

RAMBLIN' RALPH PRESENTS NEW MEXICO STATE CHAUTAUQUA PROGRAMS

"The West: Singing Its Story"



Saddle up for a ride through the old West, the Wild West. From the Anasazi through the Atomic Age – the West filled with adventure and discovery, violence and exuberance, good and evil, joy and grief. Like the Indians and cowboys, the caballeros and trappers and traders and troopers, we'll sing as we go, because the songs tell a big part of the story.

Why did they sing? They sang to dispel loneliness, suppress fear, express joy, record a memory. And often they sang because – they just felt like singing.

As we go "ridin' the Wild West" we'll visit true history, hear some lovely, some funny, some poignant songs – and maybe we'll all pitch in some, just like the cowboys did around the campfire after a hard day's drive.

Come ride with me.



"Me and Billy"



As the world's oldest living cowboy, born in 1859 like Billy the Kid, Ramblin' Ralph sings and tells of his days with the real Billy the Kid. Not the Billy about which you've read, heard songs, seen movies. The real Billy, the boy Ralph rode with, camped with, fought beside in the Lincoln County War.

The Billy who loved to sing and to dance, who starred in his school's musical revue – and never "at the age of twelve years killed his first man." The Billy who, with his compadres, took on the crooked powers of Lincoln County and the Santa Fe Ring. The Billy who, sentenced to hang by a kangaroo court, escaped and roamed Lincoln County befriended by all except those in power. The boy who died of a bullet from Pat Garrett's 44.

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**Applying for a Chautauqua program:** Complete an application at [www.nmhum.org](http://www.nmhum.org), send to New Mexico State Humanities Council with fee (\$50 for schools and state parks, \$100 for other nonprofits)

**Ramblin' Ralph** (Estes) is a folk troubadour who has performed all over New Mexico, from Ghost Ranch and the Albuquerque Folk Festival to White Sands and the Hubbard Museum of the American West. Also a professor emeritus.

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