

“MY GREAT ESCAPE”: *The stories behind the songs*

Sea of Fields: I wrote this song somewhere in Kansas, just as the sun was coming up. I was half asleep, maybe more than half. As the countryside was being brought to life by the morning sun, in some dream state, I saw it-an ocean of wheat and corn and farms-a sea of fields.

Sarah, There's A Storm: I wrote this song on an island in the middle of "Sarah Lake" in the middle of a storm, in the middle of the Quetico Provincial Park (Ontario, Canada).

Yukon: This song was written some years ago. It's not based on, but it is inspired by the story of Christopher McCandless. He was a young man who left college, estranged from his family and began adventures around the country. His path finally took him to where the road ends and eventually where his life ended, Yukon!

She Rode Horses: You've heard the phrase, "doctor, heal thyself". Well, this is "songwriter, heal thyself". It's a true story from the pages of my photo albums and some great memories.

Oklahoma '41: My dad and I were both born in Chickasha, Oklahoma. This song is more about his memories than mine, but it's our story.

Passions: I wrote this song at my buddy Tom Dundee's kitchen table about one in the morning. It's a partial list of everything I'm passionate about in life. The line, "*love and pain ain't nothin' but the marrow of my life*" is still true.

Life Under The Big Top: I wrote this with my good friend and producer, Doug Wayne. The concept behind the song is simple; life is hectic, crazy and definitely a "three ring circus."

My Great Escape: O.K., this song started out as a fun loving, up-tempo song about getting out of a relationship, hitting the road and starting all over again. I wrote it with my buddy Barry Walsh and my wife (at the time) Michelle. I thought it was supposed be fictional.

Every Man For Himself: I wrote this with my long time friend a songwriting partner, Tim Johnson. We were proud to have it as a top 40 single by "*Neal McCoy*" last year. It's about a bunch of losers in a bar (not autobiographical) who buy each other's stories and back up each other's lies, until the first pretty woman walks in. Then it's "*Every man For Himself.*"

If I Were A Train: Being into country and folk I always thought I should write a Train song, but I was always afraid to step on an idea that's been done a million times. So, I finally decided that since we're all different, I'd write what life would be like if I were a train. I'm pretty sure it would work out like this.

Stars In Their Eyes: This song is about heroes and I had the opportunity to write it and perform it with a musical hero of mine.