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INSIDE:

THE LONG & RICH HISTORY  
OF IN-DIN HUMOR

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN  
WHO KILLED THE MAN WHO  
KILLED BILLY THE KID?

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## **Before Geronimo's Surrender**

The 8th Cavalry is shown patrolling the region of Hillsboro, New Mexico Territory, around 1885, when killings of civilians by Apaches Chihuahua, Ulzana and Geronimo left locals anxious and tense. Having located Geronimo in the Sierra Madre Mountains, 6th Cavalry Lt. Charles B. Gatewood and his men began negotiations with Geronimo on August 24, 1886, to surrender. He did, on September 4, marking the end of the last major battle between Apaches and the U.S. Army.

— COURTESY GEORGE MILLER COLLECTION, BLACK RANGE MUSEUM —



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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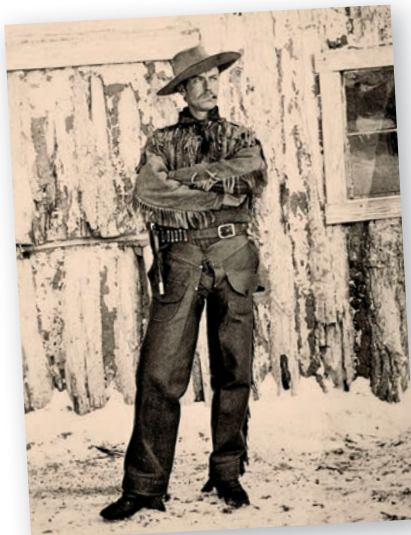
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# True West Online >

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August 2018 Online and Social Media Content



Henry Boyle, a British barrister and the second son of an Irish noble family, poses at Canada's Fort Macleod, showing off his new buckskins for photographer George Anderton. Boyle and his brother, Lord Richard, were aristocratic investors in the Alberta Ranche. Find this photo and more historical photography on our "Rangers, Rangers, Rangers" board.

- COURTESY GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-4452-7 -



Go behind the scenes of True West with Bob Boze Bell to see his sketch *A Hint of Suspenders in Firelight* and more of the executive editor's Daily Whipouts (Search for "June 1, 2018").

[Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com](http://Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com)



### Join the Conversation: George Custer

"My great-grandfather was killed at the Battle of Five Forks on April 1, 1865. The opposing force from my great-grandfather's position along the White Oak Road was none other than George Armstrong Custer's division. As far as Custer's foolhardy demise at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, I just figure he had it coming."

-Marcus Smith of Moscow, Idaho



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One of the best ways to understand a people is to know what makes them laugh.

—Compiled by Alden Big Man Jr. and Lynda A. Sánchez

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## Quotes

“The test of a good theory lies in its ability to explain the past, for only if it does can we trust what it may tell us about the future.”

– John Lewis Gaddis, professor of Military and Naval History at Yale University

“A happy home is one in which each spouse grants the possibility that the other may be right, though neither believes it.”

– Don Fraser, U.S. humorist and senator

**“History is hard to know, because of all the hired bullshit....”**

– Hunter S. Thompson, U.S. journalist

“Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance.”

– Confucius, Chinese philosopher

“...you may all go to hell, and I will go to Texas.”

– Davy Crockett, Tennessee congressman

“I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past. so good night! I will dream on....”

– Thomas Jefferson, 3rd U.S. President



– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

“For every negative that is a disappointment, there is one that is a joy.”

– Edward S. Curtis, U.S. photographer

## Letter: Hardin Heresy!

Like Billy the Kid holding a shotgun hollered down to Bob Olinger from the Lincoln County Courthouse in April 1881, I have to holler “Hey Bob!” regarding the preposterous headline on the cover of June 2018: “The West’s Deadliest Gunfighter: Forget Hardin, Hickok Was the Real Deal.”

It is the first time I can remember reading an obviously fictional headline in *True West*, which I have read cover-to-cover since becoming a *True West* Maniac (#1031) many years ago. I am a big fan of the magazine and respect the “man in the arena,” as Teddy Roosevelt said.

Whether or not the cover headline is true, the 10 pages spent by the author, ending in an ad for his book on Hickok, in “The Truth About Wild Bill” does nothing to corroborate the cover blurb.

One should interpret the word “deadliest” in numbers, not quality, and many Old West gunfighters are verified to have sent more victims to the happy hunting ground than Hickok, whom Bill O’Neal credits with seven killings and participating in only eight gunfights (*Encyclopedia of Western Gunfighters*). By contrast, Jim Miller is credited conservatively with 12 killings in 14 gunfights; Wes Hardin with 11 in 19; Bill Longley with 11 in 12; and Harvey Logan with nine victims in 11 gunfights. Most authors attribute even more kills to Hardin than O’Neal did, with as many as 40 or more.

Deadliest? C’mon Bob, and Bless your heart! (Southerners know what that phase means.) If Bob wants to argue with my source, I will make him this deal: I will buy him a beer for every (any?) historian he can get to agree with his cover blurb, and no shotgun involved. Hey Bob, shucks, I will buy you a beer anyway for keeping the West alive, even if you are wrong.

Kurt House  
San Antonio, Texas

**Bob Boze Bell responds:** I have mixed emotions about this because my family claims relations to Mr. Hardin, but I stand by my point. So much of John Wesley’s killing is brazen murder and myth (no evidence proves Hardin got the drop on Hickok). As I said in the piece, Hardin comes off closer to Charlie Manson than a Wild West gunfighter, but then, that’s just me.

“When I was little, I would always stand in front of a mirror and cross my eyes. Then my mother would come in and say, ‘Stop that! Nothing will ever come of it!’”

–Carol Burnett, U.S. comedian, shown as Calamity Jane



– COURTESY CBS –

## Old Vaquero Saying



“Anyone can count the seeds in an apple. No one can count the apples in a seed.”

# In-dins Are Funny

*Listen up, or your tongue will keep you deaf.*

We were running about eight minutes late when we pulled our rental car into the long driveway of Wes Studi's estate in Santa Fe, Ne Mexico. As Publisher Ken Amorosano and I pulled up to the main house, I looked over the top of the five-foot gate and saw Wes and his wife, Maura, standing on the patio waiting for us. I got out to apologize for our lateness, but hesitated at the gate. Should I barge in, or should I wait for an invitation?

Wes gave me that steely-eyed look he is famous for and said, "Do you know how to open a gate?"

It was definitely a zinger, and I laughed nervously as I fumbled with the gate and ambled in.

We had a grand time at the photo shoot (see Ken's photos). Maura is an accomplished photographer, and she took many of the classic Wes movie shots we all love (see her spectacular cover image).

Later, as we were leaving, Wes laughed and said, referring to the gate incident: "That was In-din humor."

Indeed, it was. And, indeed, that is the subject of a long overdue feature for this magazine. In-din humor has been under appreciated. Our crew took off the gloves and had some fun.

By the way, "In-din" is their word, not ours, and they are proud of it (see Sherman Alexie, p. 19).

Special thanks to Zacharias Bones and Running White Fawn for the usage of the wonderful photo of them (p. 23).



"My goal was to capture images based on sketches by BBB," says Ken Amorosano, who shot the above photos. The idea was to have Wes looking off into the past for a possible cover. In the end, we all agreed that Maura's photo of her husband, Wes, from *Dances With Wolves* was the perfect choice for our cover. Ken got some great images of Wes laughing, and they capture perfectly another side of American Indians and of Wes. A tough call, indeed.

— BY KEN AMOROSANO —



For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily blog at [TWMag.com](http://TWMag.com)

BY MARK BOARDMAN

# Black Hills and Gold Dust

*The Sioux lost their sacred land due to the 1874 discovery.*

Prospectors came running, and the town of Deadwood was created.

**T**he Sioux considered the Black Hills to be sacred, the center of the earth and a place to speak to the Great Spirit. They had controlled the area for many decades. The U.S. government confirmed that in the Treaty of Fort Laramie that ended Red Cloud's War in 1868.

The agreement set up a Great Sioux Reservation that covered modern-day western South Dakota. Whites were forbidden to enter—but that didn't last for long. Especially when gold came into play.

In the years after the treaty was signed, U.S. Army officials became concerned about Sioux attacks west and south of the reservation. General Phil Sheridan had a solution—build a fort at the southwest edge of the reservation, to deter future raids or allow U.S. retaliation when that failed. Sheridan believed a war would wipe out the Sioux or force them onto reservations in Indian Territory.

The plan was approved by federal authorities, including President U.S. Grant. Sheridan assigned his favorite commander to the task: Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. While finding a fort location was the primary charge—and the one emphasized to the public—the expedition



END OF THE BIG TALK AT WASHINGTON.  
THE GREAT FATHER—"Set your mark there, and 'twill be all right."  
RED CLOUD (seeing Delano behind the President)—"Never—except for cash!"

This editorial cartoon perfectly illustrates how the U.S. government attempted to deceive Red Cloud and his Sioux into giving up the Black Hills. With Interior Secretary Columbus Delano behind him, President U.S. Grant asks Chief Red Cloud to make his mark on a receipt exchanging the Black Hills for \$25,000 in goods.

— PUBLISHED IN FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER, JUNE 19, 1875 —

The excitement was a bit premature. Custer's group had found only a small amount, and the same thing happened as they moved to other locations in the hills.

But prospectors came running, trying their luck at finding larger deposits. They found those at Deadwood Gulch in November 1875. By the next year, thousands had flocked to the area, and the town of Deadwood was created—even though settling it was illegal in the Sioux-owned Black Hills.

The U.S. government saw an opportunity to grab the land. A Sioux delegation came to Washington, D.C. in May 1875, asking the federal government to enforce the 1868 treaty. Officials instead offered \$25,000 for the land and tribal relocation to Indian Territory. The Sioux refused.

In March 1876, the Great Sioux War ensued. The U.S. won, of course. And the Agreement of 1877 ceded the Black Hills to the U.S.



# America's Cowboys Get Their Due

*An iconic saddler's shop houses a heritage Nevada museum that honors the first cowboys.*



G.S. Garcia (shown left, in a 1913 rodeo photo) originally built his G.S. Garcia Harness Shop on Silver Street in Elko, Nevada, in 1907, but in 1913, he moved the building to Commercial Street (far left). His shop now pays tribute to Garcia's legacy and to cowboy history as the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum.

- COURTESY COWBOY ARTS & GEAR MUSEUM -

Garcia became famous for creating the only saddle in history to win two gold medals (at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, and at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland, Oregon). His bits, spurs and saddles remain highly collectible today. In 1907, he moved into the building that now houses the museum.

"Cowboys were willing to pay two year's wages and to wait their turn on a two-year waiting list to purchase and own one of Garcia's saddles," the museum website states.

The museum has three original G.S. Garcia display cases, looking just as they did the day the store opened 111 years ago. On display are 116 spade bits and 35 bridles, as well as spurs, photos and family ranching histories, Petersen says. The Wright family, who owns the J.M. Capriola Co. opened by G.S. Garcia's apprentice, helped interpret this history.

Petersen's future plans for the museum include offering leather stamping workshops, silver engraving demonstrations and rawhide braiding classes, and building a research library to help tell the story of the first cowboys.

"We're having a great time sharing all this," she says.



**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*.

In fact, if Elko were a jigsaw puzzle, Petersen's museum is the missing piece. Across the

street from her downtown museum in the historic G.S. Garcia Harness Shop is the Western Folklife Center that celebrates contemporary cowboy lifestyles and is home to the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Elko also is home to the Northeastern Nevada Museum and the California Trail Interpretive Center.

Petersen is the perfect director for a history museum. Her Pearce family has lived in the Elko area since 1869—predating even the historic saddle shop where she now spends her Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Even a longer legacy goes to her husband's Petersen family, who homesteaded a ranch here in 1864.

Both families were well established when G.S. Garcia and wife Saturnina arrived in Elko in 1894 with his saddle-making supplies. His work was instantly popular with local cowboys. Within three years, he produced a mail-order catalog that expanded his customer base across the West.

**F**irst, thanks go to the Franciscan priests who established 21 missions along the California coast starting in 1769, bringing with them the first ranches of the American West—and the vaqueros who were our first cowboys.

Second, thanks go to the power company—NV Energy—which not only donated a historic saddle shop for a new museum in Elko, Nevada, but then restored the 1907 building on its own dime.

And finally, thanks go to Paula Bear Wright's family and Jan Petersen, for realizing their community's "dream come true" by opening the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum last February to showcase vaquero-buckaroo-cowboy history.

"We always dreamed of a museum in this building, and here came a golden opportunity too good to miss," Petersen says. "This museum brings history to life and is the perfect companion to the great mix of museums already here."

BY MEGHAN SAAR

# Custer's Last Strand

*Custer scholars and buffs find treasures among Glen Swanson's Battle of the Little Big Horn relics.*



Glen Swanson (color photo) collected these roughly 50 strands of George Custer's hair cut from his head during his Civil War career (below); \$10,000. The majority of the auction featured Swanson's collectibles, sold along with related artifacts, such as this autographed photograph of Brig. Gen. Custer, taken by Mathew Brady around February 15, 1864 (detail and far left); \$9,000.



While these strands of George's hair hammered down for \$10,000, some of the highest prices paid

at the auction had ties to the Battle of the Little Big Horn, popularly known as "Custer's Last Stand," where Plains Indians annihilated George and some of his 7th Cavalry troops on June 25-26, 1876.

Collectors successfully bid: \$75,000 for three Sioux arrows from the battlefield; \$24,000 for 6th Infantry Capt. John S. Poland's July 24, 1876, report of Lakota warriors who returned to Standing Rock Agency after the Big Horn battle, endorsed by Gens. William T. Sherman and Philip Sheridan; \$24,000 for a bound set of Pvt. Theodore Goldin's firsthand account of the Big Horn battle, which features notations by Capt. Frederick Benteen, including, "This is about the fairest and most exact account of our row with the Dakotas that I have seen."

The top lot was tied to the Sioux chief who helped destroy Custer's forces during the battle: Sitting Bull. Hammering down for \$130,000, the shortened model 1863

full-length smooth-bore flintlock trade musket by Parker Field & Co. of London, hand-carved with "Sitting Bull" on the butt, was acquired by Capt. Walter Clifford who had escorted Sitting Bull and his followers during their Canadian journey in July 1881 and was in the room for Sitting Bull's formal surrender on July 20. Sitting Bull's cousin Black Moon gave the carbine to Clifford.

The Custer battle gun history buffs thought would sell high—a Little Big Horn-identified Model 1873 Springfield carbine (serial number 41219) authenticated by Custer scholars Dick Harmon and Doug Scott's forensic studies—proved elusive, failing to meet the \$125,000 minimum. Last year, an 1873 Colt (serial number 5773) positively proven to be used by Custer's men at the Big Horn battle hammered down at James D. Julia for \$400,000.

Growing up 45 miles from Fort Abraham Lincoln, Swanson found himself exploring the Big Horn battlefield. Inspired to learn more by collecting artifacts, the commercial advertising director participated in archaeological studies of the battlefield. Swanson spent nearly 50 years accumulating his collection, documenting many of his relics in his book *G.A. Custer: His Life and Times*.

Swanson and other collectors earned nearly \$1.15 million on their Custer, Civil War and frontier military artifacts. ✦

**LL** Custer's Last Strand" made news around the nation after links of the controversial cavalry commander's curly blond hair sold at the June 9 auction highlighting Glen Swanson's collection at Heritage Auctions.

A barber cut the 50 or so strands of hair in 1864, a year after 23-year-old George Custer became the youngest general in the Union Army. George had saved the locks to send as a keepsake to his wife, Libbie, but Confederates captured the envelope among his belongings during the Battle of Trevilian Station in June before he could mail it. He recovered his items on October 9, after a battle jokingly known as the "Woodstock Races," since Custer and his troops had chased and killed scattered enemy Confederates for miles.

Notable Custer Lots Included  
(All images courtesy Heritage Auctions)



Glen Swanson collected the auction's top lot, Sitting Bull's Model 1863 flintlock trade musket by Parker Field & Co., and sculpted the bronze of the Sioux chief included in the lot; \$130,000.



This dress uniform worn by Civil War Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman is such a definitive specimen of military history that historian John P. Langellier held back the publication of his book, *More Army Blue: The Uniform of Uncle Sam's Regulars, 1874-1887*, to make sure the uniform was featured. A signed portrait of Sherman was also included; \$50,000.



Presented to Custer by the United States Volunteers in 1863, this first model Manhattan .22 caliber revolver (serial number 5720) was gifted to "Captain Jack" Crawford, the poet scout, by Custer's widow, Libbie; \$28,000.



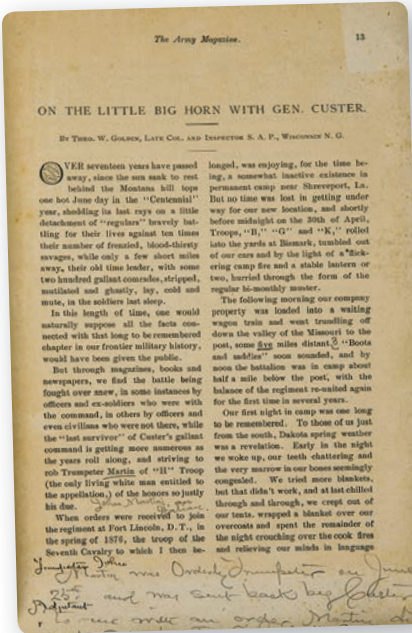
This autographed cabinet card of Varnum was taken by O.S. Goff of Fort Lincoln, Dakota Territory, circa 1876; \$2,400.



Custer's chief of scouts during the Little Big Horn campaign, Charles Varnum wore this 7th cavalry outfit. The highlights included his cavalry officer's 1879-pattern, 14-button frock coat (shown), Model 1881 dress helmet and Model 1872 dress saber; \$19,000.



Found on the Little Big Horn battlefield, this wedding ring was worn by 7th Cavalry Lt. Donald McIntosh (inset) who was killed during the battle. Also shown is a photo of his wife, Mollie. Her sister Katherine married Francis Marion Gibson, who survived the battle and identified his brother-in-law's remains; \$15,000.



Theodore Goldin, visiting the Little Big Horn battlefield in 1926

The top-selling lot linked to Frederick Benteen was a bound set of Pvt. Theodore Goldin's firsthand account of the Big Horn battle, featuring notations by Benteen, which was published in *The Army Magazine's* June and July-August 1894 issues (detail shown). Goldin served in Lt. Donald McIntosh's Company G during the battle and earned the Medal of Honor for his valor in fetching water while under fire; \$24,000.



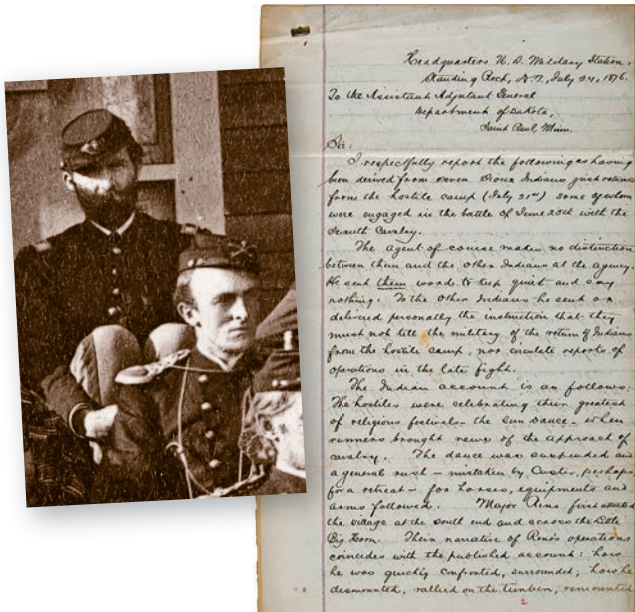
Benteen's Lemaire military binoculars could be the same field glasses the 7th Cavalry captain used during the disastrous June 1876 battle; \$20,000.



Benteen wore this campaign hat during the 1874 Black Hills Expedition through the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn; \$9,750. A Civil War-era image of Benteen, wearing his 10th Missouri Cavalry pin, signed "F. W. Benteen Capt. U.S.A." and dated "'65," hammered down for \$4,600.



A collector successfully bid \$75,000 for these three Sioux arrows from the Battle of the Little Big Horn, reportedly picked up from the battlefield by "Batiste" (possibly Baptiste "Big Bat" Pourier, with George Crook's column) soon after the fight.



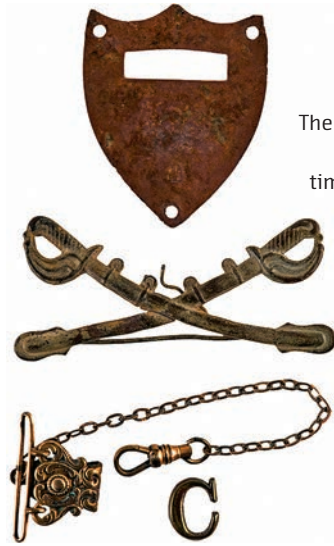
John S. Poland, 6th Infantry captain, sits above Lt. Charles Varnum in this detail of an 1873 photograph showing Lt. Col. George Custer with his officers. Varnum survived the Big Horn battle, and his 7th Cavalry outfit is shown on p. 11. Historians have used a July 24, 1876, report by Poland to reconstruct battle events. Based on interviews with Lakota warriors who returned to Standing Rock Agency after the battle and endorsed by Gens. William T. Sherman and Philip Sheridan, the report hammered down for \$24,000.



This crucifix was discovered on the site of Sitting Bull's Hunkpapa village along the Little Bighorn River; \$16,000. Myles Keogh's body was reportedly not mutilated during the Big Horn battle because of an icon he wore around his neck. Also purchased was an early 1885-dated cabinet photo of Sitting Bull by D.F. Barry; \$3,600.



George Custer's Tiffany hardwood cane with sterling silver ferrule and decorative head was given to him by his best friend, actor Lawrence Barrett (shown), who Custer had met in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1866; \$13,000.



The only crossed-sabers insignia yet found at the Little Big Horn battlefield hammered down for \$9,000. They were discovered near the "line of timber," where Maj. Marcus Reno's men were grievously beset during the retreat on June 25, 1876, and at the site of the Indian encampment.



Yellowstone Expedition photographer William Pywell snapped the iconic image of Custer with an elk he had shot, hence the incorporation of the elk horn with inset teeth in this inkwell with a base inscribed, "To William Pywell from G.A. Custer 1873." The top of the hinged lid features a carved dog at rest, resembling dogs that accompanied the expedition sent to survey a route for the Northern Pacific Railroad along the Yellowstone River; \$12,000.



## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

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 Altermann.com • 505-983-1590

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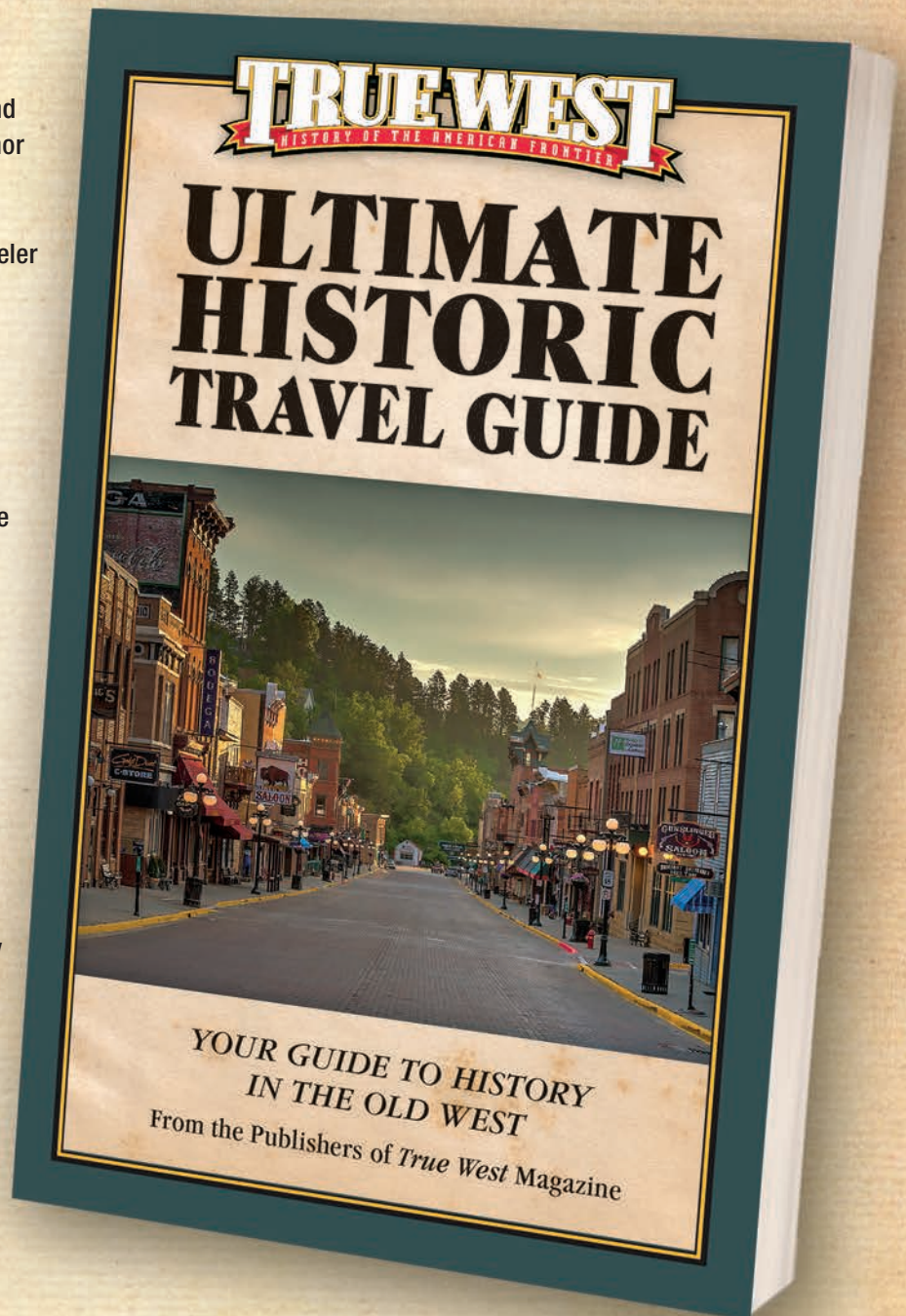
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BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

# Hollywood's Flintlock Fakery

*For decades, moviemakers used centerfire, metallic-cased cartridge guns with wdummy flintlocks to emulate the real thing.*



For decades, studio prop houses relied on the plentiful 1873 Springfield trapdoor rifle to emulate a flintlock firearm, including in this scene from John Wayne's 1960 epic, *The Alamo*. A cast dummy brass or pot metal flintlock cock (hammer) and frizzen (strike plate) assembly was fitted, via the Springfield's original lock screw, over the original hammer and lock plate. In some cases, like with the arm shown in the inset, a one-piece combined dummy flintlock hammer and flint piece was soldered onto the hammer, and the immovable frizzen was screwed into the lock plate.

— FLINTLOCK IMAGES COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION/ THE ALAMO MOVIE STILL COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS —

1960s, the typical movie attendee was far less fire-arms-savvy than today's audience, and commercially produced, quality reproductions of flintlock arms were not available. Thus, filmmakers were limited to what original arms that were still service-able and safe could be obtained. Companies like Navy Arms Co. and Dixie Gun Works changed all that when they started offering modern black powder replicas back in the late 1950s.

Before replicas were offered, studios saved time and kept their actors considerably safer by retrofitting a late 19th-century breech-loading firearm to give it the appearance of a flintlock muzzle-loader. Working with the then-inexpensive 1873



Springfield trapdoor rifle, which the studio prop houses had plenty of, they simply cast a dummy brass or pot metal flintlock cock (hammer) and frizzen (strike plate) assembly, then fitted them, via the Springfield's original lock screw, over the original hammer and lock plate. In some cases a one-piece dummy flintlock hammer-and-flint piece was soldered onto the hammer, and the immovable frizzen was screwed into the lock plate.

**M**ovie making is all imagery, or as Hollywood calls it, "movie magic," or the "suspension of belief." After all, you don't really think the actor you see on the screen is actually flying through the air, hurtling through space, or making bad guys bite the dust, do you? Of course not! While watching the film, you suspend your thoughts regarding real life, and in order to enjoy the movie, you put reality aside to happily enter a world of make believe, accepting such feats as part of the story. Enjoying a fantasy world is what movies are all about.

Take flintlock firearms for example. For decades Hollywood films had a favorite trick to make us believe that the actors were using real flintlocks in a period movie. Before the



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At the Jackson Hole, Wyoming, location of the 1980 film *The Mountain Men*, a background Indian actor loads a .45-70 blank cartridge into the breech of a studio dummy flintlock—made from an 1873 Springfield trapdoor rifle, and fitted with the flintlock assembly. These faked flinters have been used by Hollywood for decades, saving much production time.

— COURTESY PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION —

Classic film director and firearms enthusiast Cecil B. DeMille liked to employ genuine flinters in his epics, including 1947's *Unconquered*, starring Gary Cooper, but most filmmakers didn't feel the need to be that authentic. Guns altered with the dummy pieces saved time because the actors did not need to be taught how to safely and efficiently load, prime and fire a real flintlock arm; to use the '73 trapdoor, they simply lifted the hinged breechblock and inserted a .45-70 blank cartridge. This tricky bit of

When a flintlock is fired, there's a puff of white smoke as the flint ignites the black powder in the priming pan, igniting the main charge in the barrel. Because the flash from the priming charge on the lock plate is close to the shooter's face, inexperienced flintlock shooters tend to flinch, thus the term "flinchlock."

— COURTESY GUNS & AMMO MAGAZINE —



movie magic offered actors relative safety while giving a somewhat realistic look, plus greater firepower to a scene, while also saving on costly production time. I've served as a gun coach for stars—including Charlton Heston (1980's *The Mountain Men*), and Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger and Trevor Morgan in *The Patriot* (2000)—teaching them the proper handling techniques of flintlock muskets, pistols and long rifles, and I can attest that it does take time. Nowadays, with such well-made films like *The Patriot*,



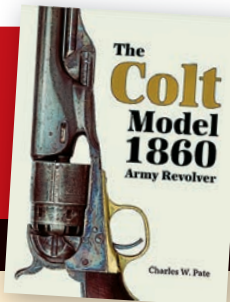
This brass dummy flintlock cock and frizzen were made to be attached to a .45-70 Springfield trapdoor firearm to give it the look of a flintlock arm. The frizzen was cast in the forward, or fired, position to allow the Springfield's original hammer (see arrow) to strike the firing pin. Since the frizzen is just there for looks, careful observation of any movie using these guns will reveal the frizzen in this position—even before the gun is fired.

— PHIL SPANGENBERGER —

1992's *The Last of the Mohicans*, and the 2004 version of *The Alamo*, real flintlocks have been used and moviegoers—especially gun buffs like *True West*'s readers have enjoyed seeing the “genuine” article, and have appreciated the extra efforts of the moviemakers.

If you are a classic movie buff, pay close attention to vintage films like Spencer Tracy's *Northwest Passage* (1940), Errol Flynn's 1940 swashbuckler *The Sea Hawk*, Sterling Hayden's star-vehicle *The Last Command* (1955), John Wayne's 1960 production of *The Alamo*, and even the 1962 Cinerama epic *How the West Was Won*, with an all-star cast including Wayne and James Stewart. These and many other movies feature period battle scenes involving flintlocks, yet you won't see that tell-tale puff of smoke at the lock—most likely they used the motion picture industry's 1873 Springfield flintlock conversion. ❖

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



### 1860 COLT REVOLVER STUDY

This 462-page, 8 ½- by 11-inch, hardcover volume, *The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver*, is the definitive study of this six-gun. Written by acclaimed researcher/author Charles W. Pate, the book includes the firearm's developmental history under the supervision of Sam Colt, manufacture, an examination of military and commercial sales, and individual 1860 Colts used by Union and Confederate soldiers, up through the post-war frontier period. Detailed histories of the men who used them and more than 900 black-and-white photos are included. Collectors will learn much from Pate's painstaking research through Colt's archives, government records and approximately 8,000 examples of the sleek percussion and cartridge conversions. Included are model variations, shoulder stocks, markings, finishes, grips and decorative embellishments. I found it to be a great read.

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# THE LONG AND RICH HISTORY OF



# INDIAN



# HUMOR



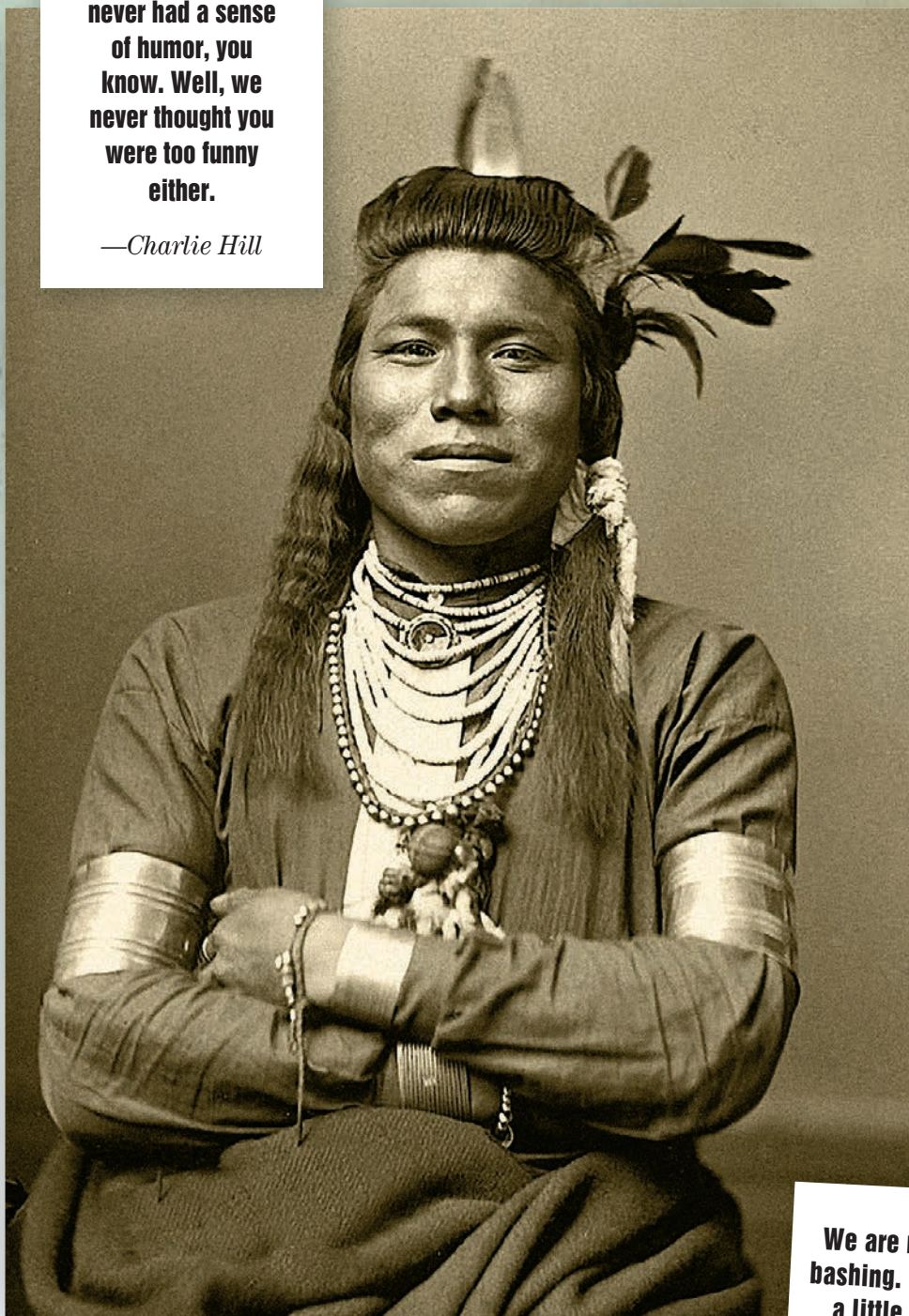
ONE OF THE BEST ways to understand a people is to know what makes them laugh. Laughter encompasses the limits of the soul. In humor life is redefined and accepted.

Irony and satire provide much keener insights into a group's collective psyche and values than do years of research.

—Vine Deloria Jr., *in Custer Died for Your Sins*

**Like, for so long,  
you probably  
thought that Indians  
never had a sense  
of humor, you  
know. Well, we  
never thought you  
were too funny  
either.**

—Charlie Hill



## **We Own In-Din**

“Why do you insist on calling yourselves Indian?” asks a white woman in a nice hat. “It’s so demeaning.”

“Listen,” I say. “The word belongs to us now. We are Indians. That has nothing to do with Indians from India. We are not American Indians. We are Indians, pronounced In-din. It belongs to us. We own it and we’re not going to give it back. So much has been taken from us that we hold onto the smallest things left with all the strength we have.”

—Sherman Alexie,  
*“The Unauthorized  
Autobiography of Me,”* from  
Alexie’s book *One Stick Song*

**We are not white-  
bashing. This is just  
a little spiritual  
spanking they should  
have gotten 400  
years ago.**

—Charlie Hill



Charlie Hill (1951–2013) was a ground-breaking stand-up comedian of Oneida–Mohawk–Cree heritage. He first appeared on NBC’s *The Richard Pryor Show* in 1977, and he was the first In-din comedian to appear on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. He also made multiple appearances on Jay Leno’s and David Letterman’s late-night shows, and he wrote for the ABC comedy series *Roseanne*.

— ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED; HILL PHOTO COURTESY NBC —

Popovi Da, the great Pueblo artist, was quizzed one day on why the Indians were the first ones on this continent. “We had reservations,” was his reply.

—*Vine Deloria Jr.*

## In-dins Love Custer Jokes

As for the Boy General, who died at the hands of Indians during the famous 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn, Deloria Jr. quipped, “Indians say that Custer was well-dressed for the occasion. When the Sioux found his body after the battle, he had on an Arrow shirt.”

Deloria Jr. also reported Custer’s last words: “Well, it’s better than going back to North Dakota.”



— ILLUSTRATION BY BOB BOZE BELL —



— WES STUDI PHOTO BY KEN AMOROSANO —

## The Many Laughs of In-Din Women

In-din women have many different laughs. Sometimes, their laughter is loud and aggressive, and can cut to the quick. Other times, with a slight inflection, it can be gentle and supportive. And then there is the howling laugh, where they all hit a high-pitched yell that almost breaks windows. Believe me, you will know if they are laughing with you or at you!

—*Actor Wes Studi*

GUESS WE'RE THE ONES WHO



SHOULD HAVE BUILT A WALL.

### Ear to the Ground

A popular Mojave joke: Two cowboys are riding along when they come upon a Mojave lying on his stomach with his ear to the ground. One cowboy says to the other, "These Mojaves are amazing. They can listen and hear things for miles in any direction."

The In-din looks up and says, "Covered wagon, about two miles away. They have two horses, one brown, one white. Man, two kids, all their belongings in the back of the wagon."

Both cowboys are stunned. "How in the heck do you do that?" The Mojave says, "Ran over me about a half hour ago."

### White Man's Pants Under the Pillow

University of Oklahoma Dr. E.E. Dale, who often traveled around the old Indian Territory for the Federal government, related how a prominent chief noticed the doctor's habit of folding his pants and placing them under his pillow before retiring.

The chief asked, "Why you put pants under pillow, huh?"

The doctor replied, "All the money I have in the world is in my trouser pockets, and I am afraid somebody might steal it."

"You don't got to be 'fraid here, as there ain't a White Man in 50 miles."

—Joke shared in *Heap Big Laugh* by Dan M. Madrano

### Foolish People

Now, here a story about foolish people who lived near Mescalero. A Mescalero man was married to one [of the foolish people], so he had to live with his wife's band. These people did not wear many clothes, nor have houses. They had no horses, and when they found a horse, they had no idea what to do with the animal. They did not know how to get on a horse either, or so they say.

One day, this Mescalero brought his horse to the camp. No one knew what to feed him. They did not know what to call him. The people call council to discuss. Some people tried to feed him white gravy. Horse not like it at all. Then they tried coffee. They tried mescal and venison and all other food in camp. That Mescalero warrior laugh and laugh. Finally, he took his horse to grassy area, and the horse ate and ate. The foolish ones cried out, "Look, he must like grass."

Then everyone wanted to ride the horse. One jumped on, but faced the back. Another tried and fell off. Finally, that Mescalero got on and rode around...he loped and ran horse. And the foolish people say that Mescalero must have put pine pitch on his backside to keep him on right.

—As told by Percy Bigmouth, a Lipan-Mescalero Apache, published in original, ungrammatical form, in *Apache Legends and Lore of Southern New Mexico* by Lynda A. Sánchez

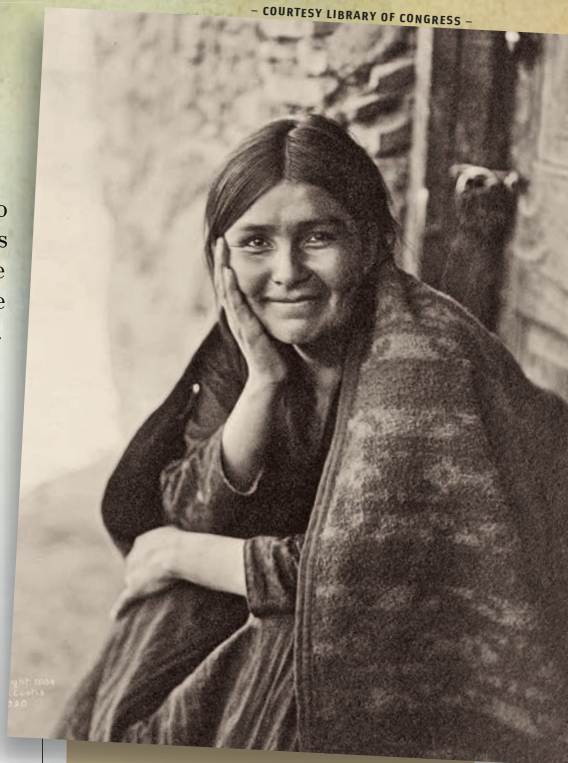
### Jackrattler on a Skateboard?

Well, not quite. This image shows an In-din jackrabbit with a lizard's tail and a rattlesnake's *cascabeles* (rattlers). Lynda A. Sánchez explains:

For many centuries, the ancient Mimbres culture, a branch of the Mogollon in southern New Mexico, have designed motifs on the tribe's now-famous ceramicware to express humor. Some designs are comical, while others show predicaments in which man finds himself. Creations of half-animal, half-man are common, while others combine animals, such as the jackrabbit-lizard-rattlesnake shown here. A thousand years after the Mimbres' departure from the valleys surrounding Silver City, New Mexico, that same celebration of humor can be found among the Pueblo peoples of today.



—COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS—



### Mixed Marriages

If a Chickasaw man marries a woman who is half Potawatomi and half Hualapai, what do you call their kids?

*Chicken Pot Pie.*

—Joke by Dr. Tiffany Lee, from the upcoming book *Indin Jokes* by Dean Chavers

"Every animal knows more than you do."

—Old Maricopa Insult

# 10 THINGS IN-DINS WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO A WHITE PERSON



- 1 How much white are you?
- 2 I'm part white myself, you know.
- 3 I learned all your people's ways in the Boy Scouts.
- 4 My great-grandmother was a full-blooded Canadian princess.
- 5 Funny, you don't look white.
- 6 Where's your powdered wig?
- 7 Do you live in a covered wagon?
- 8 What's the meaning behind the square dance?
- 9 What's your feeling about riverboat casinos? Do they really help your people, or are they just a short-term fix?
- 10 Oh, wow! I really love your hair! Can I touch it?

—Popular In-din joke

I DON'T LIKE SNOW. IT'S WHITE.



AND IT'S ON MY LAND.

## Raiding White Man's Heaven

During one interview with Apache historian Eve Ball, Asa Daklugie (nephew of Geronimo and son of Chief Juh) described the land of Ussen or Apache Heaven.

Daklugie told Ball that she needed to stay in their heaven, a place so serene and beautiful; no noise, pure rushing water, rugged mountains, tall pines. White Man's Heaven was loud, too many people and big cities, pollution, just the opposite of theirs.

Ball laughed and agreed with the warrior, but she claimed, "Well, all that you say may be true, but I love books and libraries. I could not be happy without them."

Daklugie smiled wickedly, with a gleam in his eye, and responded, "Well, Ms. Ball that is no problem for an Apache. We will just make a raid on the White Man's Heaven and bring you all the books you want!"

—Lynda A. Sánchez



— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

*Columbus didn't know where he was going, didn't know where he had been, and did it all on somebody else's money. And the white man has been following Columbus ever since.*

—Vine Deloria Jr.

## Blubber Lover

I grew up in a village of about 269 people, just south of the Aleutian Islands. I come from a very close knit community, and we celebrate all the time. Birthdays, weddings, graduations, elections, impeachments. We even celebrate when one of our bootleggers gets out of jail; we hold a big party, with seal meat, rabbit and, of course, the blubber—the food of gods! Next to the luncheon meat we get from the monthly commods [In-din slang for "commodities"], nothing beats blubber.

—Crow historian Alden Big Man Jr.

*Every time my old, late friend Floyd Red Crow Westerman was introduced to someone who claimed a Cherokee grandmother, he would turn them around and look at their butt and say, "I can usually tell by the high cheekbones."*

—Musician Bobby Bridger, who, with actor Wes Studi, is producing the audiobook of Vine Deloria Jr.'s final book, *The World We Used to Live In:*

Remembering the Powers of the Medicine Men

*The idea that Indians aren't funny is so funny.*

—History professor Paul Andrew Hutton



— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



### The Coyote Whiff

Years ago, the Dog Nation hosted an enormous sweat, and their cousin Coyote had begged to join their sacred lodge. The old leaders of the sweat remained skeptical (Coyote was so unpredictable and had a reputation for foolish behavior), but allowed Coyote to participate.

Before he could join in, the Dog Nation leaders informed Coyote about their strict ceremonial rules. Their number one rule: Dogs always kept a proper order when entering and exiting the lodge. Before entering, Dogs stripped and then hung up their furs in precise order on an old tree with low branches that stood outside the lodge. After they stripped, they lost their senses of sight and smell. At the end of every meeting, they exited the sweat lodge and followed a precise order to retrieve their proper fur.

On the evening of the ceremony, Coyote showed up late. The rocks were inside the lodge, and the first round was about to get underway. Before the lodge flap closed, a panicked Coyote took off his fur and threw it onto the tree. The weight of his fur shook every single limb, and all the furs fell into a big pile.

Fearing he might upset his hosts, Coyote acted fast and hung up all the furs out of order. He was the last to enter and the first to exit the lodge.

After the ceremony, it was pitch black outside. One by one, the Dogs followed Coyote and began to dress in their fur coats. Coyote never mentioned his clumsiness to them.

The next day, after each Dog awoke, they discovered that they wore the wrong fur and eyes. Coyote's mistake is why Dogs will sniff another Dog's butt when they first meet—they are still searching for their missing hide.

**Kent Blansett** is a Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Shawnee and Potawatomi descendant from the Panther, Blanket and Smith family lines. He is also an associate professor of History and Native American Studies at the University of Nebraska in Omaha.



— COURTESY ZACHARIAS BONES —

### A Plague of Cherokee Princesses

Why do so many Americans persist in believing they have Cherokee blood? And why do so many of us believe we descend from a “Cherokee Princess?”

Where did this In-din envy come from, and why focus on the Cherokee tribe?

The best answer I've found was given by Gregory D. Smithers, author of *The Cherokee Diaspora*, who wrote this for *Slate Magazine*:

“Throughout the South in the 1840s and 1850s, large numbers of whites began claiming they were descended from a Cherokee great-grandmother. That great-grandmother was often a ‘princess,’ a not-inconsequential detail in a region obsessed with social status and suspicious of outsiders.

“By claiming a royal Cherokee ancestor, white Southerners were legitimating the antiquity of their native-born status as sons or daughters of the South, as well as establishing their determination to defend their rights against an aggressive federal government, as they imagined the Cherokees had done. These may have been self-serving historical delusions, but they have proven to be enduring.” — **Bob Boze Bell**

**If every white person who claims to have Cherokee blood is really Cherokee, our grandfathers would not have had time to sleep.**

—Old Cherokee saying

Maura Dhu Studi took this photograph of her husband on location for 1990's *Dances With Wolves*. We thought it was so groovy, we put it on the cover.

- BY MAURA DHU STUDI -

# ONE



# PROUD HOSTILE

A CONVERSATION WITH WES STUDI, FRESH OFF HIS BLOCKBUSTER PORTRAYAL OF CHIEF YELLOW HAWK AND MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ROLE AS GERONIMO.

BY HENRY C. PARKE

**W**hen actor Wes Studi, fresh from the success of *Hostiles*, appeared on the 2018 Oscars to present a movie montage highlighting military service, the 70 year old mentioned that he'd volunteered for Vietnam, and asked if anyone else had.

He was met with silence.

"I wasn't surprised," he told *True West*, with a chuckle. "I said it as a joke. I know the audience is not full of veterans, and their attitude toward veterans is not probably as complimentary as you'd find in other audiences."

He concluded his introduction with words in Cherokee, his native language. "It was to Cherokee veterans, as well as all military veterans, kind of a shout-out that it's a good day."

It was indeed a good day for veterans and American Indians. While this year, much was made of the racial diversity of nominees and the strides of women, most viewers were unaware that Studi was the first American Indian to be a presenter since fellow Cherokee Will Rogers hosted the Academy Awards in 1934.

Although lacking Oscar nominations, the critical and popular success of *Hostiles*, now available on Blu-ray and 4K, is no mystery to Studi.

"What sets *Hostiles* apart for me is simply the story. I think it speaks not only to the old Western of yesteryear, [but also] to the world we live in today.

"There's been a dearth of Westerns on the big screen for a number of years because nobody's been able to make a successful one since, say, *Unforgiven*. It's been a long time, and Western fans have been hungry for another one.

"Along comes *Hostiles*, and she'll go for another ride. I think we're probably going to see a few more in the next few years.

"It was good to work with Christian [Bale] again. There was a threesome of us—Christian, Q'orianka [Kilcher] and myself—who had worked on *The New World*. Rosamond Pike, I think she's a wonderful actor. [Writer/Director]

Scott [Cooper] was extremely open to ideas, and had a good grasp of where he was going with the story."

Playing Studi's character's son was Adam Beach, who's shared the screen with Studi a dozen times.

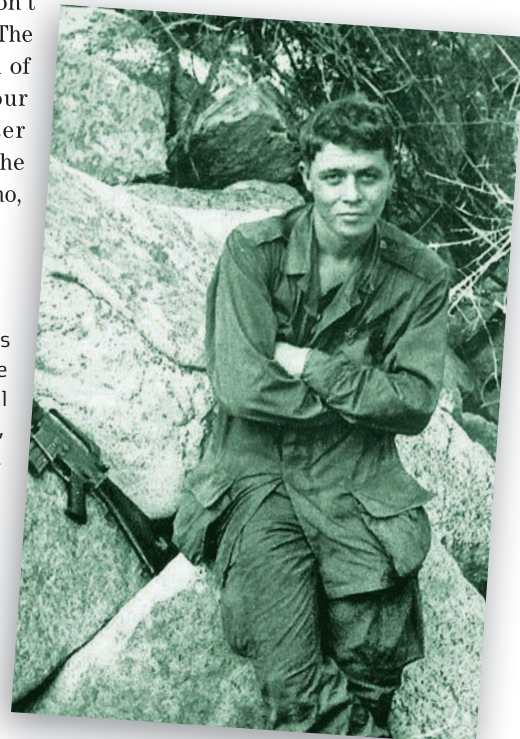
"He's played my son to good effect and not so good effect at times," Studi says. "He killed me in *Comanche Moon*, and there was another one that he played my son and killed me. I think he gets a kick out of that."

Then 25 years ago, Studi starred as Apache leader Geronimo, in *Geronimo: An American Legend*, who surrenders to the Army in the end; in *Hostiles*, he plays Cheyenne war Chief Yellow Hawk, who is freed from U.S. Army custody and transported to his homeland to die.

"There's a continuity because the Cheyenne share an experience in dealing with the American military and the American government itself," says Studi, adding ironically, "They don't work hand in hand. The result being the kind of situations that our fictional character Yellow Hawk, and the real character Geronimo,

At the age of 17, Wes Studi enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard. In 1967, he joined the U.S. Army and headed to Vietnam (shown here), where he served with the 39th Infantry for 12 months.

- COURTESY WES STUDI -



ran into and had to deal with, and [we] continue to do so to this day.”

Technically, Studi was born in Nofire Hollow, Oklahoma, on December 17, 1947. However, “The Cherokee Nation is where I was born, and my first language was Cherokee. That’s what we spoke in the home. When I went to school, I learned English,” he says.

“My parents did a lot of different things. The whole family raised crops and hunted, and survived in a way that people hardly do anymore. We bought salt and flour from the store. But we raised almost everything or hunted for it. Then my dad started working on ranches; that was pretty much his life and the whole family’s life, living from one ranch to another in northeastern Oklahoma. We weren’t living high off the hog.”

In 1960, Studi’s parents sent him to boarding school. “It was called Chilocco Agricultural School, and that’s where my dad had learned most of his expertise in farming. I learned other things. We did half a day of academic work and half a day of vocational work, which was dry cleaning. It was a government Indian school.”

Chilocco was originally one of the controversial institutions that tried to teach the Indian culture out of its students. “By the time I went there, things had changed. [We were] still discouraged from speaking our own languages, but it wasn’t cracked down upon like it had been.

The fact that a lot of Indians were involved in the administration of the school, and teaching, made a huge difference.”

Studi enlisted in the National Guard in high school and entered the Army after graduation. “I volunteered to go to Vietnam. I was an infantryman. We sought out the enemy, sometimes

search and destroy, sometimes defend. For a while I was the RTO; I carried a radio for the platoon leader.”

Despite the uniform, the physical differences between Indian soldiers like Studi and other soldiers were noticed by the Vietnamese. “They said they saw us as

Wes Studi attended the Chilocco Agricultural School near Newkirk, Oklahoma, which was built in 1884 (reportedly the date of this photo) and closed in 1980. It was one of five non-reservation American Indian boarding schools by that date, the first being the Carlisle, which opened in 1879.

—COURTESY OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY —



being very similar to the Vietnamese, you know? Because we kind of looked like them; our skin color was the same. And if they knew our history, they [knew] that we had been fighting the U.S. Army just like they were at that point in time.”

In the highly political Western films made during the Vietnam era, the treatment of Indians was used as a symbol of the U.S. treatment of the Vietnamese. “Yeah, I think it was legitimate,” Studi confirms. “I mean, we’ve all been the enemies of the U.S. military.

That may be hard for you to understand, but we’ve all been in that position.”

The 1970s were an active time for Studi, who had returned from Vietnam in

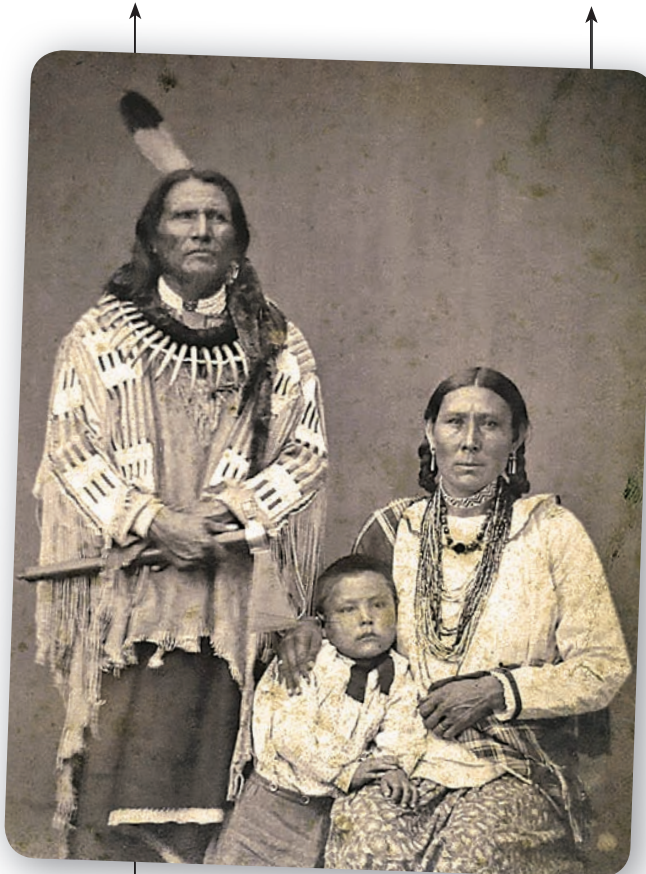


Floyd “Red Crow” Westerman (far left), a Lakota Sioux, and Wes Studi (left), a Cherokee, are shown in 1993’s *The Broken Chain*. They appeared in numerous films together, including 1989’s *Powwow Highway*, 1990’s *Dances With Wolves* and 2008’s *Comanche Moon*.

— BY ERIK HEINILA, COURTESY TURNER PICTURES —

Standing Bear is shown with his family in this 1903 photo, 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. Wes Studi played Standing Bear in a 1988 TV movie.

— COURTESY NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY —



1969. He attended Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on the G.I. Bill. Later, he would teach the Cherokee language there and within the community. He helped revive *The Cherokee Phoenix*, founded in 1828, the first newspaper established by Indians and published in Cherokee and English. He also became involved with A.I.M.—the American Indian Movement.

“The ‘Trail of Broken Treaties’ is when it started for me, in terms of activism,” Studi recalls of the 1972 cross-country protests that culminated in Washington, D.C., just before the Presidential election.

Studi also went to Wounded Knee, where he was among those arrested in 1973. “The larger idea was to work toward a realistic approach to tribal sovereignty, and [we] continue to do so to this day.

“Russell Means was one of the leaders of the American Indian Movement, so I knew, and knew of, him back in the activist days of the ’70s. And then we wound up on the film set of *Last of the Mohicans* in the ’90s.”

Studi’s interest in acting began in the 1980s. “I decided to try at a community level and found that I liked it. That led to real theatre, led to educational

Showing the front page of the first issue of the *Cherokee Phoenix*—February 21, 1828—this newspaper was published in Cherokee and English. After attending Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Wes Studi helped bring the newspaper back to life, and it is now published as a monthly broadsheet by the Cherokee Nation.

— COURTESY AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY —

television. I decided Los Angeles was the only recourse if I were to continue this line of work.”

He made a powerful impression as the Toughest Pawnee in 1990’s *Dances With Wolves*, which led to one of his most unforgettable characterizations, in *Last of the Mohicans*.

“Actually, when I slipped in to have an interview for *Magua*, I ‘inadvertently’ left a picture of myself from *Dances With Wolves* on somebody’s desk,” he recalls, with a laugh. “I don’t know if it helped or not. After *Last of the Mohicans*, I continued to work.”

That’s putting it mildly. Studi has acted on-screen in more than 90 productions around the world. Recently, he costarred in season three of Showtime’s *Penny Dreadful*.

“Oh, that was a great job. Got to travel in Europe to Ireland and southern Spain. Where we worked was [Sergio] Leone-land, they call it. In fact, we worked in one of his old set towns. There are some subtle differences in the terrain in Spain, but only people from New Mexico or the Southwest can really figure out. I think it works pretty well.”

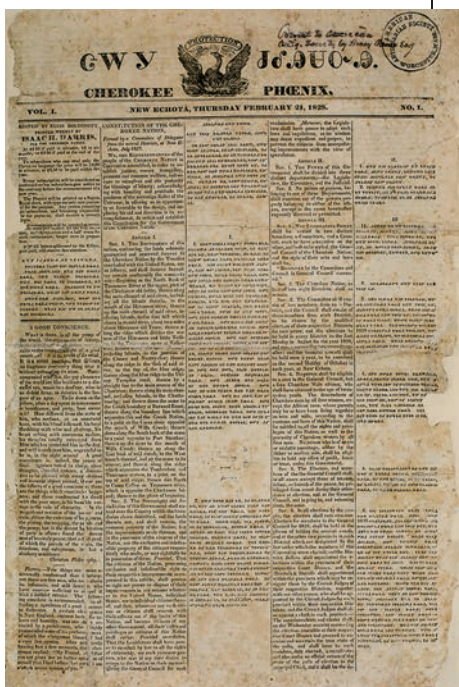
He’s worked on a number of films with his wife, documentary filmmaker Maura Dhu Studi, most recently *Defending the Fire*, an examination of the warrior in American Indian culture, which is currently playing on PBS stations.

“I don’t know if you’d call it a Western or not, but one of my favorite films that I’ve done is called *The Only Good Indian*.”

Set in 1900 Kansas, the 2009 film showcases Studi as an Indian bounty hunter, chasing down an Indian boy who’s run away from a government school. “I’m pretty proud of having been a part of it.”

Over the years, Studi has played many legendary chiefs, including Geronimo, Red Cloud, Crazy Horse, Buffalo Hump, even Cochise in *A Million Ways to Die in the West*.

“It carries a special responsibility. I’m going to have to play the character as he’s written, and then also keep in mind that there are family memories and whether he was an icon.



“During *Geronimo*, we were playing with descendants of his. It’s something that you have to be careful with, that’s part of the whole process, putting together a character.”

With several films now in the editing stage, and others preparing to film, Studi shows no interest in slowing down.

“I continue to like it, and I will do it until the day I die.”

As far as Westerns goes, Studi remains confident of the genre’s power over audiences, saying, “I think almost every director is going to try a Western, if they have any balls.”



**Henry C. Parke** is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, California, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: [HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com](http://HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com)

## NATIVE OSCARS

**1934:** Will Rogers hosted the Oscars.

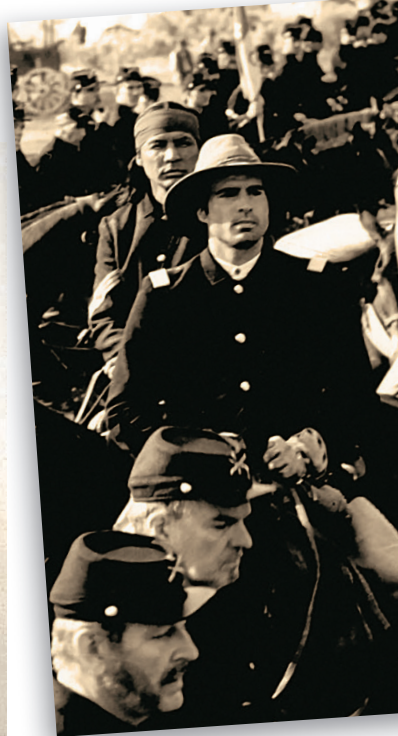
**1971:** Chief Dan George was nominated for “Best Supporting Actor” for *Little Big Man*.

**1973:** Sacheen Littlefeather, a half-white Apache-Yaqui, represented Marlon Brando when he declined his “Best Actor” Oscar for *The Godfather* in protest against the portrayal of American Indians in movies.

**1982:** Buffy Saint-Marie shared the “Best Song” Oscar for “Up Where We Belong,” from *An Officer and a Gentleman*.

**1991:** Graham Greene was nominated for “Best Supporting Actor” for *Dances With Wolves*; film consultant Doris Leader Charge translated Michael Blake’s remarks into Lakota Sioux when he accepted his Oscar for “Best Adapted Screenplay” for *Dances With Wolves*.

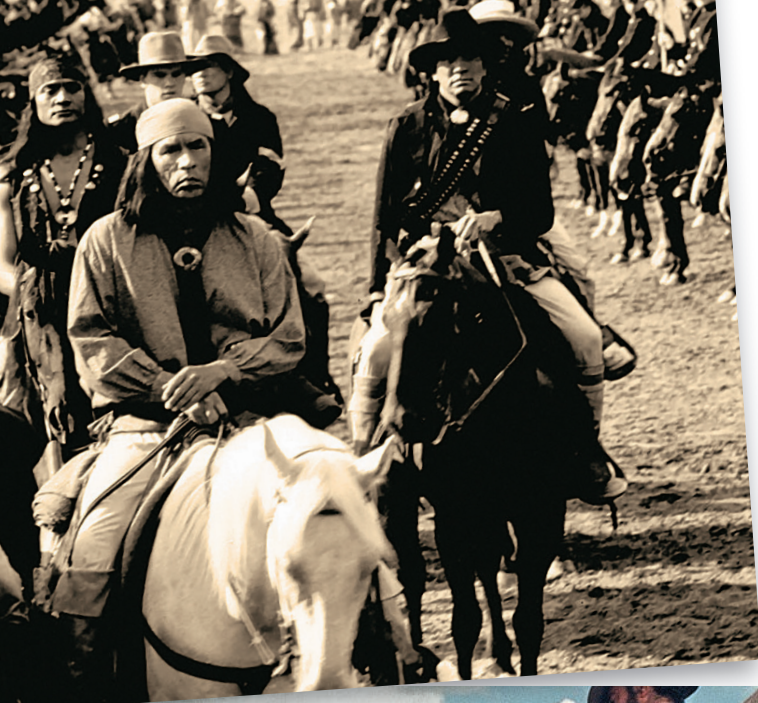
**2018:** Wes Studi made history as the ceremony’s first American Indian presenter. While introducing a film montage that honored military service, he spoke Cherokee. (Translation: “Hello. Appreciation to all veterans and Cherokees who’ve served. Thank you!”)



U.S. Cavalry Lt. Charles Gatewood (Jason Patric, above) escorts Geronimo (Wes Studi, center and in photos at left) to the San Carlos compound in 1993’s *Geronimo: An American Legend*.

— BY SAM EMERSON, COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES —





## WES STUDI'S POPULAR WESTERNS

Out of the 35 Westerns Wes Studi has appeared in so far, the 10 ranked the most popular by *IMDB.com* are:

1. 2017's *Hostiles*: Chief Yellow Hawk
2. 2011 & 2012 *Hell on Wheels*: Chief Many Horses
3. 1990's *Dances With Wolves*: Toughest Pawnee
4. 2014's *A Million Ways to Die in the West*: Cochise
5. 2005's *Into the West*: Black Kettle
6. 1993's *Geronimo: An American Legend*: Geronimo
7. 2006's *Seraphim Falls*: Charon
8. 2008's *Comanche Moon*: Buffalo Hump
9. 2007's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*: Wovoka
10. 2014's *Killer Women*: White Deer



Christian Bale's bigoted U.S. Army captain is charged with escorting Yellow Hawk, played by Wes Studi, to his homeland in 2017's *Hostiles* (top color photo shows Bale and Studi; Studi is also shown in the middle of center photo and at right).

— COURTESY ENTERTAINMENT STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES —

BY DAN PIRARO

# Bizarro's Take on American Indians

DAN PIRARO GREW UP WANTING TO LOOK INDIAN AND ENDED UP PAYING HOMAGE TO THEM WITH HIS HUMOR.

When I was a boy growing up in a very small town in Oklahoma in the early 1960s, I sometimes saw Indian kids around town wearing mohawk haircuts.

As a devotee of Western movies and TV shows, I begged my parents to let me wear my hair that way. They denied my request, probably because of their own sense of decorum, but it was likely wise; I've no idea how a white kid wearing an Indian haircut would have been received by our Indian neighbors in those days.

Still, I spent a lot of my early years dressed as a cowboy or Indian in my free time and running through what woods and fields I had available, with my plastic six-shooter or my toy-store bow and arrow.

I've spent most of my adult life in big U.S. cities on the coasts. Though I had ceased dressing like an extra for *Stagecoach* by the time I was a teen, as an adult, I have often

worn old-fashioned, corny Western shirts along with my other more sophisticated urban attire. A couple of years ago, however, I moved to a small town in central Mexico and have begun wearing something of a cowboy costume again: boots, belt, Stetson and the same corny, vintage cowboy shirts.

I have, however, lost my desire (and ability) to sport a mohawk haircut. Of course, Mexico has a much larger native population than the U.S., so communing with Indians here is a daily experience, and I truly enjoy it.

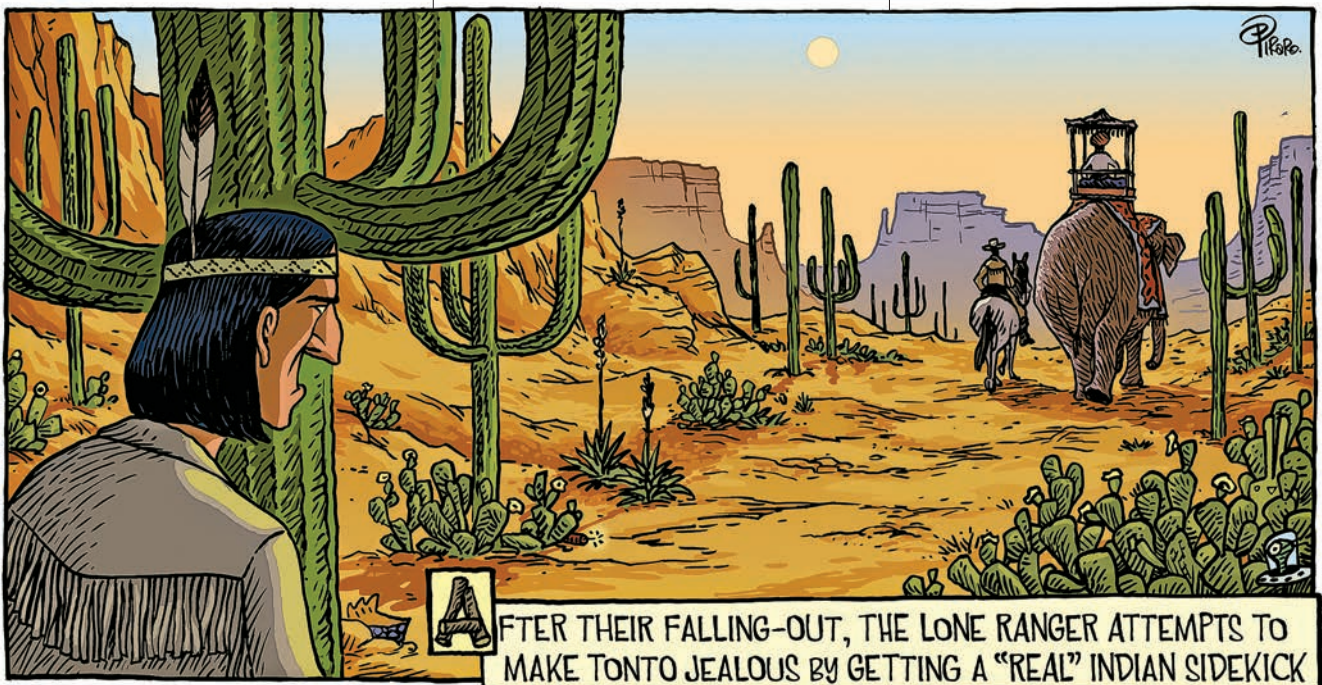
My move to Mexico has ushered in my retirement. Since January 1, 2018, I have created only the Sunday *Bizarro* cartoon. A longtime collaborator and friend, who draws by the name of Wayno, does my Monday-Saturday cartoons. After drawing more than 12,000 published *Bizarro* cartoons, I am now focusing on fine art, much of which has surreal Mexican themes.

Drawing cartoons about an oppressed minority like American Indians can be a delicate affair. I'm happy to report, however, that I've heard from many Indians over the years who truly enjoy my Indian-themed comics and have not received a single complaint. I've found that very gratifying.



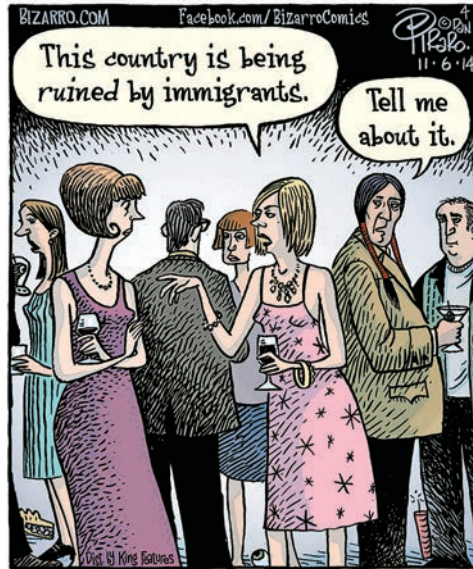
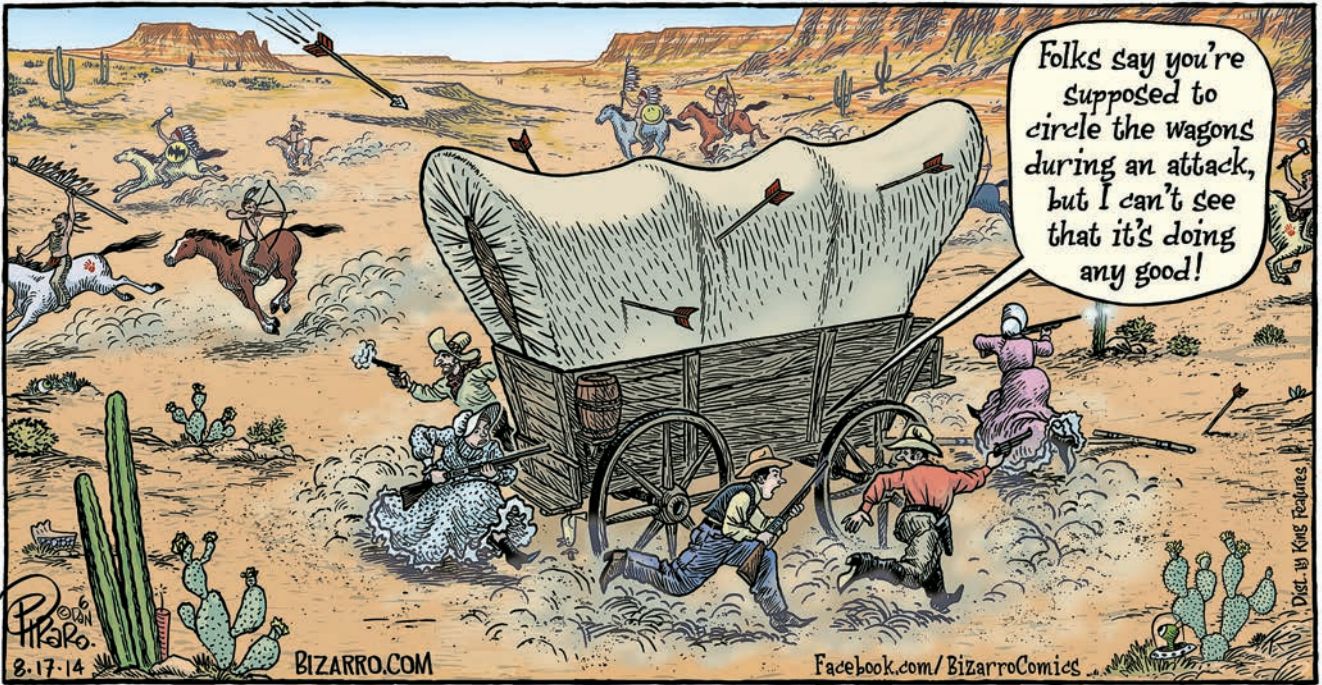
Dan Piraro began drawing cartoons during the mid-1970s in college, but was not published until his feature, *Bizarro*, was syndicated in newspapers in 1985. He has since won numerous awards for it, including the National Cartoonists Society's "Best Newspaper Panel" and "Cartoonist of the Year."

The Lone Ranger and Tonto were favorites of mine as a child, and I've featured these characters in numerous cartoons over the years. This one is my favorite, playing on my childhood curiosity over why people from two different parts of the world came to be called Indians.



**A**

AFTER THEIR FALLING-OUT, THE LONE RANGER ATTEMPTS TO MAKE TONTO JEALOUS BY GETTING A "REAL" INDIAN SIDEKICK



(Above) This gag reminds me of my childhood in Oklahoma, when my family had to circle the wagons to protect ourselves, not from Indians, but from tornadoes every spring.

(Center group, clockwise, from top left) As a boy, I imagined I could track like the Indians, even on paved streets. I put my ear to the ground to guess my friends' location: "Three Huffys and a Schwinn—four, maybe five blocks away." Sadly, I never developed the knack for it.

This is a play on the "us vs. them" argument, one of the oldest political ploys in history.

If Indians had controlled gambling on the frontier, history may well have been reversed as cowboys lost their weapons and horses to debts. Who knows, they might have sent all of the destitute palefaces to live in Oklahoma.

Compared to European attitudes toward sex, the U.S. is still puritanical. While a split-second glimpse of a female breast on broadcast TV can send the nation into convulsion fits, you can torture and slaughter as many people as you like on TV and no one bats an eye.

# The Man Who Killed the Man Who Killed Billy the Kid

WILL THE REAL  
WAYNE BRAZEL  
PLEASE STAND UP?

On February 29, 1908, Jesse Wayne Brazel walked into the Doña Ana County sheriff's office and announced, "Lock me up. . . . I've just killed Pat Garrett."

Despite Brazel's confession, we still do not know, 110 years later, who killed the man responsible for ending the life of Billy the Kid. To date, at least 10 books and dozens of articles have been published examining Sheriff Pat F. Garrett, not to mention Sam Peckinpah's classic 1973 film *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*, yet his murder remains one of the Southwest's most intriguing and enduring cold cases because few historians believe Brazel was capable of violence. But what if they are wrong?

## "I'll Put You Out Right Now"

When Brazel admitted to killing Garrett on a lonely stretch of road just east of Las Cruces, New Mexico Territory, in 1908, he claimed he shot in self-defense during a property dispute. Eyewitness Carl Adamson backed up Brazel's version of events. Adamson told officials Brazel waited until Garrett threatened him with: "You, I'll put you out right now," and he did not draw his own gun until Garrett had drawn his first.

Evidence at the crime scene, however, contradicted their testimony. Doña Ana County officials determined that Garrett was probably not holding his shotgun when he was felled—surprising for a man who was always courting danger—and that he had been first hit in the back of the head and

almost simultaneously in the stomach while he was urinating on the side of the road, making self-defense an unlikely explanation.

Brazel was a cowboy for one of the largest spreads in the Tularosa Basin,

William Webb Cox's San Augustine Springs Ranch. When Cox hired an expensive attorney, Albert Bacon Fall, to defend his hired hand, stories quickly surfaced that Brazel had been a pawn in a larger conspiracy, asked to take the blame for someone else.

After a one-day trial, on April 19, 1909, during which attorneys on both sides provided little evidence or testimony, a jury found Brazel not guilty of murder. He walked away a free man. That's when wild speculation began over who had murdered Garrett.

## Incapable of Murder

From the day he achieved fame for killing the Kid until his own death 26 years later, Garrett made numerous enemies. He drank and gambled excessively, was drawn into arguments easily and borrowed money from powerful people he could not always repay.

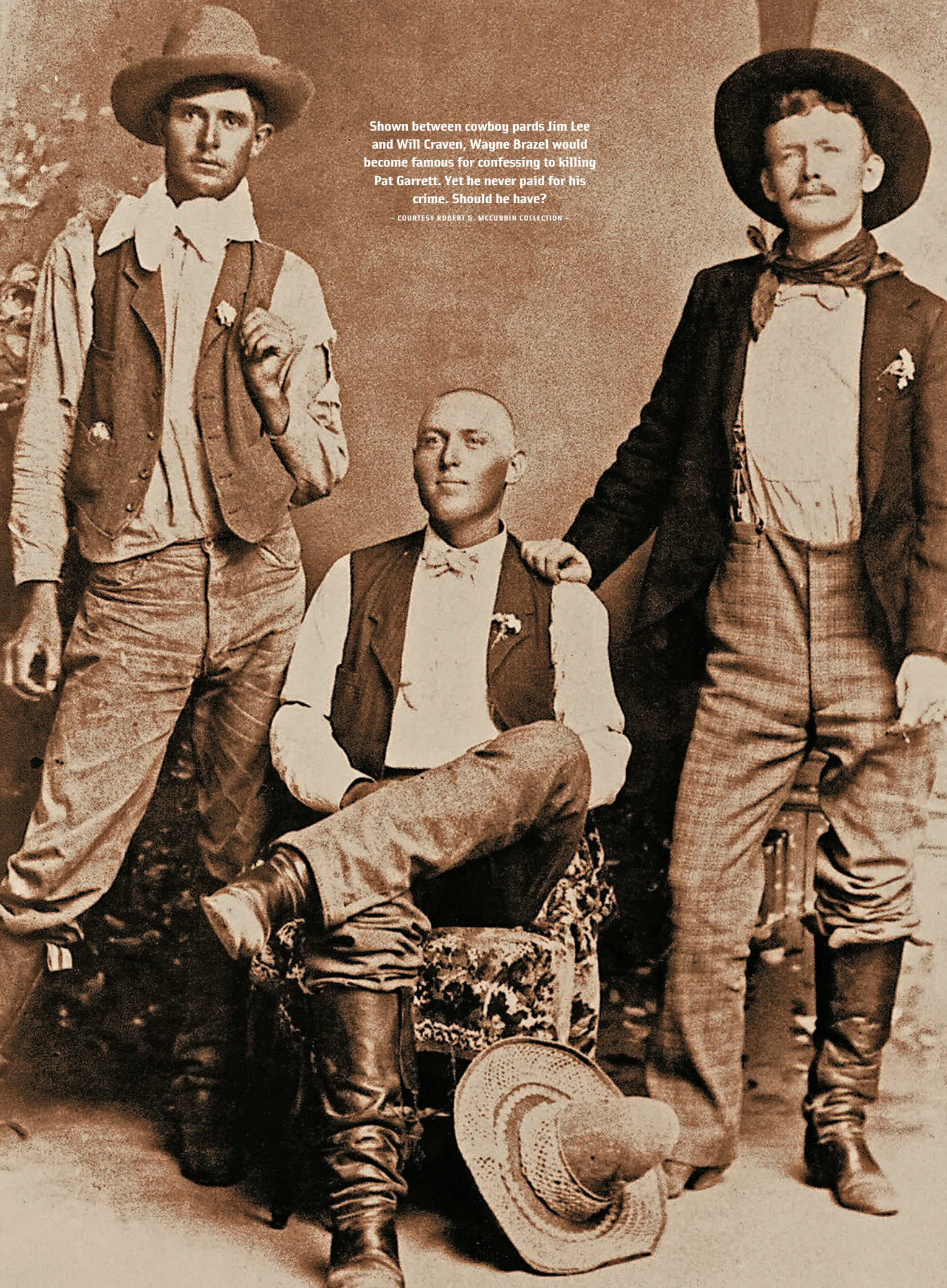
Despite his negative qualities, Garrett remained a feared lawman whom politicians often called on to investigate high-profile murders in southern New Mexico Territory. At the time of his death, Garrett was apparently about to bring charges against local ranchers for rustling and perhaps even for the murders of politician Albert Fountain and his eight-year-old son Henry. Some researchers have suggested Garrett was slain before he could arrest prominent citizens.

Most historians argue the lowly cowboy Brazel lacked the ability with a firearm to get the upper hand against one of the Southwest's most accomplished lawmen. Interviews with family and friends revealed Brazel as incapable of murdering anyone in cold blood.



Pat Garrett (above) killed escaped convict Billy the Kid in 1881...and then, nearly 30 years later, found himself on the wrong end of the gun.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



Shown between cowboy pals Jim Lee and Will Craven, Wayne Brazel would become famous for confessing to killing Pat Garrett. Yet he never paid for his crime. Should he have?

— COURTESY, ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION

## GARRETT DEATH SITE

Long shrouded in mystery, here is a concise look at one of the strangest assassinations in the history of the Old West.

Garrett biographer Leon Metz believes Brazel told the truth, that he shot in self-defense, while Brazel biographer Robert Mullin, who published *The Strange Story of Wayne Brazel* in 1969, concluded the ranch hand was not a violent man and thus “did not pull the trigger that ended the life of Pat Garrett.”

Historians have shifted the blame to others, creating a long list of possible suspects, including gun-for-hire James P. “Killin’ Jim” Miller, Brazel’s boss Bill Cox and A.P. Rhodes, Brazel’s partner in the disputed property. These historians have also provided us with a large assortment of theories to explain what happened, including suggesting a secret meeting to plan the assassination took place in a hotel in El Paso, Texas.

But what if Brazel wasn’t the choir boy everyone thought he was?

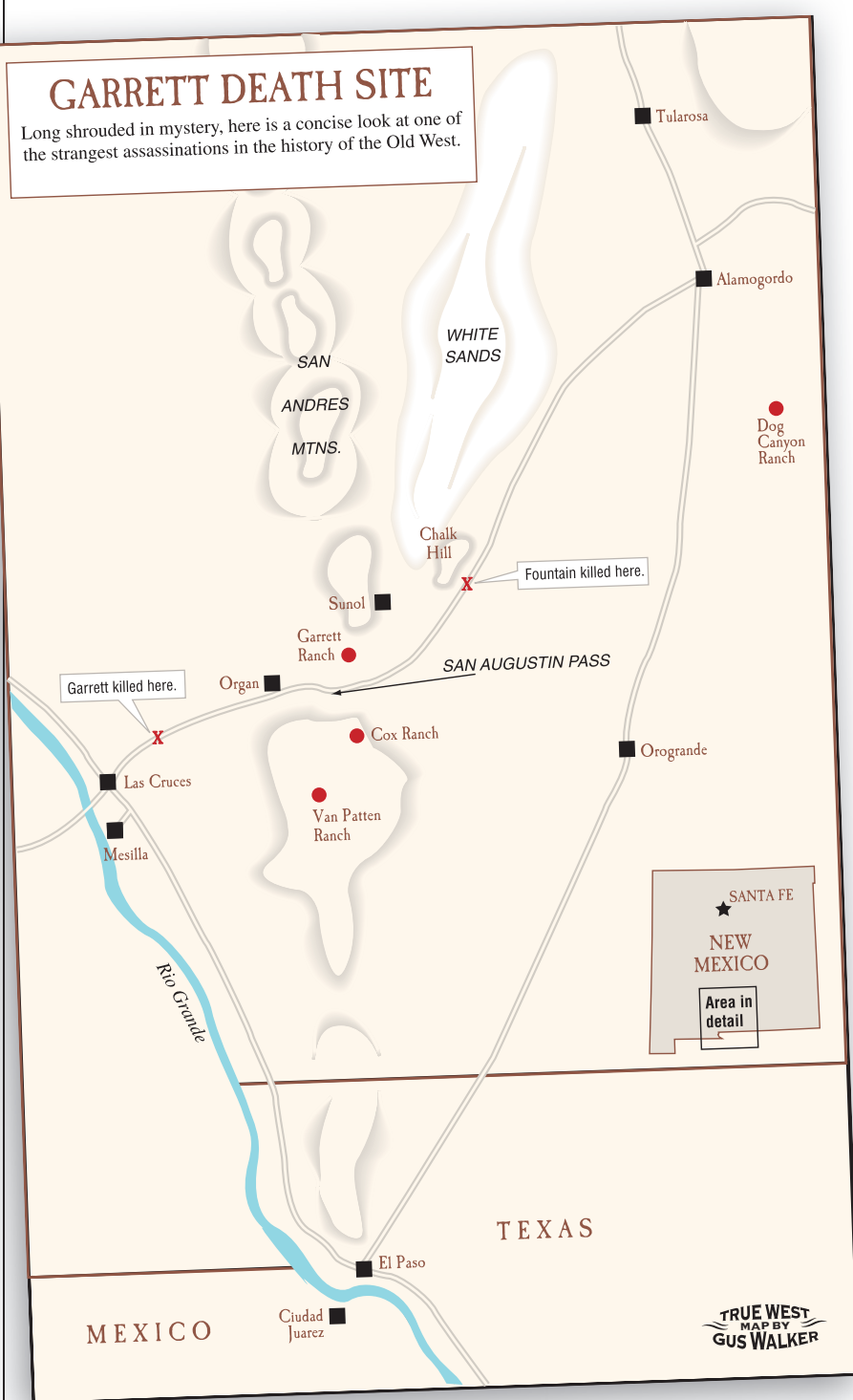
### Court Case Discovery

While researching the Power shoot-out for the documentary film *Power’s War* and for my book on Arizona’s deadliest gunfight, I stumbled upon a Cochise County legal case in the Arizona State Archives involving the Power family and Brazel.

Brazel was not listed by name as a plaintiff in the case of “C.S. and M.J. Power v. J.W. Gould et al” filed on August 26, 1910, so I could see how other researchers overlooked this case, but the court proceedings reveal a side of Brazel not seen in previously published works.

Shortly after his acquittal for the murder of Garrett, Brazel began to accumulate grazing land for a cattle operation at the base of Steins Peak in Doubtful Canyon, located near the border between present-day Hidalgo County in New Mexico and Cochise County in Arizona.

The Butterfield stage line ran through this dry and windswept stretch during the late 1850s. Attacks on the stage in those days were so frequent that stage drivers warned passengers that “Doubtful Canyon was so named ‘because it’s always doubtful whether we’ll reach the other end alive.’”



Traveling along the same road where politician Albert J. Fountain and his eight-year-old son Henry met their demise, Pat Garrett died an undignified death, while urinating along the side of the road, about four miles east of Las Cruces, New Mexico Territory. When he was shot, Garrett was apparently about to bring charges against local ranchers for the Fountain murders.

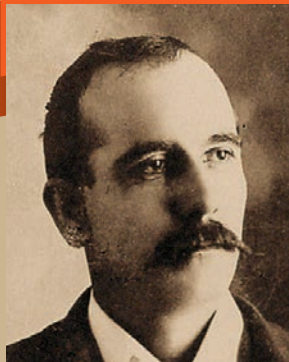
When Brazel moved to Doubtful Canyon in 1910, the area remained sparsely populated by ranchers because of the limited water supply.

Brazel’s partner in the venture was rancher and saloon proprietor James W. Gould, a long-time resident of Lordsburg, New Mexico Territory, who had testified at the 1899 trial for Henry Fountain’s murder. The previous

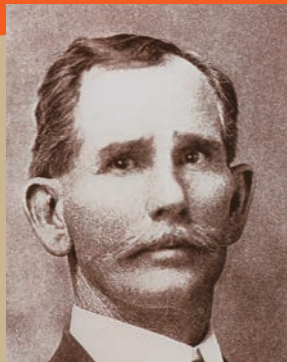
owners of the land, the Power family—which included matriarch Jane Power, her widower son Jeff and four grandchildren between the ages of 16 and 21—remained in Doubtful Canyon, staking a new claim and submitting a homestead application for land nearby.

Evidently, the Power family’s continued presence on the land somehow threatened Brazel and Gould’s plans.

# THE SUSPECTS



OLIVER LEE



BILL COX



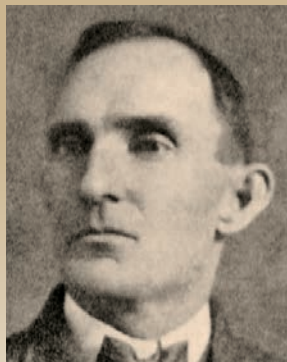
PRINT RHODE



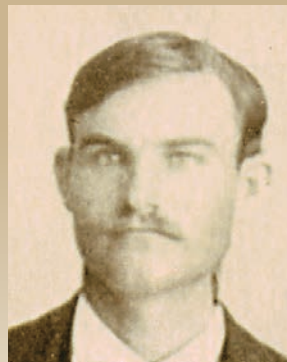
CARL ADAMSON



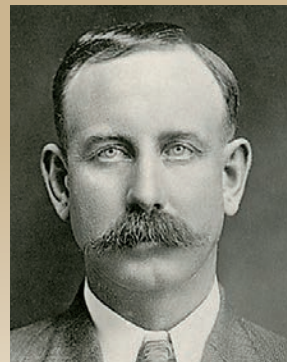
WAYNE BRAZEL



JIM MILLER



BILL MCNEW



JAMES GILLILAND

Despite confessing to killing Pat Garrett, Wayne Brazel became just one of the suspects who historians believe killed the man who killed Billy the Kid.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED; RHODE COURTESY PINAL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

Gould filed charges against Jeff Power, claiming he had sold the Doubtful Mine under false pretenses and failed to vacate the premises. A jury in Grant County district court quickly cleared Jeff of wrongdoing.

Gould decided to take matters into his own hands. He, his new business partner Brazel and local rancher and Deputy Sheriff Elmer Archer Lyall traveled to the Power property in Doubtful Canyon in July 1910 to remove the problematic family. The three held no warrants or eviction notice—the Powers had filed all the proper paperwork for their Doubtful property—so Lyall was not there in an official capacity as deputy, but rather as a hired gunman.

The trio entered the ranch house heavily armed and threatened to kill the entire family, including Jane, who was 66, and her 16-year-old granddaughter Ola May.

Unlike Brazel's deadly encounter with Garrett two years prior, gunfire was not

exchanged. The Powers cooperated, gathering up their personal belongings and leaving. They chose to fight their assailants in court instead.

The Powers filed a lawsuit against Brazel, Gould and Lyall, charging them with forcible entry and detainer. In the fall of 1910, Gould, Brazel and Lyall were summoned to the Bowie justice court in Cochise County, where a judge found the three men guilty and awarded the Powers \$500 in damages plus court costs.

The case was appealed. Once again, a high-powered attorney, this time Allen R. English of Tombstone, was hired for Brazel's defense team. The court overruled the initial judgment—not the first time Brazel had avoided conviction with the help of first-rate legal talent.

After the incident, the Power family left Doubtful Canyon and never spoke of their encounter with Brazel, evidently fearing

repercussions from him or his powerful associates. They would find themselves in new difficulties eight years later, when a posse surrounded their mining cabin in the Galiuro Mountains. In the ensuing gunfight, Jeff Power, the Graham County sheriff and two deputies were killed.

## What Happened to Brazel?

Brazel's fate is less certain.

At the time of the court proceedings with the Power family, he married Olive Boyd in September 1910, a union which produced a baby boy. When Olive died a few months after giving birth, Brazel left his son to be raised by his in-laws in El Paso, Texas, moved to Ash Fork, Arizona, and then vanished, raising even more questions about him and his role in Garrett's death.

In November 2017, Angelica Valenzuela, the records and filing supervisor with the

Doña Ana County clerk's office, discovered the coroner's report for the death of Garrett, a document most historians believed had vanished long ago. The report stated: "the deceased [Pat Garrett] came to his death by gunshot wounds inflicted by one Wayne Brazel."

I don't know how many other public records, like the coroner's report or the court proceedings in Cochise County, are out there that might one day shine a spotlight on the real Brazel, allowing us to determine if he should be on the top, rather than the bottom, of any list of suspects.

I'm sure researchers must endure many more hours of breathing dust in musty archives before we'll ever solve the mystery of Garrett's killing.

Heidi J. Osselaer earned her Ph.D. in history at Arizona State University. This article is adapted from a paper she presented at the 2017 Arizona-New Mexico History Convention and from her most recent book, *Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight: Draft Resistance and Tragedy at the Power Cabin, 1918*, published this May by University of Oklahoma Press.



Billy the Kid is such an icon that collector William Koch paid \$2.3 million for the only authenticated photograph of the Kid (above) at Brian Lebel's Old West Auction in 2011.

- COURTESY WILLIAM KOCH COLLECTION -



Elmer "Arch" Lyall, the deputy sheriff who lived in Doubtful Canyon and confronted the Powers with James W. Gould and Wayne Brazel, rides on horseback carrying his roughly four-year-old son Clarence in this circa 1920 photograph.

- COURTESY DALE LYALL, GRANDSON OF ELMER "ARCH" LYALL -

MAY 5, 1909. PRICE FIVE CENTS

## DIE LAS CRUCES JURY FINDS WAYNE BRAZEL NOT GUILTY

Chief Counsel for Wayne Brazel

### JURY ACQUITS GARRETT'S SLAYER

Is Out But a Few Minutes In the Celebrated Case. Trial Short.

PROVED WAS SHOT IN SELF DEFENSE

Territory Introduces No New Evidence—Judge Fall Appears.



JUDGE A. B. FALL

JURY CHOSEN TO TRY EDITOR OF THE "APPEAL TO REASON"

*Special to THE TIMES.*  
Las Cruces, N. M., May 4.—Wayne Brazel was acquitted of the charge of murdering Pat Garrett by a jury in the district court this afternoon after having been out fifteen minutes, thus closing the second chapter of one of the great tragedies written into the history of the southwest.

**May Be Closed Incident.**  
Whether or not there will be other chapters, whether or not there will be reprisals by the friends of the dead man, as has been rumored, remains for the future. For the present at least the incident is closed.

**History of the Case.**  
The circumstances surrounding the death of Pat Garrett, known in song and as the slayer of the notorious outlaw "Billy the Kid," are fresh in the minds of readers of *The Times*, but are briefly outlined as follows: some Garrett, who was running some

With Albert Fall as his defense attorney, Wayne Brazel claimed self-defense when he stood trial before Judge Frank Parker. The jury found him not guilty of killing Pat Garrett.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

No. 0077

Docket ..... Page .....

## Justice Court

7th Precinct

County of Cochise

TERRITORY OF ARIZONA.

Charles D. Power &  
M. J. Power  
Plaintiff &

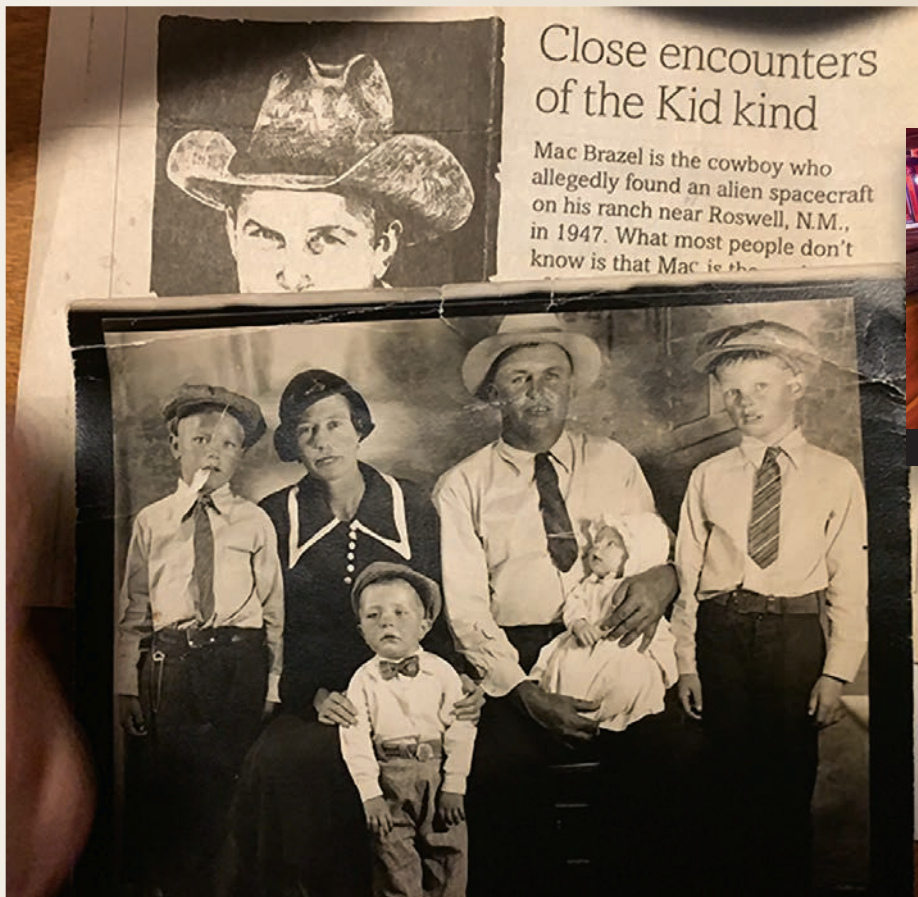
vs.

James W. Gould, Wayne  
Brazel & A. Lyall  
Defendant &

ORIGINAL SUMMONS.  
Forcible Entry and Unlawful Detainer.

In the Arizona State Archives, researcher Heidi J. Osselaer stumbled upon a court case involving Wayne Brazel (see summons above) that revealed a murderous side to him.

- COURTESY HEIDI J. OSSELAER -



**EMALEE BRAZELL**

After reading Bob Boze Bell's *True West Moments* in *The Arizona Republic* about rancher "Mac" Brazel who found the alleged alien spacecraft near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947 (known today as the "Roswell Incident"), Emalee Brazell contacted Bell to report that Mac (shown far right, in a Brazell family photo from the 1920s) was related to Wayne Brazel.

— TRUE WEST MOMENTS COURTESY THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC; BRAZELL FAMILY PHOTO COURTESY EMALEE BRAZELL; EMALEE BRAZELL PHOTO BY BOB BOZE BELL —

## DINNER WITH A BRAZELL

A woman who claims relation to the alleged killer of Pat Garrett read one of my *True West Moments* in *The Arizona Republic*. She offered to tell me what happened to Wayne. I met with 82-year-old Emalee Brazell Price and two of her friends at a Texas Roadhouse restaurant on February 27, 2017.

Emalee told me Wayne had died in 1936 of typhoid. He was working on a Civilian Conservation Corps project (one of the "CCC Boys," as they were called) at the time of his passing. His body is buried in Barton Cemetery, near Edgewood, New Mexico.

If true, this fills in a major gap in our knowledge of what happened to the man who allegedly killed the man who killed Billy the Kid.

She also told me that Wayne spent time in a Yuma prison in Arizona Territory, possibly because of the Garrett killing. This seems odd since he was acquitted in New Mexico Territory and the charges probably wouldn't have carried over to Arizona Territory, but that is the family story.

Emalee spells her family name "Brazell," rhymes with "razzle," and she is unsure where the Brazel spelling, with only one L, came from. Perhaps a misspelled court document?

Historian Lauren Kormylo (one of our *True West Maniacs*) investigated the family's story about the name. She says Wayne is in the 1910 Census, spelled with one "L" for Brazel. The census reports show he could read and write. All of the news sources of the day also spelled his name with one "L," and the 1880 Census shows his parents' name with the same spelling.

As far as the grave goes, Kormylo has not been to the cemetery in person, but according to the "Find a Grave" website, the cemetery is home to five Brazell graves, but Wayne Brazell is not among them. Billy the Kid author Mark Lee Gardner thoroughly examined the burial records of the Edgewood cemetery and found no trace of our guy.

To add more fuel to the fire, others have claimed to be Wayne's relatives. Amy Brazel wrote a blog claiming her father and uncle swear that Wayne lived under an assumed name (Charles O'Neal) the rest of his life.

Bill Brazel claimed he visited his cousin Wayne in Arizona, where he was reportedly alive during the 1930s, reports Iraq veteran Kevin Randle, who

met Bill and shared the encounter in a 2009 blog (thank you, Billy the Kid researcher Robert M. Stahl for sharing this with me). Like Emalee, Bill also claimed Wayne spent time in Arizona, telling Randle: Wayne "worked on a ranch there, doing the same things that he had done before. No one really knew about Pat Garrett or the murder charges that had been filed against him or any of his later trouble with the government."

Even more, Bill claimed that Wayne had an earlier encounter with Garrett, when the lawman led a posse to the Brazel ranch, perhaps around July 1898, when the posse was chasing Bill McNew, Oliver M. Lee and Jim Gililand. Garrett wanted the posse to spend the night at the Brazel ranch, but Bill's grandmother, wielding a Winchester, chased him off her property.

Family lore can be a sticky wicket for researchers to navigate. Looks like historians still have more digging to do to solve the mystery of Wayne Brazel's final years.

—Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell

TRUE WEST  
EXCLUSIVE

# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## SHOOT-OUT IN EL PASO

### DALLAS STOUDENMIRE VS GEORGE CAMPBELL

“FOUR MEN KILLED  
IN FIVE SECONDS”



Shown here as marshal in El Paso, Texas, Dallas Stoudenmire took on the role on April 11, 1881, just three days before the gunfight.

— ALL IMAGES COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Leon C. Metz and Fred R. Egloff

APRIL 14, 1881

Out in the West Texas town of El Paso, ex-Marshall George Campbell is flat-out looking for trouble. “Any American that is a friend of Mexicans,” he booms, “ought to be hanged!”

Constable Gus Krempkau turns red. He has just finished assisting a group of Mexicans into the U.S. “George,” says Krempkau, as he slides his rifle into the scabbard aboard his riding mule, “I hope you don’t mean me.”

“If the shoe fits,” hoots Campbell, snapping his fingers in the air for emphasis, “then wear it.”

The drunk Campbell then turns to grab the reins of his mule, which are tied to a tree.

Another drunk bystander, Johnny Hale, steps forward and bellows, “Turn loose, Campbell, I’ve got him covered.”

Hale instantly fires, and the bullet hits Krempkau near the heart, before exiting through his lungs.

Across the street, the Globe Restaurant doors blow open, and Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire emerges with a pistol in each hand. Close behind him is his brother-in-law, Stanley “Doc” Cummings, toting a shotgun.

As he takes in the scene on the fly, Stoudenmire steps lively into the street and snaps off a quick shot at Hale, who ducks behind an adobe pillar. Unfortunately, the marshal’s shot misses Hale and hits a Mexican citizen who has just bought a sack of peanuts. Hale pokes his head around the pillar. Stoudenmire’s second shot hits him in the head; he collapses, dead.

Drawing his own pistol, Campbell hastily backs into the center of the street and loudly says, “Gentlemen, this is not my fight.”

A dying Krempkau grits his teeth and squeezes off shots at Campbell. The first bullet smashes into the ex-marshal’s pistol and breaks his wrist. Campbell yells out and drops to the ground to pick up his revolver. Krempkau’s next bullet hits Campbell in the foot.

Defending his mortally wounded constable, Stoudenmire fires at Campbell. The bullet enters Campbell’s stomach, causing him to drop his gun a second time, as he topples face-down.

When Stoudenmire rolls Campbell over, Campbell sputters, “You big son-of-a-bitch, you murdered me!”

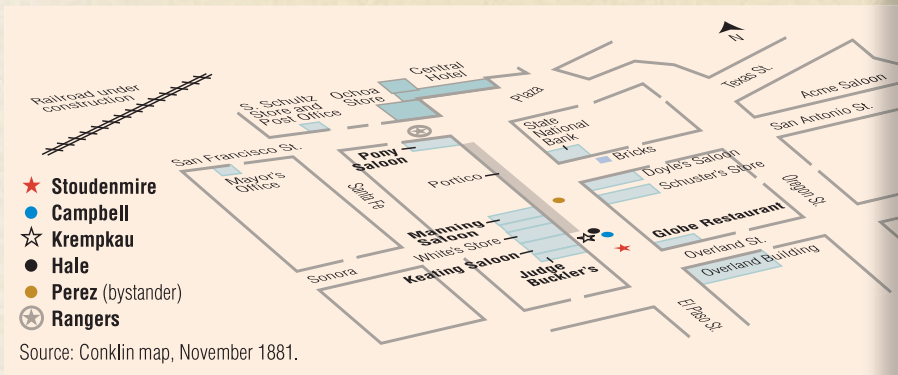
The fight is over. ★



### El Paso, Texas, April 14, 1881

At 6 p.m., Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire (center) hears gunshots and exits the Globe Restaurant. Sizing up the scene, he attacks Johnny Hale and ex-Marshall George Campbell, who he assumes shot his dying constable, but he ends up killing an innocent bystander. Stanley “Doc” Cummings (far right), Stoudenmire’s brother-in-law and the owner of the Globe, steps off the sidewalk with a shotgun. He fires no shots. Backing into the middle of the street, Campbell (far left) tells them, “Gentlemen, this is not my fight.”

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends



Dallas Stoudenmire, all six feet four inches of him, is known as "Big Dal," and he is an efficient officer, when sober. Unfortunately, as time goes on, he becomes increasingly erratic and vicious.



The site of the shoot-out is in the far left corner, beyond the wagon that is unloading in front of the Manning Saloon, of this photo showing the west side of El Paso Street, looking south. The wagon is also near where Stoudenmire will be killed in September 1882, a mere 17 months after he killed ex-Marshall Campbell. One of the bullets fired in that gunfight will hit the barber pole to the wagon's right.



George W. Campbell, standing next to Jim Manning in 1881, hailed from Kentucky and served as El Paso's deputy sheriff and city marshal. But he quit when the town council refused to pay him. The forward butt on his holstered pistol causes some to speculate that George was left-handed, but testimony indicated he was right-handed.

In George Campbell's dying statement to the state's attorney, as reported by the *Mesilla Independent*, he claimed Gus Krempkau had "hunted him up" and "called him out" for making "epithets of an opprobrious character" about helping Mexicans. Campbell insisted he had assured the constable he wasn't angry with him, but was disturbed by the presence of the armed Mexicans in El Paso, Texas.

Krempkau was satisfied with Campbell's explanation, but Johnny Hale misunderstood the encounter and shoved his revolver at Krempkau, telling Campbell "to draw that he had him covered." Campbell told Hale, "It's not my fight" and began to move away from the two men. Hale and Krempkau commenced shooting at each other, each receiving "death wounds," but both continuing to shoot.

When Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire came on the scene, Campbell tried to assure him this wasn't his fight, but Stoudenmire shot him anyway, breaking his right wrist. Campbell attempted to draw his revolver with his left hand, and the marshal "shot him through."

Campbell lived until 5 a.m., when "death had set its seal upon him."

The armed Mexicans were in town to claim the bodies of two Mexican vaqueros who had been ambushed and killed while trying to retrieve stolen cattle. Their bodies had been found on Johnny Hale's ranch, north of El Paso.

At the inquest on El Paso Street, where the altercation took place, the assembled "Americans" were upset with the show of force. They unfairly blamed Krempkau for the Mexicans' presence, as he had merely escorted them so they could take the bodies home.

The day before the shooting, and some 45 miles away in Mesilla, New Mexico Territory, the notorious Billy the Kid was convicted and sentenced to hang for killing Lincoln County Sheriff William Brady.

**Recommended:** *Dallas Stoudenmire: El Paso Marshal* by Leon C. Metz, published by University of Oklahoma Press, and *El Paso Lawman: G.W. Campbell* by Fred R. Egloff, published by Early West/Creative Publishing Company.

BY DOUG HOCKING

LITTLE KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

# A Daring Sense of Humor

*Yuma Bill enjoyed a good joke while scouting for the U.S. Army.*

**Y**uma Bill's broad smile suggests he engaged his cavalry comrades in more than one game of "grinning through a horse collar."

Colonel George Forsyth described Yuma Bill as "our most reliable Apache scout... who spoke English very well, and was an unusually fine Indian..."

Yuma Bill was not Apache, but Tolkapaya Yavapai, then referred to as Yuma Apache, Yavapai Apache or just Apache. Their tribal customs were similar, but their language, very different.

Once Joseph R. Walker and his party discovered gold along Granite Creek in 1863, the new Arizona territorial government established its capital at Prescott in Yavapai country the following year.

## Young Yavapais seeking excitement, respect and money rallied to the flag.

The Yavapai were among the first Indians placed on reservations in Arizona Territory. These became a natural recruiting ground for "Apache" scouts to help pacify Apaches in eastern and southern Arizona Territory. Young Yavapais, including Yuma Bill, seeking excitement, respect and money rallied to the flag.

From his long association with troops, Yuma Bill learned a relaxed willingness to share in jokes. His chase of Apache medicine man Geronimo presented a humorous event.

On April 23, 1882, near Stein's Peak, along the Territorial Arizona-New Mexico border, Yuma Bill was one of the six scouts traveling with Lt. David McDonald and two enlisted men to track Geronimo. The Apache renegade had returned to the San Carlos Reservation to force Chief Loco's people to follow him into the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico.

Cutting the trail, the party encountered two prospectors who took them for hostiles. They trembled and ran in circles before the Yavapai scouts, thinking they were about to be tortured, even though an Army lieutenant stood before them in uniform.

Yuma Bill thought this hysterically funny and told the laughing scouts, "White man heap scared; no catchum news!"

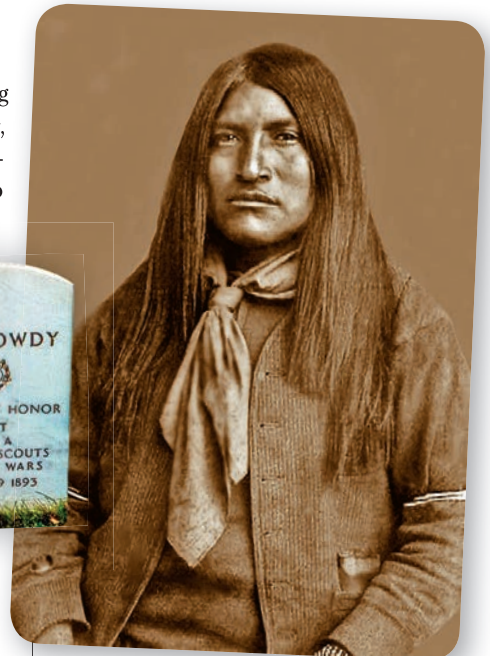
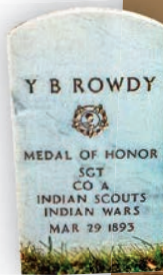
Continuing along the trail, the party came to a rocky ridge in a canyon where smoke showed recently extinguished fires. The six scouts believed it death to go on. McDonald berated them, calling them women, so they continued.

As the men approached a ledge, eyes intent on the ground, only Yuma Bill thought to poke his head above. He yelled, "Watch out, Lt. McDonald!"

The officer, looking into Apache guns, threw himself forward as a volley rang out. Three scouts fell dead.

Yuma Bill and the lieutenant whirled and fled, but a second volley took Yuma Bill's life. Holding his ground with the remaining men, McDonald sent word to Col. Forsyth.

Galloping hard to the rescue, the colonel, with six troops of cavalry at his back, arrived



Some have confused Rowdy (above) as "Yuma Bill." Yet the letters "YB" got placed with his name on his gravestone most likely because of the "Y.B.-17" designation he had at the reservation.

All the Yavapais in his group carried that same Y.B. tag.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

on the scene and attacked. Suffering another two men killed, Forsyth withdrew his overwhelming force, while the Apaches retreated across the open San Simon Valley.

Chief of Scouts Al Sieber mocked the ineffective colonel. Had he lived, Yuma Bill would have seen him as a joke too. ❏

**Doug Hocking** grew up on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in New Mexico and served as an Armored Cavalry officer. He penned the first full-length biography of Tom Jeffords, a Spur finalist in 2018. Writing from the land of Cochise, Hocking continues work on his novels; his latest novel is *Devil on the Loose*.



Henry Buehman  
took this photo of  
a grinning Yuma  
Bill in Tucson,  
Arizona Territory.

- COURTESY COLLECTION  
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Yuma Bill -

95-

BY CANDY MOULTON

# Trailing the Wild Bunch

*The legendary outlaws left their mark from Wyoming to Texas.*



On November 21, 1900, five members of the Wild Bunch brazenly walked into Fort Worth's Swartz View Company and sat for their portrait. The dandied up train robbers, from left to right, Harry Longabaugh (the Sundance Kid), Will Carver, Ben Kilpatrick, Harvey Logan (Kid Curry) and Butch Cassidy, known as the "Fort Worth Five," soon split up. The outlaws would all die the way they lived, violently.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —

**T**wo of the best-known bank and train robbers of the 19th century spent time in jail and prison—for horse theft—and not a day behind bars for stealing from the cashiers of small-town banks, or the safes hauled in railroad cars. They successfully eluded the law by riding into remote country, or finding work using the ranch skills they had learned as young men.

Robert LeRoy Parker, born April 13, 1866, in Beaver, Utah, spent his early years in Circleville, Utah, where as a teen he

worked on ranches. He left home while still young, drifting east to Colorado. Ultimately he took a new name: Butch Cassidy. On June 24, 1889, Cassidy, Matt Warner and Tom McCarty robbed the San Miguel Bank in Telluride, Colorado, pocketing an estimated \$10,500 and quickly disappearing.

Harry Alonzo Longabaugh left his home in Pennsylvania while still in his teens, traveling with a cousin to Durango and Cortez, Colorado, where they found work on ranches. Longabaugh then drifted north to work on the N-N Ranch near Culbertson, Montana.

But on February 27, 1887, while out of work, his life took a twist. Longabaugh stole a horse, gun and saddle from an employee of the VVV Ranch near Sundance, Wyoming, was arrested in Miles City, Montana, pleaded guilty on August 5, 1887, and spent eighteen months in the Sundance town jail until he was pardoned by Wyoming Gov. Thomas Moonlight on February 4, 1889. From this he earned the name: the Sundance Kid.

Once they started riding together (most historians agree that their partnership didn't start until the Winnemucca, Nevada,



Today, Split Mountain Canyon (left) is protected by Dinosaur National Monument in northeast Utah, but between robberies the Wild Bunch hid out and planned their next heists there, expertly eluding posses through these wild and rugged lands of the Green River and Browns Park.

— COURTESY NPS.GOV —

Born in Beaver, Utah, on April 13, 1866, Robert Leroy “Butch Cassidy” Parker, the first of 13 children born to Mormon pioneer parents from England, would have grown up admiring the view of Mount Baldy (right), a 12,090-foot peak in the nearby Tushar Mountains in Beaver County.

— COURTESY NYPL DIGITAL COLLECTIONS —



bank robbery of 1900), Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid put all their skills together to rob banks and railroad trains. Between robberies they found legitimate work riding the range and doing other cowboy jobs for ranches from Canada to the Mexican border. Their ability to handle cattle and horses and to do other outdoor work meant they had a variety of places to which they could “disappear” between jobs, holing up when the heat was on.



Harry Longabaugh earned his nickname after an 18-month stint for Grand Larceny in Wyoming’s Crook County Jail in Sundance in 1887-’89. Today, the “Sundance Kid” memorial (above) greets visitors to the Crook County Museum in Sundance.

— COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM —

### Hole-in-the-Wall

Our journey along the outlaw trail begins in Hole-in-the-Wall country west of Kaycee, Wyoming, where the Wild Bunch—including McCarty, Warner, Flat Nose George Currie, Elzy Lay and dozens more—gathered. Because the land was still remote and exhibited much of its wild nature, Butch and Sundance saw Hole-in-the-Wall as a good place to get a sense of the country they loved.

Like Sundance, Butch Cassidy had spent time behind bars. In 1894 he was sentenced to a two-year stint in the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie, Wyoming (now a State Historic Site), after being convicted of purchasing a stolen horse. He

was released before serving his full sentence, and once on the outside, joined forces with Sundance to form a group that used several names, but was best known as The Wild Bunch—men who rode the outlaw trail.

The Wild Bunch traveled as far north as near the Canadian border, and south to New Mexico and Arizona, but spent most of their time in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado,

traveling west to Montpelier, Idaho, where they robbed the bank of \$7,000 on August 13, 1896. Using their routine tactic, they then scattered before regrouping in Utah to carry out the April 22, 1897, robbery of a \$7,000 payroll from the Pleasant Valley Coal Company. At the Western Mining and Railroad Museum in Helper, you’ll find an exhibit about the Wild Bunch and the original steps from the Castle Gate building the Wild Bunch robbed.

Like Hole-in-the-Wall, the rugged area of eastern Utah—known as Robber’s Roost—and northwest Colorado in Browns Park, were favored places for the bunch to disappear into, split their plunder, find a variety of ranch jobs, and lay low or plan their next heist. They are said to have obtained their collective name when a saloonkeeper in Vernal, Utah, noted that the “wild bunch” was back in town.

Little Snake River Valley, cut off from any major population center, and therefore not patrolled by sheriffs, became another favored place to escape. They holed up in Baggs, Wyoming, in the Gaddis Matthews House, which still stands today and is a historical landmark.



### Robbing the Union Pacific

One of the Wild Bunch's train heists took place farther east beyond Elk Mountain at Wilcox near Arlington, Wyoming. Most likely led by Kid Curry (as Butch and Sundance were in Winnemucca robbing the First National Bank), the gang successfully boarded the Union Pacific Overland Flyer No. 1 train at Wilcox on June 2, 1899, blew the safe and scooped up an estimated \$34,000 before

At the end of the Wild Bunch trail (where Butch and Sundance famously split for South America), the Fort Worth Stockyards welcome visitors to "cowboy up" and immerse themselves in Texas's storied Old West past.

- COURTESY TEXAS TOURISM -

disappearing in all sorts of directions. They eluded capture and then gathered to prepare for and carry off another UP train holdup.

West of Rawlins and Wamsutter, Wyoming, the Continental Divide splits to form the Great Divide Basin. One crossing of the Divide is at Tipton (exit 158 on Interstate 80), site of the August 29, 1900, robbery of the Union Pacific. Though the Wild Bunch anticipated a \$100,000 payday from that robbery, they rode away with a purported measly \$50.40, skedaddling south over Delaney Rim to Powder Springs, and eventually disappearing into the Little Snake River Valley and Browns Park. That \$50.40 might not be the true amount of loot from the robbery, even though it was the amount recorded by the Union Pacific and lawman

A tour trailing the Wild Bunch from Wyoming to Texas should include a visit to the Museum of Northwest Colorado in Craig, Colorado. The Cowboy and Gunfighter Collection, one of the finest of its kind in the nation, chronicles the region's violent past.

- COURTESY MUSEUM OF NORTHWEST COLORADO -

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Joe LeFors. More likely, the take was closer to \$50,000 and maybe as much as \$100,000, with the smaller amount announced to deter other bandits. Not long after the heist, *The Saratoga Sun* reported that train officials did not want people to know of the vulnerabilities surrounding train security.

The Wild Bunch then rode south. In 1900 in Fort Worth, Texas, Butch and Sundance posed for a photo with Harvey Logan, William Carver and Ben Kilpatrick, creating one of the most recognized outlaw photographs of the era. That's where this trail ends, but Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid and his companion Etta Place continued south to Cholila, Argentina, where they purchased a ranch and began raising cattle and horses. On the side they worked for mining companies—and pulled off a few more robberies before their final shoot-out in Bolivia after the Pinkerton agents drove them out of Argentina. ❏

**Candy Moulton** encourages you to visit the Grand Encampment Museum, which has a gun purchased by townsmen to protect the community from an anticipated raid on the North American Copper Company payroll by the Wild Bunch. The raid never occurred, but Carl Ashley donated the gun to the museum collection.



Goblin Valley State Park, *Robber's Roost*, UT

— MATT MORGAN, COURTESY UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM —

## PLACES TO VISIT

**Crook County Museum**, *Sundance, WY*; **Hoofprints of the Past Museum**, *Kaycee, WY*; **Wyoming Territorial Prison**, *Laramie, WY*; **Little Snake River Valley Museum**, *Dixon, WY*; **Western Mining and Railroad Museum**, *Helper, UT*; **Goblin Valley State Park**, *Hanksville, UT*; **Museum of Northwest Colorado**, *Craig, CO*; **Telluride Historical Museum**, *Telluride, CO*; **Fort Worth Stockyards**, *Fort Worth, TX*

## GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**GRUB**: **The Invasion Bar & Grill**, *Kaycee, WY*; **Fiesta Jalisco**, *Craig, CO*; **Country Grub**, *Vernal, UT*; **Groggs Pinnacle Brewing Company**, *Price, UT*; **Cattlemen's Fort Worth Steakhouse**, *Fort Worth, TX*

**LODGING**: **Occidental Hotel**, *Buffalo, WY*; **Elk Mountain Hotel**, *Elk Mountain, WY*; **Wild Skies Cabins**, *Craig, CO*; **Legacy Inn**, *Price, UT*; **Hotel Texas**, *Fort Worth, TX*

## RV PARKS & CAMPGROUNDS

**Powder River Campground & Cabins**, 101 Old Barnum Rd, Kaycee, WY, (307) 738-2244  
[PowderRiverCampground.com](http://PowderRiverCampground.com)

**Huntington State Park**, Mohrland Rd, Huntington, UT, (435) 687-2491, [Stateparks.Utah.gov](http://Stateparks.Utah.gov)

**Lightner Creek Campground**, 1567 CR 207 (Lightner Creek Rd), Durango, CO, (970) 247-5406  
[CampLightnerCreek.com](http://CampLightnerCreek.com)

**Northlake Village RV Park**, 13001 Cleveland Gibbs Road #79, Roanoke, TX (Just 20 miles outside of Fort Worth), (817) 430-3303, [NorthLakeVillageRV.com](http://NorthLakeVillageRV.com)

## GOOD READS, FILM & TV

**Books**: *Butch Cassidy, My Brother* by Lulu Parker Bentenson; *Butch Cassidy, My Uncle* by Bill Bentenson; *Butch Cassidy, A Biography* by Richard Patterson; *In Search of Butch Cassidy* by Larry Pointer; *The Outlaw Trail: A History of Butch Cassidy and His Wild Bunch* by Charles Kelly; *The Sundance Kid: The Life of Harry Alonzo Longabaugh* by Donna Ernst; *Ann Bassett: Colorado's Cattle Queen* by Linda Wommack; *He Rode with Butch and Sundance: The Story of Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan* by Mark Smokov

**Film & TV**: *Wyoming Renegades* (Columbia, 1954); *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid* (20th Century Fox, 1969); *Butch and Sundance: The Early Days* (20th Century-Fox, 1979); *The Legend of Butch and Sundance* (NBC, 2006)

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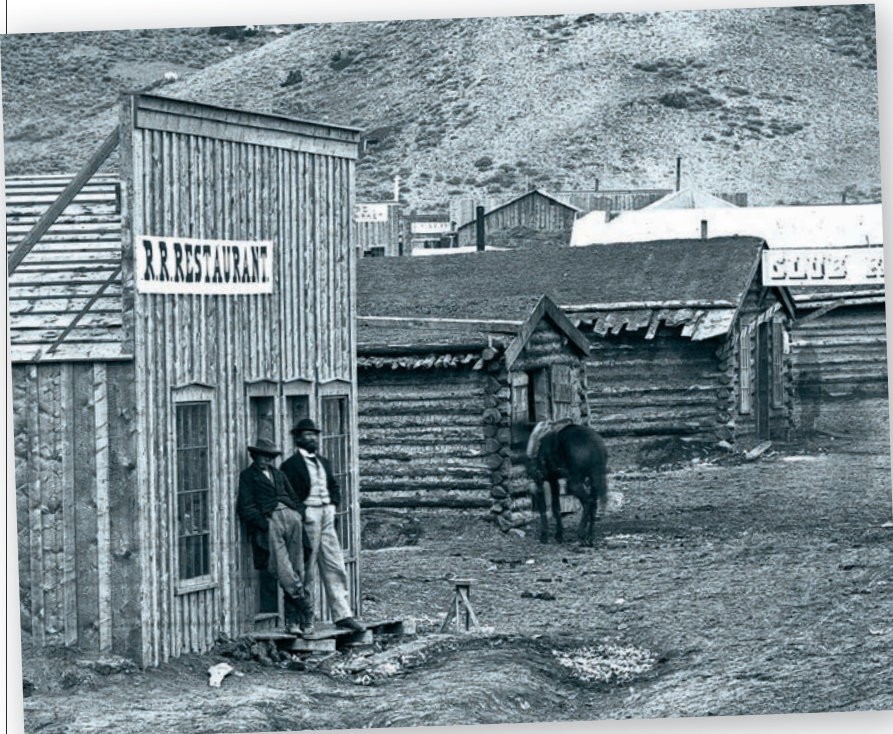
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Visit [grandcanyon.org](http://grandcanyon.org) for the calendar of events and additional details.

**BY SHERRY MONAHAN**

# Hell on Wheels Meals

*Transcontinental Railroaders chowed down on oysters and bullets.*



Even bad guys had to eat. These gentlemen stand in front of one of Bear River City, Wyoming Territory's numerous restaurants in 1868, the year that the Union Pacific Railroad decided to pass by the town and head to modern-day Evanston instead. The railroad had zero desire to place even a switch where the worst elements of the Hell on Wheels towns seemed to gather.

— COURTESY COLLECTION OF THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA, H69.A59.1927 —

**W** Wyoming Territory became home to makeshift towns as the Union Pacific Railroad laid tracks to meet the Central Pacific Railroad from 1867-1869.

When railroad workers were done building one section of rail, most workers headed down the track to the next locale. Even though these towns had names, such as Green River and Laramie, they were referred to as Hell on Wheels.

Restaurants, bakeries and mercantiles opened up in tents, clapboard buildings or log cabins. Some of these Hell on Wheels towns grew into permanent cities, while others faded into history.

Cooks bought goods that ranged from bacon and Navy beans to dried apples and peaches to Field's oysters. These imported provisions supplemented local game so cooks could make baked chicken, roasted

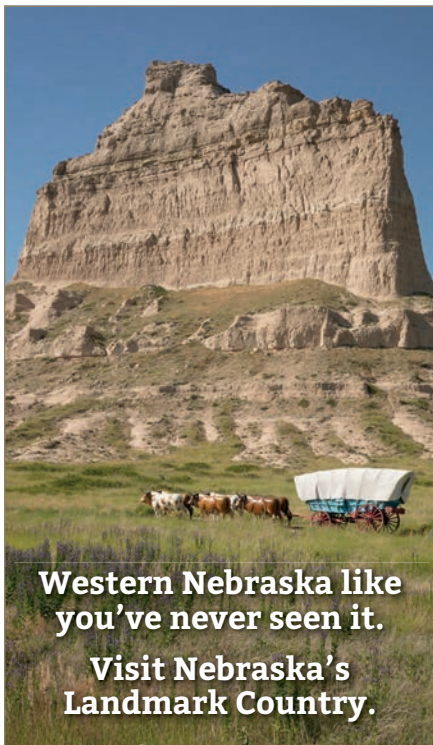
elk, ham with champagne sauce, salmi of duck and baked trout and whitefish.

The Sanders Dining Hall in Laramie specialized in fresh oysters served in various styles: raw, stewed and fried. In April 1868, the dining hall advertised its regular meals: Breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.; Dinner from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and supper from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

But the restaurant also noted it was ready to serve anyone at any time, stating: "Transient and extra meals at all hours. Lunch room open day and night. Pies, cakes and oysters at a moment's warning."

One competitor was Smith & Wheeler's Tin Restaurant, which not only served meals at all hours of the day and night, but also offered haircuts while you were there!

While many were opening restaurants, James Askew was selling off his restaurant and lot in Laramie. He advertised, "one of



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When the Union Pacific reached Bear River City in the fall of 1868, reports revealed it was much deadlier than most Hell on Wheels towns. Even dining could be dangerous.

On October 23, bad whiskey caused many to forget the supper they were enjoying at the Southern Restaurant. "Last Friday night somebody went crazy from the effects of bad whisky and opened a promiscuous fire from a pistol, in the Southern Restaurant on Uintah street," *The Frontier Index* reported.

"It was not ascertained what individual fired all the shots, but Mike Ryan, Sam Tunsell, Tom Taylor and John Harrigan were all severely shot in their legs. They are, however, all steadily improving."

Bear River City didn't make the grade; the Union Pacific passed it by. One town that did, Cheyenne, became a major railroad center. Cheyenne's pioneers exchanged breakfast muffins, not bullets; enjoy the shared frontier recipe. ❏

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

## BREAKFAST MUFFINS

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 cup milk
- 2 large eggs
- Sugar, optional

Combine the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Beat milk and eggs in a small bowl, and then pour into the dry ingredients. Blend together, but do not overbeat; lumps are okay. Fill 12 lightly-greased muffin cups about three-quarters full. Sprinkle with sugar, if desired. Bake the muffins for 15 to 20 minutes in a 425°F oven.



Recipe adapted from *Cheyenne Daily Leader*,  
March 9, 1876

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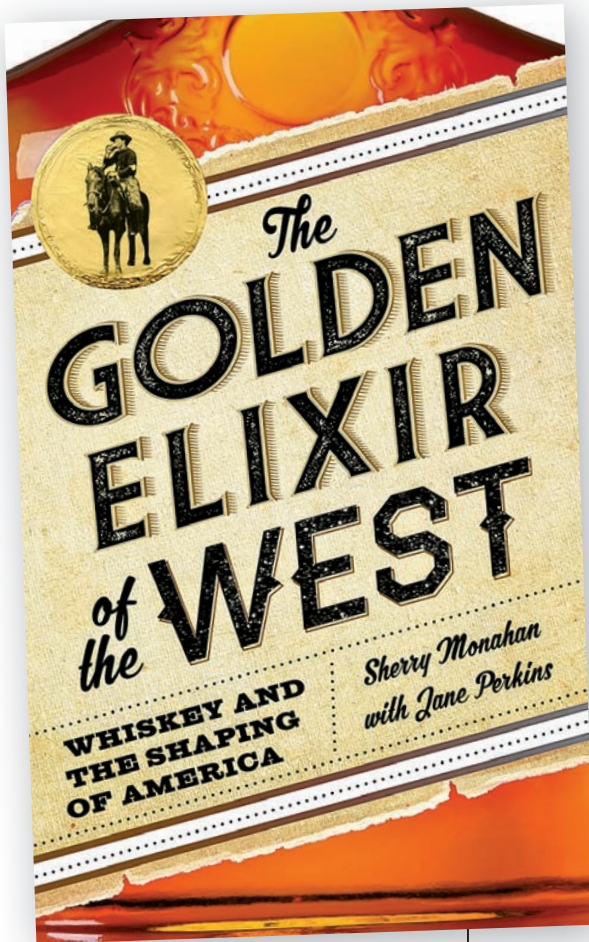
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**TRUE WEST**  
MAGAZINE

## Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound



*Sherry Monahan's spirited biography of whiskey in the West, a Western by Max Allan Collins, and a history of Texas's Rio Grande region, Apacheria and the politics of presidents in the West.*

introduction: "Whiskey was the golden elixir of the West and king of the distilled spirits. It was an integral part of the great western expansion and has strong ties to early explorers, pioneers, the railroads, and the cattle era."

Both Monahan—who writes the "Frontier Fare" column for *True West*—and Perkins—who with her husband, David, founded High West Distillery, the first legal distillery in Utah since the 1870s—are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their topic, which makes *The Golden Elixir of the West* a fun and informative read. Beginning with the role of whiskey as a trade good in the early decades of

exploration, trailblazing and fur-trading, through the expansion of the West, the authors chronicle the growth of whiskey as an industry, trade good and profitable commodity.

They expertly demonstrate whiskey's role in the building of the West—and the extent of its availability across the West after the Civil War during the construction of the railroads. The fact that whiskey is a constant prop in the fictional West is no fiction: whiskey was omnipresent in America's Western settlements, from sod-roofed prairie trading posts to Hell on

Wheels railroad tent camps. Only Prohibition kept American whiskey from reigning without competition as one of the most important economic commodities from the earliest decades of the Republic to the present: "When the repeal of Prohibition allowed whiskey back on the market, it was regulated and mass produced, and the love affair between the American West and whiskey was all but over," according to the authors. "It can be said, though, that this golden elixir threaded western towns like the railroads threaded the country together."

The well-researched book includes detailed endnotes and a fascinating appendix, "Liquor Laws and the Old West," that chronicles the spirit laws of seven Western states in the 1880s and 1890s, an era that began the slow road to national Prohibition. The difference between North Dakota's prohibitive laws of 1895, outlawing the "manufacture and sales of intoxicating liquors for sale or gift, and the keeping, selling, or offering of same for sale, etc.," stood in stark contrast to neighboring Montana, which did not require physicians or druggists to have a license "for liquor used or sold for medicinal purposes."

Monahan and Perkins, who obviously had fun writing the book, also include a history of whiskey mixology in their final chapter, "Belly Up to the Bar: Cocktails of the West." So, while enjoying the lively prose, mix up a taste of history, sit back and enjoy. Cheers!

—Stuart Rosebrook

**I**s there a Western novel, film or television show in which a character does not order a shot or bottle of whiskey, let alone throw, break or shoot a bottle of the veritable Old West spirit? Well, after a thorough search we might find one or two, but, after reading *The Golden Elixir of the West: Whiskey and the Shaping of America* (TwoDot, \$24.95) by Sherry Monahan with Jane Perkins, we'd conclude it was probably an oversight if the production company or the author did not feature the iconically American corn liquor. As Monahan and Perkins state in the

# ROUGH DRAFTS

Summer vacations are a great time to catch up on reading, so why not pack a few good Western novels and Old West histories and biographies to enjoy while escaping the fast-paced life of work and the city?

## HERE ARE SOME BIG BOOKS FROM 2018 THAT I HIGHLY RECOMMEND:

**Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight: Draft Resistance and Tragedy at the Power Cabin, 1918** by Heidi J. Osselaer (University of Oklahoma Press). Osselaer's chronicle of the Power shoot-out is provocatively enlightening.



**This Scorched Earth** by William Gear (Forge). This epic of war and peace is set in Arkansas during and after the War Between the States.

**The Trading Post and Other Frontier Stories: A Five Star Anthology** edited by H.I. Rumney (Five Star). The fourteen original Western short stories are perfect for summer reading.

**Mad Amos Malone: The Complete Stories** by Alan Dean Foster (Del Rey). Best-selling author Foster brings his creative storytelling to the Old West, with a fantasy twist.

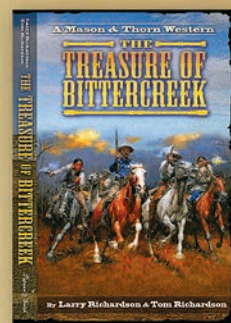
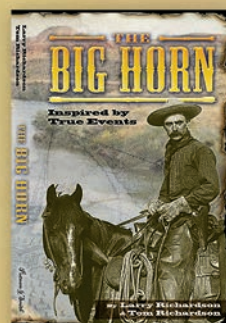
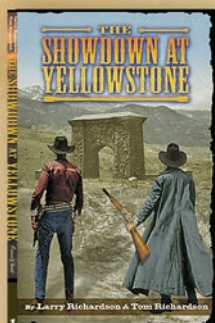
**Blood Moon: An American Epic of War and Splendor in the Cherokee Nation** by John Sedgwick (Simon & Schuster). Another family epic, best-selling author Sedgwick chronicles two rival Cherokee families from the early days of the Republic to the Civil War.

**The Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West** by Gregory Crouch (Scribner). Historian-adventurer Crouch deftly brings to life the amazing story of Irish immigrant John Mackay and his rise from poverty to billionaire.

And keep room on your nightstand for award-winning author John Boessenecker's latest Old West history from Thomas Dunne Books due out October 30: **Shotguns and Stagecoaches: The Brave Men Who Rode for Wells Fargo in the Wild West**.

—Stuart Rosebrook

## The Adventures Of Western Heroes & Lawmen, C.J.Mason and Thorn Hickum in turn-of-the-20th Century Coulson, Montana



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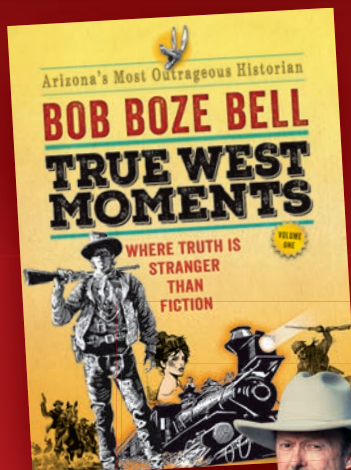
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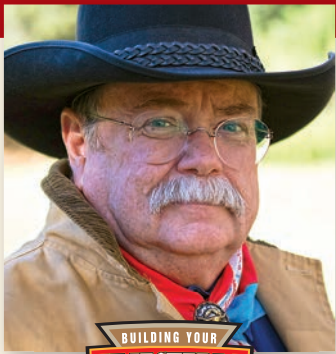
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## THEODORE ROOSEVELT BIOGRAPHER INSPIRED BY COWBOY PRESIDENT

Michael F. Blake, a two-time Emmy-winning makeup artist and respected film historian, has recently published *The Cowboy President: The American West and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt* (TwoDot). Tackling a biography of the 26th president and his life out West was a lot of fun for the author, who traveled much of the same ground on horseback that TR had once ridden. "I felt right at home," Blake noted.

With a lifetime of collecting Roosevelt books, choosing five was difficult, but Blake believes these titles should be in everyone's library:

1 **Ranch Life and The Hunting Trail by Theodore Roosevelt** (Dover Publications): Of all the books TR wrote, this is my favorite. His writing reveals how much he loved the West. Plus, his friend Frederic Remington illustrated it.

2 **The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt, Theodore Rex and Colonel Roosevelt** (three-volume biography) by Edmund Morris (Random House): It took Morris three books to explain Theodore Roosevelt, but this massive undertaking is simply the best biography written on the man.

3 **Rough Riders: Theodore Roosevelt, His Cowboy Regiment, and the Immortal Charge Up San Juan Hill** by Mark Lee Gardner (William Morrow): Author Gardner has written the definitive work which honors Roosevelt's Rough Riders and made TR a true American hero.

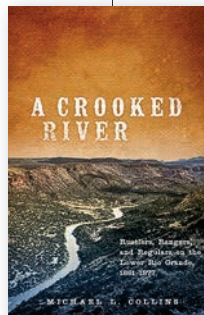
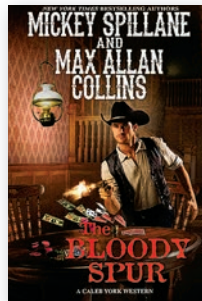
4 **The Selected Letters of Theodore Roosevelt** edited by H.W. Brands (Cooper Square Press): Brands provides readers a fascinating glimpse into the political and private life of Roosevelt from 1868 to the end of World War I in 1918.

5 **American Cyclone** by John M. Hilpert (University of Mississippi Press): Hilpert offers a detailed, engaging look at TR's political career as he stumped across America as President William McKinley's vice-presidential candidate in 1900.

## I, THE LAWMAN

Using characters created by Mickey Spillane, Max Allan Collins pays tribute to the mythic West and casts an informed eye on the end of an era in *The Bloody Spur* (Kensington, \$24). When railroad officials propose a spur to link the small, dying community of Trinidad, New Mexico, with the booming town of Las Vegas, one elderly rancher holds out, refusing to grant access through his vast acreage. Many in town disagree, including Willa Cullen, the rancher's daughter, and the fate of the town seems to hang in the balance. Meanwhile, a high-stakes poker game involving former gunfighter-turned-lawman Caleb York and various unsavory characters, including a notorious criminal known as The Preacherman, threatens to blow this combustible atmosphere wide open.

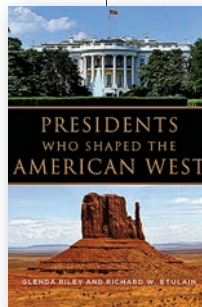
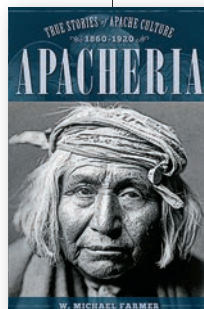
—Patrick Millikin, editor of Phoenix Noir



## A VIOLENT BORDERLAND

In *A Crooked River: Rustlers, Rangers, and Regulars on the Lower Rio Grande, 1861-1877* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$29.95), Michael L. Collins tells the story of the turmoil and violence that occurred in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas between 1861 and 1877. Rustlers, Rangers, soldiers, and politicians, all butted heads and, in many cases, looked out for their own welfare and profit over the welfare of the local citizens, both Anglo and Hispanic. It was an unsettled and violent time, especially during 1861 to 1865. Collins is to be especially commended for his in-depth study of Leander McNelly and his Rangers, which adds volumes to the work first done by Walter Prescott Webb.

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



## LAND OF THE APACHE

*Apacheria: True Stories of Apache Culture 1860-1920* (TwoDot, \$18.95) is an insightful introduction to the history of the Apache people. Farmer, focusing his research on the Chiricahua and Mescalero people, displays an unusual depth of appreciation and sympathy for Apache lifeways. Each chapter is an independent vignette on tribal history, leaders and culture. The author presents the Apaches as intelligent people fighting to preserve their way of life and not, as happened too often in the past, as demons or culture-bound oddities. The story continues beyond the surrender of 1886, making it clear that American maltreatment of the people continued beyond the end of the wars.

—Doug Hocking, author of Tom Jeffords: Friend of Cochise

## WESTWARD FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Glenda Riley and Richard Etulain's *Presidents Who Shaped the American West* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$24.95) is a highly satisfying narrative spanning two centuries. The study traces the impact of various administrations since 1789 through the end of Barack Obama's second term. Historians Riley and Etulain maintain: "Even though the presidency has changed during these years and western issues varied," their 11 core "essays reveal an amazing similarity in themes." According to the co-authors these themes include growing the West, negotiations with the Indian tribes, westward migration, transportation, resources, political power, and conservation. Arguably the only omission is Ulysses S. Grant, whose years in office embody many of the book's subthemes.

—John P. Langellier, former deputy director Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

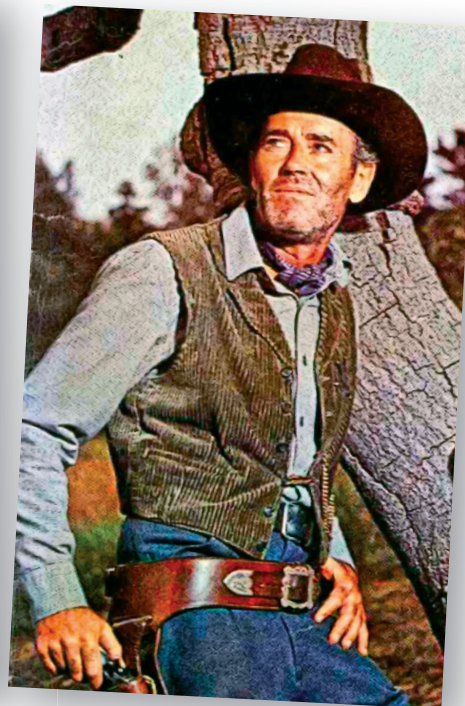


# WESTERN MOVIES

DVD & TV SERIES  
BY HENRY C. PARKE

## Convinced by Gold

Henry Fonda, Norman Lear and The Deputy.



Already a popular Western icon, thanks to films that included 1948's *Fort Apache* (above left) and 1943's *The Ox-Bow Incident* (center), Henry Fonda astonished everyone when he announced, in 1959, that he would star on television, for NBC's *The Deputy* (right).

- FORT APACHE STILL COURTESY RKO RADIO PICTURES; THE OX-BOW INCIDENT STILL COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PICTURES; THE DEPUTY STILL COURTESY DELL COMICS/NBC -

**W**hen, in 1959, one of America's most popular and respected actors, Henry Fonda, announced that he would be starring in a Western TV series, the almost universal reaction was, why?

From 1943's *The Ox-Bow Incident* to 1948's *Fort Apache*, Fonda was already a Western icon. But conventional wisdom said no one would pay to see movie stars once they could see them for free: TV was considered career suicide.

Fonda's explanation was disarmingly frank. "Gold convinced me," the 54-year-old actor told *Newsweek*. "Residuals' is a magic word.

It means it rains gold. It is the only chance an actor has to save money these days."

A seemingly unlikely pair fashioned the story that got Fonda to sign on to the NBC series: Roland Kibbee, who'd written for Fred Allen and the Marx Brothers, and Norman Lear, who'd been crafting gags for Martha Raye and Martin & Lewis.

The pair had met on NBC's *The Tennessee Ernie Ford Show*. "The head writer was Roland Kibbee," Lear tells *True West*. "I learned a lot from him. He was an important mentor."

Both writers were WWII veterans—Kibbee, an Army Air Corps pilot; Lear, a gunner on a

Flying Fortress. And yet their war experiences hadn't jaded them. They both strongly believed that you could find humor in any aspect of life, and they wanted to make a Western together that would stand out by its sly comedy.

"You could not be an American kid without being a fan of Westerns," Lear remembers. "My favorite guy was Ken Maynard."

Kibbee was no stranger to the genre. He'd already written the excellent 1954 Western *Vera Cruz*, beginning a long association with Burt Lancaster.

To lure Fonda in, the writers offered the busy actor an irresistible accommodation.

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Beyond his reverence for Western movies, Norman Lear (shown) is also a champion of U.S. history. He spent \$8.1 million on one of the first published copies of the Declaration of Independence (inset)—and then sent it on a road tour so the public could see it firsthand. The 2002 Olympics and Super Bowl 36—following the September 11 attacks—were among the stops.

— LEAR PHOTO BY PETER YANG, ACT III PRODUCTIONS;  
DOCUMENT PHOTO COURTESY SOTHEBY'S NEW YORK,  
JUNE 29, 2000 —



pacifist-turned-war hero who earned Gary Cooper an Oscar—and strap on a gun nearly every week.

The range of plots and subject matter was unusual for the time: racism, rape,

the taboo of backshooting, the presumption of innocence, the evils of lynching.

Still, *The Deputy* kept faith with the classics. Wallace Ford was cast as aging Marshal Lamson, in part because he was a member of John Ford's stock company. Episodes featured plum roles for Western stalwarts who included Bob Steele and *Red Ryder's* original Little Beaver, Tommy Cook. They also featured fledgling stars, including Clu Gulager and James Coburn.

No one would pay to see movie stars once they could see them for free.

Kibbee and Lear always balanced the dark drama with humor, some of it pretty broad. In one episode, Fry and Lamson “torture” a side of beef to get an outlaw in the next cell to talk, a scene that could have been created for Martin & Lewis.

The series' downfall was built into its premise: audiences wanted to watch Fonda, not glimpse him. Case's talent was not enough to eclipse the reason they tuned into the show.

*The Deputy* began to be viewed as a bait and switch. Fonda began disappearing as soon as he arrived, starting with episode

Fonda would not play the “deputy” of the title, but U.S. Marshal Simon Fry. He would appear in all 39 episodes per season, often narrating and riding endlessly through the desert. But he would star in only a half dozen, leaving him free to work on stage plays and films. The rest of the episodes would feature young Broadway star Allen Case as Fry's reluctant deputy Clay McCord.

“Kibbee's idea for *The Deputy* came from the play *The Front Page*, by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur,” Lear says. “The [newspaper] editor had this great investigative reporter who was quitting all the time. And the editor played one trick after another on him to get him to stay.”

Similarly, Fry cheerfully misleads and manipulates McCord into situations where he has to help the marshal.

A shop owner with a lightning draw and perfect accuracy, McCord wasn't merely reluctant to pin on the badge. “A guy came in with a handgun that was shooting a little high and to the left. And the deputy said, ‘I don't do handguns, just rifles,’” Lear remembers.

Because a handgun is just for killing men: after McCord's father was murdered, he became a pacifist. More than a character quirk, it proved a seminal choice in outspoken liberal Lear's career, he admits. “What's the earliest evidence of my having that kind of sensibility? *The Deputy*.”

Of course, Westerns being what they are, Deputy McCord had to become Sergeant York—the Tennessee

two. James Arness pulled off flipping most *Gunsmoke* episodes to the supporting cast because he didn't start doing that until eight or nine seasons in.

After two seasons, Fonda voluntarily pulled the plug. He later turned his image on its head in 1968's *Once Upon a Time in the West*. He died at the age of 77 in 1982.

The last major Western Kibbee wrote was 1971's *Valdez is Coming* before he died at the age of 70 in 1984. Case's biggest success after *The Deputy* was playing Frank James to Christopher Jones's Jesse in 1965's *The Legend of Jesse James* ABC series before he died of a heart attack at the young age of 51.

Lear has gone on to ever-greater success with revolutionary comedies that include *All in the Family*. Ironically for a Western fan, his CBS series *Maude* is what finally killed NBC's longest-running Western, *Bonanza*. Turning 96 this July, Lear has just sold a new sitcom, *Guess Who Died*, to NBC.

Largely forgotten today, *The Deputy*, on DVD from Shout! Factory, was an innovative and original Western series when many were interchangeable.

## DVD REVIEW

### The Durango Kid Collection

(Mill Creek Entertainment; \$14.98)

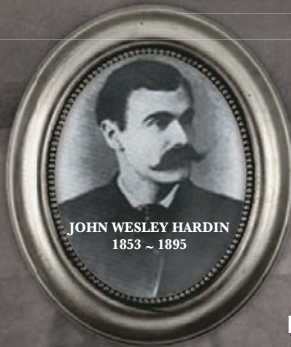
From 1945 to 1952, Charles Starrett played undercover hero the Durango Kid in 65 hugely popular Columbia Pictures B-Westerns. Unseen for decades, a set of 10 exuberant Durango Kid adventures, from pristine prints, is now available. The plots were familiar to Saturday matinee-goers, but the action was spectacular, especially when the often-masked Kid was doubled by stunt virtuoso Jock Mahoney, who also appeared on camera, with Smiley Burnette providing the humor and the songs. ☒



Henry C. Parke is a screenwriter based in Los Angeles, California, who blogs about Western movies, TV, radio and print news: [HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com](http://HenrysWesternRoundup.Blogspot.com)

# Concordia Cemetery

## History To Die For...



Visit one of Texas' most historic cemeteries. John Wesley Hardin, John Selman, Buffalo Soldiers, and the only dedicated Chinese Cemetery in the state.

Learn about the movers and shakers that forged the Old West.

Veterans from the War of 1812 through recent conflicts, as well as "The World's Tallest Man," reside in permanency.

Learn about former leaders of the Mexican Revolutions who were buried at Concordia.

Join the Secret Society of John Wesley Hardin - August 18, 2018 at 6 p.m., to commemorate John Wesley Hardin's demise—and on October 20, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., for the annual "Walk Through History."

Monthly Ghost Tours, 1st and 2nd Saturday of each month. 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. Reservations Required: 915-274-9531.

Don't miss Dia De Los Muertos; Day of the Dead, November 3, 2018, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tours, shrines, exhibits and more.

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# DOC'S DIET

*Dennis Quaid comes clean on his appearance-changing diet that allowed him to accurately portray the sickly dentist from Georgia.*

**T** *True West* caught up with Dennis Quaid who will serve as Grand Marshal of the Doc Holliday parade in Tombstone, Arizona, this August 11.

Nearly 25 years has passed since Quaid's memorable performance as the Georgia-born dentist-gunfighter John "Doc" Holliday who famously shot it out on the streets of Tombstone at the O.K. Corral gunfight in 1881. We wanted the inside skinny on how Quaid got so skinny for his role as Doc in 1994's *Wyatt Earp*.

Although Val Kilmer's Doc hit the screens the year before, in the blockbuster hit *Tombstone*, Quaid is quite magnanimous about his competition: "I greatly admire Val's portrait of Doc. He and Kurt Russell really captured the deep friendship he had with Wyatt."

Quaid weighed a svelte 180 before he took the role as Doc. "I thought I needed to lose weight to play Doc because of his illness," he tells *True West*. "He was a waif of a man because of the tuberculosis, and I'm sure that had a deep effect on his self image when he looked in the mirror. I'm sure it affected his mood as well."

To lose 42 pounds, Quaid says, "I ate 1,000 calories a day and then exercised off 600 of those calories on the treadmill. It was basically a POW diet. I would not recommend it. I had a doctor and nutritionist to monitor me for five months to make sure my fat content did not drop to a dangerously level."



Dennis Quaid weighed 138 pounds when he played the tubercular dentist in 1994's *Wyatt Earp*, and he tells *True West* how he shed the pounds. He's shown in his role as John "Doc" Holliday (above right) next to Kevin Costner's Wyatt Earp.

- BY BEN GLASS -

## What did you eat?

- Non-fat yogurt
- Fibrous vegetables
- 300 calories of protein
- Beans
- 1 diet cookie per day

## How long was the shoot?

I started the diet three months before we started shooting in the first part of 1993 and then had to maintain it for five months.

## What's the first thing you ate when the diet was over?

A banana cream pie.

## What was the toughest part of the diet?

Maintaining my energy.

## DOC HOLLI-DAYS Saturday, August 11

### Doc Holli-Days Parade:

Tombstone Historic District, 11 a.m.

### Dennis Quaid Meet and Greet:

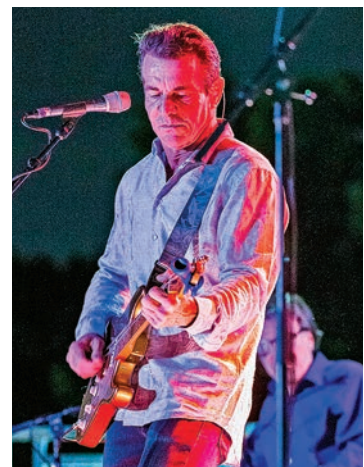
Gunfight Palace, 524 E. Allen Street,  
10 a.m. - 11 a.m. (\$100 person, limited tickets)

### Dennis Quaid and the Sharks Concert:

Old Tombstone Western Theme Park, 4th  
and Toughnut. Gate opens at 6 p.m. and  
concert starts at 7 p.m. Price varies for  
general admission and floor area.

**Dennis Quaid and the Sharks Concert and  
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**Purchase Tickets:** [TombstoneSBA.com](http://TombstoneSBA.com)  
**Details:** [DennisQuaidAndTheSharks.com](http://DennisQuaidAndTheSharks.com)



Dennis Quaid is the lead singer and rhythm guitarist for the Rock 'n' Roll and Country Soul band, the Sharks.

- BY BRENT BAXTER PHOTOGRAPHY -

# Virginia City, Nevada: Queen of the Comstock

*The historic city remains the crown jewel of the Silver State's mining towns.*



Founded in 1859 following the discovery of gold in Six-Mile Canyon, Virginia City was soon known worldwide for the Comstock Lode's bonanza of silver ore. By 1875, the rowdy "Queen of the Comstock" (above) went 24 hours a day with nearly 25,000 residents, 150 saloons, an opera house, a red light district and three churches.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

**I**n its boom days in the early 1860s, Virginia City, Nevada, "royally roosted" midway up the steep slope of Mount Davidson, a boomtown visible from 50 miles away. We know that because the great Mark Twain said so in his 1872 memoir, *Roughing It*.

"It claimed a population of fifteen thousand to eighteen thousand," wrote Twain, a reporter for the town's *Territorial Enterprise* newspaper, "and all day long half of this little army swarmed the streets like bees and the other half swarmed among the drifts and tunnels of the 'Comstock,' hundreds of feet down in the earth directly under those same streets."

Today, more than 1.5 million visitors a year come to town, and rest assured, it wasn't built by Disney.

"You'd be surprised how many people ask that," says Joe Curtis, Storey County's director of emergency management, who also leads informal history tours. "They look around and can't believe it's real. But when you walk down C Street, most buildings you pass are originals dating to 1862."

A National Historic Landmark, the town became the largest of 22 settlements that sprouted after the 1859 discovery of the Comstock Lode, which produced \$700 million in gold and silver in 25 years.

Big money brought surprising opulence. Piper's Opera House became a cultural center, hosting prominent Shakespearean actors, as well as Lily Langtry and Edwin Booth, brother of Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth.

Rebuilt after a fire in 1885, the building features hand-painted backdrop scenery, a horseshoe balcony and elegant proscenium boxes above the stage.

In 1959, locals gathered at the Piper to see the premier of TV's *Bonanza*. Ben Cartwright lived on the fictional Ponderosa near Virginia City, and frequent mentions of the town fueled a major tourist revival in the 1960s.

# RIDE BACK IN TIME



Two Historic Routes. Daily, hourly steam or heritage diesel Comstock excursions from the original 1870 V&T depot in Virginia City, May through October.

## Civil War Days & Battle Trains

Labor Day Weekend, Sept 1-3



Virginia & Truckee Railroad

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The Mark Twain Museum at the *Territorial Enterprise* is housed in the original newspaper building in Virginia City. Visitors can see the pressroom where Twain worked as a reporter for the newspaper. The exhibit includes his desk, chair, books and many original furnishings.

- ALL PHOTOS COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

Miners dug more than 600 miles of tunnels under the Comstock, and visitors can get a glimpse into their lives on several mine tours. The Ponderosa and Chollar tours last roughly 30 minutes and feature up-close views of mining equipment, as well as underground shafts, drifts and stopes.

In the 1870s, some 45 trains a day left Virginia City hauling ore. Tourists relive the experience on the Virginia & Truckee Railroad to Gold Hill, where the big strike began. The train stops at the 1861 Gold Hill Hotel, where visitors can sit on the saloon patio and toast the Comstock men who swung pickaxes for their supper.

Stroll the boardwalk along C Street to The Way It Was Museum, a huge collection of documents and mining equipment, and the Red Dog Saloon, where Janis Joplin performed in the 1960s.

The Bucket of Blood Saloon has cool chandeliers and lots of old photos, and on weekend nights the Comstock Cowboys often rock the house. Don't miss the Fourth Ward School Museum, the last four-story wooden Victorian structure standing in the U.S.

For accommodations, try the elegant Cobb Mansion B&B or Edith Palmer's Country Inn, a charming 1863 Victorian. Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable, stars of the 1961 movie *The Misfits*, stayed there during filming of the picture east of town.

Virginia City's list of annual events includes the Hot August Nights car rally, in which hundreds of classic cars roll down the street, the Way It Was Rodeo, a rollicking good time at the fairgrounds,

and the Grand Prix motorcycle races, which attract more than 1,000 riders.

At many of these events, the Tourism Commission rolls out a black hearse and sells locally made Cemetery Gin. As early labels promised, the drink is "guaranteed to embalm you while you're still breathing."

Imagine the fun of sipping Cemetery Gin while watching the 29th World Championship Outhouse Races. The October event kicks off with a parade of outhouses, followed by the competition to determine who will first break the toilet paper finish line. ❏

Leo W. Banks is an award-winning writer based in Tucson. He is the author of the mystery novel, *Double Wide*.



A highlight of the fully restored 1876 Silver Queen Hotel is the 15-foot portrait of the silver queen hanging in the saloon.

The painted lady is wearing a gown made of 3,261 Morgan silver dollars, a belt of 28 gold pieces and a choker and bracelets of silver dimes.

## WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

To plan your trip, stop at the Virginia City Tourism Commission at 86 South "C" Street. Don't forget to ask for information on historic walking and driving tours of the city.

[VisitVirginiaCityNV.com](http://VisitVirginiaCityNV.com)

### SILVER QUEEN HOTEL & WEDDING CHAPEL

The 1876 hotel has 28 restored rooms. Don't miss the 15-foot portrait of the silver queen. She's wearing a gown made of 3,261 Morgan silver dollars. The saloon alone is worth a look, for the massive bar and back-bar.

[SilverQueenHotel.net](http://SilverQueenHotel.net)

### STOREY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Visit the new Slammer Museum in the jail at the 1876 courthouse. "It tells about the lives of average people on the Comstock in the 1800s," says Joe Curtis. Notice the statue outside the state's oldest continuously operating courthouse. Lady Liberty isn't wearing a blindfold and Curtis says no one is quite sure why.

[VirginiaCityNV.com](http://VirginiaCityNV.com)

### COMSTOCK FIRE MUSEUM

Virginia City has been ravaged by fire several times, including the great fire of 1875, which destroyed 2,000 structures. Founded in 1979, the museum pays tribute to its firefighters with displays of photos and old equipment. See an 1839 Christian Hight hand-drawn, hand-pumped fire engine, Nevada's oldest fire apparatus.

[ComstockFireMuseum.com](http://ComstockFireMuseum.com)

### TAHOE HOUSE HOTEL

This 1859 structure has been restored to its original splendor. Some believe early guests included Samuel Clemens, Mark Twain's real name. Twain fled town in 1864 after his tongue-in-cheek challenge to duel a rival newspaper editor became serious.

[TahoeHouseHotel.com](http://TahoeHouseHotel.com)

### RV PARKS & CAMPING

Touring the Comstock Lode Country by RV is a great way to enjoy the historic mining districts around Virginia City. Two parks to consider parking your RV when in the area: **Virginia City RV Park**, 355 North F St, Virginia City (775) 847-0999. **Dayton RV Park** (7.9 mi SE of Virginia City, NV), 75 Pike St, Dayton (775) 246-9300

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BY STUART ROSEBROOK

# Ride That Train!

*Since the railroads helped build the West, railroad towns have been beacons of hospitality, welcoming travelers from far and near to rest and relax, and make themselves at home.*

In 1868, America was anticipating the completion of the first transcontinental railroad within the next year. The Central Pacific from Sacramento was hastily building parallel to the California Trail across northern Nevada, while the Union Pacific was tunneling through the Utah Territory's Wasatch Mountains to reach the final mile of track near Promontory Summit. The two railways would meet May 10, 1869, when the Golden Spike was hammered, connecting a nation, and launching it headlong into the rail era. Not only did the railroads transform travel, industry and agriculture in the Western United States, but the railway companies built towns, grand train stations, hotels, restaurants, stage lines. Eventually, short line and narrow-gauge engineering masterpieces of rail and grit connected the smallest of boomtowns to the world.

Those original transcontinental lines still connect the West to the global marketplace, and Amtrak still carries passengers through fabled Western landscapes. But, while Amtrak plies the longer routes, many historic railways operate seasonally or year-round as regional heritage passenger trains departing from some of the West's spectacular railroad towns.

At *True West*, we believe a summer is not complete without a weekend in a historic rail town to enjoy the finest Western hospitality at unique hotels and restaurants, Main Street shops, local history museums and, of course, adventures aboard heritage rail lines. So pack your bags and camera, reserve your tickets and head West for an adventure of a lifetime.

*All Aboard!*



The Virginia & Truckee Railroad's #29 *Robert C. Gray* 1916 Baldwin 2-8-0 consolidation locomotive was named in honor of the 96-year-old president of the V&TRR. Gray, who rode the last V&T train into Virginia City as a 17-year-old in 1938, bought the defunct line in 1972, 102 years after the train first operated between Virginia City and Carson City.

— PHOTO BY LIZ HUNTINGTON, COURTESY VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE RAILROAD —



**DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD**  
COURTESY YVONNE BASHMETT, DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

## Durango, Colorado

### Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad founded Durango astride the Animas River in 1880. Racing to get to the rich mineral reserves of the San Juan Mountains, the railroad steamed into town on August 5, 1881, and in less than 11 months the tracks to Silverton had been completed. Since 1959 the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad has operated as a tourist train from May to October, with limited special trains in the winter and spring. The railroad makes it easy to customize an experience with different travel packages, including the adventurous Discover Silverton Package. When in Durango, enjoy the historic downtown district with its great variety of restaurants, pubs and specialty shops.

**When in Durango, Don't Miss: Durango Fiesta Days**, July 24-29. More info @ [DurangoTrain.com](http://DurangoTrain.com), [Durango.org](http://Durango.org) and [DurangoFiestaDays.com](http://DurangoFiestaDays.com)

**R&R: Historic Strater Hotel**, [Strater.com](http://Strater.com), (970) 247-4431; **Diamond Belle Saloon**, [DiamondBelle.com](http://DiamondBelle.com)

**RV Parks: Westerly RV Park**, 6440 County Road 203, *Durango*, (970) 247-1275, [WesterlyRVPark.com](http://WesterlyRVPark.com); **Alpen Rose RV Park**, 27847 Hwy 550 North, *Durango*, (970) 247-5540, [AlpenRoseRVPark.com](http://AlpenRoseRVPark.com)

## Williams, Arizona

### Grand Canyon Railway

On September 17, 1901, the Santa Fe Railway launched the 64-mile Grand Canyon Railway from Williams to the Grand Canyon. The scenic line proved so popular the railway and the Fred Harvey Company built the El Tovar Hotel in 1905. The Grand Canyon

line remained a favorite of tourists until automobile tourism led to its closure in 1968. Passenger service restarted in 1989 as the Grand Canyon Railway, with daily service to and from the national park, plus special packages and train events, such as Steam Saturdays the first Saturday, May through October; the Pumpkin Patch Train,

every weekend in October; and the Polar Express, November to January.

**When in Williams, Don't Miss: Williams Depot Museum and Historic Route 66.** More info @ [TheTrain.com](http://TheTrain.com) and [ExperienceWilliams.com](http://ExperienceWilliams.com)

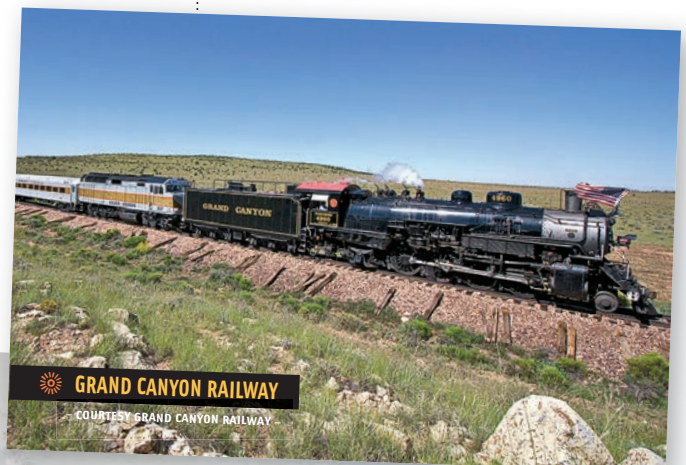
**R&R: Grand Canyon Railway Hotel**, [TheTrain.com](http://TheTrain.com), (800) 843-8724; **Spenser's Pub**, [TheTrain.com](http://TheTrain.com)

**RV Parks: Grand Canyon Railway RV Park**, 601 W Franklin Ave, *Williams*, (800) 843-8724, [TheTrain.com](http://TheTrain.com); **Railside RV Ranch**, 877 Rodeo Rd, *Williams*, (928) 635-4077, [RailsideRV.com](http://RailsideRV.com)

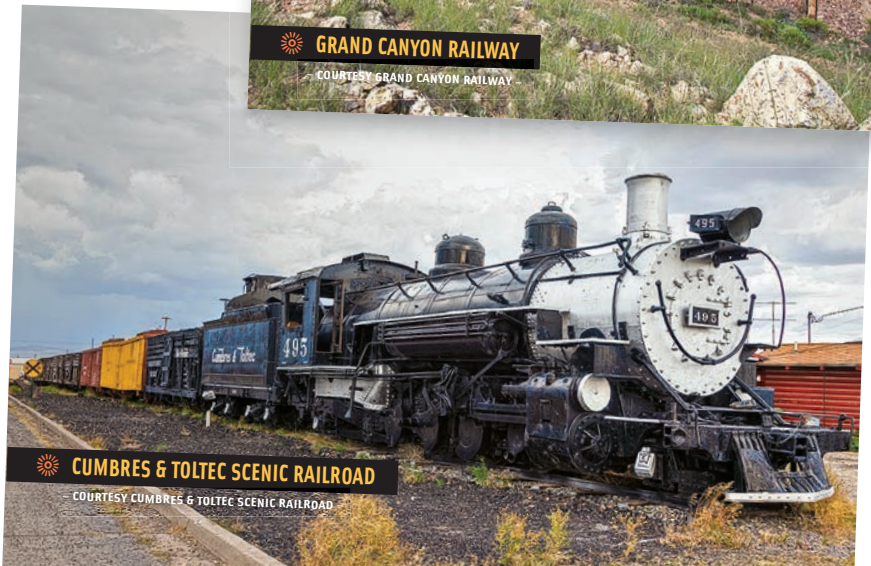
## Chama, New Mexico and Antonito, Colorado

### Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad's San Juan Extension arrived in the Village of Chama in January 1881 and operated until the 1960s when economics forced it to close. Local boosters and preservationists worked to save the most scenic section of the line between Chama, New Mexico, and Antonito, Colorado, and the two states jointly bought the route, tracks and stations, opening the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad to passenger



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service in 1970. The 64-mile heritage railroad operates May 2 to October 31, 2018, and offers several fare packages and special trains, including firefighter and engineer school.

**When in Chama, Don't Miss: Chama Days,** August 9-12. More info @ [CumbresToltec.com](http://CumbresToltec.com) and [ChalmaValley.com](http://ChalmaValley.com)

**When in Antonito, Don't Miss:** Driving the beautiful and historic **Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic Byway,** [ConejosVacation.com](http://ConejosVacation.com) and [ColoradoDirectory.com](http://ColoradoDirectory.com)

**R&R: Chama: The Parlor Car Bed and Breakfast,** [ParlorCar.com](http://ParlorCar.com), (575) 756-1946; **Boxcar Cafe,** 425 Terrace Ave, (575) 756-2706; **Antonito: Steam Train Hotel,** [SteamTrainHotel.com](http://SteamTrainHotel.com), (719) 298-8908; **Dos Hermanos,** 435 Main St, (719) 376-5589

**RV Parks: Sky Mountain Resort RV Park,** 2743 US 84, Chama, NM, (575) 756-1100, [SkyMountainResort.com](http://SkyMountainResort.com); **Rio Chama RV Park,** 182-NM 17, Chama, NM, (575) 756-2303, [RioChamaRV.com](http://RioChamaRV.com); **Twin Rivers Cabins & RV Park,** 34044 Highway 17, Antonito, CO, (719) 376-5710, [TWNRVRS.com](http://TWNRVRS.com)

## Lewistown, Montana

### Charlie Russell Chew Choo

Gold was discovered near Lewistown in 1880, and the town became an important trading center. In 1903, after eight years of construction, the Montana Railroad connected Lewistown with the Northern Pacific Railway. In 1908, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad purchased the line, and operated it as "The Milwaukee Road" until the 1980s. Today, the Charlie Russell Chew Choo keeps

the spirit of the railroad alive with round-trip dinner train trips on a spur track from May to October and the popular North Pole Adventure in November and December.

**When in Lewistown, Don't Miss:** **The Central Montana Historical Museum** and **Central Montana Fair,** July 25-28. More info @ [MontanaDinnerTrain.com](http://MontanaDinnerTrain.com), [LewistownChamber.com](http://LewistownChamber.com) and [CentralMontanaFair.com](http://CentralMontanaFair.com)

**R&R: Judith Mountain Lodge,** [JudithMountainLodge.com](http://JudithMountainLodge.com), (406) 538-7063; **Mint Bar and Grill,** 113 4th Ave S, (406) 535-9925

**RV Parks: Mountain Acres RV Park and Campground,** 103 Rocklyn Ave, Lewistown, 406-538-7591, [CentralMontana.com](http://CentralMontana.com); **Great Falls KOA,** 1500 51st St S, Great Falls, (406) 727-3191, [KOA.com](http://KOA.com)

## Ely, Nevada

### Nevada Northern Railway

Ely has been a mining town ever since gold was discovered in 1878. After the early 1900s copper boom, the Nevada Northern Railway was built in 1905-06. The 162-mile line connected the mining districts, smelters and the city with the national transcontinental lines. After the smelter closed in 1983, the train ceased running as well. Soon thereafter, a portion of the rail line was saved and reopened as the Nevada Northern Railway, which operates passenger trains daily, with the exception of holidays and Tuesdays,



**NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY**

COURTESY NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

except in July and August. The National Historic Landmark railway has exciting passenger car options, specialty trains and even hands-on engineer training.

**When in Ely, Don't Miss: Lund Pioneer Days,** Lund, July 19-21; and **Ely Shoshone Tribe Fandango,** July 27-29. More info @ [NNRY.com](http://NNRY.com), [ElyNevada.net](http://ElyNevada.net) and [WhitePineCounty.net](http://WhitePineCounty.net)

**R&R: Hotel Nevada,** [HotelNevada.com](http://HotelNevada.com), (888) 406-3055; **Cell Block Steak House,** [JailHouseCasino.com](http://JailHouseCasino.com)

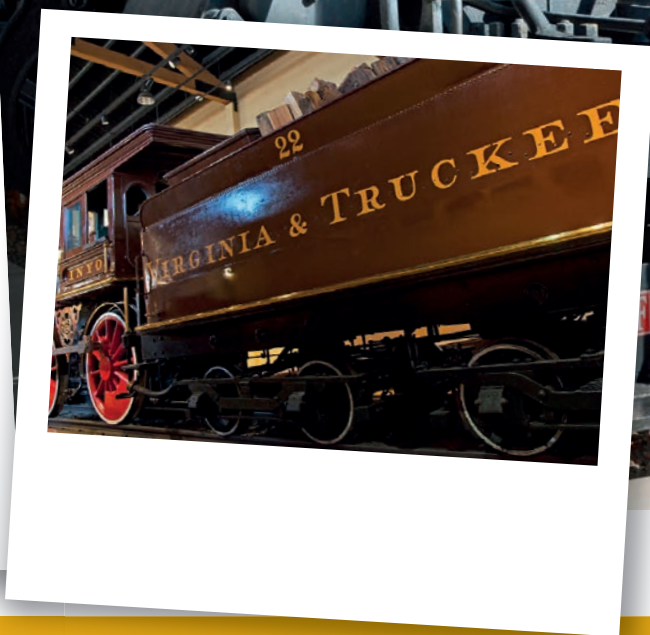
**RV Parks: Cave Lake State Park,** U.S. Highway 93-Success Summit, Ely, (775) 296-1505, [Parks.NV.gov](http://Parks.NV.gov); **Ely KOA,** 15396 South US Highway 93, Ely, (800) 562-6671, [KOA.com](http://KOA.com)

## Georgetown, Colorado

### Georgetown Loop Railroad

An 1859 silver strike during the Pike's Peak Gold Rush led to the founding of Georgetown. Mining continued to drive the growth of the mountain town, and in 1878 the Colorado Central Railroad reached Georgetown. In 1884, the engineering marvel, the Georgetown Loop, was completed as part of the Georgetown, Breckinridge and Leadville Railroad. While the silver economy did not sustain the construction of the line but to a few miles past Silver Plume, the

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**GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD**  
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line was rebuilt and restored in the 1970s and 1980s, and the Georgetown Loop Railroad & Mining Park is the centerpiece attraction for a long weekend in the historic town.

**When in Georgetown, Don't Miss: The Ride and Mine Tour packages on the Georgetown Loop Railroad.** More info @ [GeorgetownLoopRR.com](http://GeorgetownLoopRR.com) and [Georgetown-Colorado.org](http://Georgetown-Colorado.org)

**R&R: Rose Street Bed & Breakfast,** [RoseStreetBNB.com](http://RoseStreetBNB.com), (303) 578-7844;

**The Happy Cooker,** [HappyCookerRestaurant.com](http://HappyCookerRestaurant.com)

**RV Parks: Denver West/Central City KOA,** 605 Lake Gulch Rd, Co Rd 6, Central City (303) 582-3043, [KOA.com](http://KOA.com);  
**Golden Gate Canyon State Park,** 92 Crawford Gulch Rd, Golden, (303) 582-3707, [ReserveAmerica.com](http://ReserveAmerica.com)

## Cedar Park, Texas Austin Steam Train

A suburb of Austin, Cedar Park was originally Chisholm Trail cattle drivers' George and Harriett Cluck's ranch, which they founded in 1873. In 1882, the Austin and Northwestern Railroad crossed the Cluck Ranch en route to Burnet and Granite Mountain for access to the pink granite needed to construct the Texas



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State Capitol. The rail line eventually was expanded until its closure west of Llano in 1986. Today, the Austin Steam Train Association operates the Austin Steam Train on the Austin Western Railroad as a heritage passenger line.

**When in Cedar Park, Don't Miss: The Austin Steam Train's** family-friendly train trips: **The Hill Country Flyer, Day Out with Thomas, Bertram Flyer and North Pole Flyer.** More info @ [AustinSteamTrain.org](http://AustinSteamTrain.org), [CedarParkFun.com](http://CedarParkFun.com) and [AustinTexas.com](http://AustinTexas.com)

**R&R: The Adams House Bed and Breakfast,** [AdamsHouse.com](http://AdamsHouse.com), (512) 453-7696; **J&J BBQ,** 300 W Whitestone Blvd, (512) 918-0314

**RV Parks: Leander/Austin KOA,** 2689 Hero Way, [Leander](http://Leander.com), (512) 259-7200, [KOA.com](http://KOA.com); **Rio Bonito Cabin Resort & RV Park,** 1095 Co Rd 256, [Liberty Hill](http://LibertyHill.com), (512) 922-1383, [RBCabinResort.com](http://RBCabinResort.com)



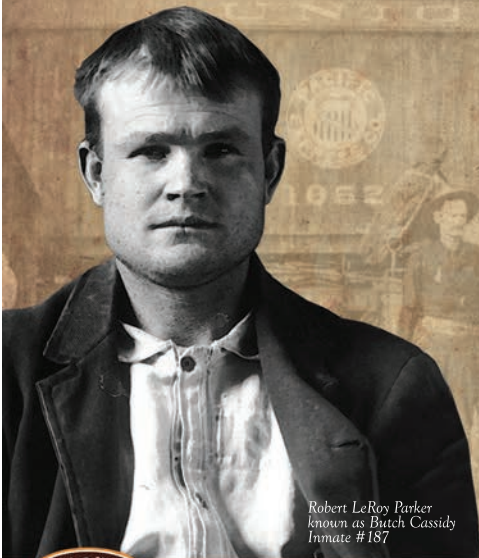
### Fort Bragg and Willits, California Skunk Train

After its 1857 fort closed, Fort Bragg became a lumber town, and in 1885, the Fort Bragg Railroad Company opened the first rail line to haul redwood timber from the forests to the coast. The line was eventually bought out, expanded and renamed the California Western Railroad &

Navigation Company to Willits. While it remains a popular passenger line today, the 40-mile track also provided successful freight service until 2001. Today, the Skunk Train offers two major passenger trains: the Pudding Creek Express from Fort Bragg and the Northspur Flyer from Willits. Each train runs January 1 to November 30, 2018, and December 26 to January 1, 2019.

## UP RAILROAD AND BUTCH CASSIDY (1899)

According to the Laramie Boomerang, six masked men flagged the Overland Flyer down at 2:15 a.m. on June 2, 1899, near Wilcox in Albany County northwest of present Rock River. After they commandeered the train and pulled it over a bridge, they blew open the baggage car with an oversized dynamite charge, dazing the baggage man. Also reported that after placing an excessive charge on the safe, they "wrecked the car, blowing the roof off and sides out, portions of the car being blown 150 yards." Taking more than \$50,000 in gold, cash, jewelry and banknotes from the safe, the outlaws escaped on horseback. - The rest they say is history! learn more: <http://visitlaramie.org/laramie150>



Robert LeRoy Parker  
known as Butch Cassidy  
Inmate #187

Wilcox Robbery Posse June 2, 1899 (AHC Photo)



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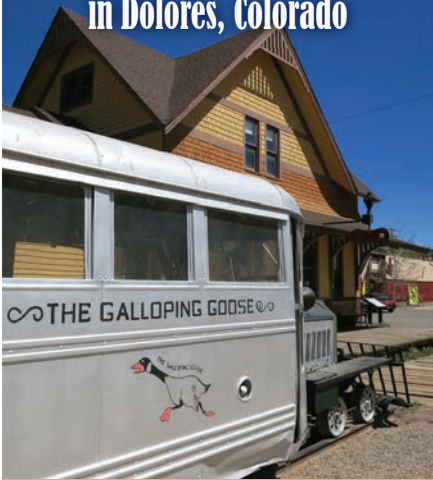
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**When in Fort Bragg and Willits, Don't Miss:**  
**Paul Bunyan Days**, Fort Bragg, August 31-September 3. More info@  
*SkunkTrain.com, FortBragg.com, Willits.com*  
and *VisitMendocino.com*

**R&R: Shoreline Cottages**,  
*Shoreline-Cottage.com*,  
(707) 964-2977; **Piaci Pub & Pizzeria**,  
*PiaciPubPizzeria.Four-Food.com*

**RV Parks: Pomo RV Park & Campground**, 17999  
Tregoning Ln, Fort Bragg, (707) 964-3373,  
*PomoRV.com*; **Cleone Campground**, 24400  
N Highway 1, Fort Bragg, (707) 964-4589,  
*CleoneCampground.com*

**Heber City, Utah**  
**Heber Valley Railroad**

The Rio Grande Western arrived in Heber City on September 21, 1899. The train was a major success for passengers and freight, livestock and crops for the region's farmers and ranchers. When a paved highway reached Heber City in the 1930s, the end of the train was inevitable, but it held on until 1968. In 1970 a group of citizens, organizations and the state saved the line and it ran until 1990. In 1992, the Heber Valley Railroad was restored and operates as a historic passenger rail line. The train service runs from mid-January to early November. Check with the railroad for specific times, dates and specialty trains.

**When in Heber City, Don't Miss: Wasatch County Fair**, July 30-August 4. More info @ *HeberValleyRR.org, GoHeberValley.org* and *WasatchCountyFair.com*

**R&R: Swiss Alps Inn**, *SwissAlpsInn.com*,  
(435) 654-0722; **Snake Creek Grill**,  
*SnakeCreekGrill.com*

**RV Parks: Mountain Valley RV Resort**, 2120  
Hwy 40, Heber City, (435) 657-6100,  
*MountainValleyRV.com*; **Rivers Edge at Deer Park Resort and Campground**, 7000  
Old US-40 Heber City, (435) 654-4049,  
*RiversEdgeAtDeerPark.com*

**Leadville, Colorado**

**Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad**

The highest municipality in the country at 10,152 feet, Leadville also has the highest elevation railroad, the Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad. Originally the Denver, South Park & Pacific and Colorado & Southern, the railroad reached Leadville in 1880. Over



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COURTESY LEADVILLE, COLORADO & SOUTHERN RAILROAD

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## Midwest & South

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Antonito, CO and Chama, NM  
[CumbresToltec.com](http://CumbresToltec.com)

**DURANGO AND SILVERTON**  
Durango, CO • [DurangoTrain.com](http://DurangoTrain.com)

**GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD**  
Georgetown, CO • [GeorgetownLoopRR.com](http://GeorgetownLoopRR.com)

**LEADVILLE COLORADO & SOUTHERN**  
Leadville, CO • [Leadville-Train.com](http://Leadville-Train.com)

**VIRGINIA CITY SHORTLINE RAILROAD**  
Virginia City, MT • [VirginiaCityMT.com](http://VirginiaCityMT.com)

**CHARLIE RUSSELL CHEW CHOO**  
Lewistown, MT • [MontanaDinnerTrain.com](http://MontanaDinnerTrain.com)

**AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN CEDAR**  
Park, TX • [AustinSteamTrain.org](http://AustinSteamTrain.org)

**GRAPEVINE VINTAGE RAILROAD**  
Grapevine, TX • [GrapevineTexasUSA.com](http://GrapevineTexasUSA.com)

**TEXAS STATE RAILROAD**  
Rusk, TX • [TexasStateRR.com](http://TexasStateRR.com)

**ARKANSAS & MISSOURI RAILROAD**  
Springdale, AR • [AMRRailroad.com](http://AMRRailroad.com)

**WHITWATER VALLEY RAILROAD**  
Connersville, IN • [WhiteWaterValleyRR.org](http://WhiteWaterValleyRR.org)

**CUYAHOGA VALLEY RAILROAD**  
Peninsula, OH • [CSVR.com](http://CSVR.com)

**LUMBER JACK STEAM TRAIN**  
Laona, WI • [Camp5Museum.org](http://Camp5Museum.org)

**ABILENE AND SMOKY VALLEY RAILROAD**  
Abilene, KS • [ASVRR.org](http://ASVRR.org)

**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD**  
Bryson City, NC • [GSMR.com](http://GSMR.com)

**TENNESSEE VALLEY RAILROAD**  
Chattanooga, TN • [ChattanoogaFun.com](http://ChattanoogaFun.com)



The Georgetown Loop Railroad in Georgetown, Colorado, operates April through December, with several specialty events, including the Oktoberfest trains that run the last three weekends of October.

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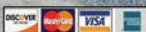
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# Railroad Museums



**Cheyenne Depot Museum**  
Cheyenne, WY  
- COURTESY WY TOURISM -



**Golden Spike Tower & Visitors Center**  
North Platte, NE  
- COURTESY NE TOURISM -



**California State Railroad Museum**  
Sacramento, CA  
- COURTESY CASRM -

- Southern Arizona Transportation Museum** • Tucson, AZ • [TucsonHistoricDepot.com](http://TucsonHistoricDepot.com)
- California State Railroad Museum** • Sacramento, CA • [CSRMf.org](http://CSRMf.org)
- Railtown 1897 State Historic Park** • Jamestown, CA • [Railtown1897.org](http://Railtown1897.org)
- Tehachapi Depot Railroad Museum** • Tehachapi, CA • [TehachapiDepot.org](http://TehachapiDepot.org)
- Western American Railroad Museum** • Barstow, CA • [BarstowRailMuseum.org](http://BarstowRailMuseum.org)
- Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation** • Portland, OR • [ORHS.org](http://ORHS.org)
- Dayton Historic Depot** • Dayton, WA • [DaytonHistoricDepot.org](http://DaytonHistoricDepot.org)
- Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad and Museum** • Elbe, WA • [MRSR.com](http://MRSR.com)
- East Ely Railroad Depot Museum** • Ely, NV • [GreatBasinHeritage.org](http://GreatBasinHeritage.org)
- Nevada State Railroad Museum** • Carson City, NV • [NSRM-Friends.org](http://NSRM-Friends.org)
- Golden Spike NHS** • Brigham City, UT • [NPS.gov](http://NPS.gov)
- Northern Pacific Railway Museum** • Toppenish, WA • [NPRYMuseum.org](http://NPRYMuseum.org)
- Colorado Railroad Museum** • Golden, CO • [ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org](http://ColoradoRailroadMuseum.org)
- Pueblo Railway Museum** • Pueblo, CO • [PuebloRailway.org](http://PuebloRailway.org)
- Livingston Depot Center** • Livingston, MT • [LivingstonDepot.org](http://LivingstonDepot.org)
- North Dakota State Railroad Museum** • Mandan, ND • [NDSRM.org](http://NDSRM.org)
- South Dakota State Railroad Museum** • Hill City, SD • [SRSRM.org](http://SRSRM.org)
- Railroad Museum** • Douglas, WY • [ConverseCountyTourism.com](http://ConverseCountyTourism.com)
- Amarillo Railroad Museum** • Amarillo, TX • [AmarilloRailMuseum.com](http://AmarilloRailMuseum.com)
- Austin Steam Train Association** • Cedar Park, TX • [AustinSteamTrain.org](http://AustinSteamTrain.org)
- Galveston Railroad Museum** • Galveston, TX • [GalvestonMuseum.com](http://GalvestonMuseum.com)
- Museum of the American Railroad** • Frisco, TX • [MuseumoftheAmericanRailroad.org](http://MuseumoftheAmericanRailroad.org)
- Cheyenne Depot Museum** • Cheyenne, WY • [CheyenneDepotMuseum.org](http://CheyenneDepotMuseum.org)
- Douglas Railroad Interpretive Center** • Douglas, WY • [ConverseCountyTourism.com](http://ConverseCountyTourism.com)
- Laramie Historic Railroad Depot** • Laramie, WY • [LaramieDepot.org](http://LaramieDepot.org)
- James H. Andrew Railroad Museum & History Center** • Boone, IA • [Scenic-ValleyRR.com](http://Scenic-ValleyRR.com)
- Union Pacific Railroad Museum** • Council Bluffs, IA • [UPRRMuseum.org](http://UPRRMuseum.org)
- Great Overland Station** • Topeka, KS • [GreatOverlandStation.org](http://GreatOverlandStation.org)
- Lake Superior Railroad Museum** • Duluth, MN • [SRM.org](http://SRM.org)
- The Durham Museum** • Omaha, NE • [DurhamMuseum.org](http://DurhamMuseum.org)
- Golden Spike Tower & Visitors Center** • North Platte, NE • [GoldenSpikeTower.com](http://GoldenSpikeTower.com)
- Tennessee Valley Railroad** • Chattanooga, TN • [TVRail.com](http://TVRail.com)
- Lumber Jack Steam Train** • Laona, WI • [Camp5Museum.org](http://Camp5Museum.org)
- Mid-Continent Railway Museum** • North Freedom, WI • [MidContinent.org](http://MidContinent.org)



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## Virginia City, Montana Virginia City Shortline Railroad

Virginia City was founded in 1863 soon after gold was discovered in Alder Gulch and gold mining continued in earnest until the 1930s. Today, Virginia City Historic District is a National Historic Landmark. The Montana Heritage Commission manages the historic town,

once the territorial capital, as a living history center from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In 1964, town benefactor Charlie Bovey built the Virginia City Shortline Railroad to the ghost town of Nevada City. The tourist train runs 20 minutes one-way, seven days a week during the summer season, depending on weather and safety conditions.

**When in Virginia City, Don't Miss:** The nightly performances of the **Brewery Follies** and **The Virginia City Opera** and the **6th Annual Bozeman Trail Chuck Wagon Cook Off**, July 27-29. More info @ [VirginiaCityMT.com](http://VirginiaCityMT.com) and [VisitMT.com](http://VisitMT.com)

### VIRGINIA CITY SHORTLINE RAILROAD

— COURTESY VIRGINIA CITY SHORTLINE RAILROAD —

the decades of railroad amalgamation, the Colorado & Southern continued to operate regularly to and from Leadville until 1981. Since 1988, the Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad has been thrilling passengers on its two-and-a-half-hour journey through the San Isabel National Forest in sight of the state's two highest peaks. In 2018, the train operates May 26 to October 7, including themed trips, such as the Wildflower Special and Fall Photo Weekends Special.

**When in Leadville, Don't Miss: Leadville Boom Days**, August 3-5. More info @ [Leadville-Train.com](http://Leadville-Train.com), [Leadville.com](http://Leadville.com) and [LeadvilleTwinLakes.com](http://LeadvilleTwinLakes.com)

**R&R: The Governor's Mansion**, [GovernorsMansion.net](http://GovernorsMansion.net), (719) 486-1865; **High Mountain Pies**, [HighMountainPies.com](http://HighMountainPies.com)

**RV Parks:** Leadville RV Corral, 135 West 2nd St, Leadville, (719) 486-3111, [MountainRVPark.com](http://MountainRVPark.com); **White Star Campground**, Leadville, (719) 486-0749, [ReserveAmerica.com](http://ReserveAmerica.com)

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**R&R:** Fairweather Inn,  
VirginiaCity.com/FairWeather-Inn/  
(855) 377-6823; **Bale of Hay Saloon**,  
BaleOfHaySaloon.com

**RV Parks:** Ruby Valley Campground & RV Park,  
2280 MT Highway 287, Alder, (406) 842-5677,  
RubyValleyCampground.com; **Virginia City  
RV Park**, 205 W Wallace, Virginia City,  
(406) 843-5493, VirginiaCityRVPark.com

## Carson City and Virginia City, Nevada

### Virginia & Truckee Railroad

Carson City was founded in 1858 and grew quickly after the Comstock Lode mineral strike in 1859. The Virginia & Truckee Railroad was completed between the state capital, Carson City, and Virginia City in 1870, and by 1872 it was connected to the transcontinental Central Pacific in Reno. The short-line connected the capital



and the rich mining districts to the world and the towns boomed. With the mines mostly closed by the 1930s, the railroad eventually closed in 1950. In 1975, entrepreneur Robert Gray reopened the V&T and operates it as a tourist train between Memorial Day and October.

**When in Carson City and Virginia City, Don't Miss:** Carson City Fair, July 25-29 and Civil War Days and Battle Trains, Virginia City,

August 30-September 3. More info@  
VTRailway.com, VisitCarsonCity.com and  
VisitVirginiaCityNV.com

**R&R:** Deer Run Ranch, NevadaBANDB.com,  
(800) 378-5440; Red's Old 395 Grill,  
Reds395.com

**RV Parks:** Dayton RV Park, 75 Pike St, Dayton,  
(775) 246-9300, DaytonRVPark.com; Nevada  
Beach Campground, Elks Point Rd Zephyr Cove,  
(775) 588-5562, Recreation.gov

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## Abilene, Kansas Abilene & Smoky Hills Railroad

Joseph McCoy's entrepreneurial vision of building stockyards and a drover's cottage next to the end of the Kansas & Pacific tracks in Abilene, and advertising his services to Texas cattlemen in 1867, created the legendary cattle drives era of 1867-1887 when cattle were moved from the Lone Star State to the wildly wicked Kansas rail heads. Abilene has maintained its connection to its Old West past through the Abilene & Smoky Hills Railroad, Old Abilene Town and the Dickinson County Heritage Center. The A&SHRR operates from May to October, with many exciting ride and tour opportunities for passengers, including steam-driven service on a limited basis, dinner trains and the Silver Flyer Railbus.

**When in Abilene, Don't Miss: Central Kansas Free Fair**, August 1-6. More info@ [ASVRR.org](http://ASVRR.org) and [AbileneCityHall.com](http://AbileneCityHall.com)

**R&R: Engle House Bed and Breakfast**, [EngleHouse.com](http://EngleHouse.com), (785) 479-3749; **Brookville Hotel Restaurant**, [BrookvilleHotel.com](http://BrookvilleHotel.com)

**RV Parks: Covered Wagon Camp Ground**, 803 S Buckeye Ave, Abilene, (785) 263-2343, [AbileneRVCampground.com](http://AbileneRVCampground.com); **Chapman Creek RV Park**, 2701 N Marshall St, Chapman, (785) 922-2267, [ChapmanCreekRVPark.com](http://ChapmanCreekRVPark.com)

## Hill City, South Dakota 1880 Train

Hill City was founded in 1876 during the Black Hills Gold Rush. Early on, the mine owners of the Black Hills knew the rugged mountain region would need a railroad to make the mining of the rich underground veins profitable. Nevertheless, it was not until the 1890s that regular rail service reached Hill City. Over time, diesel locomotives replaced all the steam engines driving trains in the Black Hills. Since 1957, steam train entrepreneurs William B.

Heckman and Robert Freer's dream of the Black Hills Central Railroad's 1880 Train has been thrilling passengers every summer.

**When in Hill City, Don't Miss: Days of 76, Deadwood**, July 24-29 and **Open House, Crazy Horse Memorial**, September 1-3. More info @ [1880Train.com](http://1880Train.com), [VisitHillCitySD.com](http://VisitHillCitySD.com) and [BlackHillsBadlands.com](http://BlackHillsBadlands.com)



**1880 TRAIN**  
— COURTESY CHAD COPPES,  
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**R&R: Alpine Inn**, [AlpineInnHillCity.com](http://AlpineInnHillCity.com), (605) 574-2749; **Desperados Cowboy Restaurant**, 301 Main St, Hill City, (605) 574-2959

**RV Parks: Horse Thief Campground & RV Resort**, 24391 SD 87, Hill City, (605) 574-2668, [HorseThief.com](http://HorseThief.com); **Rafter J Bar Ranch Campground**, 12325 Rafter J Bar Rd, Hill City, (605) 574-2527, [RafterJ.com](http://RafterJ.com)

## Springdale and Van Buren, Arkansas Arkansas & Missouri Railroad

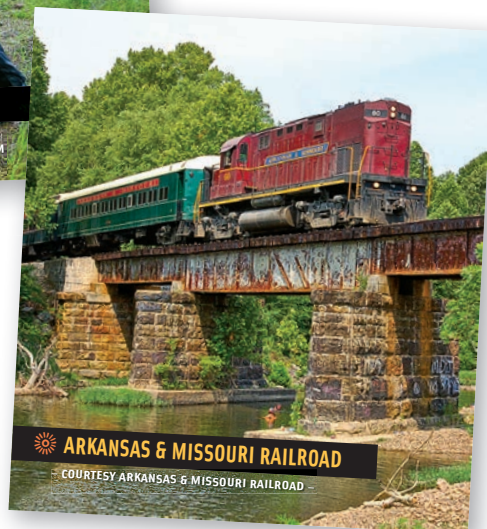
Platted after the Civil War, the northwest Arkansas community of Springdale was incorporated in 1872. The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad line originated with the construction of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway in the 1880s. The modern A&MRR was started in 1986, primarily for freight service, but it also has a popular passenger tourist line that keeps a regular, but limited, schedule from January to November. The A&M has two round-trip passenger train options: Springdale to Van Buren, and Van Buren to Winslow, both of which take tourists through the beautiful Boston Range of the Ozarks.

**When in Springdale, Don't Miss: Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Pea Ridge National Military Park and Fall Carnival**, October 3-7. More info@ [AMRRailroad.com](http://AMRRailroad.com) and [ExploreSpringdale.com](http://ExploreSpringdale.com)

**R&R: Inn at the Mill**, [InnAtTheMill.com](http://InnAtTheMill.com), (479) 443-1800; **Susan's Restaurant**, 1440 WW Sunset Ave, (479) 751-1445

**RV Parks: Pilgrim's Rest RV Park**, 21225 Hickory Flat Rd, Springdale, (479) 789-7152, [PilgrimsRestRVPark.com](http://PilgrimsRestRVPark.com); **The Creeks Golf & RV Resort**, 1499 South Main St, Cave Springs, (479) 248-1000, [NWARVResort.com](http://NWARVResort.com)

**Stuart Rosebrook**, who first went on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in 1976, shared his love of the historic rail line with his family last summer.



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**WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE**  
Skagway, AK • [WPRY.com](http://WPRY.com)

**SKUNK TRAIN**  
Fort Bragg, CA • [SkunkTrain.org](http://SkunkTrain.org)

**TRAINS & TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**  
Portola, CA • [TrainTrips.biz](http://TrainTrips.biz)

**EAGLE CAP EXCURSION TRAIN**  
Walla, OR • [EagleCaptainRides.com](http://EagleCaptainRides.com)

**MT. HOOD RAILROAD**  
Hood River, OR • [MtHoodRR.com](http://MtHoodRR.com)

**SUMPTER VALLEY RAILROAD**  
Baker City, OR • [SumpterValleyRailroad.org](http://SumpterValleyRailroad.org)

**LAKE WHATCOM RAILWAY**  
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[LakeWhatcomRailway.com](http://LakeWhatcomRailway.com)

**MOUNT RAINIER SCENIC RAILROAD  
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**THUNDER MOUNTAIN LINE, HORSESHOE**  
Bend, ID • [ThunderMountainLine.com](http://ThunderMountainLine.com)

**NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Ely, NV • [NNRY.com](http://NNRY.com)

**VIRGINIA & TRUCKEE RAILROAD**  
Virginia City, NV • [VirginiaTruckee.com](http://VirginiaTruckee.com)

**KETTLE VALLEY STEAM RAILWAY**  
Summerland, B.C., Canada  
[KettleValleyRail.org](http://KettleValleyRail.org)



Grand Canyon Railway entertains passengers all year on its round-trip excursions from Williams to Grand Canyon National Park, including Steam Saturdays, the first Saturday between May and October.

- COURTESY GRAND CANYON RAILWAY -



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- ★ Greyhound Hall of Fame
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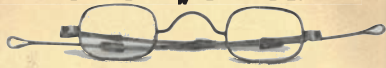
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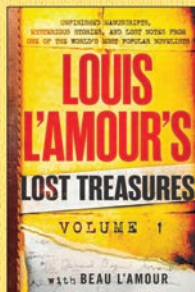
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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR AUGUST 2018



## ARIZONA COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Prescott, AZ, August 9-11: Dave Stamey (pictured), Jean & Gary Prescott and Kevin Davis are among the singers and poets bringing Western lore to the stage.

928-713-6323 • [AZCowboyPoets.org](http://AZCowboyPoets.org)

## CUSTER COUNTY COWBOY GATHERING

Westcliffe, CO, August 18-19: Cowboys and cowgirls gather for a weekend of Western music, cowboy poetry and chuckwagon fare.

719-783-9100 • [CusterCountyCowboyGathering.com](http://CusterCountyCowboyGathering.com)

## RE-ENACTMENTS

### JOHN WESLEY HARDIN SECRET SOCIETY

El Paso, TX, August 18: John Wesley Hardin's death in 1895 is re-enacted at historic Concordia Cemetery where the gunfighter is buried.

915-842-8200 • [ConcordiaCemetery.org](http://ConcordiaCemetery.org)

## RODEOS

### DODGE CITY ROUNDUP RODEO

Dodge City, KS, August 1-5: This PRCA rodeo features saddle bronc, bull riding, calf roping and steer wrestling.

620-225-2244 • [DodgeCityRoundup.org](http://DodgeCityRoundup.org)

### BASTROP HOMECOMING & RODEO

Bastrop, TX, through August 4: Head to this Colorado River town for the rodeo and parade, and take part in dances, class reunions, and carnival.

512-303-0558 • [BastropHomecomingRodeo.org](http://BastropHomecomingRodeo.org)

### BIG BEND RANCH RODEO

Alpine, TX, August 10-11: Cheer on the cowboys and cowgirls at the WRCA and Youth Cow Horse competitions; plus, a dance and cowboy church.

432-364-2696 • [BigBendRanchRodeo.com](http://BigBendRanchRodeo.com)

### PAYSON PRCA RODEO

Payson, AZ, August 15-18: This 1884 rodeo, which claims to be the world's oldest, features competitions that benefit Rim Country charities.

928-474-9440 • [PaysonProRodeo.com](http://PaysonProRodeo.com)

## THEATER

### PERFORMANCE OF SALADO LEGENDS

Salado, TX, August 4: Discover Old West history under the stars at the Tablerock Amphitheatre in an epic drama chosen by the Library of Congress as a "Local Legacy."

254-947-9205 • [Tablerock.org](http://Tablerock.org)

### TWMag.com:

View Western events on our website.



## ART SHOWS

### HOLD YOUR HORSES EXHIBITION & SALE

Prescott, AZ, Opens August 3: Check out the loyal and hardworking companion to man in this annual tribute to the horse.

928-778-1385 • [PhippenArtMuseum.org](http://PhippenArtMuseum.org)

### AMERICA'S HORSE IN ART

Amarillo, TX, Opens August 16: Benefit sale of horses depicted in pencil, paintings and sculptures, with signature piece by Don Waller.

806-376-5181 • [AQHA.com](http://AQHA.com)

## FOOD FESTIVAL

### BBQ PIT ROW

Winnie, SD, August 4: Teams compete for prize money in pork ribs, beef brisket, and a bean bag tournament at this annual BBQ cooking contest.

605-842-1533 • [TravelSouthDakota.com](http://TravelSouthDakota.com)

### WING & BREW FESTIVAL

Brookings, SD, August 11: Enjoy a day of summer fun sampling craft brews and tasting dynamite wings from local vendors.

605-692-7539 • [SwiftelCenter.com](http://SwiftelCenter.com)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### DODGE CITY DAYS

Dodge City, KS, Closes August 5: This cowboy celebration offers history re-enactments, a PRCA rodeo, a cattle drive and Western art.

620-227-3119 • [DodgeCityDays.com](http://DodgeCityDays.com)

### PRO-RODEO HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM INDUCTION WEEKEND

Colorado Springs, CO, August 2-4: Honors professional rodeo cowboys and cowgirls, plus features the 30th Annual Gold Tournament.

719-528-4732 • [ProRodeoHallOfFame.com](http://ProRodeoHallOfFame.com)

### STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

Sturgis, SD, August 3-12: Head to the Black Hills along with 500,000 riders for concerts, street-food, camping, and motorcycles.

800-732-5682 • [SturgisMotorcycleRally.com](http://SturgisMotorcycleRally.com)

### KOOL-AID DAYS FESTIVAL

Hastings, NE, August 10-12: This 1872 rail town celebrates the 1927 invention of Nebraska's soft drink at the world's largest Kool-Aid stand.

402-461-8405 • [Kool-AidDays.com](http://Kool-AidDays.com)

### UMATILLA COUNTY FAIR

Umatilla, OR, August 7-11: Fair unites citizens of this Columbia River town that was important to trade during Oregon's 1860s-70s gold rush.

541-567-6121 • [Co.Umatilla.OR.us](http://Co.Umatilla.OR.us)

### LONGMIRE DAYS

Buffalo, WY, August 10-12: Visit with some of the actors of AE's television series *Longmire* along with live entertainment, a pub crawl and more.

307-684-5544 • [BuffaloWyo.com](http://BuffaloWyo.com)

### DOC HOLLI-DAYS WITH DENNIS QUAID

Tombstone, AZ, August 11-12: Festival celebrating the gunfighting dentist will include a visit from actor Dennis Quaid, famous for his portrayal of John "Doc" Holliday in 1994's *Wyatt Earp*.

520-457-9317 • [TombstoneChamber.com](http://TombstoneChamber.com)

### ELKO COUNTY FAIR & HORSE RACES

Elko, NV, Opens August 24: Elko County residents pay tribute to their pioneer heritage with livestock shows and horse races.

775-738-3616 • [ElkoCountyFair.com](http://ElkoCountyFair.com)

### EVENING AT THE IVINSONS - HELL ON WHEELS

Laramie, WY, August 18: Celebrate on the museum lawn to raise awareness and funding for this special history with music, food and auctions.

307-742-4448 • [VisitLaramie.org](http://VisitLaramie.org)

# The Eagle Sacrifice



**Ask The Marshall**

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

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](mailto:marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu) or Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327.

## Why did Hopis capture eagles?

*Les Freeman  
Upper Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand*

The Hopis sacrificed eagles as part of an important tribal ceremony. In the spring, Hopi youth climbed up to the nest and captured eaglets. They took the eaglets home and treated them as they would a child, gifted with baby presents and tenderly nourished. Tethered on the rooftop, the eaglets were fed rabbits until the Niman, or Home Dance, in mid-July.

At the end of the ceremony, the Katsinas (spirit messengers) left the villages and went to the San Francisco Peaks to remain there until early winter. The Hopis then gently suffocated the now-grown eagles. Their spirits carried a final prayer for rain as clouds to the Katsinas.

The Hopis then took the eagle bodies to kivas, where they plucked the feathers and arranged them according to religious tradition. Then they buried the eagles in a special cemetery.

For the Hopi tribe, the eagle embodies the spirit of their ancestors.

## How did slim-hipped Westerners keep their gunbelts in place?

*Robert Vaillancourt  
Mason, New Hampshire*

A gunslinger had some options: a shoulder holster, a suspender rig and even pockets and waistbands, preferred by town-based shootists, including the Earp brothers who went that route at the O.K. Corral battle.

Wyatt Earp did experience an embarrassing moment with his gun rig.

During his Vendetta Ride in 1882, he loosened his gunbelt for comfort while riding the long, uphill trail to Mescal Springs. All of a sudden, Wyatt and his posse came upon several Cow-boys and gunfire erupted.



A rare historical photograph of Hopi eagle hunters with their catch, taken in Arizona in 1915 by Emry Kopta.

— COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN —

Wyatt dismounted and walked toward “Curly Bill” Brocius, blasting the outlaw with a shotgun. But when he reached for his pistol, he discovered his gunbelt had slipped down around his knees.

To make matters worse, Wyatt's horse—who he was holding by the reins—was spooked by the gunfire. Every time Wyatt reached for his pistol, the horse would rear, pulling him back up again.

One of the outlaw's bullets ripped through Wyatt's saddle horn and another shot off his boot heel.

Wyatt was finally able to get off a few shots and make his way safely to his posse.

## Were schoolteachers armed during the Old West era?

*Dave Fuller  
Lisbon, Connecticut*

Most schoolteachers were women, and the good ones knew how to command respect. In general, they did not carry or take arms into the classroom.

Many youngsters, however, combined school with ranch work and came to school carrying pistols or rifles. The teacher usually checked in the students'

guns and returned them when school was dismissed for the day.

One teacher confiscated a pistol and tossed it into a potbelly stove. She failed to remove the bullets. You can imagine what happened next.

When students had a beef with one another, they usually settled things with fisticuffs. In fact, most people in the West rarely, if ever, resorted to gunplay. The movies make it seem as if everyone walked around with an itchy trigger finger.

## What were the strongest Indian tribes of the 19th century?

*Paul W. Hughes  
Vacaville, California*

That's kind of like trying to pick the greatest baseball player ever. Often, one tribe was dominant in an area until a more powerful group came along and wanted their land. Sometimes, a group lost power due to other factors, such as disease, drought that killed crops and die-off of animals.

The strongest on the Northern Plains were the Lakota and Dakota Sioux, while the Comanches were lords of the

Southern Plains (with some challenges from the Kiowas). The Apaches and Navajos controlled the Southwest.

The top tribes in the East included the Iroquois, the Algonquins, the Creeks and the Cherokees. But European incursions forced those groups west.

Even the strongest of tribes eventually lost power to the whites, who were too many and too well-equipped to be stopped.

**Who stopped the near-showdown between gunfighters "Doc" Holliday and John Ringo?**

Paul Gortarez  
Phoenix, Arizona

Jim Flynn stopped the near-showdown.

After the O.K. Corral street fight on October 26, 1881, Virgil Earp was suspended temporarily. Flynn, Virgil's deputy, was named acting chief of police for Tombstone, Arizona Territory. Virgil reclaimed the position after he was cleared by the Spicer Hearings.

When assassins shot and crippled Virgil on December 28, a special city election was held on January 3, 1882; Flynn was defeated by Dave Neagle, but kept his deputy badge.

John Ringo and "Doc" Holliday got into an argument on January 17. "Much blood in the air this afternoon. Ringo and Doc Holliday came nearly having it with pistols....

Crowded street and looked like another battle. Police vigilant for once and both disarmed," wrote George Parsons, chronicler on Tombstone's early days.

Flynn was the vigilant policeman. He had arrested Ringo, Holliday and Virgil's brother Wyatt for carrying concealed weapons.

Wyatt was released because he was a federal officer (deputy U.S. marshal), while Ringo and Holliday were each fined \$32.



John Ringo



Doc Holliday

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# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

**One of the best books is** Sherman Alexie's *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. The humor Sherman captures throughout the book is representative of the way Indians living on reservations cope with poverty.

**Custer represents** my youth. I remember re-enacting the battle with my friends at Little Bighorn Battlefield. I was always Curly, while others opted to be Sioux or Cheyenne Warriors. We always took along a kid we really didn't like. You can easily guess who he was in our re-enactments.

**Don't get me started on** John Wayne's horsemanship skills. I would sure hate to be the horse that tries to keep a good balance under him, while he jerks the reins, flips his rifle and hoots and hollers as he chases down bad guys!

**The best Western ever is** *Smoke Signals*! I guarantee, many natives had to drive an old clunker backwards to make it home when we ran our transmission into the ground. My longest trek driving backwards to get home was about four miles. A few days later, I found myself under the car, changing out the transmission. I was only about 13 years old.

**A great actor I admire is** Gary Farmer, especially in his role as Philbert in *Powwow Highway*. Farmer shows humor, desperation, a strong belief system and a commitment to family, which are all traits carried by Indians. We all have that one Philbert who hangs around the sweat or powwows.

**History has taught me** that we all have a story to tell. I have done many interviews among native communities. Unfortunately, white visitors who come to reservations usually communicate with the only white guy living on the reservation, rather than approach one of the 14,000 members of the tribe.

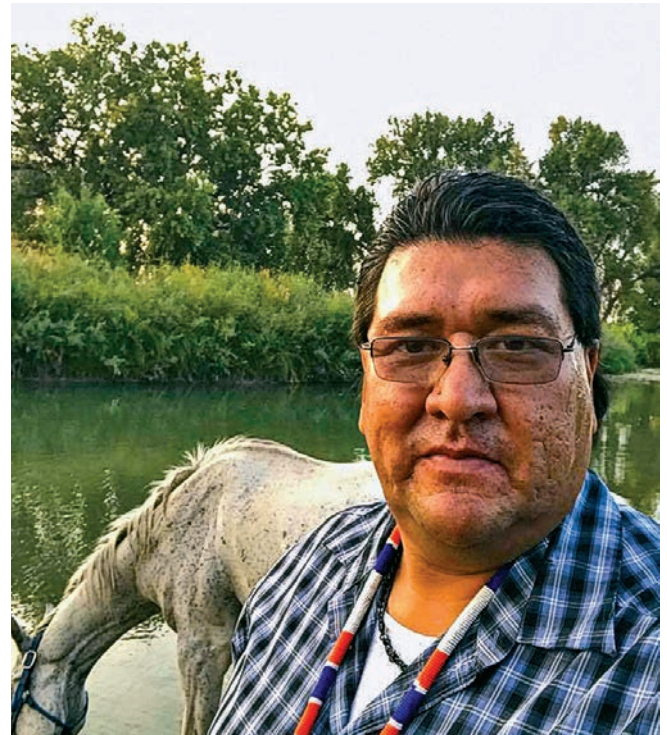
**The worst thing you can say** to me is, "You have no family!" The Crow clan system ensures we always have mothers and fathers. During the height of the inter-tribal warfare period, many children were orphaned when Crows were killed during war with Lakota Sioux, Blackfeet and other surrounding tribes. But the system made sure they had mothers and fathers.

**I wish people knew more** about Crow Fair. This New Year's celebration, held every third weekend in August, showcases roughly 1,300 tipis and a daily morning parade of hundreds of participants in their finest traditional regalia. This year's fair is the centennial anniversary, and, as always, will include some "Tipi Creeping."



Alden Big Man Jr.'s great-grandfather Max Big Man (left) was a Crow chief, tribal police officer, judge and rancher. All of his sons served in the U.S. military.

— ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ALDEN BIG MAN JR. —



## ALDEN BIG MAN JR., CROW HISTORIAN

A former cabinet head of Crow Homeland Security for Crow Agency, Montana, Alden Big Man Jr. earned his Ph.D. in the History department at University of New Mexico. His research focuses on Plains Indian Tribes, and he is working on a biography about George Custer's Crow scout Curly. As director of the Crow Tribe's Water Resources Department, which broke ground in 2012, he oversees the rehabilitation of the Crow reservation irrigation system.

**If I could have dinner with anyone,** that person would be Chief Dan George, while he lays atop the burial scaffold and waits for his death. A great actor, he looked like an American Indian, unlike Johnny Depp or the infamous "Crying Indian," Iron Eyes Cody.

**The funniest thing a white person** said to me is that she took new faculty members at the tribal college to lunch to give them a "thorough overview of the Crow people." I thought to myself, "I speak the language, participate in many of the cultural events and still learn about my people on a daily basis, and here is this woman who can explain to non-Indians the history and culture of the Crow in 60 minutes," minus the time she is chewing and eating her food!

**"Do you Indians still** live in tipis?" is what 10 percent of people asked me while I worked as a fishing guide on the Big Horn River during my undergrad years. My response was always, "Yes. Keep a watchful eye on the banks because the wilder members of the tribe might shoot at you with bow and arrows, and count coup."



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