



Vermont's Premier Western Swing Band

Winner of The Western Swing "Song of The Year" by The Academy of Western Artists, Gene Autry, OK.

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Rick & the Ramblers win national award



COURTESY PHOTO BY JOAN SHANNON

Rick & The Ramblers, a local Western swing band, and their tour bus called The Pickle.

SEVEN DAYS SOUNDbites

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BIG Thanks AGAIN to SEVEN DAYS Music Editor Dan Bolles! His prediction way back in January that we would win an award in Dallas this year was right on the money! Great call, Dan! You nailed it!

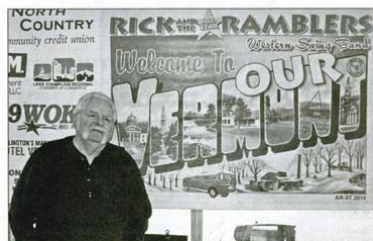
Last but not least, a few months back I predicted that RICK NORCROSS would come back from the Academy of Western Artists awards in Dallas with at least one win out of the six for which he and his band, the ALL-STAR RAMBLERS, were nominated. Well, folks, given my City Hall Auditorium coup earlier, I'm on fire.

Norcross' song "You Can't Make It Up" won the top prize for AWA Song of the Year at last weekend's awards ceremony deep in the heart of Texas. Ramble on, Rick. And y'all can check out that tune ... excuse me, that award-winning tune on our arts blog, Live Culture. Or catch him in person at the Good Times Café in Hinesburg this Saturday, April 4. ☺

Thanks to SEVEN DAYS Music Editor Dan Bolles for making this prediction in this week's (01/07/15) Issue. Great call, Dan!

Longtime ramblin' man RICK NORCROSS and his band, the ALL-STAR RAMBLERS, will win at least one award in the six categories for which they have been nominated in the 2014 Academy of Western Artists awards. These include Best Western Swing Group/Duo, Best Western Swing Album (*Welcome to OUR Vermont*) Best Western Swing Female (TARYN NOELLE) and three nominations for Best Western Swing Song. Norcross and co. were finalists in that first category last year, but came up empty. I say the Academy makes it up to them at the awards ceremony in Dallas this year. Question: Do they have to stay at a Best Western to win? Don't leave anything to chance, guys.

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Rick Norcross stands in front of his Rick & The All Star Ramblers banner at a recent crafts fair in Hardwick where he was selling CDs and his book. A song that he wrote five years ago "You Can't Make It Up" won Song of the Year last weekend at the Academy of Western Artists in Dallas, Texas. Norcross graduated from Hardwick Academy in 1963. (See story, Page One. (photo by Vanessa Fournier)



BRENT HALLENBECK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Rick & the Ramblers, the stalwart Vermont band led by Rick Norcross, won the award for best western-swing song at the Academy of Western Artists 2014 award ceremony over the weekend in Texas.

The group won for its song "You Can't

Make It Up." Rick & the Ramblers won over tunes from fellow nominees Coby Carter, Light Crust Doughboys, Carolyn Martin and Jason Roberts.

"We were stunned when they said our name. Honestly never expected it,"

Norcross wrote on his Facebook page. "Ours was the only original song in the bunch which made it even sweeter. And a true story about Hardwick."

Swing Band Song Wins Top Award

by Dawn Gustafson

DALLAS, Texas—Rick & The All Star Ramblers Western Swing Band have won Best Western Swing Song for 2014 by the Academy of Western Artists, based in Gene Autry, Okla.

The song, "You Can't Make It Up" was written by Rick Norcross and released on his 2014 "Welcome to OUR Vermont" CD. The song is a humorous account of buying a corsage for the 1962 Hardwick Academy Junior Prom at the only flower shop in town, Harold Holcomb's Funeral Home in Hardwick, with the corsage smelling of formaldehyde.

Norcross and David Rowell, of Craftsbury, who plays bass and helps out on vocals, attended the 19th Annual Academy of Western Artists Will Rogers Awards Ceremony in Dallas on March 28.

"A Blessed Miracle," Norcross said when asked about winning the award in a telephone interview while he and Rowell waited in the Philadelphia airport for a flight back to Burlington. "The last thing I ever thought would happen. It was stunning, couldn't believe it."

He said what he finds the most amazing is this song about Hardwick is getting played all over the world.

Norcross grew up in East Hardwick and is a 1963 graduate of



Former Hardwick resident Rick Norcross, left, and Craftsbury resident Dave Rowell, right, were all smiles after a Norcross song, "A blessed Hardwick, was named the song of the year at last weekend's Academy of Western Music awards ceremony held in Dallas. (courtesy photo)

Hardwick Academy. He now lives in Burlington.

For more information about the band or where to pick up a copy of this CD, call Norcross at 802-864-6674 or 802-355-3531.