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APRIL 2019

# TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

## KEVIN COSTNER REDEEMS A TEXAS RANGER

*CAN HE SAVE THE WESTERN, TOO?*

BY HENRY C. PARKE

## CROSSFIRE:

## THE THREE HEROES BEHIND THE MANHUNT FOR BONNIE AND CLYDE

BY JOHN BOESSENECKER, JOHN FUSCO AND ROBERT M. UTLEY

INSIDE:

A TEXAS RANGER EARNS HIS SPURS

END OF AN ERA: THE ROBERT G. McCUBBIN COLLECTION GOES TO AUCTION

LUCK, LOVE AND LEAD: A NEW BIO OF WILD BILL

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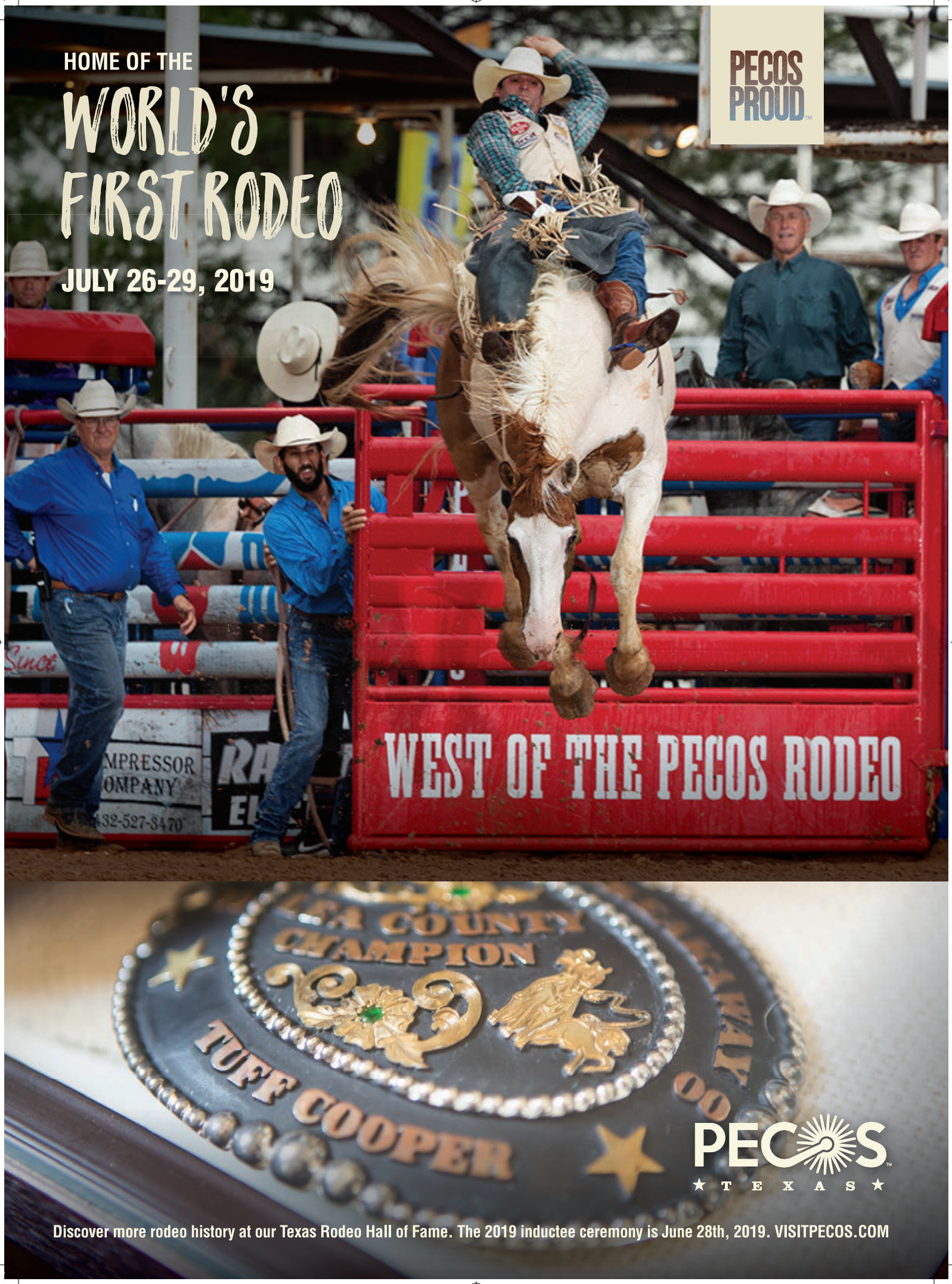


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1


2


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# The Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid Rifle

Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid – Pat Garret was raised on a plantation in Louisiana, though he was born in Alabama in 1850. When his parents died, the debts against his family's plantation and the Civil War changed his lifestyle forever. Garrett went West to start a new life.

He worked as a Buffalo Hunter in Texas and retired after he shot and killed a fellow hunter. He went to New Mexico to try ranching. Later he became a bartender in Fort Sumner and eventually became Sheriff of Lincoln County. This is where he met Billy the Kid for the first time and the last time as well.

Billy the Kid was born in New York City and was 9 years younger than Garrett. His mother had moved them from Kansas to New Mexico after his father's death. This is where Billy and his brother became outlaws. Billy traveled all over the West, stealing and pillaging with various gangs. He and Garrett met, becoming friends while playing cards. They were friends inside the saloon. Outside, Billy just stayed out of Pat Garrett's personal business.

In 1880, Garrett was elected Sheriff and his highest priority became the capture of the same man he had befriended, Garrett hunted Billy down in July. He and Peter Maxwell, who betrayed Billy to the Sheriff, surprised Billy when he returned to his bedroom. Two men went in, sensing someone was in the room. One shouted, "Who is it?" while reaching for his gun. The first man beat him to it, drawing his revolver and shooting twice. Billy was dead. They became the best of Friends and later, the worst of Enemies. Garrett said later he never should have done it.

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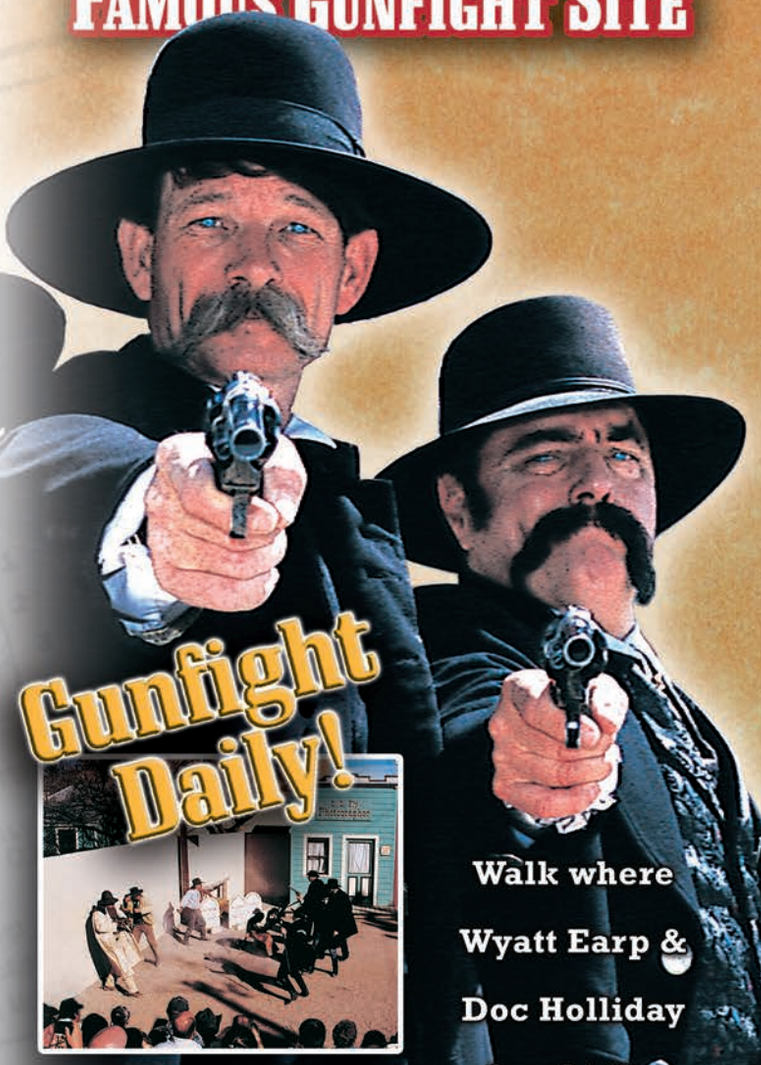
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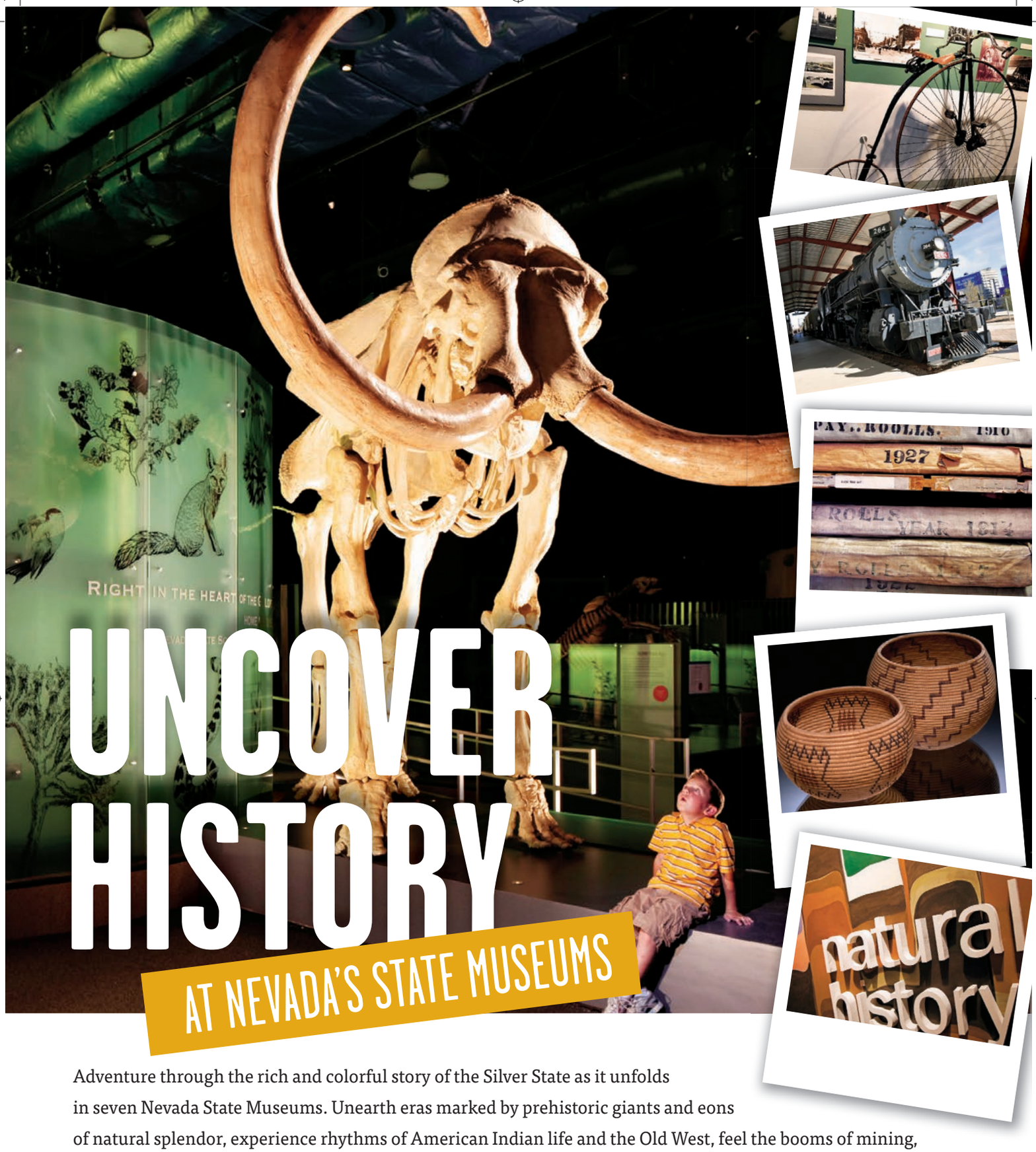
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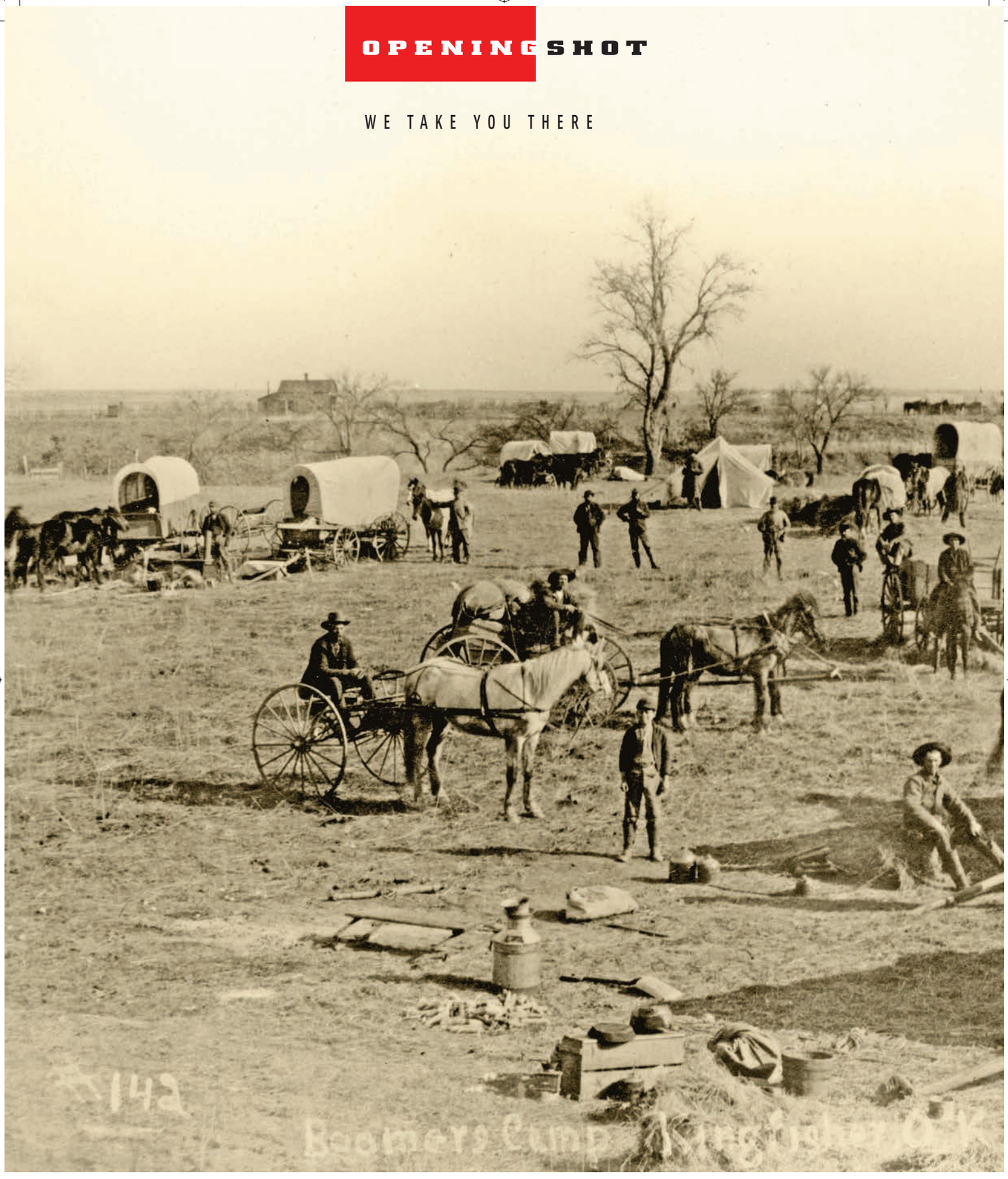
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# OPENING SHOT

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## Oklahoma Land Rush

Forty-five miles northwest of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Territory, a boomer pioneer camp posed near the three-year-old town of Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory, on April 15, 1892. A crossroad settlement of the Chisholm Trail, Kingfisher was founded in April 1889 during the initial land rush, six months before the anticipated arrival of the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railway

– A.A. FORBES, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

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TRUE WEST
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

*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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**HISTORICAL CONSULTANT:** Paul Hutton
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:**
Tom Augherton, Allen Barra, Leo W. Banks, John Boessenecker, Johnny D. Boggs, Drew Gomber, Kevin Kibsey, Dr. Jim Kornberg, John Langellier, Sherry Monahan, Candy Moulton, Frederick Nolan, Gary Roberts, Mary Doria Russell, Lynda Sanchez, Marshall Trimble, Ken Western, Larry Winget, Linda Wommack
**ARCHIVIST/PROOFREADER EMERITUS:** Ron Frieling
**PUBLISHER EMERITUS:** Robert G. McCubbin
**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER EMERITUS:** Dave Daiss
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Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Tennessee & Texas
**MARKETING ASSISTANT:** Christine Lake

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In response to our post about John Wayne's penchant for casting acting friends from his favorite "company of actors" in his films, including Hank Worden (right), a regular in the Duke's movies: "When my grandfather, Paul Hurst, was diagnosed with cancer and he was not too far from the end, he was also financially strapped. Mr. Wayne insisted that grandpa have a role (the cranky old rancher) in the film. Not too much later, Grandpa was gone. Mr. Wayne was a warm, compassionate and loyal friend."
*–Paul O'Neal of Oceanside, California*

The 5th Cavalry on parade in 1903 offers a good view of Officers' Row, the most intact remaining portion of Fort Apache. The fort's oldest building? A log cabin dating to 1871. Find this and other historical photographs on our "Western History" board.
*Pinterest.com/TrueWestMag.com*





Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell to see his sketch *Olive in Clouds* and more of the executive editor's Daily Whipouts. (Search for February 6, 2019.)
*Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com*

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# TRUTH BE KNOWN

COMPILED BY ROBERT RAY

## Old Vaquero Saying



"A diplomat is someone who thinks twice before saying nothing."

## Quotes

"We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together, and if we are to live together we have to talk."

*– Eleanor Roosevelt*

"Unless your government is respectable, foreigners will invade your rights; and to maintain tranquillity you must be respectable; even to observe neutrality you must have a strong government."

*– Alexander Hamilton*

"History never looks like history when you are living through it. It always looks confusing and messy, and it always feels uncomfortable."

*– John W. Gardner*

**"An age is called Dark not because the light fails to shine, but because people refuse to see it."**

*– James A. Michener*

"The development of science has produced an industrial revolution which has brought different peoples in such close contact with one another through colonization and commerce that no matter how some nations may still look down upon others, no country can harbor the illusion that its career is decided wholly within itself."

*–John Dewey*

## Letters

[In] the article "*Tombstone* 25" in the December 2018 issue, the second paragraph states "this is considered perhaps the best Western made in the past quarter century." I hate to beg the difference, BUT *Open Range* with Robert Duvall and Kevin Costner was a better Western. Much more colorful costumes of the way real cowboys dressed and how they wore their guns, authentic period dialogue and the action was beyond reproach. Check it out. *Tombstone* will always have a place in my heart, but *Open Range* was a better Western.

Ronald Hamblin
*Freeport, New York*



Kevin Costner and Robert Duvall in *Open Range* (2003).

– COURTESY TOUCHSTONE PICTURES –

## Honkytonk Sue says

"Listen up girls: unless he's wearing a diaper, you can't change him."





APR19_Truth Be Known.indd 14 2/11/19 9:57 AM

BY BOB BOZE BELL

# Headbangers

*What happens when three heavyweight historians go at it?*

There's a dilemma for an editor: what happens when three solid historians go head-to-head on a subject, and disagree? Well, in this case, our new editor, Stuart Rosebrook (inset, below) decided to run all of the contradictory and opposing evidence from Robert Utley, John Boessenecker and John Fusco, and let you, the reader, decide for yourself. It's a very bold move. Normally, we would attempt to get all the versions to align and massage the differences, but not this time.



There's an old tennis saying: "Go to the net, or stay behind the baseline. Don't get caught in the middle." Well, you won't catch Stuart in the middle, because this issue goes right to the net. At Stuart's urging, we blew out the entire editorial well and went wall-to-wall with the biggest names in the biz.

These are heavyweights going at it, toe to toe. And, while they don't always agree, you can sense the passion all three of them have for the subject at hand.

I'll guarantee you one thing: if you read this issue and then watch the Fusco-written Netflix movie, *The Highwaymen*, you will not only have a solid idea of what really happened, but you will know where the bodies are buried, so to speak. Enjoy.

Point taken.



*For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily blog at* TWMag.com



Screenwriter, John Fusco, above, received the 2019 True Westerner Award on January 24, at the Cattle Track Arts Compound in Scottsdale, Arizona, for his work on redeeming the Hamer name. For this issue, Fusco provided never-before published photos from the Maney Gault family and his coverage reflects a first-time look at the long family history. John Boessenecker (inset, left) has written a landmark book on Hamer and he provides us with a much-needed overview, and the esteemed Robert Utley (inset, right) takes aim at a forgotten lawman who deserves more credit.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



APR19_To the Point.indd 15 2/15/19 9:23 AM

BY JOHN LANGELLIER

# The Western Auction of the Year

*The Robert G. McCubbin Collection goes under the gavel in the most anticipated Old West collector's event since the sale of the Billy the Kid tintype.*



Billy the Kid's knife stood out as one of the most discussed lots in the auction. In the end, it sold for $110,000, approximately a tenth of what some thought it would bring.

Fast-thinking Southern Pacific Express train employee David Trousdale foiled a robbery by former Wild Bunch gang member Ben Kilpatrick in March of 1912, killing him with this wooden ice mallet. The final price with premium was $64,900.

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY THE ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

Would Billy the Kid's blade pass the million-dollar mark?

In *True West*'s January 2019 issue the long-awaited Brian Lebel auction of Robert G. McCubbin's Collection of Historic Photographs & Artifacts of the Old West was previewed with great anticipation of record sales at the Mesa, Arizona, auction January 25-26, 2019. Now that the gavel has fallen, a follow-up on the predicted revenues from the auction reveals the unpredictability of the current marketplace for Western collectibles.

According to Melissa McCracken, the auction house spent over a year processing more than "51 tintypes, 120 *carte de visites*, 360 photographs, 330 cabinet cards and 12 stereoviews." The team's efforts produced a catalog weighing "over three pounds, and many, many of the images inside are reproduced at actual size." The auction estimates for the Friday, January 25, photo collection auction originally were approximately $2 to $2.9 million. In turn, the ephemera collection of nearly 630 items, held on Saturday, January 26, along with a dozen or so artifacts brought "approximately $1.6 to $2.3 million," McCracken added.

After the final tally, the Friday, Robert G. McCubbin Photography Collection Auction realized $1,729,034, with a 100 percent sell-through rate. The Saturday, Mesa Old West Auction realized $1,392,492, with a 99 percent sell-through rate. Combined, the realized price was $3,121,526. These figures included the buyer's premium, which was 18 percent for the on-site bidders versus 21 percent for those who purchased online.

The highest prices realized came from the second day when a buyer bid $110,000 on the Billy the Kid knife—only a fraction of the estimated $800,000 to $1.2 million. Brian Lebel admitted: "I think we tried to make the knife sexier than it was." After all, it wasn't Billy's knife. He quoted a buyer as saying, "'I would want Billy's socks because he wore them, but a borrowed knife?'" Brian followed with the observation, "We overestimated a few things, but much of the stuff went through the roof."

In fact, a significant number of items dropped below pre-auction estimates. This downward trend, however, was not universal. Several offerings fell near or within the anticipated range, including the ice mallet used to kill Ben "The Tall Texan" Kilpatrick, a former member of the Wild Bunch who died at the hands of Southern Pacific Express train messenger David Trousdale in March of 1912. What in other circumstances would be a common Victorian-era object was obtained for a bid of $55,000 (estimated to sell between $50,000 to $80,000).

In certain instances, higher-than-projected bids proved the case, including a pair of frontier Bowie knives, which sold for $18,000, more than ten times the estimated sale price of $1,000 to $1,500, and a grouping consisting of an Acme Saloon window and a half dozen tokens (poker chips) went for $20,000 or nearly $14,000 over the pre-auction estimate. Similarly, the iconic *carte de visite* of legendary black mountain man James Beckwourth netted twice the high estimate to sell for $60,000.

Prices did not reflect the fact that, according to auctioneer Brian Lebel, "there were a lot of billionaires in the room—from England and all over the country." As Lebel put it, "We swung for the fences and we got what it was worth." This particularly proved the case for three photo buyers who obtained most of the wide range of historic images covering everything from cowboys to outlaws, lawmen, performers and almost



APR19_Collecting the West.DH.indd 16 2/11/19 10:24 AM



Dubbed the "Fort Worth Five," a large, impressive silver print by Swartz of Fort Worth, Texas, taken in 1900 after a lucrative robbery in Nevada, went to a buyer for $100,000, which was the low end of the estimate.



As indicated in the January issue of *True West*, photographs of fur trappers suchas a carte de visite of James Beckwourth are rare. Consequently, the $70,800 sale price with buyer's premium (the added fee paid to the auction house as its commission) far exceeded the pre-auction estimate of $25,000 to $35,000.

the entire gamut of the characters and topics that are the stuff of Western legend.

An era had passed when the final gavel fell, dispersing a collection meticulously assembled over a half century. As Brian Lebel observed about McCubbin: "He collected all of this for his own amusement and then he shared it with the world. You can't ask for a better legacy than that."

In 2016, after a more than four-decade career in museums, the military and public history, **Dr. John Langellier** retired to pursue full-time writing and consulting. He is a frequent contributor to *True West*.




A *carte de visite* of "Old Man Clanton," patriarch of the family best known for their clash with the Earps, sold for $8,500, which was $3,500 above the high estimate. The background card of the 3¾" x 2¼" portrait by an unknown photographer bore the pen and ink inscription "Tombstone, A.T. Sept, 13 – 1881, Compliments of Ike and Fin Clanton."

## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**Apr. 4-5, 2019**
**American Indian & Western Art**
Cowan's Auctions (Cincinnati, OH)
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**Apr. 6, 2019**
**Western Art**
Scottsdale Art Auction (Scottsdale, AZ)
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**Apr. 12, 2019**
**Gold Rush, Western & Native American**
Morphy Auctions-James Julia (Las Vegas, NV)
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**Apr. 24-26, 2019**
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In the January issue, *True West* indicated the cabinet card of Belle Starr by Roeder Brothers of Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1886, carried a $14,000 to $18,000, estimate, but went for $26,550 including the buyer's premium.



APR19_Collecting the West.DH.indd 17 2/11/19 10:24 AM

BY MARK BOARDMAN

# The Bullet, Not the Ballot Box

*The Bellevue War settled political differences with bloodshed in the Iowa Territory.*

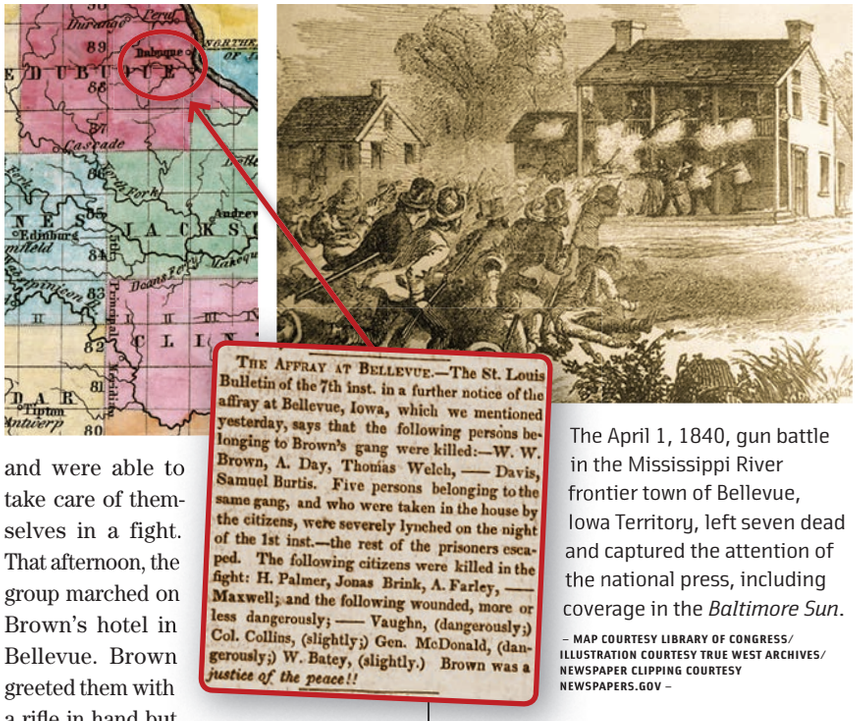
In 1840, it wasn't politics as usual in Bellevue, Iowa Territory. Two well-armed sides decided that the ballot box wasn't enough to finalize who held public office and power in the region.

On the one side was W.W. Brown, a wealthy investor who relocated to the area in 1837. He was generous with his friends—he paid high wages, offered credit at very low rates and generally spread his cash around from his headquarters in the town's only hotel. Brown became very popular with early Bellevue settlers. But others, outside his circle, were less impressed. They accused Brown of counterfeiting, stock rustling and other bad deeds. The two sides couldn't find common ground.

Brown ran for Jackson County sheriff as a Democrat in 1838, but lost out to Whig William Warren—a race that set the two men at odds. In 1840, Brown managed to get the Democratic nomination for Territorial representative. Thomas Cox had held that position but was out of town during the party caucus. Cox assumed he'd be re-nominated as a matter of course; when that didn't happen, he became furious with Brown. Cox ran as an independent and was re-elected and the bad blood between Brown and him increased.

And it got worse in January 1840, when Democrat (and Cox associate) James Mitchell shot and killed Brown's friend James Thompson. The next day, Cox (with Sheriff Warren's aid) drafted arrest warrants for Brown and 22 of his colleagues. The charges: rustling, theft, counterfeiting and more. But Warren warned him that arresting the group would be very difficult.

On April 1, Warren approved Cox to raise a posse of 40 men for the purpose of taking Brown and company into custody. Many posse members had military experience and were able to take care of themselves in a fight. That afternoon, the group marched on Brown's hotel in Bellevue. Brown greeted them with a rifle in hand but realized that he was in a no-win situation and lowered the weapon. Somehow, the gun went off, the bullet ripped through Cox's coat but did no damage to his body. Members of the posse thought the shot was intentional and opened up, killing Brown where he stood.




The April 1, 1840, gun battle in the Mississippi River frontier town of Bellevue, Iowa Territory, left seven dead and captured the attention of the national press, including coverage in the *Baltimore Sun*.

– MAP COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/ ILLUSTRATION COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES/ NEWSPAPER CLIPPING COURTESY NEWSPAPERS.GOV –

And the fight became general. The posse set fire to the hotel, forcing most of the folks inside to flee.

In just a few minutes, three men on each side lay dead. A civilian who'd rushed to the scene to help one of the wounded was also gunned down. Thirteen members of the Brown faction were taken into custody; Warren and Cox wanted to execute them on the spot, but as things cooled down they decided to take a vote. Forty-two wanted to whip the miscreants, while 38 voted to hang them. The captives were given anywhere between four and 39 lashes each and then ordered to leave the county, never to return. Other Brown associates either took a low profile or left the area.

A special jury looked into the shootout and cleared the posse of any misdeeds, ruling that they'd acted within the law.

Some public outcry over the incident followed, but that didn't hurt Thomas Cox's political career. He was re-elected to the Territorial Legislature, where he was named Speaker of the House. Cox then won a seat in the Territorial Senate, where his colleagues elected him as that body's president. He died of pneumonia in 1844.

Perhaps his leadership in the so-called Bellevue War actually worked to his benefit. But for seven men shot dead on April Fools Day 1840, it was anything but advantageous.



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APR19_Park County-FP.indd 19 2/14/19 2:26 PM

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

# The Heart of Willcox

*The Rex Allen Museum keeps the memory of an Arizona favorite son alive for fans around the world.*






A life-size statue of native son Rex Allen Sr. (below), greets visitors outside the Rex Allen "Arizona Cowboy" Museum & Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame in the town's Railroad Avenue Historic District.

– STATUE PHOTO COURTESY COCHISE COUNTY TOURISM/POSTER OF THE ARIZONA COWBOY COURTESY REPUBLIC PICTURES –

Rex Allen said his heart would always belong to his hometown of Willcox, Arizona, and he wasn't kidding. A replica of a human heart was included in a larger-than-life statue of the "favorite son"—and when Allen died in 1999, his ashes were spread around the monument that stands across the street from the Rex Allen "Arizona Cowboy" Museum & Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame.

The museum is in one of Willcox's oldest commercial buildings, built in the early 1890s of adobe—one of the few intact adobes still standing in the Railroad Avenue Historic District. A former saloon, the museum now honors not only "The Arizona Cowboy," who grew up here, but the men and women who ranched this area when Willcox was the largest rail shipping center of range cattle in the U.S., earning it the title of Cattle Capital of the World.

But it's clear the town's heart belongs to the kid who graduated from Willcox High School and was then known as Elvie "Rex" Allen. He wrote one of his first songs at 14, and played with his musical father while in school, then branched out to become a popular "singing cowboy."

"God gave me a good voice and that voice has been good to me," he once said. While John Wayne told him, "If I could hear the voice of God, it would sound like you."

Rex Allen appeared in 19 Western movies, making America's last singing Western in 1954. He then went on, with that great voice, to narrate over 150 Walt Disney pictures and television shows, earning him the title "The Voice of the West."

The museum includes a full array of memorabilia from Allen's life, including dozens of movie posters that demonstrate the artistic splendor of these advertisements.

E. Pierre Brehm, who runs the museum with help from volunteers, was a good friend of Allen's. He loves telling stories about his multi-talented friend, including a secret Allen shared with no one else. "*The Arizona Cowboy* was his first starring role," Brehm recounts, noting its movie poster over his head. "Rex told me he so hated that film that if he had the money, he'd buy and burn every copy. I never told him it is one of my favorites."

Ironically, Allen's eldest son, Rex Jr. (Chico) wrote the words and music to Arizona's state song "Arizona."

Allen's beloved horse, KoKo, had his own destination with fame, Brehm tells. "Koko was supposed to be Dale Evans' horse, a stallion like Trigger. But she got Buttermilk instead and Rex got KoKo." Labeled "the most beautiful horse in the world," Koko (1940-1967) co-starred in 30 motion pictures and traveled over a half-million miles with Rex in the U.S. and Canada. The horse is buried at the monument.

The museum attracts visitors from throughout the nation and some foreign countries, its guest book shows. It's busiest every October during Rex Allen Days, started in 1951 as a benefit for the local hospital, and still raising money for charities, including scholarships for Willcox High School graduates.

The museum, at 150 N. Railroad Ave., Willcox, Arizona, 85643, is open Monday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with live music, Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed Sundays and all major holidays. For more information, see *RexAllenMuseum.org* or call 520-384-4583.

**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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SOLD: $94,400


SOLD: $70,800


SOLD: $129,800



SOLD: $64,900


SOLD: $59,000


SOLD: $44,250

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The 30th Annual Cody Old West Show

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BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

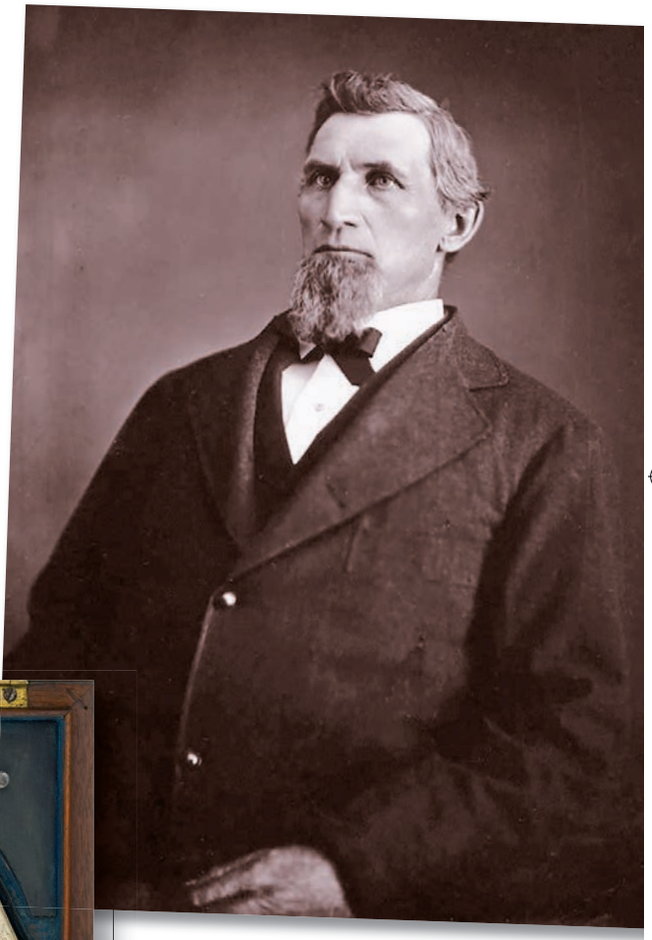
# Colts For the Other Buffalo Bill

*This exquisite cased set of 1861 Navy Colts originally belonged to a rough-and-tumble frontiersman who became the first "Buffalo Bill."*

When we hear the name "Buffalo Bill," the first person we think of is Buffalo Bill Cody, the famed frontier scout and Wild West showman. However, there was another Buffalo Bill who lived an adventurous life out West, several years before Col. Cody acquired his Buffalo Bill moniker. He was one of the most flamboyant figures to roam the prairies around Wichita, Kansas, yet perhaps the least known. William Mathewson—referred to as "The Other Buffalo Bill" by locals and serious Old West scholars—was an explorer, hunter, fur trader, Indian scout and fighter who helped to clear the path for Western settlers.

Born January 1, 1830, in Triangle, Boone County, New York, William Mathewson realized at a very young age that he was not cut out to work on his family's farm. By the time he was 18 he had left home, beginning his life of adventure. His list of accomplishments and adventures fills a volume, but here's a brief rundown of some of them.

Starting in 1849, Mathewson traded along the Santa Fe Trail, and by 1852 was involved in Western hunting expeditions, including one trek in the Rocky Mountains with famed guide Kit Carson. He then went to work for the Bent-St. Vrain Trading Post, where he traded with Sioux, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indians. By 1858, he and a partner established their own trading posts in central Kansas. During



An unassuming, but real rough-and-tumble character, William Mathewson, shown here in later years, racked up many death-defying and heroic adventures, saved many lives, was a treaty negotiator and peacemaker between settlers and Indians and helped found Wichita, Kansas, yet remains little known. In the winter of 1860-'61, several years before William F. Cody earned his title, Mathewson hunted buffalo to feed starving settlers, and was bestowed with the moniker "Buffalo Bill."



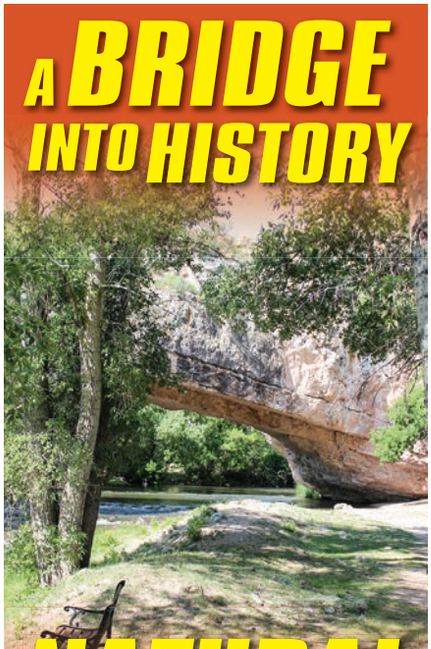
For saving the Overland Transportation Company's wagon train of 155 men and 147 wagons, William Mathewson was awarded this finely etched floral vine embellished, French-fitted, Tiffany silver and gilded-cased set of 1861 Navy Colts. Silver-plated accessories include a pair of Colt patent dual cavity bullet molds, two L-shaped combination tools, and a "Wm Mathewson" inscribed James Dixon & Sons powder flask.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ROCK ISLAND AUCTION COMPANY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –



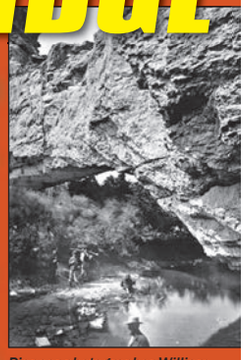
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# A BRIDGE INTO HISTORY

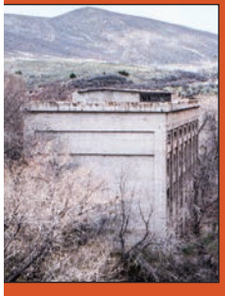


# NATURAL BRIDGE

Crafted by the hands of Mother Nature, Ayres Natural Bridge, located just south of the Oregon Trail, is one of only three natural bridges in the United States with water beneath. Considered one of Wyoming's first tourist attractions, scenery seekers enjoy this breathtaking wonder that includes a picnic area, hiking paths, a sand volleyball court, fishing areas and horseshoe pits. The site is open April through October.



*Pioneer photographer William Henry Jackson captured this image of Natural Bridge in 1870.*



*An abandoned century-old powerhouse is just up the creek from Natural Bridge.*

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The exquisitely carved ivory stocks on these '61 Navy Colts are adorned in high relief images displaying an American bald eagle and shield/scrolled motif on the right side of each revolver, while the left side of each bears a beautiful Columbia and shield design.



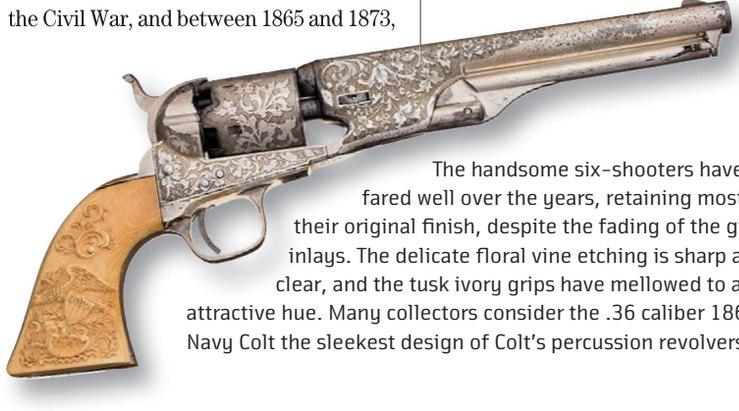
the winter of 1860-'61 he first earned the nickname "Buffalo Bill" for having saved the many settlers in the region from starvation, due to a severe drought that had ruined their crops. It's reported that he killed enough buffalo for the settlers and refused payment for his services or the meat.

In 1861, Mathewson beat the powerful Kiowa chief Satanta (White Bear) in a bare knuckles fight after the chief threatened to kill him. Mathewson then chased Satanta's small band off from his post at the point of his revolver! He acquired a new moniker from the Indians: "Sinpah Zilbah" (Long Bearded Dangerous White Man). When the chief returned the following year, he made peace with Mathewson and presented him with three of his finest ponies.

Three years later, Mathewson and five comrades held off an Indian attack at his Cow Creek Crossing trading post for several days. Armed with a Sharps rifle and six Colt revolvers, he galloped out alone to help a besieged wagon train of government supplies. He charged headlong into the warriors with guns blazing, broke through to the wagons he had been expecting and broke open the crates of repeating rifles and ammunition (the teamsters were unaware of the cargo, as it had been disguised), turning the tide of the battle and routing the Indians.

Mathewson also served as a scout during the Civil War, and between 1865 and 1873, he personally rescued 54 settlers from Indian captivity, later becoming a negotiator between the whites and the Indians, helping to pave the way for future settlers in Kansas. He was one of Wichita, Kansas's founders, helped create the Wichita Savings Bank, where he served as president, and was Wichita's police commissioner from 1889 until 1891. His 1868 homestead, which he profitably worked until his death in 1916, is now situated in the heart of the city.

In May 1866, in honor of his saving the 155 men and 147 wagons of government supplies, the Overland Transportation Company presented Mathewson with an exquisite, cased pair of 1861 Navy Colts. Stocked in high relief carved ivory and finished in silver and gold floral vine etching, these .36 caliber six guns remain in very good overall condition, complete with cased accessories, including a silver-plated James Dixon & Sons powder flask, two Colt patent dual cavity bullet molds and two L-shaped combination tools. This astounding and historical set was auctioned off recently by Rock Island Auction



The handsome six-shooters have fared well over the years, retaining most of their original finish, despite the fading of the gilt inlays. The delicate floral vine etching is sharp and clear, and the tusk ivory grips have mellowed to an attractive hue. Many collectors consider the .36 caliber 1861 Navy Colt the sleekest design of Colt's percussion revolvers.



APR19_Shooting From the Hip_DH.indd 24 2/12/19 3:08 PM

Company for $402,500. As the accompanying photos show, these shooting irons are indeed fitting for a man of action, and for the first "Buffalo Bill."

**Phil Spangenberger** 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.




The silver-plated butts of William Mathewson's '61 Navy Colts are inscribed with his name, along with factory-stamped serial numbers. These beautiful and historic frontier six-shooters have retained much of their silver finish, but their gilt inlays have faded over time.



– PHOTO BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER –

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As all shooters know—or should know—hearing and eye protection are of the utmost importance. Birchwood Casey's eKrest Electronic Muffs allow you to listen to normal sounds around you, while greatly reducing all noise levels above 85dB, earning the American National Standards Institute's Noise Reduction Rating of 26dB. The on and off switch with volume control allows the shooter to control sound levels. These comfortable muffs use two AAA batteries, have an LED power indicator light and two omni-directional microphones so you can hear everything around you. I've gone shooting with these muffs and think they're great.

***BirchwoodCasey.com***






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BY JOHN BOESSENECKER

# A TEXAS RANGER EARNS HIS SPURS

Three decades before he became renowned for tracking down Bonnie and Clyde, the legendary Texas Ranger earned his badge under fire along the Rio Grande.

Frank Hamer rested his muscular frame against the trunk of a hackberry tree. He levered a round into the chamber of his Winchester Model 1894 saddle ring carbine, then squinted down the rear sight. Drawing a long breath, he slowly squeezed the trigger and the hammer dropped. The next instant would mark the beginning of his career as the deadliest Texas Ranger of the 20th century.



Francis "Frank" Augustus Hamer was a Hill Country Texan, born in Fairview, Texas, on March 17, 1884. When he was just 22, he passed his interview with Capt. John H. Rogers and took his oath as a Texas Ranger.

– COURTESY JOHN BOESSENECKER –

Hamer (pronounced "Haymer") was born in the Texas Hill Country in 1884. The son of a blacksmith, Frank spent long hours toiling with sledgehammer and anvil in his father's shop. He grew into a powerful six-foot-two-inch youth, all muscle and gristle. Hamer had no formal schooling after the sixth grade. As he once said, "The only education I got was on the hurricane end of a Mexican pony." He lived much of his early life outdoors and became an expert rider, rifleman, hunter and tracker. Hamer drifted to the Pecos River country in west Texas and rode the ranges as a cowpuncher. In 1905, as a volunteer posseman, he tracked down and captured several horse thieves. The sheriff of Pecos County was so impressed that he recommended young Hamer as a Texas Ranger.

In April 1906 Frank enlisted in Company C of the State Ranger Force.

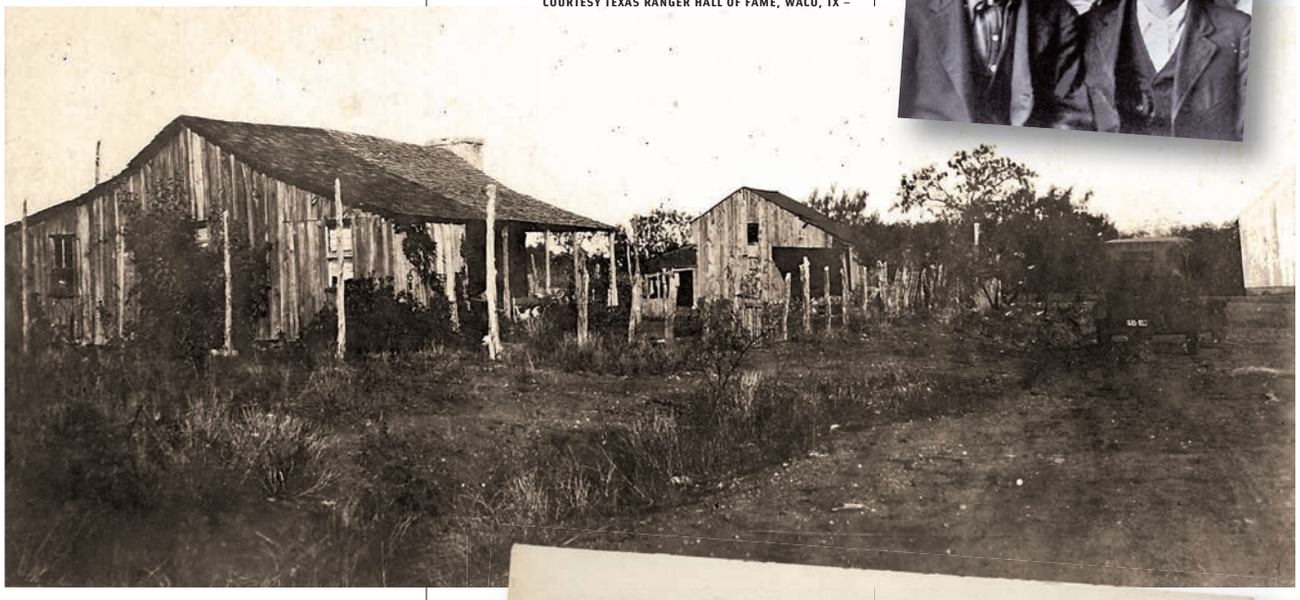


APR19_A Texas Ranger Earns His Spurs_DH.indd 26 2/18/19 10:38 AM



Franklin Hamer (lower left) raised Frank, the second oldest, and his seven brothers and sisters in their home, adjacent to his blacksmith shop, on the Llano–Fredericksburg Road in Oxford, Texas. Sitting beside the Hamer patriarch is his brother Harrison, while standing is the youngest, Flavious, and sister, Pat.

– FAMILY PHOTO COURTESY HARRISON HAMER/FAMILY HOME PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME, WACO, TX –






After being posted to Ranger Company C in Alpine, Frank Hamer investigated many crimes on local ranches, including working undercover as a greenhorn on a ranch being rustled in Ysleta.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Then, Rangers were rarely called "Texas Rangers," for everyone connected with them was in Texas, and adding the state's name was redundant. They were merely "Rangers" or "State Rangers." Hamer's commander was Capt. John H. Rogers, famed as one of the "four great captains" of that era. Rogers did not look like a Western lawman. Portly, bespectacled, gentlemanly and deeply religious, he was a crack detective and a deadly opponent in a gunfight. He had been a Ranger since the age of eighteen and had killed several desperadoes in hair-raising gun battles. Rogers had twice been wounded in the line of duty, leaving one arm permanently injured. He carried a special rifle with a curved stock to compensate for his crippled limb. Frank Hamer idolized his captain, and ever after sought to emulate him. Captain Rogers became the most important influence in Hamer's professional life.

The Rangers served not only as a border protection force, riding the Rio Grande in search of outlaws, smugglers and cattle thieves, but they also assisted local officers. Because lawmen were few, and levels of crime and violence were high, the Rangers rode from one hot spot to another, augmenting local police and sheriffs. During Hamer's first year as a Ranger, he acquired more experience than many modern law officers get in a decade. He rode several thousand miles throughout the border region and the Big Bend, obtaining intimate knowledge of the country and its people. He learned to conduct surveillance, to work undercover and to investigate myriad crimes. He arrested seven men for murder. And he took part in an exploit in Del Rio that folks would talk about for more than a



APR19_A Texas Ranger Earns His Spurs_DH.indd 27 2/14/19 2:03 PM



Murderer Ed Putnam (inset) was the first criminal Frank Hamer (standing, left) killed in the line of duty. The Del Rio photographer who photographed the dead Putnam also snapped the group photo, which also included Duke Hudson (standing right) and Capt. John H. Rogers (seated), holding Putnam's German Luger.

– PHOTOS COURTESY JOHN BOESSENECKER –

hundred years.

Del Rio, then a dusty border town of 2,000 residents, is situated on the Rio Grande, midway between Laredo and the Big Bend. On November 30, 1906, Captain Rogers received word that a wealthy sheepman, Blake Cauthorn, had disappeared. He began an investigation, and quickly found that Cauthorn had been at the bank in Del Rio, where he paid a stranger, Ed Putnam, $4,500 for a flock of sheep. Putnam had last been seen headed out of town in a livery rig, which was found abandoned 12 miles north of Del Rio. Rogers, with Rangers Hamer and Robert M. "Duke" Hudson and County Sheriff John Robinson, spent the night in a vain manhunt for Putnam. In the morning they got word that Cauthorn had been found in his buggy, shot to death. At about the same time, the Rangers learned that another stockman, John Ralston, who had also engaged in a sheep deal with Ed Putnam, had vanished.

The town was gripped in a fever of excitement, with citizens convinced that Cauthorn and Ralston had been robbed and murdered by Mexican bandits. The Rangers paid no attention to the rumors, and kept up their hunt for Putnam. Rogers inspected Cauthorn's body, then concluded that Putnam might have circled back to Del Rio to board a train for escape. As the lawmen watched all the outbound trains, Sheriff Robinson got a tip that Putnam was holed up in a bordello operated by Glass Sharp, situated near the railroad tracks on the outskirts of town. The sheriff and his deputies, along with Rogers, Hamer and Hudson, climbed into a pair of hacks and rushed to the Sharp house. It was six p.m., December 1, 1906.

Sheriff Robinson placed seven men in the front of the Sharp bordello, while Rogers, Hamer, Hudson and another posseman covered the rear. The sheriff called for the women inside the brothel to come out, and they did so. Then he yelled to Putnam that he knew he was inside. As Rogers later explained, "At first one of the women denied that he was there. Afterwards, they admitted that he was inside and they carried him word from Sheriff Robinson to come out and surrender." The lawmen allowed Sharp's daughter, Georgia, to reenter the house and talk with Putnam.

"He won't come out," she told the officers. "He's got a funny look in his eyes and says he won't give up."

Half an hour passed and Sheriff Robinson lost patience. By this time a crowd of more than a hundred citizens had gathered, some of them armed, and he feared mob violence. Robinson ordered his possemen to open fire on the house. Hamer, crouched behind a hackberry tree at the rear of the house, held his fire. The other officers unleashed a barrage of 30 or 40 shots through the wood walls. In a display of the steady diligence and calm that would mark his later career, Frank continued to hold his fire, while carefully watching the rear windows. Several times he saw a curtain rustle. Then he spotted a pistol barrel poking through the curtain. Hamer took dead aim at the six-gun barrel and squeezed his trigger. The Winchester carbine roared and the heavy bullet tore through the curtain and ripped into the stooping Putnam. It slammed into the killer's face, just under his left eye, ranged downward and shattered his jaw, then entered his neck, cutting the jugular vein, passed out of the neck, plowed into his left shoulder and exited through his left arm. Putnam crumpled to the floor, dead.

The possemen heard a loud thud as Putnam fell, but they could not see inside the house. Captain Rogers said later, "However, not knowing whether he was dead, wounded or feigning to be dead, the house was not entered for a time and our party reloaded and fired many times after this until, perhaps, something like two hundred rounds had been fired, when the house was entered and Putnam found to be dead having received one fatal shot." Putnam clutched a six-gun in his dead hand. Captain Rogers took three guns from his body: a .32 caliber Colt Single Action Army revolver, a .32 caliber Winchester rifle and a newfangled German Luger automatic pistol. The killer's pockets held 300 cartridges and $3,500 in cash. The walls of the house had been shredded by 500 bullets. As an eyewitness said, "The furniture in the



APR19_A Texas Ranger Earns His Spurs_DH.indd 28 2/14/19 2:03 PM




During the manhunt for Ed Putnam, Capt. Rogers and his Rangers staked out the Southern Pacific train station, and at one point hopped a freight from the Del Rio station to Comstock in search of the killer.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Sharp home was completely wrecked, even the stove legs being shot off."

The next day John Ralston's dead body was found north of town where Putnam had dumped it. Putnam had robbed and killed both victims. The noted Noah H. Rose, then a Del Rio photographer, had been a witness to the deadly shootout. He took a photo of the dead Putnam and invited Captain Rogers and his men come to his studio and to sit for commemorative pictures. Rose shot four images of the Rangers. Two were group images, with Rogers seated, holding Ed Putnam's Luger pistol. Next to him were Hamer, Duke Hudson and an unidentified friend, with their rifles displayed prominently. Then Rose had Hamer and Hudson take off their coats, so their six-shooters and cartridge belts showed, and photographed them both standing and kneeling with their rifles in hand. Those photographs have become iconic in Texas Ranger history and lore.

Captain Rogers presented Frank Hamer with Putnam's Colt revolver, saying that since this was his "first gunfight as a Ranger he thought he should have a memento of the occasion." Hamer's commanding officer was greatly impressed with Frank's coolness and deadly marksmanship. In the years to follow, Frank Hamer would eventually become the most famous lawman in the Southwest, noted for his skill in investigating murders and protecting prisoners from lynch mobs. He engaged in 52 gun battles, and killed, or participated in killing, at least 21 desperadoes in the line of duty. And that all took place long before he got on the trail of Bonnie and Clyde.




Frank Hamer's Company C headquarters was on Alpine's Main Street (above) in Brewster County. In 1906, the rowdy cattle town of a 1,000 or so was a gateway to the Big Bend and the Mexican border.

– COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



When working the Rio Grande border counties of southwest Texas, Hamer frequented the historic 1887 Val Verde County Courthouse in Del Rio, to testify in criminal cases.

– COURTESY THE LYDA HILL TEXAS COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Western historian **John Boessnecker** adapted this story from *Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, the Man Who Killed Bonnie and Clyde*.



APR19_A Texas Ranger Earns His Spurs_DH.indd 29 2/14/19 2:03 PM

# CROSSFIRE

Three historians slice and dice what actually happened in one of the greatest manhunts in American history. We have decided to run all of the opposing evidence from Robert Utley, John Boessenecker and John Fusco, and let you, the reader, decide for yourself. We blew out the entire editorial well and went wall-to-wall with first class editorial warfare; these are heavyweights going at it, toe-to-toe. And, while they don't always agree, you can sense the passion all three of them have for the subject at hand. If you read this issue and then watch the Fusco-written Netflix movie, *The Highwaymen*, you will not only have a solid idea of what really happened, but you will know where the bodies are buried, so to speak.

–True West *Editors*



As a Texas Ranger, Frank Hamer logged hundreds if not thousands of miles on horseback, including many on his favorite horse, Bugler, as seen here during the Bandit War of 1915.

– COURTESY OF THE TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO, TEXAS –

APR19_FEATURE_Frank Hamer vs Bonnie and Clyde by John Boessenecker_DH.2.indd 30 2/14/19 3:56 PM

BY JOHN BOESSENECKER

# FRANK HAMER VS. BONNIE AND CLYDE

## When the Barrow Gang seemed uncatchable in 1934, Texas turned to its greatest Ranger to track them down and bring them back, dead or alive.

**Frank Hamer's career began during the closing years of the Texas frontier, and saw him transition from a horseback Ranger into a motorized gangbuster of the 1930s. In between, he served decades as a lawman, in and out of the Texas Rangers: city marshal of the rowdy east Texas town of Navasota, special officer in Houston, deputy sheriff of Kimble County, U.S. prohibition officer and Texas Ranger captain. Among his countless exploits, he played a prominent role in the so-called Bandit War of 1915, when Mexican revolutionaries surged across the border and raided in south Texas. In 1917 he got mixed up in the Johnson-Sims feud, killing one man in the feud's climactic gunfight in Sweetwater. Hamer's role in a violent vendetta was certainly the low point in his professional life. In 1921, as a Texas Ranger captain, he and his men crossed the Mexican border and ambushed and killed the gang of Rafael Lopez, who had murdered five lawmen in Utah's worst law enforcement tragedy. Captain Hamer then led the Rangers who tamed the oil boomtowns of Mexia and Borger, and investigated—and solved— some of the most sensational Texas murders of the 1920s.**

Although a white supremacist of the Jim Crow era, Hamer was sympathetic to black Americans. Beginning in 1908, he saved 15 black men from certain death at the hands of lynch mobs in various towns and cities in east Texas. During the Roaring Twenties, Hamer led an unpopular fight against the Ku Klux Klan in Texas. In 1930, at the courthouse in Sherman in north Texas, Hamer and three of his Rangers held off a mob of 6,000 intent on lynching a black man who had raped a white woman. When the rioters burned down their own courthouse in order to kill the prisoner locked up inside, Frank Hamer became the first and only Texas Ranger to lose a prisoner to a lynch mob. He and his men barely escaped the raging inferno alive. Nonetheless, Hamer's stubborn refusal to back down against massive odds, and his shooting of two of the Sherman mob leaders, constitute one of the greatest displays of raw courage in the history of American law enforcement.

But to many people in Jim Crow-era Texas, saving the lives of black suspects really did not matter. Hamer's actions in Sherman were quickly forgotten. What the public did remember was a much more famous—and by comparison, a much less important—exploit. That was Hamer's 1934 manhunt for Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker. The true story of his manhunt was long muddied by myth, misinformation and unreliable reminiscences from old-timers. Then, in 2006, the voluminous FBI file on Bonnie and Clyde was discovered in Dallas and declassified in 2009. The special agents' reports described in detail the twists and turns in the Barrow manhunt, and made



Frank Hamer (back row, far left) poses with the Texas Ranger Company C in Alpine, Texas, in 1907. In the back row, third from left, is Marvin Bailey, and Duke Hudson is at far right. Seated, third from left, is Capt. John Rogers, and seated at far right is Sgt. John Dibrell.

– COURTESY JOHN BOESSENECKER –



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In December 1919, Frank Hamer was (far right) a newly minted sergeant assigned border duty in El Paso under the command of Capt. Charlie Stevens (center, with binoculars).

– COURTESY OF THE TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO, TEXAS –



Before the scandalous Texas governor's election of "Ma" Ferguson in 1932 and, Ranger Capt. Frank Hamer's resignation from the Ranger force, Hamer enjoyed a reunion with four famous Ranger captains (standing, l.–r.): John A. Brooks, Bill Sterling, Hamer, John R. Hughes and (sitting) Dan W. Roberts, an Indian fighter in the 1870s.

– COURTESY TRAVIS HAMER COLLECTION –

obsolete much of what had been written before about Frank Hamer's leading role in tracking down the love-struck outlaw duo.

Clyde Barrow was a career criminal who came from a family of criminals: of seven Barrow children, five were convicted felons. According to myth, he was forced by the Depression into a life of crime, but in fact Clyde became a 13-year-old chicken thief in 1922, seven years before the Depression even hit Texas. He certainly led Bonnie Parker into a career of crime, but she followed willingly. In myth, she was an innocent girl who never fired a gun. In fact, during a bank holdup in Lucerne, Indiana, Bonnie fired at unarmed citizens. Following a bank robbery in Okabena, Minnesota, Bonnie, Clyde and his brother, Buck Barrow fired at citizens with shotguns and Browning automatic rifles, narrowly missing a school bus full of children. Bonnie shot at lawmen in gunfights at Joplin, Missouri, and Dexter, Iowa. She was, in the popular term of that era, a gun moll.

Former Texas Ranger Hamer joined the manhunt for Bonnie and Clyde on February 10, 1934. By that time the Barrow gang had pulled countless holdups throughout the Southwest and Midwest and murdered nine men—six of them law officers. Despite the fact that he was the best manhunter in Texas, Hamer was then unemployed. A year earlier, the new Texas governor, Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, had fired the entire Ranger force, Hamer among them (Hamer had placed himself on indefinite leave since November), for politicking against her. Then, in January 1934, Bonnie and Clyde engineered a bloody break from the Eastham Prison Farm, killing one guard and freeing several of their gang. Hamer was appointed a special investigator for the Texas Prison System with orders to track down Bonnie and Clyde.

According to legend, Hamer hunted them alone, living and sleeping in his car. That is hardly what happened. A consummate professional, Frank immediately teamed up with Bob Alcorn, a veteran Dallas deputy sheriff who knew Clyde Barrow and had once arrested him. Hamer suspected that Henry Methvin, who had escaped in the Eastham prison break, was riding with the gang. He also knew that Methvin hailed from northwestern Louisiana. Hamer and Alcorn drove to Shreveport where they met quietly with local officers and asked them to be on the lookout for Bonnie and Clyde. Then, on February 19, 1934, they drove west to Arcadia where they met with Henderson Jordan, the rookie sheriff of Bienville Parish, and asked him to watch for the two fugitives.

On February 23, Hamer and Alcorn returned to Texas, and two weeks later Frank visited Huntsville Prison, where he interviewed Hilton Bybee, one of the gang members who had recently been captured. Bybee, who had refused to talk with other officers, made a full confession to Hamer about the gang's movements. Bybee confirmed that Henry Methvin was still riding with Bonnie and Clyde. Hamer recognized that Methvin might well be the key to locating Bonnie and Clyde. Because Bob Alcorn was then tied up investigating an unrelated bank holdup, Hamer met with the FBI's special agent in charge of the Dallas office, who assigned agent Edward J. Dowd to work with him. In early March the two officers traveled throughout north Texas, interviewing witnesses and recovering a Ford sedan that Clyde had stolen in Arkansas.

FBI agents, acting on Hamer's information, began trying to locate Henry Methvin's family



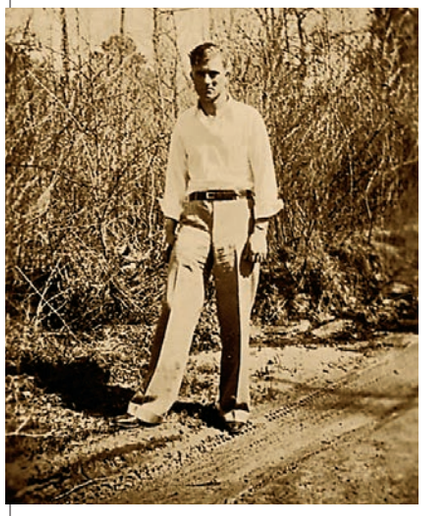
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Nine lawmen and four civilians had been killed by Bonnie, Clyde and their gang before Hamer's six-man posse gunned them down in their stolen V-8 Ford (above) on a back road between Sailes and Gibsland, Louisiana, on May 23, 1934.

– PHOTOS COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



Ivan "Ivy" Methvin, the father of Barrow gang member Henry Methvin (above), gave up the whereabouts of Bonnie and Clyde in Arcadia Parish, Louisiana, and then assisted Hamer's posse in the ambush in exchange for a pardon from the state of Texas.

– COURTESY TARONDA SCHULZ COLLECTION –

in Louisiana. They met with Sheriff Henderson Jordan, told him that Methvin was riding with Bonnie and Clyde, and asked him to try to find Ivan "Ivy" Methvin, Henry's father, whom they believed had recently settled in Bienville Parish. The Methvins were dirt poor and moved frequently, sometimes squatting in isolated cabins and farmhouses. Sheriff Jordan spent the next ten days snooping around the southwestern part of his parish, quietly searching for Ivan Methvin. He finally heard a rumor that Ivy Methvin and his family had been living near Ashland in Natchitoches Parish.

Meanwhile, on Easter Sunday, April 1, Bonnie and Clyde murdered two Texas highway patrolmen north of Dallas. They fled with Henry Methvin to Oklahoma, where five days later they killed a local constable. Clyde, driving by night at high speed in stolen autos, managed to evade a massive, multi-state dragnet. Soon after this, John Joyner, a friend of Ivy Methvin, contacted Sheriff Jordan and asked for a secret meeting with the elder Methvin. Jordan and his chief deputy, Prentiss Oakley, did so, and Methvin offered to give up Bonnie and Clyde in exchange for a Texas pardon for his son. Sheriff Jordan then contacted Louisiana FBI agent Leslie Kindell about the offer. The federal government had no authority to offer a Texas pardon, but Agent Kindell knew that Frank Hamer did. When Kindell, Hamer and Jordan met in Shreveport, Sheriff Jordan recalled, "Hamer agreed that a deal could be offered to the Methvin family. If Ivy Methvin would help capture Bonnie and Clyde, consideration would be given to Henry Methvin. While Hamer did not promise that all charges against Methvin would be dropped by the state of Texas, he came real close to saying that. Before the meeting was over, I came to realize that was the offer that I was to make to Methvin. If he would help capture Bonnie and Clyde, Henry would not have to go back to prison."

On April 28, 1934, Hamer, with Alcorn, Agent Kindell and Sheriff Jordan, met secretly in the woods with Ivy Methvin, his wife, two of his sons and his brother. Hamer produced an official letter promising a pardon for Henry Methvin if his family cooperated. The Methvins talked over the offer at great length and finally agreed to accept it. Ivy explained that "no one knows just when Barrow is coming in and he remains only a very few hours and usually does not get out of his automobile."

The lawmen had several more meetings with the Methvins. Finally, on the night of May 22, 1934, they got word that Bonnie and Clyde would visit the Methvin house, located near the little crossroads of Sailes, the next morning. Hamer and his men set up an ambush on the highway between Gibsland and Sailes, and waited through the dark morning hours. At nine a.m. Bonnie and Clyde drove up. Within moments their stolen Ford sedan was riddled with 167 bullets and buckshot, and the two lovers passed into outlaw immortality.

**John Boessenecker** is *True West*'s 2011, 2013 and 2019 Best Nonfiction Writer of the Year. His most recent book is *Shotguns and Stagecoaches: The Brave Men who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West*. He adapted "Frank Hamer vs. Bonnie and Clyde" from his New York Times bestseller *Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, The Man who Killed Bonnie and Clyde*.



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BY ROBERT M. UTLEY

# THE FORGOTTEN HERO

## Why Louisiana Sheriff Henderson Jordan should be remembered as a key member of the hunt and ambush of Bonnie and Clyde.

No knowledgeable Texan doubts that Ranger Captain Frank Hamer deserves the credit for running down and staging the execution of the notorious gangsters Bonnie and Clyde. The story is firmly embedded in the Texas narrative, a highlight of Lone Star history no true Texan would dare challenge.

Throughout the 1920s Hamer—big and muscular, tough, fearless, honest, a man of few words—was the best the Texas Rangers had to offer. Only Tom Hickman came close to Hamer's record in fighting bank robbers, bootleggers, moonshiners, gamblers, lynchers and corrupt politicians. His signature weapon was not a Colt pistol but the palm of his huge hand, which he cocked at the shoulder and swung in a slap that swiftly downed an opponent.

But during the saga of Bonnie and Clyde, Frank Hamer was not a Ranger captain. The election as governor in 1932 of Miriam A. Ferguson promised a revival of the corruption that had ruled the capitol during the earlier reign of her husband, James E. Ferguson, who could not run because he had been impeached. Everyone knew, however, that "Pa" Ferguson would use "Ma" Ferguson to carry out his own designs. Foreseeing the fate of the Rangers, Hamer resigned a month before her inauguration. On that very day in January 1933, she fired every Texas Ranger and substituted political cronies. Bonnie and Clyde still ran wild.

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were but two of the gangsters who rampaged through


The Dallas Morning News

Section One General News

DALLAS, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1934—TWENTY PAGES

Posse Kills Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker

Leading Principals in Slaying of Outlaws

Manchukuan Farm Villages Wrecked By Japanese Bombs

Fires Still Raging

Dillinger's Girl And Doctor Aiding Him Get 2 Years

Church Must Aid New Deal Because Taught by Christ

Dallas Deputy Tells Of Ending Long Chase

Planes Complete 1,000-Mile Flight To Aid Newlywed

Elusive Dallas Desperadoes Shot to Death in Louisiana

Failure of Clyde To Pay for Guns' Delivery Is Fatal

Long Hunt Over Three States Is Ended as Six Officers Ambush Pair in Speeding Auto

Comrades Praise Men That Trapped Barrow and Parker

Arcadia Sheriff Tells How Barrow Drove Into Trap

Daily newspapers like *The Dallas Morning News* made the Bonnie and Clyde posse members household names for a short while, but over time, Frank Hamer's role has overshadowed the other five, including Bienville Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff Henderson Jordan.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –



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Clyde Barrow, holding his military grade BAR machine gun, posed in front of his Ford V-8 with more of his gang's firepower, including another BAR and pump shotgun, circa 1932.



the early 1930s. John Dillinger terrorized the entire Midwest, mobilizing lawmen in their most severe challenge and commanding the greatest national publicity. Others included Baby Face Nelson, Machine Gun Kelly, Pretty Boy Floyd and Ma Barker. None came near matching the record of John Dillinger. While genuine gangsters (except for Ma Barker), their exploits were exaggerated in later years by J. Edgar Hoover seeking to portray his fledgling Bureau of Investigation (future FBI) as masterful crime-fighters; in the early 1930s they were rank amateurs. Bonnie and Clyde, their trademark an arsenal of high-powered weapons and a sequence of high-powered automobiles, although on occasion swinging murderously through neighboring states, confined most of their killings and robberies to Texas. Few newspapers beyond Texas, preoccupied by Dillinger, paid them much attention.



Clyde Barrow's mugshot at 16 after being arrested for auto theft in December 1926.

Bonnie Parker, raised in poverty in Cement City across from Dallas, was married for three years before she met Clyde Barrow at her brother Buster's house in West Dallas in January 1930. It was nearly love at first sight.

But the pair, joined at times by other aspiring criminals, constantly eluded Texas lawmen. Especially shocking, on Easter Sunday 1934, as Bonnie and Clyde and their sidekick Henry Methvin lounged in their Ford on a roadside near Dallas, two passing motorcycle patrolmen turned back to investigate. While still astride their cycles, Methvin jumped from the rear seat and emptied a Browning automatic rifle into the first officer, while Barrow emerged from the driver's seat to blast the second with a sawed-off shotgun.

Less spectacular, another event had already set in motion the operation that would finally snare them. In January 1934 they engineered the escape of three cronies, including Methvin, from the state penitentiary's prison farm. One guard lost his life in the shootout as the escapees piled into Bonnie and Clyde's car and sped away.

Angry and chagrined, the director of the state prison system, Lee Simmons, vowed to capture or kill the gangsters. In Austin he persuaded the governors "Ma and Pa" Ferguson to allow him to commission a special officer of the prison system to take on the task. Surprisingly, they concurred in his choice of former Ranger captain Frank Hamer. Bob Alcorn, a Dallas deputy sheriff who could identify the wanted pair, joined Hamer.

The two Texans gained information that pointed to Bienville Parish in northwestern Louisiana. In the parish seat of Arcadia, they discovered that Sheriff Henderson Jordan had already located one of Bonnie and Clyde's hideouts and had been handed an opportunity that might trap them. Henry Methvin's parents moved from Ashland to Gibsland, and the gangsters frequently hid there. Through an emissary, Methvin offered to betray his comrades. With a signed promise from Governor Ferguson to pardon



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In April 1933, Bonnie Parker posed with her sidearms for Clyde behind a car they stole from Bob Rosborough in Marshall, Texas.




him for all crimes committed in Texas if the plan succeeded, he would alert the sheriff when Bonnie and Clyde took refuge near Gibsland. Frank Hamer journeyed to Austin and returned with the signed document. The intermediary passed it on to Henry Methvin.

As the weeks passed, the task force expanded. The murder of the Texas highway patrolmen on Easter Sunday prompted State Patrol Chief Louis Phares to insist on a role in the hunt. Hamer chose a former Ranger colleague, B. M. "Maney" Gault, whom Chief Phares commissioned in the highway patrol. Another Dallas deputy, Ted Hinton, joined the team. With Sheriff Jordan and one of his deputies, Prentis Oakley, the posse numbered six.

The four Texans waited impatiently in a Shreveport motel. Not until May 21 did they get word that Bonnie and Clyde were at Ivy Methvin's hideout outside of Gibsland, near the crossroads of Sailes. Methvin would give them the slip in Shreveport. They had agreed that if accidentally separated, they would rendezvous at the abandoned farmhouse hideout. Armed with BARs, shotguns and Colt automatics, the six lawmen positioned themselves behind brush at the side of a gravel road leading through heavily forested land to Gibsland. Methvin's father parked his logging truck across the road and would feign a flat tire.

On May 23, after two nights and a day in the brush, the officers agreed that they'd waited in vain and prepared to leave. The high whine of a speeding Ford V-8, however, alerted them to the approach of the culprits. Methvin's father played his part, and the Ford eased to a stop beside his truck. An approaching timber truck prompted Clyde to make room for it by steering his vehicle to the front of Methvin's truck. Deputy Oakley, anxious not to lose the target, fired two rounds from his BAR. The others opened with all the weapons they had, shredding both car and occupants for the enduring images that splashed the front pages of newspapers everywhere and remain indelibly fixed in gangster lore.

Bonnie and Clyde died by the very weapons they treasured and had packed into the death car. Two months later, accompanied by a woman in a red dress, John Dillinger emerged from a Chicago theater into a hail of bullets that ended his career. The era of the big-time gangsters drew to a close.



IDENTIFICATION ORDER NO. 1227
May 21, 1934.

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WANTED

MRS. ROY THORNTON, alias BONNIE BARROW,
MRS. CLYDE BARROW, BONNIE PARKER

NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT ACT

WANTED

CLYDE CHAMPION BARROW, alias CLYDE BARROW, ROY BAILEY, JACK HALE, ELDON WILLIAMS, ELVIN WILLIAMS.

DESCRIPTION

Age, 23 years (1933); Height, 5 feet, 5 inches; Weight, 100 pounds; Build, slender; Hair, auburn, bobbed; complexion, fair; Scars and marks, bullet wound left foot next to little toe; bullet in left knee; burn scar on right leg from hip to knee; Peculiarities, walks with both knees slightly buckled.

RELATIVES:

Roy Thornton, husband, Texas State Penitentiary
Mrs. J. T. (Emma) Parker, mother, 1216 South Lamar St., Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Billie Parker Nace, sister, 1216 South Lamar St., Dallas, Texas
Hubert (Buster) Parker, brother, Gladewater, Texas
Billie Gonzales, half-sister, Harwood, Gonzales County, Texas.

CRIMINAL RECORD

Arrested sheriff's office, Kaufman, Texas, June 16, 1932; charge, burglary; released.

DESCRIPTION

Age, 23 years; Height, 5 feet, 7 inches, bare feet; Weight, 150 pounds; Build, medium; Hair, dark brown, wavy; reported dyed black; Eyes, hazel; Complexion, light; Scars and marks, shield and anchor with "U.S.N." on right forearm, outer; girl's bust, left inner forearm; bullet wound through both legs just above knees.

RELATIVES:

Henry Barrow, father, Rural Route 6, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Cumie Barrow, mother, Rural Route 6, Dallas, Texas
L. C. Barrow, brother, County Jail, Dallas, Texas
Marie Barrow, sister, Rural Route 6, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Artie Winkler, sister, Sanger Hotel Apartments, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Nellie Cowan, sister, Sanger Hotel Apartments, Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Jim Muckelroy, aunt, Martinsville, Texas
Mrs. Belle Briggs, aunt, Dallas, Texas
Frank Barrow, uncle, Eureka, Navarro County, Texas
Jim Barrow, uncle, Streetman, Texas
D. Brown, cousin, Martinsville, Texas
Bertha Graham, cousin, Tyler, Texas
Claud Linthicum, cousin, San Angelo, Texas.
Ronnie Linthicum, cousin, San Angelo, Texas.

CRIMINAL RECORD

Criminal record and fingerprints can be obtained from Identification Order No. 1211, issued October 24, 1933.

Clyde Champion Barrow and Bonnie Parker constantly travel together and extreme caution must be exercised by arresting officers as they are wanted in connection with assault and murder of officers.

Complaint was filed at Dallas, Texas, on May 20, 1933, charging Clyde Champion Barrow and Bonnie Parker with transporting Ford Coupe, Motor No. A-18788100, property of Dr. E. L. Damron of Effingham, Illinois, from Dallas, Texas, to Powhuska, Oklahoma, on or about September 18, 1932.

Law enforcement agencies kindly transmit any additional information or criminal record to the nearest office of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

If apprehended, please notify the Director, Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the office of the Division of Investigation listed on the back hereof which is nearest your city.

(over)

Issued by: J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Division of Investigation's identification order for Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow was issued two days before they were ambushed and killed near Gibsland, Louisiana, on May 23, 1934.



On April 1, 1933, Bonnie and Clyde, along with Buck and Blanche Barrow, and W.D. Jones hid out in this rented apartment in Joplin, Missouri. Less than two weeks later they were on the lam again, with two dead Joplin policeman left in their wake.



APR19_The Forgotten Hero by Robert Utley_DH.2.indd 36 2/13/19 3:02 PM

After the killing of Bonnie and Clyde, the six key lawmen who chased them down posed for the history books: (l.–r.) Prentiss Oakley, Bob Alcorn, Louisiana Sheriff Henderson Jordan, Ted Hinton, Frank Hamer and Maney Gault.

– COURTESY TORANDA SCHULZ COLLECTION –




Frank Hamer returned home to public acclaim. Newspapers and magazines hailed him as the man who had run down Bonnie and Clyde and organized the ambush that ended their crime spree in a shower of blood and shattered glass. He was a hero to all Texans and remains so to this day.

Scholarly support came from the respected historian Walter Prescott Webb, whose history of the Texas Rangers appeared a year later. He confined his narrative of Bonnie and Clyde to the words of Hamer himself, interviewed within months after the ambush. As Webb later conceded, it was an interview cobbled together from handwritten notes scrawled on cards as he talked with the legendary captain. With people and places still to be protected, Hamer talked vaguely, with little explicit detail, and at times misleadingly. Yet the "interview" remains the authoritative account in a book that has never been revised or gone out of print.

Sheriff Henderson Jordan, however, was the true architect of the scheme. He located the hideout, received the offer of betrayal from Henry Methvin's emissary and organized the ambush. Hamer is entitled to credit for acting as a messenger to Governor Ferguson and for participating with the five others of the posse in gunning down the fugitives. He did not track down Bonnie and Clyde.

Tell that to a Texan.

Award-winning author **Robert M. Utley** is the author of *Lone Star Justice: The First Century of the Texas Rangers* and *Lone Star Lawmen: The Second Century of the Texas Rangers*.



Texas posse member Maney Gault, Frank Hamer's right hand man in the hunt for Bonnie and Clyde, posed with the dead couple's weapons recovered from their bullet-riddled Ford V-8.



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BY JOHN FUSCO

# THE LEGENDARY MANEY GAULT

## Frank Hamer's best friend and partner in tracking down Bonnie and Clyde should be remembered as one of the greatest Texas Rangers.

### White Rabbit

On April 1, 1934, 6'2" Frank Hamer was sitting, cramped, in his tiny Ford V-8 automobile in a lonely riverside migrant camp near the West Dallas viaduct, eating from a can of sardines and celebrating Easter Sunday alone. Or maybe he had driven home to Austin and was having a home-cooked dinner on Riverside Drive with his wife and kids, a periodic respite from his dogged and highly secretive multistate hunt for the natural-born killers known as the Barrow Gang. We don't know—and we will never know—because part of Frank Hamer's success as a Texas Ranger and manhunter was that he was intractably unwilling to talk.

What we do know, is that on that Easter Sunday, two highway patrol officers were out on motorcycle patrol near Grapevine, Texas. Somewhat relaxed on Easter morning—and woefully untrained—they came across a vehicle parked on the side of the road, as if disabled. A tiny but well-dressed young male and petite young female were loitering nearby. Both had gimped legs and paced nervously. The little red-haired girl was holding a white rabbit. An Easter bunny. The kids seemed as if they were stuck roadside and needed some help.

Nearby, farmer William Schieffer, who had observed the young couple "kissing and petting" all afternoon while the white bunny hopped about and grazed, was hauling rocks by the edge of the road when he witnessed the jarring barrage of automatic gunfire. The



Three years after his role in tracking down and killing Bonnie and Clyde, Maney Gault returned to the Texas Rangers, earned the rank of captain and served ten years with distinction until his death in 1947.

"little girl" gimped up to a downed and dying young cop and fired a point-blank kill-shot to his head from a sawed-off 20-gauge. There was laughter, and something said by the female that sounded like "Ya'll see that? His head bounced like a rubber ball!"

Officer Wheeler was 23, on his first day assigned to motorcycle patrol. He did not have shells in his shotgun because he was concerned that if he "took a spill," the gun might discharge and harm bystanders. He was to be married 11 days later; his fiancée wore her wedding gown to his funeral. She went to her grave in her 90s, cursing the glorification of Bonnie and Clyde—especially the 1967 movie.

The brutal double murder at Grapevine was a major turning point in the highly publicized pursuit of "Barrow and Bonnie." Up until that Sunday, the self-promoting lovebird killers had been enjoying public fascination, a near-worship fueled by the Great Depression and a desperate public hunger for distraction and flashy anti-heroes. This brazen killing was also the urgent juncture at which Frank Hamer, a lone hunter from an earlier era of horse and Winchester, sought out a partner to join him on the hunt.

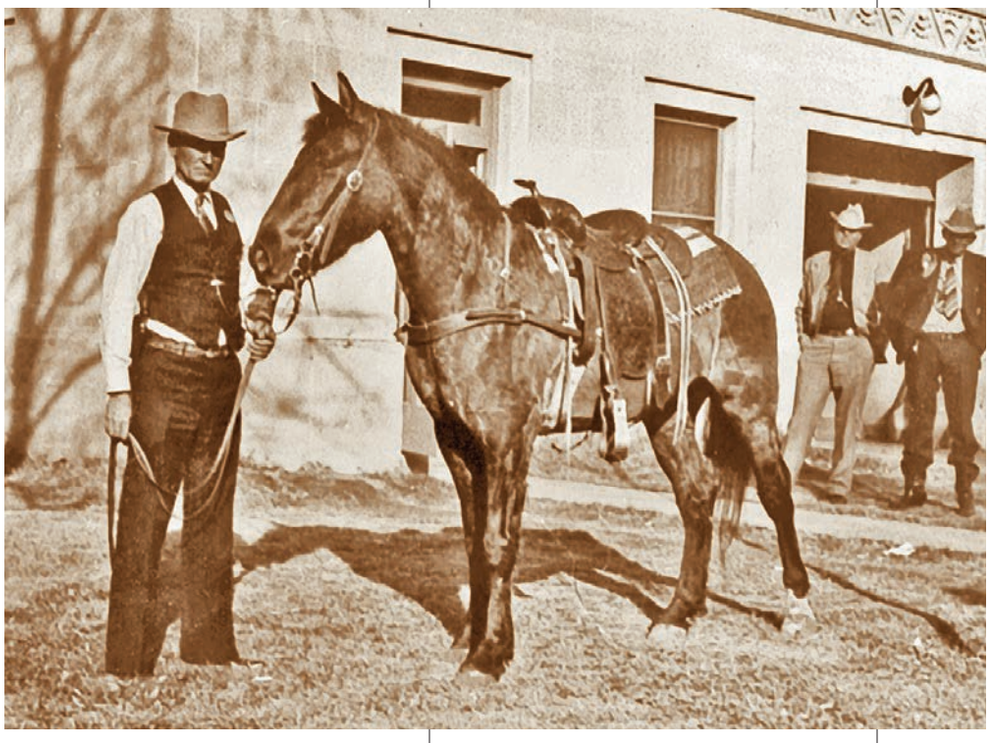
Hamer had been working in loose consort with Dallas Sheriff Smoot Schmid, Dallas Deputy Bob Alcorn, Deputy Ted Hinton and a few committed agents from Hoover's prototype agency for the FBI (even as Hoover resented having an aging legend like Hamer on the case); but now Hamer specifically asked for a partner from his former Texas Rangers days, an old-school lawman he could count on—a former Ranger named B.M. "Maney" Gault.

### Neighbors

Frank Hamer had known Maney Gault since the mid-1920s, when they were neighbors in Austin. The diminutive, steely-eyed Gault had been a stock and dairy farmer until crashing milk prices forced him to find



APR19_Manny Gault by John Fusco_DH.indd 38 2/14/19 3:54 PM



Maney Gault's career as a Texas Ranger started in 1929 after his friend, Texas Ranger Capt. Frank Hamer, recruited him into the Headquarters Company in Austin. Like Hamer, Gault was as comfortable enforcing the law on horseback as in a patrol car.

work in a sawmill. Regardless, he was a man after Hamer's own heart—laconic, loyal, modest, conservative, sardonic and perfectly unbreakable. Hamer appreciated the fact that Maney was from a "Travis County pioneer family."

As neighbors in the Riverside area of Austin, Hamer and Gault became tight, as did their feisty wives, Gladys and Rebecca. The late Frank Hamer Jr., a preteen then, remembered Gault being as "smooth as satin with a pistol," but also proficient on the guitar. Captain Hamer was also a competent hill country fiddler, and the two spent many a night playing cards or dominoes, blue grass music, and sharing terse, wry, Texas-style stories. Gladys Hamer had a parrot in a cage who repeated every damn thing a body said; Frank had a pet javelina named Porky who had free run of the house. It was a lively time on Riverside Drive. Hamer, whom Gault called "Pancho," was a casual and careful sipper while Maney "enjoyed his whiskey" and both were known to "cuss up a storm," much to the amusement of young Frank Jr., who came to think of Maney Gault as an uncle.

This was years before Gault joined the Texas Rangers, but Hamer was already using his friend and neighbor for specialized undercover work. Maney might have been a cow man and mill worker, but Hamer recognized in him the ability to blend in and "talk his way through," his lack of fear and the principled moral compass that Hamer valued above all else. He could also kick ass—literally, on more than one occasion. Hamer privately put his friend Maney underground during the rough-and-tumble days of Prohibition, illegal gambling and in lawless oil boomtowns like Mexia and Borger.

## The Dust Bowl

As the Great Depression grew near and private sector jobs dried up—even the sawmills—Hamer offered his friend a job in the Texas Rangers Headquarters Company. Hamer and Gault now began to team together in earnest, particularly in the violent Jim Crow climate when African-American men were frequently lynched before due process and trials. Gault was likely among the handful of Rangers who stood with Hamer when he protected a black rape suspect from a lynch mob of 6,000 in Sherman, Texas. As senior captain, Hamer was leading the fight in Texas against the Ku Klux Klan.

Hamer and Gault worked seamlessly together as Rangers up until Miriam "Ma" Ferguson was re-elected as governor of Texas. Hamer and the Rangers had supported rival Governor Ross Sterling, so when the truculent "Ma" won, she fired every Ranger (that is, those who had not already resigned in protest like Hamer and Gault) for their partisanship. Texas became a haven for lawless types, from Machine Gun Kelly to the Barrow Gang. Ma Ferguson was known for generously granting furloughs to prisoners, issuing more than 4,000 pardons during her two non-consecutive terms as governor.

While Gault found work with the Texas Highway Patrol, Hamer took on sporadic detective and security assignments. That's what he was doing when when Lee Simmons, head of the Texas Prison System, recruited Hamer to hunt down the Barrow Gang.

## End of the Trail

By April 14, 1934, Frank and Maney were back together—this time as Highway Patrol officers—sharing the cramped space of Hamer's Ford and hunting down the notorious killers. Like their quarry, they slept in their car, drove 500 or more miles per day, and mostly lived on crackers and sardines. According to the late Frank Jr., they took guitar and fiddle with them—along with modern firepower.

So it was, that more than a month later (102 days all-in for Hamer), Hamer, Gault, Alcorn, Hinton (the Dallas cops needed to make the positive ID on the criminals), Louisiana Sheriff Henderson Jordan and his Deputy Oakley caught Barrow and Parker in their own pattern of running and put an end to the multistate menace that had left nine lawmen and four innocent civilians dead.

Maney Gault fired his share of rounds on that legendary, controversial and much misunderstood morning. To the very last moment, he was covering his friend Pancho in the silent aftermath when he was reported as yelling "Careful, Cap, they might be possum'n!"



APR19_Manny Gault by John Fusco_DH.indd 39 2/14/19 3:54 PM



Maney Gault, (right) and Frank Hamer (far right) became national celebrities after their success in bringing Bonnie and Clyde's crime spree to an end. The press followed them back to Austin, Texas, from Louisiana, where Gault, with a sawed-off shotgun, and Hamer with a BAR, showed off some of the outlaws' weapons at Hamer's home garage.

Soon after Ma Ferguson left office, the Texas Rangers were reconstituted into a new state law enforcement agency called the Texas Department of Public Safety. It can be argued that Hamer and Gault had saved the Rangers even as they embarrassed J. Edgar Hoover (it is said that Hoover was livid when Hamer offered to go get Dillinger next).

The Austin newspaper ran a front page headline proclaiming: "HAMER-GAULT HERO DAY IS SET." Citizens planned a testimonial dinner to be held for Frank and Maney on May 28th, with a speech by the governor. Frank and Maney rejected any such celebration. Other than an interview given to Walter Prescott Webb years later, Hamer only gave one interview at the time, to a reporter he knew and trusted, and Gault gave none. When rejected by Gault, one reporter described the former Ranger as "cold-eyed, mysterious, and he doesn't talk." Hamer turned down a $10,000 offer to have a book written about him and major movie offers, including one from Tom Mix. He returned to his wife, Gladys, and his quiet and modest work in oil security. Gault, however, returned to the Texas Rangers, serving as sergeant in Austin.

Not long after the ambush of Barrow and Parker, the bullet-pocked death car reappeared in public. A local carnival operator named Charles Stanley purchased the mangled vehicle from its original owners and took it on tour under his new billing as The Crime Doctor. For a time, he even had Barrow's and Parker's parents and other relatives on the road with him, making some cash off their deceased children.

At an appearance in Austin, as Stanley showed off the Death Car, presented gruesome slides of photos and spoke openly about Hamer's confidential sources, two figures approached from the packed house. Frank Hamer and Maney Gault came up on stage and confronted the carney. With the diminutive but steely-eyed Gault on one side, Hamer slapped Stanley in the head, confiscated the slides and threatened him with more serious action if he continued his side show.

Within five years, Maney Gault was promoted to Captain of C Company in Lubbock. His territory covered some 94 counties in west Texas, extending from the Panhandle to the Rio Grande. During the 10 years he served as captain, Gault solved many cases involving murder, bank robbery and cattle rustling.

Some say that Gault was a dogged lawman to the detriment of his own health. At 61, he was still working on an unsolved murder, when he fell ill. He would die on December 4, 1947, in Austin. Hamer eulogized him as "a 23-karat fellow. He was as loyal a man as there ever could be. Never a better man or truer friend than Maney Gault."



Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow quickly become outlaw celebrities in the press, but for ex-Texas Rangers Maney Gault and Frank Hamer, they were just two criminals that needed to be captured or killed.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

## The Highwaymen

Three-time Academy Award nominee Woody Harrelson had wanted to play the role of B.M. "Maney" Gault for more than ten years. While most actors, from Robert Redford to Tommy Lee Jones to Liam Neeson, wanted to portray Frank Hamer, Woody was greatly drawn to Maney Gault. It should be mentioned that so was Paul Newman before he became ill.

While historical information on Gault is spare, Harrelson was fascinated by a story about an oil boomtown that once requested the Texas Rangers' service. "Some guy came into this town and was just terrorizing people," says Harrelson, a Texan himself. "The Rangers sent one guy, Maney Gault, to deal with this whole group. The gang leader was inside a barn, so after clearing it of civilians, you hear all this crashing and everything, and then Maney



APR19_Manny Gault by John Fusco_DH.indd 40 2/14/19 3:54 PM



On May 23, 1934, the six-man, Texas-Louisiana law-enforcement posse that tracked down and killed Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker posed for the story-hungry press: back row l.-r.: Prentiss Oakley, Ted Hinton, Bob Alcorn and Maney Gault; front row: Frank Hamer and Henderson Jordan.

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY JOHN FUSCO UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

comes out, holding the guy by the back of the shirt, just kicking him in the ass all the way down the street!"

While the movie character is true to the spirit of Maney Gault, creative license almost always needs to be employed in creating a historically based drama. In the case of *The Highwaymen*, and with full disclosure, some character traits were borrowed from some of Frank Hamer's other Ranger allies, in the interest of portraying the old-time Ranger ethos that made the pursuit of Bonnie and Clyde thematically unique and emblematic of putting old-time Texas Rangers on the trail of modern-day gangsters.

While Frank Jr. recalled that Maney liked his drink (bourbon, he told me), the filmmakers and Woody Harrelson took this idea deeper and darker to reflect the moral complexity of violence and how some on the front lines "drink to forget."

It should also be pointed out with clarity that during the pursuit of Bonnie and Clyde, Frank Hamer wanted one man and one man only; that was Maney Gault—one of the Rangers who had resigned in protest alongside Hamer when Ma Ferguson was reelected—and Hamer personally sought him out.

Other pieces of the character composite were inspired by Texas Rangers like Dan Hines and Leo Bishop, Rangers who served during the Great Depression because of dire economic circumstances; they had been living in poverty. Historically, while Gault may have been forced, at one point, to find work in a sawmill when the stock and dairy industry suffered, he was supporting his wife, Rebecca, and their two children through stellar employment with the Texas Highway Patrol.

As Capt. Frank Hamer is finally being introduced to the public as the true hero in the Bonnie and Clyde story—and not the mustache-twirling villain from the 1967 movie—Capt. Maney Gault should also go down in history as one of the reluctant heroes on that day, and one of the greatest Texas Rangers of all time.



Woody Harrelson (left) as Maney Gault and Kevin Costner (right) as Frank Hamer, co-star as two former Texas Rangers on the trail of outlaws Bonnie and Clyde in Netflix's *The Highwaymen*, which debuted in theaters March 29, 2019.

– COURTESY NETFLIX –

Screenwriter **John Fusco**'s most recent screenplay chronicles Frank Hamer and Maney Gault's manhunt of Bonnie and Clyde in the Netflix film *The Highwaymen*, which debuted in theaters March 29, 2019. He was the recipient of *True West*'s 2019 True Westerner Award.



APR19_Manny Gault by John Fusco_DH.indd 41 2/14/19 3:54 PM



Kevin Costner's first feature Western after his multi-Academy Award-winning *Dances With Wolves* (1990) was the 1994 epic *Wyatt Earp*, in which he starred as the legendary title character.

APR19_Kevin Costner Interview_DH.indd 42 2/11/19 9:33 AM

# KEVIN COSTNER

## THE AWARD-WINNING ACTOR, DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER REFLECTS ON *SILVERADO*, *YELLOWSTONE*, HIS NEW NETFLIX SERIES *THE HIGHWAYMEN*, AND ON ACTING AND HIS LOVE OF THE WESTERN.

**BY HENRY C. PARKE**

Back in 1989, when *Life Magazine* asked Hollywood legends like James Stewart, Bette Davis and Olivia DeHavilland to pick their favorite young stars of the day, Joel McCrea selected Kevin Costner. He described the *Field of Dreams* star as "a little Clark Gable, a little Gary Cooper, a little Jimmy Cagney. A boy like that is ideal for a colorful Western." McCrea was right, although at that time Costner had only played a supporting role in Lawrence Kasdan's very colorful Western epic, *Silverado*. The similarity in McCrea's stoic appeal and his own wasn't lost on Costner, who'd replied, "Joel and I are the kind of leading men who say, 'Yup,' and 'Nope' and 'Where's the horse?'"

Costner liked hearing McCrea's words again, three decades later. "I remember enjoying Joel McCrea a lot. He was a really humble guy. Joel was constantly trying to give his roles away to Jimmy and to Gary and to other people, saying that they'd be just right for that. I'm pleased that he would say something like that about me."

Does he still see himself as a "yup" and "nope" leading man?

Costner laughed. "Sometimes Westerns get reduced to that. In fact, the Westerns that I depend on are really dependent on the word, but the reality of the 'yup, nope' is there's a level of economy that comes with language that has weight. They're very literate. I mean, it's our Shakespeare. Sometimes a couple lines can leave no doubt as to what someone's intention was. I like classic, so I respond to a *Liberty Valance*, *Searchers* and certain things that occur in the [John Ford *Cavalry*] trilogy."

**"Imagine standing in the best spot in a river on a really firm rock, and knowing you're just going to fish there all day."**

Of course, Costner entered the Western film in an era when the genre had been declared legally dead.

"There were a lot of Westerns that I didn't enjoy back then, and there were ones that stayed with me forever. And it's the same way now. A lot of times they missed the mark for me personally, because they're rushing to get to the gunfight. Whenever Westerns start out with a big slaughter, and then one man has to go on some vindictive hunt… I mean, that's true, but I think it's a convenient and too easy way to start Westerns. In the right hands, something like that can be dramatic, and in other hands, they miss the point."

What was it like to get *Silverado*, his first Western role?

"Imagine standing in the best spot in a river on a really firm rock, and knowing you're just going to fish there all day. This is everything I need right here. It was a blessing."

Not that it wasn't a challenge playing Jake, a loud and rambunctious cowboy who is the antithesis of his more familiar, thoughtful, soft-spoken heroes.

"Jake was just so full of juice that it was difficult to figure out who he was relating to in the scene, because he was talking at one pitch level. I remember thinking, I know exactly how to play



APR19_Kevin Costner Interview_DH.indd 43 2/11/19 9:33 AM



Kevin Costner's (second from the left) big break in both cinema and Western film began in 1985 with *Silverado*, an ensemble Western produced, directed and written by Costner's mentor and colleague, Lawrence Kasdan.

– COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES –

those *other* parts, but how am I going to play *this* guy? And I found a way: I basically tried to compete with the horizon," he said with a laugh, "the outdoors itself, and have a sense of fun. I was really lucky to be able to play that part. It did a lot for me."

In 1990, Costner would become a producer and director as well as star in the most Oscar-honored and financially successful Western of all time, *Dances With Wolves*. It's a wonderful film that helped rejuvenate the genre, and brought women back into the audience.

"I was prepared for people to like the movie because I liked it. I wouldn't have put my money in, I wouldn't have put my time in, if I didn't think that if I made it correctly, people would relate to it. The surprise is that something can be a runaway hit, that it catches that kind of air, that it has that level of momentum."

Nine years after *Silverado*, Costner would act again for director Lawrence Kasdan, as Wyatt Earp.

"Larry's a real thoughtful writer. *Silverado* was a matinee type of movie; *Wyatt Earp* was a darker look at a person's life, and really thoughtful writers get past the gunfight and understand the makeup of what kind of guy actually survives, versus the kind of people that don't survive. Even capable people don't survive because of the randomness of violence; the wrong place at the wrong time. People that look carefully are always interested in why the Wyatt Earps never got hit by a bullet."

In 2003, Costner directed his second classic, *Open Range*, which starts with a look at the day-to-day hazardous life of four cattle drovers.

"The plot is simply: a storm came, and it sunk their wagon, it scattered their cattle. To go on, they have to re-provision and gather their cattle. So they almost escaped danger. That danger was always there, in the town. But the moment it rained on them, they were stuck. I love that plots can come out of that. The idea of friends knowing each other a long time and not communicating intimate information amused people, but we both know it to be true. People were very guarded, [going] back to the Civil War. People fished for information because some carry these grudges, these vendettas for the next 50 years. You'll see that as a theme in all my work."

**"I have a Western that I really want to make; I just can't find the rich guys that want to make it—an epic Western."**

To put it mildly, grudges and vendettas were a theme of his next Western project, 2012's *Hatfields & McCoys*, for which Costner's performance as Devil Anse Hatfield won him an Emmy and Golden Globe for Best Actor.

Did Costner mind that, while clearly the protagonist, he wasn't a hero?

"I've played a lot of things; I played serial killers. But those characters [in *Hatfields*] that survived out there, in this case, are authentic, real. They are dark; they're hard. They're men of their time period. And I enjoy that. I don't flinch from any of it."

In 2018 and 2019, Costner has done a pair of contemporary Westerns back-to-back. Last summer, for Paramount



APR19_Kevin Costner Interview_DH.indd 44 2/11/19 9:33 AM



In 1990, Kevin Costner produced, directed and starred in the role of Lt. John Dunbar in *Dances with Wolves*, a Western film that was as transformative to the star's career as it was to the genre itself. The first Western to win Best Picture and Best Director, the film also won Oscars for Best Screenplay, Cinematography, Sound, Editing and Music, and is considered a modern cinema classic.

– COURTESY ORION PRODUCTIONS –

Television he starred in the series *Yellowstone*, which will return for season two next summer. Costner's character, John Dutton, runs the largest family-owned ranch in America, bumping up against Yellowstone National Park, and is besieged by the government, an adjacent Indian reservation and land developers.

Would Costner call rancher John Dutton a man out of his time?

"Well, a man out of his time, and time catching up with a way of life. He's having to act like a current day CEO, but he's mired in the way that he would hope that it could be. It's a critical moment in his life, as a lot of different forces are coming for the property. And the biggest blow to this character is that the family's really dysfunctional as he faces all these things coming at them. So it's a boiling pot when you come in, when we start the series."

While Dutton is a strong character, he's also vulnerable, even frail at times.

"Well, as you play somebody that's at that particular age, those things are always looming. We don't know when they're gonna come. I think that you see how he actually deals with those issues in a very straight-up way."

In April 2019 Costner will star for Netflix in the movie *The Highwaymen*, in which he and Woody Harrelson play real-life Texas Rangers Frank Hamer and Maney Gault, who came out of retirement to track down Bonnie and Clyde. The truth was much different from the Warren Beatty film version.

"Hamer's wife sued for defamation, said, 'My husband's a hero. You have no business creating him out of two characters.' And knowing that she was in two shootouts with him, Warner Brothers settled."

What attracted him to the project?

"It's always the writing. I thought it captured this guy and that time, and it was interesting to try to understand the men that were chasing these legendary bandits. It was just a whole other side of it, to see the man-hunters without radios, without cooperation state-to-state. You know, Rangers were almost like Spartans—they'd send a single Ranger to towns to take ahold of the situation. Seeing the Rangers evolve from on horse to automobile, knowing they're filling out expense reports, going to chase somebody down and they have their own way of doing it…I just I thought to myself, this was a moment, this was a man that I could play."

Was Frank Hamer a hero in the Wyatt Earp mold?

"Well, I think that they had a unique way of dealing with situations. You can look at whatever their background is and question their techniques and what they had to do in their times. But whenever we do that, and we don't put ourselves back in that time, we do ourselves a disservice as well as them."

Would he like to make another Western?



APR19_Kevin Costner Interview_DH.indd 45 2/11/19 9:33 AM







Woody Harrelson (above, left) as Maney Gault and Kevin Costner (above, right) as Frank Hamer, co-star as two former Texas Rangers on the trail of outlaws Bonnie and Clyde in Netflix's *The Highwaymen*, which debuted in theaters March 29, 2019.

– COURTESY NETFLIX –



APR19_Kevin Costner Interview_DH.indd 46 2/11/19 9:33 AM



For the first time since 2012, when he starred in the Netflix series *Hatfields & McCoys*, Kevin Costner returned to television in 2018–'19 as the star of the modern Western dramatic series, *Yellowstone*, for Paramount Television.

– COURTESY PARAMOUNT TELEVISION –



Dennis Quaid as Doc Holliday, Linden Ashby as Morgan Earp, Kevin Costner as Wyatt Earp and Michael Madsen as Virgil Earp recreated the famous walk-down on Fremont Street to their fateful gunfight with the Clantons and McLaurys in the 1994 Lawrence Kasdan–directed Western bio-pic epic *Wyatt Earp*.

– COURTESY WARNER BROTHERS –

"I have a Western that I really want to make; I just can't find the rich guys that want to make it—an epic Western. I want to shoot three movies, all about the same story, at the same time, three separate movies coming out like every four months. And probably lead to the fourth one, which was the one that spawned the first one. So it would be four movies. Now, will I get to do it? I don't know, but that's where my heart is. So if anybody wants that same thing, they can come make that movie with me."

**Henry C. Parke**, Western films editor for *True West*, writes Henry's Western Round-up online. His screenplay credits include *Speedtrap* (1977) and *Double Cross* (1994), and he's done audio commentary on a fistful of Spaghetti Westerns.



Kevin Costner's creative passion for the Western is on great display in *Open Range*, a 2003 Western that the multi-talented actor again produced, directed and starred in. Filmed on location in Alberta, Canada, the film also featured Robert Duvall, Annette Bening and James Russo.

– COURTESY TOUCHSTONE PICTURES –



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TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

# ZIP ZAPPED!

## ZIP WYATT VS EVERYONE IN WESTERN OKLAHOMA

### ONE AGAINST 1,000

### 125 DAYS OF FIGHT AND FLIGHT



Zip Wyatt (at right) returns fire at the Hildreth posse as Ike Black is shot in the head.

– ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

*Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker*

## AUGUST 2, 1895

Near Cainville, Oklahoma, Marion Hildreth and five other lawmen surround a cabin. After eating supper, Ike Black and Dick Yeager (a.k.a. Zip Wyatt) exit the cabin, arguing over a last chaw of tobacco. Deputy Hildreth shouts, "Throw up your hands!" The outlaws do, "but each hand contains a Winchester or Colt's revolver." Hildreth shoots Black in the head, killing him instantly.

While the posse shoots at Wyatt, the outlaw fires his Winchester "as fast as he [can] lever and pull the trigger," an eyewitness later says. A bullet strikes Wyatt close to the "nipple of the right breast...plowing a bad furrow halfway around his body." Wyatt drops his Winchester but quickly retrieves it. He then shouts, "Marion Hildreth, you have killed the best man in Oklahoma!" before sprinting into a cornfield.

Seriously wounded, Wyatt tramples a path through the tall stalks, while the posse sends "rifle balls after him as rapidly as possible." Running east over a sand hill, Wyatt is in plain view for nearly a half mile. No one follows, however, because of the posse's "respect for his demonstration."

Two miles away, Wyatt encounters the young Dr. Edington. The doctor bluntly tells him, "You are not able to travel with that wound." Yet Wyatt replies, "I have to travel. Fix me up." After being treated, Wyatt commandeers the doctor's little buckskin horse and heads east.

Wyatt's wound is so bad that he can't ride anymore. He persuades a farmer in a lumber wagon to haul him to the Cimarron River. While wading across the river, he spots a 14-year-old boy driving a one-horse cart. Wyatt demands a ride. "Frightened nearly out of his senses," the boy drives Wyatt "at top speed 25 miles east into southwestern Garfield County." He releases the boy and drives on in the cart.

The next day, a 40-man posse tracks Wyatt to Turkey Creek and then detours into Hennessey to get fresh mounts. At 2 p.m., the posse learns that Wyatt has crossed the Rock Island Railroad tracks about five miles south of Enid. At Waukomis, the lawmen telegraph the Garfield County sheriff for assistance. In Skeleton Creek Valley, 14 miles to the east, the posse discovers an abandoned cart and horse. They have no idea how close they are to the outlaw.

At Skeleton Creek, Wyatt stops by a cabin, demanding food and a horse. John Daily notes the dry blood on the front of the outlaw's brown shirt and his three weeks' growth of beard. Daily tells Wyatt he can't help him. Stumbling on, Wyatt finally finds a horse; when that one tires, he finds another and then another.

By August 4, multiple posses have dogged Wyatt's trail southeast of Sheridan. Five miles south of Marshall, Wyatt's last horse is found grazing. The fugitive's tracks lead to a cornfield on Alvin Ross's farm. An exhausted Wyatt lies there, on a sandy mound where the corn won't grow.

The posse surrounds the field, while three volunteers wade in (one eventually turns back). They track Wyatt's faltering footprints through the corn rows until they discover the sleeping outlaw, lying with his Winchester in his right hand and a cedar-handled Colt revolver near the other.

Leveling their Winchesters, the two men call out: "Up with your hands Dick—we've got you!"

Wyatt's eyes pop open, and he instinctively grabs his weapons. Both posse members fire simultaneously, "the balls taking effect two inches apart in the outlaw's right hip and abdomen."

After being tracked by 1,000 men and eluding capture for 125 days, Zip Wyatt lies mortally wounded. His long flight and fight are finally over.



APR19_Classic Gunfights_Zip Zapped!.indd 48 2/11/19 9:45 AM

## Events Leading Up to the Gunfight on August 2, 1895

**June 4**

After numerous robberies, the Wyatt-Black Gang (also called the Zip Wyatt Gang) is hiding in its Gyp Hills cave (see below) when the members are attacked by a posse led by Sheriff Clay McGrath. The fight is "kept up one whole day," and the lawmen kill one horse and capture half the gang: Belle Black and Jennie Freeman. The female outlaws report that their men have been wounded—Wyatt has been shot through the left arm, and Ike Black in the right heel—but, in spite of their wounds, the men escape on foot.

**July 19**

Freeman's father tells a neighbor (who alerts authorities) that Wyatt and Black were at his house near Sheridan while he was away, and that he is "afraid of them" and expects them back in a day or two.

**July 25**

Posing as lawmen, two riders believed to be Wyatt and Black take supper at a farm near Winnview and make "suave inquires" as to the best place to buy supplies. They ride a few miles to Oxley and rob the general store and post office.

Heading back to their hideout in the Gyp Hills, they find themselves surrounded in camp at the head of Salt Creek. In the ensuing gunfight, a Blaine County deputy sheriff is wounded in the left shoulder, but the outlaws escape, once again, on foot.

Late in the evening, the two come out of the hills, five miles west of Okeene, steal a horse and cart from a farmer, and slip through picket lines, with Wyatt "playing a French harp." (Wyatt evidently put the guards at ease by calmly playing his mouth organ.)

**July 29**

A nine-man posse from Lacey trails the outlaws to the Gyp Hills and follows the two five miles farther to a canyon.

The posse again surrounds the outlaws. A running gunfight ensues and lasts about 25 minutes; "the outlaws [are] firing faster than we," says Jack Ward, one of the posse members. Ward later reports the two "passed out of the canyon near me, and fired at me. I fired deliberately at [Wyatt] three times...felt sure I struck him once in the breast...he fell twice." The success is short-lived. The outlaws capture two of the posse members' horses and, once again, they escape.

**July 31**

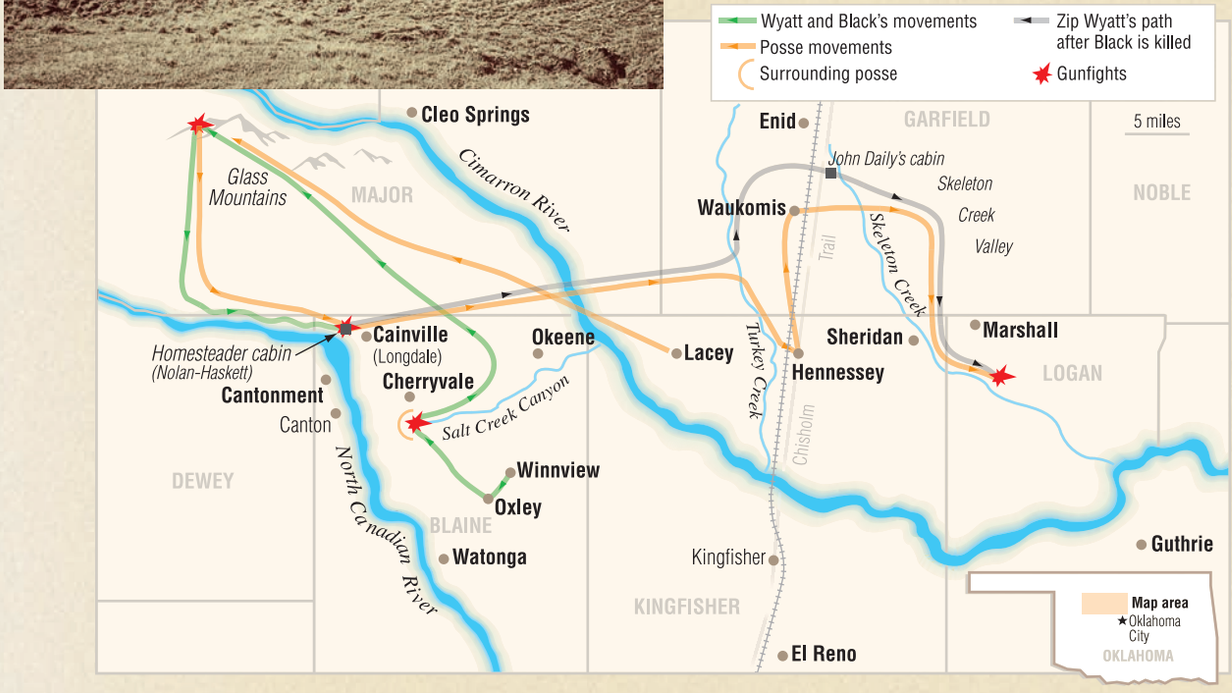
The outlaws take a "zig-zagging course" along the North Canadian River, with several posses (reported to be 200 members strong) in hot pursuit.



## Prime Bandit Country

In this remote part of the Oklahoma Territory, the Gyp Hills (left), also called the Glass Mountains because of the way the steep red slopes glisten in the sun, rise abruptly from the plains of Northern Blaine and Southern Woods (now Major) counties. This region is the rendezvous point for the Wyatt-Black Gang.

– ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –




Following his escape from the federal jail in Guthrie in 1891, Wyatt makes his way up the Cimarron River into Southern Woods County. Using the alias Dick Yeager, he finds refuge with Matt Freeman (husband of Jennie), at his claim above the river south of Cleo Springs. Wyatt's partner, Ike Black, a former policeman in El Reno and now a fugitive, homesteads southwest of Watonga. They choose as their hideout a cave near the head of Salt Creek Canyon, 10 miles north of Watonga and south of Cherryvale (present-day Southard)—a hideout also used by the Dalton Gang. The drifting sands of the Salt Plain make "it almost impossible for a posse to follow."





## Cheyennes Outsmart Zip

Nathaniel Ellsworth Wyatt (inset), a.k.a. Zip Wyatt, alias Dick Yeager. As a cowboy in the Cherokee Outlet, he is said to be a good horseman, expert shot and fond of cheap whiskey. Yet he can be bested. On a bluff on the west side of the North Canadian River, roughly midway between Fort Reno and Fort Supply, lays Cantonment (above), an abandoned military camp. The stone buildings serve as a sub-agency for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, which graze many unattended horses on the unfenced prairie. When the Wyatt-Black Gang steal a small herd from there to drive into Kansas and sell to crooked buyers, Cheyenne Chief Henry Roman Nose and his braves intercept the gang and drive the herd back into the Gyp Hills.



"Move, or I'll put some smoke between your eyes."

*–Zip Wyatt, to a slow-moving homesteader*

### Female Half of Wyatt-Black Gang

"The [Belle] Black woman is small, heavy set, with dark hair and blue eyes; the Freeman woman [Pearl or Jennie] is rather tall, very slim build, of light complexion, and has her hair shingled close."

*—Oklahoma State Capital*

"Mrs. [Jennie] Freeman is small of stature and quite handsome and when dressed in male attire is the very picture of a boy in his teens. She wears her hair short and it curls around the bill of her cap."

*—The Wichita Eagle*

Belle Black (at left) and Jennie Freeman ride with the outlaws until they are captured on June 4, 1895. No known photos of the two have surfaced.

## A Legendary Lawman on Wyatt's Trail

"Zip Wyatt has been pursued by myself and other deputies for several months. On the 3rd inst. he was reported near Enid, and I went there, and took up his trail, but did not arrest him, as a party of farmers, who were also pursuing him, had already secured him before I could overtake him. As he was so badly wounded as to be considered incurable, and may die at any moment, I recommend that such testimony as may establish his identity be taken at once in the jail where he is now confined. (Enid) This, that it may be positively known that he, who is wanted for many crimes, is no longer at large, and that if no other complaints are entered against him, he be held on this."

*—(Signed) C. Madsen, Dep. USM.*



U.S. Deputy Marshal Chris Madsen, c. 1937, emigrated to the U.S. from Denmark around 1870 and joined the Army, eventually becoming a federal deputy in the 1890s for the Western Oklahoma Territory.

– COURTESY WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA LIBRARY –

Zip Wyatt in the Garfield County jail, wounded and dying (below), following his capture near Sheridan.





Ike Black's body is left where he fell until a local justice of the peace can be summoned. Nothing is found on his person but a "photograph of the woman who has been his mistress, and $1.50 in money." The body is taken to Alva, where it is photographed (left) and buried at county expense.

No relative would claim Wyatt's remains, so he was buried in a pauper's field at Garfield County's expense. The funeral was attended only by local carpenter Dan C. Bass, who fashioned Wyatt's pine coffin (right), the grave digger and the jail pup, who Wyatt befriended during his incarceration.

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

After being shot on August 4, Zip Wyatt was moved to a small church in Sheridan, where numerous posses from various jurisdictions fought over the prisoner and the reward. The half-conscious Wyatt listened to the dispute for some time, until finally whispering to a deputy: "If you'll give me my six-shooter for about two seconds, I'll stop the argument."

A "distinguished guest" at the Garfield County jail, Wyatt lived in pain and "a bunch of suffering humanity," as one of the newspapers put it, until 6:30 p.m. on September 6. Before Wyatt's death, a doctor asked him, "This is your last day on earth. Is there anyone you wish to see or anything you wish to say?" A grinning Wyatt replied, "Nobody to see, Doc, an' nothin' to say."

A grand jury discharged Belle Black and Jennie Freeman, finding "no evidence of a criminal nature against them, other than their presence with the two outlaws." Freeman, according to an 1898 Oklahoma newspaper, "was converted during the year she spent in the federal jail, and is now travelling as an evangelist." Black apparently settled down with a new husband and raised a family, successfully hiding her outlaw past.

**Recommended:** *Desperado from Cowboy Flat: The Saga of "Zip" Wyatt* by Glenn Shirley, published by Barbed Wire Press.



BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# Standing Bear's Trials to Indian Rights

*The fateful trail of the Ponca chief and his tribe from Nebraska to Oklahoma is as tragic as it is hopeful.*



The Niobrara River Valley, the traditional home of the Ponca Indian tribe, is a popular area of recreation along Nebraska's Highway 12 between Niobrara and Valentine.

– M. FORSBERG, COURTESY NEBRASKA TOURISM –

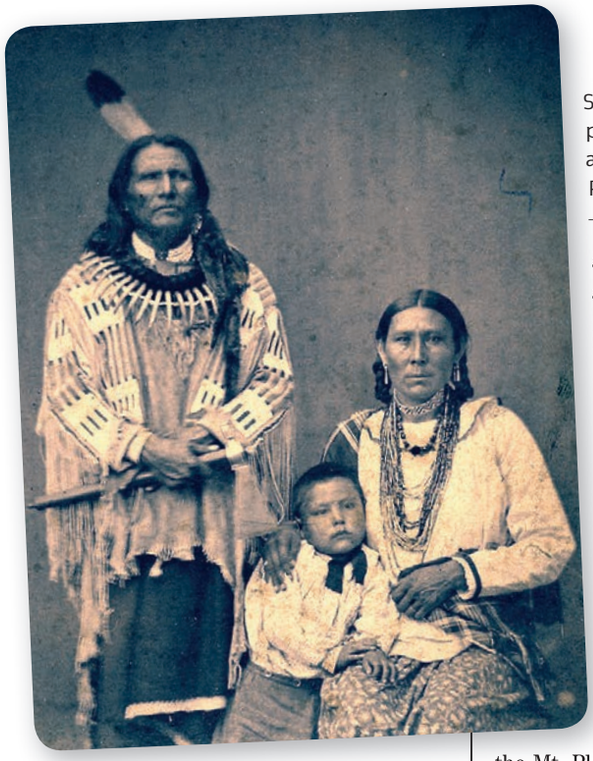
Indian removal doesn't get the coverage of Indian conflict. To wit, Google searches on "Ponca" netted 5.2 million hits, compared with 239 million for "Sioux" and 204 million for "Cherokee." "Crazy Horse" garnered 20.6 million hits, and "Trail of Tears" got more than 7.7 million. But "Standing Bear" totaled only 609,000.

That's a shame because the forced removal of the Ponca Indians from their northern Nebraska homeland ranks among the most tragic. After all, white man's greed led to the expulsion of the Cherokees from the Southeast. But the Ponca people lost their land to, at best, a clerical error. And while fighting Indian leaders like Crazy Horse deserve all the respect they can get, Standing Bear fought a battle, too, except in a courtroom—and his victory was important for every American Indian. *Standing Bear et al v. Crook* also led to the formation of organizations (Women's National Indian Association, Indian Rights Association and others) and the beginnings of pro-Indian movements that are still fighting for Indian rights nationwide in 2019.

"I see Standing Bear as the catalyst for this late 19th-century Indian reform movement," says Spur Award-winning historian Val Mathes, co-author, with Richard Lowitt, of *The Standing Bear Controversy: Prelude to Indian Reform.*



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Standing Bear (left, standing) is shown with his family in this 1903 photograph, nearly 25 years after his 1879 trial that ruled an "Indian is a person" and declared the U.S. Army's arrest of him and other Poncas unlawful.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

But Standing Bear still doesn't get enough attention.

The Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs seeks to change that as it works to achieve designation of a national Chief Standing Bear Trail that would lead from Standing Bear's Nebraska homeland, through Kansas and into Oklahoma (*ChiefStandingBear.org* provides background, history and an interactive trail map).

## TRAGEDY BEGINS

The Poncas' Trail of Tears had its beginnings with the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, in what authors Ronald C. Naugle, John J. Montag and James C. Olson call in *History of Nebraska*, "the Poncas' greatest tragedy." By honest mistake or "dastardly deception," the Ponca reservation north of the Niobrara River in present-day Nebraska was included in the Great Sioux Reservation.

Mistake or not, the Department of the Interior made no effort to correct the error, and on May 16, 1877, the first group of Poncas set out, on foot, for the northeastern corner of Oklahoma. The first child died four days later.

You can start your journey today in Niobrara, where the Ponca Tribal Museum and Library displays photographs and historical items—including headdresses, carvings and beadwork, much of it repatriated from Washington's Smithsonian Museum in 1999.

Storms plagued the Poncas on their march south and east. Another child died on May 23. By May 29, they reached Columbus (Platte County Museum) and rested a few days. On June 5, near Milford, Standing Bear's daughter, Prairie Flower, died and was buried, possibly in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery or perhaps in Milford.

The following evening, a tornado injured many Poncas. Worse, Standing Bear's granddaughter died on June 8 and was reportedly returned to Milford for burial. They kept moving south and east, through Beatrice and into Kansas—Marysville (Pony Express Barn), Manhattan (Riley County Historical Museum), Council Grove (Kaw Mission State Historic Site), Emporia (Red Rocks State Historic Site)—before reaching their new home three miles south of Baxter Springs, Kansas (Baxter Springs Heritage Museum), near Quapaw, Oklahoma, on July 11. Nine Poncas, including six children, had died.

## WHEN OKLAHOMA WASN'T OK

Things worsened; disease killed 158 by the new year. In the winter of 1878, Standing Bear's dying son, Bear Shield, asked to be buried on the Niobrara. Like most fathers, Standing Bear wasn't one to deny his son's last request.





BRIG. GEN. GEORGE CROOK

As the U.S. Army's Platte Valley Department Commander, Brig. Gen. George Crook (left) played a key role in Standing Bear's victory in court. Today, visitors to Omaha's General Crook House and the adjacent Douglas County Historical Society, can learn firsthand about the general's role in the trial of Ponca Chief Standing Bear.

– GEORGE CROOK PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/PHOTO OF GENERAL CROOK HOUSE COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



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Visitors attending the Ponca Indian Tribe of Nebraska's 26th Annual Powwow at the Ponca Tribal Powwow Grounds in August 2019 should schedule time to walk the Ponca Educational Trail at the Ponca Community Learning Center and tour the Ponca Tribal Museum, which is open Mondays through Fridays, in Niobrara.

– COURTESY NEBRASKA TOURISM

On January 2, 1879, Standing Bear led 27 Indians for their home country. In late February, Omaha Indian leaders brought the refugees into their reservation. The secretary of the interior ordered the arrest and return of the Poncas, a job that fell to Gen. George Crook. The Poncas surrendered and were brought to Fort Omaha.

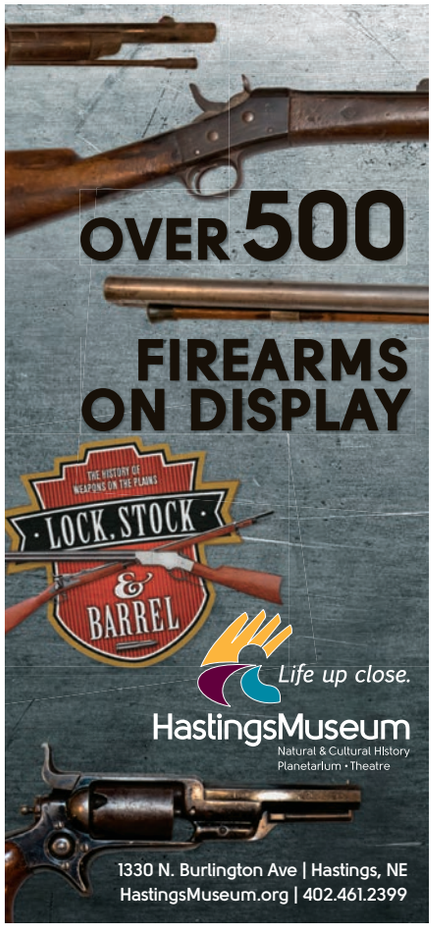
And history took a giant step forward.

"If we can do something for which good men will remember us when we're gone, that's the best legacy we can leave," Crook reportedly told Thomas Henry Tibbles, the *Omaha Daily Herald*'s deputy editor, who recorded his memoir, *Buckskin and Blanket Days*, in 1905.

Tibbles found two attorneys, John Lee Webster and Andrew Jackson Poppleton, who were intrigued at the possibility of using the 14th Amendment to protect an Indian's rights. With Crook's consent, the attorneys filed a *writ of habeas corpus*—making the general out as the bad guy—on April 8.

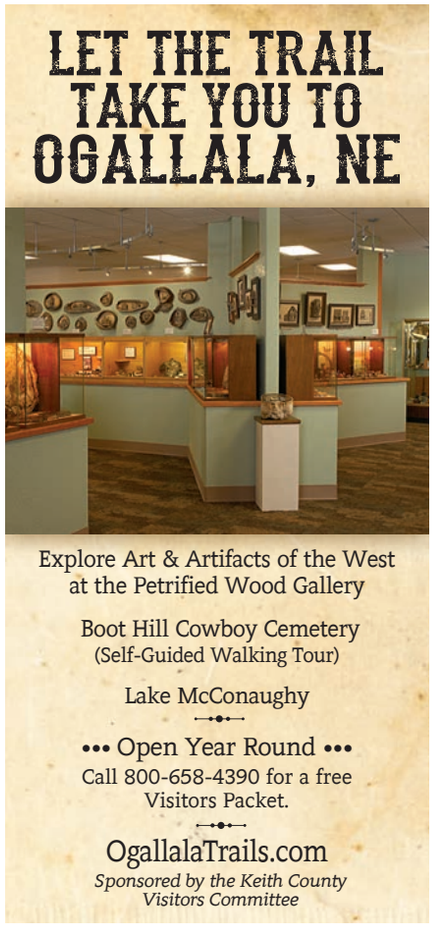
## TRIAL OF THE CENTURY

At the old fort grounds, now the Metropolitan Community College campus, the General Crook House Museum and the neighboring Douglas County Historical











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The Ponca Indian tribe on their Trail of Tears from their homeland in the Niobrara River Valley to Quapaw, Oklahoma, stopped in Council Grove near the Kaw Mission, today a state historic site that interprets the sad reality of Indian removal from Nebraska and Kansas to the Indian Territory.

– COURTESY KANSAS TOURISM –

Society, offer excellent looks at Crook and the Standing Bear case.

That case went before Judge Elmer Scipio Dundy on May 1-2, 1879, and ended when Dundy allowed Standing Bear to address the court. Using an Omaha Indian woman, Suzette LaFlesche (aka Bright Eyes), as his interpreter, Standing Bear told the judge: "The same God made us both."

On May 12, Dundy issued his ruling that "an Indian is a PERSON" and that "Indians have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

An appeal was filed, but the Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

## PROS AND CONS

The ruling proved costly, however, for the Poncas. "Because of the decision," Mathes says, "...Standing Bear and those who had accompanied him and his wife on their flight from the Indian Territory to their former Nebraska homeland were now homeless."

Eventually, the Poncas split into two tribes: The Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, based in Ponca City—where Oreland C. Joe's 22-foot bronze statue of Standing Bear dominates the Standing Bear Museum and






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After relocation to Oklahoma (the Indian Territory in 1877), a portion of of the Ponca Indian tribe settled and made the new land their home. Today, visitors to the Standing Bear Museum and Education Center (top) can learn about the tribe's culture and its leader.

PHOTO OF STANDING BEAR MUSEUM COURTESY TRAVELOK.COM/PONCA INDIAN SQUAW DANCE COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Education Center—and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Standing Bear died in 1908 and was buried in his homeland.

"To me, personally, the most important result of Standing Bear was the involvement of Helen Hunt Jackson in Indian reform," Mathes says. "Jackson attended one of his lectures in the fall of 1879. His description of the hardships his Ponca tribe endured during their removal to the Indian Territory in 1877 so troubled Jackson that she spent the final six years of her life researching and writing about the government's treatment of all tribes. Her *A Century of Dishonor* presented the history of seven tribes, including the Poncas."

**Johnny D. Boggs** recommends the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha and the Missouri National Recreational River near Niobrara.



The Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma in Ponca City honors Standing Bear with a 22-foot statue of the courageous Indian leader in front of the Standing Bear Museum and Education Center.

– COURTESY TRAVELOK.COM –



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# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD



**Will Rogers Memorial Museum**
Claremore, Oklahoma
– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

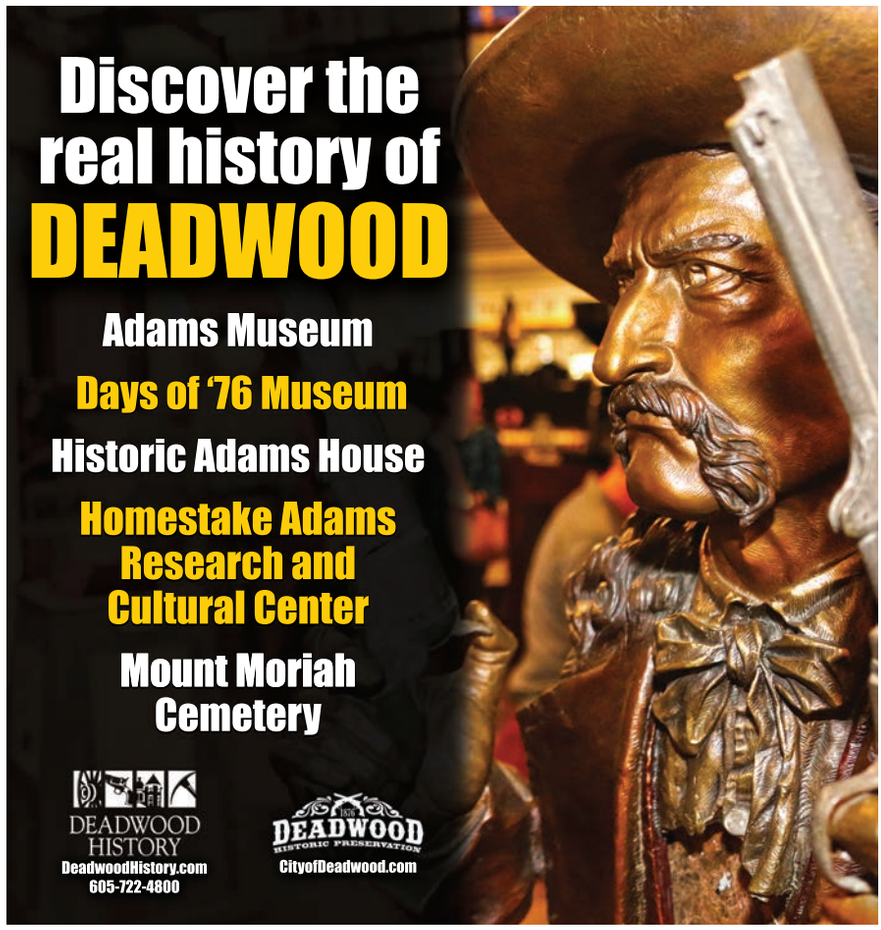
He was the first cowboy philosopher, ummm, America's only cowboy philosopher. Born in 1879, Will Rogers learned his humor and roping tricks while growing among Cherokees and cowboys in what became Oklahoma. With his career as humorist, columnist, actor, performer and social commentator showing no signs of slowing down, Rogers was killed in a plane crash in Alaska in 1935. (That's right, the airport in Oklahoma City is named after a man killed in a plane crash.)

Dedicated in 1938 in Claremore, Oklahoma, the Will Rogers Memorial Museum has grown from its humble beginnings. Today, the museum includes a theater, library and plenty of exhibits, including a large collection of movie material along with books and correspondence. More than 80 years have passed since Rogers's death, but plenty of his sayings still ring true, such as: "This would be a great time in the world for some man to come along that knew something."

## GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**Good Grub:** **Country Café**, *Niobrara, NE*
**Picket Fence Café**, *Columbus, NE*
**Bluestem Bistro**, *Manhattan, KS*
**Dixie Dog Drive-In**, *Ponca City, OK*
**Rusty Barrell Supper Club**, *Ponca City, OK*
**Gorat's Steak House**, *Omaha, NE*

**Good Lodging:** **Victorian Inn**, *Beatrice, NE*
**La Ruche Bed & Breakfast**, *Seward, NE*
**Lazy T Ranch**, *Manhattan, KS*
**Rose Cottage**, *Baxter Springs, KS*
**Osage Casino Hotel**, *Ponca City, OK*
**Hotel Deco**, *Omaha, NE*








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BY SHERRY MONAHAN

# A Faithfully Tasty Holiday

*From homesteads to big cities, pioneers celebrated Easter with traditional meals, exotic menus and lots of candy.*



Whatever the holiday, at the turn of the century, cigar stores, like Fletcher's on Manchester Street in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, were popular storefronts for adults and children—like this newspaper boy spending his hard-earned cash—to buy candy.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, CA. 1910 –

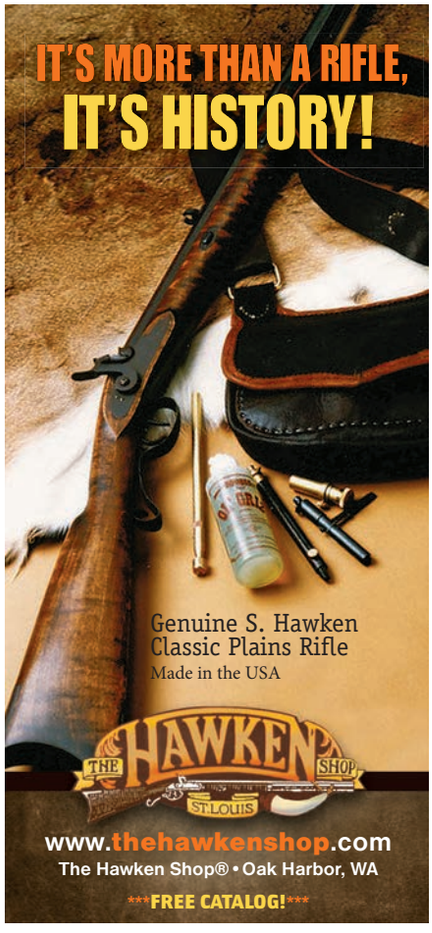
Easter was a day children looked forward to for colored eggs and bunnies and seeing their pioneer parents dressed in their finest clothes and hats. They all attended church and concluded the day with a special meal. Pioneer women decorated their dinner tables with floral centerpieces and colored eggs to make it look festive. The most popular meal served by both home cooks and chefs was lamb with mint sauce and peas.

Others served local and imported items including oysters, shad, chicken, beef, gosling, puddings, pies, cakes and more. Some pioneers chose to eat out at a restaurant or hotel like the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, California. The Del's 1901 Easter menu featured a choice of nine appetizers, two fish courses, ham with champagne sauce, traditional lamb with mint sauce, prime rib, stuffed chicken, beef tenderloin and sweetbreads. To finish the meal guests chose from more than ten desserts and cheeses and nuts. As they dined, they were serenaded by a band playing marches and overtures. The hotel still serves an Easter meal with classic and modern dishes that rival its 20th-century bill of fare.

Candy began showing up as an Easter favorite in the late 1800s, but by the early 1900s, newspapers were filled with ads for confections. Firms like Bach, Cory & Co. in Helena, Montana, offered cocoa bonbons, cream pecans, crystal nougatines, jelly strawberries, cream filberts, dipped chocolates, Montana caramels, Boss peppermints, marshmallow bananas, Helena crystal fig sticks, jelly beans and 20 other "toothsome" brands of candies from a leading Chicago, Illinois, confectioner. And it was, "…All dumped in our Easter candy basket."

Sacramento, California, merchants offered taffy, fruit and nut glaces and the *Record-Union* wrote, "Lovers of the sweet and beautiful will be pleased at the efforts made by Welch Bros., the popular confectioners. Their store has been decorated in the most artistic fashion with palms and Easter lilies. Their stock of






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confectionery includes some of the rarest and choicest chocolates. Ice cream and delicious water ices are on hand in abundance to be served with the toothsome confections. The store is worth visiting if you don't spend a cent."

Several well-known chocolate and candy companies were born on the frontier and you can still easily find Easter treats either made with or by Russell Stover, Mars, Palmers, See's, Guittard, Pangburns, Hammond's and Ghirardelli. Some regional companies ship, so you can fill your baskets with historic treats. Try candies from Boise's Idaho Candy Company with their toffee and Idaho spud candy bar; Austin, Texas's Lammes Candies, which creates its original Texas Chewie pecan praline; and fifth-generation Nelson's Columbia Candy Kitchen in Columbia, California, that still uses original family recipes from the 1920s.

Try your hand at this chocolaty treat that the pastry chef at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco prepared for Ghirardelli in 1911.

**Sherry Monahan** kicked off her journey into Old West cuisine, spirits and places by authoring *Taste of Tombstone*. Visit *SherryMonahan.com* to learn more about her books, awards and TV appearances.

## COCONUT CHOCOLATE MERINGUE KISSES

*½ cup cocoa powder*
*1 cup coconut*
*4 egg whites*
*1 cup sugar*

Combine cocoa powder and coconut in a small bowl and set aside. Beat egg whites until foamy and then gradually add the sugar while still mixing. Beat until stiff peaks form. Fold in the cocoa powder and coconut until blended. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Using a piping bag or spoon, drop by tablespoon onto paper.

Bake at 225 degrees for about 2 hours or until firm to the touch. Turn off the oven and let sit for 15 minutes. Peel from the paper and allow to cool completely.

Recipe was adapted from *The Oakland Tribune*, December 2, 1911

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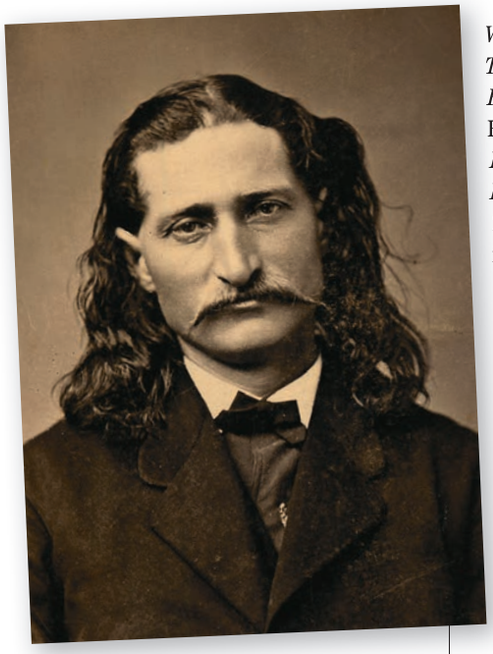
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# Love, Luck and Lead

*A new biography on Wild Bill Hickok, plus Darren L. Ivey's second volume on Texas Ranger history, a showdown on Old West myths and a Chisholm Trail history.*



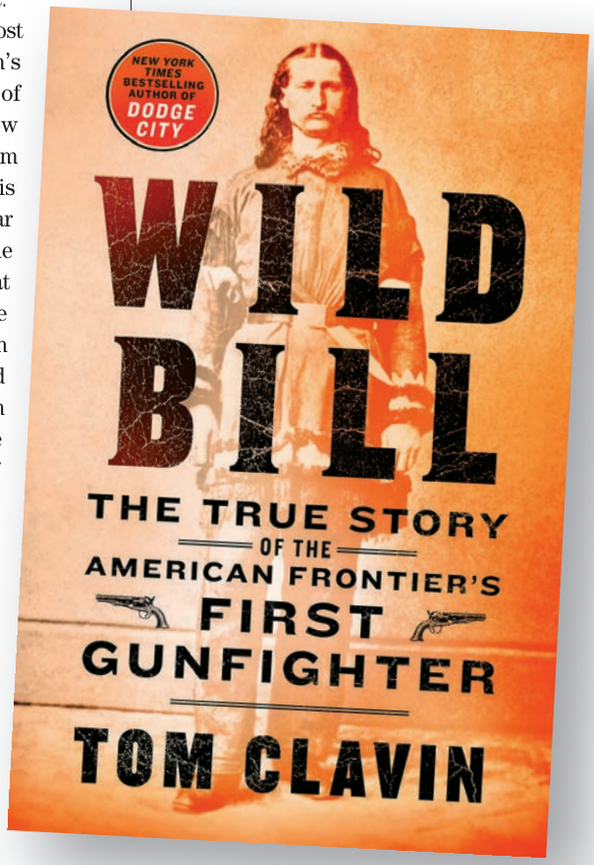
The haunting portrait of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok taken in the early 1870s reflects a soldier and lawman's life of war, violence and unrequited love.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

In the pantheon of Old West publishing history, James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok is a biographical anomaly. Compared to his peers, William F. "Buffalo Bill" and George Armstrong Custer, Hickok has really only had one major biographer, Joseph G. Rosa. For decades Rosa's *They Called Him Wild Bill: The Life and Adventures of James Butler Hickok* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1964, 1974) was the definitive work on the Westerner. In between, Hickok was the subject of numerous fictional accounts in print, film and television (most recently popularized in HBO's series *Deadwood*), until 2018 *True West*'s executive editor Bob Boze Bell's *The Illustrated Life and Times of Wild Bill Hickok: The First Gunfighter* (Two Roads West) and Aaron Woodward's *The Revenger: The Life and Times of Wild Bill Hickok* (TwoDot) were published. Now, in 2019, just a few months before *Deadwood* makes its much anticipated return as a major motion picture, historian Tom Clavin has returned to the West with *Wild Bill: The True Story of the American Frontier's First Gunfighter* (St. Martin's Press, $29.99). It's a follow-up to his New York Times bestseller, *Dodge City: Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, and the Wickedest Town in the American West.*

For this reader what is most remarkable about Clavin's comprehensive biography of the Old West icon is how violent Hickok's life was from a young age. Hickok, from his earliest days witnessing the fear of escaped slaves hiding in the family barn to his introduction at 19 to Bloody Kansas, violence was the rule not the exception on a day-to-day basis. He learned to deal in death and survive on the right side of the law and the Army. He lived by the rule of force, wits, the gun and the badge. Calvin also chronicled Hickok's varied and irregular relationships with women, none of which were ever very long-term or satisfying. The final chapters of Clavin's biography on the legend of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok and his fateful decision to go to Deadwood in 1876 is not written as the climactic end of the gunfighter's life, but more as a predestined inevitability for a mid-19th-century man whose life was profoundly affected by violence and death from an early age.

Like Clavin's *Dodge City* and *The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend* with Robert Drury, the New York author's *Wild Bill* is written in a highly readable, action-forward style. Clavin provides today's reader with a thorough and enduring biography of Hickok, which, along with Woodward and Bell's contributions, will keep the Western






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hero back in the spotlight and the legend alive for another generation. Ironically, unlike his peer Buffalo Bill Cody, Hickok was not one for the spotlight, which makes his story—and his own prophetic end in Deadwood—even more interesting. As Clavin writes, "What is no exaggeration is that the man we know as Wild Bill Hickok was one of the most intriguing figures in American history."

*—Stuart Rosebrook*



On July 11–12, 1876, Deadwood looked a lot like this when Hickok's party, including Charlie Utter and Calamity Jane, arrived in the mining camp.

– COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

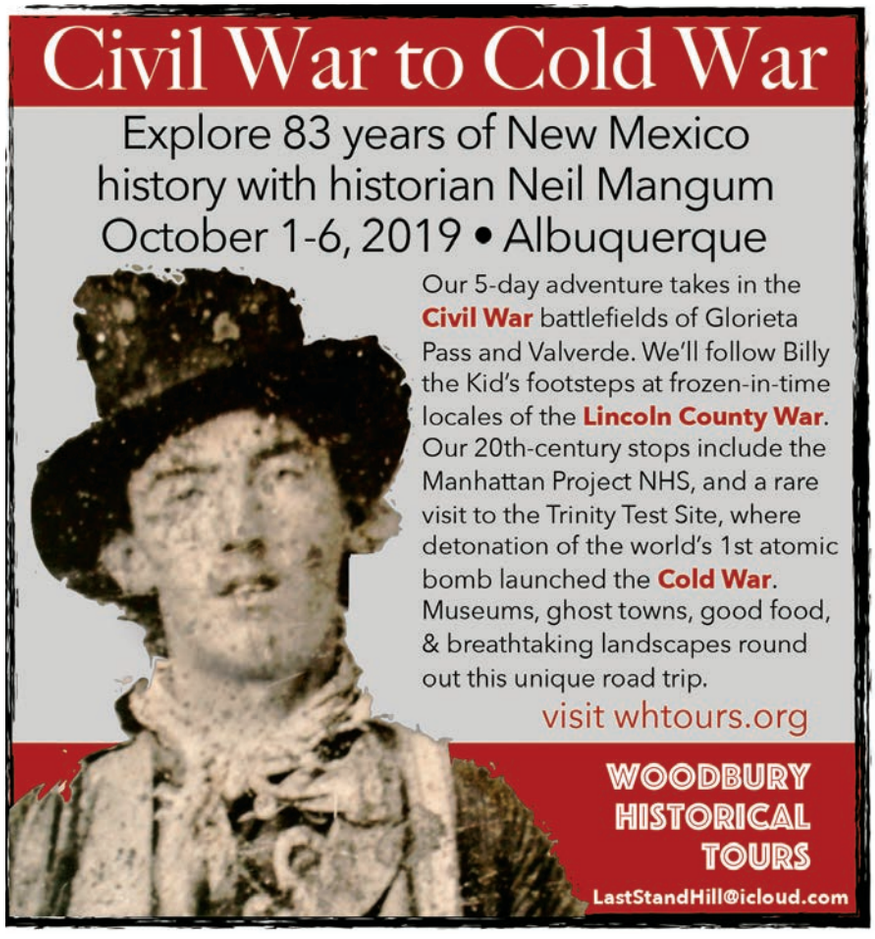


Historians believe the 1866–'67 Springfield, Missouri, photo of Hickok inspired an illustration of the gunfighter in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* that fueled the legend of Wild Bill.

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –





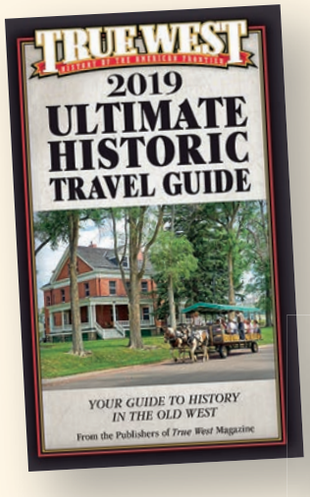




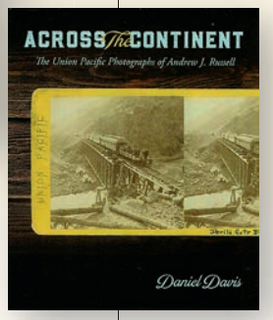


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# ROUGH DRAFTS




● In honor of our annual Western travel issue, here are some of my favorite recently published travel books, including the ***True West 2019 Ultimate Historic Travel Guide, 2nd Edition*** (Two Roads West, $24.95) with its new listings of historic hotels and saloons across 22 Western states.

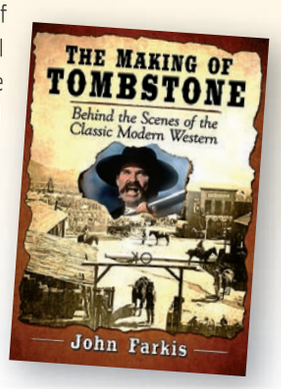



● For railroad enthusiasts during the sesquicentennial of the completion of the transcontinental railroad, Daniel Davis's ***Across the Continent: The Union Pacific Photographs of Andrew J. Russell*** (University of Utah Press, $24.95) will provide both inspiration to travel the historic rail route across the country, and an appreciation for the artistic effort of the photographers of the Pacific Railroad.




● Speaking of photography, Terrence Moore's ***66 on 66: A Photographer's Journey*** (Schaffner Press, $27.95) is guaranteed to inspire a roadtrip from Chicago to L.A. to discover the icons of Western history along the "Mother Road."

● Old West film production expert John Farkis's ***The Making of Tombstone: Behind the Scenes of the Classic Modern Western*** (McFarland, $39.95) is now in bookstores. A great inside look at the making of a classic Old West Western many consider the best of all time (although I disagree, voting a tie for *The Searchers* and *The Wild Bunch*), this book should inspire an Old West adventure to Cochise County and the real Tombstone, Arizona.





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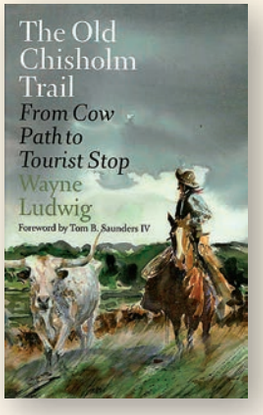
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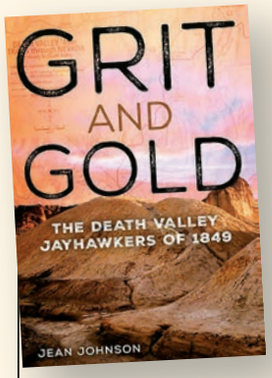




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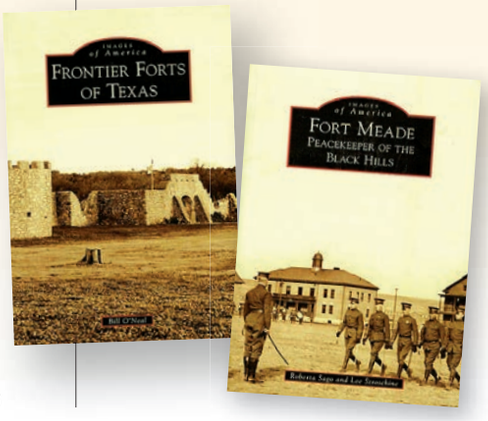

● Do you love cowboys, cattle drives, history and the legends of the Texans who drove the herds north to market from the Lone Star State to Kansas? ***The Old Chisholm Trail: from Cow Path to Tourist Stop*** (Texas A&M Press, $37) by Wayne Ludwig, resident historian of the National Heritage Museum in Fort Worth, will definitely get you off the couch and on the road to discover firsthand the rugged trails that built—and fed—a nation.




● During the 170th anniversary of the California Gold Rush, the poignant ***Grit and Gold: The Death Valley Jayhawkers of 1849*** (University of Nevada Press, $34.95) by Jean Johnson provides an inspiring tale for heritage travelers to follow the forty-niners' trail from Kansas to California.

● Two recent books from Arcadia Publishing ($21.99, each) are perfect companions for Western travelers following the Guidon across the Dakotas and Texas. Roberta Sago and Lee Strochine's ***Fort Meade: Peacekeeper of the Black Hills*** will provide a whole new perspective on your next trip to South Dakota's legendary mountains, while Texas State Historian Bill O'Neal's ***Frontier Forts of Texas*** will prove indispensible when on a military-history tour of the Southwestern state.

*—Stuart Rosebrook*



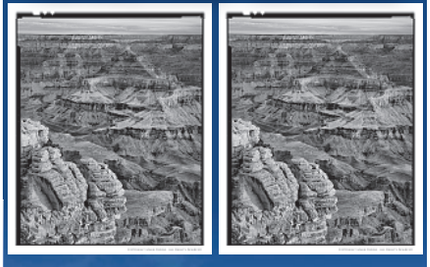






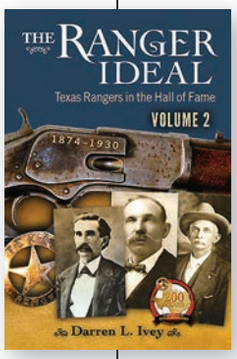
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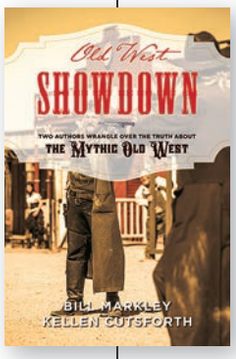
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## CHARGE HELL WITH A BUCKET OF WATER




Few people realize that in its beginning, the Texas Rangers organization was an entry-level job with poor pay, no training and a nonexistent reputation. With the advent of the Frontier Battalion in 1874, that situation began to change for the better. In *The Ranger Ideal, Volume 2* (University of North Texas Press, $45), Darren L. Ivey provides biographical sketches of 12 Texas Rangers who set the standards, built the tradition and served as examples of the kind of men who would "charge Hell with a bucket of water." Captain L.H. McNelly, Sgt. Jim Gillette, Capt. Bill McDonald and nine other Rangers forged a tradition that is still honored by today's Texas Rangers. Factual, informative and entertaining, Ivey's latest Ranger book hits a home run.

*—Jim Wilson, a retired Texas peace officer, former sheriff and Western recording artist*

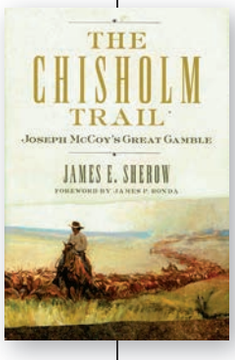



## QUICK DRAW TO THE TRUTH

Disagreements while discussing Old West history could lead to a shootout. But as luck would have it, two Western authors have agreed to check their revolvers at the bar, sit down peaceably and discuss important issues of days past in *Old West Showdown: Two Authors Wrangle Over the Truth About the Mythic Old West* (TwoDot, $22.95). Not only do they present both sides of the gunfight near the OK Corral, they discuss whether Jesse James was just a common outlaw or a defender of the South. And, did Pat Garrett kill the Kid? Wild Bill killed his first man at Rock Creek Station. Did it really happen as reported? Read these and many other famous cases in this tendentious new work by Bill Markley and Kellen Cutsforth.

*—Monty McCord, author of* Calling The Brands: Stock Detectives in the Wild West

## A TRAIL OF HISTORY




With the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail in 2017, it is not surprising that several historians over the past two years have again revisited this cattle trail. James E. Sherow's *The Chisholm Trail: Joseph McCoy's Great Gamble* (University of Oklahoma Press, $29.95) is focused on two major topics: the changing ecosystems of the Great Plains because of cattle trails, the vanishing Indian way of life, encroaching homesteaders/farmers and the railroads. His second goal is to present the Illinois cattle promoter Joseph G. McCoy as a gambler who invested in the trail-driving and cattle-shipping industries in Kansas and lost. Unfortunately, Sherow's book has too much information. The title should not have been *The Chisholm Trail*, for his discussions cover a much wider scope and should have been divided into two books: one about the changing ecosystems of the Great Plains expanding into Nebraska and beyond, and one about the few years that Joseph McCoy spent promoting his company's agenda. Too often I felt that the fascinating story about Joseph McCoy's gamble in Abilene, the circumstances over which he had no control, and the people who turned against him were buried in narrative about ecosystems, cultural changes and the advancing technology of the railroads. Sherow's book will remain in my library because of its impressive research and fresh information about the cattle trails of Oklahoma and Kansas, even though it is not another book about the Chisholm Trail.

*—Margaret Kraisinger, co-author with Gary Kraisinger of* The Shawnee-Arbuckle Cattle Trail 1867-1870: The Predecessor of the Chisholm Trail to Abilene, Kansas



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BUILDING YOUR WESTERN LIBRARY

## ARIZONA HISTORIAN REFLECTS ON THE VIOLENCE OF WESTERN FEUDS

Heidi Osselaer is a Western women's historian who somehow got off track as consultant for the documentary film, *Power's War*. While researching her most recent book, *Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight: Draft Resistance and Tragedy at the Power Cabin, 1918*, and working on a future project on the killing of Sheriff Pat Garrett, the following books enhanced her understanding of violent confrontations:

❶ ***Tularosa: Last of the Frontier West*** by C. L. Sonnichsen (Devon-Adair): Sonnichsen skillfully dissects the intricacies behind the political assassinations of Albert Jennings and Pat Garrett in New Mexico, while offering readers an elegantly written story—no small task.

❷ ***Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*** by David Grann (Doubleday): Grann's examination of the federal government's role in the violence in 1920s Oklahoma provides a model for scholars to reexamine similar incidents.

❸ ***No Duty to Retreat: Violence and Values in American History and Society*** by Richard Maxwell Brown (Oklahoma): Brown demonstrates how self-defense laws have contributed to violence, providing an explanation for why our nation continues to experience so much bloodshed.

❹ ***The Last Gunfight: The Real Story of the Shootout at the O.K. Corral—And How it Changed the American West*** by Jeff Guinn (Simon & Schuster): The best part of Guinn's examination of the Earp-Clanton dust-up is his transparent approach to the use of his sources.

❺ ***Tombstone from a Woman's Point of View*** by Clara Spalding Brown (Westernlore): Brown's autobiography provides us with an alternative view of that legendary mining camp, with greater emphasis on fires and other calamities than the Earps vs. Clantons.

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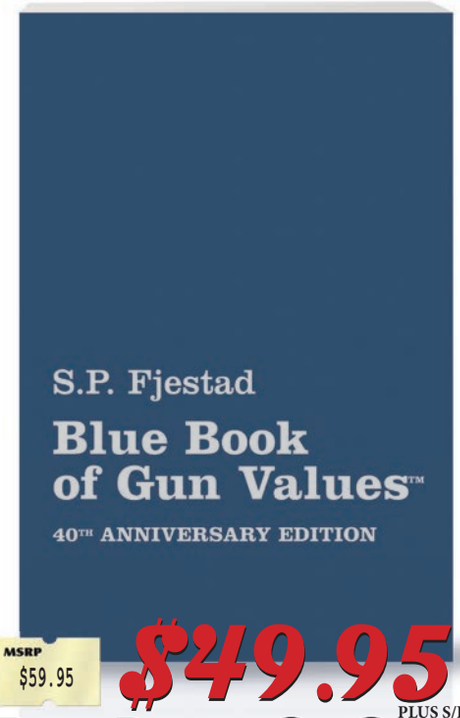
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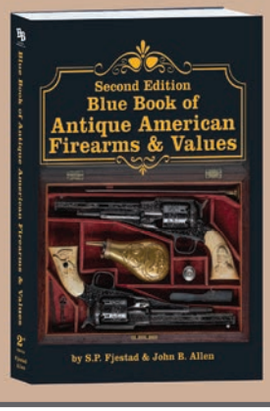

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WESTERN MOVIES

DVD & TV SERIES

BY HENRY C. PARKE

# Rescued From Oblivion—The Forsaken Westerns

*Western enthusiast Bob Terry has brought lost Old West TV pilots and anthologies to audiences worldwide on YouTube.*



**The long-lost 1962 Parallel Production TV short *The Night Rider*, starring Johnny Cash (left) as Johnny Laredo and Dickie Jones as Billy Joe, has been restored and resurrected for Western TV fans by film historian Bob Terry on YouTube's *The Forsaken Westerns* channel.**

– COURTESY *THE FORSAKEN WESTERNS* –

A Western TV fan stumbling upon the Forsaken Westerns Channel on YouTube might well conclude that they'd entered an alternative universe. Here, Fess Parker chose to portray painter Charles Russell rather than Daniel Boone, Randolph Scott hosted an anthology series, and James Stewart moved with his radio series, *The Six Shooter*, to television. This glimpse into a parallel world is provided by Bob Terry, a Western enthusiast who's turned his vast collection of unaired pilots and rarely screened anthology episodes into a fascinating "what-might-have-been" series.

It seems a natural, if not predictable, progression for a man who'd started as an eBay cap-gun entrepreneur in the 1990s, and who does a *Death Valley Days*-style introduction to each episode. "My wife and I rescued from scrap about 150 toy molds from the 1950s and 1960s, and started producing these toys. What sold the toys to begin with? Roy Rogers and Kit Carson and all those old TV shows, and most are in public domain. So I started uploading those to help promote the toys; but it really took on a life of its own."



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Soon Terry was running his Westerns on his Youtube website. "A friend had given me a very rare pilot, the *Buckskin Rangers*, with Crash Corrigan and Max Terhune. It was made in 1950 or '51, in color. I wondered how many of these rarities I have…maybe a dozen? I thought, I'll put these together, kind of as a series. I had to research to make sure that I'd have rights to post the ones I do. What I've discovered is, if they can be found, there's hundreds that can be released." He's posted nearly 60 so far. Terry released a DVD set of season one in January of 2019, and he's negotiating with studios to release more.

In addition to their entertainment value, it's a challenge to guess why a particular pilot didn't sell. *Buckskin Rangers* had nice production values and even color; *Cisco Kid* was the only color Western series at that time. But while like the films they'd done at Republic and Monogram, Corrigan and Terhune did not carry their years as well as Gene or Hoppy or Roy. And their interest in the pretty twentysomething gal who had inherited a "worthless" ranch seemed creepy.

James Stewart was a huge film star in 1953 when he starred in the radio series *The Six-Shooter*. In 1957, in an episode Terry hopes to release, Stewart played the character onscreen in an episode of General Electric Theatre, probably intended as a back-door pilot for a series. But he had to squeeze it in between *The Spirit of St. Louis* and *Vertigo*, and besides, a movie star doing a TV series was considered career suicide in those days. He wouldn't do a series until 1971.

Another high-quality pilot, 1958's *El Coyote*, from R.K.O. Television, seemed like a sure winner. It starred teen Olympic gymnast Muriel Davis as a female Zorro, and was full of exuberant, acrobatic action—director Richard Talmadge had been Douglas Fairbanks' stunt double for 1920's *Zorro*. Unfortunately, 1958 was the same year that Disney introduced its *Zorro* series. Too close. That same year, *Command* was to be a continuation of *She Wore A Yellow Ribbon*, and its look at cavalry life was impressively



In 2017, Bob Terry and his wife, Johnie, began producing and streaming on the YouTube channel, *The Forsaken Westerns*, a unique series dedicated to rescuing and broadcasting rare unsold Western TV show pilots, episodes and anthologies long-forgotten and neglected.

– COURTESY *THE FORSAKEN WESTERNS* –








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CHUCK CONNORS
*The Frontier*



JAMES DRURY
*The Yank*

frank. But while Ben Cooper was strong in the John Agar role, Everett Sloane, great though he was in *Citizen Kane*, was no John Wayne.

Episodes from some short-lived anthology series give a glimpse of the future. From 1955 *TV's Reader's Digest*, there's "Cochise—Greatest of the Apaches," with a sympathetic portrayal of Cochise, a contemptuous portrayal of the military and Clint Eastwood in his first Western role. An episode of 1955's *The Frontier* series, "The Assassin," stars a pre-*Rifleman* Chuck Connors in an early, deglamorized portrayal of Tom Horn, although his name is changed. Charles Bronson's steely portrayal of John Wesley Hardin, with Richard Jaeckel as sidekick, should have been a winner; except they were only the guest stars in *Luke and The Tenderfoot*, playing second fiddle to Edgar Buchanan and Carlton Carpenter.

Perhaps the best of all the pilots is *The Yank*, writer/producer Andrew Fenady's proposed companion piece to his hit series *The Rebel*, starring Nick Adams. The Reconstruction drama starred James Drury as a Yankee doctor who'd fought under Sherman, then returned to medicine to help bind the wounds of the South. Terry recalls, "James Drury told me that part of the reason *The Yank* didn't get picked up was because [the] networks were changing to hour shows instead of half hours, and color instead of black and white. It just had a lot of strikes against it, but it's an excellent pilot." But if *The Yank* had sold, we might not have had 249 episodes of James Drury as *The Virginian*. You can't win 'em all.




– COURTESY ABC PRODUCTIONS –

## DVD REVIEW

### *A Minute To Pray, A Second To Die*

(Kino Lorber; BluRay $29.95, DVD $19.95) This 1968 Euro-American Western echoes events in Jesse James' life: the New Mexico Governor (Robert Ryan) offers amnesty to outlaws who turn themselves in. Can badman Clay McCord (Alex Cord) truly start a new life, or is it a trap? A Sheriff (Arthur Kennedy) welcomes him, but bounty hunters wait just outside of town. And McCord can't wait—his father died of epileptic-like seizures, and McCord's gun hand is starting to spasm!

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


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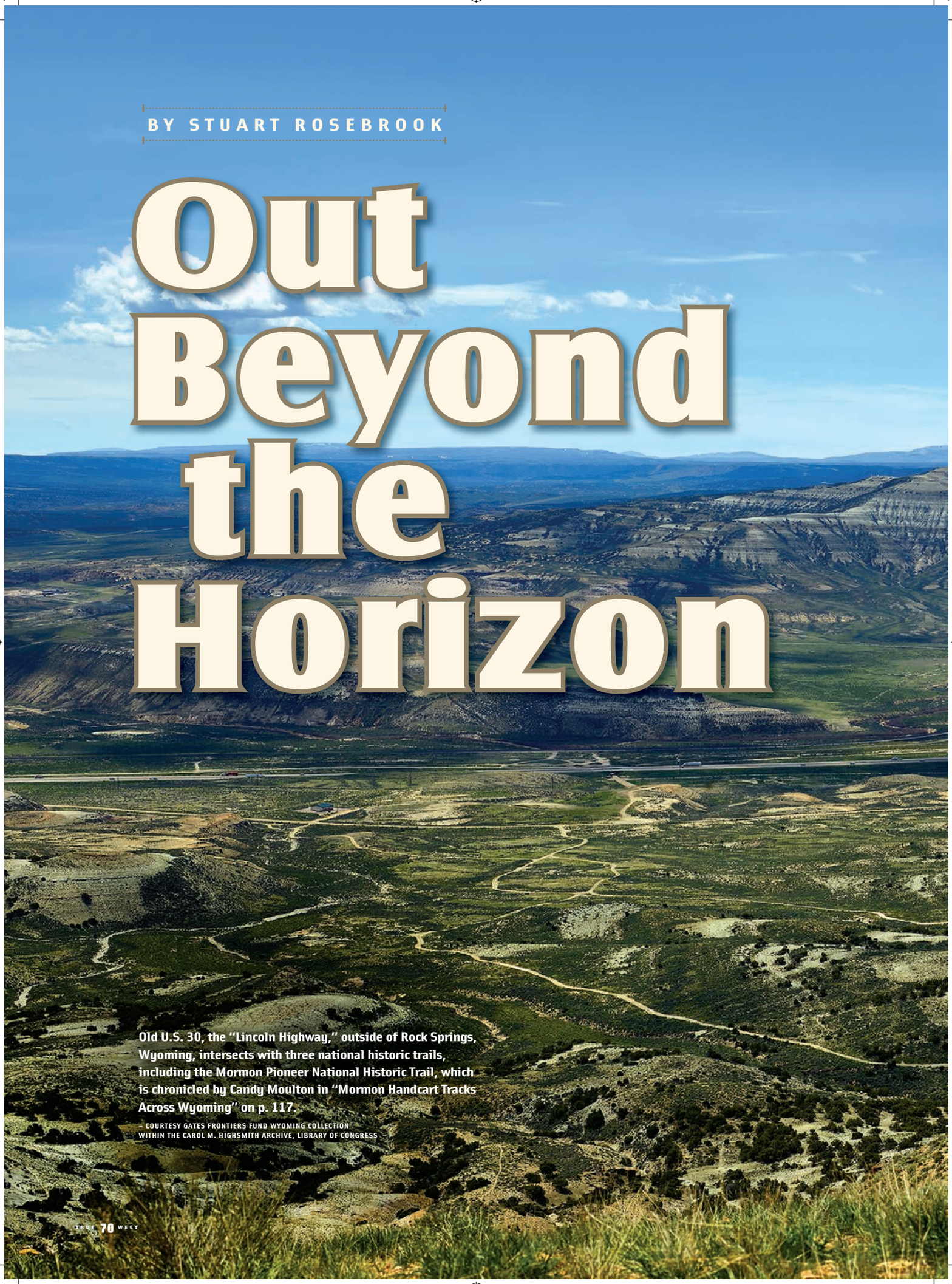
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BY STUART ROSEBROOK

# Out Beyond the Horizon

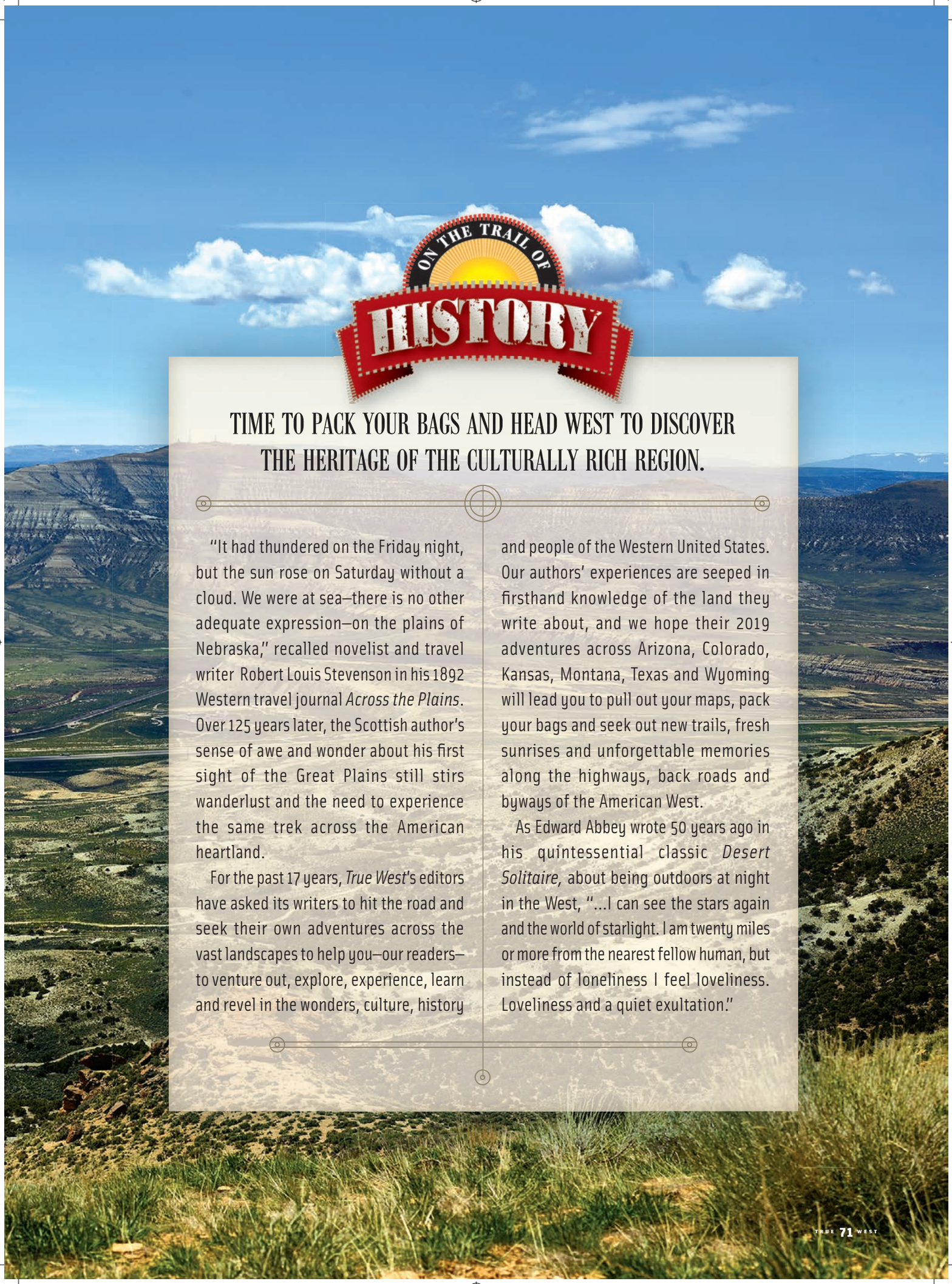


Old U.S. 30, the "Lincoln Highway," outside of Rock Springs, Wyoming, intersects with three national historic trails, including the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, which is chronicled by Candy Moulton in "Mormon Handcart Tracks Across Wyoming" on p. 117.

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# TIME TO PACK YOUR BAGS AND HEAD WEST TO DISCOVER THE HERITAGE OF THE CULTURALLY RICH REGION.

"It had thundered on the Friday night, but the sun rose on Saturday without a cloud. We were at sea—there is no other adequate expression—on the plains of Nebraska," recalled novelist and travel writer Robert Louis Stevenson in his 1892 Western travel journal *Across the Plains*. Over 125 years later, the Scottish author's sense of awe and wonder about his first sight of the Great Plains still stirs wanderlust and the need to experience the same trek across the American heartland.

For the past 17 years, *True West*'s editors have asked its writers to hit the road and seek their own adventures across the vast landscapes to help you—our readers—to venture out, explore, experience, learn and revel in the wonders, culture, history and people of the Western United States. Our authors' experiences are seeped in firsthand knowledge of the land they write about, and we hope their 2019 adventures across Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Texas and Wyoming will lead you to pull out your maps, pack your bags and seek out new trails, fresh sunrises and unforgettable memories along the highways, back roads and byways of the American West.

As Edward Abbey wrote 50 years ago in his quintessential classic *Desert Solitaire,* about being outdoors at night in the West, "...I can see the stars again and the world of starlight. I am twenty miles or more from the nearest fellow human, but instead of loneliness I feel loveliness. Loveliness and a quiet exultation."



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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

# Trails, Rails and Automobiles

Adventure awaits the traveler who follows the legendary routes of Arizona's earliest wagon roads, railways and highways.

Arizona's scenic highways and welcoming Old West communities make the Grand Canyon state one of the best places to spend a week or two, or more, on an Old West road trip. Traveling its byways and highways takes the driver near, alongside—or even on—its earliest trails, wagon roads and railroads. Since the state's first two transcontinental railroads, the Southern Pacific and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe (originally known as the Atlantic & Pacific), were built across the Arizona Territory in the 1870s and 1880s, the rail companies and Arizona's boosters have promoted tourism to its cities and natural wonders. The railroads were the preferred way to reach Arizona well into the 1940s, but with the rise of automobile travel and tourism on the new U.S. highway system constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, the car and truck later became the preferred way to visit the 48th state.

Today, many intending to visit northern Arizona and the Grand Canyon forgo the extended cross-country road trip and fly to Las Vegas or Phoenix, rent a car, and make the drive to the state's historic railroad and Route 66 cities via the interstates. Either way, the drive from Las Vegas or Phoenix is a scenic experience with great roadside stops along the way. If driving to Flagstaff from Phoenix on I-17, fuel up with a great meal and a piece of pie at the Rock Springs Café, an hour north near Black Canyon City.




By 1884, the Arizona Territory boasted two transcontinental railroads and a well-established network of trails and roads, many of which would become modern paved highways, including Route 66.

– COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTION –

## Williams, "Gateway to the Grand Canyon"

In 2019, the Grand Canyon Railway Hotel in the mountain town of Williams is the perfect headquarters for the northern third of an Arizona vacation. Stay at the hotel and walk out the front door to board the historic Grand Canyon Railroad for a scenic ride to the world-renowned natural wonder. The heritage line offers daily round-trip passenger service to the park, as well a variety of special trains, plus overnight packages including a stay at one of the Canyon's hotels.

Williams is a welcoming community with activities, sites, museums and annual events for all ages. As the last Route 66 city to be bypassed by I-40, downtown Williams has a rich "Mother Road" culture of Route 66 shops, museums and restaurants to be explored, while the Williams Depot History Museum recounts the town's storied rail history. Just outside of town are two tourist favorites for animal lovers, families and the younger set: the Grand Canyon Deer Farm and the Bearizona Wildlife Park.

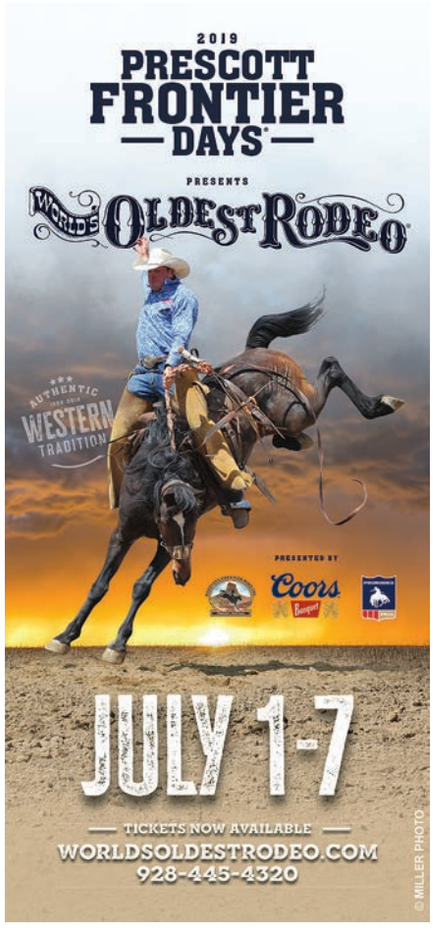
## Williams to Kingman

After enjoying Williams and the Grand Canyon, spend a few days exploring the historic route from Williams to Kingman. Originally known as Beale's Wagon Road, named for Lt. Edward F. Beale, U.S.N., who surveyed the route with his famous—albeit



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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY



One of Arizona's most popular Independence Day celebrations is Williams' Hometown 4th of July Parade down Route 66 (Main Street), featuring the ever-popular Bill Williams Mountain Men, the unofficial ambassadors of Arizona.

– COURTESY EXPERIENCEWILLIAMS.COM –

short-lived—Camel Corps in 1857-'58, the overland wagon road later became the route for the Santa Fe Railroad and U.S. Route 66. Driving west from Williams, I-40 leads to a crossroads with Historic Route 66 in the town of Seligman. Go right on 66 and enjoy a nostalgic 87-mile drive on the "Mother Road" to Peach Springs (gateway to the Hualapai Indian Reservation's Grand Canyon East Resort) and ultimately, Kingman. In Seligman, don't forget to fuel up your vehicle with gas and yourself with a meal at the famous Delgadillo's Snow Cap Drive-In.

Founded in 1882, Kingman is the Mohave County seat, a mecca for trail, rail and automobile historians, with Route 66 fans visiting Bob Boze Bell's hometown from around the world. When exploring Kingman, start at the visitor center in the Historic Powerhouse and tour the adjacent Arizona Route 66 Museum. Across the street in the old Kingman ballpark is the famous 1928 *Locomotive #3759*, symbolic of Kingman's rail history. The renowned Mohave Museum of History and Arts should not be missed and will give any visitor to the high-desert city a great primer on local history, including Beale's famous road.

## Ash Fork to Prescott

Even before the Santa Fe Railroad arrived in Ash Fork in November 1882, the town—and its water supply—made the little burg an important crossroads in northern Arizona. Doubling-back from Kingman on I-40, head south on S.R. 89 to Prescott, your headquarters for the central Arizona portion of the statewide tour. The highway approximately follows the old stage road and SFP&P rail line past the headwaters of the Verde River and through Chino Valley to the original Arizona Territorial capital city.

Arizona 89 enters Prescott through Granite Dells and bypasses Fort Whipple, founded in 1864 and currently a V.A. medical




Kingman's Mojave Museum of History and Arts exhibits explain in depth about Lewis Kingman's (inset) role in local history, and how the railroad he engineered led to a legendary era of boom and bust mining camps in Mohave County.

– LEWIS KINGMAN PHOTO COURTESY MOHAVE COUNTY MUSEUM/ MUSEUM PHOTO COURTESY KINGMAN CVB –



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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

The Palace Restaurant and Saloon's famous bar was saved during the July 14, 1900, Whiskey Row Fire in Prescott and is still making history and memories on Montezuma Street across from the historic Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza.

– STUART ROSEBROOK –

facility. Stop at the Fort Whipple Museum, a branch of Sharlot Hall Museum, housed in a former Army officer's home and providing a snapshot view of central Arizona wfrontier life during the Apache Wars.

From Fort Whipple, follow the highway signs to Gurley Street and Prescott's historic downtown Courthouse Plaza. Parking abounds downtown (although on busy weekends, I recommend the parking garage behind Montezuma/Whiskey Row). Enjoy a stroll amid the park's shade trees and monuments, including the renowned Rough Riders monument built in honor of local Spanish-American war hero killed in combat, Sheriff Buckey O'Neill. From the Plaza, stroll in any direction and you are guaranteed to discover interesting shops, antique stores, breweries, restaurants and the infamous Whiskey Row, anchored by the oldest operating bar in the state, The Palace Restaurant and Saloon. Stroll through the Palace's swinging doors and step back in time and enjoy a Western-style steak or rack of ribs in the dining room that was once a crowded dance floor featured in the 1971 film *Junior Bonner*. Don't miss the mural dedicated to the movie on a back wall in the dining room.

After a tour of the Courthouse Plaza, check into the fully restored 1920s-era Hassayampa Inn and take a few days to enjoy the mile-high climate and the city's great culture and museums. Sharlot Hall Museum is a living-history center that specializes in central Arizona history with the well-restored Territorial Governor's Mansion as its centerpiece. In central Prescott is the Smoki Museum, dedicated to Arizona's Indian cultural history, and just north of town on SR 89 is the Phippen Western Art Museum, one of the finest collections of art north of the Phoenix metro area.








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# 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.

KINGMAN
Heart of Historic Rt 66
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KINGMAN ROUTE 66 ARIZONA

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Visitors to Cave Creek will enjoy touring the Cave Creek Museum and its cultural, historic and art exhibits, including a fine collection of Western bronzes.

– COURTESY CAVE CREEK MUSEUM –

## Prescott to Cave Creek

Staying on the trail, rail and automobile tour, follow Arizona 89 south from Prescott through Kirkland Junction and Yarnell to a crossroads in the old mining town of Congress. Continue south on 89 to 93 to Wickenburg for an overnight of Western hospitality, a very walkable downtown district and a tour of the world-class Desert Caballeros Museum. The route, the first federally funded U.S. highway in Arizona, and known as the White Spar Highway, parallels the Hassayampa Trail and the old Santa Fe, Phoenix and Prescott rail line. From Wickenburg, continue south on U.S. 93/60 to its junction with S.R. 74 east to I-17 and the Carefree Highway. Ten miles east of the interstate juncture, turn north onto Cave Creek Road, which leads to the historic ranching-mining-artist-tourism colony of Cave Creek and *True West* magazine's World Headquarters.

## Cave Creek

Unlike the northern and central Arizona cities on this cross-state tour, Cave Creek was never serviced by a railway. It was named for landmark caves along the creek, adjacent to the Fort McDowell Military Road that connected to the Stoneman and Black Canyon roads north to Prescott's Fort Whipple. Cave Creek's first settlers were miners and ranchers. Today, it's is a popular vacation and day-trip destination. Every March, the town hosts its biggest annual event, Cave Creek's Rodeo Days and Parade. Visitors will enjoy immersing themselves in Cave Creek's Western community of shops, restaurants and eclectic bars, with overnight accommodations in town and in nearby Carefree to fit most budgets.

## Cave Creek to Cochise County

The fastest route from Cave Creek to Tucson for the southern third of the road trip is back west on the Carefree Highway to I-17 to its merger with I-10 southeast to Benson. But, if time permits, spend at least a night in Old Scottsdale and visit the world-class Western Spirit: Scottdale's Museum of the West and enjoy a walkabout in the art gallery-restaurant-tourism district of Main Street and Fifth Avenue.

Interstate 10 arcs south and east to Benson, a historic Southern Pacific railroad






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**Paul Calle**, ***The Great Moment***, c. 1969, oil on masonite; Collection of the Orlando Museum of Art, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. John J. McMullen. Copyright The Calle Family.

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**Paul Calle**, ***Something for the Pot II***, oil on canvas; Courtesy The Peterson Family Collection.

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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY



A tour of Cochise County's most significant territorial sites should include the Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park and its outstanding museum collection highlighting the local history during the Earp-Clanton era.

– COURTESY TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC PARK –

city founded in 1880 about 43 miles past Tucson. The highway to Benson parallels part of the Gila Trail south of Maricopa and the state's first transcontinental railway (today it is part of the Union Pacific Railroad system) and is a gateway to Cochise County's famed cities on State Routes 90 and 80: Sierra Vista, Fort Huachuca, Bisbee, St. David, Tombstone and Douglas.

## Cochise County: Epicenter of Old West History

If Old West history is your passion, then Arizona's Cochise County is a destination worth returning to year after year to experience its annual seasonal events, historic sites, towns and monuments.

Tombstone's unique Monument Guest Ranch with its faux frontier town façade is centrally located and a great place to hang your hat when on tour of the historic mining camp's museums, including Boothill, The O.K. Corral and Historama and the Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park which provide a strong introduction to local history, as do the guided stagecoach tours of "the town to tough to die." Mile-high Bisbee's historic district is a short half-hour away. Take the retired-miner-led Queen Mine Underground Tour, enjoy a meal in the Copper Queen Hotel and visit the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum. Drive on to Douglas on S.R. 80 and discover the John Slaughter Ranch, dedicated to preserving the history and environment of the ranch, once owned by the Texas pioneer rancher, but began as a Mexican land grant almost 200 years ago.

While staying in Tombstone trail on up S.R. 80 and I-10 east to the railroad-ranching town of Willcox. After the dust settled outside the O.K. Corral, the silver mines busted in Tombstone and all the Earps were gone (except for Warren, who was shot, killed and buried in the town's Pioneer Cemetery in July 1901), cattle ranching and farming took over the local economy. Learn more about Willcox and the county at the Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center, tour the Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum and Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame (see Jana Bommerbach's column on p. 18) and then relax over a well-earned dinner at Big Tex Bar-B-Que. You'll definitely need it—because you might just extend your trip another week to explore the Dragoon and Chiricahua mountains, hike to Fort Bowie National Historic Site and visit the ghost towns of Cochise, Pearce, Courtland and Gleeson before returning back to Tombstone via the awe-inspiring drive on Middle March Pass between U.S. 191 and S.R. 80.



Re-enactors lower the flag at the end of the day at one of the regularly scheduled living history events at Fort Bowie National Historic Site, southeast of Willcox in Cochise County.

– COURTESY NPS.GOV –

**Stuart Rosebrook** is the editor of *True West* magazine and co-author with his father, Jeb Rosebrook, of *Junior Bonner: The Making of a Classic with Steve McQueen and Sam Peckinpah in the Summer of 1971*.

# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD




– COURTESY EXPLORECOCHISE.COM –

## FORT HUACHUCA MUSEUM AT SIERRA VISTA

Forty minutes and 29 miles south of Benson, Arizona, on Arizona S.R. 90 in Sierra Vista is the U.S. Army's oldest operating fort in the state, Fort Huachuca (above), headquarters for the U.S. Army's Strategic Communications Command. On base is the Fort Huachuca Historical Museum, dedicated to the history of the Army in the Southwest. The museum has an extensive exhibit on the role of the Buffalo soldiers at the frontier border outpost, including the famed and highly decorated 10th Cavalry Regiment. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4. p.m.

## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB: Black Bridge Brewery**, *Kingman*; **Delgadillo's Snow Cap Drive-In**, *Seligman*; **Goldie's Route 66 Diner**, *Williams*; **The Palace Restaurant and Saloon**, *Prescott*; **El Encanto Mexican Café**, *Cave Creek*; **Big Nose Kate's Saloon**, *Tombstone*; **Big Tex Bar-B-Que**, *Willcox*

**LODGING: Grand Canyon Railway Hotel**, *Williams*; **Hassayampa Inn**, *Prescott*; **Rancho Manana Resort**, *Cave Creek*; **White Stallion Ranch**, *Tucson*; **Tombstone Monument Guest Ranch**, *Tombstone*; **Copper Queen Hotel**, *Bisbee*



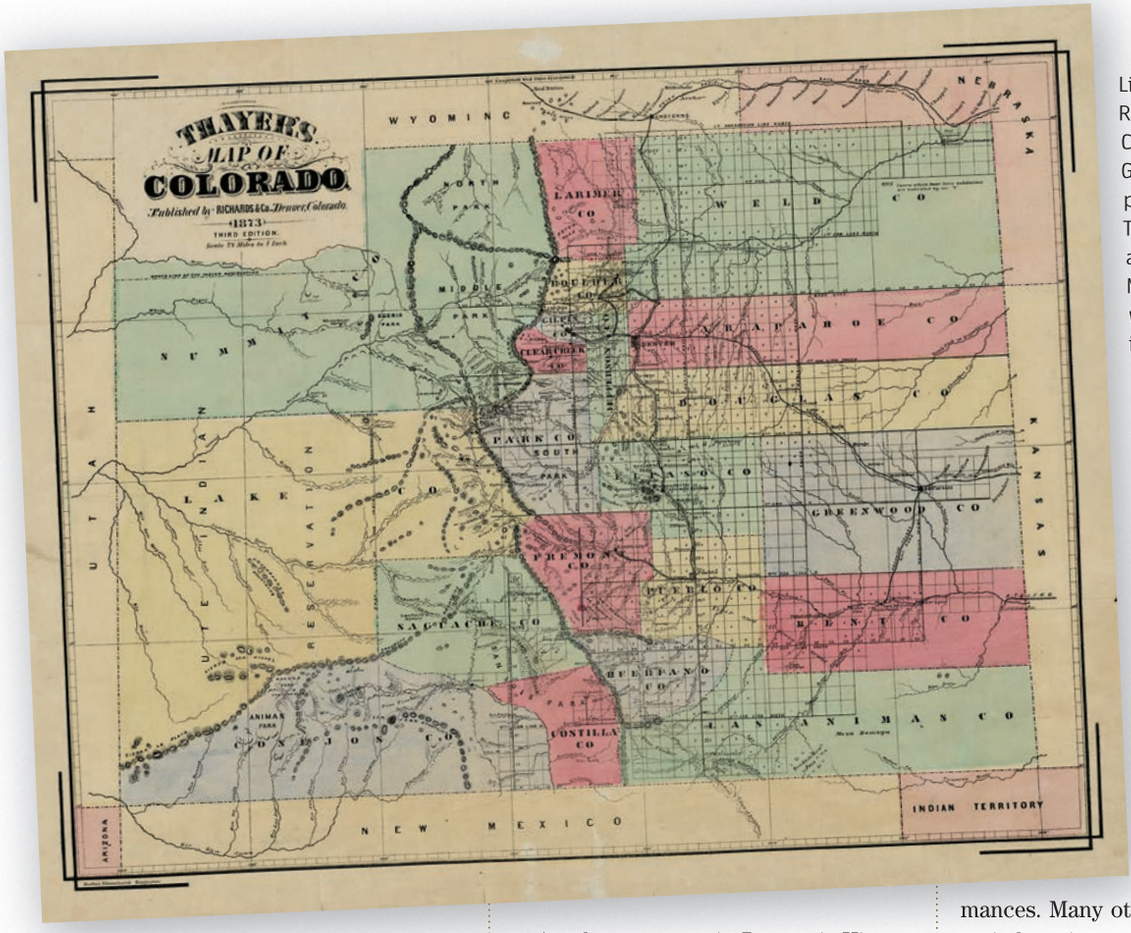
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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

BY KATRINA WHARTON

# Rocky Mountain Gold

## Touring Colorado's historic mining towns leads to experiences rich in Old West history.




Like the California Gold Rush a decade before, Colorado's Pikes Peak Gold Rush of 1859 propelled Colorado Territory to statehood and made the Rocky Mountain state the wealthiest and most influential state between Missouri and California.

– COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

Most of us know of California's Gold Rush and the forty-niners, but fewer realize the great wealth that began a decade later with the discovery of the mineral in Cherry Creek near present-day Denver with the fifty-niners.

Today, visitors can follow the rich history of Colorado's Gold Trail, beginning with Denver. An ideal jumping-off point is the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, with its Hall of Minerals where guests can see a replica of Sweet Home Mine, view the largest gold nugget found in the state and learn more about the area's history of gold mining.

Another must-see in Denver is History Colorado Center, an award-winning interactive museum and cultural center that opened in the Golden Triangle district in 2012.

### West to Central City

From Denver, head west on I-70 to Central City, once known as "The Richest Square Mile on Earth." After the Gregory Lode was discovered in a gulch there in 1859, the town population swelled in two months to 10,000 hopeful folks. However, the gold easily found on and near the surface was quickly tapped out, and the less hardy among the new residents joined the throngs of so-called "go-backers." Those who stayed on became part of a lucrative underground mining operation that continued for many years. Still worth visiting in Central City is the impressive Central City Opera House, built in 1878 and host to P.T. Barnum and Buffalo Bill, and now featuring musicals and performances. Many other buildings from this period survive.

The Teller House, at 120 Eureka Street, was built in 1872 as a hotel, now a casino (in 1991 gambling was legalized, drawing modern fortune-hunters) and a BBQ restaurant, and is a must-do for those staying over.

### Discover Idaho Springs

Nearby Idaho Springs, named for the hot springs, was the first named mining district in Colorado after George Andrew Jackson found gold in Clear Creek Canyon in 1859. Notable sites here include Argo Tunnel, started in 1893 and completed in 1910, which was for a while the longest tunnel in the



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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY



The History Colorado Center in Denver, an interactive museum for all ages, offers year-round events, live entertainment and insightful new exhibitions on the heritage of the Rocky Mountain state.

– COURTESY HISTORY COLORADO CENTER –

world. The Argo Tunnel served all the local major mines and was over four miles long. Today the Argo Mill and Tunnel welcomes visitors, and offers tours of the tunnel, a chance to learn more about the history of the area and even to try panning for gold. Over a million dollars in gold was found in Idaho Springs, at $18 to $35 an ounce.

For those wanting an authentic experience for an overnight stay, the Miners Pick Bed and Breakfast is in an 1895 home within walking distance of the town's major sites and shopping.

People flock to Idaho Springs today for the old-timey feeling shops and restaurants in authentic Old West buildings. A local fave






In 1859, gold was discovered in the area that would become Central City (right). Today, the mining town's Gilpin County Mining Museum, Coeur d'Alene Mine Shaft House and Central City Opera House should not be missed before a night out in the historic district with its modern casinos (above).

– HISTORIC PHOTO COURTESY /MODERN PHOTO COURTESY COLORADO TOURISM –






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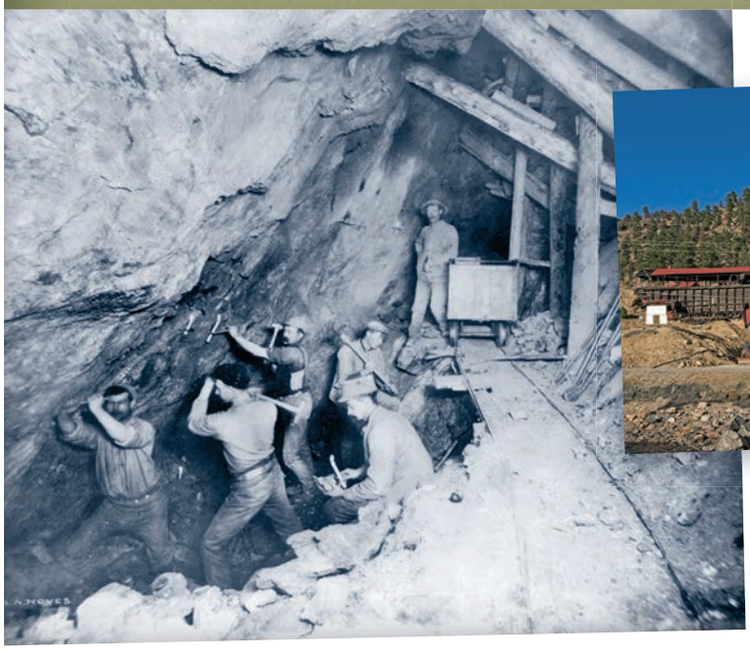
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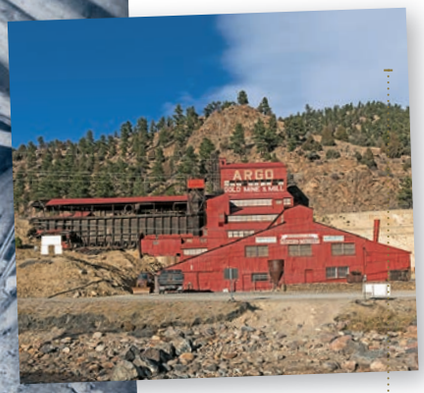
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The Argo Mine in Idaho Springs processed over $100 million in gold in the mid-19th century. Today, the Argo Mine, Mill and Museum is open for tours, weather-permitting.

– GATES FRONTIERS FUND COLORADO COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/PHOTO OF IDAHO SPRINGS MINERS COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

is Beau Jo's Pizza, for a fat slab of Colorado-style pizza made with dough sweetened with local honey.

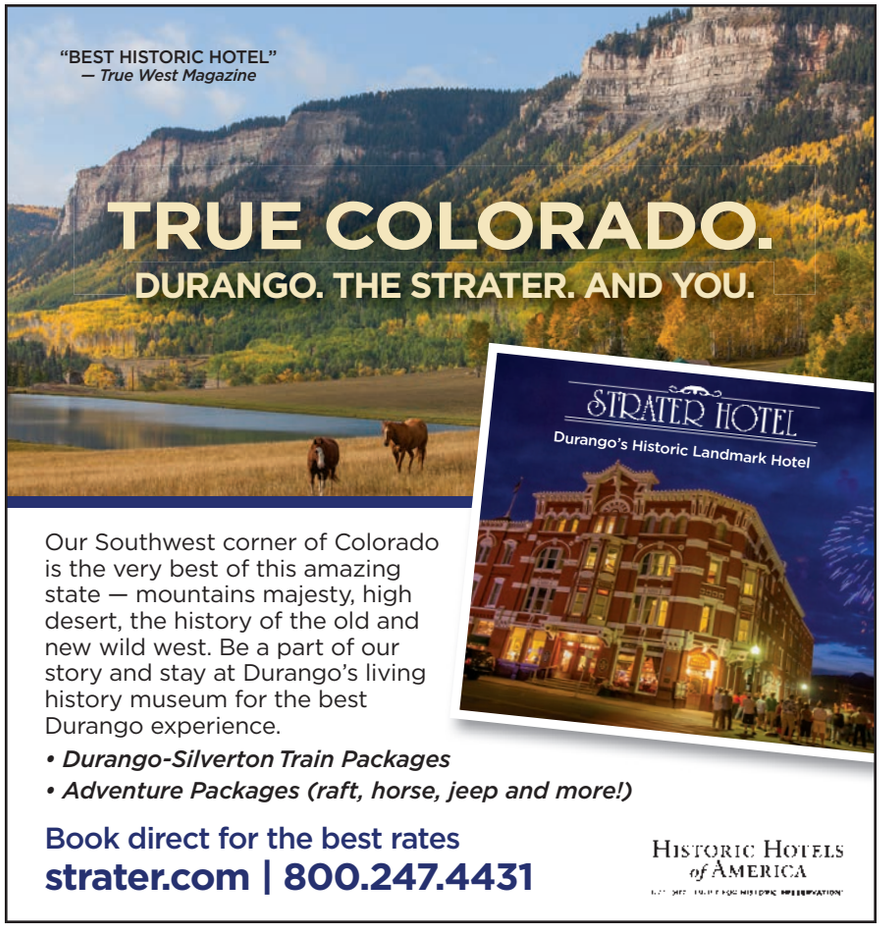
## From Georgetown to Leadville

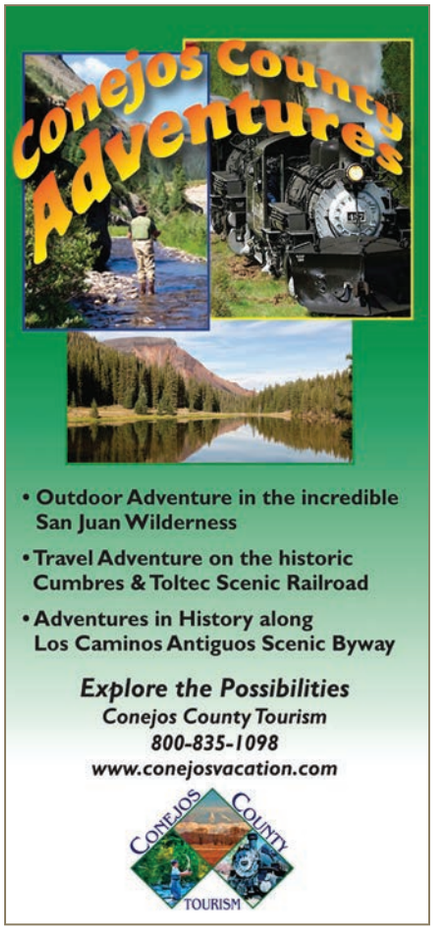
About 13 miles west of Idaho Springs is the historic city of Georgetown, where David and George Griffin discovered gold in Clear Creek's headwaters in 1859 and named Georgetown for the Griffin brother named George. Later, Georgetown found real wealth from silver mining in the 1870s, and even became a premier tourist destination for well-to-do Europeans.

Modern tourists can ride the Georgetown Loop narrow-gauge steam railroad that connects Georgetown and Silver Plume. For extra historical fun, check out the Lebanon and Everett Mine tours.

From Georgetown, head 57 miles southwest to Leadville on I-70 to Colorado 91 South, where one can find more museums than in any other city in the state of Colorado. Leadville's first gold claim was in 1860 in California Gulch, and the boom that followed in a few months sparked a population of 10,000 and gold scores of $2 million. But, like Georgetown, when the easily found gold waned, a discovery of silver started a brand new boom.

Leadville's most famous resident was silver magnate Horace Tabor, who built the still-standing Tabor Opera House. Tabor started as a humble shopkeeper who amassed a fortune by grubstaking miners—

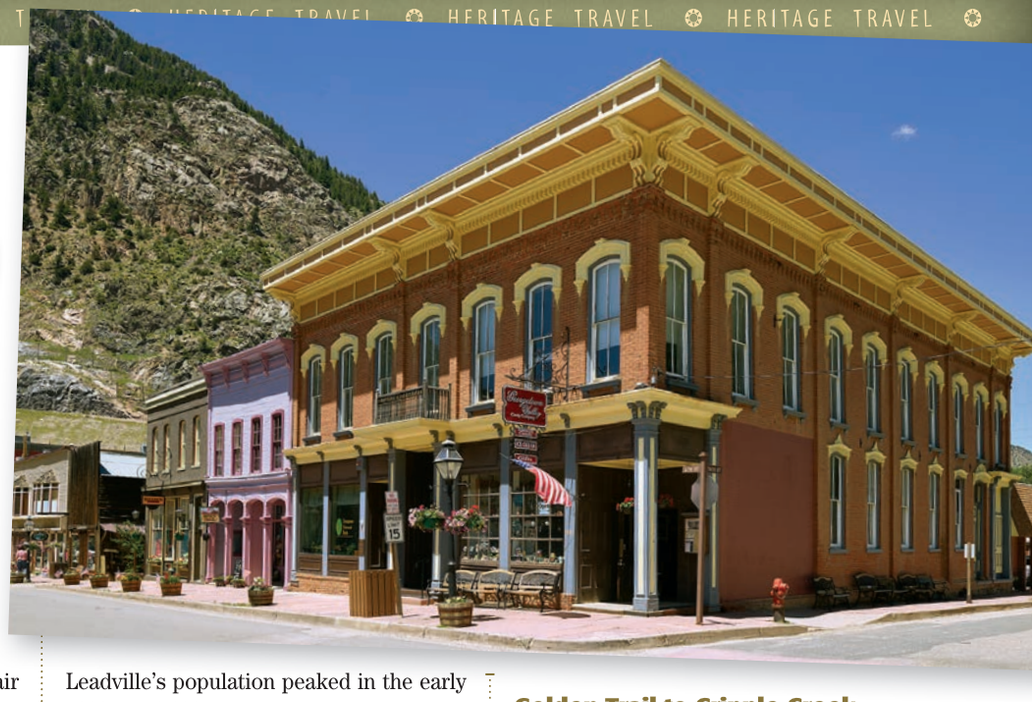







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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

After a ride on the engineering wonder, the Georgetown Loop Railroad, take a walking tour of historic downtown Georgetown, founded in 1859 during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush.

– GATES FRONTIERS FUND COLORADO COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

outfitting them with goods from his store in exchange for a share of their finds. He went on to become a politician and builder, but a scandalous affair with "Baby Doe" Elizabeth McCourt and the silver crash left him penniless and his second wife ended up frozen to death in a cabin near their Matchless Mine, which can be toured either as a self-guided tour or with a guide.

According to *Colorado.gov*, the city has 70 square blocks of Victorian architecture. Leadville's population peaked in the early 1880s at 50,000, becoming a major industrial and modern city with its own sewer system and power plant.

If spending the night, the Delaware Hotel dates from 1886 and cost $60,000 to build. There, you can sleep where famous folks such as Butch Cassidy, Doc Holliday and the Unsinkable Molly Brown stayed.

## Golden Trail to Cripple Creek

Following the Gold Trail about 112 miles southeast from Leadville in the Pikes Peak region is Cripple Creek, and its sister city of Victor. In 1890 cowboy Bob Womack discovered gold in what would later become known as Cripple Creek, Colorado. For the next 20 years that area produced over








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When on tour of the historic silver city of Leadville, located at 10,151 feet, don't miss a thrilling ride on the Leadville, Colorado and Southern Railroad, and a tour of the National Mining Museum and Hall of Fame.

– COURTESY COLORADO TOURISM –

22,400,000 ounces of gold, earning the region the nickname, "The World's Greatest Gold Camp." The worth of the gold found would equal $11.2 billion in today's money. The last and most impressive of the gold booms in Colorado, the Pikes Peak region owes its riches in ore to volcanic eruptions some 35 million years ago.

Cripple Creek blossomed and by 1892 the town had telephones, telegraph and electricity. Two years later, it had 150 mines operating, with a yield of $3 million in that year alone. The population was 6,000, and there were four newspapers, five churches and 300 prostitutes. By 1895, two railroad lines serviced the area. While two devastating fires destroyed much of the wood-built town within a week in April 1896, the area quickly rebuilt with brick and continued to prosper.

By 1901, Cripple Creek had between 30,000 and 50,000 residents and 500 working mines, which had brought in $77 million in gold profits. It had two trolleys, 49 grocers and 68 saloons. It was the home of the richer folks, and the center of commerce, while nearby Victor was the working-class town of miners.

Nowadays, people can visit the historic Mollie Kathleen Goldmine, named for the woman who struck gold in the area, and go down 1,000 feet into a historic mine.

Other important sites include the Cripple Creek Heritage Center and the four-mile round trip on the Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railway and its 1894 depot and gift shop.

The Old Homestead House Museum is one of the only brothel museums in the U.S., and was purportedly the most elegant brothel in town. It was built in 1896 by the (in)famous madam, Pearl DeVere. The town still has plenty of free-wandering donkeys who are descendents of those used in the mines in the old days, and the historic downtown now boasts nine casinos. For a tour of the area, visitors can hop aboard Colorado Jeep Tours for its six-hour Gold Belt Tour leaving out of Canon City and stopping in Victor and Cripple Creek, including a stopover for lunch.

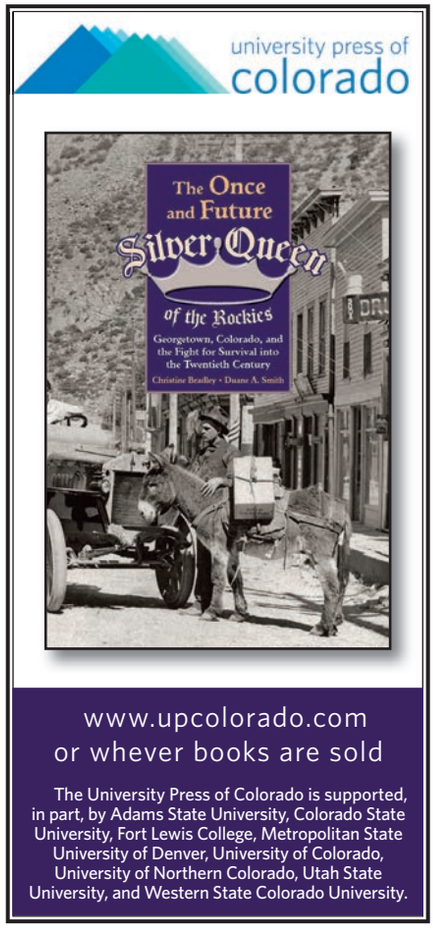
**Katrina Wharton** is a freelance writer from Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she enjoys travel, history and reading. She has a master's degree in writing from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and has worked as a tutor. She is mom to seven, stepmom to two and a grandma.




Today, visitors to the 1890 gold camp of Cripple Creek can enjoy strolling the city's historic downtown and a four-mile round trip tour of the mining districts on the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad.

– COURTESY CREATIVE COMMONS, DON O'BRIEN –






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# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD




– COURTESY COLORADO TOURISM –

## CREEDE, COLORADO

Creede is named after Nicholas C. Creede, who discovered a silver vein in 1890. A year later, a railroad connected Creede to the world, and by 1892 a million dollars in silver had been exported from this boomtown. The town's population increased rapidly to 10,000, and both Bat Masterson and Jesse James's killer, Bob Ford, operated saloons in Creede. Today there are a few hundred full-time residents, but enough remains of the once-thriving town to draw tourists.

The aptly named Last Chance Mine gives visitors free tours and, for a couple bucks, a chance to take home a pound of their mining finds. The Underground Mining Museum is built into a cliff wall and displays period mining equipment, while various hiking and fishing spots beckon outdoorsy tourists.

The town's Main Street is lined with 1800s buildings filled with shops and eateries, and a few ranches offer either rustic cabins or a plush dude ranch experience for those staying awhile.

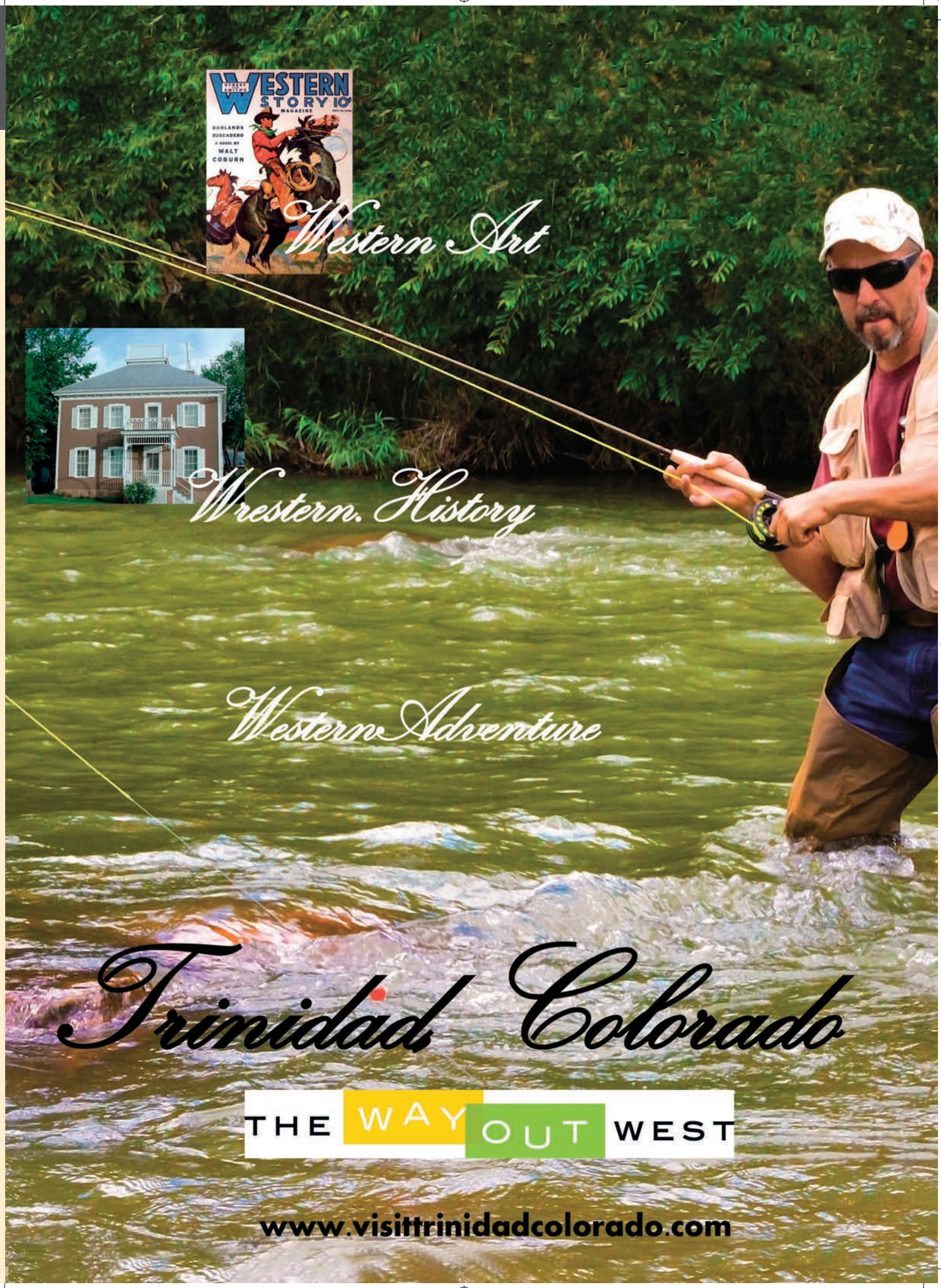
## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB: Millie's Restaurant**, *Central City*; **Beau Jo's Pizza**, *Idaho Springs*; **Mountainbuzz Café and Pizzeria**, *Georgetown*; **Treeline Kitchen**, *Leadville*; **The Steakhouse**, *Cripple Creek*; **Home Café**, *Cripple Creek*; **Gold Camp Bakery**, *Victor*; **Fortune Club**, *Victor*; **Tommyknocker Tavern**, *Creede*; **Miner's Restaurant**, Creede

**LODGING: Nicki Lee Mansion B&B**, *Central City*; **Miner's Pick Bed and Breakfast**, *Idaho Springs*; **Rose Street Bed and Breakfast**, *Georgetown*; **Delaware Hotel,** *Leadville*; **The Colorado Trail House**, *Leadville*; **Imperial Hotel and Restaurant**, *Cripple Creek*; **Hotel St. Nicholas**, *Cripple Creek*; **Historic Victor Hotel**, *Victor*; **Creede Hotel & Restaurant**, *Creede*



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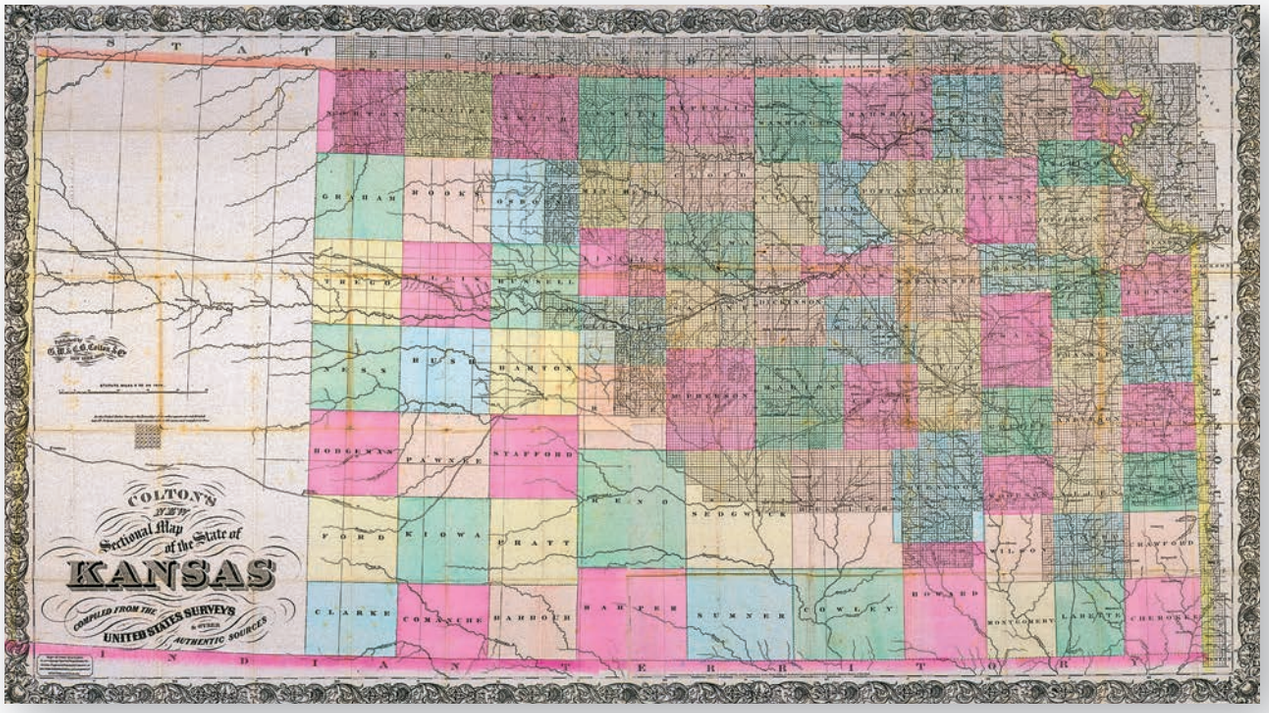

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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

BY MELODY GROVES

# Kansas's Highways of History

## Discover Old West heritage along the Sunflower State's historic trails.




In 1868, just seven years after Kansas achieved statehood, railroads, cattle drives, homesteaders and town builders had quickly developed and populated the prairie and plains state that a decade before was best known for the Santa Fe Trail.

– COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

America's West, in the early 1800s, ended at the Missouri River. Men knew there was another West—farther west—but venturing there proved problematic. In 1821, when Mexico shook off Spanish rule, the gate to commercial trade was unlocked. In September 1821, Capt. William Becknell led the first commercial expedition across the West heading for Santa Fe, a northern Mexican settlement. Originating in Franklin, Missouri, the world-expanding Santa Fe Trail crossed the Indian territories and uncharted terrain of the future states of Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico en route to Santa Fe.

### Lawrence: From Ashes to Immortality

Lawrence was founded in 1854 by the New England immigrant aid societies, which sponsored anti-slavery colonists. Lawrence cemented itself in history in 1863 when pro-slavery Bushwhacker William Clarke Quantrill with 400 of his men, raided Lawrence at dawn, killing 107 citizens.

The Santa Fe and Oregon trails passed through here and today's visitors can follow the routes. The Underground Railroad aiding escaped slaves provided several "stations" running throughout Lawrence. The Grover Barn, a famous hiding place, is now inside city limits.

Burned in the 1863 raid, the rebuilt Eldridge House offers stunning views of the Kansas River and houses two restaurants. The Oread Hotel contains three restaurants. The Burger Stand at the Casbah offers casual dining, as does Johnny's Tavern, across from the Eldridge. And the Free State Brewing Company serves locally crafted beer.

### Lecompton: Kansas Territorial Capital

Albert G. Boone (Daniel Boone's grandson) co-founded Lecompton in 1854 where the controversial Lecompton Constitution was crafted admitting Kansas as a pro-slavery state. It sparked a chain of events



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dividing the nation, eventually climaxing into the Civil War.

Visit Constitution Hall, a national landmark where the contentious constitution was drafted. Now the United Methodist Church, the historic Windsor Hotel was one of five in town. A Chickering Grand Piano, presented to Lane University in the 1880s, is still in use at the church.

## Council Grove: The Prairie Eden

An 1825 council between the Osage tribe and government agents gave this settlement its name. Considered the ultimate rendezvous point for thousands of wagon trains, it harbored the last stand of hardwood timber between Missouri and Santa Fe. Nestled in the scenic east Kansas prairie, the Flint Hills, Council Grove offers a treasure trove of historical sights.

Enjoy a fine meal at the 1875 Hays House, built by Daniel Boone's great-grandson, Seth Hays, the town's first settler. Known as the oldest, continuously operated restaurant west of the Mississippi, in early years it served as a mail distribution point, district court, church and newspaper office.

Visit Hermit's Cave, temporary home of Italian spiritualist Giovanni Agostini, an eccentric man who lived here in 1863. Don't miss the 1861 Terwilliger home, the last house in the last town Santa Fe traders passed on their journey west.

## Dodge City: Wildest Town on the Western Frontier

Dodge City, founded in 1872, became a trade center for travelers and buffalo hunters. That same year, the railroad reached town, making it a major shipping point. Longhorn cattle became king. From 1875 until 1886, over 5 million cattle were driven to Dodge. Cowboys created the town's wild and wooly reputation. Lawmen Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp became legends here. Boot Hill is the most famous burial ground in Western lore.

Stroll down Dodge City Front Street, spending time in the Boot Hill Museum, an accredited Western-history museum. Visitors can enjoy a drink at the famous Long Branch Saloon. The Trail of Fame Walking Tour takes visitors past statues of Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and El Capitan, a bronze Texas Longhorn. Renovated to its original Harvey House days, the 1898 Santa Fe Depot is the largest in Kansas.

Best Western Plus offers spacious rooms and a robust breakfast. Casey's Cowtown Club serves world-class steaks. For casual dining, Tacos Jalisco offers traditional Mexican food. Enjoy a cocktail at the Boot Hill Distillery, housed in an historic building where award-winning gin, vodka, whiskey, bourbon and bitter ales are crafted.

## Wichita: Home of the Chisholm Trail

Pioneer trader Jesse Chisholm, half-white, half-Native American, illiterate but who spoke multiple American Indian languages, established a trail and trading post here in the 1860s, trading cattle and goods with the Wichita tribe. In 1870, the town incorporated. Among the 124 charter signatories was the town laundry operator, Catherine "The Widow" McCarty, whose teenage son would leave Wichita to become Billy the Kid.

Wichita's position on the Chisholm Trail made it a destination for cattle drives headed north. With the trail running alongside, Wichita became a railhead for cattle drives. Wichita's neighbor, Delano, earned a reputation for lawlessness, accommodating the rough visiting cattlemen. Wichita stayed civil, thanks to well-known lawmen such as Wyatt Earp.

Experience what Wichita is best known for, its Western heritage. Enjoy Western family entertainment and all-you-can-eat barbecue at the Diamond W Chuckwagon Supper featuring the Diamond W Wranglers. Try Bite Me BBQ, Inc., ranked one of the top ten barbecue/ribs places by *KANSAS! Magazine*.

Step back in time and explore America's most authentic Old West town at Old Cowtown Museum, an outdoor, living history museum.




The C. M. Condon Bank, in the center of Coffeyville's historic plaza, is one of the two banks the Dalton Gang tried to rob in 1892.

– MYKE GROVES

Close to all of the action of Old Town, Douglas Design District and Historic Delano District, is the affordable Hotel at Old Town, across from the Museum of World Treasures.

## Abilene: First Cow Town of the West

It was all about cattle. From 1867 until 1871, the Chisholm Trail ended in Abilene, railhead of the Kansas Pacific Railway, where cattle were sold and shipped eastward. In 1867, Joseph G. McCoy built stockyards encouraging Texas cattlemen to drive their herds there. That first year, stockyards shipped 35,000 head. In 1871, more than 5,000 cowboys herded 600,000 to 700,000 cows to Abilene and other Kansas railheads.

Abilene is more than cattle. Although born in Texas, Dwight Eisenhower considered Abilene home. The Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home is well worth a long visit. The museum is closed for renovation until June 2019, but the contents, where possible, were



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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

moved to the library. Ike's impressive and solemn gravesite is on the 22-acre property.

The Rock Island Depot, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is home to the Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad, a nonprofit organization offering public excursion train rides May through October.

Step into grace and beauty at the 1904 Seelye Mansion. Chosen as one of the Eight Wonders of Kansas, this Georgian-style mansion is filled with most of its original furnishings left by Dr. Seelye and his two daughters who lived here into their 90s.

Featuring 6,000 square feet of Victorian elegance, Abilene's Victorian Inn offers an enchanting bed and breakfast in the heart of town. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this inn was once home to Eisenhower's best friend.

Built in 1910, the Engle House Bed and Breakfast, one of the few Mission Arts and Crafts homes on the National Register of Historic Places, offers connections to Abilene's history.

## Coffeyville: Home of Dalton Defenders

Coffeyville is famous for its cowboy boots designed for right or left foot, valued by cowboys of the Chisolm days, and the end of the Dalton Gang raids. On October 5, 1892, the Dalton Gang tried to rob two banks at once. As the gang of five crossed the plaza, residents recognized them. Taking up arms, citizens killed four. Unfortunately, four townsmen also died, including George Cubin, who helped create the Coffeyville Boots.

Located 135 miles southeast of Wichita, Coffeyville offers The Dalton Defenders Museum housing mementos of early-day Coffeyville, of Wendell Willkie who ran for President, of Hall of Fame pitcher Walter Johnson, and of the Dalton Raid, including some of their guns and saddles. The Old 1871 Condon Bank, which the Daltons attempted to rob, now restored to its original condition, is open for tours.

Stand on the plaza where the gunfight occurred. Buildings remain as they were. And be sure to visit the Old City Jail, Death Alley and Elmwood Cemetery, resting place of three of the gang members as well as the defenders.

## Scott City: The Last Indian Battle in Kansas

Out in the plains of Western Kansas, visit Battle Canyon where in 1878, 353 displaced Northern Cheyenne Indians escaped from their Oklahoma reservation and headed to Montana. With the U.S. Cavalry battalion on their trail, they made a stand here, hunkering down in a rock outcropping. The frontier army, thin and not well organized, spotted the Indians and fired, killing all the Indians' horses. Within two hours, many Cheyenne




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lay dead or wounded. Survivors fled, led by Dull Knife and Little Wolf, escaping into Nebraska and Wyoming.

In Scott City, El Quartelejo Museum traces the history of Western Kansas through fossil discoveries on exhibit. Other items, from Indian through pioneer, tell Scott County's story. An art gallery also is housed here.

### Russell County: The Smoky Hills River Trail

The Butterfield Overland Despatch (1865-'66) express and passenger coaches rumbled through Russell County using the Smoky Hills River Trail on their way to Denver. The BOD, not to be confused with the earlier Butterfield Mail Line (1858-'61), followed the route of an Indian trail along the Smoky Hills River, providing the shortest, safest route west across Kansas.

The Kansas Pacific Railway reached the Russell County area in 1867, establishing Fossil Creek Station. Looking for warmer winters and a new life, in 1871, 70 members of the Northwest Colony arrived by train from Ripon, Wisconsin, settled in Fossil, renaming it Russell. They lived in boxcars until houses were built. Born and raised in Russell, U.S. Senator Bob Dole kept Russell as his official place of residence throughout his political career.

Oil was discovered west of Russell in 1923, which created an oil boom lasting through the 1930s, attracting many settlers. Oil became a staple of the economy.

**Melody Groves** won the prestigious National Press Women Award for her *True West* article, "Milton J. Yarberry: Jerked to Jesus," December 2017 issue. Fascinated with Kansas history, she wrote *Kansas Bleeds*, the fourth book in the Colton Brothers Saga.

## WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD

Old Fort Dodge, 1865, protected Santa Fe Trail traffic by soldiers, mainly Confederates who chose Indian fights over Union prisons. They built the hospital and officers' quarters first.

Original buildings, including the headquarters where Col. George Custer worked, are open to the public and used as offices, libraries, museums and a store. In 1890, Fort Dodge was deeded to the State of Kansas for use as a Kansas Soldiers' home. Veterans from the Civil War through today have retired there.

### GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB: Hays House Restaurant**, *Council Grove*; **Casey's Cowtown Club**, *Dodge City*; **Dodge City Brewing**, *Dodge City*; **Lanning's Downtown Grill**, *Coffeyville*; **Bite Me BBQ**, *Wichita*; **Johnny's Tavern**, *Lawrence*; **Casbah**, *Lawrence*

**LODGING: Victorian Inn**, *Abilene*; **Brookville Hotel**, *Abilene*; **Dodge House Hotel & Convention Center**, *Dodge City*; **Boot Hill Casino & Resort**, *Dodge City*; **Boot Hill Bed & Breakfast**, *Dodge City*; **Rosberg House**, *Lindsborg*; **Noble House Inn**, *Wichita*; **Eldridge Hotel**, *Lawrence*



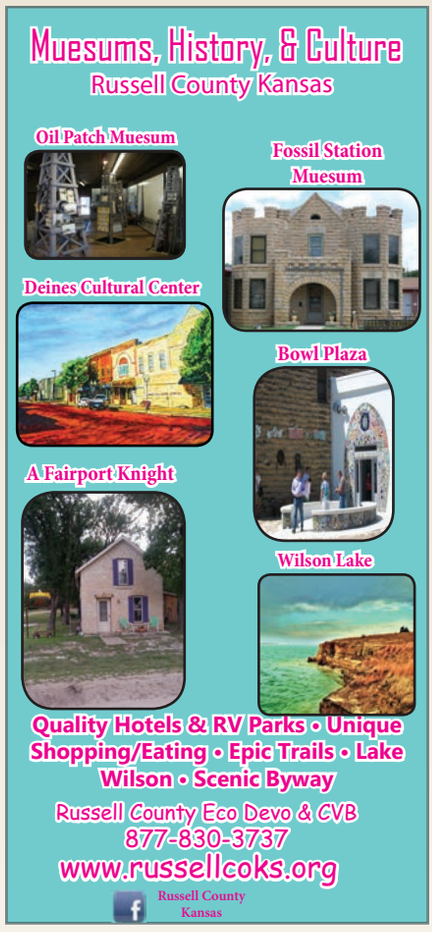



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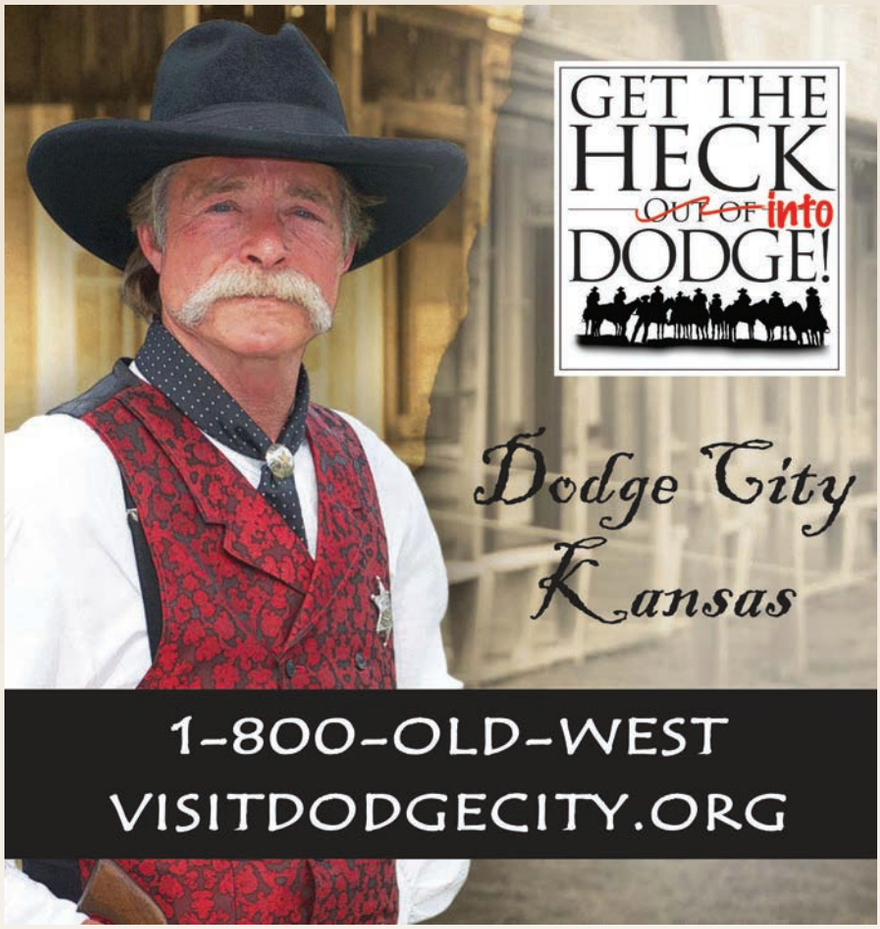
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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

BY QUACKGRASS SALLY

# Lewis and Clark's Big Sky Country

## Explore an adventurous Montana on the trail of the Corps of Discovery.




Montana became a Territory six decades after Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Corps of Discovery crossed the future state.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

Most every Sunday afternoon as I was growing up, my father would load us into the car and off we'd go on a family day-adventure to "discover new sights." Perhaps these jaunts, and the fact that I have a pioneer-gypsy soul, make exploring the trails of the West one of my passions. Living in South-Central Montana, the tales of the Lewis and Clark expedition have always ignited my imagination, especially as our ranch borders the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, named by William Clark in July 1806.

When the Corps of Discovery camped at the confluence of the Yellowstone and the Missouri rivers the night of April 26, 1805, it was their first step into what is now Montana. Within the next two months, the expedition would travel along the twisting Missouri River, headed west towards the Pacific Ocean. On their return trek homeward, when they again reached Montana, the Corps split up, each smaller group exploring different waterways and terrains. Today, many of these places can be visited and are identified by historical markers. Exhibits dedicated to the Corps of Discovery can be found in several museums and interpretative centers along their route.



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Before venturing across Montana on a Lewis and Clark tour, take time to visit the state capital, Helena, including its historic Capitol building and nearby Montana Historical Society Museum.



A wide variety of trade goods displayed in the old Fort Benton Trade Store gives visitors a taste of why it was one of the most important trading posts along the Upper Missouri River.

– COURTESY FORT BENTON MUSEUM –

Recently I took a loop of adventure to explore part of the Lewis and Clark Trail. I started in Montana's capital city, Helena, which was not named Helena until the discovery of gold in 1864, and became the capital in 1875. Nestled downtown, near the Capitol building, is the award-winning Montana Historical Society Museum. Western artists, including Montana's own Charles Russell, are featured, their outstanding artwork displayed in several halls. Here you can find intriguing historical, archaeological and geological exhibits that pertain to Montana, as well as regional native people artifacts. The Lewis and Clark exhibit includes a time line about their trek in Montana and their impact on the state.

## On to Great Falls

My next destination took me north to the city of Great Falls, where, in 1805, the Corps of Discovery found themselves surrounded by high steep riverbanks and deep-cut ravines, through which a series of five waterfalls roared. It took over a month of arduous preparation before they could circumvent the falls and continue their trek westward. The explorers knew there was but a short time before winter would arrive, and with the help of Sacajawea, they wanted to locate the Shoshone Indians as quickly as possible. Today, although two dams have altered the flow and appearance of the Missouri River, you can still see the splendor and wonder of what Lewis called, "*...the Grandest sight, the Great Falls...*"

Situated nearby in Giant Springs Heritage State Park, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. This state-of-the-art center is home to extensive archives and the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation. Displays share the stories of the Corps' interaction with the native Indian cultures, the interpreter Charbonneau and his wife Sacajawea, her son Baptist (nicknamed "Pomp") and Lewis's Newfoundland hound, Seaman. If you are adventurous, you can even try your luck at pulling a boat against the rushing current of the Missouri River. Open Memorial Day through September, the site also includes living history grounds and several overlooks. In June, an annual Lewis and Clark Festival features historical re-enactments, native dancing and fun events. (For more information, consult *LewisAndClarkFoundation.org.)*

Continuing northward along Highway 87, I entered a landscape filled with badlands and a beautiful flowing expanse of the Missouri River. Designated the Upper Missouri Wild & Scenic River, it is home to Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument. The monument is administered by the BLM and covers about 377,000 acres of public land, known for its spectacular historic, scientific and cultural variety. Lewis and Clark made note of the area and its wide range of animals in their diaries: "*...it* [the landscape] *is abundant with wildlife…elk, big horn sheep, sage grouse and the prairie dog…a new to science specimen.*" This scenery has remained much the same as when Lewis and Clark traveled its rugged terrain. It is along this section of the river that the endangered pallid sturgeon spawns and where one of the country's last six remaining paddlefish populations exists. Here, too, thrive the few remaining fully functioning cottonwood forests, a seed source for cottonwoods throughout the flood plains of the Missouri River. This unique ecosystem includes a 149-mile long drive where glaciers and volcanic activity, along with erosion, have shaped the landscape. Because roads are limited and accessibility in some areas is only by foot, I recommend stopping at the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center at the monument. The center offers maps, and information about area points of interest and activities.

## Fort Benton

A few miles out of the badlands of the Upper Missouri Breaks is the historic town of Fort Benton. Located on the banks of the Missouri River, Fort Benton is one of the oldest towns in the state and often called the Birthplace of Montana. It was established



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The story of the Corps of Discovery in Montana is told in-depth at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls.

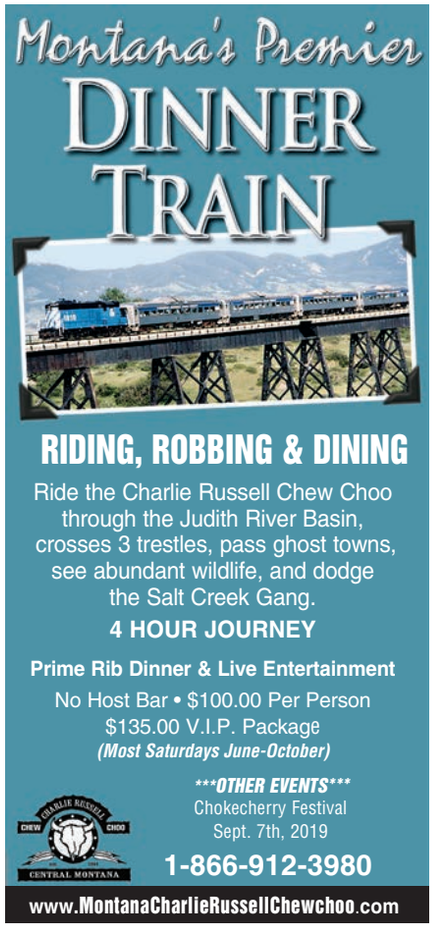
--COURTESY VISIT MONTANA –

by the American Fur Company in 1846, when steamboats docked along the nearby levee, their decks filled with freight. These trade goods were then carried via ox train to destinations west to help meet the expanding demand for needed items. I visited the museum at Old Fort Park and took a tour of the trade store, which is filled with buffalo robes, beads, blankets and other period trade goods. There is a blacksmith and carpenter's shop, as well as a fur-traders' warehouse, telling the history of one of the most important robe trading posts on the Upper Missouri River.

The confluence of the Judith and Missouri rivers is only a few miles from Fort Benton and long before Lewis and Clark explored here, several Native tribes inhabited it. The Blackfeet, Assiniboine, Gros Ventre, Crow, Cree and Plains Ojibwa all used these lands. It was the setting for several important peace councils in 1846 and 1855, and near here the Nez Perce crossed, trying to escape the Army on their way to Canada in 1877. Just north, near what today is Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Chief Joseph and his followers surrendered at Bear Paw, now a National Battlefield Historical Park.

North of Fort Benton, Lewis and Clark camped on a bluff overlooking the Marias and Missouri rivers, scouting the area for the correct direction they needed to travel westward on the Missouri. Today we know it as Decision Point, where the Corps made the debated choice between following the clear cold river, which we now know was the Missouri, or a more inviting calmer muddy one. If you follow the interpretative






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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

signs up the short hill, you can overlook the place where the Corps chose the correct river channel in June 1805.

## Missouri River Country

Traveling the pristine landscape of the Missouri River country without using a boat takes you off the Lewis and Clark Trail, but I headed north to explore along Highway 2. I passed through the Fort Belknap Reservation, established in 1888 to contain the surviving members of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine nations, who, before siding with the U.S. Army against the Blackfeet, were one of the major powers of the northern Plains. Each July the town hosts the annual Milk River Indian Days, featuring athletic contests, a festival and native dancers.

Heading east, the rolling grasslands and open spaces near the town of Malta are much the way Lewis and Clark found them in 1805. It is known as Montana's Heart of Dinosaur Country and some of the world's most significant dinosaurs ever discovered were unearthed near here. Continuing east, I discovered the historic town of Glasgow, established in the late 1800s by the Great Northern Railroad. Hundreds of miles of rail across this region provided transport of cattle and sheep, bringing land barons staking their claims to huge parcels of land. The Valley County Pioneer Museum is a great stop, featuring local fossils, Indian artifacts, railroad, early business and wildlife collections.

Only 24 miles south, on Highway 24, is Fort Peck Dam Interpretative Center. With free admission, visitors can view a life-size, fleshed-out model of Peck's Rex, the Tyrannosaurus Rex discovered 20 miles southeast of Fort Peck in 1997, along with other regional paleontology displays. It is also home to two of the largest aquariums in Montana, displaying the fish of Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River. During the summer, interpretive programs and nature walks along the three-mile trail are offered.

Continuing south, I made my way to Miles City, Montana, a town steeped in Western history. Lewis and Clark traveled past here on their homeward journey east along the Yellowstone River. Known once as the horse-trading and livestock center of the country, the world-famous Miles City Bucking Horse Sale is an annual summer event for rodeo stock buyers and breeders. It was here in 1895 that Charles Coggshall opened his saddle-making business, creating his now historic Miles City Coggshall Saddle.

Headed west on I-90, I made one last stop on my Lewis and Clark journey at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. It was here, on July 25, 1806, while resting along






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the Yellowstone River, that William Clark recorded in his diary that the natives had engraved images of animals upon the face of the rocks. He dedicated the site to Sacajawea's son, Baptist, who the Corps called "Pomp." Today, visitors can view Clark's own signature and date carved into that sandstone wall. It is the only remaining on-site physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition…and a fitting conclusion to my own Corps of Discovery adventure.

**Quackgrass Sally** is a working ranch wife and freelance author in Montana. She writes about the West from her own experiences, having ridden her horse and driven her covered wagon thousands of miles along the Western Historic Trails.

# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD



– COURTESY NPS.GOV –

## LEWIS AND CLARK SIDE ROADS IN MONTANA

Nestled in the Big Hole Valley, near the headwaters of the Jefferson River, sits the small cowboy town of Wisdom. It adopted the original name Lewis and Clark had given the river in 1805. Now at the junction of highways 43 and 278, surrounded by the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, the area is called the "Valley of 10,000 Haystacks" because many of the ranches still use the historic "beaverslide," a hay-stacking technique developed in the valley during the early 1900s. During the haying months of July and August, travelers have the rare opportunity to see these "beaverslides" in action. While in Wisdom, be sure to visit nearby Big Hole National Battlefield and Visitors Center (above), a memorial to the battle of the Big Hole between the U.S. Army and the Nez Perce.

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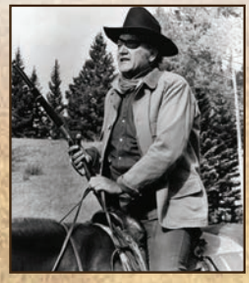

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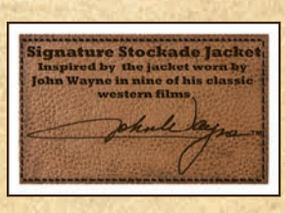


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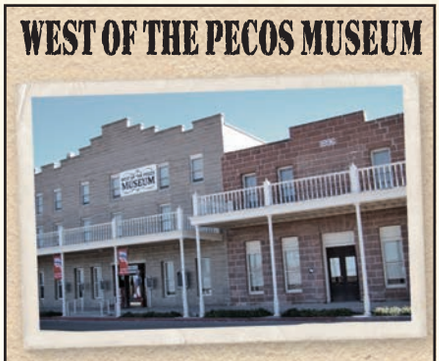
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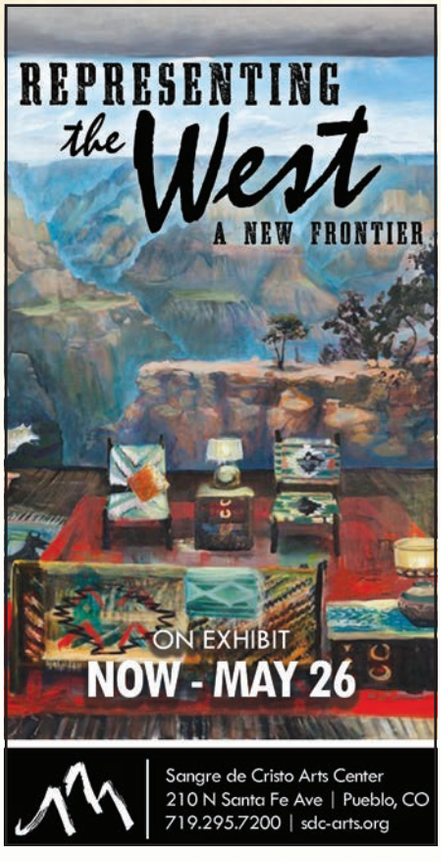
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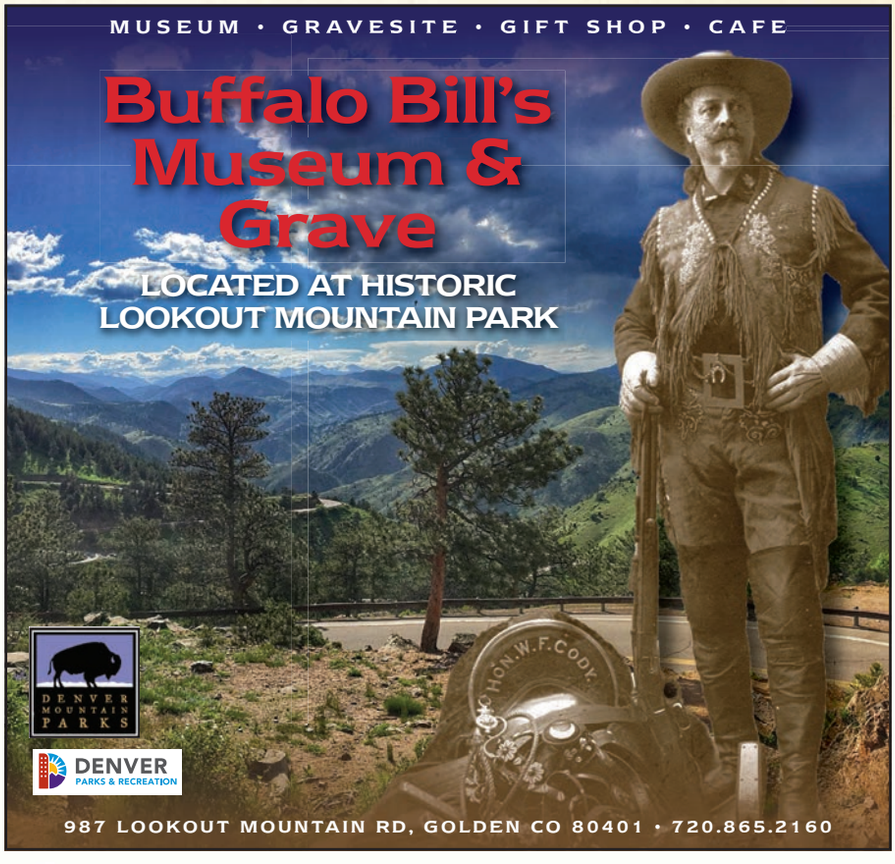
# MUSEUMS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE











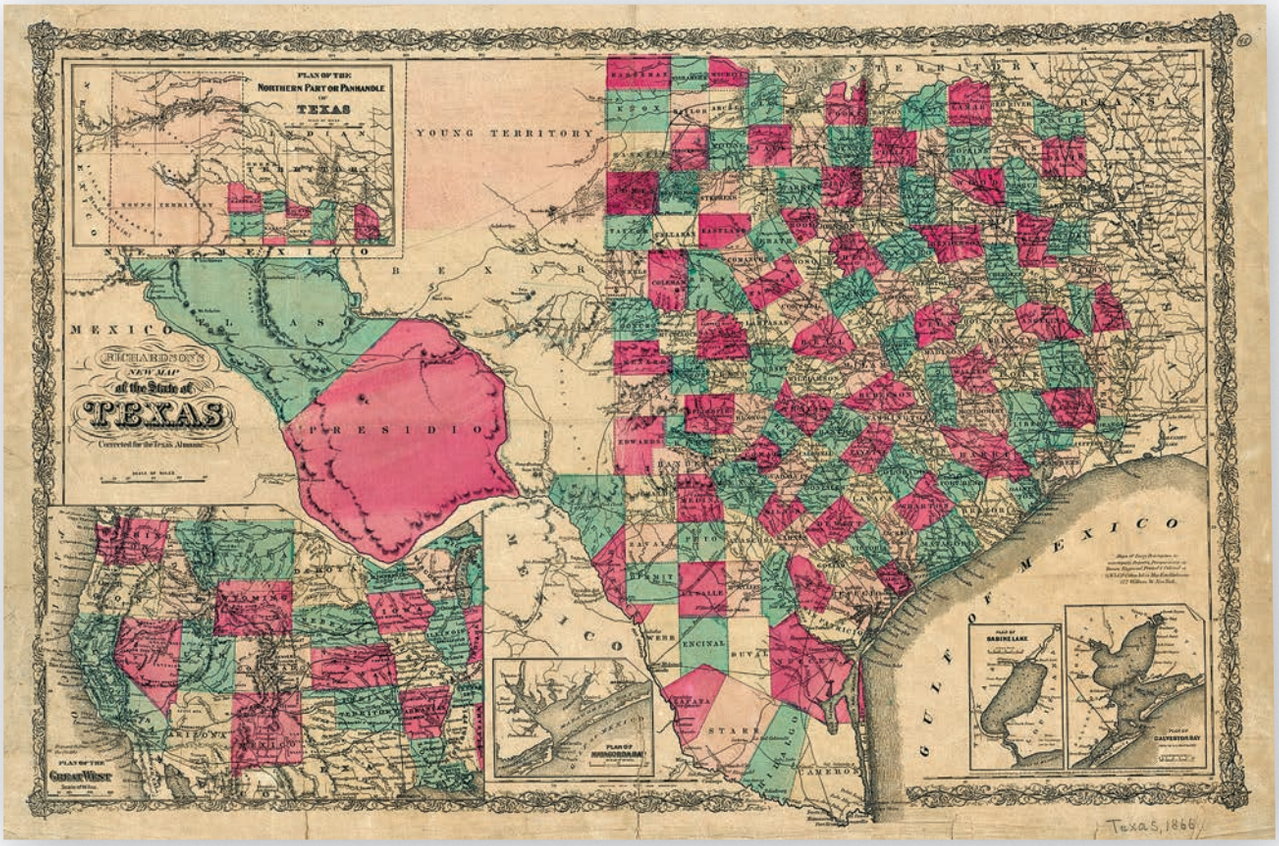
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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

BY JIM WILSON

# The Lone Star Line

## Following the Butterfield Overland Company's trail across Texas is a history-filled adventure.




In 1866, five years after the Civil War forced the closure of the Southern route of the Butterfield Overland Stage Line, new Army forts and settlements, from the Red River to the Rio Grande, were bolstering the strategic route to the American Southwest.

–COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS –

Prior to the Civil War, it was realized that an efficient way to deliver the mail and passengers across the country was needed. In 1857, the U.S. Congress authorized the postmaster to contract for just such a service. In that same year, he sealed an agreement with John Butterfield to provide a stagecoach service that would make the run from Missouri to California by the quickest route that could be found. With that act, the Butterfield Overland Mail Service was born.

John Butterfield was an Englishman who had been raised in New York State. Bringing 37 years of experience in the stagecoach industry, Butterfield quickly set out to acquire the coaches, teams and drivers needed to cross the continent. And, of course, one of the first tasks was to plot out the quickest route to the West Coast. A large portion of the new stagecoach route would be through the state of Texas, with its great variety of geography and other challenges. Although the Butterfield Company slightly changed and modified its routes over the years, we can get a good idea of what the journey was like by looking at some of the known stage stops along the way.

From Missouri, the Butterfield Overland Mail Service ran down through Arkansas and the Indian Territory, entering Texas near the town of Sherman. Sherman sits in the Post Oak Country of northeast Texas, not far from Dallas. Much of that area is black-land farm country even today.

Leaving Sherman, the Butterfield route headed west by southwest through Cooke and Wise counties towards the cowtown of Jacksboro. This region was part of what the old-timers called the Rolling Prairie and is actually part of the southern plains region. From this point on, not only would water



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be a scarcer commodity, but the stage line would also face the threat of attack from the Comanches who, in the 1850s, were still a force to be reckoned with.

This is probably the reason that the next stop for Butterfield's stages would be at Fort Belknap, some 37 miles west. Fort Belknap was one of the early frontier forts established to protect settlers from Indian depredations. Today, the old fort is a state historical park and one that is well worth visiting.

## Crossing the Chihuahuan Desert

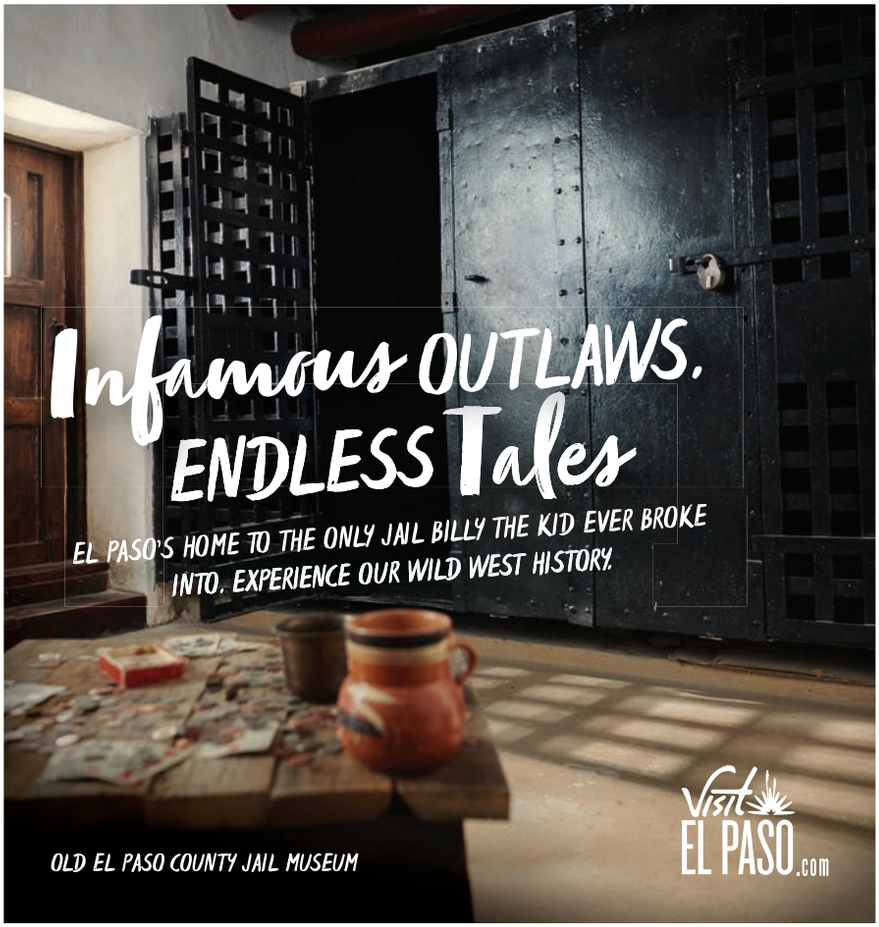
From Fort Belknap the stage route turned in a more southwesterly direction towards the town of Carlsbad near the Concho River and present-day San Angelo. This area is actually in the northeast corner of the greater Chihuahuan Desert. From here on out to El Paso, locating water would be as great a concern as the Indian threat. A historic highlight of modern-day San Angelo is Fort Concho, a National Historic Landmark founded in 1867. A tour of the site's 23 historic buildings and museum provides the visitor with a window into frontier life in Texas after the Civil War.

Up to about this point in its journey across Texas, the Butterfield Overland Mail Service made use of stagecoaches that were similar in every way to those that we see today in movies and television. That is, the coaches were constructed with wood sides, doors on each side, and padded seats. These coaches were supported on the chassis by tough leather straps instead of leaf springs, as some might expect. Six or eight horses usually drew the stages.

Often, the horses and mules used to pull the stages were not very well broken to the task at hand. Some stage passengers wrote of experiencing half-broke animals being hooked to the stages and, once all were aboard, being turned loose to tear off as fast as they could run. As one can imagine, some pretty exciting stage











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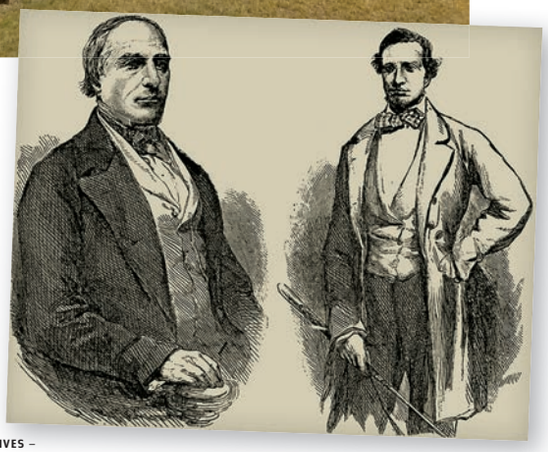
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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY





Fort Belknap in Newcastle, Texas, was founded in 1851. The outpost was the northernmost post in a string of Army posts across the Texas frontier, which John Butterfield Sr. and his son John Jr. (right, l.–r.) would have stopped at on their initial ride West in September 1858. Today, Fort Belknap is a popular park, with free admission to the public, featuring a handful of restored buildings, including the commissary.

– IMAGES COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

wrecks also occurred as a result. All of which points out that stage travel on the frontier was not for the faint of heart.

In this part of the state, due to the rougher terrain found in southwest Texas, Butterfield began using what manufacturers called a stage wagon; and others called it a mud wagon. The stage wagon had open sides and was about 60 percent lighter weight than the stagecoach. In addition to the change in coaches, the terrain also called for the use of mules because of their reputation for toughness and sure-footedness. But, according to some early memoirs, the mules weren't any better broken than the horses. It was often still a wild ride.

In this western part of Texas, the Butterfield also used water wagons to haul water to the stations that did not have a nearby source. In some locations, earthen tanks were dug to provide a supply of water for horses and passengers. In other areas, cisterns were built to hold the water.

## West of the Pecos

From Carlsbad, on the Concho River, the stage line pushed on to the next reliable source of water, the Pecos River. The route crossed the Pecos at the fabled Horsehead Crossing in the general vicinity of the present-day town of McCamey. In those days before flood-control dams, the Pecos River was a real challenge and could only be crossed in certain locations, with Horsehead Crossing being the most commonly used along the southern route. Sadly, today, the exact location of Horsehead Crossing is unknown.



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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY



The Fort Griffin Fandango is held every year in Albany, Texas, in celebration of the city's Western heritage and role in the settlement of Texas and the growth of the country, including the Butterfield Overland Stage Line.

– WATT CASEY JR., COURTESY ALBANY, TEXAS, CVB –

Pushing southwest, the Butterfield's next stop was at another frontier Army post. This time it was Fort Stockton, located at Comanche Springs, a favorite stop for the Comanches on their raids into Mexico. Fort Stockton, now a thriving west Texas town, is on the east edge of the Big Bend region of the state, so-named because the Rio Grande, south of there, makes a huge bend on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. One of the favorite stops in Fort Stockton was the Annie Riggs Hotel, which still exists and is a very interesting historic site. Don't miss a tour of Historic Fort Stockton, which is owned by the city and managed by the Fort Stockton Historical Society.

Continuing to push to the Southwest, the mules pulling the stage wagons really began to earn their keep as they climbed into the Davis Mountains and headed for another frontier military post at Fort Davis, some 5,000 feet above sea level. In modern times, this old Army post has been renovated by the National Park Service and managed as a National Historic Site. With regularly scheduled re-enactments and docents in period



Following the Civil War, Fort Concho, now a National Historic Landmark and living history center, was built in 1867 on the North Concho River to replace Fort Chadbourne, which had served the Butterfield line 40 miles to the north, but proved unsustainable because of an insufficient water supply.

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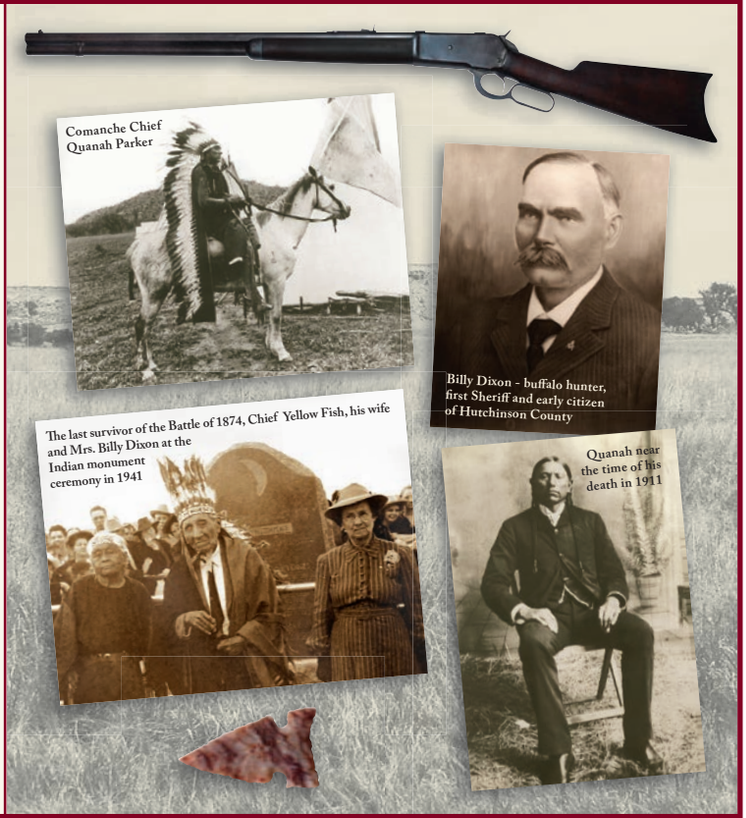
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The Army built Fort Stockton in early 1859 at Comanche Springs, a strategic source of crossroad water in the Chihuahuan Desert of southwestern Texas. The Butterfield stagecoaches regularly stopped at the fort for meals, water and supplies.

–MODERN PHOTO OF FORT STOCKTON BY RICK COLLINS/HISTORIC PHOTO OF FORT STOCKTON COURTESY TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



uniform, Fort Davis is a very popular tourist destination, especially for historians interested in the life and times of a frontier outpost.

## West to El Paso

From Fort Davis on west, the Butterfield Overland Mail Service tended to travel the same route as our modern Interstate 10. It stopped at Fort Quitman in the southern part of what is now Hudspeth County. Sadly, this is one of the frontier forts that has gone to ruin and is not available for tourist visitation.

Moving up the Rio Grande, one of the next stops for stage passengers was the village of San Elizario. Today, San Elizario offers historic walking tours of the town and a chance to visit one of the few Butterfield stage stations that still exists. From there it was an easy ride into El Paso. And, at that point, the Butterfield Overland Mail Service left Texas and continued on to San Francisco, across southern New Mexico and Arizona.

During its years of operation, the Butterfield made a point of only carrying passengers and the U.S. mail, specifically shunning shipments of money, jewelry or other bullion that would attract stage robbers. For this reason, the company also rarely, if ever, used shotgun guards to ride the stagecoaches, although passengers were encouraged to be armed while traveling through Comanche and Apache country. Surprisingly, the Butterfield boasted that it never had a passenger killed by outlaws or Indians. However, legend has it that they did lose a few customers in stagecoach wrecks.

With the onset of the Civil War, the route of the Butterfield line was moved out of Texas to avoid Confederate confiscation. The Butterfield was absorbed into other companies as time went on. And, with the eventual coming of the transcontinental railroad, all stagecoach service from coast to coast was no longer needed. After that, stagecoaches were only used to get passengers to the nearest railhead, or between towns with no rail service.

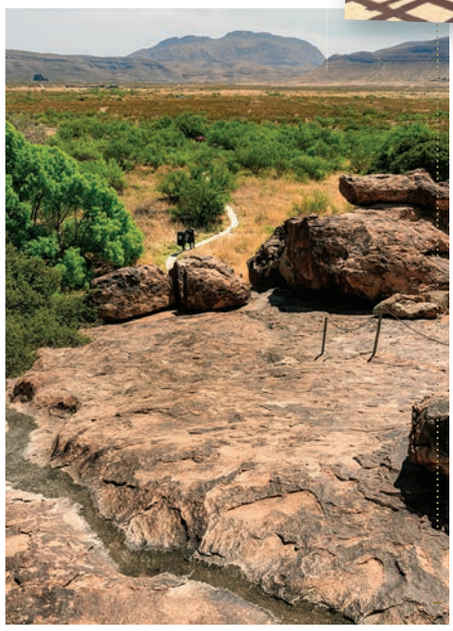
Nevertheless, operating from 1857 to 1861, the Butterfield Overland Mail Service became an indelible part of the history of the American West.

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




In the late 1750s and early 1760s, the Spanish established the historic community of San Elizario (above) east of El Paso. After the Mexican-American War, the mission town was the original El Paso County seat and became a key way stop for 49ers, soldiers, freighters and Butterfield Overland Stage travelers.

– COURTESY VISITELPASO.COM –



East of El Paso, Heuco Tanks State Historic Site (left) protects historic and cultural sites of the most important water stop between the Pecos River and El Paso. The Butterfield Overland Stage Line had a station in the tanks the first year of operation before moving it south along the roadway to San Elizario for better water and military protection.

– COURTESY TEXAS TOURISM –



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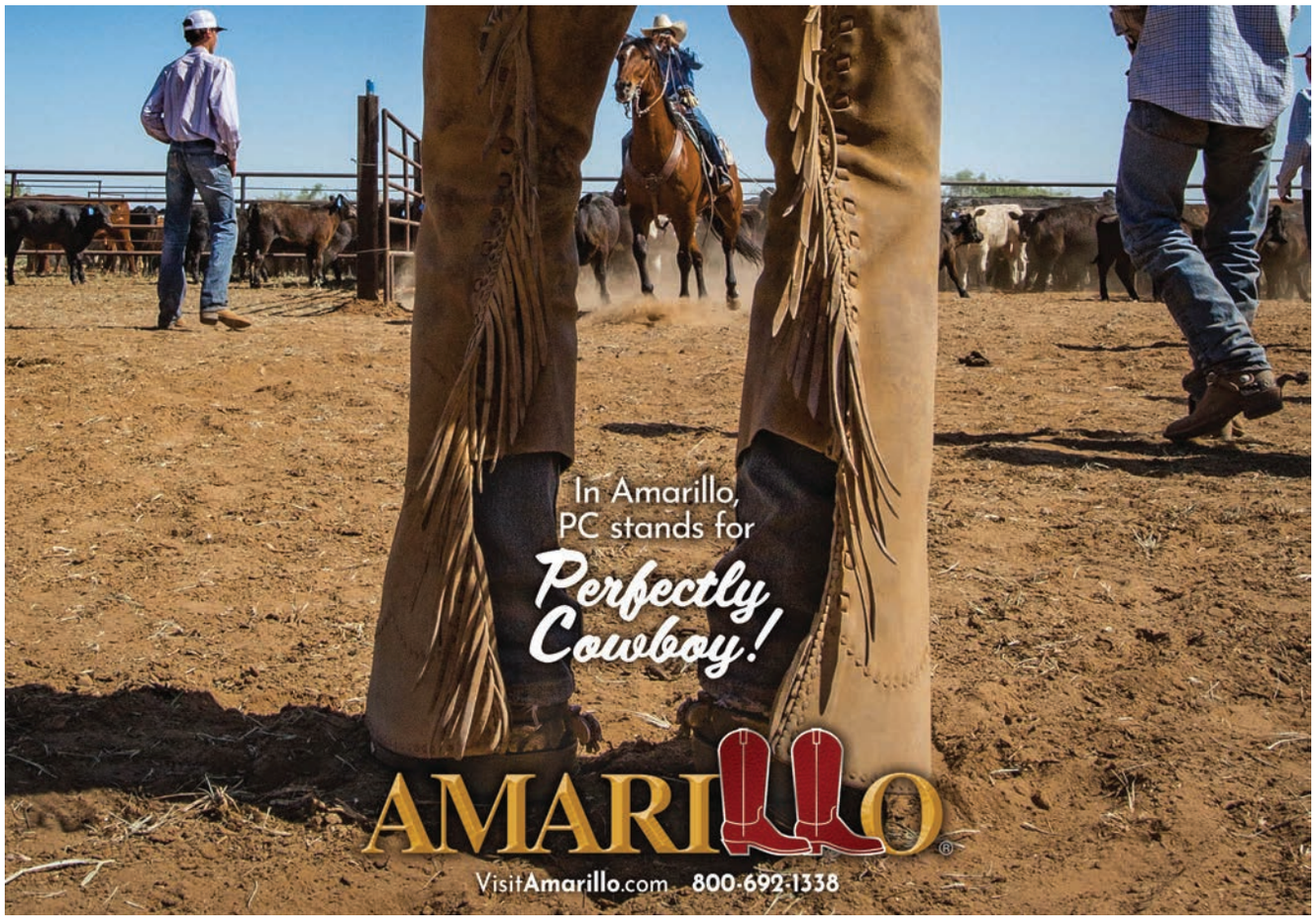
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# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD



– COURTESY MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND –

Alpine, Texas, began as a popular camping ground for ranchers and travelers. By 1882, it was also a tent city for railroad workers who called their impromptu village Osborne. A short time later, when the railroad decided to making it a watering station along its line, the name was changed to Murphyville, honoring the family on whose land the water was located. In 1888, the town gained the name Alpine, due to the fact that it sits at some 4,800 feet in the foothills of the Davis Mountains.

Today, Alpine continues as big ranch country, a railroad terminus and the home of Sul Ross University and the world-class Museum of the Big Bend (above). The high-desert city is often referred to as the Hub of the Big Bend because it is centrally located for those who want to visit Fort Davis, Marathon, Marfa and Big Bend National Park. It is also the home of the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering, the second-oldest such gathering in the country. Alpine sits in the part of Texas that looks like the Texas that most folks have seen in Western movies, most of which were filmed in Arizona.

## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GOOD GRUB: The Library Bar & Grill,** *Sherman*; **Red Rock Saloon**, *Sherman*; **Prime Cut Steakhouse**, *Jacksboro*; **Miss Hattie's Café and Saloon**, *San Angelo*; **Mi Casita Mexican Restaurant**, *Fort Stockton*; **Fort Davis Drugstore & Hotel**, *Fort Davis*; **Reata Restaurant**, *Alpine*; **Casita Linda Mexican Restaurant**, *El Paso*

**GOOD LODGING: Granny Lou's Bed & Breakfast**, *Sherman*; **Inn at the Art Center**, *San Angelo*; **Hampton Inn**, *Fort Stockton*; **Hotel Limpia**, *Fort Davis*; **Indian Lodge**, *Fort Davis*; **The Holland Hotel**, *Alpine*; **Camino Real Hotel El Paso**, *El Paso*





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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

BY CANDY MOULTON

# Mormon Handcart Tracks Across Wyoming

*Travel the length of the Cowboy State and discover the history behind one of the nation's great religious migrations.*

Westbound pioneers driving their wagons across the landscape left deep ruts and shallow swales on their routes as they headed toward the opportunity for free land in Oregon Territory, toward potential riches in the goldfields of California and to a land of religious freedom in Utah. Beginning in 1841 and continuing through the Civil War era, these pioneers traveled the Oregon, California and Mormon trails. The routes had many starting and ending points, but a common area was the funnel as they all crossed Wyoming, most going over the South Pass of the Rockies.

While we often think everybody went west, the truth is after the first few years of overland travel, many also came from the West. And the pioneer image, familiar to all trails, is of wagons being pulled by oxen, mules or horses; with men using packhorses while heading quickly to goldfields.

During a short period of overland trail migration, for economic reasons, travelers used their own power to make the journey. At least 2,927 foreign immigrants from England, Scandinavia, Ireland and other European locales made the trip on foot, pushing and pulling small two-wheeled handcarts carrying their goods. These handcart pioneers were Mormons converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by missionaries to their home countries. They desired to relocate to the church headquarters in Great Salt Lake City, but most had few resources—certainly not enough money to purchase teams and wagons—and they readily agreed to take part in the handcart migration Church President Brigham Young launched in 1855 and began in 1856.

Using handcarts, Young believed, "They can come just as quick, if not quicker, and much cheaper—can start earlier and escape the prevailing sickness which annually lays so many of our brethren in the dust. A great majority of them walk now, even with the teams which are provided."

## Overland from Iowa City in 1856

Five companies of handcarts set off from Iowa City, Iowa, during early and mid-summer in 1856 traveling to Utah. The last two companies to head west that year left




The Mormon handcart pioneers of 1856 followed the national overland trail across the rugged territory of Wyoming just as emigrants to Oregon and California had before them.

– MAP COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, CIRCA 1883 –

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Today, Fort Laramie National Historic Site (above) is a key living history center on the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail across Wyoming, but in 1856 Fort Laramie (right, circa 1866) did not have affordable provisions or supplies to share or sell the Latter-day Saints handcart families.

– MODERN PHOTO OF FORT LARAMIE COURTESY NPS.GOV/ HISTORIC IMAGE OF FORT LARAMIE BY RIDGWAY GLOVER COURTESY MET –

the Midwest too late in the season and found themselves in Wyoming in October, when severe snowstorms and cold weather created unbearable traveling conditions, leading to extreme challenges, the deaths of hundreds of travelers and the need for rescue parties from Salt Lake City to help the overdue Willie and Martin Companies to reach Utah.

From 1857 until 1860 another five handcart companies also took to the trail. Every group included families ranging from newborn babies to elderly grandparents. Despite their true and faithful desire to reach Utah, almost all faced severe challenges due to the physical demands of following the trail with a handcart.

Imagine taking your own family and setting off on this journey across Wyoming. Fort Laramie is the first physical post handcart pioneers saw in Wyoming. The frontier fort served fur trappers and traders, and then became a military post in 1849. For many travelers it was an essential place to rest and resupply, but Mormon trains usually avoided the fort, whose sutlers seldom had provisions. The fort stands today, operating as a national historic site that interprets not only the period of overland migration, but also the fur trade, frontier military and American Indian history of the region. For travelers today, it is easy to see the trail traces as they lead into and away from the fort grounds.

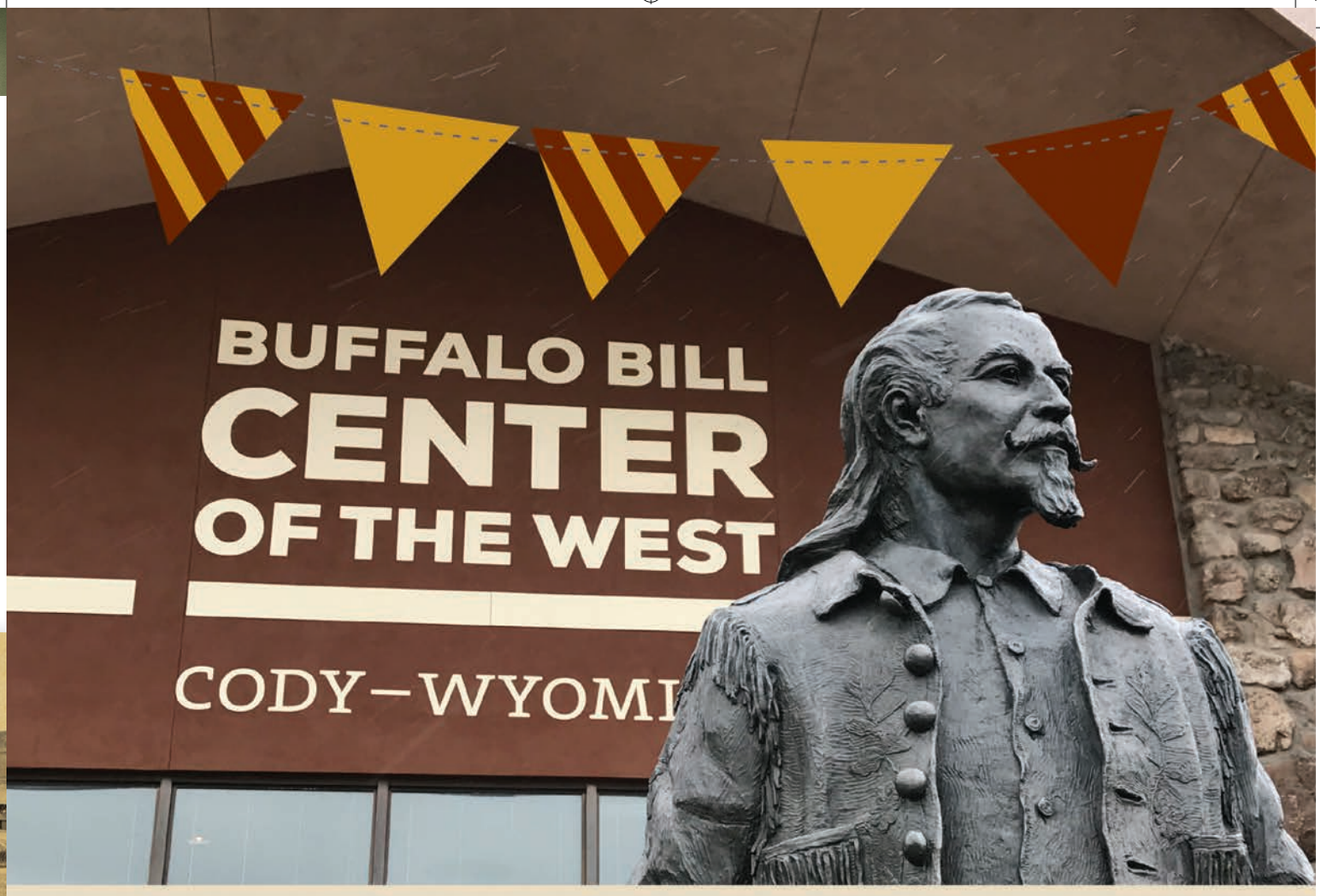
## Fort Laramie to Fort Caspar

Head west from Fort Laramie. You can follow trail markers or use the National Park Service auto tour guide to stay on the route. Take U.S. 26 west and I-25 north. This route passes former Mormon Trail sites including Horseshoe Station and Deer Creek, plus Rock in the Glen (today's Glenrock).

In 1857, the second year of handcart travel, the Mormon Church made changes to the travel plan. The church started its mail delivery service, the Brigham Young Express and Carrying Company, and established stations for assistance to LDS



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In October 1856, Mormon handcart pioneers followed the overland trail along the south bank of the North Platte River from Fort Laramie to the Platte Bridge, future site of Fort Caspar. Today, visitors can walk across a facsimile of the bridge at Fort Caspar Museum in Casper.

– COURTESY GATES FRONTIERS FUND WYOMING COLLECTION WITHIN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

church members journeying overland. At Horseshoe Creek, a day's travel west of Fort Laramie, eighteen "brethren from the Valley" built houses to serve travelers. Farther west, at Deer Creek, another 60 Mormons under the direction of Nathaniel V. Jones made a new settlement of log houses in a fort-like fortress. The newly constructed outpost was abandoned the year it was built, however, when the Army approached Utah, intending to install a new governor to replace Brigham Young.

Like other overland routes, the Mormon Trail crosses the North Platte River for the final time at present-day Casper. The 1847 Mormon Pioneer Company left men behind to build a ferry across the North Platte that would serve Mormons and other travelers for years. By the time the handcart companies were in the area in 1856, a bridge was in place over the river, built by John Baptiste Richard (Reshaw).

A replica of Reshaw's Bridge is at a small town park in Evansville, just below the Oregon Trail Veterans Cemetery. When the 1856 Willie Company came to the site, they found some rough log huts Richard had built and 37 buffalo robes left for their use by Mormon missionary Franklin Richards. Willie's party traveled on another five miles before fording the river near the site that would become Platte Bridge Station. This location later became Fort Caspar, and is currently a historic site with








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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY



Today, Independence Rock is a state historic site; in October 1856, the central Wyoming landmark along the Sweetwater River west of Caspar was a fair-weather campsite for Mormon pioneers.

– COURTESY NPS.GOV –

an interpretive center and replica fort structures, including a ferry similar to the one the Mormons built in 1847.

All handcart companies stopped at Reshaw's post seeking supplies, then continued westward and forded the North Platte before striking out on the trail toward the Sweetwater River and Independence Rock. Learn about the trail and the last crossing, as well as the story of the Martin Handcart Company, at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper.

## Handcart Ranch on the Sweetwater

For an opportunity to actually push/pull a handcart on the trail, head to the Handcart Ranch, 60 miles west of Casper near Devil's Gate. This historic site is now owned by the LDS Church and provides access to an area called Martin's Cove (federal lands under lease to the church), where members of the Martin Handcart Company became stranded in October 1856. An interpretive center in the old Tom Sun Ranch house provides insight into the handcart migration, but anyone can take a handcart and walk the trail, ford the Sweetwater River and learn firsthand what it is like to walk in the footsteps of these determined pioneers.






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# Sheridan
WYOMING

## EXPERIENCE SHERIDAN'S HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS IN 48 HOURS

**Day 1.** Experience the industrial west at the **Nelson Inn (2),** Sheridan's newest boutique hotel. The suites sleep four to six people, and feature vintage charm, modern lines, and highlight a chic interplay between pure form and function. After breakfast take a drive to the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, the site of the 1876 battle between Custer's 7th Cavalry and a combined Lakota-Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho force. Return to Sheridan and enjoy the old west marvels at the Don King Museum. The museum features rare firearms, horse-drawn hearses, an old west photo archive, a vast collection of hand-crafted saddles, ropes and leather work, Indian artifacts, and much more.

Before dinner, tour the **Trail End State Historic Site (4).** Built in Flemish Revival style, the Trail End mansion provides an elegantly different vision of Sheridan's rich and colorful history. Sit down for supper at Wyoming Cattle & Creek or **birch Restaurant (3)** for a taste of wild Wyoming fare or fine western dining, respectively. **Day 2.** Rise to beat the crowds of history buffs and tour Indian battle sites and former military posts, including the **Rosebud and Connor Battlefields**, the site of the **Wagon Box Fight,** and finally picturesque **Fort Phil Kearny,** located on the **Bozeman Trail.** The new Skylab at Fort Phil is a thrill for stargazers. Plan to spend a few hours exploring **The Brinton Museum (5)** in Big Horn for a look at one of the most robust collections of Indian and western artifacts in the United States.

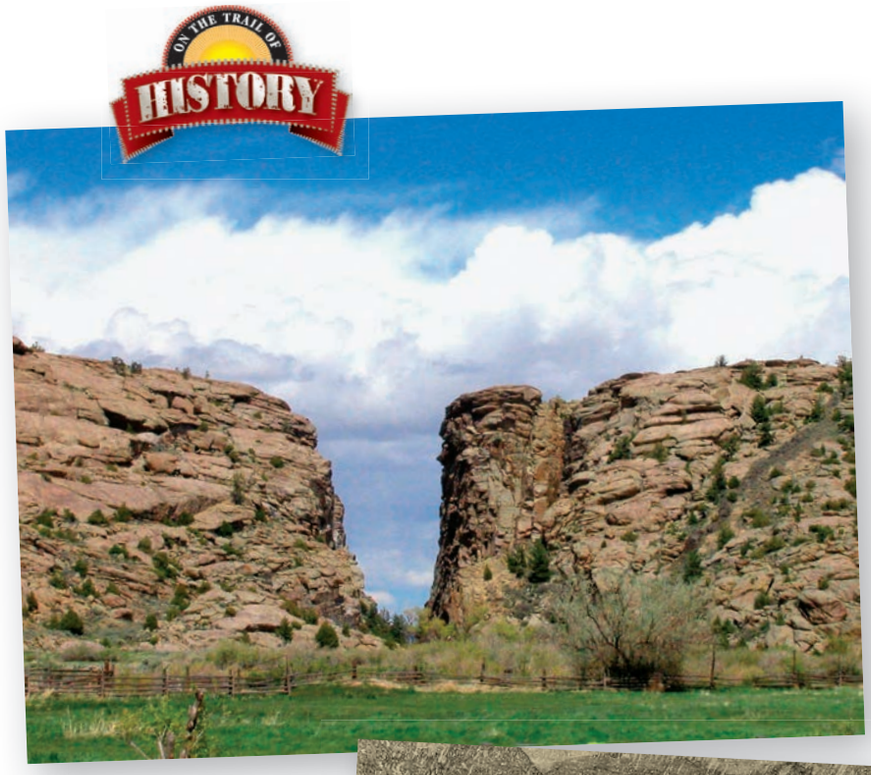
Save plenty of time to shop Historic Downtown Sheridan. Visit Crazy Woman Trading Co., High Mountain Mercantile, Sheridan Stationery and Books, Tom Balding Bits and Spurs, the Bozeman Gallery, Brian's Boots and other western-centric boutiques and galleries. Downtown Sheridan features incredible public art, beautifully restored historic buildings, and the iconic **WYO Theater (1),** opened in 1923. Grab lunch at the new **Smith Alley Brewing Co. & Public House (6),** then visit the **Sheridan County Museum;** the museum boasts a vast archive of historical images, artifacts and letters, and serves as an excellent exclamation point on your tour. Enjoy Happy Hour at Blacktooth Brewery, Luminous Brewhouse or The Mint Bar. After dinner, kick up your boots on the porch of the Historic Sheridan Inn the way Buffalo Bill once did, and watch the sun set on your time in Sheridan. For additional itineraries, history and tall tales of the icons and outlaws of Sheridan visit us at **sheridanwyoming.org.**

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This historic property was once the Sheridan Flouring Mills, a company that owned 13 grain elevators from Hardin, MT to Gillette, WY and was once the largest tax payer in Wyoming. The original mill was established in the early 1890's but was destroyed by fire. The current Coffeen Ave structure was built in 1919. The Moody family purchased and renovated the property in 1992 with an eye on historic preservation and restoration. *The Best Rest Out West* has been a reality for visitors to Sheridan ever since. sheridanmillinn.com








In October and November 1956, the Willie Company of the Mormon handcart train (left) struggled through deadly winter conditions, traveling back and forth across the Sweetwater River near Devil's Gate.

– DEVIL'S GATE PHOTO COURTESY NPS.GOV/ ILLUSTRATION OF HAND CART PIONEERS COURTESY UTAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY –

Farther west, where the trail crossed the Sweetwater River for the sixth time, and near where the 1856 Willie Company became mired in cold and snow before being rescued by men from Salt Lake City, a new interpretive center also shares the story of the handcart migration; this telling is based on the experiences of the Thomas Moulton family, who left England in May 1856, and reached Utah in November that year.

## South Pass to Fort Bridger

South Pass, the key to overland migration routes, lies to the west and it is possible to follow the trails over the pass by walking or driving. For those less adventuresome, drive U.S. 287 north then U.S. 28 west to cross the pass and then continue across the Red Desert to Fort Bridger, a trading post built to serve travelers after 1842. This is now a state historic site with a replica of Jim Bridger's original trading post, and other authentic military-era buildings. An archaeological excavation outlines the foundation of the fort's period of Mormon ownership.

As you travel this handcart trail, leave the snacks behind and let your children understand the difficulties the travelers faced. With only small carts, the handcart immigrants simply could not haul all the food they needed for survival. They were not good hunters, though they did manage to harvest a few bison, sage chickens and catch some fish in the creeks and rivers. But most went hungry much of the time.

After leaving Devil's Gate and traveling through the Sweetwater River, one pioneer wrote:

"The people are geting weak, and failing very fast. A greate many Sick. Our teams are als[o] failing fast and it requires great exertion to make any progress."









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ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

The children began chewing on strips of rawhide pulled from the handcart wheels or the boots of people who died. They stripped bark from willow trees and gnawed on it, trying to ease the hunger in their bellies.

John Oborn, who was 12 that year, wrote:

"We resorted to eating anything that could be chewed; even bark and leaves of trees. We youngsters ate the rawhide from our boots."

Despite the disastrous crossings of Willie and Martin—the worst single disasters encountered by any overland travelers—the church continued supporting the handcarts. From 1857 until 1860 another five companies of people from the British Isles and Scandinavian countries trudged the trail with their two-wheeled carts. More would die, but most safely reached Utah.

**Candy Moulton** is the author of *The Mormon Handcart Migration: "Neither Tounge Nor Pen Can Tell The Story,"* newly released from the University of Oklahoma Press. She traveled with the Mormon Trail Sesquicentennial Wagon Train in 1997, pushing and pulling a handcart for part of the journey.

# WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD



– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

## SOUTH PASS CITY

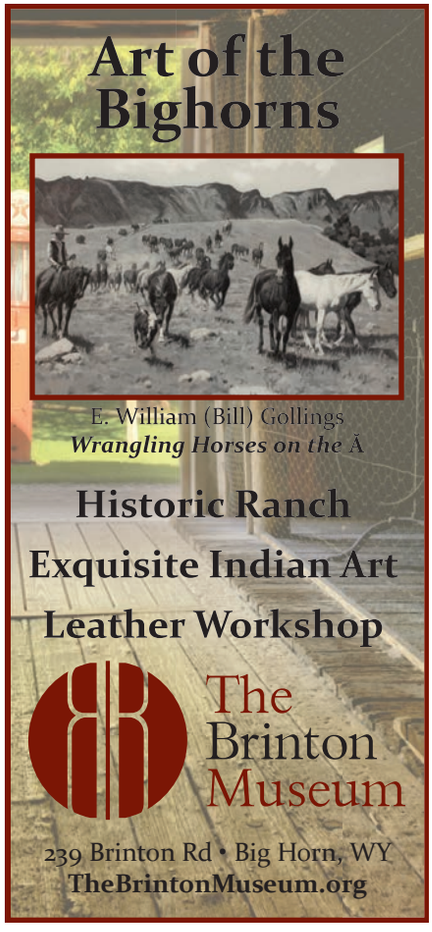
Just below the lip of South Pass is Wyoming's best-preserved ghost town–South Pass City (above)–and it's not a true ghost town because the curator for the state historic site lives there. This gold mining town was established in 1867 at the end of the trail era by men who had traveled the trail seeking gold in California and remembered deposits of the precious mineral they had seen in this area.

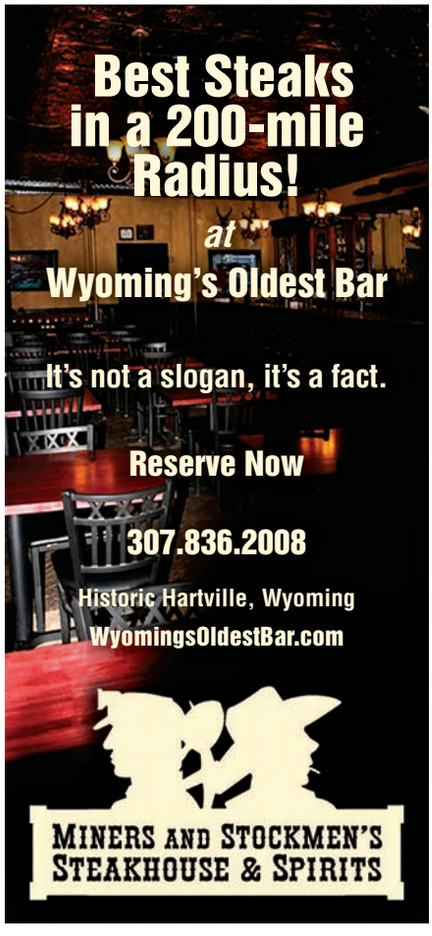
This year South Pass City marks an important milestone with the 150th anniversary of Woman Suffrage in Wyoming because it was in this mining camp that Esther Hobart Morris pushed the suffrage proposal that became law in Wyoming Territory on December 9, 1869. The territorial legislature also provided other opportunities for women to serve on juries and in the court. In 1870, Morris became the first female justice of the peace in the United States when she was appointed to the position to replace J. W. Stillman in South Pass City.

## GOOD EATS AND SLEEPS

**GRUB: Lira's,** *Lingle*; **Eggington's Restaurant**, *Casper*; **Gannett Grill**, *Lander*; **Crazy Ate Café & Steakhouse**, *Mountain View*

**LODGING: Holiday Inn Express**, *Torrington*; **Hampton Inn and Suites**, *Casper*; **Miner's Delight Inn Bed & Breakfast**, *Atlantic City*



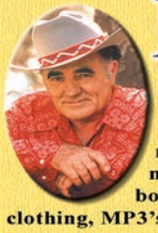






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# TRADING POST

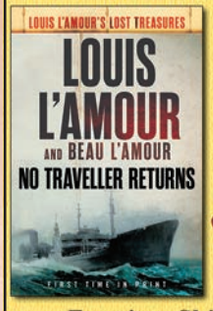

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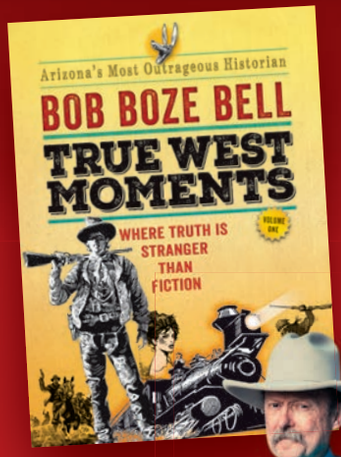
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# Western Roundup

## FOR APRIL 2019

### ADVENTURE

#### 1836 CHUCKWAGON RACE

Neches, TX, April 22-28: Watch wagon races, plus enjoy trail rides, Dutch Oven cooking classes, cowboy poetry and cowboy mounted shooting.
903-721-9111 • *1836ChuckwagonRace.com*

### ART SHOWS

#### ILLUSTRATOR SHOW "LAKOTA EMERGENCE"

Big Horn, WY, April 1-21: The Brinton's 14th Illustrator Show takes on a new form with the 2019 exhibit featuring American Indian art.
307-673-3173 • *TheBrintonMuseum.org*

#### COWGIRL UP! EXHIBITION

Wickenburg, AZ, April 1-30: The annual exhibition showcases the brightest contemporary female artists working in the Western genre.
928-684-2272 • *WesternMuseum.org*

#### 33RD ANNUAL TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS

Alpine, TX, April 11-13: 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*

### AUCTION

#### SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

Scottsdale, AZ, April 6: More than 350 lots of the finest in Western, wildlife and sporting paintings and sculptures will be offered in the auction's state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Old Town Scottsdale.
480-945-0225 • *ScottsdaleArtAuction.com*

### FRONTIER FARE

#### PIONEER VILLAGE DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF

Gonzales, TX, April 27: The 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*

### HERITAGE FESTIVALS

#### WILD WEST STEAM FEST

Santa Ana, CA, April 6-7: The sixth annual festival includes a chili cook-off, live music, gunfights, presentations, tours and more.
714-540-0404 • *WildWestSteamfest.com*

#### 60TH ANNUAL ARIZONA HISTORY CONVENTION

Prescott, AZ, April 11-13: *True West*'s Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell and other historians give presentations about Arizona's cowboy history.
520-628-5774 • *ArizonaHistory.org*

#### ROSE TREE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Tombstone, AZ, April 12-14: The blooming of the "World's Largest Rose Tree," planted in 1885, is celebrated with a parade and folklorico dances.
520-457-3326 • *TombstoneChamber.com*

#### FIESTA SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio, TX, April 18-28: Old San Antonio and Old Mexico celebrations include fandangos, art shows and a pilgrimage to the Alamo mission.
877-273-4378 • *Fiesta-SA.org*

#### WILD, WILD WEST FEST

Andrews, TX, April 19-20: Celebrate Western heritage with cowboy mounted shooting demonstrations and a BBQ cook-off.
432-523-2695 • *WildWildWestFest.com*

#### ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Nebraska City, NE, April 26: 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*











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*Coyanosa*, a 15" x 25" oil painting by Alice Leese, will be featured at the Museum of the Big Bend's 33rd Annual Trappings of Texas in Alpine, Texas, April 11-13.



## MUSIC & POETRY

### LLANO FIDDLE FEST

Llano, TX, April 5-7: Texas musicians of the past are celebrated in a competition featuring some of the best fiddlers from Texas and beyond.
325-247-5354 • *LlanoFiddleFest.com*

### DURANGO BLUEGRASS MELTDOWN

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970-335-9771 • *DurangoMeltdown.com*

## POW WOWS

### ANNUAL GATHERING OF NATIONS POW WOW

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505-836-2810 • *VisitAlbuquerque.org*

## RODEOS & STOCK SHOWS

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Bandera, TX, April 13: See mutton busting, mini broncs, cash scramble, mini bull riding, open bull riding, saddle bronc and bareback competitions.
830-796-3045 • *BanderaCowboyCapital.com*








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# Who Shot Heywood?




**Marshall Trimble** is Arizona's official historian and the Wild West History Association's vice president. His latest book is 2018's *Arizona Oddities: A Land of Anomalies and Tamales*. Send your question, with your city/state of residence, to marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu or Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327.

**In the September 2018 issue of *True West*, the excellent article on the James-Younger Gang's attempt to rob the Northfield, Minnesota, bank doesn't say who shot cashier Joseph Heywood. Who did it?**

*Dr. Ron Nierenberg*
*Marietta, Georgia*


– COURTESY NORTHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY –

**Joseph Heywood**

There are different opinions about who was in the bank. Marley Brant, a noted Younger brothers authority, says Frank and Jesse James and Bob Younger entered the bank, while Bill Stiles (Bill Chadwell), Jim Younger and Charlie Pitts provided cover at the bridge. Cole Younger and Clell Miller were in the street for crowd control. But the late Ted Yeatman, an expert on the James boys, says Pitts was in the bank with Frank James and Bob Younger, and Jesse was outside. Descendants of the three bank tellers, Joe Heywood, Frank Wilcox and Alonzo Bunker, agree with Yeatman.

As for who shot Heywood, Cole Younger supposedly identified the killer as the man who rode a dun horse. Frank James reportedly rode such a horse that day and it's generally accepted that he fired the fatal bullet. But the evidence remains sketchy today.

**How did men and women keep their hats on when riding fast or in high wind?**

*Kenneth Williams*
*Deer Park, Texas*

Those wide-brimmed hats could be difficult. The most effective way was to use a "Stampede String" to keep their hat on their head. They would punch a hole on each side of the crown and tie it under their chin. If they had a large, wide rag they could lay it across the crown and tie it under their chin. It's also good to have a hat that fits snugly. We've found keeping your chin down makes it harder for the wind to lift off a hat, but that might not be a good idea when riding hard.

**I found a portrait of my great-great grandfather holding a cocked revolver, circa 1870s. Was that common?**

*Renae Sexton*
*Apache, Oklahoma*

Your great-great grandfather was most likely posing in a photo gallery with an unloaded pistol. The photographer might have provided the gun, as well as the clothing. There are many similar portrait photos from that period. We can't imagine anyone posing for a photograph holding a loaded, cocked revolver.

**Wranglers are seldom shown or mentioned in Westerns. Did the cowboys take turns at that or was it a full-time job during a cattle drive?**

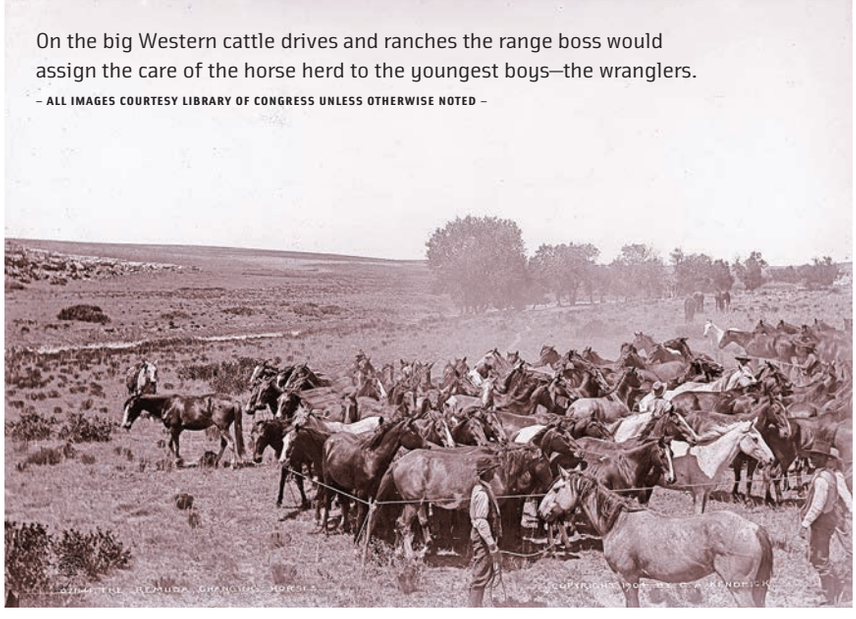
*Bill Calloway*
*Wilmington, Delaware*

Historically, the wrangler was the new guy with little experience who took care of the horse herd at the ranch, on roundups and on the trail. He was usually a youngster and had to work his way up.

**How often were wagon trains attacked by Indians?**

*Larry Runge*
*Falcon, Missouri*

It's hard to give a precise number because records are sparse. Surprisingly, considering how many wagons went West, very few faced attacks by the Indians. A well-led and disciplined train was more likely to get through without problems. The opposite was often true for small



On the big Western cattle drives and ranches the range boss would assign the care of the horse herd to the youngest boys—the wranglers.

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Newspapers sensationalized Indian attacks on wagon trains crossing the country on the Overland Trail, but they were actually much rarer than their portrayal in popular culture.



trains where discipline was lacking. The goal was to reach California, Utah or Oregon, but many were forced to turn back because their animals played out or they just gave up. Some decided to stop in Colorado or other territories and make their homes.

### Who repaired the telegraph lines if they were down and how long did it take to fix them?

*Vance Rowe*
*Gloversville, New York*

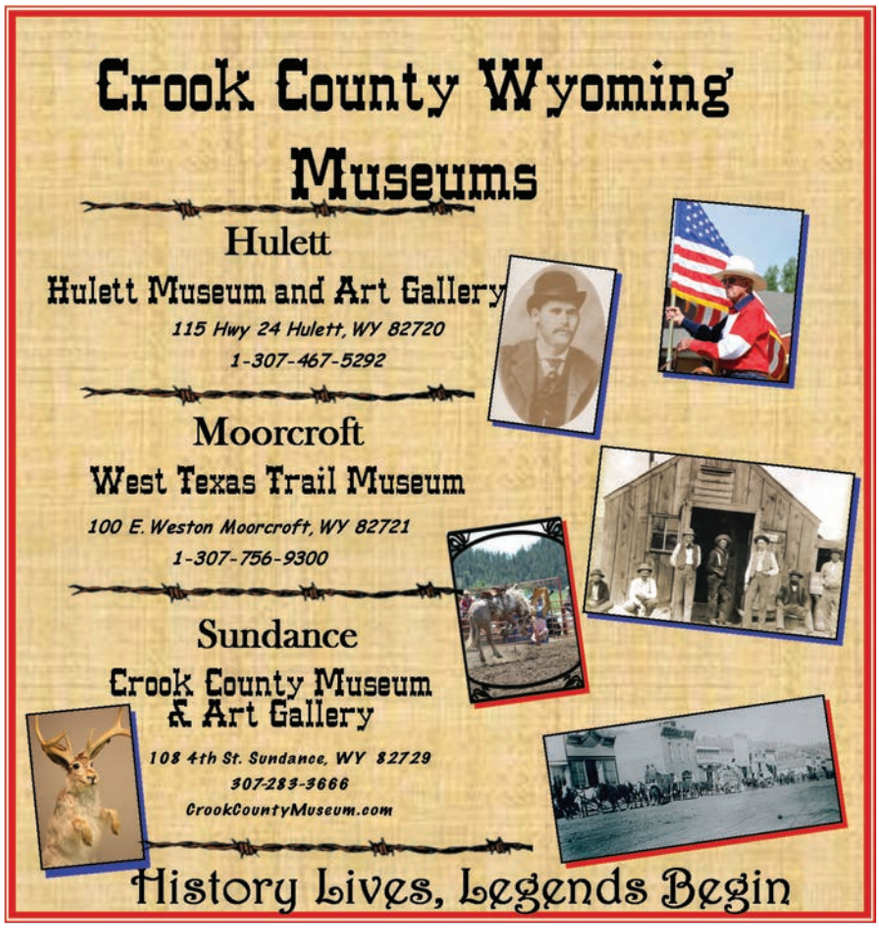
Western Union had crews stationed along the line to make repairs. Cutting a line was a common practice by outlaws after a bank robbery. Indians also took them down, sometimes because they were spooked by the humming sound of the wires.

In some cases, the Indians would cleverly cut a line in a remote area and then tie the ends together with leather and put it back up. This made the Signal Corps' crews' search for the severed line more difficult.



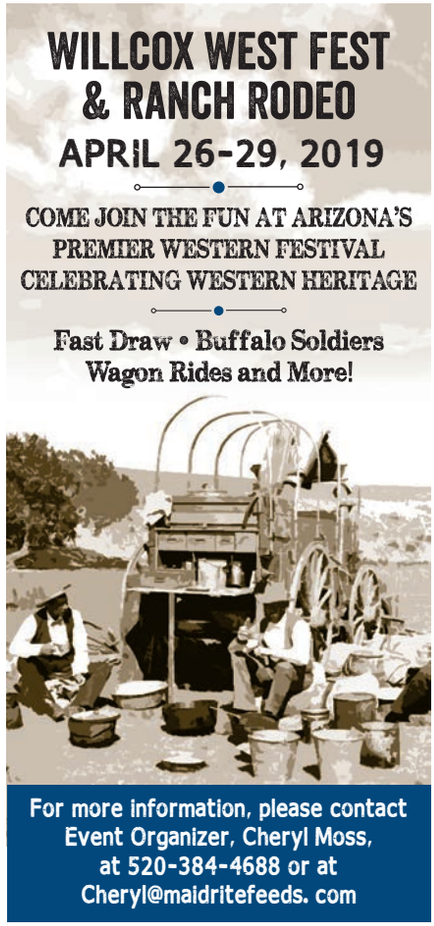
The time it took to repair the damage depended on weather, dangers and luck—but, generally, they got the telegraph up and running within a day or two.

Western Union crew members built the first line across the country in 1861, but repairs were a constant part of keeping the keys dancing coast to coast.











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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**As a kid I saved** up six hours of babysitting money every week to pay for one hour of horseback riding at a local stable.

**The hardest part of writing** is believing you've been clear, logical and charming, only to have a copy editor show you how wrong you are.

**Don't get me started** on current events.

**Not many people know** that while I seem very easygoing, I have my limits. Lie to me or hurt one of my friends, and I will never forgive you. Never.

**I became a writer because** there's not a lot of demand for a Ph.D. in biological anthropology with concentrations in bone biology and biomechanics, and I found out that writing is indoor work with no heavy lifting.

**I got into the *Tombstone* story** because… two words: Val Kilmer.

**It stunned me that John Henry Holliday** was born with a cleft lip and a cleft palate, and that his uncle, Dr. John Stiles Holliday, performed the first surgical repair of a cleft in North America.

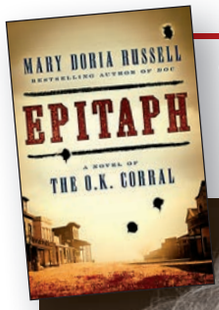
**Being the daughter of a county sheriff** gave me insight into the pressures of police work as well as its potential for abuse of power. It also gave me a chance to qualify on the police range in slow, timed and rapid fire. With a .357 magnum. When I was 13. So don't mess with me.

**My first gig was** selling tickets and working in the popcorn wagon of Dispensa and Sons Complete Carnivals—my uncles' business. I spin a mean cotton candy.

**My favorite TV cowboys** growing up were Flint McCullough (*Wagon Train*), Rowdy Yates (*Rawhide*) and Jess Harper (*Laramie*). I'm a sucker for a cool second banana.

**My favorite place** in the West to escape to is Tombstone, Arizona, on a quiet week.

**The best advice I ever received** was from my mom-in-law, who lived through two world wars and the Depression: Never buy anything on credit if it'll be worth less than the purchase price when you're done paying for it. Collect interest, don't pay it.




*Epitaph* was Mary Doria Russell's 2015 follow-up to *Doc*, the first in her two-volume literary biography of the gentleman from Georgia enshrined in Old West mythology as Doc Holliday.

– PHOTO COURTESY MARY DORIA RUSSELL –



## MARY DORIA RUSSELL, AUTHOR

Mary Doria Russell is the award-winning author of six bestsellers, including *Doc* (Random House, 2011) and *Epitaph* (HarperCollins/Ecco, 2015). She was named *True West* magazine's best historical novelist of 2015. Russell has a Ph.D. in biological anthropology from the University of Michigan and has done scientific research on three continents; her novels have been translated into 12 languages. She lives near Cleveland, Ohio, with her husband Don and two loudly opinionated dachshunds named Sammy and Mick.

**History has taught me** that those who don't study history are doomed to repeat it, but those who do study history are also doomed and we usually feel worse about it.

**My favorite music to relax** to is Chopin. One of the gifts of the movie *Tombstone* was a curiosity about Chopin and, once I dove in, I fell in love.

**It doesn't get much better than** the musical *Hamilton*. That is grand opera, American style. Rap is recitative, but in English. And oh, Lord! Those arias are gorgeous.

**The elements of a best-selling novel** are emotionally gripping characters, some moral comparison to the reader's world, accurate inside knowledge or a behind-the-scenes point of view.

**What they don't tell you in school** is that unless you're an engineer, there is no algebra in real life.



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Josh Duhamel

# UNDERSTUDY



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