

JOHNSON COUNTY WAR'S "RUSTLERS" TELL THEIR STORY

OUR 63RD YEAR

JUNE 2016

TRUE WEST

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN WEST

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...Who Survived
52 Gunfights

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The Invaders

The Johnson County War Invaders were photographed at Fort D.A. Russell in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on May 4, 1892. These men were hired by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association to eliminate smaller homesteading ranchers who cattle barons alleged to be cattle rustlers. For the rest of the story, turn to page 22.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



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

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- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -



"They called him a murderer, a cannibal, a thief; it just doesn't pay to eat anything but Government-inspected beef!" sung Phil Ochs, in his ballad tribute to Colorado's cannibal Alferd Packer (pictured). Find this and more historical photography on our "Western Icons" board.

[Pinterest.com/TrueWestMag](https://www.pinterest.com/TrueWestMag)



Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell to see this painting of Frank Hamer and more of his Daily Whipouts (Search for "March 25, 2016").

Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com



Join the Conversation

"I remember there used to be a TV Series called *Death Valley Days* hosted by the Old Ranger and sponsored by 20 Mule Team Borax."

—Wayne McCormick of Smyrna, Tennessee



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In Wyoming's contentious Johnson County War, homesteading ranchers lost lives and livelihoods over a trumped-up charge.

—By *Bill Markley*



26 THE RISE OF THE TOUGHEST TEXAS RANGER

Exploring the Texas Hill Country life that shaped Frank Hamer into the greatest American lawman of the 20th century.

—By *John Boessenecker*

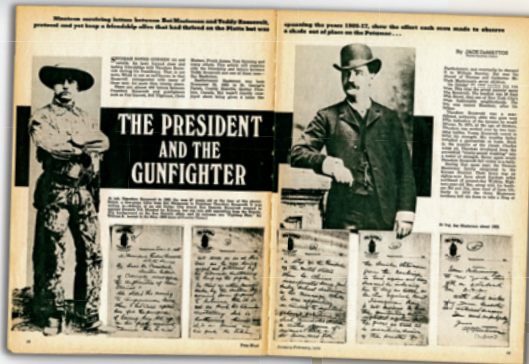


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Art unexpectedly imitated life in master artist Frederic Remington's first sold work.

—By *Paul Cool*

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40 LOOKING BACK

A *True West* writer's 40-year journey, ignited by his research into the relationship between a U.S. President and a notorious gunfighter.

—By *Jack DeMattos*



Cover design by Dan Harshberger; courtesy John Boessenecker Collection

72 DUST, DESTINY AND DEATH

Travel to discover the epic struggles between lawmen and outlaws across the Old West.

—By *Jim Wilson*



ALAMO CALL TO ARMS

Lieutenant Col. William Barret Travis's words, "We are besieged," is an expression that can still be used today. The Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, has become an economic icon, resulting in many losing the true representation of the site and the 1836 battle fought there. My goal is to raise awareness in the form of increased membership in the Alamo Society.

Current membership is approximately 200 and my goal is to increase that by at least half. At the age of 45, I am in the bottom 10 youngest members and am trying to reach a new generation of history buffs. Members receive a quarterly journal filled with historical and cultural information about the Alamo. Membership dues cost \$19 (U.S.), \$21 (Canada) or \$26 (outside North America) and can be sent to William Groneman at PO Box 291962 Kerrville, TX, 78029. The Alamo Society also hosts an annual symposium in San Antonio that offers members various speakers, exhibits and vendors detailing the legacy of the Alamo and the Texas Revolution.

The tale of the Alamo is not only for those in Texas and Mexico, but also for the entire world. We live today by the deeds fought there on both sides. We all need to lend our voices to its story.

Brian Gibson

*Alamo Society Sergeant at Arms
Hastings, Michigan*

RV-ING INTO THE SUNSET

Just a note to thank you for Marshall Trimble's wonderful article on Ben Johnson in your April 2016 issue. What a great, yet down-to-earth guy he must have been, and I'll bet Trimble was honored and thrilled to be able to make that Monument Valley ride with him. We love RV-ing at, and touring from, Goulding's Trading Post.

Ah yes, Johnson is just another great Westerns actor I would love to have met (along with John "Duke" Wayne, etc.), but never had the chance. Born just a little too late, I guess.

Bill Lloyd

Newport, New York

Oops!

In April 2016's Renegade Roads, the 9th and 10th were cavalry, while the 24th and 25th were infantry; Fort Concho was originally 1,600 acres, but today's historic site is closer to 40; and the Cactus Hotel's rooms are reserved for banquets and meetings, not for overnight guests.

In April 2016's What History Has Taught Me, an unknown bass player was mistakenly identified as Johnny Western, seen here, with his signature, monogrammed guitar, at Madison Square Garden in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1962.



Gogh Gat

In the March 2016 cover story about Vincent van Gogh, I was amazed to see a picture of a gun that looks like a gun I have owned for years. I received the gun from a great-great-aunt who often traveled in the states and overseas. Please see the enclosed picture and share any information you may have. I always thought the pistol was a hoax or fake.

Mark Balcomb
Silt, Colorado

Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberg responds: Based on your photo, your gun is not a hoax or fake. A great many variations of pinfire revolvers existed in the latter half of the 19th century, yet little information is available on them. While I am certainly no authority on pinfires, your revolver is possibly either a Belgian-made revolver or one made by Casimir Lefauchaux in Paris, France, circa 1860s-70s, and made for the civilian trade given what looks to be its 7mm bore. Your pinfire has the somewhat popular folding trigger, what looks like ivory stocks and is missing the cartridge ejector rod. You have an interesting handgun from the 19th century that was quite popular in Europe and also saw use in America.

Tip o' the Hat

It has been a while since I last visited with you and I got to tell you, I don't know if you can do better than the April 2016 *Lonesome Dove* issue. Mighty fine indeed.

Your coverage brings to mind a story from several years past, when I hired on as gofer driver for Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana during shooting of *Streets of Laredo*. Most of us local hands from the Lajitas/Terlingua area in Texas affected a dress that would be considered authentic—tall

boots, big bandannas and worn hats that McMurtry envied. He was just a little pissed that wardrobe could not put together hats that looked like they were real; he grabbed mine off my head and took it to wardrobe to show them what he wanted. I think his rant had no effect as the character hats did not change.

Regardless, I appreciate your making *True West* a damn good magazine. Many thanks.

Ranger Rob Dean

*NPS Park Ranger in area of
Odessa/Midland, Texas*



It's Hamer Time!

Legendary Texas lawman Frank Hamer puts iconic gunfighters in the shade.

Here's a challenge: count up all the gunfights that Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid and Wild Bill Hickok participated in for a grand total. I came up with about 21. I say "about" because, as you know, some of the historical gunfights are controversial, to say the least.

Now compare your total to the 52 gunfights that legendary lawman Frank Hamer claimed he fought. Granted, author John Boessenecker could only document 21 fights, but Hamer made the claim, with some credence, that many of his shoot-outs were on the border and did not get reported. But even if we go with only the confirmed fights, Hamer still fought in as many gunfights as three of the biggest legends of the Wild West—combined!

Add to that his 23 wounds and the fact that he was pronounced dead, not once, but twice, and you have to ask yourself, how in the hell did it take this long for a first-class book to be published that celebrated this amazing American lawman? Our cover story, on page 26, is an excerpt from Boessenecker's brilliant biography.

Lest you think Hamer was a braggart and exaggerated his total, here is his interview

with Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter A.B. MacDonald in 1934:

"How many men have you killed?"

"I won't talk about that," he replied.



"They say you have killed 23 men, not counting Mexicans," MacDonald pressed.

"I won't discuss it. All my killings were in line of duty. It was an unpleasant duty."

"Does your conscience bother you?"

"Not a bit."

"How many gunfights with criminals have you been in?"

"I don't mind telling you that. I have been in 52 of them, counting the scrimmages we had with Mexicans and smugglers along the Rio Grande."



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

Long considered a "villain" in American pop culture—consider Denver Pyle's ambush of Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway in 1967's *Bonnie and Clyde*—Frank Hamer gets his due in John Boessenecker's latest book. It's about time!

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —



Quotes

“Country is like when you go down to the jail to pick up your mother or your grandma or something because she was drunk and was throwin’ bottles at the pigs. Western songs are about nature, cattle, ranching and that kind of thing—but there are no three-way love affairs in them.”

—Rex Allen, American singing cowboy actor

“We learn from experience that men never learn anything from experience.”

—George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright

“The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it.”

—Oscar Wilde, Irish novelist and playwright

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

—Martin Luther King Jr., Civil Rights activist

“Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.”

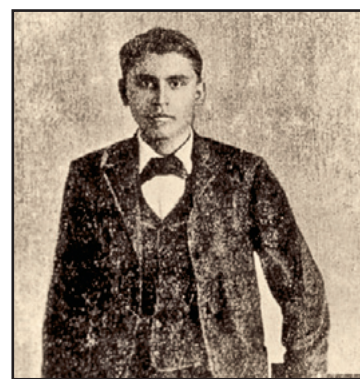
—H.G. Wells, English Sci-Fi author

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



“The odor of a large, poorly-kept jail is worse than the odor in the animal section of a circus, and this particular jail was the worst ever.”

—Henry Starr, describing conditions at the jail in Fort Smith, Arkansas



“It’s my experience that you really can’t lose when you try the truth.”

—Sharon Stone, American actress who starred in 1995’s *The Quick and the Dead*

Old Vaquero Saying



“To get back on your feet, miss two car payments.”

★ THE TOM HORN SPECIAL EDITION ★

One of the best trackers of his time, Horn was hired by the Pinkerton Detective Agency to handle cases in Colorado and Wyoming. He was also hired by the Swan Land and Cattle Company, so he could protect their cattle and track down rustlers. Known to be an impressive sniper, he would hunt and kill cattle thieves, but was never convicted of the killings. Unfortunately for Horn, his rather infamous reputation saw him accused of the killing of Willie Nickell, a 14 year old boy, in Wyoming. Tom Horn was hanged in Cheyenne on November 20th, 1903.

It is wildly debated of whether or not he was guilty of Nickell's death. Regardless, Horn's death marked the end of the era of the cowboy, and the spirit of the Old West perished along with him.

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BY MARK BOARDMAN

Wave of Violence

The lynching of Tom Waggoner marked the start of the Johnson County War.



The hanging of Tom Waggoner probably looked much like this dramatized hanging of a horse thief by Oregon cowboys circa 1900.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Somewhere around 1890, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association decided to take deadly action against men they regarded as rustlers. Tom Waggoner was the first to bear the brunt of that decision.

The big ranchers who made up the Association were determined to keep their grip on the region's cattle industry, says John W. Davis, author of *Wyoming Range War: The Infamous Invasion of Johnson County*. Smaller operations were cropping up, taking over the former open range and claiming unbranded calves that the cattle barons considered their own.

Davis identifies the Association's assassination team: gunfighter-lawman Frank Canton, Fred Coates, Billy Lykins, Joe Elliott and Mike Shonsey. They all worked for the Association as stock detectives or inspectors.

Waggoner, around 35 years old, was an unlikely target. He dealt in horses, not cows, and had accumulated a herd estimated at more than 1,000 head. The German native was not well-liked, as he preferred to stay to

himself instead of making friends or acquaintances of his neighbors. He was cheap and sharp in his dealings of horseflesh.

Folks wondered how he had gotten so many horses when he lived in virtual poverty in a cabin with no beds or furniture. Maybe he stole some of the animals, although no evidence supported the notion.

Three men showed up at Waggoner's door on June 4, 1891. Davis says they were probably Elliott, Coates and Lykins, while Wyoming historian Roger Hawthorne identified them as Elliott, former deputy U.S. marshal Tom Smith and horse thief George Burns. Calling themselves deputies, they claimed they were arresting Waggoner for rustling and taking him to Newcastle.

Waggoner's wife heard nothing for a dozen days. On June 16, a search party went out to look for the rancher and found a body hanging from a tree in a remote gully.

Waggoner looked like he had been strung up and allowed to slowly strangle in what must have been a tough death.

The widow Waggoner could not identify the men who had taken her husband. The big cattlemen accused rustlers of the lynching; the small ranchers charged that the stock growers were behind it. Nobody was ever arrested or tried to the murder.

Alarming, when Waggoner's estate went into probate, Coates, one of the alleged killers, was named administrator, demonstrating the power held by Association members.

Although Waggoner's killing took place farther away and in another county, Johnson County did feel the repercussions soon enough. Waggoner's name was among 15 on the group's hit list, claimed Hiram Ijams, secretary of the stock growers. The

assassination squad went after some of them, including Nate Champion that November. But in the ensuing shoot-out, Lykins was mortally wounded and Champion was unharmed.

The first shots of the infamous Johnson County War had been fired. The Frank Canton assassination squad would chalk up victims, and

the stock growers attempted an invasion aimed at ridding the region of their enemies.

But the first victim was Waggoner. His lynching truly kicked off the Johnson County War.

Waggoner looked like he had been strung up and allowed to slowly strangle.



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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Freedom from the Freeway

A California class reburied a famous Mountain Man in the heart of the Old West.

“...they were outraged that he was buried by the freeway.”

Have you heard the tale about the teacher who inspired a seventh-grade class to dig up an 1800s Montana fur trapper buried by a California freeway and rebury him back in the heart of the Old West?

Tri Robinson tells the improbable, but inspiring story in his 2014 book, *The Committee for the Reburial of Liver-Eating Johnston: Memoirs of a Dyslexic Teacher*.

The journey began in 1973, when Robinson was trying to inspire his gifted students at Park View Middle School in Lancaster, California, with riveting stories about the Old West. None stuck, until he got to John “Liver-Eating” Johnston.

Born around 1824, the Mountain Man had spent his life as a soldier, hunter, trapper, whiskey peddler, scout, deputy sheriff and town marshal in the Big Sky country of Montana. He was also known as “Crow Killer,” for his 25-year vendetta against the Crow Nation after his Flathead wife was killed by a brave in 1847. He reportedly cut out and ate the liver of every Crow he killed.

Old age made him leave his home in Red Lodge for a veteran’s hospital in California, where he died in 1900. He was buried in a military cemetery that ended up 100 yards from the San Diego Freeway.

“Up until that point, none of my stories had gotten a rise out of my students, but they were outraged that he was buried by the freeway,” Robinson says. “They acted like it was a total injustice.”

His wife, Nancy, had a simple answer: “If they don’t like it, tell them to move him.”

Impossible, Robinson thought, but hey, the venture might keep his students engaged. So the “Committee” was born, and



Schoolteacher Tri Robinson stands with his wife, Nancy, at the reburial site in Cody, Wyoming, for Mountain Man John “Liver-Eating” Johnston (inset).

— COURTESY TRI ROBINSON —

his students started writing letters—to governors, chambers of commerce, historical societies, Congress. The Montana town of Red Lodge wrote off the students’ request, stating disinterest because Johnston was an “Indian killer.” But Robinson’s friend in Cody, Wyoming, Bob Edgar, answered with an exciting prospect: if the students could get permission to disinter the body, Edgar would pay to have it moved and reburied at his Old Trail Town in Cody.

Students realized the main character in 1972’s *Jeremiah Johnson* was based on the guy they were trying to get reburied. That helped garner media attention, and Congress named the class the proxy next-of-kin to allow the reburial. Robert Redford, who starred as Jeremiah Johnson in the film, agreed to be a pallbearer!

Red Lodge then decided the town should rebury Johnston in Montana after all, which started a Montana-Wyoming fight. “The students were totally in charge, and we were loyal to Cody and Edgar,” Robinson says.

Despite an effort by Montana to steal the body the state had at first refused, Johnston was reburied in Cody, Wyoming, in June 1974—all because seventh graders in California had been inspired by a teacher who took them “outside the box.”

As one of those students wrote in a review of her teacher’s book, “I still consider Mr. Robinson the best teacher I ever had, and credit him with my life long love of history...”

Johnston thanks Mr. Robinson, too. ❏

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

The Texas Rangers Frontier Battalion Tribute Rifle

The Texas Rangers have a reputation as huge as Texas and as wild as the open frontier they helped tame. They embody the rugged spirit, loyalty, and resourcefulness that defines Texas as much as it defines America. From wide-open territory to independent Republic to America's twenty-eighth state, the Texas Rangers are true Lone Star heroes. Legendary for their courage and bravery during the chaos of the changing frontier, the Texas Rangers are the oldest statewide law enforcement agency in America. The Rangers trace their roots back to 1823, when Stephen F. Austin, "The Father of Texas", wanted to provide protection for the first settlers in the region. His "rangers" would aid the small Texas militia already in place to protect settlers from criminals and hostile Indians. With their own horses and rifles, Texas Rangers protected the frontier and its new settlers from danger. They had to be mentally and physically tough enough to handle life on the trail.

In 1874, Governor Richard Coke organized the Frontier Battalion: six companies of Texas Rangers with seventy-five men in each company. The Frontier Battalion is often called the "first permanent Texas Rangers." These Rangers were lawmen who took matters into their own hands. The lawlessness and danger that followed the Civil War made the presence of the Frontier Battalion extremely necessary. Over the next few years, the Texas Rangers maintained peace along the border. They tracked down murderers and outlaws. They arrested stage and train robbers, cattle thieves, and fence cutters. Their jurisdiction spanned all of Texas. Their beat covered more square miles than some countries.

Working in cooperation with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas, America Remembers proudly presents the **Texas Rangers Frontier Battalion Tribute Rifle**, an exciting issue honoring these legendary lawmen of the Texas frontier. For this Tribute, we selected the classic Winchester Model '73 rifle in caliber .45LC. The rifle features a 24" octagonal barrel, a favorite of collectors. Each rifle is decorated by craftsmen commissioned specifically for this project by America Remembers in elegant 24-karat gold and nickel. Winchester discontinued production of the Model '73 rifles in the early 1900s but they recently reintroduced this Old West classic, and demand is extremely strong. The Model '73 is arguably the most famous of all Old West rifles. Act quickly in placing your reservation for one of these exclusive Texas Rangers Frontier Battalion Tributes.

The Rifle That Won the West

When the Frontier Battalion was established in 1874 the finest lever-action rifle available was the Winchester Model 1873 rifle. We felt it was the perfect firearm to honor the unique and celebrated history of these legendary Texas Rangers of the Frontier Battalion. Introduced in 1873, the Winchester Model '73 was so popular on the Western frontier, it is often referred to as "The Rifle That Won The West." With its rapid-fire repeating capabilities, it was a favorite for the Texas Rangers.

Don't Miss This Opportunity to Honor Legendary Lawmen of the Old West

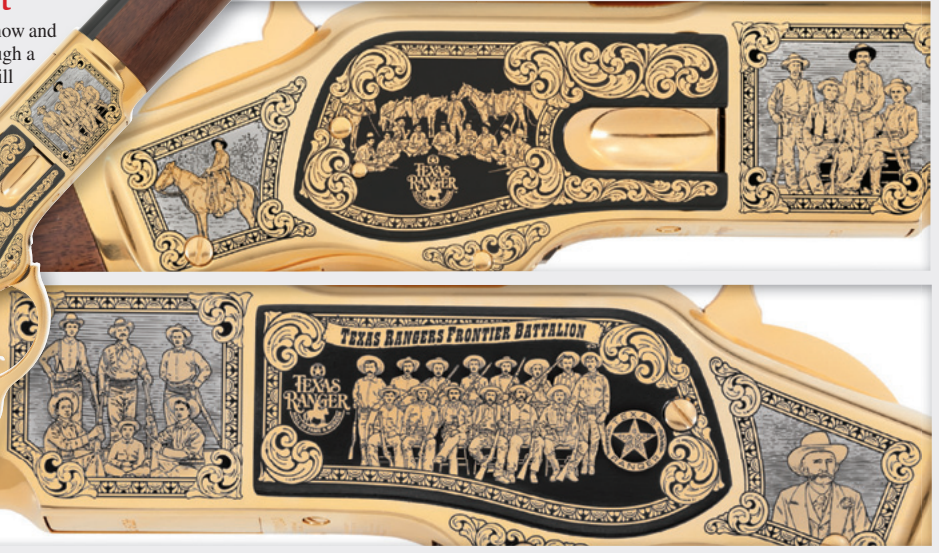
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Below, you'll find Captain Bill McDonald, known as one of the "Four Great Captains" of the Texas Rangers. One of the most famous lines attributed to Captain McDonald is: "No man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that's in the right and keeps on a-comin'." The right side of the receiver features a group of Texas Rangers settling down for a meal. With their rifles beside them and their horses behind them, Rangers were always prepared to act quickly. To the left is celebrated Texas Ranger Ira Aten, a member of the Frontier Battalion, known for his efforts to curb fence-cutters and cattle rustlers on the frontier. On the right, four Texas Rangers pose for a photograph with their trusted rifles. Elegant scrollwork frames all the artwork on both sides of the receiver.



Featured on the left side of the receiver is a legendary image of Company D Rangers, rifles in hand, framed by Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum logo and a Texas Ranger star, under a banner reading, "Texas Rangers Frontier Battalion." Out of all the Texas Ranger companies, Company D had the highest number of on-duty deaths. To the left of this artwork you'll find an image of five Frontier Battalion Rangers and a child. Rangers were looked up to—they were models for "doing right because it was right". Each Ranger can be seen holding a rifle and wearing sturdy ammunition belts, prepared for any danger they might encounter.

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BY MEGHAN SAAR

Indian with Bow Hits Mark

A Charles M. Russell painting received a surprising appraisal for the owners.



Indian with Bow, a circa 1900 oil, tied with another oil as the highest Charles M. Russell artwork sold at this year's auction; \$800,000. (Inset) Shirley Lesure turned to her husband, Wynn, and gasped when she heard that this family heirloom had been appraised for \$600,000 to \$900,000 on PBS's *Arizona Collectibles*.

— INSET COURTESY ARIZONA PBS —

Shirley Lesure, a retired nurse living in New River, Arizona, had just found out a painting she thought might be worth \$100,000 would not even qualify for that as a down payment.

She gasped when she heard its estimated value: between \$600,000 to \$900,000. Bob Nelson, of Manitou Galleries in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, gave her that surprise of her life on *Arizona Collectibles*, which aired on PBS on October 1, 2015.

The painting, a Charles M. Russell oil called *Indian with Bow*, had been given to Lesure's great-grandfather as a Christmas present by his brother, a rancher in Montana, a state that the cowboy artist also called home.

The appraisal held true: the painting hammered down for \$800,000 at the Russell benefit auction held in Great Falls on March 19. The auction's top lots were all Russells, with one exception, an oil by Thomas Moran. It hammered down at \$3.6 million, the highest price ever paid for artwork at the auction, surpassing the \$1.5 million record in 2015 for the Russell oil *For Supremacy*.

Both Russell and Moran died the same year, 1926. The two even met, through an introduction by artist Edward Borein. Known for his landscape artworks, Moran has commanded the highest bid at auction, for another oil of Wyoming's Green River, dated 1878, for \$15.8 million, at Christie's New York in 2008. Coeur d'Alene Auction holds the auction record for Russell, at \$5 million, for the 1918 oil *Piegans*.

Even at his namesake auction, a Russell oil cannot match Moran's in the eyes of art collectors. But his paintings still tell the greatest stories. Wish we all could be so lucky as to find family heirlooms like *Indian with Bow*.



(All lot images courtesy Russell benefit auction)



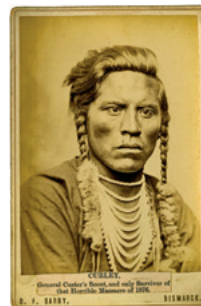
Water Girl, circa 1892-1895 watercolor, by Charles M. Russell; \$220,000.



The above Thomas Moran oil, *Castle Rock, Green River, Wyoming*, sucked the air out of the room when a collector bid \$3.6 million for the painting.



Blood Chief, 1899 watercolor, by Charles M. Russell; \$200,000.



Curley the Crow, circa 1888, by Charles M. Russell; \$120,000. Also shown is D.F. Barry's portrait of Curley, the Crow scout who survived the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn, which may have informed the artwork.



Russell painted both of these (from left): *Portrait of Indian*, 1901 oil, \$150,000, and *Grizzly at Close Quarters*, 1901 watercolor, \$800,000.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

June 10, 2016

American History
Cowan's Auctions (Cincinnati, OH)
Cowan.com • 513-871-1670

June 11, 2016

Old West Memorabilia
Brian Lebel's Old West (Fort Worth, TX)
OldWestEvents.com • 480-779-9378

June 11, 2016

Prix de West
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum (Oklahoma City, OK)
PDW.NationalCowboyMuseum.org
405-478-2250

June 11-12, 2016

Firearms & Armor
Heritage Auctions (Dallas, TX)
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— COURTESY CR PHOTOS —

Throughout history, the horse has been known as "Man's Noblest Companion." Alexander the Great had Bucephalus, Marengo was Napoleon's favorite mount, General Robert E. Lee rode Traveller, and Buffalo Bill loved his Isham. Our cowboy heroes, including Roy Rogers, Gene Autry and Clayton "The Lone Ranger" Moore won the movie West on Trigger, Champion and Silver, respectively. I've had horses for most of my life and have made part of my living with my six-guns and these magnificent creatures. I've experienced the heartfelt joy of working with a good horse for pleasure, in a competition or during a mounted performance.

Cowboy Mounted Shooters rely on their equine partners as much as they do their guns. Their firearms are very personal to them. Whether a Colt, Ruger, any replica Peacemaker-type single action revolver, or a longarm like a Winchester, Taylor's & Co.'s Runnin' Comanchero, Cimarron's Saddle Rifle, Coach shotgun, or any other shootin' iron, the gun becomes a part of the shooter. They also know the camaraderie and closeness provided by a solid, dependable mount. A willing, fast and surefooted horse counts for most of any high-scoring Cowboy Mounted Shooting run. The shooters place untold value on their four-footed teammates, as



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As one of the last horses trained by legendary motion picture horse trainer Glenn Randall, Nevada performed her graceful bow after an exciting lancing or mounted aerial shooting exhibition. Randall had trained Roy Rogers' Trigger, Gene Autry's Champion, Rex Allen's Koko, the 1959 Ben Hur chariot horses and many other famous performing equines.

- COURTESY CR PHOTOS -

Cowboy Mounted Shooters and others who rely on their horses help preserve the age-old legacy of the strong bond between man and horse. Here, Buffalo Bill Cody, one of the most famous equestrian performers of all time, rides his favorite horse, Isham, who carried him through many of his Wild West shows and was later given a well-deserved retirement on Cody's ranch.

- PHIL SPANGENBERGER COLLECTION -



Rodgers, and others—all earned well-deserved retirements after their long winning careers had ended. Although I retired from mounted shooting competition years ago, having earned World and National Divisional titles, I've continued performing my horseback shooting, lancing and sword exhibitions on my own trusted mare, Nevada. For the past several years, Nevada enjoyed the easy life in reward for her 27-plus years of faithful service, only being called upon for an occasional, and always solid, performance. She carried me though our last mounted shooting show together in December of 2014 at the age of 33!

Sadly, after having her for a full 28 years—one third of my own life—we recently had to have her humanely put to

sleep. My wife, Linda, and I lost a valuable and beloved part of our family.

I've experienced the heartfelt joy of working with a good horse for pleasure, in a competition or during a mounted performance.

In her 34 years, Nevada traipsed the high country on hunting trips and campouts, was ridden across the state of Nevada on a Pony Express re-ride, performed in countless Wild West shows and pageants throughout the country, served me as a bomb-proof "war-horse" in many smoke-filled Civil War re-enactments, proudly hoofed it through many Rose Parades and galloped across the television

screen in numerous History Channel and other cable network documentaries. Perhaps most importantly, she was my mount in the exciting exhibitions we performed that inspired CMSA's Jim Rodgers to create the sport of Cowboy Mounted Shooting.

Nevada could always be counted on to safely and boldly carry me through anything. She was beautiful, fast, sure-footed and dependable...she didn't always give me the easiest or smoothest ride, having a headstrong temperament, but she was smart, and knew when we had to go to work. I knew her moves and how to read her. When we'd ride into the arena, she was the star...I was her sidekick! Like a good gun or a trusted friend, she was my partner, and I can honestly say she never let me down. Nevada was truly a noble companion.



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



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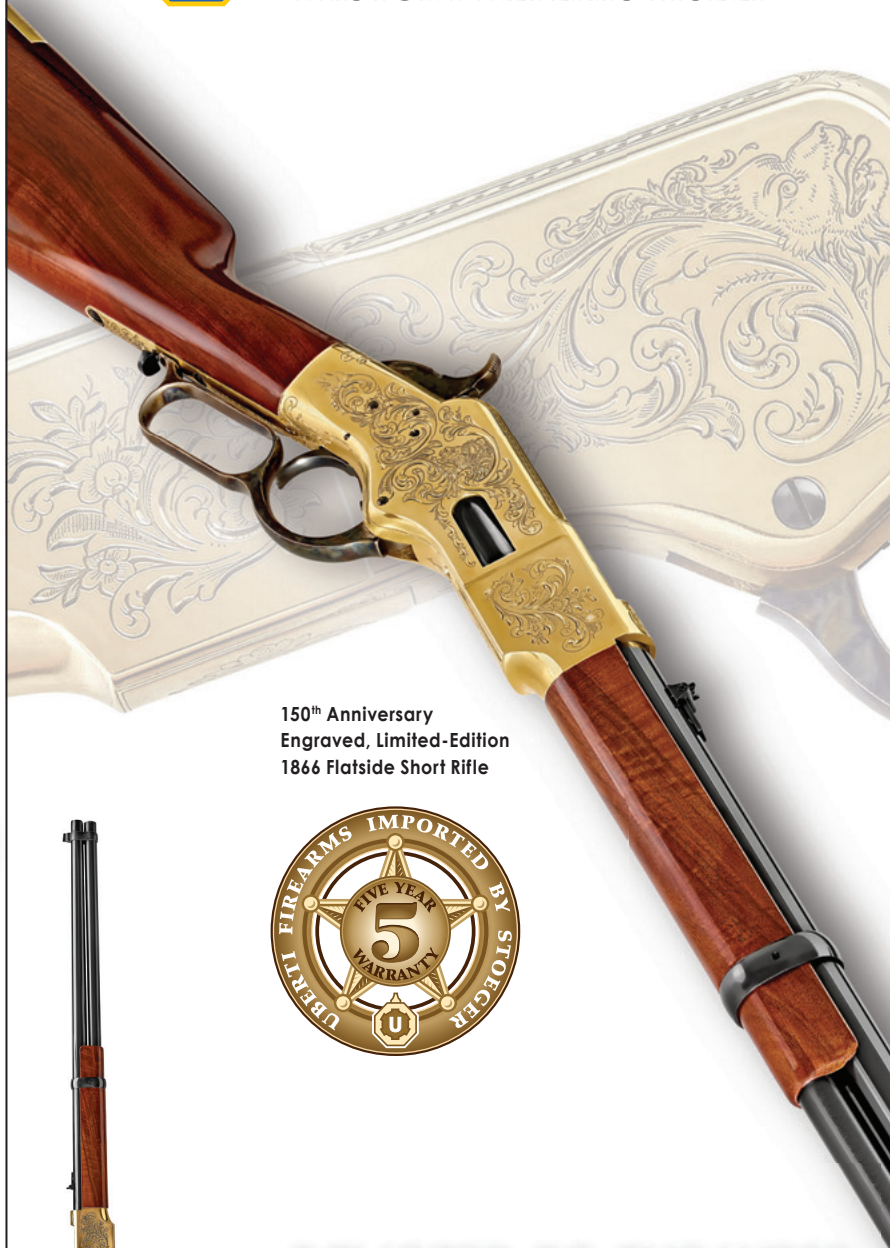
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NICK RAY stepped outside the cabin into the morning light, looking for Ben Jones and Billy Walker. Seeing no sign of his cabin mates, Ray

turned to walk back. A shot rang out.

Ray, wounded, dropped to the ground. As bullets whistled around Ray, Nate Champion rushed from the cabin, shooting at the hidden assailants. Reaching Ray, Champion helped him into the cabin. Thus, on April 9, 1892, began a major chapter in Wyoming's Johnson County War.

Disputes Among Cattlemen

Land disputes are old news in the American West. Land has been a flashpoint from the first contact between frontiersmen and American Indians up to today, when some individuals, perceiving entitlement to the range, pit themselves against what they view as federal government-licensed cattle rustling. The Johnson County War was a major flare-up in this age-old smoldering fire.

With the Union Pacific Railroad reaching Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1867, the cattle industry boomed. The Wyoming Stock Growers Association became a powerful political organization that attracted wealthy cattle barons. Wyoming achieved statehood on July 10, 1890, with

REQUIEM OF THE RUSTLERS



The TA Ranch barn in 1892, after being shot up during the Johnson County War. You can still see the bullets holes if you ever make your way to the barn at the TA Guest Ranch in Buffalo, Wyoming.

— COURTESY JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY —

In Wyoming's contentious Johnson County War, homesteading ranchers lost lives and livelihood over a trumped-up charge.



Nate Champion is mounted on his horse, second from left, near the chuckwagon. His brother, Dudley Champion, is mounted on the brown horse. On May 24, 1893, Dudley went down in history as the last person killed in the Johnson County War.

- COURTESY JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY -

Cheyenne becoming the capital and the Association controlling its government.

The lush grass of the open range along the eastern foothills of Big Horn Mountains was well suited for beef cattle. Cattlemen brought herds to Johnson County with the building of Fort McKinney in 1878. Nearby Buffalo grew into Johnson County's most important town and became county seat in 1881. Large ranching operations, as well as homesteading ranches, ran cattle.

Cattle roamed the open range unrestricted, making it necessary to brand them to determine ownership. During roundups, ranch hands branded calves and unmarked animals called mavericks. Cattlemen hired stock detectives to bring rustlers to justice, but historians have found little evidence of livestock theft in the early days of Johnson County.

In 1884, the Wyoming Legislature passed the Maverick Law, which gave the Association all mavericks and unbranded calves, and the right to determine who owned the animals. "Ranchers who asserted their right to gather mavericks from their own herds and mother cows were now rustlers," says Earl Madsen, present-day owner of the T.A. Ranch.

The cattle barons blamed any diminishing of their herds on rustlers

instead of on droughts, predators, blizzards and overgrazing. They sought land and water claims on ranges they considered theirs. To secure these rights, they set about accusing rustling by homesteading ranchers and even by their own cowboys who owned personal livestock.

Association members began forbidding employees to own cattle. They excluded homesteading ranchers from the Association and from roundups. Johnson County citizens saw the Association's actions as attempts to drive homesteading ranchers from the open range granted to them under the federal Homestead Act and Desert Land Act.

In 1889, Johnson County juries failed to convict persons accused of rustling in five separate cases, which infuriated the cattle barons. The jury members had seen the evidence as flimsy at best.

That same year, cattlemen lynched Carbon County homesteaders Ellen "Cattle Kate" Watson and Jim Averell, who they accused of rustling. In 1891, three men working for the Association hanged Thomas Waggoner, a horse trader.

Next, the Association attempted to kill Johnson County homesteading rancher Nate Champion, an outspoken Association critic. No evidence tied him to rustling, but the Association believed he must be



Former Johnson County Sheriff Frank Canton (top) included the man who now served as sheriff, William "Red" Angus (above), on the list of rustlers to kill.

- ANGUS PHOTO COURTESY JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY -

Stock detective Mike Shonsey stands with a Winchester 1886 rifle that played a role in the Johnson County War. When Shonsey heard that Nate Champion's brother, Dudley, was looking to avenge Nate's death, he shot Dudley dead, possibly with the shown rifle, then turned himself in for the killing, claiming self-defense.

— COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, OCTOBER 25, 2015 —



stealing cattle. On November 1, 1891, they sent five men to kill him.

Champion escaped death. He killed one of his would-be murderers and identified another assailant as Association stock detective Joe Elliott. John Tisdale and Orley "Ranger" Jones were ready to testify in court that Elliott and others had attacked Champion, but before they could do so, they were murdered.

On February 8, 1892, Johnson County district court held a preliminary hearing on Elliott's attempt on Champion's life. Elliott remained in jail.

Homesteading cattlemen formed the Northern Wyoming Farmers' and Stock Growers' Association, announcing its own roundup, which would take place on May 1, 1892, one month before the Association's roundup. They appointed Champion foreman and mocked the Association by calling themselves "Rustlers."

The Association had enough; it was time to get rid of the rustlers. Members especially worried Elliott would break and identify them as the men behind the assassination attempt on Champion.

Planning an Invasion

While smoking cigars, sipping brandy and playing billiards in the posh Cheyenne Club, Association members plotted to invade Johnson County and kill the

rustlers and their supporters. Major Frank Wolcott drafted invasion plans. One hundred Association members contributed \$1,000 each. Stock detective Tom Smith traveled to Texas where he hired 26 gunmen.

The Association bought 52 horses, three freight wagons, guns, ammunition and dynamite.

Governor Amos Barber knew about the planned invasion. On March 23, he sent a telegram to Wyoming National Guard commanders to disobey orders from county sheriffs.

The invaders invited Ed Towse, a reporter with the *Cheyenne Daily Leader*, who had told the cattlemen's side of Cattle Kate's hanging, and Sam Clover, of the *Chicago Herald*. Clover promised to tell the Association's version of the story to a national audience.

Frank Canton, a stock detective and former Johnson County sheriff, and others developed a death list that named 70 men to kill, including Johnson County Sheriff W.E. "Red" Angus, his deputies, three county commissioners and *Buffalo Bulletin* newspaper editor Joe DeBarthe.

Nineteen Association conspirators met a chartered train from Denver, Colorado, that was carrying supplies and the 26 Texan gunmen, each promised \$5 per day, expenses, a \$3,000 accident policy and \$50 for every dead rustler. The train left Cheyenne, Wyoming, on April 5, with 52 Association members, employees, Texan gunmen and guests.

Attacking the "Rustlers"

At four a.m., the invaders arrived in Casper, where they began their 150-mile ride north, through a blizzard and gumbo mud, to fulfill their murderous mission.

Following Wolcott's instructions, E.T. David, ranch manager for Sen. Joseph Carey, cut the telegraph lines to Buffalo so that townspeople could not request help.

Riding toward Buffalo, the invaders learned Champion was at the KC Ranch and voted to kill



The Johnson County "Invaders" are shown surrendering at the T.A. Ranch to the Fort McKinney cavalry on April 13, 1892. The invaders were released on bail in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and told to return for trial, but they never did.

— COURTESY WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES, 21993 —

At the TA Ranch, accused rustlers made this “Ark of Safety” or “Go-Devil” from the wagons they captured from the cattlemen.

- COURTESY JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY -



After the Johnson County War, Frank Canton was almost killed in the saloon of the Occidental Hotel by a “rustler” he had tried to kill. Will Foster beat Canton with his gun, but Canton survived. The Occidental Hotel, shown in 1884, still offers lodging and respite in its saloon to guests in Buffalo, Wyoming.

- COURTESY OCCIDENTAL HOTEL -

him first. Eliminate Champion, and the case against Elliott would evaporate.

The invaders reached the KC Ranch the night of April 8. The next morning, they captured two trappers who had stopped to stay the night, Jones and Walker. When Ray left the cabin to see where the men had gone, Wolcott nodded to “Texas Kid” (possibly C.D. Brooks), who fired a shot that struck Ray. With the help of Champion, Ray made it back to his cabin, where he died. Champion put up a stiff defense, wounding three attackers.

Jack Flagg and his stepson Alonzo Taylor rode by on the road to Buffalo. The invaders recognized Flagg as one of the men on the death list. They opened fire, and 10 men chased them. The two eluded their pursuers and rode to Buffalo to sound the alarm.

The invaders pushed a burning wagon against the cabin, smoking out Champion,

who, charging out of the building, died in a hail of bullets. After killing Champion, the invaders advanced toward Buffalo.

A County Arms for Battle

Alerted by Flagg and Taylor, Sheriff Angus organized a posse that grew to roughly 400 men. The “rustler” ranchers rode out of Buffalo to confront the invaders.

Informed by outriders that a posse’s camp was to their front, the invaders decided to fortify themselves 14 miles south of Buffalo in the house and barn at the T.A. Ranch. When the posse reached the T.A. Ranch, the ranchers surrounded the invaders. Shooting was continuous between both sides.

The desperate invaders needed help. During the night, one invader sneaked out with a message. Riders carried his message 100 miles to Douglas, where it was sent by telegram to Gov. Amos Barber who sent it to President Benjamin Harrison, requesting federal troops to quell the “insurrection.” Harrison was sleeping, and no one dared wake him.

Barber then sent the telegram to Wyoming Sen. Frances E. Warren, an Association member, and Joseph Carey, former Association president. They traveled to the White House and woke Harrison who agreed to send troops to rescue the invaders. When his telegram

reached Fort McKinney, the 6th Cavalry set out.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, the posse had captured the invaders’ wagons. Using the running gears, the men built a protective device they named the “go-devil.” They were advancing behind it to get within range so they could toss the invaders’ own dynamite at them. The cavalry arrived just in time to save the invaders.

Colonel J.J. Van Horn negotiated with Sheriff Angus to allow the invaders to surrender to federal troops. Angus agreed, so long as the invaders would be handed over later to civilian authorities. The troops marched the invaders to Fort McKinney, then escorted them to Cheyenne, where they were eventually released. They never stood trial.

Incensed Wyomingians

Wyoming never brought charges against the invaders; Johnson County did, but the invaders’ attorneys stalled in court until Johnson County ran out of money and had to drop the case.

At the time of the Johnson County War, Sen. Warren and fellow Association members had been attempting to transfer federal lands to the Wyoming state government where they believed they could control its use. Outrage over the invasion turned public opinion against Warren’s land transfer proposals. Ranchers could not acquire federal property owned by the government; federal land would remain in federal control.

Johnson County citizens are still wary of Cheyenne. Sometimes in the area, you can find a car with a bumper sticker reading, “Johnson County: We Haven’t Trusted Cheyenne since 1892.”



Bill Markley thanks Earl and Barbara Madsen of the TA Ranch, Megan Herold of the Johnson County Library, and Loren and Bev Leichtnam for their assistance in researching this article. Visit BillMarkley.com to learn about Markley’s writing.



THE RISE OF THE TOUGHEST TEXAS RANGER

The Humble Beginnings of an Epic Career

THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY LIFE THAT SHAPED FRANK HAMER INTO THE
GREATEST AMERICAN LAWMAN OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

BY JOHN BOESSENECKER

Texas bred tough men, and none came any tougher than Frank Hamer. He was to the Lone Star State what Wyatt Earp was to Arizona and what Wild Bill Hickok was to Kansas.

His iron strength was hammered on the anvil of his father's blacksmith shop. His iron will was molded in 40 tumultuous years as a peace officer. His iron character was honed by his struggles against horseback outlaws, Mexican smugglers, the Ku Klux Klan, corrupt politicians, the Texas Bankers Association and Lyndon B. Johnson. His iron courage was forged in the flames of 52 gunfights with desperadoes. In an era when crooked police were a dime a dozen, he could not be bought at any price.

He was the greatest American lawman of the 20th century.





Ranger Frank Hamer made a name for himself along the U.S.-
Mexico border in West Texas where he rode and fought hard.

- ILLUSTRATED BY BOB BOZE BELL -

HILL COUNTRY HERO

Hamer was a son of the Hill Country, that undulating expanse that stretches through central Texas from the Balcones Escarpment north and west to the Edwards Plateau. In the 1840s-50s, settlers from the mountains of Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee poured into the Hill Country, long the domain of Apaches and Comanches. Their battles against Indian raiders would, for generations to come, help define the character of Texans as fierce and unrelenting warriors. After the Civil War, the Hill Country became consumed by local violence. With fewer Indians to fight, Texans had turned on each other.

During the 1870s, Texas was wracked by infamous vendettas, such as the Horrell-Higgins feud in Lampasas County, the Mason County War and, most notably, the Sutton-Taylor feud, the longest and bloodiest of them all. It lasted 30 years and left at least 78 men dead. Notions of personal honor, coupled with an armed citizenry, excessive drink, lack of strong law enforcement and a belief that social problems were best solved by individuals instead of government, all contributed to the plethora of feuds in frontier Texas. These concepts and conditions continued into the 20th century.

The Hamers were relative newcomers to Texas. In 1874, Frank's father enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army in Pennsylvania and was assigned to the 4th U.S. Cavalry, stationed in Fort Clark, Texas, commanded by Col. Ranald S. MacKenzie and assigned to stop raids by Comanches, Apaches and Kickapoos from their hideouts in northern Mexico.

Born in Fairview on March 17, 1884, Frank inherited from his father a dry, sardonic wit and learned to speak in colorful and sometimes profane language. His father's heavy



Frank Hamer, age 22, may look baby-faced, but he was a Texas-bred tough man who evolved into a prized lawman for the Texas Rangers.

- ALL IMAGES COURTESY JOHN BOESSENECKER COLLECTION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED -

drinking was an attribute that the eldest son, Estill, inherited, and that Frank was careful to avoid.

Frank's most vivid memories as a young boy involved his maternal grandfather, L.J. Francis. The old man, a jagged scar down the side of his face, regaled the youth with stories of his adventures on the frontier. In 1840, at age 22, he had accompanied an overland trade caravan from Texas to Chihuahua in northern Mexico. The traders were set upon by Indians, who killed seven of the party before shooting Francis in the head with an arrow. He was captured and almost killed, but soon escaped. In later years, he became a Presbyterian minister, and young Frank was inspired to follow his grandfather's religious life.

Most rural Texas families owned but one book, the Bible. Frank was then not much of a reader, but in addition to the Bible, he devoured Josiah Wilbarger's *Indian Depredations in Texas*. The 1889 book was hugely popular among Texans, for it detailed how their ancestors had wrested the country from wild Indians. Hamer was fascinated by the tales of Comanche fights and Texas Rangers. But instead of being inspired to emulate the Rangers, the youth was most impressed by the underdogs—the Indians.

"I made up my mind," he later recalled, "to be as much like an Indian as I could." His admiration for the underdog and his concern for those too weak or too outnumbered to protect themselves molded his character.

That 1890s America—of Frank Merriwell, knickerbockers and celluloid collars, of baseball, pretzels and beer, of tripping



LIFE OF A RANGER, 1884-1928

1884: Frank Hamer is born in Fairview, Texas.

1900: The 16 year old is shot and badly wounded by neighboring rancher Dan McSween.

1906: Joins Texas Rangers; shoots and kills murderer Ed Putnam in Del Rio, Texas.

1909: Becomes city marshal of Navasota, one of the rowdiest

towns in east Texas.

1911: Appointed a special officer in Houston by Mayor Baldwin Rice.

1915: Rejoins the Rangers and takes part in the Bandit War on the Rio Grande.

1917: Becomes embroiled in the Johnson-Sims feud in West Texas; kills Gee McMeans

in Sweetwater in the feud's climactic gunfight.

1918: Re-enlists in the Texas Rangers; kills murderer Encarnacion Delgado in a bloody shoot-out at Los Tomates on the Rio Grande in Brownsville.

1920: Becomes a federal prohibition officer in El Paso; leads a posse that kills six

Mexican smugglers on Cordova Island, just south of town.

1921: Appointed Texas Ranger captain. Near Quemado, he and his Rangers shoot it out with smugglers led by Rafael Lopez, wanted for murdering five Utah lawmen in 1913. The Rangers slay 11 smugglers; Hamer kills Lopez.

1922: Leads the cleanup of Mexia, a violent oil town.



Frank Hamer (back row, far left) is shown with his Texas Ranger Company C in Alpine, Texas, in 1907, the year after he enrolled with the Rangers. Next to Hamer are Monroe Upton, Marvin Bailey and Duke Hudson. Seated in the front row, from far left, are Goff White, Wallace Howell, Capt. John H. Rogers and John Dibrell.

the light fantastic with Mamie O'Rourke—was utterly foreign to young Hamer. Instead, his boyhood in the Texas Hill Country was firmly grounded in the Old West. His heroes were not John L. Sullivan, Gentleman Jim Corbett, Cy Young or Christy Mathewson—they were Capt. Jack Hays of the Texas Rangers, 4th Cavalry Col. Ranald MacKenzie and the Comanche war chiefs Buffalo Hump and Quanah Parker.

FIRST BRUSH WITH DEATH

While working as a sharecropper for Dan McSween at a ranch along Spring Creek in 1900, Hamer had his first brush with death. After the 16 year old refused to kill a local rancher for McSween and warned the marked man of the danger, McSween shot the youth in the back and left side of his head on June 12.

With the help of his brother, Hamer made it into their wagon. A black field hand raced to bring a doctor to the Hamer home. Hamer had high praise for him: "A colored man was the best friend I ever had in my life. That colored man caused me to be living today."

Though Hamer plainly did not possess modern-day notions of ethnic sensitivity, he never forgot the black man who helped save his life.

In 1903, Frank took part in an incident that he deeply regretted, telling Walter Prescott Webb, "Had I not gone with the law, I would have gone against it."

Hired to help drive a remuda of horses to a buyer in San Angelo, Frank and the other herders were regaled with tales of quick money by an older hand. He explained how they could easily hold up a bank and escape into Mexico where they could use the loot to start their own ranch.

Fascinated, Hamer and the wranglers agreed to take part. They were about to make their play when the foreman rode up and ordered them to drive the horses to the corral. As Webb explained, "This interruption no doubt saved the man who has left his mark on the tradition of law enforcement in Texas."

Frank realized he had been a fool. Said Hamer, "It was the adventure, and not the money, that appealed to me. Had I gone into it, things would have been different."

In 1905, Frank hired on at the Carr ranch, located between Sheffield and Fort Stockton. When two horses were stolen, Frank took the trail alone and, for several days, followed the meandering tracks eastward. Finally, he closed in on two riders. Dropping into a gully, Hamer circled around in front of them, leveled his Winchester and took the thieves by

1922-23: Battles the Ku Klux Klan in Texas.

1925-26: As special investigator for Texas's adjutant general, Hamer solves several of the most perplexing cold murder cases.

1927: Cleans up Borger, the dangerous Panhandle oil boomtown.

1928: Cracks open the Murder Machine case, in which lawmen

framed and murdered alleged bank bandits to collect "dead robber" rewards offered by the Texas Bankers Association.

1929: Returns with his Ranger company to Borger to wipe out organized crime for good.

1930: Hamer, his Rangers and National Guardsmen battle a mob in the Sherman Riot; becomes the first and only

Ranger to lose a prisoner to a mob when the lynchers burn down the courthouse, killing a black rapist locked inside.

1932: Hamer is fired from the Rangers by the corrupt governor, Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, and her husband, former Gov. James "Pa" Ferguson.

1934: Tracks down and kills

Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker.

1935: Begins career as private detective in Houston, protecting shipping and oil companies from labor violence.

1948: Investigates Ballot Box 13: Lyndon B. Johnson supporters stuff a ballot box in South Texas that results in Johnson's victory in the U.S. senate election.

1955: Dies peacefully in bed at his home in Austin, Texas.

surprise. Hamer delivered his prisoners to the sheriff of Crockett County and returned the stolen mounts to his grateful boss at the Carr ranch.

Hamer had tasted his first manhunt, and it was exhilarating—just like hunting animals, but far more exciting and dangerous. The adventure, the adrenaline rush from taking his men alive and the sense of pride and accomplishment in outwitting the horse thieves overwhelmed him. He wanted more of the same, and he would get it. Hamer was far too bright to be satisfied with the simple life of a drover.

BECOMING A RANGER

One night in October 1905, he overheard a call from Pecos County Sheriff Dudley S. Barker in Fort Stockton. Barker was asking his former deputy, Charlie Witcher, to intercept a horse thief who was headed that way on a stolen mount.

Hamer knew the horse thief wouldn't reach the Carr ranch until daybreak. The only water on the route was at the Carr windmill, and Hamer was sure the rider would have to stop there to water his horse. He awoke at 3:00 a.m., buckled on his gunbelt and six-shooter, saddled his mount and, with Winchester in hand, rode out to the windmill.

At daylight, when a stranger dismounted, Hamer placed him under arrest. Within moments, the horse thief was back in his saddle, headed toward Fort Stockton, with Hamer following 20 feet behind.

Recalled Frank, "I sure felt good that morning going up and down the long slopes with that thief ahead of me. Finally, after riding sixteen miles, I saw Dud Barker top out on a hill two miles off."

As Barker handcuffed the prisoner, he said to Hamer, "This is the second time you've done my work. You did a mighty fine job of catching this man, Frank. How'd you like to be a Texas Ranger?"



Frank Hamer (at left) stands with veteran Texas Ranger Oscar Latta in 1908, the year they investigated the murder of stockman Aaron Johnson near Geneva, Texas. They outwitted a mob and got their murderer, Robert Wright, convicted and legally hanged.

"I never gave it too much thought before," Frank answered. "It sounds pretty good, though. What do I have to do to get in?"

"You let me take care of that," replied the sheriff. Barker, 31, had served three years as a Texas Ranger and achieved repute for his role in breaking up the San Saba Mob in 1896. He recognized a good Ranger recruit when he saw one.

On February 26, 1906, Sheriff Barker wrote to Texas Adjutant Gen. John A. Hulen in Austin and recommended Hamer, praising Hamer's capture of the horse thief and noting he "has the ability to grasp the situation quickly."

Soon after, John H. Rogers, captain of Company C, instructed Sgt. Jim Moore to have Hamer report for duty in Sheffield. At that time, Company C was headquartered in Alpine, in the Big Bend Country, 70 miles southwest of Fort Stockton. In keeping with the state's failure to adequately fund the Rangers, Moore's detachment did not have housing. The lawmen slept outdoors, four miles outside

of Sheffield, in canvas Army tents and cooked on open fires.

In mid-April, Hamer rode into the Ranger camp looking for Capt. Rogers. But the captain was busy at his headquarters in Alpine, so Frank loitered about the camp, getting to know Sgt. Moore and Pvt. E.S. McGee. Moore was an experienced Ranger, having served five years under Capt. Rogers before being promoted to sergeant in 1905. McGee had been a Ranger only seven months, and Capt. Rogers had become dissatisfied with his performance.

On April 15, the Rangers got a report that a Mexican had taken a horse "for the purpose of forcing the collection of a debt without any authority of law." McGee and Hamer started in pursuit and quickly caught their man.

Wrote the captain, "They recovered the horse and delivered him to the rightful owner but not being able to make a case of theft...against said Mexican they did not put him under arrest."



Frank Hamer in action, on the U.S.-Mexico border, about 1921.

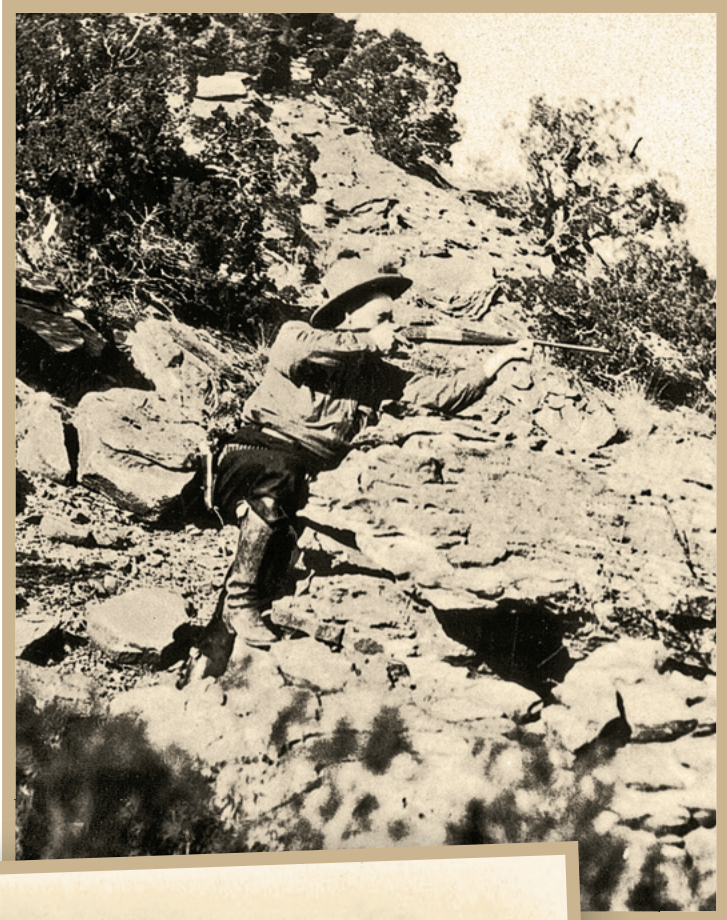
- COURTESY TARONDA SCHULZ COLLECTION -

The owner of the horse was entirely satisfied with the recovery of his horse.”

On April 21, Capt. Rogers arrived in Sheffield to interview the gangly young recruit. Rogers, impressed by Hamer’s volunteering to help the Rangers, was soon satisfied with Barker’s recommendation, and Hamer took the Texas Ranger oath.

Every red-blooded white boy in the Southwest dreamed of being a Texas Ranger. The new recruit, just 22, was bursting with pride.

Though his enlistment had been entirely coincidental, he was a Ranger born. His rugged life in the saddle had steeled him against hardship and privation. His massive size,



Frank Hamer, below right, poses with dead raiders at the Norias Ranch near Kingsville, Texas, on August 9, 1915. The Ranger on the left appears to be Jim Dunaway. They are holding the captured battle flag between them. This battle was among those fought on American soil during the Mexican Revolution.





Texas Rangers Frank Hamer and Duke Hudson pose with their Winchesters around 1906, when just starting their careers as Texas lawmen. Hamer was Navasota city marshal; Hudson was later elected to county sheriff.

-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

physical power, superb marksmanship and raw courage melded to create a deadly adversary. A deep religious faith imbued in him strong notions of right and wrong. His lonely years in the wild country had made him so independent and self-reliant that he cared little for what others thought of him. His natural curiosity, his quick, analytical mind and his near-photographic memory would mold him into a brilliant detective.

Quiet and humble, rigid and unyielding, Hamer began his long ride into the halls of Texas legend and lore.



This edited excerpt is from *Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, the Man Who Killed Bonnie and Clyde*, by John Boessenecker. The author of numerous Old West tomes, this book is his most recent, published this April by Thomas Dunne Books.

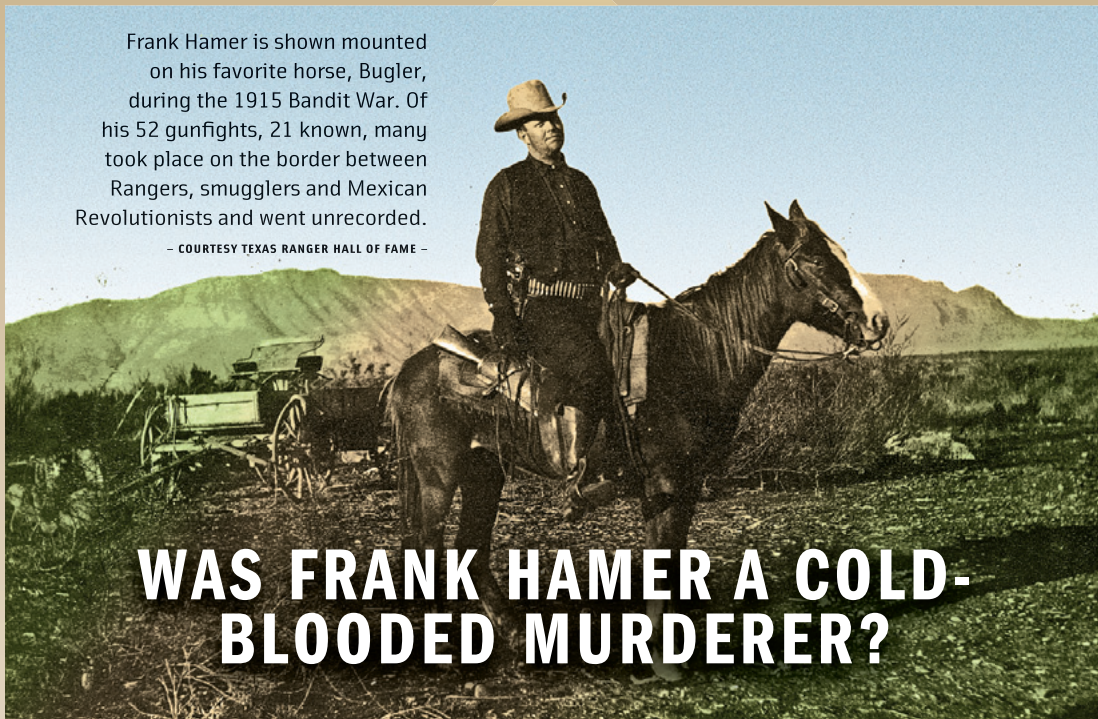


Tom Mix and Frank Hamer lean on the Capitol in Austin, Texas, in 1927. The two were polar opposites—Mix, a flamboyant, talkative cowboy actor; Hamer, a quiet, modest real-life cowboy—but became fast friends.

- COURTESY TARONDA SCHULZ COLLECTION -

Frank Hamer is shown mounted on his favorite horse, Bugler, during the 1915 Bandit War. Of his 52 gunfights, 21 known, many took place on the border between Rangers, smugglers and Mexican Revolutionists and went unrecorded.

— COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME —



WAS FRANK HAMER A COLD-BLOODED MURDERER?

Frank Hamer was among the Texas Rangers present during the darkest epoch in Texas Ranger history. “During the bandit troubles between August 4, 1915, and June 17, 1916, 100 Mexicans have been executed by the Texas Rangers and deputy sheriffs without process of law. Some place the figures at 300,” the U.S. Senate determined in 1920.

But did Hamer evaporate Mexican raiders? Because Texas Ranger Capt. J. Monroe Fox’s scout reports are so spotty, historians cannot tell. If Hamer did participate, that would be a damning indictment of his character.

What we do know is this: Capt. John H. Rogers had drummed into Hamer strong notions of justice, fairness and an unwavering duty to protect the weak from the strong. Hamer demonstrated that he had absorbed those lessons by repeatedly risking his life to protect blacks in east Texas. That he would suddenly abandon those ideals and follow Capt. Fox, whom he had only known for a month, into cold-blooded murder seems improbable. Later on, Hamer shared his poor opinion of Fox as a lawman. Subsequent state and federal investigations of the Bandit War revealed many instances of Ranger brutality, but no evidence of any unlawful action by Hamer.

Perhaps the closest answer comes from Judge W.H. Mead, a pioneer of the Rio Grande Valley who, 20 years later, recalled Hamer and the Bandit War: “Hamer was no ordinary old type ranger. He had a heart. He was not the killer type with an itching trigger finger, but any bad man whom he knew had it coming to him surely got it sometime somewhere.”

Though in later years, Hamer would rarely discuss any of his 52 gunfights, he insisted that all of his shootings were proper: “The men I have shot down have all been criminals in the act of committing a crime or resisting arrest. I’m hired to do that work. It’s my job. I do it because I have to. I don’t like to talk about it or think about it. It’s something to be forgotten.”

BY PAUL COOL

Did Remington Capture

Art unexpectedly imitated life in master artist Frederic Remington's first sold work.

At

the age of 19, Frederic Remington had yet to find a purpose in life when he boarded a train west on

August 10, 1881. By August 13, he was in Dakota Territory, switching from railway to stagecoach on his way to Montana. Hundreds of miles away, where Arizona, New Mexico and Old Mexico meet, August 13 marked the violent death of Newman Haynes Clanton, a patriarchal Westerner whose unruly brood, unsavory friends and questionable activities would encourage mythmakers to transform him into a Godfather of borderlands crime. The two events were unrelated in every way except in the imaginative mind of a young and as yet undisciplined artist.

Like many young Easterners, Remington was on vacation, but he had an eye to finding get-rich-quick opportunities. He found none except those, like ranching, that required far more capital than he could put his hands on. But he did soak up the country, the big sky, the jagged mountains and endless prairie, the



Clanton's Last Breath?

"Cow-Boys of Arizona—Roused by a Scout" appeared in *Harper's Weekly* based on an original drawing by Frederic Remington, in collaboration with William Allen Rogers.

— PUBLISHED IN HARPER'S WEEKLY, FEBRUARY 25, 1882 —



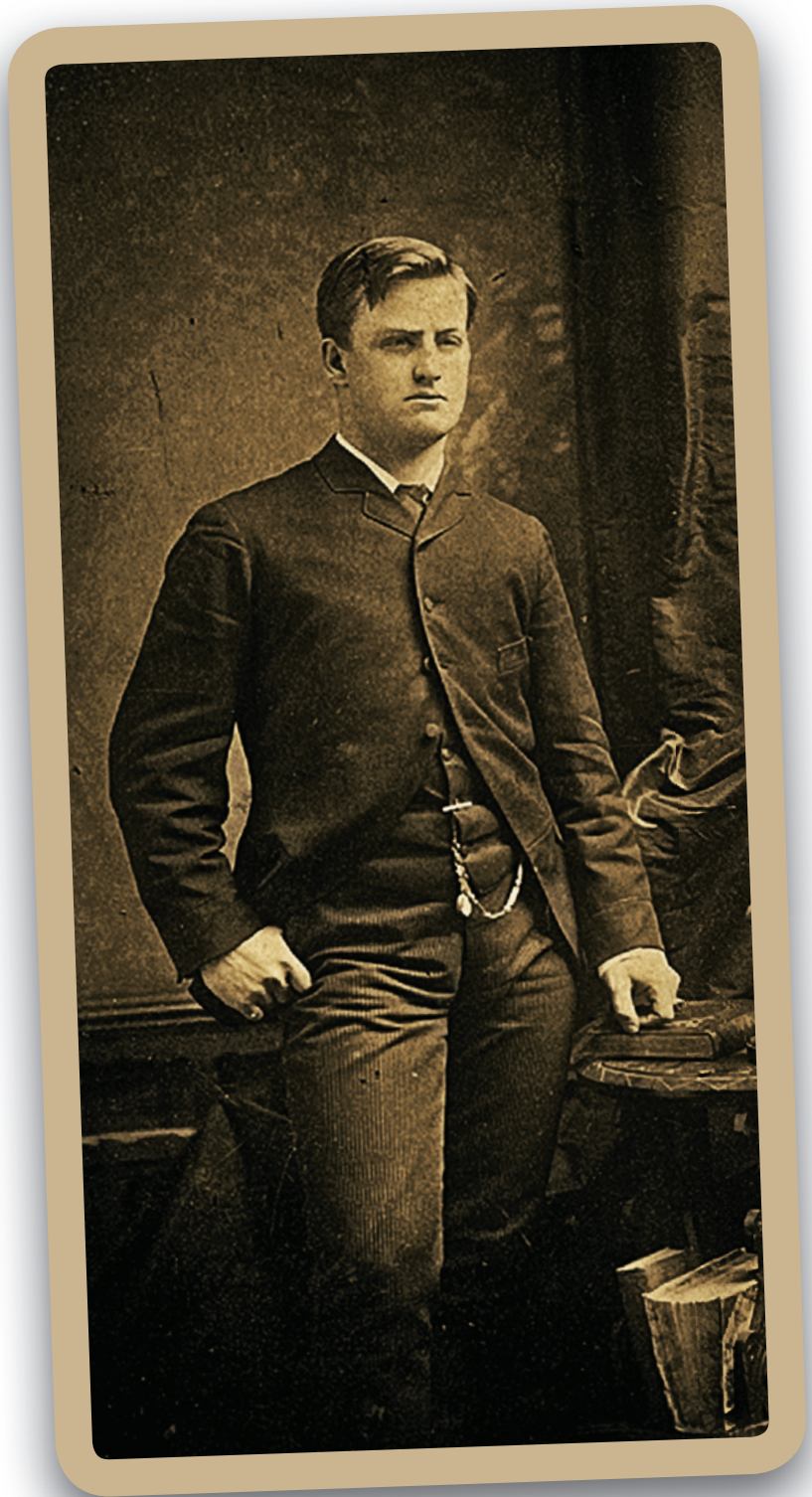
disappearing bison and the first Montana and Wyoming cattle herds. He saw, sitting effortlessly upon their horses, the cowboy, the cavalryman and the Indian, the latter no longer free to roam the Northern Plains.

Although Remington brought no artist's tools with him on the journey, his experiences in Montana and Wyoming encouraged the young man to draw using any tools at hand. Remington had sketched illustrations for his college newspaper, but he had never offered anything for sale. The rugged land and men inspired him and reinforced self-confidence in his artistic ability. From Wyoming, he dispatched to *Harper's Weekly* illustrated magazine in New York a sketch that became his first sold work of art, one that bore an eerie resemblance to a bloody massacre that ended the life of Newman Clanton.

Clanton's Last Breath

In the early morning hours of August 13, 1881, while Remington was still making his way to Montana, Old Man Clanton, as the 65-year-old Arizona rancher is more widely known, leaned over a campfire to get breakfast started for himself and six companions. The camp was yards north of the Mexican border in Guadalupe Canyon, a well-traveled corridor of legal commerce and contraband cattle straddling Arizona and New Mexico Territories.

The herding of cattle west from New Mexico's Animas Valley had brought to the canyon that August



This 1880 photograph of Frederic Remington was taken a year before the vacationer headed west and discovered his talent as an artist.

- COURTESY FREDERIC REMINGTON, CA. 1880 / NOTMAN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY. MARY FANTON ROBERTS PAPERS, 1880-1956. ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION -

seven Americans—four herders and three tagalongs looking for safety in numbers. Because the seven were a mixed-bag company of murderous criminals and honest cattlemen (or what passed for honest along a section of border where smuggling was rife), we do not know for sure the nature of their business. Were the herders driving their own cattle, or beeves recently stolen during a raid inside Mexico? Was Old Man Clanton simply the cook, or was he a leader of a band of rustlers? The argument goes on.

At least five of the group, including Clanton, were awake in the pre-dawn light, but all were figuratively caught napping that morning. The party had settled themselves and the livestock into a hollow surrounded by three hills. Near daybreak, the cattle became uneasy.

Billy Byers, who survived, was awakened by the noise. He heard Bill Lang, naturally fearing a stampede, call out to Charley Snow, at that time mounted and on guard, “Charley, get your gun, I think there’s a bear up there, and if so, kill it.”

Snow rode up a hillside past Clanton, who was preparing breakfast. Then gunfire erupted from all directions. The first volley, as many as 25 or 30 shots, killed Snow and peppered the entire campsite. Harry Ernshaw saw Clanton “fall face forward into the fire he had started for breakfast.” Dixie Lee “Dick” Gray and Jim Crane were still in their bedrolls where bullets struck them multiple

times. They never rose. Bill Lang was killed exchanging shots with his attackers. Within minutes, a force of Mexican soldiers, taking revenge for the ravaging of Sonoran ranches and villages by American smugglers, had killed five of the cattlemen and their companions. Only Byers and Ernshaw made it out alive.

From Wyoming to Arizona

The massacre of five Americans in Guadalupe Cañon made *The New York Times* and other major newspapers from Chicago to San Francisco. If any of these dailies reached young Remington during his adventures on the Northern Plains, they might have stirred his imagination. That he read or heard the story in any detail is highly doubtful, which makes the imagery of his first sold artwork an uncanny coincidence.

More than likely, some story told to the aspiring artist by a Wyoming cowboy or cavalryman gave him the idea. Perhaps he was inspired by his own personal experience. We don’t know, because Remington recorded few recollections of his first trip out to the West. Whatever moved him, Remington formed a mental image, roughly translated it with pencil onto a piece of crumpled wrapping paper and mailed the resulting sketch to *Harper’s Weekly*, one of the premier periodicals noted for the work of graphic artists.

In New York, *Harper’s Weekly’s* art director Charles Parsons examined

the sketch. “Intrigued” by the Wyoming postmark and by the rough drawing on even rougher paper, Parsons decided that Remington’s illustration was right for the magazine, once a bit of polish was applied. He turned it over to 27-year-old William Allen Rogers, already a veteran fine-line illustrator and the heir to *Harper’s* most famous cartoonist, Thomas Nast. Rogers took the original sketch and redrew it on wood.

Following his return to New York in October, Remington met with *Harper’s Weekly* editor George William Curtis, who agreed to buy the artist’s wrapping paper sketch, although we don’t know the purchase price.

Harper’s Weekly finally published Rogers’ redrawn version of Remington’s sketch in the February 25, 1882, edition. The image served as a companion to an article titled, “The Cow-Boys of Arizona.” That item drew upon messages from acting Arizona Territorial Gov. John J. Gosper and President Chester A. Arthur to describe the lawlessness of the cowboys, the ineffectiveness of both the county sheriff and city police in dealing with the problem, and the need for military intervention in support of civil authorities. The accompanying wood engraving, although based on Remington’s experiences in Montana and Wyoming, was titled, “Cow-Boys of Arizona—Roused by a Scout.” The drawing was signed, “W.A. Rogers,” but the original artist was credited

in the caption, “Drawn by W.A. Rogers, from a sketch by Frederic Remington.”

The redrawn sketch received full-page space. Rogers was a talented artist, but his unfamiliarity with the West may account for the six cowboys in the scene appearing seriously under-armed. Only two rifles and two knives can be seen among the group, although one cowboy might be carrying an unseen revolver on his gunbelt. Remington was not yet a skilled artist, but he was from the start a keen observer, and he likely had placed more weaponry at the disposition of these just-roused cowboys.

Art Imitates Life

In depicting the moment of the cowboys’ arousal by their scout, Remington opted not to portray a subject common to many of his works, a violent struggle-to-the-death. He instead chose to illustrate the threshold of danger, at least to an unseen herd, and quite possibly to the men themselves. The life-or-death character of the scout’s news is seen fourfold: in his rush into camp, by his horse’s sudden stop, in the disbelief, dread or determination in the faces of his companions, and in the quick strapping of a gunbelt by one alerted cowboy.

A look of grim resolve marks the visage of the salt-and-pepper bearded

cowboy, a countenance that Old Man Clanton might have shown if Charley Snow had been able to warn his trail companions of Mexican soldiers on the heights, to which Remington’s scout is pointing. Of course, Remington is not illustrating a moment in Guadalupe Canyon. The artist had not yet been to Arizona. He probably had not read or heard of the massacre. And Snow never made it



The day of August 13, 1881, marked the violent death of Newman “Old Man” Clanton (shown here), which the then-unknown artist Frederic Remington may have unknowingly depicted in his first sold artwork.

— COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN —

off the bluff to warn anyone. Snow, Clanton and two of their still-sleeping companions were killed without warning in the first volley.

Yet Remington’s scene strongly calls to mind the Guadalupe Canyon Massacre. The editors of *Harper’s Weekly* created the association through their decision to pair this Northern Plains illustration with an Arizona article. Nothing in the illustration gives away the men’s purpose in the canyon setting or their identification as rustlers. Instead, the caption brands them as “Arizona Cow-Boys,” a title given its criminal meaning by the accompanying article. The illustration presents these figures, in Remington’s phrase, as “men with the bark on,” frontiersmen who willingly placed themselves in situations fraught with dangers, including whatever they now faced. Here, evidently, the figures have put themselves in the right place to get attacked, possibly massacred, by unseen enemies on the heights.

Interestingly, the landscape of the Clanton massacre site is strikingly similar to what Remington imagined for his scene of early morning danger. Together, Remington and Rogers successfully captured the confused reaction of men just awakened by the dire warning issued by their scout, a response Snow likely would have received had he been able to warn of the impending danger. While the cowboys in Guadalupe



As an example of the important assignments William A. Rogers was given by *Harper's Weekly* in 1881, here is Rogers' drawing of President Garfield's assassination.

— PUBLISHED IN *HARPER'S WEEKLY*, JULY 8, 1881 —



Frederic Remington finally arrived in Arizona in 1886 to cover the Geronimo war as a correspondent for *Harper's Weekly*. Five years before he drew this image, "Pima Indians Convoying a Silver Train in Mexico," the cowboys precipitated the Guadalupe Canyon Massacre by ambushing a Mexican silver train packed much like this one.

— PUBLISHED IN *HARPER'S WEEKLY*, JANUARY 15, 1887 —

Canyon were instead aroused by bullets raining down from the heights, the individual reactions of those who survived the first volley speak to fear, presence of mind and gutsiness in the face of certain death, qualities on the faces etched by Rogers. Perhaps the eeriest element of the *Harper's* illustration is the arresting presence in the central foreground of the elderly, bearded man. His resemblance to Old Man Clanton is uncanny.

Unknown to the eventual Master Artist of the American West, who conceived this remarkable drawing, art nearly imitated a real-life event, proving that, as a 19 year old on vacation, Remington already grasped, even intuited, how brutishly life could play its last hand in an unpredictable and violent land. Remington's first drawing would be joined by thousands more

illustrations, paintings and sculptures that helped create and solidify the myth of an adventurous and violent contest for the right to live life as one chose in the frontier West.



Arizona author **Paul Cool** won the Southwest Book of the Year, among other awards, for his first book, *Salt Warriors: Insurgency on the Rio Grande*. For more on Frederic Remington, he recommends you read Peggy & Harold Samuels's *Frederic Remington: A Biography* and John Plesent Gray's *When All Roads Led to Tombstone*, edited by W. Lane Rogers.

A True West Writer's 40-Year Journey

BY JACK DEMATTOS

During June 1959, when I was one month shy of turning 15, I noticed a Western magazine on a newsstand called *True West*. Several other Western magazines were also available, but something about this one made it stand out. This particular issue was “Vol. 6, Whole No. 33,” featuring Antonio López de Santa Anna waving a sword in front of the Alamo. The cover price was 25 cents, and I became a subscriber.

By June 1975, when I was one month shy of turning 31, I was a homeowner with a wife and two young children. I had graduated from the Art Institute of Boston in 1966 and was employed as an art director by a Fortune 500 corporation. I still owned all of the copies of *True West* that had been published since June 1959—along with numerous other Western magazines. The collection was piled in neat stacks in my attic. I never had the heart to throw them out.

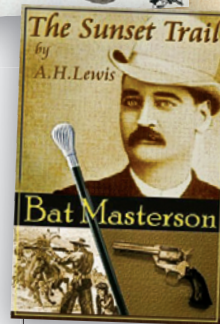
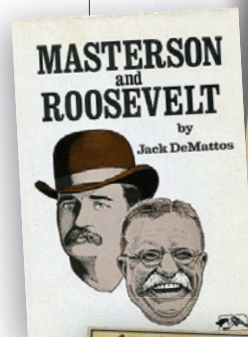
My wife, Sandi, did have the heart to throw them out and asked me if I had any “further use” for the magazines. I did. Those magazines never made it to the trash. Seeing them again inspired me to try my luck as a Western writer. The fact that I had no previous experience as either a writer or researcher did not deter me.

During the summer of 1975, I visited the Widener Library at Harvard—the repository for more than 100,000 letters to and from President Theodore Roosevelt. I knew that Roosevelt and Bat Masterson were friends, and I wanted to see if I could locate correspondence between the two. Much to my delight, I located 19 surviving letters between Masterson and Roosevelt. This discovery was the basis for my first article,

titled “The President and the Gunfighter.” Exactly 100 *True West* issues had been published between the 25-cent issue that first attracted my attention in 1959 and the 75-cent February 1976 issue that contained my first published article.

Forty years have now passed since the publication of that article. *True West* is now up to Vol. 63. I have gone on to write nearly 100 articles for magazines and various historical journals, along with seven books. That first *True West* article still retains a special place in my heart, as does *True West* itself, which remains today what it was 40 years ago—the best Western magazine of all time. For whatever success I have enjoyed, I will always remember that it all began with *True West*.

Jack DeMattos is the editor and illustrator of *Famous Gun Fighters of the Western Frontier* by W.B. Masterson, the author of 1984's *Masterson and Roosevelt*, 1988's *Garrett and Roosevelt*, 1989's *The Earp Decision* and 1992's *Mysterious Gunfighter: The Story of Dave Mather*. He also cowrote 2010's *A Rough Ride to Redemption: The Ben Daniels Story*, with Robert K. DeArment, and 2015's *The Notorious Luke Short: Sporting Man of the Wild West*, with Chuck Parsons.



Eight years after his *True West* article, Jack DeMattos authored *Masterson and Roosevelt*, which revealed how the two men had met: through writer Alfred Henry Lewis. Lewis later wrote a book about Bat Masterson, 1905's *The Sunset Trail*.

Alfred Henry Lewis's younger brother, William, managing editor of the *New York Morning Telegraph*, hired Bat Masterson as a sportswriter. On October 7, 1921, 18 days before he died, Masterson got a visit from William S. Hart (the actor sits at Masterson's desk, with the reporter behind him). Masterson's columns applauding Hart's portrayals of frontier characters had encouraged the actor to seek him out in 1918. They remained friends all those years.

— BOOK COVERS COURTESY JACK DEMATTOS; HART-MASTERSON PHOTO COURTESY WILLIAM S. HART COLLECTION, LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY —



Nineteen surviving letters between Masterson and Roosevelt were discovered in 1975. Photo: Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

...iving letters between Bat Masterson and Teddy Roosevelt,
...o a friendship alive that had thrived on the Platte but was

spanning the years 1905-17, show the effort each man made to obser
a shade out of place on the Potomac . . .

SEVERAL NOTED GUNMEN (in and outside the law) formed close and lasting friendships with Theodore Roosevelt during his Presidency. That is not what is not so well known is that these men for more than twenty years. There are almost 600 letters between President Roosevelt and gunfighters such as Pat Garrett, Bill Tilghman, Chris

Madsen, Frank James, Tom Rynning and many others. This article will examine only the friendship and letters between Teddy Roosevelt and one of these men—Bat Masterson.
Bartholomew Masterson was born November 26, 1858 in St. George's Parish, County Rouville, Quebec Province, Canada. Bat wasn't exactly overjoyed about being given a name like

By JACK DeMATT
Photos Courtesy Author

Bartholomew, and eventually it to William Barclay. Bat second of Thomas and Catharine Masterson's seven children. On October 27, 1858 another born. This time the proud parent was Roosevelt. The location was 20th Street, then one of New York's more fashionable neighborhoods. The boy was named Theodore, after his father.
Theodore Roosevelt was a slight, asthmatic child who gave little indication of the dynamo he would become. In 1871, at the age of thirteen, Theodore was worked over by two older bullies. Young Roosevelt vowed to build his strength. His wealthy father installed a gymnasium at home. In the manner of the classic Calisthenic Atlas ad, Theodore developed from a proverbial "ninety-pound weakling" to a tower of strength. Never again would Theodore Roosevelt fall victim to a bully.
During that same year, the Theodore Masterson family emigrated to the Kansas frontier. Their home was a eighty-acre farm about fourteen miles northeast of present-day Wichita. Eighteen-year-old Bat, along with his brothers Ed and Jim, soon tired of farm life. Early in 1872 the three Masterson brothers left the farm to take a fling

THE PRESIDENT AND THE GUNFIGHTER

At left, Theodore Roosevelt in 1885 (he was 27 years old at the time of this photo). Below, a five-page letter from Bat Masterson to President Theodore Roosevelt. It was written in defense of an old Dodge City friend, Ben Daniels. Roosevelt wanted to appoint Daniels U.S. Marshal for Arizona, but ran into stiff opposition from the Senate. For background on the Ben Daniels affair, and its outcome, see "Fighting Man," by William B. Secrest in the May, 1969 issue of *Frontier Times*.)



*To President Grover Cleveland
White House
My dear Mr President
Senator Sellar
of Colorado will oppose
the appointment of Ben
Daniels +
He stated this morning
to Congressman Lane
that he had called upon
me for the purpose
of having him let up
on his fight against
Daniels. He tried*

*My Well do so at this
time as he was being
argued and petitioned by
his Colorado constituents
to keep up the fight +
In view of other reports
made by the Senator this
morning I am disposed
to believe that it is*

*"a slap to the President
of the United States
When he claims
incorporated some good
sundry about Masterson
in his message while*

*the Snake Stationer
from the Rockies
is kind again and says
I succeed in inducing
him to say a little as
he has against Ben
Sinsinger. Ben
is not superior
the gentleman
applied again
to the press as a
in the article
of the Snake*

*Just returning
to New York this
P.M. on 3:00 clock
Train P.T.O.
with but wishes
for
Resect
of success
to be perfectly
Masterson
[Masterson]*



"You must be careful not to gamble or do anything while you are a public officer which might afford opportunity to your enemies and my critics to say that your appointment was improper."

—President Theodore Roosevelt, in a February 2, 1905, letter to Bat Masterson, following his appointment as deputy U.S. marshal for the Southern District of New York. Masterson had moved to New York City in 1902 and, after he was arrested a couple of times, Roosevelt came to his aid. The President likely utilized connections forged while serving as New York City police commissioner in the 1890s (shown at his desk).

At left, Bat Masterson about 1885.



In his 17th year of reading *True West*, Jack DeMattos landed in the magazine, with his article that discussed the 19 surviving letters between gunfighter Bat Masterson and President Teddy Roosevelt. In 1905, the President appointed Masterson deputy U.S. marshal for the Southern District of New York.

— ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

TRUE WEST
EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

SWEETWATER SHOOT-OUT

FRANK &
GLADYS HAMER
VS
GEE MCMEANS
& H.E. PHILLIPS

"I'VE GOT YOU NOW,
GOD DAMN YOU!"



Over a long career, many shooters mistakenly believe they "got" Frank Hamer.

— ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

With additional reporting by Mark Boardman
Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of H. Gordon Frost, John H. Jenkins,
Gene Shelton, Bill O'Neal and John Boessenecker

OCTOBER 1, 1917

Frank Hamer wants to go home. The Texas Ranger has just testified at the Callahan County Courthouse in Baird, Texas, in a murder trial, and the case has been continued. Two men, waiting by a drugstore, warn Frank not to pass through Sweetwater on his way home—men are waiting there to kill him.

Frank has no intention of changing his route, although he tells none of his car passengers about the threat. He does strap on an extra revolver, a .44 Smith & Wesson, to complement his .45 Colt.

Frank's traveling companions are his wife, Gladys (who is three months pregnant), his brother, Harrison, Gladys's brother, Emmett Johnson, and Emmett's wife, Rocky. He points the car toward their home, Snyder.

As Frank drives by a second-story building in Abilene, he spots a lawyer friend of former Texas Ranger and Sheriff Gee McMeans staring down out of his office, smiling a smug smile.

Around 1:30 p.m., on the approach to Sweetwater, one of the car tires goes flat. Frank pulls into the City Garage, at the corner of Locust and Broadway, directly across from the courthouse.

Harrison and Emmett head across an alley to "see a man about a horse" (go to the bathroom). Gladys and Rocky remain in the car.

Frank enters the empty garage. Finding no one inside, he starts to exit when he coincidentally runs into McMeans. The two are deadly enemies, as McMeans is related by marriage to the Sims faction of the Johnson-Sims Feud; Hamer is related by marriage to the Johnson faction.

McMeans shoots Frank, yelling, "I've got you now, God damn you!"

The bullet drives Frank's watch chain deep into his left shoulder, incapacitating his normal gun hand. With his right hand, he grapples with the gunman, but McMeans gets off another shot. The second bullet tears into Frank's leg.

From the car, Gladys spots a man with a shotgun coming, from the street, toward Frank. She grabs a .32 pistol off the seat and fires at the shotgunner, but her shot misses. H.E. Phillips, McMeans' hired man, squawks and ducks behind an automobile. Every time he tries to rise, Gladys sends another bullet his way, until she empties the magazine. As she ducks down in the seat to reload, the shotgunner runs toward Frank.

Frank is still wrestling with McMeans. From the corner of his eye, Frank sees the shotgun shooter approaching. McMeans breaks free, the shotgun

roars and the concussion of the blast staggers Frank as he falls to his knees.

"I got him! I got him!" the shooter yells in triumph, only to see Frank lunge to his feet. The blast, fired from two feet away, has missed Frank's head by inches, but shreds his hat.

McMeans and the shotgunner run toward a waiting car. Frank runs after them, stumbling,

but regains his feet and pulls a gun with his right hand. He reaches the shooters' getaway car just as McMeans fetches a pump shotgun from inside. As he turns, Frank puts a bullet through his heart, killing him.

Behind the vehicle, the shotgunner crouches beside McMeans' body, the smoothbore still in his hands. "Get up!" Frank yells. "Fight me like a man!"

The shotgunner scrambles to his feet and runs. "Turn around, damn you!" Frank screams.

His brother, Harrison, runs up, raising his rifle toward the fleeing man. Frank knocks the barrel skyward as Harrison squeezes off the shot: "Don't shoot him in the back! Leave him!"

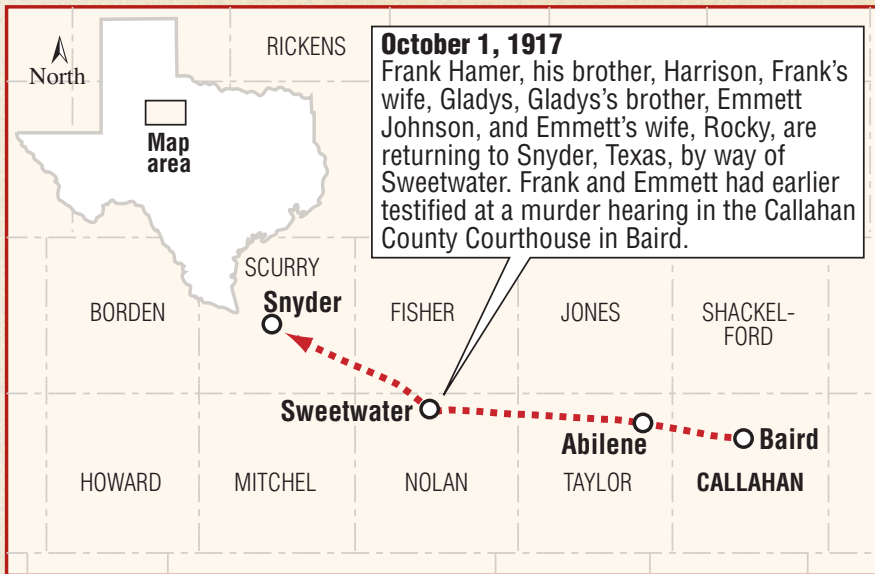
Gladys runs up and takes her husband around the waist, his blood oozing onto her dress.

"Somebody get a doctor!" Gladys yells. "My husband's been shot!"

The fight has only just begun for this Texas Ranger. ★



Frank Hamer



Aftermath: Odds & Ends

The gunfight began while a grand jury in Sweetwater, Texas, was in session. The jurors ran to a window and witnessed the end of the fight. All participants, including pregnant Gladys Hamer, were lodged in jail. After five days in jail, Frank Hamer—still severely wounded—appeared before the panel and gave his version of events; the grand jury ruled that Gee McMeans' death was "justifiable homicide."

Frank continued to work in law enforcement and security for another 32 years. He died in Austin in 1955 at 71. During his career, Frank was wounded by 23 buckshot and bullets; twice, he was declared dead. He reportedly killed a couple dozen baddies. His most famous? The shootings of outlaw sweethearts Bonnie and Clyde in 1934.

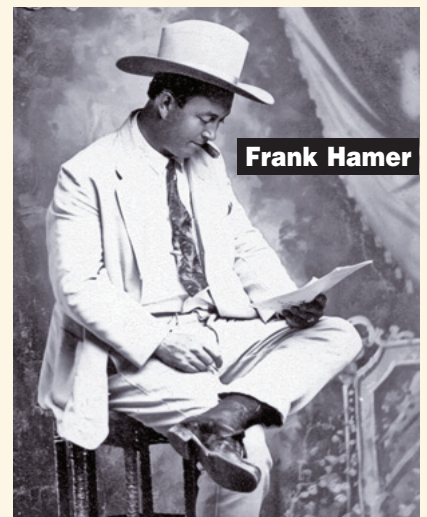
Frank was reticent in the extreme and rarely discussed his shootings. In 1934, during one of the few detailed interviews Hamer ever gave, he told Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist A.B. MacDonald that he had participated in 52 gunfights. Many of these took place on the border between Texas Rangers, smugglers, and Mexican Revolutionists, and were never recorded.

Recommended: *Texas Ranger* by John Boessenecker, published by Thomas Dunne Books; *I'm Frank Hamer* by H. Gordon Frost and John H. Jenkins, published by Pemberton Press; and *The Johnson-Sims Feud* by Bill O'Neal, published by University of North Texas Press



Frank Hamer joined the Rangers in April 1906, patrolling the border under Captain J.H. Rogers' Company C, the same company his would-be assassin Gee McMeans served under the year earlier.

— ALL PHOTOS COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO, TEXAS —

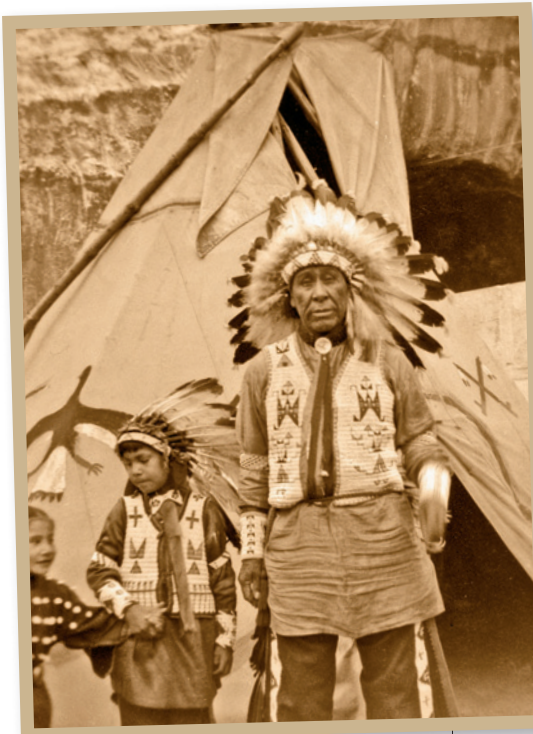


BY STEVE FRIESEN

LITTLE KNOWN CHARACTERS OF THE OLD WEST

Lakota Globetrotter

Sam Lone Bear, a learned dandy, represented his people on the world stage.



Sam Lone Bear, 57, poses at the Exposition Universelle in Brussels, Belgium, in 1935. He stands with the children of Joe and Rose Little Moon, who also performed at the fair.

— COURTESY FRANÇOIS CHLADIUK —

culture's traditions at a time when the United States government was trying to eradicate them. He also saw more of the world than most people of his day.

Lone Bear reminisced later in life that school was where his curiosity about the rest of the world was aroused. Teachers told him about the cities and marvels of civilization. He decided he wanted to see them firsthand. When William "Buffalo Bill" Cody visited the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Lone Bear

listened to the stories of his travels and concluded Cody's Wild West show would be his ticket to the world. He joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West in 1894, at age 16.

Lone Bear became a featured performer in the Wild West, taking part in re-created battles and frequently posing for photographs. His ability with languages, and with people, enabled him to fill the roles of interpreter and chief of the Indian police for Cody's show. He even became an actor, assuming the role of Chief Big Foot at Wounded Knee in Buffalo Bill's 1914 movie about the Indian Wars. After the demise of Buffalo Bill's Wild West, Lone Bear appeared with

other Wild West shows as well as in the 1923 movie *The Covered Wagon*.

Lone Bear has often been confused with his cousin of the same age and name. That Sam Lone Bear, who served time for both horse theft and human trafficking, has been credited by anthropologists as an important leader in the peyotist movement. Lone Bear the performer, when not traveling in shows, was a model citizen, serving intermittently as interpreter and policeman on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Lone Bear performed in Wild West shows from 1894 to 1935. In addition to traveling throughout the United States, he

toured Europe eight times. Those European trips included visiting sites like the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, and the catacombs of Rome, as well as performing in nearly every country on the continent.

On his last trip to Europe, in 1935, he performed at the Exposition Universelle in Brussels, Belgium. At 57 years of age, he had performed longer with Wild West shows than any other

Lakota and had served as an unofficial ambassador to the world for his people.



He concluded
Cody's Wild
West show
would be his
ticket to the
world.

Steve Friesen is the director of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave in Golden, Colorado. Research for this article informed, "From Prairie to Palace: Buffalo Bill in Europe," on exhibit until January 20, 2017.

Sam Lone Bear, age 22, was photographed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by local photographer William Rau when Buffalo Bill's Wild West was in town in 1900. The picture was hand colored and distributed commercially.

- COURTESY BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM AND GRAVE -



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1901
WILLIAM RAU

BY TERRY A. DEL BENE

Dinner at the Devil's Inn

Never lose touch with the greatest survival tool of all time—intuition.

Sometimes survival is a matter of listening to your inner voice warning you to leave. Several travelers to Labette County had mysteriously disappeared, and then there were the bodies. In 1871, the corpse of one traveler was found in a fishing hole. The winter of 1872 saw the discovery of two more such corpses. All the bodies had slashed throats and crushed heads. Was a fiend loose in Kansas?

Father Paul Ponziglione felt apprehensive when he made his rounds in southeastern Kansas. He was carrying substantial funds that he had collected for good works. Many of those gone missing also reportedly carried large amounts of cash. Father Paul was no stranger to the danger of his parishes, as the countryside abounded with various ruffians, but this threat felt different. Tired and hungry, he stopped at the inn operated by an amiable German-American family, the Benders.

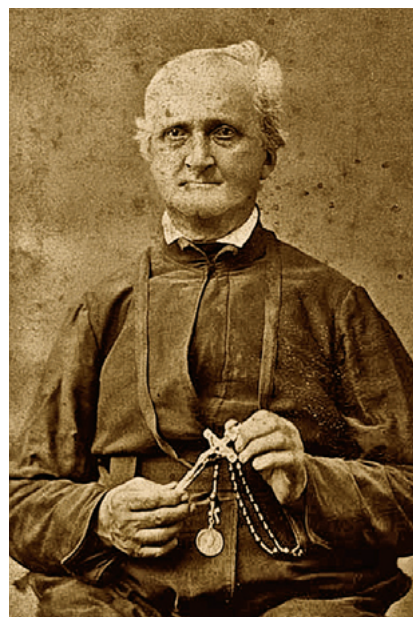
Was a fiend loose in Kansas?

This German family of four eschewed the difficult work of farming in favor of offering travelers meals and repose at their farmhouse. The family consisted of the Bible-obsessed patriarch, John, his wife, son John and daughter Kate. The stunningly beautiful 24-year-old daughter advertised herself as “Prof. Miss Katie Bender,” a faith healer who communed with spirits. Both

Kate and Ma Bender were considered by some to be witches, and stories of them cavorting naked probably helped their business.

Witches were not on Father Paul's mind as he entered the modest inn. The priest was warmly offered a seat near a soiled canvas sheet that the family used to divide the dining area from the rest of their home.

Something in the way the wind moaned outside gave the priest the frights. He noticed Pa Bender quietly move an iron hammer behind the canvas, as Pa whispered to Kate. Their features became stern and ominous.



FATHER PAUL PONZIGLIONE

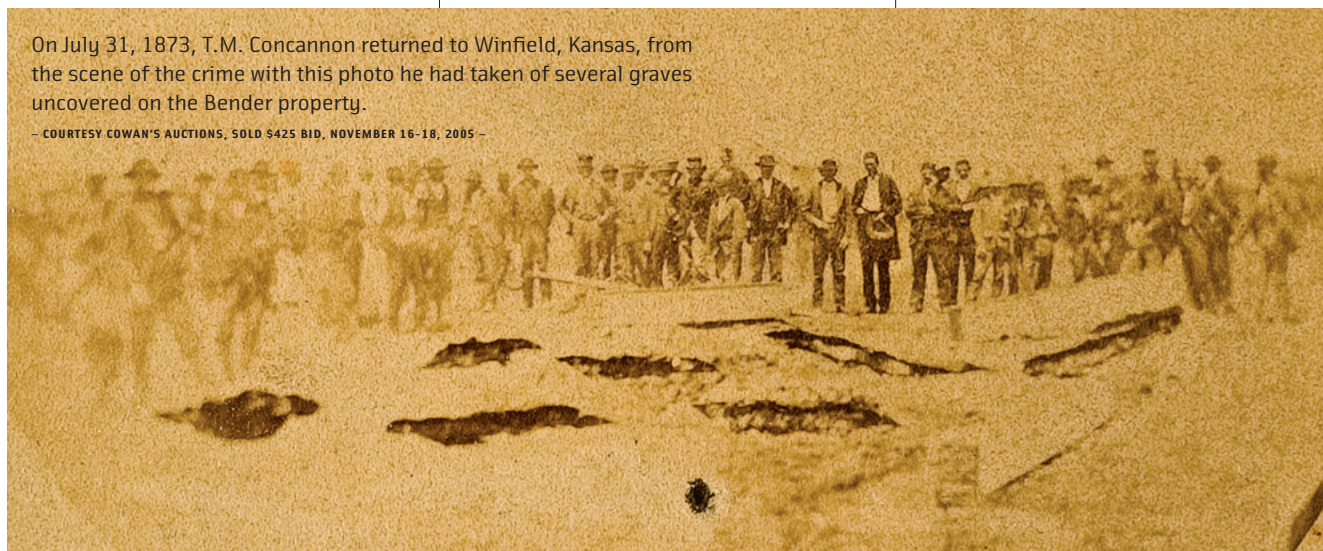
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Listening to his higher power, Father Paul excused himself to check on his horse. Once outside, he mounted the steed and galloped off into the night. He was certain that he had been delivered from danger.

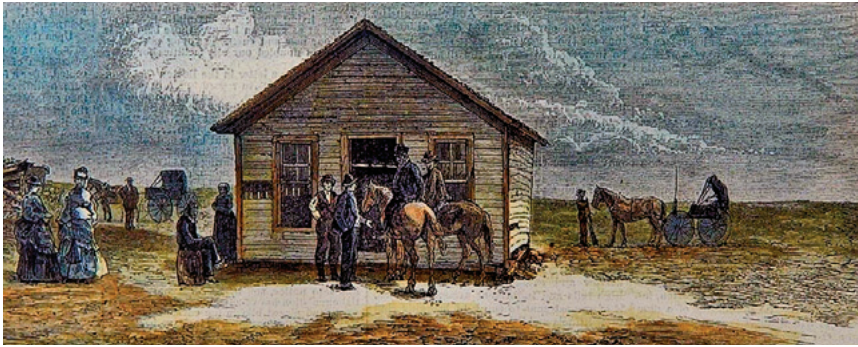
The priest was right. He had evaded the Bender family that indulged in mass murder for profit. They waited patiently for single travelers, with some prospect of money on their persons, to fall into their clutches. While at the dinner table or at some opportune time, one family member distracted the intended victim while another smashed the unfortunate in the back of the head with an iron hammer. The

On July 31, 1873, T.M. Concannon returned to Winfield, Kansas, from the scene of the crime with this photo he had taken of several graves uncovered on the Bender property.

— COURTESY COWAN'S AUCTIONS, SOLD \$425 BID, NOVEMBER 16-18, 2005 —



The Bender murders were a countrywide sensation. This color lithograph of the Bender home ran in the June 7, 1873, edition of *Harper's Weekly*.



stunned victim was finished off by drawing a sharp knife across the throat. The family hid the bodies in a cellar beneath the inn's trapdoor until the bodies could be disposed of later on.

Father Paul was not the only intended victim who had escaped by listening to his inner voice. At least two more such close calls came to light after news about the Benders circulated.

The undoing of the Benders came in early 1873. Dr. York had arrived to examine a horse and buggy found abandoned near Fort Scott. The doctor had sold them to George Loncher a few days previous, and George and his daughter were now missing. Dr. York took up lodging in the Benders' inn and never made it home. But he was far too important a man to not attract attention.

When the doctor did not return, his brothers Alex and Col. Ed York assembled a search party to find him. At the Bender inn, they were informed the doctor had stopped for victuals and moved on.

Kate offered to use her powers to find Dr. York for a fee of \$500. Young John made up a yarn about ruffians in the area. The searchers continued down the road. When they returned, two days later, to question Kate further, no one was home.

In early May 1873, the neighbors noticed that the Bender place looked deserted. They entered the property and found abandoned

animals and a messy house. Leroy Dick, a Civil War veteran, detected the unmistakable stench of a decomposing corpse. The smell from the cellar was overpowering.

The next day, the neighbors showed up with a plow and shovels. They dragged the house off its foundation and inserted iron rods to probe for recently excavated earth. Ed thought he could make out graves in the orchard. To everyone's horror, they uncovered the graves of at least 11 individuals, including the recognizable corpses of Dr. York and George Loncher. All save George's daughter had been killed by a blow to the head and a cut throat. The daughter looked as if she had been strangled; some speculated she was placed in the shallow grave under her father's corpse while still alive.

An immediate manhunt began for the "Bloody Benders." The state put a bounty of



JOHN JOSEPH BENDER

COURTESY FRONTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$500 on the heads of each Bender. The trail went cold quickly. Bender sightings were reported in Texas, Michigan, New Mexico and other places. Rumors circulated that bounty hunters had killed them, but pocketed the tens of thousands of dollars the fugitives took with them rather than settle for the \$2,000 offered by the state. Further gossip had the Benders getting caught and using the blood money to purchase their freedom.

The true fate of the Benders is unknown. Some say the proprietors of the Devil's Inn are still out there, looking for their next mark. "Welcome stranger."

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



KATIE BENDER

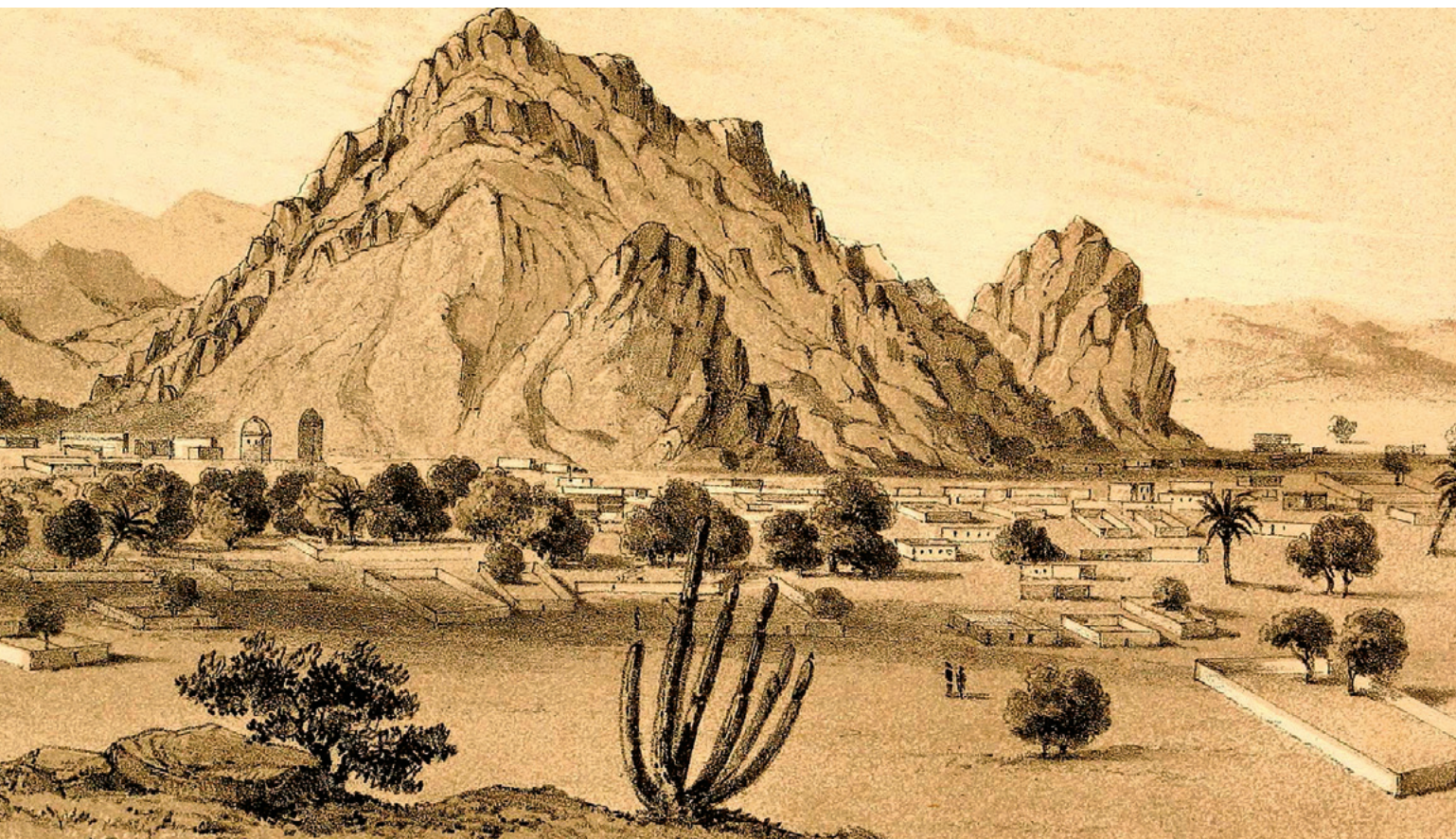


Travelers responding to Miss Katie Bender's 1872 advertisement that claimed she could "heal all sorts of diseases" needed a miracle to save them from the Benders' bloodshed after they entered the residence near the 1847 Osage Mission.

BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

On the Old Gila Trail

History is everywhere on the hardscrabble road from El Paso to San Diego.



From El Paso, the Spanish Gila Trail connected the Spanish settlements in Pimeria Alta and California with the Spanish Empire. The U.S. adopted the trail after the Mexican-American War and made it the primary east-west wagon road for freight trains across the rugged and dangerous route through Apache country to the Pacific Coast.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Over the years—and we’re talking many years—it went by several names: Sonora Road, Kearny Trail, Gila Trail, Butterfield Stage Trail, Old Gila Trail, Fort Yuma Road, Southern Route, Emigrant Road/Trail, Southern Emigrant Trail. And, for a while, it probably had no name at all.

The Old Gila Trail (we like that name; sounds like a Stan Jones song) stretched

from...well...points east to California. Since artifacts that date back at least 15,000 years have been found along the route, some historians will argue that this is the oldest major trail in the U.S., and crosses, as historian Hampton Sides put it, “some of the most infernal country imaginable.”

This being desert, the trail followed mostly rivers—the San Pedro, the Gila. It stretched from Texas, or Santa Fe, New

Mexico (that one became Cooke’s Road when Lt. Col. Philip St. George Cooke led wagons and the Mormon Battalion south and west during the Mexican-American War), traversed southern New Mexico and southern Arizona, and then on to San Diego or Los Angeles.

The first non-Indian man to follow the trail was a black slave named Esteban, who led a Franciscan monk in search of

“Half of [the expedition] has been through a wilderness where nothing but savages and wild beasts are found.”

Warm Springs Apache Old Nana led his Bedonkohe and Chihenne bands against the Mexicans and Americans across Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Sonora and Chihuahua for decades before surrendering in 1886. He never returned home and died a prisoner of war at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1896.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —



the Seven Cities of Cibola in 1538. Fur trappers traveled along it as early as the mid-1820s. Major Lawrence P. Graham led Dragoons along the way in 1848. Forty-niners followed it to California during the Gold Rush. A railroad survey expedition came along in 1855, and John Butterfield sent his stagecoaches along it just before the Civil War. James Carleton led the Union’s California Column across it during the Civil War.

It wasn’t exactly like traveling across Interstate 10. As Cooke wrote: “Half of [the expedition] has been through a wilderness where nothing but savages and wild beasts are found, or deserts where, for want of water, there is no living creature.... Marching half naked and half fed, and living upon wild animals, we have discovered and made a road of great value to our country.”

For our purposes, we’ll consider those displaced disillusioned emigrants, from North and South, who took the journey after the Civil War. And start it east of El Paso at Hueco Tanks.

EL PASO

Travelers heading west likely would have stopped here because the natural “tanks” often held water—one reason Butterfield set up a relay station here. Actually people have been stopping at the tanks for food, water and shelter for some 10,000 years. Today they come for rock-climbing or to admire the pictographs and petroglyphs. Although a state park and historic site, there are only 20 campsites, and access to the North Mountain area is limited to 70 people.

More people are allowed in El Paso, especially Concordia Cemetery, where 60,000-plus people are buried—including post-Civil War outlaw John Wesley Hardin; Confederate veteran-turned-John Wesley Hardin slayer John Selman, whose grave has not been located; Texas Rangers; Buffalo Soldiers; and many more.

Even by the time the railroad arrived in 1881, El Paso was “little more than a

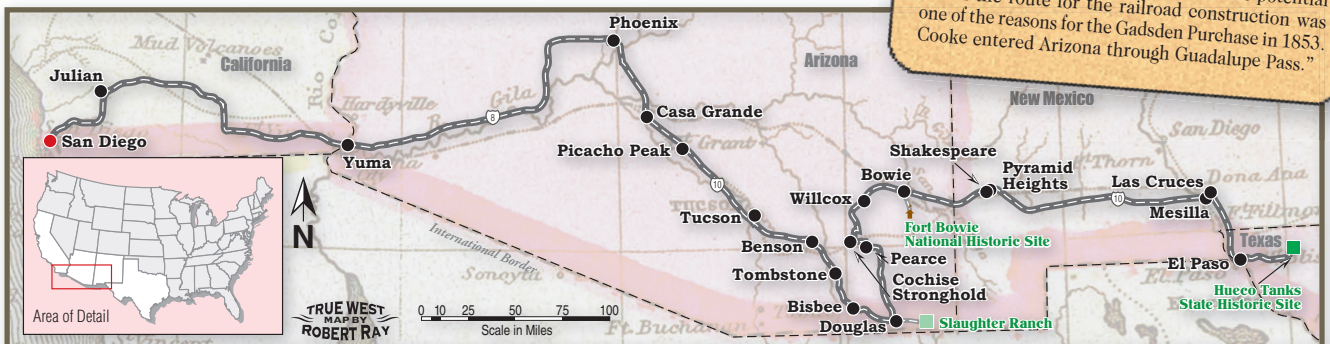
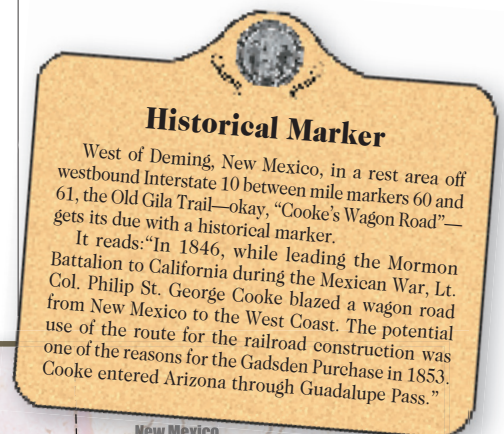
collection of shacks baked to a dusty brown by a hot sun,” Odie B. Faulk wrote. It’s still mostly dusty brown, but it’s not all shacks, and its boot factory outlets can outfit you for travels West.

LAND OF ENTRAPMENT

After the Civil War, cattle crossed the Gila. Indians had ended most ranchers’ dreams in the 1850s, but, Faulk wrote, “with the return of soldiers and the creation of reservations, ranching could spread once again—for both soldiers and Indians, along with the miners, had to be fed.”

John Chisum came. So did others. We’ll single out two attorneys, Albert Jennings Fountain and Albert Bacon Fall. “Fall was a southerner,” historian Leon C. Metz wrote. “Fountain a Yankee.” Throw in a Texas gunman rancher named Oliver Lee, charges of rustling and a threat against prosecutor Fountain (“If you go on with it you will never reach home alive.”), and you have a great unsolved whodunit.

In 1896, Fountain and his eight-year-old son disappeared on their way home to Las





Among the oldest missions in New Mexico's Mesilla Valley, the Basilica of San Albino was established around 1852. Billy the Kid was tried for murder on the other side of the town plaza in 1881.

- JOHNNY D. BOGGS -

Cruces from Lincoln after getting 32 rustling indictments from the grand jury. Three years later, lawman Pat Garrett was taken out of retirement to "solve" the mystery, while Jim Gilliland and Lee were tried in Hillsboro in an 18-day trial—basically Republican vs. Democrat—that led to the jury's seven-minute deliberation and acquittal. The bodies have never been found.

In Las Cruces, check out the law enforcement museum at the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department and see Garrett's grave in the Masonic Cemetery. Mesilla, once the

gateway to southern New Mexico but now an art town, is always worth visiting. The Gadsden Museum in Mesilla, open by appointment only, is dedicated to Albert Fountain and his family.

Westward went the emigrants, of course. To Shakespeare, a silver-mining town founded in the 1870s where lawbreakers (or presumed lawbreakers) might be hanged inside the Grant House. Now a ghost town, Shakespeare offers tours. Checkout *ShakespeareGhostTown.com* for dates.

BLOODY ARIZONA

Many moved into Arizona Territory, where Apaches made things difficult for ranchers—and anyone else—even after the Civil War.

"The title of 'Dark and Bloody Ground' never fairly belonged to Kentucky," John

The 1896 murder of attorney Albert Jennings Fountain and his son Henry near White Sands between Lincoln and Mesilla, New Mexico, has never been solved, but many believe that local ranchers Oliver M. Lee and Albert B. Fall ordered the killing.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



ALBERT JENNINGS FOUNTAIN

BOB BOZE BELL BOOKS



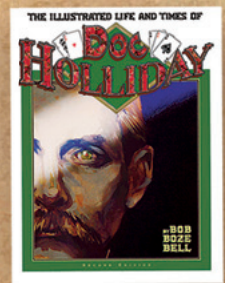
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Abandoned around 1350, the ruins of Casa Grande still attracted visitors along the Gila Trail, including Gen. Stephen Watts Kearny's Army detachment in 1846, and locals from Pinal County, Arizona, in 1870.

- CARLO GENTILE, CA. 1870, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -



G. Bourke wrote in *On the Border With Crook*. "Kentucky never was anything except a Sunday-school convention in comparison with Arizona, every mile of whose surface could tell its tale of horror...."

The museum at Fort Bowie, now a National Historic Site of mostly adobe ruins and the nearby graveyard, is a good place to start to learn why it took 20 years to bring relative peace to Arizona.

Henry Hooker didn't found Arizona's first permanent cattle ranch until 1872. Now a

National Historic Landmark, Hooker's Sierra Bonita Ranch remains in operation on private property in Coronado National Forest. But Hooker's story is told at the Rex Allen Museum in Willcox, where Warren Earp (of that Earp family) was killed in a gunfight in 1900 with one of Hooker's men and is buried in the Willcox Cemetery.

Travel south to Arizona's "Dark and Bloody Ground" of Cochise Stronghold, the ghost town of Pearce, and Douglas, where Texas John Slaughter (born in Louisiana, not Texas) acquired the San Bernadino Ranch. His restored ranch, 16 miles east of Douglas, is open Wednesdays through Sundays.

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FREE CATALOG!



Forty-five-year-old Warren Earp, the youngest of the Earp brothers, was gunless when cowboy Johnny Boyette shot him through the heart outside Brown's Saloon in Willcox, Arizona, on July 9, 1900.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Mining also grew in this violent country, especially after the Army removed the Chiricahua Apaches. Among the best to visit today are Bisbee and Tombstone. Bisbee came about because a civilian tracker found traces of valuable minerals on an Army scout for Apaches in 1877. Tombstone got its name because, if you believe the legend, scout Al Sieber predicted that miner Ed Schieffelin would find his grave instead of silver.

Yet Apaches didn't cause all the violence along the Gila Trail. Tombstone's O.K. Corral is proof of that. Tombstone's violence even reached Tucson, where Wyatt Earp shotgunned to death Frank Stilwell,

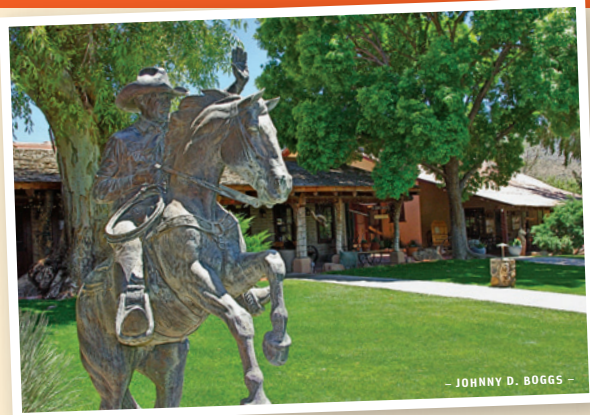
a member of Tombstone's Cowboy faction, in 1882. That event is memorialized at Tucson's historic depot, where the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum offers another glimpse at the railroad years along the Old Gila.

West of Tucson, at what is now Picacho Peak State Park, Confederate and Union soldiers skirmished on April 15, 1862.

Keep going. To Casa Grande, for some of the earliest settlements on

the Old Gila Trail. To metropolitan Phoenix, where Scottsdale's Guidon Books offers a treasure of Western history books. And where the Arizona Capitol Museum's "Arizona Takes Shape" exhibition traces the Arizona history from the territory's

CACTUS, TRAIL RIDES & GOOD EATS



TANQUE VERDE GUEST RANCH • TUCSON, ARIZONA

There's no shortage of guest ranches and Western-inspired resorts in Tucson—Hacienda Del Sol, Westward Look, White Stallion—but with 2016 marking the centennial of the National Park Service, check out Tanque Verde Ranch.

After all, the ranch borders Saguaro National Park and Coronado National Forest.

Don Emilio Carrillo started the ranch in 1868. A successful and wealthy rancher for nearly four decades, he was tortured and kidnapped in 1904. Carrillo died four years later from wounds he received when the bandits tried to hang him. He never did tell them where he hid his money. In 1945, then-owner Jim Converse, who began accepting paying guests in 1928, accidentally shot a cowboy in a bar and was convicted of manslaughter.

Most guest ranches don't sport that kind of history.

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The graveyard at Fort Bowie in the Chiricahua Mountains near Apache Pass, first established in 1862, reflects the dangerous strife between Apache Indians and white settlers in Arizona Territory.

— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —



The legendary Yuma State Prison opened in 1876 and closed in 1909. Since 1961, visitors have toured the notorious prison, including the cells with iron bunkbeds.

— COURTESY ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM —

creation in 1863 to statehood in 1912. To Yuma, where Wyatt Earp didn't wind up for murdering Frank Stilwell, but 3,040 other men and 29 women spent time during the territorial prison's 33 years in business. It's a state historic park.

END OF THE LINE

And into California. To Julian, where in 1869 a former slave discovered gold in the Cuyamaca Mountains and set off another California gold rush, and where Joseph Treshil's blacksmith shop has been turned into the Julian Pioneer Museum.

And to San Diego, where Wyatt Earp ran three gambling halls in what is now the city's historic and funky Gaslamp Quarter.

The towns along the Old Gila have changed, of course. Some remain dusty

An original Concord stagecoach, like those used to travel the Gila Trail, is on display at the Wells Fargo History Museum in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

— COURTESY CAPTAIN-TUCKER/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS —



brown, but most are cosmopolitan. Yet as Faulk once lamented, youngsters should "know that the spark of the telegraph and the lonesome whistle of a freight train at midnight are as much a part of the Southwest as is the asphalt and concrete of a superhighway. These are what made possible both the present and the future."



Johnny D. Boggs and The Bride have decided that when they run out of money and have to leave Santa Fe, they'll settle in Tucson.



Commander's Quarters, Quartermaster Depot, Yuma, AZ

PLACES TO VISIT CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Día de San Juan Fiesta, June 24, *Tucson, AZ*; Julian Gold Rush Days, June 25-26, *Julian, CA*; Rex Allen Days, September 29-October 2, *Willcox, AZ*; El Paso Museum of History, *El Paso, TX*; New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, *Las Cruces, NM*; Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, *Casa Grande, AZ*; Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, *San Diego, CA*



— JOHNNY D. BOGGS —

La Posta De Mesilla, Mesilla, NM

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

Grub: La Posta De Mesilla, *Mesilla, NM*; Screaming Banshee Pizza, *Bisbee, AZ*; Old Benson Ice Cream Stop, *Benson, AZ*; El Charro Cafe, *Tucson, AZ*; Matt's Big Breakfast, *Phoenix, AZ*; Mi Rancho Restaurant, *Yuma, AZ*; Julian Café & Bakery, *Julian, CA*; Tivoli Bar and Grill (oldest saloon in the city, founded 1885), *San Diego, CA*

Lodging: Copper Queen Hotel, *Bisbee, AZ*; The Jonquil Hotel, *Bisbee, AZ*; White Stallion Ranch, *Tucson, AZ*; Hotel Palomar, *Phoenix, AZ*; Julian Gold Rush Hotel, *Julian, CA*; Horton Grand Hotel, *San Diego, CA*

GOOD BOOKS FILM & TV

Books: *Destiny Road: The Gila Trail and the Opening of the Southwest* by Odie B. Faulk; *The United States Marshals of New Mexico and Arizona Territories* by Larry D. Ball; *Bitter Trumpet* by Fred Grove.

Films & TV: *Arizona* (Columbia, 1940); *The High Chaparral* (NBC, 1967-71); *Tombstone* (Buena Vista, 1993); *Last Stand at Saber River* (TNT, 1997).

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Ranges on the Range

Heating up meals on pioneer wood cook stoves was no easy task.



Frontier housewives and cooks alike baked and cooked on wood cook stoves like the one at left, manufactured by the Ohio-based Born Steel Range company, which was sold all over the country in the late 19th century.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

Frontier stoves were generally made of cast iron. One side contained the area for burning wood, while the other was used as an oven. The surface was used as a stovetop, and some even had options for hot and cold water faucets. Most were equipped with a reser-

Whether frontier pioneers lived in a sod hut in Nebraska, an adobe in Arizona or a frame house in Texas, they all needed a way to cook and bake. Most of the time, they did so in a stove or a fireplace.

To prepare for the daily routine of cooking, a pioneer housewife or cook had to start the stove. Ah, but heat was not generated via the simple flip of a switch. In cooler months, cooks kept fires in the stove going throughout the night and stoked up the flames with new wood, which she chopped herself, or dried animal dung if wood was not plentiful. In warmer months, cooks allowed the wood in the stove to burn out and ignited a morning fire using kindling wood, newspapers or buffalo chips (dried buffalo dung).

voir, which often held a few gallons of water at near boiling throughout the day.

Pioneer cooks had to learn how to regulate the heat in their stove. The stove did not have a numbered dial; a cook held her hand inside the oven to gauge the temperature: warm, hot, very hot. A flue helped to regulate the heat. A familiarity with antique stoves clarifies why old-

Her range was a good place to store her stolen booty.

fashioned cookbooks might state a recipe should be baked in a slow, moderate or hot oven.

Most people used their stoves to cook and bake, and sometimes to store their pots and pans, but

one woman in Omaha, Nebraska, used hers for another purpose. Alice Nelson decided her range was a good place to store her stolen booty, reported Omaha's *The Herald*, on December 29, 1888.

Because J.S. had not been bringing in enough money to satisfy his wife, Alice, she stole \$65 from her landlady. Worried about Mrs. Jacobson becoming suspicious, Alice hid the money in her cold oven. Mrs. Jacobson searched her house for the money and, unable to locate it, called the police. Sergeant Hayes searched the house. He was smart enough to look in the oven.

"The only part of that article chilly enough to hold money was the oven," the paper reported. "When he opened the door of the oven there lay the roll in its original completeness."

The Nelsons were arrested, but only Alice was held on bail of \$500. In the early part of 1889, she pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one year in the state penitentiary.

Alice should have stuck to making soufflés in her oven. A paper in Topeka, Kansas, offered a recipe in 1893 for soufflés that should be "eaten the moment it is out of the oven to be in perfection." This potato soufflé is basically a 21st-century version of twice-baked potatoes.



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

POTATO SOUFFLÉ

6 large baking potatoes
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon salt
½ cup milk or cream, hot
2 egg whites

Bake potatoes until they are done. Allow to cool enough to handle, and then remove the ends of each one. Carefully scoop out the cooked potato without breaking the skins. Beat the egg whites until frothy and set aside. Mash the potatoes until lump free, then add the remaining ingredients. Stand potatoes on one end and put in the filling. Do not put tops on the potatoes. Allow to bake in 375°F for about 10 minutes or until potatoes are browned or swollen.



Recipe adapted from *The Weekly Capital and Farm Journal*, Topeka, Kansas, May 25, 1893

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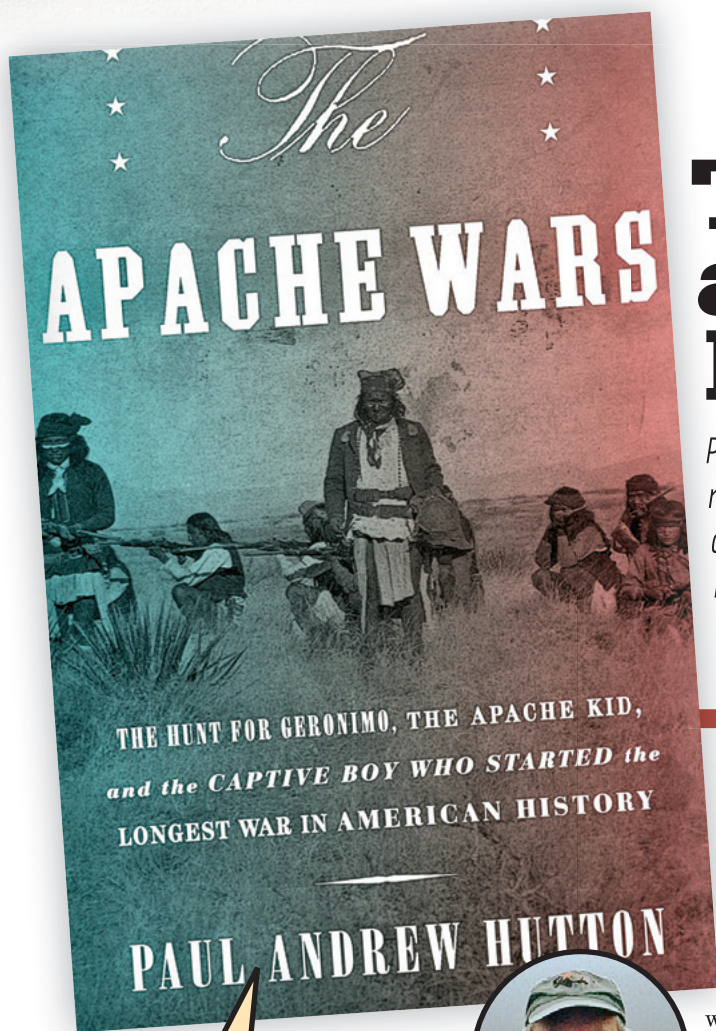
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WESTERN BOOKS

BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: STUART ROSEBROOK



The Wind and the Darkness

Paul Andrew Hutton's epic history The Apache Wars resets our idea of the 25-year tri-cultural border conflict, while a new biography of Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, the tragedy of the Baker Massacre, the wild tale of Russian Bill, and tales of the Old and New West enlighten and entertain.

In the Bible's Book of Revelation, John the Apostle prophesizes the coming of the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse: Conquest, War, Famine and Death. Paul Andrew Hutton's *The Apache Wars: The Hunt for Geronimo, the Apache Kid, and the Captive Boy who Started the Longest War in American History* (Crown Publishers, \$39) offers readers the most comprehensive military synthesis of the United States' longest international border war. Hutton's vivid and dramatic prose will lead readers to wonder if the 18th- and 19th-century people of the Southwest believed that the Four Horseman had been unleashed amidst their homelands in one of North America's

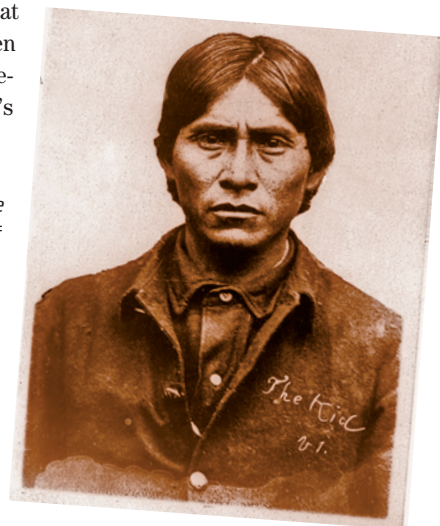


— COURTESY DAVID MARTINEZ —

"Skeletons lined the roads, littered the burned haciendas, and were picked clean by scavengers in deserted villages."

In Paul Andrew Hutton's *The Apache Wars* the life, legend and fate of Haskay-bay-nay-ntayl, better known to history as the Apache Kid, is woven into the fabric of the violent clash of American, Mexican and Indian cultures in the Southwest from 1861 to 1886.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —





— EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG —

Miles Hood Swarthout May 1, 1956–March 1, 2016

As *True West's* senior editor I have had the pleasure of meeting and corresponding with authors from across the country and around the world. One author I had the chance to meet and get to know through my position at *True West*, and as a member of *Western Writers of America* (WWA), was Miles Hood Swarthout, who passed away unexpectedly at 59 years old on March 1, 2016. I had been eager to meet Miles, who, like his parents Glendon and Kathryn, I had heard so much about over the years from my father, Jeb Rosebrook, who knew all three personally and professionally from his years as a writer-producer in Hollywood.

I met Miles at the WWA convention in Sacramento in June 2014 and he was thrilled about the upcoming release of the film adaptation of his father's novel *The Homesman* and his own soon-to-be published *The Last Shootist*, his sequel to Glendon's novel *The Shootist* (which Miles had adapted for film). I greatly admired Miles's sequel and named it the best Western novel of 2014 in *True West's* January 2015 Best of the West issue. Miles was optimistic and upbeat about Western films and television in his last e-mail to me, and like many of us who make our living from words and have grown up in a home where writing is a profession not a hobby, he was hopeful for the future, seeking an option for his novel, and another chance to bring his story to the silver screen. I remain hopeful we will see Miles Hood Swarthout's screen credit again, above the line. Until we meet again, *Vaya con Dios, mi amigo*. You will be missed.



— AUTHOR'S COLLECTION —

—Stuart Rosebrook



In 1893, Mickey Free retired from scouting and lived with his two wives, Ethlay and Ochehey, on his farm on the East Fork of the White River. He outlived them both and died alone about 1914.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Many who read Hutton's synthesis of the bloody conflict will be reminded of the highly detailed and readable prose of popular historians William Manchester, Barbara Tuchman, David McCullough and David Halberstam—as well as Western chroniclers Robert Utley, David Lavender and Bernard DeVoto. Hutton's ability to synthesize such a well-known, complex, academic, ethno-historical topic, and create empathy for a cast of hundreds into a page-turning tale of pathos, triumph and tragedy is both remarkable and masterful. The endnotes and bibliography provide the reader with insights that could keep the most interested student reading about Apache history for years, but will long for Hutton's next distillation.

most murderous wars of fratricide. "Unprotected by the army, the Mexican peasants were helpless to resist the Apache raiders, with scores carried off into captivity and hundreds more slaughtered. ... Skeletons lined the roads, littered the burned haciendas, and were picked clean by scavengers in deserted villages. It was a perfect reign of terror."

For historians and students, Hutton's *The Apache Wars* definitively and dramatically redefines the violent conflict between the indigenous Athabaskan people of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Sonora and Chihuahua and the citizens, militias and armies of the United States and Mexico from the 1861 to 1886. He also provides a succinct, contextual history of the Spanish *entrada* into the region from the 16th century to the 1840s, the beginning of the American era in the Southwest that is prelude to the unmerciful decades that follow. The University of New Mexico historian's decision to focus on the years 1861 to 1886—beginning with the kidnapping of Felix Ward and the Bascom Affair and ending with Geronimo's surrender and the removal of the Chiricahua from the Southwest—neatly bookends the international civil war.

The author's first submission to Crown Publishers could have been two or three volumes, which leads me to wonder who or what will be the Albuquerque-based historian's next topic? Will Hutton return to flush out the life and legend of the Apache Kid, whose biography clearly could be a stand-alone volume? Or the story of Mickey Free, a tragic human being whose proverbial life seems immemorial? In the interim, Hutton's masterful chronicle of *The Apache Wars* is both a homily and eulogy: a homily about the scourge of Conquest, War, Famine and Death, and a long-overdue eulogy for windswept spirits of the dead long forgotten in the dark, blood-stained canyons of Apachería.

—Stuart Rosebrook

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The role of Maj. Eugene M. Baker (center right with beard and hand on rail) and the officers of Fort Ellis in the massacre of the Piegans in their camp on January 23, 1871, and the cover-up of their killing of innocents, is expertly analyzed in Paul R. Wylie's *Blood on the Marias: The Baker Massacre*.

— WILLIAM H. JACKSON, COURTESY MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER PHOTOGRAPH ARCHIVES, HELENA, CATALOG #247-248 —

TRAGEDY ON THE MONTANA FRONTIER

In *Blood on the Marias: The Baker Massacre* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$29.95), Paul R. Wylie has given us an outstanding look into a tragic chapter in Montana history. From traders of the Hudson's Bay Company and explorers Lewis and Clark, Wylie carefully unravels a delicate weave of events that progressed over several decades. The peacemakers on both sides could not overcome those who disagreed with them. The proximity of the Canadian border added to the misunderstanding of cultural differences between factions. Wylie has translated his exhaustive research into an engaging saga culminating in the annihilation of over 200 peaceful Piegans in their winter camp of 1870.

—Jefferson Glass, author of *RESHAW—The Life and Times of John Baptiste Richard*

THE LEGEND OF RUSSIAN BILL

Russian Bill has been described as a man who wanted to be an outlaw in the worst way and that's what he became after he arrived in Arizona in 1880. Tall and handsome, he dressed in fancy clothes, had elegant manners but he was more than a bad outlaw...he was a terrible outlaw.

In his historical novel *The Legend of Russian Bill; Based on the Real-life Story of William R. Tettenborn* (Five Star Publishing, \$25.95), author Richard Lapidus takes us on an enjoyable and humorous journey back to those thrilling days of yesteryear, where we meet the famous and infamous, as he cleverly mixes fiction with fact. I don't want to spoil the ending but I have to admit the fictional Russian Bill is more interesting.

—Marshall Trimble, author of *Arizona Outlaws and Lawmen*

Richard Lapidus's rollicking novel *The Legend of Russian Bill* features historic characters like Ike Clanton (left) and Curly Bill Brocius befriended by the real William R. Tettenborn during his attempt to be a Western outlaw.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



AN EPIC LIFE OF A LAWMAN

The opening two sentences of John Boessenecker's *Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer, The Man Who Killed Bonnie and Clyde* (Thomas Dunne Books, \$29.95) sums up its subject: "Texas bred tough men, and none came any tougher than Frank Hamer. He was to the Lone Star State what Wyatt Earp was to Arizona and what Wild Bill Hickok was to Kansas."



John Boessenecker's *Texas Ranger: The Epic Life of Frank Hamer* is a magnanimous story of the life and career of a lawman (above, right) who

made his first arrest in 1905 and retired in 1949.

— COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO, TEXAS —

Boessenecker, one of the handful of current great Western historians, delves deep into Hamer's life and finds a superior lawman who surmounted the prevailing prejudices of his time by enforcing the law for Hispanics and blacks as well as whites. Colorful and comprehensive, *Texas Ranger* is a fitting tribute to a man who "helped drag Texas—kicking and screaming—into the 20th century."

—Allen Barra, author of *Inventing Wyatt Earp: His Life and Many Legends*





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NORTHWESTERN MYSTERY AUTHOR SHARES FAVORITE READS



— COURTESY CAROL W. CRIGGER —

Carol Wright Crigger began her writing career using initials (C.K.) on the premise they would cause her work to be taken more seriously. These days she prefers to spell out her name. Raised on a wheat ranch on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, she grew up reading the same rootin', tootin' Western novels her parents loved. Today those books are classics, along with the Zane Greys she and her brother traded at Christmas.

She is a two-time Spur Award finalist; once in Short Fiction, and once in Audio. With a mind she describes as "busy as an ant on a hot stove" she writes in several different genres. Currently, she concentrates on her China Bohannon novels, which feature an 1890s bookkeeper-turned-sleuth, whose adventures often take her out into the countryside. The latest, published by Five Star/Cengage in May 2016, is titled *Four Furlongs* and highlights the old Corbin Park racetrack in Spokane, Washington.

She agonized over choosing five books to recommend. Most are local history, which she says, "I use to stimulate my own creative juices."

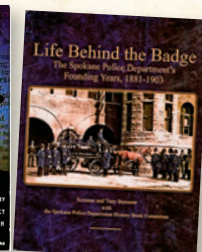
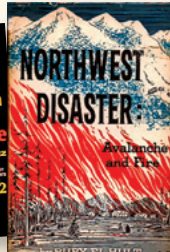
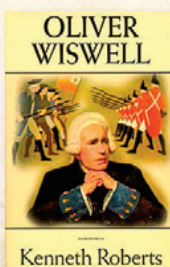
❶ **Oliver Wiswell** (Kenneth Roberts, Doubleday): A novel, this is the one book I turn to when I'm having trouble finding the right words. A book about the revolution, the title character is a Tory, and never less than a true American. In the story, Oliver takes some sage advice on how to write a book from an elderly lady. "The way to write a book is to write one sentence and then write another, and keep on doing it every day, rain or shine, sick or well." Roberts' body of work on the American Revolution fired my love of history when I was twelve and does to this day.

❷ **Saga of a Western Town...Spokane** (Jay J. Kalez, Lawton Printing, Inc.): This is a collection of factual incidents and anecdotes relating to the pioneer past of the West's (self-described) most friendly city, Spokane, Washington. I've almost worn this soft cover book out having read it so many times. Written by a gentleman who was on the scene for much of the period, the book also features drawings and photographs.

❸ **Northwest Disaster: Avalanche and Fire and Steamboats in the Timber** (Ruby El Hult, Binforde & Mort, Publishers): I'm cheating by grouping two books by the same author. Hult lived and wrote at a time when she could speak with the people featured in these books. She was an excellent researcher and writer.

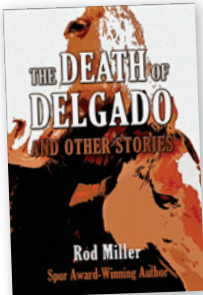
❹ **Breaking Blue** (Timothy Egan, Alfred A. Knopf): In 1989, Tony Bamonte, the sheriff of Pend Oreille County, Washington, solved a murder and crime spree dating to the Great Depression. The book on how he did it is mesmerizing! Which brings me to...

❺ **Life Behind the Badge: The Spokane Police Department's Founding Years, 1881-1903** (Tony and Suzanne Bamonte, Tornado Creek Publications): Not only a great detective and policeman, Tony, along with his wife, Suzanne, is a meticulous historian.



TALES OF THE WEST

Fans of short fiction—especially Westerns—have suffered a dearth of options in recent years as major publishers seem to shy away from these collections. Fortunately, smaller presses have stepped into the void. Pen-L Publishing is one of the better ones, and Rod Miller's recent offering, *The Death of Delgado and Other Stories* (Pen-L Publishing, \$14.97), is the payoff. Miller, a three-time Western Writers of America Spur Award-winner (including one for the title piece), knows his way around short fiction, and it shows in this



eclectic collection of Western-themed tales that embrace both the Old West—“Play Dead or Die,” a story of the 1863 Bear River Massacre—and the New West—“The Passing of Number Sixteen,” a rodeo tale of drug dealers and bareback riders.

—Michael Zimmer, author of Charlie Red

✪



Rod Miller's stories in *The Death of Delgado* span the cycle of Western American history from the mid-19th century to the present, including the Old West classic “The Turn of the Card,” set in 1860s Virginia City, Nevada.

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Sutherlands Ride Together

Father and son team together for the first time in *Forsaken*.



“This was a film that I’ve been dreaming of making for 30-some-odd years,” Kiefer Sutherland told the audience when *Forsaken* premiered at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, California. In *Forsaken*, he is directed by his cohort from Fox’s *24*, Jon Cassar, who remembers, “We worked together for almost nine years. Between set-ups, we always talked about the kind of

Kiefer plays John Henry Clayton, a Union soldier coming home from the Civil War. But he has taken a decade to return, years he spent as a gun-for-hire. He gives up the guns, but arrives home to find his mother dead, his father, Rev. Clayton (played by Kiefer’s real father, movie icon Donald Sutherland), unforgiving and the love of his life, Mary-Alice Watson (Demi Moore),

For the first time ever, the Sutherlands make movie history, in the Western *Forsaken*. Father and son Donald and Kiefer (from far left) have appeared in two films together—1983’s *Max Dugan Returns* and 1996’s *A Time to Kill*—but never shared a scene before *Forsaken*.

— ALL FORSAKEN PHOTOS COURTESY MOMENTUM PICTURES —

movie we’d love to work on together. And he always wanted to do a Western.”

Considering their previous success with *24*, for which they both earned Emmys, you might expect a high-tech, edgy Sci-Fi Western from the pair. But you would be dead wrong. “I was taking a chance,” Cassar admits, “looking backwards rather than forwards with the Western.”

married and a mother. The hometown where he planned to settle down is under attack by land baron James McCurdy (*Deadwood*’s Brian Cox), whose gunmen are systematically driving out settlers who refuse to sell land so he can profit from the incoming railroad.

Cassar admits that Western movie lovers will find familiar themes in the story that has been developed over the years by Kiefer and scripted by Brad Mirman: “There are similarities to a million Westerns you’ve seen before. The land baron has been the villain of so many, but [the character so well] reflected the lengths these ambitious men would go to.”

“It was interesting to get those characters we’ve seen before and give them some sense of reality. We did that with an incredible

“...father and son playing father and son, there’s something there that is magic.”

script and with incredible actors,” Cassar says, from nervous townspeople to hired thugs, to an elegant, aging gunfighter exceptionally played by Michael Wincott.

Kiefer’s Western roots run deep. He earned his spurs playing “Doc” Scurlock in 1988’s *Young Guns I* and in the 1990 sequel. He took a couple of years off from acting to become a rancher and rodeo cowboy, and not just for show: Kiefer and partner John English won the U.S. Team Roping Championship in 1998.

Demi Moore (far right) plays the no-nonsense sweetheart among a stellar cast under the direction of Don Cassar (center) in *Forsaken*.



This isn't Donald's first rodeo either. In 1974, he was the title character in *Dan Candy's Law*, a Mountie tracking a Cree fugitive. But *Forsaken* is the first time father and son have acted together in a film.

"My father is an actor who I've always wanted to emulate," Kiefer says. "I've had such a deep respect for his choices in storytelling, for his unbelievable breadth that allows him to move from character to character, just seamlessly and flawlessly."

"When you see two actors looking into each other's eyes, father and son playing father and son, there's something there that is magic," Cassar adds.

That magic is particularly true in a scene with them alone in church, son telling father about the war, and his life since. "Even Donald cried in that," Cassar says. "Donald

said to me, 'I had no plan to cry whatsoever. But it was my son, and he was so hurt. Even though it was a fictional story, it was hurting him. So to tell that story that emotionally, it got to me too.'"

Filmed in Alberta, Canada, *Forsaken* is a tight, focused 90 minutes. "There was a sizable [secondary] story, a wannabe gunslinger and his love—a parallel love story to Kiefer and

Demi's. Kiefer's character was trying to end his life as a gun-for-hire, and this young man was excited to start one. They did a wonderful job, but I wanted to keep the story focused on father and son. Having to tell them that they were cut out of the film was very difficult," Cassar says.

The timing of the release—*Forsaken* became available on DVD and BluRay on

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March 29—is more a matter of chance than of art. “We made this picture two years ago. We had financial problems; it was sitting on the shelf for a while. But it’s coming out when there are a bunch of other Westerns, which is fantastic,” Cassar says.

Cassar is proud of his non-CGI movie. “There are no phones, no computers. It strips down your story to such basic elements that all the other ‘noise’ goes away. There’s a simplicity to Western storytelling that people are attracted to,” he says. “It really gets down to who the characters are and how they interact. *Forsaken* is a pleasing movie to watch, without all that noise.”

FILM SERIES

Charlie LeSueur, Arizona’s Official Western Film Historian, has been hosting a film series at Scottsdale’s Museum of the West. Most recently, this spring, his focus has been how a Western film reflects two eras: the time it portrays, and the time it was made.

His latest book, *Riding the Hollywood Trail II*, is about the great Western series and stars of early TV, including Hopalong Cassidy and Gene Autry. Throughout the year, he travels the country to participate in Western events and film festivals—most recently in Old Tucson as emcee and webmaster for *The High Chaparral* Reunion.

He got his start in 1991, when the advertising firm he worked for was hired to promote Scottsdale’s first Festival of the West. The guests included *Laramie*’s John Smith, bullwhip cowboy star Lash LaRue and *Sugarfoot*’s Will Hutchins. The festival operators were surprised he knew their work. “I didn’t go to school—I sat in the darkness of the drive-ins and the movie theaters, and I watched Westerns. The next year, I ended up hosting half the Q&As,” LeSueur says. He ran the event for the next 20 years. He admits to *True West*, “I’m living the dream!”



DVD REVIEW RUN OF THE ARROW

(Warner Archive, \$21.99)

Sam Fuller wrote and directed this man-without-a-country story about a Rebel (Rod Steiger) shamed by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender. He runs afoul of the Sioux, but is honored when he survives their ritual “run of the arrow” and is made a Sioux by Chief Blue Buffalo (wonderfully played by Charles Bronson). Red Cloud then assigns him to oversee the location and building of a cavalry fort for the bluecoats he despises. This 1957 Western is wonderfully blunt.



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

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UNSUNG HERO?

Deputy Jim Flynn ran unsuccessfully for city marshal of Tombstone on January 3, 1882. Two weeks later, working as a policeman, he disarmed and arrested three of the deadliest gunmen on the frontier: John Ringo, Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp, who were faced off on Allen Street and egging each other on for an O.K. Corral rematch. Except as a footnote, Jim Flynn is totally forgotten.



See more True Western Moments
BobBozeBell.net

Read more History
TrueWestMagazine.com

BY LEO W. BANKS

Mile-High Getaway

History, heritage and a vibrant downtown welcome visitors to Prescott, Arizona.



Prescott's Courthouse Plaza was established in 1864. On July 3, 1907, nine years before the current courthouse was built, the Solon Borglum-designed *Rough Riders* statue, was dedicated (below) in honor of Spanish-American War hero and former Yavapai County Sheriff Buckey O'Neill, who was killed in action a decade before.

— COURTESY CITY OF PRESCOTT/
TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



Arguably the most historic town in Arizona sits in the central highlands, sheltered by forested mountains yet easily accessible to visitors seeking traces of the Wild West. Prescott has the rare distinction of twice being the Territorial capital—from 1864 to 1866, and then again from 1877 until 1889.

“This is where Arizona Territory got started,” says Fred Veil, executive director of Sharlot Hall Museum, named for a pioneer woman who became the Territory’s first historian.

The museum she began in 1928, now considered one of the finest in the state, features the first governor’s mansion, a

2,000-square-foot log home. It still stands on its original site and includes period decorations and furnishings.

Visitors step inside the beautifully tended building and say, “Wait, this is a mansion?” Veil says it qualifies as regal, when compared with the tents and shacks that ordinary settlers lived in, which illustrates his lesson in the hardships of frontier living.

The four-acre campus has three other historic structures: Fort Misery, where settlers met to establish the town, the Bashford House, a stunning 1875 Victorian home that now serves as the museum gift shop, and the Frémont House, home of the fifth territorial governor, John Charles

Fremont and his wife, Lily, from 1875 to 1881. The house was built in 1875. Local preservationists prevented its demolition and moved it to the Sharlot Hall campus from downtown Prescott in the early 1970s.

A short walk from the museum brings visitors to downtown’s Courthouse Plaza, home to the stately Yavapai County

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Photograph by James Fain

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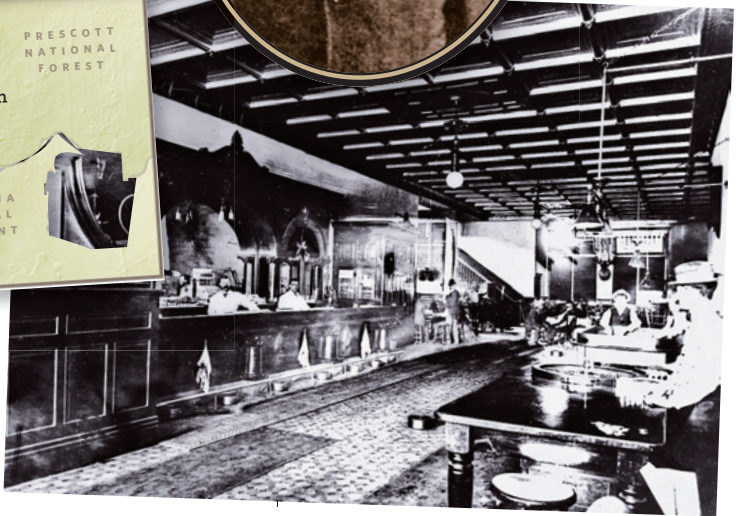
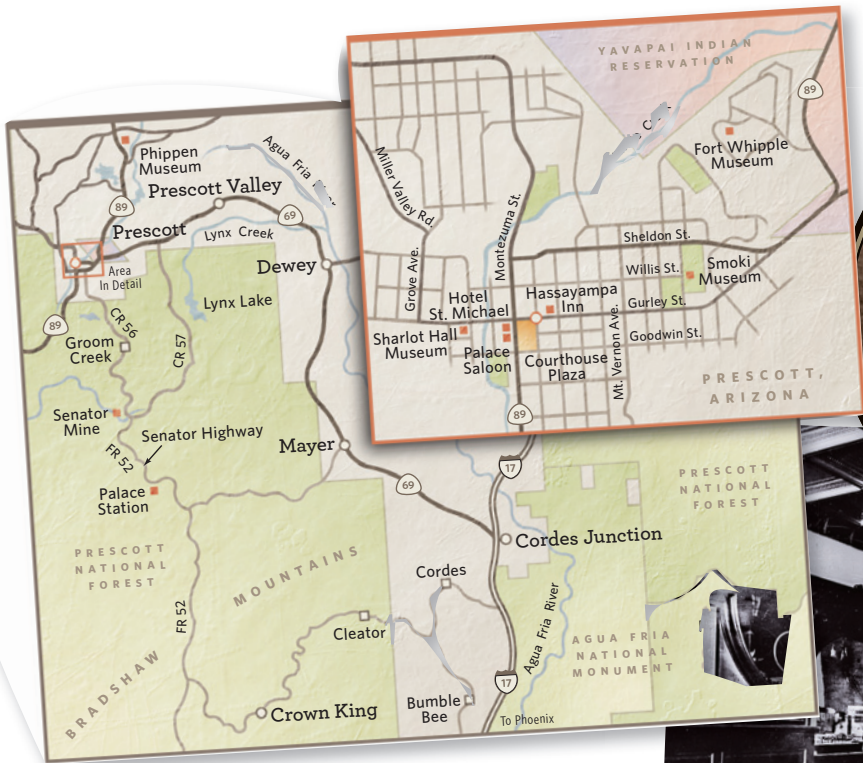
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Most accounts say the Palace Saloon (right) opened in 1877. But Whiskey Row historian Brad Courtney believes it opened in 1874 as the Cabinet Saloon, where Doc Holliday (inset) was sure to have been a patron.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

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Gurley Street, named after John A. Gurley, who died before he could take office as the first territorial governor, has been Prescott's "Main Street" since the town was founded in 1864.

- COURTESY CITY OF PRESCOTT -

Courthouse, the charming park surrounding it, and Whiskey Row on Montezuma Street, one of the West's most famous addresses.

From its start in 1864, the Row has boasted saloons with names like Nifty, Eclipse and Petrified—the latter, we suppose, a description of the condition serious revelers hoped to achieve.

Was Whiskey Row as violent as its legend?

"Even more so," answers Brad Courtney, author of the 2015 book, *Prescott's Original Whiskey Row*. "From 1868 to the mid-1870s, it was so lawless the whole town was in jeopardy."

The Palace, with its historic photos and gorgeous cherry-top bar, anchors modern



Whiskey Row. Courtney says it opened in 1874 as the Cabinet Saloon and later merged with another bar called the Palace, becoming the Palace we know today.

Little-known Palace fact: U.S. senator from Arizona and 1964 presidential candidate Barry Goldwater once said: "My

only regret is that I didn't buy The Palace when I had the chance."

The great old stories of the Row still echo...and some of them actually happened.

Here's one: Two men in a horse-drawn carriage, two more on horseback, chase an outlaw along Montezuma Street while a lone

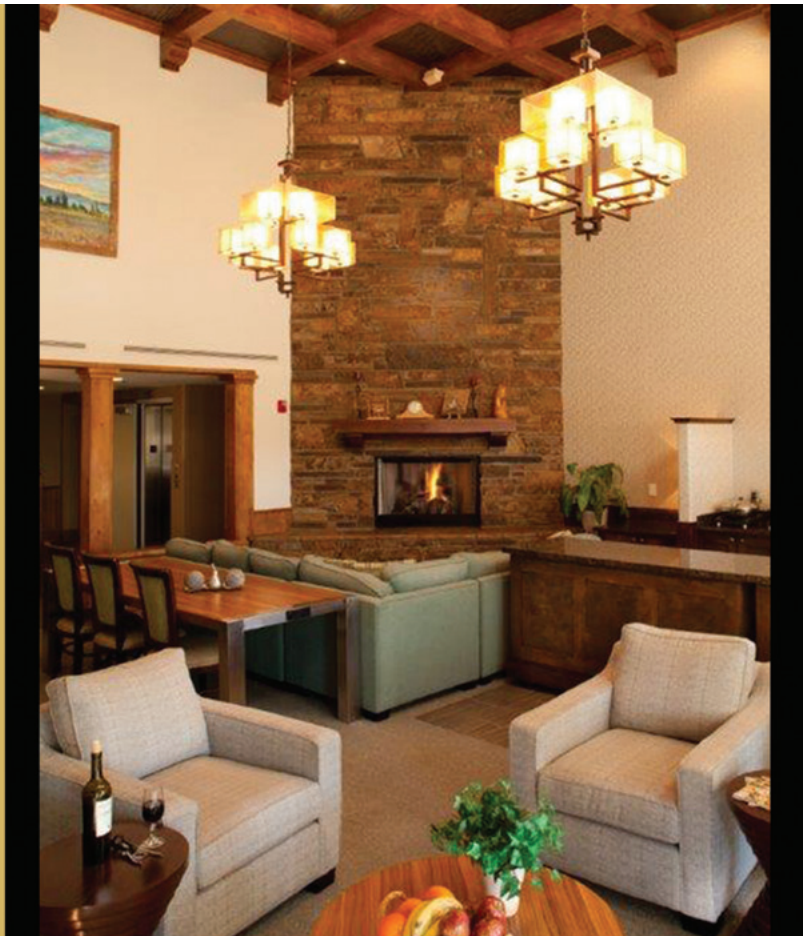
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Bull dogging is just one of the contests at the 129th annual Prescott Frontier Days' World's Oldest Rodeo that will entertain crowds June 29-July 4, 2016. *True West* contributor Jeb Rosebrook, the screenwriter of *Junior Bonner*, filmed in Prescott in 1971, will be the Honorary Grand Marshal of the Parade on July 2.

- COURTESY MILLER PHOTO -

deputized citizen runs after them carrying a Winchester.

The lone man? Virgil Earp. He ended up killing bad man Robert Tullis. Virg lived in Prescott from 1877 to 1879 and later called it "the only place that seems like home."

In late June and early July, Prescott comes alive for the Frontier Days celebration. The main event is a July 4th rodeo that began in 1888 and today draws some of the country's finest riders, ropers and racers. Other activities include a parade and dance, specialty acts and livestock demonstrations.

Also on the Plaza, check out the statue of Buckey O'Neill, former Yavapai County sheriff-turned-Rough Rider killed alongside Teddy Roosevelt at San Juan Hill in 1898. The piece was sculpted by Solon Borglum, brother of Mount Rushmore's designer.

The Phippen Museum, Prescott's home for cowboy art, keeps Solon's work on permanent display. A stunning life-sized bronze by Frederic Remington, created in 1895 and titled *The Bronc Buster*, stands at the Phippen's entrance.

The First Territorial Governor's Mansion (right), built in 1864, is the centerpiece of Sharlot Hall Museum's living history center in Prescott.

- COURTESY FRANK ROSENBERGER/CITY OF PRESCOTT -

The Smoki Museum explains the lives of the region's Native Americans through exhibits, lectures and annual events. The building, built of stone in 1935, resembles a Hopi pueblo. Don't miss the photos and paintings of Kate Cory, who lived among the Hopis from 1905 to 1912 and served as a consultant on Hollywood Westerns.

After touring the historic sites, don't bypass the city's famed downtown antique district; you might just find a little piece of Prescott's past to take home and remind you of your mile-high adventure into yesteryear.

Leo W. Banks is an award-winning writer based in Tucson. He has written several books of history for *Arizona Highways*.



The Smoki Museum of American Indian Art and Culture, built in 1935, was designed to emulate regional Pueblo architecture. The museum houses one of the state's most important Southwestern Indian art and cultural collections.

- COURTESY CITY OF PRESCOTT -

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY



Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Parade July 2, 2016

- COURTESY CITY OF PRESCOTT -

THINGS TO DO

Start at the Prescott Chamber of Commerce, 117 W. Goodwin Street, for information on walking tours and more. Prescott-Az.gov

FORT WHIPPLE MUSEUM

After touring Sharlot Hall Museum, one of the best living history centers in the state, take a short drive to Fort Whipple. The frontier fort was established in 1864 to protect the goldfields and settlers against Indian attack. See exhibits on medical instruments, Army weaponry and the Buffalo Soldiers. Sharlot.org

HASSAYAMPA INN

Prescott has 809 buildings, objects and sites on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Hassayampa Hotel. Built by architect Henry Trost, this Arizona original has fine dining, a vintage 1927 elevator, and a gorgeous lobby. Greta Garbo and Clark Gable stayed there. Hassayampalnn.com

HOTEL ST. MICHAEL

This classic Western hotel was built in 1901. Cool story: From Courthouse Plaza, look at the grotesques carved into the wall above the hotel's third-floor windows. The distorted faces are believed to be the architect's revenge against locals who gave him a hard time because of the building's height. StMichaelHotel.com

PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

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Holbrook, Arizona, was an Atlantic-Pacific Railroad town that quickly became ruled by the Hashknife Outfit of the Boston-owned Aztec Land and Cattle Company in the early 1880s. The syndicate controlled two million acres of rangeland, while the cowboys turned Holbrook into "the town too tough for women or churches."

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

The 1874 rush of miners seeking quick fortunes in gold in Sioux territory led to the illegal founding of one of the wildest Western towns—Deadwood, South Dakota.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

By Jim Wilson

DUST DESTINY AND DEATH

Travel to discover the epic struggles between lawmen and outlaws across the Old West.



One of the most interesting things about the Western frontier is that just about every town in the American West has its own brand of exciting history. Some towns started out as cow towns, some began as mining claims, while others became major commercial points, due to their geographic location. What they all had in common was the fact that they were populated by people of the

frontier mind-set.

They were a people hardened by having to live with the reality of tough frontier conditions. They were a people used to dealing with the vagaries of nature and the dangers of living among others who took advantage of a land with





few people and fewer laws. Among them were outlaws, gunfighters and lawmen. But also among them were just regular folks who stood up to the challenge of making a life and home in the West.

There were some great characters generated in this setting and some great stories, too. Here are a few of the tales, in no particular order, I have encountered during my travels throughout the West.

Over 1.5 million head of cattle were driven up the Chisholm Trail, with hundreds of thousands going to the Union Pacific stockyards in Abilene, Kansas, from 1867 to 1872, earning it the moniker the "wildest and wooliest" town in the West.

-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

ABILENE, KANSAS ★ 1871

Texan Phil Coe ran the Bull's Head Saloon in Abilene, one of the most popular watering holes for the Texas cowboys who trailed cattle to the railroad each year. Coe should have been happy with his success; instead, he was overcome with a blistering hatred for the town marshal, one James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok. At one point, it is alleged, according to John Wesley Hardin, he even encouraged the notorious killer to take on the marshal, but Hardin suggested that Coe do his own killing.





James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok's served justice in many ways during his violent life. On April 15, 1871, just short of his 34th birthday, Hickok was hired to bring law and order to the wicked cattle town of Abilene, Kansas. His tenure as town marshal and his career wearing a badge ended with tragedy.

- ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -

BUFFALO, WYOMING ★ 1892

The Wyoming Stock Growers Association was on the prod. Rustling was rampant in Wyoming and the big ranchers believed that the smaller ranchers were the rustlers. Accordingly, they hired around 50 out-of-state gunmen and made plans to sweep the country, ridding it of this drain on their fortunes.

Their first stop was south of Buffalo, at the ranch run by Nate Champion and Nick Ray. And that's where their plans fell apart. Mortally wounding Nick Ray as he stood in the cabin door, they figured that Champion would quickly give up. Instead, he barricaded himself in the cabin and shot it out with the "posse" for hours. He was finally shot down after the cabin was set afire and he made a break for freedom.

Among this vigilante posse was one Frank M. Canton, a hired enforcer of the Wyoming



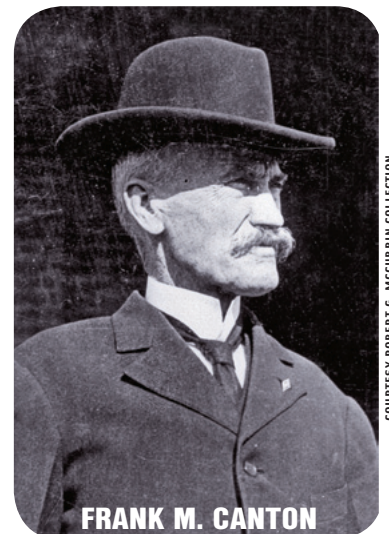
Visitors to Abilene, Kansas, should tour Old Abilene Town. The living history center celebrates the town's wild frontier days, when Texas cattle drives up the Chisholm Trail brought cattle to the railroad stockyards, and thirsty cowboys to a main street of saloons and dance halls between 1867 and 1871.

- JOHNNY D. BOGGS -

On the evening of October 5, responding to shots being fired in the street, Hickok encountered gunman Phil Coe and a bunch of cowboys. Coe fired two shots at Hickok and missed. Hickok pulled his Navy Colts, firing two shots, and did not miss. Hickok then fired on a shadowy figure running towards him, gun in hand, fatally

wounding his friend and part-time jailer, Mike Williams.

It was the end of Phil Coe's feud with Wild Bill. But it was also the end of Hickok's career as a frontier lawman. All that was left for Wild Bill was the trail that led to Deadwood and his own destiny.



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The Wyoming Stock Growers Association influenced the corruption of officers of the Johnson County judicial system, including Deputy U.S. Marshal in Buffalo, Wyoming, during the Johnson County War of 1891 and 1892.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Stock Growers Association, and deputy U.S. marshal working at the behest of the cattlemen. Canton was one of the 50 regulators who riddled Champion with 28

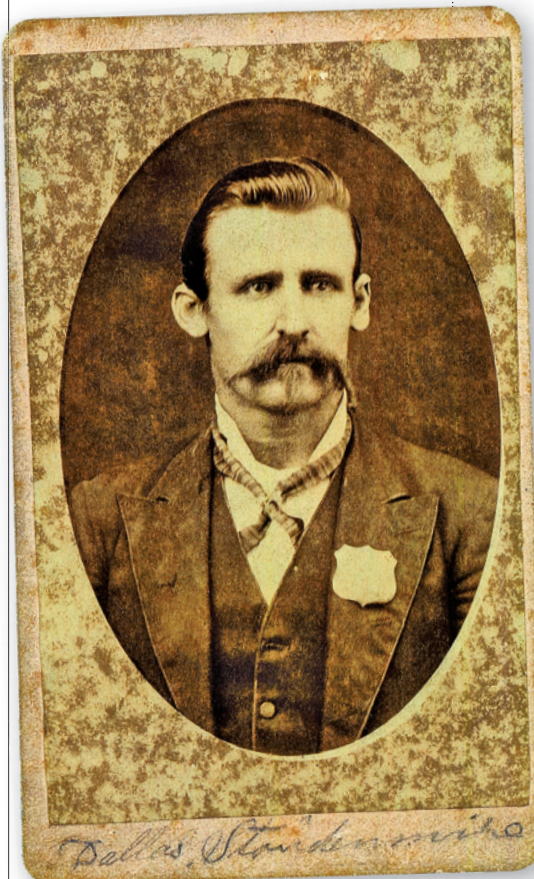
gunshot wounds. Canton pinned on the dead cowboy an infamously scrawled note, "Cattle thieves, beware." Haunted by the murderous actions of the regulators, and the blood on his hands, Canton resigned and went south to marshal for Judge Isaac Parker in Fort Smith. Canton became a much-feared lawman in the Indian Territory, and earned fame for his actions as a deputy U.S. marshal in Dawson, Alaska. He later returned to Oklahoma, where he died in 1927 after 20 years as the adjutant general of the state's national guard.

EL PASO, TEXAS ★ 1881

Legendary City Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire's quiet meal was disturbed by gunfire out in the street. Pulling his pair of Smith & Wesson American revolvers,

Dallas Stoudenmire's short and violent career as El Paso city marshal lasted less than 18 months, from April 1881 to September 1882.

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -



Stoudenmire ran into the street to find that Constable Gus Krempkau had been shot down by Johnny Hale. Hale and ex-Marshal George Campbell, both with guns in hand, had been arguing with the constable.



The trial of El Paso City Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire killers James and George Manning would have been held at the El Paso County Jail, now a museum in San Elizario.

- COURTESY VISIT EL PASO -

Acting quickly, Stoudenmire snapped a shot at Hale that, unfortunately, missed and dropped a bystander. Correcting his aim, Stoudenmire sent his next bullet into Hale's forehead. At the same time, the fatally wounded Krempkau was shooting at Campbell. Dallas fired his third shot at George Campbell, hitting him in the stomach to end the fight. The bystander, Hale, and Krempkau, died at the scene while Campbell lived for only a few hours more.

Four men shot down in five seconds was a record for even a town as tough as El Paso. And Dallas Stoudenmire earned a reputation as a man not to be trifled with. His life ended some years later when he was fatally shot from behind in a gunfight.

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BASS REEVES

Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves (inset) witnessed the many trials of outlaws he brought to justice in Judge Isaac Parker's famous Fort Smith, Arkansas, courtroom, including the trial of his son, Benny.

— COURTESY FORT SMITH CVB / TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS ★ 1902

Bass Reeves was possibly the first African-American to be deputized in the U.S. Marshals Service west of the Mississippi River. He wore a federal badge from 1875 until 1907 and is credited with making over 3,000 felony arrests and killing some 14 outlaws during the performance of his duties.

Reeves' biggest challenge came when he returned to Fort Smith from the Indian Territory to find that one of his sons, Benny, was wanted for the murder of Benny's wife. The U.S. Marshal told Reeves that someone else would track down the son and make the arrest. However, Reeves declared that it was a matter of

family honor and demanded that he be given the warrant for service.

Bass Reeves trailed Benny into Indian Territory and took him into custody. In a subsequent trial, his son was found guilty and sentenced to serve 20 years in the federal prison at Leavenworth. Upon his release, Benny lived out his life as an honorable man. And outlaws quickly decided that you didn't take liberties with a lawman who would track down his own son.

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English rancher John Tunstall (inset) dared challenge L.G. Murphy and J.J. Dolan's stranglehold on Lincoln, New Mexico, when he backed competitor and business partner Alexander McSween. The Murphy-Dolan Gang's murder of Tunstall ignited the Lincoln County War and Billy the Kid's vengeful shooting of Sheriff William Brady on April 1, 1879.

-TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

LINCOLN, NEW MEXICO ★ 1878

Sheriff William Brady and his deputies were strolling down Lincoln's main street, headed for the Ellis House to make an arrest. The lawmen's pleasant morning was ruined by a barrage of shots fired at them from behind a nearby adobe wall. The Regulators, including Billy the Kid, had exacted revenge for the death of John Tunstall at the hands of the sheriff's posse.

As the sheriff and a deputy lay dead in the street, Billy and Jim French ran out



into the street so that the Kid could recover a Winchester rifle earlier taken from him by the sheriff. Shots fired by other deputies slightly wounded the two and drove them back to cover. The Regulators quickly mounted their horses and fled the town.

Interestingly enough, Billy the Kid was the only one to be tried and convicted of the sheriff's murder. It was this charge that

landed him in the Lincoln County Jail, where he killed two deputies during his escape, and was later hunted down and killed by Pat Garrett in 1881.

HOLBROOK, ARIZONA ★ 1887

Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens had a felony warrant for Andy Cooper. So he oiled up his Winchester .45/70 and went down to the Blevins house to arrest the outlaw who was staying with relatives.



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Sheriff Commodore Perry Owens was heralded as a lawman and earned the nickname "Saint George with a six-shooter."

- TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Cooper used the poor judgment of answering the door with a six-gun in his hand, and then slamming it in the face of Sheriff Owens, which caused him to be shot by the lawman. As Cooper fell, wounded, back into the house, a gun was fired at Owens by John Blevins from a second door. Owens dropped Blevins with a blast to the shoulder. Running another round into his Winchester, Owens then ran to a window and fired through it to put another bullet into



Visitors to Holbrook, Arizona, will learn about the town's Wild West past at the Navajo County Historic Courthouse.

- COURTESY RICHIE D/FLICHR/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS -

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO * 1879

Infamy and legend have followed the life of John Henry "Doc" Holliday for nearly 150 years. Doc and a partner had gone into the saloon business. The railroad had just arrived in Las Vegas and the town was booming. Things would have been better if a certain ex-army scout hadn't fallen in love with one of Holliday's saloon girls.

On July 19, Mike Gordon entered the saloon and began to beg the girl to quit her job and run off with him. When she refused, Gordon went out into the street and began shooting at the saloon. Refusing to

Andy Cooper who was down but not out. Almost immediately, Samuel Blevins opened the front door and came out pointing a revolver; he died with one of the sheriff's rounds in his chest. Running to the side of the house, Sheriff Owens caught Mose Roberts crawling out a window, gun in hand, and gave him a fatal wound in the chest.

In this short, bloody fight, Sheriff Owens had fired five shots and hit a man every time, without being injured himself. One might imagine that outlawry was not nearly as popular a profession in the Holbrook area for some time to come.

Doc Holliday never shirked from danger, corruption or lawlessness, and New Mexico's Las Vegas had it all when he drifted into town in 1879.

- COURTESY TRUE WEST -





Doc Holliday's famous luck held the night he allegedly shot and killed drunken bully Mike Gordon in Las Vegas, New Mexico, July 19, 1879.

- COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION -

accept such insulting conduct, legend has it that Holliday stepped out onto the porch and coolly fired one shot, allegedly killing Gordon dead on the spot, even though some say many were shooting at the time. Nonetheless, for all of his deadly reputation, it is reported that Doc Holliday was involved in just eight shootings and only killed two men, the first of which could have been Mike Gordon. The truth may never be known, but the gunman's legacy of justice and honor in Las Vegas, New Mexico, remains a legend worth retelling.



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~ VISIT ~ ABILENE, KANSAS

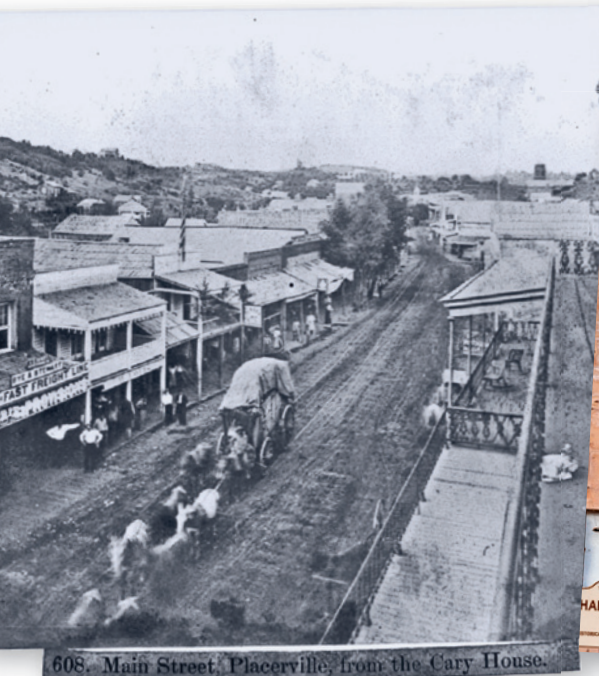
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608. Main Street, Placerville, from the Cary House.



Sheriff John Hicks Adams had to fight bullion-stealing Confederate sympathizers in 1863 in El Dorado County's Placerville, California, once known as Hangtown.

— COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/CAROL M. HIGHSMITH, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS —

PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA ★ 1863

Newly elected Sheriff John Hicks Adams was plagued by an unusual set of crimes. It seems that Confederate sympathizers, calling themselves Captain Ingram's Partisan Rangers, were pulling holdups in the area—although it is not clear just how

much of their loot was going to the Confederacy and how much was going into their own pockets.

Following several bullion robberies, word was finally obtained that the gang was hiding out in a cabin near Almaden, California. Gathering a substantial posse, Sheriff Adams surrounded the cabin and

called for the gang's surrender. His call was met with gunfire and quite a shootout occurred, but the members of the gang were either killed or captured. The lucky sheriff was shot during the fight. He was lucky because his pocket watch deflected the bullet and left him with just a bad bruise.

John Hicks Adams went on to serve several terms as sheriff and then was appointed a deputy U.S. Marshal. Unfortunately, the lawman was ambushed and killed by bandits in Arizona, in 1878.

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**DODGE CITY,
KANSAS ★ 1881**

Bat Masterson arrived back in Dodge from Tombstone at the request of his brother, Jim Masterson, who had been threatened by A.J. Peacock and Al Updegraff, two of his business associates. Stepping off the train, Masterson saw the same two men coming towards him. Calling to them that he wanted to talk was what got the ball rolling as guns were immediately drawn and bullets began to fly.

Masterson took cover behind the nearby three-foot-high railroad berm, while Peacock and Updegraff did their shooting from behind nearby buildings. In short order, guns were blazing from just about every direction



BAT MASTERSON

as unknown parties joined in the fight.

The fight ended when Masterson, Updegraff and Peacock, ran out of ammunition. Updegraff had been wounded, but not fatally, by someone other than Bat Masterson.

The upshot of the whole affair was that Bat had to pay an \$8 fine for discharging a

Bat Masterson (inset) began his career as a lawman in Dodge City in 1877, first as deputy sheriff, then as elected sheriff of Ford County. In 1881, he was out of office when he defended his brother, James, in the wild Dodge City shootout with A.J. Peacock and Al Updegraff.

- COURTESY TRUE WEST -



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HISTORICAL PLACES OF INTEREST



Fort Smith National Historic Site

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True West invites its readers to travel the West and explore the communities that celebrate, honor and preserve our history. We have compiled a list of local chambers and places to visit and stay while enjoying a Western adventure on the trail of dust, destiny and death on the Western frontier.

Abilene, Kansas

Abilene Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce

AbileneKS.net

Old Abilene Town ~ OldAbileneCowntown.com

Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad ~ ASVRR.org

Dickinson County Heritage Center

HeritageCenterDK.com

Buffalo, Wyoming

Buffalo Chamber of Commerce ~ BuffaloWyo.org

Occidental Hotel ~ OccidentalHotel.com

Jim Gatchell Museum ~ JimGatchell.com

Fort Phil Kearney State Historic Site

FortPhilKearney.com

Deadwood, South Dakota

Deadwood Chamber of Commerce

& Visitors Bureau ~ Deadwood.com

Broken Boot Gold Mine ~ BrokenBootGoldMine.com

Celebrity Hotel & Museum ~ CelebrityCasinos.com

Days of 76 Museum ~ DaysOf76Museum.com

Dodge City, Kansas

Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce

DodgeCity.com

Boot Hill Museum ~ Boothill.org

Boothill Casino & Resort ~ BoothillCasino.com

Dodge City Trail of Fame ~ DodgeCityTrailOfFame.org

El Paso, Texas

Destination El Paso ~ isitElPaso.org

Magoffin Home State Historic Site ~ THC.State.tx.us

El Paso Museum of History

History.ElPasoTexas.gov

Concordia Cemetery ~ ConcordiaCemetery.org

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce

& Visitors Bureau ~ FortSmith.org

Fort Smith Museum of History

FortSmithMuseum.org

Bass Reeves Monument ~ Arkansas.com

Fort Smith Air Museum ~ FortSmithAirMuseum.com

Holbrook, Arizona

Holbrook Chamber of Commerce

HolbrookChamberOfCommerce.com

Navajo County Historical Society

HolbrookAZMuseum.org

Joe and Aggie's Café ~ JoeAndAggiesCafe.com

Wigwam Motel ~ Galerie-Kokopelli.com/Wigwam

Las Vegas, New Mexico

Las Vegas, New Mexico, Visitor Information Center

VisitLasVegasNM.com

City of Las Vegas Museum & Rough Rider

Memorial Collection ~ LasVegasMuseum.org

The Historic Plaza Hotel ~ PlazaHotelLVNM.com

Historic Walking Tours ~ LVCCP.org

Lincoln, New Mexico

Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce

& Visitor Center ~ Ruidoso.com

Lincoln Historic Site ~ NMHistoricSites.org

The Ellis Store Country Inn ~ EllisStore.com

The Wortley Hotel ~ WortleyHotel.com

Pecos, Texas

Pecos Chamber of Commerce ~ VisitPecos.com

West of the Pecos Museum

WestOfThePecosMuseum.com

Fort Davis National Historic Site ~ NPS.gov

Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame ~ TexasRodeoHallOfFame.com

Placerville, California

El Dorado County Visitors Authority

Visit-ElDorado.com

Placerville Downtown ~ Placerville-Downtown.org

El Dorado County Historical Museum

Museum.edcgov.us

Hangtown's Gold Bug Park & Mine

GoldBugPark.com

San Antonio, Texas

San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau

VisitSanAntonio.com

The Alamo Mission ~ TheAlamo.org

Buckhorn Saloon & Museum ~ BuckhornMuseum.com

The Witte Museum ~ WitteMuseum.org

firearm within city limits. He and his brother soon left town. And the Dodge City Plaza Fight was history. Interestingly enough, it would also be the last gunfight for the legendary Bat Masterson.

PECOS, TEXAS ★ 1894

Sheriff Bud Frazer had begun to have second thoughts about his new deputy, Jim Miller, who Frazer suspected of being behind a local crime wave in Pecos. Miller had also recently killed a Mexican prisoner, who he claimed was trying to escape. Frazer saw it as murder.

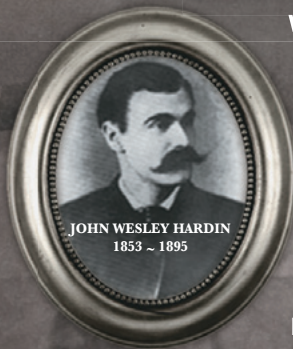


The animosity Jim Miller (top) held for his former boss, Sheriff Bud Frazer, led to a six-year feud, which ended with Miller killing Frazer in Toyah, Texas, on September 14, 1896.

- JIM MILLER COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION/
TRUE WEST ARCHIVES -

Concordia Cemetery

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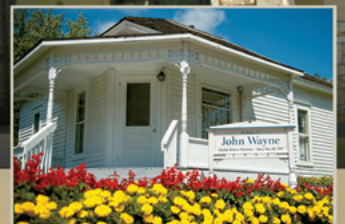
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Ben Thompson and King Fisher (inset) may have had drinks at the Buckhorn Saloon in San Antonio before they crossed town to Vaudeville Theatre and Saloon on the Main Plaza, where they were gunned down on March 11, 1884.

— COURTESY TEXAS DEPT. OF TOURISM/TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Suspicion led to bad blood and Frazer fired Miller. The two men were soon bitter enemies and a deadly feud was the result.

The bitterness led to a shootout on the streets of Pecos in April of 1894. Miller was wounded in an arm and leg but somehow survived the shots to his body that were fired by Sheriff Frazer. Again, in December, the pair shot it out and, again, Miller survived several shots to his chest.

Sheriff Frazer was frustrated but somehow never quite figured out that Miller's heavy frock coat concealed a steel plate that protected his chest area. Miller, for his part, bided his time until 1896, when Frazer was no longer county sheriff. When Miller got his revenge, he used a shotgun and aimed for the ex-sheriff's head.

Jim Miller, by the way, was a prime suspect in the mysterious death of Pat Garrett, near Las Cruces, New Mexico, in 1908.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS ★ 1884

Texas gunmen Ben Thompson and King Fisher were having a high old time in San Antonio, visiting all of the saloons and making every effort to drink the town dry. As often happens, however, their judgment was clouded by alcohol to the point that they decided to visit a saloon

where Thompson had previously killed one of the owners.

Entering the Vaudeville Theatre and Saloon, they were immediately confronted by Joe Foster, another owner, who reminded Thompson of his agreement to stay out of this particular establishment. Foster and several of his friends were standing on a stairway leading up to the theater when Thompson pulled his short-barreled Colt .45 revolver and hit Foster in the face with it.

No one ever got a clear reckoning of what happened next, but when the gunsmoke cleared, Thompson and King Fisher lay dead with numerous bullet holes in their bodies. Since all parties were armed, the shooting was ruled to be a justifiable killing. Two of the toughest gunfighters that Texas ever produced learned the hard way that whiskey and gunpowder don't mix.

DEADWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA ★ 1876

Jack McCall shot Wild Bill Hickok in the back of the head while Hickok was playing cards in Deadwood's #10 Saloon. Due to unusual circumstances, McCall faced two different trials for the same killing.

The day following the shooting, McCall was tried by a miner's court in Deadwood. McCall claimed that Hickok had murdered

McCall's brother in Kansas, and that McCall was just getting even. Seeing a rough sense of justice in all of that, the miner's jury turned him loose.

However, the federal court in Yankton, South Dakota, took a different view of the situation. Ruling that a miner's court was not lawful, the federal court ordered that McCall be tried again. This time, in a proper court, testimony was heard regarding McCall's bragging about the killing. Even more damning, the fact came out that McCall did not have a brother who had died at the hands of the frontier marshal. Whatever McCall's actual motive might have been for killing Hickok, it went

The Old Style Saloon #10 in Deadwood, South Dakota, is a popular destination for visitors to the historic town. The tavern, a virtual museum, pays homage to Wild Bill Hickok with a replica of his death chair on display.

— COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM —





Despite the Great Sioux War of 1876, and the decimation of the 7th Cavalry at Little Big Horn in late June of that year, Deadwood boomed as gold miners rushed into the Black Hills.

- COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -

to the grave with him because Jack McCall was hanged for the murder in Yankton, South Dakota, on March 1, 1877.

These are just a few of the tales that make up the history of the towns in the American West. And they are what keep us traveling and searching for more stories of dust, destiny and death on the Western frontier.



Jim Wilson is a lifelong student of Old West history. After a 30-year career as a Texas peace officer, he now makes his living as a full-time writer.



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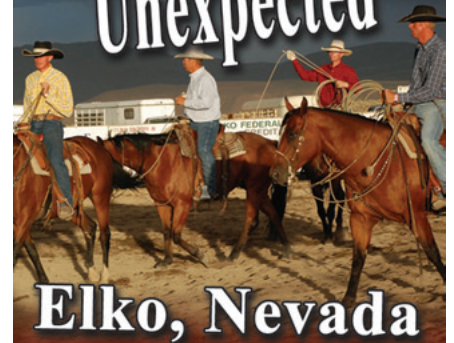
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WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JUNE 2016



ADVENTURE

CRAZY HORSE VOLKMARCH

Black Hills, SD, June 4-5: This Crazy Horse-inspired hike is a 6.2-mile woodlands ramble to the world's largest (in-progress) mountain carving. 605-673-4681 • CrazyHorseMemorial.org

CONCERT

CONCERT IN THE ROCKS

Lone Pine, CA, June 3-5: Head to the Alabama Hills for Rock 'n' Roll and film locale tours (Audie Murphy fans should make Saturday reservations). 760-876-9103 • LonePineFilmHistoryMuseum.org

ENCAMPMENTS

PIONEER CAMP

Deadwood, SD, June 7-9: Youth camp offers one-room schoolhouse lessons in covered wagon travel, butter churning and hand-dipping candles. 605-578-1657 • DeadwoodHistory.com

PACIFIC PRIMITIVE RENDEZVOUS

Seneca, OR, June 17-25: Blanket traders and mountain men gather at a pre-1840s rendezvous encampment along Shirt Tail Creek. 541-385-7446 • PacificPrimitiveRendezvous.com

TRAIL DAYS

Elko, NV, June 4-5: Explore a journey of survival along the California Trail at an 1850s wagon encampment and Shoshone summer camp. 775-738-1849 • CaliforniaTrailCenter.org

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

DOUGLAS RAILROAD DAYS

Douglas, WY, June 9: Community celebrates its 1886 rail heritage with a free hot dog park picnic, a \$20 steak dinner and a free concert. 307-358-2950 • Jackalope.org

GOLD RUSH DAYS

Sidney, NE, June 11-13: Experience the 1870s lifestyle through historical skits, re-enactments and demonstrations, plus cowboy music and poetry. 866-545-4030 SidneyCheyenneCountyTourism.com



EAGLE SPIRIT DANCERS

Lander, WY, Opens June 5: Watch and participate in an American Indian dance of friendship set near the Wind River Mountains.

307-335-8778
MuseumOfTheAmericanWest.com

NEBRASKALAND DAYS

North Platte, NE, June 15-25: Nebraska pays tribute to Buffalo Bill Cody's 1882 "Old Glory Blowout" with a rodeo, parades and concerts. 308-532-7939 • NebraskalandDays.com

HISTORIC LECOMPTON TERRITORIAL DAYS

Lecompton, KS, June 17-18: Kansas's former territorial capital celebrates with turtle races and pioneer wood carving and basket making. 785-887-6285 • LecomptonTerritorialDays.com

WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR JUNE 2016



BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION

Fort Worth, TX, June 11-12: Gaze at Western Americana artifacts and bid on Western art, American Indian jewelry and cowboy gear.
480-779-9378 • OldWestEvents.com

JIM BOWIE DAYS

Bowie, TX, June 18-25: Honors Texas Revolution hero and frontiersman Jim Bowie with a rodeo, parades and art and Indian artifact shows.
940-366-1887 • JimBowieDays.org

UMATILLA LANDING DAY

Umatilla, OR, June 25: Brings to life the Columbia River gold rush town's history through re-enactments, museum tours and a parade.
541-922-4825 • UmatillaOregonChamber.org

POW W O W

FORT ROBINSON INTERTRIBAL GATHERING

Crawford, NE, June 18-19: At the 1874 post Fort Robinson, the region's Indian tribes share their culture through songs, dances and storytelling.
308-632-1311 • PanhandleRCD.com

RODEOS

RENO RODEO

Reno, NV, June 16-25: The self-proclaimed



GREELEY STAMPEDE

Greeley, CO, June 23-July 4: Rodeo features bull riding and steer wrestling, plus a Western art sale and an Independence Day parade.
970-356-7787 • GreeleyStampede.org

"Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West" offers team roping, steer wrestling and bull riding.
775-329-3877 • RenoRodeo.com

WYO WILD RIDE RANCH RODEO

Gillette, WY, June 25-26: Rodeo and horse sale features live music, free prize giveaways, sale horse jackpot and a vendor trade show.
307-670-7037 • WyomingTourism.org

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS

Prescott, AZ, June 28-July 4: Held since 1888, this rodeo claiming to be the "world's oldest" delivers steer roping, bull riding and a parade.
928-445-3103 • WorldsOldestRodeo.com

WRITERS CONFERENCE

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Riverton, WY, June 3-5: Congregate for writing workshops, author lectures, editor pitch sessions and keynote address from Joseph Marshall III.
WYOWriters.org

TWMag.com:

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TEXAS! OUTDOOR MUSICAL DRAMA

Palo Duro Canyon, TX, Opens June 3: This outdoor musical re-creates the stories of Texas Panhandle settlers, plus features a chuckwagon dinner.
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WILD BILL DAYS

Deadwood, SD, June 17-19: Celebrate gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok (above) with free concerts, a dog race and Black Hills gold panning and sluicing tips.
330-241-4975 • Deadwood.com

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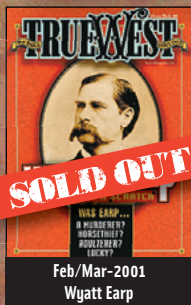
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Wild Bunch



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Jesus Out West



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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



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- 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: Kendricks 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 Photos
- Feb: Assn. of Pat Garrett
- Mar: Stand-up Gunfights
- Apr: Wyatt Earp Alaska

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Don't Badger Hardin

What was the "badger game?"

*Robert Tignor
Independence, Missouri*

Dating to the 19th century, the badger game is arguably one of the most reproduced cons of all time. In its most famous form of blackmail, a woman seeks out a lonely man at a bar and lures him to her hotel room. After getting the man into a compromising position, her accomplice bursts into the room, often with a loaded gun. Or she tears her blouse and accuses the man of rape.

The object, of course, was usually money—but not always. One of the more famous victims was U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. He was having an extramarital affair with Maria Reynolds. Her husband used the affair to extort information from Hamilton.

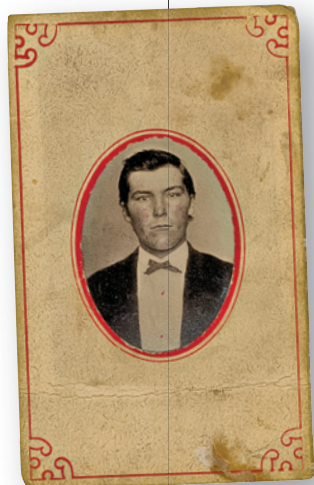
John Wesley Hardin claimed a couple tried the badger game on him in Kosse, Texas, in 1870—but the con failed when he shot and killed the male accomplice. He shared this tale in his autobiography; it never happened.

What is your opinion of John Wesley Hardin?

*Bill Calloway
Wilmington, Delaware*

I view John Wesley Hardin as a product of his times—and those were violent times. Many young men of his era were much like Hardin, impacted by the Civil War and its aftermath in the South.

Even more, as explained by Richard Marohn, a Hardin biographer and expert on adolescent psychiatry,



John Wesley Hardin



Hardin suffered a personality disorder made worse by alcoholism.

Can you shed some light on a photo of Red Cloud's wife in a cabin featuring a Japanese katana sword on the wall?

*Dan Dancer
Salem, New Hampshire*

All I can share with you is that three members of the Japanese Imperial Army visited the Red Cloud Agency in September 1876. Historians are unsure if they met with Chief Red Cloud, but if so, presenting him a high-quality samurai sword would have been proper etiquette. Mounted in handachi fittings, this katana was the type worn in battle.

Alternatively, Red Cloud could have picked up the sword during one of his trips to Washington, D.C., or another official could have given it to him.

The sword must have meant a great deal to the chief and his wife, Pretty

Red Cloud's wife, Pretty Owl, sits at home near a prized katana sword on the wall (below right) in this 1890 photograph.

— ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —

Owl, as it held a prominent place on their cabin wall in the 1890 photograph.

What is a soogan?

*Kurt House
San Antonio, Texas*

A soogan is a quilt or wool blanket wrapped inside a waterproof tarp. Given its bulk, the cowboy usually chucked his bedroll into a bed wagon or the hooligan wagon, which also carried food and water through rough country. If he traveled alone, he likely brought along a pack animal to carry the soogan, as it was too large to tie behind his saddle.

How do today's cowboy boots compare to those of the Old West?

*Ray Burden
Beckenham, Kent, England*

Cowboy boots today are quite similar to those worn in the 1880s. The main difference is the toes back then were more rounded than pointed. Today's boot wearers can select toe styles ranging from pointed to square to rounded.

Old West boots also had: higher shafts that reached almost to the knee; two-inch-



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

high forward sloping heels; little, if any, stitching design or ornamentation. Some boots also had square heels similar to those worn by the U.S. cavalry.

Those able to pay \$15 or more could purchase made-to-order boots with higher heels, but most bought the \$7 ready-made ones sold in boot shops.

And colors? You had your choice—black...or black.

Could pioneers identify a person by the horse he was riding?

Mary Zaborowski
Houston, Texas

Recognizing a horse came second nature to pioneers. One might say something like, “He was riding a blaze-face sorrel,” or “He had a stocking-legged chestnut.” Some could even identify an outlaw because of tracks left by a horseshoe with a flaw.

Were revolving rifles manufactured only with six-round cylinders?

Joe “Doc” Amason
Delano, California

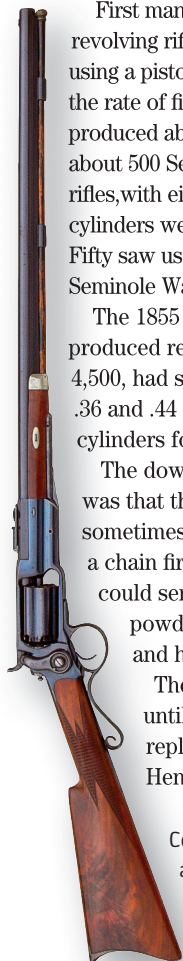
First manufactured in 1837, revolving rifles were developed using a pistol mechanism to increase the rate of fire. Sam Colt’s factory produced about 200 First Model and about 500 Second Model Ring Lever rifles, with eight-shot cylinders; 10-shot cylinders were available, but rare. Fifty saw use in Florida during the Seminole War.

The 1855 Model, the most widely produced revolving rifle, at about 4,500, had six-shot cylinders for .36 and .44 calibers and five-shot cylinders for the larger .56 caliber.

The downside of revolving rifles was that the paper cartridges sometimes leaked powder, causing a chain fire—the ignited charge could send a spray of burning powder and lead onto the arm and hand of the shooter.

They remained in service until 1863, having been replaced by the Spencer and Henry lever action rifles. ❏

Colt’s 1855 Model had a six-shot cylinder when chambered for .36 or .44 caliber.



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GROWING UP ON ROUTE 66, THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS TWO-LANE BLACKTOP
BOB BOZE BELL

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME

The most influential writer I read in high school was William Shakespeare. The Bard's humor, syntax and vocabulary were a great help 30 years later when writing 1638-era dialogue for *Mary's Land*.

The best advice my mom gave was that if I chose a career doing something I loved, I would never work a day in my life. I always wanted to be a librarian and work surrounded by books, but I never thought I'd write them.

My childhood in Florida in the 1940s and 1950s was idyllic. It was *Father Knows Best* and *Leave It to Beaver* set in the subtropics.

Sallie Ratliff Taylor, my college English instructor, taught me how to write. Twenty years later, I visited her in the hospital and said I was dedicating my as-yet-unnamed novel to her. Her sister said Sallie told her about that a few days before she died of cancer. The dedication in *Ride the Wind* reads, "To Sallie Ratliff Taylor, teacher and friend, who said she'd wait on the other side."

John F. Kennedy announced the formation of the Peace Corps in 1961 when I was a freshman in college. I got an application then and mailed it off when I graduated in 1964.

Living for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the semi-rural barrio of Los Cerritos in the small town of Caripito in Monagas, Venezuela, was not exactly a semester abroad. In the mid-1960s, Cuban communism and anti-American sentiment were prevalent, but our neighbors were protective, generous and kind. Ironically, my machete scar was inflicted by a nun.

The Peace Corps gave me the first taste of life in a foreign culture and inspired more traveling. When friends asked if I wanted to go to Ecuador and Peru with them, I said "Yes." Ditto the Orinoco jungle (with Sister Mercedes), Surinam, Mexico, Trinidad, Grenada, Costa Rica and, oddly, France.

I got started writing Western novels after I mentioned Cynthia Ann Parker to an editor I met at a Science Fiction convention and observed that someone should write her story. He told me I should do it, and I said, well to be honest, I said, "Don't be ridiculous." But eventually I said, "Okay."

In 1968, I married a U.S. Army officer. When he was sent to Vietnam, I spent the year in Japan. I chose Japan because I loved Samurai movies and because a Japanese friend of a friend



This little cowgirl has blossomed into a world-class author. Lucia St. Clair Robson will receive the Owen Wister Award on June 25, during the Western Writers of America Convention in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She will also be inducted into the Western Writers Hall of Fame at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody.



LUCIA ST. CLAIR ROBSON, AUTHOR

When Lucia St. Clair Robson learned she was being honored with the Owen Wister Award at the 2016 Western Writers of America Convention, she confessed, "Even after all these years, I still think of myself as a librarian who writes novels as a sideline." Robson's first foray into Western literature was her 1982 historical novel about Cynthia Ann Parker, *Ride the Wind*, a Spur award-winning novel she wrote while working as a librarian in Maryland. She has written eight other historical novels, including another Spur winner, 2010's *Last Train from Cuernavaca*.

lived there. She cajoled a family into renting me their traditional teahouse (see the above photo of me in my kimono at the teahouse). When the sun shone through the shoji screens every morning, I couldn't believe I was living a James Michener novel. Travels all over Japan that year inspired *The Tokaido Road*.

The next Army posting was Fort Huachuca, in Arizona's Apache country. While the rest of the Army wives were attending teas and luncheons and fashion shows, we were camping out from Kaibab to Cochise Stronghold.

The Western movie I never grow tired of is 1971's *Red Sun*. I go to YouTube to watch the scene where Toshiro Mifune bounces Charles Bronson all over the landscape.

My favorite word book is the unabridged 1811 *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, subtitled: *A Dictionary of Buckish Slang, University Wit, and Pickpocket Eloquence*.





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