

TOP TEN TRUE WESTERN TOWNS FOR 2013 ARE...

OUR 60TH YEAR

FEBRUARY 2013

# TRUE WEST

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN WEST

## Rocky Mountain Rangers

Hard-Riding Lawmen in the Canadian West

### UNSUNG

Little-Known Characters of the Old West Debuts!

### Geronimo

The Apache Fighter's Finest Hour

By Robert M. Utley



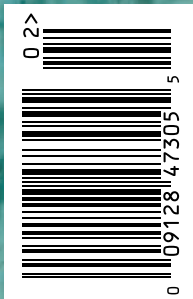
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FEBRUARY 2013

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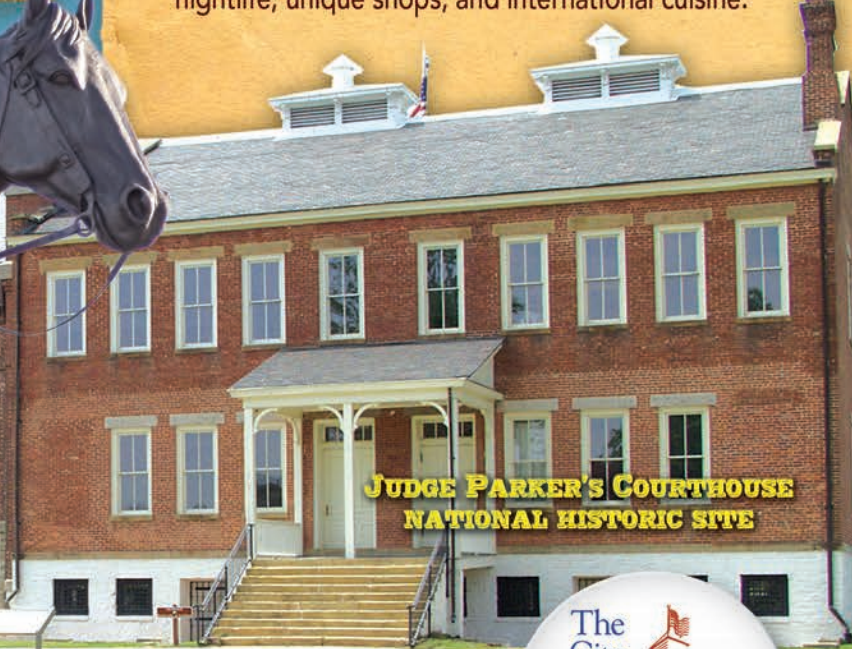
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### ***A TREELESS PLAIN***

Prior to Westward expansion, a popular adage stated that a monkey could swing from tree to tree across the entire United States. But when pioneers ventured out of the hardwood forests of the East, they were greeted by what was then called the Great American Desert. This photograph of Gettysburg, South Dakota, circa late 1880s, shows the stark vastness of the great plains. In this town founded by veterans of the Civil War in 1883, the girl in the foreground who evokes our compassion is believed to be Iva Medbery Breene, the daughter of Potter County's last surviving Civil War veteran.



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

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We've pinned the historical photos that tell the tale of the outrageous Rufus "Climax Jim" Nephew, at [Pinterest.com/truwestmag](http://Pinterest.com/truwestmag)



Go behind the scenes of True West with Bob Boze Bell and see the artist's daily "Whipped Out" series, at [Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com](http://Blog.TrueWestMagazine.com)



### Doc Goes Viral

This simple pic of Doc Holliday's grave was far and away our most shared, viewed and liked post ever. Tell us why you think it struck such a chord: [editor@twmag.com](mailto:editor@twmag.com)



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# Historical Twins

## Too Close for Comfort

About a decade ago, someone, I think it was Gus “The Mapinator” Walker, noticed that a random photo of a Pamunkey Indian in our archives had a striking resemblance to the lead guitarist for the Rolling Stones. Gus whipped out a comparison and put it on the wall next to his computer. When more than one person visiting the *True West* headquarters laughed out loud upon seeing these historical twins, we thought our readers might enjoy them as well. Although *Historical Twins* ran in every issue for several years in the mid-2000s, we ultimately decided the material for it was getting a tad thin, and we killed it. But just looking at these remarkable twins today makes us want to give the department another go!



**PAMUNKEY INDIAN:**  
Hunter/Gatherer Peaceful Faction

**KEITH RICHARDS:**  
Rolling Stones No Satisfaction



**Dot:**  
Frontier Prostitute



**Bob Dylan:**  
Modern Folk Music Icon



**Oscar Wilde:**  
Lecturer Out West, 1882



**Hugh Grant:**  
Lecher Out West, 1995



**Fred Waite:**  
Kid Gang Member



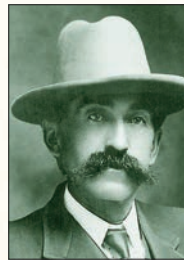
**Stacy Keach:**  
SAG Gang Member



**Butch Cassidy:**  
Down and Out In Bolivia's Hills



**Nick Nolte:**  
Down and Out In Beverly Hills



**John Kloehr:**  
You Don't Mess Around With John



**Jim Croce:**  
You Don't Mess Around With Jim



**Cole Younger:**  
Survived Hanska Slough



**Donald Pleasence:**  
Survived Halloween II

# Tales of the Unsung

*Little-known characters of the Old West get their due.*

**F**unerals of old-timers always leave me feeling a bit blue. I get that sinking feeling that a treasure chest of historical information has been lost forever.

That was the case last fall when our legendary neighbor J.D. Nelson passed. He was full of beans, as my grandmother was fond of saying, and he could tell a story or two about the old days.

A few days earlier, Mohave County cowboy Choc Hamilton had passed. He was perhaps the last living link to Tap Duncan.

Choc was 98; J.D., 88.

Inevitably, I found myself revisiting the age-old saw, “Gee, I wish I had paid more attention to their stories.”

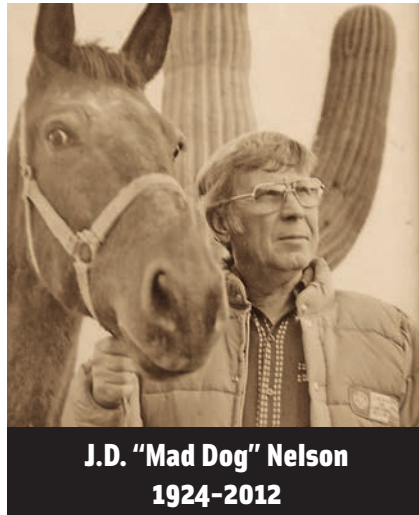
The reality is we all could pay more attention, yet most of the time we don’t. That loss always hurts.

But I’m not one of those who thinks our heritage is going down the tubes because so many folks we respect are dying off.

Last summer, at the first annual *True West* Railfest in Durango, Colorado, I met a group of kids who not only appreciate Old West history, but they walk the walk (see photo, at right). These kids attend the Frosty Pines Wilderness Education Program in Vallecito Lake, Colorado. The founder, Thomas Molinelli, is working hard to keep our heritage alive by teaching pioneer skills to young people.

Although most folks don’t care about their family history, one family member usually cares enough to record the important details, thus keeping that history alive. Fortunately, Choc’s granddaughter, Brenda Stockbridge, wrote down his stories.

As a tribute to Brenda, Thomas and other folks fueling the fires of history, we are launching a new department in this issue, *Unsung: Little-Known Characters of the Old West*. We need your family historian to share with us your family’s Old West stories. Pass it on.



**J.D. “Mad Dog” Nelson  
1924-2012**



**Choc Hamilton  
1914-2012**



**True West Railfest Days, August 2012, in Durango, Colorado**

Dressing Old West (from left): Thomas Molinelli (founder of Frosty Pines Wilderness Education Program), Adam Magley, Cooper Knox, John Klinger, BBB, Owen Hickerson, Nadene Drake, Karen Hickerson, Seneca Sagetree, Fawn Sagetree, Deb Buck, Morgan Crofford and Cedar Newman. This is a snapshot of the future—the kids who care about our Old West history. The good news: they are not alone.

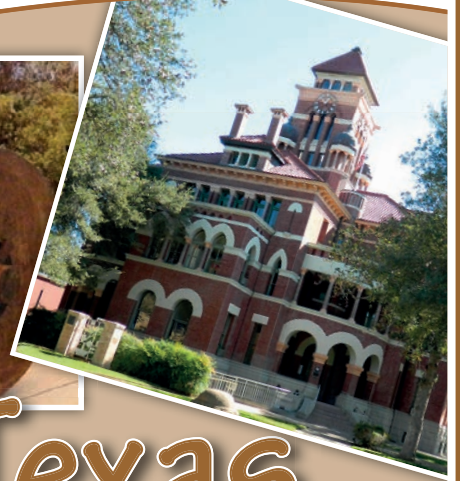
— By Bob Boze Bell; Nelson photo courtesy Nelson family; Hamilton photo courtesy Florine Hamilton —



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

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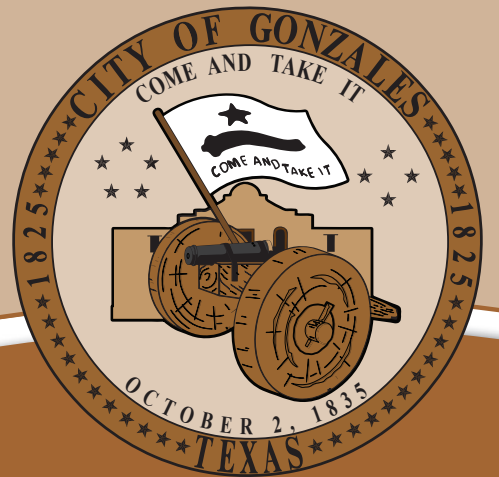
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# Men Behaving Badly

*One captain's attempt to tame the Arizona Rangers is revealed in a newly-discovered rule of conduct.*

**A** lot of folks out there are investigating history—and that's a good thing, or else this column would not exist and yours truly might be out of a job.

But few of them happen to chance upon undiscovered materials. Even rarer is the case of two people independently finding the same historical fact.

One recent example of this involves the 1907 Arizona Rangers General Orders written by Capt. Harry Wheeler.

Wheeler was a law and order, by-the-book kind of guy. To keep his Rangers from behaving badly (which they were), he wrote up seven general orders. The first six covered a variety of do's and don'ts—like don't hang out in bars or brothels, do enforce gambling laws, stay out of Mexico, treat prisoners humanely and carry out your duty with honor. The seventh rule demanded that the lawmen follow orders (which seems obvious, but apparently some of the men were a little too independent for the good of the force).

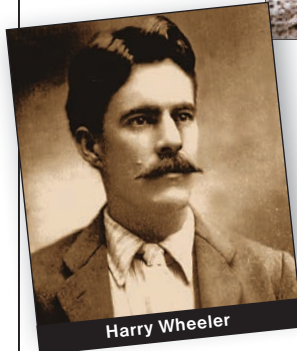
The new policies didn't go over well. In the two years of his captaincy over the 14-man force, some 24 officers left (not a good retention rate). Some resigned of their own accord. But Bill O'Neal, Wheeler's biographer and an expert on the Arizona Rangers, says the captain forced several of them out, including some who just wouldn't do what they were told to do.

They ran afoul of General Order #7.

Somewhere along the line, after the Rangers were disbanded by the legislature in 1909, Order #7 was lost to history. Just how that happened is not clear.

During the group's brief existence, from 1901 to 1909, Harry Wheeler became the leader of the Arizona Rangers in 1907. Prior to that, Ranger rules of conduct had not been written down. As the only Ranger promoted through every rank, he had a unique understanding of how his fellow Rangers behaved. The captain is shown in the inset and standing behind his men in Willcox, Arizona.

— True West Archives —



Harry Wheeler

The original document, in the Arizona State Archives, may hold a clue. The first six orders are on one page.

The last one is on another page.

Over the years, researchers such as M. David DeSoucy and Bill O'Neal have missed the last order. And these guys are no slouches when it comes to sniffing out the facts.

Others did eventually locate it.

In 2004, Chuck Hornung was putting together his book on the New Mexico Territorial Mounted Police and needed some information on

the Arizona Rangers. He went to the state archives, found the second page with the "missing" order and included it in his book *Fullerton's Rangers*.

But for whatever reason, the existence of the seventh order was still unknown to most folks in the Old West field.

Then, in 2009, while overseeing the Arizona Ranger Museum in Nogales, Gary Friedman was conducting some research as the historian for the Tucson Company of the Arizona Rangers, a group formed in 1957 to honor the legacy of the territorial law enforcement agency.

When he saw a copy of Wheeler's General Orders, he was stunned to discover the elusive #7 on the back. The modern Rangers publicized it as a "new find."

This tale serves to show that even in the small world of Old West history, researchers would be wise to improve on communications with others in the field.

As far as the seventh order goes, its existence does not change our view of the Rangers, or of Capt. Wheeler's attempts to bring order to these Wild West lawmen. Yet it does reinforce the group's problem of insubordination.

Thanks to Chuck Hornung and Gary Friedman, we all know that nugget of Arizona Ranger history.



These guys are no slouches when it comes to sniffing out the facts.

# THE GERONIMO TRIBUTE DRAGOON

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There have been many leaders in Native American history who have fought to defend the traditions and existence of their people. Legendary men, such as Crazy Horse, Red Cloud and Sitting Bull, have become synonymous with America's image of the brave Indian warrior.

But there is one warrior in particular who has filled our collective imagination with his fierce, uncompromising spirit – Geronimo. The famous Apache leader was known for his boldness, strength and resilience in the face of danger, much like the Dance Dragoon revolver he has been famously pictured with.

This is why America Remembers has chosen to commemorate one of the most remarkable historic figures of his era with this historic revolver with which he was famously photographed late in his life: the Dance Dragoon revolver in .44 caliber. The Geronimo Tribute Dragoon is a stunning masterpiece featuring this amazing Apache warrior whose very name became a war cry... *Geronimo!*

- Both sides of the Tribute feature high-relief, gold-plated representations, including a faithful bust of Geronimo on the left based on a well-known portrait of the legendary Apache warrior.
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Photography Courtesy of Dennis Adler.



- The right side features a charging American buffalo created in stunning detail. Many would agree there has been no greater kinship in nature than that which existed between the American Indian and the American buffalo.

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This revolver is true to the original Dance Dragoon created during the Civil War as a Texas copy combining features of the 2nd Model Colt Dragoon and 1851 Colt Navy. Both revolvers are renowned for their strength and reliability, the only difference between the two being that the Dance Dragoon has no cylinder scene and does not have a recoil shield.

We're also very excited to be working with renowned author Dennis Adler on this issue. The author of *Colt Single Action – From Patersons to Peacemakers and Guns of the American West*, he is recognized worldwide as a leading authority on antique firearms. Thanks to Dennis's invaluable support and assistance in researching the design motifs for this gun, we're able to offer you this stunning and unique Dance Dragoon commemorative firearm.



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# Comanche Crusader

*From American Indian youth to a Hollywood actor, all Indians have a fighter in LaDonna Harris.*

**T**he first time LaDonna Harris got involved in a civil rights issue, she was not fighting on behalf of her Comanche people, but for her black babysitter.

In the early 1960s, in Lawton, Oklahoma, “our babysitter was picketing the local theater because African-Americans had to sit in the balcony,” she recalls.

While LaDonna and her neighbors organized potluck dinners for the protestors, she had an epiphany: “Here I was working for integration for blacks, but what was I doing for my own community?”

Those potluck dinners became the foundation for the first statewide Indian organization in Oklahoma, known as Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity. When LaDonna took the group national a decade later, she named it Americans for Indian Opportunities. She has been president of the organization during its entire 42 years.

The Oklahoma group’s first focus was on tribal youth, which had a 75 percent high school dropout rate in the early 1960s. “We found that talking to each other can have an amazing impact and can change the system,” says LaDonna, who proudly notes that within five years,

the dropout rate in some areas had decreased to 30 percent.

She traveled to Washington, D.C. with her husband, Fred, elected to the U.S. Senate in 1964, and in that arena, she learned how national politics worked. Fred sponsored the bill to return 48,000 acres to the Taos Pueblo of New Mexico—mountain land and Blue Lake, taken from them by the Teddy Roosevelt administration. LaDonna personally went to the White House to lobby President Nixon to return the land.

She also worked alongside her husband in getting the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin reinstated as a tribe. She worked with Alaskan tribes when oil was discovered on their land. Then tribes with timber rights turned to LaDonna’s group for help.

“We had tribes with all these resources, so why were we so poor?” she wondered.

A look at the Department of Interior lease agreements showed they did not

favor the tribes. For decades, LaDonna has worked to change that disparity.

But ask her to brag about Americans for Indian Opportunities, and she will tell you about the 200 young American

Indian “ambassadors” whom she sees as tomorrow’s leaders. Their exposure to issues at the local, national and international level help prepare them for adult challenges.

“We made him a Comanche so he’d act like one.”

The newest cause that has captured the attention of this 81-year-old dynamo is globalization. “I want the indigenous view and our values to be incorporated into global discussions,” she says.

She is also a new mother.

In May 2012, in her backyard in Albuquerque, New Mexico, she adopted actor Johnny Depp into her family. The Comanche Tribe then made him an honorary member. “He’s my son now,” she says with pride.

Depp will star as Tonto in the movie *The Long Ranger* coming out this year.

LaDonna says she’s not worried about Depp’s portrayal, which will be as a Comanche (not a Potawatomi, as Tonto was in the original broadcasts). “We made him a Comanche so he’d act like one,” she says with a laugh. “I am so happy with my new son; he’s lived up to more than I ever expected.”

So America and the world may know LaDonna Harris as a remarkable civil rights leader, but Johnny Depp knows her as “Mama.”

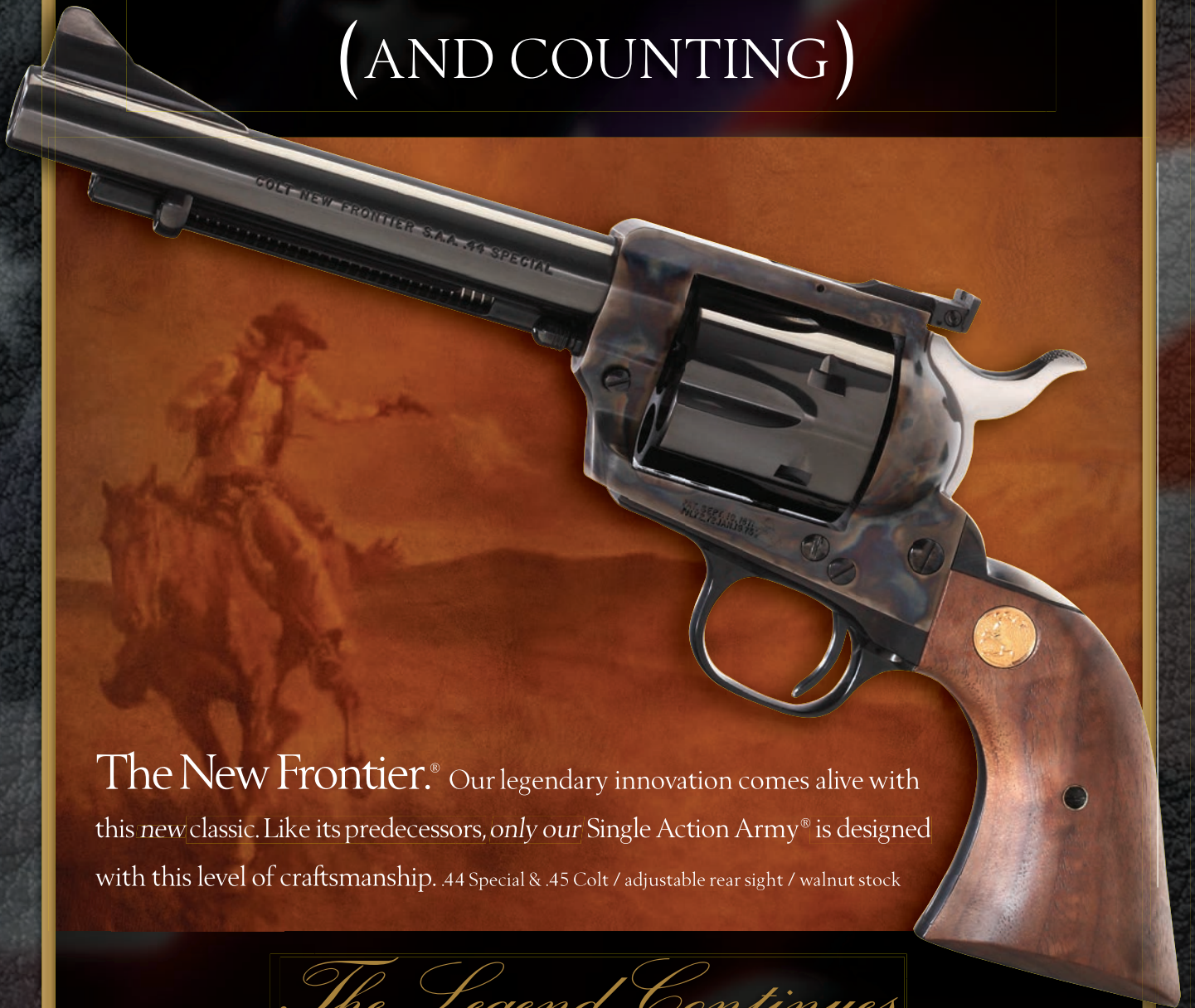


LaDonna Harris has found allies for her cause in U.S. Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Clinton, and now from her new son, actor Johnny Depp (shown with her).

— Courtesy Americans for Indian Opportunities —

**Jana Bommersbach** has been Arizona’s Journalist of the Year and has won an Emmy and two Lifetime Achievement Awards. She is the author of two nationally-acclaimed true crime books and a member of Women Writing the West.

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*Tiburcio Vasquez, John Wesley Hardin and the Mormon Destroying Angel relied on this Colt model.*

**C**olt's handsome Model of 1860 was a favorite on the frontier and saw use by notable Westerners such as Frank and Jesse James, John Wesley Hardin, Wild Bill Hickok, the Mormon “Destroying Angel” Porter Rockwell, the Texas Rangers, El Paso lawman Dallas Stoudenmire and California outlaw Tiburcio Vasquez, to name a few of its admirers. These men relied on the power and smooth handling characteristics of what has come to be considered as the ne plus ultra of cap and ball revolvers.

This epitome of the percussion revolver was a refined and extremely successful improvement of the heavy Dragoon Colts of the 1850s. The .44 caliber “New Model Army Pistol” combined much of the power of the earlier dragoons with its own streamlined styling, better balance, lighter two-pound and 11-ounce weight (Colt's Dragoons weighed four pounds, two ounces) and improved ballistics. With its rounded contours and barrel, the 1860 model represented a distinct departure from the squared-edge profiles of Colt's earlier revolvers with their full octagon or half-round, half-octagon barrels. Too, the hinged loading lever of the older models was replaced with the improved, so-called “creeping” (rack and pinion-style) lever.

Colt's Richards Conversion of its 1860 Army was the most practical of the conversion models; today, it rates high with collectors. This American Indian brandishes a nicked Richards Conversion '60 Colt in .44 Colt centerfire caliber, as well as an infantry NCO sword. Since the Army did issue a number of Richards Conversion Colts, this native may have gotten his while serving as a scout.

— All images courtesy Phil Spangenberg Collection —



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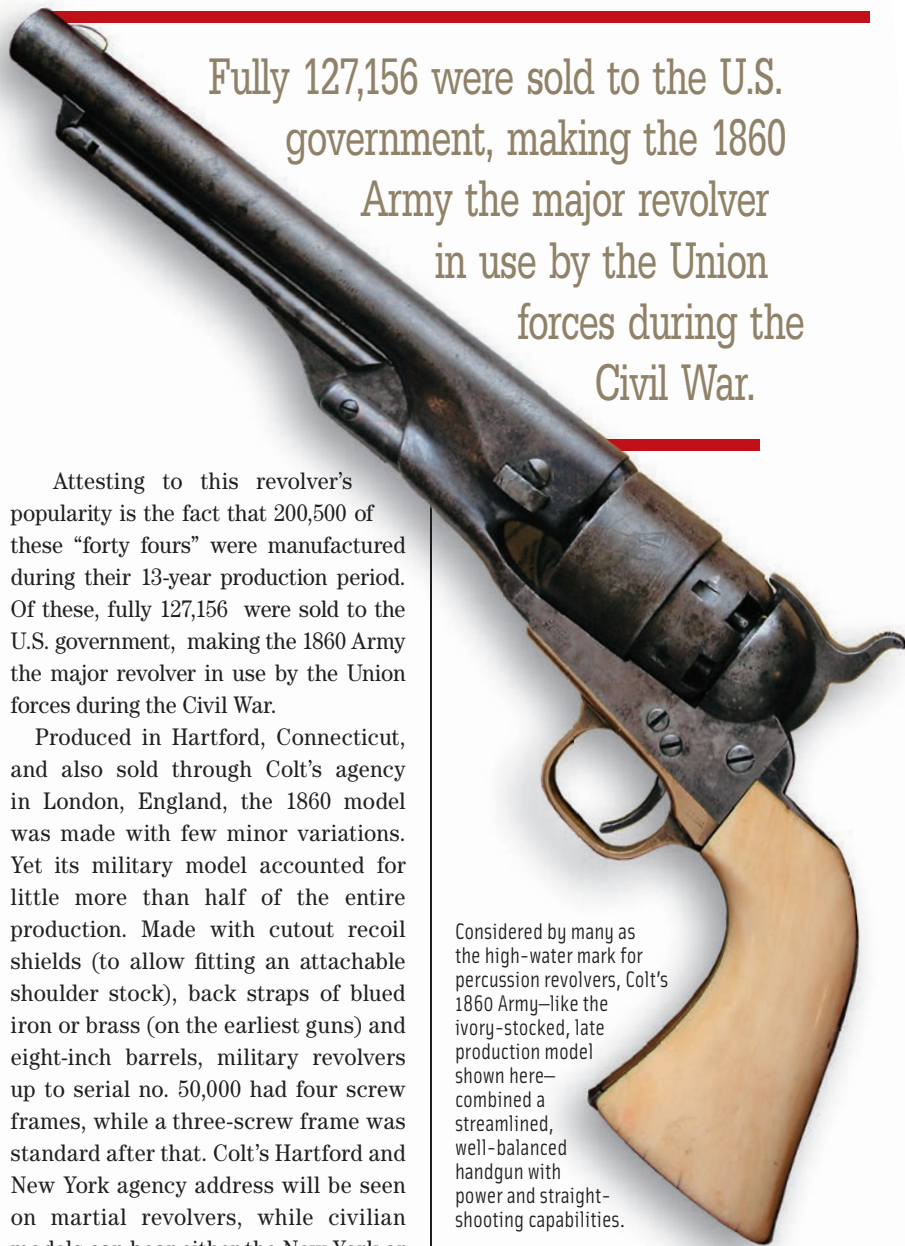
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Fully 127,156 were sold to the U.S. government, making the 1860 Army the major revolver in use by the Union forces during the Civil War.

Attesting to this revolver's popularity is the fact that 200,500 of these "forty fours" were manufactured during their 13-year production period. Of these, fully 127,156 were sold to the U.S. government, making the 1860 Army the major revolver in use by the Union forces during the Civil War.

Produced in Hartford, Connecticut, and also sold through Colt's agency in London, England, the 1860 model was made with few minor variations. Yet its military model accounted for little more than half of the entire production. Made with cutout recoil shields (to allow fitting an attachable shoulder stock), back straps of blued iron or brass (on the earliest guns) and eight-inch barrels, military revolvers up to serial no. 50,000 had four screw frames, while a three-screw frame was standard after that. Colt's Hartford and New York agency address will be seen on martial revolvers, while civilian models can bear either the New York or the London stampings.

Colt fitted its civilian models with either blued iron or silver-plated brass back straps and three-screw frames. Except for rare exceptions, these models were not cut for use with the shoulder stock. While the eight-inch barrel was standard, a few models were made with six-inch, 7½-inch and even longer than eight-inch barrels.

Military arms sported a dull blue finish, with casehardened frames, hammers and loading levers, and oiled walnut stocks,

Considered by many as the high-water mark for percussion revolvers, Colt's 1860 Army—like the ivory-stocked, late production model shown here—combined a streamlined, well-balanced handgun with power and straight-shooting capabilities.

while Army revolvers made for the civilian market were finished with a brighter, more lustrous blue, standard case hardening and varnished walnut stocks.

Rebated cylinders were standard, although about 4,000 of the early 1860 revolvers were made with full-fluted cylinders, to reduce their weight. These were referred to by Colt as "cavalry" models. The rebated cylinders on



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1860 Army models bear the same roll engraved naval battle scene as seen on Colt's 1851 Navy.

With the advent of self-contained metallic cartridges, Colt converted about 9,000 of its 1860 Models to handle the new ammunition. Colt produced its Richards Conversion new from parts between 1873 and 1878, giving the six-gun that started its career as a cap and ball arm an extended life. This is the model that saw much use in the West by renowned names such as John Wesley Hardin, the James brothers and Wild Bill Hickok.

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

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# Black Gold Gushers

*A legendary oilman's Western art collection drills its way into the top 10 lots sold at Heritage Auctions.*

**W**ildcatters have started some of the grandest collections of historical Western art known to man. Denver's Philip F. Anschutz. Fort Worth's Sid Richardson and Amon Carter. Tulsa's Thomas Gilcrease. Shreveport's R.W. Norton. Bartlesville's Frank Phillips.

Now the collection of Midland, Texas's self-made oilman, Fred T. Hogan, has earned a spotlight among art collectors, as five of its paintings were included among the top 10 lots sold at Heritage Auctions' largest American West art auction to date, on November 10, 2012.

Michael Wallis probably best illustrated the everyday oilman's attraction to the Old West in his biography of Phillips. "The attachment to his roots became a major ingredient in Frank's success and the subsequent good fortune of Phillips Petroleum Company.... Frank learned by listening to the cowboys and Indians, and the salt-of-the-earth men and women who lived on the land. Country people and Indians who staked their claims in the Osage Hills.... Frank respected their horse sense and valued their wisdom.... When an Osage cowboy told him that cattle and



Wildcatter Fred T. Hogan probably felt an affinity with this man and horse who were mutually relying on each other for survival on the frontier. William Robinson Leigh's *One Good Turn Deserves Another* shows a rider using his hat to scoop up water for his parched horse to drink; \$232,400.

horses bunched in tight groups was a sign that a storm was coming, Frank was smart enough to head for cover."

Given that many of these hard-knuckled men bet their life savings on the off chance of getting rich, you can see why portrayals of stalwart, seasoned characters of the Old West might end up on their walls. Hogan seemed to subscribe to the Phillips school

of thought. From the Taos women bringing water back to their village in Ernest Leonard Blumenschein's *Taos Valley Reflections* to a male Taos Indian praying for life's most essential ingredient in Eanger Irving Couse's *Prayer to the Rain God*, the folks portrayed in the Hogan artworks clearly demonstrated perseverance in the face of running into their own kinds of "dry wells," the bane of every wildcatter drilling in unexplored territory.

Hogan, along with his father, had drilled some dry holes in his home state of Montana (he was born in Butte in 1901) before they found success near the Canadian border.

But then they struck out four more times in Colorado and New Mexico. By 1924, father and son decided to make a go of it in Texas, and they never looked back. After Hogan's death in 1993, the *Midland Reporter Telegram* credited the junior wildcatter for putting Midland on the oil industry map.

Shared here are just a few of the notable Hogan Family collectibles that sold on the auction block in Dallas, Texas. Collectors earned nearly \$7 million from the sale of their artworks at the auction.





*Taos Valley Reflections*, painted by Taos Society of Artists founding member Ernest L. Blumenschein; \$213,200.



The aspen trees surrounding these Indian Hunters in E. Martin Hennings's oil reflect how New Mexico almost made a landscape artist out of this figure painter. He once wrote, "Nothing thrills me more, when in the fall, the aspen and cottonwoods are in color and with the sunlight playing across them—all the poetry and drama, all the moods and changes of nature are there to inspire one to greater accomplishment from year to year;" \$174,800.



In 1975, Tom Lovell won a Cowboy Artists of America award for *The Thaw*; he joined the organization that same year; \$184,400.



In *Prayer to the Rain God*, E. Irving Couse collectors will recognize Jerry Mirabal, a Taos Pueblo who appears extensively in the artist's artworks; \$136,400.



After Gerald Curtis Delano visited the Navajo reservation in 1943, he said of the people: "I feel a great sympathy for them. They have survived a life of hardship, yet have done so with heads held proudly high." Hogan probably admired this painting for its display of that same perseverance; \$54,800.

## UPCOMING AUCTIONS

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**“Armed to the Teeth,  
Should Occasion  
Require”**



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BY GORDON E. TOLTON

# The Rocky Mountain Rangers

**T**he Canadian prairies were anything but polite in 1885. In southwestern Alberta, rancher William Cochrane wrote his father: “There is a great deal of uneasiness about the Indians...Riel’s runners are in their camps, and it seems doubtful what they will do...we ought to make every effort to get more protection here from the Government.”

On the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers, discontent among the mixed-blood “Métis” society, and those of their Cree and Assiniboine allies, erupted into armed conflict. The intents of Blackfoot nations closer to the Rocky Mountains and the U.S.-Canada border were still in doubt. To newcomers like Cochrane, remote living brought fears.

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A Rocky Mountain Rangers scouting party, in the Cypress Hills during the North West Rebellion, gives their horses a well deserved rest. The Rangers utilized a varied range of weaponry and mostly provided their own sidearms, as holstered in this photo. Rifles issued, however, were uniform with regulation arms of the North West Mounted Police—either single shot Snider Enfield .577 military rifles cut down to carbines, or the newer issue Winchester Model 1876 .45-75 repeating carbine, carried by the Rangers in this photo. One exception is the 1873 Winchester brandished by the kneeling Ranger at left foreground. Winchester carbines can be seen mounted in pommel holsters on the horses in the background.

— Courtesy Esplanade Archives 0404.0012 —

“Cross belts pregnant with  
cartridges, a six-shooter,  
sheath knife, a Winchester  
slung across the pommel  
of the saddle and a coiled  
lariat....”

A rout by the forces of Métis firebrand Louis Riel over the North West Mounted Police at Duck Lake that left 17 combatants dead on March 26, and the declaration of a provisional government, provoked the Canadian establishment to mobilize its militia. News of uprisings at Frog Lake and Battleford by Cree allies stirred the prairies and brought the loyalties of other bands into question.

As the Blackfoot, Blood and Peigan tribes watched their buffalo grounds become a cow pasture, they were confined into blocks called “reserves,” where they were handed out food and told how to live. With cattle herds belonging to ranchers like Cochrane appearing and the Canadian Pacific Railway laying track across the prairies, a way of life was drastically altered, and warriors were tempted into rebellion.

In the confusion and unrest, frontier residents looking to protect their settlements volunteered for service in the irregular militia—the Rocky Mountain Rangers. Commanded by John Stewart, a rancher-turned-militia officer, the Rocky Mountain Rangers was a microcosm of citizens, stockmen, trappers, politicians and discharged Mounties hammered into an irregular cavalry unit.

Volunteers were needed to guard a 200-mile frontier between the Rocky Mountains and the Cypress Hills, protect cattle herds from thieves and rustlers and keep an eye on the border. Stewart was authorized to recruit Americans, who accounted for a large fraction of local population—robe traders, range riders and bull-team freighters working new homesteads—a rich resource of homegrown talent who knew the prairie, and how to ride and shoot.

Stewart had no qualms about drafting friends, business partners and neighbors into his officer’s corps. As commander, Stewart looked to his circle of comrades

in business and military organizations; he felt fortunate that a remote area could produce good staff material. Volunteer recruitment yielded 100 men for the new regiment, comprised of rank-and-file working hands from local ranches.

When North West Mounted Police artillerymen were ordered north to the scene of the Cree uprising in Frog Lake in April 1885, the Rocky Mountain Rangers reinforced the diminished Macleod garrison. Volunteers were expected to provide horses, tack and firearms, but as uniformity and quality of weaponry were problematic, Stewart distributed fifty Model 1876 .45-75 Winchester rifles. With personal sidearms, the Rangers were “armed to the teeth, should occasion require.”

Armed with these sidearms, the Rangers had no identifiable uniform, just functional work clothing: “a sombrero, or a broad-brimmed felt hat with wide leather band, coat of Montana broadcloth or brown duck (canvas) lined with flannel, a shirt of buckskin, breeches of the same or Bedford cord, a cartridge belt attached to which is a large sheath knife, and the indispensable leather chaps. Top boots with huge Mexican spurs completed the equipment.”

Ex-Mounties accessorized with yellow-striped breeches. Rangers were encouraged to pin the left side of the wide brim of their felt slouch hat up the crown. A possibility exists that some Rangers may have worn a hatband of red material signifying them as Dominion militia.

These men did not take basic training seriously—humorous tales were told of troopers breaking out of formation, promising to catch up later. One officer ordered his charges to “halt, dismount, and have a drink.” But hard drilling was unnecessary—the Rangers could ride and shoot, had the resolve to fight and knew the vast open lands they patrolled.

After assembly, the Rangers mobilized. John Higinbotham described their departure: “Their tanned faces almost hidden beneath the brims of huge Spanish sombreros, strapped on for grim death... Cross belts pregnant with cartridges, a six-shooter, sheath knife, a Winchester slung across the pommel of the saddle and a coiled lariat....”

## The Rocky Mountain Rangers

Divided into three troops, one company remained behind to guard the hilly ranch country, triangulating between Fort Macleod, Pincher Creek and High River, and the nearby reserves. Two companies marched east to Medicine Hat to guard railroad bridges, construction camps and the boundary country. As battles raged to the north, the Bloods and Peigans were quiet, and the Blackfoot pledged neutrality. Still, loose stories of marauders abounded.

To augment the numbers, the Rangers sought out more recruits, spurred on by Rattlesnake Jack Robson, the long-haired scout, who “wore a buckskin shirt or coat with two revolvers in his belt.” With headquarters established in Medicine Hat, patrols were sent into the Cypress Hills, strategic hunting grounds of the Métis, with sheltered trails leading to Montana.

Stewart felt that embattled Cree or Métis might regroup in the Hills or escape through the dense jack pines, into American settlements, and posted a \$1,000 bounty for the capture of Riel. With the eventual Métis defeat at Batoche, Riel surrendered to government forces, but the Rangers failed to capture Riel’s military general, Gabriel Dumont, a legendary buffalo hunter whose knowledge of the country allowed him to slip across the border.

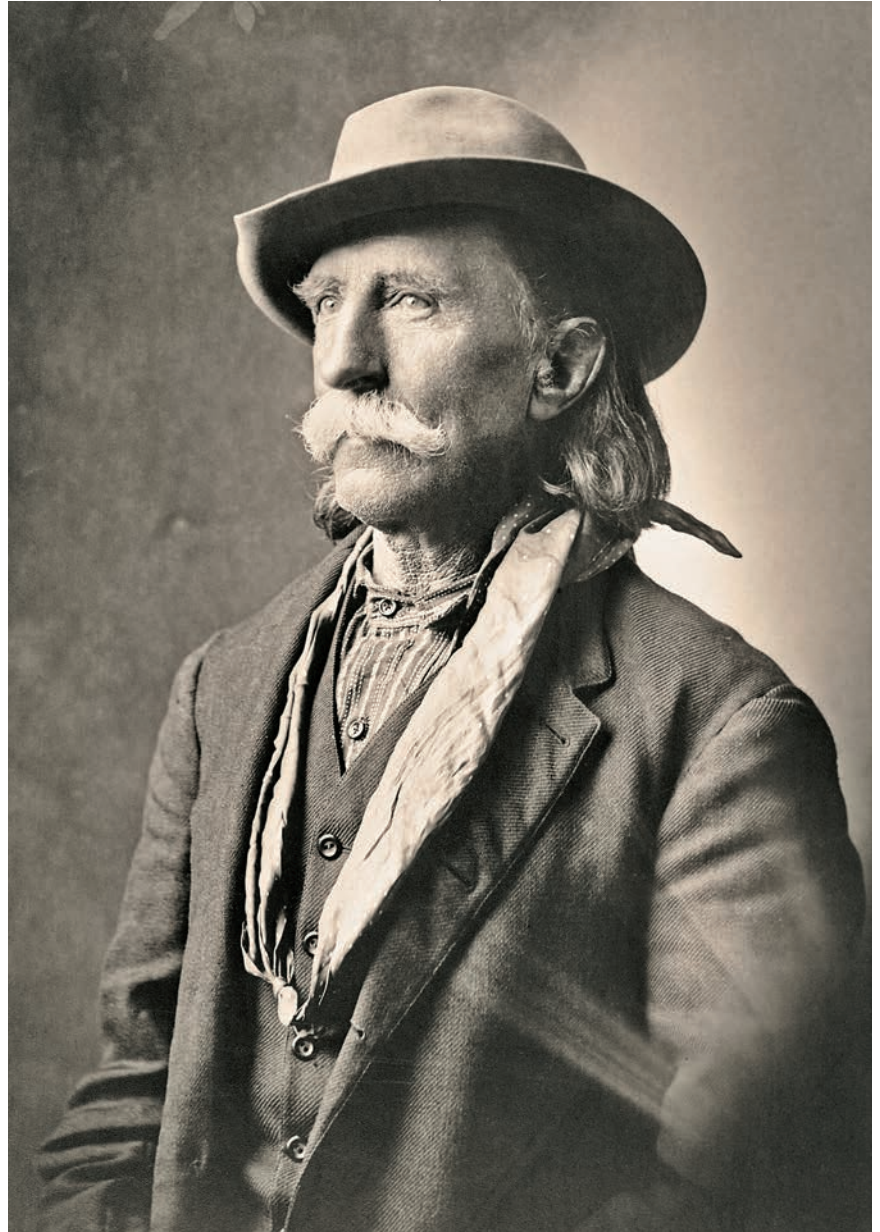
Stewart’s Rangers held lonely vigil across a vast unguarded border—open territory for horse rustlers believed to be American Assiniboine or Gros Ventre. For reliable intelligence, the Rangers dispatched their best scout, William Jackson, who was fired on by a raiding party. The scout returned fire, and after several volleys, the party galloped away. Jackson reported in and guided the Rangers back to the site of the exchange. Some were skeptical of Jackson’s word, but the scout started a signal fire that was acknowledged with corresponding smoke. The Rangers gave chase, but the quarry escaped.

Routine police work was accomplished by combined Rocky Mountain Ranger and North West Mounted Police patrols, and one such team broke a rustling ring in the Macleod-High River corridor. For the most part, the Rangers delivered dispatches, visited ranches, escorted freight wagons

and kept general vigilance. With the defeat of the Cree at Frenchman’s Butte and Loon Lake, and the July 2 surrender of Big Bear at Fort Carlton, the revolt was broken.

With threats past, the Rangers were ordered back to Fort Macleod and

disbanded after only three months’ service. For exemplary performance and hardships endured, 114 Rangers were awarded the North West Canada Medal and became eligible for 320 acres of homestead land. These grants encouraged the veterans to



John George “Kootenai” Brown brought over 20 years of plainsman experience to the Rocky Mountain Rangers. He gave his horse a kick and galloped 40 miles to volunteer his services as chief scout. His service in the Canadian Militia topped his careers as a British lieutenant, a courier for the U.S. Army, a scout for the North West Mounted Police and a magistrate’s constable in British Columbia.

– Courtesy Glenbow Archives NA-678-1 –

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## The Rocky Mountain Rangers

Shown at Fort Walsh, the North West Mounted Police outpost, in 1881, Jack Clark holds an 1873 Winchester and wears prairie attire that is in keeping with the Rocky Mountain Ranger uniform. The force often took on former policemen as civilian scouts, since many of them were intermarried with natives or Métis and thus offered valuable experience, especially during the years of Sitting Bull's Sioux exile in the Cypress Hills. The Mounties wore prairie dress—known as mufti—so as to save wear and tear on their scarlet uniforms required for official occasions. Prairie dress was often adorned with official accoutrements, such as belts, striped breeches, insignia buttons or scraps of scarlet uniform material.

– Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta A.19402 –

become established as pioneer settlers in southern Alberta.

Though seeing little action, the Rocky Mountain Rangers lived up to the expectations of a military unit in a crisis—to maintain peace and order. Through many hours in the saddle, communities and lives were guarded, rumors were quashed, property protected and a conflict prevented from escalation. In their further careers as ranchers, businessmen, townsmen and politicians, the ex-Rangers did much to build the modern southern Alberta. Kootenai Brown even helped to create a National Park—Waterton Lakes (bordering Montana's Glacier National Park). Whatever the Rangers suffered in lack of battlefield glory, they can be proud that their presence prevented their home from the bloodshed plaguing other fronts of the North West Rebellion. ❖

**Gordon E. Tolton**, of Coaldale, Alberta, is the author of *The Cowboy Cavalry: The Story of the Rocky Mountain Rangers* and *Prairie Warships: River Navigation in the Northwest Rebellion*. He has worked with Fort Whoop-Up and Great Canadian Plains Railway Society, among other historical groups.





This Ranger, whose identity is lost to time, is dressed in functional cowboy gear that is typical of clothing worn by the Rocky Mountain Rangers. His hat identifies the one concession to military dress code: the upturned brim signifies affiliation with the Canadian Militia. The 1876 Winchester .45-75 was the Rangers' weapons of choice. This Ranger also has a Smith & Wesson New Model No. 3 single-action revolver tucked in his chaps.

*Courtesy Glenbow Archives NA-670-5 -*

Henry Boyle, a British barrister and the second son of an Irish noble family, poses in Fort Macleod, showing off his new buckskins for photographer George Anderton. Boyle and his brother, Lord Richard, were aristocratic investors in the Alberta Ranche and Rocky Mountain Ranger officers.

- Courtesy Glenbow Archives NA-4452-7 -



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## The Rocky Mountain Rangers



The commanding officer of the Rocky Mountain Rangers, Maj. John Stewart, displays the greatest effort at military comportment in uniform—high military boots, Buermann-style civilian spurs, white riding breeches, a deep blue woolen tunic (in the pattern of his old regiment, the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards), a civilian belt with a double-loop holster holding what appears to be a Smith & Wesson revolver, a white haversack and a leather bandolier, all capped with a wide-brimmed hat.

— Courtesy Glenbow Archives NA-1724-1 —

The 1885 North West Rebellion marked the first time that Canada's new transcontinental railroad was used to transport soldiers to the prairies. The 114 cowboys and ranchers who made up the Rocky Mountain Rangers helped to provide security for the railroad's construction. The story of building the Canadian Pacific Railway is the focus of a major IMAX film, *Rocky Mountain Express*; check your local IMAX for showtimes.

— True West Archives —





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## The Rocky Mountain Rangers

Rocky Mountain Ranger officers, scouts and troopers line up in formation for a march near the railroad town of Medicine Hat. Chief scout "Kootenai" Brown and Capt. (Lord) Richard Boyle (wearing a tri-cornered hat) lead the column. Captain Edward Gilpin Brown, in a dark tunic, is directly behind Boyle. Next to Brown, an unidentified trooper sports mounted police/militia-pattern striped breeches. At extreme left, Maj. John Stewart and Lt. Henry Boyle face the camera.

– Courtesy Glenbow Archives NA-619-3 –



BY ROBERT M. UTLEY

# HONOR IN DEFEAT

WHAT MOST  
PEOPLE READ AS  
SUBJUGATION AND  
HUMILIATION  
WAS ACTUALLY  
GERONIMO'S  
FINEST HOUR.

Having surrendered for good, Naiche and Geronimo sit at Arizona's Fort Bowie, unknowing of the future that awaits them. Take a look at Geronimo's new boots, which he allegedly purchased at the sutler's store at Fort Bowie. Meanwhile, Naiche wears high-top moccasins.

– All images True West Archives unless otherwise noted –







ollowing Geronimo's third and final breakout from the White Mountain Apache reservation in May 1885, first Gen. George Crook, then Gen. Nelson A. Miles sought to capture or kill him and his people in the rugged, mountainous country of Sonora. The campaigns lasted more than a year. In August 1886, at Miles's order, Lt. Charles B. Gatewood succeeded in putting two Apache scouts, Kayitah and Martine, in touch with Geronimo and his compatriot, Naiche, son of Cochise. They persuaded them to talk with Lt. Gatewood, talks that led to Geronimo's agreement to accompany Capt. Henry W. Lawton north to Skeleton Canyon, Arizona, and talk with Gen. Miles about surrender.



General Nelson A. Miles, in 1891, a few years after he had successfully convinced Geronimo to surrender for good.

The Apaches and Lawton's command reached their destination on the afternoon of September 2, 1886. Skeleton Canyon opened on the west side of the Peloncillo Mountains. Venturing into the narrow entrance, the Apaches noted that it widened and divided into two branches. But they also noted that several army units had already bivouacked, and more arrived before they could go into camp.

The numerous soldiers, together with the many couriers who came and went, made all the Chiricahuas more nervous and suspicious than they already were. They informed Lawton they would move deeper into the canyon and camp alone. Like Crook at Canyon de los Embudos, the absence of Gen. Miles further upset them.

With his usual acute eye for topography, Geronimo selected a plateau at the confluence of the two canyons. From here they could watch the soldiers below and scan the San Bernardino Valley beyond, as well as defend themselves if it became necessary. Gatewood and interpreter George Wratten stayed with them.

The agitation persisted through the night and into September 3. Finally, from their elevated perch, the Apaches sighted dust arising from the approach of vehicles. They assumed that at last the general had come. They could talk with him and "look him in the eye."

Geronimo pressed Gatewood to take him to meet Miles. Near the mouth of the canyon, the great Apache leader and the great American general stood face to face. It was a more dramatic and meaningful encounter than Geronimo's with Crook at Canyon de los Embudos. For both Geronimo and Miles, the outcome would be momentous. It could mean Apache surrender, in the full sense of the word that Geronimo had never entertained, or an immediate exchange of fire between Apaches and soldiers, and a stampede of Apaches back to Mexico.

"FROM  
NOW  
ON WE  
WANT  
TO  
BEGIN  
A NEW  
LIFE."

- Gen. Nelson A. Miles



The two warily shook hands and then talked briefly. Gatewood, sitting to the rear, recalled that Miles simply told them to surrender and be sent to Florida to await the action of the president. Then Geronimo turned to Gatewood and said, "Good, you told the truth," shook hands with Miles and declared he would go with him regardless of what the rest decided.

Naiche had not accompanied Geronimo nor decided to surrender. Naiche's brother had gone to Mexico looking for a lost pony and perhaps been killed by Mexicans. Naiche had gone into the hills to mourn.

After meeting with Miles, Geronimo went in search of Naiche and persuaded him to meet the general. They met with him on the morning of September 4. Naiche remained suspicious of the good intentions of Miles, and he had not yet surrendered his following, which was much larger than Geronimo's. Miles explained in more detail his plan for the Chiricahuas. Somewhat reassured and encouraged by Geronimo,

Naiche surrendered his following. All laid down their arms.

According to Geronimo, Miles's explanation took place before Naiche and the band as a whole had agreed to surrender or laid down their arms; only Geronimo himself had yielded. Dr. Leonard Wood and Lt. Thomas Clay were present. Miles said, "You go with me to Fort Bowie and at a certain time you will go to see your relatives in Florida." He drew a line on the ground and said it represented the ocean. Placing a stone beside it, he said, "This represents the place where Chihuahua is with his band [Fort Marion, Florida]." He then picked up another stone and placed it a short distance from the first. "This represents you, Geronimo." He then picked up a third stone and placed it a short distance from the others. "This represents the Indians at Camp Apache. The President wants to take you and put you with Chihuahua." He moved the Geronimo stone, and then he moved the

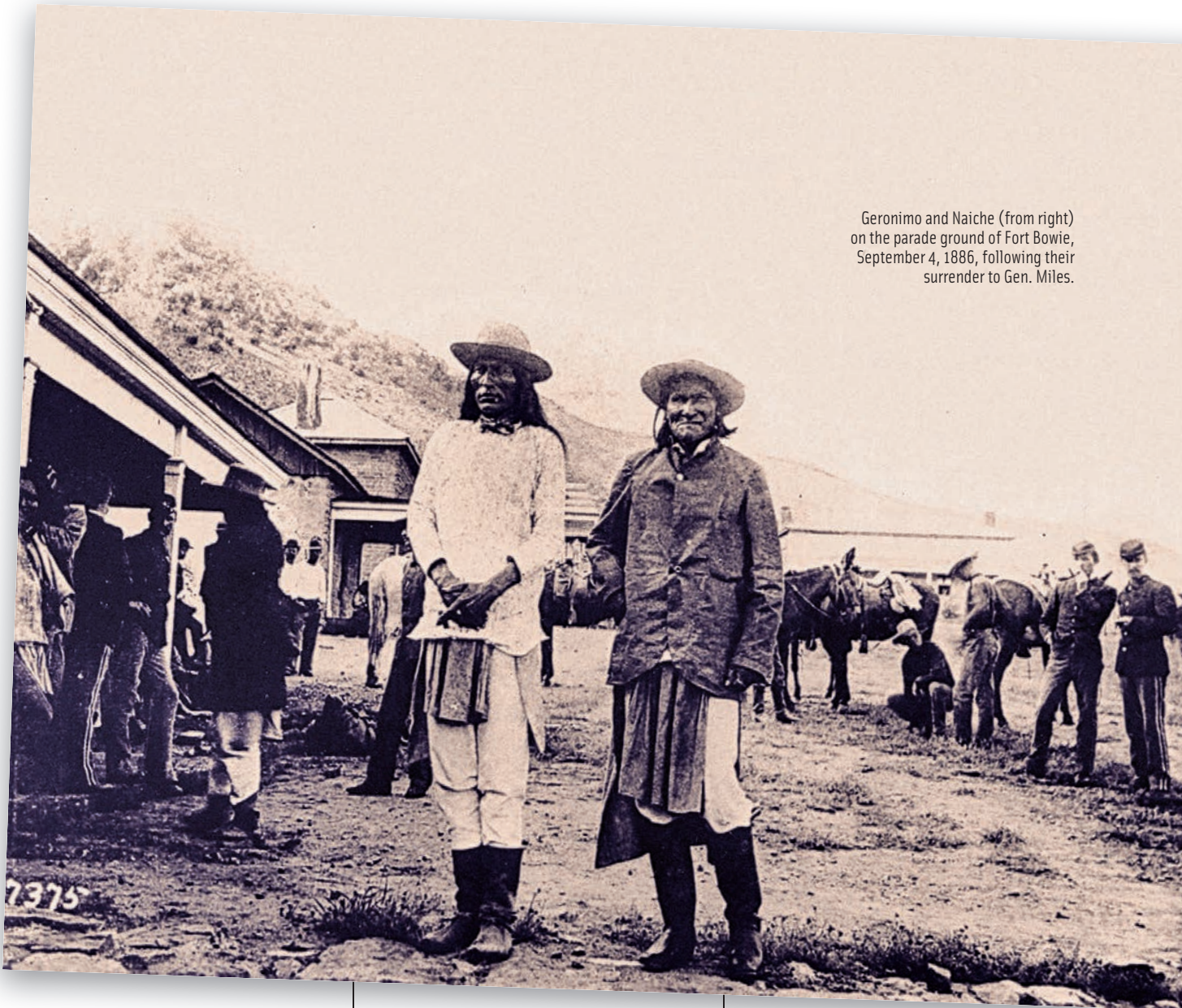
Geronimo and Naiche with followers at train side, headed for Florida captivity, September 8, 1886. Geronimo sits third from right and Naiche third from left in the front row. Sometime between the taking of this photo and the photo on the opening spread, Naiche evidently bought a pair of V-top boots.

Camp Apache stone next to the Chihuahua stone. "That is what the President wants to do, get all of you all together."

Accompanied in an army ambulance by Geronimo and Naiche and three men and a woman, Miles and Lt. Clay pushed forward on the morning of September 5, moving hastily to reach Fort Bowie the same day. Lawton followed with the rest of the Chiricahuas, traveling at a more leisurely pace. They arrived at the fort early on September 8.

While waiting at Fort Bowie, Miles again explained his idea of the future to Geronimo and Naiche. He said, "From now on we want to begin a new life." He held up one of his hands with the palm open and marked lines across it with a finger of the other hand. "This represents

Geronimo and Naiche (from right) on the parade ground of Fort Bowie, September 4, 1886, following their surrender to Gen. Miles.



the past; it is all covered with hollows and ridges." He rubbed the other palm over it and said, "That represents the wiping out of the past, which will be considered smooth and forgotten."

On the day Lawton arrived with the people, September 8, all were packed into wagons as the 4th Cavalry Band drew up on the parade ground and played "Auld Lang Syne." The wagons moved north down the road to Bowie Station, where a train lay waiting.

After a photographer took pictures, they boarded the cars—15 Chiricahua men (including Gatewood's scouts Kayitah and Martine), nine women and three children, 27 in all. Captain Lawton took charge with an escort of 20 cavalymen. Miles and his staff rode as far as the Rio Grande, in New Mexico, then changed trains for Albuquerque. The special train steamed on east, headed for Florida.



Although a man of periodic mood swings, Geronimo had provided exceptional leadership in the days following his extended discussions with Lt. Gatewood on the Bavispe River. He never relaxed his inbred suspicion, never let his guard down, remained always alert for treachery.

He forced the Mexican prefect, Jesus Aguirre, to back down and return to Mexico. He followed the wise counsel of Gatewood and appeared, or pretended,

# HIS FAME GREW NOT FROM WAR, BUT FROM HIS UNCANNY AVOIDANCE OF WAR.

to accept Capt. Lawton as trustworthy. Traveling north to Skeleton Canyon in tandem with an American command posed dangers, as the murderous intent of Lt. Abiel Smith demonstrated, but Geronimo negotiated this journey with skill.

Naiche remained in the background, letting Geronimo plot the daily course of action. In the end, Geronimo probably had more influence than Miles in persuading Naiche to surrender his following.

When he met Gen. Miles on September 3, Geronimo discovered a general who did not “talk ugly” like Crook and gave in to him. Putting his trust in Miles proved a mistake with lifelong consequences. But by now, surrounded and outnumbered by troops, an attempt to break free would be costly and leave his people as destitute as ever. Besides, Miles seemed like a trustworthy man, and his talk about getting all the Chiricahuas together held strong appeal. Geronimo did not understand how little control Miles had over their future.

Geronimo had the good sense to recognize the truth of what Kayitah and Martine said when they finally met with him in Mexico. They described the pitiful condition of the Chiricahuas, which Geronimo could plainly see around him as the two emissaries talked.

Overcoming his stubborn reluctance to meet with soldiers, he consented to go down and talk with Lt. Gatewood. He had long known and trusted this officer. From this point forward, his strategy was to bargain for the best terms possible, ideally a return to the old life on the reservation. When this proved impossible, he held forth the prospect of continuing the war, but also gradually accepted the inevitable.

As a matter of fact, although raiding occurred repeatedly, only two clashes with the U.S. cavalry occurred during the last two years of Geronimo’s freedom, with only minor skirmishes. Occasionally his camp was seized by Apache scouts or soldiers, but not before Geronimo took alarm and scattered his people into the hills. The army and the scouts tried to find and destroy the Chiricahuas, without

success. Geronimo and Naiche led their people through the tortuous Mexican defiles they knew so well and constantly eluded their pursuers. That in itself reflects creditably on Geronimo, whose avoidance of the enemy and subsistence of his people by raids on the Mexicans demonstrate superior leadership.

During the two-year period ending at Skeleton Canyon, Geronimo’s name appeared almost daily in the national press. That he became the best-known of all Indian leaders sprang largely from this two-year period. For vulnerable citizens in both Mexico and the United States, he personified the Apache menace. Ironically, despite the atrocities committed during raids on civilians, his fame grew not from war, but from his uncanny avoidance of war.

Although 1885-86 marked Geronimo’s preeminence as a war leader, his success in avoiding war and finally in working through the tortuous process of surrender marked his finest period as a fighting Apache. ❏



This edited excerpt is from *Geronimo*, by Robert M. Utley and published by Yale University Press. The former National Park Service chief historian is the author of numerous history tomes and resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

## GERONIMO, THE GUNFIGHTER?

On August 28, 1886, Lt. Charles B. Gatewood is escorting Geronimo and his band out of Mexico when they are intercepted by a large Mexican force of 180 troops. Near the U.S.-Mexico border, Gatewood and the Apaches meet the commander of the Mexican troops, who wants to see with his own eyes that Geronimo is surrendering. They meet under a tree and, as introductions are made, Jesus Aguirre, the prefect from Arispe, hitches his holster around to a handier spot. Geronimo “half-draws” his.

Gatewood later says he saw a “most fiendish expression” come over Geronimo’s face, with the “whites of his eyes at the same time turning red.” The Mexican official backed down.

—By Bob Boze Bell



# “WAR TO THE DEATH”

PROSPECTOR WILLIAM PORTER JONES GETS CAUGHT IN AN APACHE WAR AMBUSH.

**O**n the morning of June 1, 1864, a group of 100 volunteers gathered at King Woolsey’s fortified ranch house to form a raiding party to pursue Apaches in Tonto Basin. The Apaches had been harassing the isolated settlements of Big Bug, Lynx Creek and Agua Fria (present-day

Humboldt) ever since Joseph Rutherford Walker and his party had first ventured into the area the prior summer.

Most of the men lived in the recently-established Arizona territorial capital of Prescott, within the defensive range of Fort Whipple. These prospectors, merchants, farmers and laborers had been attracted to the harsh environment of central Arizona after hearing of the Walker Party’s gold discovery along Lynx Creek.

William Porter Jones was among those original settlers. His partners were joining the Woolsey party for the raid, yet Jones planned on returning to the Big Bug diggings. The Big Bug mining



Gold prospector William Porter Jones understood well his exposure to hostile Indian attacks, like the circa 1870 Apache attack in Arizona Territory’s Cañon de L’or shown above. Theodore Boggs and three other miners had survived a famous skirmish with the Apaches in 1862, known as the Battle of Big Bug. Joseph Lennon, Jones’s closest friend, was shot and wounded by Apaches while mining at Lynx Creek on April 25, 1864.

– All images True West Archives –

camp, organized in 1862 by John and Theodore Boggs, sons of former Missouri Gov. Lilburn Boggs, offered the potential of rich placer mining claims.

After his overnight stay at the Woolsey ranch house, Jones looked forward to a peaceful ride along the Agua Fria River on his return ride to Big Bug (near present-day Poland Junction). Within the next 24 hours, the 27-year-old prospector from Missouri would leave his unique mark on Arizona history.

About four miles from the Woolsey Ranch, 30 to 40 Apache braves, concealed by the terrain of a narrow Agua Fria River canyon, ambushed Jones. Then they

tortured and murdered him. A search party found Jones’s body two days later and buried him at the ambush site. His untimely and violent death likely contributed to the intensity of violent conflict between the early settlers and

the Apaches. A few years later, in 1870, *The Arizona Miner* remembered how the Indians had “shockingly mutilated [Jones’s] body.”

Thanks to a fortuitous chain of events, we are now able to reconstruct Jones’s story, more than 150 years after his death. In 2010, his family donated a collection of nine letters to the Sharlot Hall Archives in Prescott; the letters had been discovered in the attic of his sister’s Missouri home in 1982. Six of the nine letters had been written by Jones, while three had been written by his friends.

These letters are the only thread to connect us to “Uncle Will’s” travels out

This early-day Arizona prospector gives an idea of the tools and accoutrements utilized by William Porter Jones at the Big Bug mining camp.



West. He began his 2,000-mile journey in 1858 when he left his hometown in southwest Missouri and headed to the mining camps of Colorado, California, Nevada and Arizona. During his six years of prospecting for gold, he witnessed the gold rush of Pike's Peak, the boom years in California's Grass Valley, the establishment of Aurora, Nevada, and the formation of the Arizona Territory in the mining camps of Prescott, Lynx Creek and Big Bug Creek.

Even more, the letters portray an optimistic and loving son who struggled to overcome the financial, emotional and physical hardships associated with the life of a prospector. He never lost his optimism, sense of humor or concern for the well-being of his family during his six-year stint as a gold prospector.

In his final letter to his parents, dated January 24, 1864, and postmarked, "Hassa-amps, Walker's Diggings," Jones wrote, "You will think that I am almost out of civilization and so I am."

For the benefit of his parents, he may have understated the severity of the conflict with the Indians: "The Indians are yet very troublesome stealing horses but I have kept mine."

Joseph Lennon, a prospecting partner, painted a starker picture of the conflict in another letter: "Out of a party of who started from Aurora [Nevada] of fourteen men I am the only one alive today. They were all killed by the Indians."

Yet Jones comforted his family with hopeful letters such as one describing the

psychology of the gold prospector: "We are satisfied that we are near our fortunes but we may be too sanguine but we have every evidence of it. Our mines are paying us well now but we can't be content while we believe there is such a rich country ahead. We shall probably start from here in 30 days that if our digging does not prove very rich here."

Cognizant of the increased risk of hostile Indian attacks that came with his digging for rich placer at Big Bug, he later added, "Our principal study is how to manage the Indians and take out gold."

Two years after Jones's death, the battles between settlers and Apaches had died down enough to allow settlers to rebury

Jones's body at Aztlan Masonic Cemetery. That November, J.T. Alsap, treasurer of the Arizona Territory and friend to Jones, wrote to Jones's father to share the impact of the prospector's death on the local population: "It

created a profound sensation here at the time as he was among the first victims of savage cruelty in this part of the country and it was one of the causes of the unrelenting hostility of the people of

this part of the country to the Indians.... It is war to the death whenever citizens & Indians meet."



Robert T. Gibney, of Phoenix Arizona, was so inspired by the letters written by William Porter Jones that he wrote the song, "A Miner's Letter Home."

**"...he was among the first victims of savage cruelty in this part of the country..."**



The first expedition to explore Central Arizona was undertaken by the Walker Party commanded by Joseph Rutherford Walker (shown in this circa 1860 photograph by Mathew Brady). In May 1863, his party discovered gold at Lynx Creek, the news of which attracted folks to the area that would become Prescott.

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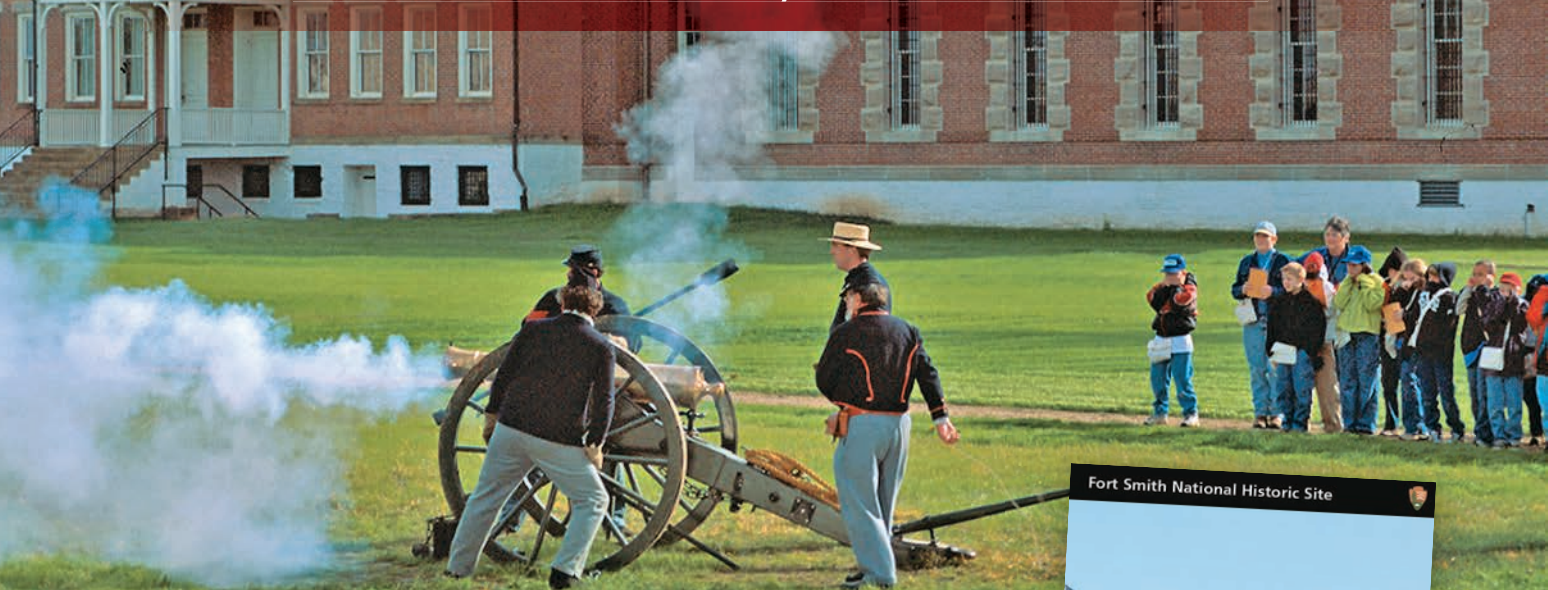
An age unlike any other, the Old West depicted in countless books and movies and TV shows is a romanticized, mythologized and micro-analyzed era that will live forever in our hearts and minds.

But thanks to the largely unpaid and often anonymous army of preservationists and historical society members who identify, maintain and restore the buildings and artifacts of those days, we—as well as our children and grandchildren—have the chance to marvel at these irreplaceable relics where so much of our fabled history took place.

This year, we honor the following True Western towns that have made notable efforts to preserve and maintain our Old West heritage.



# FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS



Location is everything in real estate. It's also pretty darned important in history.

The western Arkansas town of Fort Smith sits tucked in a bend of the Arkansas River, up against the border of what was once the Indian Territory, on the very edge of the Wild West.

Its proximity to those lawless and unsettled lands shaped the history and people of Fort Smith in a way that still fires the imagination, which is why this town is not only a prime destination for Old West enthusiasts, but also the top True Western town of 2013.

Last year was a banner year for Fort Smith and its 86,000 residents:

- Nearly one million people visited Fort Smith.
- The town dedicated Harold T. Holden's statue of legendary lawman Bass Reeves, who brought around 3,000 fugitives to justice over the course of his career. This year is the 175th anniversary of the birth of the former slave, who was one of the first, if not the first, blacks to serve as a deputy U.S. marshal west of the Mississippi River.
- The town marked the 140th anniversary of the federal courthouse where Isaac C.

Besides firing off the cannon shot (above) that usually thrills visitors at Fort Smith, the historic site also participated in the National Parks Service's "Civil War to Civil Rights" trading card program in 2012. Four cards featured different scenes tied to the fort, including the portrayal at right of black soldiers training at the fort to fight Confederate troops during the Civil War.

— All Fort Smith photos courtesy Fort Smith CVB; Trading Card courtesy National Park Service —

Parker (a.k.a. the hanging judge) dispensed justice for more than two decades.

- Restoration work continues at Fort Smith National Historic Site.
- Plans for the U.S. Marshals Museum, awarded to the town in 2007, proceed apace.

Looking ahead, this year, the Fort Smith historic site will offer visitors an exhibit on the 175th anniversary of the Trail of Tears, the forcible removal of Cherokee Indians begun in 1838.

With strong community backing, Fort Smith boasts an impressive array of historical buildings for us to enjoy.

The former bordello known as Miss Laura's Social Club, a lovely two-story Victorian-style "hotel" on Front Street, was the first such structure to be listed on the

National Register of Historic Places. It is now the town's visitors center.

Visitors can experience Fort Smith's Victorian-era digs at the Clayton House, built in the 1850s and remodeled in 1882.

The Fort Smith historic site holds a wealth of fascinating items. Popular attractions include the replica of the Fort Smith gallows, a fully restored courtroom of Judge Parker's and an early frontier jail known as "Hell on the Border."

Firearms enthusiasts will enjoy the assortment of Colt revolvers and Winchester rifles on display at the site, along with a shotgun stamped "Wells and Fargo." Some of those weapons are reputed to have belonged to frontier characters such as

Nathaniel Reed (a.k.a. Texas Jack) and George "Prince of Hangmen" Maledon.

The fort is also a great place to glean information on some of the region's infamous outlaws (Belle Starr, Bill Doolin, Cherokee Bill and Ned Christie) and renowned lawmen (Heck Thomas, Frank Dalton and Bass Reeves).

The Fort Smith Museum of History, located in the 1907 Atkinson-Williams Warehouse Building, has been the keeper and teller of the town's history for over a century. It, too, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Citizens celebrate the town's history through events such as the birthday party for Judge Parker every October (don't miss the shoot-out!), the Heritage Festival and the fall Murder & Mayhem Trolley Tour fundraiser.

We can see why the U.S. Marshals Museum picked Fort Smith as its future home. This town already does such an awe-inspiring job of sharing its historic role in peace keeping that we can't wait to see how the museum shares the history of the U.S. Marshals Service from its inception in 1789 up to the present.

For now, though, folks have plenty of Old West heritage they should honor in Fort Smith. This town truly deserves our highest accolades.



The most recent bridge to the past added to Fort Smith's downtown was the addition of a monument paying tribute to famed Indian Territory Marshal Bass Reeves. You'll find the Harold T. Holden sculpture at Pendergraft Park.

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## DODGE CITY, KANSAS

**2** Dodge City is among the best-known towns of the Old West, thanks in no small part to the popularity of *Gunsmoke*.

But the rugged cattle town was far more than just a convenient setting for a TV show. Dodge City was the real deal, alive with all the elements we associate with the era—cattle and cowboys, outlaws and lawmen, saloons and shady ladies.

Legions of local preservationists ensure that the Old West lives on in the “Queen of the Cow Towns.”

Dodge City today has nearly 28,000 residents, yet it hosted nearly 150,000 visitors last year during the 140th anniversary of the town's founding. (Just imagine what will happen for the 150th!)

What did those folks get to see?

Among the town's historic buildings are: the George Hinkle House (circa 1880), the Hardesty House at Boot Hill Museum (1878), the First Presbyterian Church (1880) and the St. Cornelius Episcopal Church (1898).

Dodge City is also home to nearly two dozen locally designated landmarks, as well as 11 historic sites listed on the National Register.

Boot Hill Museum shares information on virtually all aspects of the town's heritage—American Indian culture, Fort Dodge, the railroads and, of course, many of the colorful characters who once lived here.

The museum inducts five new members into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of



The Long Branch Saloon pays tribute to early-day owner Chalk Beeson and to *Gunsmoke* icon Miss Kitty (performers shown above) in a variety show. First performed on July 4, 1985, the show became such a hit that you can now catch it any night of the week during the summer.

—Courtesy Dodge City CVB—

Fame every year, and it is recognized as one of the “8 Wonders of Kansas History.”

Last year's Dodge City Days, a 10-day festival organized by the Chamber of Commerce, featured the 52nd annual Western Parade, a Country Western concert, the 20th annual Backyard Barbeque Contest, the 17th annual Western Art Show, a chuckwagon breakfast and five nights of rodeo action, among many other activities.

But perhaps one of the biggest tells that Dodge City is truly a

special kind of Old West heritage town is singer, songwriter and cowboy poet Allen Bailey. As Dodge City's official marshal and unofficial goodwill ambassador, Bailey always dresses in period clothing when he gives presentations and tours of Dodge City, which he also promotes on his weekly radio show.

For years, the town has attracted visitors through its impressive Trail of Fame Walking Tour, where markers, medallions and statues commemorate some of Dodge City's notable residents, both fictional and historical. A statue of the gunfighting dentist Doc Holliday and a medallion to honor legendary lawman Hamilton “Ham” Bell are currently in the works for the trail.

Even more, Dodge City has been working with the National Parks Service to develop the Great Western Cattle Trail. A feasibility study has been presented to the legislature; passage is expected this spring. (Fingers crossed!)

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## WILLCOX, ARIZONA

Legend has it that when the first train came rattling through the dusty southeastern Arizona burg of Maley in August 1880, Gen. Orlando B. Willcox, the commander of the Department of Arizona who happened to be on board, received an ovation.

True or not, the town officially changed its name to Willcox in 1889.

Even before the name change, the town was an important cattle shipping and business center. Thanks to the good folks who work hard to keep that heritage alive, Willcox and the surrounding areas remain rich in history.

During Arizona's centennial celebration last year, we made much out of the Sierra Bonita Ranch. Established by Henry Hooker in 1872, it was the first permanent cattle ranch in Arizona and today, it lies about 20 miles northwest of Willcox. The Earps made a stop at the ranch during their famous 1882 Vendetta Ride. Regrettably, Warren Earp, youngest of the brothers, was shot and killed in Willcox in 1900.

Most of the town's historic structures stand, not surprisingly, in the historic district. The town's park, located on the aptly named Railway Avenue, is adjacent to the 1881 Southern Pacific depot that is now City Hall. The Willcox Commercial, Arizona's oldest, continuously-operated mercantile, opened in 1880. The Schwertner House,

built in 1881, once served as a reception center for Army officers.

Willcox Wine Country, an association of local wineries and vineyards, is working to revitalize the town's historic district. The group has opened three tasting rooms, paying homage to the town's history of slaking the thirst of hard-working cowpokes (in 1891, the local brewery turned out 1,000 bottles of beer a day!).

The town continues to pay tribute to icons who glorified the West's cowboy legacy and thus earned a place in many a kid's heart. See for yourself at the Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum and the Friends of Marty Robbins Museum (each on Railroad Avenue). Around the corner is the Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center. Always at work to improve its history offerings, Willcox recently spruced up its Cowboy Hall of Fame, and redid its Barbed Wire and Branding exhibits.

Several Western-themed events help residents remember the town's past.

Willcox celebrates Rex Allen Days every October with a parade, rodeo and stage show. And Marshal Bo Downing and his re-enactment group perform every week for folks in the historic district. (Downing also sells traditional Old West garb at Marshal Bo's Mercantile.)

For a town of roughly 3,775 people, Willcox sure is working hard to preserve all aspects of its Old West heritage.



Along the Willcox Walking History Tour, you'll find the Rex Allen statue, located across the street from the museum devoted to the singing cowboy actor.

- Courtesy Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture -

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## CANYON, TEXAS

**4** Settlers began arriving in what was then called Canyon City (named after nearby Palo Duro Canyon) in the Texas Panhandle in 1887. Two years later, the fast-growing community was selected as the seat of Randall County. When the Pecos and Northern Railroad arrived in 1898, Canyon City earned its prominence as a cattle-shipping railhead. West Texas State Normal College (now West Texas A&M University) opened in 1910. A decade later, the school helped form the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

The town, which in 1911 formally changed its name to Canyon, works hard to keep history alive.

Last June saw the grand opening of the restored Pioneer Town at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Town officials say that stepping into its new replica of pioneer life is like stepping off a train and into an 1890s Texas Panhandle town.

The museum first opened its doors to the public in 1933. More than 75 famous West Texas cattle brands surrounded the entrance of the 12,500-square-foot structure, which was finished in Texas limestone. The building's Southwestern Art Deco architectural style earned it a designation as a State Antiquities Landmark. Today, the historical museum, which has expanded to more than 285,000 square feet, is the largest history museum in Texas. It holds more than two million artifacts.

The museum's unique historical offerings last year included a Friends of Southwestern Art luncheon with Anne Morand (the curator for the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum), a Night at the PPHM featuring historical

characters and an Adobe Walls Tour of some of the 1874 Red River War sites.

Chief among the many historical structures in Canyon is the 1877 T Anchor Ranch headquarters, the town's oldest surviving house. The town also preserves the 1887 Sam Wood Cabin and the W.F. Heller home, where the Civil War veteran settled in 1887.



For nearly 50 years, folks have experienced the tapestry of Texas Panhandle history through the stage musical *Texas*, performed at the outdoor Pioneer Amphitheater outside of Canyon, Texas.

— Courtesy Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council —

Its historical sites are plenty as well. Canyon is home to the 1872 site where troops under the command of Col. John Gregg skirmished with Kiowas; the Civil War Reunion Site at Conner Park; the Charles Goodnight Memorial Trail; and the site of the Lincoln Conner dugout, considered to be the first home in Canyon.

About a dozen miles east of Canyon is another treasure worth visiting: the nearly 30,000-acre Palo Duro Canyon State Park, which holds the northernmost portion of the 120-mile-long Palo Duro Canyon, dubbed the "Grand Canyon of Texas." One of the best times to visit Palo Duro Canyon is during the summer, when the outdoor stage musical *Texas* brings Texas Panhandle legends to life.

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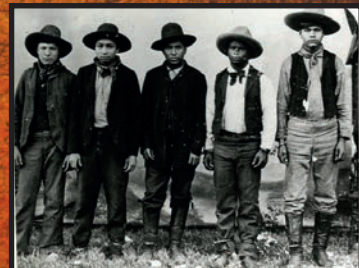
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The Museum is home to more than sixty exhibits encompassing the County's history, culture and art.



Old West Heritage Month features treks to sites near the county seat of Stinnett: the First Battle of Adobe Walls in 1864 and the Second Battle of Adobe Walls in 1874, in which Commanche Chief Quanah Parker led a large group of warriors in a four day battle against a desperate band of buffalo hunters in their remote outpost.



The Museum directs visitors to historical markers and other attractions that are available in Borger and the County.

Located downtown, at 618 North Main Street, the Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues. - Fri. and 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

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**DURANGO, COLORADO**

**5** Like many a boomtown, Durango got its start when prospectors found gold in the area.

But the arrival of railroads actually fueled the region's rapid growth. Lines from the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached Durango in 1881 and, within 12 months, the town had 134 businesses, including doctor's offices, newspapers and, of course, saloons.

through which Durango preserves its Old West heritage and spirit.

The town boasts dozens of historic structures and more than 14 art galleries.

Its finest Victorian structure, the venerable Strater Hotel, celebrated its 125th birthday last year; the General Palmer Hotel, next to the railroad's depot, is celebrating its 115th this year. To learn more about the city's historical buildings, Durango has put together a self-guided



The railroads ensured Durango's importance as a center of industry and commerce, especially when the Silverton Branch, which snaked about 45 miles north through the Animas River Valley to Silverton, was completed in the summer of 1882.

The steam train has been in continuous operation ever since. Although the original purpose was to haul silver and gold, today the real treasure is the scenic views enjoyed by around 200,000 passengers every year.

But this incredible narrow gauge railroad is just one of the grand offerings

The Strater Hotel turned 125 years old last year! Every Fourth of July, Durango residents line up outside the Strater to take in the fireworks; the crowd also gets a taste of the Old West through the gunfight re-enactments hosted by the hotel and its Diamond Belle Saloon.

*- Courtesy Durango Area Tourism Office -*

walking tour of the town's historical Main Avenue and 3rd Avenue.

The Animas Museum, owned and operated by the La Plata County Historical Society, describes the birth and history of Durango. It is housed in the 1904 Animas City School building.

The 12,000-square-foot Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad



One of the best parts about living in Durango is it is still a railroad town. Founded by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway in 1880, the town is home to the steam narrow gauge railroad that takes folks on scenic trips between Durango and Silverton. To get the best view of the San Juan Mountains, sit in one of the open gondola cars.

– Courtesy Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad –

Museum holds an impressive variety of exhibits, from tools, lanterns and photos to an 800-square-foot scale model of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. It also houses two steam engines and a 1916 American LaFrance fire engine.

The Durango Discovery Museum, an interactive science and energy center, is housed in the circa 1893 Powerhouse, the nation's oldest surviving coal-fired, steam-generated AC power plant.

The 52,000-square-foot Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum in Ignacio, the headquarters of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, about 25 miles southeast of Durango, celebrates the living history of Colorado's longest continuous residents with collections of rare artifacts, historic photographs and oral histories.

All of these sites, and more, bring life to the town's past through heritage events such as the Durango Cowboy Gathering, *True West's* Railfest, the Bar D Chuckwagon Suppers, Durango Fiesta Days, rodeos and many other activities throughout the year.

Only 17,000 lucky souls live in Durango. But because it's a four-season adventure town, it welcomed more than 900,000 visitors last year.

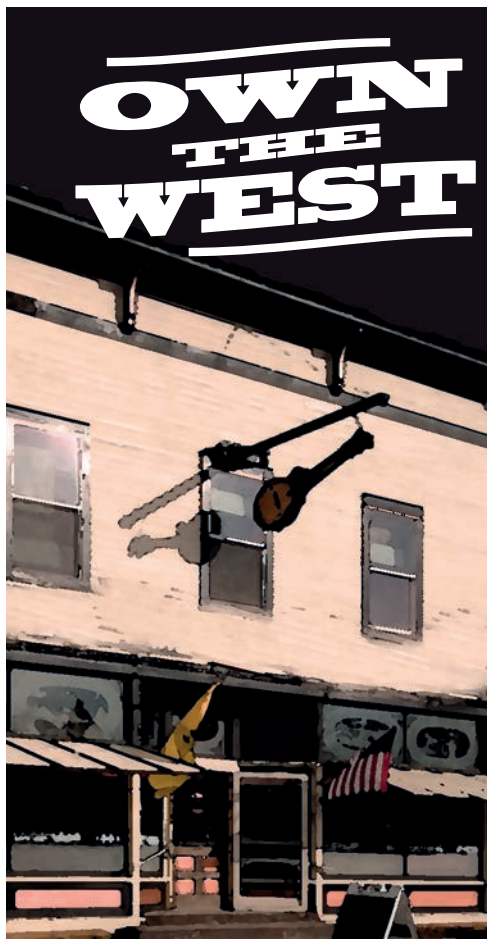


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## LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

**f** Historian Ralph Emerson Twitchell once opined that "...there was no town which harbored a more disreputable gang of desperadoes, and outlaws than did Las Vegas."

Strong stuff.

But the New Mexican town with the notorious reputation began to settle

Normal School (now New Mexico Highlands University).

Las Vegas (current population around 14,000) is located about 65 miles east of Santa Fe and holds an astonishing number of historical buildings and sites.

Consider: The local Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation is working to preserve more than 900 adobe and Victorian-era structures in town.

A Presbyterian Church built in 1869 has been restored, and the town's public library is the only surviving Carnegie library in the state.

One of the town's more distinctive landmarks is the mission-style La Castaneda Hotel, built in 1898. The inn, one of the famous Harvey House hotels, was the site of the first Rough Riders reunion in 1899.

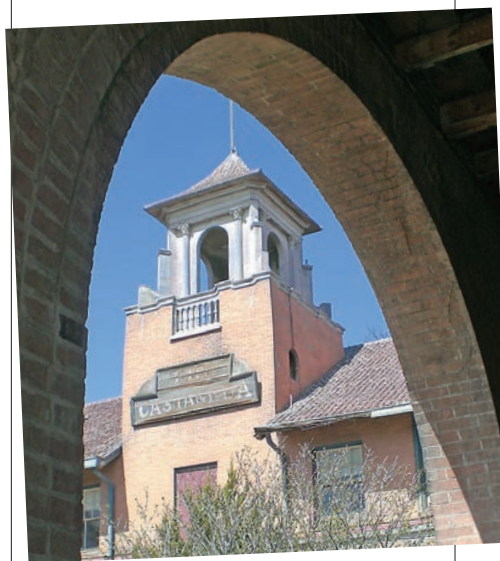
Last year, the town marked the 130th anniversary of the Plaza Hotel. Just around the corner from where the hotel would soon be built, Billy the Kid spent the night in the county jail on Valencia Street in 1880.

After you stroll through the city's historic districts in the Bridge Street and Plaza areas, be sure to soak up some emigrant trail history at the Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center.

The Dr. H.J. Mueller House, with its eye-catching octagonal tower, is an interesting example of the range of Victorian architecture.

The City of Las Vegas Museum & Rough Rider Memorial Collection holds around 7,000 artifacts, archives and photographs. It also offers information on more than 200 members of the 1898 regiment, as well as an assortment of American Indian pottery and other artifacts.

An added bonus for visitors is the fact that Las Vegas is about 30 miles from the ruins of 1851's Fort Union, preserved as a national monument, while the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge is just seven miles south of town.



One of the earliest Harvey Houses to be built in the Mission Revival style is the still-standing La Castaneda, constructed in 1898 in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Passengers traveling on today's Amtrak Southwest Chief get a glimpse of the hotel when the train stops at the depot next door.

- True West Archives -

down after bandit leader Vicente Silva was murdered by one of his own gang members in 1893.

In 1898, the town sent 21 volunteers to join Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

The seat of San Miguel County got its start due to a Spanish land grant in 1835, the last such Spanish colony in North America. Before long, Las Vegas was a stop on the Santa Fe Trail.

By the turn of the 20th century, Las Vegas not only had an electric street railway, but also the Duncan Opera House, a Carnegie library, a Harvey House hotel and the New Mexico



The Green River Rendezvous has been held every July near Pinedale, Wyoming, since 1936. Mountain men and Indian re-enactors gather to commemorate the first Green River Rendezvous, held in the area in 1833.

– Courtesy Sublette County Chamber of Commerce –

## PINEDALE, WYOMING

**7** It's hard to say just exactly when Pinedale got started. American Indians, of course, lived in the region

for millennia. Mountain men started trickling into the area in the first decades of the 1800s, drawn by the hope of easy money to be made in the fur trade.

But the community didn't truly take off until the latter years of the 19th century, when settlers like Charles Petersen and his family moved into what was then called the Pine Creek Flat area.

Before long, the inhabitants decided they needed their own post office. Petersen's wife became the first postmistress of the community, which, at the suggestion of Petersen's eldest daughter, was renamed Pinedale.

Today, Pinedale is the largest community in Sublette County, with a population of around 2,000. It is located at the base of the Wind River Range, not far from the Bridger Wilderness Area.

Last year, Pinedale hosted the "Preserve Wyoming" conference and saw the grand opening of the Sommers Ranch Homestead, a living history site that showcases early 20th-century life in Sublette County.



Preservation work continues at the Lander Trail New Fork Crossing, an 82-acre historical park operated by the Sublette County Historical Society.

The town's Museum of the Mountain Man greets visitors with its imposing, 10-foot-high statue of a mountain man. The museum portrays the authentic lifestyle of the trappers, as well as provides a comprehensive overview of the historical and economic impact of the fur trade out West. One of our favorite exhibits is the .40 caliber half-stock rifle engraved "J. Bridger 1853," a gift from Louis Vasquez to his friend and business partner, Jim Bridger. Also worth checking out is the 300-year-old sheep horn bow (said to be the finest still in existence), a buffalo hide tipi and a research library of rare books on early Wyoming history and the fur trade. The museum draws around 8,000 visitors every May through October.

Last year, the museum hosted the Fur Trade Symposium to mark the 200th anniversary of the passage of the Astor Expedition through the region.

Pinedale has held the Green River Rendezvous every summer since 1936. This year's rendezvous, scheduled for July

# TOWNS TO KNOW



## TOMBSTONE, AZ

Every Old West history buff has to visit Tombstone; it's an undeniable rite of passage. The Gunfight Behind the O.K. Corral is just the tipping off point to this silver mining town's rich history.

## LUBBOCK, TX

With nearly 50 authentic ranching structures dating from 1700s-1950s at its prestigious National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock better be a town on your must-see list.

## CHEYENNE, WY

Cheyenne is always a fun place for history lovers to visit, but it may be extra special to sleep in the Nagle Warren Mansion B&B 125 years after it was built.

## VIRGINIA CITY, MT

This Old West town offers history lessons for Civil War buffs (it boomed in 1863) and mining aficionados (the reason it boomed was because of the gold strike in Alder Gulch).

## EUREKA, NV

This charming town not only boasts well-preserved 19th-century buildings, but also, the era is fittingly brought to life in the 1880 opera house. Next year should bring even more good times, given the 150th anniversary of the silver strike that created this settlement.



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11-14, commemorates the original 1833 gathering of mountain men, trappers and fur traders, which took place a few miles west of modern-day Pinedale and became an annual tradition through 1840.

## DEL NORTE, COLORADO

**8** Originally a stage stop and supply town for miners drawn by the discovery of gold and silver in the San Juan Mountains, Del Norte today is a center of outdoor recreational activities, from hiking, hunting and fishing to skiing and snowmobiling.

between Santa Fe and Los Angeles between 1830 and 1848, can still be seen in town. The first phase of a master-planned trails system, developed by the Del Norte Trails Organization, was completed last June.

One of our favorite places to visit is the Rio Grande County Museum and Cultural Center. Visitors get a glimpse into the region's American Indians, Hispanic settlers, trappers, mountain men and settlers from the East. Be sure to check out the museum's fringed buckskins of Col. Albert Pfeiffer, Kit Carson's comrade who secured Pagosa Springs for the Utes.

Del Norte's Covered Wagon Days, featuring historic wagons and buggies (as well as a parade and other activities) serves as an annual reminder of the town's roots.

Now the city is reaching for the stars to preserve more of its history. At one time Del Norte was home to one of the largest telescopes west of the Mississippi. The observatory, operated by the Presbyterian College of the Southwest, was built in 1885 on Lookout Mountain, which looms some 600 feet above the town. The Lookout Mountain Observatory Association is trying to locate



Del Norte's annual Covered Wagon Days celebration inspired the preservation of the Old Spanish Trail, named a national historic trail in 2002. Off Highway 160, between Del Norte and Monte Vista, drivers will find a nice tribute in the deep relief markers carved by Mettje Swift.

- Courtesy San Luis Valley Tourism Council -

Last year saw the grand opening of the town's renovated Windsor Hotel, built in 1874, just two years after the town's incorporation. A caboose from 1883 was also restored; it now resides on Grand Avenue, thanks to the local "Save the Caboose" fundraiser, which generated around \$5,000 for the project. Pretty solid efforts for a town of just 1,700.

A few traces of the Old Spanish Trail, which served as a major trade route

the original telescope and rebuild the observatory, which fell into disrepair when the college closed in 1901.

In addition to its charm and historic sites, Del Norte serves as a gateway to the San Juan Mountains. Town officials estimate Del Norte gets as many as 10,000 visitors each year.

## KAYCEE, WYOMING

**9** The Old West seems a tangible thing in Kaycee. The red rock buttes and rolling grasslands look just as they must have 150 years ago. A little east of Kaycee, you can still see segments

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We love it when towns support each other's efforts to keep the history of the Old West alive. A group of men from Williams, Arizona, have been preserving the traditions of mountain men since 1953. Among its yearly activities, the Bill Williams Mountain Men also ride in Scottsdale's Parada del Sol Parade.

- Courtesy City of Scottsdale -

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Before long the area needed a post office. Residents wanted KC, but the government required them to spell it out.

Kaycee's City Hall, which now serves as the town library, is the oldest building in town (it was originally built about a quarter mile west of town and later moved to its present location). Its walls are made of hand-hewn logs nearly two feet thick.

The oldest building actually constructed in town is the Gordon Ellis house, a log cabin behind the Red Horse Station. Because goats were once kept in it, everyone knows it these days as the "Goat House."

The town's first store was the Powder River Commercial Company, established in 1897. That building is now Grange Hall.

The good folks at Hoofprints of the Past Museum offer tours to historic places in the region, including the site of Nate Champion's shoot-out, Hole-in-the-Wall, the Outlaw Caves and the Dull Knife Battle site. Be sure to plan your visit to Kaycee accordingly though, as the museum is open only from Memorial Day weekend through October.

## SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

**10** Although it has a well-earned reputation as an upscale community, complete with tony restaurants and world class golf courses, Scottsdale keeps one cowboy-boot-clad foot planted firmly in the past. The former farming community celebrates its heritage with a dazzling array of events, museums and art galleries, many located in Old Town, where strict design guidelines ensure that the district's Old West appearance will be forever maintained.

In 2012, Scottsdale saw the grand opening of George "Doc" Cavalliere Park, just one part of the town's contributions to Arizona's year-long centennial celebrations. Cavalliere, who passed away in 2009 at the age of 92, ran the Reata Pass Steakhouse and Greasewood Flat tavern. He also was one of Scottsdale's first council members and operated the family's historic downtown blacksmith shop for 50 years.

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# CLASSIC GUNFIGHTS

## THE DEATH TENT

FRANK DALTON  
AND JAMES COLE

VS  
DAVE SMITH,  
WILL TOWERLY  
AND MR. AND  
MRS. DIXON



*Deputy Marshal Frank Dalton is a busy lawman. Last Friday he came into Fort Smith with six prisoners after a protracted trip to the Indian Territory. He is going out now on a Sunday; it will be his last manhunt.*

— ALL IMAGES TRUE WEST ARCHIVES  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED —

BY BOB BOZE BELL

Based on the research of Robert Ernst and George R. Stumpf,  
with extra reporting by Mark Boardman

NOVEMBER 27, 1887



### *Inside a Crowded Tent*

*When the gunfight broke out, Joe and Elizabeth Pearson were inside the tent with their six-month-old daughter. Lee and Jennie Dixon were there with their two-year-old and nine-month-old, as was Lee's sister, Lizzie Smith, her husband, Dave, and Will Towerly.*

— ALL ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOB BOZE BELL —

**W**orking out of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Deputy U.S. Marshal Frank Dalton, is tracking a horse thief in the Cherokee Nation named Dave Smith. Dalton is accompanied by Deputy James Cole, who also has an arrest warrant for Smith for introducing whiskey in the Indian Territory.

The two track the suspect to a river bottom camp where they see a large tent and hear men, women and children eating breakfast inside. Both lawmen dismount and walk toward the tent on foot.

Dalton approaches the south side, and Cole, the north. Dalton opens the tent flap with his left hand, while holding his rifle in his right.

As he leans in, Lizzie Smith (wife of the horse thief) grabs Dalton's rifle barrel and pushes it up. Startled, Dalton jumps back, as Dave puts down the kid he is holding, grabs a rifle and lunges out of the tent.

Dalton says, "Don't shoot; I want no trouble," but Dave fires point-blank, hitting the lawman in the chest. Deputy Cole, coming around from the other side of the tent, fires, hitting Dave in the back.

Everyone inside the tent comes busting out the tent flap as Cole, startled, backs up and trips over a tent rope. One of the men, Lee Dixon, fires, nearly grazing Cole in the chest. Lee's wife, Jennie, grabs ahold of Cole's rifle barrel to push it away, but Cole breaks free and fires, hitting Jennie in the chest, then Lee in the shoulder.

Joe and Elizabeth Pearson flee with their six-month-old daughter toward the woods.

Cole heads toward cover, running by Dalton and asking if he's hurt. When he receives no answer, Cole takes cover behind a tree as bullets whiz around him. Cole empties his rifle, then hides deeper amongst the trees to reload. He hears two rifle shots.

Seeing Cole retreat, Will Towerly runs up to Dalton and puts two bullets in the lawman's face (in one version, Towerly puts the barrel of his gun in the mouth of the lawman, who is pleading for his life).

Cole made his way back to Fort Smith for help, while Towerly takes Dalton's rifle and flees. The bloodbath is over, but the killing is not.





*Unbeknownst to the two lawmen at the time, Dave Smith (at far left) had made threats that whoever tried to serve him papers would pay dearly. He made good on that threat, but took down several of his own with him, as well as a stalwart lawman.*



*These are some U.S. marshals who also worked the Indian Territory. After five years evading the law, the accused murder of Deputy Daniel Maples, Ned Christie, met his maker when he was shot down by 16 posse members, including these marshals: Charles Copeland and Capt. G.S. White (front row, from left); Bill Smith, Bill Ellis and Paden Tolbert (back row). Out of more than 200 marshals who have been killed in the line of duty since President George Washington founded the U.S. marshals, more than half of them died serving in the Indian Territory area of Fort Smith.*

— COURTESY FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE —

## Aftermath: Odds & Ends

A large posse returned to the scene later that day. Frank Dalton and Dave Smith were dead, as was Jennie Dixon. Dave was buried near the tent.



In nearly a week, on December 3, lawmen tracked down William Towerly at his family's farm near Atoka, Indian Territory, and killed him during a shoot-out.



Frank Dalton's brothers, Bob, Grat and Emmett, joined the deputy marshal's ranks, but Bob was soon fired for taking a bribe and amid rumors of cattle rustling, the other two brothers resigned. Bob and Grat died in the ill-fated dual bank robbery attempt in Coffeyville, Kansas, in 1892.



A decade after the Dalton fight, James Cole was convicted of manslaughter for killing a man during another arrest attempt.



**Recommended Read:** *Deadly Affrays: The Violent Deaths of the U.S. Marshals* by Robert Ernst, published by ScarletMask.



*Frank Dalton is buried in a place of honor at the cemetery in Coffeyville, Kansas. His nefarious brothers are nearby, yet separated from the rest of the upstanding citizens.*

BY CHAD HAYS

# E.M. Horton

LAWMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE.

**“HIS THRONE** was a saddle horse and his sceptre a six-shooter.... He was truly typical of the Old West, of uncompromising attitude with the lawless and no mercy for those who tear down conventions, and regret is that some biographer has not compiled his life story, with all its romance and intriguing incidents to hand down to future generations.”

So went the obituary of Eugene Marion Horton upon his death on April 15, 1934, the day of his 80th birthday. Though few remember his name today, he certainly led a life worthy of retelling, as his obituary scribe proclaimed.

Horton was born in Clinton, Iowa, in 1854 and grew to manhood in that state, graduating from Penn College in Oskaloosa. After marrying Jennie Beckner in December 1881, Horton started a business with his younger brother, George, driving horses up the Western Trail, from Old Mexico through Texas and Indian Territory, to sell in Kansas.

On one of those drives, in May 1884, a renegade Indian, Running Buffalo, and his band of 60 ambushed Horton’s crew and their 405 horses. When Running Buffalo failed to stampede the herd, he attempted to shoot Horton

off his horse. Horton jumped from his mount and put one bullet from his Colt .44-40 Frontier six-shooter through the head of Running Buffalo’s horse and into the chest of the renegade.

This may have been when Horton coined his maxim on herd driving: “The fun soon gets as thin as moonlight on a shovel!”

After eight years of adventurous biannual drives on the Western Trail, Horton settled into ranching and farming near Rawlins, Wyoming. The call of adventure caught up to him, though, and Horton was appointed deputy sheriff of Carbon County in 1898, during the time of Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch’s reign of train robberies. Horton rode with Deputy U.S. Marshal Joe LeFors on posse chasing the Wild Bunch, and he is even mentioned in LeFors’s autobiography.

Horton was later elected Carbon County sheriff in 1902 and was one of the official witnesses



E.M. Horton poses at his sheriff’s desk in this circa 1903 photo (left) during a moment much quieter than his days spent chasing down the Wild Bunch with Joe LeFors. (Opposite page) Horton took time out from cattle droving to pose for this picture in 1882.

— All images courtesy Roger Peterson —



While serving as sheriff of Carbon County, Wyoming, Horton was an official witness to the infamous hanging of Tom Horn for the alleged murder of 14-year-old Willie Nickell. His family still owns the piece of rope (above) that Horton kept from that fateful November day in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1903.

at the November 1903 hanging of Tom Horn—executed for allegedly murdering Willie Nickell.

He was elected to two more terms as sheriff before he finally retired, in 1909, to his ranch in Yoder, where he spent the rest of his days.

Horton’s family still owns the Colt six-shooter he used to put down Running Buffalo, as well as a piece of the rope that ended Tom Horn’s life—two pieces of history that keep alive the unsung story of Eugene Horton. ❏

Roger Peterson kindly shared his great grandfather’s story with us. Do you know about an unsung character of the Old West whose story we should share here? Send the details to editor@twmag.com, and be sure to include high-resolution historical photos.

**“The fun soon gets as thin as moonlight on a shovel!”**

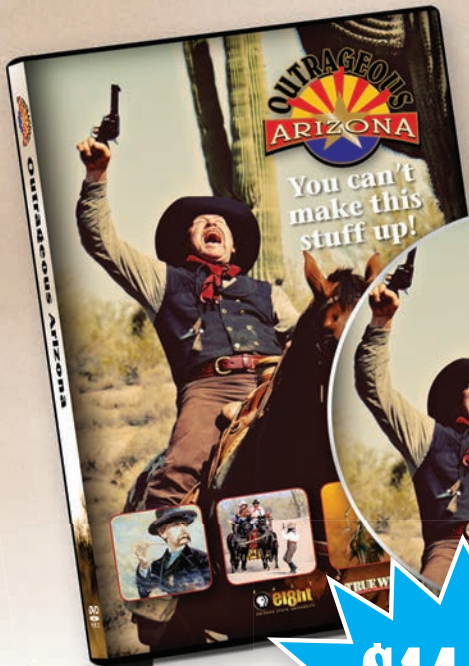


E. M. Horton



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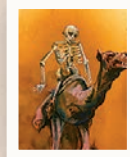
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# TRUE WEST

## The Arizona Rangers vs. Criminals

Arizona has had three different Arizona Ranger law enforcement groups. The first Ranger group was created in 1860, the second in 1882 and the third in 1901. All three did their best to combat lawlessness, but they were all defeated by the Arizona Legislature, which wouldn't pay them (1882) and finally voted them out of existence (1909), proving that it's hard to beat crime when you "fight city hall."



Look for our Arizona Ranges feature in the next issue.

Read more Western history at: [TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com)

# The Tucked-In Rangers

*The Texas Rangers' practice of tucking in their pants gives way to today's stacking.*

“Six feet or so, in grey jacket and pants with buff trimmings...great cavalry boots above the knees—there’s your Texas Ranger. No swagger; quiet enough; but dangerous as every body knows.”

— From the Civil War memoir of  
Philip D. Stephenson



In the most widely-circulated Texas Ranger photo in history, these Company D Rangers pose with their boot tops exposed. This was the preferred style in 1890 worn by Texas Rangers Bob Speaks and Jim Putnam (standing, from left) and Alonzo “Lon” Oden and John R. Hughes (seated, from left).

— Courtesy Robert G. McCubbin Collection —

**D**uring the Canadian River Campaign of 1858, Texas Ranger Capt. John “Rip” Ford wore his striped trousers tucked into heavy-top boots. In the most widely-circulated Texas Ranger photo in history, Company D Rangers posed with their tucked-in boots while on assignment to protect a silver mine in 1890.

Along with the Texas Rangers, frontier cowboys, farmers, miners and soldiers tucked their pants into their boots—known in the military as “blousing”—for several practical reasons.

For starters, britches tucked into boot tops kept the bottoms of legs free of

debris, such as mud, muck and manure. The fabric was also prone to collecting burrs, cactus spines and the like. These could all be easily brushed from the tanned, relatively impervious leather of boot tops, or they didn’t stick at all.

Packing the pants into boot tops also reduced the chance of a pant leg getting caught on a branch and snagging a horseman’s leg in a potentially injurious or even deadly entanglement. Alternately, chaps and other leather leggings were often worn to ward off malevolent vegetation.

The practice also prevented insects and snakes from climbing up inside the pants. This was particularly important for

someone sleeping in the open. Men slept in their boots not only so they could spring to action, but also to thwart critters from nesting in their nethers.

The act could also be a signal. Blousing one leg and not the other apparently indicated the wearer’s employability, or his interest in buying or selling cattle.

In modern times, pants tucked into boot tops can signify the wearer’s regional roots. West Texas cowboys and Great Basin buckaroos tend to display their higher boot tops outside their pants. Not coincidentally, these taller boot shafts are often colorful and lavishly decorated with stitching and cutouts. In some cases, though, exposed boot tops are just a fashion statement by their proud stuffed-jeans owner.

By the early 1900s, denim trousers were becoming the signature attire of working men throughout America. Fashion trends

Featuring tacking on the front and back knees, the blue embroidered deco back pocket jeans by **Stetson** offer a relaxed fit through the thighs; \$69.95.



Since today's workwear pants, denim jeans, do not slide down over the heels of boots and, instead, stack accordingly, cowboys and cowgirls can choose to wear their pant legs over their boots. To achieve a stacked look in your **Wrangler** jeans, order one size longer in the inseam length than you normally would wear. Shown here is a pair of Premium Performance, Cowboy Cut Wranglers that retail for \$45.



changed among boot wearers, and boot tops began disappearing under pant legs.

After WWII, work pants became more specialized. Wrangler was introduced in 1947 as denim trousers designed expressly for cowboys. The original 11MWZ "Cowboy Cut" jeans were tapered from the knee to the cuff. This cut "allowed the wearer to wear his jeans outside the boot or tucked in," stated the Wrangler literature, which added, "It was snug enough to prevent the upper boot from being scratched while riding through brush." Suddenly the pant leg was protecting the boot top.

The tighter fit of today's boot cut jeans also accommodate "stacking" of the bottom of the leg. Boot cut jeans are cut longer than regular jeans, so the back hem rides at the top of the heel while the wearer is in the saddle. When the wearer stands, the extra fabric "stacks up" above

the hem, which is too tight to slide down over the heel. Because of this design innovation, you don't have to tuck your pants into boot tops if you don't want to.

Like tucked-in pants were during the Old West era, stacked jeans today are the signature of an authentic cowboy or cowgirl. Any pant legs that rise up the shaft of a boot are derided as "high-water" pants.

But don't say that to a Texas Ranger.

**G. Daniel DeWeese** coauthored the book *Western Shirts: A Classic American Fashion*. Ranch-raised near the Black Hills in South Dakota, Dan has written about Western apparel and riding equipment for 30 years.



Some folks prefer to wear creased jeans, and for them, **Cinch** offers numerous denim options starting at \$60. Its stacked jeans give that rugged look through resin-baked creases.



**Cowgirl Tuff's** men's line offers the stacked Risky jeans in light wash denim with weathered distressing; \$74.99.





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# Sourdough

*Person, or bread?*



- By Sherry Monahan -

**"I** made a splendid batch of bread the day we came... Besides the bother of making bread so often, we have to make the yeast here about once a week. It's made of potatoes, hops, salt and sugar. One cupful of old yeast is put into it to start the new batch, which is then put away to rise in a large stone jar in a cool place."

Those were the words of Ethel Hertslet, an Englishwoman who arrived in Lake County, California, in 1885, who was learning how to make bread with sourdough.

Sourdough, like so many other goods, was created because of a need. Yeast cakes weren't always available, so pioneers created their own liquid yeast. They used potatoes, potato water, hops, salt, sugar, water or flour, or a combination of those ingredients, to create perpetual or wild yeast. All they had to do was to save a little from the

original "starter" and refresh it with each use. They didn't call it sourdough back then; it was simply yeast to them.

While sourdough today is associated with Californians, it's not their invention—it's been around since

## Emigrants and Forty-Niners are the ones who made sourdough famous in California.

Egyptian times. Emigrants and Forty-Niners are the ones who made sourdough famous in California.

Isidore Boudin, a French immigrant to San Francisco, took sourdough bread to a whole

new level. In his bakery in the city, he fermented his dough with wild yeast and formed it into the shape of a traditional French loaf. The air, water and flour from a particular area makes all the difference in the yeast.

The word "sourdough" wasn't used to describe bread until around the turn of the 20th century. By the 1898 Yukon gold rush, the term referred to Alaska or Yukon prospectors or pioneers. Back in

## SOURDOUGH STARTER

4 potatoes, peeled, diced and boiled  
 2 qts. cold water  
 4 T. flour  
 2 T. white sugar  
 1 T. salt  
 2 tsp. dry yeast

Boil the potatoes until tender. Drain, but keep the water. Mash the potatoes until fine, then add the flour, sugar and salt. Add the lukewarm water; stir. Add the yeast, but make sure it's not hot, and then stir.

Allow to sit for seven days, stirring each morning. You'll see small bubbles on the top when it's ready. Place into a container with a lid, and poke a hole in the lid so the yeast can breathe. Place in the refrigerator. It will separate; just stir it before using.

Recipes begin with a fresh starter, so place one cup of your mother starter with one cup warm water and a cup of flour in a non-metal bowl. Allow it to sit overnight at room temperature, covered loosely. The next day, stir it down, measure out the amount of fresh starter needed for your recipe and return the remainder to the storage container, stirring it in well (this "feeds" your mother starter). You must feed it at least once a month, or it will die.

Check out this article at [TWMag.com](http://TWMag.com) to get the "Classic San Francisco Sourdough Bread" recipe!



Recipe adapted from November 17, 1877,  
*Daily Evening Bulletin* in San Francisco

the day, it was expressed as two words; now it's a one-word descriptor.

During naturalist John Muir's five years studying California's Yosemite Valley, he supervised a San Joaquin sheep owner's flock in 1869. While in the Sierras, he encountered sourdough bread. He described it in his writings: "Sheep-camp bread, like most California camp bread, is baked in Dutch ovens. . . . The greater part, however, is fermented with sour dough, a handful from each batch being saved and put away in the mouth of the flour sack to inoculate the next."

Begin your own historical baking journey with this 1877 sourdough starter recipe!

**Sherry Monahan** has penned *Taste of Tombstone*, *Pikes Peak*, *The Wicked West* and *Tombstone's Treasure*. She's appeared on the History Channel in *Lost Worlds*, *Investigating History* and *Wild West Tech*.



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# Almost Getting Killed...

...at the John Tunstall site.

**D**utch Oven Wally Roberts is trying to kill me.

If there's a cowboy event or trail ride in West Texas or New Mexico, chances are you'll find Roberts "preserving history and the Western lifestyle."

Roberts is not just a mighty fine cook; he's the owner of Outlaws & Renegades, which caters events from rodeos to weddings and puts on equine adventures for folks who love Old West history and hard riding.

Roberts organizes the annual Billy the Kid's Last Ride from Fort Sumner, New Mexico, to Lincoln each spring, and he invited me to tag along for a fall ride he is creating. This one starts at John Tunstall's dugout on the Felix Canyon Ranch in southern New Mexico, hits Tunstall's murder site near Glencoe and rides into Lincoln. I participate in the "preride," to make sure this event is workable for Outlaws & Renegades.

I must have blocked out the last time I went on a ride with Roberts. That Billy the Kid's Last Ride almost became Johnny D. Boggs's Last Ride when a horse named Chuck chucked me off at a high lope.

I must have blocked out the last time I went on a ride with Roberts. That Billy the Kid's Last Ride almost became Johnny D. Boggs's Last Ride when a horse named Chuck chucked me off at a high lope.

This time around, Roberts has me on a five-year-old palomino mare—his college-age daughter's horse—that he swears "has never gotten any rider in trouble."

Her name? Hell Bitch, after Woodrow Call's fiery mount in Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*.

I ride her around the first evening, and she's a honey of a horse. I see no problem the next morning when we take off for the Tunstall murder site.

**Dutch Oven Wally Roberts is trying to kill me.**

On February 18, 1878, Tunstall and a handful of riders (one being Billy the Kid) were driving horses to Lincoln when a sheriff's posse overtook them.

Instead of arresting Tunstall, they shot him dead, triggering the Lincoln County War.

To reach the site, we trailer the horses up the National Forest road, about 25 miles east of Ruidoso via U.S. 70. The plan is for Felix Canyon Ranch foreman Chris Mauldin, Roberts and I to set out for the murder site, then Roberts will head back and pick us up at the bottom of the canyon.

I swing into the saddle. Hell Bitch starts bucking.



The ribs weren't hurting too badly after my wreck, when Wally Roberts snapped this shot of me (at left) and Chris Mauldin.

— By Wally Roberts —

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You'll likely need a four-wheel drive vehicle to get to the site of John Tunstall's death near Glencoe, which does seem safer than traveling horseback.

—By Johnny D. Boggs—

I stay with her for three jumps (no lie). Then she falls. Since having a horse roll over on me doesn't sound appealing, I kick free of the stirrups to bail. I end up landing on my camera. After stumbling out of Hell Bitch's path, I decide to lay there for . . . like . . . forever.

I don't blame Hell Bitch. Roberts's mare undoubtedly knows that the posse didn't just murder Tunstall. Those bad boys also killed *his* horse! She just didn't want history to repeat itself.

Eventually, I'm back in the saddle. We ride to Tunstall's murder site. Afterward, Mauldin and I descend into the abyss. My ribs start aching. The trail disappears. We keep going. My ribs start pounding.

We follow a rocky, dry watershed down the canyon, ducking under low branches, trying to find our way back to Roberts. My ribs scream. If I dismount, I am not going to be able to get back on, and these trails we're blazing are not rib-friendly.

About 90 minutes later, we hear Roberts's voice. Cavalry to the rescue. We've picked up the trail again. Roberts now has a new ride for Outlaws & Renegades, and soon we're heading to the Ruidoso ER.

Doc's verdict: "Two fractured ribs. Stay off horses for a while."

My verdict: Roberts is trying to kill me.

Oh, yeah. That mare is no longer named Hell Bitch. I renamed her when I landed on my camera. Her name's Honey.

Which gives Roberts a recipe for his next cookbook: Honey-roasted ribs. That is, if I don't kill Roberts first.



Johnny D. Boggs's wife keeps hinting to him that maybe he should stay off horses . . . like . . . forever.

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BY JOHNNY D. BOGGS

# Looking for the Shawnee Trail

*Seeking it out from Austin, Texas, to Sedalia, Missouri.*



One of the best tributes to the Shawnee Trail is found at Pioneer Plaza in Dallas, Texas. Talk about iconic. The 70 bronze steers and three drovers created by Glen Rose artist Robert Summers are not only larger than life; the sculpture is also the largest bronze monument of its kind in the world.

— By Doug Sharp —

# W

hat was it John Wayne said in *Red River*? “Ten miles a day will be good.

Fifteen will be luck.” Sounds just about right.

I’m inching my way toward the Dallas North Tollway on the way to Frisco, Texas, and it looks like all 1.2 million Dallasites have the same idea. I bet, however, I’m the only one with any interest in the Shawnee Trail.

Look around. Just west of Big D, the Fort Worth Stockyards relive those trail-driving years with a twice-daily cattle drive down Exchange Avenue. That’s

the Chisholm Trail. Vernon is trying to get a Western Trail museum established, and you’ll find several Chisholm Trail museums, parks, festivals and markers from Texas to Kansas.

But the Shawnee Trail? You gotta look hard for that.

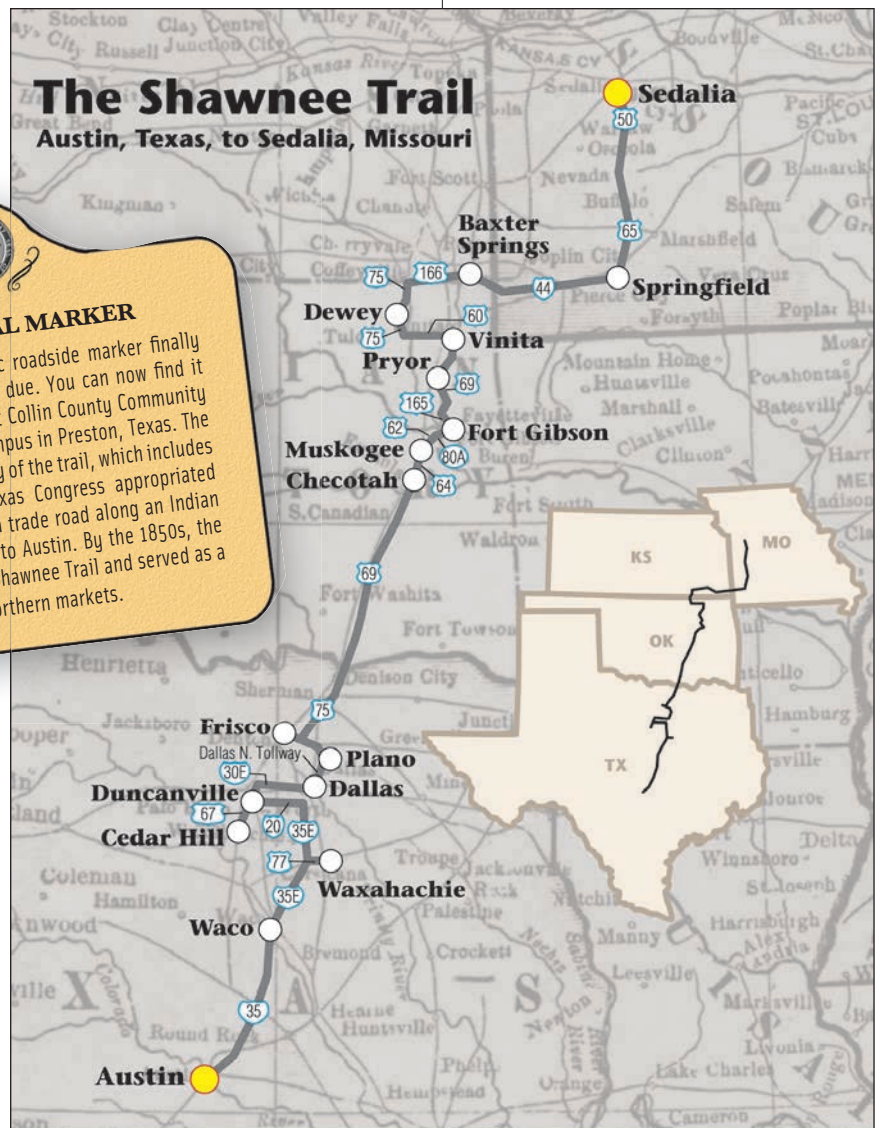
The trail started as an emigrant road in the 1840s. Before that, much of it had been used as an Indian trail. Folks called it the Texas Road. By the time cattlemen started using the trail, it was the Sedalia Trail, then the Kansas Trail. Some merely shortened it to “the trail.” It grew to be called the Shawnee Trail.

Unfortunately, the trail didn’t go anywhere near Shawnee, Oklahoma. Darn it. Hamburger King, I’ll have to catch you next time.

Historians aren’t certain how “Shawnee” got labeled to this trail. It could have been because of a Shawnee village south of the Red River. Or because it went around the eastern edge of the Shawnee Hills before crossing the Canadian River in present-day Oklahoma. Like many trails, it had various feeder trails and branches. You can even pick where you want to begin.

### Austin City Limits

The Texas version of the trail went from the Red River to Austin, and despite Austin traffic (worse than Dallas), the best jumping-off point is the capital city. Things still get Western on Sixth Street, and you can’t beat the 1886 Driskill Hotel, but check out the Bullock Texas State History Museum. It is, as any Texan’ll



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The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is more than just a museum. The facility also houses the official library and archives of Texas's famed law enforcement division.

— All images by Johnny D. Boggs unless otherwise noted —

brag, as big as Texas. The state history is spread over three floors, from early encounters (first floor) to the Alamo and statehood (second floor) to ranching, oil and the modern era (third floor). You can even check out *The Star of Destiny*, the feature presentation at the Texas Spirit Theater.

Look hard enough at the Texas State Cemetery, and you can find the graves of cattlemen as well as governors, warriors, Rangers and writers. The most famous cowboy, of course, is Tom Landry, legendary, fedora-wearing coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

From Austin, head north to Waco.

## Wacky Waco

If you're into architecture, the Historic Waco Foundation preserves area history with four house museums: the Earle-Napier-Kinnard House (circa 1858), the Fort House (1868), the East Terrace House of John Wesley Mann (1872) and the McCulloch House (originally built in 1866, then enlarged in 1872).

I think it's a state law that any tourist in Waco must see the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. The Rangers got their start in 1823, but 1874 was when the legend really began. That's when the state legislature put two Ranger units—Maj. John B. Jones's Frontier Battalion and Capt. Leander McNelly's Special Force—into action. What did the Rangers have to do with the Shawnee Trail? Probably not much, but it's still a great museum.

On the other hand, cattle heading up the Shawnee Trail in the latter years could have crossed the Waco Suspension Bridge. When finished in 1870, the bridge spanning the Brazos River was the longest single-span suspension bridge west of the Mississippi River. The Waco Bridge Company charged a toll (collecting about \$25,000 a year), but these days you can cross the now-pedestrian-only bridge for free.

## Texas's Hollywood

One of my favorite Texas towns is Waxahachie. Gingerbread houses, crape

myrtles, chicken-fried steaks and a historic downtown district.

Hollywood loves Waxahachie too. *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Tender Mercies*, *Places in the Heart* and *The Trip to Bountiful* were filmed here. Snap some photos of the circa 1895 Ellis County Courthouse and the 1908 Missouri-Kansas-Texas depot. Check out the art at the Ellis County Fine Arts Museum. Learn a little area history at the county museum. Shop for antiques. Eat good, greasy grub. But be advised that Waxahachie pays more attention to the Chisholm Trail than the Shawnee.

### Big D and the 'burbs

From here, it's on to Duncanville, just south of Dallas. If you want to learn about something other than cowboys, stop in at the International Museum of Cultures. This isn't about history (well, it does have an exhibit on primitive weapons), but contemporary cultures, from New Guinea and Asia and Africa

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John A. Roebling and Son Co., which built the Brooklyn Bridge, supplied the cable used to complete the single-span bridge over the Brazos River in Waco.

[www.TheShawneeTrail.com](http://www.TheShawneeTrail.com)

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and Mexico. Traveling missionaries acquired most of the exhibits, while a major temporary exhibit is featured each year.

In nearby Cedar Hill, the Penn Farm Agricultural History Center illustrates farming in the period before WWII and then highlights the shift in agriculture in the postwar years from small farming to agribusiness.

But I need to get back to the 1800s and history—and the Shawnee Trail—so it's on to Dallas. And traffic. The Shawnee Trail did cross the Trinity River here, which is why John Neely Bryan founded a little hamlet called Dallas in 1841.

Get a taste of history in downtown at the John Neely Bryan Cabin. It's striking to find a log cabin surrounded by skyscrapers. The cabin is a replica (the original was destroyed in a flood), and the door is locked (this is Dallas, after all), but at least this does

have something to do with the Shawnee Trail. Of course, most tourists are drawn to another nearby attraction: the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, which covers the assassination of President John F. Kennedy here in 1963.

At least the Shawnee Trail doesn't have as many conspiracy theories.

If you want to see unlocked buildings, head to Fair Park. Originally established in 1880, Fair Park exploded with buildings for the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition. Owned and operated by the city, the park includes: the African American Museum, the Museum of Nature and Science and the Hall of State (the Museum of the American Railroad is moving out of Fair Park to Frisco).

Dallas even remembers its Wild West history (keep in mind that the professional football, baseball and basketball teams are called Cowboys, Rangers and Mavericks, respectively) at

Pioneer Plaza next to the Convention Center. Larger-than-life bronze steers and bronze trail drivers commemorate the trail drives along the Shawnee Trail.

The Shawnee Trail is also remembered up the road in Frisco, and I don't mean just at the Frisco Heritage Center, an interactive living-history village of buildings. In 1980, a historical roadside marker went up on Preston Road that commemorates, yep, the Shawnee Trail. Yee-hi!

Now that we're in the suburbs, we might as well swing over to Plano for

farming culture (the Heritage Farmstead Museum) and Southfork Ranch (which looked a lot bigger on TV—not that I ever watched *Dallas* or cared who shot J.R.).

### Oklahoma!

I've spent too much time in Texas.

The Shawnee Trail crossed the Red River and entered Oklahoma, so let's head north to Checotah.

One of my favorite Texas towns is Waxahachie. Gingerbread houses, crape myrtles, chicken-fried steaks and a historic downtown district.

Just outside of town, you'll find the Honey Springs Battlefield. Naturally, that has more to do with the Civil War than the Shawnee Trail, but this year marks the 150th anniversary of the battle (which the Confederates called the Affair at Elk Creek). The July 17, 1863, fight saw Cherokees and Creeks in blue fighting Cherokees and Creeks in gray. It also included a black regiment, the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers. A re-enactment is planned this fall, but details are still being worked out.

This isn't so much Shawnee Trail Country as it is Indian Territory, so head to Muskogee and check out the Five Civilized Tribes Museum and then over to Fort Gibson. Founded in 1824, Fort Gibson is the oldest military post in the state: 80 acres, 29 historic structures, plenty of ruins.

From here, it's a leisurely drive on to Pryor and the Coo-Y-Yah (means "place

of the huckleberries”) Museum, which showcases local history and is located in a historic Katy Railroad depot.

Next stop: Vinita, where the Eastern Trails Museum re-creates everything from a post office to a general store to a printer’s office to a doctor’s office. The Shawnee isn’t the only trail passing through Vinita. Try these on for size: Interstate 44, U.S. Highway 69, State Highway 2, U.S. Highway 60 and Route 66. No wonder folks call it “America’s Crossroads.”

If you need a cowboy fix, drive to Dewey, home of the Tom Mix Museum. Mix arrived in Dewey in the early 1900s and married a local girl (Olive Stokes, wife No. 3). Folks in these parts say Mix worked on a movie being filmed in the area, launching his movie career.

## Big Times in Baxter Springs

The Shawnee Trail split in Oklahoma. Texans could push their herds to places like Baxter Springs, Kansas, or into



### GOOD EATS & SLEEPS

**Best Grub:** Iron Works BBQ (*Austin, Texas*); Perry’s Steakhouse & Grille (*Dallas*); Isabella’s Italia Restaurant & Wine Bar (*Frisco*); Clanton’s Cafe (*Vinita*); Café on the Route (*Baxter Springs*); see the above fried Cheesecake Buenella with strawberry sauce); Jimm’s Steakhouse & Pub (*Springfield*).

**Best Lodging:** Driskill Hotel (*Austin*); Chaska House (*Waxahachie*); Luxe Stoneleigh Hotel (*Dallas*); Historic Hayes House (*Muskogee*); Little Brick Inn B&B (*Baxter Springs*); Hotel Bothwell (*Sedalia*).



Main Street in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Saturday nights just aren’t as wild as they were in the 1860s, when the town had corrals for up to 20,000 head of cattle.

Missouri to Sedalia, Kansas City, Westport, even St. Louis. But these days I can hit both states.

Founded in the 1850s, but not incorporated until 1868, Baxter Springs was Kansas’s first cowtown. Herds began arriving here as early as 1866, and the railroad reached here in 1870. But then the state legislature enacted yet another bill that restricted Texas cattle entering the state (the quarantine line) because of Texas Fever, which killed Kansas beef.

So Baxter Springs faded away in favor of towns like Abilene, Wichita and Dodge City. That story, and plenty of other tales, are well told at the Baxter Springs Heritage Center & Museum.

### To the End of Trail

That’s enough of Kansas. But what “trail’s end” should one pick for Missouri? Kansas City? Great barbecue! St. Louis? Great baseball! Independence? Harry Truman! Westport? Uh, Kansas City

annexed it in 1897. Nah, there’s only one place to go, and that’s Sedalia.

After all, that’s where John Wayne was heading in *Red River*, before his herd got hijacked to Abilene.

You’ll find railroad exhibits at the circa 1896 Katy Depot. Check out the art at the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art. Andy Warhol! All right! And drop in at the Pettis County Museum.

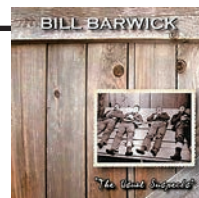
Okay, you won’t find much about the Shawnee Trail in Sedalia either. But Texas Fever quickly shut down the cattle trade here too, and maybe that’s why everyone remembers Abilene and the Chisholm Trail. Maybe that’s why you will find markers and museums galore about the Chisholm Trail, while the Shawnee fades away.

But maybe, just maybe, one of these days the Shawnee Trail will get a museum of its own. ★

**Johnny D. Boggs’s** advice is to avoid Branson, Missouri. Always.

## ROAD TRIP Times

**CDs for the Ride:** *American* by Don Edwards (Western Jubilee); *The Usual Suspects* by Bill Barwick (Barwick’s Voice & Music); *A Cowboy’s Song* by Sons of the San Joaquin (Western Jubilee). **Honky-tonks Worth the Stop:** The name says “poor,” but the music’s rich. Since 1977, Poor David’s Pub has been the place for live music in Dallas, which is saying a lot. During my 14-plus years in Big D, I caught Townnes Van Zandt, Guy Clark, J.D. Souther, Tish Hinojosa, Jerry Jeff Walker, the Kingston Trio and plenty others at the funky little watering hole. Acts I missed: Eric Clapton, Los Lobos, John Lee Hooker, Lyle Lovett, Nanci Griffith, the Dixie Chicks, Arlo Guthrie.... It still brings in the best.



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Read more Western history at:  
[TrueWestMagazine.com](http://TrueWestMagazine.com)

**The Mean-Nice Man**

Michael Preece recalls his days with Henry Hathaway on *How the West Was Won*; plus the latest on *The Virginian*.

**B**efore his extraordinary career as director of more than 500 hours of television, including 62 episodes of *Dallas* and 70 of *Walker, Texas Ranger*, Michael Preece cut his teeth as script supervisor for some of the toughest directors in the business: Anthony Mann, John Ford, Sam Peckinpah and Henry Hathaway.

Preece earned Hathaway's trust on 1962's *How the West Was Won* and continued with him on 1968's *Five Card Stud* and 1969's *True Grit*. Preece has fond memories of the ace director who inspired fear, and fierce loyalty, from his casts and crew:

"Dennis Hopper called Hathaway, 'A mean man on the set and the nicest man to have dinner with,'" Preece admits. "[He was] the most social guy when he wasn't on the set. He'd get mad at things on set, but I never saw him wrong about anything. I took one of the actresses on a motorcycle ride. And that evening, he threw a party. He took me aside, and he started yelling: 'Do you realize you're taking that motorcycle out on a Sunday, and if she had fallen off, we wouldn't be shooting tomorrow! Now think about that!' I didn't use the language he used, but he was right!"

Preece remembers his first foray into Hollywood that led to his introduction to Hathaway: "Mom was the business agent for the Script Clerks Guild. I was 18 and television was just coming in, and was recommended for a job at Disney. I learned the hard way on the set, making a lot of mistakes. But I did movie after movie; I got the call to go to MGM for *How the West Was Won*. They were

shooting two segments at once. I came with Hathaway, while George Marshall was doing his section. Most of the stuff I worked on was with George Peppard, Lee J. Cobb and Debbie [Reynolds], in Arizona, on the train. And then I also did 'The Rivers' with Henry."

While working on *How the West Was Won*, Preece also had a chance to work with Ford: "I was with Ford because he

had a script girl who had worked on many of his movies, and she wasn't there," he says. "I worked with Ford on the stage, and didn't go on location. He never talked to anyone. I think he was not well. I was there, and

he'd mumble, 'Go fix that guy's hat.' I'd make a little adjustment on a soldier, and that seemed to please him, but I didn't have the relationship with him that I had with Hathaway."

As far as ever inspiring Hathaway's wrath, Preece does remember a close call while on the set with the director: "I

**"I may be tough, but I'm not sadistic like Otto Preminger."**

- Henry Hathaway





Famed TV Westerns director Michael Preece recalls his days working as a script supervisor under director Henry Hathaway for *How the West Was Won* (see poster on opposite page). The family saga covered the Western expansion via the Gold Rush, Civil War, railroad and outlaw eras.

— Courtesy Michael Preece —

was on the train,” he says, “and they’re filming, and there was nowhere [for the crew] to hide, because of the Cinerama cameras. So I’m in a boxcar, and all of a sudden, the train stops, and I hear my name being called; Hathaway was screaming. I asked what was wrong. Henry asked, ‘Which direction is this train supposed to be going?’ Well, I knew from scenes 102 to 180 that the train was backing up. He asked, ‘Are you sure?’ I said ‘Yes, sir.’ He said, ‘You better be.’ That was as close as I ever came to making a mistake with Henry! I tell you, if I had been wrong, I don’t know what I would’ve done!”

## FIFTY YEARS OF THE VIRGINIAN

On September 19, 1962, *The Virginian* made its debut on NBC, and 50 years later, this seminal series was honored at the Autry Museum in Los Angeles, with a cast reunion, screenings, panel discussion and tribute dinner.

The cast recalled that producer Frank Price and Universal Studios head Lew Wasserman decided to make *The Virginian* different from its start, by expanding the standard, one-hour episode to a 90-minute movie every week.

Star Clu Gulager regarded Price as a television pioneer: “Frank was a genius in film creativity and fell in love with a long-form format, shooting them in eight days, and hired a cast second-to-none. It was an amazing amalgamation of acting and production capabilities, and that was Frank’s work.”

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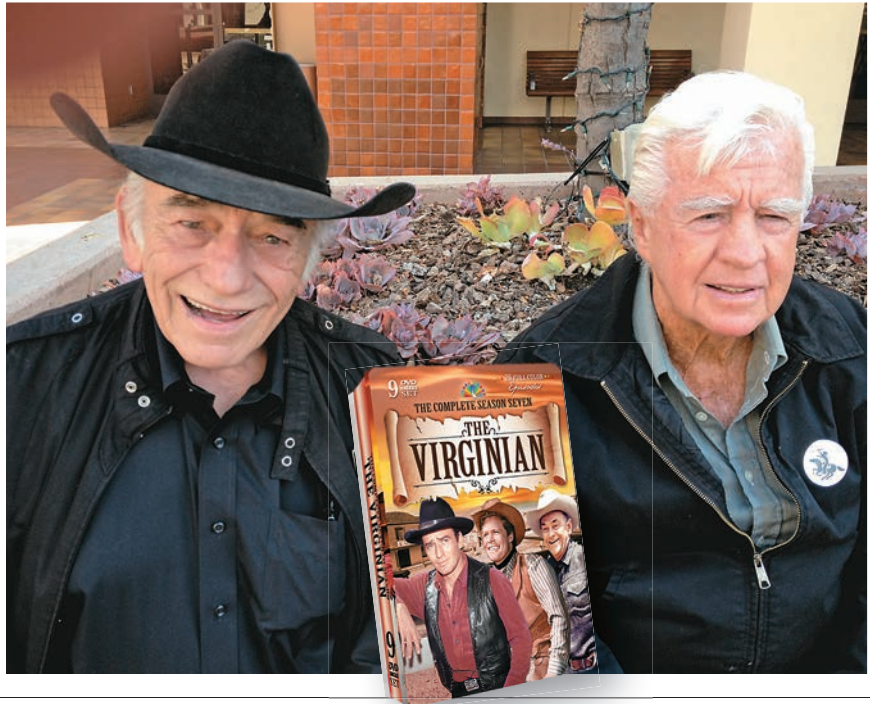
James Drury (*The Virginian*) and Clu Gulager (Deputy Emmett Ryker) reunited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *The Virginian* at the Autry museum in Los Angeles. You can catch Drury in the 2013 DVD releases for seasons seven and eight; to see Gulager in action, check out seasons three through six.

— By Melissa Prince; DVD courtesy Timeless Media —

With only eight days for each show, everyone was under tremendous pressure. *The Virginian* himself, James Drury, called the brutal schedule, “A logistical nightmare, with as many as four shows shooting at the same time. But we got it done.”

Sara Lane, who played the granddaughter of Shiloh Ranch owner John Grainger (Charles Bickford), revealed, “James and Doug [McClure] never changed their shirts, so we got to use stock footage. I pretty much wore the same thing too, so we could use footage again for long shots. There was no temperament on our show; we just did the work.”

The work was of remarkably high caliber, making *The Virginian* a hit for nine seasons, and an example of TV they just don’t produce anymore, which is precisely why Doug Butts of the INSP Network wanted it exclusively: “We



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wanted a Western, and *The Virginian* is the third most popular, behind *Gunsmoke* and *Bonanza*. It's 90 minutes, the story arc takes a little longer, so viewers get caught up in its quality, and they'll stick with it."

After 50 years, *The Virginian* has attained the classic status it deserves. This year, Timeless Media will release the DVDs for season seven (in February) and season eight (sometime in fall). So fans have even more to be excited about.

## DVD REVIEW

### The 5-Man Army

(Warner Archives; \$18.95) When the stunning Italian horror film *Suspiria* was released in 1977, audiences and critics cheered the arrival of a new genre stylist in director-writer Dario Argento. Argento was the mad genius of horror (1975's *Deep*

*Red*, 1987's *Opera*), but with all the praise for those films, few critics look back on his career in Euro-Westerns.

Argento's first costly credit was for 1968's *Once Upon a Time in the West*, after which he wrote *Cemetery Without Crosses* (also known as *The Rope and the Colt*), *Today We Kill, Tomorrow We Die!* and *The 5-Man Army*. With the exception of the Sergio Leone masterpiece, few of Argento's Westerns have seen official release...until now.

Warner Archives has made available a beautiful 1:85 transfer of *The 5-Man Army*, Argento's "caper Western," starring Peter Graves and directed by Don Taylor. Set during the Mexican Revolution, Graves leads a group of highly-trained



rebel misfits (including a samurai and an acrobat) on a mission to hijack a train carrying Federale gold. Of course, things don't go as planned, and the body count (along with everything else) explodes sky high.

Argento's script is kept amazingly light, thanks to Taylor's direction, the cast

(Graves, James Daly, Bud Spencer) and Ennio Morricone's score. Cofinanced by MGM, *The 5-Man Army* is no impoverished Euro production, but a slick, well made Adventure Western that actually has something to say within its enormously entertaining wrapping. ❏

**C. Courtney Joyner** is a screenwriter and director with more than 25 produced movies to his credit. He is the author of *The Westerners: Interviews with Actors, Directors and Writers*.

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# WESTERN BOOKS

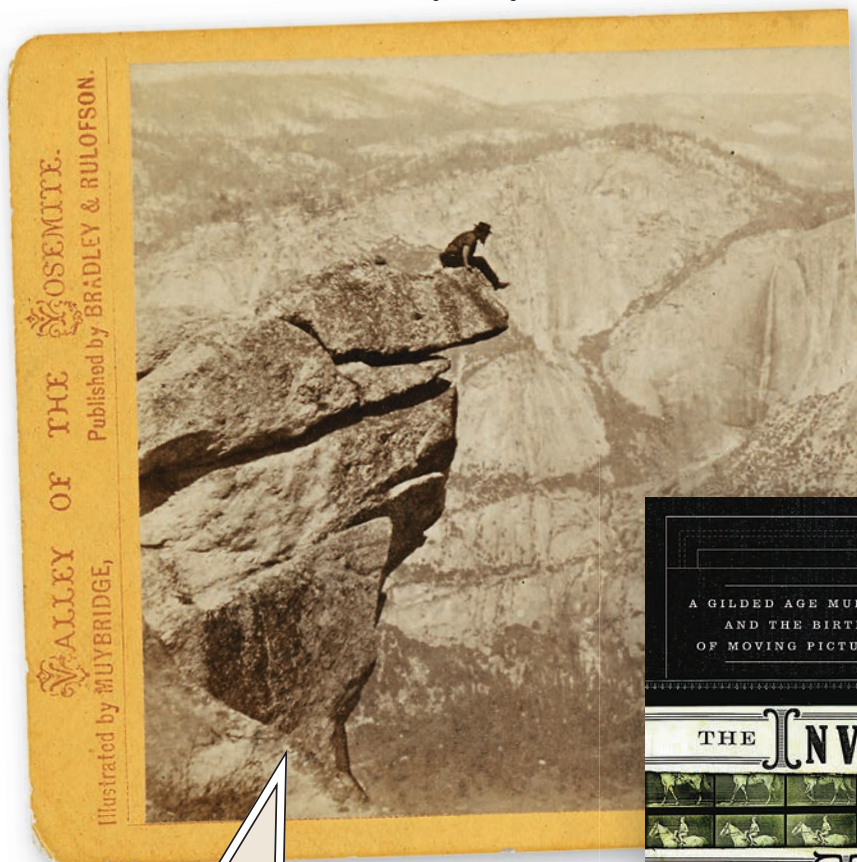
BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR: JESSE MULLINS

## Inventive to a Fault

By 1872, when Muybridge asked an assistant to take this picture of him tempting death, he had already adopted the moniker Helios, the god of the sun. The man renamed himself roughly every decade.

— Courtesy Doubleday —

### THE INVENTOR AND THE TYCOON



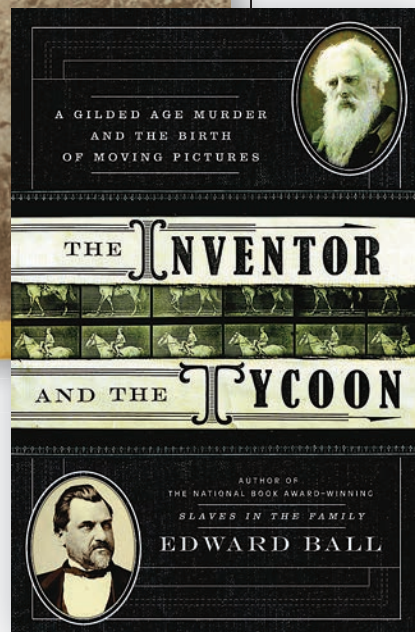
"At some point during these months Helios took another revealing picture of himself, or rather he told an assistant to take it. He sat on a precipice, dangling his legs over a thousand-foot drop in a death-mocking stunt, and signaled to a helper to get the shot. The picture possesses a mania, an unmistakable ecstasy. He had no reason to risk his life for a photograph, and yet he did. Everyone who saw the picture had a similar reaction and took note of the artist's curious death drive. The photograph would come up again, after the murder."

*The Inventor and the Tycoon* brings us two little-known characters, Utlley's Geronimo bio revisits the legend, mail-order brides have their day and Thomas Cobb unfolds Arizona's bloodiest shoot-out.

One was the "man who stopped time." The other was the man who drove the golden spike.

Photographer Eadweard Muybridge invented stop-action photography and, later, motion pictures. Leland Stanford, railroad magnate and founder of the university that bears his name, was the wealthiest man west of the Mississippi. Their friendship, and Stanford's patronage of Muybridge, engendered what may have become the greatest contributions the West has made to the world: projection, moving imagery, screen imagery—basically the media most of us consume today more than any other.

In *The Inventor and the Tycoon* (Doubleday, \$29.95), National Book Award-winner Edward Ball traces a partnership



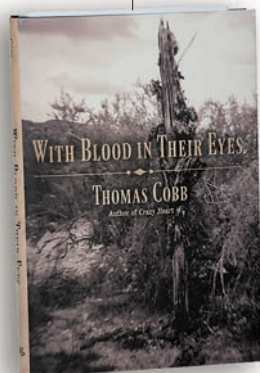


between two men whom history has neglected, unjustly.

Stanford and Muybridge came to California separately—each man alone and essentially prospectless—in Gold Rush days. Each attained success independent of the other. The unstable Muybridge is revealed as a man who restlessly, relentlessly re-invented himself, all his life long. Stanford is taciturn, unreflective, boorish. The untutored Muybridge—artist, scientist, genius, fool, murderer, lost soul, driven eccentric, world changer—is as compelling, and exasperating, a figure as a Rousseau or a Van Gogh.

Author Ball knows his material and serves it up laced with irony and displaying considerable narrative talent. The Westernness of the tale unfolds in indirect fashion. Muybridge chases art and culture, while the Wild West erupts all around. California's homicide rate in 1854 (540 killings) was, for its population, "100 times" that of today. Rogues abound. Just down the street from Muybridge's home, gangster Charles Cora guns down U.S. Marshal William Richardson in 1855, in daylight. He's jailed. A city official, James Casey, enraged at a fiery newspaper editor—the self-styled "James King of William"—guns King down on the street. He's jailed. The latter killing triggers the formation of a Vigilance Committee (initially 2,500 strong!) that declares war on random violence—but not before it lynches Cora and Casey.

Muybridge, fresh to these parts from England, capitalizes on King's "martyrdom," commissioning a fine art engraving of the man, one that "sold, sold, sold." Such refinement amidst chaos defines the first half of the book. Everything about Muybridge's life seems totally out of place and time, except for a moment in 1874, when he took his six-shooter and coolly dispatched the man who cuckolded him, prompting a sensational trial that became a nationwide obsession.



Did Muybridge's 1860 accident aboard the Butterfield stage lead to the invention of stop-action photography, and from there to motion pictures? Ball doesn't exactly say so, but psychologist Arthur Shimamura has suggested as much—a case of frontal lobe damage "freeing his creativity from conventional social inhibitions." The runaway stage, drawn by "six wild mustangs," wrecked in the Cross Timbers of Texas. Thrown from the stage, Muybridge suffered a head injury so bad he was unconscious nine days, awakening to temporary deafness and to double vision that lasted a year. He was never the same—strangeness befell him—but his life's accomplishments all lay ahead.

It's a story that has it all: adultery, murder, betrayal, drama, chicanery, tragedy, high achievement and prurience (Muybridge scandalously and titillatingly filmed nude adults in motion—more nudes, in fact, than any other subject).

Stanford comes in for treatment as both benefactor and robber baron. As a racehorse owner, his driving passion was equine in nature. He wanted to know "whether all four hooves of a running horse ever leave the ground all at once." He enlisted Muybridge's help, and the chase was on.

This is a book about time, speed and motion. To the people of Muybridge's day, the man created an "apparatus that captures time, and plays it back." What we take for granted, they didn't. As Ball writes, "Movies hold the world in a perpetual present, bringing dead time (and the dead themselves) back to life."

San Francisco is where a new kind of world began, a world that will never be the same.

—Jesse Mullins

## WITH BLOOD IN THEIR EYES

On February 10, 1918, brothers John and Tom Power, their father and a hired hand named Sisson engaged in—sorry O.K.

If a particular literary mode in Western nonfiction wins high marks for achievement in the early part of this decade, it will be biographies. We've seen already that individuals whom we thought we knew inside and out can still be fodder for major bios: Quanah Parker in *Empire of the Summer Moon*, Geronimo in Robert Utley's fresh narrative account (see our review in this issue) and Custer in Larry McMurtry's latest nonfiction work. The public seems ready, even eager, for it. Even better, the tendency seems to extend to lesser-known figures (Edward S. Curtis, John Fremont). As a specimen of the latter, consider our review in this issue of *The Inventor and the Tycoon*, a double-barreled (two individuals) bio that has "biopic" written all over it.

This year marks the 60th anniversary not just of this magazine, but of the Western Writers of America as well. *True West* is celebrating its landmark year in a variety of ways, one of them being our participation in the Tucson Festival of Books on March 9–10. Our friends at Western Writers wanted to celebrate along with us, and so (as of press time, anyway), plans are that *True West's* booth and the Western Writers' booth will adjoin one another, in a 60-years-and-counting show of solidarity—and mutual dedication to the history and literature of the West.

Come see us!

—Jesse Mullins





In *Object: Matrimony*, mail-order brides are brought to life in photographs like this one of an unidentified mail-order bride and groom posing with their wedding party after having exchanged vows in Sacramento, California, in 1895.

— Courtesy California History Room, California State Library, Sacramento, CA Scan #20093278 / Globe Pequot Press —

## OBJECT: MATRIMONY

Billed as an “entertaining look at the serious business of finding a husband or wife by mail-order in the wide-open days of the Old West,” Chris Enss’s latest work, *Object: Matrimony* (Globe Pequot Press, \$14.95), delivers on its promises. America in the

wake of the Civil War was gender-imbalanced. In the East, women outnumbered men by a significant margin. In the West, the opposite was so. Naturally,

these romance-minded folks would create their own *eHarmony.com* for the frontier, via ye olde print media. Enss shares scores of real-life appeals, like the following: “Wanted: a nice, plump, healthy, good-natured, good-looking domestic and affectionate lady to correspond with.” This is truly a concise, frolicking read.

—Jesse Mullins



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# Bisbee, Arizona

*Its history is as rich as the ore that built the town.*

**I**n what surely must rank among the dumbest bets ever made, Bisbee prospector George Warren lost his share of one of the world's richest copper mines in 1879 when he wagered he could outrun a horse.

Witnesses reported that alcohol was involved.

Bisbee's history is full of such tales—fortunes found and fortunes lost, sophisticated society on one side of town and dens of debauchery on the other.

The mines that once fueled the southern Arizona town's economy have long since closed, yet Bisbee remains a vibrant, picturesque community and a popular tourist attraction.

## HISTORIC EVENT

On December 8, 1883, five ne'er-do-wells killed four townspeople, including a pregnant woman, while robbing the Goldwater-Castaneda Store, which served as the town's bank. The incident became known as the Bisbee Massacre.

A safe on display in the Letson Loft building, which once housed the mercantile, may be the very one that sparked the robbers' plans.

John Heath, the gang leader who planned the robbery but didn't take part in it, was lynched by a mob in Tombstone in February 1884. The coroner's report noted dryly that Heath's death "...might have been...caused by strangulation, self-inflicted or otherwise...."

After their trial, the five robbers were hanged in Tombstone on March 8 and buried in the Boothill Graveyard.

## ACTIVITIES

On the Queen Mine Tour, you'll don a hard hat, headlamp and yellow slicker, and then venture 1,500 feet underground.



500 Feet



As you peer into the mine shafts during the Queen Mine Tour, you will also hear stories about Bisbee's early-day copper miners, like the gentleman shown above by his ore cart.

— Chute photo courtesy Queen Mine Tour; miner photo True West Archives —

Visit the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, the Bisbee Restoration Museum and the Muheim Heritage House Museum.

Take a gander, too, at the Bisbee Mini Museum of the Bizarre, located in the back of the Sweet Midnight shop.

## HOTEL

It's tough to beat the stately, four-story Copper Queen Hotel for a sense of history. Guests who have stayed at the Bisbee landmark (which opened in 1902 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980) include Theodore Roosevelt and Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing.

## RESTAURANT

Café Roka's four-course meals include soup, salad, a palette-cleansing sorbet and a hearty entrée.

## NOTABLE EVENT

Contestants race up and down more than 1,000 steps of the town's famously long and steep staircases during the Bisbee 1000 (a.k.a. Great Bisbee Stair Climb), held on the third weekend in October. A craft beer festival is part of the fun.

**John Stanley**, the Arizona Wildlife Federation's 2007 Conservation Media Champion, is a former travel reporter and photographer for *The Arizona Republic*. He still loves to explore the back roads, ghost towns and out-of-the-way nooks of the Great American West.

# TRADING POST



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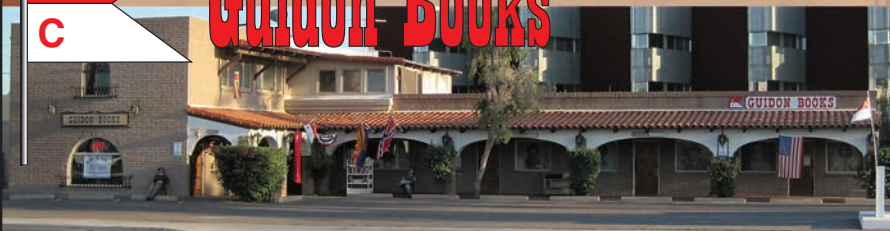
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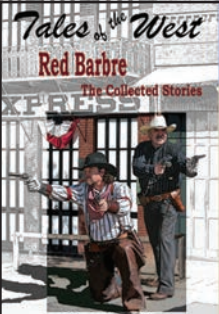
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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR FEBRUARY 2013



—By John Wheland—

## WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTIONS

Seguin, TX, February 21-23: Wild horses and burros from Western states are offered up for adoption to folks who will provide long-term care. 918-621-4100 • [BLM.gov](http://BLM.gov)

## ART SHOW

### TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS

Alpine, TX, Starts Feb. 22: Nation's second-oldest trappings show offers cowboy gear and Western art at Museum of the Big Bend. 423-837-8143 • [Subross.Edu/Museum](http://Subross.Edu/Museum)

## COMPETITION

### SCOTTSDALE ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

Scottsdale, AZ, February 14-24: More than 2,000 horses compete and perform for over \$1 million in prizes, plus equine seminars and vendor market. 480-515-1500 • [ScottsdaleShow.com](http://ScottsdaleShow.com)

## FUNDRAISER

### NEBRASKALAND DAY'S BUFFALO BILL BIRTHDAY BASH

North Platte, NE, February 23: Observe the Wild West showman's birthday by attending this concert that benefits NebraskaLand Days. 888-313-5606 • [NebraskaLandDays.com](http://NebraskaLandDays.com)

## MUSIC & POETRY

### SPIRIT OF THE WEST COWBOY GATHERING

Ellensburg, WA, February 14-17: Cowboy poetry and music by Wylie and the Wild West, Belinda Gail, Quebe Sisters, Joey and Rory, and more. 888-925-2204 • [EllensburgCowboyGathering.com](http://EllensburgCowboyGathering.com)

### SADDLE UP!

Pigeon Forge, TN, February 21-24: Western musicians share stories in a group performance, plus cowboy poetry and chuckwagon cook-offs. 800-251-9100 • [MyPigeonForge.com](http://MyPigeonForge.com)

### TEXAS COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Alpine, TX, February 22-24: Jim Jones, Mary Kaye, John Davis, Washtub Jerry and others celebrate the oral tradition of the working cowboy. 800-561-3712 • [TexasCowboyPoetry.com](http://TexasCowboyPoetry.com)

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS

### GOLD RUSH DAYS

Wickenburg, AZ, February 7-10: Mining heritage offers gold panning, a mucking and drilling contest, a parade and a pro rodeo. 928-684-5479 • [WickenburgChamber.com](http://WickenburgChamber.com)



### COCHISE COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC GATHERING

Sierra Vista, AZ, February 8-10: Features cowboy musicians, such as Dave Stamey, and poets, such as Yvonne Hollenbeck. This year's theme is "Water...Cool Water." 520-678-9952 • [CowboyPoets.com](http://CowboyPoets.com)

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# WESTERN ROUNDUP

FOR FEBRUARY 2013



— By Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau

## NATIVE TRAILS

Scottsdale, AZ, Feb. 7-28: American Indians perform traditional native dances and offer up native food and wares for sale; held every Thursday, plus Saturday the 23rd. 800-782-1117 • [ScottsdalePerformingArts.org](http://ScottsdalePerformingArts.org)

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

### ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

Gold Canyon, AZ, Starts Feb. 9: Old West time travelers can take in medieval arts and crafts, jousting tournaments and an outdoor circus. 520-463-2600 • [RoyalFaires.com](http://RoyalFaires.com)

### CRIPPLE CREEK ICE FESTIVAL

Cripple Creek, CO, Feb. 9-10 & 16-17: Watch sculptors carve ice into works of art, plus a liquor luge and ice snacks, and an ice slide and ice maze for the kids. 877-858-4653 • [VisitCrippleCreek.com](http://VisitCrippleCreek.com)



### DONALD E. ERICKSON MEMORIAL CHARIOT RACES

Saratoga, WY, February 16-17: Bet on your favorite teams from Wyoming and Colorado as they race two-horse pulled chariots. 307-326-8855 • [SaratogaChamber.info](http://SaratogaChamber.info)

**ROMANCE ON THE RAILS BRUNCH TRAIN**

Durango, CO, February 16: Strolling musicians sing love songs during your journey to Cascade Canyon on the 1881 railroad's train. 888-872-4607 • [DurangoTrain.com](http://DurangoTrain.com)

**PARADE**

**PARADA DEL SOL**

Scottsdale, AZ, February 9: Celebrating its 60th year, the horse-drawn parade features mountain men re-enactors and more. 480-990-3179 • [ParadaDelSol.us](http://ParadaDelSol.us)

**STOCK SHOWS & RODEOS**

**FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO**

Fort Worth, TX, Closes Feb. 9: Offers up numerous days of livestock and horse shows, rodeos, concerts and food fit for cowboys. 817-877-2420 • [FWSSR.com](http://FWSSR.com)



**SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO**

San Antonio, TX, February 7-24: Features PRCA rodeo and ranch rodeo competitions, horse and livestock shows, plus Country music concerts. 210-225-5851 • [SARodeo.com](http://SARodeo.com)

**OKLAHOMA HORSE FAIR**

Duncan, OK, Feb. 8-10: Enjoy the Chisholm Trail Ranch Rodeo, horse, mule and pony show, equine trade show and working cowdog clinics. 405-226-0630 • [OKHorseFair.com](http://OKHorseFair.com)



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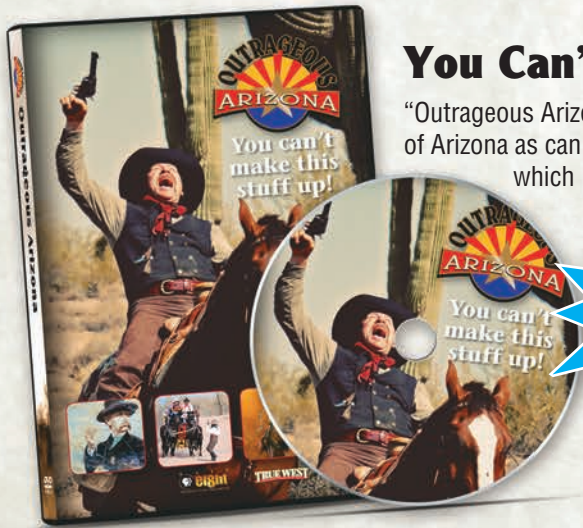
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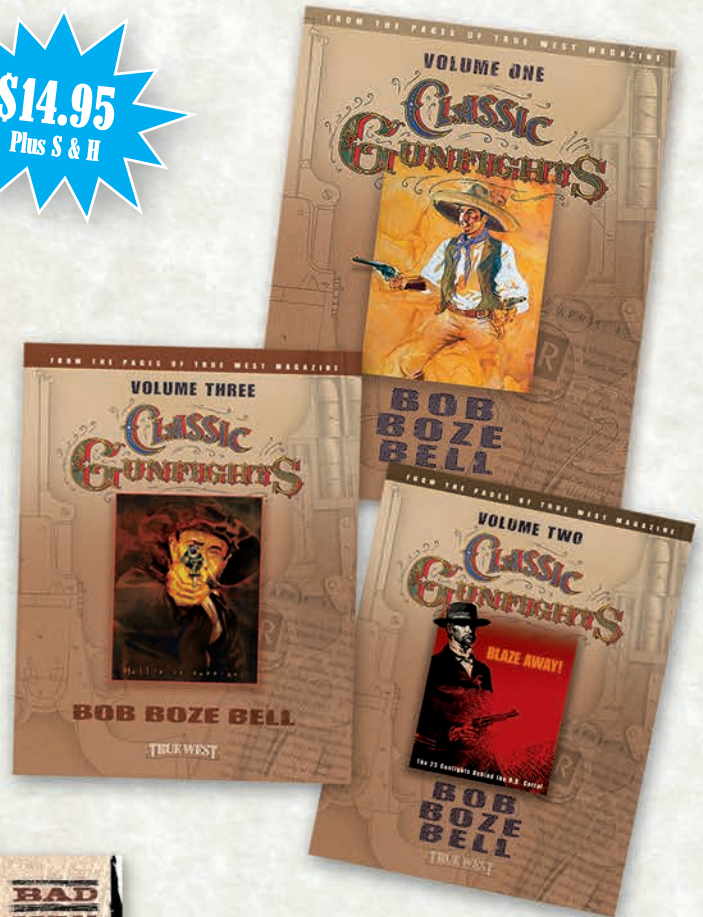
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Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian. His latest book is *Wyatt Earp: Showdown at Tombstone*. If you have a question, write: Ask the Marshall, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 or e-mail him at [marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu](mailto:marshall.trimble@scottsdalecc.edu)

**Ask The Marshall**

BY MARSHALL TRIMBLE

# Blood On His hands?

## When did the last U.S. stagecoach robbery take place?

Marty Luffman  
Nashville, Tennessee

The last one occurred just outside Jarbidge, Nevada, on December 5, 1916. The outlaws killed the stage driver, Fred Searcy, and stole about \$4,000 in gold coins.

While a posse searched for evidence, a dog dug up one of the stage mail pouches. The dog was known to hang out with Ben Kuhl. The police rounded up Kuhl and two friends, Ed Beck and Bill McGraw. The latter was released, but Beck and Kuhl were convicted of committing the robbery.

One of the key pieces of evidence was a bloody palm print on an envelope, which matched Kuhl's—the first time such evidence was used to convict a killer. He was sentenced to death, but that was later commuted to life in prison.

Some believed the stage driver was in on the robbery and that Kuhl murdered him in a fight over the loot.

The stolen gold has never been found; supposedly, it is buried in Jarbidge Canyon.



Ben Kuhl



The palm print at above left was found on a bloodstained letter near the location of the stagecoach where driver Fred Searcy was found slumped dead on the seat. A print taken from the hand of Ben Kuhl by Elko County Jailer J.H. McMullen is on the right. Two experts testified that the prints were made by the same man.

— Courtesy Nevada State Library, Archives, Carson City —

the Indian Tribes in this Land ... and also of English Youth and any others.”

## How many prospectors got rich during the California gold rush?

Carl Justice  
Baltimore, Maryland

Hard to say, but it's probably about the same percentage as those who win the big lottery today. Most who boasted “California or Bust” came home saying “Busted by God.”

Certainly, folks like George Hearst made fortunes from their mining efforts.

## What was the first college created to educate American Indians?

Margaret-Ann Moore  
Wilmington, California



The Reverend Eleazar Wheelock established Moor's Charity School in Lebanon, Connecticut, principally for the education of American Indians, but wanting to expand that school into a college, he relocated to Hanover, New Hampshire. The school, Dartmouth, was chartered in December 1769. The charter called for the creation of a college “for the education and instruction of Youth of



While they may have thought outside the box, the success of Henry Wells and William Fargo depended heavily on what was carried inside this box.

— All images True West Archives unless otherwise noted —

Others got rich by “mining the miners.” Levi Strauss sold clothing, John M. Studebaker offered wagons and Henry Wells and William Fargo provided shipping and banking. Each made money by thinking outside the box.

## When the pioneers crossed treeless country, where did the women go to the bathroom?

Connie Moran  
Savannah, Missouri

These were Victorian times; discussing such delicate matters was almost taboo.

But when crossing those treeless plains, women had no choice but to relieve themselves in the open. Remember, they were wearing long dresses, so it was possible to go to the bathroom with some degree of privacy.

Utah historian Juanita Brooks asked her grandmother about this; Mary Ann Stucki had been among the Mormon handcart pioneers who went West. “When a train set out,” she wrote, “the captain made a rule: women to one side, men to the other. Where flat and barren terrain made privacy seem impossible, women would band together and spread their long, broad skirts to form a screen.”

I should add, not all women wore underwear, as it was a relatively new creation. But those who did used an open style that is best described as “crotchless.”

## Were gun silencers used during the Old West era?

Ray Munkittrick  
Chicopee, Massachusetts

The first silencer or suppressor was developed in 1902 (and patented seven years later) by Hiram P. Maxim, the son of the inventor of the Maxim Machine Gun.

He came up with the idea as a way for hunters to shoot without making so much noise. It later became a weapon of choice for gangsters and mob hit men. So no, it was not an Old West tool.

**In November 2012, True West discussed the "45 Lawmen You'd Want On Your Side." Bass Outlaw is one—but he's later listed as an outlaw. So was he somebody you wanted on your side—or a bad guy you didn't want to mess with?**

*Lynn Helbing & Randy Drake  
Chino Hills, California / Peoria, Arizona*

Bass Outlaw was a tough hombre, but he had trouble with booze—his drinking got him kicked out of the Texas Rangers.

While serving as a deputy U.S. marshal on April 5, 1894, he, not surprisingly, got liquored up in El Paso, Texas. He and Constable John Selman decided to visit a local brothel. Outlaw went into the toilet and apparently dropped his pistol, which went off. The madam blew her police whistle; Outlaw tried to take it from her. When Texas Ranger Joe McKidric intervened, Outlaw shot and killed him. Then Selman and Outlaw opened fire on each other. Selman's shot hit Outlaw near the heart, while Outlaw's bullet barely missed hitting Selman's head, but the gunpowder blinded him temporarily. Outlaw got off another round, severing an artery in Selman's leg.

Outlaw expired about four hours later, on a prostitute's bed in the back of a saloon. Selman's injuries left him walking with a cane and with impaired eyesight. (That didn't seem to hurt him much when he killed John Wesley Hardin 16 months later.)

To answer your question, Outlaw was a good lawman to have by your side, but not after he took up drinking.



**Bass Outlaw**

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Photo: John Wheland

# What HISTORY HAS TAUGHT ME



The tintype of Bruce Boxleitner shows him in character as gunfighter Johnny Morgan for the Comedy Western *Smokewood, Nevada*. Phil Spangenberg was the first to share the series with *True West* readers. Check out the show at *Smokewood.TV*

**I just wrapped production on** *The Thanksgiving House* for Hallmark. As many fans of *True West* already know, I'm also starring in the Western Comedy *Smokewood, Nevada*, as the cattleman Johnny Morgan.

**I'm currently working on** a project with Trevor Crafts. We are producing a wonderful Steampunk Sci-Fi drama called *Lantern City*. Written by Matthew Daley, this Steampunk TV show will truly define the genre.

**For my money, the best Western ever is** a tie between 1969's *The Wild Bunch* and 1956's *The Searchers*.

**History has taught me that** throughout time, man has never changed, except for the wardrobe and mode of transportation.

**Tequila is** a good friend...when no others are available.

**The one actor I am in awe of is** Robert Duvall. Having worked with him in *Gods and Generals*, I felt that I was attending a master class in acting each day on set.

**I learned everything I know from** working alongside James Arness. He taught me what it was to be the star of a television series and the responsibilities that came with it. I did a miniseries, *How the West Was Won*, and two TV movies, *Red River* and *Gunsmoke: One Man's Justice*, with Arness, and he never failed to inspire me.

**Wish I had a dollar for every time I heard,** "They just don't make good Westerns anymore!"

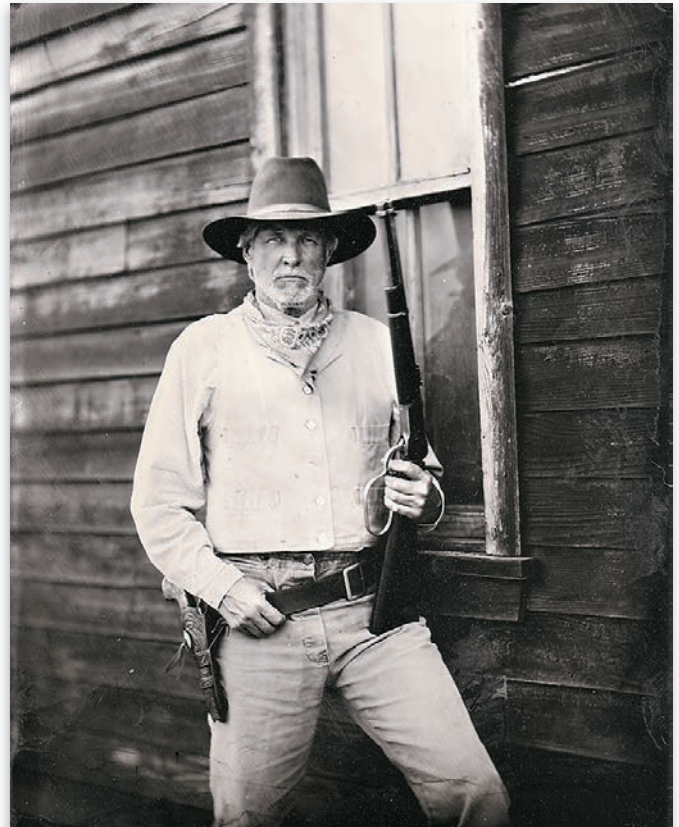
**Show me an open highway,** and you will see me as a happy camper.

**I had a mid-life crisis when** I was working in Vancouver, and I saw Kate Beckinsale in a bookstore. I had to pick my jaw up off of the floor.

**My mother always told me,** "Put on clean underwear every morning; you never know what the day is going to bring."

**The secret to a happy marriage is** who knows? Obviously I have no idea. I've been married twice!

**Nobody can touch Western writer** James Donovan,



## BRUCE BOXLEITNER, ACTOR

We know him as Luke Macahan in *How the West Was Won*, as Billy Montana in *The Gambler*, Wyatt Earp in *I Married Wyatt Earp* and Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet in *Gods and Generals*. Bruce Boxleitner is also a Sci-Fi buff, which you might have known from his roles in the original and sequel of *Tron* and his role as Capt. John Sheridan in *Babylon 5*. But you may not have known he has also written two Sci-Fi novels with a Western setting: *Frontier Earth* and *Searcher*. This native Midwesterner is an alumnus of Chicago's prestigious Goodman Theatre, and he has made more than 100 film and TV appearances from 1973 to today. The actor currently resides in southern California.

author of *A Terrible Glory* and *The Blood of Heroes*. He is a historian who writes like one of the great novelists.

**Nobody can touch movie directors** John Ford, Sam Peckinpah, Sergio Leone, John Sturges and Akira Kurosawa.

**The hardest part of writing a** successful screenplay is writing something that you know you would want to watch and is also producible.

**When it comes to Western films, I admire** *Ride the High Country*, *Tombstone*, *Open Range*, and for TV, *Lonesome Dove*.



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