

**SHARIN' THE WEALTH**  
**by Barbara Brown**

My ol' cowboy hat is dusty and bent.  
My blue jeans have faded; the seat has a rent.  
My shirt needs some buttons, my boots need new soles.  
My jacket is tattered with patches and holes.

My belt once was used to hog-tie a calf.  
Binder-twine has replaced it – but still the hands laugh.  
My gloves have all worn where fingers should be.  
My long-johns and socks are a real sight to see.

Gave Tommy some money to see his sick Mom.  
Gave Billy my good boots when he came with none.  
John needed a shirt; Clive jeans and a hat.  
My good jacket was warm, but Joe needed that.

I shared my old horse to teach Jacob to ride,  
and the last of my money buried John when he died.  
Kept my ol' Bible, now worn and so thin,  
But shared what I learned from the pages within.

Still have my dog Toby, real faithful and true,  
and a quarter-horse mare, I call Misty Blue.  
Together we've travelled the plains and foothills.  
We've herded the cattle and doctored their ills.

We've seen the stars bright in the heavens above,  
on winter-white nights riding land that we love.  
We've weathered the storms, the wind and the rain,  
the droughts and the snow, the freezing and pain.

I've watched the spring birthin' and helped where I could,  
and cheered when the calves on wobbly legs, stood.  
I've protected the herd from coyote, cougar and bear,  
never forgettin' this land's for all God's creatures to share.

My needs are not many, my wants are but few –  
a warm bed to sleep in, a good meal or two.  
I need animals to care for, and friends stoppin' by.  
I need wide-open spaces where earth touches sky.

My life has been hardships – I'm poor as can be,  
But fancy trappins, and fixins mean nothing to me.  
For happiness comes not from possessions we keep,  
But from love that we give to the people we meet.

I feel so darn wealthy, like a king on the plain,  
rich from my friendships, life's lessons and pain.  
My real wealth in life is a serene inner peace,  
'cause I've given my best to God, man and beast.