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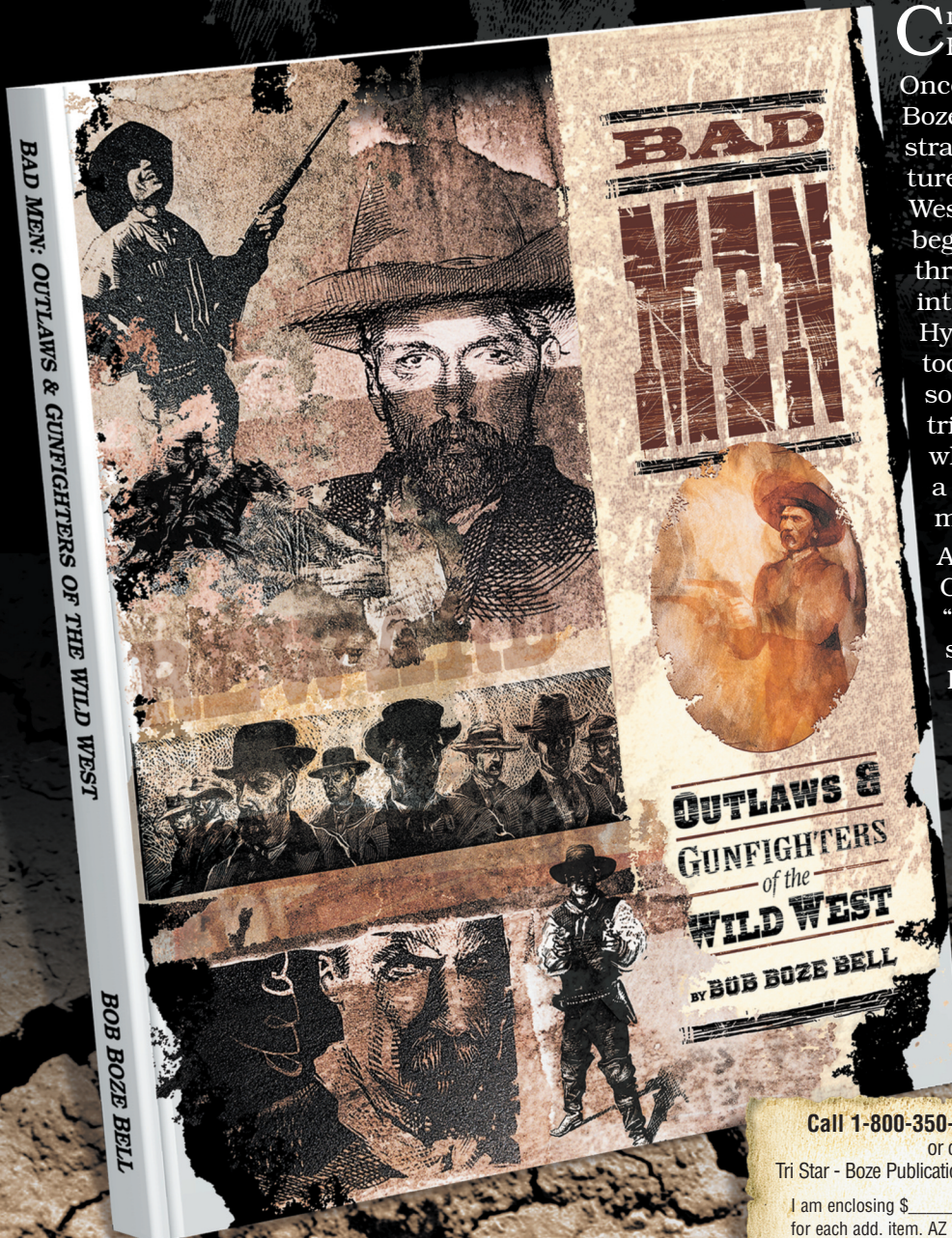
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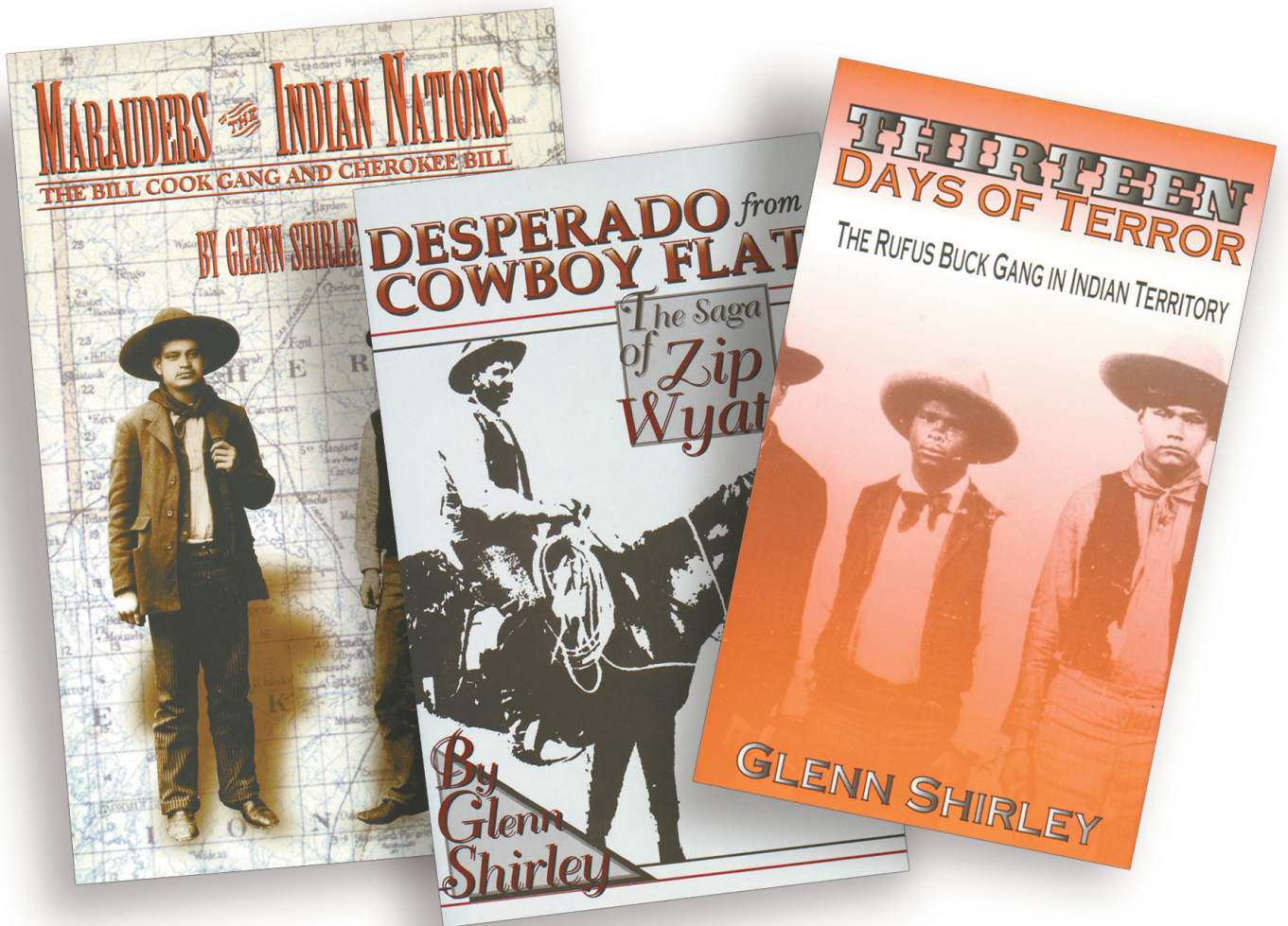
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TRUE WEST

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Our Cover

Samuel Walker
By Bob Boze Bell

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Charles Schreyvogel. See
related story, page 24.

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GETTING OUR LEGS

In the evenings, I sometimes wander over to my neighbor's property and lean on the corral gate, watching their new colt test his legs. Still a bit wobbly, he is good for a few passes before he stops and snorts, trembling from the new-found freedom. Before long, he will be able to run like the wind.

True West is still testing out its new legs, as well. We've received quite a few letters, expressing concern that we are forcing this reborn colt to do too much, too fast. In an attempt to spur ahead, we cut some content and are taking a whipping from readers. The addition of more advertisements has created even more complaints.

In this race, however, both help create strong legs for this steed in the long run. More ads equal more revenue, a basic fact in publishing. Increased revenue creates the opportunity for more pages, which equals more content. Increased revenue also equals a wider distribution, so more readers can come along for the ride.

This colt has needed new legs for some time. The fact that we survived this long, without substantial advertising, without upgrades of any sort, without the slightest deviation in content, is nothing short of miraculous. We are just now getting this colt where he needs to be, all we ask is that the riders have faith. Speed is scary but races are not won by the timid.



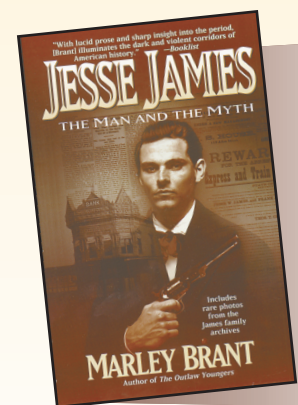
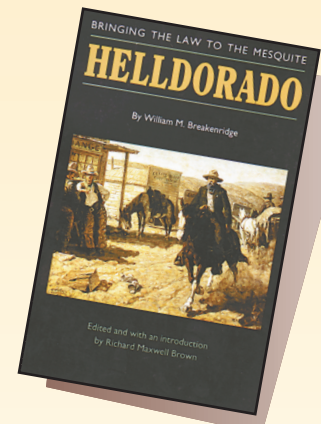
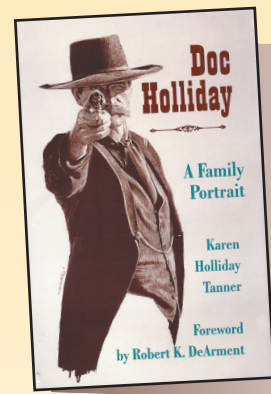
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DUCKING BULLETS

The on-again, off-again **Alamo** movie project is off again. Producers **Ron Howard** and **Brian Grazer** have reportedly thrown in the towel for now. The veteran movie duo has been attempting to bring the seminal Texas saga to the big screen for several years. Actors rumored to have been considered for key roles have been **Tom Hanks** (as Travis), **Mel Gibson** and **Robin Williams** (as Davy)...

...on a related note, several studios are rumored to be working on Alamo movies (some are documentaries). No word as to production schedules...



Jerry "Paka Paka" Tarantino

...reenactor and dead-on visual twin of **Wild Bill Hickok**, **Jerry Tarantino**, recently filmed a Mitsubishi cell phone commercial for the Japanese market. Filmed at Big Sky Ranch near Simi Valley, California. Tarantino was filmed galloping in front of a posse and holding up a cell phone, yelling "Paka Paka!" (which means "clip, clop.") Go figure...

...Dalton author **Nancy Samuelson** is currently working on a desk reference for U.S. Marshals. No publishing date yet...



DeAnne Giago

...following **Oliver Stone's** dark film noir look at Superior, Arizona in 1998's *U Turn*, the town gets another turn in the CBS movie, *Looking for Lost Bird*. The title refers to the story of an infant survivor of the 1890 massacre of 200 Sioux at Wounded Knee, S.D. The story, which appears to be a modern interpretation, follows a Navajo, played by **Mercedes Ruehl** (winner of best supporting actress for 1991's *The Fisher King*) as she attempts to find her real parents. Numerous locals were cast in the film, including *True West* magazine staffer **DeAnne Giago**, who plays *Lost Bird's* mom in a series of flashbacks...

...since this issue has a cover story on the original Texas Ranger, **Sam Walker**, it's fitting to announce the new movie *Texas Rangers* (release date set for August). Starring **James Van Der Beek** (*Dawson's*



Movie Ranger James Van Der Beek

Creek), **Tom Skerritt** (*Picket Fences*) and **Randy Travis**. The story revolves around a group of wild, young men (read that *Young Guns*) who form a new justice agency to clean up post-Civil War Texas. As is the case more often than not lately, Alberta, Canada, stands in for Texas...

...**Robert K. DeArment's** tome on the latter years of **Bat Masterson**, *Gunfighter in Gotham*, is still trying to find a publisher. The manuscript has so far been rejected by John Wiley & Sons, and the University of Oklahoma, despite heavy recommendations by several fellow writers. At the moment, the book is on the desk at Hastings House.

this month's **Billy**

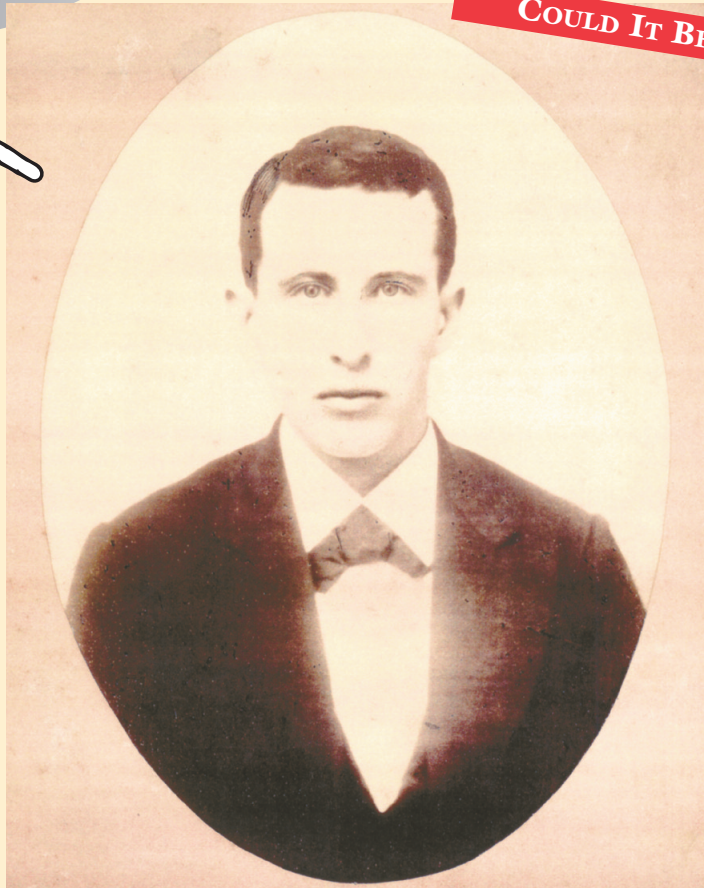
COULD IT BE?

THE REAL PHOTO



Billy the Kid had his photograph taken *only* once. But since that cold day in 1880, it seems a “new” Billy photo has presented itself every month since, give or take a few. They show up in likely places like yard sales and antique shops... and in unlikely places like high-dollar auctions and tortillas. Each month *True West* will run an “alleged” photo of Billy... see if it could be a real Billy to you!

If you have a “Billy” photo you would like to submit for inspection, please send the image, with return postage, to This Month’s Billy, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327. Please include a phone number so we may contact you if we have any questions regarding your submission.



SOURCE

Tom Driebe, Moscow, PA

PROVENANCE

Found at an antique shop in northern Pennsylvania.

SIMILARITIES

ON A SCALE OF 1-10

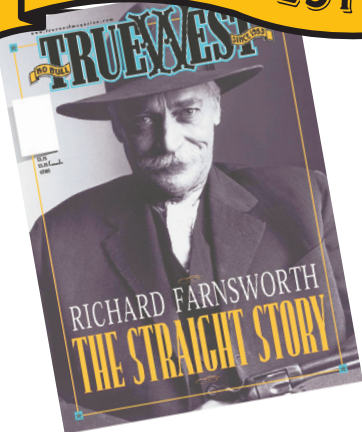
Ears: 5 • Eyebrows: 3 • Nose: 5 • Chin: 8

TOTAL SCORE

21 (out of a possible 40)

COMMENTS

There is no provenance for the image, no identification on either side.



Classy Presentation

This March issue...WOW! The cover is great, but the photo on page 35 is phenomenal! The article has the classiest presentation I've seen in a long time. And Mr. Farnsworth comes off as just the kind of down-to-earth gentleman that anyone who's seen his work would expect.

PAM ECKERT
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Meanwhile, in Weasel Flats

YEE-HAW! Your new look is biscuits and gravy! The texture, look, and the just right color additions are what peaches-n-cream are on a hot summer night. All your hard work shines through.

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JÍCA WÍ WÍNYAN
WEASEL FLATS, OREGON

Mod Squad

You have changed the format, and I don't believe the changes are particularly good. I still like your mag—but please don't go too "mod" with your format. I liked it the way it was.

ROLAND GUILLES
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Pay Per View

I have been a subscriber for fifteen years. Now your rag has too many advertisements, and not enough stories. I will *not* pay for advertisements!

EARL VAUGHN
PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA

No Naked Natives Here

I have been a subscriber to *True West* and *Old West* for several years, and with the exception of *National Geographic*, they are the only magazines that I have not let my subscriptions lapse.

PRESTON JACKSON
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Fine Feathered Friend

Just a few comments on the photo of Geronimo (*True West*, Feb. 2000 page #6). The hat he is wearing is pure Apache. One of his old warriors, Jason Betzinez, (1860-1960) was my friend and he told me he had made one (or more) for Geronimo. Occasionally, they put it on display in the "Geronimo Guardhouse" at Fort Sill.

The soldiers at Fort Sill didn't teach Geronimo how to write his name. It was George Wratten. He was one of the few whites to master the Apache language. Wratten tagged along to prisons in Florida, Alabama, and Fort Sill, often interpreting when needed.

RON WHITEWOLF MORGAN
INDIAN HISTORIAN

Faux Frontier

I am a long time subscriber to *True West*. In my March 2000 issue there is a six-page story about Alaska.

Alaska is not part of our American West. Thank you.

VICTOR E. FRENCH
CLIFTON, ILLINOIS

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Trippin' Out

I particularly like the new "Wild Wild Sex" column. It's about time people started admitting there was such a thing as sex in the old days.

I was also interested in the article about Leon Metz having some problems with John Wesley Hardin's ghost ["Ducking Bullets" Mar. 2000]. I'm a bit psychic and some years ago was involved in some medical LSD experiments. On one of these sessions, for some odd reason, I decided to see what Hardin was really like. To my surprise I saw a sick, scrawny person in a dim lit cell. He was very depressed and just refused to do anything to help himself or anyone else. I wonder now if Hardin was pardoned because the authorities thought he was suicidal?

VAUGHN GREENE
SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA

Actually, J.W. Hardin was an exemplary prisoner, teaching Sunday school classes and even earning a degree in law while behind bars. He was finally released on good behavior. Next time someone offers you LSD, just say no.

Shared Vision

I just finished reading Mike Coppock's "Race to Nome!" [Mar. 2000] and thought it was really good. Well-written and exciting.

I was also pleased by the report about Leon Metz. He and I have traded some correspondence on Hardin's dark influence on his life, and once when I was out in El Paso he took time to drive over to sit down and talk about it. Some mighty peculiar things have been happening to me as I am researching Hardin and Beleuh Mrose. To have someone who'd gone through far worse discuss it with me openly and the *courage* to publish his experiences for all the world to read—despite the skeptics—meant a great deal to me.

Do I believe there's something to

Leon's theory that Hardin's dangerous influence continues to this day, wrecking lives, maybe even killing Dr. Richard C. Marohn? Yes, I do. I think Leon is right on the money on this one.

DENNIS McCOWN
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Phone Call of the Month:

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C.M. HORNER
MAXWELL, TEXAS

We welcome your thoughts. Address all letters to True West, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327, or e-mail us at editor@truewestmagazine.com. Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for content.

Corrections

• In the February 2000 issue, we inadvertently credited Allen Barra with the interview with Al Martin Napoletano. The actual author was Chris Roberts.

• In April's "Last Stand," we highlighted a Civil War-era playing card, giving credit to Tony Fantilli; the actual photo credit goes to the David Galt Collection.



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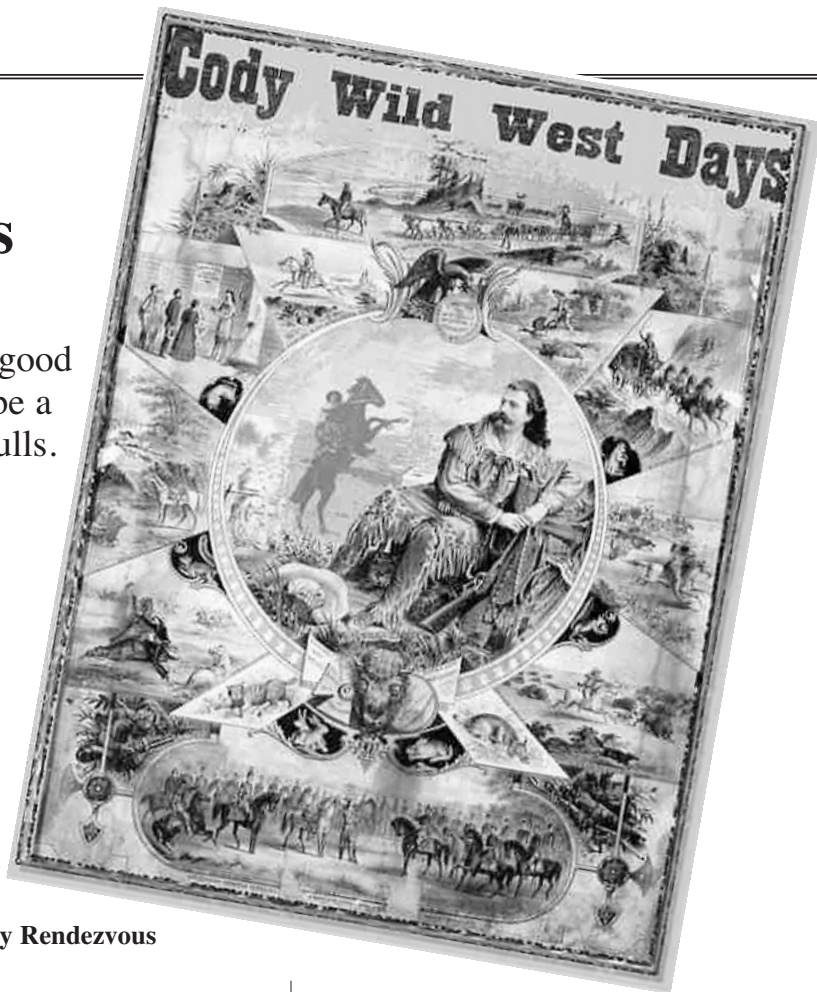
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Tobacco Valley Rendezvous

April 14-16

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Gathering of Nations Pow Wow

Albuquerque, NM

April 27-29

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May

Buffalo Soldiers Days Celebration

Sierra Vista, AZ

May 5-7

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Feather Fiesta Days

Oroville, CA

May 8-14

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Stanford Pow-Wow

Palo Alto, CA

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Camp Rude Bluegrass

May 12-14

Parkfield, CA

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May 13

Claremore, OK

918-341-6985

A cowboy swap meet, craft and western trade show. Old west antiques to horse and vehicles.

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May 19-21

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May 27-29
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June

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11th Annual Old West Show & Auction

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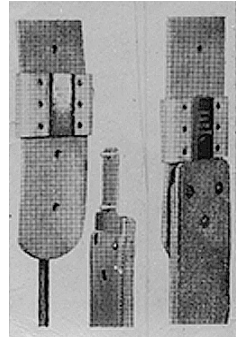
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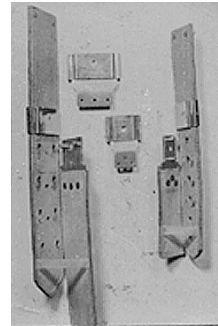


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Higginsville, MO
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Stillwater, OK
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Smokin' Guns at Rabbit Ridge
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June 2-4
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June 8-11
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June 15-18
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June 20
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Collector's
Armoury
ad here

Pickup
from TW
APR 2000
page 11

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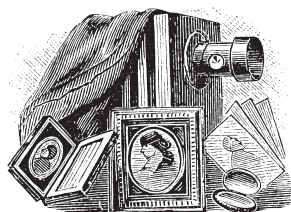
By Mary Hartless

Using vintage cameras from the 1880s, Phoenix based photographer, Mary Hartless has spent the last several years shooting reenactors and Old West aficionados with the real deal. The results are quite convincing. As you can see on the next four pages, she has the process and the look down pat.

Mary says she learned the art of 19th century photography from an 1874 book, "The Silver Sunbeam." Her work has been displayed in galleries and local newspapers. This is her first

work for TRUE WEST and she can be reached at

[cdvimage yahoo.com](mailto:cdvimage@yahoo.com).

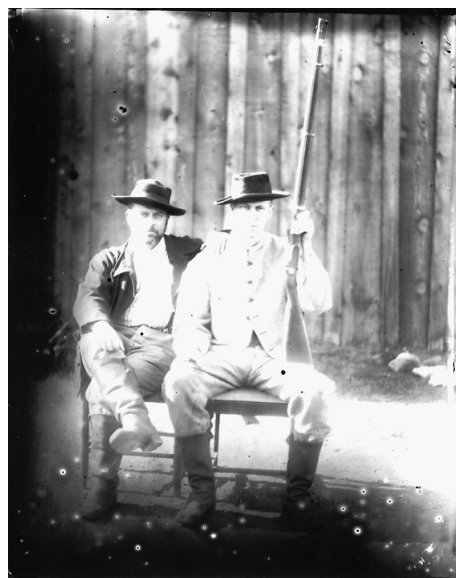




Troopers at Fort Verde Days (above)

Fort Verde, Arizona, October 1997.

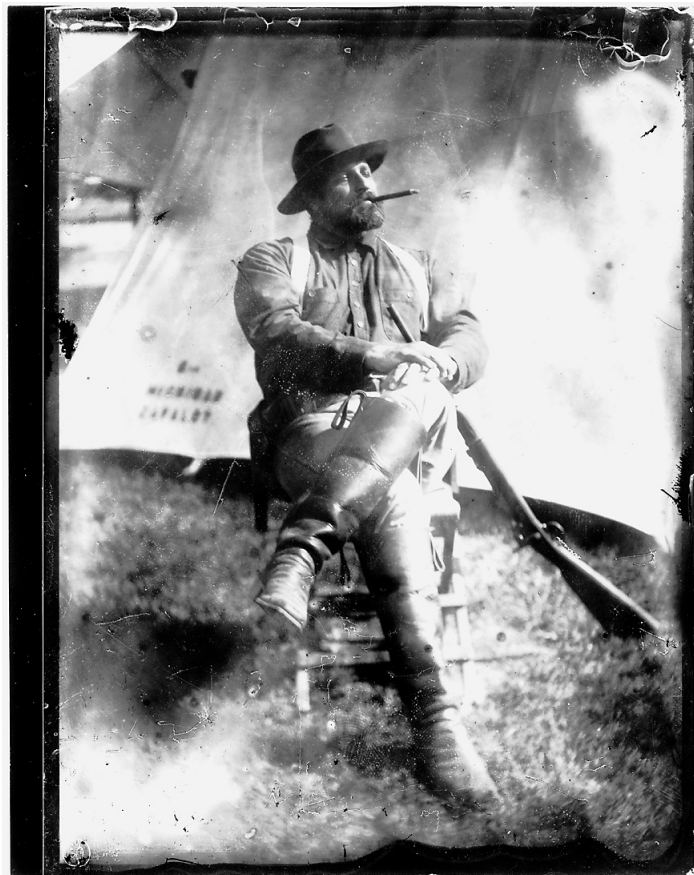
Reenactors pose as troopers visiting from Fort Seldon, New Mexico. Image taken with an E.&H.T. Anthony camera using a Darlot lens made in Paris. Dry plate negative printed on Ilford paper.



Two Rowdy Pards

Pioneer, Arizona, November 1998

Veteran's Day. Image taken with an E.&H.T. Anthony camera using a Darlot lens made in Paris. Dry plate negative printed on Ilford paper.



A Stogie Break (right)

Fort Verde, Arizona, October 1999

Chris Luehman poses for the camera wearing 1886 military attire. In making this image a vintage camera and original lens from England were used. Dry plate negative with exposure time of 6 seconds. Printed on Ilford paper.



Formed & Ready

(left)
*Wickenburg, Arizona,
 March 1999*
 5th Michigan Cavalry. From row, l-r: First Lieutenant Mark Kotyuk, Trooper Don Hotchkiss, Trooper Gary Hotchkiss, Trooper Bill Williams. Standing, l-r: Trooper Marty Mathis, Trooper Robert Zeleznik, Sergeant Jim Ranke, Trooper Paul Scovill, Trooper Dave Williams, Trooper Dale Mee, First Sergeant Mark Gollither, Trooper Bob Hunter. This image was made with a vintage English camera and original lens.



Batters Up (above)

Fort Verde, Arizona, October 1999.

The Fort Verde Excelsiors baseball team, featuring Chaplain Woodcock at home plate.



The Spaniards (right)

Palestine, Texas, May 1998

Recreating the conflict in Cuba, these Spaniards pause to have an image made. Dry plate negative with an exposure time of 4 seconds. Printed on Ilford paper.



Potato Patrol (above)

Palestine, Texas, May 1998

Troopers Stewart (standing) and Sparks posing with original weaponry. The weapons sitting on the tripod is a Colt "Potato Digger." Image made with a vintage English camera and original lens. Dry plate negative printed on Ilford paper.



Whistle Stop (left)

Palestine, Texas, May 1998

Troopers from New York and volunteers from Arizona welcome the train bound for Florida.



Armed Farrier (right)

Wickenburg, Arizona, March 1998

Farrier Dale Mee displaying original web belt and haversack from the Spanish American War. The pistol he is holding is an original Model 1882 Navy .38 Colt. It was manufactured around 1893. Image made using a vintage English camera and original lens.



Cuba Bound (above)

Pioneer, Arizona, February 1999

Jack Stewart, posed as a trooper, sits patiently for the camera before embarking on his journey eastward to fight in Cuba.

“If necessary,
I will fight the United
States army assembled
along the border.
Agua Prieta will be
mine, Americans or
no Americans.”



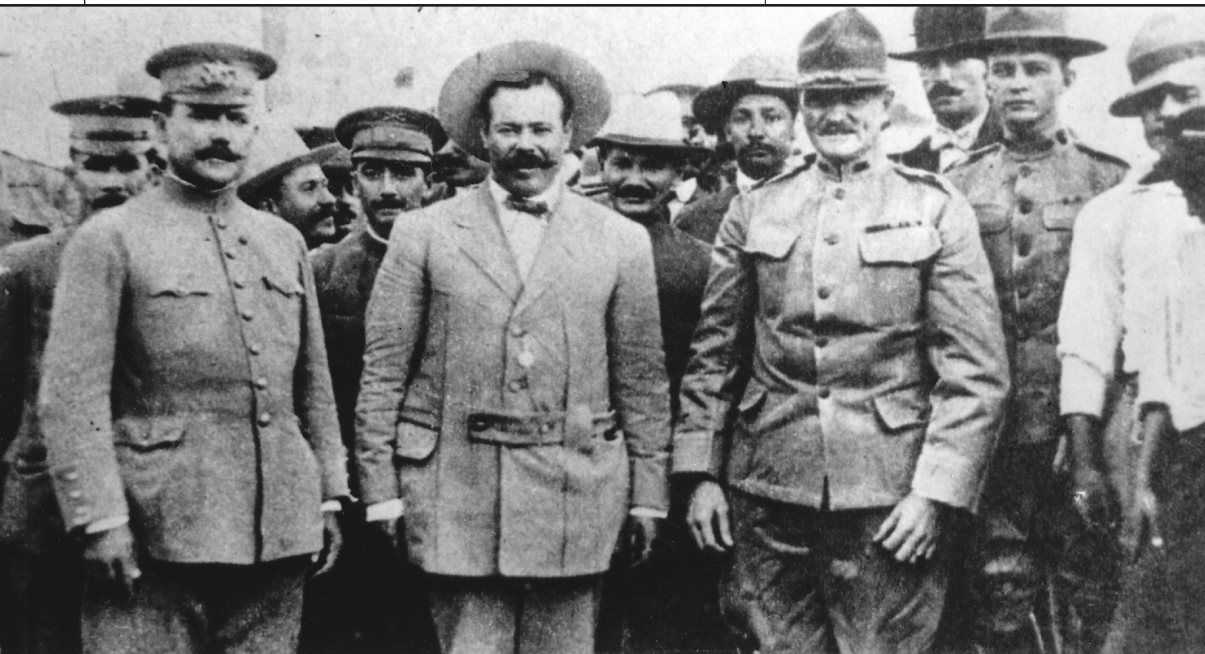
**WHEN
PANCHO VILLA
TALKED TOUGH**

BY HAROLD L. EDWARDS

From the *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 3, 1915.
Author's Collection.



In late October 1915, while Mexico was still torn asunder by the revolutions and counter-revolutions of 1910, the citizens and United States army personnel stationed in Douglas, Arizona, cast anxious glances across the international border to the Mexican town of Agua Prieta. They were aware that revolutionary leader Pancho Villa had left his base of operations in Chihuahua and was on his way with an army to occupy Agua Prieta. Villa was talking tough, threatening to take the city by force, even to fighting the United States army for it if necessary. His belligerent and inflammatory rhetoric heightened tensions in Douglas as well as in the rest of the United States as everyone along the Arizona-Sonoran border waited for Villa's arrival.



L-r: General Alvaro Obregon, General Francisco Villa, and General John Pershing at a meeting between Mexican and American officials at Ciudad Juárez in 1914, before they became adversaries. *Arizona Historical Society.*

Agua Prieta was held by the Constitutionalists' faction under the command of General Plutarco Elias Calles, and they had no intentions of surrendering the city to Villa. Calles had fortified Agua Prieta. A battle for the city was imminent which would probably mean deaths, injuries, and damage in Douglas as a result of the gunfire from across the border. General Calles waited for the appearance of Villa's forces and nervous and anxious Americans waited for the battle of Agua Prieta to begin.

The road leading to the deadly confrontation of opposing armies at Agua Prieta was a long, violent, and arduous one which began in the late 1870s when Porfirio Diaz took control of the Mexican government. Over the years, his repressive measures failed to ease the grinding poverty and eroded the liberties of the masses. In addition, the arrogance of the Mexican ruling class, coupled with their wealth, created resentment and hatred against them. By 1910, the economic, social, and political situation throughout Mexico was unstable and ripe for revolution.

Into this cauldron of political turmoil stepped Francisco Madero, a diminutive intellectual from a wealthy and prominent family in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila, who believed he could ease the misery of the Mexican people and at the same time strengthen the

nation. In spite of his social position, the Mexican people supported Madero, and he eventually became president of Mexico through armed revolt. One of the officers of his army was a former cattle rustler and bandit who had embraced the

principles of Madero's revolution without reservations. His name was Pancho Villa.

Madero's victory in 1911 failed to deliver the instant political stability and prosperity anticipated by the masses, and dissension appeared within Madero's own ranks. During the confusion, Mexican army

general Victoriano Huerta was able to overthrow Madero through a coup, and on February 22, 1913, Huerta had Madero assassinated. Pancho Villa, residing in El Paso, Texas, was enraged by the treacherous murder of Madero. He crossed the Rio Grande River to help depose Huerta, who had proclaimed himself head of the Mexican government.

Several factions throughout Mexico organized armed revolt against Huerta. The Constitutionalists, headed by Venustiano Carranza, the governor of Coahuila, had several noted military successes against Huerta. Villa joined forces with Carranza and they fought their way into Mexico City. Villa and his followers, called "Villistas," controlled the state of Chihuahua and most of Sonora. As time passed, however, it became obvious General Villa and Carranza did not agree on the movement's military and political policies. Neither liked,

THE ROAD LEADING TO THE DEADLY CONFRONTATION OF OPPOSING ARMIES AT AGUA PRIETA WAS A LONG, VIOLENT AND ARDUOUS ONE WHICH BEGAN IN THE LATE 1870s...

approved, or trusted the other. This situation deteriorated further and eventually Villa bolted with his army from Carranza and attacked the Constitutionalists.

While the two factions battered each other, General Huerta's government collapsed and the general left Mexico in exile. Thereafter, the federal government became even more ineffective and the country slipped into more armed conflict and anarchy.

General Alvaro Obregon, the Constitutionalist military leader of Sonora, became Carranza's chief military commander. Obregon was a natural soldier and a fine selection for the position. In order to secure and insure Carranza's success, Obregon knew he had to defeat Pancho Villa and his Villistas as

soon as possible. Obregon also knew that Villa was aggressive and would march south from Chihuahua at the first opportunity, in hope of confronting and defeating Carranza's forces and shifting the balance of power.

During March 1915, Villa and his army moved south with the intent to capture Mexico City. Villa was well aware he would have to fight Obregon somewhere along the way. Villa was correct in his suppositions. General Obregon had fortified the city of Celaya with barbed wire entanglements and pre-sighted machine guns with open fields of fire, lessons learned from the trench warfare on the western front of the first World War. Prepared, Obregon waited behind his barricades for Villa's arrival.

Villa had been impatient to begin his campaign to the south, and as a result he hurriedly left Chihuahua without gathering his artillery. Unfortunately for him, he was unable to bombard Ceyala's defenses before his attack. On April 6, 1915, Villa ordered his cavalry to charge. His loyal and brave

troops were cut to pieces by Obregon's firepower and the Villistas withdrew from the field to regroup.

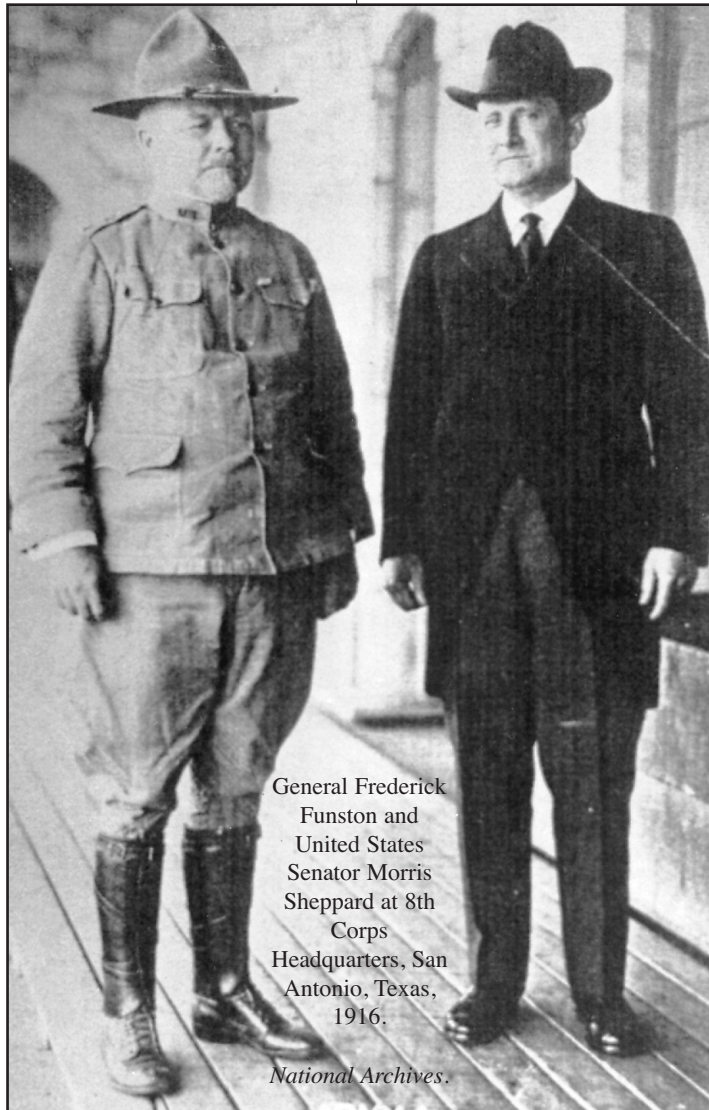
Villa seemed not to have understood what had happened. His great charges in the past had been largely successful. On the following day he ordered another charge on the town. His cavalry was decimated and his infantry suffered heavy casualties. He withdrew from the field once more and regrouped his remaining troops. Villa tried to lure Obregon from his defenses for a battle on open ground, however, Obregon didn't fall into Villa's trap. Instead, he sat behind his defenses and waited.

On April 13, 1915, still without artillery support, Villa attacked again. The two-day battle resulted in the attackers being beaten back once more. With the remnants of his army, Villa retreated north towards Chihuahua. His quest to defeat Carranza's forces and capture Mexico City had failed.

The defeat of Ceyala had been disastrous for Villa and he never recovered his previously held armed strength from the loss. To make matters worse, the Constitutionalists emerged from the battle politically and militarily stronger than before.

Obregon trailed Villa north to the town of Leon in the state of Guanajuato. Obregon knew Villa well and anticipated the ragtag army would try to stop

the Constitutionalists' move toward Chihuahua. Obregon fortified Leon, just as he had Ceyala. Just as it had happened at Ceyala, Villa charged in without artillery. Once more Villa was thoroughly defeated, and he



General Frederick Funston and United States Senator Morris Sheppard at 8th Corps Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas, 1916.

National Archives.

retreated into Chihuahua.

In the past, Villa had enjoyed popularity in the United States, where he had raised money for weapons and supplies from various supporters. He raised more money from the United States by rustling cattle from the great haciendas in Chihuahua and smuggling them across the border into Texas, where they were sold to willing buyers. He also enjoyed reasonably good relations with the United States government, which did not close the border ports of entry to Villa. His popularity with the American press couldn't have been better; he had reached celebrity status north of the border.

After April 1915, Villa sensed his position with the Americans wasn't as favorable as it had been. The Villistas still held the border towns of Juárez and Ojinaga, across from Texas, and Nogales and Naco across from Arizona. They also occupied the seaport of Guaymas on the Gulf of California, the Sonoran city of Hermosillo, and numerous cities and villages throughout Chihuahua. However, Villa's political position had dropped; he was no longer attractive for American support.

To regain his political fortunes, Villa felt total control of Sonora was vital. However, the Constitutionalists still held the border town of Agua Prieta. This base for Carranza's operations, with the avenue for supplying their forces operating in Sonora from the United States, must be captured, and fast. The Villistas in Sonora were busy holding their positions against possible intrusions from Constitutionalist forces from the south and couldn't campaign against Agua

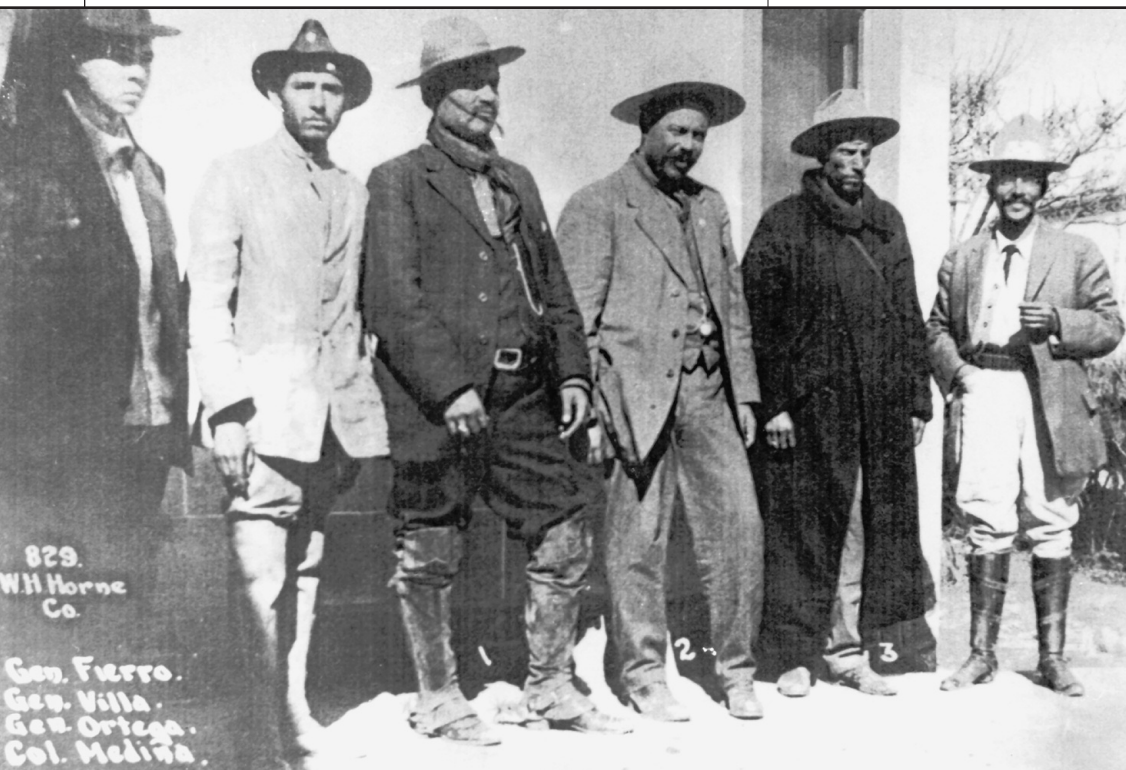
Prieta. Villa had no choice but to move against Agua Prieta with his depleted and under-supplied army.

In October 1915, he left his base at Casas Grande, Chihuahua, for the trek across the desert into Sonora. Usually the families of the soldiers accompanied their men on campaigns; this time, Villa

ordered the dependents and camp followers left behind. Supplies were at a minimum and he needed to move rapidly. The Villistas couldn't be burdened by the care and presence of noncombatants.

Villa had ridden the crest of victories and political popularity and he was well known in both Mexico and the United States. He had tasted the fruits of power and prestige. When Villa began his march to Agua Prieta, his glory days

VILLA RAISED MONEY IN THE UNITED STATES BY RUSTLING CATTLE IN CHIHUAHUA AND SMUGGLING THEM ACROSS THE BORDER INTO TEXAS...



General Francisco Villa, third from right, and some of his officers. On Villa's right is his bodyguard, Rodolfo Sierra. On Villa's left is General Toribio Ortega; on Ortega's right is Colonel Juan Medina. *National Archives.*

were behind him. Although well-armed with rifles, machine guns, and several pieces of field artillery, his troops were short on food and supplies.

While he was crossing on his way to Agua Prieta, Villa was given news which at once disappointed and outraged him. On October 19, 1915, United States President Woodrow Wilson gave official recognition to Carranza and his Constitutionalists as the de facto government of Mexico. Carranza's forces were winning the day in Central Mexico and appeared to be growing stronger. Constitutionalist

General Manuel Diequez had invaded Sonora from the state of Sinaloa. It was apparent to President Wilson that Villa was not going to emerge victorious.

With the recognition of Carranza by the United States, Villa became the revolutionist against the government, and, therefore, the outside menace to Mexican stability. The Constitutionalists felt Agua Prieta had to be held by them. Immediately after his recognition by the United States government, Carranza asked President Wilson for permission to transport troops across American territory. Permission was granted and Constitutionalist soldiers were transported by rail from Eagle Pass, Texas, through west Texas, New Mexico, and into Arizona. From Douglas, Arizona, they were marched across the border into Agua Prieta, fortifying General Calles' defenses.

Villa learned of the transport of Constitutional forces through American territory to Agua Prieta from American newspaper reporters. His reaction to the news was predictable; "If necessary, I will fight the United States army assembled along the border. Agua Prieta will be mine, Americans or no Americans." Pointing his finger toward Agua Prieta, Villa continued, "there is food and rest for our men. We may have to fight the whole American army if necessary, but no matter, it will be ours."

Villa then asked the reporters if it were true that the United States had permitted Carranza to transfer his troops across American territory to reinforce Agua Prieta. When he was

advised in the affirmative, Villa said:

"This is the way the United States pays me for the treatment and protection I have given to foreigners in Mexico.

Hereafter, I don't give a damn what happens to foreigners in Mexico—or in my territory. I am through with the United States. I can fight my battles. Let them fight theirs. I can whip Carranza and his entire army, but it is asking a great deal to whip the United States army also, but I suppose I can do that too." This was tough talk from a man who commanded a hungry, thirsty, and depleted army.

Of course, Villa's intemperate remarks were published in the American press. Some newspaper editors took his comments seriously, others saw them as sheer braggadocio. Villa's hostile and aggressive remarks, however amusing to the press, only served to increase the already strained tensions along the Arizona-Sonoran border. Because of the rapidly deteriorating conditions along that part of the border, General Frederick Funston, who was in charge of American troops along the United States-Mexican frontier, left his headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, to take direct command of the army units facing Agua Prieta.

In the meantime, Villa's army had endured a difficult crossing of the Chihuahuan-Sonoran desert. The soldiers were on the verge of starving. The Villistas, even though exhausted, were still ready to fight.

General Calles was ready. In addition to the barbed wire defenses and machine gun nests, Calles had several powerful generator-powered searchlights posted around the city.

During this time, Constitutionalist general Manuel Diequez captured the seaport of Guaymas on the Gulf of California, and Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora. Instead of moving north to meet Villa, Diequez fortified Hermosillo against attack. Also at this time, Carranza dispatched General Obregon to Sonora with an army to meet Villa and defeat him whenever and wherever he



Los Angeles Times, November 1, 1915. Author's Collection.

could. Apparently, Villa was aware of at least some of the Constitutionalists' activities. He planned to turn south for the defining battle after taking Agua Prieta.

By October 29, 1915, advance units of Villa's army arrived at Agua Prieta. Some minor scrimmaging occurred between the patrols of the opposing forces. Villa's main army camped about four miles east of Agua Prieta to rest and get water.

On the morning of November 1, 1915, the Villistas confronted Agua Prieta on three sides. By 1:30 p.m.

Calles' artillery opened fire on the Villistas. An artillery duel followed with each side taking care to aim their guns in a manner to avoid shooting into the United States. As the battle progressed, both sides began taking casualties.

During the opening round of the battle, Villa, accompanied by four of his officers, met with U.S. Army officers at the border to determine the exact location of the international boundary.

At the conclusion of the discussion, one American asked Villa if he expected to take Agua Prieta that day. Grinning broadly, a seemingly confident Villa responded: "Sure, Mike." The Americans, however, believed Villa would further consolidate his forces and attack the city the following day. Some firing from both sides continued on through the afternoon and evening of November 1, but no major attack was launched.

The American officers had anticipated correctly. Villa launched his attack at 3:00 the following morning. His offensive included all the weapons at his command; rifles, machine guns, and field artillery. Apparently, Villa didn't anticipate Calles' searchlights. When Calles turned them on, the Villistas immediately became visible targets. Further, Villa's soldiers were blinded by the lights' glare, reducing their effectiveness. The Villistas could not extinguish the lights and their attack failed.

Villa ordered his troops to attack again, and once more his blinded soldiers were driven back by intense enemy fire. After at least two more failed frontal attacks, Villa withdrew his battered forces out of range to regroup. Dawn arrived and daylight showed the city's defenses

intact, with little damage done to Calles' troops. Although they took casualties, they were in good spirits and ready for Villa's next assault.

The attacks were not renewed.

During the battle, some of the fears of the Americans in Douglas were realized. Bullets from small arms fire whizzed into town and wounded several people. Louis P. Taylor, a restaurant employee, was struck in the back and paralyzed; an eight-year-old boy, who was a Mexican citizen, was shot in the stomach; H.K. Jones, a letter carrier, was wounded as he

stood in front of his home, and a Mexican woman had one of her fingers shot off.

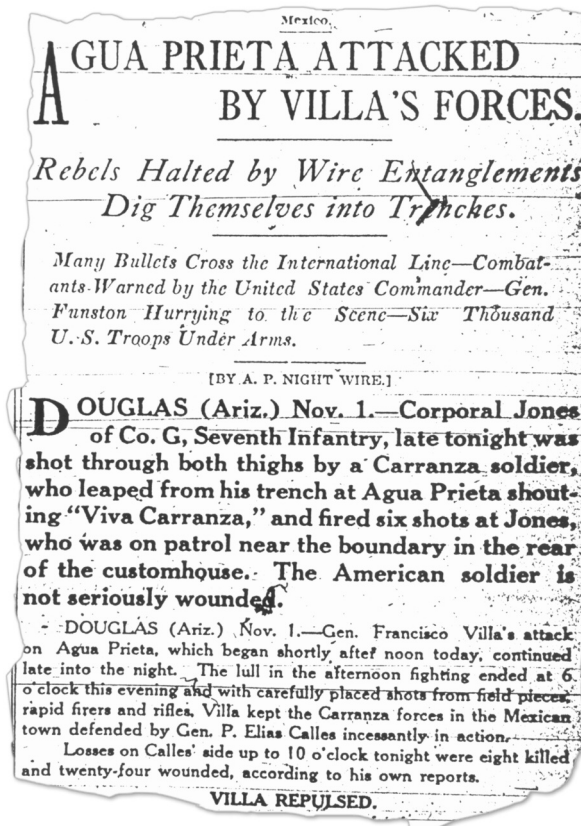
The U.S. Army also suffered some casualties. Corporal J.H. Jones, Company G, Seventh Infantry Regiment, was shot through both thighs; Private Ollie Whiddon (military unit not reported) was struck in the neck; Private Harry

Jones, Company G, Eleventh Infantry Regiment, was shot in the stomach, a wound which proved fatal. Private James Task, Company D, Eleventh Infantry Regiment, was wounded in the leg; Private Steven Nagy, Eighteenth Infantry Regiment, received a flesh wound in his left hip; Private Michael Burger, Seventh Infantry Regiment, was

wounded slightly in his left knee and Private Frank Dudley, a cook in the Seventh Infantry Regiment, was struck in the right hand.

At noon on November 2, 1915, Villa's machine gunners sprayed Agua Prieta with concentrated fire. Some of their bullets landed in and around Douglas. Sergeant Walter Mays and a Private Mitchell, Company I, Seventh Infantry Regiment, were wounded while they guarded the border. They were in a trench, and Mays was struck in the hand while Mitchell was hit in his left leg.

Outraged and concerned about the shooting from across the border, General Funston sent messages to the leaders of both factions telling them the shooting into Douglas must stop. General Funston had the permission of the War Department



to return fire if shot at from across the border. He wanted the authority to enter Mexico and apprehend the perpetrators. He requested permission from President Wilson to enter Mexico under these circumstances but he was denied. Nonetheless, General Funston intended to protect American lives and property as best he could under the circumstances.

Villa immediately asked for a conference with General Funston.

The two men met about a mile east of Douglas, on the international boundary. Funston informed Villa that the gunfire from Agua Prieta into Douglas had killed one American soldier and wounded several others. If the shooting didn't stop there would be serious trouble for Villa and his army. Villa was conciliatory and said he had tried to avoid shooting into the United States. Funston was satisfied that Villa had done all he could to avoid firing into Douglas.

Believing most of the shooting into Douglas was from General Calles' soldiers, Funston reported later to his superiors he couldn't fire on Villa without also firing on Calles. In any event, the shooting stopped and Villa's troops began moving south, away from the border.

The Americans in Douglas felt Villa's move away from Agua Prieta was a feint to throw Calles off guard; while the Constitutionalists were relaxed, Villa would attack Agua Prieta again. The Villistas continued moving south and the tension in Douglas relaxed. In a couple of days even the school was reopened.

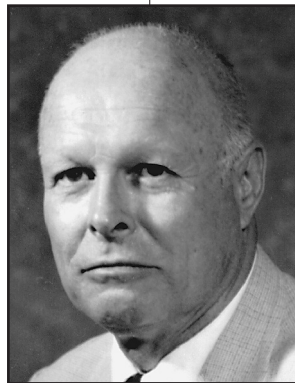
A short time later, General Obregon arrived on the border

with his army and occupied Naco, a small border town west of Agua Prieta, and moved on to take Nogales. With the Mexican border secure, he moved south in pursuit of Villa.

In the meantime, the Villistas attacked Hermosillo, and as at Ceyala, Leon, and Agua Prieta, they were soundly defeated. With General Dieguez moving against him from the south and General Obregon moving against him from the north, Villa led his tattered army back into the mountains of Chihuahua. He had lost his gamble to retain Sonora. He became little more than a regional bandit.

Villa sat in Chihuahua and nursed his fractured pride and fanned his hatred and resentment of the United States, which he felt had betrayed him. On March 9, 1916, his meager forces struck Columbus, New Mexico, which invited an American expeditionary force under the command of General John Pershing into Mexico in hopes of apprehending Villa. Pershing's campaign was unsuccessful and Villa fought several battles in Mexico before his assassination on January 20, 1923.

Pancho Villa fought many battles, both military and political, during his revolutionary career. He was a man of courage, and he was committed to his revolutionary precepts. Unlettered and direct, he was nonetheless a master of self-promotion, being both bombastic and aggressive. All of his tough talk, however, did not translate into a victory at the battle of Agua Prieta.



This Month's Featured Author:

Name: Harold Lee Edwards

Date, Place of Birth: 12.28.27

Hanford, CA

Educational Background: Fresno State College

Occupation: Retired Parole Officer

Hometown: Visalia, CA

Family: Wife, Barbara; son, Glen; daughter, Barbara

Publishing History: *The Killing of Jim McKinney*, *Goodbye Billy the Kid*, hundreds of articles and book reviews for various publications.

First True West Article: "Jim McKinney: Outlaw," 1985.

Current Research/Projects: A study of

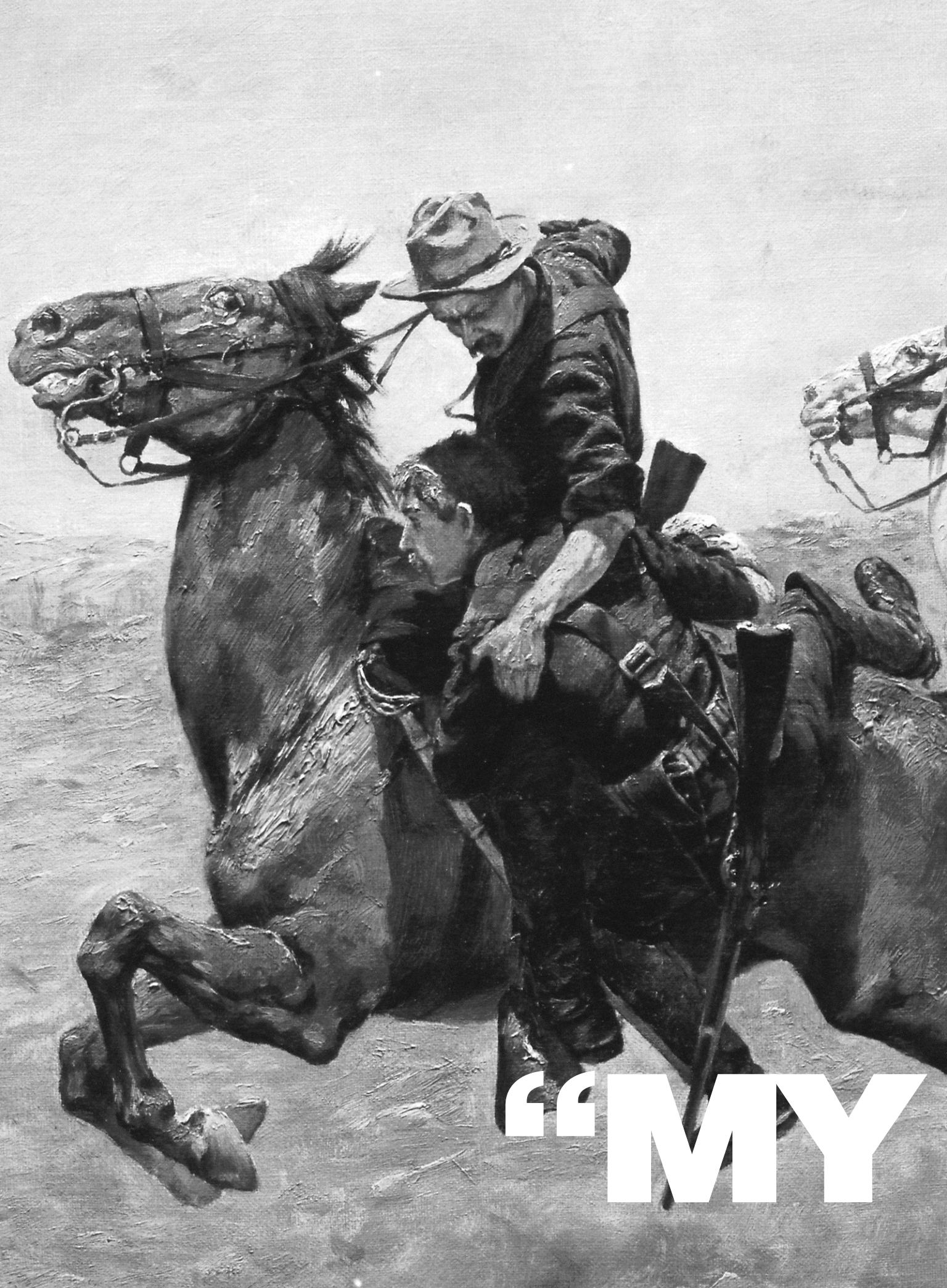
Pearl Hart.

Interests/Hobbies: Researching history.

Favorite Western Movie: *Stagecoach*

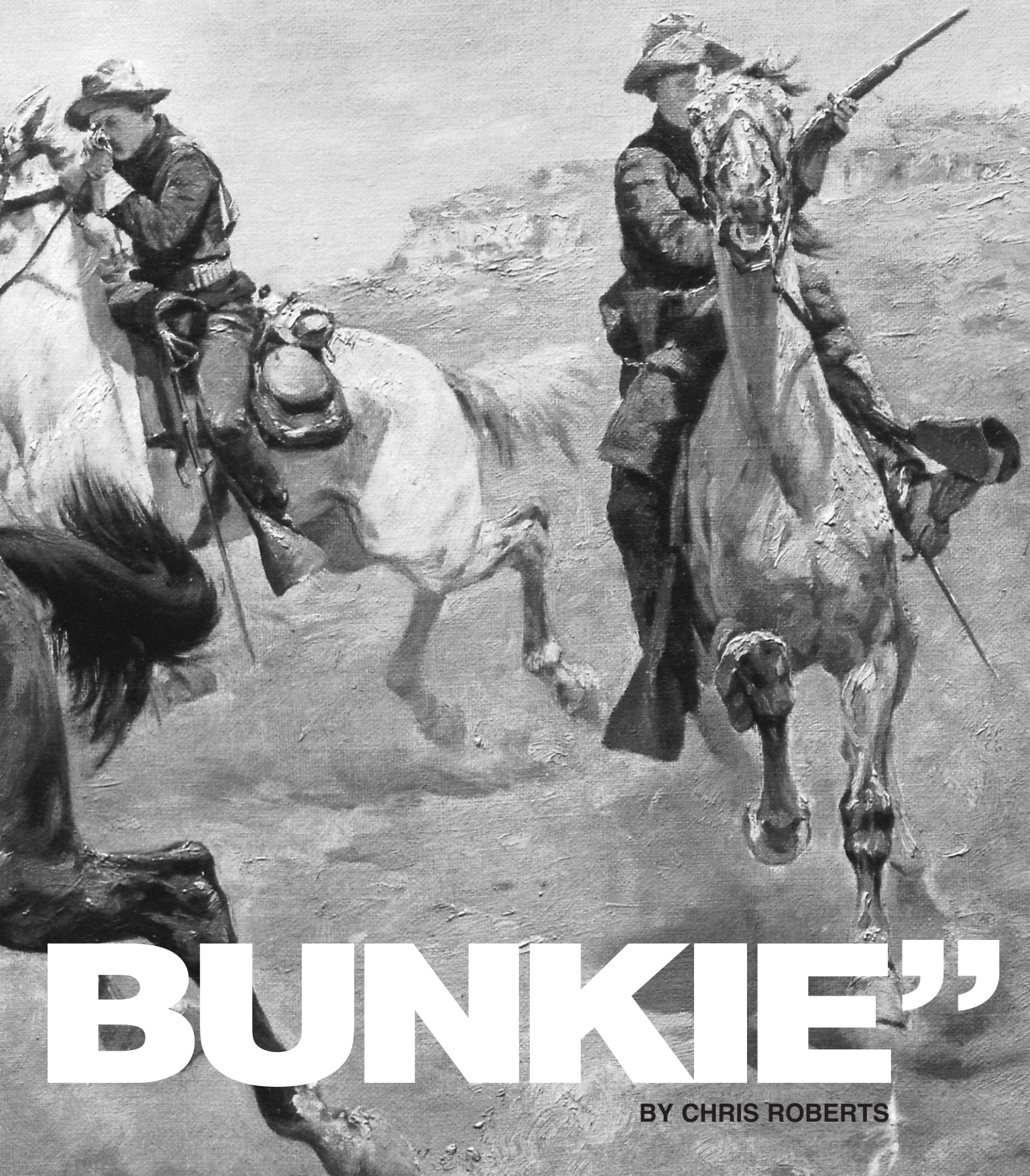
Currently Reading: *The Greatest Generation*, by Tom Brokaw.

Western History Inspirations: "I started doing this [western research and writing] because my wife told me I didn't have the ability. Recent authors have been doing such a good job at correcting the historical record, I'm just glad to be a part of it."



“MY

*“...a soldier’s bunkmate is lifted to safety
onto the back of the trooper’s racing steed.”*



BUNKIE'

BY CHRIS ROBERTS



Charles Schreyvogel possessed a burning desire to capture on canvas the closing chapter of American expansion with an emphasis on historical accuracy. *National Cowboy Hall of Fame Library.*

They dash across the sun-baked plains under enemy fire to save a fallen comrade. The lead rider extends a hand and in one swift movement the trooper vaults onto the mount while two members of the detachment provide cover. A successful rescue mission is achieved and would become legend within the ranks of the United States Cavalry.

One hundred years ago Charles Schreyvogel's painting, "My Bunkie," burst onto the staid American art scene

in dramatic western fashion. The oil won the prestigious Thomas B. Clarke prize for figure composition at the 1900 National Academy of Design exhibition in New York. The award achieved instant fame for the relatively unknown artist from Hoboken, New Jersey, but more importantly, it established western subject matter as deserving of serious artistic consideration and merit.

The open warfare that raged between the United States Cavalry and Indian forces from the 1860s to the 1890s was

the primary focus of Schreyvogel's work. He possessed a burning desire to capture on canvas the closing chapter of American expansion with an emphasis on historical accuracy. This passion was sparked by visits to Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in New York in the early 1890s where he spent hours making detailed sketches of horses and members of the entourage. He eked out a living working in a lithograph shop and painting miniature portraits, but thought that work unsatisfying, given his three years of

formal training in Germany at the Munich Art Academy. His dream of visiting the West was realized at the age of thirty-two when, with the moral and financial support of his family, he traveled to the Ute Reservation in Ignacio, Colorado. It was the spring of 1893 and many of the soldiers stationed at Ignacio were veterans of recent Indian battles. Schreyvogel interviewed the soldiers at length. The result of one such interview was the genesis of "My Bunkie."

In 1899 Schreyvogel decided to portray the sudden ambush of a cavalry patrol by a war party, in which one of the soldiers has his horse shot out from under him. During the ensuing fray the warriors circle and a soldier's bunkmate is lifted to safety onto the back of the trooper's racing steed. The composition of the painting maintains a focal point for the viewer by involving all four members of the patrol in the action. Each figure is rendered with superior draftsmanship; the sharp lines convey a sense of immediacy. Speed is

conveyed through the downward sloping of the hill and the airward stride of the lead mount. The warriors are not incorporated into the viewing plane, which adds a sense of intrigue and unforeseen danger in the narrative. It was this combination of technique that garnered Schreyvogel addition awards, and international acclaim, for "My Bunkie." He won bronze medals at both the 1900 Paris Exposition and the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York.

A century later, Charles Schreyvogel's stirring portrayal of two cultures clashing in that vast theater of war American West, still holds the power to move and excite immediate response. It is an evocative, haunting reminder of the nation's bloody push under Manifest Destiny.

Chris Roberts previously interviewed Larry McMurtry and Al Martin Napoletano. This is his fifth article for *True West*.

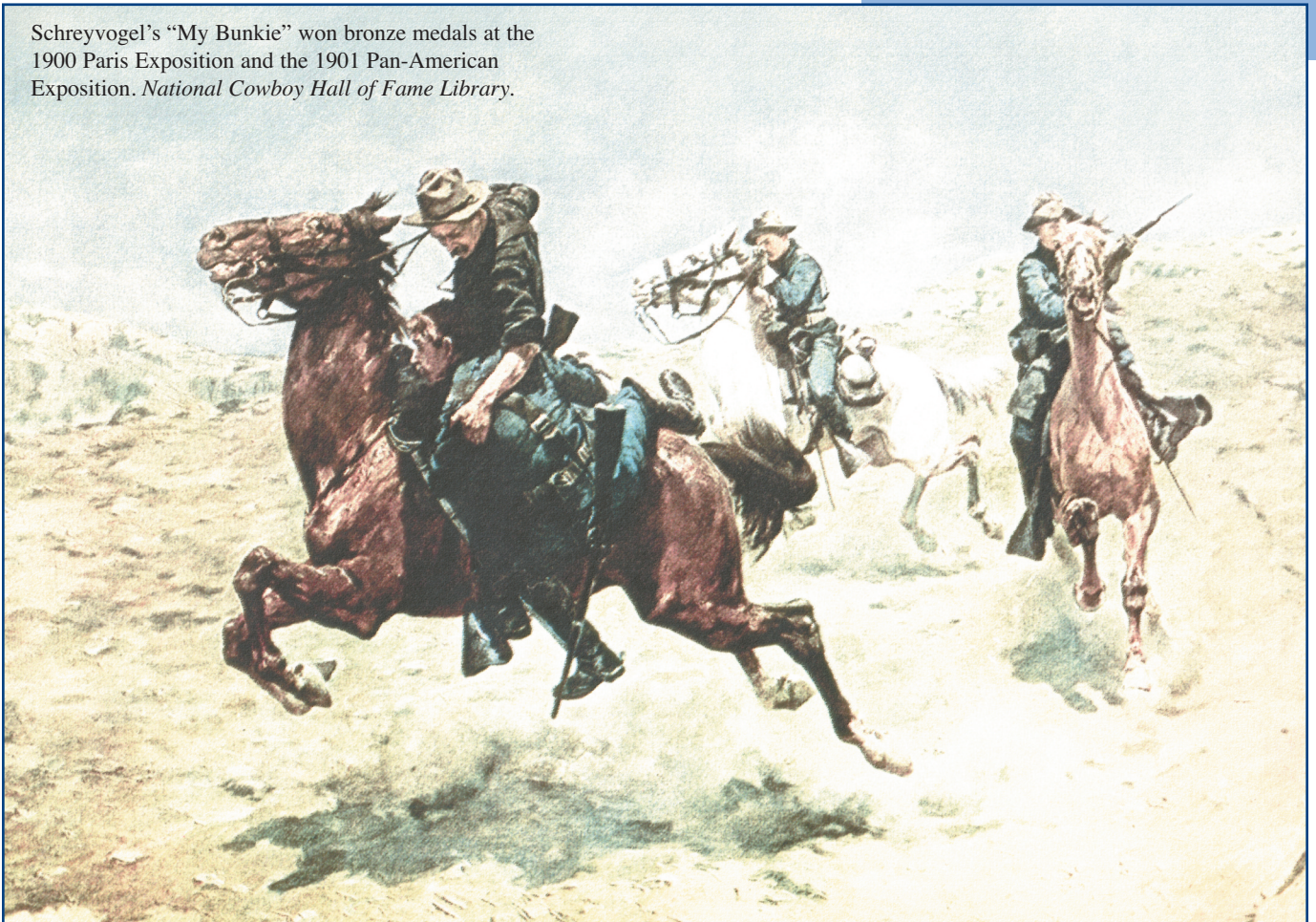
The Bunkie Tour

2000

"My Bunkie" is in the permanent collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York. The painting is currently part of an ambitious tour, "Paris 1900: The American School." At the Universal exposition, Diane P. Fischer, of the Montclair Art Museum in New Jersey, will serve as curator. According to Fischer, "America's strength was demonstrated through paintings of virile men, as in Charles Schreyvogel's 'My Bunkie....'"

The exhibition will tour Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (Feb. 11-April 16), Ohio's Columbus Museum of Art (May 18-Aug. 13), the Elvehjem Museum of Art in Madison, Wisconsin, (Sept. 16-Dec. 3), and will conclude at the Musée

Schreyvogel's "My Bunkie" won bronze medals at the 1900 Paris Exposition and the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. *National Cowboy Hall of Fame Library.*



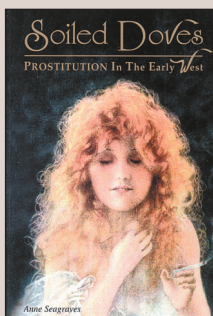


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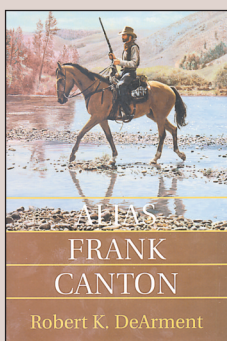


SOILED DOVES

By Anne Seagraves

Soiled Doves tells of the grey world of prostitution and the women who participated in the oldest profession. Colorful, if not socially acceptable, these women of easy virtue were a definite part of the early West. Illustrated with many rare photos, this book provides a touching insight into the lives of the ladies of the night. 173p. Wesanne Publications.

Amazon.com \$9.56
Barbed Wire Price **\$8.00**



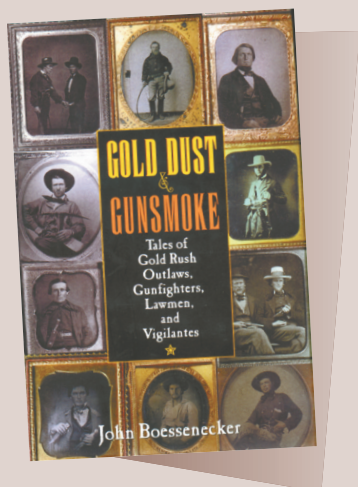
ALIAS FRANK CANTON

By Robert K. DeArment

As Frank Canton, Texas renegade Joe Horner reigned supreme as a lawman and hired gun in Wyoming's Johnson County War and on the streets of Territorial Oklahoma. DeArment's research is first-rate and will stand for years as the definitive source. 402p. University of Oklahoma Press.

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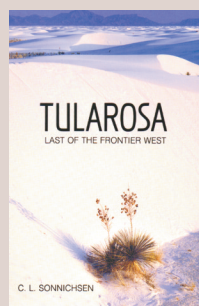


GOLD DUST & GUNSMOKE

By John Boessenecker

The author, a well-recognized authority on the California Coast, provides an informative glimpse of Gold Rush life. Complete with crime, prostitution, legends, and lies, the Gold Rush stands alone in the annals of the West. 367p. Wiley & Sons.

List Price \$30.00
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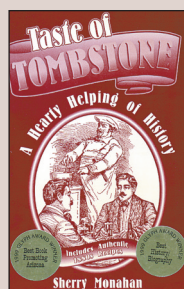


TULAROSA: LAST OF THE FRONTIER WEST

By C.L. Sonnichsen

Master historian Sonnichsen chronicles New Mexico's Tularosa Basin, featuring the stories of Pat Garrett, Oliver Lee, Albert Fall, and Albert Fountain. 336p. University of New Mexico Press.

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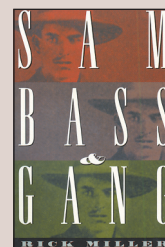


TASTE OF TOMBSTONE

By Sherry Monahan

A revealing look at the hotels, bakeries, restaurants, soda stands, and sweet shops that fed and entertained the citizens of 1880s Tombstone, Arizona. Featuring 140 original recipes, this volume is a must for every library...and kitchen. 230p. Royal Spectrum Publishing.

Amazon.com \$16.95
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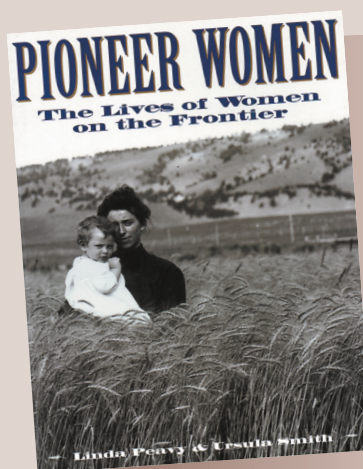
SAM BASS & GANG

By Rick Miller

It has been over sixty years since the last major biography of Sam Bass was written by Wayne Gard. Armed with new information and painstaking research, Rick Miller has written what we believe will long remain the definitive biography of this legendary western train and stage robber. 424p. State House Press.

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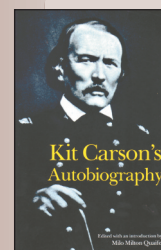


PIONEER WOMEN

By Linda Peavy & Ursula Smith

A rare look at frontier life through the eyes of the pioneer women who settled the American West. Illustrated with a fascinating collection of seldom-seen photographs, *Pioneer Women* reveals the faces as well as the voices of women who lived on the frontier. It's a story of hopes and fears, courage and adversity, triumphs and struggle. 144p. University of Oklahoma Press.

Amazon.com \$14.36
Barbed Wire Price **\$12.95**



KIT CARSON'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

By Kit Carson

Editor Milo Quaife expertly aligns Carson's accounts as trapper, Indian fighter, guide, and buffalo hunter on the early frontier. From these adventures, Carson emerged as an American western icon and the model for the classic frontiersman. 192p. Bison Books.

Amazon.com \$9.00
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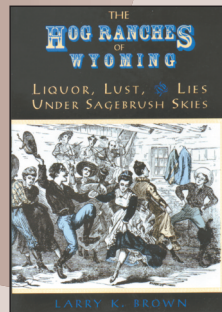
BOOK OF THE MONTH

JOHN RINGO

By David Johnson

Few names in the lore of western gunmen are as recognizable. Few lives of the most notorious are as little known. Johnson painstakingly researched the gunman for over twenty years to create this definitive biography. 264p. Barbed Wire Press.

Amazon.com \$29.95
Barbed Wire Price \$25.00

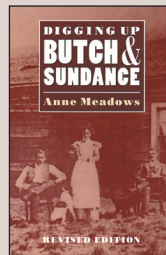


HOG RANCHES OF WYOMING

By Larry K. Brown

Frontier "Hog Ranches" were part saloon, part dance hall, and part brothel. They produced literally thousands of stories. Brown presents tales from Mother Featherlegs to the Nine Mile Ranch in this rip-roaring tale. 125p. High Plains Press.

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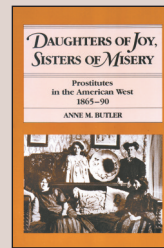


DIGGING UP BUTCH & SUNDANCE

By Anne Meadows

Lawyer-turned-writer Anne Meadows and her husband, Dan Buck, set out to solve the mystery of what really happened to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Buck and Meadows roamed South America's dusty archives and musty documents, leading to the dramatic exhumation of two skeletons in a long-forgotten grave. Revised edition. 390p. Bison Books

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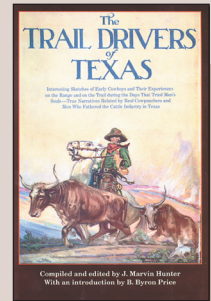


DAUGHTERS OF JOY, SISTERS OF MERCY

By Anne M. Butler

A gold mine of information on prostitution in the West, examining the high class and common whore alike. An added treasure are the many rare photographs. 180p. University of Illinois Press.

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THE TRAIL DRIVERS OF TEXAS

Compiled by J. Marvin Hunter

Gleaned from members of the Old Time Trail Driver's Association, these hundreds of collected stories and interviews form an invaluable cornerstone to literature, history, and folklore of the West. Many of these stories were the basis for Larry McMurtry's classic, *Lonesome Dove*.

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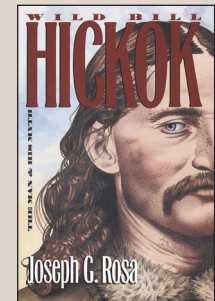


THE NEGRO COWBOYS

By Philip Durham & Everett Jones

With more than five thousand black cowboys on the cattle and outlaw trails of the West, the stories and the people were destined for fame. This volume examines but a few, including Jim Beckwourth, Cherokee Bill, Nat Love, Bill Pickett, and many more. 278p. Bison Books.

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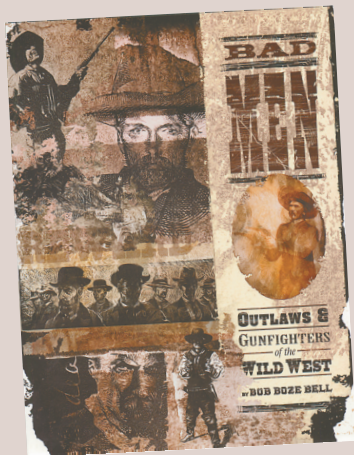


WILD BILL HICKOK: MAN & HIS MYTH

By Joseph C. Rosa

Culminating four decades of research, Joseph Roas delves into the exploits and ego that defined James Butler Hickok, and shows how the man was overtaken by his own legend. A classic, must-have biography of the West's most famous pistoleer. 276p. University Press of Kansas.

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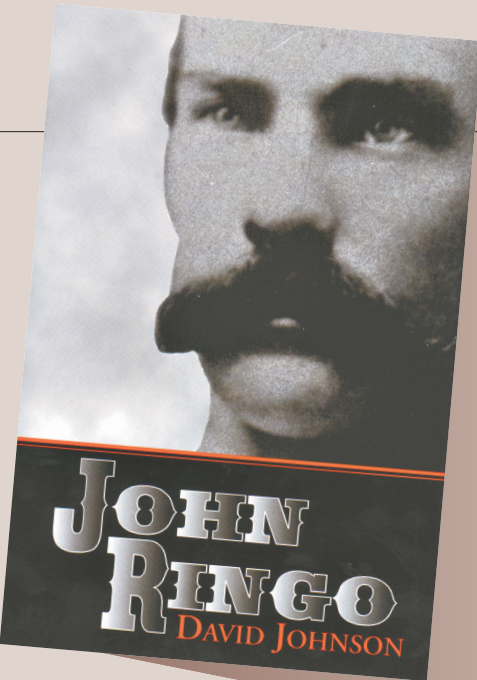


BAD MEN: OUTLAWS & GUNFIGHTERS OF THE WILD WEST

By Bob Boze Bell

Celebrated artist and author Bob Boze Bell jumps back into the ring with this compilation of over 250 of the West's most notorious bad men. Includes over 100 original illustrations by the author, plus over 200 photos, many published here for the first time. 128 pages. Photos, maps, illustrations, original paintings. TriStar-Boze.

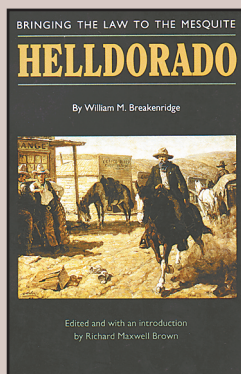
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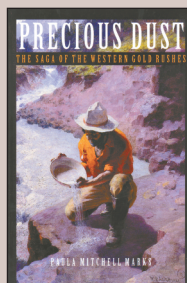


HELLDORADO

By William M. Breakenridge

In his memoirs, originally published in 1928, Billy Breakenridge relates tales from his life on the frontier, including adventures in Tombstone with the Earps, Ringo, Leslie, and the rest. His stories, although heavily scrutinized and controversial, offer an intriguing glimpse at the Old West. 448p. Bison Books.

Amazon.com \$15.26
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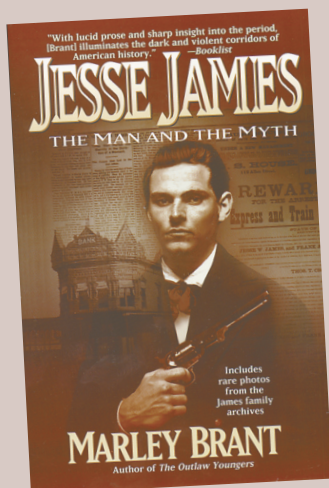


PRECIOUS DUST

By Paula M. Marks

The author of *And Die in the West* examines the mad rush by goldseekers to outposts along the West Coast, the Black Hills, and points in between. A careful examination of "gold fever" in early America. 448p. Bison Books.

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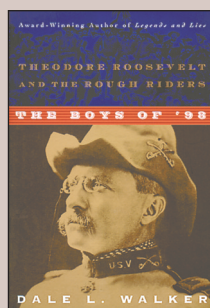


JESSE JAMES THE MAN AND THE MYTH

By Marley Brant

Chasing the legend and burning it down like a midnight ride to Lawrence, Brant explodes the myths around the most famous of Civil War-era outlaws. Written in a decidedly conversational style, this volume makes for an enjoyable and easy read. 312p. Berkley Books.

Amazon.com \$12.00
Barbed Wire Price \$9.95

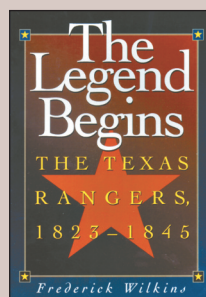


THE BOYS OF '98

By Dale Walker

Formed from a rag-tag band of Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona toughs and Eastern athletes, Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders made history and headlines battling through Cuba. Interviews with the last three Rough Riders make this volume a special buy, and a must-have for the Rough Rider buff. 304p. Forge.

Amazon.com \$11.96
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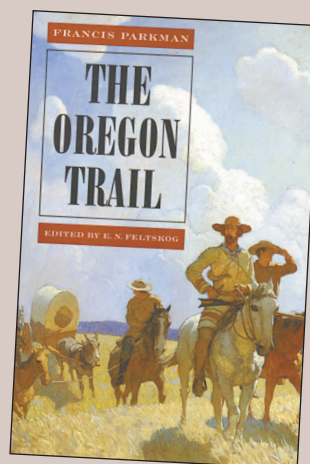


THE LEGEND BEGINS: TEXAS RANGERS 1825-1845

By Frederick Wilkins

The first volume in a four-part series examining the development of the Texas Rangers. This tome examines the genesis of the Rangers in colonial Texas. Includes information on the plankowners, Hays, Walker, Wallace, et al. 240p. State House Press.

List Price \$22.95
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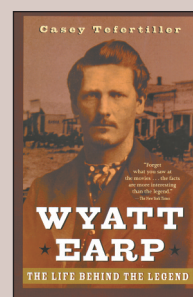


THE OREGON TRAIL

By Francis Parkman

Francis Parkman set out at the tender age of 23 to follow the progress of French and English in the West, and learn more of the inhabitants of the Plains. With supplies and guides, Parkman set out from Missouri in 1846 and gathered the information that makes up this treasured tale. Expertly edited by E.N. Felstog. 758p. Bison Books.

Amazon.com \$20.00
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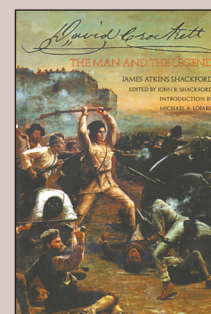


WYATT EARP: THE LIFE BEHIND THE LEGEND

By Casey Tefertiller

The first major biography of Earp to appear after the frenzy of *Tombstone*, Tefertiller's work closes the door on many legends, and opens the door to many new tales from the life of the West's most celebrated lawman. 403p. Wiley & Sons.

Amazon.com \$15.16
Barbed Wire Price \$13.00



DAVID CROCKETT THE MAN AND THE LEGEND

By James A. Shackford

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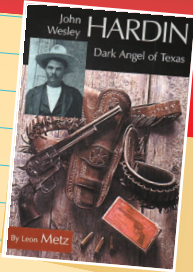
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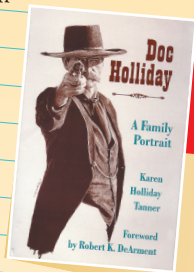


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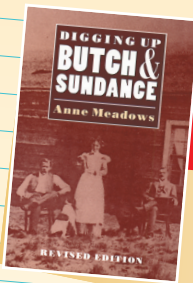
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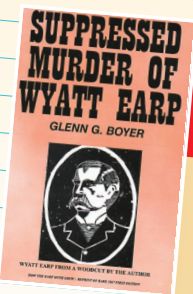
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While a prisoner at the castle of Perote, Walker was put to work raising a flagpole. At the bottom of the hole, Walker placed a Yankee dime, vowing to someday come back and retrieve it, at the same time exacting revenge on his Mexican captors. In the summer of 1847, when Walker's mounted riflemen returned and routed Santa Anna's guerillas, the young captain kept his promise and got his dime back.

SAMUEL WALKER

VALIANT WARRIOR

BY ALLEN G. HATLEY

IN SEPTEMBER 1842, after first stepping foot in Galveston, Texas, twenty-five-year-old Samuel Walker joined Jesse Billingsley's Company of Mounted Volunteers. A hastily-recruited Bastrop County militia command, Billingsley's Volunteers went to the defense of San Antonio, under attack by a force of some 1,000 Mexican troops under the command of General Adrian Woll.

J

esse Billingsley had previously commanded Company B of Colonel Edward Burleson's regiment, and was wounded at the celebrated Battle of San

Jacinto. But Billingsley's Volunteers was not the only Texas militia group racing toward San Antonio. On September 18, some 200 volunteers and a small band of Texas Rangers engaged elements of Woll's army at the Battle of Saldado Creek.

Although Samuel Walker missed the fight, the Texas forces celebrated a small victory. That, along with the approach of more Texas militia, forced General Woll to retreat from San Antonio, across the Rio Grande.

Two months later, in November 1842, Brigadier General Alexander Somervell, operating under broad discretionary powers from Governor Sam Houston, organized his First Brigade of Texas Militia to undertake a punitive expedition against Mexican commands in South Texas. Muster rolls indicate S.H. Walker was the first of seventy-seven privates who enlisted in Captain Ewen Cameron's Company A. The force would eventually consist of some 750 officers and men. On November 13, Somervell sent the first elements of the Texas army out of San Antonio to the Medina River, where they camped for two weeks until reinforcements arrived.

★ **THE MIER EXPEDITION**

As the Somervell Expedition moved across South Texas, the group captured Laredo and moved past Guerrero, then downriver toward the town of Mier. During the march, Somervell experienced many problems, the most serious involved a general lack of discipline among the troops. Many soldiers refused to follow orders, as a result, the safety of the army was in

question. When reports of larger concentrations of the Mexican army were approaching from the south, Somervell elected to take the Texas army back to San Antonio.

Many of the officers agreed that an invasion of Mexico was ill advised and marched back to San Antonio as ordered. But almost 300 men, including Private Sam Walker, elected to invade Mexico



Courtesy John N. McWilliams Collection, Stockton, California.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL HAMILTON WALKER, TEXAS MOUNTED RIFLES

Born: February 24, 1817, Prince Georges County, Maryland. Fifth of seven children

Parents: Nathan and Elizabeth Walker.

Former Occupation: Carpenter, railroad worker.

Military Record: Washington City Volunteers (1817-1836). Organized for engagement in the Seminole and Creek Indian Wars in Florida and Alabama.

Arrival in Texas: January 1842.

under the command of Colonel William S. Fisher. The invasion would take place at Mier.

A few days later, Walker and Patrick H. Lusk were captured while on patrol. During the Battle of Mier, which finally took place on December 25, 1842, ten of the 261 Texans who crossed the river were killed. The remainder were captured and began a torturous ordeal at the hands of the Mexicans. Within a few days, Mexican authorities denied them status as prisoners of war. As a result, the Texans were forced to march to a prison near Mexico City in chains. Brutal treatment by the guards, poor rations, and a lack of medical treatment was only the beginning of their nightmare.

During the almost two years of captivity, over a hundred of the Texans attempted escape. Only twenty-six were successful, including Samuel Walker. Eighty-two of the prisoners were killed during captivity. Those caught escaping were taught powerful lessons. At one point, a group of Texans at Hacienda Salado were forced to pick from a jar of beans. A white bean meant survival; those who drew a black bean met their death before a firing squad. Seventeen black beans were dealt. Seventeen Rangers fell.

The remaining 136 Texans were finally released on September 16, 1844, and ordered to walk back to Texas.

Samuel Walker spent seven months in captivity, avoided the firing squad when he drew a white bean, and escaped on July 30, 1843. Walker and his two companions finally reached

Tampico two weeks later. Walker arrived in New Orleans in

September 1843, and booked passage to Galveston. He was back on Texas soil by year's end.

★ **THE PRIVATE AND THE PATERSON**

After the defeat at Mier and other failed military ventures, substantial funding for

Texas troops was curtailed. As a result, the defense of Texas against Indians and

Armed with the five-shot Colt Paterson revolvers, only fifteen Rangers engaged an estimated sixty to seventy Comanche warriors. One Ranger was killed.

Mexicans fell largely to the various militias and to small groups of Texas Rangers. About the time Sam Walker was arriving in New Orleans, even the Rangers had been reduced to a single company commanded by Captain John Coffee Hays. The command consisted of only twenty-five men.

Before Walker could return to Texas, Hays' company was disbanded for lack of funds.

On January 23, 1844, the Republic's Eighth Congress passed an appropriations bill creating a new Ranger command. Captain John Hays was to lead the group, initially ordered to patrol the "Western and South-Western Frontier." The force would consist of some forty enlisted men. Funding prevented enlistment of more than two to four months.

During his visit to the capitol at Washington-on-the-Brazos, John Hays experienced what some call "Texas Luck." Hays was informed about some unused revolvers, originally purchased for the Texas navy. A few had been issued, but the rest were packed in a government warehouse. These revolvers were among the first Paterson Colts, a five-shot, .36 caliber weapon made by Sam Colt in New Jersey.

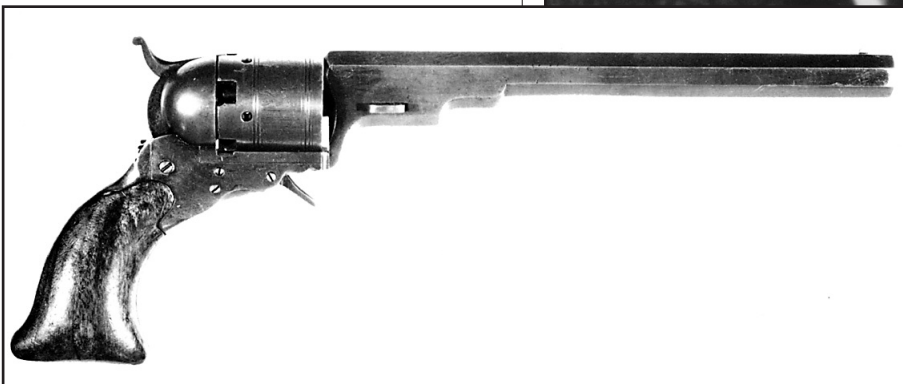
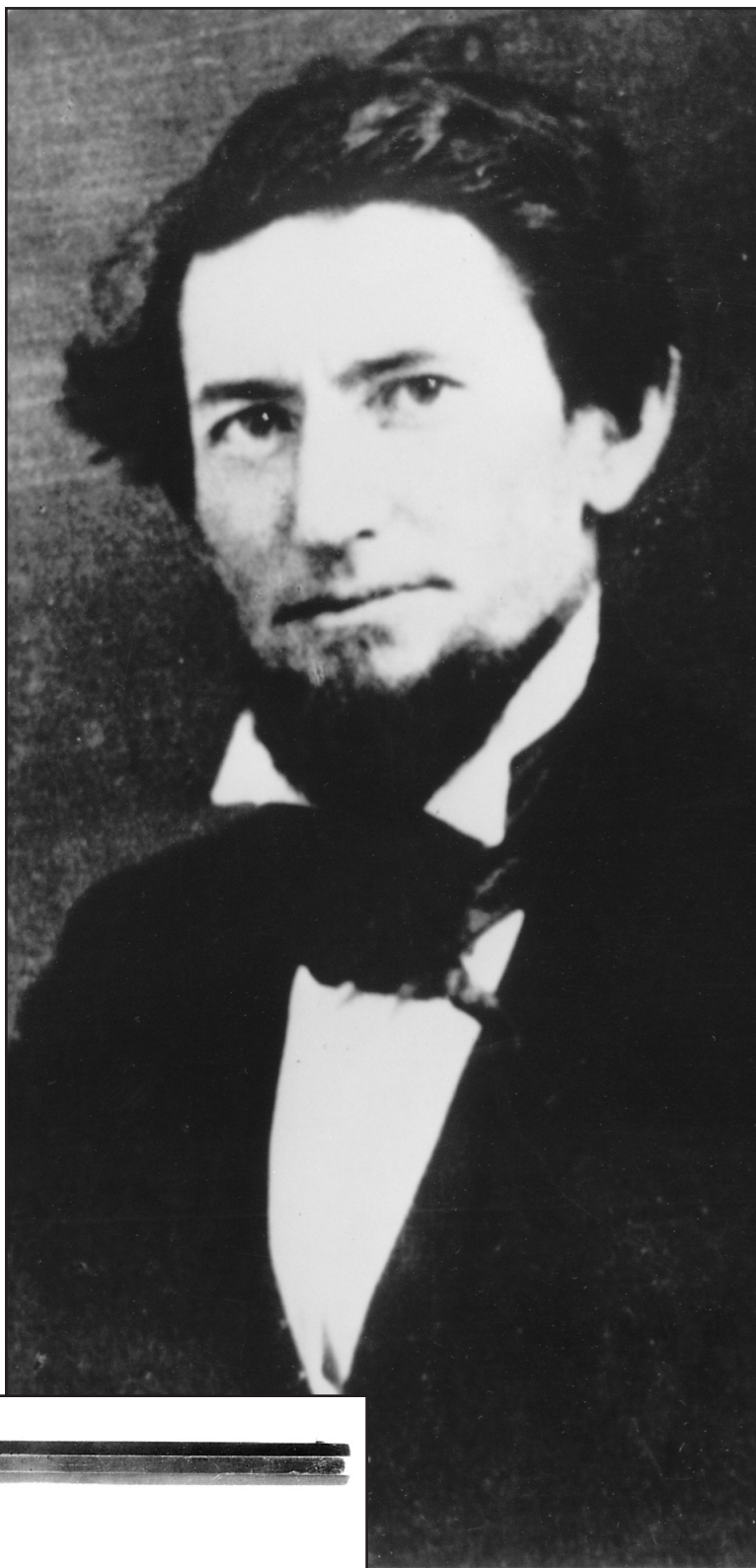


Colt's new revolvers were unwanted by everyone but the Texas navy, who got a great bargain when they purchased over 100 of the guns in 1839. After some use, even the Texas navy was reluctant to issue such a delicate weapon. The Paterson lacked a trigger guard; the trigger dropped from the frame when the weapon was cocked, making it hazardous to carry and fire effectively. Captain Hays had a better opinion of the gun. When he returned to organize his Texas Rangers in 1844, he brought the Colt Patersons with him.

Lieutenant Ben McCulloch had already begun enlisting Rangers when Hays arrived with the weapons. Private Sam Walker, anxious to exact revenge on Mexico, joined the Texas Rangers in February 1844.

As long as the state provided the funds, a Ranger company could be raised to serve and patrol the frontier. In early June 1844, Captain Hays led a fifteen man patrol, which included Sam Walker, north of San Antonio to confirm stories of raiding Indians in the area. The patrol found signs of Indians, but none were encountered until the Rangers turned south. Somewhere between the Pedernales and Guadalupe rivers the Rangers detected a large group of Comanche warriors moving in their direction.

Near one of the numerous spring-fed creeks in the area, called Walker's Creek, the Comanches attempted to bait the Rangers. Hays, whose men were now armed with the five-shot Colt revolvers, decided to find out just what the pistol was capable of in actual combat. With only fifteen men, Hays led an attack against an estimated sixty to seventy Comanches. Hays later wrote that, "The fight, which was a moving one, continued to the distance of about thirteen miles—being desperately contested by both parties." One Ranger was killed during the fight, and four wounded, with Comanche casualties



John Coffee Hays (above) acquired a batch of Colt Paterson revolvers (left) for use in the south-west division. The weapon proved deadly in the hands of the Rangers against Comanches and Mexican bandits. *Panhandle Plains Historical Museum.*

Paterson photo from the True West Archives.

estimated at fifty killed or wounded, including Chief Yellow Wolf.

Hays, in his official reports, credited the “five-shot repeating pistols” with the victory. “Had it not been for them, I doubt what the consequences would have been. I cannot recommend these arms too highly.” During the fight, Sam

Walker and R.A. Gillespie were separated from their command, and both suffered wounds from

an Indian lance. According to Hays’ report, both Rangers were “wounded badly.” Returning to San Antonio, Walker was left in the care of a Mrs. W.H. Jacques, who nursed him back into fighting shape.

★ THE TEXAS MOUNTED RANGERS

By the end of 1844, the Rangers were again short of funding. In February 1845, new appropriations were voted through and the ranger command expanded to include smaller companies raised in Travis, Bexar, Milam, Roberts, Goliad, and Refugio counties. Captain Hays resigned on August 12 and was succeeded by R.A. Gillespie. Captain Gillespie and his forty-three man company, including Private Sam Walker, were discharged on September 28, 1845, some three months after Texas became a state.

A few days before discharge, Gillespie began forming a company of mounted volunteers, named the Texas Mounted Rangers. The group was made up of San Antonio volunteers, mustered into federal service on September 28. Sam Walker, now twenty-eight, eagerly joined, again as a private.

As the end of Samuel Walker’s term of enlistment in the Texas Mounted Rangers approached, he finally closed the book on being a private soldier. Walker arranged a meeting with General Zachary Taylor, who was quartered at Corpus Christi. Walker, hungry for action, offered his services to the United States Army, which was preparing to go to war with Mexico.

Samuel Walker’s chances of joining Taylor’s army were good. He had served in Florida and Alabama; he had known Lieutenant George Meade, now under

Taylor’s command; and most importantly, he knew the approaching battlegrounds well from his service and escape during the Mier Expedition.

Sam Walker was accepted on April 21, 1846, and was authorized to raise the first company of scouts for Zachary Taylor’s army.

With a total complement of ninety-three officers and men, many of whom were veterans of the Mier and

Somervell expeditions, Captain Samuel Walker’s unit was christened the Texas Mounted Rangers. Utilizing former Texas Rangers and veterans of the Mier Expedition, it was not a unit that Mexican soldiers would want to meet in battle.

During the first months of hostilities in the Mexican War, Samuel Walker became a national hero and a living legend. After his reported death and a daring mission to Fort Brown behind enemy lines in 1846, the city of New Orleans presented Walker with a “magnificent horse” named Tornado.

After American victories at Palo Alto and Resaca de Palma in early May 1846, the Mexican army retreated across the Rio Grande. The Mexicans were handed more defeat on the west coast and in New Mexico. Although the U.S. expected the Mexican army to beg for mercy, the war continued. As a result, the Army broadened efforts to invade Mexico. While troops were moved into South Texas, three mounted scout regiments were raised. Colonel John Hays, George T. Wood, and William C. Young commanded the units. Many of Walker’s former scouts were absorbed into service.

On June 24, Samuel Walker was elected a brevet lieutenant colonel by the troops of the First Regiment, Texas Mounted Riflemen, and was second in command to John Hays. He joined the group when his own term of enlistment ended on July 16. Six days later, Walker was elected lieutenant colonel in the Texas volunteer command; he also accepted a regular army appointment as a captain in the First U.S. Mounted Rifles. His appointment was delayed until the First Regiment, Texas Mounted Riflemen was mustered out of federal service on October 2, 1846.

★ THE BIG GUN

After Walker’s enlistment expired, he visited the northeastern states to personally recruit men for Company C, U.S. Mounted Rifles.

Because of Walker’s notoriety, Samuel Colt wrote to him while the former Ranger was in New York. The two men met in late November 1846.

Walker was interested in acquiring weapons for his new command, while Colt, whose company had failed, wanted to convince the Army to buy his guns.

Walker and Colt entered into an agreement in January 1847, which satisfied both their desires. Walker suggested valuable alterations to the original revolvers, which he came to know well as a Ranger. Within a month, Samuel Walker had been given authority by the government to purchase 220 of the new revolvers and proceeded to Newport Barracks to recruit and train his new command. In April 1847, Walker and Company C of the Mounted Rifles shipped out for Vera Cruz, Mexico, without receiving their 1847 Army Pistols, better known as the “Walker Colts.” Finally, on June 26, the Army took delivery of the guns, which were shipped to Vera Cruz to await

Walker’s unit was christened the Texas Mounted Rangers. Utilizing former Texas Rangers, it was not a unit that Mexican soldiers would want to meet in battle.

Walker's men.

The gun was a masterpiece of destruction. Each weapon held six shots, and came with a custom tool and reloading kit. Fitting Walker's specifications, and lessons learned in the Rangers, the gun was large enough and strong enough to withstand close-quarters combat. The weight alone enabled the user to pummel their opponent to death when the chambers were spent. Unfortunately, the Walker Colts didn't reach the Mounted Rifles in time.

★ THE END OF THE MYTH

Captain Samuel Walker was now fighting in the army of Winfield Scott, in a much more savage and destructive war than Zachary Taylor's South Texas campaign. General Scott was fighting his way uphill from Vera Cruz, toward Mexico City. It was a tough, bloody war.

Captain Walker's command, consisting of some 250 men, took the chore of keeping the supply roads open and forcing Santa Anna's guerrillas to run for their lives. They were successful on both fronts, striking fear with hit-and-run tactics and declaring to "take no prisoners."

On October 9, 1847, Company C still had not received their Walker Colts, but Sam Walker received a pair of presentation pistols from Sam Colt himself. Four days later, during action against guerrillas in Huamantla, Mexico, Captain Walker was shot and killed in action. Some accounts claimed he was lanced to death, but nevertheless, a valiant warrior and a legend among the Texas Rangers had fallen. Sam Walker's body was brought back to the United States and buried in San Antonio.

Samuel Walker spent his entire adult life pursuing one war after another. He went to war voluntarily in Alabama, Florida, and several times in Texas and Mexico. He finished his life on the battlefield, attacking Mexican troops directly commanded by Texas' greatest enemy, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. It is doubtful Sam Walker would have wanted it any other way.

Allen G. Hatley, a retired Texas lawman, is the author of *Texas Constables*. This is his second article for *True West*.

The Colt Walker was a masterpiece of destruction. Built on Walker's specifications, the gun's weight allowed the user to bash his opponent during hand-to-hand combat
True West Archives.



Texas Ranger

F A C T & F A N C Y

rang·er\`ran-jer\ **a:** one that ranges **b:** one of a body of organized armed men who range over a region esp. to enforce the law **c:** a soldier specially trained in close-range fighting and in raiding.

The concept is uniquely American. The imagery has captured the attention and infatuation of the world.

Forged on the battlegrounds of the French and Indian Wars, the concept of rangers developed from the hit-and-run, "fight like an Indian" warfare perfected by Robert Rogers' Rangers and similar colonial militias. From the Revolution to the expansion of the frontier west of Kentucky, the ranger ideology sprang up wherever lives and property demanded defense.

But it was in colonial Texas where the modern vision, the image most associated with the word "Ranger," found its birthplace. The earliest documentary evidence suggests the genesis of the Texas Rangers was a mere handful of young men, brought together in 1823, with Mexico's blessing, to protect Texians from Indian attack. From that moment on, any individual or ragtag group that loaded a musket in defense of Texas gained Ranger status. There were Minute Men, Frontier Battalions, and county militias, all riding into legend as "Rangers." It wasn't until years later, long after the fires had burned out at the Alamo and San Jacinto, that Texas officially sanctioned and mustered in the plankowners of the legendary Texas Rangers. The pay was low, the risk was high, and work was inherently dangerous. Into these ranks swaggered aggressive young men like Ben McCulloch, Sam Walker, William Wallace, and Jack Hays.

Used as "shock troops" in the Mexican and Indian wars, the Texas

Rangers took unconventional warfare to a new level and struck fear, a fear that still exists today, into their foes. Amazingly, considering the general lack of contemporary evidence, stories that developed from

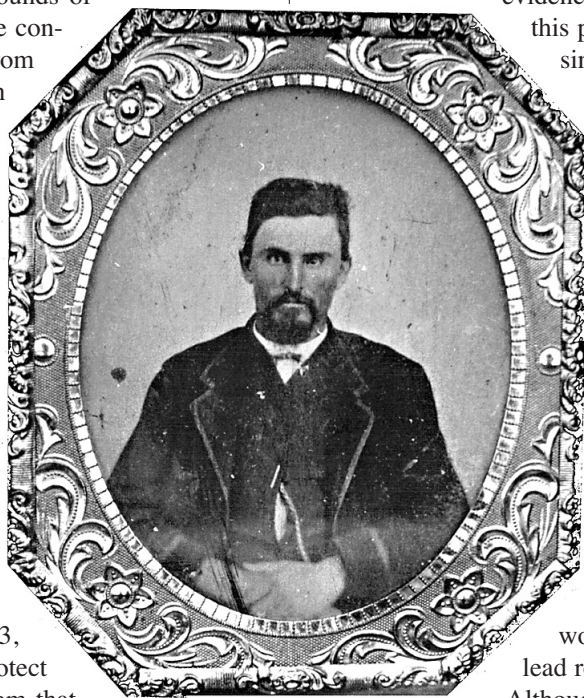
this period are more revered than any since, in the entire history of the Texas Rangers. To this day, the image of the lone, heavily armed and ready ranger stands tall in the imagination.

From true-to-life Texas Rangers such as Charles Goodnight (left) and Frank Hamer to media inventions like *The Lone Ranger* and *Walker, Texas Ranger*, the iconic defender has transcended both time and space. Even Buck Rogers was based on a basic rangers concept. Another movie, entitled simply *Texas Rangers*, will debut this spring, aimed at the teens of the world with fresh-faced actors in the lead roles. And the legend continues.

Although every Ranger representation sports one, from Roy Rogers to comic book

heroes, even the most common symbol of the Texas Rangers is relatively new. The Ranger badge, a simple, encircled five-pointed star, was not first officially used until 1935, although early, custom-made variations began appearing in the late 1880s. (This is but one of many misrepresentations that we hope to clear up in the next few pages.)

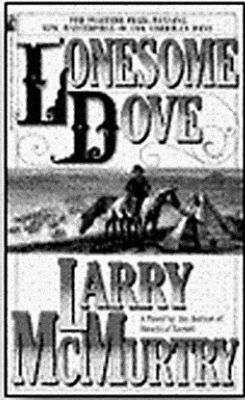
To this day, the Texas Rangers still evoke awe. Due in part to glorified past adventures and warped interpretations as "killer elite," the myth has outgrown the actual duties of the Texas Rangers, still very much in demand as an investigative service. With under a hundred modern Rangers currently on active duty, it is amazing that so few can still shoulder the legend that has become synonymous with the word "Ranger."



Courtesy R.G. McCubbin Collection

THE LONE RANGER





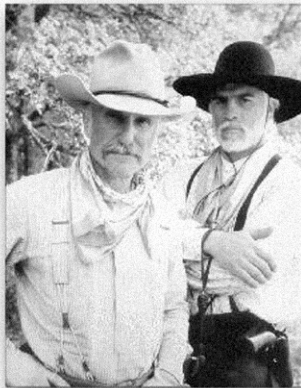
Author Larry McMurtry first introduced the world to former (fictional) Texas Rangers Augustus McRae and Woodrow Call with his 1985 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Lonesome Dove*. The landmark work was followed by a sequel, *Streets of Laredo* (1995), and two prequels, *Dead Man's Walk* (1996) and *Comanche Moon* (1998). The first three novels were immediately followed by epic television miniseries, the most popular the

Emmy Award-winning *Lonesome Dove* (1989) starring Robert Duvall (McRae) and Tommy Lee Jones (Call).

Loosely based on the story of Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving, McMurtry borrowed heavily from history to make his lead characters come alive. Unfortunately, McMurtry's inspired blend of fact and fiction has confused many and further blurred the folklore of Loving, Goodnight, the Texas Rangers, and many notable historical figures.

• In *Lonesome Dove*, Augustus McRae (Oliver Loving) and Woodrow Call (Charles Goodnight) are depicted as former Texas Ranger captains, having served against "Mexican bandits and Comanches" alike. In reality, only Charles Goodnight served as a "Texas Minute Man," gaining the most notoriety when he rescued Cynthia Parker from Comanches in December 1860.

• In *Lonesome Dove*, McRae and Call lead the first cattle drive from Texas to Montana in 1876. Goodnight and Loving drove their herd from Texas to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in 1866, establishing the "Goodnight-Loving Trail."

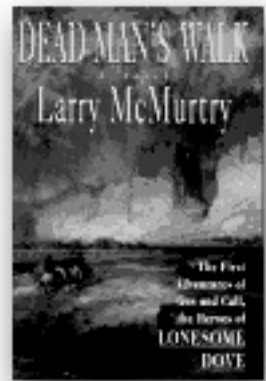


• In *Lonesome Dove*, Woodrow and Call engage notorious Comanchero "Blue Duck" while enroute to Montana. During a final confrontation with Call, Blue Duck jumps from a courthouse window to escape hanging, and dies in the process. The real Blue Duck, a Cherokee outlaw from

Oklahoma, served a short term for murder and died of tuberculosis upon his release in 1895. He never tangled with Goodnight, Loving, or the Texas Rangers. The courthouse confrontation is based, in part, on the story of Texas Ranger John Hughes and convicted killers Geronimo Parra and Juan Flores. In 1899, both men were tracked and captured by Ranger Hughes, and Texas lawmen, then initiated a violent standoff in the jail hallway, wounding several guards before being dragged to the gallows.

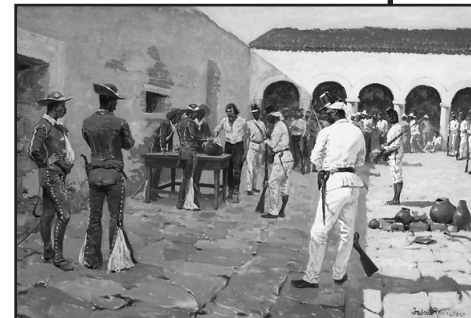


• At the conclusion of *Lonesome Dove*, Call escorts McRae's body back to Texas for burial. After being attacked by Comanches on a second cattle drive in 1867, Oliver Loving walked to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, where he lost his arm to gangrene. Less than a month later Loving died, and per his wishes, Goodnight hauled his body 600 miles back to Weatherford, Texas, for burial.



• *Dead Man's Walk*, the prequel to *Lonesome Dove*, relates the first meeting of Woodrow and Call, and their enlistment in the Texas Rangers as young men. The story then focuses on their adventures during the Mier Expedition of 1842. True to history, the Rangers are captured and forced to walk to Perote, where the infamous "Black Bean" affair takes place. Among those executed are "Big Foot" Wallace. In reality, Charles Goodnight was only six years old at the time

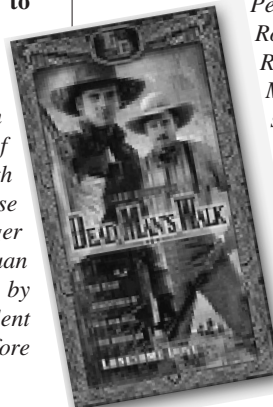
of the Mier Expedition. The early characters of Woodrow and Call seem to be based on frontier-period Rangers such as Samuel Walker and Robert Gillespie. During the actual Black Bean Affair, seventeen Rangers were executed; William "Big Foot" Wallace was not among them. (The legendary Ranger lived to old age and died in 1899.) During the teleplay based on the book, the Ranger's Mexican captors are depicted armed with Walker Colt revolvers, a weapon that wasn't even invented until 1847!



"The Mier Expedition: The Drawing of the Black Bean," by Frederic Remington. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; Hogg Brothers Collection.

• In *Streets of Laredo*, an older Woodrow Call hunts down a renegade Mexican

outlaw, responsible for killing Judge Roy Bean. Perhaps the most confusing twist of all, Judge Roy Bean actually died of old age in 1903, in Del Rio, Texas. Charles Goodnight never chased Mexican bad guys in his golden years. There seems to be no basis for this tale.



Despite the confusion, the *Lonesome Dove* saga effectively thrust the historic Rangers back into the spotlight. The Texas Ranger Museum in Waco, Texas, still receives inquires on the history of McRae and Call, and according to Archivist Christina Stopka, the phone starts ringing off the hook when the miniseries is rerun.

Perhaps no one has done more for the Texas Ranger mystique in most recent years than karate-chopping **Chuck Norris**. Portraying Rangers in films like *Lone Wolf McQuade*, *Invasion U.S.A.*, and the popular syndicated television program *Walker, Texas Ranger*, Norris created a modern Ranger stereotype that surpasses even 1950s icon, The Lone Ranger. "We probably get more calls about the *Walker* character than any other...people actually want to argue with us when we tell them he's not real," says Christina Stopka, archivist for the Texas Ranger Museum.



- ***Walker, Texas Ranger* depicts an ultra-cool, Ford Bronco-driving, jeans-wearing, bad-guy kicking, Ranger relative of the legendary Samuel Walker that works out of the "Dallas office."** Television-duped fans are disappointed to learn that real Texas Rangers don't drive SUVs, aren't allowed to wear beards, would never get away with kicking suspects, would most likely wear a suit if stationed at the Dallas headquarters, and that Samuel Walker's bloodline ended when he died in 1847.

- One of the most confusing *Walker* episodes featured the lead character researching the diary of mythical Ranger Hays Cooper (portrayed in flashback by Chuck Norris), found in the Texas Ranger Museum archives. Museum employees repeatedly turn down requests to see the Cooper diary, explaining that no such Ranger ever existed. The fictitious historical character bears little resemblance to any Texan, alive or dead, although the name seems to be borrowed from legendary Ranger Jack "Coffee" Hays.



Speaking of **Coffee Hays**, probably the story that stands tallest in the annals of Ranger lore is Hays' 1841 or 1842 single-handed standoff of an overwhelming force of Comanches at Enchanted Rock, in the Texas hill country.

- According to the story, Hays came under attack and sought refuge in a slight depression at the top of Enchanted Rock, holding off his Comanche foes with a pair of Paterson Colts. After a few hours of picking off Indians brave enough to attempt climbing the granite stronghold, Hays was reportedly rescued by Ranger reinforcements. The story grew to epic proportions, and strengthened the idea that one Ranger could handle any obstacle. Recent research suggests that the whole Enchanted Rock affair is nothing more than a whimsical tale that duped at least one writer and once committed to paper, became "fact." The story first appeared in Samuel Reid's 1847 book *Scouting Expeditions*. Unfortunately, Hays' movements for 1841-42 are fairly well documented, and there is no corresponding mention of his being alone in the vicinity of Enchanted Rock. Reid also had little knowledge of Enchanted Rock, which is perfectly smooth, offering no place to conceal a man at the top. To add insult to injury, it appears Hays first became acquainted with the Paterson revolver in 1844.

The strangest case to ever merit Texas Ranger investigation was a string of ritualistic killings in Texarkana, Texas. During the spring of 1946, a lone killer, dubbed the "Phantom," preyed on teenagers parked along Texarkana's lonely lovers lanes. After the murder of half a dozen young couples over a period of three months, **Texas Ranger Captain Manuel "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas** was called to Texarkana from Dallas to lead the investigation. Traps were set and all local law enforcement was put on alert. This single, solitary case probably did more for modern crime detection, Ranger lore, and modern horror stories than any other. The case was one of the first to use the polygraph machine as an interrogation device, and to use the term "serial killer" in reference to a single murder suspect.



- In the 1977 film *The Town That Dreaded Sundown*, actor **Ben Johnson** portrays Texas Ranger J.D. Morales, obviously based on Gonzauillas. In the end of the film, Ranger Morales, of course, catches the Phantom Killer. Perhaps stranger, and scarier than the film's ending, the murders remain unsolved to this day. After following thousands of leads and interviewing hundreds of suspects, the case was at a standstill when Captain Gonzauillas retired in 1951. The Texas Ranger case files, now made public, identify many suspects, including one that died in an old folks home in the mid-1990s. When the man was confronted by police for auto theft in July 1946, he replied "Hell, I know what you want me for...you want me for more than stealing cars." In the end, no hard evidence could link any one person to the killings, although many strange coincidences, and some muddled confessions, emerged during the investigation.

- The popular *Nightmare on Elm Street* film series deals with **Freddy Krueger**, an ex-high school janitor that returns from Hell and murders students in their sleep. As far-reaching as the Krueger story is, it actually has some basis in fact. After the Phantom killings in Texarkana, bloodied clothing was found stuffed in an attic crawlspace in the Old Spring Lake Park School in Texarkana. Although the trail of the killer was cold by this time, a former school employee was a suspect in the investigation.

- Many of America's most popular urban legends deal with an escaped psychotic, a deserted road, or a stranded couple on **Lovers Lane**. All of these folktales originated with the Phantom Killings. In the first attack, the victims actually survived, although both were beaten severely. The suspect came to the door of the couple's car, dressed like a local policeman. This story has since evolved into the campfire tales of the "Hook Killer" or the story of the "Dead Boyfriend." Over fifty years later, the Phantom Killer's legacy still scares teenagers around the world.



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SUMMER OF SORROW

A Kiowa Tragedy

By Ron Jackson

Behind them towered the majestic, western ridge of the Wichita Mountains—a granite monument of sorts for pioneers who ventured across Oklahoma’s western plains. For Hunting Horse and his Kiowa brethren, the Wichita Mountains also held a special meaning. The ground was sacred to the Kiowa, christened over 100 years earlier with the blood of their ancestors. Nearby, on this warm afternoon in the late 1940s, stood a teenage Jack Haley, whose family owned the ridge from which the small group stood. He too waited intently.





Hunting Horse panned the canyon below with eyes that had seen over 100 years of life and with a heart heavy from the knowledge he carried within. He had visited the canyon many times before with his mother, and on this day, he would eloquently retell her story. It was a saga of survival and sorrow from the summer of 1833—a time recorded on Kiowa calendars as Imk odalta-de Pai: “Summer that they cut off their heads.”

Finally, above the howl of the wind, the old man’s voice could be heard.

*Hunting Horse once scouted for George Armstrong Custer and later related the 1883 massacre of his Kiowa tribe to the Haley family. Hunting Horse’s mother survived the attack by the Osage. *Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma.**



A traditional Kiowa village near Fort Sill, Oklahoma, circa 1896—thirty-six years after the “Summer that they cut off their heads.” Emotions still run high when the Kiowa people speak of the massacre. *Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma.*

Word arrived of an encounter with an Osage war party on the plains near present-day Caddo County, Oklahoma. A violent struggle ensued. One Osage was wounded; one Kiowa laid dead. Others reported seeing an Osage arrow protruding from the carcass of a buffalo.

Neither account bode well for the Kiowa tribe, which had developed a terror of the Osage. Rooted in the fears of the Kiowa was the knowledge their northern enemy possessed a far deadlier weapon than any they owned—the flintlock rifle. Osage warriors had acquired rifles, as well as other goods such as long knives, from eastern traders and had become the scourge of southern tribes who crossed their path.

At the time of the discovery the Kiowa village laid sprawled where the Rainy Mountain Creek flowed into the rushing waters of the Washita River. Alarmed by the news, the tranquil encampment soon became distraught with the anticipation of an Osage attack. A large party of Kiowa warriors

who had planned to go north on a raiding expedition against the Utes postponed their departure. Men, women, and children dug into the dirt on the Washita River’s southern bank and threw up crude, earthen works for defense.

There they waited. And waited.

Scouts scoured the countryside for signs of an Osage war party. Each returned to camp with nothing new to report. Several days passed without incident. The Osage had seemingly vanished.

Calmed by the days of silence, the Kiowa warriors eventually left camp for their raiding party against the Utes. Mostly old men, women, and children were left behind to guard the village. Those who remained decided to disperse into several smaller bands—one going southeast to Eagle Heart Springs, near the headwaters of Cache Creek. This band, led by an elderly chief named A’ date (Island Man), soon moved westward through a pass in the Wichita Mountains and into a plush, green canyon speckled with

wildflowers and cedar trees. Sloping gently below a ridge at one end of the canyon was a spacious meadow, flanked by a modest rocky hill to the south, and the banks of Otter Creek to the north. A vast, open prairie lay to the west.

Here, nestled in the shadow of the Wichita Mountains, A’ date’s followers set up camp and waited for the return of their raiding party. Skinned tepees and campfires soon dotted the meadow, a place of enchantment for the Kiowa people. A large spring flowed from a granite ledge nearby, and mammoth elm and cottonwood trees shaded the curved creek banks. Wild blackberries and plum thickets were scattered throughout the area, which was teeming with an abundance of deer and other wildlife.

To the east, corralled by the natural contour of the mountain range, a herd of an estimated 400 Kiowa horses grazed amid the tall prairie grass in the canyon above the ridge. The tribe had hoped to breed its horses with the

Hearing the boy’s cry, Sematma rushed into her teepee to awake her husband, who emerged yelling, “Tso’batso! Tso’batso!”:
“To the rocks! To the rocks!” His plea was too late.

hardier stock of wild stallions that roamed the mountains.

Peace had again prevailed among the Kiowa. Soon, so would terror.

A group of frightened Kiowa girls returned to camp one evening with word they had seen a strange warrior at a nearby pond. Elders brushed off the story as the pranks of a few of the camp's ornery boys. Prior to sunrise the next day, one Kiowa boy arose early to check his ponies grazing in the canyon. As he reached the crest of the ridge he noticed the shaven head of an Osage warrior bobbing behind some boulders on the open canyon floor. The boy ran back to the camp to alert the sleeping villagers.

Sematma (Apache Woman), wife of chief A' date, was already awake, preparing to scrape a hide. Hearing the

Gone were two children—a brother and a sister who had been taken captive. Gone was the Kiowa's magnificent horse herd. And gone was the tribe's sacred Taimé, torn from the hands of the keeper's dying wife.

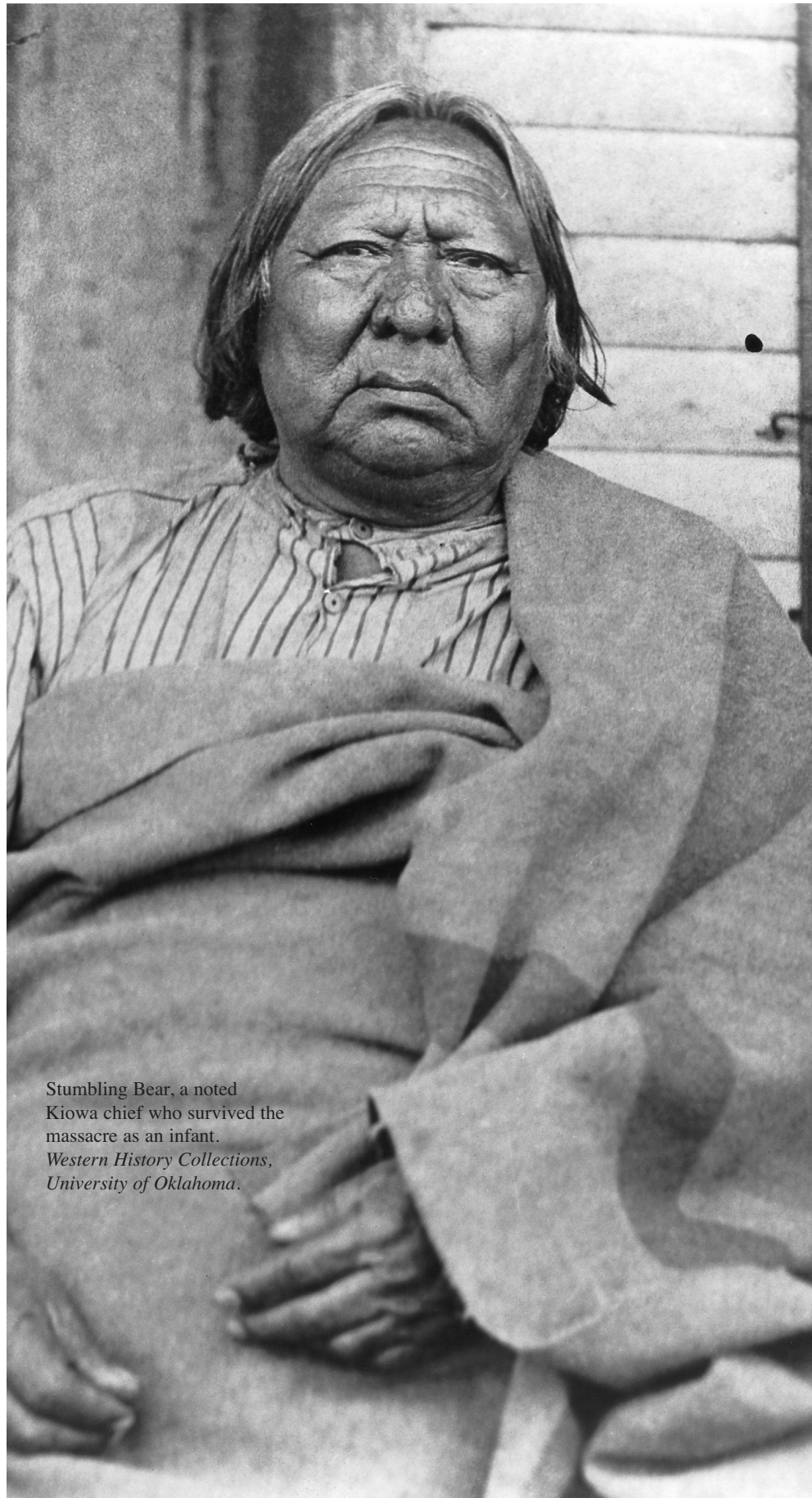
boy's cry, Sematma rushed into her teepee to awake her husband, who emerged yelling, "Tso'batso! Tso'batso!": "To the rocks! To the rocks!"

His plea was too late.

Osage warriors swarmed the village from all directions, charging on foot from behind trees, rocks, and thick brush. They pounced on the panic-stricken women and children, still drowsy from sleep, and killed at will.

One old warrior named An zah te was so terrified he ran away without his war shield, an inexcusable display of cowardice for a Kiowa warrior.

An-so te, keeper of the Kiowa's Taimé medicine, surrendered the sacred idols to the Osage in his desperate



Stumbling Bear, a noted Kiowa chief who survived the massacre as an infant. *Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma.*

flight to safety. His wife wasn't so fortunate. She was killed while trying to unfasten the Taime from a teepee pole.

Sematma was also captured, but later lived to tell of her escape. A' date escaped with a slight wound.

Those who scrambled to the small mountain were chased down and quickly butchered. Children were swung by the ankles and bashed against the rocks. Others were pulled from the rattlesnake-infested crevices of the craggy mountain before being slaughtered. Several Kiowa women were remembered for defending their children to the death.

Heroic deeds that day became legendary among the Kiowa.

One woman, carrying an infant girl on her back, fled while dragging an older girl in tow. When a pursuing Osage grabbed the older girl and drew a knife to her throat, the woman viciously beat away the attacker. All three survived as the older girl escaped with a slight gash.

A boy named Aya (*Sitting On A Tree*) was saved in a similar way by his father. Aya's father snatched his cradle in flight, stopping several times to shoot arrows at his pursuers, the buckskin thongs of his son's cradle clenched in his teeth.

A Pawnee warrior living in the camp fought off Osage attackers long enough to give a group of women time to make their escape. Some even saw one Kiowa boy place himself between the onrushing Osage and the fleeing women and children. The boy shot arrow after arrow. One Kiowa woman told her daughter to run while she turned and met the enemy with a tomahawk. She too miraculously escaped.

Survivors too young to remember the attack would be told in the years to come how fate spared them on that blackest of Kiowa days. Among those lucky ones would be a three-year-old boy named Set-Imkia (*Stumbling Bear*), who was carried to safety. He would grow to become a prestigious Kiowa statesman. (Set-Imkia was the Kiowa's principal chief at the time of his death in 1866.)



The Thunderer, captured by the Osage during their attack and later painted by George Catlin. The boy died the day after posing for the painting. *Gilcrease Museum.*

One old Kiowa man, whose name has been lost to history, escaped on foot to the north, across Otter Creek. He continued his frantic flight to the west for many miles in hopes of finding one of the other Kiowa camps, but stumbled instead upon a Cheyenne village. The Cheyenne people gathered around as the old man gave his account of the hellish attack. Cheyenne warriors immediately sprang upon their horses, wasting no time to saddle them, and raced toward the bloody scene of the Kiowa village. Osage warriors could be seen leaving the village as they arrived, and the Cheyennes rode out in pursuit. The chase ended when the Cheyenne horses gave out.

Shortly thereafter, the returning Kiowa raiders discovered the mangled and disfigured bodies of fellow tribal members laid strewn about the looted and torched village. Osage warriors had left one more ghastly reminder of their visit. Brass buckets obtained by the Kiowa from Pawnee traders were mockingly placed in a row amid the destroyed village and filled with the severed heads of their victims.

Individual accounts of gallantry and sorrow began to surface as the mourning survivors reunited with the Kiowa warriors, one by one. Stories of narrow escapes and savagery were told. Other details were related. Gone were two children—a brother and a

sister who had been taken captive. Gone was the Kiowa's magnificent horse herd. And gone was the tribe's sacred Taime, torn from the hands of the keeper's dying wife.

Without the Taime, the Kiowa people did not have the spiritual medicine to hold their annual Sun Dance. There was no Sun Dance in the summer of 1833. Only sorrow.

An estimated 150 of the Kiowa's 2,000 people died in the massacre, most of whom were women and children. Five Kiowa men were also counted among the dead. The Osage suffered no losses.

A mass grave was created from a deep depression in the ground near Otter Creek, where the dead were ceremoniously covered with rocks and dirt. Among the victims of the massacre was one Kiowa chief who had participated in a successful raid against American traders the previous winter. He was buried along with his share of the spoils from that raid, a batch of silver dollars.

A little girl said good-bye to her best friend by placing a lock of her hair next to his remains. The boy had died in the girl's arms, leaving her drenched in blood. Shortly afterward, the girl's mother was also killed by her side as the screams echoed around her teepee. Terrified, the girl pulled the lifeless bodies of her friend and mother over

her and played dead until the screams disappeared.

Chief A'date became another casualty of the massacre when he was removed in disgrace by a tribal council for his inability to protect his followers. In his place arose a young warrior named Dohasen.

Contact by the Kiowa for the first time with United States soldiers also came in the wake of the massacre. U.S. Dragoons stationed at Fort Gibson purchased the two Kiowa children taken captive from the Osage, and then arranged for their return the following summer. A group of Osage warriors were persuaded to accompany the Dragoons as a goodwill gesture.

George Catlin, the legendary 19th century western artist, painted the two children a few days before their scheduled departure from Fort Gibson. The boy, Tunk-aht-oh-ye (The Thunderer), died a day after posing for Catlin's painting, when he was struck in the abdomen and knocked against a fence by a ram at a fur trader's house. Catlin later wrote, "He was a beautiful boy of nine or ten years of age...."

Wun-pan-to-me (The White Weasel), the boy's sister, made the long journey home to her people in mourning.

Dohasen later successfully negotiated with the Osage for the return of the Taime, ending the two-year absence of the Sun Dance. Peace with the Osage had been made, but the atrocities at Otter Creek would never be forgotten. Of this, future generations of Kiowa people would make certain.



Jack Haley's family owned the land where the Kiowa massacre took place. Over the years, Kiowa elders such as Hunting Horse have visited the site to pray and relate stories about the tragic event. Haley is now the unofficial keeper of those lost stories. *Photo by Rita Giblet.*

Epilogue On a warm afternoon in 1999, elderly ranchman and retired archivist Jack Haley walked over a rugged terrain chalked with granite rocks and boulders until he could see the vibrant, green canyon below. He leaned on a long, dulled cedar cane, and recalled how he had journeyed to this very location some forty-five years earlier with the legendary Hunting Horse.

Over the years, countless tribal elders like Hunting Horse had journeyed to Haley's property to pay their respects to those who died there. On still, quiet evenings, Haley has heard the distant chants of Kiowa medicine men roll down from the mountain behind his home. He has even heard the tales of the haunting spirits who are believed to still wander the area at night.

Haley stirred his memory by panning the canyon below.

Finally, above the howl of the wind, the old man's voice could be heard.

Ron Jackson is the author of *Alamo Legacy*, and *Chiseled in Stone*. Ron made his *True West* debut in 1998, with "In the Shadow of the Alamo."

MATTIE SILKS: DENVER'S RED LIGHT QUEEN

By R. K. DeArment

Denver, Colorado, a wide open city in the years immediately preceding and following the turn of the twentieth century, boasted that its Holladay (later Market) Street contained the most famous red light district in the West, if not the country. During those years the acknowledged queen of the Denver demimonde was a woman known as Mattie Silks.

Her original name has never been determined, but she is believed to have been born in either Terre Haute or Gary, Indiana, about 1846. She later told friends that she was only thirteen when she ran away from home and at the tender age of nineteen was already the proprietress of a sporting house in Springfield, Illinois. Some believed she was backed financially by a wealthy Kansas City madam, who must have had a discerning eye for natural talent, as Mattie's later success clearly demonstrated that she possessed unusual business acumen. For a brief period she ran a freighting operation between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Colorado, but she soon returned to her first profession and followed it the rest of her life. Mattie always claimed she never was a prostitute and entered the ranks of brothel management without ever working as a "boarder" in such an establishment.

She ran a sporting house in



Mattie Silks as she appeared in later life, after years of catering to miners and Colorado roughs effectively made her the Queen of the Denver soiled doves. *True West Archives.*

Olathe, Kansas, and then, with four girls, a tent brothel, and a portable canvas bathtub, began working her way across Kansas by wagon, stopping at the cowtowns then in full bloom. She was at Abilene in 1871 when Wild Bill Hickok was there and claimed to have been instructed in marksmanship by the famous gunman. In later years she always carried a pearl-handled pistol secreted in a special pocket of her voluminous

skirts and boasted of her shooting ability, but on the one occasion when she is reported to have unlimbered the weapon and turned it loose her marksmanship was less than impressive.

From the Kansas trail towns Mattie and her girls went on to the booming Colorado mining camps.



Denver's Holladay Street, later changed to Market Street, was alive with brothels and small shops where popular vices of the day could be easily purchased. *True West Archives.*

At Georgetown she began a short-lived relationship with a man named Casey Silks. There may not have been a legal marriage, but Mattie always referred to Silks as her first husband. Smart businesswoman that she was, she recognized that for a professional madam the name "Mattie Silks" had a great ring to it, and she retained it the rest of her days, although she would marry two other men.

After dumping Casey Silks, she took up with a handsome footracer and gambler named Corteze D. "Cort" Thomson, who deserted a wife and child to become her consort. Thomson was an alcoholic, a drug addict, and an abuser of women, but Mattie proclaimed him her "solid man" and supported him and his vices for a quarter century.

In early 1877 the couple arrived in Denver, the city they would

make their permanent home. Mattie was arrested in March of that year and fined twelve dollars for public drunkenness. "Madame Silks...ought to play it finer when she gets on a spree," advised the *Rocky Mountain News*. There is little doubt that Mattie had a temper and, when in her cups, could become violent. In 1879 she attacked Emma Lewis with a parasol when Emma requested return of a twenty-five dollar loan. Emma brought suit, but only succeeded in getting a court order requiring Mattie to repay the loan, plus interest.

An altercation occurred on August 24, 1877, which has become part of the Mattie Silks legend in Denver. On the evening of that day the city's sporting crowd assembled at Olympic Gardens (later called Denver Park), a grove of cottonwoods just beyond the city limits. There, according to

Forbes Parkhill, Denver newspaperman and chronicler of the city's colorful underworld characters, Mattie Silks and Katie Fulton, a business rival, fought a duel over the affections of dashing Cort Thomson. Gambler Sam Thatcher seconded Katie and Thomson attended Mattie in a contest with pistols. Some witnesses later claimed the duelists prepared for the affair by stripping to the waist. Stepping off the required paces, the women opened fire. When the smoke cleared, neither Mattie nor Katie was injured, but Cort Thomson lay on the ground, with a gunshot wound in the neck. He recovered and no one was ever sure whose bullet felled him.

It's a great tale, related to Parkhill by some who said they were there, but contemporary newspaper accounts told a different story. The revelry at

Olympic Gardens, according to this version, began as a celebration of Cort Thomson's victory in a footrace earlier in the day and Mattie's winning of a \$2,000 wager placed on her champion. After much alcohol had been consumed, Mattie and Katie Fulton got

into a scuffle and Thomson stepped in and knocked Katie to the ground. When Sam Thatcher interceded, he too was dropped by a punch from Thomson. Katie got to her feet, only to be knocked down again and kicked in the face. Her nose was broken, either by a blow or the kick. Thomson

pulled a pistol, but dropped it in the excitement. The crowd quickly dispersed. Thomson was on his way back to town in a buggy when someone in another carriage fired a shot. The bullet struck him in the neck, inflicting a minor injury.

Whatever happened that night at Olympic Gardens, bitter animosity between Mattie Silks and Katie Fulton continued. A little more than a week later the two women had another fistic encounter. Mattie again knocked Katie down, wreaking additional damage to her nose. Katie Fulton evidently left Denver after the second painful set-to with her rival, her name disappears from the newspapers and police blotters of the city.

Mattie's first bagnio in Denver was a house at 501 Holladay Street for which she paid \$13,000 in July 1878. Mattie gave Nellie French, the former operator of the brothel, \$3,000 as a down payment, with the balance due within two years. In subsequent years she owned parlor houses at different addresses in Holladay and also a fine brick home for which she paid \$3,000.

Mattie Silks was short of stature and Anne Seagraves, author of *Soiled Doves Prostitution in the Early West*, has described her as "a vest-pocket edition of the famous Lillie Langtry, because of her clear, creamy complexion, impudent blue eyes and blonde curls piled high upon her head." Actually, with her round, smooth face, plump chin, and curls, she more nearly resembled another famous Denver woman, Baby



This Holladay Street brothel was typical of the structures, where working girls could lure customers from the front sitting room or porch. *True West Archives.*

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Doe Tabor. Mattie bought only the finest clothes and was attired in a different outfit every day. Her dresses were tailored with two concealed pockets, one for a handful of gold coins and the other for that fancy white-handled pistol. He hands sparkled with diamond rings and a gem-encrusted brooch gleamed at her throat. When another prominent Denver madam, Lizzie Preston died, Mattie attended the estate sale and paid \$900 for Lizzie's beautiful gold cross studded with eleven diamonds which then became her own trademark piece of jewelry.

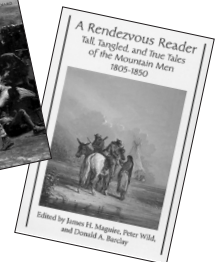
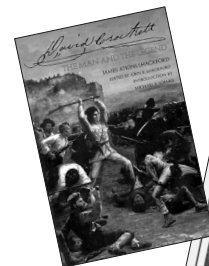
In July 1884 Cort Thomson learned that the wife he had deserted to take up with Mattie had died. Four days later, on July 6, he and Mattie Silks were married in Peru, Indiana. She continued to use the name Mattie Silks, which had become synonymous with high class parlor house operation in Denver. Mattie made a lot of money as the city's leading madam. Late in life she estimated her operations had netted at least a million, and perhaps as much as two million dollars over the years. The money financed trips with Cort to San Francisco, Kansas City, Chicago, Hot Springs, New York City, and even London. But Thomson was a poor gambler and lost money almost as fast as Mattie could supply him with it. She once remarked that she did not care how much he played cards, but she sure wished he would learn to do it with greater skill. Mattie gambled herself, primarily at the track. At one time she owned a stable of



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WILD WILD TEX

twenty-one racehorses. To provide pasture for the animals, she purchased a ranch eighteen miles northeast of Wray, Colorado. The place also served as a convenient dry-out resort for Cort when alcohol and drugs threatened to bring him down. Most of Thomson's associates in Denver came from the lowest level of the city's tenderloin. His favorite hangout was Murphy's Exchange on Larimer Street, known locally as The Slaughterhouse because of all the murders committed

there. Mattie often packed him off to the ranch at Wray in an effort to keep him out of difficulties, but Thomson could not stay clear of trouble even in the boondocks. He posed as a gunfighter and bad man and was constantly having disputes with his neighbors. In 1890 he was accused of stealing cattle and fled to Texas with a sheriff in hot pursuit. The law officer returned with Cort in tow, but charges were dropped, perhaps with the help of Mattie's money.

On one occasion Mattie became so disgusted with her husband's

reprehensible behavior that she deserted him, at least temporarily, for another man. During a stay at Denver, a railroad president, a wealthy and socially prominent New Yorker, became infatuated with Mattie and invited her to accompany him to California. Saying that she had to remain in town because of a business responsibility, a \$5,000 note falling due, Mattie declined. But the railroad tycoon promptly wrote out a check for the \$5,000 and Mattie was with him when he left town. The couple spent a pleasant month in California and another month at the Wyoming ranch of a member of New York's social elite. Everywhere Mattie was accepted as the wife of the railroad president. No one suspected that she was the queen of the Denver demimonde. Mattie bragged about the experience for years afterward; it was probably the high point of her life.

Not long after this, Mattie caught Cort in bed with a woman of the town named Lillie Dab. Cort and Lillie had been involved in a previous affair and once he had threatened to kill himself over the woman. This latest escapade was too much for Mattie who sued for divorce, charging Cort with drunkenness, wife beating and philandering. In anticipation of counter charges about her own dalliance with the railroad president, Mattie contended in her divorce petition that any



A group of Market Street prostitutes, date unknown. *Colorado Historical Society.*



Denver's Market Street was still a lively spot for adult entertainment and variety even after Colorado's gold rush. *True West Archives.*

acts she may have committed “inconsistent with her marriage vows were directly sanctioned, connived at and condoned” by her husband. A dispute over property was resolved by the parties and eleven days after filing the petition, Mattie withdrew it.

In the spring of 1898 Cort and Mattie joined the rush to the Klondike gold fields where she opened a brothel. They only remained ninety days, but on her return Mattie said that, even after paying the Northwest Mounted Police fifty dollars a day protection money, she still cleared \$38,000 in that three-month period.

A life of debauchery finally caught up with Cort Thomson in April 1900 and he died at Wray. Mattie brought his body back to

Denver and buried him in an unmarked grave at Fairmount Cemetery. After the death of Thomson, John D. Ready, a 250-pound redhead, known throughout the tenderloin as “Handsome Jack Kelly,” became Mattie’s consort and protector. Considerably younger than Mattie, Handsome Jack sported a Prince Albert coat and carried a cane. He and Mattie lived together until 1923 when they were legally married. Mattie was seventy-seven years old.

She no longer managed her popular parlor house. During the First World War reform elements in Denver redoubled their efforts to close down the city’s notorious redlight district. Bowing to the pressure, Mattie first converted her house to a legitimate hotel and then sold it to a group of Japanese who made it into a Buddhist temple. In 1926 Mattie fell, broke her hip, and was confined to a wheelchair.

She got out of her chair at a Christmas Day party in 1928 and fell, breaking the hip again. Taken to Denver General Hospital, she made out a will and died on January 7, 1929.

After a brief ceremony at the Hofmann Undertaking Parlors without benefit of clergy, flowers, music or prayers, Mattie was buried as Martha A. Ready in Fairmount Cemetery beside the unmarked grave of Cort Thomson, who had always been her “solid man.”

R.K. DeArment is the author of *Bat Masterson, Alias Frank Canton, George Scarborough, and Knights of the Green Cloth.*

Ride With the Devil

Directed by Ang Lee. (Universal Pictures. Starring Tobey Maguire, Skeet Ulrich, Jewel, Jeffrey Wright, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers. Based on the novel by Daniel Woodrell. Screenplay by James Schamus.)

★★★

If anyone had ever told me that Hollywood would one day make a film about the Civil War era that was historically flawless, I would have laughed out loud. Over the years, films such as *Tombstone* have taught me to look for the few historical details that were *right* about a film. If I tried to keep track of everything that was *wrong*, I would have lost my mind. It was a pretty good system for watching movies about historical events without becoming enraged and disgusted and ruining the film for myself.

Well, now I've got to re-think my entire strategy. Someone out there in Tinseltown has gone and done it right. In the new film, *Ride with the Devil*, the accuracy of the historical detail is downright stunning. The costumes, horse



C O N T I N U E D

tack, and most importantly, the dialogue all have a fine 19th century look and rhythm to them. And it is a credit to screenwriter James Schamus that the dialogue sounds authentic without sounding stilted. This, coupled with the fact that it is a tale of epic proportions, beautifully filmed, directed and acted, makes it a film that any history or movie buff should be rushing out the door to see.

Directed by Ang Lee (*The Ice Storm*), the film deals with the lives of several young Missourians that chose to join the guerrillas that fought for the South during those turbulent years. Tobey Maguire, in the lead role, puts in a fine performance as a man trying to do right in a time of blood and murder. Skeet Ulrich, as his friend, and singer Jewel as the love interest, both add to the colorful tapestry that director Lee creates.

But it is Jeffrey Wright, as a black man truly in the wrong place at the wrong time, who nearly steals the film. His character, "Holt," is a man fighting for a cause that it is illogical for him to be fighting for in the first place. But it really isn't the South for which he fights — he fights for friendship and loyalty — two causes that have never gone out of style. It is a joy to watch the character of Holt, slowly, quietly and with great dignity, emerge from the shell that the institution of slavery had created around him. I know it is a cliché, but it is not unlike

watching a butterfly emerge from its cocoon.

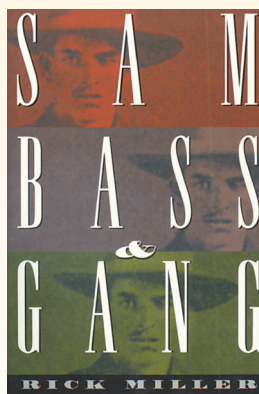
Oh yes, and then there is Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, as "Pitt." A young man whose psyche is so ravaged by hate that he pursues those that he considers to be his enemies, no matter what side they are on, with an almost religious fervor.

In addition to all of these wonderful characters, the viewer is treated to what is probably the most well-balanced look at that most vilified of Civil War guerrilla leaders: William Clarke Quantrill.

Ang Lee has created a time machine of sorts. By purchasing a ticket to this fine film, the viewer can come as close as we in the 21st Century can hope to experiencing life in the 1860s—and we don't have to risk our lives to do it. This epic film is a masterpiece. Don't miss it. *Drew Gomber.*

Sam Bass & Gang

By Rick Miller. (State House Press, P.O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761. Photographs, maps, bibliography, endnotes, index, 412 pages. \$21.95, paper.)



☆☆☆

Sam Bass became one of the most famous outlaws in Western history primarily because of a song/poem entitled, "The Ballad of Sam Bass." Yet, until now the career of Sam Bass has

remained little known. Until this biography, the world knew Sam Bass primarily because of his death by gunfire in Round Rock, Texas, in 1878.

Rick Miller, a Texas attorney, has researched, organized, and explained a massive amount of material relating to Sam Bass, as well as his family, accomplices, friends, and lawmen. Miller even changes some of our Bass perceptions, particularly with an authentic Sam Bass photo. One glance at this picture and the reader realizes that Bass shares strong personal qualities with a cohort he never met: Billy the Kid. Both Billy and Sam were nondescript-appearing individuals, colorless in terms of appearance, although smart if not altogether bright. Not even their mothers would have considered these two to have been handsome.

Miller opens his biography with the 1851 Samuel Bass birth on a farm near Mitchell, Indiana. Sam grew up there, but in 1874 moved to Denton, Texas, where he gambled, drank, caroused, and had a relatively successful career racing horses, the best known being the Denton Mare. Bass by now had recruited the Underwood boys from Indiana. As time moved on, however, several additional characters entered Bass life, people like Rowdy Joe Lowe and Joel Collins.

After traveling briefly around Texas, these cowboy/gunmen drove a cattle herd north, sold it in Kansas, and then meandered to Deadwood, South Dakota, where the Sam Bass Gang started to solidify. At this point, Black Hills

stages were easier to rob than cattle were easy to drive, so Miller provides his readers with a fascinating discourse on stage robbing. But in the robbery business, people sometimes shoot back, or get killed. Therefore, the gang decided it was less dangerous and more prosperous to rob trains. On September 17, 1877, the outlaws held up the Union Pacific during its run from San Francisco to Chicago.

The six-man gang then split up. Within days two gang members had been overhauled by lawmen and slain. Another was killed shortly afterwards. Bass and a couple of others escaped backed into Texas, where the gang reorganized and operating primarily between Denton and San Antonio. They specialized in robbing trains and stages, and as the practice drew statewide and even national attention, Texas started offering substantial reward figures for each outlaw's head. The Texas Rangers seemed bent on collecting most of it.

Fully half of this book explains in detail an exciting account of robbery, politics, rangers, outlaws, pursuit, shootings, death, imprisonment, all these events eventually leading to Round Rock, Texas, where the gang planned to rob the Williamson County Bank. Instead the Rangers surprised them in the act of casing the town. A rambling gunfight commenced, and Sam Bass died a couple of days later from a bullet fired by Ranger George Herold. The greatest manhunt in Texas history now ended, although the author continued by tidying up various subsequent details never before revealed.

Rick Miller has undoubtedly given us the final word on Sam Bass & Gang. His is a well-written biography, a case study of what superb biographical research is all about. *Leon C. Metz*

A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Frémont, and the Claiming of the American West

By David Roberts. (Simon & Schuster, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. 320 pages. \$25.00 hardcover.)

☆☆☆

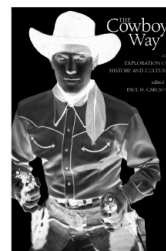
If not for Kit Carson and John C. Frémont, there is more than a fair chance that much of the American southwest and even California would still be part of Mexico, or that California would be part of the British empire, or that Washington, Oregon and Idaho would be part of Canada. That many Americans today aren't quite sure if those are good or bad things is part of what makes David Roberts' *A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Frémont, and the Claiming of the American West* such exhilarating reading. Before the Civil War, John C. Frémont (soldier, explorer, politician, and best-selling author) and his friend Christopher Kit Carson (pioneer, trapper, and Indian fighter) were two of the most famous men in America. Today, Frémont is virtually forgotten by all but a few history students, while Carson clings to a minor fame as, at best, a poor man's Crockett or at worst, the infamous enforcer of the 1863-64 Long Walk roundup, in which perhaps a third of the Navajo Nation perished in government reservations.

The great rush of emigration that followed their expeditions into the American West (and Frémont's hugely popular accounts of the treks) might not have happened for years if not for a chance meeting of the two men on a Mexican river steamboat in 1842.

Without Frémont's invitation to join his expedition, Carson would probably be no more colorful footnote in obscure books about mountain men. Without Carson's frontier savvy, Frémont's fourth expedition,

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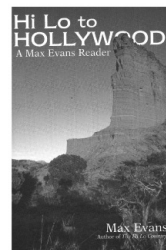
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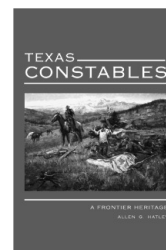


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T R E V I E W S T

C O N T I N U E D

undertaken in 1848—the only one he began without Carson—ended in disaster, with nearly a third of his party dead and some of the survivors resorting to cannibalism.

Together, they traveled more miles than any other American explorers, reaching into the Far West and mapping out most of the area from the Great Plains to the Pacific Ocean. They also helped foment a revolution in California by provoking incidents with the Mexican government, and they enflamed the imaginations of Americans and Europeans alike with tales of their exploits filtered through Frémont's hero-worshipping collaborator, his wife Jesse, to whom he dictated every

word of his best-selling books.

Mr. Roberts fixes on the defects in Frémont's character, which kept him from being counted among the great men of his time. He was possessed, it is true, of vision, courage and an unshakable self-confidence that time and again pulled him through harrowing trials, from Indian fights to near-tarvation. But he was also something of a schemer and self-promoter, given to taking credit for the achievements of others. A near illiterate, Kit Carson acquired a working vocabulary in ten Indian languages and eventually, Spanish; a fierce and unapologetic opponent of Indian tribes hostile to whites, he

married and fathered a child by an Arapaho woman. A survivor of spectacular clashes with numerous tribes, he ended his days as a relatively enlightened advocate for basic Indian rights.

In the end, it is the rough-hewn Carson who emerges as the hero of *A Newer World*. Of Frémont we know perhaps too much: he left so many letters interviews and memoirs behind that the only new task for a historian is to separate fact from legend. Mr. Roberts not only does that but he shows us, decade by decade, how the legend evolved. On Carson, though, Roberts revises the revisionists. *Allen Barra.*



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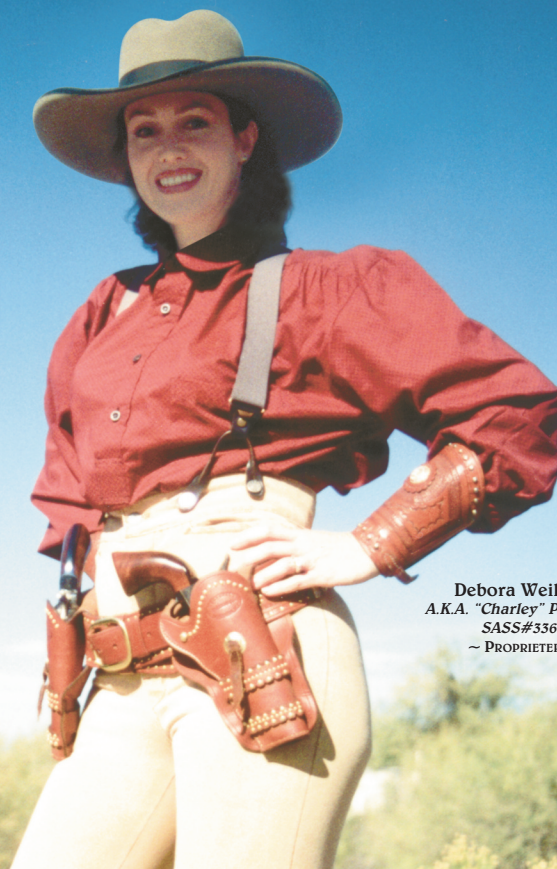
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BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Q Crusty old frontier judge Roy Bean had a neck problem. Was that inherited?

—*Jeanne Mitchell, Portland, Oregon*

A Perhaps, if you factor in getting into trouble, which he seems to have inherited from his father. According to Bean, he was hanged in California sometime in the 1850s following a fight with a Californio over the favors of a local woman. The rope stretched enough for Bean to touch the ground, and the woman rushed to his rescue and cut him down.



Judge Roy Bean

Q Is it true mountain men considered beaver tail “good eating”?

—*George D. Clark, Gary, Texas*

A Yes it is. They also enjoyed “panther” or cat meat. They relished the bone marrow from the legs of buffalo, which made their faces “shine with grease and gladness.” They also drank buffalo

blood, which reminded them of warm milk, and ate the liver raw. Stories are told of butchering a buffalo, pulling out the intestines, roasting them, and having an eating contest. A trapper at each end would insert the ends in their mouths and start eating towards each other, calling out “feed fair.”

Q Once and for all: Who killed John Ringo?

—*Jim Bob Caldwell, Tyler, Texas*

A Not Doc Holliday. Not Wyatt Earp. A coroner’s jury ruled Ringo’s death a suicide, but many doubted that. A piece of his hair was missing, as if someone had taken a trophy. Billy Breakenridge claimed Buckskin Frank Leslie did it. Others say Johnny-Behind-the-Deuce pulled the trigger. Only Ringo knows for sure, and he ain’t talking.

Q I understand Clay Allison was killed by a wagon wheel. How did that happen?

—*Pete Conaty, Gilroy, California*

A On July 1, 1887, Allison was drunk and was trying to retrieve a fallen sack of grain when one of his vehicle’s wheels rolled over his neck and killed him. Allison had some peculiar habits; he once did an imitation of Lady Godiva, riding nude through Mobeetie, Texas.

Marshall Trimble is Arizona’s Official Historian. His books include *Arizona: A Calvacade of History*, *A Roadside History of Arizona*, and *Never Give A Heifer A Bum Steer*.

If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327.

Q Who killed Belle Starr?

—*Margaret “Peji” Gant, Falls Church, Virginia*

A No one really knows. Her lover claimed a neighbor named Watson ambushed her in 1889. Others say her own son, Ed Reed, did the killing.



We finally got a copy of the 1870s Ellsworth gunfighter photo we told you about last month (see right). Wow! The image, bought by **Johnny Gianfranco**, of Austin, Texas, clearly shows a two-gun rig with leather tie-downs. Amazing...



...consummate Texas photo collector **Larry Jones** bought a very rare daguerreotype of Texas Ranger **William P.**

Hardeman for \$6,050. The image, purchased from the **C. Wesley Cowan** Historic Americana Auction, appears to be from about 1845 and will appear in a forthcoming book Jones is putting together...

...**e-Bay** is having a "colossal effect" on the business of selling photos, according to photo expert **Al Sowen**. Two well known photo catalogues are closing down because they can't compete with the Internet

juggernaut. And speaking of e-Bay, more and more fakes are finding their way online.

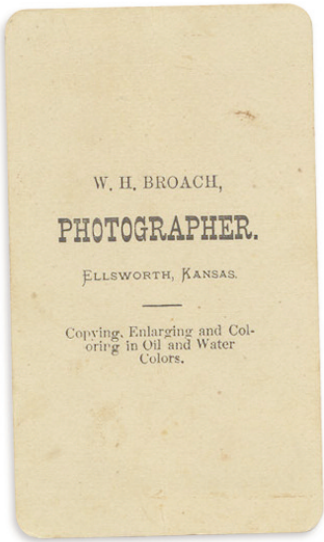
Sowen has been spotting numerous fakes of **George Custer**, **Buffalo Bill**, **Sitting Bull**, and many others. One fake photo of a Crow chief sold for \$600. The unscrupulous e-bandits are taking postcards which feature Old west characters and making laser copies and/or half-tones and then passing them off as real. "If you buy something," Sowen warns, "put it under a magnifying glass. If you see dots, it's a half-

tone. If you see lines, it's a laser print."

...the famous photo of Tombstone taken from Allen and Third Street recently sold for \$10,000...

...at the **Las Vegas Antique Gun Show** last January, two Custer battlefield

rifles were offered for sale. Price: \$175,000 each. Both guns were fully documented by the recent ballistic archeological dig.



What Things Are Worth

How does the value of Old West letters hold up against later celebrity scribblers?

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A Buffalo Bill letter: \$1,500 (he was a prolific writer).

A Buffalo Bill letter telling how he got his name: \$25,000.

An Albert Einstein 1912 manuscript: \$2.5 million.

A Custer letter commenting on his Sioux campaign: \$40,000.

A Noel Coward letter describing Vivien Leigh's drinking problem: \$4,500

A Wyatt Earp letter: \$30,000 and up.



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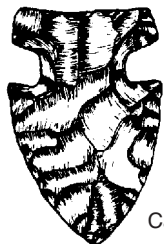
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—GENE AUTRY

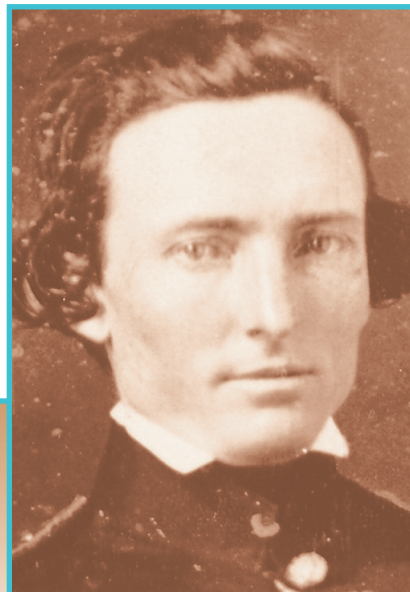
“Bravery is being the only one who knows you’re afraid.” —FRANKLIN P. JONES

“I have never been lost, but I will admit to being confused for several weeks.”

—DANIEL BOONE

Historical Twins

Too Close for Comfort



Samuel Walker, Lone Star Border Beater



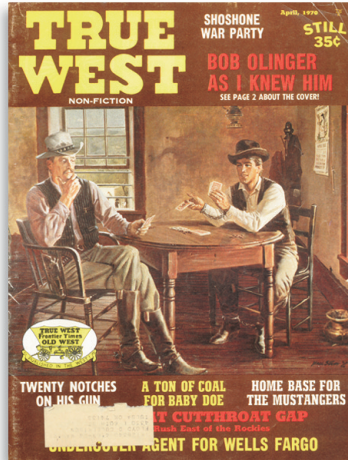
Matthew McConaughey, Lone Star Bongo Beater

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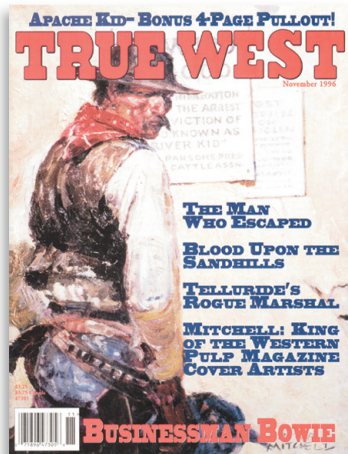
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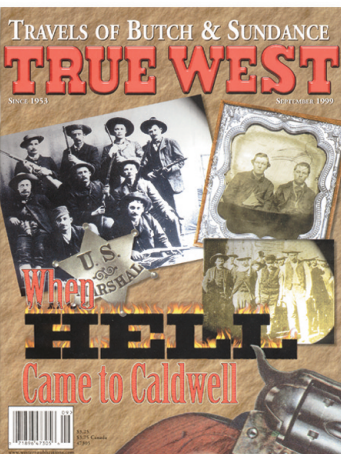
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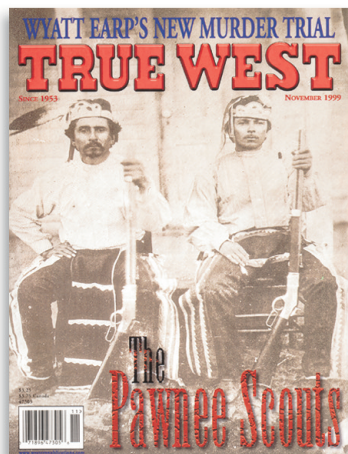
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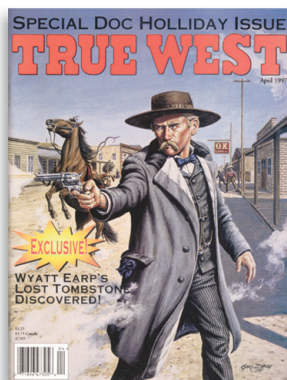
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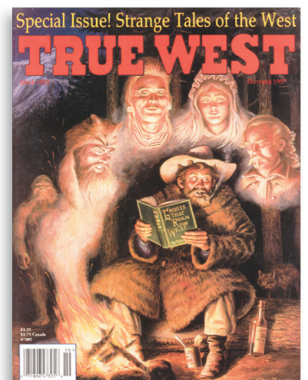
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