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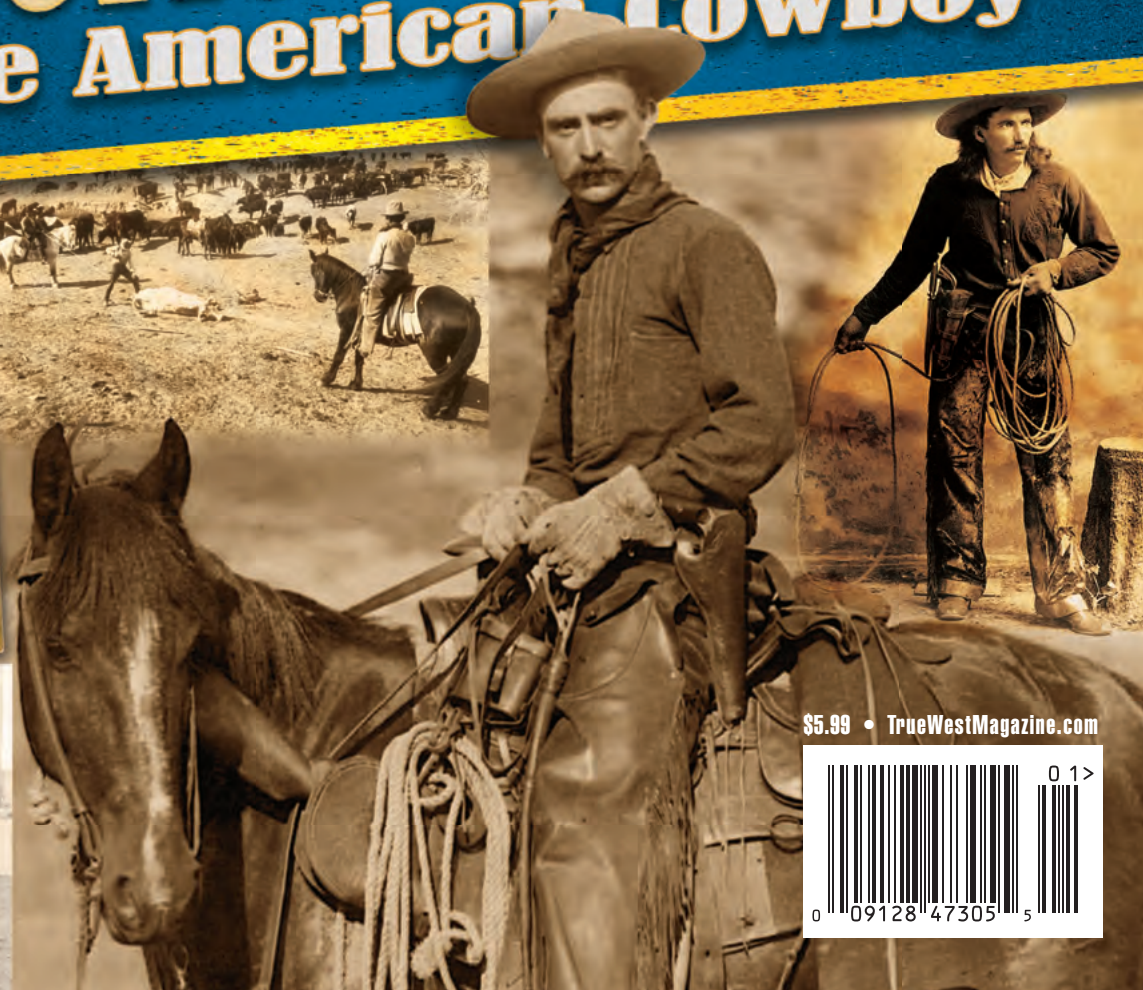
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Holliday is best known for his role in the legendary gunfight at the O.K. Corral, where Tom McLaughry, Frank McLaughry and Billy Clanton fought Holliday, Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan Earp.

Undoubtedly, Doc's life was filled with adventure, but came to an early end. His tuberculosis claimed his life at the age of 36. Always believing he would die fighting with his boots on, he ironically muttered, "This is funny" and passed away in his bed.

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## **1** Chowing Down

These cowboys chow down on chuckwagon grub at a Belle Fourche campsite in present-day South Dakota during an 1887 roundup, three years before the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad reached the Black Hills burg. Shipping 2,500 carloads of cows per month in the peak season by 1895, Belle Fourche became the busiest cattle-shipping point in the world.

— BY JOHN C.H. GRABILL / COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



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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This group of 13th Infantry non-commissioned officers serving in New Mexico readied for the field as part of the final push to end the Apache Wars during the mid-1880s. Find this and more historical photography on our "Western History" board.

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Go behind the scenes of True West with Bob Boze Bell to see this and more of his Daily Whipouts (Search for "November 2, 2015.")  
[Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com](http://Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com)



### Join the Conversation

"It took brave people, young and old, to cross that vastness in search of a new life. That may sound corny, but few today could make that journey."

—Diane C. Dumas  
of Rancho Mirage, California



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**THE 100 BEST Historical Photos of the American Cowboy**

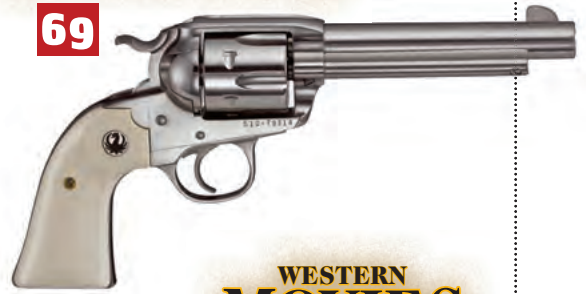


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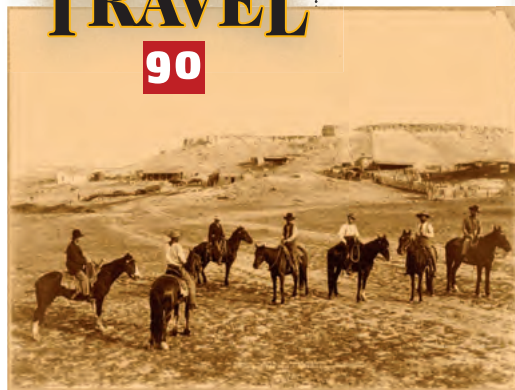
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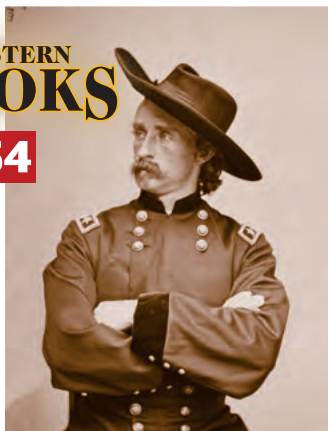
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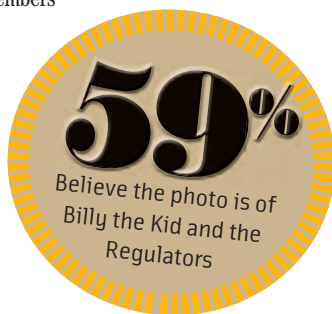
Identified as Billy the Kid

## Billy Mania



- COURTESY RANDY GUJARRO -

When *Billy the Kid: New Evidence* premiered on the National Geographic Channel on October 19, 2015, the producers made a concerted effort to prove the above tintype not only showed Billy the Kid wearing a sweater, but also members of the Lincoln County Regulators. We polled our audience, and 59 percent were convinced by the documentary. In our February issue, we will continue the conversation about this controversial tintype in an investigative report written by our features editor, Mark Boardman.



## 2 The Ultimate Insult

During the 1880s, calling a legitimate cattleman a "cowboy" was an insult. That was due to Arizona's outlaw cowboys roaming around Cochise County who made the term synonymous with rustlers. The above 1885 photo probably shows some outlaw cowboys mixed in with ore miners in front of the Charleston saloon Jacob W. Swart purchased from outlaw cowboy Frank Stilwell in 1881.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

## BOOMTOWN RUINS

Many people wonder why Contention, Arizona, has no ruins ["Tombstone's Competitor," December 2015]. A couple of years ago, I purchased three books by historian John D. Rose about late 1800s events in Cochise County. I found them very interesting, so I called the author and talked to him at length. I had visited the ruins of Charleston several times since I moved to Arizona in the late 1950s. I asked him why Contention did not have ruins like the ones in Charleston. He explained that Contention sat on private land. During the 1950s-60s, squatters moved into some of the Contention ruins and caused some trouble with the law. The squatters were chased out, and the ruins bulldozed to dust.

**Allen Fossenkemper**

*Fountain Hills, Arizona*

**Kevin Hogge Responds:** I've been out to Contention on horseback from Fairbank, which is the best way to get there now. Riding up the dry riverbed, past the trestles, the foundations of the stamping mills are to the east on the hillside, but other than that, the town is flat. The cemetery is the only thing left to lend proof of civilization. As to no remains, I know the town was moved after the depot was built, every board and nail. When folks pulled up stakes and left for good, they did the same. Not much was left and, as the saying goes, "The desert reclaims its own."

## Mountain Man Movies

In the listing of 10 mountain man movies [Western Movies, December 2015], the eleventh should have been 1952's *The Big Sky* with Kirk Douglas, Dewey Martin and Arthur Hunnicutt. Good films all.

**Bill Hamilton**

*Skokie, Illinois*

## STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW

Phil Spangenberger makes an important point in the October 2015 issue. Bows had a significantly higher rate of fire than muzzleloading firearms. Yew, juniper, ash, hickory and Osage orange were preferred woods for bows. Mesquite and cottonwood were not. Cottonwood would be like trying to make a bow from cardboard. Mesquite's grain is twisted. A good bow follows a single straight grain. The cross grain of mesquite splits every time.

**Doug Hocking**

*Sierra Vista, Arizona*

# Our Man Abe

*The 2016 True Westerner award goes to Abe Hays.*



**F**ive-year-old Abe Hays first saw the West when his family visited Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1935. He returned every summer for 12 years to stay at the Fern Mountain Ranch at the base of San Francisco Peaks.

Those summer trips crystallized a passion for all things Western in the young lad's fertile mind. After graduating from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, he worked as a newspaper reporter and later editor at *The Herald-American* in Donora, becoming, at age 23, the youngest editor in the chain.

After another successful career, in public relations, Hays retired in 1976 and moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, to fulfill a lifelong dream. He opened Arizona West Gallery at 7149 E. Main Street, specializing in collecting artifacts and artworks by artists who have generally not been given their due. Today, Hays is the recognized authority on Western artists Will James, Maynard Dixon, Carl Oscar Borg and Lon Megargee. Hays became a stalwart champion of the Southwest region's art, long before the art world recognized such art as cool.

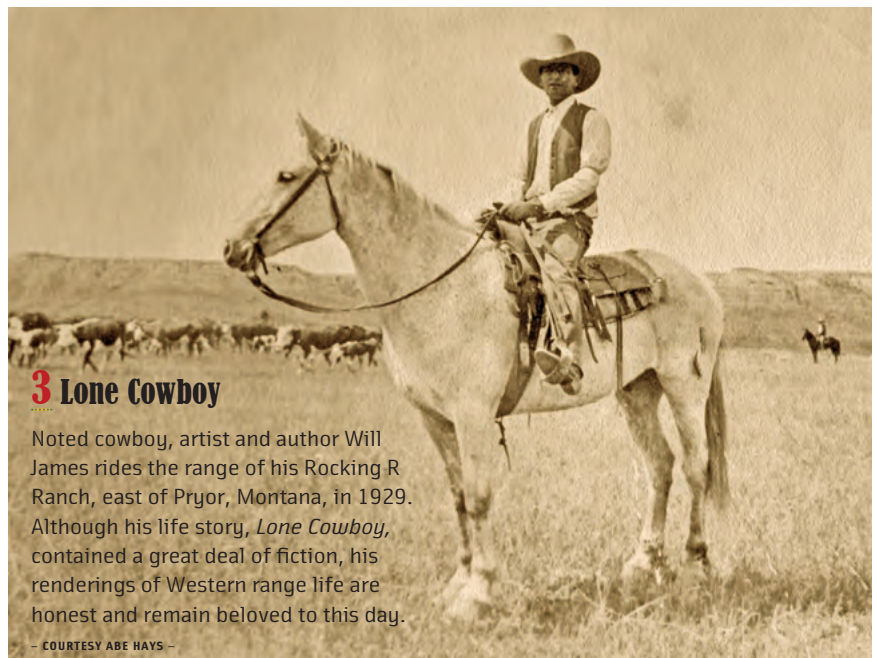
For the grand opening of Scottsdale's Museum of the West, in January 2015, Hays published a catalogue on Arizona outlaws and lawmen to coincide with his collection of 1,200 artifacts that is featured in its own wing at the museum.

Abe Hays deserves our magazine's highest honor as a True Westerner. We will present the True Westerner statue to Hays at Scottsdale's Museum of the West on January 21. Visit [TWMag.com](http://TWMag.com) for more details.

A circa 1880 leather saddle by David E. Walker is among the treasures collected by Abe Hays that are exhibited in a special wing at Scottsdale's Museum of the West.

High Noon Auctions has high praise for Walker's saddlery, based in Visalia, California: "No historic maker in the West retains a more stellar reputation for quality, diversity and longevity than Visalia's San Francisco Saddlery."

— BY ELIZABETH HAYS NOYD —



### 3 Lone Cowboy

Noted cowboy, artist and author Will James rides the range of his Rocking R Ranch, east of Pryor, Montana, in 1929. Although his life story, *Lone Cowboy*, contained a great deal of fiction, his renderings of Western range life are honest and remain beloved to this day.

— COURTESY ABE HAYS —



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

Quotes

“Be it pestilence, war or famine, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The poor even help arrange it.”

– Will Rogers, American humorist

“I grew up in southeastern Oklahoma on a working cattle ranch, and it was always very romantic to me: The West, the cowboy, the Western way of life.”

– Reba McEntire, American singer

**“John Wayne never ever disappointed his fans, because he was a cowboy.”**

– Vinnie Jones, British actor

“Who is it has no fixed abode.  
Who seeks adventures by the load—  
An errant knight without a code?  
The cowboy....

Who is it when the drive is done,  
Will on a howling bender run,  
And bring to town his little gun?  
The cowboy.”

– From *The Cowboy*, an anonymous 1884 poem

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



“I think you’re going to find out that Westerns will be coming back. It’s Americana, it’s part of our history, the cowboy, the cattle drive, the sheriff, the fight for law, order and justice. Justice will always prevail as far as I’m concerned.”

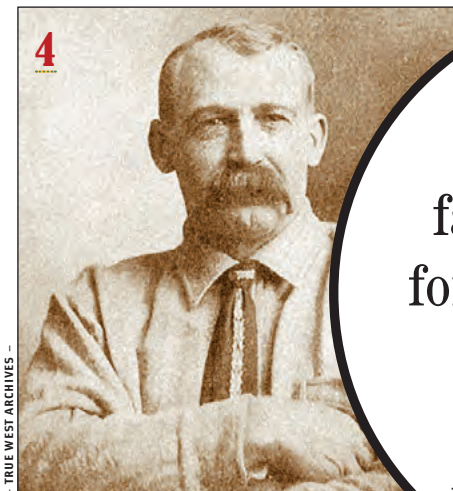
– Clayton Moore, best known for starring as the Lone Ranger



5

“Talk of tornadoes, whirlwinds, avalanches, waterspouts, prairie fires... boil them all together, mix them well, and serve on one plate, and you will have a limited idea of the charge of this ‘light brigade.’”

– Texas Jack Omohundro, describing a buffalo hunt in *The Spirit of the Times* newspaper on March 24, 1877



“...there are friends and faces that may be forgotten, but there are horses that never will be.”

– Andy Adams, recalling an 1882 cattle drive in *The Log of a Cowboy*

Old Vaquero Saying



“Old cowboys never die; they just smell that way.”

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# West on



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# The Great Die-Up

*The winter of 1886-87 took the crown off king cattle.*

**I**n the Wild West, cattle were a staple—cattle drives, cattle towns, cattle herds, cattle ranches. Cattle were king through the 1870s up until the mid-1880s.

By 1885, beef prices were falling and much of the open range was overgrazed, mainly because cattle barons had built up herds too large for the land. But the barons—many of them Europeans—who owned huge swaths of land from Canada to Mexico, maintained business as usual. Until they couldn't.

The summer of 1886 was unusually hot and dry as a drought hit. More grass died. Brush fires burned off even more. Water sources dried up. Other signs pointed to a tough winter ahead—geese going south earlier, cattle growing thicker fur, beaver stacking more wood for dens.

In November, the snow came. No place was safe—California got nearly four inches in San Francisco. North Texas and the Panhandle were inundated. “Day after day the snow came down, thawing and then freezing and piling itself higher and higher. By January the drifts had filled the ravines and coulees almost level,” remembered Theodore Roosevelt, who was ranching in Dakota Territory at the time.

Blizzards roared across the West in January. Temperatures dropped to 30 below in some places. They hit 43 below the next month.

Warm Chinook winds began the thaw by March 1887. An estimated hundreds of thousands of cattle carcasses littered the land—many pushed up against wire fences or lining roads. Total losses went unreported, but in some areas, up to 90 percent of the herds were wiped out. Small



When L.E. Kaufman checked in on the condition of his Montana cattle ranch, the OH, during the winter of 1886-87, he received news of the devastation via this sketch by cowboy artist Charles M. Russell, titled “Waiting for a Chinook—The Last of 5,000.”

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

ranches—what few existed—went out of business. Even some huge cattle companies declared bankruptcy.

Roosevelt wrote a friend, “Well, we have had a perfect smashup all through the cattle country of the northwest.

The losses are crippling. For the first time I have been utterly unable to enjoy a visit to my ranch. I shall be glad to get home.”

He was lucky to have a home to go to. Most Westerners did not; they had lost theirs in the Great Die-Up.

Thousands of cowboys were out of jobs. Some drifted back East or looked for work in Western towns. Others (like members of the Wild Bunch) turned to less honorable pursuits that included rustling and outlawry.

“...range husbandry is over, is ruined, destroyed....”

Those who tried to carve out a ranch by claiming unbranded calves ran smack into the old guard cattle barons. Range conflicts broke out, perhaps most notably the Johnson County War in Wyoming.

That deadly winter had changed cattle country. As the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman* newspaper in Diamond City, Montana, reported, “...range husbandry is over, is ruined, destroyed, and it may have been by the insatiable greed of its followers.”

Barbed wires split the ranges. Smaller cattle operations became the norm. Foreigners felt leery about investing out West. Cowboys became more of an iconic symbol than a constant presence. Cattle were no longer king.

Historians still debate over when the Old West died. The Great Die-Up may not have been the end, but the disaster certainly played a role in finishing the era.

# FOR A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD WEST

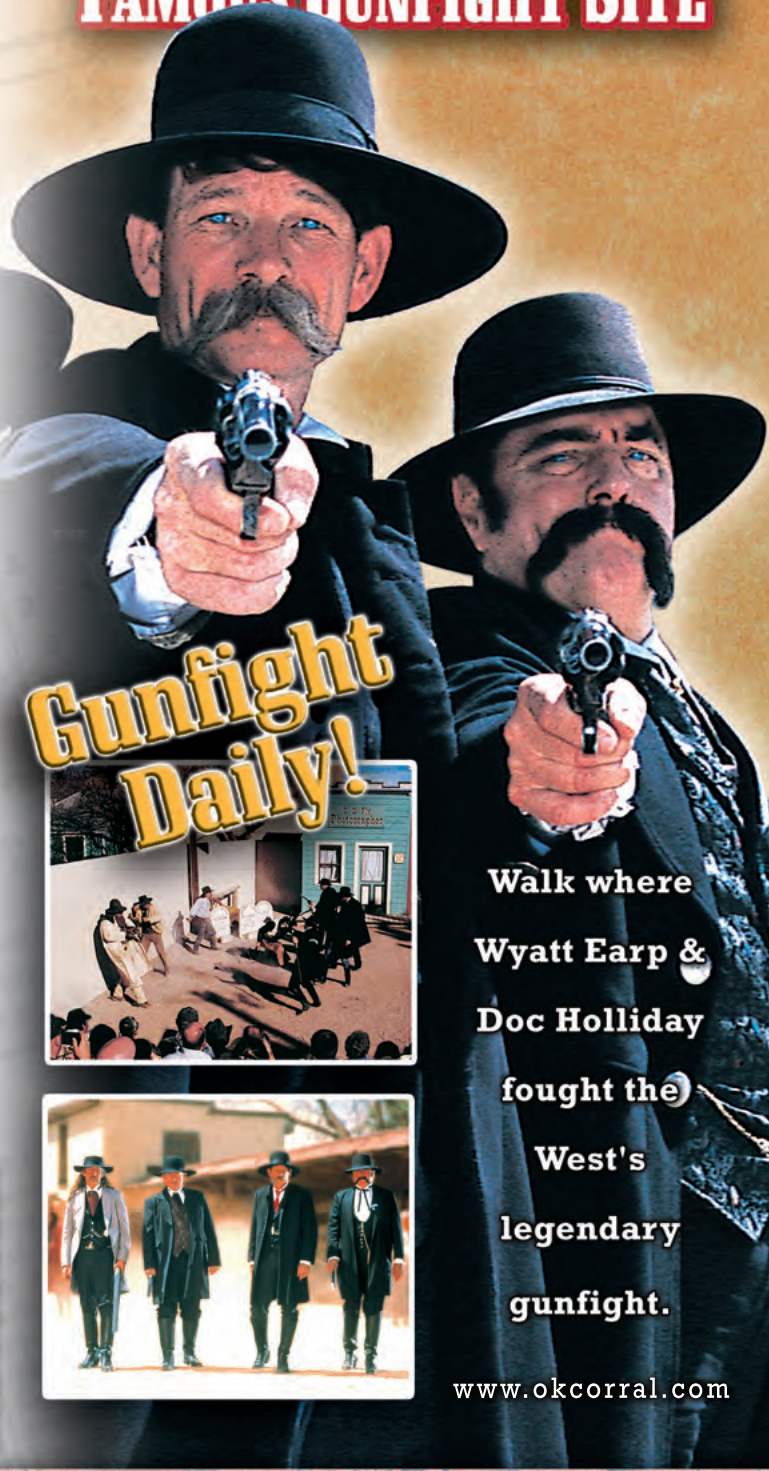
In 1881 *The Tombstone Epitaph* reported the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Today, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday live on in *The Tombstone Epitaph*, now an historical monthly journal of the Old West still published in Tombstone, AZ.

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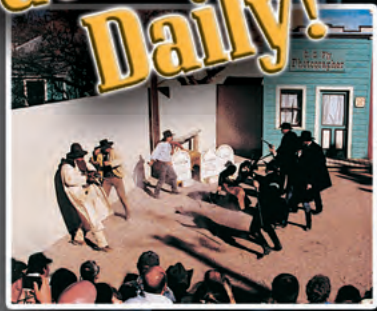
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# Cowboy Grub

Learn what trail-herding cattlemen ate on frontier trails.



**6** Chuckwagon cookies, like the above belly cheater from the JA Ranch in Texas, were the lifeblood of cattle ranches that dotted the Old West frontier like a cowhide tapestry.

— BY ERWIN E. SMITH / COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

**A**fter spring roundups, cowboys herded their cattle out on the trail, heading to a cowtown with a railroad station where the cattle could be corralled and loaded for market. Along the trail, cowboys ate meals consisting of beef, beans, biscuits, dried fruit and coffee.

As cattle drives increased in the 1860s, cooks found it harder and harder to feed the 10 to 20 men who tended the cattle. That's when Texas Ranger-turned-cattle rancher Charles Goodnight invented the chuckwagon. In 1866, he and rancher Oliver Loving created the Goodnight-Loving Trail to move their cattle to railheads.

The chuckwagon and its cook became the lifeblood of the cowboy during roundups and while on the trail. Some cooks were great; others got by with providing the basics. Most ranch owners wanted their cowboys fed well so that they would stay healthy along the trail.

"We had a good one. 'Dutch' Meyers took pride in his work," recalled Avery Barrow, a cowboy born in Texas in 1860, about

his camp cook. "To get him doing extra touches, all we had to do was swell him on his meals. He would raise like a boil and take extra pains fixing the chuck...."

"Dutch made some of the best sourdough bread I have ever ate. Bread, beans, stewed dried fruit was what we lived on. The cookie would fix the beans different ways. He could fix a Boston baked dish of beans that was fitting to eat, also fried pies out of the stewed fruit.

"When it comes to broiling steaks, 'Dutch' had the knack down pat. He would get his campfire hot, slap the steaks into it for a minute, which seared them on the outside. Then he would pull the meat away and let it cook

slowly. Of course the beef was off of a fat yearling, a good meat to start off with."

Chuckwagon staples had to travel well and not spoil. The list included flour, sourdough, salt, brown sugar, beans, rice, cornmeal, dried apples and peaches, baking powder, baking soda, coffee and syrup.

Fresh beef was the main meat, but cowboys also hunted wild game and fish

**"...all we had to do was swell him on his meals."**

## SPRING LAMB POTPIE

1 1/2 pound lamb  
1/2 t. salt  
1/4 t. freshly ground pepper  
2 T. butter  
1 onion, diced  
1/3 cup flour  
1 cup chicken stock  
1 pint canned tomatoes, strained  
1 T. fresh parsley, chopped  
1 piecrust

Cut the lamb into cubes, and add salt and pepper. Melt the butter in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Fry lamb until browned on all sides. Remove from the pan. Fry the onions until tender, about 10 minutes. Add flour, cook for one minute, then add the stock. Add the tomatoes and cook over medium heat for five minutes or until thickened. Add the lamb and stir. Place the lamb filling in a baking dish and top with the parsley. Cover with the piecrust and bake at 400°F for about 25 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Recipe adapted from Nebraska's  
Omaha World-Herald, April 30, 1899

along the trail and during roundups. The cook used bacon grease to fry everything, but it also served as the main meat when supplies ran low.

W.H. Thomas, who made his way to Graham, Texas, in the 1890s, worked for cattle rancher Lyt Johnson: "Eating around a chuckwagon is the best eating in the world. Nothing special, but good solid food like whistle berries, beef, sow belly strips and some of the best sop in the world can be made from the grease you get from fried sowbelly.... If everything was favorable, you could depend on a slice of pie two or three times a week, sometimes more."

After being on the trail for three or four months, cowboys were tired of eating the same old grub. Once they hit the cowtowns and got paid, they enjoyed a nice dinner in a restaurant. ❏

Sherry Monahan has penned *Mrs. Earp: Wives & Lovers of the Earp Brothers*; *California Vines, Wines & Pioneers*; *Taste of Tombstone*; *The Wicked West* and *Tombstone's Treasure*. She's appeared on the History Channel in *Lost Worlds* and other shows.

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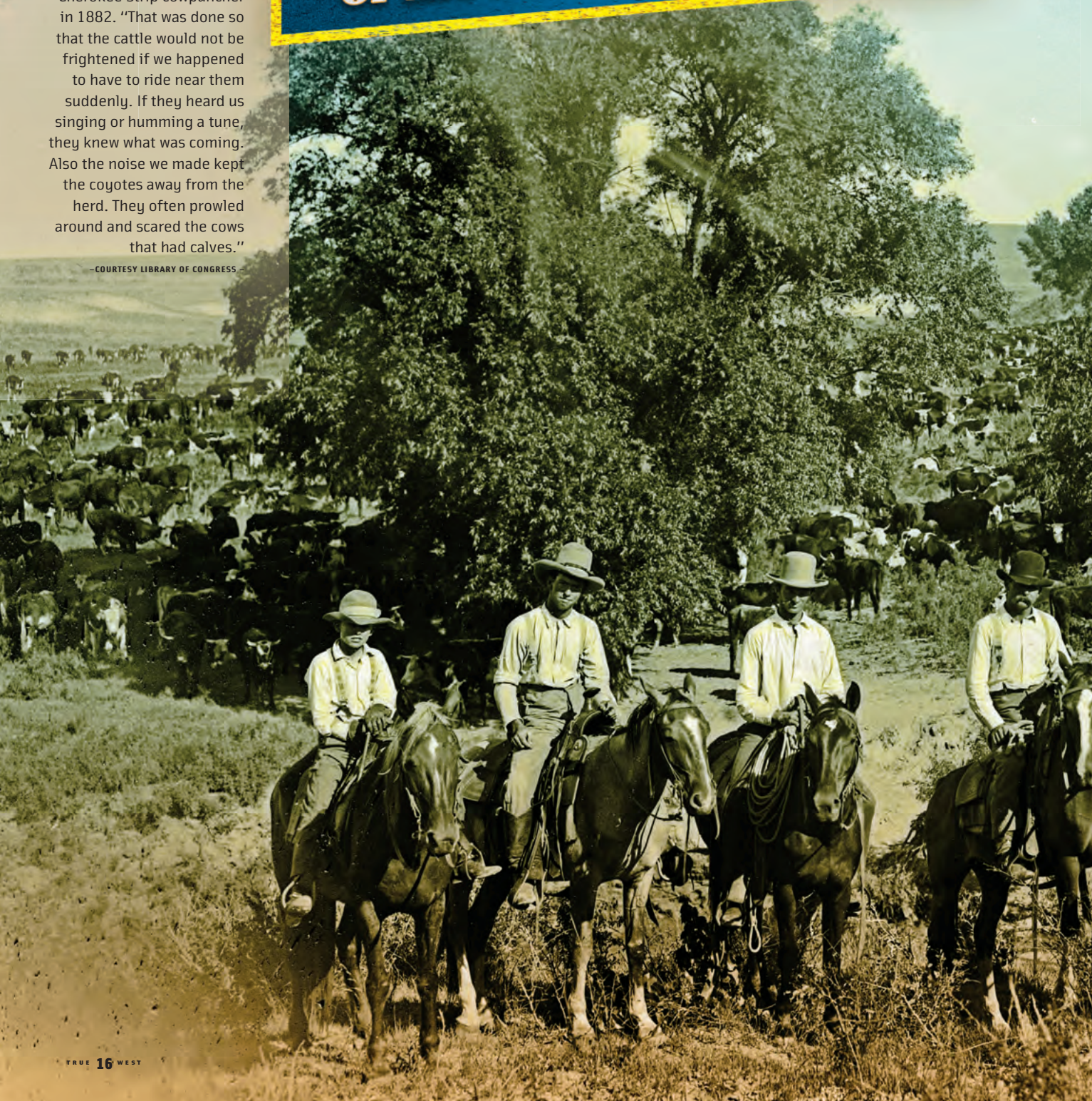
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## 7 Keeping Their Distance

William Henry Jackson captured this iconic photograph of Texas cowboys with their herd behind them. "We always rode something like seventy-five feet away from the cattle, and sang a song or made some kind of noise," recalled Evan G. Barnard, who became a Cherokee Strip cowpuncher in 1882. "That was done so that the cattle would not be frightened if we happened to have to ride near them suddenly. If they heard us singing or humming a tune, they knew what was coming. Also the noise we made kept the coyotes away from the herd. They often prowled around and scared the cows that had calves."

—COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS—

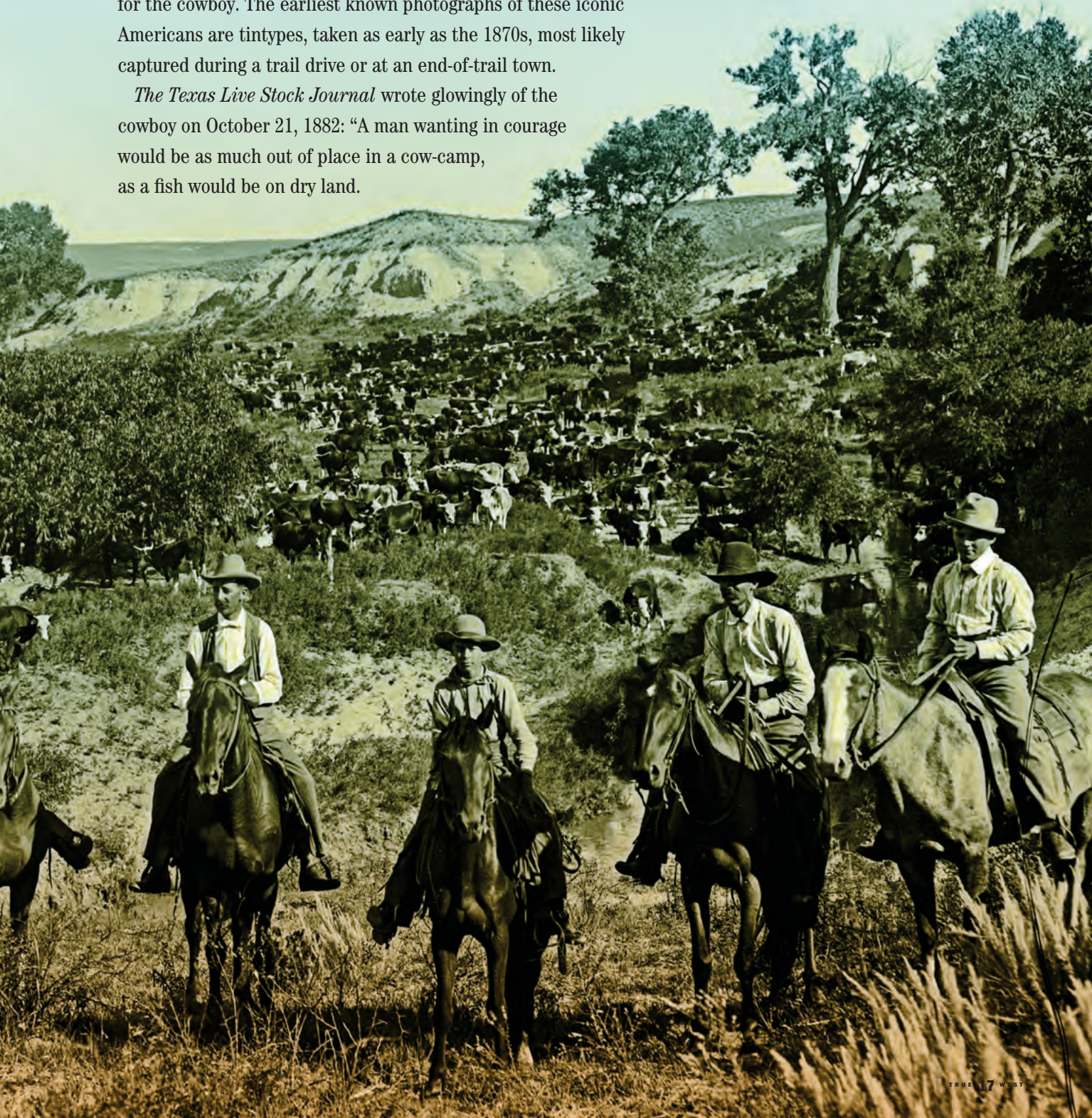
# THE 100 BEST Historical Photos of the American Cowboy



# Rise of the Cowboy

Before the Mexican-American War concluded in 1848, American traders who traveled to the Western frontier encountered Spanish vaqueros of northern Mexico. The arrival of railroads and an increased demand for beef during the Civil War drove the need for the cowboy. The earliest known photographs of these iconic Americans are tintypes, taken as early as the 1870s, most likely captured during a trail drive or at an end-of-trail town.

*The Texas Live Stock Journal* wrote glowingly of the cowboy on October 21, 1882: "A man wanting in courage would be as much out of place in a cow-camp, as a fish would be on dry land.



Indeed the life he is daily compelled to lead calls for the existence of the highest degree of cool calculating courage...the cowboy is as chivalrous as the famed knights of old.”

John Baumann, a British immigrant who moved to Texas and lived with the cowboy “on his lonesome prairies,” warned of obscuring the true character of these men with romantic qualities. In “On a Western Ranche” published in *The Fortnightly Review* on April 1, 1887, he cautioned the “restless, roving spirits who may be attracted by picturesque descriptions of a cowboy’s life that, unless they are prepared to toil during the long summer months, both by day and by night, for small pay and on scant fare, to be in the saddle from early dawn until sunset both Sundays and week-days, to abstain from comfort and civilisation for the greater part of every year, and so as to wear themselves out with exposure and manifold fatigues as to be reckoned old and past their work whilst still young in years, they had better remain at home and leave cowboy life alone.”

Baumann found journalism better suited him. He had been employed by a Panhandle cattle ranch four years earlier, working among the cowboys who painfully drove away half-dead and terrified horses struck by the poisonous loco weed that threatened to spread death to other horses and cows.

The image of another Panhandle cowboy has lasted the test of time. In an 1880s cabinet card, captioned “The Genuine Cow Boy Captured Alive,” Cottonwood Charlie Nebo stands with his “half-breed” partner Nicholas Janis, a descendant of an early-day interpreter at Wyoming’s Fort Laramie. Charlie’s daughter, Maude, captured his words in 1917: “I have been a cowboy for over 40 years. Have driven herds of cattle from the Gulf of Mexico to Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota. In one bunch we

had over seven thousand steers. I have driven ‘The Staked Plains’ three or four times with big herds of cattle—96 miles without any water in some parts of the journey. Am a veteran of the Civil War and an ex-Texas Ranger. Have had some exciting times in my career.”

The man behind the camera is among the unsung heroes who preserved for posterity early-day frontier cowboys. Tintypes are rarely identified by photographers, but others entered the scene later on and made names for themselves capturing on camera the open range days up to the early 1900s. These recorders of history included Charles Belden, L.A. Huffman and Erwin Smith, the latter whom historians at the Amon Carter museum in Fort Worth have memorialized as one of the greatest photographers of cowboy life who ever lived. From the beginning, America’s pioneer image makers followed the cowboy on the ranges or in trail towns, transporting heavy cameras, tripods and wet-plate equipment, and developing their negatives in makeshift darkrooms that ranged from tents to a canvas blanket. Without them, we would have a far-sighted notion of one of the most dramatic periods of American history.

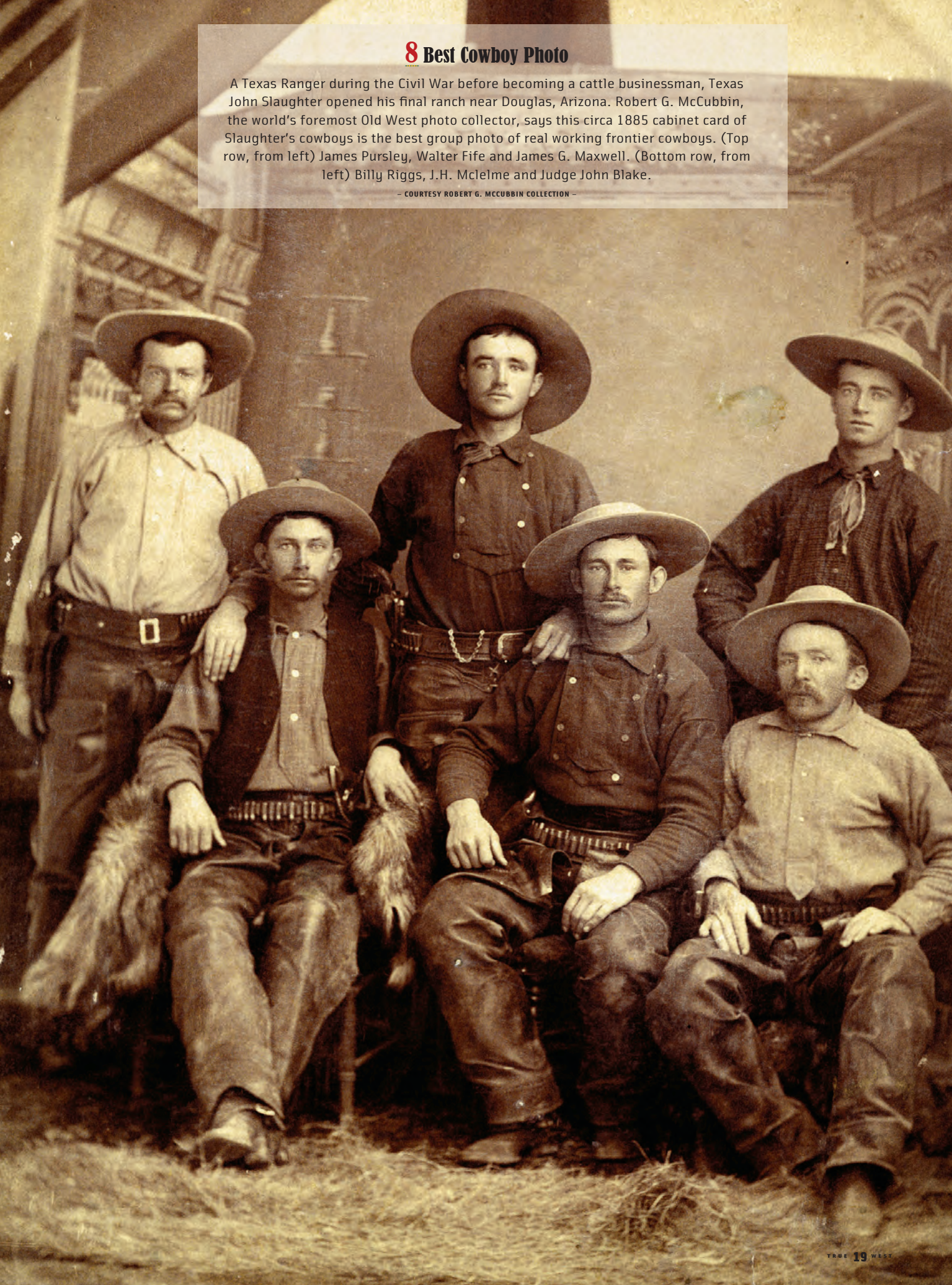
Throughout this issue, the editors bring to you the best cowboy photographs of the frontier American West. To us, each one of these cowboys epitomizes Baumann’s words: “He is in the main a loyal, long-enduring, hard-working fellow, grit to the backbone, and tough as whipcord; performing his arduous and often dangerous duties, and living his comfortless life, without a word of complaint about the many privations he has to undergo.”

—Meghan Saar

## 8 Best Cowboy Photo

A Texas Ranger during the Civil War before becoming a cattle businessman, Texas John Slaughter opened his final ranch near Douglas, Arizona. Robert G. McCubbin, the world's foremost Old West photo collector, says this circa 1885 cabinet card of Slaughter's cowboys is the best group photo of real working frontier cowboys. (Top row, from left) James Pursley, Walter Fife and James G. Maxwell. (Bottom row, from left) Billy Riggs, J.H. McElme and Judge John Blake.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -





## 9 Cherokee Strip Cowboys

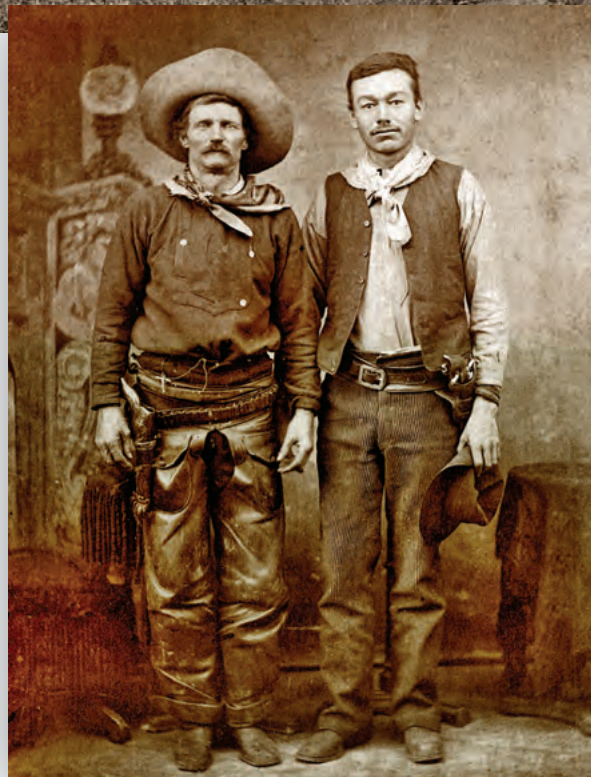
Kansas cowboys gathered for a roundup at the 101 Ranch outlet south of Hunnewell. Along with cattle pens stored on this land purchased in 1885, owner George W. Miller kept a breaking crew working year round on his green horses. After the federal government forced out the ranchers, Miller moved his famous ranch, which would spawn a Wild West show, to present-day Oklahoma in 1893.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

## 10 The Genuine Cowboy

Accurately captioned "The Genuine Cow Boy Captured Alive," this 1880s cabinet card features Cottonwood Charlie Nebo (far left) in his bib front shirt, shotgun chaps, bandanna, wide brimmed hat and his fringed, scabbard-style holster. His pard Nicholas Janis wears a vest that was popular among frontier cowboys for carrying personal items like tobacco and a pocketknife. Nebo most famously worked for cattle baron John Chisum along the Pecos River in the Texas Panhandle, but this photograph of the cowboys was taken after Nebo moved to Nebraska.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —





## 11 Cowboy Mystery

Historians have not been able to track down “Fred Pierce, a noted cowboy of Wyoming” captioned on this 1887 photograph by John C.H. Grabill. Arizona author Gladwell Toney Richardson, who wrote under the pseudonym Maurice Kildare, suspected this cowboy was a member of Yavapai County Sheriff John Mulvenon’s posse sent to intervene in the Pleasant Valley War, a feud fought between two ranching families during 1882–1893; Grabill’s cowboy (notice his shotgun chaps) bears a resemblance to posse member Fletcher Fairchild.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



## 12 Hobbling a Bunch Quitter

This Montana cowboy is fastening a hobble on a bunch quitter—a horse that has the habit of leaving the remuda to run off to parts unknown (or back to the home ranch).

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

### 13 Cowboy Celebration

Cowboys celebrate at the Lubbock, Texas, railroad yards after delivering a herd of cattle for shipment. Until the Santa Fe Railway pulled its first train into Lubbock two years later, the town was 125 miles from the nearest railroad.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



### 14 Reservation Cowboys

The Utes were the first American Indians to introduce the horse into their culture. They incited the 1879 White River War after killing Indian Agent Nathan Meeker, who had angered the Utes by plowing a field they used for horse racing. With their land holdings in Colorado opened for settlement, Utes were forced onto reservations. Shown here are full-blooded Ute Dick Charlie (possibly wearing an Indian agent badge) and black cowboy John Taylor (a 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldier considered an Ute by marriage to Kitty Cloud).

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

THE 100 BEST  
Historical Photos  
of the American Cowboy



## 15 Cold Weather Cowboy

This 1880s cowboy was most likely from up north, possibly Wyoming or Montana, given his full beard and his heavy buckskin shirt, fringed shotgun chaps and a bandanna wrapped around his head as well as his neck. His boots feature spurs with heel chains and chaps guards. He skipped the cartridge belt, packing his Smith & Wesson Russian revolver with ivory grips in a scabbard-type holster.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 16 Angus Cowboys

These cowboys in vests pose at a mid-1880s roundup on the VV Ranch, which introduced Angus cattle to the region surrounding Ruidoso, New Mexico. A wealthy whiskey distiller in Scotland, James Cree attempted to improve local longhorn stock by importing Angus bulls from his homeland to the railhead near Socorro, New Mexico.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



## 17 Pre-Settlement Branding

Taken prior to the 1891 land run, this circa 1885-90 photograph shows Indian Territory cowboys branding a steer at Eddy B. Townsend and Clarkson C. Pickett's ranch along the Cimarron River, leased from the Iowa Indians. The cowboys here could have been any of these ranch hands: Mont Cartnell, Dick Teeming, Ben and Bill Conway, Sam R. Stumbo and Frank Orner.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



## 18 Lynched Cowboy

James Stott ended up lynched as a horse and cattle thief, along with two other cowboys, in northern Arizona in 1888. (*The Oxbow Incident* is supposedly modeled on these cowboys.) He left behind this carte de visite of him wearing one-piece stovepipe boots with canvas pulls, a bandanna and holding fringed gauntlets. He's also armed with a Frontier Model Double Action Smith & Wesson in a large single-loop fringed holster.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



COW BOYS AND SADDLE PONIES IN CAMP  
ON THE RANGE

PHOTO BY G. V. BARKER

## 19 Idaho's Range Cowboys

After gold was discovered in Clearwater River in 1860, Idaho saw an influx of settlers, resulting in a greater need to feed these newcomers. Cowboys herded cattle north from Texas to establish herds on Idaho grasslands, like these drovers photographed by G.V. Barker of Lewiston.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

## 20 Calming the Cattle

This late 19th-century cowboy is likely playing his fiddle for his bunkhouse mates after a hard day of ranch work. Out on the trail, cowboy tunes and songs helped calm the cattle to avoid stampedes. Trail cowboys usually carried a harmonica for accompaniment, but sometimes a fiddle fit in a bedroll or on the chuckwagon.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -





## 21 Smelling Like Their Horses

Trail cowboys had little or no opportunity to wash up, usually had no change of clothing and slept on dirty blankets contaminated with animal hair. After three or so months on the cattle drive, cowboys would finally get a chance to bathe before heading into a cowtown to celebrate the end of the journey.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



## 22 Henry's Fork Cowpunchers

Elijah "Lige" Driskill became the first rancher in Daggett County, Utah, running 3,000 Herefords and 1,000 horses near the mouth of Henry's Fork around 1868. He took in his murdered partner's son, George Finch Jr., who ended up owning the ranch after Driskill's death. Finch is shown in the center with his foreman, George Hereford, and likely other cowboys who worked on his ranch.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



## 23 Definitive Drivers

(Opposite Page) Working cowboys engaged in trailing longhorns to markets or to a new range, these drovers appear to date to the 1870s. They have not yet adopted traditional cowboy clothing and are wearing military frock coats, pinstriped pants and nondescript hats. The cowboy on the right held up his pants with a military belt and buckle.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 24 Borderlands Cowboy

Photographed in the 1880s, perhaps in Texas or Arizona, this borderlands cowboy wears a white cotton suit, indicative of working in a hot climate. In his Mexican-made holster, he packs a pearl handled Merwin, Hulbert & Co. revolver.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 25 Unarmed Cowboy

One of the few historical images of a cowboy without a weapon, this cowboy was clearly more proud of his roping skills. Along with his rope, check out the leather quirt hanging from his wrist.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 26 Diamond Bar Cowboys

Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell grew up hearing about the Diamond Bar cowboys shown here. His maternal grandfather, Bob Guess, was visiting relatives in Hackberry, Arizona, when he met legendary cowman Tap Duncan. Guess joined Duncan's Diamond Bar Ranch cowboy crew and eventually owned his own ranches, in both New Mexico and Arizona.

— COURTESY TAP LOU DUNCAN-WEIR —



## 27 Well-Dressed Cowpoke

This 1870s cowpoke offers a great study in cowboy apparel. He wears a low crown hat with a stampede string, checkered pullover shirt, fringed shotgun chaps, bandanna and spurs sporting long hanging heel chains. He is also armed with a Colt Single Action revolver in his scabbard holster strapped on his cartridge belt.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 29 “Fur-Out” Cowhand

Photographed in Caldwell, Kansas, probably during the cowtown’s 1880s heyday, this young cowboy wears unusual cowhide “fur-out” (possibly longhorn) chaps along with a standard bib front shirt, neckerchief and wide brimmed hat. He holds an 1873

Winchester carbine and carries an ivory-gripped Colt Single Action in a double-loop holster and a knife in a scabbard.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 28 Tombstone Cowpuncher

The unidentified young man reminds us of Billy Clanton and other 1880s cowboys living in Tombstone, Arizona. He wears a laced-front pullover shirt, fringed shotgun chaps a broad brimmed hat and a triple-loop holster that packs a Colt Single Action.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 30 Medal of Honor Cowboy

Will C. Barnes, a private in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, escaped the besieged Fort Apache in 1881 and successfully rode to Fort Thomas for reinforcements, earning the Medal of Honor for

his gallantry. After his military service, Barnes worked as a rancher in Arizona. He also helped round up the last of the longhorn cattle in Texas to save the breed from extinction.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



### 31 Wickenburg's Hispanic Vaqueros

Photographed in the 1890s in downtown Wickenburg, Arizona, these pioneer Hispanic vaqueros are named (from left): Jesus Olea, Francisco Macias, Juan Grijalva, Clemente Macias. Francisco is the great-grandfather of Julia Macias Brooks, the executive director of Wickenburg's Chamber of Commerce and a fifth-generation descendant who authored a book about the town's pioneer Hispanic families.

- COURTESY WICKENBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -

### 32 Corrupa Cowpunchers

"Corrupaw [*sic*] is a vast cattle range in northern NM. It is a land of rich pastures and teeming flocks and herds, a land of rolling mesas and precious running waters that at length unite in the Corrupaw River, from which the whole region is named," wrote author Ernest Thompson Seton. Frederick D. Wight first got into the ranching business when the 36 year old moved to New Mexico in 1873. Prospering in the cattle and sheep business, by the early 1900s, he established his F.D.W. Ranch along Corrupa Creek, where his 14 cowboys pose on a tree trunk in this photograph taken by W.D. Harper.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -





ERWIN E. SMITH  
BONHAM, TEXAS.

### 33 Horse Wrangler

Erwin E. Smith of Bonham, Texas, captured this view of a horse wrangler seated next to his horse on a hill looking down at other horses. "Wrangler" in the verb sense, meaning "to dispute" or "to wrestle" was first documented in 1377, but its noun reference as a "person in charge of horses or cattle" was not recorded until 1888.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



Keystone View Company  
Manufacturers & Distributors Copyright 1904 by S. S. Seelye & Co.

Montana, Sta. of Spaulding, when Trimmer's Post  
Spaulding, Sta. of Spaulding, when Trimmer's Post

1904—Cowboys on the Range—An Autumn Beef Roundup,  
Montana, U. S. A.

### 34 Cigarette Cowboys

These two Montana cowboys pause for a cigarette break during an autumn cattle roundup. The cowboy in foreground is lighting his cigarette, while his partner is rolling his.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



### 35 Cowboy Stag Party

In frontier days, women were few and far between, particularly on ranches, so men would two-step and waltz with each other at dances. "Heifer branded men," who danced the woman's role, sometimes wore handkerchiefs tied around one arm, like the gentleman at right in the above photo. Such cowboy stag dances were mainly a source of humor and reflected good times.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

### 36 Chain Cowboy

Wild Ben Raymond, who worked as a mine guard and became known for killing the Cheyenne who ambushed E.B. "Yankee" Judd, posed for photographer J.T. Needles in Leadville, Colorado. He holds a First Model open top Merwin, Hulbert & Co. Frontier Army revolver, and uniquely carries his knife scabbard via a chain or rope around his neck.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -





NO. 201 "BUCKING BRONCO"  
 Ned Coy, a famous Dakota cowboy, riding  
 out for the cattle round-up, with  
 Boy Dick.  
 (Photo and copyright by Grabill, '88.)

### 37 Ned Coy's Bucking Bronco

John C.H. Grabill opened his first photography studio in Sturgis, Dakota Territory, in 1886. Two years later, he photographed North Dakota cowboy Ned Coy on his bucking bronco, Boy Dick, during a cattle roundup. Not much is known about Grabill's life before his arrival in the Black Hills nor after he left in 1892, yet his lens captured a majority of the earliest photography in the territory.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

### 38 Lincoln County War Cowboy

Fred Waite, one of the cowboys who fought in New Mexico's Lincoln County War alongside Billy the Kid, never turned outlaw. This circa 1870s photograph of the part Chickasaw born in Indian Territory reveals unusual fashion for a cowboy: tight-fitting kid gloves and a narrow brimmed hat.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -





BUCKING BRONCO.  
Ned Coy, a famous Dakota cowboy, riding  
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(Photo and copyright by Grabbill, '88.)

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- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -





### **39** Wide-Brimmed Range Rider

Working cowboys wore wide-brimmed, high-crowned hats that were most likely adapted from those worn by Mexican vaqueros. The wide brim provided shade, while the high crown provided insulation in a hot, sunny climate. L.A. Huffman of Miles City, Montana, photographed Tunis Henry around 1886, possibly at the C Dot camp along Big Sandy Creek in northwestern Montana. Henry wears long rider's gloves, a vest, chaps and an impressive wide-brimmed cowboy hat.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —





## 40 The Stray Man

Called "one of the greatest photographers of cowboy life who ever lived," Erwin E. Smith called this cowboy with his herd of horses the "stray man." Born in 1886 in Bonham, Texas, Smith spent summers on his uncle's ranch in Quanah, watching longhorns head north along the Great Western Trail. As an adult, he documented open-range life by photographing roundups and ranch scenes in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## STARRY, STARRY FIGHT

LS COWBOYS  
VS  
JENKINS'S BOYS

"ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT"



The opening shots of the melee come off at point-blank range, with muzzle flashes lighting up the darkness.

— ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Frederick Nolan

MARCH 21, 1886



Cowboys defend their slain LS Ranch pard in a moonlit shoot-out in Tascosa, Texas.

**H**ogtown is full of cowboys from surrounding Texas ranches at a *baile* (a gathering for dancing).

After midnight, in the early minutes of Sunday, March 21, 1886, four cowboys from the LS ranch—Ed King, Frank Valley (Vallé), Fred Chilton and John Lang—leave the red light district and head for Upper Tascosa, where King is meeting up with his new girlfriend Sally Emory. While King heads to the corner of Spring and Main Streets, Valley, Chilton and Lang hitch their horses in front of the Equity Bar.

As he dismounts, King is hailed by someone in the shadow of the Dunn & Jenkins Saloon. When he steps on the porch, he is shot in the face. Len Woodruff, the saloon's bartender hired by Jesse Jenkins and Emory's paramour before King, rushes out of the darkness and shoots again. Hit in the neck this time, King dies almost instantly.

As King's girlfriend flees down the street, Lang calls his two LS buddies out of the Equity Bar; they rush to Dunn & Jenkins. Seeing no one out front, they run to the back just as Woodruff, Louis Bousman, Charlie and Tom Emory, and John "Catfish Kid" Gough exit the back door of the saloon.

Gunfire erupts, with Woodruff and Charlie Emory the first to be hit. Valley runs to an adobe shack and, as he opens the door, he is fatally struck in the eye by a bullet. Chilton shoots restaurant owner Jesse Sheets in the face; the innocent bystander falls dead.

Chilton is shot down himself, in the chest, by someone hiding behind a woodpile outside the saloon. Dying, Chilton hands his pistol to Lang who, caught alone in a cross fire, retreats up Spring Street, firing as he goes. Although bullets are whizzing past him and churning up the dirt at his feet, he makes it back to the Equity Bar, as more of his friends are departing.

The LS cowboy is joined by James East and his deputy, Charlie Pierce. They all head to the Dunn & Jenkins Saloon, where they shoot at a shadowy figure running

out from the woodpile. The Catfish Kid goes down, groaning and choking.

As the men search the area for more shooters, Catfish Kid crawls off unhurt. He has faked the hit.

The fight is over.



John Lang



“Tascosa was then the most lawless place on the continent.”

—Cattle Rancher Charles Goodnight



## 41 Happy Hour Before the Brawl

Fresh off the range, these LS cowboys belly up to the bar in Tascosa, Texas. The ranch's cowpunchers were not so happy in 1883, when they organized a strike demanding higher wages. Three years later, three LS cowboys were killed in the gunfight described here.

— ALL PHOTOS TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



### Keeping the Peace

Lawman James East (left) and his deputy keep the peace at the funeral, attended by both friends and enemies, as four men are buried that day. Horrified that her husband might be buried next to the three dead LS Ranch cowboys, Sarah Sheets insists Jesse have a separate ceremony and that his body be buried a significant distance from the others. The family reburies his remains in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1928. The grave markers of the others state they were “ill met by moonlight.”



## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Townfolk in Tascosa, Texas, edged to the scene of the carnage to see “who had kicked the lid off Hell.” Justice of the Peace Edwin C. Godwin-Austin assembled a coroner’s jury that concluded: Jesse Sheets was shot high up on the forehead and died almost immediately. Ed King was killed by a shot near the mouth and neck. Fred Chilton was “shot through several times” and died. Frank Valley was shot near the nose and lingered for more than an hour. Locals had to tie his feet together to keep him thrashing around as he struggled for breath. He cashed in.

Murder charges were filed against Len Woodruff, Louis Bousman, Charlie Emory and John “Catfish Kid” Gough. The first trial ended in a hung jury. In the second, all the men were acquitted. The Catfish Kid died in prison in 1890 after killing an unarmed man in another incident in Tascosa. Charlie Emory died in 1897. Woodruff moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he died in 1902. Tom Emory died in 1914. Bousman died in Oklahoma in January 1942.

The surviving LS Ranch cowboy, John Lang, went on to become town marshal in Amarillo, Texas, for a short time before rejoining his family in Oregon, reports Lang family records. In 1897, he participated in the Klondike Gold Rush. The next year, he joined the Oregon Volunteers and served in the Philippines during the Spanish–American War. After the war, he returned to Oregon. A long-time Democrat, Lang represented his district in the Oregon legislature. He also served as mayor of Haines. From the 1900s until the 1930s, he tried his hand as a gold prospector. He died on April 4, 1942.

**Recommended:** *Tascosa: Its Life and Gaudy Times* by Frederick Nolan, published by Texas Tech University Press

(Left) These cowboys heading for the saloon in Tascosa, Texas, in this circa 1900 photograph call to mind our 1886 cowboys, riding in for a drink, only to find death.

## LITTLE-KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

BY LAURIE E. JASINSKI

# The “Cowboy” Pianist

TEXAS WONDER WOWED CROWDS WITH MUSICAL ANTICS.

“**HIS** wrists are of spring-steel, and his finger [*sic*] like unto the comb of a musical box. His octave playing is beyond all doubt the most extraordinary we have ever heard. His chromatic scale playing is like the rippling waters, and his staccato like the dropping of crystals.”

Thus, *The New York Mirror* lauded A.O. Babel, known as the “Cowboy Pianist,” for his debut at New York City’s Steinway Hall on March 10, 1886. For a few glorious years, during the 1880s and 1890s, this “Steer Puncher” dazzled audiences across the United States. His recitals at concert halls, theatres and dime museums, in cities such as Chicago, New Orleans, Cincinnati and New York, featured showstopping feats that included playing his instrument with a cloth hiding the keys. The piano master claimed a repertoire of more than 1,200 songs.

Babel told fantastic tales of his adventures as a cowboy and scout who spoke nine Indian languages and served as an interpreter for the military. He also claimed to have brought desperados to justice. His fall from a horse resulted in terrible injuries, but after a lengthy convalescence, Babel discovered his sudden and miraculous talent for the piano.



The reputed cowboy pianist strangely did not include a single cowboy song in his repertoire, Old West music historian Mark Lee Gardner says, adding, “I guess the novelty of his act was that of a gun-toting buckaroo playing classical music.”

— COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, JANUARY 2009 WESTERN AMERICANA SIGNATURE AUCTION —



A sensationalized record of A.O. Babel’s life appeared in the book, *Life of A.O. Babel: The Original and Famous Texas Cowboy Pianist* (see illustration detail from book), issued by Dick Publishing House in New York City about 1890.

— COURTESY LAURIE E. JASINSKI —

the glowing imagination of some Bohemian, a regular tarantula romance.”

But outside the Lone Star State, Babel capitalized on his cowboy persona. By 1887, his performances included a partner, Mattie the “cowgirl cornetist.” Mattie was probably Emma Rumpel of Houston who had married Babel on June 8, 1880, as reported in *The Galveston Daily News*.

For all the fans who hailed his musical prowess, Babel also had his share of detractors. One reviewer for Kansas’s *The Atchison Daily Globe* caustically described his “delirious tune” on a “jim jam piano” in 1887: “He had three or four revolvers strapped to his waist, and wore a greasy suit of buckskin shadowed by a huge sombrero...the quality of his music...was so bad that everyone wondered how any people outside of a lunatic asylum could be fooled by such a dizzy fraud.”

His star shone brightly for a few years. Babel and his wife eventually settled in Randolph, New York, where he died on January 19, 1896. The final curtain had fallen on the so-called cowboy pianist. ✕

Writer and musician Laurie E. Jasinski is a research editor for the Texas State Historical Association; she edited *The Handbook of Texas Music, Second Edition*.

“His chromatic scale playing is like the rippling waters...”

About 1885, he emerged as a “musical prodigy” from Texas. “Mr. Babel plays entirely by ear,” the *New Orleans Graphic* commented, “and is a genuine cowboy never having been out of the State until about a month ago. He says playing came to him naturally.”

Babel, the son of Prussian immigrants Amandus and Amalia Babel, was born about 1856 in Seguin, Texas. In actuality, his father, a professor of music, most likely drilled his son, young Oscar, through the rigors of piano instruction almost from his infancy.

When news of Babel’s tuneful exploits reached Texas, some critics disputed his cowboy talent. One writer to *The Dallas Morning News* riled in 1886, “I doubt if he ever even roped a calf in his life.... He was his father’s pupil for years—up to his manhood.... The cowboy business...is all



**42**

Alexander Oscar Babel played piano at the Solo Saloon on Congress Street in Houston, Texas, where he married Emma Rumpel in 1880. When he went on the road, the cowboy pianist was joined by a cowgirl cornetist, Miss Mattie Babel. Her identity is not clear, but the most likely candidate is Oscar's wife, Emma.

—COURTESY HERB PECK JR. COLLECTION—

# SURVIVAL

## OUT WEST

BY TERRY A. DEL BENE

## Cowboy Survivor

THEODORE ROOSEVELT TOOK HIS COWBOY LESSONS TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th U.S. president, is best remembered for his active outdoor lifestyle. Whether one envisions Roosevelt leading the attack on San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War, helping to build the Panama Canal, organizing huge hunting expeditions or exploring the Amazon, the portrait is of a man of action.

Roosevelt transformed from an Eastern sportsman into an archetypal cowhand in Dakota Territory. In 1883 and 1884, the 25-year-old New Yorker took over two ranches and began what he described as a “free and hardy life, with horse and rifle.”

Any one of his adventure tales might make a worthy survival story on its own. Roosevelt reveled in ranch life “to the full.” Buffalo hunts, moonlighting as a deputy sheriff and even an occasion when a card game of “old sledge” was interrupted by a bobcat all added zest to his life.

When lightning struck one night while on nightrider duty, he ended up in the midst of a panicked herd, trying to restore order in a landscape lit only by thunderbolts. Roosevelt recalled, “I should have been very sorry if my horse had stumbled, for those behind would have trodden me down.”

The chase continued almost until dawn, as Roosevelt’s horse nearly fell and struggled through a patch of quicksand. The other cowboy on night watch fortunately escaped injury when his horse died crashing into a tree in the pitch dark. Half the cattle scattered, and Roosevelt sat 40 hours in the saddle before the cattle were rounded up.

For cowpuncher Roosevelt, wildfire was a constant threat. He almost gleefully described a unique firefighting method he

often relied on: “The process we usually followed was to kill a steer, split it in two lengthwise, and then have two riders drag each half-steer, the rope of one running from his saddle-horn to the front leg, and that of the other to the hind leg. One of the men would spur this horse over or through the line of fire, and the two would then ride forward, dragging the steer bloody side downward along the line of flame, men following on foot with slickers or wet horse-blankets, to beat out any flickering blaze that was still left.”

His adventures included an encounter with five Indians who, upon seeing him, drew their rifles and charged at full gallop. Realizing his peril, the cowboy coolly dismounted

and aimed his rifle at his would-be assailants. Seeing their prey calmly prepared to fight it out, the Indians slipped to the sides of their horses, turned and galloped

away, cussing Roosevelt in multiple languages.

Roosevelt’s ranching world was fraught with perils, often in innocuous places. One night, he obtained the last bed in a hotel. Typical for the period, hotel patrons often shared

**“I SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
VERY SORRY IF  
MY HORSE HAD  
STUMBLLED....”**

### 43 Cowboy President

By 1884, the New York-born Theodore Roosevelt had purchased two cattle ranches in the Badlands of Dakota Territory to learn how to be a cowboy. Within 20 years, he took on the reins of our nation, first as vice president and then as president.

— COURTESY AUTRY MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST —

rooms and beds. The last bed was half of a double bed in a room containing two doubles. Three men were asleep in the room when Roosevelt arrived. After nodding off, he was awakened by the light of a lantern and the gleaming barrel of a cocked .45 in his face. The two men, U.S. marshals, realized that Roosevelt was not their train robbery suspect and took away another tenant of the room.

At a different primitive hotel, Roosevelt sought shelter from a frigid night. Shots rang out in the bar just as he entered. “A shabby individual in a broad hat





President Roosevelt, with Colorado guides John Goff and Jake Borah, finishes off a big bear he hunted in 1905; after the hunt, one of Goff's dogs, Skip, was added to the White House pet collection.

Theodore Roosevelt continued his Western adventures even into his presidency. The former Rough Rider waves to the crowd after returning from a hunt in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, in 1905.

Theodore Roosevelt definitely felt a zest for ranch life. At the same time, he was admittedly a poor roper. While breaking horses, he received injuries that ranged from a broken shoulder to cracked ribs—he even had a horse fall backward on him.

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UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

with a cocked gun in each hand was walking up and down the floor talking with strident profanity,” Roosevelt recalled.

The tough guy called Roosevelt “four-eyes,” a reference to his spectacles, and informed him that Roosevelt was buying the drinks. Roosevelt tried to laugh it off, but the shabby fellow persisted. An accomplished boxer, the cowboy slammed the gunman with a left to the point of the chin, followed by a devastating right. Both pistols discharged, and the man’s head struck the corner of the bar as he toppled.

Roosevelt disarmed the unconscious man and locked him in a shed. Then he returned to the bar to order his dinner. For Roosevelt, barehandedly disarming a gunman was an appetizer. Bully! ★

Terry A. Del Bene is a former Bureau of Land Management archaeologist and the author of *Donner Party Cookbook* and the novel *Dem Bon'z*.



Roosevelt and horse jump over a split rail fence in 1907.



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Congratulations to our 2016 Best of the West winners! Along with our pictorial voyage celebrating the American West cowboy, we bring you a roundup of last year's top-selling cowboy photographs and the best Old West-themed books, movies, firearms and Western wear. Cattle trails inspired the back roads and highways that today lead us on paths of history, and you can discover the places to go in our Best of the West Heritage Travel Guide. Everyone honored this year has played an important role in keeping our Old West history alive, and we thank you for supporting each one's efforts. Enjoy your exploration of the best the West has to offer you!

## **44** Cowboy Cheers

Newly famous as the Lincoln County sheriff who killed outlaw Billy the Kid in 1881, Pat Garrett probably cheered like these VV Ranch cowboys when he got offered a \$5,000 annual salary to manage the New Mexico ranch for five years. Owner James Cree's adopted son, British Army Capt. Brandon Kirby, gave the former lawman the gig after purchasing Garrett's ranch. But after a couple of months, Kirby decided to manage the ranch himself.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —

# ART & COLLECTIBLES

BY MEGHAN SAAR

## Cowboy History on the Auction Block

“Now began the real work....Rawhide ‘riatas’ were taken down, and a man rode into the bunch swinging the loop round his head like clockwork. All at once he let it go, carelessly it seemed, so sudden was it; a quick turn or two round the horn of his Spanish saddle, and the horse wheeled and came trotting up to the fire, a stout calf bounding like a rubber ball at the end of the rope.... The air is filled with dust, smoke and the odor of burnt hair and flesh, while the bawling of the calves and their distracted mothers adds to the scene. It seems the greatest confusion, but is in reality perfect order.”

James Cox wrote those words, in the *Historical and Biographical Record of the Cattle Industry and the Cattlemen*. Born April 22, 1866, and the son of San Angelo, Texas, pioneer Jonathan Miles, Jack Wollard Miles was frequently one of those cowboys whose faces were “streaked with perspiration, dust and blood.” But he had also gained fame for his roping skills. A photo showing Jack after roping a steer in 48 seconds sold as the top-selling historical cowboy photo lot, one of seven cabinet cards, for a \$5,000 bid, at Heritage Auctions, on March 14, 2015.

We know the photo was taken by 1894, as it was published in Cox’s book. It could have been taken around the time when Jack became the world champion steer roper, tying down a longhorn in 40 and 1.5th seconds, a title he held for six years.

The man behind the camera was McArthur Cullen Ragsdale, who had landed in Texas through the port of Galveston after the Civil War, along with hundreds of photographers. At the age of 21, Ragsdale took up photography to finance his college education. He ended up dropping out of school. He opened a shop near Fort Concho in 1875 on a trail that later became Chadbourne Street in San Angelo. His “Views of Concho County” include photographs of the aftermath of the disastrous 1882 flood in nearby Ben Ficklin. Jack’s father gave the homeless families lots in San Angelo.

The Fort Concho Museum preserves some 2,500 of Ragsdale’s prints. Interestingly, both his famous subject, Jack Miles, and the photographer himself died in 1944, at the ages of 78 and 95 respectively. Along with Jack, other hardy cowboys resurfaced in outstanding historical photographs sold at auctions throughout 2015.



### 45 World Champion Steer Roper

Texas dubbed Jack Miles a world champion steer roper, and a photograph captured of him after roping a steer in 48 seconds sold as the top-selling historical cowboy photo lot for a \$5,000 bid. It was part of a lot of seven cabinet cards by San Angelo’s pioneer photographer McArthur Cullen Ragsdale (see three more of his cowboy photos on the opposite page).

— COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, MARCH 14, 2015 —

## 46 Pitching Bronco

W.G. Walker became famous for taking photographs of scout and assassin Tom Horn in his jail cell in Cheyenne, Wyoming, but he mainly captured images of Wyoming cowboys, like this one on his pitching bronco; sold in a collection of 25 photographs for an \$1,800 bid at Cowan's Auctions on June 12, 2015.



Born in 1885, Wild West show trick roper Bee Ho Gray taught Will Rogers an innovative rope catch that had earned Gray a world champion title. Rogers performed the trick, catching a galloping horse and rider with three ropes, in 1922's *The Ropin' Fool*. Gray is flanked by two Indians in this photo that sold for a \$600 bid on July 13, 2015, at Cowan's Auctions.



## 47 Waterfall Ranch

Labeled “Waterfall Ranch” and accompanied by a photograph of Thimble Rock, this albumen photograph of cowboys may have been taken on the western Colorado ranch established by Laurence La Tourette Driggs; sold for a \$350 bid at Cowan’s Auctions on June 12, 2015.

### BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTION

#### Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, TX

In a year devoted to wildlife and hunting, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon featured an impressive art collection. The museum was the only Texas venue to exhibit “George Catlin’s American Buffalo,” presenting paintings Catlin created from 1832 to 1839 that depicted Plains Indian buffalo hunts. That history was updated to include late 19th-century buffalo hunters who slaughtered the beasts for their hides, portrayed in a 1956 mural by Harold Dow Bugbee, a former curator of the museum. Philip R. Goodwin’s paintings put visitors inside early 1900s hunting scenes. Whether for sustenance or greed, the hunts that turned a frontier into civilized land earned a masterful presence in this grand museum.

#### READERS’ CHOICE:

*Stark Museum of Art, Orange, TX*

### BEST AMERICAN INDIAN COLLECTION

#### Plains Indian Museum at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY

Nobody has described the Plains Indian Museum better than Crow tribal historian Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, who called it a “living, breathing place where more than just Indian objects are on display.” The objects are impressive enough—Red Cloud’s shirt; Ghost Dance clothing; pre-1890s artifacts collected by Paul Dyck; Indian jewelry, beadwork and silver pieces. The cultivation of Indian culture sets this museum apart—teaching museum practices to students at the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Montana; a family fun day celebrating Plains Indians; and, every June, a spectacular powwow featuring dancers of all ages from all over North America.

#### READERS’ CHOICE:

*Amerind Museum, Dragoon, AZ*

### BEST PIONEER HISTORY COLLECTION

#### Harold Warp Pioneer Village, Minden, NE

“Discover Wonder Around Every Turn” is how the Harold Warp Pioneer Village in Minden, Nebraska, advertises itself, and the slogan hits the mark. Six million visitors have already toured the nation’s only museum of progress that reveals how America grew. With 50,000 pieces of Americana in 26 buildings on 20 acres, the pioneer town teaches visitors about the 1862 Homestead Act, the Indian Wars, the Pony Express, railroad development and much more. The village green also features a historic car collection that starts with an 1897 steam car. Founded by Harold Warp in 1953, the same year as our magazine, this pioneer village offers a journey through history you will never forget.

#### READERS’ CHOICE:

*Boot Hill Museum, Dodge City, KS*

# ART & COLLECTIBLES

Active in Rawlins, Wyoming, between 1880 and 1884, Merritt Dana Houghton photographed these Kansas cowboys in a branding scene. The mounted cowboy holds the roped steer steady while his partner applies the iron; sold as one of two stereographs for a \$200 bid on March 30, 2015, at Cowan's Auctions.



## **48** Rare Black Cowboy Photo

This is a fantastic photograph of a black cowboy wearing sheepskin chaps, a neckerchief and an Army-issued hat, with a pistol tucked in his belt. Wish we knew more about him! The photograph sold in a lot of four for a \$130 bid on July 13, 2015, at Cowan's Auctions.



These Montana cowboys usually rode the ranges south of Glacier Park country at the Riverside Ranch near Helena. While waiting for his arm to mend after getting bucked off by a bronco, "Heinie" Houle practiced his cornet and decided to organize his cowboy partners into a band. Montana's Cowboy Band is shown above, probably in Chicago, Illinois, in 1912, to promote their Land Show tour. The photo sold in a lot of seven for a \$100 bid on July 13, 2015, at Cowan's Auctions.

# ART & COLLECTIBLES

## 49 Pitchfork Ranch Cowboys

Born in San Francisco, California, in 1887, Charles Belden worked as a cowboy on the Pitchfork Ranch, founded in 1878, west of Meeteetse, Wyoming. His 1920s–40s photographs of ranch life were widely published in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *National Geographic* and *Life*. Cowan's Auctions sold these three Belden photographs of ranch hands herding sheep and cattle. (Above: \$800 on July 13, 2015; Right: \$375 each on June 12, 2015.)



## BEST OLD WEST COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

### High Noon Auction, Mesa, AZ

For the 25th anniversary auction last year, High Noon gained a new partner in the auction arena—Brian Lebel, whose Old West Auction celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014. The collaboration has helped solidify both auctions as leaders in the Old West collectibles market. Last year's High Noon auction gave collectors the opportunity to bid on a Winchester Model 1894 that Tom Horn carried when he was arrested for killing Willie Nickell; a letter by famed cowboy artist Charlie Russell to silent film star Harry Carey Sr.; and weapons reportedly carried by Wild Bunch Gang member Matt Warner during an 1889 bank robbery. We are looking forward to what this year's auction will bring.

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Heritage Auctions, Dallas, TX*

## BEST WESTERN COLLECTIBLES GALLERY

### Cowboy Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

On Main Street, conveniently located right around the corner from Scottsdale's Museum of the West, Arizona shoppers and visitors from around the world can feast their eyes

on artifacts of the 1840s through the 1940s. Since 1966, owner Bill Welch has specialized in high-end chaps and spurs, and he lends his expertise not only on those acquisitions, but also on collectible saddles, bows and arrows, and gambling gear. This gallery is the best place in the West for you to browse and purchase museum-quality memorabilia that capture the essence of the Old West.

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, GA*

## BEST OLD WEST FIREARMS AUCTION

### Rock Island Auction Company, Rock Island, IL

A gold-plated Colt Single Action Army owned by actor Roy Rogers, the "King of the Cowboys," was one of the major sales by Rock Island in 2015. Collectors of Old West firearms are lucky to have two amazing auction houses to participate in when adding to their collections. Those looking to purchase high-end, and thus more expensive, firearms frequently turn to James D. Julia. Those looking for the greatest number of historical firearms, that are also affordable, seek out Rock Island Auction Company. The company's larger offerings allow for more opportunities to purchase guns tied to the Old West era,

which is why we honor Rock Island as our Best of the West this year.

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Cowan's Auctions, Cincinnati, OH*

## BEST TREASURE HUNTING DEVICE

### AT Pro Metal Detector by Garrett Metal Detectors, Garland, TX

On April 3, 2015, founder Dr. Charles L. Garrett met his maker. A graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, Garrett began his garage business in 1964. He and wife Eleanor grew it into the worldwide leader in metal detection technology, largely by making the metal detectors so easy to use for newcomers to the sport of treasure hunting. Garrett was a lifelong treasure hunter himself, scanning under lakes, seas and oceans on every continent except Antarctica. Our pick for the best is the AT Pro—an all-terrain detector that enables treasure hunters to search for relics beneath an abandoned ghost town, prospect for gold in streams and hunt for caches all over the world.



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John Green, who was operating as a photographer in Denver, Colorado, in 1890, captured for posterity these cowboy partners holding their rifles; sold in a lot of seven for a \$375 bid on July 13, 2015, at Cowan's Auctions.

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*White's Metal Detectors,  
Sweet Home, OR*

**BEST WESTERN PAINTER**  
**Andy Thomas**

Documenting the historical West in artworks is a difficult endeavor that requires not only fine art talent, but also keen historical research, grounded in authentic documentation and artifacts. Working with Andy Thomas on our new column, *Survival Out West*, in 2015 revealed to us just how deep his historical research into his subjects goes. He deftly transforms written history into realistic and emotionally resonant paintings that forever imprint a narrative into a viewer's mind. We were honored to work with this incredible artist, and we know he will offer the world even more amazing artworks in the years to come. Nobody creates historical art better than Andy Thomas.

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Sherry Blanchard Stuart*

**BEST WESTERN MUSEUM**  
**Scottsdale's Museum of the West,  
Scottsdale, AZ**

The men and women behind this impressive Arizona museum located in Scottsdale's Old Town have kept the buzz strong throughout its entire first year, which promises for a spectacular future in presenting the culture and heritage of the American West. We tip our hat off to Tim Peterson and family for helping to make this first year an impressive offering of history. His exhibited collection ranged from Lewis and Clark paintings by the exceptionally talented Charles Fritz to frontiersman Kit Carson's flintlock pistol to mountain men art and Charles Russell and Frederic

Remington originals. We're excited to discover what exhibits 2016 will bring.

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Booth Western Art Museum,  
Cartersville, GA*

**BEST WESTERN ART GALLERY**

**Whitney Western Art at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, WY**

The Whitney exhibits works by some of the most famous Old West artists, including Alfred Jacob Miller, Thomas Moran, Joseph Henry Sharp, Edgar Samuel Paxson and many more. Curators have taken this art to the next level: helping visitors learn about art techniques through replicas of Frederic Remington's and Alexander Phimister Proctor's studios, and encouraging the next generation of Old West history artists through on-site kiosks and an off-site "history canvas" website that allow you to create your own artworks. The museum's ongoing effort to electronically catalogue every Frederic Remington artwork demonstrates the staff's earnest desire to show the world the importance of Western art.

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*C.M. Russell Museum,  
Great Falls, MT*

**BEST COWBOY ART RESTORATION**

**Sughrue Cowboy Statue,  
Dodge City, KS**

The "oldest cowboy" in Dodge City, Kansas, may have sat in grave disrepair, but residents of this quintessential Old West cowtown were not going to let their cement cowboy rot. Public donations, grants and city tourism funds brought him back to his original glory, and the restored statue was unveiled in the summer of 2015, just in time for Dodge City Days. Dentist Oscar H. Simpson sculpted the 2,000-pound, nearly eight-foot-tall statue in 1927 as a monument to the cowboy, unveiling it during a pioneer celebration two years later. Dodge City lawman and real-life cowboy Joe Sughrue

# ART & COLLECTIBLES

served as his model. Now Dodge City's "oldest cowboy" looks good as new.

## READERS' CHOICE:

*Tex Randall Statue, Canyon, TX*

## BEST WESTERN ART COLLECTOR

**Kenneth "Bud" Adams**

The late owner of the Tennessee Titans threw a touchdown pass to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in September 2015. He donated his Western art and cowboy and Indian collectibles collection, marking the multi-million dollar gift as one of the largest in the Indianapolis museum's 26-year history. The Adams donation allows the public to view even more significant paintings by Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Thomas Moran and other notable Western artists, as well as hundreds of Plains Indian beadwork, clothing and objects. A native of Oklahoma, Adams was an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation. His appreciation for Western heritage will leave a lifelong impact on future generations. A major exhibit of the Adams collection is due out in November 2016.

## BEST WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTOR

**Phil Collins**

Write your first book, sharing your appreciation of the Battle of the Alamo and your journey collecting its relics and documents. Check. Donate more than 200 Alamo items worth some \$15 million to the Alamo. Check. Earn the honorary Texan honor from the state legislature. Check. Set wheels in motion for an Alamo endowment that will publicly exhibit your donated collection. Check. The worldwide famous solo artist and former lead singer for Genesis has sung a love song to the Alamo that promises to enlarge everyone's understanding of the pivotal 1836 battle for Texas independence. Nobody has helped the world "remember the Alamo" today better than Phil Collins.



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# WESTERN BOOKS

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

## The Hero's and Heroine's Journey

*Publishers and authors challenged our understanding of the legends and lies of the West in 2015.*

**T**he original hero of publishing, Johannes Gutenberg would be amazed at the state of books in 2015...and I dare say he would love it. Despite cries from all corners about the death of the book, the publishing of Western books remains dynamic. Publishers—large and small, mass-market and academic, from the New York houses to the independents, and self-publishers—are releasing Western books in every medium and genre possible.

Joseph Campbell, author of the groundbreaking *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* (Pantheon Books, 1949), would be fascinated by Western publishing in 2015, as his hero's journey, both tragic and heroic, flawed by the seven sins of humanity, remains the centerpiece of Old West nonfiction and fiction. Authors especially liked writing about George Armstrong Custer, who was the subject of three major biographies, an active subject of debate in numerous Plains Indian and end-of-the-Civil War monographs and syntheses, and a literary character in several national, regional and self-published historical novels. What is the fascination with Custer, 139 years since his death at the Battle of the Little Big Horn? In an era of hyperbole and hyperactive

politics of celebrity, Custer, the boy-general from Michigan—like limelight-loving Buffalo Bill Cody—reminds us of the eternal flaws of Campbell's hero and its ongoing resonance to us as human beings. "Throughout the inhabited world, in all times and under every circumstance, myths of man have flourished; and they have been the living inspiration of whatever else may have appeared out of the activities of the human body and mind."

Campbell's insightful theory, I believe, is why publishers, like their film and television producer peers, consciously or unconsciously favored nonfiction authors who wrote about well-known Western personalities, or scribes who incorporated legendary figures into their historical fiction plots. In addition to Custer, Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, the post-Civil War Plains Indian Wars, Dodge City, Deadwood and Texas history dominated many of the subjects and plots of 2015 nonfiction and fiction, with Custer—and his failure at the Little Big Horn—far and away a favorite subject of historians and fiction authors.

As both a reviewer and a reader who enjoys good historical fiction, I would applaud Western publishers who in 2016 embrace authors writing fiction with original characters on heroic journeys and plot lines that are not based on real history. But, I won't

hold my breath, since I remember that many of William Shakespeare's most popular plays were based on historic—and very flawed—figures.

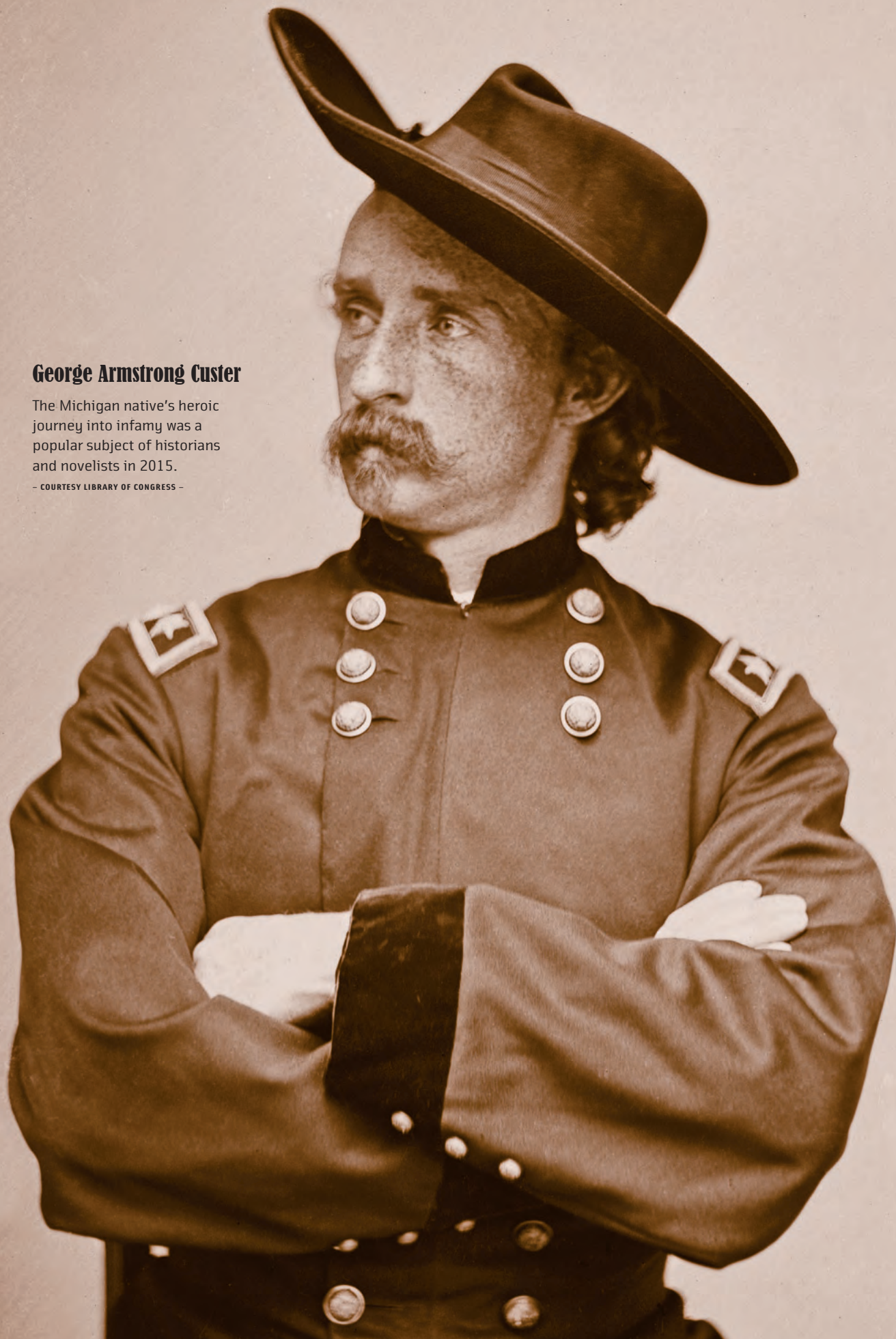
In 2015, Western history and fiction publishers also continued to mine the rich heritage of antebellum North America as well as extended the timetable of Old West history well into the 20th century. In fact, the best history being published today compares the historical figure, subject or topic in context to the 21st-century West. I believe that historians who seek out the living descendants of their historical subject, as well as visit the modern locations of their research topic, best assure that their biographies or monographs are relevant to today's reader, rather than just a synthesis of previously published information. This methodology is seen mostly in American Indian and environmental history, but I believe that historians of Western settlement, frontier, law and order, military, mining, agriculture, industry, gender and urban life would provide their readers with greater perspective if they examined their topic through the lens of the present as well as the past.

Last year will also be remembered for the blur between the real and an imagined West, as Western fact and fiction, legends and lies,

## **George Armstrong Custer**

The Michigan native's heroic journey into infamy was a popular subject of historians and novelists in 2015.

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were heatedly discussed across all mediums—print, television, film and the Internet—as FOX News and HISTORY aired their respective documentary/docudrama TV series, *Bill O'Reilly's Legends & Lies* and *Texas Rising* to great debate, praise and criticism. The good news: the popularity of Western history grew in the eyes (and pocketbooks) of Hollywood, and 2016 film and television audiences will be treated to more Western movies, dramatic series and docudrama/documentary entertainment. From a publishing perspective, celebrity biography continues to be a safe bet for imprints, large and small, while Western art and photography remain very popular.

Reflecting the two major publishing trends of 2015, the hero's journey and the real and imagined West, my top authors and books for 2015 are: T.J. Stiles's *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*, Robert Utley's *Wanted: The Outlaw Lives of Billy the Kid & Ned Kelly*, Mary Doria Russell's *Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral*, Victoria Wilcox's *The Last Decision*, Paul Seydor's *The Authentic & Contentious Afterlife of Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid: The Untold Story of Peckinpah's Last Western Film* and B. Byron Price's *The Sons of Charlie Russell: Celebrating Fifty Years of the Cowboy Artists of America*.

—Stuart Rosebrook

## WESTERN BOOKS

### 50 First Cowboy Hero of Fiction

Born in Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1857, William Levi "Buck" Taylor grew up to be the "King of the Cowboys." He gained notoriety performing cowboy stunts for Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West show and became the first cowboy hero of fiction in an 1887 dime novel written by Prentiss Ingraham. He wears his signature red shirt and embroidered sombrero in this circa 1890 publicity photograph.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —

### BEST AUTHOR AND BIOGRAPHY

***Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*** by T.J. Stiles (Alfred A. Knopf).

The Pulitzer Prize-winner's *Custer's Trials* will be the benchmark biography of the iconic and infamous George Armstrong Custer for many years because of his synthesis of the source material that views flawed, celebrity American leadership from the perspective of his private and public lives. This allows us to understand his successes, failures and character weaknesses

that are as relevant today as they were at the time of his death in 1876.

### BEST OF THE REST

**Indian History:** *Red Cloud: Oglala Legend* by John D. McDermott (South Dakota Historical Society Press).

**Military:** *A Splendid Savage: The Restless Life of Frederick Russell Burnham* by Steve Kemper (W.W. Norton & Company).

**Women/Minorities:** *My Life as a Whore: The Biography of Madam Laura Evens*,



1871-1953 by Tracy Beach (Johnson Books, A Big Earth Publishing Company).

**Era of Empire:** *Juan Bautista de Anza: The King's Governor in New Mexico* by Carlos R. Herrera (University of Oklahoma Press).

**Law & Order:** *The Notorious Luke Short: Sporting Man of the Wild West* by Jack DeMattos and Chuck Parson (University of North Texas Press).

### ■ BEST NONFICTION

**Wanted:** *The Outlaw Lives of Billy the Kid & Ned Kelly* by Robert M. Utley (Yale University Press).

Year after year Robert M. Utley, the master of Western history, continues to amaze us all with his insightful research and conclusions about American Western history and the characters that inhabited it over a century ago. It also should be no surprise that his latest biography, *Wanted: The Outlaw Lives of Billy the Kid & Ned Kelly*, is an imprint of Yale University Lamar Series in Western History, a leader for decades in interdisciplinary research on the West. After Utley's *Wanted*, I am not sure if another biography of Billy the Kid can reach this level of scholarship.

### BEST OF THE REST

**Indian History:** *Masters of Empire: Great Lakes Indians and the Making of America* by Michael A. McDonnell (Hill and Wang).

**Military/Empire:** *The Gray Fox: George Crook and the Indian Wars* by Paul Magid (University of Oklahoma Press).

**Women/Minorities:** *Ladies of the Canyons: A League of Extraordinary Women and Their Adventures in the American Southwest* by Lesley Poling-Kempes (University of Arizona Press).

**Law & Order:** *Prairie Man: The Struggle Between Sitting Bull and Indian Agent James McLaughlin* by Norman E. Matteoni (TwoDot).

**Exploration:** *A Way Across the Mountain: Joseph Walker's 1833 Trans-Sierran Passage and the Myth of*

*Yosemite's Discovery* (The Arthur H. Clark and Company).

### ■ BEST FICTION

**Tie:** *Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral* by Mary Doria Russell (Forge) and

*The Last Decision, Volume 3* in the "Southern Son: The Doc Holliday Saga" series by Victoria Wilcox (Knox Robinson Publishing).

Mary Doria Russell's *Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral* and Victoria Wilcox's *The Last Decision* are both outstanding—and

## ROUGH DRAFTS

### WESTERN BOOKS ROUND-UP 2015

#### Ten Favorites

In 2015, Western publishing thrived as authors of all genres expanded our understanding of the history and people of the American West. Ten books and authors I recommend:

#### Fiction

**Old West:** *Paradise Sky* by Joe R. Lansdale (Mulholland Books).

**Western Historical:** *Playing Custer: A Novel* by Gerald Duff (TCU Press).

**Mystery:** *Come and Take It: Search for the Treasure of The Alamo* by Landon Wallace (Trinity River Press).

**Frontier:** *People of the Songtrail: A Novel of North America's Forgotten Past* by W. Michael Gear and Kathleen O'Neal Gear (Tor Books).

**20th-Century West:** *Two-Dollar Pistol* by Brett Cogburn (Five Star).

#### History

**Antebellum West:** *Two Armies on the Rio Grande: The First Campaign of the U.S.-Mexican War* by Douglas A. Murphy (Texas A&M Press).

**Cultural:** *The Wild West of Louis L'Amour: An Illustrated Companion to the Frontier Fiction of an American Icon* by Tim Champlin (Voyageur Press).

**Law and Order:** *Skullduggery, Secrets, and Murders: The 1894 Wells Fargo Scam that Backfired* by Bill Neal (Texas Tech University Press).

**Indian:** *Thieves' Road: The Black Hills Betrayal and Custer's Path to Little Bighorn* by Terry Mort (Prometheus Books).

**20th Century:** *Prep School Cowboys: Ranch Schools in the American West* by Melissa Bingmann (University of New Mexico Press).

—Stuart Rosebrook




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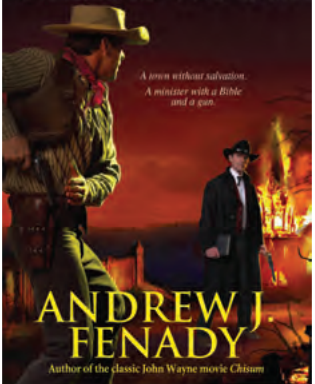


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and a gun.

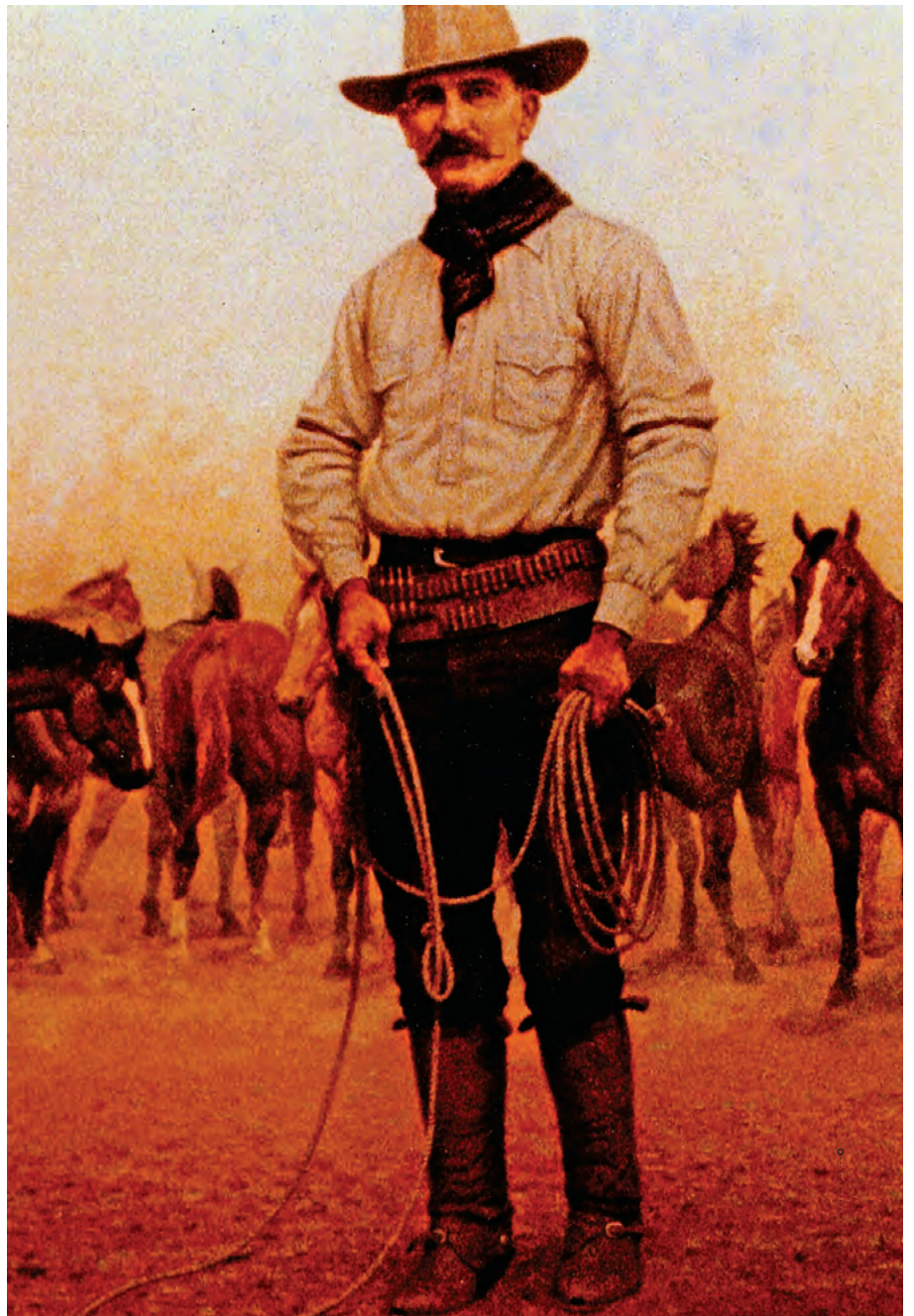


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## 51 Cattle King

Oliver Lee, also known as “Dad Lee,” is probably the most controversial of all the New Mexico cowboys. The prime suspect in the killing of Albert Jennings Fountain (Lee had the motive and was in the area), Lee went on to own a large cattle ranch. A state park near Alamogordo is named for him.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —

complementary—novels that punctuate the 2015 trend of authors and publishers celebrating the hero’s journey using iconic characters. Although their writing styles are different, between them, Russell and Wilcox have written five books on John Henry “Doc” Holliday. These competing volumes vividly contribute to our knowledge of the gunfighter’s life through excellent research. They’ve helped to elevate Holliday’s literary status to a rarified seat in the mythic West’s Camelot, a true knight of the Old West roundtable.

# WESTERN BOOKS

## BEST OF THE REST

**Old West:** *Buffalo Trail* by Jeff Guinn (Putnam).

**Mystery:** *Moonshadows* by Julie Weston (Five Star).

**21st Century:** *Grave Consequences: A Charlie Henry Mystery* by David and Aimée Thurlo (Minotaur Books).

**Mountain Man Era:** *Into the Savage Country* by Shannon Burke (Pantheon).

**Paranormal:** *Giving Up the Ghost* by Max McCoy (Kensington).

## BEST CULTURAL WEST

*The Authentic & Contentious Afterlife of Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid: The Untold Story of Peckinpah's Last Western Film* by Paul Seydor (Northwestern University Press).

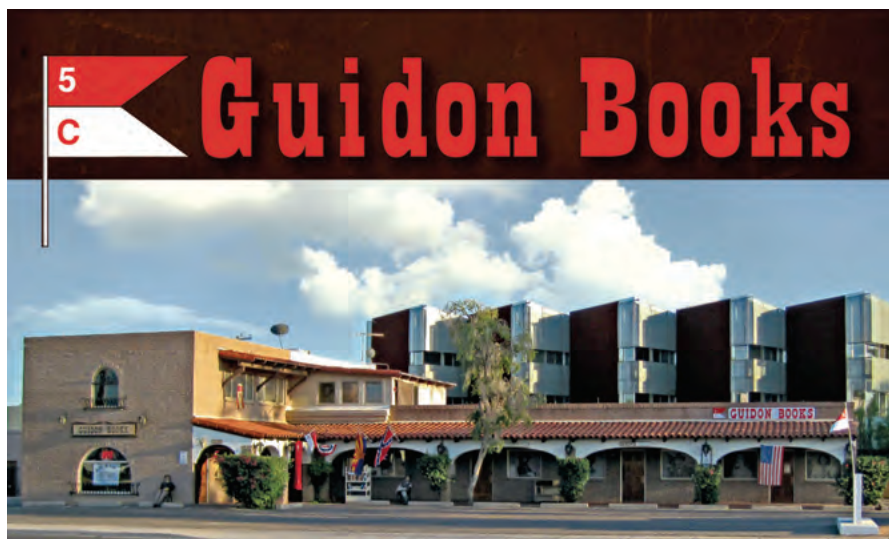
With the hero's journey the theme of publishing in 2015, Paul Seydor's *The Authentic & Contentious Afterlife of Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid: The Untold Story of Peckinpah's Last Western Film* breaks new ground in our understanding of the real and imagined West—and the universal nature of heroes, villains, sinners, saints, men and women epically traveling through time as symbols of human beings' common struggles with right and wrong—and the moral line—for time immemorial.

## THE BEST OF THE REST

❶ **Western Art Masters:** *Painted Journeys: The Art of John Mix Stanley* by Peter H. Hassrick and Mindy S. Besaw (University of Oklahoma Press).

❷ **Classic Western Art:** *Windows on the West: The Art of Frank Reaugh* edited by Peter F. Mears (Harry Ransom Center, Tower Books, University of Texas Press).

❸ **Western Landscape Art:** *Irby Brown: Southwest Landscape Paintings* by Richard Brunson edited by Joshua Falconer (University of New Mexico Press).



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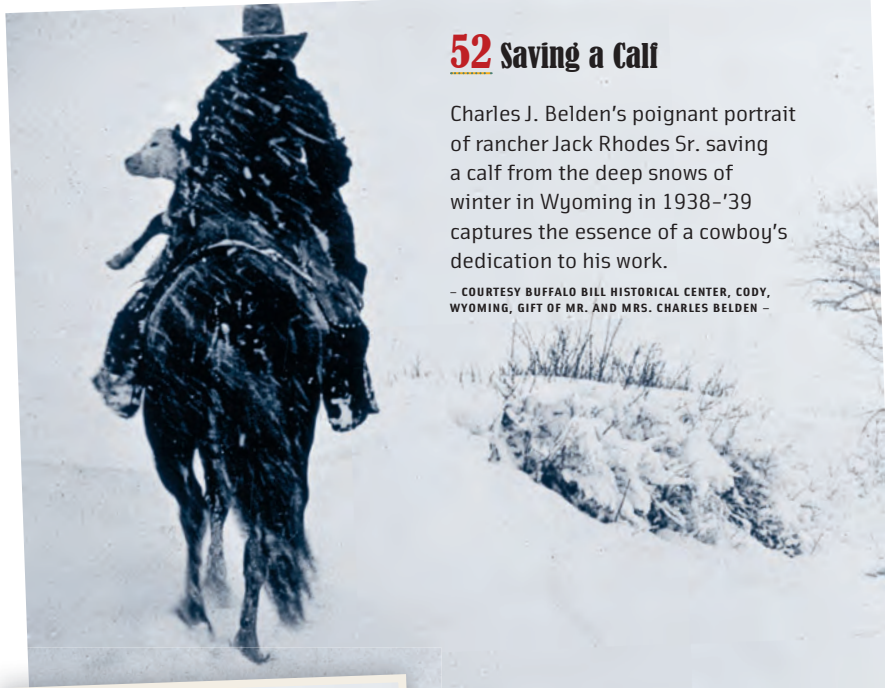
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## 52 Saving a Calf

Charles J. Belden's poignant portrait of rancher Jack Rhodes Sr. saving a calf from the deep snows of winter in Wyoming in 1938-'39 captures the essence of a cowboy's dedication to his work.

- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER, CODY, WYOMING, GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES BELDEN -



## 53 Pitchfork Ranch

In the deep snows of the winter of 1938-'39, photographer Charles J. Belden joined Jack Rhodes Sr. and his cowboys trying to herd their cattle to food, water and shelter.

- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER, CODY, WYOMING, GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES BELDEN -

4 **Western Film:** *The Making of John Wayne's The Alamo, Not Thinkin'...Just Rememberin'...* by John Farkis (Bear Manor Media).

5 **Cowboy Culture:** *Unbranded: Four Men and Sixteen Mustangs. Three Thousand Miles across the American West* by Ben Masters (Texas A&M University Press).

## BEST PHOTOGRAPHY/ ILLUSTRATED BOOK

**The Sons of Charlie Russell: Celebrating Fifty Years of the Cowboy Artists of America** by B. Byron Price (University of Oklahoma Press).

Many mediums define and influence our idea of the American West and the medium of Western art has been, and continues to be, a major cultural influence. B. Byron Price's highly illustrated volume *The Sons of Charlie Russell: Celebrating Fifty Years of the Cowboy Artists of America* highlights the cowboy artists whose work for half a century has honored the cowboy way of life, Indian culture, the Mountain Man era and the West.

## BEST OF THE REST

**Historic:** *The Great Divide*, text by Stephen Grace, photography by Jim Havey (TwoDot).

**Cultural:** *Postcard America: Curt Teich and the Imaging of a Nation, 1931-1950* by Jeffrey L. Meikle (University of Texas Press).

**Regional:** *The Mullan Road: Carving a Passage through the Frontier Northwest, 1859-62*, edited by Paul D. McDermott, Ronald E. Grim, and Philip Mobley (Mountain Press Publishing Company).

**Landscape:** *Wyoming Grasslands*, photographs by Michael P. Berman and William S. Sutton, by Frank H. Goodyear, Jr. and Charles R. Preston (University of Oklahoma Press).

**Geography:** *Colorado: A Historical Atlas* by Thomas J. Noel, cartography by Carol Zuber-Mallison (University of Oklahoma Press).



**BEST HISTORICAL  
NONFICTION AUTHOR**

Editors' Choice :: **TJ Stiles and Robert Utley**

Readers' Choice :: **Robert Utley**

**BEST HISTORICAL  
WESTERN NOVELIST**

Editors' Choice :: **Mary Doria Russell**

Readers' Choice :: **Victoria Wilcox**

**BEST WESTERN  
ROMANCE PUBLISHER**

Editors' Choice :: **Harlequin**

Readers' Choice :: **Bethany House**

**BEST WESTERN HISTORY  
BOOK PUBLISHER**

Editors' Choice :: **Tie: University of  
Oklahoma Press & Five Star Publishing**

Readers' Choice :: **University of  
Nebraska Press**

**BEST WESTERN HISTORY  
BOOKSTORE**

Editors' Choice :: **Guidon Books  
Scottsdale, AZ**

Readers' Choice :: **The Collected Works  
Book Store /Santa Fe, NM**

**BEST WESTERN HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Editors' Choice :: **Yale University Press**

Readers' Choice :: **University of  
North Texas Press**

**BEST WESTERN  
MUSIC GROUP**

Editors' Choice :: **Sons of the Pioneers**

Readers' Choice :: **Riders in the Sky**

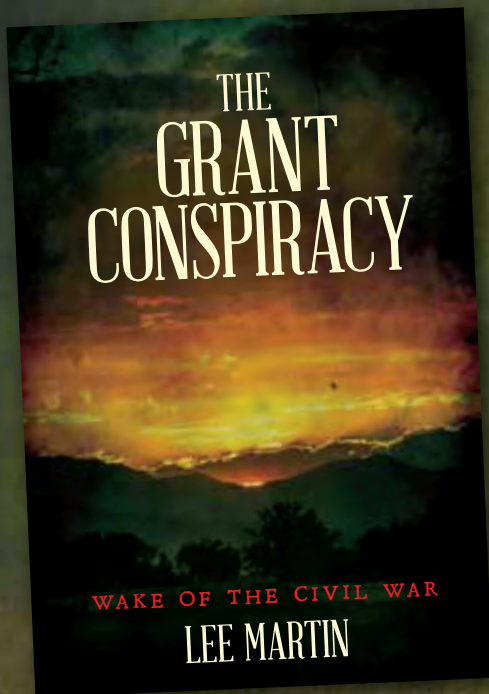
**BEST SOLO  
WESTERN MUSICIAN**

Editors' Choice :: **Dave Stamey**

Readers' Choice :: **Michael Martin Murphey**

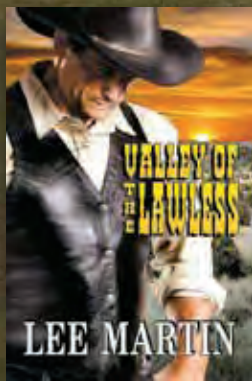


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*Martin also wrote the script for the movie, starring Kevin Sorbo, which won the Wrangler Award given by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.*

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### BEST WESTERN ROMANCE

*A Long Trail Rolling* by Lizzy Tremayne (Blue Mist Publishing).

Romance novels generate well over a billion dollars in book sales worldwide. According to Loren Estleman in *Writing the Popular Novel*, budding authors wanting to profit from writing should consider Romance. It's one of the five most profitable genres. (Horror, mystery, science fiction and Westerns round out the five.). If California-born and raised, New Zealand-based veterinarian and author Lizzy Tremayne continues writing Western romances like *A Long Trail Rolling*, she will not only be successful, but will help perpetuate romance in Westerns as much as Zane Grey did a century ago.

### BEST OF THE REST

- 1 *Against the Tide* by Kat Martin (Zebra/Kensington).
- 2 *Now and Forever* ("Wild at Heart" series, book two) by Mary Connealy (Bethany House).
- 3 *Hearth Stone* by Lois Greiman (Kensington).
- 4 *Bride at Last* by Melissa Jagears (Bethany House).
- 5 *A Worthy Pursuit* by Karen Witemeyer (Bethany House).

### BEST NEW WESTERN AUTHOR

Stacey Lee for *Under a Painted Sky* (Putnam).

Stacey Lee's debut Western novel *Under a Painted Sky* is a literary young adult

Western in the tradition of the late author Kathryn Swarthout and Spur Award-winner Rod Miller. Lee, a fourth-generation Chinese-American, wrote a highly original adventure story of two young girls, a Chinese immigrant and an African American runaway slave, who discover together how to survive on the Oregon Trail of 1849. The only question readers are left with after the dramatic conclusion is: when is Lee's sequel going to be published?

### BEST PUBLISHER

**Tie: The University of Oklahoma Press and Five Star Publishing**

For nearly 90 years, the University of Oklahoma Press has been a leader in publishing the history of the North American West. Its current Western history catalog is unequalled among university imprints. Five Star Publishing, a division of Gale, Cengage Learning, based in Waterville, Maine, is currently taking a major lead in Western fiction publishing, providing a platform for more Old West and frontier fiction authors than any other current publisher of Old West fiction. Kudos to Five Star Editor Tiffany Schofield for her efforts.

### BEST OF THE REST

- National:** Penguin Random House, New York, New York.
- University:** Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.
- Electronic:** Wolfpack Publishing, LLC, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Old West History:** Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, Maryland.
- Mass Market Fiction:** Kensington, New York, New York.



# WESTERN BOOKS

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## BEST OF THE REST

**Large:** Powell's City of Books, Portland, Oregon, *Powells.com*.

**Medium:** Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Santa Fe, New Mexico, *CWBookstore.com*.

**Antiquarian:** Booked Up, Archer, Texas, *BookedUpAC.com*.

**Specialized:** The Poisoned Pen Bookstore, Scottsdale, Arizona, *PoisonedPen.com*.

**Writer's Haven:** Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, Colorado, *TatteredCover.com*.

## 54 San Mateo Ranch

The work of frontier photographer Joseph E. Smith reflects the hardscrabble life of family ranching in the San Mateo range outside of Socorro, New Mexico, in the late 19th century.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -





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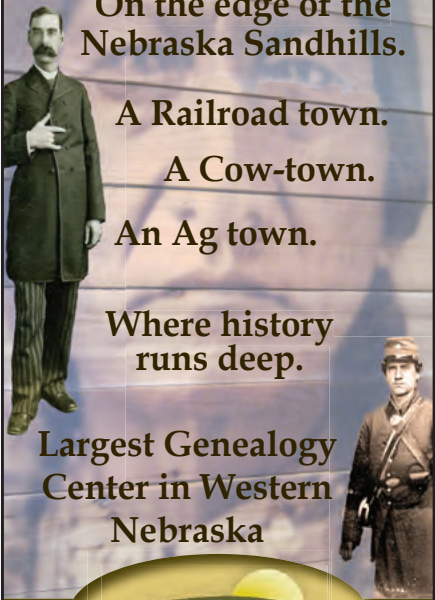
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# WESTERN BOOKS

## 55 Cowboy Pards

Fred Waite (far left) and Henry Brown (left) fought many a battle alongside William Bonney, a.k.a. Billy the Kid, in the Lincoln County War, the infamous 1878 range war fought in New Mexico Territory. Like many photographs from that era, controversy does not elude this image as some historians suspect Waite's partner in this photo is not Brown, but fellow Regulator John Middleton.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —

### ■ BEST ROUNDUP

#### Antebellum/Early Republic American Frontier History

A strong trend in Western book publishing in 2015 was antebellum/early republic American frontier history (as well as fiction). With the sesquicentennial of the Civil War coming to a conclusion, I predict that publishers and authors will continue to mine this period for new topics, while revisiting evergreens, such as the fur trapper era, Indian relocation, the transcontinental trails, the Mexican-American War, Mormon settlement, the Gold Rush, the Pony Express and Manifest Destiny.

*Jacksonland: President Andrew Jackson, Cherokee Chief John Ross and a Great American Land Grab* by Steve Inskeep (Penguin).

*The Cherokee Diaspora: An Indigenous History of Migration, Resettlement and Identity* by Gregory D. Smithers (Yale University Press).

*William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest* by William Heath (University of Oklahoma Press).

*Home Rule: Households, Manhood and National Expansion on the Eighteenth-Century Kentucky Frontier* by Honor Sachs (Yale University Press).

*Their Lives, Their Wills: Women in the Borderlands, 1750-1846* by Amy M. Porter (Texas Tech University Press).

#### Self-Published

Self-publishing is revolutionizing the world of books across all genres, and authors of Western fiction and nonfiction are adding great depth and quality to the catalogue with their innovative publishing spirit.

*The Walker Party: Across New*

*Mexico and Arizona Territories and Up the Hassayampa River 1861-1863: The Revised Story* by Pieter Burggraaf (Pieter S. Burggraaf).

*Ten Shoes Up* by Gary L. Stuart (Gary L. Stuart).

*Call Me Billy: A New Look at the Life of Billy the Kid* by Patrick Manley (Patrick Manley).

*Lone Jack Kid: The Return* by Joe Corso (Black Horse Publishing).

*Courage Beyond Expectations: Indian War as told by Those Who Lived It* by F.C. Budinger (F.C. Budinger).

#### 20th- to 21st-Century Western Fiction

When does the Old West end and the Contemporary West begin in Western fiction? Whether the line in time is 1920, 1950, 1980 or 2000, contemporary fiction is a dynamic genre from romance to mystery. The adventurous stories of the frontier West are still alive and well, with many publishers broadening the marketplace of contemporary Western fiction.

*Firebreak* by Tricia Fields (Minotaur Books).

*The Darkness Rolling* by Win Blevins and Meredith Blevins (Forge).

*Anadarko* by Tom Holm (University of Arizona Press).

*Chasm* by Susan Cummins Miller (Texas Tech University Press).

*Rock with Wings* by Anne Hillerman (HarperCollins).

#### 20th- and 21st-Century Western Nonfiction

Twentieth- and twenty-first century Western nonfiction is a genre that breaks all definitions of subject matter. Historians of the American West may soon be looking at categories not demarcated by millennial delineation, but by historical eras, such as the Revolution to Civil War, Reconstruction to World War II, and post-World War II to present. Authors who use modern topics and current issues of the 21st century to examine pre-1900 history are providing greater context, and offering insight for modern readers into what the West is today.

*The Cherokee Kid: Will Rogers, Tribal Identity and the Making of an American Icon* by Amy M. Ware (University of Kansas Press).

*Sovereignty for Survival: American Energy Development and Indian Self-Determination* by James Robert Allison III (Yale University Press).

*Grizzly West: A Failed Attempt to Reintroduce Grizzly Bears in the Mountain West* by Michael J. Dax (University of Nebraska Press).

*Water to the Angels: William Mulholland, His Monumental Aqueduct and the Rise of Los Angeles* by Les Standiford (ECCO).

*The Great Call-Up: The Guard, The Borders, and The Mexican Revolution* by Charles H. Harris III and Louis R. Sadler (University of Oklahoma Press).

#### Essays, Short Stories, Collections, Reference Books and Edited Papers

Fortunately, publishers annually broaden our knowledge of Western history through the extraordinary work of authors writing

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## 56 Cy Compton

Cy Compton joined Buffalo Bill Cody's show in 1894 as a bronc rider and rose up the ranks to become chief cowboy. He toured with Cody's "Wild Bunch" of cowboys until Cody's death in 1917 and then joined the Wild West contingent at Barnum & Bailey Circus.

- COURTESY HIGH NOON -

*Transnational Indians in the North American West* edited by Clarissa Confer, Andrae Marak and Laura Tuennerman (Texas A&M University Press).

*Contested Empire: Rethinking the Texas Revolution* edited by Sam W. Haynes and Gerald D. Saxon (Texas A&M University Press).

### Short Stories

*Charlie Martz and Other Stories: The Unpublished Stories* by Elmore Leonard (William Morrow).

*Crow Fair: Stories* by Thomas McGuane (Alfred A. Knopf).

*A Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories* by Lucia Berlin, edited by Stephen Emerson (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

*The Land of Rain Shadows, Horned Toad, Texas* by Joyce Gibson Roach (Texas Tech University Press).

*Half an Inch of Water: Stories* by Percival Everett (Graywolf Press).

### Collections of Edited Papers

*Before the Big Bonanza: Dan De Quille's Early Comstock Accounts* edited by Donnelly Curtis and Lawrence I. Berkove (University of Missouri Press).

*Twenty-Five Years Among the Indians and Buffalo: A Frontier Memoir* by William D. Street, edited by Warren R. Street (University of Kansas Press).

*The Great Medicine Road, Narratives of the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails, Part 2: 1849* edited by Michael L. Tate, with the assistance of Will Bagley and

and editing volumes of essays, primary sources and short stories. Here is a selection of the best from 2015:

*Imagined Frontiers: Contemporary America and Beyond* by Carl Abbott (University of Oklahoma Press).

*Tejano West Texas* edited by Arnold De Leon (Texas A&M University Press).

*Just South of Zion: The Mormons in Mexico and Its Borderlands* edited by Jason H. Dormandy and Jared M. Tamez (University of New Mexico Press).

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# WESTERN BOOKS

Richard L. Rieck (The Arthur H. Clark Company).

*Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: The Travel Diaries and Autobiography of Dr. Rowland Willard* edited by Joy L. Poole (The Arthur H. Clark Company).

*Adios Nuevo Mexico: The Santa Fe Journal of John Watts in 1859* transcribed, edited and annotated by David Remley (Texas Tech University Press).

## Reference Books

*Roadside New Mexico: A Guide to Historic Markers* by David Pike, revised and expanded edition (University of New Mexico Press).

*Encyclopedia of the American Indian in the Twentieth Century* by Alexander Ewen and Jeffrey Wollock (University of New Mexico Press).

*Settlers of the American West: The Lives of 231 Notable Pioneers* by Mary Ellen Snodgrass (McFarland).

*Calamity Jane: A Reader's Guide* by Richard Etulain (University of Oklahoma Press).

*Health of the Seventh Cavalry: A Medical History* edited by P. Willey and Douglas D. Scott (University of Oklahoma Press).

## BEST FINAL POST

### Posthumously Published

Wallace Stegner Award-winning Western author **Ivan Doig** and first-time novelist **Wallace J. Swenson** both had books published in 2015 after their passings in February and April, respectively. Doig's *Last Bus to Wisdom* (Riverhead Books), recounting a cross-country bus trip he took at the age of 12, was released in August. Idaho resident Swenson, who just began his career as a Western novelist, had two Five Star Westerns released last year: *Buell: Journey to the White Clouds* in June and *Pine Marten* in November. According to Swenson's editor,

Five Star is working with the family to continue releasing his unpublished manuscripts posthumously.

## Western Authors Remembered

**Kathryn Swarthout**, beloved Western writer, wife of the late Glendon Swarthout and mother of Miles Swarthout, died April 3, 2015. While both her husband and son have enjoyed award-winning careers, Kathryn was well-known for six young adult novellas she co-authored with her husband, including the coming-of-age Western adventure, *Whichaway* (Random House, 1966).

**E.L. (Edgar Lawrence) Doctorow**, the best-selling novelist and recipient of the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction, National Humanities Medal and National Book Critics Circle Award, died July 21, 2015. *Welcome to Hard Times* (Simon & Schuster, 1960), set in the Dakota Territory, was the first of 12 novels he published between 1960 and 2014. ❏

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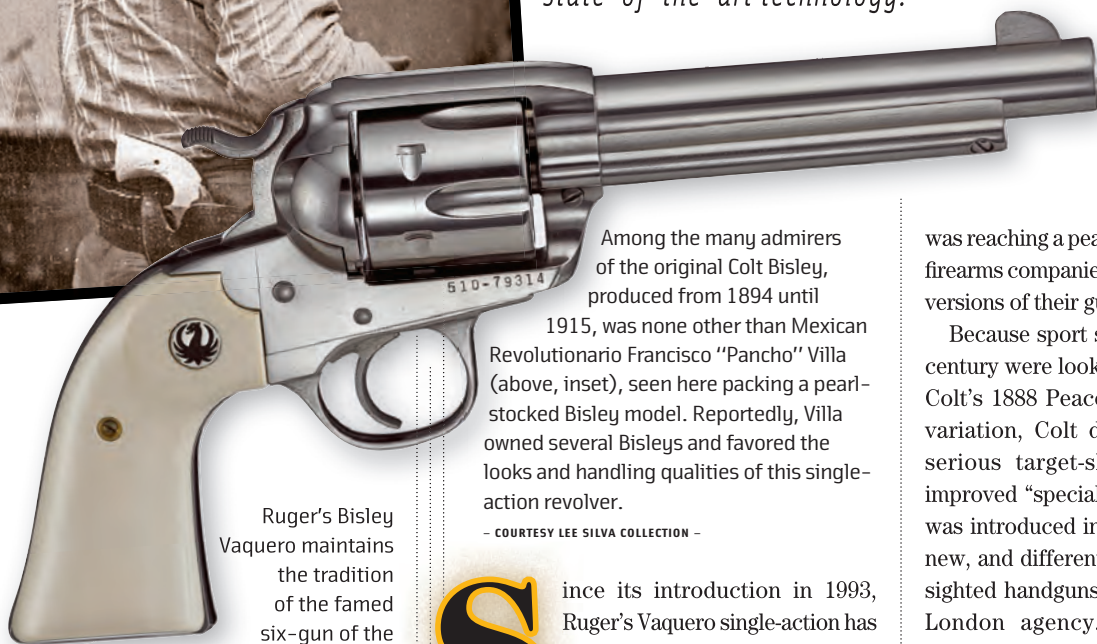
# FIREARMS

BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER



## Ruger Bisley Vaquero

*This handsome single-action revolver combines the features of an 1890s classic six-shooter with today's state-of-the-art technology.*



Ruger's Bisley Vaquero maintains the tradition of the famed six-gun of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries with its distinctive low-hammer profile, longer grip and large trigger guard, but has the added attraction of Ruger's super strong coil spring main spring, transfer bar safety and other state-of-the-art features.

The Bisley Vaquero is offered in the popular 5½-inch barreled "Gloss Stainless" a stainless steel finish that gives the six-gun the appearance of an old-time, nickel-plated hogleg.

- COURTESY STURM, RUGER & CO., INC. -

Among the many admirers of the original Colt Bisley, produced from 1894 until

1915, was none other than Mexican Revolutionario Francisco "Pancho" Villa (above, inset), seen here packing a pearl-stocked Bisley model. Reportedly, Villa owned several Bisleys and favored the looks and handling qualities of this single-action revolver.

- COURTESY LEE SILVA COLLECTION -

**S**ince its introduction in 1993, Ruger's Vaquero single-action has ranked among the most popular of six-guns with cowboy action shooters and cowboy mounted shooters, alike. The combining of Old West tradition externally and rugged state-of-the-art-technology in its inner workings have made the Vaquero a handsome and durable six-shooter for today's sportsmen. Besides the standard peacemaker-styled revolver, Ruger offers a Bisley version of the Vaquero—a sleek-looking hogleg that traces its beginnings to the last decade of the 19th century, when the sport of target-shooting

was reaching a peak in popularity and many firearms companies were introducing target versions of their guns.

Because sport shooters of the late 19th century were looking for improvements in Colt's 1888 Peacemaker Flat Top target variation, Colt designers worked with serious target-shooters to design an improved "special target" revolver, which was introduced in 1894. The first of these new, and different-looking flat top, target-sighted handguns were shipped to Colt's London agency. This latest model's spectacular performances in England's famous target matches, held at Bisley Common outside of London, led to Colt's renaming the revolver the "Bisley" model. The gun, made in both flat top and the more traditional rounded top strap versions, was quickly accepted by many of the best-known target-shooters of the era. The Bisley, with its redesigned frame quickly eclipsed the older target revolver, ultimately leading to the earlier flat top's discontinuance.

For the next two decades, this slick-looking six-shooter was used by cowboys,



# FIREARMS

Arguably one of the most famous shooting ranges in the world, the Bisley Common is located just outside of London. The original Colt Bisleys did so well here that the company named its target revolver in honor of the renowned range. The period illustration depicts the opening of the facility in 1890.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Ruger six-gun heft, combined with a touch of the old-time Bisley feel. Six-gunners of just about any discipline should appreciate the Ruger Bisley Vaquero's straight shooting, rugged construction and easy handling qualities. For more information, go to [Ruger.com](http://Ruger.com).

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

sportsmen, adventurers and target-shooters. The Bisley's rakish, low-profile styling, balance and fast-handling characteristics made it a popular arm—especially in the American Southwest and in northern Mexico. The Copper Queen Construction and Mining Company in Bisbee, Arizona Territory, bought Bisleys. California stage robber—later turned Canadian train robber—Bill Miner (depicted by actor Richard Farnsworth in the 1982 Western *The Grey Fox*) packed a 5½-inch Bisley in .41 Colt caliber. Mexican Revolutionary hero Pancho Villa is known to have owned several Bisleys throughout his colorful career.

Discontinued in Colt's advertising in 1912, assembly of Bisley models continued until mid-1915, although guns were shipped from the factory as late as November of 1919. The term "hogleg," which is often used when referring to the standard Colt Peacemaker, reportedly stems from the old-timers' nickname for the Bisley's grip.

Ruger's Bisley Vaquero carries on the tradition of the original model, with its distinctive low-hammer profile, longer grip style and large trigger guard, but with the addition of Ruger's modern coil main spring, transfer bar safety and other state-of-the-art features. Offered in what the company calls "Gloss Stainless," stainless steel—which looks almost like nickel-plating—the Bisley Vaquero is currently offered in the popular 5½-inch barrel length and is rifled with a fast 1-in-16-inch, right hand rate of twist.

Currently offered in .357 Magnum and .45 Colt, Ruger Bisley Vaqueros come standard with rosewood grips, however several models can be ordered with Ruger's simulated ivory gunfighter two-piece grip panels. With a weight of 41 or 45 ounces—depending on caliber, the Bisley has that familiar



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You can dress up your Ruger Bisley Vaquero with some pretty snazzy and expensive-looking grips without having to mortgage the ranch. Besides the extensive selection of handsome wood or exotic materials, including rosewood, ebony, American elk, ultra ivory (imitation) and colorful Kirinite resembling turquoise and other semi-precious materials. The Eagle's new mother-of-pearl grip offers the best pearly look this shooter has ever seen. Priced at \$99.95 per set, these two-piece, pearl-like grip panels are made to fit a variety of handguns, including the Ruger Bisley Vaquero.

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# FIREARMS



## 57 Henry .44

This young cowboy (dude) proudly displays his Henry .44 rimfire rifle.

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**READERS' CHOICE:**

*Taylor's & Company  
"The Smoke Wagon"*



**58 Genuine and Unknown**

Most historical cowboy photos record unknown individuals who posed in studio shots that reflected their pride in the lifestyle. Showing one Colt Single Action in his hand and another holstered, this typical cowboy is decked out in genuine cowboy boots, chaps, hat, bandanna and holster.

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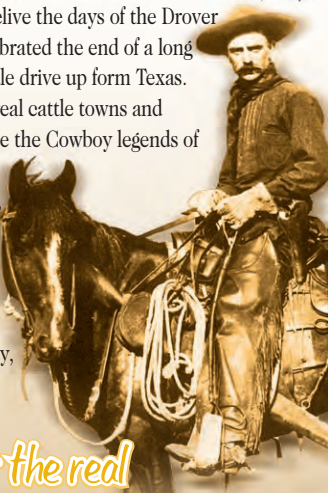
## 59 Cross Draw Cowboy

This cowboy wears the butt of his pistol with the handle pointing forward, known as the cross draw position, indicating to us that he was left-handed (as does the cigarette in his left hand). Most cowboys preferred to draw their weapon from the same hip as their dominant hand, but this man probably found it easier to reach across his body to draw his pistol.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

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### READERS' CHOICE:

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

### READERS' CHOICE:

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

### READERS' CHOICE:

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

### READERS' CHOICE:

**Cowan's Auctions**

# FIREARMS



## 60 Outlaw Cowboy-Turned-Lawman

Texas John Slaughter was the first outlaw New Mexico Territorial Gov. Lew Wallace wanted to round up. (Billy the Kid was 14th on his list.) Slaughter's first killing, of drunken rustler Barney Gallagher, took place while he was herding cattle on John Chisum's ranch in New Mexico in September 1876. By 1880, Slaughter was ranching in Arizona near the border with Mexico. In 1886, he became Cochise County sheriff. This circa 1890s photograph captures Slaughter as the quintessential cowboy lawman.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



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# FIREARMS

## 61 Five Gun-toting Cowboys

Five cowboys had their portrait taken well-heeled sometime between 1900-1910 (from left) #1 unknown, #2 Bo Mills, #3 Lewis Cloud, #4 Joe Hageny #5 Postmaster Casper from Billings, Montana.

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## 62 Ramsey Cowboys

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# WESTERN MOVIES

## DVDs & TV SHOWS

BY HENRY C. PARKE



When Louis Lindley Jr. dropped out of high school at 16 to join a rodeo, he called himself "Slim Pickens" so his father wouldn't see his name on the entry lists. In 1950, after 20 years of getting gored by bulls, thrown by horses and suffering injuries that included a crushed chest and a twice-broken back, Pickens was spotted at a rodeo by Director William Keighley, who offered the cowboy a screen test that began his career in movies.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

## Best Silver Screen Cowboys

**A**s this special issue honors the best pictures of cowboys, it certainly seems fitting that we also honor the best Cowboy Pictures, those movies that showcased the cowboy way of life. Some even featured real-life, just-off-the-trail cowpokes including Hoot Gibson, Ben Johnson and rodeo clown Slim Pickens.

Of course, the most densely populated arena for movies about cowboys was the B-Western. From the silent days through the 1950s, studios from Republic to Monogram produced hundreds of them. Warner Archive offers eight volumes of the *Monogram Cowboy Collection*. But whether these silver screen cowboys were Tom Mix, Johnny Mack Brown or the Three Mesquiteers, cowboy life was usually not the focus, but rather a springboard to stories about land grabs, murder and the occasional Nazi saboteur. The most convincing portrayals of cowboy life in the B-Westerns were in the post-war films, principally Gene Autry's self-produced titles for Columbia Pictures (Timeless Media) and Tim Holt's remarkable RKO films (Warner Archive).

The best overall cowboy picture, hands down? Howard Hawk's 1948 masterpiece, *Red River* (Criterion Collection), featuring John Wayne, Montgomery Clift, Walter Brennan and every manly guy in Hollywood or environs. Delmer Daves's fact-based 1958 film *Cowboy* (Sony) is another great cowboy flick, starring Jack Lemmon as a hotel clerk who quits to sign on with an outfit led by Glenn Ford's character and learns the unglamorous truth about cowboy life. Another classic is 1972's *The Cowboys* (Warner Archive). Who among



## 63 Hog Tied

Hoot Gibson helped make the Calgary Stampede Canada's most famous rodeo when he acted in 1925's *The Calgary Stampede*, just 13 years after winning the steer roping championship at the first Calgary rodeo (the Nebraska cowboy also won the all-around championship at Pendleton Round-Up that year). His first film was the 1910 silent *Pride of the Range*; he didn't become a major cowboy picture star until the 1920s.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

us wouldn't give his eyeteeth to be one of the adolescent boys who John Wayne hired for his character's cattle drive, deadly though the assignment may be?

Best rodeo cowboy movies? Sam Peckinpah's 1972 classic *Junior Bonner* (MGM), starring Steve McQueen, and 1994's *8 Seconds* (New Line), starring Luke Perry as rodeo legend Lane Frost.

The field is crowded when one considers the aging cowboy story. Exceptional films include 1970's *Monte Walsh* (Kino-Lorber) starring Lee Marvin and Jack Palance, remade for TV in 2003 with Tom Selleck and Keith Carradine (Warner Archive). John Huston and Arthur Miller collaborated on 1961's *The Misfits* (MGM), showcasing soon-to-be Western icon Eli Wallach and featuring nearly the last performances of Clark Gable, Montgomery Clift and Marilyn Monroe. A

tiny, but exceptional, film is 1975's *Macintosh and T.J.*, featuring the final, and maybe finest, performance by the King of the Cowboys, Roy Rogers.

For stories where a lone cowboy must make a stand, usually to protect the woman he loves, check out 1968's *Will Penny* (Warner Archive), starring Charlton Heston, and 1971's *The Hired Hand* (Sundance Channel), directed by and starring Peter Fonda. Peter's father Henry played a humorous aging cowboy better than anyone, from 1965's *The Rounders* (Warner Archive), teamed with Glenn Ford, to 1970's *The Cheyenne Social Club* (Warner Archive), opposite James Stewart.

On television, the 1959-65 series *Rawhide* (Paramount) showed a convincing view of life on an endless cattle drive and, most important, gave us Clint Eastwood. The

1962-71 series *The Virginian* (Timeless Media) focused on Judge Garth and his family, but James Drury as the title character, and a bunkhouse full of drovers, were an important part of the tale.

The best modern-day cowboy story, oddly enough, is a comedy, 1991's *City Slickers* (MGM), a loving tribute to the cowboy life. I must admit that, between the laughs, it has made me cry for my misspent adulthood as much as 1972's *The Cowboys* made me cry for my misspent youth.

### ■ BEST WESTERN MOVIE

This is an impossible category because as we go to press, only one notable Western, *Bone Tomahawk* (Caliber Media Company), has been released this year. I thought it was a wonderfully entertaining



The best overall cowboy picture is Howard Hawks's first Western, 1948's *Red River*, starring John Wayne as a tyrannical Texas rancher whose tensions with his adopted son (played by Montgomery Clift) grow as they oversee a Chisholm Trail cattle drive.

- COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS -

## WESTERN MOVIES

DVDs & TV SHOWS

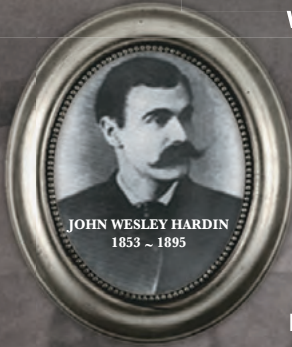
film, by turns funny, moving and terrifying. Written and directed by first-timer S. Craig Zahler, it was made for a paltry \$1.8 million in a dizzying 21 days. It stars Kurt Russell, Richard Jenkins, Patrick Wilson and Matthew Fox as a group of ill-equipped men trying to rescue captives from a band of inbred cannibal troglodytes. The script is smart but not smug, the action goes from demure to savage. I'm expecting great things from both *The Revenant* and *The Hateful 8*, but only select theaters will give movie buffs these gifts on Christmas, saving a full release until January 2016.

### BEST FOREIGN WESTERN MOVIE

Echoes of the filmmaking sensibilities of both John Ford and Sergio Leone are felt in *The Salvation* (IFC Films), a remarkable Danish Western shot in South Africa. Mads

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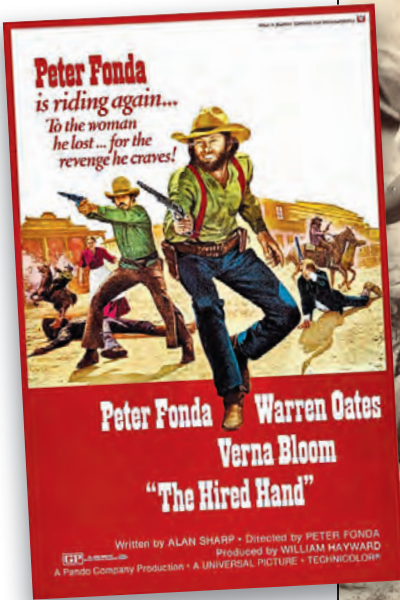
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Peter Fonda directed and starred in one of the best Westerns to feature a lone cowboy making a stand, 1971's *The Hired Hand*, while his father, Henry, was known for his humorous, aging cowboy roles, particularly in 1970's *The Cheyenne Social Club* (he is shown, at left, with Jimmy Stewart).

— THE HIRED HAND POSTER COURTESY UNIVERSAL PICTURES; THE CHEYENNE SOCIAL CLUB STILL COURTESY NATIONAL GENERAL PICTURES —

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Arizona cowboy Rex Allen jumped on the “Singing Cowboy” bandwagon popularized by Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, signing a film contract with Republic Pictures in 1949. He is shown at Karl and Augusta Iverson’s ranch in California’s Simi Hills with his cowboy sidekick Slim Pickens in 1952’s *Old Oklahoma Plains*.

— COURTESY REPUBLIC PICTURES —

## BEST WESTERN MOVIE COLLECTION

The *John Wayne Westerns Film Collection* (Warner Archive)

not only includes absolute necessities for the Wayne fan—John Ford’s *Fort Apache* and *The Searchers*, and Howard Hawks’s *Rio Bravo*—it also features two films never before on blu-ray, *The Train Robbers* and *Cahill: U.S. Marshal*. *Cahill* Director Andrew V. McLaglen supplied his own commentary before his death in September 2014, while others are done by Peter Bogdanovich and John Carpenter.

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*The Stranger Collection*  
(Warner Archive)

## BEST SINGING COWBOY COLLECTION

The Nelson Eddy of singing cowboys, Dick Foran sang and fought his way through a dozen B-Westerns at Warner Bros. between 1935 and 1937, and they’re all included in the *Dick Foran Western Collection* (Warner Archive). While the films are often built on action footage from Ken Maynard movies, which had already been recycled into John Wayne B-Westerns, Foran’s likable personality and acting skills—he supported in many Warner Bros. films at the same time—make this a delightful set.

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*Gene Autry Collection #10*  
(Timeless Media)

## BEST TELEVISION DVD

The late 1950s were the prime years for the half-hour adult Western, and *The Rebel*,

Mikkelson’s character sends for his Danish wife and son to join him in the American West. But the very day they arrive, he is helpless to stop their slaughter. He avenges their deaths, but one of the murderers is the brother of the most powerful landowner in the territory, who vows to kill the gutless townspeople until his brother’s killer is produced. Eva Green, of Showtime’s *Penny Dreadful*, plays the mute widow. Bleak, but beautiful, thoughtful, and wise, it is deeply moving, a triumph of Western cinema.

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*Slow West* (A24 Films)

## BEST TELEVISION WESTERN

In 2015, *Justified* justified our belief in Raylan Givens (Timothy Olyphant) before bidding us adieu, *Longmire* rose like a phoenix from the A&E ashes to soar on Netflix and *Hell on Wheels* gritted its teeth and kept laying track, now with Promontory Summit in sight. With three exceptionally written and acted series to choose from, we must give the Best TV Western nod to *Hell on Wheels* (AMC), as the only actual period Western of the group. The show took a new direction this season, eastward, as Cullen Bohannon (Anson Mount) switched sides from the Union Pacific to the Central Pacific. It shifted eastward in another way, as the Central employed many Chinese laborers, making room for a new array of heroes and

villains. This was a seven-episode season, and next year’s seven will be the last. Also of note, the History Channel presented the miniseries *Texas Rising*. Reaction in the Lone Star State was jarringly divided, with viewers finding its story of the making of the nation and then state either strikingly faithful history, or blasphemy. A sequel about the forming of the Texas Rangers is expected.

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*Longmire* (Netflix)

## BEST WESTERN MOVIE DVD

We have never seen the director’s cut of *My Darling Clementine* (Criterion), the story of Wyatt Earp (Henry Fonda), Doc Holliday (Victor Mature) and the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral. Believing John Ford’s two-hour version was too long, 20th Century Fox head Daryl Zanuck insisted on reshoots and cuts that brought the 1946 movie down to 97 minutes. While the full Ford version presumably no longer exists, Criterion now presents us with the version we know and love, plus a version that is nearly 10 minutes longer! Both are digitally restored. Also included are a plethora of extras, including TV reports on Tombstone and Monument Valley from 1963 and 1975, and a short, silent Western comedy starring John Ford, directed by his brother Francis.

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*Lonesome Dove* (Mill Creek Entertainment)

# WESTERN MOVIES

## DVDs & TV SHOWS



### JUSTIFIED CREATOR GRAHAM YOST REFLECTS

“My primary concern for the final episode was that we wanted to nail it, to be satisfying, but boy, we didn’t want to suck. There’s the gold standard set by shows like *Six Feet Under* and *The Shield*, and we hope to be thought of in that category,” *Justified* creator Graham Yost tells *True West*.

Elmore Leonard contributed more to *Justified* than the story “Fire in the Hole,” the basis for the series.

“Tim [Olyphant] said to him, ‘Elmore, why don’t you write another Raylan short story?’ Elmore went off, wrote one, wrote two more, tied them together and that became his final novel. He gave it to us, said that we could, as he put it, hang it up, or strip it for parts, which is what we did. There were huge contributions [from the book],” Yost says.

“For a while we called it *Lawman*. Then Steven Seagal [did] a show called *Lawman*. FX asked, ‘What about *Justified*?’ and we said, ‘Fine.’ Ultimately the series is about whether what Raylan does is justified, so it works.

“*Justified* was a mix of Crime Drama and Western. One thing a Western has is a hero with a code. Other people might not understand it, but that’s who he is. [My] father schooled me on movies right from the beginning; Westerns were a huge part. He took me to see *The Wild Bunch* when I was nine—can’t imagine taking my son when he was nine. I love Westerns, particularly the ones that put a little spin, like all the stuff of [Sam] Peckinpah. It’s that wonderful thing where it’s turning our ideas of Westerns inside out, but it delivers.”

starring Nick Adams as Johnny Yuma, a drifting former Johnny Reb, is one of the best, right up there with *Have Gun, Will Travel* and the first seasons of *Gunsmoke*. Featuring top guest stars, *The Rebel: The Complete Series* (Timeless Media) includes all 76 episodes, the long-missing Johnny Cash theme song and interviews with Nick Adams’s children and with series creator Andrew Fenady. The set even includes an unaired pilot for a proposed companion series, *The Yank*, starring pre-*Virginian* James Drury.

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*Lawman: The Complete First & Second Seasons* (Warner Archive)

### BEST TELEVISION BLU-RAY

The wonderfully original, funny and frightening *Justified* series has signed off, but now all six seasons are compiled on 18 discs, in a beautiful set, *Justified: The Complete Series* (Sony), that includes commentary on select episodes, deleted scenes, a wealth of behind-the-scenes documentaries and, best of all, the late, great Elmore Leonard giving advice that every writer should hear. It even comes with a commemorative hip-flask!

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*Texas Rising* (A&E Home Video)

### BEST WESTERN DOCUMENTARY

Did the Old West end with the turn of the 20th century? Not in Klondyke, Arizona. In 1917, the law stated that all young men must register for the draft. When two young members of an already distrusted family refused, locals came after the slackers, triggering the deadliest shoot-out in Arizona’s history and a shocking miscarriage of justice that echoed well into the 1960s. All is fantastically captured in *Power’s War* (Amistad Entertainment).

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*Wanda the Wonderful* (Boxelder Productions)

### BEST SILENT WESTERN RELEASE

William S. Hart gives one of his finest performances in 1919’s *Wagon Tracks* (Grapevine Video). His character leads a wagon train, knowing that one of the emigrants is his brother’s killer. The re-release boasts a remarkably clean and clear image that is beautifully hand-tinted.

**READERS’ CHOICE:**  
*1914’s The Virginian* (Alpha Video)

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)



Sam Peckinpah filmed 1972’s *Junior Bonner*, starring Steve McQueen, during the real-life Frontier Days Rodeo in Prescott, Arizona.

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# WESTERN WEAR

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

## The Cowboy Way

*Artisans' high standards for quality in clothing and tack define the best in Western wear.*

**B**y the time Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the Corps of Discovery across North America from 1804 to 1806, the British, French and Spanish had been competing for control of the beaver trade—and the resources of the West—for decades. The beaver hat fashion faded in the ensuing decades, as did the supply of beaver pelts due to overhunting, but European and American hat makers would not be the last group to fill a need and define fashion in Western wear. From Levi Strauss inventing his signature denim jeans during the Gold Rush, to John B. Stetson creating his cowboy hat just after the Civil War (mimicking the style Spanish and Mexican vaqueros had found necessary decades before), to H.J. “Daddy Joe” Justin making a boot Texas cowboys could count on in the saddle, craftsmen helped define Western style. The hard work defined the need for quality craftsmanship to produce the sturdy clothes, hats and accessories required to get a job done. Today, Western wear is as iconic as it is practical and fashionable. Craftsmen and artisans making cowboy boots, hats, clothes and accessories can be found across the West, from small towns to big cities, and are ready to outfit you the cowboy way.

—Stuart Rosebrook

### 64 Duded Up

A cowboy who spent his hard-earned dollar to have his portrait made would wear the finest clothes he owned, such as this Texas cowboy in his fringed and conchoed Western suit.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



# WESTERN WEAR

## BEST WESTERN HAT MAKER

### Catalena Hatters, Bryan, TX

Catalena Hatters has been producing quality custom hats for over 30 years. Sammy and Carolyn Catalena own and operate the family business with their sons, Scott and Travis. Catalena Hatters was the first custom hatter to advertise and sell the Gus hat style made popular by the movie *Lonesome Dove*.

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

## READERS' CHOICE:

*Tie: O'Farrell Custom Hats/  
Knudsen Hat Company*

## BEST WESTERN CLOTHING MAKER

### Miller Ranch, Denver, CO

In 1918 Philip Miller traveled to the Great American West on the advice of his doctor, and to sell hats for his family's New York City-based Miller Bros. hat company. Phillip Miller's temporary stint in Denver evolved into a much greater journey—a lifelong love of the West and the creation of a Western wear business that survives to this day. The items they now bring to the marketplace are based on the traditions and values that made the Miller name a significant part of the history of the American West.

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

## READERS' CHOICE:

*Texas Jack's*

## BEST WESTERN BOOTMAKER

### Rios of Mercedes, Mercedes, TX

Rios of Mercedes boots are made by craftsmen who have lifetimes of experience in the art of bootmaking. Many of them are second- or third-generation bootmakers. Their devotion to this tradition is evident in the attention to detail given throughout the boots. Rios

## 65 Ready to Ride

The bespectacled buckaroo models the best gear he owns from his hat to his spurs, including his wild rag, fringed shotgun chaps, leather wrist cuffs and grass rope.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



and Anderson Bean boots have a distinctive and comfortable fit.

*RiosOfMercedes.com*

**READERS' CHOICE:**

*Lucchese Boots*

**BEST PERIOD  
WESTERN CLOTHIER**

**Recollections, Hawks, MI**

Recollections is a fashion design and manufacturing company located in Hawks, Michigan. The business opened in 1981, concentrating on Victorian era-inspired fashions. Today, Recollections offers more than 1,000 garments and accessories spanning the Victorian era through the 1960s, including styles reflecting the American Old West.

*Recollections.biz*

**READERS' CHOICE:**

*Scully Western Wear*



**66 Prize Woolies**

The vaquero, holding a rawhide quirt, would depend on his woolies, chaps made from Angora, to protect him from the freezing winter temperatures of the West.

— HERITAGE AUCTION GALLERIES —

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Thomas Moran (1837-1926), *The Mirage (detail)*, 1879, oil on canvas, 25.125 x 62.375 inches. 31.18.15.

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# WESTERN WEAR

## 67 Cowboy Star's Shotgun Chaps

America's first cowboy star, Buck Taylor (below), wears shotgun chaps, so called because the legs are straight like the barrels of a shotgun. Each leg was cut from a single piece of leather and, due to their snug fit around the leg, shotgun chaps did not flap around the way batwing chaps, cut with wide flares at the bottom, did. Shotgun chaps were in wide use among Texas cowboys by the late 1870s.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



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## 68 Hashknife Cowboys

Once the nation's third largest cattle operation, the Aztec Land & Cattle Company spanned more than two million acres in northern Arizona, between 1884 and 1902. The cowboys were known as the Hashknife Outfit, since the Aztec brand resembled the hook cooks attached to their chuckwagon. The cowhands in front of the company offices in Holbrook include Pete Pemberton (seated on right) and William Swank (seated on left) in his sugarloaf sombrero.

- COURTESY AZTEC LAND & CATTLE CO.  
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-JOE BEELER

*Joe Kevin*  
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# HERITAGE TRAVEL

BY TRUE WEST EDITORS  
AND STUART ROSEBROOK



# Rawhide! The Great Trail Drives Inspire Adventures Across the West

**A** century and a half ago Texas was rebuilding after the Civil War. Veterans were returning home to the Lone Star State—and thousands of soldiers, North and South, were moving West, many to Texas, looking to start life anew after the horrors of war. The broad, brush country of Texas was awash in wild longhorns and horses, while railroads were pushing West from Missouri into Kansas. Beef had become big business during the war, and the growing industrial cities of the North needed cattle for food, hides and everything but the moo! Cattlemen like George Arnett, Jesse Chisholm, Charles Goodnight, Oliver Loving, Abel “Shanghai” Pierce, Dudley H. Snyder and C.C. Slaughter would help build an industry that shaped the West—and American history—as entrepreneurs of the cattle trade from Texas to Montana. Today, *True West* invites readers to use the annual Heritage Travel Guide to plan your own adventures on new—and favorite—trails West.

—Stuart Rosebrook

## **69** Hi Lo Country

Cattle ranchers on the eastern plains of New Mexico employed large crews of working cowboys to work their extensive land holdings.

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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## 70 Hooker Ranch Cowboys

Edward Landers Drew and his fellow cowhands drove in the remuda to start the day's work in 1894 on Arizona's famed Hooker Ranch.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

### BEST PLACE TO LIVE LIKE AN OLD WEST COWBOY (Summer)

#### Buffalo, WY

The residents of Buffalo—an amazing community rich with history, culture and scenery—are grateful to have received this recognition. They feel truly blessed to live in so historic a town, where the Old West is kept alive today, and the Bighorn Mountains serve as their beautiful backyard.

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

#### READERS' CHOICE

*Cody, WY*

### BEST PLACE TO LIVE LIKE AN OLD WEST COWBOY (Winter)

#### Wickenburg, AZ

Wickenburg's past merges with the present to awaken the cowboy in everyone. Consider a day at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, a performance at The Webb Center, a walking tour of downtown, trail-riding by horse, jeep or mountain bike, watching team roping or simply taking in a Western sunset.

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

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*Bandera, TX*

### BEST OLD WEST GUNFIGHTER TOWN

#### Tombstone, AZ

Discover legendary Tombstone, known internationally for its stormy and storied past, where walking the streets of Wyatt Earp and "Doc" Holliday and the infamous Gunfight Near the OK Corral is a unique step back into the Old West—a true encounter with history in "The Town Too Tough to Die."

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

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*Dodge City, KS*

### BEST WESTERN MUSEUM

#### Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West, Scottsdale, AZ

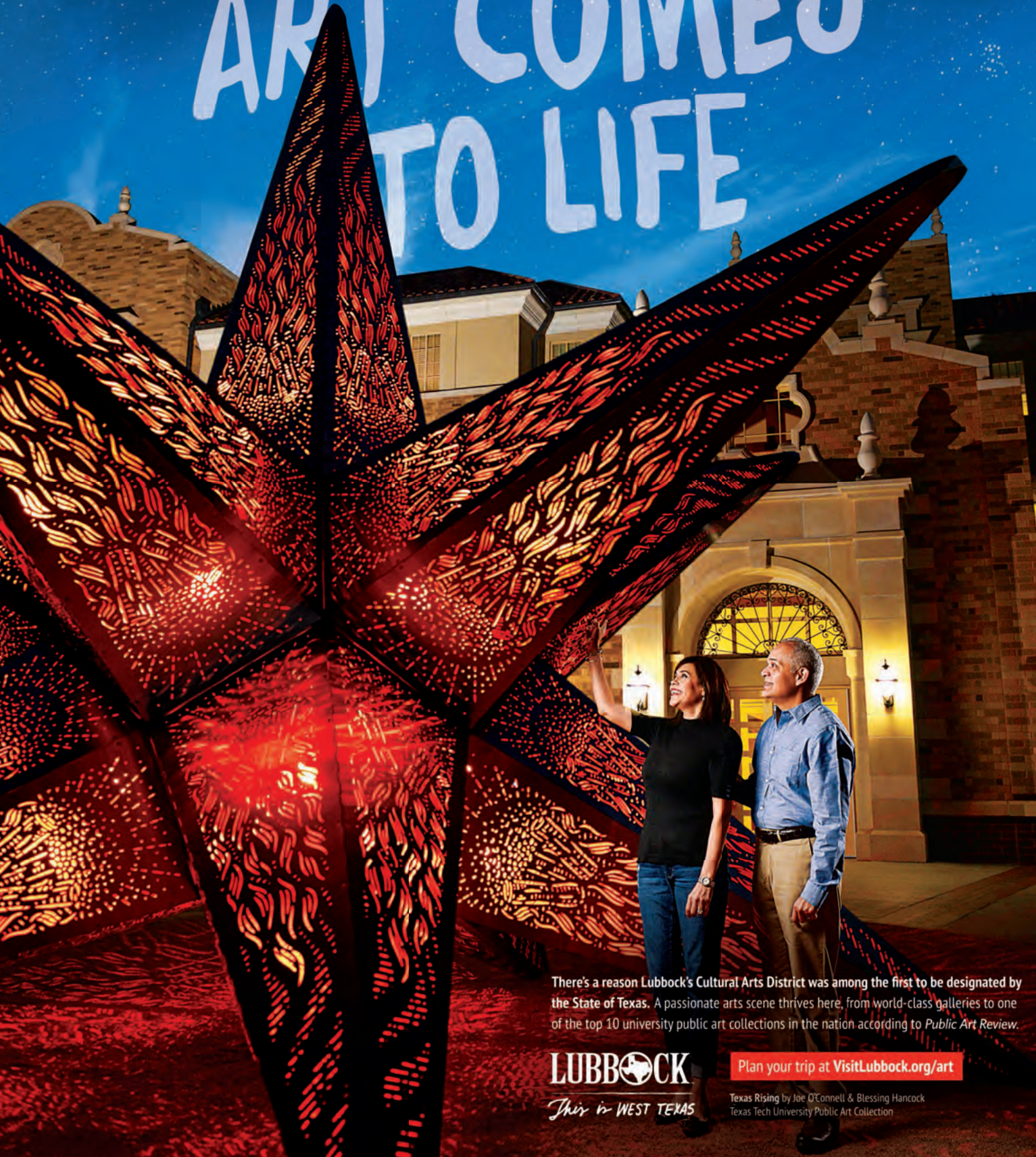
Redefining the Western art museum, the new Museum of the West also boasts a massive collection of cowboy gear and 100 "True West Moments" by Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell. A recent visitor entered one morning at opening and had to be kicked out at closing time—that's how cool the place is.

[ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org](http://ScottsdaleMuseumWest.org)

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*Booth Western Art Museum, Cartersville, GA*

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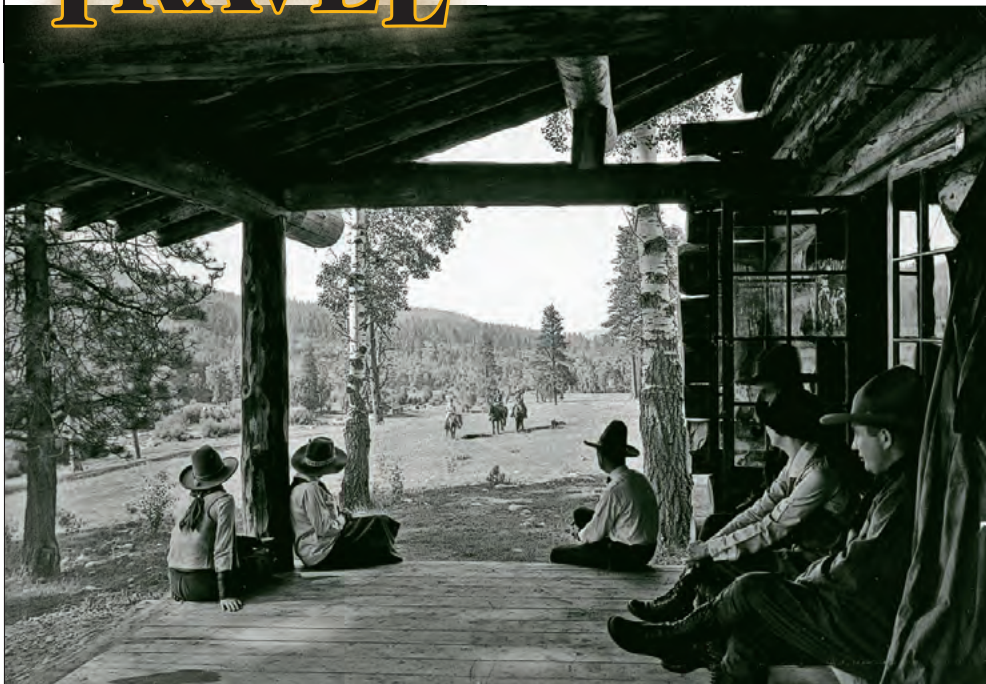
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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## 71 Canjilon Dude Ranch

Many big outfits in the West, including New Mexico's Canjilon Ranch, turned their headquarters into dude ranches for tourists to enjoy a real, Old West experience, near Canjilon, New Mexico, circa 1925.

— EDWARD KEMP/NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM, NEGATIVE NO. 053697 —

### ■ BEST MOVIE MUSEUM

#### John Wayne Birthplace Museum, Winterset, IA

Historic Madison County is where John Wayne's story begins—and continues! His modest four-room home, restored to reflect the time of his birth, is open for tours. Adjacent are the brand-new theater and John Wayne Birthplace Museum displaying an astounding collection of artifacts and memorabilia from the film legend's career.

[JohnWayneBirthplace.museum](http://JohnWayneBirthplace.museum)

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*The Museum of Western Film History, Lone Pine, CA*

### ■ BEST PRESERVED PIONEER TOWN RE-CREATED

#### Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer (Pioneer Town), Grand Island, NE

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[StuhrMuseum.org](http://StuhrMuseum.org)

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*Dodge City, KS*

### ■ BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC TRAIL

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

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*The Oregon Trail*

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## BEST OLD WEST ART TOWN

**Scottsdale, AZ**

A mecca of the testosterone-driven Western artwork that Santa Fe has abandoned, Old Town Scottsdale boasts galleries and a new Museum of the West, returning to its roots as the place to see the best in Western art, bar none. And visit Guidon Books for the best books on Western art.

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

## READERS' CHOICE:

**Cody, WY**

## BEST TOWN FOR HISTORIC ENTERTAINMENT

**Tombstone, AZ**

We recently got wind that two people were wounded in Tombstone because someone brought a loaded gun to a staged gunfight. So, how could we not recognize

Tombstone as the best place for old-time entertainment with that kind of commitment going on? We love that damn town in all its demented glory!

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

## READERS' CHOICE:

**Buffalo, WY**

## BEST ARCHITECTURALLY PRESERVED WESTERN TOWN

**Lincoln, NM**

No gas stations, convenience stores or modern businesses ruin the Old West vibe of Lincoln, which dodged the progress bullet and remains cocooned in sleepy authenticity. The courthouse where Billy the Kid made his escape still stands in its massive glory and every building along the snaky street is historic.

[NMMonuments.org](http://NMMonuments.org)

## READERS' CHOICE:

**Deadwood, SD**



## 72 Dinner on the Range

A hot meal and a dry bedroll kept cowboys fueled up and well rested while working on roundup and cattle drives, circa 1880-1910.

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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## 73 Lakeside Ranch

Famed California photographer Carleton E. Watkins chronicled the life of the working cowboy in 1888 on the Lakeside Ranch in Kern County, California.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

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Come explore our legends... Apache Junction, AZ  
[visitaj.com](http://visitaj.com)

## 74 Rest Up From Roundup

Townsend and Pickett cowboys rested at the headquarters on the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) Ranch along the Cimarron River in the late 1880s.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



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Cave Creek, Arizona

## 75 Captain Seth Bullock & Cowboys

On March 4, 1905, President-elect Teddy Roosevelt's friend and fellow Rough Rider Seth Bullock organized a group of cowboys to participate in the inaugural parade. The image's owner, Richard Wadsack, believes the man who is not marked (first row at right) may have been Prince, the photographer who set up the shot, as his label is placed near this man on the original print.

— COURTESY RICHARD WADSACK —



CAPT. SETH BULLOCK AND COWBOYS.  
Washington, D. C., March 4th, 1905.

PRINCE, FOTOGRAFER

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1. Geo. Fuller, 2. Frank Smith, 3. J.E. Duling, 4. C.H. Wilson, 5. L.E. M'Laughlin, 6. J.F. Conlon, 7. Capt. Seth Bullock, 8. Henry Leppla, 9. Frank Ackerman, 10. Mack Quest, 11. T.E. Mix, 12. Eugene Heitter, 13. Tom Howell, 14. Ed Henskie, 15. M. Ballantine, 16. Charlie Calhoun, 17. Ed Leppla, 18. Albe Holmes, 19. W.J. M'Laughlin, 20. Henry Roberts, 21. Percy Keys, 22. F.W. Wilson, 23. Robert Holcomb, 24. J.L. Driskoll, 25. Clyde Johnson, 26. Clarence Smith, 27. Boss Hitzel, 28. O.D. Johnson, 29. Robert M'Adam, 30. Jack Hale, 31. J.H. Minnick, 32. Ed Cessna, 33. Shark Hall, 34. Theo Shoomaker, 35. Dave Thompson, 36. G.W. Holmes, 37. Will M'Laughlin, 38. W.E. Bailey, 39. M. Hamilton, 40. Henry Wyttenbach.

### BEST WESTERN COWBOY TOWN

#### Lubbock, TX

Former Texas Ranger Thomas Saltus Lubbock's namesake city became incorporated in 1909, and soon rail service made it the "Hub of the Plains." Texas Tech University began in 1925, and two military bases opened during World War II. Today, visitors enjoy art, outdoor music, festivals and all manner of Western fun.

[VisitLubbock.org](http://VisitLubbock.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
Amarillo, TX

### BEST HISTORIC TOWN TOUR

#### Trail of Fame, Dodge City, KS

Sidewalk medallions and statues along Dodge City's Trail of Fame commemorate the city's famous and infamous denizens—and the actors who have portrayed them. Some celebrities have signed and left handprints in the concrete near their medallions. Pick up a map for the free walking tour at the information center.

[DodgeCityTrailofFame.org](http://DodgeCityTrailofFame.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
Historic Trolley Tour, Guthrie, OK

### BEST PROMOTION OF A HISTORIC PLACE

#### Las Vegas, NM

Once the first major stop on the Santa Fe Trail en route to the Wild West, Las Vegas, New Mexico, remains much the same today. Visitors can easily let their imaginations wander back more than 100 years to immerse themselves in the 900 stories its buildings on the National Historic Register tell.

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

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
Dodge City, KS

# HERITAGE TRAVEL

## BEST OLD WEST TOWN TO LIVE IN

### Prescott, AZ

Mile-high Prescott was the original Territorial capital of Arizona and is rich in Western history with a walkable historic downtown. It's the home of the World's Oldest Rodeo, and the surroundings—1.25 million acres of Prescott National Forest, four lakes and 450 miles of trails—make it an outdoor recreation paradise.

Visit-[Prescott.com](http://Prescott.com)

### READERS' CHOICE:

*Tombstone, AZ*

## BEST HISTORIC CEMETERY IN THE WEST

### Concordia Cemetery, El Paso, TX

Here lies notorious gunslinger John Wesley Hardin ("I never killed anyone who didn't need killing") and 60,000



## 76 Cowboy Spurs

Cowboys show off the diverse style of their spurs to a photographer chronicling their ranch work in 1903.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

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## 77 At Work

In 1896, a cowboy, who resembles Arizona Charlie Meadows, a champion roper, posed with his well-trained roping horse after he successfully lassoed and hog-tied a steer at a ranch in Graham County, Arizona.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

1923-25 locomotives used to pull today's train remain 100 percent coal-fired, steam-operated, and are maintained in their original condition.

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

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Cumbres & Toltec, Chama, NM*

**BEST HISTORIC RAILROAD EVENT**

**True West Railfest, Durango, CO**

Join the fun—food, music and all things rail—as Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and *True West Magazine* bring you True West Railfest, a celebration of Colorado railroading and the Western lifestyle.

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

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Georgetown Loop RR, Georgetown, CO (Christmas Train)*

souls—Buffalo Soldiers, Texas Rangers, Civil War veterans, early Mormon pioneers and local legends. Hardin was shot down while standing at the bar of the local Acme Saloon in 1895.

[ConcordiaCemetery.org](http://ConcordiaCemetery.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Boot Hill Cemetery, Dodge City, KS*

**BEST PRESERVED HISTORIC FORT OF THE WEST**

**Bents' Fort, CO**

Bents' Old Fort National Historic Site on the Santa Fe Trail was originally built as a fur-trading post in 1833-34 by brothers Charles and William Bent with Ceran St.

Vrain. Today, the reconstructed fort draws visitors to enjoy living history activities and to hear National Park staffers and re-enactors tell its 150-year-old stories.

[NPS.gov](http://NPS.gov)

**READERS' CHOICE:**  
*Fort Laramie, WY*

**BEST HISTORIC RAILROAD OF THE WEST**

**Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, CO**

The historic railroad has been in continuous operation since 1881, as its coal-fired, steam-powered trains carry passengers year-round through the majestic mountains of San Juan National Forest. The vintage

## 78 Three Cowboys

Photographer W.D. Harper chronicled cowboy life on the famous Texas Panhandle XIT Ranch in 1904.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



# HERITAGE TRAVEL

## BEST "WHO SLEPT HERE?" HOTEL

### The Irma Hotel, Cody, WY

Buffalo Bill Cody called the Irma Hotel "a gem" just outside of Yellowstone National Park. He built the place in 1902 and named it for his daughter. Today, guests can stay in modern accommodations or in historic rooms enjoyed by Frederic Remington, Annie Oakley, Calamity Jane or Bill Cody, himself.

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

## READERS' CHOICE:

**Hotel Colorado, CO**



## 79 Trail Herd Cowboy

Texan Noah Hamilton Rose (1874-1952) was a photographer and collector of frontier images across the West, including this portrait of a trail herd cowboy.

- N.H. ROSE COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA -

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A crew of cowboys stripped to their long johns to help their "cookie" save their bedrolls and food from being lost to the rising waters and shifting sands of a tricky river crossing.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

### BEST HERITAGE HOTEL

#### St. James Hotel, Cimarron, NM

Frenchman Henri Lambert, whose life became intertwined with the people of a place later known as the Village of Cimarron, NM, built the original St. James Hotel. Its location along the Santa Fe Trail, and its fine food and atmosphere attracted colorful Old West characters—from lawmen to outlaws and everyone in between.

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

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*The Strater Hotel, Durango, CO*

### BEST BED AND BREAKFAST

#### Boot Hill Bed and Breakfast, Dodge City, KS

A decade later, the owners of Boot Hill Bed and Breakfast still love innkeeping, and remain committed to offering clean rooms plus great food, amenities and hospitality. In turn, their guests have become "extended family," for whom they run the inn with care, because, they say, "that is the right way to operate it."

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

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*Ferris Mansion, Rawlins, WY*

### BEST HISTORIC SALOON OF THE WEST

#### The Palace Saloon, Prescott, AZ

The Palace, which opened its doors in 1877, is the oldest frontier saloon in Arizona. In 1996 it made *USA Today's* list of the 10 most historic bars in the country. Today, the completely restored saloon serves up steaks, seafood, salads and sandwiches—and the friendliest service in town.

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

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*Occidental Saloon, Buffalo, WY*

### BEST HISTORIC RESTAURANT

#### The Buckhorn Exchange, Denver, CO

Buckhorn Exchange, which holds Colorado's first liquor license, opened in 1893. Back then, railroad workers scrambled every Friday to exchange their paychecks for gold and a token for a free lunch and a beer, which guaranteed the restaurant's success. After all, whoever heard of a railroad man stopping after only one beer?

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

#### READERS' CHOICE:

*Long Branch Saloon, Dodge City, KS*



# HERITAGE TRAVEL

## ■ BEST OLD WEST EVENT

**Fur Trade Symposium at Bents' Old Fort in La Junta, CO (returned in 2015, after a 27-year hiatus)**

The 2015 Fur Trade Symposium returned to the Southern Rockies for the first time since 1988. The conference attracts scholars, fur trade re-enactors and enthusiasts, students, teachers, and anyone interested in the history of the fur trade, the growth of the nation and the cultural interactions of the era.

*2015FTS.org*

### READERS' CHOICE:

*Tom Mix Festival & Western Heritage Weekend, Dewey, OK*

## ■ BEST RANCH RODEO

**WRCA World Championship, Amarillo, TX (celebrated 20 years in 2015)**

The WRCA World Championship Rodeo celebrated its 20th year in 2015. Real working ranch cowboys and ranchers gather for the exciting events in tough competition for the title.

*WRCA.org*

### READERS' CHOICE:


*Winnemucca Ranch Rodeo, Winnemucca, NV*

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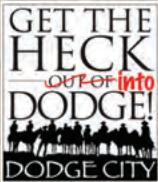
Out here, you can still witness a gunfight, enjoy a great steak, try your luck at the Boot Hill Casino, or watch a beautiful sunset.

Heck, we even enjoy a great rodeo every summer.

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Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau



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# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## 81 Bronc Rider

Breaking horses for the ranch owner to assure a strong remuda for work and income has always been a highly touted skill of working cowboys, circa 1922.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

## BEST CHUCK WAGON COOK-OFF

### Grand Encampment Cowboy Gathering, Encampment, WY

Folks gather to enjoy music, Cowboy Church, dancing, food, tours of historic buildings, cooking demonstrations, stick-horse rodeo, cowboy poetry, and more with the goal of promoting and preserving the Western way of life.

[GrandEncampmentGathering.org](http://GrandEncampmentGathering.org)

### READERS' CHOICE:

*Cheyenne Frontier Days,  
Cheyenne, WY*

## BEST CHUCK WAGON SHOW & SUPPER

### National Cowboy Symposium, Lubbock, TX

The cowboy fun celebrating our Western heritage includes entertainment, poetry and storytelling, Western writers and authors, panels, film and movie seminars, a Youth Wild West Day, horse-handling

demonstrations, a horse-themed parade, Native American Indian activities and presentations, the ever-popular Chuck Wagon Cookoff, and exhibits of Western artworks and merchandise.

[Cowboy.org](http://Cowboy.org)

### READERS' CHOICE:

*Lincoln County Cowboy  
Symposium, Ruidoso, NM*

## BEST HERITAGE GUEST RANCH

### White Stallion Ranch, Tucson, AZ

The White Stallion Guest Ranch outside of Tucson, AZ, oozes Old West charm and character with authentic food and individual casitas, and an old-style lodge. Horseback riding still reins (ahem) supreme and the saguaro-studded trails on the property, where several Western movies were filmed, alone are worth the price.

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

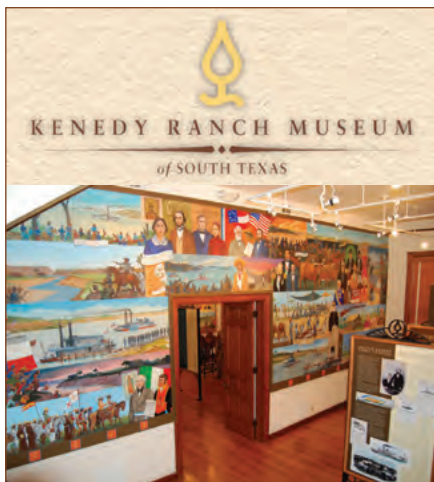
### READERS' CHOICE:

*Flying E Ranch, Wickenburg, AZ*

## BEST COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

### National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko, NV

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[www.kenedymuseum.org](http://www.kenedymuseum.org)



Gathering and cultural festival has celebrated the poetry, music and traditional arts of the American West. The 32nd National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 25-30, 2016, in Elko, NV, spotlights the flowing grasslands, vast open spaces and indigo skies of the Northern Plains.

[WesternFolkLife.org](http://WesternFolkLife.org)

**READERS' CHOICE:**

**National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration, Lubbock, TX**

**BEST COWBOY MUSIC GATHERING**

**Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western Swing Festival**

The gathering, celebrating 25 years, features a weekend of great events, including a wagon train and trail ride from Jacksboro, trappings show, cowboy poetry, cowboy music, a youth poetry contest, youth fiddle competition, youth chuck wagon cook-off, Texas Trail of Fame, Cowboy Church, cowboy gospel concert and Western swing dances.

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

**READERS' CHOICE:**

**Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Gathering**

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Currently available are; numbered, special edition miniatures of the famous Doc Holliday statue which sits near the visitors center, a specially made commemorative Dodge City Trail of Fame Ruger revolver and our current project, a numbered, special edition miniature or bust of James Arness as Matt Dillon. Donations for these items go toward the life sized, bronze statue of Matt Dillon by artist Tony Cipriano.

More information including ordering and donation levels may be found on our website:

<http://www.DodgeCityTrailofFame.org>



Dodge City Trail of Fame  
[info@DodgeCityTrailofFame.org](mailto:info@DodgeCityTrailofFame.org)  
 P.O. Box 1243, Dodge City, KS 67801  
 620-561-1925



## 82 Rita Blanco Cañon

Cowboys from the 101 Ranch prepared to ride out for a day's work from Rita Blanco Canyon near Dalhart, Texas, circa 1904.

- W.D. HARPER/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



## 83 Cowboy Mess

Photographer John C. H. Grabill chronicled South Dakota frontier life between 1887 and 1892, including the camp life of the working cowboy.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

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## 84 Riding Herd

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— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## 85 Branding on the Cross-B

At the Cross-B Ranch in Texas, cowboy Frank Smith branded a maverick in the open range with a ring branding iron, circa 1909.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



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www.stuhrmuseum.org  
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## 86 Breaking Camp

In 1904 cowboys broke camp while on roundup on the Texas Panhandle JA Ranch, founded by John George Adair and Charles Goodnight in 1879.

— W.D. HARPER/ LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

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## 87 Ready to Ride

A cowboy faced dangerous, hard work on a daily basis, and he depended on the best horse, tack (note the woolie saddlebags and snake chaps), tools and firearms to survive.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



## 88 Grub Time

Arriving in Dodge City, Kansas, in 1890, F.M. "Frank" Steele traveled the plains taking photographs of working ranches, including suppertime at a chuck wagon with the brands of the F Lazy S and the Triangle Bar, circa 1905.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

# HERITAGE TRAVEL



## 89 Cowboy Self-Portrait

Photographer Erwin E. Smith made his full-length portrait on horseback on the rangeland near his hometown of Bonham, Texas, circa 1908.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

## BEST OLD WEST RE-ENACTMENT

### Battle of Little Big Horn Re-enactment

Near Gary Owen, MT, on the Crow Reservation, the Real Bird Family hosts a re-enactment of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. On June 24-26, watch Native braves and Cavalry troopers crash through the river, and battle along its banks, where some believe Custer was killed.

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

### READERS' CHOICE:

*Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield, MN*

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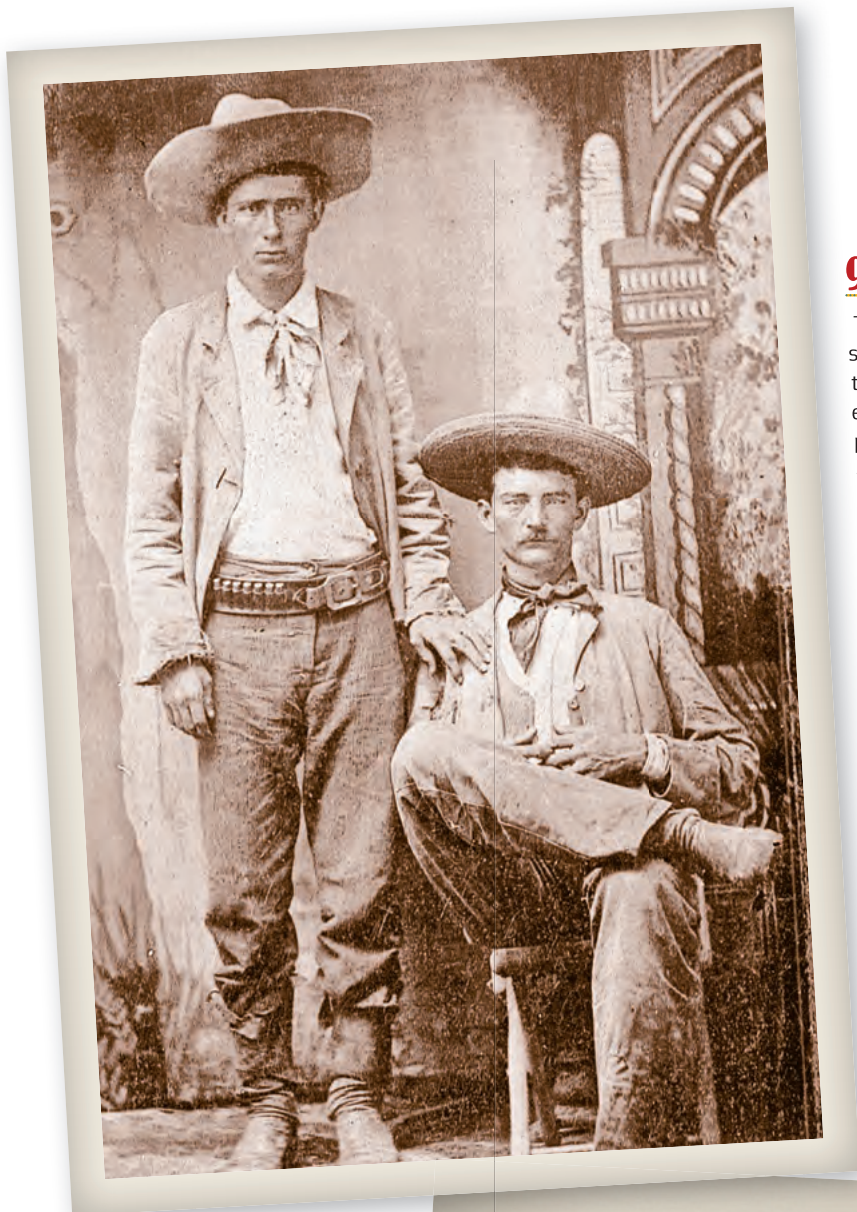
## Pan for Gold!

# HERITAGE TRAVEL

## 90 Ragged Cowboys

This 1870s tintype shows working cowboys in somewhat ragged clothes and Mexican hats, indicating that they are probably in south Texas. The cowboys either didn't have time to put on better clothes for the photographer, or these are the best they had.

—COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION—



## BEST OLD WEST RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

### Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Prescott, AZ

Members of the Prescott Regulators & Their Shady Ladies, Inc., an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, are the “Official Old West Ambassadors” of historic Prescott. They host the annual Shootout on Whiskey Row, participate in re-enactment events and parades throughout Arizona, donating all profits to locally based charities.

[PrescottRegulators.org](http://PrescottRegulators.org)

### READERS' CHOICE:

**TIE: *The Nevada Gunfighters & Six Guns & Shady Ladies, El Paso, TX***

## 91 Cowboys Working

When cowboys signed on to work for the big outfits of the Texas Panhandle, they knew it meant long days of branding on the treeless open range, circa 1904.

—W.D. HARPER/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS—





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### 92 Wild West Promoter

Oklahoma rancher and 101 Ranch & Wild West Show owner, Joe Miller proudly poses on his Arab stallion Ben-Hur. Joe was the oldest of three brothers who inherited the famed Ponca City area ranch from their father George Washington Miller.

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### 93 Home on the Range

The movies show cowboys bedding down using their saddle as a pillow and the saddle blanket to lie on. The real cowboys wanted it a little bit softer. They had bags filled with feathers, down, and/or cotton. When rolled up, they were too big to carry on the backs of their horses, so they were loaded into the wagons that followed the cowboys on roundups and cattle drives.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

# HERITAGE TRAVEL

## ■ BEST WILD WEST SHOW

### Dr. Buck's Wild Western Festival, Glendale, AZ

This festival keeps America's Western heritage alive with its unique "History Meets Hollywood" theme. Guests are entertained and educated as they enjoy a roundup of performers and artisans. Experience the sights and sounds of the Wild West, and see why the event has been called a "Wild West Renaissance Festival." [WildWesternFestival.com](http://WildWesternFestival.com)

## READERS' CHOICE:

### *Cheyenne Frontier Days*

## ■ BEST HISTORIC WESTERN RODEO

### Pendleton Round-Up, Pendleton, OR

The Pendleton Round-Up began in 1910, and the rodeo today—still held in the same location with no in-arena advertising—continues as the "epic drama of the West" with its wooden chutes and unique, timed run-down alley. The roundup earned designation as a Heritage Culture Event from the state of Oregon. [PendletonRoundUp.com](http://PendletonRoundUp.com)

## READERS' CHOICE:

### *The World's Oldest Rodeo, Prescott, AZ*

## ■ BEST TREASURE-HUNTING DEVICE

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## 94 Hashknife Cowboys

The Hashknife cowboys, including George “DeDaddy” Hennessey, who is thought to be the gentleman in the middle left, wearing a white shirt and black vest, were photographed having dinner for a series of images sold as postcards.

— COURTESY JAN MACKELL COLLINS —

## 95 Everyday Cowboy

Want to know what a typical frontier cowboy looked like?

This cowboy fits the description (at least the top half!) given in an 1871 Kansas newspaper: “His dress consists of a flannel shirt with a handkerchief encircling his neck, butternut pants and a pair of long boots, in which are always the legs of his pants. His head is covered by a sombrero, which is a Mexican hat with a high crown and a brim of enormous dimensions.”

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



# HERITAGE TRAVEL

## 96 Hartley Ranch

A family and local cowboys posed in 1886 next to their sod house and corral at the Hartley Ranch, Lillian Township on the Middle Loup River, Custer County, Nebraska, for itinerant Great Plains photographer Solomon Devore Butcher.

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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JANUARY 2016



## MARDI GRAS WEEKEND

Deadwood, SD, January 29-30: Celebrate Mardi Gras in the Wild West, with a weekend full of free parades, costume contests, parties and live music.

800-999-1876 • [Deadwood.com](http://Deadwood.com)

## ADVENTURE

### POLAR BEAR STOMP

Eagle Nest, NM, January 1: Kick off the new year with a guided tour through one of the snow covered trails of Eagle Nest State Park.

575-377-3010 • [AngelFireChamber.org](http://AngelFireChamber.org)

## ART SHOWS

### BORN OF FIRE: MARGARET TAFOYA, SANTA CLARA POTTER

Taos, NM, January 4-29: The life, artwork and influence of Margaret Tafoya is honored in this pottery exhibition at Millicent Rogers Museum.

575-758-2462 • [NewMexico.org](http://NewMexico.org)

### AMERICAN INDIAN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Litchfield Park, AZ, January 8-10: American Indian artists display jewelry, pottery, basketry, weaving, katsinas, painting and beadwork.

623-935-9040 • [Litchfield-Park.org](http://Litchfield-Park.org)

### ARIZONA FINE ART EXPO

Scottsdale, AZ, Opens January 22: This juried art festival held in the heart of the Sonoran Desert features works by more than 100 artists. 480-837-7163 • [ArizonaFineArtExpo.com](http://ArizonaFineArtExpo.com)

### CAREFREE FINE ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Carefree, AZ, Jan. 29-31: High Sonoran Desert town closes its streets for Southwestern and American Indian art show and wine tastings.

480-837-5637 • [ThunderbirdArtists.com](http://ThunderbirdArtists.com)

### SOUTHWEST ARTS FESTIVAL

Indio, CA, January 29-31: This Southwestern art festival features interactive art, pottery, blown glass and fine art created by more than 250 artists.

760-347-0676 • [SouthwestArtsFest.com](http://SouthwestArtsFest.com)

## GUN SHOW

### ARIZONA ANTIQUE & COLLECTOR FIREARMS SHOW

Mesa, AZ, January 9-10: This gun show at Centennial Hall showcases antique, collectible and modern firearms from hundreds of vendors.

801-544-9125 • [CrossroadsGunShows.com](http://CrossroadsGunShows.com)



## NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Elko, NV, January 25-30: Celebrate cowboy and ranch lifestyles through music and poetry at this gathering held at the Western Folklife Center.

775-738-7508 • [WesternFolklife.org](http://WesternFolklife.org)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### HAVASU BALLOON FESTIVAL & FAIR

Lake Havasu, AZ, January 15-17: Hot air balloons decorate the sky at this fair that also features skydiver shows, an art village and live music.

928-505-2440 • [HavasuBalloonFest.com](http://HavasuBalloonFest.com)

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# WESTERN



### HIGH NOON SHOW & AUCTION

Mesa, AZ, January 23-24: Enjoy a showcase of Western Americana artifacts, plus bid on Western art, American Indian jewelry and cowboy gear at the auction.  
800-835-9873 • [OldWestEvents.com](http://OldWestEvents.com)

### BIG 'OLE TEXAS WEEKEND

Angel Fire, NM, January 23-24: Celebrate Western heritage with live music, skiing and snowboarding at Angel Fire Resort.  
800-446-8117 • [AngelFireChamber.org](http://AngelFireChamber.org)

### CAVE CREEK INDIAN MARKET

Cave Creek, AZ, January 29-31: Celebrate Southwest history with wares by American Indian and Southwestern artists and artisans.  
623-734-6526 • [VermillionPromotions.com](http://VermillionPromotions.com)

### LECTURE

#### LARRY MCMURTRY AND THE LITERARY GENRE OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Fort Worth, TX, January 29: Explore Larry McMurtry's popular novel *Lonesome Dove* at this presentation by Dr. David Anderson at the Sid Richardson Museum.  
817-332-6554 • [SidRichardsonMuseum.org](http://SidRichardsonMuseum.org)

### MUSIC

#### JERSEY BOYS

Oklahoma City, OK, January 12-17: Head to Civic Center Music Hall to watch the Tony-winning musical about the Rock 'n' Roll hall of famers, the Four Seasons.  
405-297-2264 • [VisitOKC.com](http://VisitOKC.com)

### STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS

#### NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

Denver, CO, January 9-24: This more-than-a-century-old livestock show hosts livestock and horse sales and seminars, plus rodeo events.  
303-296-6977 • [NationalWestern.com](http://NationalWestern.com)

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# ROUNDUP

FOR JANUARY 2016



### FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Fort Worth, TX, Opens January 15: Held since 1896, Fort Worth's exposition livestock show and rodeo features livestock auctions and live music.  
817-877-2400 • [FWSSR.com](http://FWSSR.com)

### INTERNATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Oklahoma City, OK, January 15-17: Cowboys and cowgirls compete in eight rodeo events for the title of world champion.  
405-948-6800 • [VisitOKC.com](http://VisitOKC.com)



### COLORADO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Golden, CO, January 21-24: Features cowboy poetry performances by Chuck Pyle (shown), Floyd Beard, Liz Masterson and Mary Kaye.  
720-213-6446

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



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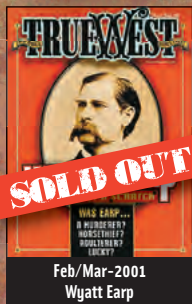
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Wyatt Earp



Nov/Dec-2002  
Butch & Sundance



Jul-2003  
Doc & Wyatt



Mar-2004  
Fakes/Fake Doc



Sep-2004  
Wild Bunch



Jun-2005  
Jesus Out West



Dec-2006  
Buffalo Gals & Guys



Oct-2006  
Tombstone/125th OK Corral



Oct-2007  
3:10 to Yuma



Oct-2008  
Charlie Russell



Sep-2009  
500 Yrs Before Cowboys



Nov/Dec-2010  
Black Warriors of the West



Apr-2011  
True Grit/Bridges & Wayne



Jun-2012  
Wyatt on the Set



Jul-2012  
Deadly Trackers



Jan-2013  
John Wayne



Mar-2013  
Arizona Rangers



Nov-2013  
Soiled Doves

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- May: Samuel Walker
- Jun: Frontier Half-Bloods
- Jul: Billy & the Kids
- Aug: John Wayne
- Sep: Border Breed
- Oct: Halloween Issue
- Nov: Apache Scout
- Dec: Mountain Men

### 2001

- Jan: Topless Gunfighter
- Feb/Mar: Wyatt Earp
- Apr: Geronimo Smiling
- May/June: Custer
- Jul: Cowboys & Cowtowns
- Aug/Sep: Wild Bill
- Oct: Redman
- Nov/Dec: Doc Holiday

### 2002

- Jan: Uncommon Men
- Feb/Mar: Alamo
- Apr: The Scout
- May/June: Wayward Women
- Jul: Texas Rangers
- Aug/Sep: Jesse James
- Oct: Billy On The Brain
- Nov/Dec: Butch & Sundance

### 2003

- Jan: 50 Historical Photos
- Feb/Mar: 50 Guns
- Apr: John Wayne
- Spring: Jackalope Creator Dies
- May/June: Custer Killer
- Jul: Doc & Wyatt
- Aug/Sep: A General Named Dorothy
- Oct: Vera McGinnis
- Nov/Dec: Worst Westerns Ever

### 2004

- Jan/Feb: Six Guns
- Mar: Fakes/Fake Doc
- April/Travel: Visit the Old West
- May: Iron Horse/Sacred Dogs
- Jun: HBO's Deadwood
- Jul: 17 Legends
- Aug: JW Hardin
- Sep: Wild Bunch
- Oct: Bill Pickett
- Nov/Dec: Dale Evans

### 2005

- Jan/Feb: Rare Photos
- Mar: Deadwood/McShane
- Apr: 77 Sunset Trips
- May: Trains/Collector's Edition
- Jun: Jesus Out West
- Jul: All Things Cowboy
- Aug: History of Western Wear
- Sep: Gambling
- Oct: Blaze Away/Wyatt
- Nov/Dec: Gay Western? Killer DVDs

### 2006

- Jan/Feb: Mexican Insurgents
- Mar: Kit Carson
- Apr: I've Been Everywhere, Man
- May: The Racial Frontier
- Jun: Playing Sports in the OW
- Jul/Aug: Dude! Where's My Ranch?
- Sep: Indian Yell
- Oct: Tombstone/125th Ok Corral
- Nov: Gambling
- Dec: Buffalo Gals & Guys

### 2007

- Jan/Feb: Cowboys Are Indians
- Mar: Trains/Jim Clark
- Apr: Western Travel
- May: Dreamscape Desperado/Billy
- Jun: Collecting the West/Photos
- Jul: Man Who Saved The West
- Aug: Western Media/Best Reads

- Sep: Endurance Of The Horse
- Oct: 3:10 To Yuma
- Nov/Dec: Brad Pitt & Jesse James

### 2008

- Jan/Feb: Pat Garrett/No Country
- Mar: Who Killed the Train?
- Apr: Travel/Geronimo
- May: Who Stole Buffalo Bill's Home?
- Jun: The Last Cowboy President?
- Jul: Secrets of Our Nat'l Parks/Teddy
- Aug: Kendrick's Northern CBs/Photos
- Sep: Saloons & Stagecoaches
- Oct: Charlie Russell
- Nov/Dec: Mickey Free

### 2009

- Jan/Feb: Border Riders
- Mar: Poncho Villa
- Apr: Stagecoach
- May: Battle For The Alamo
- Jun: Custer's Ride To Glory
- Jul: Am West, Then & Now
- Aug: Wild West Shows
- Sep: Vaquero/500 Yrs Before CBs
- Oct: Capturing Billy
- Nov/Dec: Chaco Canyon

### 2010

- Jan/Feb: Top 10 Western Towns
- Mar: Trains/Pony Express
- Apr: OW Destinations/Clint Eastwood
- May: Legendary Sonny Jim
- Jun: Extreme Western Adventures
- Jul: Starvation Trail/AZ Rough Riders
- Aug: Digging Up Billy the Kid
- Sep: Classic Rodeo!
- Oct: Extraordinary Western Art
- Nov/Dec: Black Warriors of the West

### 2011

- Jan/Feb: Sweethearts of the Rodeo
- Mar: 175th Anniv Battle of the Alamo
- Apr: Three True Grits

- May: Historic Ranches
- Jun: Tin Type Billy
- Jul: Viva, Outlaw Women!
- Aug: Was Geronimo A Terrorist?
- Sep: Western Museums/CBs & Aliens
- Oct: Hard Targets
- Nov/Dec: Butch Cassidy is Back

### 2012

- Feb: Az Crazy Road to Statehood
- Mar: Special Entertainment Issue
- Apr: Riding Shotgun with History
- May: The Outlaw Cowboys of NM
- Jun: Wyatt On The Set!
- July: Deadly Trackers
- Aug: How Did Butch & Sundance Die?
- Sep: The Heros of Northfield
- Oct: Bravest Lawman You Never
- Nov: Armed & Courageous
- Dec: Legend of Climax Jim

### 2013

- Jan: Best of the West/John Wayne
- Feb: Rocky Mountain Rangers
- Mar: Arizona Rangers
- Apr: US Marshals
- May: Texas Rangers
- Jun: Doc's Last Gunfight
- Jul: Comanche Killers!
- Aug: Tombstone 20th Annv
- Sep: Ambushed on the Pecos
- Oct: Outlaws, Lawmen & Gunfighters
- Nov: Soiled Doves
- Dec: Cowboy Ground Zero

### 2014

- Jan: Best 100 Historical Phtoos
- Feb: Assn. of Pat Garrett
- Mar: Stand-up Gunfights
- Apr: Wyatt Earp Alaska

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# Unpleasant End for Blevins

## What happened to Mart "Old Man" Blevins of the Pleasant Valley War?

Gail Marcroft  
Concho, Arizona

I wrote about the fate of Mart "Old Man" Blevins in my new book, *Arizona Outlaws and Lawmen*. He disappeared during the range war fought between two feuding ranching families, the Grahams and Tewksburys, that history has recorded as the Pleasant Valley War. Here is an excerpt:

"In June, 1887, Andy, Charley and Hamp [Blevins] left the Canyon Creek ranch and rode to Holbrook for supplies. The morning they left, Old Man Blevins rode out to look for some horses that had been turned out to graze in the canyon. The horses were gone and he suspected they'd been stolen. He rode back to the



John Blevins was wounded, but survived the onslaught from Apache County Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens at the Blevins home. The governor pardoned John. Shown here are John's kids, Lila and Andy.

- COURTESY NAVAJO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY -



Ask The Marshall

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and vice president of the Wild West History Association.

His latest book is *Arizona's Outlaws and Lawmen*; History Press, 2015.

If you have a question, write:

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



## 97 Known By Their Brand

Branding was serious business on the American frontier where so many depended on cattle for their livelihoods.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

house and told his son John he was going in pursuit while the trail was still warm. On the trail he met a neighbor and the two went searching for the missing horses.

"The neighbor returned four days later and told Mrs. Blevins that Old Man was still trailing the animals. Blevins never returned and his body was never found but it was suspected that Tewksbury partisans had killed him. It was also claimed they fed his body to the feral hogs that roamed the Rim country. These were not ordinary hogs as they were wild as deer, big as black bears and mean as badgers. The Blevins boys returned from Holbrook and searched the area but found no trace of their dad."

## When did the practice of branding livestock begin in the U.S.?

Jim Martin  
Waco, Texas

Branding of livestock dates to the Egyptians to around 2,700 BCE. The practice spread to Europe during the Middle Ages and was introduced in today's Southwestern U.S. by Spanish and later Mexican vaqueros in the 1500s. Open ranges made branding essential for ranchers to identify their cows during a roundup where cattle from many ranches were gathered.

Gregorio Villalobos and Hernán Cortés introduced cattle to North America in

1520-21. The first brands, however, were not on the livestock, but on the Aztec slaves, branded with “G,” for *guerra* (prisoner of war), on their cheeks. The conquistadors began branding cattle soon afterwards.

Americans arrived in Texas during the 1820s and soon adopted the customs of Spanish charros, becoming the cowboys of legend.

**I'm a fan of AMC's *Hell on Wheels*. Is the route constructed from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Sacramento, California, still in use today?**

*Mark Wilson  
San Diego, California*

The first Transcontinental Railroad, built in the 1860s, was primarily two lines, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific; the former building west and the latter heading east. Some portions of the route, including the historic meeting point at Promontory Summit in Utah, were later abandoned.

Trains still chug over most of the original Transcontinental Railroad route. The Union Pacific travels from Omaha, Nebraska, all the way to California. Lines run over the original roadbed of the formidable Sierra Nevada mountain range and the intimidating canyons of Utah and Wyoming. From Interstate 80, travelers can see the Central Pacific line, along with the snow sheds the railroad built to allow trains to move safely through the same area that doomed the Donner Party wagon train during the winter of 1846-47.

Passengers can luxuriate in daily train travel on Amtrak's California Zephyr route, from San Francisco, California, to Chicago, Illinois.



Snow sheds can be seen in this photo of Donner Lake in today's Truckee, California, taken from Donner Pass in 1868 as the Central Pacific Railroad neared completion.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

**If Billy the Kid would have been given a fair trial in the Cahill incident, would the Kid have been convicted of murder or a lesser charge?**

*James Bradham  
San Francisco, California*

Just to review, Frank “Windy” Cahill was a blacksmith at Arizona's Fort Grant

An eyewitness reported that blacksmith Frank “Windy” Cahill sat on Billy the Kid and “pinned [the Kid's] arms down with his knees and started slapping his face.” The Kid slipped his right arm free, “pulled his sixgun and stuck it in [Cahill's] stomach and fired...”

— ILLUSTRATED BY BOB BOZE BELL /  
THE ILLUSTRATED LIFE AND TIMES  
OF BILLY THE KID —



who reportedly bullied Henry “Billy the Kid” McCarty over a period of time. During an argument on August 17, 1877, Cahill pinned the Kid to the ground and pummeled him; the Kid pulled a gun and shot Cahill, who died the next day. At least one witness regarded it as self-defense, which, in my opinion, demonstrates that the Kid had a good chance of being cleared of any crime with the help of an attorney. But he ran away from the law instead.

### How many Indians died at the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn?

*Vanessa Grandos  
Scottsdale, Arizona*

The best number to go by is 31 warriors plus 10 noncombatants, not counting the Indian scouts working for the U.S. Army.

### Why aren't great supporting actors in Westerns shown respect?

*Joe Palombi  
Roaming Shores, Ohio*

Those who take Western films seriously hold great supporting actors, such as



## 98 Trail Cowboy Meals

Cowboys generally ate the same meal—beans, bacon, biscuits and dried fruit, washed down with coffee—every day they were on the trail. Some chuckwagon cooks and cowboys managed to improve these meals; turn to *Frontier Fare* for more.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Jack Elam, Strother Martin and Ernest Borgnine, in the highest esteem. They didn't win Oscars (excepting Borgnine, for a non-Western role), but they never worried about finding work. They may not have gotten the public recognition of the “big stars,” but their peers and employers admired them.

### What bacon did trail cowboys eat?

*Dave Macon  
Shreveport, Louisiana*

Bacon was a staple on trail rides and at line camps. The cowboys were actually eating “sowbelly.” It was pork fat from the belly, and perhaps the back and sides, of a hog carcass, cured with salt. Sowbelly could last a long time without spoiling.

### What is a cowboy?

*Billy Murphy  
Las Cruces, New Mexico*

A cowboy is generally considered to be someone who tends cattle herds on North American ranches—usually from horseback. Historically, cowboys were regarded as independent, self-reliant, resourceful, proud, fearless and sometimes reckless.

A whole pack of wonderful character actors are shown in this still from 1954's *Vera Cruz*. (From left) Gary Cooper and Burt Lancaster face off in the foreground, with Jack Elam, Ernest Borgnine and Charles Bronson looking on.

— COURTESY UNITED ARTISTS —



## 99 Waddies

Besides “waddies,” cowboys were also known as: “ranahans,” “leather-pounders,” “saddle-slicers” and more often “cowhands.”

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION —



The word “cowboy” in the United States dates to the Revolutionary War, when British Tories used cowbells to lure Patriot herdsmen into the woods for ambush. “Cowboy” became synonymous with “rustler” during the 1880s due to the outlaw cowboys running around Arizona’s Cochise County.

The best descriptions I’ve heard of cowboys is a composite of sayings I have gathered over the years: “Noisy fellers with bow legs and brass stomachs that work from the hurricane deck of a half-broke cow horse. They live in and love the outdoors; hate fences and respect rivers; throw one of ’em into a river, and he’ll naturally float upstream. The only way to get rid of one is to cut off his head and bury it someplace where he can’t find it.”

### What does “waddie” mean?

Walt “Waddie” Clark  
Austin, Texas

“Waddie” or “waddy” was originally a derogatory word for a thief or rustler, and the word gradually evolved into meaning

a lower-class hired hand on horseback. Wordsmith Ramon F. Adams believed waddie was coined by cattlemen from “wad,” which describes someone who fills in on a ranch during the busy season, such as spring or fall. “Wad” derives from “wadding”—something that fills in. Others believe waddie is an old British word for a less-than-savory or careless person. Nowadays, the word applies to any cowboy.

### What does “four-flusher” mean?

Walter Serafin  
Shawnee, Kansas

Wordsmith Ramon F. Adams defined a four-flusher as a bluffer, an incompetent person pretending to be competent. Contemporary wordsmith Win Blevins

adds: “A trickster, a bluffer. It comes from poker and the daring experience of bluffing that you have a flush, when you only have four cards of a flush.”



A four-flusher could be sitting among these cowboys, although these jokers may not have been playing with a full deck.

— THE THREE STOOGES COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES —



# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



Robb Kendrick (left) shares his favorite historical cowboy photograph, of a Wyoming cowboy photographed by Charles D. Kirkland, circa 1880s (below inset), and a 21st-century cowboy tintype Kendrick photographed, of cowpuncher Brandon Muncy at the ORO Ranch in Arizona.

**I have traveled** 68,000 miles over 30 years searching for cowboys.

**I enjoy the tintype medium** because tintypes slow you down to consider the image being made more thoughtfully, plus you get to know the subjects better because of the time spent with them.

**The funniest cowboy moment:** Having a cowboy's horse kick my truck after nearly an hour of making an image. Not funny at the time, but showed the lack of patience the horse had for the process. (The tintype exposure time varies between four seconds and 90 seconds.)

**I've been photographing cowboys** since the 1980s because I respect those who live this life and wish I could be one of them.

**To process my** tintypes on the road, I have to take a portable darkroom with lots of hazardous chemicals.

**Those cowboys who respect** my photography do so because they recognize it's hard work to get one successful image—unlike digital, which is like using a factory trawler to fish; tintypes are like fly-fishing.

**The most challenging environment** for tintype chemistry is a cold, dry environment.

**Cowboys around the world** are similar in that they love being outdoors on a horse and being their own boss.

**The most interesting comment about** one of my cowboy photos came when an Italian magazine asked who does the propping and styling of the cowboys. I told them the cowboys are quite good stylists!

**My cousin worked at** 6666 Ranch, and as a teen I always enjoyed a visit to the ranch to watch a branding. Growing up in the Texas Panhandle showed me how flat the earth really is.

**My two sons have taught me** patience, love and understanding. I respect the men they have become.

**The secret to a happy marriage is** to throw curve balls and always keep your spouse guessing.



## ROBB KENDRICK, TINTYPE COWBOY

Robb Kendrick is old school in many ways, not just in his photography, where he prefers tintypes to digital film, but also in life: he opts for real-life experiences and does not engage in social media. His photographs have appeared in *National Geographic* and *Life* magazines. He developed a special interest in working cowboys starting in the 1980s, publishing his tintype cowboys in the books *Revealing Character* and *Still*. A native of Spur, Texas, Kendrick has traveled to more than 75 countries on assignment, with his wife and two sons sometimes joining in on the adventure.

**My wife Jeannie's** book about homeschooling kids around the world shares the importance of experiencing new things as a family.

**The best advice my** mother gave me: never be dependent on others. Clean, cook and provide for yourself, and you'll be fine.

**Working at *National Geographic* requires** strict adherents to respect, integrity and your subjects.

**The cowboy gear that most** fascinates me: the chaps, denim and hats.

**My favorite Western movie is** 1976's *The Outlaw Josey Wales*—especially when Clint Eastwood's character spits the tobacco on the villain's forehead and says, "Buzzards gotta eat, same as worms," when asked if he was going to bury the bodies.

**What history has taught me is** we humans never learn some of the simple lessons and demand to repeat mistakes.



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