

# The Advertiser-Gleam

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That's "Scrappy Higgins" and the impressionist who created him, Guntersville native, B.B. Hudspeth.

## B.B. trademarking his 'Scrappy' character

If you ever had a notion of performing onstage as "Scrappy Higgins," you can forget about it. B.B. Hudspeth got there first.

B.B., who grew up in Guntersville, created "Scrappy" last September for the 2011 Bonanza Roundup in Burbank, California. It went over so well that he has decided to trademark the character as his own.

A trademark gives you the exclusive legal right to a name or image.

B.B. says he has been an impressionist since he was 13. He performs cartoon characters, politicians, movie stars, athletes, singers and other characters for various events.

Most of his favorites are cowboys.

"I GREW up watching TV shows like 'Bonanza' and 'Gunsmoke,'" he said.

He's the son of Bishop Wendell and Jo Ann Hudspeth of Neely Avenue in Guntersville. He and his wife Brooke and their newborn son Ren live in Nashville. B.B. played football and ran track at Guntersville

High School, where he graduated in 1987.

He describes "Scrappy Higgins" as a likeable old-timer who has seen it all and done it all in the Old West, and who has crossed paths with various personalities from classic westerns.

At the Bonanza Roundup last fall, Scrappy told of his experiences with each Cartwright and other characters from the "Bonanza" series, which held a No. 1 viewer rating when it was on TV.

**B.B. CREATED** all of Scrappy's characteristics, including his appearance, voice and presentation.

He said he was inspired to trademark the character by the positive feedback he received from people at the Bonanza Roundup including David Blocker. He's the son of Dan Blocker, who played "Hoss" on the show.

"When I returned from Los Angeles," B.B. said, "I immediately scheduled a photo and video shoot for the character because of the good reception."

He's planning to incorporate Scrappy into other performing opportunities.

**LAST FALL'S** Bonanza Round-up wasn't B.B.'s first. At the Bonanza

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Friendship Convention, he was one of three presenters at the official event celebrating the golden anniversary of the TV series. That one was held in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

The 2011 Roundup provided B.B. with the rare opportunity.

"As an impressionist, you are always performing existing characters," he said. "This allowed me to create an original character, something I never got to do as a tribute artist."

Lots of people have vivid memories of watching classic TV shows with their families when they were growing up, he said.

"**GATHERINGS** like the Bonanza Roundup not only keeps the memory alive of some of the best shows entertainment has brought us, but also acknowledges the cast and crew who made them possible," he said.

"As time passes, we continue to lose these key people. In 2010 alone, 'Bonanza' lost Pernell Roberts, who played Adam Cartwright the last of the original Cartwright family, and David Dortort, the show's creator."

He believes the future is bright for westerns on TV, which "are receiving as much or more attention than other genres on some networks. I believe this is a true testament to the lasting impact these shows have."

He said Scrappy Higgins "will continue efforts to bring good, clean entertainment to audiences and keep westerns alive and well."

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