

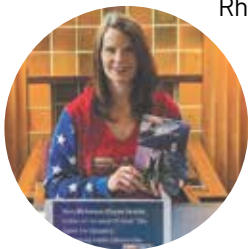
In listening to my grandpa talk about his life, I came to realize just how delicate the timeline is! So many events had to unfold in just the right way for my mom and aunt to have been born, let alone myself and my children. When I take the time to think about it, it's quite amazing how our lives are affected by so many events unfolding in just the right way to allow for the possibility of our mere existence. All these moments in time add up, not just the choices we make, but also the circumstances that surround us, hold more power than we might realize. Somehow, my Grandpa Dale was fortunate enough to survive some scary situations and go on to meet and marry my Grandma, Rose Mare Fillmore Gillespie, and create the family we now have.

Talking to my Grandpa triggers thoughts about all the changes he has seen in the world. In some ways, we've advanced so far it's like something out of Star Trek. We have video chats on phones and can look information up within seconds – so much right at our fingertips! Yet, isn't something lost with technology? Do we forget to listen to the stories our grandparents have to share? With so many distractions in today's world, I worry that we are losing the tradition of passing down stories through the generations. Storytelling has been an important way to pass down information throughout history. There is value in continuing that tradition, but in today's world we have to see it out and make time for it. Storytelling used to happen organically, sitting around after a meal, talking or sharing stories while doing chores. Now people tend to isolate themselves more, glued to their phones and computers.

My Grandpa has many stories to tell and there may not be time for all of them considering he has been around for 98 years. That's a lot of stories and I'm all ears! I hope those of you that still have living grandparents and great-grandparents will ask them to give you a snapshot of different points in their life. Stories from family and about family are some of the most powerful stories, because it isn't just a story. It's your history as well. 



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Rhiannon Dennis is an Oklahoma author whose debut Fantasy novel, *The Quest for Quantra*, is now available on Amazon and at your local library.

PHOTO by: Linda Dennis



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PHOTOS PROVIDED

# *A Radio Experience*

TALES FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF **KUSH**

**Editor's note:** *This past spring I was surprised to find a lovely couple (David and Anita Shanks) milling about outside of the station, near the "cement pond." I greeted them and quickly learned they had stopped by to see the station where he'd worked as a young man. I invited them in for a "tour." He was thrilled to see, architecturally at least, there had been few changes to the building. It was great hearing his stories, as well as learning things about the station I didn't know. I was amused and enchanted by his tales and as it got closer to time for them to leave, I told him I wished I'd thought to record our conversation. Imagine how pleased I was to find he had recently written them down and was happy to share them with me and my readers. I hope you enjoy David's recollections as much as I did!*

by **DAVID SHANKS**

I write this thinking somebody might actually be interested in this narrative, or at least find it mildly amusing. On the other hand, if one has never participated in or even thought about what might go on behind the scenes in a small radio station in the fifties, I have wasted your time and mine!

During this idyllic period of Americana, radio still reigned supreme, although TV was gaining ground quickly.

I watched and listened to the likes of Arthur Godfrey, Bob Hope, and Groucho Marx, all of whom had announcers with deep, golden voices. My fascination may have been about their ability to earn a substantial living and enjoy some stardom by simply reading something. I could read, and my pronunciation seemed okay, at least according to my Mother, the English teacher. I also noted that these guys were pretty good at ad libbing as well; how hard could that



be? Anyway, I decided around age 13 or 14 that my life's work would be as a radio announcer.

Other than writing and directing some student skits to entertain fellow classmates, I could find little creative outlet for this burning desire; but the local radio station recently constructed by a Mr. William Howard Payne in Cushing, Oklahoma, cleverly called KWHP... get it? Now the studios for this 1,000 watt giant were out in the country, along with the transmitter and tower – and a goldfish pond. I know not why a goldfish pond, but that is where I found Mr. Payne as I sought employment. While enjoying an afternoon cocktail (or two or three), he quickly assured me that my voice was too “sophomoric” to grace the airwaves around Cushing. He told me to “come back in a few years.”

In a year or so, the station changed hands, as well as call letters, now KUSH, Voice of the Cimarron! The Cimarron, by the way, is a muddy, often dry, river that meandered through the area. If it had a voice, then I was still determined to be it! The new owners were also publishers of the local paper in the nearby community of Drumright, where I lived, along with my family and friends. Because of this, and maybe because of my willingness to work for a dollar an hour – weekends and evenings, I was suddenly qualified.

The station went through a number of station managers and daytime announcers, all colorful characters, but my mentor became Clayton Vaughn. Clayton was a local Cushing boy, who had tried his hand at higher education and fraternity life at the University of Oklahoma, but for reasons unknown to me, it didn't work out. Clayton DID have a great radio voice, a devilish sense of humor, and an ego to fill a much larger radio station! In addition to Program Director duties (I never quite knew what that meant) he did the daily afternoon shift, selecting and playing records, reading the news and



David and Anita Shanks met up with Molly Payne at Drumright Monthly Market while they were in town.

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commercials, and bantering as if someone was listening. The show had a name of course, “Spins and Needles”...oh so fifties! It was Clayton who was to teach me the ropes.

Now I am far removed from the radio station environment of today. I know that it consists of large corporate multi-station owners, and very sophisticated technology, but this is a far cry from KUSH back in the day in Central, Oklahoma. In the evenings and weekends at least I was alone, left to turn the transmitter

on and off, take all sorts of meter readings, cue up and play records (mostly 45 rpm, by the way), scramble to tear off a five minute newscast from the AP teletype every hour, and then read it as if I knew what I was talking about. That always gave my every-listening mother a few embarrassing moments.

Recorded commercials were maintained on small reels of magnetic tape in numbered sequence, one reel for each client. Juggling dozens of reels, and six reel-to-reel tape machines, with seconds to find and cue the right message, was a challenge. Suffice it to say that things did not always work out. Clayton, in fact, did little to teach me. I always suspected that his social

life took on immense importance the minute his shift was over, as he tarried rarely, except on a few occasions when his goal was to cause me to go bananas whilst on the air. Trial by fire was the order of the day. The screw-ups were legendary! The station maintained an old disk recording machine from the days before tape. The recording needle actually laid down grooves on what I think was



an acetate disk. The by-product was what was called “angel hair” – highly flammable stuff that curled up in immense black balls as the machine worked its magic. Flammable is relevant here, as Clayton casually lit the stuff, tossed it into the airtight control room as I was reading the news, and watched the putrid black smoke fill my lungs! Missing a step on the air was secondary to trying to put out the fire.

As the months and years wore on, even summers during my college years, I gained a wealth of experience in sounding like I knew what I was talking about...certainly a life skill for someone destined to be a professional sales person. And of course, improvisation, tornado alerts for example. Although a daylight station only, special dispensation from the FCC allowed us to remain on the air in the event of an evening tornado alert, of which there were many. After all, Central Oklahoma was and is “tornado alley.” On occasion, this was exciting enough for Clayton to remain at his post as his shift was over and I took control. Clayton, with a microphone in hand, and a six pack of beer, would mount the roof and scan the skies. This was the only “radar” available to the hundreds of folks crouched in their cellar, clinging to their radio. Because of these antics, I harbor a skeptical view of “on the scene” newscasters, even today!

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We had a few national advertisers who provided pre recorded commercials for which only a live tag was required. For example, once a week I was the “Pepsi Cola Silver Dollar Man” – phoning folks randomly and giving away money to a lucky listener. Our business was mostly local, however. Thus, it became a part of our job to create and record (on tape of course) announcements promoting our local customer base...cars, furniture, drug stores, etc. Coming in after hours to accomplish this (in varying states of sobriety), added to the creative process. Some of these had




David in front of an old “friend” – the original transmitter at KUSH.

only an airing lifetime of once – after the sponsor heard it on the air!

Returning to this job off and on during college recess kept my hand in and one summer served as a way to communicate with a girlfriend in Tulsa my arrival time for our date that evening. All in code, of course, and not always clear; a thousand watts didn’t carry very far on most days.

Few calls came in from New York or Hollywood. My only touch with celebrity was one evening when a young Country and Western singer and her manager stopped by the station to promote her latest record. That was the norm back then, as disk jockeys could make or break a new release, and we were certainly in “country and western” territory. The very young teenage girl was none other than Loretta Lynn...who knew?

During this era television was growing quickly in popularity – possibly expanding opportunities for my budding broadcasting career. I gave the radio and television broadcasting major a go at Oklahoma University, but it wasn’t to be. I caved in to much higher starting salaries in Engineering and went back to Oklahoma State in Stillwater. My days on the airwaves were over. Live, over the air broadcast, without a script and no second chances, remains a fun memory for me. As I watch all these good looking men and women on TV today, I ponder what might have been. My small town radio days taught me to think on my feet and stood me in good stead. I have no regrets!

After graduating from OSU, David spent a couple of years in the military and went on to have a successful business career until retiring almost 20 years ago. He and his wife Anita live in California. 





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## ABOUT OUR PROGRAMMING

**KUSH** is proud to align itself with news affiliates such as SRN, ONN, RON, Bloomberg, National Weather Service, as well as local police, fire and emergency management agencies, to bring you the most up-to-date information throughout the day via the airwaves at 1600 AM, internet streaming (Listen Live link at 1600kush.com) and tunein radio at KUSH 1600, an app available free on most smart phones and tablets.

If there's threatening weather, be assured we are looking at the latest radar resources and providing updates to the public as it approaches. **KUSH** is watching...

## WEEKDAY LINEUP...

***KUSH starts your morning with news, weather, ag and energy reports, along with a bit of inspiration to get your day started on a positive note.***

### 6:00am - 7:00am

**SPORTSMAP RADIO** - Follow the Money features veterans of the Las Vegas sports betting scene, Mitch Moss and Pauly Howard, who combine their knowledge of sports, gambling and pop culture.

### 7:00am - 8:00am

**NATIONAL / LOCAL NEWS** - Ag reports, Native News, music & more!

### 8:00am - 10:00am

**HOME**, hosted by **MOLLY PAYNE**. Get your day started at HOME with great music, news, weather and more! Laughter is the norm and blushing is expected when local characters, musicians, special guests from around the country and yes, even politicians and officials are brought into Studio B for questioning in an entertaining and informative way.

### 10:00am - NOON

**KUSHBRAND MUSIC** - two hours of a unique, eclectic music mix, which we think is like nowhere else. You will hear Americana, Folk, Country, Red Dirt - and maybe even music by someone you know - on **The KUSH!**

### NOON - 12:30

**OKLAHOMA NEWS** energy and ag reports plus financial news, including the **BLOOMBERG MARKET MINUTE**, which airs six times each weekday, 9:59, 11:59, 1:59, 3:59, 4:59 and 5:59.

### 12:30pm - 4:00pm

Check out our **KUSHBRAND MUSIC** mix of Americana, Red Dirt, Texas music, pop and classic country, local music, and the occasional wild card selection!

### 4:00pm - 5:00pm

**BLOOMBERG'S SOUND ON** - Bloomberg Chief Washington Correspondent Joe Mathieu delivers insight and analysis on the latest headlines from the White House and Capitol Hill, including conversations with influential lawmakers and key figures in politics and policy..

### 5:00pm - 5:30pm

**LOCAL NEWS**, energy and ag reports, weather and financial news.

### 5:30pm - 6:00am

Enjoy a good dose of **KUSHBRAND MUSIC** all night long! There's Blues, Classic Country, Rock & Roll and more in the KUSH rotation!



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## RADIO-WEB-AUDIO STREAM-VIDEO STREAM-FACEBOOK-TWITTER-SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

### WEEKEND LINEUP... SATURDAY

7:00am - 9:00am

**BLOOMBERG BUSINESS WEEK** - Joined by Businessweek's award winning editors and reporters, hosts Mark Mills and Karen Moskow bring insight and analysis to the week's top stories from Businessweek magazine.

9:00am - 10:00am

**KUSHBRAND MUSIC**

10:00am - 11:00am

**NATIVE AIR with HUGH FOLEY** Native American Indian Radio features contemporary and traditional American Indian Music, news and community announcements. Native Air also features many live, vintage, and rare recordings.

11:00am - 11:20am

**FIRST INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH** Pastor Jr. Pratt shares words of inspiration with listeners.

You'll want to stay tuned, because Saturday listeners are often treated to **HUGH FOLEY** spinning a few tunes as he airs the latest music coming to the **KUSH**. Those that "make the cut" will become a part of the extensive play list on **KUSH** and **RDROK.com**.

The rest of Saturday and all through the night, the music continues with a wide variety of Red Dirt, Americana, Texas Music artists, along with a few local and old-time favorites. In fact, you might even hear a surprise selection or two on **The KUSH!**

### SUNDAY

7:00am - 8:00am

**INTO THE BLUE BROADCAST** features the very best in new, current and vintage Bluegrass music.

8:00am - 1:00pm

**GOSPEL/INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC**

1:00pm - 5:00pm

**KUSHBRAND MUSIC - AMERICANA BLEND**

5:00pm - 6:00pm

**BLUES DELUXE** - America's longest running syndicated Blues radio show.

Rounding out the evening, more **KUSHBRAND MUSIC** until **SPORTSMAP RADIO** returns. **KUSH** Radio has a little something for everyone and every taste in homegrown and syndicated programming.

Wind down your weekend with more **KUSHBRAND MUSIC** all through the night. **KUSH** Radio has a little something for everyone and every taste in homegrown and syndicated programming.

## and STAY TUNED...

there's always something new and different coming from  
The **KUSH!**





# *My Ma & Me*

by SARA PAYNE KEYES



I spent some time wondering how or what I could write for this season's magazine. My world took a big shift again with the loss of my grandmother – I called her Ma. After 97 years, 8 months and 3 days, the time came for our Ma to leave us. I'm still fumbling around in the newness of this world without her. My mom, also reeling from the incredible loss of her mother, asked me how I felt about sharing words from the eulogy I wrote for Ma. I'm honored to do so. I would love to tell ya'll a little bit about this incredible woman and the relationship I had with her.

## My Ma

She taught me how to laugh and play...to love and pray.

### **Ma was my muse.**

I was inspired by the wonder of her when I was just little bitty. My first memories are of her love, her voice telling me stories, her clip-on ear ringed ears listening to mine, her strong hands showing me how to do and fix things, and her beautiful example on how to be a good woman.

She was full of love and willing to give love to all she encountered.

### **Love was her superpower.**

She stayed busy caring about other people, and making sure they knew it. She wrote letters – great letters! When I was a kid I could always count on her birthday card with a five dollar bill in it and more often than not it arrived in my mailbox on my actual birthday. I felt her love across the miles. .

She collected thoughtful gifts for all of her kids and grandkids all year long. She was a yard sale queen and she was always thinking of who she could get what. She loved the thrill of the hunt for treasures! You could tell her what you wanted or needed and more often than not, she would find it – for a quarter!

When I was five, I asked her for a grandpa. She liked to get me what I wanted, so by the time I turned six, I had a Grandpa Larry. I am grateful

to have had a good grandpa experience. I watched her care for him in awe. They had fun together, were good companions, and gave me another example of love.

I loved her curiosity and her tenacity for finding what she believed was important and true. She loved learning and sharing her knowledge.

**Ma loved God.** And every morning she prayed to be a better wife, mother, grandmother, neighbor, friend and all of her other titles. I believed her when she told me it made her be better every day. She made us want to be better, too..

At night she made sure to pray for all of us by name. That list got to be mighty long! She went to sleep blessing us. And I felt those prayers all throughout my life.

**I feel like Ma and I have our own special love story.** She would tell me I brought happiness to her broken heart when I was born the year after my grandpa died. I always felt like I was born to be her "doll." I was named after her. She was pretty proud of that even if we disagreed on who spelled it correctly. She would tell people I was the one who named her "Ma" because I was too lazy to call her Grandma. .

I spent most of my childhood living in a different state as Ma, only getting to see her once or twice a year. In my 20's we moved back to Cushing to be near her. She became a part of my daily considerations. I devoted one day a week for our "Ma day". Tuesdays were days we both looked forward to. We would have so much fun together. We played

**Ma loved God.** And every morning she prayed to be a better wife, mother, grandmother, neighbor, friend and all of her other titles.



Ma, Mom and me.

cards most often, but sometimes we would hit up a thrift store or an antique shop. Other times we would stay in and she would tell me stories about her collections and treasures. We would look at her photo albums and scrap books she'd made and she would share family stories. She was a wealth of memories and information. And boy could she tell a story - usually with a witty twist and a kind smile.

During one of our last conversations I was telling her how she taught me how to be a good woman, and a good mother and showed me how to be a good grandmother. She looked at me with that twinkle in her eye and said "Well, that was good of me!" and squeezed my hand. She was so funny. I will miss her quick wit.

I will miss her eyes lighting up when she saw me - even towards the end when her memories of names had left her. Her love for me never faded.

We have a bond - an otherworldly bond. It was my greatest honor to be able to care

for her, like she had cared for me so many times before. .

When Ma's time was growing closer, I was dreadful. I was wishing she wouldn't, hoping she wouldn't, scared that she would leave on my birthday on August 11. Gratefully I had a moment of clarity, thinking what a beautiful gift that would be. To have another day we can share for the rest of my life.

Life is going to be so much different now. But she gave us such an abundance of her love... I have no doubt I will feel it until I join her again. 🍀

*I will always love you*  
*Sarah Anna Lee Hallum*  
*Whitlow Pippenger*

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# LIVE MUSIC



## AND OTHER FUN FALL EVENTS IN OUR AREA!

### October

**Oct 6** - Jason Eady - The Mississippi Album Tour, Blue Door, OKC

**Oct 6** - Beau Jennings and the Tigers w/ Beth Bombara, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Oct 6, 7** - Melodrama, Boomtown Theater, Drumright  
**Thru Oct 8** - Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa Expo Square, Tulsa

**Thru Oct 28** - Haunted Castle Halloween Festival, The Castle of Muskogee, Muskogee

**Thru Oct 31** - The Hex House, Haunted attraction, (12 & up only), Tulsa, OK

**Thru Nov 4** - Guthrie Haunts, Guthrie

**Oct 6, 7** - Tallgrass Music Festival, Bluegrass Music, family fun, Skiatook

**Oct 7** - Jared Deck, Blue Door, OKC

**Oct 7** - Dropkick Murphys in concert, The Criterion, OKC

**Oct 7** - Oilpatch Jamboree & Monthly Market, Drumright

**Oct 8** - Round Barn Rendezvous, acoustic music, Arcadia

**Oct 8** - An evening with Dale Watson, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Oct 9** - Indigenous Peoples Day, First Americans Museum, OKC

**Oct 10** - Edgar Cruz w/Michael Kelsey, UCO Jazz Lab, Edmond

**Oct 11** - Hozier in concert, The Criterion, OKC

**Oct 11** - Chris Smither, Blue Door, OKC

**Oct 12** - Eric Johnson in concert, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Oct 12 - 14** - Oklahoma's International Bluegrass Festival, Guthrie

**Oct 12 - 15** - 3rd Annual Bushyhead Farm Fall Festival, Bushyhead Farm, Kansas, OK

**Oct 13** - Casey Donahew in concert, Osage Casino Skyline Event Center, Tulsa

**Oct 13** - Black Cat Open Golf Tournament, supporting United Way of Payne County, Buffalo Rock, Cushing

**Oct 13, 14** - Nanyehi, Musical, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Catoosa

**Oct 15** - SkinnerFest, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Oct 15** - John Waters, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Oct 17** - Seth Glier, Blue Door, OKC

**Oct 17** - Mapache, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Oct 18** - No Justice, The Tumbleweed, Stillwater

**Oct 19 - 31** - Turkey Mountain Haunted Trails & Fall Festival, Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness, Tulsa

**Oct 19** - Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors - Find Your People Tour, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Oct 19** - Route 66 Fall Biker Rally & Halloween Bash, Milfay Rd, Depew

**Oct 19** - Johnny Swim in concert, The Jones Assembly, OKC

**Oct 19** - Randall King in concert, Diamond Ballroom, OKC

**Oct 20** - Imagination Celebration, Gathering Place, Tulsa

**Oct 20** - Garth Brooks: A Tribute in Low Places, live full-band rendition of Garth's music, Tower Theatre, OKC

**Oct 21, 22** - Cushing Fly In Fair - Arts & Crafts, Collectibles, Plane Rides, Militaria Antiques, Car Show and more! - Cushing Municipal Airport, Cushing

**Oct 20-22** - HallowZOOeen, Tulsa Zoo, Tulsa

**Oct 21** - Motown Review, Freeland Center for the Performing Arts, Bristow

**Oct 24** - Downtown Stillwater Halloween Festival, Stillwater

**Oct 25** - Howl-o-weenie Dog Play Wednesday, Gathering Place, Tulsa

**Oct 25 - 31** - HallowMarine, Oklahoma Aquarium, Jenks

**Oct 26** - Chris Stapleton in concert, BOK Center, Tulsa

**Oct 27** - Hooks & the Huckleberries, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Oct 27** - Bo Phillips, The Tumbleweed, Stillwater

**Oct 27** - Iowa Tribe of OK Gary Pratt Annual Golf Tournament, Cimarron Trails Golf Course, Perkins

**Oct 28** - Rolling Thunder Car Show & Fall Festival - Pawnee Bill Ranch & Museum, Pawnee

**Oct 28** - Jellystone Halloween Spooktacular Celebration, Jellystone Park, Mannford

**Oct 28** - Festival of Freaks, OK State Fair Park, OKC

**Oct 28** - Halloween Hoedown, 181 Ranch, Bixby

**Oct 28** - Monsters on Main Halloween Festival, Shawnee

**Oct 28** - Trunk or Treat, Downtown Drumright

**Oct 28** - Buffalo Rock Golf & Venue Trunk or Treat, Small Business Celebration & Vendor Fair, Buffalo



Rock, Cushing

**Oct 28** - Edgar Cruz w/Amigos, Scissortail Stage, OKC

**Oct 29** - The Imaginaries and Goldpine, Blue Door, OKC

## November

**Nov 1** - JD Clayton, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Nov 2** - Parker Milsap in concert, Resonant Head, OKC

**Nov 3** - The Great Divide, The Tumbleweed, Stillwater

**Nov 3** - Ray Wylie Hubbard, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Nov 3** - Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives in concert, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa, Catoosa

**Nov 4** - Horton Records Presents, 10th Annual Rock-n-Folk-n-Chili Cook Off, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Nov 4** - Drumright Monthly Market, downtown Drumright

**Nov 7** - Chris Tucker: The Legend Tour, The Criterion, OKC

**Nov 10** - Flatland Cavalry in concert, Riverwind Casino, Norman

**Nov 10** - Uncle Lucius, The Tumbleweed, Stillwater

**Nov 10** - Sara Evans in concert, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa, Catoosa

**Nov 10** - Paul Cauthen - This Road I'm On Tour, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Nov 11** - The Steel Woods, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Nov 11** - Chris Tucker: The Legend Tour, The Criterion, OKC

**Nov 12** - Jim Lauderdale, Blue Door, OKC

**Nov 12** - Round Barn Rendezvous, acoustic music, Arcadia

**Nov 15,16** - Corb Lund, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Nov 18** - Cody Canada & The Departed, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Nov 24** - Joel Melton Birthday Bash, Blue Door, OKC

**Nov 24** - 18th Annual Leftover Turkey w/Jason Boland & The Stragglers, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Nov 25** - Cushing Chamber Christmas Market, Broadway District, Cushing

**Nov 29** - Tommy Emmanuel in concert, Rose State College Hudiburg Chevrolet Center, Midwest City

## December

**Dec 1** - Autumn Ragland w/Jordan Nix, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

**Dec 1, 2** - Calf-Fry Christmas, The Tumbleweed, Stillwater

**Dec 2** - Drumright Monthly Market, downtown Drumright

**Dec 3** - Woody Plus One - Musicians For Democracy, Blue Door, OKC

**Dec 8** - American Aquarium w/Lance Roark, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Dec 9** - Jon Dee Graham Record Release Show, Blue Door, OKC

**Dec 9** - JD McPherson - Socks: A Rock n' Roll Christmas Tour, Cains' Ballroom, Tulsa

**Dec 9** - Cushing Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade, downtown Cushing

**Dec 13** - Ian Moore - Holiday Bash, Blue Door, OKC

**Dec 21** - The Bison Birthday Bash, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

**Dec 31** - JR Carroll + Kaitlin Butts, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

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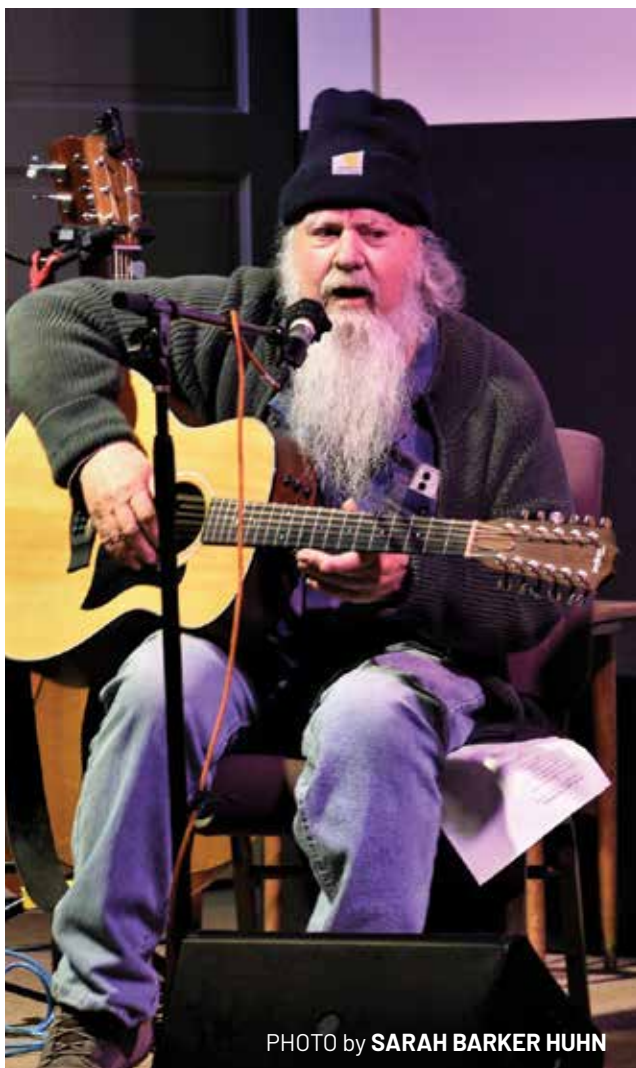


PHOTO by SARAH BARKER HUHN

# HALF AND HALF

©2023 by Richard Reiley

"I'm half blind and she's half deaf,  
Sometimes it scares us half to death  
I can't see what she can't hear  
So we hold each other near!

"She's half deaf and I'm half blind  
We're not what you'd call -two of a kind  
Buy one, get one free!  
She can't hear what I can't see!"

'We've come this far together  
In fair and sordid weather  
She can't hear half of what I've half seen-  
We're each other's half baked dream."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Rick Reiley is a well-respected songwriter from Cushing, OK. He and his partner DJ Duncan held Tuesday Night Music Club in their home for many years where budding artists such as John Fullbright, Parker Mill-sap, Nick Gedra and Bryon White & Gabe Marshall (aka Damn Quails) would jam with more senior Red Dirt artists. In his early days, Rick lived in what's now known as the "Green Room" of KUSH. It's a small world isn't it?

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-Arthur Ashe



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**Bloomberg Business Week**  
**Native Air** w/host Hugh Foley  
featuring contemporary and traditional  
American Indian Music, news and  
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11 - 11:20 am

**Words of Inspiration** from First  
Indian Baptist Church

11:20 am - ??

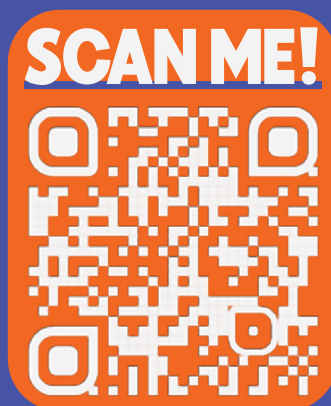
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