



Johnny Green (1937-2023) 'Cowboy Funeral'

I went last minute to Cortez, Colorado last week for a friend's funeral. Johnny Green was a cowboy and livestock trader. He died aged 85 years old, and symbolised everything that constituted the American West. I met him in 2006 when I took his portrait at home, which became the beginning of a long-term project and monograph "Dead Eagle Trail" about the 21st Century Cowboy. He was charismatic and loved a good trade. He had collections of spurs, buckles, saddles, books, poetry and was a bit of a legend in his western world. It was fitting his friends and family gave him a traditional send off. They asked me to document it, and in doing so I became aware that it was possibly the last of its' kind.

The service and tributes to him were in his local Sale Barn where he bought and sold his cattle, sheep, and horses. His traditional cedarwood coffin was put on a horse drawn wagon, followed by his own riderless horse carrying his boots, and twenty plus cowboys and cowgirls to accompany him to his final resting place, where he received a veterans send of with a 21-gun salute.

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