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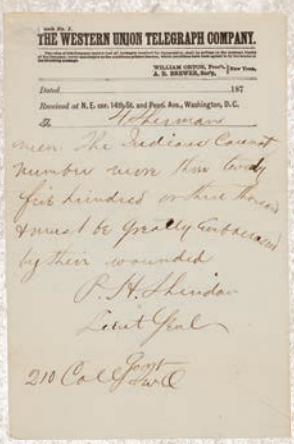
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New Orleans Turns 300

Founded by the French in the spring of 1718, New Orleans survived fires, wars and natural disasters, growing into Louisiana's largest city. This 1885 bird's-eye view of the town, printed by Currier and Ives, shows off how the Mississippi River weaves its course around and through the town, which earned New Orleans the nickname "Crescent City."

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HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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

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Showing off his buckskins at Fort Macleod in Alberta, Canada, Rocky Mountain Ranger Henry Boyle, along with his brother, Lord Richard, invested in the Alberta Ranche. Find this photo and more historical photography on our "Rangers, Rangers, Rangers" board.

– COURTESY GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-4452-7 –

Go behind the scenes of *True West* with Bob Boze Bell to see his sketch *Don't Touch My Hat!* and more of the executive editor's Daily Whipouts (Search for "April 9, 2018").

Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com



Join the Conversation

"Sometimes we just miss the truth...that our heroes were complicated personalities, and, like all humans, had faults. This shouldn't diminish their impacts on history and interesting lives lived."

–Richard Underwood of Bishop, California, responding to an article about Tombstone's O.K. Corral gunfighters



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Ramble your way back in time on these 10 historic Old West "bucket list" road trips.

—By Stuart Rosebrook



Cover design by Dan Harshberger

Oops!

April 2018: In "Owen Wister's Wyoming," the Cheyenne Depot Museum is a couple blocks, not across the street, from the Nagle-Warren Museum. In *Renegade Roads*, both the Rosebud and Little Big Horn battles were fought in June, not July.

TRUTH BE KNOWN

COMPILED BY ROBERT RAY

Quotes

"Political extremism involves two prime ingredients: an excessively simple diagnosis of the world's ills, and a conviction that there are identifiable villains back of it all."

– John W. Gardner, 6th U.S. Secretary of Health

"You don't drown by falling in the water; you drown by staying there."

– Edwin Louis Cole, founder of the Christian Men's Network

"I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act; but I do believe in a fate that falls on them unless they act."

– G.K. Chesterton, English author

"No matter how much cats fight, there always seems to be plenty of kittens."

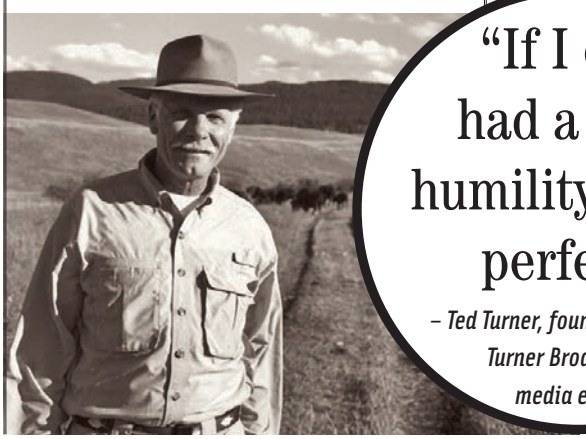
– Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President

"A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject."

– Winston Churchill, 61st United Kingdom Prime Minister

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value."

– Albert Einstein, German theoretical physicist



– COURTESY TED TURNER EXPEDITIONS –

"If I only had a little humility, I'd be perfect."

– Ted Turner, founder of CNN and Turner Broadcasting media empire

Bizarro BY DAN PIRARO



Letter

Your April 2018 article on the Ives Colorado River Expedition, "Mormon War's Grand Views," was interesting. I have an original copy of his 1861 Congressional report. His journal is well written and so very entertaining. Another tidbit in that report was Olive Oatman's account, as a footnote, about the Cocopah female captured by the Mohaves and burned at the stake.

–Mike Allen, True West *Maniac 983, Garden Valley, Idaho*

Old Vaquero Saying



"Truth is stranger than fiction—and usually more embarrassing."

BY BOB BOZE BELL

"Oh! Stag His Nibs!"

Strange slang finally explained.

This issue showcases an excerpt from my 13th book (p. 18). Not that I'm superstitious—*but*—several odd and interesting things occurred during that book's creative process.

I started this book in 1996, completing the timeline and numerous illustrations, but then I got sidetracked for 21 years (a radio show, 10 years worth of *True West* Moments on the Westerns Channel and buying a magazine, to name but three distractions).

When I finally dusted off the boxes of workups in May 2017, I realized the hardest work was ahead of me, and I needed some serious inspiration to get the ball rolling. For a solid week last September, I worked on the book while I was staying in a museum. That would be Maynard Dixon's studio and cabin (p. 11).

Yes, the museum was open to the public. My wife, Kathy, was so thrilled that tourists came through at random times to look at the cabin while we were staying there.

That is a joke. She was not amused, but I got some good work done, thanks to Maynard's muse.

As of today, I'm still married, so that worked out okay as well.

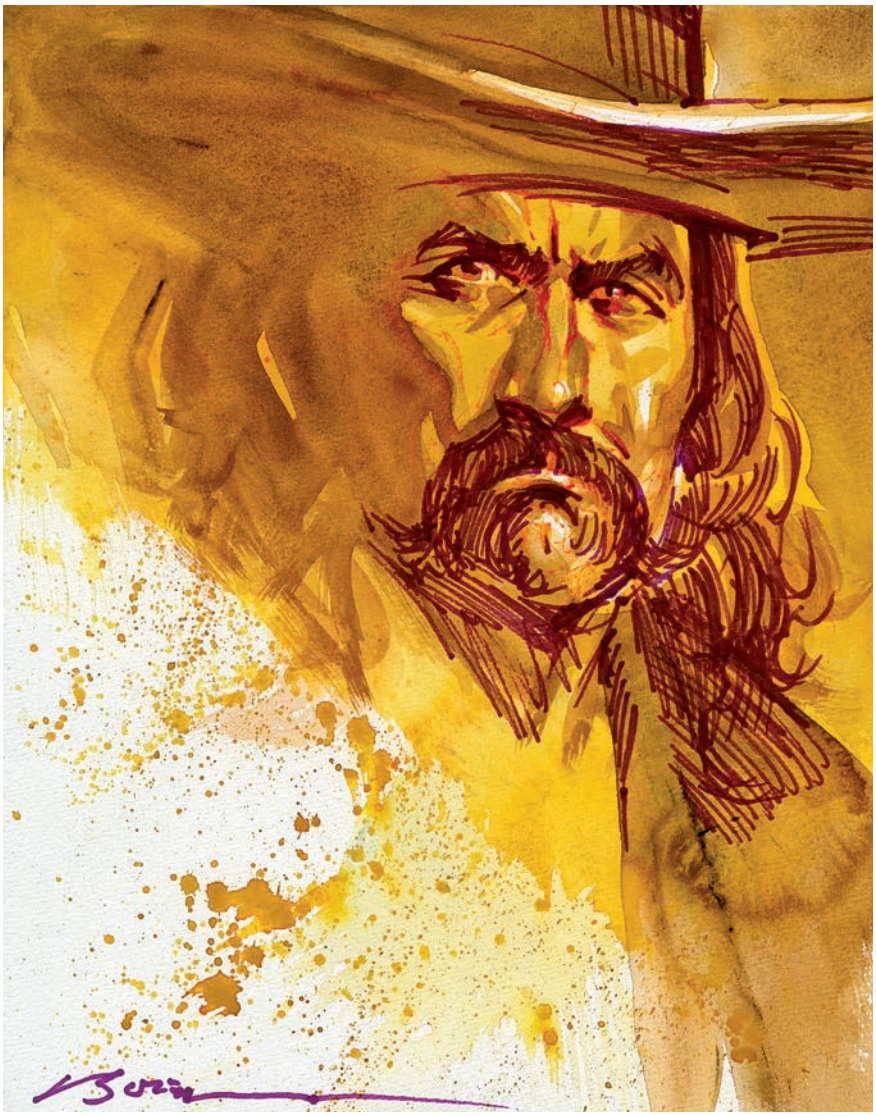
But the strangest aspect of this book was running across an odd bit of slang: "Oh! stag his nibs wid the long hair!"

What does that mean? Of all the accomplishments in all of my books, I am most proud of finally cracking the code on this strange slang. Here's what it means:

"Oh, look at that self-important man with the long hair."



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



"Wild Bill" Hickok was quitting show biz. He hated it. Then this happened, on March 12, 1874: *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* reporters spotted Hickok "passing down State street" after "Buffalo Bill" Cody and "Texas Jack" Omohundro had departed for Lockport, New York. In the blowing snow, Hickok greeted the scribes with a firm handshake ("an iron vice from which we were glad to be released"). While the reporters walked with Hickok, an "impudent youngster" newsboy recognized the famous Westerner and cried out, "Oh! stag his nibs wid the long hair!"

– ILLUSTRATED BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY MARK BOARDMAN

The Dodge City Lawdog

Charlie Bassett was the main peacekeeper in the infamous cowtown.



Charlie Bassett stood out, both visually and as a lawman, in the "Peace Commission" that gathered to keep Luke Short in business as the owner of the Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City, Kansas (see interior below). (From left, seated) Charlie Bassett, Wyatt Earp, Frank McLean and Neil Brown. (Standing) William H. Harris, Luke Short, Bat Masterson and William F. Petillon.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –



Charlie Bassett's story has been eclipsed—by the legends of Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson. Yet for much of the 1870s, Bassett was the law in Dodge City, Kansas, helping bring peace to one of the West's roughest towns.

Bassett was born in Massachusetts in 1847. After a Civil War stint, he drifted west in 1865, trying his hand at bartending, mining and other pursuits. By 1872, he was in Dodge City as a partner in the Long Branch Saloon.

In 1873, after selling the bar, Bassett was elected the first sheriff of Ford County; he was re-elected in 1875. Term limits ended his tenure, but new Sheriff Bat Masterson appointed him a deputy in 1878.

The previous December, Bassett was appointed one of Dodge City Marshal Ed Masterson's deputies. Ed was killed on April 9, 1878, and Bassett was promoted. He resigned in November 1879 (to be replaced by another Masterson, brother Jim).

Between 1873 and 1879, Bassett was the constant law enforcement officer in Dodge City. Not the Mastersons. Not the Earps. Those men wore the badge there for only a couple of years each—and all of them reported to Bassett at one point or another. He deserves as much credit as anyone (if not more) for keeping a lid on violence, crime and mayhem.

But then he moved on, roaming the West over the next two years.

In 1881, Bassett settled in Kansas City, Missouri, managing the Marble Hall Saloon. Two years later, he was called back to Dodge by Luke Short, who owned the same Long Branch Saloon started by Bassett nearly a decade earlier. Mayor Larry Deger had run Short out of town in his effort to clean up Dodge by closing sporting establishments.

Bassett, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and other gun handlers arrived to back Short's play. Merchants feared the crackdown would hurt business when Texas cowboys came to town, so they pressured Deger to reopen the saloons and gambling halls, which he did. The "Dodge City War" ended without violence; Short and pals became known as the "Dodge City Peace Commission."

Bassett went back to Kansas City and opened the Senate Saloon (which gave him the nickname of "Senator"). But it quickly failed, and Bassett became a bartender at other saloons in town.

By the 1890s, Bassett was suffering from inflammatory rheumatism. He visited Hot Springs, Arkansas, for relief. Bassett died there on January 5, 1896, at the age of 48.

He eventually became just a note on the wild history of Dodge City. But William B. Shillingberg, who chronicled the town in *Dodge City: The Early Years, 1872-1886*, credits Bassett as the man responsible for holding down crime and violence.

BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

The Painter's Cabin

A cabin restoration allows Maynard Dixon fans to enjoy views that inspired the master artist .



Maynard Dixon sits for sculptor Elbert Porter in front of his cabin in Mount Carmel, Utah, circa 1940 (right). Paul and Susan Bingham (bottom left) purchased the Western artist's cabin (bottom right) and restored it for the public to enjoy.

– COURTESY PAUL AND SUSAN BINGHAM –

Visiting the Maynard Dixon cabin is like walking into a Maynard Dixon painting.

For the last seven years of his life, Maynard and his wife, muralist Edith Hamlin, summered and painted in the log-and-stone cabin they built in Mount Carmel, Utah, immersed in the Western landscape he so loved. He asked to be buried on a high bluff above their cabin.

"Edith said burying him there was the best tribute she could give him, because people could come there and see all the things he loved to paint," remembers Susan Bingham, who has lovingly restored the cabin with her husband, Paul.

Born in California in 1875, Maynard became infatuated with the Western landscape on a trip to Arizona and New Mexico Territories in 1900 and spent the next 46 years producing what many consider some of the greatest paintings of the West. His winter home was in Tucson, Arizona Territory, where today's Maynard Dixon Museum contains original oils, watercolors, drawings and poetry.

The Binghams long hankered to own the Utah cabin, even though they'd only seen it when peeking over a fence. They were art dealers who focused on Maynard's work, and they also knew Edith, so they made an open-ended offer to then-owner California watercolorist Milford Zornes: "If you ever sell, give us a call."

The call came in 1998, while Paul, ironically, was selling a Maynard painting.

"When we got up here and took a good look, we saw it needed a lot of work," Susan says of the cabin.

But thankfully, besides updating the kitchen and adding a back garage, Zornes hadn't made many changes. To the Binghams' delight, the home came with some original furniture and Dixon artifacts—Maynard's "main chair," the Dixons' bed, bunkhouse furniture and dining table—along with Maynard's easel, books and things he and Edith had picked up over the years, including an Indian blanket.

The Binghams decided to clean, stabilize and repair the historical features of the house so they could share it with the public. They formed the Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts and turned the home into a "living history museum," opening it for public tours and artist retreats and workshops. Since 2014, they've sponsored the "Maynard Dixon Country Camp Out" for artists to show their work and give art demonstrations.

In 2001, the cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also won a Preservation Utah (formerly Utah Heritage Foundation) restoration award. "This place spoke to Maynard Dixon. And for most people who come, it speaks to them too," Susan says.

As Maynard himself once said, "If doubtful of your work, return to nature and renew your vision."

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

BY MEGHAN SAAR

Romance and the Buffalo Hunt

The lady Charles M. Russell would wed improved his study and treatment of frontier buffalo hunts.



Charles M. Russell titled portrayals of one of his most favorite subjects simply the "buffalo hunt." For ease of identification, collectors have added numbers to these works. Among his earliest portrayals, this circa 1895 oil, *Buffalo Hunt No. 7* (left), hammered as the top lot at $1.25 million.

Sculpted by Russell seven months before his death on October 24, 1926, the *Spirit of Winter* bronze (below) sold for a $325,000 bid. The last time this was featured in the magazine, for the 2016 Coeur d'Alene Art Auction, it hammered at $300,000.



Notable Western Art Lots Included

(All images courtesy C.M. Russell Museum's "The Russell" Benefit Auction)

Nancy Cooper clearly fired up Charles M. Russell's imagination when they met in 1895 (a year later, 32-year-old Charlie would marry 18-year-old Nancy). While their romance was budding, Charlie improved on his earlier portrayals of buffalo with *Buffalo Hunt No. 7*, which hammered down as the top lot at the C.M. Russell Museum's "The Russell" benefit auction on March 17 for $1.25 million.

The oil features a strong portrayal of the American Indian hunter on his paint horse, drawing his decorated quiver onto the center of the action. The hunt looks to be taking place in the Arrow Creek area north of Stanford, Montana, where Charlie rode as a cowboy during his Judith Basin open range days.

The painting is a fine example of Russell portraying Indians in a compassionate light, instead of as barbaric hostiles, and of a subject popular among his fans. Cowboy actor Will Rogers was among those who purchased his buffalo hunt artworks.

The 1895 oil differed from his earlier works because he was able to achieve a greater degree of depth by bringing less definition to the hunters in the background.

The artist also tested his viewer's observation skills by placing a coiled rattlesnake near uprooted sagebrush, to the right of and slightly below the buffalo. He employed this device in many of his finest works, such as *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole.*

Collectors earned more than $4.3 million on artworks sold at the benefit auction. The artists ranged from master artists such as Joseph Henry Sharp to contemporary artists such as Andy Thomas. Featured here are the top lots, all Russell artworks.



Sculpted in 1911, two years after the death of Frederic Remington, this *A Bronc Twister* bronze is Russell's commentary on how range horses frequently weaved, rather than reared straight up, as depicted in Remington's famous *Bronco Buster*; $275,000.



Based on a real-life bear encounter by prospectors Hank Winters and "Bed Rock" Jim, Russell's 1899 *Just as Everything is Turning Black, I Hear Bed Rock's Winchester* watercolor hammered at $190,000.



Russell experimented with the Impressionistic style for this 1902 watercolor, *Assiniboine War Party*; $150,000.



Indians Herding Horses Across River, an 1894 watercolor that hammered at $160,000, portrays Piegans and Crows stealing horses in the Judith Basin region. Russell biographer Harold McCracken stated this work, at 20.5 by 33 inches, is among the largest Russell watercolors.



Russell created this watercolor, featuring men heading by stage to a Christmas ball, and other artworks for Carrie Adell Strahorn's book sharing her 1877-1898 journey of the West, *Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage*; $110,000.

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BY PHIL SPANGENBERGER

Found: Trumpeter Martin's Carbine?

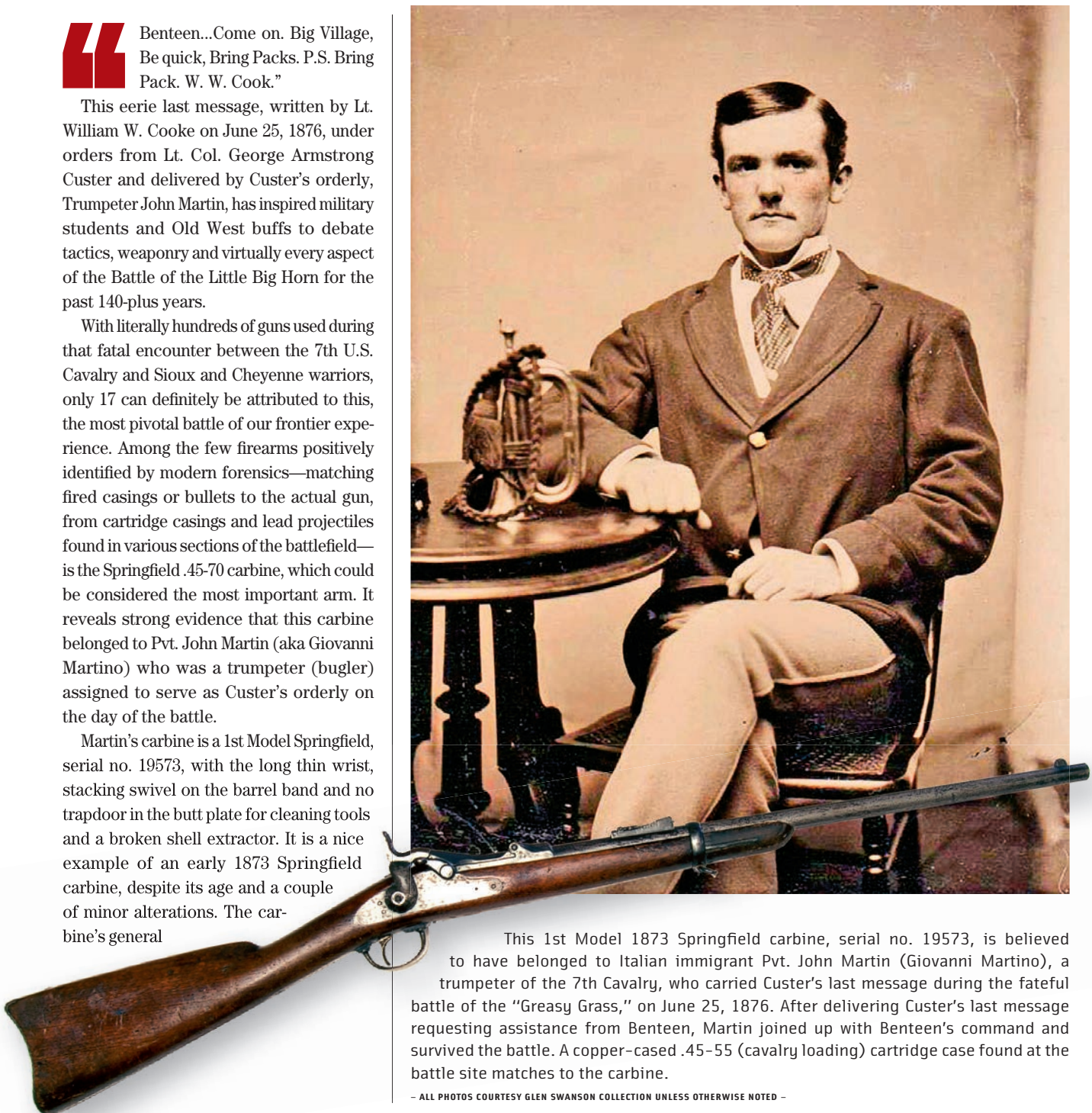
Of the firearms used at Custer's Last Stand, this Springfield could be the most important find.

"Benteen...Come on. Big Village, Be quick, Bring Packs. P.S. Bring Pack. W. W. Cook."

This eerie last message, written by Lt. William W. Cooke on June 25, 1876, under orders from Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and delivered by Custer's orderly, Trumpeter John Martin, has inspired military students and Old West buffs to debate tactics, weaponry and virtually every aspect of the Battle of the Little Big Horn for the past 140-plus years.

With literally hundreds of guns used during that fatal encounter between the 7th U.S. Cavalry and Sioux and Cheyenne warriors, only 17 can definitely be attributed to this, the most pivotal battle of our frontier experience. Among the few firearms positively identified by modern forensics—matching fired casings or bullets to the actual gun, from cartridge casings and lead projectiles found in various sections of the battlefield—is the Springfield .45-70 carbine, which could be considered the most important arm. It reveals strong evidence that this carbine belonged to Pvt. John Martin (aka Giovanni Martino) who was a trumpeter (bugler) assigned to serve as Custer's orderly on the day of the battle.

Martin's carbine is a 1st Model Springfield, serial no. 19573, with the long thin wrist, stacking swivel on the barrel band and no trapdoor in the butt plate for cleaning tools and a broken shell extractor. It is a nice example of an early 1873 Springfield carbine, despite its age and a couple of minor alterations. The carbine's general



This 1st Model 1873 Springfield carbine, serial no. 19573, is believed to have belonged to Italian immigrant Pvt. John Martin (Giovanni Martino), a trumpeter of the 7th Cavalry, who carried Custer's last message during the fateful battle of the "Greasy Grass," on June 25, 1876. After delivering Custer's last message requesting assistance from Benteen, Martin joined up with Benteen's command and survived the battle. A copper-cased .45-55 (cavalry loading) cartridge case found at the battle site matches to the carbine.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY GLEN SWANSON COLLECTION UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –





While showing no signs of having been captured by Indians, this '73 Springfield carbine is missing its sling ring—a feature often encountered with other military arms that perhaps fell into the hands of Indians or Anglo civilians, since such an appendage would not be needed. However the aged carving of the name of "J. MARTIN," and the company letter "H" lends credence to the belief that this could have been Private Martin's carbine, since the only other J. Martin in the 7th Cavalry at the Little Big Horn was James Martin of Company G, who was killed during Reno's retreat from the valley fight.

condition does not offer evidence of having been captured by Indians and shows normal wear for a weapon of its age. One apparent modification is that the gun once had a sear let-off screw installed, but it was later removed and the hole in the stock has been filled with lead. The carbine is also missing its hammer screw, and the carbine sling ring has been removed from the bar—a feature often encountered with other military arms that perhaps fell into the hands of Indians or Anglo civilians, since such an appendage would not be needed.

There is convincing evidence that this was Trumpeter Martin's carbine. First, there were only two troopers named J. Martin in the 7th cavalry at the time of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. One was a Cpl. James Martin in Company G, who was killed during Reno's retreat from the valley fight. The only other J. Martin was John (Giovanni), who was the trumpeter in Company H. It's obvious that the name "J. MARTIN," was hand-carved into the left side of the forearm long ago, coupled with the letter "H," also hand-carved into the left side of the stock, several inches from the butt plate, offering credence to the belief that this carbine belonged to Company H's Trumpeter John Martin.

Adding to the carbine's credentials is a .45-70 cartridge case that perfectly matches the carbine and, ironically, was uncovered on Last Stand Hill, although Trumpeter Martin had left the battlefield early on and was not present at that site. Once he delivered his fateful message, he joined up with Benteen and survived the fight, living to the age of 70. However, it is quite possible that as he was hurriedly leaving the field, Martin gave his carbine to a fellow trooper,



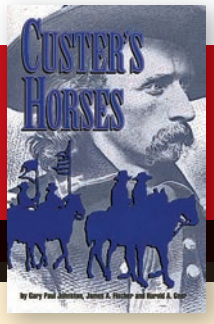
Despite all of the Victorian-era illustrations depicting Custer's Last Stand, Charles M. Russell's 1903 painting *The Custer Fight* reveals how it must have truly looked at the Little Big Horn on the 25th of June 1876, when the 7th Cavalry was completely overwhelmed by hundreds of painted Sioux and Cheyenne warriors.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –



due to the brittle copper-cased cartridges jamming of many of the weapons, or perhaps it was dropped on the way to Benteen's command. While this historic Custer battle Springfield certainly has the earmarks of having been Trumpeter John Martin's weapon, it will remain a question for Custer aficionados to debate for all time. This writer, for one, is convinced that this was indeed John Martin's carbine.

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

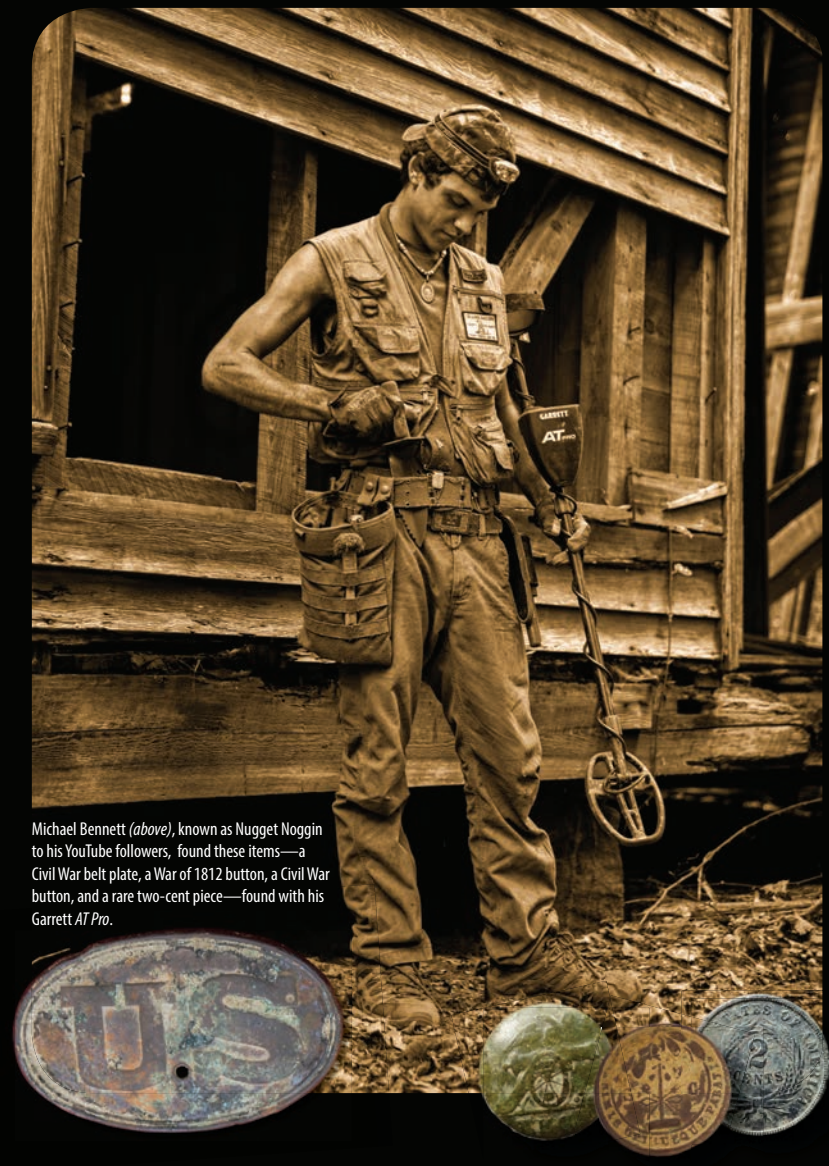


CUSTER'S HORSES

Unlike other works on the Battle of the Little Big Horn, *Custer's Horses* by Gary Paul Johnston, James A. Fischer and Harold A. Geer (Wolfe Publishing, $15.77, 145-page soft cover volume) focuses on the condition of the horses in the 7th Cavalry, and the general care of military animals during the Indian Wars. Interviews with soldiers and Indians–along with a reprinting of a little-known 1941 study of the 1876 Sioux Campaign by Lt. Col. Elwood L. Nye, Veterinary Corps, U.S. Army, a detailed recounting of the day-by-day travel and conditions that the men and animals endured in those final weeks that led to the fateful fight in Montana–gives evidence that the exhausted condition of both man and beast seriously affected the cavalry's performance during the final clash. This is a fascinating read.

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BY BOB BOZE BELL

The Truth About Wild Bill

Myths have shrouded the West's deadliest gunfighter. It's time to re-evaluate those legends.

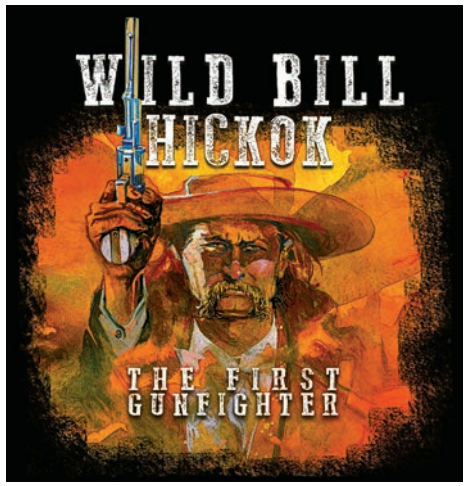
Like most Old West icons, gunfighter "Wild Bill" Hickok is shrouded in myths. He likely started many of them.

A teller of tall windies, he was quoted as saying, "I would be willing to take my oath on the Bible that I have killed over a hundred, a long ways off."

After he told a particularly impossible adventure, someone would invariably ask him, "But Bill, how did you escape?"

A poker-faced Hickok replied, "I didn't. I was killed."

While researching my latest book, *The Illustrated Life and Times of Wild Bill Hickok*, I tackled these big myths:



– ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

THE ONE AND ONLY "WILD BILL"

More than 30 frontiersmen went by the nickname "Wild Bill," and Hickok had other nicknames besides "Wild Bill," including "Dutch Bill," "Duck Bill" and "Shanghai Bill." Not bad for a guy named James. Yes, his name wasn't Bill or even William. Still, evidence shows he used William at an early date (see timeline on the opposite page).

HICKOK THE HORSEMAN

Yes, Hickok supposedly had a magical horse (Black Nell), but he usually preferred to ride a mule.

WILD BILL WORE HIS HAIR LONG BECAUSE HE WAS EFFEMINATE

A prominent historian, in the 1960s, claimed Hickok was gay because of his long hair. This says more about the 1960s than the 1860s. Like many of the frontiersmen and scouts, Hickok wore his hair long in defiance to his enemies. It was a dare to his American Indian opponents to come and try and take it. He lived by the popular maxim, "A short haired man is looked upon as a coward."

FACE-TO-FACE GUNFIGHTS

Every classic Western movie showdown owes its genesis to one event: The Springfield, Missouri, gun battle between Hickok and Dave Tutt on July 21, 1865 (page 24). They faced off in the street, drew and fired. Only one survived. Cue the music.

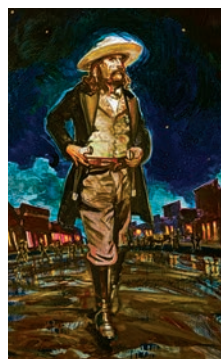
THE LADY KILLER

"Physically, he was a delight to look upon. Tall, lithe, and free in every motion, he rode and walked as if every muscle was perfection, and the careless swing of his body as he moved seemed perfectly in keeping with the man, the country, the time in which he lived."

Okay, we get it, Libbie Custer. He looked like a stud. Anything else?

"I do not recall anything finer in the way of physical perfection than Wild Bill when he swung himself lightly from his saddle, and with graceful, swaying step, squarely set shoulders and well poised head.... He was rather fantastically clad, of course, but all that seemed perfectly in keeping with the time and place. He did not make an armory of his waist, but carried two pistols."

Somebody throw some water on that woman! Husband George would not have been pleased.



THE TOWN TAMER

Yes, Hickok, the man with the badge who kept the peace in Kansas cowtowns, created the image of the fearless lawman walking down the center of Main Street, eyes scanning the saloons for trouble. He was the first notorious peacekeeper; others, like Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and Bill Tilghman, came later and were backdated into the myth by association.

FAST DRAW INVENTOR

Yes, the fast draw originated with Wild Bill. As W.E. Webb stated, "His power lies in the wonderful quickness with which he draws a pistol and takes his aim."

BLINDED BY VD?

In his last couple years, Hickok was going blind. Some eye experts believe he suffered from trachoma. But Hickok biographer Joseph G. Rosa suggested the gunfighter got a venereal disease from "brief affairs with the Cyprian sisterhood...." Syphilis can cause blindness.

THE DEADLY CONCLUSION

John Wesley Hardin is often mentioned as the deadliest gunfighter, having killed some 40 men. Never mind that many of these "kills" were merely assassinations, or worse—he once shot a man for snoring. Even though he claimed he got the drop on Hickok, no evidence supports this brag of his. In my estimation, Hardin was closer to Charles Manson than a bona fide gunfighter. The same can be said for other pretenders to the throne. Hickok was the first gunfighter—and the deadliest.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF HICKOK'S EPIC LIFE.



– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

1858

The Mason Jar was invented.

February 1858

A grand dress ball took place in the evening for the residents of Monticello, Kansas Territory. William Hickok was a member of the committee of invitation. (This is convincing evidence that James was also known as William, or Bill, much earlier than the previously accepted 1862 date. Court records for this period also indicate he was referred to as both J.B. Hickok and William Hickok.)

Also this month, James filed a preemption claim for a quarter section (160 acres) of land where he has been squatting, off and on, for almost a year. He may have intended to claim and share this land with the rest of his family. Unfortunately, a Wyandot Indian named Samuel McCulloch held a prior claim to the same land and, under the provisions of an 1842 treaty, James's claim was preempted.

Homeless and farmless, James moved to Olathe, where his cousin Guy Butler has a homestead.

March 22, 1858

James was elected village constable of Monticello Township, Johnson County, Kansas Territory.

1859

Oil was discovered in Titusville, Pennsylvania, launching a new era of lighting by kerosene.

Sometime in 1859

James allegedly met his hero Kit Carson during a trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory. The present and future legends parted company as friends after a night of vigorous elbow-bending. (Rumor has it that Carson warned James about the perils of fraternizing with the ladies of the town, and James took the advice to heart.) No evidence confirms this meeting took place, but shortly before his death, James reportedly gave away a gun he said was a gift from his old pal, Kit Carson.

Another claim (made by William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody in his bio) has James staying with the Cody family in Leavenworth, Kansas, that autumn and winter. The Codys called their dwelling



Wild Bill always told his sisters he would someday do things Kit Carson (above) never dreamed of doing.

– COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS –

the "Big House" and intended to run it as a boarding house or hotel.

1860

The Pony Express began. Abraham Lincoln was elected president.

April 3, 1860

James's employer, Russell, Majors and Waddell, launched the Pony Express. James was allegedly too tall and heavy for riding duties, so he drove wagons and stagecoaches for the company.

September 1860

On one of his freight trips from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, James reportedly killed a bear in Raton Pass.

James also met the infamous Joseph Alfred "Jack" Slade, who was the line supervisor of the Pony Express company's stagecoach division, at Sweetwater Bridge Station in Wyoming Territory.

At some point this month, Indians attacked one of the Pony Express relay stations—known as Plant's Station— and drove off all the stock. James was elected to lead 40 stranded drivers on a quest to get the animals back. The trail led to the Powder River, on past Crazy Woman's Fork to Clear Creek, where the trackers discovered the raider's camp.

At James's suggestion, the men waited until dark and then charged the encampment, shooting and shouting. The ensuing stampede of horses and inhabitants did the trick, and the men successfully recovered the stolen stock—and netted 100 Indian ponies to boot. This provided a great excuse for a party,

At Sweetwater Bridge Station, the James party celebrated the victory until the notorious Slade made an appearance and allegedly killed a stage driver after a drunken quarrel.

WILD BILL, THE RIPSNORTER

Fort Scott, Kansas Territory,
October 20, 1859

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *BORDER STAR*:

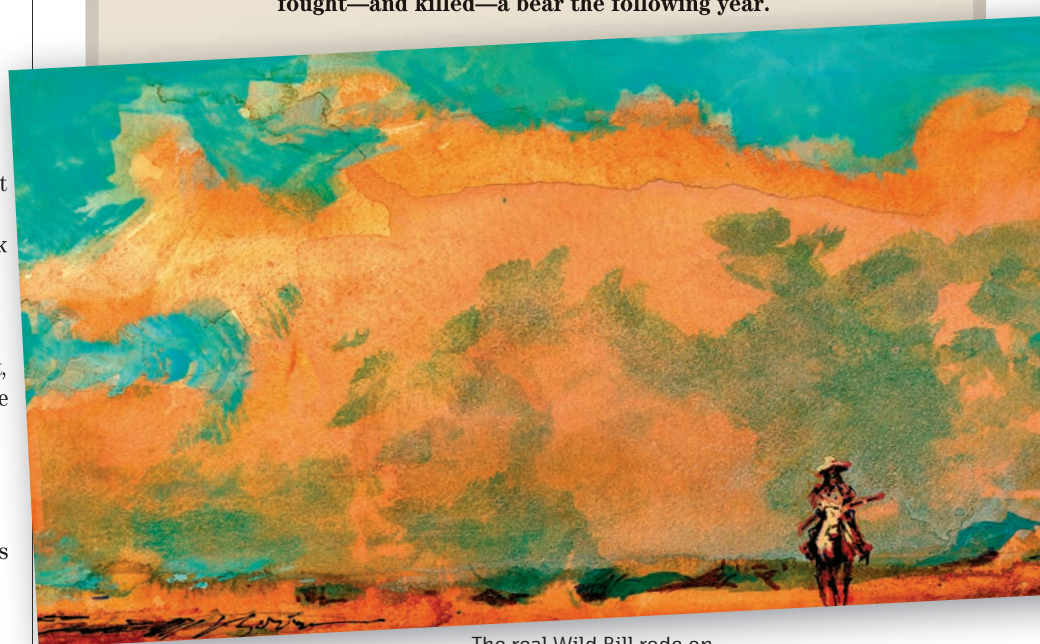
I have just read the blustering cards of these northern bullies, Morrissey and Heenan, and they tickle me mightily. They are both said to be "some" in a fight and I like to feel such fellers. You are therefore authorized to say that I challenge both of these champions to single combat, until I or they are whipped, for $1,000 a side. The fight will take place at Kansas City or Leavenworth on any day the opposite party may name, giving me due notice thereof. As a guarantee of my earnestness I will deposit $500 at Northrup and Company's Banking House in Kansas City.

—WILD BILL

The paper responded to the challenge with this editorial:

It will be seen from a communication in another column that Morrissey and Heenan are both challenged by a Western ripsnorter who has proved himself a tight customer in a bear fight. Our correspondent is a genuine character and we dare say he will make good all he has written. He is a Cheyenne chief, well known for his power and spunk. He is a white man by birth, but in early life he joined the Indians and so well was he pleased with their manners, customs and mode of life that he became a member of the Cheyenne tribe and was finally chosen their chief. If Morrissey or Heenan desire a fight that is a fight—they will respond through the *Star* or one of the New York papers.

Historians do not believe this was our Wild Bill, but the bear reference is prescient. Our Wild Bill reportedly fought—and killed—a bear the following year.



The real Wild Bill rode on.



While so many of the other Westerners we celebrate dressed like bankers, Wild Bill always cut a dashing figure.

1861

Kansas became 34th state. Pony Express became obsolete after completion of transcontinental telegraph connected San Francisco and New York City.

1862

Early March 1862

James had been serving as wagon master in Missouri since October. When rebel forces attacked the wagon train, James escaped by leading a charge—straight through enemy ranks!

The next day, he headed for Independence to ask for help, but none was available. A Civil War was going on, after all!

With time on his hands, James added another notch to his legend. The story goes that a bartender chose the wrong side during a fight—and made the mistake of wounding an opponent. While the bartender was holed up in a building, an angry crowd, from the winning side, gathered outside for a friendly little necktie party. Hickok, with pistols drawn, planted himself between the mob and the bartender. His two shots in the air, followed by a threat to kill the first man who came forward, convinced the crowd to find less dangerous entertainment elsewhere. This may be when he earned his nickname, Wild Bill.

The next day, Hickok was finally able to enlist the aid of troopers and led them in pursuit of the wagon train, which they recaptured after a running battle. He found more men in Independence, and they helped the wagon train reach its destination safely.

March 7, 1862

Wild Bill used up three horses. A fourth was shot out from under him while he scouted advancing rebel troops.

March 8, 1862

During the Battle of Pea Ridge, Wild Bill got permission to place a band of sharpshooters (including himself) on a ridge to allow for a clear view of oncoming rebels. When a Confederate officer fell in the trenches, the sharpshooters believed James had killed enemy commander Gen. Ben McCulloch. Not true, however; McCulloch had been killed the day before, reportedly by Peter Pelican, of Company B, 36th Illinois Infantry.

Mid-March 1862

Wild Bill became a member of an elite group of Union spies who infiltrated enemy lines and reported their findings. He won many accolades for his work and allegedly ended up on Gen. Samuel R. Curtis's staff as spy extraordinaire.

Wild Bill was among a band of scouts led by John R. Kelso on an excursion into Arkansas to track the enemy. They obtained Confederate uniforms along the way, which didn't help much when they later stumbled into a rebel camp. After shooting their way out, they split up the next day to make their way back to Union lines as best they can.

Wild Bill traveled with Zeke Stone and John Allen, a "squaw man," whose house was nearby. Allen's wife agreed to help them escape. She also introduced Wild Bill and Stone to some Choctaw ladies. The scouts were, no doubt, appreciative of her kind introduction. Mrs. Allen also informed them of a Confederate captain who was expected to pass by with dispatches on the Wire Road the next day. He would be wearing a new uniform.

After the rest, the group came upon a farmhouse occupied by four rebels who were holding two white women hostage. Wild Bill, Stone and Allen stormed the cabin, taking the soldiers by surprise. One of the women, Susannah Moore, refused Wild Bill's offer of help, saying she and her companion could fend for themselves.

Another band of Confederates showed up, but they too were taken unaware by Wild Bill and his *compadres.* The rebels panicked and scattered, with the scouts hot on their heels.

A rebel shot killed Wild Bill's horse and landed him in a mud puddle. Moore rode up, cleaned him off and said she and the other woman could ride double, so Wild Bill could take her horse. Seeing that she could handle herself, Wild Bill gave her a pair of pistols and watched the women ride away.

The scouts then made their way safely back to headquarters, where they gave their information to Curtis.

1863

William Clarke Quantrill's Raiders sacked and burned Lawrence, Kansas. The Battle of Gettysburg was fought. Perrier water was introduced in France.

Man on a Mule

During the 1930s, Alfred Brock, who served in Company L of the 17th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, recalled his only meeting with James Hickok. Brock, in his 90s, recounted the story that James "rode past on a mule. The man was dirty & unshaven, his clothing was dirty & needed repairs, so a young recruit made some disparaging remarks to the man about his appearance. The man made no answer but looked the young fellow over as tho he wanted to remember him. After the man was out of hearing, one of the cavalrymen said: 'Young fellow, you're lucky to be alive. That man you smarted off is Wild Bill Hickok, one of our scouts & he doesn't take that kind of talk from anybody.'"



Like Hickok, "Buffalo Bill" Cody also rode mules. In the spring of 1867, George Custer asked Cody to guide him to Fort Larned in Kansas, a distance of 65 miles. When Cody rode up on his "mouse-colored mule," the 28-year-old Custer said: "Cody, I want to travel fast and go through as quickly as possible, and I don't think that mule of yours is fast enough to suit me." Cody told him to never mind the mule, and off they went. Custer's thoroughbred led, but after crossing a river and getting into sandhills, Cody's mule caught up and passed Custer, leaving the officer in the proverbial dust. Later accounts of this tale claimed Custer rode his horse to death, trying to keep up.



Sharpshooter Wild Bill snuffed out several Confederates during the Battle of Pea Ridge.

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How James Became "Wild Bill"

"During a meeting that evening to form a vigilance committee, someone saw Hickok standing on the edge of the crowd. His name was taken up and amid the shouting a woman's voice was heard to say: 'Good for you, Wild Bill!' The name stuck. . . ."

– Joseph G. Rosa, *They Called Him Wild Bill*



Updated Gun Identification!

When this photograph was discovered in 1989, showing Hickok wearing leggings as protective riding gear, historians thought the pistols worn on the belt outside his coat were his famous Navy Colts. Then *True West's* Firearms Editor Phil Spangenberger viewed a life-sized photo of this at the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico, and could tell by the grips that the models were actually 1860 Colts!

– COURTESY ROBERT G. MCCUBBIN COLLECTION –

Autumn 1863

Wild Bill became the proud owner of Black Nell, and another legend was born. He captured the mare after killing her rebel owner and a few of his companions during a fight in Missouri. He paid the U.S. government $225 for this prize of war.

Black Nell's escapades were publicized by Col. George Ward Nichols, Wild Bill's overly enthusiastic and highly imaginative biographer. One day, Wild Bill galloped into Springfield and signaled to his mount, who immediately stopped and fell to the ground. Leaving her in the street, Wild Bill walked into a saloon and bet that Black Nell could enter the saloon and climb on a billiard table. As Nichols told it, in the February 1867 issue of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*:

"Bill whistled in a low tone. Nell instantly scrambled to her feet, walked toward him, put her nose affectionately under his arm, followed him into the room, and to my extreme wonderment climbed upon the billiard-table, to the extreme astonishment of the table no doubt, for it groaned under the weight of the four-legged animal and several of those who were simple bifurcated, and whom Nell permitted to sit upon her."

Black Nell's equine exploits were debunked by the spoil-sport editor of *The Missouri Weekly Patriot* on January 31, 1867:

"The equestrian scenes given are purely imaginary. The extraordinary black mare, Nell, (which was in fact a black stallion, blind in the right eye, and a 'goer,') wouldn't 'fall as if struck by a cannon ball' when Hickok 'slowly waved his hand over her head with a circular motion' worth a cent. And none of our citizens ever saw her (or him) 'wink affirmatively' to Bill's mention of her (or his) great sagacity. Nor did she (or he) ever jump upon the billiard table of the Lyon House at 'William's low whistle....'"

1865

July 20, 1865

Trouble started between Wild Bill and Dave Tutt during a card game at a hotel on South Street in Springfield, Missouri. Tutt kept trying to pick a fight, but Wild Bill refused to rise to the bait, which only made Tutt angrier.

After a back and forth about a horse trade payment Tutt claimed Wild Bill owed him, Tutt grabbed Wild Bill's watch, as collateral, and walked away.

These two had not been friendly. Wild Bill probably didn't take kindly to Tutt's involvement with Susannah Moore; he was getting even by taking up with Tutt's sister.

One of Tutt's buddies reportedly told Wild Bill that Tutt planned to flaunt the watch at the town square the next day. Wild Bill allegedly responded that "Tutt shouldn't pack that watch across the [square] unless dead men could walk."

July 27, 1865

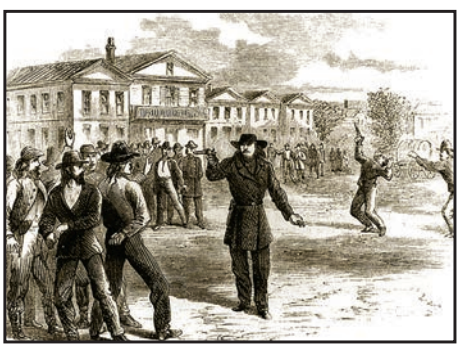
Hickok's Wild Bill nickname was published for the first time. Springfield's *Missouri Weekly Patriot* announced that "David Tutt…was shot on the public square, at 6 o'clock P.M., on Friday last, by James B. Hickok, better known in Southwest Missouri as 'Wild Bill.' The difficulty occurred from a game of cards."

1876

August 2, 1876

Wild Bill Hickok walked from his camp on the edge of Deadwood, Dakota Territory, to Nuttall & Mann's Saloon. Entering around noon, he encountered about a half-dozen men. Three men were playing draw poker. Wild Bill recognized Missouri River steamboat captain William R. Massie and Charlie Henry Rich, a card dealer Wild Bill knew from his days in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. Wild Bill joined their game.

Wild Bill sat in the only available seat, near the rear entrance of the saloon, facing the front door. He usually sat along the west wall, but Rich was occupying that seat. Wild Bill preferred that seat's view of the entire room, including good views of the front and back doors, and asked Rich for his "regular" seat, but the gambler refused to move.



"Are you satisfied?"

– PUBLISHED IN *HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE*, FEBRUARY 1867 –

JULY 21, 1865

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

A WATCH TO DIE FOR

WILD BILL HICKOK VS DAVE TUTT



Dave Tutt walked onto the town square in Springfield, Missouri, at 6 p.m. on a Friday. He was about to face off with a known adversary, "Wild Bill" Hickok.

Wild Bill and Tutt stepped onto the street, dressed to the nines, each with "two revolvers strapped to their belts." Both were "noted scouts, desperadoes and gamblers." Although they had once been friends, they got crossways somewhere along the line. (According to rumors, their tiff was over a woman.)

The two also had a gambling feud. One night, the former friends were playing cards when Hickok refused to play with Tutt again because he continually picked fights. To keep in the game by proxy, Tutt supposedly gave money to every man who played cards with Wild Bill. Unfortunately, Wild Bill was winning all the hands.

One hot night, at the Lyon House, Wild Bill was playing cards when a discouraged Tutt confronted him. Tutt accused Wild Bill of owing $40 for a horse trade. Wild Bill reportedly paid him, but then Tutt asked for another $35, claiming it was an outstanding debt from a previous game. Wild Bill disputed this amount, saying it had been only $25, but Tutt calmly reached over and picked up Wild Bill's prized Waltham repeater watch off the table to take as collateral. He kept the watch for several days.

Wild Bill was not amused, and he announced that Tutt should not show off this prized possession. Rumors of Wild Bill's threats spurred Tutt on, who vowed to "pack that watch across the [square] next day at noon."

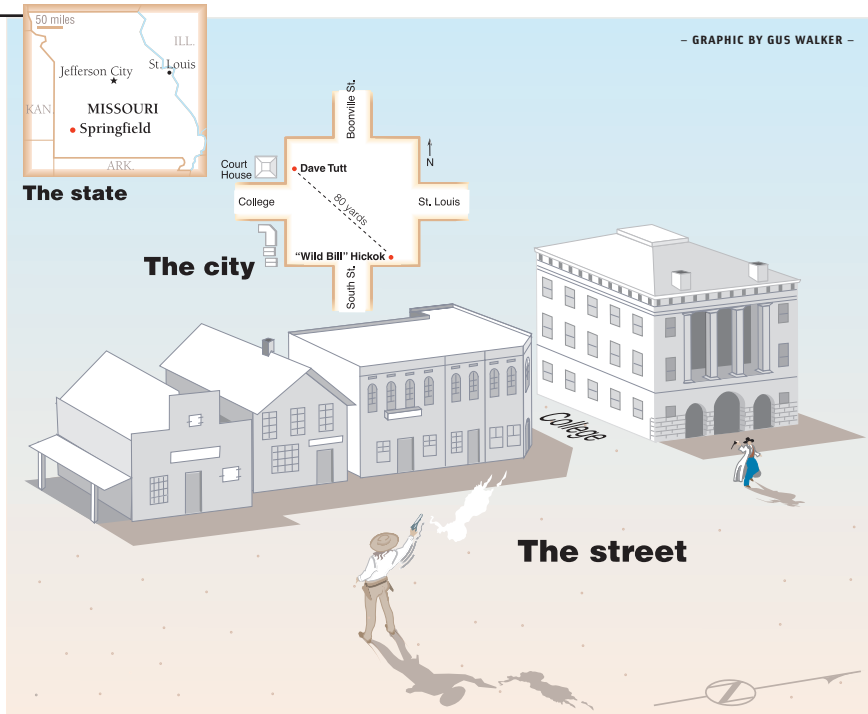
After Tutt's boast reached Wild Bill, he was so furious that he threatened Tutt's life, saying, "Tutt shouldn't pack that watch across the [square] unless dead men could walk."

Now, on this Friday evening, Tutt was on the square, and he was strutting. From across the square, Wild Bill yelled at Tutt, advising him not to carry the watch. Tutt put his hand behind him, but instead of reaching for the watch, he pulled out his pistol.

Both men fired simultaneously at the distance of about "100 paces," said Col. Albert Barnitz, the military commander of the Springfield post and an eyewitness.

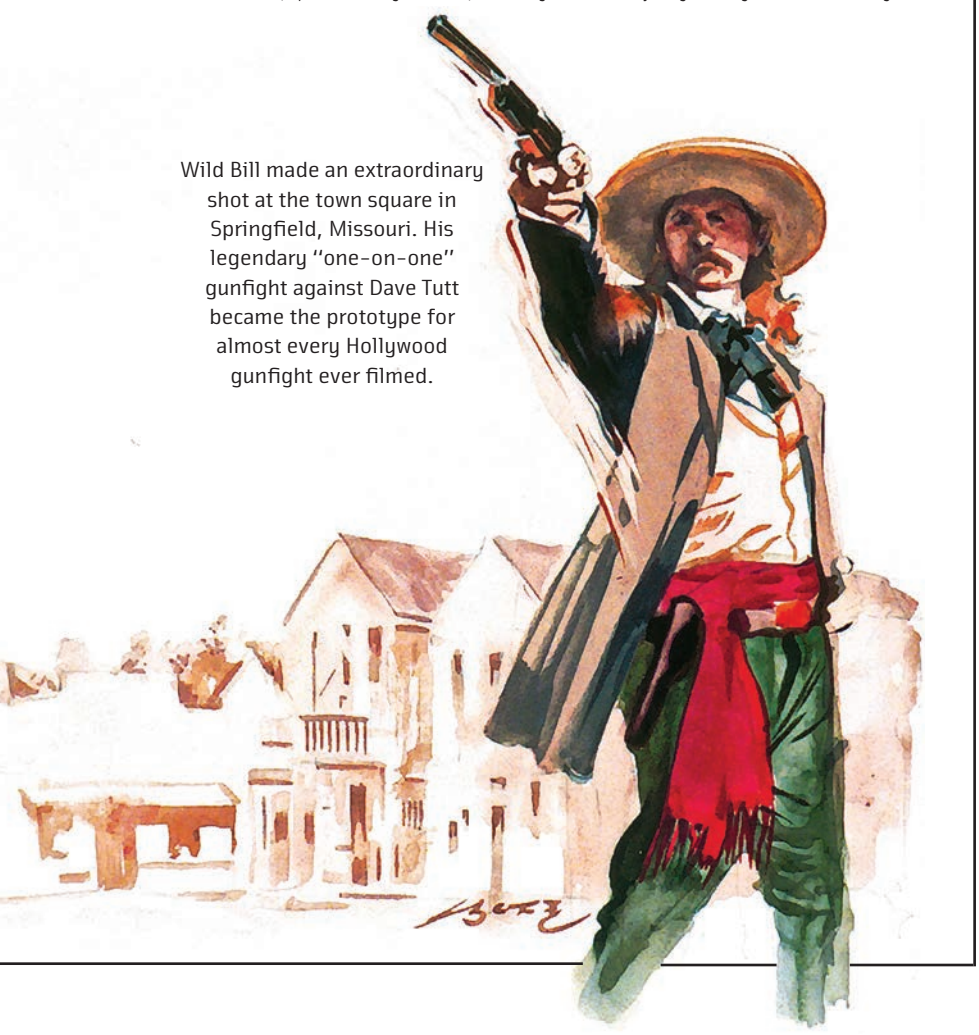
Wild Bill's shot hit Tutt in the heart. The gambler stumbled backwards, before falling near the steps of the courthouse. Tutt was dead.

Colonel Barnitz arrested Wild Bill and handed him over to the local authorities, who charged Hickok with murder.



A bullet "had entered [Tutt] on the right side between the 5th and 7th rib and passed out on the left between the 5th and 7th rib."

–Dr. Edwin Ebert, upon examining Dave Tutt, indicating that Tutt was facing sideways in a classic dueling stance



Wild Bill made an extraordinary shot at the town square in Springfield, Missouri. His legendary "one-on-one" gunfight against Dave Tutt became the prototype for almost every Hollywood gunfight ever filmed.

Wild Bill, uncomfortable with the fact that his back was exposed to the open bar and rear door, once again asked Rich to trade places. This time, the other players chided Wild Bill, telling him he had nothing to worry about this early in the day. Wild Bill took the empty seat.

The four men had been playing draw poker for almost three hours when Jack McCall (also known as Bill Sutherland) walked through the front door, headed over to the bar, paused, moved down the bar and stopped momentarily at the scales sitting on the end of the bar.

Wild Bill threw down his hand in disgust and said, "The old duffer, he broke me on that hand."

McCall stepped forward, took out a pistol and pointed it at the back of Wild Bill's head, pulling the trigger at the same instant.

The bullet exited Wild Bill's right cheek near the bottom of his nose. His head moved slightly forward, and he was still for a moment. Then he fell sideways off his stool onto the floor. He died instantly.

August 3, 1876

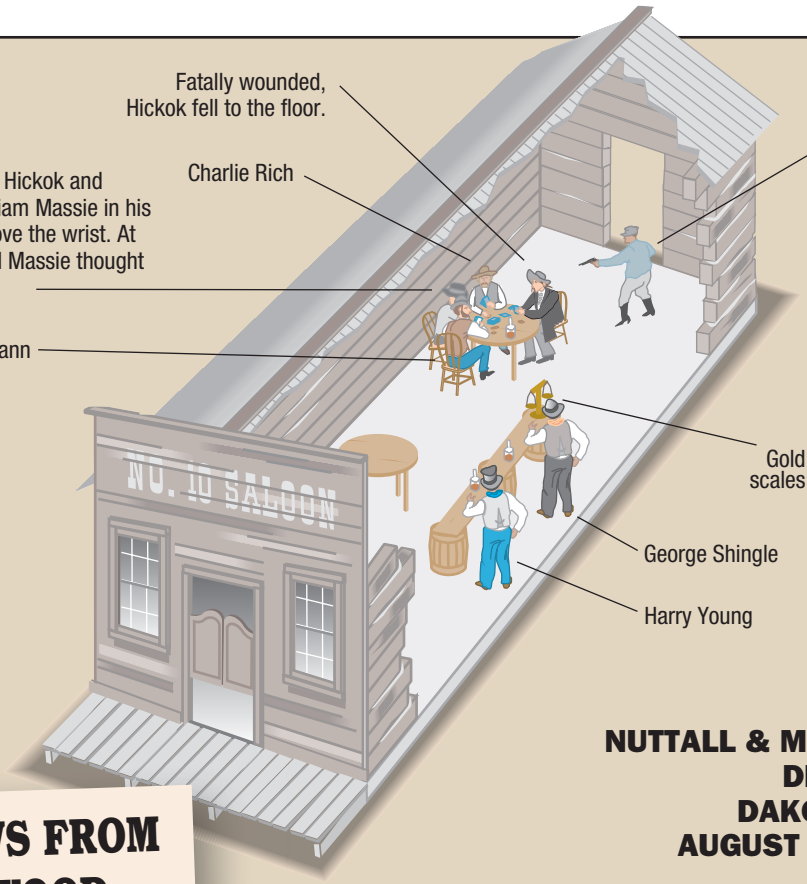
"Colorado Charlie" Utter held a funeral service for Wild Bill. Jack McCall was tried for murder and acquitted by an illegal miners' court. Later on, he was legally tried in Yankton.

December 6, 1876

Jack McCall was convicted of murder and, on March 1, 1877, was hanged.



Davis K. Tutt (above right), an ex-Confederate from Arkansas, was in Springfield, Missouri, for about a year. Locals claimed Tutt and "Wild Bill" Hickok (above left) were "intimate for years." But one summer night, that all changed.



NUTTALL & MANN'S SALOON
DEADWOOD CITY
DAKOTA TERRITORY
AUGUST 2, 1876, 3 P.M.

– GRAPHIC BY GUS WALKER –

THE NEWS FROM DEADWOOD

"We have also a large number of VERY BAD, HARD CHARACTERS among us who openly commit murder without provocation. Neither law nor order prevails; we have no organized system to punish criminals and our government has committed a grave error in allowing the settlement of this country without opening it by proclamation, giving the Governor power to organize a county and appoint county officers, and ensuring peaceable citizens protection against the vagabonds who infest this country. A few days ago Wild Bill, the noted Indian scout, fell by the hand of an assassin. A trial and acquital *[sic]* was the result. Numerous other crimes of a like nature have been committed. All go unpunished, leaving us in a state of chaos."

–THE NEW NORTH-WEST,
DEER LODGE, MONTANA TERRITORY,
AUGUST 25, 1876



Legendary
Dead Man's Hand

5 Wild Bill Killing Myths

Myth: Wild Bill sat with his back to the front door.

Fact: He easily saw the front door.

Myth: When he was shot, Wild Bill fell forward.

Fact: He fell sideways (some say backwards).

Myth: His card hand spilled onto the table.

Fact: As he hit the floor, the cards fell from his hand.

Myth: He held Aces & Eights in his hand.

Fact: No one knows (his cards went everywhere when he was shot).

Myth: When Wild Bill was shot, he reacted so quickly, he drew both six-shooters.

Fact: His only movement was a slight jerk of the head.





Buffalo Bill's Visit

When "Buffalo Bill" Cody visited Hickok's grave around 1914, Deadwood locals had already erected a wire cage around the plot to protect Hickok's grave from souvenir hunters. Even so, tourists merely cut their way through the wire to get at their hero. Two "fans" who got inside are seen posing in 1919 (above). By the 1950s, the sculpture had been whittled down to just the torso. It was taken down and stored in a warehouse, with a leg, head and arms missing (inset).

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



Martha "Calamity Jane" Canary mugged for the camera at Hickok's grave. That she ended up being buried next to Wild Bill is a great joke around Deadwood.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Wild Bill Still Looms Large

Did Wild Bill suffer from a dose of syphilis that led to eyesight issues? In my opinion, he probably did. Could he have hit a big strike in Deadwood and settled down with wife Agnes on a horse ranch? Probably not, but that was his dream.

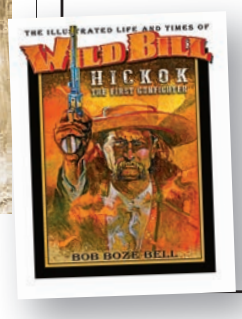
Instead, he became something else: "Prince of the Pistoleers." All the terms that followed: the "Showdown," "Gun Man," "Gunslinger" and, of course, "Gunfighter" came directly from him and his storied life. He was the first gunfighter. And his boast came true: he did things Kit Carson never dreamed of doing.



Bob Boze Bell's "Wild Bill" Book Tour

Author and illustrator Bob Boze Bell will launch his North American "Wild Bill" Book Tour on June 16 at the Adams Museum in Deadwood, South Dakota. At 11 a.m. he will speak about the long journey to bring Deadwood's favorite son to life.

The "Prince of Pistoleers" meets the "Prince of Western History" in Bell's much-anticipated, new book—chock-full of great art, rare photos, authoritative history and that unique dose of Bell whimsy that *True West* Magazine readers have come to expect. The book is a must-have addition to every Old West collection.



Adams Museum
11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Admission by donation
For more information:
605-722-4800

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

Fame, Fortune and a Snowball's Chance in Hell

How an Arizona cowhand bested Tom Horn and became an international roping sensation.

In the summer of 1882, Cibecue Apaches were smoldering over the U.S. Army killing Medicine Man Nockaydetklinne the previous year. That July, roughly 50 Apaches under Natiotish went on a wild spree—burning, looting and killing into the Tonto Basin.

Fort Apache troops followed in hot pursuit. On July 17, at Big Dry Wash, they caught up with Natiotish's band. Outmanned and outgunned, the Apaches were routed in what became the last battle fought between the U.S. Army and the Apaches on Arizona soil.

But the Apaches had already forever changed the life of the Meadows family. On July 15, two days before, Natiotish's warriors attacked the Meadows ranch. Barking dogs sent John Meadows Sr. to the creek to investigate when a shot rang out about 70 yards from his cabin. He threw up his arms, shouted, "Oh God," and fell.

Grabbing their rifles, Henry, 30, and John Jr., 29, ran to help their father, but gunfire wounded both. When the bleeding boys reached their cabin, Henry fell on the porch, unable to get up. Mother Margaret and nine-year-old Jake had to pull him inside.

Margaret and Maggie, 13, and James, 12, and family friend Sarah Jane Hazelton grabbed rifles and returned fire. Apaches peppered the cabin with gunfire until around 8 a.m., when firing ceased.

The family watched the Apaches herd the ranch's cattle and horses. Many of these animals were later found needlessly slaughtered along the trail to Mogollon Rim. The Meadows family alone lost 200 head in the raid.

Margaret dispatched Johnny Grey to Pine Creek to notify Charlie. A few days earlier, Charlie had ridden there to guide an Army detachment from Fort McDowell to General Springs on top of the rim. When word of the tragedy reached him, Charlie rode hard toward home.



Joke on Posterity

Don Meadows, kin to "Arizona Charlie," brought forth a belt buckle engraved with "Prescott, July 4th, 1886, Best Time 59½ Sec." which so excited the Prescott Centennial Committee in 1964—did the self-proclaimed "World's Oldest Rodeo" get its start two years earlier?

Then spoilsport and cowboy book writer Fay E. Ward confirmed his suspicion: the celebration in 1886 did not include a rodeo, according to the weekly *Journal-Miner*, and 59½ seconds was the same time "Arizona Charlie" tied a steer in 1888; the steer kicked loose, so "Arizona Charlie" was not awarded the time for his score.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

He arrived at the family's ranch to find his father dead and two brothers badly wounded. The oldest son, Henry, died two months later. Charlie, 22, was now the man of the house.

Stepping into a New Arena

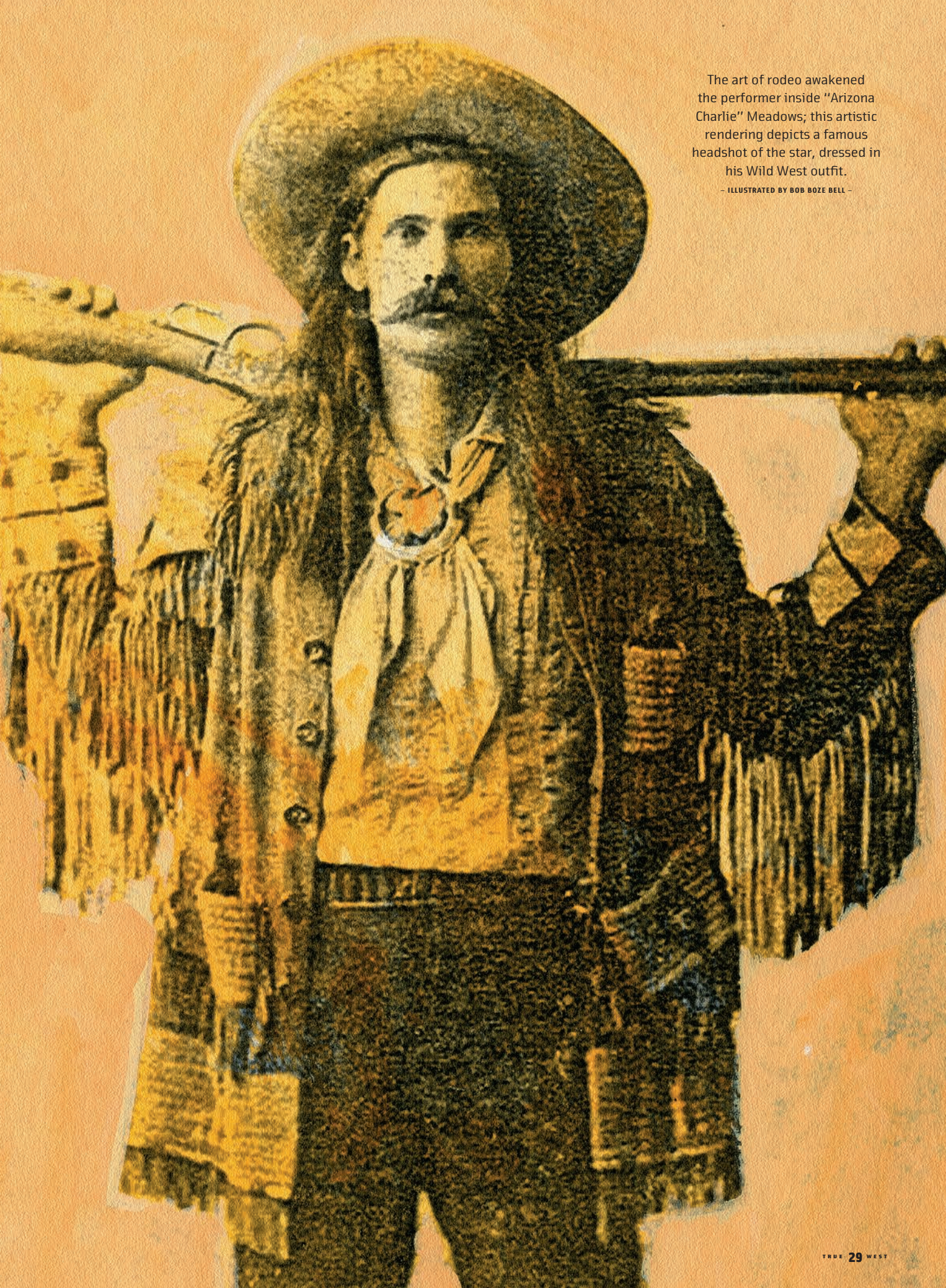
Charlie was born Abraham Henson Meadows on March 10, 1860, along Elbow Creek, near today's Visalia, California. He was the sixth of 12 children. His preacher and rancher father was a Confederate sympathizer; when Abraham Lincoln became the nation's President, John changed the lad's name to Charles.

In 1877, the family settled on a ranch at Diamond Valley, north of Payson. In 1884, two years after Charlie lost his father and eldest brother on that ranch during the Apache Wars, Charlie entered a new arena. With John C. Chilson, he organized the Payson rodeo, which some historians credit as America's first rodeo. Charlie also helped organize Prescott's and Phoenix's rodeos.

Charlie became a top steer roper in a territory that bred some of America's best rodeo cowboys. He also loved to gamble, betting his rodeo purse on his skills. Most of the time, he won the pot.

At the Payson Rodeo in November 1888, while riding his white horse Snowstorm, Charlie won nearly every event, beating the future gun-for-hire Tom Horn at steer roping. The next year, Horn won.

Both cowboys caught the eye of William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who was in attendance that day; he invited them



The art of rodeo awakened the performer inside "Arizona Charlie" Meadows; this artistic rendering depicts a famous headshot of the star, dressed in his Wild West outfit.

– ILLUSTRATED BY BOB BOZE BELL –



On the opening night of his Palace Grand Theatre, "Arizona Charlie" Meadows stood inside the theatre's saloon, in the center of a crowd of celebrants, his cowboy hat tipped to the ceiling. The Canadian three-story opera house he built in Dawson City, Yukon, in 1899 to entertain gold prospectors is still in business and will reopen after renovations this summer.

– COURTESY YUKON ARCHIVES, E.A. HEGG FONDS, 82/290, #2513 –

to join his Wild West show. Horn turned down Cody's offer, but Charlie headed to Cody's ranch in North Platte, Nebraska, to discuss the details. Unable to find the showman, Charlie returned to rodeo, setting new records in steer tying in Prescott. Then he won again in Phoenix.

Yet Charlie had made up his mind to perform in a Wild West show. He needed to free himself from the responsibility of running the family ranch. He soon got that chance.

No Business Like Show Business

On August 16, 1890, at August Doin's, Charlie hosted a cattle gathering and a double wedding, for sister Maggie and Tom Beach, while her friend Julia Hall wed Charlie Cole.

Charlie allowed the couples to rope and brand all the unbranded calves on the Meadows ranch. By sundown, the newlyweds had gathered enough calves to start their own herds.

Unsaddled from his duty to the family ranch, Charlie left Payson to pursue his dream. In 1890, he traveled the world for two years with Wirth's Wild West Show.

While performing in Australia with "Texas Jack" Omohundro, Charlie became enthralled with Marion Mae Murray, a runaway who had joined a circus.

Enjoying a romance too hot not to cool down, the two married aboard a ship in the Philippines. After 32 years of happy-go-lucky bachelorhood, Charlie had settled down.

Charlie met up with Cody in London, England, in 1892. He had long dreamed of joining Cody's troupe, but Marion was opposed. She issued an ultimatum: "If you go, our marriage is over."

Neither knew it at the time, but Marion was pregnant.

On August 10, Charlie joined Cody at a gala party for Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World. The celebrants included performers with colorful nicknames "Pony Bob" and "Cowboy Kid." Cody declared Charlie needed a show name: "Why not 'Arizona Charlie?'" The rest is history.

Charlie toured Australia, Asia, Europe, Canada and Alaska, meeting luminaries who included Will Rogers, Jack London, Zane Grey, Rudyard Kipling and Annie Oakley. Charlie even performed before Great Britain's Queen Victoria.

Wearing his signature red neckerchief and fringed buckskin jacket, his hair flowing to his shoulders beneath his broad-brimmed hat, the six-foot-six Charlie proved an imposing figure in the arena. In 1893, he started his own troupe, Arizona Charlie's Historical Wild West.

During an 1894 performance at California's Santa Cruz Fiesta, Charlie

hired the ravishingly beautiful rider Ida Mae McKamish. He billed her Mae Melbourne, perhaps to honor a romantic tryst in Australia.

Mae was hopelessly in love with her knight in shining armor, but Charlie was enjoying bachelor life.

Klondike's Flamboyant Showman

In 1898, Charlie and Mae set out for the Klondike to make their fortune in gold. Newspapers reported the two had married prior to the trip, but no records support this claim.

Charlie preferred performing to mining, so he opened the Palace Grand Theatre in Dawson in 1899; still in operation today, it will reopen after renovations this summer. The three-story theatre originally seated 2,200, and it had a stage large enough for Charlie to demonstrate his sharpshooting talents, sometimes with him on horseback.

Everyone agreed Charlie was the Klondike's most flamboyant showman. He livened up a slow night by shooting a cigarette out of Mae's mouth or targeting glass balls off the top of her head, from 25 yards away.

One of his star attractions was Kate Rockwell, better known as "Klondike Kate." Charlie paid her $200 a week. Rockwell later said she earned another $500 a week "entertaining" her string of admirers after the show.

Stories vary on Charlie's success as a Klondike Stampeder. Some say he came home with a pocketful of money, while others say he returned nearly broke.

By 1901, the Klondike boom was fading, so Charlie sold the Palace Grand. He traveled up and down the Pacific Coast to promote Wild West acts.

Yet Old Father Time was pickin' his pocket. Determined to postpone the inevitable, Charlie took up residence with Mae in Yuma, Arizona Territory.

New Life for an Old Man

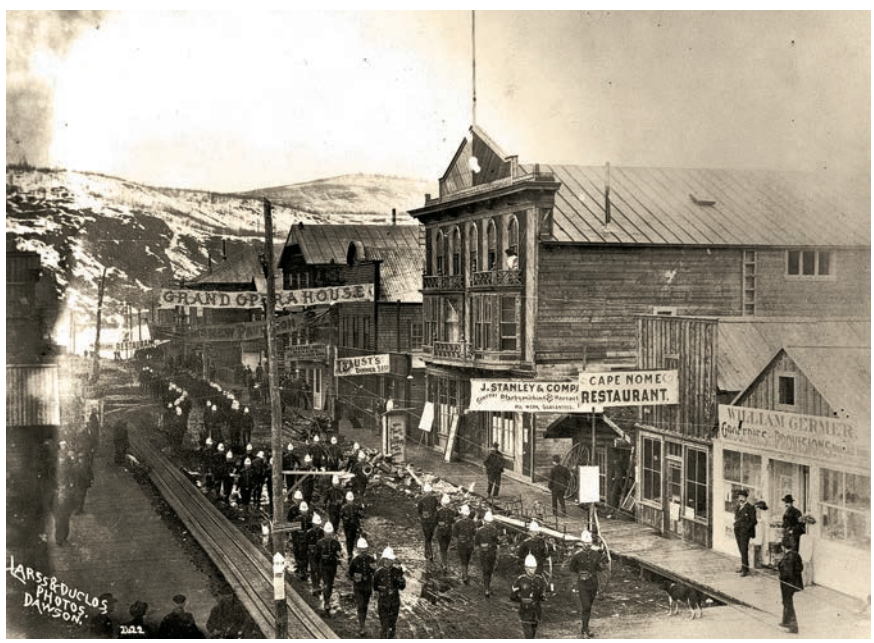
Never one to sit still for long, Charlie searched for lost treasure on Tiburón Island in Mexico. He also tried to purchase the island. Neither venture panned out.

In 1914, Charlie received the surprise of his life. He laid eyes on his daughter, also



The Palace Grand Theatre not only provided theatrical stage entertainment, but also a dance floor and band for balls that included St. Andrew's Night, which marked the beginning of advent devotion for the Christmas novena, a celebration on November 30, 1899, that honored both the Canadian and American residents of Dawson City. The Irish banner translates to "a hundred thousand welcomes." The drinks imbibed at this ball rose to the boisterous level of St. Patrick's Day gatherings.

– COURTESY YUKON ARCHIVES, ROBERT P. MCLENNAN FONDS, 82/321, #6484 –



The biggest show in town sometimes took place in front of Arizona Charlie's "Grand Opera House." Captured above is Cpl. M.W. Watson's body being conveyed on March 30, 1900, to his last resting place. The Yukon Field Force lawman accidentally shot himself in the stomach on March 27 and died the next morning. The inquest jury into his death censured the local papers for publishing his accident as a suicide.

– COURTESY YUKON ARCHIVES, BILL ROOZEBOOM COLLECTION, 82/313, #6279 –

named Marion Mae. Her mother had kept the two apart by claiming her father was dead.

Charlie's relationship with his daughter, coupled with Mae's dislike of Yuma and her mainly living in California, led Mae to drift out of Charlie's life.

Marion and Charlie bonded quickly. He took her on cruises and regaled her with stories of his adventuresome career.

Marion reunited her parents after 34 years apart. Scarcely recognizable, each sized up the other like prizefighters before a bout, wondering what could have attracted them in the first place. She must have asked herself, "Is this gaunt, leathery-faced old man the same tall, handsome, swashbuckling cowboy I fell in love with?" And he couldn't imagine the matronly gray-haired lady as the beautiful blonde equestrienne he had married.

But the ice slowly melted. They enjoyed a cordial relationship the rest of their days.

Not ready to go on to his reward, Charlie believed Yuma's dry climate would extend his life. He rode his horse into town from his ranch every day. Occasionally, he'd ride through the swinging doors of a saloon, leading folks to exclaim, "'Arizona Charlie' is still out there, sowing his wild oats."

Charlie had seen the elephant. He was born during a snowstorm in a California town where it rarely snowed. He garnered rodeo championships on his horse Snowstorm. In Yuma, where no records show it had ever snowed, he was fond of saying, "It'll be a snowy day in Yuma when they plant this old Hassayamper," a term for the territory's earliest pioneers.

"Arizona Charlie" died on December 9, 1932. On that day, about an inch of snow reportedly fell in downtown Yuma. Old-timers claim snow hasn't fallen there since.

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian and the Wild West History Association's vice president. His latest book, out this April from History Press, is *Arizona Oddities: A Land of Anomalies and Tamales*. For further reading on "Arizona Charlie" Meadows, he recommends *Arizona Charlie: A Legendary Cowboy, Klondike Stampeder and Wild West Showman* by Jean Beach King.



Kansas-born Kate Rockwell sealed her fame as "Klondike Kate" by winning over Klondike Gold Rush prospectors and merchants with her tearful ballads and tap dances at playhouses that included the Palace Grand Theatre in Dawson City. She sits with Lilly Edgerton (above left) and their dogs Tex, Nellie and Smithie.

– COURTESY CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES –



The promise of a grand Spanish bullfight, dreamt up by Joe Wolfe and "Arizona Charlie" Meadows (center), brought crowds out to see the parade down Bennett Avenue in Cripple Creek, Colorado, in August 1895.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



This early photo of "Arizona Charlie" Meadows (standing, at center) and a group of "Yavapai Cowboys" was taken in 1886. Although some identified it as a rodeo photo, it appears to be an early Wild West Show photo, given the costumes worn, including the vaquero (far left) and the guy in the woolies (far right). The horse behind Meadows is Snowstorm.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –



"Arizona Charlie" Meadows, shown roping a steer, has become Payson's most famous cowboy. He earned the title as the "Father of the Payson Rodeo" by organizing and competing in the Arizona Territory town's first one, in 1884.

– TRUE WEST ARCHIVES –

Crazy Facts You Never Knew



RANGING FROM GEORGE CUSTER'S BUCKSKINS TO TOM CUSTER'S BATTLEFIELD BOOK.

BY C. LEE NOYES

After tragically dying on June 25, 1876, with his men at his last battle, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer has lived on as an integral part of America's cultural heritage. Out of the mire of speculation about the 7th Cavalry leader's motives and his alleged disobedience of orders, battle researchers have uncovered this collection of crazy facts about the tragedy that history so often records as Custer's Last Stand.

WHAT DID CUSTER WEAR?

"The Indians at the Little Bighorn *[sic]* may have done Custer a perverse favor with their victory over him and his men," Michael Elliott observed in *Custerology*. "His spectacular death preserved him for the ages as a symbol whose meaning and significance could be endlessly disputed. Custer's trials would continue long after his death, in the halls of history, where Custer always belonged."

But artists have done history a disservice by portraying Custer wearing a buckskin jacket, in nearly 100-degree weather, holding a saber and being felled by a lance. Two bullets actually ended his life.

If Trumpeter John Martin is correct, Custer did not wear his buckskin jacket when he rode to battle at the Little Big Horn. That day, he carried a Remington sporting rifle, a hunting knife and two British revolvers. With the possible exceptions of Lts. Charles C. DeRudio and Edward G. Mathey, the 7th Cavalry was not armed with sabers that day. Death by lancing is not a likely scenario.

WHAT BOOK WAS TOM CUSTER READING WHEN KILLED?

Canadian colleague George Kush reports Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner's 1873 novel *The Gilded Age* "was the book Capt. Tom Custer was reading when he was killed at the Little Big Horn. He was almost finished and promised to loan it to another officer, also killed on June 25, 1876."



Tom Custer (above) never found out how the Hawkins family fared in the 1873 novel he was reading before the Battle of the Little Big Horn took his life, at the age of 31. Joining him in death were brothers 36-year-old George and 27-year-old Boston.

– COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE –

DID ARMY-SUPPLIED RIFLES KILL CUSTER AND HIS MEN?

A *True West* reader told Marshall Trimble that President Ulysses S. Grant had ordered lever action rifles for Lakotas that they used against Custer at the Little Big Horn battle. He never heard this before; neither have I.

Prior to the battle, Gen. George Crook and other officers had accused Lakota agents and traders of supplying ammunition—not firearms—to "hostile" tribesmen, backed up by reports like one given by Standing Rock Agency Capt. J.S. Poland.

The Indian Office ordered such ammunition transactions to cease, a move casting doubt that Grant ever provided lever action rifles to Lakotas. The reader's question defies logic because the President authorized, if not initiated, the Sioux War of 1876-77, and these repeaters and any other firearms would have been used against the U.S. Army.

Archaeological evidence does show Little Big Horn warriors carried repeating firearms. Lakota Chief Sitting Bull and his band avoided the agencies, but obtained arms and ammunition from Métis traders, Sitting Bull biographer Robert M. Utley states. Discovering who supplied repeaters to Lakotas and Cheyennes requires further research.

WERE BATTLE ACCOUNTS REWRITTEN?

Frontiersman George Herendeen provided articulate, comprehensive

About Custer's Last Stand

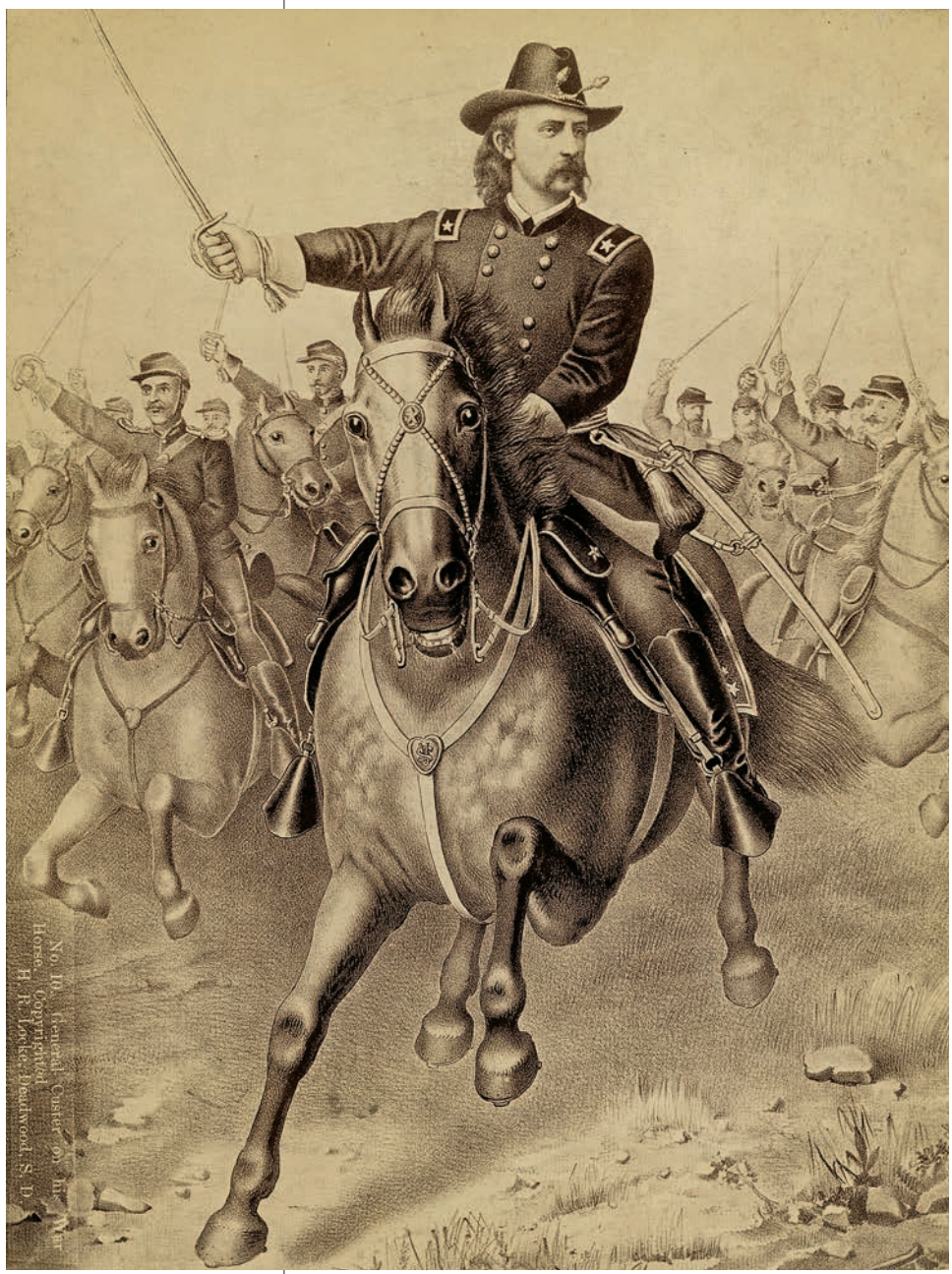


Beer distributor Anheuser-Busch added to Custer's celebrity by sending an 1895 colored lithograph to saloons across the nation, but artist Cassilly Adams got one of the Boy General's weapons wrong—along with a revolver, Custer is shown fighting off Indians with a saber (left).

In contrast, Edgar S. Paxson spent his 20 years of research wisely, as his Custer is lance-free in his 1899 oil *Custer's Last Stand* (above).

Both artists, however, followed the erroneous belief that Custer wore a buckskin jacket that fateful day.

– ADAMS POSTER TRUE WEST ARCHIVES; PAXSON OIL COURTESY WHITNEY GALLERY OF WESTERN ART, BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST –



The saber wielded by George Custer and his men does not match the historical record of the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn, making this 1880s Burlington Railroad engraving by H.R. Locke just one example of artistic liberty that has confused our understanding of what Custer and his men wore and what weapons they carried.

– COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, NOVEMBER 11, 2007 –

accounts of the Little Big Horn battle, including a *New York Herald* letter published in 1878. Yet his letters at the Montana Historical Society indicate he was barely literate. What gives?

"His" *Herald* accounts appear to bear the fingerprints of Maj. James Brisbin, a voluminous author who wrote at least one 1876 campaign dispatch for the *Herald*, while commanding the 2nd Cavalry of Col. John Gibbon's Montana Column. Brisbin probably transcribed—and embellished—Herendeen's interview statements.

Author James W. Schultz left his mark on scout William Jackson, whose 1890s statement at the Military History Institute features edits that "include lining through words and replacing with better descriptions, adding in phrases and, in at least one case, deleting whole sentences and rewording the text," Col. Samuel Russell says.

Two different versions of Jackson's account, both written in the first person by Schultz, were published: one in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1914 and the other in the 1926 biography *William Jackson: Indian Scout.*

The earlier account takes "serious issue with interpreter [Fred] Gerard, intimating that he was a coward throughout the event. I suspect that this favors Schultz's view of Jackson rather than Gerard's," Russell says.

Reserve the most caution for soldier accounts "told" long after the event. Researcher William J. Ghent claimed Pvt. William Slaper did not write "his" account published in E.A. Brininstool's 1925 tome *A Trooper with Custer*. "It was written by Mr. Brininstool, as Mr. Slaper himself told me…. [It is] about 75 percent Brininstool and only about 25 percent Slaper."

DID THE DAUGHTER OF A LITTLE BIG HORN SURVIVOR LIE?

Among the 7th Cavalry-related books quoted as a reliable source is the memoir *With Custer's Cavalry* by Katherine Gibson Fougera, daughter of Lt. Francis M. Gibson. Yet British colleague Peter Russell's research confirms suspicions concerning the story's faithfulness.

For example, a comparison of Gibson's July 4, 1876, letter published in the memoir with a transcription of the original document in the Gibson-Fougera Collection at Little Bighorn Battlefield reveals word additions, changes and omissions, and a few factual errors. Such edits might be excused if not for the flagrant insertion of several sentences that do not appear in the transcription, claiming that Gibson heard Lt. George D. Wallace's well-known premonition, on June 22, 1876, of Custer's death. The daughter's spurious addition represents an insidious attempt to misrepresent Gibson's mindset, if not to distort his performance, at the 1876 battle.



Because of 1991's *Son of the Morning Star*, some folks may believe George Custer and Frederick W. Benteen argued over dividing the ranks during the Battle of the Little Big Horn, a scenario portrayed by Jim Carson in his oil *Custer Divides the 7th Cavalry*. One quibble: Custer's troops did not take any tents, as George wrote to wife Libbie on June 21, 1876.

– COURTESY THE RUSSELL, MARCH 17, 2018 –

Perhaps the daughter learned this premonition from a similar account, published in Capt. Edward S. Godfrey's 1892 *Century* article and noted in his diary, which, however, did not confirm Gibson's presence during the episode.

Fougera's memoir is an easy read, but should be regarded as historical fiction.

DID THE SEARCH FOR GOLD BOLSTER CUSTER'S CONFIDENCE?

When Custer entered the Black Hills for his 1874 expedition, he might have been aware of a prior gold expedition—a party of 150 prospectors from Bozeman, Montana—that had successfully engaged Lakotas and Cheyennes in the valleys of the Rosebud and Little Big Horn on several occasions. The saga arguably reinforced Custer's confidence that the 7th Cavalry could whip the Indians too.

Custer's crew was officially searching for a suitable site for a fort (the future Fort Meade) for the Army to monitor and control Lakota movements. Yet the expedition may have spurred an unintended consequence.

Although the Bozeman crew never found gold and looking for gold was not part of Custer's stated mission, news of such a discovery in the Black Hills prompted a rush there that not only successfully resulted in gold, but also antagonized the Sioux, producing the Sioux War of 1876-77. Labeling the Sioux as "hostiles" solved President Ulysses S. Grant's dilemma of how to allow whites to exploit territory promised in Indian treaties.

WHO DISCOVERED THE DEAD ON CUSTER'S BATTLEFIELD?

More than one enlisted man claimed, without confirmation, to carry a dispatch from Maj. Marcus A. Reno to Brig. Gen. Alfred H. Terry on June 27, 1876, marking each one as possibly the first, if not the first, member of the military to discover the dead on Custer's battlefield.

A private, Henry Brinkerhoff, claimed he found a "bunch of seven soldiers, killed, stripped and scalped, and several gray horses—dead—showing they belonged to E Troop."

William Baker claimed Reno had dispatched him and Arikara scout Young Hawk to procure medicine from the steamboat *Far West*. They found two bodies after crossing Medicine Tail Coulee, he told battle researcher Walter Camp, before "Bradley and two or three scouts came along."

James H. Bradley, the lieutenant chief of scouts of the Montana Column, is traditionally the soldier credited with first finding the Custer dead, an event documented in his journal.

Yet Young Hawk did *not* mention Baker or the boat mission to Camp. He later told O.G. Libby that Reno had ordered him and Arikara scout Forked Horn (not Baker) to meet the Montana Column on June 27.

A 2nd Cavalry first sergeant, Frederick E. Server, told Camp that, on June 27, he and a Crow scout "were the first to discover the dead on the Custer battlefield. As soon as they found the dead, he [Server] wrote a note and sent it to Gen. Terry."

Custer's chief of scouts, Lt. Charles A. Varnum, recalled a failed attempt to "carry the news & try to get relief" after the fighting had ceased on Reno Hill on June 26. "They [the scouts] brought back the dispatches and said there were too many Indians."

Varnum's account suggests Reno sent multiple messages. Young Hawk confirmed messages had been "written for each of the scouts," which he, three other Arikaras and a sergeant failed to deliver after "Dakotas fired on them."

One thing is clear: Reno wrote a message on June 27 informing Terry of a "most terrific engagement with the hostile Indians" and requesting "medical aid at once." This dispatch is securely stored in the National Archives.



For a cavalry leader viewed as either impulsive or awe-inspiring after his Civil War glories, George Custer fittingly strikes a Napoleonic pose, with one hand tucked into his jacket. This circa 1863 ambrotype by William Frank Browne shows Custer clothed in his gaudy uniform of brigadier general, a rank he was promoted to that June.

– COURTESY HERITAGE AUCTIONS, DECEMBER 11-12, 2012 –

DID CUSTER AND BENTEEN ARGUE OVER DIVIDING THE RANKS?

Custer and Capt. Frederick W. Benteen discussed the wisdom of dividing the regiment before the 7th Cavalry marched to destiny at Little Big Horn. That is, if you believed the encounter re-created in 1991's *Son of the Morning Star*.

The ABC miniseries' dialogue quoted, almost verbatim, what battle survivor Charles Windolph told Frazier and Robert Hunt in the 1940s:

"I heard Benteen say to Custer: 'Hadn't we better keep the regiment together, General? If this is as big a camp as they [the scouts] say, we're going to need every man we have.' Custer's only answer was: 'You have your orders.'"

Yet the closest Benteen came to any such caution was an 1890s remark to Theodore Golden: "That is all I blame Custer for—the scattering, as it were, (two portions of his command, anyway) before he knew anything about the exact or approximate position of the Indian village or the Indians."

If Benteen had advised Custer to "keep the regiment together," he would have so testified at the 1879 Reno Court of Inquiry or reported the encounter to Custer's superior, Brig. Gen. Alfred Terry, or mentioned it when responding to criticism of his own actions at the Little Big Horn battle.

Earlier, in 1909, Windolph did *not* mention this Custer-Benteen encounter to Walter Camp. A Medal of Honor recipient for his actions as a private at Little Big Horn, Windolph may be excused for his fuzzy memory some 60 years after the battle.

Windolph told the Hunts he had approached Benteen for permission to exchange horses with First Sgt. Joseph McCurry, when he overheard the alleged conversation with Custer. The social structure of the post-Civil War frontier Army casts doubt on Windolph's story. The stratified military system separated enlisted men from their social and intellectual "superiors," Kevin Adams documented in *Class and Race in the Frontier Army*. Company commanders delegated day-to-day management to their first sergeant (for example, McCurry) and other non-commissioned officers.

Sometimes Westerns are not entirely at fault for failing to portray an incident accurately. *Son of the Morning Star* fell into the trap of relying on an unreliable battle participant.

WAS CUSTER IMPULSIVE OR A GREAT CAVALRY OFFICER?

The peace-time Army's mundane routines following the Civil War's glories probably explained much of Custer's post-war legacy, his later accomplishments and frustrations, if not the outcome of the Little Big Horn battle.

"War," T.J. Stiles observed in *Custer's Trials*, "gave Custer his greatest pleasure. It gave him purpose, praise, and the adoration of his men. Whatever would he do when peace returned?"

After Custer's death, a letter in the *Army and Navy Journal* noted: "Gen. Custer may have been too impulsive, but after all the great forte of cavalry is reckless dash. Custer's only fault, if fault it may be termed, consists in failure. If it [the Little Big Horn] had been a success, as doubtless he had every reason to anticipate, imperishable laurels would have crowned his brow."

Custer earned a reputation for rash, insubordinate action in battle and elsewhere, yet he also could accurately assess tactical battlefield situations and react instantly, often with success.

On the other hand, he did demonstrate restraint against unfavorable odds or a trap, as he showed at the 1864 Battle of Trevilian Station, the 1868 Washita fight and his 1873 skirmish with Lakotas along Yellowstone River.

Whether or not Custer's alleged disobedience of Gen. Terry's instructions on June 22, 1876, played a central role in how the Little Big Horn battle played out remains a ceaseless controversy. But that is a story for another day.

C. Lee Noyes and wife Michele edited *The Battlefield Dispatch* for the Custer Battlefield Historical & Museum Association for 15 years before retiring in 2016. They continue to disseminate information on late 19th-century Plains Indian Wars. For further Little Big Horn battle research, Noyes recommends you read James Donovan's *A Terrible Glory*, Nathaniel Philbrick's *The Last Stand* and Robert M. Utley's *Custer and the Great Controversy*.



Gordon "Pawnee Bill" Lillie, who launched his Wild West show in 1888, gave Americans a dramatic portrayal of the Battle of the Little Big Horn with this scene of dead Indians surrounding a more victorious Indian as he stabs George Custer. The 7th Cavalry leader was actually killed by two bullets.

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Custer and Hostages



THE DIFFERENT RULES OF CONDUCT THAT WORKED—UNTIL THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIG HORN.

BY MICHAEL DONAHUE

In December 1868, George Armstrong Custer peered down at a beautiful, freckle-faced white woman frozen in the snow. Clara Blinn had been shot in the head and brutally scalped. Her two-year-old emaciated son, Willie, lay near her. Evidence indicated that he had been taken by the feet and his head slammed against a tree.

These captives had been killed "tit for tat" after Custer attacked a nearby Cheyenne camp along the Washita River two weeks earlier. As a cavalier in buckskins, he had not saved the damsel in distress, and he would not forget the sight that he later wrote about in *My Life on the Plains*.

Almost Custer's Last Fight

Custer's first American Indian fight, in present-day Oklahoma, had almost been his last. He attacked Black Kettle's Cheyennes along Washita River on November 27, 1868, with little intelligence. Custer's "luck" was present when he hit a small camp segregated from a nearby massive camp of nearly four miles in length.

He quickly took captive of at least 53 women and children. Osage scouts with Custer killed most of the noncombatants who did not survive the frozen dawn chaos.

As Custer's troops destroyed Black Kettle's Cheyenne encampment through the concept of "total war," approximately 1,500 other warriors from the downstream camp surrounded the troops.

As the warriors fired at the soldiers, Custer quickly placed the captives in the line of fire; their screaming stopped the incoming bullets.

That evening, realizing the precarious situation of being surrounded, he decided to feint an attack on the larger camp and placed the Indian captives in the moving column. Three Indian accounts noted that they were afraid to fire at the soldiers for fear of killing the captives. Custer countermarched in the evening darkness and saved his command.

Custer would soon chase those other 1,500 warriors who included Cheyennes, Kiowas, Arapahos and Comanches. Encountering the Kiowas first, he parleyed with Chiefs Santana and Lone Wolf who promised to bring their tribe to the reservation.

Custer soon realized the 20 Kiowa messengers supposedly encouraging the tribe to return were merely escaping. Feeling deceived, he took the two chiefs hostage and threatened to hang them. The Kiowa tribe quickly agreed to move to the reservation, and the chiefs were released.

Damsels in Distress

In early January 1869, Custer moved into the Arapaho camp, "knowing that the close proximity of their women and children, and their necessary exposure in case of conflict, would operate as a powerful argument in favor of peace...."

Using the noncombatants as possible body shields, he convinced them to head to the reservation.

Chasing the Cheyennes into the Texas Panhandle, he realized that they had two white female captives. Thinking of Mrs. Blinn, he resisted his angry troops, who wanted him to attack.

Custer decided to ride into the camp, because, "in case of an outbreak of any kind it would be impossible for a great portion of the village, especially the women and children, to escape."

As much of the village fled, he took three Cheyenne leaders hostage. He demanded the return of the white women and that the tribes return to their reservation—or else he would hang his three captives.

Results were successful. The white women were released, and the Cheyennes surrendered. Unfortunately, during a transfer to the guardhouse, two of the leaders were killed, however, the third survived.

Human Body Shields

In the summer of 1874, the 7th Cavalry explored the Black Hills in search of a site for a future fort and to see what resources the hills contained. While the shout of "Gold!" was soon heard, leading to the Sioux campaign of 1876, a largely unknown event occurred.

Stumbling upon a small band of Oglala Lakotas, Custer seized an old man named One Stab, who was used as a guide and possible body shield until the 7th Cavalry left the Black Hills, at which time, the old man was given ample provisions and sent on his way.

Many historians and scholars have largely ignored Custer's switch in *modus operandi* in his dealings with Indian tribes. Rather than charging recklessly, as he had done along the Washita, and witnessing the aftermath, Custer performed a great deal of psychological manipulation of the tribes.

Hanging was a dreaded manner of death to tribesmen, as choking to death would not enable the soul to leave the body upon death. Custer would use hostages to his advantage to save his troops and white captives. He would also use noncombatants as protection.

Before the Battle of the Little Big Horn, the commander of the 7th Cavalry would fight warriors only three times, while taking hostages and using them as a buffer on six occasions.



George Armstrong Custer poses in his buckskin jacket and fur hat around the time of the 1868 Battle of Washita River. Also shown are the Cheyenne hostages at Camp Supply in modern-day Oklahoma, where Custer returned on March 28, 1869, with captive Indian chiefs to close out the Winter Campaign.

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Indians often used hostages as body shields and for personal financial gain. Neither side was immune from what today many look at as the ultimate in deception and perhaps cowardice. But from a practical standpoint, it worked, without a large loss of soldier lives—until the Little Big Horn battle in June 1876.

As Custer galloped his 7th Cavalry toward Sitting Bull's massive camp, which was similar in size to the numerous tribes located along the Washita, he once again considered hostage-taking.

Custer surprised the village. As he peered through his field glasses from a high bluff, he saw women and children below. Most of the warriors were asleep, as many had stayed awake most of the night in ceremonies.

Custer's surviving orderly trumpeter and last messenger John Martin overheard his plan: "'We will go down and make a crossing and capture the village'.... And the consensus of opinion seemed to be among the officers that if this could be done the Indians would have to surrender when they would return, in order not to fire upon their women and children."

Custer's final movements on that hot Sunday afternoon seemed to indicate that this was exactly what he attempted. He stated that Indian warfare was a "distinctive and separate species of hostilities, requiring different talent, different material, as well as personnel, and different rules of conduct."

Until June 25, 1876, those different rules worked.

Michael Donahue is the author of the award-winning *Drawing Battle Lines.* His new book, *Where the Rivers Ran Red: The Indian Fights of George A. Custer* (San Juan Publishing), is the only volume that holistically explores all four of Custer's fights in detail and how they altered Custer's "Last Stand." The book is the result of 45 years of research as well as the author's 29 years of access to the battlefield and archives as a seasonal ranger at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

Custer stands in front of his tent at Fort Dodge, Kansas, in November 1868, surrounded by his Osage scouts who killed most of the noncombatants during the 1868 Battle of Washita River.



BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

Buckaroo Country

Our author hits the highway across Nevada, Idaho and Oregon in search of the Great Basin buckaroos.



The buckaroo culture of the Great Basin, which stretches from the eastern slope of California's Sierra Nevada to southwestern Wyoming, is centered in northern Nevada. After the Civil War and the growth of vast cattle operations in the Silver State, a blending of *Californio vaquero* and American cowboy culture developed the regional buckaroo traditions of horsemanship, ranching, gear and tack.

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Back in the 1920s, renowned Western artist Charles M. Russell, who knew a thing or two about cowboys and how cowboying got started, noted, "Texas an' California, bein' the startin' places, made two species of cowpunchers."

Since we've covered cowboys and Texas waddies to death, it's high time we focused on, as Charlie put it, "those west of the Rockies rangin' north, usin' center-fire or single-cinch saddles, with high fork an' cantle; packed a sixty- or sixty-five-foot rawhide rope, an' swung a big loop."

You know. Buckaroos. Not the band that played behind Buck Owens, but the Great Basin variety. "These cow people," Charlie noted, "were generally strong on pretty, usin' plenty of hoss jewelry, silver-mounted spurs, bits, an' conchas; instead of a quirt, used a romal, or quirt braided to the end of the reins. Their saddles were full stamped, with from 24- to 28-inch eagle-bill tapaderos. Their chaparejos were made of fur or hair, either bear, Angora goat, or hair sealskin. These fellows were sure fancy an' called themselves buccaroos, coming from the Spanish word, *vaquero*."

Rod Miller was never a buckaroo, but this Western historian, novelist, poet and former rodeo cowboy knows things. To wit:

"Buckaroos are a cowboy subculture. To paraphrase an old saying, all buckaroos are



J.M. Capriola Company's Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum (above) in Elko, Nevada, is upstairs at the world-famous saddle shop. The collection showcases the history, people, artisans, tack and gear of the Great Basin buckaroos.

– COURTESY TRAVELNEVADA –

The Buckaroo Hall of Fame and Heritage Museum (below), located in the east wing of the Winnemucca, Nevada, Convention Center, honors the history and heritage of the Great Basin buckaroo culture. Founded in 1988 by third-generation buckaroo Carl F. Hammond, in honor of his father Francis Hammond, the hall has 70 inductees to date.

– DEBBIE STONE, COURTESY WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION CENTER AND BUCKAROO HALL OF FAME –



cowboys, but not all cowboys are buckaroos. While the work is much the same wherever cowboys tend cattle, there are differences in the way the work gets done and the tools used to do it."

In short, buckaroos were influenced by the Spanish vaquero culture, or more specifically, *Californio* traditions derived from missions and ranches of Mexico and California. Buckaroos also tend to dress a little snazzier.

The best place to start learning about buckaroos is at the Buckaroo Hall of Fame, located at the Winnemucca (Nevada) Convention Center in the middle of Great Basin Buckaroo country.

The Hall of Fame was founded by Carl F. Hammond, who grew up on the Hot Springs Ranch there in Humboldt County, part of a cattle operation that Hammond's great-grandfather started in the 1800s. These days, Hammond makes a living as a buckaroo artist in Burns, Oregon.

"The Great Basin area was suitable for the buckaroo lifestyle, as the grass to forage cattle was abundant on the high desert corridor," Hammond says. "Lots of miles of desert rangeland to cover in one day to gather, work and move the cattle to and around the vast grazing lands prompted the intervention and use of a special set of skills."

Buckaroo country is remote country. As cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell recalls in C.J. Hadley's *Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroo:* "When you're young, you're willing to live at places you wouldn't believe people inhabit. I was a buckaroo because it helped me hang onto tradition, and it meant making a living on horseback."

To the east, in Elko, the Western Folklife Center is more than just the site of the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, where "buckaroos are as thick as fleas on a coyote," Miller says.

The exhibit *Images of Basques and Buckaroos in the Ranching West* runs at the center through September. Basques? You mean sheep in cattle country? Yep, the Western Folklife Center isn't just about cowboys these days.

Buckaroo country is I.O.N. Country (Idaho, Oregon and Nevada), Hammond says.

"A lot of remote rangeland is still being grazed by cattle operations today, using a more modern version of the buckaroo and keeping many of the older traditions alive," Hammond says. "The Owyhee Desert and the Owyhee River corridor stretching from near Elko to southern Oregon and Idaho still provide an environment for the buckaroo lifestyle."

Let's hit Idaho.

Twin Falls is buckaroo country, and the Twin Falls Historical County Museum in nearby Filer is a good spot to bone up on regional history. Here, you can learn about a black buckaroo.

Henry Harris didn't just punch cattle. He rose to the ranks of wagon boss and foreman at ranches with names like Vineyard, Middle Stack and Boar's Nest. In 1894, Harris even got his own land, acquiring 160 acres southwest of what's now Salmon Falls Reservoir. Around 1930, Harris bought 35 acres near Rogerson.

Harris, by the way, was inducted into the Buckaroo Hall of Fame in 2008.

If you get up to Burns, Oregon, you might find Hall of Fame founder Hammond recapturing the lifestyle of the buckaroos with his silverwork, sculptures, paintings, drawings and, of course, mecates.

That's what buckaroos use as a lariat.

"The 'mecate rope' was one of the vaquero traditions that was adopted by the buckaroos," Hammond says. It's a "rope



Since 1835, when Fort Hall was founded in the Snake River Valley as a trading post for the fur trade along the Overland Trail, cattle have been raised in the area. After the Civil War, cattle ranching and the buckaroo culture developed in Idaho, including on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation (left), to serve the needs of local mining towns.

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The prestigious Pendleton Round-Up, held in Pendelton, Oregon, every September since 1910, honors the cultures of American Indians, buckaroos, cowboys and ranchers. The annual Westward Ho! Parade (right), held every Friday morning of Round-Up week, is one of the largest non-motorized parades in the country.

– COURTESY JOHN LAPTAD, TRAVEL PENDLETON –





made of horse mane hair hand-twisted of various diameters and used mainly for bridle and hackamore reins. This type of rope and rope-making technique evolved from the Spanish art of rope-making and has been around for centuries. The mane hair is collected from trimming and grooming the horses."

Our last stop, Pendleton, Oregon, is home of the Pendleton Round-Up rodeo, which has been letting 'er buck since 1910. Shop at Hamley & Co., which started outfitting buckaroos (and cowboys, too) in 1883. Don't miss Severe Brothers Saddlery, where Randy and Robin Severe continue the legacy started by their father, Bill, and Uncle Duff in 1955. This town's so Western, Hood River Distillers named its tasty blended whiskies Pendleton and the rodeo shares in the profits from sales.

This town's home to the Pendleton High School Buckaroos, it's where you can fill your belly at the Pendleton Cattle Barons Buckaroo BBQ & Home Brew Challenge in May, drop your kid off at the Buckaroo Rodeo Bible Camp in June and where the youth baseball programs teach "the buckaroo way."

But to find today's buckaroos, take Miller's advice:

"Travel into the small towns of Nevada, western Utah, south-central and southwest Idaho, southeastern Oregon and parts of California and you'll likely see buckaroos. They'll be spotted at out-of-the-way bars and restaurants, stores that sell Western tack and clothing, even grocery stores. Since their work is usually way out of town and far from the highway, you may not see them at work but they're out there."

The closest **Johnny D. Boggs** has ever been to being a buckaroo is sipping Pendleton Whisky—preferably the rye.

Side Roads

THE ROUTE

Winnemucca, NV, I-80E to Elko, NV I-80E to US 93 (Exit 352); US 93N to Twin Falls, ID, US 93N to I-84; I-84W to Boise, ID I-84W to OR 281 (Exit 374); Or 201/US 30 to US 20; US 20W to Burns, OR; US 20/US 395 to US 395; US 395N to Pendleton, OR

PLACES TO VISIT / CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

Buckaroo Hall of Fame, *Winnemucca, NV*; Humboldt Museum, *Winnemucca, NV*; Buckaroo Heritage Western Art Roundup, Labor Day weekend, *Winnemucca, NV*; Pendleton Round-Up, Sept. 12-15, *Pendleton, OR*; National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Western Folklife Center, Jan. 28-Feb, 2, 2019, *Elko, NV*; Pendleton Round-Up & Happy Canyon Hall of Fame, *Pendleton, OR*; Hamley & Co., *Pendleton, OR*; Severe Brothers Saddlery, *Pendleton, OR*

GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

GOOD GRUB: The Martin Hotel, *Winnemucca, NV*; Fork, *Boise, ID*; Rhojo's, *Burns, OR*; The Saddle Restaurant and Lounge, *Pendleton, OR*

GOOD LODGING: Esquire Inn, *Elko, NV*; Blue Lakes Inn, *Twin Falls, ID*; Pendleton House Historic Inn Bed & Breakfast, *Pendleton, OR*

GOOD BOOKS

These Were the Vaqueros: Collected Works by Arnold R. Rojas; *Vaqueros and Buckaroos* by Arnold R. Rojas; *Vaqueros, Cowboys, and Buckaroos* by Lawrence Clayton, Jim Hoy and Jerald Underwood; *Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroo* by C.J. Hadley

GOOD FILMS & TV

The Misfits (United Artists, 1961); *The Remuda: Great Basin Buckaroos* (J&S Productions, 2006)

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BY SHERRY MONAHAN

Fish Tales

Buffalo Bill's inn inspired guests to fish for salmon and trout.



Fishing for trout in Wyoming and Colorado was praised in 1909's *Union Pacific Outings*. This visitor from Cheyenne, Wyoming, taught the camp how to fry trout outdoors.

– PUBLISHED IN 1909'S *UNION PACIFIC OUTINGS* BY UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD –

William F. Cody invested some profits from his Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in the Sheridan Inn in Sheridan, Wyoming. When the traditional English inn opened in 1893, a newspaper ad boasted of the inn's 67 guest rooms and "most elegant dining room West of the Missouri River."

The billiard room and saloon were the first to greet guests, in mid-May, offering patrons drinks and an elegant free lunch. The hotel opened in grand style at the end of the month, revealing a dining hall and modern kitchen that *The Sheridan Post* reported was "equipped as that of any city west of the Missouri river...."

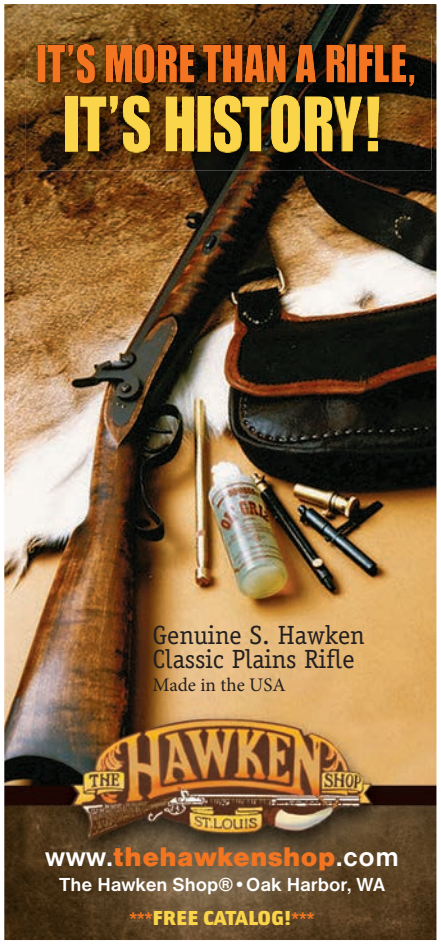
The dining hall contained octagon tables that comfortably sat eight and held 150 hungry patrons. With railroad service between Sheridan and Edgemont, South Dakota, beginning that May, passengers found the perfect place to "enjoy dinner at the best hotel in the west...," reported *The Enterprise* on March 18.

The inn's fish courses included local Mackinaw trout, oysters and salmon. Local meats on the menu covered boiled capon, turkey, venison, goose, duck, opossum with Southern-style sweet potatoes, elk with orange marmalade, mountain sheep cutlets, wild dove, broiled quail, grey squirrel patties, antelope, blue grouse, rabbit and pheasant. Diners could also be more exotic and try the Peking duck and shrimp. Sides included mashed and boiled potatoes, asparagus, French peas and parsnips.

To satisfy their sweet tooth, diners chose from mince, apple and lemon meringue pies, French kisses, Angel food and fruit cakes, and lady fingers. To round out the meal, they dined on oranges, Malaga grapes, bananas, apples, dates, cream candies, raisins, figs, mixed nuts and Swiss, American and cream cheeses, served with coffee, tea or milk.

The Sheridan, Wyoming, area was known for its excellent fishing, with anglers seeking trout and landlocked Kokanee salmon, also called silver trout. Local restaurants and bakeries advertised they would make lunches for fishing parties.





Some things remain timeless for Sheridan residents, like telling "fish tales."

In August 1893, *The Sheridan Post* reported that a 6½-pound trout was caught nearby. Making light of the catch, the reporter wrote, "The begrimed passenger who alights from the Burlington train at Sheridan, Wyo., is pretty sure to collide with this pleasant little story before he has gone many yards, and this and the other yarns that will be poured into his ears at the Sheridan Inn during the evening will in all probability send him out the next morning, fishing rod in hand."

Another fish tale involved several men who went out fishing and caught some 50 trout, but, of course, the "large ones got away."

Enjoy this silver trout recipe and tell some of your own fish tales!

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.

SALMON A LA CREOLE

2 lbs. salmon, cut into serving pieces
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground pepper
4 tbsp. butter
1 tbsp. oil
2 slices bacon, chopped
2 cups or 3 large tomatoes, chopped
1 bell pepper, chopped
1 small onion, chopped

Season the salmon with salt. Over high heat, melt butter and oil in an ovenproof skillet. When the butter bubbles, add the salmon and brown quickly on both sides. Place the skillet in a 450° oven and bake for five to eight minutes, depending on the thickness of the salmon. A fork should easily pierce the center of the salmon when done.

While the salmon bakes, cook the bacon in a frying pan for five minutes. Add tomatoes, peppers, onions, salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat for five minutes and then reduce the heat to simmer. Cover and cook until sauce-like, or about 20 minutes. Pour the sauce on the salmon and serve.

Recipe adapted from *Daily Times-Enterprise* of Jonesboro, Arkansas, September 15, 1904







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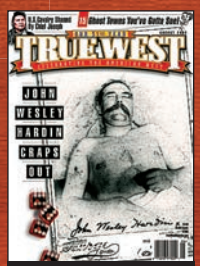
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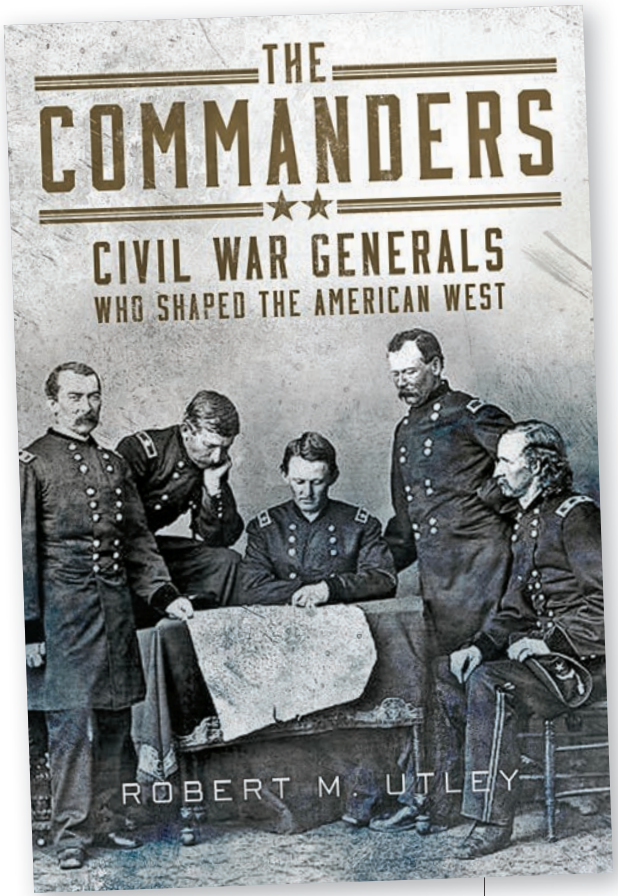
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The Generals' West

Robert M. Utley's The Commanders: Civil War Generals Who Shaped the American West, *and two new biographies of Theodore Roosevelt, a classic Western and Black Bart rides again.*



For 55 years, Robert M. Utley has been informing, entertaining and enlightening readers with his well-researched biographies and histories of the 19th-century American West. His focus has been warfare and conflict on the Western frontier, including his first two groundbreaking works, *The Last Days of the Sioux Nation* (Yale University Press, 1963) and *Frontiersmen in Blue: The United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865* (Macmillan, 1967). More than a half-century later, Utley's *The Commanders: Civil War Generals Who Shaped the American West* (University of Oklahoma Press, $29.95) is the award-winning author's latest contribution to our collective understanding of the military's influential role in the settlement of the Western United States—and the parallel fate of the Western tribes. The renowned historian credits Thomas E. Ricks' *The Generals: American Military Command from World War II to Today* (Penguin, 2012) as an inspiration for his examination of seven Civil War generals who served as one-star brigadier generals in the West. "Those chosen for my examination served at the department level, the crucial unit between the division commander and the troops in the field," Utley explains in his Preface. "Each approached his duties in a different way. Some took the field and led combat commands. Others preferred to command from department headquarters, overseeing more active officers who were leading the field operations."

Reminiscent of one of my favorite three-volume history series, Douglas Southall Freeman's brilliant *Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command* (Scribner, 1944), Utley's tightly written and edited volume systematically profiles the lives and careers of seven Union combat generals who were posted out West as department commanders from 1863 to 1889: Christopher C. Augur, George Crook, Oliver O. Howard, Nelson A. Miles, Edward O.C. Ord, John Pope and Alfred H. Terry. Applying a compare-and-contrast methodology, using similar quantitative and qualitative factors, such as place-of-birth, education, military careers before, during and after the Civil War, Utley provides the reader with concise chapter profiles on each general. His research is impeccable, with an excellent bibliography and end notes.

Utley's conclusions, including his final chapter "Evaluating the Commanders" (in which he ranks the seven leaders, a spoiler I will not reveal), provides context to his evaluations of the Western department-level leaders and their influence, good and bad, on the history of the American West. Readers who appreciate Utley's style and methodology will also recognize that he has provided a summation to his military history of the Frontier West. The 89-year-old historian has so thoroughly researched and published on the topic that he must be considered in the same pantheon of American Western historians as Hubert Howe Bancroft, Frederick Jackson Turner, Walter Prescott Webb, Ray Allen Billington, Earl S. Pomeroy, Howard R. Lamar and William H. Goetzmann.

—Stuart Rosebrook

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, THAT DAMNED COWBOY

"Now we've got that damned cowboy as President!" Senator Mark Hanna exclaimed referring to Vice President Theodore Roosevelt after President William McKinley's death in September 1901. Bully for Michel Blake's *The Cowboy President: The American West and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt* (TwoDot, $16.95). As a young man TR (don't call him Teddy) was skinny and sickly. Arriving in Dakota Territory along the Little Missouri River in September 1883,

ROUGH DRAFTS

Springtime is awards season for books, television and film, and the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum** of Oklahoma City recently announced its annual **Western Heritage Awards**. Many in the media, year after year, write off Western books, films, television shows and documentaries, but if you have read or seen any of these, you know they are alive and well. Please find the opportunity to read these books and watch these programs to keep Western publishing, film, television, dramatic series and documentaries a vital part of our culture.

Congratulations go to:

Steve Friesen for receiving the **Best Nonfiction Book** award for ***Lakota Performers in Europe: Their Culture and the Artifacts They Left Behind*** (University Press of Oklahoma Press). [See Friesen's favorite Buffalo Bill Cody books in Build Your Western Library, page 56.]

Matthew P. Mayo for receiving the **Best Western Novel** award for ***Stranded: A Story of Frontier Survival*** (Five Star Publishing).

Thomas Brent Smith and **Mary-Dailey Desmarais**, editors, for **Best Art/Photography Book** for ***Once Upon a Time...The Western: A New Frontier in Art and Film*** (5 Continents Edition with Denver Art Museum and Montreal Museum of Fine Arts).

Best Fictional Drama

Godless, "Homecoming," Season 1, Episode 7, starring Jack O'Connell and Michelle Dockery; directed and written by Scott Frank; produced by Netflix.

Best Western Lifestyle Programming

Today's Wild West, Season 1, Episode 6, directed and written by Mark Bedor; produced by Today's Wild West.

Best Theatrical Motion Picture

Wind River starring Kelsey Asbille, Jeremy Renner and Julia Jones; directed and written by Taylor Sheridan; produced by Acacia Filmed Entertainment, Film 44, Savvy Media Holdings.

Best Documentary

Floating Horses: The Life of Casey Tibbs, directed and written by Justin Koehler; produced by Nowlin Town Productions.

Best Docudrama

Home on the Range, starring Buck Taylor; directed by Ken Spurgeon; produced by Lone Chimney Films.

Best Television Feature Film

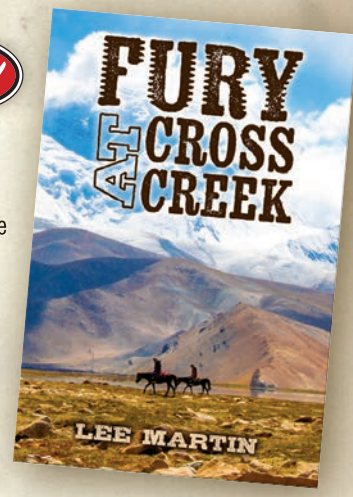
Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools, directed and written by John Howe, produced by KUED/PBS.

–Stuart Rosebrook

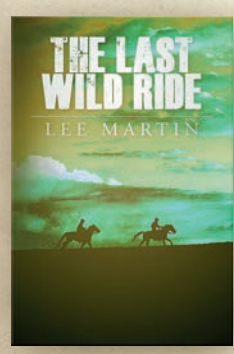
LEE MARTIN

FURY AT CROSS CREEK

NEW!



"In 1876, when Laredo learns his true identity, he becomes a living target as he and the old scout who raised him charge north into the same deadly feud with the murderous Harringtons, not knowing which of them had killed his family. While fighting off deadly attacks, the two men also tangle with a secretive lady barber and a ranch woman in deep trouble with the same clan, all triggered by a Harrington woman's lies before Laredo was born."

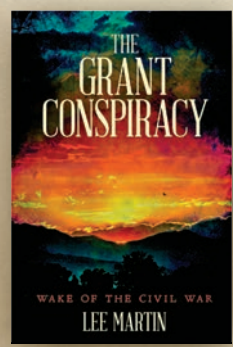


THE LAST WILD RIDE

"In 1877, a bitter ex lawman is roped into escorting a fugitive widow and her mute son through the badlands with the help of old scouts and a gambler, while her vengeful in-laws are hot on their trail."

The story is full of suspense and adventure. It is an easy, fast read that I strongly recommend. It will keep your interest, encouraging you to keep reading to find out what happens next." Lowell F. Volk, Author of the Luke Taylor and Trevor Lane series

*— **TRUE WEST**, July 2017*



GRANT CONSPIRACY
Wake of the Civil War

In 1880 Colorado, a young lawyer, an angry newspaperwoman and a black veteran stumble on an evil law firm's plot to assassinate Grant, not for the Civil War but for Black Friday, when he tours the Rockies by wagon.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CLOAK & DAGGER: In the decades following the War between the States, there are old wounds yet to be healed. Lee Martin's The Grant Conspiracy plays out like a game of checkers with bodies piling up and the surviving characters vying for the final position.

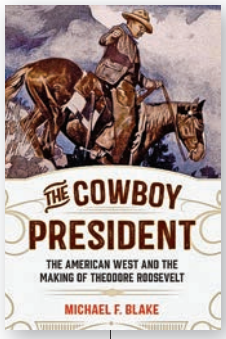
*—**TRUE WEST** April 2016 by author Eric H. Heisner.*

Don't miss Lee's *SHADOW ON THE MESA*, from which Lee wrote the highly rated movie with Kevin Sorbo.

Look for all of Lee Martin's 21 Western Novels at AMAZON or wherever books are sold. Many can also be found on audio at Books In Motion.

all he wanted to do was shoot a buffalo before they were extinct. But he fell in love with the West, its wide-open spaces, its wildlife, and its hardworking independent people. The West loved him back, and when it was through with him, he was "as strong as a bull moose" and transformed into a champion for the common man and the wise use of the people's land for everyone's benefit, not just a few. It's fitting Theodore Roosevelt is the only President to have a national park named after him.

—Bill Markley, author of Deadwood Dead Men

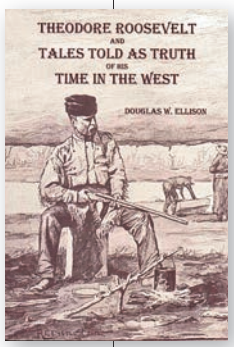


THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S EMBELLISHMENTS

Did Theodore Roosevelt embellish or, heaven forbid, concoct some of his exploits while ranching in North Dakota's badlands during the 1880s? Author, mayor of Medora, and Western Edge Bookstore-owner Douglas Ellison explores old and reveals new information on TR's Dakota Territory adventures in *Theodore Roosevelt and Tales Told as Truth of His Time in the West* (Western Edge Book Distributing, $19.95.) Ellison dives into the Roosevelt controversies in this short fun-filled book that's jam-packed with information.

Ellison is respectful of Roosevelt, but doesn't shy away from facts that just don't add up. What evidence is there that TR captured the horse thief Lippy Slim? Did Roosevelt attempt to join the Montana vigilantes? Did he almost fight a duel with the Marquis de Mores? Is there evidence TR was a deputy sheriff? How many men did he arrest? Did TR fight a gunman in Mingusville, Montana? Oh, by the way, if you do find sign of the elusive Lippy Slim, please contact Doug.

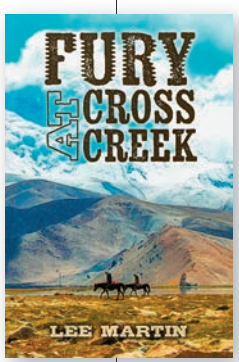
—Bill Markley, author of Deadwood Dead Men



A CLASSIC WESTERN

Lee Martin's *Fury at Cross Creek* (self-published, $8) is a fast-paced, Western actioner that is sure to please. Reminiscent of the Hatfields and McCoys, this is a story about Laredo Tyson, the only survivor of a long-standing Tennessee feud. Saved from certain murder at the hands of his father's enemies—the Harringtons—by Army scout and mountain man Gaffrey, Tyson spends most of his formative years with revenge on his mind and murder in his heart. Only Gaffrey can keep the young man's rage in check until a chance encounter in Colorado fans the flames of retribution and revenge. Fans of quick-shooting action, damsels in distress and a righteous ending are sure to enjoy this new Western thriller.

—Linell Jeppsen, author of Far West: The Diary of Eleanor Higgins



LEGEND OF BLACK BART

Taking his name from a dime Western novel, Charles E. Boles (or Charles Bolton, as he was known) robbed 28 Wells Fargo stagecoaches between 1875 and 1883. His modus operandi of walking to and from each robbery armed with an unloaded shotgun and leaving bits of verse behind at some of his hold-ups made for colorful headlines in the day's tabloids. Between robberies, Boles was known for his temperance, genteel manners and a taste for the finer things, but as "Black Bart," his bold crimes confounded James B. Hume, Wells Fargo's chief of detectives, who made it his personal obsession to put the gentleman thief behind bars. With meticulous research and masterful storytelling, Loren Estleman's novel, *The Ballad of Black Bart* (Forge Books, $24.99), brings this legendary outlaw's singular tale to life.

—Patrick Millikin, editor of Phoenix Noir





– COURTESY STEVE FRIESEN –

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR REFLECTS ON BUFFALO BILL HISTORY

Steve Friesen recently retired after 22 years as director of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave. He is the author of ***Buffalo Bill: Scout, Showman, Visionary and Lakota Performers in Europe***. Here are five books he recommends:

❶ ***The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill*** by Don Russell (University of Oklahoma Press): This is a classic. It is not exactly a page-turner, but it's my go-to book for details about William F. Cody's life.

❷ ***Buffalo Bill: His Family, Friends, Fame, Failures and Fortune*** by Nellie Snyder Yost (Swallow Press): Yost interviewed people who knew Cody and provides a great deal of personal information about his life. And I love the alliteration in the title.

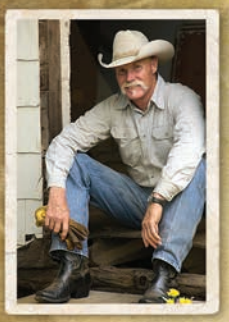
❸ ***Buffalo Bill's America: William Cody and the Wild West Show*** by Louis S. Warren (Alfred A. Knopf): A thoroughly documented analysis, this book is full of fun tidbits, like Cody's influence upon Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

❹ ***Buffalo Bill on the Silver Screen: The Films of William F. Cody*** by Sandra Sagala (University of Oklahoma Press): Sagala drills down on a relatively unknown facet of Cody's life and influence. Imagine re-creating Wounded Knee, with both U.S. soldiers and Lakota survivors. Buffalo Bill did it on film in 1913.

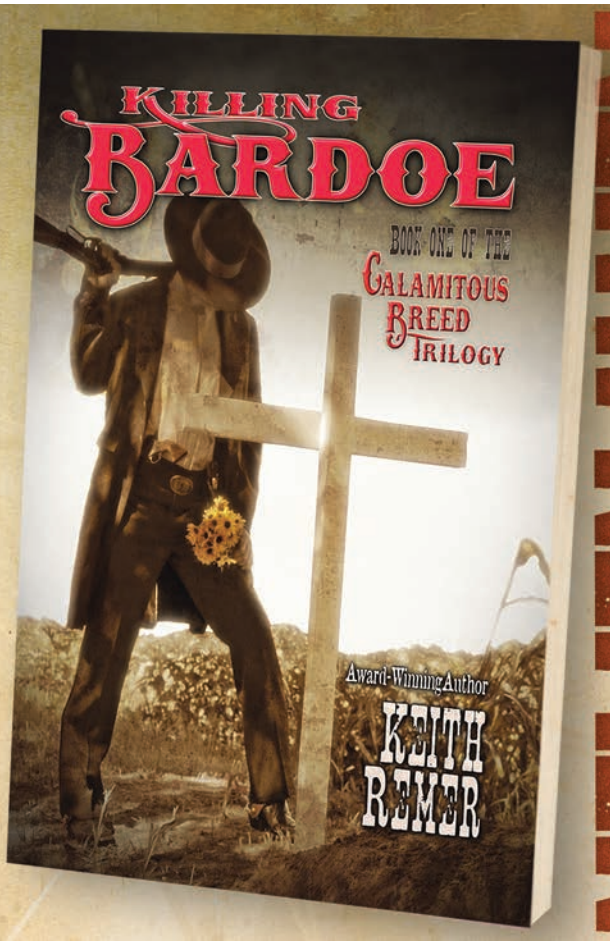
❺ ***America's Best Female Sharpshooter*** by Julia Bricklin (University of Oklahoma Press): This entertaining biography of Annie Oakley's competitor Lillian Smith is part of the William F. Cody Series on the History and Culture of the American West. Publications in the series provide new perspectives on the life and legacy of Buffalo Bill.

KEITH REMER

A virtuous reputation is laid asunder when former US Deputy Marshal Clay Bardoe is wronged in a most awful fashion. It is a wide swath of brutal retaliation that he cuts across the Oklahoma Territory to inflict justice on a truly calamitous breed.

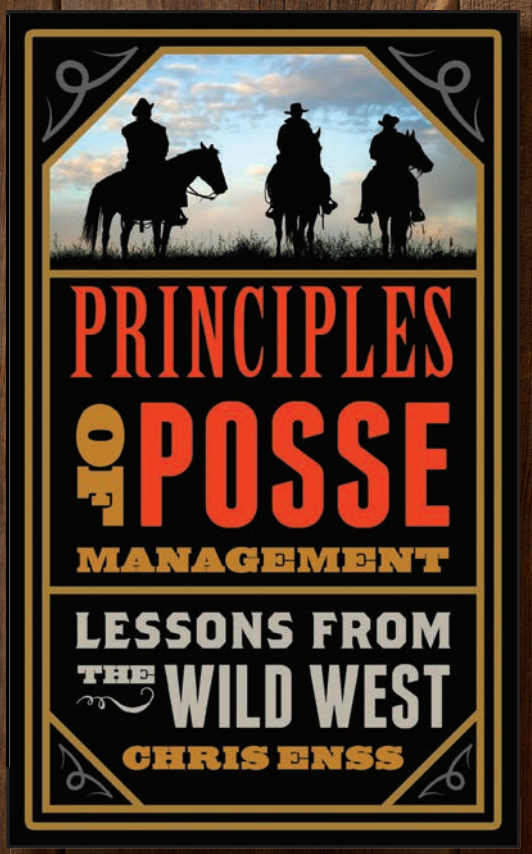


Read for yourself why Keith Remer has been called this century's Louis L'Amour. If you long for traditional western fiction, you won't be disappointed with the first novel of Remer's trilogy.



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June 2018

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP FROM

Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Buffalo Bill Cody, and other legends of the old west.

TWODOT®

BY HENRY C. PARKE

Dusty's Journey to the Movies

Paying tribute to beloved Western novelist Dusty Richards.

After writing hundreds of Westerns under a pseudonym, Dusty Richards was incredibly proud of the movie adapted from his 150th novel, published under his name, *The Mustanger and the Lady*. "Our girl is a hell of an actress," he raved about Stef Dawson. "She's gonna be a star."

Retired from Tyson Foods at the age of 65, he traveled the American West in an RV with his wife, Pat, and found a second life as a novelist. Back home in Springdale, Arkansas, after another road adventure, Dusty and Pat got in a car accident on December 19, 2017, and did not survive their injuries.

Henry C. Parke had just interviewed 80-year-old Dusty for his *True West* column. Little did we know that would be the last time we would hear from a man so many treasured.

Dusty took us back to 2016, to a writer's convention in Branson, Missouri, that began this movie journey. **—TW Editors**

DR: This lady had made a film [2015's Hush*] with some people, about a little café in a little town up here by me, and I vaguely remembered her. And she was talking about how to write a film-script there.*



Painted Woman tells the tale of Julie Richards (played by Stef Dawson), a soiled dove who becomes the trophy of wealthy power broker Kyle Allison (Robert Craighead). She is given two chances of escape—from hired assassin Frank Dean (Matt Dallas) and from wayward horse trainer Vince Wagner (David Thomas Jenkins). Which man will save her?

– COURTESY SP RELEASING –

She looked over the books on the table, and she asked, "Have you ever had one made into a movie?" I said, "I had a couple of 'em sleep in Hollywood."

I'm thinking, she's got some contacts somewhere. I don't know how good they are, so I picked up four books. I said, "Take them home. Read them." I said, "You want one; we'll work out a deal."

Dusty met Amber Lindley on Saturday. The next Wednesday, she wanted a movie deal. Dusty correctly guessed her pick: *The Mustanger and the Lady*.

If I was making a movie, that's the movie I'd make. There ain't no big Indian wars, fights, battles, cattle drives. That's going to be the bargain movie to make. I think to get that girl bucked off the horse was going to be like $3,500 or $4,000. And she just flies off the horse!

Dusty struck a deal with the "housewife of the football coach" at Fayetteville High School in Arkansas.

I didn't have any doubt about her. She had enough experience on that small movie she made, and contacts and stuff. But, you know, I had a good friend who sold a damn book to that actor. The guy that had the bar in Boston. Ted Danson.

Ted Danson paid her—not an agent—paid her $125,000 for a thing on her book. Well, the book hadn't been out in several years, and it was a cute story. It would have fit him, and they never made the movie.... It was the only book she ever wrote and ever sold.... Hell, she got the money, and she'd a lot rather have had the movie....

But I just had in my mind that [Lindley] had it set on this deal. And by golly, you know they have to pay you when they start filming, when they turn the camera on.

So I had my small chunk of money, and I'd tell people that it wasn't Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, but it was about the price a good book would bring you if you sold somebody a book. I appreciated that. In fact, I damn sure did. It was one of them bumps in the road that she needed to buy it.



Dusty Richards worked as an actor while attending Arizona State University. He was on the set of 1959's *Rio Bravo* when Stumpy (Walter Brennan) threw sticks of dynamite as John T. Chance (John Wayne) shot at them to blow up the barn where the bad guys were holed up.

– COURTESY WARNER BROS. –

Toward the end of filming the Western, titled *Painted Woman*, Lindley invited Dusty to the set in Oklahoma.

Oh, it was wonderful! There's a part in there where [Dawson] is escaping [with her horse], and they had two cameras. And this is part of the secret of why it's a pretty good film. One of them is on railroad tracks...so it could run up and down, back and forth. And the other one is a telephoto. Of that scene, they made three shots with both cameras at the same time. So whoever edited had six pictures to choose from.... It took three-and-a-half hours to make that three-minute deal.

When he said cut, the kids—just young people out there—they screamed and hollered and laughed, applauded like they'd just won a ballgame.

I was sitting there in a chair, beside the director, and I said, "You know," I said, "I could have wrote that thing in four paragraphs."

He turned to me, and he said, "I bet you could."

Painted Woman wasn't the first movie set Dusty had visited. While attending Arizona State University in Phoenix, he acted. He admitted "no one discovered me," but he enjoyed his work, especially the day the barn blew up for 1959's *Rio Bravo*.

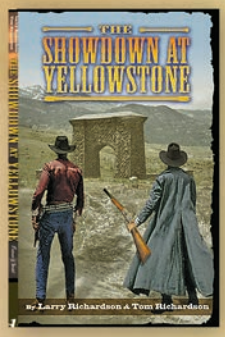
I mean, it was explosion of explosions. So here comes the pink snow. Somebody had stored some damned pink paper in that thing. It ruined the whole scene. I learned some new swear words. That director [Howard Hawks] was having a fit. They had to build another barn and blow it up, I guess.

Dusty remembered working as an extra with Producer Russell Hayden on the *26 Men* series about the Arizona Rangers.

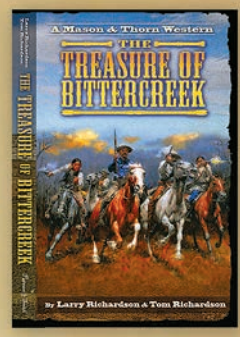
It was a really kind of slapstick deal. One time, we wrecked a wagon. I was riding in a posse, chasing. The wheel went off, and

> "I had a couple of 'em sleep in Hollywood."
>
> –Dusty Richards, when Film Producer Amber Lindley asked if he ever had one of his books made into a movie

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two of us went off into the cactus. And he said, "Save it! Save it—we'll use it next week!" He didn't have to pay a stunt man.

Dusty earned $20 a day for him and his horse, which he brought to the set, along with his picnic lunch—no buffet for that cast and crew.

I met Steve McQueen. I was on the set a couple of times with him. And boy, he had a catered luncheon and everything else. Have a beer bust on the end, and someone to pick up the bill for it.

You did one of those 26 Men, *you brought your canteen water with you.*

Somebody told me, he made those things for $10,000, and they made a quarter of a million dollars a week.

Dusty got an early taste of filmmaking in Arizona by ditching school to visit movie sets.

I sat two to the right and two above Marilyn Monroe.... The guy said, "What did you do with your life?" I said, "You want to hear about the time Marilyn Monroe and I made Bus Stop *together? You have to have a big screen to see me. I was that 13-year-old cowboy."*

Since Dusty understood the moviemaking process, he was prepared to answer questions posed by James Cotten, who cowrote and directed *Painted Woman*. Cotten was particularly curious about Vince Wagner, the Mexican-Apache horse trainer (played by David Thomas Jenkins), a person lost between two worlds.

How I built Vince's deal came from the American South, you know, and all that trouble. [Vince was] not the first guy to take a body and turn it in to the U.S. marshals. I mean, I've read some actual accounts for that happening....

Didn't have fingerprints and things, they had some kind of a description. They had some stuff that belonged to him, like letters or something they took along whenever, you know. They didn't have any kind of thing like we have today, you know: he's blond headed, six foot tall or whatever he was. "Oh, I see him, and I'll swear to it. I've known him all his life."[Laughs.] Get $100 reward.



Dusty Richards celebrated major honors in 2017. He earned his third Spur, from Western Writers of America, for *The Mustanger and the Lady*. And at his 80th birthday party, two months before his death on January 18, his cake memorialized his 150th novel adapted into the Western movie *Painted Woman*. He holds the cake, between Producer Amber Lindley and Director James Cotten.

– BY PRISCILLA TRAN –

But you got it as scrip that the government would agree to pay, when Congress would vote some money to pay that, under a certain order. And that's when you got your money. Otherwise, you took a discount on it.

In Fort Smith, [Arkansas], barbers, everybody, made money off that. Because people would need their money, and they'd take it, take 20 percent off, 25 percent off, and if they had $100 scrip, they'd pay them maybe $75. But Hell, you had your money and gone. Might be 18 months before the government got around to paying.

Most novels are not filmed as written, and Dusty shared what the scriptwriters chose to focus on.



What they did was, they took a dance hall girl who knew about a murder, which that girl didn't know about a murder in the book. Took that and shortened it up for the movie, because, in the other deal, [the Papagos] were running all over the country.

Dusty approved of the adaptation, although he was bothered a bit when the writers removed the subplot about the Papagos, an enemy of the Apaches.

I wrote that book on a purpose, to show when the tables turn for the Apaches. It wasn't no one damn wonder they had a problem. They had them down there at San Carlos, was it?

Do you know when you come over that mountain to San Carlos, on the south side, say you're coming up from Tucson or Tombstone, there isn't even a saguaro that grows on the San Carlos side of the mountain? They stuck [the Apaches] in a hellhole.

Dusty might never have written a novel to base a movie on if not for Western Writers of America. In 1985, Dusty met novelist Jory Sherman, who assured him that his two Western short stories were enough to join the organization. That year, at his first conference, in San Antonio, Texas, Dusty met everybody but Louis L'Amour, who had stopped coming by then.

I would like to have met him—and cussed him. Because, when I began to write books, I would get these people who would write and say, "Louis never done it like that." I must've got 150 letters, saying, "Louis never done it like that."

Louis is not the only damn guy who ever wrote a Western book, you know? I think Sacketts is probably one of the greatest bunch of books that was ever written. But he's got a bunch of other crap that I don't like.

Dusty Richards had fond memories as the "13-year-old cowboy" who sat near Marilyn Monroe during one of her scenes for 1956's *Bus Stop*.

– COURTESY 20TH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP. –



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Stef Dawson, from *The Hunger Games* trilogy films, is the powerhouse behind the female-led Western *Painted Woman*. She stands with David Thomas Jenkins (above) and prepares for her bucking horse scene (top), one of the favorite memories author Dusty Richards had of watching the filming on the set in Oklahoma.

– BY PRISCILLA TRAN –

I'm sure there are some books of mine that somebody'd say, "I don't like the one about the dog-tailed horse" or whatever. That's their privilege. But I never would have wrote anybody it, to say, "Louis L'Amour told me how that was done," but that's okay.

I really think that he leaves women out, and that kept him on the good list. I don't think that was the West. I think that women were the West; they were part of the West. And people, like this dance hall girl in this book, were sold by parents to somebody who said they were gonna get her a job. And that went on all over. And Hell, there was one woman to 11 or 12 men, or maybe even a greater number, in a lot of places on the frontier.

Dusty did meet book editor Frank Reuter, who agreed to critique one of Dusty's novels, for $250. Dusty sent one he thought was "pretty good."

Oh my God! He wrote on the front. He wrote on the back. He wrote in between. That had enough red ink in it, it would have saved a bloodmobile.

Reuter lived about 40 miles from Dusty, so when Dusty finished his third attempt, he went to hear his review in person.

I asked, "Frank, how'd you get along with this book?" "Well," he said, "I probably didn't critique it as good as I did those others."

When I asked, "Why, Frank?" He said, "Oh, I was goddamn busy reading it."

It went off in my head that I would sell that book. I mean, here's a guy that did bestsellers and everything else, and he's so interested in my old cowboy story. I've got a shot at selling that book. Absolutely.

For all the stories Dusty left behind for us Westerns fans to read and enjoy, we remain ever grateful.

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

BY LEO W. BANKS

Idaho City: Queen of the Gold Camps

Step back in history and visit one of Idaho's best-preserved 1860s mining towns.



Located on the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway, historic Idaho City is just an hour's drive north of the state's capital, Boise. Visitors to the town, founded in 1862, will enjoy strolling its boardwalks and touring the historic buildings in one the Gem State's best-preserved gold rush towns.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY IDAHO TOURISM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

In 1862, the Boise Basin roared to life with a red-hot case of gold fever. Miners poured in and Idaho City and other towns sprouted. By the following year, its population had grown to 6,000, the Territory's largest, and included the frontier's usual assortment of unwashed drifters, cold-eyed thieves and pistol enthusiasts.

"The saloons went almost door to door because the miners had nothing else to do," says Chetleen Heckathorn, curator at the Boise Basin Museum. "It was the real Wild West, but few heard about us because we didn't have famous names like Deadwood and Tombstone."

The boom petered out by the late 1860s, but the town endured, and today Idaho City is a great example of a tiny community, population 463, that honors its past and showcases it for visitors.

The Boise Basin Museum, located in the 1867 post office, features four rooms of artifacts, including photos, guns, scales to weigh gold and a blackjack table. A video explains efforts by the Idaho City Historical Foundation to preserve and restore historic buildings in the so-called Queen of the Gold Camps.

These include the Galbreaith House, Judge Holley House and the Pon Yam House. Pon Yam was an herbalist and merchant who used the building between 1867 and 1885. When the gold boom ended, Chinese immigrants—1,751 strong in the 1870 census—contributed mightily to the town's economic fortunes.

These houses are only open to the public at certain times. The Galbreaith and Holley



Originally built in 1871, the one-story brick building became the Boise County Courthouse (left) in 1909, and is still the county's seat of government. The National Historic Register building's interior has been restored with furnishings to reflect the original 1863 court building that was on Commercial Street.



One of two original Idaho Territorial prisons (right), built in 1864, can be seen when visiting Idaho City. While much of the original prison fell into Elk Creek when miners undermined the abandoned building in the early 1900s, a portion of the prison was preserved when locals moved it into town.

houses are furnished in the fashion of the day and visitors can peer in the windows. Renovators are still working on the Pon Yam House, but panels of historical information show through the windows.

Idaho City's historic district includes 15 important buildings, including the 1871 Boise County Courthouse, originally a general store. Still a functioning courthouse, it has half-ton folding iron doors that were made in San Francisco, shipped up the Columbia River and carried overland by horse and ox teams, according to the county's website.

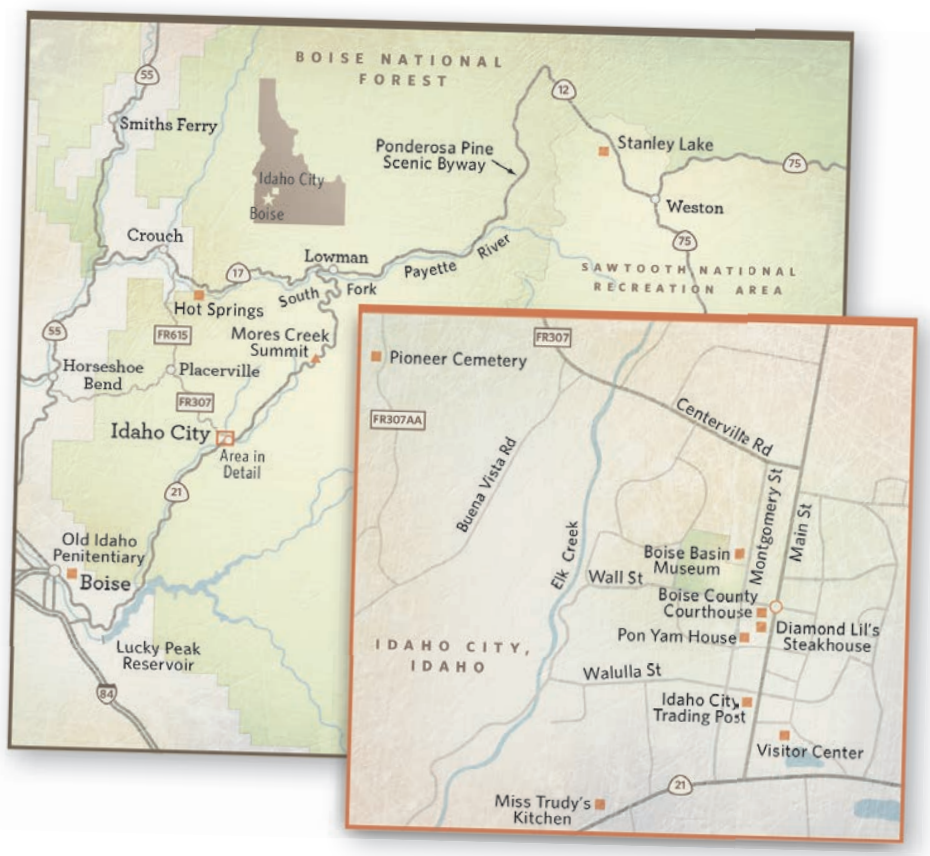
The original clerk's desk is there as well. It folds up so it could be put on a wagon and taken to wherever the circuit judge was holding court. In 1897, Judge George Stewart sentenced murderer Herman St. Clair to be hanged, and for reasons no one quite understands, wrote his order in the wood in the bottom of the middle drawer of his desk. Stewart's desk is there, his death decree still visible.

Boise County conducts its current business in the building across the street, built in 1865 and still referred to by its last saloon name, the Miners' Exchange. Visitors can see the original bar and back bar, which today's County Commissioners use as a desk during public meetings.

"A lot of visitors say, 'Wow, I didn't know all of this was here,'" says Joyce Obland, president of the Boise Basin Interpretive Association. "Some books classify us as a ghost town, but we're all living here and our buildings are still being used."

She recommends stopping at the visitor center to buy a brochure for the self-guided Bricks & Boardwalk Tour, which includes the wooden sidewalk along Main Street.

On the tour is Diamond Lil's Steakhouse & Saloon, a rustic watering hole that displays



antiques, photos and a large collection of pre-1928 paper money laminated on the bar and elsewhere. The Idaho City Trading Post sells a variety of jewelry, shirts and souvenirs, and don't Miss Trudy's Kitchen, where Trudy Jackson serves the best huckleberry cheesecake anywhere.

For a fun, out-of-town trip, drive gravel-topped Centerville Road 13 miles to Placerville. The former gold rush town has a museum housed inside the old Boise Basin Mercantile, its shelves stocked with period items.



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

WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE HIGHWAY

IDAHO CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
To plan your visit, start at the Idaho City Chamber of Commerce building at 201 Main Street.
IdahoCityChamber.org

THE SPRINGS
To pamper yourself in a beautiful setting, visit The Springs. The modern facility features live music and a fine café. Get a backrub, take a steam or soak in a pool fed by a natural hot spring.
TheSpringsID.com

PIONEER CEMETERY
See grave markers on 40 timbered acres. Of the first 200 souls buried there, only 28 died of natural causes. See the marker for John N. Moore. To escape an embarrassing scrape in California, he went by the alias J. Marion More. By the time of his death in 1868, he'd become a prominent Idaho City leader. Mores Creek is named for him.
IdahoCityEvents.org

OLD IDAHO PENITENTIARY
See the cell blocks and gallows at the penitentiary in Boise, 36 miles away. An extensive exhibit shows medieval arms and armor, Revolutionary War firearms and swords, Civil War items and an 1883 Gatling Gun on its original carriage. The penitentiary opened in 1872.
History.Idaho.gov

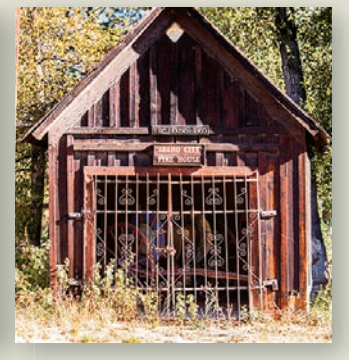
PONDEROSA PINE SCENIC BYWAY
Take Idaho State Highway 21 to Stanley, a stunning 92-mile drive. See wildflowers at Mores Creek Summit, the breathtaking south fork of the Payette River and picturesque Stanley Lake, part of Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Watch for bald eagles and black bears.
VisitIdaho.org



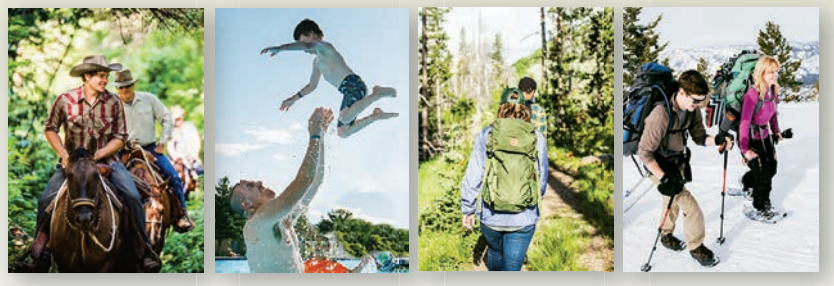
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Where Fascinating History & Top-Notch Recreation Come Together





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Boise Basin Museum & Historic Village • Four Seasons of Outdoor Adventure
Gateway to the Boise National Forest• Pioneer Cemetery & Historic District Tours

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Visit our website for a full list of businesses and celebrations.

IdahoCityChamber.org

IDAHO CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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idahocitychamber.org

Visit Southwest IDAHO

IDAHO
visitidaho.org

Photos Courtesy of Idaho Tourism



A week-long getaway to South Dakota's Black Hills should include a side trip to Badlands National Park, a short drive east of Rapid City. The park loop through Cedar Pass is one of the most scenic in the state.

– CHAD COPPESS, COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM –

BY STUART ROSEBROOK

HIGHWAYS TO HISTORY

Ramble your way back in time on these ten historic Old West "bucket list" road trips.

From the earliest days of conquistadors, explorers, fur trappers and pioneer settlers, the vast grandeur of the American West—and its equally bountiful and unforgiving geography—has inspired travelers to write about it. Like oceangoing adventurers, the earliest Western diarists have inspired generations to go West on foot, horseback, wagon, train or by car. Today, all across the Western United States, the America Byways program of 150 roads in the National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads system and the designated state scenic highways promote heritage travel to and through scenic and historic areas. For our new annual feature on heritage highways, we have created ten road trips that allow travelers to immerse themselves in the history of the regions, tour historic sites and relax in communities that have preserved their pasts for current generations to experience firsthand where history was made.

"To one hurrying through by steam there was a certain exhilaration in this spacious vacancy, this greatness in the air, this discovery of the whole arch of heaven…"

—Robert Louis Stevenson, *Across the Plains*



Whether on the state highways or the interstate, travelers from El Paso, Texas, to Tombstone, Arizona, can spend a week—or a lifetime—exploring the history of West Texas, southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. A tour of Tombstone's Boot Hill is a poignant reminder of the frontier violence that plagued the mining town.

– CHAD COPPESS –

A BORDER ADVENTURE: EL PASO, TEXAS, TO TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA

If you love Old West history, driving West into the sunset from El Paso, Texas, to Tombstone, Arizona, will keep you busy for a week—or a lifetime of experiences in a region that is truly a crossroads of Indian, Spanish, Mexican and American history. Along the route, travelers take a historic walking tour of El Paso's Spanish mission district, pay homage to Billy the Kid's mother in the Silver City cemetery, hike into Fort Bowie past the Butterfield Trail, and walk down Allen Street in Tombstone. They will soon discover that every road leads to a fun-filled immersion in history.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: El Paso to Tombstone, 293 miles

DON'T MISS IN TEXAS: El Paso's Mission Trail and a chance to walk in the footsteps of Juan de Onate and Billy the Kid, soldiers and missionaries, outlaws and Rangers along the original El Camino Real, including the San Elizario Jail, the only jail Billy the Kid broke into! After San Elizario, tour the El Paso History Museum and the city's historic Concordia Cemetery, the final resting place of many notable and notorious characters, including outlaw John Wesley Hardin.

DON'T MISS IN NEW MEXICO: Along Caballo to Lordsburg via New Mexico Highways 152/90, the historic marker and vistas at



When following California's Highway 49, a weekend in historic Coloma, including a tour of Marshall Gold Discovery State Park, will immerse the visitor in Gold Rush days. The living history center, where visitors can pan for gold, includes a historically accurate, working replica of Sutter's Mill, where James W. Marshall discovered gold in 1848.

– COURTESY THE JON B. LOVELACE COLLECTION OF CALIFORNIA PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS–

Emory Pass Lookout, a tour of Fort Bayard in Silver City and a walking tour of historic downtown Lordsburg. At Silver City, continue to Lordsburg, or turn south to Deming and continue west to Lordsburg on I-10.

DON'T MISS IN ARIZONA: Fort Bowie National Historic Site, just south of the Bowie exit on I-10. A three-mile round-trip hike brings you face-to-face with history and the legacy of the Apache Wars. Can't hike? Directions to limited parking are at *NPS.gov/FOBO*.

WHERE TO STAY: Gardner Hotel, *El Paso, TX*; Palace Hotel, *Silver City, NM*; Landmark Lookout Lodge, *Tombstone, AZ*

WHERE TO EAT: L&J Café, *El Paso, TX*; Ramona's *Café, Lordsburg, NM*; Big Nose Kate's, *Tombstone, AZ*



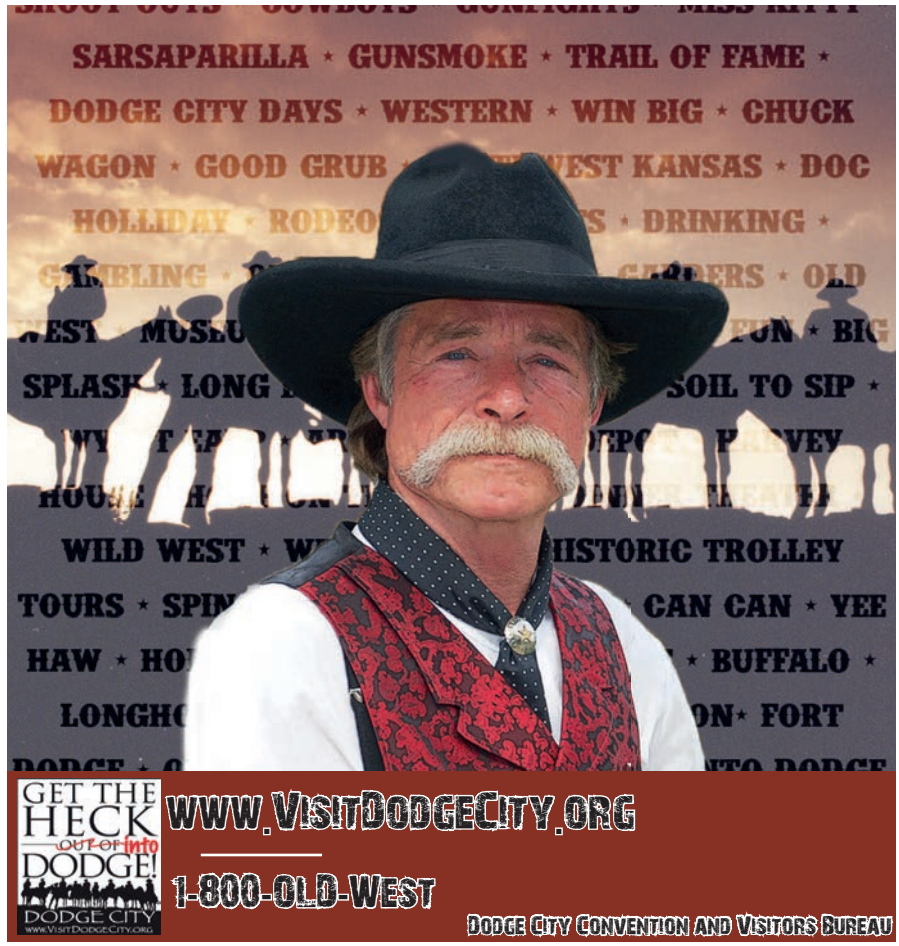
WHAT TO READ: Paul Andrew Hutton's *The Apache Wars*; Bob Boze Bell's *Classic Gunfights, Volume 2, The 25 Gunfights Behind the O.K. Corral*; Casey Tefertiller's *Wyatt Earp: The Life Behind the Legend*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I'd start in El Paso and drive all the way to San Francisco, California, retracing the Western half of the original Butterfield Overland Trail.

BEST WEBSITES: *VisitElPaso.com; NewMexico.org; ExploreCochise.org*

GOLDEN ROAD: CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC HIGHWAY 49

In honor of the upcoming 170th anniversary of the California Gold Rush in 2019, consider a tour of Gold Country on California Highway 49 from Vinton, north of Lake Tahoe, to Oakhurst, just outside Yosemite National Park. The tour can be done on day trips, long weekends or a week to two-week road trips. Or, if you have the time, all summer. Take your time, enjoy the unique characteristics of the Sierra Nevada communities along Highway 49. Each has its own historic sites, museums, art







When gold was discovered in Idaho's Boise Basin in the early 1860s, miners rushed into the region. Today, travelers between Boise and Salmon can visit many of the state's best-kept mining remnants, including Custer, Bonanza and the Yankee Fork Dredge on the Yankee Fork Road.

– COURTESY IDAHO TOURISM –

galleries, restaurants and hotels. Savor the experience, as the unique region is one of the most beautiful in the West.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: Vinton to Oakhurst, 295 miles

DON'T MISS: Three of California's best state parks: Empire Mine State Park, Grass Valley; Marshall Gold Discovery State Park, Coloma; and Columbia State Historic Park and Museum, Columbia.

WHERE TO STAY: Old Sierra City Hotel, *Sierra City*; Holbrooke Hotel, *Grass Valley*; Coloma Country Inn, *Coloma*; Fallon Hotel, *Columbia State Park, Columbia*; Sierra Sky Ranch, *Oakhurst*

WHERE TO EAT: Two Rivers Café, *Downieville*; Angels Creek Café, *Angels Creek;* Yosemite Coffee & Roasting Company, *Oakhurst*

WHAT TO READ: Mark Twain's *Roughing It*; Frank Lorey's *A Guide to the Gold Rush Country of California*; H.W. Brands' *The Age of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the New American Dream*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I would explore the history of the Gold Rush in Northern California, with Mark Twain's *Roughing It* as my guide.

BEST WEBSITES: *HistoricHwy49.com; VisitCalifornia.com; NPS.gov*

IDAHO'S HISTORIC BYWAYS: BOISE TO GIBBONSVILLE

A beautiful historic drive on two of Idaho's most stunning highways—the Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway from Boise to Stanley, and the Salmon River Scenic Byway from Stanley to the Montana



border just north of Gibbonsville—offers never-ending spectacular scenery and geography and historic sites marking events that happened along these marvelous mountain highways.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: Boise to Gibbonsville, 292 miles

DON'T MISS: The scenic highways from Boise to Gibbonsville. These remarkable scenic byways have numerous back roads, historic sites and small towns to enjoy along the way, including the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural & Educational Center in Salmon, one of the only museums in the country dedicated to memorializing the life and history of an American Indian woman. And, if you love mining history, visit Idaho City, Placerville, Bonanza, the Yankee Fork Dredge, Custer, Bayhorse, Clayton and Leesburg.

WHERE TO STAY: Sawtooth Hotel, *Stanley*; Diamond D Ranch, *Stanley*; Ramey's Broken Arrow Resort, *Gibbonsville*

WHERE TO EAT: Cyndie's, *Idaho City*; Elk Mountain Resort Restaurant, *Stanley*; Shuswap Pie Company, *Salmon*

WHAT TO READ: Betty Derig's *Roadside History of Idaho*; Stephen Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage*; Candy Moulton's *Chief Joseph: Guardian of the People*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I would pan for gold near Idaho City, explore all the ghost towns between Boise and Salmon, take a guided backcountry horse pack trip into the Sawtooth Wilderness and raft down the Salmon River from Salmon to McCall.

BEST WEBSITES: *VisitIdaho.org; NPS.gov; FS.USDA.gov*

THE SANTA FE TRAIL: INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, TO ELKHART, KANSAS

Start from the east or the west and follow one of the most historic routes across the Central Plains—the Santa Fe National Historic Trail across the Sunflower State. Just across the Kansas border in Independence, Missouri, visit the National Frontier Trails Museum for a primer on Santa Fe Trail history. Five cities are perfect destinations for exploring segments of the historic route: Fort Leavenworth, Lyons, Fort Larned, Dodge City and Elkhart.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: Independence, Missouri, to Elkhart, Kansas, 471 miles

DON'T MISS: National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, Missouri, to start a journey on the Santa Fe Trail across Missouri and Kansas. Along the route, take your time to enjoy the museums, parks, historic sites and welcoming communities that preserve and promote Kansas's segment of the trail. The drive on US 56 from Dodge City to Elkhart through the Cimarron National Grasslands is the perfect way to finish this Santa Fe Trail adventure.









Between Independence, Missouri, and Elkhart, Kansas, Fort Larned National Historic Site is one of the best preserved Army forts on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. An active living-history center, the fort offers re-enactment programs during summer months.

– COURTESY NPS.GOV –

WHERE TO STAY: Flying W Ranch, *Clements, KS*; Midland Railroad Hotel, *Wilson, KS*; Boot Hill Casino & Resort, *Dodge City, KS*

WHERE TO EAT: All Slabbed Up, *Leavenworth, KS*; El Dos de Oros, *Larned, KS*; Big C's Sandwich Shop, *Elkhart, KS*

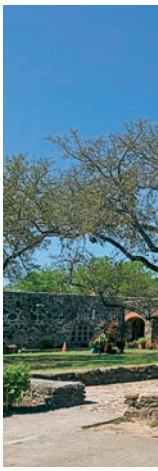
WHAT TO READ: Josiah Gregg's *Commerce of the Prairies*; Mary Allbeck's *Traveling the Santa Fe Trail in the 21st Century;* Max McCoy's *Elevations: A Personal Exploration of the Arkansas River*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I'd drive the length of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

BEST WEBSITES: *SantaFeTrail.org*; *SantaFeTrailKS.com*; *NPS.gov; TravelKS.com; FS.USDA.gov*

TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: SAN ANTONIO AND THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

Discover 300 years of history and heritage in San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country during the Mission City's tricentennial. The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, including the Alamo, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. San Antonio abounds in extraordinary museums, restaurants, hotels and, of course, the acclaimed River Walk. From the city, drive to and visit the culturally rich and geographically diverse Hill Country communities just outside San Antonio, including Bandera, Kerrville, Fredericksburg, Boerne and New Braunfels. Bandera, known as "The Cowboy Capital of the World," has numerous guest ranches for an extended, relaxing retreat of Texas hospitality, history and culture.



SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: The Alamo and San Antonio; drive northwest into the Hill Country, tour Bandera, Kerrville, Fredericksburg and New Braunfels, returning to San Antonio's Mission Concepcion and the Mission Road to the three other missions south of the city along the San Antonio River, 211 miles

DON'T MISS: Walking the grounds of San Antonio's Spanish Missions, which will host a World Heritage Festival tricentennial celebration Sept. 5-8, 2018. If you love museums, in San Antonio, tour The Witte Museum, The Briscoe Western Art Museum and the Buckhorn's Ranger Museum; in Bandera, The Frontier Times Museum; in

Kerrville, Museum of Western Art, and in Fredericksburg, the Pioneer Museum & Village Complex.

WHERE TO STAY: The Menger Hotel, *San Antonio*; Flying L Hill Country Resort, *Bandera*; Gruene River Hotel and Retreat, *New Braunfels*

WHERE TO EAT: Rosario's, *San Antonio*; Buckhorn Saloon & Café, *San Antonio*; OST Restaurant, *Bandera*; Buzzie's Bar-B-Q, *Kerrville*; Jennie's Smoked Burgers, *Fredericksburg*

BOOKS FOR THE ROAD: Leon C. Metz's *Roadside History of Texas*; William Groneman's *David Crockett: Hero of the Common Man*; Rudy Felix Casanova's *San Antonio, City for a King: An Account of the Colonial History of San Antonio and Texas*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: In honor of Spain's founding San Antonio 300 years ago and the recent 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail, I would rent a house in Bandera and explore the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, the Chisholm Trail and the Western Trail—known also as the Great Western Trail— which went



In 1718, the Spanish Empire established the city of San Antonio, its northernmost seat of government east of Santa Fe. The Mission City will celebrate its tricentennial throughout the year, with numerous activities at San Antonio Missions National Historic Park.

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







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visitcasper.com



In 1868, the Union Pacific Railroad built its railroad across Nebraska and established North Platte as a key rail stop. Today, the central Nebraskan city is still a railway hub, and visitors should tour the Cody Park Railroad Museum (above) and Golden Spike Tower and visitor center at Union Pacific's Bailey Railroad Yard.

– COURTESY NEBRASKA TOURISM

through San Antonio and Bandera to Dodge City, Kansas, and beyond.

BEST WEBSITES: *Hill-Country-Visitor.com*; *VisitSanAntonio.com*; *NPS.gov*

FOLLOW THE RAILS: COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, TO OGALLALA, NEBRASKA

In the summer of 1868, the Union Pacific had completed its rails across Nebraska and was laying track across Wyoming toward Promontory Summit in Utah. Today, modern travelers can retrace that route from Omaha, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte and Ogallala. A series of excellent museums in Council Bluffs, Iowa, followed by a tour of the Durham Museum in Omaha, in the city's former Union Station, are great ways to kick off a tour of Cornhusker State on historic US 30.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Ogallala, Nebraska, 334 miles

DON'T MISS: Starting your road trip in Council Bluffs, Iowa, mile zero of the Union Pacific. After a tour of Council Bluffs and Omaha, head west on US 30 to Grand Island's Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer; continue on to Fort Kearny State Historical Park and The Archway in Kearney; Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park and Union Pacific Bailey Yard/Golden Spike Tower in North Platte; and Nebraska National Trails Museum and Front Street and Cowboy Museum in Ogallala.

WHERE TO STAY: Magnolia Hotel, *Omaha, NE*; Hampton Inn, *Kearney, NE*; Lonesome Dove Lodge, *Ogallala, NE*

WHERE TO EAT: Orsi's Italian Bakery and Pizzeria, *Omaha, NE;* Lincoln Highway Diner, *North Platte, NE*; Golden Spur Steakhouse & Grill, *Ogallala, NE*

WHAT TO READ: Candy Moulton's *Roadside History of Nebraska*; Will Bagley's *So Rugged and Mountainous: Blazing the Trails to Oregon and California, 1812–1848*; Stephen E. Ambrose's *Nothing Like It In the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I'd follow the route of the first transcontinental rail line from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Sacramento, California.

BEST WEBSITES: *TravelIowa.com; VisitNebraska.com; UP.com*

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS OF COLORADO

The historic San Juan Mountains region of Southwestern Colorado is an

extraordinary location for an immersive Old West vacation. From the historic loop of towns on the San Juan Skyway—Dolores, Telluride, Ridgway, Ouray, Silverton, Durango, Mancos and Cortez (although Cortez is officially just off the loop, I include it because it is close to Mesa Verde National Park—to the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, the region is guaranteed to inspire you to return year after year for another San Juan Skyway experience.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: San Juan Skyway, 236 miles

DON'T MISS: Driving the spectacular San Juan Skyway through Colorado's San Juan Mountains. If you are visiting for the first time, I would not miss a round-trip on the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, a tour of Mesa Verde National Park, a multi-day round trip on the San Juan Skyway and Million Dollar Highway, a dip in the hot springs in Ouray, a walk through the



A tour of the San Juan Skyway country in southwestern Colorado should include a ride back into yesteryear on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. The roundtrip rail adventure is a relaxing all-day trip through beautiful Animas River Canyon.

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





When on the history trail from Casper, Wyoming, to Billings, Montana, travelers find the historic TA Guest Ranch a perfect place to stay while exploring the Powder River Valley, near the town of Buffalo. The TA Ranch Barn, built in the 1880s, was a key site of the Johnson County Range War of 1892.

– COURTESY WYOMING OFFICE OF TOURISM –

park in Ridgway where John Wayne's *True Grit* was filmed and a summer gondola ride to the top of the mountain above Telluride.

WHERE TO STAY: The Strater Hotel, *Durango*; Grand Imperial Hotel, *Silverton*; Hotel Ouray, *Ouray*

WHERE TO EAT: Diamond Belle Saloon, *Durango*; Handlebars Restaurant & Saloon, *Silverton*; Brown Dog Pizza, *Telluride*

WHAT TO READ: Duane A. Smith's *Rocky Mountain Boom Town: A History of Durango, Colorado*; Virginia McConnell Simmons' *The Ute Indians of Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico*; Branson Reynolds's *One Drive in a Million: A Mile-by-Mile guide to Southwest Colorado's San Juan Skyway and Million Dollar Highway*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I'd rent a cabin near Ridgway and explore, photograph, camp and fish along the back roads of the San Juans.

BEST WEBSITES: *CODOT.gov; Durango.org; Colorado.com; NPS.gov*

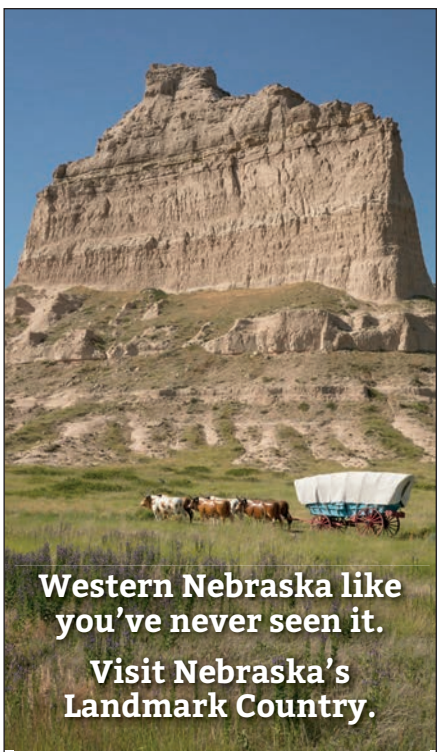
FOLLOWING THE GUIDON: WYOMING TO MONTANA

A driving tour from Casper, Wyoming, through Kaycee, Buffalo and Sheridan, Wyoming, and the Crow Agency, Garryowen, and Billings, just northwest of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, is one of the most significant historic journeys that can be made in the region. Along the route, the Old West tour intersects with numerous battle sites, monuments and museums that tell the dramatic history of the region. Make sure to schedule extra time for back-country trips into the Bighorn Mountains, which loom high above the Powder River Valley.



The true west begins here in Valentine, Nebraska

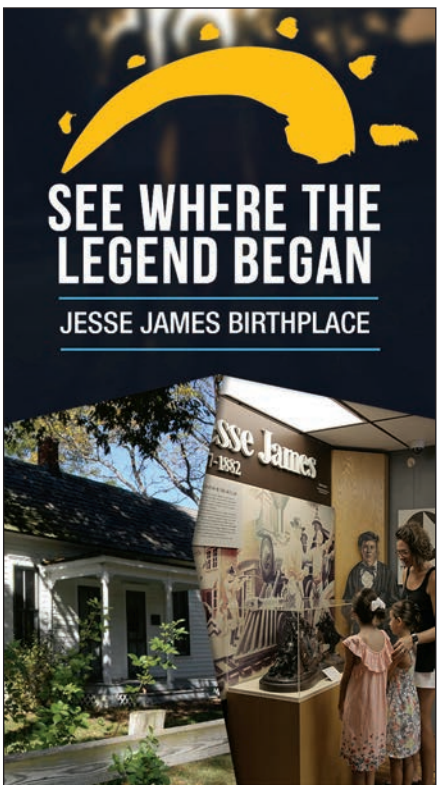
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When visiting South Dakota's Black Hills, a tour of Deadwood's Adam's Museum, including its Legends Gallery, with exhibitions on Wild Bill Hickok (right), Sheriff Seth Bullock, Calamity Jane, Charlie Utter and many other local legends, will provide the visitor with a great introduction to area history.

– COURTESY CHAD COPPESS, SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM –

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: Casper, Wyoming, to Crow Agency, Montana, 217 miles

DON'T MISS: Following the Army's trail across Wyoming and Montana to Fort Casper Museum, Fort Fetterman Historic Site, Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site, Rosebud Battlefield State Park and Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. Local museums not to miss include Kaycee's Hoofprints of the Past Museum, Buffalo's The Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, Sheridan's The Brinton Museum and Garryowen's Custer Battlefield Museum.

WHERE TO STAY: The Historic Occidental Hotel & Saloon, *Buffalo, WY*; The Historic Sheridan Inn, *Sheridan, WY*; Dude Rancher Lodge, *Billings, MT*

WHERE TO EAT: Invasion Bar and Restaurant, *Kaycee, WY*; The Busy Bee Café, *Buffalo, WY*; Montana Brewing Company, *Billings, MT*

WHAT TO READ: TJ Stiles's *Custer's Trials*; Bob Drury and Tom Clavin's *The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend*; Paul

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When following the trail of Missouri River history from Fort Pierre, South Dakota, to Williston, North Dakota, first-time visitors will find that a tour of the South Dakota State Historical Society Cultural Center in Pierre, just north of the capital, provides an outstanding introduction to the region's rich past.

– COURTESY CHAD COPPESS, SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF TOURISM –

WL. Hedren's *After Custer: Loss and Transformation in Sioux Country*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I'd rent a cabin in the Bighorn Mountains and explore the entire region by car, on horseback and by foot.

BEST WEBSITES: *NPS.gov*; *WYOParks.wy.us; StateParks.MT.gov*

SOUTH DAKOTA BLACK HILLS LOOP

A tour of the Black Hills will immerse the traveler in the history of one of the most unique mountain ranges in the United States. Historic sites and museums abound in the mystic mountains. The Crazy Horse Memorial and Mt. Rushmore National Memorial should be on everyone's bucket list, but don't overlook a visit to Evans Plunge in Hot Springs, a hike up Black Elk's Peak near Custer State Park and a pilgrimage to Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane's graves in the Mt. Moriah Cemetery above Deadwood.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: From Rapid City, a round trip to many of the sites, as far south as Hot Springs and as far north as Deadwood, 232 miles

DON'T MISS: The summer festivals held every year in the Black Hills, including Deadwood's Wild Bill Days, June 15-16, 2018 (Bob Boze Bell will be attending!) and Days of 76, July 24-26, 2018. The 1880 Train in Hill City opens May 7 and is a great experience for the whole family, as is Custer State Park's Wildlife Loop, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial and Wind Cave National Park.

WHERE TO STAY: Hisega Lodge, *Rapid City*; The Bullock Hotel, *Deadwood*; Custer State Park, *Custer*; Triple R Ranch, *Keystone*

WHERE TO EAT: Desperados Cowboy Restaurant, *Hill City*; Sugar Shack, *Deadwood*; Steerfish Steak & Smoke, *Spearfish*

WHAT TO READ: Bob Boze Bell's *The Illustrated Life and Times of Wild Bill Hickok: The First Gunfighter*; Terry Mort's *Thieves' Road: The Black Hills*



Betrayal and Custer's Path to Little Bighorn; Paul Horsted's *Exploring with Custer: The 1871 Black Hills Expedition*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I'd rent a cabin in the Black Hills and roam the parks, towns, back roads and historic sites from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

BEST WEBSITES: *TravelSouthDakota.com*; *BlackHillsBadlands.com*; *Deadwood.com*

THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL: SOUTH DAKOTA TO NORTH DAKOTA

The heritage and history of the Upper Missouri includes the earliest history of Euro-American exploration on the Northern Plains. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail follows the Upper Missouri from Fort Pierre through Pierre, South Dakota, to Bismarck, Minot and Fort Union Trading Post near Williston, North Dakota. Start the tour at Fort Pierre, where in 2017 the state of South Dakota celebrated its bicentennial, and follow it north along the banks of the Missouri River to the legendary confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers near Williston.

SIDE ROADS

MILEAGE: Fort Pierre, South Dakota, to Bismarck, North Dakota, to Minot, North Dakota, to Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, Williston, North Dakota, 475 miles

DON'T MISS: The remarkable historical sites and museums on the route, including the Verendrye Monument National Historic Landmark in Fort Pierre, the South Dakota Discovery Center in Pierre, the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck, the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn and the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center and Fort Union Trading Post near Williston.

WHERE TO STAY: Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge, *Pierre, SD*; Staybridge Suites, *Bismarck, ND*; The Williston Boutique Hotel, *Williston, ND*

WHERE TO EAT: Cattleman's Club Steakhouse, *Pierre, SD*; The Little Cottage Café, *Bismarck, ND*; Dakota Farms Family Restaurant, *Williston, ND*

WHAT TO READ: Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*; Elizabeth A. Fenn's *Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People*; Tracy Potter's *Steamboats in Dakota Territory: Transforming the Northern Plains*

IF I HAD ALL SUMMER: I'd follow the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from St. Louis, Missouri, to Astoria, Oregon.

BEST WEBSITES: *NPS.gov*; *TravelSouthDakota.com*; *NDTourism.com*

HICKOK AND HISTORY

Two new books from *True West* are perfect to take along on your Western road trip:



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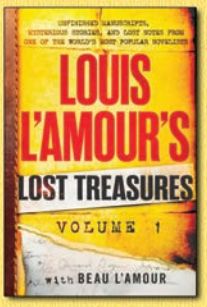
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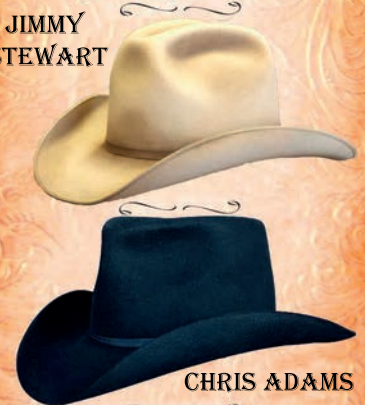
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970-667-3915 • SylvanDale.com

ART SHOW

AMERICAN PLAINS ARTISTS SPECIAL SHOW

San Angelo, TX: June 28-August 5: An 1867 fort along the Concho River showcases nearly 100 Western paintings and a dozen sculptures.
325-481-2646 • *FortConcho.com*

TRUE WEST

BOB BOZE BELL'S "WILD BILL" BOOK TOUR

Deadwood, SD, starting June 16: Author and illustrator Bob Boze Bell kicks off his tour at the Adams Museum with a speech about bringing Deadwood's favorite son to life.
605-722-4800 • *DeadwoodHistory.com*

AUCTION

BRIAN LEBEL'S OLD WEST SHOW & AUCTION

Santa Fe, NM, June 23-24: Gaze at Western Americana artifacts and bid on Western art, American Indian jewelry and cowboy gear.
480-779-9378 • *OldWestEvents.com*

MORPHY AUCTION FIREARMS & MILITARIA

Denver, PA, June 25-28: Bid on collectible militaria and sporting firearms at one of the largest under-roof auction houses in the country.
877-968-8880 • *MorphyAuctions.com*

FRONTIER FARE

BREW FEST

The Dalles, OR, June 23: Choose from more than 50 beers from 25+ breweries from Oregon and beyond in a taproom experience.
541.296.2231 • *BeerFestTheDalles.com*

HERITAGE FESTIVALS

CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER'S TRAIL DAYS

Elko, NV, May 19-20: See pioneer and American Indian culture on the California Trail come to life through family-friendly history displays.
775-738-1849 • *CaliforniaTrailCenter.org*

BILLY THE KID FESTIVAL

San Elizario, Texas, June 1-3: Outlaw Billy the Kid's rowdy 1876 visit to San Elizario to break a pal out of jail hits the stage in a live drama.
915-851-0093 • *SanElizarioHistoricDistrict.org*

AMERICAN INDIAN MARKET & POWWOW

Morrison, CO: Opens June 2-3: A gathering of American Indian artists, a Powwow dancing competition, and delicious cuisine.
303-839-1671 • *TesoroCulturalCenter.org*

MONTANA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Billings, MT, June 2-3: Step back in time with a medieval crafts market, a wide variety of performances and shows, and authentic cusine.
406-652-8100 • *MontanaRenfest.com*

HISTORIC LECOMPTON TERRITORIAL DAYS

Lecompton, KS, June 8-9: Kansas's former territorial capital celebrates with turtle races and pioneer woodcarving.
785-887-6285 • *LecomptonTerritorialDays.com*

RED EARTH FESTIVAL

Oklahoma City, OK, June 8-10: Experience the traditions of American Indian arts and cultures through dance, an art market, and powwow.
405-427-5228 • *RedEarth.org*

GOLD RUSH DAYS

Sidney, NE, June 9-10: Experience the Black Hills gold rush of 1876 through skits, re-enactments and cowboy lore about the town's freighting days.
866-545-4030 • *SidneyGoldRush.com*

NEBRASKALAND DAYS

North Platte, NE, June 13-23: Nebraska pays tribute to Buffalo Bill Cody's 1882 "Old Glory Blowout" with a rodeo, parades and concerts.
308-532-7939 • *NebraskalandDays.com*

STONEWALL PEACH JAMBOREE AND RODEO

Stonewall, TX, June 15-16: Celebration of the annual peach crop including peach judging, crowning of The Peach Queen, and more.
830-644-2735 • *StonewallTexas.com*

WILD BILL DAYS

Deadwood, SD, June 15-17: Celebrate Deadwood's famous gunslinger with live concerts, gold panning and sluicing demos, and more!
800-999-1876 • *Deadwood.com*

THE EAGLE SPIRIT DANCERS

Lander, WY, June 20-30: Experience American Indian culture through dance and drumming with nightly performances on the museum lawn.
307-332-3892 • *MuseumoftheAmericanWest.com*

JIM BOWIE DAYS

Bowie, TX, June 24-30: Texas Revolution hero and frontiersman Jim Bowie is honored with a rodeo, parades and an art and Indian artifact show.
940-366-1887 • *JimBowieDays.org*

SAN ELIZARIO HISTORIC DISTRICT TOURS

San Elizario, TX, June 24: Travel back in time on the Mission Trail with free guided walking tours of this 300-year-old district.
915-851-0093 • *SanElizarioHistoricDistrict.org*

ALPINE'S FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Alpine, TX, June 29-July 4: Celebrate Independence Day with outdoor theater, a parade, car show, live music, fireworks and more.
432-837-5539 • *AlpineTexas.com*

TOMBSTONE LIONS CLUB FREEDOM DAYS

Tombstone, AZ, June 29-July 1: Celebrate the 25th reunion of *Tombstone*; meet actors Michael Biehn, Peter Sherayko, and other actors.
520-678-1824 • *TombstoneChamber.com*

MUSIC & POETRY

LONE PINE FILM HISTORY MUSEUM CONCERT IN THE ROCKS

Lone Pine, CA, June 2: Head to a frequent Western movie site, Alabama Hills, for Rock 'n' Roll under the stars and a cowboy ranch dinner.
LonePineFilmHistoryMuseum.org

OUTDOOR THEATRE

TEXAS! OUTDOOR MUSICAL DRAMA

Palo Duro Canyon, TX, June 1- August 18: This outdoor musical re-creates the stories of Texas Panhandle settlers.
806-655-2181 • *Texas-Show.com*

RODEO & HORSE

SISTERS RODEO

Sisters, OR, June 8-10: Rodeo stars head to Sisters to show off their goods in this self-proclaimed "Biggest Little Show in the World!"
800-827-7522 • *SistersRodeo.com*

RENO RODEO

Reno, NV, June 14-23: This PRCA rodeo kicks off with a cattle drive, includes a parade, drill team competition, and classic rodeo disciplines.
775-329-3877 • *RenoRodeo.com*

GREELEY STAMPEDE

Greeley, CO, June 22- July 1: Get bull riding and steer wrestling rodeo action, plus take in Western art and an Independence Day parade.
970-356-7787 • *GreeleyStampede.org*

WEST OF THE PECOS RODEO

Pecos, TX: June 27-30: Gather in Pecos for this historic PRCA rodeo–it's a top 40 prize money rodeo and originated in 1883!
432-445-2406 • *PecosRodeo.com*

CROOKED RIVER ROUNDUP

Prineville, OR, June 28-30: This PRCA rodeo includes steer wrestling, roping, bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding, and more.
541-447-4479 • *CrookedRiverRoundup.com*

PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS & WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

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



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

Doc's Last Duel

What happened in the Billy Allen–"Doc" Holliday fight over $5?

Jim Reynolds
Sumner, Washington

William J. Allen was a lawman in Leadville, Colorado, during John H. "Doc" Holliday's declining years. (He should not be confused with Tombstone's William A. Allen, the man who testified against the Earps at the Spicer Hearings following the Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral.)

In August 1884, Holliday borrowed $5 from Allen, promising to pay him back in about a week. When Holliday made excuses as to why he couldn't pay his debt, the lawman said to pay up, or else Allen would "knock him down and kick his damned brains out," reported Gary L. Roberts, in his *Doc Holliday* biography.

On August 19, when Allen entered Mannie Hyman's Saloon with his hand in his pocket, Holliday, standing behind a cigar case, pulled out a revolver and fired, but missed. His next bullet went between Allen's elbow and shoulder, severing an artery. A bartender grabbed Holliday, stopping him from firing another round.

Allen's friends said he wasn't carrying a gun, while Holliday's claimed Allen's friends spirited it away.

Charged with "assault with intent to kill," Holliday went to trial on March 27, 1885. A jury found him not guilty, convinced Holliday had defended himself, believing Allen meant him bodily harm. It was Holliday's last gunfight.



John H. "Doc" Holliday's last gunfight took place at Mannie Hyman's Saloon in Leadville, Colorado, pictured here during the early 1880s.

– ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –

Was "Little Gertie, the Gold Dollar" real?

Ramona Briggs
Denver, Colorado

Old West boomtowns had a shortage of eligible women, a void often filled by soiled doves. One such red-light district denizen was "Little Gertie, the Gold Dollar."

A feisty, petite gal with long, golden tresses, Gertie plied her trade in Tombstone, Arizona Territory, around 1880. Her nickname became "Gold Dollar"—the cost of earning her favors.

Another lady of ill repute, Margarita, wanted to steal away Gertie's man, Billy Milgreen. One night at the Bird Cage Theatre, Gertie caught Margarita sitting in Milgreen's lap. She grabbed a handful of Margarita's long, dark hair and threw her to the floor. The fight continued until Gertie grabbed a stiletto stashed in her garter and stabbed Margarita to death.

Gertie and Milgreen disappeared from town. Margarita got a grave at Boothill.

What did cowboys carry behind their saddles?

Zane Green
Braintree, Essex, England

Depending on the weather, cowboys usually carried a slicker or a coat behind their saddles. They also carried small sundries, such as pocket knives, matches and tobacco, in their vest pockets. Bedrolls and other possibles were stored in the chuckwagon or hooligan wagon.

A rider could carry saddlebags while traveling alone, but he usually took along a pack horse or mule to carry his things.

Bottom line: Less was best.



"Little Gertie ,the Gold Dollar"



When a cowboy had the luxury of a chuckwagon to travel with him, he got to store his bedroll, like the Hash Knife ones shown above, on the wagon.

– COURTESY JAN MACKELL –

Did gunmen really make tenderfeet "dance" by shooting at their feet?

Jim Spell
Sonora, California

Making a tenderfoot "dance" by shooting at his feet was common.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote about cowboys in Medora, Dakota Territory, making greenhorns dance. The cowboys were careful not to shoot too close, lest they accidentally caused injury, reported Roger L. Di Silvestro, in *Theodore Roosevelt in the Badlands*.

Clay Allison and Mason T. Bowman participated in a drunken fast draw contest; Bowman consistently won, according to a newspaper account discovered by author Leon Metz.

The men stripped to their underwear and danced with each other. They shot at each other's feet to see who would jump or flinch.

Neither did. The contest ended without anyone getting hurt.

Did ranches have ice houses?

Ray Burden
Beckenham, Kent, England

Ice houses on the frontier could only happen if a rancher lived in the north country, like the mountains of Montana. Often, they were dugouts or cellars. In the winter, ranchers moved in ice from a frozen river or creek to keep canned goods and preserves cold. Unless the weather got unusually warm, the ice would last quite a while.

The 1870s brought about ice-making machines that eventually made their way west.

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What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



Rudolfo Anaya, shown at age 13, will receive the Owen Wister Award for lifetime contributions to Western literature from Western Writers of America at the 65th annual convention, held this June 20–23 in Billings, Montana.

– COURTESY BELINDA HENRY –



– BY GABRIELA CAMPOS –

RUDOLFO ANAYA, AUTHOR

Rudolfo Anaya shot to stardom with his first novel, 1972's *Bless Me, Ultima*, which got rejected by New York and Boston publishers, and found a home at a Chicano press in Berkeley, California. He has authored works of fiction, nonfiction, plays, poems and children's books, some of which he read at the White House for President Jimmy Carter. He also received the National Medal in Arts from President George W. Bush and the National Medal in Humanities from President Barack Obama. His next novel, *ChupaCabra Meets Billy the Kid*, is due out this August.

I chose a series around Elfego Baca's fictional great-grandson because Elfego is a hero to Nuevo Mexicanos. We know the story how Elfego stood against a group of Texas cowboys. There is a long history of distrust between Texans and New Mexico Hispanos. As the saying goes, "Poor New Mexico, so far from God, so close to Texas."

The Billy the Kid expressed in my play is close to the Mexicanos of the Lincoln area of New Mexico. He knew Spanish and was often helped by the Mexicanos.

I spelled my 1992 novel *Alburquerque* with an extra "r" because I wanted to set history straight. In Spanish, we do pronounce the "r." It is not extra.

Growing up along the Staked Plains of New Mexico was crucial to my creative imagination. It was my sense of place. I told Max Evans in a letter, "that llano created who we are."

My father, Martin Anaya, worked as a vaquero around the Pastura area of New Mexico. His and my mother's work taught me life is a struggle.

My earliest Old West recollections are the farmers of Puerto de Luna who took Pecos River water to irrigate their fields and orchards. They didn't carry holstered pistols, like they do in *Bonanza*. These people built the West one adobe brick at a time. They built community.

I dove into an irrigation ditch when I was 16, hit bottom and was instantly paralyzed. You would be surprised how many farm boys got hurt when they dove into water tanks. I came out of the injury slowly. It is part of who I am. I can type with only one hand.

My mother helped me defeat paralysis and walk again by constant care, massages and love. She is now a saint.

***Bless Me, Ultima* cut across** cultural lines because it is filled with spirit, and spirit is universal.

When I heard Tony Hillerman had praised me as the "godfather" of Chicano literature, I felt honored. RIP Tony.

The history of Americans of Mexican descent during the Old West frontier era is filled with injustice. The Americanos made life difficult for the Mexicanos and American Indians in various ways. Learn English and our laws or remain in servitude. I know firsthand my parents felt this oppression.

The issue of land is at the core of Nuevo Mexicano contentions. My ancestors came to the Southwest in 1598. Much of the land grants from Spain and later Mexico were lost in the 1840s. Remember the crooked politicians of the Santa Fe Ring? Remember Maxwell? By hook or crook, mostly crook, they stole large portions of Hispano land grants. The land, and water, remain at the core of Hispano tradition.

Magical Realism is best defined as the "marvelous real." Reality is full of wonder; a writer just has to tap it. It helps to be full of awe in the natural world.

My favorite novel ever is *The Man Who Killed the Deer* by Frank Waters. He led us into the spiritual world of American Indians.

I am watching reruns of *Bonanza*. Great stories, but awful portrayal of Mexicans and American Indians. Aren't so many Western movies like that? The guy with the white hat always wins. Maybe I should just think back to my father's days and the cowboys who came to visit him. Those vaqueros were real.

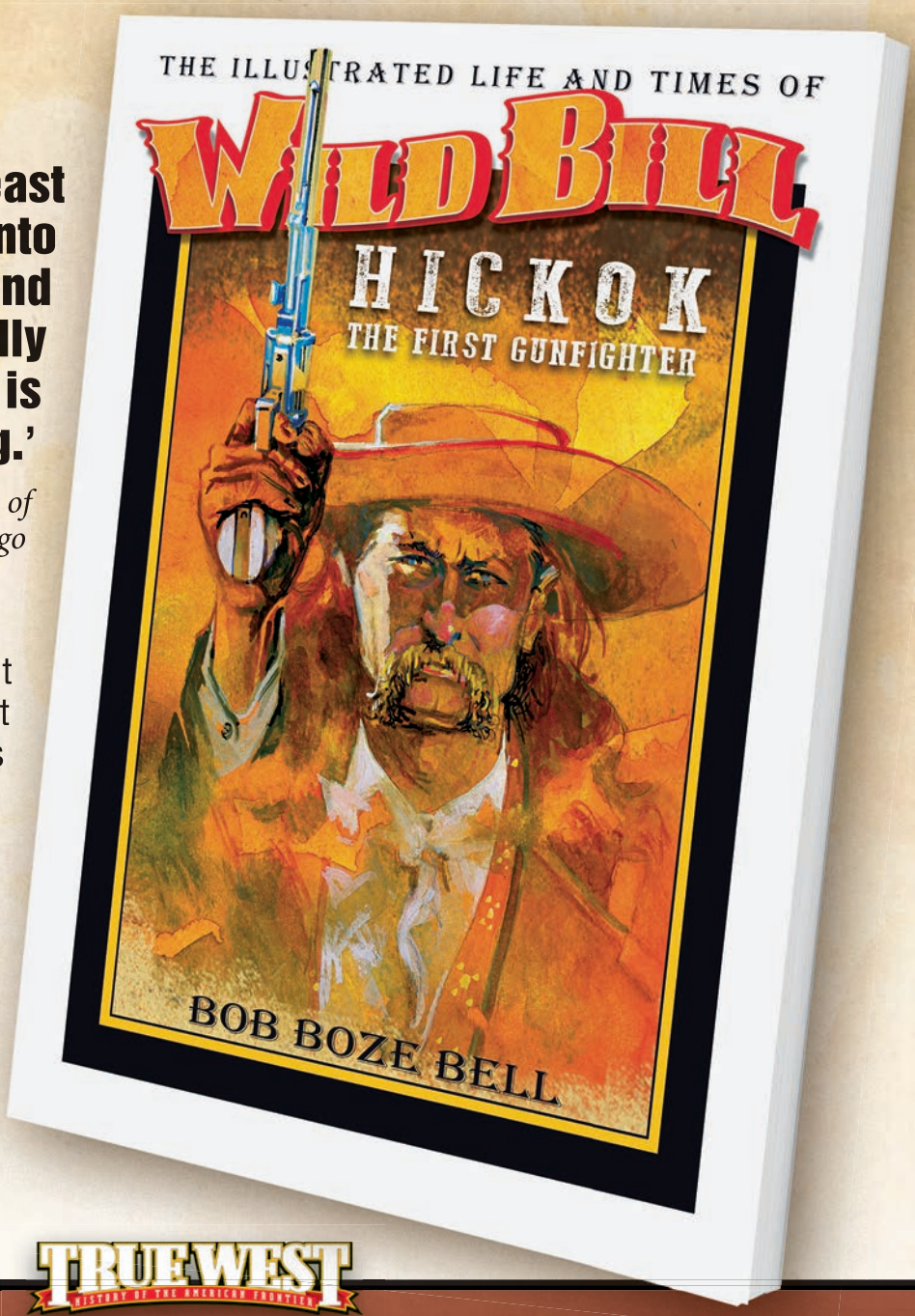
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—Ted Simons, host of Horizon on PBS



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