BAXTER BLACK • OUR WESTERN ENTERTAINMENT ISSUE

OUR 57TH YEAR

AUGUST 2010

TRUE WEST

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN



DIGGING UP BILLY THE KID

WHAT HAPPENED?

BY MARK BOARDMAN

$5.99

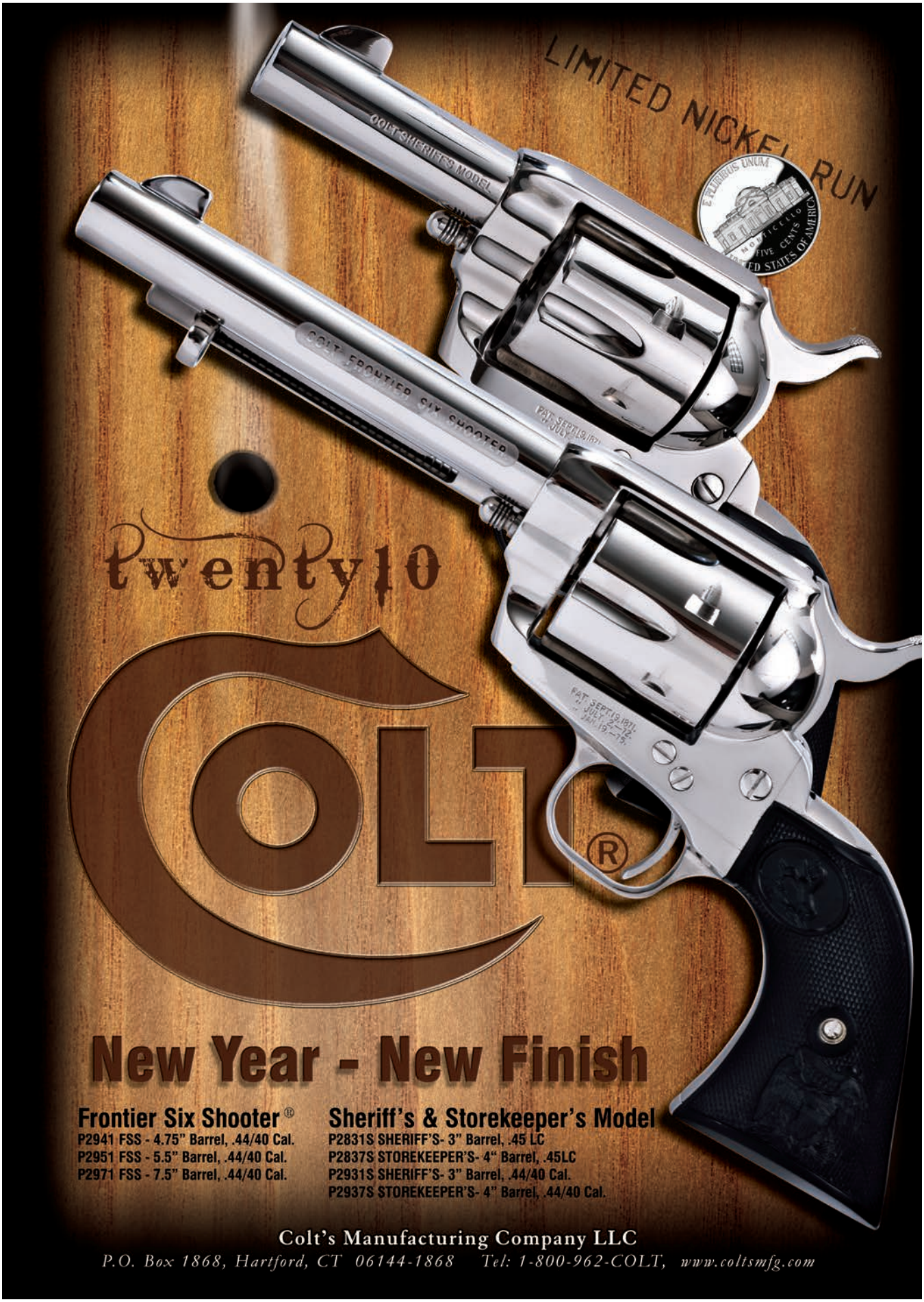
truewestmagazine.com

0 71896 47305 6 08>

Visit us at twmag.com

TRUE WEST MAGAZINE • DIGGING UP BILLY THE KID • AUGUST 2010


Adiktd
Adiktd
Available in Fine Western & Boutique Stores
Kenco Fashon Inc. www.adiktdfashion.com 888-536-2677


LIMITED NICKEL RUN
COLT SHERIFF'S MODEL
COLT FRONTIER SIX SHOOTER
twenty10
COLT®
New Year - New Finish
Frontier Six Shooter®
P2941 FSS - 4.75" Barrel, .44/40 Cal.
P2951 FSS - 5.5" Barrel, .44/40 Cal.
P2971 FSS - 7.5" Barrel, .44/40 Cal.
Sheriff's & Storekeeper's Model
P2831S SHERIFF'S- 3" Barrel, .45 LC
P2837S STOREKEEPER'S- 4" Barrel, .45LC
P2931S SHERIFF'S- 3" Barrel, .44/40 Cal.
P2937S STOREKEEPER'S- 4" Barrel, .44/40 Cal.
Colt's Manufacturing Company LLC
P.O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06144-1868 Tel: 1-800-962-COLT, www.coltsmfg.com

For a New Look at the Old West

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

Twenty pages of newly researched articles on the winning of the Old West every month:

HISTORIC EVENTS
FRONTIERSMAN & GUNSLINGERS
THE FAMOUS & THE INFAMOUS
COWBOYS & INDIANS
PIONEER WOMEN & FAMILIES
RARE PHOTOGRAPHS



Send this coupon with your subscription to get a FREE reprint of the 1881 Epitaph reporting the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral®. Or subscribe online at www.tombstoneepitaph.com

Only $25 per year

The Tombstone Epitaph.

Name_____

Address_____

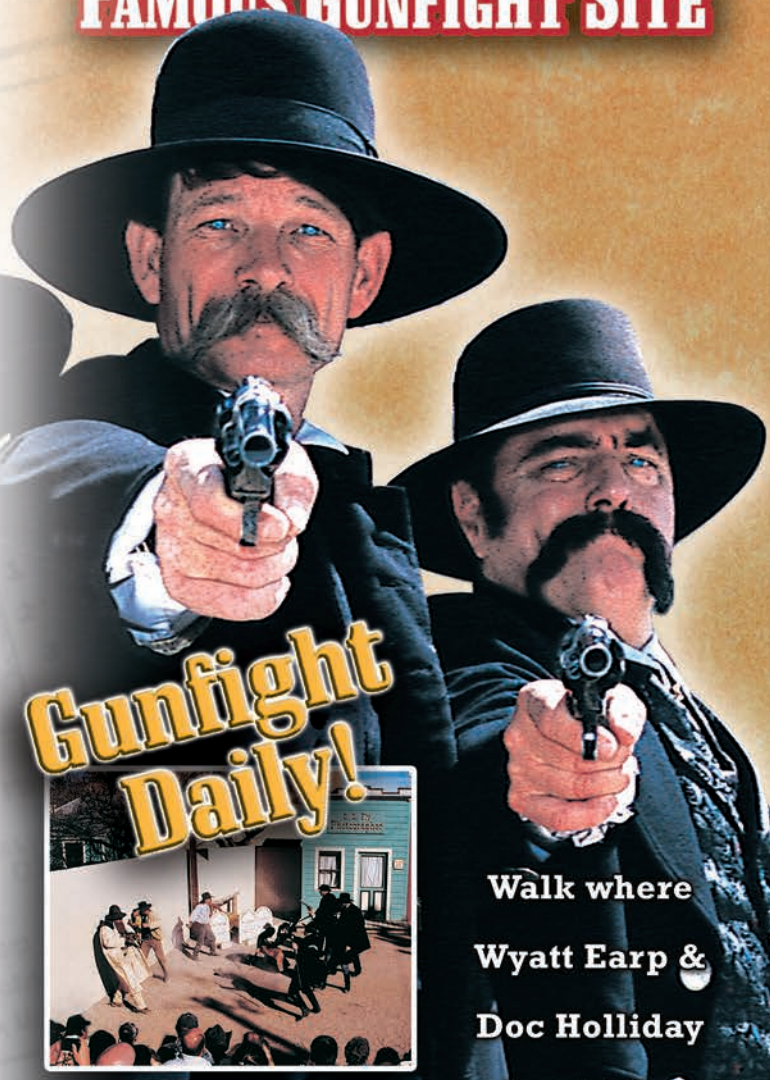
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Send check or money order to: The Tombstone Epitaph
P.O. Box 1880, Tombstone, AZ 85638.

Rates U.S.: ❑1-Year $25 ❑2-Year $45 ❑3-Year $60

O.K.® Corral

Famous Gunfight Site



Gunfight Daily!



Walk where Wyatt Earp & Doc Holliday fought the West's legendary gunfight.

www.okcorral.com

Tombstone, Arizona

Sixty-five Miles S.E. of Tucson

TRADITION & HERITAGE

STANDING BEAR NATIVE AMERICAN PARK is home to the Standing Bear Museum and Education Center and is the cultural center for the six Native American tribes that surround Ponca City. It is also home to the annual Standing Bear Pow Wow, one of the largest tribal exhibitions in the state. Interactive educational displays, Native American art, regular traveling exhibits, and a 22-foot bronze statue of legendary Ponca Chief Standing Bear make this facility one of Ponca City's crown jewels. Plan your trip today!

SUMMER EVENTS

Freedom Festival
Lake Ponca, July 4th

Grand National Motocross Races
AMBUC Race Park, July 25th – 31st

101 Wild West Rodeo
101 Rodeo Grounds, August 12th – 14th

Annual Standing Bear Pow Wow
Standing Bear Park, September 24th – 25th

Area Native American Pow Wows
For more information about these and other Ponca City events:

poncacitytourism.com • (866) 763-8092



PONCA City

OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICA
TRAVELOK.COM

KAW LAKE ASSOCIATION
KAWLAKE.COM

relaxation: \re'lak-sa'shen\
n. a lessening of, or rest from work, worry; carefree

Enjoy a Carefree Vacation for

$99

per night!*









Enjoy spectacular savings this season at The Carefree Resort & Conference Center.

Starting at $99.00* a night you can relax in luxurious accommodations and enjoy a **complimentary breakfast for two every morning**. Kids under 10 eat free. Call 1-888-RELAX09 (mention promo code RELAX) to make your reservations today!

*Based on availability. Holiday blackout dates apply. Offer good through 9/30/10

CAREFREE
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER

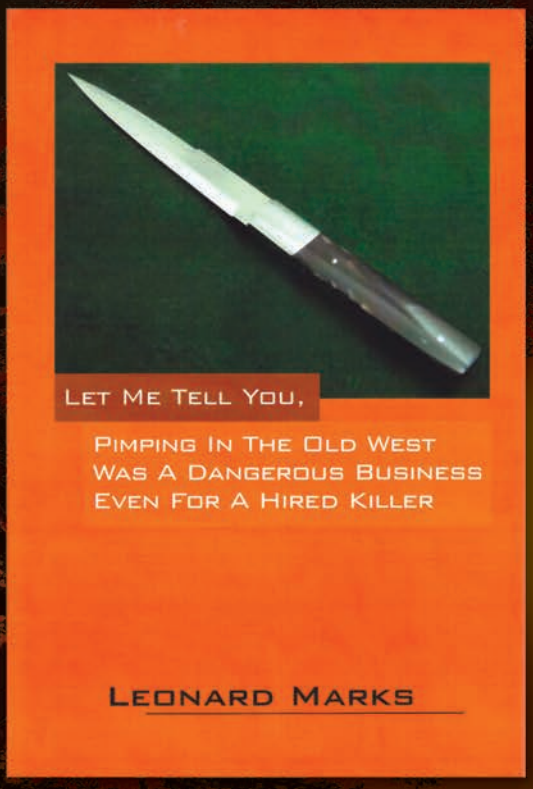
37220 N. Mule Train Road
Carefree, AZ 85377
480.488.5300
www.carefree-resort.com

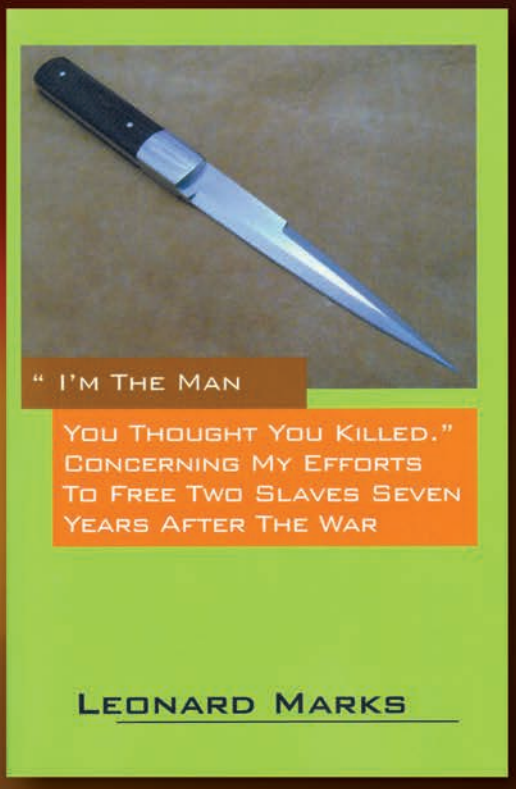
SEX. KNIFE FIGHTS. GORGEOUS WOMEN.

FORMER NEW YORK STATE PAROLE OFFICER

Leonard Marks

brings you the first two books in the most *riveting* series of novels ever set in The Wild West...





Let Me Tell You Pimping In The Old West Was a Dangerous Business Even For A Hired Killer

www.outskirtspress.com/letmetellyou

"I'm The Man You Thought You Killed." Concerning My Efforts To Free Two Slaves Seven Years After The War

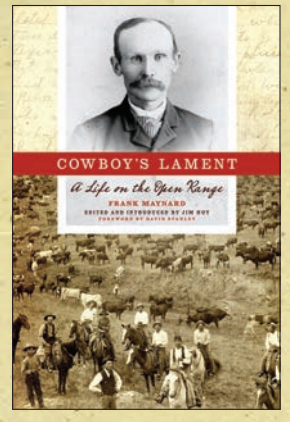
www.outskirtspress.com/imthemanyouthoughtyoukilled

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE THROUGH BARNES & NOBLE AND AMAZON

For all business correspondence and to be included on our fan list: leonardarthurmarks@gmail.com

★ NEW FROM ★
TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY PRESS

The unsung composer of the West's best-known ballad, depicted in a recovered memoir



COWBOY'S LAMENT
A Life on the Open Range
FRANK MAYNARD
EDITED AND INTRODUCED BY JIM HOY FOREWORD BY DAVID STANLEY
$29.95 cloth | 248 pages
12 b/w photos; 2 maps
978-0-89672-705-2

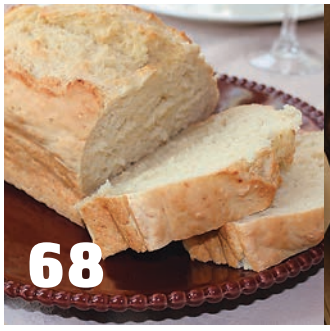
★ ★ ★ ★

Is the Battle of Pease River the most perpetuated myth in Texas history?



MYTH, MEMORY, AND MASSACRE
The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker
PAUL H. CARLSON AND TOM CRUM
$29.95 cloth
17 b/w photos; 3 maps
978-0-89672-707-6
TWBOW810

Order Today: 800.832.4042
ttup@ttu.edu | www.ttupress.org







28 FROM BAXTER BLACK TO THE POWWOW IDOL
Nearly 140 cowboy music and poetry gatherings, chuckwagon dinners, powwows, Old West festivals and living heritage celebrations, plus locals reveal the best eats, shopping and adventures to sink your teeth into while you're in town.
—The Editors

42 THE LUNACY OF BILLY THE KID
The phases of the moon cause a stir underground as Billy the Kid's remains are the target of scrutiny—complete with conspiracy theories, death threats and politics.
—Mark Boardman

50 SAVING THE WRONG GUYS
What does Lincoln County in 1878 and Johnson County in 1892 have in common? The last-minute cavalry arrival dramatically alters the outcome of each war.
—Ron Soodalter

52 THE GENESIS OF JEANS
THE EVOLUTION OF WESTERN WEAR
Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis are responsible for the denim jean revolution—from its humble origins as ranchwear to the mega-fashion industry of the 21st century.
—G. Daniel DeWeese

8 TO THE POINT
10 WESTERN ROUNDUP
14 INVESTIGATING HISTORY
16 OLD WEST SAVIORS
18 COLLECTING THE WEST
20 SHOOTING FROM THE HIP
22 WESTERNS
58 GRAPHIC CINEMA
60 CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS
64 WHAT'S IT LIKE TO LIVE THERE
68 FRONTIER FARE
70 BOGGS UNLEASHED
72 TRAIL RIDER
74 RENEGADE ROADS
80 WESTERN BOOKS
85 FRONTIER DOC
86 ASK THE MARSHALL
88 WHAT HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



OUR COVER
Digging Up Billy the Kid: What Happened?
— Cover design by Daniel Harshberger; Illustrated by Bob Boze Bell —

TRUE WEST
EXPLORING THE AMERICAN WEST

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

EDITORIAL

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Bob Boze Bell
MANAGING EDITOR: Meghan Saar
EDITORIAL TEAM
Features Editor: Mark Boardman
Westerns Film Editor: Henry Cabot Beck
Preservation Editor: Jana Bommersbach
Military History Editor: Col. Alan C. Huffines, U.S. Army
Field Editor: Phil Spangenberger
Assistant Editor: Ashley Briggs
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Robert Ray
ART DIRECTOR: Daniel Harshberger
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Abby Goodrich
MAPINATOR: Gus Walker
HISTORICAL CONSULTANT: Paul Hutton
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Allen Barra, John Beckett, John Boessenecker, Johnny D. Boggs, Daniel Buck, Robert DeArment, Richard H. Dillon, Bill Garwood, Drew Gomber, Cynthia Green, Anne Meadows, Leon Metz, Sherry Monahan, Phyllis Morreale-de la Garza, Candy Moulton, Frederick Nolan, Gary Roberts, Joseph G. Rosa, William Secrest, Marshall Trimble, Linda Wommack
ARCHIVIST/PROOFREADER: Ron Frieling
PUBLISHER EMERITUS: Robert G. McCubbin
TRUE WEST FOUNDER: Joe Austell Small (1914-1994)

ADVERTISING/BUSINESS

PRESIDENT & CEO: Bob Boze Bell
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT & COO: K. Robert Brink
GENERAL MANAGER: Carole Compton Glenn
PUBLISHER: Trish Brink
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER & CMO: Ken Amorosano
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Dave Daiss

REGIONAL SALES MANAGERS
Joe Freedman (joe@twmag.com)
Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nevada & Washington

Sue Lambert (sue@twmag.com)
Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah & Wyoming

Sheri Riley (sheri@twmag.com)
Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Tennessee & Texas

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Sally Collins

August 2010, Vol. 57, #8, Whole #489. *True West* (ISSN 0041-3615) is published eleven times a year (January/February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November/December, Special Source Book-December) by *True West* Publishing, Inc., 6702 E. Cave Creek Rd, Suite #5 Cave Creek, AZ 85331. 480-575-1881. Periodical postage paid at Cave Creek, AZ 85327, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian GST Registration Number R132182866.

Single copies: $5.99/Source Book: $7.95. U.S. subscription rate is $29.95 per year (11 issues); $49.95 for two years (22 issues).

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to: *True West*, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327. Printed in the United States of America. Copyright 2010 by *True West* Publishing, Inc.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES
888-687-1881
FAX: 480-575-1903



Chuck's Woodbarn LLC

The lost art of Steam Bending Wood... still alive!



Hand crafted excellence

Made one at a time from premium quality oak, each cross is hand crafted by steam bending. Softening the lignum allows bending and shaping the wood to the desired shape. The wood is distressed, aged, then hand waxed to a beautiful sheen. Each cross is accented with three square-head nails.

- Available with or without the heart
- Sizes 18", 30" & 48" tall
- Heirloom quality
- Signed and dated by the artist, Chuck Zeller
- Customization available



More unique products available online at:

www.ChucksWoodbarn.com

308-692-3119

Diggin' Billy

Recognize anybody?

"Everyone involved in this is flat-out Kid Krazy."

Who said that? Well, I said that, and I've been saying it long before we bought this magazine 11 years ago. Every time we run something—anything—on Billy the Kid, out come the crazies. So it was a real challenge to try and get them all portrayed on this issue's cover art. (Full disclosure: I know, or have met, almost every single one of these crazies.)

I worked for several months on the design and execution of this ambitious project. I must commend Mark Boardman for a stellar piece, and our Managing Editor Meghan Saar for her hard work, shaping the Billy the Kid package to make all of it sit up and sing. While you read the story (p. 42), you may recognize a face, or two, on the cover.

One person in the painting is Steve Sederwall (shown at right, while riding with Texas Rangers). Sederwall, who is now retired, started his law enforcement in Garland, Texas, as a criminal investigator and went on to be a "copper" (his term) for the LAPD. He also worked for the Department of the Interior and served with the Lincoln County Sheriff's office as a deputy, which led to the idea of the Billy dig (probably his idea, by the way). While quite controversial, Sederwall loves the entire Kid story and, whenever possible, waxes philosophically about it (and he can go on for hours).

Sederwall has a cop's eye for detail and motive. When Pat Garrett left his two deputies on the porch of Pete Maxwell's house on the evening of July 14, 1881, to go inside alone, Steve is incredulous: "Garrett says, 'You guys wait here.' He doesn't know what's in there, and he is after the most wanted man in the territory! It would be 'You guys come with me and watch yourself, this guy has already killed cops.' Meanwhile, Poe has a guy throw down on him and never warns the sheriff that a man with a gun is in the room. I would beat his cowboy ass, before I fired him."

Yes, Steve is definitely Kid Krazy. But, like I said, he is not alone.





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

CHARACTER SHOWS UP BEST WHEN TESTED



1873 Special Sporting Rifle

The hard-won reputation of the Texas Rangers relied on character and integrity, as well as the firearms they carried. In the Old West, a Ranger trusted his reliable, rapid fire 1873 lever-action rifle to defend and protect a vast untamed frontier.

Seven distinctive models round out Uberti's 1873 lineup. A smooth lever action, powerful calibers, oil-finished, A-Grade walnut and the handsome lines of a true American legend—good reasons for why this rifle "won the West."

To continue this history lesson, read on at UBERTI.COM



For a FREE
DVD Catalog
Visit Uberti.com

A. Uberti
History Repeats Itself

RED RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM
VERNON, TEXAS

Proudly Presents

COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING ON THE WESTERN TRAIL

COMPETITION & TRADE SHOW

BENEFITING THE WESTERN TRAIL HERITAGE CENTER BUILDING PROJECT AT THE RED RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM

OCTOBER 15, 16 & 17, 2010

IN VERNON'S COVERED EVENT CENTER
301 WILBARGER STREET, VERNON, TEXAS

MORE INFORMATION:
CONTESTANTS:
LOU CIFERNI (817) 368-0627
TICKET AND VENDOR INFO:
RED RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM
(940) 553-1848
REDRIVERVALLEYMUSEUM.ORG

Vernon, Texas

OVER 300 MOTEL ROOMS IN VERNON!

Experience the Old West.

Now Through Aug. 1... Cheyenne, WY, **Cheyenne Frontier Days:** Rodeo established in 1897, with live music, re-enactments and Western art. 800-227-6336 • *CFDRodeo.com*

Now Through Aug. 8... Dodge City, KS, **Dodge City Days' 50th Year:** Celebrates the cowtown's heritage with a PRCA rodeo and bull fry. 620-227-3119 • *www.DodgeCityDays.com*

Now Through Aug. 28... Montpelier, ID, **Journey Stories:** Traveling Smithsonian exhibit that focuses on the historical impact of travel in America. 208-847-3800 • *OregonTrailCenter.org*

Now Through Aug. 31... Riverton, WY, **Summer of Traditional Dancing:** Celebrates the Northern Arapaho via dances, drums and stories. 866-657-1604 • *WindRiverCasino.com*

Now Through Aug. 31... Cody, WY, **Cody Nite Rodeo:** Rodeo stars entertain crowds every summer night at the Cody Stampede Rodeo Grounds. 800-207-0744 • *CodyStampedeRodeo.com*

Now Through Sept. 6... Oklahoma City, OK, **Prix de West Art Exhibition & Sale:** Works by more than 300 artists at this invitational show. 405-478-2250 • *NationalCowboyMuseum.org*

Now Through Oct. 17... Santa Fe, NM, **Sole Mates—Cowboy Boot and Art:** Changing styles of cowboy boots through art and photos. 505-476-5072 • *NMArtMuseum.org*

Now Through Oct. 31... Cody, WY, **Splendid Heritage—Perspectives on American Indian Art:** More than 140 objects of art from the Woodlands, Plains and Plateau regions. 307-587-4771 • *www.BBHC.org*

AUGUST

4-7... Abilene, KS, **Wild Bill Hickok PRCA Rodeo:** This 65th annual rodeo commemorates the famous gunslinger; plus an award for the all-around cowboy. 785-263-4570 • *WildBillHickokRodeo.com*

6-8... Fort Stanton, NM, **Fort Stanton Live!:** Buffalo Soldier and Mountain Men re-enactors at a former stomping ground of Billy the Kid's. 575-354-0341 • *FortStanton.com*

6-8... Tombstone, AZ, **Vigilante Days:** Historic Allen Street provides a chili cook-off, 10k run, gunfight re-enactments and Colt rifle raffle. 800-457-3423 • *TombstoneVigilantes.com*

6-8... Lincoln, NM, **Old Lincoln Days:** Celebrate the town's past with living history re-enactments and a traveling exhibit on transportation history. 575-653-4372 • *NMMonuments.org*

6-8... Glenrock, WY, **Deer Creek Days:** Pancake breakfasts, ranch rodeo, Western artwork, parades, horse shows and duck races at the river. 307-436-5652 • *ConverseCountyTourism.com*

7... Prescott, AZ, **Western History Symposium:** Discuss 1889 Canyon Diablo Train Robbery, an 1873 Whiskey Row shooting and territorial women. 928-445-3122 • *Sharlot.org*

7-8... Loveland, CO, **Sculpture in the Park Show:** Showcases 3-D artwork, by more than 170 worldwide artists, against the beauty of the Rockies. 800-551-1752 • *SculptureInThePark.org*

7-8... Flagstaff, AZ, **Navajo Festival of Arts & Culture:** Art, jewelry, storytelling and rug weaving demonstrations from the Navajo Nation. 928-774-5213 • *MusNAZ.org*

7-14... Coffeyville, KS, **Interstate Fair & Rodeo:** Ranch and PRCA rodeos, livestock show, free bean and watermelon feeds, and a music festival. 800-626-3357 • *FairAndRodeo.com*

12-15... Lewistown, MT, **Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering:** Silver anniversary with cowboy poets, from Henry Real Bird to Red Steagall. 866-912-3980 • *MontanaCowboyPoetryGathering.com*

12-15... Fort Hall, ID, **Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival:** Since 1963, celebrates the Idaho tribe through singing and powwow competitions. 208-238-0680 • *ShoshoneBannockTribes.com*

12-15... Eureka, NV, **Eureka County Fair & Rodeo:** This former silver mining boomtown offers a rodeo, arts and crafts, and BBQ. 775-237-6026 • *www.CO.Eureka.NV.us*

13-14... Prescott, AZ, **Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering:** Preserves cowboy culture with poetry, art and music from real working cowboys. 928-776-2000 • *AZCowboyPoets.org*

14-21... Douglas, WY, **Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo:** PRCA steer roping, sheep dog trials, Mustang



August 15-20, 2010
Jackson Hole, WY, ***True West's* Jeremiah Johnson's Jackson Hole Wilderness Ride:** Wander up the Grand Teton on a Rocky Mountain trail ride of Mountain Man lore and history. 505-286-4585 • *Great-American-Adventures.com*



Aug. 14-Nov. 13, 2010
Amarillo, TX, **America's Horse in Art:** Wayne Baize, Buckeye Blake, Jack Sorenson, Buck Taylor and other artists honor America's horses through drawings, paintings and sculptures. Shown above is Brian Asher's *Empty Saddles*.
806-376-5181 • *www.AQHHallOfFame.com*

challenge and Country music by Joe Diffie.
307-358-2398 • *WYStateFair.com*

19-21... Worland, WY, **Wyoming State BBQ Championship & Bluegrass Festival:** Chicken, sauce, beef brisket and pulled pork cook offs.
307-347-3226 • *WYO-BBQ-Bluegrass.com*

20-Sept. 4... Miles City, MT, **Miles City to Deadwood Trail Ride:** Ride 20 miles a day on wagon or horseback from Montana to South Dakota.
800-344-8826 • *Deadwood.org*

20-21... San Juan Bautista, CA, **Vaquero Heritage Days:** Honors riata man Ray Ordway, filmmaker Susan Sember and singer Dave Stamey.
831-623-1128 • *VaqueroHeritageDays.com*

20-21... Reno, NV, **Reno Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering:** Performances by Jon Chandler, Andy Nelson, Chris Isaacs and Hot Club of Cowtown.
775-354-6093 • *RenoCowboyPoetry.org*

20-22... Toppenish, WA, **Toppenish Western Art Show:** American Indian, Western and wildlife art in the famous mural town of Toppenish.
800-863-6375 • *Toppenish.net*

20-22... Payson, AZ, **World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo:** Since 1884, rodeo features barrel racing, steer wrestling and bronc riding.
800-672-9766 • *PaysonRimCountry.com*

22-29... Big Timber, MT, **Photography Workshop:** Sweet Grass Ranch offers a workshop with western photographer Barbara Van Cleve.
406-537-4477 • *SweetGrassRanch.com*

26-28... Kanab, UT, **Western Legends Roundup:** Honors the 70 or so Western movie and TV classics, including *Gunsmoke*, made in Kane County.
435-644-3444 • *WesternLegendsRoundup.com*

27-Sept. 6... Pueblo, CO, **Colorado State Fair:** PRCA rodeo, mutton busting, horse, sheep and bull shows, and a Fiesta Day parade.
800-876-4567 • *ColoradoStateFair.com*

27-Oct. 3... Trinidad, CO, **Mitchell National Painting Invitational:** Features artworks by John Budicin, Millie Greene and Gay Faulkenberry.
719-846-4224 • *ARMitchell.org*



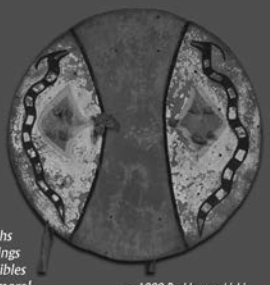


American Indian Artifacts
2010 Auction Schedule:

August 14 & 15, 2010
"Best of Santa Fe Auction"
2 big days / Over 1000 items!

November 12-14, 2010
"Big Fall Phoenix Auction"
3 big days / Over 1500 items!

* Baskets
* Pottery
* Jewelry
* Beadwork
* Stone relics
* Original art
* Navajo rugs
* Trade beads
* Eskimo relics
* Antique rifles
* Old photographs
* NWCoast carvings
* Vintage collectibles
* Much, much, more!

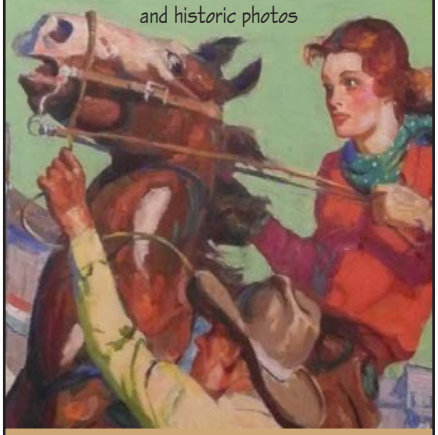


ca. 1900 Pueblo war shield
est. $50,000 - 100,000
Santa Fe 2010

ALLARD AUCTIONS, INC.
Phoenix * Santa Fe * Seattle * Portland * Missoula
PO Box 1030 - St. Ignatius, MT 59865
1-888-314-0343 - www.allardauctions.com

Do you have Indian items to sell?
NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS FOR ALL AUCTIONS
CALL 1-888-314-0343

Visit The Old West
in Trinidad, Colorado
A. R. Mitchell Museum
400 originals by Western artist,
A.R. Mitchell.
Spanish Colonial artifacts
and historic photos



2010 Museum Shows
"Women of Design" July 1-August 15
"The Mitchell National Painting Invitational" August 27-October 3
150 East Main Street
Open Tuesday-Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4
719-846-4224
www.armitchell.org
"Supported with funds from Colorado Marketing Zone Grant"

SEPTEMBER

3-4... Dodge City, KS, **55th Anniversary of *Gunsmoke*:** Stars Glenn Strange and James Nusser are honored with sidewalk medallions.
620-561-1925 • *DodgeCityTrailOfFame.org*

3-5... Bandera, TX, **Celebrate Bandera:** Features a mounted shoot competition, cattle drive and NPBR bull riding challenge.
830-796-4447 • *CelebrateBandera.com*

3-7... Sidney, IA, **Sidney Championship Rodeo:** Since 1923, this PRCA rodeo offers live music, featuring Jake McVey, and a comedy act by Gizmo McCracken.
712-374-2695 • *SidneyRodeo.us*

4... Wickenburg, AZ, **Fiesta de Septiembre:** Celebrates Hispanic heritage with folklorico dancers, mariachi music and arts and crafts.
800-942-5242 • *OutWickenburgWay.com*

4-6... Sacramento, CA, **Gold Rush Days:** The spirit of the 1850s comes alive with period dance and music, gunfights and artifact displays.
916-808-7777 • *SacramentoGoldRushDays.com*

4-6... Hastings, NE, **PRCA Oregon Trail Rodeo:** PRCA rodeo and rodeo parade that commemorates the 1841-69 overland route and its pioneers.
888-462-3247 • *AdamsCountyFairgrounds.com*

4-6... Las Cruces, NM, **Harvest Wine Festival:** Wine tasting, grape stomp and seminars to commemorate New Mexico's wine history.
866-494-6366 • *NMWine.com*

5-6... Amarillo, TX, **Cal Farley Boys Ranch Rodeo:** Celebrates 65 years of tradition with a rodeo for youth, ages 3 to 18, and free BBQ lunch.
800-687-3722 • *CalFarley.org*

5-6... Ruidoso, NM, **All American Gun & Western Collectible Show:** Celebrates 20 years of selling or trading guns, jewelry, tack and hunting equipment.
575-257-6171 • *TrekWest.com/GunShow/*

7-12... Window Rock, AZ, **Navajo Nation Fair:** Since 1946, livestock shows and powwow competitions featuring the Navajo tribe.
928-871-6703 • *NavajoNationFair.com*

8-12... Northfield, MN, **Defeat of Jesse James Days:** Enjoy a parade, crafts and culture in the last town terrorized by the James-Younger Gang.
800-658-2548 • *DJJD.org*

9-11... Three Forks, MT, **Fur Trade Symposium:** Honors the 200th anniversary of the "Fort Three Forks" Missouri Fur Company trading post.
406-285-4753 • *VisitMT.com*

9-12... Lubbock, TX, **National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration:** Trick roping, cowboy poetry, devotional service and music by the Gillette Brothers.
806-798-7825 • *Cowboy.org*

10-12... Enterprise, OR, **Hell's Canyon Mule Days:** Features the mule clinic, sale and races, Old World Oxen Living History and a quilt show.
888-323-3271 • *HellsCanyonMuleDays.com*

10-12... Danville, KY, **Constitution Square Arts Fest:** Living history, Western art and pioneer encampments at the state historic site.
800-755-0076 • *ConstitutionSquareArtsFest.org*

10-12... Prescott, AZ, **Prescott Intertribal Social Powwow:** At Watson Lake, features drumming and dancing from various American Indian tribes.
928-649-0474 • *PrescottPowwowCommittee.org*



August 19, 2010
El Paso, TX, **John Wesley Hardin Secret Society:** Re-enactment of John Wesley Hardin's death by the Six Guns and Shady Ladies.
915-842-8200 • *ConcordiaCemetery.org*

11... Prescott, AZ, **Fall Gathering:** Celebrates the Phippen Museum's 26th year with a chuckwagon BBQ and authentic live cowboy music.
928-778-1385 • *PhippenArtMuseum.org*

11... Waco, TX, **Showcase Waco! 2010:** Performing arts festival featuring folklorico dancers, plus regional art, children's activities and local eats.
254-750-8610 • *WacoCVB.com*

15-18... Pendleton, OR, **Pendleton Round-Up:** Celebrates 100 years and features rodeo events such as wild cow milking, bull riding and steer wrestling.
800-457-6336 • *PendletonRoundUp.com*

15-19... Winfield, KS, **Walnut Valley Festival:** Western music concerts by Bill Barwick, Roz Brown and Prickly Pair & the Cactus Chorale.
620-221-3250 • *WVFest.com*

17-18... Fort Bayard, NM, **Fort Bayard Days:** Tour the nurse's quarters and the commanding officer's home, then dance at the military ball.
575-956-3294 • *FortBayard.org*

17-19... Sioux Falls, SD, **Spirit of the West:** Fast draw competitions, dutch oven cook offs, live Western music, trade show and trail rides.
605-334-9202 • *SpiritOfTheWestFestival.com*

18... Madelia, MN, **Younger Brothers Capture:** Watch the shoot-out re-enactment between the Younger Brothers and Madelia's Magnificent Seven.
888-941-7283 • *VisitMadelia.com*

18-19... Dewey, OK, **Western Heritage Weekend:** Commemorates Oklahoma's early heritage with parades, Wild West show and the Tom Mix Festival.
918-534-2272 • *CityOfDewey.com*

23-26... Omaha, NE, **Ak-Sar-Ben's River City Rodeo & Stock Show:** Since 1947, rodeo features concerts by Sawyer Brown and Jack Ingram.
402-554-9600 • *RiverCityRoundup.org*

24-25... Medicine Lodge, KS, **Kansas Championship Ranch Rodeo:** Ranching teams compete in double mugging and calf doctoring.
620-886-9815 • *PeaceTreaty.org*

24-25... Hot Springs, SD, **Badger Clark Hometown Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering:** Performers keep up the custom forged by "A Cowboy's Prayer" poet.
800-325-6991 • *HotSprings-SD.com*

24-26... Hayes Center, NE, **Grand Duke Alexis Rendezvous:** The last buffalo hunt comes to life through storytellers and historical presentations. 308-286-3463 • *GrandDukeAlexis.com*

24-Oct. 17... Dallas, TX, **State Fair of Texas:** Includes livestock shows, juried art contests, Texas BBQ, Pee Wee Stampede and pig racing. 214-565-9931 • *BigTex.com*

25-26... Morrison, CO, **1830's Rendezvous & Spanish Colonial Market:** Retablos, bultos, tin work on sale, plus Mountain Man encampment. 303-839-1671 • *TesoroFoundation.org*

27... Oklahoma City, OK, **Traditional Cowboy Arts Association:** Showcases traditional cowboy crafts, such as leather crafting and spur making. 405-478-2250 • *NationalCowboyMuseum.org*

29-October 3... Fort Concho, TX, **National Cavalry Competition:** Horsemanship competition for riding, bugle, platoon drill and authenticity. 325-481-2646 • *FortConcho.com*

30-October 3... Durango, CO, **Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering:** Headliners Chris Isaacs and Red Steagall, plus a poetry train ride. 970-749-2995 • *DurangoCowboyGathering.org*

30-October 3... Valentine, NE, **Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering:** Cowboy poets, trail ride and old-time melodrama. 800-658-4024 *NebraskaCowboyPoetryGathering.com*

30-October 3... Wilcox, AZ, **Rex Allen Days:** Celebrate the singing cowboy's hometown with a rodeo, parade and concert by Rex Allen Jr. and his sons. 800-200-2272 • *RexAllenDays.org*

TWMag.com:
Expanded Events Coverage: View and post your Western events.



Now Through Oct. 24, 2010
Prescott, AZ, **Rembrandt of the Rodeo:** Exhibits Kenneth M. Freeman's portraits of rodeo performers, including *Bronc Busters*, shown above. 928-778-1385 • *PhippenArtMuseum.org*







Rediscovering the O.K. Corral

You never know what you'll find in a government storage space.

"You sons of bitches, you have been looking for the coroner's report, and you can have it!"

Okay, that's not exactly Cochise County Sheriff John Behan's testimony at the coroner's inquest. (He said one of the Earps called out, "you have been looking for a fight.") But we could envision the gunfighter saying that today if he heard the latest news surrounding this legendary Old West shoot-out.

You know the story of how four lawmen and four Cowboys met in an empty lot behind Tombstone, Arizona's O.K. Corral in the early afternoon of October 26, 1881. How three of the Cowboys were killed, and three of the officers were wounded.

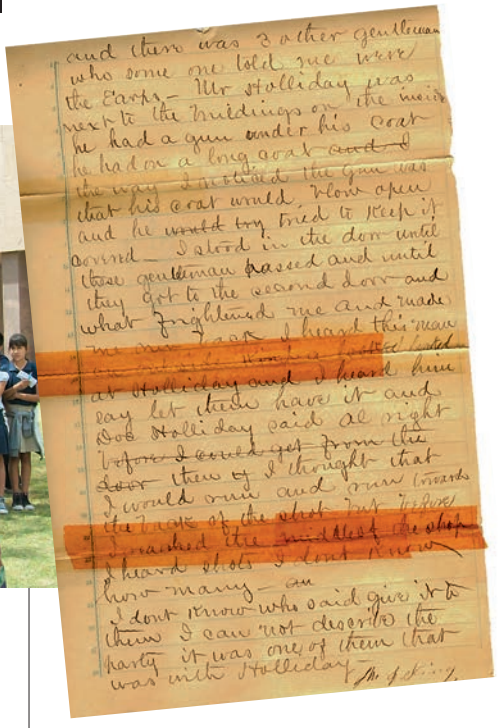
You may not know the aftermath.

Two days after the gunfight, Cochise County Coroner H.M. Matthews impaneled eight citizens as a coroner's jury, charged with rendering a verdict on how Billy Clanton and Frank and Tom McLaury met their maker. Eight people testified. Cochise County Sheriff Johnny Behan. Ike Clanton, who had been present when the guns went off but ran away. Billy "The Kid" Claiborne, who had left the empty lot just as the lawmen arrived. All the witnesses had either seen the battle or had relevant information about the incident.

After two days of testimony and a couple hours of deliberations, the inquest conclusion was too obvious—the McLaurys and young Clanton died of gunshot wounds inflicted by Wyatt, Morgan and Virgil Earp, and Doc Holliday. People grumbled; they wanted the verdict to tell who started the affray.

The number of shots during the fight: about 30 in approximately 30 seconds. The number of words in the inquest verdict: 42, after two days of work.





Cochise County Clerk Denise Lundin (above, at left) hands over the O.K. Corral Coroner's Inquest to Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett and State Librarian Gladys Ann Wells at the Arizona Archives on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

Landlady Mrs. M.J. King was walking to the butcher shop when she encountered the Earp party, just before the men entered an empty lot to face the Cowboys. In this original handwritten transcript from the coroner's inquest (at right), Mrs. King testifies when it was clear that shooting was about to start, she ran for cover.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY DENISE LUNDIN –

Like all such official documents, the inquest report was kept at the Cochise County Courthouse. When Bisbee became the county seat in 1929, it moved there. Copies were made over the years, even as the 36 handwritten pages yellowed and tape was used to hold the pages together.

A 1969 letter from the county clerk indicates her office had possession of the report at that point. But some time after that, the document went missing. Nobody was sure if it had been tossed out, stolen or just misplaced. Some attempts were made to locate it, but the clerk's office was understaffed and overworked. The efforts were for naught.

Until last March 31.

Two deputy clerks going through an old jail storage space in the courthouse noticed a box with some modern manila envelopes marked "Keep." The date was 1881. They turned the box and its contents over to Cochise County Clerk Denise Lundin, who had been looking for the coroner's report since taking office in 1994. She immediately recognized it and was elated at the find.

The condition of the documents concerned her. "We are record keepers, not archivists," Lundin says. "We have neither the resources nor the expertise to properly handle these important and valuable documents."

The solution: give the inquest documents to the Arizona State Archives, which she did on April 21. Document restorers will work to stabilize the fragile paper and ink. Eventually, the report will be on exhibit and, hopefully, available online.

Lundin says she's also talking with historians and archivists about looking for more old documents in the courthouse. She believes other materials from Tombstone's Wild West era are just waiting to be rediscovered.



Ready for Boothill

The funeral for Tom McLaury, Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton (from left)– held on the day between the gunfight and the start of the coroner's inquest– was called one of the largest in Tombstone's history.

DODGE CITY DOCKET ONLINE

A historic Dodge City, Kansas, police docket book is now on the world wide web. It covers the years 1878-82 and features entries involving Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp. The docket had been missing for several decades until Ford County Historical Society member Roger Myers read about it on October 1, 2007, when *True West* blogged to its readers that the docket was up for auction. Dodge City officials went to court to retrieve the book–and got it back last December.

See it at: *ContentCat.FHSU.edu*



Gunnison Crested Butte

COLORADO ~ PURE & SIMPLE™

GunnisonCrestedButte.com · 800.852.3956

UNITED

1880s Western and Victorian Rocky Mountain Towns Packaged by Nature

One Basket at a Time

Yosemite National Park Ranger Julia Parker takes on a crazy notion.

When Julia Parker was first approached to demonstrate native basket weaving at Yosemite National Park, she thought the idea was crazy.

"I'm not indigenous," protested Julia, noting she came from northern California's Kashia Pomo tribe, not the park's Miwok-Paiutes. "I'm not a polished speaker and besides, I don't know how to make baskets."

But Park Naturalist Douglass Hubbard told her, "You can learn." That was almost 50 years ago. Today, Julia is a veteran ranger and one of the nation's most cherished weavers. The National Endowment of the Arts honored her in 2007 with one of its lifetime-recognition awards, the National Heritage Fellowship.

Julia had traveled a long and serpentine route before a "non-Indian" (her term for anyone who is not native) talked her into learning one of the oldest skills of her people.

She never learned to weave as a girl, because she and her four younger siblings were orphaned in 1936, when she was about seven, and taken away from their "real people."

The children only stayed together for the next five years because a German woman, Eva Williams, took them all in. Although Eva taught Julia to be proud of being an "Indian"—a word Julia had never heard—she had nothing to teach the child of her culture.

Julia certainly didn't learn weaving at the Stewart Indian School of Nevada, where the mantra was to "forget you're an Indian." Boys were prepared to be electricians and plumbers; girls were conditioned to be maids.

She married into a weaving family when she wed her classmate Ralph Parker and moved to Yosemite Village in California, but his paternal grandmother—master weaver Lucy—never taught her either. Julia never even owned a native basket until Grandma Lucy presented her one for her first daughter Lucy.

Grandma Lucy did teach her the importance of baskets and how different designs served various uses. Grandma Lucy unfortunately died before Hubbard approached Julia to reinstate basket weaving demonstrations at the park's museum.

But Grandma Lucy's "cousin-sisters" taught her. "My first basket was a little crooked thing," which took her a long time to make. "The cousin-sisters told me I had to give away my first basket, and then I was a weaver." She gave it to a non-Indian friend who has since passed away. "If it's meant to come back to me, it will come back," she says.

She learned the prayers said in the field while collecting reeds: "You take from the Earth with a please and then you give back to the earth with a thank you."

She learned how to properly lay the reeds in the carrying basket: "Always with the earth end first, never the sky end."

She learned how to scrape the willow until it sings: "You have to wait for the plant to talk to you."

She still insisted she wasn't a public speaker, so she'd "hide behind the basket," while another park ranger told the story of the native people of the area. "One day, somebody said something that wasn't right. And I thought 'I better learn to tell the story of these wonderful people myself.'"

With storytelling added to her arsenal, she has played a major role in assuring basket weaving isn't a lost art. Several years ago, she helped found the California Indian Women's Basket Association. Daughter Lucy, now in her 50s, is a past president. Julia's weaving legacy extends to 35-year-old granddaughter Ursula and great-granddaughter Naomi, who is 13. Julia says around 300 girls and women have been trained in basket weaving through the association.

Julia plans to be weaving the rest of the days of her life. The skill is so important to her, she tells *True West*, because she doesn't think American Indian women have ever had their due in the importance of the baskets they have made for generations. "Baskets tell stories—it's important to tell our people and others how important they are; how important the plants are and how important it is to take care of the plants and not abuse them."



Julia Parker, from northern California's Kashia Pomo tribe, discovered her talent and passion for weaving from an unexpected source.

– By Kari Cobb / NPS Photo –

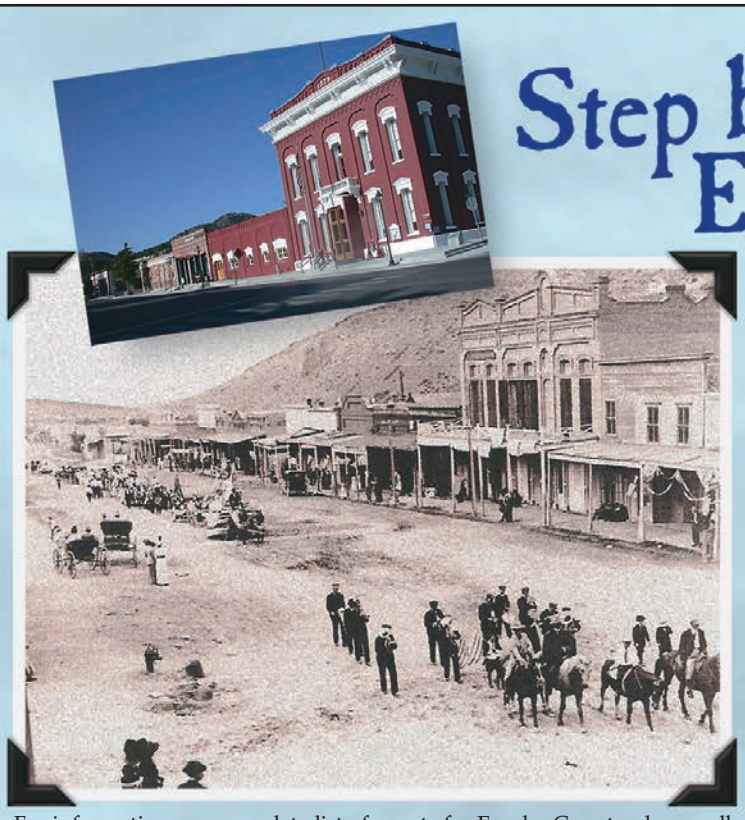
She has made probably 500 baskets, from small ones, as toys for children, that can take a few hours to weave, to "large salad bowl"-sized baskets that can take months. She personally presented one of her creations to Queen Elizabeth II of England during her majesty's 1983 visit to Yosemite. The basket is now exhibited in a London museum.

"When they asked me to make her a gift, I didn't know what kind of basket to make," Julia remembers. "I couldn't make her a cooking basket, because she doesn't cook. I couldn't make her a burden basket, because she doesn't carry things on her back. I couldn't make her a baby basket because, well, you know she's not that age. So I made her an oblong gift basket. It took me a year."

Some may find it ironic that a non-Indian first got her into basket weaving, but Julia thinks it was meant to be. "Each one of us has special gifts. This is the gift I had and didn't know."

Jana Bommersbach has been Arizona's Journalist of the Year, won an Emmy for her television reporting, has been awarded two Lifetime Achievement Awards and is the author of two nationally-acclaimed true crime books.

Step back in time Eureka, Nevada



Discover this quaint community that started as a thriving mining town in 1864. Step back in time as you tour Eureka and enjoy the historical sites.

- Take a self guided historic walking tour.
- Trace the Pony Express and Overland Stage route in the heart of the county.
- Free wifi at the train car.

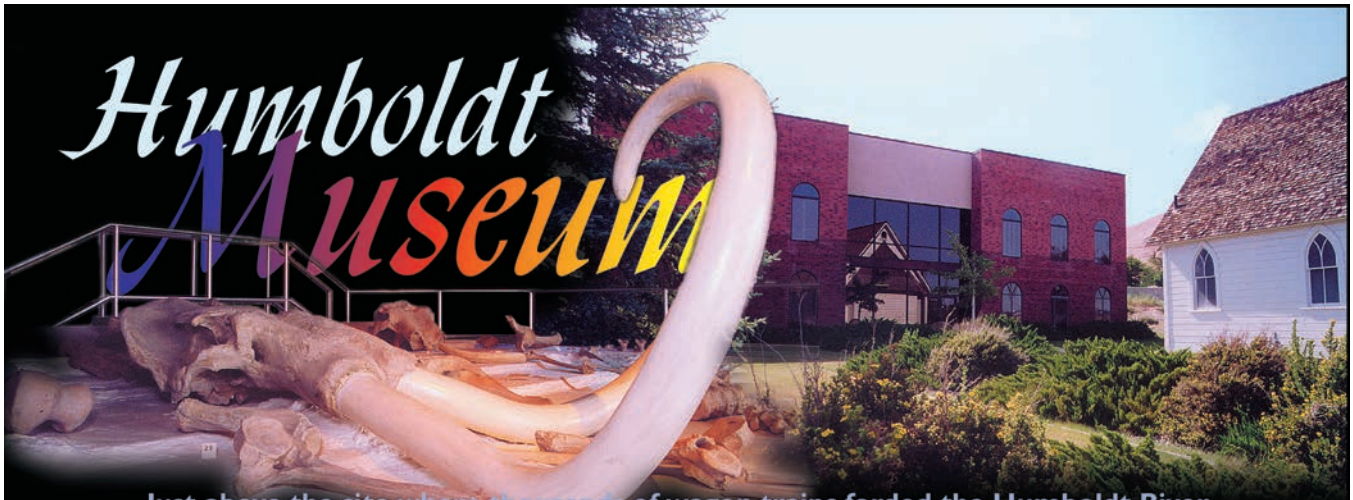
Upcoming Events

- July 4th Old Fashioned 4th of July Parade Celebrate and Fireworks
- July 16 Cowboy Celtic–Eureka Opera House 775-237-6006
- July 16-18 Eureka Walk-A-Bout–Perdiz Sport Shoot 775-237-7027
- Thursdays August & September Farmers Market 4-6 PM Main Street at Gold Street
- August 6 Giletti Brothers Western Music–Eureka Opera House • 775-237-6006

For information or a complete list of events for Eureka County please call 775-237-5484, email econdev@eurekanv.org or www.co.eureka.nv.us or www.eurekacounty.com

Funded in part by www.travelnevada.com

Humboldt Museum



Just above the site where thousands of wagon trains forded the Humboldt River on the long trek to California, sits the Humboldt Museum. The modern brick building mirrors its historic predecessor, a church turned museum.

Together, the buildings house the story of the community.

Remains from the ice age of 13,000 years ago, wonderful beaded and quilled regailia from an American Indian collection, vintage automobiles, keepsakes from Winnemucca's "art nouveau" period and a charming rural parlor from the early days of nearby Paradise Valley are among the treasures awaiting your visit.

The Humboldt Museum located on the corner of Jungo Road and Maple Ave.

PO Box 819, Winnemucca, Nevada 89446 – 775-623-2912

email: museum@winnemucca.net Website: www.humboldtmuseum.com

"He's No Parlor Car Artist"

William Robinson Leigh sets a record as his work nears the million-dollar mark.

"Remington, Russell and Leigh were once as familiar to the art world as Bach, Beethoven and Brahms to musicians, or Tinker, Evers and Chance to baseball fans."

That's how a newspaper from William Robinson Leigh's home state of West Virginia, the *Parkersburg Sentinel*, celebrated the artist on May 1, 1954.

On May 20, 2010, Christie's New York celebrated him via dollar signs—$800,000 to be exact—when his painting *Embarrassed (Range Pony in Town)* earned him his highest auction record to date. On the reverse is inscribed "scene from Cody, Wyoming," a state he toured on hunting trips, beginning in 1910.

On the first trip, the artist's palate yearned to taste food other than trout, sage hen and squirrel, which Leigh noted in his Wyoming diary, dated July 12 to August 4, 1910. When it came to his palette, he wrote that he could not sketch on an overcast day, because it distorted the coloration, and that a sudden downpour could ruin weeks of work sketching the wilderness region of the Carter Mountain, along the South Fork of the Shoshone River and southwest of Cody.

Leigh's constant companion during these trips was not only Will Richard, who co-owned the American Taxidermy Shop in Cody, but also bloodsucking flies. "After a day of sketching, my palette was thickly strewn with dead, dying, or famished insects; I ignored them," he recorded in his autobiography. "After work it took me an hour, with the point of a penknife blade, to pick the dead mosquitoes off my studies."

In 1913, the famous Yellowstone landscape artist Thomas Moran would give kudos to Leigh for drawing out in the field: "He's no parlor car artist."







(Clockwise from top): William Robinson Leigh's *Embarrassed (Range Pony in Town)* and *The Night Watch* hammered in at Christie's New York for $800,000 and $400,000 respectively, while *Land of His Fathers* sold at Heritage Auction Galleries for an $11,000 bid.

Yet it's true that in the French post-impressionist era, this artist who had trained in Munich realism was not a favorite of the art critics, who often dismissed him as a romantic illustrator, not a true artist. The *Washington Sun Star* actually put it the nicest, when the newspaper reported on January 14, 1917, on Leigh's lack of free expression: "Sharp, Russell, Remington, Schreyvogel, Paxon, DeCamp, even Goodwin are not as capable as Leigh, but they grabbed it."

Toward the end of his life, though, Leigh had his fans. "His principal admirers are not critics, but western enthusiasts and anthropologists. They like his photographic realism and painstaking authenticity," *Newsweek* reported on January 24, 1944.

He would finally gain the right to sign his name with an "N.A." in exhibition catalogues when he was elected a National Academician on March 2, 1955. Yet that title would appear only posthumously, as he

When New York City's Grand Central Art Galleries billed Leigh as the "only living member of the Remington-Russell-Leigh trio" for its 1944 exhibition, nearly 200 newspapers repeated the sentiment and launched Leigh into national prominence. Frederic Remington, who painted the West from his New York studio, drew the below work of art while working on illustrations for an 1890 *Harper's Magazine* article. *A Mexican Buccaroo-in Texas* hammered in at Heritage for $195,000.





When 40-year-old Leigh accepted his former Munich classmate Albert Groll's invitation to visit him in Laguna, New Mexico, during the summer of 1906, he not only would discover his passion for Southwestern subjects, he also met Joseph Henry Sharp. Leigh's Western art would later on be shown in the same exhibitions as the Taos Society artist. One of Sharp's favorite Taos models was Jerry "Elk Foot" Mirabel, who posed for the artist from 1913 to 1949 and is shown in this portrait that sold at Heritage for $60,000.

A contemporary of Leigh's, Charles Schreyvogel has commanded million-dollar sales at auction. Last year, his 1906 oil *Saving Their Lieutenant* hammered in at Scottsdale Art Auction for $1.4 million; in 2006, his 1909 oil *Saving the Dispatch* sold at Cowan's Auctions for $1.3 million. (He has not quite reached the $5 million range that Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell have achieved.) Yet the sale at Heritage proves you don't need to be a millionaire to own one of Schreyvogel's works. His 1900 platinum print *Defending the Stockade* (below left) sold for $750. Also included in the auction was Henry August Schwabe's portrait of the artist (below right), selling for $2,200.





died at the age of 88, nine days later, with an unfinished painting left on his easel.

Leigh is most famous for his portrayals of the Southwestern Indian, who often appears alone to emphasize Leigh's admiration of the Indian's individualism and close affinity to nature. *Land of His Fathers*, depicting a Navajo boy solitarily perched over the goat herd he commands, exemplifies this well; it hammered in at Heritage Auction Galleries in Dallas, Texas, on May 15, 2010, for $11,000.

Like Leigh told the *Dallas Morning News* on January 20, 1946, the "only good Indian in art is a big one."

Notable Art Lots Included
(Images courtesy Heritage Auction Galleries or Christie's New York)

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

August 8, 2010
Midnight American History
Cowan's Auctions (Cincinnati, OH)
Cowans.com • 513-871-1670

August 14, 2010
Western and American Indian Art
Altermann Galleries (Santa Fe, NM)
Altermann.com • 505-983-1590

August 14-15, 2010
American Indian Artifacts & Art
Allard Auctions (Santa Fe, NM)
AllardAuctions.com • 888-314-0343

A Cowboy Classic is Created

America's Colt Peacemaker actually started out as a Russian.

Did you know that the world's best-known "cowboy six-shooter," the 1873 Colt Single Action Army (SAA), started its career as a military sidearm, designed primarily for the U.S. Cavalry?

Despite its more formal names of "Model P" or "Peacemaker," the Colt SAA is also commonly known to many as the "Cowboy Six-Gun," "Colt .45" or the "Frontier Colt." Although it was created as a cavalry firearm, much of the Peacemaker's worldwide recognition comes from the popularity of America's Western films. In the hands of movie and TV cowboy heroes such as John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and Tom Selleck, the Colt SAA has tamed the celluloid frontier. You could say it has become a "cowboy star" in its own right.

The '73 Colt's story actually began in 1872 with the issuance of Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company's first large-frame, metallic cartridge revolver, the .44 Colt caliber 1872 Open Top Revolver, often considered as the parent arm of the Colt Single Action. While the Hartford firm was advertising and selling the 1872 Model (a totally new revolver, rather than another cartridge conversion of older percussion models), research and development was proceeding quietly in creating an entirely different solid-frame revolver. By November of 1872, Colt's new "Strap Pistol" had pretty much taken on the classic look of the now famous Peacemaker.

The U.S. Army Ordnance tested it against the Smith & Wesson "American" break-top revolver, which was one of the government's service pistols at the time. Interestingly, the first of Colt's sample handguns sent to them was chambered for the new .44 S&W Russian cartridge. It would also handle the .44 Colt round, then in use in a number of "Richards" and "Richards-Mason" cartridge conversion revolvers. Colt's vice president and general agent, the retired Gen. W.B. Franklin, felt that the newer .44 S&W Russian cartridge, which had proved superior to the .44 S&W American load, would be preferred by the Army for its latest handgun. Yet in order for the military to conduct exacting tests on both revolvers, both arms had to have the same chamberings.

Therefore, the Colt sample was returned to the factory to be re-chambered. After several months of testing, Colt also decided to increase the bore diameter to .45 inches. Government officials were pleased with the new sample gun in .45 Colt chambering.

On July 23, 1873, the final signature was added to the first U.S. Government contract for the SAA Colt. This agreement called for the delivery of 8,000 revolvers and appendages, which consisted of one screwdriver per pistol, at a price of $13 per unit. The Colt Peacemaker, now in full production, took its first steps down the halls of history.



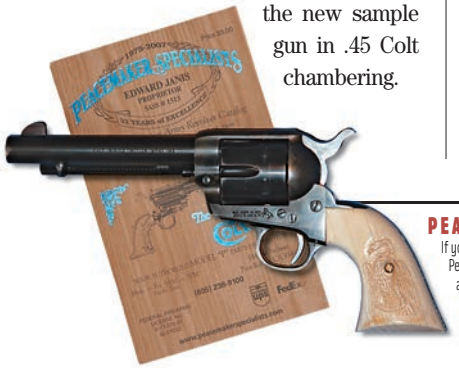


This government illustration from an 1870s military manual shows the 1873 Colt Single Action Army in .45 Colt caliber.

– True West Archives –

Although originally designed for the U.S. Cavalry, the 1873 Colt Single Action Army, a.k.a. the Peacemaker, quickly became a favorite with frontiersmen everywhere. Between the six-gun's Old West history and its usage on the silver screen, it has arguably become the most recognizable revolver in the world! This trooper, in 1880s field dress, is obviously quite proud of his 7½-inch barreled (the original length) Colt SAA; he's tucked it in his M-1876 Prairie belt for all to see.

– Courtesy Richard Ignarski –

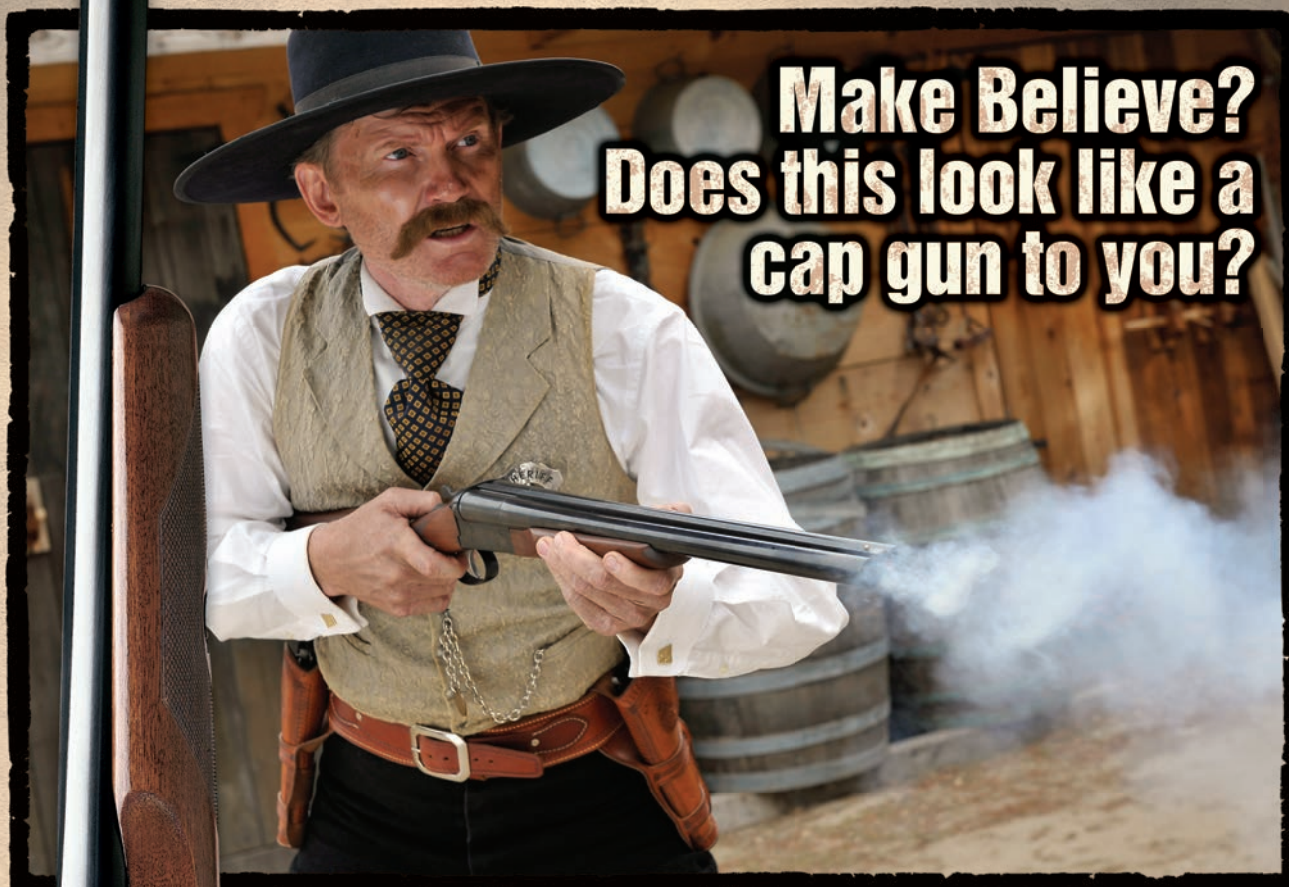


Phil Spangenberger writes for *Guns & Ammo* magazine, appears on the History Channel and other documentary networks, produces Wild West shows, is a Hollywood gun coach and character actor, and is a Field Editor and regular columnist for *True West*.

PEACEMAKER SPECIALISTS

If you're looking for replacement parts for first-, second- and third-generation Colt Peacemakers and Bisley models, turn to Peacemaker Specialists. As an official Colt parts agent, the company offers blued and nickel-plated Colt SAA parts, like base pins, hammers and ejector tubes. It even has a few original U.S. Arsenal surplus parts.

805-238-9100 • *PeacemakerSpecialists.com*



Coach Guns

If you compete in Cowboy Action Shooting you know this is a serious sport. Your scatter-gun should be the same. Chambered for 3-inch shells and available in blue, satin nickel or polished nickel finish, the affordable Stoeger Coach Gun is as formidable as it is handsome. Whether you're heading for a competition shootout or just want a little extra security at home, you'll want to take a serious look at the Stoeger Coach Gun.



RUGGED. RELIABLE. REVOLUTIONARY.



Silverado Coach Gun – 12-GA or 20-GA **MSRP $469**

Coach Gun Supreme – 12-GA or 20-GA **MSRP $469 with Single Trigger**

Coach Gun – 12-GA, 20-GA or .410 **MSRP $399**

Coach Gun Supreme – 12-GA or 20-GA **MSRP $469**

Stoeger®
Serving America's Sportsmen Since 1924



To request a FREE DVD catalog visit
freedvd.stoegerindustries.com

StoegerIndustries.com A Benelli USA company.

The Bad Boy Behind the Mystery Man

An interview with TV's The Virginian: James Drury.

The Virginian was designed to be the first Mystery man of Old West fiction.

He did not wear a mask or carry silver bullets, but he has managed to survive for more than a century without ever once revealing his real name. We know more about the Lone Ranger's backstory than we do the hero of Owen Wister's best-selling 1902 novel, who only admits to being 24, well-traveled in the West and from Virginia.

While far from being the first book set in the American West, *The Virginian* is the novel that defined the character of the American cowboy ("When you call me that, smile."). The book serves as a primary reference for generations of stories, up to and including Larry McMurtry's "Lonesome Dove" series; Wister's character Steve clearly informs Dove's Jake Spoon.

The popularity and quality of the novel explains why it's been so frequently filmed, beginning with Cecil B. DeMille's 1914 adaptation; followed by another in 1923; the most famous, starring Gary Cooper, in 1929; another, featuring Joel McCrea (who was too old for the part), in 1946; and, more recently, a made-for-TV version in 2000 with Bill Pullman and Diane Lane. In each of these versions the character and events are essentially unchanged. Wister nailed the story out of the gate—in much the same way that The Virginian ropes a feisty pony in the very first paragraph of the novel.

Modern audiences are familiar with another adaptation: the TV show, *The Virginian*, which endured for nine seasons, from 1962-71. What most distinguished *The Virginian* from all other TV Westerns was its length; each episode was 90 minutes long, which, after commercials and including credits, measures roughly 75 minutes per show. In essence, each show ran the equivalent time of your average B-Western feature.

To make *The Virginian* work as episodic television, the writers had to make a few essential changes to the story, in order to create a core set of characters who could remain intact from one episode to the next. For instance, in every filmed version of the novel, The Virginian's nemesis was the character Trampas, who is killed by The Virginian at the conclusion of the story. Yet in a TV series, a central character can't kill his literary enemy in the first show. Nor can he have a single romantic interest, Molly Wood, like he does in the book—not if he wants to share screen time with hot, series-hopping, ratings-boosting Hollywood ingénues from one season to the next.

The writers kept Trampas (Doug McClure) but bleached his villainy, making him The Virginian's roguish pal. Trampas's friend Steve (Gary Clarke), who is hanged for rustling in the story, becomes his third cowbuddy. Molly (Pippa Scott) fared less well. The series transformed her from schoolteacher to newspaper owner to, well, dead. Molly lasted only seven episodes before exiting the series altogether. (Westerns fans best remember Scott as Ethan Edwards's murdered niece Lucy in 1956's *The Searchers*.)

In the part of The Virginian the show cast James Drury, a handsome and personable actor who had learned horsemanship as a tot on his mother's family ranch in Oregon. After studying acting in New York (his father was a professor of marketing at NYU), Drury had been bouncing around Hollywood in small-medium movie roles and various TV series for a handful of years.



The men and ladies from Shiloh: (clockwise, from top left) James Drury as The Virginian (inset shows Drury today); Pippa Scott as his love interest Molly Wood; Roberta Shore as Betsy Garth; Lee J. Cobb as Judge Henry Garth, who owned Shiloh Ranch; Gary Clarke as ranch hand Steve Hill; and Doug McClure as Trampas.

– *The Virginian* images courtesy NBC –

At the age of 28, after just wrapping a part as one of the vile Hammond brothers in Sam Peckinpah's 1962 movie *Ride the High Country*, Drury was just about perfect for the part. Drury had the exact amount of authority the character of The Virginian required to assure audiences he was capable of assuming top hand responsibilities in a spread as big as the Shiloh Ranch. Drury had also played the part in a 1958 one-off pilot version of the story, when, interestingly, he was the actual age of the character in the novel. The show remembered Drury when it came time to look for the lead.

Drury is the man who can best attest to the devotion of the show's fans. He continues to meet with his fans at events all over the country. When we spoke to him, by phone, he was preparing for his appearance at an annual celebration of William Boyd and his character Hopalong Cassidy in Boyd's hometown of Cambridge, Ohio. In fact, the event was hosting a *Virginian* reunion, where fellow cast members Gary Clarke, Roberta Shore and Randy Boone were joining Drury.

True West: *Is it true that your first major success as an actor came when you were eight years old, playing a man in his seventies?*

Drury: I was in a Christmas play about King Herod and the Christ child. I played King Herod with a great flowing beard and long robes. I hit my marks, and said my words, and I knew them all. When it was over, people clapped. That was a new experience for me. I didn't believe that I could make someone applaud me for doing what I'd done. I thought, "Well, if I can get 'em to clap for something like this, I've gotta learn more about it." So I just stayed with it all the way through junior high, high school and at New York University, which had an excellent Shakespearean program at that time. We were trained as classical actors.

I came back out West for a vacation when I finished my junior year, was in Los Angeles for seven days and got a contract at MGM in 1954. I kept going and growing and kept learning. When I was 26 I was signed to Universal for seven years. I had no idea they had *The Virginian* in mind [for me], but apparently they did. They kept screen-testing me and telling me I was too fat, so I lost 30 pounds in 30 days.

Where did you work prior to the show?

One of the first jobs I had at MGM was to appear in a picture called *Diane* with Lana Turner and Pedro Armendariz, where he was King Francis I. I had to play a palace guard, standing around with a helmet and a spear. But I was on horseback quite a few times in the picture, and they saw that I could ride. I've been on horses since I was in diapers, on my grandfather's ranch in Oregon. From then on, most of my acting career was done from the saddle. I had expected to do important, serious work. . . . Once *The Virginian* came along, it just cooked my goose as far as being a Westerns actor. . . .

I can do many other things; I haven't had much of a chance to do them. Still, I just turned 76, and [Sir John] Gielgud was working when he was 95, so I think there's hope for me yet. The point of the matter is, if you can play Shakespeare, you can play anything.

The theatre brings to mind how uneasy Broadway veteran Lee J. Cobb, who played Judge Henry Garth, felt acting in the series.

That's right. And he was making an awful lot of money on the show, more money than he'd made in a long time. He was absolutely responsible for us to be able to go into production on *The Virginian*. Because of his name and his status as an actor, they didn't even require us to make a pilot. We just started making the shows. This was a tremendous gamble, because it was the first 90-minute show with continuing characters. Most people didn't think we could do it. . . .

But Lee was really frustrated; he wanted to do more important things. He once gave an interview where he said, "If I had the money, I'd buy up all this film and make banjo picks out of it." He had to come to work the next day, after the interview appeared, but we loved him and



THE VIRGINIAN SEASON ONE

While later episodes of *The Virginian* play daily on Encore's Westerns channel, the entire first season of the series has been thoughtfully packaged on nine, high-quality DVDs, with an additional disc full of interviews and extras. The first season offers much to commend it, including reigning and upcoming stars (see notable cast members below).



The Accomplice
Bette Davis guest stars as respected spinster Celia Miller, who fingers Trampas in a bank robbery during her attempt to extort money from the real thief.



Duel at Shiloh
Shares the story, via flashbacks, of how Steve Hill arrived in Medicine Bow. Hill recalls his meeting with Johnny Wade (Brian Keith), while hitching a ride on a westbound train.



The Brazen Bell
Convicts escape from a local prison and hold the town's children and new schoolmaster Mr. Lilly (George C. Scott) hostage in the schoolhouse.



A Distant Fury
Ida Lupino guest stars as an accomplice to a robbery whose daughter (Joey Heatherton) is dating Steve Hill. Lupino went on to direct episodes for *The Virginian*.



It Tolls for Thee
In this episode directed by Samuel Fuller (*Run of the Arrow; The Big Red One*), Trampas and Steve Hill rescue Judge Henry Garth from a deranged convict (Lee Marvin).



Vengeance is the Spur
After traveling into the Wyoming badlands to help a woman (Nina Foch) find her husband (Michael Rennie), The Virginian becomes entangled in a web of deceit and greed.



The Big Deal
A wealthy businessman from South America (Ricardo Montalban) comes to Medicine Bow to purchase a piece of land from Judge Garth that had been leased to Shiloh Ranch by the man's father.



The Golden Door
A neighbor of Shiloh is found brutally murdered, and a young immigrant family is suspected. Robert Duvall guest stars as the man's son Johnny Keel.

kidded him about it. Of course he did eventually leave. I was able to see him do King Lear, and he was wonderful.

What happened with Charles Marquis Warren, who was originally slated to produce the TV show, but was replaced by Roy Huggins and others?

He was great, and he had a great concept of the show, but, you know, there's nothing like success to bring out people that want to tinker with that success. That's all I can really attribute anything to. They just decided that he had maybe too much power or maybe he was too much—I don't know. They certainly didn't check with me. . . .

Basically, the show had a life of its own, and we survived the producers that they gave us. No matter what happened, we survived, because the show had such a great central core of characters. And we had this marvelous ability to attract major actors and actresses because of our 90-minute format. We had big, big parts for those people, not big parts for an hour show, but big parts for an hour and a half, and that's 71 minutes and 30 seconds worth of film! . . .

Charles was treated badly and was kind of run out on a rail for no good reason. He produced the George C. Scott episode ["The Brazen Bell"], for God's sake.

What's the story behind you and the Chapman Crane, which was used to elevate and move the movie cameras?

They kept trying to cut the budget, cut things down, cut down the amounts of times we could use special equipment like a Chapman Crane.

I became very, very difficult about that. I just went home. When you go home in the middle of the day, when they're shooting down there, it pisses a lot of people off. They'd say, "Well, what are you doing at home? We're shooting a picture here." I'd say, "Give me the Chapman Crane back, which was written in the script, then I'll come back."

The Chapman Crane would come back in, because that's what my cameraman wanted, that's what he said he wanted, told me he wanted, so that's what he got.

Did you enjoy having that much clout?

Well, they couldn't do it without me. They tried, but they couldn't do it. That was just they way it worked. I certainly could have been a lot nicer about it, but if I had, I wouldn't have gotten it done. That's the other side of that coin.

I never raised hell about anything except quality. That's the only thing I was interested in. And I just tore 'em a new one every time they tried to cut the quality. As you can see, we had a great show for nine years.

I believed in the concept of the show so much, and so fervently, I knew how it was going over, because it was a show of great quality. "But we can't spend this much money on this show." Well, they were spending $330,000, I think, per show in the first season, and they wanted to cut

Restaurant & Saloon
Buffalo Bill's
IRMA HOTEL
est. 1902







Step back in time … into the old west of today, at the Irma Hotel — the heart and spirit of Cody, Wyoming! Enjoy cozy accommodations, fine dining (and the best prime rib in town!), entertaining times in the Silver Saddle Saloon, and western gifts and more at the Wild West Emporium.

The famed Cody Gunfighters perform nightly in front of the Irma Hotel. Join the crowd on the Irma porch at 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday from June through September. Family fun, and it's FREE!

www.irmahotel.com

1192 Sheridan Avenue ■ Cody, WY 82414 ■ Phone: 307.587.4221 ■ 1.800.745.4762

Buffalo Bill's
Cody Motor Lodge
AAA Approved

"Where the Western Past is present!"

1455 Sheridan Ave. ■ Cody, WY 82414
307.527.6291 ■ 1.800.340.CODY

www.codymotorlodge.net

Buffalo Bill's
ANTLERS INN

1213 17th St., Cody, WY 82414
307.587.2084
800.388.2084
www.antlersinncody.com

the budget by $30,000. I wouldn't stand for it. So by spending $330,000 on the second season and the third season, they began to net $1 million an episode, as it showed . . . and that's after everything was paid for. . . . At the end of the nine years, 260 or 270 shows that they admit to (I think there were 296, but hell, I was only there; I don't know), no one will admit to that. . . . So who was the crazy one? [Laughs.] Who was the bad guy?

It's so silly, because spending $330,000 to net $1 million is a pretty good deal in anybody's economy. Anyway, we got it done. At the end of the nine seasons, I tipped my hat, and we parted ways, and I haven't worked at Universal since. Not one time in 48 years. It's okay. I got what I wanted. [Laughs.]

Do you really believe anyone from the show is holding a grudge against you?

I think we finally got the DVDs released because all of my enemies finally died off. [Laughs.] But they weren't going to give up on being mad at me for a looong time.



"...I had forgotten those studio tours, you know, 12,000 people traipsing all over the place over the weekend. There I was on the set, dripping wet in the killing heat, wearing no makeup, looking like a witch searching for an old house to haunt, and these tours started coming through. The bright, young, know-it-all guide would happily tell his eager charges, 'And there, ladies and gentlemen, is the famous actress-directress Ida Lupino preparing for *The Virginian.*' I tell you, I wanted to die."

—Ida Lupino, shown at far left, on the set

Did you get your resistance to authority from your mom or your dad?

Actually from resisting everything my mom wanted me to do. She wanted me to become an actor, and I didn't want to become an actor. She booted me on stage and made me play King Herod in that biblical play for children. Then they clapped, these people clapped, and here I was, eight years old, deciding that that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

She wanted me to only associate with the best kind of people. I wanted to go out with the kids who were smoking. I started smoking when I was eight years old, and I started drinking when I was 12. All these things were very, very bad from my mother's point of view. I just enjoyed doing them because it made her mad!

I always was a contrarian. I got expelled from high school on the day before graduation for hollering in an assembly. A friend of mine was getting an award, and I was hollering, giving him kudos, you know. The monitors came down and cornered me, and took me to the vice-principal. He kicked me out of school. So I sat in the audience the next day, while all my classmates graduated, and smoked a cigar.

It's a life of defying authority, and I never changed a thing. It got me where I am today—at the Hopalong Cassidy Celebration. Here I am, and people have come from all over for our pictures and DVDs. I couldn't be more thrilled.

VINTAGE INSPIRED DENIM MADE FOR
REAL AMERICAN GIRLS



PREMIUM HANDMADE JEANS

Created for real westerners, vintage inspired fashion denim for women as well as men, offering an unbeatable custom fit. Your customers will recognize our high-end styling and will love our hard working construction and added finishing details. The latest alternative in quality denim, nowhere else can you find a one-year warranty on seaming and hardware.

Nashville country music star Felicia King is shown here wearing the Havana jean. Visit ***ironhorsejeans.com*** *to hear her new single Real American Girl.*

IRON HORSE JEANS™

Speaking of defying authority, how did you hook up with Sam Peckinpah?

The first time I worked with him was on an episode of *Trackdown* [1957-59 CBS series] with Robert Culp, which he had written and was directing. [Peckinpah] was appreciative of what I did on the show. . . . We remained friends and became drinking buddies.

When *Ride the High Country* came up, I understood or had heard that he wanted Bob Culp for the part. Bob didn't want to do it, because he didn't want to be perceived as a heavy, as a villain. His whole persona at the time was to be heroic. My persona at the time was to grab the part and play the hell out of it, and not worry. Let the chips fall where they may. It was a labor of love for me, and I had the greatest bunch of cutthroat mountain brothers you could ever put together, with L.Q. [Jones], Warren Oates and John David Anderson. They all played their lascivious best, and we just had a ball with it. I thought, "We're a great counterpoint to Joel McCrea and Randolph Scott, the heroic figures."

Of course Sam's direction was imaginative and inspired in every way. He had so many great ideas that he put together in that movie. It all just came together like a great recipe. It's one show that I'm really proud of. I loved every minute of it, and I'm so happy that Bob Culp didn't want to do it! [Laughs.]

In The Virginian, *didn't you work with two actors, Ben Johnson and Brian Keith, who also worked with Peckinpah?*

We did a movie for Disney called *Ten Who Dared*, where I played the brother of Maj. Wesley Powell, the guy who Lake Powell in Arizona is named after. There was a fight on the water with Ben Johnson and Keith and I, and I'm telling you, the only thing keeping that water we were in from turning to ice was that it was moving too fast! It was the coldest water that I felt in my life.

Sam went on to make *The Wild Bunch* and all that; a bunch of those people like L.Q and Warren Oates, who were in *Ride the High Country*, got to go on and work with him. But I got cast as "The Virginian," and I didn't get to do any more Peckinpah pictures, which I always regretted. I wouldn't really have traded *The Virginian*—I thought it was the better course of action.

All in all, I guess I'm one of the luckiest men who ever lived, and I'm still alive and vertical. When I get up in the morning, that's the main thing. My grandfather used to say, "You have to take the bitter with the sweet." [Laughs.]

DVD REVIEW

TCM Greatest Classic Film Collection: Westerns

(*Warner Home Video; $27.98*) This newest batch offers four solid post-1950s Westerns: two of **Sam Peckinpah's** best pictures, *Ride the High Country* (1962)





and *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* (1973), *Chisum* (1970), starring **John Wayne**, and an underrated **Gregory Peck** film, *The Stalking Moon* (1968).

The Peckinpah films need little introduction. While not everybody ranks *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* in the same class as 1969's *The Wild Bunch*, many agree that *Ride the High Country*, which starred **Randolph Scott** and **Joel McCrea**, is as good or better than anything Peckinpah ever made. It consistently lands near the top of every greatest Westerns list.

The John Wayne film, which, like *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid*, is about the Lincoln County War, is late-era Duke. It's loaded with Wayne/**John Ford** regulars, such as **Ben Johnson, Hank Worden** and **Bruce Cabot**. It's also one of only a handful of Wayne pictures that isn't part of any other collection.

The fourth movie in the bunch sits a little outside what is usually thought of as routine Westerns material. The *Stalking Moon* was directed by **Robert Mulligan**, who had directed Peck in 1962's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The script was written by **Alvin Sargent**, who started writing for TV in the mid-1950s. Most recently, Sargent has been at work on the forthcoming *Spider-Man* movie, his second contribution to the series.

What makes *The Stalking Moon* unique is that it's structured as a Suspense picture, as much as a Western. In the film, Peck is a scout who has taken in tow a former Apache captive, played by **Eva Marie Saint**, and her young son, who it turns out is the son of an Apache chief. We are told that the Apache is determined to get his son back, and he is one of the deadliest warriors in his tribe. Peck is retiring to his modest ranch in New Mexico and reluctantly offers the woman a place to live if she's willing to help with the work, but he's not entirely clued in on the danger he's put himself and his fellow ranch hand in. The movie makes good use of space and time, as it moves quietly toward a violent conclusion.

The Stalking Moon is not up there with other time-tense Westerns, such as 1952's *High Noon* and 1957/2007's *3:10 to Yuma*, but it's a movie that works well and doesn't ever sell its characters short. It makes a nice addition to the collection.

IN THE WORKS

Dark Tower Series

Stephen King, America's reigning Horror novelist, started his **Dark Tower** series in 1982 with *The Gunslinger*. The book features Roland Deschain, who, King admits, is inspired by **Clint Eastwood's** *Man With No Name* character from his **Sergio Leone** films.

A film trilogy and a TV series of this work is in the planning stages. **Ron Howard**, his partner **Brian Grazer**, **Akiva Goldsman** (*Jonah Hex*) and King will be producing. Howard will also be directing.

Henry Cabot Beck is the Film Editor for *True West*, writes about pop culture in general for other publications and is a member of the Phoenix Film Critics Society.



From Baxter Black to the Powwow Idol

For your reading pleasure: 137 performances you can sink your teeth into, plus chow to fill your tummy, bookstores to get lost in and rivers to float on while you're in town. You can't beat that with a stick.

BY THE EDITORS

BAXTER BLACK

Baxter Black famously, and poetically, said: "Cowboys aren't a vanishing breed, you just can't see 'em from the road!" So it make sense that *True West* kicks off its tribute to real-life, modern-day cow combatants who entertain the heck out of all of us with this venerable cowboy, poet and humorist who lives "between the horse and the cow," as he puts it, in Benson, Arizona.

When we asked Baxter what fans can expect from him this year, he told us: "I speak to cattlemen, rodeo hands, lab techs, corn growers, horse people, Farm Bureau, veterinary meetings, county fairs and the occasional National Public Radio urban groups. I have a mountain of stories and poems, and so I pick the ones that I think will appeal to each group and put them together like a string of pearls." So when you're out there, fans, know that Baxter is truly speaking to you—he's not just going through a set list.

Even so, quite a few of Baxter's stories appeal to all audiences: "The Vegetarian's Nightmare," "The Cow Attack" and "The Dog and the Rabbit" are sure to make the rounds this year. Baxter's latest pearl is "Tissue on the Range." "I owe the last one to Sheryl Crow for inspiration," he admits to us.

Among the last, biggest Western entertainment shows out there is the Monterey Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival in California on December 10-12. You'll want to make sure to attend the concerts of Wylie & the Wild West, an act Baxter says has "changed the water level in the 'cowboy entertainment aquarium.'"

Joining Wylie Gustafson and crew, other top cowboy wordsmiths will be doling out rhymes and tunes at these popular gatherings.



– By Kevin Martini-Fuller –

BAXTER BLACK

MONTANA COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

August 12-15, 2010 • Lewistown, MT
866-912-3980
MontanaCowboyPoetryGathering.com

The Next Act: Plan a picnic and go for a summer swim in the 68-degree fahrenheit Gigantic Warm Springs, located 14 miles north of town at the foothills of the North Moccasin Mountains. Rancher David Vanek, who owns the hot springs, charges a nominal admission fee during the June to September season.

ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING

August 13-14, 2010 • Prescott, AZ
928-776-2000 • *AZCowboyPoets.org*

The Next Act: Located at downtown's Whiskey Row, the Galloping Goose Gallery offers Navajo and Hopi jewelry, as well as Western art by Howard Terpning and Bill Anton. The gallery is named after a Buick Railmotor that chugged down Colorado's mining rail lines in the 1930s.

NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY RODEO

September 16-18, 2010 • Montrose, CO
435-899-1100 • *CowboyPoetry.com*

The Next Act: Head to El Jimador restaurant in Montrose for a tasty bowl of chile verde. Wash it down with a margarita of your choice—they make more than 60 varieties. "El Jimador" is the name given to farmers who cultivate blue agave—the main ingredient in tequila.

BADGER CLARK HOMETOWN COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC GATHERING

Sept. 24-25, 2010 • Hot Springs, SD
800-325-6991 • *HotSprings-SD.com*

The Next Act: You must have a bowl of buffalo chili at the Blue Bison café. You can't miss the sandbrick building, with the shellacked blue buffalo on the roof.

DURANGO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

September 30-October 3, 2010
Durango, CO • 970-749-2995
DurangoCowboyGathering.org

The Next Act: Starting in October, you can take an American Indian-guided tour of the Ute Mountain Tribal Park, six times larger than Mesa Verde and filled with virtually untouched archaeological Ute sites.

NEBRASKA COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

September 30-October 3, 2010
Valentine, NE • 800-658-4024
NebraskaCowboyPoetryGathering.com

The Next Act: Plains Trading Co. Booksellers offers out-of-print, Western and cowboy titles, and books by Nebraska authors and the Sandhills region. Yet what most don't know is you can grab some cowboy grub for the trail here; the bookstore's "Sandhills Crates" package up cowboy beans to fry bread mix, and are topped with a bouquet of sand bluestem grass.

HEBER CITY COWBOY POETRY GATHERING & BUCKAROO FESTIVAL

September 30-October 3, 2010
Midway, UT • 435-654-3666
HeberCityCowboyPoetry.com

The Next Act: Try more than 20 different varieties of salsas at the Tarahumara Mexican restaurant's salsa bar. Quite a few locals have raved that the cheese and onion enchilada is the best enchilada they've eaten in their lives.

MONTEREY COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

December 10-12, 2010 • Monterey, CA
800-722-9652 • *MontereyCowboy.org*

The Next Act: Order the Baja Laughing Bird Shrimp at Lalla Grill; the name may be silly, but the flavors are dead serious. Grilled shrimp on three tacos with cilantro, cabbage, onions, queso fresco and chipotle mayo. Wash it down with the house specialty, white peach mojito.

2011 COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC FESTIVALS

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering
January 22-29, 2011 • Elko, NV
775-738-7508 • *WesternFolklife.org*
Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering
January TBA, 2011 • Arvada, CO
720-898-7200 • *ArvadaCenter.org*
Cochise Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering
February 11-13, 2011 • Sierra Vista, AZ
520-266-0558 • *CowboyPoets.com*
Moab's Western Stars Cowboy Poetry Gathering
February 18-20, 2011 • Moab, UT
435-259-6272 • *MoabWesternStars.com*
Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering
February 25-27, 2011 • Alpine, TX
800-361-3735 • *Cowboy-Poetry.org*
Genoa Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival
April TBA, 2011 • Genoa, NV
775-782-8207 • *GenoaCowboyFestival.com*
Cowboy Legends Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival
May TBA, 2011 • Antelope Island, UT
CowboyPoetsOfUtah.com
Echoes of the Trail Cowboy Poetry & Music
June 10-12, 2011 • Fort Scott, KS
620-223-0736 • *EchoesOfTheTrail.com*
White Mountains Roundup
July TBA, 2011 • Show Low, AZ
866-532-4070 • *WhiteMountainsRoundup.com*

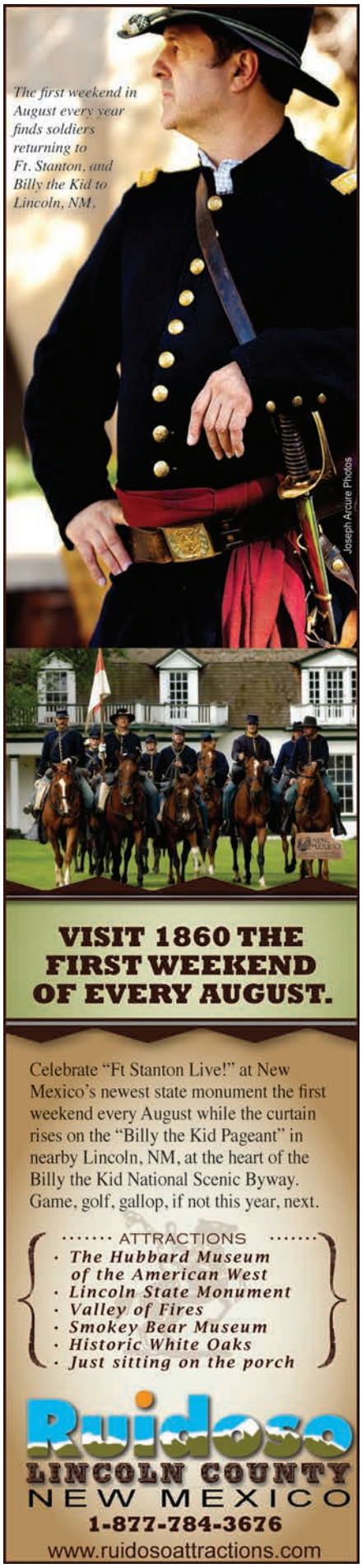
DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS

Readers of *True West* shouldn't be surprised to hear that Minnesota's largest all-volunteer celebration is the Defeat of Jesse James Days. "But of course," you would say, rolling your eyes at the obvious claim.

You see, one of the qualities we love about the West is everyone's enthusiasm for our shared heritage. So, sure, we can envision 40 die-hard Jesse James and Old West history buffs meeting around the table, every month (with multiple discussions in July and August), to maintain the integrity of the event.

Every fall since 1948, volunteers have worked with the Northfield Historical Society to tell the story about the Northfield townspeople who put their lives on the line to protect the community from the attempted bank robbery by the James-Younger Gang. Approximately 125,000 visitors from all over the world will come to this year's event on September 8-12.

The passion for replaying history is not just found in Northfield, but also at



all the living history blowouts represented here.

VIRGINIA CITY LIVING HISTORY WEEKENDS

Now through September 12, 2010
Virginia City, MT
800-829-2969
VirginiaCityMT.com

The Next Act: The Nevada City Museum isn't the only act in town bringing history to life; your choices also include shows put on by the Brewery Follies and the Virginia City Players. Sometimes, though, you need a breather from all the excitement. You'll find it at the city's gateway to Western art, housed in a former telegraph office that connected Montana to Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1866. The Creighton Block Gallery is owned by former Mayor Colin Mathews and his wife Paula Craver.

TOMBSTONE VIGILANTE DAYS

August 6-8, 2010 • Tombstone, AZ
800-457-3423 • *TombstoneVigilantes.com*

The Next Act: Just because the buds are not blooming on the world's largest rose bush (spring is the season for that) does not mean you should overlook the Rose Tree Museum and Books. Talk about walking into history: the museum is still owned by descendants of the pioneer family that built the adobe home after reaching Tombstone by wagon train in 1880. You'll see the family's artifacts and furnishings, and historical photos of the town.

FORT STANTON LIVE!

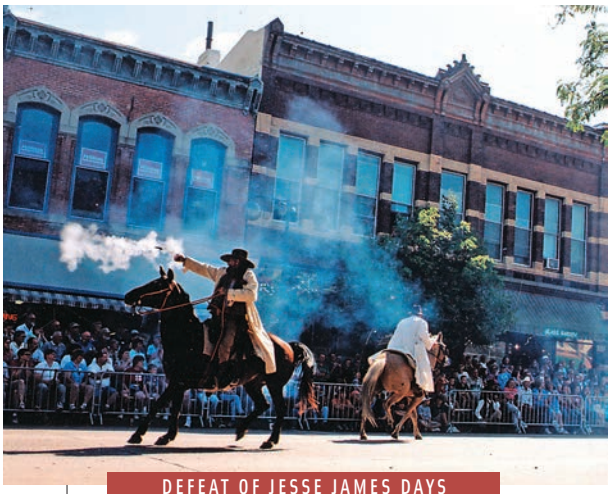
August 6-8, 2010 • Fort Stanton, NM
575-354-0341 • *FortStanton.com*

The Next Act: Caving was part of military duty, as soldiers had to know the "lay of the land." In 1855, soldiers from Fort Stanton's 1st Dragoons explored a nearby eight-mile limestone cave. The Fort Stanton Cave is closed for bat hibernation from November through April, so you're in luck if you're in town for the event. You can spend an afternoon among the same stalagmites and rock formations that those blue-wooled soldiers saw.

MONTANA WILD WEST FEST

August 14-15, 2010 • Helena, MT
406-458-3700 • *MontanaLivingHistory.org*

The Next Act: If your sweet tooth is acting up you must go to the Parrot Confectionery to get hand dipped chocolates. The chocolatiers have had some practice since they have been doing it since 1922. Locals order the "Parrot" candies by the pound. Be sure to get here early if it's lunch time; otherwise you might be in for a wait as the locals line up for a bowl of "secret recipe" chili.



DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS

JEREMIAH JOHNSON'S JACKSON HOLE WILDERNESS RIDE

August 15-20, 2010
Jackson Hole, WY
505-286-4585
Great-American-Adventures.com

The Next Act: Adrenaline still pumping? Go whitewater rafting on the Snake River; this part of the country was flooded with fur trappers in the 1820s. Even John "Liver Eating" Johnson (who the movie character Jeremiah Johnson is based on) trapped out here in the late 1840s. Jackson Hole Whitewater offers seasoned guides for your trip, from May through October.

JOHN WESLEY HARDIN RE-ENACTMENT

August 19, 2010 • El Paso, TX
915-842-8200 • *ConcordiaCemetery.org*

The Next Act: Rock climb among the Kiowa and Apache pictographs at Hueco Tanks state natural area—40 miles east of El Paso.

FORT BRIDGER RENDEZVOUS

September 3-6, 2010 • Fort Bridger, WY
432-213-5133
FortBridgerRendezvous.net

The Next Act: After working up a Mountain Man appetite from all that knife throwing and flintlock shooting, head to Bon Rico Supper Club in nearby Evanston. Big portions and fair prices are the norm. Locals recommend the rib eye steak, and they say they can't get enough of the pickled vegetables.

DEFEAT OF JESSE JAMES DAYS

September 8-12, 2010 • Northfield, MN
800-658-2548 • *DJJD.org*

The Next Act: Last year, a local told us that the grocery store at La Vencedora serves the best homemade carnitas (on Saturdays and Sundays) and tamales in town. Don't be thrown off by the new name, Sosa's Market and Restaurant; this is still the best place to eat lunch in town.

HELL'S CANYON MULE DAYS

September 10-12, 2010 • Enterprise, OR
888-323-3271
HellsCanyonMuleDays.com

The Next Act: Snack on steamed clams cooked in wine, butter and garlic sauce while drinking an IPA at the Terminal Gravity Brewpub. The IPA is brewed with snowmelt water from Oregon's Eagle Cap Wilderness. Order the ESG (Extra Special Golden rye beer).

FORT RENO TOMBSTONE TALES

September 16-18, 2010 • El Reno, OK
405-262-3987 • *FortReno.org*

The Next Act: Robert's Grill is a local hole-in-the-wall onion burger establishment right off historic Route 66. Only 14 seats wrap around the large grill that cooks up delicious beef patties covered in onions. The fries are piping hot and perfectly salted. Always.

FORT BAYARD DAYS

September 17-18, 2010 • Fort Bayard, NM
575-956-3294 • *FortBayard.org*

The Next Act: Locals gush about the green chili beef with homemade tortillas served at the M and A Café in Bayard. The place is hopping crazy for the Friday Night Fish Fry, so make your plans accordingly.

GRAND DUKE ALEXIS RENDEZVOUS

Sept. 24-26, 2010 • Hayes Center, NE
308-286-3463 • *GrandDukeAlexis.com*

The Next Act: Visit Huckleberry's Hideout in nearby Broken Bow on Friday nights for karaoke. Get there early, because this joint gets packed! Try the savory beef brisket before you grab the mic.

NATIONAL CAVALRY COMPETITION

Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2010 • Fort Concho, TX
785-784-5797 • *USCavalry.org*

"Old West, New Entertainment"



BOOT HILL CASINO & RESORT
YOUR DESTINATION TO OLD WEST, NEW ENTERTAINMENT

Located in historic Dodge City, KS, we offer 14 table games, featuring Blackjack, Craps, Fortune Pai-Gow, Three-Card Poker, Roulette, Ultimate Texas Hold'Em and over 580 slot machines, including video poker. Our newest addition is a Poker Room located in our Saloon, featuring Limit and No Limit Texas Hold'Em!

Experience the home-cookin' from our Firesides Restaurant. Check out our famous Seafood Buffet every Friday from 5p.m. to Midnight for $15.99 and the Breakfast Buffet for ONLY $4.99 on Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Don't miss the all the Dodge City Days Festivities this year, starting on July 30th with Rock N' Race Fest at the Dodge City Race Track!

We're just starting to "Roll the Dice" at Boot Hill Casino & Resort! Make us your destination in Dodge City!









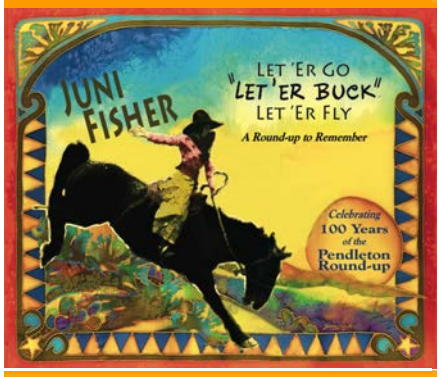


Boot Hill Casino & Resort
4000 West Comanche Drive • Dodge City, Kansas
Located off HWY 50 Bypass
877-906-0777 • www.boothillcasino.com

All games owned and operated by the Kansas Lottery. Copyright © 2010 BHCMG, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Must be 21 to Enter.

Gambling Problem? Getting Help is your Best Bet. 800.522.4700 ksgamblinghelp.com

New from
JUNI FISHER



The West's Leading Cowgirl Balladeer brings history of early rodeo to life for the 100th Pendleton Round-up

Free Shipping...yep...*We'll Let 'er Fly Free!*

www.junifisher.net

615-289-1292 or
info @ junifisher.net for bookings



The Next Act: Fort Concho was established along the Concho River in 1867. Now you can marvel at the exploits of past commanders–such as Indian Wars hero Gen. Ranald Mackenzie and Buffalo Soldiers commander Col. Benjamin Grierson–during a hike along the river guided by Jordan Llamas Treks. The sure-footed and agile llamas carry your supplies!

FALL TRADERS ENCAMPMENT

October 1-3, 2010 • Bartlesville, OK
877-273-2007 • *VisitBartlesville.com*

The Next Act: Murphy's Original Steak House is notorious for its hot hamburger sandwich-an all-beef patty served on top of Texas toast smothered in cheese, fries and homemade brown gravy. You can also order a salad with the killer garlic dressing, which locals will pretty much put on anything.

DURANGO HERITAGE CELEBRATION

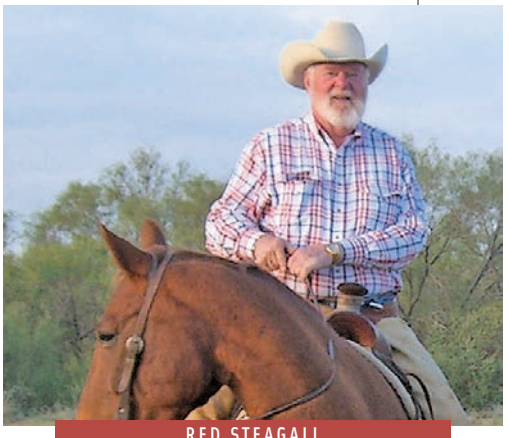
October 7-10, 2010 • Durango, CO
970-382-9298
DurangoHeritageCelebration.com

The Next Act: Get out of town, set your sights on the San Juan Mountains and head out on a half-day trail ride or a half-hour stagecoach tour on Goulding Creek Trail. Tom and Jennifer McCarthy have been guiding folks from their Hole in the Wall Stables for more than 15 years.

WYATT EARP'S VENDETTA RIDE

October 10-15, 2010 • Tombstone, AZ
505-286-4585
Great-American-Adventures.com

The Next Act: You're in luck, because on the third Saturday of every month (which falls on Oct. 16, this year), the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers leads a tour of historic sites on the Fort Huachuca Army base in nearby Sierra Vista. The 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers served here under Gen. "Black Jack" Pershing during his 1916 expedition into Mexico.



RED STEAGALL

GUNFIGHT AT THE O.K. CORRAL

Daily • Tombstone, AZ
520-457-3456 • *OK-Corral.com*

The Next Act: The only logical thing to do after watching the daily performance of the famous 1881 Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral is to look for the ghosts of the fallen afterward. Embark on the Crystal Palace Ghost Hunt, which supplies 15 ghost hunters with paranormal equipment in the basement of one of Tombtone's first saloons to find the forgotten spirits of Tombstone's gun-riddled past. Like Ray Parker Jr. sang, "I ain't afraid of no ghosts."

2011 LIVING HISTORY CELEBRATIONS

Kalamazoo Living History Show
March 19-20, 2011 • Portage, MI
765-563-6792 • *KalamazooShow.com*
Goliad Massacre Re-Enactment
March TBA, 2011 • Goliad, TX
361-645-3752 • *PresidioLaBahia.org*
Great American Horse Drive
May 4-8, 2011 • Craig, CO
970-586-4577 • *Sombrero.com*
Lyon County Fly-In
May 21-22, 2011 • Silver Springs, NV
775-887-1294 • *EventsNevada.com*
Frontier Fort Days
May TBA, 2011 • Fort Worth, TX
817-624-4741 • *FortWorthStockyards.org*
Texas Proud Festival
May TBA, 2011 • Llano, TX
866-539-5535 • *LlanoChamber.org*
Fort Laramie Rendezvous
June 19-20, 2011 • Fort Laramie, WY
307-575-2105 • *FortLaramieRendezvous.com*
Real Bird's Little Bighorn Re-Enactment
June 25-26, 2011 • Crow Agency, MT
LittleBighornReEnactment.com
Dalton Gang Hideout
June 25-26, 2011 • Meade, KS
800-354-2743 • *OldMeadeCounty.com*
Butch Cassidy's Hole-in-the-Wall Ride
June TBA, 2011 • Hardin, MT
505-286-4585
Great-American-Adventures.com
Custer's Ride to Glory
June TBA, 2011 • Hole in the Wall, WY
505-286-4585
Great-American-Adventures.com
Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment
June TBA, 2011 • Hardin, MT
888-450-3577 • *CustersLastStand.org*
John C. Fremont Days
July 8-10, 2011 • Fremont, NE
402-727-9428 • *JohnCFremontDays.com*

1838 Rendezvous
July TBA, 2011 • Riverton, WY
1838Rendezvous.com
Green River Days Rendezvous
July TBA, 2011 • Pinedale, WY
307-367-2242 • *MountainManCountry.com*
Younger Brothers Capture
September 17, 2011 • Madelia, MN
507-642-3245 • *VisitMadelia.com*

RED STEAGALL

Twenty years ago, long before he would earn his place as the first "cowboy" poet to be named poet laureate of Texas, Red Steagall threw his inaugural cowboy gathering in the Fort Worth Stockyards.

Yet when *True West* asked Red what events on his tour he was most excited about, he went through a roster of big deal events before he even mentioned his Cowboy Gathering's 20th anniversary this October 22-24. You'll find him at the 100th birthday celebration in Lewellen, Nebraska, on August 7, and at the kick-off concert in Miles City, Montana, on August 19 to celebrate the Miles City to Deadwood Stage journey, which culminates in Deadwood, South Dakota, on Labor Day Weekend.

Red tells us his fans can expect to hear poems like "Born to This Land" and "The Fence that Me and Shorty Built," as well as songs like "The Wagon Tongue" and "Freckles Brown."

For folks attending the Cowboy Poetry Gathering & Buckaroo Festival in Heber City, Utah, this November, he's got a picker he thinks you should make every effort to go and hear: Brenn Hill. He's Red's favorite singer-songwriter-cowboy, most especially, Red says, because the Utah-born Hill "writes wonderful songs about the place where he lives and the people who he knows." Red believes that 50 years from now, Hill's songs will be among those reference sources that share how we lived our Western lifestyle today.

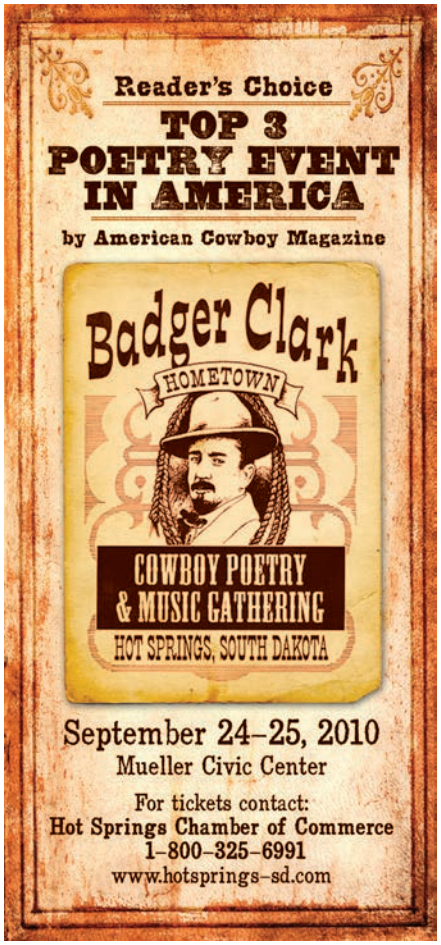
The traditions of the Old West still inform such cowboy gatherings, especially those included here.











DEER CREEK DAYS

August 6-8, 2010 • Glenrock, WY
307-436-5652
ConverseCountyTourism.com

The Next Act: The heritage celebration would not be complete without a stop at the monument on Third Street marking the Deer Creek Station. It served the Overland Stage, Pony Express, telegraph and the military–until Indians burned down the station in 1866. Afterwards, head out for a buffalo steak dinner at the Fort Diablo Steak House and Saloon.

NEVADA TERRITORY WILD WEST FAIR

August 25-29, 2010 • Reno, NV
775-688-5767 • *WildWestFair.com*

The Next Act: If you head to the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center the Friday before, you can attend the Wild Horse and Burro Expo for free (mustang adoptions are Saturday). That way, you can scope out the arena in advance of the state fair to make sure you get a good seat for Don Endsley's Great American Wild West Show, which you definitely won't want to miss.

WESTERN LEGENDS ROUNDUP

August 26-28, 2010 • Kanab, UT
435-644-3444
WesternLegendsRoundup.com

The Next Act: After getting Ed Faulkner's autograph at Western Legends Roundup, go to Frontier Movie Town and Museum to see where some episodes of the CBS series *Have Gun, Will Travel* (1957-1963) were shot, where he acted alongside Richard Boone's character Paladin.

OREGON STATE FAIR

Aug. 27-Sept. 6, 2010 • Salem, OR
775-688-5767 • *OregonStateFair.org*

The Next Act: Oregon's capital city has been hosting the fair since it was chosen as the permanent site in 1861. Nearly 30 years later, Thomas Kay built his woolen mill (rebuilt in 1898 after a fire), which you can still see at the Mission Mill Museum that offers numerous exhibits on textiles, water power and fabric milling, and tours of pioneer homes on the grounds.

FIESTA DE SEPTIEMBRE

September 4, 2010 • Wickenburg, AZ
800-942-5242 • *OutWickenburgWay.com*

The Next Act: Screamers Drive In has a green chili burger worth making a stop for. Chow down, then head out to Desert Caballeros Western Museum for "Snapshots of Early 20th-Century Arizona: A Postcard Legacy," with vintage photos by Jeremy Rowe. Don't miss out on seeing this collection; the exhibit closes on September 12.

SACRAMENTO GOLD RUSH DAYS

September 4-6, 2010 • Sacramento, CA
916-808-7777
SacramentoGoldRushDays.com

The Next Act: At 9:05 a.m., Monday, June 3, the Sutter Gold Mine's Facebook page lit up with this message from Jeffrey Scott Smith of Chico, California: "Went on the tour today for the first time. Tour guide Kurt was awesome!!! We will definitely be coming back!!!" Yes, the kids are not the only ones loving this tour. You'll learn how the industry transitioned from panning to hydraulic mining to current hard rock techniques.

NATIONAL COWBOY SYMPOSIUM & CELEBRATION

September 9-12, 2010 • Lubbock, TX
806-798-7825 • *Cowboy.org*

The Next Act: The Buddy Holly Center is a must see; you can even take a gander at his revered Fender Stratocaster that started it all. If the Rock 'n' Roll at Buddy Holly gets you itching for Country and Western music, turn your dial to 99.5 KQBR.

HOLY TERROR DAYS

September 10-12, 2010 • Keystone, SD
800-732-5682 • *HolyTerrorDays.com*

The Next Act: Pull yourself away from the views of nearby Mount Rushmore and head to the Red Garter Saloon and Ruby House Restaurant. You'll get some "comedy Western gunfights" along with your dinner. Three-time World Champion Comedy Gunspinner "Big Dave Murra" will be there in all his seven-foot-two-inches glory.

SIOUX FALLS SPIRIT OF THE WEST

September 17-19, 2010 • Sioux Falls, SD
605-334-9202
SpiritOfTheWestFestival.com

The Next Act: Be sure to stop in at Prairie Star Gallery on Phillips Avenue; the gallery features art, jewelry and quilts created by more than 750 Northern Plains Indian artists over the years.

WESTERN SPIRIT CELEBRATION

September 18-19, 2010 • Duncan, OK
580-252-6692
OnTheChisholmTrail.com

The Next Act: Brush up on your Chisholm Trail knowledge at the Chisholm Trail Book Store; proprietor Lynn Wienck has carefully chosen the rare Western Americana, regional Oklahoma History and American Indian books that will excite any *True West* enthusiast.

HILL CITY WESTERN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

September 18-19, 2010 • Hill City, SD
800-888-1798 • *HillCitySD.com*

The Next Act: Take an afternoon ride on the 1880 Train through the scenic Black Hills. Afterward, head to the Alpine Inn to eat the bacon wrapped filet mignon. It's the only thing on the dinner menu, so you know it's done right!

WESTERN HERITAGE WEEKEND PLUS TOM MIX FESTIVAL

September 18-19, 2010 • Dewey, OK
918-534-2272 • *CityOfDewey.com*

The Next Act: At La Fiesta Restaurant, locals order the chile relleno with red enchilada sauce (the white is good too). Finish off your meal with a warm sopapilla.

WESTERN DAYS FESTIVAL

September 24-25, 2010 • Lewisville, TX
972-219-3400 • *CityOfLewisville.com*

The Next Act: Get your fill at Ham & Eggs. The pancakes are a local favorite, and the biscuits are the size of a hamburger bun. Hit the ATM before you go, as this homecooking restaurant only accepts cash.

REX ALLEN DAYS

Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2010 • Willcox, AZ
800-200-2272 • *RexAllenDays.org*

The Next Act: Nestled between the Rex Allen and Marty Robbins fanseums is Rodney's, known for owner Rodney Brown's beef brisket sandwich and delicious hot wings from scratch. Get your meal to-go and eat it in the Railroad Park across the street (Rex Allen's horse Koko is buried here). Your taste buds will thank you.

LINCOLN COUNTY SYMPOSIUM

Oct. 8-10, 2010 • Ruidoso Downs, NM
575-378-4431
CowboySymposium.org

The Next Act: If you're in town early, check out the Hubbard Museum of the American West's exhibit on Ancient New Mexico, which focuses on the native people from the prehistorical to Spanish exploration periods; displayed until







Durango
COWBOY POETRY
Gathering
Durango, Colorado
SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 3
COWBOY POETRY AND MUSIC
ART RECEPTIONS
HISTORIC EXHIBITS
COWBOY POETRY TRAIN
TRAIL RIDE
WESTERN SWING DANCES
COWBOY PARADE
Featuring
RED STEAGALL AND
HIS BUNKHOUSE BOYS
DAVE STAMEY
CHRIS ISAACS
and many more poets and musicians

INFO (970) 749-2995
DurangoCowboyPoetryGathering.org

"The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet!"
"It's A Cowboy Thang. . . ."
One incredible show, one unforgettable evening.
CowboyAintDeadYet.com
417-861-8607 • 806-852-2432


October 3. At Atticus Books & Teahouse, indulge in a cup of Rooibos tea (Africa's answer to Green Tea) while reading Western or regional books by local authors.

HELLDORADO DAYS

October 15-17, 2010 • Tombstone, AZ
888-457-3929
HelldoradoDays.com

The Next Act: Settle in a comfy chair at the *Tombstone Epitaph* Newspaper Museum and read the paper's original coverage of the O.K. Corral Gunfight. You get a copy of this for free, if you're coming here from the O.K. Corral.

YORKTOWN WESTERN DAYS

October 16-17, 2010 • Yorktown, TX
361-564-2661 • *YorkTownTX.com*

The Next Act: Travel to nearby Victoria to visit the Public Archeology Laboratory, where you can view ancient ruins and historic sites, as well as learn how to record and preserve rock art through mapping, photography and watercolor painting.

SOUTHEASTERN COWBOY FESTIVAL SYMPOSIUM

October 21-24, 2010 • Cartersville, GA
770-387-13001 • *BoothMuseum.org*

The Next Act: Take a hayride through the ghost town of Ravenwood in Red Top State Mountain Park on October 22 or 23; storytellers promise to blend history and fiction in spooky, whimsical tales.

RED STEAGALL COWBOY GATHERING

October 22-24, 2010 • Fort Worth, TX
888-269-8696
RedSteagallCowboyGathering.org

The Next Act: Everything is bigger in Texas, including the book selection. Texas Star Books is the best destination for all things Texas, specializing in Texiana, Military and Texas authors and photographers.

NEVADA DAY

October 30, 2010 • Carson City, NV
866-683-2948 • *NevadaDay.com*

The Next Act: Next to the 1862 St. Charles Hotel is Mom and Pop's Diner, notorious for its mouthwatering cinnamon rolls with thick cream cheese icing. Walk off your breakfast with a 2.5-mile, self-guided tour of the Kit Carson Trail in the city's historic district.

DEATH VALLEY 49'ERS ENCAMPMENT

November 10-14, 2010 • Death Valley, CA
866-683-2948 • *DeathValley49ers.org*

The Next Act: Geology buffs need to see the Ubehebe Crater in Death Valley. The view from the rim is incredible, and you are able to hike down into the crater. Bring a windbreaker for when you arrive at the top, and remember to bring adequate water. They don't call it Death Valley for nothing.

2011 OLD WEST FESTIVALS

Gold Rush Days
February 10-13, 2011 • Wickenburg, AZ
928-684-5479 • *WickenburgChamber.com*
Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering
February 18-20, 2011 • Ellensburg, WA
888-925-2204 • *EllensburgCowboyGathering.com*
Southeastern Cowboy Gathering
March TBA, 2011 • Cartersville, GA
770-387-1300 • *BoothMuseum.org*
Fiesta San Antonio
April 2-17, 2011 • San Antonio, TX
877-723-4378 • *Fiesta-SA.org*
Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival
April TBA, 2011 • Santa Clarita, CA
661-286-4021 • *CowboyFestival.org*
Chisholm Trail Stampede
May 6-7, 2011 • Duncan, OK
800-782-7167 • *DuncanOK.org*
Jackson Hole Elk Fest & Old West Days
May 21-23, 2011 • Jackson Hole, WY
307-733-3316 • *JacksonHoleChamber.com*
Bishop Mule Days
May 24-29, 2011 • Bishop, CA
760-872-4263 • *MuleDays.org*
Wild Bill Hickok Days
June 26-30, 2011 • Deadwood, SD
800-999-1876 • *Deadwood.org*
Roy Rogers Festival
June TBA, 2011 • Portsmouth, OH
740-353-0900 • *RoyRogersFestival.com*
Douglas Railroad Days
June TBA, 2011 • Douglas, WY
877-937-4996 • *Jackalope.org*
Butch Cassidy Days
June TBA, 2011 • Laramie, WY
800-445-5303 • *Laramie-Tourism.org*
Gene Autry Days
June TBA, 2011 • Kenton, OH
419-673-4131 • *HardinOhio.com*
Lander Pioneer Days Parade & Rodeo
July 3-4, 2011 • Lander, WY
307-332-3892 • *LanderChamber.org*
Wild West Festival
July TBA, 2011 • Hays, KS
785-623-4476 • *WildWestFestival.com*

Laramie Jubilee Days
July TBA, 2011 • Laramie, WY
307-760-9920 • *LaramieJubileeDays.net*
National Day of the American Cowboy
July TBA, 2011 • Spearfish, SD
605-642-9378 • *WesternHeritageCenter.com*
Grand Encampment Cowboy Gathering
July TBA, 2011 • Encampment, WY
307-326-8855 • *GrandEncampmentGathering.org*
Ogden Pioneer Days
July TBA, 2011 • Ogden, UT
801-621-1696 • *OgdenPioneerDays.com*
White Mountain Roundup
July TBA, 2011 • Show Low, AZ
866-532-4070 • *WhiteMountainRoundup.com*

RIDERS IN THE SKY

Fred "Too Slim" Labour has mercifully taken a break from playing a tune on his cheeks to tell *True West* what Riders in the Sky is up to this year. He's personally cooking up a new joke, which he will unveil sometime this Autumn. Ranger Doug, "keeper of statistics," as Too Slim calls him, says that, as of June, the group is 50 shows shy of its 6,000th appearance—that works out to roughly a show every other day for the past 33 years!

Rollicking audiences of folks ready to be entertained is enough to energize this cowboy quartet, yet Too Slim does envision show number 6,000 as being something "special." He's also looking forward to the group's appearance in Utah with the Salt Lake City Symphony on November 1, as it will celebrate the latest CD release, *Lassoed Live at the Schermerhorn*, backed by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

Beyond the group singing cowboy classics like "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and "Ghost Riders in the Sky," Too Slim says this year's fans can expect to hear original tunes such as Woody Paul's "The Arms of My Love," Ranger Doug's "That's How the Yodel Was Born," Joey's polkapalooza stylings and sidekick Sidemeat's "I've Cooked Everything."

Who else is swearing allegiance to the "Cowboy Way" that we should be paying attention to? Ranger Doug says Grace, Sophia and Hulda of the Quebe Sisters Band is, through their Texas-style fiddling and three-part harmonic stylings. Ironically, the sisters count among their favorite events the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering. You can catch them celebrating the show's 20th anniversary on October 22-23, as well as at other venues throughout the country.

Live Western music you can dance to, sing to and even swoon to (if you're that type) will be kickin' at the following music festivals.

GRAND TETON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Now through August 14, 2010
Wilson, WY
307-733-3050 • *GTMF.org*

The Next Act: Cut a rug at the Stagecoach Cafe in Wilson, known by locals as the "Coach." Sunday nights are full of dancing cowboys and live Country music, if you didn't already get your fill of that at the Grand Teton Music Festival.

TEN SLEEP MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 13-15, 2010 • Ten Sleep, WY
307-431-2022 • *NoWoodstock.com*

The Next Act: Re-apply sunscreen and hike, bike or climb in Ten Sleep Canyon's red rock cliffs. Reward yourself with a dip in the serene Meadowlark Lake.



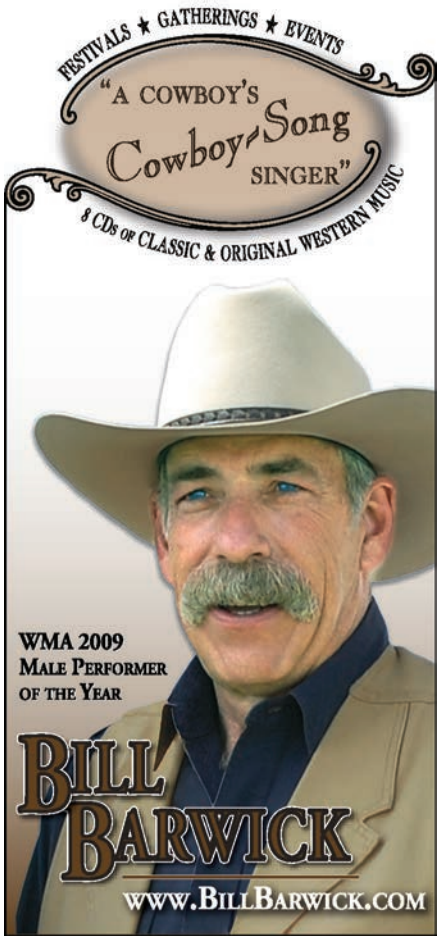
RIDERS IN THE SKY

MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

September 2-13, 2010 • Moab, UT
435-259-7003
MoabMusicFest.com

The Next Act: Owner and guide Mike of Magpie Cycling Adventures reveals Moab's natural beauty at Canyonlands National Park, Kokopelli Trail and the Grand Canyon's North Rim–from a mountain bike. The half-day ride on the Baby Step Trail is recommended for all skill levels.





PLAN TO ATTEND THE
30th ANNUAL
HELLS CANYON MULE DAYS
ENTERPRISE, OREGON
Rated "E" for Everyone!

The Weekend After Labor Day
SEPTEMBER 10-11-12, 2010
Visit: www.hellscanyonmuledays.com

MULE SHOW & SALE
NON-MOTORIZED PARADE
SAT. NIGHT B-B-Q
QUILT SHOW · MULE CLINIC
D.O. COOK-OFF
OLD WORLD OXEN
COWBOY POETRY GATHERING
VENDORS/EXHIBITS & WESTERN ART
FEATURED TENNESSEE MULE ARTIST
BONNIE SHIELDS

SHOW INFO: SONDRA LOZIER
888-323-3271 C-541-263-0104
visit: www.hellscanyonmuledays.com

EXPERIENCE A GREAT TIME IN N.E. OREGON

WALNUT VALLEY FESTIVAL

September 15-19, 2010 • Winfield, KS
620-221-3250 • *WVFest.com*

The Next Act: Chow down on chicken nachos served at Neives Mexican restaurant; then take a driving tour of all the outdoor murals that earned this city its claim as the mural capital of Kansas. *Wrap Around Winfield* and *English Cottage* are just a few of the murals that have beautified otherwise drab buildings.

NATIONAL GOSPEL AND HARVEST CELEBRATION

September 29-October 30, 2010
Pigeon Ford, TN
800-365-5996 • *Dollywood.com*

The Next Act: Order the Buffalo Chicken Pizza at the Smoky Mountain Brewery. Wash it down with the Tuckaleechee Porter or the local favorite Black Bear Ale.

TOMBSTONE WESTERN MUSIC FESTIVAL

November 5-7, 2010 • Tombstone, AZ
520-457-2295
TombstoneWesternMusicFestival.org

The Next Act: All the *True West* editors would love it if we could start each day off with a meal at Bisbee Breakfast Club in nearby Lowell (practically Bisbee). BBB swears by the Harvest Omelet.

2011 WESTERN MUSIC FESTIVALS

Kamloops Cowboy Festival
March TBA, 2011 • Kamloops, BC, Canada
888-763-2224 • *BCCHS.com*
Genoa Cowboy & Music Festival
April-May TBA, 2011 • Genoa, NV
775-782-8207 • *GenoaCowboyFestival.com*
CMA Music Festival
June 9-12, 2011 • Nashville, TN
800-262-3378 • *CMAFest.com*
Riverbend Festival
June TBA, 2011 • Chattanooga, TN
423-756-2211 • *RiverbendFestival.com*
Big Horn Mountain Music Festival
July TBA, 2011 • Buffalo, WY
307-672-3325 • *BigHornMountainFestival.com*

FLYING W WRANGLERS

These cowboys don't just sing about horses and cattle; they also get down and dirty during branding season at the Flying W Ranch in Colorado Springs, Colorado. But once chuckwagon season starts, the Flying W Wranglers, the second-oldest Western singing group, takes the stage. (The oldest such group is Sons of the Pioneers, which included Roy Rogers among its founders.)

The Flying W Wranglers play traditional cowboy songs, such as "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky" and "My Colorado Home" to a nightly audience of 1,000 folks who chow down on barbecue beneath the stars.

Wherever you end up finding a seat at these dinner shows and Old West melodramas, you'll be in for a treat.

BAR M CHUCKWAGON

April-October • Moab, UT
435-259-2276 • *BarMChuckwagon.com*

The Next Act: Back of Beyond Books focuses on natural, Western, regional and American Indian history. This independent bookseller gets its name from Edward Abbey's book *The Monkey Wrench Gang*.



FLYING W WRANGLERS

BAR D CHUCKWAGON

May-September • Durango, CO
970-247-5753 • *BarDChuckwagon.com*

The Next Act: Treat yourself to dessert as you relax on the garden patio of the Victorian home-turned-Mediterranean restaurant Cyprus Café. Locals tell us the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Pot d'creme is chocolate heaven!

BAR J CHUCKWAGON SUPPER & WESTERN MUSIC SHOW

May-September • Jackson, WY
307-733-3370 • *BarJChuckwagon.com*

The Next Act: The warm, blazing fire in the middle of the dining room of Snake River Grill pulls you in. The food keeps locals coming back. Pretty much everyone orders the fried green pepper ring (think "onion ring"), which comes stacked on a nail, and is coated with serrano chiles, cilantro, basil and the restaurant's signature beer, of course.

TEXAS! MUSICAL DRAMA

June-August • Palo Duro Canyon, TX
806-655-2181 • *Texas-Show.com*

The Next Act: Feldman's Wrong Way Diner has a train circling the building—seriously. It serves a tasty Railroad Ties and House Salad, and the crispy catfish stuffed into a giant tortilla is a dish locals never turn down.

CIRCLE UP CHUCKWAGON DINNER SHOWS

June-August • Dubois, WY
800-562-0806
CircleUpChuckWagonDinnerShow.com

The Next Act: We can never resist shopping at Welty's General Store. Frank A. Welty Sr. founded it in 1889, and Wild Bunch outlaw Butch Cassidy stocked up on cigars and other staples while he worked at area ranches. You won't find food here today, but you will find cowboy boots and hats.

FLYING W RANCH

June-September • Colorado Springs, CO
800-232-3599 • *FlyingW.com*

The Next Act: Explore the Paint Mines Interpretive Park, where colorful clay was deposited 55 million years ago; American Indian tribes utilized the clay for pottery and ceremonial paints. Later, bricks were formed from the clay for 1880s homesteaders. Spend the day viewing the natural diversity of hoodoos, grasslands and gulches of the park.

BLAZIN' M

Ongoing • Cottonwood, AZ
800-937-8643 • *BlazinM.com*

The Next Act: Throw your line out for some catfish and rainbow trout at the four-acre lagoon inside Dead Horse Ranch State Park, stocked by Arizona Game and Fish on a regular basis. You'll have anglers to compete with in the summer and spring, while fall and winter mean mild days and fewer people.

RANGE RIDERS COWBOY THEATRE

Ongoing • Palm Springs, CA
800-600-3082 • *CowboyDinners.com*

The Next Act: Locals wait in line at Cheeky's for a good breakfast. With a new menu every week, you'll never get tired of the fare. For a taste of what to expect: bacon flights, squash blossom omelets with serrano chiles and custard scrambled eggs.

PRAIRIE ROSE CHUCKWAGON

Ongoing • Benton, KS
316-778-2121
PrairieRoseChuckwagon.com

The Next Act: Tucked away in a hangar at Benton Air Park is Stearman Field Bar & Grill. If you've ever wanted to eat with model airplanes hanging above your head, here's your chance. At nighttime, locals like to chat around the patio fire pit. (And, of course, you can get flight training at the airpark.)

CIRCLE B CHUCKWAGON SUPPER & COWBOY MUSIC SHOW

Ongoing • Branson, MO
417-336-3540 • *BransonShows.com*

The Next Act: Branson is like Broadway in the West, offering more than 100 productions. After the Horn Family's musical and comedic act, you may also want to check out: Presleys' Country Jubilee, Clay Cooper's Country Music Express, Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Theatre and Oak Ridge Boys Theatre.

LONE STAR MURDER MYSTERIES

Ongoing • Grapevine, TX
817-778-2215
LoneStarMurderMysteries.com

The Next Act: Grab a cup of coffee and some Nutella French Toast at Main Street Bistro & Bakery, then head out for a ride on the Grapevine Vintage Railroad. Every Saturday and Sunday through Memorial Day, you can enjoy staged train robberies on your way to the Fort Worth Stockyards.



National
COWBOY
SYMPOSIUM
&
CELEBRATION
The Culture of the American Cowboy

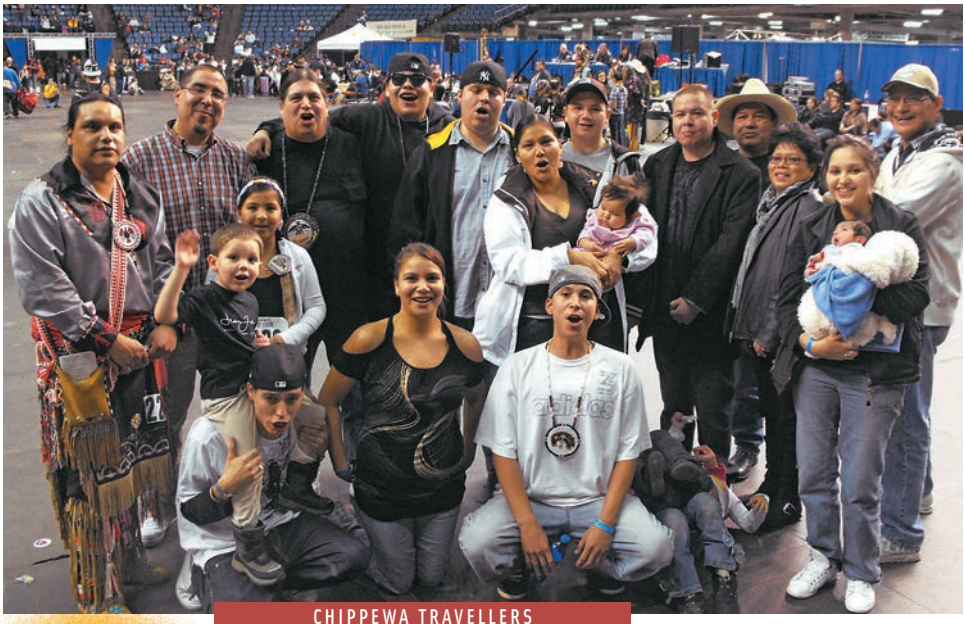


Celebrate the world's largest gathering of the western way of life.

- National Championship Chuck Wagon Cook-Off
- Western music and merchandise
- Cowboy poetry
- Horse parade
- Wild West Day for Youth

September 9-12, 2010
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
Lubbock, Texas
Visit cowboy.org for more information.

The Texas you've always dreamed of.
LUBBOCK™
VisitLubbock.org ★ 800.692.4035



CHIPPEWA TRAVELLERS

POWWOW IDOL

To find the best unsigned powwow drum group in Indian Country, DrumHop Productions kicked off an online competition called *Powwow Idol*.

The sophomore contest of *Powwow Idol* held in 2010 wiped out the drum groups hailing from the American West, including Soldier Hill from Montana and Plain Drifterz from Oklahoma. On June 6, a Canadian victor became the Powwow Idol: Chippewa Travellers, from Ontario, with 15 singers, plus the Smoke Family.

Chippewa Travellers' drums will become the heartbeat that powwow dancers step to at the 2011 Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Numerous drum groups and dancers will celebrate their native traditions at the following upcoming powwows, and into the next year.

NORTHERN ARAPAHO EXPERIENCE

Northern Arapaho Nation
Now through Aug. 31, 2010 • Riverton, WY
307-856-3964 • *WindRiverCasino.com*

BIG WIND POWWOW

Arapaho & Shoshone Nations
August 14-16, 2010 • Crowheart, WY
800-645-6233 • *Wind-River.org*

The Next Act: Be sure to dine at Red Willow Restaurant inside the Wind River Casino. If you're lucky, the grass-fed beef will be on special. This beef comes straight from the Arapaho Ranch, which, at 595,000 acres, is the nation's largest certified organic operation. If the restaurant does not have it, you can take some home with you. Arapaho Ranch beef is available for purchase at the 789 Smokeshop in Riverton.

INTERTRIBAL INDIAN CEREMONIAL

Apache, Hopi, Kiowa, Pima and San Juan Nations
August 11-15, 2010 • Gallup, NM
505-863-3896 • *TheCeremonial.com*

The Next Act: The best known of Gallup's hundreds of galleries and trading posts are Perry Null Trading Company, Shush Yaz and Richardson's. Yet what most don't know is that Richardson's offers free group tours, about two-and-a-half hours long, which share the history of Indian trade; corral up a sizeable group and call 505-722-4762 to make arrangements.

SHOSHONE-BANNOCK INDIAN FESTIVAL

Shoshone-Bannock Nation
August 12-15, 2010 • Fort Hall, ID
208-238-0680
ShoshoneBannockTribes.com

The Next Act: The Green T (officially Green Triangle) is where the local cowboys and college students mix and mingle. You got your mechanical bull, and even an occasional shoot-out we hear, since co-owner Dana Jo Hillman holds eight world titles in cowboy action shooting. What to eat: Prime rib is excellent; onion rings are huge and "not all batter and no onion," the locals tell us.

CIRCLE OF LIFE INTERTRIBAL POWWOW

Numerous Tribes Represented
September 3-5, 2010 • Bandera, TX
830-328-9992
CelebrateBandera.com

The Next Act: Dust your boots off at Arkey Blue's Silver Dollar Saloon and enjoy authentic Country music at this honkytonk. Owner Arkey Blue has been performing there since he bought the place in 1968. Singers mostly cover the classics– Ray Price, Lefty and Kitty Wells on Friday and Saturday nights.

PRESCOTT INTERTRIBAL SOCIAL POWWOW

Numerous Tribes Represented
September 10-12, 2010 • Prescott, AZ
928-649-0474
PrescottPowwowCommittee.org

The Next Act: Paul Calhoon insists on authenticity, which is why you'll find Hopi Kachina dolls on the west wall of his trading post, not Navajo Kachinas (dolls manufactured purely for the tourist trade). He runs the Attic Hogan, started by his father in 1970. Paul keeps extensive records on each of the artists who make the handmade items. The circle of life is strong here.

SHIPROCK NAVAJO FAIR

Navajo Nation
October 1-3, 2010 • Shiprock, NM
505-368-3727 • *ShiprockNavajoFair.org*

The Next Act: Extend your trip to October 8 for the Crownpoint Navajo Rug Auction, where your pocketbook will thank you because buying directly from the artists saves you two or three times what you would pay off the reservation. Hundreds of handmade Navajo rugs, as well as jewelry, pottery and beadwork are for sale.

BLACK HILLS POWWOW

Lakota, Nakota & Dakota Nations
October 8-10, 2010 • Rapid City, SD
605-341-0925 • *BlackHillsPowwow.com*

The Next Act: Learn Lakota legends at the Sioux Indian Museum inside the Journey Museum Complex. Also check out the more than 2,600 styles of historic beads in the Italian Bead Library at Prairie Edge Trading Company–almost a museum in itself with its offerings of star quilts, jewelry, pottery, trade cloth, buffalo parts and other crafts and artwork by Northern Plains artists. (Don't forget to grab a beer and buffalo burger next door at the Firehouse Brewing Company.)

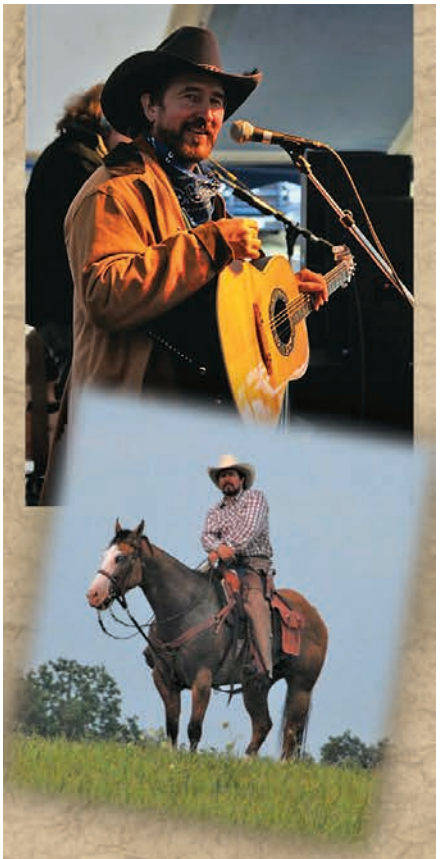
AUSTIN POWWOW

Numerous Tribes Represented
November 6, 2010 • Sunset Valley, TX
512-371-0628 • *AustinPowwow.org*

The Next Act: Tune your radio to 91.7 FM for "NdN Heart Beat" for Ken McKenzi-Grant's playlist of contemporary and traditional American Indian music on Thursday. Music lovers will also appreciate Austin's Texas Music Museum, which not only celebrates American Indian music, but also Tejano, Texas Jazz and cowboy songs.

2011 POWWOWS

World Championship Hoop Dance Contest
February 5-6, 2011 • Phoenix, AZ
602-252-8848 • *Heard.org*
Denver March Pow Wow
March 18-20, 2011 • Denver, CO
303-934-8045 • *DenverMarchPowwow.org*
Gathering of Nations
April 28-30, 2011 • Albuquerque, NM
505-836-2810 • *GatheringOfNations.com*
AIHREA Health & Wellness Powwow
May 6-7, 2011 • Overland Park, KS
913-469-8500 • *JCCC.edu*
Spring Bear Pow Wow
May 14, 2011 • Denver, CO
RavenDancers.org
American River College Pow Wow
May TBA, 2011 • Sacramento, CA
916- 484-8987 • *ARC.LosRios.edu*
Gathering of Champions
May TBA, 2011 • Sioux City, IA
800-593-2228
Tesoro Foundation Indian Market & Powwow
May TBA, 2011 • Morrison, CO
303-839-1671 • *TesoroFoundation.org*
Friends of the Intertribal Gathering
June TBA, 2011 • Fort Robinson, NE
308-632-1311 • *PanhandlerCD.com*
Red Earth Festival
June TBA, 2011 • Oklahoma City, OK
405-427-5228 • *RedEarth.org*
Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Festival
June TBA, 2011 • Fort Washakie, WY
307-332-9106 • *Wind-River.org*
Wildhorse Pow Wow
July TBA, 2011 • Pendleton, OR
800-654-9453 • *WildHorseResort.com*
Tamkaliks Celebration
July TBA, 2011 • Wallowa, OR
541-886-3101 • *WallowaNezPerce.org*
Julyamsh Pow Wow
July TBA, 2011 • Coeur d'Alene, ID
208-686-2023 • *Julyamsh.com*
Sacred Visions Pow Wow
July TBA, 2011 • Wadsworth, NV
775-560-1551



SADDLE-UP
WITH LEADING COWBOY COUNTRY SINGER
ROYAL WADE KIMES
TO BENEFIT BACK PACKS FOR KIDS

Fifth Annual Mount Royal Trail Ride & Concert on the beautiful border of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

- Visit the Hanging Judge's Courthouse and Gallows
- Ride the 1800's Wagon Trail
- Cross the Fabled Cole Younger Pass
- Full-fledged Concert by Royal Wade Kimes and Band
- Chuckwagon Dinners with Music Starting at 5 p.m.

www.royalwadekimes.com
For ticket information contact Ellen
615-351-3167
wonderrk@bellsouth.net

BY MARK BOARDMAN

The Lunacy of Billy the Kid

Two New Mexico lawmen receive death threats after digging up a body in Arizona. One of them later finds his daughter's horse so terribly maimed—somebody nearly cut off its left hind leg—that the animal has to be put down.

A former LA LA-land shrink says those same lawmen are part of a huge conspiracy, and she fears they're out to kill her.

An internationally-known Southwest politician thinks a long-dead outlaw is the key to a modern day P.R. campaign (starring that same pol)—and woe be unto him who disagrees.

A not-so-jolly old Englishman says that the lawmen and the pol can't handle the truth.

And some enterprising journalists try to find out just what the hell is going on.

No wonder that a *New York Times* reporter, looking at the whole thing, says he won't cover the story because "…both sides are crazed."

He's right. Everyone is "Kid Krazy" in this story. None of their claims can be proven 100 percent. Yet a bunch of dead bodies, buried in four cemeteries in three states, have incited and united these folks for the past seven years.

You can't make this stuff up.

(Opposite page) Billy the Kid still looms just out of reach. History tells us his bones are planted in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, where the outlaw was gunned down by Pat Garrett on July 14, 1881. But nowadays, the strange specter of Billy's bones seemingly dances in the moonlight as a weird audience watches—pulled in that direction by the power (and craziness) of that nighttime orb.

– Illustration by Bob Boze Bell –



The Lunacy of Billy the Kid



This illustration is the only known image of Billy the Kid's mother Catherine Antrim.

– Courtesy Bob Boze Bell Collection –







The three Billy the Kids who inspired a 21st-century dig to prove which one's body was the actual outlaw's.

– Left: John Miller, True West Archives; Below: Billy the Kid, courtesy Robert G. McCubbin; Right: Brushy Bill Roberts, courtesy Lincoln County Heritage Trust –

The Genesis of Lunacy

By all accounts, a full moon shone on that summer night of July 14, 1881, in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, 129 years ago. The superstitious claim a full moon causes acts of craziness, insanity—lunacy. On this particular night, madness came in the form of violence as the calm and peace was shattered by two gunshots. Sheriff Pat Garrett had opened fire on escaped killer Billy the Kid in Pete Maxwell's darkened bedroom; the first shot proved fatal.

In the annals of the Wild West, the shooting was not a particularly remarkable event. More famous victims fell to violence, and certainly some were much more controversial. But this killing would take on mythic proportions, catapulting the lawman and the outlaw into a pantheon occupied by few others. The grandest point of contention, at least to some: did the lawdog shoot the right man?

We're not here to prove or disprove Garrett's claim that he killed the Kid on that New Mexico night. Our tale stretches over the last seven years, as a group of lawmen tried—so they claim—to dig up the truth (and body) of the Kid.

The Full Moon Rises

In 2003, three New Mexico peace officers decided to investigate the death of the Kid, despite the fact that a coroner's jury had closed the case just after Garrett killed his man in 1881.

The lawmen—we'll call them the Investigators—seemed to have individual reasons for reopening the books.

Then-Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan says the ball opened when he visited Hico, Texas, and first heard about Kid Claimant 2, Brushy Bill Roberts. Sullivan wanted to prove the Texan was not the Kid, once and for all.

Steve Sederwall, who was then the mayor of Capitan, New Mexico, had doubts about Garrett's account of the Kid's escape from the Lincoln County Jail on April 28, 1881. He didn't believe Deputy J.W. Bell was killed as he ran down the stairs, away from an armed Billy. "I was pretty sure that Bell was shot at the top of the stairs. And if Garrett lied about what happened there, then what else did he lie about?"

Others say the motives of these first two Investigators were not so pure. Scot Stinnett, the publisher of the *De Baca County News*, claims he got some back-channel messages from them: Fort Sumner could play ball with them and make big bucks . . . or else.

On the 122nd anniversary of Billy's bold bid for freedom, Sullivan and Sederwall (who was appointed a volunteer reserve Lincoln County deputy—a designation not provided by county or state statutes) announced their plans to reopen the case of Billy the Kid. They filed official paperwork the next day (an important point, as we'll see later).

The New York Times carried the news on its front page. On June 7, 2003, just two days after the *Times* piece, then-De Baca County Sheriff Gary Graves—whose territory included Fort Sumner—started a new investigation in his bailiwick. His take: "I kind of feel 'ol Pat might have been behind [the Kid's] escape. If we were back in those days, we'd have arrested Billy, and we'd end up arresting Pat Garrett right beside him." Graves believes Ol' Pat might have killed the Kid to cover up his role in it.

Three days after that, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson announced the state was sanctioning the investigation. "I want to keep Billy the Kid a New Mexico legend" by helping to disprove the claims of men such as Brushy Bill and John Miller, he said. He also hoped that the attention would bring tourist dollars to his state. The governor later said he was deciding if he should grant a pardon to the Kid for his role as a Regulator in the 1878-79 Lincoln County War—something Territorial Gov. Lew Wallace had promised the outlaw but failed to deliver. Yet some critics of the

dig, as Gale Cooper wrote in her 2009 book *Mega Hoax*, think the politically ambitious Richardson was hitching his star to an internationally-known Wild West figure, with hopes it would take him to the Oval Office.

Richardson appointed University of New Mexico Professor (and *True West* Historical Consultant) Paul A. Hutton as case historian. Hutton's job was to make sure history was respected, but also to support the Investigators. Hutton's view was clear in the April 2007 issue of *True West*: "The myopia of those opposed to the project is astonishing but predictable."

Richardson named Houston, Texas, attorney Bill Robins to represent the Kid, pro bono. A Billy buff, Robins thought the outlaw deserved the pardon. He argued his client wanted to be exhumed—and wanted his mom dug up as well (how the attorney learned of that desire is unclear). In effect, he was saying the Kid would have supported the efforts of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department. The moon must have been full again that night. . . .

Oh, and Robins and his law firm were big donors to Richardson's political campaigns, contributing nearly $110,000 from 2002 to 2009.

Dark Side of the Moon

The Investigators wanted to exhume the bodies of the Kid at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and his mother Catherine Antrim in Silver City, and see if any DNA could be recovered. They would then compare the two to confirm a match, as well as compare the Kid's DNA to that found in what looked to be bloodstains on a workbench that allegedly held the Kid's body after he was killed. Forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee (of O.J. Simpson murder trial fame) apparently had found the genetic material on the bench.

The bench had been in the possession of the Maxwell family since 1881. Hutton and *True West* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell, caught up in all the excitement, believed it might be the real deal when they heard about the existence of the bench in early 2004. Both are a bit more cautious nowadays, especially since the Investigators found two different blood types on the bench. Which (if any) might be from Billy? "I believe that the family believes that it is the bench," Hutton now says. "I'm not certain."

The plan seemed doomed from the start. The New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator released a statement that getting useable DNA from the remains of the Kid or his mother was impossible.

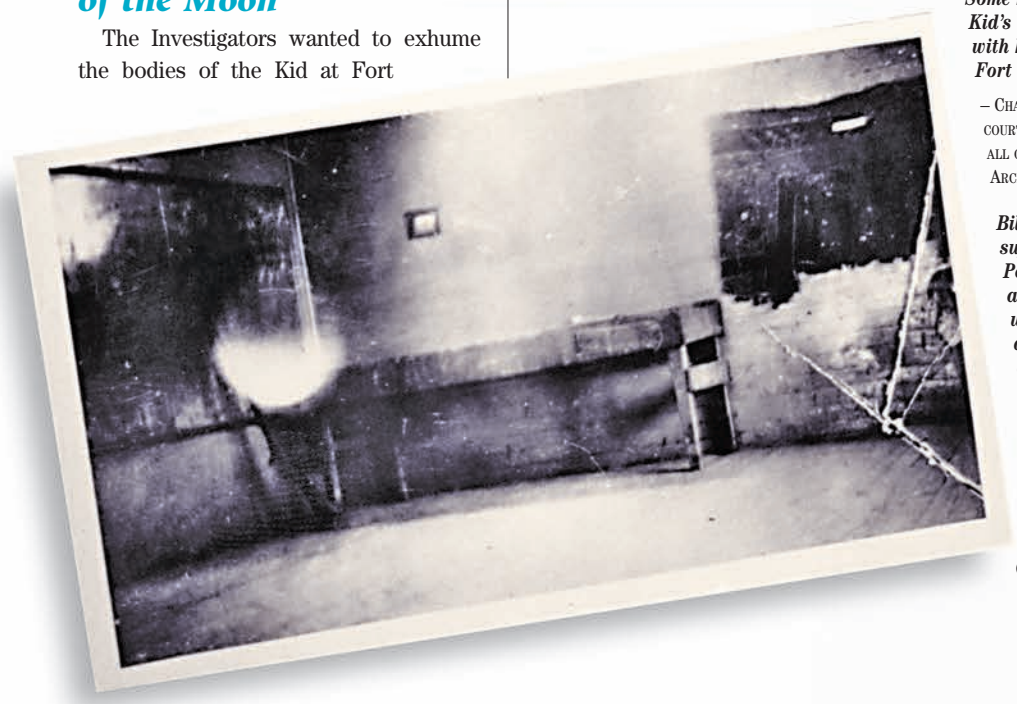
Kid scholars Robert Utley, Leon Metz, Drew Gomber and Frederick Nolan publicly noted their contempt for the digs. Nolan still is especially livid. "This disgraceful charade is historical inconsequentiality gone mad," he says. "It's sad to have to, yet again, rev up a steam engine to squash such an insignificant bug."

Government officials in Fort Sumner and Silver City argued that exhumations would be "desecrations" of the burial sites. They also said Billy and his mom might not be buried under their monuments, so a dig would be useless. Several also posited that even if their bodies were buried there, few, if any, remains would be left, lessening the chance of getting DNA.



Billy the Kid was buried in a triple grave (center) with his two buddies, Charlie Bowdre (left oval) and Tom O'Folliard (right oval). Killed in Pete Maxwell's house, the Kid died half a year after his friends did. Some now question if the Kid's body is really buried with his friends at the Fort Sumner cemetery.

– Charlie Bowdre photo: courtesy Robert G. McCubbin; all others: True West Archives –



Billy the Kid's body was supposedly carried from Pete Maxwell's house and placed on this wooden workbench for a wake. Maxwell descendants claim they still own it, and that it contains the Kid's blood. We're still waiting on the DNA test results.

– Courtesy Carrell Collection / Lincoln County Heritage Trust –

TW/BIT

POP CULTURE BILLY THE KIDS



1882 Garrett's account of the shooting goes public in the book *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid.*



1926 Walter Noble Burns's *Saga of Billy the Kid* spurs new attention for the outlaw.



1949 Ollie "Brushy Bill" Roberts reveals he is Billy. In 1955, his claim appears in C.L. Sonnichsen's book *Alias Billy the Kid.*



1990 *Young Guns II* strongly suggests that Billy escaped and became Brushy Bill.



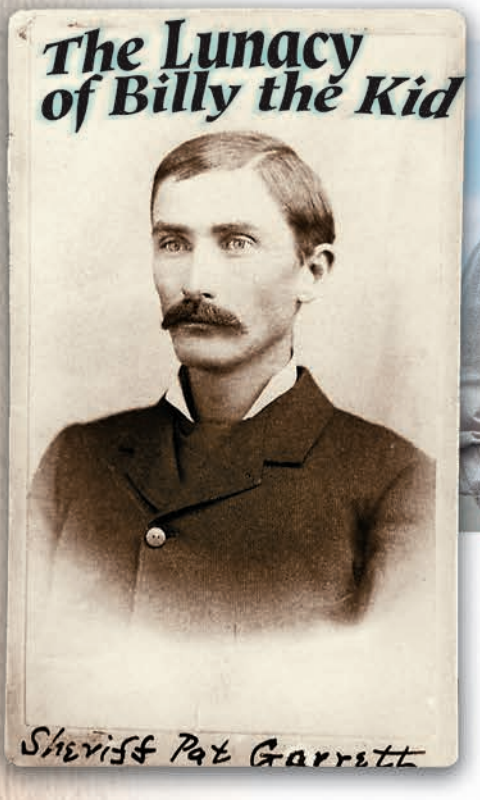
1993 Helen Airy's book *Whatever Happened to Billy the Kid* claims John Miller was the Kid.

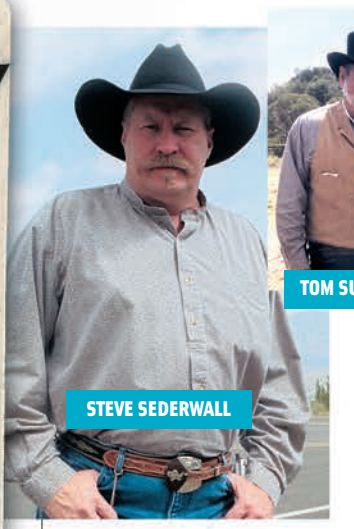


2004 History Channel's *Investigating History: Billy the Kid* covers the investigation.

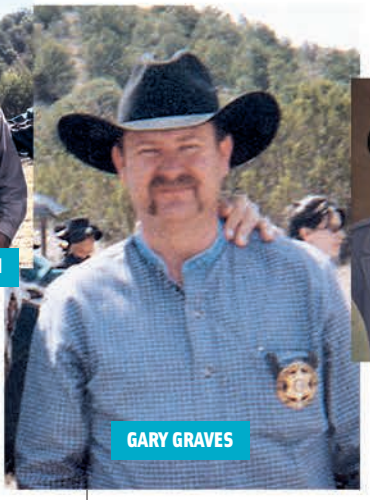


2006 The TV film *Requiem for Billy the Kid* focuses on the Digging Up Billy investigation.











Yet those officials might just be watching out for their tourist dollars. As Lincoln County historian Drew Gomber puts it, "This is about money and nothing else, make no mistake about it."

The graves of the Kid and his mother are tourist draws for their respective locales. What would happen if it turned out that the Kid was not buried at Fort Sumner, that he in fact had lived to an old age someplace else? No doubt about it, a lot of folks would take their vacations in other places. Lincoln, Silver City and Fort Sumner would take big hits in the wallets.

Better to maintain the status quo.

The ordeal went to the courts. Over several months in 2003-04, judges blocked the Investigators from digging up Billy and his mother.

Perhaps coincidentally, not long after Silver City declared victory in its fight to keep Catherine's grave closed, Gov. Richardson line-item vetoed $250,000 allocated by the legislature for a much needed expansion of Memory Lane Cemetery—the location of Catherine's final resting place. Payback is hell, ain't it?

No, you can't make this up.

The Investigators had to try a different approach.

Lunar Eclipse

By 2005, Sullivan had retired from the sheriff's office. Yet incoming Sheriff Rick Virden appointed both Sederwall and him as deputies, tasking them with continuing the Kid project. Their De Baca County compadre Graves was off the case and out of a job—voters had recalled him in a special election after he was accused of misappropriation of funds and prisoner abuse, charges unrelated to the Kid project.

The remaining Investigators turned their attention to Claimant 1, John Miller. This time, they didn't go through the courts; the cemetery superintendent, in a questionable and controversial move, gave the lawmen the okay to dig.

Sederwall claims that then-Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano also approved the exhumation, yet the Arizona Governor's Office has not confirmed his statement.

Sullivan and Sederwall allowed a TV crew to record the dig. After all, Kurtis Productions was footing the bill for the exhumation. Since Miller's last resting place was unmarked, the Investigators located the grave through guesswork. A map gave them a range of 20 square feet, provided the remains had not shifted over time.

The duo ended up with two skeletons. The forensic anthropologist overseeing the project thought one set of remains was Miller. The Investigators believed it was the other, which, coincidentally, was also the only set that contained DNA.

Although the DNA was sent off to a Dallas lab for analysis, we still don't know if it matches either of the samples taken from the bench. Sederwall says the tests have yet to be done, in part because of the $50,000 price tag. But *De Baca County News* Publisher Stinnett says that's not true, claiming that Sederwall was deposed under oath in 2009 and admitted the tests had been done—although he didn't comment on the results.

After the Miller dig, the public accused the Investigators of being "grave robbers;" prosecutors in Arizona considered bringing charges against them. That idea was eventually abandoned, but Sullivan and Sederwall took a huge P.R. hit.

Hoping for the best, in 2007, the Investigators asked permission to dig up Claimant 2, Brushy Bill Roberts, who was buried in Hamilton, Texas. Local officials denied their request.

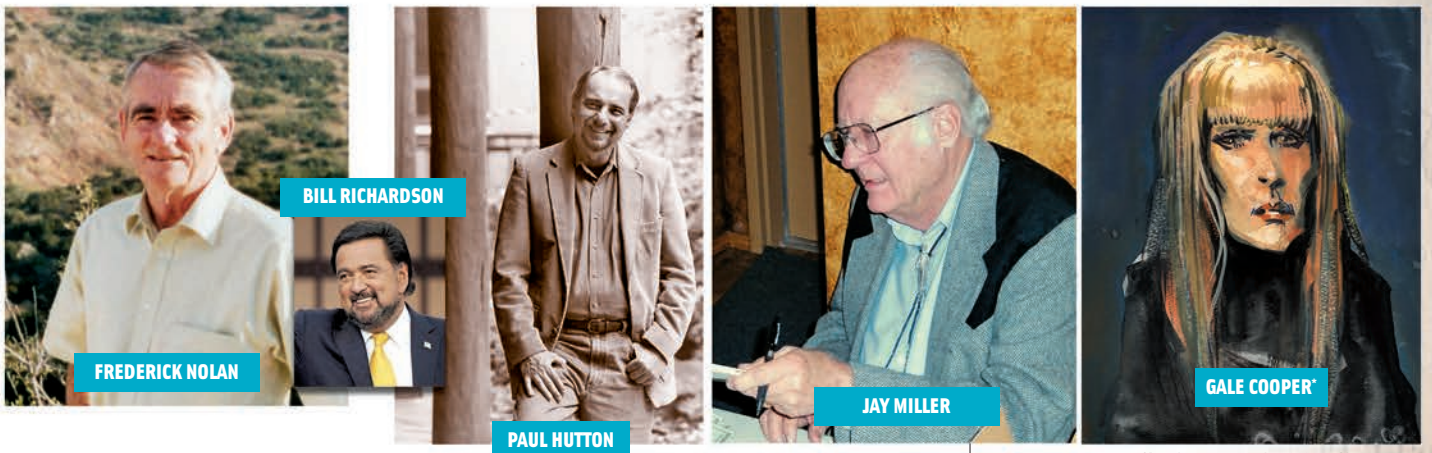
In the meantime, another challenge to their investigation had slowly been building against Sederwall and Sullivan.

Shootin' the Moon

In 2003, syndicated columnist Jay Miller became a vocal critic of the Investigators and their work. His coverage was crucial in blocking the exhumations of Billy and his mother.

The journalist posed a number of questions: Why were three modern-day lawmen investigating a case that closed in 1881? Was the Kid investigation taking away from solving current crimes? Where was the money for the Kid investigation coming from? Why weren't the Lincoln County and De Baca County Sheriff's Departments' records on the case open for public scrutiny?

The Investigators were none too thrilled, and they publicly attacked Miller, calling him pretty much every name in the book ("scumbag" being a particular favorite). They never



*Based on courtroom descriptions of her

answered the first question. They denied that the investigation took away from their modern-day crimefighting duties. They claimed the funding came from private sources—although they would not say from where. And they refused to open the case files, saying it was an ongoing criminal investigation.

As Miller's reporting continued, Gale Cooper joined the fight. The Harvard-educated psychiatrist had relocated to New Mexico from Beverly Hills, California, and found a new subject—Billy the Kid.

Some might say that her interest became an unhealthy obsession as she dug deep into the Kid's story. Her 2009 book *Mega Hoax: The Strange Plot to Exhume Billy the Kid and Become President* outlined a huge conspiracy involving almost anyone and everyone in the Kid field (including *True West's* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell). As the title says, the aim was to get Richardson elected president—although the book offers little proof of that claim. The hoax-buster also believed a grand conspiracy was out to get her.

The good doctor read everything she could on the subject, especially many of Nolan's books. She began corresponding with Nolan, and he eventually became something of a mentor. Nolan could only do so much from his vantage point across the Atlantic, but Cooper could work for the both of them in New Mexico.

According to her *Mega Hoax* book, Cooper worked behind the scenes for the first few years, helping to block the plans to dig up the Kid and his mom. After the Miller exhumation, she and publisher Stinnett took journalist Jay Miller's work to the next level. In 2008, they filed suit, demanding that the Investigators and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office open their files and reveal the findings from the DNA tests.

Sederwall and Sullivan had put themselves in a difficult position. They told the judge that the work had been done on their own time and with private money, and thus wasn't "official" and open to the public. Both men had turned in their deputy badges in the summer of 2007; they claimed the dig documents were their personal property.

But Sullivan had put a Lincoln County Sheriff's Department case number on the investigation back in 2003; Graves had done the same in De Baca County. On numerous occasions, the Investigators had publicly referred to their "official investigation" into the death of the Kid. Most of their work, up to and including the John Miller dig, had been done while both still served Lincoln County. The Investigators were also represented by lawyers hired and paid for by Lincoln County.

The court decision was almost a foregone conclusion; in November 2009, it ordered the Investigators to turn over their dig papers to Cooper and Stinnett.

By June 2010, the documents still had not been produced. Two former lawmen seem to be ignoring a legal decision. That crazy ol' moon again, perhaps?

Bad Moon Risin'

Where does our cast of characters stand now?

The Investigators are trying to distance themselves from the Billy the Kid dig. In fact, Steve Sederwall and Tom Sullivan had a falling out late last year and don't talk much. They face contempt of court charges if they fail to turn over their investigation documents.

Governor Richardson is finishing up his second and final term as New Mexico governor. It's not clear what comes next for Richardson. A 2009 investigation into alleged "pay for play" schemes resulted in no charges—but a black eye for the governor. He's still considering a pardon for Billy.

Jay Miller continues to turn his reportorial eye on all things New Mexico. He has no plans to stop writing or fighting for the public's right to know.

Hoax-buster Cooper is holed up in New Mexico. She doesn't respond to interview requests, and she doesn't want her picture taken. Acquaintances say Cooper genuinely fears for her safety from the Investigators and others who were part of the "Mega Hoax." (When I asked Sederwall if he was out to get her, he just laughed. After a few seconds of silence, he started talking about guns.)

Lincoln County is on the hook for an unspecified amount in legal fees—not just for its lawyers and those representing Sheriff Virden and the Investigators, but also for the expenses incurred by Cooper and Stinnett.

And, just for the record, John Miller, Brushy Bill Roberts, Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid are all dead. Aren't they?

I mean, that full moon can do some crazy things, can't it?

Mark Boardman knows many of the people featured in this article, particularly Frederick Nolan (I also officially distribute his book *Bad Blood*), Paul Hutton and, of course, *True West's* Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell.

TRUE WEST'S

GREAT AMERICAN ADVENTURES

TAKE THE HORSEBACK RIDE OF YOUR LIFE!

HORSES, TACK AND FOOD PROVIDED

"The friendships you'll make, and the memories you'll bring back, will last for a lifetime."
– John Rankin, Eaton Rapids, MI

"It felt like we had gone back in time."
– Joe Demarest, Sulpher, LA

"One of the great adventures of my life."
– Lt. Col. Rich Tomich, retired

"This is my eighth adventure with this outfit and I'm planning at least two more next year."
– Rob Artnzen, Winnebago, IL

JEREMIAH JOHNSON'S JACKSON HOLE WILDERNESS RIDE



AUGUST 15-20, 2010

Wander up the Grand Teton on a Rocky Mountain trail ride of mountain man lore and history.

MORE UPCOMING ADVENTURES

WYATT EARP'S VENDETTA RIDE



OCTOBER 10-15, 2010

BUTCH CASSIDY'S HOLE-IN-THE-WALL RIDE



JUNE 12-17, 2011

CUSTER'S RIDE TO GLORY



JUNE 22-26, 2011

Bring your .45's…we'll provide the blanks.

CALL STEVE SHAW AT 505-286-4585 OR VISIT GREAT-AMERICAN-ADVENTURES.COM

TRUE WEST
PRESERVING THE AMERICAN WEST

RIDE THE REAL WILD WEST

ATTENTION READERS!

To receive FREE information from our advertisers, simply make your selections from the category listing on the adjacent card. Either mail the post-paid card or fax it to 480-575-1903. We will forward your request. Valid until 8/31/10.

ADVENTURE
Boot Hill Casino & Resort p.31
Double Ranch p.82
O.K. Corral/Tombstone Historama Corp p.2
Old Cow Town p.84
True West's Great American Adventures p.48
White's Electronics p.72
Willow Creek Ranch p.66
Wind River Casino p.66

APPAREL & ACCESSORIES
BrazilRoxx p.7
Buckaroo Hatters p.83
Catalena Hatters p.84
Cowboy Corral p.11
Iron Horse Jeans p.25
Jaxonbilt Hat Co. p.82
Kenco Fashion, Inc. IFC
Texas Jack's Outfitter p.82
Western and Wildlife Wonders p.83
Wild West Mercantile p.71
Wrangler Jeans IBC

COLLECTIBLES
Allard Auctions p.12
D. Michael Thomas p.65

EVENTS
25th Annual Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering p.33
5th Annual Mount Royal Trail Ride & Concert p.41
6th Annual Western Heritage Weekend p.35
American's Horse in Art BC
Badger Clark Hometown Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering p.34
Cowboy Mounted Shooting on the Western Trail p.10
Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering p.36
Gold Rush Days p.37
Heber City Poetry Gathering p.39
Hells Canyon Mule Days p.38
John Wesley Hardin Reenactment p.77
Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium p.33
Mitchell National Painting Invitational p.12
Monterey Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival p.35
National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration p.40
Palm Springs Wild Western Expo p.35
Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering p.34
Spirit of the West Festival p.32
Tombstone Tales p.33
Wild Horse & Burro Adoptions p.87
Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo p.27

FIREARMS & KNIVES
A. Uberti p.9
Circle KB Leatherworks p.84
Collector's Armoury, Ltd. p.70
Collector's Armory p.82
Colt's Manufacturing Co. p.1
Joey Dillon Gunspinner p.13
Stoeger Industries p.21
Wellington, Ltd. p.72
Working Cowboy Gun Leather Shop p.82

HOME
Chuck's Woodbarn p.8
Colorado Cowgirls p.83
First National Bank of Buffalo p.65
FrontierOutfitters.com p.69
Longhorns Head To Tail Store p.82
Sloan Brands p.84
Treemendous Designs p.70
Wild Bill's Store p.71

LODGING
Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel p.24
Carefree Resort and Conference Cntr p.4
Mansion House Inn p.65
Occidental Hotel & Saloon p.67

MEDIA
Arizona's Little Hollywood p.68
Bethany House Publishers p.80
Bill Barwick p.38
Chris Enss p.81
Dimenovels p.83
Douglas Brode p.84
L. Ron Hubbard Books p.26
Leonard Marks p.5
Juni Fisher p.32
RJ Vandygriff's Cowboy Show p.36
Texas Tech University Press p.6
University of Oklahoma Press p.66

MUSEUMS
Humboldt County Museum p.17
National Oregon/California Trail Center p.84
Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum p.79
Tom Mix Museum p.35
Trail Dust Town p.83
West of the Pecos Museum p.79

TOURISM
Buffalo/Kaycee, WY p.67
Comanche, TX p.79
Deming, NM p.73
Dewey, OK p.35
Edmond, OK p.73
El Paso, TX p.76
Elk City, OK p.13
Eureka, NV p.17
Gunnison/Crested Butte, CO p.15
Kane County, UT p.13
Lincoln County, NM p.30
Odessa, TX p.79
Ponca City, OK p.3
Virginia City/Nevada City, WY p.11

TRADING POSTS
World of Cowboys p.84

OTHER (no information)
Billy the Kid Book by Bob Boze Bell p. 71
Billy the Kid Mug p.73
Blevins Manufacturing Co. p.83

CONNECT TO A NEW KIND OF OLD WEST COMMUNITY

TRUE WEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INTERACTIVE.
EXCITING.
PASSIONATE.
DOWN-RIGHT ADDICTIVE.

FREE.

Get in on the most exciting Old West action since they let the first jackass into a saloon. Our new community is a great way to enjoy the Old West on your computer. Blog your experiences, get feedback from other enthusiasts, view videos and photos, and share your knowledge in creative ways.

It's easy to join, just click "community" at

TRUEWESTMAGAZINE.COM



TRUE WEST
PRESERVING THE AMERICAN WEST

THE OLD WEST ON YOUR DESKTOP

By Ron Soodalter

Saving the Wrong Guys

A spin on the cavalry-to-the-rescue theme in classic Westerns.

Many classic Westerns feature the timeworn device of the last-minute cavalry rescue. The baddies are Indians, besieging a wagon train or surrounding a mixed group of stranded stagecoach passengers. Just when things appear bleakest, in ride the boys in blue, guidons flying and bugle blaring. This dramatic motif has a historical basis. We know of at least two instances in which the cavalry did arrive at the last minute—and altered the course of history.

Lincoln County, New Mexico, 1878

A struggle had been playing out for a year and a half between two contingents, Tunstall-McSween and Murphy-Dolan, each hoping to gain economic control of the region. Precipitated in part by the arrival of a naïve, self-absorbed, 24-year-old Englishman named John Henry Tunstall, the rivalry soon deteriorated into a bullet-driven fight for supremacy. The law was twisted and used by both sides to further their ends, and when that failed to serve, unadorned murder took its place.

The killing of Tunstall would enrage his ranch hands, including William Bonney, later known as Billy the Kid. His faction, just like the other, had its share of man-killers, duly deputized and sent out to serve warrants in whatever fashion they deemed appropriate. No one was blameless. By the time the battle wound down, about 20 men were dead by gunshot, martial law had been requested (yet not declared) and a new governor was in charge.

One of the deciding events in the Lincoln County War occurred on July 19, 1878.

For five days already, some 40 armed members of the opposition, including Sheriff George Peppin and outlaw John Kinney and his gang, had been firing into lawyer and former Tunstall partner Alexander McSween's house. McSween and some 12 Regulators—including Bonney—had forted up inside the house, along with McSween's wife, sister-in-law and her children. The McSween faction did not seem to have much "show" of getting away, although they were firing back.

At nearby Fort Stanton, the portly and pompous Col. Nathan A.M. Dudley was considering a course of action. Just one month earlier, Congress had passed a law forbidding the army from interfering in civilian matters without the express permission of the president. This "Posse Comitatus Act" had prevented Dudley from supporting Sheriff Peppin with troops two weeks earlier. Now, however, he decided to act autonomously. After a brief meeting with his officers, in which they signed a resolution to "place soldiers in . . . Lincoln for the preservation of the lives of the women and Children," Dudley led 35 cavalrymen into Lincoln, carrying three days' rations and towing a 12-pound mountain howitzer and a Gatling gun with 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Unfortunately, Dudley was not objective; he personally despised the McSweens, and he had been thoroughly won over to the Murphy-Dolan camp. With his presence in Lincoln, the outcome of the siege became a foregone conclusion. So confident of Dudley's support were Peppin's men that they occupied the houses surrounding McSween's. From the doorway of one arrogantly hung a black flag, signifying "no quarter." In response to a distraught Mrs. McSween's query about her husband's safety, Dudley dissembled, "I give you my word of honor, as an officer of the army, that he will not be molested or in any way hurt."

After one of the civil officers tried unsuccessfully to serve warrants on McSween's men, Dudley stood by as Peppin's men set fire to the house and the gunfire between the factions intensified. As night fell, the besieged men broke for safety; while a handful escaped, some were killed and others wounded.

LINCOLN COUNTY WAR

- **August 6-8, 2010, Old Lincoln Days:** Living history re-enactments at the Lincoln State Monument in Lincoln, New Mexico, which offers 17 structures preserved as they looked during the Lincoln County War, including:
  - **Old Lincoln County Courthouse:** Museum offers exhibits on the Lincoln County War.
  - **Torreon:** The village's defensive tower.
  - **Tunstall Store:** Features the original 19th-century merchandise on the shelves.

  505-476-1150 • NMMonuments.org

- **Ruidoso River Museum (Ruidoso, NM):** Home to the largest museum collection of artifacts, documents and photos sharing the history of the Lincoln County War.

  575-257-0296
  RuidosoRiverMuseum.com



The Invaders: This photograph was taken shortly after the cattlemen and their hired gunmen were taken into custody. (Search for this article on *TWMag.com* to view the names of each of the Invaders.)



Many of the Invaders, when they were besieged by the Buffalo force, took refuge in this barn. The building still stands, and it shows the gun ports cut in the loft and the holes from bullets fired more than 100 years ago.

– All images courtesy Johnson County Library –

McSween, unarmed, was shot down as he pleaded for mercy.

At the least, the soldiers did nothing to stop the carnage; Bonney, however, later claimed that several troopers were among those who fired at the escaping men. Nor did the soldiers intervene when the Peppin posse drank themselves stupid, looted McSween's store and ranged through the town firing their weapons. The bodies lay where they had fallen.

This was not the cavalry's finest hour. Mrs. McSween hired a lawyer to petition for Dudley's court martial. The colonel was no stranger to courts-martial, having already been found guilty of various charges twice in his military career. In this battle, he had defied the new law barring army interference and assumed a partisan position in a deadly feud among private citizens. At Gov. Wallace's request, Dudley was relieved, but subsequent efforts to find him legally culpable in the "Big Killing" proved fruitless.

Johnson County, Wyoming, 1892

The wealthy and powerful Wyoming Stock Growers Association met in Cheyenne and decided to put an end to the cattle rustling in Johnson County. Their concept of "rustlers" encompassed all small ranchers, mavericks and basically anyone—including the sheriff—whose views differed from their own.

They assembled an army of roughly 50 men, including less than two dozen hired killers from Texas, and invaded Johnson County. They had the support of the governor, the former governor, two senators and, ultimately, President Benjamin Harrison—and they were completely in the wrong.

In April they set forth, well-armed and provisioned, with a death list containing dozens of names. After brutally killing two ranchers and burning their cabin, they were trapped inside the barn and ranch house of an ally, as hundreds of outraged townsfolk imposed a siege. From two Studebaker wagons, the furious locals constructed a mobile assault vehicle—a "Go-Devil," as they styled it—behind which to advance and kill the Invaders.

Early on April 13, the Go-Devil was wheeled to within 200 feet of the barn; that was as far as it would ever go. At 6:45 that morning, a contingent of 107 troopers of the Sixth Cavalry from nearby Fort McKinney rode in and ordered the immediate cessation of hostilities. With the safety of the territory's cattle barons and their minions at stake, the soldiers were acting under direct orders from President Harrison, at the urgent prodding of Acting Gov. Amos W. Barber and as accorded by Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution.

The Invaders were allowed to surrender to the military under a flag of truce—a serious breach of civil law. Quartered at the fort, the cattlemen and their gunmen were treated more as guests than prisoners. Gradually, every member of the invading army quietly drifted back home.

Not a single man was ever punished for the armed invasion of an American territory. Thanks to the timely arrival of the U.S. Cavalry, the wrong guys were saved.

Ron Soodalter is the author of *Hanging Captain Gordon* and *The Slave Next Door*, and has written articles for *Smithsonian, Civil War Times, Portland* and *New York Archives* and is a featured columnist for *America's Civil War*.

JOHNSON COUNTY WAR

- **TA Ranch (Buffalo, WY):** Working cattle ranch that offers dude ranch vacations; features recently-restored buildings, including the TA Barn, with bullet holes and rifle slots from the 1892 gunfight.
  307-684-5833 • TARanch.com
- **Fort McKinney (Buffalo, WY):** Today this is the site of the Veteran's Home of Wyoming, but three of the original buildings from the time of the battle still stand here: fort hospital (visitor's house) and the mule and cavalry stables.
  307-684-5511
- **Jim Gatchell Museum (Buffalo, WY):** Offers a Johnson County War exhibit, which includes a ring belonging to the slain Nate Champion, as well as a statue depicting him outside.
  307-684-9331 • JimGatchell.com
- **Hoofprints of the Past Museum (Kaycee, WY):** Exhibits the history of Nate Champion's KC Ranch and houses the cattleman's diary, which shares his thoughts during the battle. Let the docents know you're interested in touring the Johnson County War historic sites, and the museum might put on another Hole-in-the-Wall Tour next June.
  307-738-2381 • HoofprintsOfThePast.org



Kaycee resident Chris LeDoux shared the point of view of the ranchers in his song "Johnson County War" on his 1989 album *Powder River*.

BY G. DANIEL DEWEESE

THE EVOLUTION OF WESTERN WEAR

THE GENESIS OF JEANS



"I have often said that I wish I had invented blue jeans: the most spectacular, the most practical, the most relaxed and nonchalant. They have expression, modesty, sex appeal, simplicity—all I hope for in my clothes."

–Yves Saint Laurent, fashion designer

Blue jeans started out as humble work pants invented by a pair of immigrants in the Old West.

Jacob Davis, a Latvian-born tailor making pants for miners in Reno, Nevada, struck on a clever way to keep on-seam pocket corners from tearing: he secured them with the copper rivets he used to reinforce seams on tents and horse blankets.

Davis's pants struck gold with miners, so he decided to patent the idea. The problem was that he didn't have the $68 filing fee, let alone the resources to produce pants in large quantities. He approached his supplier of cloth in San Francisco, California, with a partnership proposition. Levi Strauss, a German immigrant and purveyor of assorted goods to the mining camps, recognized the potential in the idea, and Davis and Strauss filed jointly in the fall of 1872. Their patent, described in the application as an "Improvement in Fastening Pocket-Openings," was granted the following May.

The pants produced by Levi Strauss & Co.—Davis ran the factory that made the pants—

David Wilson (at right) wears his cuffed Levi's 501 jeans in this circa 1890s photograph. Next to him, cowboy George Hodges wears California trousers made of heavyweight, 30-ounce, tightly woven, pure virgin wool—but without copper rivets!

– Courtesy Anna Miller Museum in Newcastle, Wyoming –

All Images Courtesy Manufacturers

You'll see Kippy's jeans on folks ranging from Cowboy Mounted Shooters to rebels roaming the American West countryside. Shown here is the Muertos-Skull Overlay Jeans in multicolor combo, with Swarovski crystals and Italian leathers. Jeans are made from Italian-Platinum lightweight denim with two-percent Lycra; shown in a medium-wash, boot-cut fit, but also available in a light wash; $365.



New M2 relaxed fit jeans from Ariat have a relaxed fit through the seat, hip and legs, lower rise and stackable boot cut. The 14-ounce, ring-spun denim is all cotton. Design features include the Loop Lock patent-pending reinforced rear belt loop to secure a rope. Jeans also feature an I-Pocket to accommodate a phone or MP3 player: $59.95.



were made of denim, a rugged diagonal twill fabric woven with undyed and indigo-dyed cotton thread. Beyond that, the original design hardly resembles the modern jean. These waist overalls were boxy and relied on a back cinch to tighten the pants around the waist. The pants were held up by suspenders that buttoned on the waist. (Belt loops would be added some 50 years later.) The waist overalls, as the pants would be called until the late 1950s,

Original Ranch Hand Dungarees from Schaefer Ranchwear are shown in 15-ounce Brush Cloth denim. Pants feature a double-chainstitched waistband in a high-rise Ranch Cut fit that tapers from the knee to the ankle. Pockets are double stitched and riveted at the corners with signature antique copper rivets; outseams are reinforced. Also available in 14.5-ounce, indigo-dyed denim; priced from $40-$44.







featured two deep front pockets, a small watch pocket and one pocket on the back.

Riveted waist overalls made from denim became standard work wear for blue collar workers across America by the turn of the 20th century. Cowboys were among those workers, and Levi Strauss & Co. courted the ranching and farming market vigorously. By 1905, the company was producing catalogs proclaiming, "All Over the West They Wear Levi Strauss & Co.'s Copper Riveted Overall."

Cowboys were prominently displayed in Levi Strauss advertisements for the next 30 years, yet the first "cowboy" pants were not marketed until 1924 by H.D. Lee Mercantile Co. based in Salina, Kansas. The Lee pants featured a wider opening at the bottom of the leg to better fit over cowboy boots. (Lee was also the first company to offer a zipper fly, rather than

(Far left) Stetson 1520 standard, straight leg jeans has mid-rise fit with a relaxed waist, seat and thigh, slightly tapered knee and 17⅞-inch leg opening. The fabric is 13-ounce, right-hand twill, all-cotton denim shown in a dark stonewash. Other washes and finishes available; $50.

(Left) New Wrangler Retro boot cut jean is shown in a True Blue wash. Jeans feature an extended waist and updated back patch pocket treatments; $58.



the traditional button fly.) These pants were later beefed up by three ounces and were marketed to rodeo contestants as Lee Riders. In 1949 Lee introduced a line of denim pants for women, called Lady Lee Riders. Lee Westerners were introduced a decade later to expand the influence of Western styling to a more mainstream consumer.

At the end of WW II, rodeos, cowboy movies and dude ranches were important cultural touchstones for Americans, and Western wear as a fashion category was born. In 1948, Blue Bell, a denim work apparel company in Greensboro, North Carolina, hired a Philadelphia tailor named Bernard Lichtenstein to design a new pant for cowboys. Lichtenstein, a Polish immigrant, was known as Rodeo Ben because he designed arena apparel for rodeo cowboys who came to town to perform. The pants he developed for Blue Bell featured high back pockets and a proportional cut with wide, extra long legs that stacked on the foot of the boot and didn't ride up the leg while the cowboy was in the saddle. The final

(Top row, from left)

Wrangler's new prewashed, premium performance, cowboy cut jeans for men, tagged 47MWZPW, are all-cotton, heavyweight broken-twill denim the company says will last 20 percent longer. Jeans feature smoother inside seams and extra stitching, a slightly lower rise and relaxed thigh for easy movement in the saddle or out, antiqued brass rivets, faux leather Wrangler patch, updated "W" stitching on the back pockets; $24.99 to $36.99 (depending on style and wash).

Levi's original bootcut 517 jeans are 100-percent cotton in rinsed Indigo dye. Traditional zip-fly jean in a slim fit style has an 11⅞-inch rise and is narrow through the seat and thigh, and flares below the knee; $40.

The 816 Classic Boot Cut from Stetson Apparel is a contemporary five-pocket jean in fashion washes. The fit features a lower rise, a slim seat and thigh, and a generous leg opening. The jean is offered in 100-percent cotton and 99-percent cotton/one-percent Lycra stretch. Dark washed, 12.75-ounce denim has a hand-sanded treatment. The jeans are constructed with double-needle stitching, while the back pocket features Stetson signature pocket stitch pattern; $59.99.

Wrangler's new Q-Baby style jeans for women are described as the "Ultimate Riding Jean" by the company. Boot cut jeans are 80-percent cotton stretch denim shown in a Stardust wash. Features include no-gap waistband, flat seams and slim fit; $50.

New Ariat Turquoise jeans are slim-fitting through the hips and thighs, with Ariat's "True Fit" waistband, medium rise and boot cut lower leg. Fabric is 100-percent cotton, ring-spun, 12.75-ounce denim. Smooth inseams ensure no irritation, no chafing; $64.95.

Medium stonewashed Krista women's Cruel Girl jeans from Rocky Mountain Clothing Company feature tint, whiskers, destruction and tacking. This is Cruel Girl's lowest rise jean and includes a flared leg; it is available in slim and relaxed fits. Oversized patch back pockets have heavy stitching; $80.

Chance men's Cinch jeans from Rocky Mountain Clothing Company are made with 13.25-ounce denim, dyed dark indigo, then stonewashed in permanganate for a distressed look. The waist of this White Patch model is relaxed in a medium rise, with a more fitted hip and a slim leg that opens up to a boot cut below the knee. Pocket treatments include oversized back patch pockets with a heavy, straight stitch; $74.

THE EVOLUTION OF WESTERN WEAR



"Oh My God" jeans and matching jean jacket from BrazilRoxx are designed to attract attention and elicit a reaction. The tight-fitting jeans relax to fit over boots; the front panels are over-dyed two-tone. The front and back are embellished to the max with suede, metal and crystal studs. Jeans are $395; the jacket is priced at $375.

THE EVOLUTION OF WESTERN WEAR



Iron Horse Jeans Co.'s Bazine jeans are 11-ounce stonewash denim with double-needle stitching and contrast orange thread. Regular fit, non-stretch jeans have a seven-inch, ultra low rise. Destroyed and patched jeans are treated with a light sand blast and include flap coin and back pockets. Iron Horse offers a one-year guarantee on workmanship; $74.99.

version was known as the 13MWZ (13th prototype, Men's Western Zipper). With the 13MWZ, Blue Bell launched the Wrangler brand of Western pants.

As the 1950s came to an end, denim apparel from Levi Strauss and H.D. Lee was the hot look among teenagers. During this time denim pants became known as blue jeans. Wrangler became Levi's biggest competitor in the cowboy jeans arena and dominated it by the 1970s. In 1986, Blue Bell and Wrangler became part of VF Corporation, which also owns and produces Lee Jeans.

Meanwhile, the seminal Western shirt maker, Miller Stockman Co., acquired the Prior Co., another Denver Western shirt maker. Prior had a ladies' jeans division called Rocky Mountain Jeans. Rockies, as the jeans were known, revolutionized fit and style in women's jeans, and transformed the ladies' Western jeanswear industry under Miller. In the early 1990s, Miller was renamed Rocky Mountain Clothing Co. and became a jeanswear powerhouse by introducing Cinch jeans and shirts for men, Cruel Girl jeans and tops for young women and Southern Thread jeanswear for men and women.

While Wrangler continues to dominate the Western jeans scene, Rockies and Cinch proved a market existed for alternative brands and styles. In recent years, a plethora of new jeans brands have appeared in Western apparel stores—most of which have brought in mainstream fashion influences.

This summer you'll see new styles from familiar jeans brands like Wrangler and Cinch. You'll also see classic and edgier jeans styles from Western brands not previously associated with jeans; Stetson and Ariat are prime examples. In addition, you'll see high fashion concept jeans loaded with bling and attitude from Kippy's and BrazilRoxx, or heavily abraded and ripped styles from relatively new lines like the Iron Horse Jeans Co. and Adiktd.

Imagine how surprised Davis would be to learn that the very problem he was fixing when he invented the prototype for jeans—ripped seams and torn pockets—are the height of fashion today.



The Rutherford men's jeans from Adiktd, a division of Kenco Fashions, are all-cotton, 15.5-ounce, ring-spun denim in dark stonewash and hand finishing. Flare-legged jeans have a relaxed fit and a medium rise; $88. Her Bond jeans are all-cotton, 14.5-ounce, ring spun, medium stonewashed denim. Boot cut jeans are mid-rise relaxed fit, with back flap pockets and hand-finished details, including embroidery; $88. Their Adiktd cotton-blend hoodies are $60 each.

Adiktd: 888-536-2677 • *AdiktdFashion.com*
Ariat International: 800-899-8141 • *Ariat.com*
BrazilRoxx: 877-285-7735 • *BrazilRoxx.com*
Cinch: 303-428-5696 • *CinchJeans.com*
Cruel Girl: 303-428-5696 • *CruelGirl.com*
Iron Horse Jeans Co: 858-798-1382 • *IronHorseJeans.com*
Kippy's: 619-435-6218 • *Kippys.com*
Levi Strauss: 800-872-5384 • *LeviStrauss.com*
Schaefer Ranchwear: 800-426-2074 • *Schaefer-Ranchwear.com*
Stetson Apparel: 303-571-2296 • *StetsonApparel.com*
Wrangler: 888-784-8571 • *Wrangler.com*

G. Daniel DeWeese co-authored the book, *Western Shirts: A Classic American Fashion* (Gibbs Smith, 2004). Ranch-raised near the Black Hills in South Dakota, Dan has written about Western apparel and riding equipment for more than 25 years.

short stories of American West

"The Tails of Comet"

#2





Last night Gorgeous Georgia had the Gold Fever Dream. She sat yoga style basking in its brilliant glow.





She traded her gold nuggets for a metal detector to find Great Grandpa George's gold stash the 21st-century way.

And back to the ghost town of Comet she went...

Gold nuggets are my new Visa

"Got to go , I found the gold!" as the detector squealed with gleeeeeeeeeeehhhhh!

"Hurry, dig there!" the wind whistled through the trees.

Grandpa George had GOLD FEVER AGAIN!



She doe kicked the soft dirt,



Stylin' in her new coat, hat and detector, she scanned the streets singing...

"Rich, Rich, I'm going to be Rich"

as the bluebirds sang along.



She walked and talked around while scanning the ghost town.





The shadows filled with watching eyes, and the buildings swayed with the song.





"One lousy nugget, that's all I found, it isn't at all like my dream."

"Hey Grandpa, where'd you hide that gold?"

Quickly the sunlight winked through the blowing leaves, and the golden shimmer caught her eye.



She slipped her hand through the crack in the wall.

THE GOLD FEVER DREAM

It's expensive to own, harder to keep,
It can live in your head, even while you sleep,
It can make you do foolish, but it tastes so sweet.

to be continued...

TRUE WEST EXCLUSIVE

CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

CAUGHT WITH HIS PANTS DOWN?

BILLY THE KID VS PAT GARRETT

ONE DOOR CLOSES. . .



In the Pat Garrett version of the story, the Kid is spotted walking across the parade ground, on the inside of a picket fence, in his stocking feet and buttoning his pants. Southwesterners have always had a hard time believing this. Why? Two words: cowpies and cocklebur.

– ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL –

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Maps & Graphics by Gus Walker

Based on the research of Frederick Nolan, Mark Boardman, Steve Sederwall and Gregory Smith.

JULY 14, 1881

At about nine p.m. Sheriff Pat Garrett and two deputies, John Poe and Tom "Kip" McKinney, ensconce themselves within a peach orchard on the northern boundary of Fort Sumner, New Mexico. A full moon looms above.

As the lawmen creep toward the buildings, they hear voices. Stopping, they realize someone else is in the orchard. "Soon a man arose from the ground," Garrett later remembers, "in full view, but too far away to recognize. He wore a broad-brimmed hat, a dark vest and pants, and was in his shirt sleeves."

The dark figure says something indiscernible to the officers, jumps the fence and walks into the compound. (Garrett later learns that this was Billy the Kid; the inference is that Billy had just finished making love in the green grass.)

By now it is nearly midnight. Garrett and his deputies back out of the orchard and approach Pete Maxwell's house. The three men slip silently onto Maxwell's south porch.

Garrett posts his two deputies at the front gate and goes inside. Poe sits on the edge of the steps in the open gate, and McKinney squats just outside. Both immediately notice a lone figure approaching on the inside of the fence. He is hatless and in his stocking feet. In the moonlight, Poe notices he is buttoning his trousers.

Neither Poe nor McKinney recognize him. Both are from Texas and new to the area. Poe assumes the figure is a Mexican employee of Maxwell's.

Inside the house, Garrett has awakened Pete and is asking him the whereabouts of the Kid.

As the Kid mounts the porch, he sees the two deputies for the first time. Alarmed, he brandishes a butcher knife and a self-cocking, .41-caliber Colt Thunderer. Springing around like a cat, he demands in Spanish, "¿Quien es?" ["Who is it?"]

Poe rises and tries to calm the agitated stranger.

"¿Quien es?" demands the dark figure again.

Receiving no reply, he backs into Pete's room through an exterior door and directs his question to Pete, "¿Quien es, Pete?"

Garrett, engulfed in the dark corner, freezes. He recognizes the Kid's voice immediately. Garrett dares not speak, because his own gun is in his holster, and he is sitting on it!

"He came directly towards me," Garrett later recounts. "He came close to me, leaned both hands on the bed, his right hand almost touching my knee.

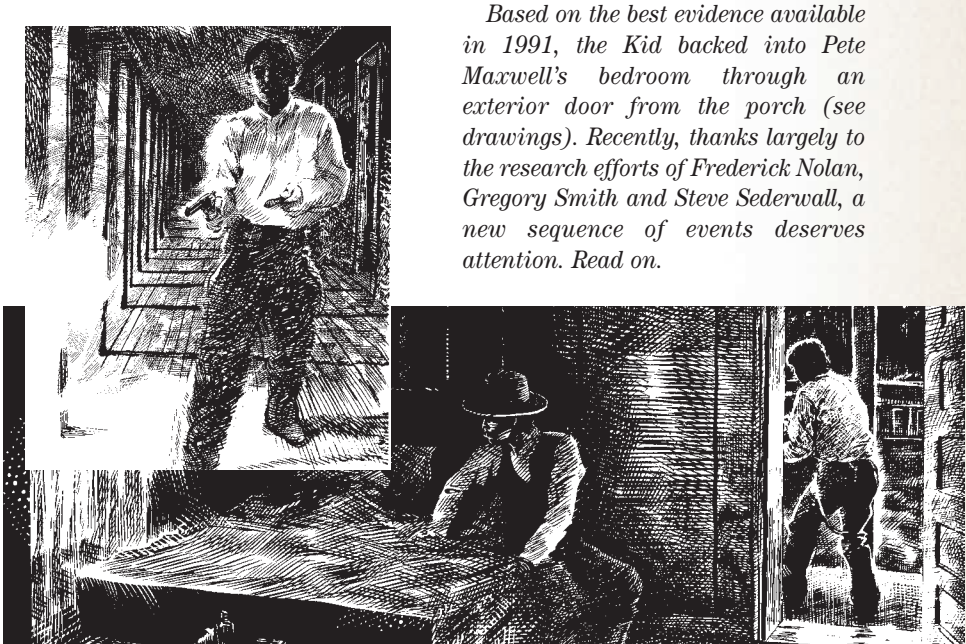
"The Kid must have seen or felt the presence of a third person at the head of the bed. He raised his pistol, a self-cocker, within a foot of my breast."

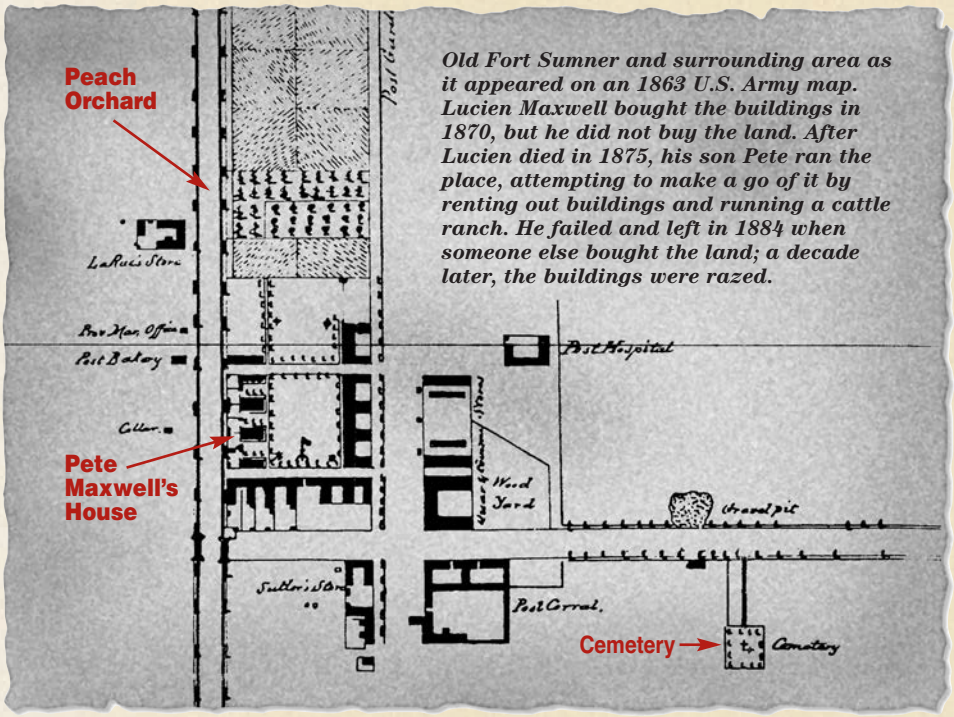
The Kid jumps back, but instead of firing, he demands in Spanish one more time, "¿Quien es?"

Big mistake. Garrett draws his revolver and fires twice.

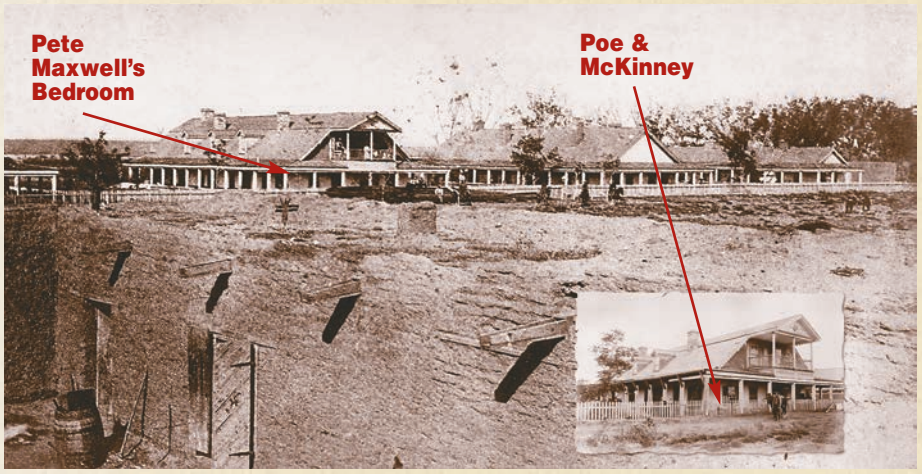
"The Kid fell dead. He never spoke. A struggle or two, a little strangling sound as he gasped for breath, and the Kid was with his many victims."

Based on the best evidence available in 1991, the Kid backed into Pete Maxwell's bedroom through an exterior door from the porch (see drawings). Recently, thanks largely to the research efforts of Frederick Nolan, Gregory Smith and Steve Sederwall, a new sequence of events deserves attention. Read on.





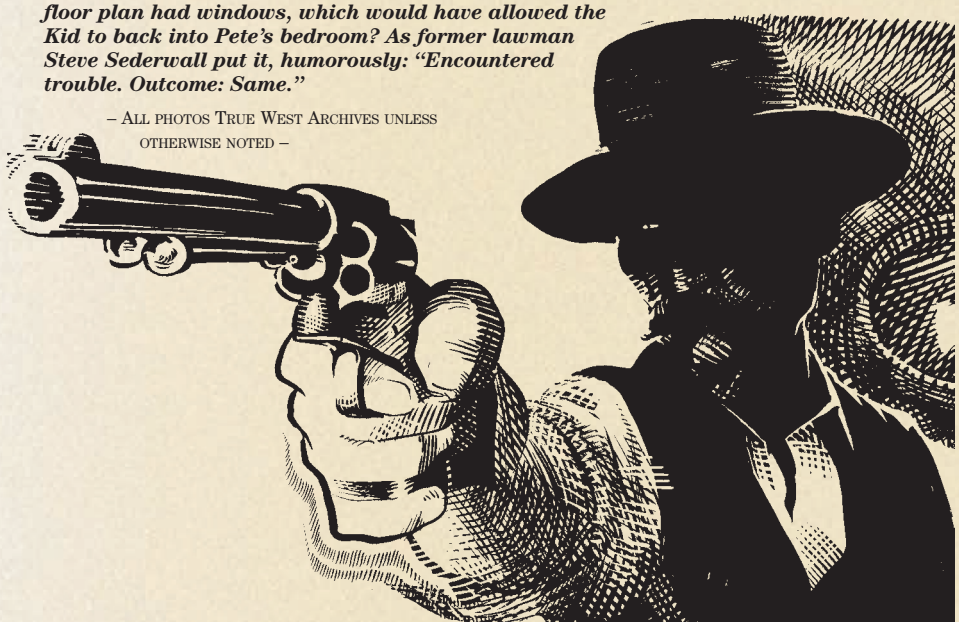
Old Fort Sumner and surrounding area as it appeared on an 1863 U.S. Army map. Lucien Maxwell bought the buildings in 1870, but he did not buy the land. After Lucien died in 1875, his son Pete ran the place, attempting to make a go of it by renting out buildings and running a cattle ranch. He failed and left in 1884 when someone else bought the land; a decade later, the buildings were razed.



Crime Scene Clues

These two photos of Pete Maxwell's home in Fort Sumner were taken in 1882, after the killing of the Kid. John Poe described the house as being one story, leading historians to conclude the renovations were done after the events described here. The problem with this scenario is that several reports state Lucien Maxwell converted the military building into a home in the early 1870s. Did he add exterior doors where the original floor plan had windows, which would have allowed the Kid to back into Pete's bedroom? As former lawman Steve Sederwall put it, humorously: "Encountered trouble. Outcome: Same."

– All photos True West Archives unless otherwise noted –



A New Scenario?

Below is an extract from an October 20, 1942, interview John L. McCarty conducted with Garrett H. "Kid" Dobbs, who lived in Fort Sumner at the time of the gunfight.

Billy was hiding out at Pete Maxwell's house. He would hide out in the daytime and come in to eat and sleep at night. Maxwell learned his sister was planning to elope with Billy the Kid as soon as Billy got in condition.

Maxwell wrote Garrett a letter saying he would turn Billy over to him. Garrett thought it might be a trick to trap him for Billy. Pat had [John] Poe and [Kip McKinney], two deputies with him. He told them he was afraid this was a trap and wasn't going up there until he talked with Maxwell. "Pete may be leading us into a trap as he's a good friend of the Kid," Pat told Poe.

Garrett wrote a note to Maxwell and sent it to him by a Mexican, telling him to meet them at the Mexican Plaza six miles below Fort Sumner. Pete came down and swore it was no trap, and told about his sister being in love with Billy, and he wanted to stop it. Garrett told Pete if it was a trap, he would kill him too. He told Pete he was coming up that night.

They arrived at Maxwell's early, before Billy came in from his daylight hiding, and [Garrett] told his deputies to bed down in one corner of Maxwell's yard. Pat went into the house and waited in Maxwell's bedroom. When Billy came in that night, he saw the men in the yard and asked the cook who they were. The cook said they were some of Pete's sheepherders who had come in for supplies.

In the meantime Maxwell had told the cook not to save any cold meat and to pour out all the supper so the Kid would have to fix his own supper. Billy asked the cook where the knife was, and the cook said he thought it was in the cupboard. It wasn't, so he told Billy to look on the table. Garrett could hear every word in the bedroom.

Then Kid asked where the meat was, and the cook said he guessed it was in the meat box. Billy told him it wasn't. The cook told Billy it must be in Pete's bedroom then, as Pete had brought some new meat out from town.

The Kid had the knife in his left hand and started to the bedroom to get some meat. There was a broken-rock walkway just large enough for two to pass in the hallway from the kitchen to the bedroom. There was a dining room between the kitchen and the bedroom. Garrett could hear the Kid coming on those rocks. He was sitting on the foot of the bed.

[Here Dobbs explained the hallway ran east and west. Pete's room was on the west, and the cook's room, on the east.]

It was warm weather, and the bedroom window was open; not daylight but you could see a sort of light where the window was. The door opened, and Billy saw Pat move off the bed.

Billy said: "¿Como estes?" ["What's that?"] As he said it he jumped sideways and got in front of the window. That was the only break Garrett got—the Kid being in front of that window.

Garrett never answered. He fired. And as Billy fell, he fired over Pat's head, and the bullet went in the ceiling and through it. Pat's shot went under Billy's heart and through him into the wall. Billy bled a lot, and Pat moved him once from the big pool of blood to another spot on the floor. This caused the two stains on the floor.

I have been in the room lots of times and have slept there. Pat and Pete showed me and told me how it happened many times, as did the deputies.

BBB's Take

The recently discovered floor plans for the Maxwell house, taken in conjunction with the Dobbs interview, raise a whole series of new questions as to exactly how Billy the Kid was killed.

It now appears likely the Kid never walked outside in his stocking feet (which has always been suspect to anyone who has lived in the Southwest). The motive for saying he had? Perhaps it was a desperate attempt to cover up the scandal of the Kid being in 15-year-old Paulita Maxwell's bedroom.

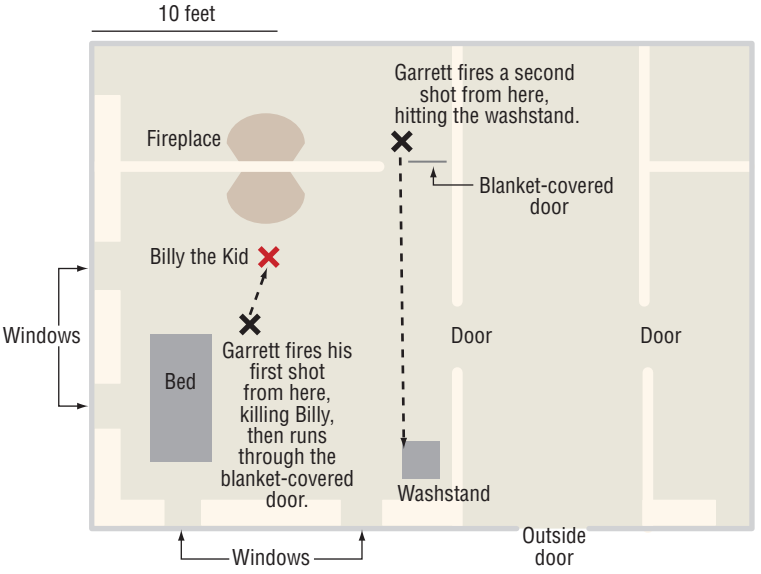
This information also gives more credence to Frederick William Grey's claims that the lawmen "tied and gagged the girl [Paulita]," that Garrett hid behind a sofa and that when Billy showed in the doorway, Garrett shot him down like a dog. As McKinney's mining partner, Grey claims the deputy confided to him this is how the Kid was really killed.

The Maxwell House

John Poe describes Pete Maxwell's dwelling as being a "very long, one-story" building, consistent with many military post buildings at the time Pete's father Lucien bought the property in 1870. Gregory Scott Smith, monument manager at the Fort Sumner State Monument, found the 1863 U.S. Army floor plan in the National Archives. It shows the original layout of the officers' quarters, one of which became the Maxwell house. With no doors on the outside of the Maxwell bedroom, this floor plan could change how we view the Kid's final movements.







Sederwall's Supposition

Retired lawman Steve Sederwall believes the CSI gives evidence that Billy more than likely was in Paulita's bedroom, across from Pete's, when he heard two men (Poe and McKinney) talking outside.

"The Kid slipped on his pants but did not pull on his boots," Sederwall theorizes. "He grabbed his shooter and slipped into Pete's room. '¿Quien es? Pete, who are those fellows outside?' Garrett fired, the muzzle blast flash-blinded him. Garrett made for the door, unable to see; he hit the wall to the left of the door. He moved down the wall where he stumbled in the doorway leading to the other room. From his knees, with his left hand on the floor, Garrett fired his second shot, which traveled down the wall, striking the washstand."

Sederwall claims a laser lines up perfectly with the hole in the washstand only from this lower position and across the room.

One Door Closes, Another Door Opens

In 1991, I traveled on a research trip to Fort Sumner to meet Joe Bowlin, owner of Bowlin's Trading Post in Taiban, not far from Stinking Springs. At that time, Joe was president of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang and, along with his wife Maryln, a tireless proponent of all things Billy the Kid. (Joe would pass away in 1993.)

Joe and I spent the day seeing all the sites: Stinking Springs, the Brazil-Wilcox ranch, the Yerby ranch and Sunnyside (really disappointing!). One of my goals for my illustrated book on the Kid (published in 1992) was to accurately illustrate the events leading up to the Kid's death.

Of course, Old Fort Sumner itself was long gone, but Joe took me to the Abreu house nearby, which local folklore claimed was built to the same specs as the Maxwell house at the fort. I took a series of photos for art reference and had Joe pose in the doorway of the corner room. I was struck by a couple of qualities: the bedroom was very small (20 feet x 20 feet, according to the Army floor plan) and the rooms along the porch had doors. As is often the case when I visit the actual sites where history has happened, the stories I have heard start to make sense. As such, I built my narration based on the Abreu house.

Unfortunately, conventional wisdom is often misinformed, which I found out when Gregory Smith discovered the original 1863 floor plans for the fort buildings in the National Archives. Apparently, windows, not doors, were located alongside those rooms. Lucien did renovate his house, so he might have created doorways when he and his family moved in. Yet if Pete's room did not have an outside door, historians will certainly be forced to look at the event with new eyes.







Joe Bowlin backs into a doorway at the Abreu house (above) and sits on the porch (top, at right). Film producer and director King Vidor—who had put out the first widescreen Billy the Kid movie in 1930—allegedly donated some or all of the money for the headstone placed at the Kid's grave in 1931 (right). Nine years later, a footstone was added.

Aftermath: Odds & Ends

Billy the Kid's body was taken from Pete Maxwell's house and laid out on a bench (see photo, p. 45) in the carpenter shop. He was buried the next day, and his grave site was marked with a wooden marker.

In 1884 the New England Cattle Co. bought the Fort Sumner property and had the buildings torn down a decade later. A souvenir hunter took the wooden marker (another wooden one replaced it). A local, Charlie Foor, helped tear down the building. He used the flooring from Pete's room in his house, which still stands.

A 1904 flood washed away many grave markers in the cemetery. In March of 1906 the army sent Charles W. Dudrow to dig up all the soldiers buried at Fort Sumner and move them to Santa Fe. Dudrow took notes of the rank and identity of each soldier. Some believe the diggers would not have disturbed Billy's grave, while others think the Kid's body was taken to Santa Fe and now resides under the new roadway to Española.

In 1931, the local chamber erected the "PALS" headstone at the Kid's grave. Three of Billy's pallbearers pointed out three different spots as the original location of O'Folliard, Bowdre and the Kid's grave. As a result, the chamber placed the marker in the middle of those locations.

A smaller footstone was placed at the location in 1940. It was stolen in 1950 and found in Granbury, Texas, in 1976. It was stolen again in 1981, but found just days later in California. The stone was reset later that year; Pat Garrett's son Jarvis was present for that ceremony. In 1982, the footstone was anchored down and a huge cage was put around the entire grave.

Recommended: No book has yet covered these findings.

twmag.com extra

Miss a profile of a True Western town? Visit the Travel section in our online archives.

Buffalo, Wyoming

August means rodeos, fly-fishing and swimming in the state's largest pool.

Buffalo, Wyoming—population 4,480—is the kind of town that rallies around its community members, even when memories are all they have left of the person.

The Cowboy Saloon closed down on a June day to encourage folks to attend the unveiling of a memorial park in nearby Kaycee. Why? The park commemorates rodeo cowboy-turned-Country singer Chris LeDoux, who died of liver cancer five years ago. David Michael Thomas remembers selling feed to the singer at his store in Buffalo in the 1980s, before Thomas went on to become a sculptor. Now his 13-foot-high bronze of rodeo contestant number 79 welcomes visitors to the park.

Buffalo locals will be cheering on the next generation of rodeo stars and cowboy singers when rodeo hits the town during the Johnson County Fair the week of August 1-8.

Main Street should be packed with people. No doubt they'll be ordering buffalo steak at The Virginian Restaurant, inside the 1880 Occidental Hotel, where Butch and Sundance, among others, once stayed.

Another popular stop near Main Street should be the Jim Gatchell museum, home to a Thomas sculpture paying tribute to the Johnson County War, in the form of Nate Champion. Speaking of the alleged cattle rustler, who hired gunmen killed during a seven-hour standoff at KC Ranch, a room is devoted to him at the Mansion House Inn, also within walking distance.



Buffalo residents know the month of August means it's rodeo time!

Former electrician Johnnie Pond and his wife Pam McFadden own the inn. Johnnie, who grew up riding horses on a farm in Texas, does not consider himself a cowboy, yet he respects the risky lives they led and continue to lead. He agrees with singer Willie Nelson's assessment of them, "Sadly in search of and one step in back of themselves and their slow-moving dreams." In the six years Johnnie and Pam have lived in Buffalo, they have become big fans of these local hangouts.

Good Cowboy Bar: The Century Club and, of course, the Occidental Saloon in the Occidental Hotel. It still has the bullet holes in the ceiling from rowdy cowboys.

Popular Summer Hangout: You'll find locals at the largest swimming pool in Wyoming, here in Buffalo.

Best Western Art Galleries: Artist and sculptor D. Michael Thomas has his studio here; Hitching Post Gallery also features works by folks such as wildlife artist Hugh Jennings.

Best Bookstore of the West: The Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum offers the best books on buffalos, Indians, forts, ghost towns, Johnson County and the West.

Best Spot to View Wildlife: The Big Horn Mountains have elk, moose, deer, antelope, brown bear, black bear, pheasant, sage grouse and wild turkey.

Kid-Friendly Zone: The children really "dig" the dinosaur sites, two hours away, at the dinosaur center in Thermopolis.

That Thursday Thing: Bluegrass Jam at the Occidental Hotel Saloon, and Cowboy Poetry at the Mansion House Inn.

Old West Attractions: Historic cemetery tours with actors portraying famous pioneers who are buried at the Willow Grove Cemetery. Single Action Shooting Society competes here in the summer, with the finale at the Johnson County Fairgrounds on August 1.



Fly-fishing at Crazy Woman Creek Canyon.

Local radio personality: Aaron Palmer, with his "Classic Country," at 1450 AM. He is a great guy and wears many hats, as does anyone working with a small company.

Average house cost: $200,000.

Average Temperatures: Summer: 105-50 degrees. Winter: 30 to -40 degrees.

Person in Buffalo Everybody Knows: Jack Meldrum, who, active to the end, passed away last year at 99 years old. He was a business owner, rancher, goof-off, airplane pilot, jokester and all-around good guy. He did not know a stranger, and he was helpful to anyone, tough on the bad guys and, most of all, fair and just. Jack was one of a kind in the great history of America's local "one of a kinds."

Best-Kept Secret: The 30 or so pristine lakes and miles of creeks, with fishing unmatched, at Crazy Woman Creek Canyon.

Preservation Project: Downtown Buffalo is in development to enhance its Old West ambiance with its 1880s structures and storefronts.

Special thanks to **Johnnie Pond** and **Pamela J. McFadden**, husband-and-wife owners of the Mansion House Inn, for sharing their love of the town with us.

Historic Mansion House Inn

Alive with the Spirit of the Old West





Experience:

- Butch Cassidy and the Hole-in-the-Wall
- Historic Interactive Cemetery Tours
- TA Ranch & the Johnson County Cattle Wars
- Fort Phil Kearny and the Fetterman Battle Site
- Dull Knife Battle Site
- Guided Tours of Historic Sites
- Big Horn Mountain Music Festival
- Shop Downtown Historic Buffalo
- Head for the Big Horn Mountains

Historic Mansion House Inn
313 North Main St. • P.O. Box 845 • Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
307.684.2218 or 888.455.9202
Web site: **www.mansionhouseinn.com**
Email: mansionhouse@vcn.com

Home of D. Michael Thomas's Johnson County Cattle War Bronzes





FNB
First National Bank
Serving you since 1885

Celebrating 125 years 2010

For more information about the artist and his work:
www.dmichaelthomas.com
(307) 684-2347

141 S. Main Street
Buffalo, WY 82834
www.fnb-buffalo.com
(800) 766-3641

Member FDIC

BUFFALO, WY

Wind River
CASINO
PRESENTS
A SUMMER OF TRADITIONAL DANCING
EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY AT 6PM
FREE TO THE PUBLIC
June - August
Weather permitting





OVER 750 SLOT MACHINES • 10 TABLE GAMES
RED WILLOW RESTAURANT · CEE NOKUN CAFE
GIFT SHOP · NON-SMOKING SLOT SECTION
ESPRESSO · ENTERTAINMENT ROOM
1-866-657-1604 • WWW.WINDRIVERCASINO.COM
TWO MILES SOUTH OF RIVERTON, WY.
OPEN 24 HOURS



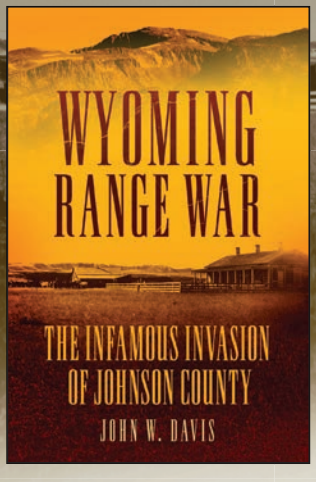
Willow
Creek Ranch
at the Hole-in-the-Wall, LLC

We invite you to visit one of the last frontiers of the legendary "Old West." This was home to such outlaws as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Jesse James and "Flatnose" George Currie.

Join us for:
Scenic Horseback Riding • Branding
Cattle Drives • Camping
Chuckwagon Dinners

Come experience a unique way of life!

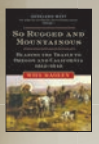
P.O. Box 10 • Kaycee, Wyoming 82639
307-738-2223
willowcreek@alluretech.net



WYOMING RANGE WAR
The Infamous Invasion of Johnson County
By John W. Davis

$29.95 HARDCOVER · 384 PAGES 25 B&W ILLUS. · 1 MAP

Wyoming attorney John W. Davis looks at the conflict from the perspective of Johnson County residents—those whose home territory was invaded and many of whom the invaders targeted for murder—and finds that, contrary to the received explanation, these people were not thieves and rustlers but legitimate citizens. The cattle barons' powers of persuasion in justifying their deeds have colored accounts of the war for more than a century. *The Wyoming Range War* tells a compelling story that redraws the lines between heroes and villains.



SO RUGGED AND MOUNTAINOUS
Blazing the Trails to Oregon and California, 1812–1848
By Will Bagley
$45.00 HARDCOVER · 480 PAGES
21 B&W ILLUS. · 4 MAPS



FORT LARAMIE
Military Bastion of the High Plains
By Douglas C. McChristian
$45.00 HARDCOVER · 448 PAGES
26 B&W ILLUS. · 2 MAPS



VISIONS OF THE BIG SKY
Painting and Photographing the Northern Rocky Mountain West
By Dan Flores
$45.00 HARDCOVER · 248 PAGES
140 COLOR AND B&W PHOTOS



TO SAVE THE WILD BISON
Life on the Edge in Yellowstone
By Mary Ann Franke
$29.95 HARDCOVER · 368 PAGES
26 B&W ILLUS. · 5 GRAPHS · 4 MAPS

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS
2800 VENTURE DRIVE · NORMAN, OK 73069 · TEL 800 627 7377
OUPRESS.COM facebook.COM/OUPRESS YouTube.COM/OUPRESS

Buffalo's Famous, Award-Winning Historic Hotel

Historic Hotel

THE OCCIDENTAL

FOUNDED 1880 RESTORED 2003

Selected for The Exclusive
National Geographic Traveler Stay List
As one of the Best Hotel Experiences in North America!

Winner of 4 TrueWest Magazine Awards As
Best Hotel in the West
& Best Saloon in the West

- Authentic Old West Atmosphere
- Elegant Rooms & Suites
- Superb Western Dinners
- Beautiful Old West Saloon
- Great Musical Entertainment
- The Busy Bee Cafe & Soda Fountain

10 NORTH MAIN STREET, BUFFALO, WYOMING • WWW.OCCIDENTALWYOMING.COM

RESERVATIONS: (307)-684-0451



Butch Cassidy & The Wild Bunch were some of our first satisfied guests, more than 100 years ago!

The Old West Comes Alive



photo courtesy of the Jim Gatchell Museum

IN BUFFALO & KAYCEE WYOMING

Experience the Old West:

Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum
Occidental Hotel & Saloon
The Bozeman Trail
Hole-in-theWall
Home of Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid
Outlaw Cave
The TA Ranch - Johnson County Cattle War
Hoofprints of the Past Museum
Fort Phil Kearny
Mountain Plains Heritage Park
Historic Main Street Walking Tour
Crazy Woman Battlefield

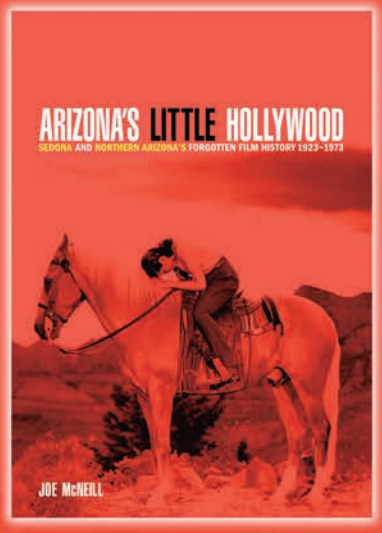
Explore the New West:

Big Horn National Forest
Crazy Woman Canyon
Horseback Riding
Country Rodeos
Antique Shopping
Art Galleries
Clear Creek Walking Trail
Free Outdoor Pool & City Park
4-Star Buffalo Golf Course
Lake DeSmet Recreation Area
Tie Hack Dam & Recreation Area
Fishing-Lake & Stream

1-800-227-5122 www.buffalowyo.com www.kayceewyoming.org

ARIZONA'S LITTLE HOLLYWOOD
SEDONA AND NORTHERN ARIZONA'S FORGOTTEN FILM HISTORY 1923-1973

A LAVISHLY ILLUSTRATED BOOK THAT ONCE AND FOR ALL GIVES SEDONA ITS DUE AS A KEY LOCATION IN MOVIE HISTORY.



60 FILMS.
680 PAGES.
175 PHOTOS.

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD
www.arizonaslittlehollywood.com

NORTHEDGE & SONS
SEDONA, ARIZONA

A Cure for Baldness?

Just one of the many bounties of bread.


– By Sherry Monahan –

"I got six loaves of bread for a quarter at a bakery, and a bucket of syrup at a grocery.... I would dip the bread in the syrup and eat it, and that was what I lived on," penned the starving attorney Oliver H. Cross, who began his law career in McGregor, Texas, in 1894.

The bread must have done its job. He went on to become district attorney, a representative in the state house and a U.S. congressman.

For centuries, bread has been a food staple. Made from various flours, potatoes and corn, bread was shaped into loaves, biscuits, muffins and more. It was also turned into soup, pudding, toast and many other practical, meal-extending edibles. No matter the meal, bread was usually served in one form or another. Sometimes it was the only food served.

Making bread could be a real challenge, especially for pioneers who lived in remote areas or for those riding the range. "Cooking in pioneer days was a real problem," admitted Mrs. Ford, recalling her life in Canyon City, Oregon, in the later part of the 19th century. "There was hardly anything to cook. . . . One example was bread. We had to make our own yeast first, before we could start to make the bread. Always on Saturday, we would make enough bread to last through the following week."

Mrs. W.A. Davison, who lived in Ogallala, Nebraska, in the 1890s, found her challenge hissing at her. "Not being able to buy bread in those days, Mrs. Davison decided to make some biscuits. But when she looked into the flour barrel there was a huge bull snake curled up in it. So they went without biscuits, and had to go back to town a distance of around 20 miles to buy some flour before they could make bread."

Using leftover or stale bread was a common practice in frugality. Mrs. Anne Abernethy Starr, born in Portland, Oregon, in 1869, remembered making a ". . . sour milk biscuit or hot cake made of stale bread. Stale bread was soaked overnight in sour milk. The next morning soda was added for leavening, and perhaps an egg for binding the mass together. It was then fried in cakes or baked in iron gem pans."

Different types of breads became trendy. What was popular in the early

Sherry Monahan has penned *Taste of Tombstone*, *Pikes Peak: Adventurers, Communities and Lifestyles*, *The Wicked West* and *Tombstone's Treasure: Silver Mines and Golden Saloons*. She's appeared on the History Channel in *Lost Worlds*, *Investigating History* and *Wild West Tech*.

THE "NEW" BREAD

4½ cups flour

1 tsp. salt

½ tsp. sugar

2 heaping tsp. Royal Baking Powder

½ medium-sized boiled potato, potato water set aside

Sift flour, salt, sugar and baking powder together in a large bowl. Mash or sieve the potato, and add to the flour mixture. Add 2 cups potato water and blend into a stiff batter, but do not overbeat. The dough should not be as stiff as if you were making yeast bread.

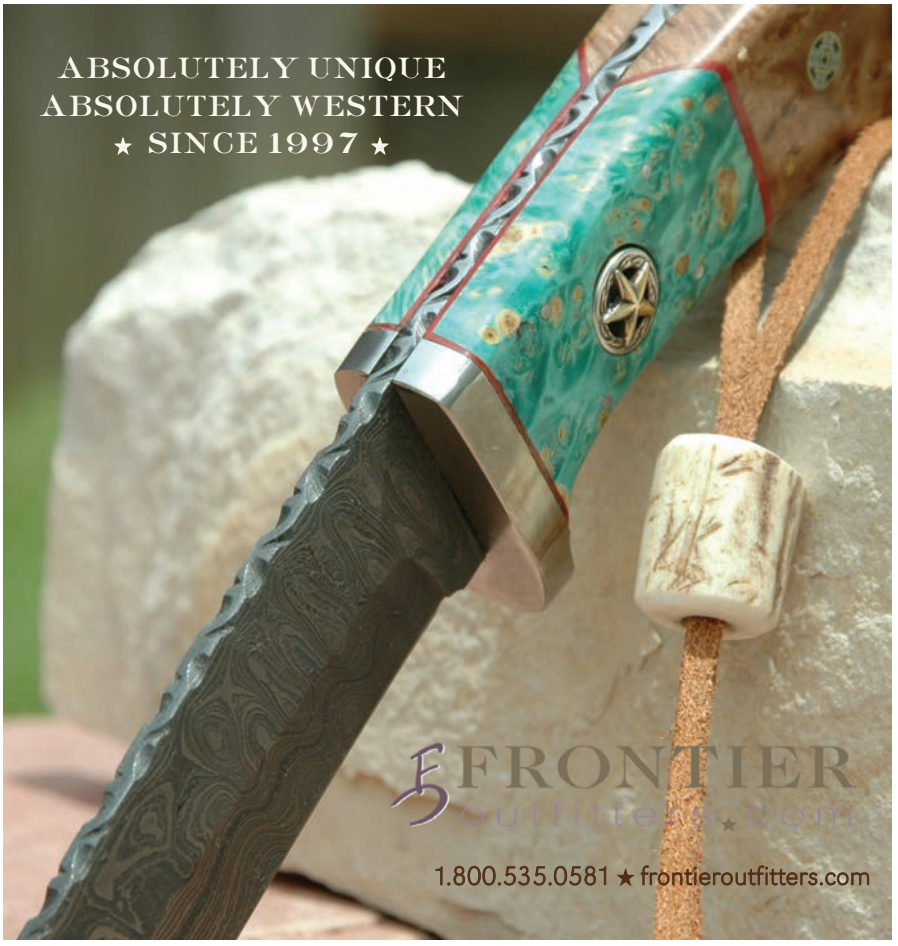
Pour batter into a greased bread loaf pan—it should only come halfway up. Cover with foil for the first 15 minutes. Bake at 375° for about 45 minutes.

—"Royal Baking Powder Company" recipe, 1893

1800s was considered peasant food by the end of the century. On March 3, 1886, North Dakota's *Bismarck Tribune* ran a story about that very subject. The headline read, "Bread Must Be White: Fashion's Arbitrary Rule Concerning the Staff of Life." Wholesome brown bread had gone out of fashion, with refined white bread taking its place. Only those in higher social circles could afford adulterated bread, which was made white by adding alum, cornstarch or other additives.

The article noted that children living in the Indian Territory were very healthy due to the wheat in their diets. Former Indian Commissioner G.P. Smith also believed the wheat protected against baldness! "... he never saw a baldheaded Indian, and the physicians account for this by the fact that the Indians eat wheat." They claimed hair contains sulfur, and if one did not eat food with sulfur, then the hair must naturally suffer.

By 1893 Western housewives no longer had to mix, knead, rise and bake the bread. The Royal Baking Powder Company offered the "new" bread. The recipe naturally included the company's baking powder. The story was published in newspapers across the country. On April 26, the Kansas newspaper, *The Sedan Lance*, raved: "Less than an hour from the dry flour to the most perfect loaf of bread I ever saw."





Treemendous designs.com

Welcome to our family-owned business!

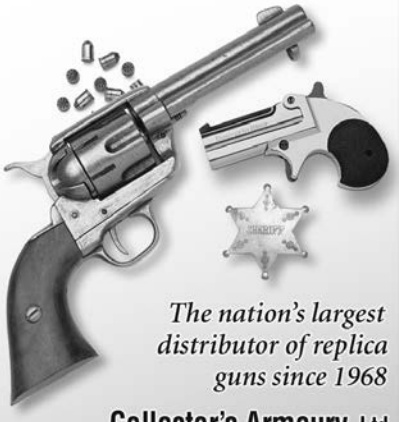
- We would love to create some furniture that is just your style.
- Best of all worlds—a professional family owned business creating custom log home accessories and furniture.
- Professional rustic wood furniture inspired by nature
- Completely custom services from our family to yours.



www.treemendousdesigns.com
574-722-2689

10% DISCOUNT ONLINE!
www.CALTD.com
USE CODE: TW2010
Offer excludes sales & clearance items. Expires 12/31/2010

Replica Guns
Blank Firing Guns
Historic Collectibles



The nation's largest distributor of replica guns since 1968

Collector's Armoury, Ltd
PO Box 1050 • Lorton, VA 22199
sales@CALTD.com
1-877-276-6879
www.CALTD.com
Call or click for a free catalog

Lone Star Vodka

And Colorado whiskey—the West is no longer just beer heaven.

"Texas vodka? Man, that doesn't even go together."

That was the reaction Tito Beveridge—yes, that's his name—got when he started trying to peddle his brew, Tito's Handmade Vodka, created in small batches in pot stills in Austin, Texas's first and oldest legal distillery.

You couldn't blame those liquor-store owners. Texas means beer (Shiner Bock or Lone Star). Texas is for drinkers who want their liquor dark. Not only was this Texas-made vodka, it was made from corn. Not potato. But taste won them over, and Tito's taste has been winning over vodka drinkers ever since.

Cool story, huh? Here's another one.

Up around Denver, Colorado, a volunteer firefighter named Jess Graber helped put out a fire that had broken out in the barn of his neighbor, George Stranahan. Turns out, they loved a good whiskey—dark whiskey, not clear vodka. With help from master distiller Jake Norris, who was born in a hippie commune in northern Arizona, they have been turning out small batches of Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey, made from 100-percent malted barley (some of that grown in the Rockies). This excellent whiskey is meant for sipping, with maybe a splash of water. "It's Colorado's first whiskey ever, since the beginning of time," says Norris, but thinks to add, "Legally, at least."

Drinking across the West has changed. Those micro-beer breweries (think Free State in Lawrence, Kansas; Barrio in Tucson, Arizona; or Kettle House in Missoula, Montana) and those fun vineyards (even the late Fess Parker, Davy Crockett himself, started his namesake and award-winning winery in Los Olivos, California) have inspired whiskey distillers. At least in Texas and Colorado.

Tito talks to me via telephone while walking his dogs.

He was looking for a new career, he says, and, since he'd made flavored vodkas for Christmas presents, he decided to become a distiller. Naturally, he had more experience than just putting habaneros or raspberries in store-bought vodkas.



At first, Tito Beveridge could hardly give away his small-batch vodka. Now his vodka's the talk of the spirits world, winning gold medals galore. "All of a sudden," he says, "it seemed like people were going, 'Wow, man, that's the real deal.'"

— Courtesy Tito's Handmade Vodka —

"I used to brew beer in college," he says. "Me and my roommates."

That sparked a memory. I had friends who brewed beer in college, but that stuff was patently undrinkable. Of course, we drank it anyway.

Tito's vodka is highly drinkable, distilled six times and made by the old-school method of pot stills. It isn't flavored, but that corn goes down really smooth.

Why corn? "I thought, 'I've got to make something I like to drink because I'll be drinking it all the time.'" he says. "It just ended up that everybody seemed to like what I like."

Everybody also seems to like Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey. Jake

Johnny D. Boggs's favorite Western microbrewery is New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins, Colorado. His favorite Western vineyard is Cayuse Vineyards in Walla Walla, Washington. But don't tell his mother.

Norris and I are sitting in the distillery in downtown Denver, sipping Stranahan's. My kind of interview.

We've worked up a thirst after touring the distillery. The barley goes through a roller mill and then is mashed and boiled before being filtered and moved into a fermentizer. From there, it's washed again and put in holding tanks, and transferred into Jake's pride and joy: a custom-made Vendome Copper Co. combo pot and column still, blending the best methods of Scotch- and Bourbon-making. From there, the whiskey goes into charred, American white oak barrels, where it's aged for at least two years. Then hand-bottled.

"This whiskey's made by people," Jake says. "Not by a mega-factory."

Plus, Stranahan's has a kick.

"I don't want anything subtle about my whiskey," he says. "I want it to punch you in the face."

Don't even suggest you use it as a mixer. That's why his bottles come with "sipper caps."

"If you spend 60 bucks on it," he says, "I'll be damned if you're gonna mix Coke with it."

I get the feeling that Tito Beveridge and Jake Norris love their jobs. And they should. They've helped change the way the West drinks.

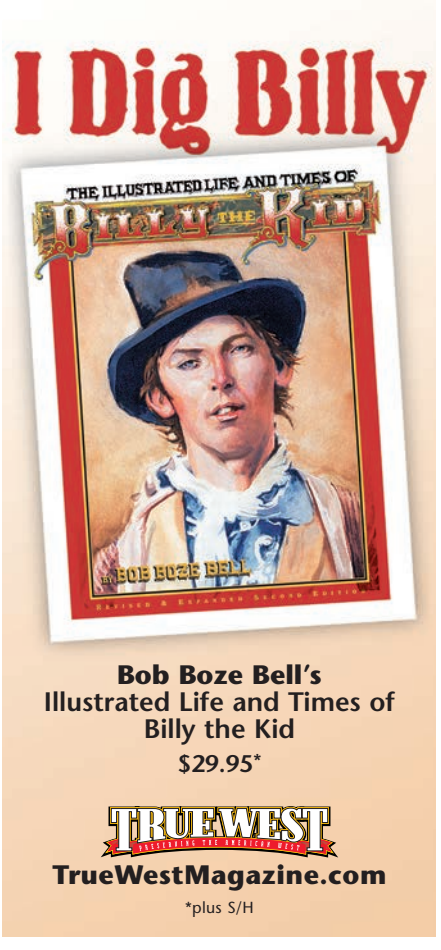
"Don't tell Jesse [Graber]," Jake says, "but this is something I'd do for free."



"I like to think of an oak barrel as a tea bag," master distiller Jake Norris says. Stranahan's barrels are 100-percent New American white oak, No. 4 barrels made in Lebanon, Missouri. (Inset) Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey with its sipper cap.

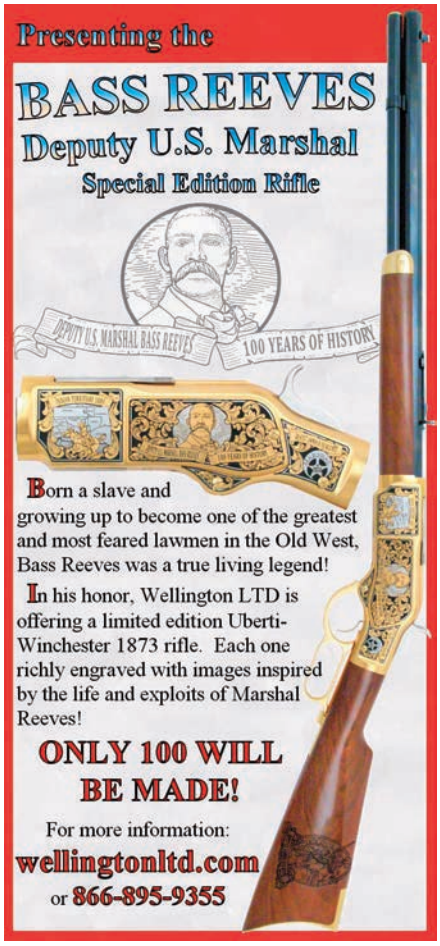
– By Johnny D. Boggs –











Equitrekking the American West

Filming on horseback in amazing, off-the-beaten-path destinations.

My Emmy Award–winning TV show *Equitrekking* is a visual testimony to the trail rides I cover for you here in *True West*.

For the TV crew, it's all about filming the journey, which often involves some fairly challenging terrain, especially when filming in the American West.

Equitrekking is about experiencing the world by traveling with local people on horseback. The locals are the ones who can take you to those out-of-the-way places about which only they know. This means that many of the places we visit are inaccessible by other means, especially the most beautiful ones, like Bryce Canyon in Utah, Haleakala Crater on Maui, Engineer Mountain in Colorado and Arizona's Sonoran Desert.

Our crew could walk, but we've tried that; they get pretty upset with me around mile two, especially when trying to match the pace of the riders. So we put them on horseback.

Riding to a high point in Arizona's Sonoran Desert wasn't just challenging because we had to zigzag around the prickly desert plants, but also because we had to pack ourselves and our equipment onto riding and pack horses. We prefer to use large, canvas, soft-sided panniers—a pair of containers on either side of the packhorse—to evenly distribute the weight of our gear, including the awkwardly shaped tripod. This packing process usually happens early in the morning and has been known to take place well before sunrise, at which time we pack by the light of truck high beams.

Fortunately, we've been able to compile a talented production crew, all of whom can ride. That's not to say that everyone with whom we work is an expert rider. In fact, I sometimes get an anxious feeling at the beginning of a film shoot when I know our entire crew is going to be on horseback. Though I'm not a professional rider, I've ridden enough horses to be able to handle myself in the saddle, even if my horse is being disagreeable. When I know we're all riding, I work with the horse owner to try to help match each of our crew with a horse that will be a good fit. Greg Barna, our director of photography, asks for a short horse, so he can get off and on more easily. He does a lot of that, especially when we're somewhere beautiful like our recent pack trip in Alberta. We could probably have filmed the entire show in a half-mile area, but we wanted to get deeper into the wilderness and see glacier-fed Mystic Lake. This meant riding some distance, which was certainly worth the trip. Greg also prefers a gaited horse with a smooth trot, which, as many readers know, is not always possible.

Our crew has learned which horse's personality best suits each of us when filming. I know I like a calm horse that can stand still once in a while, but also keep a good pace and get along well with the other horses with whom he's grouped. I've got a list of characteristics that I tell

Equitrekking Director of Photography Greg Barna gives Darley Newman's horse Orca a few scratches as he introduces Orca to the camera on a shoot in Alaska.

– Courtesy Darley Newman –



Darley Newman is the host and producer of the Emmy-winning Public Television series *Equitrekking*® and the founder of Equitrekking Travel, offering diverse equestrian vacations. Watch video clips at *Equitrekking.com* and *EquitrekkingTravel.com*.

people with whom we're filming, so that they too can know which horses to pick. It's simple stuff, like all of the horses have to get along and be able to walk side by side, instead of nose to tail, if the trail allows for it. Filming a ride is so different than just riding it; many people wouldn't think about those basic things if they were just riding for pleasure.

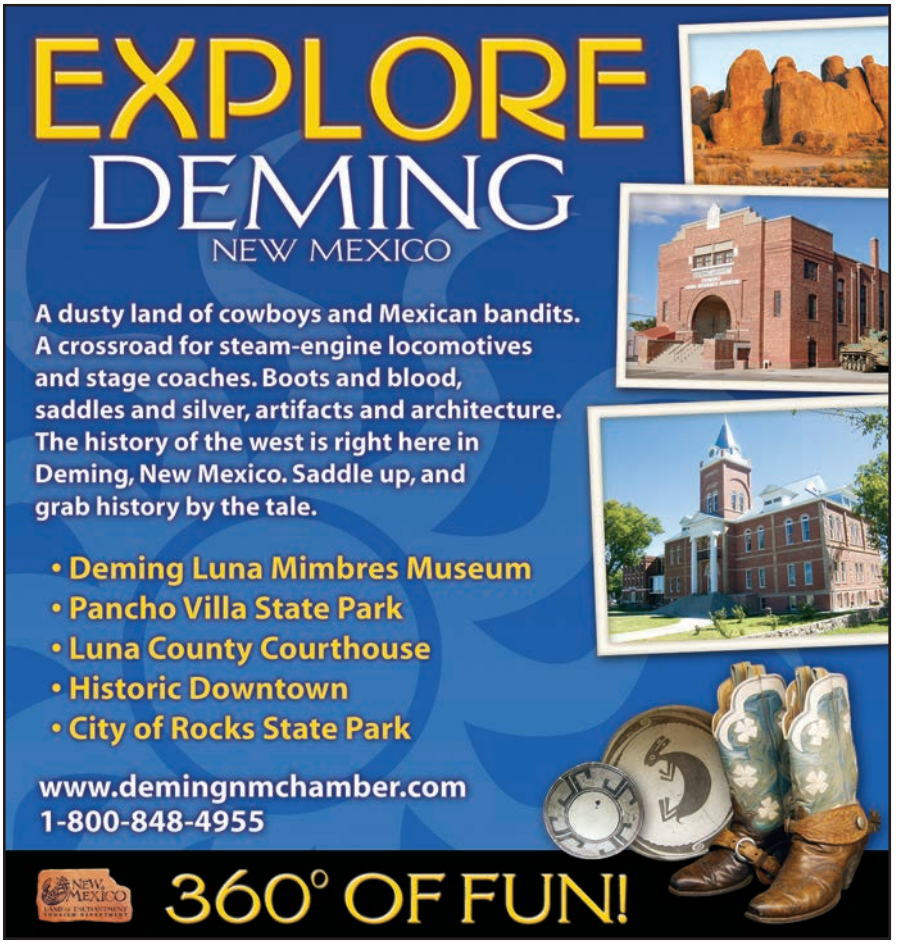
While some of the scenes we film may look like they are part of an American Western, we're not on a movie set and generally not using movie-trained horses. We actually lucked out on Antelope Island, Utah, where we were able to ride horses from the movies *Far and Away* and *Return to Lonesome Dove*. It made for some exciting running scenes, especially when my guide Ron Brown and I cantered alongside the film crew that was shooting out the window of a truck on a smooth stretch.

Just like our horses aren't actors, neither are our local hosts. They are regular folks who lead horse-loving travelers like me out riding. Filming a travel series like *Equitrekking* means we have to roll with whatever happens. We're always encountering challenges and surprises, which help make the show more exciting for viewers.

On the island of Hawaii, we filmed during a few natural disasters. You could say that our timing wasn't great, but then again it really was, because we skirted a few of them. I experienced my first earthquake in Hilo, and we left just before a hurricane blew into town. Then we luckily received a tsunami warning while we were filming in the Valley of the Kings, one of the most remote and lowest places on the island. Finally, a wild fire threatened the shoot when we were filming at Parker Ranch. Well, that was one of the more extreme shoots, but it's at those times when, as travelers and crew, you really bond.

For every trail ride on *Equitrekking*, we just hop on and head out—no dress rehearsal. We try to get as much information ahead of time about each horse's personality and quirks from the owners. Then we have to figure them out ourselves pretty quickly.

No matter what happens as we travel the world filming on horseback, we capture a ton of bloopers, along with the magical stories only found on the trail.







Following John Wesley Hardin Across Texas

From Bonham, Texas, to El Paso, Texas.

Everybody is sooooo nice in Bonham, Texas, I find it hard to believe that this is the place that gave birth to a psycho, bigoted, cold-blooded murdering SOB like John Wesley Hardin.

So when I ask the docent at the Fannin County Museum of History about Hardin, she gives me this suspicious look and says, "Oh, my . . . him." The same look and tone a journalist in Timmonsville, South Carolina, would get after asking someone about me.

Actually, Hardin wasn't born in the city limits, but at Blair's Springs about 10 miles southwest of this north Texas town. Besides, as Leon C. Metz points out in his brilliant biography, *John Wesley Hardin: Dark Angel of Texas*, Hardin "had little if any recollections of his youth there. Instead, his memoirs picked up in the East Texas piney woods of Polk County near the tiny community of Moscow when John was sixteen."

You won't see much in Moscow, an unincorporated community about 90 miles north of Houston. Yet Bonham offers lots to see, so here I am.

A good place to start is the Fannin County Museum of History. Located in a 1900 Texas and Pacific Railway Depot, the museum chronicles the region's history, beginning with the prehistoric era while focusing primarily from the region's settlement during those turbulent Texas revolution years through WW II.

For a better look at what life would have been like, check out Fort Inglish Village. Open Tuesdays through Saturday from April 1-September 1, the replica of the fort established by Bonham's founder Bailey Inglish was built in 1976. Three log cabins from the 1830s have been relocated outside the stockade. The site also includes a school/church. Interpreters demonstrate skills such as making lye soap, brooms and candles, and student visitors can grind corn or hand wash clothes. No wonder Hardin would have few memories of life around Bonham. I've tried to block those memories of farm chores myself.

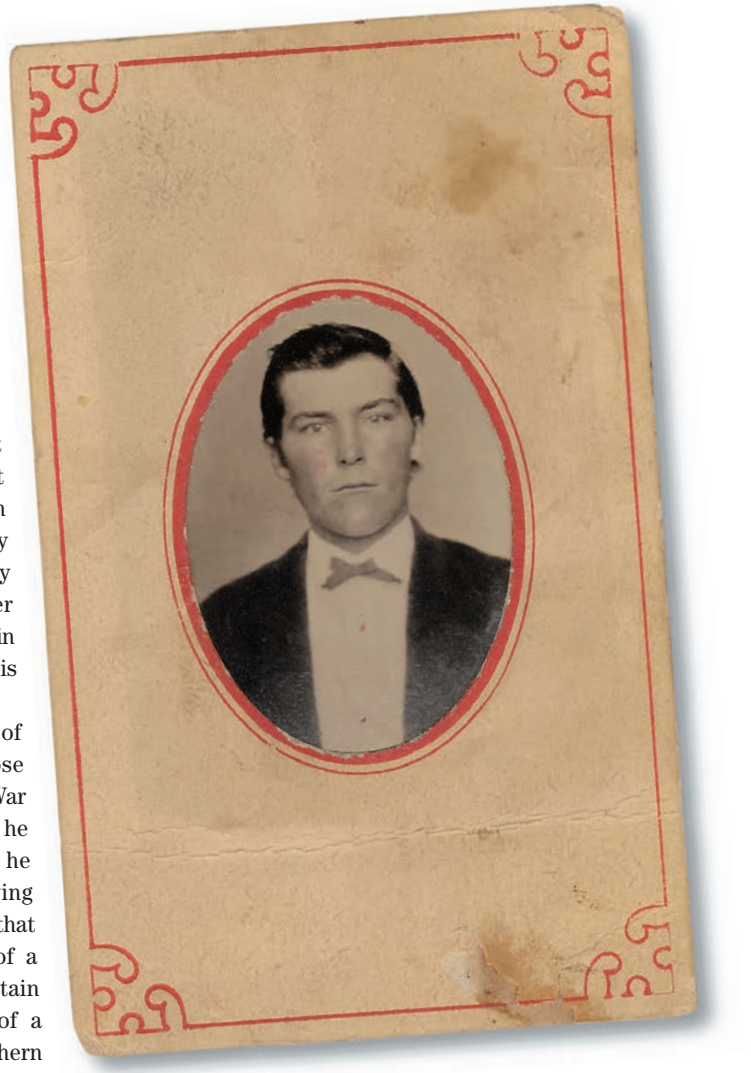
Hard Times, Bad Man

John Wesley Hardin was born on May 26, 1853, the son of J.G. Hardin, a Methodist minister and circuit rider, and Elizabeth Hardin, "blonde, highly cultured, and charity predominated in her disposition," as Hardin remembered in his autobiography.

He was a product of his times, and those times after the Civil War were hard. In 1868, he shot a black man he claimed was bullying him. "To be tried at that time for the killing of a Negro meant certain death at the hands of a court, backed by Northern bayonets," he wrote.

Hardin became a fugitive. By the time he was captured, tried and sentenced to prison a mere 10 years later, he had killed more than 20 men. He claimed 42.

Hardin's trail covered much of the West and much of the South. You can visit Abilene, Kansas, where he claimed (I think he was full of horse apples) to have backed down gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok. You can visit Pensacola, Florida (or better yet, those white sand beaches in Destin), where he was captured by Texas Rangers and local Florida lawmen in August 1877. He hung out, or hid out, in Louisiana and Alabama



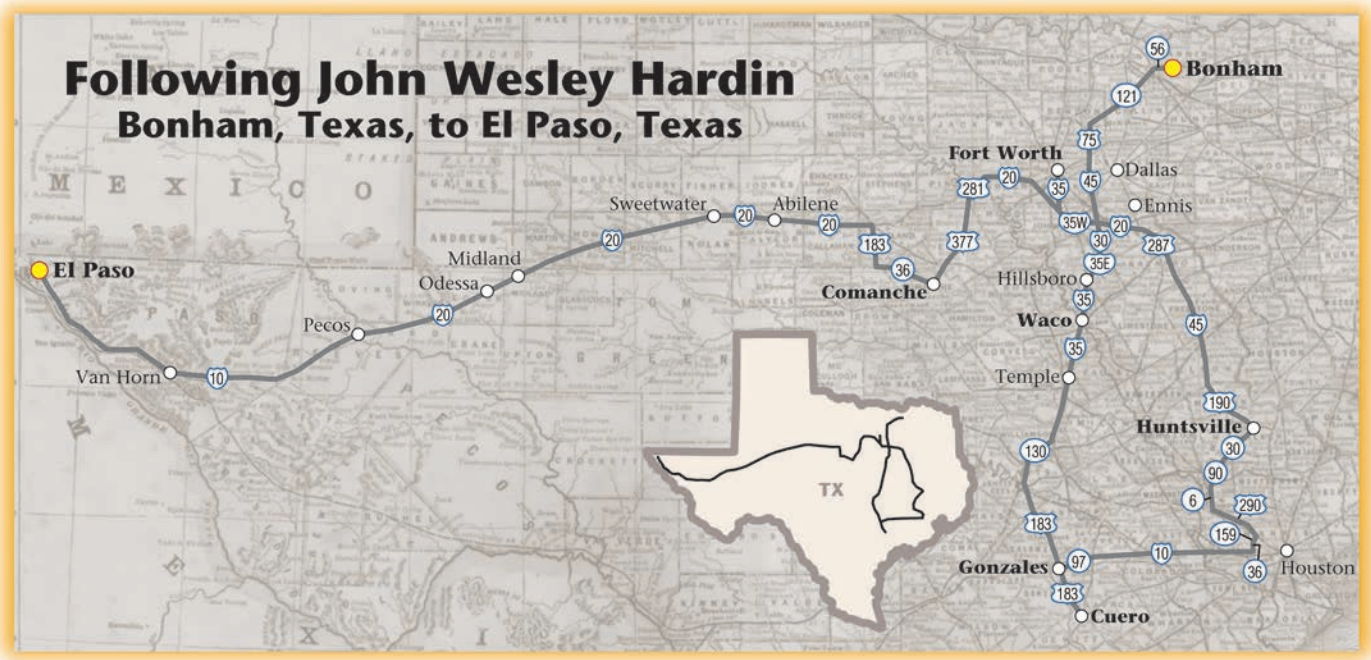
John Wesley Hardin, who killed his first man at the tender age of 15, claimed to have killed more than 40 men over the course of his life.

– Courtesy Robert G. McCubbin –

Road Trip Tunes

CDs for the Ride: *This Town* by Zane Lewis (Brand Z Productions); *John Wesley Harding* [sic] by Bob Dylan (Columbia); *Sings the Ballads of the True West* by Johnny Cash (Sony). **Honkytonks Worth the Stop:** John Wesley Hardin isn't as talked about in Fort Worth as much as a couple of other notorious Texas gunmen, Luke Short and Jim Courtright, who shot it out outside the White Elephant Saloon (right) on February 8, 1887. That gunfight is re-enacted every February 8 outside this famous Texas honkytonk in the Fort Worth Stockyards. Yet any time's a good time to catch some live Texas music, cut the rug and quaff a few cold ones. Some places charge a reasonable cover, but often the music is free. The drinks? Well . . . you gotta pay for those.





too. But for this *Renegade Road*, I'll stick to Texas. After all, Texas made him.

Rangering On

Next stop: The Texas Rangers Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco.

The Rangers got involved in the chase of Hardin after he killed Comanche County Deputy Sheriff Charles Webb in 1874. After Ranger Jack Duncan located Hardin in Alabama and Florida, Ranger Lt. John B. Armstrong, who had served under the legendary Ranger Capt. Leander McNelly, asked to work the case.

Hardin got on the train in Pensacola, and Armstrong boarded the coach. Stories vary after that, but the end result is that Hardin was knocked out, another man was killed and Hardin was captured at last.

Armstrong wound up in the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame, along with other legendary Rangers, such as McNelly, Sam Walker, John S. "Rip" Ford, John Coffee Hays and James Gillett. The museum covers about every aspect of the Rangers, from history to pop culture (yes, Chuck Norris and his TV show *Walker, Texas Ranger* get plenty of coverage). It is home to artifacts galore, artwork and an extensive firearms collection that seems to grow every time I visit this museum.

Before the Rangers stepped in, Hardin's legend had grown tremendously, so I'm bound for his old stamping grounds in Gonzales and Cuero.

South Texas Feuds

Cuero was founded in 1872 on the Chisholm Trail. It also had a place in John Wesley Hardin lore.

Hardin killed stonemason J.B. Morgan—his 13th victim, according to Metz—in Cuero in 1873. In a saloon on the town square, Morgan had asked Hardin to buy him a bottle of bubbly. Hardin didn't want to. Morgan insisted. Hardin left the saloon. Morgan followed and asked if Hardin was armed. Hardin nodded. Morgan said, "Well, it's time you were defending yourself," and went for his gun. Bad mistake.

"I pulled my pistol and fired," Hardin wrote, "the ball striking him just above the left eye. He fell dead. I went to the stable, got my horse, and left town unmolested."

Later, Hardin killed Sheriff Jack Helm in Albuquerque. Hardin had left his horse at the blacksmith's shop when he turned to see Helm approaching Hardin's friend Jim Taylor with a knife. "Someone hollered, 'Shoot the d----d scoundrel,'" he recalled. "It appeared to me that [Helm] was the scoundrel, so I grabbed my shotgun and fired. . . ." Then he pointed



Bailey Inglish persuaded settlers to build a fortified log blockhouse and stockade in 1837 as protection from Indians. Only one documented raid took place at this site in Bonham, Texas. Hardin was born 10 miles southwest of this town on May 26, 1853.

— All photos by Johnny D. Boggs unless otherwise noted —

In 1967, a historical marker was erected at the "Hanging Oak," which was used as a gallows for Joe Hardin and two cousins in reprisal for John Wesley Hardin's killing of Charles Webb. Their grave marker – complete with misspelled names (see below)–is found in the Oakwood Cemetery in Comanche, Texas.







his gun at townspeople, while Taylor shot Helm several times in the head.

This was all part of the Sutton-Taylor Feud, perhaps the state's longest and most violent feud (not counting the University of Texas-Texas A&M rivalry). The Rangers were called in, but even they couldn't bring peace, which didn't occur until after Jim Taylor was killed on December 27, 1875.

Times are more peaceful now, but you can get history lessons at the Dewitt County Historical Museum. The Cuero Heritage Museum and the Hochheim and Taylor-Bennett cemeteries are also worthwhile stops.

Another must-stop is Gonzales.

Hardin was never held in the Old Jail (it wasn't built until 1887) but the restored jail, which was in use until 1975, has a small display focused on Hardin.

For a taste of the lives of early Texas pioneers, I head over to the Gonzales Pioneer Village, a living-history center with nine homes, businesses and outbuildings from the county, and the circa-1848 Eggleston House, a furnished log home. If you're a Texas Revolution buff, then you should also be sure to check out the Gonzales Memorial Museum.

Next stop: The one jail strong enough to hold Hardin.

Doing Time

The state pen in Huntsville was no place to be in the 1870s. Hardin was often flogged—well, he was trying to escape—in those early years of imprisonment. Huntsville's prison is still no place to be, but the museum is not to be missed. Several exhibits showcase the history of the prison, telling the story from the viewpoints of prisoners as well as guards.

Exhibits include histories of some of Huntsville's famous residents, including, naturally, Hardin, who was



BEST OF THE ROAD

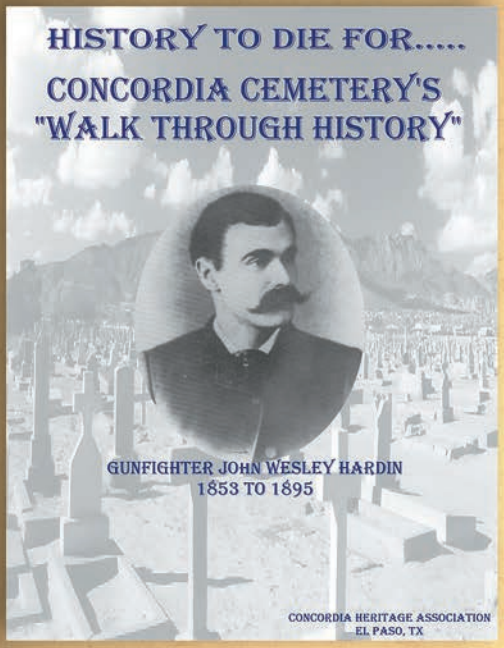
Lodging: Carleton House B&B (*Bonham, TX*); Cotton Palace B&B (*Waco, TX*); Belle Oaks Inn (*Gonzales, TX*); Comfort Suites (*Huntsville, TX*); Stockyards Hotel (*Fort Worth, TX*); Gardner Hotel (*El Paso, TX*).

Dining/Watering Holes: George's (*Waco, TX*); Rodeo Restaurant (*Gonzales, TX*); Homestead on 19th Street (*Huntsville, TX*); Joe T. Garcia's (above, *Fort Worth, TX*); Cook's Fish Barn (*Comanche, TX*); Cattleman's Steakhouse (*Fabens, TX*).



"For *Ballads of the True West*, I just about became a nineteenth-century cowboy.... I befriended a man named Joe Small in Austin, Texas, who published a magazine called *True West*, and spent endless hours talking with him.... He gave me a copy of John Wesley Hardin's autobiography, *My Life*, in the form of a loose-leaf copy that was typed straight from the original handwritten manuscript before the book was even published, and for years I felt like I knew Hardin as well as I knew myself."
–From *Cash: The Autobiography*, by Johnny Cash

CONCORDIA CEMETERY
Open Daily Sunrise to Sunset



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

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

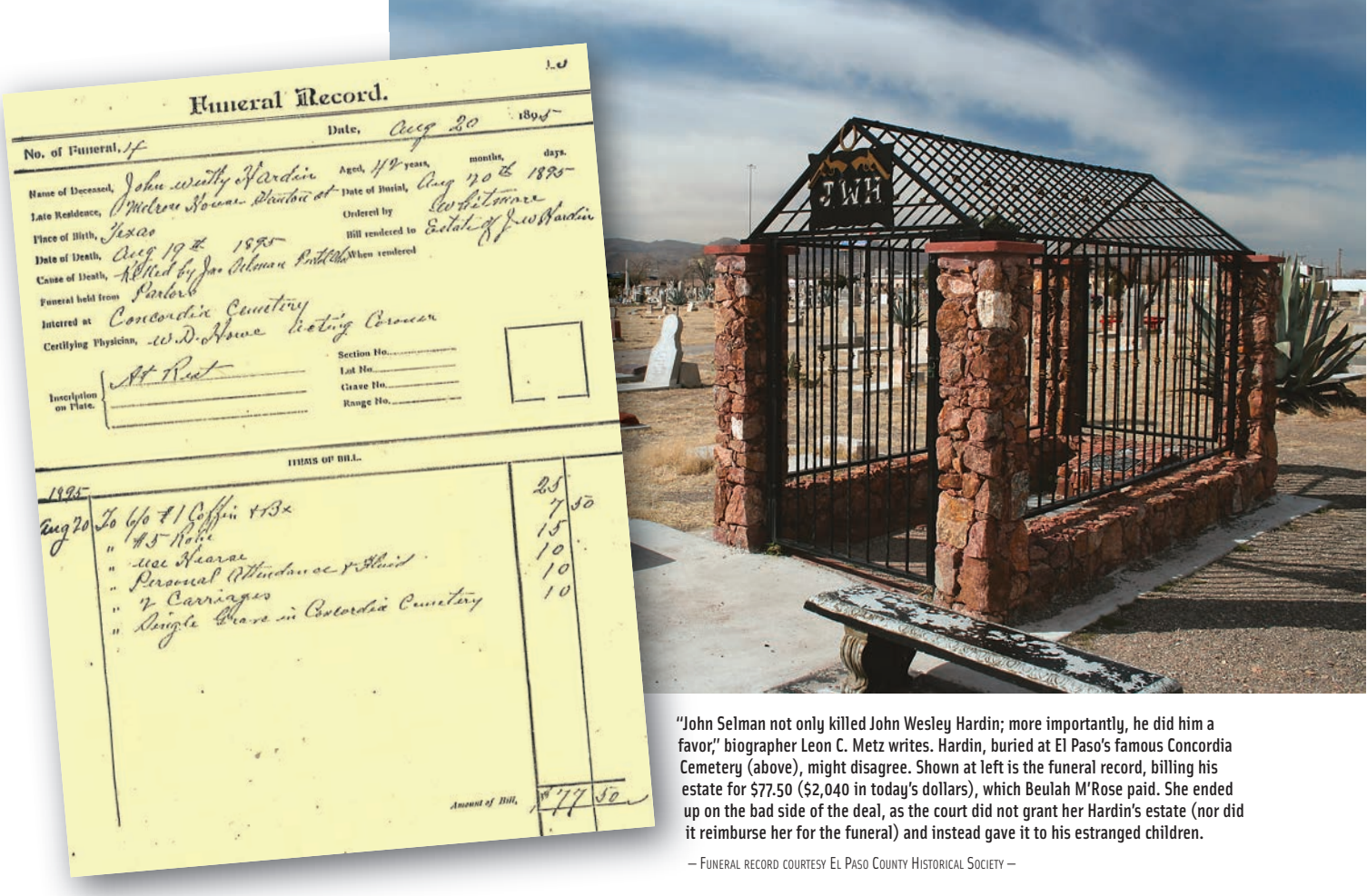
Veterans from the War of 1812 through recent conflicts, as well as "The World's Tallest Man," reside in permanency.

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

Join the many supporters on August 19th at 6:30 PM to commemorate John Wesley Hardin's demise, and on October 16th from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM, for the annual "Walk Through History."

Minimal Donation Requested

Concordia Cemetery
915-842-8200 • concordiacemetery.org
3700 East Yandell • El Paso, Texas



"John Selman not only killed John Wesley Hardin; more importantly, he did him a favor," biographer Leon C. Metz writes. Hardin, buried at El Paso's famous Concordia Cemetery (above), might disagree. Shown at left is the funeral record, billing his estate for $77.50 ($2,040 in today's dollars), which Beulah M'Rose paid. She ended up on the bad side of the deal, as the court did not grant her Hardin's estate (nor did it reimburse her for the funeral) and instead gave it to his estranged children.

— Funeral record courtesy El Paso County Historical Society —

released from prison in 1894, after serving 16 years of a 25-year sentence. Shortly afterward, he was pardoned. He later passed the state bar and became a lawyer.

Hardin's prison sentence had its foundation in Comanche, so I'm off there. First, I stop in Fort Worth, because Cowtown is never to be missed. Fort Worth also played a part in the Hardin story. On his way to Huntsville, he stopped in Fort Worth, where the "people turned out like a Fourth of July picnic, and I had to get out of the wagon and shake hands for an hour before my guard could get me through the crowd."

Comanche Stories

In Comanche, Hardin's reception was a little less popular.

In 1874, Hardin, Jim Taylor and others were celebrating Wes's 21st birthday in a Comanche saloon. Brown County Deputy Sheriff Charles Webb arrived, but he said he had no warrants for Hardin. One thing led to another, and before long—typical for Hardin—Webb was shot dead. Hardin fled. Vigilantes later lynched Hardin's brother, Joe, and cousins Tom and Bud Dixon. After his capture by the Rangers, Wes Hardin returned to Comanche to stand trial for Webb's death, and the jury found Wes—who claimed self-defense—guilty of second-degree murder.

Opened in 1975, the Comanche County Historical Museum shares plenty of information on Hardin. It even houses an exhibit on the saloon gunfight that left Webb dead. Outside you'll find the remains of the oak tree that held the hanged bodies of Hardin's brother Joe and the Dixons, who are buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

Eventually, Wes Hardin would join them in death, so I'm off to the end of Hardin's trail in El Paso.

El Paso

Hardin hung up his shingle in El Paso. But, as Johnny Cash sings on his 1965 album *Ballads of the True West* (yes, Cash was paying tribute to this magazine):

You won't find him there for business
Every day at nine
For business is real bad
One client's all he's had
In quite a long, long time

One of those clients was Helen Beulah M'Rose. Well, she was more than just a client. She became, as Cash sings, "Wes's woman."

El Paso, however, wasn't so good for Hardin. He gambled. He drank. He quarreled with Constable John Selman. On August 19, 1895, Hardin was playing dice at the Acme Saloon. A little before midnight,

TW/BIT

THE DEADLIEST GUNFIGHTERS



Dallas Stoudenmire
Four kills, plus an innocent bystander and two possibles in a group battle.



Wild Bill Hickok
. . . told a reporter he had killed 100 men as of 1867. He actually killed six in gunfights.



Jim Miller
13 kills. Claims are 20–50 kills. He wore an iron plate inside his black frock coat (even in the summer).



Billy the Kid
Legend says he killed a man for every year of his life (21). He killed four, plus possibly three in gun battles.



John Wesley Hardin
He killed at least 15 men and probably more, but not the 42 men legend claims.

Selman entered the saloon with his .45 already drawn and commenced firing. Hardin fell dead.

As Metz writes: "At a little over forty-two years of age, John Wesley Hardin had outlived his era. He was an anachronism, a psychopathic gunman out of the past, a man more or less waiting to be buried."

Hardin was buried—M'Rose paid for his funeral—in Concordia Cemetery, a vast boneyard that's definitely worth a visit. But don't forget to check out the El Paso Museum of History and its "Changing Pass" exhibit that takes visitors through the major events that helped shape this city.

Selman was tried for murder, but it ended in a hung jury. A retrial did not take place because, on April 5, 1896, Deputy U.S. Marshal George Scarborough shot down Selman, who died that afternoon during surgery.

Selman was buried in Concordia too, not far from Hardin's grave.

Johnny D. Boggs is still questioning the casting of Rock Hudson as John Wesley Hardin in the 1953 movie *The Lawless Breed*, but not as much as he questions the 1971 album, *Rock Hudson Sings the Songs of Rod McKuen.*

"The Texas Ranger is one of the most cherished symbols of the Lone Star State, a positive and enduring icon of Texas and America," the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco claims. We know better than to argue with any organization that brought John Wesley Hardin to justice.



PECOS CITY TEXAS



•Western Heritage
•Clay Allison's Grave
•Historic Saloon Shootout
•World's 1st Rodeo
•Public Golf Course
•Full Service Airport

Find us @ I-20 & Hwy 285 in West Texas

West of the Pecos Museum
www.westofthepecosmuseum.com
432.445.5076

Pecos Area Chamber of Commerce
www.pecostx.com
432.445.2406

eclectic cuisine
fine wines
history galore



EXPERIENCE CAPTIVATING COMANCHE, TEXAS

for info and lodging: ComancheChamber.org

COMANCHE TEXAS

The right people. The right place. The right time.™



When it comes to variety and fun, Odessa, Texas is the right place to be. From our replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and our exciting professional sports teams to the vintage World War II aircraft of the Commemorative Air Force and the historic White Pool House, Odessa has it all. Plus there are three national parks within hours of Odessa: Big Bend, Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns.

With top quality hotels, fine restaurants and wonderful shopping, Odessa is the right place in Texas for your next vacation.
Find out more by calling **1-432-333-7871**, or visit our website **www.odessacvb.com**

The right place in Texas
Odessa

Odessa Convention and Visitors Bureau
700 N. Grant Suite 200 • Odessa, Texas 79761
1-800-780-HOST

TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

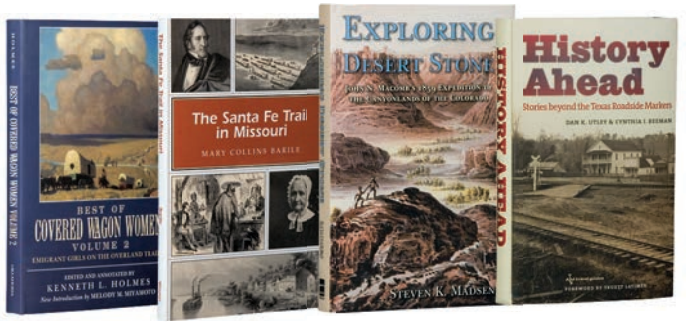
Official Museum of the Texas Ranger Law Enforcement Agency
www.texasranger.org
Free online magazine, gift shop
toll free: (877) 750-8631
Open 9am-4:30pm Daily
I-35 Exit 335B in Waco, TX

Admission Discount: $1.00 off two adult tickets with ad - Save $2.00!

You haven't seen Texas until you've seen the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum!



Hot off the press.



ARMCHAIR AND ROAD ADVENTURES OUT WEST

The Santa Fe Trail in Missouri (University of Missouri Press, $16.95), by **Mary Collins Barile,** is an excellent, well-illustrated and easy-reading brief history of the Santa Fe Trail, particularly the portion from Franklin, near St. Louis to Westport on the Missouri River. Barile describes everyday life and sketches pioneer traders like Josiah Gregg and William Becknell. The one weakness, an inadequate map, is offset by a wonderful glossary of the distinctive jargon of the trail.

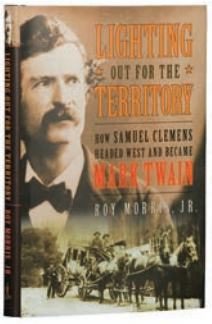
In his ***Exploring Desert Stone*** (Utah State University Press, $34.95), **Steven K. Madsen** edits the report of Capt. John N. Macomb on his 1859 expedition. Macomb, with geologist John S. Newberry and topographer-cartographer Charles H. Dimmock, surveyed the Old Spanish Trail; located the junction of Colorado and Green Rivers; and explored the Four Corners country and the Canyonlands of the Colorado River. Madsen enlivens the text with appropriate illustrations. *–RICHARD H. DILLON*

Breaking with the traditional roadside guide, ***History Ahead: Stories Beyond the Texas Roadside Markers*** (Texas A&M University Press, $23), by **Dan K. Utley** and **Cynthia J. Beeman,** brings together little-known sites and facts, as well as helpful maps, to include the largest manmade oil tank, a WW II detention camp cemetery and the remains of Fort D.A. Russell. The stories of Charles Lindbergh, Will Rogers and the Big Bopper are a real treat.

Best of Covered Wagon Women: Volume 2 (University of Oklahoma Press, $19.95), edited and annotated by **Kenneth L. Holmes**, is a treasure of fresh insight into life along the overland trails between 1846-98. Told from first-person accounts, including letters and diaries of teenaged girls, women recount their hardships with youthful optimism, while often fantasizing of love and marriage with single men in the traveling party. Overall, a fine additional perspective to the life experiences of those along the trails of Westward Migration. *–LINDA WOMMACK*



Lighting Out for the Territory: How Samuel Clemens Headed West and Became Mark Twain

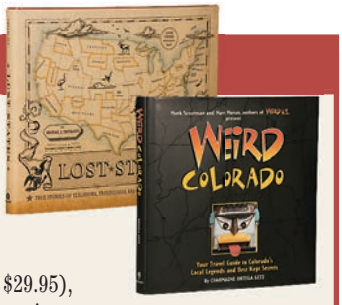


ROY MORRIS JR.
(SIMON & SCHUSTER, $26.)

In July 1861, 25-year-old Sam Clemens left Missouri with his brother to head to the West. He wasn't necessarily avoiding the Civil War, but he was no rabble-rouser and a pretty bad shot. Sam instead wandered for six years through Nebraska, South Dakota, Nevada, Utah, California and eventually even Hawaii. As a staff writer for Nevada's *Territorial Enterprise*, he began using what would become his famous pen name, Mark Twain, and evolving his signature wit. The facts behind his journalism were never his strength, but as Huck Finn might say, "That ain't no matter." Quoting from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Roughing It*, *Innocents Abroad* and many magazine articles, Roy Morris shows us how Clemen's adventures became Twain's stories. This biography makes the literary connections without sacrificing the fun.

–CYNTHIA GREEN

WEIRD WEST



Though branded nonfiction this maverick pair of books leads the reader down a fabled trail of unrealized dreams and of history that was never taught in school.

LOST STATES: ***Lost States*** (Quirk Books, $29.95), by **Michael J. Trinklein,** points out that 50 is a nice round number for the U.S., then goes on to list 70 wannabe states that didn't make it. Some beat the odds by splitting in two, including Virginia, Carolina and the Dakotas—but not West Florida and South Jersey. Failed states include Texas's German colony of Adelsverein, Tennessee's backwoods Nickajack and Maine's thwarted theft of a chunk of Canada labeled Acadia. This big, beautifully-illustrated book is chockful of fascinating, one-of-a-kind maps, as well as slyly factual tales alive with absurd characters, political gamesmanship and high hopes.

WEIRD COLORADO: Author **Charmaine Ortega Getz** and editors **Mark Sceurman** and **Mark Moran** settle for just one state to discuss in ***Weird Colorado*** (Sterling, $19.95), but it's enough to cram 270 pages with Ant People, Vampire Graves and Blue Mist, while human beings, and some not so human, tower above washing machine museums and Lost Money Wagons. These include the omnipresent Sasquash and the fellow monster Albert Packer, who dined on his snowbound pals 'til he was last on the menu. On the feminine side Rattle Snake Kate dressed stylishly in snakegowns. Topping the list, as a nationally-known mad professor, has to be Nikola Tesla, who came west to Colorado and invented radar and AC—alternating current—as well as radio. But his créme-de-la-créme invention was manmade lightning. As for the present book, it proves an electrifying companion to Sterling Publication's *Weird U.S.*

–WILLIAM GARWOOD



TRADING POST

Longhorns Head to Tail Store.



35000 Muskrat Rd. Ste. TW • Barnesville, OH 43713

740 758-5050

Texas Longhorn mounts.

Beautiful works of art raised by the largest Texas Longhorn registered herd in the USA. Each is unique with spans well over 6' with rich splashy faces. Some steers are up to 18 years old. Reserve the next steer mount for your bank, church, oval office, bowling alley, or sleeper cell. Economical delivery to your lair.

www.head2tail.com

Double E Ranch

Gila, New Mexico

Roundups

February 6-11, 2011
April 3-8, 2011
May 29-June 3, 2011
July 31-August 5, 2011
September 25-30, 2011

Cowgirl Camps

February 20-25, 2011
March 20-25, 2011
April 17-22, 2011
May 22-27, 2011
June 10-15, 2011
September 4-9, 2011
October 23-28, 2011

866-242-3500
http://www.doubleeranch.com
doublee@gilanet.com

Texas Jacks Wild West Outfitter

Shop Online! Safe, Simple, Secure

.45 Colt
7 1/2" Barrel
Old Model Frame
Color Case Hardened

Custer 7th Cavalry Model

Production of this model is limited to 2000 units, each of the 5 companies, C, E, F, I and L that will parish under Custer's command at Little Big Horn.

Retail Price: $607.47

www.texasjacks.com

JAXONBILT HAT COMPANY

CUSTOM HATS & RENOVATION
"KICKIN' QUALITY"



WORK (208) 756-6444
HOME (208) 756- 1016
www.jaxonbilthats.com

ROY S. JACKSON
P.O. BOX 417 - Hwy 93
SALMON, ID 83467

Ask about our other colors & styles!
Custom orders welcome.

The Working Cowboy Gun Leather Shop

David J. Arnold

10635 Pioneer Line, Chatham, Ontario
Canada N7M 5J1

519-354-9892

www.workingcowboyleather.com

Metal lined and Sheridan style carved holsters our specialty.
A truly custom shop.



www.COLLECTORS ARMORY.com

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING

While other businesses are crying in their beer, **Collector's Armory** is doing better then ever. Overhead has been lowered, internet sales have increased. Beginning immediately you can save 20% on all Civil War, WWII, WWI, Uzi, 1911, P-4, Western, Medieval, Colonial, Holsters Pirate Classics, Weaponry, Badges, Cannons etc. Guaranteed lo-price This is a WIN! WIN! deal. Order by phone with a credit card & save. If you find the same item on the net for less we will beat the price.

23 years in business because we beat all competition

COLLECTOR'S ARMORY 6601 Lyons Road D-1 Coconut Creek, Fl 33073 1-877-332-2343

TRADING POST

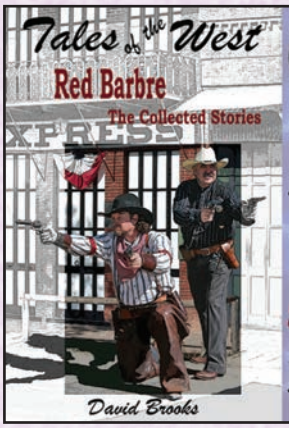


Buckaroo Hatters

Custom Hand Made Hats
of the Old West

100X 50X and 10X
Hats made one at a time.

www.buckaroohatters.com
buckaroohatters@gmail.com
901-907-7436



dimenovels© Presents

Red Barbre The Collected stories

All of Red's adventures from *Tales of the West*
Plus a new, never before published story.
300 Pages - Illustrated. $24.95

Visit our NEW website for more -
Stories of Action, Bravery and Romance!

303 West Avenida Valencia, San Clemente, CA 92672 949-291-3367
www.dimenovels.com

Museum of the Horse Soldier

A Premier collection of original U.S. Cavalry horse gear, artifacts, uniforms, arms & accoutrements.

Trail Dust Town

Tucson Association of Museums

6541 E. Tanque Verde Rd. Tucson, Arizona 85715
(520) 296-4551 • http://horsesoldiermuseum.com/



Colorado Cowgirls

719.657.3111
www.ColoradoCowgirls.net

Unique Rustic Western Home Furnishings



- Unique Western, Rustic & Lodge Furniture
- Custom Made Lamps & Chandeliers
- Cowhide & Navajo Rugs
- Antiques & Much More!

Colorado Cowgirls offers unique cowhide covered and trimmed Western antique and rustic furniture, Western prints and paintings framed in cowhide and Western and rustic lamps.

Located in the Newly Restored *Windsor Hotel*



Lawman Holster/Belt Combination—$93

Single Huckleberry—$100
Double Huckleberry—$180





Favorite Western Icon Buckle—$30

Authentic 1800 working cowboy clothing, leather, spurs and more.
Call for a free catalog 509-782-3018
westernandwildlifewonders.com
info@westernandwildlifewonders.com

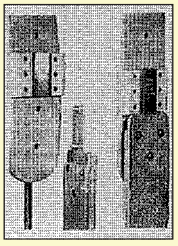
Western and Wildlife Wonders
Single Action Pistol Grips by TeePee Creeper

BLEVINS
Stirrup Buckles

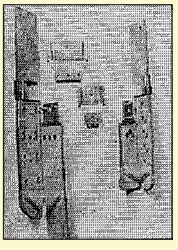
Stainless Steel and
Heat-treated Aluminum
Satisfaction Guaranteed

New
Leather Covered

Prevents rubbing horse or saddle. Easy to change stirrup lengths quickly and very easy to install. Won't slip or stick. Available in 2 1/2" and 3" widths, they are very well made and guaranteed to satisfy.



$9.75
per pair
plus $2.50 shipping



New Improved
All Metal

Fine quality stainless steel and heat-treated aluminum, these are in general use throughout the West. Available in 2" width with vertical posts and 2 1/2" and 3" widths with horizontal posts for standard holes.

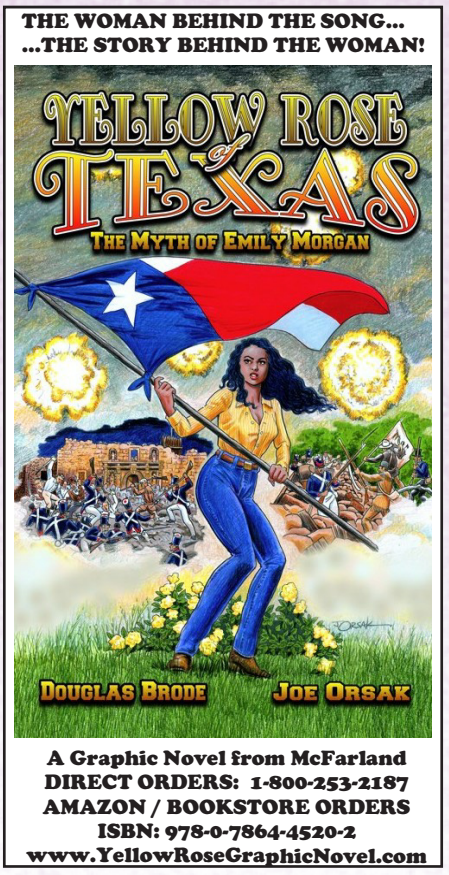
$7.35
per pair
plus $2.50 shipping

PLEASE ADD
$2.50 per pair S/H

Blevins Mfg. Co.
615 Ferguson Rd.
Wheatland, Wyoming 82201

TRADING POST

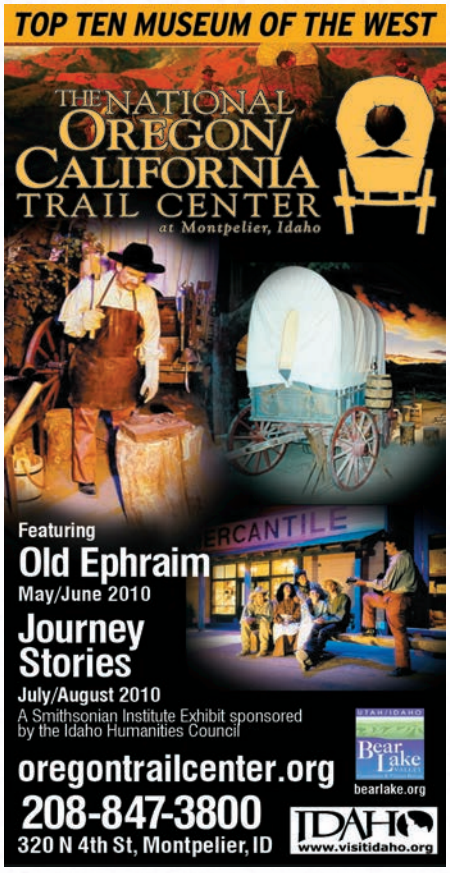














The Myth of the Single Shot Kill

Hollywood has blown it way out of proportion.

For decades, Hollywood has routinely depicted bad and, occasionally, good guys being stopped and "kilt" instantly by a single gunshot.

Sometimes the fatal wound is incurred in the stereotypical gunfight, played out at high noon in a dusty street or later that night, across the barroom floor, after an argument over cards.

Alternatively, the fatal shot may have been delivered when an enraged Indian is depicted charging with tomahawk in hand, only to be instantly killed by a bullet from the pistol of a settler, barricaded behind an overturned wagon.

As a fan of Old West cinema, have you ever wondered whether it is physically possible to stop a man, "dead in his tracks," by delivering a single lethal gunshot wound that will claim his life in a matter of seconds? If possible, then, how technically difficult is it to deliver a "single shot kill" that causes both instant incapacitation and nearly instant death?

A few years back, I first faced these questions, posed by eager students, in the context of self-defense, when I was teaching a session on gunshot wounds to a National Rifle Association concealed weapons training class.

Before tackling these questions forensically, let me first restrict my conceptual analysis to handgun wounds created by weapons, say, between the .32 caliber (Smith and Wesson, circa 1860s-1900s) and the .45 Colt caliber (Colt, 1873), firing typical factory load ammunition, no more than 30 feet from target and delivering a fairly predictable amount of kinetic (motion) energy at the point of tissue impact.

For most combinations of these variables, the single most important one is the anatomic point of tissue impact. A wound sustained in the right place not only can, but usually will, result in a single shot kill.



This pulp illustration erroneously shows Bob Ford shooting Jesse James with a rifle. Yet, even if the artist had drawn a revolver, who knows which would be accurate? Historians still have yet to agree on whether Ford's murder weapon was a Colt or a Smith & Wesson.

– Courtesy Robert G. McCubbin –

A bullet hitting the head can result in a single shot kill when it strikes perpendicular to the skull between the eyes, in the temple in front of the ears or behind either ear on an imaginary line to the opposite cheekbone. When a bullet enters the skull in these areas, in addition to shock wave-caused concussion, the trajectory will lead to structural disruption of the midbrain and brainstem, deep within the brain. These areas contain what is known as the RAS or the reticular activating system. The RAS is a complex network of neural structures that control consciousness, arousal and sleep-wake transitions. A bullet hitting anywhere near RAS will literally "put out the lights" and kill nearly instantly by shutting down breathing and effective cardiac activity.

You may well ask; what about the heart and lungs? A shot to the heart or aorta, of course, is usually lethal; but it will not usually stop a man "dead in his tracks." There are stories aplenty of heart-shot assailants finishing off the shooter with a knife before dying on top of him.

Even a modest caliber, therefore, like the .32 Smith and Wesson, using the smallest weight bullet and the lightest powder load, can effectively stop a charging aggressor and kill him instantly, if it hits him in the right place.



Jesse James wed his first cousin Zerelda Mimms in Kearney, Missouri, on April 24, 1874. Zerelda is shown here with Jesse Jr. and Mary. This photograph was taken in Kansas City on April 15, 1882, just two weeks after Jesse was shot by Robert Ford.

On the other hand, the "hottest" .45 Colt load, aimed to the chest or gut, may still allow the assailant to cause some serious damage before falling into the dust.

Given the prerequisite of landing a nearly perfect headshot, the chances of inflicting a single shot kill are very low indeed, unless one has fabulous aim or is "lottery-winning lucky." Clearly, then, the notion of the single shot kill is mostly mythical and should be depicted, as such. Hollywood's simplistic, frequent and casual portrayal of the single shot kill, over the years, therefore, earns it a D- for medical accuracy.

Not surprisingly, some of the most notorious assassinations in the Old West involved shots to the head at close range. Consider the real single shot kills delivered by Jack McCall (Wild Bill Hickok, on August 2, 1876), John Selman (John Wesley Hardin, on August 19, 1895) and Bob Ford (Jesse James, on April 3, 1882). These three "back shooters" aimed for the RAS without even naming it! I guess the rule is never underestimate the extent of diabolical intuition.

Dr. Jim Kornberg holds an MD and an ScD. He is an environmental medicine physician and an engineer. He lives with his wife Sally on their ranch in the mountains of southwestern Colorado.

Where did the term "chuckwagon" come from?

Michael Knapp
Somers, Montana

Some say the term came from Charles ("Chuck") Goodnight, who supposedly built the first meal on wheels—but that's doubtful.

The term dates from the late 19th century and is simply a compound word formed from chuck and wagon. "Chuck" had meant a piece of wood or meat since the 1670s, and it derives from "chock." Chock referred to a lumpy piece of wood, which is pretty close to how chuckwagon food tasted.

Did trail drive bosses have an understanding that no two drives left at the same time? And did trail drives ever intersect and cause a problem as to which drive had the "right of way?"

Jack A. Graves
Turlock, California

TWMAG.COM FORUM

No written "Code of the Trail" existed, but yes, trail drivers had an understanding amongst each other. Many trail bosses knew it was best for all to maintain some kind of trail etiquette or spirit of cooperation.

Oftentimes several herds would be moving up the trail at the same time. A herd might be a few miles ahead or behind, and another might be off to the flanks. The cowhands stayed busy trying to keep the cows from getting mixed in with another herd.

When more than one herd arrived at a river crossing, the first herd there had the right of way; cowhands had to keep the other herd back.



Judge Roy Bean's courthouse was built in 1883 in Langtry, Texas, and also served as a saloon and billiard hall. You can still visit this attraction today.

– All images True West Archives –

In 1871 alone, 600,000 head were trailed out of Texas, so you can see that put a lot of stress on both grass and watering places.

I'm writing a fictional work on Judge Roy Bean. What do you know about him?

Pierre O'Rourke
Scottsdale, Arizona

My father grew up in the judge's town of Langtry, Texas, so I heard plenty of stories about the old boy.

Contrary to novels, movies and television, Roy Bean never hanged anyone. He was a colorful, old shyster.

If we are to believe the stories he told (and he told a bunch of them, some of which may have been true), Bean led a fascinating life on the frontier. He claimed to have participated in both the Mexican and Civil Wars, the former as a teamster and the latter as a Texas irregular. During the 1850s he was nearly hanged in California for killing a man in a duel.

He ran a saloon in San Antonio, Texas, for some 20 years, then in 1882 moved out to Vinegaroon, on the Pecos River along the new Southern Pacific Railway tracks. He opened up a saloon called the Jersey Lilly (which a drunken sign painter misspelled) for his heroine, British actress Lily Langtry, and re-named the town Langtry.

He was either appointed or named himself justice of the peace, the "Law West of the Pecos." His saloon doubled as the courthouse. The legend began with some of his creative rulings—such as fining a corpse $40 for carrying a concealed weapon. Ironically, the dead person had that same amount of money on him! Without authority, he divorced couples he'd previously married, saying he had a right to "rectify his errors." When acting as a coroner, he once ruled that a man who'd been shot between the eyes had met his death at the hands of a "good pistol shot."

Among his other tricks, he'd put broken glass in the drinks during hot summer months to create the illusion of ice in the glass. He also delayed making change for tourists as the train was pulling out, causing the visitors to leave without their money.

The legends about him grew, and by 1903, he'd become a national celebrity.

What does the word "tinhorn" mean?

Bob and Kay Sharp
Hawkins, Texas

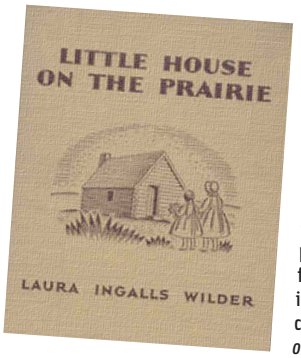
"Tinhorn" referred to an unscrupulous, unskilled, self-important or low-class gambler. It could also refer to a man pretending to have money or influence, or someone who was flashy; a dude or a phony.

The term originated from a game where three dice were rolled down a chute onto a flat area. The horn- or cone-shaped chute was usually made of leather, but cheaper chutes were made of tin. Since tin was considered to be of poor quality, and these gamblers masked their low-class



While under the employment of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway, Francis Marion Steele photographed these cowboys with their herd of cattle on the Plains. Taken in 1905, this is among Steele's last photographs documenting ranch life and cattle drives, after 15 years of traveling the Southwest.

Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian. His latest book is *Wyatt Earp: Showdown at Tombstone*. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at marshall.trimble@sccmail.maricopa.edu



Laura Ingalls Wilder's first book in the "Little House" series, *Little House in the Big Woods,* was published when the author was 65 years old. The entire series has been in publication since the first printing. At left is the first edition cover of *Little House on the Prairie*.

game by wearing flashy clothes, the name "tinhorn gambler" was born.

These guys stood on the bottom rung of gambling's social ladder.

A few years back, we visited a Kansas site called "Little House on the Prairie." Did Laura Ingalls and family really live there?

Donald Cole
Corinth, Texas

Yep, that was one of the Ingalls's homes, 13 miles southwest of Independence. The reconstructed cabin sits on the original site where Laura Ingalls and her family lived from 1869-71. All the physical references she wrote about can be found in the area. This was the Ingalls's first home on their westward experience that inspired Laura Ingalls Wilder's stories, the best known being *Little House on the Prairie*. She was the author of eight children's books referred to as the "Little House" series, and four published posthumously. They became the basis for Michael Landon's 1974-83 TV series *Little House on the Prairie*.

Whatever happened to Johnny Ringo's guns?

Joe Gallagher
Ontario, California

Steve Gatto, Ringo's biographer, says Johnny's rifle, pistol and wallet were returned to his family in San Jose, California, after the cowboy allegedly shot himself in 1882.

According to Jack Burrows's book *John Ringo: The Gunfighter Who Never Was*, the rifle was reportedly lost as a result of or somehow in connection to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. The pistol made its way into a private collection, where it remains.

UPCOMING
Wild Horse and Burro
ADOPTIONS


Peter Robbins Photo

August 5 - 7 Hays, KS
August 6 - 7 Franklin Furnace, OH
August 6 - 7 Cedar City, UT
August 13 - 14 Columbia, SC
August 13 - 14 Price, UT
August 14 Morris, CT
August 14 Redlands, CA
August 20 - 21 Douglas, WY
August 27 - 28 Riverton, WY

EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER

September 17 - 19 Lincoln, NE
October 23 - 25 Murfreesboro, TN

866-4MUSTANGS (866-468-7826)
blm.gov

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse and Burro Program

What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



WADDIE MITCHELL, COWBOY POET

This year, *True West* named Waddie Mitchell "Best Living Cowboy Poet." Since 1984, this lifelong working cowboy has put out more than six solo albums of cowboy poetry and stories. He's also one of the founders of the prestigious Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Nevada. In August, you can see him hit the stage in Evanston, Wyoming, at the Uinta County Fair (5), in Rifle, Colorado, at Michael Martin Murphey's Westfest (12-15) and in Benton, Kansas, at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper (17). Visit *WaddieMitchell.com* for other tour dates.

What people don't understand about cowboy poetry is that it's not just about cowboying, cows, horses and living on the range, but it is anything in life, just coming from a cowboy's perspective.

The one person I am in awe of is Don Edwards—for his work ethic and interest in preserving the music of America's working folks and in particular the cowboy.

I learned everything I know from six decades of bumping and banging and tripping and experimenting and following and leading and charging and balking and laughing and crying and doing and not.

Don't get me started on how disappointed I am with the current way the heads of the two parties in our country have completely halted any forward movement for over two years now.

I'll never forget the way my wife Lisa looked on that moonlit night in the Caribbean.

My daddy always told me just 'cuz you get older don't mean you're getting wiser. Wisdom comes from taking time and assessing life as it's lived.

When it comes to Western Art I am inspired by how one small segment of this country's huge populace can command such a large following.

My biggest influence has been those fellers I worked with and have been around who have taught me the code a cowboy lives by, without ever saying a word about it.

Nobody told me that, though I'd be combing fewer hairs on the top of my head, I would be shaving and trimming a whole lot more off my ears and nose.

Wish I had a dollar for every time I spent a dime.

Show me an open highway, and I'll show you a flat tire on my truck at 2 o'clock in the morning.

I fell in love with the West when people like painter Willie Matthews and photographer Kurt Markus re-introduced it to me. I had lost the beauty and romance all around me, because I was focused only on the chore at hand.

The person who has inspired me most is Montana cowboy Tom Martin—although he is a decade younger than I! By the time he was 20, he was the man I still aspire to be. Nobody ever exemplified the meaning "ride for the brand" any better. Tom lives the code: be honest, hardworking, loyal, reserve your opinions, but live your convictions.

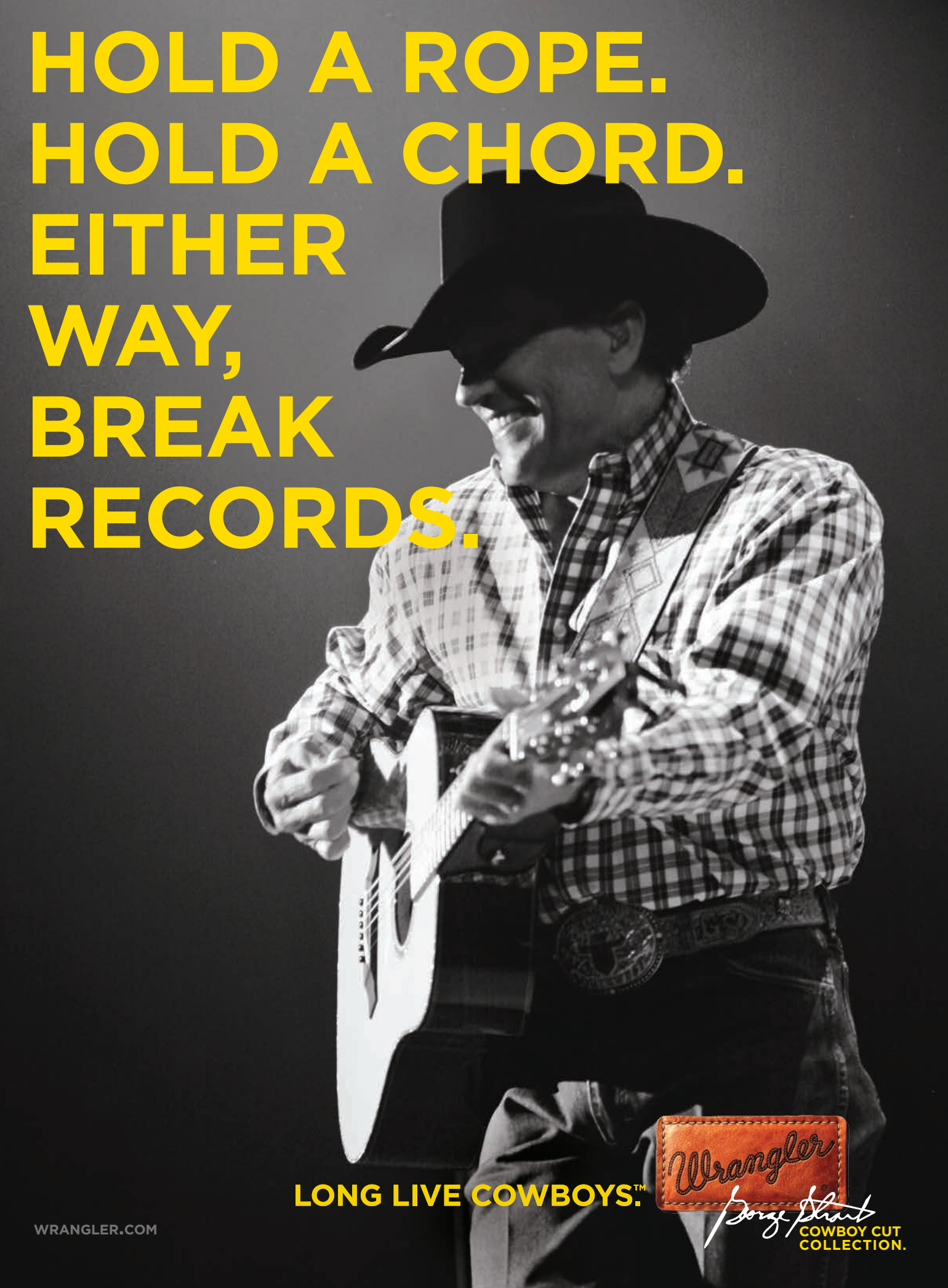
I really hate war, getting old, driving in traffic, hangovers, small minded people, that books are doomed and the freezing rains that come before the snow in calving season

The secret to a happy life is a happy wife.

I've lived in ignorant bliss and reality, and I much prefer the former.

What history has taught me is that the human being is a creature who can improve his environment, his technology, his standard of living and his knowledge, but is seemingly unable to change his warring nature.

The best part of being a cowboy poet is ya getta talk a whole lot about work without having to do any of it!


HOLD A ROPE.
HOLD A CHORD.
EITHER
WAY,
BREAK
RECORDS.
LONG LIVE COWBOYS.™
Wrangler
George Strait
COWBOY CUT
COLLECTION.
WRANGLER.COM

Art Show & Sale Benefitting the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum

August 14 – November 13



America's Horse in Art

The Horse That Settled the West

Opening Event Saturday, August 14 at the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum

2601 East I-40 – Amarillo, Texas – 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment

For more information, call 806-376-5181 or e-mail *artshow@aqha.org.*
Can't make the opening? Art is available for viewing and purchase at *www.aqhhalloffame.com.*