



and that's...
The Gospel Truth!!
with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

God Must Be A Cowboy At Heart

Written and Performed by Dan Seals

CHORUS:

God must be a cowboy at heart
He made wide open spaces from the start
Grass and trees and mountains...a horse to be a friend
And trails to lead old cowboys home again

When I was just a little guy, I lived to reach the age ten years old. At ten years of age I had reached a milestone in life that afforded me the opportunity and privilege to walk into town from out in the country.... all by myself. I was well aware of the hazards of the trek; mean dogs, bullies, girls, and a frightening chance encounter with Totsie Barnwell or Rosebud Nelson, the town drunks who scared the fire out of me. But the danger was well worth it as I made stops along the way to visit with local business owners like Charlie Leslie at the Leslie's Grocery. That visit always netted me a couple of candy bars or a Coke with peanuts in it that would sustain me on way to my final destination in town.

Just around the "busy bend" of Kanuga Road was the Kanuga Grocery where Mrs. Mayes would make sure there was a cold Grapette soft drink ready to refresh me along the way. I'd play with her dog which was as wide as it was long.

The next stop would be just at the top of the hill at "Uncle Remus" rock house on the corner. I loved to sit and listen to this wonderful old black man who told the best stories I've ever heard. I'm not really sure if his name really was Uncle Remus or not, but rumor had it that he was the inspiration for the Disney character in the Brer' Rabbit story. His stories were just as good, and his old horse and wagon was a dead ringer for the one in the movie. But hey, my brothers convinced me of alot stuff at that age. He's still Uncle Remus to me.

Then just up the street was the FCX store where the smell of feed and the sound of baby chicks would draw any kid on the loose. A quick run up Main Street and my destination was looming before me; The Carolina Theater!! Where five Kalmia Dairy milk bottle tops from school lunches would immerse a boy in hours of cowboy movies; the likes of Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, The Lone Ranger, Tom Mix and more. Movies where good wins over evil. Movies where the good guys were truthful. Movies where the cowboys were gentlemen to the ladies. Movies where no matter how mad they got at the bad guys, they didn't cuss. Movies where bad guys were punished swiftly for their crimes. Movies where honor was of immeasurable importance because it was expected and normal. Movies where a man's word was his bond. Movies where there were guitars and songs that would etch themselves into your memory forever. Movies where you learned the "cowboy ways". Movies where Marvin, a local boy, who was a half bubble off plumb due to striking his head in a fall out of his Dad's pickup truck, would jump up and yell, "Look out Hoppie!!!! They're hidin' behind the rocks!!!" Of course he was about eighteen years old at the time. He did much better in later years as he "directed" traffic after the ballgames at the high school, fully sanctioned by the tin star badge he got for a quarter at McClellens's Dime Store. His traffic directing moves may have inspired Saturday Night Fever.

Oh sure, it was a different time then. It was a time when everyone in the neighborhood watched out for each others kids as they played freely for hours amazingly out of the sight of their parents. I was a time when you could climb a tree and build a space ship in the top branches. A time when Little League was played for fun. It was a time when the name of God was revered and used "in vain" only by those trashy boys in Valley Hill.

Sure times have changed, but there are some things that never go out of style; those things that we call "The Cowboy Way".

Yes, I suppose God must be a cowboy at heart for "goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever".

And that's.....The Gospel Truth!