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TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

HELL'S COMIN' WITH ME!

THE TRUE STORY
OF WYATT EARP'S
VENDETTA RIDE

DID EARP'S FATHER
INSTILL HIS RAGE?

BY MARY DORIA RUSSELL

THE 10 MYTHS OF THE
CONTROVERSIAL RIDE

BY PETER BRAND

PLUS:

A ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION ON
HOSTILES

CUSTER'S GOLD

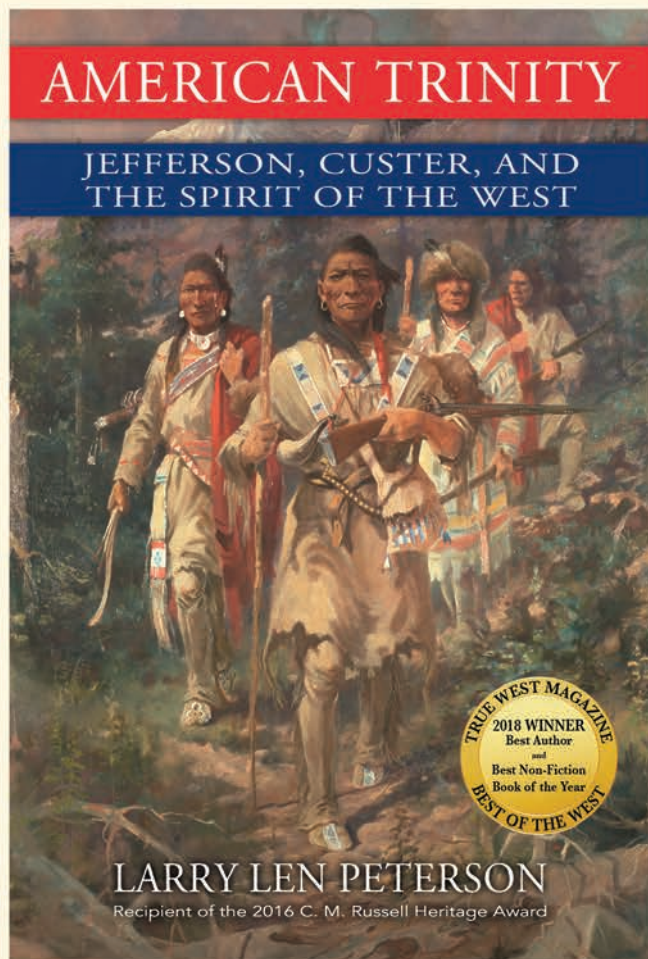
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Dr. Larry Len Peterson

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Dr. Peterson has published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, among many others. His distinguished biographies include *Charles M. Russell: Photographing the Legend, A Biography in Words and Pictures* and *L. A. Huffman: Photographer of the American West*. He is the recipient of two Western Heritage Awards, the Scriver Award, The High Plains Book Award, and the Will Rogers Gold Medallion Award.


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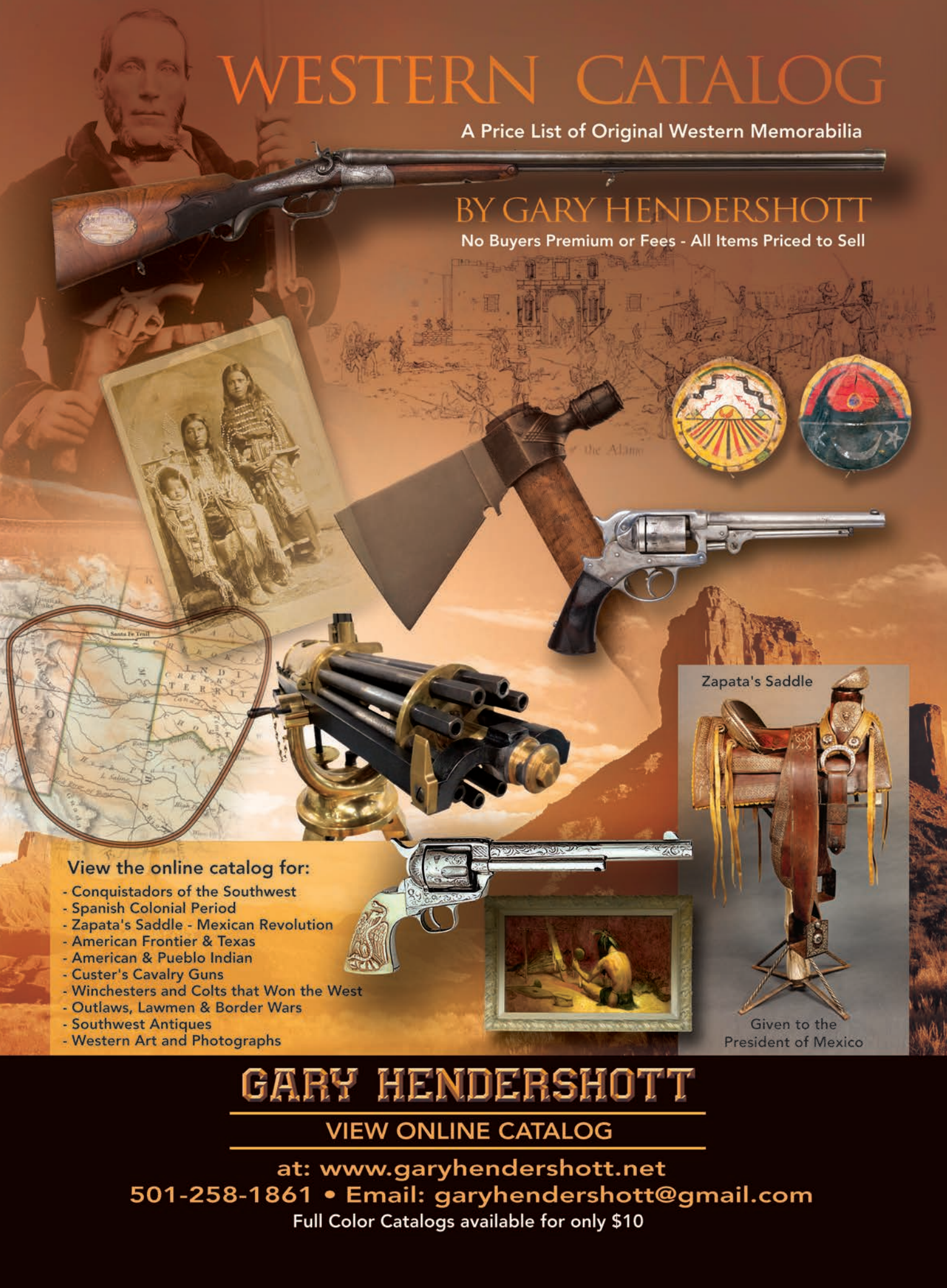
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SOUTHEAST MONTANA



NATHAN SATRAN PHOTOGRAPHY

MEDICINE ROCKS STATE PARK

In Southeast Montana, the undulating prairies unexpectedly erupt with 80-foot-tall sandstone pillars. Eerily carved by weather, these otherworldly formations seem trapped in time, yet beg to be explored. The Plains Indians considered this place of "big medicine" to be sacred and communicated through pictographs, petroglyphs and inscriptions. More recently, Theodore Roosevelt and other, lesser-known voyagers have left their stories here, too. With over 15,000 inscriptions, Medicine Rocks State Park offers an excellent venue for exploring, hiking, camping, birding and enjoying the ever-changing vistas.

POMPEYS PILLAR NATIONAL MONUMENT

On July 25, 1806, during Captain William Clark's journey down the Yellowstone River, he encountered a sandstone butte that jutted 150-feet above the prairie. In his journals, Clark identified "Pompy's Tower," which was changed to Pompeys Pillar, after the infant son of his Lemhi Shoshone interpreter, Sacagawea. Clark carved his name near Native American pictographs and petroglyphs. This incredible physical evidence remains today. Enjoy an awe-inspiring interpretive center, replica dugout canoes, original J.K. Ralston paintings and 360-degree views from the top of the pillar.



NPS PHOTO BRANDON BLACKBURN

LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Battle of Little Bighorn was a pivotal moment in the history of the Montana territory. Located along the Little Bighorn River, this is the site where U.S. forces were defeated by the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Now a national monument, the battlefield sits in memoriam to those who fought and died at this historic spot. Annually, on the third weekend in June (surrounding the anniversary of the battle), enjoy reenactments, ceremonies and related Little Big Horn Days events.



RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM

This diverse and encompassing museum is your discovery to the storied history of Southeast Montana and the Old West. The rarities found here are housed in multiple buildings, so plan an entire day of exploration. Witness an eclectic assortment of farm tools, historic photographs, an impressive barbed wire display and one of the nations premier arrowhead collections, plus antique automobiles and an entire building dedicated to the weaponry of one donor—including some pre-revolution pieces. Experience the real West through exhibits, interactive tours and events held at this long-standing, unique museum in Miles City.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

GRANT KOHRS RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

In 1862, Canadian fur trapper Johnny Grant founded the original ranch, which was later expanded by cattle baron Conrad Kohrs. Located near what is today Deer Lodge, this 10-acre ranch now serves as an interactive museum that pays tribute to the cattlemen of the Old West. An experience for the whole family, self-guided and guided tours of the property are available, as are 7 miles of walking trails and bird-watching.



BANNACK STATE PARK

In its heyday, Bannack was one of the largest gold-rush towns in Montana and even served as the first territorial capital in 1864. Now a well-preserved ghost town with over 50 buildings, Bannack is the ultimate destination for those who want to learn about the history of our beloved state. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, enjoy Saturday entertainment, gold panning, town tours, mill tours and living-history reenactments. Pitch a tent at the nearby campground, and sleep under the same stars as the residents of Bannack's past once did.



BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Tipi poles that sit like skeletons among the foreground of majestic, snowcapped peaks are a reminder of the tragic Battle of the Big Hole. Now a U.S. National Monument, the Big Hole Battlefield was the site of the most violent conflict in the Nez Perce War. It is estimated that 90 Nez Perce, many of whom were women and children, as well as 30 U.S. soldiers took their last breaths here on August 9, 1877. At the year-round visitor center, located at the site of this historic battlefield, learn about the storied battle, the lives of the Nez Perce Indians and the conflict that divided the West.



VIRGINIA CITY & NEVADA CITY

From gold panning to ghost sightings, both Virginia City and Nevada City are a must-visit for any history buff. These sister cities are located a mile apart along Alder Gulch, the site of the richest gold strike in the history of the West. With over 100 buildings to explore in this open-air museum, learn about the boom-and-bust years of the Old West, mine for gems or take a ghost tour of these well-preserved ghost towns.



SOUTHWEST MONTANA

SOUTHEAST MONTANA



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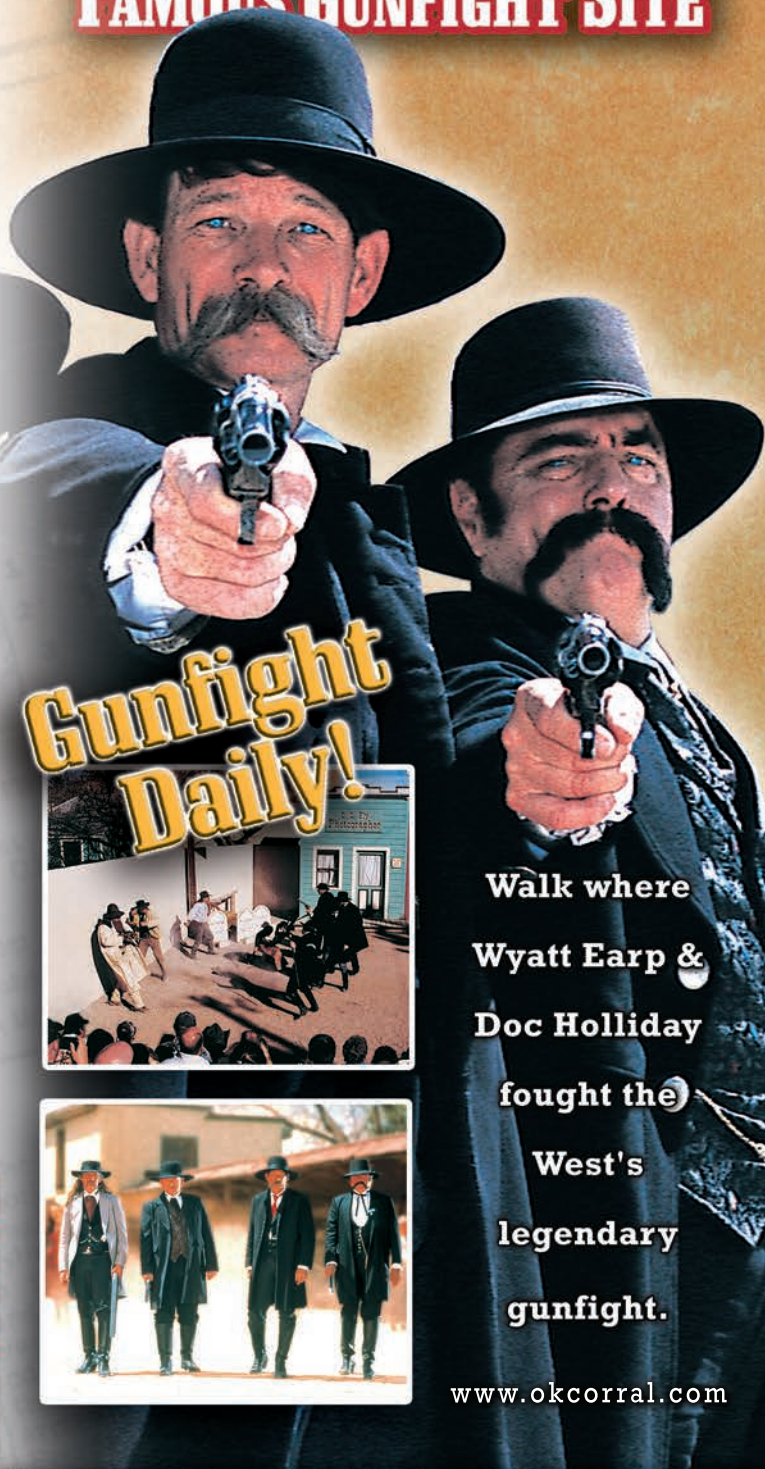
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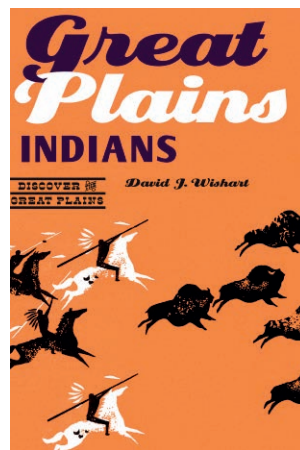
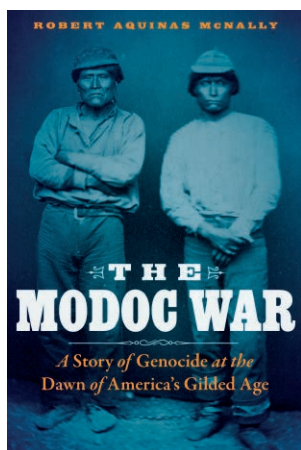


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OPENING SHOT

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A Grand Adventure

John Wesley Powell led an expedition in 1869 that was the first to fully explore the Grand Canyon. No photographs were taken during that trip, but some were during the next expedition in 1871. This one shows his crew preparing to depart from the starting point in Green River, Wyoming Territory, on May 22.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

True West captures the spirit of the West with authenticity, personality and humor by providing a necessary link from our history to our present.

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April 2018 Online and Social Media Content



Despite the Pawnee being born with a deformed hand, Crooked Hand gained notoriety as the "greatest warrior in the tribe," anthropologist George Bird Grinnell reported. Crooked Hand is shown circa 1870, three years before he died. Find this photo and more historical photography on our "American Indian" board.

- COURTESY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY -



Go behind the scenes of True West with Bob Boze Bell to see his sketch *Pulling Iron* and more of the executive editor's Daily Whipouts (Search for "February 11, 2018").

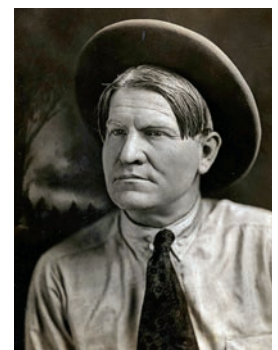
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Join the Conversation

"Charlie Russell was the real deal, no need for affectations! He was born and raised in St. Louis, kin to the Bent family (Bent's Fort), lived with trapper Jake Hoover when he first arrived in Montana, lived for a time among the Blood Indians where he was rumored to have spent time with a Blood woman, and was a working cowboy. Oh yeah, and was the greatest artist of the Old West! He lived the life!"

-David E. Parker of Branson, Missouri



- COURTESY SMITHSONIAN ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART -

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—By Various Authors

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A blow-by-blow account of what really came down during Wyatt Earp's Vendetta Ride.

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36 10 EARP VENDETTA RIDE MYTHS

Correcting Hollywood and other historical misconceptions about the legendary Vendetta Ride.

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Louis Mueller was among those who took a chance for land 125 years ago—and got busted.

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Years before John Wesley Powell, an 1858 river expedition brought about the first views into the Grand Canyon abyss.

—By Tom Jonas



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68 ROAD TRIP!

Hit the highway and experience the wind-swept plains, awe-inspiring mountain ranges and endless deserts where history happened in the Old West.

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Tombstone photo courtesy Buena Vista Pictures; cover design by Dan Harshberger

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Blood On the Badge

What went on behind the woodshed shaped the character of the Fighting Earps.

As fathers, we all carry a burden of regret and second-guessing, especially when it comes to our sons. Were we tough enough? Or, too tough? I worry about what I did, or didn't do, to my own son, and I often think of my father's handling of my own upbringing (full confession: he grows taller every time I look back at the stubborn Norsky).

So, with some empathy, I look at the early life of Wyatt Earp and his brothers. Thanks to the scholarship of acclaimed author Mary Doria Russell, we now know those Iowa boys had a pretty rough upbringing.

To approach the legendary Vendetta Ride from another angle, I asked Mary to get inside the family dynamic and find out clues that could account for the outburst of violence that drove Wyatt around the bend and stained Cochise County after the killing of his favorite brother, Morgan. Mary has done just that (p. 28).

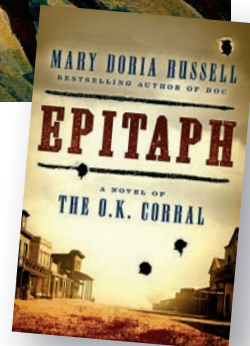
Meanwhile, Australian Peter Brand clears up 10 myths about the ride (p. 36). He has researched the so-called Vendetta Ride ever since his 1991 visit to Tombstone, Arizona. His work with Jean Smith led him to Doug Vermillion in 2008; Doug connected them with the extended Vermillion family and a wealth of new information, which inspired Peter's book, *Wyatt Earp's Vendetta Posse Rider: The Story of Texas Jack Vermillion*.

A new Western, *Hostiles*, has generated some decent box office...and quite a bit of controversy among our readers and contributors. We held a digital roundtable to discuss the film, and the critiques are quite eye-opening (p. 64).



Wyatt Earp's bloody Vendetta Ride took place outside the law. No one has captured the motivations behind the ride better than Mary Doria Russell, in two fine books, *Epitaph* (shown) and *Doc*. I highly recommend both.

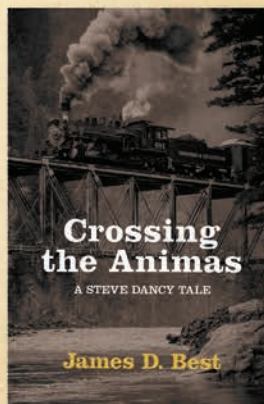
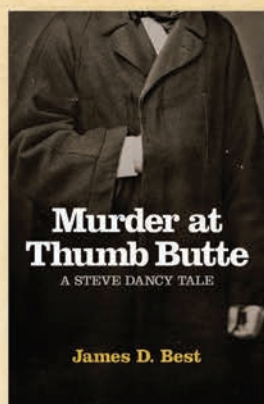
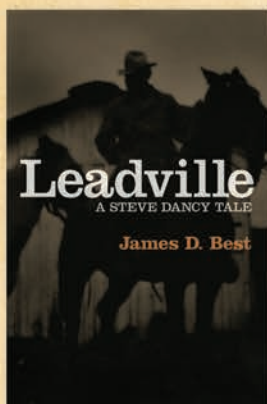
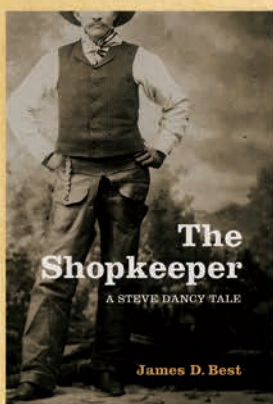
— ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL; EPITAPH COVER COURTESY ECCO/HARPER COLLINS —



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**"The James Best books... are about
the best new Western series to come
along since Larry McMurtry."**

—Larry Winget, True West Magazine

Quotes

“...be systematically...heroic in little unnecessary points, do every day or two something for no other reason than that you would rather not do it, so that when the hour of dire need draws nigh, it may find you not unnerved or untrained to stand the test.”

– William James, father of American psychology

“When you’re good at something, you’ll tell everyone. When you’re great at something, they’ll tell you.”

– Walter Payton, Chicago Bears running back

“Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense.”

– Gertrude Stein, American author

“Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained.”

– James A. Garfield, 20th U.S. President

“...the majestic quality of the law... prohibits the wealthy as well as the poor from sleeping under the bridges, from begging in the streets, and from stealing bread.”

– Anatole France, French novelist



“The pretentious music kept reminding me that this movie was ‘heavy;’ otherwise I would have thought it was a Monty Python skit.”

– Thom Ross, on Hostiles; read his other critiques on p. 67

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO

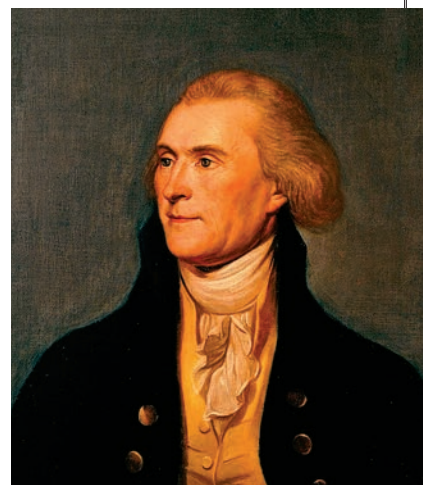


“Few men are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality of those who seek to change the world which yields most painfully to change.”

–Robert F. Kennedy, 64th U.S. Attorney General

“Every difference of opinion, is not a difference of principle.”

–Thomas Jefferson, principal author of the U.S. Declaration of Independence



Old Vaquero Saying



“The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.”

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BY MARK BOARDMAN

A Treaty Goes Up in Smoke

The 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie was violated almost as soon as the ink dried.



Huddled at this tent 150 years ago, U.S. Army Gen. William T. Sherman and commissioners sat in council with Sioux and Arapaho chiefs at Wyoming's Fort Laramie. Lakota leader Red Cloud (inset) pushed the commissioners to abandon the area's three military forts before he signed.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



its posts along the Bozeman Trail and close the road within 90 days.”

But Red Cloud, perhaps the most important Indian leader, was not there that day, refusing to sign until November 6, once the Army abandoned its Bozeman Trail forts. The war went on—although Red Cloud himself stayed on the reservation.

Both whites and Indians violated the treaty countless times by 1874, when Lt. Col. George A. Custer led the 7th Cavalry into the Black Hills in Dakota Territory, looking to survey the area for a potential fort site and searching for gold.

A gold rush ensued,

leading to even more confrontations between the government and the tribes. That would culminate in the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876—another temporary victory for the Indians that soon turned into a final defeat for the Plains tribes.

In many ways, the Treaty of Fort Laramie was the beginning of the end. Red Cloud's War was a pyrrhic victory at best, enshrined on paper, but worth little to the Indians.

In 1980, the Sioux won one more battle, suing the federal government for illegally taking the Black Hills land more than a century before. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed and awarded the tribe more than \$105 million.

The Sioux refused the money. They demand the land be returned—under the terms of the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868.



For two long years, starting in 1866, the U.S. Army tried to build and maintain forts in the Powder River Country in present-day Wyoming. The plan: protect white pioneers and finish the Transcontinental Railroad. American Indians of the area fought back.

The result: hundreds of whites were killed, and traffic along the Bozeman Trail basically came to a halt. Work on the railroad was threatened. The Army couldn't fight a guerrilla war, so government officials pushed for a peaceful solution to the conflict named after the great Lakota leader Red Cloud.

So it was that the various bands of the Sioux and Arapaho nation came to Fort

Laramie to sign a treaty with the U.S. on April 29, 1868. The terms were simple and similar to ones from previous agreements.

“All war between the tribes and the U.S. government and its citizens would cease. The

Lakotas were assigned a reservation that fell in the bounds of present-day South Dakota west of the Missouri River,” Indian Wars expert Greg Michno says the treaty stipulated.

“The Indians promised to send their children to school. They relinquished the right to occupy any other land. They pledged to withdraw all

opposition to any current or future military posts, and not to oppose railroads in existence or later to be constructed. The United States, in turn, agreed to abandon

“They relinquished the right to occupy any other land.”

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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

America's Most Famous Firehouse?

The first one built for volunteer firefighters in New Mexico Territory is making waves.



Horses played a critical role in firefighting efforts in Las Vegas, starting in 1882 New Mexico Territory and into mid-1920s statehood, by pulling the fire carts, loaded with life-saving water, for the E. Romero Hose & Fire Company, shown above.

— COURTESY ANDY KINGSBURY / NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION —

If Las Vegas, New Mexico, isn't careful, this heritage town is going to end up with the most famous firehouse in America.

The E. Romero Hose & Fire Company building—New Mexico's first volunteer firehouse, dating to 1882—is well on its way.

But until nine years ago, the firehouse sat vacant and decaying, with a roof threatening to fall in. That's when MainStreet de Las Vegas stepped in to save the building, which was reconstructed after a fire in 1909.

Since then, not only the state, but also a national competition has taken note. By the time the renovation is done, this ancient building will become a fire truck and acequia museum to bring even more tourists into this historic city.

The firehouse will also commemorate one of the founding families of the

city—five Romero brothers all were active in its earliest days. While he was mayor in 1882, Eugenio Romero established a fire

department and financed the firehouse, filling it with state-of-the-art equipment, notes Cindy Collins, executive director of the MainStreet organization.

"We were the first major city in New Mexico, [larger than] Santa Fe and Albuquerque," she adds. "We now have more historic homes and buildings per capita than any city in America."

The firehouse promises to be a jewel in that crown.

Collins explains the firehouse was built over one of the city acequias—an old water system of ditches. The location allowed the volunteer firemen to pump water directly into their horse-drawn carts.

Preservation began in 2009, with MainStreet's "facade squad" that painted

"We now have more historic homes and buildings per capita than any city in America."

the vacant building and then donated it to the city for a museum. The next year, the city replaced the roof, saving the building from collapse.

After receiving the "Community Preservation Award" from the State Historic Preservation Division in 2012, Main Street got a \$75,000 grant from the state's Economic Development Department in 2013 to renovate the first floor and a \$100,000 grant from the city in 2016 to restore the second floor. That same year, Main Street won the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division's "Architectural Heritage Award."

Last year, the project received \$150,000, as one of the nation's 10 favorite Main Street projects. That money from the National Trust for Historic Preservation will complete the museum, which will feature an 1888 Parisian hose cart and an 1883 brass bell, among other memorabilia of firefighting days.

All this attention is nothing new for a city that started life as a Mexican land grant in 1835 and prospered as a stop on the Santa Fe Trail. Numerous movies and TV shows—from Kevin Costner's *Wyatt Earp* to the *Longmire* series—were filmed here.

Fame, move over for the E. Romero Hose & Fire Company. ★

Jana Bommersbach has earned recognition as Arizona's Journalist of the Year and won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She cowrote the Emmy-winning *Outrageous Arizona* and has written two true crime books, a children's book and the historical novel *Cattle Kate*.

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 SCOTTSDALE
ART AUCTION

BY MEGHAN SAAR

Monkey Business

A million-dollar sale at Brian Lebel's proves collecting the Old West attracts more wealth than a monkey riding a goat.

A half-scale saddle that advertised Buffalo Bill's Wild West act of a monkey riding a goat was among the top historical lots to hammer down past its estimate, for \$37,500, at Brian Lebel's Old West auction in Mesa, Arizona, on January 20.

For the showman who exclaimed, in 1883, that his Wild West would not "smack of a show or circus" but portray "Representations of life in the far west by the originals there [*sic*] selves," the act was rather circus-y.

More than likely, the monkey riding a goat act was a sideshow attraction, says Jeremy Johnston, curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming, adding, "...when Buffalo Bill partnered with James Bailey, a number of sideshow attractions were added, and these performed outside of the main arena."

James Bailey, also the other half of Barnum & Bailey circus, owned controlling interest in the Wild West. He arranged for the European tours, perhaps, as some historians have suggested, to avoid competition in the U.S. with his circus. Bailey died in April 1906, just after Buffalo Bill Cody's final European tour began on March 4.

American Indians were the main attractions who drew butts into seats at Buffalo Bill's Wild West, but the most famous Apache medicine man of all, Geronimo, never appeared in it. A traditional Apache outfit worn by Geronimo's favorite nephew, Asa Daklugie, soared past its estimate for a \$47,500 bid.

The highest bid went to a depiction of the Old West: a cowboy riding his bucking bronco watercolor, by Edward Borein, which hammered down at \$65,000.

Collecting Old West memorabilia is no monkey business; collectors earned just under \$1 million on the auction block.



The monkey riding a goat in this Leslie Jones photograph might have appreciated riding atop the circa 1890, floral- and leaf-tooled half-scale saddle made by L.D. Stone & Co. of San Francisco, California, that bid at \$37,500. The story behind the saddle was told by the original owner to collector Francois Chladiuk. Chladiuk's latest purchase is the shown 1906 poster of the Wild West show in Brussels, Belgium, where he was told the monkey riding a goat act appeared.

— PHOTO BY LESLIE JONES, COURTESY BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LESLIE, JONES COLLECTION; POSTER COURTESY FRANCOIS CHLADIUK COLLECTION; SADDLE AND OTHER LOTS COURTESY BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST AUCTION —



Another one of collector Francois Chladiuk's Buffalo Bill's Wild West saddles, from a 1906 performance in Belgium, hit the auction block; \$19,000. The lot also included L.A. Huffman's frontier photograph of the Territorial loop seat saddle.





Geronimo's favorite nephew and the son of Apache Chief Juh, Asa Daklugie is shown wearing the tanned hide shirt from his traditional outfit, which also included leggings and cactus kicker moccasins (also shown); \$47,500.



Collectors have grown to expect an Edward Borein artwork on the auction block at Brian Lebel's. This year, the highest bid went to Borein's undated watercolor of a cowboy riding his bucking bronco; \$65,000.



One *Gunsmoke* fan successfully bid \$21,000 for this .45 caliber Long Colt single action with Ultra stag two-piece grips (serial 317234) used by James Arness, who starred as Marshal Matt Dillon in the CBS series.

Duff Severe spent 800 hours constructing these salesman sample-size display saddles in his Pendleton, Oregon, shop in 1981. They show the four basic types of Western saddles (below, from left): Old Mexican Slick Fork; American Bronc or Assn.; Form Fitter; and Roper; \$22,500.



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

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American Western Art
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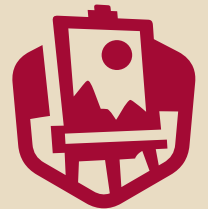
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A Frontier Favorite Lever Gun

With only one out of every five guns produced, the round-barreled 1873 Winchester—in rifle form—is one of the less common '73s encountered. Here's one that has served the author for decades as a collectible, as well as a straight-shooting repeater.



This group of Texas Rangers shows the popularity of the 1873 Winchester, whether it was in rifle or carbine form, as all but one longarm in this circa 1880s photograph is either a '73 carbine or rifle. The exception is the ranger in the back row with a Colt Burgess repeater. Likewise, the 1873 Colt Single Action Army revolver is the sidearm of choice with these hardy Westerners

— ALL PHOTOS COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

All 1873 Winchester rifles have octagonal barrels and the carbines have round barrels, right? Well, no, as a special option about one out of every five '73 rifles were made with round barrels. What prompted me to write this column is that in the November 2017 *True West*, my feature, “10 Treasured Firearms,” named ten guns from my collection that I’d keep, if I were limited to just that number. I was torn over which firearms I cherish the most, but since this was just a hypothetical

exercise, I enjoyed mentally going through my collection and weighing my favorites against each other. However, if I could up that number of keepers a wee bit, there’s one other gun that would have made the list, but had to be dropped in the final cut, due to the assigned number I was to write about.

That firearm is one I consider a handsome representative of perhaps the most famous of all Winchesters, the 1873 Model—the “gun that won the West.” My '73 Winchester is an 1884-produced, straight-stocked, 24-inch

round-barreled, .44-40 caliber rifle that I got in a trade with a friend sometime back in the 1970s. Despite being a no-finish firearm, overall it’s in very good condition, both mechanically and cosmetically. It has the looks of a well-used, but lovingly cared for, veteran of the frontier that’s also proved to be a straight-shooter.

With 720,610 examples of rifles, carbines, muskets and other variations turned out in this lever gun’s 46-year production life, the slab-sided 1873 Model was a favorite with

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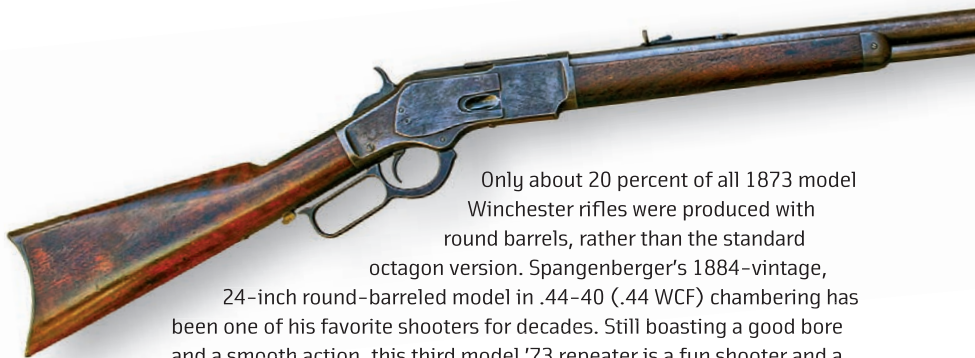
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2018			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

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Only about 20 percent of all 1873 model Winchester rifles were produced with round barrels, rather than the standard octagon version. Spangenberg's 1884-vintage, 24-inch round-barreled model in .44-40 (.44 WCF) chambering has been one of his favorite shooters for decades. Still boasting a good bore and a smooth action, this third model '73 repeater is a fun shooter and a clean example of one of the Old West's favorite lever guns.

cowboys, lawmen and express companies, for issuance to guards and drivers, as well as for presenting to employees as a reward for exceptional service. The Texas Rangers offered its officers a choice of any style arms they preferred, but most men opted for the Winchester .44-40 repeaters. As Texas Ranger James Gillette later recalled, "The new center-fire 1873 model Winchester had just appeared on the market and sold for \$50 for the rifle and \$40 for the carbine. Ten men in Company D, myself included, were willing to pay the price to have a superior arm..."



As this period advertisement (above) from *Forest and Stream* magazine claims, the strength of Winchester's 1873 model is in its simplicity of construction. The simple-yet-strong toggle and link system of cycling, which also operates the lifter to feed a new cartridge into the chamber, is virtually foolproof and very efficient.

For hunting most game in the Far West, the slab-sided Winchester was easy to pack in the saddle and was well received. Frontiersman James W. Schultz recalled from a memorable hunt in 1881 in Blackfoot country, "[Three deer] came on in single file, and as each one leaped into the open of the trail, Eli fired at it with his '73 model Winchester repeater. He fired three shots about as fast as I could count them, with the result of three dead bucks lying within a yard or two of one another. Some shooting!"

While round barrel rifles like mine are not rare, they are not as often encountered as octagonal-tubed Winchesters, since roughly only about 20 percent of the 1873 models are estimated to have been turned out with a round barrel. Its serial number, 145082A, makes it a Third Model '73. Fitted with what appears to be a frontier-replacement blade front sight and a factory adjustable, Rocky Mountain semi-buckhorn rear sight, the Winchester's metal parts wear a nice patina overall and the stock is an attractively figured walnut.

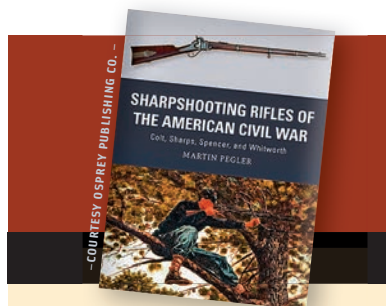


Still a straight-shooting rifle, (above, and left) this round-barreled rifle sports a Winchester factory-standard Rocky Mountain semi-buckhorn rear sight, while sometime in the rifle's past, the front sight was neatly replaced with an elongated blade front.



Fortunately, several ammo producers, including Black Hills Ammunition, HSM Ammunition, PMC, Tennessee Cartridge Co., Ultramax Ammunition and Winchester, have been offering reduced recoil, cast or swaged lead alloy bullet, smokeless powder loads, designed for cowboy action shooting. I've used each of these loads, along with black powder ammo, in my 1884-vintage '73 with pleasing results. In all honesty, this 134-year-old Winchester is just an average-condition example, nevertheless, it has that look of a gun that's "been there and done that," and is one I've enjoyed admiring and shooting for years. It's easy to see why it was a frontier favorite. ✪

Phil Spangenberg has written for *Guns & Ammo*, appears on the History Channel and other documentary networks, produces Wild West shows, is a Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is *True West*'s Firearms Editor.



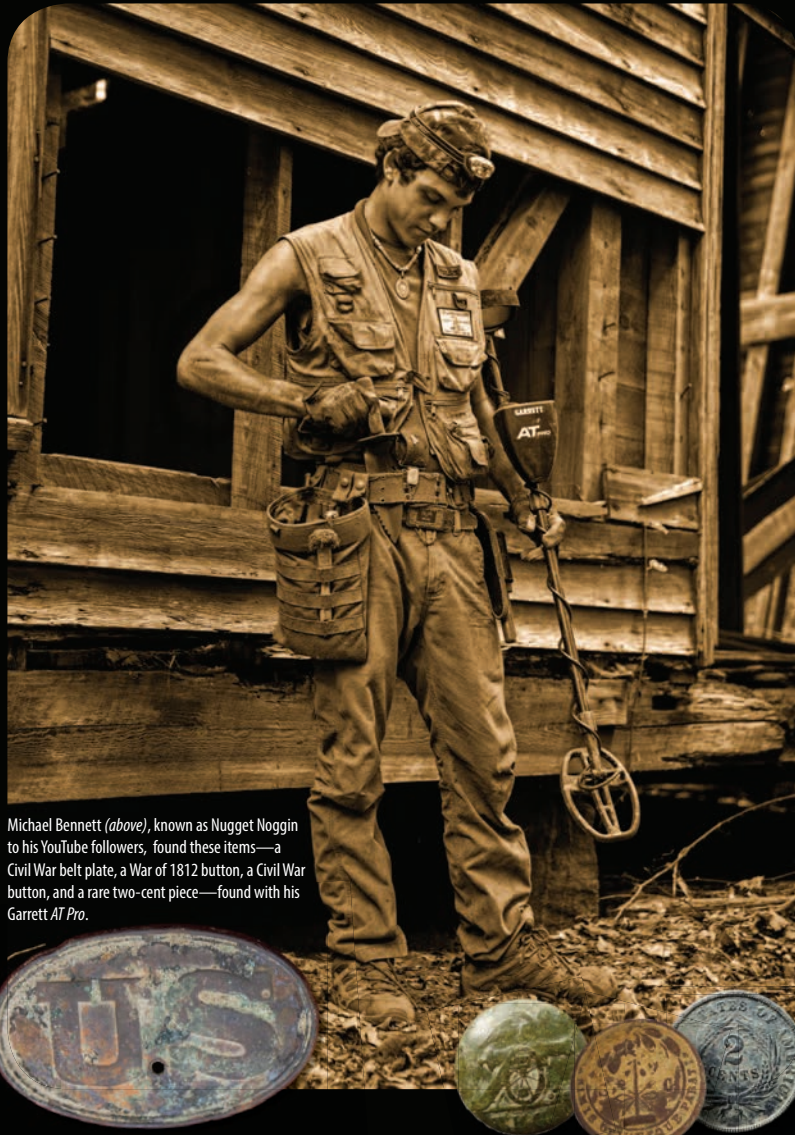
SHARPSHOOTING RIFLES OF THE CIVIL WAR

Osprey Publishing has recently added noted arms historian Martin Pegler's new work to their firearms series. Titled, *Sharpshooting Rifles of the American Civil War: Colt, Sharps, Spencer, and Whitworth*, this 80-page, soft-cover volume relates the story of Union and Confederate sniper rifles, and sharpshooters' preferences in each army. Pegler reviews the North's preferred Sharps breechloader, versus the South's preference for the Pattern 1853 Enfield rifled musket.

Other arms—including the British Whitworth, the 1842 "Mississippi" rifle, Colt's 1855 revolving rifle, the use of "bull-barreled" target rifles, heavy plains rifles and more—also are covered. Handsomely illustrated and photographed, the book offers solid information on the subject.

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BY MARY DORIA RUSSELL, PETER BRAND AND BOB BOZE BELL

THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE VENDETTA RIDE



— ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY
BOB BOZE BELL —

By taking justice into his own hands, Wyatt Earp transformed into a frontier anti-hero and then into the Saint of rough justice.

He defended his actions to Stuart Lake, the biographer of 1931's *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*: "For my handling of the situation at Tombstone, I have no regrets. Were it to be done over again, I would do exactly as I did at that time. If the outlaws and their friends and allies imagined that they could intimidate or exterminate the Earps by a process of murder, and then hide behind alibis and the technicalities of the law, they simply missed their guess. I want to call your particular attention again to

one fact, which writers of Tombstone incidents and history apparently have overlooked: with the deaths of

the McLowerys [*sic*], the Clantons, Stillwell [*sic*], Florentino Cruz, Curly Bill, and the rest, organized, politically protected crime and depredations in Cochise County ceased."

The seeds of the legendary Vendetta Ride were sown by the assassination attempt on Wyatt's brother Virgil, as newspaper coverage at the time revealed. Hollywood misses that point. To know the true story is to understand what led up to Wyatt's violent acts of vengeance. Here's what happened.



BY MARY DORIA RUSSELL

SINS OF THE FATHER

Did Wyatt Earp's father instill his rage?

In 1864, an irascible 51-year-old Nicholas Earp proclaimed himself a wagon-master and offered to lead a group of Iowa emigrants to California. Sarah Jane Rousseau kept a diary throughout the seven-month trek, and she has left us glimpses of the father who raised the famous Fighting Earps.

It's not a pretty picture. Mrs. Rousseau describes Nicholas Earp as a man whose reaction to backtalk was volcanic: "It made him awful mad and he was for killing. He used very profane language and he could hardly be appeased."

Disagreement was an insult and would set off an hour-long tirade with threats to abandon the emigrants in the wilderness for their opposition. There was discussion of the role "too much liquor" played in his temper.

On November 24, Mrs. Rousseau gave us a direct observation of Nicholas Earp, the father.

"This evening Mr. Earp had another rippet with his son Warren [for] fighting [with] Jimmy Hatten. And then Mr. Earp raged about all the children, using very profane language and swearing that if the children's parents did not whip them as he did or correct their children, he would whip every last one of them himself. He shows



Wyatt Earp's parents, Virginia and Nicholas Earp, may look relaxed and gentle in this 1890 photograph, but Nicholas was quite a terror to his family.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

every day what kind of man he really is. He is such an uncouth and foul-mouthed person I think we made a terrible mistake engaging him and furnishing him horses and provisions to lead this wagon train west."

This is not the strict but ethical paterfamilias played by Gene Hackman in 1994's *Wyatt Earp*. Nicholas Earp beat his sons. He cowed and terrified his wife and daughters. He always had some dispute going with their neighbors. He repeatedly packed up his family and moved on, to escape unpaid debts.

There are two common responses to household violence. Many follow in the abuser's footsteps, inflicting the same treatment on another generation. Others become protectors of the weak, using their own hard-won strength to stand up to bullies. Unlike *Wyatt Earp*, 1993's *Tombstone* does not directly address the Earp Brothers' childhood, but in Kurt Russell's portrayal of Wyatt Earp, I see a moving portrait of someone who is trying to be a better man than his father.

Kurt Russell's Wyatt Earp, in 1993's *Tombstone*, gave fans a new appreciation for how the frontier lawman tried to be a better man than his volatile father.

— COURTESY BUENA VISTA PICTURES —



In the opening scene at the Tucson depot, Wyatt sees a stable hand hitting a panicky horse in the face with a coil of rope. Wyatt approaches, snatches the rope away and, in one smooth move, hits the stable hand in the face with it. “Hurts, don’t it,” he says calmly.

Lesson learned and taught: Do not do unto others what you would not have done to you.

Wyatt’s time with Mattie Blaylock was swept under the fictional rug for nearly a century, but *Tombstone* gives us a good sense of that relationship, and it is in his scenes with Dana Wheeler-Nicholson’s Mattie that Russell’s performance is most touching.

Living with an addict is no picnic, but as *Tombstone* opens, Wyatt is doing his best. Doc Holliday, knowing what a mismatch Mattie and Wyatt are, needles him a little about the obvious attraction of Dana Delany’s Josephine Marcus.

“Do you consider yourself a married man?” Doc asks him archly.

The answer is yes: “People change, Doc. They grow up.”

An adult man should be good to women: faithful and kind.

That much is in the screenplay, but the most revealing scene is when Wyatt’s brothers Morgan and Virgil are going home to bed with their ladies, but Wyatt has to go to work. As Mattie, Wheeler-Nicholson gives us a breath-stopping moment of inexplicably hostile impatience and annoyance. Russell’s Wyatt tries to mollify her, and she brushes his effort off, and we see his helplessness to make her happy. He doesn’t know what she wants from him, and we can’t imagine how he could please her either.

It takes the two actors only 45 seconds to show us that the relationship is doomed, but the screenplay takes its time and shows us Wyatt’s determination not to yield his self-control. Wyatt meets Josie out riding. He is wary, but her open flirtation is increasingly fascinating. Josie’s breezy enjoyment of life is exhilarating and sexy, but when Wyatt brings that energy home to Mattie, she is too doped on laudanum to respond. He’s left staring at the ceiling, lying next to a broken woman who depends on him.

It’s all there, wordlessly, expressed on Russell’s face. The apple from the tree of knowledge is heavy in Wyatt’s hand. He can’t fix Mattie; Josie wants him to make a move. But the price of happiness is the callous abandonment of a woman who has no one else in the world to take care of her. It is a heartbreaking performance.

Toward the end, the film circles back to the Tucson train depot. The assassination of Morgan breaks Wyatt’s heart. Russell shows us the Wyatt who has spent a lifetime protecting his younger brother Morgan, a boy who has grown up to be a sunny and friendly man because of that protection. Russell does not give us anger. He gives us Wyatt’s howl of guilt: It’s my fault. I brought him here. I didn’t protect him.

In the scene that follows, Wyatt is shattered. Nearly mute with grief, he has no plans except to get out of Tombstone on March 20, 1882, and take his brother’s body home to their parents for burial in California. But when he learns that there are men waiting at the depot, intending to ambush his now-crippled brother Virgil, Wyatt’s grief is transmuted into murderous rage.

And in that moment of volcanic anger and unrestrained violence, Russell shows us the face of Wyatt’s father: a man who was for killing and could not be appeased. ❖

Author of acclaimed novels *Doc* (Random House, 2011) and *Epitaph* (Ecco/HarperCollins, 2015), **Mary Doria Russell** holds a Ph.D. in biological anthropology; she taught head and neck anatomy at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.

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THE SPARK THAT LAUNCHED THE VENDETTA RIDE

MORGAN EARP
VS
FRANK STILWELL,
PETE SPENCE
AND OTHERS



By March 1882, Tombstone needed some laughs. Wyatt and Morgan Earp attend a three-hour comedy and yuck it up, although some in the audience don't look too happy. Sadie Marcus (far right) looks irritated that Wyatt is paying more attention to the play than her ample cleavage.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

MARCH 18, 1882



one-night showing of the play *Stolen Kisses* is being staged at the Turnverein Hall, north of Schieffelin Hall. It has been two-and-a-half months since Virgil Earp was shot, and, after a flurry of posses, raids, charges and countercharges over the cow-boy killings, things are once again quiet in Tombstone, Arizona Territory.

Wyatt agrees to go out with his brother Morgan, even though the previous night, a local, Briggs Goodrich (whose lawyer brother Ben represents many cow-boys), warned Wyatt that there are “some strangers here that I think are after you.”

Goodrich also had a message from one cow-boy in particular: “By the way, John Ringo wanted me to say to you, that if any fight came up between you all that he wanted you to understand that he would have nothing to do with it; that he was going to take care of himself, and everybody else could do the same.”

After the play, Morgan insists on a game of pool. Wyatt joins his younger brother as the two, along with Dan Tipton and Sherm McMasters, drop in at Campbell and Hatch's saloon for a game.

Ten minutes before 11 p.m., Morgan walks around the pool table to line up a shot. As he leans over, a pane of glass in the

back door explodes as a bullet catches Morgan in the middle of the back, goes through his body and lodges in the leg of a bystander. As Morgan falls against the table, a second shot is fired through the gaping hole. The bullet thuds against the far wall, near the ceiling, just above Wyatt's head. As patrons dive for cover, Morgan slides off the table and collapses in a pool of blood.

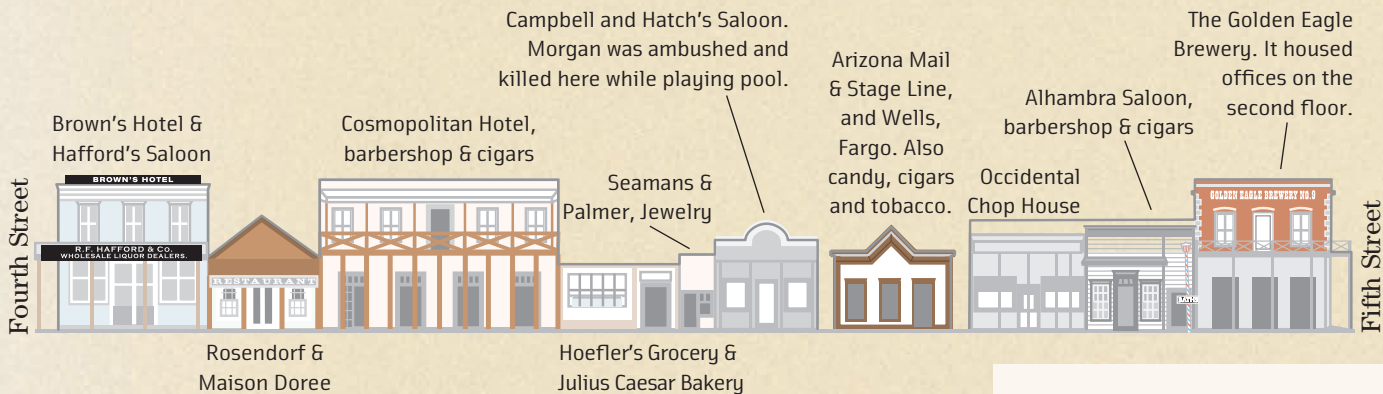
Perhaps fearing another attack, Wyatt, McMasters and Tipton lift Morgan and move him about 10 feet away from the rear door, near a door to the card room. Three doctors are summoned (Mathews, Goodfellow and Millar). After a brief consultation, they pronounce the wound mortal.

Morgan's brother and friends then move him into the card room and place him on a lounge, as Morgan's other brothers Virgil, James and Warren are summoned, along with Virgil's wife, Allie, and James' wife, Bessie.

The Tombstone Epitaph reports, “Notwithstanding the intensity of his mortal agony, not a word of complaint escaped his lips, and all that was heard, except those whispered into the ears of his brother and known only to him were, “Don't, I can't stand it. This is the last game of pool I'll ever play.”

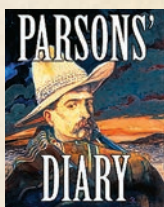


Morgan's Last Shot: Alley snakes slither into position outside the back door of Campbell and Hatch's saloon (top) as Morgan Earp lines up his last shot (bottom).



The heart of the business district in Tombstone is on Allen Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets. By the time of Morgan's assassination, the Earps are living in the Cosmopolitan Hotel. George W. Parsons is staying in Dr. George Goodfellow's office upstairs in the Golden Eagle Brewery building. All of these buildings will be destroyed in the 1882 fire.

The Man Was Stilwell



March 19, 1882

Another assassination last night about eleven o'clock. I heard the shots, two in number, but hearing so many after dark was not particularly startled, though I remarked to [Joseph L.] Redfern about it. Poor Morgan Earp was shot through by an unknown party—probably 2 or 3 in number in Campbell and Hatch's [billiard parlor], while playing pool with [Bob] Hatch. The shots, 2, came through the ground window leading into

alley running to Fremont St—on east side of Otis & Co's store. Geo Berry received the spent ball in his thigh, sustaining a flesh wound. The second shot was fired apparently at Wyatt Earp. Murderers got away of course, but it was and is quite evident who committed the deed. The man was Stilwell in all probability. For two cowardly, sneaking attempts at murder, this and the shots at Virgil E when I came nearly getting a dose, rank at the head. Morg lived about 40 minutes after being shot and died without a murmur. Bad times ahead now. —George W. Parsons



The Fighting Earps, as they were called, are a rough bunch. Old Man Nicholas Earp (seated center, with cane) is surrounded by his handsome, but deadly, brood. Morgan is seated on the far right. Standing is Wyatt (left) and Virgil. James, the oldest, sits at left, and Warren, the only dark-haired Earp, sits beside him.

What Were Morgan's Last Words to Wyatt?

The *Epitaph* noted in the March 20, 1882, edition that before he died, Morgan whispered something into his brother Wyatt's ear.

Several versions of what he may have said gained popularity over the years. In one, Morgan asks, "Do you know who did it?" and Wyatt responds, "Yes, and I'll get them." "That's all I ask," Morgan whispers. "But Wyatt, be careful."

Two months after the events in Tombstone, Wyatt would say: "When they shot him he said the only thing he regretted was that he wouldn't have a chance to get even. I told him I'd attend to it for him."

In the last years of his life, Wyatt allegedly told this version to author Stuart Lake, "I've never told anyone what Morgan said to me then, not even Virgil.... Morgan had a boyish curiosity which I never knew to be satisfied.

"Morg got me to read one of his books [reporting experiences of persons who had visions of heaven when close to death]. I told him I thought the yarns were overdrawn, but at his suggestion we promised each other that, when the time came for one of us to go, that one would try to leave for the other some actual line on the truth of the book.... He was sensitive to the fun others might poke at such notions, so, in the last few seconds of his life, when he knew he was going, he asked me to bend close.

"I guess you were right, Wyatt," he whispered. "I can't see a damn thing."

Most historians today think Lake made up the story.

BY BOB BOZE BELL

HELL'S COMIN' WITH ME!

A blow-by-blow account of what really came down.

March 20, 1882

With the recent killing of Morgan Earp by assassins, Wyatt Earp spends his 34th birthday attending to the details of shipping his brother's remains home to California.

With Morgan's body safely out of Arizona Territory, Wyatt, his younger brother Warren, John "Doc" Holliday and two other handpicked men accompany Virgil Earp (who is still weak from an assassination attempt in December) and his wife, Allie, to Tucson.

Guarded by Wyatt and his men, Virgil and Allie are transported by buckboard to Contention City, where they board the train.

Switching trains in Benson, the party has a little over an hour ride to Tucson, and it is dusk as the passenger train slows down for its approach. Tucson is lit up as the city's modern gas lighting system has been turned on for the first time. Celebratory shots can be heard as the engine glides into the station.

Under the veranda of the brand new Porter Hotel, Ike Clanton and Frank Stilwell watch the passengers detrain.



Stepping off the train, Holliday carries two shotguns, which he deposits in the depot office, as the Earp party makes its way to the dining room in the Porter Hotel.

Two men watch intently as passengers detrain from Benson, Arizona Territory. One of them will soon be dead.



The train from Benson, carrying the Earps, coasts into the train station complex (above). It is two years to the day when the first train arrived in Tucson; the town fathers were irritated that the Southern Pacific built the depot so far out of town, about a half mile from the plaza. On this night, the newly installed gas light system is turned on, which the locals celebrate by firing their guns. The stage is set for more shooting as Doc Holliday peers out the window and Wyatt Earp scans the train platform.

After finishing their meals, the Earp party walks back to the train and retrieves the shotguns from the depot office. Wyatt and his men say their goodbyes to Virgil and Allie, and are ticketed on an eastbound train for the trip back to Benson.

While waiting for the train to move out, a passenger allegedly informs Wyatt that Stilwell and Clanton are lurking near the hotel and planning to shoot Virgil through the train window as the train goes by.



After Wyatt Earp give Frank Stilwell both barrels of his shotgun (left), Doc Holliday supposedly comes up and adds his two cents, as do the other members of the Earp escort.

Bristling with shotguns and rifles, the Earp bodyguards, led by Wyatt, run down the train tracks, straight for Stilwell who is standing near the southeast corner of the hotel.

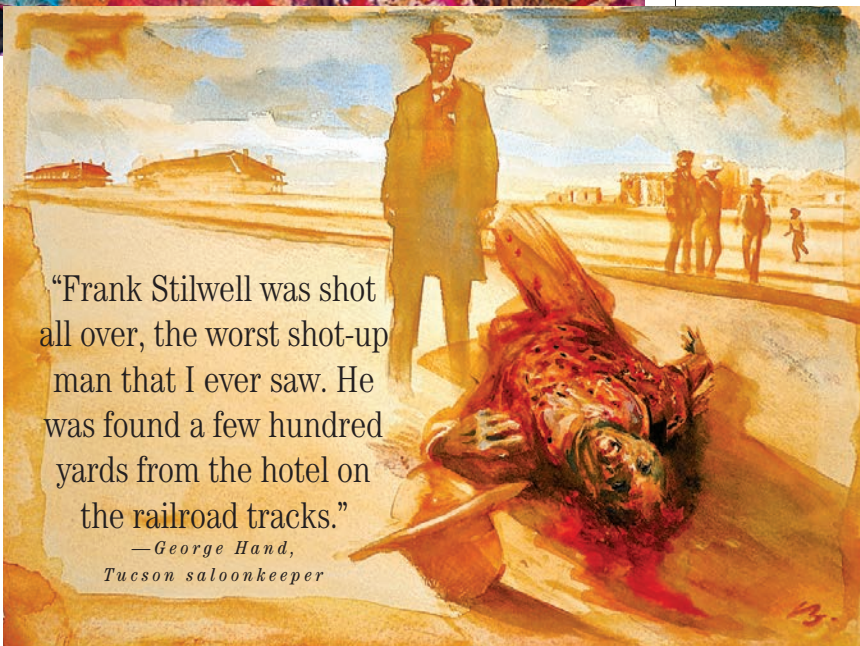
Stilwell runs for his life. In the lead, Wyatt chases Stilwell for about 100 yards (saloonkeeper George Hand claimed it was a few hundred yards).

“I ran straight for Stilwell,” Wyatt later recounted. “It was he who killed my brother. What a coward he was. He couldn’t shoot when I came near him. He stood there helpless and trembling for his life. As I rushed upon him he put out his hands and clutched at my shotgun. I let go both barrels, and he tumbled down dead and mangled at my feet.”

Other shots are heard, but many of the locals assume it is more of the gas light celebration.

As the train carrying Virgil chugs out of the station, Wyatt runs up to the cars, holding up one finger and mouthing the words, “One for Morgan.”

Virgil and Allie glide by in the darkness.



Sheriff Bob Paul (standing, center) examines the riddled corpse of Frank Stilwell on the morning after the killing. As the word spreads, quite a crowd gathers to view the body.

Florentino Cruz is allegedly paid to watch the horses on the night of Morgan Earp's murder.



With the killing of Stilwell, the Earp party misses their train back to Benson, so they walk the 11 miles to Papago station and flag down a freight train.

March 22, 1882

The Vendetta riders, eight in all, make their first stop after leaving Tombstone at Pete "Spence" Spencer's wood camp in the South Pass of the Dragoons. A teamster at the camp, Theodore D. Judah, describes what happens next: Wyatt Earp "immediately asked where Pete Spence was...he also asked after Indian Charley [*sic*] a half-breed, and I told him that he wasn't there.... He asked me when Pete Spence would be out in the camp again."

Disappointed by Judah's responses, Wyatt turns his attention to the camp's Mexican laborers, asking them if they have seen any horses in the area with saddles on. He again receives no help.

Wyatt and his men ride off toward the main road to Tombstone. Judah and a laborer start up a hill to see what Wyatt and his men are up to. "We had not gone 20 feet," Judah later testifies, "before we heard shooting.... We walked up the hill further [*sic*] and saw [the Earp posse] on the other side of the road, on top of the hill," and we watched them for about three minutes.

Laborers Manuel Acosta and Epimania Vegas see Florentino Cruz, a.k.a. Indian Charlie, flee from the Earp party: "The pursuing party spread out, some on each side, and others immediately following," Acosta later says. Vegas adds, "I saw the man that was shot running and jumping from side to side. I saw him fall."

Cruz is found with four wounds. Wyatt's tally is now two for Morgan.

Wood camps, such as this one near the Silver King mine in Arizona Territory, supply fuel for boilers in the mills. Pete "Spence" Spencer has a similar camp in the South Pass of the Dragoons. The Earp posse visits the camp while looking for Spencer and Florentino Cruz. But Spencer has surrendered to Sheriff John Behan, who allows Spencer to keep a pistol in his jail cell for protection. Cruz is not so lucky.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

March 24, 1882

Unbeknownst to Wyatt, Dan Tipton and Origen "Hairlip" Charlie Smith are sitting in jail. Wyatt sent them into Tombstone to convince mining magnate E.B. Gage to pay \$1,000 to fund the Vendetta posse and also to see what Cochise County Sheriff John Behan and his cowboys were doing. Behan arrested them on March 23.

Meanwhile, after Wyatt and his men eat breakfast north of Contention, along the San Pedro River, they ride south toward the Babocomari River to scout out possible criminal hideouts.

Leaving his brother Warren on the trail to meet a courier, Wyatt rides with Holliday, Sherm McMaster, "Texas Jack" Vermillion and "Turkey Creek Jack" Johnson up a rocky canyon into the Whetstones. Seeing no sign of recent riders, Wyatt loosens the gumbelt around his waist. Horses and men are weary and hot.

The trail they are on is about 100 yards from the waterhole, and it cuts across a deep, sandy shelf. They can see only the tops of the cottonwood trees, as the 15-foot-high bank hides the springs from their view. Across this sandy stretch, Wyatt rides, coat unbuttoned, six-guns sagging low, Winchester in the saddle boot, Wells Fargo shotgun and ammunition belt looped to the saddle horn.

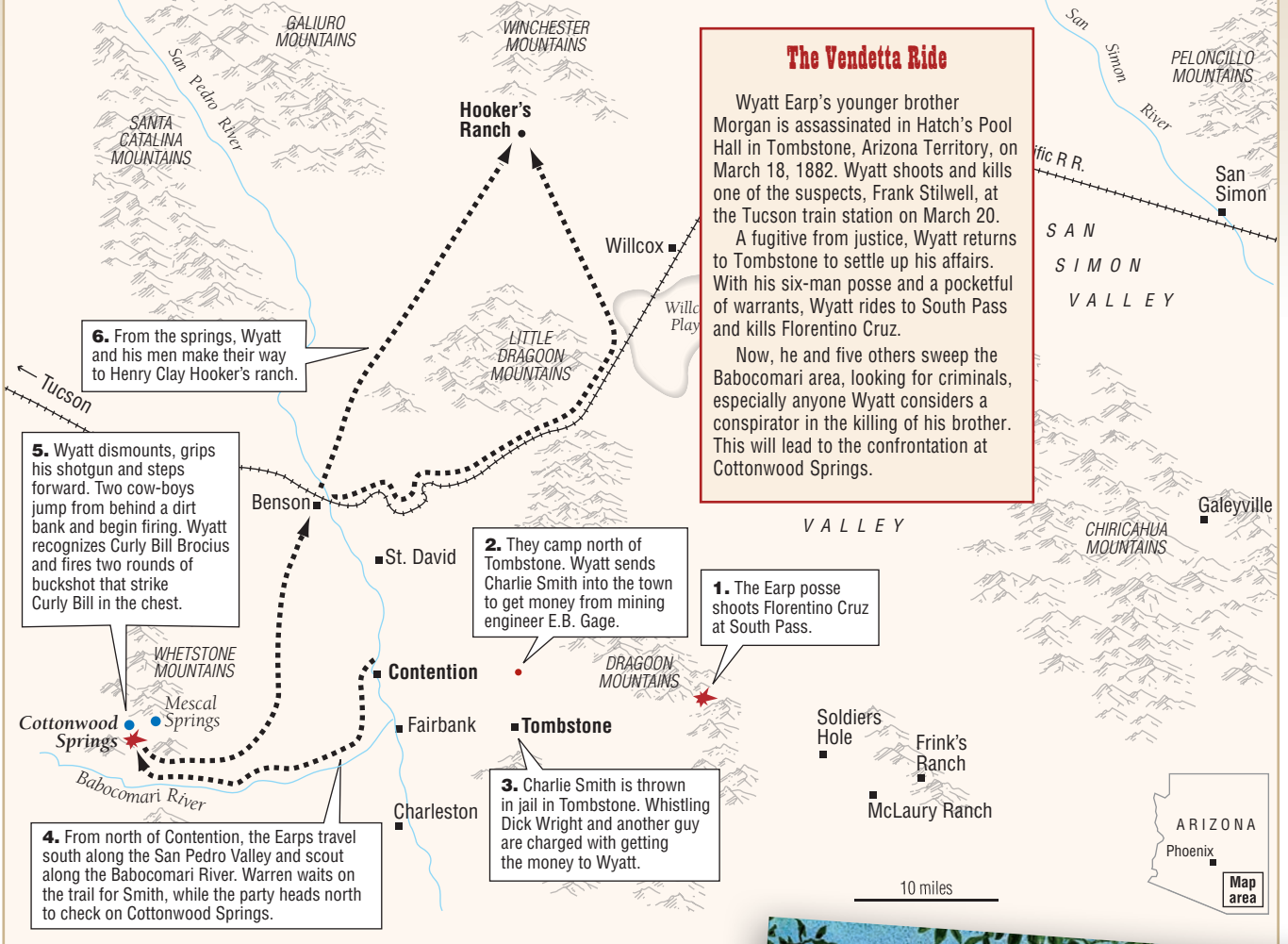
At the scent of water, Wyatt's horse quickens; Wyatt lets him make his gait. Fifty feet from the spring, Wyatt instinctively stops short. He swings out of the saddle, loops the reins in his left hand with his shotgun in his right hand and walks forward. Vermillion and McMaster ride behind Wyatt, with Holliday and Johnson much farther to the rear. Another step gives Wyatt a full view of the hollow.

Two cow-boys jump to their feet, one yanking a sawed-off shotgun to his shoulder, while the other breaks for the cottonwoods.

"Curly Bill!" McMaster yells in astonishment, before wheeling his horse and retreating.

Wyatt later remembers shooting at nine cow-boys who each "had a rifle at his shoulder, and every rifle blazed."





Aiming at the outlaw chieftain "Curly Bill" Brocius, Wyatt fires both barrels of his shotgun, fatally striking Brocius in the chest, almost cutting him in half.

In spite of his rapid retreat, McMaster is hit in the side, and his binoculars are shot from his neck. Vermillion's horse is killed in the volley of cow-boy fire.

Wyatt tries to remount, but his loosened gunbelt has slipped down around his thighs. Bullets tear into his hat, coat and boot heel, and his saddle horn is shot off. He finally succeeds in forking his horse, and he rides back to a rocky outcropping to rejoin his men. The brief, dramatic fight is over.

Running to their fallen comrade, the cow-boys unlimber their hardware and send a blistering return fire at the two horsemen (Wyatt Earp and "Texas Jack" Vermillion) on the ridge. Of the rest of the Earp party, only Sherm McMaster is hit. As you can see from this perspective, the others are straggling behind on the trail, so the cow-boys cannot see them.



10 EARP VENDETTA RIDE MYTHS

1. Thanks to Hollywood, most people think that the so-called “Vendetta Posse” was assembled after the death of Morgan Earp in March 1882. Wyatt, however, actually gathered his men immediately after the shooting of Virgil Earp, late in December, 1881. The posse acted as body-guards for the Earps and their families and all were located at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Tombstone. They were riding as federally deputized lawmen in January and February of 1882, well before the killing of Morgan Earp.

2. Hollywood also claimed that Wyatt Earp only had three or four men with him on the ride. The evidence shows that the posse contained a total of eight men, including Wyatt and Doc.

3. Wyatt was not the only Earp brother left to ride against the cowboys after Virgil was injured and Morgan was murdered. Youngest brother, Warren Earp was also a member of the posse. Other riders included John “Doc” Holliday, Sherman McMaster, John “Texas Jack” Vermillion, “Turkey Creek Jack” Johnson, Daniel Tipton and O.C. “Charlie” Smith.

4. The movies would have us believe that Wyatt and his posse killed large numbers of cowboys during their ride, but the facts show that only two men—Frank Stilwell and Florentino Cruz—were provably murdered by the Earp posse. A third victim, “Curly Bill” Brocius, was claimed by Earp and his men, but his body was never found and formally identified. Earp ally Fred Dodge later claimed a fourth victim, Johnny Barnes, was shot with Brocius and died of his wounds. The jury is still out on that one, as Barnes was listed as a member of Cochise County Sheriff John Behan’s posse, which never actually caught up with Earp and his men. Behan’s posse totaled 25 men and included John Ringo and Phin Clanton.

5. Another misconception relates to the killing of Frank Stilwell at the Tucson railyard. Most movies show Wyatt acting alone and killing Stilwell face to face as he tries to grab Wyatt’s gun. Eyewitnesses saw other posse members on the train tracks at the time and recalled several gunshots on the night. The subsequent autopsy proved that Stilwell had been shot multiple times, by different weapons, indicating more than one shooter. Other members of the posse apparently pumped lead into Stilwell, possibly after Wyatt had unloaded his double barrel shotgun at close range.



Jack Vermillion

6. Earp biographer Stuart Lake claimed that Wyatt gave Florentino Cruz a chance to save his own life in a staged, face-to-face gunfight. The truth of the matter was that Cruz was gunned down as he tried to flee the posse at Pete “Spence” Spencer’s wood camp, where he worked. Several posse members were seen firing from horseback at him as he tried to run away. He died in a hail of bullets.

7. Some authors, including Wyatt, threw Ringo into the mix as another victim of the Vendetta Ride. The evidence, however, shows that Wyatt, Holliday and their friends were located safely in Colorado when Ringo bit the bullet in July 1882. Ringo may have been murdered, but not by the Earp posse.

8. Although never depicted in any movies related to the vendetta, newspapers reported that the Earp posse stopped a train at Dragoon Summit Station in late March 1882 and searched the carriages, probably looking for members of the cow-boy gang trying to flee the area.

9. The 1950s heroic myth of Wyatt and his men cleaning up the wild frontier was not popular in 1882. At the time, Earp and his men were not universally viewed as deputized lawman upholding the law, but rather as vigilantes carrying out personal vengeance. They were actively—albeit ineffectually—pursued by county authorities. It was an unusual scenario that saw the Earp band of federally deputized gunmen being chased around southeast Arizona by a county sheriff and his cow-boy friends—many of whom were would-be targets of the Earp posse.

10. Unlike its portrayal in some movies, the Vendetta Ride was not a quick or successful affair. It commenced with the killing of Stilwell on March 20, 1882, and did not officially finish until the Earp posse rode out of Arizona Territory and arrived in Silver City, New Mexico Territory, on April 15, 1882. The posse had been in the saddle for more than three weeks. Their hardships included a lack of food, water and funds, not to mention the threat of an all-out gun battle with a large cow-boy posse. In reality, Earp and his men were happy to leave Arizona Territory and head for safer ground in Colorado. ✦

Peter Brand is a writer and researcher of the American West, who is based in Sydney, Australia. He has written books on the life of Texas Jack Vermillion and on conman Perry Mallon. See TombstoneVendetta.com for more details.



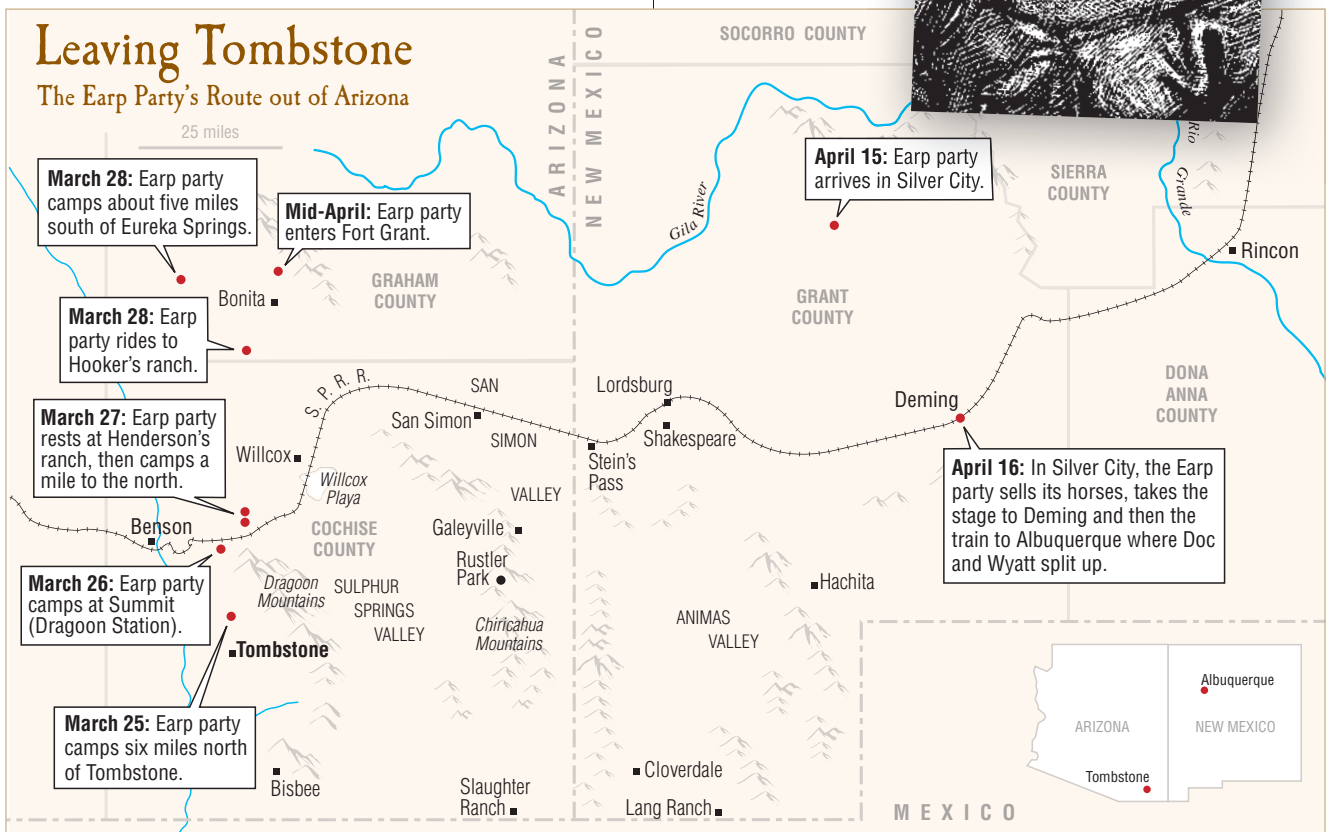
EARP EXODUS

In mid-April 1882, Jack Stilwell arrives in Tombstone and joins a 24-man posse made up of John Ringo, Ike Clanton, Pete Spencer and others to hunt the killers of his brother Frank.

As multiple posses dog their trail, Wyatt Earp and his handpicked avengers decide to make a run for safer climes and head out of Arizona Territory, following the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks into New Mexico Territory.

After an extended stay in Albuquerque, Holliday and Wyatt have a falling out (Doc allegedly called Wyatt a "Jew Boy," for having a Jewish girlfriend, Sadie Marcus). The fugitives travel by rail in two groups to Colorado, where Republican connections successfully shield the men from extradition efforts in Arizona Territory.

Sheriff Johnny Behan (below center, in white hat) keeps his posse stocked with cow-boys. But even with the help of expert tracker Jack Stilwell (inset), the men are unsuccessful in finding the Earps.



BY CHEEWA JAMES

Suckers on the

Louis Mueller was among those who took a chance for land 125 years ago—and got busted.



Louis Mueller was among these Boomers standing in line, with lottery tickets in their hats, in Arkansas City, Kansas, for the Cherokee Strip Run in 1893. Louis, 21 when he participated in the land rush (inset shows him at 29), characterized the registrants like him who followed the rules as the “Suckers” in the race, too honest to make their dreams of land ownership come true.

— COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, DECEMBER 11–12, 2012 / LOUIS MUELLER PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY JOE SHORT —

Strip



Louis Mueller always said both Sooners and Suckers participated in the 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run, and my impression was that he put himself in the latter category. Louis, a German immigrant, was my mother's father. He had just turned 21 at the time of the land run.

The race to make dreams of land ownership come true started on a hot and dry September day. Dust, whipped by the wind, swirled into the air, making September 16, 1893, feel unbearable. That did not stop some 150,000 people from every state and territory in the nation and abroad. They sprinted forward on horses, in buggies and wagons, even on bicycles and railway cars, as a starting cannon boom rang out, at the stroke of noon.

The Cherokee Strip Land Run in the northwest section of what is now Oklahoma was counted as one of the largest single competitive events in world history. It easily topped the three Oklahoma land runs that came before it. The run had 115,000 registrants, but accompanying friends and family running the race brought the number closer to 150,000. To say this run was competitive is a gross understatement as the strip offered only 42,000 parcels. America was in the grip of the worst economic depression it had ever experienced, swelling the number of expectant land seekers that day. Coupled with poor planning and inadequate enforcement by federal agencies, the run brought not only chances to make dreams come true, but a race that bred fraud, chaos, widespread suffering and even death.

Those settlers who waited for the cannon boom before rushing into the opened lands were known as Boomers. But Sooners sneaked onto the land early, slipping by soldiers patrolling the borders and interior. One man bribed a soldier \$25 to be hidden in a hole on a claim the Friday before the run. When he emerged, his claim was staked by others.

My Grandfather's Dream

At 21, Lür Mueller had lived in the U.S. for eight years and Americanized his name to Louis. He dreamed of feeling that Cherokee Strip wind sweeping through tallgrass prairies and across fields of wheat.

Louis's family came from Bremervörde, Germany. An unpaid bill for a windmill built by his father Fred caused the family to leave in 1885 for America, arriving in Hoboken, New Jersey, by ship and Missouri by rail.

Louis worked in Sweet Springs for his father, 10 hours a day, 15 cents an hour. After they built two buildings, Louis said, "Well, we done it. Him and me alone."

Louis saw opportunity when he learned that the federal government had renounced its treaty with the Cherokees and

opened up the Cherokee Strip. After the Indian Removal Act of 1830 had forced the removal of the Cherokees from southeastern U.S., Cherokees marched in 1838 on the “Trail of Tears,” which resulted in roughly 4,000 to 6,000 deaths. Allotted land 226 miles from east to west and 58 miles north to south, the Cherokees had access to hunting grounds to the west, although they lived to the east. They leased outlet land to cattlemen, and three railroad lines ran through. Eventually public opinion demanded opening the outlet to settlers.

Squalor in Arkansas City

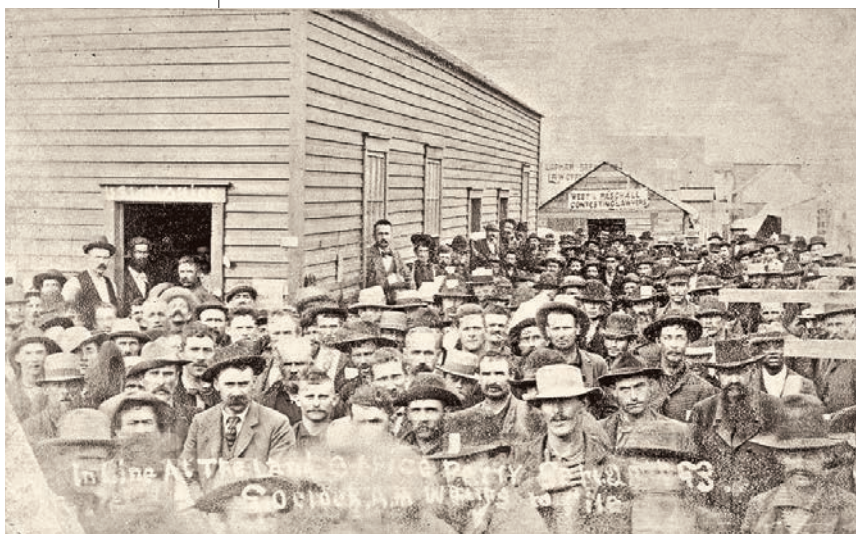
Seeking a claim on the strip meant obtaining a \$14 registration. To be eligible for a homestead, either man or woman had to be 21 years of age or head of a family (which caused some hasty marriages) and a U.S. citizen or declaring intentions to be one. Folks could register at booths, four on the Oklahoma southern border and five on the northern Kansas border. Registration began on Monday, September 11, with booths open 10 hours daily.

Tens of thousands showed up at these booths. Lines were often a mile long, four abreast, with people waiting for days. The intense heat and bad water caused an epidemic of dysentery at one booth. Sunstroke was a problem everywhere, with numerous deaths reported.

On September 14, a wire from Arkansas City, Kansas, was sent to President Grover Cleveland: “7,000 people are now in line and thousands more arrive on each train. A conflict...is imminent unless the system is abandoned.”

On that date, a Rock Island train crossing the strip was robbed—not of money or gold, but of water and ice.

Louis brought his oldest brother Henry and his friend Fisher along for the Cherokee Strip Land Run. They headed for the largest registration point, Arkansas City. “We saw lots of prairie schooners coming down from Kansas with slogans ‘Oklahoma or Bust,’” Louis noted. “Most of them went back busted.”



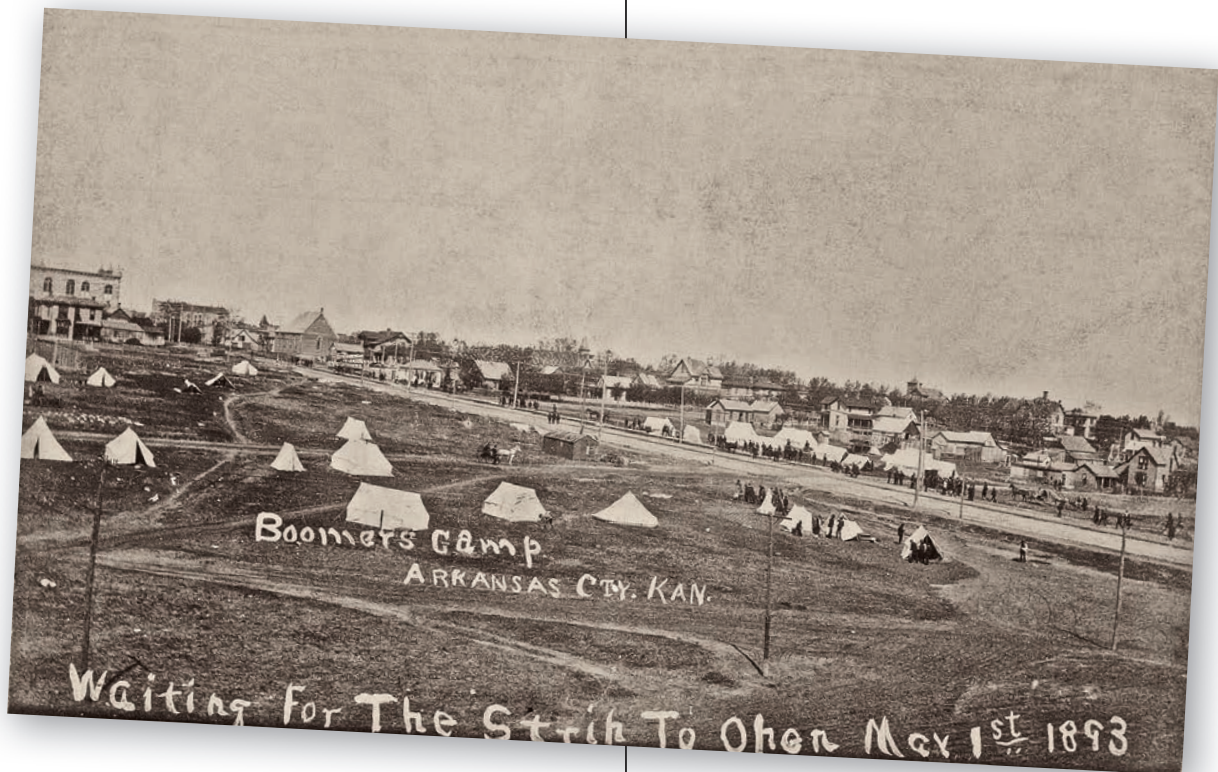
Louis Mueller waited two days in line to register at the land office in Arkansas City, Kansas, probably similarly crowded as this line at the land office in Perry, Oklahoma Territory, another registry location for the Cherokee Strip land run.

— COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION —



The first land rush into the unassigned lands took place on April 22, 1889. John Steuart Curry’s depiction of that competitive Oklahoma Land Rush included a cyclist and, for comic relief, an overdressed lady rolling backward in her rocking chair as her husband fervently drove their wagon. Just like on the Cherokee Strip, Sooners got the better of some Boomers in that land run too.

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Arkansas City, Kansas, experienced a population explosion as thousands moved into the area in anticipation of the Cherokee Strip opening up for land. Shown here are Boomers' camps set up on May 1, 1893.

— COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION —

The huge mass of people headed for the run created an extreme shortage of feed for horses. That almost ended the journey for the Mueller party, traveling with a saddle horse and one pulling a spring wagon. But a substantial “nip” of whiskey Louis gave a man from a dry state who had hay got enough feed for the horses to continue.

Fisher did the cooking. “Mostly fried potatoes,” Louis explained, “but once in a while he’d cook a chicken. Where did he get it? Well, he didn’t buy it.”

When they arrived in Arkansas City, they were shocked at the squalor—people nearly starving and living in makeshift tents. Louis proclaimed how tiresome he felt, standing in line all day. “One man,” he said, “sawed up some two-by-fours into two-foot pieces, then cut off a 12-by-12-inch piece, nailing it on top. Looked very comfortable when you’d been standing awhile. Sold ’em for 50 cents a piece.”

After two days in line, Louis got within five men of the window when the office closed. He and the other five slept on the ground where they stood, to be first in line the next morning. They were.

After enduring registration, Louis decided he’d earned a beer and went into a saloon. “Well, a fellow came up to me and said if I wanted some really good beer, to come with him. He led me up a stairway to a door on the second

floor. There were long tables, with men playing cards,” he said. “I was no card player.”

Louis found the door locked. He had quite a time talking himself out of the gambling den. But his heavy accent, saying he didn’t know how to gamble, worked: “I didn’t get robbed, but I never got a glass of beer.”

Flaming Passions and Prairies

On the hot and unpleasant day of the run, the hard-baked soil had been pulverized into dust by the thousands and thousands of human feet and animal hoofs. The extreme wind that day kicked dust high into the air, causing lungs to wheeze and eyes to blur.

As wagons, horses and bikes lined up on both north and south borders, a bicyclist on a hill recalled: “The back of the line was ragged, incoherent...the front was a solid band of horses; some had riders, some were hitched to gigs...wagons, but to the eye there were only the two miles I could see of tossing heads, shiny chests, and restless front legs of horses.”

A Sooner jumped the gun and was shot by a soldier. A cannon at the eastern end gave the starting blast at noon. Soldiers’ rifles firing in the air carried on as far as sound could travel the length of the Cherokee Strip.

In one thundering moment, horse flesh cut loose. Many wagons quickly overturned or broke apart. People fell off horses and were trampled in the rush; one woman was killed when her horse fell on her. Riders on the jam-packed trains got injured jumping off. Broken arms, legs and necks were common.

At one steep 18-foot ravine, bicyclists were forced to quit. The ravine crippled many horses. One man's thoroughbred racehorse became excited in all the turmoil, ran uncontrollably for 24 miles, then dropped dead.

Louis and Henry Mueller and friend Fisher started well, but after several miles, they saw a horrific sight—the prairie afire. People were burning to death.

Moving the horses to top speed, the Mueller party found a place where the fire was low. They drove along scorched, blackened earth and, luckily, made it out onto unblemished prairie. But soon, another fire raged into sight. "Those people that set those fires must have been some that were out in the lead. That was murder," Louis said.

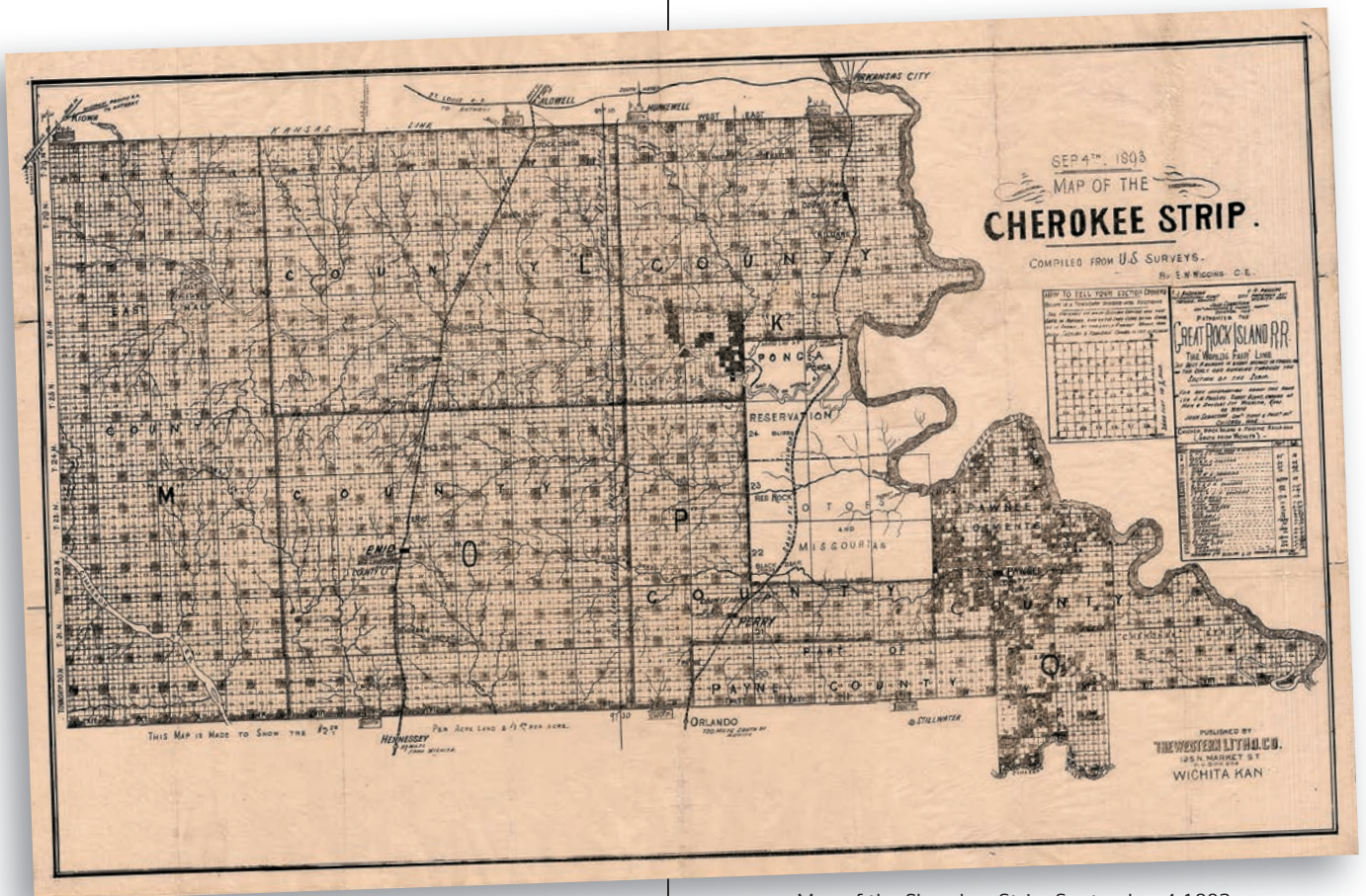
My grandfather was right. Horsemen in the lead had dismounted and started fires to slow the advance of others.

Louis remembered how he "...finally located a nice piece of bottom land, and my hopes were up...there was a creek and trees and what looked like, at first, a big haystack...but there was a man sitting inside with a shotgun...apparently he'd built a sort of framework and covered it with loose



By the time of the fourth and largest run for land, on the Cherokee Strip in 1893, some prospective settlers enjoyed the luxury of beds in their Boomer camps, like these in Perry, Oklahoma Territory. In Arkansas City, Kansas, Louis Mueller and his party did not find respite like this Wild West Hotel, but instead found starving people and makeshift camps.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -



Map of the Cherokee Strip, September 4, 1893.

- COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION -

hay. I could see where the grass had been cleared from the ground around it...and I could see a campfire burning down by the creek. The man called out 'Stranger move on.' When a fellow with a shotgun tells you to move on, you move on."

The run for land had ended for Louis.

The majority of participants in the 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run did not secure a claim. Some of the best land went to Sooners. Only about 20 to 30 percent of those who filed claims fulfilled their rights to keep the land: they survived the six-month residency, had no one else claim the land and made improvements.

As for Louis, he eventually married a German lady named Alvena and had three daughters. In 1919, they settled in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, where Louis designed and built homes, churches, the fairground buildings and grandstand, and the high school and gymnasium. He also built and operated the Travelodge, the first motel in northcentral Oklahoma.

In the 1920s, the discovery of oil on Osage land near Pawhuska made the Osages the richest people per capita in the world. It also brought great prosperity to builders, and Louis was hired to construct and renovate buildings and a museum for the Osage Nation, and ranches and homes for Osages.

One of the last homes Louis built was for Hotahmoie (John Stink). He was traditional in his beliefs, not wanting to live in a house and preferring to roam the woods. But the Osages authorized a car and a home for him. Louis enjoyed Stink, recalling, "He used to sit in his car and watch his house being built."

Louis led a rich and full life. But once in a while, he was known to mutter, "That sure was a nice piece of bottomland on the Strip."



Born on the Klamath Indian Reservation in Oregon and enrolled with the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, **Cheewa James** is the daughter of a German immigrant and a Modoc, and author of *Modoc: The Tribe that Wouldn't Die* and *Catch the Whisper of the Wind*. A former television anchorwoman and reporter, she is the recipient of seven United Press International awards.



Those shown here at the start of the Cherokee Strip Land Run were hoping to find a chance for prosperity in a nation roiled by the Panic of 1893. But most of those who grabbed a claim didn't receive a deed, as only 20 to 30 percent survived the six-month residency requirement.

- COURTESY CHEROKEE STRIP REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTER ARCHIVES -



The author remembers her grandfather as a gruff and stern mustached man, speaking with a heavy German accent. When she was younger, she and her siblings felt that the fact he had six toes on each foot far outweighed his tales of the Cherokee Strip Land Run. Louis is shown here with his three daughters, Irma, Luella (author's mother), Edith, and his wife, Alvena.

- COURTESY LINDA SHORT VAN PEENEN -

MORMON WAR'S

Years before John Wesley Powell, an 1858 river expedition brought about the first views into the Grand Canyon abyss.

With a blast of the steam whistle, a small steamboat cast off from California's Fort Yuma during the early days of 1858 to explore the Colorado River. The 54-foot shallow draught riverboat carried exploration personnel under the command of Lt. Joseph Christmas Ives, who was tasked with exploring the navigability of the river toward Utah and its course through the great canyon beyond. The U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers wanted to know if the Colorado River could serve as a military supply route into Utah Territory for troops fighting Mormon insurgents.

Although the Grand Canyon had been discovered by Spanish explorers in 1540, no one had ever brought back a picture of the majestic wonder...until Ives arrived. Two of his scientific employees, Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Egloffstein and Heinrich Balduin Möllhausen, were talented artists who brought back sketchbooks full of images of the journey. Some of those images appear in the final report of the expedition. After the Civil War, John Wesley Powell would become famous for leading an expedition that fully explored the Grand Canyon.

The report's pictures were, in some cases, dramatically exaggerated by the lithographers who prepared the roughly-scribbled sketches for reproduction.

After sailing the steamer nearly to the site of Hoover Dam, Ives converted to a pack mule train at the Mohave villages to pursue the overland portion of his study. He camped at Peach Springs on April 1 and then traveled down Peach Springs Canyon (a popular river exit point today) to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Here, the first ever inner-canyon views were made, looking upstream, downstream and straight across the river. The men stayed at

this Diamond Creek campsite for two days before pushing onto the east.

Crossing the Colorado Plateau, the group arrived at a trailhead leading down to the Havasupai villages in the bottom of Havasu Canyon. Ives camped on the rim about four miles south of today's Hualapai Hilltop trailhead.

For the next three days, geologists, hydrologists, cartographers, naturalists, botanists and artists spread out to document the canyon. Some hiked down the trail into the canyon, since the mules were unable to negotiate the narrow and precipitous trail, while others explored on top of the rim.

Egloffstein and Möllhausen took many dramatic views at this camp while looking down into the canyon. Several were published in Ives's *Report Upon the Colorado River of the West*, which he explored in 1857 and 1858. Published by Congress in 1861, this report brought the first images of the inner gorge of the storied Grand Canyon to the eyes of the public.

As for the purpose of the journey, the U.S. government decided not to send out a naval force into Utah Territory, and the Mormon War became a forgotten chapter in Western history.

In 2012, *Harper's Magazine* caused waves among historians by publishing an article about these pictures, proposing that they were not made in modern-day Arizona, but in Colorado. My friend and coresearcher David H. Miller helped Ben Huseman relocate most of the Ives views for Huseman's book *Wild River, Timeless Canyons*. Our work showed these lithographs were indeed made in Arizona, mainly at the Grand Canyon, and we took photos in 2013 to prove it. ❖

Cartographer **Tom Jonas** specializes in 19th-century trail research in Arizona and the Southwest, cartographic analysis and custom historical mapping.

GRAND



VIEWS

Nearly a quarter century before William Henry Holmes would illustrate this view of Grand Canyon for Clarence Dutton's 1882 atlas, *Tertiary History of the Grand Cañon District*, the first images of what would become one of the seven natural wonders of the world were made.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —





One of the first naval vessels to patrol the Colorado River was the 54-foot sternwheeler *Explorer*, illustrated here at Chimney Peak by Heinrich Balduin Möllhausen, for the 1858 expedition that Lt. Joseph Christmas Ives led to learn if the river was navigable to invade Mormons in Utah Territory.

— COURTESY AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, 1988.1.1 —

Made about 12 miles south of the future site of Hoover Dam, not in the Grand Canyon proper, this Black Cañon lithograph shows two men pulling a skiff through rapids. The *Harper's Magazine* article suggested that artist Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Egloffstein's 1854 sketches from John C. Frémont's expedition in Colorado Territory got mixed up with the Grand Canyon ones back in Washington, D.C. Yet the Ives Expedition was on the Colorado River in modern-day Arizona, from Yuma to near Las Vegas, Nevada, then it traveled overland eastward to investigate the Grand Canyon. The expedition was never in Colorado.

— ALL IMAGES FROM JOSEPH C. IVES'S GENERAL REPORT COURTESY DAVID RUMSEY MAP COLLECTION, DAVIDRUMSEY.COM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

This view of the Colorado River looking downstream from Diamond Creek, taken from the Ives report, matches the modern-day color photograph taken from the same spot at the Grand Canyon.

— COLOR PHOTO BY DAVID H. MILLER —





Cataract Canyon is the same general area where Egloffstein made his sketches. The foreground rocks in Egloffstein's views turned out to be columns of Kaibab Limestone that gradually split off from the rim and eventually fall into the abyss.

- BY TOM JONAS -



Egloffstein's Panoramic View No 7 (above) shows nearly the same view as the sketch at left. Note the two tiny figures on the black foreground rocks at left, added later by the lithographic artist for dramatic effect.



Not until 1869 did John Wesley Powell lead his expedition through the first recorded passage of white men through the entirety of the Grand Canyon. He's shown here, circa 1891, on horseback near Flagstaff, Arizona Territory.

- COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE -



Could the Colorado River serve as a supply route to fight Mormon insurgents?

Titled "Upper Cataract Creek Near Big Cañon" in the Ives report, this view was sketched at the northeast tip of the Rim, opposite Hualapai Hilltop trailhead to Havasupai villages.

BY VICTOR A. WALSH

LITTLE KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

Proving Up

A rendezvous with rambunctious Wyoming homesteader Elinore Pruitt Stewart.



Elinore lived out her ranch life dreams, working the homestead on a horse-drawn mower in 1925, the year before her unfortunate accident. The machine mowed the hay by lowering the toothed sickle bar onto the field. Her life story inspired the 1979 *Western Heartland*.

— COURTESY SWEETWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM —

Elinore Pruitt Stewart's *Letters of a Woman Homesteader* captures the rambunctious spirit of this woman pioneer who set out to prove that she could ranch.

The letters, 26 in all, written from her homestead near Burnt Fork, Wyoming, to Juliet Coney, a widowed schoolteacher and her former employer in Denver, Colorado, bristle with witty and humorous exchanges among a largely female cast of delightful frontier characters.

Elinore's words convey her passion for gardening, her pride in working the land, her love of nature and her enthusiasm for homesteading. "...any woman who can stand her own company...and is willing to put in as much time...as she does over the washtub, will certainly succeed..." she wrote.

Her letters exemplified the essential role women played in a way of life that was disappearing, due to railroads and urban-industrial development. Recognizing their appeal, Coney sent them to her friend Ellery Sedgwick, *The Atlantic Monthly's* editor. Published in a 1913 issue and, the next year,

as a book, the letters revealed why Elinore had hired herself out, in March 1909, as housekeeper to Clyde Stewart, a Scottish widower and rancher.

Homesteading freed Elinore from a life mired in hardship. Born on June 3, 1876, and raised on the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma's Indian Territory, she was the eldest child of a poor white family. Orphaned at 18, she took care of her siblings while toiling at piecemeal railroad jobs, survived a broken marriage and contracted influenza while cleaning coal furnaces in Denver, Colorado.

Distraught over this potentially deadly virus, Elinore was anxious to leave. "...what I longed for," she wrote Coney, "was the sweet, free open [life]...to homestead."

Clyde's ad in *The Denver Post* offered her the chance. Elinore and her two-year-old daughter, Jerrine, arrived at Clyde's ranch in March. Two months later, after filing her own homestead claim adjoining

his property, she married Clyde—"in haste," Elinore admitted.

From the beginning, the unspoiled high desert country mesmerized her. Traveling in a wagon with Jerrine, she wrote, on May 24, 1909: "On every side of us stretched the poor, hopeless desert, the sage, grim and determined

to live in spite of starvation, and the great, bare, desolate buttes."

Elinore and other ranchwomen sometimes made weeks-long excursions into the mountains. These trips nurtured her, pared away humanity's significance and

revealed the land as the web of all life and beauty.

"We forgot all about feuds and partings, death and hard times," she wrote.

Elinore plowed her gardens, handled livestock and drove the horse-drawn mowing machine to cut and

stack hay. In 1926, a covey of quail spooked the horses, causing them to bolt and toss Elinore in front of the machine. Although she never fully recovered from her injuries, dying, at the age of 57, on October 8, 1933, she proved herself an accomplished rancher. ✦

"...grim and determined to live in spite of starvation...."

Victor A. Walsh is a retired historian from California State Parks. His articles have appeared in *American History*, *California History*, *Journal of the West* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, among other publications.

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BY CANDY MOULTON

Peace on the High Plains

Travel the historic route of Red Cloud's War to the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty site.



Wagon trains following the Bozeman Trail across the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, as they headed to the goldfields in western Montana after 1864, led to the initial conflict that ultimately became a full-blown war between the frontier Army and the Lakotas. The military and the tribal warriors sparred from 1866 to 1868.

— CANDY MOULTON —

Red Cloud and other Lakota leaders met with Indian Commissioners at Fort Laramie in 1866 intending to negotiate an agreement that would allow safe passage of travelers using the Bozeman Trail across the Powder River Basin. This gathering came after two years of conflict that started when John Bozeman pioneered a trail to the Montana goldfields.

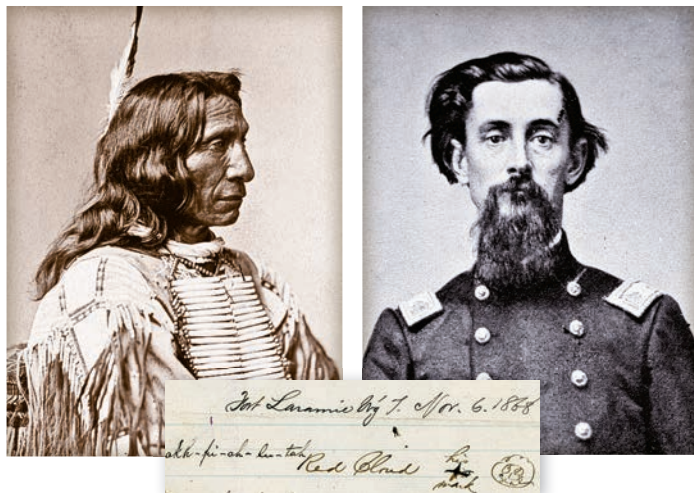
Bozeman and other wagon trains started using the trail in 1864 and faced minor skirmishes with American Indians that year. In

1865, Gen. Patrick Connor struck a significant blow when his military regiment attacked a camp of Arapahos led by Old David and Black Bear. The peace conference at Fort Laramie in early June 1866 included representatives of many northern Plains Indian tribes, but Red Cloud, an Oglala Lakota, served as the leading spokesman.

While Red Cloud came to the treaty conference in good faith, the negotiations broke down after eight days when Col. Henry B. Carrington and U.S. troops rode in to Fort Laramie and blew apart everything

the commissioners had been striving to achieve. Carrington's troops were an alarm bell for Red Cloud and other Indian leaders who believed the government had been duplicitous—negotiating on one hand while bringing troops to enforce agreements on the other.

Red Cloud and the people who followed him, left the peace talks and returned to the country they considered their own—the Powder River Basin and Black Hills—the region north of the North Platte River and east of the Bighorn Mountains. Holding his



Sioux leader Red Cloud (left) led an alliance of Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho people to victory over Gen. Henry B. Carrington's (right) troops stationed along the Bozeman Trail between 1866 and 1868, which led to the negotiated peace of the landmark Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 (center, inset).

— RED CLOUD PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BEINECKE LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY; IMAGE OF FORT LARAMIE TREATY OF 1868 COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION; IMAGE OF GEN. HENRY B. CARRINGTON COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

rifle as he led his warriors away from the conference, Red Cloud is reported to have said, "In this and the Great Spirit I trust for the right."

The military followed not far behind. Prior to his departure, Carrington wrote Lt. Col. H. G. Litchfield, "All the commissioners agree that I go to occupy a region which the Indians will only surrender for a great equivalent; even my arrival has started among them many absurd rumors, but I apprehend no serious difficulty. Patience, forbearing, and common sense in dealing with the Sioux and Cheyennes will do much with all who really desire peace, but it is indispensable that ample supplies of ammunition come promptly."

Red Cloud's War

The troops built forts Fetterman, Reno, Phil Kearny and C.F. Smith, each situated to protect wagon travelers headed toward Montana's goldfields. The federal troops skirmished with the tribes from 1866 until 1868, in what became known as Red Cloud's War or the First Sioux War. The Oglala headman successfully defended his tribal territory. In 1868 the military withdrew and the tribesmen burned the forts. Then Red Cloud came in to Fort Laramie and once again sat down with Indian Commissioners to negotiate a treaty.

The 1868 treaty is one of the most significant documents set down on paper in the 19th-century West. It would not only affect conditions that year, but remains important today. The Lakota people still cite

that treaty when they assert territorial, land use and hunting rights. It is a document that has defined their actions for a century and a half.

When Red Cloud departed from Fort Laramie after the arrival of Henry Carrington, he rode west, and my route is similar along US 26 and then north on Interstate 25. Some of the troops who eventually patrolled this area were headquartered at Fort Fetterman near Douglas, but I continue to Casper and the site of Platte Bridge Station, established in 1862 to protect transportation lines following the North Platte River. The post was renamed Fort Caspar for Lt. Caspar Collins, who along with fellow soldiers was killed in battle with Lakota and Cheyenne warriors in July 1865. Now a city-owned historic site, the fort has been reconstructed and a museum provides details about the military and their interactions with tribal members.

My route continues north on I-25 through Kaycee, home of the Hoofprints to the Past Museum, and then to Buffalo for a tour through the Jim Gatchell Museum with its impressive collection of American Indian artifacts. Fort Reno, one of the frontier posts established to provide protection for travelers on the Bozeman Trail, sat in the heart of the Powder River Basin and there is nothing to visit these days. Col. Carrington commanded Fort Phil Kearny. Located along the east flank of the Bighorn Mountains, 14 miles north of Buffalo, Fort Phil Kearny was in the heart of the tribal hunting grounds—strategically



Crazy Horse Memorial, South Dakota.

— COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM —

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Longmire Days, Buffalo, WY, Aug. 10-12; **Days of '76 Rodeo**, Deadwood, SD, July 24-28; **Gift from Mother Earth Art Show**, Crazy Horse, SD, June 15-17; **Crazy Horse Night Blasts**, Crazy Horse, SD, June 26 and Sept. 6

PLACES TO VISIT

Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Fort Laramie, WY; **Fort Casper Historic Site**, Casper, WY; **Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum**, Buffalo, WY; **Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site**, Buffalo, WY; **Sheridan County Historical Society & Museum**, Sheridan, WY; **Devils Tower National Monument**, Hulett, WY; **Journey Museum**, Rapid City, SD; **Crazy Horse Memorial**, Crazy Horse, SD; **Fort Robinson State Park**, Crawford, NE

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Eggingtons, Casper, WY; **Fire Rock Steak House and Grill**, Casper, WY; **Occidental Hotel & Saloon**, Buffalo, WY; **Busy Bee Café**, Buffalo, WY; **Alex Johnson Hotel**, Rapid City, SD; **No. 10 Saloon**, Deadwood, SD; **Alpine Inn**, Hill City, SD; **Fort Robinson Lodge and Officers' Quarters Cabins**, Fort Robinson State Park, Crawford, NE

GOOD BOOKS, FILM & TV

GOOD BOOKS: *Powder River: Disastrous Opening of the Great Sioux War* by Paul L. Hedren; *Eyewitness to the Fetterman Fight: Indian Views* by John H. Monnett; *Traveler's Guide to the Great Sioux War* by Paul L. Hedren; *Stone Song: A Novel of the Life of Crazy Horse* by Win Blewins; *Autobiography of Red Cloud: War Leader of the Oglalas* by R. Eli Paul; *Red Cloud: Warrior Statesman of the Lakota Sioux* by Robert W. Larson; *Red Cloud: Oglala Legend* by John D. McDermott; *The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend* by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin

Movies & TV: *The Glory Trail* (Crescent Pictures Corp., 1936); *Tomahawk* (Universal, 1951); *The Great Sioux Uprising* (Universal, 1953); *Chief Crazy Horse* (Universal, 1955); *The Indian Fighter* (United Artists, 1955); *Crazy Horse* (TNT, 1996); *Strong Heart: A Film by Russ Hopkins* (Kiva Records, 2011); *The Way West: The War For The Black Hills* (The American Experience, PBS, 1995)



William Henry Jackson's sketch depicts the Platte Bridge Crossing of the North Platte River. Near here in July 1865 Lakota tribesmen clashed with troops from the post, killing Lt. Caspar Collins and others. The post was later renamed Fort Caspar.

— COURTESY WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON COLLECTION, SCOTTSBLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT —

placed by the military and strongly opposed by the Indians.

Fort Phil Kearny has been rebuilt on its original site and is now a Wyoming State Historic Site. From here, take local roads north across Lodge Trail Ridge on a route Lt. William J. Fetterman rode with 80 of his fellow soldiers in December 1866. There had been minor skirmishes prior to that cold

winter day and Fetterman had been instructed not to cross the ridge. But when Indian riders taunted the soldiers, Fetterman followed them and rode right into the trap laid by Red Cloud. By the time the fight ended, Fetterman and all his men had perished. There is a monument at the battle site.

After learning of Fetterman's fate, Col. Carrington sent relief riders to Fort Laramie

with an urgent request for additional troops. This led to another peace commission at Fort Laramie in early 1867, but was not productive. The tribal leaders who took part demanded that the military forts and the troops serving at them be removed, but the frontier Army refused to leave, setting up the next round of fighting.

In August 1867, Red Cloud and other tribal war leaders staged a series of coordinated attacks. At a site near present-day Story, Wyoming, a group of woodcutters from Fort Phil Kearny took cover behind their wagons as they fought off attacking warriors in what became known as the Wagon Box Fight. My route from Fort Phil Kearny on a rural road up Piney Creek takes me to the site of that

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Officers at Fort Fetterman included (l. to r.) 1st Lt. Henry Seaton, Lt. George O. Webster, Lt. Henry E. Robinson, and Capt. Gebhard L. Luhn, all of the Fourth Infantry, and Capt. William H. Andres, Third Cavalry.

— WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES, DEPARTMENT OF STATE PARKS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES —

battle before I continue north to Sheridan and then Ranchester, where Col. Patrick Conner attacked the Arapaho camp in 1865. Connor and his soldiers destroyed some 250 lodges and killed many of the Arapaho tribal members, including women and children.

Fort C.F. Smith, the third key military post built in the area, was beside the Bighorn River at the Spotted Rabbit Crossing on the present Crow Indian Reservation. The Hayfield Fight took place near Fort Smith in the series of coordinated attacks in early August 1867. Again, the tribal fighters were victorious.

Showing coordination, strategy, perseverance and adroit precision, Red Cloud and his warriors ultimately achieved their greatest goal—to drive the military out of



the Powder River Basin. The Army closed the forts that stood along the Bozeman Trail. After the soldiers withdrew, the Indians burned the posts.

Treaty of 1868

Red Cloud returned to Fort Laramie after winning his war and sat down with

peace commissioners once again. They negotiated the Treaty of 1868, which established the Great Sioux Reservation. My route from Sheridan, now heads east across the Powder River Basin into the Black Hills, which was the key area held by the tribes under the Fort Laramie Treaty.

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"Jack" Casement director of construction Union Pacific Railroad (1868) AHC Photo

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Above Photo: The 650-foot (200 m) Dale Creek Crossing, completed in 1868 and UP Largest and highest elevation bridge at 8,247 feet. The Ames Monument is close by and marks the highest point on the Union Pacific. AHC photo

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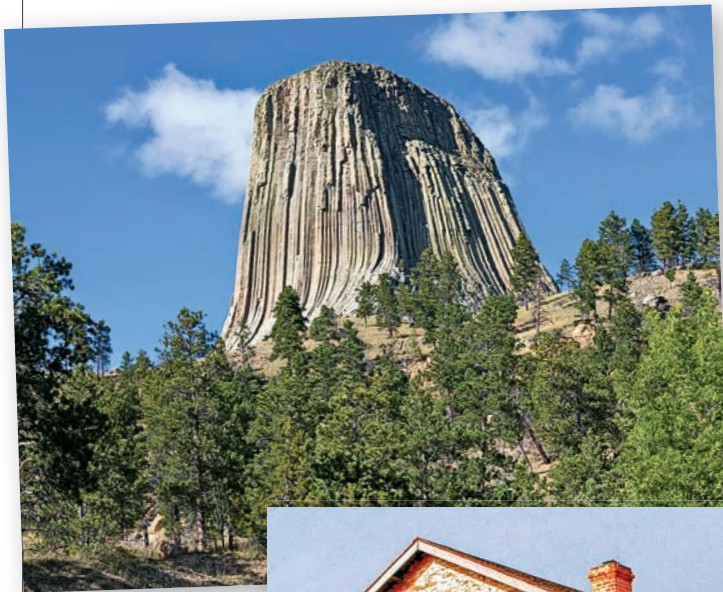
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Devils Tower National Monument (left) in eastern Wyoming protects one of the most sacred Indian sites in the region.

- COURTESY CAROL HIGHSMITH, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

Fort Laramie (right), established as a military post in 1849, became important for tribal relations. Red Cloud spent no time in the post jail, but he did take part in treaty conferences held near the fort.

- CANDY MOULTON -



Devils Tower, near Hulett, Wyoming, is one of many sacred places in this region for American Indians. This stone landmark is the first national monument, and is best explored on the ground by hiking around the base or on trails within the monument lands. Continuing east and deep into the Black Hills, my route takes me to South Dakota, through Belle Fourche, Spearfish and Deadwood, then south past Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial, to Fort Robinson, just west of Crawford, Nebraska.

After Red Cloud ultimately moved onto the reservation, he and his followers received the annuities promised to them in the 1868 Fort Laramie treaty, first near Fort Laramie, but later at the Red Cloud Agency, which was on the boundary of Camp Robinson (later Fort Robinson).

Crazy Horse, the Lakota warrior who had fought with Red Cloud, became a primary war leader in the Second Sioux War that included the Battle of the Rosebud and Battle of Little Bighorn, both

in July 1876. Crazy Horse, whose likeness is being carved into a granite mountain in the Black Hills, ultimately surrendered near Camp Robinson, and was stabbed and killed there in September 1877.

Later, the Red Cloud Agency was moved from its Nebraska location, as the people were ordered to first obtain their annuities along the Missouri River, but soon relocated to the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota.

The Lakota people who followed Red Cloud and other leaders lived under terms of the 1868 treaty in the years after it was negotiated, receiving annuities even as they were forced to assimilate and learn to become farmers and take on other trades. But the treaty still holds significance. Even today, 150 years later, tribal members will remind visitors to their land that it was set aside for them during the peace conference at Fort Laramie in 1868.

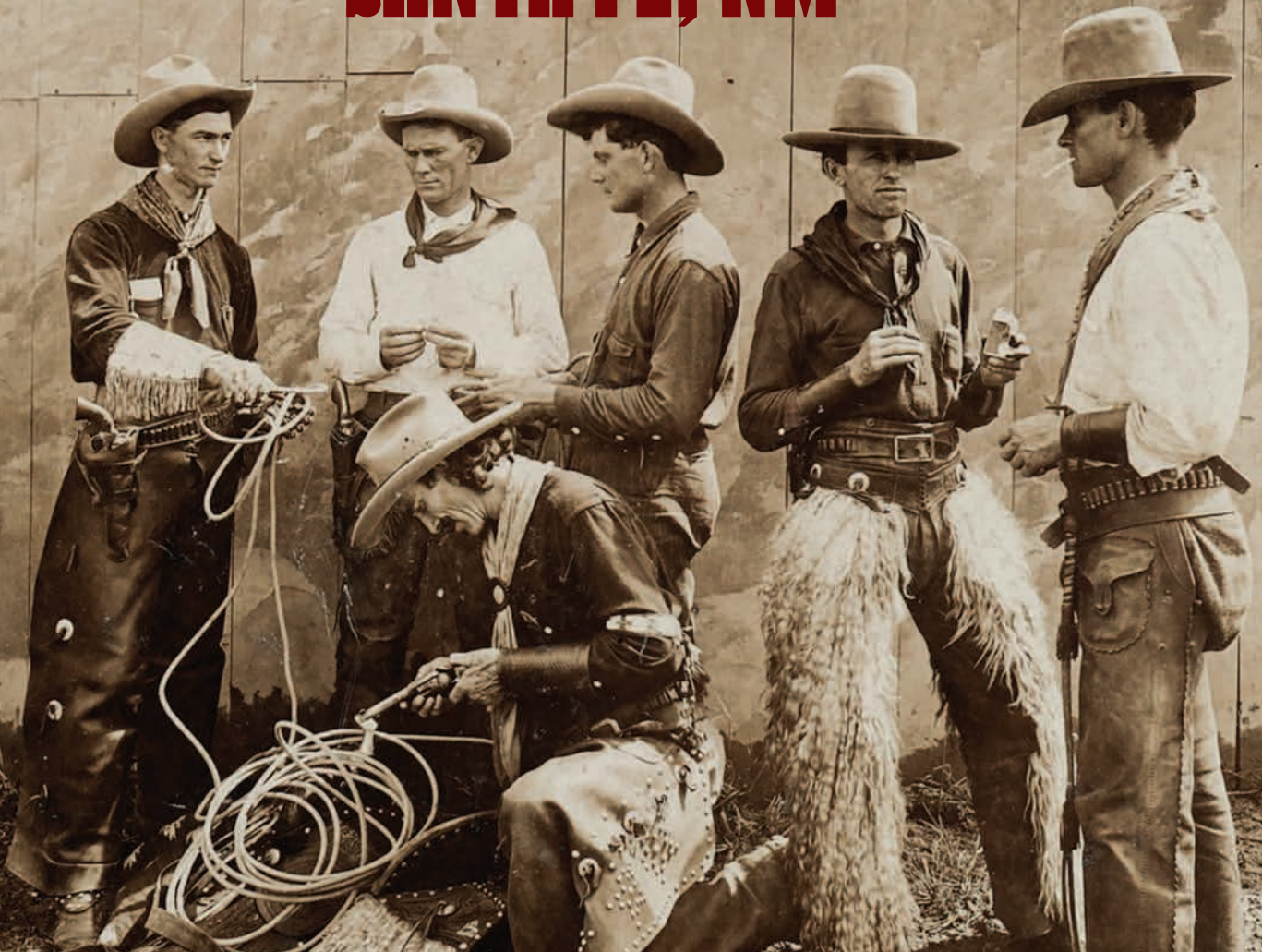


Candy Moulton is the author of *Valentine T. McGillicuddy: Army Surgeon, Agent to the Sioux and Forts, Fights and Frontier Sites: Wyoming's Historic Sites*.

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FRONTIER FARE

BY SHERRY MONAHAN

The Fair's Frontier Fare

Both local and international fairs offered fairgoers new food creations and delicacies from all over the world.



At the Palm Garden Café, illustrated here as part of California's Midwinter Fair in 1894, guests enjoyed Mexican tamales that were rolled with chicken and chili, and steamed while patrons waited. Waitresses served them with a cold schooner of beer.

- PUBLISHED IN SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, FEBRUARY 28, 1894 -

that the Argonauts were hardy people; the flapjacks show it," the *Chronicle* reported.

International delights included French food at the Louvre restaurant, German dishes from Heidelberg Castle and buttermilk from Flemish Dairy. Buttermilk may not have been a favorite

with the public because the merchant experienced cash flow problems. In April, the sheriff levied tolls on the "visitor who thirsts for a glass of buttermilk."

Many Midwinter Fair attendees turned a visit into a family outing by bringing lunch baskets. They arrived around 10 a.m. and stayed until the first chill of the air hit. They

popped in and out of exhibits, and returned to their picnics to eat dainty sandwiches and drink cold tea.

The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition opened in Omaha, Nebraska, in June 1898. Among its manufactured goods exhibits was Miss Nellie Dot Ranche's practical cookery

class, which offered demonstrations at least once a week.

After paying 50 cents to enter, folks had the chance to eat at a dozen restaurants, two dozen lunch counters and various tea gardens and ice cream stands. Tea, coffee

Fairs gave states and counties the opportunity to show off their best. At both local and international fairs, food helped attendees learn other cultures.

M.H. De Young, the owner of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, conceived of the California Midwinter International Exposition a.k.a. Midwinter Fair. Construction began in 1893, at Golden Gate Park, where 200 acres were cleared for roughly 100 buildings. The fair opened in January 1894 and ran until July 4.

Paying from 35 cents to 50 cents per meal, fairgoers could eat at various restaurants, including the Scientific Kitchen or the Forty-Niners camp. The latter served "...immortal flapjacks upon which California based its prosperity.... After looking at the food of the ancients, one need be told no more

"...immortal flapjacks upon which California based its prosperity."

and pie cost five cents, while sandwiches cost 10 cents. One could also buy a box lunch featuring two sandwiches, two pieces of cake, a pickle, pie and an orange.

Those who hungered for roast beef sandwiches headed to the State of Maine log cabin bean house, where the meat was roasted over red-hot coals. Roast beef sandwiches were so popular that concessionaires had to take out ads to hire meat carvers.

Harriet MacMurphy, an expo “kitchen-ener,” noted strange food products, including a “brownish yellow powder” that piqued her curiosity. She learned it was chile powder, popular in Mexican dishes.

The model kitchen exhibit used the chile powder to make “chila con carni [sic], tamales, tortillas and other strangely named dishes...,” MacMurphy added.

Created by the Gebhardt Chili Powder company in San Antonio, Texas, the chile powder contained peppers, garlic, onion, oregano and other spices.

Try your fair hand at this 1898 Chile con Carne recipe. ❏

Sherry Monahan has penned *The Cowboy's Cookbook*, *Mrs. Earp: Wives & Lovers of the Earp Brothers*; *California Vines, Wines & Pioneers*; *Taste of Tombstone* and *The Wicked West*. She has appeared on Fox News, History Channel and AHC.

CHILE CON CARNE

2 tbsp. lard or bacon fat
 2 lbs. beef, cubed
 1 tsp. salt
 2 qts. water
 1-2 tbsp. chile powder
 1 c. tomatoes, chopped, optional
 1 onion, diced, optional
 1 c. potatoes, diced, optional

Heat the fat in a large stock pot over medium high heat. Add the beef and salt, and cook until brown. Add the water and chile powder. Reduce heat to simmer and cover. Cook for about two hours or until meat is tender. If using, add the tomatoes, onions and/or potatoes when you add the water.



Recipe adapted from *Sunday World-Herald* in Omaha, Nebraska, October 2, 1898



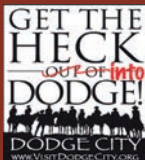
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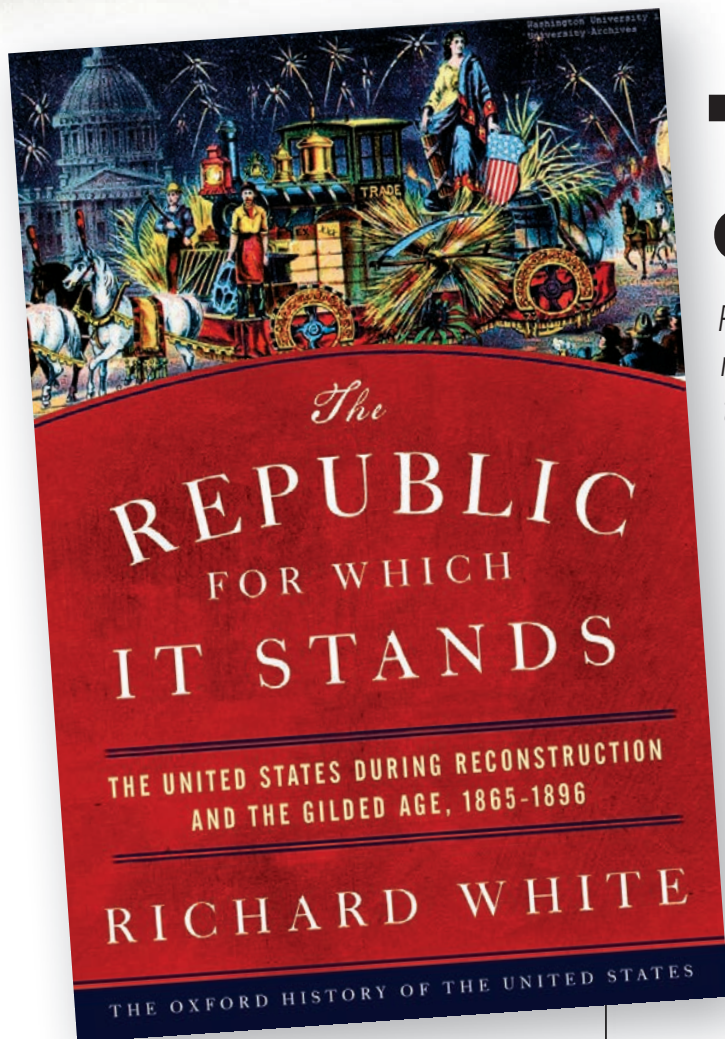
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WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK



The End of the West

Richard White's *The Republic for Which It Stands* redefines the role of the West in the Gilded Age, plus three new history books about the Texas Rangers, another about Mexican revolutionary Gen. Pascual Orozco Jr., the story of the national parks, and a rollicking Western tale.

Since 1988, when award-winning author Richard White published his first volume of history, *The Roots of Dependency: Subsistence, Environment, and Social Change among the Choctaws, Pawnees, and Navajos*, the Stanford University Margaret Byrne Professor of American History has set the bar high for his peers in Western American history. Well-known for his work, including *Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America* and “*It’s Your Misfortune and None of My Own*”: *A New History of the American West*, White has produced a magnum opus of 19th-century American history with his latest book, *The Republic for Which It Stands: The United States During Reconstruction*

and *the Gilded Age, 1865-1896* (Oxford University Press, \$35). White could not have anticipated the timeliness of the release of the 941-page volume, which was published in the last quarter of 2017, in the midst of one of the most divided and rancorous eras in

Historian White, who has published extensively on the industrialization of the West, including the construction of the transcontinental railroads and the Central Pacific across Nevada

(right), expertly threads the multi-headed story of railroads, construction, labor, race and monopolies throughout *The Republic for Which It Stands*.



— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

“In a generation, the United States had taken possession of the western part of the continent, which it had claimed but hardly controlled, and transformed it from Indian country into American states...”



Richard White's magnum opus on Reconstruction and the Gilded Age concludes with the volatile economic and election year of 1896, and the loss by magnanimous Democratic orator and populist William Jennings Bryan to Republican William McKinley in a decisive election that produced regional divisions still central to American politics more than a century later.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

American political, economic, racial and ethnic history. Readers of his insightful and extremely well-researched and well-documented prose will discover a 30-plus-year span of American history, especially the conquering, settlement and industrialization of the West that is still reverberating in American politics in 2018. As White writes in his introduction, "The era began with the universal conviction that the Civil War was the watershed in the nation's history and ended with the proposition that the white settlement of the West defined the national character. Changing the national story from the Civil War to the West amounted to an effort to escape the shadow of the Gilded Age's vanished twin and evade the failure of Reconstruction."

Readers who are strictly Western history aficionados may at first flush, deem *The Republic for Which It Stands* too broad for their tastes, or consider it not Western enough, but I would argue that White's synthesis of American history from 1865 to 1896, interpreted both in the process of history and the place—North, South, East and, most importantly, West—is essential to understanding the West today. That understanding includes why the use, ownership and future of the current Western United States are inexorably tied to the historic actions of the political parties, federal government and military in the management of the land and peoples during

Reconstruction and the Gilded Age. White succinctly summarizes, "In a generation, the United States had taken possession of the western part of the continent, which it had claimed but hardly controlled, and transformed it from Indian country into American states, territories, and a set of constantly shrinking Indian reservations."

The strength of White's massive volume is his research, including detailed footnotes (which is rarely seen in mainstream publishing, but I highly appreciate and enjoy versus having to mark the page and try to find the note in over-used and more popular endnotes) and concluding "Bibliographical Essay," which, for many, will be nearly as important as the text and footnotes. White notes that his essay "describes the core scholarship that [he] consulted in writing this book, as well as some of the more influential works on the late nineteenth century." He also states that it "represents only a fraction of the sources" used and "excludes most of the primary sources consulted. It is designed for the general reader rather than the academic." Academic or not, his footnotes reveal his well-thought-out conclusions, and the bibliographical essay is a valuable resource for the writer and historian diving into research of the volatile and violent—and often overlooked and misunderstood—Gilded Age in America.

—Stuart Rosebrook



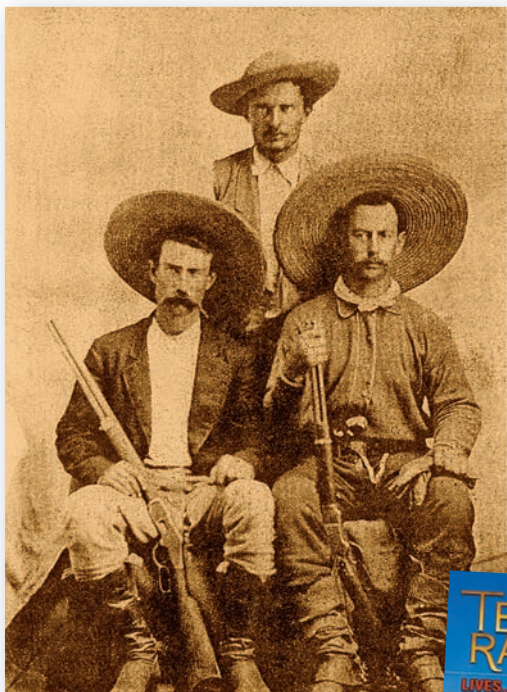
Fans of Western writing, film and television are living in a renaissance era of publishing and production. In 2018 the Wild West is being interpreted and reinterpreted in almost every genre, including the graphic Western.

In nonfiction, Bob Boze Bell's latest, *The Illustrated Life and Times of Wild Bill Hickok: The First Gunfighter*, will be joined later in 2018 by Eric Olson's graphic adaptation of Western historian Mark Lee Gardner's biography, *Shot All to Hell: Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West's Greatest Escape* for Insight Comics. Sony Pictures Television also holds the option on Gardner's action-filled biography; maybe the graphic novel will inspire the studio executives to green-light its production sooner rather than later.

And while in Western fiction the graphic novel seems to have hit an impasse in U.S. publishing, I do recommend Renato Moraes's ode to the Spaghetti Western, *The Gunslinger: The Shadow* (English Edition, Kindle).

Fans of Charlton's classic Western comics will like three collections that have recently been published: *Cowboy Western Comics #17* (edited by Israel Escamillia, CreateSpace); *Lash LaRue Treasury: Volume 3: Gwandaland Comics #628–The King Of The Bullwhip—Exciting Western Comics* (Charlton Comics); *Kid Cowboy: Volume 1: Gwandaland Comics #1629–The Boy Marvel of the West!—Thrilling Western Comics Action—This Book: Complete Issues #1-5* (Ziff-Davis Publishing).

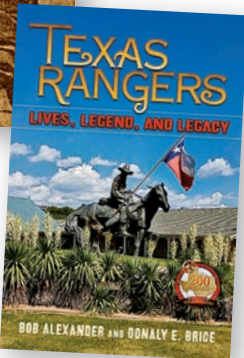
—Stuart Rosebrook



Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend, And Legacy authors Bob Alexander and Donaly E. Brice provide rousing and insightful tales of many legendary rangers, including Joseph Beck (standing) and (seated, l.-r.) Jacob Haby and Joseph Burrell, from the Medina County Rangers, a period preceding the institutionalizing of Texas Rangers as career lawmen.

— COURTESY RENOWNED WESTERN ARTIST AND COLLECTOR DONALD M. YENA AND HIS WIFE LOUISE —

Texas Press, \$34.95) Bob Alexander and Donaly E. Brice tell the story in a well-researched fashion. Of particular interest is the section that covers the history of the Frontier Battalion, its various companies, leaders, men and adventures. In those days, the Rangers weren't living the legend, they were creating the legend.



This book is a welcome addition to the lore of the Texas Rangers.

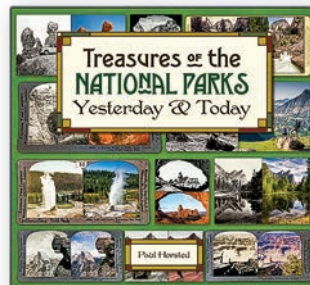
—Jim Wilson,
a retired Texas
peace officer,
former sheriff and
a lifelong student
of Western history

Eternal Texas Rangers

The history of the Texas Rangers is the story of real people surrounded by the legends and the legacies of that historic organization. In *Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend, And Legacy* (University of North

National Park Treasures

Treasures of the National Parks: Yesterday & Today (Golden Valley Press, \$45) is a feast for the eyes. Paul Horsted takes you on a journey to twenty-four national parks through the lens of photographers 75 to 150 years ago to his own today. Horsted meticulously created his photographs from the same vantage points as those taken in the past.



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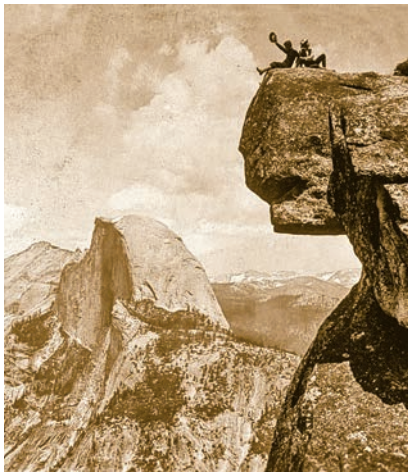
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Paul Horsted's *Treasures of the National Parks: Yesterday & Today* is a beautiful, highly collectible volume of remarkable then-and-now photos. Horsted himself traveled to the original site of the 19th-century stereographic photos, and re-created a modern, color photo of the same location, including Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park.

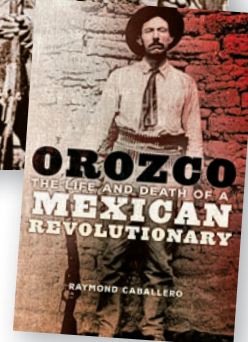
- COURTESY PAUL HORSTED -

Independent historian Raymond Caballero's biography *Orozco: The Life and Death of a Mexican Revolutionary* is the first to be published on Gen. Pascual Orozco Jr. (shown standing in the middle of his staff in 1900), in decades, and provides new theories on his contradictory actions—and ignoble murder.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

Mountains' heights. "I am making discoveries and seeing things in the past," Horsted writes, "that would be unknown without the historic photos." Many sites remain constant, while others have changed significantly due to human activity. Horsted reminds us our national park treasures are in perpetual need of protection. When at Delicate Arch, he recounts how he prevented a young man from carving his initials. The next time you visit a national park, this is one coffee-table book you'll want to take along.

—Bill Markley, author of *Deadwood Dead Men*



Mexican Revolutionary

With shelves upon shelves of books about the Mexican Revolution in both Spanish and English, it would seem that one more would be unnecessary. But, half a century has passed since the last viable Orozco biography and Raymond Caballero gives an interesting "profile" in *Orozco: The Life and Death of a Mexican Revolutionary* (University of

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**WESTERN FILM HISTORIAN SHARES
HIS PASSION FOR WRITING AND CINEMA**



Andrew Patrick Nelson is assistant professor of film history at Montana State University. Though born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, Nelson can't remember watching a single Western movie in his youth. Thankfully, he was introduced to the genre in college, and hasn't looked back.

His monograph *Still in the Saddle: The Hollywood Western, 1969-1980* (University of Oklahoma Press) is the first detailed history of the genre in the 1970s. In a recent review, author David Morrell calls it "essential reading for fans of Western films." (Are you going to argue with the creator of *Rambo*?) Nelson is also the editor of *Contemporary Westerns: Film and Television since*

1990 (Scarecrow Press) and coeditor of *The Films of Delmer Daves* (Edinburgh University Press).

He appeared as a commentator on the Fox News series *Legends & Lies*, and regularly lectures at museums around the country. In the summer of 2018, he's programming a film series at the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio in conjunction with the museum's exhibit of Andy Warhol's *Cowboys and Indians* series.

Here's his recommended Western reading list:

- 1** *Once Upon a Time...The Western: A New Frontier in Art and Film* (Edited by Thomas Brent Smith and Mary-Dailey Desmarais, 5 Continents Editions): This museum catalog is a somewhat selfish recommendation (I was the film advisor on the exhibition), but a more beautiful book on Western art and film, you won't find. It's lavishly illustrated, with informative, accessible essays by top critics and scholars. And me.
- 2** *Who Has Seen the Wind* (W.O. Mitchell, McClelland & Stewart): My tenth-grade English teacher, Mrs. Stewart, wouldn't forgive me if I left prairie sage W.O. Mitchell off this list. This sensitive, witty book, sometimes called the Canadian *Huckleberry Finn*, portrays eight years in the life of small-town boy Brian O'Connell as he comes to terms with the cycles of life and death that define his youth on the plains of Saskatchewan.
- 3** *Follow the Free Wind* (Leigh Brackett, Ballantine Books): Noted science-fiction author and screenwriter of *The Big Sleep* and *Rio Bravo*, Brackett offers a taut but reflective take on the life of escaped slave-turned-mountain man-

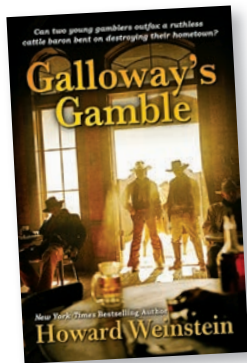
turned-Crow war chief Jim Beckwourth. What more do you need to know?

- 4** *Injuns! Native Americans in the Movies* (Edward Buscombe, Reaktion Books): Buscombe is the greatest scholar of Western cinema. Here he asks the question, "Where do white people's ideas about Indians come from?" You won't find a more insightful examination of the American Indian's depiction in popular art, literature and film.
- 5** *Horizons West* (Jim Kitses, British Film Institute): Do you tend to think of great Western movies in relation to great Western moviemakers? Has anyone ever told you how the cowboy hero of fiction and film symbolically straddles a divide between wilderness and civilization? If so, you have Jim Kitses to thank. Indeed, it is difficult to overstate the influence this slender 1969 volume on the Westerns of Mann, Boetticher and Peckinpah has had on our thinking about the genre. A revised edition, released in 2004, includes new essays on Ford, Leone and Eastwood.



Oklahoma Press, \$34.95). The author presents information that permits the reader to understand why Orozco deserted the revolutionary ideals (if he ever had them) and became seen as a pariah for eventually supporting and accepting the support of the old Porfirio oligarchy. What may be of particular interest to readers is his analysis of the influence of the Protestant ideology on the Orozco clan; the role of the obviously psychotic Gonzalo Enrile; and, the analysis of numerous versions of the death/assassination/shooting of Orozco on U.S. territory. Caballero also provides a description of the ambience north of the border and the actions by Americans which could support or destroy revolutionaries and their movements.

—Salomé Hernández, *Spanish Borderlands historian*



Classic Western Tale

Anyone who loves Charles Portis's style of writing in *True Grit*, or readers ready to fall in love with a great yarn well told, should look no farther than Howard Weinstein's *Galloway's Gamble* (Five Star, \$25.95). Follow the years and adventures of brothers Jamie and Jake Galloway in 19th-century Texas, the Civil War and the American West, interacting with Indians, gamblers and whores extraordinaire, loves found and lost and a mother with enduring grit for the future. The page-turning yarn had to end but this reader wished it hadn't; perhaps a sequel with such rich characters will return in a twisting fun-filled tale.

—Jeb Rosebrook, author of *Junior Bonner: The Making of a Classic* with Steve McQueen and Sam Peckinpah in the Summer of 1971



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WESTERN MOVIES

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Hostiles is Deeply Felt

This Western didn't get an Oscar nod, but has gotten the attention of critics and movie fans.

Hostiles is a deeply felt story, peopled by soldiers, American Indians and civilians who express their feelings with utmost caution. Despite the familiar premise and the flow of the story, the people who populate it are happily unfamiliar.

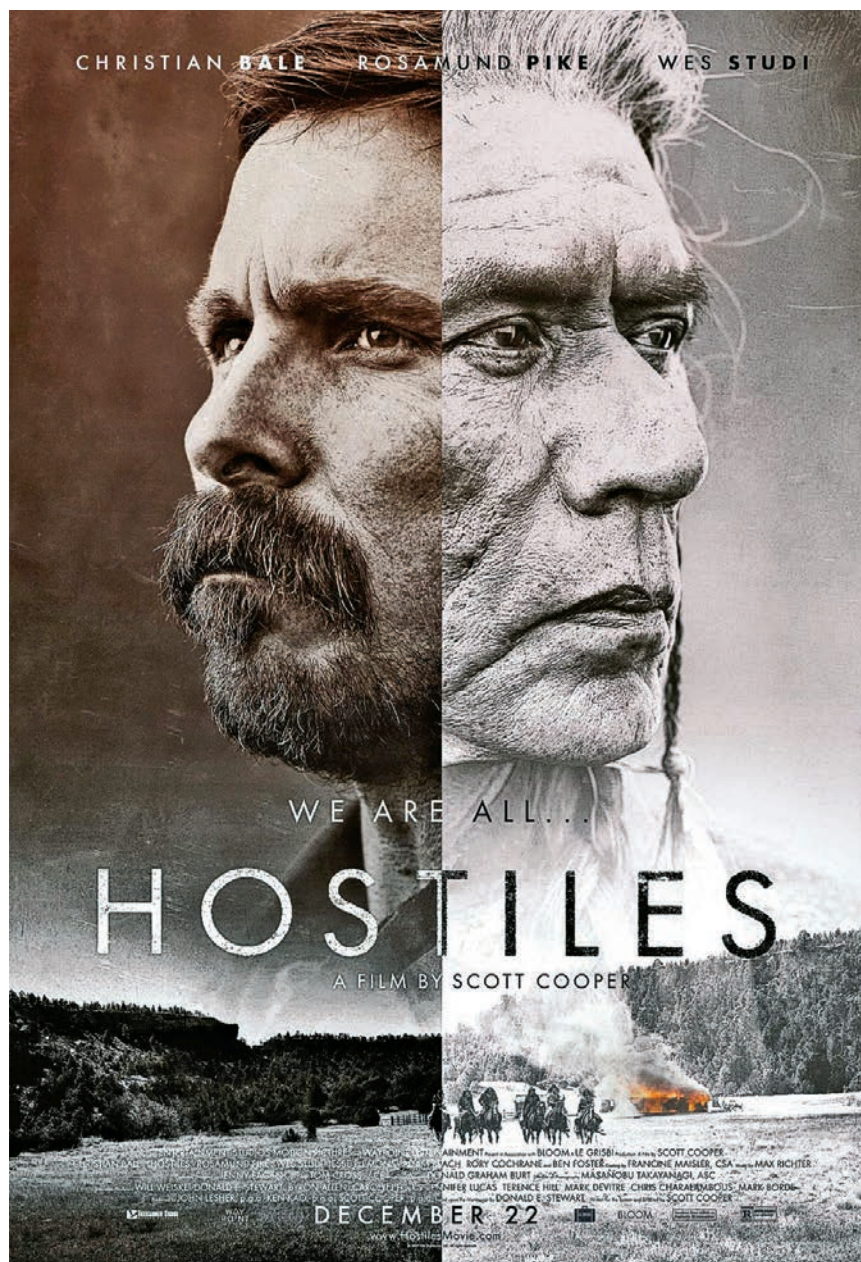
New Mexico Territory Capt. Joseph J. Blocker (Christian Bale) follows orders, under threat of a court-martial and the loss of his pension, to escort Cheyenne Chief Yellow Hawk (Wes Studi) and his family back to their homeland in Montana, presumably to die. The movie becomes, in a sense, a "road picture," with Blocker and Yellow Hawk gradually coming to grips with their intersecting pasts and their terrible memories.

Full of both quiet passages and jarring, unflinching violence, the Western, released this January, is written and directed by Scott Cooper. Cooper based his script on a manuscript by the late Donald E. Stewart, an Oscar winner for 1982's *Missing*.

As far as this year's Oscar nominations went, *Hostiles* got zip. That this well-written, -directed, -acted and -photographed film can't get any respect is a shame.

Is the committee shunning the genre? Sam Elliott, in the role everyone said he was born to play, couldn't get nominated for *The Hero*. And Harry Dean Stanton, in the role everyone said he was born to play, couldn't get nominated for *Lucky*. Apparently his death last September wasn't enough to get the Academy Awards committee to pay attention. #OscarSoEastern?

True West Magazine conducted a roundtable discussion to find out what others thought of the film. I see *Hostiles* as the *Saving Private Ryan* of Westerns. Others offer their own take.



Hostiles is one of the finest Westerns in several years. Christian Bale's performance runs from barely contained fury to understated grace in this story that is frequently grim, but never without hope.

— COURTESY ENTERTAINMENT STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES —

"*Hostiles* is, like all great Westerns, a quest story—but this time the journey is both physical and spiritual. The film is action packed, but the greatest impact is emotional. Beautifully filmed, brilliantly acted by all involved and insightfully written, Scott Cooper's film is the best Western of the last 20 years. That it was not nominated for a 'Best Picture' Academy Award is a shame."

—Paul Andrew Hutton

"There are no good guys or bad guys in the West. Everyone was a victim. Everyone was guilty. It's a movie about transformation and the power of forgiveness!"

—Amy Wilmoth Watts

"I thought it was an unfocused and surprisingly unengaging take on a fascinating topic, just like the director's previous film, *Black Mass*. It certainly has a lot going for it, but it rarely connected for me. The native characters were woefully underdeveloped.

"I honestly don't know what it is with me. The only Western from the past few years that I've really enjoyed was *Slow West*."

—David Lambert

"The story of the Indian Wars is dramatic enough without making up fake history, as they have in this movie. When you have hundreds of thousands watching it who don't know American history, they will walk out thinking the U.S. government had Indians in cages in New Mexico in 1892."

—Senior Editor Stuart Rosebrook

"[*Hostiles*] showed all races and people as good and bad. There was a through-line that whites took the land from the Indians, but at the individual level, there were good people who had done bad things and bad people who did good things (Yellow Hawk, in particular, of course).

"I thought the slow-burn worked great, and I loved Rosamund Pike's reaction after burying her family. The scene took a long time, as I think it should. It felt like a woman who was truly lost and devastated after losing her family...not merely a plot device to introduce the character, fake a note of grief, then move on. It lingered..."

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One fan who credited *Hostiles* as feeling “real to me” also noted the Comanche clothing (see above film still) could have been more authentic, especially because of historical pictures out there, including the 1892 photo of Comanche warrior Ako by his horse and the circa 1890s photo of a Comanche tribal police officer, wearing traditional Comanche buckskin shirt, leggings and moccasins.

— AKO PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES; TRIBAL POLICE PHOTO COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, SEPTEMBER 29, 2006; *HOSTILES* PHOTO COURTESY ENTERTAINMENT STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES —

“I thought the ending needed a little work...felt a little like ‘every single white person we meet is out to kill us, and they start shooting.’”

—Shane Hensley

“I enjoyed the cinematography and the dark mood of the film. While some have complained it moved slow, it felt real to me. Spend some time in the saddle traveling (not pleasure riding), and you’ll appreciate that pace.

“The hit-and-run attacks from the Comanche were true to their character.... My only real complaints were related to the Comanche...why was there a Comanche

Hostiles
is the
Saving Private
Ryan of
Westerns.

raiding party in New Mexico in 1892? And why couldn’t they get the Comanche clothing a little more dialed in since there are plenty of images of them from before, during and after this period?”

—Scott McMahon

“*Hostiles* was so bad, I was afraid that the music was by Carter Burwell, it was so lugubrious.... Our intrepid soldier-boy (played by the frozen face of Christian Bale) takes his groups of rag-tag, ne’er-do-wells *over* [instead of around] the mountains. I was afraid that they’d never make it to Montana within the time constraints of a movie. Somehow they did,

but not before that incompetent soldier-boy got almost every member of his band killed....

"I think I'll go watch John Wayne's *The Alamo*, where they have the more historically accurate birthday party for the little girl during the middle of a siege in which they are all gonna be killed! At least that was more believable."

—Thom Ross

"Enjoyed it and disliked it at the same time. A great topic, historically miswritten as a script, that I felt needed much more polishing.... the main reason for the movie—the Cheyenne family—is completely underdeveloped as characters. Adam Beach's character is sadly almost nonexistent, and his performance wasted.

"The scenery is beautifully shot, and reminds you of a [John] Ford Western. The cavalry equipment, tack and etc. are excellent. The native things, I felt, needed more work.

"Outside of some historical script issues, and what I felt was some stunted editing, it was a good Western, whose flaws kept it from being a great Western."

—Jeff Prechtel



BLU-RAY REVIEW

Barquero

(Kino Lorber; \$29.95) *For a Few Dollars More* and *The Wild Bunch* propelled former bit players Lee Van Cleef and Warren Oates to Western movie stardom. Van Cleef is the *barquero* (bargeman) whose ferry is the only way across the river. Oates is the weed-smoking bandit leader Remy, whose gang has robbed a silver shipment and needs the ferry to escape to Mexico. Director Gordon Douglas packs this 1970 waterfront Western with action, featuring Forrest Tucker and Kerwin Mathews. ❏

Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, California, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: Henry'sWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com

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Decades ago, while traveling by plane between London and Phoenix, I asked the Englishman sitting next to me why he was going to the United States. He said he was going West for his holiday. I said why not the historic East Coast? I've never forgotten his answer. "Traveling to the American East is like traveling to Europe; but a trip to the West is where a traveler could discover the heart of the United States."

At *True West*, we agree with the English traveler and believe that a Western heritage road trip, like the six our authors have written for our 2018 travel issue, will not only take you down beautiful and scenic highways and byways, but will deliver you to the historic small towns, sites, monument and parks where you can stand and experience where history happened. Park your car, truck or RV, enjoy the hospitality of small-town America, shop at the downtown stores, visit local museums, dine at one-of-a-kind restaurants and stay in a historic hotel, lodge or guest ranch. And, as American poet Robinson Jeffers challenged us all in his 1933 lyrical poem, "give your heart to the hawks."

—Stuart Rosebrook



Custer's Gold

Custer's Black Hills Trail leads to adventure across three states.

— BY BILL MARKLEY —



Every June 7th Cavalry re-enactors return to Fort Abraham Lincoln Historic State Park near Mandan, North Dakota, to participate in the summer festival. A living history park, the Custer House was reconstructed on its original site in 1989.

— ALL PHOTOS BY COURTESY PAULHORSTED.COM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

“GOLD!” proclaimed Dakota Territory’s *Bismarck Tribune*, August 12, 1874. Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer’s Black Hills expedition had discovered gold. The newspaper predicted the Black Hills would “become the El Dorado of America.”

The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty established Dakota Territory’s Black Hills as part of the Great Sioux Reservation prohibiting white access, but the government believed forts were needed in the Black Hills. General William T. Sherman authorized Custer to lead an expedition to reconnoiter potential fort locations. The Black Hills

were relatively unexplored, shrouded in mystery. Many hoped the expedition would confirm rumors of gold.

Custer organized his expedition at Fort Abraham Lincoln along the west bank of the Missouri River, Dakota Territory. The expedition comprised ten companies from the 7th Cavalry, one from the 17th Infantry, and one from the 20th Infantry, three Gatling guns, and a Rodman rifled cannon. Captain William Ludlow led an engineering detachment. Personnel included Indian and white scouts, a sixteen-piece band, teamsters, reporters, scientists, photographer William H. Illingworth and two miners.

On July 2, 1874, the band played “The Girl I Left Behind me,” as Custer, dressed in buckskin and riding his horse, Dandy, led 995 soldiers and civilians, 660 mules pulling 110 wagons, 700 horses and a large herd of beef cattle westward from Fort Abraham Lincoln. Using sextants, chronometers, compasses and odometers, Ludlow’s engineers recorded the expedition’s route as well as its 47 campsites, later creating maps.

Paul Horsted, Ernie Grafe and Jon Nelson have been enthralled with Custer’s trail for years. Studying maps, survey notes and journals, they rediscovered the trail and



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Three months before Gen. George Armstrong Custer led his Black Hills Expedition, he and his wife Elizabeth "Libbie" Custer sat for their photo in their snuggery at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory.

- C.F. BATES, APRIL 6, 1874, COURTESY BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY -

campsites, publishing their findings in two books. They overlaid Ludlow's maps with GPS coordinates, pinpointing locations along the trail. As technology advanced, they superimposed Ludlow's maps over Google Earth maps, further refining their search. They found most of Ludlow's observations extremely accurate, considering distances involved.

I tagged along with Paul and Jon traveling Custer's route as they reminisced about rediscovering the trail. "I became involved when I realized the expedition passed near my Black Hills home," Paul said. He searched for Illingworth's photograph locations, taking photos from the same positions. "I have used celestial navigation the same as they did, and set out to discover their camps using it," Jon said.

Custer's Black Hills trail begins at Fort Abraham Lincoln located on North Dakota Highway 1806, seven miles south of Mandan, North Dakota. Custer's 7th Cavalry was stationed there in 1873. Today, one can visit reconstructed barracks, stables and blockhouses, and tour Custer's house furnished the way it was when George and Libbie lived there.

Bearing southwest, crossing a treeless prairie under a scorching sun, plagued by clouds of choking dust, and slurping warm

alkaline water, the expedition was led by Lakota scout Goose to Hiddenwood Creek on July 8. They rested by a grove of trees growing along the creek. You can find the Hiddenwood campsite on US Highway 12, 3.3 miles east of Haynes, North Dakota. A roadside display explains the expedition's camp location.

July 11: They reached the Cave Hills. Goose led them to a sacred cave which Custer named Ludlow Cave. The cave is on Custer National Forest land, but hard to find. Obtain site information from the National Forest Service, and adjacent property owners. Driving can be difficult over rough roads. When hiking to the cave, watch for rattlesnakes.

July 21: The expedition crossed today's Interstate 90. At the interstate's Northeast Wyoming Welcome Center, a sign explains Custer's expedition passed three miles to the west. The Crook County Museum in Sundance, Wyoming, and the High Plains Heritage Center in Spearfish, South Dakota, display expedition artifacts discovered by Jon Nelson.

Pvt. John Cunningham died from diarrhea on July 21. The next morning, Pvt. William Roller found his horse cross-hobbled which would not allow it to move without falling. Pvt. George Turner believed Roller was accusing him of the deed. The two men, who had been feuding, reached



On the return trip along the Custer Trail from South Dakota's Black Hills to Fort Abraham Lincoln, North Dakota, in Sundance, Wyoming, is the Crook County Museum with some of the region's finest exhibits of Old West firearms.

- COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM -

North Dakota
LEGENDARY



Fort Mandan, near Washburn

— Josh Duhamel —

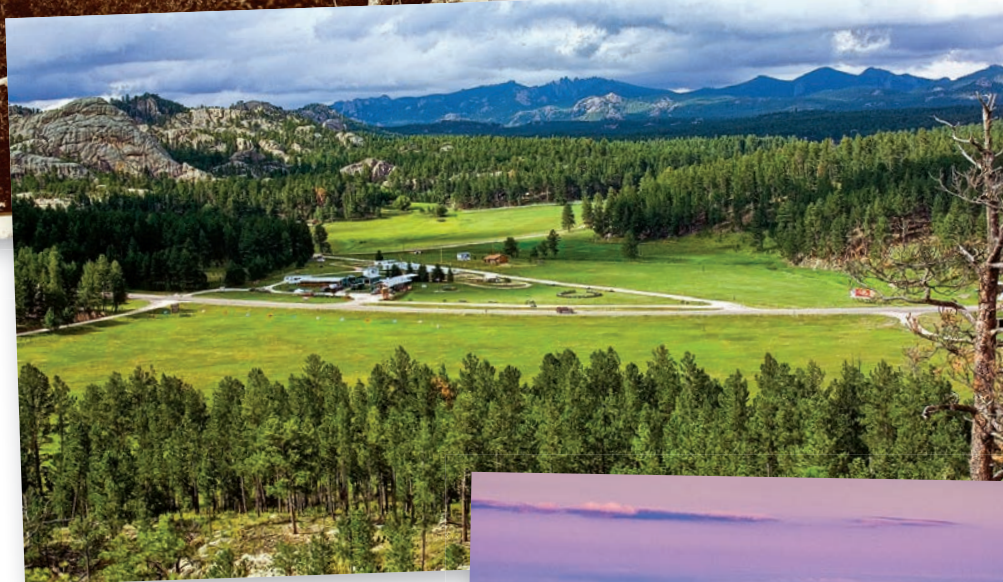
UNSCRIPTED

We like to think that Lewis & Clark, along with Sakakawea, enjoyed a good laugh as much as anyone could in the winter of 1804. Rich history is just one reason why North Dakota native Josh Duhamel returns home. Visit us online to discover Josh's favorites and start your own unscripted adventure.

LegendaryND.com



Photographer and historian Paul Horsted spent three years researching, following and re-creating the photos of expedition photographer William Henry Illingworth, including this view of Permanent Camp (left and below) of August 1-5, 1874, which is just west of Custer State Park.



for their revolvers. Roller shot Turner in the stomach, killing him. Cunningham and Turner were buried in a double-grave. Their markers stand along the eastside of Wyoming Highway 585, 14.5 miles south of Sundance.

July 23: Custer and a small group climbed 6,500-foot Inyan Kara. A trail leads to the top on Black Hills National Forest land, but it's surrounded by private land. Ask permission before crossing.

The expedition entered the Black Hills on July 25, and on July 26, they proceeded into Castle Creek valley from the northwest. Illingworth climbed a ridge to take an iconic photograph of the wagons in the valley. From the back end of Deerfield Lake, drive northwest 1.2 miles on Deerfield Road. Turn left onto West Deerfield Road. Drive 5.3 miles; look right for an old logging road. Stop and look to the southeast for two limestone columns. Illingworth's photo site is on the ridge above.

That same day, they encountered a Lakota village led by One Stab. Custer's Indian scouts prepared to attack, but Custer stopped them. He allowed the villagers to leave, but held One Stab as a guide. The expedition camped by Castle Creek, July 26 and 27. From Illingworth's photo site, return toward Deerfield Road; just before the intersection is the expedition's camp on Forest Service land.

July 30: They camped two days in present-day downtown Custer, South Dakota. The miner Horatio Ross, panning soil in French Creek, discovered a few gold pinpoints. Custer, leading a small group, climbed

Harney Peak. While he was gone, the officers drank champagne after the men played baseball. Harney Peak, now renamed Black Elk Peak, at 7,244 feet, is accessible by several trails, the most scenic has its trailhead at Sylvan Lake.

The expedition moved three miles downstream on French Creek, camping for five days. Here, on August 2, miners Ross and William McKay discovered gold flakes, enough to consider profitable. East of Custer, where American Center Road crosses French Creek, is where they found gold. US Highway 16A cuts through the expedition's campsite. Camp where the expedition camped at either Wheels West Campground on the northside of the highway or at Custer's Gulch Campground on the southside.

The expedition began its return trip on August 6. The next day, Custer and a few others were in advance of the column when they encountered and killed a grizzly bear. This site is on private land.

August 13: The Army expedition forded Boxelder Creek then blazed a trail through Custer Gap. You can view Custer Gap on the east side of Nemo Road, three-tenths of



On August 16, 1874, Custer's expedition of wagons and men, horses and mules, would have crossed, right to left, the prairie near Bear Butte north of modern-day Sturgis, South Dakota.

a mile east of the intersection of Nemo and Norris Peak Roads.

That evening, Pvt. James King died of dysentery. He was buried the next morning as the expedition headed east out of the Black Hills. You can see King's gravestone on private property on the westside of Nemo Road, approximately two miles southeast of Custer Gap.



The Army marched along the Black Hills' eastside, camping five miles south of Bear Butte on August 14 and 15. From Sturgis head east on South Dakota Highway 34. Two miles past Fort Meade, turn south on Fort Meade Way. After two miles, a marker on the east side designates the campsite.

A small group of scientists and officers climbed Bear Butte, which rises 1,200 feet above the prairie. Sacred to the Cheyennes, Lakotas, and others, Bear Butte is a state park. To reach Bear Butte, take State Highway 79, 2.5 miles north of South Dakota Highway 34. As an Indian sacred site, visitors are asked to respect those in prayer and not to disturb offerings.

The expedition proceeded north over prairie studded with massive buttes. Taking South Dakota Highway 79 north to Castle Rock will keep you in the expedition trail's proximity.

Follow South Dakota Highway 168 west then north on US Highway 85. Custer's trail bears northwest of the highway toward Camp Crook on the Little Missouri River. No paved roads are close to the trail, so take US Highway 85 to Interstate 94.

Custer's trail joins Interstate 94 at Gladstone, North Dakota. The interstate follows the Northern Pacific Railroad survey route, and this is the route Custer took returning to Fort Abraham Lincoln. Nearing the fort on August 30, correspondent William Curtis wrote "...the mules of the wagon train lifted up their voices and wept for joy." After traveling 883 miles, the expedition returned with the band playing "Garryowen."

Jon and Paul discussed the results of their work. Most landowners had no idea the expedition crossed or camped on their land. Now many are stewards of the sites, taking precautions to protect them. Paul has experienced eureka moments: examining Ludlow's hand-drawn map at the National Archives, taking photographs where Illingworth did, and finding the spot Custer posed with his grizzly bear.

"You can see tree stumps in Illingworth's photos that are still there today," Paul said.

"The trees were dead in 1874," Jon added. "And look, the trees are still dead today!"

A few campsites elude Jon and Paul. "It would help if people at the National Archives, West Point or the Minnesota State Archives, could find Ludlow and his men's fieldnotes," Paul said. "There are five known diaries out of an expedition of one thousand people. There's got to be more."

If you follow Custer's trail, take along Paul and Ernie's book *Exploring with Custer* and Paul, Ernie, and Jon's book *Crossing the Plains with Custer*. Most campsites are on private property or you need to cross private land to reach them, so make sure you have permission. Be prepared to travel unpaved roads. Let someone know your travel plans. Ensure you have food and water in case you break down. Use sunscreen and bug spray. Watch for rattlesnakes. Taking these measures will enhance your experience as you follow Custer's Black Hills Trail.

Bill Markley, author of *Deadwood Dead Men*, thanks Paul Horsted and Jon Nelson for taking him along on a Custer's Black Hills Trail road trip.

The 1881 Courthouse Museum in Custer, South Dakota, has several personal items that belonged to Gen. Custer. In 1928, Elizabeth Custer donated to the City of Custer her late husband's Sharps & Hankins Model 1862 .52 Caliber hunting rifle (held by Custer re-enactor Mitch McClain) in gratitude for an invitation to a celebration she regrettably could not attend.

— COURTESY CUSTER COUNTY 1881 COURTHOUSE MUSEUM —



SOUTH DAKOTA

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GRUB: *Over the Edge Bar and Grill, Camp Crook; Black Hills Burger and Bun, Custer; Skogen Kitchen, Custer; Benny's, Lemmon; No. 3 Saloon & Grill, Buffalo*

LODGING: *Tipperary Lodge Motel, Buffalo; Lemmon Country Inn, Lemmon; Chief Motel, Custer; Bavarian Inn, Custer*

PLACES TO VISIT

Custer County 1881 Courthouse Museum, Custer; Gordon Stockade, Custer; Crazy Horse Memorial, Black Hills; Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Keystone; Old Fort Meade Museum, Fort Meade; Newell Museum, Newell; Adams Museum, Deadwood; Days of 76 Museum, Deadwood; Custer State Park, Black Hills; Bear Butte State Park, Sturgis; High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish; Tri-State Museum, Belle Fourche; Grand River Museum, Lemmon; Buffalo Historical Museum, Buffalo

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Roundup, Custer, Sept. 28; Custer Gold Discovery Days, Custer, Jul. 20-22; Native Americans' Day, Crazy Horse Memorial, Oct. 8

WYOMING

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GRUB: *Longhorn Saloon & Grill, Sundance; Higbee's Café, Sundance*

LODGING: *Bear Lodge Hotel, Sundance; Kara Creek Ranch, Sundance*

PLACES TO VISIT

Crook County Museum, Sundance; Cement Ridge Lookout, Sundance; Vore Buffalo Jump, Sundance;

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Crook County Fair and Rodeo, Sundance, Jul. 22-29; Sundance Beer Festival, Sundance, Sep. 8

NORTH DAKOTA

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GRUB: *Jack's Steakhouse and Saloon, Bismarck; The Wurst Shop, Dickinson; Jabr's Family Restaurant, Bowman; Fried's Family Restaurant, Mandan*

LODGING: *Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, Mandan; La Quinta Inn & Suites, Dickinson; North Winds Lodge, Bowman; Comfort Inn & Suites, Mandan*

PLACES TO VISIT

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and On-A-Slant Village, Mandan; Pioneer Trails Regional Museum, Bowman; North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, Bismarck

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Military Appreciation Day, Fort Abraham Lincoln, Mandan, May 28; Mandan Rodeo Days, Mandan, Jul. 2-4



Nevada's Silver Roots

Experience the Old West in an adventurous round trip around the heart of the Silver State.

— BY CHRIS ENSS —



What do San Francisco real estate, George Hearst, Mark Twain, the Civil War and the Nobel Peace Prize have in common? The answer: Nevada's famous Comstock Lode.

In July 1859, a weary traveler strode into Grass Valley, California. He had trudged more than 150 miles over the massive Sierra Nevada from the Washoe County in western Utah territory. He was carrying some odd-looking chunks of gold-bearing ore. He took them to local assayer Melville Atwood to have them tested. What Atwood discovered made him doubt his own calculations. Besides the gold content, which ran about \$1,000 to the ton, the specimen contained a much higher value in silver—over \$3,000 a ton.

Irishmen Patrick McLaughlin and Peter O'Reilly were the first to discover the rich lode, but they didn't realize their find included silver deposits. They were washing out the gold with their rockers, letting the rest of the rock roll away. That rock was picked up by mountain men and itinerant miners in the area. One of those prospectors was Henry Comstock, who was in the vicinity when McLaughlin and O'Reilly were working the find. Comstock immediately declared the spot his and insisted he had already filed a claim for the location. The miners didn't pay much attention to him and continued on with their job. Comstock left to find help and returned the next day with Manny Penrod. Penrod claimed to own the

Henry Comstock—whose 1863 Comstock House in Virginia City, is now the Red Dog Saloon (above, left)—was always in search of the latest technology to reach the rich veins of ore deep under the Nevada desert. In 1868, Comstock was one of the first to use the new invention by Swedish chemical engineer Alfred Nobel (above)—dynamite.

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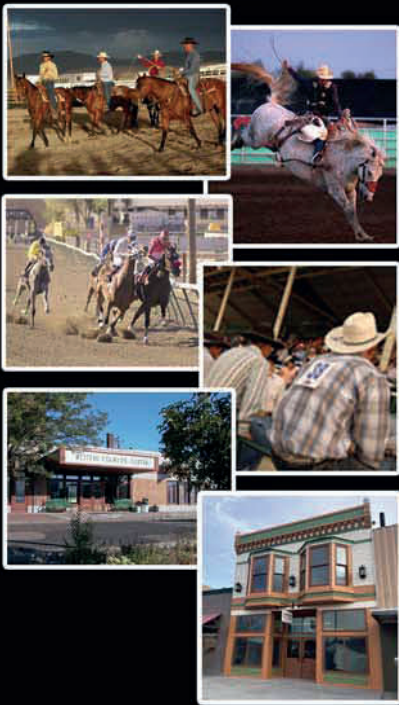
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The Dayton Museum honors the mining history of the city and region, including an exhibit on Adolph Sutro and his innovative Sutro Tunnel built in 1878 between Dayton and Virginia City for water drainage and safer mine shaft access.

spring McLaughlin and O'Reilly were sifting through and cheerfully backed up Comstock's story. The Irishmen reasoned there was enough gold to go around, decided not to fight the matter, and agreed to give Comstock and Penrod equal shares in the discovery.

Subsequent mining claims were filed in various points on Sun Mountain where the chunks of silver ore had been collected. Prospector George Hearst, father of William Randolph Hearst, purchased a share in one find on the mountain's slopes for \$3,500. Shortly afterwards, Hearst opened the Ophir Mine, which produced more than \$400 million in gold and silver ore.

When word of the Comstock Lode got out, thousands hurried to the region to capitalize on the strike. Many who flooded the area were from San Francisco. Much of the money they made in Nevada was taken back to San Francisco and invested in real estate. One of those San Franciscans was Adolph Sutro, who built the famous Sutro Tunnel in Virginia City. The tunnel was built to efficiently drain and ventilate the mines.

In 1851, when Nevada was still a part of the Utah Territory, the trading center of Genoa (originally Mormon Station) was founded to serve California trail emigrants. Genoa had the state's first hotel and newspaper, and the Genoa Bar is known as the "Nevada's oldest thirst parlor."

Virginia City grew up around the mining activity and was made a popular destination by the Comstock Lode. By the spring of 1861, more than 40,000 people lived there. It had theaters, luxurious hotels, utilities and blocks of fine homes. Among the many businesses in Virginia City was a robust newspaper called *The Territorial Enterprise*. Journalist Samuel Clemens moved to the area in 1862 and began writing for the paper, taking the pen name Mark Twain.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln needed the Nevada territory silver and pro-Union senatorial votes. The territory was propelled into statehood on October 31, 1864, in the midst of the Civil War. The riches gleaned from Virginia City helped fund the Union's efforts.

Virginia City, and by extension, the state of Nevada, continued to prosper throughout the 1860s. New innovations were being introduced daily in the mining community, including one invented by chemist and engineer Alfred Nobel. In 1866 Nobel





developed and patented dynamite. It was first used in the mines around Virginia City in 1868. The explosive brought Nobel fame and fortune. He later established the Nobel Prize Awards.

In time, the trails cut by pioneers into the land of silver and gold gave way to modern roads, and following those roads in either direction led to hospitable locations throughout the state where mining wasn't the main source of industry. In Carson City, for example, the focus was on transportation.

Named after mountain man Kit Carson, Carson City originated as a stopover for California-bound emigrants. It was the hub for the Virginia and Truckee Railroad and has served as Nevada's capitol since statehood. From Carson City, the Virginia and Truckee rails stretched 66 miles to Virginia City, Reno and Minden, Nevada. They served the transportation needs of the Comstock's inhabitants and paid its early owners handsome dividends. Some of Virginia and Truckee Railroad's ornate cars are on display at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.

Genoa, the first settlement in what became Nevada Territory, is 22 miles south of Carson City. It was established as a trading post in 1851, and the Overland Emigrant Trail passed through what is now Genoa's Main Street. Most of the area's initial inhabitants were Mormon. In fact, the town was first called Mormon Station. In 1855, the name was changed to Genoa, the Italian city where Christopher Columbus was born.

Genoa has a thriving historical community, complete with a courthouse, hotels and saloons. Mark Twain and Teddy Roosevelt patronized the Genoa Bar, the third-oldest bar in the state.

The annual Genoa Cowboy Festival held in April celebrates its Western roots with music, poetry, presentations and workshops showcasing the pioneering, Old West cowboy heritage.

Northeast of Genoa and Carson City, along picturesque I-80, are colorful deserts, mystic caves, majestic mountain

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To feed hungry miners in Nevada's Comstock Lode towns, cattle ranching came to the territory in the 1850s and 1860s, and the state's rich buckaroo history began. Founded in 1913, Elko's Silver Stampede (left) in July is the oldest rodeo in the state.

The Northern Nevada Railway Museum in Ely, a national historic landmark, along with its historic short-line railroad, offers travelers a living history experience, including being an engineer for the day.



ranges, charming lakes and many hospitable towns and cities like Winnemucca. Nestled in a valley with the Humboldt River running through it, the site has been important to Nevada since the first explorers traversed the region in the late 1820s. It was a critical rest stop for early settlers, and marked the point at which the immigrant trail headed south toward the Sierra Nevada passes.

Named for Old Winnemucca, a respected Paiute leader, the area was deemed a good place for the railway to intersect with stage lines that ran both north and south. Winnemucca became a major distribution point for the Central Pacific Railroad, established itself as the center of commerce in north-central Nevada, and was the site of a major bank robbery that some still dispute was perpetrated by well-known outlaw, Butch Cassidy.

Ranching was, and still is, an important part of Winnemucca. In the mid-1870s cowboys rounded up herds of longhorn cattle and loaded them onto railcars to be sold at markets in the east. The annual Winnemucca Ranch Hand Rodeo celebrates the history of the cowboys in the area. It is the largest rodeo in Nevada.

Further east on I-80 is Elko County, considered one of the last frontiers of the Old West. Founded by the Central Pacific

Railroad in 1868, Elko quickly established itself as the central business hub for the area. By February 1869, the budding community supported a rough-and-rowdy population with more than 60 canvas tents. Later that year, Elko was selected as the seat of the county that bears its name. The town grew over time, with shipping, livestock, gaming and mining being central to its economy. Now the remote, once-popular train stop has developed into a cultural attractions destination.

Among the many draws to the Elko area today is the Northeastern Nevada Museum. Often referred to as the best museum in the state of Nevada, the 40,000-square-foot facility has a grand collection of local and regional artifacts from early settlers, Western art and photography, and an Old West firearms exhibit.

The California National Historical Trail Interpretive Center is another museum of note in Elko. The 16,000-square-foot center features exhibits that tell the stories of the more than 300,000 people who passed through the area on the California Trail

between the late 1840s and the 1860s. Elko's Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum is dedicated to preserving the cowboy, vaquero and buckaroo heritage. The museum houses countless historical relics from the region—most of which are rooted to the very beginning of Nevada's first rodeo, the Silver State Stampede, the state's oldest rodeo. The tradition of this rodeo started in 1913 when GS Garcia, the world-famous bit-, spur- and saddle-maker, decided that northern Nevada cowboys needed a rodeo. The Silver State Stampede is held annually in mid-July and features real working cowboys from Nevada and surrounding states.

For more than 30 years, the Western Folklife Center in Elko has hosted the Cowboy Poetry Gathering and put a national spotlight on the evolving culture of the West. Cowboy poets from all over the world participate in the annual event that honors the heritage of sheep and cattle ranchers.

South of Elko is the town of Eureka. Long before Eureka was established, emigrants and the Pony Express riders were traveling through the area to four express stations

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in the county on their way to California. Initial mining discoveries in the area were made in 1864, but the impressive production of minerals didn't happen until 1870. The hamlet's prosperity lured a flurry of prospectors to the region and Eureka became Nevada's second-richest mineral producer.

Among the most popular businesses in Eureka were the Jackson House Hotel, built in 1877, and the Eureka Opera House, built in 1880. The Jackson House Hotel is still in business and the opera house, which was fully restored in 1993, continues to host performances.

The town of Ely, east of Eureka, is situated at the juncture of U.S. Highways 50 and 93. Ely originated as a stagecoach station along the Pony Express and Central Overland Route. Ely remained a relatively small town until 1906 when copper was discovered there and several mines were opened. The Nevada Northern Railway was built shortly thereafter by Mark Requa, the son of a silver mining magnate, to haul ore

between mines and to transport the material to smelting facilities. The railway stopped running when the smelting plant was closed in 1983, and the town of Ely now has possession of the train.

The Nevada Northern Railway, maintained by the staff at the Nevada Northern Railway Museum, is one of the best-preserved short-line railroads in the nation. The 56-acre site has one of the last remaining complete standard gauge railroads in the United States.

Nevada's wealth from the Comstock Lode furnished capital to build railroads, telegraphs, companies, hotels, banks, towns and cities throughout the region. It continues to lead travelers across the state to visit long-forgotten boom-and-bust mining towns and flourishing cities abundant in history.

Chris Enss is a *New York Times* best-selling author with two new books coming out this year: *Cowboys, Creatures and Classics: The Story of Republic Studios* and *The Principles of Posse Management: Lessons from the Old West for Today's Leaders*.

GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

GRUB: *Café Del Rio, Virginia City; The Martin Motel, Winnemucca; Urban Cowboy Bar & Grill, Eureka; The Cup, Ely; Cracker Box Restaurant, Carson City*

LODGING: *Gold Hill Hotel W Gold Hill; Bliss Bungalow, Carson City; Thomas Canyon Campground, Elko; The Martin Motel, Winnemucca; Genoa Country Inn, Genoa*

PLACES TO VISIT

Piper's Opera House, Virginia City; Bowers Mansion, Carson City; Nevada State Capitol, Carson City; Genoa Courthouse Museum, Genoa; Humboldt Museum, Winnemucca; Buckaroo Hall of Fame, Winnemucca; Sherman Station Visitor's Center, Elko; White Pine Public Museum, Ely

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

La Ka LeI Be Powwow, Carson City, Oct. 26-28; 108th Annual Carson Valley Days, Gardnerville, July 7-10; 29th World Championship Outhouse Race, Virginia City, Oct. 6-7; 54th National Basque Festival, Elko, June 29-July 1; Silver State Stampede, Elko, July 13-15

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Nebraska's Outlaw Trail

From Nebraska City to Crawford, travel the byways of the Cornhusker State to discover its Wild West history.

—BY MONTY MCCORD—



During and after the Civil War, Jesse and Frank James were frequent visitors to eastern Nebraska, including trips to Rulo, Omaha and Nebraska City in the southeastern part of the territory. Jesse posed for his famous portrait (inset) in Nebraska City in 1875.

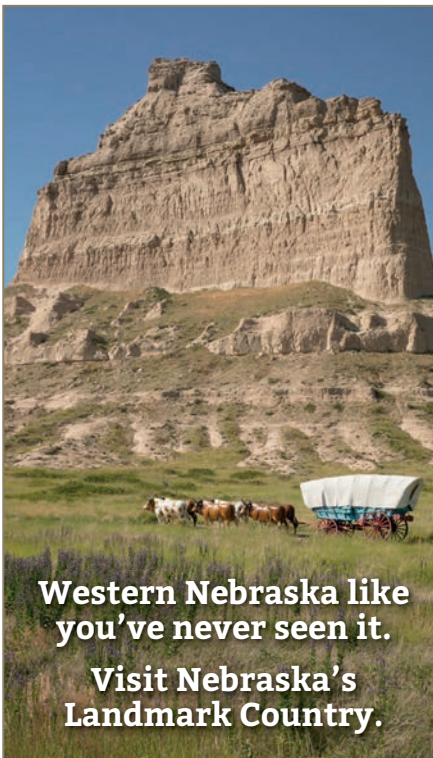
— PHOTO OF JESSE JAMES COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; LITHOGRAPH NEBRASKA CITY AS SEEN FROM KEARNEY HEIGHTS BY ALFRED EDWARDS MATHEWS NEBRASKA CITY COURTESY BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, YALE UNIVERSITY —

Early law and order came not from lawmen, but citizens, in what is now Nebraska. When the wagon trains left Independence and St. Joseph, Missouri, pioneers crossed into a wild and unsettled territory. They called it, “Leaving the states.” Some traveled the overland trails to the newly discovered goldfields of California, while some wanted a new life in the West where land was plentiful. The emigrants left behind friends, relatives, business associates

and a life regulated and protected by a system of laws and courts. Once the wagon trains were on their own, however, pioneers realized that punishment of crimes would be their responsibility alone.

The rigors of life on the trail soon began to wear on many emigrants. Every long day was full of strenuous activity. They were filthy, and hair and beards quickly became overgrown. Many travelers had never cared for animals, worked on wagons, slept on

the ground or cooked over a campfire. Being constantly exposed to sun, wind, rain and storms added to stress on the trail. Sickness and death were not unknown. Indians were a constant concern. Emigrants quickly discovered that the hardships of the trail often brought out the worst in people. Profanity became common and more than one fight between traveling companions was recorded in letters and diaries. On one occasion, a doctor and his driver got into



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Life on the Oregon Trail was hard. Five emigrants who died of unknown causes—possibly due to violence, disease or accidents—were buried on the Nebraska prairie off Robidoux Road west of Scotts Bluff National Monument.

— COURTESY NEBRASKA TOURISM —

an argument and the doctor went after the man with a neck yoke. The unknown driver pulled a small caliber pistol and "...shot the doctor in the mouth, the charge coming out under his ear."

Minor crimes that would have been misdemeanors in the states received only mediation. Trains were under a tight schedule to avoid being caught in the Sierras in winter, so they had to keep moving. Serious crimes such as murder, rape, theft of horses, were addressed formally. It was not unusual that a party was chosen to ride after the offender and return him to camp. The emigrants would choose a judge, form a jury and hold a trial to the standards they were familiar with. Punishments for these serious offenses included banishment from the train and hanging.

The emigrants mistakenly expected that the Army would provide law-enforcement protection. A doctor at Fort Kearny on the Platte wrote, "The object of this garrison is said to be to overawe the Indians of this region of the U.S. Territories and thus protect the Emigrants." The soldiers at Fort Kearny, for example, did not have jurisdiction over civilian criminal matters. In 1849, a man was killed by a blow from an axe. The man had tried to assault the wife of his traveling partner. The husband willingly returned to Fort Kearny for a hearing, presumably to exonerate himself. Without

jurisdiction, the post commander held a type of administrative hearing to establish the facts, and the husband went on his way. The Army would only get involved in civilian offenses if they were committed at, or on the military reservation, or involved Army personnel and matériel.

Before beginning our tour, it is worthwhile to take a look at the Jesse James connections in Nebraska.

During the Civil War, Union troops looking for Southern sympathizers attacked the Missouri home of Jesse James's mother, Zerelda, and husband, Dr. Rueben Samuel.



Just outside Crawford in northwestern Nebraska, Fort Robinson State Park is an ideal place to experience and learn about the day-to-day life of frontier soldiers during the Great Sioux War.

— CHAD COPPES —



The Samuels fled to Rulo, in the south-eastern tip of Nebraska. In May of 1865, after riding with Quantrill's Raiders, Jesse was shot in the chest at Liberty, Missouri. Brother Frank took the seriously wounded Jesse to Rulo so he could be treated by Dr. Samuel. The James trail in Nebraska includes Omaha, where Frank married Anni Ralston in 1874. Frank and Jesse made many visits to friends in Nebraska City, where Jesse's famous portrait was taken in 1875. Frank James once drove a stagecoach from Nebraska City's Arbor Lodge (home of J. Sterling Morton) to a local parade. It appears that Jesse was thinking about settling down in Nebraska. In 1881, the year before he was killed by Bob Ford, Jesse had answered an ad in the Lincoln newspaper that offered for sale 160 acres of land on the south edge of Franklin in south-central Nebraska. He'd signed the letter with his alias, Thomas Howard, 1318 Lafayette St., St. Joseph, Missouri.

We'll begin our tour on northeast Nebraska's official Outlaw Trail and Highway 12 Scenic Byway, which stretches 231 miles west to Valentine. The trail's name reflects the rustlers, robbers and killers who plied their trade and found effective hideouts in the region. Lawmen were spread thin in this sparsely populated area and newly established courts often erred on the side of caution with convictions. It is believed that 58 people were lynched in Nebraska between 1859 and 1919. Many early daylight lynchings not only served as a warning to evildoers, but also were in response to ineffectual courts. Fear of escape was another reason swift "justice" was administered by vigilantes.

In 1870, Mat Miller was arrested after leaving the bloody corpse of his victim at the edge of Ponca. Citizens seized Miller from the sheriff and tried him by an "...orderly tribunal held in church." Miller confessed and was marched straight outside where he was lynched. Ponca was



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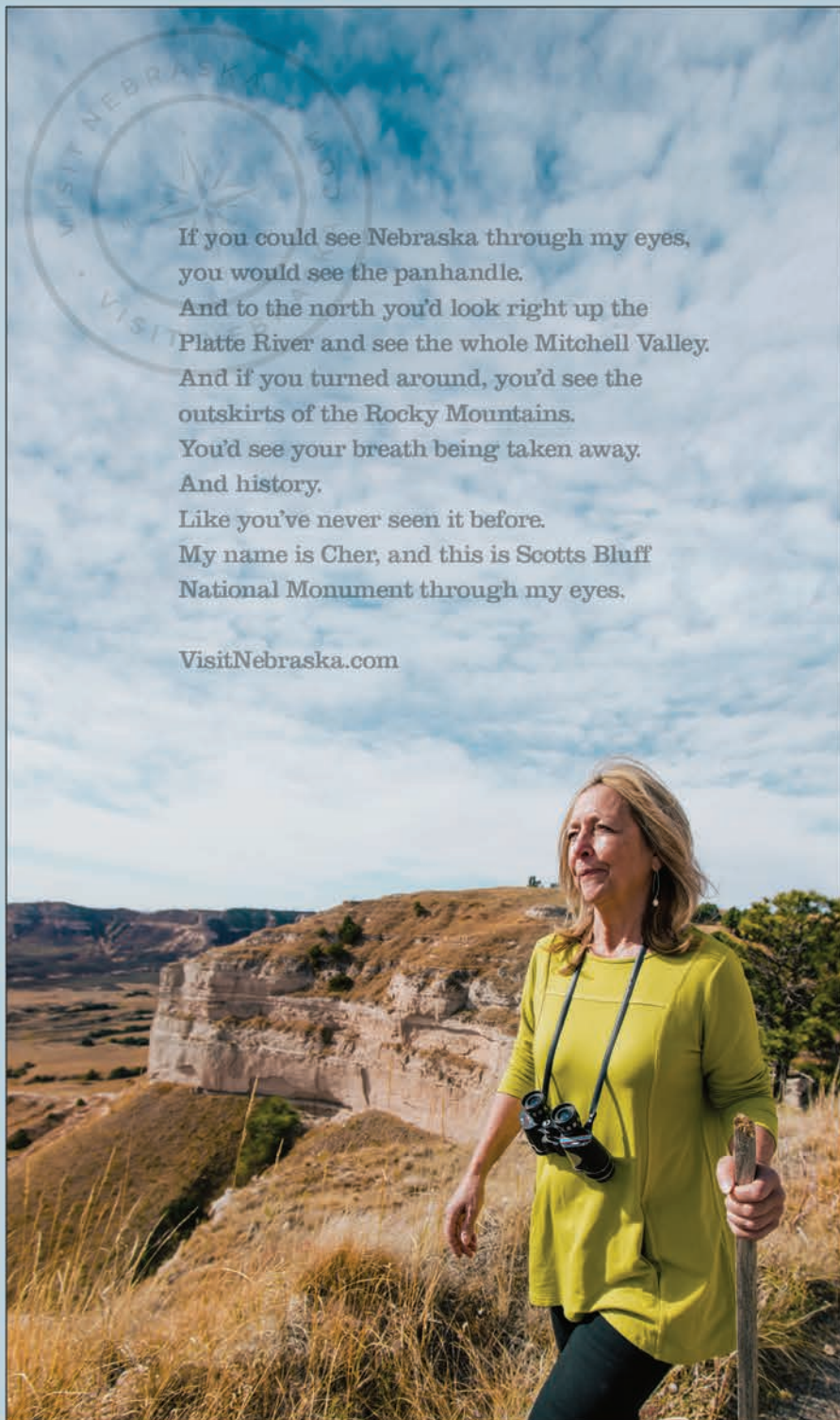
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Platte River and see the whole Mitchell Valley.
And if you turned around, you'd see the
outskirts of the Rocky Mountains.
You'd see your breath being taken away.
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National Monument through my eyes.

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The northwestern Nebraska town of Chadron has quite an outlaw pedigree. Not only is Chadron's late 1880s-era Blaine Hotel the site where outlaw-lawman-conman David "Doc" Middleton launched his infamous 1,000-mile horse race, but it is also the final resting place for Wild Bunch outlaw "Flat-Nose" George Currie.

— PHOTO OF BLAINE HOTEL BY MONTY MCCORD/PHOTO OF GEORGE CURRY COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



"FLAT-NOSE" GEORGE CURRIE

elk, a prairie dog colony and over 200 bird species. Don't miss the Cowboy Trail, Nebraska's first state recreational trail. The former Chicago & Northwestern Railroad right-of-way is the nation's longest rails-to-trails conversion, stretching 321 miles from Norfolk to Chadron. Walk or bike the old C & N railroad bridge that stands 150 feet over the

Niobrara River at Valentine.

This ends the official Nebraska Outlaw Trail, but we'll continue our tour west on Highway 20 to Merriman. The 1894 Bowring Ranch State Historical Park is located 1.5 miles north on Highway 61, and two miles east. A Hereford demonstration ranch, the historic home features fine antiques and memorabilia of former United States Senator Eve Bowring, who donated the ranch in honor of her husband, Arthur.

Still following the trail of David "Doc" Middleton, we travel through Gordon on our way to Chadron, about 75 miles west on 20. Doc's luck finally ran out and he spent about three years in prison. His outlaw pal, the young Kid Wade, wasn't so lucky. After being arrested a second time for horse theft, Wade was taken from officers and lynched about a mile east of Bassett.

Chadron was home to another member of the lawless fraternity. "Flat-Nose" George Currie moved with his family from Canada to Chadron when he was a child. He became a teenage rustler and later a member of the Wild Bunch, robbing banks and trains. Lawmen chased down Currie in Utah and killed him. He now resides in Greenwood Cemetery in Chadron. ❏

Monty McCord is the author of *Mundy's Law* and the 2018 follow-up, *When I Die*. His new book, *Calling the Brands—Stock Detectives in the Wild West* will be released July 1. He lives in Nebraska.

a rowdy Missouri river port, but over time, the river channel edged east. Today, visitors will find Ponca State Park between the bustling historic town and the river.

In 1871, James Jameson murdered a man with an axe at St. Helena, just 45 minutes west of Ponca on Highway 12, and a short jog north. Jameson was arrested in Omaha and upon his arrival back in St. Helena, was promptly hanged. Only 13 years later, farmhand John Farberger was fired by his boss, the Cedar County sheriff. He burned the sheriff's hay when he left and when arrested, shot and killed the sheriff's deputy. A mob formed and dragged Farberger to the jail yard in St. Helena and lynched him.

Nebraska's most famous outlaw, James M. Riley, alias David C. "Doc" Middleton, and his "Pony Boys" are largely the reason for the Outlaw Trail. The entire northern section of Nebraska was Middleton's territory. A practiced Texas horse thief, killer and prison-escapee, Middleton came to Nebraska in 1876. He was not a doctor of medicine, but of altering (doctoring) horse brands. An altercation the following year at a Sidney dancehall left a soldier dead. On the run again, the outlaw perfected his horse-stealing abilities. He was caught with stolen horses by a posse near Julesburg, Colorado, and returned to Sidney, only to break jail. Even horses of the Poncas and Sioux weren't safe. Once taken in and nursed back to health by an eastern Wyoming rancher, Middleton

then stole horses from him as thanks.

Proceeding west on 12 a few miles west of Crofton, near Lindy, head north to look over Devil's Nest, probably the largest outlaw hideout in the state. From a high ridge one can see the rough countryside that was a natural habitat for outlaws. Legend has it that after the Northfield, Minnesota, bank robbery, Frank and Jesse James hid here. Just ahead is the Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area and Missouri River.

The scenic Niobrara River adds natural beauty to the tour as we continue west to Lynch. Horse Thief Canyon is about six miles southeast, near the river. The landscape has not changed much so it's easy to imagine Doc Middleton and his partner Kid Wade riding up out of the ravines.

After about a 90-minute drive west, we turn south off 12 to Meadville. A restored general store and a couple of fallen-in buildings comprise the ghost town. Doc Middleton's hidden horse corral was about six miles west on the south side of the Niobrara River.

An hour farther west on 12, we arrive in Valentine, established in 1883 when the railroad made it to that point. The rowdy element was usually just outside this cowtown at the hog ranch that attracted cowboys from South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska. The Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area near Valentine is home to buffalo, deer,

SIDE ROADS

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

GRUB: Ye Old Tyme Saloon, *Rulo*; Wild Bill's, *Rulo*; Depot Kitchen & Taproom, *Nebraska City*; Ladybug BBQ, *Nebraska City*; Bob's Bar & Grill, *Ponca*; Backroad Bar-B-Q, *Crofton*; Two Rivers Saloon, Hotel & Steakhouse, *Niobrara*; Bunkhouse Restaurant & Saloon, *Valentine*; Coachlight Café, *Valentine*; Antelope Creek Café, *Gordon*; Fuel Grill, *Gordon*; Wild's Bar & Grill, *Chadron*

SLEEPS: Grand Weaver Hotel, *Falls City*; Whispering Pines B&B, *Nebraska City*; Lied Lodge & Conference Center, *Nebraska City*; Historic Argo Hotel, *Crofton*; Niobrara Lodge, *Valentine*; Jefco Inn, *Gordon*; Blaine Hotel, *Chadron*; Ole Main Street Inn, *Chadron*; High Plains Homestead, *Crawford*

PLACES TO VISIT

Richardson County Historical Museum, *Falls City*; Arbor Lodge, *Nebraska City*; Nelson House, *Nebraska City*; Museum of Missouri River History, *Brownville*; Wheel Museum, *Brownville*; Cook Blacksmith Shop & Historical Adams House Museum, *Ponca*; Ponca State Park/National Recreational River Resource & Education Center, *Ponca*; Santee Sioux Tribe Museum, *Santee*; Ponca Tribal Museum & Library, *Niobrara*; Standing Bear Bridge/Missouri River, *Niobrara*; Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge & Wilderness Area, *Valentine*; Cowboy Trail, *Valentine*; Niobrara National Scenic River, *Valentine*; Bowring Ranch State Historical Park, *Merriman*; Tri-State Old Time Cowboys Memorial Museum, *Gordon*; Blaine Hotel (starting point of Chadron to Chicago Horse Race), *Chadron*; Dawes County Historical Society Museum, *Chadron*; Fort Robinson State Park, *Crawford*

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Railroad Days, *Omaha*, July 14-15; 152nd Winnebago Pow Wow, *Winnebago*, July 27-29; Tour de Nebraska, *Springview*, June 20-24; 35th Willow Tree Festival, *Gordon*, Sept. 8-9; Chadron Fur Trade Days, *Chadron*, July 11-15; Old West Trail Rodeo, *Crawford*, July 4



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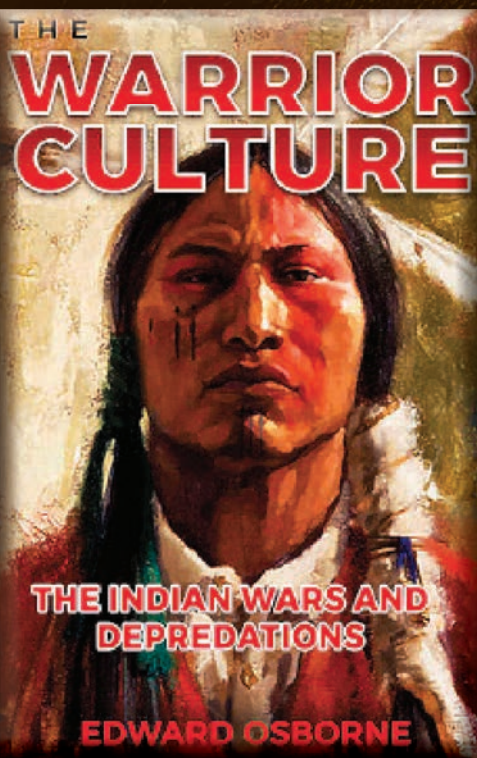
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This is a thought-provoking "revisionist" history that will open many eyes to the true nature of the Plains Indians. My book challenges many of the orthodox propagandistic interpretations. "In this same vein, it will examine the pro-Indian political agenda generated by the Left-wing academics in today's colleges and universities." Using extensive Primary sources, I have found that the Plains Indians were butchers, murderers, rapists, and horse thieves. "I will also examine the battles of the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862, Sand Creek-1864 and the infamous Fetterman Massacre of 1866.



Cattle Call

From the Gulf Coast to the Panhandle, hit the trail and discover Texas's rich cowboy history.

—BY WILLIAM GRONEMAN—



Cowboys like these 1904 cowhands have been working the wide-open panhandle rangeland of the JA Ranch since 1879, when John George Adair and Charles Goodnight founded it near Palo Duro Canyon southeast of Amarillo.

— W.D. HARPER, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Since moving to Texas over 15 years ago, I have traveled many miles on the trail of the state's history and the rich heritage of its cattle culture. Three regions of the Lone Star State I have enjoyed and return to regularly are The Gulf Coast, Hill Country and West Panhandle.

The King Ranch in Kingsville near the Gulf Coast is the starting point. Founded by Capt. Richard King in 1852, when he and partner Gideon K. Lewis established themselves on Santa Gertrudis Creek, their camp grew to an empire of 1,300 square miles. It remains one of the largest working ranches in Texas, and is a National Historic Landmark.

Ranch, special interest, nature and motor coach tours are available daily. The Kingsville Visitor Center, King Ranch Museum and King Ranch Saddle Shop are all in downtown Kingsville.

Before heading north from Kingsville, turn south on US 77 to Sarita, the only town in the 1,389-square-mile Kenedy County, and once headquarters of the Kenedy Ranch and Pasture Company. The Kenedy Ranch Museum of South Texas tells the history of the Kenedy family and Kenedy Ranch.

Sinton is north of Kingsville on 77. The Taft-Blackland Museum, located 10 miles east of Sinton in Taft in a building that once housed the Coleman-Fulton Pasture

Company, features ranching equipment, household items and memorabilia from the Taft Ranch.

Further north on 77, Victoria anchors the Great Coastal Texas Barbecue Trail. The trail curves southwest and northwest of Victoria, also home to Fossati's Delicatessen, the oldest deli in Texas and one of the oldest operating restaurants in the United States. Established in 1882 and moved to its current location in 1895, it is a National Historic Place.

Houston, next stop along Texas Highway 59, offers the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The festival spanning three weeks in March is a must-see on the cattle tour, so plan your trip accordingly.

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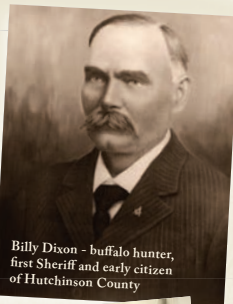
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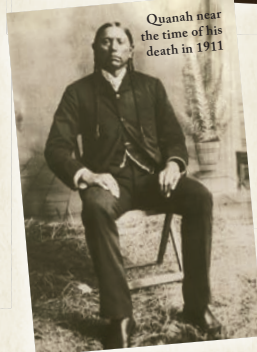
Comanche Chief
Quanah Parker



Last survivor of the Battle of 1874, Chief Yellow Fish and Mrs. Billy Dixon in 1941



Billy Dixon - buffalo hunter, first Sheriff and early citizen of Hutchinson County



Quanah near the time of his death in 1911

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The Kenedy Ranch Museum in the beautifully restored former headquarters of the Kenedy Pasture Company in Sarita, Texas, is a bucket-list stop for anyone on the Texas cattle culture trail from the Gulf Coast to the Texas Panhandle.

- COURTESY TEXAS TOURISM -

The Butler Longhorn Museum and Heritage Park in League City is just southwest of Houston along US 45. Here, one can learn about the breeding and preservation of the iconic cattle, one of Texas's state animals.

The perfect entry into the Hill Country is from Lockhart west to San Marcos. Here one can visit the *Lonesome Dove* Permanent Exhibition, part of the Wittliff Collection of the State University of San Marcos. It encompasses the entire production archives of the television mini-series based on Larry McMurtry's novel of the same name.

Traveling south on Interstate 35 brings you to San Antonio, rich in art, culture, history, and home to The Alamo. Do not be afraid to deviate from the cattle trail and visit the Shrine of Texas Liberty. After paying your respects there, go across the street and stop (or stay) at the Historic Menger Hotel, the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi, and imagine that you are a rich late 19th-century Texas rancher. Photos of luminaries who have stayed at the hotel, including President Teddy Roosevelt, adorn the first-floor hallway.

A marker in the Menger's garden commemorates The Chisholm Trail and the history of Texas cattle drives. The trail began south of San Antonio and stretched to Kansas. It is estimated that cowboys drove six to 10 million cattle and a million mustangs north on this route.

Heading northwest on Texas Highway 173 will take you to the town of Hondo.

In 2018, San Antonio is celebrating its 300th anniversary as a city, and the Briscoe Western Art Museum's exhibitions, chronicling Texas's Western culture from the Spanish period to the present, provide a window into the historically rich Texas cattle culture.

- STUART ROSEBROOK -

If you are traveling during the spring, you might want to enjoy Hondo's Cowboy Country Roundup.

Bandera, farther north on 173, prides itself as "The Cowboy Capital of the World," the title originating from when it served as a staging area for the last great cattle drives of the 19th century. Dude and guest ranches abound with a variety of cowboy activities and price ranges. The Hill County State Natural Area offers 40 miles of multi-use trails, where one can enjoy horseback riding and equestrian camping. The Bandera Convention and Visitor's Bureau arranges tours of a working cattle ranch. The town holds rodeos twice a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. No trip to Bandera would be complete without a visit to the Frontier Times Museum, not unlike discovering your great-grandparents' heretofore unknown attic.

A hop north on 173 will take you to Kerrville, formerly a crossing and holding site of the Western Cattle Trail during the 1880s and 1890s. Its Museum of Western Art houses a permanent collection of 150 sculptures, 250 paintings and artifacts, many of which portray ranching, cowboys and cattle culture.



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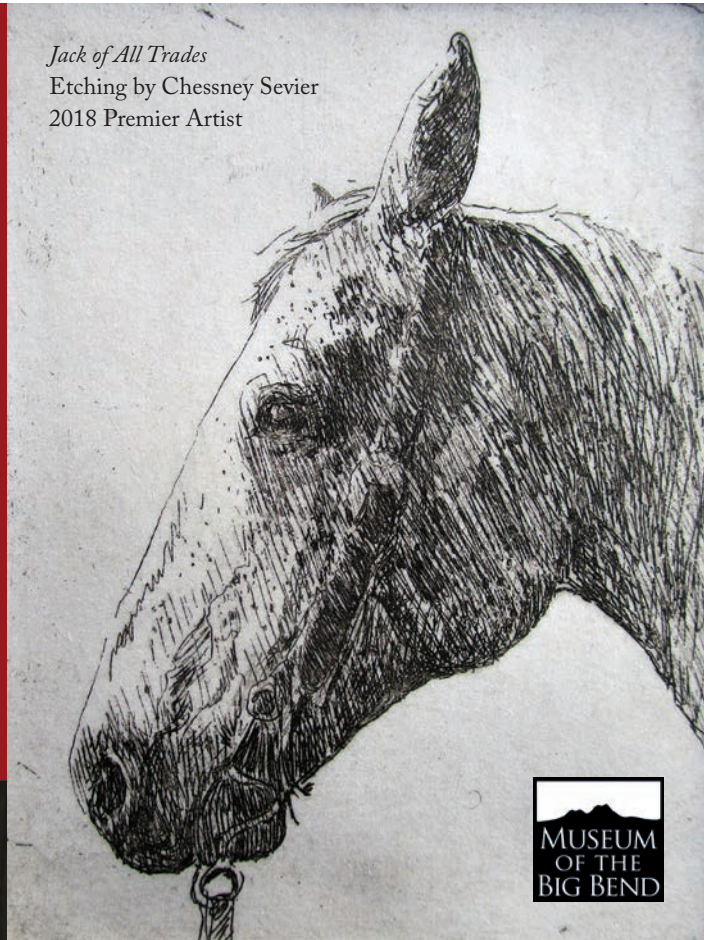
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CHARLES GOODNIGHT

When ten-year-old Charles Goodnight's parents moved him to Texas in 1846, Goodnight (inset) had no idea that he would become one of the Lone Star State's most important frontiersman and cattle ranchers. Tour the cattleman's restored 1887 home at the Charles Goodnight Historical Center near Claude, Texas, to discover more about his legendary life.

- PHOTOS COURTESY CHARLES GOODNIGHT HISTORICAL CENTER IN CLAUDE, TEXAS -

The Schreiner Mansion Museum in downtown Kerrville once home to Capt. Charles Schreiner—Texas Ranger, Confederate soldier and rancher—is a historic landmark. Guided tours are on Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Austin is about 100 miles east of Kerrville, on US 290. Traveling east you might want to divert a few miles south on Ranch Road 1376 and visit the famous Luckenbach. Why? Because it is there and you may catch some good cowboy music, but mostly because “Everybody’s Somebody in Luckenbach!”

In Austin you owe yourself a stay at, or at least a visit to, the Driskill Hotel. Opened by cattleman Jesse Driskill in 1886, it is the oldest operating hotel in Austin, and one of the most famous in Texas. One walk through the lobby will make you feel like a rich cattle baron.

It is time to leave the Hill Country for the last leg of the cattle-trail journey—the Panhandle. Take 290, south of Austin, and go northwest on SH 71 on a 130-mile Hill Country trek to your jumping-off point in Brady. Known as “The Heart of Texas,” it is located on what was the Western Cattle Trail. You may want to crank up a version of “Deep in the Heart of Texas,” while passing through, since a spot on private property near Brady has been identified as the center point of the state. Its Heart of Texas Historical Museum, in the restored McCulloch County Jail, is yet another that features early ranch exhibits.

Take US 87 west from Brady to Eden. From there continue to San Angelo, an early

ranching center and still a major livestock auction center. Around the downtown area, look for historic murals depicting ranching and Elmer Kelton, preeminent Western writer of ranching and cowboying.

If your course takes you north on US 83 to Ballinger, stop by the courthouse lawn to view Pompeo Coppini’s statue *The Cowboy and His Horse* honoring local cowboy Charles H. Noyes.

Travel north on Texas Highway 208 from San Angelo, or west from Ballinger on Highway 158, to the town of Robert Lee. Continue north to Colorado City, the “Mother City of West Texas.” There, visit The Branding Wall in Kiwanis Park where over 230 cattle brands, in use or formerly in use in Mitchell County, are displayed.

Lubbock, the big city of the Panhandle is further northwest on US 84. The National Ranching Heritage Center on Texas Tech University’s campus is a must-see. It includes the 19-acre Proctor Historical Park, which tells the ranching story from the 1700s to the 1900s through 49 historic structures.

Continue on 84 from Lubbock through Littlefield, named for cattle baron George Washington Littlefield, developer of the Yellowhouse Division of the famed XIT Ranch. Follow US 385 to Hereford, “The Beef Capital of the World,” where more than three million head of cattle fatten up in feed yards each year.

If a more central route from Lubbock is desired, take US 87 north to Hale Center, home of the Hale County Farm and Ranch Museum. Farther north on 87 is Canyon,

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where one can visit Palo Duro Canyon State Park, the "Grand Canyon of Texas," and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

Keep north on 87 to Amarillo, center of the Panhandle, to Route 66 and visit Cowgirls and Cowboys in the West, which bills itself as a "Western adventure tour, hospitality, event and catering company." Experience horseback riding, tours featuring the "cowboy way of life," and motivational sessions based on survival skills of the Old West. River Breaks Ranch offers team roping, horse racing and sporting clays, a shooting competition described as "golf with a shotgun." Amarillo is also home to the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and Museum.

You should have worked up an appetite by now, so drop by The Big Texan Steak Ranch. There you can enjoy a 72-ounce steak for *free*, provided you can consume it—along with four sides—in one hour. Good luck!

Using Amarillo as a hub, one can range out in several directions. East and slightly south on US 287 brings you to Claude. The Charles Goodnight Hall in the Armstrong County Museum recounts the history of the JA Ranch, the first in Palo Duro Canyon. The Charles Goodnight Historical Center, further along on 287, is the refurbished home of the renowned Texas rancher.

Continuing southeast on 287 takes you to Clarendon. Charles Goodnight and John Adair formed the first cattle ranch nearby, and The Saints' Roost Museum displays artifacts from Panhandle ranches, farms and businesses.

A northwest route from Amarillo on Ranch Road 1061 and then US 385 brings you to Boys Ranch, a ranch setting home and educational center for boys *and* girls. This former cowtown of Tascosa is also home to the Boys Ranch Rodeo on Labor Day weekend.

Continue north on 385 to Dalhart, headquarters of the giant XIT Ranch. Visit the XIT Historical Museum and time your visit in June for the XIT Ranch Rodeo, or August for the XIT Rodeo and Reunion, including its barbecue dinner, described as "colossal and free!"

Your adventure along Texas cattle trail history is now over (until you plan your next cattle trail history in the Lone Star State), but before leaving Dalhart, visit

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CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

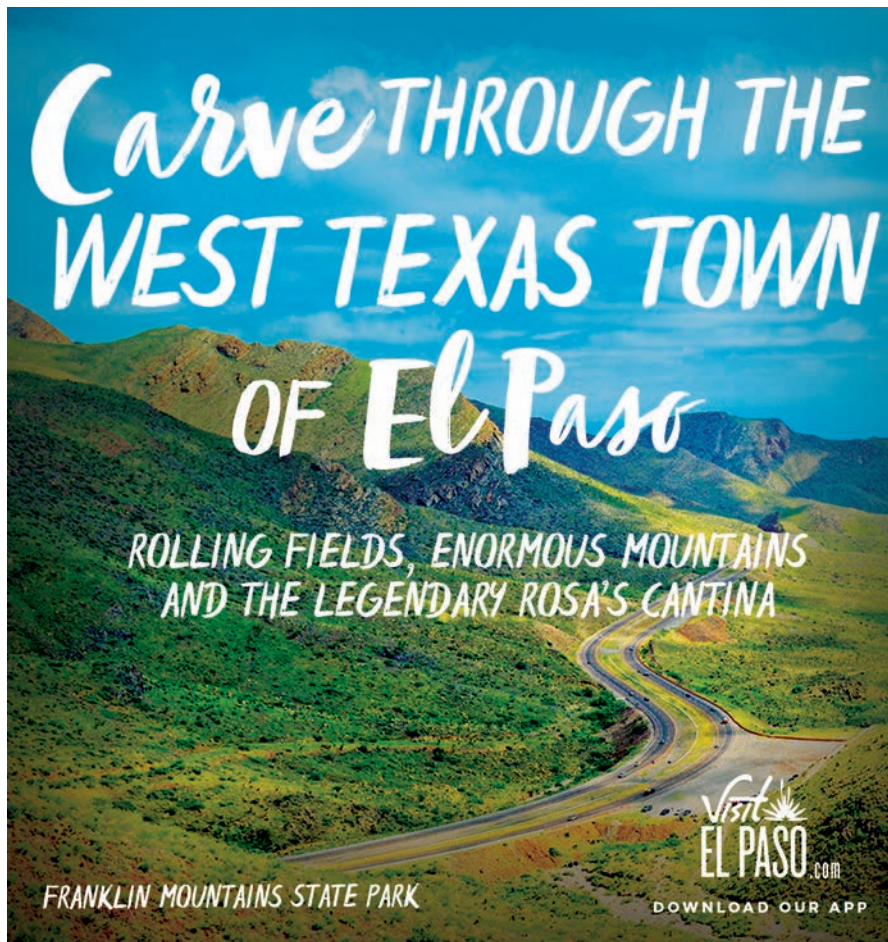
EVENTS: Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Feb. 27–Mar. 18, *Houston*; King Ranch Annual Ranch Hand Breakfast, Nov. 17, *The King Ranch*; Bandera Rodeos, twice weekly, Memorial Day through Labor Day, *Bandera*; National Cowboy Symposium and Festival, Sept. 7–8, *Lubbock*; Spicer Gripp Memorial Roping, Aug. 3–6, *Hereford*; XIT Rodeo and Reunion, Aug. 2–4, *Dalhart*; Tri-State Fair and Rodeo, Sept. 14–22, *Amarillo*; National Cow Calling Contest, first Saturday in June, *Miami*; Boy's Ranch Rodeo, Labor Day Weekend, *Boy's Ranch*



the “Empty Saddle Monument” at the junction of US highways 87, 385 and 54, and give a thought to all the Texas cowboys past and present.

On the ride back to your starting point on the Gulf Coast you may want to listen to Mike Blakely's “Too Much Texas.” Highly recommended and very appropriate. ★

William Groneman is a longtime member of The Western Writers of America, and a former member of the New York City Fire Department. He lives in Kerrville, Texas.



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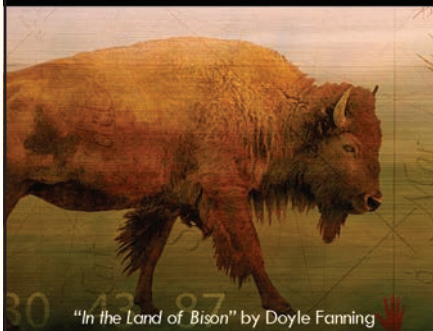
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Owen Wister's Wyoming

Hit the road across the Cowboy State in search of Wister, Trampas and The Virginian.

—CYNTHIA VANNOY—



Author Owen Wister spent many summers in his cabin near Jackson, Wyoming. The inspiring daily view and his hunting trips and adventures into and around the Grand Teton Mountains informed his first-hand knowledge of the region—and his writing of what most consider the first classic Western novel, *The Virginian*.

— COURTESY GATES FRONTIERS FUND WYOMING COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION —

Owen Wister's *The Virginian*, *A Horseman of the Plains*, published in 1902, considered to be the first Western novel, is about a black-haired Wyoming cowboy, his love for a Vermont schoolteacher and his search for justice during the early days of Wyoming. The Eastern-born Wister wrote the classic after many summers of seeking better health in Wyoming.

In 1885, Wister, a friend and former classmate of Theodore Roosevelt, visited the VR ranch near Casper, Wyoming, on Roosevelt's recommendation. From that port, Wister explored Wyoming—at the time still a territory—via train, stagecoach and horseback.

During Wister's travels, he discovered a range of characters and events that later became a part of his novel and short stories. *The Virginian* takes place in Wyoming, set against the backdrop of the Johnson County War. Many of the places Wister visited appear in the novel. Although some of the names are fictitious, many are based on real places. In one segment in *The Virginian*, The Virginian follows the rustler's trail from Casper, past the Greybull River, through the Teton Mountains and into Idaho. Wister camped and hunted many times in Yellowstone and Jackson.

The "black-haired cowboy" known as The Virginian in the novel, travels from

Medicine Bow, Wyoming, to Buffalo, Wyoming, chasing the rustler Trampas, to whom *The Virginian* deals out frontier justice, while staying at the Occidental Hotel during the days prior to his marrying Molly Wood.

In 1885 Wister rode the Union Pacific train from Pennsylvania. It was a long trip, but first-class passengers rode in beautifully appointed cars with plush velvet seats that converted into snug sleeping berths. The finer amenities included steam heat, fresh linen daily and gourmet food in the elegantly appointed dining car.

In the 1880s, trains could take passengers from coast to coast in 83 hours, in much

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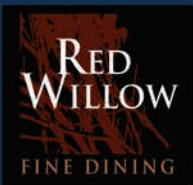
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more comfort than the jolting, hard seats of a stagecoach. Stages were still in use, taking passengers from rail stops to outlying communities.

In 1885, Wister, after a brief stop in Cheyenne, and a drink at the Cheyenne Club, took a stagecoach to Douglas and then a wagon to the VR Ranch, on Deer Creek, outside of Casper. Major Frank Wolcott owned the ranch. He was a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, one of the principals in the Johnson County War.

While staying at the VR Ranch, Wister went with some of the Major's hands to Medicine Bow, to pick up some fish for stocking lakes. Medicine Bow impressed Wister as not much of a town and he used it as the central town in *The Virginian*. While awaiting the train, Wister had to sleep on the counter in the Mercantile, which is reflected by his narrator in *The Virginian*, who also spends an uncomfortable night on the counter of the saloon. (The Virginian, by a little deception, finds a bed for himself.)

Medicine Bow River runs nearby, giving the steam locomotives, which needed thousands of gallons of water for the steam boilers, a ready water supply. Medicine Bow, like many watering spots along the route, became a trading center and later a town. In 1885, according to Wister, Medicine Bow consisted of a depot, coal chute, water tank, one store, two eating



When Owen Wister first arrived in Cheyenne on a

Union Pacific passenger train in 1885, the Union Pacific Depot was most likely under construction. Today, the depot is home to the Cheyenne Depot Museum and is across the street from the historic Nagle Warren Mansion.

- COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM -



The historic Owen Wister Cabin at the Medicine Bow Museum is currently under major renovations. The author built and lived in the summer hunting cabin in Moose, Wyoming, near Jackson. It was moved adjacent to the Medicine Bow Museum in 1976.

- ALL PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA VANNOY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

houses, a billiard hall, tool houses and a feed stable, as well about six "shanties." There were 29 buildings in all.

Today, little has changed, except that in 1911 The Virginian Hotel was built, and was, at the time, the largest hotel between Denver and Salt Lake City. Still in operation today, it is located midway between Laramie and Rawlins, Wyoming, and offers in-the-period hotel rooms, a fine restaurant and historic bar. As of the 2010 census, Medicine Bow boasted of 284 people.

The Owen Wister Suite, complete with a desk Wister used for his writing, overlooks the old depot and the Wister cabin, which was moved to Medicine Bow in the 1970s.

Trains run by nearly every hour, just as they must have done when Wister spend the night on the counter of the mercantile, which still stands across the tracks, although it is now deserted and empty.

From 1885 through 1912, Wister made several trips to Wyoming. As Cheyenne was the largest town in Wyoming at the time, and the territorial and later state capital, he spent several days there on his travels.

The Nagle Warren Mansion, which was built in 1888, is a glamorous old house built in the style of the 1880s cattle barons. Although Senator F.E. Warren didn't buy the mansion until 1910, Owen Wister, in 1895, wrote in his journals that Senator Warren joined him and Mr. Loomis at the Cheyenne Club. The senator was "most cordial" and presented Wister with a letter, bearing the official state seal, requesting that all citizens of Wyoming show "Wister civility," wherever he traveled. Wister felt very proud of the letter.

Although there is no record that Wister ever stayed in the Nagle Warren Mansion, he undoubtedly saw the mansion in Cheyenne, as the historic UP depot is visible from the mansion and within easy walking distance. He surely stayed in similar homes when visiting the rich ranchers in the area.

Also within walking distance of the mansion today are many local and chain restaurants. Two of the best are the Albany, right next to the train depot, and the Rib

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The Owen Wister Suite at the Virginian Hotel (right) in Medicine Bow, Wyoming, features the author's desk (below) from his hunting cabin in Moose. The historic inn, built in 1911, has been restored to its turn-of-the-century splendor.



and Chop, just up the road. Take in the old Cheyenne depot, now a museum and a brew pub, and the depot plaza, to get an idea of the mode of travel that pre-dated automobiles.

When he was looking for material for his books, he traveled to Buffalo and Kaycee, Wyoming,

the main areas of the Johnson Country War. There was no train service to Buffalo, so they traveled by horseback and by wagons.

In Buffalo, the Occidental Hotel is one of the oldest buildings in the town, and it was here that Wister set his final chapter of his book—in which *The Virginian*, even though he knew that the shooting of the rustler Trampas might end his hopes of

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When on the trail of Wister in Wyoming, don't miss the opportunity to stay the night in the Owen Wister Suite at the Occidental Hotel in Buffalo—and enjoy a drink and meal in the Occidental Saloon and Virginian Restaurant.

marrying Mary Stark, knew that justice had to be served. He dealt it out with lead.

The Occidental was built in 1880, but has been refurbished. Much of it is original.

Although legend has it that Wister wrote some of his novel in the Occidental, and saw a gunfight in the street from the balcony of his room, now called the Owen Wister Suite, there is nothing in his journals that says he actually did stay there.

However, in a letter to Johnson County Historian Lott, he wrote that “Bow-Legged Mountains” in the book were based on the Big Horn Mountains, and the town he described sounds like early-day Buffalo. Lott was sure that Wister at least knew of the Occidental Hotel and may have used it as the model for the hotel in his book.

Many other famous people did stay there, including Wister's good friend, Teddy Roosevelt. Other famous and infamous guests included Butch Cassidy and the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, Calamity Jane, Buffalo Bill and Tom Horn.

In 1911, according to his daughter Fanny Kemble Wister, Wister took his wife and their four oldest children to Jackson, where they camped throughout Yellowstone Park. They had two teams of horses, and a buckboard, as well as a camp outfit in another wagon. Fanny said

they hated to return to the East, after living in “their mountains” for the summer. He had hunted in the area on earlier visits and loved the Tetons.

In 1912, thinking that Wyoming would again work its magic and cure his body and mind, he arranged to stay at the S.W. Aldrich Ranch east of Yellowstone National Park. This was the year he also purchased 160 acres of land near Moose to put up his cabin.

On the eve of his arrival at the ranch, Wister stayed one night at the Irma Hotel in Cody, Wyoming, which was built by Buffalo Bill in 1902. In 1901 the railroad built a spur line to Cody, and Wister likely took the train into Cody in 1912.

The Irma Hotel is a unique and elegant part of Wyoming history. Still a fine hotel today, with rooms modernized but kept in the era, and situated in the middle of Cody, it is a well-known landmark. Although the stop light and electrical lines take away some of the historical mood of the place, it still seems like a step backward to the time when Buffalo Bill hosted friends and business acquaintances here. The Buffalo Bill Suite is the best in the hotel, and reflects the grandeur of the bygone era. Enjoy good food in the restaurant, and enjoy a drink at the

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Kaycee's Hoofprints of the Past Museum (left) will host its annual Johnson County War tour on August 18, 2018. Attendees travel by bus the approximate route the "Invaders" took in their attack on the "Rustlers" in April 1892.

- COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM -

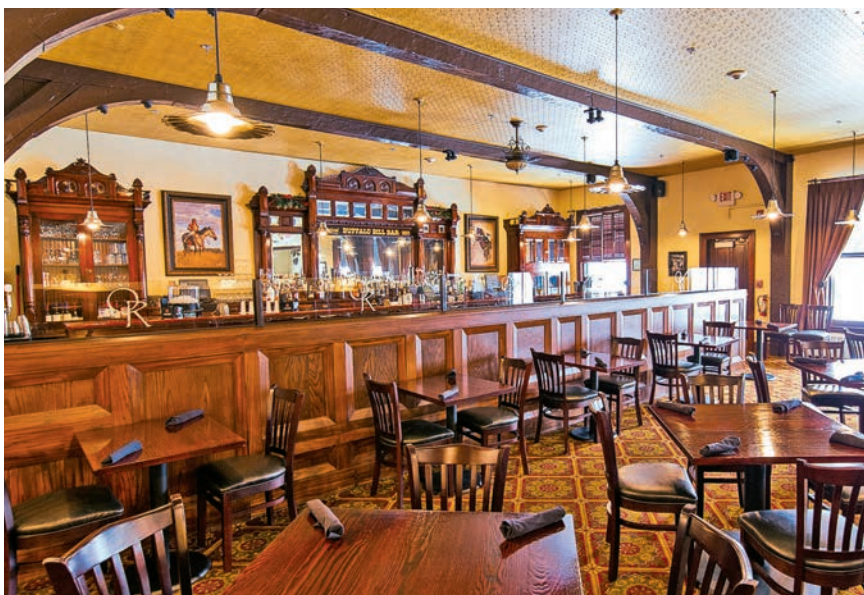
the wheels clicking along the track, carrying him West. He would have looked out the train windows, watching the flat plains and farm country rise into the high Wyoming plateaus. He loved breathing the fresh air, and seeing the mountains rise off the Valley floor. He surely must have felt a pang of sadness each time he waited at the Cheyenne station for the train to carry him eastward again at the end of the summer.

Writing his novel, *The Virginian*, was perhaps a way to feel he was somehow still in Wyoming during his winters in the East, and a way to bring the Wyoming and the characters he loved to his readers. ❏

Cynthia Vannoy is third generation on the family ranch in Northeast Wyoming. She loves researching, writing and photographing the history of her beautiful state.

historic cherry wood bar, a gift to Buffalo Bill from Queen Victoria. A similar bar is also in the Sheridan Inn, in Sheridan, Wyoming

Owen Wister traveled extensively throughout the US and Europe, but Wyoming remained one of his favorite places. Each year, he would have relaxed in the luxurious train cars, to the sound of



The fully restored Historic Sheridan Inn in Sheridan, Wyoming, was conceptualized and built by Buffalo Bill Cody and the railroad in 1892. Enjoy a meal in the Open Range Restaurant before retiring to one of the finely appointed modern rooms.

SIDE ROADS

GOOD EATS & SLEEP

GRUB: *Bozeman Trail Steak House, Buffalo; Occidental Restaurant, Buffalo; The Irma, Cody; The Albany, UP Plaza, Cheyenne; Rib and Chop House, Cheyenne; The Virginian Restaurant, Medicine Bow; Open Range Restaurant, Sheridan Inn, Sheridan; The Virginian Lodge, Jackson, WY; The Gunbarrel Restaurant, Jackson; Sidewinder Pub and Grub, Jackson*

PLACES TO STAY

LODGING: *Irma, Cody; Occidental Hotel, Buffalo; Virginian, Medicine Bow; Nagle-Warren Mansion Bed and Breakfast, Cheyenne; The Virginian Lodge, Jackson; Historic Sheridan Inn, Sheridan*

PLACES TO VISIT

Fort Caspar Museum and Historic Site, Casper; Medicine Bow Museum, Medicine Bow; Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, Buffalo; Hoofprints of the Past Museum, Kaycee; Brinton Museum, Sheridan; Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody; Old Trail Town, Cody; Cheyenne Depot Museum, Cheyenne; Nelson Museum of the West, Cheyenne; Frontier Days Old West Museum, Cheyenne; Wyoming State Museum, Cheyenne; Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Laramie

CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

EVENTS: *Hole in the Wall Tour, June 9, Kaycee; Johnson County War Tour, Aug. 18, Kaycee; Cheyenne Frontier Days, July 21-29, Cheyenne; Depot Days, Cheyenne, May 19-20; Longmire Days, Buffalo, Aug. 10-12; Living History Days, June 20, Buffalo, WY; Cody Gunfighters Show, June - Sept., Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel, Cody; National Day of the American Cowboy, July 14, Meteteetsee; Sheridan WYO Rodeo, July 9-15, Sheridan; Elkfest, May 19-20, Jackson*





The Grand Canyon State

Arizona's amazing geography, many heritage sites and welcoming historic towns beckon the adventurous ready to experience where history happened.

—BY STUART ROSEBROOK—



Arizona's historic sites and spectacular natural landmarks have inspired tourism for more than a century. On February 5, 1902, Oliver Lippincott drove his steam-powered Toledo to the rim of the Grand Canyon, and became the first person to drive a car to the national park.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

The Grand Canyon State has been my adopted home for most of my life. When anyone asks me about touring the beautiful southwestern state, I always ask two questions: How long is your visit? How are you arriving: by car, plane or train? No matter what, you will either need a car or take a bus tour around the state because the miles between points of interest can be in the hundreds, and you will want the flexibility to get out, stop and tour the many amazing historic sites in Arizona.

So, whether you have one day, a weekend or a week or more of vacation planned, pack your bag and camera for a fun, history-filled visit to seven of my favorite places in the 48th state.

CAVE CREEK

Home to *True West* magazine's headquarters, Cave Creek is a great place to start your tour of Arizona. The old mining and ranching town adjacent to Tonto National



The Golden Reef Stamp Mill, used in the Cave Creek Mining District in the 1880s, is one of many mining exhibits visitors can see when touring the Cave Creek Museum.

— COURTESY MARINE 69-71, WIKIMEDIA CREATIVE COMMONS —

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The Mohave Museum of History and Arts' exhibits highlight Lt. Edward Beale's 1859 survey, the discovery of the nearby springs that bear his name today, and how the Beale Wagon Road became a key route of travel, transportation and commerce across the rugged territory.

- COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM -

Forest, is just north of the Phoenix metro area. The high-desert town is well known for its Western hospitality, shopping, restaurants, saloons, hotels and outdoor recreation, including horseback riding and jeep tours. An annual signature event is Cave Creek's Rodeo Days and Parade, held at the end of every March. So when in Cave Creek, please stop by *True West's* headquarters, Mondays through Fridays, and say hello. We love to meet our readers and give them a tour of the editorial offices.

PRESCOTT

My first memory of Prescott is the Frontier Days Rodeo and Parade in the summer of 1970. Nearly 50 years later, the parade is still as great as it was so long ago, and the World's Oldest Rodeo, founded July 4, 1888, still thrills and entertains the fans that pack the historic Yavapai County fairgrounds.



Founded as a mining and merchant camp adjacent to Fort Whipple in 1864, Prescott was Arizona's first Territorial capital. Surrounded by the pine-covered Prescott National Forest, the downtown Courthouse Plaza is the perfect place to start a tour, whatever the season. With plenty of convenient parking, Prescott's downtown has historic sites, shops (lots of antiques), restaurants and saloons for all tastes and temperament, including two of my favorites on Independence Day, Matt's Saloon (great Western dancing) and The Historic Palace Restaurant and Saloon (look for the *Junior Bonner* mural on the back wall) where Virgil Earp and Doc Holliday most likely enjoyed a drink and a few games of chance.

After touring downtown, make time to visit nearby Sharlot Hall Museum, a living history center that includes the original Territorial governor's mansion; the Smoki Museum, dedicated to the heritage and history of the state's indigenous people; and the Phippen Museum,

one of Arizona's premier Western art museums.

Staying the weekend? Prescott has accommodations for all styles and budgets, but I love staying near downtown at a historic hotel such as the Hassayampa, St. Michael's or Vendome. That way I can park

my car for the weekend and spend it walking, exploring and relaxing in the mile-high city that well deserves its nickname of "everybody's hometown."

KINGMAN

Named for the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad construction engineer Lewis Kingman in 1882, the Mohave County seat has been a crossroads for travelers across the high desert for centuries because of key springs in the area. The Route 66 city is also the hometown of *True West's* very own dynamic duo, Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell and Art Director Dan Harshberger, who worked together to create Bob's memoir, *The 66 Kid: Raised on the Mother Road: Growing Up on Route 66, the World's Most Famous Two-Lane Blacktop*.

Kingman, filled with fun and Old West history sites, makes a great headquarters for a week of exploring the expanses of northwestern Arizona. My first stop in Kingman would be the Historic Powerhouse at 120 W. Andy Devine Avenue. Home to the city's visitor center, the massive relic of the Industrial Age was completed in July 1909 and helped spur modern growth, especially in mining. Eventually usurped by the power from Hoover Dam, the Power House ceased operations. It was restored in the 1990s as a hallmark project in preservation for the city and region.

After the Power House, my next recommended stop is the Mohave Museum of History and Arts. A tour of the museum provides visitors an introduction to the rugged history of Kingman and Mohave



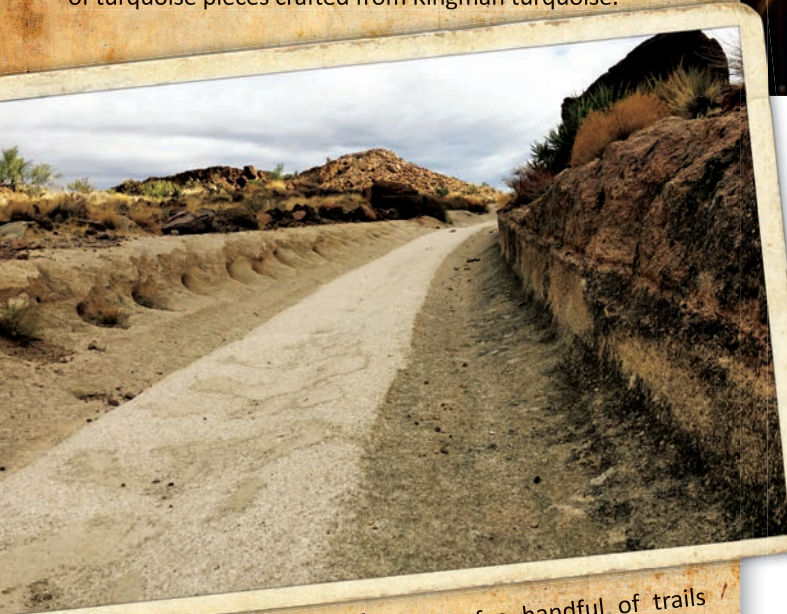
From June 28 to July 4, 2018, Prescott Frontier Days' World's Oldest Rodeo will celebrate Yavapai County and Arizona's Old West heritage, including the concluding event to every rodeo performance, the bull riding competition.

- COURTESY MILLER PHOTO -

Did You Know ?

Kingman, AZ is the Turquoise Capital of the World

One of the largest suppliers of turquoise is sourced out of a mountain just west of town. Kingman was coined the Turquoise Capital of the World in a marketing stunt by Leonard Hardy, a man who produced and sold turquoise. Mr. Hardy (of L.W. Hardy Co) created the Turquoise Kings, a semi-professional softball team, as part of his campaign, and it stuck! The Mohave Museum of History & Arts has a collection of turquoise pieces crafted from Kingman turquoise.



White Cliffs Wagon Road, is one of a handful of trails where you can still see wagon tracks etched into stone. The trail was used to bring gold ore from the mines to the railroad in the late 1800s. The trail head to the wagon tracks is a short drive from Historic Downtown Kingman.



On April 1, 1924, the Chicago Cubs & Pittsburgh Pirates played a major league exhibition at the old Kingman ballpark, the only time in history that a Major League game was played in Kingman. That old ballpark is now the location of famed 1928 Locomotive #3759 which is directly across Route 66 from the Historic Powerhouse and Arizona Route 66 Museum. That ain't no April Fools joke! *Photo courtesy of the Mohave Museum of History & Arts*

Shaffer Fish Bowl Spring is located on Oatman Highway (Route 66) west of Kingman. A few stone steps lead up to a spring capture basin and it's quite a view over the valley below. Motorists used the spring to refill their radiators on hot Arizona road trips as far back as the 1920s. In a sense, it was a Radiator Spring. Oatman Highway, starting just 5 miles west of Kingman, AZ, is arguably the most famous remnant of Historic Route 66.



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County, including the story of Lt. Edward Beale, the Camel Corps and Beale's Wagon Road, the first major American road across the future state of Arizona. Ask for driving directions at the museum to Camp Beale's Springs on the western edge of town, and enjoy a hike and picnic (early morning in the summer) at the historic site.

WILLIAMS

"The Gateway to the Grand Canyon," Williams celebrates its Old West history—and its Route 66 legacy—throughout the year. Founded in 1881, Williams shares its name with nearby Bill Williams Mountain. Don't miss a statue dedicated to the frontiersman in Bill Williams Monument Park. As a rail hub adjacent to the Santa Fe Railway, Williams quickly became a key economic and rail-shipping center for the logging, mining and cattle industries adjacent to the Santa Fe Railway in the 1880s and 1890s. As the tourism industry grew in the late 19th century—and railroads recognized the profit in delivering passengers to and from national parks—the Santa Fe Railway built its Grand Canyon Railway to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park in 1901.



Since 1989, the Grand Canyon Railway and its mounted cowboy entertainers have thrilled passengers riding between Williams and Grand Canyon National Park on one of the most spectacular historic rail lines operating in the West today.

— COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

The short-line to the park was quite successful until Western travelers abandoned train travel for automobiles in the 1960s and passenger train service shuttered in 1968. In 1988, Max and Thelma Biegert of Phoenix reopened the Grand Canyon Railway. Owned today by Xanterra Parks & Resorts, with historic roots to Fred Harvey Company, the railway is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Arizona today.

A Williams weekend would not be complete without a nostalgic venture down Williams' Main Street, Historic Route 66. A stroll through Williams' historic downtown district is in order whether you are looking to relax at a restaurant or pub, or shopping for cowboy boots and a hat, Route 66 souvenirs or Indian art and jewelry. And if you want to go for a hike, the visitors center can offer directions to the Beale Wagon Road Historic Trail.

PAGE

While most of the towns on this Arizona tour date to the 19th century—and the awe-inspiring beauty of the canyon lands of Lake Powell are nearly as ancient as the Earth itself—the town of Page is just 61 years old.

Founded in 1957 to house the construction crews building Glen Canyon Dam, Page is now an international tourist destination for Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area vacationers.

For many, Page is a temporary stop before rafting or rowing down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon—something I have done, at least the lower half. But, like many who have had the fortune to travel extensively in the Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico's canyon lands, I still need to book a week on a Lake Powell houseboat to explore the wonders of Glen Canyon, hike to Rainbow Bridge National Monument and contemplate the ancient landscape and endless nightly celestials that can only be enjoyed from quite meditation on the cool sand of a cove miles from the marina. Before heading out for a week of fun and self-reflection, why not tour the heritage sites and museums of Page, while enjoying the famous local hospitality, restaurants and shops that could never have been imagined by its earliest Indian residents and Lee's Ferry founder, Mormon pioneer, John D. Lee.

Lee's Ferry, adjacent to the small ranch, Lonely Dell, at Paria Creek's confluence with the Colorado, was built in 1872 and was the only way to cross the river until Navajo Bridge was completed in 1929. Today, visitors can tour Lee's Ferry and Lonely Dell Ranch Historic District and imagine life on the edge of the Arizona Territorial frontier. You can



When visiting Page, Arizona, a round-trip tour by boat from Wahweap Marina at Lake Powell Resort to Rainbow Bridge National Monument is the best way to experience the spectacular—and isolated—geologic wonder.

— COURTESY NPS.GOV —

SIDE ROADS

GOOD FOOD & LODGING

GRUB: *The Palace Restaurant and Saloon, Prescott; Matt's Saloon, Prescott; El Palacio, Kingman; Black Bridge Brewery, Kingman; Red Raven Restaurant, Williams; Goldie's Route 66 Diner, Williams; Ranch House Grille, Page; Big John's Texas BBQ, Page; Tonto Bar and Grill, Cave Creek; Big Nose Kate's Saloon & Restaurant, Tombstone; Crystal Palace Saloon, Tombstone; Big Tex Bar-B-Que, Willcox; La Unica Tortilleria y Tacqueria, Willcox*

LODGING: *Hassayampa Inn, Prescott; Hotel Vendome, Prescott; Hotel St. Michael, Prescott; Arizona Inn, Kingman; Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, Williams; Courtyard Page at Lake Powell, Page; Lake Powell Resort, Page; Rancho Manana Resort, Cave Creek; Cave Creek Tumbleweed Hotel, Cave Creek; El Encanto Mexican Café, Cave Creek; Janey's Coffee House, Cave Creek; Cartwright's Modern Cuisine, Cave Creek; Arizona Sunset Inn, Willcox; Tombstone Monument Guest Ranch, Tombstone; Copper Queen Hotel, Bisbee*

PLACES TO VISIT

NORTHERN ARIZONA

Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott; Phippen Museum, Prescott; Smoki Museum, Prescott; Fort Whipple Museum, Prescott; Mohave Museum of History & Arts, Kingman; Beale's Spring, Kingman; Power House Visitor Center, Kingman; Grand Canyon Skywalk, Grand Canyon West; Grand Canyon Railway, Williams/Grand Canyon National Park; Williams Depot History Museum, Williams; Old Beale Wagon Road, Williams; Lee's Ferry and Lonely Dell Ranch Site, Glen Canyon



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quickly understand why Lee named it Lonely Dell. Today, it is anything but lonely, as the input for Colorado River rafters is adjacent to the park. After Lee's Ferry, enjoy tours of the John Wesley Powell Museum and the Carl Hayden Visitor Center at Glen Canyon Dam. The Powell Museum is dedicated the region's environs and people, and to the great Colorado River explorer, who first passed

SIDE ROADS

Side Roads continued from page 117...

National Recreation Area; Carl Hayden Visitor Center, Glen Canyon Dam, Page; John Wesley Powell Museum, Page; Rainbow Bridge National Monument, Lake Powell, UT

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA

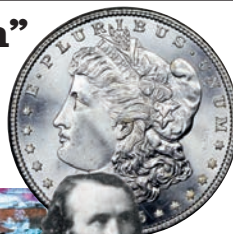
Cave Creek Museum, Cave Creek; The O.K. Corral and Historama, Tombstone; Tombstone Courthouse State Historical Park, Tombstone; Tombstone's Boothill, Tombstone; Birdcage Theater, Tombstone; Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, Bisbee; Chiricahua Regional Museum, Willcox; Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum & Cowboy Hall of Fame, Willcox; Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Bowie; Fort Huachuca Historical Museum, Sierra Vista; The John Slaughter Ranch, Douglas

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Cave Creek Rodeo Days, Cave Creek, March 23-25; Wild West Days, Cave Creek, Nov. 2-4; Wyatt Earp Days, Tombstone, May 26-28; Frontier Days & World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, July 28-July 4; Andy Devine Days Festival and Rodeo, Kingman, Sept. 28-30; Williams Train Days, Williams, June 17; Hometown 4th of July Celebration and Parade, Williams, July 4; The Williams Labor Day Rodeo, Williams, Aug. 31-Sept. 1; Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks, Page, Jul. 4; Lake Powell Balloon Regatta, Page, Nov. 1-4; Showdown in Tombstone, Tombstone, Sept. 1-3; Rex Allen Days & Rodeo, Willcox, Oct. 5-7; Helldorado Days, Tombstone, Oct. 19-21

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The exhibits at the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society's Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center in Willcox provide first-time visitors to the historic railroad town and Cochise County an excellent introduction to the Old West history of southeastern Arizona.

- COURTESY CHIRICAHUA REGIONAL MUSEUM -

through the area 149 years ago on his historic journey down the Green and Colorado rivers. After a visit to the Powell Museum, schedule time for a guided tour of the dam. Tours are offered at the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, daily, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

COCHISE COUNTY: WILLCOX AND TOMBSTONE

A good place to start a weekend or week-long visit to yesteryear in historically rich Cochise County is the onetime cattle capital of the state, Willcox. The town was a key railhead on the Southern Pacific Railway after the railroad's arrival in 1880. A tour of Chiricahua Regional Museum (closed on Sundays) provides a primer to Cochise County's storied past. While in Willcox, don't miss a chance to tour the Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum and Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame or pay your respects to the youngest Earp brother, Warren, who is buried in the Willcox Pioneer Cemetery, the victim of a July 9, 1900, gunfight gone bad.

If Warren Earp's headstone is not enough Earp history for one trip, schedule a couple of days to immerse yourself in the history of Tombstone. Park in one of the convenient public parking areas and start your tour at the Tombstone Visitor's Center at Allen and Fourth streets. Enjoy the pedestrians-only historic district or take a paid, narrated stagecoach or wagon tour of

the town. Don't miss the beautifully restored Tombstone County Courthouse State Historic Park, the OK Corral and Historama, the Bird Cage Theatre, Boothill Graveyard, C.S. Fly's Photography Gallery and the newspaper office of the *Tombstone Epitaph*, just to name a few. Thirsty and hungry? Have a drink at an original 1880s bar in Big Nose Kate's Saloon & Restaurant, and then sit back and relax over dinner. ✦

Stuart Rosebrook is *True West's* Senior Editor. His favorite annual Arizona event is Prescott's Frontier Days and the World's Oldest Rodeo, founded July 4, 1888.

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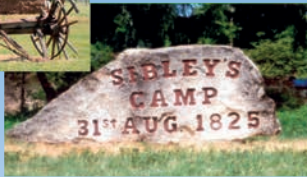
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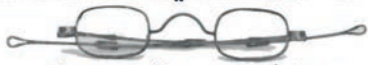
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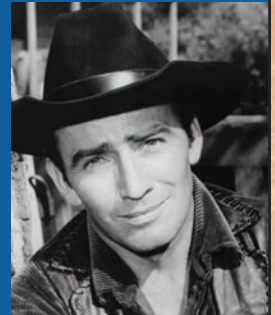
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505-836-2810 • GatheringOfNations.com

SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

Scottsdale, AZ & Online, April 7: Bid on Western and wildlife art, with an emphasis on Old West artists including the Charles Russell painting pictured above.

480-945-0225 • ScottsdaleArtAuction.com

ADVENTURE

1836 CHUCKWAGON RACE

Neches, TX, April 13-22: Watch wagon races, plus enjoy trail rides, Dutch Oven cooking classes, cowboy poetry and cowboy mounted shooting. 903-721-9111 • 1836ChuckwagonRace.com

ART SHOWS

THE ART OF JOE BEELER: A WESTERN ORIGINAL

Scottsdale, AZ, April 1-30: A chronicler of the American West, Beeler's art is celebrated with an exhibit featuring more than 80 of his works. 480-686-9539 • ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org

TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS

Alpine, TX, April 12-14: The nation's second-oldest trappings show offers cowboy gear and traditional Western art at the Museum of the Big Bend. 432-837-8143 • MuseumoftheBigBend.com

THE BIG ONE ART & CRAFT FAIR MINOT SPRING SHOW

Minot, ND, April 13-14: Soak up some history in this 1886 rail town as you browse the locally made arts, crafts and baked goods. 701-837-6059 • TheBigOne.biz

CALIFORNIA IMAGES & HISTORY

San Dimas, CA, April 27-29: Paintings and sculptures by Western artists celebrate the state of California and its rich cowboy heritage. 909-599-5374 • SanDimasArts.org

AUCTION

PREMIERE FIREARMS AUCTION

Rock Island, IL & Online, April 13-15: Highly collectible firearms are up for bid, including an original cased Colt Civilian Walker Revolver. 309-797-1500 • RockIslandAuction.com

FRONTIER FARE

PIONEER VILLAGE DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF

Gonzales, TX, April 27: Cook-off keeps you fed as you enjoy gunfight re-enactments, saloon girls, frontier camps and tours of the 1800s village. 830-672-2157 • ThePioneerVillage.com

GUN SHOW

WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW

Tulsa, OK, April 7-8: Gun Gurus, Jim Supica and Philip Schreier will make an appearance at this 11 acre gun show with more than 4,200 exhibitors. 918-492-0401 • TulsaArmsShow.com



RENDEZVOUS DAYS

Eureka, MT, April 27-29: This Mountain Man tribute offers blackpowder shoots along with street bed races, a quilt show and flea market.
406-297-4636 • EurekaMontana.org

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

CHISHOLM TRAIL AND THE COWTOWN THAT RAISED A PRESIDENT

Abilene, KS, April 1-30: This special exhibit showcases artifacts, photos and stories about the cowtown where Dwight D. Eisenhower grew up.
785-263-6700 • Eisenhower.archives.gov

ROSE TREE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Tombstone, AZ, April 6-8: The blooming of the "World's Largest Rose Tree," planted in 1885, is celebrated with a parade and folkloric dances.
520-457-3326 • TombstoneChamber.com

SOUTHWEST FARM & HOME EXPO

Elk City, OK, April 7-8: Novice and professional alike can shop and learn about products and

services for farm, home, lawn, garden and ranch.
580-225-0207 • VisitElkCity.com

CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE FESTIVAL, CATTLE DRIVE, AND WAGON TRAIN

Bowie, TX, April 13-15: Watch the Marlow Gunfighters Show, horse & wagon races, a stick horse rodeo for the kids and a cowboy ball.
940-872-1173 • BowieTxChamber.org

FIESTA SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio, TX, April 19-29: Old San Antonio and Old Mexico celebrations include fandangos, art shows and a pilgrimage to the Alamo mission.
877-273-4378 • Fiesta-SA.org

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Los Alamos, NM, April 21: Fun for all ages this event features entertainment, food, activities, informational booths, and more.
505-662-0460 • PEECNature.org

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE EDUCATIONAL EXPO & FARMER'S MARKET

Gillette, WY, April 21: Learn the ins and outs of growing your own garden or creating a beautiful landscape and shop the local farmer's market.
307-682-7281 • TravelWyoming.com

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

Sioux Falls, SD, April 21: This event taps into your enthusiasm for the planet with fun and educational activities about conservation and wildlife.
605-367-7003 • GreatZoo.org

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SANTA CLARITA COWBOY FESTIVAL

Santa Clarita, CA, April 22-25: Experience the best in Western entertainment, apparel, gear, food, and history with over 35 different events. 661-286-4021 • CowboyFestival.org

ARIZONA HISTORY CONVENTION

Tempe, AZ, April 26-28: *True West's* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell and other historians give presentations about Arizona's cowboy history. 520-628-5774 • ArizonaHistory.org

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Nebraska City, NE, April 27-29: The home of the first Arbor day, in 1872, celebrates with free trees, a chili cook-off and a parade. 800-514-9113 • NebraskaCity.com

KEEPING WARM IN SOUTH DAKOTA XI

Brookings, SD, April 28-29: Quilters gather for fabric and design competitions, raffles, luncheon and a special presentation from Gudrun Erla. 605-690-3246 • BrookingsQuiltGuild.com

MUSIC & POETRY

LLANO FIDDLE FEST

Llano, TX, April 6-8: Texas musicians of the past are celebrated with a competition featuring some of the best fiddlers from Texas and beyond. 325-247-5354 • LlanoFiddleFest.com

DURANGO BLUEGRASS MELTDOWN

Durango, CO, April 20-22: See Bluegrass jam sessions and bands Balsam Range, Special Consensus and more play in Durango venues. 970-335-9771 DurangoMeltdown.com

RE-ENACTMENT

BANDERA CATTLE COMPANY GUNFIGHTERS

Bandera, TX, April 7, 14, 21, 28: Experience the excitement of the Wild West with the award-winning Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters. 830-796-3045 • BanderaCowboyCapital.com

RODEO & HORSE

OKLAHOMA QUARTER HORSE SPRING SHOW

Oklahoma City, OK, April 4-8: Oklahoma and the surrounding region's finest Quarter Horses compete for ribbons and prizes in wide array of classes. 405-440-0694 • OKQHA.org

PBR UNLEASH THE BEAST

Sioux Falls, SD, April 6-8: Watch the showdown between the toughest cowboys & rankest bucking bulls along with a star-studded musical lineup. 800-732-1727 • DennySanfordPremierCenter.com



COWGIRL UP! EXHIBIT

Wickenburg, AZ, April 1-30: Opening gala at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum kicks off the invitational exhibit of Western art by women. 928-684-2272 • WesternMuseum.org

HIGH DESERT HORSE EXPO

Redmond, OR, April 20-22: Nearly 150 equine related vendors, clinics, demonstrations, consignment tack sale, and more. 971-224-5879 • HighDesertHorseExpo.com

WEST FEST & RANCH RODEO

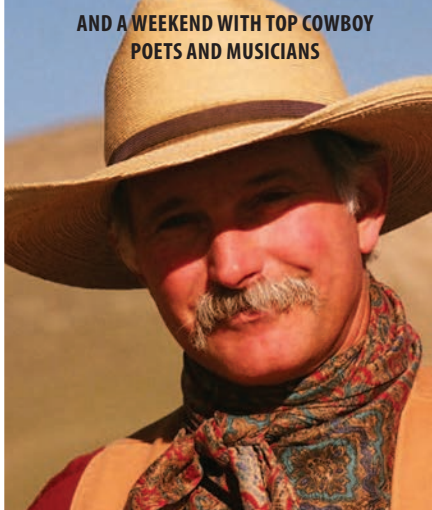
Willcox, AZ, April 27-28: This cowboy gathering pays tribute with ranching competitions, wagon judging, fire stories, and a Chuckwagon cook-off. 800-200-2272 • CattleCapitol.com





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Stand Your Ground

What was the most effective stance for an Old West gunfighter?

Michael Westlund
Clarkdale, Arizona

I ran this by my cousin, Bill Rogers, a former Marine and retired sergeant from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, who replies: "The side stance is properly called the 'Weaver's Stance.' Its advantage was in target shooting, with one eye open. This was the 'old' way that police officers were taught. That's the way that USMC [United States Marine Corps] taught me also in 1975, when I shot the Model 1911 Colt. It is still an acceptable way to shoot.

"The other stance is known as the 'Combat' firing position, at least by the officers I've known. One advantage in this position is the ability to move from left to right, or right to left, as you follow a moving target."

In terms of the Old West, the Weaver's Stance provided the opponent with a smaller target. "Wild Bill" Hickok and Dave Tutt reportedly both assumed this stance in their July 1865 shoot-out. More often, this was the position taken during formal pistol duels. Gunfighters didn't have much time to think through things.

Does it matter if the shootist aims with one eye open or two? Nope. The practice is just shooter preference.

Was Josh Randall's *Wanted: Dead or Alive* "Mare's Leg" Winchester based on a real Old West gun?

Glen Banse
Brick Township, New Jersey

"Mare's Leg" was conceived by the show's writers and by Producer John Robinson, but the firearm as portrayed didn't exist—it had to be created for CBS's *Wanted: Dead or Alive*.



Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association. His latest book is *Arizona Oddities: A Land of Anomalies and Tamales*; History Press, 2018. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu



Firearms aficionados usually cringe when they see Steve McQueen's Josh Randall, from CBS's *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, wearing "Mare's Leg" and that ridiculous .45-70 cartridge belt.

- COURTESY CBS -

Winchester did make the Model 1892 carried by Steve McQueen's character, Josh Randall, but it was transformed by Kenny "Von Dutch" Howard, a recluse gunsmith living in the California desert.

Howard shortened the barrel to nine inches and removed most of the buttstock. Of the three guns made for the series, two of them featured octagonal barrels instead of a round one. The levers were made smaller on all three.

"Realistically one of the dumbest weapons ever made," says Jim Dunham, fast gun handler and director at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. "Sure, it looked cool, but by cutting it down you lost accuracy and bullet capacity, yet you needed two hands to fire it and could not brace it against your shoulder. In fact, it combined the worst parts of a pistol and a rifle."

For dramatic effect, the producers filled Josh Randall's bullet loops with .45-70 cartridges, even though the Winchester Model 1892 was never chambered in that caliber and was principally sold in .44-40.

Firearms aficionados usually cringe when they see "Mare's Leg."

Who has Jim Bowie's knife from the 1836 Battle of the Alamo?

Ben Moskowitz
South Amboy, New Jersey

Nobody knows. Like most, if not all, of the personal things left behind by the defenders of the Alamo mission in San Antonio, Texas, historians have no clue what happened to defender Jim Bowie's knife, or any other.

Soldiers are great collectors of souvenirs, so one of the men led by Mexican Revolution Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna could have grabbed it.



James Black, the blacksmith some historians credit for creating the knife that made Jim Bowie famous (others credit brother Rezin Bowie), is allegedly depicted (above right) with Judge Jacob Buzzard, holding up "guardless coffin"-style bowies.

- COURTESY HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM -

How many men did Marshal Dillon kill in the *Gunsmoke* series?

Larry Shuler
Paige, Texas

During the 20-year span of CBS's *Gunsmoke* series, the count ranges from 138 men and seven women to 303 people. If you add in the ones U.S. Marshal Matt Dillon capped in the made-for-TV movies, the total is 407.

Some of those bad guys might have only been wounded, and some might have died of their wounds later.

Was John Selman a bad guy?

Ron Bolza
Slatington, Pennsylvania

John Henry Selman was, at best, a badly flawed character. During his checkered career, he was a peace officer, vigilante, cold-blooded killer, livestock thief and a back shooter.

In the guise of chasing cattle rustlers on the Texas range in 1873, Selman and John Larn murdered eight cowboys.

During the late 1870s, Selman formed an outlaw group, "Selman's Rangers," which was accused of rape, murder and robbery in New Mexico Territory.

Selman is best remembered for what he did on the evening of August 19, 1895, at the Acme Saloon in El Paso, Texas: walked up behind one of the West's deadliest killers, John Wesley Hardin, and put a bullet in the back of his head. Then he fired three more rounds into his body just to make sure Hardin was dead.

Eight months later, Selman was on the wrong side of a shoot-out with lawman George Scarborough. ★



Badman John Selman?

— COURTESY LEON NETZ COLLECTION —

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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

The trick to successful dude

ranching is a flexible mental attitude and remembering that while the guests are the boss, we must maintain control.

Wish I had a dollar for every time a guest wants a new horse.

Owning three dude ranches is akin to owning three restaurants that have different menus or themes. You have to treat each individually, but you can apply your overall principles and experience to them all. I love it.

Trail rides are the best when the riders are fully engaged because then the horses will be also.

My favorite part of my job is the diversity of my work, from riding and saddling to cooking to representing us to the public.

My least favorite part is feeling like I never do enough.

When I want to get away from it all, I truly vacation. I catch up a little on my reading and completely relax, whether I am in a city or at a ranch.

It's not the long hours, it's the problems that wouldn't even be problems, but people make them into something that must be dealt with.

Before I got into the dude ranch business, I wanted to be an architect. But I realized two things: I wouldn't make a good one, and I wanted to stay on the ranch, doing what I was doing.

The hardest challenge in my business is dealing with government, in all its forms and levels.

The world needs more good people and more of the culture of the American West. The world's fascination with cowboys and the West is for good reason. People aspire to what is shown here.

Clichés were my father's favorites, and the older I get, the more I realize cliché is a synonym for truth. One thing my parents told me that keeps ringing true is—the more a person tells you about an attribute they have, the more likely the opposite is true.



"As a kid, I loved anything that had Clint Eastwood [left] in it," Russell True says. "My favorite TV Western was *The Big Valley*, followed by *The High Chaparral*."



RUSSELL TRUE, RANCHER

Russell True inherited the White Stallion Ranch, homesteaded in 1936 as a cattle ranch in Tucson, Arizona, from his parents, Allen and Cynthia. The ranch is operated by the third generation of the True family. The author of *Dude Ranching in Arizona*, he also owns Tombstone Monument Ranch in Tombstone and Rancho de la Osa in Sasabe. In 2017, he was inducted into the Arizona Tourism Hall of Fame. Russell was cofounder and president of the Arizona Dude Ranch Association and two-time president of the Dude Ranchers' Association.

Young people don't want to wait long enough or work hard enough for success, but did they ever?

When I was a kid, I wish someone had told me to go to hotel school instead of getting a finance degree. I would have learned a lot of valuable lessons faster and cheaper.

My mother always told me: Once a civilization reaches too much success, it collapses, like the Romans. Always happens.

I have a weakness for old horses and dogs.

Most people don't know I love art. I wish I could create great oil paintings.

What makes me laugh: When people say how nice it must feel to be on vacation all the time.



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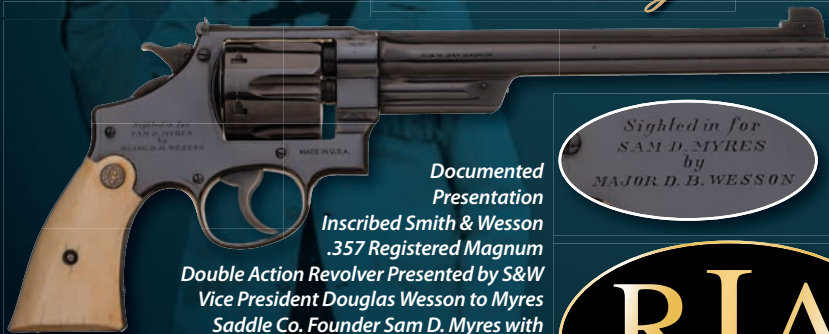
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