

# Tumbling Tumbleweeds

Music and Lyrics by Bob Nolan © 1932 all rights reserved

*F*

See them tumbling down,

*E*

Pledging their love to the ground;

*F*

*C*

Lonely but free I'll be found,

*G<sup>7</sup>*

*C*

Drifting along with the tumbling tumbleweeds.

*F*

Cares of the past are behind;

*E*

Nowhere to go but I'll find,

*F*

*C*

Just where the trail will wind;

*G<sup>7</sup>*

*C*

Drifting along with the tumbling tumbleweeds.

*D<sup>m</sup> G<sup>7</sup>*

*C*

*A<sup>m</sup>*

*B<sup>7</sup>*

*E<sup>m</sup> G<sup>7</sup>*

I know when night has gone that a new world's born at dawn.

*F*

I'll keep rolling along;

*E*

Deep in my heart is a song;

*F*

*C*

Here on the range I belong;

*G<sup>7</sup>*

*C*

Drifting along with the tumbling tumbleweeds.

# History

Bob Nolan was a Canadian by birth who fell in love with the American West when his family moved to Tucson.

"**Tumbling Tumbleweeds**", although one of the most famous songs associated with the Sons of the Pioneers, the song was composed by Nolan in the 1930s, while working as a caddy and living in Los Angeles. Originally titled "Tumbling Tumble Leaves", the song was reworked into the title "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and into fame with the 1935 Gene Autry film of the same name. The song was used by the Coen Brothers as the part of their score for the 1998 film, *The Big Lebowski*.

Members of the Western Writers of America chose it as one of the Top 100 Western songs of all time.

**Bob Nolan** (April 13, 1908 – June 16, 1980) was a triple-threat talent as a singer, songwriter, and actor. He was a founding member of the Sons of the Pioneers, and

composer of numerous Country music and Western music songs, including the standards "Cool Water" and "Tumbling Tumbleweeds." He is generally regarded as one of the finest Western songwriters of all time. As an actor and singer he appeared in scores of Western films.



Left to Right: Tim Spencer, Bob Nolan, Hugh Farr, Roy Rogers (Gus Mack, announcer).

*Wikipedia*

Musician Gene Newberry grew up idolizing singing cowboys, which may be why he cherishes a plaque with the sheet music and 45 recording of the Sons of the Pioneers' iconic song, "Tumbling Tumbleweeds." Nolan signed the sheet music "To Fred – This was the second song I wrote – 1932. It has been both good and bad to me. Bob Nolan." Gene guesses the 'good' is that Tumbling Tumbleweeds may be the most famous cowboy song ever.



*History Detective Eduardo Pagan at <http://www.pbs.org/>*

*Cowboy Songs as you go*