

# The Pueblo Chieftain

## Local News

### 89-year-old fulfills lifelong musical dream by recording song in professional studio

BY JON POMPIA THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN *Published: October 17, 2016; Last modified: October 17, 2016 10:10PM*

Some want to fly in a hot air balloon or ride a zip line. Others ask for a family reunion or to take in a major league sporting event.



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/CHRIS MCLEAN

But not Mary Ward.

She just wants to jam. Thanks to the Wish of a Lifetime, which fulfills long-held dreams of seniors, the spry 89-year-old resident of Brookdale El Camino, a runner-up in this year's Silver Queen pageant, spent Monday afternoon, in the parlance of old school recording artists, "putting it on wax."

At Carl Lucero's state-of-the-art Perfect World recording studio, Ward, acoustic guitar in hand, cut a version of a song she first learned from her mother as a young child.



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/CHRIS MCLEAN

Entitled “The Burglar Song,” it’s a witty, countrified ditty about a burglar who breaks into the home of an unsightly old maid and begs to be shot rather than give in to her amorous demands.

While Ward obtained a copyright on the tune years ago at the encouragement of her husband — “He told me if I didn’t then somebody else probably would” — she never had the opportunity, nor funds, to professionally record it.

But that all changed with an application to Wish of a Lifetime, submitted by Janella Sandoval, executive director of Brookdale El Camino.

“I’ve been singing all my life and even though I thought about it as a kid, I never had a chance to record anything,” Ward said. “But there’s a lot of people who want copies of my song — my kids, grandkids, lots of people at Brookdale.”

While Lucero tested the levels on a trio of microphones set up to capture Ward’s voice and guitar, she ran through the song like it was nobody’s business but her own.

And the grass-roots magic wasn’t lost on Lucero, who is no stranger to recording big-timers.

“You are amazing, girl! My gosh, I can’t believe it. Seriously, I wasn’t expecting that.”

“What were you expecting?” Ward responded.

“You play better than the guys in my band . . . but don’t put that in the paper,” Lucero said with a wide smile. “I work with a lot of people and I’m telling you, I love what you’re doing.”

And hopefully after hearing Ward’s record, many more will follow suit.

“I guess the lesson is never to give up on your dream,” said Ward. “I started singing when I was 8 years old and always wanted to record a song back then.

“But I sure didn’t think about it much at 89 years old!”

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